

Item No: C0918(1) Item 5

Subject: EVENTS IN PARKS POLICY & EVENTS IN PARKS GUIDELINES

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SUMMARY

This report is seeking Council's endorsement of the draft Events in Parks Policy to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days, with the results presented to Council along with a final Policy for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- 1. The draft Events in Parks Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days;**
 - 2. The results of the public exhibition and community engagement process are presented to Council along with a final Events in Parks Policy for adoption; and**
 - 3. The Events in Parks Guidelines be noted.**
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BACKGROUND

Council is responsible for the management of all activities within parks, reserves, sporting grounds and public open space. There is an ongoing high demand for open space resources within the Inner West, particularly with increasing densities. Council must actively manage access to the parks.

Events are fun and entertaining, and provide opportunities for large and small communities to connect and safely share enjoyable and inspiring experiences. Events can be informative, build community knowledge, and raise awareness to develop a shared understanding of social, economic or environmental issues. Events can build capability within a community, develop a sense of community spirit, identity and belonging.

Council encourages the use of parks for events as they help contribute to the health, wellbeing and liveability of the Inner West. It is Council's objective to ensure that park events are suitable and managed in a manner which is safe and which is appropriate to the local environment and surrounding community.

At the Council meeting on the 27 March 2018, a report on the proposed Bangla New Year's Day Festival at Tempe Reserve was considered. Council resolved:

THAT:

- 1. The report be received and noted;*
- 2. Council immediately engage with the organisers of the festival to seek to address the objections of the police, RMS and Council officers so that the event can return to the Inner West in 2019;*

3. Council review and report on other festivals and events which have been hosted in the LGA previously which may be affected by similar logistical problems; and
4. Council receive a briefing or report which details how council can improve engagement with community leaders and organisers of local community events

This report addresses the Council resolutions.

Bangla Festival

Since the Council meeting on the 27 March 2018, Council staff have attempted to contact the Event Organisers for the Bangla Festival on two occasions. To date, they have not responded to Council.

Other Events

Council hosts a number of events in parks, including the following:

Date(s)	Venue	Event	Event Organiser
February (TBC)	Ashfield Park	International Mother Language Day	Ekushe Academy
23 & 24 February 2018	Leichhardt #3 - Bay Run	65k 4 65 Roses Walkathon	Cystic Fibrosis NSW
17-18 March	King George Park	Relay for Life	Cancer Council
April (TBC)	Ashfield Park	Bengali New Year	Protity House of Begali Culture in Australia
April (TBC)	Ashfield Park	Stations of Cross Services	St Vincents Parish Ashfield
Sunday, 6 May 2018	Leichhardt #3 - Bay Run	Fun Run / Walk	Alzheimer's Australia NSW
4th & 5th August 2018	Leichhardt #3 - Bay Run	The "Bay Run"	Dobroyd Public School
Tuesday, 10 July 2018	Steel Park/ Steel Oval	AbSec NAIDOC Event	AbSec
Saturday, 28 July 2018	Henson Park	The Beer Footy And Food Festival	The Newtown Jets
Sunday, 19 August 2018	Ashfield Park	Nepalese Women's Festival Teej Mela 2	7 Ways Event (Nepalese Squad Entertainment)
Sunday, 19 August 2018	Henson Park	Reclink Community Cup	Reclink Australia
Sunday, 26 August 2018	Tempe Reserve	Gai Jatra Festival	Gorkha Samaj Australia
25 Feb/10 June/16 Dec 18	Leichhardt Park (Giovinazzo Grove)	Fun Run	Sri Marathon Team
September (TBC)	Pioneers Memorial Park	Music in the Park	SSC - Leichhardt Campus
October (TBC)	Richard Murden Reserve	Spring Cycle 2017	Bicycle NSW
Sunday, 28 October 2018	King George Park (Event Village) Easton Park (drink station)	Seven Bridges Walk	Cancer Council
Sunday, 28 October 2018	Elkington Park	Back to Balmain Day	Committee / Council
October (TBC)	Pioneers Memorial Park	Norton Street Festa	Leichhardt/Annandale Business Chamber
October (TBC)	Water Street Reserve	Balmain Regatta	Balmain Sailing Club
Friday 2 to Sunday 4 November 2018	Tempe Reserve	MS Sydney Gong Ride	GTR Events
November (TBC)	Leichhardt #3 - Bay Run	Day at the Bay	St Merkorious Charity
Sunday, 11 November 2018	Camperdown Memorial Rest Park	Newtown Festival	Cattleyard
Various	Leichhardt Park (Giovinazzo Grove)	Fun Run	Sri Marathon Team

Sunday, 18 November 2018	King George Park - Callan Park	Balmain Fun Run	Balmain Public School
Various	Leichhardt Park (Giovinazzo Grove)	Fun Run	Sri Marathon Team
December (TBC)	Ashfield Park	Spiritual Gathering (Prayer Evening)	Australian Catholic Chinese Community
December (TBC)	Easton Park	Carols on Denison	Echo Christian Community
December (TBC)	Pioneers Memorial Park	Carols on Norton	Leichhardt Espresso Chorus

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These events generally have some localised impacts on the day of the event, such as traffic delays and increased demand for parking in the area immediately surrounding the event location. Council staff work with the Event Organisers to minimise these impacts. There are no significant safety concerns raised by Council, the Police and RMS regarding these events.

There are a number of Inner West Council organised events which also occur regularly in the parks.

Improve Engagement

The Council resolution calls for information on how Council can improve engagement with organisers of local community events. This was discussed internally, including with the Communications, Engagement & Events team. It was determined that the best means to meet this objective was to provide practical support to Event Organisers. This is the intention of the attached draft Events in Parks Policy and the Events in Parks Guidelines.

The objective of the draft policy is to assist community Event Organisers by guiding them through the approval process for events that take place in parks in the Inner West Council.

The Guidelines document provides advice on the management of major events in parks in the Inner West. Depending on the size and nature of the event, it is not intended or envisaged that all of the matters outlined in this document will apply to all events. Event Organisers are to utilise this document as a guideline, as relevant to the individual circumstances of the event they are planning.

The Parks Planning & Engagement team will act as the contact point for Event Organisers who are proposing to hold an event in a park. The Parks Planning & Engagement team will liaise with the relevant internal Council teams such as the planners and traffic engineers, on behalf of the Event Organiser. The Event Organiser will not need to negotiate multiple approval processes through Council. This is an improved service to the community, by offering them with a “one-stop-shop” solution for the approval of an event in a park.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The existing Council structure has been developed to ensure there are staff resources to assist Event Organisers with the approval process for an event in a park.

OTHER STAFF COMMENTS

The following teams have had input into the development of the draft Policy & Guidelines: Communications, Engagement & Events; Community Services & Culture; Customer Service; Footpaths, Roads, Traffic & Stormwater; Development Assessment & Regulatory Services; and Environment & Sustainability.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

It is recommended that the draft Policy be placed on public exhibition. An email will be sent to Event Organisers who have previously had events in parks in the Inner West, to alert them to the draft Policy being on exhibition.

CONCLUSION

The objective of the draft policy is to assist community Event Organisers by guiding them through the approval process for events that take place in parks in the Inner West Council. The Event in Parks Guidelines provides guidance on the management of major events in parks.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [!\[\]\(13dd0e1ab3baa23f7c1ed52b3eec2756_img.jpg\)](#) Draft Events in Parks Policy
2. [!\[\]\(5ed985c65f50e5350eeeb77f03c2e095_img.jpg\)](#) Draft Events in Parks Guidelines