The idea for this book was born in 1989 whilst I was involved in a staff exchange with the School of Landscape at the University of Manchester in England. The experience of teaching in a faculty that ran degrees in both landscape architecture and landscape management reinforced my growing belief that the management of the urban landscape could only be addressed satisfactorily by an integrated approach involving a number of key disciplines. For this to work it would be necessary for these disciplines to see one another not as threats but as equal partners with complementary skills and knowledge. In some landscape management organisations this approach prevails and results in efficient and effectively managed landscapes that offer the community rich and meaningful experiences. In other organisations such relationships are either unwanted or perceived as utopian nonsense.

My expertise, however, lies primarily in landscape management rather than in design. After trying with a variety of formats I came to the conclusion that, despite my belief in an equal partnership between disciplines such as horticulture and landscape architecture, the book would inevitably have a heavy management bias. Size alone prohibited a text which should address authoritatively both design and management. There seemed in any case, at least to a horticulturist, to be a number of texts that competently addressed the design of public landscapes. Accordingly, whilst not including chapters devoted to design principles, etc., I have tried whenever possible to set management within a framework of concern for the aesthetic characteristics of urban landscapes. Contributing authors have been encouraged to do likewise. A similar rationale has been applied to other disciplines that make a major input into urban landscape management, but for which an extensive and authoritative literature exists, for example, recreation studies, planning and financial management. Reference to the subject matter of these disciplines occur throughout, but is not the main focus of the text.

As a horticulturist, the area that seemed to be least well served in the literature of public open space management was the management of the indigenous and introduced vegetation that shape so much of the urban landscape. Most of the literature of this subject is either very general and associated with a planning type overview, or produced for the amateur gardener and lacking both scientific rigour and any sense of context with the realities of the urban public landscape. Given the significant progress made at institutions, such as VCAH Burnley during the 1980s, to produce truly professional horticulturists it seemed entirely appropriate to produce a textbook that could further encourage this process, whilst at the same time promoting respect rather than contempt for related and potentially competitive disciplines.

_Urban Landscape Management_ was conceived so that it might appeal to students and practitioners of a wide range of disciplines involved in some way in the landscape. Accordingly, some of the content is essentially descriptive and addresses what aspects of landscape management can be carried out and how this may be done in the most effective way. This is, however, often supplemented by a more philosophical discussion of why certain courses of action are or are not undertaken. It could be argued that one of the characteristics of urban landscape management practice is that it is not always well supported by a framework of ideas or intellectual models, either philosophical or scientific. I hope this text will make some small contribution to addressing this deficiency. In particular, the integration of ecological theory with vegetation management practice, with introduced as well as indigenous vegetation, is a recurrent theme.

A large textbook takes a very long time from idea to publication. It is now late 1993 almost a year after the last chapter was finished, and over four years since the first work commenced. For authors the inevitable lag between writing and publication is a considerable frustration. New information and changing social, political and economic circumstances prevail, and erode previously held truths. Such is the nature of textbooks and indeed all literature.

Writing a textbook involves spending a great deal of time defining and analysing your own views on the subject material, as well as those of others. Being forced to confront philosophical or other dilemmas can be an intensely uncomfortable experience but, ultimately, the process is enormously enriching. I hope that readers of _Urban Landscape Management_ will derive as much value from it as I have in writing it.

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November 1993
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Title: Urban landscape management

Date: 1994

Persistent Link: http://hdl.handle.net/11343/116120

File Description: Preface