

function of this part of the Reserve as a stroll garden. Such facilities may, however, be appropriate for less formal sectors of the Reserve, such as the old tennis court area in the north east corner.

### **Objective**

*Ensure that sufficient and appropriate facilities are available within the Reserve to serve the essential needs of its users without compromising the essential function of the reserve and its design integrity as a domestic "garden in the bush".*

## **3.8 Funding**

### **Issue**

Swain Gardens is maintained and developed through a combination of Council day labour and volunteer assistance from interested individuals or groups. Similarly, funding for maintenance and development of the Reserve is sourced from voted Council funding and from sponsorship or donations by individuals, community or private organisations.

Two issues arise out of the general issue of funding for the Reserve:

Firstly, in order to achieve the objectives contained in this Plan of Management, there is a need to ensure that sufficient ongoing funding is provided.

Secondly, sponsorship and donations by private individuals or organisations has some potential to be in conflict with the conservation philosophy for the Gardens. There is a consequent need for a policy for management of sponsorship and donations to ensure that items funded or donated are in keeping with the design intent and identified heritage values of the Gardens. The policy should also cover means of acknowledgement of sponsorship or donations in order to avoid the possibility of a plethora of acknowledgement signs appearing in the Reserve.

### **Objectives**

*To ensure that adequate funding is provided to meet the other objectives contained in the Plan of Management.*

*To acknowledge the value of sponsorship and donations from private individuals or organisations while ensuring that development resulting from this form of funding does not compromise the design integrity or identified heritage values of Swain Gardens.*

## **3.9 Leases and Licences**

Leases and licences over the land have the potential to impact on the objectives for preservation of the integrity of Swain Gardens.

### **Objective**

*To ensure that any agreement to grant a lease or licence over land within Swain Gardens is compatible with the other objectives listed in this Plan of Management.*

### **3.10 Maintenance**

#### **Issue**

Currently there are two full time staff employed by Council to carry out maintenance and attend to administrative matters concerned with the day to day running of Swain Gardens. These include one qualified person holding a Diploma in Park Management and one apprentice.

Again it is considered essential that horticultural and general maintenance of the Reserve should be completed in such a way that the design integrity of the Gardens is acknowledged and preserved. To this end, maintenance must continue to be the responsibility of properly qualified personnel who appreciate the need to retain the design integrity of the Gardens. Maintenance should be completed in line with a detailed programme which is formulated in line with the master plan for the Reserve. Specialist personnel should be employed as required to carry out larger scale maintenance tasks such as tree surgery.

Further to this, it is essential that maintenance procedures are carried out with consideration for the possible effects of these procedures on the integrity of bushland adjacent to the Reserve and within the downstream catchment of Shot Machine Creek.

#### **Objective**

*To maintain Swain Gardens in a manner in keeping with the original design intent and with due consideration of the effects of maintenance procedures on adjoining and neighbourhood bushland.*

### **3.11 Safety**

#### **Issue**

Safety in public reserves is an issue which has received increasing recognition in recent years. Council has a responsibility to provide environments in which public risk, both in the form of accident or misadventure, is minimised. Council's risk management procedures and public liability exposure are other factors which are relevant to this issue.

Swain Gardens would appear to pose potential public safety risk in both of the above mentioned areas. Potential accident risk arises from the fact that the gardens occur on relatively steep land and include many walls, steps and steep sections of paving, often in shaded areas where dampness may increase the likelihood of accident. In addition, the relative remoteness of the Reserve and the fact that it includes some secluded areas could pose some risk of misadventure.

## **Objective**

*To identify and manage potential hazards within Swain Gardens to minimise Council's public liability exposure and confirm its commitment to risk management.*

### **3.12 Use**

#### **Issue**

Types and numbers of users will impact on the landscape quality of the Reserve and will also have implications for ways in which it is managed.

As information on numbers of users is not currently available, it is considered advisable that a survey be carried out to assess numbers of people using the Reserve. This information should then be used to assist in decision making regarding management of the Reserve.

Anecdotal evidence regarding types of users of the Reserve has been obtained via consultation with Council officers. The Reserve is often used by the local community for strolling, sitting and picnicking. A walking trail starting at Nelson Road leads through Swain Gardens and connects to the Garigal National Park. Bushwalkers often walk through the Reserve and use it for picnicking. Pupils and teachers of the Newington Preparatory School also occasionally use the Reserve, as do residents of the nearby Swain Views Retirement Village. The Gardens are also a popular venue for wedding ceremonies and wedding photos, with 20 to 30 weddings reportedly occurring per annum. A nominal fee is charged for use of the Gardens for weddings. Some special interest groups also use the Gardens, including an art group and some garden enthusiasts. An annual open day occurs in Spring at which tours and plant sales are conducted.

Management strategies for the Reserve must respond to numbers and types of users. Numbers of users will have implications for maintenance requirements while types of users will reflect on the types and levels of facilities required. Strategies will also need to address the potential for conflict between organised user groups such as wedding parties or art groups and casual users of the Reserve.

#### **Objective**

*To ensure that management strategies reflect the numbers and types of users currently and likely to use Swain Gardens now and in the future.*

***SECTION 4 STRATEGY PLAN  
AND MONITORING PROGRAMME***

目錄

## **4 STRATEGY PLAN AND MONITORING Programme**

### **4.1 Introduction**

This section of the Plan of Management outlines the strategies that will be implemented to achieve Council's objectives in terms of the issues relating to management of Swain Gardens.

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>
<p><b>4.2 Access</b></p>	<p>Maximise pedestrian and disabled access to and circulation within Swain Gardens</p>	<p>Identify constraints and opportunities to maximising access to and circulation within Swain Gardens and develop a programme to improve and maintain pedestrian and disabled access.</p> <p>Progressively implement the programme in accordance with budgetary constraints and Council's Access Policy. Identify and rectify impediments to equal access.</p>
<p><b>4.3 Design Integrity</b></p>	<p>Ensure that Swain Gardens are maintained and developed in a manner which retains and preserves their original character and function as privately owned "romantic" gardens in a bushland setting.</p>	<p>Prepare a masterplan for development of Swain Gardens which is in keeping with the original character of the Gardens and which addresses the need to retain this character in light of their current function as public open space.</p> <p>Prepare a maintenance programme for horticultural and general maintenance which responds to the masterplan and the need to retain the design integrity of the Reserve.</p>

<p><b>4.4 Development (of Swain Gardens)</b></p>	<p>To carry out development of Swain Gardens as required in order to improve access and amenities within the Reserve while retaining its identified heritage values and design integrity.</p>	<p>Reassess the recommendations for development of Swain Gardens included in the Swain Gardens Plan of Management (NSW Public Works Department, 1992).</p> <p>Prepare an updated masterplan indicating and prioritising appropriate development measures for the Reserve.</p> <p>Undertake a programme to implement the development measures included in the masterplan.</p>
<p><b>4.5 Development (on neighbourhood properties)</b></p>	<p>Ensure that development on properties nearby to Swain Gardens, particularly on land adjacent to the Reserve, is assessed for its possible impacts on the visual and landscape quality of the Reserve.</p>	<p>Encourage residents on properties adjoining Swain Gardens to consider the effects on the visual and landscape quality of the Reserve when planning development on their properties.</p> <p>Consider the potential effects on Swain Gardens of proposed development on adjoining properties as part of the approval process for those developments.</p>

<p><b>4.6 Effects on adjoining bushland</b></p>	<p>Ensure that any development or activity within Swain Gardens, whether or not it requires Development Approval, is considered for its possible effect on bushland on adjoining public reserves and within the vicinity.</p> <p>Minimise adverse impacts on the catchment from the watercourse traversing the Swain Gardens.</p>	<p>Ensure that development within the Reserve concurs with the guidelines included in all relevant Council codes and policies.</p> <p>Ensure that the maintenance programme recommended in 4.3 above employs measures to minimise effects of maintenance procedures on adjoining bushland.</p> <p>Develop and implement a catchment management program to minimise any adverse impacts associated with activities within Swain Gardens</p>
<p><b>4.7 Facilities</b></p>	<p>Ensure that sufficient and appropriate facilities are available within Swain Gardens to serve the needs of its users without compromising the essential function of the Reserve and its design integrity as a domestic "garden in the bush".</p>	<p>Assess the need for provision of facilities in terms of the requirements of this objective.</p> <p>Include provision of appropriate facilities in the masterplan recommended to be prepared at 4.3 above.</p>
<p><b>4.8 Funding</b></p>	<p>To ensure that adequate funding is provided to meet the other objectives in the Plan of Management.</p> <p>To acknowledge the value of sponsorship and donations from private individuals or organisations while ensuring that development resulting from this form of funding does not compromise the design integrity or identified heritage values of Swain Gardens.</p>	<p>Monitor funding requirements on a regular basis and ensure that budgetary requirements are regularly communicated to Council.</p> <p>Develop a policy for management of sponsorship and donations by private individuals or organisations which is in keeping with the conservation philosophy for the Gardens.</p>