



Boronia Park Plan of Management

Draft



Prepared for Hunter's Hill Council by:
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
GLOSSARY	4
SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 What is a Plan of Management	5
1.2 Background to the Plan of Management	5
1.3 Aims and Purpose of this Plan of Management	5
1.4 Relevant Legislation and Policy	6
1.4.1 Commonwealth	6
1.4.2 State	6
1.5 Council's Plans and Policies	9
1.5.1 Hunter's Hill Council LEP and DCP	9
1.5.2 Hunter's Hill Outdoor Sport and Recreation Plan	10
1.5.3 Hunter's Hill Section 94A Plan	10
1.5.4 Draft Plan of Management	10
SECTION 2 – DESCRIPTION OF BORONIA PARK	11
2.1 Location	11
2.2 Regional Context	11
2.3 Local Demographic Profile	11
2.4 Local Context	12
2.5 Heritage and Land Use	13
2.5.1 Indigenous Heritage	13
2.5.2 European Heritage and Land Use	14
2.6 Site Characteristics	14
2.6.1 Landform, Soils and Drainage	14
2.6.2 Infrastructure	15
2.6.3 Access and Circulation	15
2.6.4 View Corridors	16
2.6.5 Flora	16
2.6.6 Fauna	17
2.7 Community Use of Site	19
2.8 Management Zone Uses	19
2.8.1 Bushland Management Zone Use and Condition Table	21
2.8.2 Active Recreation Zone Use and Condition Table	23
2.8.3 Passive Recreation Zone Use and Condition Table	26
SECTION 3 – PREPARING THE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT	29
3.1 The Planning Process	29
3.2 Community Consultation	29
3.2.1 Council Officer Workshop	29

3.2.2	Stakeholder Consultation	30
3.2.3	General Community Consultation workshop	30
3.2.4	Current Use Survey	30
3.2.5	Plan of Management Exhibition	30

SECTION 4 – MANAGEMENT OF BORONIA PARK 31

4.1	Vision Statement	31
4.2	PoM Objectives	31
4.3	Concept Plan	31
4.4	Funding and Implementation	32
4.5	Action Plan	32
4.5.1	Bushland Management Zone	33
4.5.2	Active Recreation Management Zone	37
4.5.3	Passive Recreation Management Zone	42
4.6	LGA Land Use Categorisation	47

SECTION 5 – ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 48

SECTION 6 – REFERENCES 49

SECTION 7 – APPENDICES 50

A	Draft Concept Plan
B	Current Use Survey
C	Consultation Summary
D	Stakeholder meetings and attendees

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Boronia Park is a 24.2 hectare park in Hunter's Hill, situated along the lower reaches of the Lane Cove River. The Park is a Crown Reserve (No. 500262) managed by Hunter's Hill Council (HHC).

The Boronia Park Plan of Management (PoM) provides a framework to guide the management and future use of the Park. The PoM has been prepared following detailed assessment of the relative legislative documentation, comprehensive analysis of the site conditions and user patterns, and thorough stakeholder and community consultation.

Boronia Park comprises bushland, including vegetation of national conservation significance, and a range of recreational facilities. Due to the varying uses of the site, Boronia Park falls into two zoning categories within the Hunter's Hill Council LEP:

- Zone RE1 – Public Recreation; and
- Zone E2 – Environmental Conservation.

This PoM complies with the LEP requirements, and the requirements for preparation of plans of management for community land pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1993*. The PoM includes objectives, describes current uses and conditions, and details proposed actions and management strategies for the site. It replaces the 2002 PoM prepared by STORM Consulting.

The PoM should be read in conjunction with the 2014 Concept Plan, in Appendix A. This Concept Plan graphically and spatially illustrates future uses, connections, recreational opportunities, and PoM recommendations.

This new draft plan proposes a series of key changes to the park to facilitate user access, site facilities, aid in site interpretation and ultimately improve user enjoyment of this unique environment.

Implementation of this Plan of Management will ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of this significant natural and cultural (i.e. Aboriginal and European) heritage site, whilst providing for the community's recreation, social and educational needs within the park.

Three key management zones for the park have been identified in the PoM, being Bushland, Active Recreation and Passive Recreation.

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition in this POM
Community Land	Land that is classified as community land under Division 1 of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Crown Land	Land vested in the State of New South Wales and under the direct care and control of the Minister Administering the <i>Crown Land Act 1989</i>
CP	Concept Plan
Detailed Documentation	A detailed drawing set resolving a concept design suitable for construction purposes
EEC	Endangered Ecological Community
ESOF	Estuarine Swamp Oak Forest
LEP	Hunter's Hill Local Environmental Plan (2012)
Management Zone	Defined zone of Boronia Park used to describe and satisfy the criteria of the Local Government Act to complete the Plan of Management's objectives
HHC	Hunter's Hill Council
PoM	Plan of Management
STIF	Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest
SWC	Sydney Water Corporation
The Act / LGA	Local Government Act 1993
The Park	Boronia Park

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHAT IS A PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

A Plan of Management (PoM) is a document that identifies and describes issues affecting public open space administered by a federal or state agency. A PoM provides guidelines and recommendations of how a park will be used, improved, maintained and managed in the future, helping to determine where and which activities occur in the park.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

This PoM has been developed to identify current uses and values present in Boronia Park, define management zones and recommend actions.

This Plan builds upon and supersedes the 2002 Plan of Management for the Park prepared by STORM Consulting. It provides council with a framework and methodology to implement a prioritised list of recommendations for the improved use and management of the park. This plan can also be referred to for any new proposals for the park's development, use and/or management to ensure the proposals are compatible with the values of the park.

This plan identifies and describes aims and objectives in accordance with State and Local legislation and guidelines, defining management actions and means of implementation. A Concept Plan has been undertaken concurrently with this Plan of Management to spatially locate key recommendations.

In combination, these two documents identify and outline a set of recommendations and actions to improve the future condition, character and use of the park. The implementation of this Plan of Management will enable for improved active and passive recreational uses whilst ensuring the protection, conservation and enhancement of natural heritage over time.

The PoM has been prepared following detailed assessment of the relevant legislative documentation, comprehensive analysis of site conditions and user patterns, and thorough stakeholder and community consultation.

1.3 AIMS AND PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

The purpose of this PoM is to provide a guiding document for future use and management of Boronia Park. This document has the aim of sympathetically integrating the varied compatible uses of the site into a unified vision for Boronia Park.

The objectives of this PoM are as follows:

- Identify the aesthetic, biodiversity, recreational, education and scientific values of the park to the community.
- Identify potential opportunities for future recreational development of the park based on community priorities.
- Identify threats to the ecological quality of the bushland and provide strategies to sustainably manage the natural resources.

- Address current issues including the mix of recreational facilities, recreation needs of residents, the natural bushland and conflict between users.
- Prepare a Concept Plan showing practical future developments.
- Prepare guidelines for future management and maintenance of the park.
- Enable Hunter's Hill Council to fulfil its responsibilities under NSW legislation in particular the *Local Government Act 1993*.

1.4 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICY

1.4.1 Commonwealth

1.4.1a Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) is the Australian Government's key piece of environmental legislation. The EPBC Act provides for the identification and listing of nationally threatened native species and ecological communities.

Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF) is present onsite and listed as critically endangered under this Act.

1.4.1b National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity

The 1996 National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity was developed to fulfil Australia's obligations under the 1993 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which seeks to sustain the rich diversity of life on Earth. Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010–2030 replaces the 1996 Strategy. This Plan of Management implements the sub priorities of the plan by protecting diversity, maintaining and re-establishing ecosystem functions and reducing threats to biodiversity.

1.4.2 State

1.4.2a Local Government Act (1993)

The Local Government provides requirements for the management of land owned or managed by council. Boronia Park is classified as and is classified as 'Community Land' under the *Local Government Act 1993*. Chapter 6 part 2 requires that council prepare a draft Plan of Management for the park.

The LG Act requires community land to be managed according to prescribed core objectives, within each sub categorisation. Within the community land classification, land has been categorised into the following:

- a natural area,
- a sportsground,
- a park,
- an area of cultural significance, and
- general community use.

Land that is categorised as a natural area is further categorised as the following:

- bushland,
- wetland,
- watercourse,
- foreshore,

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

- (a) to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area, and
- (b) to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and
- (c) to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and
- (d) to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
- (e) to assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as “**natural area – bushland**” are:

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

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as “**natural area - wetland**” are:

- (a) to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of wetlands, with particular reference to their hydrological environment (including water quality and water flow), and to the flora, fauna and habitat values of the wetlands, and
- (b) to restore and regenerate degraded wetlands, and
- (c) to facilitate community education in relation to wetlands, and the community use of wetlands, without compromising the ecological values of wetlands.

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a “**natural area – watercourse**” are:

- (a) to manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows, and
- (b) to manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability, and
- (c) to restore degraded watercourses, and
- (d) to promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as “**natural area – foreshore**” are:

- (a) to maintain the foreshore as a transition area between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment, and to protect and enhance all functions associated with the foreshore's role as a transition area, and
- (b) to facilitate the ecologically sustainable use of the foreshore, and to mitigate impact on the foreshore by community use.

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a “**sportsground**” are:

- (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and
- (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

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

- (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and
- (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
- (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as “**an area of cultural significance**” are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (namely its Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical or research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods.

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

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

This plan of management aims to satisfy these management objectives for community land.

1.4.2b **Crown Lands Act (1989)**

The Crown Lands Act governs the planning, management and use of crown land including its reservation or designation for a public purpose. The principles of crown land management are as follows:

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

Crown reserves are managed in partnership with both councils and local community groups. The goal of Crown land management is to optimise environmental, economic and social outcomes for the benefit of the people of NSW.

Boronia Park was gazetted as a Public Park on 16th December 1887, as Crown Reserve, for the “for the purpose of public recreation, convenience, health, or enjoyment” as specified in the Public Parks Act of 1884. In 1993 Hunters Hill Council was named trustee of Boronia Park, responsible for its “care, control and management”.

1.4.2c Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A ACT)

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act 1979) establishes the statutory planning framework for environmental and land use planning in NSW. This is done through State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) and Local Environmental Plans (LEPs). The EPA Act 1979 also sets out processes for approving development applications for structures and works as set out in Hunter’s Hill LEP 2012.

1.4.2d Threatened Species Conservation Act (TSC ACT) 1995

The main objectives of the TSC Act are to:

- Conserve biological diversity and promote sustainable development;
- Prevent the extinction of native plants and animals;
- Protect habitat that is critical to the survival of endangered species;
- Eliminate or manage threats to biodiversity;
- Properly assess the impact of development on threatened species; and
- Encourage cooperative management in the conservation of threatened species.

Three vegetation communities within Boronia Park have been listed as under the TSC Act. These are the endangered ecological communities of the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, the Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest and Coastal Saltmarsh.

Identification and management of threatening processes, threat abatement and actions are laid out within this Act.

1.4.2e Noxious Weeds Act (NW ACT) 1993

This Act provides for the identification, classification and control of noxious weeds. Under this Act certain plant species are declared noxious in the Hunter’s Hill Council area.

1.5 COUNCIL’S PLANS AND POLICIES

1.5.1 Hunter’s Hill Local Environmental Plan (2012) and Consolidated Development Control Plan (2013)

Hunter’s Hill Local Environmental Plan (LEP) is the primary document that provides council’s planning objectives and controls. This Plan aims to make local environmental planning provisions for land in Hunter’s Hill in accordance with the relevant standard environmental planning instrument under section 33A of the Act. The LEP designates zoning, development objectives and permissible uses for every parcel of land within Hunter’s Hill Council Area.

Boronia Park is zoned as Zone RE1 (Public Recreation), and Zone E2 (Environmental Conservation). The objectives of these two zones are as follows:

Zone RE1 Public Recreation

- To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes;
- To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses; and
- To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.

E2 Environmental Conservation

- To protect, manage and restore areas of high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values; and
- To prevent development that could destroy, damage or otherwise have an adverse effect on those values.

The Consolidated Development Control Plan (DCP) provides detailed controls for all development within the local government area.

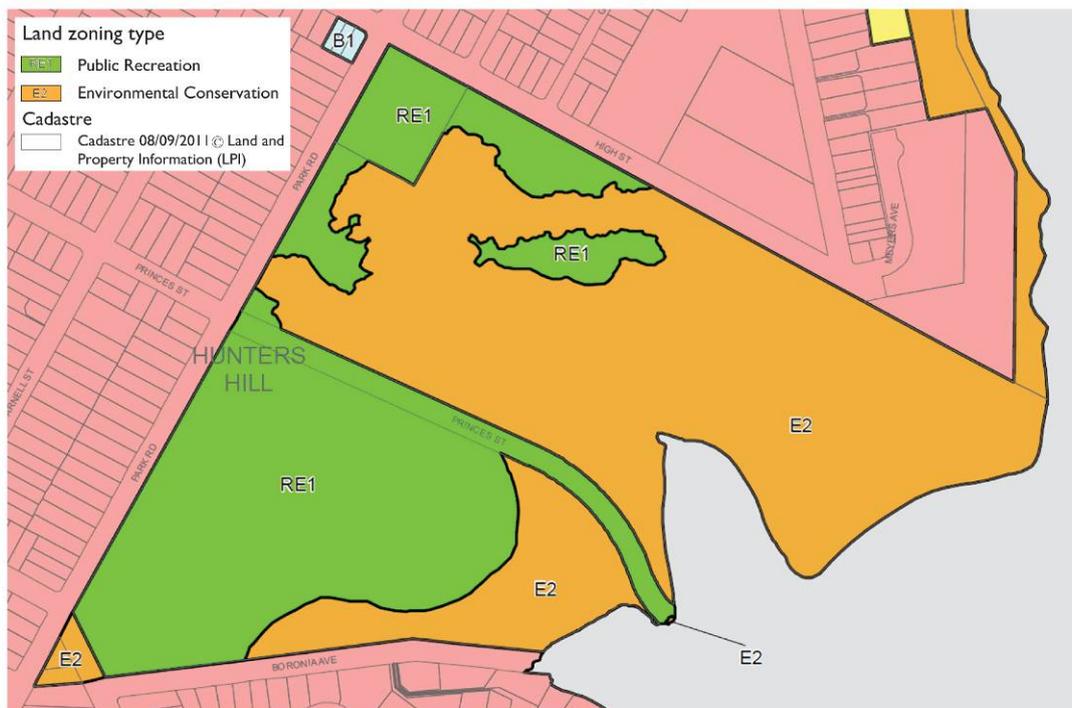


Figure 1- LEP Land Zoning Map

1.5.2 Hunter's Hill Council Outdoor Sport and Recreation Plan (2013)

The Outdoor Sport and Recreation Plan provides valuable background information for councils strategic planning documents, helping to effectively manage and deliver facilities and services aligned to different needs.

The provision of services and facilities to support sport and recreation activities is an important function of council. Outdoor recreation and organised sport is highly valued in Hunter's Hill, contributing to the general health, wellbeing and social cohesion of the community.

1.5.3 Hunter's Hill Section 94A Plan (2013)

This plan provides the mechanism for requiring development contributions to be paid to Council to increase or enhance public amenities and services required as a result of development. This plan provides a five-year work schedule listing community infrastructure projects to be funded by the contributions.

1.5.4 Draft Plan of Management (2002)

In 2002 a PoM was prepared by STORM Consulting for Boronia Park, which will be superseded by this document.

2. DESCRIPTION OF BORONIA PARK

2.1 LOCATION

Boronia Park is a 24.2 hectare park located in the suburb of Hunter's Hill. Situated in a predominantly residential area, the park is bounded by low and medium density housing to the north, south and west. The Lane Cove River forms the eastern boundary of the site.

2.2 REGIONAL CONTEXT

Hunter's Hill municipality is located 7km from Sydney CBD. It is the smallest Local Government area in Sydney, with a total area of 6 square km. *The Hunter's Hill Council Outdoor Sport and Recreation Plan (2013)* indicates that the municipality has a good balance of local, district and regional open spaces and a good distribution of open spaces across the municipality.

Hunter's Hill has 42 parks and reserves with a total of 67ha of land designated/zoned for public open space, as owner or trustee. This is significant with 6.4 ha per 1,000 persons, at the upper end of the provisional guidelines of the Department of Planning of 4-7ha per 1,000 persons

Boronia Park provides 24ha of open space, equating to 35% of the open space provision within the municipality, managed by council, providing a number of formal playing ovals and playground facilities. Boronia Park is the only venue within the municipality that provides more than one full size playing oval. Sports ovals within the entire municipality are either at, near or over capacity.

2.3 LOCAL DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Residents of Hunter's Hill are the main users of the site, according to the most recent site survey undertaken as part of the PoM.

The *ABS Census (2011)*, has indicated that Hunter's Hill municipality has a total of 13,216 residents. According to *The Hunter's Hill Council Outdoor Sport and Recreation Plan (2013)*, Hunter's Hill residents have the following demographic characteristics, compared to the NSW average:

- Larger percentage of 12-17yr olds;
- Larger percentage of older people, 60-84yrs;
- Larger percentage of persons aged 85 and over; and
- Smaller percentage of people aged 25-34yrs.

The above is a reflection of the large number of male borders at St Josephs College, "Empty Nesters" and the number of aged accommodation facilities.

By 2026 the population has been projected to increase to 16,500, with an increase in older population, and number of younger families with an increase in children 0-18yrs.

Hunter's Hill residents have a high participation in physical activity, with 99% of residents indicating they participate in "physical activity", with higher than state average for both males and females. Participation in outdoor recreation far exceeds that of organised sport with walking as the most popular activity, with 80% participation.

Open space and parklands are heavily used, with 83% of residents indicating annual usage, and 83% indicating condition of reserves as 'good'.

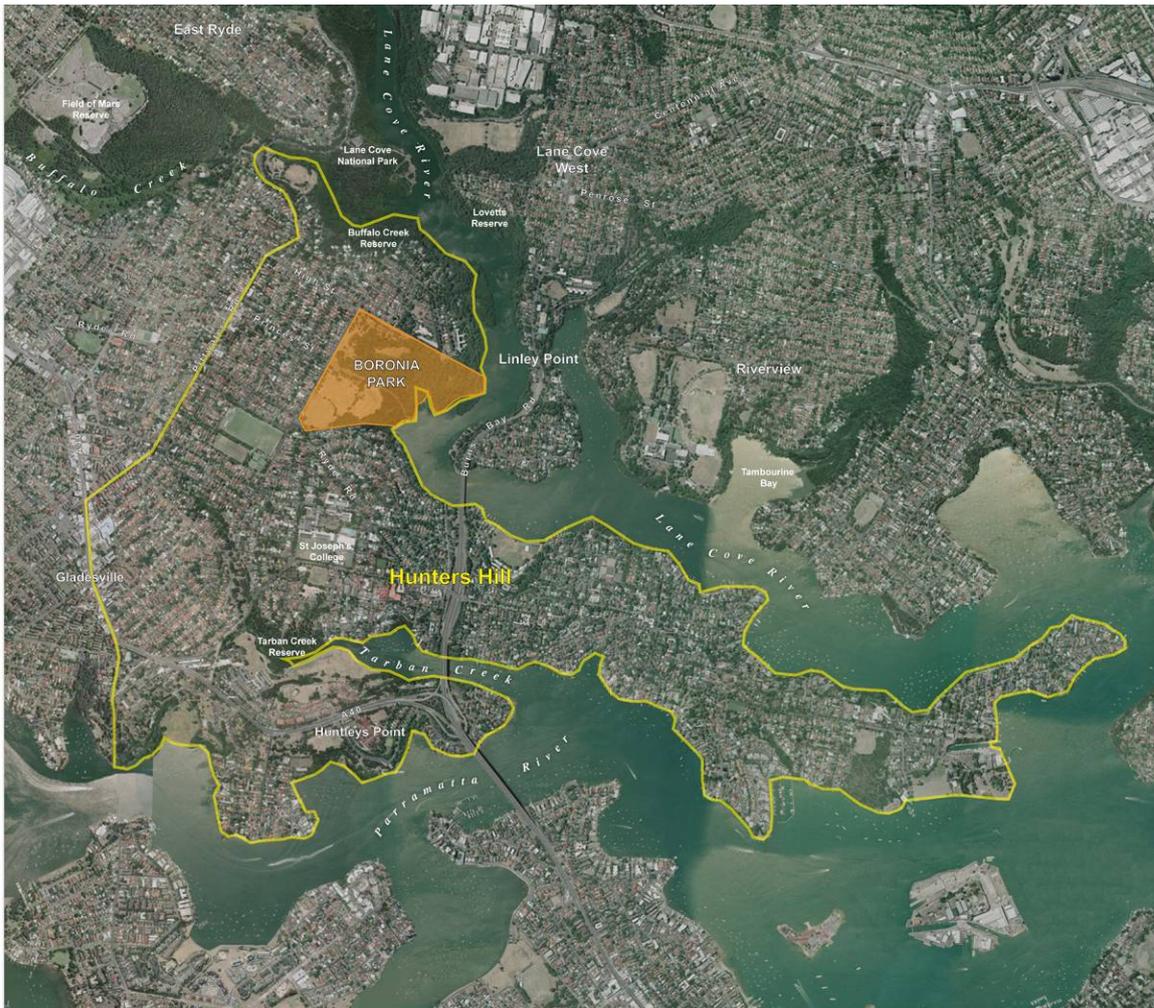
The municipality also has a high level of participation in field based sports with participation in soccer, rugby and cricket 2-3 times the state average. Soccer has the highest participation rate in the municipality, with more than double the rate of participation in rugby union. Future growth in existing high participation sports is expected, with increasing demand for sports fields.

Key strategies for the future provision and management of sport and recreation are outlined in *The Hunter's Hill Council Outdoor Sport and Recreation Plan (2013)*. This plan outlines the aim of council as "Encourage high levels of participation in sport, recreation and active living to enhance community wellbeing and to ensure facilities and services are of high quality and sustainable".

2.4 LOCAL CONTEXT

Boronia Park is the largest open space open within the local council area, providing a range of environmentally and recreationally based resources. Figure 2 below, depicts the location of Boronia Park within Hunter's Hill.

As shown in Figure 2, Boronia Park is significantly larger in area than other public parks within the municipality. Boronia Park has 3 full sized sports fields, the largest number within one location within Hunter's Hill, bordered by valuable bushland inclusive of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest and the Coastal Saltmarsh, all Endangered Ecological Communities. Due to its unique ecological values and recreational facilities, Boronia Park provides a rare combination of natural and recreational activities that are not found elsewhere within the immediate area.



CONTEXT PLAN 
BORONIA PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT | BP_CP_01
 NOV 2014

Figure 2- Local context and open space distribution

2.5 HERITAGE AND LAND USE

2.5.1 Indigenous Heritage

The entire area of Boronia Park is listed as Environmental Heritage under council's LEP. The park has a rich cultural history, and a number of items of both Aboriginal and European heritage are located onsite, identifying the settlement of the area. The parks landscape illustrates the evolving pattern of Australian cultural history.

Boronia Park has a significant indigenous history with a number of known items of Aboriginal heritage, with a total of 7 sites identified at Boronia Park. The rerecording of Aboriginal heritage items was undertaken in 2004, by the Aboriginal Heritage Office, to locate and photograph items of indigenous heritage onsite. This study found a number of middens, and rock shelters with archaeological deposits located within the site. A further AHIMS extensive search was undertaken as part of this PoM indicating the presence of shelters with art and middens present onsite, as well as an open camp site and axe grinding grooves.

Boronia Park also has a history of European intervention from the 1800's onwards. Previous reports note the site being part of the original Field of Mars Common of the 1800's. A number of items of European cultural and historical significance are located onsite, including the grandstand, horse trough, hand hewn sandstone in the Brickmakers Creek Wetland and the board arrow marking for the Field of Mars Common survey. There are also remnants of past infrastructure onsite, including the site of the former wharf at Princes Street for produce transport, site of the tannery and the remains of a boatman's cottage. Refer below for land use history.

2.5.2 European Heritage and Land Use

The following is a brief chronological history of the site, collated from previous council documents:

- **1804:** Founded as part of the Field of Mars Common
- **Early – Mid 1800's:** Use by adjacent settlers for grazing of stock, timber cutting, brick making and a tannery. Logs, farm produce and tanned skins were shipped down the Lane Cove River via a small wharf. The site was also used as a night soil depot, with rusty cans still present onsite
- **1887:** Proclaimed for public recreation and named Boronia Park
- **1892:** Formation of Hunter's Hull Rugby Union Football Club with Boronia Park as their home ground
- **1893:** Became trustee of Hunter's Hill Council
- **Late 1800's – mid 1900's:** Site used for a rubbish tip and sewerage dump, ceasing in 1957
- **1897:** Formation of Hunter's Hill Cricket Club and use of Boronia Park, including installation of a permanent turf pitch
- **1928:** Construction of the pavilion, dedicated to Charles Fairland, a life member of the Rugby Club
- **Late 1950's:** Topsoil removal from Finlay's Paddock area
- **2002:** Modifications to the upper portion of Brickmaker's Creek (i.e. Geoff Grace Wetland) including the installation of a melaleuca wetland, with the purpose of reinstating natural stream features and providing habitat for water dragons. High St sediment basin installed.
- **2006:** Upgrades to Great North Walk
- **2011 – 14:** Upgrades to oval #3 involving placement of fill, earthworks and construction of a rocked batter
- **June 2014:** Installation of a stormwater decontamination unit (SDU) to treat stormwater inflows from the residential catchment via the stormwater outlet on Park Rd.

2.6 SITE CHARACTERISTICS

2.6.1 Landform, Soils & Drainage

Boronia Park is a sloped site with a general fall in an easterly direction. It has a high point of 43m above sea level at the corner of Ryde Road and Park Road, and a low point of approximately 1m at the water's edge of the Lane Cove River. The active recreation area of the site sits at the highest points and has a steep batter down into the adjacent bushland areas.

The Estuarine Vegetation Rehabilitation Plan, notes the soil profile of Boronia Park to consist of Glenorie Landscape Soils and Gymea Landscape soils, with much disturbance having occurred to these soil profiles by land use changes within the site.

Historic land use and works undertaken at Boronia Park have largely influenced the landform and drainage of the site. The Ruby Club recently undertook land fill activities in the park, associated with the construction of oval #3.

2.6.2 Infrastructure

Boronia Park has a range of infrastructure for active and passive recreational activities. This infrastructure caters predominantly to active recreation, including:

- Three full size sports ovals, with goals for rugby during winter and cricket pitches during the summer months. Oval #1 has a turf cricket wicket
- Perimeter fencing for oval #1 and partial fencing of oval #2 & #3
- Flood lighting for oval #1 and #2
- Historic pavilion building including public toilets and disabled toilet, clubhouse facilities, including showers, change rooms, canteen and storage rooms
- Three grass netball courts
- Three cricket nets including lights and security fencing
- Cricket storage shed
- Long jump pit

Passive recreation infrastructure includes;:

- Park benches situated adjacent to oval #1 and playgrounds
- Two picnic shelters and tables and one double BBQ
- Two playgrounds one junior playground in south western corner of site, adjacent to Ryde Road and a smaller local multi-age playground in northern part of site on High Street
- Car parking including formal asphalt off road car park on Park Street and on street parking around site perimeter
- Numerous informal, unsealed walking trails including bushland trails
- Great North Walk traversing the site
- Stormwater decontamination unit adjacent to Princes Street
- Signage including site entry signage, way finding signage and regulatory signage

2.6.3 Access and Circulation

There are number of pedestrian access points into Boronia Park. Due to the large size of the park and its street frontage, these access points are predominantly informal.

The site perimeter is almost entirely penetrable by foot, by way of breaks in perimeter fencing, informal grassed access routes and the Princes Street roadway. This allows the park to be accessed by people from many locations. Boronia Park is also informally accessible from water via the Lane Cove River by canoeists and kayakers; the water is too shallow for motorised craft.

There are three formal access routes into Boronia Park, all located directly within the south west corner of the reserve. These entries allow for direct access to the active sporting facilities including the pavilion, oval #1 and the playground. A minor entry point is via the Great North Walk route.

An extensive path network exists onsite, with a diversity of formal and informal paths. The Great North Walk traverses the site from North to south, adjacent to the Lane Cove River. This route is well used by both locals and regional visitors as either a walk in itself or part of the longer 250km Great North Walk. Secondary informal unsealed bush pathways are present throughout the bushland, linking various elements of the park. The closed portion of Princes St onsite serves the purpose of a pedestrian link through the park to the Lane Cove River. Shorter connecting paths are located within the active recreation section of the park.

2.6.4 View Corridors

Boronia Park slopes from a high point in the south west to a low point at the Lane Cove River in the east. The quantity, distribution and height of trees within the park restrict long views. However there are a number of pleasant views within the park and to surrounding areas.

A number of views are present in Boronia Park as identified below:

Key view corridors **into** the Park include:

- Views from neighbouring residential properties;
- Views from surrounding streets;
- Views from across Lane Cove River; and
- Views down Princes Street.

Key view corridors **out** of the Park include:

- Views towards Sydney CBD including the Harbor Bridge; and
- Views across Lane Cove River from Princes Street and Great North Walk.

Key view corridors **within** the Park include:

- Views across Finlay's Paddock;
- Views from pavilion across sports ovals; and
- Views from pathways into bushland.

2.6.5 Flora

The bushland at Boronia Park is a key feature of the site, with over half of Boronia Park considered bushland. Survey results for Boronia Park and Buffalo Creek Reserve have found a high diversity of native plant species i.e. 264 plant species; 192 native species and 72 introduced species within the park, in a number of vegetation communities. According to the *Estuarine Vegetation Rehabilitation Plan (2010)*, a large range of vegetation communities have been identified in Boronia Park. These communities comprise of native (including EECs) and exotic communities. No threatened plant species are listed on the Register of Threatened Australian Plants (ROTRAP). For full descriptions, locations and management refer to *Estuarine Vegetation Rehabilitation Plan, Boronia Park and Buffalo Creek Reserve (2010)*.

2.6.5.1 Native Vegetation Communities

Native vegetation occupies a large portion of Boronia Park, named in accordance with the framework developed by OEH (2013) in *The Native Vegetation of the Sydney Metropolitan Area. Vol 1&2 V2*.

The following native vegetation communities have been identified onsite:

- Coastal Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest;
- Coastal Shale Sandstone Forest;
- Coastal Enriched Sandstone Sheltered Forest;
- Hornsby Enriched Sandstone Exposed Woodland;
- Coastal Sandstone Foreshores Forest;
- Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (EEC);
- Coastal Shale Sandstone Forest;
- Estuarine Swamp Oak Forest (EEC);
- Estuarine Saltmarsh (EEC);
- Estuarine Mangrove Forest; and
- Planted Woodland.

These vegetation communities are mapped in *Estuarine Vegetation Rehabilitation Plan, Boronia Park and Buffalo Creek Reserve (2010)* and *Saltmarsh Tools for the Lane Cove River Estuary (Applied Ecology 2010)*.

Of particular note are three vegetation communities, classified as Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC's). The Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, listed as Critically Endangered Ecological Community under the Commonwealth Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The Estuarine Swamp Oak Forest is a component of Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions. The Estuarine Saltmarsh is Coastal Saltmarsh in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions.

2.6.5.2 Exotic Vegetation Communities

Boronia Park contains four exotic vegetation types:

- Exotic Grassland;
- Exotic Woodland;
- Exotic Shrubland; and
- Managed Open Space.

These vegetation communities are mapped in *Estuarine Vegetation Rehabilitation Plan, Boronia Park and Buffalo Creek Reserve (2010)*.

The management of vegetation within the reserve is outlined within in the *Estuarine Vegetation Rehabilitation Plan*.

2.6.6 Fauna

Boronia Park forms part of a regionally significant wildlife corridor linking Sydney Harbour to Lane Cove National Park. The River to River Corridors Project (2010-2013) included 2 seasonal avifauna surveys. There is a diverse mix of remnant indigenous forest species

and ubiquitous native and introduced birds. Boronia Park supports small breeding populations of indigenous birds that have disappeared from much of urban Sydney such as the Eastern Yellow Robin and the Eastern Whipbird.

A large number of fauna has been identified within Boronia Park, a significant portion of which are native to the region. Fauna surveys undertaken in Boronia Park in 1998/99 have identified 11 mammal species, 73 bird species, 12 reptile species and 2 amphibian species.

The recent *River to River Corridors Project (2010-13)*, included two seasonal avifauna surveys, found a number of birds within the study area that have conservation significance. This study area included a total of 40 sites, including Boronia Park.

A total of 7 nationally and NSW-listed threatened bird species have been recorded in or near the study area, either historically or more recently.

This includes 5 species listed under the national Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999), which have been previously recorded in or near the study area. These include:

- Swift Parrot (endangered, E1 listing);
- Eastern Bristlebird (E1);
- Regent Honeyeater (E1);
- Crested Shrike-tit (vulnerable); and
- White-fronted Chat (nominated for listing as vulnerable in September 2010).

A further two species are listed as endangered with NSW under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation (TSC) Act (1995).

- Cotton Pygmy-goose; and
- Black-necked Stork

The following species have been identified in Boronia Park, and noted as of particular significance;

- Powerful Owl – listed as Vulnerable under NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (NSW TSC Act), observed onsite.
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle – listed as Marine and Migratory under EPBC Act 1999, observed nearby.

2.7 COMMUNITY USE OF SITE

Boronia Park is well utilised by the Hunter's Hill community, with over 71% of surveyed visitors living within the municipality. The 2014 community survey undertaken as part of this PoM (refer appendix B) shows that 78% of respondents visit the park at least once per week, with 65% of survey respondents spending more than 1hr at the site during a typical visit. Boronia Park is used for a range of active and passive recreational purposes. The results noted 64% of respondents participated in passive recreation, 13% in active recreation and 21% in both active and passive reaction at Boronia Park. Refer to 3.2 for details of the community consultation and Appendix B & C for outcomes.

In summary, the results of the survey confirm the active recreation activities undertaken in the park (in order of popularity) include:

- Rugby;
- Other;
- Cricket; and
- Netball.

In summary, the results of the survey confirm the passive recreation activities undertaken in the park (in order of popularity) include:

- Walking;
- Nature appreciation;
- Attending events;
- Playground use;
- Picnics;
- Other; and
- Personal training.

This range of activities reflects and reinforces the current management practices for the park, supporting predominantly passive recreational purposes whilst enabling and supporting active recreation. The community appreciates the nature of the park with respondents valuing the walking paths and bushland over all other park features.

2.8 MANAGEMENT ZONE USES

This plan of management identifies three management zones within Boronia Park:

- **The Bushland Management Zone** is comprised of predominantly native bushland, with a number of significant flora communities and fauna species. Containing numerous unsealed paths, this zone is utilised by the community for walking and nature appreciation.
- **The Active Recreation Management Zone** contains 3 sporting ovals, 3 netball courts, cricket nets and other supporting infrastructure including the pavilion. This area is used mainly for organised sports by sporting clubs.
- **The Passive Recreation Management Zone** includes grassed areas with over story trees, playgrounds and picnic facilities. This area is used by the general public for informal purposes including walking and play.

These three management areas are illustrated in Figure 3 below.



MANAGEMENT ZONES BORONIA PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

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OCT 2014

Figure 3 – Boronia Park Management Zones

The use and condition of each management zone is outlined in tables 2.8.1, 2.8.2 and 2.8.3 as the basis for undertaking the management needs and potential future improvements to these management zones, as set out in section 4 of this PoM.

Use and Condition Plan

2.8.1 Bushland Management Zone

No.	Topic	Item	Use	Condition
Bushland Management Zone				
1.1	Access and Circulation	Formal pedestrian access	Formal entry to the bushland portion of the site is via the Great North Walk or Princes Street	Lack of focal point or signage at formal entry points to Boronia Park
		Informal pedestrian access	The bushland areas of the site are accessible via surrounding streets, or from the adjacent active and passive areas. The whole site boundary is penetrable, and pedestrian access is available throughout the site	Some fragmentation of the bushland due to pedestrian access into bushland from multiple points across the site
		Formal paths	The Great North Walk traverses the site from north to south, adjacent to the Lane Cove River. This route is well used by both locals and regional visitors as either a walk in itself or part of the longer 250km Great North Walk	Steps, boardwalk and trail in moderate condition, suitable for nature based trail
		Informal paths	Unpaved trails are present throughout the bushland sections of the site linking various elements of the park, used by walkers, joggers and dog walkers	Bushland trails vary in condition and use. The quantity of trails has resulted in some fragmentation of the bushland
1.2	Infrastructure	Signage	Some signage is located within the bushland area of Boronia Park. This signage includes interpretive signage for vegetation communities, and way finding signage for the Great North Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some signage shows evidence of vandalism In some instances poor location of signage results in difficulty of access and underutilisation of signs by public
		Seating and picnic facilities	A single picnic table is located in an isolated location within a small clearing near Tipperary Falls	Picnic table is in poor condition, with evidence of vandalism

No.	Topic	Item	Use	Condition
1.3	Environment	Flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora onsite is of high conservation significance • Bushland is of and highly valued by the local community and general park visitors, and is valuable habitat for fauna species 	Vegetation quality and composition varies within the reserve. Some portions of vegetation have high conservation significance (categorised as Endangered Ecological Communities) and quality, other areas are infested with exotic weeds
		Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boronia Park is a regional wildlife corridor • Fauna (particularly avifauna and reptiles) highly valued by the local community and general park visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous fauna assessments have determined the presence of a large quantity and diversity of local fauna species within Boronia Park • Breeding pair of Powerful Owls (listed as Vulnerable Species under the NSW Environment and Heritage Office Threatened Species register and TSC Act) have been identified in the site
		Tipperary Falls	Waterfall within the reserve is dependent on rainfall for flows. Flows come from both site runoff and stormwater flows from adjacent streets	Falls appear to be in good condition, with some siltation in ponds at base. Visitor access is limited
1.4	Environmental Infrastructure	Geoff Grace Wetland	Constructed in 2000, the wetland receives inflows from adjacent streets, including from the SDU unit via Brick makers Creek. Wetland provides natural treatment of flows prior to entry to Tipperary Falls and Lane Cove River.	Preliminary observations show wetland to be functional and in moderate condition
1.5	Topography	Views	Views from Great North Walk over Lane Cove River	Views currently unutilised, with no formal seating or designated lookout point(s)
1.6	Heritage	Aboriginal	A number of Aboriginal heritage items have been identified on site, including middens and rock shelters with artwork	Heritage items are in fair condition in most places, however in one location a section of the Great North Walk appears to pass through a midden
		European	Heritage rock/brickwork and hand hewn stone of historical significance located at the Brick makers Creek wetland	Heritage items are in fair condition

2.8.2 Active Recreation Management Zone

No.	Topic	Item	Use	Condition
Active Recreation Management Zone				
2.1	Access and Circulation	Informal pedestrian access	Active sporting areas are accessible from surrounding areas across grass	Unobstructed access into active sporting areas
		Formal paths	Pathway between oval #2 and #3 constructed of timber edging, and road base infill used to walk between two ovals	Pathway between ovals in good condition but is relatively unused due to uncomfortable large diameter gravel surface
		Informal paths	Recently installed path down batter to south side of oval #3, used for pedestrian access between Oval #3 and adjacent bushland, Great North Walk and Boronia Ave	Pathway recently installed by rugby club as part of agreement for oval #3 upgrade works
2.2	Infrastructure	Fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal steel and mesh fencing is located around oval #1 Mesh fencing to east of oval #2 Low mesh fencing located at top of batter adjacent to oval #3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perimeter fencing of oval #1 is damaged in sections Fencing adjacent to oval #2 and #3 is new and in good condition
		Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting for oval #1 is located at four locations, surrounding the oval outside of the perimeter fence. Used for rugby training, cricket training and personal training Lighting for oval #2 is located at two locations to the north of the oval Pavilion has a light pole outside of the building, adjacent to oval #1 Lighting is installed on the perimeter of the cricket nets and used by the cricket club for evening training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting is in good condition, but direction of flood lighting results in light spill into surrounding parkland and residences Lighting does not cover netball courts or oval #3

No.	Topic	Item	Use	Condition
		Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage listed pavilion • Public bathrooms including disabled, located to rear of building • Change rooms and storage room used by rugby club • Canteen open on game days • Pavilion underutilised by sporting spectators • Pavilion steps used by personal training groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public bathrooms used by public in good condition, and well maintained • Change rooms and storage shed condition in poor condition • Pavilion in moderate condition
2.3	Sporting Infrastructure	Oval #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full sized oval is the primary sporting oval for cricket in summer and rugby in winter months • During summer turf wicket is in use and maintained by council • Rugby posts and oval markings present during rugby season • Oval used by personal training groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf in moderate condition, but wears during rugby season from overuse • Wear to oval directly adjacent to pavilion
		Oval #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full sized oval is the secondary sporting oval for cricket in summer and rugby in winter months • During summer synthetic wicket is in use and maintained by council • Rugby posts and oval markings present during rugby season 	Oval in good condition
		Oval #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently upgraded full sized oval is being used by rugby or cricket in summer and rugby in winter • Synthetic cricket wicket is to be installed for cricket use in summer • Rugby posts and oval markings are currently present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf surface shows little signs of wear due to minimal use • Oval does not drain effectively, quality and distribution of subsurface drainage is unknown • Evidence of erosion along top of bank to east
		Netball courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 netball courts in underutilised by netball teams • Area used by personal training groups 	3 turf netball courts lack of lighting and good playing surface

No.	Topic	Item	Use	Condition
		Cricket nets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 newly installed mesh cricket nets and astro-turf pitch are used by the cricket club • Locked nets and pitch underutilised by the general public 	Nets and pitch are in good condition
		Basketball half court	Located adjacent to northern playground (on High Street) basketball ring and asphalt is available for informal public use	Backboard, hoop, net and asphalt surface in moderate condition
		Long jump pit	Located adjacent to new cricket nets, long jump pit is for public use, but currently underutilised	Pit is in poor condition and partially overgrown with grass. Signs of encroachment from cricket club
		Cricket storage shed	Building adjacent to cricket nets is used for storage of cricket equipment	Building in good condition
2.4	Topography	Views	Distant views from oval #2 to city currently not formally recognised or appreciated	No formal facilities to access/appreciate views

2.8.3. Passive Recreation Management Zone

No.	Topic	Item	Use	Condition
Passive Recreation Management Zone				
3.1	Access and Circulation	Formal pedestrian access	There are three formal pedestrian access points into the park, all located in the south western corner of the site adjacent to the southern playground and the pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety concerns for pedestrian access across Ryde Road • Underutilised site frontage and entrance on Ryde Road with cracked asphalt in some places • Un-matching site entry signage across site
		Informal pedestrian access	Whole site boundary is penetrable from the surrounding streets, with people accessing the site from a number of locations	Some fragmentation of the bushland due to pedestrian access into bushland from multiple points across the site
		Informal paths	Princes Street closed road is utilised by pedestrians as a pathway from Park Road to the Lane Cove River and Great North Walk	Princes Street paved surface forms a wide access walkway with a relatively smooth surface, but incompatible with nature site character
3.2	Traffic and Parking	Formal car access and parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off Street parking is available to west of space between oval #1 and #2. Accessible from Park Road with approximately 25 parking spaces and 2 disabled parking spaces. This car park is used by a wide range of park users including sporting club members, personal training groups and dog walkers • Off street parking is available on nature strip along the northern half of Park Road and along High Street. High Street is heavily utilised by staff at adjacent Montefiore Nursing Home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpark surface is in moderate condition but line marking is worn and needs updating • Condition of nature strip parking surface varies

No.	Topic	Item	Use	Condition
		Informal car access and parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On street parking is available on surrounding streets and used heavily during organised events and sporting competitions • Upper portion of Princes Street within the site is opened for parking during special events and sporting competitions • Ovals #1 & #2 are open for carparking for large events eg. New Years Eve. 	Princes Street parking is on grassed area adjacent to paved roadway, and suitable for informal use
3.3	Infrastructure	Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage located at many locations throughout passive recreation areas of Boronia Park. Signage includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulatory signage ○ Entry signage ○ Park information (maps) ○ Advertising events • Entry signage on Ryde Road is underutilised and discontinuous with other site signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition and design of signage varies significantly throughout the entire site. Some signage is new and in good condition however a large number of signs have been vandalised or are in need of replacement. • Underutilised site frontage and entrance
		Fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing is located adjacent to the playground along Ryde Road and Boronia Avenue • Vehicle exclusion log fencing and bollards are located along the site boundaries for a large extent of the site along roadways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety fencing is in good condition • Vehicle exclusion fencing and bollards are in moderate condition, but various types used
		Seating and picnic facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating and picnic facilities are located in two main areas of the site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adjacent to oval #1 and #2. Used during sporting events and for picnics, includes BBQ's, picnic tables, shelters and park benches ○ Northern playground area, used for picnics etc, includes picnic tables and shelters 	Park infrastructure shows signs of graffiti, and outdated, but in moderate condition

No.	Topic	Item	Use	Condition
		Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern playground suitable for juniors used heavily by young families. Equipment includes swings, slides, spinners and a climbing net Northern playground is suitable for juniors with equipment including slide, swings and monkey bars used by families. Drinking fountain adjacent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern playground is new and in good condition directly adjacent to main road Northern playground is used less frequently, is outdated, shows signs of graffiti, and is in moderate condition
3.4	Environmental Infrastructure	SDU unit	SDU unit recently installed in June 2014, serves the purpose of removing contaminants from the adjacent urban runoff prior to entry into the Geoff Grace Wetlands	In good condition
		Rocked stormwater channel in north of site / sediment basin	Channel captures stormwater flows from High Street, Barons Crescent and Montefiore Home. Flows through rocked channel and stream flowing into Lane Cove River	Rocked channel in moderate condition, high nutrient flows result in weediness
3.5	Passive Recreation	Finlay's Paddock	Grassed open area, surrounded by bushland is used heavily by dog walkers	Grass is in good condition, most dog owners clean up after pets
3.6	Topography	Views	Views from end of Princes Street at water's edge to Lane Cove River	Views currently unutilised with no seating or viewing point
		Turfed slopes	Steep slopes adjacent to oval #2 and #3 are grassed and maintained by council staff. The slopes are unused for any particular purpose and difficult to mow due to steepness of grade. Steep slopes cause safety hazard for pedestrians.	Steep slopes make mowing difficult, leaving skid marks on the slope where traction is lost
3.7	Heritage	European	Horse trough located at site boundary on Park Road, near Princes Street	Horse trough currently unused, shows signs of damage

3. PREPARING THE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

3.1 THE PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process for this Plan of Management followed the method below:

- Collation, review and analysis of background documents including the previous PoM and other supplementary reports;
- Preparation of digital site base plans, including cadastre and survey;
- Meetings and consultation with Council Officers and PRG to oversee and advise the PoM and Concept Plan preparation;
- Site visits for site analysis and planning purposes;
- Review existing site conditions;
- Preparation of a Use and Conditions Table, detailing current site conditions;
- Preparation of Functional Analysis Plan, illustrating detailed site analysis and presenting issues and opportunities for the site;
- Preparation of a draft Vision;
- Community Consultation, including online survey and two onsite surveys (one held during the week, and one held on the weekend);
- Three separate stakeholder consultation workshops;
- Review of consultation outcomes and preparation of summary;
- Presentation of stakeholder outcomes to the HHC councillors;
- Preparation of Draft Plan of Management and Draft Concept Plan for Council review for Public Exhibition;
- Public Exhibition of Draft Plan of Management and Draft Concept Plan;
- Community consultation including notification to gain community feedback on draft plan;
- Draft plan of management document is reviewed;
- Reporting on comments received during exhibition and any changes required for finalisation of the Plan of Management and Concept plan;
- Public Hearing as required by Council; and
- Finalisation of Plan of Management and Concept Plan.

3.2 CONSULTATION

A range of communication and consultation activities were undertaken with stakeholders and the community to facilitate the draft PoM. Key consultation activities included a council officer workshop, stakeholder meetings with community groups, online community survey and two surveys onsite. These activities are detailed below.

3.2.1 Council Officer Workshop

In June 2014 a council officer workshop was undertaken to discuss the current condition and uses of Boronia Park and identify possible future directions. The group identified features, issues and opportunities present onsite and provided valuable knowledge into condition, maintenance, and possible future directions of the park.

3.2.2 Stakeholder Consultation

A comprehensive stakeholder consultation list was compiled, and stakeholders were invited by council to attend stakeholder meetings regarding the preparation of the PoM for Boronia Park. These meetings enabled stakeholders to share their views on Boronia Park and outline current issues and identify opportunities for the park.

In August 2014 the following three stakeholder meetings were undertaken:

- Community Groups
- Sporting Groups
- Councillors

Attendees were noted and minutes taken for all of the meetings. Refer to Appendix D for a list of stakeholders consulted and meeting attendees.

3.2.3 General Community Consultation Workshop

A consultation workshop was held for the general community in August 2014. This meeting allowed for individual community members to present their views for Boronia Park in a workshop environment. Attendees were noted and minutes taken for the meeting.

3.2.4 Current Use Survey

A user survey was carried out over a 6 week period in July / August 2014. A community notice was distributed via post to the whole municipality to inform of the current PoM and survey being undertaken. This noted options for filling in the survey and ways the community could contribute to the PoM process.

Available online, via post and at 2 times onsite, the survey generated 242 responses. Online surveys were available via the Hunter's Hill Council website, which generated 161 of the responses. 27 postal surveys were received and 54 surveys were filled in onsite on the 15th and 16th of August

The results of this survey have provided useful input into the draft plan of management and copies of the survey and the results are included in Appendix B and C of the attached draft plan.

Refer to Appendix C for community consultation survey, results and summary.

3.2.5 Plan of Management Exhibition

The draft Plan of Management, along with a Concept Plan is to be reported to Council seeking public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.

4. MANAGEMENT OF BORONIA PARK

4.1 VISION STATEMENT

A draft vision statement has been developed to assist in developing specific, site appropriate management objectives.

“To maintain and protect the bushland values of Boronia Park, whilst fostering improved community understanding, use and amenity and providing for a range of recreational purposes.”

4.2 PoM OBJECTIVES

The PoM aims to appropriately manage Boronia Park for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the bushland and wetland, while catering to a range of active and passive recreational opportunities valued within the community. The following are the objectives for each management zone:

- Bushland Management Zone

Maintain and enhance significant ecological, biodiversity and heritage values of the “Boronia Park bushland.”

- Active Recreation Management Zone

“Maintain and enhance current active recreational uses and encourage an increased variety of community based sporting uses compatible with park values.”

- Passive Recreation Management Zone

“Promote increased passive recreational use of Boronia Park for a larger number and variety of users.”

Strategies have been developed for each of the management zones of Boronia Park to achieve the above objectives. These strategies, along with the Concept Plan focus on management responses sympathetic to the environmental and recreational values of Boronia Park. Refer to the Action Plan below for specific management strategies for each zone.

4.3 CONCEPT PLAN

A Concept Plan (CP) has been developed to support the vision and actions of the Plan of Management. The plan conforms to the management actions for each of the three zones of the park, set out in Appendix A.

The aim of this plan is to illustrate the recommendations included in the Action Plans to assist in clarifying the works and their location within the park. The CP recommendations predominantly cover landscape infrastructure and broad vegetation management recommendations.

The Concept Plan is a guiding document and to be read in conjunction with the PoM.

4.4 FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Indicative cost estimates have been noted within the Actions Plan. Specific items are noted by council as works already budgeted for implementation in the near future. Other works are to be budgeted by council with small scale proposals, primarily implemented through existing staff resources and larger items requiring funding in annual council budgets and through grant funding.

4.5 ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan provides the basis for the implementation of the Plan of Management. The priorities have been assigned according to the specific action's relative importance and priority for upgrading or improvement.

The design and upgrade proposals are indicative only and detailed design will be required for specific proposals. This detailed design process may require minor variations in the exact location of facilities and works such as buildings, recreational infrastructure and paths.

The indicative cost estimates are broad estimates for planning purposes only. Further detailed estimates will be required at detailed design and documentation stages and are subject to future capital works budget approval.

The identified actions, staging and indicative cost estimates will be implemented via Council's annual Operational Plan and Budget.

A comprehensive Action Plan has been prepared for each Management Zone as follows (refer figure 3):

- Bushland Management Zone;
- Active Recreation Management zone; and
- Passive Recreation Management Zone.

Action Plan

4.5.1 Bushland Management Zone

Objective:

Maintain and enhance significant ecological, biodiversity and heritage values of the Boronia Park bushland.

Key Strategies:

- Improve and consolidate pedestrian paths and access;
- Maintain and enhance bushland condition and wildlife habitat;
- Protect bushland from adjacent impacts;
- Protect heritage values present, and
- Encourage community use and raise awareness of bushland.

Priorities	
High	1yr
Medium	2-3yrs
Low	3-5yrs

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
Bushland Management Zone						
1.1	Improving and consolidating pedestrian paths and access	Trails throughout site are not clearly defined or signposted, encouraging the creation of additional informal and unnecessary 'goat tracks' causing disturbance to and division of bushland areas.	Trails to be assessed, with selected paths to be closed for bush regeneration, and other paths to be improved	Detailed Design & Council implementation	High	Ongoing council maintenance budget for vegetation works
			Undertake Signage Strategy to clearly signpost and define select trails to discourage the creation of additional 'goat tracks'	Signage Strategy		\$70K for new trail works \$40K for Signage Strategy

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
1.2	Maintain and enhance bushland condition and wildlife habitat	High conservation value bushland including EECs present onsite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and protect bushland including all EECs Implement works in accordance with recommendations outlined in EVRP 	EVRP	Ongoing	Staff resources & Maintenance
		Exotic weeds in some areas of site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement works in accordance with recommendations outlined in Estuary Vegetation Rehabilitation Plan for Buffalo Creek Reserve and Boronia Park (EVRP) Remove invasive weeds in accordance with current best practice guidelines 	EVRP	Ongoing	Staff resources & Maintenance
		Feral animals present onsite	Cooperate with Urban Feral Animals Action Group (UFAAG) in controlling feral animals in Boronia Park.	Council implementation	Medium	Staff resources
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited formal data on fauna presence and distribution across site and corresponding recommendations for protection Powerful Owls within Boronia Park are easily susceptible to site and development impacts 	Undertake environmental assessment study including two seasonal and day and night targeted fauna surveys, including the Powerful Owl, to ensure any future site works do not cause impacts.	Environmental Assessment Study & Regulation	Medium	\$50K
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of hazard reduction burns outside of breeding season, with no burning around the living nest tree Ensure Powerful Owl prey (e.g. possums) are to be protected i.e. maintain good native understorey Management of nest tree i.e. minimise all forms of disturbance in the vicinity 	Specific Powerful Owl recommendations, in accordance with the Powerful Owl Project by Birdlife Australia					

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
		Fire management of bushland	Implement fire management works in accordance with recommendations outlined in EVRP and Hunters Hill, Ryde, Lane Cove & Willoughby Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP)	EVPRP & BFRMP	High	Ongoing council maintenance budget for vegetation works
		Informal mountain biking trails on site cause disturbance to valuable bushland	Identify and remove unauthorised mountain biking trails	Council assessment and implementation	Ongoing	Staff resources & Maintenance
1.3	Protect bushland from adjacent impacts	Dogs impact bushland and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce dogs on leash policy, which currently applies to the whole of Boronia Park Prepare a dog strategy for the whole Hunter's Hill municipality to determine the basis for the allocation of 'dog off leash' areas within the municipality and inform the designation of Boronia Park as dog on leash 	Regulation & Dog Strategy	Medium	Ongoing council enforcement budget
		Plastic park seats are being stored in bushland adjacent to Finlay's Paddock	Remove 'informal' seats from bushland and install suitable public infrastructure in accordance with use of Finlay's Paddock	Concept Plan	Medium	Staff resources & \$10K for infrastructure
		Concerns of impacts on adjacent valuable bushland from vehicle use of Princes Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper portion of Princes Street to be retained as-is, i.e. locked by gate and only used for maintenance vehicle access and emergency use No formal car access or parking to be implemented at Princes Street Investigate improving overflow parking capacity near oval two with grass sub surface reinforcement 	<p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>Council assessment and implementation</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>High</p>	n/a

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
		Evidence of graffiti and illegal fires adjacent to Tipperary Falls. Picnic table in state of disrepair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of vegetation waste Removal of picnic table to discourage use after dark Identify excess fuel onsite and remove as required 	Council assessment and implementation	Med	Ongoing council maintenance and enforcement budget
1.4	Protect heritage values present	Lack of knowledge or information about Aboriginal and European heritage of site	Develop a comprehensive interpretative signage strategy describing the Aboriginal and European heritage of the site	Signage Strategy	Medium	Refer 1.4
			Retain and protect historical items on site	n/a	High	Ongoing council maintenance budget
			Hunter's Hill Council to join the Northern Sydney Aboriginal Heritage Office	Membership	High	\$1K
1.5	Encourage community use and raise awareness of bushland	Great North Walk is not clearly signposted, resulting in confusion for walkers	Consult with Crown Lands to maintain the quality of the trail through Boronia Park and implement improved signage	Signage Strategy	Medium	Refer 1.4
		Lack of encouragement for walkers to explore Boronia Park bushland	Signpost select existing walking trails	Signage Strategy	Medium	Refer 1.4
			Implement new looped unsealed walking track with signage for whole site, connecting bushland with other management areas	Concept Plan, Detailed design & Signage Strategy		
		Lack of access to and knowledge of Tipperary Falls, resulting in under-appreciation	Improve access to and lookout at Tipperary Falls	Concept Plan	Low	\$10K
		Unutilised views along Great North Walk	Consider selective vegetation maintenance to retain views to Lane Cove River and seating	Council assessment and implementation	Low	Ongoing council maintenance budget

4.5.2 Active Recreation Management Zone

Objective:

Maintain and enhance current active recreational uses and encourage an increased variety of community based sporting uses compatible with park values.

Key Strategies:

- Improve active recreational facilities;
- Promote increased use of active recreation areas by general public for a variety of uses;
- Encourage connections to other management areas.

Priorities

High 1yr
Medium 2-3yrs
Low 3-5yrs

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
Active Recreation Management Zone						
2.1	Improve recreational facilities	Heavy use of oval #1 resulting in wear to field directly adjacent to pavilion	Encourage increased use of oval #2 for training	Consultation with sporting clubs	Medium	Staff resources
		Damage to perimeter fencing of oval #1 unsightly	Maintenance repairs to boundary fence	Staff resources & Maintenance	Low	Ongoing council maintenance budget
		Line marking undertaken by council for school athletic carnivals is repeated due to spacing of events	Prior to athletic carnival season, council to consult with schools regarding planning of athletic carnival events and required line marking	Consultation with stakeholders	Low	Staff resources & ongoing council maintenance budget
		Underutilisation of recently constructed oval #3, with low use by sporting codes due to poor drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirement to determine quality and distribution of subsurface drainage • Council to consult with clubs regarding resolution of drainage issues 	Integrated Water Management Plan for Boronia Park	High	\$50K planning & \$200K implementation

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
		Long walking distance from oval #3 to existing toilet facilities at pavilion for players during games	Council to consult with clubs regarding the potential installation of small amenity block adjacent to oval #3 including two toilets (M&F), showers and small storage room for day use only. Small, single story building is to be sensitively designed and located for least visual impact, low maintenance and apply best practise ESD principles. Service vehicle maintenance access only to building.	Consultation & Detailed Design	Medium	\$100K planning & \$250K implementation
		Low level use of netball courts by local clubs due to poor surface condition	Council to consult with club and assess court surface upgrading to asphalt or similar	Council assessment and implementation	Medium	\$100K (budget allocated in 2014-2015 works)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bore water has to be supplemented with potable water due to salinity levels High volume water requirements for field irrigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to assess quality of bore water and assess alternative options Undertake whole-of-park Integrated Water Management Plan to assess site, and determine site wide integrated water quality, control and harvesting recommendations 	Integrated Water Management Plan	High	Refer above (\$50K planning & \$200K implementation)

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting of site often turned on when fields are not in use, causing local residents dissatisfaction and environmental concerns • Flood lighting results in poor energy efficiency and light spill into surrounding residences • Lighting does not cover netball courts • Light spill into surrounding adjacent bushland areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with stakeholders and enforce light usage restriction through the implementation of "User Pays" meters on lights • Assess lighting efficiency and implement alternative higher efficiency lighting technology solutions • Council to determine number and distribution of lighting keys and undertake consolidation as required • Ensure any future lighting does not cause spill into residential properties • Light spill into surrounding adjacent bushland areas to be considered in context of Rivers to Rivers Corridor Project study • Provide lighting to netball courts 	Consultation & Council assessment & Detailed Design	Medium	\$300K (budget allocated in 2014-2015 works)
		Pavilion underutilised by community during sporting events	Encourage use of pavilion by spectators by improving condition of building, and maintain high level of maintenance and cleaning	Council assessment and maintenance	Low	Ongoing council maintenance budget
		Internal pavilion facilities are outdated, in poor condition and underutilised by sports clubs	Investigate opportunities for refurbishment of internal facilities for improved and additional uses, including provision of a meeting room for rugby club	Building assessment	Medium	\$10K planning & \$100K for implementation
		Unused electrical shed adjacent to oval #1	Council to investigate possible reuse for storage	Council assessment	Low	Staff resources

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
		Graffiti tagging on electrical sheds	Telstra to undertake removal of graffiti on their electrical sheds, and consider painting to deter future graffiti	Council assessment and maintenance	Low	Ongoing council maintenance budget
2.2	Promote increased use of active recreation areas by general public for a variety of uses	Use of Boronia Park by a number of unlicensed personal training groups	Council to enforce regulations regarding registration and licensing of personal training groups	Consultation with stakeholders & council enforcement	Medium	Staff resources & Ongoing council maintenance budget
		Cricket nets are locked, and not readily available for public use during times outside formal club practice	Consult with cricket club and investigate possible opening and closing of facility by council ranger during prescribed hours	Consultation with stakeholders & council enforcement	Medium	Staff resources & Ongoing council maintenance budget
		Basketball half court (off High Street) underutilised by community	Consider improving diversity of use of this underutilised hard surface by line-marking with games and/or bicycle course	Council assessment and implementation	Low	Staff resources
		Long jump pit in disrepair, with overgrown turf, no definition, and signs of encroachment from other uses	Clearly define long jump area and undertake regular maintenance for improved public use	Council maintenance	Low	Staff resources & Ongoing council maintenance budget
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inadequate stability of bank at oval #3 • Erosion in areas along top of bank due to plant failure and surface water flows over bank and lack of adequate drainage • Low success rate of bank planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site assessment with civil engineer / landscape architect and council officers to assess long term solutions to surface stability and erosion • Implementation of dense planting on batter and regular maintenance to ensure plant establishment 	Civil engineer assessment report & Council maintenance	High	\$5K planning & \$20K for implementation
		Unutilised long views to city within park	Consider viewing and seating lookout and in elevated position for park users	Concept Design & Detailed Design	Low	\$50K

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
2.3	Encourage connections to other management areas	Limited use of remainder of site by active recreational users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement dedicated loop unsealed 1.5m wide walking track for the wider park site, connecting recreational and bushland areas with other management areas and consolidating unnecessary 'goat tracks' • Implement signage strategy to encourage exploration of the remainder of the site by active recreation users 	Concept Design & Detailed Design & Signage Strategy	Medium	\$20K planning & Refer 1.4 for signage strategy cost & 100K for implementation

4.5.3 Passive Recreation Management Zone

Objective:

Promote increased passive recreational use of Boronia Park by a larger number and variety of users.

Key Strategies:

- Improve passive recreational facilities;
- Improve access and circulation; and
- Encourage connections to other management areas.

Priorities

High	1yr
Medium	2-3yrs
Low	3-5yrs

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
Passive Recreation Management Zone						
3.1	Improve passive recreational facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsightly and redundant vehicle turn-around at end of Princes Street impedes water access and detracts from riverside aesthetic • Unutilised views and access to water's edge at Princes Street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove vehicle barrier, relocate maintenance vehicle 3-point turn further upslope and provide gate for vehicle access for maintenance only • Install appropriate and sensitively designed park infrastructure reflective of natural setting to encourage water's edge picnicking, including tables, seats, small shelter and bins • Install simple pontoon for kayak launching and docking 	Concept Plan & Detailed Design	High	\$20K planning & \$120K for implementation

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
		Road width (6m) of Princes Street access beyond second gate detracts from natural bushland atmosphere of site for walkers	Alteration of Princes Street road downhill from the second vehicle exclusion gate to allow for improved pedestrian amenity and experience, reducing road width to create 3m meandering trail and low indigenous vegetation to sides and improved swale to assist with storm water sediment control	Concept Plan & Detailed Design	High	\$5K planning & \$75K for implementation
		Park Road carpark line marking is worn, leading to visitor confusion and illegal parking	Council to coordinate re-marking of Park Road carpark lines	Council assessment and implementation	High	Staff resources
		Graffiti and site vandalism present across the park	Removal of vandalism from surfaces, and ongoing maintenance	Council assessment and maintenance	Low	Ongoing council maintenance budget
		Two playgrounds present onsite do not cater to older children which limits family use of park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augment existing playground with diversified equipment for older children groups • Design and construct dedicated and feature playground for senior children, reflecting bushland nature of the park, located in north eastern portion of site (refer to Concept Plan) 	Concept Plan & Detailed Design	Medium	\$30K planning & \$300K for implementation
		Limited seating and picnic facilities	Implement new seating and picnic facilities across site	Concept Plan & Detailed Design	Medium	\$5K planning & \$50K for implementation
		Absence of bike parking	Implement new bike parking facilities in select locations	Concept Plan	Medium	\$2K

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
		No public exercise equipment in park limits community use of park for exercise	Install a series of robust, well designed off-shelf outdoor exercise equipment stations with small footprints carefully located along loop path around site (refer to Concept Plan)	Concept Plan	Medium	\$100K
3.2	Improve access and circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steep grassed slope adjacent to oval #2 and #3 present a safety concerns for pedestrians Steep grassed banks are difficult to mow, causing turf wear from vehicle skidding and presenting safety concerns to council staff during ongoing maintenance 	Implement planting regime of site appropriate indigenous species in areas located on concept plan	Concept Plan & Council implementation	Medium	\$10K
		Poorly presented site frontage and main entrance to park at Ryde Road and Princess Street entries	Undertake signage strategy and implement higher profile entry upgrade and installation, reflective of park history and character, at the larger Princess Street entry area, with minor sign improvements at Ryde Road	Detailed Design of Entry & Signage Strategy	Low	\$10K planning & \$50K for implementation
		Heavy use of nature strip parking on High Street by Montefiore Staff	Council rangers to ensure that signposted short term parking areas are maintained for public usage	Council enforcement	Ongoing	Ongoing council enforcement budget
		Surface condition of nature strip parking varies around perimeter of site	Council to ensure all nature strip parking are maintained to be safe for public parking	Council maintenance	Ongoing	Ongoing council maintenance budget

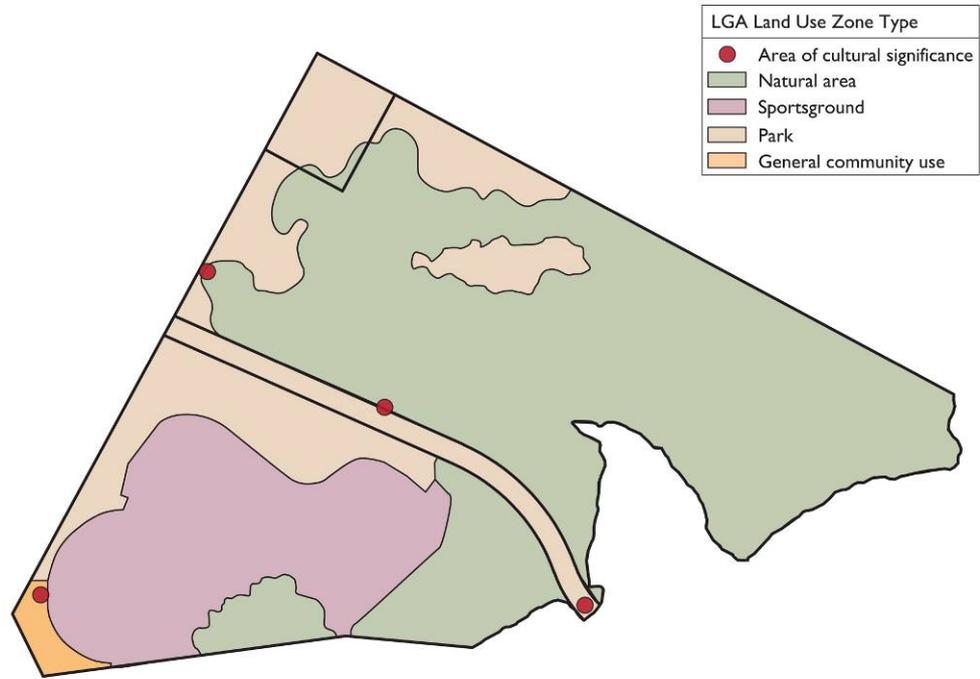
No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
		Pedestrian safety concerns associated with the use of Princes Street for overflow parking during community and sporting events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper portion of Princes Street to be retained as-is, i.e. locked and only used for overflow vehicle parking during major community events with traffic control management by council No formal car access or parking to be implemented in Princes Street 	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Signage inconsistent across site	Undertake signage assessment and strategy to determine the direction for future park signage works including entry, interpretive, directional and regulatory signage	Signage Strategy	Medium	Refer 1.4 for signage strategy cost
		Inconsistencies in fencing material and condition along the perimeter of the site	Council to ensure all perimeter fencing is maintained to be safe and in good condition	Council maintenance	Ongoing	Ongoing council maintenance budget
		Inconsistency in formal entry points into the park, leading to visual clutter and confusion	Upgrade park entries, and create designated main entry at Princes Street with suitable signage and planting	Detailed Deign	Medium	\$10K planning & \$50K for implementation
		Poor pedestrian access to site from adjacent streets and of Park Road at the roundabout at the intersection with Princess Street	Undertake traffic assessment in conjunction with RMS to recommend traffic control mechanisms and locate pedestrian crossings	Traffic Assessment	Medium	Staff resources
3.3	Encourage connections to other management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of knowledge about Aboriginal heritage on site Lack of knowledge about European heritage on site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a comprehensive interpretative signage strategy describing the heritage of the site Hunters Hill Council to join the Northern Sydney Aboriginal Heritage Office 	Signage Strategy & Membership	High	\$1K membership & Refer 1.4 for signage strategy cost

No.	Strategy	Issue	Action	Means of Implementation	Priority	Indicative Cost Estimate
	areas	Absence of connections to other management areas	Implement looped walking track for whole site, connecting bushland with other management areas	Concept Design & Detailed Design & Signage Strategy	Medium	\$20K planning & Refer 1.4 for signage strategy cost

4.6 LGA LAND USE CATEGORISATION

The current zoning under the LGA (refer to section 1.4.2a) has the reserve zoned as all 5 categories. As part of this PoM this zoning should be altered slightly, to reflect new management principles and proposals for Boronia Park.

Figure 4 below shows the proposed LGA land use categorisation for Boronia Park.



PROPOSED LGA LAND USE CATEGORISATION BORONIA PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

BP_LGA_01
NOV 2014

Figure 4 – Proposed LGA Categorisation

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The consultants would like to thank the following people who assisted in preparing this Plan of Management.

Council

Jacqui Vollmer	Bushland Management Officer, Hunter's Hill Council (HHC)
David Innes	Group Manager Works and Services, HHC
Margaret Kelly	Manger Community Services, HHC
Phil Sutton	Parks & Landscape Co-ordinator, HHC (PRG Member)
Tracy Ivin	Acting Parks & Landscape Co-ordinator, HHC

6. REFERENCES

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- Applied Ecology (2010) **Saltmarsh Tools for the Lane Cove River Estuary**
- BMT WBM (2013) **Lane Cover River, Coastal Zone Management Plan**
- Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (2008) **Hunter's Hill, Ryde, Lane Cove & Willoughby Bushfire Risk Management Plan**
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- Hunter's Hill Council (2004) **Aboriginal Sites Report**
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- Hunter's Hill Council (2011) **Hunter's Hill Local Government Area Community Profile Census**
- Hunter's Hill Council (2011) **Parks and Recreation Assets, Asset Management Plan**
- Hunter's Hill Council (2014) **Playgrounds in Hunter's Hill Local Government Area Draft**
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- STORM Consulting (2002) **Boronia Park Reserve, Plan of Management**
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- Warwick Mayne-Wilson (2013) **Town Parks of NSW, Past, Present and Future**

7. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – Draft Concept Plan



18 NOV V2



CONCEPT DESIGN BORONIA PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

N.T.S.
BP_CD_01
NOV 2014

APPENDIX B – Current Use Survey



BORONIA PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT Community Survey

Hunter's Hill Council is reviewing the Plan of Management for Boronia Park which will guide the future use and management of the reserve.

Council has engaged Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd to review the Plan of Management.

A key element of the Plan of Management will be understanding existing community use and potential opportunities for the Park. Council wants to hear from the community about how the reserve should be used now and what should be done to ensure its value is maintained into the future.

Please complete the survey and leave it in the box provided, or mail back to Hunter's Hill Council by 21/8/2014.

To answer the questions please place a tick the relevant box

Q1. Gender?

Male Female

Q2. Postcode?

Are you interested in hearing more?

Please provide your email address to receive more information on the Boronia Park Plan of Management.

Email:

Q3. What Age groups are represented in your household?

<input type="checkbox"/> 0 - 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 15 - 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 30 - 39
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 - 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 - 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 40 - 50
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 - 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 25 - 29	<input type="checkbox"/> 55+

Q4. How often do you visit Boronia Park?

<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a fortnight	<input type="checkbox"/> Rarely
<input type="checkbox"/> Several times a week	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a month	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
<input type="checkbox"/> Once a week	<input type="checkbox"/> A few times a year	

Q5. What time do you usually visit Boronia Park?

<input type="checkbox"/> Before 9am	<input type="checkbox"/> Midday to 2pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 5pm to 8pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 9am to midday	<input type="checkbox"/> 2pm to 5pm	<input type="checkbox"/> After 8pm

Q6. How do you travel to Boronia Park?

<input type="checkbox"/> Walk	<input type="checkbox"/> Car	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle	<input type="checkbox"/> Public transport	

Q7. How long do you typically stay at Boronia park?

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1hr	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 - 5hrs
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 2hrs	<input type="checkbox"/> More than 5hrs

Q8. What do you appreciate most about Boronia Park?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking paths/trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Bushland | <input type="checkbox"/> Great North Walk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sporting facilities (ovals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Birdlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Other..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic facilities | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organised events | <input type="checkbox"/> Waters edge | |

Q9. Do you have a favourite area / activity within Boronia Park? Please specify

.....

Q10. Do you participate in mainly active (sports) or passive recreation whilst in Boronia park?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active | <input type="checkbox"/> Passive | <input type="checkbox"/> Both |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|

Q11. What activities do you participate in whilst visiting Boronia Park?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Formal sports: | Informal sports: | Recreational activities: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rugby | <input type="checkbox"/> Rugby / soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Netball | <input type="checkbox"/> Netball | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket | <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal training |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature appreciation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Q12. Do you have any ideas for future events and activities at Boronia Park? Please specify

.....
.....

Q13. In the future, what would you like to see as the main purposes of Boronia Park? (select up to 4, numbered in order of priority ie. 1 most important & 4 least important)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking paths/trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Community facility/clubhouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sporting facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Organised events | <input type="checkbox"/> Waters edge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ovals | <input type="checkbox"/> Bushland | <input type="checkbox"/> Great North Walk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Birdlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Other..... |

Q14. What do you think council could do to improve Boronia Park? Please specify

.....
.....

Q15. Do you have any further comments regarding Boronia Park?

.....
.....

Thank you for contributing to the Boronia Park Plan of Management

**Please place the completed survey in the box provided,
or mail back to Hunter's Hill Council by 21/8/2014**

APPENDIX C – Consultation Summary

BORONIA PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT REVIEW

USER SURVEY

RESULTS SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2014

Summary

During the six week survey period, 21 July to 28 August 2014, 242 responses to the Boronia Park Plan of Management community survey were received by Council.

Distribution

The online survey was promoted via Council's website, the Mayor Column in The Weekly Times (TWT) and a flyer distributed to 6,000 residents in the LGA. Hard copies of the survey were distributed via Council's Customer Services, a stall at the Moocooboola Festival, and onsite consultations held Friday 15 August between 8am to 10am and Saturday 16 August 2pm to 4pm (which were also advertised on Council's website, the Mayors Column in the (TWT), and the flyer).

Survey Responses

A total of 242 surveys were completed. Of these 161 surveys were completed online via the Council's website, 54 at the onsite consultations (i.e. 14 on Friday 15 August and 40 on Saturday 16 August) and 27 surveys were received by post.

Question 1 - Gender

The survey respondents were evenly divided between males and females with 125 males (52%) and 113 (47%) females completing the survey.

Question 2 – Postcode

Figure 1 shows that the vast majority of survey respondents live in Hunters Hill (172) with a smaller number from Gladesville (24).

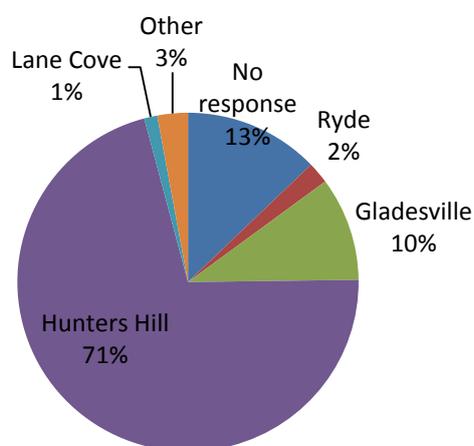
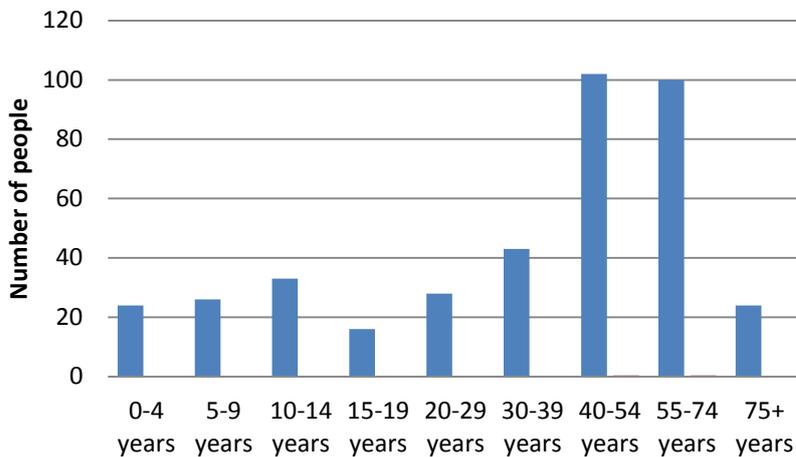


Figure 1: Postcode of survey responses

Question 3 – Age group in household

Figure 2 shows that the survey respondents represent a range of household groups, most predominantly families with children and older adults (40-74 years)

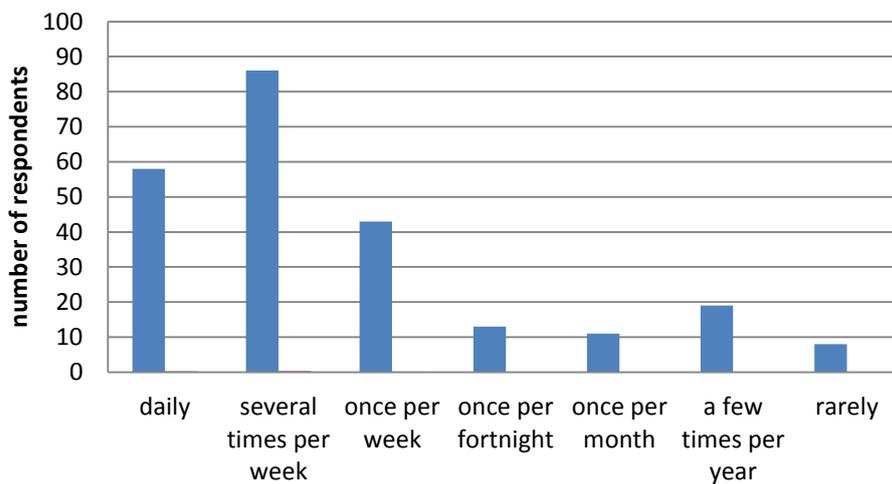
Figure 2: Age group represented in households of survey respondents



Question 4 – Frequency of visits to the Park

From the responses received the vast majority of the survey respondents were frequent users of the Park with 78% (187) visiting the Park at least once per week, of those 24% (58) visit daily.

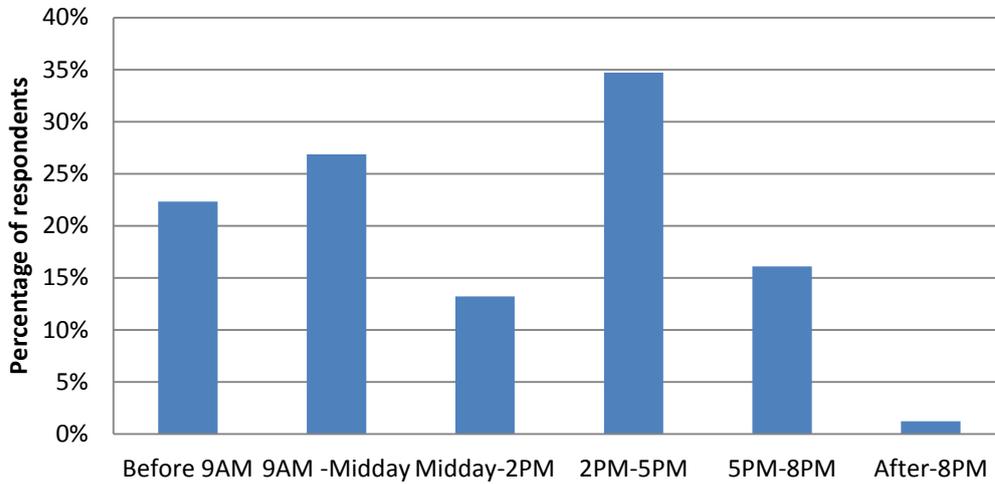
Figure 3: Frequency of visits to the Park



Question 5 – Time of visits to Park

Respondents visit the Park throughout the day with Figure 4 showing the most popular times being 2-5pm and 9am-12noon.

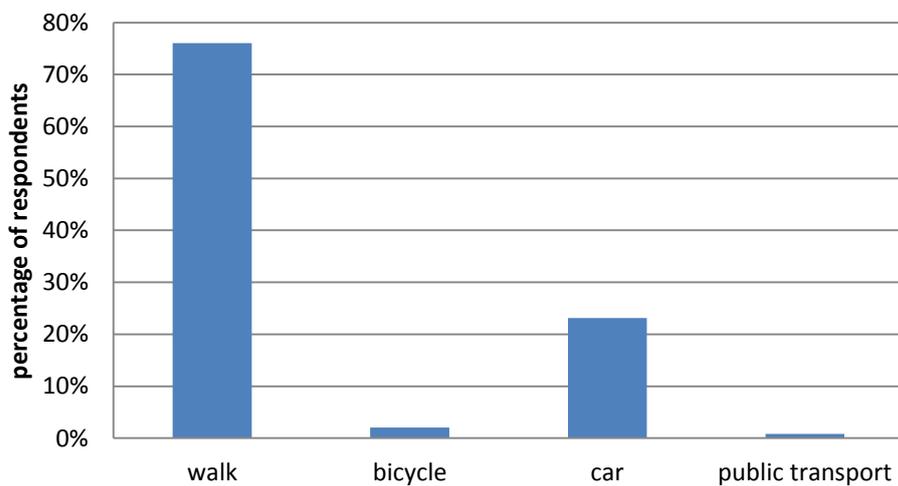
Figure 4: Time of visits to Park



Question 6: Travel to Boronia Park

From the responses received, the vast majority (76% N=184) walk to the Park as shown in Figure 5. A smaller number of respondents, 23% travel by car with a very small number coming by public transport or cycling.

Figure 5: Travel to the Park



Question 7: Duration of Stay

The overall majority of survey respondents (88% N=211) state that they typically visited the park for less than 2 hours, with 35% staying less than one hour as shown in Figure 6.

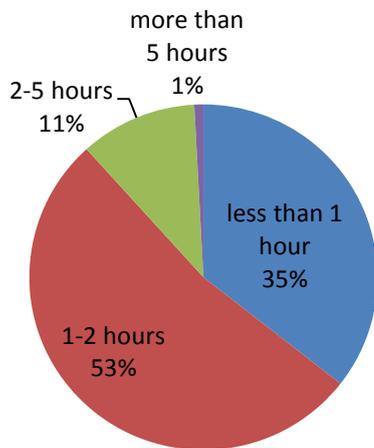
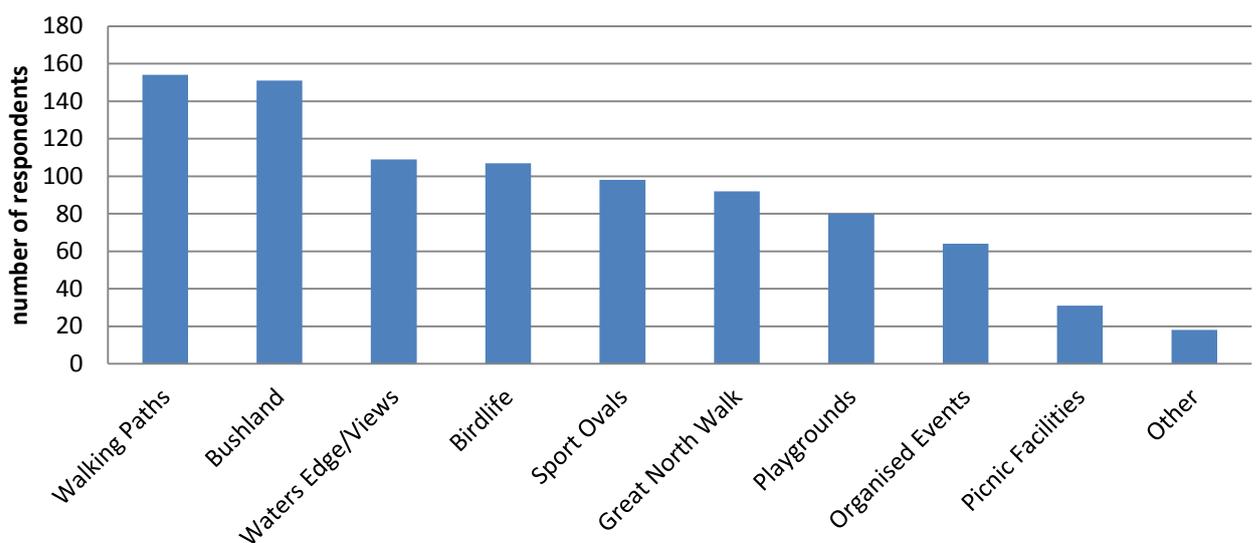


Figure 6: Duration of Stay

Question 8: What survey respondents valued most about the Park

Survey participants were given an opportunity to indicate what they valued most about the Park, with more than one option possible. These results are presented in Figure 7. Walking paths were most highly valued with 64% of respondents selecting this option, this was closely followed by bushland with 62% of respondents, water's edge/water views by 45%, birdlife by 44% and sports ovals by 40%. There was significant appreciation also for the Great North Walk (38%), Playgrounds (33%) and Organised Events (26%)

Figure 7: What users appreciate most about Boronia Park



Question 9: Survey respondents favourite area/activity in Boronia Park

Survey respondents when asked to name favourite places included walks, in particular along the water's edge and to Tipperary Falls. Walking included walking with their dogs. The water's edge at end of Princess St was a popular spot with people requesting seats and access to water for kayaks. Other frequent comments included walking through the bushland and enjoying the peace and quiet and open space. Appreciating the sporting ovals as a spectator of both rugby and cricket was also mentioned as well as the playgrounds being a valued location.

Question 10: Active vs passive recreation in the Park

The majority of survey respondents (64% N=154) participated in passive recreation whilst in the Park, with a further 21% participating in both active and passive recreation as shown in Figure 8.

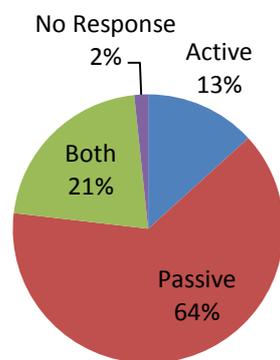


Figure 8: Active vs Passive Recreation

Question 11: What activities survey respondents participated in at the Park

Figure 9a shows the formal sports that survey respondents participate in at the Park with rugby played by majority of survey respondents who participated in formal sports. The pattern for informal active sports was similar with rugby most popular followed by cricket and netball. Other active sports participated in the Park, both formal and informal, included touch football, soccer training, athletics, running, fitness and kayaking.

Figure 9a: Sports participated in by survey respondents

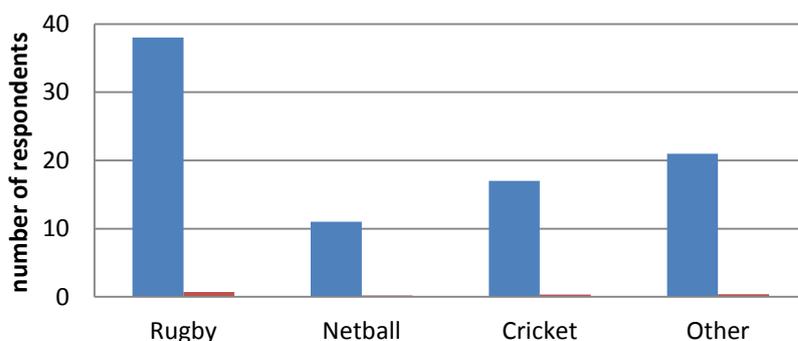
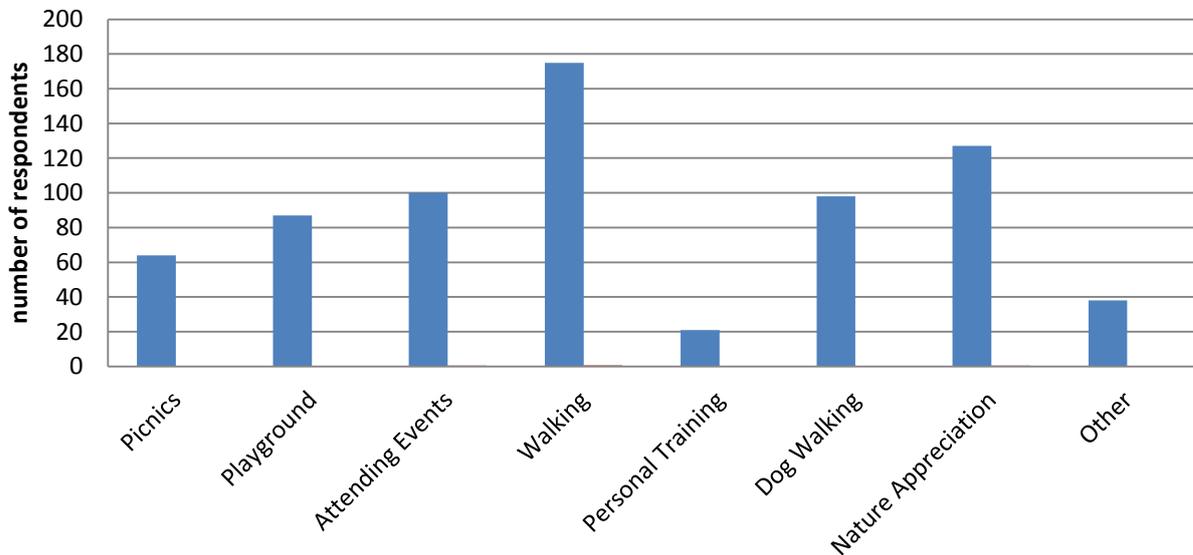


Figure 9b shows the recreational activities that survey respondents participate in at the Park with walking the most popular activity (74% N=175), followed by nature appreciation (54% N=127), attending events (42% N=100) and dog walking (41% N=98). There is a very broad range of activities happening at the Park including rugby spectator, scouting activities, kayaking, geocaching, personal training, running, bird watching, basketball hoop, children’s ball games and riding scooters.

Figure 9b: Recreation participated in by survey respondents



Question 12: Survey respondents ideas for future events and activities

Sixty nine suggestions were made for future events and activities in the Park, although 25% of the suggestions were to do nothing and keep the Park as natural as possible. 25% of the suggestions were for additional events including car boot sales, markets, bushland walks, outdoor cinema. Other suggestions included allowing access to water’s edge at Princes St for kayaks, seating and picnic area, fitness equipment and improved playground equipment and improved and varied sporting facilities including netball and tennis.

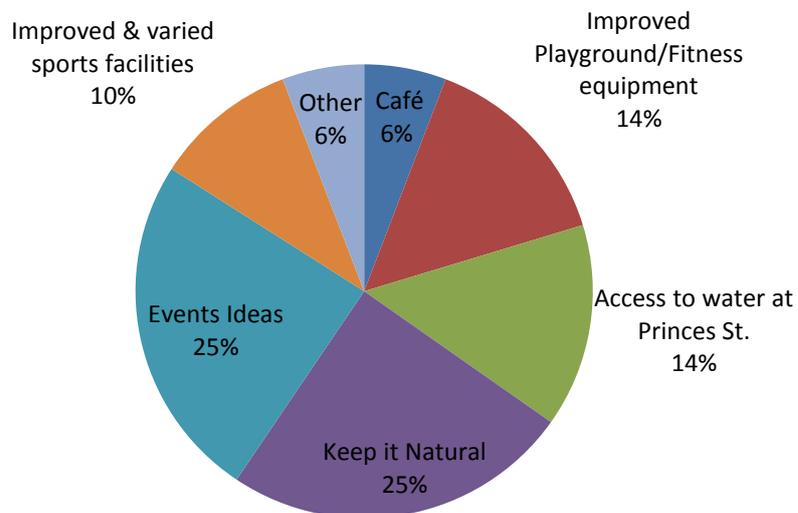
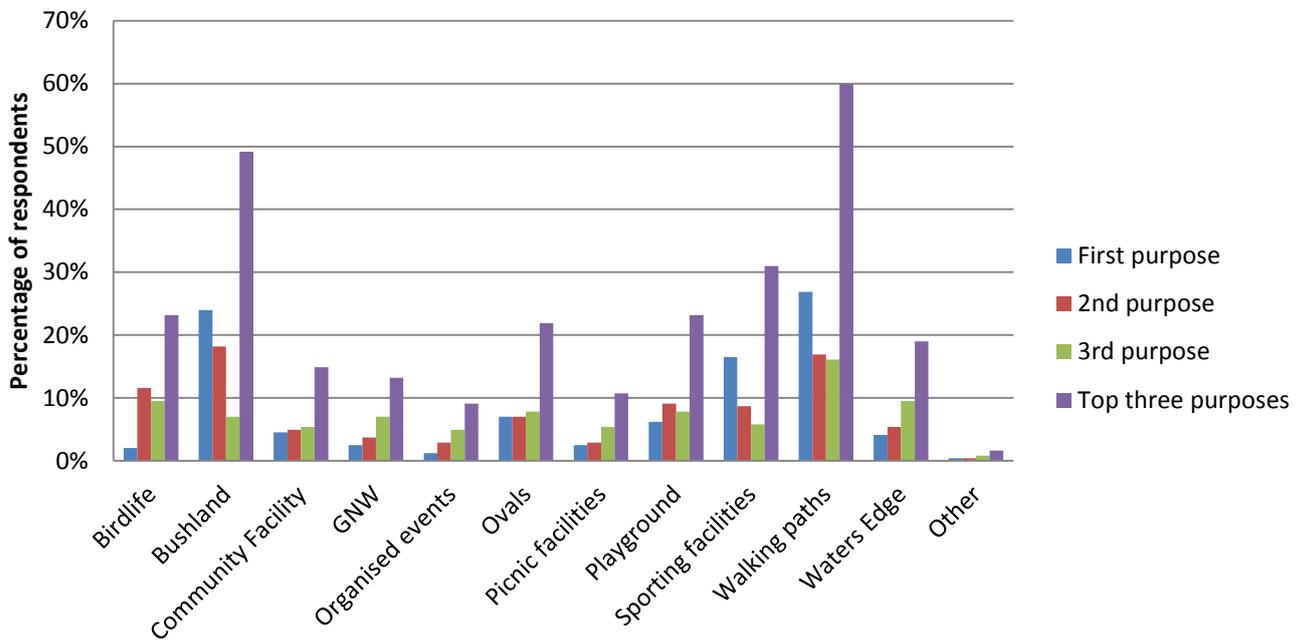


Figure 10: Ideas for future events & activities

Question 13: Main purpose of Boronia Park

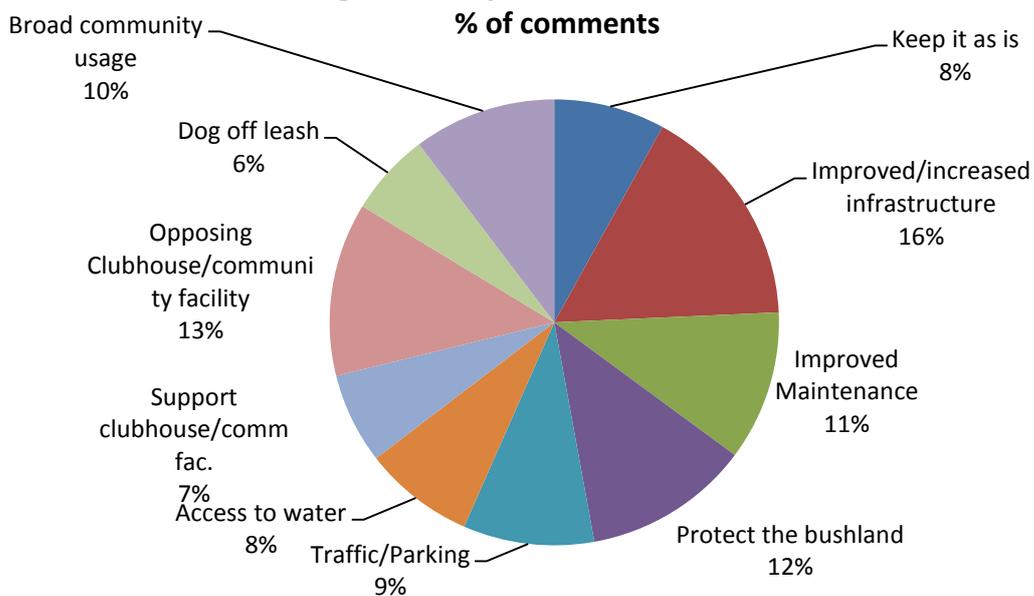
Figure 11: Purpose of the Park



Respondents were asked to identify the main purposes of the Park, selecting up to four in order of importance. The most important purposes of the Park, selected by 27% (65) was walking paths , 24% (58) selected bushland, followed by 17% (40) of respondents who felt the Park’s main purpose was sporting facilities. The first three purposes grouped together show a similar pattern with playgrounds, birdlife, water’s edge and birdlife also important.

Question 14: Improvements to Boronia Park

Figure 12: Improvements to the Park



A total of 350 comments were received from survey respondents with suggestions for improvements to the Park. A complete list of comments is attached in Appendix A.

Fifty seven comments (16%) related to **improving existing park infrastructure or requesting new items in the Park**. Improvements were suggested to playgrounds, directional signage of walks and other activities in Park, picnic tables and seats especially at water's edge at bottom of Princes St, exercise equipment, café, improved grandstand, improved toilets & oval lighting, lighting for areas other than ovals, hard surface netball courts, running tracks, bike track & a skate facility.

Forty four comments (13%) were **opposing the construction of a Clubhouse/community facility** at the Park. There was concern expressed that building would be too large, that it would be a licensed facility, that it would be used exclusively by the Rugby Club, that carparking would be required and there would be a detrimental impact on the natural values (bushland). A few comments suggested upgrading the grandstand so that this area remains the focus for Club and sporting activities.

Forty two comments (12%) received concerned **protection of bushland**. These included requests for Council to give a higher priority to bushland protection, removing and controlling weeds, increasing bush regeneration, interpretive signage, keeping dogs out of natural areas, limiting development, beautifying Princes St entrance, planting along High St & Park Rd to define edge.

Thirty eight comments (11%) requested **improved maintenance** in particular finishing oval no 3, replacing no1 oval fence, improving playing surface in particular the turf wicket, oval lighting improvements, rubbish and weeds along Princes St, maintaining plantings and walking paths, planting garden beds and removing graffiti.

Thirty six comments (10%) **supported broad community use of the Park**. A large number of these comments related to allowing public use of the cricket nets, supporting multi use of the park, allowing soccer back onto the Park, reinstating the long jump pit to allow schools to use for athletics, better managing the rugby dominance and ensuring support for a mix of activities in the Park such as personal training, events, coffee van

Thirty three comments (9%) were about **Parking/Traffic**. These comments were divided between improving the carparking and allowing access along Princes St to keeping Princes St locked off to vehicles. More pedestrian crossings were requested especially across Ryde Rd and slowing traffic in High St was also mentioned.

Twenty eight comments (8%) requested access **to the water's edge at Princes St** be opened up to vehicles to enable drop off use by kayaks, daytime only. It was suggested that this could be done on a trial basis and restricted if need be.

Twenty eight comments (8%) expressed how much they liked the park and wanted the **Park to be left as it is**.

Twenty three comments (7%) were received in support of building a **Clubhouse/community facility** to improve the amenities for the sports users on the ovals. The support for such a building was limited to a small building that incorporates toilets, change rooms and possible meeting room.

Twenty one comments (6%) were received about **dog off leash**, mostly supporting that an area within the Park to be designated as off leash.

APPENDIX D – Stakeholder Meetings and Attendees

Meeting #1

SUBJECT : BORONIA PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY FOCUS
GROUP MEETING HELD 12 AUGUST 2014

CSP THEME : OUR ENVIRONMENT

DELIVERY PLAN STRATEGY : ENHANCED MANAGEMENT OF AREAS CONTAINING
BIODIVERSITY

REPORTING OFFICER : JACQUI VOLLMER

REPORT

The meeting opened at 4.00pm – 5.30pm

PRESENT

Bob Hayes	Friends of Boronia Park, EP&AG, Bushland Management Working Party
Bev Debrincat	Habitat Network, Bushland Management Working Party
Bridget Dowsett	Hunters Hill Trust, Bushland Management Working Party
Cathy Merchant	Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society
Steve Buchert	Friends of Boronia Park
Alister Sharp	Bike North
Cathryn Ferguson	EP&AG
Vince Messina	EP&AG
Lyn Mallesch	EP&AG, Bushland Management Working Party
Glenn Berrill	Director, Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd (TBLD)
Andrew Zouroudis	Senior Landscape Architect, Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd
Sarah Horlyck	Landscape Architect, Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd
Jacqui Vollmer	Bushland Management Officer, Hunters Hill Council

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

Each community member introduced themselves, where they were from and their interest in Boronia Park.

2.0 WORKSHOP

TBLD facilitated workshop where attendees identified values, issues and opportunities for the site, where items were recorded on butchers paper. Workshop built on attendees knowledge of the site and concerns for the future direction of Boronia Park.

Values noted included:

- Significance of bushland;
- Importance of ecological link ;
- Multi-use values;
- Use for passive recreation; and
- Heritage items present onsite.

Issues identified discussed the following topics:

- Facilities and access;
- Flora;
- Fauna;
- Communication;
- Recreation;
- Oval #3;
- Dogs;
- Heritage; and
- Clubhouse / proposed community facility;

Meeting #2

SUBJECT : BORONIA PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY FOCUS
GROUP MEETING HELD 12 AUGUST 2014

CSP THEME : OUR ENVIRONMENT

DELIVERY PLAN STRATEGY : ENHANCED MANAGEMENT OF AREAS CONTAINING
BIODIVERSITY

REPORTING OFFICER : JACQUI VOLLMER

REPORT

The meeting opened at 6.00pm – 7.30pm

PRESENT

Christine Hannan

Sheila Jolley

Paul Ricketts

Geoff Schulties

Glenn Berrill Director, Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd (TBLD)

Andrew Zouroudis Senior Landscape Architect, Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd

Sarah Horlyck Landscape Architect Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd

Jacqui Vollmer Bushland Management Officer, Hunters Hill Council

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

Each community member introduced themselves, where they were from and their interest in Boronia Park.

2.0 WORKSHOP

Group discussed the history of the site and the changing nature of Boronia Park over time.

Group noted current concerns with the site including;

- Dangerous driving associated with use of Princes St for parking;
- Lack of toilet facilities;
- Poor signage;
- No waters access; and
- Closed cricket nets.

Group identified a number of opportunities for the site including;

- Park 'gateway' at Princes St;
- Kayak access for launching and docking at Princes St;
- Provision of picnic facilities at water's edge;
- Signage noting flora, fauna and historic values present at Boronia Park;
- Opportunity for improved community ownership and guided walks;
- Improved facilities such as table tennis, bbq and picnic facilities; and
- Protection of Fauna.

Meeting #3

ITEM NO : 1
SUBJECT : BORONIA PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT SPORTING FOCUS
GROUP MEETING HELD 13 AUGUST 2014
CSP THEME : OUR ENVIRONMENT
DELIVERY PLAN STRATEGY : ENHANCED MANAGEMENT OF AREAS CONTAINING
BIODIVERSITY
REPORTING OFFICER : JACQUI VOLLMER

REPORT

The meeting opened at 6.00pm – 8.00pm

PRESENT

Blake Walker	Secretary, Hunters Hill Rugby Union Football Club
Gary Lane	Seniors Chairman, Hunters Hill Rugby Union Football Club
Ian Kellaway	Referee and Coach, Hunters Hill Rugby Union Football Club
David McGuinness	President, Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club (Pirates)
Ben Woods	Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club (Pirates)
Jamie Hancock	Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club (Pirates)
Andrew Read	Step Into Life
Glen Berrill	Director, Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd
Andrew Zouroudis	Senior Landscape Architect, Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd
Jacqui Vollmer	Bushland Management Officer, Hunters Hill Council

APOLOGIES

Cathy Inglis Gladesville Ravens Netball

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

Each member introduced themselves, where they were from and their interest in Boronia Park.

2.0 WORKSHOP

Each of the following groups noted use of Boronia Park by their team / club / group.

Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club (Pirates)

- Has 45 teams
- Use all 3 ovals for cricket during the summer season (Sept – March)
- Pirates alternate with Hunters Hill Cricket Club every second Saturday
- Would like improved lighting
- New net with ball machine were constructed on 2010, are locked to prevent from vandalism
- Plans for 30m² storage shed

Hunters Hill Rugby Union Football Club

- Has 500-600 members
- Use ovals all day Saturday for seniors and all day Sunday for juniors
- Would like to see Boronia Park as a regional sporting facility
- Rugby season is Jan – Sept, manage season overlap with cricket
- Large number of rugby participants and spectators drive to the games
- Oval #3 drainage is insufficient, as there is no sub-surface drainage
- Interest in water harvesting tanks
- Desire for Oval #3 lighting

Step Into Life

- Has been run at Boronia Park for 7years
- Has 42 members, with 16-17 people per session, with a total of 9 groups
- Coordinates activities with the Cricket and Rugby clubs
- Use lighting for morning and evening sessions
- Hires the oval from council and pays for lighting
- Frustration with other unpaying trainers

Meeting #4

ITEM NO : 1
SUBJECT : BORONIA PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT COUNCILLOR FOCUS
GROUP MEETING HELD 14 AUGUST 2014
CSP THEME : OUR ENVIRONMENT
DELIVERY PLAN STRATEGY : ENHANCED MANAGEMENT OF AREAS CONTAINING
BIODIVERSITY
REPORTING OFFICER : JACQUI VOLLMER

REPORT

The meeting opened at 6.00pm – 8.00pm

PRESENT

Mayor Richard Quinn

Clr Peter Astridge

Clr Gary Bird

Clr Justine McLaughlin

Clr Meredith Sheil

Glenn Berrill Director, Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd

Andrew Zouroudis Senior Landscape Architect, Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd

Jacqui Vollmer Bushland Management Officer, Hunters Hill Council

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

Each member introduced themselves and their position, and interest in Boronia Park.

2.0 WORKSHOP

Each of the councillors noted their knowledge of the site. The main topics discussed included:

- Environmental values of the park;
- Parking and traffic flow;
- Playgrounds;
- Community facility;
- Paths and circulation;
- Security;
- Dogs;
- Sporting clubs and groups;
- Oval #3;
- Facilities;
- Park entry;
- Trails, trail head and signage; and
- Pavilion.