

North Rothbury Playground

Plan of Management



April 2008

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Introduction

This plan of management has been prepared by Cessnock City Council for North Rothbury Playground in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993.

This plan of management is an important document providing a clear framework for the future management of land in the care and control of Council. This plan will enable Cessnock City Council to produce a consistent and effective set of guidelines which will govern the management of its community land.

The Local Government Act, 1993 states that community land is land that is reserved for community use. The Act also states that councils must categorise all community land according to its function. The community land covered by this plan is categorised as Parkland. The core objectives of community land categorised as Parkland 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 to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

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

Objectives

The key objectives which give direction to this plan are:

- To plan for the continual development and maintenance of recreational resources within North Rothbury Playground to a high standard for the convenience and well being of users;
- To plan for progressive improvements of the quality and appearance of parks, playgrounds and sportsgrounds as funds become available;
- To facilitate the effective, equitable and efficient management of the land within North Rothbury Playground;
- To provide a broad spectrum of safe, high quality recreational opportunities at North Rothbury Playground;
- To distribute future recreational resources as community demand and financial viability dictates in regards to North Rothbury Playground;
- To maintain clear communication channels with stakeholders, the public and nearby residences;
- To make provision for the sale of undesirable open-space areas, leases, licences and agreements in respect of the utilisation of council's recreational assets; and
- To make provision for licence agreements for periods up to 21 years in respect of the utilisation of councils recreational assets.

Background

North Rothbury Playground contains a children's playground, a large passive recreation area, a tennis court and a small clubhouse. The children's playground and passive recreation area are utilised on a regular basis. In regards to the tennis facilities, the North Rothbury Tennis Club disbanded in 2001 and formally handed over the keys to the tennis courts/club house to Cessnock City Council in 2006. The tennis courts have been used for netball training and other recreational activities such as skateboarding since this time.

The Physical Setting

North Rothbury Playground is situated in North Rothbury. The site can be accessed via Rothbury, Morgan, and Mitchell Streets. North Rothbury Playground consists of 0.56 hectares of land which is owned by Cessnock City Council with a portion of the land being Crown Land. North Rothbury Playground comprises the following parcels of land, lot 16, 17, 18, 19, DP 7554.

Building and Facilities

The site currently contains a tennis court and small club house, a playground and a passive recreation area. Each of these will now be analysed individually to present a more detailed overview.

Tennis Court Facilities

In the northern portion of the site there is one asphalt tennis court which is in poor condition. The tennis court is surrounded by a 1.8m plastic wire chain fence and also has four floodlights surrounding the court. Tennis has not been undertaken at the site since 2001 and the court is not currently operational.

A small club house is located at the eastern end of the tennis court and is in poor condition.

Play Equipment

In the southern portion of the site there is a children's playground which is in relatively good condition. Equipment in the playground includes two (2) swings, a slide, climbing equipment, a digger, and a spring rocker. Course river sand is used as soft fall material. There is a bench seat which is located nearby the play equipment.

Passive Recreation Area

The passive recreation area at the site is in relatively good condition however, the block has a slight slope. There a number of large shade trees near the play equipment with a bench seat beneath.

Car Parking

Informal car parking is available at North Rothbury Playground via the streets surrounding the park. Vehicles can enter the site from the street as there is no fencing.

Land Use and Activity

North Rothbury Playground is mainly utilised for general recreation as the tennis court is no longer operational. The playground equipment and passive area is utilised year round by local residents. The passive area is also utilised for walking and picnicking.

Maintenance of Facilities

There are no current leases or licence agreements pertaining to North Rothbury Playground. Cessnock City Council is therefore responsible for all maintenance duties at this site which include:

- Mowing of all grassed areas within the boundary of the premises.
- Maintaining all forms of seating and shelters;
- Drainage;
- Play equipment;
- Fencing;
- Maintaining the tennis court and club house;
- Trees located in the park;
- Gardens located at the site;

This plan of management authorise the granting of easements where the Council decides it is necessary to do so.

In addition this plan of management authorises the granting of leases and licences or delegation of management of the land for purposes consistent with the goals, issues and objectives included in the plan. Leases and licences may be for periods up to 21 years, subject to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.

Future Land Use

Following an analysis of demand for tennis facilities in the North Rothbury area and based on current usage, the tennis portion of the site has been identified within the Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan as excess to Council's needs.

Future plans for the use of the facilities within North Rothbury Playground are varied. Future short term casual uses include:

- Food Vending
- Busking and Entertainment
- Sale of Alcohol
- Community and Private events
- Filming
- Use of buildings

Fees determined by Council may be charged for the use of North Rothbury Playground, which will be depended on the type of use.

Management of the Land

The objective and performance targets below provide the framework for the management of North Rothbury Playground. The objective and performance targets listed are consistent with anticipated availability of resources.

The priorities in this implementation plan have been determined through community consultation and recreation planning data and are subject to the availability of resources.

This action plan will be reviewed annually and adjustments made in conjunction with the annual estimates process.

The key objectives which were cited in the introduction are revisited to illustrate what each strategy is aiming to achieve.

- To plan for the continual development and maintenance of recreational resources to a high standard for the convenience and well being of users;
- To plan for progressive improvements of the quality and appearance of parks, playgrounds and sportsgrounds as funds become available;
- To facilitate the effective, equitable and efficient management of the land within;
- To provide a broad spectrum of safe, high quality recreational opportunities;
- To distribute future recreational resources as community demand and financial viability dictates;
- To maintain clear communication channels with stakeholders, the public and nearby residences;
- To make provision for the sale of undesirable open-space areas, leases, licences and agreements in respect of the utilisation of council's recreational assets; and
- To make provision for licence agreements for periods up to 21 years in respect of the utilisation of councils recreational assets.

Implementation Action Plan

Management Issues	Objective and Performance Targets	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Targets	Assessment of Performance in Relation to Objectives and Performance Targets
Recreation Resources	To continually enhance and develop the buildings located at the site as resources become available.	The tennis club house is demolished	Council recommendations. Feedback received from the community and key user groups.
	To continually enhance and develop the facilities at the site as resources become available.	Playground upgrade, consolidation and installation of rubber wetpour safety surfacing is complete.	Council recommendations. Feedback received from the community and key user groups.
		Picnic shelter and seating are installed.	Council recommendations. Feedback received from the community and key user groups.
		Fencing is installed at the site.	Council recommendations. Feedback received from the community and key user groups.
		Landscaping is completed.	Council recommendations. Feedback received from the community and key user groups.
		Facilities are improved as required, based on their current condition.	Council recommendations. Feedback received from the community and key user groups.
Community Competitions and Events	Encourage, organise and administer sporting and community events.	Allocation of recreational resources for sporting and community events to occur on a regular basis.	Records of frequency & types of events to be kept as well as attendance figures.
	Promote community events through respective local, state and regional areas	Events are recognised in media releases, advertisements and other forms of promotional material.	Level of media coverage and general awareness of events.

Management Issues	Objective and Performance Targets	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Targets	Assessment of Performance in Relation to Objectives and Performance Targets
Partnerships with Stakeholders	Facilitate regular contact with stakeholders, such as key users, i.e. local residents	Quarterly meetings are held with key stakeholders. Contact details are kept up to date and contact is made as needed.	Minutes from meetings are recorded and acted upon. Assessed through Councils internal Customer Request Management System.
	Where necessary, any queries, requests or complaints are passed on.	Queries, requests and complaints are recorded and referred to the relevant party in a timely manner.	Complaints and requests are recorded via Councils internal Customer Request Management System, and acted on in a timely manner.
	Provide financial reports for activities occurring in regard to the land.	Reports are available and provided when requested, e.g. licence agreement requirements, grant applications.	Information provided within financial reports.
Providing Support and Advice to Community Groups	Identify and communicate funding opportunities available to the community groups.	Organisations are notified of Dollar for Dollar grant opportunities as well as other funding initiatives operating within Council.	Number of grants applied for by community groups. Level of support from Council with preparation of grants.
		Clubs are notified of all government department grants that are available. E.g. Capital Assistance Programs which are provided by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation.	Number of grants applied for by community groups. Level of support from Council with preparation of grants.

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Management Issues	Objective and Performance Targets	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Targets	Assessment of Performance in Relation to Objectives and Performance Targets
Providing Support and Advice to Community Groups (Continued)	Provide professional advice with regard to development concepts /designs and management issues.	Council maintains continual contact with local sporting clubs. When requested, Council provides accurate and prompt advice. Where appropriate Council may instigate a project.	Minutes from meetings are distributed and acted on.
	Where possible, provide funding support for developments and improvements made to North Rothbury Playground.	Appropriate projects are added to Capital Works and Planned Maintenance Program, or alternate sources identified.	Amount of funding provided from Council or alternate source. Completion of project in a timely manner.
Informal/Social Recreation	To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community.	North Rothbury Playgrounds provide areas where sporting activities and organised games can be conducted.	Number of activities and games provided on an annual basis.
	To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities.	Allocation of North Rothbury Playground for this type of use. North Rothbury Playground provide areas where recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities can be held.	Number of patrons attending organised events, number of people utilising passive park areas. Diversity of events.
	To provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games.	Open space area provided within North Rothbury Playground.	Number of patrons attending organised events, number of people utilising passive park areas.
	Maximise availability for passive recreational use within North Rothbury Playground.	Promote use of North Rothbury Playground outside peak sporting use. Limit organised activities in passive recreation areas.	Ongoing promotion of area by Council. Data is available on attendance figures.

Management Issues	Objective and Performance Targets	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Targets	Assessment of Performance in Relation to Objectives and Performance Targets
Communication	Ensure that activities and events are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.	Sporting Clubs, Community Clubs and Council Develop and adopt consultation protocols.	Feedback is reviewed via Councils Internal Customer Request Management System.
	Provide advance notice to nearby residents of any events/activities that may produce excessive noise or traffic congestion.	Nearby residents receive notice (verbal or written) of any such events/activities at least two days prior to the event taking place.	Feedback received from community regarding proposed events.
	Offer opportunities for residents to provide feedback in regard to the management of North Rothbury Playground.	Residents are provided with Council details.	Level of feedback received from community regarding management of North Rothbury Playground.
Licence Agreements	Ensure that all lease and licence agreements pertaining to North Rothbury Playground are current.	Review, assess and renegotiate lease and licence agreements as they expire.	Lease agreements are reviewed as required.
	Ensure all lease and licence agreements are consistent with the core objectives for management of community land categorised as Parkland.	Relevant legislation regarding lease and licence agreements is readily available when negotiating new lease and licence agreements.	Plans of Management are reviewed as required.

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Management Issues	Objective and Performance Targets	Means of Achieving Objective and Performance Targets	Assessment of Performance in Relation to Objectives and Performance Targets
<p>Licence Agreements (Continued)</p>	<p>Provide facilities on the land to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public. In relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land.</p>	<p>Negotiate leases, licences and estates as required.</p>	<p>Implement leases, licences and estates as required.</p>
	<p>To make provision for lease and licence agreements where appropriate.</p>	<p>Licences are reviewed upon expiry and provision for 21 year licence is made by application to the Minister for Planning where appropriate.</p>	<p>Feedback received from Minister for Planning.</p>
<p>Future Needs</p>	<p>Provide facilities on the land to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public. In relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public</p>	<p>North Rothbury Playground is recognised in Councils Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>The Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan is reviewed every five years.</p>