EMERSON STREET RESERVE
WETHERILL PARK
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

FAIRFIELD CITY COUNCIL
MAY 2000
HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

During the preparation of the Plan of Management for Emerson Street Reserve there has been significant community and stakeholder consultation, the outcomes of which are reflected in this draft report. Written submissions to the draft report give the community an opportunity to make a response to the Plan of Management prior to its presentation to Council. Written submission in respect of this Plan of Management should be addressed to:

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Please quote file reference G01-23-098

To ensure that submissions are as effective as possible it is suggested to:

- Include your name, address and contact telephone number
- State which Plan of Management you are responding to
- List points according to the Section and Page number
- Briefly describe the issue
- State the points you agree or disagree with
- Suggest alternative options as appropriate

Submissions will be received for 42 days following the first date of public exhibition of this Plan of Management.

Any representation, statement, opinion or advice expressed or implied in this document is made in good faith on the basis that Fairfield City Council, its agents and employees are not liable (whether by reason, negligence, lack of care or otherwise) to any person for any damage or loss whatsoever which has occurred or may occur in relation to that person taking or not taking (as the case may be) action in respect of any representation, statement or advice referred to above.
“Emerson Street Reserve, Wetherill Park will be part of an integrated system of open space within the Fairfield Local Government Area (or LGA) linked to increase and enhance its value to the community.

The reserve will provide a variety of recreational opportunities for organised and informal sporting activities and games for the community to enjoy.

Emerson Street Reserve will be a safe, well maintained and pleasant environment, appreciated and used by the local residents and community of Wetherill Park.”

Emerson Street Reserve
Vision Statement
Fig 1. Map showing location of Emerson Street Reserve in the Fairfield local government area.
Fig. 2  Aerial photograph, Emerson Street Reserve and the surrounding area.
SUMMARY

PLANS OF MANAGEMENT
Plans of Management provide a direction for the future use, development and management of community land. This Plan of Management for Emerson Street Reserve, Wetherill Park has been prepared by Fairfield City Council as a requirement of the Local Government Act (or LG Act) 1993 and the amendments to the legislation contained in the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 – (amended LG Act).

Emerson Street Reserve has a site specific Plan of Management adopted in 1994 including a master plan proposing a community hall on the site – that has not been constructed. This new Plan of Management incorporates the recent changes to the legislation together with a proposal to develop a skate facility and expressly authorise the leasing of the tennis courts.

In preparing this Plan of Management users of the reserve, key stakeholders and the broader community have been consulted to identify and examine:

- Council’s vision and strategy for open space management.
- The current status of Emerson Street Reserve.
- The community’s present and future recreational needs which can be supported by Emerson Street Reserve.
- Key values that are important in relation to Emerson Street Reserve.
- The major issues in relation to Emerson Street Reserve and the response to those issues.
- The key objectives for the future use, development and management of Emerson Street Reserve – the strategies (and actions) to achieve the desired outcomes to protect and enhance the values of the reserve, and ameliorate the threats to those values.

This values based approach was designed to increase the relevance of Plans of Management and is based on the assumption that community values (that is, what is important about a place) change more slowly than issues (or what is currently threatening the values).

EMERSON STREET RESERVE, WETHERILL PARK
Emerson Street Reserve is located on The Horsley Drive in the suburb of Wetherill Park in the northern part of the Fairfield Local Government Area (or LGA). Wetherill Park was named after a local businessman who offered 21 acres of his property to the Government for the creation of a park in 1900. The area officially became a suburb in 1979 (George, 1991). Wetherill Park is mostly residential in the southern half of the suburb and in the northern half is the Wetherill Park Industrial Estate. The Horsley Drive is a major road through the suburb linking up to the Hume Highway in the east, through to the rural district in the west.

Emerson Street Reserve is a rectangle of almost 6 hectares of land bordered by The Horsley Drive, Emerson and Mansfield Streets. On the western perimeter of the reserve there is a supermarket and retail development (the Wetherill Park Shopping Centre), and a church (Spanish Seventh-Day Adventist). Single and two-storey detached residences dating from the 1970s are found on the remaining three sides facing onto the reserve, and are characteristic of the local area. On the opposite side of The Horsley Drive is an entry point to another recreational reserve – Wetherill Park Reserve – a park, and Wetherill Park TAFE college that contains a small area of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland. A short walk up through Wetherill Park Reserve leads to Victoria Street and the Wetherill Park Industrial Estate.
The reserve is presently categorised by Fairfield City Council’s Open Space Strategy (Clouston, 1999) as a level 3 Sportsground serving the recreational needs of the Wetherill Park district. Council has used a commonsense approach in categorising the reserve, recognising that although the reserve includes a children’s playground and an area of trees that has a dual role in stormwater management, the land primarily functions as a Sportsground and will be managed as such.

There is a broad range of sporting facilities for the size of the reserve including:
- A tennis facility with four tennis courts and an amenities block – the management of the facility is leased until 2001.
- A half basketball court and two cricket practice nets.
- Sportsfields marked out with two soccer and a shared cricket pitch area that is irrigated, floodlit and surrounded on three sides with a low fence. There is a brick amenities block and a storage container. The facilities are hired by the Wetherill Park Westerners Soccer Club for the Winter months and Wetherill Park Cricket Club in Summer.
- A children’s playground and off-street car parking areas.

The reserve has a number of tall Eucalypts growing in the central part of the site along the drainage line. The edges of the reserve are planted with a range of native trees and shrubs including She-oak, Bottlebrush and Paperbark.

**Future Development of the Site**

It is proposed to enhance the existing sporting facilities with the development of a new skate facility together with associated landscaping works to be located in the north western corner of the reserve, near to the shopping centre and away from the residential area. The facility will be designed for skateboards and in-line skaters. It is proposed that it will be a non-supervised, free-use facility. The draft plan of the reserve at the end of this report outlines the proposed location of the skate facility. The final plan will be subject to further consultations and building approvals.

It is proposed to continue to outsource the management of the tennis facility through a lease agreement and this Plan of Management expressly authorises the option for Council to lease Emerson Street Reserve Tennis Courts.

The landscape character of the reserve will be enhanced with additional tree planting where possible using clean-trunked, locally indigenous species.

**Community Needs**

Fairfield City Council serves a population of 190,920 (as at June, 1998), characterised by a large number of younger aged people. The City of Fairfield has the highest number of migrants of any Local Government Area in Australia. Figures also indicate that the unemployment rate (and the youth unemployment rate in particular) is higher than the Sydney average (King & Assoc. 1997).

The 1996 census figures indicate that in the suburb of Wetherill Park almost half of the population of 5738 was born overseas and 60% of the total population speak a language other than English at home – Italian (9.6%) and Spanish (8.4%) being the two most popular languages.

Young people aged 10 to 14 year make up a little over 1 in 10 (10.5%) of the population, 15-19 years a further 10.5% and people aged 20 to 24 make up another 8.1% of the total population – the numbers of young people have increase since the 1991 census (Fairfield City Council, 1999).

In addition to local residents, there are significant numbers of people who come to work in the suburb, in particular to the large industrial estate of Wetherill Park.
Separate housing dominates the area comprising 90% of the total occupied dwellings and more than 80% of the houses are owned or being purchased (Fairfield City Council, 1999).

The skate facility was first proposed to Council by a group of local young people who successfully lobbied and petitioned to have the proposal explored. Emerson Street Reserve was chosen as a proposed site because the size of the reserve presented the opportunity to develop a skate facility and because of its proximity to transport.

COUNCIL VISION
Council’s vision for the City of Fairfield is summarised in a ten point statement. Adopted in December 1999 the vision encompasses a clean and green city with a range of connected open space and recreation areas. An accessible city with services delivered on an equitable basis, and a city that maintains its publicly owned assets for future generations. The Management Plan for Fairfield City, adopted in June 1999, affirms that Council exists to service the community and that:

“Fairfield’s residents enjoy the many benefits that access to a diverse range of quality, affordable recreational, sport and leisure opportunities can provide.”

VALUES OF EMERSON STREET RESERVE
The consultation process undertaken for the preparation of this Plan of Management identified the main values of Emerson Street Reserve as:

- It is a relatively large reserve that primarily provides for a variety of sporting activities and games, but also provides passive recreational opportunities.
- There is a broad range of existing sporting facilities on the reserve that are well used by the local community, school groups and private clubs.
- The reserve is conveniently located close to public transport and shops, and there is off-street car parking.
- There is potential for linkage with Wetherill Park Reserve – a park on the opposite side of The Horsley Drive, thus increasing the total amenity value of both areas.
- The reserve “feels safe” – it is a large and relatively open reserve with good passive surveillance opportunities from the residences along Mansfield Street and from the Tennis Courts which are well-used.
- There are established plantings of trees and shrubs that add to the amenity value and visual appeal of the reserve.
- The reserve is generally well-maintained.
- The reserve is “youth friendly” – it is close to transport and shops, clean and safe, has a good range of existing facilities for younger people and it is relatively large space.

The reserve at 5.968 hectares is larger than the average size of reserve in Fairfield LGA. It provides for tennis, soccer and cricket matches, basketball and cricket practice and children’s play, in addition to providing the opportunity for passive recreation and playing a role in the stormwater management of the local area.

There are a number of mature trees on the reserve with an under-storey of mixed turf grasses. The trees provide shade and add to the visual amenity and landscape character of the reserve. The tree species are locally indigenous and represent a visual link to the Cumberland Plain Woodland vegetation that once covered most of Fairfield LGA. There is a pocket of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland in the TAFE college grounds opposite and Wetherill Park Reserve is located on the opposite side of The Horsley Drive. There is potential to enhance the linkages between the two reserves and the adjacent area of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland in the TAFE college grounds to increase the total area for passive recreation opportunities – for example with tree planting.
As a Sportsground, Emerson Street Reserve has intrinsic value in providing recreational facilities to bring the community together, encourage teamwork and community spirit.

The Horsley Drive is a major vehicular transport route. There is good public and private transport available to the reserve.

**Threats to the Values of Emerson Street Reserve**

During the consultation process, issues were identified as threats to the values of Emerson Street Reserve. The two major issues for local residents were noise and hours of operation. The reserve is adjacent to a busy and noisy road (The Horsley Drive), anecdotal evidence from local residents suggest that noise from the road lessens after 7pm. There have been incidents in the past of floodlights on the reserve after 10pm at night and of basketball being played late at night and disturbing local residents. Local residents insist that all floodlights on the reserve must be extinguished by 10pm.

The majority of the people at the public meeting for the development of this Plan of Management were pro-skate facility. Local residents were not against the proposed skate facility but expressed particular concerns in addition to noise and hours of operation. In summary the concerns related to fears of the facility attracting undesirable groups to the area and an increase in anti-social behaviour on the reserve - for example noise disturbing residents late at night, vandalism, alcohol and drug problems (broken bottles and discarded needles). There was concern expressed for safe routes to and through the reserve for children to use.

Other concerns were:
- Anti-social behaviour on the reserve including vandalism of the amenities block and isolated incidents of drug taking and hooliganism.
- Issues with the management of the tennis court lease for example lights being left on and disturbing residents on The Horsley Drive.
- A rusty container on the reserve that has been vandalised with graffiti and is being used by the soccer/cricket club for additional storage detracting from the visual amenity of the reserve.
- Sometimes poor quality of the playing surfaces of the soccer/cricket pitch as it is in use throughout the year with no off-season.
- Lack of defined pedestrian and cycle paths to and through the reserve.
- Occasional reports of unauthorised cars accessing the reserve.
- Dual role of the reserve in stormwater management may be affecting the health of some of the trees.
- Limits to games owing to the size of the basketball court (half court)
- Occasional reports of nuisance dogs on the reserve.

**Outcomes in response to the issues**

Extensive research and community consultation identified a need to provide suitable facilities for youth in the area. In response to the concerns of local residents over the skate facility:
- Council will be pro-active in working with local residents and shop owners, users of the skate facility and the local police to establish agreed “rules of use” and encourage good neighbourly relations. Signage will be installed to inform users of the “rules of use” and encourage users to wear appropriate protective gear.
- The proposed skate facility will be constructed from concrete to minimise noise. It will be located away from residences and landscaped to minimise noise.
- Floodlights on the reserve will be turned off by 10pm each evening. It is not proposed to floodlight the skate facility.
- Council will conduct regular inspections to clear rubbish.
- Council has an existing graffiti prevention and removal program working with the Department of Juvenile Justice Community Service Order Program.
A range of measures is proposed to protect the values of the reserve and address the issues. These include:

- Enhance the linkages between Emerson Street and Wetherill Park Reserve.
- Seek funding for “access positive” pedestrian, bicycle and skate routes to and through the reserve.
- Examine the potential for upgrading the children’s playground with consideration given to the softfall material, shade and the provision of seating for carers.
- Work with hirers of the sportsground to develop policy on containers with consideration to storage needs, risk management and aesthetics.
- Plant additional trees on the reserve to increase the visual amenity and opportunities for passive recreation.
- Install additional seating on the reserve.
- Enlist the aid of the local community in keeping the area clean and safe and encourage passive surveillance through a “Park Care” or similar scheme.
- Lease the tennis courts imposing the obligations of management and maintenance on the tenant to the benefit the community.
- Examine the community need to develop a full-sized basketball court to replace the existing half-court.

OBJECTIVES FOR MANAGEMENT
In addition to the core objectives for Sportsgrounds as prescribed by the legislation, this Plan of Management has identified associated objectives for management which support the values of Emerson Street Reserve and address the threats to those values. In summary the objectives for management are:

Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a Sportsground are to:
1. Encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games.
2. Ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on surrounding or nearby residences.

Associated objectives identified in the development of this Plan of Management to support the core objectives:
3. Manage and develop the reserve to reflect the needs of the community.
4. Maintain a safe and secure reserve for the community.
5. Protect and enhance linkages within and around the reserve and with other areas of open space.
6. Ensure the reserve remains accessible to the community.
7. Maintain environmental quality on site and in surrounding areas.
8. Maintain and enhance the visual appeal and landscape character of the reserve.
9. Maintain and establish partnerships with the community, user groups and other key stakeholders.
10. Adopt this Plan of Management and implement the action plan.

Section 5.0 of this report details how Council proposes to achieve both the core and associated objectives. It outlines specific management targets, the means to achieve the targets – both strategies and actions, and performance measures.

Inclusion of items in this Plan of Management does not necessarily mean that they will be funded by Fairfield City Council. The Plan of Management determines the development direction for the land and does not require that all items be implemented.

Prior to implementing this Plan of Management it will be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days and submissions invited with a response period of not less than 42 days from the initial date of exhibition. Information on how to respond to this Plan of Management can be found on page 2.
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Section 1.0

Introduction

Explains what a Plan of Management is, locates the study area and describes the study approach and report format.
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHAT IS A PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

A Plan of Management is a strategic document that outlines the long-term (5-10 year) future use, development and management of community land. It is a recreational planning tool that combines Council’s vision for open space, outcomes defined by community consultation and current best practice in land management. Operational plans for the day to day management of the land are developed using Plans of Management as a framework for decision making – a pro-active way of prioritising works programs and budgets. A Plan of Management can be specific to one parcel of land, or generic and include a number of areas of similar land. This is a Plan of Management for a single reserve.

Under Section 36(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 (or LG Act), all community land must have a Plan of Management. The Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 (or amended LG Act) came into effect from 1 January 1999. As a result Councils are required to update their existing Plans of Management to incorporate the requirements of the amended Act.

The aim of the legislation is to:
- Promote best practice in the management of environmentally sensitive land.
- Curb inappropriate alienation of community land for private purposes.
- Reinforce the public’s right to participate in public land management.
- Assist Councils in the categorisation of community land and the management of that land.

The legislation states that all community land must be categorised as either a:
- Natural Area
- Sportsground
- Park
- Area of Cultural Significance
- General Community Use

The amended LG Act subdivides the Natural Area categorisation into:
- Bushland
- Wetland
- Watercourse
- Foreshore
- Escarpment

Each of these categories is specifically defined and each has a number of core objectives associated with the categorisation that must be achieved.

To satisfy the legislation a Plan of Management must:
- Identify the category of the land.
- Identify the objectives and the performance targets of the plan with respect to the land.
- Outline the means by which the Council proposes to achieve the plan’s objectives and performance targets.
- Describe the manner in which the Council proposes to assess performance with respect to the plan’s objectives and performance targets.
- Expressly authorise any leases, licences or other estates.

Identification of the study area - Page 15. Sections 2.6 and 4.4 of this report.
Plans of Management that apply to only one area of land also need to:

- Describe the present condition and use of the land and any buildings or other improvements on the land.  
  Section 2.0 to 2.4 – the Current Situation.
- Specify the purposes for which the land and any buildings or other improvements will be permitted to be used.
- Specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise.
- Describe the scale and intensity of any permitted use or further development.  
  Sections 3.4, 3.8, 3.9 and appendix 7.5 of this report.

1.2 IDENTIFICATION OF THE STUDY AREA

The map Fig. 1 on page 4 shows the location of Emerson Street Reserve.

The land covered by this Plan of Management is described as:

Emerson Street Reserve  
The Horsley Drive  
Wetherill Park

Plot 1 DP 939 909 *

* Plot 1 is presently zoned residential but is not operational. It is proposed that Council will re-zone this land to 6(a)

Lot 1 DP 232 207  
Lot 21 DP 214 346

Ownership: Fairfield City Council  
Zoning: 6(a) – Existing and Proposed Recreation under Fairfield Local Environment Plan 1994  
Classification: Community land  
Size: 5.968 hectares (Clouston, 1999)

To satisfy the legislation, the land is categorised as specified under sections 36 (4) and (5) of the amended LG Act as follows:

Categorisation: Sportsground

Appendix 7.1 describes the guidelines for categorisation of land as Sportsground as stated in the amended LG Act.

Hierarchy: Level 3  
Serving the recreational needs of the whole Wetherill Park & Rural planning district.

Appendix 7.2 describes the hierarchy levels used in Fairfield City Council’s Open Space Strategy (Clouston, 1999).
1.3 **HOW THIS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT WAS PREPARED**

This Plan of Management has been prepared using a values based approach to planning as a long-term strategy to establish clear directions for the future management and development of community land, and to enhance the useful life of this document. Issues (seen as threats to the values) and community needs have been considered following community consultation and these are balanced alongside Council’s corporate vision and goals for open space management. Established by this process are the key objectives for management of Emerson Street Reserve. Together with the core objectives for land categorised as a sportsground as defined in the legislation, these are the management strategies that Fairfield City Council proposes to achieve by this Plan of Management.

In summary:

**HOW THIS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT WAS PREPARED:**

**Stage 1:**  
**Research the current situation**  
Consult with Council staff, review reports and visit the site to:
- Identify the values and vision of Fairfield City Council
- Identify the location, locale, key features, physical status, history, issues, constraints, values and current management practices
- Identify current and potential usage, users and their needs
- Examine potential future recreation needs and opportunities
- Establish the overall planning context
- Identify desired outcomes

**Stage 2:**  
**Community and stakeholder consultation**  
Meet with key stakeholders and members of the broader community to:
- Identify key values
- Identify key issues
- Identify needs – both current and potential
- Identify opportunities and desired outcomes to incorporate into the Action Plan

**Stage 3:**  
**Develop the Plan of Management for Emerson Street Reserve**  
Formulate the strategies for the future use, development and management of Emerson Street Reserve by Fairfield City Council. Translate the desired outcomes into an Action Plan:
- Formulate associated objectives in addition to the core objectives identified by the legislation
- Set performance targets
- Establish the means by which Council proposes to achieve the targets, a timeframe and responsibility within Council
- Establish the manner in which Council will assess whether the targets have been achieved

**Stage 4:**  
**Place the Plan of Management for Emerson Street Reserve on public exhibition for 28 days with a further 14 days for submissions prior to presentation to Council**
1.4 **REPORT STRUCTURE**

This Plan of Management is set out in standard report writing format.

**The Summary**
A concise version of the report designed as a stand alone document for general information.

1.0 **Introduction**
Explains what a Plan of Management is, locates the study area and describes the study approach and report format.

2.0 **Current Situation**
This section examines the present status of Emerson Street Reserve including a general description of the land. The past history and any relevant historical features associated with the area. A broad outline of environmental considerations is given under the headings of climate, landform, soils, vegetation and fauna. This section also details the facilities available and any leases, licences or other estates that currently relate to the land.

3.0 **Basis for Management**
Outlines the vision of Fairfield City Council in relation to open space and the way in which Emerson Street Reserve fits into the general planning context. It highlights the specific values of the reserve – that is, what is important. It also looks at the threats to those values brought up as specific issues by the consultation process and shows how the Plan of Management will respond to those issues. The current role and potential future of Emerson Street Reserve is encompassed in an overall vision statement.

4.0 **Management Strategies**
Blends the community consultation outcomes, site analysis and values for Emerson Street Reserve together with the vision of Fairfield City Council. It states the core objectives which relate to parks as prescribed by the legislation and the key objectives which have come from the analysis of the Current Situation and Basis for Management. Funding strategies and options are also outlined, and leases, licences or other estates relating to the land are expressly authorised.

5.0 **Action Plan**
Sets out in a table format the performance target, means to achieve that target, timeframe, responsibility, and manner of assessment for each of the objectives coming from the Management Strategies. This section of the report is designed as a stand alone document as guidelines for the future use, development and management of Emerson Street Reserve by Fairfield City Council.
Section 2.0

Current Situation

This section examines the present status of Emerson Street Reserve including a general description of the land and study area. The past history and any relevant historical features associated with the area. A broad outline of environmental considerations is given under the headings of climate, landform, soils, vegetation and fauna. This section also details the facilities available and any leases, licences or other estates that currently apply to the land.
2.0 CURRENT SITUATION

2.1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND

Fairfield local government area or LGA, is located approximately 30 kilometres to the south west of Sydney’s Central Business District. Fairfield LGA covers an area of 102.5 square kilometres, includes 27 suburbs grouped into 5 planning districts. Emerson Street Reserve is located in the suburb of Wetherill Park, in the planning district of Wetherill Park (grouped with the Rural district). Appendix 7.3 is a map of Fairfield LGA showing the planning districts and suburbs.

Emerson Street Reserve is a rectangular shaped reserve on the corner of The Horsley Drive and Emerson Street, adjacent to Wetherill Park Shopping Centre. The surrounding area is primarily single and two-storey detached houses. To the north of the reserve is the Wetherill Park industrial area. Emerson Street Reserve is identified in the Open Space Strategy as a level 3 Sportsground providing recreational facilities for the planning district of Wetherill Park and Rural (Clouston, 1999).

Section 36 (3a) of the amended LG Act states that a Plan of Management for one area of land must describe the general condition of the land and any buildings on it. Emerson Street Reserve is a generally well-maintained reserve with good infrastructure. There is some vandalism and graffiti evident on the half basketball court, children’s play equipment and the brick amenities building and container next to the soccer/cricket fields. The cricket practice nets, tennis courts and the associated brick kiosk/amenities building are in a generally good condition. Some of the trees in the detention basin area have died and only stumps remain. There is some evidence of wear on the sporting fields. The remainder of the vegetation is in generally healthy condition.

Sections 2.2 to 2.4 of this report describe the condition of the site in detail. Appendix 7.5 locates the key features described.

2.2 HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF THE WETHERILL PARK AREA

Prior to European settlement in the mid-nineteenth century, Aboriginal people from the Cabrogal tribe lived in the Fairfield LGA (Clouston, 1999). No specific details of the Aboriginal cultural or archaeological significance of Emerson Street Reserve were known at time of writing this report.

European settlement in the mid-nineteenth century followed the construction of the railway line (Clouston, 1999). Wetherill Park was originally developed as an area of market gardens and poultry farms. Wetherill Park was named after a local businessman who offered 21 acres of his property to the Government for the creation of a park in 1900. The area officially became a suburb in 1979 (George, 1991).

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Emerson Street Reserve and surrounds were used for market gardening and poultry farming in common with much of the local area until it was subdivided for housing.

There are no historic features, heritage or cultural elements that have been identified within the reserve.
2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

2.3.1 CLIMATE

The climate of Fairfield LGA is a result of its location on the Cumberland Plain (a landform feature described in section 2.3.2 below). It lies between the Blue Mountains to the west and the influence of the sea along the coast of Sydney some 30 kilometres to the east. It is in a rain shadow created by the higher coastal plateaux which captures the rain from the prevailing south-east winds (Bannerman & Hazelton, 1990). Average annual rainfall is between 870mm (Liverpool) and 862mm (Prospect Reservoir) compared to Sydney’s coastal average of 1260mm per annum (Bureau of Meteorology, 2000).

Summer temperatures (on the Cumberland Plain) are usually higher than in coastal zones which receive the sea breeze (Fairley & Moore, 1995). There is considerable diurnal and seasonal range in temperature within the area (Bannerman & Hazelton, 1990). The mean daily maximum Summer temperature recorded for the nearest weather station at Liverpool for January is 28.1°Celsius down to a minimum of 17.6°Celsius. On average there are 9.6 days in the month when temperatures can rise above 30°Celsius. In Winter the mean daily maximum is 17.3°Celsius in July down to a minimum of 4.6°Celsius. On average there are 7.1 days in the month when temperatures can drop below 2°Celsius (Bureau of Meteorology, 2000).

At the microclimatic level, Emerson Street Reserve is in a sheltered location at the base of a slope and surrounded by development. The ridge line to the north and west and the trees that form a boundary to the reserve on east and south ameliorate the effects of wind on the reserve. Shade is provided by scattered Eucalyptus trees in the central area. The open area of the sports field is more exposed to the effects of both sun and wind.

2.3.2 LANDFORM

Fairfield LGA is located on part the Cumberland Plain - a relatively shallow basin, dissected by a network of creeks which flow to the south-east and drain into the Georges River (George, 1991). Most of the Cumberland Plain consists of undulating country of low hills and boggy depressions (Robinson, 1991).

The watershed for the district lies along the ridgeline to the west that rises in places to more than a hundred metres and forms a backdrop to Fairfield City Farm and Western Sydney Regional Park. Beyond this in the Rural planning district there are 3 creeks originating in Fairfield LGA which flow out to the west and north and eventually into the Hawkesbury River- Ropes Creek, Reedy Creek and Eastern Creek. There are a further 5 creeks which flow to the south and east:

- Cabramatta Creek marks the border with Liverpool Council and ultimately flows into Chipping Norton Lake and the Georges River.
- Prospect Creek, a major tributary of the Georges River, flows from Prospect Reservoir and marks the border with Holroyd Council.
- Orphan School Creek and its tributaries Clear Paddock Creek and Green Valley Creek flow into Prospect Creek and then on to the Georges River.

Emerson Street Reserve is located at the base of a slope that rises to 62 metres at its high point on Victoria Road. The reserve averages between 38 to 40 metres above sea level and is relatively flat. The central part of the reserve has a dual role as a stormwater detention basin. A drainage line runs through the reserve from west to east, flowing into a culvert near Emerson Street from where it ultimately flows into Prospect Creek.
2.3.3 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The Cumberland Plain consists of a deep, almost unbroken layer of Wianamatta Shale at altitudes ranging from 20 to 100m above sea level. The heavy clay soils of the Plain are often poorly drained and poorly aerated, hence swampy depressions are common. Recent sand and clay alluvium occurs along many creeks. (Fairley & Moore, 1995).

There are five identified soil landscape groups (described by Bannerman & Hazelton, 1991) within Fairfield LGA:

- In the area west of Cowpasture Road and around Edensor Park there are erosional soils of the Luddenham Soil Landscape Group, and the colluvial soils of the Picton Group.
- Most of the area is made up of residual soils of the Blacktown Soil Landscape Group.
- In the areas adjacent to the creeklines fluvial soils of the South Creek and Berkshire Park Soil Landscape Groups occur.

Emerson Street Reserve is located on residual soils of the Blacktown Soil Landscape Group. A full description is given in appendix 7.4 at the end of this report. There has been some modification of the original soil of the reserve resulting from the previous market gardening and poultry farming on the land, construction of the housing subdivision, and the landscaping and stormwater drainage works on the site.

2.3.4 VEGETATION

Little of the original vegetation of the Cumberland Plain remains since the area was extensively cleared for grazing and small scale farming in the early days of settlement. Today the rapid spread of suburban sub-division threatens the little that remains (Fairley & Moore, 1995). A tall close-growing open forest once covered most of the Plain but now only scattered patches remain. *Eucalyptus moluccana* (Grey Box) and *E. tereticornis* (Forest Red Gum) are common on the better drained sites. Ironbarks (including *E. fibrosa* and Spotted Gum *Corymbia maculata*) abound in many places, especially on drier rises or lateritic soils. The original ground cover was mainly native grasses with scattered shrubs. Now introduced grasses and the opportunistic native shrub Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*) dominate. Marshy depressions are dominated by Cabbage Gum (*E. amplifolia*), *Melaleuca decora* and other Paperbarks (such as *M. styphelioides*) with a marshy meadow of mainly native herbs. Swamp She-oak (*Casuarina glauca*) follow the creek banks (Robinson, 1991).

The vegetation on Emerson Street Reserve is broadly a mix of locally indigenous mature trees including Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) and Grey Box (*E. moluccana*) some of the trees have died and only stumps remain. The dominant ground cover is a mixed sward of turf grasses – some wear is evident on the sportsfields. Landscape plantings of native species around the perimeter of the reserve and on the low bank along Emerson Street (see fig. 3 on the following page) include *Casuarina glauca*, *Callistemon viminalis* (Bottlebrush) and *Melaleuca styphelioides* (Paperbark). These are grouped close together with approximately 300mm between adjacent plants and a thin layer of bark chip mulch underneath (averaging less than 50mm in depth). The trees have not yet reached maturity and are approximately 4-6 metres tall and appear to be in a healthy condition. Some weeds including annual and grass weeds are found among the plantings. Landscaping around the tennis courts include a mixture of native and exotic plantings.
2.3.5 **FAUNA**

To date, recorded native macro-fauna sightings on Emerson Street Reserve are limited to larger birds living in social groups including Australian Magpies, Galahs, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Noisy Miners. It is possible that a more diverse range of bird species visit the reserve owing to its proximity to a stand of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland in the adjacent TAFE college grounds. This remnant includes tree species and under-storey that represents potential habitat for smaller native birds and other wildlife. It is also possible that waterbirds may occasionally visit the site, though there is currently no available information on fauna sightings on the reserve to confirm this.

2.4 **EXISTING FACILITIES**

Emerson Street Reserve is identified as a district level 3 Sportsground in Fairfield City Council’s Open Space Strategy – serving the recreational needs of whole planning district of Wetherill Park & Rural (Clouston, 1999). There is a broad range of sporting facilities on site all in a generally good condition including tennis courts, soccer fields and a cricket pitch, cricket practice nets and a basketball half-court in addition to a children’s play area. The shared cricket pitch and two soccer field area is bordered by a low fence on three-sides. The area is irrigated and floodlit. It is hired out to the Wetherill Park Westerners Soccer Club (currently between 1 February and 31 August) and the Wetherill Park Cricket Club (between 1 September to 31 March) in addition to being available to the general public for casual sports and games.

There is a large modern brick amenities block (pictured on the following page) adjacent to the pitches that incorporates changing rooms, toilets, a kiosk and referees’ room. In addition there is a container that is used by the clubs for storage. Both structures have been vandalised with graffiti and the container shows signs of rust.
Fig. 4  The amenities building – the storage container is located on the northern side of the building (to the right), there is a small car park area on the southern side.

Adjacent to the amenities building is a small car parking area accessed through a locked boom gate. There is additional parking that has been created along Mansfield Street facing the reserve. A third car parking area is located off The Horsley Drive next to the tennis courts.

The tennis facility incorporates four floodlit hardcourts and a modern brick amenities building/kiosk. The management of the facility is leased until 2001. There is a children’s play area next to the tennis facility pictured below. The equipment includes a unit incorporating swings and a slide. The softfall material is bark chips edged by treated pine logs. There is evidence of some graffiti, though the equipment is in a generally good condition.

Fig. 5  Childrens playground and tennis facility.

There is a half basketball court between the tennis courts and Emerson Street built with funding from the Department of Sport and Recreation – it is rarely used and the hoop shows signs of graffiti. There are also two cricket practice nets in good condition – pictured on the following page.
Fig. 6  Half–sized basket half court shows signs of vandalism and is rarely used compared to the other sporting facilities on site. Its size places limits its use.

Fig. 7  Cricket practice nets.

Appendix 7.5 at the end of this report is a draft plan of the reserve that locates these features.
2.5 THE COMMUNITY AND ITS NEEDS

Around 1900, the population of Fairfield was approximately 2,500. Following the Second World War the population rapidly increased from about 27,000 in 1948 to 38,000 in the 1950s with many ex-servicemen and European migrants settling in the area. By 1979 there were approximately 120,000 living in Fairfield LGA with many new residents, migrants and refugees from South East Asia settling in Cabramatta (Clouston, 1999). Fairfield City Council serves a population of 190,920 (as at June 1998), more than half of whom were born overseas. It is the sixth most populated local government area in NSW and has the highest degree of ethnic diversity – over half (53.5%) of the population were born overseas from 133 different countries and almost two-thirds (64%) of the people use a language other than English at home (Clouston, 1999).

There is a greater than average proportion of families with children, and single parent families than the Sydney statistical average, and a generally lower than average income. The 1996 census showed an unemployment rate of 16% across Fairfield LGA with an even higher rate among young people 15-19 years (23%) and 20-24 years (19%) compared to the Sydney average at the time of 11.6%. The census information also showed a high percentage of low income households, and that around 15% of households did not own a car (King & Associates, 1997).

The 1996 census figures indicate that in the suburb of Wetherill Park almost half of the population of 5738 was born overseas and 60% of the total population speak a language other than English at home – Italian (9.6%) and Spanish (8.4%) being the two most popular languages.

Young people aged 10 to 14 make up a little over 1 in 10 (10.5%) of the population, 15-19 years a further 10.5% and people aged 20 to 24 make up another 8.1% of the total population – the numbers of young people have increase since the 1991 census. (Fairfield City Council, 1999).

Separate housing dominates the area comprising 90% of the total occupied dwellings and more than 80% of the houses are owned or being purchased (Fairfield City Council, 1999).

In addition to local residents, there are significant numbers of people who work on the large industrial estate of Wetherill Park.

Recreational studies by King and Associates, 1997 for Fairfield City Council indicated that community participation in sporting activities in Fairfield LGA is more than 10% above the National average and 5% above the State average. Over one third (36%) of people in the LGA participate in sporting activities. Participation levels were found to be higher in the under 39 age group (43.2%) than the over 40 years age group (21.1%). More men (42%) than women (27%) were involved in sport, and sporting participation was found more likely to increase contrary to a National trend for a reduction in sporting participation.

The major implications were concluded to be:
- The need to provide a broad range of recreational opportunities.
- Safety as a community issue.
- Access to recreational opportunities.

The major community needs identified by the survey were:
- Appealing and attractive areas.
- No fencing of sporting facilities because of the perception of alienation of community land.
- Easy access to facilities via walking tracks and cycleways.
Paths suitable for older adults, strollers and disabled people.
Secure and properly managed areas.
Better promoted facilities.
Seating, shelter and trees for spectators and general relaxation.

The study also identified special needs groups with specific requirements to facilitate their participation in recreational activities and one of those groups was young people. They were found to have a special need for locally accessible evening and night-time activities such as floodlit basketball courts, skateboarding and bmx facilities, and unstructured and affordable meeting places.

The skate facility was first proposed to Council by a group of local young people who petitioned and successfully lobbied to have the proposal explored. Emerson Street Reserve was selected as a site because the size of the reserve presented the opportunity to develop a skate facility and because of its proximity to transport.

### 2.6 CURRENT LEASES, LICENCES AND OTHER ESTATES

A lease or licence over a parcel of community land is a way for the lease or licence holder to secure access to or over the land in return for some benefit to the community. This may be financial with the proceeds being used to improve the land, it may be in direct improvements to the facilities for example the provision of a kiosk, or it may be for the provision of public utilities.

One of the aims of the Local Government Act is to curb inappropriate alienation of community land for private purposes. The legislation sets out to define specific purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate can be permitted on community land.

A lease, licence or other estate applying to community land must be expressly authorised by a Plan of Management and be consistent with the core objectives for the land (section 46(2)) and must be for a purposes listed in section 46(1)(b) of the Local Government Act, 1993 (as amended, 1999). In summary leases, licences or other estates may be granted:

- For the provision of public utilities.
- For a purpose prescribed as a core objectives for management of the land. Emerson Street Reserve is categorised as a Sportsground. The core objectives for management of a Sportsground are stated in section 4.1 of this report.
- For certain short-term casual purposes a set out in the legislation (regulations).
- For residential housing owned by Council or for public roads.
- For providing underground pipes or connections of adjoining premises to utilities situated on community land.
- For the provisions of goods, services and facilities, and the carrying out of activities appropriate to the current and future needs within the local community and of the wider public in relation to public recreation or the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of persons.

The tennis courts are currently managed and maintained under a 5-year lease that ends in 2001. Clause 43 schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended 1999) continues the term of existing leases.

Section 4.4 of this report details the leases, licences and other estates expressly authorised by this Plan of Management for Emerson Street Reserve.
Section 3.0

Basis for Management

Outlines the vision of Fairfield City Council in relation to open space and how Emerson Street Reserve fits into the general planning context. It highlights the specific values of Emerson Street Reserve, i.e., what is important about the reserve. It also looks at the threats to those values brought up as specific issues by the consultation process and shows how the Plan of Management will respond to those issues.

The current role and potential future of Emerson Street Reserve is encompassed in an overall vision statement.
3.0 **Basis for Management**

3.1 **Council’s corporate vision**

Fairfield City Council’s Vision for the City of Fairfield 2010 is a ten point statement and encompasses the diversity of priorities for the city. Adopted by Council in December 1999, this Plan of Management for Emerson Street Reserve will be consistent with Council’s corporate direction and strategies. Specifically relevant to open space is the Council’s vision for:

- **A clean and green** Fairfield with restored waterways and a wide range of open spaces and recreation areas connected into a regional open space, recreational and water system.

- **Attractive residential areas** with avenues of trees, landscapes streets and where infrastructure is well maintained, with less conflict with inappropriate activities.

- **An accessible city** one which connects people, places and activities and has a wide choice of safe, affordable and convenient transport options.

- A city which promotes understanding of cultural diversity and where services are delivered to meet the needs of the community on an **equitable** basis

- A city that has maintained its stock of publicly owned assets in a manner that is **fair to current and future generations**.

- A community which is proud of its City – a place which has a reputation as an **excellent place in which to live, invest and prosper**.

**Fairfield City Council's Management Plan**, adopted June 1999, states that Council exists to provide services to the community. A key strategic output is to develop resources to benefit residents and the environment such that:

“Fairfield’s residents enjoy the many benefits that access to a diverse range of quality, affordable recreational, sport and leisure opportunities can provide.”

The vision of Fairfield City Council’s Management Plan in relation to open space is to:

- Provide a wide variety of facilities and activities to meet the community’s diverse recreational needs, and

- Develop these resources to benefit both our residents and our environment.
3.2 **COUNCIL’S OPEN SPACE STRATEGY**

Fairfield City Council’s Open Space Strategy (Clouston, 1999) sets out to:

- Categorise Council’s open space assets by their type and catchment.
- Determine whether Council’s current open space provision meets the needs of users in each category type.
- Maximise the use of Council’s open space and identify the benefits of this provision to the community.
- Provide Council with a plan which identified future opportunities and direction for open space in Fairfield LGA.

The objectives developed for Emerson Street Reserve’s Plan of Management will be consistent with the outcomes and objectives developed by the Open Space Strategy. Specifically to:

- Provide open space and recreation facilities and activities to meet the needs of the community.
- Improve the quality of open space.
- Ensure equity of access to open space and recreation facilities.
- Improve design and planning in relation to safety
- Develop opportunities for linkages between areas of open space.
- Maintain and manage Council’s recreation resources in an efficient and cost effective manner.
- Develop short, medium and long term management strategies and priorities which optimise the use of Council funds.
- Explore the opportunities for public and private sector partnerships as a means of funding open space and recreation provision.

Specifically in relation to Sportsgrounds, the Open Space Strategy highlighted the need to establish a range of sports facilities by focusing primarily on upgrading and expanding the carrying capacity of existing resources over time. In summary, the key strategies were:

- Undertake staged and prioritised upgrade of sports facilities.
- Establish a hierarchy of playing fields and amenities buildings to help develop priorities for maintenance and renovation works.
- Investigate the option of providing synthetic playing surfaces.
- Continue with playing field surface renovation program.
- Undertake staged and prioritised upgrade of existing amenities buildings.
- Promote Council’s two main leisure centres – Prairiewood and Fairfield.
- Explore opportunities to redevelop Cabramatta Swimming Centre.
- Explore private sector partnerships.
- Explore opportunities to encourage greater community access to facilities owned by schools and other organisations.
3.3 GENERAL PLANNING CONTEXT

The zoning for Emerson Street Reserve in Fairfield City Council’s Local Environmental Plan (LEP), 1994 – amended July 1999, is zone 6(a) existing and proposed recreation. The objectives of this zoning are to:

- Provide public open space to meet the existing and future recreation and leisure needs of residents.
- Provide opportunities to enhance the environmental quality of the City of Fairfield.
- Identify land that is required for future open space purposes.

Permitted without development consent is:

- Open space, roads, works for the purposes of landscaping, gardening or bushfire hazard reduction.

Permitted only with development consent is:

- Agriculture, car parks, child care centres, clubs, communication facilities, community facilities, drainage, entertainment facilities, helicopter landing sites, recreation facilities, utility installations.

Prohibited is any purpose other than a purpose included in the above.

Plot 1 DP 939 909 on the corner of Emerson Street and The Horsley Drive is presently zoned residential but not operational land. It is proposed that Council will re-zone the land to 6(a).

This Plan of Management will be consistent with the relevant legislation (for example Companion Animals Act, 1998 and Noxious Weeds Act, 1993) and with Fairfield City Council policies (for example the Advertising sign and structure code).

3.4 ROLE OF EMERSON STREET RESERVE

Section 36(3A) of the amended LG Act states that (in summary) a Plan of Management for one area of land must describe the purpose for which the land or buildings on the land will be permitted to be used and further developed, and describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

Emerson Street Reserve is categorised as a Sportsground. Its role or purpose is to provide an area of open space for predominantly active recreation but not excluding passive recreational opportunities for the community. Emerson Street Reserve will be used and further developed for this purpose provided that it is within the carrying capacity of the reserve.

There are two brick amenities buildings on the reserve that are used to store sporting equipment, as changing rooms and toilet facilities, and refreshments kiosks. They will continue to be used for this purpose to support the playing of sports on the reserve.

The central part of the reserve plays a dual role in stormwater management (identified in appendix 7.5) and it will continue to be used for this purpose and for passive recreation.

Further detail is provided in sections 3.8 and 3.9 of this report.
3.5 **IDENTIFICATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

In the development of this Plan of Management for Emerson Street Reserve there has been extensive stakeholder and community consultation. Local residents and interested members of the public were invited to a public meeting held on the reserve on Thursday 18 May. In addition to advertisement in the Council public notices section of the local paper, a total of 200 leaflets were distributed to adjacent residences, Wetherill Park Shopping Centre and identified stakeholders. The purpose was to inform of the public meeting, the development of the Plan of Management, the proposals for the reserve, and provided a convenient response mechanism in the form of a standard letter to Council with space for comments. More than 30 people attended the public meeting – mostly young people aged 12-18 keen to find out more information about the proposed skate facility. Key stakeholders contacted during the development of this Plan of Management were:

- Councillors.
- Local residents and adjacent landholders.
- The Skate Committee – a group including Council staff, local skaters and a consultant designer of skate facilities.
- Tennis Court Leasee.
- Wetherill Park Westerners Soccer Club – hirers of the soccer facilities.
- Wetherill Park Cricket Club – hirers of the cricket facilities.
- Wetherill Park Shopping Centre – adjacent to the reserve.
- Westfield Sports High School, Smithfield West Primary School and William Stimson Primary School – local schools who currently use or whose students use the facilities on the reserve.
- The Parks Community Network
- Wetherill Park TAFE College
- Council staff in the City Services, City Outcomes and Environmental Standards Departments.

3.6 **VALUES OF EMERSON STREET RESERVE**

Values in relation to Plans of Management can be defined as what is important about a place. Generally speaking values change more slowly that issues, or threats to the values. Issues can be addressed and therefore are no longer valid whereas a value can be seen as something current to be protected and enhanced, or an opportunity yet to be fully appreciated. By taking a values-based approach to formulating objectives for the management of reserves, the relevance of Plans of Management can be increased and their life-span extended.

The key values of Emerson Street Reserve identified through the Plan of Management consultation process with stakeholders and the local community were:

**The opportunities presented by the size of the reserve**
- The reserve is relatively large at almost 6 hectares and provides a green buffer to the adjacent residential and commercial developments.
- The physical size of the reserve allows space for a variety of recreational opportunities on the site, some of which have yet to be developed.

**The broad range of existing recreational facilities**
- Tennis, Cricket and Soccer matches, Cricket and Basketball practice are provided for with existing facilities on the reserve.
- Children’s play and passive recreational opportunities are provided on the reserve with a children’s play area and a grassy area with trees that has a dual role in stormwater detention.
The reserve is conveniently located close to public transport and shops

- The Horsley Drive is a major public transport route for both public and private buses providing convenient access to the reserve for people without their own motor vehicle.
- Off-street car parking is provided adjacent to the Tennis Courts and along the northern side of Mansfield Street. There is an additional car parking area near the amenities building accessed from Mansfield Street.

There is potential for linkage with nearby Wetherill Park Reserve on the opposite side of The Horsley Drive increasing the total amenity value of the area

- Developments are planned for Wetherill Park Reserve to enhance its passive recreational opportunities and facilities. There is a small area of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland in the grounds of the adjacent Wetherill Park TAFE college.

Fig. 8 Entry to Wetherill Park Reserve from Emerson Street. The TAFE college is located to the right and has a small area of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland. Though potential linkages would have to negotiate the busy road (The Horsley Drive).

The reserve “feels safe”

- Emerson Street Reserve is a large and relatively open reserve with good passive surveillance opportunities from the residences along Mansfield Street.

There are established plantings of trees and shrubs that add to the amenity value and visual appeal of the reserve

- There are a number of mature Eucalyptus trees within the reserve and boundary plantings of native plants (fig. 9 on the following page). They enhance the aesthetic appeal of the area, providing visual relief and adding to the landscape character. Their canopies provide shade. The tree species are locally indigenous and represent a link to the Cumberland Plains Woodland which once covered most of Fairfield LGA. They provide limited habitat for native fauna.
3.7 **KEY ISSUES AND THREATS TO THE VALUES OF THE RESERVE**

The issues identified by the consultation process are seen as a set of current perceived threats to the values of Emerson Street Reserve. In this context they can be examined and responded to and desired outcomes developed which are designed to protect and enhance the values and to mitigate the threats to the values of the reserve.

**Unauthorised use of the reserve and anti-social behaviour threatening the use and enjoyment of the land by the wider community**

- Reports of incidents of groups of people consuming alcohol and drug taking on the reserve.
- Threat of discarded needles and broken bottles.
- Noise disturbing neighbours late at night.
- Some users of the reserve feel intimidated.
- Vandalism and graffiti of the amenities building.
- Cost to Council of repairs.
- Cost to the Soccer/Cricket Club of theft of stock and equipment.
- There have been reports of incidents in the past with off-leash dogs being a nuisance on the reserve.

**Access to the reserve**

- Vehicles are able to access the reserve from Mansfield Street and from the tennis court car park.

**Management of the tennis facility**

- Floodlights have been left on after 10pm at night disturbing neighbours.

**Management and maintenance of the soccer/cricket grounds**

- The container adjacent to the amenities building used by the soccer/cricket club for storage is aging, rusty and painted with graffiti.
- The shared soccer/cricket grounds are in use all year and are sometimes unsuitable for play because of the heavy use.

**Dual role of the reserve in stormwater management**

- The central part of the reserve is sometimes unavailable for recreation because it is too wet or under water.
Some of the Eucalyptus trees have died – possibly as a result of waterlogging or construction activities resulting in poorly aerated soil. The stumps remain. The dead trees have not been replaced.

**Fig. 10** The passive recreation area of Emerson Street Reserve has a dual role in stormwater management. It may be that this dual role has resulted in the death of some of the trees as illustrated below. The drainage line flows west to east through the reserve and into a culvert. The water is then piped underground ultimately emerging in Prospect Creek.

**Signage and land zoning**

- The small lot on the corner of Emerson Street and The Horsley Drive is zoned residential, though not operational land, rather than being zoned 6(a) recreational land.
- The signage for the reserve is hidden amongst the vegetation.

**Fig. 11** Signage on the reserve is hidden.
Circulation and Linkages

- Linkages between Wetherill Park Reserve and Emerson Street Reserve is physically barred by a busy road – The Horsley Drive (fig. 8 on page 32).
- There are no formal pedestrian, cycle or skate paths through the reserve or designated routes to the reserve.

Dumping

- Shopping trolleys from the adjacent Wetherill Park Shopping Centre are occasionally dumped on the reserve.
- Rubbish is sometimes dumped on the reserve (often near the amenities block). It represents a potential environmental health hazard and is unsightly.

Limits to play on the half Basketball Court

- Games of basketball are limited by the present size of the court.

Specific concerns raised in relation to the development of the skate facility

Most people at the public meeting were young people 12-18 years old who spoke in favour of the proposed skate facility. They felt that the proposed skate facility would provide them with a safe space to practice their sport. Local residents whilst not against a skate facility, raised specific concerns that they wanted addressed. The major concerns were noise and hours of operation.

- Although the reserve is adjacent to a busy road (The Horsley Drive), residents stated that noise from the road lessens after 7pm. They were concerned that the noise from the proposed skate facility plus the road noise did not increase their total noise exposure.
- There have been reported incidents in the past of floodlights on the reserve staying on after 10pm at night and of basketball being played late at night and disturbing local residents. Local residents insist that all floodlights on the reserve are extinguished by 10pm.

Other issues raised:

- Concern that safe and direct access routes are provided to allow children to get to and from the proposed skate facility noting that there have been reported pedestrian accidents on this section of The Horsley Drive.
- The final location of the proposed skate facility should be in view of but not next to the tennis courts and screened from the adjacent car park such that car headlights are not used to extend the hours of use of the skate facility beyond 10pm.
- There is potential for the facility to attract undesirable groups of people to the area, for example drug dealers attracted by a perceived market.
- Fear of an increase in anti-social behaviour on the reserve.
- Vandalism and graffiti of the facility and also of other facilities on the reserve.
- Proximity of the facility to the local bottle shop making it convenient to purchase alcohol and subsequent behaviour concerns and broken bottles.
- Proximity of the children’s playground to the skate facility and risk of broken bottles and needles in softfall material.

3.8 RESPONSE TO THE ISSUES AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

Extensive research and community consultation identified a need to provide facilities for youth in the area. Emerson Street Reserve has been selected as a potential site for a skate facility because of its location, ease of access to and from the reserve and passive surveillance opportunities. The proposed location of the facility on the site has been carefully selected to minimise the potential impact on neighbours (see fig. 12 on the following page).
Fig. 12 Proposed location of the skate facility is away from residential areas.

Previous studies conducted for Liverpool Council by acoustical consultants – Richard Heggie and Associates P/L in 1999 measured noise levels of two existing skate facilities at Cherrybrook and St Ives, and compared these to noise levels measured at houses adjacent to a busy road – Jack O’Sullivan Road, Moorebank. Noise emissions are the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) who administer the Noise Control Act, 1975. The report concluded that the predicted noise levels for a proposed skate facility next to a busy road at Kelso Park, Moorebank would be within EPA limits. The proposed facility at Emerson Street Reserve is in a similar position near to The Horsley Drive. Noise studies by Willoughby Council for a similar proposed skate facility concluded that there would be no increase in noise over and above the existing background noise from general traffic.

Recognising that noise is a concern, measures will be taken to construct the facility and landscape the site to minimise noise where possible.

Council will be pro-active in working with local residents and shop owners, users of the skate facility and the local police to establish agreed “rules of use” and encourage good neighbourly relations. Signage will be installed to inform users of the “rules of use” in addition to encouraging safe use of the facility. Alcohol will be banned.

The proposed skate facility will not be floodlit. The facility will be designed to ensure that it will not be illuminated by car headlights from the car park next to the tennis courts. All floodlights on the reserve will be extinguished by 10pm each evening.

Council will conduct regular inspections to clear rubbish and graffiti from around the area. Council has an existing scheme of graffiti prevention and removal through a Department of Juvenile Justice Community Service Order Program.

A range of measures is proposed to protect the wider values of Emerson Street Reserve and address the issues. These include:

- Enlist the aid of the local community in keeping the area clean and safe, and encourage passive surveillance of the reserve through a “Park Care” or similar program.
- Enhance the linkages between Emerson Street and Wetherill Park Reserves.
- Seek funding for “access positive” pedestrian, bicycle and skate routes to and through the reserve.
- Examine the potential for upgrading the children’s playground with consideration given to the softfall material, shade and the provision of seating for carers.
- Examine the need to increase the basketball court to full-size.
- Work with hirers of the sportsground to develop policy on containers with consideration to storage needs, risk management and aesthetics.
- Plant additional trees on the reserve to increase the visual amenity and opportunities for passive recreation. Consider using locally indigenous, clean – trunked species where possible to enhance the linkage between the nearby area of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland.
- Ensure that the function of the storm-water detention basin is not compromised.
- Consider vehicular barriers around the perimeter of the reserve to prevent access whilst allowing for emergency and maintenance access.
- Lease the tennis courts imposing the obligations of management and maintenance on the tenant to the benefit the community.
- Implement a pro-active risk management program for the reserve.

The desired outcome of the implementation of these strategies is to contribute to the achievement of the vision for Emerson Street Reserve:

### 3.9 Vision for Emerson Street Reserve

"Emerson Street Reserve, Wetherill Park will be part of an integrated system of open space within the Fairfield Local Government Area (or LGA) linked to increase and enhance its value to the community.

The reserve will provide a variety of opportunities for organised and informal sporting activities and games for the community to enjoy.

Emerson Street Reserve will be a safe, well maintained and aesthetically pleasant environment, appreciated and used by the local residents and community of Wetherill Park."
Section 4.0

Management Strategies

Blends the community consultation outcomes, site analysis and values for Emerson Street Reserve together with the vision of Fairfield City Council. It states the core objectives which relate to a sportsground as prescribed by the legislation and the associated objectives which have come from the analysis of the Current Situation and Basis for Management. Funding strategies and options are outlined and leases, licences and other estates are expressly authorised.
4.0 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

4.1 CORE OBJECTIVES

The following core objectives are prescribed by the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Regulation 1998 Part 2A Division 2 – Core Objectives of Categories of Community Land

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a Sportsground are to:

1. Encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games.
2. Ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on surrounding or nearby residences.

4.2 ASSOCIATED OBJECTIVES FOR MANAGEMENT

The associated objectives for management support the core objectives defined under the LG Act and have been developed from an analysis of the information contained in the previous sections of this report. They are designed to protect and enhance the values of the reserve whilst addressing the issues raised. Consideration has been given to the desired outcomes and vision for Emerson Street Reserve, along side community needs Council’s vision and the overall open space strategy.

3. Manage and develop the reserve to reflect the needs of the community.
4. Maintain a safe and secure reserve for the community.
5. Protect and enhance linkages within and around the reserve and with other areas of open space.
6. Ensure the reserve remains accessible to the community.
7. Maintain environmental quality on site and in surrounding areas.
8. Maintain and enhance the visual appeal and landscape character of the reserve.
9. Maintain and establish partnerships with the community, user groups and other key stakeholders.
10. Adopt this Plan of Management and implement the action plan.
4.3 FUNDING OPTIONS

Funding for the development of the skate facility and associated landscaping works is mainly funded from Council’s Section 94 budget. Council was successful in securing some grant funding from the Department of Sport and Recreation 2000/2001 Capital Assistance Program.

Additional grant funding will be sought to fund other capital works proposed – for example the possible extension to the basketball court and the upgrade of the playground.

Fairfield City Council continue to fund ongoing maintenance through hire fees from the clubs and general revenue.

The ongoing maintenance of the tennis courts will be the responsibility of the lease-holder.

4.4 LEASES, LICENCES AND OTHER ESTATES EXPRESSLY AUTHORISED BY THIS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

In accordance with sections 46(1)(b)(i) and s46(4)(a) of the Local Government Act, 1993 (as amended, 1999) this Plan of Management for Emerson Street Reserve expressly authorises the leasing of the Emerson Street Reserve Tennis Courts for a period of up to 5 years when the existing lease ends in April 2001.

Public notification of the proposed lease will be undertaken at the appropriate time and in accordance with sections 47 and 47A of the amended LG Act.

In accordance with sections 46(1)(b)(i), s46(4)(a) and 46(1)(b)(iii) of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended), this Plan of Management for Emerson Street Reserve expressly authorises the leasing of the reserve for short-term casual purposes upon application to Council provided that they comply with the legislation and meet Council regulations and requirements.
Section 5.0

Action Plan

Sets out in a table format the performance target, means to achieve that target, priority and manner of assessment for each of the objectives coming from the Management Strategies. This section of the report is designed as a stand alone document as guidelines for the future use, development and management of Emerson Street Reserve by Fairfield City Council.
5.0 **ACTION PLAN**

The following action plan merges all of the information and outcomes that have been gathered in the preparation of this Plan of Management. These are the guidelines for the future use, development and management of Emerson Street Reserve by Fairfield City Council.

**Objectives**
These are a combination of the core objectives from the LG Act and the associated objectives defined by the consultation process that support the core objectives. Each objective is a statement of a direction to aim for – an overall goal.

**Performance Target**
This is a statement of the desired outcomes for the objective - that is, what will be achieved if the objective is met.

**By stating the objectives and performance targets for the management of Emerson Street Reserve, section 36(3)(b) of the amended LG Act is satisfied.**

**Means to Achieve**
Is an explanation of how the council will achieve each target – it includes both strategies and specific actions.

This satisfies section 36(3)(c) of the amended LG Act.

**Timeframe**
Is the period for the achievement of each target. It is an estimate of when the Council will be able to achieve the target taking into account available resources and the contribution of each target towards the achievement of the overall objective.

- **Ongoing** = Action is or will be carried out on a regular basis
- **S/T** = Short Term. Action to achieve target completed within 1–3 years.
- **M/T** = Medium Term. Action to achieve target completed within 1–5 years.
- **L/T** = Long Term. Action to commence within 1–5 years, though it is acknowledged that achievement of target may take longer than this timeframe.

**Department**
Is the department at Fairfield City Council that will be directly responsible for ensuring that the action is taken to achieve the target – though the physical implementation of the action may be undertaken by other departments within Council, external partners or contractors.

- **COD** = City Outcomes Department.
- **CSD** = City Services Department.
- **ESD** = Environmental Standards Department.

**Performance Assessment**
Is how the Council will measure the successful achievement of the target and includes both the performance indicator and method used to measure it.

This satisfies section 36(3)(d) of the amended LG Act.
**CORE OBJECTIVES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Target</th>
<th>Means to Achieve</th>
<th>Timeframe/Department</th>
<th>Performance Assessment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective 1: Encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games.</td>
<td>The community of Wetherill Park is aware of and encouraged to participate in the sporting opportunities available at Emerson Street Reserve.</td>
<td>Maintain and enhance the signage at Emerson Street Reserve to provide the community with a sense of custodianship, pride and inform passers-by of the existence of the reserve. Replace the existing reserve signage on the corner of Emerson Street and The Horsley Drive with new Fairfield City Council reserve signage as funds become available.</td>
<td>MT CSD</td>
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<td>Encourage the promotion of the opportunities for sporting participation and spectators. Coordinate activities with Wetherill Park Soccer and Cricket Clubs, and the Tennis Court lease-holder.</td>
<td>Ongoing CSD</td>
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<td>Maximise the promotion and use of the tennis courts. Negotiate a 5-year lease that imposes the obligations of management and maintenance on the tenant to the benefit of the community for Emerson Street Reserve Tennis Courts at the expiry of the current lease in April 2001. Ensure that the requirements of public notification of the proposed lease under the amended LG Act are met.</td>
<td>ST CSD</td>
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</table>
| **Objective 1:** Encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games. | Facilities are developed for recreational pursuits involving organised and informal sporting activities and games on Emerson Street Reserve. | Maintain and develop recreational facilities on Emerson Street Reserve.  
- Construct the proposed skate facility (subject to Council approval of DA/BA) and make available for unrestricted public use.  
- Consider the need to increase the size of the basketball court. Construct a full court if required. (subject to funding and Council approval of DA/BA). | Monitor feedback from users of the facilities.  
User satisfaction at the range and quality of facilities.  
Skate facility is constructed.  
Report on need for Basketball facilities at Emerson Street Reserve is produced. Full Court is constructed if required.  
Children’s play area is a well-maintained safe space for children. |

Facilities are maintained to enable recreational pursuits involving organised and informal sporting activities and games on Emerson Street Reserve. | Prepare and implement an annual plan of maintenance and renovation for Emerson Street Reserve to be coordinated with the sportsground maintenance program for the whole Fairfield LGA. Ensure consideration is given to the timing of any proposed sporting events that take place on the reserve. Ensure relief facilities are available if required. | Ongoing CSD | Annual maintenance and renovation plan for sportsgrounds is prepared and implemented.  
User surveys and feedback indicating level of satisfaction that the reserve is well maintained and available for sports use. |
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<tr>
<td>Objective 1: Encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games.</td>
<td>Facilities are maintained to enable recreational pursuits involving organised and informal sporting activities and games on Emerson Street Reserve. Conduct regular inspections and ensure that repairs are carried out and graffiti is removed in a timely manner. Consider the siting of new facilities and structures in relation to their visibility from the street and for passive monitoring from neighbouring properties. • Ensure that all new facilities and structures are constructed from vandal resistant materials and have vandal resistant finishes where possible. • Ensure compliance with Australian Standards, public health and safety standards.</td>
<td>Ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Inspection program is implemented and includes monitoring of the number, frequency, type and speed of repairs to vandalised structures. Reduction in the incidents of vandalism. Community feedback and user surveys indicating satisfaction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The reserve is maintained in an efficient and effective manner appropriate to its function, use and hierarchy level. Identify minimum maintenance performance targets with consideration to best practice and Australian Standards (for example tree pruning). Implement management techniques (such as differential mowing and irrigation using grey water as appropriate), which improve efficiency whilst ensuring that the amenity value of the reserve is not compromised.</td>
<td>MT and ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Annual maintenance and renovation plan for sportsgrounds is prepared and implemented. Efficiencies are gained. User surveys and feedback indicating satisfaction that amenity values are maintained.</td>
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</table>
### Performance Target | Means to Achieve | Priority/Department | Performance Assessment
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**Objective 2: Ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on surrounding or nearby residences.**

Floodlights are recognised as a means by which the usefulness of Emerson Street Reserve’s facilities can be extended for the overall benefit of the community.

- Ensure usage patterns of floodlights do not unreasonably interfere with usage of adjacent land.
- Ensure all floodlights on Emerson Street Reserve are extinguished by 10pm.

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<tr>
<td>Ensure usage patterns of floodlights do not unreasonably interfere with usage of adjacent land. Ensure all floodlights on Emerson Street Reserve are extinguished by 10pm.</td>
<td>Ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Monitor number of complaints of floodlights being left on after 10pm at night. No complaints are received.</td>
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</table>

The rights of adjoining residents to enjoy a reasonable quality of life is respected.

- Encourage good community relations with users of Emerson Street Reserve and neighbours.
  - Liaise with users of the reserve, local residents and others as appropriate to develop agreed “rules of use” for the proposed skate facility.
  - Incorporate “rules of use” signage in the skate facility and other parts of the reserve as appropriate.
  - Monitor and record complaints from local residents about the use of Emerson Street Reserve including the proposed skate facility and ensure that action is taken as appropriate and in a timely manner.
  - Review the “rules of use” and take other measures as appropriate.

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<tr>
<td>Monitor number of complaints of floodlights being left on after 10pm at night. No complaints are received.</td>
<td>ST CSD ST - CSD Ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Local resident surveys and feedback indicating levels of satisfaction that their quality of life is not adversely affected by their proximity to Emerson Street Reserve. Monitor number of complaints. No complaints are recorded.</td>
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ASSOCIATED OBJECTIVES

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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 3:</strong> Manage and develop Emerson Street Reserve to reflect the needs of the community and in line with the core objectives.</td>
<td>Liaise with the community to ensure that Emerson Street Reserve’s facilities are utilised to maximise the potential recreational opportunities including passive recreation for example: Kite flying or Tai Chi as appropriate and where this does not unduly interfere with the reserve’s primary function as a sportsground. Promote the reserve and facilities as community open space when it is not functioning as a sporting venue. Enhance opportunities for social interaction by providing inviting shaded meeting places with seats as appropriate for example adjacent to the children’s play area, under the trees and for spectators of the sports played on the reserve. Allow for cultural expression, for example in the provision of new features and facilities by involving local artists where possible in the design. Allow the use of the reserve as a venue for short-term, casual events on application to Council providing that this is compatible with carrying capacity of the reserve and meets the requirements of the legislation and Council.</td>
<td>LT and ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Survey and feedback from the community indicating satisfaction that Emerson Street Reserve allows for a range of recreational opportunities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objective 3: Manage and develop Emerson Street Reserve to reflect the needs of the community and in line with the core objectives.</td>
<td>The facilities on Emerson Street Reserve reflect the recreational needs of the community, sportsground users and spectators.</td>
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<td>Focus on the confirmed needs of the community and compare to the audit of current facilities. Develop facilities to meet future and un-met needs as appropriate.</td>
<td>LT CSD</td>
<td>Community surveys and feedback indicating Sportsground facilities at Emerson Street Reserve are meeting their sporting recreational needs.</td>
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<td>Ensure sporting facilities are multi-function where possible and include provision for passive as well as active recreation.</td>
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<td>Permit joint use of grounds provided no impact on carrying capacity and Sportsground function.</td>
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<td>Ensure that sporting facilities meet the identified needs of special needs groups including disabled, elderly, cultural groups, single parents, youth and children.</td>
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<td>Ensure that sporting facilities meet the needs of different levels of competition as appropriate, and include provision to meet the needs of spectators in relation to seating and shade.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 4: Maintain a safe and secure reserve for the community.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>People “feel safe” walking through and using Emerson Street Reserve.</td>
<td>Clear under-storey vegetation, thin out plantings and remove the lower branches of trees as appropriate to open up the views and improve the visibility into the reserve from adjacent streets and properties.</td>
<td>ST CSD</td>
<td>Feedback from users and the community that there is a perception of personal safety within the reserve.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Encourage local residents to take part in passive surveillance of the reserve through a “Park Care” program or similar scheme.</td>
<td>LT COD/CSD</td>
<td>Monitor the number of reported incidents within the reserve. No incidents are recorded.</td>
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<td>Maintain and enhance the street frontage of the reserve. Prohibit the sale of this land and consider acquisition of additional lots as appropriate. Re-zone the corner lot (Plot 1 DP 939 909) to 6(a).</td>
<td>Ongoing COD Ongoing COD</td>
<td>“Park Care” scheme is implemented. Residents around Emerson Street Reserve join the scheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog owners are taking responsibility for their animals on Emerson Street Reserve.</td>
<td>Permit dogs on the reserve only when they are on-leash. Prohibit dogs on the playing fields at all times. Install appropriate signage to inform the community. Implement strategies and actions in relation to dogs with consideration to the Companion Animals Act, 1998. Inform the community and encourage responsible dog ownership.</td>
<td>LT and ongoing ESD CSD</td>
<td>Monitor number of complaints in relation to dogs on Emerson Street Reserve. No complaints are recorded.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 4: Maintain a safe and secure reserve for the community.</strong></td>
<td>Safety fears of users of the reserve and the local community in relation to a perceived threat from illegal activities and anti-social behaviour within the reserve is addressed.</td>
<td>MT CSD Ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Audit of reports of illegal and unauthorised activities and needlestick injuries on Emerson Street Reserve. No reported incidents or transgressions.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Liaise with the police, local drug rehabilitation centre and the local community to formulate strategies to address illegal activities on the reserve (for example drugs) as an area-wide initiative. Implement management strategies as appropriate.</td>
<td>MT CSD Ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Increased legitimate use of the reserve as it is perceived as safe by the general community.</td>
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<td>• Consult the community to ascertain level of perceived threat and the areas within the reserve where discarded needles are found.</td>
<td>MT CSD Ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Community feedback and user surveys indicating satisfaction.</td>
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<td>• Implement strategies to minimise the threat as appropriate and practical.</td>
<td>MT CSD Ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Alcohol is not sold or consumed on the reserve except where the necessary permits have been obtained.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prohibit the consumption and sale of alcohol on Emerson Street Reserve except where written Council permission is granted and the appropriate licences are obtained.</td>
<td>MT CSD Ongoing CSD</td>
<td>“Park Care” or similar scheme is set up. Monitor the number of local members of the scheme. Number increases over time.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Encourage passive monitoring and reporting of illegal activities within the reserve by neighbours through “Park Care” program or similar scheme.</td>
<td>MT CSD Ongoing CSD</td>
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<td>Encourage the legitimate use of reserve – if the reserve is well used by the general community then there is less opportunity for illegal use.</td>
<td>MT CSD Ongoing CSD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 4:</strong> Maintain a safe and secure reserve for the community.</td>
<td>Implement a pro-active risk management program. Identify potential hazards within the reserve. Quantify the level of risk and Council’s potential liability for each identified hazard. Eliminate the identified risks as appropriate and practical (for example through the provision of alternative softfall material).</td>
<td>MT and ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Risk management program is implemented. Monitor the number, frequency, type and result of compensation claims against Council in relation to injury sustained within the reserve. Reduction in successful claims.</td>
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<td><strong>Objective 5:</strong> Protect and enhance linkages within and around Emerson Street Reserve and with other areas of open space.</td>
<td>Enhance existing linkages with tree-planting, pathways and cycle routes as appropriate and where possible. Examine the barriers to linkage. In consultation with the relevant authorities examine the possibilities for the installation of pedestrian crossings and vehicle speed reduction devices as appropriate and where possible.</td>
<td>LT CSD LT COD</td>
<td>The reserve is part of a network of linked reserves throughout the whole LGA. Feedback from community indicating satisfaction.</td>
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<td>Identify potential linkages between the reserve and the immediate surrounding area. Integrate the reserve with the streetscape where possible through tree-planting, use of similar paving materials or other design techniques as appropriate.</td>
<td>LT COD LT CSD</td>
<td>Community feedback indicating satisfaction at the linkage between the reserve and adjacent streets.</td>
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### Objective 6: Ensure the reserve is and remains accessible to the community.

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<tr>
<td>The local community has appropriate access routes to the Emerson Street Reserve.</td>
<td>Examine the potential for safe cycle/skate routes to the reserve. Ensure that access routes to the reserve are by the most direct means possible. Designate and promote new routes. Ensure that pathways are appropriate to the level of use, they are made from a suitably durable material and are “access positive” (suitable for strollers, wheelchairs and assisted walkers) and lit as appropriate.</td>
<td>MT COD</td>
<td>Emerson Street Reserve is serviced by “access positive” pathways and cycle paths as appropriate. Feedback and surveys of reserve users and the community indicating satisfaction at levels of access to the reserve.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal circulation routes are provided that are rational and cohesive in character, and appropriate to the size and level of usage of Emerson Street Reserve.</td>
<td>Consider the current circulation within the reserve. Consult with users of the reserve and consider site factors and design elements. Ensure through-routes and access to facilities such as the skate facility, basketball court and children’s play area is provided as appropriate. Ensure all new or renovated pedestrian paths are “access positive” where possible.</td>
<td>MT CSD</td>
<td>Feedback and surveys of users and the community indicating satisfaction at levels of access around and through the reserve.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 6: Ensure the reserve is and remains accessible to the community.</strong></td>
<td>Leases, licences and other estates achieve public benefits and perceived exclusivity of use of community land is avoided.</td>
<td>Ongoing ESD CSD</td>
<td>Leases, licences or other estates are granted in accordance with the legislation and are specifically authorised by the Plan of Management. Community and park user feedback and surveys indicating level of satisfaction.</td>
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<td>Ensure all leases, licences or other estates over community land benefit the general community. Ensure leases, licences or other estates are granted for use of Emerson Street Reserve only as expressly authorised by a Plan of Management.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 7: Maintain and enhance environmental quality on site and in surrounding areas.</strong></td>
<td>The environmental values of Emerson Street Reserve are maintained and enhanced.</td>
<td>LT CSD ESD COD</td>
<td>Community surveys and feedback indicating awareness of environmental issues in relation to Emerson Street Reserve. Implementation and community participation in “Park Care” and “Dob-in-a-dumper” or similar schemes.</td>
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<td>Identify and inform the community about environmental values and issues in relation to the reserve and ways in which they can enjoy recreational activities without having a negative impact on the reserve or the surrounding area.</td>
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<td>Increase community pride in the reserve by encouraging “Park Care” and “Dob-in-a-dumper” or similar schemes.</td>
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<td><strong>Objective 7: Maintain and enhance environmental quality on site and in surrounding areas.</strong></td>
<td>Ensure development and maintenance of the reserve is achieved in an ecologically sustainable manner. Manage the reserve on a catchment basis. Minimise impact of run-off. Avoid use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides. Identify, preserve and enhance habitat for native fauna and indigenous plants (where possible) within the reserve. Establish and implement feral/domestic animal control policy in relation to Companion Animals Act 1998 and implement Noxious Weeds Act 1993 in an environmentally sensitive manner.</td>
<td>LT and ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Ecological values of the reserve and surrounding natural areas are maintained or improved. Monitor levels of weed infestation. Record sightings of native fauna within the reserve. Record indigenous plant material on site. Water quality is monitored on a catchment basis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 9: Maintain and enhance the visual appeal and landscape character of the reserve.</strong></td>
<td>Maintain the existing mature Eucalyptus trees in a healthy condition. Replace any dead or dying trees with the similar clean trunked, locally indigenous species. Supplement with additional tree planting on the reserve as appropriate and where this does not interfere with the functioning of the stormwater detention basin or sporting activities.</td>
<td>Ongoing CSD MT CSD</td>
<td>Community feedback that the visual amenity of the reserve is maintained. Dead trees are replaced. The stormwater detention basins continues to function.</td>
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<td><strong>Objective 9: Maintain and enhance the visual appeal and landscape character of the reserve.</strong></td>
<td>Any future development of the reserve or of facilities within the reserve maintains and enhances the visual amenity and landscape character of the reserve.</td>
<td>LT CSD</td>
<td>The reserve is perceived as aesthetically pleasing by the community. Community feedback and surveys indicating satisfaction.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Involve the community in the design process. Ensure that all site factors are considered including strategies to enhance the key values and ameliorate the impact of the main issues as identified:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Highlight natural site features and entry points to enhance their visual impact. Maintain and enhance the landscape character and sense of place.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Ensure plantings are well located and include a range of plant species suitable to the environment and to their function in the landscape. Use locally indigenous species where possible and practical and consider safety and visibility in landscape design.</td>
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<td>• Ensure that hard landscaping features are in keeping with the character of the park and that the materials used are suitable for the function they perform and enhance the visual quality of the reserve.</td>
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<td>• Install appropriate signage (standard park signage at a minimum) and interpretation to enhance the visitor experience where practical. Ensure signage is vandal resistant, in line with Council’s corporate image and considers languages in addition to English, or universal symbols.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Involve the community in the construction and maintenance phases to improve a sense of ownership – for example: coordinate community tree planting and weeding days as appropriate and practical.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance Target</td>
<td>Means to Achieve</td>
<td>Priority/Department</td>
<td>Performance Assessment</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| Objective 9: Maintain and enhance the visual appeal and landscape character of the reserve. | Dumping (including shopping trolleys, cars and rubbish) on the reserve is addressed. | Implement a program of regular inspections. Ensure that all reports of dumping are recorded and acted upon in a timely manner and that steps are taken to address the problem to prevent recurrence as appropriate and practical, for example:  
  - Consider the installation of park litter bins, check and empty regularly  
  - Encourage the local supermarket to make regular inspections of the reserve to collect shopping trolleys.  
  - Control vehicular access to the reserve to minimise indiscriminate usage whilst allowing access for maintenance and emergency vehicles.  
  - Encourage “Dob-in-a-Dumper” and “Park Care” or similar schemes. | Reports of dumping are responded to in a timely manner. Number of reports decreases.  
Community feedback and satisfaction. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Target</th>
<th>Means to Achieve</th>
<th>Priority/Department</th>
<th>Performance Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 12: Maintain and establish partnerships with the community, user groups and other key stakeholders.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feedback from community, user groups and key stakeholders indicating satisfaction at the way in which Emerson Street Reserve is managed and their level of input into the process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partnerships are maintained and established between the community, user groups and key stakeholders in relation to Emerson Street Reserve.</td>
<td>Facilitate ongoing community and stakeholder consultation in the achievement of the objectives of this Plan of Management.</td>
<td>Ongoing COD/CSD</td>
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<td><strong>Objective 13: Adopt this Plan of Management and implement the action plan.</strong></td>
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<td>The core and key objectives are achieved.</td>
<td>Measure performance, review and update this Plan of Management as required or within 5 years whichever applies first.</td>
<td>LT COD</td>
<td>Monitor performance indicators to assess achievement or core and key objectives for the management of Emerson Street Reserve.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.0 **REFERENCES**

Bannerman SA and Hazelton PA (1990) *Soil Landscapes of the Penrith 1:100 000 Sheet* Soil Conservation Service of NSW, Sydney
and the accompanying map by Hazelton PA, Bannerman SM and Tille PJ (1989)


Fairfield City Council (1994) *Local Environment Plan* Fairfield City Council

Fairfield City Council (December 1999) *Vision for Fairfield* Fairfield City Council


Fairfield City Council (1999) *Strategic Plan for Fairfield City 1999-2010* Fairfield City Council

Fairfield City Council (February 1999) *Know your suburb – Wetherill Park* Fairfield City Council

Bureau of Meteorology web site: www.bom.nsw.gov.au

Local Government Act, 1993

Local Government (Community Land Management) Act 1998
7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 GUIDELINES FOR CATEGORISING LAND AS A SPORTSGROUND

Under Local Government (General) Amendment (Community Land Management) Regulation 1998, schedule 1 Part 2A Division 1 Guidelines for the categorisation of community land:

6C Guidelines for categorisation of land as a sportsground:
Land should be categorised as a natural area under section 36(4) of the Act if the land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.

7.2 DESCRIPTION OF PARK HIERARCHY LEVELS

In recent years there has been a move away from the use of the terms “regional”, “district” and “local” to describe hierarchy in level terms, thus avoiding some of the confusion in the use of the previous descriptions and the tendency to base hierarchy principally on geography and size (Clouston, 1999).

This draft plan of management has used the same hierarchy descriptions adapted from Fairfield City Council's Open Space Strategy.

- Level 1: serving the Western Sydney region.
- Level 2: serving the recreation needs of the Fairfield Local Government Area (LGA) as a whole.
- Level 3: serving the recreation needs within one of the five planning districts within the LGA.
- Level 4: serving the recreation needs within an individual suburb or neighbourhood.
7.3 **MAP OF FAIRFIELD LGA SHOWING THE SUBURBS AND THE FIVE PLANNING DISTRICTS**
7.4 **SOIL LANDSCAPE GROUP PROFILE SUMMARIES** (Bannerman & Hazelton, 1991)

**EROSIONAL SOILS**

◆ **Luddenham Group**
Landscape: characterised by rolling low hills on Wianamatta shales. Local relief 50-80m, slopes 5-20%. Extensively cleared tall open-forest.
Soils: shallow (<1000mm) dark podzolic soils or massive earthy clays on crests.
Moderately deep (700-1500mm) red podzolic soils on upper slopes and moderately deep yellow podzolic soils on lower slopes and drainage lines.
Limitations: high soil erosion hazard, localised impermeable subsoil.

**COLLUVIAL SOILS**

◆ **Picton Group**
Landscape: steep sideslopes on Wianamatta shales usually with a southerly aspect. Local relief 90-300mm slopes > 20%. Extensively cleared tall open-forest.
Soils: shallow to deep (500-2000mm) red & brown podzolic soils on upper slopes. Brown and yellow podzolic soils on colluvial material and yellow podzolic soils on lower slopes and drainage lines.
Limitations: high soil erosion hazard, mass movement hazard, some impermeable and highly plastic subsoils.

**RESIDUAL SOILS**

◆ **Blacktown Group**
Landscape: gently undulating rises on Wianamatta shales. Local relief to 30m, slopes usually < 5%. Cleared eucalypt woodland and tall open-forest.
Soils: shallow to moderately deep (<1000mm) hard setting mottled texture contrast soils, red and brown podzolic soils on crests grading to yellow podzolic soils on lower slopes and drainage lines.
Limitations: moderately reactive highly plastic subsoil, low fertility and poor drainage.

**FLUVIAL SOILS**

◆ **South Creek**
Landscape: floodplains, valley flats and drainage depressions of the channels on the Cumberland Plain. Usually flat with incised channels, mainly cleared.
Soils: often very deeply layered sediments over bedrock or relict soils. Where pedogenesis has occurred there are structured plastic clays or structured loams in and immediately adjacent to drainage lines, red and yellow podzolic soils are most common on terraces with small areas of minimal krasnozems, leached clays and yellow solodic soils.
Limitations: erosion hazard, frequent flooding.

◆ **Berkshire Park Group**
Landscape: dissected, gently undulating low rises on the Tertiary terraces of the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system.
Soils: weakly pedestal orange heavy clays and clayey sands often mottled. Ironstone nodules common. Large silcrete boulders occur in sand/clay matrix Solods, yellow podzolic soils where drainage conditions are poor, red podzolic soils, chocolate soils on flats and in small drainage lines, unstructured plastic clays, and kraznozems in drainage lines or on crests.
Limitations: very high wind erosion hazard if cleared. Gully, sheet and rill erosion on dissected areas. Waterlogging, impermeable subsoils, low fertility hazard.
7.5 **PLAN OF EMERSON STREET RESERVE SHOWING PROPOSED LOCATION OF SKATE FACILITY**