

Wattle Park Master Plan

October 2023

Foreword by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung

We, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, are the Traditional Owners of the Country which includes Wattle Park. We, the Traditional Owners of Wurundjeri land and waters, have deep respect for Country and hold a cultural responsibility to care for it. We are rights-holders for Wurundjeri, and our culture and heritage are central to its future management of Wattle Park.

By recognising and acknowledging the impacts of colonisation and dispossession, we can collectively redress the ongoing harms and celebrate this opportunity for constructive reconciliation with the whole community.

Our knowledge and experience inform this Master Plan, guiding the vision for the Park and how it is managed, and recognise the Traditional Owner stories, knowledge and practices connected with this place. We recognise the connections between people, communities and Country and want to work together to maintain and celebrate this special park.

We welcome visitors to learn about our culture and Country, to embrace the seasons, stories and spirits of the creation, and we believe that the Wattle Park Master Plan will deliver the necessary changes needed to recognise the cultural heritage of the place and to realise community aspirations.

Parks Victoria Acknowledgment of Country

Victoria's network of parks and reserves form the core of Aboriginal cultural landscapes, which have been modified over many thousands of years of occupation. They are reflections of how Aboriginal people engaged with their world and experienced their surroundings and are the product of thousands of generations of economic activity, material culture and settlement patterns. The landscapes we see today are influenced by the skills, knowledge and activities of Aboriginal land managers.

Parks Victoria acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the land now known as Wattle Park and the surrounding cultural landscape, recognising their continuing connections to Victoria's parks and reserves and their ongoing role in caring for Country.

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Quality Information

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Front cover image: Wattle Park aerial image of Central Amenities Precinct

Inside front cover image: *Acacia* species (Supplied by Parks Victoria)

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Black Wattle,
Acacia mearnsii, Wattle Park



1.0 Introduction





Eucalyptus species
Wattle Park

1.1 Executive summary

Wattle Park is one of Melbourne's most beautiful and diverse open spaces. It is 41 hectares of highly valued park situated on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country. It contains a high level of ecological diversity and cultural significance through its Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and non-Aboriginal history. Since its inception, Wattle Park has continuously served as a major recreation park for a growing Greater Melbourne.

The Wattle Park playground and walking/running facilities have been upgraded as part of the Victorian Government's Suburban Parks Program. Parks Victoria is also coordinating a number of planning and design initiatives to help shape the future of Wattle Park.

The objective of this Wattle Park Master Plan is to bring together the current initiatives and ideas about how the park may evolve to provide a basis for strategic decision making for the next 20-30 years.

The Wattle Park Master Plan is based on comprehensive background research and analysis, including extensive community engagement, to identify the vision, key themes and opportunities for the park.

Key elements of the Wattle Park Master Plan

Key elements of the Wattle Park Master Plan include:

- Improving how people may connect with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural landscape when visiting the park, such as the introduction of narrative trails, signage, and a new ceremonial space
- Ensuring the heritage values are maintained or managed based on its significance, and contemporary use. This includes a modern reinterpretation of the Lily Pond area as a garden reservoir with supporting amenities for community appreciation and use
- Maintaining the natural character of the park, through tree replacement and renewal, and weed management

- Improving pedestrian accessibility between entry points and key park facilities, such as providing pram ramps and pedestrian crossings.
- Upgrading and renewal works for key recreational precincts, such as the area around the carpark, lone pine, tennis courts, and oval
- Improving usage of the sports oval through investing in supporting infrastructure such as new changing rooms and playing surface maintenance
- Celebrating the park's rich tramways history through the restoration and functional uses of the heritage trams
- Ensuring the recommendations are in line with the Land Management Strategy and the Conservation Management Plan
- Ensuring that visitor services in the park, such as the golf course and Wattle Park Chalet operations continue to respond to community demands and needs.

Community feedback has guided the preparation of the Wattle Park Master Plan. The Wattle Park Master Plan outlines a flexible implementation approach that responds to long term plans and direction. The opportunities recommended by the Wattle Park Master Plan would require detailed design, and the implementation of these works would be subject to available funding from the government.



1.2 Parks Victoria: Land Management Strategy

The *Parks Victoria Act 2018* requires a Land Management Strategy to guide the protection, management and use of terrestrial, coastal and marine parks and reserves managed by Parks Victoria.

The Land Management Strategy, sets out the long-term direction and priorities for the protection, management and use of Parks Victoria managed land. The strategy underpins park planning and other park management activities, with the goal of achieving transparent and consistent park management at the state level. The strategy is available online at: <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/land-management/land-management-strategy>

The Strategy is an important guide for developing and reviewing park management plans and helps partners and stakeholders understand park management priorities and how they can assist in achieving longterm outcomes. It articulates specific priorities for responding to the opportunities and challenges facing park management, organised into eight integrated themes and outcomes.

The Land Management Strategy provides aspirations for parks: Victoria's parks will be resilient, inclusive and valued; conserving nature and cultural heritage; supporting Traditional Owner aspirations; and contributing to healthy communities.

Parks Victoria is playing a role in the economic recovery of Victoria by supporting local communities and businesses with employment opportunities and increasing demand for services due to the rising number of visitors to parks.

The Strategy highlights the importance of nature by managing, protecting, and sharing Victoria's precious places. Working in partnership with Traditional Owners will help to connect people with Country, understand cultural heritage, and contribute to human health and wellbeing. In addition, it is important to continue to invest in the conservation, interpretation and activation of heritage places for community use. This is a key priority for the Wattle Park Master Plan.

The Wattle Park Master Plan has aligned with the Land Management Strategy, abiding by its goals through design development, implementation and ongoing care now, and into the future.

Managing Country together



Traditional Owner self-determination is advanced through managing Country together.

Protecting Victoria's natural riches



High value natural systems, cultural values and landscapes are protected and restored.

Adapting to climate change



The impacts of climate change are responded to by planned adaptation, mitigation and, where necessary, accepting irreversible changes to some natural and cultural values and landscapes.

Enriching the visitor experience



Visitors enjoy high quality experiences and are empowered to make informed decisions about where they go and what they do in parks.

Managing the landscape through partnerships



Partnerships increase park management capability and capacity and enable management across boundaries and at the landscape scale.

Recognising connections to place



Communities and people of all backgrounds and abilities value and are advocates for parks.

Contributing to the visitor economy



Regional economies and parks benefit from healthy parks and nature based tourism.

Managing infrastructure and operations



Sustainable assets and park management provide quality visitor experiences and protect natural and heritage values.

1.3 Wattle Park Master Plan introduction

Wattle Park overview

Wattle Park is one of Melbourne's most beautiful and diverse open spaces that covers 41 hectares of highly valued park. The park supports a high level of ecological diversity and has significant cultural heritage values.

Wattle Park sits on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung. The area was characterised by a number of waterways resulting in a resource rich landscape significant to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung for food harvesting.

The water systems hold strong cultural associations and have formed places of connection. The area surrounding Kooyongkoot Creek (Gardiners Creek) hosted important meetings and corroborees. Waterways also formed important travel and trade routes throughout the region.

In 1915 the Hawthorn Tramways Trust purchased the land east of Warrigal Road, along Riversdale Road with the condition that it would be used as a public park. The park is the only example in Australia of a comprehensively developed destination park formerly established, owned and operated by a transport authority. Wattle Park was promoted as a prestigious destination at the end of the tram network and was formerly developed and managed by tramways personnel. In the later 1920s, as part of early planning and development 12,000 wattles, natives and ornamental trees were planted to improve the landscape.

The layout of the park reflects the original 1920-1930s form with heritage buildings and structures retained. The name and theme of the park reflect patriotism post World War 2 with wattle being Australia's national floral emblem.

Since its inception, Wattle Park has continuously served as a major recreation facility in inner Melbourne, loved for its natural bush setting. Over many generations, Wattle Park has become synonymous with family picnics. It has been the home of a number of sporting organisations and has benefited significantly from the input of many community bodies including the Wattle Park Golf Course, the Victorian Wattle League, Friends of Wattle Park and the field naturalists' clubs. It has served as a longstanding venue for regular performances by the tramways band.

Wattle Park Chalet is the only remaining example of a number of café/entertainment venues constructed in Melbourne by tramway authorities and local councils at tram terminus, to stimulate tramway traffic and generate income.

The planting of special trees within the park by notable individuals, visiting celebrities, the Wattle League, special interest groups and school children has been a regular ritual since its inception. The 'Lone Pine' raised from a seed collected at Gallipoli in 1915, and planted at Wattle Park in May 1933, is one of only four original Lone Pines planted in Victoria.

As a part of the Suburban Parks and Urban Parks Active Wellbeing Program funding initiatives enabled by the Victorian Government in 2020, Parks Victoria has pursued a number of planning and design initiatives to help develop and shape the future of Wattle Park.

The objective of the Wattle Park Master Plan is to guide decisions and manage the park over the next 20-30 years and to ensure the vision and themes underpin the park's future development.

Parks Victoria engaged with the community in two stages (December 2021 and April/May 2023) to gather inputs and ideas towards the Wattle Park Master Plan. Further details on the engagement process can be found in Section 2.6. Ideas from community feedback have been incorporated into the Wattle Park Master Plan – see Appendix B for details.



Walking and Running Track bridge



Heritage tram
Wattle Park



2.0 Wattle Park Master Plan overview



2.1 The importance of a Master Plan

Wattle Park is a diverse and much loved open space situated upon Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country, and the future guidance of a Master Plan document is required for such a significant park. The Wattle Park Master Plan sets the vision, key themes and opportunities for the management of the park over the next 20-30 years. It incorporates the celebration and protection of the park's key values. These acknowledge the importance of the park as:

- A destination park that retains evidence of its tramways origin and an expression of the Wurundjeri cultural landscape for visitors
- A sanctuary for native flora and fauna with living vegetation and diverse ecologies
- A destination for the community and host of culturally significant events and gatherings
- Provides a framework for decision making, further planning and steering on how the park will continue to evolve.

The Wattle Park Master Plan also aims to protect the park's innate physical qualities and unique assets as it:

- Provides 41 hectares of open space
- Offers a diversity of experiences by performing as a place for passive and active recreation, formal events, and informal gatherings
- Contains heritage buildings and natural assets that entertain a broad range of users from regional and local communities.

The Wattle Park Master Plan recognises that the values of Wattle Park are supported by heritage features and contemporary visitor amenities; sustaining these values requires ongoing management and renewal.



Figure 01: Wattle Park conceptual sketch



Patriotic space Lone Pine and Clock Tower
Wattle Park

2.2 Wattle Park Master Plan development process

The Wattle Park Master Plan development is based on a methodological process of:

1. Detailed background analysis of the park's heritage values, planning and demographic context, landscape character, ecology, views, accessibility, hydrology, topography etc.
2. A comprehensive engagement exercise to obtain community input and feedback on the Wattle Park Master Plan's vision, objectives and key opportunities
3. Ensuring the Wattle Park Master Plan recommendations are in line with the Conservation Management Plan.

During the course of the Wattle Park Master Plan development, a number of studies and interfacing projects were identified to inform the Wattle Park Master Plan, including a options assessment of the Lily Pond area, an Interpretation and Storytelling Strategy and a Wayfinding and Style Guide Strategy.

A number of themes have been derived based on the engagement exercise findings and the background analysis. These themes have guided the opportunities and priorities recommended for the next stage of detailed design and implementation which will require government funding in order to be realised. This process has been illustrated in Figure 03.

To develop outcomes for the Wattle Park Master Plan, these key objectives were further defined into specific opportunities suitable for project pursuance and potential funding applications.

This process to develop the Wattle Park Master Plan ensures that any tangible opportunity is aligned with the Wattle Park Master Plan's Vision, Key Objectives, and Themes, and with the Conservation Management Plan.



Figure 02: Wattle Park playscape tram fort play structure.

Wattle Park Master Plan development process

Background research
Refer to Section 2.0 and Appendix A



Engagement summaries
Refer to Section 2.6



Wattle Park Master Plan vision
Refer to Section 3.2

Support the ongoing management of a cherished park which enables outstanding and diverse visitor experiences and appreciation of its past, present and future through the safe guarding of cultural heritage and environmental values.



Wattle Park Master Plan themes and key objectives
Refer to Section 3.3

Recognising and protecting cultural heritage

Protecting and conserving the environment

Improving pedestrian access

Supporting memorable visitor experiences

Managing the park and building partnerships



Wattle Park Master Plan opportunities
Refer to Section 4.0



Wattle Park Master Plan implementation
Refer to Section 5.0

Figure 03: Wattle Park Master Plan development process.

2.3 Storytelling and timeline

The Wattle Park area is part of a cultural landscape created and cared for by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people since time immemorial. It is important to celebrate and recognise Wurundjeri Woi-wurrungs' long and ongoing connection to their Country through understanding and storytelling of significant places, travel routes and truth telling of the history of the region. Recognising that through forced disposition the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrungs role to care for their Country was taken from them and assumed by others.

The historical role in others care of this place, and understanding important moments in the development of the park we see today; helps develop a contextual understanding to the landscape. The timeline below shows the rich history of the site and how its use has developed.

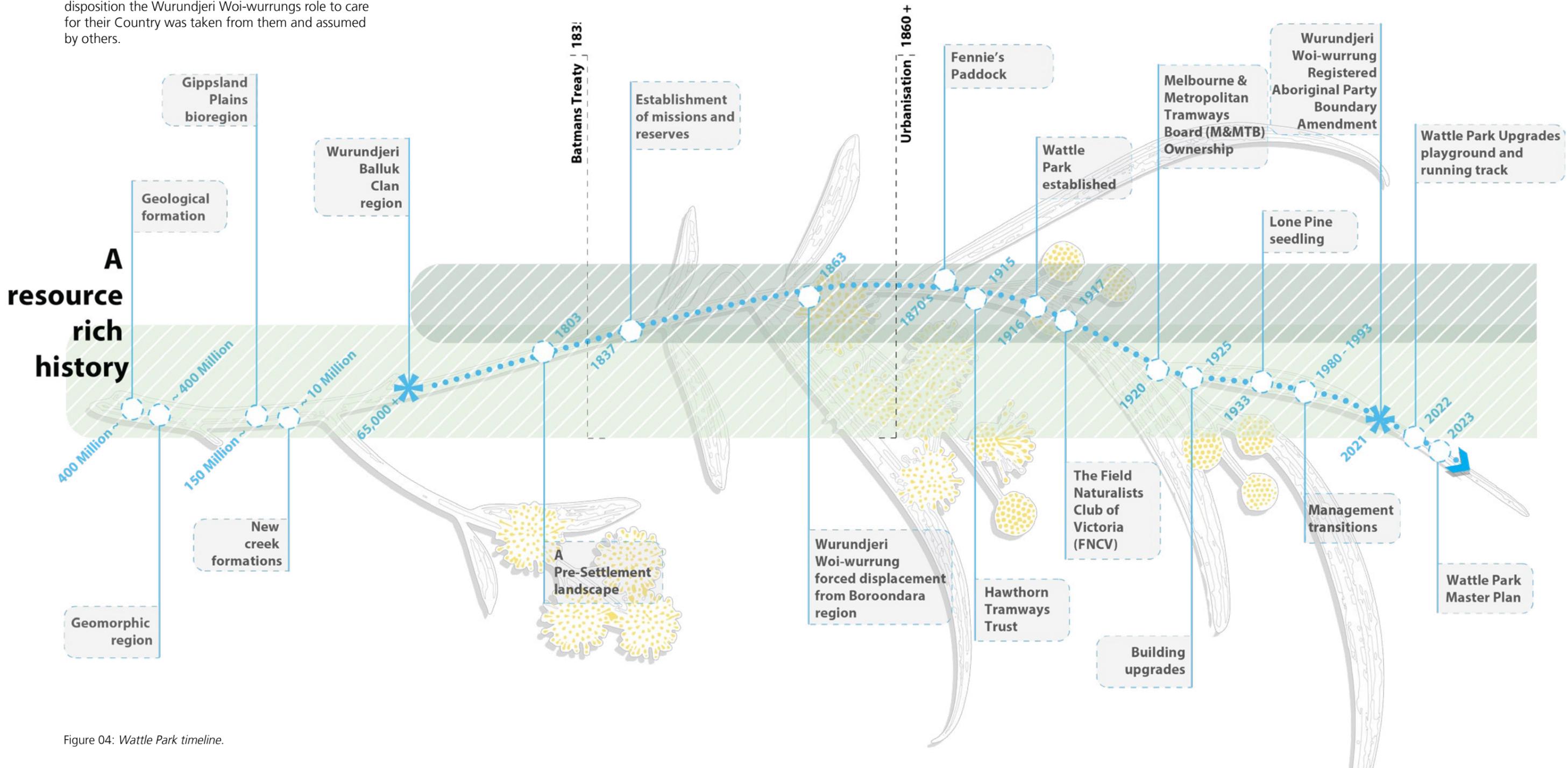


Figure 04: Wattle Park timeline.

Extended timeline:

A resource rich history

[400 million]

Geological formation

Greater Melbourne sits at the junction between three geomorphic regions and was a central location of abundant resources and a regular meeting place for social and ceremonial gatherings, and trade between the groups of the Kulin Nation.

[150 million]

Gippsland Plains bioregion

Wattle Park is situated within the Gippsland Plains Bioregion characterised by flat low lying coastal and alluvial plains with a gently undulating terrain dominated by barrier dunes, floodplains and swampy flats. The bioregion has a temperate climate and the majority of rain falls in winter. The region between the Yarra Ranges and Port Phillip Bay consists of a series of rivers, creeks and interconnected historic wetlands forming a resource rich landscape for the harvesting of food.

[10 million]

New Creek formations

In the late Tertiary period (~10 million years ago) the Nillumbik Terrain was uplifted and tilted towards the sea, causing streams to form their courses through the Tertiary sands and Silurian bedrock to form valleys such as that of the Birrarung (Yarra River) and Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot).

Truth telling

[65,000+] **Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Balluk Clan region**

The area around Kooyongkoot Creek, later known as Gardiners Creek, was part of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung-Balluk region that extended along the Birrarung River which hosted important meetings and corroborees.

[1803]

A Pre-Colonial Landscape

Surveyed in 1803, Charles Grimes noted the area as ideal cattle grazing country. The name Boroondara is said to mean 'Shady Place' and references the dense understorey of wattle throughout the lightly wooded area. This was described as consisting of fine black soil, timber – gum, banksia, oak and a variety of small mimosa type plants.

[1835]

The foundation of Melbourne

John Pascoe Fawkner and John Batman start an unauthorised settlement in 1835. This is located on the north bank at the Falls where there is access to the sea and to fresh water. Melbourne is brought under British law in 1836. It is declared a township in 1837 at which point the 'Hoddle grid' of streets is set out parallel to the river at the falls.

[1837]

Forcibly displaced

Establishing of Missions and Reserves during colonisation, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples were forcibly displaced from their Country. The Colonial government allocated a number of missions around Victoria for relocation. Western education, agriculture and Christianity was practiced and extensive efforts were made by the colonial government to remove the opportunity for use of language and traditional customs by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples. The first of these, Langhorne Mission, was established on the southern side of the Birrarung before other missions and stations were established in more rural and remote areas of Victoria. It is thought that by 1863 the remaining Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples from the Boroondara region had been relocated to Coranderrk in Healesville.

Urbanisation

[1850s +60s]

Urbanisation

Burwood originated from the village of Ballyshannassy, one kilometre east of Warrigal Road which was surveyed in 1858. It comprised of farms and market gardens with four churches and a commercial hub at the intersection of Warrigal Road and Toorak Road.

[1870s]

Fennie's Paddock

Following repossession from the Bank on crown portions 41A and 41B from the previous owner, Orlando Fenwick bought the land at a greatly reduced value. Fenwick allowed local people access to his land and in 1892, providing an area for a cricket pitch for communal games, thus beginning the tradition of public use associated with this property. As late as the 1920s and 1930s the area was still affectionately referred to as 'Fennie's Paddock'.

- [1915] **Hawthorn Tramways Trust**
Hawthorn Tramways Trust purchased the property from then owner Mrs Welch with the intention that it be used for the establishment of a Tramways Park, which would offer recreational facilities to the public. The Act authorised the Hawthorn Tramways Trust to acquire certain lands to be used as a park and for other purposes [30th December 1915].
- [1916] **Wattle Park establishment**
Wattle Park was established as a public recreation facility in 1916 by the Hawthorn Tramways Trust. The Park was opened to the public for the first time on 23 December 1916. Wattle Park was officially opened at an afternoon ceremony performed on 31 March 1917, with planting of wattles to reflect the new name Wattle Park. The Victoria Governor planted a Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*).
- [1917] **'A sanctuary for native fauna and flora' The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria**
The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV) was involved in planning and shaping the general appearance of Wattle Park, even before official openings. The FNCV was influential in proclaiming a native game sanctuary and proposing the choice of native trees and shrubs in the Park. During the 1940s the club also published a very detailed series of observations on the birds of the Park, and the Club approached the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board (MMTB) to halt destruction of wattle trees. During the 1950s, the Club was also involved in replanting programs.
- [1920] **Hawthorn Tramways Trust Amalgamation to Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board (MMTB)**
In 1920, the Hawthorn Tramways Trust amalgamated with other tramlines to become the MMTB. Ownership of the park passed to MMTB. Since then Wattle Park has developed a strong theme, with former materials from tramway infrastructure being re-purposed as picnic tables, former rail cables used in fencing as well as materials used in the construction of subsequent buildings such as Wattle Park Chalet and Curator's Cottage.
- [1920s-1930s] **Buildings upgrades**
Development commenced in 1925-26 with the remodelling of the existing homestead (now demolished), construction of the sports oval and picnic ground improvements. Cable tram dummy cars, made superfluous by the electrification of the Swanston Street Cable tramway in 1925, were modified and placed around the picnic area as rustic shelters. Bodies of redundant electric trams had replaced the cable tram shelters by 1981.
- [1920] **Lone Pine seedling**
In 1933, a former soldier in the 24th battalion planted a seedling from a pine cone he had collected from the Lone Pine at Gallipoli. Following this in the 1950s, a stone clock tower was constructed adjacent to the Lone Pine seedling, dedicated to a soldier who fell in World War I. Today this tree is still one of two surviving trees from Victoria's original 1933 Lone Pine plantings, an important physical, historical and emotional connection with that battleground.
- [1980-1996] **Management transition**
Beginning in the 1950s, the MMTB sought to reduce the park's operating costs. From the 1980s, management of the park changed repeatedly, and park staffing and maintenance were rationalised further. In 1983 the MMTB including the park was folded into the new Metropolitan Transit Authority; in 1991 the park was transferred to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, which became Melbourne Water in 1992; in 1996 Parks Victoria became the land manager and have continued management since.
- [2020-present] **Park planning and Traditional Owner boundary recognition**
In 2020, Parks Victoria was granted funding from the Victorian Government to commission park upgrades and forward planning document development. In 2021, variations were made to Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) boundary, including extending their RAP area to include Wattle Park and surrounds.



2.4 Site context

Wattle Park is in Burwood, approximately 12 kilometers east of Melbourne Central Business District (CBD). The park's north, west and east boundaries are defined by medium congestion roads: Riversdale, Warrigal and Elgar Roads.

The closest train station is Union Station, which is a 15min walk to the north western corner of Wattle Park. Tram Route 70 runs between Docklands in the CBD and Wattle Park with the tram route terminating adjacent to the park.

Bus Route 903 (Altona to Mordialloc) runs along Riversdale Road and Bus Routes: 281 (Templestowe to Deakin University), 767 (Southland to Box Hill) and 768 (Box Hill to Deakin University) connect to stops along Elgar Road.

Wattle Park is close to other reserves such as Boisdale Street Reserve, Cooper Reserve and Gardiners Reserve. The park is near to significant educational infrastructure such as Deakin University, Presbyterian Ladies College and Wattle Park Primary School.

Easy riding cycling route

The park is part of a key cycling route identified in the City of Whitehorse's Easy Riding Route Strategy. This connection runs north/south through the central section of the park and connects Riversdale Road to Patterson Avenue.

Legend

-  Strategic cycling corridor route
-  Easy riding cycling route
-  Rail line, station
-  Tram route
-  500m offset from Wattle Park
-  Parks and open space
-  Wattle Park Primary School
-  Commercial centre
-  Retail precinct
-  Education facility

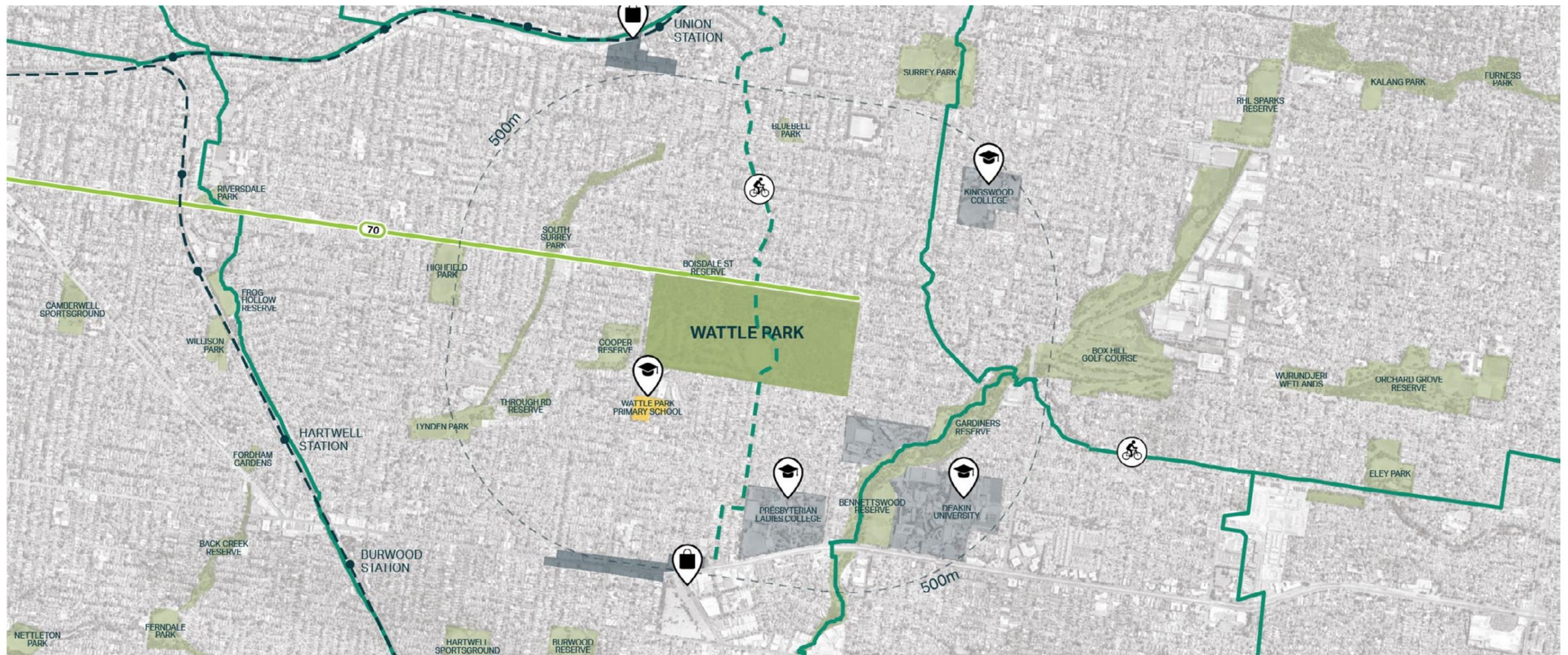


Figure 05: Wattle Park Site Context map.

SCALE: 1:100,000 NORTH 

2.5 Demographics

Wattle Park is a popular park with significant natural and cultural heritage values. A large proportion of the park is included on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR), including the land, buildings and structures, footpaths and landscaping, and trees and gardens within that extent

Wattle Park is located in the City of Whitehorse Local Government Area (LGA). The municipality has an area of 64km² and is located 12km east of the Melbourne CBD. The LGA borders five other LGA's, with the City of Boroondara directly west of Wattle Park. The populations of Whitehorse and Boroondara are expected to contribute the largest portion of visitors to the park. Understanding the population's composition is critical in providing amenities relevant to local users.

Population

The City of Whitehorse had an estimated resident population of 171,167 in the 2021 Census.



The LGA had the same proportion as Greater Melbourne of couple families with dependent(s) (33.1%) to Greater Melbourne. There was a slightly higher proportion in Boroondara at 34.0%. Whitehorse and Boroondara had higher proportions of lone person households to Greater Melbourne (24.4% and 25.1% compared to 23.7%) and couples without children (23.8% and 24.2% compared to 23.5%).

Whitehorse had an average household size of 2.53 people. Analysis of the types of dwellings shows a high proportion of the population live in separate houses in Whitehorse (62.0%) and Boroondara (65.1%). The largest change in dwelling types was seen in high density for both LGAs within an increase of +3,966 in Whitehorse and +3,120 in Boroondara.

The population of Whitehorse comprised of 51.6% females and 48.4% males.



In the City of Whitehorse there were 521 individuals (0.3%) that identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The three largest ancestries in the LGA were Chinese (26.2%), English (24.2%), and Australian (21.3%). There is a significantly larger population of people with Chinese ancestry (26.2%) compared to Greater Melbourne (8.3%). Other ancestries represent similar proportions between City of Whitehorse and Greater Melbourne.

City of Boroondara had the same three top ancestries, with higher proportions English (25.6%) and Australian (23.4%) to Chinese (8.3%).

The largest changes in reported ancestries of the population in the LGA between 2016 and 2021 were:

- Chinese (+8,416)
- Australian (-2,003)
- Indian (+1,584)
- Irish (-1,575).

Age

In 2021, the City of Whitehorse had a lower proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 years or older than Greater Melbourne. The median age was 39 years old. Overall, 29.3% of the population was aged between 0 and 24, 46.9% were aged between 25 and 59, and 23.8% were aged 60 years and over. The neighbouring City of Boroondara follows similar trends to City of Whitehorse.

In 2021, 9,374 (5.5%) people in the City of Whitehorse reported needing help in their daily lives due to disability, the same proportion as Greater



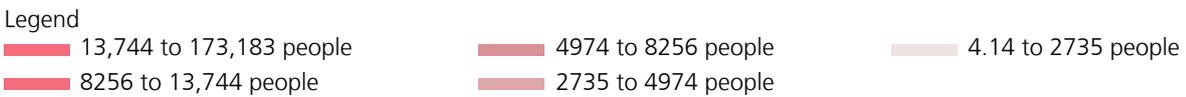
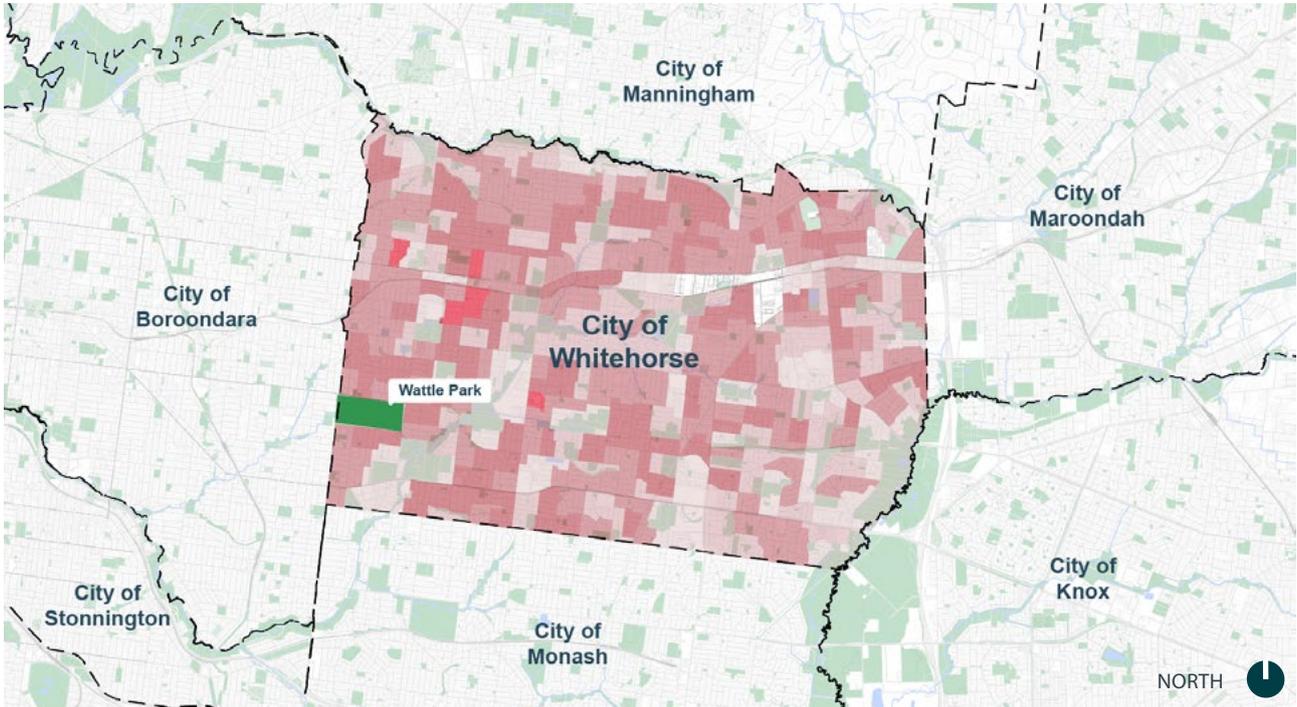


Figure 06: City of Whitehorse population density map

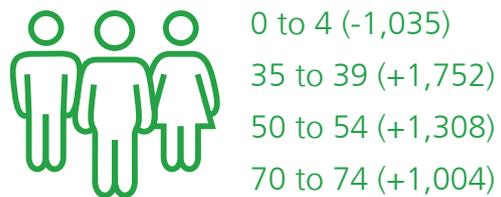
Melbourne. The proportion of people was slightly lower in City of Boroondara (4.5%).

The major differences between the age structure of City of Whitehorse and Greater Melbourne in 2021 were:

- A larger percentage of people aged 85 and over (3.2% compared to 2.0%)
- A larger percentage of people aged 80 to 84 (2.9% compared to 2.0%)
- A smaller percentage of people aged 30 to 34 (6.9% compared to 8.2%)
- A larger percentage of people aged 20 to 24 (7.5% compared to 6.7%)
- A smaller percentage of people aged 0 to 4 (4.6% compared to 5.9%).

Emerging age groups

The largest changes in age structure in the LGA between 2016 and 2021 were in the age groups:



*All data obtained from Profile.ID and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census data.



2.6 Background assessment

A large portion of the park is heritage registered with a number of buildings and structures included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). Some of these features include Wattle Park Chalet, tram structures and picnic shelter, lily pond area, memorial clock tower, and Curator's Cottage and Office. These elements are all located within a local Heritage Overlay to protect their significance.

The park provides a connection to nature in a suburban landscape, featuring mature native vegetation dominated by acacia and eucalyptus species. Three Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's) are found across the eastern slopes of the site where

protected conservation zones have been created. A number of significant trees are located in the centre of the site including a lone pine, avenue of cedar trees, and an *Angophora costata* near the playground.

A number of informal trails have been created in the park as a result of recreational activities such as mountain bike riding. The topography of the site creates impressive views across the landscape towards key features such as Wattle Park Chalet and Curator's Cottage. The slopes also restrict accessibility from the surrounding streets to central facilities, a carpark is located in the centre of the site.

For further details on the technical assessments, please refer to Appendix A. These include:

- A.1 Planning Context
- A.2 Victorian Heritage Register (VHR)
- A.3 Visitor Services and Built Form
- A.4 Landscape Character Zones
- A.5 Ecology
- A.6 Vegetation History
- A.7 Geomorphology
- A.8 Maintaining Important View Lines
- A.9 Movement and Access
- A.10 Water Movement
- A.11 Landscape Conditions

Legend

Key buildings, features, and landscaping

- 1 Wattle Park Chalet
- 2 Tram waiting shelter
- 3 Tram waiting shelter and rockery
- 4 Stables
- 5 Curator's Cottage
- 6 Curator's Office
- 7 Entry and main driveway
- 8 Main drive fencing
- 9 Lily Pond area
- 10 Tennis courts shelters
- 11 Memorial Clock Tower and Lone Pine
- 12 Band rostrum
- 13 Playground shelter
- 14 Oval
- 15 Tram body shelters
- 16 Park carpark

-  Victorian Heritage Register
-  Ecological Vegetation Class (SP) Class 47 - Valley Grassy Woodland
-  Ecological Vegetation Class (SP) Class 164 - Creekline Herb-rich Woodland
-  Ecological Vegetation Class (SP) Class 175 - Grassy Woodland
-  Remnant Indigenous Vegetation : Places of Primary Significance and Site Development Guidelines - Conservation Management Plan 1993 - Figure 113
-  Natural Forest Sanctuary (Peppermint and other Gums) : MMTB Plan 803. Wattle Park Layout of Planting 1933
-  Extent of conservation fencing

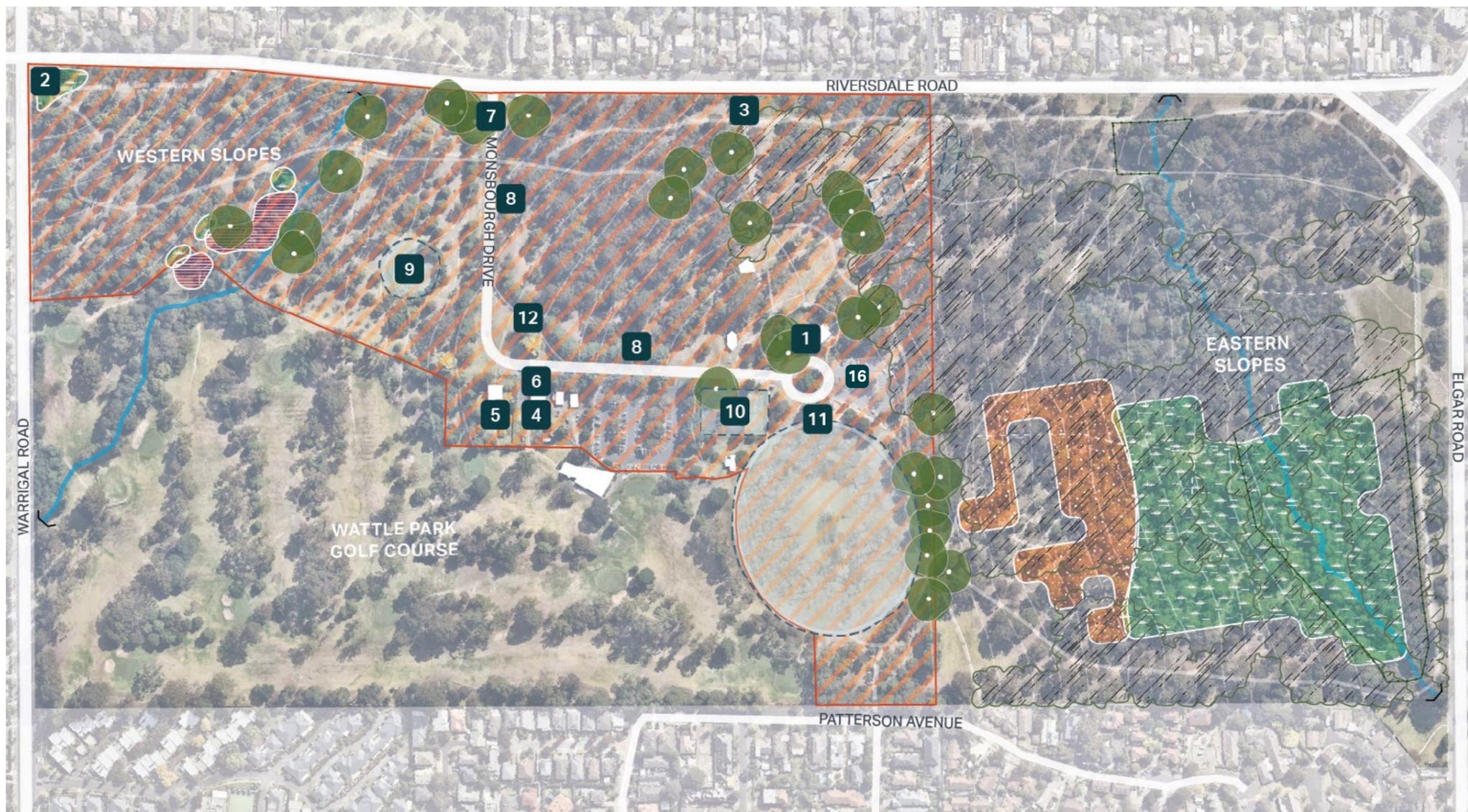


Figure 07: Wattle Park Background Assessment map.

SCALE: 1:5000 NORTH 

2.7 Engagement summaries

The Wattle Park Master Plan engagement followed two stages (in 2020 and 2021) of consultation for the upgrades to the Wattle Park playscape and Walking and Running Track. Feedback gathered during that process also informed the Wattle Park Master Plan.

In late 2021, early engagement was undertaken on the Wattle Park Master Plan, and in mid-2023 the Draft Wattle Park Master Plan was released for comment.

Relevant feedback and inputs received at each stage has been incorporated into the Wattle Park Master Plan's future design and strategic initiatives. Please see Appendix B for details.

Detailed summaries of the consultation findings, and how feedback shaped the Wattle Park Master Plan are available on Engage Victoria via <https://engage.vic.gov.au/wattle-park-upgrades>

Wattle Park Upgrades

Stage 1
August-October 2020

Key activities

- Engage Victoria
 - Survey
 - Vision Card
- Online Workshops
- Stakeholder meetings.




Stage 2
June-July 2021

Key activities

- Engage Victoria
 - Survey
 - Online workshops
 - In park conversations
 - Stakeholder meetings.






Reach

- 561 surveys
- 506 vision cards.

Key findings

- Seating, shelters and barbeques are a priority at the playscape
- Natural materials should be used in the playscape
- The playscape should cater to a range of ages
- Tram heritage and heritage broadly is important
- Environmental values are important.

▼ Key findings inform Wattle Park Master Plan engagement

Wattle Park Master Plan

Early Wattle Park Master Plan ideas
December 2021

▼ *Draft Wattle Park Master Plan*

Key activities

- Online Workshops
- In park walk-n-talk.




Review of Draft Wattle Park Master Plan
April-May 2023

Key activities

- Engage Victoria
 - Survey
 - Online workshops
 - In park conversations
 - Stakeholder meetings.






Reach

- 27 participants (in person)
- 55 online workshop participants.

Reach

- 51 surveys
- 53 in-person participants.

The Wattle Park Master Plan should:

- Protect and enhance the bushland environment of Wattle Park to support important species, and preserve this unique urban park
- Activate Wattle Park to celebrate the rich heritage values in the park, that are well loved, well understood, and well maintained by Parks Victoria and the community
- Activate Wattle Park as an urban bushland park with experiences ranging from passive recreation, to formal sporting opportunities such as golf and cricket
- Make sure the visitor experience caters to a diverse range of visitors now, and into the future.

▼ Final Wattle Park Master Plan

Figure 08: Community and Stakeholder Engagement process.

Playscape and Walking and Running track

Two stages of public engagement for the Wattle Park Upgrades project were conducted. The first stage was held between August and October 2020 and sought feedback through surveys, vision cards, Engage Victoria website, and an online workshop. The second stage was held between June and July 2021 and included surveys, in park participation, and an online workshop.

There was a high level of interest and participation throughout both stages of consultation, with over 10,000 views to the Engage Victoria web page, 745 surveys completed and 509 vision cards altogether. The primary purpose of consultation was to generate interest about the project, collect ideas from community and seek feedback on the draft designs. Through the survey and vision activity, participants shared the desire for a running track with a well maintained gravel surface, and a playscape that encourages nature play and includes supporting facilities.

Wattle Park Master Plan

Parks Victoria undertook community engagement for the Wattle Park Master Plan in December 2021 and again in 2023. Stage 1 included two in park walk and talk sessions where 27 participants attended.

In addition, three online focus group sessions were held, with 55 participants. These focus group sessions centered on Wattle Park's key themes including:

- Environment and Conservation (21 participants)
- Heritage Values (18 participants)
- Visitor Experience (16 participants).

Participants were asked to share their vision for the stated topic to help understand the community's views and opinions. All feedback was captured and summarised into the Wattle Park Community Engagement Summary which has directly influenced the Wattle Park Master Plan's themes (Refer Section 3.3).

A second stage of consultation was held during April and May 2023. During the consultation period, there were 995 visitors to the Engage Victoria website, with 51 people submitting a survey in person or online. Over 25 people spoke with Parks Victoria staff in the park during two drop-in events.

The primary purpose of this consultation stage was to collect feedback from the Draft Wattle Park Master Plan to help shape the design and strategic outcomes of the Final Wattle Park Master Plan.



Figure 09: Local park rangers staff at a 'pop-up' in Wattle Park

2.8 Traditional Owner engagement

As a part of the Wattle Park Upgrades project, Parks Victoria has worked in collaboration with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC) on the commission of Aboriginal Artists for the new playscape sculptures and artwork, inputs to the Interpretation and Storytelling Strategy, and a new ceremonial gathering space. As part of the Wattle Park Master Plan engagement, Parks Victoria has worked closely with Wurundjeri on how they would like to be involved in the future development of the park. This process is consistent with the International Indigenous Design Charter.*

Current and future interpretive opportunities for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung led design translation within the Wattle Park Master Plan will be facilitated by a Registered Indigenous Architects and First Peoples artists in order to support appropriate cultural translation.

All potential cultural elements captured within the Wattle Park Master Plan document will be guided by WWCHAC.

Parks Victoria held discussions with WWCHAC as a part of the development of the Wattle Park Master Plan and interfacing projects as outlined in Section 5.2.

**The International Indigenous Design Charter was co-authored by Dr Russell Kennedy and Dr Meghan Kelly from Deakin University and developed in collaboration with the Deakin University, Institute of Koorie Education (IKE), Indigenous Architecture and Design Victoria (IADV) and the Management and Executive Board of the Design Institute of Australia (DIA) in consultation with Australian and international community representatives.*



Figure 10: 'Bunjil' park sculpture designed by Shlomit Moria and Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung artists for the Wattle Park Upgrades.





Open space,
Wattle Park



3.0 Wattle Park Master Plan vision and themes



3.1 Wattle Park Master Plan vision

Wattle Park Master Plan aims to:

Support the ongoing management of a cherished park which enables outstanding and diverse visitor experiences and appreciation of its past, present and future through the safe guarding of cultural heritage and environmental values.

Alongside outlining the overarching vision, the Wattle Park Master Plan will:

- Respect and appreciate the cultural heritage and the deep connections that the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung have with their Country, and support the sharing of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung's cultural heritage
- Support and activate the living (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) heritage of the park
- Enhance visitor experiences through the inclusion of people and to cater for a diverse range of visitors now, and into the future
- Celebrate its diverse landscape character and promote environmental principles such as resiliency and efficiency
- Protect and improve the bushland environment to support biodiversity
- Foster partnerships to enhance the experiences it offers for visitors.





Support the ongoing management of a cherished park which enables outstanding and diverse visitor experiences and appreciation of its past, present and future through the safe guarding of cultural heritage and environmental values.

Wattle Park Chalet and courtyard gardens

3.2 Wattle Park Master Plan themes and key objectives

The Wattle Park Master Plan uses five themes to guide future management and decision making for the park over the next 20-30 years. Fundamental to these themes are the key objectives that any future changes will bring positive benefits, to the park and are consistent with the Conservation Management Plan (CMP). The CMP is a principal guiding document for the conservation and management of a heritage place, and it ensures that decisions are carried out with regard to the park's cultural significance.

The Wattle Park Master Plan's themes are areas of focus that have been derived as a response to the park's technical assessments and extensive engagement processes (Refer Section 2.7).

A number of objectives have been provided under each theme to determine basic requirements and outcomes for the Wattle Park Master Plan. These objectives guide the opportunities identified in both the Master and Implementation Plans as clear actions for the park.



Recognising and protecting cultural heritage



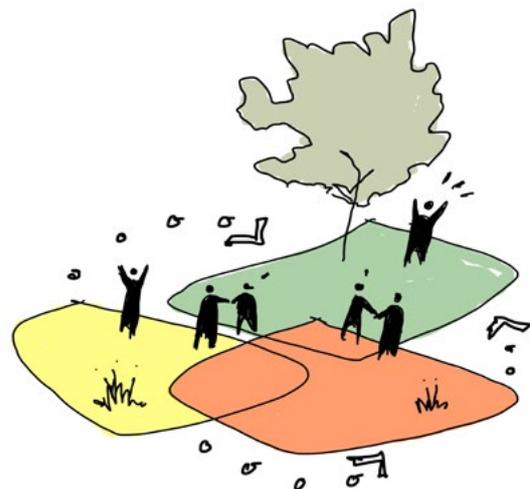
Protecting and conserving the environment



Improving pedestrian access



Supporting memorable visitor experiences



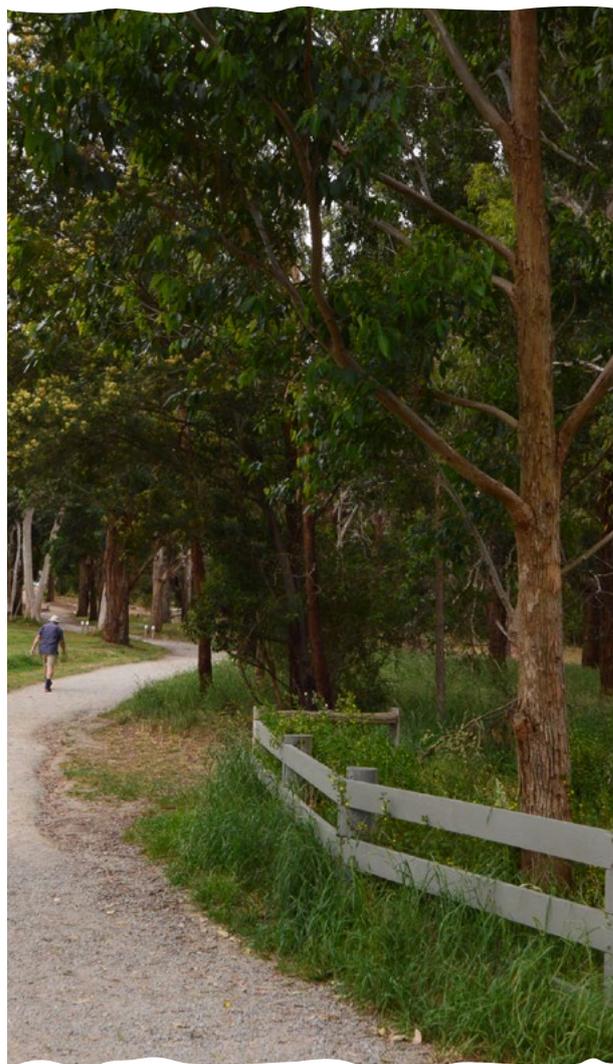
Managing the park and building partnerships

3.2.1 Protecting and conserving the environment

“Protect and enhance the bushland environment of Wattle Park to support important species and preserve this unique urban park.”

Key objectives

- Work in partnership with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to better understand and protect the ecological value of Wattle Park
- Consider climate change modeling in revegetation plans to renew waterways, regenerate water species and to strengthen resiliency against climate change
- Formalise entry points, trails and extend fencing to conservation areas to minimise environmental disturbance. Disperse and designate activities to suitable sections of the park (i.e. some areas for conservation and few visitors, and some visitor specified areas)
- Consider Wattle Park as part of an environmental corridor which contributes to urban biodiversity and conservation
- Regenerate the park's perimeter Wattle plantations and former Field Naturalists Club of Victoria planting beds
- Develop a tree replacement and renewal approach to actively manage the landscape and ecological character addressing the significant and characteristic trees within the park
- Provide education on the park's ecology and interpretation through opportunities such as volunteer led walks and initiatives identified in the Interpretation and Storytelling Strategy.

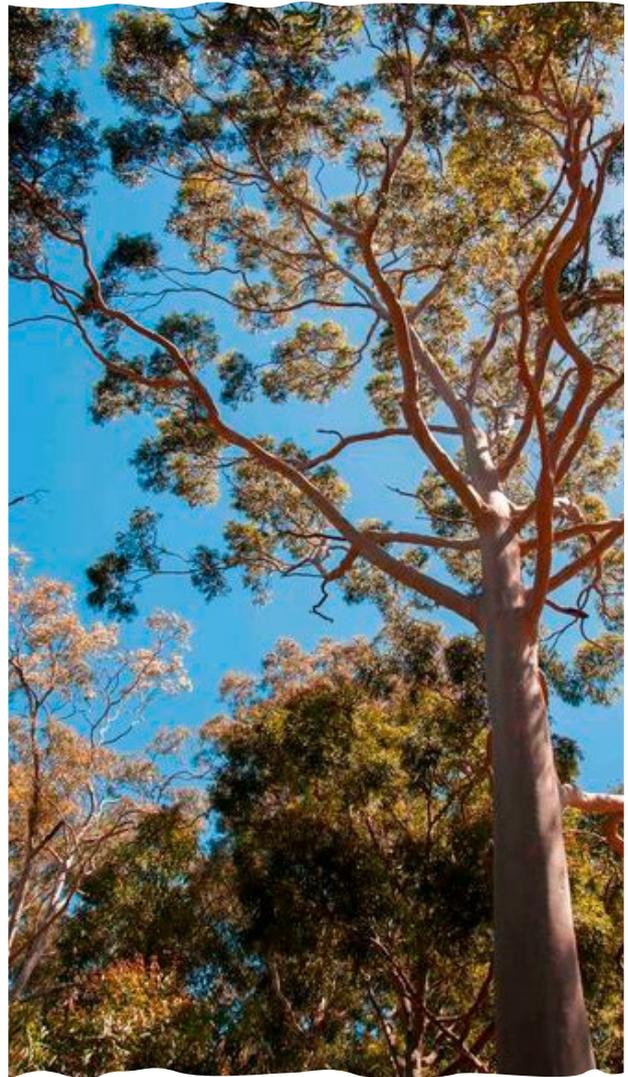


3.2.2 Recognising and protecting cultural heritage

“Activate Wattle Park to celebrate the rich heritage values in the park, that are well loved, well understood, and well maintained by Parks Victoria and the community.”

Key objectives

- Work in partnership with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung
- Provide education and interpretation about the park's cultural heritage through potential new interpretive opportunities such as narrative trails, volunteer led walks and other programs identified in the Interpretation and Storytelling Strategy. Identify opportunities for Wattle Park to evolve in a manner that will avoid, or minimise, the potential for detrimental impact on heritage values and attributes
- Ensure that the cultural heritage significance of the park is maintained and understood including but not limited to:
 - Its conceptual integrity as a tramways park with integrated native flora and fauna in Melbourne's eastern suburbs
 - Its functions as a place of passive and active recreation.
- Provide guidance and prioritise the ongoing maintenance and conservation of significant buildings, elements, areas and landscape features and qualities within the park
- Identify threats to the park's cultural heritage values
- Facilitate the management and conservation of attributes and elements of significance at Wattle Park within a policy framework that is robust, easily understood and consistent in its approach.



3.2.3 Supporting memorable visitor experiences

“Activate Wattle Park as an urban bushland park with experiences ranging from passive recreation, to formal sporting opportunities such as golf and cricket. Make sure the visitor experience caters to a diverse range of visitors now, and into the future.”

Key objectives

- Activate key assets such as the Wattle Park Chalet and stables by providing an offering to the wider community
- Host key events such as Wattle Day, and Tramways Band performances to bring attention to the park’s rich heritage
- Provide education and interpretation products and programs that support visitors to learn about the park’s key values
- Ensure that access for people of all abilities is a key consideration in the design, construction and the on going maintenance of trails and other visitor facilities
- Activate the park and celebrate its values through in park events
- Promote visitor experience that protects the natural values in the park, ensuring certain areas are undisturbed and set aside for conservation
- Maintain key visitor facilities such as toilets, seating, picnic areas etc.
- Ensuring programs and facilities which seek to provide for a greater diversity of users
- Consider safe shared use of the park, particularly regarding walkers, children, and cyclists.



3.2.4 Improving pedestrian access

Improve circulation networks into and within Wattle Park by providing more accessible pathways to key park amenities, as well as appropriate infrastructure that enables safe and equitable passage for all users.

Key objectives

- Improve accessibility where possible for all park users at park entrances and path networks
- Encourage people to move safely through the park
- Support and promote access to the park via public transport and pick-up and drop-off capability to key park amenities
- Support and promote network approaches to improve walking and cycling routes and access points
- Continue to develop contemporary and accessible information, orientation and wayfinding.



3.2.5 Managing the park and building partnerships

Ensure Wattle Park's past, present and future by strengthening existing relationships with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, stakeholders, commercial partners and the community to develop clear operational and collaborative outcomes for Wattle Park.

Key objectives

- Work in partnership with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to explore opportunities to express an appreciation of their cultural values for Wattle Park and surrounding significant sites (inc. art forms, interpretation, celebratory spaces, land management)
- Maintain the unique character of Wattle Park containing many diverse features and destinations
- Foster effective partnerships which assist the management of the park and/or support outstanding visitor experiences for the community
- Strengthen management and collaborative processes with commercial partnerships to ensure alignment with community needs
- Maintain and restore park facilities and elements to a state of good repair
- Review park uses and infrastructure every 5 years to ensure that they address community needs
- Recognise that Wattle Park is a heritage place that requires systematic and considered management, and a living entity that is subject to a range of social, economic, environmental and planning pressures.





Aerial Image
Wattle Park amenities precinct



4.0 Wattle Park Master Plan



4.1 Wattle Park Master Plan

As illustrated in Section 3.1, the Wattle Park Master Plan has proposed a number of themes. It has outlined opportunities to support the ongoing evolution of the park.

Wattle Park Master Plan Concept detail areas

The Wattle Park Master Plan has provided conceptual design for four areas within Wattle Park. These detail areas illustrate the design interventions that align with the Wattle Park Master Plan's Vision, Values, and Themes.

Delivery would require further detailed design, and implementation would be subject to available funding from government. These detail areas include:

- Tram shelter entries along Riversdale Road
- North eastern picnic space
- Patriotic areas featuring the Lone Pine and Memorial Clock Tower
- Lily Pond area.

Opportunities legend

Protecting and conserving the environment

-  Restore and enhance native vegetation and formalised planting and prioritise weed management.
-  Maintain and protect ecologically significant vegetation by expanding designated conservation areas.
-  Maintain and protect significant avenue plantings and vegetation.
-  Establish a tree renewal strategy in line with the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) (Indicative locations shown).
-  Improvements for playing field's surface and provide supporting facilities.
-  Investigate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) throughout the park.

Recognising and protecting cultural heritage

-  Conserve and maintain significant buildings, structures, and landscape features as per the CMP.
-  Enhance landscaping and amenities near the Clock Tower, Lone Pine, and the Service Memorial space.
-  Further explore reinterpreting the Lily Pond area as a terrestrial or rainwater feature.
-  Provide celebratory gathering spaces (new ceremonial spaces) acknowledging the park's Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural heritage and Traditional Owner custodianship.
-  Upgrade the heritage trams near the playground and explore opportunities for future community use.

Supporting memorable visitor experiences

-  Continue to activate Wattle Park Chalet for its social and commercial potential. Ensure there is a café offering, or similar, at the Wattle Park Chalet for visitors to the park.
-  Improve usage of sports oval through investment in supporting infrastructure such as the removal of the old dilapidated Pavilion and provide new changing rooms and lockers.
-  Investigate new landscape treatments including potential new planting and seating.
-  Provide a different functional space at the tennis courts to facilitate flexible sporting and community events.
-  Upgrade the existing toilet facility to enhance accessibility.
-  Provide wayfinding and legislative signage at key entry and exit points as well as key features to the park, including distance markers along the running track and oval.
-  Install Interpretive signage/devices to provide visitors with opportunities to understand and explore the cultural heritage and ecological values of the park.
-  Investigate ways to activate the Stables, Curator's Cottage, and Curator's Office.
-  Establish formal entrances to the park with improvements to landscaping and signage.
-  Consider formalising a central carpark near the Stables or identify overflow areas to support park events.
-  Create a visually prominent entry and public address to current and future activity spaces.
-  Continue to activate the golf course for its social and commercial potential.
-  Create new picnic spaces with accessible picnic furniture.

Improving pedestrian access

-  Investigate opportunities to increase accessibility through providing suitable paths and ramps (to Parks Victoria Grade 2.1 - Track and Trail Grading Manual) between the park amenities, car park areas, and external streets.
-  Upgrade existing park shelters to enable better access and mobility compliance to existing stair access.
-  Investigate potential rest stops including bench seating throughout the park and provide consistent, accessible furniture.
-  Consider providing new emergency access route to sports oval via the Golf Course car park, south of the potential new pavilion.
-  Investigate lighting enhancements to improve safety whilst considering environmental impacts.
-  Consider educative narrative trails contained within the Wattle Park Wayfinding and Storytelling Signage Strategy. These include natural and cultural trails.

Managing the park and building partnerships

-  Ensure ongoing maintenance and management of park assets including heritage buildings, footpaths, roads, vegetation, and amenities to foster ongoing partnerships with Traditional Owners, park tenants and operators, recreation and sports groups, Friends groups, volunteers, and other stakeholders of the park.
-  Improve compliance with people walking their dogs off-lead through legislative signage.
-  Establish a consistent fence type to existing Riversdale Road and Elgar Road interfaces. Investigate need to install new fencing along Warrigal Road.
-  Removal of the decommissioned tram driver's toilet and explore the opportunity for a picnic area at north eastern entrance.



Legend

- | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Enhance native vegetation | Celebratory gathering space | Activate buildings | Lighting enhancements | Lily Pond, fountains and rockery | Memorial Clock Tower |
| Ecologically significant vegetation | Upgrade heritage trams | Formal park entrances | Educative narrative trails | Curator's Cottage | Toilet block |
| Maintain significant vegetation | Activation of Wattle Park Chalet | Formalised carpark | Increased accessibility | Curator's Office | Band rostrum |
| Tree renewal | Investment in infrastructure | Entry to activity spaces | Park boundary | Stables | Wattle Park Chalet |
| Open grass spaces | New landscape treatments | Activation of golf course | Existing creek line | Pavilion | Tram picnic shelters |
| Water Sensitive Urban Design | Upgrade tennis court area | New picnic spaces | Existing bus stop | | |
| Significant buildings and structures | Upgrade toilet facility | Upgrade park shelters | Existing tram stop | | |
| Landscaping and amenities | Wayfinding and legislative signage | Bench seating rest stops | Existing Conservation Zone | | |
| Modern reinterpretation of Lily Pond area | Interpretive signage/devices | New emergency access route | | | |

NORTH NOT TO SCALE

4.2 Concept detail area 1: Tram waiting shelter entries



Figure 13: Detail area plan.

SCALE: NTS

Legend and key

- ① Bollards for vehicular protection at corner.
- ② Bitumen pavement to match key pathways within Wattle Park. New path system to provide direct access from Warrigal Road and Riversdale Road tram and bus stop.
- ③ Feature groundcover planting within new garden beds.
- ④ Entry Park Signage.
- ⑤ Conserve existing stone Tram Shelter.
- ⑥ Bluestone border walls reminiscent of former garden edge condition.
- ⑦ Timber fencing reminiscent of former landscape condition.
- ⑧ Screening vegetation behind timber fencing.
- ⑨ Existing gravel Walking and Running track.



Figure 14: Photograph circa 1930s. Source: Box Hill Historical Society.



Figure 15: View 01: Wattle Park tram waiting shelter at the intersection of Riversdale Road and Warrigal Road.



Figure 16: Tram waiting shelter at the intersection of Riversdale and Warrigal Road section elevation.



Figure 17: View 02: Wattle Park tram waiting shelter at the intersection of Riversdale Road and Warrigal Road.



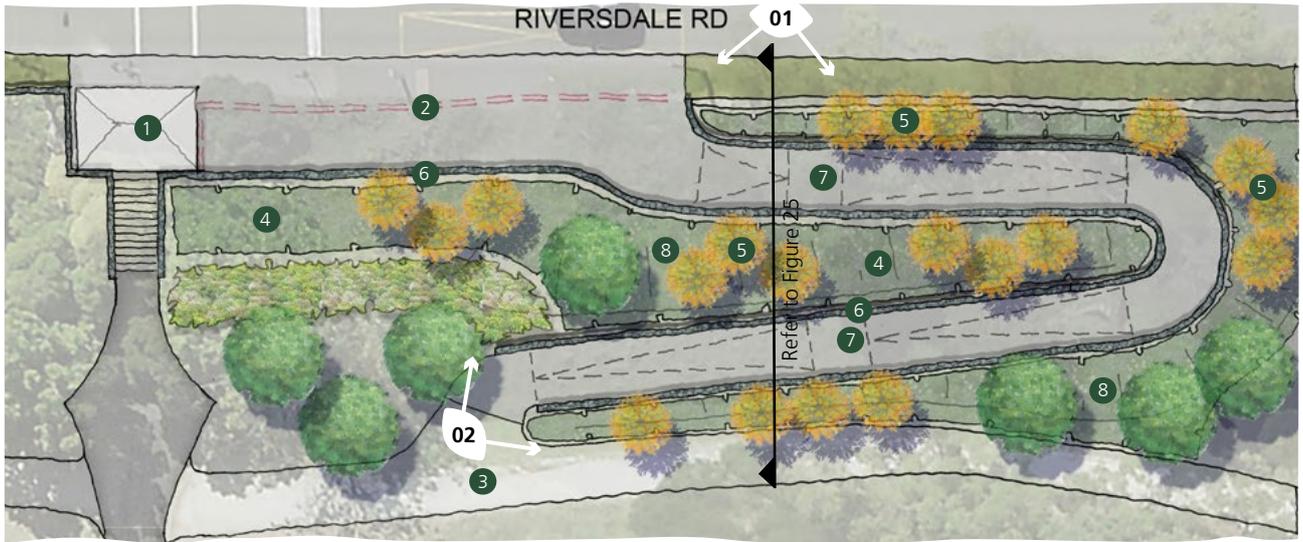


Figure 18: Riversdale Road and Alandale Street tram shelter detail area plan.

SCALE: NTS

NORTH



Legend and key

- ① Existing stone Tram Shelter and stair system behind to be retained and conserved.
- ② Existing retaining wall carefully deconstructed and rebuilt further south to accommodate compliant hardstand to bus and trams stops.
- ③ Existing gravel walking and running track.
- ④ Groundcover planting to new landscape batters.
- ⑤ Feature wattle planting to punctuate visual significance address to Riversdale Road.
- ⑥ Bluestone retaining walls to detail consistent with existing heritage condition.
- ⑦ Compliant 1:20 grade, 3.0m wide bitumen path.
- ⑧ Planted batters with maximum 1:3.



Figure 19: View 01: Riversdale Road and Alandale Street bitumen path facing east.



Figure 20: Riversdale Road and Alandale Street tram shelter section elevation.



Figure 21: View 02: Riversdale Road and Alandale Street tram shelter entry looking south.



4.3 Concept detail area 2: North Eastern Picnic Space

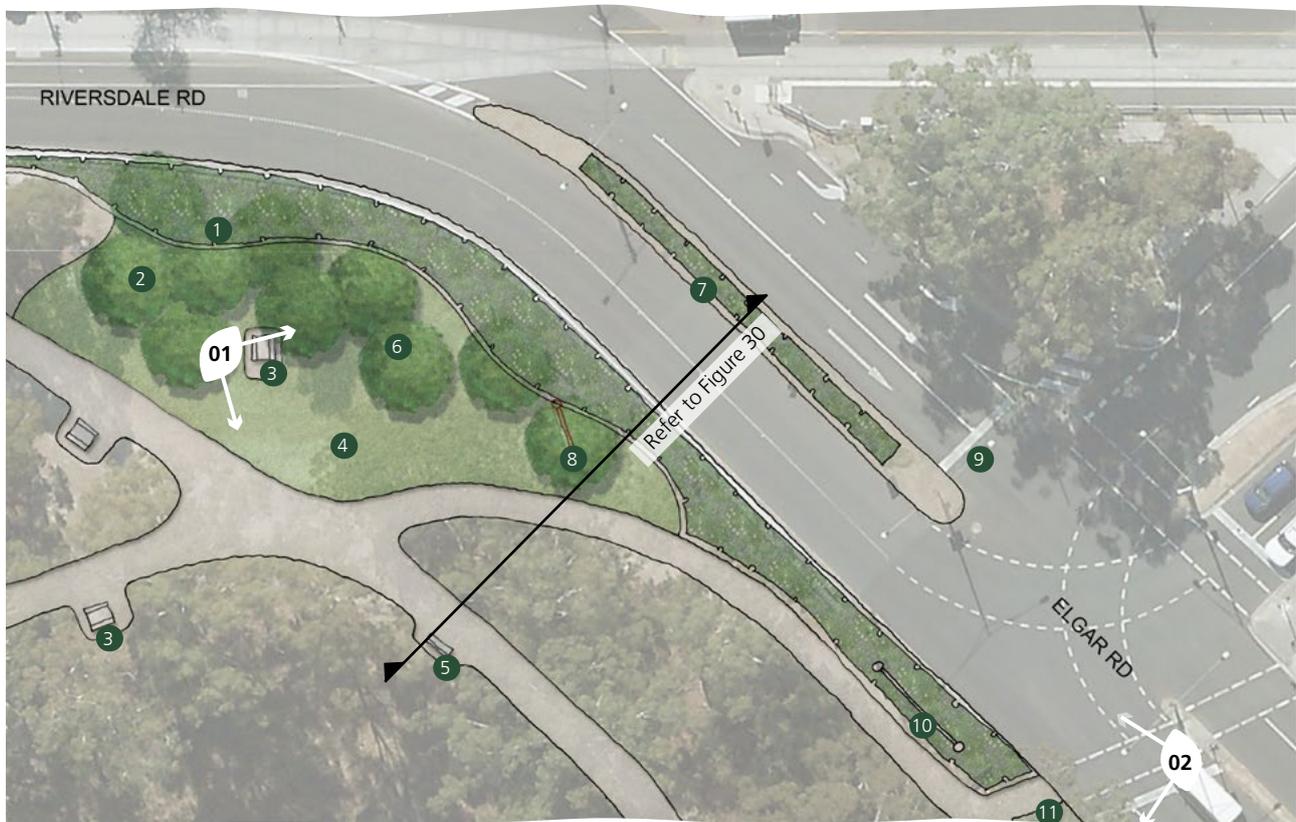


Figure 22: North eastern picnic space concept detail area plan.

SCALE: NTS

NORTH



Legend and key

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Low level , formal planting to highlight park from north-eastern approach and street address. ② Yarra Trams toilet facility and replaced with planting beds, grass and trees. ③ New and existing picnic settings to provide 'spill out' amenity to compliment nearby shops and trade activity. ④ Open grassed space for picnicking and socializing use. ⑤ New bench seating adjacent to Walking and Running Track. ⑥ New tree planting to vertically 'enclose' picnicking open space. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⑦ Enhance verge and median groundcover planting to create physical barrier whilst maintaining visual permeability. ⑧ Remove existing banner signage and replace in new position (refer No.10) ⑨ Potential to investigate new pedestrian crossing north of existing crossing. Revised crossing position to enable more direct access to park from tram terminus (subject to stakeholder consultation). ⑩ Relocated and enlarged banner signage to increase exposure to Elgar Road southbound and westbound traffic. ⑪ Existing pedestrian crossing to be retained. |
|--|---|



Figure 23: View 01: North eastern picnic space looking south east.



Figure 24: View 02: Elgar Road entry into North eastern picnic space looking north.





Figure 25: North eastern picnic space section elevation.



4.4 Concept detail area 3: Patriotic area



Figure 26: Patriotic area concept detail area plan.

SCALE: NTS NORTH

Legend and key

- 1 Coloured surface treatment to extend to Wattle Park Chalet and existing toilet block to visually suggest a shared pedestrian zone and wayfinding device. Colour to match gravel surface treatment to Patriotic Area
- 2 Existing central Wattle Park car park and turnaround.
- 3 Existing Clock Tower with special stone paving surround (raised profile) to punctuate the Clock Tower's visual presence within broader precinct. New pavements to consider impacts to adjacent Lone Pine's Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) and CMP.
- 4 Existing Lone Pine to be retained and protected. Proposed works within its TPZ to be designed to avoid impacts to tree.
- 5 Extend and consolidate gravel pavement within Patriotic Area. Remove existing portions of unconsolidated bitumen pavement and concrete edge extents to simplify and define the Patriotic Area's celebratory space.
- 6 Proposed new stone plinths with steel signage (interpretative) panels. Plinths also to provide additional vehicle protection from carpark ingress.
- 7 Protective steel circular 'collar' to define existing juvenile Lone Pine.
- 8 Gravel pavement extent to integrate celebratory space Walking and Running track oval segment.



Figure 27: View 01: Patriotic area looking south east from carpark.



Figure 28: View 02: Patriotic area looking south.





Figure 29: Patriotic area section elevation.



4.5 Concept detail area 4: Lily Pond area

Lily Pond Options Assessment

The Conservation Management Plan notes that there are several possible approaches to considering the future of the Lily Pond area, which all recognise the heritage values associated with this element of the park in different ways. The options include restoration, reinterpretation, replacement, and management as a ruin.

Parks Victoria engaged heritage experts Lovell Chen Architects and Heritage Consultants to assist in assessing the feasibility of pursuing each of these options given the full range of opportunities and constraints, including construction and ongoing maintenance costs, future sustainability, and its contribution to amenity and the heritage significance of Wattle Park.

The assessment considered four conceptual approaches:

- Option 1 - Restoration
Restore Lily Pond to its original condition
- Option 2a and 2b - Reinterpretation
Rebuild Lily Pond as a reinterpretation as a garden that retains rainwater, or serves as a terrestrial (dry) garden
- Option 3 - Replacement
Rebuild a contemporary reinterpretation of the Lily Pond as a separate water feature within a different portion of the the park
- Option 4 - Retention as ruin
Retain the Lily Pond's current state with low scale remediation works.

When considering all implications and the feasibility of all options, reinterpreting the Lily Pond (Options 2a and 2b) area either a terrestrial or rainwater feature is the preferred conceptual approach that will be explored further. Please refer to Figures 32 and 33 for conceptual representations of these preferred options.

There are many challenges associated with reinstating a water body, including the introduction of safety measures such as visually obtrusive fencing, and extensive works to the lining of the pond and associated hydraulic infrastructure.

The Lily Pond Options Assessment has been presented to Heritage Victoria, and further discussions will take place as design options for this area are undertaken in the future.

All proposals for works at Wattle Park are subject to rigorous heritage impact assessments, and Heritage Act approvals, to ensure that heritage values are not detrimentally impacted. The implementation of proposals would be subject to available funding from government.



Figure 30: *Dry garden, Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne*



Figure 31: *Rainwater filtration garden, Edinburgh Gardens*

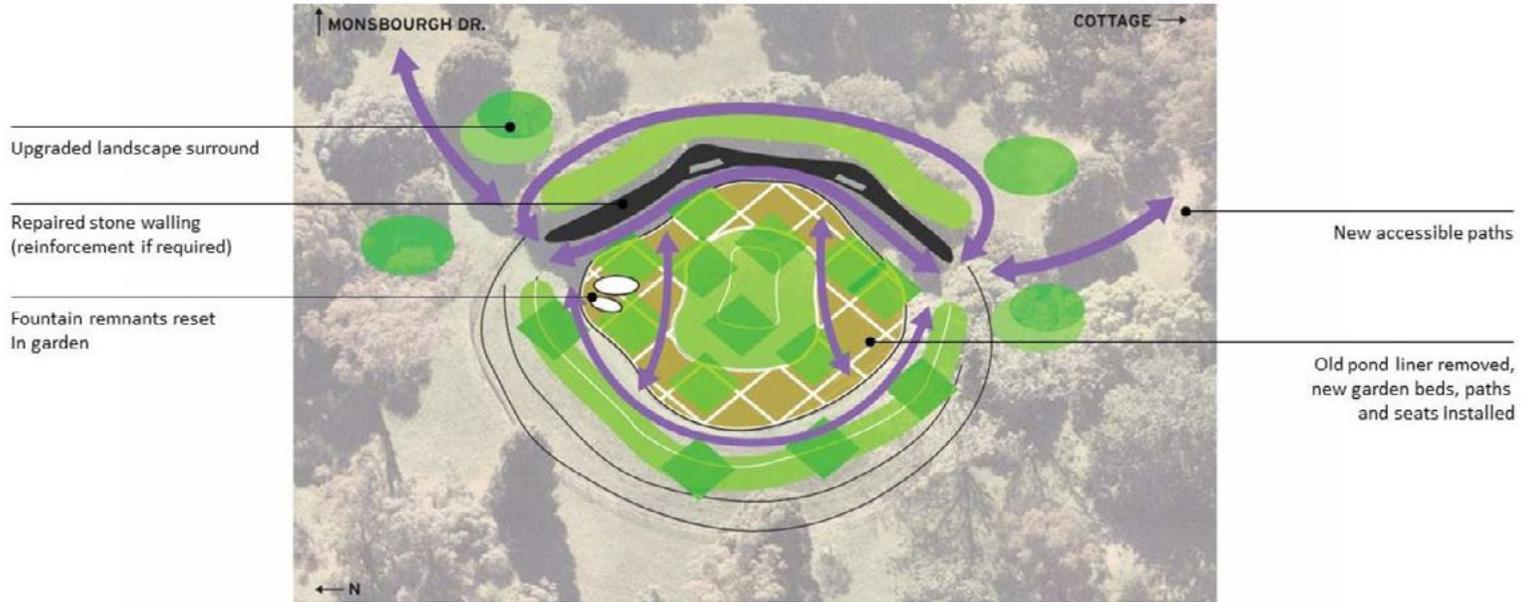


Figure 32: Conceptual representation of Lily Pond area as a terrestrial garden



Figure 33: Conceptual representation of Lily Pond area as a rainwater and terrestrial garden





'Bunjil' and 'Waa' Park sculptures
Wattle Park



5.0 Wattle Park Master Plan implementation



5.1 Wattle Park Master Plan implementation approach

This chapter outlines an implementation approach to support delivery of the Wattle Park Master Plan's vision, themes, key objectives and opportunities. It describes the broad process to be followed for achieving the vision, for sustainability of the park and key criteria to help make management decisions.

Opportunities will be further developed incrementally over time as funding becomes available. Detail design of the opportunities will be subject to further liaison with relevant stakeholders such as Heritage Victoria and other government bodies, and would be in compliance with planning and other statutory requirements.

The Wattle Park Master Plan has been informed by professional disciplines including Civil and Hydraulic Engineering, Ecology, Traffic Advisory, Access Consultancy and Cost Management (indicative).

The implementation approach provides initial guidance based upon an indicative Cost Plan which identifies estimated costs for each of the key opportunities in the Wattle Park Master Plan. More detailed design and cost estimates will be required to secure government and private sector investment in the future. Any programming and construction of new infrastructure will follow industry and government best practice.

When implementing the Wattle Park Master Plan's project opportunities, costings need to consider the associated planning and regulatory approval fees. Budgets for delivering opportunities will allow for staged works, artwork and community building, ground conditions and infrastructure, relocation of existing services, as well as legal and marketing activities.

Understanding all costs including planning, design, construction and maintenance, will determine the whole of life expenditure for delivering the Wattle Park Master Plan's opportunities and improving the park.



Concept Design of Wattle Park's new picnic area and playscape

5.2 Current interfacing projects

The Wattle Park Master Plan has integrated the following initiatives into the long term direction for the park. These include:

- The Conservation Management Plan
- Interpretation and Storytelling Strategy
- Wayfinding Strategy and Style Guide and Implementation Plan
- The Wattle Park Upgrades design package capturing new Walking and Running Track and Playscape amenities.

In addition, the Wattle Park Master Plan facilitates current and ongoing projects led by Wattle Park's Traditional Owners which are contained within the aforementioned interfacing projects. These include:

- Park Sculpture and Stencil Art (completed in April 2023) and Ceremonial Space (to be completed by end of 2023) contained within the Wattle Park Upgrades project
- Wurundjeri Country Narrative trails contained within the Interpretation and Storytelling Strategy.

Conservation Management Plan

The updated Conservation Management Plan (CMP) 2023 by Lovell Chen Pty Ltd is to be approved by Heritage Victoria. The new plan is to supersede the earlier CMP prepared in 1993.

The document aims to provide a practical guide to the management of Wattle Park. Its primary objectives are to:

- Articulate why Wattle Park is a place of cultural heritage significance
- Establish recommendations for the conservation and ongoing operation of the place having regard to its cultural significance, including the identification of culturally appropriate opportunities for change and interventions to support sustainable future uses.
- Identify areas, buildings, landscape treatments and attributes that are significant, as well as those that are not
- Identify community stakeholders with a demonstrated attachment to Wattle Park
- Identify issues and opportunities of relevance to the future of Wattle Park.

Interpretation and Storytelling Strategy

The Wattle Park Interpretation and Storytelling Strategy defines how Parks Victoria connects existing and new park visitors to place and nature by revealing the park's unique and layered stories and experiences.

The strategy provides an actionable framework for the development of engaging, destination specific narrative experiences, digital tools and interpretive signage that address the needs and accessibility of all users to improve the visitor experience.

The strategy guides decision making in the development of the implementation of the future Wattle Park Master Plan as it relates to the enhancement of visitor experience and interpretation.



Figure 34: Wattle Park Upgrades playscape and associated play elements.

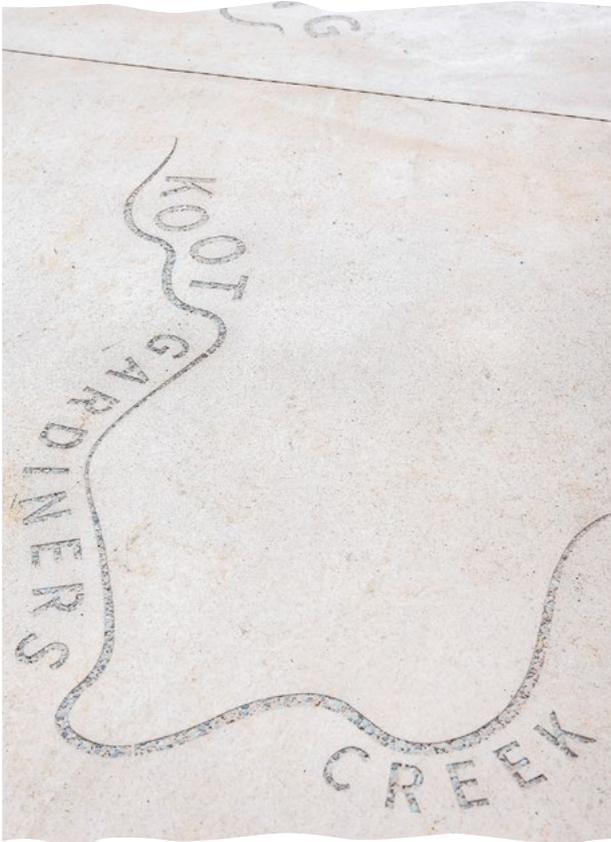


Figure 35: Wattle Park Upgrades stencil art and park sculpture designed by Shlomit Moria and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung.



Wayfinding Strategy and Style Guide

The Wattle Park Wayfinding Strategy and Style Guide 2023 will define a whole of Wattle Park approach to creating a legible environment for park visitors to find destinations and orient themselves in the park. The Strategy will seek to improve the visitor experience by making the park easy to navigate while considering the diversity of visitors and experiences the park has to offer.

The Style Guide describes the look and feel of wayfinding and interpretive signage in Wattle Park that is responsive and appropriate to the heritage and ecological values of the park and aligned with Parks Victoria branding.

Sources: Interpretive and Storytelling Strategy, and Wayfinding Strategy and Style Guide

Wattle Park Upgrades

As a part of the Suburban Parks funding program, Parks Victoria has delivered a walking and running track, and an all abilities playscape and upgraded picnic area.

The design response incorporated feedback received via engagement with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders, the community as well as key stakeholders.



Figure 36: Wattle Park Upgrades play elements

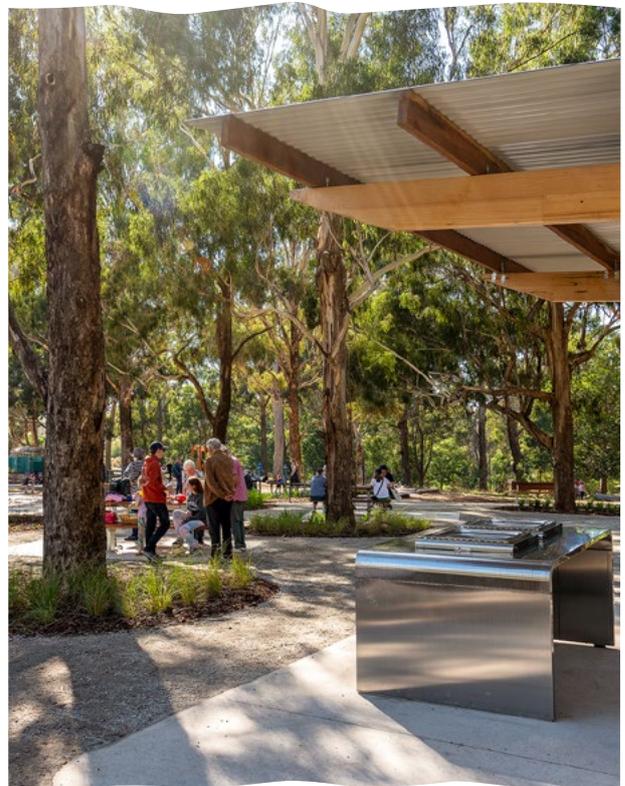


Figure 37: Wattle Park Upgrades BBQ area

5.3 Collaboration with Traditional Owners

Park sculpture, stencil art and ceremonial space

The Wattle Park Upgrades project presented a number of opportunities for Traditional Owner led design initiatives including interpretive park sculpture and stencil art, as well as a ceremonial space equipped with a central fire dish. The playscape sculptures and stencil art was completed in April 2023.

The ceremonial space will provide several opportunities for positive activity within Wattle Park. These opportunities may include the potential for Wurundjeri Elders to conduct smoking and 'Welcome to Country' ceremonies for specific events and times during the year, as well as interpretive and educative resources for visitors and users of the park.



Figure 38: Indicative image of a ceremonial space provided by Greenshoot Consulting



Figure 39: Park sculpture design by Shlomit Moria and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung.

Narrative trails

The Interpretation and Storytelling Strategy developed three themes to guide the content for interpretive elements throughout Wattle Park, namely Wurundjeri Country, Non-Aboriginal and Ecological. The aim of these themes is to provide engaging and memorable experiences for the park's users.

Narrative trails would guide a path of travel revealing cultural elements along its route. These elements are incorporated into key destinations acknowledging the unique heritage of Wattle Park, and can be viewed in sequence or in isolation. The trails create opportunities for park users to learn how the narratives overlap and allow the public to learn about aspects of the park's cultural heritage and values not previously made visible.

The Wurundjeri Country Trail, with interpretive elements and content guided by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders hopes to reveal and educate visitors of the Wurundjeri's deep connection to Country and Wattle Park.

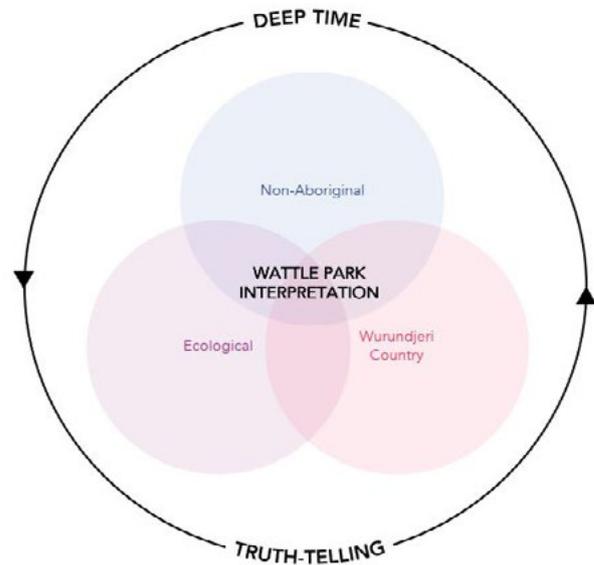
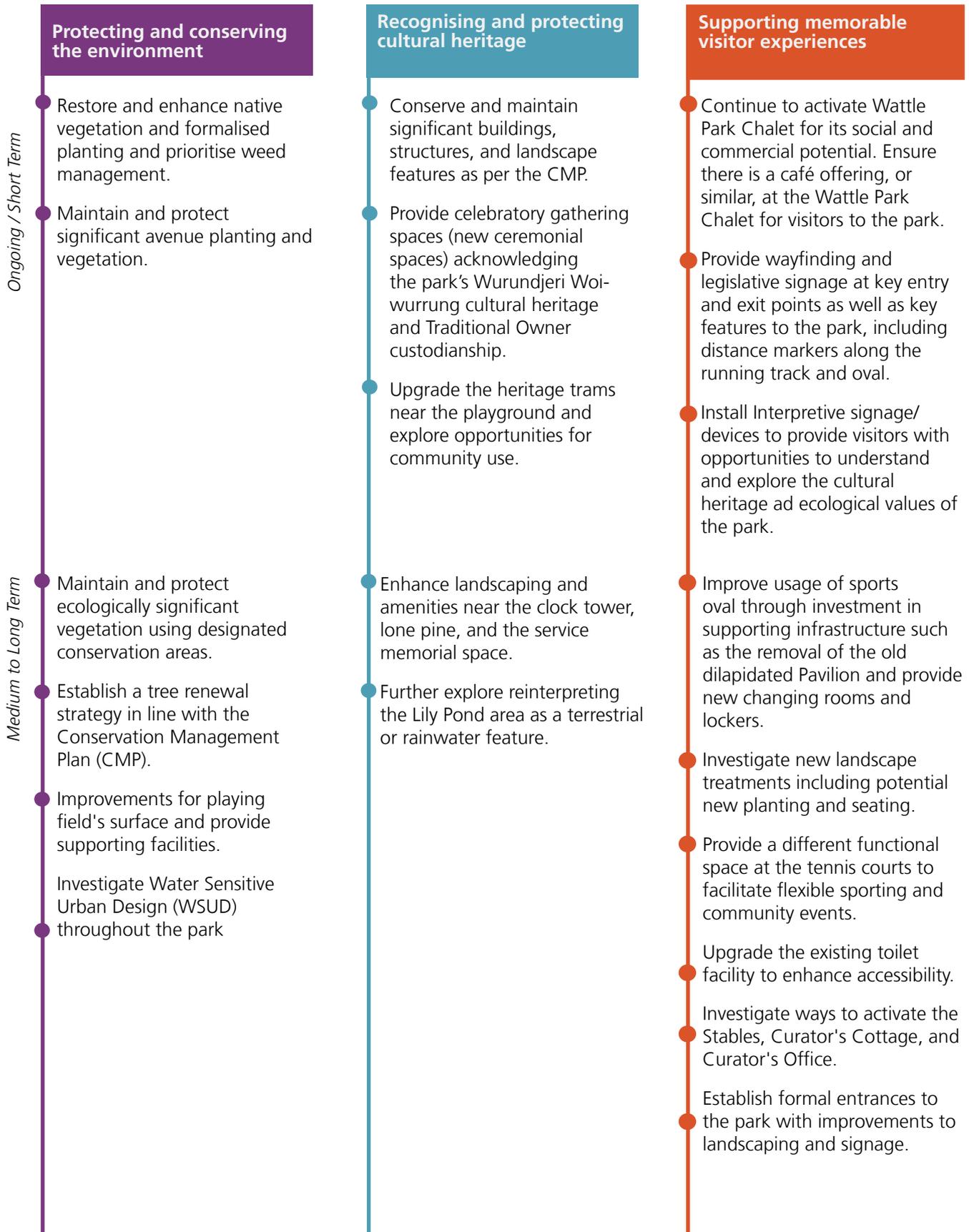


Figure 40: Wattle Park Interpretation themes by Greenshoot Consulting



5.4 Wattle Park Master Plan implementation Strategy



Supporting memorable visitor experiences (continued)

- Consider formalising a central carpark near the Stables or identify overflow areas to support park events.
- Create a visually prominent entry and public address to current and future activity spaces.
- Continue to activate the golf course for its social and commercial potential
- Create new picnic spaces with accessible picnic furniture.

Improving pedestrian access

- Investigate opportunities to increase accessibility through providing suitable paths and ramps (to Parks Victoria Grade 2.1 - Track and Trail Grading Manual) between the park amenities, car park areas, and external streets.
- Upgrade existing park shelters to enable better access and mobility compliance to existing stair access.
- Investigate potential rest stops including bench seating throughout the park and provide consistent, accessible furniture.
- Consider providing new emergency access route to sports oval via the Golf Course car park, south of the potential new pavilion.
- Investigate lighting enhancements to improve safety whilst considering environmental impacts.
- Consider educative Narrative Trails contained within the Wattle Park Wayfinding and Storytelling Signage Strategy. These include natural and cultural trails.

Managing the park and building partnerships

- Ensure ongoing maintenance and management of park assets including heritage buildings, footpaths, roads, vegetation, and amenities.
- To foster ongoing partnerships with Traditional Owners, park tenants and operators, recreation and sports groups, Friends groups, volunteers, and other stakeholders of the park.
- Improve compliance across the park, including people walking their dogs off lead, vandalism and other non-compliant behaviour.
- Establish a consistent fence type to existing Riversdale Road and Elgar Road interfaces. Investigate need to install new fencing along Warrigal Road.
- Removal of the decommissioned tram driver's toilet and explore the opportunity for a picnic area at north eastern entrance.





Wattle Park Playscape



Appendix A: Wattle Park Background Assessment

A.1 Planning Context

Zones

The majority of the park is surrounded by General Residential Zone 1 (GRZ1) and Neighbourhood Residential Zone 5 (NRZ5) and smaller areas of Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z) along Riversdale Road.

The entirety of Wattle Park is within the Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ), which is commonly applied to public parks and reserve to conserve these areas for recreation and open space. The park is recognised in local planning policy as having regional and potentially state importance as an open space for leisure and recreation.

A substantial area of the western parkland is included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR H0904) and is afforded protection under the Heritage Act 2017. This heritage registration is recorded in the heritage overlay of the *Whitehorse Planning Scheme* as HO4.

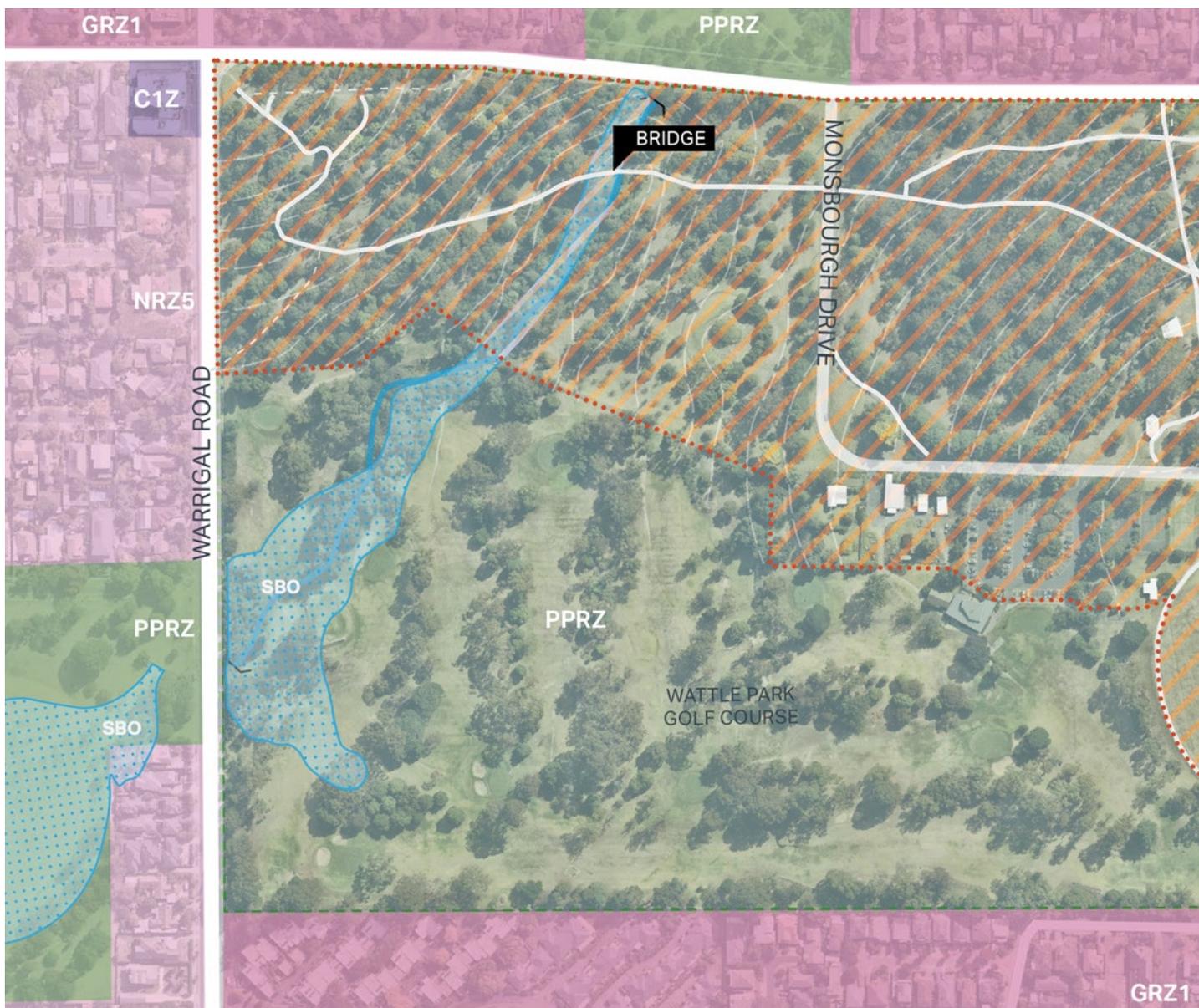
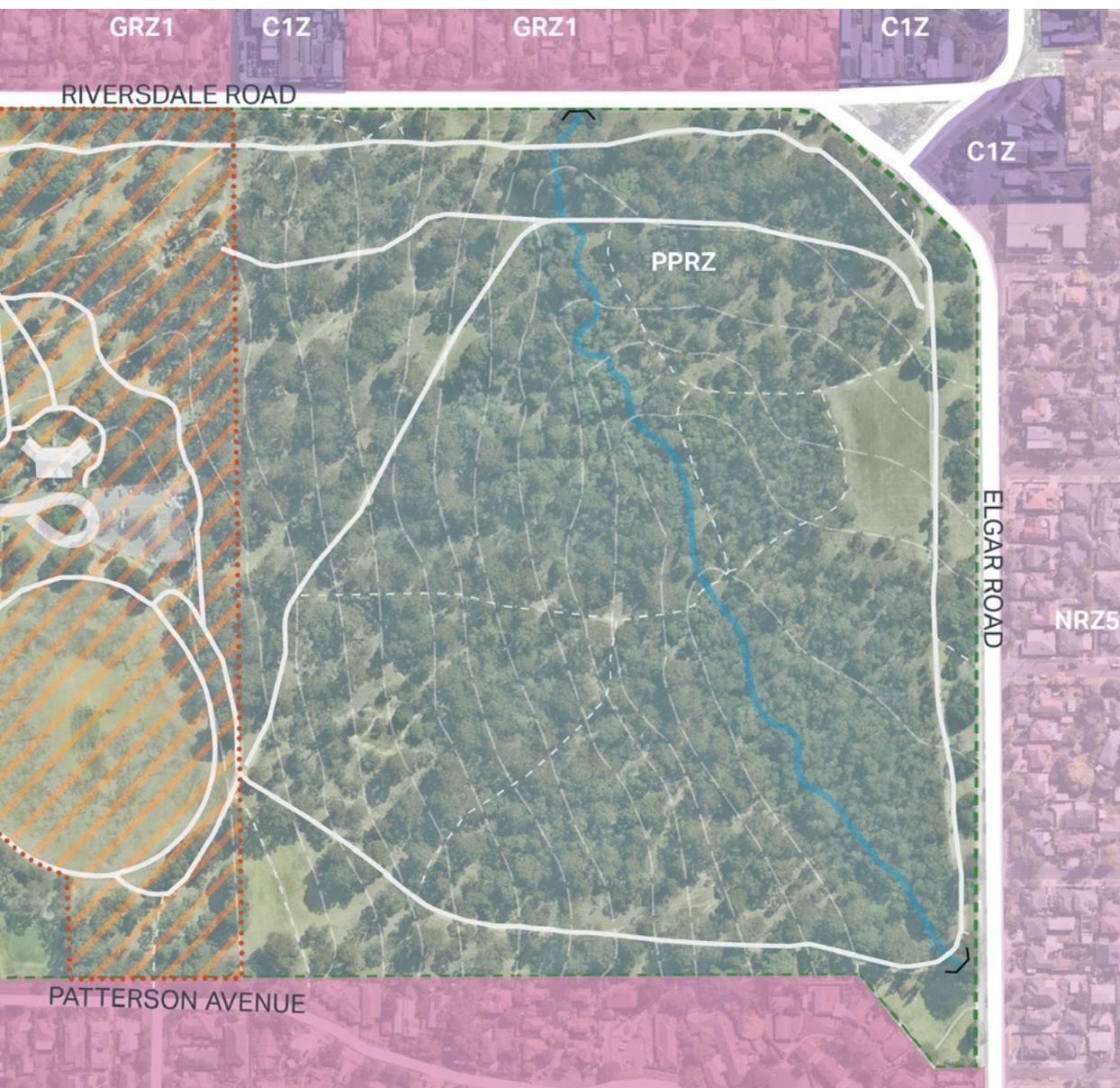


Figure A3: Planning Context Map

LEGEND

-  Neighbourhood Residential Zone 5 (NRZ5)
-  General Residential Zone 1 (GRZ1)
-  Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z)
-  Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)
-  Special Building Overlay (SBO)
-  Heritage Registration



A.2 Victorian Heritage Register (VHR)

A substantial area of the western park is included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR ref. No. H0904). The Victorian Heritage Database Report Wattle Park describes the site as:

'the only example in Australia of a comprehensively developed pleasure park established, owned and operated by a transport authority with the dual aim of promoting its transport services and providing a recreational facility for the public'.

The site registration includes all the land and footpaths and pavements within H0904, and identifies a number of significant features including:

Tram Waiting Shelter (corner Riversdale and Warrigal Roads); lily pond, fountains and rockery; main drive fencing; tram waiting shelter and rockery (Riversdale Road); playground shelter; tram body picnic shelter; tram body picnic shelter; band rostrum; Wattle Park Chalet; toilet block; memorial clock tower; tennis court shelters; disused toilet block; Curator's Office; former homestead outbuilding; and Curator's Cottage.

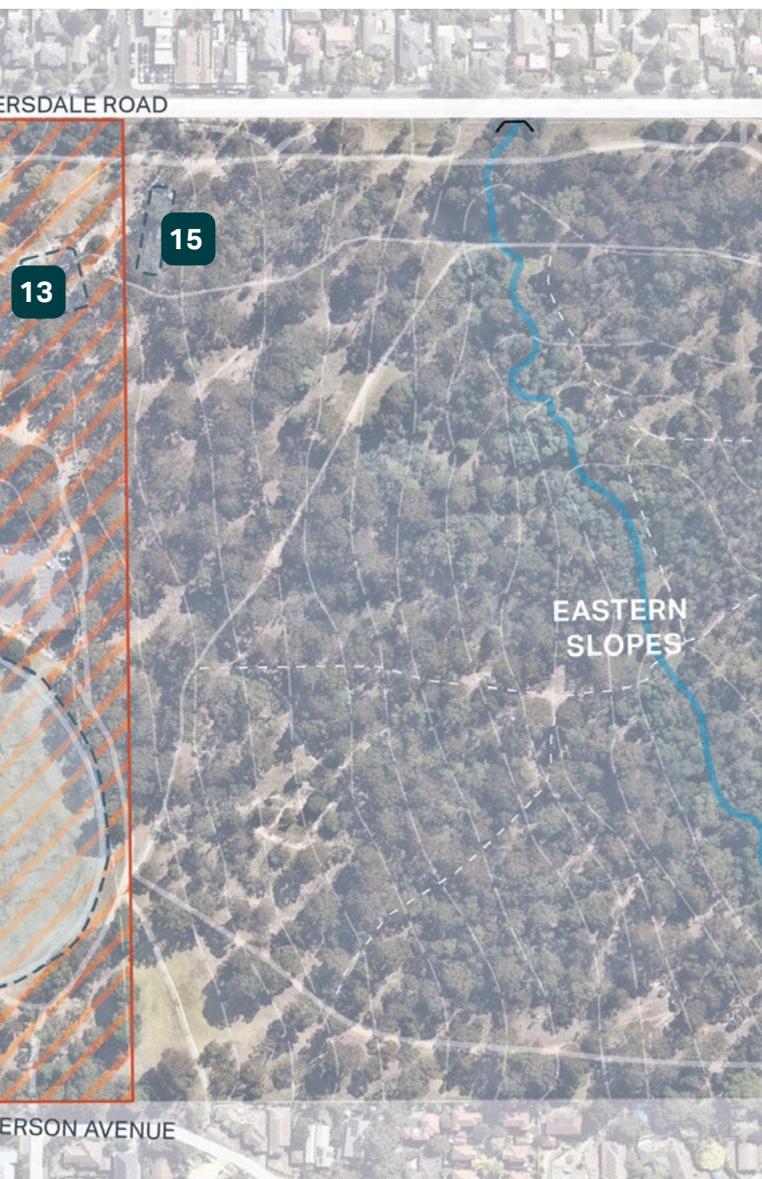
As a registered place, Wattle Park is subject to the *Heritage Act 2017*. Works within the extent of the heritage registration are subject to the approval of Heritage Victoria; most works require a heritage



Figure A4: Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Map

permit, some may qualify for a permit exemption. Proposed works must be carefully developed so as not to impact the heritage significance of Wattle Park.

As the land manager, Parks Victoria is responsible for ensuring that the heritage significance of Wattle Park is conserved, including undertaking preventive maintenance and restoration works to significant built features, managing the park landscape and investing in amenities which support the values of the park. Parks Victoria is responsible for managing the park in accordance with the *Heritage Act 2017* and with the guidance provided in the Wattle Park CMP.



LEGEND

Key buildings, features, and landscaping

- 1** Wattle Park Chalet
- 2** Tram Waiting Shelter
- 3** Tram Waiting Shelter and Rockery
- 4** Stables
- 5** Curator's Cottage
- 6** Curator's Office
- 7** Entry and Main Driveway
- 8** Main Drive Fencing
- 9** Fountain and Lily Pond
- 10** Tennis Courts Shelters
- 11** Memorial Clock Tower and Lone Pine
- 12** Band Rostrum
- 13** Playground Shelter
- 14** Oval
- 15** Tram Body Shelters
-  Notable Heritage Structures and Elements



A.3 Visitor Services and Built Form

Wattle Park Chalet

Wattle Park Chalet was built in 1928 by the Tramways Board during the park's initial development to provide a food and entertainment venue for park users. Incorporating a picturesque form and some recycled materials, its opening coincided with the extension of the Riversdale Road tram line to the park's western entrance at Elgar Road. (current No. 70 tram terminus).

Since then, it has operated continuously as a cafe, dance hall and reception venue for thousands of parties, weddings and special functions. It currently performs as a wedding reception venue, with photographic opportunities such as the quintessential bridal party image captured within one of the park's Tram Shelters.

Enclosing a private courtyard garden in the centre of the park, the Tudor style building creates an elegant, peaceful and secluded setting for which Provincial Events currently manage.

Wattle Park Golf Course

The Wattle Park Golf Course was established in 1937 shortly after other nearby sporting facilities (such as the tennis courts and croquet lawns) were offered to the public. The course offers a nine hole layout and has proved popular ever since. The former Australian Open, US Open and US Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA) champion David Graham launched his professional career when he won the Wattle Park junior title in 1960.

The Golf Course offers a relaxing, yet challenging alternative to some of Melbourne's often crowded public courses. A Golf Shop and cafe is open to patrons using the course or nearby facilities. The Golf Course also offers tennis hard and grass court hire.

Subsidiary Buildings and Shelters

A variety of amenity and service buildings have been constructed in Wattle Park since the 1920s. These include various shelters, a Band Rostrum, children's playgrounds and toilet blocks. Recently a new toilet block was constructed to the west of Wattle Park Chalet (2004) and a new children's playspace was approved, to be constructed in 2023.

Redundant cable tram cars, made superfluous by the electrification of the Swanston Street cable tramway in 1925, were modified and placed within

the centre of the park near the children's playground. In the years since the original car shelters have been repeatedly replaced from stockpiled electric tram bodies to address damage and loss.

At that time, being a tramways destination, visitors arriving and departing from Wattle Park were deserved of comfort. Tram shelters built from ornamental stone were erected in 1929. These were situated at the corner of Riversdale Road and Warrigal Road, and midway along the park's northern boundary.

In 1930, a central works depot and nursery was constructed for the management and maintenance of the park. An out-building of the former homestead was converted into a mess room and store, whilst a timber tram shelter was relocated to the site and rebuilt to serve as the park curator's office to serve as the Curator's Office. This building was once erected by the Prahan and Malvern Tramways Trust on the corner of St Kilda Road and High Street in 1913.

A new Curator's Cottage complimenting the architectural style of Wattle Park Chalet was built in 1932 replacing the original homestead building at the corner of the Monsborough Drive driveway. The cottage now hosts meetings of the Wattle Park Basket Weavers Association.



Wattle Park Chalet and External Gardens

A.4 Landscape Character Zones

Character Composition

The western and central portion of the park identified within the Victorian Heritage Register possess distinct characters based upon their location, built features and historical uses and current functions.

The Character Zones contain many distinct, recognisable, and consistent elements which provide each zone with a comprehensive 'sense of place' which greatly differs from other surrounding parks and open spaces within Melbourne.

LEGEND

VHR Character Zones

	Western Slopes		Amenities Precinct
	Arrival Precinct		Patriotic Area
	Lily Pond		

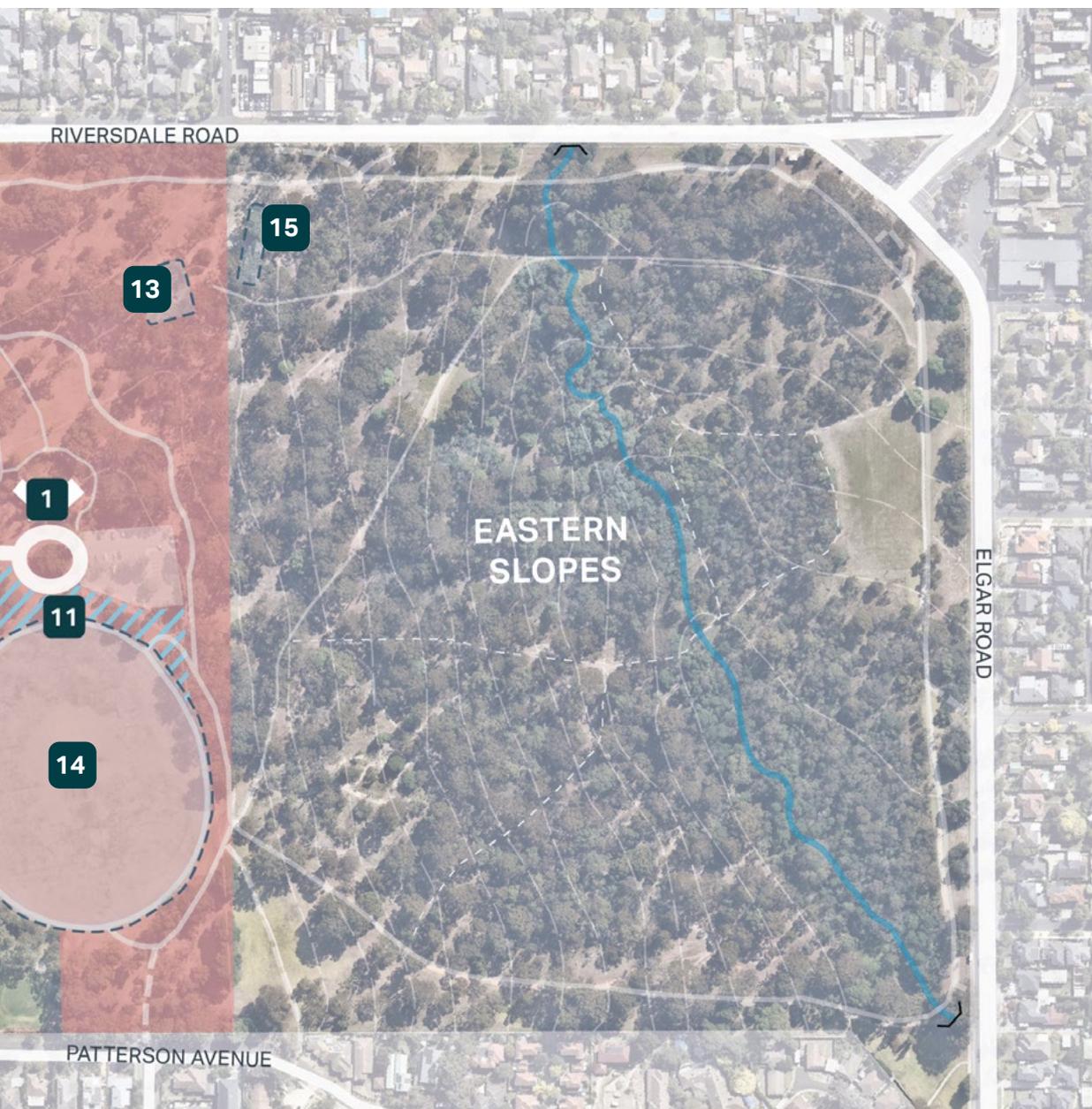


Figure A5: Landscape Character Zones

LEGEND

Structures of Primary Significance

- | | | | | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 1 | Wattle Park Chalet | 7 | Entry and Main Driveway | 13 | Play ground Shelter |
| 2 | Tram Waiting Shelter | 8 | Main Drive Fencing | 14 | Oval |
| 3 | Tram Waiting Shelter and Rockery | 9 | Lily Pond | 15 | Tram Body Shelters |
| 4 | Stables | 10 | Tennis Courts Shelters | | |
| 5 | Curator's Cottage | 11 | Memorial Clock Tower and Lone Pine | | |



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Landscape Character Zones: Exemplar Images



Figure A6: Eastern and Western Slopes Ecologies



Figure A7: Arrival Precinct (Curator's Cottage)



Figure A8: Amenities Precinct - A performance of the Tramways Band at the rostrum, 1976
Source: MMTB Annual Report, 1976 (courtesy of the Melbourne Tram Museum).



Figure A9: An array of images showing Landscape Characters.
 Top Centre Right - Tree planting ceremony at Wattle Park, July 1926. Source: Box Hill Historical Society



A.5 Ecology

There are sections of Wattle Park which have retained its mature, native vegetation. The current, dominant vegetation profile includes mainly *Acacia* and *Eucalyptus* species, where significant examples have been recognised and protected throughout. The park is currently listed as having 112 species of bird (including Australian Magpie, Kookaburra and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo), 11 mammals (including possums and bats) and 5 reptiles (skinks and gecko) (Atlas of Living Australia, 2021).

Flora

No threatened flora species identified by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) Act Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) and/or Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) were considered to 'Likely' be present within the park.

Fauna

Two species *Pteropus poliocephalus* (Grey-headed Flying-fox) and *Callocephalon fimbriatum* (Gang-gang Cockatoo) are listed under the EPBC Act (Vulnerable) and listed under the *Flora and Fauna*



Figure A10: EVC and Significant Tree Plan

Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG) Act are considered 'Likely' to occur within the park. It is considered likely that the species use trees within the study area as a foraging resource and roosting at night. Efforts should be made to avoid interference with mature trees (both native and exotic) where practicable.

Ecological Vegetation Classes EVC (SP.)

Three Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) were recorded within the study area Grassy Woodland (EVC 175), Valley Grassy Forest (EVC 47), Creekline Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 164). EVCs are considered to be synonymous with National or State threatened ecological communities.

LEGEND

-  Ecological Vegetation Class (SP.) Class 47 - Valley Grassy Woodland
-  Ecological Vegetation Class (SP.) Class 164 - Creekline Herb-rich Woodland
-  Ecological Vegetation Class (SP.) Class 175 - Grassy Woodland
-  Remnant Indigenous Vegetation : Places of Primary Significance and Site Development Guidelines - Conservation Management Plan 1993 - Figure 113
-  Natural Forest Sanctuary (Peppermint and other Gums) : MMTB Plan 803. Wattle Park Layout of Planting 1933
-  Extent of Conservation Fencing



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A.6 Vegetation History

According to a 1917 Vegetation Report by the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria, planting of the previously cleared and thinned portions of Wattle Park comprised of trees grouped with similar species. The surviving planting includes senescent acacias and eucalyptus. Remnant vegetation was also recognised in the report.

The report identifies a list of plants within the H0904 VHR extent. They were divided into smaller zone boundaries defined by physical features. The most widely planted tree, *Eucalyptus botryoides* (Mahogany Gum) has been widely planted throughout Melbourne.

Zone A

Overgrown arboretum-style plantings containing a mix of exotic and native species, including East Coast rainforest selections, which has taken on the character of a naturalised woodland.

Zone B

Cultivated Mahogany gums and other Eucalyptus give a woodland character. Poor drainage and soil conditions has resulted in stunted tree growth.

Zone C

Tall cultivated woodland comprising native amenity trees and formal plantings such as Paperbark Avenue.



Figure A11: Vegetation History Map Source - Field Naturalists Club of Planting Beds - Detail outlines and approximate extent of clearing (pre-1917) Appendix C - 9 - 1931 Planting and Development up to 1931 (Interpretation of 1931 aerial photo).

Zone D

Dominated by tall specimens of *Eucalyptus bosistoana* (Coast Grey Box), cultivated mid 20th Century with open character due to vegetation removal.

Zone E

Excellent views of Melbourne with planting in the east merging with remnant vegetation.

Zone F

The Arboretum linear group plantings of single species are of minor historical significance and representative of infill planting to large areas which was not uncommon in the early years of the 20th century.

LEGEND



Circa 1930s Ornamental Plantings, Overlain In The 1950s with Eucalyptus : Conservation Management Plan 2023 - Figure 22 : Levels of Significance: soft landscape elements



Natural Forest Sanctuary (Peppermint and other Gums) : MMTB Plan 803. Wattle Park Layout of Planting 1933



Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Planting Beds and Early Wattle Plantings : MMTB Plan 1931 (Interpretation of 1931 Aerial Photo)



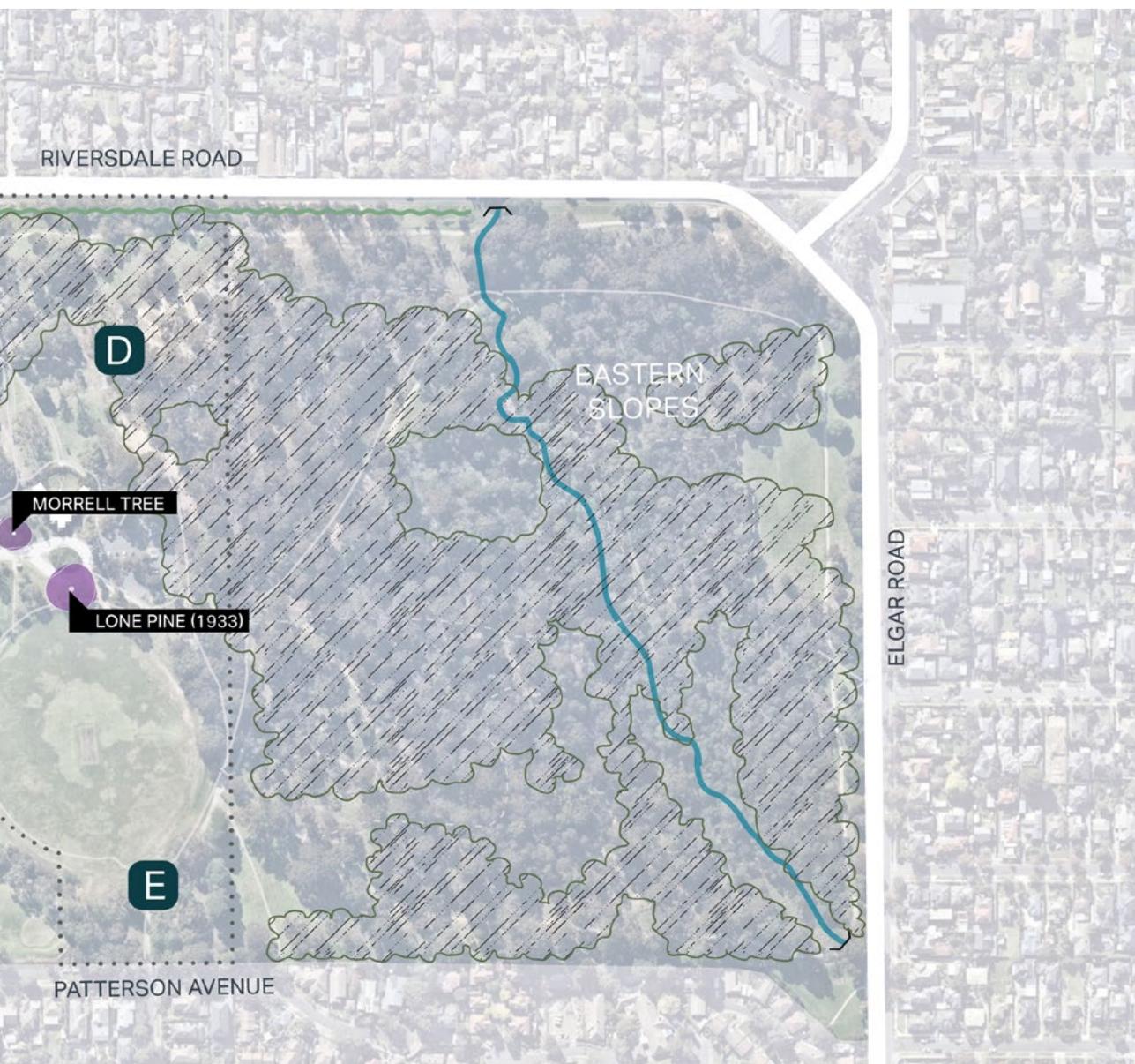
Individually Significant Trees : Places of Primary Significance and Site Development Guidelines - Conservation Management Plan 1993 - Figure 113



Wattle Perimeter Planting : MMTB Plan 803. Wattle Park Layout of Planting 1933



Victorian Heritage Registered (VHR) Area H0904



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A.7 Geomorphology

The underlying geology of the site includes two formations. The first of these is Tertiary era, Pliocene to Miocene epoch, Brighton Group (Tpb/Nb) fluvial deposits made up of gravel, sand and silt.

The second geological feature is Silurian era, Lower epoch Anderson Creek Formation (Sla/sxa) marine thick to thin bedded deposits containing sandstone, siltstone and minor conglomerate.

Additional geotechnical studies will need to be performed in localised areas where construction works are proposed as a part of the Master Plan.

LEGEND



Tertiary Era - Tpb/Nb Zone

Fine to coarse sands, with minor poorly sorted gravels, poorly consolidated.



Qra Zone

Low-level alluvium; unconsolidated detrital material such as beach sands, clay, silt and gravel.



Silurian Era - Sla Zone

Massive siltstones, interbedded with thin sandstones. Occasional bunches of massive, laminated and current bedded greywackes, conglomerates, and clast beds.

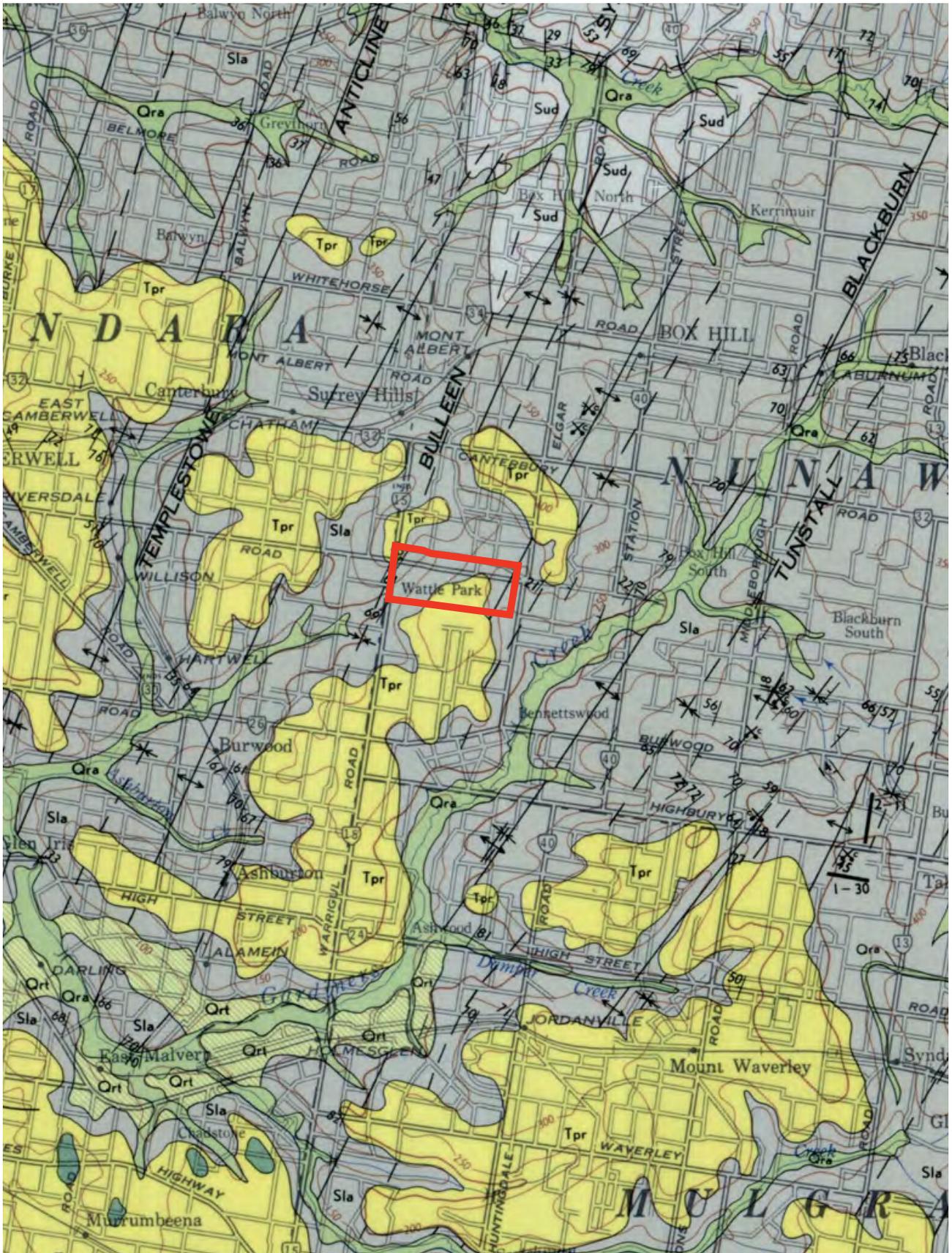


Figure A12: Melbourne and Suburbs 1:31 680 Geological Map (1959)

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A.8 Maintaining Important View Lines

Wattle Park's age and innate topography provides visitors with views across the vast open space. The establishment of road and park infrastructure, coupled with the maturing of its vegetative tree structure has gifted the park with impressive view sheds for all users to appreciate.

The composition of the park's built form allow for axial view sheds toward key assets such as Wattle Park Chalet, Memorial Clock Tower, Playscape and Curator's Cottage at the corner of Monsborough Drive.

Framed by the park's established tree structure, the park's key view sheds offer key qualities to the park's user experience(s).



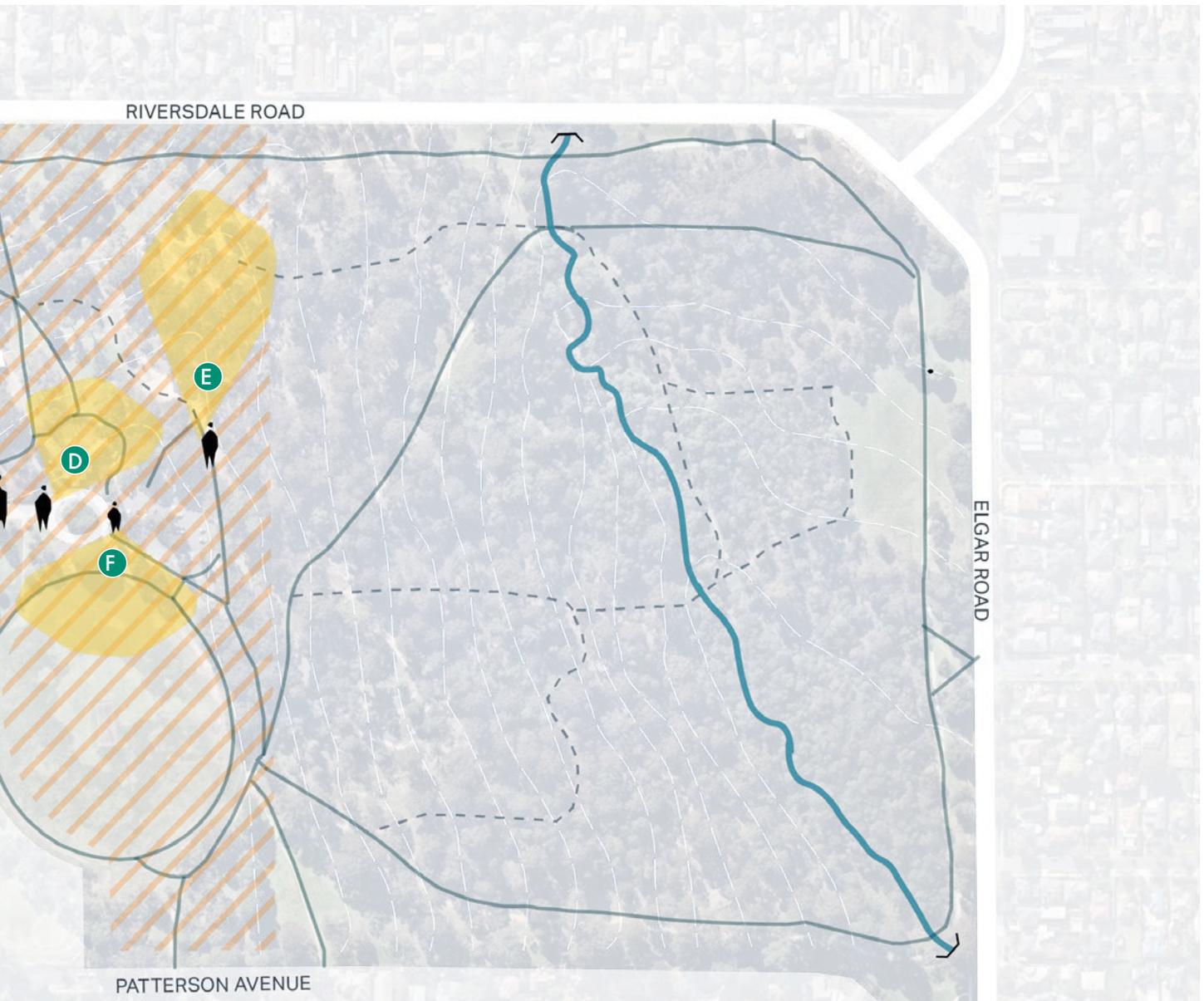
Figure A13: View Lines Plan

LEGEND

-  Key View Sheds
-  Existing Trails
-  Existing Informal Trails
-  Existing Creek Alignments
-  Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Site HO904

View Shed Listing

- A** Toward Tram Shelter
- B** Monsborough Drive south toward Curator's Cottage
- C** Monsborough Drive west toward Curator's Cottage and toward Melbourne CBD Skyline
- D** Monsborough Drive north-east toward Curator's Cottage
- E** Toward Playscape
- F** Toward Memorial Clock Tower and Oval



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Figure 01: *Tram shelter corner*



Figure 02: *Monsborough Drive south toward Curator's Cottage*



Figure 03: *Monsborough Drive west toward Curator's Cottage*



Figure 04: *Monsborough Drive north-east toward Curator's Cottage*



Figure 05: *Toward playscape*



Figure 06: *Toward clock tower and oval*

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A.9 Movement and Access

The dominant pedestrian route traverses the perimeter of the eastern portion of the park, whilst the western route dissects the open space with a singular 'switchback' path. Pedestrian access to these routes are from the surrounding road network connections; Riversdale Road, Elgar Road, Warrigal Road and Patterson Avenue.

An internal path system connects the main circulation route to destinations within the park, such as Wattle Park Chalet, playscape and picnic area, Wattle Park Oval and Golf Club. These amenities are universally accessible from their respective carparks.

Currently, there is no accessible path from the park's allotment boundary to these central facilities due to the park's topography and permanent built assets. Disabled access to the park's central, main facilities can only be provided via drop off within the existing carparks.

There are a number of informal trails throughout the park. Many of these have been created without permission for recreational activities such as mountain bike riding. Access to these trails are to be restricted to allow for rehabilitation.

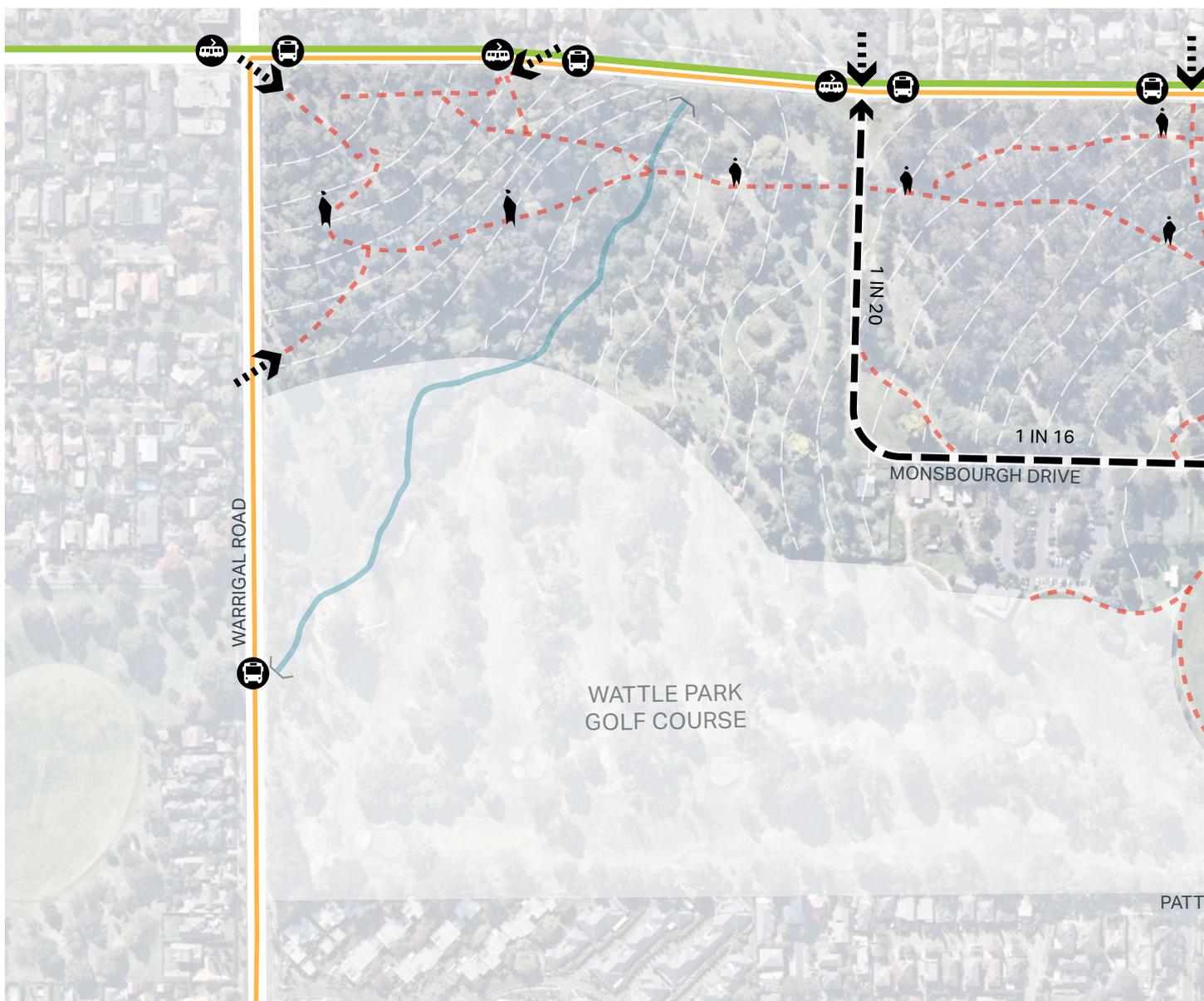


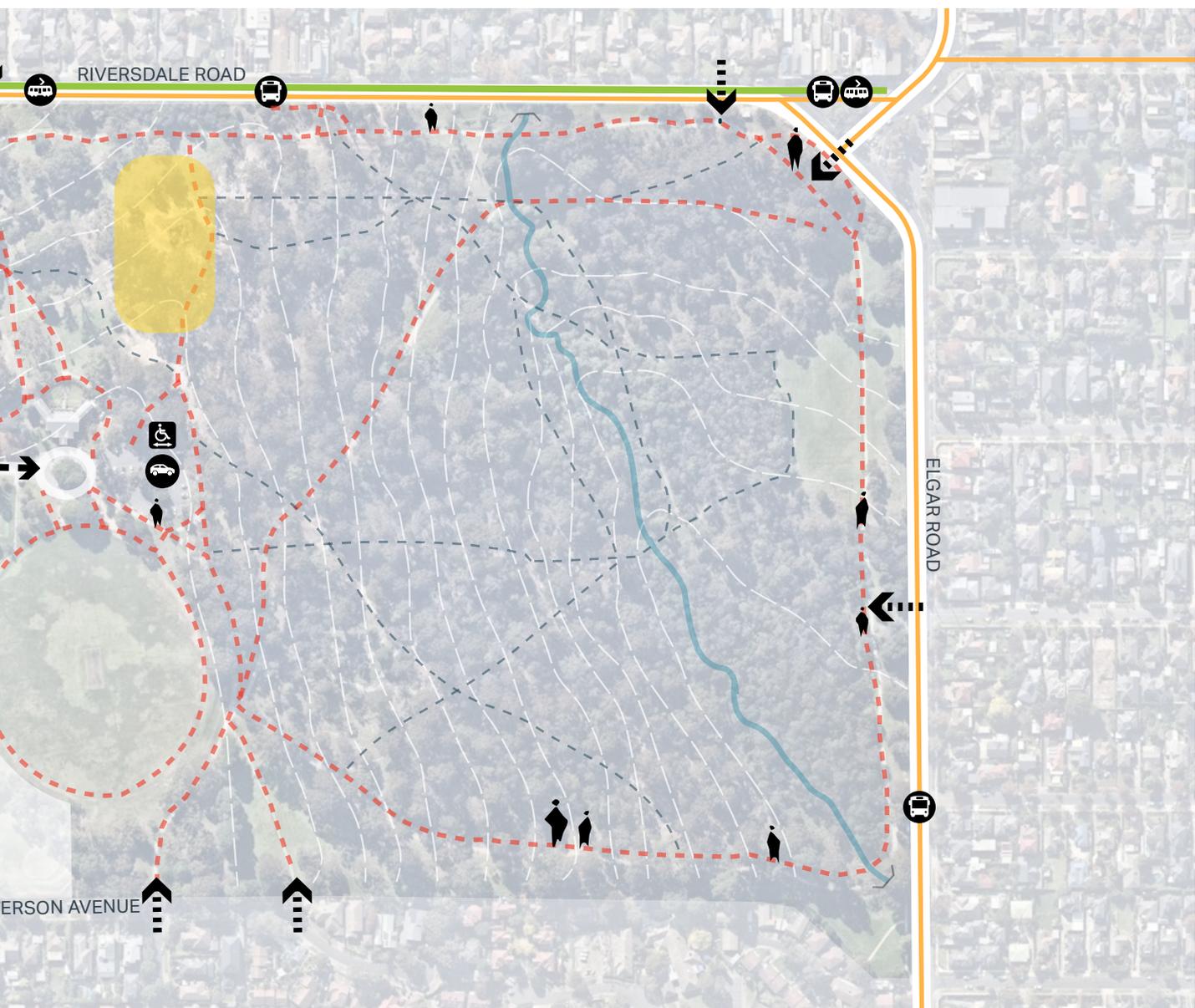
Figure A14: Movement and Access Plan

Tram Route 70 has four stops along Riversdale Road adjacent to Wattle Park and terminates at the park's north east corner. These stops generally align with the access points to the park. Bus Routes 903 (Altona to Mordialloc) runs along Riversdale Road and Bus Routes, 281 (Templestowe to Deakin University), 767 (Southland to Box Hill) and 768 (Box Hill to Deakin University) connect to stops along Elgar Road.

Vehicular access is via Monsborough Drive from Riversdale Road which connects to an internal car park within the park.

LEGEND

- - - Existing Primary Pedestrian Circulation Paths
- - - Existing Secondary Pedestrian Circulation Paths
- Existing Creek Alignments
- Existing Playscape
- Tram route and Stop
- Bus Route and Stop
- Existing Pedestrian Access Points
- Vehicular Access
- Existing Car Park
- Access Point for Mobility Challenged Users



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A.10 Water Movement

Water movement throughout the site is generally directed to the park's two main creek systems to the east and west that collectively flow in a southerly direction.

Areas of high topography are to the north west and north east of the site as well as the car park and Wattle Park Chalet which are centrally located. A constructed lily pond is located west of the entrance drive. This area captures adjacent water runoff and commonly has water pooling.

The eastern and western creeks capture large portions of the park's water flows, causing erosion within its vegetated banks. Existing hydraulic devices, (including pipes and culverts) installed within the park have become blocked due to the collection of sediments over time.

The site's hydraulic characteristics have resulted in the existing gravel circulation route's surface to degrade. The southern and northern trails have suffered erosion due to their steep grades.



Figure A15: Water Movement Plan

Therefore, trail design responses within the Master Plan will consider measures in which to mitigate these issues where possible.

With the expectation of more widespread changes in weather patterns, consideration should be made towards extended periods of wet and dry rain patterns. The Master Plan has the capacity to capitalise upon both instances, where water treatment and harvesting opportunities could bring substantial benefits to the park such as irrigation during dryer periods.

LEGEND

-  Indicative Water Runoff Movement
-  Existing Playscape Area
-  Existing Contours
-  High Point
-  Low Point
-  Existing Trails
-  Existing Informal Trails and Mountain Bike Tracks
-  Existing Creek Alignments



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A.11 Landscape Conditions

The site's complexities, character and the potential impacts from development opportunities are observed and identified as key components. This includes features and items outside of the park's title boundary.

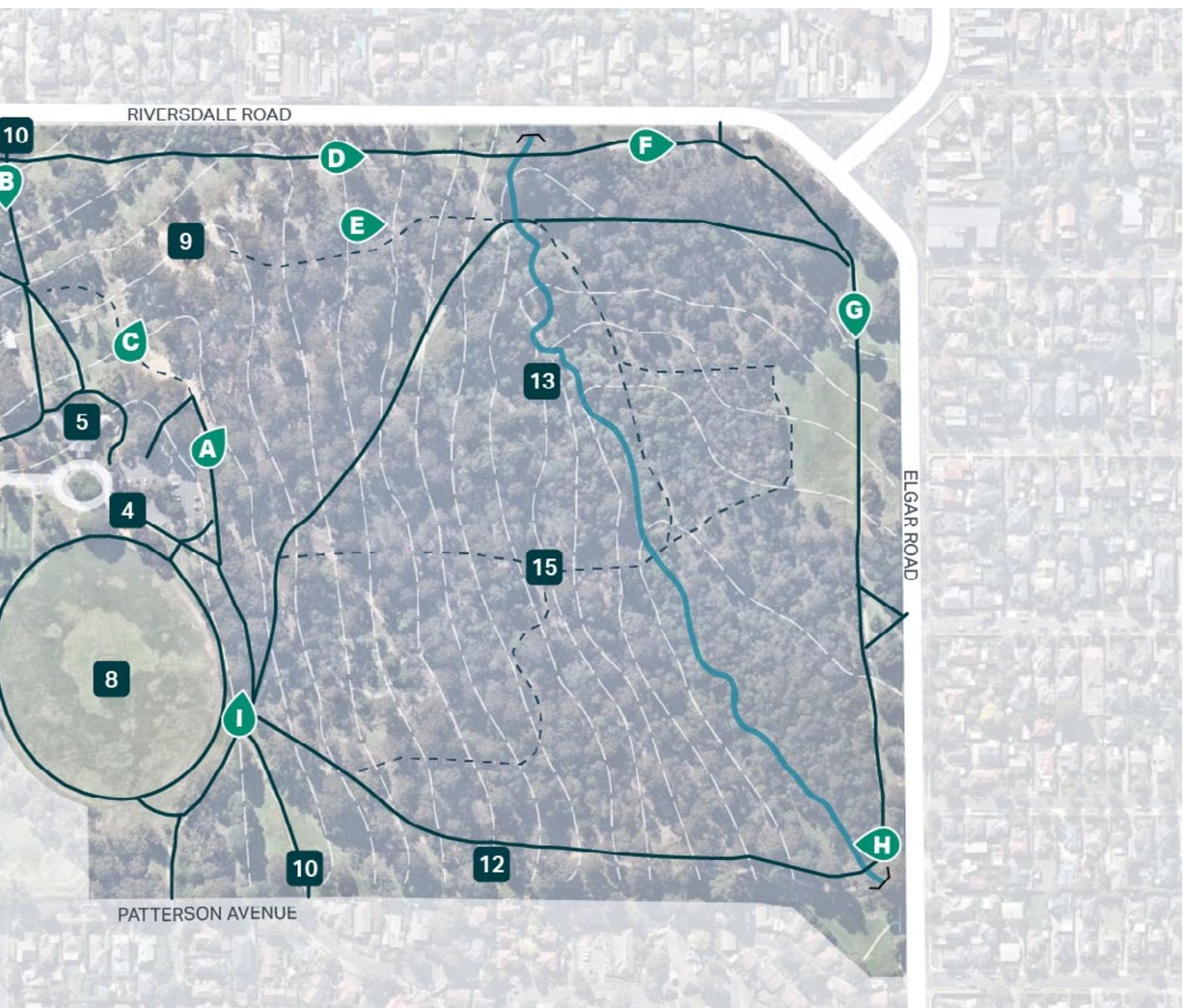
- LEGEND
- 1 Existing Features
 - F Photo Assessment
 - Existing Trails
 - Existing Informal Trails and Mountain Bike Tracks
 - Existing Creek Alignments



Figure A16: Landscape Conditions Plan

KEY

- | | | | |
|----------|---|-----------|--|
| 1 | Tram Waiting Shelter | 9 | Playscape and Tram Shelters |
| 2 | Walking and Running Track switchbacks | 10 | Formal park pedestrian entry points |
| 3 | Wattle Park Curator's Cottage, Office and Stables | 11 | Formal vehicular entry point to park |
| 4 | Memorial Clock Tower and Lone Pine | 12 | Interfacing property boundary |
| 5 | Wattle Park Chalet | 13 | Woodlands with varied trail experiences |
| 6 | Park toilet facilities | 14 | Lily Pond |
| 7 | Tennis Courts and Tennis Court Shelters | 15 | Miscellaneous Trails throughout Eastern Slopes |
| 8 | Oval for structured recreation | | |



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Landscape Conditions:

Photo Assessment



Figure 07: Park entry to playground, opportunity for welcome and orientation signage.



Figure 10: Example of Drainage 'scour' along existing path.



Figure 08: Shared park access from Riversdale road and intersecting the walking and running track.



Figure 11: Trail crossing at low point.



Figure 09: View to play structures.



Figure 12: Trail exposure to Riversdale and Elgar road corner.



Figure 13: *Open grassed space 'pocket' along Elgar road interface.*



Figure 16: *Bridge crossing over creek.*

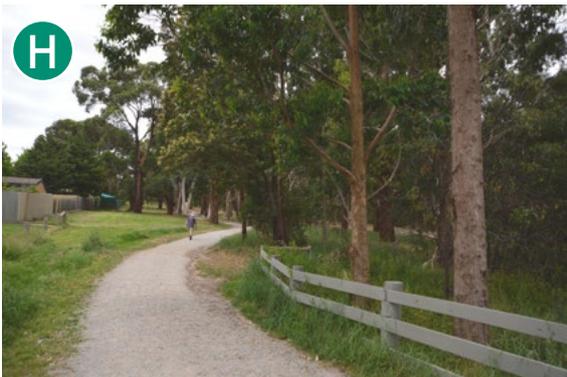


Figure 14: *South-eastern low point and interfacing properties.*



Figure 17: *Walking and running track switchbacks.*



Figure 15: *Intersecting trail alignments at oval junction.*



Figure 18: *Tram shelter 'beacon' to Warrigal and Riversdale Road.*





Habitat Area,
Wattle Park



Appendix B: Response to Community Engagement Table

You said...	Design Response
<p>The Master Plan should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance the bushland environment of Wattle Park to support important species, and preserve this unique urban park. 	<p>Protecting and conserving the environment is one of five themes defined in the Master Plan. The theme notes how important environmental values in the park are. It sets out key opportunities to achieve protect and conserve the environment. These opportunities include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore and enhance native vegetation and avenue planting Maintain and protect ecologically significant vegetation Create habitat through installing bird boxes and reptile rock piles Establish a tree renewal strategy Maintain open grass spaces. provide ongoing improvement works and maintenance as required Use water sustainably throughout the park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate Wattle Park to celebrate the rich heritage values in the park, that are well-loved, well-understood, and well maintained by Parks Victoria and the community. 	<p>Wattle Park has rich Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage values. The Master Plan theme to 'recognise and protect cultural heritage' outlines opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and maintain significant buildings, structures, and landscape features as per the Conservation Management Plan Enhance the area near the clock tower Develop a concept design for the reinterpretation of the Lily Pond area Provide celebratory gathering spaces acknowledging the park's Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural heritage. <p>An update to the Conservation Management Plan is currently underway. Parks Victoria has engaged Lovell Chen Architects and Heritage Consultants (experts in heritage management) to update the Conservation Management Plan. It will provide directions and priorities for the protection of heritage values within the park, including significant buildings, trees and plantings, the trams and features such as the Lily Pond area.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate Wattle Park as an urban bushland park with experiences ranging from passive recreation, to formal sporting opportunities such as golf and cricket. 	<p>Supporting visitor experiences is a key theme in the Master Plan. This theme explores ways to activate the park (through the Chalet offering, ways to improve sports field use and to explore opportunities for sporting and community events)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure the visitor experience caters to a diverse range of visitors. 	<p>The Master Plan outlines a range of experiences for different visitors. There have been opportunities identified to improve accessibility of toilets and install more seating in the park (particularly on slopes for visitors who may need to rest). The park will continue to offer a wide range of visitor activities including spaces to barbeque, play, run, play cricket and golf, picnic, walk, run and volunteer.</p>

You said...	Design Response
<p>The vision for Wattle Park is mostly right, there were some suggestions to reword to remove reference to 'evolve' and instead focus on conservation and park maintenance</p>	<p>The vision for the Master Plan has been adjusted to refer to the management of the park, rather than its evolution.</p>
<p>The most important priorities for the park are to protect and conserve the environment, improve pedestrian access and improve visitor experiences.</p> <p>Within each Master Plan theme, the most important opportunities for you were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring valuable vegetation • Activating the chalet • Investigating possible new or upgraded facilities (sports, toilets etc.) • Enhancing landscaping and amenities near the clock tower) • Working in partnership with stakeholders and community • Ongoing maintenance of footpaths and roads. 	<p>The Implementation Strategy (in the final pages of the Master Plan) steps out what will happen in the park in the short and long term. This includes opportunities about conserving the environment, pedestrian access and visitor experience.</p> <p>These key opportunities that you said were most important have all been retained in the Master Plan. They are also included in the implementation plan, and where possible have been prioritized for the short-term.</p>
<p>Retaining the link to the Tramways heritage of the park is important.</p>	<p>The tram structures are an iconic landmark in Wattle Park and contribute significantly to the park's cultural heritage and association with the tramways. The tram structures will be restored and incorporated into the play space (through the tram fort) so they can continue to be enjoyed by the community.</p> <p>The Conservation Management Plan provides guidance on ensuring the rich tramways history is expressed in many ways across Wattle Park.</p>
<p>Signage and learning in the park is important, as is educating park visitors about environmental values, and engaging with children and young people.</p>	<p>The Master Plan includes the opportunity to: provide wayfinding and legislative signage at key entry and exit points as well as key features to the park, including distance markers along the running track and oval.</p>



You said...

Design Response

Mixed views were expressed regarding the Lily Pond area. While some participants want to see the Lily Pond area restored, others understand the challenges and see opportunities to move it to a more accessible part of the park or focus on the ecological values.

The Conservation Management Plan notes there are many possible options for the future of the Lily Pond area. All options recognise the heritage values of the area in different ways. Considered options include:

1. restoration
2. reinterpretation
3. replacement, and
4. management as a ruin.

Parks Victoria engaged heritage experts Lovell Chen Architects and Heritage Consultants to explore the feasibility of each option. They considered the full range of opportunities and constraints of all options, including construction and ongoing maintenance costs, future sustainability, and its contribution to amenity and the heritage significance of Wattle Park.

Taking all these factors into account, reinterpreting the Lily Pond area as a rain garden is the preferred conceptual approach that will be explored further. This option would filter stormwater runoff from surrounding areas, help soil and plants in the area to biologically treat stormwater and plan for better irrigation throughout the park. The rain garden option would also repair the Lily Pond area stone walling, reset the fountain, upgrade landscaping and create new raised garden beds, accessible paths and seats surrounding the area.

This feasibility analysis has been presented to Heritage Victoria, and further discussions will take place as design options for this area are undertaken in the future. All proposals for works at Wattle Park are subject to rigorous heritage impact assessments, and Heritage Act approvals, to ensure that heritage values are not significantly impacted.

Maintenance is important to you. You said it's important to maintain significant assets such as the tennis courts, heritage buildings, the Lily Pond and facilities such as the playscape and toilets.

The Master Plan's fifth theme is to 'manage the park and build partnerships'. Under this theme, ongoing maintenance and management of assets (buildings, footpaths and amenities like toilets) is listed as a key opportunity.

A large part of Wattle Park is protected under the Heritage Act. Heritage places must be maintained in good condition and works require statutory heritage approvals. The updated Conservation Management Plan will guide Parks Victoria's management of Wattle Park.



Lightwood Wattle, *Acacia implexa*
Wattle Park