POLICY ON VISITOR USE AND ACTIVITIES IN WESTERN SYDNEY PARKLANDS

Western Sydney Parklands Trust
Visitor Use & Activities Policy

Contents

Objective

To effectively manage the use of lands under the care and management of Western Sydney Parklands Trust (the Trust) by Parklands visitors.

Introduction

The Trust recognises the important contribution that access and use of open space has to the community. It actively welcomes, supports and provides opportunities for visitors to and the community to participate in a variety of activities within the Parklands.

Increasing numbers of visitors using the Parklands has raised a number of issues of concern for the community and the Trust including:

a) Equity of access – e.g. potential conflict with users, management of demand, domination and monopolisation of areas and use of public land;

b) Impact on facilities – e.g. large groups causing undue wear and tear to recreational facilities and spaces;

c) Public safety and liability concerns – e.g. participants running onto road ways; and

d) Impacts upon nearby residents, stakeholders and the public e.g. noise or litter.

The need to manage and balance the use and enjoyment of the Parklands by visitors has been identified and this policy responds to that need.

Aims

In implementing this policy, the Trust aims to:

- Ensure equity of access to the parklands;
- Ensure safety of participants;
- Ensure visitor activities do not impact on turf and facility condition and maintenance;
- Minimise safety and public liability concerns;
- Appropriately manage the parklands to prevent conflicts; and
- Minimise the impact on nearby residents, stakeholders and other parklands users.

Scope

This policy covers all lands within Western Sydney Parklands under the care and management of the Trust for all:

a) Visitor's activities and functions.

Groups Excluded from this Policy

This policy excludes management of:

- Leased or tenanted sections of Western Sydney Parklands.

Western Sydney Parklands Trust Act & Regulation

The *Western Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2006* identifies the aims, role and responsibilities of the Trust. *The Western Sydney Parklands Regulation 2013* identifies how the Trust manages the use of Trust lands.

Permissible Activities Not Requiring Approval

The following types of activities are permitted:

- **Socialising & dining** - picnicking, meeting friends & family, having a meal break, visiting a one of the parklands café's / restaurants or attending social / family functions.
- **Passive recreation** - bush walking, bird watching, enjoying the environment, meditation, reading, relaxing, drawing, painting, studying or sightseeing.
- **Active recreation** – visiting playgrounds, cycling, exercising, jogging, playing ball games, rollerblading, skateboarding, Tai Chi or other casual sports.

These activities are permissible and do not require prior approval or a booking when:

- The activity is undertaken by an individual / private group.
- When the group size is less than 40 people.
- When the sporting activity is of a social nature and is not part of any organised competition / group.
- No one is being instructed (eg by a trainer or instructor).

Permissible Activities Requiring Prior Approval

The following types of activities are permitted within the Parklands but must have the prior written approval of the Trust:

- **Commercial Activities** – any type of commercial operations including personal training, selling products / services, operating mobile food vans, ticketed concerts or any other type of commercial undertaking.

- **Fundraising Activities** – all types of fundraising activities including walkathons, fun runs, charity stalls and BBQs.

- **Community Events** – all community events that are advertised, open to the general public, ticketed or any function that has more than 40 people attending.

- **Private Functions** – all wedding ceremonies, wedding photography, or any function that has more than 40 people attending.

- **Filming & Photography** – all commercial, student, corporate, professional or other type of filming and/or photography excluding private photography (eg taking photos of yourself, family or friends).

- **Function with Additional Items** – use of animals, petting zoos, amusements, onsite caterers, generators, amplified music, public announcement systems, musical performances, directions signs, banners or displays, marquees, stall or shade structures.

Activities That Are Not Permissible

The following types of activities are not permitted within the Parklands:

- **Motor / Dirt Bikes** – are not permitted in any area within the parklands other than public roadways and car parks.

- **Motorised Equipment** – fuel and/or battery driven motorised bicycles, scooters, remote control cars, planes, helicopters, drones or other like equipment is not permitted in the Parklands.

- **Horse Riding** – horse riding of any kind is not permitted.

- **Pegging** – pegging of nets, stumps, structures or other items is not permitted.

- **Hunting** – hunting or use of any weapons of any kind is not permitted.

- **Dogs Off Leash** – are only permitted at Warrigal Run, the designated dog off leash area at Bungarribee.

- **Kite Fighting** – is not permitted in area of the Parklands.

- **Fishing** – is not permitted in the ornamental ponds within the Parklands picnic areas.

- **Coal / Charcoal BBQs** – are only permitted in the designated coal / charcoal BBQ area's at Lizard Log.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or as determined by the Trust.

Responsibility

The Director, Operations & Visitor Services is responsible for the overall management of this policy.