

district park landscape masterplan

turramurra memorial park and karuah park

sustainable ku-ring-gai



landscape masterplan

This landscape masterplan is based on consultation with residents and user groups. Survey data was compiled into strategies which were presented to the community for feedback and the strategies were amended to produce this draft landscape masterplan. It is impossible to implement everyone's ideas; however Council has sought to find the best solution where the community has been divided on issues, particularly for Karuah Road, dogs and the cafe.

The plan aims to respect the memorial status of Turramurra Memorial Park and to retain its heritage values and existing layout and to create a defined 'sense of place' for Karuah Park. The plan provides additional leisure and recreation facilities for a wider range of users than the parks currently cater for, particularly older people, women and youth who may not participate in organised sport. The new facilities are designed to encourage the interaction of different genders, age groups and cultural backgrounds. Council would like to provide youth with unstructured recreational opportunities, and the table tennis table is provided as an alternative to a traditional playground for older children. It is also suitable for parents and grandparents to enjoy with their children.

Careful consideration has been given to grouping the new facilities near Karuah Road to avoid cluttering the landscape and destroying the original 1927 design of Turramurra Memorial Park.

The plan presents a concept to guide future planning over the next ten years and is subject to detailed design work following a survey of ground levels and the exact location of existing site features.

access and circulation

highlight and upgrade entrances: War Memorial area (see panel 3), Eastern Road, Laurence Avenue, Wolsten Ave
widen path around Turramurra Oval to 1.8m, retain bank with two tier seating where required to avoid creating one high retaining wall.
Provide a new path from Eastern Road to provide access to the new facilities and onto the oval at Turramurra park.
Upgrade path along creek at both parks and provide low-level lighting where required.
Provide a new path around Karuah Park for extended walks /jogging/ children's bicycling within the parkland setting and provide exercise equipment around the path.

playground and shelter

new pavilion with 4 tables and chairs and consider disabled/ family toilet, new playground with bicycle path for young children, new fence with childproof lock on gate, widen gates to tennis courts to provide wheelchair access.

long picnic table

located under the canopy for summer shade

small amenities building

upgrade for disabled/family use with baby change table or build new toilets in playground area

lawn

retain large expanse of lawn as 'open' space for children to play, picnics and community events

spectator seating

war memorial
landscape, provide seating and restore flag

additional recreation facilities

picnic shelter, BBQ, outdoor table tennis table, new seating area with two chess/draughts tables, upgrade exercise equipment area

path/circuit

exercise equipment around circuit



Lovers Jump Creek and Blue Gum High Forest

support Bushcare recommendations. Remove understorey and weeds from the creeks, taper banks and meander where possible, plant banks with local indigenous trees and grasses ensuring adequate surveillance and to visually link the parks

new identity for Karuah Park and the walk to Bobbin Head

formalise a walk from Turramurra Station, through Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park to Bobbin Head. Promote Karuah Park as a focal point for the walk with maps and education information integrated sensitively into the landscape elements

parking

investigate possible 20 places in Karuah Road and 14 in Turramurra Road

key issues

Karuah Road

trial Karuah Road as one-way eastbound, (the narrower width should slow traffic and provide additional parking). Consult the community during the trial, and, only if traffic flows adequately, reconfigure the road permanently as one way eastbound. Link parks with a landscaped pedestrian area.

dogs

fence existing dog off-leash area at Karuah Park and provide seating, bag dispenser, dog disposal bins and a bubbler/tap. Allow dogs off-leash at Turramurra Memorial Park (but not within sports oval) for a 6 month trial period during early morning and late afternoon when park is less used. Permitted dog off-leash times to be before 9.30am & after 4.30pm during Eastern Standard Time, and before 9.30am & after 6.00pm during Daylight Saving Time

cafe

conduct further investigations on the suitability and viability of a cafe at Turramurra Memorial Park including consultations with the RSL and heritage specialist. It is envisaged that the cafe would be small-scale with restricted hours. The standard of the cafe is to be similar to the Coonanbarra Cafe at Wahroonga (no take-away to litter the park) and provide light meals. If cafe is implemented, Council will work with the cafe operator to investigate the feasibility of using CCTV

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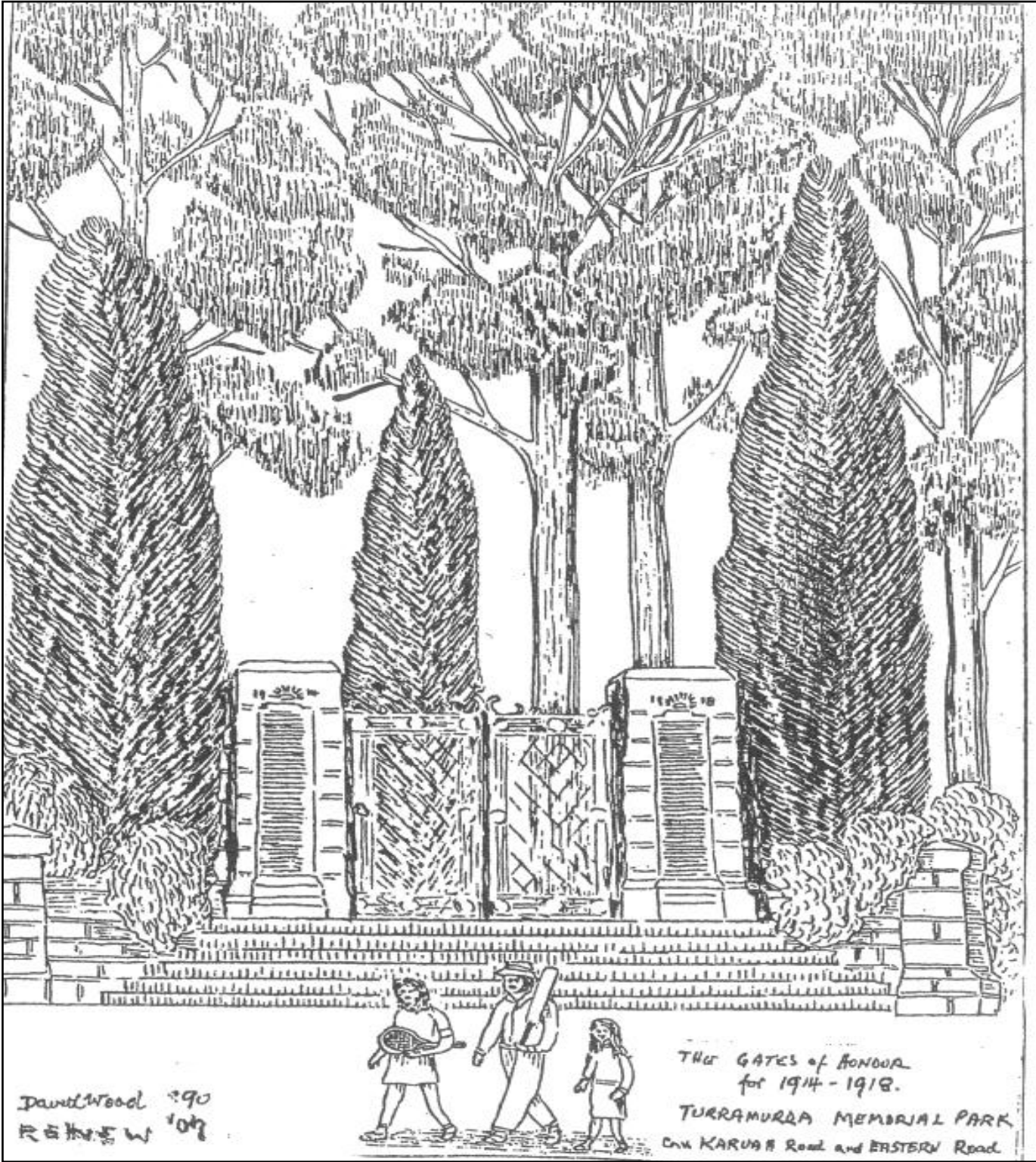
consultation

consultation activities undertaken to inform the masterplan

- survey of local residents
- public meetings on site
- meeting with sports groups
- discussion with RSL representative

initial surveys received 195

residents represented 639



Drawing by local resident David Woods, author of *Turramurra Memorial Gates and Book of Remembrance*, 2007.

program



presentation of strategies to community
community feedback used to prepare draft

park user profile

genders

female	74
male	64
unstated	57

ages

0 - 5	25
6 - 15	59
16 - 20	32
21 - 30	52
31 - 40	48
41 - 60	135
61 - 70	51
71 - 90	47
over 90	2
"ancient"	1

what you told us

which park do you visit?

Turramurra	81
Karuah	24
both parks	110

how often do you visit the parks?

daily	59
several times a week	85
weekly	23
monthly	12
rarely	3

how do you travel to the parks?

walk	166
walk with dog	61
car	31
bicycle	22

which entrance do you most often use?

Eastern Road	36
Karuah Road	45
Laurence Avenue	41
Katina St/Wolston Av	41
Gilroy Road	10
Turramurra Avenue	4
all	1

who do you visit the parks with?

family	137
yourself	122
friends	62

how long do you stay at the parks?

under an hour	141
several hours	61

when do you visit the parks?

weekends	124
weekdays	126
early mornings	71
both mornings and afternoons	38

is there anything that prevents you from using the parks?

several local people have special needs (wheelchair and sight impairment)	
do you feel safe at the parks?	Yes x 8 No x 21
do you have problems accessing the park due to lack of parking or transport?	Yes x 15 No x 25



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natural environment

what you told us

Turramurra Park Bushcare Group suggest

- remove exotic trees in bushland area if possible or appropriate
- stabilise eroded creek banks
- plant barrier between bushland and mown areas to prevent spread of grass in bushland
- create island of bush in grassed areas backing onto residents' properties
- complete primary weed removal, mulch, plant and then maintain
- extend bushland corridor behind tool shed
- remove weeds and undertake bush regeneration along creek lines at Karuah Park
- implement stormwater control measures along eroded creek lines
- remove weeds in Council's drainage reserve between private properties and revegetate with indigenous species

residents suggest

- continued support for bush regeneration group
- improved maintenance of creek, including erosion from bike tracks

Council's response

- council will work with bushcare group in line with their suggestions
- establish Blue Gum High Forest education walk along creek area with information integrated into elements and paths
- upgrade bridges where deteriorated and provide a new bridge at the southern end of Karuah Park
- investigate possibility of future stormwater harvesting project

Lovers Jump Creek

comply with Ku-ring-gai Council's Riparian Policy, 2004

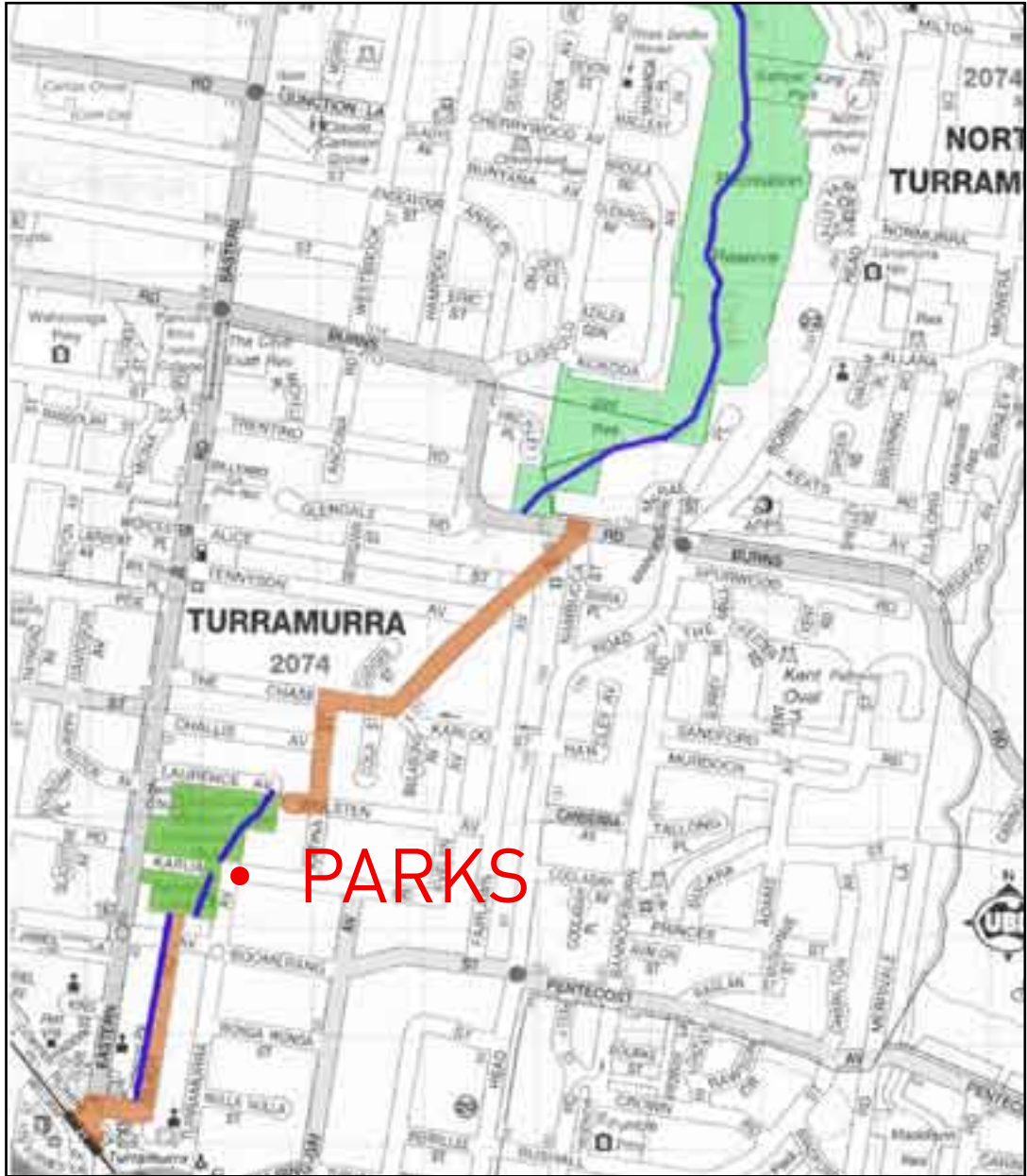
create a new emphasis on creekline:

- restore the creek profile where possible and plant Eucalypts with low understorey and grasses
- provide swales and vegetative buffer zone between oval and bushland (above creek area) to prevent water runoff from ovals with high nutrient levels from entering the bushland and creek
- investigate stormwater treatment at the end of Laurence Avenue to prevent sediment from entering the creek
- dissipate stormwater at the western end of the creek in Karuah Park - near the cricket nets
- investigate pollution monitoring and prevention upstream at pipe outflows into Karuah Park
- promote regional linkages by investigating a formal walk connecting Turramurra Town Centre with Bobbin Head and the Hawkesbury River. The walk will highlight local indigenous vegetation. It will begin at Turramurra Station, follow Gilroy Road to a new formal entrance at Karuah Park, through the woodland area of Karuah Park, along the creek and Blue Gum High Forest in TMP, onto Wolsten Ave and then along local streets connecting to existing bushwalks. Apply for grant funding. Also part of the 'access and circulation strategy' see panel 3).
- establish a new identity for Karuah Park as a focal point for the new walk

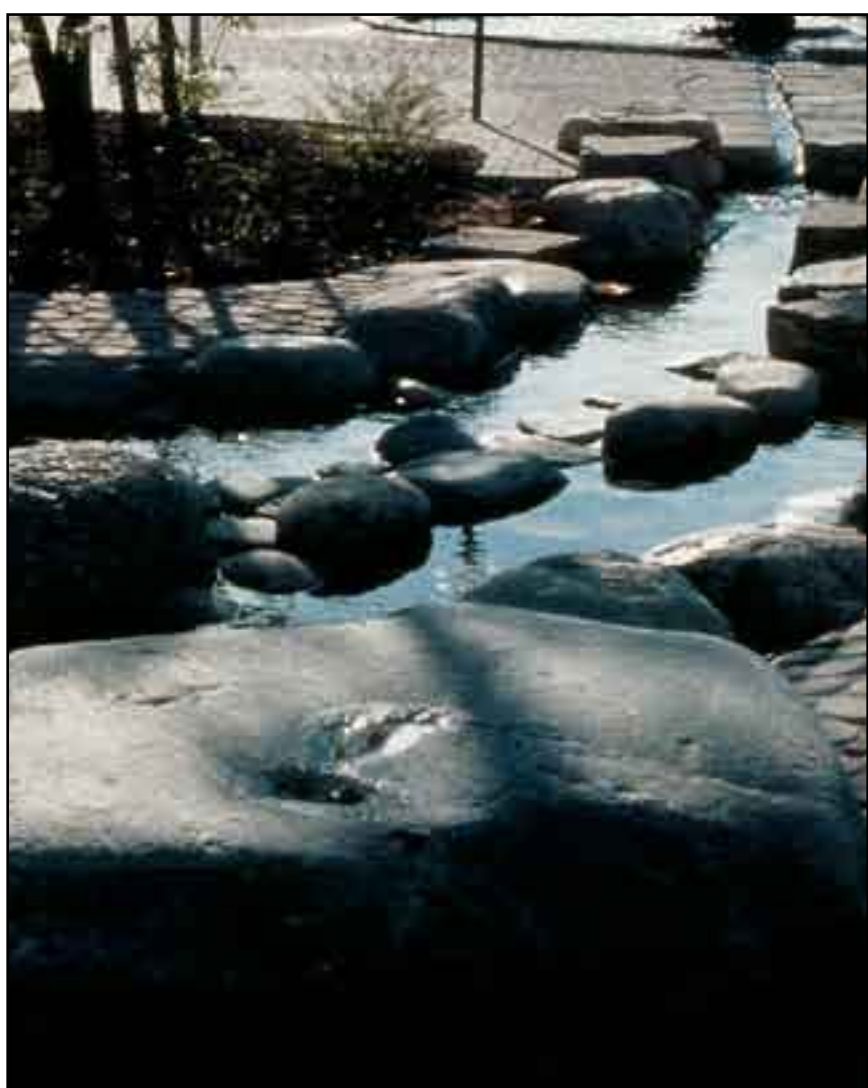
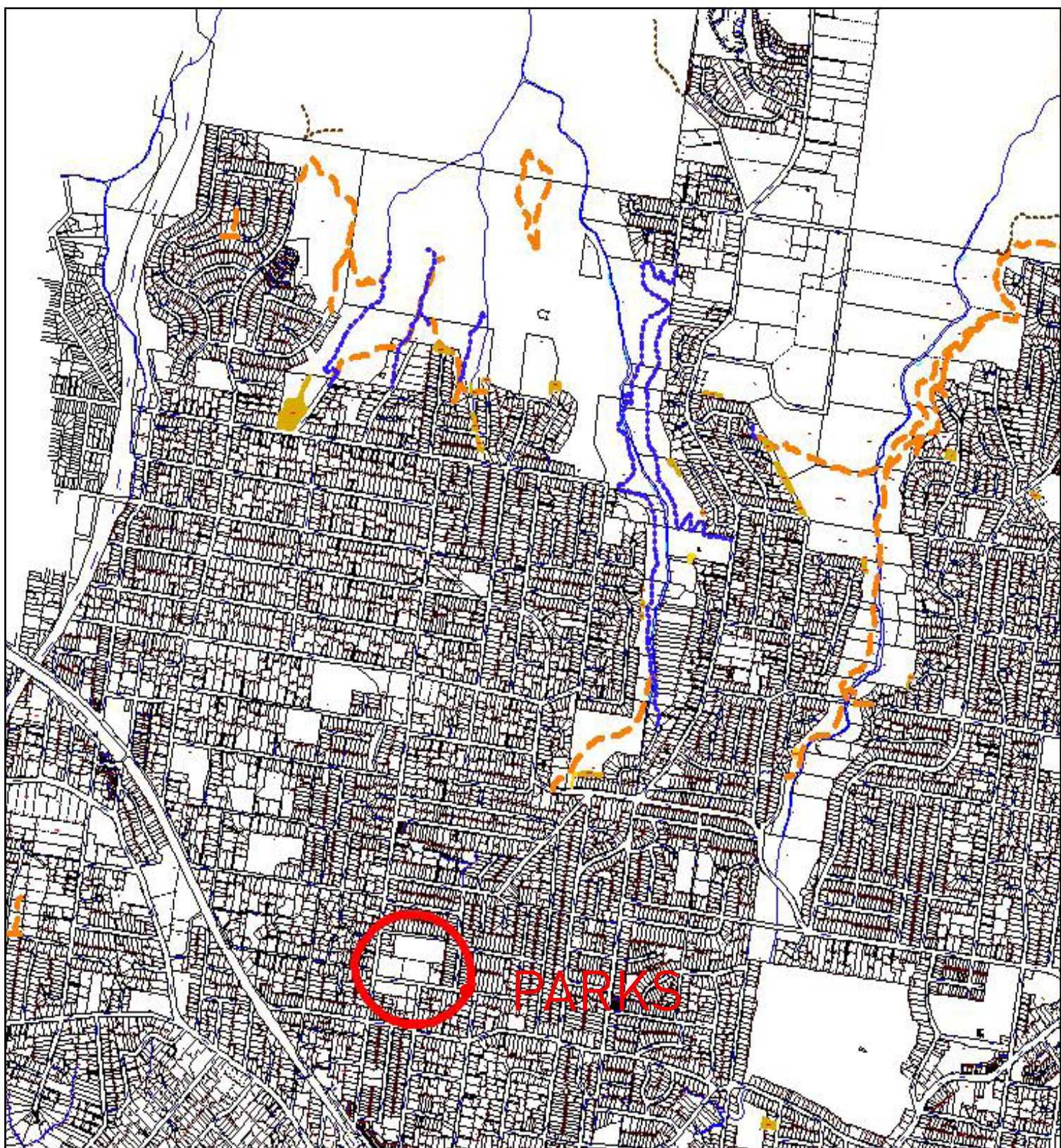
natural areas



connecting walk between Turramurra Station and Bobbin Head Walk



existing walking tracks



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access and circulation

access and circulation

what you told us - initial survey

residents suggest

- close Karuah Road to visually and physically link parks
- widen existing paths and provide additional paths to resolve usage conflicts between walkers, joggers, dog walkers and bike riders
- upgrade all paths to even surface
- provide access through lawn area of Turramurra Memorial Park for people with special needs
- upgrade and widen existing path around oval
- improve entrances for more welcoming feel

Council's response

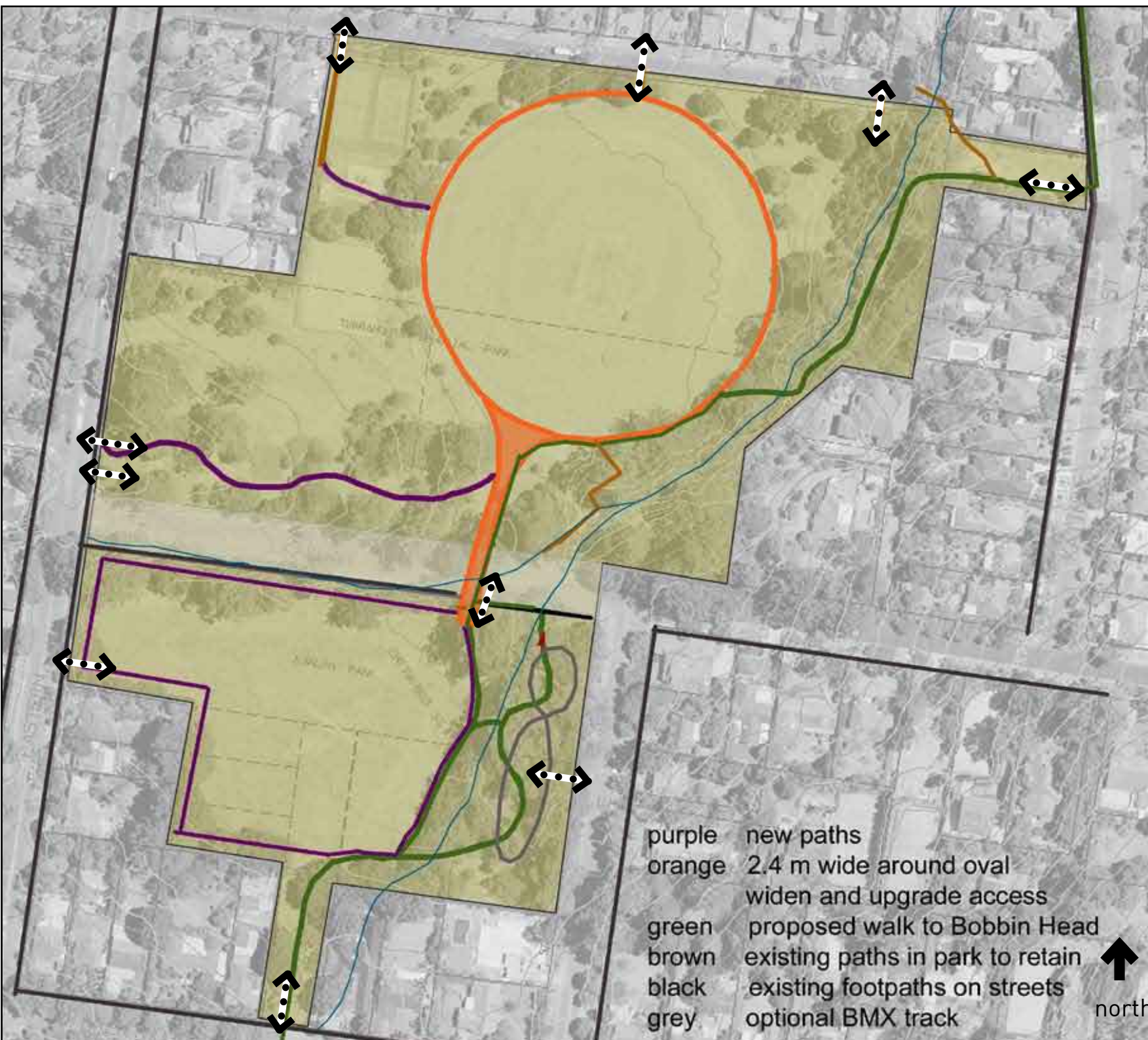
Turramurra Memorial Park

- highlight and upgrade entrances: War Memorial area, Eastern Road, Laurence Avenue, Wolsten Avenue
- upgrade existing paths to even surfaces
- widen path around oval to 1.8 m and shape bank into two-tiered seating where required (to avoid a high retaining wall).
- New (picket) fence to be located inside drain
- provide additional gates onto oval to improve access
- install a new path from Eastern Road (under trees nearer Karuah Road) for 'special needs' access through park, provide seating beside path

Karuah Park

- highlight and upgrade entrances: Gilroy Road and Eastern Road
- investigate Karuah Road one-way eastward
- provide a wide pedestrian area to link parks visually and physically (widen piped area to access Karuah Park)
- upgrade existing paths to even surfaces
- provide additional angle parking at Karuah Road and Turramurra Road
- install new path beside creek linking to paths in Turramurra Memorial Park to incorporate into the future walk to Bobbin Head
- new paths provide pedestrian/cycle links through the parks
- promote regional linkages by investigating a formal walk connecting Turramurra Town Centre with Bobbin Head and the Hawkesbury River. The walk will highlight local indigenous vegetation. It will begin at Turramurra Station, follow Gilroy Road to a new formal entrance at Karuah Park, through the woodland area of Karuah Park, along the creek and Blue Gum High Forest in TMP, onto Wolston Road and then along local streets connecting to existing bushwalks. Apply for funding grant. Also part of the 'natural environment strategy' see panel 2
- establish a new identity for Karuah Park as a focal point for the proposed walk to Bobbin Head

circulation



Karuah Road

what you told us - initial survey

residents' comments

- close Karuah Road to traffic (although concerns remain regarding traffic flow)
- insufficient parking
- steep shoulder of Laurence Avenue
- congestion in Laurence Avenue during sporting events

Council's response to initial survey

Council suggested a number of options for further community feedback

- 1 maintain Karuah Road as is (full access to traffic) with a shared pedestrian/traffic zone at the eastern end
- 2 close Karuah Road to through traffic
- 3 implement one-way flow (eastbound) in Karuah Road and provide a shared pedestrian/traffic zone at the eastern end
- 4 implement one-way flow (westbound) in Karuah Road and provide a shared pedestrian/traffic zone at the eastern end

what you told us - community feedback

Option 1 - maintain Karuah Road as is - 29

Option 2 - close Karuah Road - 20

Option 3 - one way eastbound - 10

Option 4 - one way westbound - 3

More people preferred option 1 than any other option - because they believed that changes to the traffic pattern would create congestion. Many people who preferred option 2 believed that it would improve safety and increase parking. Eastbound one-way traffic was favoured over westbound because it maintains morning traffic flow in peak hour while westbound can result in a right hand turn into Eastern Road if travelling north. More people favoured making Karuah Rd one-way or closing it (33) than maintaining as is (29).

Council's response

Council to trial Karuah Road as one-way eastbound to retain traffic flow during weekdays. Consult community during the trial, and only if traffic flows adequately, in surrounding streets, reconfigure the road permanently as one way eastbound.

Eitherway, link parks with a landscaped shared pedestrian/vehicle zone - If road remains two way consider traffic calming devices to increase safety particularly for children



suggestions for tiered seating beside the path around the oval



Karuah Road - highlight pedestrian area with dominant design

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facilities

what you told us - initial survey

recreational facilities, activities or services that you would LIKE to be available at the parks

- leave unchanged - highest response
- retain open space
- opportunities for social contact
- educational - history/horticultural information
- upgrade existing facilities: buildings; toilets; cricket nets; bubblers
- upgrade playground
- upgrade lighting
- install picnic shelters, BBQs and seating
- install additional drinking fountains
- upgrade fencing
- BMX facility - 27 requests, 24 objections
- introduce recycling bins and relocate

recreational facilities, activities or services that you would NOT like to be available at the parks

- changes to the present character and spatial organisation
- noisy activities that could result in loss of tranquil atmosphere as fitting for a 'memorial' park
- introduction of commercial development, pools or new buildings
- additional sports facilities

cafe

initial community survey

Yes 91 No 92 Unsure 3

sportsgroups support cafe

- Concerns - loss of park ambience, additional noise, parking, commercialism, not required because cafes available at Town Centre nearby
- RSL would prefer not to have any commercial activities

community feedback

yes 32 coffee cart at weekends 17 no 16

proposed facilities



Council's response

retain existing spatial organisation as a series of rooms with separate functions

upgrade facilities near tennis courts and playground

- remove existing shelter
- provide family/disabled toilets with baby change table (upgrade existing building or new building)
- new shelter with four tables located in the unshaded area to the north of playground - build up ground level for views of all courts and include disabled access
- install new playground at the southern end under the trees, lift canopy and include bicycle path for young children around the perimeter of the playground
- relocate pedestrian path away from the play area
- upgrade fencing and provide childproof gate
- widen gates onto hardcourts for wheelchair access
- provide long picnic table under the deciduous trees (above oval at Turramurra Memorial Park)

new facilities area (near existing exercise area)

- provide a landscaped recreation area with picnic shelter and BBQ, one permanent outdoor table tennis table and adjacent seating with two chess/draughts tables
- introduce lighting for paths and pavilions for security
- landscape Memorial Gates area
- provide interpretive information - incorporated into elements rather than installing signs
- provide additional bubblers
- provide additional bins at entrances and provide recycling rubbish bins
- provide seating for spectators and park users

cafe

Community feedback supported a cafe. Community comments indicate that the RSL should be further consulted. The cafe should be small-scale hours restricted to avoid impacting on local residents. The standard of the cafe is to be similar to the Coonanbarra Cafe at Wahroonga (no take-away to litter the park). Light meals would be welcome.

Council believes that the cafe should provide an additional dimension to the park, for people to enjoy the beautiful park surroundings.



A - FACILITIES NEAR TENNIS COURTS AND PLAYGROUND

- 1 picnic shelter
- 2 playground
- 3 long picnic table

B - FACILITIES NEAR EXISTING EXERCISE AREA

- 4 picnic shelter and BBQ
- 5 one permanent outdoor table tennis table
- 6 seating area with two chess/draughts tables
- 7 upgrade existing exercise area and provide softfall floor area adjacent for exercising - also suitable for play area (include hopscotch or handball pattern on surface)
- 8 open play space
- 9 bench seating

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

- 10 Memorial Gates - landscape and seating
- 11 shelter for amenities building
- 12 formalise entrance to Karuah Park with landscaping and paths
- 13 bench seating
- 14 new exercise equipment circuit (Council has a grant from NSW Department of Sport and Recreation)
- 15 fenced dog off-leash area

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dog off-leash areas

what you told us - initial survey

about 30% of survey respondents visit the park with a dog. The presence of dogs in the park is a controversial issue according to the survey.

- objections to dogs being off-leash - 46
- support for dogs being off-leash - 39
- fence existing dog off-leash area at Karuah - 8
- fence dog area, but not existing - 6
- fence dog off-leash area - no location requested - 11

objections to dogs being off-leash

- dog excrement/hygiene
- difficult to enjoy the park with dogs running free
- dogs not adeuately controlled by owners - jumping up on people
- aggressive and disobedient dogs that frighten people
- aggressive dogs that prevent others from taking their dogs to the park (dog owners)

this group requested:

- that dogs are kept on-leash at the park and more responsible dog management

support for dogs being off-leash

- friendly atmosphere between dog walkers - sense of community
- remove threat of Council's ranger and the fine
- dogs need to be socialised

In response to the initial survey, Council identified three options for community consideration:

Option 1

fence the existing dog off-leash area at Karuah Park/Turramurra Avenue
advantages: unlimited usage, area suitable for fencing, not rejected by all dog owners surveyed

disadvantages: cold and damp in winter due to dense canopy, limited space for dogs to run after a ball, falling branches

This was resolved as the preferred option by Council on 13th May 2008.

Option 2

create and fence new dog off-leash area at the top of Turramurra Memorial Park near the Memorial Gates.

advantages: unlimited usage, area suitable for fencing, open and grassed for dogs to run free, limited size in area

disadvantages: fencing part of this area lessens the amount of open space available for events such as the Food and Wine Fair which has been held in this space in previous years, open space is important to local communities for informal recreation and events. Large, grassed areas such as this area, are rare and valuable as a community asset

Option 3

create a new unfenced dog off-leash area. Fence one boundary - along Eastern Road to Turramurra Memorial Park and allow dogs off-leash in this top area of the park for limited times (before 7am and after 4.30pm Eastern Standard Time, and before 7am and after 6.30pm Day Light Saving Time and limited on weekends).

advantages: large, attractive open space, suitable for dogs to run and fetch balls

disadvantages: this space is an integral element of the recreation area and required for childrens' play, dogs can leave the designated area and harass people, particularly children, exercise area, table tennis, picnic and BBQ activities



provide drinking water for people and dogs



consider dog bag dispenser

what you told us - community feedback

Option 1 - fence existing dog area at Karuah Park - 31

Option 2 - fence new area at the top of Turramurra Memorial Park - 12

Option 3 - unfenced area at the top of Turramurra Memorial Park - 16 (with requests for the path around the oval to be included).

The community voted for option 1. Opinions were divided over whether off-leash dogs should be allowed at the park; particularly the path around the oval. Options 2 and 3 were rejected because people felt that it is important to retain "open space parkland where the whole community can enjoy its facilities and not be restricted because of dog areas" and that "fencing would spoil the open and inviting look of the park from Eastern Road."

Council's response

Karuah Park - Council supports the community's preference for fencing the existing dog off leash area within the eastern end of the park and will landscape with comfortable seating in sunny locations to facilitate the 'sense of community' expressed by dog owners, gravel/crushed sandstone paths, dog disposal bins and a bubbler/tap.

Turramurra Memorial Park - Council will undertake a 6 month trial, allowing dogs off-leash within the park (but not within the sports oval) during early morning and late afternoon when the park is less used. Permitted dog off-leash times to be before 9.30am & after 4.30pm during Eastern Standard Time, and before 9.30am & after 6.00pm during Daylight Saving Time.

Council's overall position regarding dogs

The Companion Animal Act requires each Local Government Area to have one dog off-leash area. Council is committed to actively planning and promoting areas for dogs and their owners to exercise and socialise and Ku-ring-gai has 20 off-leash areas including the area at the eastern end of Karuah Park off Turramurra Avenue.

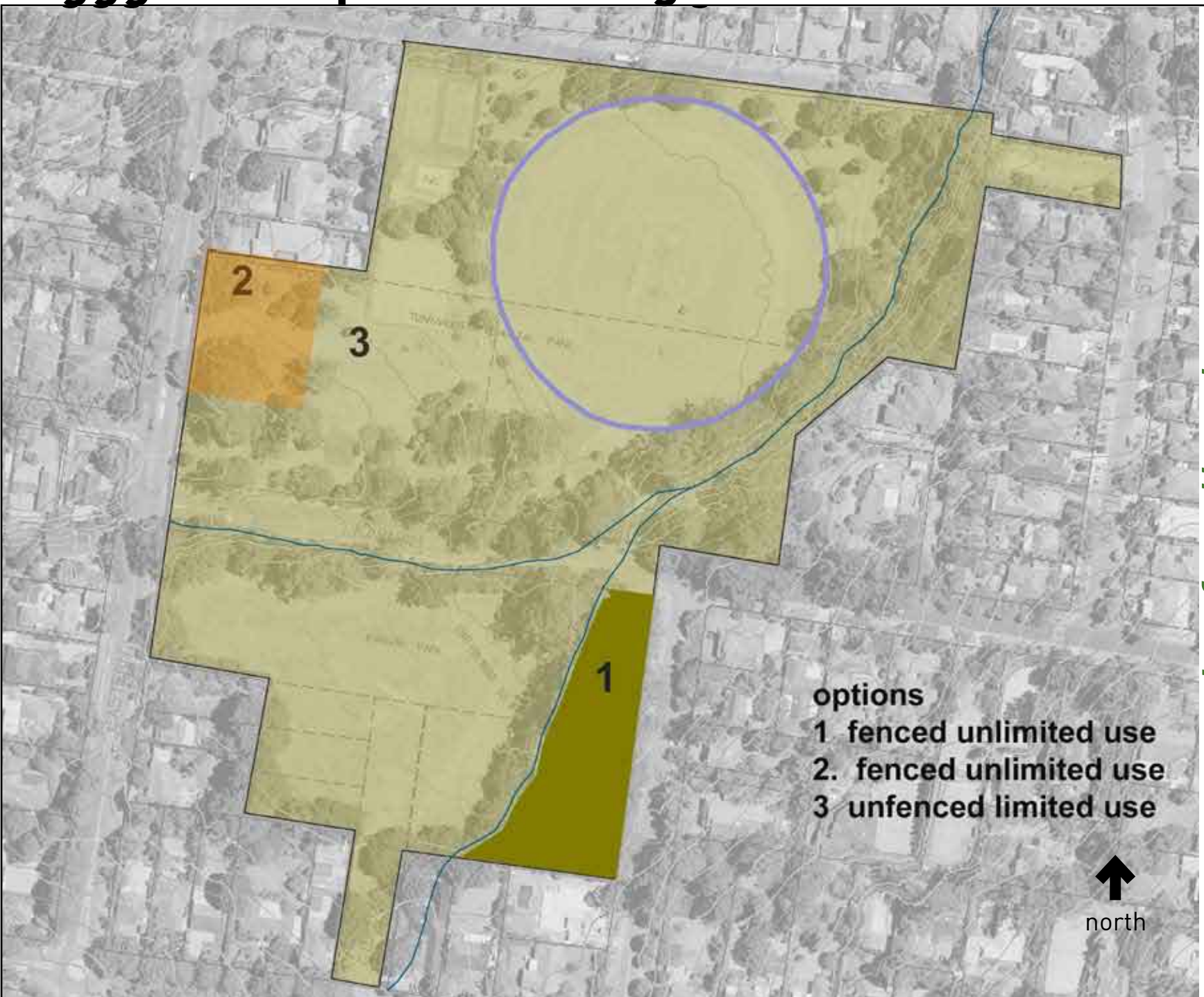
Dogs create a conflict for park users, and in response to this, Council has produced a flyer outlining dog owners' responsibilities while in an off-leash area:

- ensure your dog is leashed on the way to and from the area
- keep your dog in sight at all times
- be able to control your dog by voice
- pick up and dispose of all waste correctly
- ensure your dog does not rush at or harass other dogs and people.

Council rangers regularly patrol these areas and the following fines will be issued for non-compliance:

Not under effective control	\$220
Failure to pick up dog faeces	\$275
Dog attack	\$550

suggested options for dog off-leash areas



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