

## WILLOUGHBY PARK PLANTING GUIDE

BACKGROUND (edited from the Willoughby Park Masterplan, biodesign & associates Pty Ltd)

### Original Vegetation

The northern slopes of Willoughby Park once supported Blue Gum High Forest with *Eucalyptus saligna* (Blue Gum) and *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt).

The southern slopes once supported Hawkesbury Sandstone open forest/woodland with *Eucalyptus piperita* (Peppermint), *Angophora costata* (Red Gum) and *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt).

### Existing Trees

1926 Double rows of *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box) and *Syncarpia glomulifera* (Turpentine) were planted at the northern end of the park and half way down the East and Western sides.

1952 The *Corymbia maculata* (Spotted Gum) were planted in groups and interwoven with the Brush Box and Turpentine rows to make them less "neat".

### Soils

The park's original transitional soils have been eroded and the topsoil washed away due to clearance of the original vegetation.

The northern slopes were relatively rich clay soils of Wianamatta Shale mantle.

The southern slopes were sandier soils of Hawkesbury Sandstone.

Extensive cut and fill on the site has altered the original soils to a large extent.

## GENERAL PLANT SELECTION CRITERIA

Plants should:

- Complement existing Spotted Gums, Brush Boxes and surrounding residential gardens where appropriate (typically formal, shaped and pruned)
- Have leaf shapes and sizes that reflect the large scale of the park, and forms and colours that add impact and interest.
- Grow to heights that follow the "Safer By Design" principles, which aim to minimise crime and anti social behaviour including vandalism and graffiti, and help to ensure park users feel they are in a safe environment. By choosing low growing understory plants, casual surveillance from surrounding properties is maximised, and entrances and exits to the park are kept clear.
- Be drought tolerant and long lived. Water crystals, wetting agents and mulch to be used when planting to minimise watering requirements.

## ZONE A – McClelland St/Fourth Ave Beds

Brick edged garden beds either side of the McClelland St/Fourth Ave corner entrance, extending down the Fourth Ave boundary until level with the top of the top oval.

The beds are shaded by existing mature Brush Boxes, Eucalypts and Turpentines. The Masterplan shows the existing playground fence to be extended through this area. Theme: lush, glossy, neat “tropical forest/jungle”.

Plants in Zone A should:

- define the park border
- screen the road from inside the park
- improve the appearance of the park borders for surrounding residents and park users
- satisfy community’s desire for gardens “like Beauchamp Park”.
- act as a soft barrier between the play area and the road
- provide fauna habitat
- provide backdrop/security for adjacent seating and grass areas
- to improve water penetration

### a) Trees

No new trees to be planted in these beds, as there is an existing tree canopy.

### b) Shrubs

Understorey plants to 1m.

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Oyster Plant
<i>Acmena smithii</i> “Allyn Magic”	Dwarf Lilly Pilly
<i>Anigozanthos</i> sp	Kangaroo Paw
	Bromeliads
<i>Clivea miniata</i>	
<i>Cordyline fruticosa</i>	
<i>Cordyline stricta</i>	Narrow Leaved Palm Lily
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	Flax Lily
	Breeze
	Cassa Blue
	Little Jess
	Lucia
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i> Destiny	
<i>Doryanthes excelsa</i>	Gynea Lily
<i>Elettaria cardemomum</i>	Cardamom
<i>Imperata cylindrical</i> var. <i>koenigii</i>	Japanese Blood Grass
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	
	Amethyst
	Just Right
	Isabella
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Mat Rush
	Tanika
	Nyalla
<i>Macrozamia communis</i>	Burrawang
<i>Philodendron Xanadu</i>	
<i>Philodendron selloum</i>	
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i> “Miss Muffett”	
<i>Xanthorrhoea</i> sp	Grass Tree

### c) Groundcovers/Ferns

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Aphanopetalum resinum</i>	Gum Vine
<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	Birds Nest Fern
<i>Hibbertia scandens</i>	Snake Vine
<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	Wonga Wonga Vine
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Bracken Fern

## **ZONE B – Bank to Cricket Nets**

The bank south of the top oval that slopes down to the cricket nets.

It is in dappled shade from mature Spotted Gums at the top of the bank, and nearby Brush Boxes.

Existing vegetation on the bank itself consists of a Turpentine, mature and young Eucalypts and a few clumps of Dianella.

Suggest consultation with hirers of cricket nets to ensure plants will not impact on use of practice nets.

Plants in Zone B should:

- allow sun to reach the grass area east of the cricket nets
- allow retention of views from south of the bank through to the top oval and trees at the north end of the park, to prevent a closed in feel in this Zone.
- reduce areas exposed to weed invasion
- replace areas that are currently difficult to mow due to the slope and presence of trees, or require whipper snippering
- reduce erosion of the bank
- increase water absorption
- provide fauna habitat

When planting, strategically placed logs and sandstone boulders would help retain soil, mulch and water on the slope.

a) Trees

No more trees are needed in this Zone.

b) Shrubs

Groundcovers are more suitable for this area so that the narrow cricket nets area does not feel “hemmed in”, and the nets are open to view.

c) Groundcovers

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
Aphanopetalum resinsum	Gum Vine
Hibbertia scandens	Snake Vine
Pandorea pandorana	Wonga Wonga Vine

## ZONE C – Bowling Club Bank

The bank between the cricket nets and the Bowling Club, mainly visible from the bowling greens.

The eastern end of the bank is shaded by mature trees in other areas of the park, and existing vegetation on the bank. The western end is sunnier. Existing vegetation on the bank includes Buddleia, Abelia, Agapanthus, Oleander, Hibiscus, Wattle, Bottlebrush and Gordonia.

Plants in Zone C should:

- allow retention of views of bowling greens and district views from park
- not block sun from the bowling greens
- improve appearance of the bank from the bowling greens
- reduce areas exposed to weed invasion
- replace areas currently requiring whipper snipping
- reduce erosion of the bank
- increase water absorption
- provide fauna habitat
- sunny west end of this bank: match the “traditional” pruned and hedged garden plants growing on the adjoining west bank of the bowling club
- shady east end of this bank: continue with theme used for Zones A & B
- height of plants to range from 3m at base of bank to 700 mm at top

### a) Trees

No trees should be planted in this Zone, so that views are retained and sun reaches the bowling greens.

### b) Shrubs

Plants to 700mm at top and mid section of west half of bank and all of east half of bank:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Oyster Plant
<i>Clivea miniata</i>	
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	Flax Lily
Breeze	
Little Jess	
Lucia	
<i>Elettaria cardemomum</i>	Cardamom
<i>Imperata cylindrical</i> var. <i>koenigii</i>	Japanese Blood Grass
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Mat Rush
Tanika	

Plants to 2-3m at base of west end

<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	
<i>Escallonia</i> sp	
<i>Justicia</i> sp	
<i>Loropetalum chinense</i> “China Pink”	Fringe Flower
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	
<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	
<i>Rondeletia amoena</i>	
<i>Spiraea cantoniensis</i>	
<i>Tibouchina</i> sp	Lasiandra

### c) Groundcovers

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Aphanopetalum resinosum</i>	Gum Vine
<i>Hibbertia scandens</i>	Snake Vine
<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	Wonga Wonga Vine

## ZONE D – Robert St Bank

The bank on Robert St below the lower oval.

The bank faces south, and is mostly shaded by existing vegetation, although there are some more open sunny sections.

Existing vegetation on the bank includes mature Poplars, She-Oaks, 2 young Brush Boxes, Wattles, Bottlebrushes, Banksias, Lomandras and Commelina. Several senescent She-Oaks, Bottlebrushes, Tea-trees and a Banksia require removal.

When planting, strategically placed logs would help retain soil, mulch and water on the slope.

Plants in Zone D should:

- Screen the view of the carpark from inside the park
- Reduce areas exposed to weed invasion
- Reduce erosion of the bank
- Increase water absorption
- Define the park border
- Provide barrier to balls rolling down the bank from the sports ground
- Improve the appearance of the park borders for surrounding residents
- Provide fauna habitat
- Extend park perimeter tree line/canopy from Warrane Rd to Robert St

The Masterplan notes:

- The existing carpark for the Bowling Club to be reconfigured and new trees to be planted in bays between the carspaces
- The existing brick retaining wall along Robert St is repaired and raised by 2 courses. The existing bank is revegetated with indigenous trees and shrubs. A new wide staircase behind the Bowling Club gives direct access to the park. The existing entrance on the corner of Warrane Rd and Robert St is reinforced by new paving and a pedestrian ramp which gives easy access for wheelchairs and prams to the park.

### a) Trees

Plant several trees between the 2 narrow Poplars

Botanical Name	Common Name
Eucalyptus sp to match those cnr Warrane Rd and Robert St	Gum Tree
Lophostemon confertus	Brush Box
Syncarpia glomulifera	Turpentine

### b) Shrubs

To 1m at top of slope to act as border to stop balls from oval and at base of slope so that vegetation does not obstruct car parking.

Botanical Name	Common Name
Dianella caerulea	Flax Lily
Breeze	
Lucia	
Imperata cylindrical var. koenigii	Japanese Blood Grass
Lomandra longifolia	Mat Rush
Tanika	

To 3m in middle of slope

Banksia ericifolia	Heath-leaved Banksia
Banksia spinulosa	Hair-pin Banksia
Callistemon spp	Bottlebrush
Doryanthes excelsa	Gynea Lily

### c) Groundcovers

Botanical Name	Common Name
Aphanopetalum resinsum	Gum Vine
Banksia (groundcover spp)	
Hibbertia scandens	Snake Vine
Pandorea pandorana	Wonga Wonga Vine