

Oak Flats Community Garden – Concept Design

Legend

Stage 1

-  Raised garden bed approx. 1.2 X 3m
-  Herb garden bed approx. 1.2m diameter
-  Fruit tree infill planting
-  Compost bay
-  Produce Stand

Stage 2

-  Raised garden bed approx. 1.2 X 3m
-  Free form bush tucker garden
-  Garden shed for tool storage

Future

-  Water tanks





DESIGN PLAN – OAK FLATS COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Oak Flats Community Garden proposed layout is what we feel is best use of the park, we have designed this looking at environmental factors impacting the site (sun, rain, wind). The garden beds will be a mixture of Accessable and Raised garden beds adhering to height requirements in the Shellharbour City Council Community Garden Guide. Spacing between garden beds and structures will be set out between 1 – 2 metres for inclusive accessibility. Stage 1 will start at the top point of the park facing fisher street and each stage will progressively work towards the back of the park to align with council approval and funding requirements.



Community Consultation

Oak Flats Community Garden has done extensive community consultation about establishing a community garden at Hippisley Park. Adjoining users of Hippisley Park, Oak Flats Garden Club and Oak Flats Senior Citizens Have expressed support for this project.

We have received overwhelming support from within the community via Social Media and informal and formal meetings and letter box flyer drop.

Local bussiness have been contacted in person to discuss the project and have given support, including –

Oak Flats Pharmacy

- **Email:** oakflatspharmacy@nunet.com.au
- **Phone:** (02) 4256 1206
- **Location:** 64 Central Avenue, OAK FLATS, 2529, NSW

The Bottle-O

- **website:** www.thebottle-o.com.au
- **Phone:** (02) 4256 3252
- **Location:** 68 Central Avenue, OAK FLATS, 2529, NSW

Bendigo Bank – Oak Flats Branch

- **Phone:** (02) 4256 9511
- **Location:** 78 Central Avenue, OAK FLATS, 2529, NSW

Lions Club – Oak Flats

- **website:** www.oakflats.nsw.lions.org.au
- **Phone:** (02) 4257 1177
- **Location:** PO Box 5, Oak Flats NSW 2529

Senior Citizens Centre – Oak Flats (adjoining user)

- **website:** www.oakflats.nsw.lions.org.au
- **Phone:** (02) 4256 2771
- **Location:** 43-45 Griffiths St Oak Flats NSW 2529

Through community consultation we identified and addressed common objections and concerns, this was addressed in the proposal submitted under section 2.10.

2.10 Dealing with common objections to new community gardens

How will we manage:

Odours, noise, and vermin: All members will be briefed on the proper methods of composting to avoid unwanted odour and help control vermin. Those that have attended a composting workshop will be able to share this information. This waste management approach will help to minimise vermin. The association has a number of knowledgeable members who understand the best way to manage these systems in a way that produces little to no odour and prevents vermin. The composting area will be more than 5 metres from any residence and should therefore not impose on any locals.

Community Inclusion/complaints: The association will endeavour to create a garden where all feel welcome and understand how to use the garden respectfully by keeping communication channels open and having open days in order to minimise the likelihood of anyone in the community feeling excluded or disgruntled. Complaints will be respectfully dealt with and the association will endeavour to rectify any issues and report back to the complainant on what measures have been taken.

Noise: Gardening will be carried out during daylight hours and the location is fairly isolated with only two houses backing on to Hippiisley Park. These houses all have tall, solid fences which will reduce traveling noise and mostly gardening is a quiet affair.

Attraction of vandals and undesirables: Occurrences such as dumping of rubbish in or near the gardens or any vandalism would be managed by the association - with the Council's advice if necessary. If any plants are removed without permission then this can be handled by the relevant community garden rep/bed leader. Note: All beds are for community/public use and sharing of produce will be encouraged. The garden and composting systems will be monitored to ensure they are working well and free of vandalism. The association is prepared to accept that some produce may be stolen and that from time to time vandalism may occur and clean ups will be included where necessary as part of our working bees and maintenance. Blocking or screening areas in a way that would encourage people to hide or sleep behind will be avoided. Many of the association members live in close proximity to the gardens so regular visits along with rostered visits will allow us all to keep an eye on it and resolve any issues.

Alienation of public space: The aim is to establish a community garden that everyone feels welcome to join. Not only will most of the beds be managed and maintained by a group of locals, rather than an individual, non-members will be encouraged to harvest a reasonable amount of produce from the beds. Information and workshops will be held about home worm farming and composting which may benefit/interest non-members and members alike. The proposed location (Hippiisley Park) is a specific section of council-owned land that is not commonly used. Allocating this scarcely-utilised area as a community garden is a way to encourage locals, of all ages to improve, engage with and appreciate public land. The Association would manage grass and weeds within the area keeping grass mowed and ensuring that garden beds do not become over run with weeds.

Poor aesthetics and unsightly or messy gardens: Oak Flats Community Garden Association, committee and members are responsible for the garden beds and ensuring good maintenance.



Oak Flats Community Garden

Oak Flats Community Garden thank you for taking the time to assess our application in establishing a community garden at Hippiisley Park, Fisher Street Oak Flats.

Please contact – Tehani Dimond – 040 063 150 – tehanidimond@hotmail.com

