



Plan of Management for Rawlings Park

2008–2013

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1. Introduction

This Plan of Management has been prepared by the Wagga Wagga City Council for Rawlings Park.

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this Plan is to provide directions to management and operational staff about how to manage Rawlings Park for the next 5 years. The Plan will also communicate intended management to the community.

1.2 Relevant Lands

This Plan of Management is for Rawlings Park as shown on Map 1. It is located east of Lake Albert and 9km from the Wagga Wagga CBD. It includes 25Ha of sports fields in the north (DP 26343, DP 7331). It does not include the 71Ha of bushland in the south.

RAWLINGS PARK - Map 1



1.3 Regional Setting

Rawlings Park is located at the edge of the Wagga Wagga urban area. It is bounded on the north by Brunskill Road, Crown Land Reserve to the south and by residential developments to the east and west.

1.4 History of land use

Rawlings Park was first developed in 1982 and officially opened in 1986. Early development included two sports fields with irrigation. Later a childcare facility and scout hall were established in 1991 within the sporting precinct.

2. Planning context

2.1 Previous Plans

A Plan of Management was adopted in August 2000. It proposed future development of Rawlings Park in the northern portion and development of two baseball diamonds in the south adjacent to Angel Street.

2.2 Relevant Legislation

Legislation that is relevant to this Plan of Management includes:

- Local Government Act (1993)
- Rural Fires Act (1997)
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979)
- Public Works Act (1912)
- Threatened Conservation Species Act (1995)
- Native Vegetation Act (2003)
- Clean Waters Act (1970)
- Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan (Draft 2008)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (2000)
- State Environmental Planning policies

Local Government Act 1993

The Local Government Act directs that all non operational community lands require plans of management. The Act prescribes the following guidelines for the preparation of plans of management for community lands:

- (1) A Council must prepare a draft plan of management for community land.
- (2) A draft plan of management may apply to one or more areas of community land, except as provided by this Division.
- (3) A plan of management for community land 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.

2.3 Relevant Planning Policies

The construction of all open space infrastructure that complies with the Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan is exempt development.

Wagga Wagga Council has developed a range of other planning initiatives which influence this Plan. These include:

- Recreation and Open Space Strategy (2005)
- Wagga Wagga Natural Resources Management Plan (1998)
- Council's Strategic Plan 2008-2018
- Wagga Wagga City Council's Annual Management Plan
- Wagga Wagga Community Social Plan 2009 – 2013 (Draft 2008)
- Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan (Draft 2008)
- Strategic Plan for Recreation in Wagga Wagga (1998)
- Wagga Wagga Bikeway Plan (1998)
- Strategic Plan for management of Public Land in the City of Wagga Wagga (1995)

There are also a number of relevant Council policies including:

Council Run Community Events

Community Services

Access and Equity

Youth

Noxious Weeds

Stormwater

Leasing and Licensing

Signs for Reserves, Gardens and Public Reserves

Cultural Policies

Tree Management

Risk Management

OH&S

Events Support

2.4 Community Consultation

This Plan of Management has been developed based on a community consultation process. The consultation involved interviews with key stakeholders, a public workshop and public exhibition. There were approximately 16 participants at the community workshop held on 23 October 2007. Responses were also received through the Council website.

3. Values of the Park

3.1 Sporting and Recreational Values

Rawlings Park is a major sports precinct for Wagga Wagga. It is the city's largest junior and senior soccer venue. It also provides ovals for cricket. Rawlings Park is used by the general public for fitness, dog exercise, horse riding and walking activities. It contains a number of facilities including a scout hall, soccer storage building, cricket practice wickets, childcare centre and toilet block.

3.2 Natural Values

The topography of Rawlings Park is low lying and prone to flooding. It has two watercourses with heavy alluvial soils. The original vegetation is *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) in the lower areas and *E. blakelyi* (Red Box), *E. albens* (White Box) and *E. melliodora* (Yellow Box) on the drier soils.

It is likely that the Park has some conservation significance as a Box-Gum Woodland Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) (Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995). There are many mature trees remaining however the understorey has been disturbed. The existing water body in the area provide habitat for a range of aquatic animals.

4. Management Issues

The following management issues have been identified after review of the site and discussions with Council staff, user groups and the general community. These issues are addressed in the management strategies (Section 5).

4.1 Lack of carparking for sports fields

There is limited carparking within the Rawlings Park precinct. At high use times such as weekends, cars will park within the adjoining urban streets. This creates traffic congestion and a disturbance for the local community.

4.2 Lack of soccer fields

The demand for soccer is growing, especially at junior levels (Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2005). Currently there are not enough fields to service future demand for soccer training and games. Furthermore overuse of the ovals leads to degradation of the turf playing surface.

4.3 Limited amenities

There is a lack of amenities in Rawlings Park given the large amount of use, especially at peak times. There is one toilet block located at the southern end of the Park which is sometimes not open at peak use times. There are also no picnic facilities, limited rubbish bins and poor pedestrian lighting.

4.4 Quality of playing surface

User groups have stated that the playing surface is not satisfactory especially in the drier months and during drought.

5. Management Strategies

The following management strategies have been developed from management objectives and issues (section 4). The strategies include specific actions, ongoing actions and policies.

5.1 Objectives of Management

The following specific management objectives have been developed based on the issues and values of the Park.

1. Maintain and develop Rawlings Park as a major sporting precinct - especially for soccer
2. Mitigate traffic impacts on the surrounding urban areas
3. Protect and rehabilitate the natural values of Rawlings Park
4. Manage passive recreation usage of the area

5.2 Management actions and policies

5.2.1 Maintain and develop Rawlings Park as a major sporting precinct - especially for soccer

1. Investigate the feasibility of developing additional soccer fields and amenities in the northern or southern portion of Rawlings Park
2. Investigate drainage solutions for existing playing fields and new developments
3. Review the lighting to ensure provision of pedestrian lighting to carparks
4. Investigate improved security fencing around the irrigation pond

5.2.2 Mitigate traffic impacts on the surrounding urban areas

5. Develop new carparks to adequately cater for all visitor parking onsite
6. Investigate the closure of the road reserves located within Rawlings Park (Angel and Hume Streets)
7. Install vehicle barriers around all carparks and the terminus of Angel Street to prevent vehicle movement into Rawlings Park
8. Upon provision of proposed carparks install signage which prohibits carparking in the adjoining streets
9. Investigate local area traffic management systems to address irresponsible driving around the precinct

5.2.3 Protect and rehabilitate the natural values of Rawlings Park

10. Continue the seasonal weed spraying program
11. Install vehicle and motorbike barrier fencing at strategic locations around the Park to reduce illegal vehicle entry
12. Appropriately manage bike jump facilities

5.2.4 Manage passive recreation usage of the area

13. Develop a picnic area off Angel Street
14. Improve the pedestrian/cycle track link from Angel Street through to Silverwood Road

6. Implementation Plan

The following actions will be undertaken according to their timeframe. These actions will be used as a basis for future budget consideration and provide the specific direction for operational works plans.

Table 1. Management Actions

Action	Activity No.	Timeframe
Investigate the feasibility of developing additional soccer fields and amenities in the northern or southern portion of Rawlings Park	1	2008
Develop new carparks to adequately cater for all visitor parking onsite	5	2009
Review the lighting to ensure provision of pedestrian lighting to carparks	3	2009
Investigate improved security fencing around the irrigation pond	4	2009
Upon provision of proposed carparks install signage which prohibits carparking in the adjoining streets	8	2009
Develop a picnic area off Angel Street	13	2009
Investigate the closure of the road reserves located within Rawlings Park (Angel and Hume Streets)	6	2009
Install vehicle barriers around all carparks and the terminus of Angel Street to prevent vehicle movement into Rawlings Park	7	2010
Investigate drainage solutions for existing playing fields and new developments	2	2010
Install vehicle and motorbike barrier fencing at strategic locations around the bushland reserve to reduce illegal vehicle entry	11	2010
Investigate local area traffic management systems to address irresponsible driving around the precinct	9	2010
Improve the pedestrian/cycle track link from Angel Street through to Silverwood Road	14	2013
Continue the seasonal weed spraying program	10	Ongoing
Appropriately manage bike jump facilities	12	Ongoing

References

Priday, S. and Mulvaney, M. 2005, *The Native Vegetation and Threatened Species of the City of Wagga Wagga*. Department of Environment and Conservation, Queanbeyan, NSW.

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StratCorp Consulting Pty Ltd 2005, *Recreation and Open Space Strategy (2005 – 2015)*. Prepared for Wagga Wagga City Council (2005).