

BRUNSWICK VALLEY HERITAGE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN (May 18, 1980)

A. Description of Area

The site for the park is a stretch of bank of the Brunswick River in Mullumbimby.

It consists of the river reserve and a portion of unmade road in the missing section of Brunswick Terrace. It extends in the west from a fence some 75 metres from the Federation Bridge to, and in the east, the beginning of Mill Street at its junction with Stuart Street.

Management Policy

The design and establishment of the Park will be the sole responsibility of the Byron Flora and Fauna Conservation Society. Thereafter the planting and general management will be undertaken by a committee of five members at least three of whom shall be members of the B.F.F.C.S.

A. Objectives

The overall aim in establishing this park is to collect in one area a wide and representative selection of the flora native to this part of Australia. It is designed to fit into the overall concept of regional botanic gardens first proposed at the 1976 Burrendong Conference, and now being promoted by the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation.

It is intended that this park will not only be an attractive amenity for the local community and visitors, but a project in which people can share a continuing practical involvement. The flora is to be presented to show the special characteristics of the principal local species and in particular all rare and endangered species. Descriptive information will be provided where appropriate (see Section G).

The other objectives concern the care and permanent management of this part of the environment. All planting, earthworks and construction will be undertaken such that there will be no resulting erosion or depletion of soil quality. All work will be planned to guard against the risk of fire, the destruction of wildlife habitat and flood damage both in and outside the site. The aims and policies of conservation and reforestation will be explained and promoted. No action will be undertaken or allowed that will cause or could result in the pollution of the site, the river or any adjoining area.

The management committee will ensure that careful records of all plants both existing and introduced are kept. These permanent and continuing records will be available for historic or scientific research.

D. Existing Features

The dominant feature of the park is the river with its associated mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) fringe. Two tennis courts are in the western corner by Tyagarah Street and an old road formation runs into the site from this point. A

line of six 20 year old Poincianas (*Delonix regia*) continue the line of the old road. At the end of Dalley Street there is a collection of six large Figs (*Ficus virens*) at least 50 years old, one large Kaffir Plum (*Harpephyllum caffrum*), four large Umbrella trees (*Schefflera actinophylla*) and some concrete slabs, the remnants of small buildings. Other trees are mostly Camphor Laurels (*Cinnamomum camphora*) on the river bank mixed in with some regeneration of natives.

The road frontages are fairly level at about the 405 metre contour with easy gradients to the 1-2 metre high river bank. Houses face or back onto the site from Tyagarah to Stuart Streets.

E. **Access**

There is an existing entrance at Tyagarah Street and it is proposed to make this the main entrance initially. However easy access for pedestrians can be achieved from Gordon Street to Brunswick Terrace. Ultimately it is not intended to maintain any fencing along this section so that a number of footpaths will be allowed to develop where there is a need for them.

Another major entry point will be located at the end of Dalley Street. No vehicular access will be allowed except that required for maintenance and construction purposes. A series of footpaths will be constructed within the site and these will include a riverside walk intended to make the riverbank easily accessible.

F. **Public Facilities**

The major facility to be constructed will be a children's adventureland near the end of Dalley Street. Other facilities to be provided over a long term programme will include seating, shelters and an information centre (and such buildings as may be deemed advisable and of benefit to the park and/or community – amended 20/6/82)

G. **Information**

A major feature of the park will be the identification of trees both existing and new. Name signs will be provided and descriptions of key species with any interesting features will also be displayed. An explanation of the reasons for the latinised naming system will be given at a suitable location.

In addition, a central information board giving a general description of the flora and environmental conditions through the various stages of evolution will be provided as a educational facility. As the park develops and provides a habitat for native fauna, the information will be extended to include notes on them and their role in the total ecology. This board will also explain the purpose of the park, the role of the B.F.F.C.S. in its creation and the value of conservation.

H. **Planting Constraints**

In view of the close proximity of houses to the site, care will be taken not to plant large trees where they could become a nuisance and possibly a danger to

these houses. This care will also include the tennis court area where planting will be designed to limit the intrusion of leaves etc. on to the courts.

The overall aim is to plant the larger trees nearer to the river and to roughly grade the height of vegetation down as it gets nearer to the houses. At the same time no planting will be undertaken that could adversely affect the river or riverbank or cause a build up of floodwaters behind a dense band of vegetation.

I. **Range of Species**

Generally the species to be introduced will only be those indigenous to the Brunswick Valley area. However trees of particular interest and those rare and endangered species will be given special attention. The absolute limits of range for all plants will be the Macleay-McPherson overlap.

J. **Exotic Species**

It is recognised that there are several exotic trees within the site. No new exotic species will be introduced and eventually the native species will be allowed to take over. The Camphor Laurels are dealt with in the next section.

K. **Control of Weeds**

A major part of the work to be done in controlling undesirable growth involves the limitation of the Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*). Because this tree spreads so easily and is such an aggressive feeder, it would undoubtedly take over the whole riverbank if it is not checked. However many of these trees existing on the riverbank are quite large and their root systems are important in consolidating the bank.

Investigations with the relevant authorities will be undertaken to determine a policy for a permanent solution to the problem within the site. Other weeds that now exist will be gradually removed including the smaller Camphor Laurels. Regular inspections will be made to ensure that there is no regrowth or further intrusion of weeds into the site. Eventually the type of planting that will be undertaken should preclude the introduction of new weeds.

L. **Regeneration**

A policy will be adopted that allows the natural regeneration of native species within certain areas. These areas will be determined as the park is developed. Regeneration would not be permitted to go unchecked in areas such as drains and drainage courses where the regrowth would impede the runoff of floodwaters. Nor would regeneration within the previously mentioned constraint areas be allowed to remain.

M. **Records**

Careful records will be kept of the existing trees and all new planting, as well as any regrowth that is observed. Dates of planting, growth patterns and any significant events will be recorded so that any study that might be undertaken in the future would have adequate source information.

It is envisaged that the standard of recording will be sufficiently high to satisfy any enquiries that might be made from Australian Botanical Gardens.

N.

Adoption

This management plan was adopted by the Byron Flora and Fauna Conservation Society on the 18th May, 1980 and it was agreed that this plan may be modified or altered only by notice of motion and subsequent adoption of the motion by that Society at a general meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.