

ITEM 3 DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT AND MASTER PLAN - HYDE PARK

FILE NO: S042840

SUMMARY

The draft Hyde Park Plan of Management and Masterplan articulates the City's vision in a comprehensive and integrated plan that recognises the significance, importance and iconic status of Australia's' oldest park.

The draft Plan provides a masterplan of capital works and detailed strategies for tree management, event management, maintenance operations, heritage conservation, water re-use and public art.

The document aims to provide a basis for Council's long term enhancement of the Park as well as a guide for day to day management and decision making.

The draft Plan of Management and Masterplan have been developed with extensive community consultation and approval is now sought to exhibit them for public comment.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council approve the public exhibition of the Draft Hyde Park Plan of Management and Master Plan, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Draft Hyde Park Plan of Management & Master Plan

BACKGROUND

1. Hyde Park is Australia's oldest public park and is owned by the NSW Government (Crown Lands) with the City of Sydney appointed as Trustee Manager for its care, control and management. The park comprises an area of 16.2 hectares and forms a significant element of the City's open space network.
2. Council at its meeting of 11 April, 2005, requested a detailed Masterplan for Hyde Park. Due to its importance and cultural significance, a draft Plan of Management has been prepared for Hyde Park in addition to the draft Masterplan.
3. Consent from the Department of Lands has been received by the City for the preparation of the Plan of Management and Master Plan in accordance with the Crown Lands Act 1989.
4. Consultants Clouston Associates were appointed to prepare the draft Plan of Management and Master Plan. The scope of the investigation was to include specialist supporting studies of tree management, fauna, water re-use and heritage. These supporting documents will be made publicly available as part of the public exhibition process.

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT AND MASTERPLAN

5. A Plan of Management is the principal guiding document that directs the future planning and management of a park.
6. A Master Plan is the design document that illustrates the park's long-term physical concept that is to be achieved in the implementation of the Plan of Management.
7. The draft Hyde Park Plan of Management and Masterplan articulates the City's vision in a comprehensive and integrated plan that recognises the significance, importance and iconic status of Australia's' oldest park.
8. The draft plan provides a masterplan of capital works and detailed strategies for tree management, event management, maintenance operations, heritage conservation, water re-use and public art.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

9. The key recommendations of the draft Plan of Management are to:
 - (a) Maintain the park's principal role as a place for relaxation, informal recreation and leisure.
 - (b) Continue adherence to the design principles for the park established in the 1927 Amended Assessors Report (Norman Weekes design)
 - (c) Develop site specific maintenance specifications for Hyde Park
 - (d) Develop an Events Management Plan for the Park
 - (e) Prepare a planting plan for entire park identifying removal of superfluous and ad hoc planting where it compromises the park's design
 - (f) Develop and implement the Water Re-use Study

- (g) Conservation and restoration of monuments including review of their relevance and location
10. The Masterplan identifies a program of works to be implemented on a prioritised basis. The key items of work include:
- (a) Commence Main Avenue tree replacement program
 - (b) Remove poorly performing trees and shrubs
 - (c) Implement planting treatment to outside boundary of Main Avenue
 - (d) Upgrade secondary pathways in Hyde Park North, rationalise surplus paths
 - (e) Install permanent infrastructure for events
 - (f) Upgrade and improve accessibility to key entries
 - (g) Construct new terraces opposite Nagoya Gardens
 - (h) Progressively implement park boundary path
 - (i) Upgrade landscape setting to the ANZAC War Memorial including the possible completion of the cascading water feature proposed in Bruce Dellit's original design.

Tree Management

11. A Tree Management Plan was prepared by the City's Parks, Trees and Recreation Unit and provides an analysis of the current tree population, its condition, effects of disease and pathogens, improved maintenance strategies and ultimately a replacement strategy for the aging tree population of Hyde Park. The Tree Management Plan will be made publicly available as part of the public exhibition process along with other supporting studies.
12. Ongoing communication and consultation of Hyde Park's tree management will be required.

Approval by Minister for Crown Lands

13. Under the Crown Lands Act 1989 final approval of the Plan of Management requires endorsement by the Minister for Lands. Approval to prepare the Plan of Management has been given by the Department of Lands.

Implementation

14. Implementation of the management recommendations are planned in the short to medium term (2-5 years) while the Masterplan recommendations are proposed to be implemented over a longer timeframe of 10-15 years.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. The cost of the Masterplan improvements has been assessed by a Quantity Surveyor and is estimated at \$37M. The current 2006-09 Capital Works Budget has allocated \$10M for implementation of the Masterplan Works.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

16. Crown Lands Act 1989.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

17. Proposed target dates for the Draft Plan of Management and Master Plan are:
 - (a) August 2006 – Council approval to exhibit
 - (b) Mid August to mid September, 2006 – Council’s public exhibition period (28 days) and gazettal of exhibition period by Department of Lands
 - (c) End September, 2006 - Assessment of submissions and prepare final document
 - (d) 23 October, 2006 - Adoption by Council
 - (e) 24 October - Forward adopted Plan of Management to Minister for approval
 - (f) November, 2006 – Commence detailed design phase

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

18. An extensive community consultation process covering stakeholder and park-user surveys and questionnaires was carried out by the consulting firm People for Places and Spaces (PPS). The information and data collected from the consultation process has been incorporated into the recommendations of the draft Plan of Management and Masterplan.
19. The key finding of the public consultation was that the park is highly valued with over 75% of park users happy with their experience of Hyde Park. Most people liked the park as it is and would like to see the quality of what is there improved. They were also supportive of events if they were low impact, and enjoyed the park as a place for rest and relaxation.
20. The plan is required to be exhibited for a statutory period of 28 days under the Crown Lands Act. This will provide an opportunity for the community to review the plan and comment on the proposals.
21. The plan will be exhibited at the City’s One Stop Shop, Neighbourhood Service Centres and through on site notices at two locations in Hyde Park (north and south). The public exhibition will be launched on site at the park and lunch time presentations will be given during the 28 day exhibition period.
22. The public exhibition will also be advertised in local and daily papers, as well as the City’s website.

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Director Services

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