

HILLVIEW COMMUNITY BUSHLAND

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Hillview Community Bushland

The overriding objective of current and future management of the bushblock is the conservation of flora and fauna. However, human use must be carefully planned for on a small block in an inner metropolitan setting. This will be achieved through the preparation and implementation over time of the Management Plan.

Draft Management Plan

The Management Plan for the Hillview Community Bushland will cover the following:-

1. Description:

location, fire history, flora and fauna, condition of vegetation, local importance, history and use, conservation value, planned use

2. Draft Management Plan:

aims:- measures for conservation of flora and fauna, recreational use, cultural use, educational use, monitoring and research,

proposed action to implement aims:- weed control, fire control, rehabilitation work, provisions for recreation use (paths, bins, lighting, signs etc), provision for cultural and educational use, monitoring and research (all aspects - social as well as scientific).

Preparation of Management Plan

This draft has been prepared by E. A. Griffin and Associates for the Friends of Hillview Community Bushland.

DESCRIPTION

Location (Refer Appendix 1):

The Hillview Community Bushland is situated on the corner of Hillview Terrace and Berwick Streets, East Victoria Park, Western Australia. It is a remnant *Banksia* woodland occupying a little more than a hectare (1.0143Ha).

Ownership:

The block is in fee simple in portion of Canning Location 2, being Lot 4 (Diagram 65739), Hillview Terrace, East Victoria Park, (Vol. 2139 Fol.791)

Special Conditions under the Deed of Sale:

1. Purchaser acknowledges that the Property has been entered by The National Trust of Australia (WA) in its register of important places and is of significant environmental and scientific value to the community at large. Accordingly the Purchaser acknowledges and agrees with the Vendor for itself and its successors in title and assigns whomsoever that:
 - 1.1 The Purchaser must at all times maintain and keep the Property as a community park with access for members of the public.
 - 1.2 The Purchaser may not by itself or by others permit any development of the Property without the prior consent in writing of the Vendor which consent may be granted or withheld in the absolute discretion of the Vendor and if granted may be granted subject to such conditions as the Vendor in its absolute discretion may impose. This condition shall subsist for a period of 10 years from the settlement date.
 - 1.3 The Purchaser must at its sole cost use the best land management practices with regard to the Property from time to time having due regard to its significant environmental and scientific value.

Significance:

The block has been listed by the National Trust.

This type of vegetation, *Banksia* Woodland on the Swan coastal plain, is very poorly conserved, and this alone makes the site locally significant.

Fire History:

The block has not been burnt for about 20 years. Information from local people suggests that the block was frequently burnt, "every year" in fact, before the Friends group became involved in the late 1980's. The block is the highest point in the local landscape and is very dry with poor sandy soil. These factors have apparently protected it from clearing and from intractable weed invasion in spite of frequent burning in the past.

Flora and Fauna (Refer Appendix 2 and Appendix 3):

There are more than 60 native plant species on the block. They form a relatively complete, functioning ecosystem with the various plants and insects, reptiles and birds they support. There are orchids and sedges growing there which cannot be grown in cultivation. There are small shrubs, medium shrubs such as smokebush, large woolly bushes and *Banksia* and Christmas trees. The studies to date are

attached. These comprise the plant list and an initial study of the animal life. A major user group, birds, has been neglected so far.

Considering the block's small size and history of damage and neglect, the extent of its remaining suites of plants and animals is remarkable. Its original vegetation is well represented. Native mammals in the wild are virtually unknown in Perth's inner suburbs and snakes are very uncommon, so their absence is not surprising. Bobtail lizards and many smaller creatures survive in spite of dogs and cats.

Condition of the Vegetation:

The vegetation is recovering well from past fires, plant stealing, and the usual edge effects. The site would never have supported large trees, being dry, on deep sand, and high in the landscape. It retains all layers of its original vegetation. Rehabilitation efforts are mainly aimed at rectifying edge damage caused by such activities as road works and bringing in a large crane on the western side during work on the adjacent National Archives of Australia building. The attached condition diagram shows this pattern (Refer Appendix 4).

Local Importance:

Remnant bushland is important to local communities for so many reasons. Such bush blocks as this act as public open space with the additional values to the community of: relaxed natural learning experiences for children, pleasant walks, relaxing short-cuts, wildlife conservation, heritage aspects, visible history of Australia, and something in common in a divided and competitive community seeking to heal itself.

Additionally there is a scarcity of truly natural features in Victoria Park and surrounding suburbs. We have very little left to conserve in the area between the two rivers, the Kenwick Swamp and Perth airport. This blank area covers about 14 suburbs which are quite inadequately served for natural heritage planning.

History and Use:

Preservation of the site has been fortuitous. It was part of the land set aside for the Repatriation Commission, continued in existence by the Veterans Entitlements Act (Commonwealth), but was never utilised. In the meantime, its use by local people for passive recreation and educational purposes increased as other such opportunities disappeared. Urban infill around it continues to increase its importance to the community

Management to Date:

Two major projects have been undertaken so far in the last decade. The first was the community art project which was jointly run by Community Arts Network which put in most of the work, the Perth City Council, the National Trust, and the Friends group. The Playback Theatre held successful events eliciting people's stories of the history and natural history of the Victoria Park area. The final phase of this project involved the collection of the Aboriginal stories of the area, and the Aboriginal artist Toogarr designed a sculpture and paths relating to the stories. That is why the paths should remain as they are, they have been invested with cultural meaning.

The next major project was undertaken under a National Heritage Trust grant, which was also supported by the Bushcare program. It comprised the installation bollards and edge planting to protect the vegetation, as well as some rehabilitation planting. The Friends group planted nearly 5,000 plants and has a continuous protective role in rubbish removal, informal monitoring, helping manage events and has, in fact, acted as manager at first and then as co-manager with the Town of Victoria Park.

Appropriate signs and cultural signage (executed by Aboriginal artist Lance Chadd), which is prominently placed at the intersection, were installed by the Town of Victoria Park, the latter with assistance by Wadjup Reflections Landscapes, a local landcare group.

Conservation Value:

The value of having this remaining habitat among such scarcity cannot be overstressed. The importance of maintaining a pattern of interlinking habitat features in the landscape is belatedly being recognised. As well as supporting its own ecosystem, the Hillview Community Bushland offers a staging point and feeding patch to native birds. This function could be enhanced by planting a few Marri trees on the north-west edge to encourage black cockatoos as well as providing shade for people. This is considered an acceptable small departure from the practice of planting only those plant species which have been recorded on the site.

Planned Use:

The primary use of the site will be for the conservation of flora and fauna. However it is expected that the local community will continue to make considerable use of it for passive recreation, children's education and pleasure, cultural events, adult learning about its history, ecology, and aesthetics, and other related activities. It already functions as a bridge between white and Aboriginal cultures.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

(1) AIMS

(1.a) Management of Flora and Fauna:

Existing flora and fauna will be protected. Damaged areas will be planted with species recorded from the site. Due attention will be paid to the provenance of these plants but it is considered that the block is too small and sparse to support seed collection which is a damaging process in a small remnant however carefully it is done. *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus todtiana* grow naturally nearby and a limited number will be grown on the edge nearest to where they would occur naturally, for shade and the benefit of birds. The long term goal of management will be a complete cover of original vegetation species in excellent condition, carrying its optimum population of native fauna.

(1.b) Recreational Use:

The object of management in relation to recreation is to prevent human use from destroying the amenity and conservation values of the site.

(1.c) Cultural Use:

Cultural use will be encouraged, provided the wildlife is protected.

(1.d) Educational Use:

Programmes should be developed to allow the maximum educational benefit with minimal disturbance to the wildlife. This should be referred to any advisory committee established to represent Hillview Community Bushland.

(1.e) Monitoring and Research:

Research which increases knowledge of aspects of the history and cultural significance, natural history, or use and sources of threat to the site will be encouraged, provided it does not disturb or damage the wildlife. Ways must be found to monitor the well being of the wildlife on an ongoing basis. This should be referred to any advisory committee established to represent Hillview Community Bushland.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AIMS

The Town of Victoria Park should set up an Advisory Committee to advise on the management of its bush areas. The Committee should meet two or three times per year (or more as required). It should consist predominantly of staff from the Parks and Gardens Section, and members of conservation groups such as the Friends groups. This would secure the current successful relationship between the Town and the Friends of Hillview Community Bushland. Volunteer work as sanctioned by the Town could be organised by this Committee.

(2.a) Conservation of Flora and Fauna:

(2.a.i) Weed Control:

Veldt grass should continue to be sprayed with "Fusillade" until its resources are exhausted. Large exotic shrubs such as Geraldton Wax and *Grevillea crithmifolia* should gradually be uprooted and removed. Some judicious closely supervised hand weeding may be undertaken.

(2.a.ii) Dead Trees:

Dead trees should be removed entirely and with great care, to avoid spreading disease or damaging surrounding vegetation. Advice should be sought as to why so many trees are dying and the Advisory Committee should study the matter and recommend treatment for the living vegetation.

(2.a.iii) Exotic Predators:

The Committee should consider signage requesting dogs to be on leashes and other measures to minimise harm from cats, dogs, foxes, kookaburras, and humans who interfere with wildlife.

(2.a.iv) Rubbish:

The Committee should observe the extent of the ongoing problem and make appropriate recommendations. Generally, refuse should be removed as soon as it arrives on the block.

(2.a.v) Fire:

Fire should be rigorously excluded. Nearby Friends group members and other neighbours such as the National Archives of Australia staff should be asked to report fire or other untoward events immediately. The firebreak on the Western Boundary should be surfaced with crushed limestone to reduce the growth of plants on the boundary and make it more accessible to fire-fighters in emergency, and to visitors with wheelchairs, pushers, etc.

(2.b) Recreation:

(2.b.i) Paths:

Nothing should be brought onto the site which risks introducing or increasing any pathogen, especially *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. The paths should remain at the width and in the positions they are in 1999 at the time of preparation of this management plan. The Friends group should undertake to walk regularly on the paths. No other maintenance of paths should normally be undertaken, except on the western firebreak.

(2.b.ii) Other Items:

No other new disturbances to the natural state of the site should be added. Thus, no bins, no lighting, no taps, no toilets should be installed.

(2.c) Cultural Use:

The Town should keep a log of events held there.

It should note the Aboriginal significance of the site and collect any related information.

(2.d) Educational Use:

The Town should collect its knowledge of the bushland in a form suitable for public distribution. The Town should make up a package of information for educators, on appropriate ways to visit and use the bushland. This should be referred to any advisory committee established to represent Hillview Community Bushland.

(2.e) Monitoring and Research:

A person or group should be delegated to keep a photographic record for monitoring purposes. Colour photographs should be taken each year from the same vantage point so that they can be compared. Conservation groups and academic research bodies should be encouraged to undertake occasional surveys of the wildlife and other aspects of the bushland and its wild and human users.

This plan should be reviewed in five (5) years' time.

Appendix 2

Plant Species List from Hillview Terrace Block

Based on list prepared by Ray Cranfield (W.A. Herbarium) 1977 & 1978

Small Trees

<i>Banksia attenuata</i>	
<i>Banksia ilicifolia</i>	Holly Leafed Banksia (1 only)
<i>Banksia menziesii</i>	
<i>Allocasuarina fraserana</i>	Sheoak (1 only)
<i>Nuytsia floribunda</i>	Christmas Tree

Large Shrubs

<i>Adenanthos cygnorum</i>	Woolly Bush
<i>Jacksonia furcellata</i>	

Medium Shrubs

<i>Acacia pulchella</i>	Prickley Moses
<i>Allocasuarina humilis</i>	Dwarf Sheoak
<i>Calothamnus sanguineus</i>	Silky Clawflower
<i>Calytrix fraseri</i>	Pink Summer Calytrix
<i>Conospermum stoechadis</i>	Common Smokebush
<i>Daviesia nudiflora</i>	Rattlepod
<i>Daviesia triflora</i>	Reedy Rattlepod
<i>Eremaea pauciflora</i>	
<i>Hibbertia hypericoides</i>	Bush Buttercup
<i>Lysinema ciliatum</i>	Curry Flower
<i>Melaleuca scabra</i>	Rough Honey myrtle
<i>Scholtzia sp. ? involucrata</i>	
<i>Stirlingia latifolia</i>	Blueboy

Small Shrubs

<i>Acacia stenoptera</i>	
<i>Acacia sp. ? sessilis</i>	
<i>Bossiaea eriocarpa</i>	
<i>Calectasia cyanea</i>	Blue Tinsel Lily
<i>Conostephium pendulum</i>	Pearl Flower
<i>Cryptandra ? glabriflora</i>	
<i>Cryptandra pungens</i>	
<i>Eriostemon spicatus</i>	Salt and Pepper
<i>Gompholobium tomentosum</i>	

<i>Hemiandra pungens</i>	Snakebush
<i>Hibbertia huegelii</i>	
<i>Hovea trisperma</i>	Common Hovea
<i>Leptomeria spp</i>	
<i>Leptospermum spinosum</i>	Spiny Teatree
<i>Leucopogon conostephioides</i>	White Heath Flower
<i>Macarthuria australis</i>	
<i>Oxylobium capitatum</i>	Eggs and Bacon
<i>Petrophile linearis</i>	Pixie Mops
<i>Scaevola paludosa</i>	
<i>Scaevola spp</i>	

Creepers and Climbers

<i>Cassytha racemosa</i>	Dodder
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Scarlet Runner
<i>Thysanotus patersonii</i>	Fringe lily

Semi-herbaceous

<i>Amphipogon turbinatus</i>	
<i>Anigozanthos humilis</i>	Cat's Paw
<i>Anigozanthos manglesii</i>	Red & Green Kangaroo Paw
<i>Arnocrinum preissii</i>	
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids
<i>Caladenia deformis</i>	Blue Fairy Orchid
<i>Caladenia spp</i>	Spider Orchid
<i>Conostylis aurea</i>	
<i>Conostylis juncea</i>	
<i>Conostylis setigera</i>	Bristly Cottonheads
<i>Corynotheca micrantha</i>	
<i>Dampiera linearis</i>	Common Dampiera
<i>Drosera macrantha</i>	Climbing Sundew
<i>Drosera menziesii</i>	Climbing Sundew
* <i>Ehrharta spp</i>	Veldtgrass
<i>Freesia aff. leichatlinii</i>	Freesia
* <i>Gladiolus spp</i>	Gladiolus
<i>Haemodorum paniculatum</i>	
<i>Hemiandra pungens</i>	
<i>Hybanthus calycinus</i>	Wild Violet
<i>Gompholobium tomentosum</i>	
<i>Johnsonia pubescens</i>	Pipe Lily
<i>Laxmannia minor</i>	Paper Lily
<i>Lechenaultia spp</i>	
<i>Lomandra ? endlicheri</i>	
<i>Lomandra preissii</i>	
<i>Loxocarya sp. ? flexuosa</i>	
<i>Lygenia barbata</i>	
<i>Mesomelaena ? stygia</i>	Semaphore Sedge
<i>Opercularia vaginata</i>	
<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>	Purple Flags
<i>Phlebocarya ciliata</i>	

<i>Pterostylis vittata</i>	Banded Greenhood
* <i>Romulea rosea</i>	Guilford Grass
<i>Schoenus curvifolius</i>	
<i>Schoenus sp</i>	
<i>Scaevola ? phlebopetala</i>	
<i>Stylidium sp</i>	Triggerplant
<i>Thysanotus dicotomus</i>	Fringe Lily
<i>Thysanotus sparteus</i>	Fringe lily
* <i>Watsonia spp</i>	

Annuals

* <i>Briza maxima</i>	Bee Grass
<i>Crassula colorata</i>	
<i>Crassula sp</i>	
<i>Dittrichia graveolins</i>	Stinkwort
* <i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth Catsear
* <i>Lupinus spp</i>	Lupin
* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Common Sowthistle
<i>Trachymene pilosa</i>	
* <i>Ursinia anthemoides</i>	

* weed species