



# National Park

Plan of Management 2012

# National Park Plan of Management

Version 1: 5 June 2012

Prepared by: Alan Ginns, Georgina Wright and Pamela Fletcher  
Specialist landscape design and graphics input by: Pamela Fletcher, Registered Landscape Architect  
Park Masterplan prepared by: Amber Stewart, Landscape Architect - Newcastle City Council  
Photo Credits: Alan Ginns or Pamela Fletcher (unless otherwise indicated)

Issued by: Alan Ginns, Gondwana Consulting

Reviewed by: Andrew Ginns, Gondwana Consulting

This National Park Plan of Management  
**was prepared by – Gondwana Consulting Pty Ltd**  
**for use by – Newcastle City Council**

Gondwana Consulting Pty Ltd  
P.O. Box 905  
Narrabeen, NSW 2101  
Tel: 9913 3720 or 9944 6263  
E-mail: [admin@gondwanaconsulting.com.au](mailto:admin@gondwanaconsulting.com.au)

[www.gondwanaconsulting.com.au](http://www.gondwanaconsulting.com.au)

# National Park Plan of Management

## Control Page

<b>Version</b>	<b>Adopted Council</b>	<b>by</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Finalised</b>
1	05/06/2012		Adoption of new National Park Plan of Management 2012  Advertisement of revocation placed in Newcastle Herald on 28/7/2012. Revocation of National Park land out of Sportsland Plan of Management 2000 and National Park Plan of Management 2000/2009.	27/07/12

# Table of Contents

	<i>Page</i>
<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	iv
<b>1 Setting the Scene</b> .....	1
1.1 What is a Plan of Management ? .....	1
1.2 Why Council Prepared This Plan of Management ? .....	1
1.3 How Council Prepared This Plan of Management ? .....	2
1.4 Land to Which This Plan applies .....	3
1.5 Structure of This Plan of Management.....	3
<b>2 Site Description</b> .....	5
2.1 Brief History of National Park .....	5
2.2 Park Overview .....	6
2.3 Current Uses .....	9
2.3.1 Current Park Management.....	12
2.4 Condition of Land and Facilities .....	14
2.5 Regional and Local Context .....	16
<b>3 Planning Context</b> .....	17
3.1 Legislative Requirements and Relevant Planning Documents.....	17
3.1.1 Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government Regulation 2005.....	17
3.1.2 Other State or Commonwealth Legislation and State Planning Controls ...	17
3.1.3 Council's Strategic Documents and Policies.....	18
3.1.4 Relationship to Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012.....	19
3.1.5 No. 2 Sportsground Development Consent Conditions .....	19
3.2 Review of the 2000/2010 Plan of Management .....	20
3.3 Current and Future Pressures.....	21
<b>4 Basis for Management</b> .....	23
4.1 Legislative and Policy Framework.....	23
4.2 Community Consultation .....	23
4.3 Values .....	24
4.4 Key Issues.....	25
4.5 Park Vision and Principles for Management .....	26
4.6 Categorisation of Community Land .....	28
4.7 Overall Management Objectives .....	28
4.7.1 Core Objectives under the Local Government Act 1993.....	29

	<b>Page</b>
<b>5 Management Directions and Actions</b> .....	31
5.1 Park Masterplan .....	31
5.2 Future Use and Development .....	33
5.2.1 Preserving Future Park Planning and Development Options .....	34
5.3 Leases, Licences and Other Estates.....	34
5.3.1 Authorisation of Current and Future Leases, Licences and Other Estates.....	35
5.4 Management Action Tables.....	36
5.4.1 Sport and Organised Recreation .....	38
5.4.2 Leisure, Recreation and Relaxation.....	59
5.4.3 Community Use and Special Events .....	63
5.4.4 Park Access and Landscape .....	70
5.4.5 Flood and Catchment Management.....	80
5.4.6 Neighbours, Safety and Security .....	82
5.4.7 Park Management and Administration.....	85
<b>6 Implementation and Review</b> .....	92
6.1 Resourcing and Implementation .....	92
6.2 Review.....	92
<b>7 References</b> .....	93
<b>Appendix</b> .....	95
A Audit of the 2000/2010 Plan of Management's Implementation.....	96
B Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper – Executive Summary .....	103
C Site Description and Analysis.....	110
D Current Assets and Improvements – Description and Condition Assessment.....	131
E Parks (and Sport or Recreational Facilities) Located Within a 4 Kilometre Radius of National Park.....	146
F Community Land Categorisation and the Local Government Act 1993 .....	149
G Legislation, Plans and Policies.....	151
H Population Projections .....	152
I Consultation .....	154
J Permitted Uses and Activities .....	156
K Community Questionnaire, Feedback Summary .....	158
L Community Workshop Outcomes .....	164
M Analysis of Community Submissions on Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper .....	165

## List of Tables

1.	2011 Usage of Sporting Grounds/Facilities by Organised Sports and Schools .....	10
2.	Status of Leases at National Park .....	13
3.	Status of Seasonal Licences at National Park .....	13
4.	Main Facilities Provided at National Park and their Condition and Current Use .....	14
5.	Values Identified for National Park and their Level of Significance .....	24

## List of Figures

1.	Plan of Management Preparation Process .....	2
2.	Location of National Park .....	3
3.	An 1887 Chart of Newcastle Harbour, Showing the Area of Today's National Park as "swamp" .....	5
4.	National Park - Current Layout .....	7
5.	Categorisation of Community Land .....	29
6.	Park Masterplan .....	32

# Executive Summary

---

National Park is one of Newcastle's largest and oldest sportsgrounds and open space reserves, covering over 20 hectares at Union and Parry Streets in Newcastle West (part Lot 268A DP 755247) (Council land register number C197). It remains a major, and long-established, sporting venue which is highly valued by sporting groups and users. National Park is one of Newcastle's premier grounds for several sporting codes, and includes two regional standard sporting facilities (No. 1 Sportsground and No. 2 Sportsground), as well as being valued for the variety of sporting opportunities it offers. The Park is also valued for the large expanse of open space it offers in an increasingly urbanised environment. The redeveloped No. 2 Sportsground will provide further opportunity for use of the Park through community events.

The Park caters for a variety of sports – including netball, soccer, cricket, rugby league, rugby union, AFL, athletics, tennis and croquet. It is one of Newcastle's premier grounds for several of these codes, as well as a regularly-used venue for school sports. The Park also provides opportunities for passive recreation such as walking and casual play or games – including a small playground and scattered picnic facilities – and offers a venue for community or cultural events. Several community groups are based at the Park – including Life Without Barriers and Scouts.

The Park is zoned “RE1 Public Recreation” in the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012. It is classified as “Community Land” – land that is owned and managed by Newcastle City Council on behalf of the community – under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The current Plan of Management for National Park was adopted by Newcastle City Council in December 2000. This Plan of Management was subsequently amended in March 2010 to allow for the redevelopment of No. 2 Sportsground, which is now completed, with remainder of the plan remaining unchanged. However in accepting the 2010 amendments to the 2000 Plan of Management Council also resolved that the balance of the plan, for the entire Park, be updated in 2010-11.

This new Plan of Management for National Park sets out a clear direction for the Park's future and how this area is to be developed, managed and used over the next 5 to 10 years. It reconfirms the values the community holds for the Park, and ensures protection of those values in future management decisions. It also addresses emerging uses or issues that have arisen since the adoption of the last plan.

## Stakeholder and Community Input

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires Plans of Management for community land to be prepared in consultation with the community. A community consultation plan was developed to ensure all members of the community had the opportunity to provide input into this new Plan of Management.

Consultation measures undertaken in preparing the earlier Draft Plan of Management included the following – a Council information/promotion web page, an information sheet, a self-administered questionnaire, an on-site staffed “information kiosk” (Saturday 20 August 2011), on-site discussion with (and observations of) users, a Sporting Users Focus Group held on Monday 22 August 2011, discussions with other (non-sports) stakeholders, an open invitation Community Workshop (arranged and run by Newcastle Voice) held on 12 September 2011, media coverage of the new Plan's preparation, two presentations to Council's Strategic Recreation Advisory Committee on 16 September and 9 December 2011, review of previous

Council consultation relevant to the Park, preparation and exhibition of an *Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper*, and on-going discussions with relevant Council staff.

These community consultation measures identified values and uses of National Park, along with issues and opportunities relevant to the area, and a range of possible future management directions. These were drawn together in the *Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper* which provided an overview of the Park's key values, uses and issues as well as offering a range of possible management directions or options for community comment. The Paper was exhibited for community feedback from 4 to 18 November 2011.

Community input, feedback on the Discussion Paper, and Council discussions were then used to prepare early versions of the Draft Plan of Management. These were subject to several rounds of extensive review and amendment by Council, to prepare a Draft Plan of Management for National Park (Version 6) that was approved by Council for public exhibition.

The approved Draft Plan of Management was exhibited for community comment and feedback from 5 March to 16 April 2012. Advice regarding the Draft Plan's exhibition and availability, as well as a downloadable copy of the Draft Plan Management, was posted on Council's website. All people or groups involved in the new Plan of Management's preparation, or who had expressed an interest in being kept up-to-date with the planning process, were advised of the Draft Plan's exhibition. A public meeting to present the Draft Plan and allow for questions, comments and feedback was held on-site. As required under section 40A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a separate Public Hearing (under an independent facilitator) was also held into the categorisation, and notably the recategorisation, of the community land comprising the Park.

The Draft Plan's public exhibition elicited a total of 212 submissions – 32 discrete or personal submissions from individuals (with some people lodging multiple submissions), 3 submissions from sporting or community associations, and 177 "form letter" submissions (of 3 identical or similar types, representing 3 sporting clubs/associations). The Public Hearing report summarised a further 16 comments/submissions, and a single internal Newcastle City Council submission was also received. All comment and feedback received during the public exhibition process was considered, in detail, in preparation of the final National Park Plan of Management (Version 7).

## **Review of the 2000/2010 Plan of Management**

As part of the Plan of Management's preparation, the actions of the 2000/2010 Plan were audited and reviewed. The 2000/2010 Plan included 37 actions. Almost 60% of these actions are either complete, ongoing, in progress, partially complete or underway (in mid 2011). The remainder of the actions are incomplete; they may no longer be relevant or were unable to be funded.

This Plan continues the broad management objectives and directions of the 2000/2010 Plan of Management, but includes considerably more detail and specific directions than the earlier Plan. Significantly this Plan of Management recategorises several areas of the Park, most notably No. 2 Sportsgrounds from its current "dual" categorisation as both "Sportsground" and "Park" to the single categorisation as "Sportsground".

## Structure of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and other legislation, as well as with relevant Council plans and policies. It is divided into 6 sections, as below.

**Setting the Scene.** Describes plans of management; why and how they are prepared; and what land is included in this Plan of Management.

**Site Description.** Provides an introduction to National Park, a brief history, its role, usage and condition.

**Planning Context.** Describes the legislative requirements of a Plan of Management; links to other planning documents; and a review of the 2000/2010 Plan.

**Basis for Management.** Identifies and evaluates the role of the Park, its values, issues and opportunities. The community consultation carried out during the development of the Plan is summarised. A new Vision Statement for the Park is identified. This section also identifies the appropriate categorisation of the Community Land that makes up the Park, and so the broad objectives and directions for the area's future management.

**Management Actions.** Identifies a management framework, founded on specific management actions and guidelines or policies, to protect and enhance the Park's values. A Park Masterplan is provided which summarises and presents key management directions and actions, and locates these to specific parts of the Park to provide an overall concept for National Park's physical development and use. Management Action Tables set out specific management actions/guidelines elaborated by priorities, responsibility and possible resourcing (where relevant). Performance targets, and means of assessing the achievement of the management actions/directions, are also included. This section authorises leases and licences in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.

**Implementation Plan.** Identifies an indicative programme for implementation of key management actions, as well as a review schedule for the Plan.

## Values and Issues

A number of values have been identified for National Park – through the community consultation measures, discussions with Council, observation and other Plan preparation processes. Values are what make a place important. A Plan of Management is a values-based document – meaning that management actions are shaped to reflect, maintain and enhance the values of a place.

The full suite of values identified for National Park can be grouped around the five following broad topic areas:

- the Park is considered of regional-level value or significance for **sport and organised recreation**;
- it is of district-level value/significance for **leisure, recreation and relaxation**;
- it is of regional-level value/significance for **community use and special events**;
- the **Park landscape and accessibility** is of district-level value/significance; and
- its **flood and catchment management** value is significant at the district-level.

Key issues to address or manage, so as to support the Park's core values and uses, were similarly identified. The main issues raised by the Park's sporting users were in relation to the quality of the playing surfaces, quality of facilities provided and their ability to cater to current sporting demands, priority access/use arrangements for particular sporting codes, parking,

access and security. The main issues raised by the community and passive recreational users of the Park were in relation to limited and poorly designed/equipped passive use areas, lack of adequate on-site car parking, parking problems in surrounding areas, the introduction of paid parking at the Park, “overdevelopment” of the Park (notably excessive hardening and additional structures), and limitations on community access to certain areas.

## **Park Vision and Principles for Management**

The following “vision” for National Park has been developed to define a guiding purpose for the Park, to protect the values of the Park from the issues and threats of today and into the future, and to provide an overarching statement of the role and character envisaged for the Park.

***National Park will be managed as a significant sporting and recreational facility for enjoyment both by people from across the Newcastle region as well as by the local community. Participation in sport and recreation will be encouraged across a variety of codes and user groups, with facilities provided both at the regional-level as well as at a district or local standard. Opportunities for community events, as well as passive and non-organised recreational uses, will continue to be provided and will be expanded. Future development and use of the Park will enhance the area’s visual appeal, consider possible impacts on Park neighbours and acknowledge the Park’s important role in flood management within the local area.***

The following set of key management principles elaborate and support the Park vision. They provide broad statements of management intent and priority, to guide both identified management actions as well as management decisions responding to unforeseen situations and challenges.

- To manage the Park to accommodate, encourage and promote sport and organised recreation, at both regional-level and supporting levels, while also recognising the Park’s importance as a venue for leisure, recreation and relaxation.
- To manage the Park’s regional-level sporting facilities for both sport and organised recreation, and community and cultural events.
- To provide a diversity of recreational opportunities, promote the shared/multiple use of major facilities, and ensure equitable access to the Park and its facilities by a range of user groups.
- To manage the greater majority of the Park as an accessible community asset.
- To maintain and enhance the Park’s scenic character as an attractive, landscaped and expansive area of open space.
- To encourage sport, recreation and leisure participation as a means of personal development, community building and to foster social connections and a sense of place.
- To provide sporting, recreation and leisure facilities to meet the current and future needs of the community.
- To manage activities within the Park to minimise any adverse impact on nearby residences and land uses.

- To encourage access to the Park through improved connectivity with pathways, cycleways, public transport and improved parking.
- To manage the Park in a sustainable manner - minimising the consumption of energy and potable water and maximise opportunities to recycle waste and water.

These key management principles support the Park’s values. They are also consistent with the core management objectives for the Community Land categories identified for the Park.

## Categorisation of Community Land

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that Community Land be categorised (according to five main categories nominated in the Act), and also sets out management objectives for each category.

This Plan of Management identifies, and maps, the following categories to apply to various parts of National Park – “Sportsground”, “Park” and “General Community Use”. Some areas of the Park have been recategorised from the 2000/2010 Plan, to more accurately reflect their assessed values as well as their current or planned use, development and management.



Prepared for National Park Plan of Management by Gordwans Consulting and The City of Newcastle Landscape Architectural Services - February 2012

*Community Land Categorisation Plan*

## Park Masterplan

A Park Masterplan has been prepared (as shown on the following page) which summarises and presents the key management directions and actions, and locates these to specific parts of the Park. It also depicts key functional, spatial and design relationships between the various areas of the Park and will inform subsequent detailed design and development of Park infrastructure and landscape works.

## Specific Management Actions

The National Park Plan of Management presents a range of management actions – comprising both directions or guidelines, and more specific on-ground or tangible actions – to apply to specific areas, issues or practices in the Park’s management over the coming 5 to 10 years.

Management actions and directions have been grouped, and are presented, in the following Management Action Tables:

- sport and organised recreation – 93 actions;
- leisure, recreation and relaxation – 17 actions;
- community use and special events – 30 actions;
- park access and landscape – 47 actions;
- flood and catchment management – 5 actions;
- neighbours, safety and security – 11 actions; and
- Park management and administration – 27 actions.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Plan of Management includes guidelines for granting leases, licences or other “estates” within the Park – including authorisation for current leases or licences.

**No. 2 Sportsground:**  
No. 2 Sportsground provides a regional venue that has the capacity to attract medium scale regional, state and interstate sporting activities and to accommodate cultural and community events.

**Wal Young House:**  
Renew lease for short to medium term.

**Tennis Courts:**  
Review lease for renewal.

**Life Without Barriers:**  
Do not extend lease beyond the current 2017 lease expiry.

**Croquet Courts:**  
Renew lease.

**Athletics Track:**  
Return athletics facilities to City of Newcastle management and maintain as a district level and special uses athletics facility. Upgrade the central grass rectangular playing field to a district level standard. Upgrade existing amenities to a district level, if warranted, with new or expanded facilities up to 300% of current built footprint. Formalise existing unsealed carpark, as well as sharing carparking with No. 2 Sportsground.

**Access Pathway:**  
Retain visual and physical access from National Park Street into National Park. Tree planting for shade and amenity.

**Footbridge:**  
Install footbridge from the carpark at No. 2 Sportsground to the southern areas of National Park to improve pedestrian thoroughfare.

**Scout Hall:**  
Council to retain Scout Hall and continue operations under lease conditions.

**Boundary Planting:**  
Supplement existing tree plantings to develop a landscape zone around the perimeter of the fields. This planting will also provide a buffer between the park and nearby residences.

**Smith Street:**  
Install additional traffic calming measures along Smith Street and enhance role as a pedestrian/cycleway route. Maintain two way traffic north of Scout Hall, with one way traffic south of Scout Hall to Dumaresq Street (allowing for special access arrangements during major events). These proposed changes will be investigated as part of the Hamilton South LATM Study. An emphasis should be on decreasing risk of collision of park users and attaining a recreation based outcome for Smith Street within National Park.

**Cottage Creek:**  
Locate pathways along both sides of stormwater channel to improve thoroughfare, amenity and surveillance.

**Pocket Park:**  
Improve access, amenity and integration of pocket park with the rest of National Park by encouraging thoroughfare through this space, and improving landscape treatments.

**No. 1 Sportsground Entry:**  
Retain existing vehicle entry. Improve pedestrian access.

**Union Street/Parry Street Intersection:**  
Improve pedestrian access to National Park.

**Scoreboard and North Eastern Corner:**  
Retain and upgrade existing scoreboard. Improve amenity of north eastern corner as a visual and physical gateway to No. 1 Sportsground.

**No. 1 Sportsground:**  
Upgrade playing surface, facilities and oval surrounds to cater for AFL, Cricket and community/special events. Retain established aesthetic and heritage character of this sportsground.

**Carparking:**  
Rationalise existing carpark and allow access from Union Street for sporting and community/special events.

**Netball Courts Nos 1-14:**  
Retain existing courts and clubhouse. Reposition and add an additional two courts if demand warrants. Further investigation on the new court locations is required. Potential locations shown.

**Fig Trees:**  
Continue Fig tree planting along park boundary to define the edge and enhance both street and park amenity. General: All trees within the park require a retention assessment to be carried out by Council's City Arborist.

**Existing Facilities:**  
Retain existing National Park Sports Pavilion and modify, as required, to service current and future needs in this part of Park - including the provision of male and female toilets, storage areas, and other sporting or visitor amenities.

**No. 4 Sportsground:**  
Upgrade playing surface, lighting and drainage. Retain existing shape to ensure flexibility of field layout and use.

**Passive Recreation:**  
Enhance existing passive recreation areas with supplementary landscaping, park furniture and pathway connections.



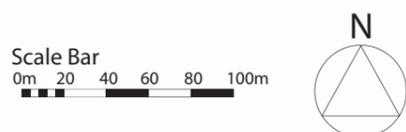
**Newcastle High School:**  
Liaise with Newcastle High School regarding possible community use of open space and parking areas within the school grounds to supplement park facilities.

**Playground:**  
Investigate relocation of existing playground to a more suitable location and upgrade to district facility if demand warrants.

**No. 5 and No. 6 Sportsgrounds:**  
Retain No. 5 and No. 6 Sportsgrounds as multi-use sporting fields for both Summer and Winter use. Install floodlighting, without compromising field layout and flexibility.

**LEGEND**

- Park boundary
- Existing trees
- Proposed trees
- Existing buildings to be retained
- New and/or upgraded facilities
- Potential locations of two (only) new netball courts
- Boundary network of pedestrian pathways
- Proposed shared pathways (Minimum 3m wide)
- Informal Pathway (Unsurfaced)



Key management actions, including those representing new initiatives or a change in direction from present uses or management practices, include the following.

- Managing designated sporting areas as per Council's Sports Policy, and as multi-use areas for sports and community activities and events.
- No further alienation/loss of accessible public open space – although the location and configuration of public open space within the Park may vary from the current situation.
- Prepare and implement an Events Management Plan.
- Manage No. 1 and No. 2 Sportsgrounds as regional-level sporting facilities.
- Upgrade the ground and facilities at No. 1 Sportsground, to better accommodate higher grade sporting competitions.
- Rationalise and formalise the existing south-eastern parking area at No. 1 Sportsground.
- Phase out unregulated/informal car parking on No. 1 Sportsground's grassed banks (following expansion/upgrading of this venue).
- Improve pedestrian access through the perimeter fencing of No. 1 and No. 2 Sportsgrounds to encourage greater public access and use.
- Time manage off-street carparking at No. 2 Sportsground, with reduced parking rates for weekend use (as opposed to weekdays) to encourage use by weekend and evening sporting users.
- Maintain and manage No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6 Sportsgrounds as a local-level sporting facilities, and as accessible and less developed open space for the general community.
- Maintain flexibility in field types and layout at No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6 Sportsgrounds.
- Install drainage and irrigation, and improve flood lighting, at No. 4 Sportsground.
- Install floodlighting at No. 5 and No. 6 Sportsgrounds.
- Provide for shared/multi use of the existing canteen and facilities building adjacent to No. 6 Sportsground.
- Manage the netball courts/facilities as a regional-level sports venue, as well as to accommodate possible additional uses (especially summer sports uses and other organised activities) and as an unrestricted accessible area of open space.
- Review Council's 1984 limit on the number of sealed netball courts, to permit the possible construction of 2 additional and 2 temporary "special event" courts, to provide a total of 34 sealed courts when required for special events. The Park Masterplan identifies three possible locations for the development of two (only) additional sealed netball courts – if permissible and warranted by demand.
- No expansion of the sealed footprint of the 16 outlying netball courts, or upgrading beyond routine repairs and maintenance – beyond the possible development of one additional sealed netball court (as shown on the Park Masterplan) (as one of the two possible extra sealed courts, if permissible and warranted by demand).

- Maintain the Newcastle Athletics Field, and associated facilities, as a district-level and special uses athletics facility and venue for rectangular field sports.
- Return the Newcastle Athletics Field to Council's direct day-to-day management, and monitor use/demand of facility.
- Match condition assessment and usage analysis of the athletics track/facilities to required service levels.
- Upgrade floodlighting at the Athletics Field.
- Develop the Athletics Field's central rectangular playing field to a district-level ground, and investigate the upgrading of existing amenities to a district level (for both athletics and rectangular field sports uses).
- Investigate the upgrading/sealing of carparking at the Athletics Field.
- Retain the croquet lawns, clubhouse and associated facilities as a dedicated regional-level croquet venue.
- Investigate potential locations for the development of an alternative regional-level croquet venue in the Newcastle region.
- Retain and maintain the tennis courts, site and facilities, and negotiate a fresh lease for this facility.
- Enhance passive recreation areas and upgrade, or provide additional, park furniture and passive use facilities as well as appropriate shade, amenity and "softening" plantings.
- Upgrade existing passive recreation areas adjacent to Parry Street and at the southern end of No. 4 Sportsground.
- Investigate the provision of public access toilets.
- Retain the Life Without Barriers lease area until expiry in 2017, unless surrendered earlier (if a suitable alternative site for this facility is located in the interim).
- Improve public access to, and visibility of, the Life Without Barriers community garden area from Parry and Smith Streets (with Life Without Barriers agreement).
- Retain the Scout Hall building and surrounds, and Wal Young House and surrounds, as local-scale community use facilities.
- Continue to accommodate school use of the Park.
- Continue to provide sealed carparking areas/capacity, for general (but managed) use, at No. 1 Sportsground, the two carparks developed at No. 2 Sportsground, and along Smith Street.
- Upgrade, rationalise or formalise sealed carparking areas/capacity, for general (but managed) use, at No. 1 Sportsground, the Newcastle Athletics Field and south of the Life Without Barriers building.
- Promote greater use of active transport and public transport to access the Park.

- Install additional traffic calming measures along Smith Street, and improvements to enhance its role as a pedestrian/cycleway route.
- Modify the ungazetted road, Smith Street to permit one-way vehicle traffic (northbound) only from Dumaresq Street to the Scout Hall as a matter of priority and as part of the Hamilton South Local Traffic Management Study. This modification will assist to decrease the risk of collision to sporting and recreational users of National Park.
- Formalise/establish shared pathways north-south along both sides of the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel and elsewhere – as shown on the Park Masterplan.
- Develop and implement a Landscape Masterplan to improve the amenity of the Park, including tree-planting and landscaping measures.
- Undertake a “Tree Retention Assessment” of all trees within the Park, and progressively implement recommended actions.
- Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
- Address flood management requirements and constraints in continuing use and any future development of the Park.
- Undertake monitoring and assessment of the usage and capacity of existing sportsgrounds and other facilities.
- Retain Council’s works/maintenance depot, works office and garage facilities in the north-west corner of No. 1 Sportsground – as long as required or effective/efficient.
- Finalise a management agreement with Hunter Water regarding Hunter Water lands (outside the Park) flanking the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel.
- Encourage the active involvement of Park user groups in the development and management of facilities.
- Give preference to Council collection of fees/charges for the use of sporting facilities or other sites, for parking fees, and other fees/charges over deferring these functions to sporting or user groups or other third parties. Review the role of third parties in administering bookings and collecting fees/charges.
- Annually audit the Park’s energy and water consumption and identify actions to reduce usage, such as energy efficient lighting or stormwater harvesting/re-use

The Plan of Management’s directions and actions have been formulated to preserve potential options for the Park’s planning and development beyond the term of this Plan. This particularly applies to that part of the Park between Smith Street and National Park Street, as well as Smith Street itself, and the outlying netball courts beside Nos 5 and 6 Sportsgrounds. The Plan’s management directions and actions have been carefully shaped so as not to constrain future management, redevelopment or change in usage possibilities in these areas.

## **Implementation**

Implementation of this Plan of Management will require Council to undertake an annual review of the key management actions, notably those requiring the commitment of Council funds or resources, and assess these against other areas of Council. Management and development of National Park will ultimately be reliant on, and largely determined by, the funding and resources available to Council. Final commitment to implementing an action or work is given once they appear in Council's 4 Year Delivery Program or other relevant documents.

# 1 Setting the Scene

---

## 1.1 What is a Plan of Management ?

A Plan of Management is developed to determine and guide the future management of a place – such as a sportsground, park or bushland reserve.

They are developed in conjunction with the community and act as an agreement between a Council and the community as to how a place is to be managed and its values protected. Current use and activities are identified and future use, activities and developments are approved by a Plan.

National Park is located on “Community Land” – land that a local government body owns and manages on behalf of, and for the benefit of, the community. The *Local Government Act 1993* governs the preparation of Plans of Management on Community Land and prescribes what must be included in a Plan of Management. This includes the “categorisation” of community land under the terms of the *Act*, which in turn provides objectives and broad directions for the management of an area.

This Plan of Management meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

## 1.2 Why Council Prepared This Plan of Management ?

The current Plan of Management for National Park was adopted by Newcastle City Council in December 2000. The Plan of Management prepared in 2000 was itself an update of the earlier 1996 and 1990 Plans of Management as previously adopted by Council.

The 2000 Plan of Management was amended in March 2010 to allow for the redevelopment of No. 2 Sportsground. This amendment also resulted in the addition of the “Park” category to No. 2 Sportsground, which was already categorised as “Sportsground”, to support the broader community uses and special events proposed within this venue once redeveloped. The remainder of the 2000 Plan of Management was not amended. However in accepting the 2010 amendments to the 2000 Plan of Management Council also resolved that the balance of the plan, for the entire Park, be considered for updating in 2010-11.

A typical lifespan of a Plan of Management is 5 to 10 years. Some of the actions recommended in the 2000 Plan of Management have been achieved or partially achieved, others may no longer be relevant, were unable to be funded or otherwise remain unrealised.

An audit of the 2000/2010 Plan of Management’s implementation to-date is provided at Appendix A.

A new Plan of Management is now required – consistent with Council’s resolution – to provide management directions for the next 5 to 10 years and address any emerging uses and issues that have come about since the adoption of the last National Park Plan of Management. A new Plan will also reconfirm the values the community holds for the Park, and ensure protection of those values in future management decisions.

### 1.3 How Council Prepared This Plan of Management ?

Council commissioned Gondwana Consulting Pty Ltd to assist in preparing this new Plan of Management for National Park. The first stage of the project involved extensive community consultation, discussion with key stakeholders and relevant Council staff, a review of the current Plan of Management, research and review of background information, field inspections and on-site assessments. This information was used to develop an Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper.

The *Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper* provided discussion of the Park's key values and issues – a copy of the Issues Paper is available as a separate document and the Paper's Executive Summary can be found at Appendix B. The *Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper* offered a range of possible management directions, or options, for community comment for all or parts of National Park. The Paper was exhibited for 14 days (from 4 to 18 November 2011). Community feedback received during this exhibition period, as well as further Council discussions, were used to prepare early versions of the Draft Plan of Management which were then subject to several further rounds of extensive review and amendment by Council.

The Draft Plan of Management was exhibited for community comment and feedback from 5 March to 16 April 2012. This represented a third stage of community involvement in the preparation of the new Plan of Management for National Park (as shown in Figure 1). Advice regarding the Draft Plan's exhibition and availability, as well as a downloadable copy of the Draft Plan Management, was posted on Council's website. All people or groups involved in the new Plan of Management's preparation, or who had expressed an interest in being kept up-to-date with the planning process, were advised of the Draft Plan's exhibition. A public meeting to present the Draft Plan and allow for questions, comments and feedback was held on-site. As required under section 40A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a separate public hearing (under an independent facilitator) was also held into the categorisation, and notably the recategorisation, of the community land comprising the Park.

All comment and feedback received during the public exhibition process was considered, in detail, in preparation of the final National Park Plan of Management as presented to Council for adoption

This final National Park Plan of Management was prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant Council plans and policies. Further discussion is provided



**Figure 1 Plan of management preparation process**

within the following sections regarding the community consultation activities, and legislative and planning context, relevant to this Plan.

## 1.4 Land to Which This Plan Applies

This Plan of Management applies to the area described as National Park (Council land register number C197), comprising Lot 1 and 2 DP 1174209. The Park is approximately 20.23 hectares in area. The Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation in the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012. It is classified as “Community Land” – land that is owned and managed by Newcastle City Council on behalf of the community – under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

National Park is one of Newcastle’s oldest and largest sportsground and open space reserves. It is located within the suburb of Newcastle West, less than 1 kilometre from Newcastle’s Central Business District (CBD). Figure 2 shows the Park’s location and surrounds.



**Figure 2** Location of National Park (source: NCC)

## 1.5 Structure of This Plan of Management

This Plan of Management has been divided into 6 sections as outlined below.

1. **Setting the Scene.** Describes plans of management; why and how they are prepared; and what land is included in this Plan of Management.

2. **Site Description.** Provides an introduction to National Park, a brief history, its role, usage and condition.
3. **Planning Context.** Describes the legislative requirements of a Plan of Management; linkages to other planning documents; and a review of the previous Plan of Management.
4. **Basis for Management.** Identifies and evaluates the role of the Park, its values, issues and opportunities. The community consultation carried out during the development of the Plan is summarised. A new Vision Statement for the Park is identified. This section also identifies the appropriate categorisation of the Community Land that makes up the Park, and so the broad objectives and directions for the area's future management.
5. **Management Actions.** Identifies a management framework, founded on specific management actions and guidelines or policies, to protect and enhance the Park's values. Priorities, responsibility and the possible resourcing (where relevant) of management actions/guidelines are included. Performance targets, and means of assessing the achievement of management actions/directions, are also included. This section authorises leases and licences in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.
6. **Implementation Plan.** Identifies an indicative programme for implementation of key management actions, as well as a review schedule for the Plan.

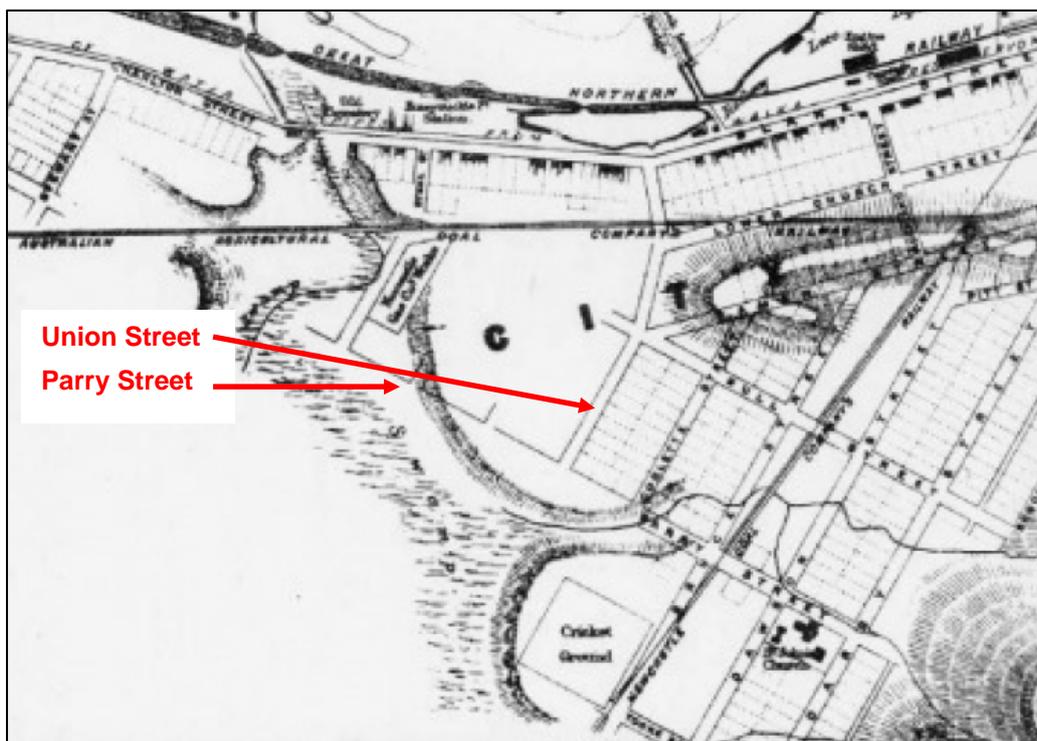
## 2 Site Description

### 2.1 Brief History of National Park

Council acknowledges that National Park is on the lands of the Awabakal Aboriginal People, who are the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Newcastle.

Newspaper accounts from the late 1880s refer to an area at “the corner of Parry Street near the approach to the racecourse” as earlier being known as “a general camping ground and burial place” of Aboriginal people. Several almost complete skeletons of Aboriginal people, found “a few feet from the surface” including one “being almost perfect, and enshrouded in a large sheet of tea-tree bark”, were removed from this site during roadworks in June 1881 and numerous other fragmented skeletal remains noted in the excavations (*Newcastle Herald* 9 June 1881, page 2 and 10 June 1881, page 2). This area is now the north-east corner of No. 1 Sportsground (in the approximate vicinity of the scoreboard and entry gates and west along Parry Street), and is an area of Aboriginal and cultural significance.

National Park is located in the oldest area of European settlement in Newcastle. Localities such as Cooks Hill and Hamilton were originally estuarine wetland and intertidal hind dune landscapes. An 1887 chart of Newcastle Harbour – as shown on Figure 3 – depicts the area south of Parry Street and west of today’s Union Street (which is un-named on the original chart) as “swamp”. These low-lying areas have been heavily modified by vegetation removal, drain construction and in-filling. Drainage channels, such as the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel which bisects National Park as a formalised/contained tidal estuary (managed by Hunter Water), were subsequently constructed to control flooding and assist in draining surrounding areas.



**Figure 3** An 1887 chart of Newcastle Harbour, showing the area of today's National Park as “swamp”. (source: Coal River Working Party, 2012)

The land on which today's National Park is located was part of an earlier 800 hectare government grant, originally for coal mining, to the Australian Agricultural Company (A A Co). As Newcastle's population increased from the 1850s onwards, demand for land and rising land prices saw the A A Co. progressively subdivide its land holdings for housing and commercial lots. Lots were first sold off in inner city area, and later in 1912 at Hamilton and Hamilton South with these areas based on garden suburbs design principles. National Park was donated to Newcastle City Council in 1913 by the A A Co for the development of parkland as a focus of these garden suburbs. The former cricket ground west of Bruce Street – as shown on Figure 3 – was relocated westward to the A A Co. Parkland at this time. National Park was subsequently a major landfill and wetland reclamation area – and by 1929 Newcastle City Council had spent £20,000 on filling the site.

National Park has played a significant role in the provision of regional and sub-regional sporting facilities within Newcastle since this time. It is one of Newcastle's largest and oldest sportsground and open space reserves. Clubhouses, grandstands, fields and courts have been developed at various points in time within the Park. Some of these buildings date from the early 1900s. A variety of sporting groups have used the Park since its creation.

However changes in sporting trends and participation, as well as the development of additional sporting fields/facilities in and around Newcastle (plus the increasingly stringent facility requirements for higher-level sporting events), have over time altered the types and frequencies of the sports played at the Park and reduced the Park's role as the region's premier sports precinct.

## 2.2 Park Overview

In broad terms National Park comprises two major developed, enclosed, sportsgrounds and associated facilities to the north; a "mixed-use" zone in the north-west corner, comprising both sporting and non-sport venues or facilities; an Athletics Track and associated facilities in the west; and sportsgrounds plus netball courts in a broad swath of open space across the south and south-east of the Park.

The Park is divided into a number of different areas, several of which are fenced, and others delineated by the central drainage line of the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel (which bisects the park north to south) and associated drains. This stormwater channel is not part of the Park, but owned and managed by Hunter Water. The main sectors of the Park are listed and briefly described below. Figure 4 shows the layout of National Park, and a more detailed description of the Park is provided in Appendix C.

### ***No. 1 Sportsground***

No. 1 Sportsground is a major fenced sportsground, including a 350-400 seat grandstand and several ancillary buildings, occupying the north-east corner of the Park.

### ***No. 2 Sportsground***

No. 2 Sportsground has recently been redeveloped in the central northern section of the Park (between the stormwater channel and Smith Street) to provide a regional-level rectangular sporting field, grandstand and informal seating, amenities building, and at-grade sealed carparks. It was previously a



Photo: NCC



**Figure 4** National Park, current layout – note No. 2 Sportsground is under redevelopment (not shown) at present. (Base photo source: NCC)

major rugby union and cricket venue, and its recent redevelopment was the focus of the 2010 amendment to the National Park Plan of Management. The new No. 2 Sportsground is capable of supporting regional, intra and interstate sporting events as well as cultural and community events (such as outdoor cinema, youth concerts, Christmas carols and outdoor community celebrations).



### ***“Outer” Grounds and Netball Courts***

Unfenced playing fields/courts and open space dominate the southern areas of the Park, south of the two major sportsgrounds, along each side of the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel.



These areas include three clusters of netball courts (comprising 30 hard surfaced courts in total – in arrays of 14 courts adjacent to Union Street in the east, 10 courts east of Smith Street and 6 courts east of Dumaresq Street), No. 4 Sportsground (with floodlighting), the contiguous No. 5 and No. 6 Sportsgrounds (west of the stormwater channel), a small playground (at the junction of Smith and Dumaresq Streets), amenities or ancillary buildings, and storage containers.

This is the largest expanse of readily accessible open space within the Park, but is bisected by the central stormwater channel.



### ***Newcastle Athletics Field and south-west corner***

The central-western area of the site comprises the Newcastle Athletics Field and associated facilities – including a 360 (approximately) seat grandstand, toilet block, storage sheds, and unsealed carpark. The field is fully fenced, with locked access when not in use.

A Scout Hall, also entirely fenced, is located south-east of the athletics track, accessed off Smith Street, on the southern side of the smaller east-west drain.

### ***North-west corner***

The north-west corner of the Park is occupied by a number of different user groups – including Life Without Barriers, Newcastle District Bowling Association, Newcastle City Tennis Centre, and Newcastle National Park Croquet. These areas, except for the gardens maintained by Life Without Barriers, are generally for use by these respective groups, and include a mixture of fenced and unfenced facilities/spaces and associated buildings. This area is separated from the remainder of the Park by Smith Street.





### ***Smith Street***

Smith Street bisects the Park's north-west quarter, and forms part of the Park's south-western boundary. The roadway, which is within the Park and not a gazetted public road (between Parry Street in the north and Dumaresq Street in the south), provides vehicle access to the various playing fields and facilities in this part of the Park as well as catering for through access – including considerable non-Park traffic.

### ***Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel***

The Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel runs roughly north-south between Parkway Avenue and Parry Street. Another smaller open drainage channel connects to Cottage Creek from the west – running west to east between Newcastle High School and the Newcastle Athletics Field, under Smith Street, and between No. 2 Sportsground and No. 5 Sportsground, before connecting to the main channel. The main Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel is owned and managed by Hunter Water however it is a major feature of the Park. Management actions for the main channel and its edges have been included in this Plan of Management pending the required approval from Hunter Water, as the drain margins are in effect used and maintained as part of the Park.



## **2.3 Current Uses**

National Park at present provides opportunities for a variety of organised sports, and for leisure and passive recreation activities, as well as catering for other community uses such as Scouts and Life Without Barriers. The following is a description of the area's current use for sport and organised recreation; leisure, recreation and relaxation; and community use and special events.

### ***Sport and Organised Recreation***

National Park caters for a variety of organised sports – at present these include soccer, cricket, rugby union, AFL, netball, athletics, ultimate frisbee, tennis and croquet. It remains one of Newcastle's premier grounds for several of these codes, and is a well-used venue for school sports and sporting carnivals.



The major sporting codes have seasonal licences over the main grounds/facilities – No. 1 and 2 Sportsgrounds, the netball courts and Sportsgrounds Nos 4, 5 and 6. The Newcastle Athletics Track, croquet lawns and tennis courts (all located in the Park's north-west) have all operated under separate leases in the past – however these leases are all currently expired. Further information regarding leases, licences and use agreements is included in Section 2.5. The Newcastle District Bowling Association's administrative headquarters is also located in the Park's north-west, also under an expired lease (however no bowling greens remain in the Park).

Table 1 shows the current (2011) usage of National Park's sports fields/facilities for organised sport (for competitions and formal training – some informal training and pre-match warm-up usage also occurs across most sportsgrounds). The table also indicates which grounds/facilities are most often booked by local schools.

**Table 1 2011 usage of sporting grounds/facilities by organised sports and schools**

Sport	No. 1 Sportsground	No. 2 Sportsground*	No. 4 Sportsground	No. 5 Sportsground	No. 6 Sportsground	Hard surfaced netball courts	Newcastle Athletics Field	Tennis Courts	Croquet Lawns
Soccer			✓	✓	✓		✓		
Cricket	✓	*		✓	✓				
Rugby Union	✓	*		✓					
AFL	✓								
Netball						✓			
Athletics							✓		
Ultimate Frisbee			✓						
Tennis								✓	
Croquet									✓
School sport / physical education	minimal	*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	minimal	

\* Note that No. 2 Sportsground was undergoing redevelopment in 2011 and therefore does not show any usage. The above table also indicates relocated or heavier usage of some sportsgrounds to cater for the temporary loss of this facility – such as Rugby Union temporarily using No. 1 Sportsground. (No. 2 Sportsground was previously a major venue for rugby union and cricket, however alternative cricket venues were identified and agreed with users as part of the site's redevelopment.)

## ***Leisure, Recreation and Relaxation***

The Park provides many opportunities for leisure and passive recreation – such as walking, jogging, dog walking, fitness training, bike and scooter riding, remote control cars, casual play, and other unstructured activities. A small playground is provided on the corner of Smith and Dumaresq Streets (near Sportsgrounds Nos 5 and 6).

The large expanse of unfenced open space provided by Sportsgrounds Nos 4, 5 and 6 and the adjoining netball courts are the primary venues for these informal and unstructured uses – due largely to their accessibility and appeal as a large expanse of undeveloped open space for uses such as jogging, fitness training, dog exercise (on-leash, and some unauthorised off-leash) and casual games. The sealed netball courts attract a number of different users who value their hard surfaces – with these areas popular for children learning to ride bikes, remote control cars, scooter riding and other casual games.

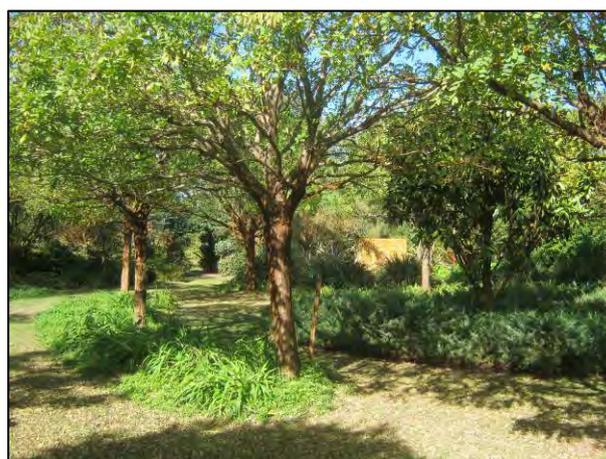


## ***Community Use and Special Events***

Community groups, notably Life Without Barriers and the Boy Scouts Association, are also based at the Park.

Life Without Barriers is a not-for-profit organisation that assists youth, people with disabilities, and the homeless (among other disadvantaged groups). The centre at National Park provides disability services and runs day programmes for people with physical and/or intellectual disabilities.

The organisation occupies the old Bowling Club building off Smith Street in the north-western corner of the Park. Life Without Barriers maintains a sensory garden, and community garden accessible to the public, on part of the former bowling greens at the corner of Smith and Parry Streets.



The First Merewether Scouts occupy the building and fenced land along Smith Street, between Newcastle High School and the Newcastle Athletics Field. They cater for Cubs, Venturers and Rovers. Most Scout activities are carried out within their compound, with occasional use of the adjoining sportsgrounds and netball courts.

The Newcastle District Bowling Association has its administrative headquarters, in Wal Young House, in the Park's far north-west corner at the intersection of Parry and National Park Streets.

The recent redevelopment of No. 2 Sportsground will, in addition to it being a regional sporting facility, provide a venue for community and cultural events – such as outdoor cinema, open air theatre, youth concerts, Christmas carols and outdoor community celebrations.



Both Newcastle High School and Newcastle Grammar Schools use National Park to support their sporting curriculum, along with local Primary Schools such as Newcastle East Public School, St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton South Public School, St Josephs Primary School and The Junction Public School. Usage is mostly of Sportsgrounds Nos. 4, 5 and 6 along with the netball courts and occasional (booked) use of the Newcastle Athletics Field for sports carnivals.

### ***Flood Management***

National Park serves a flood management role within the Cottage Creek catchment and western CBD area generally, as a flood detention and storage area.

The playing area of the redeveloped No. 2 Sportsground has also been designed as a flood storage area for flood events of a 1 in 20 year magnitude – with a spillway located in the ground's south-eastern corner adjacent to the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel.

#### **2.3.1 Current Park Management**

Newcastle City Council has responsibility for the care, control and management of National Park.

A number of Council staff are involved in the Park's day-to-day management. Grounds staff may be involved in managing lawn mowing as well as facility maintenance and cleaning (including works undertaken by contractors), maintenance and managing or co-ordinating repairs, landscaping, and the opening and locking of facilities. A Council grounds/works depot is located within No. 1 Sportsground and is the base for staff involved in the day-to-day management and maintenance of National Park. Other Council staff are involved in the Park's management in roles such as bookings, usage licences, leasing, planning and new developments, landscape design, monitoring recreation use, and enforcement activities – among other roles.

While Council plays a key role in the maintenance and management of National Park, the main user groups of the Park (the sporting clubs and other organisations), also play a significant role. Many of the clubs and organisations are responsible for the management and maintenance of the clubhouses, buildings and facilities which they consider to be their "home ground" or "headquarters". Clubs and organisations may also be responsible for the cleaning of amenities, maintenance of buildings, maintenance of playing surfaces, payment of utilities, rubbish collection, taking and managing bookings for third party user groups, among other activities. Many clubs and organisations also contribute financially to the development of new or improved facilities. Such conditions are usually agreed within formalised use agreements. Such contributions to maintenance, management and development of the Park adds value to the area and the work carried out by Council; ensures that the community, and in particular, users of the

Park, are involved in decision making and management; and fosters a sense of ownership of the Park by members of the community.

As part of the management of National Park, there are a number of leases and licences that are currently in place. Table 2 identifies the current status of leases within National Park, while Table 3 identifies the current status of seasonal licences. Significantly there are, at present, only two leases current for any part of the Park (plus an unexecuted lease). Several seasonal licences are in place for sporting use of the Park's various grounds. There are a number of casual licences provided throughout the year to schools, sporting organisations and other groups. Due to the vast number of casual licences, they have not been listed in a table.

**Table 2 Status of leases at National Park**

Item	Lessee (or User)	Status
No. 1 Sportsground clubhouse – lower floor	Newcastle Netball Association	No lease in place
No. 1 Sportsground clubhouse – upper floor	Newcastle City AFL and Newcastle District Cricket Association	No lease in place
Seismic monitoring station located within the grounds of No. 1 Sportsground	Geo-Science Australia	No lease in place
No. 2 Sportsground	Newcastle and Hunter Rugby Union	5 year lease in place for use of office space, club room, gymnasium and carparking
Newcastle Athletics Field	Newcastle Region Track and Field Association	Expired lease
Air quality monitoring station located near Newcastle Athletics Field	Office of Environment and Heritage	No lease in place
Croquet Club and grounds	National Park Croquet Club	Expired lease
Tennis Courts	Chapman & Wray	Expired lease
Wal Young House	Newcastle District Bowling Association	Expired lease
Building, grounds and carpark at Smith Street	Life Without Barriers	Current lease, expiry 29/7/2017
Scout Hall	Scouts Australia	Unexecuted lease

**Table 3 Status of seasonal licences at National Park**

Item	Licensee	Status
No. 1 Sportsground and amenities	Newcastle City AFL Hunter Masters AFC Newcastle District Cricket Association	Seasonal licences
No. 2 Sportsground and amenities	Wanderers Rugby Club Newcastle Knights Inc.	Seasonal licences
No. 4 Sportsground and amenities	Cooks Hill United Football Club Newcastle Ultimate Frisbee	Seasonal licences
No. 5 Sportsground	Wanderers Rugby Club Newcastle District Cricket Association	Seasonal licence
No. 6 Sportsground	Cooks Hill United Football Club Newcastle District Cricket Association	Seasonal licences
Netball courts (3 locations), plus amenities building/canteen at No. 6 Sportsground	Newcastle Netball Association	Seasonal licence

The Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel – including a narrow strip of land (approximately 3 metres wide) either side of the channel – is owned, maintained and managed by Hunter Water. Hunter Water is also responsible for the maintenance of the east-west drain that connects from National Park Street to the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel, and two major underground stormwater drains in the Park’s east which also empty into the central channel, even though these features are located on the Community Land owned and managed by Council.

## 2.4 Condition of Land and Facilities

As part of the preparation of this Plan of Management, the condition of the built infrastructure and other facilities within the Park has been assessed. A report has been prepared and includes a comprehensive list of park infrastructure and facilities and their condition. A copy of the report is included in Appendix D. The assessment of infrastructure includes built assets as well as the land, which has been modified and developed from its original condition. The infrastructure, or facilities, have been grouped by area, or Park precinct, and the condition of each ranked on a scale of 0 to 10 (based on Council’s existing “condition of infrastructure” rankings, with 0 being a new asset or a recently rehabilitated asset and 10 being an asset that has failed, is no longer serviceable and should not remain in service). In some cases, the condition has not been identified as the facility was closed at the time of inspection.

Built assets are located throughout National Park and include clubhouses, grandstands, amenities blocks, carparks, courts, playing fields, storage sheds, garden areas, lighting, picnic tables, bins, pathways, fences, retaining walls, signs, seating, and bubblers amongst other assets. The condition of assets within the Park varies substantially as some were developed in the early 1900’s, when the Park was first established, while others may be new or recently rehabilitated.

The following Table 4 provides an overview of the main facilities provided at National Park, the range of the condition of facilities within each area as well as an average or general condition assessment (where relevant), and the current use of each precinct. Refer to Appendix D for more details.

**Table 4 Main facilities provided at National Park and their condition and current use**

Location	Facilities	Condition *	Current Use
No. 1 Sportsground	Regional standard grassed oval with turf cricket wicket and a picket perimeter fence and bench seating, grandstand, canteens, commentary box, scoreboard, staff room, floodlights, turf cricket practice nets, 3-gate ticket/entry building, entry ticket/gate box, toilet blocks x 2, seating, access road and sealed carpark, informal car parking on grassed banks, picnic tables, storage/equipment shed and garage (works depot), water tanks, spearpoint for irrigation, and seismic monitoring station.	Range 1-6 Most 3	Organised sport and higher grade competitions; occasional use for school sport.

Location	Facilities	Condition *	Current Use
No. 2 Sportsground	Recently redeveloped to provide - a regional standard rectangular playing field, grandstand and tiered seating, grass banks and informal seating, floodlights, clubhouse with associated amenities building (including change rooms, public toilets, club rooms and gymnasium, and office space), ticket and entry gate box, scoreboard/screen, sealed carpark, and pedestrian concourse.	0 – new asset (recently opened after redevelopment)	Organised sport; higher grade competitions; cultural and community events; and office space for ancillary activities.
No. 4 Sportsground	Senior and junior playing fields, floodlights, removable goal posts, amenities block, sports pavilion, and bench seating.	Range 1-6 Most 3	Organised sport and recreation; school sport; and unstructured / independent recreation.
No. 5 Sportsground	Playing field, fixed goal posts (in season), turf cricket wicket, shipping container, storage shed, and portable floodlights with generator.	Range 3-5 Most 3	Organised sport and recreation; school sport; and unstructured / independent recreation.
No. 6 Sportsground	Playing field, fixed goal posts (in season), turf cricket wicket, and bench seating.	3 and 6	Organised sport and recreation; school sport; and unstructured / independent recreation.
Newcastle Athletics Field	Athletics track and field facilities, unsealed carpark, 360 seat grandstand, toilet block, bench seating, storage sheds, floodlights, and OEH air quality monitoring station.	Range 3-8 Most 3	Organised sport and recreation; and school sport carnivals.
Hard surfaced netball courts	30 hard surfaced courts, metal hoops, clubhouse/amenities building, toilet blocks, outlying amenities building (toilets, canteen and first aid), bench seating (and limited bleacher seating), floodlights, and loudspeakers.	Range 1-10 Most 3-4	Organised sport and recreation; school sport; and unstructured / independent recreation.
Tennis courts	8 synthetic surface courts, clubhouse, shelters, floodlighting and fencing.	Range 3-6 Most 4	Organised sport and recreation (commercial).
Croquet Lawns	4 croquet lawns, clubhouse, storage sheds, seating, and shelter sheds.	Range 1-6 Most 3	Organised sport and recreation.
Wal Young House	Brick building, and grassed informal carpark.	Range 3-6	Administration office for Newcastle District Bowling Association.
Scout Hall	Scout Hall and storage shed.	Range 1-3 Most 3	Community activities.
Life Without Barriers	Building, access road and carpark, carport, garages, storage sheds, shipping container, shelters, garden with pathways and public art.	Range 3-5 Most 3	Community activities.
Smith Street	Sealed roadway (2 lane) with concrete kerb and speed humps, 90° roadside parking areas (varied surfacing) and concrete footpath.	5	Roadway and parking; access and transit (vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles).
Other	Informal access tracks/routes, small playground, picnic tables, BBQs, bench seating, bridges (major concrete crossing and small timber footbridge – largely on Hunter Water lands).	Range 2-6 Most 3	Unstructured / independent recreation and used as supporting infrastructure for organised sport and recreation.

**Key \***

0 - new asset or an asset recently rehabilitated back to new condition

1 - near new - no visible signs of deterioration

2 - excellent condition - very slight condition decline - no longer in new condition

- 3 - very good condition - early stages of deterioration - no serviceability problems
- 4 - good condition - some obvious deterioration – slightly impaired serviceability
- 5 - fair condition – some deterioration - some serviceability loss
- 6 - obvious deterioration – starting to impact serviceability – maintenance costs rising
- 7 - poor condition – serviceability impacted – high maintenance costs
- 8 - poor condition – serviceability heavily impacted – high maintenance costs – requires rehabilitation
- 9 - failing asset needing immediate rehabilitation
- 10 - failed, unsafe asset – should be removed

## 2.5 Regional and Local Context

Newcastle City is the second largest city in NSW and the seventh largest city in Australia. It is located within the Lower Hunter Region between the Central Coast and Port Stephens, and is approximately 160 kilometres north of Sydney.

National Park is situated within the suburb of Newcastle West, less than 1 kilometre from Newcastle's CBD. Marketown Shopping Centre adjoins the northern border of the Park, which also represents the southern extent of the CBD. The surrounding residential suburbs include Cooks Hill, Hamilton East, Hamilton South and The Junction. Newcastle High School adjoins the south-western corner of the Park and Newcastle Grammar School is located opposite the Park's south-eastern corner.

In addition to being a major venue for a variety of organised sports, National Park is also a valued passive recreation and open space park within a low and medium density residential area close to the Newcastle CBD.

National Park includes two regional standard sporting facilities – No. 1 Sportsground and No. 2 Sportsground. These are the only two regional standard sporting facilities provided by Newcastle City Council within the Local Government Area (LGA). The other sporting facilities within National Park are provided and managed at a district or local level.

The National Park Athletics Track complements and supports the Hunter Sports Centre which is located in Glendale, approximately 10 kilometres from National Park. The Hunter Sports Centre provides a nine lane Olympic running track and caters for a complete range of field events. The Centre is a regional athletics sporting facility owned by Lake Macquarie City Council.

The National Park croquet facility (lawns and clubhouse) is the only dedicated croquet venue in the Newcastle region (the region's two other croquet venues are both shared facilities as part of larger bowling clubs).

A number of tennis courts are provided by Council within a close distance to National Park, including:

- 5 courts at King Edward Park (approximately 1.5 kilometres from National Park),
- 2 courts at Learmonth Park (approximately 1.1 kilometres from National Park), and
- 5 courts at Empire Park (approximately 1.2 kilometres from National Park).

Nearly 30 tennis courts are available at a commercial facility at District Park, approximately 3 kilometres from the Park.

Alternative opportunities for passive recreation are provided at nearby Centennial Park (approximately 500 metres from National Park) and Nesca Park (approximately 1 kilometre distance).

Appendix E lists parks located within a 4 kilometre radius of National Park, detailing sport and recreational facilities available at each.

# 3 Planning Context

---

This section provides an overview of the legislative and policy framework, as well as existing Newcastle City Council plans and the current and future pressures, within which this Plan of Management has been developed.

## 3.1 Legislative Requirements and Relevant Planning Documents

### 3.1.1 Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

The *Local Government Act 1993* is the primary legislation governing the management of Community Land while the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* provides guidelines for the categorisation of Community Land, the preparation and adoption of draft Plans of Management and other matters such as the issuing of leases and licences on Community Land. The *Act* requires a Plan of Management be prepared for Community Land. It also requires all areas of Community Land to be categorised in accordance with the *Act's* nominated categories of Natural Area, Sportsground, Park, Area of Cultural Significance, or General Community Use. The *Act* then sets out “core management objectives” for each of these categories, as a broad guide to management. The current Plan of Management categorises all land within National Park as “Sportsground”, with the No. 2 Sportsground area also categorised as “Park” (subsequent to the 2010 amendment to the current Plan of Management).

Appendix F provides further discussion regarding the categorisation of Community Land under the terms of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

### 3.1.2 Other State or Commonwealth Legislation and State Planning Controls

In addition to the *Local Government Act 1993* there are numerous pieces of State and Commonwealth legislation and State planning controls which are of direct relevance to the management of National Park.

Following is a list of the principal legislation and planning controls.

- *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act, 1992*
- *Newcastle Consolidated Development Control Plan 2005*
- *Newcastle National Park Enabling Act, 1924*
- *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979*
- *NSW Noxious Weeds Act, 1993*
- *NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997*
- *NSW Roads Act 1993*
- various State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP) – including *SEPP Infrastructure 2007*, *SEPP Major Development 2005*, *No. 64 Advertising and Signage* and *No. 55 Remediation of Lands*.

Further details of these, and other legislation and planning controls are provided in Appendix G.

### 3.1.3 Council's Strategic Documents and Policies

Several existing Council plans provide specific planning and management direction for National Park – notably Council's *Sports Policy 1998*, *Sportsland Plan of Management 2003*, the *Newcastle Recreation Plan 2006-2016* and *Newcastle 2030*.

Council's current *Sports Policy*, adopted in 1998, set out Council's values, goals, strategic directions, position on key issues and operating guidelines in relation to the importance, provision and management of sport within the Newcastle local government area.

The "Sports Goals" as identified by the Policy are to:

- promote the benefits of an active lifestyle through sport;
- increase sports participation (players, members and spectators) for enjoyment, fitness and social contact;
- maximise the opportunities for all residents to play and view sports of their choice, regardless of age, gender, culture or ability;
- create partnerships with users in sports development and the provision and management of sporting facilities;
- recoup from users a proportion of the cost to Council of managing each sports facility;
- be effective and efficient;
- be user focused in our service delivery and aware of trends in sports development;
- encourage sports tourism and the social and economic benefits that flow on from that to local residents; and
- identify nature, type and viability of regional facilities required to benefit local sports and tourism.

The Policy includes criteria for regional, district and local sports facilities. It also sets out Council's approach to the role of stakeholders in sport.

The Policy outlines Council's approach, and provides considerable detail as to operating guidelines, around the following sports and facilities management areas:

- occupancy agreements – including leases, licences, casual use permits, partnership arrangements, and rentals and capital investment);
- pricing and allocation – including seasonal use fees;
- infrastructure maintenance and improvement – including wet weather ground closures, security, rubbish collection, insurance requirements, and capital works processes;
- advertising and sponsorship;
- park committees (where applicable); and
- marketing and communication with users and stakeholders.

The *Sportsland Plan of Management 2003* identifies National Park as a "Regional Sportsground" the role of which is "to provide for the performance and excellence level of sporting activity, by providing purpose-built high quality facilities to cater for regional and district needs".

The *Newcastle Recreation Plan 2006-2016* describes the overall future direction for National Park as "in accordance with Plans of Management [conduct a] review of National Park to increase the diversity of opportunity and consolidate existing sports facilities, including:

- *encouraging use for sporting and cultural events of regional and state significance;*
- *preparing an overall master plan for the site;*
- *encouraging greater sharing of facilities between sports; and*
- *ensuring like sports are co-located (i.e. netball courts in one location).*

*Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan* guides Council's strategic priorities for the next 20 years, including the Plan of Management for National Park. Priorities have been identified by the community, along with a shared community vision. The adopted Newcastle Vision is:

*In 2030 Newcastle will be a Smart, Liveable and Sustainable City. We will celebrate our unique city and protect our natural assets. We will build resilience in the face of future challenges and encourage innovation and creativity. As an inclusive community, we will embrace new residents and foster a culture of care. We will be a leading lifestyle city with vibrant public places, connected transport networks and a distinctive built environment. And as we make our way toward 2030, we will achieve all this within a framework of open and collaborative leadership.*

Community objectives identified in *Newcastle 2030* that are of particular relevance to the National Park Plan of Management include:

- 1.2 – Linked networks of cycle and pedestrian paths;
- 2.1 – Greater efficiency in the use of resources;
- 3.1 – Public places that provide for diverse activity and strengthen our social connections;
- 3.3 – Safe and activated places that are used by people day and night;
- 4.2 – Active and healthy communities with physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing;
- 5.4 – Best practice energy and water efficient buildings and infrastructure; and
- 7.3 – Active citizen engagement in local planning and decision making processes and a shared responsibility for achieving goals.

The directions identified in this Plan of Management are consistent with these strategic documents. Further discussion of these and other strategic documents can be found in Appendix G.

### **3.1.4 Relationship to Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012**

A plan of management's provisions must be consistent with the land uses and developments permissible for an area under a local environmental plan and other planning regulations.

The Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) is Newcastle City Council's key local land use planning document. It describes land use objectives as well as permitted and prohibited developments and uses for all parts of the local government area according to land use zones.

The Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012 for Newcastle identifies the Park within the "RE1 Public Recreation" zone. The draft objectives of the zone are:

- *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.*

### **3.1.5 No. 2 Sportsground Development Consent Conditions**

No. 2 Sportsground is located in the central northern area of National Park – bounded by Parry Street, Smith Street and the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel and feeder drain. No. 2 Sportsground has recently been redeveloped, as consistent with the 2010 amendment to the National Park Plan of Management. The site has been redeveloped as a multipurpose sporting, recreational and cultural venue – capable of supporting regional, intra and interstate sporting events as well as cultural and community events (such as outdoor cinema, youth concerts, Christmas carols and outdoor community celebrations).

The development consent for No. 2 Sportsground places certain obligations on Council in the development and on-going use of the ground. Several of these requirements will have a bearing on the Plan of Management.

The development consent includes approval for future works, for additional covered seating at the northern and southern ends of the new ground. These were not part of the site's stage 1 redevelopment, but may be warranted during the life of this plan. The development consent conditions also specify the following requirements which must be provided for in the Plan of Management:

- reconstruction of the footpath along the eastern side of Smith Street;
- widening of the Smith and Parry Street intersection, to accommodate buses;
- provision of a bus and vehicle set-down bay in Smith Street;
- planting a continuous tree cover canopy along the ground's eastern boundary;
- establishing a landscape strip, 3 metres wide and planted with "suitable large scale tree species" along the full distance of the carpark's southern boundary;
- re-aligning proposed security fencing around the small urban park, and existing toilet block, in the ground's north-east corner (adjacent to Parry Street) to place this park outside the main fenced ground/facility area;
- preparation of an Events Management Plan for the venue; and
- positioning, directing and shielding floodlighting so as not to detract from the surrounding residential amenity.

## 3.2 Review of the 2000/2010 Plan of Management

The current Plan of Management for National Park was adopted by Newcastle City Council in December 2000. It was amended in March 2010 to allow for the redevelopment of No. 2 Sportsground. The amendment was only relevant for the area known as No. 2 Sportsground. The remainder of the Plan of Management was not updated and is now over 10 years old.

The main direction of the 2000 Plan of Management is described in the Executive Summary of the 2000/2010 Plan as follows.

- *A continuing rationalisation of the use and an overall upgrading of sports facilities.*
- *A balancing of the sporting and non-sporting opportunities within the Park in line with existing and predicted future use patterns. In particular, a significant linear parkland is proposed between National Park Street and Union Street. To achieve this the following rationalisation is necessary and is in progress:*
  - *Relocation of the regional Athletics function to the regional Glendale facility.*
  - *The existing National Park facility will remain as a local and district level facility and be repaired and maintained to a safe standard to complement the regional facility at Glendale*
- *The existing cricket wicket be retained behind No. 2 Sportsground adjacent to the netball courts.*
- *Rationalisation of bowling and croquet greens to maximise usage.*
- *Planting along streetscapes and drainage channels.*
- *Review of National Park Local Advisory Committee contribution and role.*
- *Maintenance of flexibility, in the long term, for the construction of stormwater control measures.*
- *The location of the ex-hockey fields to be designated as an open space sports area.*
- *The area at the north-eastern corner entrance to No. 1 Sportsground be landscaped and footpath car parking area which currently occurs at this location be eliminated.*
- *Council to consult with the Newcastle District Bowling Association to consolidate the eastern portion of their leased area for Wal Young House into overall park landscape providing the Association's needs are met.*

- *The pedestrian link between National Park Street and Smith Street be rationalised for multiple uses.*
- *Reconstruction of the Netball Clubhouse incorporating multi-use facilities to allow intensified use by other groups including non-sporting groups.*

The 2010 amendment, also described in the Executive Summary of the 2000/2010 Plan established a framework for the upgrading of No. 2 Sportsground as:

- *A high quality venue that has the capacity to attract and accommodate medium scale cultural, community and sporting events.*

As part of the process of preparing this new Plan of Management, the actions of the 2000/2010 Plan have been audited and reviewed. The Plan of Management included 37 actions, almost 60% of the actions are either complete, ongoing, in progress, partially complete or underway in 2011. The remainder of the actions are incomplete; they may no longer be relevant or were unable to be funded.

An audit of the 2000/2010 Plan of Management's implementation to-date is provided in Appendix A.

### **3.3 Current and Future Pressures**

National Park is home to Newcastle City Council's only two regional sportsgrounds, No. 1 Sportsground and No. 2 Sportsground. The Park caters both for sports at this "premier" level as well as lower grades using the remaining district and local facilities. National Park also specifically caters for some sport and recreational activities that are not well catered for elsewhere within the Local Government Area (LGA) – such as croquet and athletics.

The increasing demand for high quality sporting facilities, notably for higher grade competitions, is placing continuing pressure on the Park's regional-level facilities. In the lower grades and juniors, the various sporting codes that now use National Park are experiencing a range of trends in participation numbers. There are also differences in the number and type of competitive or social seasons that each major sport offers or are developing. Some sports (notably soccer) report strong growth in participant numbers, while others (such as AFL) are reportedly experiencing more modest growth, and other activities (such as rugby union, cricket and athletics) are stable or showing only minor growth. Predicting future growth in sports participation or demand for those codes/activities codes now played at National Park (or other codes that could be accommodated there) is made more difficult due to a lack of reliable participation and demand data – both for the Park and across the Newcastle LGA as a whole.

The significance of the Park to other sport and recreational activities, which are not well catered for elsewhere in the LGA, also places demands on the Park and its ability to provide for a variety of sport and recreation uses.

National Park is located within a low to medium density residential area in close proximity to the Newcastle CBD. The residential population of the western end of the Newcastle City Centre is predicted to continue to grow, with an increase in medium density residential capacity as well as a growing student or younger demographic (due to an expansion of educational institutions, and their associated accommodation, in this area). The Newcastle Development Control Plan identifies the area adjoining the Park's south-east corner as a "Substantial Growth Precinct" (this includes the site of Bimet Lodge, which is approved for redevelopment as a multi-storey unit and boarding house complex over several buildings accommodating more than 300 residents).

A future increase in residential density within the local area will result in an increased need for public open space as backyards become smaller or are swapped for apartment balconies.

Careful planning will be required to protect and manage National Park and its values to ensure the Park fulfils its role as a sporting venue as well as a valued area of open space in an increasingly urbanised area. Provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities must take into account such population predictions and envisaged or potential future developments. Current trends and projections indicate that there will be additional usage pressures placed on National Park in the future – for both organised sport and, potentially more so, for passive or informal recreation and leisure uses.

Appendix H provides further discussion regarding population projections and their impact on National Park.

## 4 Basis for Management

---

The future management, use and development of National Park is founded on a number of considerations – including legislative requirements and existing planning or policy directions, the Park's values, the issues and pressures or threats that the Park and its values are subject to, the community's expressed aspirations for the area, and the objectives or broad management directions as set by the categorisation (under the *Local Government Act 1993*) selected for differing parts of the Park.

### 4.1 Legislative and Policy Framework

This Plan of Management must comply with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* as well as the requirements of other applicable legislation and the current Local Environmental Plan, as described in Section 3.1. It must also be guided by existing State and Newcastle City Council planning documents, policies and directions.

### 4.2 Community Consultation

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires Plans of Management to be prepared in consultation with the community. A community consultation plan was developed at the inception of this project to ensure all members of the community had an opportunity to provide input into the new Plan of Management. The community consultation identified values for National Park, along with issues and opportunities for the Park and a range of preferred future management directions. These values, issues and opportunities have been used to guide the development of actions and directions for the future management of National Park.

Consultation measures carried out in preparing the earlier Draft National Park Plan of Management included the following – a Council information/promotion web page, an information sheet, a self-administered questionnaire, an on-site staffed "information kiosk", on-site discussion with (and observations of) users, a Sporting Users Focus Group, discussions with other (non-sports) stakeholders, an open invitation Community Workshop (arranged and run by Newcastle Voice), media coverage of the new Plan of Management's preparation, a presentation to Council's Strategic Recreation Advisory Committee, review of previous Council consultation relevant to the Park, preparation and exhibition of an *Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper*, and on-going discussions with relevant Council staff.

Once approved by Council the Draft Plan of Management was exhibited for community comment and feedback for six weeks in March and April 2012. This included advertising, notification and a downloadable copy of the Draft Plan on Council's website, advice to those people or groups involved in the planning process to date, an on-site public meeting to present the Draft Plan and allow for questions and feedback was held on-site, and a Public Hearing into the categorisation/recategorisation of community land by the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan's public exhibition elicited a total of 212 submissions, as well as 16 comments/issues raised at the Public Hearing. One internal Newcastle City Council submission was also received. All comment and feedback received during the public exhibition process was considered, in detail, in preparation of the final National Park Plan of Management.

Full details of these consultation measures are provided at Appendix I.

## 4.3 Values

A number of values have been identified for National Park through the community consultation and Plan of Management preparation processes to-date. Values are what make a place important. A Plan of Management is a values-based document – meaning that management actions are shaped to reflect, maintain and enhance the values of a place.

The initial user and stakeholder consultation measures, and submissions to the National Park *Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper* (November 2011), provided valuable feedback in relation to the community's values, issues and aspirations for National Park. In addition to the values nominated by the community, others have been identified from:

- a review of the current Plan of Management, and researching other background information about the Park;
- an assessment of competing and complementary sporting facilities and open space venues in the surrounding area and, given the Park's regional roles, the wider Newcastle City Council area – to place the Park in a regional context;
- on-site inspections and assessments of the Park's assets, attributes and current use; and
- discussions with Park managers and other Council staff.

The Park's role as a major and long-established sporting venue is highly valued by all sporting user groups. Many residents value the variety of sporting opportunities provided at the Park, along with the large expanse of open space it offers in an increasingly urbanised environment. The recent redevelopment of No. 2 Sportsground will provide further opportunity for use of the Park through community and special events.

The full suite of values identified for National Park can be grouped around five broad topic areas. These were discussed in detail in the *Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper*, and the central values can be summarised as below. Table 5 lists the assessed level of significance for each of the values identified for National Park.

**Table 5 Values identified for National Park and their level of significance**

Value	Level of Significance				
	Local	District	Regional	State	National
Sport and Organised Recreation	✓	✓	✓		
Leisure, Recreation and Relaxation	✓	✓			
Community Use and Special Events	✓	✓	✓		
Park Landscape and Access	✓	✓			
Flood and Catchment Management	✓	✓			

### **Sport and organised recreation**

- Players value the opportunities to participate in a range of sports or organised recreation at a variety of skill levels.
- Spectators value the opportunities to watch a variety of sports or organised recreation.
- Schools value the Park as a sports venue.
- Participation in sport, organised recreation and shared activities contributes to maintaining a healthy community.

### **Leisure, recreation and relaxation**

- A large area of open space providing opportunities for informal and unstructured leisure, recreation and relaxation.
- Local residents value National Park as their “local park”.
- Community cohesion and connectivity.

### **Community use and special events**

- Community facilities and special events provide an opportunity to enrich community life.
- The use of the Park for special events provides an opportunity for a wider cross section of the community to benefit from the facilities provided within the Park.

### **Park landscape and access**

- The large expanse of open space, combined with trees and landscaping, provides an appealing scenic quality for visitors as well as Park neighbours.
- Easy access to the Park is valued by a variety of user groups.

### **Flood and catchment management**

- The role of the Park in the management of flood events.

## **4.4 Key Issues**

Key issues for National Park have been identified through the initial user and stakeholder consultation and, as for the key values, have also been identified from:

- a review of the current Plan of Management, and researching other background information about the Park;
- an assessment of competing and complementary sporting facilities and open space venues and the Park’s in a regional context;
- on-site inspections and assessments of the Park’s threats and management issues; and
- discussions with Park managers and other Council staff.

The issues were identified and discussed in detail within the Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper, November 2011. The Paper identified a number of “Options” and “Possible Management Directions” to address or manage the issues and support the Park’s core values. A copy of this Paper is available as a separate document.

The key issues can be grouped under the following broad headings, a summary of issues is provided under each heading.

### **Role and use**

- Equitable allocation of use, including games and training.
- Recognition of Club’s involvement in the development to the Park, while still providing equitable access to other user groups.
- Ensuring the shared or multiple use of facilities.
- Passive use areas appear as ‘residual’ areas and are not interconnected.
- Many dogs are exercised off leash.

### **Facilities and development**

- Condition of playing surfaces.
- Condition of Park facilities.
- Lack of facilities for some park users.
- Shade is lacking in some areas.
- Standards set by main sporting bodies are often higher than those provided at the Park, therefore limiting the standard of sport that can be played.
- Passive recreation areas are poorly designed, provisioned and located.

- National Park's flood risk constrains new development within the Park.
- The perimeter and pathways within the Park are poorly lit.

### **Access**

- Security fencing and the drainage channels restricts access and movement.
- Traffic congestion around the Park, particularly on game days.
- Lack of on-site parking impacts on parking and access to neighbouring residential streets, particularly on game days.
- Commuter parking restricts access to the Park on week-days.
- Disruptive nature of through traffic on Smith Street, and the future management of this route.
- Sporting facilities and, in particular, toilets are often locked and not accessible for casual users of the Park.
- Pedestrian access across the Park can be difficult, particularly when sport is being played.
- Little-used or screened passive recreation areas can attract anti-social behaviour.

### **Appearance**

- Limited landscaping and shade or amenity planting throughout the Park.
- Fencing is unattractive and dominates the streetscape in a number of areas.
- Extensive hard surfaced areas are visually unappealing.
- Concrete drainage channels are unattractive.
- Untidy appearance of shipping containers used for storage.

### **Operation and Administration**

- Most leases are no longer current.
- Administration of fees raised from on-site parking.
- Maintenance of facilities may be difficult for some smaller clubs/users.
- Suitability of current arrangements regarding third party bookings.
- Appropriateness of some uses or user groups, which are not consistent with public open space management objectives.
- Management of the noise and other impacts on Park neighbours.
- Management actions relating to land either side of the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel will require agreement of Hunter Water.
- Sustainability initiatives at the Park have been limited to-date.

Some issues raised through the community consultation were, to a degree, contradictory – as can be expected given they are the opinions and views from different sectors of the community.

The main issues raised by the Park's sporting users were in relation to the quality of the playing surfaces, quality of facilities provided and their ability to cater to current sporting demands, priority access/use arrangements for particular sporting codes, parking, access and security.

The main issues raised by the community and passive recreational users of the Park were in relation to limited and poorly designed/equipped passive use areas, lack of adequate on-site car parking, parking problems in surrounding areas, the introduction of paid parking at the Park, "overdevelopment" of the Park (notably excessive hardening and additional structures), and limitations on community access to certain areas.

## **4.5 Park Vision and Principles for Management**

A "vision" for National Park has been developed to define a guiding purpose for the Park. The vision is aligned with the community's vision, as defined in the *Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan*, and key Council planning documents. The statement aims to protect the values

of the Park, from the issues and threats of today and into the future, and to provide an overarching statement of the role and character envisaged for the Park.

The vision for National Park during the life of this Plan of Management is as follows.

***National Park will be managed as a significant sporting and recreational facility for enjoyment both by people from across the Newcastle region as well as by the local community. Participation in sport and recreation will be encouraged across a variety of codes and user groups, with facilities provided both at the regional-level as well as at a district or local standard. Opportunities for community events, as well as passive and non-organised recreational uses, will continue to be provided and will be expanded. Future development and use of the Park will enhance the area's visual appeal, consider possible impacts on Park neighbours and acknowledge the Park's important role in flood management within the local area.***

The following set of key management principles have been developed for National Park. They elaborate and support the above Park vision. They also provide broad statements of management intent and priority, to guide both identified management actions as well as management decisions responding to unforeseen situations and challenges.

- To manage the Park to accommodate, encourage and promote sport and organised recreation, at both regional-level and supporting levels, while also recognising the Park's importance as a venue for leisure, recreation and relaxation.
- To manage the Park's regional-level sporting facilities for both sport and organised recreation, and community and cultural events.
- To provide a diversity of recreational opportunities, promote the shared/multiple use of major facilities, and ensure equitable access to the Park and its facilities by a range of user groups.
- To manage the greater majority of the Park as an accessible community asset.
- To maintain and enhance the Park's scenic character as an attractive, landscaped and expansive area of open space.
- To encourage sport, recreation and leisure participation as a means of personal development, community building and to foster social connections and a sense of place.
- To provide sporting, recreation and leisure facilities to meet the current and future needs of the community.
- To manage activities within the Park to minimise any adverse impact on nearby residences and land uses.
- To encourage access to the Park through improved connectivity with pathways, cycleways, public transport and improved parking.
- To manage the Park in a sustainable manner - minimising the consumption of energy and potable water and maximise opportunities to recycle waste and water.

These key management principles support the Park's values. They are also consistent with the core management objectives for the Community Land categories identified for the Park (as identified by the *Local Government Act 1993*, as discussed in Section 4.5 below), and have been used to inform the Park's management strategies and actions (as detailed in Section 5).

## 4.6 Categorisation of Community Land

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that Community Land be categorised according to the five categories of sportsground, park, area of cultural significance, natural area (which has a further five sub-categories), or general community use. Guidelines for the categorisation of Community Land, including the attributes or values warranted for areas to be included in the various categories, are provided in the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (sections 102 to 111). The *Local Government Act 1993* also sets out management objectives for each of the above categories that should be pursued in the management of an area.

Considering the values, as well as the current (or imminent) development and use, of the different parts of National Park, this Plan of Management has identified the following categories to apply to various parts of the Park:

- sportsground;
- park; and
- general community use.

Some areas of National Park have been recategorised, from the 2000/2010 Plan of Management, to more accurately reflect their assessed values as well as their current or planned use, development and management.

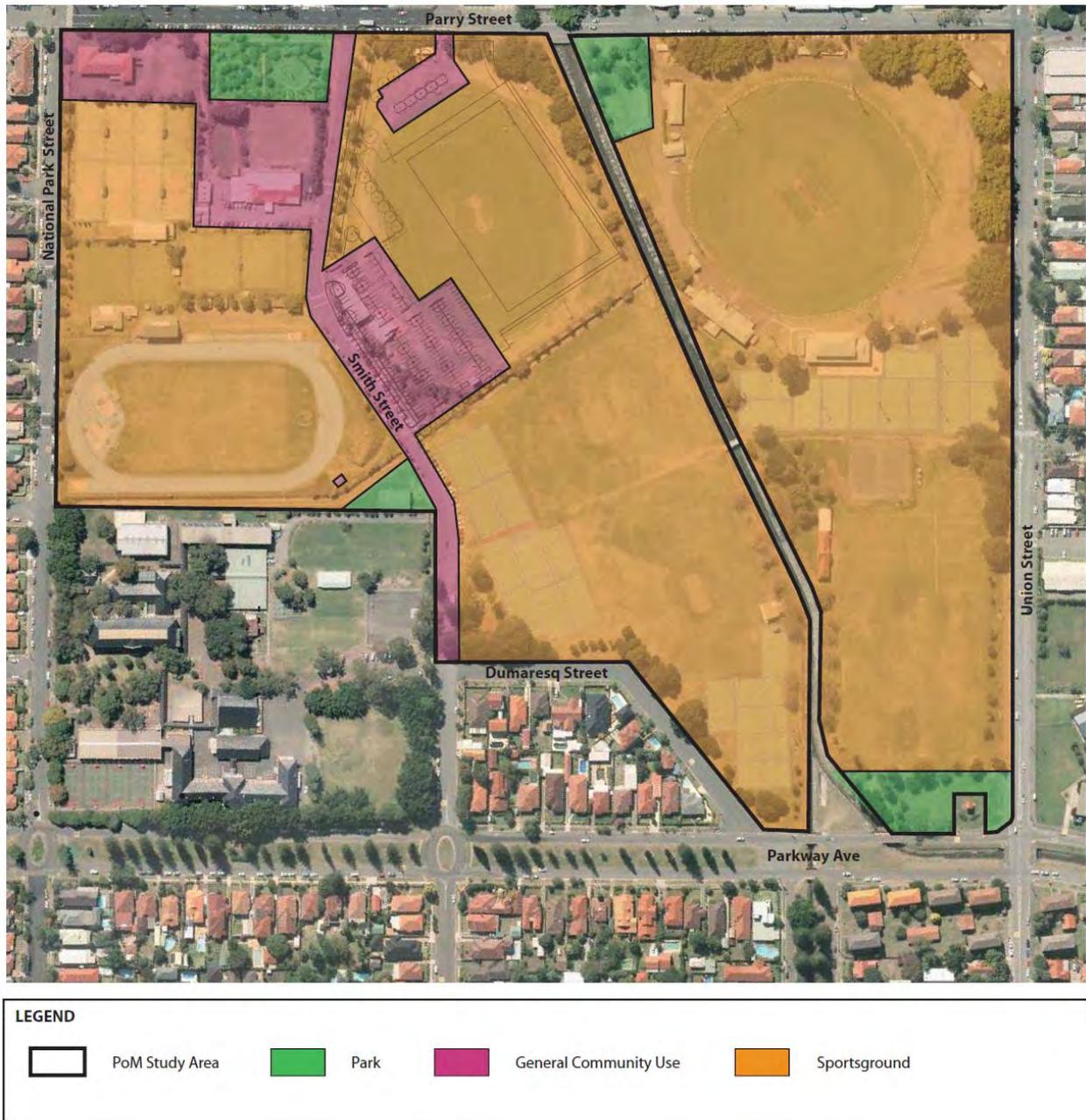
As shown on Figure 5 the Park has been categorised (or recategorised from the current Plan of Management categorisation) as follows:

- No. 2 Sportsground (excluding the new carparks) has been recategorised as “sportsground”;
- Nos 1, 4, 5 and 6 Sportsgrounds, all three groups of netball courts, the Newcastle Athletics Field, the croquet complex, and the Newcastle City Tennis Centre have all been categorised as “sportsground”; and
- two landscaped and passive use areas in the north (including the garden area developed by Life Without Barriers), an open landscaped area in the south-east corner, and the Scout Hall block have all been recategorised as “park”;
- Smith Street, the buildings and lawn area of the Life Without Barrier complex and adjacent carpark, Wal Young House, the two new carparks adjacent to No 2 Sportsground and the Office of Environment and Heritage air monitoring station have all been recategorised as “general community use”.

## 4.7 Overall Management Objectives

The following overall management objectives have been developed to reflect the core objectives identified in the *Local Government Act 1993*, as applying to the categories identified for the Park (as elaborated in Section 4.7.1 below), and to support the area’s key values as identified through the development of this Plan of Management.

- To encourage, promote and facilitate organised and informal sport and recreation.
- To encourage, promote and facilitate leisure, recreation and relaxation, along with cultural, social and educational use of the Park.
- To manage activities within the Park having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
- To manage the Park and provide for a variety of active and passive user groups.



Prepared for National Park Plan of Management by Gondwana Consulting and The City of Newcastle's Landscape Architectural Services - February 2012

**Figure 5**      **Categorisation of Community Land**

- 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.
- To manage the Park in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner.

These management objectives form the basis of the Management Actions defined within Section 5 of this Plan.

#### **4.7.1      Core Objectives under the *Local Government Act 1993***

The *Local Government Act 1993* identifies a number of core objectives for each of the three categories of Community Land – sportsground, park and general community use – to be applied

to different parts of National Park. These core category objectives have been included in shaping the above overall management objectives.

The *Act* identifies a total of seven core objectives across the three categories adopted for National Park under this Plan of Management. The Strategies and Management Actions identified in Section 5 of this Plan have been guided by, and are consistent, with these core category objectives and the above overall management objectives that have been derived from them.

The core category objectives are defined within the *Act* are as follows.

**Sportsground:**

- (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.*

**Park:**

- (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.*

**General Community Use:**

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

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

# 5 Management Directions and Actions

---

This section sets out the management directions and strategies – both as policies and management directions or guidelines, as well as more specific on-ground or tangible actions – that Council will implement to realise the Park vision and to achieve the management objectives identified for the different Community Land categories and discrete parts of the Park.

## 5.1 Park Masterplan

A Masterplan is a strategic document that summarises and presents key management directions and actions, and locates these to specific parts of a park or reserve.

The Masterplan for National Park is shown at Figure 6. It provides an overall concept for National Park's physical development and use during the term of this Plan – as directed by the priorities assigned in the Management Action Tables in Section 5.4, and as dependent on funding and resources availability. The Masterplan also depicts key functional, spatial and design relationships between the various areas of the Park and informs subsequent detailed design and development of Park infrastructure and landscape works.

The following design principles have been applied in preparation of the Park Masterplan, and will inform subsequent detailed design and development activities within the Park. These are consistent with – and elaborate – the Park's Vision, Principles for Management and Management Objectives (as set out in Sections 4.5 and 4.7 above).

### Community use and access

- Provide flexibility for multiple and shared use of facilities.
- Provide open public access to the reserve for thoroughfare and use of passive open space.
- Ensure facilities are inclusive of all.
- Provide equity in access to the Park environs and facilities.
- Provide inclusive playgrounds.
- Encourage informal as well as structured use of facilities.
- Ensure casual use of Park for social sports.
- Link Park with surrounding area via pedestrian and bicycle networks.
- Encourage community participation through facilities provided.
- Consider community and volunteer involvement in maintaining plantings or community gardens within the Life Without Barriers lease area.

### Safety

- Adopt *Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)* principles in the development of the site.
- Provide interpretive, wayfinding, regulatory and ordinance signage.
- Provide shade for general Park users, sporting spectators and for all formal play facilities.

### Sustainability

- Adopt *Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)* principles in the development of the site.
- Select water wise plant species to reduce demand on the local water supply, and reduce maintenance.
- Minimise the use and reliance on potable water.
- Minimise energy use.

**No. 2 Sportsground:**  
No. 2 Sportsground provides a regional venue that has the capacity to attract medium scale regional, state and interstate sporting activities and to accommodate cultural and community events.

**Wal Young House:**  
Renew lease for short to medium term.

**Tennis Courts:**  
Review lease for renewal.

**Life Without Barriers:**  
Do not extend lease beyond the current 2017 lease expiry.

**Croquet Courts:**  
Renew lease.

**Athletics Track:**  
Return athletics facilities to City of Newcastle management and maintain as a district level and special uses athletics facility. Upgrade the central grass rectangular playing field to a district level standard. Upgrade existing amenities to a district level, if warranted, with new or expanded facilities up to 300% of current built footprint. Formalise existing unsealed carpark, as well as sharing carparking with No. 2 Sportsground.

**Access Pathway:**  
Retain visual and physical access from National Park Street into National Park. Tree planting for shade and amenity.

**Footbridge:**  
Install footbridge from the carpark at No. 2 Sportsground to the southern areas of National Park to improve pedestrian thoroughfare.

**Scout Hall:**  
Council to retain Scout Hall and continue operations under lease conditions.

**Boundary Planting:**  
Supplement existing tree plantings to develop a landscape zone around the perimeter of the fields. This planting will also provide a buffer between the park and nearby residences.

**Smith Street:**  
Install additional traffic calming measures along Smith Street and enhance role as a pedestrian/cycleway route. Maintain two way traffic north of Scout Hall, with one way traffic south of Scout Hall to Dumaresq Street (allowing for special access arrangements during major events). These proposed changes will be investigated as part of the Hamilton South LATM Study. An emphasis should be on decreasing risk of collision of park users and attaining a recreation based outcome for Smith Street within National Park.

**Cottage Creek:**  
Locate pathways along both sides of stormwater channel to improve thoroughfare, amenity and surveillance.

**Pocket Park:**  
Improve access, amenity and integration of pocket park with the rest of National Park by encouraging thoroughfare through this space, and improving landscape treatments.

**No. 1 Sportsground Entry:**  
Retain existing vehicle entry. Improve pedestrian access.

**Union Street/Parry Street Intersection:**  
Improve pedestrian access to National Park.

**Scoreboard and North Eastern Corner:**  
Retain and upgrade existing scoreboard. Improve amenity of north eastern corner as a visual and physical gateway to No. 1 Sportsground.

**No. 1 Sportsground:**  
Upgrade playing surface, facilities and oval surrounds to cater for AFL, Cricket and community/special events. Retain established aesthetic and heritage character of this sportsground.

**Carparking:**  
Rationalise existing carpark and allow access from Union Street for sporting and community/special events.

**Netball Courts Nos 1-14:**  
Retain existing courts and clubhouse. Reposition and add an additional two courts if demand warrants. Further investigation on the new court locations is required. Potential locations shown.

**Fig Trees:**  
Continue Fig tree planting along park boundary to define the edge and enhance both street and park amenity. General: All trees within the park require a retention assessment to be carried out by Council's City Arborist.

**Existing Facilities:**  
Retain existing National Park Sports Pavilion and modify, as required, to service current and future needs in this part of Park - including the provision of male and female toilets, storage areas, and other sporting or visitor amenities.

**No. 4 Sportsground:**  
Upgrade playing surface, lighting and drainage. Retain existing shape to ensure flexibility of field layout and use.

**Passive Recreation:**  
Enhance existing passive recreation areas with supplementary landscaping, park furniture and pathway connections.



**Newcastle High School:**  
Liaise with Newcastle High School regarding possible community use of open space and parking areas within the school grounds to supplement park facilities.

**Playground:**  
Investigate relocation of existing playground to a more suitable location and upgrade to district facility if demand warrants.

**No. 5 and No. 6 Sportsgrounds:**  
Retain No. 5 and No. 6 Sportsgrounds as multi-use sporting fields for both Summer and Winter use. Install floodlighting, without compromising field layout and flexibility.

**LEGEND**

- Park boundary
- Existing trees
- Proposed trees
- Existing buildings to be retained
- New and/or upgraded facilities
- Potential locations of two (only) new netball courts
- Boundary network of pedestrian pathways
- Proposed shared pathways (Minimum 3m wide)
- Informal Pathway (Unsurfaced)

Scale Bar  
0m 20 40 60 80 100m

- Maximise recycling of waste and water.
- Create healthy growing conditions for all plantings.

### **Presentation**

- Ensure the various facilities and buildings sit within an appropriate landscape setting.
- Consolidate facilities to reduce incremental encroachments on open space.
- Recognise and complement the existing built heritage character of the Park's facilities without compromising efficacy of use.
- Maximise the visual amenity and views within the Park.
- Incorporate aesthetic means to manage balls and access to the stormwater channels.
- Develop a site specific manual which complies with an area or regional specific manual for public domain design elements (such as signs, park furniture, fencing, etc).

### **Cost**

- Select relocatable/reusable facilities and infrastructure where possible for seasonal activities or short term uses.
- Select park furniture that is robust and easily maintained.
- Select plant species that require minimal maintenance.

### **Maintenance**

- Seek to minimise ongoing maintenance levels through considered design and materials selection for facilities and plantings.
- Minimise large areas of manicured lawn (where not associated with a playing field).
- Ensure facilities are robust to accommodate the level and frequency of use.

### **Environment**

- Creation of green thoroughfare corridors creating green environs for passive use.
- Build on existing vegetation to enhance landscape corridors.
- Select tree species that support the local character and heritage values of the Park and surrounding area.
- Where possible support local indigenous fauna and flora.
- Select plantings compatible with close proximity to active sporting fields.

## **5.2 Future Use and Development**

A Plan of Management is required to set out the uses, activities and developments that are permitted within a park or reserve – including the scale and intensity of such uses and developments.

It is not possible or practical to envisage all the possible uses – sport, recreational and others – that could potentially take place within National Park.

Appendix J lists some of the more typical uses that Council has recognised occur across its full range of parks and reserves (ranging from bushland reserves to developed sporting fields), and identifies the permissibility of each of these within each of the Park's Community Land categories. Appendix J also lists facilities or developments that can typically be found on Community Land, and similarly identifies the permissibility of these in the case of National Park.

However given that Appendix J is not exhaustive, the only uses or activities and facilities or developments that are permitted within National Park (in addition to the information presented in Appendix J) are those consistent with all of the following requirements:

- the provisions of the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan and other legislative requirements;
- the vision, management principles and objectives of this Plan of Management;

- the categorisation and core objectives of the subject part(s) of the Park; and
- sustainable management of the Park's resources and values.

### 5.2.1 Preserving Future Park Planning and Development Options

The management directions and actions set out in this Plan of Management, and summarised in the Masterplan, have been formulated so as preserve potential options for the Park's planning and development beyond the term of this Plan.

This particularly applies to that part of the Park between Smith Street and National Park Street, as well as Smith Street itself, and the outlying netball courts beside Nos 5 and 6 Sportsgrounds. The Plan's management directions and actions have been carefully shaped so as not to constrain future management, redevelopment or change in usage possibilities in these areas.

The Park Masterplan, and Management Action SSt.2, highlight a possible change to the current use of Smith Street between Dumaresq Street and Parry Street. It is proposed to maintain two-way vehicle traffic on Smith Street north of the east-west drainage line. It is also proposed to modify Smith Street (carriageway, signage, etc) south from the east-west drainage line to the Park boundary at Dumaresq Street to permit one-way vehicle traffic northbound only – with a suitable design, coupled with special (Council-approved) management arrangements, to permit southbound traffic for major/special events. Car parking would still be maintained along Smith Street but these measures would allow for a greater pedestrian and cycleway along Smith Street (which is not a dedicated public road but community land and part of National Park). These changes will be investigated, as a matter of priority, as part of the Hamilton South Local Area Traffic Management Study, with the aim of decreasing the risk of collision to sporting and recreational users of National Park and attaining a recreation based outcome for Smith Street within National Park.

## 5.3 Leases, Licences and Other Estates

In accordance with the *Local Government Act* 1993, a Plan of Management must expressly authorise the granting of any lease, licence or other "estate" over Community Land. Such agreements must be consistent with the values identified by a Plan of Management and the core objectives of the category identified for the land in question.

Community Land may not be leased or licensed for a period of more than 21 years. Public notice must be given for a proposal to grant a lease or licence over community land (including facilities located on Community Land) for a period of more than 5 years – and in the event of an objection to the proposal, the consent of the Minister for Local Government is required to be obtained. Additional guidelines for the granting of leases, licences or other estates over Community Land are provided in Clauses 116 and 117 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

A lease over a section of land, or a facility within the Park, enables more exclusive use of that land or facility. A lease may be required due to the scale of investment, by the lessee, or for security measures. Conditions may be included in a lease to promote multiple or shared use of an area and the availability of a site/facility to other activities and user groups. A lease can also hand certain management responsibilities, such as maintenance and bookings, over to the lessee as well as contain specific conditions, required standards or performance criteria.

A licence generally enables shorter term use of an area, or part of an area. Seasonal licences are generally granted over the Park's grounds or playing areas to formalise use of these areas for training and games – often at specified times. The allocation and use of sites/facilities may also be managed by casual licences, for a variety of purposes as set out in the *Local*

*Government (General) Regulation 2005.* More than one licence may apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict.

Existing leases and licences now in place within the Park are described in Section 2.5.

### **5.3.1 Authorisation of Current and Future Leases, Licence and Other Estates**

Before approving leases or licences Council will give consideration of, and regard to:

- the provisions of the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan and other legislative requirements;
- the core objectives of the subject part(s) of the Park, in accordance with the relevant Community Land category(s);
- the activities and developments identified as permissible within each of the Park's Community Land categories – as listed in Appendix J;
- Council's policies for leasing and licencing;
- any likely impacts on the Park's resources and values;
- any likely impacts on the access, uses and experiences of other users – with a preference for leases/licences permitting a broad range of activities, and encouraging the multi-use of community assets;
- any possible impacts on Park neighbours;
- the reversibility of the proposed uses or developments;
- resource demands to administer and monitor the lease/licence;
- any commercial implications for Council; and
- future use of land.

This Plan of Management expressly authorises the following Schedule of Leases.

<b>Number</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose of Lease</b>
1	No. 1 Sportsground clubhouse – lower floor	For the purpose of administration and associated sporting activities
2	No. 1 Sportsground clubhouse – upper floor	For the purpose of administration and associated sporting activities
3	Seismic monitoring station located within the grounds of No. 1 Sportsground	For the purpose of seismic monitoring activities
4	No. 2 Sportsground	For the purpose of sports administration, sporting club administration and associated sporting club activities
5	Air Quality monitoring station located near Newcastle Athletics Field	For the purpose of air monitoring activities
6	Croquet Club and grounds	For the purpose of administration and associated sporting activities
7	Tennis Courts	For the purpose of tennis and other court activities
8	Wal Young House	For the purpose of administration and associated sporting, recreation and community activities
9	Building, grounds and carpark at Smith Street	For the purpose of administration and associated sporting and recreation activities
10	Scout Hall	For the purpose of scouting activities

This plan of management expressly authorises the licensing of all sportsgrounds and their associated facilities/amenities (if not under an active lease) for the conduct of organised or informal sporting activities, recreational, community, social, cultural or educational purposes subject to meeting the core objectives of the categorisation of the subject land (from the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*) and determined by Council.

## 5.4 Management Action Tables

The following Management Action Tables present a range of management actions – comprising both directions or guidelines, and more specific on-ground or tangible actions – that will be pursued in the Park’s management over the coming 5 to 10 years.

Management actions and directions have been grouped in the following Management Action Tables:

- sport and organised recreation;
- leisure, recreation and relaxation;
- community use and special events;
- park access and landscape;
- flood and catchment management;
- neighbours, safety and security; and
- Park management and administration.

The Management Action Tables include the following items (by column).

**Topic** describes the broad area or aspect of the Park’s management around which strategies and actions have been grouped.

**Performance Targets**, or **Strategies**, which each action or group of related actions are intended to achieve.

**Means of Achievement**, management actions intended to achieve the related performance targets, or strategies. The management actions described include both specific on-ground or tangible actions as well as directions more of a policy, guideline or processes/procedures nature. Each action has its own unique number (including a prefix linking it to specific areas or issues) for ease of reference.

**Means of Assessment** outlines the means by which Council will evaluate or gauge the effectiveness of the actions in achieving their performance targets.

**Lead Responsibility** column refers to those sections within Council, or in some cases other bodies (such as other government agencies, volunteers, or contractors), with primary accountability for ensuring that the respective Performance Target is achieved.

The following abbreviations relate to the Newcastle City Council Service Units identified in the Lead Responsibility column:

- PRS – Parks and Recreation Services;
- SPS – Strategic Planning Services;
- CUS – Customer Service Centre;
- IMS – Infrastructure Management Services;
- SPFMS – Strategic Property and Fleet Management Services;
- CES – Commercial Enterprise Services;
- IT – Information Technology Services;
- ECCS – Environment and Climate Change Services;

- TEDS – Tourism and Economic Development Services; and
- FS – Financial Services.

**Potential Funding Sources** are identified for each action or group of related actions – from sources such as staff time, Section 94 (development) contributions, grant funding, Council’s operating revenue, partnerships and volunteers. However management and development of the Park will ultimately be reliant on, and largely determined by, the funding and resources available to Council, competing priorities for available funds or resources, and Council’s Management Plan and budget cycles (refer to Section 6 Implementation and Review).

Management actions that are of a policy/procedure nature, or are mainly directions or guidelines, may not have a direct resource requirement attached. These have been identified as “N/A” (not applicable), or “Negligible Cost”, in the Potential Funding Sources column.

The **Priority** column of the Management Action Tables gives an indication of both the relative importance, and preferred timing, of each action – as follows.

- **HIGH** – Essential to achievement of the Park’s management objectives, and warranting funding consideration until achieved. Ideally the action will be undertaken within 1 to 3 years of the Plan’s adoption.
- **Medium** – These actions are desirable to enhance achievement of the Park’s management objectives, and should be undertaken within 3 to 5 years (and ideally implemented within the life of this Plan).
- **Low** – These actions are useful for the overall management of the Park or address issues that have longer-term impacts, and should commence within 1 to 5 years although completion may take longer than this timeframe.
- Where relevant, actions have also been identified as “Ongoing” – where the action in question will be carried out on a regular basis, or apply or continue throughout the Park’s management and/or the life of this Plan.

## 5.4.1 Sport and Organised Recreation

### Key Management Principles:

- To manage the Park to accommodate, encourage and promote sport and organised recreation, at both regional-level and supporting levels, while also recognising the Park's importance as a venue for leisure, recreation and relaxation.
- To manage the Park's regional-level sporting facilities for both sport and organised recreation, and community and cultural events.
- To provide a diversity of recreational opportunities, promote the shared/multiple use of major facilities, and ensure equitable access to the Park and its facilities by a range of user groups.
- To encourage sport, recreation and leisure participation as a means of personal development, community building and to foster social connections and a sense of place.
- To provide sporting, recreation and leisure facilities to meet the current and future needs of the community.

### Management Objectives:

- ❖ To encourage, promote and facilitate organised and informal sport and recreation.
- ❖ To manage the Park and provide for a variety of active and passive user groups.

### Alignment with Community Strategic Plan Strategies:

- 3.3d Provide welcoming facilities and open space that provide for a range of ages and combination of uses and can be easily adapted to suit the changing need of the community over time.
- 4.2c Provide a broad range of recreation, health and wellness programs to target the age-specific needs of residents including younger children, older children, adolescents, families and seniors.

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
<b>General/Overall</b>						
Role & uses	Ensure equitable access/use of the Park's sportsgrounds and facilities by a variety of sporting codes and community uses/events.	Sp.1 Manage designated sporting areas as per Council's Sports Policy.	Adherence to Council's Sports Policy. Observed patterns of use, and demonstrably equitable access. User satisfaction and feedback	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Role & uses	Ensure equitable access/use of the Park's sportsgrounds and facilities by a variety of sporting codes and community uses/events (cont'd).	Sp.2	Manage Sportsgrounds No. 1, No. 2, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6 as multi-use areas for sport and community activities and events, as consistent with their categorisation as sportsground.	Number of non-sporting uses of grounds per year.	PRS TEDS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Sp.3	Continue the allocation of access/use of Sportsgrounds No. 1, No. 2, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6 for organised sport and other ancillary purposes.				
		Sp.4	Use removable goal posts where possible to reduce wear patterns on playing surfaces by organised sports – especially on the “outer” unenclosed sportsgrounds.	Observed wear patterns and turf condition.	PRS IMS	Staff time	<b>Medium</b> Ongoing
	Provide for, and limit the impacts of, large events through appropriate event management.	Sp.5	Prepare and implement an Events Management Plan for National Park.	Events Management Plan adopted by Council.	PRS TEDS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b> Ongoing
<b>No. 1 Sportsground</b>							
Role & uses	Manage and maintain No. 1 Sportsground as a regional-level sporting facility and venue for community uses/events	Sp.6	Continue to maintain and manage No. 1 Sportsground as a regional-level sporting facility.	Venue achieves and managed to regional-level standards.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Role & uses	Ensure equitable access and use of the regional-level facility by a variety of sporting codes and community uses/events.	Sp.7	Enable greater access/use of No. 1 Sportsground for other sporting uses – and for community uses/events – where these do not unduly impede or disadvantage the venue's primary allocated uses.	Variety of sporting codes, or range of sports uses, each year. Number of non-sporting uses of grounds per year.	PRS TEDS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
Facilities & Developments	Provide a high quality regional-level sporting facility and community uses/events venue.	Sp.8	Undertake priority upgrading of the playing surface and drainage, to provide greater ground serviceability and availability.	Less cancellation of games due to poor playing surface. Ground and facilities upgraded.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Capital works Section 94 contributions Grant funding Partnerships	<b>HIGH</b>
		Sp.9	Upgrading of the ground and facilities at No. 1 Sportsground to better accommodate higher grade sporting competitions. Any new sports developments (excluding outdoor features such as cricket nets) will not increase the ground's total building footprint (across all existing sports buildings or structures) by more than 10%. Any new sports buildings or structures will complement the ground's heritage character and visual appeal.		PRS IMS SPS TEDS		<b>Medium</b>
		Sp.10	Provide additional passive use facilities – along No. 1 Sportsground's eastern boundary, integrated with the existing row of Fig trees.	Additional passive use facilities provided.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	Low

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority	
Facilities & Developments	Excavation works not to impact on known or suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage sites	Sp.11	Should any Aboriginal relics or artefacts be discovered during the course of excavation work on-site, such work is to cease immediately. In such circumstances, work is not to proceed until the receipt of written consent from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, in accordance with the provisions <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> .	Aboriginal cultural sites preserved or appropriately managed.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>	
	Increased use of existing scoreboard and entry turnstiles.	Sp.12	Retain and upgrade the existing scoreboard and entry turnstiles/gates (at corner of Parry and Union Streets) and use as an entry point for competition games and events.	Scoreboard retained, and frequency of use as sportsground entry.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Grant funding	<b>Medium</b>	
Vehicle Access & Carparking	Improve access to No. 1 Sportsground, and rationalise car parking within the ground.	Sp.13	Upgrade vehicle access off Parry Street to incorporate improved pedestrian separation and safety.	Access upgraded with delineated pedestrian access.	IMS	Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>	
		Sp.14	Rationalise and formalise the existing south-eastern parking area, largely within its existing footprint. Investigate the re-establishment of vehicular public access to this carpark off Union Street and implement if warranted.	Carpark formalised. Access off Union Street investigated and in use if warranted.			<b>Medium</b> (in short term) <b>HIGH</b> (when oval upgraded)	
		Sp.15	Unregulated/informal car parking on the ground's northern and eastern grassed banks will be discontinued following expansion of the oval and/or the upgrading of No. 1 Sportsground. Rationalise internal vehicle access and parking arrangements at this time.	Car parking on northern and eastern grassed banks phased out.	PRS		Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
		Sp.16	Permit possible road/footpath works at the corner of Parry and Union Streets, to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety, should any off-Park works require minor encroachment into the Park (works predominantly outside the Park boundary).	Minor encroachment only of adjacent intersection upgrading works onto Park.	IMS SPS		N/A	Low

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Access	Improve public access for unstructured activities.	Sp.17	Improve pedestrian access through No. 1 Sportsground's perimeter fencing to encourage greater public access and use outside of licensed use or maintenance requirements.	Increased access and use of the sportsground.	IMS PRS	Operating revenue Capital works	<b>Medium</b>
Appearance	Improve the appearance and presentation of No. 1 Sportsground.	Sp.18	Retain No. 1 Sportsground's northern and eastern sides largely in their present form – principally as open space, with a less developed character. No additional large buildings or other permanent structures will be developed in these areas (including tiered/terraced seating).	Visual appearance of No.1 Sportsground improved. Landscaping works completed.	PRS SMS	N/A	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Sp.19	Supplement existing tree plantings along the ground's western, northern and eastern boundaries to enhance this perimeter landscape and passive use zone – in accordance with Park Masterplan.				
		Sp.20	Improve the amenity of the large sealed area and occasional ground entry, at the corner of Parry and Union Streets, through "softening" landscaping and other site improvements.				<b>Medium</b>
		Sp.21	Remove the temporary storage area, once permanent storage is available.		Temporary storage area relocated.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue
Operations	Retain on-site works & maintenance capacity.	Sp.22	Retain Council's works/maintenance depot, works office and garage facilities in the north-west corner of No. 1 Sportsground (refer Action PM.4).	Facilities retained and functional.	(refer Action PM.4)		<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Leases & Licences	Formalise use of first floor of the multi-use building.	Sp.23	Formalise the use of the first floor of the multi-use building between No. 1 Sportsground and the Eileen Perry Netball Courts through an appropriate lease arrangement(s). Include provisions to ensure availability for shared/multi use of the facility by other users where practical. This building will not be extended beyond its current footprint or scale.	Lease or licence in place. Shared/multi use provisions included.	SPFMS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>
	Formalise operation of the seismic monitoring station.	Sp.24	Formalise operation of the seismic monitoring station at the south-east end of the grandstand through an appropriate lease or licence with Geo-Science Australia.	Lease or licence in place.			<b>HIGH</b>
<b>No. 2 Sportsground</b>							
Role & Uses	Manage and maintain No. 2 Sportsground as a regional-level sporting facility and venue for community uses/events	Sp.25	Maintain and manage No. 2 Sportsground as a regional-level sporting facility.	Venue achieves and managed to regional-level standards.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	Ensure equitable access and use of the regional-level facility by a variety of sporting codes and community uses/events.	Sp.26	Manage as per Council's Sports Policy and development consent conditions.	Adherence to Council's Sports Policy and compliance with development consent conditions. Equitable allocation of No. 2 Sportsground between sporting uses and community uses/events.	PRS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Sp.27	Ensure primary use remains sport, with a secondary use for community use/events.				<b>Medium</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Vehicle Access & Carparking	Manage off-street carparking to encourage use by sporting patrons	Sp.28	Off-street carparking at the two parking areas developed as part of the new No. 2 Sportsground (a larger capacity carpark accessed off Smith Street, and smaller capacity carpark accessed off Parry Street) will be time managed. Reduced parking rates for weekend use as opposed to weekdays to encourage use by weekend and evening sports patrons using National Park as a whole, and to deter on-street parking.	Monitored carpark usage rates by sporting patrons, and reduction in on-street parking.	CES FS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
Access	Improve access to, through and around No. 2 Sportsground.	Sp.29	Construct a footbridge from the south-eastern corner of the new No. 2 Sportsground carpark, over the east-west drainage channel, to No. 5 Sportsground.	Increased access and use of the sportsground. Observed levels of pedestrian and bicycle traffic in/through ground.	IMS PRS	Capital works Section 94 contributions	<b>Medium</b>
		Sp.30	Improve pedestrian access through No. 2 Sportsground's perimeter fencing, to encourage greater public access and use outside of licensed use or maintenance requirements.		IMS	Operating revenue Capital works	<b>Medium</b>
Appearance	Improve the appearance and landscaping of No. 2 Sportsground and surrounds.	Sp.31	Undertake additional screening/amenity plantings and landscape works as required by development consent conditions and in accordance with Park Masterplan.	Improved amenity.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b>
		Sp.32	Setback perimeter fencing and provide screening plantings along the eastern side of No. 2 Sportsground, to improve amenity of pathway alongside Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel.		IMS PRS	Operating revenue Capital works	<b>Medium</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
<b>No. 4 Sportsground</b>							
Role & Uses	Manage and maintain No. 4 Sportsground as a district-level playing field or sports venue and freely accessible open space area.	Sp.33	Maintain and manage No. 4 Sportsground as a local-level sporting facility (as per Council's Sports Policy) – and as an accessible and less developed area of open space for the general community.	Venue managed to local-level standards. Adherence to Council's Sports Policy. Access and informal use by the general community maintained and enhanced.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Sp.34	Maintain flexibility in field types and layout at No. 4 Sportsground and surrounds to cater for changing demand and player demographics.	Field types and layout adjusted as/when required.	PRS	N/A	<b>Medium</b> Ongoing
		Sp.35	Retain open grassed area to the north of No. 4 Sportsground as a flexible use area.	Variety of uses, sporting and non-sports, per year. Access, and informal use, by the general community, maintained and enhanced.		Staff time	<b>Medium</b> Ongoing
Facilities & Developments	Provide a quality local-level playing surface and associated facilities.	Sp.36	Install drainage and irrigation at No. 4 Sportsground.	Playing surface improved with less cancellation of games due to poor playing surface.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
		Sp.37	Improve flood lighting to meet relevant Australian Standards for night competition if demand warrants.	Flood lighting improved to relevant Australian Standard.	IMS PRS	Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Facilities & Developments	Provide a quality local-level playing surface and associated facilities (cont'd).	Sp.38	Investigate the functionality and capacity of the <i>National Park Sports Pavilion</i> to service current and future needs in this part of the Park. Any upgrading or expansion warranted will not increase the current building footprint by more than 30%, and will be in keeping with the Pavilion's original architectural style. The opportunity to remove, or remodel, the architecturally unsympathetic extension at the north end of the structure will be considered in any development at this site.	Investigations completed. Any required works completed.	IMS PRS	Staff time Capital works Operating revenue Grant funding	Low
Appearance	Improve the appearance and landscaping of No. 4 Sportsground and surrounds	Sp.39	Ensure suitable tree species plantings along Park's Union Street boundary are retained and enhanced.	Plantings retained progressively enhanced. Park amenity and streetscape enhanced.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
		Sp.40	Supplement existing tree plantings to develop a landscaped and movement zone around the perimeter of No. 4 Sportsground, but preserving some "long views" across the Park's south, in accordance with Park Masterplan. Provide park furniture and low-key passive use facilities if/where appropriate.	Additional landscaping provided around perimeter of No. 4 Sportsground, views and public access retained.		Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority	
<b>Nos 5 &amp; 6 Sportsgrounds</b>							
Role & Uses	Manage and maintain Nos 5 and 6 Sportsgrounds as local-level playing field or sports venue and freely accessible open space area.	Sp.41	Maintain and manage Nos 5 and 6 Sportsgrounds as local-level sporting facilities (as per Council's Sports Policy) – and as an accessible and less developed area of open space for the general community. Continue to maintain and manage as local-level playing fields or sporting venues and as an accessible and less developed area of open space.	Both venues managed to local-level standards. Adherence to Council's Sports Policy. Access and informal use by the general community maintained and enhanced.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	Improve allocation of use, and maintain shared/multi use, of Nos 5 and 6 Sportsgrounds and surrounds.	Sp.42	Maintain flexibility in field types and layout at Nos 5 and 6 Sportsgrounds, and surrounds, to cater for changing demand and player demographics.	Changes in field type and layout, over time.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b> Ongoing
	Ensure shared/multi use of facilities.	Sp.43	Provide for shared/multi use of the existing canteen and facilities building adjacent to No. 6 Sportsground.	Increased use of canteen/facilities building, by a larger number and/or greater variety of users, per year.	PRS CUS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>
Facilities & Developments	Provide a quality local-level playing surface and associated facilities.	Sp.44	Install floodlighting at No. 5 and No. 6 Sportsground to a standard suitable for night training – but without compromising the use and layout flexibility of these grounds. The siting and design of floodlighting will consider amenity impacts on neighbouring residents.	Flood lighting installed.	IMS PRS	Capital works Section 94 contributions	<b>HIGH</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Facilities & Developments	Provide a quality local-level playing surface and associated facilities (cont'd).	Sp.45	Retain cricket grounds at Nos 5 and 6 Sportgrounds.	Cricket grounds retained if required.	PRS	Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b>
		Sp.46	Remove existing shipping containers at No. 5 Sportsground after footbridge constructed.	Alternative storage facilities in use, appearance of sportgrounds improved.			Low
Access	Improve and enhance access to, through and around both Sports-grounds.	Sp.47	Formalise the existing east-west movement route, between Nos 5 and 6 Sportsgrounds, but without compromising/constraining flexibility in field layout (refer Action PA.3).	Access to, through and around the sportgrounds is improved.	(refer Action PA.3)		<b>Medium</b>
Appearance	Improve the appearance and landscaping of Nos 5 and 6 Sportsgrounds and surrounds.	Sp.48	Supplement existing tree plantings to develop a landscaped and movement zone around the perimeter of Nos 5 and 6 Sportsgrounds and as a buffer to nearby residences, but preserving some " long views" across the Park's south, in accordance with Park Masterplan.	Additional landscaping provided around perimeter of sportgrounds, views and public access retained.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>
Leases & Licences	Formalise use of the canteen/facilities/amenities building.	Sp.49	Manage the canteen/facilities/amenities building at No. 6 Sportsground for shared/multi use as required, and subject an appropriate by lease or licence (this building, while retained, will not be expanded by more than 20% of its current footprint, and will remain single storey).	Lease or licence in place.	SPFMS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
<b>Netball Courts</b>							
Role & Uses	Manage and maintain National Park as a regional-level netball and sports venue, and freely accessible open space area.	Sp.50	Investigate responsibility for the management and maintenance of the netball courts/facilities at National Park (across all three current court locations), with the netball courts to be managed as a regional-level sports venue.	Investigation completed and preferred management/maintenance responsibilities resolved and operational. Venue functions both as a regional-level and district or local facility. Managed to regional-level standards (at main courts 1 to 14).	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Sp.51	Manage the allocation of access/use of the netball courts (across all three current court locations) to accommodate possible additional uses, especially summer sports uses and other organised activities.	Continued allocation of courts to the primary sports uses (netball) with additional increased use of the facilities by other users.	PRS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Sp.52	The netball courts at National Park (across all three current court locations) to remain as an unrestricted accessible area of open space.	Access, and informal use, by the general community, maintained and enhanced.		N/A	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Role & Uses	Enable National Park to cater for State Netball Championships.	Sp.53	Review Council's 1984 limit on the number of sealed netball courts at National Park, to permit the possible construction of 2 additional sealed courts and 2 temporary "special event" sealed courts on the redeveloped south-eastern carpark in No. 1 Sportsground – to provide the total of 34 sealed courts required to enable the venue to host State Netball Championships. If permissible, and warranted by demand, the 2 additional sealed netball courts will be developed at 2 (only) of the 3 locations as shown in the Park Masterplan (associated with existing courts, north of No. 4 Sportsground or west of no. 6 Sportsground).	Review complete. Additional sealed court(s) – 2 only – developed (if extra court(s) considered permissible and warranted). Sufficient sealed courts available to satisfy current criteria (of 34 courts) to cater for State Netball Championships (if extra courts considered permissible).	SPS PRS	Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
Facilities & Developments	Provide a high quality regional sporting venue and associated facilities.	Sp.54	Retain/maintain the existing sealed netball courts (courts 1 to 14, and including the 4 Eileen Perry Netball Courts) adjacent to Union Street. If considered permissible, and warranted by demand, construct 1 or 2 additional sealed courts in this location (as shown in the Park Masterplan) (refer Action Sp.53 above).	Existing sealed courts retained, safe, and maintained fit for purpose. Additional court(s) developed (if extra courts considered permissible and warranted).	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Facilities & Developments	Provide a high quality regional sporting venue and associated facilities (cont'd).	Sp.55	Retain/maintain the 16 "outlying" sealed netball courts (10 courts adjacent to Smith Street, and 6 courts adjacent to Dumaresq Street and Parkway Avenue). If considered permissible, and warranted by demand, construct an additional sealed court west of No.6 Sportsground adjacent to the existing courts (as shown in the Park Masterplan) (refer Action Sp.53 above). Beyond this possible extra sealed court, no other expansion of the sealed footprint or upgrading of facilities, beyond routine repairs and maintenance, will be undertaken on these outlying courts (pending possible relocation in the longer term).	Outlying sealed courts retained, safe, and maintained fit for purpose. Additional court developed (if extra courts considered permissible and warranted). No further upgrading/expansion of footprint or facilities.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Sp.56	Provide additional low-key seating around the existing netball courts (setback an appropriate/safe distance from court edges) with priority to the "main" complex of courts 1-14.	Additional low-key seating provided. User satisfaction.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
Vehicle Access & Carparking	Additional on-Park carparking capacity.	Sp.57	Investigate use of the hard surfaced netball courts as temporary or overflow parking areas during major events, where this does not damage the asset or impair its future utility or unduly inconvenience other users. Provide hardened access ways, and edge barriers to contain vehicles, as/where required.	Investigations completed. Additional, temporary carparking capacity provided. No ongoing damage to courts.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue Volunteers	<b>Medium</b>
Access	Improve non-motorised access through/ around the main array of netball courts.	Sp.58	Formalise a shared pathway on the well-used movement route along the southern edge of the main array of netball courts 1-14, between Union Street and the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel bridge (refer Action PA.2).	Shared pathway developed or formalised.	(refer Action PA.2)		<b>HIGH</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Appearance	Improve the appearance of hard surfaced netball courts.	Sp.59	Introduce "soft" landscape treatments around extensive paved areas where practical, but with adequate setbacks and avoiding trees/shrubs with potential damaging roots or presenting a hazard to users.	"Soft" landscape treatments applied.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>
Leases & Licences	Formalise use of the multi-use building.	Sp.60	Formalise the use of the ground floor of the multi-use building between No. 1 Sportsground and the Eileen Perry Netball Courts through an appropriate lease arrangement. Include provisions to ensure availability for shared/multi use of the facility by other users where practical. This building will not be extended beyond its current footprint or scale.	Lease or licence in place. Shared/multi use provisions included.	SPFMS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>
<b>Newcastle Athletics Field</b>							
Role & Uses	Manage and maintain the Newcastle Athletics Field as a multi-use district facility.	Sp.61	Retain and maintain the Newcastle Athletics Field, and associated facilities, as a district-level and special uses athletics facility.	Field managed as a district facility.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Sp.62	Continue the allocation of access/use of the Newcastle Athletics Field for organised athletics uses and rectangular field sports (in the central grassed area).	Continued use of Field for athletics and organised sport. Frequency of use for team sports and other uses.	PRS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	Newcastle Athletics Field under Council's management.	Sp.63	Return the Newcastle Athletics Field to Council's direct day-to-day management (do not renew expired lease).	Field under Council's direct management.	SPFMS PRS IMS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Role & Uses	Assessment of usage and demand for the Newcastle Athletics Field.	Sp.64	Monitor use of the Field, for athletics (including use by athletes with a disability) and other activities, to provide (in conjunction with recent usage data) an assessment of current and likely future demand for athletics and other activities at this venue.	Accuracy/reliability of monitoring and assessments.	PRS CUS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>
Facilities & Developments	Provide a high quality district-level athletics and sporting facility.	Sp.65	Undertake assessment of athletics track and match condition assessment and usage analysis (including an evaluation of the facility's role in catering for athletes with a disability) to required service levels.	Track surface and associated areas repaired, upgraded and/or resealed as warranted. User satisfaction.	IMS PRS	Capital works Section 94 contributions Grant funding Partnerships	<b>HIGH</b>
		Sp.66	Upgrade floodlighting to the Field to relevant Australian Standard, and a standard suitable for night competition, if required to cater for high and/or more frequent sports usage.	Flood lighting improved to relevant Australian Standard.	IMS	Capital works Section 94 contributions Grant funding Partnerships	<b>Medium</b>
		Sp.67	Develop the central rectangular playing field to a district-level playing field.	District-level rectangular playing field available.			<b>Medium</b>
		Sp.68	Investigate the upgrading of existing amenities to a district level, for both athletics and rectangular field sports uses. The existing amenities may be expanded by up to 300% of the current built footprint, and existing facilities rebuilt, if warranted. Upgraded or new amenities should comply with relevant Australian Standards for use and access by people with mobility impairments or a disability.	Investigation completed. Facilities upgraded if warranted. User satisfaction.	IMS PRS	Staff time Capital works Section 94 contributions Grant funding Partnerships	<b>Medium</b>
Vehicle Access & Carparking	Upgrade/expand available carparking.	Sp.69	Improve accessibility/use of the Field's carparking capacity, when the area is not in use for booked events. Continue shared use of the Field's carparking capacity (and toilets) with other Park users, notably the adjacent Croquet Club.	Level of access/use of Field's carparking capacity by other Park users and the wider community.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Vehicle Access & Carparking	Upgrade/expand available carparking (cont'd).	Sp.70	Investigate the development of a sealed carpark on the approximate site of the existing unsurfaced carpark on the Field's northern side (final size, configuration and siting dependent on other works/upgrading in this area).	Investigation completed. Carpark sealed or formalised. User satisfaction.	IMS PRS	Staff time Capital works Section 94 contributions	<b>Medium</b>
		Sp.71	If required, develop additional sealed carparking in the eastern/south-eastern end of the Field, accessed off Smith Street.	Additional carparking available.			Low
Access	Improve Field's accessibility to other Park users and community.	Sp.72	Improve pedestrian access to the Field during daylight hours to encourage greater public access and use of the facility, outside of licenced use or maintenance requirements.	Increased access and informal use levels.	IMS PRS	Operating revenue Capital works	<b>Medium</b>
Appearance	Improve the Field's appearance and streetscapes.	Sp.73	Repair/replace poor standard perimeter fencing along Smith and National Park Streets. Reduce prominence and visual impact of perimeter fencing – with setbacks, landscaping and screening.	Improved appearance. Upgraded fencing and landscaping.			
		Sp.74	Establish screening/scenic plantings along the Field's National Park Street edge to enhance the appearance of this section of Park boundary (link with possible off-Park streetscape improvements along National Park Street).	Plantings in place. Screening and landscaping effective.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>
Leases & Licences	Formalise presence and operation of non-sport or recreation facility.	Sp.75	Formalise operation of the air quality monitoring station, in the Field's south-east, through an appropriate lease or licence with the Office of Environment and Heritage.	Lease or licence in place.	SPFMS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority	
<b>Croquet Lawns and Clubhouse</b>							
Role & Uses	Manage and maintain the Croquet Venue (lawns and clubhouse) as a regional-scale facility.	Sp.76	Retain the croquet lawns, clubhouse and associated facilities as a dedicated venue for this sport, and a regional-level croquet venue (also refer Actions Sp.78 and 79).	Croquet Venue managed as a regional facility.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Sp.77	Continue the allocation of access/use of the lawns and clubhouse for the established primary use of croquet (year round) and ancillary purposes.	Continued allocation of facilities to croquet uses.	PRS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Sp.78	Investigate potential locations for the development of a dedicated croquet venue in the Newcastle region – to a level comparable, or superior, to the current Park facility (pending possible longer term changes to developments and usage patterns in this part of the Park). Involve Newcastle Croquet Club in investigations.	Investigation undertaken.	PRS SPS	Staff time	Low
	Alternative development and use of Croquet Venue if necessary.	Sp.79	If the croquet facilities/uses are relocated during the life of this Plan, possible alternative uses will be investigated for this area and implemented if warranted (consistent with its categorisation and zoning under the relevant local environmental plan).	Alternative facilities/use investigated, and in place, if warranted (if croquet facilities/uses relocated).	PRS IMS	Operating revenue	Low
Facilities & Developments	High-standard facilities, able to accommodate State-level competition.	Sp.80	Retain/maintain the existing croquet clubhouse – building not to be extended by more than 10% of its current footprint/floorspace (also refer Actions Sp.78 and 79).	Croquet clubhouse building retained and maintained fit for purpose.	IMS PRS (Lessee)	Operating revenue (Lessee) Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Sp.81	Provide for managed access from the Croquet Venue to access the carparking, toilet and other player facilities within the adjacent Newcastle Athletics Field – chiefly during peak croquet use periods (refer Action Sp.69).	User satisfaction. Frequency of shared use of Newcastle Athletic Field facilities.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Vehicle Access & Carparking	Improved and enhanced access to amenities and car parking.	Sp.82	Signpost the six designated vehicle spaces in the carpark south of the Life Without Barriers building for Croquet Venue patrons only (within specified times, if appropriate).	Signpost installed and parking arrangements observed. User satisfaction.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	Medium
		Sp.83	Provide for parking by Croquet Venue patrons in the carparking area(s) within the Newcastle Athletics Field (when not in use for booked events at this adjacent venue)	Increased carparking capacity. Frequency of shared use of Newcastle Athletic Field facilities.			Medium
		Sp.84	Upgrade the small informal carpark, adjacent to the clubhouse building and accessed from National Park Street, for Croquet Venue patrons – but retaining its current capacity and character as an unsealed parking area, with permeable/“soft” surface treatments.	Carpark upgraded.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	Low
Access	Provide pedestrian access past/around the Croquet Venue.	Sp.85	Establish an east-west pedestrian pathway across the northern side of the Croquet Venue – with minor adjustments to croquet lawns, shade shelters, player facilities or landscape plantings if necessary (refer Action PA.10).	Pathway developed and in use. Minimal adverse impact on Croquet Venue	(refer Action PA.10)		Low
Appearance	Improve the Croquet Venue streetscape, while maintaining views inwards.	Sp.86	Upgrade barrier plantings (or fencing) along the venue’s National Park Street boundary, to increase security of the venue and enhance its streetscape, but retaining the visually open character of this edge and views into the lawns.	Enhanced streetscape and views inwards.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time Lessee	Medium
Leases & Licences	Formalise use and management of the Croquet Venue.	Sp.87	Investigate the formalisation of use and management of the croquet lawns and clubhouse through either a lease or licence, and implement as warranted.	Lease or licence in place.	SPFMS	Staff time	HIGH

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
<b>Tennis Courts (Current Newcastle City Tennis Centre)</b>							
Role & Uses	Manage the tennis courts for ongoing tennis use – as commercial or community courts.	Sp.88	Retain and maintain the tennis courts (site and facilities) as tennis courts in line with conditions in lease or licence (refer Action Sp.93).	Tennis courts managed for existing use, in accordance with lease or licence.	PRS IMS (Lessee)	Operating revenue Staff time (Lessee)	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Sp.89	Continue the allocation of access/use of the tennis courts for the established primary use of tennis (as commercial courts or community courts) and ancillary purposes. Formalise use and management via suitable lease arrangements (refer Action Sp.93).	Continued allocation of facilities to tennis uses.	PRS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	Alternative management or development and use of Tennis courts if necessary.	Sp.90	If management of the tennis courts is no longer viable/economic during the life of this Plan, Council may investigate and implement alternative uses as demand warrants.	Alternative facilities/use investigated and in place, if required.	SPFMS IMS PRS CUS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
Facilities & Developments	Provide quality functional tennis facilities.	Sp.91	Progressively replace trees along the tennis courts' northern margin (in the Newcastle District Bowling Club site) with species having less invasive roots.	Reduced incidence of court surface damage due to tree roots.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	
Appearance	Improve the tennis courts' appearance and streetscape.	Sp.92	Establish screening/amenity plantings along the tennis courts' National Park Street edge to enhance the appearance of this section of Park boundary (link with possible off-Park streetscape improvements along National Park Street).	Plantings in place. Screening and landscaping effective.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Leases & Licences	Formalise use and management of the Tennis Centre as a commercial operation.	Sp.93	Negotiate a fresh lease for the tennis courts.	Lease in place.	SPFMS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>

Note: All Sport and Organised Recreation management actions are coded/numbered "Sp".

## 5.4.2 Leisure, Recreation and Relaxation

### Key Management Principles

- To manage the Park to accommodate, encourage and promote sport and organised recreation, at both regional-level and supporting levels, while also recognising the Park's importance as a venue for leisure, recreation and relaxation.
- To provide a diversity of recreational opportunities, promote the shared/multiple use of major facilities, and ensure equitable access to the Park and its facilities by a range of user groups.
- To encourage sport, recreation and leisure participation as a means of personal development, community building and to foster social connections and a sense of place.
- To provide sporting, recreation and leisure facilities to meet the current and future needs of the community.

### Management Objectives:

- ❖ To encourage, promote and facilitate organised and informal sport and recreation.
- ❖ To encourage, promote and facilitate leisure, recreation and relaxation, along with cultural, social and educational use of the Park.
- ❖ To manage the Park and provide for a variety of active and passive user groups.

### Alignment with Community Strategic Plan Strategies:

- 3.1b Increase opportunities for active and passive recreational use of the city's parks, foreshores and harbour through the provision of child safe spaces, shading, seating, toilets and other amenities.
- 3.3d Provide welcoming facilities and open space that provide for a range of ages and combination of uses and can be easily adapted to suit the changing need of the community over time.

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
<b>Passive Use Areas, Leisure Uses and Informal Activities (PU)</b>							
Role & Uses	Maintenance of freely publicly accessible open space.	PU.1	As an overall proportion of the Park, no further alienation/loss of freely publicly accessible open space will be permitted – although the location and configuration of public open space within the Park will vary from the current situation in accordance with other directions and actions set out in this Plan.	No overall reduction in publicly accessible open space.	PRS SPS	N/A	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Role & Uses	Maintenance of freely publicly accessible open space (cont'd).	PU.2	Increase the community accessibility and encourage multiple use, for passive recreation/leisure, of the Park's major ovals and developed areas – No. 1 Sportsground and new No. 2 Sportsground (refer Actions Sp.17 and Sp.30 and elsewhere) and the Life Without Barriers community garden (refer Action LWB.8). Avoid fencing of facilities/precincts within the Park – as far as practical – to encourage general community access and connectivity.	Increase in publicly accessible open space. Observed usage/transit levels.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b>
Facilities & Developments	Provision of appropriate park furniture and passive use facilities at key locations.	PU.3	Enhance passive recreation areas through holistic design with surrounding playing fields and facilities as shown on the Park Masterplan.	Greater integration of passive use areas with remainder of Park.	PRS	N/A	<b>HIGH</b>
		PU.4	Upgrade existing, and progressively provide additional, park furniture and passive use facilities – as guided by the Park Masterplan and Landscape Masterplan (when prepared).	User satisfaction. Number, standard and location of park furniture and passive use facilities. Condition and safety audits.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		PU.5	Enhance existing and proposed passive recreation and leisure areas with appropriate shade, amenity and “softening” plantings (but also acknowledging open access, visibility, passive surveillance and user safety requirements – refer Action SS.1).	User satisfaction. Improved site amenity and presentation.			<b>HIGH</b>
		PU.6	Investigate provision of public access toilets. If new or additional public toilet facilities are provided the public toilet currently located near the entrance to the Newcastle Athletics Field is to be demolished. Additional public toilets provided within the Park will be no more than 20% larger than the total current public toilets footprint.	User satisfaction and number of complaints annually.		<b>Medium</b>	

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Facilities & Developments	Provision of appropriate park furniture and passive use facilities at key locations (cont'd).	PU.7	Provide additional bubblers, or water points, at suitable locations within the Park.	Availability/accessibility of water points. User satisfaction.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	Medium
		PU.8	Reassess the usage, desirability and practicality of the current provision of public electric barbecues within the Park.	Levels of use of relocated/new public barbecues.			Medium
		PU.9	Improve the public accessibility, and visibility, of the Life Without Barriers community garden (refer Action LWB.8).	Increased levels of public use.	(refer Action LWB.8)		Medium
		PU.10	Upgrade existing passive recreation area adjacent to Parry Street (and adjacent to the entry to No. 1 Sportsground) with improved landscape treatments, improved pathway connections and greater integration with the wider Park area (but also acknowledging open access, visibility, passive surveillance and user safety requirements – refer Action SS.1).	Standard and presentation of site. Increased usage levels and user satisfaction. Reduced levels of anti-social behaviour and reported incidents/complaints	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	Medium
		PU.11	Upgrade existing passive recreation area at the southern end of No. 4 Sportsground – adjacent to Parkway Avenue – with high-quality park furniture, facilities, additional landscaping and improved pathway connections.	Standard and presentation of site. Increased usage levels and user satisfaction.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Capital works Section 94 contributions Staff time	Low
		PU.12	Encourage dog owners to provide their own litter bags (as part of responsible pet ownership).	User satisfaction and number of complaints annually.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	Low
		PU.13	Install a bat ball court within the Park, at a suitable site in conjunction with existing/other sealed areas.	Facilities in place. Levels of use, and user satisfaction.	IMS PRS	Capital works Section 94 contributions Operating revenue	Low

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Facilities & Developments	Improve Park signage.	PU.14	Improve Park signage, including interpretive, wayfinding, regulatory and ordinance signage within the Park.	User satisfaction and improved Park presentation.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>
<b>Playground (Pg)</b>							
Role & Uses	Provision of safe and appealing playground facilities.	Pg.1	Retain the existing playground (at the corner of Smith and Dumaresq Streets) as a local standard playground in the short term, with only limited upgrading/expansion.	User satisfaction and usage levels.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>
Facilities & Developments		Pg.2	Ensure playground design and equipment complies with relevant Australian Standards.	Play equipment provided and maintained to Australian Standards.		Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Pg.3	Investigate relocation of existing playground to a more suitable location and upgrade to district facility if demand warrants.	Investigation undertaken. Relocated and upgraded playground in use. User satisfaction and usage levels.	IMS PRS	Staff time Capital works Section 94 contributions Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>

### 5.4.3 Community Use and Special Events

#### Key Management Principles

- To manage the Park’s regional-level sporting facilities for both sport and organised recreation, and community and cultural events.
- To provide a diversity of recreational opportunities, promote the shared/multiple use of major facilities, and ensure equitable access to the Park and its facilities by a range of user groups.

#### Management Objectives:

- ❖ To encourage, promote and facilitate leisure, recreation and relaxation, along with cultural, social and educational use of the Park.

#### Alignment with Community Strategic Plan Strategies:

- 4.2e Provide events to encourage use of open space and facilities and participation in activities such as “come and try days” and “active parks programs”.

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)		Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
<b>Life Without Barriers (LWB)</b>							
Role & Uses	Continue management of Life Without Barriers site in line with current lease.	LWB.1	Life Without Barriers to continue to occupy, manage and maintain their existing lease area which expires in 2017. However, if a suitable alternative site for this facility is located in the interim, the lease at National Park is to be surrendered.	Continued occupation and operation under current lease, until expiry in 2017 (unless surrendered earlier).	SPFMS (Lessee)	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	Alternative management and uses of Life Without Barriers site.	LWB.2	Investigate alternative community uses of the Life Without Barriers site – such as multi-purpose community or recreational facilities and or open space – and implement if warranted (if/when Life Without Barriers is relocated to an alternative site or the existing lease expires).	Alternative community uses investigated. Appropriate recreation, open space or community uses in place (if warranted/possible). Increased levels of community access/use.	PRS SPFMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Facilities & Developments	Maintenance of infrastructure and facilities.	LWB.3	Life Without Barriers to be responsible for maintaining the site's infrastructure and facilities in accordance with the current lease conditions.	Infrastructure and facilities maintained in accordance with lease conditions.	(Lessee) PRS	(Lessee) Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		LWB.4	Support continued maintenance of the community garden area by Life Without Barriers, with possible greater provision for public access (refer Action LWB.8).	Community garden maintained.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>
Vehicle Access & Carparking	Maintain and manage vehicle access and parking around the Life Without Barriers site.	LWB.5	Maintain the sealed vehicle access from Smith Street through to Parry Street (outside Life Without Barriers lease area), and small sealed carpark south of the Life Without Barriers building (mostly outside the Life Without Barriers lease area) in a serviceable condition.	Roadway and parking area maintained fit for purpose.	IMS PRS	Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>
		LWB.6	Improve management of the small sealed carpark to equitably provide for the parking needs of Life Without Barriers, Croquet patrons, and other adjacent lessees/activities as well as Park visitors. Install reserved parking signage as appropriate. Remove "Private Parking" sign on Smith Street entry.	Measures to improve access and use of car park implemented.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>
		LWB.7	Consider possible concession parking arrangements for Life Without Barriers staff and clients in the new No. 2 Sportsground western carpark.	Concession parking arrangements implemented, if practical.	CES	Staff time	Low
Access & Appearance	Provide for greater public access to community garden.	LWB.8	With agreement/support of Life Without Barriers improve public access to, and visibility of, the community garden area from Parry and Smith Streets using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) measures.	Public access and visibility improved. Observed increased in community use.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Leases & Licences	Review future site use at end of current lease.	LWB.9	Do not renew the Life Without Barriers lease at the end of its current term (expiry in 2017), and return this area of the Park to recreation and open space uses (to be determined in the context of possible longer term changes to developments and usage patterns in this part of the Park).	Current lease and exclusive use arrangements not continued beyond current lease's expiry in 2017.	SPFMS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b>
		LWB.10	All or parts of the current Life Without Barriers lease area may be managed under short-term lease or licence arrangements – but only for recreation, open space or community uses freely accessible to the wider Newcastle community – after expiry or surrender of the current lease.	Short-term community access and use leases/licences in place, if appropriate.			<b>Medium</b>
<b>Scout Hall (SH)</b>							
Role & Uses	Manage and maintain hall as a local-scale community use facility.	SH.1	Retain and maintain the Scout Hall building and surrounds as a local-scale community use facility.	Hall and surrounds managed as a local-scale facility.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		SH.2	Continue the allocation of access/use of the hall and surrounds for the established primary use by Scouts Australia, with measures to encourage/accommodate other organised community activities and casual/special uses. Formalise access/use, and wider community use, through an appropriate lease or licence (refer Action SH.7).	Continued use of venue by Scouts Australia. Frequency of access/use for other community activities or casual uses.	PRS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Facilities & Developments	Maintenance and safety of facility.	SH.3	Seal or replace the hall's existing sub-standard asbestos roof, to meet relevant Australian Standards.	Roof meets Australian Standards.	IMS	Capital works Grant funding Partnerships	<b>HIGH</b>
		SH.4	Maintain, and permit minor upgrading of, hall and surrounds to provide improved amenities and recreational facilities – but building and hardened areas not to be extended by more than 20% of the current footprint, and building to remain single storey only.	Facilities maintained fit for purpose. User satisfaction.	Lessee IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
Vehicle Access	Maintain unobstructed vehicle access to the site.	SH.5	Install no-parking signs for the site's Smith Street driveway to ensure vehicle access is maintained to the Scout Hall.	Signage installed. Reduced incidence of driveway obstruction.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	Low
Appearance	Improve the site's appearance and streetscape.	SH.6	Maintain boundary fencing, and upgrade as required, and establish low screening or amenity plantings along the site's Smith Street edge, and along boundary with pathway to north, to enhance the area's appearance.	Improved appearance. Screening and landscaping effective. Upgraded fencing and landscaping.			<b>Medium</b>
Leases & Licences	Formalise use of the Hall and surrounds by Scouts Australia.	SH.7	Formalise the use of the hall for Scouts through either a lease or licence and allowing for greater occasional access/use of the site by other community or sporting groups/users.	Lease or licence in place.	SPFMS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>
<b>Wal Young House (WYH)</b>							
Role & Uses	Manage and maintain the building and surrounds as a local-scale community use facility.	WYH.1	Retain and maintain Wal Young House and surrounds as a local-scale community use facility.	Building and surrounds managed as a local-scale facility.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		WYH.2	Continue the allocation of access/use – in the short to mid-term – of the hall and surrounds for the current use as a sports administration facility, with measures to encourage/accommodate other organised community activities and casual/special uses.	Continued short/mid-term use of venue. Frequency of access/use for other community activities or casual uses.	PRS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Role & Uses	Alternative management of building and surrounds for greater community access/use.	WYH.3	Investigate possible alternative uses of the building and surrounds for recreation, open space or community uses offering greater access/use of this venue for the wider Newcastle community.	Alternative uses identified and in operation, if appropriate.	PRS SPS	Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
Facilities & Developments	Maintenance of infrastructure and facilities.	WYH.4	Primary lessee or licensee to be largely responsible for maintaining the site's infrastructure and facilities – in accordance with conditions set out in new lease or licence.	Infrastructure and facilities maintained in accordance with lease conditions.	(Lessee) PRS	(Lessee) Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
Vehicle Access & Carparking	Increase accessibility and use of on-site parking area.	WYH.5	Increase access/use of the existing grassed carpark, accessed from Parry Street, to more equitably provide for the parking needs of all lessees/activities in this part of the Park or alternatively redevelop this area as publicly accessible landscaped open space or parkland in connection with the adjacent Life Without Barriers sensory garden or future parkland/open space.	Measures to improve access and use of car park implemented.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
Leases & Licences	Formalise use and management of the site by the Newcastle District Bowling Association.	WYH.6	Formalise use of Wai Young House through appropriate lease or licences.	Lease or licence in place.	SPFMS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)		Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
<b>School Use (Sch)</b>							
Role & Uses	Provide for continued use of Park by schools.	Sch.1	Continue to accommodate school use of the Park.	Monitored level of school usage, and specific facilities used.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	Pursue partnerships with adjoining land owners to support/supplement uses of Park.	Sch.2	Liaise with Newcastle High School regarding the possibility of managed access and use of the school's eastern grounds, sporting facilities and carparking (adjacent to Smith Street) to support/supplement sporting and community uses of the Park.	Liaison undertaken. Partnership and use of school facilities in effect, if agreed.	PRS SPS	Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
Operations & Administration	Ensure school use of the Park is appropriately managed.	Sch.3	Monitor levels of casual and unbooked school use of the Park, and associated impacts. Introduce additional measures if warranted to manage casual and unbooked school use to maintain the condition of playing fields and facilities, as well as to ensure equity of access/use.	Casual/unbooked usage is monitored. Appropriate management measures introduced. Reduction in un-booked use.	PRS CUS	Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Community and Special Events (CSE)</b>							
Role & Uses	Provide for community and special events within the Park.	CSE.1	Manage No. 1 Sportsground as a multi-use facility, accommodating community events as well as for sporting uses.	Sportsgrounds managed for sport and special events. Number, frequency and type of community events. Monitored sports and community events usage levels.	PRS TEDS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		CSE.2	Manage No. 2 Sportsground as a multi-use facility, accommodating community events as well as for sporting uses in accordance with its development consent and grant funding agreement.				<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential funding source	Priority
Role & Uses	Provide for community and special events within the Park (cont'd).	CSE.3	Provide for community uses/events in other areas of the Park within acceptable event type and frequency limits, and where use does not unacceptably disadvantage other users or adversely impact the Park's values or neighbours.	Number, frequency and type of community events. Monitored impacts.	PRS CUS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b> Ongoing
Operations & Administration	Ensure appropriate management of community and special events within the Park.	CSE.4	Prepare and implement an Events Management Plan for National Park.	Events Management Plan developed and implemented.	PRS TEDS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

## 5.4.4 Park Access and Landscape

### Key Management Principles

- To maintain and enhance the Park's scenic character as an attractive, landscaped and expansive area of open space.
- To provide a diversity of recreational opportunities, promote the shared/multiple use of major facilities, and ensure equitable access to the Park and its facilities by a range of user groups.
- To manage the greater majority of the Park as an accessible community asset.
- To encourage access to the Park through improved connectivity with pathways, cycleways, public transport and improved parking.

### Management Objectives:

- ❖ To manage the Park and provide for a variety of active and passive user groups.
- ❖ 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.

### Alignment with Community Strategic Plan Strategies:

- 1.2a Develop a network of safe, linked cycle and pedestrian paths integrated with key destinations and green space.
- 1.2d Enhance support infrastructure such as end of trip facilities to encourage walking and cycling.
- 3.1d Create welcoming and accessible community facilities and attractive public spaces that create opportunities for people to meet and connect with one another.

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
<b>Parking and Traffic (PT)</b>							
Role & Uses	Limit unauthorised vehicle access within the Park vehicle.	PT.1	Limit vehicle access within the Park – beyond approved roads, accesses and parking areas – to maintenance, operational, emergency services and other authorised or specially approved vehicles.	Observed levels of compliance with authorised vehicle access restrictions. Number of complaints and enforcement actions.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	Provide for emergency access to the Park.	PT.2	Maintain emergency vehicle access points at key sites around the Park boundary and from Smith Street.	Number of emergency vehicle access points.			<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Facilities & Developments	Provide for people with a disability, or impaired mobility, within carparking areas.	PT.3	Ensure that the condition/surfacing of sealed parking areas meet disability access requirement, with a sufficient number of disabled parking bays designated and appropriately sited.	Condition audits, and number of complaints to Council per annum. Compliance with relevant Australian Standards.	IMS PRS	Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
Vehicle Access & Carparking	Provide adequate, convenient and efficient carparking for Park users.	PT.4	Continue to provide sealed carparking areas/capacity, for general (but managed) use, at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the western side of No. 1 Sportsground (refer Action Sp.14);</li> <li>the two carparks developed as part of the new No. 2 Sportsground (refer Action Sp.28);</li> <li>Smith Street – both parallel and 90° parking (varying over time as the use and configuration of Smith Street is modified – refer Actions SST.3);</li> </ul>	Levels of use of existing sealed carparks. Instances – per year – when carparking capacity reached or exceeded. Observed efficiency, and number of complaints to Council per year.	IMS PRS	Capital works Section 94 contributions Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> and <b>Medium</b> (for specific locations) Ongoing
		PT.5	Upgrade, rationalise or formalise sealed carparking areas/capacity, for general (but managed) use, at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the south-eastern corner of No. 1 Sportsground (refer Action Sp.14);</li> <li>the north-eastern side of the Newcastle Athletics Field (refer Action Sp.70); and</li> <li>the eastern side of Smith Street, south of the Life Without Barriers building and north-east of the croquet lawns (refer Actions LWB.5 and LWB.6).</li> </ul>	Additional sealed carparking available, and observed levels of use. Instances – per year – when carparking capacity reached or exceeded. Observed efficiency, and number of complaints to Council per year.			<b>HIGH</b> and <b>Medium</b> (for specific locations) Ongoing
		PT.6	Phase-out unregulated car parking on the eastern grassed bank at No. 1 Sportsground (refer Action Sp.15).	Vehicle access and carparking rationalised, with reduced impacts on oval's values/use.	(refer Action Sp.15)	<b>Medium</b>	

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Vehicle Access & Carparking	Improve vehicle access and carparking for Park users, and reduce impacts on Park neighbours.	PT.7	Introduce time limits or other controls to deter commuter parking along Smith Street and favour Park/sports users.	Measures to improve park access and reduce impact on neighbours implemented. Number of complaints to Council per year.	CES IMS SPS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>
		PT.8	Investigate, through appropriate Council departments, improvements to traffic and parking arrangements in streets adjacent to the Park – including configuration of kerbside parking, time restrictions, metered parking, additional drop-off zones adjacent to Park access points, and other measures – to more efficiently manage off-Park carparking pressures and reduce the impacts of major sports/events on adjacent residents.		IMS CES	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
	Manage paid parking to encourage access for park visitors, and enhance the local area carparking capacity.	PT.9	Off-street carparking at the two parking areas developed as part of the new No. 2 Sportsground (a larger capacity carpark accessed off Smith Street, and smaller capacity carpark accessed off Parry Street) will be time managed. Reduced parking rates for weekend use, as opposed to weekdays, will be applied to encourage use by weekend and evening sports patrons using National Park as a whole, and to deter on-street parking.	Monitored levels of use. Differential parking fee regime in place, and observed to favour Park users as well as increased on-Park carparking. Number of complaints to Council per year.	CES FS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		PT.10	Time managed and metered carparking may be extended to other formalised carparks in the Park's northern half – where this is expected to assist in the management of vehicle access and parking with benefits for Park users and neighbouring residents.				Monitored levels of use. Observed advantages for Park users and neighbours. Number of complaints to Council per year.
		PT.11	Fees/charges for on-Park carparking may be charged for specific sports or community events – especially major events warranting special management measures.	Monitored levels of use and net revenues. Number of complaints to Council per year.	TEDS PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Access	Improve opportunities for access during major events.	PT.12	Promote greater use of public transport and ensure a maximum of on-Park carparking capacity is available for major sporting or community events at the Park.	Carparking capacity and use of public transport improved during major events.	TEDS	Staff time Operating revenue Other agencies	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Smith Street (SSt)</b>							
Vehicle Access & Carparking	Improved management and function of Smith Street, to create a safe environment for Park users, including non-motorised users.	SSt.1	Install additional traffic calming measures along Smith Street, as well as improvements to enhance its role as a pedestrian/cycleway route.	Traffic calming measures implemented. Monitored levels of pedestrian and bicycle traffic.	IMS	Operating revenue Capital works	<b>HIGH</b>
		SSt.2	Maintain two-way vehicle traffic on Smith Street north of the east-west drainage line. Modify Smith Street (carriageway, signage, etc) south from the east-west drainage line to the Park boundary at Dumaresq Street to permit one-way vehicle traffic northbound only – with a suitable design, coupled with special (Council-approved) management arrangements, to permit southbound traffic for major/special events. These proposed changes will be investigated as part of the Hamilton South Local Area Traffic Management Study. An emphasis should be on decreasing risk of collision for park users and on attaining a recreation based outcome for Smith Street within National Park.	Further investigation and consultation completed. Changed traffic conditions implemented (and emphasis on recreation based outcome for Smith Street within National Park).	IMS PRS TEDS CES	Operating revenue Capital works	<b>HIGH</b>
	Continued provision of carparking on Smith Street.	SSt.3	Continue to provide kerbside carparking along Smith Street – both parallel and 90° parking – modifying parking as required by possible reconfiguration of roadway and upgrading as a pedestrian/bicycle route.	Available carparking capacity on Smith Street. Minimal conflict with pedestrian/bicycle traffic.	PRS	Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
<b>Pedestrian Access, Pathways and Bicycle Routes (PA)</b>							
Facilities & Developments	Improve and formalise pedestrian and bicycle movement and connectivity through, and to, the Park.	PA.1	Formalise/establish shared pathways north-south along both sides of the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel (as shown on the Park Masterplan, and subject to agreement with Hunter Water – refer Action PM.10), as a main non-motorised movement spine for the Park and to improve amenity and surveillance. Develop as sealed shared pathways, with landscape plantings and low/bollard lighting where appropriate.	Shared pathways developed or formalised. Length of new/upgraded pathways established per annum (until network completed).	IMS PRS	Capital works Section 94 contributions Grant funding Partnerships	<b>HIGH</b> (north of bridge on stormwater channel)
							<b>Medium</b> (south of bridge on stormwater channel)
		PA.2	Formalise the east-west route between Union Street and the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel bridge (as shown on the Park Masterplan) as a sealed shared pathway, with landscape plantings and low/bollard lighting where appropriate.	Shared pathways developed or formalised. Length of new/upgraded pathways established per annum (until network completed).	IMS PRS	Capital works Section 94 contributions Grant funding	<b>HIGH</b>
		PA.3	Formalise the east-west movement route, between Smith Street and the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel bridge (as shown on the Park Masterplan), as an unsurfaced or soft-surfaced pathway (with low edge plantings where feasible) and aligned so as not to compromise or constrain flexibility in surrounding sportsground layout or recreational use options.				<b>Medium</b>
PA.4	If demand and usage patterns warrant, formalise a pedestrian link or shared pathway along the southern margin of the east-west drainage channel between Smith Street and the proposed Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel pathway (as shown on the Park Masterplan).				<b>Low</b>		

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Facilities & Developments	Improve and formalise pedestrian and bicycle movement and connectivity through, and to, the Park (cont'd).	PA.5	Investigate the upgrading of the existing sealed pathway between National Park and Smith Streets (between the Park boundary with Newcastle High School and east-west drain) to accommodate a shared pathway (as shown on the Park Masterplan). Implement if warranted/feasible.	Pathway retained/maintained. Investigation completed. Upgraded to shared pathway standard/use, if warranted.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b>
		PA.6	Undertake clear-stem tree planting, for shade and amenity, along the existing pathway between National Park and Smith Streets (between the Park boundary with Newcastle High School and east-west drain) – if this will not compromise drain structure/integrity.	Plantings in place, and shade/amenity enhanced.		Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
		PA.7	Construct a shared pedestrian/bicycle bridge from the south-eastern corner of the new No. 2 Sportsground carpark, over the east-west drainage channel, to No. 5 Sportsground (as shown on the Park Masterplan).	Footbridge constructed and in use.	IMS PRS	Capital works Section 94 contributions	<b>Medium</b>
		PA.8	Collaborate with Hunter Water to investigate the practicality and cost of establishing a second crossing over the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel, as a shared pedestrian/bicycle bridge, in the Park's south. Construct bridge if feasible.	Investigation completed in liaison with Hunter Water. Bridge developed and in use, if feasible.	Other agencies IMS PRS	Staff time (Capital works or Section 94 contributions to construct)	Low
		PA.9	Investigate the need for a pedestrian crossing over Smith Street, to create greater connectivity between the east-west pathways, and establish if warranted.	Investigation completed. Pedestrian crossing established and in use, if warranted.	IMS PRS	Staff time Capital works Section 94 contributions	Low
		PA.10	Provide a sealed pathway (for pedestrian use only), fenced or defined and landscaped as required, running east-west between the croquet lawns and tennis courts – to link National Park Street with the carpark south of the Life Without Barriers building and to Smith Street.	Pathway established and in use.		Capital works Section 94 contributions	Low

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Access & Appearance	Enhanced movement networks along the Park boundaries.	PA.11	Permit footpaths, shared pathways and/or cycleways along streets adjoining the Park boundary to encroach slightly into the Park – as well as any associated landscaping and fencing (refer Action TL.8) – where this will encourage access, enhance the appearance or use of the Park boundary, or improve adjacent streetscapes.	Reserve boundary enhanced and access encouraged.	PRS SPS IMS	N/A	Low
	Access	Promote links with surrounding path/cycleway networks and active transport options.	PA.12	Connect shared paths and cycleways within and around the Park to the existing, and proposed, pathway and cycleway network surrounding the Park.	External pathway and cycleway connections established and in use. Increased numbers of people accessing Park via active transport.	PRS IMS	Operating revenue
PA.13			Provide bicycle racks at key Park access points, nodes along the proposed shared pathway network, serving high use locations, and other suitable sites.	Additional bicycle racks provided and in use. Increased numbers of people accessing Park via active transport.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>
Promote public transport access options.		PA.14	Investigate and promote public transport access options (also refer Action PT.12).	Increased user numbers accessing Park via public transport.	PRS SPS CUS	Staff time Operating revenue Other agencies	<b>Medium</b>
Improve access to Park and facilities for people with reduced mobility.		PA.15	Address accessible design requirements – as guided by the relevant Australian Standards – in all future Park development proposals.	Compliance with relevant Australian Standards.	PRS	N/A	<b>HIGH</b>
		PA.16	Ensure that pavements, surfaces or finishes, and facilities on major Park movement routes comply with the relevant Australian Standards for use by people with mobility impairments or a disability.	Compliance with relevant Australian Standards. User satisfaction, and number of complaints annually.	PRS IMS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Access	Improve access to Park and facilities for people with reduced mobility (cont'd).	PA.17	Where required, and cost-effective, modify existing facilities to enhance accessibility or remove existing barriers to access/use for people with mobility impairments or a disability.	Degree of increased accessibility of existing facilities. Number of modifications undertaken to increase accessibility.	IMS PRS	Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Trees, Landscaping and Aesthetics (TL)</b>							
Appearance	Enhance the Park's overall scenic quality and amenity.	TL.1	Develop and implement a Landscape Masterplan to improve the amenity of the Park.	Landscape Masterplan developed and implemented. Improved scenic quality and amenity of Park. Positive user feedback.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	Enhance the visual quality of high-use areas and built features.	TL.2	Enhance activity nodes and passive recreation areas with appropriate amenity, shade and landscape plantings. Landscape treatments to be suited to the character and use of these areas, and be guided by the Park Masterplan and Landscape Masterplan (when prepared).	User satisfaction. Improved site amenity and presentation.			<b>HIGH</b>
		TL.3	Ensure the aesthetically pleasing design and maintenance of Park facilities.	Degree of user/community satisfaction with appearance of built features.			<b>Medium</b>
	TL.4	Progressively replace fencing along drainage channels over time with mounded planted hedges and other plantings (subject to agreement with Hunter Water – refer Action PM.10), sited and designed for user safety, and so as not to obstruct the proposed shared pathways along the channel.	Improved site amenity and presentation. No reduction in user safety compared to present situation.	PRS Other agencies	Operating revenue Other agencies	<b>Medium</b>	

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Appearance	Enhanced amenity and streetscapes along Park boundaries.	TL.5	Modify perimeter fencing to allow setbacks for screen plantings where practical. Improve accessibility and passive use along the Park's boundaries, enhancing surrounding streetscapes. Replace sub-standard and degraded fencing and provide adequate access points.	Improved scenic quality and amenity of Park and boundaries. Positive user and neighbour feedback.	IMS PRS	Operating revenue Capital works	<b>HIGH</b>
		TL.6	Continue tree planting along the Park's Union Street boundary, to define the Park edge and enhance both Park and street amenity.	Improved scenic quality and amenity of Park and boundaries. Positive user and neighbour feedback.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
		TL.7	Landscape the Park boundaries, and adjoining streetscapes, to screen undesirable views, "soften" car parking areas, provide additional shade in passive use Park areas and enhance surrounding streetscapes. Develop a unifying landscape theme, as detailed in the Landscape Masterplan (when prepared).	Improved scenic quality and amenity of Park and boundaries. Positive user and neighbour feedback.			<b>Medium</b>
		TL.8	Permit landscaping and public fencing inside the Park boundary, integrating the Park with surrounding streetscapes.	Improved scenic quality and amenity of Park and boundaries. Positive user and neighbour feedback.	PRS SPS	N/A	<b>Medium</b>
	Encourage planting of native species, and species appropriate for a high-use setting.	TL.9	Replace Coral trees with a more appropriate species, as guided by the Landscape Masterplan (when prepared).	Number of Coral Trees replaced and remaining.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b>
		TL.10	Utilise endemic native species in landscaping where possible.	Increase in number of endemic species used in Park landscaping.	PRS	N/A	<b>Medium</b>
		TL.11	Newcastle Urban Forest Policy principles and objectives to be considered for guiding tree selection, planting and maintenance.	Urban Forest Policy principles and objectives incorporated where appropriate	PRS ECCS	Staff time	Low

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Access & Appearance	Maintain open space access and vista within Park.	TL.12	Minimise fencing that un-necessarily restricts public access or interrupts the Park's extensive open space vistas.	Degree of access restrictions and intrusion into long vistas. User feedback and number of complaints to Council.	PRS	N/A	<b>HIGH</b>
Operation & Administration	Ensure safe management of trees within the Park.	TL.13	Undertake a "Tree Retention Assessment" of all trees within the Park. Progressively implement recommended actions.	"Retention Assessment" carried out. Recommendations progressively implemented.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>
		TL.14	Undertake tree health and safety audits, at least every two years, by a qualified Arborist. Undertake any remedial actions necessary.	Tree health and safety audits carried out. Recommendations implemented.			<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	TL.15	Upgrade litter management within the Park – including additional rubbish bins, recycling stations, and waste management conditions as part of major event approvals (also refer Actions Su.4 and Su.5).	Percentage reduction in litter volumes. Reduction in complaints regarding litter.	<b>HIGH</b>			

## 5.4.5 Flood and Catchment Management

### Key Management Principles:

- To manage activities within the Park with regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences and land uses.
- To manage the Park in a sustainable manner - minimising the consumption of energy and potable water and maximise opportunities to recycle waste and water.

### Management Objectives:

- ❖ To manage activities within the Park having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
- ❖ To manage the Park in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)		Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Facilities & Developments	Support the Park's continued flood management role.	F.1	Continuing use and any future development of the Park – including the safety of those people who use the area – as well as structures, earthworks, fill and plantings shall be compatible with the flood environment's hazards and hydraulic functions. Best practice flood information, flood scenario simulations and flood management will be used.	Degree of compliance/adherence with the principles of the NSW Government Flood Policy and Manual (under s733 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> ), guided by the relevant provisions of the Newcastle City-wide Floodplain Risk Management Plan (Draft or adopted) and the Newcastle DCP.	PRS SPS ECCS	N/A	<b>HIGH</b> and Ongoing
Operation & Administration	Improve water quality and catchment management.	F.2	Undertake and encourage ongoing catchment management activities, as advocated in the Newcastle Stormwater Management Plan and provided through various Council (and other agency) stormwater management initiatives within the Cottage Creek catchment.	Improved water quality and catchment management outcomes. Improved litter and gross pollutant control.	PRS ECCS Other agencies	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Operation & Administration	Improve water quality and catchment management (cont'd).	F.3	Liaise with Hunter Water regarding the cleaning programme of in-stream pollutant control devices, ensuring cleansing is undertaken frequently and when required.	Improved litter and gross pollutant control. Improved water quality outcomes.	PRS ECCS Other agencies	Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
	Improve safety of stormwater channels	F.4	Liaise with Hunter Water to provide safe exit and entry points from the channels.	Safe exit and entry points created.	PRS Other agencies	Staff time Other agencies	<b>Medium</b>
	Assess practicality of improvements to creek corridor.	F.5	Liaise with Hunter Water, and the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority, to investigate opportunities to reinstate natural channel and habitat features within the lower section of Cottage Creek.	Investigations completed, and action plan developed if appropriate.	ECCS Other agencies	Staff time	Low

Note: All Flood and Catchment Management actions are coded/numbered "F".

## 5.4.6 Neighbours, Safety & Security

### Key Management Principles:

- To manage activities within the Park with regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences and land uses.

### Management Objectives:

- ❖ To manage activities within the Park having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

### Alignment with Community Strategic Plan Strategies:

- 3.3c Create streetscapes and public places that are clean and attractive, where people feel safe.

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)		Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
<b>Park Neighbours (PN)</b>							
Operation & Administration	Provide information for neighbours re major Park usage/events	PN.1	Promote awareness among local residents regarding use of the Park for large events. Provide Council contact numbers to report parking infringements or for other complaints.	Reduced number of complaints to Council, per year.	CUS PRS	Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
	Reporting Park use related hazards and incidents	PN.2	Encourage Park neighbours to report hazards and incidents arising from the use of nearby playing fields and Park areas to Council (also refer Action SS.8).	Number of reported/recorded hazards and incidents.	CUS PRS	Staff time	Low
<b>Safety and Security (SS)</b>							
Facilities & Developments	Increase security levels, and reduce the occurrence of anti-social behaviours and incidents.	SS.1	Ensure that Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles are considered in the planning, siting and design and management of Park facilities and usage areas.	Number of reported/recorded incidents. User feedback.	PRS	N/A	<b>HIGH</b> and Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Facilities & Developments	Increase security levels, and reduce the occurrence of anti-social behaviours and incidents (cont'd).	SS.2	Reduce/avoid conflicting use locations, such as children and teenagers utilising playgrounds or spaces for different purposes.	Reduced number of complaints to Council, per year.	PRS	N/A	Medium
	Improved lighting of key or vulnerable locations	SS.3	Maintain a level of lighting around facilities and other areas, especially along pathways, so as to deter vandalism and anti-social behaviours (while also considering amenity impacts on surrounding residents).	Extent of on-Park external lighting. Number of reported/recorded vandalism and anti-social behaviour incidents.	IMS PRS	Operating revenue Capital works Section 94 contributions	HIGH
	Improved security at toilet facilities.	SS.4	Reconstruct the entrance to the male toilets at the No. 4 Sportsground amenities to open towards the east for improved security.	Number of reported/recorded anti-social behaviour incidents.		Operating revenue Capital works	Medium
Operation & Administration	Control dogs within the Park.	SS.5	Permit, and enforce, on-leash only dog-walking in the "unenclosed" areas of the Park. Prohibit dogs from playgrounds, built facilities and "enclosed" playing fields – and as required by Council's <i>Companion Animal Management Plan</i> and relevant legislation.	Observed levels of compliance. Number of complaints and enforcement actions.	CES	Staff time	HIGH Ongoing
	Reporting and response to anti-social behaviours and incidents	SS.6	Encourage Park users and neighbours to report incidents of anti-social behaviour and security concerns to Council (or Police).	Number of reported/recorded anti-social behaviour incidents.	CUS PRS	Staff time	Medium
		SS.7	All forms of graffiti and vandalism will be managed in accordance with Council's Graffiti Hotline Policy.	Number of repair/remediation works needed per year.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	Medium

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Operation & Administration	Response to Park use related hazards and incidents	SS.8	Council may install protective measures – such as tree planting, safety nets or fencing – at locations where sports or other Park uses have been shown to persistently cause hazards for Park neighbours or passersby. Preference will be given to low aesthetic impact measures (such as tree planting) or seasonal/temporary solutions (also refer Action TL.12).	Number of protective measures needed.	PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	Low
	Improved safety along stormwater channels through the Park	SS.9	Liaise with Hunter Water regarding safety and security issues associated with the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel. Permit safety measures to be sited within the adjacent Park areas.	Safety measures installed. Number of reported/recorded incidents.	PRS Other agencies	Staff time Other agencies	Low

## 5.4.7 Park Management and Administration

### Key Management Principles

- To manage the Park in a sustainable manner - minimising the consumption of energy and potable water and maximise opportunities to recycle waste and water.

### Management Objectives:

- ❖ To manage the Park in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner

### Alignment with Community Strategic Plan Strategies:

- 2.1a Improve waste minimisation and recycling practices in homes, work places, development sites and public places.
- 2.1d Maximise water efficiency and recycling through a number of means including capturing stormwater, encouraging substitution of potable water with alternative supply and improving water usage behaviour.
- 5.4b Implement and showcase leading edge clean technologies in Council's facilities and infrastructure that actively reduce Council's carbon and water footprints.
- 7.3c Develop opportunities and build capacity for community leadership especially in young people.

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
<b>Park Management and Administration (PM)</b>							
Role & Uses	Meeting the community's sporting, recreation and leisure needs.	PM.1	Undertake monitoring and assessment of the usage and capacity of existing sportsgrounds and other facilities.	Audits of usage levels and access/use allocations. Lease, licence and bookings information.	PRS CUS TEDS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Facilities & Developments	Inspection and maintenance of Park assets and infrastructure.	PM.2	Continue to implement a scheduled, and responsive, inspection and maintenance programme for all Park assets/infrastructure.	Regular condition and safety audits. User satisfaction, and number of complaints annually. Facilities safe, available and fit for purpose.	IMS PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		PM.3	Incorporate the actions, according to priorities, from this Plan of Management into the annual capital works programme in accordance with Council's Asset Management Strategy.	Annual capital works budget. On-ground works realised, over time.		Capital works Section 94 contributions Grant funding Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	Continued provision of on-site works and maintenance resources, if required.	PM.4	Retain Council's works/maintenance depot, works office and garage facilities in the north-west corner of No. 1 Sportsground – as long as required or effective/efficient. These buildings and hardened areas may be reconfigured, or extended by no more than 20% of their present coverage, if required for greater efficiency/capacity to support the Park's management.	Works and maintenance facilities retained and functional (while required). Inventory of equipment and resources available, and changes over time.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
Operation & Administration	Continued provision of on-site Park management and maintenance capabilities, if required.	PM.5	Continue to maintain an on-site Council management and maintenance presence on the Park – as long as required or effective/efficient.	Number of on-site (or available) staff, and changes over time. Type of staff positions based on-Park, and changes over time.			<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Operation & Administration	Ensure environmental assessment and development approval procedures followed where required.	PM.6	All major developments or maintenance projects undertaken on the Park, likely to entail significant environmental impacts, will be subject to appropriate environmental impact assessment and approval procedures – as guided by Council's Environmental Assessment Manual (EAM) – and all development approvals obtained where required.	Major developments or maintenance projects assessed as per Council's EAM. Development approvals obtained where required.	SPS ECCS PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	Inspection and maintenance of Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel bridge.	PM.7	Liaise with Hunter Water to ensure that an asset assessment, particularly addressing structural worthiness, is regularly conducted for the existing bridge over the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel and any necessary works undertaken.	Frequency of structural, and other, bridge assessments. Works completed.	PRS Other agencies	Staff time Other agencies	<b>Medium</b>
	Granting and management of easements through the Park.	PM.8	Grant easements through the Park for stormwater management and other public utilities (to the extent permitted by the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> ) with conditions as required to ensure the protection of Park assets, values and uses.	Number of new easements granted.	SPFMS PRS	Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
		PM.9	Council will generally oppose the creation of any additional non public utility easements through the Park – unless there is an advantage for the Park and its management, or an overriding community benefit.				
Improve management of Hunter Water land flanking the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel.	PM.10	Finalise a management agreement with Hunter Water regarding use, development and management of Hunter Water lands flanking the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel that are outside the Park but effectively function as part of the area.	Management agreement entered into between Hunter Water and Council.	SPFMS PRS Other agencies	Staff time Other agencies	<b>Medium</b>	

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Operation & Administration	Addition of isolated Hunter Water land parcel to Park.	PM.11	Investigate the feasibility and benefits of the acquisition of Hunter Water Corporation Land (Parcel Lot 1DP:509463), adjacent to Parkway Avenue (at the fork in the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel).	Investigation complete.	SPFMS PRS Other agencies	Staff time Other agencies	Low
Leases & Licences	Inspection and maintenance of Park assets and infrastructure.	PM.12	Undertake inspections of licensees and lessees to ensure terms and conditions of approval are being met.	Inspection and maintenance requirements completed. Works undertaken as required.	SPFMS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
<b>Revenue (R)</b>							
Operation & Administration	Improved management of minor fees/charges collection and distribution.	R.1	Council collection of fees/charges for the use of sporting facilities or other sites, for parking fees, and other fees/charges will be preferred over deferring these functions to sporting or user groups or other third parties.	Increased incidence of direct Council management of fees/charges collection and distribution.  Review completed. Reduced incidence and better management of, third party fee/charges collection and application of funds.	FS PRS	N/A	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		R.2	Review the collection and use of carparking fees and other minor fees/charges by user groups/third parties within the Park – for both regular completion/uses and special uses/events (also refer Action R.1 above).			Staff time	<b>HIGH</b>
	Improved administration of site/facility bookings and fees/charges.	R.3	Review the role of third parties in administering bookings and collecting fees/charges for the use of sporting facilities or other sites within National Park. Phase out third party bookings and fee/charges collection, as far as practical/feasible (also refer Action R.1).	Review completed. Reduced incidence and better management of, third party fee/charges collection and bookings.		<b>HIGH</b>	

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Operation & Administration	Continue to actively involve sporting groups/clubs and other user groups in Park management.	R.4	Encourage the active involvement of Park user groups in the development and management of facilities – through financial, expertise, in-kind or other contributions.	Extent of sporting users groups/club involvement in facility development and management.	PRS CUS	Staff time	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	Reinvestment of carparking revenue into Park management.	R.5	Investigate opportunity for a proportion of net revenue from paid parking meters located in No. 2 Sportsground carparks to be reinvested into National Park. Implement re-investment as warranted.	Investigation completed. Net parking funds reinvested into the Park (if implemented).	FS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
	Secure adequate funding to support Park's effective management, maintenance and development.	R.6	Investigate permissible revenue opportunities such as venue hire, licences, commercial concessionaire fees, lease/rental, sponsorship, naming rights, advertising signs and others. Implement as warranted – where cost-effective, do not unacceptably impact on other users or Park values, and do not impose excessive management or administrative demands on Council.	Investigation completed. Revenue opportunities identified/assessed and implemented where feasible/acceptable. Annual net returns.	FS SPS PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>
		R.7	Review opportunities for generating revenue from advertising at No. 2 Sportsground, and No. 1 Sportsground – in line with the LEP, SEPP 64 and the Newcastle DCP.	Revenue opportunities identified/assessed and implemented where feasible/acceptable. Annual net returns.	FS SPS PRS	Staff time Operating revenue	<b>Medium</b>
		R.8	Where permitted, areas used for commercial operations and administrative headquarters shall attract full market rental.	Market-based rental/fees determined, and adopted if needed. Annual net returns.	FS	N/A	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Leases and Licences (LL)</b>							
Refer to section 5.3.1 Authorisation of Current and Future Leases, Licence and Other Estates.							

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
<b>Sustainability (Su)</b>						
Operation & Administration	Cost and resource saving opportunities.	Su.1	Annually audit the Park's energy and water consumption and identify actions to reduce usage, such as energy efficient lighting or stormwater harvesting/re-use (refer Action Su.2 below).	Annual audits completed. Actions and improvements undertaken.	ECCS PRS	Staff time  <b>HIGH</b> Ongoing
		Su.2	Investigate opportunities for water re-use/recycling or stormwater harvesting and for irrigating sporting fields and open space. Adopt "Water Sensitive" principals to water management, considering the volume and timing of water application opportunities. Implement where viable and cost-effective, in collaboration with Hunter Water where appropriate.	Opportunities investigated. Viable alternative water supply measures implemented. Volume of water usage.	ECCS PRS IMS Other agencies	Staff time Other agencies <b>Medium</b>
	Ecologically Sustainable Development principles in the Park's management.	Su.3	Consider Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles in on-going Park management and future developments. Conduct periodic audits assessing the Park's overall ESD performance.	Extent of application, and achievement, of ESD principles.	PRS ECCS	Staff time  <b>HIGH</b> On-going
	Reduced waste outputs and increased recycling in all aspects of Park use and management.	Su.4	Continue to operate/maintain a waste management system at the Park to encourage and promote waste minimisation and recycling by users. Provide recycling bins/station at selected sites.	Recycling facilities upgraded. Percentage reduction in waste volumes, and increase in recycling volumes.	PRS	Operating revenue Staff time <b>Medium</b> Ongoing

Topic	Performance Target (Strategies)	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)		Means of Assessment	Lead Responsibility	Potential Funding Source	Priority
Operation & Administration	Reduced waste outputs and increased recycling in all aspects of Park use and management (cont'd).	Su.5	Include waste minimisation and recycling requirements as part of future leases/licences, and as part of the permits/approvals for major events.	Measured/reported waste volumes reduced, and recycling volumes increased.	SPFMS PRS	Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
	Responsible chemical use.	Su.6	Manage fertiliser, herbicide, pesticide and other chemical use – on the Park's playing fields and elsewhere – as consistent with accepted health and environmental standards and to minimise run-off into local waterways.	Monitored levels of chemical use, and compliance with best-practice standards. Monitoring of Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel water quality immediately downstream of Park.	PRS	Staff time	<b>Medium</b>
	Increased use of native and endemic plant species.	Su.7	Expand native landscapes/plantings within the Park, including the reintroduction of endemic species (refer Action TL.10).	Extent of re-establishment of endemic species, and use of native species.		Operating revenue Staff time	<b>Medium</b>

# 6 Implementation and Review

---

## 6.1 Resourcing and Implementation

This Plan of Management contains a substantial list of management actions.

Many of these are management guidelines, providing policies or directions to guide future decision-making in regard to the Park's management. Others address procedural matters.

However many are physical actions that will require the commitment of Council funds or resources – such as staff time – to implement. Council does not have the capacity to undertake all of these, more resource-intensive, management actions immediately. Management and development of National Park will ultimately be reliant on, and largely determined by, the funding and resources available to Council.

As such implementation of Park management actions, and specifically those requiring significant resource commitments, must be evaluated against other Council priorities, budget cycles/allocations under Council's 4 Year Delivery Program, capital works program, business planning for Council's various units, and other competing interests.

The priorities assigned to each management action – as shown in the Management Actions Tables in Section 5 – reflect their relative importance and implementation timing in order to achieve the Plan's objectives. They will aid in the selection of actions to resource, in the light of these financial and resourcing realities/constraints.

Many of the management actions identified are continuing or routine Park management operations, or are policies and guidelines for application when the given issues or circumstances arise. However others are tangible works, many involving a considerable commitment of funds and resources, and so need to be programmed into a prioritised forward "works" schedule.

Recognising that funding and resources may come from many sources, including volunteer involvement or specific-purpose grant funding, identified management actions of different priority may proceed in differing orders or at different rates – and high priority actions need not necessarily precede lower-priority actions. Implementation of some actions may also be contingent on or influenced by the results of other actions, changing management circumstances or opportunities to gain management efficiencies. In some cases, the resources to deliver a longer-term action may be available before a high priority action. This may be due to the amount of money required, or the project being funded from resources other than Council funds, or factors outside of Council's control.

## 6.2 Review

A comprehensive review of this Plan of Management, in terms of the achievement of stated objectives and the implementation of actions, should be undertaken no later than 5 years after its adoption. A review of high and medium priority actions should be undertaken annually, to assess the priority within National Park and against other areas of Council.

## 7 References

---

- ADW Johnson Pty Ltd, 2010, **Supplement to Addendum to National Park Plan of Management**, report prepared for Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Court Craft (Aust) Pty Ltd, 2009, *National Park Tennis Courts Condition Audit*, unpublished report prepared for Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- EJE Group, 1997, *Newcastle Netball Association Clubhouse Building, National Park – Heritage Assessment*, unpublished report prepared for Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- <http://www.austadiums.com/stadiums/stadiums.php?id=186>, **Australian Stadiums – Newcastle No. 1 Sportsground**, accessed 15 September 2011.
- Newcastle City Council, 1998, **Heritage Policy**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2001, **City of Newcastle Crime Prevention Plan**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2003, **Access Policy**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2003, **Newcastle City Council Local Environmental Plan**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2003, **Park Booking Policy**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2003, **Sportsland Plan of Management**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2004, **Newcastle Stormwater Management Plan**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2005, **Development Control Plan - Precinct Maps (2009 adopted, 2010 commenced)**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2005, **Disability Action Plan 2005-2010**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2005, **Green Corridors and Landscape Precincts Plan – Implementing the Newcastle Green Spaces Strategy**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2005, **Our Wonderful Life, Cultural Framework 2005-2010**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2006, **Newcastle Recreation Plan 2006-2016**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2008, **Newcastle Urban Forest Policy**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.
- Newcastle City Council, 2008, **Sports Policy**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.

Newcastle City Council, 2009, **Newcastle Bike Plan – Discussion Paper**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.

Newcastle City Council, 2009, **Newcastle Urban Strategy - A 25 year Revitalisation Plan for Newcastle - December 2009 Update**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.

Newcastle City Council, 2009, *No. 2 Sportsground Redevelopment – Business Case*, internal report, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.

Newcastle City Council, 2010, **National Park Plan of Management**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.

Newcastle City Council, 2010, **Notice of Determination, Development Application 10/0336, Redevelopment of No. 2 Sportsground**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.

Newcastle City Council, 2011, **Draft Newcastle 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.

Newcastle City Council, 2011, **Fees and Charges 2011/12-2015/14**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.

Newcastle City Council, 2011, **Newcastle 2030 – Newcastle Community Strategic Plan**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.

Newcastle Voice, 2011, **Newcastle Voice National Park POM**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.

Newcastle City Council, 2012, **Draft Newcastle City Council Local Environmental Plan**, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.

NSW Department of Planning, 2006, **Lower Hunter Regional Strategy**, Crown Copyright.

NSW Department of Planning, 2010, **NSW SLA Population Projections, 2006-2036. SLA Summary Version 1.0**, Crown Copyright.

Regional Cities Taskforce, 2006, **Newcastle City Centre Plan – Civic Improvement Plan**, NSW Department of Planning and Newcastle City Council, Sydney.

Regional Cities Taskforce, 2006, **Newcastle City Centre Plan – Vision**, NSW Department of Planning and Newcastle City Council, Sydney.

Suters Architects, 1997, **Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study 1996-97**, report for Newcastle City Council, Newcastle.

# Appendices

---

# A Audit of the 2000/2010 Plan of Management's Implementation

## Audit of Actions from the 2000 National Park Plan of Management, including the 2010 amendments

### Completed actions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relocation of the regional Athletics function to the regional Glendale facility</li> <li>Existing Athletic facility will remain as a local and district level facility and be repaired and maintained to a safe standard</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing wicket retained behind No. 2 sportsground</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rationalisation of bowling and croquet greens to maximise usage</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location of ex-hockey fields to be designated as an open space sports area</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reconstruction of the Netball Clubhouse incorporating multi-use facilities to allow intensified use by other groups including non-sporting groups.</li> </ul>

### Action Strategy 6.1 – Recreation use and leases and licences

#### Desired outcome

To provide a balance of recreation settings and experiences that reflects the needs of the user groups and of the community generally and to support this balance with clearly executed leases and licences

Priority	Action	Status	Comments
1	Negotiate with the Newcastle Hunter Branch Athletics NSW to develop the local/district facility to comply with Council's terms and conditions.		
1	Negotiate leases or licences, as authorised in section 7.2.2, for the buildings to be constructed as part of the No.2 Sportsground redevelopment project.	In progress	Council potentially looking at EOI process for those groups wishing to utilise the ground and buildings of No. 2 Sportsground. Need usage policy for all grounds including the multi-purpose facility at No. 1.

Priority	Action	Status	Comments
2	Monitor use levels in the Park on an annual basis by repeating the procedures conducted in the plan	On-going	
3	Design and construct 4.2km of pedestrian and cycleways	Not complete	Lack of funding. Internal support for a shared pathway. Currently not identified in the Draft Cycle Strategy.
4	Upgrade children's playground equipment; provide seating and BBQ facilities.	Complete	Equipment has been replaced over time. The current playground is not reflective of a regional ground. Need to review its location within the Park.
5	Provide seating, tables and BBQ facilities in the perimeter areas of No. 4 sportsground	Complete	Needs further review.
6	Negotiate with the Netball Association regarding the relocation of the netball courts from No. 1 Sportsground or amend fencing to exclude the courts from within No. 1 Sportsground.	Complete	Netball courts removed. Hard surface remains.

#### Action Strategy 6.2 – Parking and Traffic

##### Desired outcome

To minimise parking and traffic impacts on the use of the park and on the surrounding residential suburbs

Priority	Action	Status	Comments
1	Continue the practice of parking cars in Sportsground No.1 and No.2 when an event is on in alternative ground.	Ongoing	To be reviewed in light of AFL proposal and installation of a car park at No.2 Sportsground.
2	Traffic Management Study	Underway 2011	
3	Maintain emergency access at all times at the intersection of Union and Tooke Streets by investigating various forms of barriers and selecting the most effective method for National Park	Complete	Swing gate installed
4	Extensive threshold treatment to be incorporated in Smith Street in a form which actively encourages the east/west passage of pedestrian through National Park.	Not complete	Still relevant as part of the review.
5	Encourage a greater public transport usage during major events in conjunction with Newcastle Urban Transit.	Not complete	Permission given for overflow parking on fields 5 and 6 in lieu of public transport/ usage of Gibson Street carpark.
6	Monitor car speed and parking impacts of National Park on an annual basis		

### Action Strategy 6.3 – Landscape Character

#### Desired outcome

A landscape character that extends the lineal form in the local area, creates boundary definition and a range of spaces suitable for a balance of sporting and non-sporting uses.

Priority	Action	Status	Comments
1	Design and plant adjoining streetscapes	Ongoing	Tree planting has occurred along Union Street adjacent to No. 4 sportsground. Trees damaged during June 2007 floods were replaced on the corner of Union and Parkway Ave. New trees are planned along Smith Street as part of the No.2 Sportsground redevelopment.
2	Re-design pedestrian forecourt entrance at No.1 sportsground (intersection of Parry and Union Streets)	Complete	Upgraded from gravel to asphalt. Review to improve amenity and pedestrian access and safety. Any landscaping needs to consider site lines as this is adjacent to a busy intersection.
3	Design and plant linear parkland and canal planting in accordance with the master plan	Ongoing	Some trees removed, but none planted. The current (2011) recommendations from the Council's Landscape and Parks and Rec Team would be a shared pathway and associated shade planting along the edges of the channel. Ant planting to be CPTED compliant.
4	Design and plant activity area planting in accordance with the master plan.	Not complete.	To be reviewed in 2011 Masterplan. Large scale planting to create park character and activity enclosure no longer relevant. The planting character would be based on the 'formal' and exotic planting influences of nearby parks and streetscapes. The existing Figs, Norfolk Island Pines and Palms in or near to the park should be used as a basis for this 'formal thematic treatment'.

#### Action Strategy 6.4 – Administration and Management

##### Desired outcome

An efficient and open administration and management system with clear areas of responsibility and a well defined method of obtaining community views.

Priority	Action	Status	Comments
1	Increase the role and efficiency of the National Park Local Advisory Committee through the city wide rationalisation program. Nomination of a Council liaison officer (e.g. Recreation and Greening Manager)	Not complete	Council will not create any further park committees.
3	Review fees on an annual basis	Ongoing	
4	Develop maintenance schedules that reflect the needs of the broad range of users.	Complete	Conducted for all parks. May require further work around levels of service as part of leases/licences.
5	Prepare an annual capital works program and Action Plan in conjunction with the National Park Local Advisory Committee.	Complete	Ongoing, however there is no longer a National Park Local Advisory Committee.

#### Action Strategy 6.5 – Urban Stormwater

##### Desired outcome

Present and future uses of National Park be compatible with the full flood risks, and not preclude any worthwhile future Flood Management strategies from being implemented.

Priority	Action	Status	Comments
1	Council define the preferred option for stormwater control within National Park prior to the design and implementation of major landscaping works	Partial	
2	Determine with the Hunter Water Board clear boundaries of responsibility as it affects urban stormwater in National Park.	Complete	Hunter Water easements in place at National Park with maintenance responsibilities identified. Requires further discussion with regards to potential shared pathway running parallel to stormwater channel.

### Action Strategy 6.6 – Development Control

#### Desired outcome

To control development within the Park to those proposals that compliment existing facilities and provide a consistent and quality design theme and no further alienation of open space. Additionally, control development in floodways within the catchment.

Priority	Action	Status	Comments
1	Development consent should only be granted to those proposals that compliment the thrust of the plan of management and are related to existing functions of the Park.	Ongoing	
2	Continue to develop policies ensuring development control is only granted to those developments not increasing flood liability.	Ongoing	Council's Flood Management Plan is currently in development

### Action Strategy 6.7 – Vandalism and Security

#### Desired outcome

To minimise opportunities for vandalism within the Park and to maintain a cost effective security system.

Priority	Action	Status	Comments
1	A vandalism reporting and costing system is needed to monitor this problem and to facilitate rational future decision making	Not complete	
2	All new and upgraded structures within National Park should embody low vandalism principles.	Ongoing	No policy developed. Maintenance staff on site during the week to report incidences. Vandalism not an issue for the enclosed grounds.
3	Do not support lighting of the Park at this stage, as the results elsewhere do not show, conclusively, a decrease in vandalism.	Not complete	
4	Ensure that all forms of vandalism are immediately corrected as vandalism attracts vandalism.	Ongoing	Maintenance staff on site during the week to report incidences. Vandalism not an issue for the enclosed grounds.

### Action Strategy 6.8 – Buildings

#### Desired outcome

A high quality standard and maintenance of buildings within the Park that adequately caters for the needs of the user group.

Priority	Action	Status	Comments
1	Review need for Scout Hall	Not complete	Review required as part of broader review of all buildings
2	In association with the development of the new linear parkland, review need and use of parkland buildings. Take up opportunities to add character to the park by	Not complete	Still relevant.

### Action Strategy 6.9 – Public image, signage and interpretation

#### Desired outcome

The development of a consistent and strong public image portrayed through a signage and interpretative strategy.

Priority	Action	Status	Comments
1	Continue the current signage theme developed at the entrance to Smith Street consistently throughout the Park.	Not complete	There is a Corporate Signage Policy used for parks across the City that has not rolled out to all parks due to funding. Still relevant as Place and way-finding signage is currently poor.
2	Develop an interpretative program including special events, information boards, brochures etc.	Not complete	Still relevant - Requires consultation with Council's Tourism and Economic Team as part of the marketing strategy for Sportsground No. 2.

### Action Strategy 6.10 – Relationship to adjoining spaces

#### Desired outcome

To maximise the links with adjoining and local open space

Priority	Action	Status	Comments
1	Further investigate the possibility of a pedestrian/cycleway corridor to the coast along Parkway Avenue	Complete	On-road cycleway implemented. Requires connection to shared paths proposed at the Park.

Priority	Action	Status	Comments
2	Liaise with the Bowling Assoc to further develop pedestrian access to park from Parry Street	Not complete	Still relevant.
3	Develop visual links through the planting of drainage channel areas	Not complete	No longer relevant - only as part of overall shared pathway linkage.
4	Investigate the need to pave the pathway linking Union Street and Smith Street.	Not complete	Pathway design was undertaken, but funding was pulled. Needs further review.

# B Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper – Executive Summary

---

## Executive Summary

This Issues and Opportunities Paper is an important step in the preparation of a new Plan of Management for National Park.

It summarises the core values of the Park, identifies current issues and opportunities, as well as suggesting possible future management directions for the Park. A range of possible management directions, or future scenarios, for all or parts of National Park are identified for the community's consideration and comment.

The Paper provides an opportunity for community feedback on these issues, opportunities and possible future management directions. It also allows the community to identify other issues and suggest preferred or alternative management directions. Such feedback will assist Newcastle City Council in preparing a new Draft Plan of Management, which will also be formally exhibited for community comment.

National Park's role as a major and long-established sporting venue is highly valued by sporting groups and users. It is one of Newcastle's premier grounds for several sporting codes, as well as being valued for the variety of sporting opportunities it offers. The Park is also valued for the large expanse of open space it offers in an increasingly urbanised environment. Redevelopment of No. 2 Sportsground will provide further opportunity for use of the Park through community events.

Community feedback in the Plan of Management's preparation to-date has identified key values of the Park as:

- high-quality sport and recreation facilities;
- public open space, notably in an inner city setting;
- "their local park" and quality green spaces; and
- a family-friendly location with safe community access.

Community feedback has also identified a range of issues around the Park and its facilities, appearance, management and use. These issues ranged across a wider breadth of concerns, but recurring community issues were:

- the extension of paid parking into the Park and its perceived incompatibility with sporting and recreation uses;
- parking problems, congestion and traffic management problems – especially during peak sports use periods;
- loss of "greenspace", over-development and site "hardening";
- increasing inaccessibility of parts of the Park – and "ownership" of some areas by specific groups;
- not enough attention to passive and mixed uses;
- perceived over-use of facilities, crowding and over-centralisation of major sports;
- inconvenient and inefficient separation of facilities and activity areas, problems from poor planning and layout;
- perceived under-use of the Park as a whole
- the poor condition of some facilities – notably maintenance of the "outer" fields and the poor repair of the athletics track;
- insufficient tree planting and landscaping;
- lack of specific facilities – notably paved pathways, public toilets (that are open or accessible) and drinking water; and
- excessive traffic along Smith Street (which is mostly part of the Park, and not a declared public road).

All the above issues, and others, are addressed in the relevant sections of this Issues and Opportunities Paper.

Section 1 of this Paper introduces plans of management and describes the Paper's purpose and preparation.

Section 2 of this Paper provides a brief overview of National Park, its current facilities and uses, as well as the planning context (in legal, planning/policy and physical terms) within which the Plan is to be developed and the Park managed.

Section 3 describes the community consultation activities undertaken to-date in the preparation of this Paper, and the Plan of Management generally.

Section 4 summarises the values identified for the Park through the community consultation and site assessment processes to-date, summarises the Park's significance, describes how opportunities/constraints and possible management directions have been identified. It sets the scene for the Paper's following sections where values, issues and opportunities or possible management directions are grouped and discussed as follows:

- sport and organised recreation;
- leisure recreation and relaxation;
- community use and special events;
- park landscape and access;
- neighbours, safety and security; and
- park management and administration.

A range of management directions have been suggested for some issues, or for the same part of the Park. While some may appear contradictory or mutually exclusive, it is important that alternative scenarios or priorities are presented for community review and feedback.

Section 5 gives a description of existing facilities and current uses, identifies issues and opportunities, and presents possible management directions in relation to sport and organised recreation. The various sectors of the Park are addressed individually – No. 1 Sportsground, the redeveloped No. 2 Sportsground, No. 4 Sportsground, Sportsgrounds Nos 5 and 6, the three clusters of netball courts, the Newcastle Athletics Field, croquet club, and Newcastle City Tennis Centre.

This section also presents four options (in addition to the status quo) as more far-reaching or "big picture" possible management directions – involving the reconfiguration of grounds, the redevelopment of areas, and the reallocation of usage priorities. The outcomes and implications of each alternative scenario are also discussed. These options are not necessarily mutually exclusive, and elements from each can be combined. The Draft Plan of Management may, ultimately, present a combination of one or more of these alternatives or the status quo. Community feedback and preferences indicated during the exhibition of this Issues and Opportunities Paper will assist Council in considering such "big picture" alternative futures.

These alternative futures for parts of the Park include the following (options 2 to 5, those involving vary degrees of change from the current situation, are shown graphically on the following pages).

- ▶ **Option 1 - Maintain the Status Quo.**  
Continue to manage National Park in its current configuration, with only minor selected improvements to management and facilities and minimal change to current usage patterns. The layout of playing fields may be slightly modified, to suit the different user groups and changing participation rates and player age groups. However there would be no further development of clubhouses or facilities to cater for higher grade competitions. Such higher grade competition would be accommodated within the regional-level No. 1 Sportsground and No. 2 Sportsground.
- ▶ **Option 2 - Shared Use of Existing, and Upgraded, Major Sports Grounds**  
This option focuses on the shared use, and where necessary the upgrading, of existing developed sports facilities within the Park. No. 1 Sportsground would continue to be shared between the primary uses of cricket and AFL. The new No. 2 Sportsground could potentially become a regional-level sporting facility for rugby union and soccer – both rectangular field sports. This option also proposes the possible establishment of a regional-level soccer venue as part of the Newcastle Athletics Field, which is now principally a summer-use facility, with a significant upgrading of the facilities at this venue.

- ▶ **Option 3 - Reconfiguration and Targeted Development of "Outer" Grounds**  
This option would see the reconfiguration of the "outer" grounds – Sportsgrounds Nos 4, 5 and 6 – with the upgrading of No. 5 Sportsground to a regional-level soccer facility. It also features relocation of the outlying netball courts now at these grounds to be centred around the main Eileen Perry Netball Courts complex and netball clubhouse (with courts both sides of the central drainage channel). This option provides a total of 32 sealed netball courts, while retaining three rectangular playing fields on the "outer" grounds as well as providing a range of mini-soccer fields.
  
- ▶ **Option 4 - Reconfiguration and Targeted Development of "Outer" Grounds, with Consolidation of Netball**  
Similar to Option 3, this alternative includes a regional-level soccer facility developed adjacent to Smith Street (south of No. 2 Sportsground). However a key feature of this option is development of most of the Park's south-east corner as sealed netball courts. This option locates 20 new sealed netball courts east of the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel, mostly on the area now occupied by No. 4 Sportsground, bring the total number of courts to 34. This option would retain only two rectangular fields on the "outer" grounds, but offer additional junior soccer fields.
  
- ▶ **Option 5 - Redevelopment of Park's North-west Corner as Major Sportsground**  
This option entails redevelopment of the Park's north-west corner as a regional-level soccer facility. It requires relocation of Life Without Barriers, the Newcastle City Tennis Centre and the Newcastle District Bowling Association's activities at Wal Young House. The space currently occupied by these uses would then be developed as a regional-level soccer facility – with the required facilities, and of a sufficient standard, to meet the criteria for the Newcastle 1st Division competition – plus a landscaped buffer along the proposed ground's western side. This high-cost option allows for retention of the existing croquet facilities, recognising their role as the only dedicated facility of their type in the Newcastle region.

Section 6 of this Issues and Opportunities Paper gives a description of existing facilities and current uses, identifies issues and opportunities, and presents possible management directions in relation to leisure, recreation and relaxation uses of the Park.

Section 7 provides the same discussion – of existing facilities, current uses, issues and opportunities, and possible management directions – for community uses and special events. It separately addresses Life Without Barriers, the Scout Hall, Wal Young House, school use, and special events.

Section 8 deals with the access to and within the Park as well as the area's landscape and presentation. The current situation, issues and opportunities, and possible management directions are discussed in relation to parking and traffic, Smith Street (including four broad management options for this road, which is not a declared public road, within the Park – ranging from the status quo to closure), access and pathways and bicycle routes, trees and landscaping, and flood and catchment management.

Section 9 addresses Park neighbours, safety and security matters.

Section 10 discusses park management and administration – including management, revenue, leases and licences, and sustainability.

The purpose of this Issues and Opportunities Paper is to elicit community consideration and feedback on the issues and – importantly – on the management opportunities, directions and alternative futures presented. A Feedback Form is included at Appendix 1 (or can be downloaded from Council's website) to assist people and groups in submitting their ideas and responses to the Paper. Submissions close 5pm on Friday 18 November 2011.

This feedback – from sporting groups, Park users, neighbours and other stakeholders – will be used to help inform and shape the development of a new draft Plan of Management for National Park.



Option 2 - Shared Use of Existing, and Upgraded, Major Sports Grounds



Option 3 - Reconfiguration and Targeted Development of "Outer" Grounds



**Potential** to supplement existing tree plantings to develop a landscaped zone around the perimeter of No. 1 Sportsground for passive open space and thoroughfare, freely accessible to the public.

**Proposal** to upgrade No. 1 Sportsground (AFL and Cricket) to improve the playing surface. Rationalise vehicular access to improve use of the oval surrounds for parking during events and games. Retain existing aesthetic and heritage character.

**Potential** to provide tree plantings and pathways to develop a landscaped corridor along both sides of the road, with permeable drainage for passive open space and thoroughfare, freely accessible to the public.

**Potential** to locate 2 junior soccer field (field size - 40m x 30m - for ages 9-10) and 3 junior soccer fields (field size - 30m x 20m - for ages 5-8).

Existing netball courts (x12).

Existing netball courts (x2), repositioned slightly to the south.

Reinforce existing well-used movement route east-west beside Netball Centre as a formed path and landscaped corridor (with low plantings and no trees).

**Potential** to site 10 netball courts to the south of the existing, to consolidate court locations.

**Potential** to enhance existing tree plantings and to accommodate pedestrian access to develop a landscaped corridor along both sides of the road. Consider barrier channel for open space and thoroughfare, freely accessible to the public.

**Potential** to supplement existing tree plantings to develop a landscaped zone around the perimeter of the proposed additional netball courts (with larger trees offset from court edges) for passive open space and thoroughfare, freely accessible to the public.

**Potential** to site 10 netball courts on site of former No. 4 Sportsground to consolidate court locations.

**KEY:**  
 proposed parking areas  
 proposed fields  
 proposed buildings and facilities eg grandstands  
 proposed landscaped zones  
 proposed formed paths

Scale: 1:2500 @ A3  
 0 25 100 125m

**OPTION FOUR: Reconfiguration and Targeted Development of Outer Grounds, with Consolidation of Netball Courts**  
 Prepared by Pam Fleisher, Landscape Architect for the Plan of Management by Gondwana Consulting  
 Date: 25.10.11

**Potential** to supplement existing tree plantings to develop a landscaped zone around the perimeter of No. 2 Sportsground for passive open space and thoroughfare, freely accessible to the public.

**Current redevelopment** of No. 2 Sportsground as regional standard facility for Rugby Union and community or special events including field, club and amenities building, grandstands and seating and carparks. **Potential** for shared facilities with other sports grounds, including a premier field at 60m x 100m and other premier field sized sports. Further investigate possible summer sports uses.

**Potential** to retain two way access along Smith St from Perry St terminating at the drain or the Scout Hall. **Potential** to increase parking along Smith St to service adjacent activities / facilities and to provide for managed vehicle access (special events) exiting to the south.

**Potential** to reinforce the carpark under construction at the No. 2 Sportsground to the southern areas of National Park.

**Potential** to provide plantings and pathways along Smith St from Perry St to develop a landscaped zone around the perimeter of No. 2 Sportsground as well as around facilities such as the Athletics Field (main building vehicle access) for passive open space and thoroughfare, freely accessible to the public.

**Potential** to locate new premier soccer facility (field size - 110m x 75m), with grandstands and amenities along western side and grassed viewing banks to east and northeast.

**Potential** to block Smith St to through traffic, with option of managed (special event) access to south.

**Potential** to locate a public carpark off Dumaresq St.

**Potential** to site formed pathway from the north/south canal to the western edge of the proposed soccer facility.

**Potential** to locate 3 junior soccer fields (field size - 30m x 20m - for ages 5-8).

**Potential** to supplement existing tree plantings to develop a landscaped zone around the perimeter of the proposed fields for passive open space and thoroughfare, freely accessible to the public, and as buffer to nearby residences.

**Potential** to relocate, upgrade and site the existing playground adjacent to the proposed open grassed fields.

Re-align and reposition No. 6 Sportsground and use as dual-purpose soccer and rugby ground. Also accommodate 7 or more junior netball courts. Relocate junior cricket field, radius 60m.

**Potential** to locate 1 junior soccer field (field size - 40m x 30m - for ages 9-10) as grass or synthetic surface.

Option 4 - Reconfiguration and Targeted Development of "Outer" Grounds, with Consolidation of Netball



Option 5 - Redevelopment of Park's North-west Corner as Major Sportsground

# C Site Description and Analysis

---

(N.B. SITE DESCRIPTION AS AT MID 2011)

## SPORT AND ORGANISED RECREATION

Sport and organised recreation includes users who participate in an organised sport or activity such as netball, AFL, cricket, soccer, rugby union, tennis, croquet, and others. Participation may be through playing the game, as a member of the association or as a spectator. Sport and organised recreation is carried out at a defined time and place within the Park, and there is usually a pattern of use (seasonal, weekly, etc) as well as scheduled training uses. Such activity usually requires exclusive use of an area of the Park for a period of time.

National Park is valued for the variety of opportunities it provides for participation in sport and organised recreation. Opportunities are provided for a range of user groups, including local schools, sporting organisations, community groups and individuals. The area's accessibility and the range of user groups provided for at the Park – from young players to older ages, and from active contact sports to less demanding activities – is a valued attribute of the Park. Participation in sport is valuable in maintaining a healthy community through active exercise as well as participation in a shared activity.

Both the community workshop and the sporting users focus group, showed strong support for maintaining National Park as a major sporting location, the continued upgrading of grounds and facilities for organised sport (such as drainage improvements at No. 1 Sportsground and resurfacing of the athletics track), and opportunities for sporting codes to share facilities for optimum use.

In addition to the current redevelopment of No. 2 Sportsground, Council has also received proposals from:

- the AFL NSW/ACT AFL for the upgrading of No. 1 Sportsground to become the Hunter's premier regional AFL facility;
- the Cooks Hill United Football Club for the reconfiguration of Sportsgrounds Nos 4, 5 and 6 to enable the development of a regional-level soccer field (to NEWFM, Newcastle 1st Division, competition standards), with a clubhouse plus covered and tiered seating, and at least 2 additional full size soccer fields; and
- the Newcastle Region Track and Field Association Incorporated for resurfacing the running track at the Newcastle Athletics Field.

These proposals are discussed in more detail, in the respective sections, below.

National Park can be divided into a number of different sports and organised recreation precincts or usage areas.

### No. 1 Sportsground

No. 1 Sportsground is located in the north-east corner of the Park, with its main access from Parry Street. The ground is one of Newcastle's premier sporting facilities – offering a regional-level grassed oval, with a turf cricket wicket, surrounded by a picket fence and perimeter bench seats giving the venue an aesthetic appeal and older-style character. The oval is partially irrigated (sub-surface), but the ground is poorly drained in places and rainy periods can result in extended ground closures. The oval is floodlit.



The sportsground's western side has been developed with a grandstand with associated change rooms and player amenities, canteen, broadcast or commentary box, 2 cricket practice nets (turf wickets), storage and operational buildings including an equipment shed/garage and staff room (part of Council's grounds/works depot),



**Figure A** National Park, current layout – note No. 2 Sportsground is under redevelopment (not shown) at present (mid 2011). (Base photo source: NCC)

above-ground water tanks, and an entry ticket box and gate off Parry Street. A two-storey brick building (known locally as the “Netball clubhouse”, constructed by the Newcastle Netball Association with assistance from sporting groups using No. 1 Sportsground and Council) is located on the ground’s southern boundary. It is accessible from both the southern and northern sides, and so is shared between cricket and AFL as the established users of No. 1 Sportsground to the north and the Newcastle Netball Association who use the netball courts adjoining this facility to the south. No leases or licences are at present in place for use of this building.



A toilet block (male and female) is also located on the ground’s southern boundary (and is also accessible (female entry only) from the adjacent netball courts).

A toilet block (female only) is sited along the Parry Street boundary and is only accessible from inside the sportsground – these are the only ladies toilets that are usually open (during daylight hours), outside of

sporting events, in the entire Park. A brick canteen building is also located along the Parry Street boundary. A large scoreboard and little-used pedestrian entrance/turnstiles building is sited on the corner of Parry and Union Streets.

Grass slopes flank the sportsground's northern and eastern sides, adding to the area's visual quality. An internal sealed road runs along the top of these slopes, from the Parry Street entrance to a small un-marked sealed parking area (capacity approximately 40 vehicles) in the south-east corner (with gated, locked, access off Union Street). Shipping containers, sight screens and other materials are stored in this area.



The location of the car park within the fenced area of the ground enables collection of a paid parking fee during high use periods.

Parking is also permitted on the grass banks around the oval's perimeter, mostly for club matches and lower-key events, with this area accommodating approximately 200 (randomly parked) vehicles. Parking within No. 1 Sportsground (both the informal sealed parking area and the eastern grass banks) also serves the adjoining netball courts to the south. Parking fees for sporting use are not administered by Council, but collected and distributed by arrangement between the sporting clubs and the Lions Club.

The boundary of the sportsground, along Parry and Union Streets, is planted with visually significant mature Fig Trees and other landscaping which adds to the scenic appeal of the sportsground from the surrounding streets and from within the ground itself. The Figs and landscape along the sportsground's eastern edge are within the Cooks Hill Heritage Conservation Area, and are an important streetscape element.

A Seismic Monitoring Station, operated by Geo-Science Australia, is located within a fenced enclosure at the south-east end of the grandstand.

The main sporting groups now using No. 1 Sportsground are cricket during summer and AFL during winter, with the shape of the field providing for ready multi-use of the facility between these two sports. Junior, seniors and masters AFL use the ground under a seasonal licence in winter, with cricket using the ground under a seasonal licence in summer. As traditional users, these groups have to-date received preference (over any new clubs approaching Council) for such seasonal use licences. However the No. 1 Sportsground is also sometimes used by soccer, rugby league and local schools. The quality of the facilities provided makes the venue attractive for other sporting codes for their higher level games.



Photo: NCC



The grandstand caters for approximately 350-400 people seated while bench seating around the oval's perimeter also caters for approximately 350-400 people. However local grand final matches have seen crowds in excess of 20,000 people in the venue.

Improvement of facilities would see better opportunities for higher grade competition for both cricket and AFL. At present, the grounds are suitable for grade cricket but are not of adequate standard for State or International matches. No. 1 Sportsground was a venue for pre-season AFL games and trial matches for elite clubs, including Sydney Swans, until 2006. The playing surface has since been considered too small to host such games. The current 200 lux lighting is suitable for AFL training and junior night competition, however is not suitable for non-televised professional AFL matches.



Photo: NCC

The current (May 2011) AFL NSW/Act proposal to Council for the upgrading of No. 1 Sportsground, to cater for second tier (State) AFL matches, includes – enlarging and re-orienting the playing field (reducing

the concourse areas in front of existing grandstand and Netball building, and earthworks along the foot of the existing grass embankments), upgrading irrigation and drainage, and relocating and upgrading perimeter bench seating as Stage 1; upgrading match and club facilities beneath the existing grandstand as Stage 2; upgrading floodlighting to 500 lux as Stage 3; and extending the roof cover on the existing grandstand and providing goal safety netting as Stage 4.

### Redeveloped No. 2 Sportsground

(N.B. site description as at mid 2011, during this ground's redevelopment)

No. 2 Sportsground is located in the central northern area of National Park – bounded by Parry Street, Smith Street and the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel and feeder drain. No. 2 Sportsground is currently being redeveloped, as consistent with the 2010 amendment to the National Park Plan of Management. Redevelopment of the site will result in a multipurpose sporting, recreational and cultural venue. The facility will be capable of supporting regional, intra and interstate sporting events as well as cultural and community events such as outdoor cinema, youth concerts, Christmas carols and outdoor community celebrations. The site's redevelopment is due for completion at the end of 2011 or early 2012.

The previous oval field is being replaced with a rectangular field with an improved north-south orientation. The turf cricket pitch that was on this site has been removed (and alternative venues for cricket agreed during the venue's planning stage). Formal and informal seating at the facility – an open grandstand on the western side, terraced seating flanking the grandstand and at the field's north and south ends, and grass banks along the eastern side – will cater for approximately 5,000 people. An amenities building (as part of the western grandstand/seating) will incorporate change facilities, a gymnasium, public amenities, kiosk, club room facilities, and ticket office as well as office accommodation. The development consent also includes approval for "future works", for additional covered seating, at the northern and southern ends of the new ground.



Parking will be provided within the site, as two sealed at-grade parking areas accommodating up to 265 vehicles – a larger western area with a 220 vehicle capacity with entry/exits off Smith Street, and a smaller northern car park for 45 vehicles accessed from Parry Street. Council has previously resolved that the new No. 2 Sportsground parking areas are to be paid metered parking (9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., seven days per week) and be available to the general public when not used for activities within No. 2 Sportsground or National Park.

The redevelopment will also see landscaping of the site, an entry concourse, pedestrian access to link the sportsground with adjoining areas, and security fencing of the ground and facilities to control access. The redeveloped ground will present a more "open" frontage to Parry Street than the former facility. The ground's eastern side, along the edge of the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel (and on Hunter Water land) is already a well-used informal pedestrian and cycling link, with a small timber footbridge over the east-west drainage channel along the ground's southern margin (this link connects to a well-used link east to Union Street, via the bridge over the stormwater channel, and westward to Smith Street).

The development consent conditions for No. 2 Sportsground limit sporting use of the ground to between 9.00 a.m. and 10.30 p.m. (with all floodlighting to be switched off by 11.00 p.m.), and non-sporting or community events to between 9.00 a.m. and 10.30 p.m. outside of school hours. Non-sporting events are also limited to one per month. The development consent conditions also specify a number of requirements that will have a bearing on the Plan of Management, including:

- reconstruction of the footpath along the eastern side of Smith Street;
- widening of the Smith and Parry Street intersection, to accommodate buses;
- provision of a bus and vehicle set-down bay in Smith Street;
- planting a continuous tree cover canopy along the ground's eastern boundary;

- establishing a landscape strip, 3 metres wide and planted with “suitable large scale tree species” along the full distance of the carpark’s southern boundary;
- re-aligning proposed security fencing around the small urban park, and existing toilet block, in the ground’s north-east corner (adjacent to Parry Street) to place this park outside the main fenced ground/facility area;
- preparation of an Events Management Plan for the venue;
- positioning, directing and shielding floodlighting so as not to detract from the surrounding residential amenity.

The playing area of the redeveloped No. 2 Sportsground has also been designed as a flood storage area for flood events of a 1 in 20 year magnitude – with a spillway located in the ground’s south-eastern corner adjacent to the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel.

The new facility will provide revenue raising opportunities through metered car parking, and also through venue hire, license fees, lease rental, sponsorship, naming rights, advertising signs, entry fees, among other opportunities.

Newcastle Rugby Club and the Wanderers Rugby Club were the major sporting user groups of No. 2 Sportsground prior to its redevelopment, in addition to its role as a cricket venue. Rugby clubs have been closely involved in planning for the new ground. They have expressed a desire to retain their interest in the ground following its redevelopment as well as to continue using other National Park grounds, specifically the adjacent No. 5 Sportsground, to enable the Clubs to cater for all playing members. Cooks Hill United Football Club have also expressed a desire to play their higher grade competition games at the new No. 2 Sportsground. Use of the facility would enable the Football Club to participate in higher grade games, as the new facility will comply with the requirements of the Newcastle 1st Division competition standards. Other sports with a potential interest in use of the redeveloped No. 2 Sportsground include South Newcastle Rugby League, Newcastle Knights, Newcastle Jets, Wanderers Rugby Union Football Club, Cooks Hill United Football Club, Northern NSW Football, Hunter Academy of Sport, Hunter Rugby Union, Newcastle Rugby League and Newcastle Football.

#### **No. 4 Sportsground**

No. 4 Sportsground is located within the south-east corner of National Park. It is separated from Sportsgrounds Nos 5 and 6 by the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel, access between this sportsground and the others is either around the footpath alongside Parkway Avenue or across the main footbridge within the centre of the park, adjacent the netball courts and netball clubhouse. See Figure A for the location of sportsgrounds.

No. 4 Sportsground is an expansive open (unfenced) turfed area with perimeter trees on the eastern, southern and western sides and the sealed netball courts to the north. The ground is marked as a full-size soccer field, with removable goal posts, as well as temporary junior soccer fields (as below). The ground is floodlit, making it popular for night training, however there are large “dull” patches across parts of the field. The area does not have sub-surface drainage or irrigation, and drainage of the field is generally poor which can often result in cancellation of games due to wet conditions. Turf wear, compaction and an excessively hard ground surface, in part due to high use levels, can also be problems at No. 4 Sportsground.



A clubhouse and toilet facilities are located adjacent to the north-west corner of No. 4 Sportsground – “National Park Sports Pavilion” developed in the 1930s era, and an unattractive extension to the northern side of this structure. These facilities are currently used by Cooks Hill United Football Club, however they are in poor condition and mainly used for storage. The Club often operates a BBQ/canteen from a portable shelter in front of these facilities on game days, paying a “fee for canteen rights” to Council as part of the Club’s seasonal licence for the adjacent field.



A male toilet block is accessed from behind the Pavilion, fronting the stormwater channel, and a female toilet (accessed from the more open eastern side) is located in the newer extension. However the female toilet is frequently locked during weekday daylight hours.

No. 4 Sportsground is used predominantly for soccer, by the Cooks Hill United Football Club (winter), as well as for Ultimate Frisbee (winter and summer). Both groups hold seasonal licences for these activities. Newcastle High School uses No. 4 Sportsground for school sports and after-school training (on an annual booking basis) every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon during school terms and also makes casual use of the ground for "physical education". Newcastle Grammar School, and St Francis Xavier College, both have current bookings for summer use of this ground. Other local schools also make casual use of No. 4 Sportsground.



The Cooks Hill United Football Club caters for both juniors and seniors. The carrying capacity of No. 4 Sportsground area is increased by temporary smaller fields (usually two junior fields and two mini-fields) for the junior teams, located off the north end of No. 4 Sportsground in front of the "clubhouse". The Club considers that there is not the capacity to accommodate more soccer teams at National Park (under its present configuration) and have reportedly turned potential players away. Cooks Hill United Football Club has developed a proposal to upgrade National Park's "outer fields" (Sportsgrounds Nos 4, 5 and 6) to provide a regional-level soccer facility and enable the growth of this Club and the sport.

Ultimate Frisbee currently plays on No. 4 Sportsground once a week, at night. Summer is the main season, however it is played all year round. Ultimate Frisbee have secured the rights to host the National Championships next year, however the site of the Championships is yet to be determined.

The fields provide an area of open space that is easily accessed and often used for leisure, non-organised recreation and relaxation such as walking, jogging and dog exercise. Commuters also often cut across the field on their way to and from the CBD. The large area of accessible open space is valued by sporting users as well as neighbours and the wider community.

### Sportsgrounds Nos 5 and 6

Sportsgrounds Nos 5 and 6 are located within the central and southern section of National Park (No. 5 Sportsground in the north, and No. 6 Sportsground to the south) – separated from No. 4 Sportsground to the east by the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel and from No. 2 Sportsground by the smaller east-west open drain. Low fencing along the margins of the stormwater channel and east-west drain define these open fields in the east and north, with hard-surfaced netball courts located to the west and south. Open tree plantings fringe the central stormwater channel along the eastern side of No. 6 Sportsground, with larger figs beside Dumaresq Street off the ground's south-western corner.



A toilet, canteen and facilities (first aid) building sits off the ground's south-eastern corner (it was built by the Newcastle Netball Association and is primarily used by netball players and spectators. It may however be used by other sporting groups who request the facility be unlocked by the Council groundsmen).



A single water line runs under both grounds, but neither has irrigation installed. Similar to No. 4 Sportsground, both these grounds have issues with drainage and ponding with the cancellation of games due to wet weather a regular occurrence and lower standard playing surface conditions in winter. Neither ground is floodlit for night use, however funding for the installation of floodlights has been identified in Council's forward works programme (see below).

No. 5 Sportsground is an east-west marked rugby field with permanent rugby posts during the winter season. There is a central, north-south, turf cricket pitch (which is covered during winter). It is currently

used for rugby union, mainly by the Wanderers Rugby Club (under a seasonal licence agreement) but also by other rugby clubs, for both matches and training, during the winter. The ground is used for junior rugby games, played across the field (north-south) as well as for pre-match warm-ups for senior games on the more developed northern grounds. The Cooks Hill United Football Club occasionally uses the ground for soccer during winter on a casual basis. In summer No. 5 Sportsground is used by the Newcastle District Cricket Association (under a seasonal licence agreement), and the Newcastle City and Eastern Districts Cricket Club, for lower-grade cricket. Newcastle High School uses the ground for school sport (on an annual booking basis) every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon during school terms and also make casual use of the area for “physical education”. The ground also receives regular, casual, use by other local schools.



Shipping containers, used/converted into storage sheds, are located along the northern boundary of the field and used by Wanderers Rugby Club and others, with a temporary BBQ/canteen set up nearby on game days. At present rugby clubs use portable flood lights to light the field for night training. The flood lights removed from No. 2 Sportsground, as a result of its redevelopment, are earmarked to be installed at No. 5 Sportsground (as part of Council's capital works programme). The poles are currently being stored on site, adjacent the storage sheds.

No. 6 Sportsground is a north-south marked soccer field with permanent soccer posts during the winter season. There is a turf cricket pitch, oriented north-south (covered during winter) towards the field's southern end. This ground is currently used for soccer in the winter, by the Cooks Hill United Football Club (under a seasonal licence agreement). In summer No. 6 Sportsground is used for junior cricket games, by the Newcastle District Cricket Association. Newcastle High School also uses No. 6 Sportsground for school sport (again on an annual booking basis) every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon during school terms and also makes casual use of the ground for “physical education”. Hamilton South Primary School also has a current booking for summer use of this field. Newcastle Grammar School, and the Newcastle City Public Schools Sport Association, both have current bookings for winter use of this field. As for the neighbouring No. 5 Sportsground, this field also receives regular casual use by other local schools.

The amenities block off the ground's south-eastern corner, licenced to Newcastle Netball Association, can be made available for use as part of No. 6 Sportsground (or other adjacent areas) by request.

As with No. 4 Sportsground, both these fields – as a single large expanse of grassed open parkland – provide an area of open space that is easily accessed and often used for leisure, non-organised recreation and relaxation such as walking, jogging and dog exercise. The large area of accessible open space is valued by the community as a recreation and scenic asset.

School students and commuters cut across the fields on their way to and from Newcastle High School and Smith Street/western CBD, and there is a well-worn (to bare ground) footpad running east-west between the fields connecting to the bridge over the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel.

The Cooks Hill Soccer Club currently have a proposal for the development of a new clubhouse, grandstand, “premier grade” soccer field and associated amenities at No. 5 Sportsground as part of a wider reconfiguration of National Park's “outer fields” (Sportsgrounds Nos 4, 5 and 6).

Local AFL clubs have also expressed interest in using No. 6 Sportsground for their junior teams.

### **Netball Courts**

Netball courts are provided at three locations within National Park, offering 30 sealed courts in total. All are managed by the Newcastle Netball Association as one of Newcastle's regional-level facilities for this

sport. The Park's netball courts accommodate all grades and ages. The Newcastle Netball Association built all the current sealed courts, as well as much of the double-storey "Netball clubhouse", and uses all 30 courts under a seasonal licence.

The 2000 Plan of Management recognised the netball courts at National Park as "regional sporting facilities".

The core area for this activity is on courts 1-14 which also includes the Eileen Perry Netball Courts (courts 1-4), located adjacent to Union Street and the "Netball clubhouse" (or "netball building") a double story brick building adjoining the northern edge of these courts. The courts are floodlit. Limited bench and backed seating is provided around the courts' boundary, and a single stand of movable bleacher seating is also provided. A low post-and-rail timber barrier along the courts' southern edge is also used for informal seating. A female toilet is located on the fenced boundary along the northern edge of these courts – as a shared facility with the adjacent No. 1 Sportsground (male and female toilets are accessible from the oval side).



The "Netball clubhouse" includes change rooms, female toilets, meeting rooms, office, and a large canteen. The Newcastle Netball Association occupies the ground floor of the building, and the second floor is shared by cricket and AFL (the building is also oriented to, and accessible from, No. 1 Sportsground). This building was constructed by the Newcastle Netball Association with financial contributions from AFL and cricket user as well as Council for the second floor. Construction of this facility is consistent with the Park's 2000 Plan of Management, but no leases or licences are at present in place for its use.



A short section of sheeted gravel roadway, accessed off Union Street via a locked car barrier, provides emergency and service vehicle access to the courts' south-eastern side. This route continues west – along the south side of the main array of courts, and separating two netball courts to the south – as a major pedestrian and bicycle route connecting to the bridge over the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel. This well-used route links north to the CBD and west to Smith Street and Newcastle High School.



Off-street parking for people using these netball courts is provided in the adjoining No. 1 Sportsground, in the south-eastern sealed parking area and on the eastern grassed bank. Fees for parking in this area are not administered by Council (refer No. 1 Sportsground discussions above).

A further 10 sealed netball courts are located west of No. 5 Sportsground, along the Park's Smith Street boundary. These courts have minimal facilities – limited bench seating in the south-west corner (associated with the adjacent playground), pole-mounted loudspeakers, a tap, and a simple picnic table. Vehicle parking is available along Smith Street.



Another 6 sealed netball courts are situated north-west of the intersection of Dumaresq Street and Parkway Avenue (immediately south of No. 6 Sportsground). Two grassed netball courts are also marked in this location. An amenities building – comprising a canteen, male and female toilets, first aid room, and storage rooms – is located off the north-east corner of these courts. This facility was constructed by the Newcastle Netball Association and is mostly used by netball players and spectators. It is locked unless requested to be opened by Council groundsmen for use by other sporting groups. Its use is included in the Association's seasonal licence for the courts. Other facilities in this area are limited to bench seats,



bubblers, a simple picnic table, and pole-mounted loudspeakers. Vehicle parking is available along Dumaresq Street.

Two netball courts were previously marked on the sealed carparking area in the south-east corner of No. 1 Sportsground, accessed from the adjacent main Netball Courts (courts 1-14). However these are no longer in use, and the two courts south of the main Netball Courts (and east-west movement route) were developed when these courts became inaccessible.

Netball is predominantly played in winter, with some twilight matches played at other times during the year. The courts are used for both training and games, with Saturday the main game day. The Newcastle Netball Association has approximately 3,500 registered players – and there are more registered netball players than any other sporting code at National Park. However such concentrated use can result in traffic congestion and difficulty in parking close to the courts.

The courts are also popular for local primary and high school netball competitions. The Newcastle Netball Association manages third-party bookings for the courts, retaining any charges and paying an administrative fee to Council. The Association pays for all maintenance and repairs of the netball courts, as well as court lighting and rubbish management on and around the courts when in use by the Association.

A hard-surfaced court is the preferred playing surface for netball and as such are not easily affected by wet weather, as is the case for the Park's grassed sporting fields. In 1984, as part of the negotiated settlement of a Court Case, Newcastle City Council agreed that there was to be no further development of hardened netball courts in National Park (the 2000 Plan of Management recorded 30 sealed and 11 unsealed netball courts in the Park, but did not mention this constraint on further court sealing).

However this restriction and the number of available courts have not prevented the Newcastle Netball Association hosting 14 State Age Championships (junior age events, for 12 to 15 year players) at the National Park courts since 1984. According to Netball NSW, to host the State Netball Championships – for Under 17s, Under 21s, Open and Masters – a venue must meet the minimum requirement of “34 hard surface courts or a combination of hard surface and indoor courts located at the same venue” (for the State Age Championships a minimum requirement of “24 hard surface courts” applies).

The hard surfaced netball courts also provide a unique opportunity for non-organised sport and recreation. They are not fenced, and so are readily accessible to the community. The surface is often used by children learning to ride bikes, children and adolescents riding scooters or motorised skateboards, and by radio-controlled car enthusiasts as well as for ball games. Local Police have carried out bike safety training for children on the netball courts. The venue is also used by the Hunter Academy of Sport as well as for local speed cyclist training.



### **Newcastle Athletics Field**

The Newcastle Athletics Field is located between Smith Street and National Park Street, on the Park's central-western boundary. The Newcastle Croquet Club and Life Without Barriers adjoin the Field to the north, with an open drain and concrete footpath (both within the Park) adjacent to the south (as well as Newcastle High School).

The Field includes a running track (with steeplechase), adjoining long-jump track and pit, as well as throwing enclosures and a high-jump area. The main track is in poor condition and requires resurfacing over most of its distance. Sections of the surface of the track are lifting, creating an uneven track surface – particularly on the curves, where the track surface (previously laid by volunteer labour in 2001/2002) has deteriorated badly.



A high open grandstand – with seating for approximately 360 people – is situated adjacent to the track's north-west, and includes offices and storage facilities. A separate toilet block, in poor condition, and

storage sheds are located nearby. Shade is lacking (beyond the grandstand), especially for school users. The Field is floodlit to a standard adequate for athletics.

An unsealed carpark, accommodating approximately 50-60 vehicles is accessed, via lockable gates, off Smith Street. There is no vehicle access off National Park Street, although emergency access gates on this side of the Field are also used by school groups accessing the Field on foot.



The entire Field is fenced with a high wire-mesh fence, which is unsightly and in poor repair in places (such as along National Park Street and Smith Street, where the fence is also backed by an unmaintained/unmown earth mound). The Field is only available for booked uses, and is locked and inaccessible at other times.

The track is managed by the Newcastle Track and Field Association Incorporated, who take bookings for all use of the facility by other parties. However the Association's lease for this area has expired. The Field is used weekly by the Newcastle Little Athletics (from Autumn to Spring) and by the Newcastle Veterans Athletic Club (year-round). The track surface, although currently in poor condition, also caters for wheelchair athletics – and the Field is at present used for training by Newcastle's Australian Olympic Wheelchair Champion. Local schools are a large user group, with 20 to 25 primary schools and 3 or 4 high schools using the venue for annual athletics carnivals. Newcastle Grammar School is a regular user of the Field. The National Park athletics complex often accommodates washed out athletic carnivals from the regional track and field facility at the Hunter Sports Centre at Glendale.



A sporting field is located within the centre of the athletics track. It is well-drained and not as badly affected by wet weather as the other fields at National Park. This rectangular field is currently used as a training and home match ground by the Cooks Hill United Football Club. However the lack of change rooms and toilet facilities limit its usefulness and appeal. The grandstand is also not of sufficient seating capacity to cater for higher level games, which require covered seating for over 1,000 spectators (under Newcastle 1st Division competition standards). The venue also does not meet disability access standards and lacks accessible toilet facilities. Rugby league teams occasionally use the central ground for training. Bookings for the use of this central field are also managed by the Newcastle Track and Field Association Incorporated.



The adjacent Newcastle Croquet Club use the Field's toilets and carpark during major events, with a lockable gate in the northern fenceline allowing access between these areas.

An air quality monitoring station, operated by the Office of Environment and Heritage, is situated off the track's south-east corner on the Field's boundary fence. It comprises a fenced compound with a modified shipping container fitted with monitoring and telemetry equipment. It was established by the then Environment Protection Authority in 1992, with Council permission for the facility to remain for 5 years. The station, which is still operating, is not subject to a current lease or licence.

### **Croquet Club**

Four croquet lawns and a clubhouse are located between National Park Street and Smith Street, in the north-west corner of the Park. The lawns have been developed on former bowling greens (the former National Park Women's Bowling Club), and as a result each occupies an area slightly larger than the standard croquet court (32 metres long and by 25.6 metres wide). The lawns are edged by several timber seats and small shade shelters of differing styles. They are maintained to a high standard and area able to cater for State, Interstate and International games.



The National Park Croquet Club (75 members approximately, mainly in older age brackets) manages and uses the lawns and clubhouse – with responsibility for maintenance of the lawns, fences and surrounds. However the Club’s previous 5-year lease for this area has expired. Until recently the Club employed a greenkeeper to maintain the lawns, which require mowing twice a week in summer (taking approximately 6-7 hours each time) and once a week in winter.



The lawns are used 5 days each week, Monday to Friday, by Club members and the venue also hosts State and National competitions of up to 150-200 participants. The Clubhouse includes 3 toilets, which have recently been upgraded. When hosting larger events the Newcastle Track and Field Association Incorporated allows the Club to use the toilets within the adjacent Newcastle Athletics Field, with a gate providing access through the fence between the two sites. However these amenities are in poor condition (see discussion in the Section above regarding the Newcastle Athletics Field).



Six parking spaces are provided for the Club’s use within the carpark, accessed off Smith Street, behind the adjacent Life Without Barriers building. Also, a driveway off National Park Street accesses an informal grassed parking area west of the clubhouse, with a capacity of approximately 6 vehicles.

A low wire-mesh fence and open garden beds separate the croquet lawns from National Park Street to the west. Their eastern edge on Smith Street is defined by higher wire-mesh fencing, however direct pedestrian access to/from Smith Street is possible via the lawns’ north-eastern edge through the carpark behind the Life Without Barriers building (which is unfenced/ungated). Pedestrians, including school children, often “cut-across” the croquet lawns as the only easily accessed connection between National Park Street and Smith Street in this north-western sector of the Park. The lawns and club facilities have also been subject to some vandalism.

### **Newcastle City Tennis Centre**

Eight tennis courts and associated amenities are located in the north-west corner of National Park, adjacent to (and set slightly below the level of) National Park Street. They are commercially operated as the Newcastle City Tennis Centre.

All 8 are synthetic grass courts, with lighting provided for night games (40 posts, 24 mounted by 2 floodlights and 16 mounted by a single floodlight). Four shelters are located between the courts as well as connecting pathways and scattered (limited) seats. The “clubhouse” includes a pro-shop/retail area, seating, waiting areas (internal and external), toilets and change room facilities, and a kitchen area with external servery. A barbeque adjoins the clubhouse on a small grassed area.



The current tennis courts and facilities were established in 1988 by the present owners/managers of the Tennis Centre, after previously being managed by Council (as 10 clay courts and a small facilities building, in the site’s north-east corner).

The courts continue to be managed by the Newcastle City Tennis Centre as a commercial venture – with all maintenance, bookings and other functions being the Centre’s responsibility. However there is no current lease agreement for the venue (the last lease expired in 2008).



A condition audit of the tennis courts was carried out by an industry specialist in 2009. The audit established a timeframe for replacement of the synthetic court surfaces. Two courts would now be considered to be “worn out” with

the remaining 6 courts requiring replacement in the next 1-7 years. The audit highlighted the poor condition of the fencing and court shelters and their need for maintenance and/or upgrading. This work has not yet been carried out.

The Centre's owner/manager advised that he has no plans to alter or upgrade the facility in the foreseeable future.

The courts operate 7 days a week, under a 10 p.m. night curfew. They are available for hire through the Centre, as well as being used for competition. The Centre provides coaching for children and adults, as well as social tennis and school holiday programmes. The Centre's synthetic surface courts are preferred by mature/older players, who make up the bulk of patrons, rather than hard courts as they are "easier on their knees". The Centre's owner/manager sees demand for tennis as relatively stable in the mid to long term – despite the centre competing with surrounding Council-managed tennis facilities (such as at Learmonth, Reid, Empire and King Edward Parks) and major tennis complexes (such as District Park at Broadmeadow).

No parking facilities are provided on site, however there is a "no-parking" drop-off zone at the main pedestrian entry to the complex from National Park Street. Visitors to the centre must park in the surrounding streets, and some regular competition players have an agreement to park within the informal grassed car park adjacent the Newcastle Bowling Association building. The Centre is not accessible from the car park south of the adjacent Life Without Barriers building.

The tennis facilities are fenced and locked outside of opening hours, and the site suffers minimal vandalism problems. However the high wire-mesh fence along National Park Street, combined with the concrete retaining walls and pavement below it, are unsightly. The site has minimal landscaping. Tree roots, from plantings along the southern edge of Newcastle District Bowling Club site to the north, were damaging adjoining court surfaces in the past. This has since been addressed but is likely to be a recurring problem.

## **LEISURE, RECREATION AND RELAXATION**

In addition to its significant role as a venue for sport or organised recreation, National Park is valued as an important area of open space providing opportunities for unstructured or informal leisure, recreation and relaxation. The large expanse of open space created by Sportsgrounds Nos 4, 5 and 6 – along with the adjoining netball courts, small playground, and low-key barbeque and picnic facilities – provides opportunities for walking, dog exercise, casual play, games, riding bikes and a number of other informal recreational and leisure pursuits.

The leisure and recreation opportunities provided by these large expanses of open space are highly valued by local residents. Many people walk or cycle to National Park and regard it as their "local park" – a view strongly expressed during the community consultation process.

### **Passive Use Areas and Informal Activities**

The majority of National Park has been developed for sporting use. Much of the land is occupied by sportsgrounds or other sporting facilities, including venues where public access is limited or discouraged. Only small areas of the park have been purposefully developed for more passive uses, and in many cases these are residual areas "fitted in" around the dominant playing fields and organised sports venues.

The areas where informal or passive recreation and leisure activities have been specifically provided for – in addition to leisure and recreational use of the playing fields outside match and training times – include the following.

- The small "pocket park" located off Parry Street, adjacent to the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel and the entrance to No. 1 Sportsground – comprising 3 picnic tables, an electric barbeque, tap and rubbish bins set in a small open lawn area with scattered trees. This site is surrounded on three sides by



wire-mesh or metal fencing and appears to receive only limited use.

- South-west of the Eileen Perry Netball Courts, on the eastside of the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel south of the central bridge – comprising 3 picnic tables, a bench seat, and an electric barbeque in a setting of scattered mostly mature trees alongside an unfenced section of the stormwater channel. This area appears mainly to be used in association with the adjacent netball areas, and only occasionally at other times.



- A grassed area with 3 picnic tables and a tap, set amongst mixed shade trees and open grass at the south end of No. 4 Sportsground (between Union Street and the stormwater channel, north of Parkway Avenue). This area receives little use, and is adversely affected by traffic noise from Parkway Avenue.

- The semi-formal garden along Parry Street, maintained by Life Without Barriers – comprising formal and grouped plantings, arbours, shade shelters, brick paths, seating, art installations, and low wire fences (along Parry and Smith Streets). This area is used by the clients of Life Without Barriers, but does not present a welcoming and accessible frontage to Parry Street and appears to be only little used by the wider community (despite the shopping centre opposite).



- The small playground provided in the Park's south-west corner (further discussed in Section 6.2 below).

The passive use areas are mostly located around the edge of the Park, with little connectivity between them or connection with the remainder of the area.

While the Park only has a small number of designated passive use areas, much of the Park is used for informal activities when not occupied by an organised sporting group or other booking. Fencing of many of the facilities however precludes or discourages access to some areas by the general community. As such, it is the southern section of the Park that receives the majority of informal use. Passive and informal use activities known to occur in these areas include, but are not limited to:

- walking;
- jogging and fitness training;
- dog-walking;
- commuters and shoppers accessing the CBD via the greenspace of National Park;
- bike riding;
- learning to bike ride (on the hard-surfaced netball courts);
- casual games and informal/impromptu sports on the open grass fields;
- riding scooters, skating/roller-blading, skateboarding, or motorised skateboards (on the hard-surfaced netball courts);
- radio-controlled model cars (on the hard-surfaced netball courts);
- sitting/relaxing;
- "hanging out", especially in the Park areas near Newcastle High School; and
- coffee breaks or lunch, mainly in the Park's northern areas.



More hard-surfaced and formally landscaped areas are being developed as part of the No. 2 Sportsground, and these may also cater for some – limited – passive or leisure uses.

The need to increase space and facilities allocated to members of the public seeking passive uses was repeatedly raised in the community consultation process.

## Playground

A small children's playground is provided in the south-west corner of the Park, adjacent to Smith Street and Dumaresq Street and Newcastle High School.

The playground is shaded by trees and includes a slide, swing set, rocking horses and see-saw in a contained "soft-fall" area. The equipment is not reflective of a regional playground, and fulfils the role of a local attraction/activity area. Bench seating and picnic tables are also provided. Smith Street is fenced, with an open post-and-rail timber fence, past the playground – however the Dumaresq Street boundary is unfenced.



A playground was previously located between the amenities at No. 4 Sportsground and the main hard surfaced netball courts. The equipment was removed as it became out-dated.

## COMMUNITY USES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Two facilities within National Park – the Life Without Barriers centre and the Scouts Hall, both located at Smith Street – are oriented more towards community uses or activities, rather than sports and recreation. The activities provided by these centres are valued chiefly by the members or clients of the groups, yet provide an important opportunity to enrich community life.

There is also a sports administration facility within the Park (without adjacent sporting facilities) – the Newcastle Bowling Association administrative headquarters in Wal Young House, in the north-western corner of the Park (which is more appropriately described as a community use, rather than a sporting or recreation activity).

In addition to these specific community uses, the Park is often used by local schools who value its accessibility, size and the variety of sporting facilities it offers.

Special community events – such as outdoor cinemas, concerts, and community celebrations – will be catered for at the redeveloped No. 2 Sportsground. Opportunities also exist for special events at No. 1 Sportsground, and possibly on the outer (southern) grounds/facilities. The multi-use potential of these large facilities provides opportunity for a wider cross section of the community to benefit from the facilities at National Park.

## Life Without Barriers

Life Without Barriers occupies a building and maintain grounds within the north-western corner of National Park, on the western side of the Smith and Parry Streets intersection. The organisation, which includes offices elsewhere in the Newcastle CBD, occupies this area under the terms of a current lease that extends until July 2017.

Life Without Barriers is a not-for-profit organisation that provides care and support services to assist children, young people, adults, families and communities. The work of Life Without Barriers spans care and protection, disability, mental health, homelessness, youth justice and immigration. The centre at National Park provides disability services, operating Monday to Friday during business hours with a Youth Group currently also meeting once a month on Saturdays.

The Life Without Barriers lease area includes a building which is used for most of the centre's activities, former bowling greens which are now managed as a grassed open space area north of the building, and community gardens along the Parry Street frontage. Low-key sport and recreation activities are often carried out on the grassed area in front (north) of the main centre building, which also caters for overflow parking.



The “sensory gardens” along Parry Street have been created by Life Without Barriers and are maintained by the organisation and its clients.

These gardens are not locked and are accessible to the community, sometimes being used by workers from nearby Marketown and the western CBD during their lunch breaks. However the accessibility of the gardens is not actively promoted or encouraged along Parry Street.



The Life Without Barriers lease area does not include a sealed parking area located immediately south of the main building. This carpark, and the connecting roadway/driveway north to Parry Street (between the Centre and the Newcastle City Tennis Centre) remain under Council’s management. The carpark is shared with the adjacent Croquet Club which has access to 6 of the parking spaces.

Other facilities on the site include a carport and fenced compound (with a capacity of approximately 10 vehicles), garden-style storage sheds, and shade structures.

The clients of Life Without Barriers mostly use the facilities and ground maintained by the organisation, and sometimes use the nearby netball courts for activities or are spectators at sporting games played on nearby areas of the Park. However for the most part, the Centre operates as a discrete entity separate from the remainder of National Park.

### **Scout Hall**

The First Merewether Scouts are located within National Park – in a Scout Hall located on the west side of Smith Street, between Newcastle High School and the Newcastle Athletics Field beside the east-west drain. However a 5 year lease of the site by Scouts Australia, from March 2008 to 2013, is yet to be executed.

The building, and small surrounding yard with garden shed, are fenced (with a high wire-mesh fence and high metal pool-style fencing) and locked when not in use by Scouts or other users of the hall. The Scout Hall was reportedly in poor condition prior to the First Merewether Scouts occupying the site. The hall has since been painted and upgraded, and the site fenced, due to a high level of graffiti to the building. The building has also been provided with an access ramp.

The hall caters for Cubs, Venturers and Rovers. Currently activities are held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The scouting groups occasionally use the sporting facilities provided within National Park such as the netball courts and the playing fields at Sportsgrounds Nos 5 and 6 when these are not being used by sporting groups.

The hall is also hired by a local dance group once or twice per week. The First Merewether Scouting group is guided by a Scouts Australia Policy for hiring of Scout facilities which provides guidelines on hiring of facilities, and stipulates that no private functions are permissible.

### **Wal Young House – Newcastle District Bowling Association**

The Newcastle District Bowling Association has its administrative headquarters for lawn bowls within the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens areas (currently representing 51 individual bowling clubs) in Wal Young House in the Park’s far north-west corner, at the intersection of Parry and National Park Streets.



Wal Young House was originally constructed by the Bowling Association in 1957. It is a single-storey older-style brick building set in open lawns with limited landscaping. A low brick fence runs along the Parry Street boundary and part of the National Park Street side, it is in poor repair in places. Along the southern part of the National Park Street boundary this low brick fence is topped by a higher wire-mesh barrier. The site’s southern boundary (with the Newcastle City Tennis Centre) has been planted with Melaleuca tree species.

Wal Young House now houses office areas (open weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.), a meeting hall, a bowls museum and bowling memorabilia. Some evening meetings are held at the building (by both the Association and by other sporting groups) and the hall is available to other approved groups (other users are not charged a usage fee, due to public liability issues).

The adjacent grassed area, east of the building and accessed off Parry Street, is used as an informal carpark by the Association and visiting members. It has a capacity of up to 35 vehicles (approximately). Members of the adjoining tennis centre also have a casual agreement to use the carpark.

## **Schools Use**

Local high schools and primary schools, both public and private, frequently use the sporting facilities and open spaces available at National Park. School sports are played at the Park by the adjacent Newcastle High School and Newcastle Grammar School, along with some “physical education” programmes. Local primary schools also use the Park as their home ground for school sporting competitions. The Newcastle Athletics Field is used by a number of primary and high schools for their athletics carnivals. The tennis facility also has a regular booking by a local school.

Both Newcastle High School and Newcastle Grammar School are located adjacent the south-western and south-eastern corners, respectively, of the Park and have limited space to facilitate active sports within their own grounds. Bookings are generally made for school sport, however use of the Park is also made on an ad hoc or opportunistic basis without prior bookings. Generally usage of National Park by schools is outside peak usage periods – mostly during school hours or after school, before evening team sports and other training begins. Newcastle Grammar School have expressed an interest in making greater and more frequent use of the Park, due to the impending loss of their open space usage agreement with Bimet Lodge.

State, Regional and City school competitions are held at National Park and Sporting Schools Australia make bookings and run programmes for local schools at the Park. Sportsgrounds Nos 4, 5 and 6 are the most commonly booked sporting facilities used by local schools, however they also use the netball courts and the Newcastle Athletics Field.

Council does not charge schools a fee for the use of “local” (unenclosed) sportsgrounds such as Sportsgrounds Nos 4, 5 and 6 (excluding for the use of turf wickets). The *Sportsland Plan of Management 2003*, restricts the use of National Park’s district and regional-level grounds for low-grade competitions and free school use, and Council’s adopted fees and charges for 2011-2015 includes school use fees for district and regional grounds such as these. Schools are typically charged fees to use those facilities/venues within National Park that are managed by third parties – specifically the Newcastle Athletics Field (managed by the Newcastle Track and Field Association Incorporated) and the Eileen Perry Netball Courts (managed by the Newcastle Netball Association).

## **Special Events**

The redevelopment of No. 2 Sportsground will provide a facility that can cater for community events as well as being a regional-level sporting facility – as was the intent of the 2010 amendments to the current Plan of Management and the associated “Park” categorisation of this venue, and as provided for in the development consent conditions. The development consent conditions limit community (non-sporting) events to one per month and between 9.00 a.m. and 10.30 p.m. (outside of school hours). The facility will cater for community events such as outdoor cinema, youth concerts, Christmas carols and other outdoor community celebrations. The benefits identified in the 2010 National Park Plan of Management include increased utilisation, economic activity, financial sustainability, job creation and enhanced social amenity.

No. 1 Sportsground, which already caters for significant sporting events, also presents opportunities for community use and special events. The current proposal to upgrade No. 1 Sportsground may enhance this potential. However this venue is currently categorised as “Sportsground”, so limiting these community uses to some degree.

Preparation of an Events Management Plan for No. 2 Sportsground is a requirement of the facility’s development consent. The ability of National Park to concurrently cater for significant events at both No. 1 Sportsground, No. 2 Sportsground and the netball courts, has the potential to impact on traffic

congestion, parking and access to and around National Park and cause disruption/disturbance for neighbours. An Events Management Plan should preferably consider the whole of National Park to be most effective, or for major Park precincts/facilities catering for larger sporting or special events.

## **PARK ACCESS AND LANDSCAPE**

The easy accessibility of National Park and the scenic or landscape values of the area are important, both to sporting and recreational users as well as for neighbours and surrounding businesses and passersby.

The maintenance and promotion of access to National Park, and the area's ready accessibility, were important values for sporting users and the local community. However the community consultation process also raised many issues in relation to access – including difficulty in parking and traffic congestion during times of peak sporting use, the provision/adequacy and management of on-site parking, difficulty in accessing the site due to fencing of areas and location of drainage channels, poor internal linkages, and the lack of pathways and directional or information signs throughout the site.

Even though much of the Park is dominated by sporting venues, the open space and longer viewsheds that it provides (especially across the “outer” grounds and facilities), combined with the rows of trees and other clumped plantings, give the Park an appealing scenic quality. This is enhanced by its location in an urbanised area, and especially when contrasted with the larger-scale development around the Park's northern margins and the busy roads along most of its borders.

### **Parking and Traffic**

Parking and traffic at National Park is affected by both commuters between Mondays and Fridays and sporting users during weekend matches as well as midweek training.

The streets around the Park connect through to the western Newcastle CBD. They are a mixture of collector and local roads, with Union Street along the Park's eastern side a sub-arterial road. They receive steady volumes of traffic, with heaviest flows during morning and evening peak hours, or when associated with specific high-volume uses of National Park. Traffic counts indicate that Smith Street, the majority of which is part of the Park and not a dedicated public road, is used as a commuting route to and from the western CBD (refer to Section 8.2 below for a discussion and management options for Smith Street).

Parking within National Park that is, or will be (in the case of No. 2 Sportsground), available for sports users/visitors totals approximately 700 spaces, comprising:

- No. 1 Sportsground – 40 vehicles in the south-east informal sealed carpark, and up to 250 vehicles on the eastern grass banks and other part of the sportsground's perimeter (entry/parking fees collected during peak use periods);
- No. 2 Sportsground – 265 vehicles, 220 in the western carpark and 45 in the northern carpark (to be paid metered parking);
- Smith Street – approximately 85 spaces, mostly 90° parking;
- Newcastle Athletics Field – approximately 60 vehicles in the unsealed carpark (now only accessible for booked users of the facility, and locked at other times).



Parking for specific facilities or users includes – 27 spaces in the carpark south of Life Without Barriers (and shared with the National Park Croquet Club), 6 spaces at the National Park Croquet Club, and 35 spaces at Wal Young House (Newcastle District Bowling Association).

Council has resolved that off-street parking at No. 2 Sportsground will be metered parking, applying between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. seven days per week. However the pricing schedule and other operational details (such as price points, duration, time of day, weekday versus weekend periods) are not yet determined.

The 2010 Amended Plan of Management requires proceeds from parking fees at No. 2 Sportsground to be used to fund the maintenance and operation of National Park. Council has resolved to extend paid metered to existing parking spaces along Parry Street.

Parking provided within the various sports grounds and facilities is supplemented by on-street parking. However the number of parking spaces within the Park is not sufficient for peak use periods. The concentrated nature of Saturday netball competitions causes particular problems for parking and congestion in the surrounding street – this was an issue repeatedly highlighted during the community consultation process.

The majority of parking provided on streets around the Park is parallel kerbside parking, with some 90° parking available on Parry Street. Parking along Parry Street is time limited. Commuter parking for workers (and shoppers) in the CBD has been extending further south into residential areas around the Park over the last few years. Commuter parking is generally long-term parking to accommodate a working day, and so reduces the opportunity for short-term parking for mid-week visitors to the Park (as well as for local residents).

### Smith Street

Smith Street runs north-south through the Park's western edge, as a narrow two lane roadway with a concrete footpath along the full length of its east side (within the Park), providing both a vehicle and pedestrian/bicycle route. Two threshold-type speed humps are situated across the central-northern section of the road.

That portion of Smith Street from Dumaresq Street in the south to Parry Street in the north is actually part of National Park, and is not a dedicated public road (see Figure A). This section of Smith Street is classified as Community Land and is, at present, categorised as "Park".



Smith Street provides an additional access route to and from the western CBD (including the Marketown Shopping Centre), supporting Union Street to the east and National Park Street in the west, as a commuter route. Union Street is classed as a sub-arterial road while National Park Street is a local road. Both have wider carriageways as well as more engineered, traffic management features than Smith Street. Traffic counts demonstrate Smith Street's role as a commuting route – with an average of average of 2,480 vehicles (in total) daily Monday to Friday, and an average of 1,610 total vehicles for Saturdays or Sundays (as per December 2010 data). Smith Street also provides access to the various sporting venues and activity centres in the western and north-western parts of the Park, as well as offering on-street carparking (approximately 80-85 spaces).

The Newcastle Athletics Field, Scout Hall and Life Without Barriers are all accessed off Smith Street. The new (western) carpark being developed as part of No. 2 Sportsground, including the main service and "authorised" access to the ground, will have a northern entry/exit point off Smith Street in the north as well as an exit-only access to Smith Street in the south (just north of the east-west drain).

Traffic counts on National Park Street during a recent temporary closure of Smith Street (to permit redevelopment works at No. 2 Sportsground) were compromised due to gaps in the "baseline" traffic counts (from December 2010, with Smith Street "open") for some days and do not allow for a conclusive assessment of any possible traffic displacement impacts. These traffic counts also did not reflect other factors that may have been influencing traffic volumes/patterns in the wider area at the time of these surveys, or address the wider surrounding road network. However when corrected for absent traffic count periods in the baseline (before the temporary closure) data – this information indicated that closure of Smith Street as a through route had negligible impact on traffic volumes on National Park Street (the nearest available alternative north-south route).

As Smith Street is actually part of National Park, and not (now) a dedicated public road under the *Roads Act 1993*, its future management is at Council's discretion.

Smith Street's classification as Community Land is compatible with its function as a road. However it should be more appropriately categorised "General Community Use" rather than "Park", to better reflect its current function. In addition, Smith Street could be dedicated as a public road under Section 10 of the *Roads Act 1993* and in accordance with Section 47F, Dedication of Community Land as a Public Road, of the *Local Government Act 1993*. However dedication as a public road would place additional constraints, and obligations, on Council in terms of the road's management.

## Access, Pathways and Bicycle Routes

National Park is a large sports precinct with multiple access points. Many of the accesses serve a specific area or facility – such as tennis courts, athletics track or sportsgrounds. The numerous fences, combined with the stormwater channels, create barriers to access and restrict movement across the Park.

Access to most of the toilet facilities at the Park is restricted, with most facilities locked when not in use by a sporting group.

The only developed pathways in the Park are the east-west footpath between National Park and Smith Streets, running beside the stormwater drain adjacent to Newcastle High School (and south of the Newcastle Athletics Field), and the north-south footpath on the western side of Smith Street.

Three undeveloped, but heavily-used, inter-connected movement routes run:

- along the western side of the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel, between the central bridge and Parry Street;
- between the central bridge and Union Street, along the southern edge of the Eileen Perry Netball Courts; and
- between the central bridge, across the large open space of Sportsgrounds Nos 5 and 6, to Smith Street.



These links, although undeveloped, are well used by commuters, shoppers, school students and Park users. They are also used informally by bicycles, but aren't designated bicycle tracks. They have become established through use rather than being planned, and the Park has no developed internal pedestrian or bicycle network.

On-road cycle routes, identified in the *Draft Newcastle Bike Plan 2009*, run beside the Park along National Park Street and Parkway Avenue.

Hunter Water owns the main Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel that runs north-south through the Park. They are responsible for maintenance of the channel and the narrow strip of land (to approximately 3 metres wide) either side of the channel. Any management decisions for this land, such as formalising the current movement route through this area, would require approval by Hunter Water.

## Trees and Landscaping

The landscape at National Park is dominated by sporting facilities and their infrastructure with a number of amenities buildings, canteens, clubhouses, grandstands, courts and sporting fields located within the Park. At present, while No. 2 Sportsground is being redeveloped, No. 1 Sportsground is the sole regional-level sporting facility at the Park. The architecture of the grandstand and facilities and the condition of the field provide an appealing setting for both players and spectators. The other facilities within the Park are not provided and maintained to the same standard.

Although the perimeter of the Park has many significant street trees, landscaping within the site is limited.

While the street planting and perimeter planting around National Park provide a pleasant aesthetic appeal, the large amount of fencing and its poor condition detracts from the scenic value of the Park. The stormwater drainage channels are hard surfaced and are fenced at intermittent points with a variety of fencing.

There are many opportunities to improve landscaping at National Park and provide a more scenically appealing and "cohesive" Park.

## Flood and Catchment Management

National Park is located within the Cottage Creek catchment, which covers an area of approximately 800 hectares in the south-eastern section of Newcastle City. Almost the entire area of National Park is within an active and high-risk flood zone. However as a large area of open space, the Park also serves a flood storage function – assisting in the management of flood events/impacts downstream on Cottage Creek.

Concrete drainage channels have been constructed, typically in the late 1800s and during the 1930s, through much of the lowland areas of the catchment to drain these areas – including in National Park. Two stormwater drainage channels run through National Park and effectively sub-divide the Park – the larger north-south Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel and a smaller east-west drain. Two large underground drains also run under parts of No. 1 Sportsground and the adjacent netball courts, to empty into the main stormwater channel. While these channels aid in the control of flooding, they are a major constraint to access, land use allocation and the amenity of National Park.

Hunter Water owns and manages the major stormwater infrastructure in National Park, including the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel and the area to approximately 3 metres wide each side. As part of their programme of maintenance works Hunter Water are to maintain the grounds either side of the drains, as well as cleaning of the channels themselves. However Council carries out most of the routine grounds maintenance roles for the grassed areas adjacent to these channels.

## **NEIGHBOURS AND SAFETY/SECURITY**

### **Neighbouring Land Uses**

National Park is bounded by residential areas to the east, south and west. The northern boundary adjoins the Western Newcastle CBD.

Neighbours may be impacted by increased traffic and increased demand for parking during sporting and community events as well as noise from uses of the area – notably loudspeakers during netball matches, games at No. 1 Sportsground and games/events at the new No. 2 Sportsground, as well as special events. The lack of landscaping and the concrete stormwater channels can exacerbate these noise intrusions.

Lighting used for night training, games and events can also impact on neighbours, and the lighting infrastructure can impact on the aesthetics of the Park and local area. Perimeter fencing can detract from the feeling of open space. In some cases the fencing is in poor condition detracting from presentation of the Park and the area in general.

Such “spill-over” impacts are typical of regional sporting grounds. However they can be ameliorated through better design, management and landscaping of the Park.

There are also many occasions when the Park is not being used intensively, or at all, for organised sport. At these times the Park provides a peaceful setting within the surrounding low and medium density residential areas and a venue readily accessed from the western parts of the Newcastle CBD. The Park, although a regional sporting facility, is also valued as a “local park” for the surrounding residents.

### **Safety and Security**

As with most areas of public open space, National Park experiences a degree of vandalism along with safety and security issues. Vandalism is mostly in the form of graffiti. Safety and security issues can arise from incidences of anti-social behaviour, users’ personal security concerns, break and enter into the Park’s buildings and facilities, arson, or other deliberate damage.

Anti-social or undesirable behaviour has been identified as an issue in and near the toilet block amenities adjacent to No. 4 Sportsground, in the “pocket park” off Parry Street (adjacent to the stormwater channel) as well as, on occasion, within the gardens maintained by Life Without Barriers. Two of these areas have limited visibility and opportunities for passive surveillance, while the “pocket park” has an established reputation for minor drug dealing and use.

Many internal areas of the Park are very poorly lit.

Most of the buildings and a number of the sporting facilities within National Park are fenced and locked overnight or when not in use. While this can reduce issues in relation to safety and security, it has an unwanted affect in reducing access through the Park and to community facilities. The fencing is also often unsightly and provides an uninviting atmosphere to National Park.

Other safety issues notably occur around the stormwater drainage channels (owned and managed by Hunter Water, but part of the Park in functional and usage terms). These are mostly fenced where adjacent to active sporting areas. However access, to retrieve balls or for “adventure” play, is still possible by jumping these low fences or using unfenced channel margins. The concrete channel floor and sides are a slip hazard, and make entry and exit difficult. Stormwater can also flow rapidly through the channel.

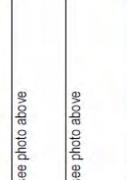
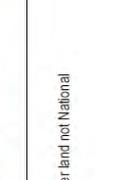
## **PARK MANAGEMENT**

Newcastle City Council manages National Park. The various responsibilities in managing and administering the Park fall across a number of different Council “service areas”. Council ground and operational staff are located at the Park – work sheds and a staff room are located at No. 1 Sportsground – and these staff have the primary responsibility for the area’s day-to-day management and maintenance.

Several major facilities within the Park have been developed by sporting or user groups, with these groups also having maintenance responsibilities for them – with minimal guidance/involvement by Council.

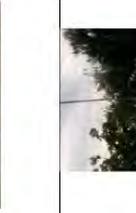
The responsibility of managing the land adjacent the Cottage Creek Stormwater Channel is shared with Hunter Water. Changes to current management arrangements of these areas must be in consultation with Hunter Water. A small parcel of land at the southern end of National Park, adjacent to Parkway Avenue, is also owned and managed by Hunter Water. Incorporation of this land into National Park may improve access to the Park or provide a possible location for additional carparking or an entry point to the pathway network.

# D Current Assets and Improvements – Description and Condition Assessment

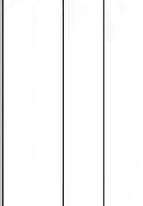
Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
ANGILARY AREAS: Smith Street cont'd	Foot bridge	treated timber; eastern end of field across the east / west canal. x1	3 <sup>2</sup>	
	Fences	weld mesh fence; metal posts; short section on south side of east / west canal at the western end (located on the north side of east / west path)	3	
ATHLETICS FIELD on Smith St: Sports facility	Javelin	concrete base; western end of track	not inspected as facility closed	
	Running track	concrete base with rubber coating	6	
	Sandpit	sandpit with concrete surrounds; rubber surface concrete run-up track; (highly deteriorated rubber surface) SW corner of facility	7	
	Shot put and discus enclosure	concrete base; painted galvanised metal frame with wire mesh panels screen fence; SW corner of facility	not inspected as facility closed	
	Car park	part asphaltic bitumen and part grassed surface; NE corner of facility	not inspected as facility closed	
	Grand-stand	northern boundary	not inspected as facility closed	
	Storage sheds	N/E boundary	not inspected as facility closed	
Services infrastructure	Floodlights	metal poles x8; mounted by 3 floodlights per pole; surrounding running track	3	
Furniture	Fences	galvanised pipe metal frame; painted chain wire mesh; topped by 3 strands of barbed wire; northern boundary (common with Croquet Club)	3	
ANGILARY AREAS: East / West Canal	Foot bridge	treated timber; eastern end of field across the east / west canal. x1	3 <sup>2</sup>	
	Fences	weld mesh fence; metal posts; short section on south side of east / west canal at the western end (located on the north side of east / west path)	3	
	Path	located on the north side of the canal (common boundary with the Athletics Field refer to listing under Athletics Field); galvanised pipe metal frame; chain wire mesh; topped by 3 strands of barbed wire; southern boundary common with the high school	3	
	Path	located on the south side of the canal (common boundary with the Scout Hall refer to listing under Scout Hall)	see photo above	
	Path	concrete; east / west from National Park St to Smith St; between high school and athletics field; adjacent to E / W canal	3	
Smith Street	Road	asphaltic bitumen; concrete kerb to both sides; with speed control devices x2 locations (speed hump with powder coated metal fence panels and x2 traffic signs per location); row of treated timber bollards	3	
	Path	concrete footpath; on western side from Parry St to Dumaresq St	3	
	Parking Area	mixed surface – asphaltic bitumen and exposed ground; 50° angle parking on the east side of Smith St adjacent to Netball Courts 21 to 30	5	

<sup>1</sup> infrastructure located in the north / south canal is not included in the table as it falls within Hunter Water land not National Park.  
<sup>2</sup> for key to rankings refer to the table at the end of the inventory

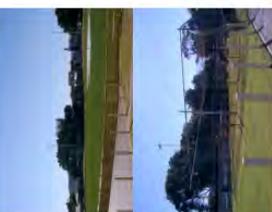
Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
<b>ATHLETICS FIELD on Smith St cont'd:</b>				
<b>Furniture cont'd</b>				
<b>Fences cont'd</b>	galvanised pipe metal frame; plastic coated chain wire mesh; topped by 3 strands of barbed wire; locked vehicle gates x2; eastern boundary (west side of Smith St)		3	
	galvanised pipe metal frame; plastic coated chain wire mesh; topped by 3 strands of barbed wire; southern boundary (also north side of east/west canal)		3	
	galvanised pipe metal frame (rusted in part); chain wire mesh; topped by 3 strands of barbed wire; locked vehicle gates x1; western boundary (along National Park St)		6	
<b>Signs</b>	<p>1 painted timber; evidence of rot in timber; text illegible; eastern boundary of facility on Smith St x1</p> <p>2 facility sign; painted metal board; metal support posts; at northern vehicle entrance on Smith St (eastern boundary); x1</p>		8	
<b>BOWLING ASSOCIATION Building and grounds on the corner of Parry and National Park Sts:</b>				
<b>Associated building and facilities</b>	unpainted brick; tiled roof; painted timber window frames		3	
<b>Car park</b>	grassed surface		5	
<b>Fences</b>	brick retaining wall; cracked in places; northern and western boundaries adjacent to the building		4	
<b>Furniture</b>	painted (peeling) galvanised metal pipe frame; chain wire mesh with vehicle gates, with painted metal signs on gates (aded) – <i>Authorised Parking Only</i> ; northern boundary of car park		3	

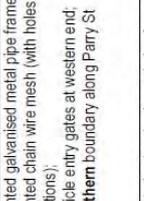
Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
<b>BOWLING ASSOCIATION Building and grounds on the corner of Parry and National Park Sts:</b>				
<b>Furniture cont'd</b>	located on eastern boundary (refer to listing under <i>Bowling Club</i> )		6	
<b>Fences cont'd</b>	galvanised metal pipe frame; plastic coated chain wire mesh; rusted in parts; mesh separated from frame in parts; southern boundary (shared with tennis courts)		5	
	brick wall; mounted by painted (peeling) weld mesh fence; western boundary of grassed area		4	
<b>Flagpole</b>	metal (some rust)		6	
<b>Retaining wall</b>	concrete block; dislodged in places; SW corner of grassed area		4	
<b>CROQUET CLUB on National Park St:</b>				
<b>Sports facility</b>				
<b>Greens</b>	grass surface (original bowling greens); x4; brick edging		2	
<b>Associated buildings</b>				
<b>Croquet Club</b>	painted timber; painted corrugated metal roof; timber framed and metal roof awning; metal grills/screens to windows and doors; x1		3	
<b>Storage and equipment shed</b>	painted timber; brick footings; painted corrugated metal roof; metal grills/screens to windows and doors; x1		3	
<b>Furniture</b>	galvanised metal poles in concrete base; on western boundary; x6		3	
<b>Fences</b>	treated timber top rail and posts; plus one strand of wire rail; treated timber pedestrian gate; galvanise pipe slip rails x2 (one opening in north side fence) north side of greens on Smith St (common with <i>Lifefit/Trout Barriers</i> car park)		2	

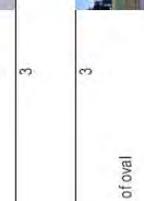
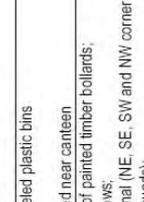
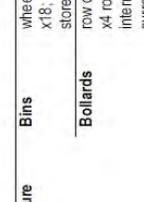
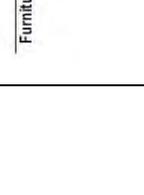
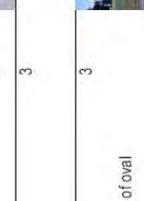
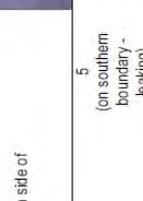
Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
Furniture cont'd	CROQUET CLUB on National Park St cont'd:			
	Seats - bench	aluminum seats on concrete pad; with posts and frames for shade cloth over; x7; painted timber benches with metal frame (and metal pipe holder for umbrellas); x3; x10	3	
	Shade shelters	metal sheeting with timber slatted metal bench on concrete pad; x1;	6	
		treated timber, with latticed walls, corrugated metal roofing, timber bench on concrete slab; x7;	2	
		large, treated timber frame shelter shed with corrugated metal sheet roofing, timber lattice wall and timber bench; x1	3	
	Signs	signed metal club sign fixed to club building; x1	1	
		standard park name sign with facility name - Croquet Club; powdered metal; stick on symbol signs x6 (regulatory and facilities information all 6 faded); name board mounted on posts in concrete base; x1	6	
	Planting	mulched planting area; treated timber edging (twisting out of place) x1 on northern boundary; x1 on southern boundary; x1 on western boundary	3 3 6	refer photos above
	Services infrastructure	metal tap on painted post; evidence of rot in post; x1	3	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
Furniture cont'd	CROQUET CLUB on National Park St cont'd:			
	Fences cont'd	star picket and wire mesh; short section on northern boundary, western end	3	
		sheet metal fence with wire mesh; section of northern boundary	3	
		wire trellis with galvanised metal posts and thin gauge wire (covered by vine); section of northern boundary	5	
		concrete block wall with wire fence across the top (galvanised metal pipe frame with wire mesh); (portions of wire fence missing); section of northern boundary	6	
		painted galvanised metal pipe frame; chain wire mesh; eastern boundary along Smith St	3	
		southern boundary (common with the Athletics Field - refer to listing under Athletics Field) galvanised metal pipe frame; plastic coated chain wire mesh; western boundary along National Park St	3	
	Flagpole	metal pole in concrete base; x1	3	
	Seats - backed	stained timber seats with cast metal frame and patterned metal insert panels; x4;	3	
		painted timber slatted back seats with metal frames on concrete base; x2	3	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
Associated buildings & facilities	NO. 1 SPORTSGROUND on the corner of Parry and Union Sts cont'd:			
	Grandstand (built 1922 refurbished 1993)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unpainted brick and concrete;</li> <li>plastic sealing;</li> <li>steel roof frame;</li> <li>sheet metal roofing;</li> <li>stainless steel railings;</li> <li>galvanised pipe and chain wire mesh gates;</li> <li>includes toilets (M and F), change rooms and entry pavilions x2;</li> <li>includes disabled access ramp at northern end</li> <li>- concrete pavement and unpainted brickwork with stainless steel railings;</li> </ul>	3	
Associated buildings & facilities	Grandstand and commentary box	clay pavers	3	see photos above for grandstand and commentary box
	Scoreboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unpainted brick;</li> <li>timber fascia;</li> <li>metal roller doors;</li> <li>mesh screens on windows;</li> <li>painted timber doors and shutters to ticket windows;</li> <li>includes 16 floodlights on oval side;</li> <li>with sheet metal enclosure and galvanised pipe gate on oval side (used for bin storage);</li> </ul>	4	
Associated buildings & facilities	Staff room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unpainted brick;</li> <li>sheet metal roofing;</li> <li>x1;</li> <li>unpainted metal water tanks x2</li> </ul>	3	
	Storage / equipment shed / garage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>part unpainted brick walls;</li> <li>part painted sheet metal cladding to walls;</li> <li>painted sheet metal roof;</li> <li>metal roller doors;</li> <li>x1</li> </ul>	3	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
Sports facility	NO. 1 SPORTSGROUND on the corner of Parry and Union Sts:			
	Netball courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>asphaltic bitumen;</li> <li>x2;</li> <li>(used for parking and part for storage of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o x2 half size shipping containers</li> <li>o pallets of pavers</li> <li>o x2 cricket site screens with obvious rust in metal frames and one flat tyre)</li> </ul> </li> <li>grassed with cricket pitch;</li> <li>AFL metal goal posts (temporary)</li> </ul>	3	
Associated buildings & facilities	Oval		2	
	Practice Nets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>galvanised pipe frame with chain wire mesh enclosure and gates;</li> <li>netting material to roof and to partition into 2 areas;</li> <li>x2</li> </ul>	3	
Associated buildings & facilities	Access road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>asphaltic bitumen road from Parry St entry to northern end of grandstand;</li> <li>terminating in a small carpark;</li> <li>x1</li> </ul>	3	
	Canteens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>asphaltic bitumen one lane road from Parry St entrance to netball courts;</li> <li>to service parking areas on grassed banks;</li> <li>x1</li> </ul>	3	
Associated buildings & facilities	Canteens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shared facility on southern boundary (listed below in Netball Courts Nos 1-14);</li> <li>concrete disabled access ramp;</li> <li>staircase;</li> <li>painted metal railings;</li> <li>x1</li> </ul>	3	
	Commentary box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unpainted brick;</li> <li>painted timber fascia;</li> <li>metal roller shutters to serving windows;</li> <li>concrete paving at front;</li> <li>x1</li> </ul>	3	

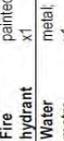
Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
Furniture cont'd	NO. 1 SPORTSGROUND on the corner of Parry and Union Sts cont'd:			
	<b>Fences</b>	<p>painted galvanised metal pipe frame; painted chain wire mesh (with holes in some sections); vehicle entry gates at western end; <b>northern</b> boundary along Parry St</p> <p>painted galvanised metal pipe frame; painted chain wire mesh; locked vehicle entry gates at southern end; <b>eastern</b> boundary along Union St</p> <p><b>southern</b> boundary (common with Netball Courts – refer to Listing under Netball Courts Nos. 1 to 14)</p> <p>galvanised metal pipe frame; chain wire mesh; <b>western</b> boundary at northern end (adjacent to Parry St picnic area)</p> <p>sheet metal; galvanised metal pipe posts; timber rails x2. (sheet metal missing in part and boarded over with timber); <b>western</b> boundary from practice nets to grandstand (also eastern edge of north / south canal)</p> <p>painted fence with timber pickets and metal posts with metal framed gates; <b>internal</b> to perimeter of oval playing surface</p>	6  3  3  5  3	      
	<b>Picnic tables</b>	painted timber slatted picnic tables; painted metal frames; portable; x3	4	 
	<b>Retaining walls</b>	unpainted rendered brick; some cracking in wall, sections missing (not continuous); northern boundary	3	 

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
Associated buildings & facilities cont'd	NO. 1 SPORTSGROUND on the corner of Parry and Union Sts cont'd:			
	<b>Ticket and entry gate box</b>	<p>bagged and painted brick; painted sheet cladding; metal grill gate; aluminium windows; sheet metal roof</p>	2	
	<b>Toilet block</b>	shared facility on southern boundary (listed below in Netball Courts Nos 1-14); part unpainted brick and part corrugated metal sheeting; access to ladies from netball courts; access to Men's and Ladies toilets from oval; x1	3	
	<b>Toilet block (Ladies)</b>	unpainted brick; concrete floor; sheet metal roof; x1	4	
	<b>Turf wicket</b>	test grasses for wicket; x1	1	
Furniture	<b>Bins</b>	wheeled plastic bins x16; stored near canteen	3	
	<b>Bollards</b>	row of painted timber bollards; x4 rows; Internal (NE, SE, SW and NW corner of oval surrounds); row of painted bollards along western side of entry road; x1	3	
	<b>Bubblers</b>	metal; concrete pad; x2 sandstone base /plinth; metal bubbler; x1	5 (on southern boundary - leaking) 3 (on eastern boundary) 5 (sandstone plinth - very poor water flow)	 

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
NO. 1 SPORTSGROUND on the corner of Parry and Union Sts cont'd:	Services infrastructure	Concrete pipe large diameter concrete pipe vertically placed in the ground; x1		
	Services infrastructure cont'd	Earthquake recording equipment metal housing unit sited within a painted galvanised metal pipe and chain wire mesh fenced compound	1	
	Fire hydrants	Painted metal; x3	3	
	Floodlights	metal posts; x6; 8-10 floodlights per post; 2 loud speakers per post	3	
	Pole and switchboard	metal pole; mounted by power box to control floodlights; (broken items dangling from top of pole); x1	5	
	Pump housing	metal housing for water pump x1	2	
	Water tanks	Painted concrete; x2	3	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
NO. 1 SPORTSGROUND on the corner of Parry and Union Sts cont'd:	Retaining walls	low unpainted rendered brick wall; retains garden bed on eastern boundary cont'd	4	
	Furniture cont'd	treated timber retaining walls around mature figs; horizontal logs displaced in places;	6	
	Seats - benches	Painted timber slatted benches with painted metal posts on concrete pads; to perimeter of oval; x87	3	
	Sign	standard park name sign with facility name-- No. 1 Sportsground; powdercoated metal; stick on symbol signs x4 (regulatory and facilities information all peeling with 2 missing); name board mounted on posts in concrete base; x1	6	
Planting	Water Tap	metal tap on timber post x2	3	
	Planting areas	mulched garden; treated timber edging (uneven); located inside northern boundary fence; x1	3	
		mulched garden; part sandstone edging and part timber sleeper; located inside northern entry gate; x2	3	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
NO. 4 SPORTSGROUND and associated junior fields on Union St:	Sports facility	grassed surface;	6	
		poor drainage, compacted soils, poor grass cover, no goal posts, senior, x1, as above, junior, x4		
Associated buildings	Amenities block	Women's toilet, canteen, unpainted brick, timber fascia, metal roof, part concrete surrounds; x1	5	
	Sports pavilion (1933)	Men's toilet, storage rooms, unpainted brickwork and rendered brickwork, metal mesh screens on windows, metal roller doors, tiled roof, locked, part concrete path surrounds; x1	3	
Furniture	Bin	one sided metal mounting post for plastic wheeled bin; x2	1	
	Bubblers	metal, concrete pad; x1 south side of pavilion; (on obvious lean); x1 adjacent to Union St	5 2	
Fence	Fence	galvanized metal pipe frame, chain wire mesh; western boundary (along east side of NIS canal)	4	
		metal frame, painted timber slatted seat and back; x2 adjacent to pavilion; x5 along east side of field adjacent to Union St	3	

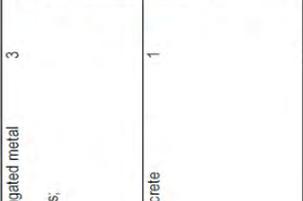
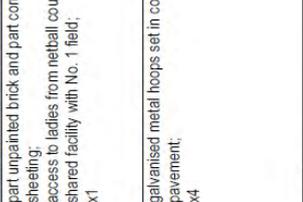
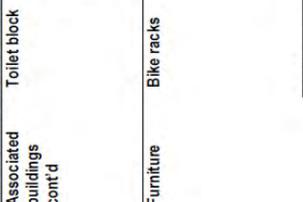
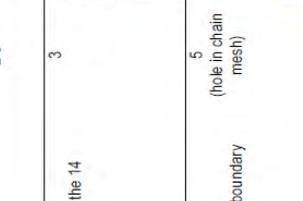
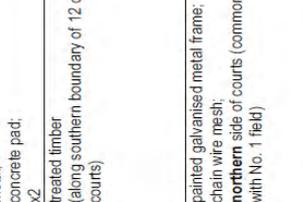
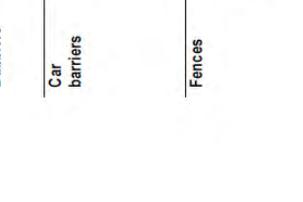
Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
NO. 2 SPORTSGROUND on the corner of Smith and Parry Sts	Football field	under construction	3	
		brick part retaining wall, some cracking in wall near street trees at roundabout at Steel St		
Fences	Fences	painted galvanised metal pipe frame, painted chain wire mesh, northern boundary	3	
		painted galvanised metal pipe frame; painted chain wire mesh, eastern boundary		
Furniture	Furniture	metal pipe framed and chain mesh fence (powdercoated); southern boundary;	0	
		painted galvanised metal pipe frame; painted chain wire mesh, western boundary	3	
Sign	Sign	standard park name sign with facility name – No. 2 Sportsground; powdercoated metal; stick on symbol signs x5 (regulatory and facilities information all faded and 1 missing); name board mounted on posts in concrete base; x1	6	
		painted metal; x1	3	
Services infrastructure	Fire hydrant	metal; x1	3	
		water metre; x1	3	

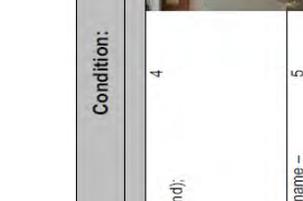
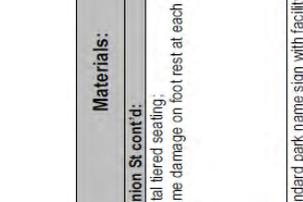
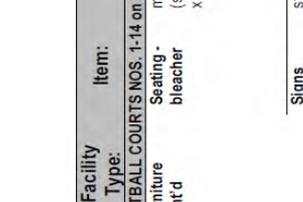
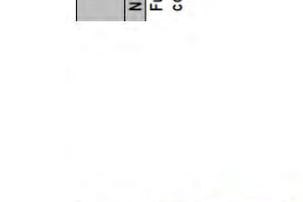
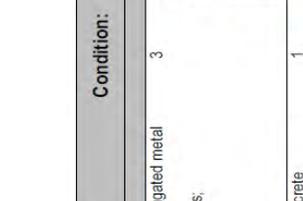
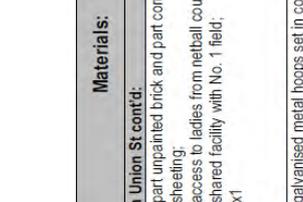
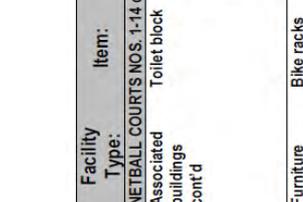
Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
NO. 4 SPORTSGROUND associated Junior fields on Union St cont'd:				
Furniture cont'd	Seats - bench	<p>metal posts; X3 east side of senior field; X2 south side of senior field; X2 west side of senior field</p>	3	
	Sign	<p>standard park name sign with facility name – No. 4 Sportsground; powdercoated metal stick on symbol signs x7 (regulatory and facilities information including faded and 1 missing); (facility name illegible due to fading or peeled letters); name board mounted on posts in concrete base; X1</p>	6	
	Tree guard	<p>1 X1 painted timber;</p>	1	
Services infrastructure	Inlet pit	<p>Concrete pit with metal grated vertical face; adjacent to Union St X1</p>	3	
	Posts with floodlights	<p>timber posts; X4 (total); (X2 mounted with 4 floodlights; X2 mounted with 2 floodlights)</p>	3	
NO. 5 SPORTSGROUND on Smith St on the corner of the N/S and E/W canals				
Sports facility	Football field	<p>grassed surface; painted timber goal posts with metal housing at base (temporary); east / west orientation; X1</p>	3	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
Associated buildings	Shipping container storage shed	<p>metal shed; X1</p>	4-5	
	Storage shed	<p>metal shed (ATCO); X1</p>	3	
Services infrastructure	Flood lights and generator	<p>portable floodlights and generator; surrounded by metal scaffolding with wire mesh and shade cloth screen; X1</p>	3	
NO. 6 SPORTSGROUND on Dumaresq St adjacent to the N/S canal:				
Sports facility	Soccer Field	<p>grassed; painted timber goal posts (temporary); north / south orientation; (some wear of grass at goal posts); X1</p>	3	
Furniture	Fence	<p>galvanized metal pipe frame; chain wire mesh; eastern boundary along N/S canal (mesh generally okay with some rust / discoloration in gal pipe – some joints are disconnected – some posts are leaning)</p>	6	
LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS on the corner of Smith and Parry Sts:				
Facility:	Building	<p>painted timber; brick footings; tiled roof; painted corrugated metal sheeting to closed in porch</p>	3	
	Car park	<p>asphaltic bitumen; services both Life Without Barriers and the Croquet Club</p>	3	
	Driveway	<p>asphaltic bitumen (from car park north to Parry St)</p>	2	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
Associated buildings	<b>LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS on the corner of Smith and Parry Sts cont'd:</b>			
	<b>Furniture</b> cont'd	treated timber post and rail top rail missing in sections to accommodate trees; eastern side of driveway on <b>western</b> boundary galvanised metal pipe frame; chain wire mesh; western side of driveway on <b>western</b> boundary (common with <i>Bowling Club</i> )	5	
	<b>Shelters</b>	4 posted sail cloth shelter; with metal support posts	3	
		painted timber frame; sheet metal roofing; lattice walls; timber slatted benches; metal basketball hoop;	3	
	<b>Signs</b>	Facility name sign - <i>Life Without Barriers</i> ; painted metal; at entrance to carpark	3	
		metal frame; painted metal insert sign board - <i>Life Without Barriers</i>	3	
<b>Planting</b>	<b>Garden</b>	parterre cottage gardens; serpentine brick paths; painted timber benches; grassed paths; painted timber arbours; pieces of artwork	3	
<b>NETBALL COURTS NOS. 1-14 on Union St:</b>				
	<b>Sports facility</b>	<b>Courts</b>	2	
		painted concrete surface; metal hoops and post (2 per court) (some rust in posts); x14		
<b>Associated buildings</b>	<b>Amenities building</b>	unpainted brick; 2 storey; metal shutters / roller doors to canteen openings; concrete surrounds; covered way to two sides (south and east); metal support posts (some rust); shared facility with No. 1 field;	3	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
Associated buildings	<b>LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS on the corner of Smith and Parry Sts cont'd:</b>			
	<b>Carpport</b>	fenced compound - paint painted galvanised metal frame, chain wire mesh fence with barbed wire at top and part painted metal fencing with vertical posts; carport - metal framed carport with sheet metal roof and transparent fibreglass sheeting walls in part (for up to 10 vehicles)	3	
	<b>Storage sheds</b>	metal shed; x1; painted timber shed with corrugated sheet metal roof and metal bars on windows; x1; painted brick garage with metal roller door and corrugated metal sheet roofing for 1 vehicle; x1; shipping storage container; x1; painted brick garage with metal roller doors for 2 vehicles; x1	3	
	<b>Storage shed</b>	metal garden shed; on Smith St boundary in SE corner; x1	3	
<b>Furniture:</b>	<b>Bin</b>	large capacity commercial bin on concrete pad; x1	3	
	<b>Fences</b>	weld mesh fence; on concrete plinth; discoloured by bore water; <b>northern</b> boundary along Parry St	5	
		galvanised metal pipe frame (discoloured by bore water); painted chain wire mesh (sections missing near building entry); <b>eastern</b> boundary along Smith St	5	
		located on the <b>southern</b> boundary common with the <i>Croquet Club</i> - refer to the listing under Croquet Club		

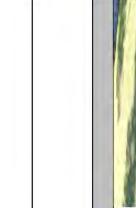
Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
NETBALL COURTS NOS. 1-14 on Union St cont'd	Toilet block	part unpainted brick and part corrugated metal sheeting; access to ladies from netball courts; shared facility with No. 1 field; x1	3	
Furniture	Bike racks	galvanised metal hoops set in concrete pavement; x4	1	
	Bubblers	metal; concrete pad; x2	2-3	
	Car barriers	treated timber (along southern boundary of 12 of the 14 courts)	3	
	Fences	painted galvanised metal frame; chain wire mesh; northern side of courts (common boundary with No. 1 field)	5 (hole in chain mesh)	
		unpainted galvanised metal frame; chain wire mesh; eastern side of courts (returns into park along south side of courts for the width of a court)	3	
		painted galvanised metal pipe frame; chain wire mesh; western side of courts (along eastern side of N/S canal)	3	
	Seats - backed	metal frame; painted timber slatted seat and back; x5	4-5	
	Seats - bench	painted timber; metal posts; x2	4	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
NETBALL COURTS NOS. 1-14 on Union St cont'd	Furniture cont'd	metal tiered seating; (some damage on foot rest at each end); x1	4	
	Signs	standard park name sign with facility name – <i>Netball Centre</i> ; powdercoated metal; stick on symbol signs x7 (regulatory and facilities information including 1 faded and 1 missing); name board mounted on posts in concrete base (some rust in posts); x1	5	
		regulatory; painted metal sign board; mounted on galvanised post; adjacent to boom gate on Union St; x2	3	
		regulatory; painted metal sign board; (faded); mounted on galvanised post; at western end of driveway from Union St; x2	9	
	Planting area	treated timber car barriers as fence all round; short painted post in centre of garden; mulched planting (sparse) edged by concrete pavement; x1	4	
	Service infrastructure	letter box x1; grated pits x3; southern edge of courts	3	
	Driveway	gravelled road; edged by boom gate; barriers	3	
	Gate - boom	galvanised metal vehicle gate; x1	3	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
NETBALL COURTS NOS. 15-20 on corner of Parkway Ave and Dumaresq St cont'd:				
Furniture	Bin	one sided metal mounting post for plastic wheeled bin; x1	4	
	Bubblers	metal; concrete pad; west side; x1 metal; concrete pad; east side; x1	4	
	Fences	galvanized metal pipe frame; chain wire mesh; (mesh generally okay with some rust / discoloration in gal pipe – some joints are disconnected – some posts are leaning); <b>eastern</b> side of courts (along western side of N/S canal) galvanised metal; poor style; adjacent to road bridge on Parkway Ave	6	
	Picnic table	painted timber slats; metal frame; concrete pad; no shelter / canopy; x1	4	
	Seats – bench	painted timber; metal posts; (some bowing and twisting) x5	4-5	
	Sign	regulatory; painted metal sign board; mounted on galvanised post; x1	3	
Service infrastructure	Drainage - pits	letterbox inlet pit; treated timber car barrier over brick pit; x2	4	
	Pole - power	treated timber; east side of courts; fed from south by overhead power lines; lines continue to amenities building; loudspeakers x2 mounted on pole (with rusted brackets); no lights; x1	2	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
NETBALL COURTS NOS. 1-14 on Union St cont'd:				
Service infrastructure cont'd	Path	Asphaltic bitumen; (potholed); from western end of driveway along southern side of netball courts	6	
	Poles - floodlight mounted	timber posts; mounted with flood lights (min 3 per pole); fed by overhead power lines; loud speakers mounted on 5 poles; x8	2	
	Pole - light	timber pole; (evidence of rot); x1	6	
	Pole - power	timber pole; western side of courts 8 and 9; (evidence of old rot) x1; timber pole; overhead lines running east / west; eastern side of courts 8 and 9; x1	6	
	Power kiosk	metal casing / box; x1	3	
	Water - metre	water metre with treated timber car barrier over; x1	3	
	Water - tap	metal tap; attached to timber post; x1	3	
NETBALL COURTS NOS. 15-20 on corner of Parkway Ave and Dumaresq St:				
Sports facility	Courts	painted concrete surface; metal hoops and post (2 per court); x6 grassed; metal hoops and post (2 per court); (some wear of grass at base of goal posts); x2	1	
	Associated buildings	unpainted brick; metal grill gates to doors; concrete path surrounds; mounted on roof by loud speaker tower (3 speakers); painted timber doors; painted timber fascia (poor condition); canteen; storage rooms; First Aid Room; M and F toilets; water tap; x1	4	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
NETBALL COURTS NOS. 21-30 on the corner of Dumaresq and Smith Sts:	Courts	painted concrete surface; metal hoops and post (2 per court); x10	3	
Furniture	Bins	one sided metal mounting post for plastic wheeled bin; x1	3	
	Bubbler	two sided metal mounting post for plastic wheeled bins; evidence of past burning of plastic bins; x1	9	
	Bubbler	sandstone base /plinth; bubbler mechanism removed; x1	10	
Fences	Fences	galvanized metal pipe frame; plastic coated chain mesh; northern side of facility (along the southern side of E/W canal)	4	
		painted timber; 2 arised rails; railings and posts missing in 2 locations (assumed openings for pedestrian access); with metal chain vehicle gate (padlocked); western side of facility (adjacent to parking in Smith St)	4	
	Picnic table	painted timber slats; metal frame; concrete pad; no shelter / canopy; x1	2	
	Playground	mixed - painted metal and plastic equipment; timber edged bark filled soft fall area, portions of artificial turf. x1	3	
	Seats - bench	painted timber; metal posts; x5	4	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
NETBALL COURTS NOS. 21-30 on the corner of Dumaresq and Smith Sts:	Furniture cont'd	standard park name sign with facility name -- Fields Nos. 5 and 6; powdercoated metal; stick on symbol signs x5 (regulatory and facilities information - 1 missing); name board mounted on posts in concrete base; (vandalised with graffiti) x1	5	
	Planting	Garden areas mulched area, no edging; juvenile trees x2; x1	6	
		timber edged; mulched area to mature tree plantings; x1	5	
Services infrastructure	Poles - mounted by loud speakers	painted metal poles; 2 poles mounted with 2 loud speakers; 1 pole mounted with 1 loud speaker; (some rust in mounting brackets); supplied by overhead power lines	4	
	Water - metre	water metre; galvanised metal framed guard; concrete pad; x2	3	
	Water - tap	metal tap; attached to timber post; x3	4	
PICNIC AREA on Parry St on the east side of the N/S canal:	Furniture	BBQ hot plate, electric x1; metal housing unit; stainless steel bench and surround to hotplate; concrete base pad and surrounds; (hotplate not clean); x1	3	
	Bins	one sided metal mounting post for plastic wheeled bin; x2	3	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
Furniture cont'd	<b>PICNIC AREA on Parry St on the east side of the N / S canal cont'd:</b>			
	<b>Fences</b>	located on the eastern boundary common with Field No. 1 – refer to listing under Field No. 1 galvanised pipe frame; chain wire mesh; southern boundary (common boundary with No. 1 Field)	3	
		sheet metal; galvanised pipe posts; timber rails x2; (sheet metal missing in part, timber rotten in parts); western edge of park (along the eastern edge of N/S canal)	5	
	<b>Picnic tables</b>	painted timber slats; galvanised metal frame; concrete pad; no shelter / canopy; x3	5	
Services infrastructure	<b>Pump housing</b>			
		metal housing for irrigation pump on concrete pad; metal housing for power box attached to metal post; x1	3	
	<b>Water metre</b>	water metre; galvanised metal framed guard; concrete pad; x1	3	
	<b>Water - Taps</b>	metal tap attached to treated timber post; x1; metal tap attached to painted post; x1	3	
Furniture	<b>PICNIC AREA adjacent to the concrete bridge over the N/S canal:</b>			
	<b>Seats - bench</b>	painted timber; metal posts; x1	3	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
Furniture cont'd	<b>PICNIC AREA adjacent to the concrete bridge over the N/S canal cont'd:</b>			
	<b>Picnic tables</b>	painted timber slats; metal frame; concrete pad; no shelter / canopy; x3	3	
	<b>BBQ</b>	BBQ hot plate, electric x1; brick housing unit; tiled bench and surround to hotplate; concrete base pad and standing area; x1	3 (hotplate not clean)	
	<b>Sign</b>	regulatory; painted metal sign board; mounted on galvanised post; x1	3	
Services infrastructure	<b>Drainage - Inlet pit</b>			
		grated pit; metal and concrete; x1	3	
Park furniture	<b>PICNIC AREA adjacent to Parkway Ave between Union and Dumaresq Sts:</b>			
	<b>Picnic tables</b>	painted timber slats; metal frame; concrete pad; no shelter / canopy; x3	6	
Services infrastructure	<b>Sign</b>			
		regulatory; painted metal sign board; mounted on galvanised post; x1	3	
	<b>Water - tap</b>	metal tap; attached to timber post; x1	3	
Facility:	<b>SCOUT HALL on Smith St adjacent to the EW canal:</b>			
	<b>Scouts hall</b>	timber; painted corrugated metal roof; timber floor; brick and concrete porch; plastic water tank	3	

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
Associated buildings	SCOUT HALL on Smith St adjacent to the E/W canal cont'd: Shed	aluminium storage shed	3	
Furniture	Fences	painted metal frame and chain wire mesh; northern boundary	4	
		powdered coated metal fence with vertical railings; eastern boundary	1	
		located on southern boundary common with the high school	3	
<b>TENNIS CENTRE on National Park St:</b>				
Sports facility	Tennis courts	artificial turf; x8	4	
Associated buildings and facilities	Tennis Centre Building	painted rendered brick; timber clad gables; sheet metal roof; steel posts to covered area (signs of rust)	5	
	Paths and seating areas	concrete	3	see photo above
	Shelter sheds	painted timber; x4	4	
Furniture	BBQ	gas hotplate x1; evidence of rust; brick housing; on concrete pad; x1	5	
	Fences	located on northern boundary common to Bowling Club – refer to Bowling Club listing		

Facility Type:	Item:	Materials:	Condition:	Photos:
<b>TENNIS CENTRE on National Park St cont'd:</b>				
Furniture cont'd	Fences cont'd	located on eastern boundary common with Life Without Barriers – refer to listing under Life Without Barriers located on southern boundary common with the Croquet Club – refer to listing under Croquet Club	6	
		galvanised metal pipe frame; plastic coated chain wire mesh; rusted in parts; mesh separated from frame in parts; western boundary along National Park St	4	
	Retaining walls	brick; at southern end of courts	3	
		concrete; to western edge of courts	4	
	Seats - backed	painted timber; metal posts and frame; x2	4	
Services infrastructure	Drainage	concrete dish drain; at southern end of courts below brick retaining wall	3	refer to photo for internal fencing
	Floodlights	metal posts; x40; 16 mounted by 1 floodlights 24 mounted by 2 floodlights	4	

Key:

Ranking:	Conditions:
10	An asset that has failed is no longer serviceable and should not remain in service. There would be an extreme risk in leaving the asset in service.
9	An asset in extremely poor condition with severe serviceability problems and needing rehabilitation immediately. Could also be a risk to remain in service.
8	An asset in very poor overall condition with serviceability now being heavily impacted upon by the poor condition. Maintenance cost would be very high and the asset would be a point where it needed to be rehabilitated.
7	An asset in poor overall condition deterioration would be quite severe and would be starting to limit the serviceability of the asset. Maintenance cost would be high.
6	An asset in fair to poor overall condition. The condition deterioration would be quite obvious. Asset serviceability would now be affected and maintenance cost would be rising.
5	An asset in fair overall condition deterioration condition would be obvious and there would be some serviceability loss.
4	An asset in good overall condition but with some obvious deterioration evident, serviceability would be impaired very slightly.
3	An asset in very good overall condition but with some early stages of deterioration evident, but the deterioration still minor in nature and causing no serviceability problems.
2	An asset in excellent overall condition. There would be only very slight condition decline but it would be obvious that the asset was no longer in new condition.
1	A near new asset with no visible signs of deterioration often moved to condition 1 based upon the time since construction rather than observed condition decline.
0	A new asset or an asset recently rehabilitated back to new condition.

## E Parks (and Sport or Recreational Facilities) Located Within a 4 Kilometre Radius of National Park

Suburb	Park Name	Street Address	Sports Facilities	Recreation Facilities
Adamstown	Myers Park	Glebe Rd	cricket, soccer, tennis, netball, lights, amenities and grandstand	playground
	Banksia Close Reserve	Banksia Close		playground
	Fletcher St Reserve	Fletcher St		playground
	O'Connell Park	Bryant St		playground
Bar Beach	Bar Beach Public Bathing Area	Kilgour Ave		picnic facilities, public toilets
	Empire Park	Kilgour Ave (opposite Bar Beach)	tennis courts x 5, bowling club x 2 rinks, sports field	batball courts, skatepark, picnic areas and bbqs
Broadmeadow	District Park	Bavin Rd	cricket x 4, hockey and amenities	
	Coorumbung Rd Reserve	Coorumbung Rd		playground, picnic facilities
Cooks Hill	Centennial Park	Dawson St		playground, rotunda, picnic facilities, public and disabled toilets
Hamilton	Gregson Park	Tudor St	tennis courts x 2	playground, picnic facilities, public toilets
Hamilton North	Richardson Park Reserve	Chatham Rd	cricket x 1 and amenities	
	Smith Park	Boreas Rd	cricket x 3, soccer, Oztag and amenities	playground
Hamilton South	Darling St Oval	Darling St	cricket x 1 oval, soccer, lights, amenities and grandstand	
	Learmouth Park	Gordon Ave	cricket x 1 oval, rugby league, tennis x 2 courts, lights and amenities	playground and public toilets
Maryville	Hogue park	Hogue St		playground
Merewether	Campbell Park	Caldwell St		playground

Suburb	Park Name	Street Address	Sports Facilities	Recreation Facilities
Merewether (cont'd)	Dixon Park	Ocean St		leash free area, bbqs, playground, picnic facilities and public toilets. Picnic shelter available for bookings.
	Henderson Park	Lockyer St		playground and public toilets
	Gibbs Brothers Park	Rowan Crescent	rugby union x 1 field, lights, amenities	playground
	Jefferson Park	Watkins St		picnic facilities
	Scenic Drive Park	Scenic Drive		public toilets
	Myamblah Crescent Reserve	Myamblah Crescent	cricket x 1 oval, soccer, lights, amenities	bbqs, picnic facilities and public toilets.
	Mitchell Park / Townsend Oval	Mitchell St	cricket x 1 oval, rugby union, lights, amenities and grandstand	bbqs, and public toilets.
	West Park Reserve	City Road		playground
Woodward St Reserve	Woodward St		playground	
Newcastle	Fletcher Park			picnic area
	Christie Place City Hall Reserve	King St		seating and gardens
	Civic Park	King St		seating, public toilets, war memorial (access to library and art gallery)
	Cathedral Park	King St		seating, picnic area and shade trees
	Convict Stockade Site	South St		
	Shepherds Hill Cottage Reserve (attached to King Edward Park)	The Terrace		Shepherds Hill gunnery, walkways and public toilets
	South Newcastle Beach	The Esplanade		picnic facilities and public toilets
	The Obelisk	Ordnance St	tennis courts x 5	picnic facilities
	Pacific Park	Pacific St		public toilets
Newcastle East	Parnell Park	Scott St		playground
	Newcastle Ocean Baths	Shortland Esplanade		picnic facilities and public toilets
	Nobbys Beach Reserve	Nobbys Rd		picnic facilities and public toilets

<b>Suburb</b>	<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>Sports Facilities</b>	<b>Recreation Facilities</b>
Newcastle East (cont'd)	Foreshore Park	Wharf Rd		bbqs, playground, picnic facilities, formal walks and public and disabled toilets. The Carriage Shed can be booked for functions.
	Tramway Reserve	The Esplanade		picnic facilities
	Enterprise Park	Scott St		picnic facilities
Newcastle West	Birdwood Park	King St		picnic facilities
The Hill	Mosbri Crescent Park	Mosbri Cres		picnic facilities
	Nesca Park	Nesca Parade		leash free area, playground, picnic facilities and public toilets
	King Edward Park	Ordnance St		leash free area, bbqs, rotunda, playground, picnic facilities and public toilets
The Junction	Rowland Park	Glebe Rd		public toilets
Tighes Hill	Gross St Reserve	Gross St		playground
Wickham	Wickham Park	Albert St	cricket x 2 ovals, rugby league, athletics, lights, amenities and grandstand	bbqs, playground and public toilets

# F Community Land Categorisation and the *Local Government Act 1993*

---

## ***Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005***

National Park is classified as Community Land and must be managed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

Community Land is managed for community benefit and may include parks, sportsgrounds, community centres, etc. Community Land cannot be sold and must be retained in public ownership. A Plan of Management must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act*. Development of such land is subject to the controls and requirements of the *Act*.

### Preparation of a Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act* stipulates what needs to be included in a Plan of Management and how a Plan of Management is to be prepared. Sections 35-47 of the *Local Government Act* provides guidance as to the use and management of Community Land and the preparation of a Plan of Management. Part 4 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* provides further guidance for preparing Plans of Management.

The *Local Government Act* states under Section 36 (3), that a Plan of Management must identify the following:

- (a) the category of the land,
- (b) the objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land,
- (c) the means by which the council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets,
- (d) the manner in which the council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets, and may require the prior approval of the council to the carrying out of any specified activity on the land.

National Park Plan of Management is considered to be a Specific Area Plan of Management, as it relates to just one area of community land. As such this Plan of Management must also be prepared in accordance with Section 36 (3A) of the *Act* and:

- (a) must include a description of:
  - (i) *the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the date of adoption of the plan of management, and*
  - (ii) *the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at that date, and*
- (b) must:
  - (i) *specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used, and*
  - (ii) *specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise, and*
  - (iii) *describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.*

### Categorisation of Community Land

Section 36 (4) and (5) of the *Local Government Act* identifies the categories that may be applied to the Community Land whilst Sections 36 E to N identifies the core objectives for the management of each community land category. The categories include:

- Sportsground
- Park
- Area of cultural significance
- General Community Use
- Natural Area:
  - Bushland
  - Wetland

- Escarpment
- Watercourse
- Foreshore

Further guidance is provided by the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*. Sections 102-111 prescribes guidelines for the categorisation of Community Land.

The National Park Plan of Management recommends the categorisation of the Community Land as:

- Sportsground;
- Park; and
- General Community Use

*Section 36F Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground:*

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

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

*Section 36G Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park:*

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

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

*Section 36I Core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use:*

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

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

#### Leases, licences and other estates

Plans of Management are also required to authorise any future leases, licences or other estates over Community Land. Sections 46 and 47 of the *Local Government Act* identifies the purposes and means for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted. Section 116 and 117 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* provides additional guidelines on the granting of leases, licences or other estates over Community Land.

#### Process of finalising a Plan of Management

Draft Plans of Management are required to be publicly exhibited for a minimum of 28 days. Submissions are required to be submitted for a minimum period of 42 days. Submissions will be reviewed and amendments to the draft Plan of Management may be made in response to submissions prior to adoption of the Plan by Council. Substantial amendments require re-exhibition of the draft Plan of Management. Sections 38 and 40 of the *Local Government Act* provide information regarding exhibition and adoption of a Plan of Management.

# G Legislation, Plans and Policies

---

## Relevant State or Commonwealth Legislation, and State Planning Controls

- *Local Government Act 1993* – the primary legislation governing the management of Community Land including the categorisation of Community Land (and subsequent “core management objectives”), the requirement for Plans of Management, and leases and licences.
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* – provides guidelines for the categorisation of Community Land, the preparation and adoption of draft Plans of Management and other matters detailing the issuing of leases and licences on Community Land.
- *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* – sets requirements for assessment and approval of activity or development proposals.
- *NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997* – addresses offences, air quality, water quality, pollution control and noise control.
- *NSW Noxious Weeds Act, 1993* – sets requirements for the control of declared noxious weeds.
- *NSW Roads Act, 1993* – regarding the use of public roads, the opening and closing of a public road, classification of roads, and the declaration of “public authorities” (including local councils) as roads authorities.
- *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act, 1992* – promotes the rights of people with disabilities.
- *Newcastle National Park Enabling Act, 1924* – earlier legislation regarding variation of the trust agreement between the Australian Agricultural Company and the Council of the City of Newcastle in relation to National Park.
- *Newcastle Local Environmental Plan, 2003 (and Draft Newcastle Local Environmental Plan, 2011)* - Council’s key local land use planning and development control document.
- *Newcastle Consolidated Development Control Plan, 2005* - and especially Elements 4.3 Flood Management, 4.4 Landscaping, 4.5 Water Management, 4.7 Outdoor Advertising, 4.10 Tree Management and 5.7 Cooks Hill, The Hill, Newcastle East Locality Provisions.
- *State Environmental Planning Policies* - SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007, SEPP (Major Development) 2005, SEPP 55 Remediation of Land and SEPP 64 Advertising and Signage.

## Relevant Newcastle City Council Strategies, Plans and Policies

(in alphabetical order, NCC documents unless otherwise indicated)

- Access Policy, 2003
- Companion Animal Management Plan, 2004
- Crime Prevention Plan, 2001
- Cultural Framework Strategy 2005 - 2010
- Disability Action Plan 2005-2010
- Fees and Charges 2011/2012 – 2014/2015
- Heritage Policy, 1998
- Lower Hunter Regional Strategy 2006-31 (Department of Planning)
- Draft Newcastle 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan, 2011
- Newcastle 2030: Newcastle Community Strategic Plan, 2011
- Newcastle Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2012
- Newcastle City Centre Plan – Civic Improvement Plan, 2006 (Department of Planning and NCC)
- Newcastle City Centre Plan – Vision, 2006 (Department of Planning and NCC)
- Newcastle Green Corridors and Landscape Precincts Plan, 2005
- Newcastle Stormwater Management Plan, 2004
- Newcastle Urban Forest Policy, 2008
- Newcastle Urban Strategy – A 25 year Revitalisation Plan for Newcastle, 2009
- Park Bookings Policy, 2003
- Sports Policy, 1998
- Strategic Climate Change Policy, 2010

# H Population Projections

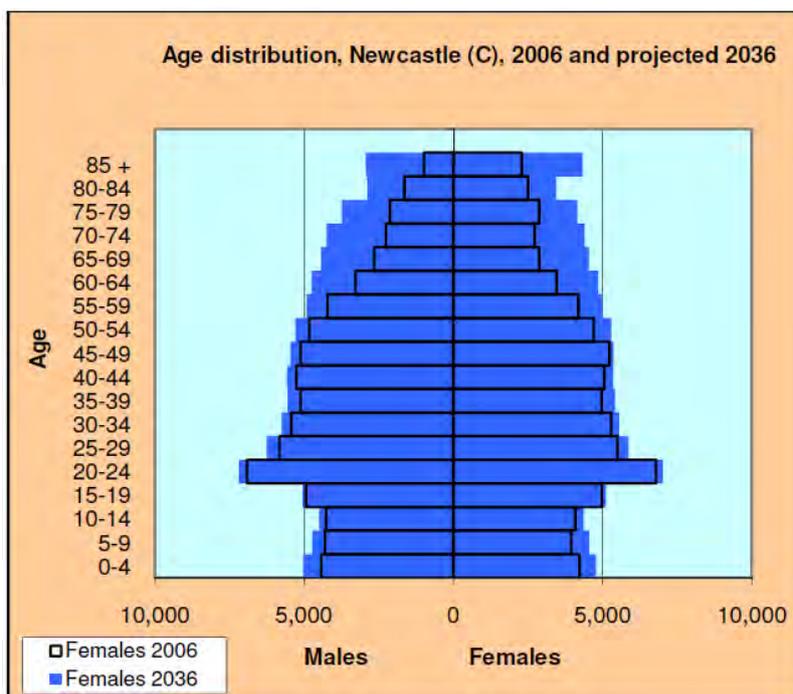
The NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure has produced population projections for Newcastle from the period of 2006 to 2036 – based on the 2006 census and the latest assessments of fertility, mortality and migration trends. The Newcastle Inner City and Newcastle Throsby Statistical Local Areas provide the population projections most applicable to the areas surrounding National Park. These areas are projected to experience a 21% and 11% increase, respectively, in resident population between 2006 and 2036, see Table below.

**Table Population predictions for each Statistical Local Area and totals for the Newcastle Local Government Area**

Statistical Local Area (SLA)	Resident population at 30 June:							% increase from 2006 to 2036
	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	
Newcastle - Inner City	51,000	53,300	55,300	56,900	58,600	60,200	61,600	21%
Newcastle - Throsby	54,100	55,500	56,800	57,700	58,700	59,600	60,200	11%
Newcastle - Outer West	44,200	46,700	49,200	51,000	52,700	54,400	55,800	26%
Total Newcastle LGA	149,300	155,500	161,300	165,600	170,000	174,200	177,600	19%

Source: Department of Planning, 2010

The predictions developed by the NSW Department of Planning can also be broken down into age groups and gender, they indicate a markedly ageing population structure between 2006 and 2036, see Figure below.



**Figure Comparison of 2006 population and 2036 prediction**  
Source: NSW Department of Planning, 2010

Overall the NSW Department of Planning data sets indicate that Newcastle will experience sizeable growth in its population and a shift towards an ageing population.

The residential population of the western end of the Newcastle City Centre is predicted to continue to grow, with an increase in medium density residential capacity as well as a growing student or younger demographic (due to an expansion of educational institutions and accommodation in this area). The Newcastle Development Control Plan also identifies the area adjoining the Park's south-east corner as a "Substantial Growth Precinct" (including the site of the Bimet Lodge redevelopment proposal, which is currently being considered by the Joint Regional Planning Panel).

Provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities must take into account such population predictions and key development proposals. Current trends, and projections, indicate that there will be additional usage pressures placed on National Park in the future – for both organised sport and, potentially more so, for passive or informal recreation and leisure uses.

# I Consultation

---

Following is a summary of the key consultation activities carried out for preparation of the new National Park Plan of Management.

- A Council web page was posted to promote preparation of the Plan of Management, call for submissions, and inform people of the progress of the project. An information sheet, self-administered questionnaire (see below), and the Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper were available for downloading from this site.
- A self-administered questionnaire was made available on Council's National Park Plan of Management information webpage, and also distributed (along with the information sheet) to 250 randomly selected local residences and businesses within 300 metres of National Park. The questionnaire sought information about how people value and use the Park, current issues and preferred future directions. A total of 18 questionnaires were completed and returned, as well as 2 responses to Council by telephone. An analysis of the returned questionnaires is provided at Appendix K.
- Three days were spent on-site, 20 to 22 August 2011, meeting and observing users as well as distributing information sheets and questionnaires to promote awareness of the preparation of a new Plan of Management and advertise the community engagement programme (approximately 95 information sheets were distributed and approximately 25 questionnaires requested by users). This included a full-day "information kiosk", staffed by Gondwana Consulting and Council personnel, on Saturday 20 August 2011 (during the netball semi-finals). Observations of how people use the area, and opportunistic user interviews, were also carried out during other site inspections.
- A Sporting Users Focus Group was held on Monday 22 August 2011 for invited representatives from known sporting organisations that currently use National Park or have done so in the immediate past (meeting attendance of 22 stakeholders).
- Discussions with other stakeholders – such as non-sporting users of the Park, other groups, local high schools and primary schools, and government agencies – by telephone and face-to-face.
- An open invitation community workshop was held, arranged and run by Newcastle Voice, on Monday 12 September 2011 to discuss community values, future vision and suggested possible actions for the Park. It was promoted through:
  - Council's website;
  - Direct invitation to members of Newcastle Voice, participants of the December 2010 workshop regarding No. 2 Sportsground, key internal staff and external stakeholders; 1,000 flyers distributed to local residents;
  - A media release in *This Week at Council*; and
  - Advertising was placed in the *Newcastle Herald* and the *Newcastle and Lower Hunter Star*.The workshop was attended by approximately 110 members of the public. (A report from this workshop is available as a separate document, and the Executive Summary is included at Appendix L).
- Media coverage of the new Plan of Management's preparation and Council's community engagement efforts in the *Newcastle Herald*.
- Presentations to Council's Strategic Recreation Advisory Committee, on 16 September and 9 December 2011.
- A review of previous Council consultation relevant to the Park – including the submissions received regarding the 2010 amendment to the Plan of Management and the 2010 report into the recategorisation of land at No. 2 Sportsground.
- Exhibition of the Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper for a two week period in November 2011. A total of 23 submissions were received. A summary of submissions can be found in Appendix M.

- Discussions were held with relevant Council staff - including a workshop with key internal stakeholders on 3 November and a meeting with relevant senior managers on 23 November to set final directions for the Draft Plan of Management.
- The approved Draft Plan of Management was exhibited for community comment and feedback from 5 March to 16 April 2012. Advice regarding the Draft Plan's exhibition and availability, as well as a downloadable copy of the Draft Plan Management, was posted on Council's website. All people or groups involved in the new Plan of Management's preparation, or who had expressed an interest in being kept up-to-date with the planning process, were advised of the Draft Plan's exhibition. Availability of the Draft Plan for community comment and feedback was also advertised in the local media.
- A public meeting to present the Draft Plan and allow for questions, comments and feedback was held on-site on Monday 26 March 2012. The meeting was attended by approximately 60 members of the public – including both individuals and representatives of sporting and community groups.
- As required under section 40A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a separate Public Hearing (under an independent facilitator) was also held into the categorisation, and notably the recategorisation, of the community land comprising the Park. This was held on Wednesday 4 April 2012 at Newcastle City Hall and was advertised by Council in the local press in accordance with regulatory requirements. The meeting was attended by 7 members of the public.
- The Draft Plan's public exhibition elicited a total of 212 submissions – 32 discrete or personal submissions from individuals (representing 25 individuals, due to a number of people lodging multiple submissions), 3 submissions from sporting or community associations, and 177 "form letter" submissions (of the identical or similar types, from three sporting associations – in groups of 115, 34 and 28). The Public Hearing report summarised a further 16 comments/submissions, and a single internal Newcastle City Council submission was also received. All comment and feedback received during the public exhibition process was analysed, in detail, and considered by Council in preparation of the final National Park Plan of Management.

# J Permitted Uses and Activities

## Facilities and activities permissible within National Park

The following tables outline facilities and activities that may be approved at National Park, with and without approval from Council.

✓ denotes suitable activity or facility for the land category

Activities - permitted on Community Land – not requiring approval	Sportsground	Park	General Community Use
Activities arranged under the auspice of bodies appointed by Council to manage designated areas or community facilities in accordance with this Plan of Management.	✓	✓	✓
BBQs within constructed BBQ structure's	✓	✓	✓
Use of designated paths, shared pathways, tracks, etc	✓	✓	✓
Casual games, provided that the activity is not contrary to a reserve sign	✓	✓	✓
Casual/informal sporting uses	✓	✓	✓
Children's play	✓	✓	✓
Helicopter landings by emergency services	✓	✓	✓
Kite flying	✓	✓	✓
Personal and small group leisure, recreation and relaxation	✓	✓	✓
Removal of vegetation at boundaries with adjoining land to satisfy APZ requirements	✓	✓	✓
Picnic by small groups (non-booked usage)	✓	✓	✓

Activities – permitted on Community Land with Council approval	Sportsground	Park	General Community Use
Camping by an approved community group (eg scouts)		✓	✓
Ceremonies (eg weddings, cultural or community events, etc)	✓	✓	✓
Commercial classes (eg exercise, fitness, personal development)	✓	✓	✓
Commercial photography / filming	✓	✓	✓
Community garden activities	✓	✓	✓
Concerts, movie screening, cultural or community events	✓	✓	✓
Structured or group educational activities	✓	✓	✓
Exhibitions, demonstrations	✓	✓	✓
Helicopter landings as part of an approved filming project, or for emergency purposes (eg repair of adjoining properties)	✓	✓	✓
Large scale gatherings	✓	✓	✓
Markets and car boot sales	✓	✓	✓
Private group activities on a booked site (eg family reunions, parties)	✓	✓	✓
Organised sporting competitions (including seasonal and short term use) and associated training	✓	✓	✓
Scientific research / data collection	✓	✓	✓
Volunteer activities associated with an approved group (eg garden maintenance)	✓	✓	✓

<b>Facilities that may be approved on Community Land</b>	<b>Sportsground</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>General Community Use</b>
Amenity buildings (toilets, shelters, meeting and store rooms, change rooms)	✓	✓	✓
Bubbler or drinking fountains	✓	✓	✓
Camping facilities (for temporary and/or approved use)	✓	✓	✓
Car parking areas and access roads (associated with the use of the site)	✓	✓	✓
Community facilities (education centre, information, community centres)	✓	✓	✓
Community gardens	✓	✓	✓
Cycle paths	✓	✓	✓
Drainage structures (water quality and stormwater management devices)	✓	✓	✓
Fencing, bollards and gates	✓	✓	✓
Floodlighting for security	✓	✓	✓
Grassed open area for informal activities	✓	✓	✓
Kiosks, cafes and outdoor dining	✓	✓	✓
Landscaping, pergolas, raised garden beds	✓	✓	✓
Park entrance features, monuments, sculptures	✓	✓	✓
Pathways, trails, boardwalks, bridges, steps, handrails, etc	✓	✓	✓
Picnic and BBQ facilities, seats, tables, shade structures, garbage and recycling bins, lighting, drinking fountains	✓	✓	✓
Playgrounds, adventure playgrounds, exercise stations	✓	✓	✓
Public art	✓	✓	✓
Public toilets	✓	✓	✓
Signage (interpretive, way finding, security, traffic, reserve name, compliance, advertising, temporary)	✓	✓	✓
Stage performance areas, amphitheatres, rotundas	✓	✓	✓
Stormwater pipelines	✓	✓	✓
Temporary site sheds and compounds for storage of Council or public utility services equipment and plant relating to the construction or maintenance of infrastructure on or near the site.	✓	✓	✓
Utility mains, plant and other ancillary activities, including easements	✓	✓	✓
Water quality control ponds, silt traps and drainage structures	✓	✓	✓

# K Community Questionnaire, Feedback Summary

---

## Analysis of Questionnaires

A total of 18 questionnaires surveys were completed and returned. A summary of the responses contained within these surveys, as well as 2 additional responses/discussions by members of the public with Council's Project Manager, are presented below.

## Snapshot of Survey Respondents

Surveys/feedback were provided by – 2 couples (male and female) (10%), 11 (55%) were from males and 7 (35%) from females.

The most common age group of respondents was 36-55 years (9 respondents) followed by 56-70 years (5 respondents). Only one respondent was in the 26-35 years age group, and 5 did not identify their age group.

The majority of respondents (around 80%) live within walking distance to the Park, mostly Hamilton East and Hamilton South, 3 respondents were from the nearby Cooks Hill and Bar Beach and one indicated they lived "nearby". Three respondents lived further afield in Wallsend and Shortland – these respondents travelled to the Park by car and identified the athletics track as their area most often visited.

The main mode of transport to the Park was walking which reflects the respondents' location and proximity to the Park.

Frequency of visiting National Park varied between respondents and also varied seasonally. Most respondents<sup>1</sup> (over 65%) visit the Park at least twice a week, some daily, whilst others (less than 35%) visit the Park less often. The reasons for visiting the Park often influenced the frequency of visiting the Park, i.e. walking, sport training/playing or taking kids to the park.

## Summary of Values

Generally most respondents valued the open space, its location and proximity to their home, and the variety of activities provided for at the Park, both passive and active.

The following table summarises the values identified by the respondents and provides a sample of the values expressed.

Value	Example of values expressed
<b>Sport and Organised Recreation</b> (identified by 12 respondents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Variety of uses"</li><li>• "Organised sport"</li><li>• "The athletics track"</li><li>• "I enjoy the Saturday morning spectacle of the netball season"</li></ul>

---

<sup>1</sup> Percentages exclude the 2 telephone responses.

Value	Example of values expressed
<b>Leisure, Recreation and Relaxation</b> (identified by 14 respondents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “I love having so much open space”</li> <li>• “A place to walk alone, with friends or dogs”</li> <li>• “The freedom to kick a ball with my son”</li> <li>• “Great kids play area”</li> <li>• “It’s a community park with strong local interest”</li> </ul>
<b>Park Landscape and Access</b> (identified by 7 respondents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Close proximity to home”</li> <li>• “It’s centralised, big and close to the CBD”</li> <li>• Open space can be used to cut through to other areas and “is a safer way to ride with kids without having to negotiate traffic”</li> <li>• “it’s accessibility from most parts of the city for schools as well as general sporting organisations is unsurpassed”</li> </ul>

## Summary of Issues, and Suggested Responses to Issues

The table below provides a summary of the issues identified by respondents as well as their suggestions for how the issues should be addressed in the Park’s future planning and management. In some cases, respondents provided a number of options to address an issue, whilst in other cases respondents did not clearly identify the issues but rather provided suggestions for the Park’s future planning and management.

The table is a summary of responses received. The number in brackets indicates how many people raised the issue, or provided a response/suggestion relating to the issue.

Issues	Suggested Responses to Issues
<b>Parking and Traffic:</b> <b>(13 respondents)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cars and traffic during peak usage.</li> <li>• Smith St used as a “rat run” by motorists.</li> <li>• Limited parking.</li> <li>• Commuter parking limits access to Park during the week.</li> <li>• Parking and increased traffic.</li> <li>• Smith St too narrow to cope with netball traffic.</li> <li>• Parking for visitors and residents.</li> <li>• Currently no drop off zones.</li> <li>• Limited parking at playground mid-week due to commuter parking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Path across grounds from Smith to Union St.</li> <li>• Install traffic calming devices and lower speed limit.</li> <li>• Better parking.</li> <li>• Traffic Study is required.</li> <li>• Provide adequate off-street and on street parking for visitors.</li> <li>• Consider opportunities for additional parking found locally.</li> <li>• Doesn’t agree with paid parking.</li> <li>• Improve safety by install a crossing on Smith St.</li> <li>• Roundabout and pedestrian refuge needed at Smith St and Parkway Ave.</li> <li>• Pedestrian refuge at Parkway Ave and Dumaresq Street.</li> <li>• Pedestrian crossing at Smith and Parry Streets intersection.</li> <li>• Limit parking around Park to 4 hours to improve access.</li> <li>• Provide drop off point.</li> <li>• Provide disabled car spaces.</li> <li>• Dedicated parking facilities for cars and buses.</li> <li>• Limit parking around playground.</li> <li>• Install 1-2hr parking zone around playground.</li> </ul>

Issues	Suggested Responses to Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional parking spaces at tennis courts and timed parking along National Park St.</li> <li>• Upgrading of Park facilities must consider impact on parking, areas should be set aside for more parking.</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Park and facilities: (12 respondents):</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid Park becoming a “one sport venue”.</li> <li>• Respectful use of facilities and open space.</li> <li>• Park is disjointed.</li> <li>• Need alternative use for netball courts during summer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More areas opened to the public for casual recreation.</li> <li>• Park to remain open space.</li> <li>• All sports are important, not a select few.</li> <li>• Provide non-sport activities such as night films, concerts.</li> <li>• No more buildings.</li> <li>• Install more kids play structures.</li> <li>• Install a bike riding track for kids.</li> <li>• Create a tennis wall.</li> <li>• Lights for night sport.</li> <li>• Solar lighting.</li> <li>• Use netball courts for other activities when not in use by netball.</li> <li>• Relocate netball to another venue.</li> <li>• No more netball courts.</li> </ul>
<b>Facilities: (8 respondents)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing toilets and canteen facilities are poor.</li> <li>• Amenities required for junior sport.</li> <li>• Disabled facilities.</li> <li>• Need for more public facilities.</li> <li>• Poor condition of amenities at Sportsground No. 4.</li> <li>• “... difficult to invest any money as they are either blocked by the heritage value of the existing outdated and poorly maintained (soccer) facilities and the inactivity of the Council or reluctant (sic) to spend because of the likelihood of vandalism from the general public”.</li> <li>• Lack of public toilets.</li> <li>• Lack of access to female toilets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve toilets.</li> <li>• Keep toilet facilities open on weekends.</li> <li>• Better toilet facilities at Athletics Track.</li> <li>• Maintain facilities to a good standard.</li> <li>• Facilities to be made public (not just for sport).</li> <li>• Provide access and facilities for disabled.</li> <li>• Improve spectator facilities at Sportsground No. 1.</li> <li>• New clubhouse and amenities for soccer club.</li> <li>• Improvements to soccer fields, clubhouse and amenities would attract state / national competitions.</li> <li>• More cricket practice nets.</li> <li>• Disabled facilities at athletics track.</li> <li>• Upgrade Athletics Track grandstand, associated facilities and separate toilet block.</li> <li>• Female toilets should be located close to playground.</li> </ul>
<b>Playground: (6 respondents):</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No toilets or fencing at playground.</li> <li>• Playground needs improvement.</li> <li>• Poor access to the playground due to protruding tree roots.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New toilet block near playground “though I would then be concerned about security of such, vandalism and attraction of undesirables”.</li> <li>• Improve playground.</li> <li>• Expand playground.</li> <li>• Partially fence playground.</li> <li>• Additional shade near playground.</li> <li>• Provide BBQ facilities.</li> </ul>

Issues	Suggested Responses to Issues
<b>Condition of Sportsgrounds: (3 respondents)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grounds don't drain well.</li> <li>• Poor condition of soccer fields.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve soccer fields.</li> <li>• Better drainage.</li> </ul>
<b>Condition of Athletics Track: (4 respondents)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fence to Athletics facility is "ugly, rusted and gives a decrepit industrial look".</li> <li>• Athletics track has been allowed to deteriorate – "it is a disgrace".</li> <li>• Maintenance of athletics track.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New fence in keeping with area and gate.</li> <li>• Remove facility or redevelop it.</li> <li>• Open the athletic facility to the public.</li> <li>• Track and grounds should be maintained in similar manner to Townson Oval, Merewether.</li> <li>• Money from letting the grounds should be used to maintain the facility.</li> <li>• Track could be a "Paralympic World Champion Track".</li> <li>• Refurbish athletics track.</li> <li>• Links between sport, sport development and participation.</li> </ul>
<b>Use and Condition of Wal Young House (1 respondent)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grassed area adjacent Wal Young House used as overflow parking for Marketown Shopping Centre.</li> <li>• "State of disrepair of Wal Young House and grounds are a disgrace".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combine area with Life Without Barriers garden and create a children's playground.</li> <li>• Future lease negotiations to ensure lessee maintains grounds to reasonable standard.</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Scout Hall: (1 respondent)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Not been used for a troop for ~20 years".</li> <li>• "Recent painting of building has not resulting in the hall being used".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask Scouting Association to remove building and turn site into open space.</li> </ul>
<b>Presence of Life Without Barriers: (1 respondent)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions the use of the building.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lease to Life Without Barriers should not be renewed.</li> </ul>
<b>Bicycles / Pathways / Cycleways (4 respondents)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient bike racks.</li> <li>• Not accessible by bike.</li> <li>• Adjacent Athletics Track too narrow for cyclists and walkers.</li> <li>• Unsatisfactory connections between Park and surrounding areas.</li> <li>• Not pedestrian / cycle friendly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide bike racks.</li> <li>• Improve cycle path connections to encourage residents to ride.</li> <li>• Improve footpaths.</li> <li>• Provide footpath on both sides of Smith St.</li> <li>• Replace damaged footpath along Dumaresq St to Parkway Ave.</li> <li>• Replace damaged eastern footpath at National Park St.</li> <li>• Widen pathways to cater for pedestrians and cyclists.</li> </ul>
<b>Aesthetics: (4 respondents)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining a "park-like (garden) atmosphere".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create more garden areas.</li> <li>• Improve ambience with more tree planting.</li> </ul>

Issues	Suggested Responses to Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving aesthetics without affecting sport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tree planting at National Park St.</li> <li>Areas that must be fenced should have modern fencing.</li> <li>New fencing and landscaping at tennis courts.</li> </ul>
<b>Park Furniture / Shade</b> <b>(4 respondents)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need more seating, shade trees and bubblers.</li> <li>Need more trees, toilets, bubblers, bins.</li> <li>No bins available when netball is not on.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More seating and BBQ area at soccer fields.</li> <li>More spectator seating, shade trees and bubblers.</li> <li>Improve fencing, shade planting, perimeter pathway.</li> <li>More bins.</li> <li>Provide shade.</li> </ul>
<b>Stormwater Channels</b> <b>(2 respondents)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stormwater drains need fencing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drains to be fenced adjacent netball courts.</li> <li>Improve fencing along drain.</li> </ul>
<b>Dogs</b> <b>(4 respondents)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dogs off leash.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dog waste bins.</li> <li>Free bags for dog droppings.</li> <li>Signage to indicate dogs must be on leash.</li> <li>Provide "Off-leash" opportunities - "early morning when the Park is empty".</li> </ul>
<b>Security</b> <b>(4 respondents)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Keeping the undesirable away from damaging the facilities".</li> <li>Risk of vandalism causes reluctance to update facility.</li> <li>Security.</li> <li>"Drunks" and "druggies" hang around, especially near the men's toilets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install surveillance cameras to discourage vandalism / crime.</li> <li>More lighting.</li> <li>Improve security to prevent homeless people sleeping in toilet block at Athletics Track.</li> </ul>
<b>Noise</b> <b>(1 respondent)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed loud music at Sportsground No. 2 too close to residential areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit frequency of noise from events and early finishing time (at Sportsground No. 2).</li> <li>Loud music events to remain at the Foreshore.</li> </ul>
<b>Management and Communication:</b> <b>(8 respondents)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interaction between sporting codes – "who plays where and for how long".</li> <li>Consultation between residents and sporting groups – "hours of use, audio noise, sirens, music flood lights, voice overs".</li> <li>Development of Bimet lodge adjacent the Park and its impact on current infrastructure and parking.</li> <li>Multi loading car trucks parked and operating adjacent park facilities.</li> <li>"It is now up to us to preserve this</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication between residents and sporting groups – when will season start, who to contact with parking issues.</li> <li>Committee only with "active participants of the Park" to oversee park management.</li> <li>Form committee with residents and sporting groups to assist with Park use.</li> <li>Need a Plan of Management for the entire Park.</li> <li>"Reduce and not allow high density housing in adjacent areas of the Park".</li> <li>Leases to require grounds are maintained to reasonable standard.</li> </ul>

Issues	Suggested Responses to Issues
facility for the benefit of our future generations". <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future for soccer should be guaranteed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Revenue and Expenditure: (6 respondents)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding.</li> <li>• Newcastle City Council carries the burden for funding a regional facility.</li> <li>• Use of Park and entry to events to be free.</li> <li>• Rubbish during summer sport.</li> <li>• Rubbish after sporting fixtures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fees from Park users to be used to improve facilities.</li> <li>• Funding granted on a yearly basis by local, state and federal governments to upkeep facilities.</li> <li>• Council to work with sporting groups to joint fund projects – state government grants and sporting organisation funds.</li> <li>• "Free entry for everyone".</li> <li>• Regular maintenance and use of quality products to reduce ongoing maintenance costs.</li> </ul>

### How the survey respondents would like to see the Park in 5-10 years

- "A multi-functional public space used for sport, outdoor recreation, visual amenity, cultural activities".
- More public use.
- Family orientated Park, accessible by all community members and drop off zones.
- Hunter regions leading sporting facility with playground for children of all abilities.
- High quality facilities attracting local, national and international events.
- National Park to be used by all schools in the area and recognised as a major regional venue for sports.
- Regional sporting facility capable of holding many events, showcasing Newcastle as a city.
- As is now but with issues addressed.
- As is now but with "tennis wall".
- Retain its current appeal, a "free public attraction" "with improvements to parking and traffic".
- Continue to maintain National Park in a presentable manner.
- Well maintained facilities.
- Better facilities for kids.
- Adult exercise stations.
- Additional use of netball courts.
- No netball courts at the Park.
- Netball courts replaced with flower gardens and "a grand old style water fountain".
- New facilities for soccer that are available for multi use.
- Cycle tracks.
- Cafe to enhance park usage.
- Meeting place for community gatherings.
- Shade trees along perimeter and drainage channel.
- Better shade planting along main stormwater drainage channel and Smith St.
- Realign fencing at Sportsground No. 2 to allow 90 degree parking along Smith St and footpaths on both sides of the street.
- Free parking for all users.
- No development like that proposed for Bimet Lodge.

# L Community Workshop Outcomes

---



## Executive Summary

A place-based consultation approach was used for the National Park community consultation program. Recent changes in and around this regionally significant park called for a review of its Plan of Management (PoM). This will position the open space to strategically meet community needs over the next five years. A number of Council service units combined to deliver a workshop that covered a diverse range of topics associated with the park and related projects to upgrade facilities for the community and benefit this busy inner-city area. In addition to the PoM review, Council has resolved to implement new parking strategies around National Park

This report summarises the community workshop session conducted in September 2011. The qualitative consultation involved one community workshop session, conducted and facilitated by Newcastle Voice, with the community and key stakeholder groups. A total of 110 community members from the Newcastle local government area (LGA) met to gain further understanding of the Plan of Management for National Park, and the extension of on-street parking in the area. Participants discussed what they value about the park, their future vision for the park and suggested possible actions to achieving those goals.

Workshop participants held a diverse range of views. However, common areas of agreement emerged when participants were asked what they value most about National Park:

- Public open space in the inner city
- Considered planning for future generations
- A sense of belonging – ‘their local park’
- Shared high-quality sport and recreation facilities
- Quality green spaces – trees and plantings
- Family-friendly location
- Safe community access

Participants were asked to describe a desired future character or long-term vision for National Park. Six themes were identified by workshop participants and discussed at length:

1. Diverse shared quality sport and recreation facilities
2. Parking and traffic management
3. Sustainable environmental management
4. Safe Community Space
5. Attractive open space
6. Quality public park facilities

Community input from the workshop sessions will guide the creation of a revised Plan of Management for National Park, aid the implementation of the extension of paid parking in Newcastle West and the development of an Events Plan of Management for the No. 2 Sportsground.

# M Analysis of Community Submissions on Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper

## Analysis of Community Feedback on Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper (National Park PoM), 30-11-11

Respondent (date)	Support/Agree or Preferred Direction	Disagree/Don't Support	Alternative Direction	Other Comments
1. Sporting association (same association as submission no. 12) (7-11)	None stated	None stated	None stated	Corrections, factual issues and clarifications only
2. Sporting association (same association as submissions no. 10 & 16), (8-11)	None stated	None stated	None stated	Clarification of detail re Options 3 and 4 only.
3. Sporting association (same association as submission no. 9) (9-11)	None stated	<b>Options 2 to 5 propose "a regional level soccer facility" but use an "incorrect base" (re participation and demand for soccer) and "unjustly marginalise the existing long term priority user, rugby, and Wanderers in particular".</b>	None stated	Correction re seasonal licences for Nos 5 and 6. Correction to minutes from Sporting Users Focus Group.
4. Individual (16-11)	None stated	<b>Strenuously objects to any option to close Smith Street, as would divert traffic in into National Park Street which is already a "rat-run".</b>	Management of Smith Street to "have regard for traffic issues, not just the future of the park".	Although Smith Street is not dedicated as a public road, it should be considered a public road by virtue of usage and "considered in that context". Sporting use should continue to be main purpose.
5. Individual (18-11)	<b>Options 2 and 3 are "most preferable".</b> <b>Option 2</b> allows for a "premier football facility in a currently under-utilised space". <b>Option 3</b> groups sporting users to create efficient layout of space and allow for future growth, and allows for 3 senior fields which is necessary for football and rugby union".	<b>Option 1</b> status quo is not a suitable option.	None stated	

Respondent (date)	Support/Agree or Preferred Direction	Disagree/Don't Support	Alternative Direction	Other Comments
6. Sporting association (18-11)	<p><b>Supports Option 2</b> - allows for a viable financial solution for soccer with least change to other existing facilities/users.</p>	<p><b>Options 3, 4 and 5 not desirable due to</b> "more invasion of passive green/open space".  <b>Would "not support any new users</b> diminishing existing rugby usage in any form".  <b>Would "not support the introduction of professional clubs at any expense of current users".</b>  <b>Bias towards the major sports (rugby union, rugby league, soccer, netball).</b></p>	<p>Wanderers have used No. 5 for "training and competition for many years and should remain" and is a "logical second (rugby) ground" given proximity to No. 2. Review use of No. 1, and Athletics Track, to allow more use by soccer.</p>	<p>Installation of a scoreboard (with video) at No. 2.  Supports construction of footbridge (from No. 2 carpark).</p>
7. Sporting association (18-11)	<p>Support "the maintenance of the current users of the park".  All sports should be treated equally.</p>		<p>First division soccer should "be played at No. 2 Sportsground, following its \$7M upgrade, or Ausgrid stadium".</p>	<p>Wal Young House is not in a state of disrepair (as claimed by workshop participant), and the "Association spends a significant amount of funds on upkeep".</p>
8. Sporting association (18-11)	<p>Development of No. 1 as proposed by AFL "would be of considerable benefit to cricket as well". Further upgrade No. 1 as "centre of excellence for sports, in particular cricket".  Relocate netball courts from No. 6 and retain for field for junior cricket.  Key sports preferred as established users - Cricket, AFL, Netball and Rugby - with "maximum usage and improved facilities" for each of these current sports.</p>	<p><b>Don't agree with major soccer developments at No. 5, any low-key redevelopment of No. 5 should still accommodate current turf wicket.</b>  <b>"Disappointing result/outcome if soccer was to take over this area where the other sports have put so much into National Park".</b></p>	<p>Outer ovals (Nos 4, 5, and 6) should be brought "up to a reasonable standard" as "suitable for different grades of cricket".  "Goal should not necessarily be to have a maximum number of codes playing at National Park".</p>	<p>Need for more outdoor practice wickets to accommodate heavy usage and meet the needs of all of squads/ages – plus need for Indoor Practice Facility at No. 1 in south-east corner (existing carpark site).  Midweek T20 competitions starting in Newcastle.</p>

Respondent (date)	Support/Agree or Preferred Direction	Disagree/Don't Support	Alternative Direction	Other Comments
<p>9. Sporting association (same association as submission no. 3) (18-11)</p>	<p><b>Option 1</b> status quo is preferred direction (but with shared use by AFL and soccer at No. 1).  <b>Option 2</b> also supported – as uses existing built infrastructure at the Athletics Field, doesn't remove existing infrastructure, is cheaper, is less "detrimental to use of existing passive/green/open space", and "evens out use between sporting grounds".</p>	<p>"Do not support directions that promote new users to existing rugby grounds if it in any way compromises existing rugby use by men, women and juniors".  Do not support suggestion (p. 26) for "equitable allocation of use of redeveloped No. 2 between sporting codes".  Do not support priority to higher grade games over lower grade use of redeveloped No. 2 due to possible detriment to current users.  Planning should not be driven by perceived requirement to develop a regional level soccer facility. Support soccer's aspirations but "not by usurping the essential priority allocated use of No. 5 by Wanderers". "No 5 needs to continue to be a priority ground for Wanderers".  No. 2 should only be shared with soccer where there is no compromising of rugby use – but "at the higher level, rugby and soccer cannot coexist in the same season without inevitable tension in the standard of pitch presentation", problems with grass length and pitch condition, and considerable expense for ground reconfiguring/turnaround.  Junior rugby uses at No. 2 and No. 5 should not "make way for higher level soccer" use.  Sharing of grounds (No.2, No.5 and No. 6) "is possible but should not be at the expense of Wanderers".  Oppose any separation/distancing of rugby grounds (such as Options 4 and 5).</p>	<p>Explore potential for soccer to share No. 1 with AFL in winter.</p>	<p>Video board required at No. 2.  Request express recognition/codifying of "Wanderers priority position at No 2 and No 5" due to length of tenure and funding contributions.</p>

Respondent (date)	Support/Agree or Preferred Direction	Disagree/Don't Support	Alternative Direction	Other Comments
10. Sporting association (same association as submissions no. 2 & 16) (18-11)	<p><b>Option 2</b> preferred as "the logical choice for an upgrade to allow a premier football facility" as quickest, cheapest and most logical location - and best suits "Cooks Hill seniors".</p> <p><b>Option 3</b> - or slightly modified version - best suits Cooks Hill juniors.</p>	<p><b>Option 1</b>, status quo, "should not be encouraged" as park has previously been poorly planned and now "does not provide an efficient layout for all the various sporting codes".</p> <p><b>Option 4</b> not supported due to likely opposition to extensive continuous hardening and loss of "a full size field which is a definite negative".</p> <p><b>Option 5</b> – "whilst it would be fantastic" and "great for football" is not supported as "there is no chance that could be funded in the next 10 years" and would be "at the expense of tennis, life without barriers etc".</p>	<p>Three modified versions of Option 3 suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3A - football on No. 4 and No. 5 and rugby on No. 6;</li> <li>• 3B - rugby relocated to No. 4 and uses the No. 4 Pavilion, Cooks Hill gains a new amenities block for juniors at Nos 5 and 6; and</li> <li>• 3C – "to make better use of the shape of the park" No. 5 reoriented to east- west and shared between rugby and soccer, No. 6 reoriented to east- west as soccer field, junior soccer fields to south, and outlying netball courts relocated (as per Option 3).</li> </ul>	<p>Moving bulky goal post systems needed for 8/9s fields requires these to be sited close to storage sheds.</p> <p>Additional footbridges needed over central channel to "allow players to move more freely between fields" Nos 4 and 6.</p> <p>Upgrade facilities at No. 4 to "help cater for future growth within the junior ranks".</p>
11. Individual (18-11)	<p>"More passive recreation areas and more areas for trees and gardens".</p>	<p>"Object strongly to the closure of Smith Street, either fully or in part as it will send much more traffic into National Park Street".</p> <p>"Object to organised sporting facilities, such as soccer fields, taking over further area".</p>	<p>Vision for the area should be as its "original purpose which was as a botanical garden".</p>	<p>"Residential nature of the area is not compatible with further big sporting areas".</p> <p>"Consider republicising the NP Plan so that real community consultation can take place".</p>

Respondent (date)	Support/Agree or Preferred Direction	Disagree/Don't Support	Alternative Direction	Other Comments
12. Sporting association (same association as submission no. 1) (18-11)	<p>Option 1 supported as "status quo plus 4 extra netball courts"</p> <p>Other options not considered to be economically viable but states that it "would be desirable to have 34 courts all available on the eastern side of the channel".</p>	<p>Does not support "paid parking around the Park on playing days".</p> <p>Does not support "construction of soccer building on No. 5 or 6"</p> <p>Option 4 would be "cost prohibitive".</p>	<p>Supports status quo be maintained with 4 extra courts provided (to total 34 courts).</p>	<p>Plan should recognise economic value generated by sports that "hold State / Australian events".</p> <p>Plan should recognise "social and leadership qualities developed by the sports within their memberships".</p> <p>The Park's close proximity to other passive recreation areas. Netball "occupies a relatively small area of the Park" which is "open to the public".</p> <p>"Would like to see Council spend money on Park improvements rather than continue to spend it on impractical PoMs".</p>
13. Individual (18-11)	None stated	None stated	None stated	<p>Suggests that the Plan of Management should be "put on hold" until the completion of the Hamilton South Traffic Management Study. Notes that recommendations relating to vehicular traffic routes, parking and Smith Street are "putting the cart before the horse".</p> <p>"Why would Council retain consultants to conduct the study when there would be no doubt qualified persons within Council, to perform this duty".</p>

Respondent (date)	Support/Agree or Preferred Direction	Disagree/Don't Support	Alternative Direction	Other Comments
14. Patrick Allen (22-11)	<p>Prefers <b>Options 2 and 3</b>.</p> <p><b>Option 2</b> – allows premier football club to use an underutilised space and makes use of existing facility.</p> <p><b>Option 3</b> – allows for future growth, multi use of space and amenities for Cooks Hill Juniors.</p>	<p><b>Option 1</b> – doesn't fix any current issues or cater for future growth.</p>	None stated.	<p>"National Park is a sporting precinct and must be recognised to take priority over recreational use".</p> <p>"needs to be immediate action to rectify the issues that are current to National Park".</p> <p>Sport to take priority over recreation, there are no other similar sporting facilities in inner Newcastle, must cater for future needs of the public.</p>
15. Community organisation (25-11)	<p>Supports initiatives to improve access to the community garden.</p>	None stated	None stated	<p>Would like to "work collaboratively together so we can meet the values of sport and recreation in the area as well as the need of our Newcastle community members".</p>
16. Sporting association (same association as submissions no. 2 & 10) (date unknown)	<p>Supports combination of <b>Options 2 and 3</b>.</p>	<p><b>Option 1</b> "should not be pursued" as the Park needs to be improved to "meet the needs of the community".</p> <p><b>Option 3</b> "would not meet current demands of field requirements for small sided football for Cooks Hill Football Club"</p> <p><b>Option 4</b> "should not be pursued", does not support covering the entire surface of No. 4 Sportsground and restricting public access and informal recreation.</p>	<p>Option 3 "could be improved by collocating more open (turfed) space near the main playing field".</p> <p>If Rugby Union are to retain No.5 then the best option "is to redevelop the athletics track for premier competition, leave the junior club on the current playing surface and look at the option of improving the existing facility (pavilion) on No. 4 for the use of the Cooks Hill Football Club".</p>	<p>Junior Football Club cannot afford to lose anymore space or they would have to turn away potential players.</p> <p>Park should be "improved to support both junior and senior sporting activities".</p> <p>"Newcastle CBD has other open space park lands accessible for passive activities".</p> <p>Suggest additional bridges "to help spread foot traffic across fields".</p>

Respondent (date)	Support/Agree or Preferred Direction	Disagree/Don't Support	Alternative Direction	Other Comments
17. Individual (date unknown)	Modification of <b>Option 2</b> and <b>Option 3</b> .	<b>Option 1</b> – existing situation “will not work”. Use of the area “will only increase”. <b>Option 5</b> – “not cost effective”	Upgrade Athletics Track to accommodate soccer plus consolidate netball around main clubhouse. Rugby grounds to be centred around upgraded No.2 Sportsground. Southern area of No.6 Sportsground to be used for junior soccer.	Plan should consider “environmental and flooding issues within Cottage Creek”. Stormwater Drainage Channels should be “removed and replaced with a natural channel”. Believes grounds should be available for “organised sport and other users”. Suggests more bridges across Stormwater Drainage Channel between fields and facilities at Sportsground No.'s 4, 5 and 6. “Hard wearing grasses or artificial turf on the existing asphalt [sic] should be considered as these grounds are used extensively”. “Paper is comprehensive.”
18. Individual (date unknown)	<b>Option 2</b> and <b>Option 3</b> . Option 2 promotes participation in sport.	<b>Option 1</b> – “something needs to be done to cater for the future growth of the community users”. <b>Option 1</b> – “would be a waste of an opportunity”.	None stated	
19. Individual (date unknown)	<b>Option 2</b> – would provide soccer with an area for “premier divisions until such time as Option 3 could be achieved”. <b>Option 3</b> – “most efficient use of space”.		None stated	Maintenance of the Options should be addressed. Specific areas should be identified for each code so they can “make the most of their allocated space by giving them a sense of ownership”. Priority should be given to accommodating the “future growth of the sports that use the facility”.

Respondent (date)	Support/Agree or Preferred Direction	Disagree/Don't Support	Alternative Direction	Other Comments
20. Individual (date unknown)	<p>Prefers <b>Options 2 and 3</b>.</p> <p><b>Option 2</b> – allows for a “first class football facility in a currently underutilised area”.</p> <p>“Makes good use of the area and is the quickest and cheapest way to achieve the desired outcome”.</p> <p><b>Option 3</b> – “allows groups of sporting users to effectively and efficiently use the space available to cater for growth”.</p>	<p><b>Option 1</b> - “does not fix any issues and does not allow for growth/improvement”.</p>	None stated	<p>“The interests of recreational and organised sporting users have been considered and met” within the Paper.</p> <p>“Sporting use should take priority over recreational use”.</p> <p>National Park has the potential to be an “extremely good quality sporting complex” that could cater to the increasing demand through the increasing inner city population.</p> <p>Recreational users should be “considered and catered for however sporting use should be a priority for National Park”.</p>
21. Individual (date unknown)	<p>Prefers a mixture of <b>Options 2 and 3</b>.</p> <p><b>Option 2</b> – is the “cheapest and quickest” way to get a premier facility.</p> <p><b>Option 3</b> – groups sporting codes efficiently; creates better layout of fields, particularly for netball, new amenities for Cooks Hill Juniors, caters for future of growing club.</p>	<p><b>Option 1</b> – fixes none of the issues.</p> <p><b>Option 4</b> – residents would not allow netball courts to cover all No. 4 Sportsground and it only allows for 2 full size fields at No.5 &amp; 6 which disadvantages soccer.</p> <p><b>Option 5</b> – would be great for soccer but it is not likely to be funded and displaces other user groups.</p>	None stated	<p>Sport should be the priority for the Park, it should be planned better to accommodate current users and allow for future growth.</p>
22. Individual (date unknown)	<p>Prefers <b>Options 2 and 3</b>.</p> <p><b>Option 2</b> – “utilises space better” and provides great football facilities.</p> <p><b>Option 3</b> – “efficiently groups codes to allow for future growth” allow for “junior and senior soccer as well as rugby union to expand”.</p>	<p><b>Option 1</b> – provides no additional amenity and doesn't cater for future participation in sport.</p>	None stated	<p>“It must be recognised National Park is a vital inner city sport facility”. It should cater for the growing number of participants and remain an organised sport area as it is the only one in the inner city area.</p>

Respondent (date)	Support/Agree or Preferred Direction	Disagree/Don't Support	Alternative Direction	Other Comments
23. Individual (date unknown)	<p>Prefers a combination of <b>Options 2 and 3</b>. <b>Option 2</b> – provides opportunity to improve athletics track and incorporate high quality football facility. <b>Option 3</b> – consolidates soccer playing fields. Could be improved "by collocating more open (turfed) space near the main playing field", thus allowing for increases in junior soccer and more usable space for summer sport.</p>	<p><b>Option 1</b> – National Park "must be improved to meet changing community needs". <b>Option 4</b> – would restrict use of a large open space. Disagrees with plans to increase the amount of hard surface sporting areas as this would limit community use and increase drainage problems.</p>	<p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- removal of all hard surface netball courts from Sportsgrounds No.'s 5 and 6 – "to enable greater sporting usage of the area".</li> <li>- Covering the stormwater drain to increase usable space.</li> <li>- More bridges to spread foot traffic across fields.</li> </ul>	<p>Playing surfaces of Sportsgrounds 4, 5 and 6 are often in poor condition. Cottage Creek drain is a barrier to "full utilisation of the open space". Need 2x 6-7yrs and 2x 8-9yrs junior fields to meet current demands. "Cooks Hill Junior player numbers for 2011 were 380 and have been growing yearly". Park should be improved for both junior and senior sports. Newcastle CBD has other Parks for passive activities.</p>