



## **PARKS AND GARDENS POLICY**

October 2005

## **Policy**

That Mosman's Parks and Gardens assets are preserved and enhanced utilising a sustainable, holistic management approach to provide facilities that are enjoyed for both passive and active recreation by residents and visitors now and into the future.

## **Introduction**

Council is committed to providing quality parks and garden areas for its residents and visitors. Mosman's parks and gardens are to be maintained and managed to the highest possible standard by effectively utilising available resources.

Within Mosman local government area there are several types of open space which are used by residents and visitors for both active and passive recreational activities. These are:

- Sporting Fields and Ovals
- Bushland areas
- Parks and Gardens

While acknowledging there can be some similarities between these three types of public open space this policy relates specifically to Parks and Gardens which are generally used for passive recreation activities. Some active recreation activities may occur in these areas but they are generally one off and involve social participants rather than organised sporting competitions. Council has in place separate policies governing the management of its bushland areas and sporting fields and ovals.

Parks and Gardens provide aesthetic, environmental, recreational, social and cultural benefits to a community. Within Mosman there is a network of public parks and gardens that serve as locations for various forms of passive and active recreation for all age groups. These areas are an important component of the community's assets because they:

- Provide opportunities to maintain and enhance the visual amenity of Mosman.
- Can hold significant cultural value for residents and visitors to Mosman.
- Provide positive influences on both the local and broader environment.
- Provide meeting places for formal & informal and public & private functions.
- Help define the municipal character.

Public parks and gardens vary in size. Some are areas that are regionally significant which are well used by residents and visitors alike. Some are local or neighborhood parks and gardens that are valued by those in the immediate area.

Each park or garden area has individual qualities that are enjoyed by those which use that particular area. The qualities, benefits and values of individual areas need to be balanced against the value of Mosman's parks and gardens and the collective benefits they provide to the community as a whole. As such this policy recognises the importance of taking a holistic view in regard to the ongoing management and maintenance of parks and gardens. It is considered that this measured approach will ensure all areas are effectively managed for the benefit of all those who enjoy Mosman's parks and gardens well into the future.

## **Scope of the Policy**

Broadly, the goal of the Policy is to ensure the provision of quality parks and gardens within available resources for the benefit and use of Mosman residents and visitors alike.

The policy does not apply to Special Events as defined in Council's Special Event Management Policy. Special Events are governed by the Special Events Management Policy. The policy also does not apply to school activities carried out on reserves (not playing fields) as defined in the School Activities on Reserves Policy. These activities are governed by the School Activities on Reserves Policy.

There are two main areas of consideration within this Policy. A strategy to deal with each is detailed in the document. The two areas are:

1. Maintenance Activities
2. Capital Improvements

Whilst these strategies are considered appropriate at the present time, they may change in the future as improvements are implemented to parks and gardens and priorities change.

Council has other policy documents which are relevant to the use of parks and gardens in Mosman. Related Council Policies include the following:

- Special Events Management Policy.
- School Activities on Reserves Policy.

The policy applies to:

1. All parks, gardens, open space and reserves in Mosman zoned Public Recreation (6a) under Mosman LEP 1998, except the following:
  - Sporting Fields and Ovals as identified in the Policy for Use and Maintenance of Sporting Fields
  - Unmade roads managed for their bushland value under the Unmade Roads Improvement Program
2. All public gardens in road reserves and civic spaces

## **Objectives**

The specific objectives of the policy are to:

- Have a range of safe, visually pleasing, high quality and well maintained passive recreation areas throughout Mosman.
- Have maintenance strategies and activities in place that support Council's objectives.
- Have the costs of maintenance recognised and partially recouped via appropriate fee structures for hire by private persons (See Council's current Pricing Policy).
- Ensure sustainability of available Council resources so to provide effective management and administration of Council's Parks and Gardens programs.
- Limit the consumption of natural resources (e.g. water for irrigation) and encourage and promote environmentally sustainable practices in the maintenance of Council's Parks and Gardens.
- In view of the amphitheatre landforms surrounding Mosman's coves (eg Rosherville or Clifton Gardens) that this present vegetative backdrop be protected and preserved as part of the amenity of the park.
- Have improvements identified for inclusion in plans of management for larger passive recreation reserves, including assessment of locations and philosophy for public art works.
- Have specific programs for improvement of smaller Parks and Gardens that do not have a site specific plan of management.
- Ensure that Mosman's Parks and Gardens are well managed so they will continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

## **Strategies**

### **Maintenance Activities**

There are several aspects and requirements of Parks and Gardens management which need to be considered to ensure that Mosman's parks and gardens are maintained as efficiently and effectively as possible. These include:

- Turf Management
- Garden maintenance
- Irrigation
- Playgrounds management
- Weed, pest and disease control
- Tree management

To achieve the highest possible level of service for available resources Council will continue to adopt a proactive and integrated approach to its parks and gardens maintenance.

### **Capital Improvements**

Parks and Gardens capital upgrades will include projects such as levelling and soil restoration, drainage, irrigation and planting projects. As with maintenance programs, capital projects which are to be undertaken will be selected on the basis of Mosman's parks being viewed as a whole and the increase in value or benefits that a particular project will bring to the community. For example capital projects to improve popular and well used areas will generally be seen as a higher priority as they will provide greater benefit to a broader section of the community.

### **Related Policies and Programs**

Mosman Council's Parks and Gardens Policy has been developed considering and should be read in conjunction with the following Council adopted strategies and programs:

- Urban Forest Policy.
- Policy For Use and Maintenance of Sporting Fields.
- Mosman Council Plans of Management & Management Frameworks.
- Open Space Capital Improvements Program.
- Public Gardens Upgrade Program.
- Bushland Management Program.
- Playground Upgrade Program.
- Contract for Parks & Gardens Management and associated works.
- Contract for Turf Management and associated works.
- Contract for Tree Management and associated works.
- Mosman Cultural Plan 2005 – 2009.