



Wallsend Brickworks Park

Wallsend Brickworks Park

Plan of Management

September 2001

Production

Wallsend Brickworks Park Plan of
Management
was prepared by The City of Newcastle Future City Group

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Plan of Management is an important document providing clear guidelines for the future management of land in the care and control of Council. The rationale for this Plan lies jointly in the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Newcastle City Council's desire to produce a consistent and effective set of guidelines governing the management of Community Land. This rationale was also established as a key component of the Linking Plan 1996-2000.

Benefits of this Management Plan

The benefits of this Management Plan are that it:

- identifies the key issues and roles of The Wallsend Brickworks Park
- enables a planned approach to resource allocation and management of the Wallsend Brickworks Park
- identifies key actions for which identified areas of Council will be accountable
- helps to inform the preparation of future agreed detailed landscape design
- provides the basis for assigning priorities in the programming of works and budgeting.

This Plan of Management will be reviewed quarterly and annually during the budget process to assess implementation and performance, and fully reviewed after five years to allow policy and planning issues to be updated.

1.2 Local Government Act 1993

The Local Government Act 1993 provides Council with a specific approach to the classification and management of community land. The Act requires that all community land in the care and control of Councils in NSW is the subject of a plan of management.

Community Land is defined by the Act as land that should be kept for the use of the general community, must not be sold or leased for more than 21 years and may only be leased or licensed for more than 5 years following a public notification process.

The Plan aims to cater for the recreational needs of the community while the habitat and the character of the site is enhanced. This will establish a framework within which the conservation and development of the Wallsend Brickworks Park can take place.

This Plan of Management has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act as amended 1998. The community land covered by this plan is categorised as a **Natural Area**, sub-category **Bushland**, in accordance with section 36J.

As part of the amendments to the Act in 1998, core objectives were established for community land categorised as bushland.

They 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 at 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 principles and issues outlined in the generic Bushlands Plan of Management 2000, have guided the preparation of this plan.

It will be important to balance the conservation of remnant habitats with development of recreation opportunities here. The system of remnant pieces of bushland that connect with this site represents a substantial contribution to the retention of habitats within the city and has the potential to contribute to the value of regional habitats and biodiversity. They form an essential component of achieving Newcastle's Green Spaces Strategy.

The land covered by this plan is identified at **Appendix 1: Schedule of Land**

1.3 Structure of this Document

The plan has been prepared to reflect the needs of:

- Council as managers of the land
- local residents as users and neighbours of the land
- other neighbours – corporate and businesses
- visitors and tourists, and
- the community of Newcastle as custodians of the community assets.

Basis for Management

This section refers to the long-term policies of the Council in relation to Wallsend Brickworks Park and has a currency of 5-10 years.

Management Strategies

This section contains the medium term strategies that Council will adopt to achieve its long-term policies and meet user demands and has a currency of up to five years.

Implementation Plan

This section contains the actions that Council will implement in managing and developing the park as well as methods to monitor the success of the plan and has a currency of up to 5 years. It is accompanied by a five-year action plan that will be updated annually.

1.4 Community Consultation

Community consultation is integral to the production of a plan of management. It provides Council with a sound understanding of relevant local issues from those who are familiar with and use open space areas in question.

Public involvement and contribution generates an understanding of Council's land management aims, combats possible misunderstanding, and fosters support for Council's programs and policies. The consent and co-operation of the users of open space facilitates management and lends weight to the status of the Plan of Management.

The Local Government Act 1993 stipulates that plans of management are to be exhibited for a minimum of 28 days and a further 14 days will be allowed for the receipt of submissions from the public. Council has considered all submissions relevant to the Plan of Management prior to finalisation and subsequent adoption of this plan.

2. BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

2.1. Policy Framework

Council has developed a number of policies relevant to open space and recreation that provide the framework for planning and management of its parks including the following:

- Newcastle Urban Strategy (NCC: 1998)
- Newcastle Green Spaces Strategy (NCC: 2000)
- The Linking Plan (NCC: 1996)
- Newcastle Open Space Plan (Hassell: 1996)
- Social Strategy Plan for the People of Newcastle (NCC: 1994)
- Access Policy (NCC: 1997)
- Community Guide to Development Planning Proposals for Public Open Space (NCC: 1998)
- Sun Protection Policy for Local Government (1992)
- Newcastle Stormwater Management Plan (NCC: 2000)
- Newcastle Bike Plan
- Newcastle Environmental Management Plan (1995)

2.2. Park Context

The Wallsend Brickworks site comprise derelict industrial land and degraded bushland surrounded by residential and light industrial development. The Wallsend Brickworks Location Plan shows the Park's relationship with other open space, main roads and facilities. The area of the proposed Park is approximately 12 hectares. The site was until 1977 a quarry and brickmaking facility. Council initially purchased the Wallsend Brickworks site on 23 July 1980 for the purpose of waste disposal. Since that time it has been used by Council for the purposes of stockpiling road-making materials and clean fill for re-use.

Council's Parks and Recreation Manager and the staff of City Services and Presentation Group will have responsibility for implementing the Plan and managing the Park.

2.3. Park Roles

This section defines the philosophical basis of the design and management approach to the Park.

Our bushland provides important remnant wildlife habitats and refuges. While the size of most urban reserves precludes the survival of larger animals, many species of birds and small animals are able to survive in urban areas by utilising the food and shelter provided by native vegetation. Large trees provide nesting sites and breeding hollows for birds and possums, and as such should be retained wherever possible. Our remaining bushland serves as wildlife corridors allowing migratory species to 'filter through' large cities. Small, otherwise unremarkable areas of bushland provide important links in chains of bushland reserves, forming

wildlife corridors. Rehabilitation of degraded bushland also assists this process. The ecological values of bushland lie in the system of corridors and remnant habitats they provide for native flora and fauna. This bushland is essential for the maintenance of biodiversity in the Lower Hunter Region.

This Park, together with adjacent reserves and ridges, comprise the largest area of bushland in the municipality and to recognise this important value, it has been categorised as Bushland.

The future development of the Wallsend Brickworks Park will respond to the following roles:

Habitat Role

This is seen as the major role of the Park. The Wallsend Brickworks Park must also be considered in the context of the wider habitat. The quality of the setting and the recreation opportunity in the Park rely largely on the viability of the surrounding and on-site bushland and the existing waterbody. The integrity of habitat and native species in this case, bushland and aquatic habitats, is often compromised by their proximity to urban development. Disturbance to them has numerous sources and those relating to Wallsend Brickworks Park are common across the city's bushland reserves. These issues will need to be addressed as part of the Park's detail design and development:

- ◆ stormwater and pollutant loadings from surrounding urban areas
- ◆ soil erosion
- ◆ terrestrial and aquatic sediment levels
- ◆ weed invasion
- ◆ changes to bushfire regime
- ◆ predation of native fauna by domestic animals
- ◆ control of domestic waterfowl
- ◆ inappropriate use of bushland (vandalism)
- ◆ removal and displacement of habitat affecting biodiversity

Although it is important to recognise the habitat role as significant, the Park has other roles that will provide balance and variety for a wide range of users.

Recreation Role

The types of facilities provided must capitalise on the area's recognised recreational value, satisfy existing demand and make provision for the needs of future local residents.

Function Role

The role of the Brickworks site within the bushland can also be defined in terms of its contribution to the visual amenity of the region. Its excavated and now weathering cliff-face provides a dramatic contrast to the surrounding topography as well as an insight into the history and geology of the place.

Access Role

Access through the Park to other parts of the city will add to an important pedestrian and cycle network. Public and service access throughout the various parts of the site requires evaluation in accordance with habitat conservation and maintenance requirements. There may be

constraints to access as a consequence of risk management. Accessibility to the Park for a wide cross section of the community by different means requires consideration. The future impact of State Highway 23 and its requirements may also require consideration.

Management and Maintenance Role

Management of these habitats and proposed recreation zones must be in keeping with sustainability principles and resources available to Council. Remedial works and staged development of the specific zones and their associated costs require clear identification.

Historic Role

The Park takes its name from a previous landuse but virtually none of the physical evidence of the Brickworks' structure remains. How the on-going development of the Park takes account of the previous history and its current relevance ought to become part of the design and community consultation processes. The role of interpretation and public art can and should assist these processes.

Safety Role

The legacy of past use has also left the need to resolve issues of risk management related to potential land and water contamination and cliff stability.

2.4. Management Principles

In order to respond to these roles the following management principles have been developed and will guide the Implementation Plan: -

1. *Ensure that development and management*
 - *respond to stated roles of the Park*
 - *respect the visual, habitat and cultural values of the Park*
 - *maintain flexibility to accommodate future community needs.*
2. *Develop and refine management and maintenance systems to both maximise available resources and environmental sustainability for this community asset.*
3. *Ensure the standard of the Park is appropriate to its level of use. The Park's features, facilities and infrastructure to be well designed, robust and cost effective to maintain and therefore more economically sustainable.*
4. *Develop and support a management ethos for WALLSEND BRICKWORKS PARK that ensures these principles are followed and that maintains communication links between Council, users, residents groups and other neighbours.*

3. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

These management strategies have been developed by linking the Park's roles to the management principles. The implementation plan links these strategies to proposed actions and performance measures.

3.1 Habitat Role

Desired Outcome

Enhanced and restored habitats (bushland, aquatic, riparian etc.) that are sustainable.

Management Strategies

- Establish habitat restoration, conservation and maintenance programs (fire, weeds flora and fauna) in partnership with the community.
- Ensure ongoing hydrological performance of the wetland system
- Integrate Council's Environmental Education Programs with the Park's development.

3.2 Recreation Role

Desired Outcome

The site's physical character will be enhanced and the Park will provide a simple mix of recreation opportunities that will have wide community appeal.

Management Strategies

- Continue to provide enhanced local neighbourhood recreational opportunities.
- Develop an outdoor recreation facility specifically for the 8-14 age group.
- Create an outdoor laboratory for natural science.

3.3 Function role

Desired outcome

The development of the Park complements its heritage and natural setting and contributes to the visual amenity of the local area and the city.

Management Strategies

- Advocate and pursue the establishment of planted linkages/corridors with adjacent bushland sites.
- Take a catchment based whole of systems approach to the development and management of the Park.

3.4 Access Role

Desired Outcome

The Park is easily accessible by a variety of means.

Management Strategies

- Improve pedestrian and cycleway links with the Park.
- Promote public transport access.
- Ensure detailed design addresses the needs of people with disabilities.

3.5 Management and Maintenance role:

Desired Outcome

Management and maintenance systems are developed to set a standard of excellence for a sustainably managed Park.

Management Strategies

- A flexible design that allows for staged implementation yet allows for initial development of a framework at an early stage.
- A whole of systems approach to design, procurement, development and construction and maintenance activities to ensure ESD principles are delivered. All design, construction development and maintenance activity builds in criteria that ensures processes and materials are sustainable processes.
- Service levels and ongoing maintenance deliver ESD outcomes.

3.6 Historic role

Desired Outcome

The historical and cultural heritage of the site is revealed and enhanced throughout the Park at a variety of stages throughout its development.

Management Strategies

- Review the impact of the existing stockpile activities to protect any existing relics.
- Investigate the documented history of the site and consult with the local and wider community about the history of the site to establish a base for interpretation.
- Develop presentations and interpretation involving signage, documentation, stories and public art.

3.7 Safety role

Desired Outcome

A safe environment that minimises the risk of hazards.

Management strategies

- Conflicting activities are separated.
- Key risk areas are identified, assessed, treated and monitored.

4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This implementation plan details;

- **roles,**
- **management strategies,**
- **proposed actions,**
- **responsibilities and**
- **performance measures**

for the Wallsend Brickworks Park and these issues have been identified through consultation with the community, stakeholders, surveys and field research. The strategies and actions provide the framework for management and depend on anticipated availability of resources and anticipated recreation trends.

The priorities in this implementation plan have been determined through consultation, assessment of the physical and natural attribute of the site, recreation-planning data and asset preservation needs. The priorities may change from time to time because they are also subject to the availability of resources. They will be reviewed during the annual budget process.

The plan of management will be implemented by a range of means which includes, asset preservation programs, routine maintenance and staff training, and capital works programs. An important aspect will be the role of the community and Council's diligence and ability in attracting grant funding.

Responsibility for overall implementation of the plan rests with the Parks and Recreation Manager, however where specialist input is required this has been flagged as resources will be required from these areas.

Codes used in the Implementation Plan are as follows:

Responsibility	
D&E	Development & Environment
CS	City Strategy
CD	Community Development
CS&P	City Services & Presentation

Program	
APP	Asset Preservation Program
CWP	Capital Works Program
RMP	Routine Maintenance Program

Cost Estimate	
Code:	Meaning:
NA	Not Applicable - no major capital works, generally within existing resources
\$?	Cost to be Determined - investigate scope of works to determine impact of funding
EP	Existing Program - being a current budget item or one-off expenditure

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: WALLSEND BRICKWORKS PARK

1. HABITAT

Desired outcome: enhanced and restored habitats (bushland, aquatic, riparian etc.) that are sustainable.

Strategy	Action	Program & Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Priority	Performance Measure
Establish habitat restoration, conservation and maintenance programs (fire, weeds, flora & fauna) in partnership with the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop specific projects that involve community in upgrading & protecting the natural environment e.g. habitat rehabilitation, fauna monitoring. Provide assistance & support through the Community Greening Centre Activities & Programs. 	<i>CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM (CS&P)</i>	N/A	2yrs	Community participation is directed in and assists achieving the desired outcome
Ensure on-going hydrological performance of the wetland system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a local catchment management plan. (see also action for Function strategy.) 	<i>STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CS)</i>	\$8000	2-3yrs	Plan prepared and linked to development and maintenance program
Integrate the Brickworks Park with Councils Environmental Education Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where appropriate include references of the Park in relevant program material and utilise the site to hold promotions or events. 	<i>COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (CD)</i>	N/A	2-6yrs	Local community and user groups aware of and participate in Council's program

2. RECREATION

Desired outcome: The sites physical character is developed and a simple mix of recreation opportunities is provided which has wide community appeal

Strategy	Action	Program & Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Priority	Performance Measure
Continue to provide and enhance local neighbourhood recreation opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link paths to longer walking and cycling tracks. Increase the play opportunities of the existing playground. Provide facilities such as shelters, toilet, additional park furniture. Provide organised car parking and separate from pedestrian areas. 	<i>PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM (CS&P)</i>	TBA	2-15yrs	Actions and concept plan implemented according to agreed schedule
Develop an outdoor recreation opportunity specifically for the 8-14 age group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide "rough" adventure BMX/mountain bike track and skateboard facility. 	<i>PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM (CS&P)</i>	TBA	2-10yrs	Actions and concept plan implemented according to agreed schedule
Provide an outdoor laboratory for natural science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve educational groups eg local schools and the University of Newcastle in rehabilitation and conservation projects. Develop paths, lookouts and shelters within the park that provide opportunities for outdoor study ie views to cliff face geology, water and bush areas. 	<i>COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (CD)</i> <i>PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM (CS&P)</i>	TBA	2-5yrs and ongoing	Involvement established within 2 yrs and ongoing regular use established by school groups Development of facilities implemented in stages according to agreed schedule

3. FUNCTION

Desired outcome: The development of the park complements its heritage and natural setting and contributes to the visual amenity of the local area and the city

Strategy	Action	Program & Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Priority	Performance Measure
Advocate and pursue the establishment of planted linkages/corridors with adjacent bushland sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to implementation of newcastle Green Spaces Strategy. 	NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CS)	Nil - incorporate with existing work program	Immediate and ongoing	Implementation of newcastle green spaces strategy meets annually adopted target
Take a catchment based whole of systems approach to the development and management of the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare a local catchment management plan 	NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CS)	\$8000	2-3yrs	Plan completed and recommendations form the basis of key service delivery areas

4. ACCESS

Desired outcome: The park is accessible by a variety of means

Strategy	Action	Program & Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Priority	Performance Measure
Improve pedestrian and cycleway links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost connections to & from Jesmond Park, silver ridge, Heaton Park etc. • Develop an internal pedestrian path system that logically connects with suburban footpaths. • Ensure paths are suitable for people with reduced mobility. • Develop a simple legible signage system (Directional and Locational). 	<p><i>PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM</i></p> <p>(CS&P)</p>	<p>TBA</p> <p>TBA</p>	<p>2-5yrs</p> <p>3-15yrs</p>	<p>Community has clear and safe access to the park on foot and by bicycle.</p> <p>Concept Plan implemented according to agreed adopted schedule</p> <p>Paths and signs meet disability standards and are maintained to meet those standards.</p>
Promote public transport access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight local bus stops and routes on park maps and promotional brochures. 	(CS&P)	TBA	2-5yrs	Community and visitors aware of and an increasing % use bus routes

5. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Desired outcome: management and maintenance systems are developed to maximise available resources and set a standard of excellence for a sustainably managed park

Strategy	Action	Program & Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Priority	Performance Measure
A whole- of- systems approach to design, procurement, development and construction and maintenance activities to ensure ESD principles are delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve community and interest groups within a structured advisory committee arrangement All design construction, development and maintenance activity builds in criteria that ensures processes and materials are sustainable processes. 	<i>PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM (CS&P)</i>	TBA	2 yrs and on-going	<p>Park committee established within 12 months.</p> <p>Process developed and adopted prior to site development.</p>
Service levels and on-going maintenance deliver ESD outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare management guidelines to form the basis of maintenance plans before work and maintenance commences on site 	<i>NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM/PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM (CS&P) (CS)</i>	TBA	2yrs	Guidelines are prepared within time frame and monitored for effectiveness.
Flexible design that allows for staged implementation as well as initial development of the park framework at an early stage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare staging plan with cost estimates for implementation Each year all opportunities for external support and funding are reviewed and planned for. 	<i>PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM (CS&P)</i>	TBA	2-3yrs	Processes for Budget and Works programs in place within 24-36 months

6. HISTORIC

Desired outcome: The historical and cultural heritage of the site is revealed and enhanced throughout the park at a variety of stages during its development.

Strategy	Action	Program & Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Priority	Performance Measure
<p>Consult with the local and wider community about the history of the site</p> <p>Investigate the documented history of the site to establish a base for interpretation.</p> <p>Develop presentations and interpretation involving signage, documentation, stories and public art.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake consultation and gather information to assist detail design process. Prepare interpretive plan for park linked with and responsive to, design and the stages of development. 	<p><i>PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM (CS&P)</i></p>	TBA	<p>2-4yrs</p> <p>2-5yrs</p> <p>2-15yrs</p>	<p>Presentations, signage documentation, stories and public art are in evidence in the park</p>

7. SAFETY

Desired outcome: A safe environment which minimises the risk of hazards.

Strategy	Action	Program & Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Priority	Performance Measure
Separation of conflicting activities. Key risk areas are assessed, treated and monitored. Limiting access to areas of potential risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete contamination investigations 	<p><i>HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PROGRAM (D&E)</i></p>	TBA	Commence within 12 months	Outcomes of investigations implemented according to recommendations prior to Park development.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare preliminary risk assessment 	<p><i>RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (Corporate services.)</i></p>		2yr	Council's Risk Management Committee and OHS Committee approve process and actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> install risk mitigation measures using design and/or structures eg. fencing solutions 	<p><i>PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM (CS&P)</i></p>		2-3yrs	

4.1 Wallsend Brickworks: Five-Year Action Plan

MAJOR ACTIONS summary	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Status
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NOTE:

This section is incomplete. It is proposed that the staging of works and priorities will reflect the guidelines in the implementation plan and will be prepared according to availability of resources community input and consultation with internal staff.

APPENDIX 1

SCHEDULE OF LAND: WALLSEND BRICKWORKS PARK

LEGEND: C: Community Land
 CR: Crown land
 ML: Misc. Lease

PARK NAME:	LAND REGISTER NO.	LOT & DP NO.	LOCATION.	OWNERSHIP:
Wallsend Brickworks Park	O 308	Part Lot 22 D.P. 807401	No. 149A Newcastle Road, Wallsend	NCC
"	C 314	Lot 51 D.P. 845009	No. 37 Birchgrove Drive, Wallsend	NCC
"	C 280	- Part Lots 100-109 D.P. 9755 - Part Lot 99 D.P. 9755	No. 40 Victory Parade, Wallsend	NCC

APPENDIX 2

APPROPRIATE PURPOSES FOR GRANTING OF LEASES AND LICENCES IN WALLSEND BRICKWORKS

All leases and licences must be consistent with the core objectives for management of community land categorised as Bushland i.e.

- (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 at 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
- (h) to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.”

There are no leases expressly authorised for Wallsend Brickworks Park.

Licenses are issued for most organised events and also informal events that take place within the park.

Council may grant a licence for the use or occupation of community land on a short term casual basis for prescribed events which are described in Section 46(1)(b)(iii) of the Act.

APPENDIX 3

WALLSEND BRICKWORKS PARK LANDSCAPE CONCEPT MASTERPLAN

DESIGN RATIONALE

Opportunities

The existing rugged and unformed nature of the site with its pond, cliffs and remnant bushland is unique in Newcastle. Reshaping the site to smooth out contours and planting with grass and exotic species is not only a wasteful and expensive solution (in both the short and long term) but will result in a bland landscape which would negate the historical use of the site. New proposals should build on the existing diversity and character of the site, recognise its history, be sustainable, increase biodiversity (which will attract more birds and animals), assist in water retention and provide users with a challenging and stimulating environment for recreation.

Because of its diverse and interesting topography the site is very suitable for adventure play, particularly for children in the 6-16 age group. The opportunity exists to create a BMX track, skateboard area and extended playground that would attract and satisfy a large number of children without disturbing nearby residents.

Excellent potential exists to connect the site to a pedestrian pathway and cycleway network in the SW, W and SE sides of the site through the Silver Stream and Silver Ridge subdivisions to the bushland on top of ridge. Linkages can also be made from there to Jesmond and Rankin Park, the Hospital and Blackbutt Reserve.

Additional street tree plantings of indigenous species in the Silver Ridge subdivision would not only help to connect the remnant bushland on top of the ridge to the site and visually extend the park they would also help compensate for the loss of large areas of bushland in this subdivision.

The new Community Centre behind Energy Australia could be visually incorporated in the park to improve its focus for community needs and activity. An opportunity also exists for a community group involved in wetlands, tree growing/planting or bird watching to be based at the site and to act as a caretaker. This would not only help in security and management of the site but could be a very good educational opportunity.

Existing community open space (retention basins) on the western side of the site could become an integral part of the park and act as the main entrance to the park.

Constraints

Council's need for an easily accessible place to stockpile asphalt and soils for reuse in central Newcastle is a real one. It may be simpler and cheaper in the long run to maintain this facility in its existing location but with a slightly reduced area.

As the cliffs on the NE to the S sides of the site are considered moderately unstable and potentially hazardous, Council must manage this risk in a sensible, cost-effective manner. Management of surface water flows and vegetation rehabilitation along the top of this cliff is essential. Along with this stabilising it is recommended that access by the public to these cliffs from the Park be restricted. Clear separation of public and restricted areas by a level change, supported by adequate fencing and clear

APPENDIX 3

signage will be necessary to make the Park manageable and to minimise risks. The existing carpark belonging to the retirement village on the eastern side of the site should be relocated away from the edge of the clifftop. This could be resolved by negotiating a possible land swap between Newcastle City Council and the retirement village. Note: no discussions with the retirement village about this have taken place so far.

Key Design Responses

To achieve the desired objectives the site has been analysed through site investigation, preliminary community consultation, and review of all previous available documentation. The design has then been prepared in response to these and the changes and needs that have emerged over the last 10 years.

The design establishes three zones:

The Wetlands Sanctuary Zone

This also includes the remnant bushland areas above the cliff lines to east and north. The proposals for this zone include the restoration of habitat, and restricting regular public access, minimum maintenance (irregular removal of rubbish and some ongoing weeding).

The Adventure Play Zone.

It is intended that this would be an intensively used, roughly modelled area to suit the needs of the users, BMX bike riders etc, this may mean that from time to time machinery is used to re model slopes and paths. Some bush regeneration, new plantings and fencing will be needed to ensure trees and shrubs are established. These will provide shade, definition of space and create visual interest. Regular removal of rubbish will be required. The area also includes a new pond in the longer term.

The Neighbourhood Park Picnic Play Zone

This zone will require the highest level of maintenance in the park since it is the most visible from the road, and will receive the highest level of regular use. This will include regular mowing, watering, weeding, rubbish removal, cleaning BBQs and regular inspection of facilities, eg playground and toilets.

Note: greater detail is to be found in the drawing of landscape concept master plan. The Wallsend Brickworks Park Landscape Concept Plan shows the proposed layout of infrastructure (paving, grass, planting and facilities etc).