

sportsgroups

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai & Hills District Cricket Association

members - 1,400 juniors and 1,200 seniors - summer season

difficulties experienced

- open creek/drainage channel is a hazard for junior players
- Karuah Road is dangerous
- inadequate toilet facilities
- lack of secure storage and change rooms for players and officials

suggestions

- redevelop amenities building at Turramurra Memorial Park for use by sportsgroups and community (designed on Environmentally Sustainable Design principles)
- replace toilet facilities near tennis courts (retrofit building for new uses)
- new cricket practice nets at Karuah and Turramurra (Cricket Association will contribute towards funding)
- Improve drainage around nets

Sydney Pacific Athletic Club

difficulties experienced:

- over use in winter with up to five soccer teams and athletics sharing facility
- lack of grass coverage
- trees on northern side of the track have a detrimental effect on the running surface
- the two throw circles are unavailable in winter due to soccer posts

suggestions

- retain for athletics circular running track, straight running track (western side), second straight track for summer (eastern side), two throw circles, storage area in the change rooms

additional facilities

- increase circular track to 400 metres and add an additional inside lane to distribute wear
- provide long jump pit (covered for hygiene) (original pit removed)
- throw circles suitable for all year use
- cross country circuit track (close Karuah Road and connect parks)

Wahroonga Football Club (WFC) & Barker Old Boys

- WFC are affiliated with the Ku-ring-gai District Soccer Association (KDSA)
- WFC members 1,100 plus football players who use Karuah Park and TMP
- Karuah - WFC small-sided football games for 475 participants for under 6s and under 8s from March to September. TMP - full sized games. Training weeknights at both parks.

Karuah Park

difficulties experienced

- open creek is a hazard
- inadequate parking (100 plus families each Saturday for football alone)
- Karuah Road is dangerous for young children
- poor drainage at Karuah Park
- fence creeks for child safety

suggestions

- permanently close Karuah Road which is dangerous for young children
- if it is not possible to close Karuah Road - improve lighting for safety and introduce traffic calming sense of place:
- retention of trees
- sense of 'home ground'
- facilities: storage, canteen, toilets, water bubblers, security, improve access from Karuah Road to parklands, cricket nets, cover the cricket pitch, water storage for Karuah, lighting at Karuah, seating, picnic and BBQs

Turramurra Memorial Park

difficulties experienced

- shared use with rugby during winter creating poor surface - Council to consider if this arrangement is sustainable in the long term
- concurrent training with athletics poses danger to young players, especially from javelin throwing
- cricket pitch area is hazardous because it's rock hard sense of place:
- retain village green ambience, spatial arrangement and stands of trees for the benefit of all local residents and sporting clubs
- improve turfing - particularly cricket wicket block which is very hard facilities:
- redevelop amenities building (similar to Knox's at Curagal), water storage, improved cricket nets, support cafe

Council's response

Karuah Park

- assist clubs to upgrade amenities building and provide covered area
- investigate site drainage, and grade to direct stormwater away from amenities building
- increase parking (see panel 3)
- replace fencing along creeks
- investigate reshaping Lovers Jump Creek and grade sides (comply with Riparian Policy, 2004) to improve aesthetics and safety
- replace understorey at creek with low plantings for improved surveillance
- investigate lighting for fields
- assist clubs with funding and grant applications to upgrade cricket nets and improve drainage
- fill ground behind cricket nets and retain - dissipate water energy in creek to prevent erosion with pools and riffles
- provide additional bubblers
- provide bench seating for field
- cover the cricket pitch
- investigate water harvesting in the long term

Turramurra Memorial Park

- retain parkland feel
- investigate improvements to turf
- investigate hardness (possible drainage issues) of cricket wicket block
- assist clubs with funding and grant applications to upgrade cricket nets and improve drainage
- conceal storage structures around oval with plants
- assist clubs to upgrade existing clubhouse/ community building or provide a new building. Maintain minimal scale of building to lessen its impact on the park. Ku-ring-gai Heritage Study, 1987 identifies Turramurra Memorial Park as an area of potential significance. Undertake further heritage assessment of the building to determine its heritage status
- retain existing athletics facilities
- investigate additional facilities for athletics as suggested by club



community feedback

district park landscape masterplan

turramurra memorial park and karuah park

sustainable ku-ring-gai



landscape quality

what you told us

what you value most about the parks

- traditional parkland feel of Turramurra Memorial Park - grass, open space
- large trees - both deciduous and local indigenous
- landscape qualities that are conducive to creating a strong sense of community
- natural environment
- relaxed feel/quiet atmosphere
- lack of commercialism or development
- Memorial Gates
- spatial organisation - appreciation of original design/layout
- range of recreation activities that caters for all ages
- friendly atmosphere

Council's response

Turramurra Memorial Park

- conserve the existing landscape character in a manner that respects the memorial status of the park
- protect and enhance the traditional parkland feel
- retain tranquil atmosphere - undeveloped, uncluttered, group new facilities
- retain current spatial organisation - including the location of facilities and balance of lawn, trees and local indigenous vegetation of creek area
- remove exotic trees that are planted too close together, remove dead wood and lift the canopy where appropriate. Transplant newer trees that are 'spotted' in the lawn area to retain asymmetrical planting of deciduous trees around the northern side of the oval
- promote views into the park from Eastern Road - transplant younger deciduous trees that are 'spotted' to the south/east of the oval
- upgrade facilities using materials that respect existing 1920s parkland character - including a picket fence to the oval in timber or aluminium (in the longer term and subject to vandal assessment), and landscape entrances and around facilities where appropriate
- landscape Memorial Gates area, provide seating and clear reference on plaques to those who died
- upgrade toilets in amenities buildings or replace with new buildings
- improve maintenance, including removing fallen fruit/seeds from trees near Laurence Street (rather than blowing off path onto grass)

Karuah Park

- investigate closure or partial closure of Karuah Road to connect parks

create a stronger landscape identity for Karuah Park

- highlight Lovers Jump Creek and establish Karuah Park as an integral element in the proposed walk to Bobbin Head (see panels 2 and 3)
- retain woodland area adjoining Turramurra Avenue and maintain original planting regime: exotic trees at southern end (transplant young eucalypts to northern end) and Blue Gum High Forest at the northern end. Suggested uses: dog off-leash area, dirt bike/BMX tracks, passive recreation (crushed sandstone paths and seating).
- investigate upgrading the clubhouse/community building as requested by sportsgroups
- provide covered area including tables and chairs adjacent to clubhouse/community building
- consider extending the amenities building with a deck over the creek with views into the woodland
- upgrade facilities, preserve sportsfield character and strengthen the natural environment: reshape the creek where possible and plant with grasses and low vegetation (see panel 2)

Heritage

Municipality of Ku-ring-gai Heritage Study, 1987: Turramurra Memorial Park is identified as an "Item of heritage significance requiring conservation management plans".

Undertake heritage assessment of park and develop a conservation management plan if required. Retain and maintain Turramurra Memorial Park's heritage elements and spatial arrangement as representative of the activities associated with the interactions between humans, human societies and the shaping of their physical surroundings. Heritage consultant to assess clubhouse/community building at Turramurra Memorial Park which is representative of the Georgian revival style with Mediterranean influence similar to the designs of William Hardy Wilson, however it does not cater for current user needs.

Memorial gates

examples of residents' comments

"Turramurra Memorial Park is in memory of those who gave their lives for our future. Please maintain the peace and beauty in their honour."

"The overall tranquillity, trees and landscape of the park is truly its greatest aspect which fits the purpose for which Turramurra Memorial Park was dedicated."

Council's response

- support the RSL and resident's recommendations
- landscape memorial area and provide seating

what you like least about the parks

- existing facilities need upgrading - playground, path, fences
- nothing- leave as is
- Karuah Road divides the two parks - visual/physical, speeding cars
- issues relating to dogs
- toilets require upgrading and improved maintenance
- creek area requires improved maintenance
- poor aesthetics of Karuah Park



bitumen, concrete and crushed sandstone surfaces to retain existing landscape character



incorporate sandstone elements where possible to maintain existing landscape character



wheelchair/baby access to picnic tables



chairs with good back support and arm rests



investigate reinstating a picket fence in the longer term

RSL suggests

- significance of memorial reflected throughout Turramurra Memorial Park
- landscape Memorial area



community feedback

district park landscape masterplan

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social/aesthetics

CONSTRAINTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Strengths/opportunities

- Adjacent parks located in a central area - 700m from Turramurra Town Centre and its associated facilities
- TMP - 1930s landscape character providing an established 'sense of place'
- Historic war memorial
- TMP Good spatial qualities - sense of enclosure, facilities well-placed
- Well placed mature deciduous trees providing summer shade and winter sun
- TMP - Walking path around oval
- Valuable vegetation at creek area: Blue Gum High Forest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion which is listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (NSW Scientific Committee 1997).
- Good road access – Eastern Road is an regional road that is linked to outlying areas
- Good public transport - near Turramurra and Warrawee railway stations and on a direct bus route
- Good relationship between parkland and surrounding streetscapes, opportunity to strengthen this, particularly Gilroy Road and new town centre
- Multiple entry points – linking neighbourhoods and opportunity to improve circulation
- Good existing facilities at TMP
- Co-ordinate palettes of colours, materials and furniture/ fittings over whole site
- New social opportunities to strengthening community
- Improve local ecology and introduce sustainable practices

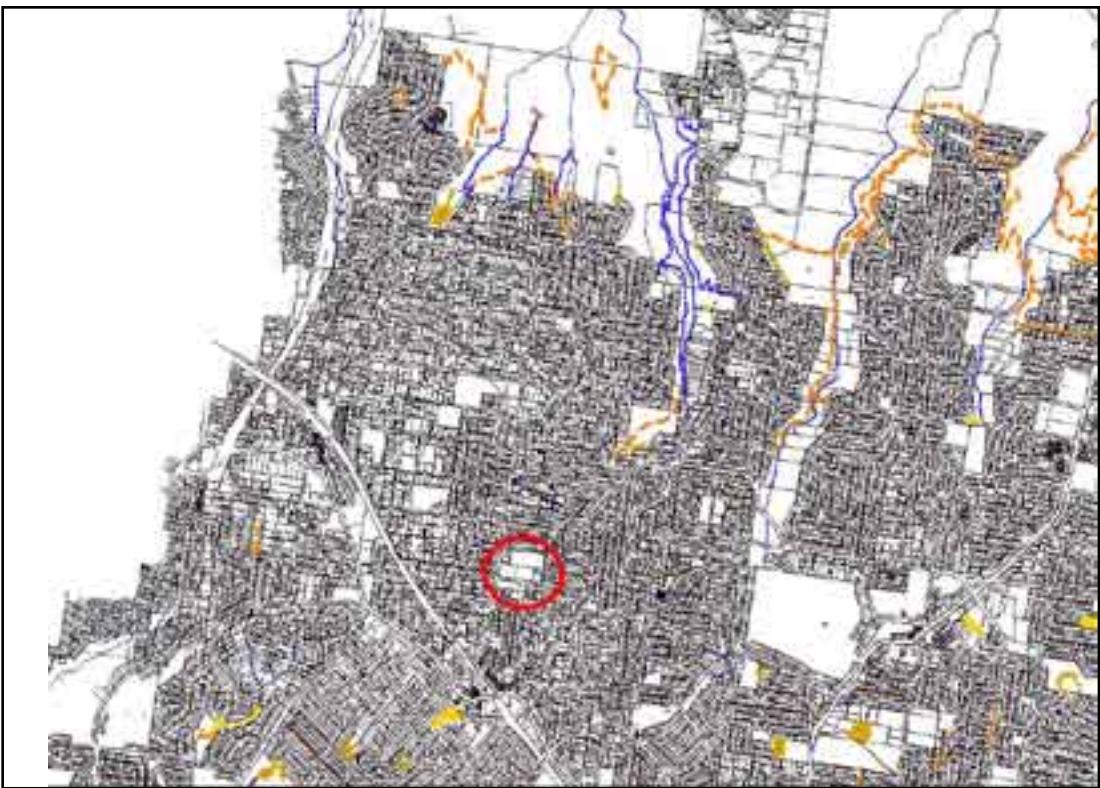
Weaknesses

- Parkland separated into three areas: Turramurra Memorial Park, Karuah Park sportsfields, Karuah Park forest
- Karuah Park lacks a defined landscape character
- Limited range of facilities for park users
- Limited undeveloped space to locate new facilities
- Impact of activities at the parks on local residents
- Limited parking
- Conflicts between formal and informal uses
- High demand for sportsfields
- Impact of park activities on Blue Gum High Forest
- Vandalism
- Boundaries not well defined
- Unattractive amenities building at Karuah Park
- Poor surveillance & security, especially at Karuah Park



Sports reserves

Sports reserves in the local area



Walking tracks

Local tracks follow Lovers Jump Creek to Bobbin Head in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

Zoning

Zoning - 6a

Classification - Community land

Area

Turamurra Memorial Park - 4.97 ha

Karuah Park - 1.85 ha



Current activities

Formal sport

- Athletics
- Cricket
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Tennis (four courts)

Informal sport/games

- Walking
- Fitness – jogging, exercising
- Playground
- Dog walking including off-leash area
- Cricket nets at both parks
- Touch football

Passive recreation

- Picnics
- Contemplative/quiet seating
- Sport spectator

Festivities

- Remembrance and memorial ceremonies
- Food and Wine Fair (previous years)



SUSTAINABLE PRINCIPLES

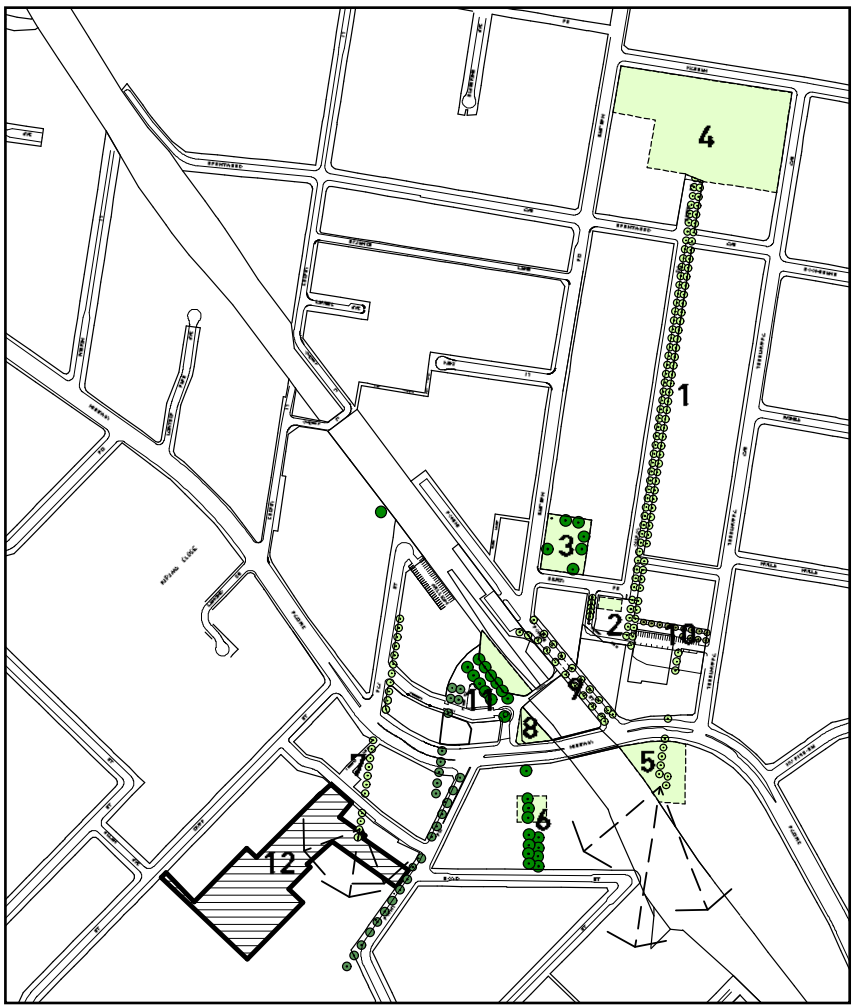
Economic

- Implement programs to reduce energy and water consumption
- Improve Council operations and maintenance practices within the budget
- Work with community groups to improve facilities
- Make improvements to reduce public liability and insurance claims

Social

- Provide access and amenity to all residents
- Offer opportunities for a range of recreational activities, formal and informal, active and passive
- Preserve open space, recognising its value as an important community asset
- Minimise impacts on neighbours such as traffic, parking, noise, light and litter

Turramurra Town Centre



Proposed parks and open space



Proposed land use



Proposed bicycle circulation

community feedback

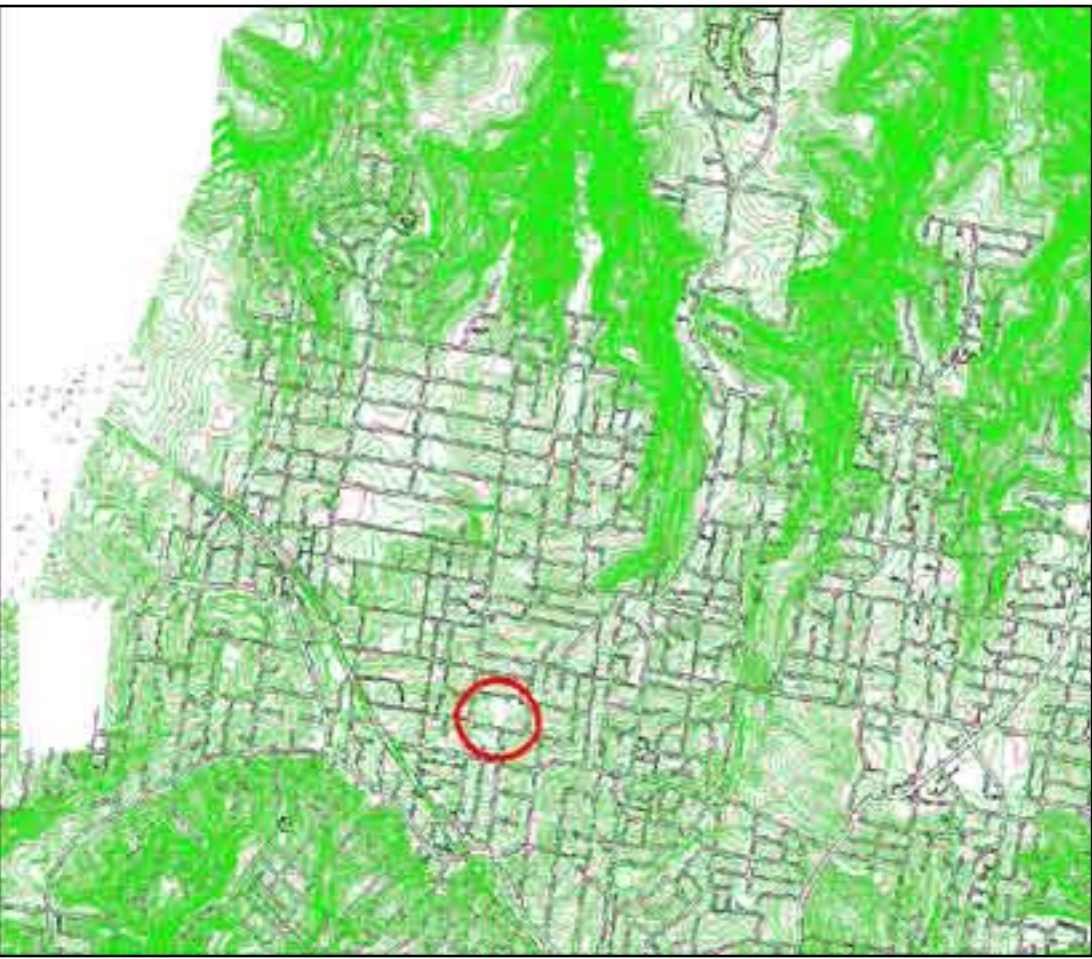
district park landscape masterplan analysis

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turramurra memorial park and karuah park

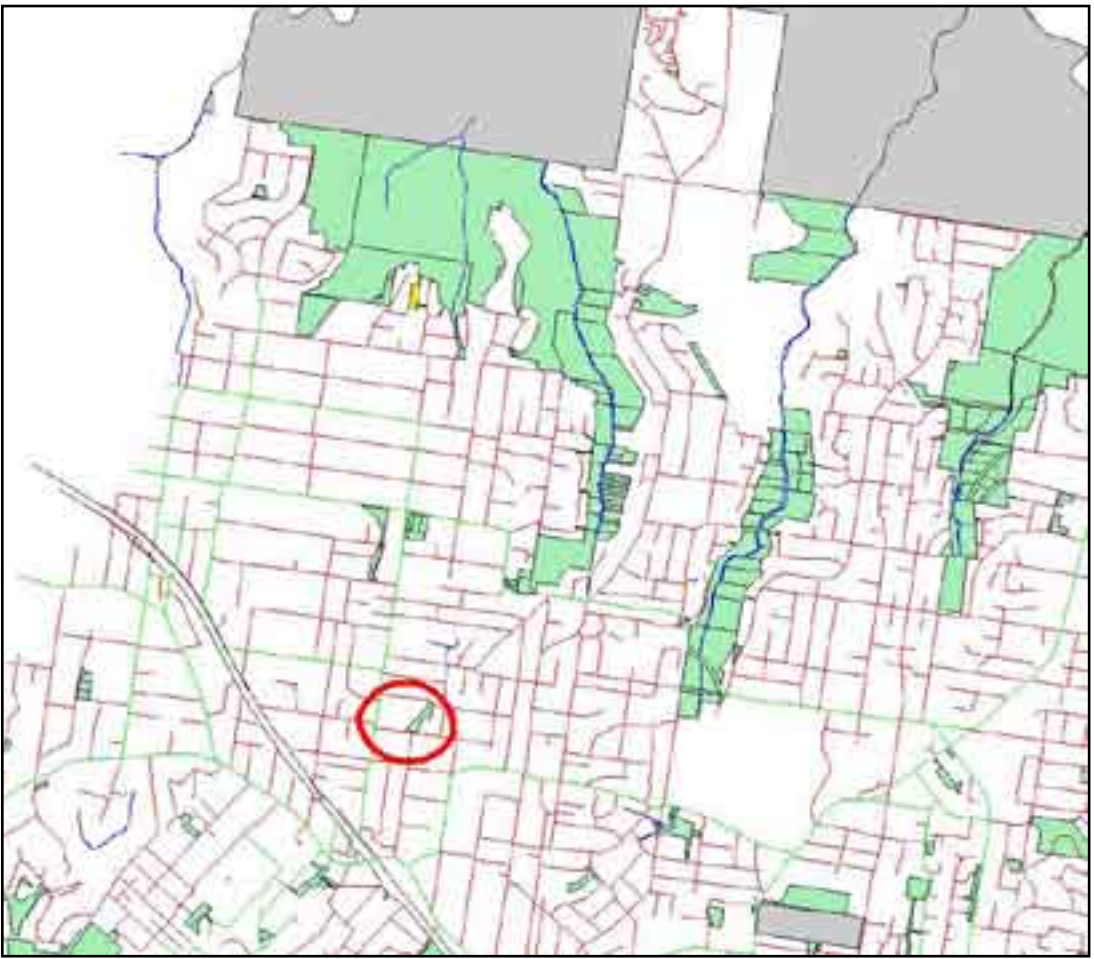
sustainable ku-ring-gai





Topography

The parks are located 170m above sea level and to the east of the broad ridge that forms the central spine along the Pacific Highway and railway line.

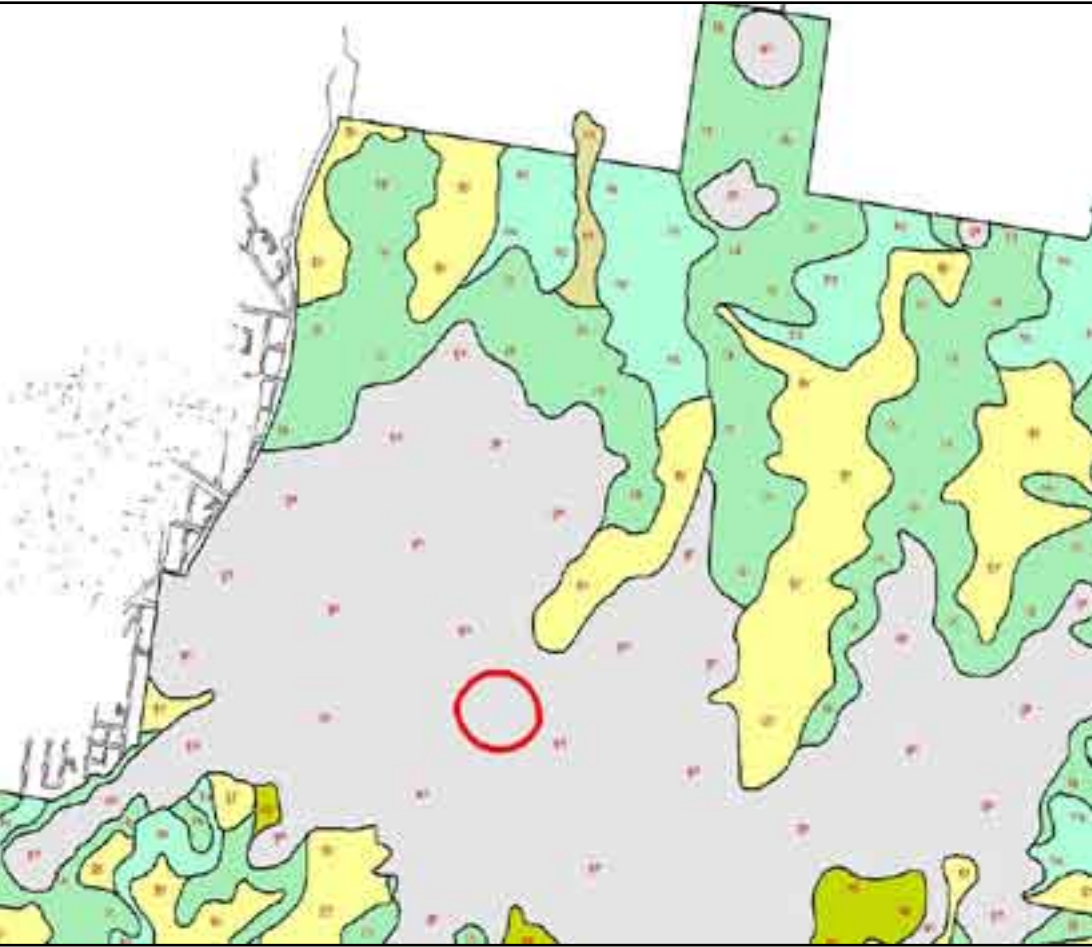


Natural areas

The parks are located near pockets of natural areas and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is close by.

Sustainable principles - Ecology

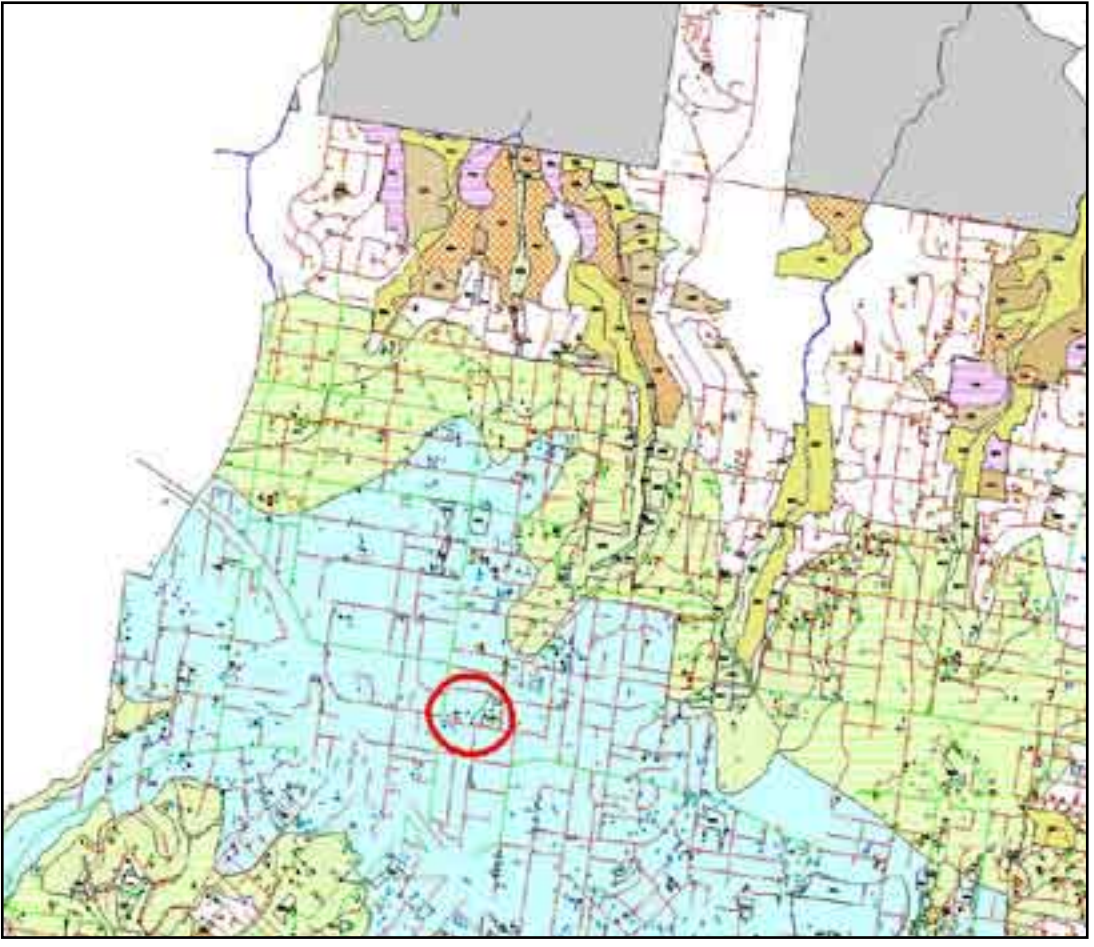
- Protect and enhance endemic plants and provide habitat
- Provide corridors to link bushland areas
- Incorporate water sensitive urban design principles
- Reuse, recycle and reduce waste
- Manage off-site impacts such as noxious weeds and encroachments



Local soil types

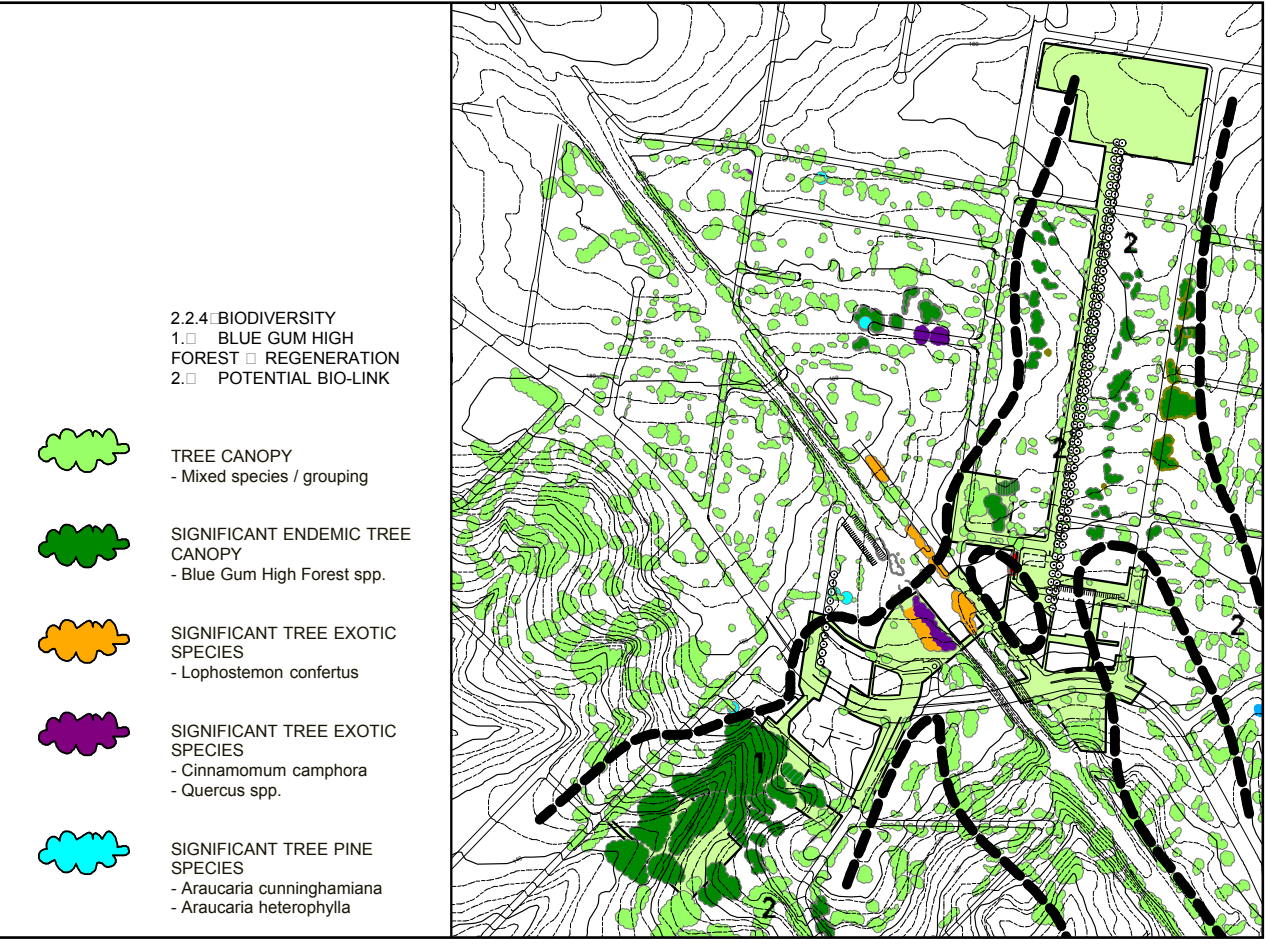
- Glenorie (gn)
- Lucas heights (lh)
- Gymea (gy)
- Hawkesbury (ha)

Source: Soil Landscapes of the Sydney Region 1:100,000 Sheet (Chapman & Murphy, 1989)



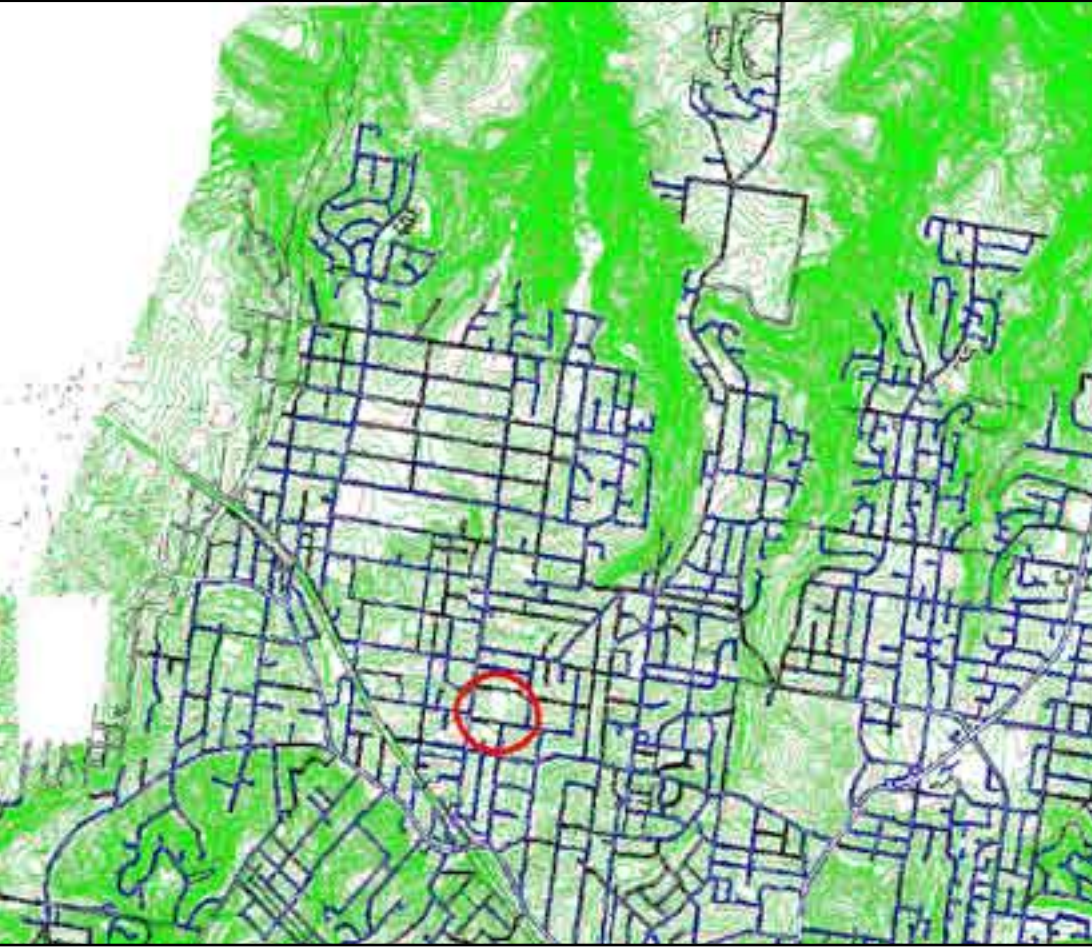
Vegetation

- Local ecological communities include:
- Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest
 - Blue Gum High Forest
 - Natural Areas
 - Remnant canopy (surveyed 2002)



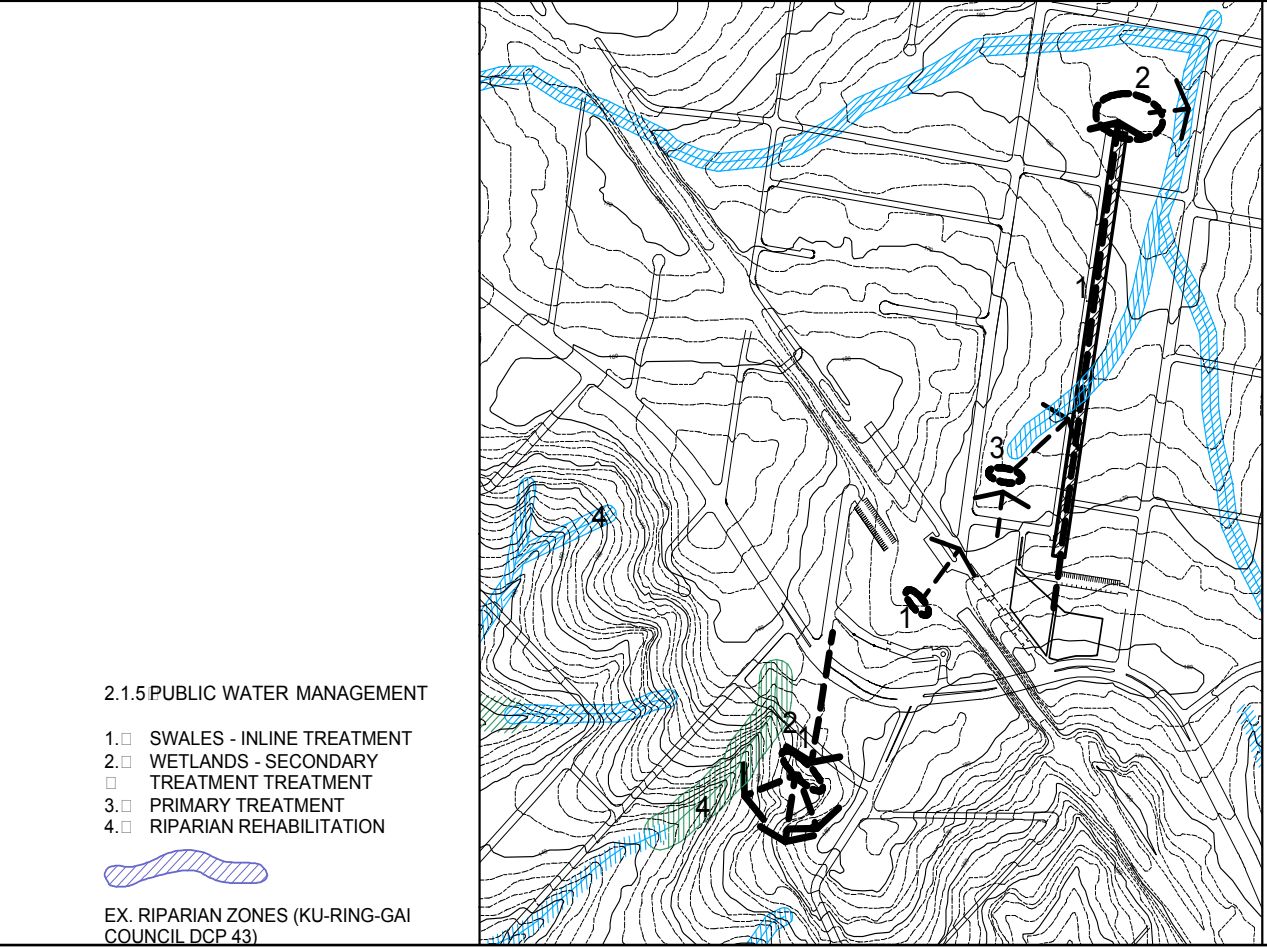
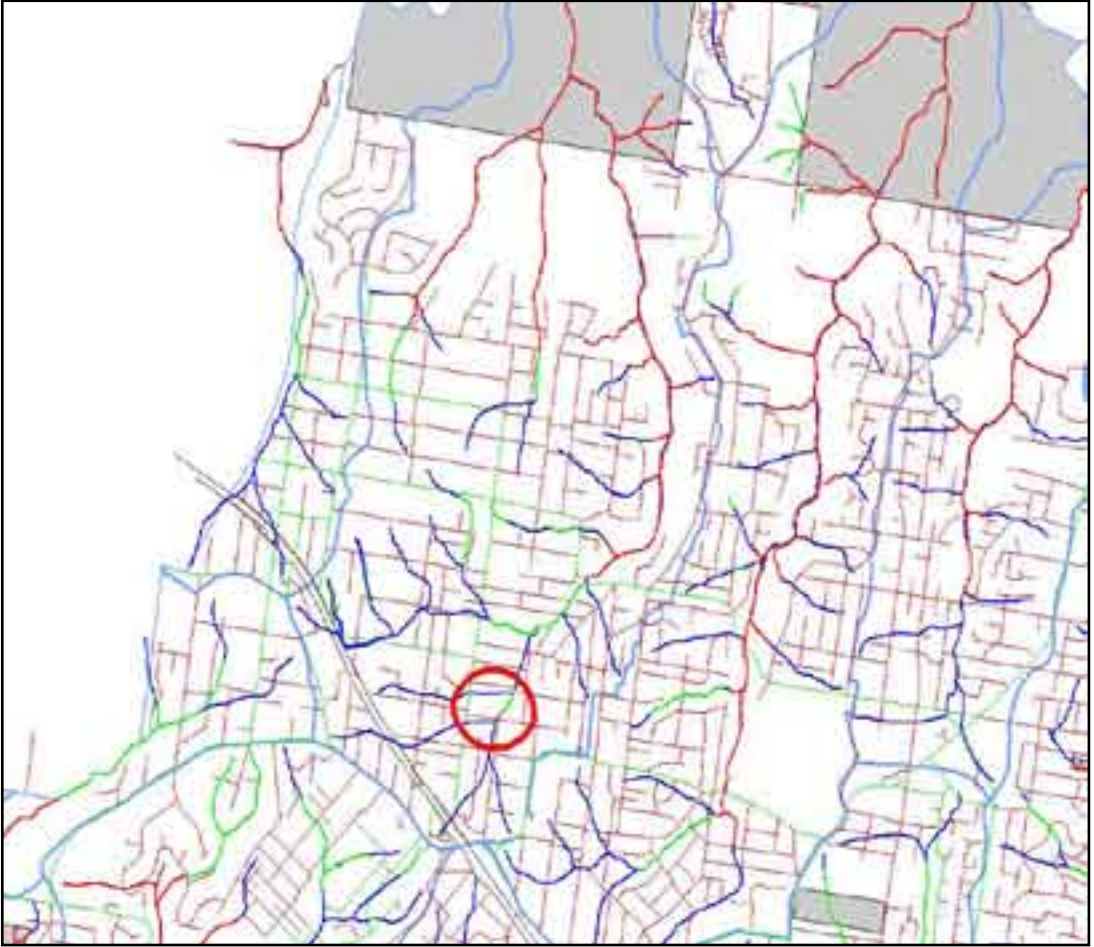
Town Centre biodiversity

Creating biolinkages from the Town Centre to nearby parkland and bushland increases biodiversity.



Water catchment and hydrology

Turramurra has a rainfall of 1140 mm annually, the highest average rainfall in the Sydney metropolitan area. The parks are located in the Cowan Creek Catchment. Tributaries of Lovers Jump Creek run through the parks. Lovers Jump Creek flows along the valley west of Bobbin Head Road, North Turramurra towards the Hawkesbury River.



Town Centre Water management

Water from the Town Centre could be directed into the creek as a series of wetlands to enhance the parks, while maintaining the playing fields.

community feedback

district park landscape masterplan analysis



historical background

The indigenous people of Ku-ring-gai, the Cammeraigal, are a clan of the *Kuringgai* whose territory extended from Broken Bay to Tuggerah Lake. Turramurra is an indigenous word meaning 'high hill' or 'big hill'. Robert Pymble, an early settler, was friends with a tribe of indigenous people who travelled from the Lane Cove River to Cowan Waters and he recalled them referring to the hill beyond the present station as *Turramurra* or *Turraburra*.

Turramurra Memorial Park is one of Ku-ring-gai's most beautiful parks because it encompasses the character of a traditional village green and demonstrates the importance of recreation in the social history of Australia. At the turn of the twentieth-century prominent planners and architects resided here¹, and along with local residents, they created voluntary local government through Progress Associations, to beautify the new suburban landscapes which hugged the railway line. Inspiration came from the Garden Suburb Movement, an English planning model that focused on aesthetics and sought to promote well designed buildings in attractive landscape settings. In 1906 the establishment of shire councils became mandatory and when Ku-ring-gai Shire Council was formed it upheld the ideals of the Progress Associations.

In 1915 councils in NSW acquired the power to manage parks, reserves and commons and soon after, the Local Government Act, 1919 provided provision for councils to buy or resume land for parks. The Parks and Playgrounds Movement of the 1930s inspired park acquisition however, by this time, Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council had acquired 80 parks covering approximately 800 hectares. Most of the parks were in their natural state, but parks nearer to railway stations, and the railway stations themselves, were generally landscaped to complement the garden suburbs. The ideals of the Garden Suburb Movement and the Parks and Playgrounds Movement² are encompassed in the landscape character of Ku-ring-gai's parks and particularly evident in Turramurra Memorial Park.

Karuah Park lacks the aesthetic qualities of Turramurra Memorial Park, probably due to the different times that the parks were created. Turramurra Memorial Park was created in 1926 whereas Kaurah Park was created in 1946. By this time park design had become based on practicality rather than philosophy due to the impact of the Second World War. It was a time of austere measures due to shortages of tradesmen and materials.

The location of the parks has an interesting early history. European settlement of Turramurra began when Thomas Hyndes was granted a lease of 809 hectares by Governor Brisbane, later known as the Big Island Estate (directly north of Robert Pymble's lease). Hyndes lease was granted in 1822 and with it began a period of timber getting which lasted until 1850 when the forests were felled leaving cleared land for dairies and orchards. In 1920 fruit fly stopped commercial fruit growing on the North Shore and in response a small number of orchardists leased their land to Chinese people for market gardens, including Sainty's Orchards - the site of Turramurra Memorial Park and Karuah Park. [Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, 1996] Two descriptions of the site follow:

"Vegetable gardens in Eastern Road, tended by Chinese, who brought round their products in horse-drawn covered carts . . . the opening of Turramurra Park Memorial Gates . . . Sunday School picnics there under the gum trees - buttered buns, corned beef sandwiches, lemon syrup, oranges and bags of boiled lollies . . . races on the oval . . . tennis clubs and tournaments . . . circuses in the vacant allotment that is now Cameron Park . . . a solid community, with its own inner strength." (Ku-ring-gai Historical Society)

". . . My family came up from Mosman in 1920. We lived in Karuah Road from that time, and at the bottom of the road, where the park is now there was a wonderful market garden with four Chinese running it. Where Turramurra Park is, they had a very nice quite large house near Eastern Road; the whole of the present football field was a market garden. There were two additional houses near Turramurra Avenue under the trees." (Bramble, 1999)

Plantings and buildings

Turramurra Park's oval is partially surrounded by formal plantings of mature non-indigenous trees. It is unknown who planted the trees, but it is in the tradition of early twentieth-century landscapes, as carried out in Ku-ring-gai's parks and railway stations by Council's building surveyor R. H. Patterson. Richard Patterson had studied architecture and civic design at the University of Liverpool UK and came to Australia where he was associated with the Parks and Playgrounds Movement of N.S.W. and the Town Planning Association. He worked for Ku-ring-gai Council from July 1926 until June 1938.

The parks contain several magnificent 'Blue Gum High Forest' trees and a small forest exists along the creek line. Many mature trees were destroyed during the 1991 storm, and in 1993 the community assisted Council staff in a massive replanting of endemic trees at Turramurra Memorial Park.

It is unknown who designed the buildings at Turramurra Memorial Park, although they demonstrate similities with the Council Depot buildings, which were designed by Gilbert and MacAuliffe, Engineers, Melbourne.



Remembering the fallen

Turramurra Memorial Park was named to commemorate the fallen of World War 1. The gates, located at the corner of Eastern Road and Karuah Road, were unveiled on "Sunday 1 April 1928 by His Excellency, the Governor, Sir Dudley de Chair who was accompanied by his private secretary Brigadier General A. T. Anderson C. M. G., who was himself a resident of Turramurra. The 18th Battalion formed a Guard of Honour while the band of the 17th Battalion played during the service and provided the bugler who played the Last Post..." The gates were designed by Messrs Power, Adam and Munning and the stone pillars contain the names of 136 men from Turramurra who enlisted in World War 1, including 15 who were killed or died of their wounds - five died at or after Gallipoli and the remaining ten died in France. Recently stars have been placed against those who died. (Wood, 2007)



Turramurra Park memorial gates circa 1928
Series: Ku-ring-gai Shire: Engineering Programmes, 1928.

Footnotes

1. Original members of the Wahroonga Progress Association: George Collingridge (artist), John Slade (draftsman), John Charles (draper) and John Sulman K.B.E. (architect, Chairman of the Town Planning Advisory Board of the Department of Local Government and lecturer in town planning at the University of Sydney from 1919 to 1926).
2. The Parks and Playground Movement provided guidelines for the quantity and quality outdoor spaces; from playgrounds, playing fields, tennis courts, organised sports associations etcetra to National Parks, and considered recreation essential to good health and wellbeing. The 1932 Report by the Official Consultative Committee described Sydney's Northern Suburbs: *On the 12-mile-long ridge and its spurs on which these lie, considerable areas have been reserved as public park; but almost all these reserves - Ku-ring-gai Chase, Davidson Park and others - consist of rough country which though extremely valuable for nature, reserves and for holiday resorts, are impossible for playing-fields. Space is already difficult to find, and the increase of population following the opening of the Harbour Bridge will render the difficulty acute.*
3. Turramurra Memorial Park was formed by amalgamating four properties - two which were originally part of the grant to John Terry Hughes of 1842, were transferred from The Permanent Trustee Company of NSW to Council of the Shire of Ku-ring-gai on 2/6/1921. While the other two lots were originally part of Thomas Hyndes grant. Lot 6 Section 1 was transferred from John Herbert Sainty to the Shire of Ku-ring-gai on 5/4/1921 and Lot 5 section 1 was transferred from Margaret Nelson Christie on 21/7/1922. Kaurah Park was created in 1946 when Council acquired seven adjoining lots, from the Presbyterian Church.

References

Bramble, N and P. 'John's Welley Good Cabbages' *Chinese Market Gardeners in Australia*. Paper presented at K.H.S. meeting 17. 99 based on extensive research by Nola and Phillip Bramble, The Historian, vol. 28, no. 2, Sept 1999.
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1945 plan of Turramurra Memorial Park

bushcare

Council’s Volunteer Bushcare Program provides residents with the opportunity to assist in the preservation and protection of Ku-ring-gai’s natural areas. Council supplies technical and logistical support, while the community supplies the skills and commitment of volunteers.

A group of local residents formed Turramurra Park Bushcare Group in October 2006. They have been working to regenerate a corridor of Blue Gum High Forest along Lovers Jump Creek which runs through the park, joins Cockle Creek and flows through Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park to Cowan Creek at Bobbin Head.

The group has 20 members on its mailing list, with a core group of about seven regularly attending the working sessions which are held on the fourth Sunday of each month. The aim of the group is to restore a healthy bushland corridor along the creek line and they are concentrating on the section of creek between the two pedestrian bridges near the cricket nets. Their long term goal is to link up with other groups working on both public and private land downstream.

Maintaining a healthy bushland in urban settings is very rewarding. Council and community volunteers have planted large numbers of native trees to replace those destroyed by the 1991 storm.

The bushland corridor at TMP has been narrowed by mowing of adjacent grassed areas and the creek continues to be a source of weeds. Council has addressed these issues in the masterplan and if you would like to be involved NOW is a good time.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN BUSHCARE?

- healthy, weed free bushland adds value to private properties
- provide safe habitat and corridors for local wildlife
- learn more about the beautiful leafy environment in which you live
- learn bush regeneration techniques which will be useful in your garden
- encourage community pride and ownership
- make new friends and be part of a group with common goals and interests

ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

- Streetcare - protect and preserve streetscapes
- Parkcare - restore remnant bushland in parks
- Backyard Bushcare - Council assistance to preserve and regenerate native vegetation on private property
- WildThings - promotes, protects and proliferates urban wildlife with a series of imaginative and innovative projects

BECOME INVOLVED

Contact Council’s Bushcare Officer - Jocelyn Chenu

Email: bushcare@kmc.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 9424 0811 or 9424 0179
Fax: 9424 0870
Mail: Locked Bag 1056, Pymble NSW 2073
In person: 818 Pacific Highway, Gordon 2072



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community feedback

bushcare program

turramurra memorial park and karuah park

sustainable ku-ring-gai

