MASTER PLAN 2022

Version 1.2

WILSON BOTANIC PARK

City of Casey

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

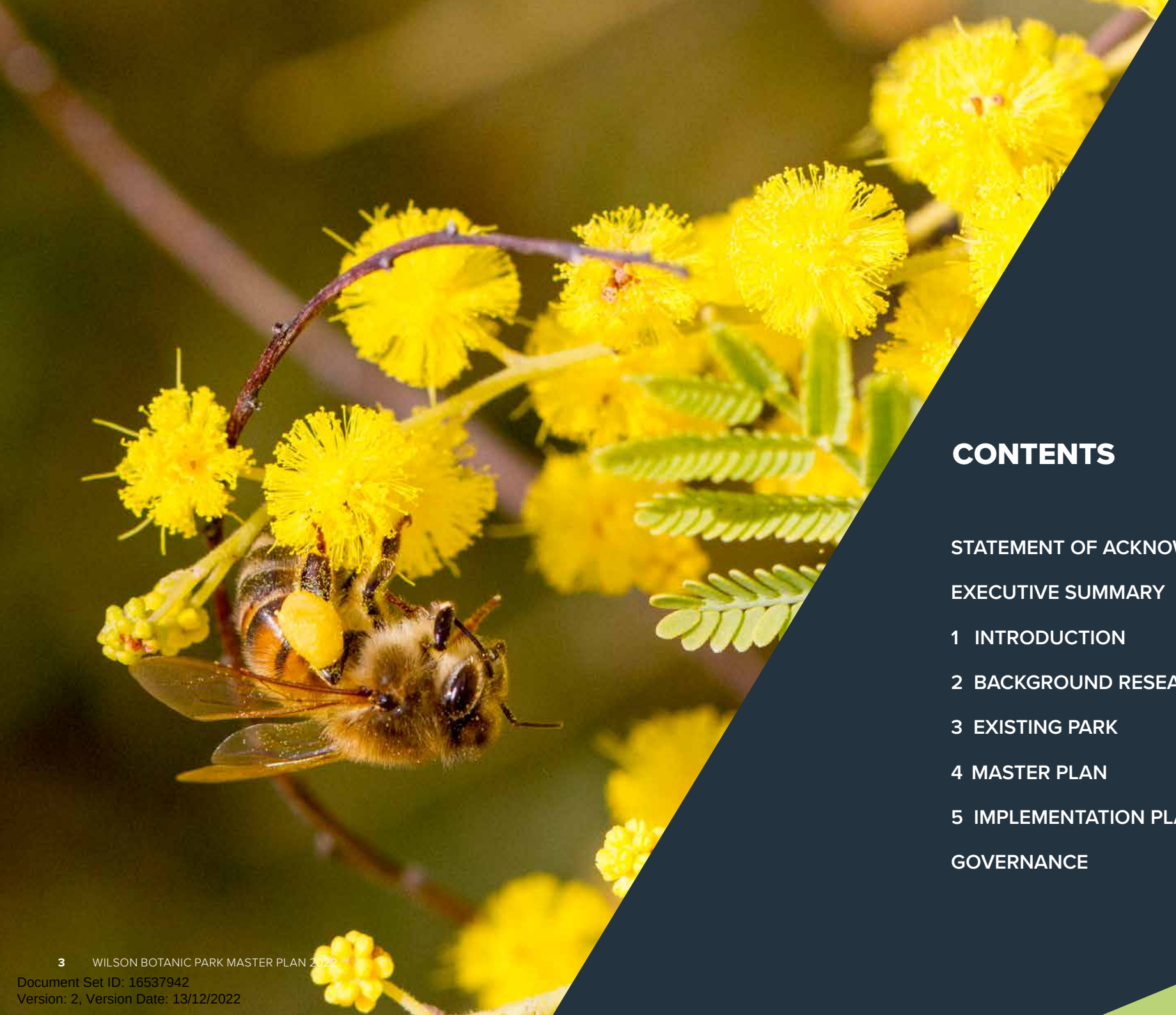
STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Casey proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners, Casey's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work and live.

Our Statement of Acknowledgement recognises that we value the unique status of Aboriginal peoples as the original owners and custodians of this land and waters. It is one step on the path to reconciliation.

Artwork by Heather Kennedy, Casey Aboriginal community member.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022



CONTENTS

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4

1 INTRODUCTION 6

2 BACKGROUND RESEARCH 10

3 EXISTING PARK 16

4 MASTER PLAN 29

5 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 46

GOVERNANCE 50

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Wilson Botanic Park (the Park) showcases 39 hectares of open space and parkland offering a variety of experiences and unique plant collections, fossils and fauna. The rich indigenous, geoheritage, farming and quarry history, distinguishes a point of difference delighting visitors with its horticultural splendour.

The Park plays an integral role in bringing the community together in high quality and evolving precincts, spaces and infrastructure. The Park offers a unique mix of botanic, recreation, health and wellbeing, educational, cultural and historical values in an expansive and diverse garden setting.

Almost 600,000 visitations are recorded annually at the Park, attributed to a steady increase in casual visitors and event goers, hirers and participants for the range of uses on offer. The Covid-19 pandemic increased the reliance and use of local open spaces to support physical and mental health and wellbeing, which was evidenced at the Park through significant increase in monthly visitations.

The Park in 2021

A broad range of strategic opportunities and challenges have been identified for the Park through site analysis, performance assessments and community and key stakeholder engagement.

In addition, Tourism in nature and botanic parks is becoming increasingly popular in Australia and around the world. The Park already attracts over 600,000 per year visitors for this purpose; and further development of botanic collections and amenities will generate economic growth opportunities by attracting tourists to the Park and the South-East Melbourne region.

One of the significant challenges to managing utilisation levels relates to the diverse topography of the site, and its impact on pedestrians entering and moving around the Park. Car parking is also a core issue, particularly in the peak season and for large events.

Trends

With a population experiencing rapid growth across most age groups, a rich and diverse culture, high levels of car dependency, and low rates of physical activity, it is important to provide open space and recreation opportunities that:

- support active ageing
- encourage participation of young people
- are accessible and affordable›are inclusive of all cultures within the community
- respond to changing community needs
- provide diverse, well connected park experiences
- are well connected to active and public transport

Nature and garden tourism is very popular in Australia and around the world. The Park currently attracts visitors for this purpose, and further development of botanic collections and amenities will create economic growth opportunities by attracting tourists to the Park and South-East Melbourne region.

Purpose

The purpose of this Master Plan is to set a strategic direction to ensure the future investment and improvements to the Park are coordinated, sustainable and fit-for-purpose.

The Master Plan sets the Vision, Objectives and Priority Projects for the Park. It does not commit funding for delivery of projects, instead it is an advocacy tool for seeking and securing funding for their implementation.

The Master Plan is a living document that will be monitored annually and reviewed every four years. It is expected to change over time with the changing priorities of the Casey community.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

Vision

In developing this Master Plan, Council aims to:

CREATE A BOTANIC PARK OF EXCELLENCE, ONE THAT CREATES A HEALTHY COMMUNITY BY CONNECTING PLANTS, PEOPLE AND PLACE THROUGH CONSERVATION, UNIQUE FEATURES AND MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES.

Objectives

Five objectives have been developed to guide the development and management of the Park into the future.

A PLACE FOR HORTICULTURE

The Park showcases high quality native and exotic horticulture, creating a botanic park with a unique landscape and distinctive character.

A PLACE TO GATHER

The Park provides a welcoming and inviting place to connect with family and friends.

A PLACE TO LEARN

The Park is an ideal setting for historical, environmental and horticultural learning.

A PLACE TO CELEBRATE

The Park's stunning vistas and infrastructure make it an iconic and much-loved event location.

A PLACE TO EXPLORE

The Park is accessible and safe, encouraging intuitive exploration of the expansive landscapes and settings.

Priority Projects

The Master Plan articulates a vision for the Park to secure it as a thriving botanic garden of the future, with its unique features and landscapes celebrated as a point of difference to others in the region. This is reflected in the level of ambition, range and scale of the identified projects.

It is envisaged that through the implementation of this master plan, horticultural components of the Park will expand and intensify. The ultimate intention is to enhance the Park as a visitor destination and cater to the growing garden tourism sector.

Park objectives will be addressed over time starting with essential infrastructure that must be in place to support existing visitation to the Park, as well as facilitate future increase in Park utilisation to meet its full potential.

Delivery of projects is based on their importance to deliver on the overall vision and objectives for the Park. All projects are subject to funding being allocated and will be considered in accordance with other projects throughout the city.

To assist in implementing this Master Plan, Council will require external funding from a variety of sources including State and Federal Government, private or commercial partnerships. This is even more pertinent for the more ambitious and high value projects that will be reliant on external funding to proceed.

Annual delivery programs to expand the plant, garden and forest development, stewardship, education and events are intended to be implemented by Council on an ongoing basis. There are opportunities to enhance collaboration with key user groups, community and providers and secure partnerships to support their delivery.

Short term projects are proposed for delivery over the next 10 to 15 years. Several of these deliver on Park objectives simultaneously and are recommended to be delivered within the same or sequential timeframe. Medium term projects and long term projects are envisaged to be delivered beyond this timeframe.

Recommended short term projects for delivery, subject to funding being made available, include:

- Upgrade and expansion of Main Car Park
- Redevelopment & relocation of Visitor Centre
- Play Precinct development
- Feature planting at main entrance
- Perennial garden
- Cool Temperate Rainforest Planting
- Accessible ramp access to Anniversary Lake, Café & Amphitheatre
- Irrigation system upgrade
- Utilities upgrade (sewerage and electricity)
- WiFi installation
- Lighting Masterplan
- Advocacy for signalised intersection at Princes Highway/Entrance Road

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Wilson Botanic Park (the Park) is a picturesque 39 hectares of open space and parkland located in Berwick. The site is managed by the City of Casey and is one of Casey's premier parks, showcasing an expansive variety of experiences and unique plant collections, fossils and fauna. The rich indigenous, geoheritage, farming and quarry history distinguishes its point of difference, delighting visitors with its horticultural splendour.

Located in the expanding urban area of south-east Melbourne and surrounded by established and residential development, the Park plays an integral role in bringing the community together in high quality and evolving precincts, spaces and infrastructure. The Park offers a unique mix of botanical, historical, educational, cultural, recreational, and health and wellbeing values. Its proximity to Berwick Town Centre, approximately 1-kilometre walk along shared path from the Park entrance, supports broader economic benefit for the region.

Almost 600,000 visitations are recorded annually at the Park, attributed to a steady increase in casual visitors and event goers, hirers and participants for the range of uses on offer. The Covid-19 pandemic increased the reliance and use of local open spaces to support physical and mental health and wellbeing, which was evidenced at the Park through significant increase in monthly visitations. This has also exaggerated current challenges at the park including increased infrastructure and park usage, car parking, toilets, service provision and maintenance.

Xyst Australia Pty Ltd was engaged by the City of Casey to collaborate on the development of this Master Plan to guide future use and development of Wilson Botanic Park.

The Master Plan responds to current and future community expectation and demand, and designs for high quality, economically and environmentally sustainable management and infrastructure.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

1.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of a Master Plan is to set strategic direction to ensure the future investment and improvements to the Park are coordinated, sustainable and fit-for-purpose.

This Master Plan sets the Vision, Objectives and Priority Projects for the Park. It does not commit funding for delivery of projects, instead it is an advocacy tool for seeking and securing funding for their implementation.

In developing this Master Plan, Council aims to:

- Effectively manage the Park with a focus on collaboration, integration and engagement.
- Recognise and celebrate Traditional Owners' connection and history to the park and surrounding lands
- Recognise and celebrate the Park's history and culture, farming, quarry, botanic gardens and parkland.
- Conserve, expand and enhance botanic collections, natural open space features and landscapes.
- Enhance community use and visitor experience of the Park.
- Engage the community in the future development of the Park.
- Advocate and seek partnerships and external funding opportunities to support implementation of priority projects and ongoing operational initiatives.
- Implement principles of Universal Design, Environmentally Sustainable Design, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, gender equity and the impacts of climate change.
- Align with Council's Community Vision to become a more connected, bold and resilient community, and the strategic objectives of our Council Plan, Organisational Strategy and Domain strategies.

1.3 SITE HISTORY

The location of the Park would have had a rich volcanic activity 25 million years ago, as evident from the columns of basalt rock that occupy the site. Due to changes in the earth's climate, the Park was then a rainforest. This was confirmed through the find of eucalypt fossils in the 1980s which indicate the climate was warmer and wetter than it is today.

The Park is located on or adjacent to the traditional lands of the Bunurong/Boonwurrung people. It is believed the area was a Singing Track, an area to walk through, maybe set up camp for a night or two.

In 1854, brothers William and James Wilson bought the 632-acre site of Crown Land in Berwick, part of which is now known as Wilson Botanic Park. Originally wheat was farmed on the western side of the site before the brothers used the land for sheep and dairying.

From 1859 to 1976, the site operated as a blue metal quarry. In 1874 the quarry expanded with the building of the Gippsland railway line in which the quarry provided basalt. At the end of World War I the quarry was closed and the plant sold to a local sand company in Cranbourne. The plant was then leased in the late 1930s, sold again in the late 1940s and again in 1966 to Boral.

The quarry itself always remained with the Wilson Family. When it closed permanently in 1978 the owners, George Wilson and his wife, donated the land to the Shire of Berwick with a condition that it must be used as a public park. The Park was to be named Wilson Park in memory of George's father and grandfather who originally purchased the land. The Shire of Berwick purchased the surrounding land in 1985 from the Andrews family, who were descendants of William Wilson, the other brother who originally also purchased the land.

In 1988, work began on constructing the Park to make it a beautiful place for relaxation and recreation. Wilson Botanic Park was officially opened on 26 July 1992, realising George Wilson's dream. The Park was officially opened on 26 July 1992 by the then Governor General, Bill Hayden. Two trees were planted to commemorate the occasion. The kauri was planted by Mr Hayden and the linden was planted by his wife, Dallas. On 1 August 1992, the Park was first opened to the public.

1.4 PREVIOUS MASTER PLANS

Two previous Master Plans have been completed for Wilson Botanic Park; one in 1986 and another in 1999. A botanic report was also completed in 2016 which recommended further actions to develop horticulture and botanic elements of the Park.

A significant number of actions from these Master Plans and the botanic report have been completed throughout the Park.

Other projects have been incorporated for consideration as part of this Master Plan.

Council also prepared the WBP Improvement Plan in 2014. The internal document identified three key projects to support visitation to the park. The Lakeside Lawn & Promenade was delivered in 2016/17. The Playground Revitalisation is in design and the third project Community Pavilion & Café went through concept design and costing in July 2015 to seek external funding. Both projects have been included for future delivery through this Master Plan.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

1.5 STUDY AREA

The study area that comprises Wilson Botanic Park is illustrated in Figure 1.

The Park is located at 668 Princes Highway, Berwick, 3806 and is owned by Council. The majority of the Park is zoned Public Park & Recreation Zone (PPRZ), with the linear green link to McNabb Street zoned General Residential Zone (GRZ1, hatched area). The Park has a heritage overlay (HO58), which includes tree controls.

Figure 1: Aerial image of Wilson Botanic Park

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

1.6 METHODOLOGY

STAGE 1 – RESEARCH, ENGAGEMENT & ANALYSIS
Background Research
Community and Stakeholder Engagement
Site Analysis
STAGE 2 – ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES
Park Performance Assessment
Issues and Opportunities Report
Draft Concept Plan
Council Review and Feedback
STAGE 3 – DRAFT MASTER PLAN
Prepare Draft Masterplan Report
Prepare Implementation Report
Council Review and Feedback
Community and Stakeholder Engagement
STAGE 4 – FINAL MASTER PLAN
Analyse and Incorporate Feedback
Present Final Master Plan to Council for adoption

Table 1: Project Methodology

1.7 CONSULTATION PROCESS

Extensive community and key stakeholder consultation processes were embedded into the development of the Master Plan.

The following activities were conducted during January to April 2020:

- **Community Intercept Surveys** – **187 surveys conducted with visitors** at the Park during February 2020
- **Casey Conversations online engagement platform hosted a Community Survey** – **175 survey responses** received during March and April 2020
- **Children's views** were captured by **Hillcrest College Grade 2 students**
- **Friends of Wilson Botanic Park meeting**
- **Australian Plant Society Committee meeting**
- **Community Reference Group meeting**
- **Benchmarking interviews**
- **City of Casey staff workshops and deep-dive interviews**

The findings of the community and stakeholder engagement process are reflected throughout the recommendations. Full consultation findings can be found in the Issues and Opportunities Report prepared to inform this Master Plan.

KEY THEMES INCLUDE:

People enjoy most at the Park:

- the gardens, trees and plants
- scenery and views
- peace and quiet, serenity
- wildlife
- different terrains and topography
- convenient and close
- exercise

Suggested improvements for the Park:

- have a café or restaurant
- more parking
- upgrade the toilets
- more drinking fountains
- more bins
- improved signage
- interact with the lake more
- a treetop walk

Children's ideas:

- a restaurant
- a gift shop
- more plants and flowers
- more fish
- a butterfly garden
- camping grounds
- overnight stays in cabins
- build a mini waterfall
- more turtles
- tree surfing
- tree houses
- rock climbing
- sculptures
- a fake volcano
- health centre for animals
- frog pond
- night walks

Final consultation will be held with presentation of this Draft Master Plan to the community and stakeholders for feedback, prior to presenting to Council for endorsement.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

2 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY

2.1 STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Master Plan aligns with the City of Casey's Long-Term Community Vision 2031 which is to become a more connected, bold and resilient community. The Community Vision is a high-level strategic document that describes the community's aspirations and priorities for the future and to enable its delivery is supported by five key strategies which have been embedded throughout the development of this Master Plan:

Environment Strategy sets out how Council plans to foster environmentally sustainable practices and work towards being climate ready (resilient).

Economic Development Strategy provides an insight into the current and emerging conditions of economic development in Casey, strategic opportunities, and risks.

Infrastructure Strategy provides overarching direction to plan, deliver and maintain integrated, adaptable, resilient, sustainable, and connected infrastructure within the City of Casey.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy outlines the health and wellbeing priorities for City of Casey over the next four years and is a key strategic roadmap to maintain and improve public health and wellbeing at a local level. Through provision of facilities, programs, education, messaging etc, there is huge potential to promote healthy eating and physical activity to users of the park, improve mental wellbeing.

Transformation Strategy to make Casey an adaptable, future-ready organisation, where innovative people and partnerships thrive to deliver maximum community benefit.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

2.2 LITERATURE REVIEW

The following strategic and corporate documents have also informed the development of this Master Plan:

- Arts and Cultural Development Strategy (2018-2022)
- Botanic Report and Management Plan (2016)
- Capital Works Program (20/21)
- City of Casey Council Plan (2021-2025)
- Community Facilities Planning Framework (2019)
- Council Planning Scheme (2018)
- Diversity, Access & Inclusion Policy (2016)
- Dog Friendly Spaces Policy (2017)
- Events Policy (2017)
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (2017-2021)
- Heffernan Report (2016)
- Integrated Transport Strategy
- Integrated Water Management Plan
- Master Plan, Wilson Botanic Park Berwick (1986)
- Open Space Strategy (2015)
- Organisational Strategy (2021-2025)
- Playground Strategy (2010)
- Sustainability Policy (2017)
- Walk and Ride in Casey Strategy (2019-2041)
- Wilson Botanic Park Community Pavilion & Café Business Case
- Wilson Botanic Park Community Pavilion & Café Design Package (2015)
- Wilson Botanic Park Community Pavilion & Café Cost Plan (2015)
- Wilson Botanic Park Berwick Improvement Plan (2015)
- Wilson Botanic Park Berwick Masterplan, Vision and Business Plan (1999)
- Wilson Botanic Park Education Program

Internal Council teams and other documents were referred to as part of the literature review research to inform this Master Plan:

- Australian Sports Commission, CSIRO, 2013.
- Botanic Garden Industry World Industry Report, IBIS, 2019
- Council's Aboriginal Engagement Team
- Tourism Victoria data (2019)

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

2.3 DEMOGRAPHICS

A diverse and growing population

The City of Casey is a growing and diverse community. The most recent population estimate for the City of Casey is 380,531 with pre-pandemic forecasts predicting this to grow to approximately 550,000 by 2041.[1]

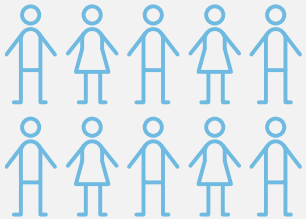
The largest overall increase in persons over the next ten years is forecast to be in the parents and homebuilders age group (35-49 years). The fastest rate of growth is in older people and retirees (65+ years) with the growth rate double that of those 0-14 and 15-64 years. This reflects an ageing demographic for which the City of Casey must prepare.[2]

The most recent population estimate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within Casey is 1,941 or 0.6 per cent, with largest populations in Cranbourne, Doveton, and the coastal villages.[3]

Almost a third of Casey's population were born overseas in non-English speaking countries and almost 40 per cent speak a language other than English at home. The three largest birthplaces of recently arrived residents in 2016 was India, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Casey has ver 100 faith groups represented and a growing number of community members who are Muslim, Buddhist, or Hindu.

An analysis of the City of Casey's demographics was conducted using the 2016 Census and revealed the following trends that are relevant to the planning and provision of recreation and open space facilities:

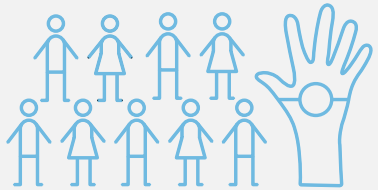
› City of Casey is a **growing and diverse community**, with the **most residents of any municipality** in Victoria.



› Population has grown from 312,800 (2016 Census) and the most recent population estimate is **380,531 in 2021**.

› Casey is expected to be home to **549,200 by 2041**.

› In ten years the largest increase of people will be parents and homebuilders (35-49 years), The **fastest growth rate is in older people and retirees (65+ years).**



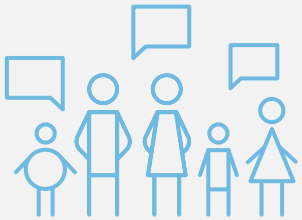
› Estimate population for **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples** is **1,941** or 0.6%.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

2 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

With a population experiencing rapid growth in the proportion of almost all resident age groups, high immigration, and high levels of car dependency, it is important to provide recreation and open space opportunities which:

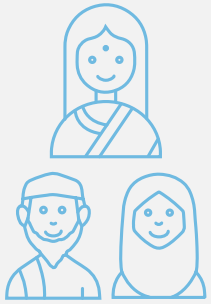
- facilitate active ageing
- encourage retention and participation of young people
- are accessible and affordable
- embrace and support different cultures in the community
- will sustainably cater for a changing community
- provide diversity in park experiences that are well connected
- are well connected to active and public transport



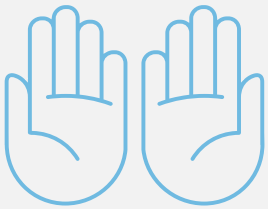
- Overall, **31% were born overseas** and almost **40% speak a language other than English** at home.

- **5%** live with a **profound or severe disability**, **10% care for a person living with a disability**.

- **15,000** of Casey's adult population identify as part of **LGBTIQ+** communities.



- Relative to the Victorian population, a large percentage of **people born in India (6.0% vs. 2.9%), Sri Lanka (3.8% vs. 0.9%) and Afghanistan (2.9% vs. 0.3%)**.



- Casey has over **100 faith groups**.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

2.4 INDUSTRY TRENDS

Tourism

Tourism is forecast to continue to be a primary driver of industry growth over the next five years with botanic gardens anticipated to continue being major tourist attractions. Prior to the Covid pandemic the botanic garden industry was seeing increasing tourism from both domestic markets and abroad. While border closures have seen a halt to international visitors, this has driven large increases in tourist interest from visitors from all over Australia, and where pandemic restrictions have applied, local tourists have relied upon botanic gardens and public open space. Nature based and eco-tourism also remain very popular in Australia and around the world. This provides the Park with significant opportunity to further develop tourism within the South-East Melbourne region.

Physical Activity

To fit into increasingly busy lifestyles, there has been an increase in participation in informal recreation, fitness activities and individualised sport for physical activity (e.g. running, walking, gym), compared to a constant or declining participation in organised sport. Parks may experience and be relied upon for more of these sorts of activities over organised team sporting activities.

Increased mainstreaming of lifestyle, adventure or alternative sports, particularly with the younger generations is causing greater interest in these activities at local parks. Activities such as rock climbing, zip lining and similar pursuits are becoming more regularly found in (sub)urban parks.

Funding

Government funding will continue to be the key determinant of industry revenue, as most botanic gardens will continue to rely on government funds to meet capital and operational costs. Government funding for heritage, arts environmental heritage is forecast to moderately rise over the next five years, primarily due to population growth, which will benefit botanic gardens.

There has been a recent focus of both State and Federal Government to support projects that show a clear economic impact, particularly in the creation of new employment and return on investment. There is also increasing recognition of governments, businesses and communities that recreation can help achieve a range of strategic policy objectives from improving mental and physical health, crime prevention and social development. Botanic gardens have the potential to increase the availability and variety of funding opportunities to invest in infrastructure.

Most industry organisations are likely to remain publicly operated not-for-profit enterprises, however the number of private organisations is projected to marginally increase as greater annual visitation attracts new entrants to the industry.

Play

Nature and adventure play are becoming more and more popular within parks and botanic gardens. Aligning to the natural setting of botanic parks, there is a growing trend to encourage the use of blending play with nature, including the use of natural materials such as tree logs, canopy, rocks and boulders. These settings can often adapt to outdoor learning settings and trends such as bush kinder, where kindergarten programs are run entirely in nature.

Visitation

Visitation is being impacted by a range of changing lifestyle factors. Houses are getting bigger, and blocks are getting smaller, especially in the City of Casey, where suburbs like Clyde and Clyde North are considered high-growth areas. With backyards smaller than ever, the importance and need for high-quality public open space and gardens is greater than ever.

Botanic gardens were historically designed for horticultural displays and passive recreation. Contemporary times have seen many gardens integrate their historical design with the natural environment, sustainability, cooking, health, family and the arts to increase the reach of visitors.

This approach to broaden and enhance what botanic gardens historically could offer through features and events has seen gardens around the world increase their visitation. Some of these gardens welcome one million visitors per year with repeat visitation also increasing.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

Recreational Activity

With an ageing and more culturally diverse population, recreational activity of the future will need to continue to adapt and cater to a broader audience with diverse preferences and recreational habits.

Parks are increasingly being recognised for their contribution to mental and physical wellbeing. Parks are an important resource for rehabilitation and preventative management of mental health. This is likely to increase as a consideration for park management and design into the future.

Traditional play equipment remains a popular attraction, particularly adventure play equipment that can be adeptly integrated into nature settings and take advantage of topography. Equipment such as climbing nets, tower structures with slides and flying foxes attract visitors as destination playspaces.

Play for people of all ages and abilities is important. Botanic gardens themselves are regarded as playspaces for adults.

Beyond play itself, the attractions create settings for social connection. When supported by well-maintained infrastructure such as seating, shelters, picnic tables, barbeques, drinking fountains, toilets and car parking, the duration of visitation is lengthened and repeat visitations achieved.

2.5 MARKET ANALYSIS

External industry competition impacting visitation to botanic gardens is forecast to remain high over the next five years, due to the prevalence of other recreational activities. While household discretionary income is forecast to increase over the next five years, competition from other leisure activities may limit industry gains from this trend. Similarly, travellers' time constraints affect which destinations and attractions they visit, as does the uniqueness and quality of the experience. In this environment of intensifying competition, botanic gardens are likely to increase promotion for revenue-generating activities, such as leasing garden venues for weddings and public events like open air cinemas.

Garden Tourism

In a study completed by Tourism Victoria in September 2020, nature-based experiences were the most popular activity undertaken by visitors in 2020 in Victoria. 18.8 million visitors took part in a nature-based experience, an increase of 17% from the previous year. This consisted of 9.6 million domestic daytrip visitors, 7 million domestic overnight visitors and 2.2 million international overnight visitors.

Partnership Opportunities

While the following local gardens may at one time have been seen as competitors, together they create network of botanical and horticultural experience, cultivation, and conservation. This presents an opportunity for Wilson Botanic Park to leverage its location, topography and history to capture visitors who may be spending the day in south-east Melbourne experiencing the various gardens and attractions on offer, or to extend their stay in the south-east by one or two nights.

Cranbourne Gardens

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne is located 5 kilometres south-west of Wilson Botanic Park. The 363-hectare site is home to the Australian Garden featuring large collections of Australian native flora with approximately 170,000 plants, representing 1,700 different taxa. It is a site of State significance for flora and fauna conservation and consists of 10 kilometres of walking tracks, 6 kilometres of cycling trails, natural bushland, a lookout tower, playgrounds, BBQ and picnic facilities. In 2018/19 Cranbourne Gardens had 246,746 visitors. A free shuttle van operates from Cranbourne Station daily.

Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden

Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden is located in Olinda, 25 kilometres from Wilson Botanic Park. Formally known as the National Rhododendron Garden, the garden is home to 15,000 rhododendrons, 12,000 azaleas, 3,000 camellias and 250,000 daffodils amongst its varied plant collections. Unique to the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden is its different altitude and rainfall, enabling it to grow cool temperate plants preferring a high rainfall.

Melbourne Gardens

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Gardens is located in South Yarra, 45km from Wilson Botanic Park. The garden is home to the National Herbarium of Victoria and contains scientific laboratories and the Victorian Conservation Seedbank. The 38-hectare site houses a collection of just under 8,000 plant taxa from around the world and is the premier botanic garden in Victoria tourists visit. It is complemented by a variety of onsite attractions including the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, 'Tan' running track, Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden and Shrine of Remembrance (Victoria's national war memorial). In 2018/19 Melbourne Gardens had over 2 million visitors.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

3 EXISTING PARK

3.1 KEY VISITORS

Almost 600,000 visitations are recorded annually at the Park, attributed to a steady increase in casual visitors, event goers, hirers and participants for the range of uses on offer. Current visitors to the Park include:

Active and Healthy Locals

Visitors are largely local residents, visiting the Park as individuals, couples, or families, many on a frequent basis. Visitors participate in a range of activities including walking, jogging and dog walking (on lead). The primary reasons for visitors undertaking these activities are for exercise, social connection and relaxation. The places that these visitors can be seen are largely around the Park's trail network and in group exercise sessions.

Groups for Socialising and Play

Families and groups of friends visit the Park for a picnic/ BBQ and some form of play. They enjoy playing ball games, using the playground or participating in informal play with the Park landscape. They also interact with nature and the animals. The key motivation for these visitors is to socialise with family and friends, most commonly at the picnic/ BBQ shelters, playground and lawn areas.

Horticulture Enthusiasts

Visitors for horticultural purposes come from all backgrounds. Some are keen gardeners who enthusiastically look at plant combinations, writing down the plant name and what ideas they could try at home, while others enjoy the simple pleasure of appreciating the horticultural displays.

The Park is a perfect location for tour groups to visit as part of a local or broader itinerary to the south-east region of Melbourne. They enjoy viewing garden displays and have an interest in learning about horticulture and conservation, whilst seeing the sights of an area. This is particularly popular for older adults who often make up tour group members.

Students and Educators

Visitors include schools and community groups, as well as young families. The main activities are participating in educational programs and interpretive walks. These activities are undertaken to satisfy the desire for learning about the Park's values and a concern for looking after the natural environment. These visitors are largely in natural areas such as the wetlands and the old quarry site.

Wedding/Function Hirers and Guests

Hirers and guests are couples, families and groups of friends hosting or attending a wedding ceremony at the venue. Additionally, they are family members wishing to hire spaces for other special events such as a birthday party or family reunion. They are looking to celebrate and capture these special moments, sharing them with friends and family in a beautiful setting. These visitors can be seen at the Park's shelters, the manicured wedding sites and multipurpose room.

Event Goers

Events are attended primarily by families and groups of friends of all ages, such as concerts, outdoor theatre and movies. They are typically infrequent visitors, seeking entertainment and a social experience in a safe and relaxed setting. These visitors are largely seen around the amphitheatre precinct of the Park and lakeside.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

3.2 KEY USER GROUPS

There are a diverse range of key user groups at the Park, including:

Friends of Wilson Botanic Park

The friends group help by volunteering, fund raising, undertaking working bees, planting, watering, weeding and other plant handling activities. The committee meet once a month.

Australian Plant Society

The Australian Plan Society, in conjunction with Friends of Wilson Botanic Park Berwick, held monthly working bees on a Saturday morning at the Park for around 27 years. Now operating as Australian Plants Society – Cardinia Region, the society has relocated from Wilson Botanic Park however were responsible for maintaining a collection of native plants within the Park that they tended to, as well as undertaking a yearly plant sale attracting over 1000 people.

Wilson Botanic Park Community Reference Group

A community reference group was established to enable community to provide advice to Council concerning Wilson Botanic Park. The group meets four times a year.

Nature Play Groups

Local kinder groups, day care providers and mums' groups use the Park regularly for nature play.

Bush Kinder

Bush kinder is run for 4-year-olds, where local kindergartens hold education outdoors in a natural setting and in all weather at the Park. Children are encouraged to play, explore and learn in a bush or natural environment. Physical activity is encouraged and the children and adults benefit from using only what nature has provided.

Parkrun

Parkrun occurs every Saturday morning at the Park and attracts approximately 50 walkers and runners.

Exercise Groups

There are regular exercise groups, such as Yoga, Zumba, Tai Chi, Fitness at the Park, with each averaging 20 or so people per session. There are also numerous personal trainers that hold 'bootcamps' throughout the year. Sporting clubs also make use of the path network and topography for fitness sessions.

Spinners Group

There is a group that meet weekly in the Park to spin, knit and crochet.

Dog Walkers

Along with many casual dog walkers, there are numerous dog walking groups who use the Park, including a greyhound, husky, golden retriever and Samoyed walking group. Typically, they organise walks once a month, with the greyhound group walking every fortnight with around 30-40 people. Dogs must be on a lead at the Park.

Event, Celebrations, Wedding Ceremonies and Functions

The Park is a popular destination for public and private events. The community can hire out shelters, BBQ's and various locations around the Park for wedding ceremonies, private celebrations and public events. In 2019 there were Almost 600 activations at the Park.

Mums and Bubs

Playdaze and City of Casey Family Daycare organise 'Mums and Bubs' programs at the Park multiple times a year.

Little Red Train

In the past a little red train has operated on weekends, public and school holidays, offering a ride around the Park. Ongoing use will be determined at a future time.

Seasonal and Major Events

The Park hosts movie nights once a month during summer, attracting approximately 1000 people per session. Live music nights also occur regularly in the summer season, attracting an average of 250 people per session. Other annual events include the Casey Pet Expo which saw 4,700 people in 2019, BGANZ (Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand) event which attracted 2,500 people, and Casey Garden Expo which averages 3,000 visitors.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

3.3 PARK PRECINCTS

For the purposes of this Master Plan, the Park was divided into a series of individual precincts, reflecting the overall size and the diverse and varied function, character and features of each distinct area within the Park (illustrated in Figure 5).

A series of performance assessments were conducted in relation to each of these identified precincts, with scores illustrated in Figure 6.

The key attributes considered as part of the performance assessments include:

- Location, access and geography
- Design, appeal and activity
- Trees and gardens
- Park furniture
- Other assets and services
- Events
- Playspaces
- Accessibility
- Public toilets
- Safety and security
- Attractiveness and appeal

A summary and analysis of each precinct is provided on the following pages.

Figure 5: Park Precincts

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

1. Arrival Precinct

The Arrival Precinct defines the entry experience for the majority of Park users, featuring a tree-lined access road, car parking, Visitor Centre, and impressive native and ornamental garden displays. These displays provide an appropriate arrival experience to a botanic garden.

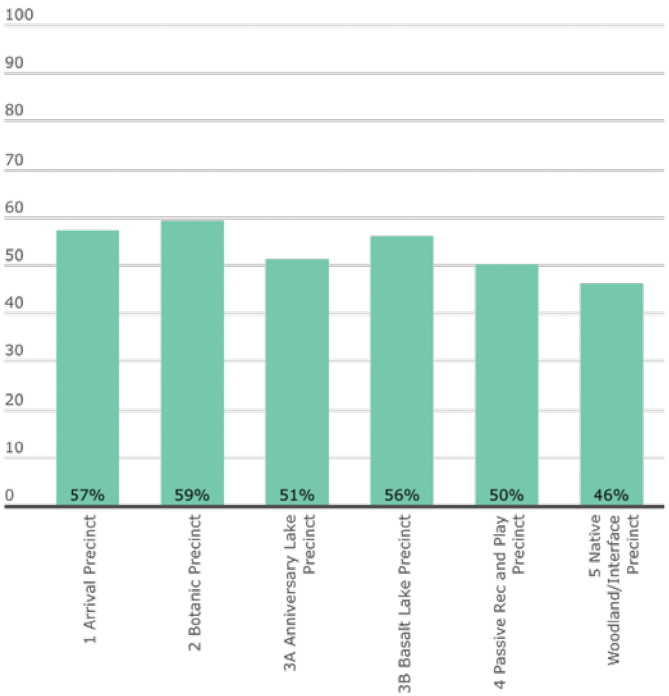
Whilst delivering an impressive entry statement, pedestrian access requires improvement and the capacity of the access road and main car parking areas to meet user demand is currently insufficient, particularly at peak times. The topography, existing vegetation and proximity of neighbouring residential properties provide some challenges in relation to future development.

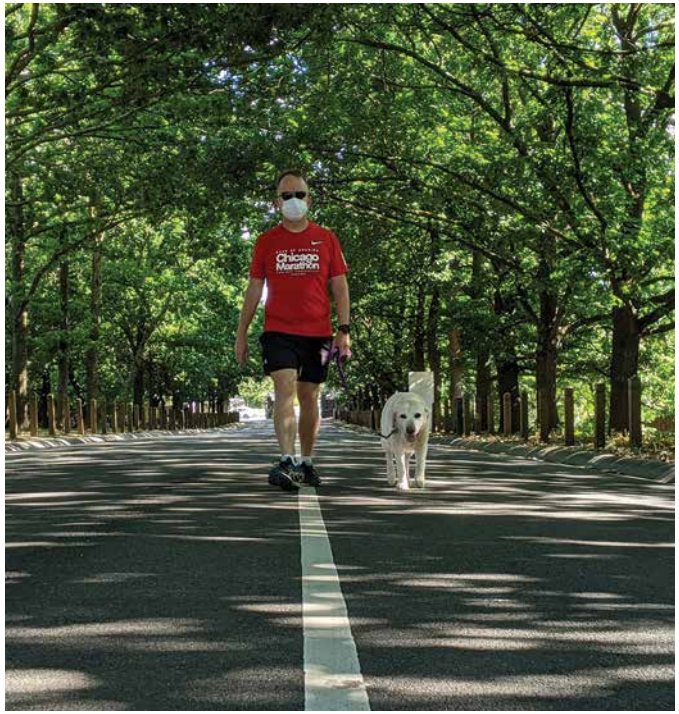
2. Ornamental Horticulture Precinct

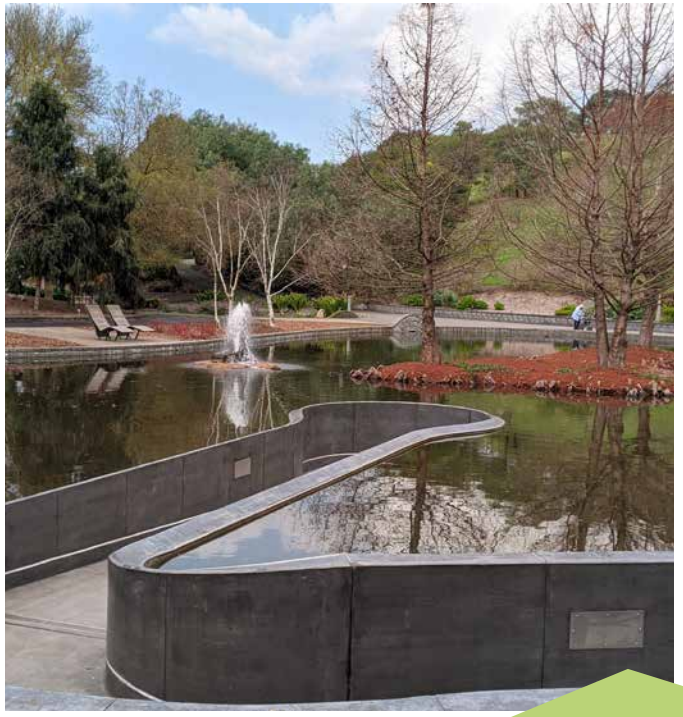
The Ornamental Horticulture Precinct continues the provision of seasonal garden bed displays, with a focus on plantings immediately adjacent to the main pedestrian thoroughfare. Other key features of this precinct include entrance water features and the Lilypad Lake, including feature seating and an immersive sunken walkway.

Located at the main pedestrian entrance to the Park, this area receives a high level of utilisation which is suitably accommodated by a wide, level thoroughfare that leads towards Anniversary Lake and the centre of the Park. Transitions and access to other adjacent spaces are however somewhat problematic due to level changes and surface treatments, including access to and around the now-improved Lilypad Lake.

Figure 6:
Overall Precinct Performance Assessment Scores







Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

3A. Lake Precinct – Anniversary Lake

The Anniversary Lake Precinct is centrally located within the Park. It is the social hub of the Park and an important destination for many park users. Key features of this precinct include the lake, lakeside footpath, lakeside deck/viewing area, café, amphitheatre, multi-purpose room and public toilets. The lake is home to a large population of Common Long-necked turtles, as well as a variety of duck species, Swamphens and other bird life.

Heavily treed slopes rise steeply to the north and provide a green backdrop to the lake in views from the south. To the south, steep grassed areas are integrated with the bluestone amphitheatre that faces north over the lake. At grade and elevated views across this precinct are an important feature of the Park, however topography presents an accessibility issue to some areas around the lake.

3B. Lake Precinct – Basalt Lake

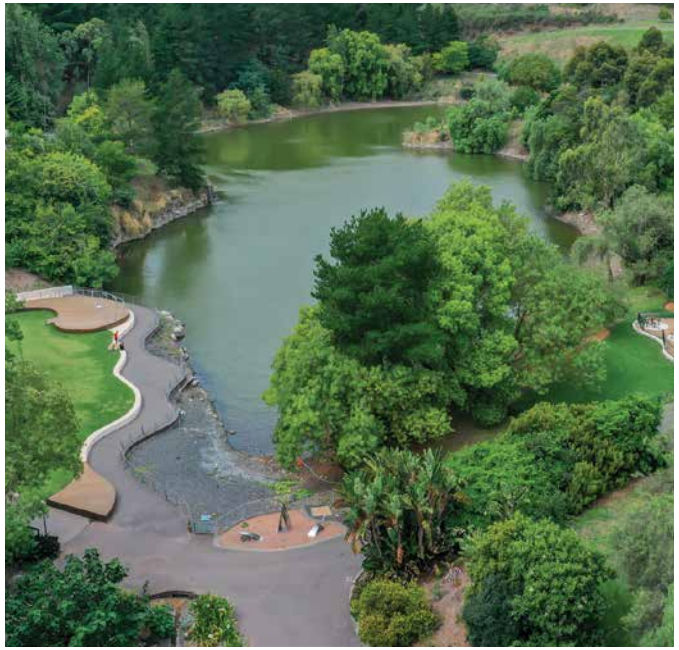
The Basalt Lake Precinct is located towards the northern end of the Park, defined by the exposed basalt rock face and steeply rising, heavily treed slopes associated with the original quarry operations of the Park. Key features of this precinct are the rock face, fossil seam, lake, riparian plantings, boardwalk and bird hide. This part of the Park is relatively peaceful and intimate in scale when compared to other more heavily utilised parts of the Park, and the more open and exposed precincts on higher ground.

Access is essentially limited to one route in and out of the precinct, with distance from the main entrance, varying surface treatments and changing levels limiting access for some visitors.

4. Passive Recreation and Play Precinct

This precinct comprises park features such as the rotunda, playground, BBQ shelter, public bathrooms, Hoo Hoo Tower and designated ball-games area. Landform is variable with a relatively steep climb required to access many of these features. Provision of garden beds is more prevalent towards the lower levels, where the precinct borders the Ornamental Horticulture Precinct. Further north and on rising ground, tree planting within grassed areas dominates, with a series of spaces or various scales defined by the topography and vegetation cover.

The network of formal and informal paths and stairs featuring throughout this precinct, traverse the Park's topography and encourage exploration, however present access issues for those less mobile.



Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

5. Native Woodland/Interface Precinct

The Native Woodland/Interface Precinct occupies significant areas immediately adjacent to the Park's north, east and west boundaries, comprising a perimeter path, swathes of amenity grass and varying degrees of established tree cover and understorey vegetation.

The perimeter path tends to follow an alignment on higher ground, with land typically falling away towards the Park boundary and residential properties beyond. Distances, level changes and the degree of vegetation cover between the perimeter path and the boundary varies around the precinct.

Steeper sections of the perimeter path likely discourage higher levels of utilisation, with significant tracts of open grassed areas also underutilised.

6. Operations Precinct

The Operations Precinct is primarily defined by its fundamental role in the day-to-day operations of the Park, comprising a series of sheds and containers located within a fenced and gated compound, for storage of machinery, equipment and materials and other operational activities.

This precinct is located towards the south-east corner of the Park, on high ground, with access via the main car park and a steep access road. Direct access into the Park is via a second access point to the north of the precinct. There is a significant amount of established vegetation on surrounding slopes.

Public access to this part of the Park is restricted, with signage in place to deter public access.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

3.4 EXISTING FEATURES/ ATTRACTIONS

The Park has many existing unique features and attractions that make it a special experience on each visitation.

1. Visitor Centre
2. Botanic/Horticultural Displays
3. Native Flora
4. Path Network
5. Anniversary Lake
6. Lakeside
7. Café
8. Amphitheatre
9. Multipurpose Room
10. Basalt Lake (rock face, fossil seam & bird hide)
11. Boardwalk
12. Lilypad Lake Sunken Walkway
13. The Lawn area
14. Playground
15. BBQ Shelters
16. Hoo Hoo Tower
17. Ben's Lookout and Rotundas
18. Directional Marker

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

1. Visitor Centre

3. Native Flora

5. Anniversary Lake

2. Botanic/Horticultural Displays

4. Path Network

6. Lakeside

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

7. Café (Gather: Coffee, food & Co)

9. Multipurpose Room

11. Boardwalk

8. Amphitheatre

10. Basalt Lake (rock face, fossil seam & bird hide)

12. Lilypad Lake Sunken Walkway

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

13. The Lawn Area

15. BBQ Shelters

17. Ben's Lookout and Rotundas

14. Playground

16. Hoo Hoo Tower

18. Directional Marker (highest point 122.9m)

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

3.5 ACCESS/CIRCULATION

Access to the Park is a key issue. The Park's topography is a unique feature, but is also a challenge for people with mobility issues to access all areas of the Park. Car parking on site is also limited, which is exacerbated during peak visitation times and major events. The current design of the car park compromises pedestrian movement, and whilst ongoing improvements and initiatives have been implemented over the years, it remains a significant challenge to be addressed.

Vehicles

The primary vehicular access to the site is via an unsignalised intersection from Princes Highway, south of the Park. This entrance has separate left and right turn deceleration lanes. When busy, this entrance point can be challenging with two laned 70 kilometre per hour traffic in both directions and a median strip for right in and out turns.

The tree lined access road is 220 metres in length and leads directly to two car parking areas and the Visitor Centre. The access road includes narrow parallel parking on its eastern edge providing 19 parking spaces, which cars access after circuiting the main car park area and driving back toward the road entrance. The first car parking area includes three rows of angled parking (23 spaces and 4 disabled spaces) with a combination of partial two way and one way direction access. There is a drop off (no parking) area in front of the visitor centre and bus parking bays along the road. The second and more substantial car park provides one section of four rows and a smaller two row section (107 spaces). Total number of car spaces on site is 134.

There are several other access points for pedestrians, where cars park on the adjoining local street network. Bournevale Drive providing opportunity for up to 100 additional on street parks and Kramer Drive, although not marked parks, does provide a level of on street parks.

Additional overflow car park areas are sometimes used for events, located north of the Operations Centre and the western boundary grassed area. Car parking during major events and throughout summer months can be a significant issue, both in terms of amenity/convenience and safety for park visitors and road users (i.e. illegal and unsafe parking along the Princes Highway).

Pedestrians

The main pedestrian entrance is located immediately north of the access road and first car park. A two-metre-wide footpath runs along the eastern side of the access road and connects onto the broader path network via a shared use path on Princes Highway. This path provides access to the Visitor Centre and the Park entrance from the northern side of Princes Highway, however it is not direct from the southern side of Princes Highway which requires pedestrians to cross at a busy vehicle junction with no pedestrian priority. This is not ideal in terms of safety or accessibility. Level changes, gradients, road and car park crossings, and changes to surface materials present challenges to navigate, which is exacerbated for those less mobile.

Secondary pedestrian access points are located at Kramer Drive on the east boundary and at Bournevale Drive on the northern boundary. No off-street parking is provided at these entrances, and on street parking is limited on these local roads, so these entrances are primarily used by local residents and visitors that are aware of the on street parking options.

The primary pedestrian circulation route within the Park leads from the main pedestrian entrance and around Anniversary Lake. There is a route extension north to circumnavigate Basalt lake, including a section of boardwalk. There is also an extensive route that provides access around the perimeter of the Park, rising steeply from Lilypad Lake and the amphitheatre in both east and west directions with varying topography.

A series of other routes connect various other key features of the Park, rising west from Lilypad Lake and Anniversary Lake to access the toilets, playground, BBQ shelters, lookout points, ball games area, secondary entrances and the operations depot. There are also a number of mown grass paths and informal goat tracks across the Park.

The majority of the pedestrian circulation routes throughout the Park also function as maintenance vehicle tracks.

Active Transport

Active transport is encouraged and is already demonstrated by visitors walking and cycling to the Park. Bike racks are available to support active transport, however cycling is not permitted within the Park. A public bus stop for Wilson Botanic Park/Princes Highway is located on both sides of the highway (routes 828, 838, 926, 981). The southern side of Princes Highway is not supported by a pedestrian crossing.

In response to increased visitation, Council activated a strategy to reduce car park load. This is known as WBP Park n' Ride Shuttle. Park n' Ride is a shuttle service that encourages visitors to park at Federation University and jump on the shuttle directly to the Visitor Centre at the Park. This has proved to be a great way of moving people to the Park without cars taking up space and was implemented over the peak summer season in late 2021 through until April 2022, at which time the shuttle will be reviewed.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

3.6 BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

The Visitor Centre, located at the main car park, provides visitor information, toilets, and administration office. Normal opening hours are 10am to 4pm daily.

The café, Gather: Coffee, food & Co, overlooks Anniversary Lake and operates during the week and on weekends providing a social hub for community to connect. It is open daily from 7:00am to 3.30pm.

The multipurpose room that is available for hire is located to the north of Anniversary Lake, immediately adjacent to a public toilet block.

Lakeside has developed in recent years, providing opportunities for the community to connect with friends and family for an informal picnic, join in on public events or to relax with a book and enjoy the tranquil setting of the deck and lawn area with views over the lake. It is also one of the Park's premier wedding ceremony sites at the Park.

The Hoo Hoo Tower provides a clear destination for visitors with 360 degree views of the Park, south east Melbourne, Dandenongs, and on a clear day all the way to the City.

Two BBQ shelters are available for hire, one is aptly located opposite the playground and toilet block on the west boundary. The other is located in the heavily shaded area at the junction of the Ornamental Horticulture, Anniversary Lake and this precinct.

A small rotunda is positioned just above Lilypad Lake, is a primary location for wedding ceremonies of up to 100 standing or 60 seated.

The playground is well loved by visitors however its condition is ageing. A new 'Play Precinct' has been identified, encompassing the existing playground area and expansion into adjacent areas to deliver a more holistic and regional play experience for visitors to the Park. Community engagement to design the new 'Play Precinct' has been undertaken.

A larger rotunda, known as Ben's Lookout, is located centrally at one of the higher points in the Park, offering filtered views to the south.

A timber bird hide is positioned at a quiet location adjacent to Basalt Lake.

The bluestone amphitheatre is a significant feature and destination within the Park, located adjacent to Anniversary Lake, playing host to a range of larger events.

The operations depot overlooks the south-east site boundary, and is relatively isolated from higher public utilisation areas of the Park.

Other built structures, that relate to the historic quarry activities of the Park, include the Crushing Plant Pylon located in Anniversary Lake and the Detonator Store, a red bricked box located near Hoo HooTower.

A directional marker is located at the Park's highest point, although the growth of vegetation across the Park has restricted views beyond the Park boundaries from this location.

3.7 TOPOGRAPHY

The Park has a naturally undulating topography. On top of that its history as a quarry, the cut that formed Anniversary Lake and the cut levels above the lake, have formed the topography of the Park today.

The main vehicular entrance to the Park from Princes Highway is the lowest point within the Park, steadily rising to the Visitor Centre, car parking areas and the main pedestrian entry point to the Park.

From this pedestrian entry point a relatively level corridor extends through the centre of the site (broadly running south-west to north-east), encompassing areas around Lilypad Lake, Anniversary Lake and Basalt Lake.

Landform tends to rise relatively steeply in all directions from the corridor encompassing the lakes. The Park's highest point (122.92m above sea level) is located towards the north-east boundary, accessed via a path, and identified on the ground by a directional marker.

A secondary high point in the Park is broadly defined by an open grassed 'plateau', which is the designated ball-game area.

Typically, towards the Park boundaries, landform tends to fall away from the perimeter footpath and down to the Park boundary and residential properties beyond.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

3.8 KEY VIEWS

Views that extend from within the Park to the urban surroundings are important, by grounding the Park in its locality, improving visitor orientation and playing an important role as a major green space in a highly developed urban setting.

Views from Hoo Hoo Tower and the perimeter path provide panoramic views across South-East Melbourne and beyond, with distant views available towards Melbourne CBD. Other views from higher points across the Park offer filtered views through tree canopies over adjacent suburbs.

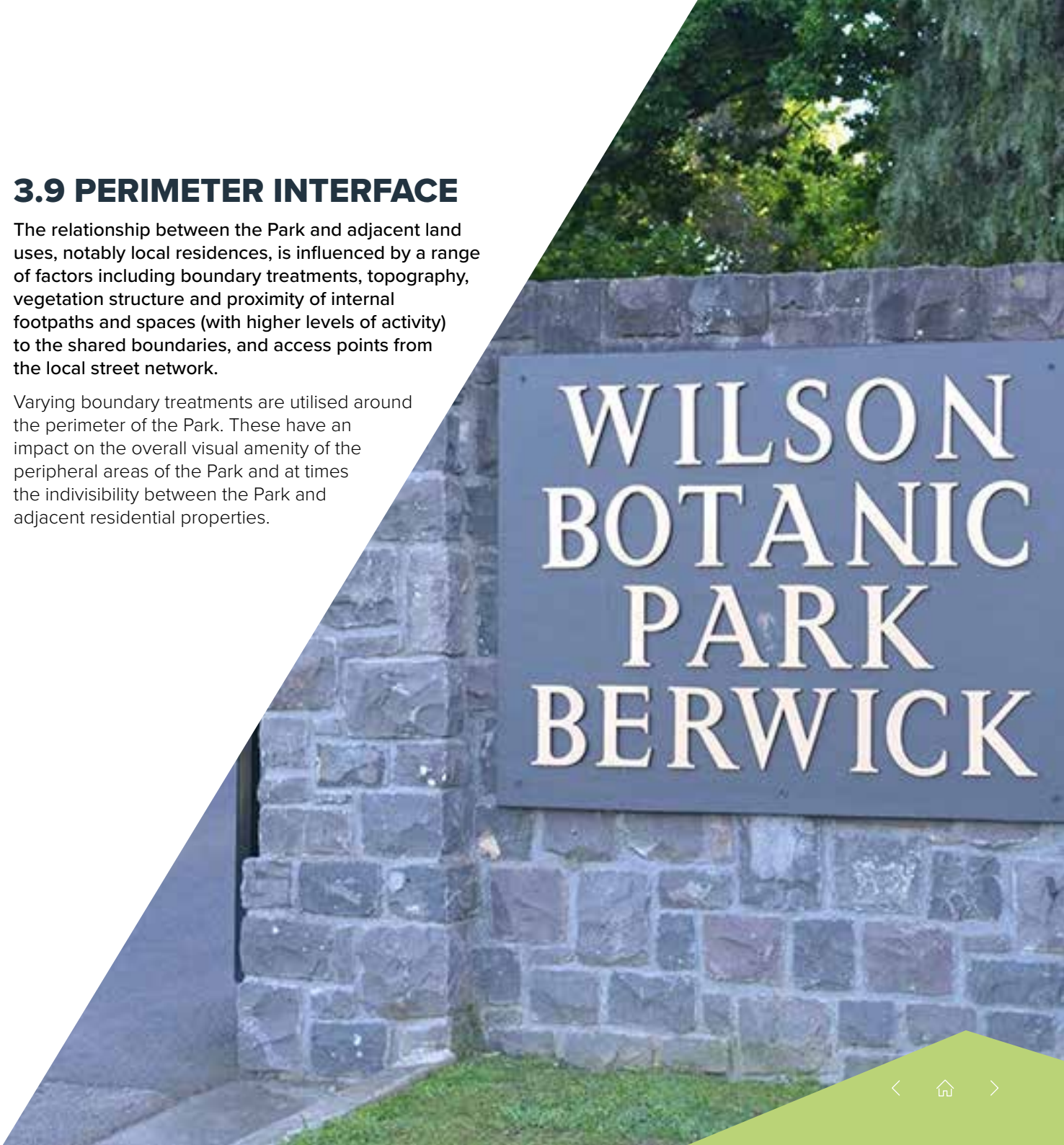
A range of important internal views exist throughout the Park and should be considered important park features and destinations in themselves, drawing attention to key Park features and experiences.

It is important to note that the growth of tree and understorey vegetation across the Park will continually evolve and impact on the nature and character of available views within and external to the Park.

3.9 PERIMETER INTERFACE

The relationship between the Park and adjacent land uses, notably local residences, is influenced by a range of factors including boundary treatments, topography, vegetation structure and proximity of internal footpaths and spaces (with higher levels of activity) to the shared boundaries, and access points from the local street network.

Varying boundary treatments are utilised around the perimeter of the Park. These have an impact on the overall visual amenity of the peripheral areas of the Park and at times the indivisibility between the Park and adjacent residential properties.



Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

4 MASTER PLAN

4.1 VISION

The vision for Wilson Botanic Park is to:

CREATE A BOTANIC PARK OF EXCELLENCE, ONE THAT CREATES A HEALTHY COMMUNITY BY CONNECTING PLANTS, PEOPLE AND PLACE THROUGH CONSERVATION, UNIQUE FEATURES AND MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

4.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles have been applied to guide the development of the Master Plan:

Accessibility

The delivery of inclusive opportunities, infrastructure and programs across the Park is a priority, requiring adherence to inclusive access principles and taking every opportunity to improve pedestrian connectivity into and across the site.

Sustainability

Operation, management and design decisions will ensure that social, economic and environmental/ecological processes are maintained and enhanced to support long term sustainability of the Park.

Quality

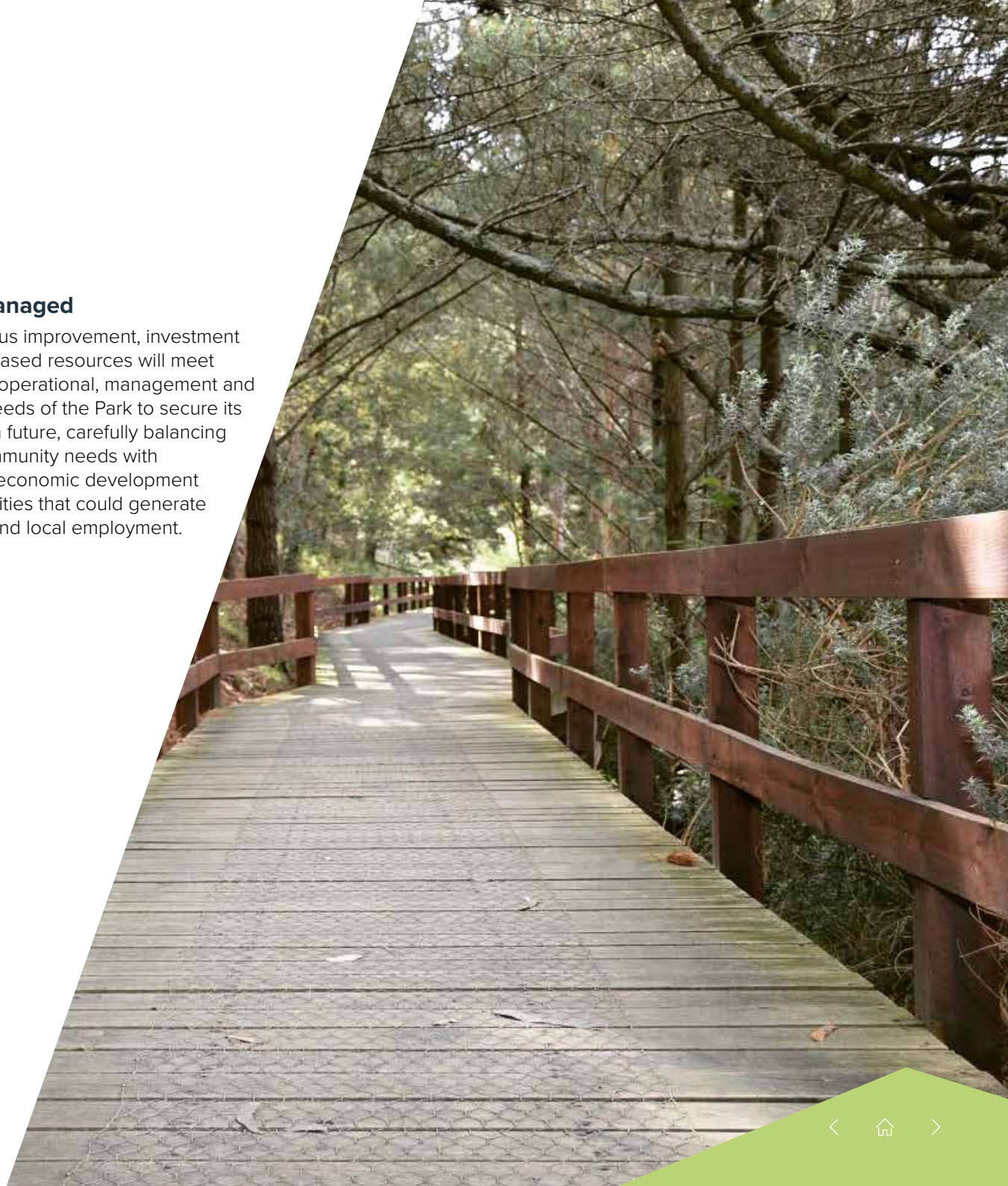
Safe, fit-for-purpose, and quality infrastructure will provide flexible spaces that are capable of responding to changing needs and preferences and are suitable to accommodate a broad range of activities and visitors.

Good Design

Any new development will conserve the inherent values and characteristics of the Park. Established design principles underpin the concept plans and design, with due consideration given to Environmentally Sensitive Design, Water Sensitive Urban Design, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and inclusive design principles.

Well Managed

Continuous improvement, investment and increased resources will meet evolving operational, management and capital needs of the Park to secure its long term future, carefully balancing local community needs with regional economic development opportunities that could generate income and local employment.



Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

4.3 OBJECTIVES

VISION:

CREATE A BOTANIC PARK OF EXCELLENCE, ONE THAT CREATES A HEALTHY COMMUNITY BY CONNECTING PLANTS, PEOPLE AND PLACE THROUGH CONSERVATION, UNIQUE FEATURES AND MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES.

Figure 8: Objectives

A PLACE FOR HORTICULTURE

The Park showcases high quality native and exotic horticulture, creating a botanic park with unique landscape and distinctive character.

A PLACE TO GATHER

The Park provides a welcoming and inviting place to connect with family and friends.

A PLACE TO LEARN

The Park is an ideal setting for historical, environmental and horticultural learning.

A PLACE TO CELEBRATE

The Park's stunning vistas and infrastructure make it an iconic and much-loved event location.

A PLACE TO EXPLORE

The Park is accessible and safe, encouraging intuitive exploration of the expansive landscapes and settings.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

4.4 CONCEPT PLAN

01 New Visitor Centre (C1)

02 Community Pavilion and Café (C1)

03 Learning Pods (A3)

04 Amenity Block (A3)

05 Covered Stage Area (C2)

06 Covered Viewing Deck (C2)

07 'Floating' Platforms (B2)

08 Revamped Hoo Hoo Tower (B1)

09 Basalt Rock Face Viewing Platform + Tunnel (B3)

10 Work shed/staff room, Holding Area + Glasshouse (C2)

11 Material Storage Bays (C2)

12 Ben's Lookout Pergola (B2)

13 Sunken Walkway (C1)

14 Play Precinct (B1)

15 BBQ Pavilions (B1/C1)

16 Amenity Block (B1)

17 Lakeside (B1)

18 Rotunda (C1)

19 Operations Structures (B2)

20 Ampitheatre (C2)

21 Bird Hide (B3)

22 Directional Marker (A3)

23 Upgrade and Expand Main Car Park (C1)

24 Access Road Parallel Car Parking (D1)

25 Shared Use Path Extended to Princes Highway (D1)

26 Signalised Junction on Princes Highway (D1)

27 Accessible Ramp to Anniversary Lake, Café and Amphitheatre (C1)

28 New Future Visitor Centre/Park Link (C1)

29 Fitness Trail Link to Berwick Town Centre (C3/D3)

30 Satellite Car Park from Kraemer Drive (B3)

31 Bournevale Drive Access (A3)

32 Treetop Elevated Walkway (B1/B2)

33 Geoheritage Elevated Walkway (A3/B3)

34 Existing Boardwalk (B3)

35 Rainforest Elevated Walkway (A3/B3)

36 Realigned Lawn Footpath (B2)

37 Basalt Lake Sealed Access Track (A1/B1)

38 Hoo Hoo Tower Sealed Access Track (B1)

39 Ben's Lookout to Education Precinct Sealed Access Track (A2/B2/C3)

40 Water Canal Gardens (C1)

41 Lilypad Lake Renovation (C1)

42 Feature Entrance Planting (C1)

43 'Fairy Dell' (C1)

44 Water Gardens (B1/B2, C1/C2)

45 Stormwater Pond (C2)

46 Waterfall Gardens (C2)

47 Kitchen Garden (C3)

48 Fern Garden (B2)

49 Formal Walled Garden (B2)

50 Seasonal Garden (A3)

51 Perennial Garden (B3)

52 Hoo Hoo Tower Garden (B1)

53 Successional Forest Planting (B1/B2)

54 Western Boundary Planting Display (B1)

55 The Lawn (B2)

56 Native Boundary Planting (A1/A2/A3, B3)

57 Cool Temperate Rainforest Planting (A2/A3)

58 Cherry Tree Hill (C1)

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

A PLACE FOR HORTICULTURE

THE PARK SHOWCASES HIGH QUALITY NATIVE AND EXOTIC HORTICULTURE, CREATING A BOTANIC PARK WITH A UNIQUE LANDSCAPE AND DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER.

Current state:

- Visitation to botanic gardens across the globe is booming, alongside rising domestic and international tourism. This offers a great opportunity for the Park.
- Established planted areas of the Park are transitioning to curated botanic collections, and vast areas of the Park are available for future collections to be developed.
- Significant geological features at the Park provide a notable point of interest. Fossil discoveries on site are scientifically significant and provide opportunities for collaboration with various scientific institutions.
- Swathes of established pine trees are approaching the end of their life and require succession planting.
- Topography, soils and microclimate make localised areas challenging for planting and maintenance.
- Water supply and quality is currently an issue. Limited inputs and low circulation result in poor water quality and frequent algal blooms.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations support the evolution to create a nationally recognised botanic park. The focus is to expand the botanic, garden and tree collections at the Park. They also include operational buildings and structures to support staff in developing and maintaining the Park, as well as an aspirational idea to connect people with the elevated features and treetops as they establish across the Park. Annual investment for new planting and maintenance costs is required to achieve this objective.

Summary of Recommendations:

Location specific recommendations are marked with a map reference for ease of use (e.g. 01).

Overview

H-O-1 PLANT COLLECTIONS

Buildings/Structures

H-S-1 WORK SHED/STAFF ROOM, HOLDING AREA + GLASSHOUSE (10)
H-S-2 MATERIAL STORAGE BAYS (11)
H-S-3 OPERATIONS STRUCTURES (10)

Botanic/Landscape

H-B-1 WATER MANAGEMENT
H-B-2 WATER CANAL GARDENS (40)
H-B-3 LILYPAD LAKE RENOVATION (41)
H-B-4 FEATURE ENTRANCE PLANTING (42)
H-B-5 WATER GARDENS (44)
H-B-6 STORMWATER POND (45)
H-B-7 WATERFALL GARDENS (46)
H-B-8 KITCHEN, FERN, FORMAL, SEASONAL, PERENNIAL, HOO TOWER GARDEN DEVELOPMENTS (VARIOUS LOCATIONS)
H-B-9 SUCCESSIONAL FOREST PLANTING (53)
H-B-10 DISPLAY (54)
H-B-11 NATIVE BOUNDARY PLANTING (56)
H-B-12 COOL TEMPERATE RAINFOREST PLANTING (57)
H-B-13 CHERRY TREE HILL (58)

Access and Circulation

H-A-1 TREETOP ELEVATED WALKWAY (32)
H-A-2 GEOHERITAGE ELEVATED WALKWAY (33)
H-A-3 RAINFOREST ELEVATED WALKWAY (35)

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

RECOMMENDATION DESCRIPTIONS

Overview

H-O-1 PLANT COLLECTIONS

The Park has an important role to play in terms of a scientific and botanic purpose. To conserve the important ecological environment and species, the Park should:

- develop a Living Plant Collection policy.
- focus on plant acquisition for specific plant collections in line with relevant policies.
- implement the collection of accurate plant records and trial new plants.
- continue involvement with and promotion of Care for the Rare program.
- network with other Botanic Gardens and share information and plant material.

Buildings/Structures

H-S-1 WORK SHED/STAFF ROOM, HOLDING AREA + GLASSHOUSE (10)

A reconfiguring of the existing works depot/compound will free up sufficient space to introduce an additional work shed incorporating staff amenities (240m2), holding area and glasshouse.

H-S-2 MATERIAL STORAGE BAYS (11)

To optimise use of existing available space in the operations area, reconfigure the existing material storage bays to enable relocation of water tanks and free up space for the work shed/staff room, holding area and glasshouse (10).

H-S-3 OPERATIONS STRUCTURES (19)

Existing structures within the works compound/ operational areas will be retained and supplemented with additional facilities to support future growth of the operational team (10)

Botanic/Landscape

H-B-1 WATER MANAGEMENT

A critical contributor to the ultimate success of the Park will be the appropriate and sustainable management of available water resources. Water availability should materially improve once the stormwater project (45) is implemented. This water will become available to service existing horticultural and grassed areas, as well as support the expansion of horticultural plantings proposed. As part of this system a ring main will need to be installed that will facilitate delivery of irrigation water to all key areas of the Park. Additional water availability will also support the management of more consistent water levels in the Park's lakes, and improve overall amenity of the lakes, particularly during periods of drought/low rainfall.

H-B-2 WATER CANAL GARDENS (40)

The existing rather dated entrance water feature will be revitalised and replaced with a planted canal that extends from the reconfigured park entrance, linking the entrance with Lilypad Lake and Anniversary Lake and providing a continuous linear water feature that draws the visitor deep into the Park.

H-B-3 LILYPAD LAKE RENOVATION (41)

Implementing the water canal gardens (40) will require the realignment and reconstruction of the south western edge of the Lilypad Lake. These works will result in a slightly reduced lake size but will also provide the opportunity to rebuild the lake wall and reline the lake (which is currently leaking) and address problematic level changes that currently exist in this area (e.g. existing stepped access).

H-B-4 FEATURE ENTRANCE PLANTING (42)

Feature planting will effectively replicate the Park's current feature planting beds that sit to the south west of the primary thoroughfare. These existing beds will likely be significantly disturbed as a result of the construction of the new Visitor Centre (01) and adjacent ramped access (27). The new ramp will improve access to this area and facilitate planting that is proposed to extend further up the bank, creating an impressive bank of planting while softening the engineered lines of the new ramp.

H-B-5 WATER GARDENS (44)

A combination of aquatic, semi-aquatic and marginal plantings are proposed to cover significant stretches of the banks of Anniversary Lake, softening the existing hard interface with the water's edge, particularly during periods of low water levels. Given the fluctuating water levels, some of these water gardens may need to be on floating, moored garden beds. These natural/informal plantings will complement more formalised aquatic plantings associated with the 'floating platforms' (07).

H-B-6 STORMWATER POND (45)

A design for the stormwater pond has previously been developed to facilitate the redirecting of significant amounts of stormwater from adjacent suburbs into the Park enabling better management of lake water levels and improving the availability of water for irrigation. The current design to supply water from the stormwater pond into Anniversary Lake utilises an underground pipe.

H-B-7 WATERFALL GARDENS (46)

The concept plan illustrates an alternative approach to delivering water from the stormwater pond to Anniversary Lake, redirecting the water above ground via a series of planted rock pools and waterfalls into the lake. This could be delivered as part of a future/secondary stage to this important water management project.

H-B-8 KITCHEN GARDEN, FERN GARDEN, FORMAL WALLED GARDEN, SEASONAL GARDEN, PERENNIAL GARDEN, HOO HOO TOWER GARDEN (47-52)

Each of these spaces are intended to establish localised destinations across the Park, drawing visitors to the furthest reaches of the Park to discover

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

these 'feature gardens'. Four of the gardens will draw inspiration from the seasonal, perennial, fern, kitchen and formal walled garden designs, to contribute to the park experience. The kitchen garden will offer opportunities for vegetable growing (synergies with adjacent proposed restaurant). The Fern Garden is designed with the hosting of larger scale weddings in mind, with a more formal design aesthetic. A sixth garden is located close to the Hoo Hoo Tower and may present an opportunity to further strengthen ties with that organisation and provide another destination to draw visitors to the top of the Park. Other concepts discussed during consultation and to be considered include developing a sensory garden, climate change garden, sustainable garden/garden of the future.

H-B-9 SUCCESSIONAL FOREST PLANTING (53)

Significant tracts of existing tree plantings across the Park are nearing the end of their natural lives. A staged succession plan of removal and replanting should be developed and implemented.

H-B-10 WESTERN BOUNDARY PLANTING DISPLAY (54)

The steep bank at the western park boundary is prominent from significant distances across adjacent areas of the city. In particular, this area is very evident in approaches from the west and the junction of the Monash Freeway and the Princes Highway, lending itself to a location to create a high impact, high visibility planting feature. This feature could manifest itself on the ground in a range of ways, such as drifts of informal wildflower meadow planting, more formal designed planting schemes or single species seasonal mass plantings that can be changed every year.

H-B-11 NATIVE BOUNDARY PLANTING (56)

Existing native planting to the Park boundaries will be supplemented with additional tree and understorey planting to reinforce the boundary interface, reduce the visual impacts of adjacent residential development and further filter mid and long distance views out over the city.

H-B-12 COOL TEMPERATE RAINFOREST PLANTING (57)

The 2016 Heffernan report includes specific recommendations to plant the slopes to the north of Basalt Lake with cool temperate rainforest planting. This would encompass both Victorian cool temperate species along with collections of ancient lineage species displaying the evolution of Australian flora in a changing climate. This space also provides the opportunity for the display and conservation of other Australian cool rainforest species impacted by climate change.

H-B-13 CHERRY TREE HILL (58)

Existing cherry tree planting to the south of the existing car park to be retained, with further supplementary planting of ornamental flowering trees to provide seasonal displays of colour.

Access and Circulation

An aspirational concept to construct elevated walkways is a long term opportunity to enhance visitor experience at the Park. Detailed planning and design will establish the optimal alignment, length, gradient, footings, materials of the walkway to respond to localised ground conditions and proposed planting projects.

H-A-1 TREETOP ELEVATED WALKWAY (32)

This elevated walkway provides a consistent, accessible gradient connecting central areas of the Park with the Hoo Hoo Tower and the upper levels of the Park, traversing the steep slopes to the north of Anniversary Lake. This area will be subject to significant changes over the coming years due to existing tree cover nearing the end of its useful life, creating the opportunity to deliver a dynamic 'treetop' experience weaving through the canopies and trunks of successional tree planting. Interpretation opportunities might focus on succession/urban greening strategies, and the evolving nature and characteristics of the vegetation structure across the Park. The proposed walkway dimensions are 2.5m wide and approximately 600m in length, taking the visitor from 79.0m AOD to 106.5m AOD, resulting in a typical gradient of around 1 in 20m, also allowing for regular flat landings.

H-A-2 GEOHERITAGE ELEVATED WALKWAY (33)

This elevated walkway provides a consistent, accessible gradient connecting areas around the Kramer Drive access point with Basalt Lake, traversing around the Basalt Lake and providing opportunities to get up close with the basalt rock face and fossils. Interpretation opportunities might focus on the geology and unique fossils found at this location, the history and evolution of the site from primary production land to a quarry to a public park. The walkway provides access to a viewing platform towards the rock face plus elevated views across the Park and there may also be opportunities to create a tunnel experience through the rockface (09). The proposed walkway dimensions are 2.5m wide and approximately 450m in length, taking the visitor from 78.0m AOD to 94.0m AOD, resulting in a typical gradient of around 1 in 25m, also allowing for regular flat landings.

H-A-3 RAINFOREST ELEVATED WALKWAY (35)

This elevated walkway provides a consistent, accessible gradient connecting areas around the Kramer Drive access point with northern-most areas and upper levels of the Park. The walkway traverses areas identified for cool temperate rainforest planting (57) and, as planting establishes and matures, provide a unique spatial experience with elevated views across the Park and over the lake system below. Interpretation opportunities might focus on local biodiversity, climate change implications and the importance of the role played by botanic gardens (e.g. research, education). The proposed walkway dimensions are 2.5m wide and approximately 500m in length, taking the visitor from 94.0m AOD to 114.5m AOD, resulting in a typical gradient of around 1 in 22m, also allowing for regular flat landings.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

A PLACE TO GATHER

THE PARK PROVIDES A WELCOMING AND INVITING PLACE TO CONNECT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Current state:

- The scale and diversity of spaces within the Park offers plenty of opportunity to cater for a wide range of groups requiring different facilities and experiences.
- Increasing numbers of residents in the City of Casey will also attract increasing numbers of visiting friends and family to the region.
- There is an opportunity to celebrate and reflect the diversity of the community through provision of culturally appropriate and appealing parks and amenities. It is challenging to deliver parks that attract and respond to the needs of diverse range of communities, each with their own cultural traditions and perspectives in relation to open space.
- Limited availability of alternative regional open space in and around the surrounding areas increase the draw to the Park.
- It is well recognised that there is a lack of nature-based tourism and other similar experiences in the South-East Melbourne region.
- Increasing population growth will exert additional pressures on all Council resources and challenge resource allocation prioritisation.
- A large proportion of residents are reliant on use of private vehicles, placing pressure on limited car parking availability to access the Park.
- A small café (“Gather: Coffee, food & Co”) has recently opened in the Park, adding great value for visitors, as evidenced by the survey results as the most commonly cited idea on how to enhance the Park.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations support healthy communities, connecting people to new, improved and existing places within the Park. The focus is on infrastructure where people gather, including the playground, lakeside and the lawn. and the amenities that support extended visitations including barbeque pavilions, picnic tables, shelters, seating, bins, drinking fountains and toilets. A new community pavilion and cafe at Anniversary Lake is recommended to support indoor and outdoor activities, events and functions.

Location specific recommendations are marked with a map reference for ease of use (e.g. 01).

Summary of Recommendations:

Location specific recommendations are marked with a map reference for ease of use (e.g. 01).

Buildings/Structures

G-S-1 COMMUNITY PAVILION AND CAFÉ (02)
G-S-2 PLAY PRECINCT (14)
G-S-3 BBQ PAVILIONS (15)
G-S-4 AMENITY BLOCK (16)
G-S-5 LAKESIDE (17)

Botanic/Landscape

G-B-1 THE LAWN (55)

Other Infrastructure

G-I-1 FURNITURE

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

Buildings/Structures

G-S-1 COMMUNITY PAVILION AND CAFÉ (02)

A new facility, located at the edge of Anniversary Lake, is recommended. This would include a new café/restaurant, kitchen, alfresco dining area, toilets with a Changing Place, and various indoor and outdoor multipurpose spaces. An extended deck area will provide connection to the primary pedestrian thoroughfare, to Lakeside Lawn and potentially will provide water access for recreational use in the future. This project has previously been identified as a priority in an improvement plan with a concept design package and business case developed in recent times. Once implemented, this facility would replace the recently opened café. A Community Pavilion and Café Design Package and Business Case was completed in 2015.

G-S-2 PLAY PRECINCT (14)

The existing playground is now dated and flagged for future redevelopment. A new 'Play Precinct' has been identified, encompassing the existing playground area and significant adjacent areas. These areas are currently being investigated to deliver a more holistic play experience for visitors to the Park. The 'Play Precinct' is broadly identified on the concept plan.

G-S-3 BBQ PAVILIONS (15)

The BBQ pavilions will be retained, subject to ongoing consultation and design processes associated with the 'Play Precinct'.

G-S-4 AMENITY BLOCK (16)

The amenity block will be retained and improved in future, aligned to the recommended upgrade of sewer infrastructure at the Park.

G-S-5 LAKESIDE (17)

One of the more recent developments within the Park, is the popular community meeting place, Lakeside. This space will be retained in its current format, hosting a variety of formal and informal events and providing a spectacular view across the lake.

Botanic/landscape

G-B-1 'THE LAWN' (55)

'The Lawn' will be retained as an important destination within the Park, occupying a high point of relatively flat land. This space will continue to be promoted for informal recreation pursuits such as ball games and picnics. The space will also continue to be available for larger scale community events, markets and weddings (including use for overflow parking when required). The open character of this space will be maintained, with pockets of new tree planting maturing to provide additional shade and shelter, while retaining filtered elevated views across the city.

Other Infrastructure

G-I-1 FURNITURE

Park furniture provision that supports visitor use and experience of the Park should be continually reviewed to respond to identified demand, in line with park development of levels of service. This includes seating, tables, shade shelters and bins. Design guidelines should be developed to inform furniture specifications to ensure that all the furniture is sympathetic to the overall park aesthetic, and of an appropriate quality and standard.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

A PLACE TO LEARN

THE PARK IS AN IDEAL SETTING FOR HISTORICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND HORTICULTURAL LEARNING.

Current state:

- The Park's rich history, cultural heritage, botany, geology and points of interest provide ample material for engaging interpretation signage and educational programming (school visits, vocational education, tertiary education, community awareness and appreciation).
- The site provides an excellent setting for education on a whole of raft of topics such as climate change, reconciliation, sustainable living, community resilience and more.
- An education program already exists and with increased resources and facilities it could reach its full potential.
- There is currently no WiFi available in the Park, except for at the Visitor Centre. Additional WiFi access in the Park could support innovative education-based activation and engagement.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations support the Park being a place to learn. The focus is on expanding all education programs at the Park, including horticulture and gardening which will attract the garden tourism sector. A new education precinct would support these activities. There is also opportunity to engage more people with the two stewardship groups, to contribute to the Park's future.

Summary of Recommendations:

Location specific recommendations are marked with a map reference for ease of use (e.g. 01).

Buildings/Structures

L-S-1 LEARNING PODS (03)

L-S-2 BIRD HIDE (21)

Access and Circulation

L-A-1 BOURNEVALE DRIVE ACCESS (31)

Management

L-M-1 STEWARDSHIP GROUPS

L-M-2 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

Buildings/Structures

L-S-1 LEARNING PODS (03)

As part of the continuing development of the Park's education program, indoor learning pods are proposed to anchor the 'Education Precinct', situated to the northern-most extent of the Park, with direct access available off Bournevale Drive (31). The design of this space will offer flexibility through use of internal divisions that enable the space to be divided into smaller learning spaces if desired.

The pods (with a proposed floorspace of 225m2) will provide adequate learning space for up to 200 students at any one time. It is envisaged that outdoor learning will flow outside the pods in a controlled access area, with additional opportunities to expand and develop nature play and other outdoor learning facilities and experiences within the wider precinct. The learning pods can also be used for casual hirers for birthday parties and celebrations, adding to income generation for the Park.

L-S-2 BIRD HIDE (21)

The existing bird hide will be retained and refurbished, it is a significant feature of the Park.

Access and Circulation

L-A-1 BOURNEVALE DRIVE ACCESS (31)

Associated with a new 'Education Precinct' a new bus turning circle is proposed to be created at the Bournevale Drive entrance to facilitate access to the learning pods (03). This is subject to traffic engineer detailed design and advice.

Management

L-M-1 STEWARDSHIP GROUPS

The Park's two key stewardship groups will continue to support community interaction and development of the Park.

The Friends of Wilson Botanic Park have been involved and played an important role in the development and operation of the Park since 1990, before the Park opening to the public in 1992. It is envisaged they will continue to support the Park through:

- encouraging appreciation of the natural environment and its value to the community.
- assisting and encouraging the development of the Park. The group also represents its improvement.
- conducting lectures, functions and activities associated with the Park (or related interests).
- encouraging the preservation, research and study of the history and ecology of the Park.
- assisting with the general promotion of the Park.
- contributing towards the day-to-day operations of the Park.

The Community Reference Group will continue to represent the Casey community voice, providing observations and ideas to Council concerning the Park.

L-M-2 EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Park can play a strong role in education moving forward. A dedicated Education and Activation Officer role/s would provide focus on increasing utilisation of the education program, activation of the Park, and support school holiday programming. Education will be supported by an all-weather educational space (L-S-1 Learning Pods).

In addition to a dedicated role for education, it is recommended that the Park increase its focus on horticulture and gardening education for the public. This could include regular garden tours, school holiday programs, gardening workshops, seminars and training sessions for both visitors and horticulture/landscape professionals and tertiary students.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

A PLACE TO CELEBRATE

THE PARK'S STUNNING VISTAS AND INFRASTRUCTURE MAKE IT AN ICONIC AND MUCH LOVED EVENT LOCATION.

Current state:

- The Park has a vast range of indoor and outdoor spaces that host a varying range of events of different scales, during the day and at night, including community and recreation activities, weddings, celebrations, conferences and regional events.
- There is capacity to improve existing or develop additional infrastructure to better support, enhance, expand and diversify these events into the future.
- Infrastructure across the Park is deteriorating and, in some instances, no longer fit for purpose.
- There is potential to diversify the Park's income streams to support sustainable ongoing development and operations.
- Entrance to the Park and car parking is constrained during larger events such as a movie or music night and event days, requiring innovative transport and traffic management solutions.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations support the many meaningful celebrations and crowd pleasing events held at the Park. The focus is on enhancing and promoting event locations and opportunities. This will have an added benefit in contributing to financial sustainability for the Park.

Summary of Recommendations:

Location specific recommendations are marked with a map reference for ease of use (e.g. 01).

Management

C-M-1 EVENT TYPES

C-M-2 EVENT LOCATIONS

Buildings/Structures

C-S-1 COVERED STAGE AREA (05)

C-S-2 BEN'S LOOKOUT PERGOLA (12)

C-S-3 ROTUNDA (18)

C-S-4 AMPHITHEATRE (20)

Access and Circulation

C-A-2 SATELLITE CAR PARK FROM KRAMER DRIVE (30)

Botanic/Landscape

C-B-1 FAIRY DELL (43)

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

Management

C-M-1 EVENT TYPES

The Park currently hosts a range of events over the summer months including movie nights and music nights and annual events including the Casey Pet Expo, Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand event and the Casey Garden Expo. It is envisaged that these types of events continue, with the potential to expand and broaden the Park's events calendar. It is recommended that any events hosted at the Park be sympathetic to the desired character and use of the Park and focus on events that have the greatest synergies with a botanic park/garden destination.

C-M-2 EVENT LOCATIONS

Wedding ceremony and photography packages are currently promoted, utilizing five primary locations across the Park. A report previously commissioned to look into increasing park visitation/activation and other commercial opportunities recommended putting in place appropriate management arrangements to accommodate wedding receptions and use of temporary marquees at specified locations. Suitable locations for wedding receptions identified included areas in the vicinity of the Amphitheatre, Ben's Lookout and The Lawn.

The concept plan accommodates such activities in these areas, as well as proposing to redevelop existing locations and create additional locations for wedding ceremonies, including at the Rotunda, the gathering space/lakeside lawn, the Amphitheatre, the Fern Garden and Ben's lookout Formal Walled Garden.

Additional features proposed including viewing decks and areas identified for enhanced horticultural focus/ development will provide opportunities for wedding photographs.

The Park will offer a diverse range of locations of different scale, character and capacity suitable to serve a broad market. Careful and consistent management will be required to ensure good partnerships are developed, and to balance any commercial opportunities and private functions with the needs and desired experiences of the general public.

Buildings/Structures

C-S-1 COVERED STAGE AREA (05)

A re-imagined stage area will encourage greater use of this central space within the Park, addressing the adjacent amphitheatre (20), better defining this as a space for performance and events and providing a wet weather backup option for ceremonies. Changerooms will be provided either side of the stage area. Outside scheduled performances the stage area functions as sheltered seating area. The main pedestrian thoroughfare will require realignment to the north of the new stage. Additional landscape treatment will assist in defining this performance space comprising the stage and amphitheatre.

C-S-2 BEN'S LOOKOUT PERGOLA (12)

This existing pergola would be retained with additional formalised plantings to further enhance the space as a location for larger wedding ceremonies, near the proposed Formal Walled Garden (49) and 'The Lawn' (55). The Formal Walled Garden is to be enhanced with the relocated rose collection and additional plantings, further improving the amenities for wedding ceremonies and photography.

C-S-3 ROTUNDA (18)

The existing rotunda is a popular location for smaller scale wedding ceremonies. It is proposed to retain this feature with no specific additional works recommended.

C-S-4 AMPHITHEATRE (20)

The amphitheatre will be retained as an important feature of the Park, with a re-imagined covered stage area (05) offering enhanced opportunities to stage events and performances and activate this central park node.

Access and Circulation

C-A-2 SATELLITE CAR PARK FROM KRAMER DRIVE (30)

In the long term, an additional car park adjacent the eastern boundary and accessed from Kramer Drive could be considered. It could provide an additional 66 spaces on site and may alleviate some of the demand that exists for on street parking at Kramer Drive. Other car parking solutions are higher priorities in the short term.

Botanic/landscape

C-B-1 FAIRY DELL (43)

No changes are proposed to Fairy Dell. It is envisaged that this area will remain as an intimate shaded space and available for weddings ceremonies, noting this area borders the Play Precinct (design of this precinct subject to a separate, concurrently running project).

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

A PLACE TO EXPLORE

THE PARK IS ACCESSIBLE AND SAFE WHICH ENCOURAGES INTUITIVE EXPLORATION OF THE EXPANSIVE LANDSCAPES AND SETTINGS.

Current state:

- A key challenge to address in increasing overall visitation and enhancing activation of the Park is accessibility. Vehicle access and car parking capacity are well established issues at the Park.
- The diverse and varied topography of the Park presents significant challenges to delivering suitable gradients across the path network the provides the opportunity for as many visitors as possible to experience all areas of the Park.
- Significant opportunities exist to rationalise and improve all signage to better reflect the identity, character and attributes of the Park and improve legibility and navigation of the Park.
- It is possible to improve the physical and visual relationship/accessibility to the water bodies for water features, play and interaction.
- Night-time use of the Park could be increased through appropriate lighting provision and programming.
- Toilets ranked the lowest in terms of satisfaction but was one of the most important facilities in a park to visitors. Many suggested there was a good number of toilets, but an upgrade was required. Some suggested more toilets, particularly at the amphitheatre while others would like to see the Visitor Centre toilets opened earlier.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations will encourage exploration of the Park and its unique features by focusing on supporting infrastructure that will enhance visitor experience. The focus is on upgrading and expanding the main car park and improving path connections to ensure the Park is more accessible. Repositioning a new visitor centre within the park will provide a new hub to welcome visitors and accommodate staff.

Summary of Recommendations:

Location specific recommendations are marked with a map reference for ease of use (e.g. 01).

Buildings/Structures

E-S-1 NEW VISITOR CENTRE (01)
E-S-2 AMENITY BLOCK (04)
E-S-3 COVERED VIEWING DECK (06)
E-S-4 FLOATING PLATFORMS (07)
E-S-5 REVAMPED HOO HOO TOWER (08)
E-S-6 BASALT ROCK FACE VIEWING PLATFORM + TUNNEL (09)
E-S-7 SUNKEN WALKWAY (13)
E-S-9 EXISTING BOARDWALK (34)

Access and Circulation

E-A-1 UPGRADE AND EXPAND MAIN CAR PARK (23)
E-A-2 CONNECTION TO BERWICK TOWN CENTRE (29)
E-A-3 DIRECTIONAL MARKER (22)
E-A-4 ACCESS ROAD PARALLEL CAR PARKING (24)
E-A-5 SHARED PATH TO PRINCES HIGHWAY (25)
E-A-6 SIGNALISED JUNCTION ON PRINCES HIGHWAY (26)
E-A-7 ACCESSIBLE RAMP TO ANNIVERSARY LAKE CAFÉ AND AMPHITHEATRE (27)
E-A-8 FUTURE VISITOR CENTRE/PARK LINK (28)
E-A-9 REALIGNED LAWN FOOTPATH (36)
E-A-10 ACCESSIBLE PATHWAYS (37, 38, 39)
E-A-11 PEOPLE MOVER

Other Infrastructure

E-I-1 SIGNAGE AND INTERPRETATION
E-I-2 ART/SCULPTURE/INSTALLATIONS
E-I-3 LIGHTING

Management

E-M-1 OTHER UTILITIES

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

Buildings/Structures

E-S-1 NEW VISITOR CENTRE (01)

The existing Visitor Centre will be replaced and relocated towards the main park entrance, to better manage visitor access, address a range of accessibility challenges associated with the existing building and free up space to reconfigure the car park (23).

600m2 of floorspace over two levels is allocated for the Visitor Centre. The ground floor provides main visitor entry, booking desk, small office, merchandise and interpretation areas, envisaged to have a generous internal throughfare space with glazed primary elevation and views over the adjacent water canal gardens. Intervisibility between the booking desk, internal and external thoroughfares will improve visitor management.

A Changing Places accessible toilet (or alternative amenity) will be included on the ground floor. The ground floor will also include a small storage area, with a single lift and stairwell. The first floor comprises a flexible workspace for staff (hot desk format), meeting room, staff kitchen and toilet. The building will be built into and integrated with the adjacent hillside, employing a green roof to reinforce this connection.

An overhead shade structure is envisaged as an extension to the Visitor Centre building, extending over the first water canal garden. Vehicular access for maintenance, facility servicing, emergency access and occasional event access will be maintained along this thoroughfare.

This important component of the Park will be developed alongside significant changes to the main car parking areas and the entrance to the Park, and will require removal of the existing Visitor Centre and immediate surrounds, including the rose garden and much of the native plantings within the existing car park layout.

E-S-2 AMENITY BLOCK (04)

An additional amenity block will be located adjacent to the learning pods (03) and provide needed amenities at the northern end of the Park. The amenity block may be constructed ahead of the learning pods to meet current demand and shortfall in provision in this area.

E-S-3 COVERED VIEWING DECK (06)

A covered viewing deck commanding elevated views over Anniversary Lake and the Waterfall Garden (46) is proposed to provide a shaded location at the key intersection between the Berwick town centre visitor link (29), the Geoheritage Elevated Walkway (33) and the Rainforest Elevated Walkway (35).

E-S-4 'FLOATING' PLATFORMS (07)

The 'floating' platforms provide an opportunity for the visitor to physically get out onto the water, the platforms and adjacent aquatic plantings rising and falling with the lake water levels. The overall design of the platforms mirrors the design lines of the adjacent gathering space (17), connected by a water's edge walkway. The platforms offer views across the lake and back towards the restaurant and function room (02).

E-S-5 REVAMPED HOO HOO TOWER (08)

Working with the Hoo Hoo Club and other key stakeholders, seek to modify (or replace) the tower to deliver inclusive access as part of the delivery of the Treetop Elevated Walkway (32) which would deliver inclusive access to the base of the tower once implemented. The tower would continue to be a key destination within the Park, offering distant views across the city to the west.

E-S-6 BASALT ROCK FACE VIEWING PLATFORM + TUNNEL (09)

Forming part of the Heritage Discovery Elevated Walkway (33) this platform provides an opportunity to take in the views over Basalt Lake and Anniversary Lake, with provision for interpretation material to describe to visitors the history of the site and the landscape features they are observing. There may also be future opportunities to create a tunnel experience through the rockface.

E-S-7 SUNKEN WALKWAY (13)

The redeveloped sunken walkway is a popular visitation node providing an immersive experience to Lilypad Lake. People of all abilities can use the path into the lake and experience it at water level, activating an underutilised portion of the Park.

E-S-8 EXISTING BOARDWALK (34)

The existing boardwalk that runs adjacent to the western edge of Basalt Lake will be retained. Subject to demand, once this structure reaches the end of its useful life it should be replaced by a walkway 2.5m in width (to match the other proposed elevated walkways).

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

Access and Circulation

E-A-1 UPGRADE AND EXPAND MAIN CAR PARK (23)

Accommodating car parking on busy days is currently a limiting factor. Relocating the Visitor Centre and optimising the efficiency of the car park layout would deliver a total of 273 spaces, 2 bus bays and 2 drop off bays, delivering 143 additional spaces within the main car park.

A safer and more direct shared use path with clearly marked road crossing points will be delivered to guide visitors on foot or bicycle through the car park, and the design will consider a pedestrian link to Berwick Brae retirement village. A degree of internal car park vegetation removal will be required to deliver this component of the project. Boundary vegetation will remain largely unaffected.

There is the potential in the future to consider redeveloping this car park to deliver a multi-level car park offering increased on site parking. It is envisaged that this type of structure would be integrated with the new Visitor Centre and adjacent landform to the north, incorporating a green roof.

E-A-2 CONNECTION TO BERWICK TOWN CENTRE (29)

Critical to the long-term future, sustainability and effective use of the Park is improving access into the Park, including strengthening the direct link between the Park and Berwick Town Centre. It is not feasible to deliver all necessary car parking onsite to fully meet current and future demand while maximising the visitation and activation potential of such a park in terms of its scale and significance as a green open space in a heavily populated metropolitan location.

The direct linear open space corridor through adjacent residential development provides an opportunity to create a new shared path connection to the Town Centre. Significant topographical challenges will need to be addressed in increasing use of this corridor as a viable means of accessing the Park on foot by any significant number of visitors. Initially this link could include a series of steps and landings that navigate the significant changes in level between the Park and the town centre, acknowledging that relatively few visitors to the Park will take advantage of this option.

There is an opportunity to consider some form of assisted transportation along this link in the future, however it is beyond the scope of this Master Plan.

As the first step towards establishing a degree of access to the Park from Berwick Town Centre it is proposed create a fitness trail experience by constructing a path link from McNabb Street along the grass corridor into the Park. Given the topography of the link, it will likely appeal to fitness activities. It will also redirect a proportion of current park users to make use of this additional access path. Satellite fitness equipment stations along the route could establish this pathway as a destination for active recreation.

E-A-3 DIRECTIONAL MARKER (22)

The directional marker will be retained at the high point of the Park.

E-A-4 ACCESS ROAD PARALLEL CAR PARKING (24)

Existing parallel car parking along the main access road will be retained.

E-A-5 SHARED USE PATH EXTENDED TO PRINCES HIGHWAY (25)

The existing path connecting the shared use path along Princes Highway (and the wider shared use path network of Berwick) and the new Visitor Centre was recently upgraded to 2.0m wide. A longer term project could consider widening it to deliver a 2.5m wide continuous shared use path to the Park entrance. Detailed design and construction techniques employed will need to consider the existing established trees and root systems.

E-A-6 SIGNALISED JUNCTION ON PRINCES HIGHWAY (26)

Initial investigations into the existing traffic access arrangements at the Park entrance junction and Princes Highway indicate there already exist a range of operational issues, together with safety issues associated with conflicting vehicle movements at a staged crossing, and a lack of pedestrian crossing facilities. With the redevelopment of the Park it is anticipated that the issues will be exacerbated by additional visitation numbers (and increased car parking supply), and signalisation of this intersection is strongly recommended.

E-A-7 ACCESSIBLE RAMP TO ANNIVERSARY LAKE CAFÉ AND AMPHITHEATRE (27)

Given the site's accessibility and topographic challenges, this ramped access forms part of several design interventions that seek to deliver inclusive accessibility to as much of the Park as possible. This ramp will bypass a localised steep section of footpath to the south-east of Anniversary Lake to access the café, amphitheatre and south-east path surrounding the lake. The ramp also provides planting opportunities to the eastern bank of primary pedestrian park entrance thoroughfare.

E-A-8 NEW VISITOR CENTRE/PARK LINK (28)

An additional direct access route connecting the Visitor Centre and central areas of the Park is envisaged at some point in the future. This link might manifest itself as a subterranean tunnel, or alternatively might be delivered on the surface perhaps via a terraced garden.

E-A-9 REALIGNED LAWN FOOTPATH (36)

The existing footpath that runs around the southern edge of 'The Lawn' (55) should be realigned to provide a consistent incline that works with existing contour lines, connecting areas around the Hoo Hoo Tower with Ben's Lookout (12) and the proposed Formal Walled Garden (49).

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

E-A-10 ACCESSIBLE PATHWAYS (37,38,39)

To ensure accessibility for visitors of all abilities throughout the Park, key existing pathways should be sealed or resurfaced with a Disability Discrimination Act 1992 compliant surface. These pathways include the access track around Basalt Lake (37), the link between the Hoo Hoo Tower and the realigned Lawn footpath (38) and the link between Ben's Lookout and the Learning Pods (39).

E-A-11 PEOPLE MOVER

A people mover could assist moving visitors with mobility issues around the site. Investigate opportunities to purchase an electric or hybrid people mover through Council fleet.

Other Infrastructure

E-I-1 SIGNAGE AND INTERPRETATION

Signage in the Park should be clear, consistent and focus on important information, including orientation, restrictions, plant labelling and educational/interpretive material. The Park currently has a varied range of existing and outdated wayfinding signs which become confusing for visitors.

Several signage locations need to be moved to a more complimentary location or consolidated with other signs where applicable. Wayfinding and Interpretation signage should be delivered in line with the Park's Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Plan (2020).

E-I-2 ART/SCULPTURE/INSTALLATIONS

Art, sculpture and other installations have the capacity to significantly enrich the visitor experience, draw visitors around the Park and activate lesser visited parts of the Park.

Individually and collectively, these types of feature should appeal to broad range of people while capturing the imagination and generating interest and visitation from the broader public with the specific intent of visiting the Park to view/experience these features.

Ideally, these features should be a response to a specific locality within the Park, with the nature, scale and location of the piece discussed and agreed with individual artists commissioned to deliver the work.

E-I-3 LIGHTING

In order to optimise utilisation and extend the overall useable hours of the Park a suitable lighting strategy should be implemented. Lighting provision should be prioritised in the areas of highest use; main thoroughfares and key activity nodes.

Priority locations would initially include the new Visitor Centre (01), main car park and path network (23), the main pedestrian thoroughfare linking the three lakes, the Community Pavilion and Café (02) and the covered stage and amphitheatre (05,20). Once implemented it may also become desirable to light the elevated walkways, depending on the level of demand and the desire to activate extended areas of the Park beyond daylight hours.

Design guidelines should be developed to inform lighting infrastructure specifications.

Management

E-M-1 OTHER UTILITIES

Some areas of the Park currently lack suitable access to electricity and sewerage.

Moreover, with significant additional infrastructure proposed for the site, alongside proposed relocation of some existing infrastructure, the upgrading of electric and sewerage infrastructure may be necessary to ensure desired levels of service are maintained.

E-M-2 WIFI

WiFi will support the range of activities, events, learning opportunities and education programs, as well as general use of the Park. Installation of WiFi will contribute to Council striving to become a smart city by integrating innovation and technology to support the growing needs of our community.

Priority sites for new/additional utilities provision include the Visitor Centre (01), community pavilion and café (02), additional work shed/operation buildings (10), covered stage and amphitheatre (05, 20), education precinct -learning pods and amenity block (03, 04) and Ben's Lookout/The Lawn (12, 55).

E-M-2 STAFFING LEVELS

The concept plan makes provision for around 15 fulltime staff members based at the site, either at the new Visitor Centre or the new work shed, with a hot-desk type format and meeting room at the Visitor Centre providing a degree of flexibility and accommodation for visiting guests.

Such accommodation capacity is proposed on the basis of the Park being developed to its full potential, and beyond the scale and scope articulated in the present Concept Plan and Master Plan's immediate time horizon.

Staff would resource the visitor centre and learning pods as required, and also be based at the works compound, undertaking management and maintenance tasks across the Park.

E-M-3 WIFI INSTALLATION

Provision of free internet access at key locations around the Park to facilitate exploration and interpretation of the Park and provide additional services for visitors to the Park.

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

5 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

TIME HORIZON > **DELIVERY** > **FUNDING** > **MONITORING, REVIEW & EVALUATION**

The Master Plan articulates a vision for the Park for the next 20 years and beyond. This is reflected in the level of ambition, range and scale of the identified projects and concepts that are envisaged to expand and intensify the horticultural components of the Park and improve infrastructure to support its utilisation. The ultimate intention is to enhance the Park as a visitor destination and cater to the growing garden tourism sector.

Delivery of projects is based on their importance to achieve the overall vision and objectives for the Park. All projects are subject to funding being allocated and changing priorities across the city.

Several projects are recommended to address multiple Park objectives simultaneously, requiring delivery within the same or sequential timeframe. Other projects are essential infrastructure that must be in place to support current visitation as well as facilitate future increase in Park utilisation to meet its full potential.

Short term projects are proposed for delivery over the next 10 to 15 years. Medium term projects and long term concepts are envisaged to be delivered beyond this timeframe. The first few years will focus on design and seeking funding for projects.

Annual projects and programs are intended to be delivered on an ongoing basis. They may be delivered by Council and in collaboration with key user groups, community, program providers and partners. These include projects associated with the following areas:

- Plant collections, garden development and successional forest planting
- Stewardship Groups
- Education Programs
- Event Types/Locations

Infrastructure identified in this Master Plan will ultimately grow the overall number of resources required to effectively manage a park of this scale. Additional employment and economic benefit will also be generated by the future attractions, enhanced gardens, permanent café, introduction of live shows and a dedicated education hub.

Delivery of projects within the timeframes identified in the Master Plan will be dependent on how successful Council is in securing of funding. Projects will be nominated for consideration in Council's annual capital works program and operating budget, and external funding contributions will also be sought.

To assist in implementing this Master Plan, Council will require external funding from a variety of sources including State and Federal Government grants, and private or commercial partnerships. This is even more pertinent for the more ambitious and high value projects that will be reliant on external funding to proceed.

High level cost estimates are assigned to each identified project and are indicative only. Design, survey and other on-ground investigations will be required to confirm the actual cost of identified projects.

Over time community priorities will also evolve. It is recommended that progress with implementing these projects is monitored and four-yearly periodic reviews of the Master Plan be undertaken to ensure it remains fit for purpose. This will allow Council to determine whether projects can be brought forward for earlier delivery or need to be delivered beyond the timing proposed in this implementation plan. All completed projects will be evaluated on their impact, including how well they address the Master Plan vision and objectives.

The following pages summarise the short, medium and long term priorities, and can be cross referenced to park objectives (Section 4 Master Plan) and locations on the Concept Plan (page 29).

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

PHASE 1
SHORT TERM DELIVERY (1 – 10 YEARS)

Delivering the short-term projects will support existing and future visitor experience, provide learning and activation opportunities, improve safety and accessibility, and grow horticulture at the Park.

An ongoing program for plant collections and garden development across the site is proposed to be funded annually through capital and operating budget. There are opportunities to collaborate with key user groups and community for planting activities and events. A further Horticulture Report will be completed to guide plant selection.

Several projects are dependent on each other and are proposed to be designed and delivered together, or sequentially. To address the greatest issues at the Park, the focus will be on designing and securing funding to upgrade and expand the main car park, relocating and constructing a new visitor centre, the associated entrance projects, as well improved maintenance areas.

Revitalisation of the playground will replace equipment in poor condition and create an accessible play experience supported through the provision of a new accessible ramp.

Utilities including power and sewer will be upgraded to support visitation, and a new irrigation ring main will ensure successful planting.

Short term projects are estimated to cost in the order of $22 million.

* Projects recommended to be designed together and delivered concurrently/ sequentially

^ Garden development program, to be delivered through ongoing program

RECOMMENDED SHORT TERM PROJECTS

No.	Project	Funding Source
C-A-1	Upgrade and Expand Main Car Park (23) *	Council
E-S-1	Relocated New Visitor Centre (01) *	Council, Grant
H-B-4	Feature Entrance Planting (42) *	Council
E-A-7	Accessible Ramp to Anniversary Lake, Café and Amphitheatre (27) *	Council, Grant
H-B-2	Water Canal Gardens (40) *	Council
H-B-3	Lilypad Lake Renovation (41) *	Council
H-B-8	Formal Walled Garden (49) *	Council, Grant
H-S-1	Work shed/staff room, Holding Area + Glasshouse (10) *	Council
H-S-2	Reconfigured Material Storage Bays (11) *	Council, Grant
H-B-1	Irrigation Ring Main and Laterals Upgrade	Council
E-M-1	Utilities/Services Upgrades (Sewerage and Electricity)	Council
G-S-2	Play Precinct Development including accessible walkway	Council, Grant
E-M-2	WiFi Installation	Council
H-B-8	Perennial Garden (51) ^	Council
H-B-12	Cool Temperate Rainforest Planting (57) ^	Council
H-B-10	Western Boundary Planting Display (54) ^ (Linked with G-S-2)	Council, Partners
H-B-11	Native Boundary Planting (56) ^	Council, Partners
H-B-13	Cherry Tree Hill (58) ^	Council, Grant
G-B-1	'The Lawn' - Tree Planting (55) ^	Council
E-A-10	Basalt Lake sealed access track (37)	Council
E-1-3	Lighting Masterplan	Council
C-S-1	Covered Stage Area (05)	Council, Grant
L-S-1	Learning Pods (Stage 1 Shelter Structure) (03) (Linked with E-S-2)	Council
E-S-2	Amenity Block (04) (Linked with L-S-1)	Council
E-A-2	Fitness Trail Link to Berwick Town Centre (29)	Council
E-A-11	Electric/Hybrid People Mover to transport visitors on site	Council, Grant
E-A-6	Advocacy for signalised intersection on Entrance Rd/ Princes Highway	Council

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

PHASE 2
MEDIUM TERM DELIVERY (11 - 20+ YEARS)

Medium term projects are intended to further enhance the visitor and horticultural experience at the Park.

The delivery of a permanent function centre / café will provide a place to gather, to celebrate and to learn. Creating a kitchen garden alongside or as a green roof could serve as food produce for the café, or more interactive community garden.

Establishing the fern garden will see the removal of the current multipurpose room and amenity block, to transform the space to a premier wedding location at the Park.

Formalising the learning pod shelters with bespoke buildings will provide the community with a place to learn. There is an opportunity to support bus drop offs at the Bournevale Drive access point. The seasonal garden will also integrate with this location.

Several projects will upgrade existing attractions, access to them and introduce new planting and gardens. As such they have been grouped together by their location. Routine condition audits will ensure the assets continue to service the Park in the interim.

The projects are outlined below and have not been listed in priority order. Future versions of the Master Plan will enable Council to define timing for their delivery. The current estimate to deliver medium term projects is in the order of $17 million.

For this table the same colour rows are linked projects.

RECOMMENDED MEDIUM TERM PROJECTS

No.	Project	Funding Source
G-S-1	Community Pavilion and Café (02)	Council, Grant, Partner
H-B-8	Kitchen Garden (47)	Council, Grant
H-B-8	Fern Garden (includes removal of existing multipurpose room and amenity block) (48)	Council
L-S-1	Learning Pods Stage 2 Buildings (03)	Council, Grant, Partner
L-A-1	Bournevale Drive Access (31)	Council
H-B-8	Seasonal Garden (50)	Council
C-S-2	Ben's Lookout Pergola (12)	Council
E-A-10	Ben's Lookout to Education Precinct sealed access track (39)	Council
E-A-9	Realigned Lawn Footpath (36)	Council
E-S-5	Revamped Hoo Hoo Tower (08)	Council, Grant
E-A-10	Hoo Hoo Tower sealed access track (38)	Council
H-B-8	Hoo Hoo Tower Garden (52)	Council, Grant
L-S-2	Bird Hide Refurbishment (21)	Council
E-S-8	Existing Boardwalk (34)	Council
E-I-3	Lighting Implementation	Council, Grant
E-A-6	Signalised Junction on Princes Highway (26)	Council, Partner
G-I-1 E-I-1	Park Furniture/Signage/Fencing	Council

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

PHASE 3
LONG TERM CONCEPTS (20+ YEARS)

Aspirational projects have been considered throughout the development of the Master Plan. Drivers for these projects are largely tourism offerings within the garden sector. The delivery of essential (short term) and enhancing (medium term) projects are required first to support the anticipated increased visitations that would result from the concepts below.

Alternate delivery models will be critical to assist with funding. For example, commercial partnerships should be pursued for the complex and extensive elevated walkways, platforms and tunnels proposed.

It may also include partnering with artists to use the Park for installations, at minimal cost to Council while benefitting the community and the artist. There is potential to deliver this at any time at the Park, if resources are available.

Delivery of the long-term concepts would see the Park elevate to a stand-out tourism destination in the City of Casey with award winning features and underpinned by first class sustainability measures and technology advancements.

OUT OF SCOPE AND REVIEWED AT EACH REVIEW STAGE

Below are the aspirational project ideas:

- H-A-1 Treetop Elevated Walkway (32)
- H-A-2 Geoheritage Elevated Walkway (33)
- H-A-3 Rainforest Elevated Walkway (35)
- E-S-3 Covered Viewing Deck (06)
- E-S-6 Basalt Rock Face Viewing Platform + Tunnel (09)
- E-S-4 'Floating' Platforms (07)
- H-B-5 Water Gardens (44)
- H-B-7 Waterfall Gardens (46)
- E-I-2 Art Installations
- E-A-5 Shared Use Path Extended to Princes Highway (25)
- C-A-2 Satellite Car Park Kramer Drive (30)

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

GOVERNANCE

APPROVAL BODY: Council

ENDORSEMENT DATE: 20 September 2022

COUNCIL PLAN REFERENCE:
1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.2, 3.1, 3.3, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 6.2

CURRENT VERSION: 1.2
Council policy documents change from time to time and it is recommended that you consult the electronic reference copy on Casey Council's Website to ensure that you have the current version. Alternatively, you may contact Customer Service on 9705 5200.

COMPULSORY REVIEW CYCLE: Every 4 Years

REVIEW DATE: 2026

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION: Nil

RELEVANT COUNCIL DOCUMENTS:
City of Casey Council Plan 2021-25, City of Casey Infrastructure Strategy 2021-25, City of Casey Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25, City of Casey Open Space Strategy.

BREACHES: Nil

ECM ID: 16537942

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022

City of Casey

WILSON BOTANIC PARK

VIC / TAS 2022 PARKS & LEISURE AUSTRALIA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

PARK OF THE YEAR

REGION AWARD

COOLABAH TURF lawn for life

Contact Wilson Botanic Park Berwick:
Web: casey.vic.gov.au
Email: wbpb@casey.vic.gov.au
Phone: 03 9705 5599
Post: PO Box 1000, Narre Warren VIC 3805
NRS: 133 677 (for the deaf, hearing or speech impaired)

Customer Service Centres:
Narre Warren: Bunjil Place, 2 Patrick Northeast Drive
Cranbourne: Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre

Interpreter **TIS:** 131450 (Translating and Interpreting Service) المترجم الفوري 翻译 مترجم شفاهی ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਆ භාෂා පරිවර්තක

CASEY.VIC.GOV.AU

Document Set ID: 16537942
Version: 2, Version Date: 13/12/2022