# **Wicks Park**

# **Plan of Management**



August 2003

MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL

# WICKS PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

FOR THE MARRICKVILLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Prepared by MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL

**AUGUST 2003** 

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# 1. ABOUT THIS VOLUME

#### The Local Government Act 1993

The Local Government Act 1993 provides councils with a specific approach to the classification and management of Community Land. The Act requires that all Community Land owned by councils be the subject of a plan of management. Community Land is defined as land that should be kept for the use of the general community. Community Land must not be sold and can not be leased for more than twenty-one years. Any lease or licence must be authorised by this Plan of Management. In addition, it may only be leased or licensed for more than five year's subject to public notification.

This plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

### **Background**

Marrickville has 106 parks, 73 of which are either pocket parks, Neighbourhood Parks, street closures or plazas. Their significance is based on their proximity to local communities, and their ability to satisfy the needs of that immediate community.

This plan of management relates to Wicks Park, one of Council's neighbourhood parks.

A plan of management for Wicks Park was prepared and adopted by Marrickville Council at its meeting (07/03, Item PR 17) on 19 August 2003.

This plan of management revokes and replaces previous plans of management.

#### How To Use This Volume

This plan of management provides a framework to guide Marrickville Council's decision-making in relation to Wicks Park. The plan reflects the needs of Council (as managers of the park), current and future visitors (as users of the park) and local residents (as users and neighbours of the park).

The volume is divided into the following sections:

#### **BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT**

• This section has a currency of 10-20 years and reflects the long term policies of Council in relation to the park.

#### **MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

• This section has a currency of 5-10 years and contains the medium term strategies that Council will adopt to achieve its long term policies and meet user demands.

#### ACTION PLANS AND MONITORING PROGRAM

• This section has a currency of five years and contains the actions that Council will implement in managing the park, as well as methods to monitor the success of these actions. It is envisaged that Council will update the actions annually.

# 2. BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

# The Open Space System

The 1993 Local Government Act was adopted in an effort to reorganise the way councils managed themselves and their resources. As part of the Act, councils are required to classify all their open space as either community or operational land and, subsequently, prepare plans of management for all Community Land to help ensure the effective care and future management of open space.

An inventory in the Marrickville Open Space Study (Hassell, 1995) identified the distribution of Community Land as:

- Small parks and/or playgrounds (48%).
- Outdoor sporting facilities, ancillary space and formal gardens (35%).
- River foreshore, civic space, undeveloped land (17%).

The study identified the following categories of parks:-

- 1) Neighbourhood Parks;
- 2) Pocket Parks; and
- 3) Street Closures and Plazas.

Wicks Park falls within the first category.

As demand for non-structured open space increases and that for structured open space decreases, Marrickville finds itself in a position where available space for non-structured recreation is becoming scarce. The open space study recommended that:

- Council acquires more land, develops and promotes it as non-structured open space.
- Current open space needs to be rationalised and multi-purposeful.
- Safety and access strategies be developed in conjunction with the networking of open space.
- Council **consolidates** operational land, promotes higher density living and, in doing so, fulfils the task of acquiring more land for recreational use.

The basis for management draws on the findings of the following recent studies:

- Marrickville Open Space Study (Hassell, 1995)
- Marrickville Recreation User Needs Study (Hassell, 1994)
- Community Land Management Issues paper (Manidis Roberts Consultants, 1995)
- Greenhouse Strategy for the Southern Sydney Region (SSROC, 1992)
- Marrickville Council Management Plan 2000-2003 (Marrickville Council, June 2000)

#### **Values**

The intrinsic value of Neighbourhood Parks is in offering a recreational facility that satisfies the needs of the immediate community. The value of a well sited, equipped and maintained park is in its potential to develop and nurture the identity of an area and its residents. However, the survival of Neighbourhood Parks in Marrickville is dependent on whether the park meets the stated needs of the community and, then, whether or not the community actually uses the facility. Three core values have been identified for Marrickville's Neighbourhood Parks. These are:

#### RECREATION

• Neighbourhood Parks provide for a restricted but vital range of recreational needs. Facilities (playground equipment, ball game courts eg. Tennis, etc) in these parks cater for the active pursuits of the whole community. With the more passive needs of the community being satisfied through the provision of seating.

#### CHARACTER

• Neighbourhood Parks display a refreshing visual quality that offers an important contrast to the hard urban environment. In addition, the moment's peace offered by these parks for pedestrians is also valued and greatly sought after.

#### LOCATION

• Neighbourhood Parks tend to punctuate road intersections, public places or utilities (eg. railway stations) or act as the focal point of a small community.

# **Open Space Goals**

The goals are intended to guide Council's management of parks to protect and enhance the above values. They aim to be visionary and flexible enough to accommodate the dynamic nature of Marrickville. This is best reflected in Council's corporate goal:

"to ensure the co-ordinated planning, provision and management of a comprehensive range of open space settings and recreation facilities to service current and future needs of residents of the Marrickville Local Government Area."

# Councils primary objectives include:

- "Improving the quality of urban life through increasing the amount and effective use of open space and, reducing through traffic and supporting increased public transport and the use of bicycles.
- Provide infrastructure capable of supporting the community through properly managing, conserving and developing parks and recreation facilities for the benefit of the community."

Council has recognised that success in the continued use of Community Land is dependent on a cooperative approach between both the community and the Council. In 1995, a focus group consisting of community and Council representatives (Manidis Roberts Report on "Community Land Management Issues Paper") formalised the following goal for managing Community Land under Council's control:

"To provide a range of safe, quality recreation opportunities to meet the community needs and enhance the local environment, which are determined through community involvement."

The following objective was developed for the Neighbourhood Parks Plan of Management:

'To provide the local community with the opportunity to promote and foster a sense of identity and, consequently, develop the 'genius of place' in their parks that reflect the aspirations, needs and character of that community."

#### General Issues

#### RECREATION

- Neighbourhood Parks are limited to the degree to which they satisfy recreation needs.
- There are currently minimal links with the open space network.
- The recreation facilities do not always reflect the needs of the user groups.

#### **SENSE OF COMMUNITY**

- The community is being satisfactorily involved in the land management decision making process.
- The community is starting to adopt a proactive role when dealing with not only design and management issues but in particular the long term maintenance issues of its open space. This involvement needs to be sustained.
- By facilitating community participation, community arts and other initiatives are being seen as integral to encouraging public ownership and management of Neighbourhood Parks.

#### SAFETY AND ACCESS

• One of the most prevalent issues regarding Community Land is that of safety. Many of the problems regarding safety stem from the wider community's inability to access parks (due to roads or rail lines).

#### **MAINTENANCE**

• The standard of maintenance is variable between sites.

#### **PROMOTION**

• Increased community awareness of park facilities is required.

#### Roles

The roles of Neighbourhood Parks in Marrickville are to:

- Satisfy non-structured, passive recreational needs.
- Satisfy structured, active recreational needs.
- Satisfy cultural diversity in individual communities.
- Provide visual relief from the hard urban landscape.
- Form the focus of the immediate community.
- Punctuate intersections and public utilities.
- Provide accessible playground facilities for the local community.

# **Guiding Principles**

- Council has a responsibility to plan and stage projects. The improvement of the local government area should transgress political ideology and work to benefit the community.
- Parks should aim to set a precedence by developing an urban space that could be seen as responsive to, and not imposing on, the physical characteristics of this region.
- Design initiatives should reflect the constantly evolving needs of the social and cultural element.
- Promote the importance of open space as critical in determining a better quality of urban life.
- Open space must be rationalised and multi-purpose.
- Safety and access are governing purposes in the development of any park.

# 3. DESCRIPTION OF WICKS PARK, MARRICKVILLE

#### Introduction

The Marrickville Council acquired Wicks Park when it was transferred from the Sydney City Council in 1936. Initially the park was established in 1922. It was subsequently named after William Henry Wicks, a Marrickville Council Alderman between 1917 and 1935.

Wicks Park is located at the north-east corner of the intersection of Sydenham and Victoria Roads, Marrickville.

# Legal Description

With an area of 8902m<sup>2</sup>, Wicks Park is owned by Marrickville Council. Its legal description is Lots 1&2 in DP802618 (see Figure 1).

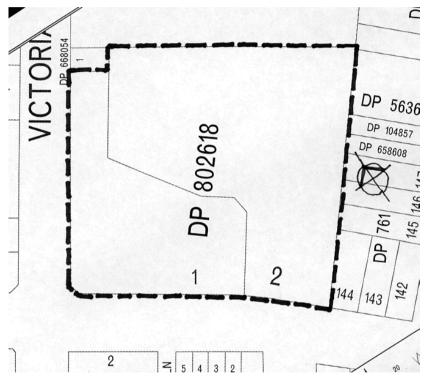


Figure 1

The land was classified as Community Land in accordance with transitional provisions in Schedule 7 Clause 6 of the Local Government Act 1993. The Land is zoned 6A, Open Space.

The land is currently categorised as "sportsground" and "park" under Section 36(4) of the Local Government Act 1993 (see Figure 2). This plan of management does not affect this categorisation.

The Core Objectives for management of Community Land categorised as "sportsground", under Section 36(F) of the Local Government Act 1993, are:

(a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and

(b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

The Core Objectives for management of Community Land categorised as "park", under Section 36(G) of the Local Government Act 1993, are:

- (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities,
- (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
- (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

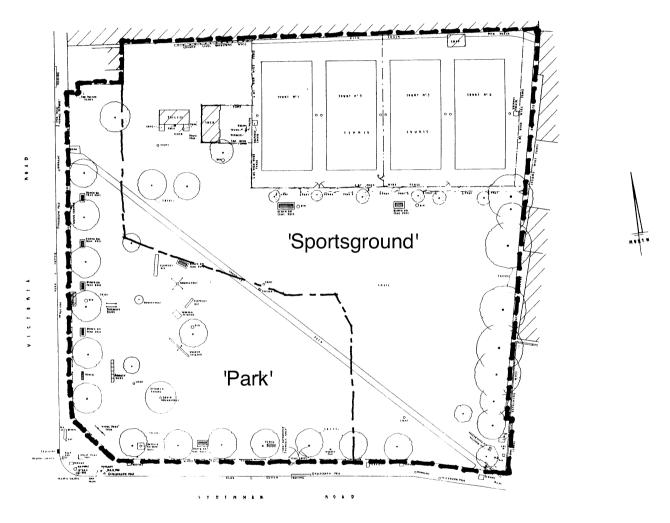


Figure 2.

# Physical Description

# Description of the current condition of the land, all buildings and improvements.

The land containing the park is currently in good condition.

The land containing the sportsground (tennis centre) is currently in good condition.

# Landscaping

There are seventeen (17) existing established Lophostemom confertus trees in good condition.

There are fifteen (15) existing established Pyrus ussuriensis trees in good/fair condition.

There are eight (8) existing established Cinnamomum camphora trees in good/fair condition.

There are six (6) existing established Koelreuteria paniculata trees in good condition.

There are four (4) existing established Jacaranda mimosifolia trees in good/poor condition.

There are three (3) existing established Ulmus parvifolia trees in fair condition.

There is one (1) existing established Eucalyptus globulus tree in fair condition.

There is one (1) existing established Araucaria heterophylla tree in fair condition.

The existing turf to the park is in good condition.

The existing open stormwater drain along the Park's eastern boundary is in fair/poor condition.

#### **Buildings and associated fixtures**

There are two (2) existing buildings on the land:

The existing building, for the tennis centre's associated activities, is in good condition.

The existing female/male toilets block is in good/fair condition.

There are four (4) existing hardcourt tennis courts in good condition.

These courts are surrounded by an existing 4 metre high wire mesh fence in good/fair condition. The courts are divided, into two sections each containing two courts by an existing 3 metre high wire mesh fence in good condition.

There are four (4) existing light poles, each with 2 floodlights, lighting the tennis courts, in good condition.

#### Park fixtures

There is one (1) existing children's playground containing two (2) swings, one (1) climbing frame, one (1) slide, one (1) coil spring unit, one (1) tic-tac-toe and one (1) roundabout all in good condition.

There are eight (8) existing bench seats on concrete bases in good condition.

There are two (2) existing bench/picnic tables in good condition.

There is one (1) existing electric BBQ in good condition.

There are five (5) existing light poles within the park, in good condition.

There is an existing 1200mm wide concrete pathway, through the park, in good condition.

The park is affected by aircraft noise.

#### Description of the current use of the land, all buildings and improvements.

The park land area is currently used for active (children's playground)/passive recreational purposes.

The sportsground area is currently used for active recreational purposes (tennis).

The existing building, for the tennis centre's associated activities, is currently used for these purposes.

The existing female/male toilets block is currently used by the community in general.

# 4. MANAGEMENT OF WICKS PARK

#### Issues

#### RECREATION

- Open space at Wicks Park is suited to non-structured, passive and structured active recreation.
- Residents expectations that it satisfies children's requirements.
- Community needs being met by Council.

#### **SENSE OF COMMUNITY**

• Community support and participation identified, as with other Neighbourhood Parks, as important to the prosperity of the park.

#### **SAFETY AND ACCESS**

- Concern about the measures required to deter vandalism and ensure that access does not discriminate against potential users.
- Community safety, including children's and night time safety, is of concern.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times and kept at least ten (10) metres away from any children's play equipment.

#### MAINTENANCE

• Reliance on continued promotion and regular maintenance by Council to ensure successful patronage by the immediate community.

# Management Strategy

The park satisfies current community requirements. However, the future success for patronage of the park is dependent on the maintenance practices employed and incidence of scheduled maintenance visits.

#### Management Objectives

The following table identifies the management objectives developed for Wicks Park.

Issue	Objectives
Recreation	Provide structured and non-structured recreational facilities which will
	satisfy the local community.
Sense of Community	Facilitate community involvement in the planning and development of
	initiatives for the park.
	Ensure identification and information is conveyed through signage.
Access and Safety	Ensure that the park and its facilities are accessible to the wider
	community.
	Ensure that the necessary measures are employed to improve the level of
	safety.
Maintenance	Maintain the park thereby ensuring its long term success and continued
	community interest.

# Action Plan

The management objectives for Wicks Park are structured in table form outlining:-

- Objectives
- Performance targets
- Means to achieve
- Priority
- Method of assessment of performance

# Recreation

# OBJECTIVE

Provide structured and non-structured recreational facilities which will satisfy the local community.

Performance targets	Means to achieve	Priority	Method of assessment of performance
Provide and promote the structured recreational opportunities of the park.	Provide sports / recreational facilities within the park.	High.	Provision of the facilities. Survey community approval of, and participation in, the facilities.
Provide and promote the unstructured recreational opportunities of the park.	Maintain, and improve, the existing scheme for the park.	High - medium.	Assessment of achieved scheme allowing for the maturing of the park's character.
Provide 'up to date' facilities within the park.	Review of park facilities every five (5) years.	High.	Report to Council on review. Survey community feedback on facilities provided.

# **Sense of Community**

# **OBJECTIVE**

Facilitate community involvement in the planning and development of initiatives for the park.

Performance targets	Means to achieve	Priority	Method of assessment of performance
To integrate park into the fabric of the immediate community.	Develop and support initiatives for and by the community to achieve integration.	High.	Report to Council on initiatives survey community's and council's enthusiasm and conviction to achieving integration.
To achieve community pride and identification with the park.	Involve the community with future planning and assessment of the park.	High.	Survey community's level of active participation and satisfaction.
To promote park within the immediate community.	Encourage the community to actively maintain the park.	High.	Survey levels of participation and visual and physical amenity.

Ensure identification and information i	Ensure identification and information is conveyed through signage.			
Performance targets	Means to achieve	Priority	Method of assessment of performance	
To promote the cultural identity of the community.	Provide required signage to illustrate community attitudes and desires within the park.	High.	Survey community understanding of, and satisfaction with, the signage.	
To promote the historical and physical identity of the park to the community.	Provide required signage to illustrate the historical and physical attitudes and desires within the park.	High.	Survey community understanding of, and satisfaction with, the signage.	

# Access and safety

# **OBJECTIVE**

Ensure that the park and its facilities are accessible to the wider community.

Performance targets	Means to achieve	Priority	Method of assessment of performance
To ensure access for all members of the community to the park.	Provide purposeful surfaces for manageable access to the park.	High.	Survey community feedback on the ability of people of all ages and physical ability to access the park.
To promote community awareness of the park.	Provide signage to locate and define the park.	High.	Survey levels of community awareness of the park.

# **OBJECTIVE**

Ensure that the necessary measures are employed to improve the level of safety.

Performance targets	Means to achieve	Priority	Method of assessment of performance
To promote community awareness of the park.	Encourage the local community to actively 'keep an eye on' the park.	High.	Survey community feedback on perceived safety of the park. Survey levels of vandalism and/or undesirable acts.
To promote safe night access to the park.	Provide adequate lighting (preferably indirect) of the park and its facilities.	High.	Survey achieved level of visibility of all areas of the park at night.
To ensure continued safe access to the park.	Provide weekly inspections of the park by council maintenance staff.	High.	Survey community feedback on the continued safety of the park and its facilities.  Liaise with Police and evaluate incident reports for increase/decrease.

# Maintenance

# OBJECTIVE

Maintain the park thereby ensuring its long term success and continued community interest.

Performance targets	Means to achieve	Priority	Method of assessment of performance
To maintain community interest in the park.	Develop a maintenance programme to ensure desired levels of community satisfaction.	High.	Survey community feedback on the continued satisfaction with the park. Collection and evaluation of use statistics, formal and informal.
To ensure the long term success of the park.	Implement park asset management programme.	High.	Survey community feedback on the continuing desired levels of amenity of the park. Report on asset management programme implementation.

# 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN

# Future use and development

Section 36 (3A) (b) of the Local Government Act 1993, requires that a Plan of Management that applies to just one area of Community Land must specify:

- the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used.
- the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise.
- the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

See the table following:

Parcel of land	Permitted use purposes	Permitted purposes for further developments	Scale and intensity of permitted use (subject to Council requirements)	developments (subject to Council approvals)
		Clubhouse for tennis club members and community tennis players	Clubhouse for tennis club members and community tennis players of all ages, open up to 7 days a week, during approved hours	Clubhouse with floor area of approximately 90m <sup>2</sup> and approximate ceiling height of 3 metres
	Courts for the playing of tennis	Courts for tennis club members, community and school tennis players of all ages	Courts for tennis club members, community and school tennis players of all ages, open up to 7 days a week, during approved day and evening hours	4 tennis courts, of the required minimum area, surfaced with optimum materials, surrounded by protective fencing, with appropriate lighting
	Facilities for the playing of approved ball games	Facilities for community members of all ages	Facilities for community members of all ages, accessible 7 days a week, during approved day and evening hours	Facilities, of the required minimum area, surfaced with optimum materials, with appropriate lighting
	Female/male toilets	Female/male toilet facilities	Female/male toilet facilities open during approved hours	Female/male toilet facilities with approx. floor area of 50m <sup>2</sup> and average ceiling height of 3.5metres
Land delineated as "park"	Playground area	Structured playground area	Playground with unlimited access for children up to teenagers	Children's playground comprising twice the present equipment covering twice the present area
	Picnic area	Picnic food preparation, consumption and associated activities	Picnic food preparation and consumption for up to twice the size of existing area	Picnic food preparation and consumption area comprising 2 cooking facilities and 4 picnic tables/benches

#### Leases and Licences

The Local Government Act allows Council to grant leases, licences or other estates over all or part of Community Land.

Leases and licences are a method of formalising the use of land and facilities. Leases or licences can be held by groups such as community groups, sporting clubs and schools, and by commercial organisations or individuals providing facilities and/or services.

Where exclusive control of all or part of an area or facility is proposed or desirable, a lease is appropriate. There are also other factors which may influence the granting of a lease. These include the level or scale of investment, the necessity for security measures and the relationship between the activity on the land and the activity of the controller of the land.

The activities undertaken by a leaseholder should be compatible with any zoning or Council requirements and provide benefits and services or facilities for the users of the land. Terms and conditions of a lease should reflect the interest of the Council, protect the public and ensure proper management and maintenance.

Where short term, intermittent or non-exclusive occupation or control of all or part of an area or facility is proposed, a licence may be used. Providing there are no conflicts of interest, several licences may apply concurrently.

#### Existing leases, licences and other estates

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases which have been granted by Marrickville Council over Wicks Park:

The existing hold over tenancy, on a month to month basis, of the Tennis Centre within that area of Wicks Park delineated as "sportsground" (see Figure 2), to Network Tennis Australia, is hereby authorised.

The existing drainage easement, over part of Wicks Park, is hereby authorised.

#### Legislative requirements for leasing and licencing

The land addressed by this Plan of Management may be leased in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 1999.

#### Authorisation of future leases and licences

To comply with the Local Government Act, this Plan of Management must clearly specify what leases, licences and other estates are authorised for Community Land within Wicks Park.

#### **Occupation of Community Land**

The requirements for the occupation of Community Land by leases, licences and other estates that apply to Wicks Park are set out in Sections 46, 46A, 47, 47A, 47C and 47D of the Local Government Act 1993. In respect of Wicks Park, a lease, licence or other estate may only be granted for:-

- provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities; and
- a purpose expressly authorised in this Plan of Management, for purposes including:-

- the provision of goods, services and facilities, and the carrying out of activities, appropriate to the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public in relation to public recreation; the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare of persons; include, but are not limited to, infant welfare centres, kindergartens, child care centres or family day care centres, and the provision of public roads;
- purposes which are consistent with the core objectives for the category of "sportsground" and "park";
- for short term casual purposes including markets, the playing of a musical instrument or singing for a fee or reward, delivering a public address, commercial photographic sessions, picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings, and filming for cinema and television. However, the use or occupation of Community Land for these short term casual purposes is permitted only if the activity does not involve erecting a permanent building or structure; and
- for the purpose of providing underground pipes, conduits or other connections to connect premises adjoining the Community Land to a Council facility or other public utility provider located on the land.

#### Authorisation of leases, licences and other estates

To comply with the Local Government Act this Plan of Management must clearly specify what leases, licences or other estates are authorised within Wicks Park.

The terms and conditions of a lease or licence should reflect the interests of Council and the public and ensure proper management and maintenance.

Under these conditions this Plan of Management authorises the following leases, licences and other estates:

Land	Lease/Licence authorised
Land categorised as "sportsground" (see figure 2)	The land is authorised to be leased/licenced for the purposes of structured/unstructured sport and recreation (tennis) and/or associated activities to a suitable organisation, for the benefit of the Marrickville community generally.
	Subdivision of the land categorised as 'Sportsground' is permitted to enable Council to grant a lease/licence for more than 5 years.
	Any lease/licence for a term over 5 years will be granted by tender, unless to a non-profit organization.
Land categorised as "park" (see figure 2)	The designated area of the land is authorised to be leased/licenced, to the appropriate authority, for the purposes of a public utility installation.

Further, this Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of short term licences which fall within the following categories: markets; concerts; community, educational and/or sporting activities/uses for single one off events; the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward; engaging in a trade or business; the playing of a lawful game or sport; delivering a public address; commercial photographic session; picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings; filming for cinema or television; and the agistment of stock.

In regard to such licences Council must take into consideration the following matters in deciding to grant such a short term licence:

- (i) whether the use/activity is in the public interest;
- (ii) whether the use/activity would not cause any significant detrimental impact on the park or on the local community; and
- (iii) no permanent structures or erections are to be permitted.

This Plan of Management also authorises the following licences, subject to approval by Council under Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993: to direct or procure a theatrical, musical or other entertainment for the public; construct a temporary enclosure for the purpose of entertainment; set up, operate or use a loudspeaker or sound amplifying device; and deliver a public address or hold a religious service or public meeting.