

## PREPARED BY LEISURE & OPEN SPACE, FEBRUARY 2011

### Introduction and Background

This Masterplan has been produced from a review of the existing Footscray Park Masterplan prepared in 1998. Background material from the 1998 Plan and the earlier 1994 Landscape Masterplan for Footscray Park Gardens remain relevant and have been valuable in the preparation of the revised plan.

The Masterplan provides the impetus for the implementation of a wide range of actions, focussed on improving the access, use and amenity of a remarkable parkland. The Masterplan has been prepared in conjunction with management plans for the significant features of the Park: The Tree Management Plan (June 2010) and the Stonework Assessment & Management Report (May 2010), both of which outline work priorities for the next 15 – 20 years.

### Masterplan Area

The area encompassed by the Masterplan includes Footscray Park, Henry Turner Reserve South and Doug Mills Reserve (land surrounding the Footscray Boat Club). Portions of this area (Doug Mills Reserve, the floodplains and river edge of Footscray Park) are managed by Parks Victoria. The remaining areas are managed by Maribyrnong City Council.

Footscray Park is registered as a Historic Place in Victoria because it is historically important as the largest and most intact Edwardian garden in the State. It's design excellence, stone structures and ponds and rich plant collection are recognized for their aesthetic and historical importance.

### The 1998 Masterplan

A Masterplan and Conservation Study for Footscray Park were prepared in 1998 as part of the Maribyrnong Regional Parklands Study. This Study was a joint initiative between the land managers - Parks Victoria (the floodplain and river frontages), Moonee Valley City Council (north side of the river) and Maribyrnong City Council (Footscray Park and Henry Turner Reserve South).

Since the completion of the 1998 Plan, significant changes have occurred making several key recommendations no longer relevant or incompatible with current park planning. These include: the removal of car parks from the river frontage; the siting of a major landscaped water and entry feature at Mills Close, adjacent to Victoria University's pool; and the siting of a regional playground in the eastern end of the park.

### The Masterplan Review Process

A key component of preparing a new Masterplan for the park was to review and analyse the site & surrounding context, previous masterplans, the conservation study and current strategic planning documents. Practical information regarding the operation and constraints of the site from Council staff and other organisations was also obtained. Several issues emerged from this analysis, the most significant of which are outlined below:

- Poor accessibility. The main entrance (Mills Close) and Ballarat Road frontage has limited car parking; visitor facilities and amenities e.g. playgrounds, car parks, picnic facilities are not grouped for ease of access; and there are no path connections between the Park, the River, adjacent parklands and residential areas.
- Poor visibility. The amenity offered by the park is not on display to the community.
- Poor amenity. The river frontage requires substantial infrastructure improvements: entrances, traffic management, car parking and access roads, fencing, lighting and planting.
- A section of the avenue of palms along the river is located under the electrical transmission lines and the ongoing longevity of this group is in jeopardy.
- Maturing trees within the park require a plan for replacement.
- Public toilet facilities are poorly located and are isolated from the main activity area, the river frontage.

From this analysis a Park Vision and series of Objectives emerged which were used to guide the preparation of a draft Masterplan.

The draft plan was placed on public exhibition in November 2010. Various stakeholders – state government departments, VicRoads, Parks Victoria, Heritage Victoria, Victoria University, sporting clubs, community cultural organisations and Friends of groups - were notified and asked to comment; a flyer was posted to residents in the surrounding area and a consultation session was held in the Park. The comments received and further information gathered were used to produce the final Masterplan.

### The Vision for Footscray Park

*A people's park where the Park's heritage, landscape and recreational assets are once again the focus of life in Maribyrnong. The heritage gardens provide an exotic garden setting for walks, traditional lawn picnics, parties and small gatherings. Meanwhile the floodplain and river offer plenty of room for cycling, keeping fit activities, walking the dog, fishing, family play and group games and larger community gatherings in the form of formal sport, local festivals and potentially community markets.*

#### Objectives:

##### Heritage

Protect, conserve and manage the Park's heritage assets and character for the long term benefit of the community.

##### Access

Strengthen connections to and within the Park to enhance its visual, physical and cultural accessibility.

##### Use

Increase the range of cultural, recreational and sporting opportunities to attract a wider audience to value and appreciate the Park.

##### Landscape character

Build on the existing Park character - the mown grass of the floodplain set against the verdant, exotic heritage gardens - by considered placement of a diverse range of native and exotic plants that reflect the cultural and natural processes of the site.

Ensure new structures and features are integrated with and respect this existing character through choice of materials, scale and siting to maintain connections with and views of the Maribyrnong River valley.

##### Awareness

Improve community and general awareness of the Park by implementing a range of promotional actions.

##### Visitor Facilities

Provide a range of Park facilities to enhance the experience of the heritage gardens and diversify the use of the river frontage, ensuring user safety.

##### Sustainability

Manage the Park's assets through plant selection, the use of recycled and reusable materials, harvesting site water for reuse and best practice maintenance.

### The 2011 Masterplan

The overall Masterplan outlines the main proposals. It is supported by a series of Landscape Precinct Plans, outlining detailed actions for each precinct area, and a Landscape Character and Planting Zone Plan.

The Landscape Precincts are described as:

- Maribyrnong Boulevard Precinct - Farnsworth Avenue entrance and Doug Mills Reserve.
- Formal Sporting Precinct - Henry Turner Reserve South playing fields and car park.
- River Edge Precinct - Maribyrnong Boulevard, the river frontage and the Footscray Boat Club building.
- Active Use Precinct - western lawn areas of Footscray Park.
- Playground Precinct - eastern lawn areas of Footscray Park.
- Lynch's Bridge Precinct - eastern end of the park and river frontage, including the apartment complex.
- Heritage Garden Precinct - the ornamental gardens and pond area, including the Parks and Gardens Depot.
- Ballarat Road Frontage Precinct - the street frontage, footpath and central median.
- Memorial Garden Precinct - lawn area adjacent to Mills Close behind the main entrance.

### Implementation

A wide range of actions are proposed for the Masterplan implementation and will take place over the next 10-15 years. The staging of these actions is outlined on the Project Priorities and Staging Plan.



# FOOTSCRAY PARK

LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN REVIEW.  
FEBRUARY 2011



- KEY:**
- 1 FARNSWORTH AVENUE ENTRANCE**  
Avenue planting using Australian gums along Farnsworth Ave and Maribyrnong Boulevard with feature planting at the intersection.
  - 2 TRAFFIC CALMING INTERVENTION**  
Roundabout or other traffic device subject to detailed traffic engineering advice.
  - 3 NEW COMMUNITY SPORTS PAVILION (LONG TERM)**  
Shared multi-purpose pavilion, landscape forecourts and path connections to Footscray Park and Victoria University Campus.
  - 4 CRICKET PRACTICE NETS**  
Fenced practice nets to be relocated following construction of new pavilion.

- 5 TENNIS COURTS & REBOUND WALL**  
Existing courts retained & upgraded.
- 6 MARIBYRNONG BOULEVARD**  
Repositioned and formalized access road along the River frontage with improved path connections and tree planting.
- 7 RIVER WEST PICNIC LAWNS**  
Expanded lawn area with shelter, barbeques and picnic facilities and additional tree planting adjacent to 20 car parking spaces, connections and tree planting.
- 8 HISTORIC PALM AVENUE**  
A new (or transplanted) row of palms outside the transmission line area maintains the cultural link with the River environment.
- 9 CAR PARK & DROP OFF AREA**  
Formalized water sensitive and landscaped car park with 88 car parking spaces, turning area, drop off zone and path connections.

- 10 ENTRY PLAZA & DREW WALK CONNECTION**  
New park entry connects Footscray Park to the River with a paved plaza to honour the Park's curator, David Mathews (1916 - 1964). Raised garden beds provide seating, low level shade & native garden display. Public toilets, shelters, barbeque and picnic facilities in treed setting.
- 11 FUTURE JETTY (LONG TERM)**  
New jetty location replaces the smaller jetty and provides for the mooring of boats, fishing and views along the river corridor.
- 12 PEDESTRIAN SPINE**  
Provides safe access to the play and park environment away from the river edge and busy shared path.
- 13 ALL ABILITIES PLAY SPACE ENVIRONMENT**  
Landscaped play space environment with accessible and adventurous play equipment and paths. Associated barbeques, picnic facilities and all weather shelter.
- 14 NEW ROTUNDA (LONG TERM)**  
A more elegant rotunda to replace the existing stage. For smaller gatherings, weddings & shelter.
- 15 FISHING JETTY PICNIC AREA**  
Shelter, barbeques and picnic facilities focused on the existing jetty. New amenity planting and shade trees (outside the transmission line area).
- 16 RIVER EAST PICNIC AREA**  
Existing picnic area upgraded and connected to path network. Additional native tree planting.
- 17 EAST CAR PARK & PICNIC AREA**  
Existing car park formalized (parking capacity 45 spaces) and connected to path network and new picnic/ barbeque area. Additional native tree planting for shade and amenity.

- 18 EXISTING PRIVATE CAR PARK**  
Existing privately owned car park associated with Flemington Landing Apartments.
- 19 BIKE PATH CONNECTION**  
Proposed bike path connects the Ballarat Road bike path with the Shared River Trail. Potential to widen the Ballarat Road footpath (park side) to serve pedestrians and cyclists.
- 20 HERITAGE GARDEN PATH NETWORK**  
Improved path connections between the Gardens and the River, including a circuit path (1.7km length) for walking, jogging and access to exercise equipment.
- 21 BALLARAT ROAD PARK ENTRANCES**  
Improved access into the park from Ballarat Road through path connections, ramp upgrades, fencing, signage and way finding information. Potential for improved on street parking.
- 22 BALLARAT ROAD CENTRAL MEDIAN**  
Planting of the central median in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Greening Footscray Strategy (Aug 2007).
- 23 BALLARAT ROAD LOOKOUT (LONG TERM)**  
Potential to convert the existing public toilet building to a lookout platform/shelter (subject to structural feasibility) with seating and information for park visitors.
- 24 AVENUE OF HONOUR MEMORIAL GARDEN**  
Memorial garden setting for the relocated Geelong Road Avenue of Honour plaques with interpretative information and facilities for visitors.
- 25 PARKS & GARDENS DEPOT**  
Existing depot site subject to further detailed investigation & planning. Priorities are to reduce the depot footprint and provide a point of entry to the heritage gardens with facilities and amenities for park visitors.
- 26 MILLS CLOSE CONNECTION**  
New path (and stair) connection between Mills Close and the extended path network. Potential access for cyclists and links into Victoria University to be further investigated.
- 27 EVENT STAGE (LONG TERM)**  
Suggested future location for a permanent stage associated with larger community festivals and events.
- 28 STORMWATER HARVESTING PROJECT**  
Indicative location for Storm Water Harvesting Project in association with City West Water. The project includes the installation of underground tanks and pumping station to provide non potable water for irrigation purposes.

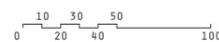
**LEGEND**

- STRESSED & AGEING TREES
- PROPOSED TREES
- REFER TO LANDSCAPE CHARACTER & PLANTING ZONES FOR THE GENERAL DIRECTION
- PUBLIC TOILET TO REPLACE
- EXISTING
- ACCESS FOR EVENT VEHICLES
- DOG OFF LEAD AREA
- SHELTER & PICNIC AREA, PROPOSED
- WAYFINDING SIGNAGE, PROPOSED
- EXERCISE EQUIPMENT SITES
- PATH, EXISTING
- PATH, PROPOSED
- GARDEN BED, EXISTING
- MULCH TREE BED, PROPOSED
- NATIVE GROUND COVER & TREE PLANTING BEDS



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REFER TO LANDSCAPE PRECINCT PLANS FOR DETAILED ACTIONS.





Shade plantings edge the oval.

## MARIBYRNONG BOULEVARD ENTRY PRECINCT ACTIONS

Create a landscape entrance to the Park environs by planting avenues of Australian gums along Farnsworth Avenue and Maribyrnong Boulevard and feature indigenous plantings at the intersection.

Improve pedestrian linkages from the adjacent open spaces and residential areas by extending the existing footpaths into the Park and the River edge.

Improve traffic management within the Park environs through a landscaped traffic treatment at the intersection of Maribyrnong Boulevard and other access roads.

Provide new park signage to identify the Park entrance and its facilities.

Upgrade park fencing along Farnsworth Avenue and the Boulevard frontages where required for traffic management and safety. Elsewhere remove unnecessary fencing to create an open parkland environment.

## FORMAL SPORTING PRECINCT ACTIONS

Maintain the existing formal sporting uses and continue to provide for a range of sporting opportunities to service the Maribyrnong community.

As a long term action, and in response to changes in the functionality of the sporting pavilion, construct any new pavilion as a multi use facility to sit between the rugby and cricket fields adjacent to the existing car park. In the interim, improve the visual appearance of the existing pavilion through planting, signage rationalization and applied surface treatments.

Relocate the two existing cricket nets as part of the new pavilion redevelopment. Provide screen planting.

Retain and upgrade the existing tennis courts and rebound wall. Provide seating adjacent to existing shade trees for park users.

Improve pedestrian linkages from the Farnsworth Avenue bus stop, the new pavilion and tennis courts, the car park and the open space areas of Footscray Park. A new path along the north boundary of the tennis courts can be accommodated by changing the 90° parking to parallel. This will reduce the number of parking spaces from 11 to 5.

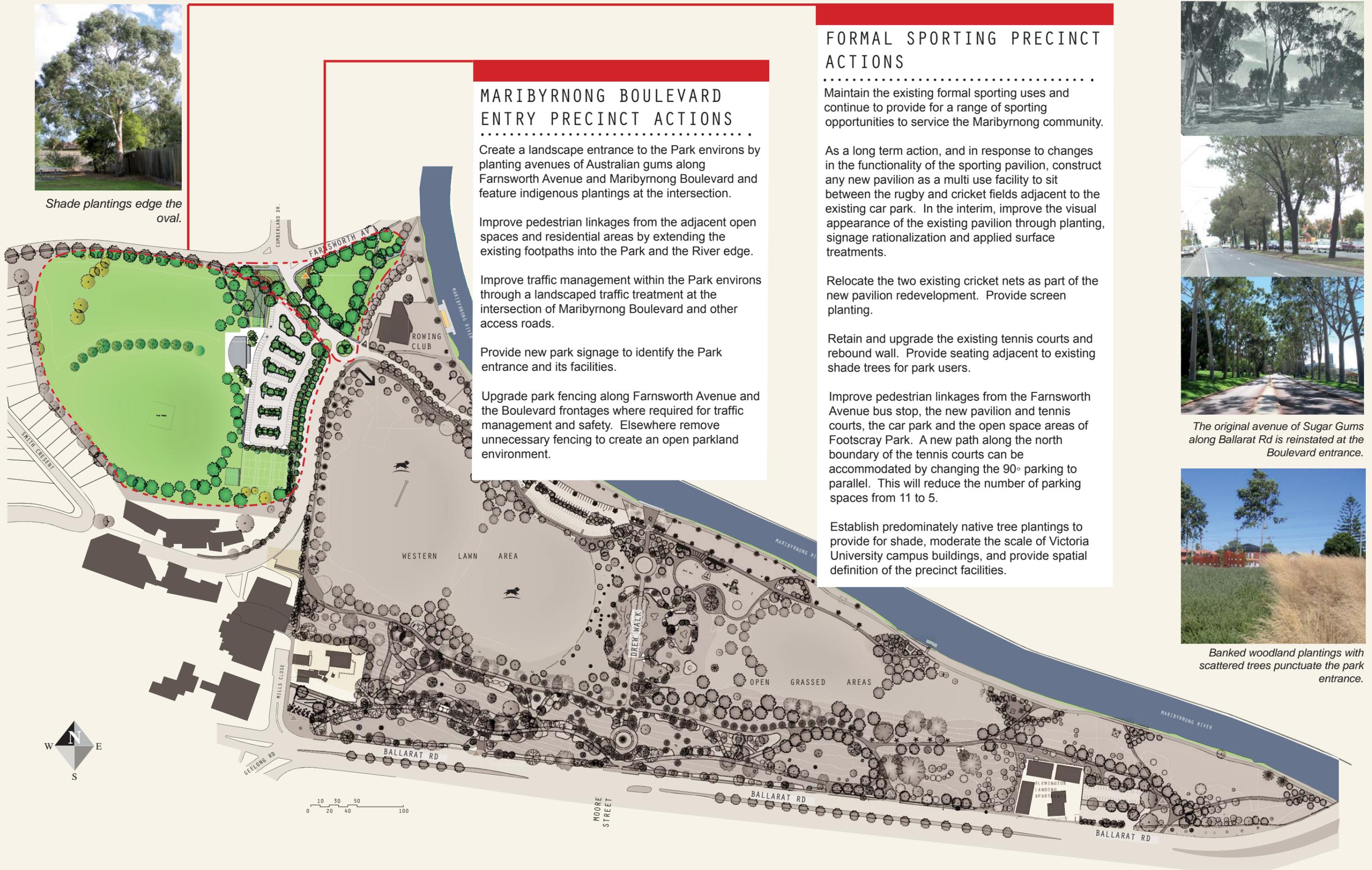
Establish predominately native tree plantings to provide for shade, moderate the scale of Victoria University campus buildings, and provide spatial definition of the precinct facilities.



The original avenue of Sugar Gums along Ballarat Rd is reinstated at the Boulevard entrance.



Banked woodland plantings with scattered trees punctuate the park entrance.



## RIVER EDGE PRECINCT ACTIONS

Preserve the ongoing cultural connection of the Canary Island Palm avenue to the river frontage and the Footscray Park gardens. Work with the electrical authority to finalise the location for the group of palms under the transmission lines as a new avenue along the realigned Maribyrnong Boulevard and Pedestrian Spine. This will allow for future widening and realignment of the existing shared path along the river.

Modify the alignment of Maribyrnong Boulevard to provide a greater expanse of open space along the river edge for picnic and seating opportunities and to accommodate the transplanted row of Canary Island Palms.

Construct a car park and drop off area adjacent to the west side of the new entry plaza with car parking bays along Maribyrnong Boulevard. A total of 108 car parking spaces are proposed and will be located to service the main park facilities: River West Picnic Lawns; the dog off lead area; Entry Plaza and picnic areas; and the river itself.

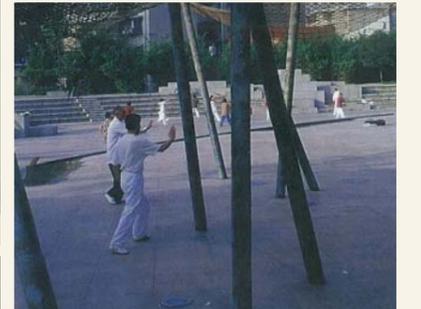
Construct a paved entry plaza at the river entrance to the gardens of Footscray Park. The plaza will remember David Mathews the creator and curator of the gardens (1916 – 1964) through sculpture, paving and planting patterns, plantings, and interpretative information. Seating, bicycle parking, signage and other visitor facilities will also be provided.

Work with Parks Victoria to improve: facilities and activities to address an increasing demand for access to the river for a variety of water based activities; and the visual amenity of the Footscray Boat Club building and environs.

Develop several landscape niches as areas of respite and play at key locations along the river frontage: the River West Picnic Lawns; the Festival & Event Lawn; Entry Plaza and Drew Walk Connection; All Abilities Play Space Environment; River East Picnic Area. These sites will provide picnic facilities, barbecues, shelter, seating, fitness and play equipment nestled within a predominantly Australian planting palette. The plaza entry shelter will also incorporate public toilets designed to meet community safety expectations and perceptions.

Create pedestrian and cycle links between the existing shared trail along the river frontage, the new entry plaza path network and the existing path system within the Footscray Park gardens. Links for cyclists will be focused to the west (Mills Close) and east (Lynch's Bridge) boundaries of the Park. On other paths, pedestrians will have priority.

Remove existing car parking to the east of the Entry Plaza to provide safe pedestrian access between the river and the Park particularly around the All Abilities Play Space Environment and to facilitate the transplanted avenue of palms.



Ageing palms are transplanted along a new path with picnic shelters, a public toilet, and space for farmer's markets (if demand exists).

Edge treatments: blocks or balls can be used for informal seating whilst preventing car access

A workout or a gentle stretch



nestled within pockets of planting.

# FOOTSCRAY PARK MASTERPLAN REVIEW

## RIVER EDGE MAKING CONNECTIONS

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A major component of the revised Master Plan is to reconnect Drew Walk with the river edge and draw people in to explore the picturesque heritage gardens and ponds.

A new pedestrian spine has been introduced and is dressed with the transplanted avenue of palms. The spine provides opportunities for a multitude of activities to occur, either along its length or nestled within pockets of planting.

Take a walk, catch up with friends for a picnic, have a rest from cycling, take the kids to the playground perhaps for a birthday outing, do a work out or gentle stretch on the circuit exercise equipment. Maybe there's a farmer's market happening or a soccer match to watch.



*The pedestrian spine: activities; pavement patterns and planted edges.*



*River access potential: fishing; pondering; dog play.*



*Aerial photograph from 1945 showing the link between Drew Walk and the river*



*Plan showing proposed plaza connection to Drew Walk*



*Radial grid of trees emulates the earlier layout, and connects the car park, picnic area and toilets to the play space environments.*

## ACTIVE USE PRECINCT ACTIONS

Establish this area as the preferred location for large festivals and other community events that are supportive of the heritage and landscape values of the Park. Any permanent stage is to be designed in sympathy with the landscape character of the Park.

Maintain the western playing area as a dog off lead area for the suburb of Footscray.

Provide for overflow formal and casual sporting uses of the traditional playing fields.

Provide shaded picnic and seating facilities at key locations that are accessible from the new parking areas along Maribyrnong Boulevard and the existing parking along the access road to Victoria University.

Treat the existing problems associated with saline soil conditions and damage to the grassed surface of the floodplain by a combination of actions including improved drainage; creation of rain water and swale gardens as an edge treatment to paths and car parks at selective locations, and use of salt tolerant plantings.

Work with City West Water to finalise the location for the storm water re-use and harvesting facility in a manner consistent with the historic and recreational values of the Park. This facility will result in the use of non potable water for irrigation purposes, particularly for the ornamental gardens and its heritage trees.

Establish native and exotic plantings to provide for shade, moderate the view of car parking areas and provide spatial definition of the precinct activities.



## PLAY SPACE PRECINCT ACTIONS

Establish a regional, all abilities play space environment as a major visitor attraction for the historic gardens of Footscray Park and the river environs. The play space area will include shaded shelters, barbeque and picnic facilities within a shaded, water sensitive and salt tolerant landscaped setting. The design intention is to create a different play experience that extends beyond formal boundaries and provides a connection to particular features within the ornamental gardens.

Remove the existing stage structure and construct a more elegant rotunda that is consistent with the character of the Park. The rotunda will be used for small performances (less than 50 people) and as a hire out venue for weddings and other social events. Investigate opportunities to connect the rotunda to the path system.

Treat the saline soil conditions and damage to the grassed surface of the floodplain by a combination of actions including improved drainage; creation of rain water and swale gardens as an edge treatment to paths at selected locations & planting of salt tolerant plantings.

Establish native and exotic plantings consistent with the existing character to provide for shade, and the spatial definition of the precinct activities and a visual connection to the ornamental gardens.



Rain gardens edge the main paths & car parks.

# FOOTSCRAY PARK MASTERPLAN REVIEW



*scattered bush plantings, bold patterns, bike paths, picnic areas and exercise points*

## LYNCH'S BRIDGE PRECINCT ACTIONS

Establish a bold and diverse Australian planting theme to highlight this entrance to the park environs.

Provide additional paths linking the Ballarat Rd bike lane, the shared path along the river, the car park and the extended paths within the formal gardens.

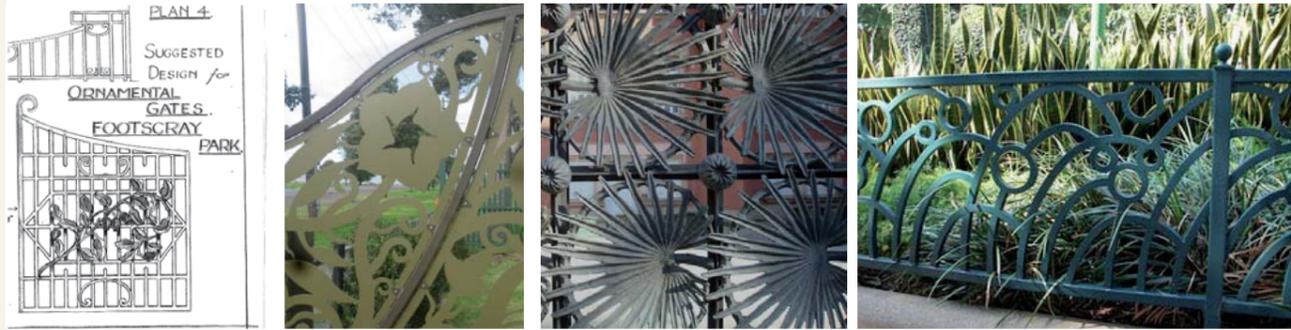
Develop a picnic and barbeque area to cater for visitors accessing the car park and park from this precinct and include information about the park for visitors at this point.

Improve the amenity and functionality of the existing car park through new pavements, fencing, tree planting, lighting and connection to new paths. A total of 45 car spaces for park visitors will be provided at this location.

Provide additional ground level and scattered tree planting between the new paths and the apartment building to provide a sense of separation for both park users and the apartment residents.



## NEW FENCING & ENTRY FEATURES



The existing utilitarian chain mesh fence is proposed to be replaced with a simple palisade fence. At major entrances - Moore Street, the Lookout, the East entrance - a more extravagant, artful and eye catching entry feature incorporating the park name is suggested. These interventions will help to draw attention to the beauty that lies beyond the road and entice people into the Park.

The original entrance from Moore Street was removed in the late 1960's as part of the widening of Ballarat Road.



The existing Moore Street ramps are not well integrated. The retaining walls are proposed to be clad with roughly dressed stone to reduce their impact and offer a backdrop that is more in keeping with the decorative character of the Park.

## BALLARAT ROAD PRECINCT ACTIONS

Work with VicRoads to improve accessibility along the Ballarat Road interface with the Park. Opportunities include: removing the on road bike path and widening the footpath to incorporate a shared pedestrian/cycle path; providing on street parking adjacent to the potential at-grade entrance in the eastern area; providing a more direct pedestrian crossing adjacent to Nicholson Street.

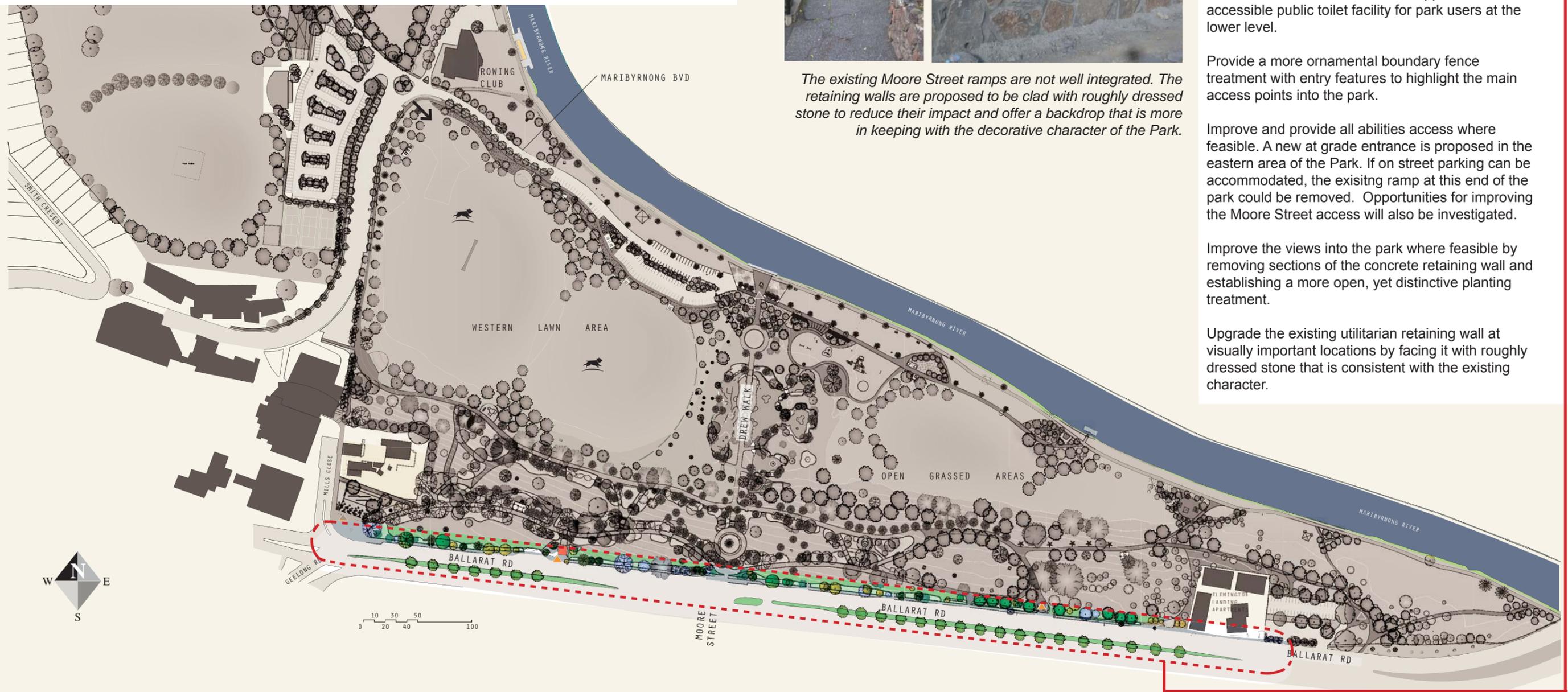
Investigate the feasibility of converting the existing toilet facility to a lookout shelter incorporating seating and information for visitors at the upper level and an accessible public toilet facility for park users at the lower level.

Provide a more ornamental boundary fence treatment with entry features to highlight the main access points into the park.

Improve and provide all abilities access where feasible. A new at grade entrance is proposed in the eastern area of the Park. If on street parking can be accommodated, the existing ramp at this end of the park could be removed. Opportunities for improving the Moore Street access will also be investigated.

Improve the views into the park where feasible by removing sections of the concrete retaining wall and establishing a more open, yet distinctive planting treatment.

Upgrade the existing utilitarian retaining wall at visually important locations by facing it with roughly dressed stone that is consistent with the existing character.



## THE NATIVE LAWN ENTRY

There is an opportunity to provide a new pedestrian access point into the park (near the ramp to the playground). The proposed access would help to draw attention to the park from passing traffic and would be linked to existing paths. Further east, the existing retaining wall can be removed and replaced with a landscaped embankment.



Section showing proposed at-grade entry point into the eastern end of the park.



Section showing the landscaped/lawn embankment onto Ballarat Rd.

## BALLARAT ROAD FRONTAGE EMPHASISE THE RICHNESS BEHIND THE FENCE

## BALLARAT ROAD LOOKOUT

The existing building could be converted to a lookout shelter, providing shelter, seating, information & access to the park.



Proposed lookout in place of the existing Ballarat Rd toilet block.

## HERITAGE GARDEN PRECINCT

Investigate opportunities for a smaller Parks & Gardens service area within the gardens. Any surplus area should be developed to support the use and amenity of the ornamental gardens and the Avenue of Honour Memorial Garden. Opportunities include: improved public access, park amenities (public toilet, picnic area and shelter, informal play opportunities), display garden of the future and car parking improvements. New structures should be in scale with and sympathetic to the existing park structures.

Manage the park's horticultural and architectural assets to ensure the long term survival of their heritage significance. The recommendations of the Tree Management Plan to replace ageing trees, and The Stonework Management Plan to repair and restore structures should be implemented over the next 10-15 years.

Reconnect Drew Walk to the river and construct new paths that support the existing design framework. These new paths may reinstate paths removed, especially in the eastern area of the park, where feasible and functionally appropriate.

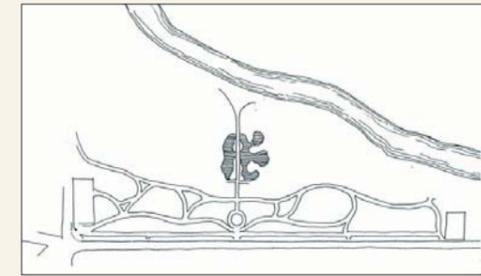
Re-establish the design strength of the main tree plantings: Jamieson Walk deciduous avenue; palm avenues; evergreen windbreaks; the Australian lawn; the Native garden; and the paired entry plantings. This will necessitate the staged removal of the senescent heritage trees and preparation of detailed replacement planting plans, reflecting the original design intent whilst cognisant of changed water and microclimate conditions.

As a medium to long term action, modify the existing playgrounds as an element to the main play space environment or as an exercise equipment site. Site new barbeque and picnic facilities in proximity to proposed on street parking on Ballarat Road subject to further investigations and detailed design (with VicRoads). Otherwise develop this lawn area as an informal picnic lawn.

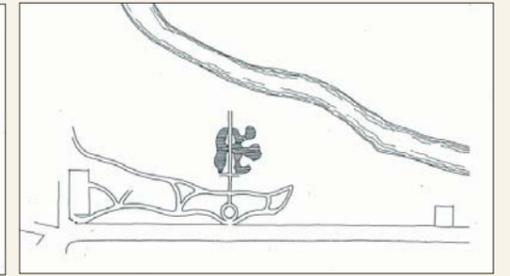
Remove the existing eastern toilet structure and reinstate the grassed and treed embankment.

Maintain the lawn areas as predominantly grassed terraces in keeping with the original design intent.

Work with Victoria University to improve the landscape quality and access from Mills Close by providing a new stair and path along the property boundary and a link between the campus and the gardens.



The ornamental garden as depicted in Dave Mathews's 1948-49 plan



The same area in 1987, by which time it had been considerably reduced



Ageing & dead trees mark what was previously a lush, windbreak planting



1948 sketch of the view from Footscray Park



A 1950's view of ponds & eastern playing area.



## MEMORIAL GARDEN PRECINCT ACTIONS

Establish an accessible area for the relocated World War I and II memorial soldier plaques from the Geelong Road Avenue of Honour.

Provide a formal, reflective garden space that is suitable for commemorative events and connects into the surrounding landscape and ornamental gardens.

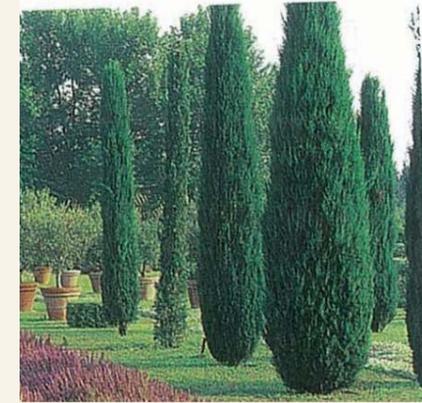
Develop an entry statement that links the more traditional "stories" of loss with the contemporary experiences of Maribyrnong's community.

Investigate opportunities to tell the story of the 'Soldier Tree' – a generational story of loss and remembrance.

Strengthen the conifer planting at the Mills Close frontage to provide a visual and aural buffer from passing traffic.



1951 Anzac Day Parade along the Geelong Rd Avenue of Honour.



Plantings for shade, blossom & to provide a buffer from traffic.



The Avenue Plaques restored and sited where they can be easily viewed and remembered.

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER & PLANTING

The Footscray Park Conservation Study (May 1998) and previous Masterplan (September 1998) provide useful content for understanding the existing planting character and patterns. Most recommendations and objectives in terms of future planting remain valid, although the choice of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* as the preferred species to provide shade in high use areas is not supported. These trees, whilst indigenous to the river, have been recognized as a potential hazard.

The Tree Management Plan Footscray Park (June 2010) provides a detailed assessment of the trees within the park and along the river. It highlights the diversity and complexity of the existing tree layouts; analyses the extant design themes and includes a recommended species list for replacement planting. This plan will be used to direct planting plans for each of the precinct areas.

The Planting Zones outlined provide a general direction for the adopted design approach.

## HERITAGE GARDEN TERRACES & WATER GARDENS

A diverse mix of deciduous and evergreen, exotic trees and Australian native trees.  
 Informal groups of mixed species in garden beds.  
 Large scale, deciduous trees in a staggered avenue along Jamieson Walk.  
 Emergent trees.  
 Symmetrical arrangements to reinforce entrances and the major axis.  
 Open lawn terraces with occasional large scale trees for shade or statement.  
 Maintain views from lookouts and shelters.  
 Replicate individually listed trees on the Victorian Heritage Register.  
 Generally replace Mathew's era (1916 – 1964) trees with the same or like, unless microclimate conditions or performance warrant an alternative.

## HERITAGE GARDEN WINDBREAK

Informal group of coniferous trees (primarily *Cupressus macrocarpa*) interspersed with Australian eucalypts. Potential for trial of Australian conifers (*Callitris* sp.)  
 Generally replace Mathew's era (1916 – 1964) trees with the same or like, unless microclimate conditions or performance warrant an alternative.  
 Extent of east west palm avenue at path edge for further research as design generator.

## HERITAGE GARDEN MAIN ROAD FRONTAGE

A diverse mix of deciduous and evergreen, exotic trees and Australian native trees.  
 Pairing to highlight entrances and features.  
 Emergent trees.  
 Mixed, evergreen plantings as a visual and aural buffer to Ballarat Road.  
 Enhance views into the park at selected locations.  
 Central median planting consistent with the Greening Footscray Strategy and Vic Roads requirements.

## RIVER EDGE, FLOODPLAINS & SPORTS GROUNDS

Predominantly Australian native trees, tall shrubs and ground level plantings.  
 Exotic, drought tolerant feature plantings at selected locations: the Entry Plaza, the existing Agave bed (near River East Picnic Area).  
 Exotic plantings to highlight features and visually connect with the ornamental gardens.  
 Retain existing Phoenix *canariensis* avenue along the river edge as a visual and cultural link with the ornamental gardens.  
 Transplant group of Phoenix *canariensis* outside the electrical transmission lines to form a new avenue.  
 Avenue treatments along street frontages and access roads.  
 Maintain views to the river and racecourse.  
 Naturalistic shapes.  
 Salt tolerance requirement on floodplain.  
 Low water demand on non irrigated areas.  
 Legislative requirement for 3 m height limit within the transmission line boundaries.  
 Copse tree plantings where shade required under the transmission line boundaries.

## ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE BOUNDARY

## TREE REMOVALS

An aboriginal assessment of the existing trees has recommended the removal of a number of trees due to poor health and/or risk to the public, poor specimen or inappropriate planting. These trees are identified as Stressed & Ageing Trees on the Masterplan.

Refer to: Tree Management Plan Footscray Park  
 Final Report June 2010  
 Australian Landscape Management



# FOOTSCRAY PARK MASTERPLAN REVIEW

## PROJECT PRIORITIES & STAGING

The implementation of the Masterplan will be carried out over the next 10 – 15 years. The Priorities outlined are indicative and may vary due to budget issues, altered priorities & funding opportunities.

- A** Programmed 2010-2011 Capital Works  
Includes the extension of the Drew Walk path to the existing car park. Structural underpinning works to the existing Technical School Shelter (the Lookout). Removal and replanting of dead & dying heritage trees. Minor upgrade of the existing Tennis Courts, including resurfacing, replacement nets and minor fencing works.  
Allocated Capital Expenditure: \$272,000
- B** Car Park  
Area within the boundaries of Footscray Park.  
Includes asphaltting, fencing, swale gardens, tree planting and lighting.  
Estimated Project Cost: \$300,000
- C** Closure of existing car parks along the river edge.  
All Abilities Play Space Environment  
Part Pedestrian Spine (to existing BBQ shelter)  
Entry Plaza and completion of Drew Walk Connection  
West end of Maribyrnong Boulevard and Drop Off Area  
Includes pavements, play equipment & surfaces, barbeque & picnic facilities, seating, signage, planting, public toilet & shelter and lighting.  
Estimated Project Cost: \$950,000
- D** Avenue of Honour Memorial Garden.  
Includes plaque display, interpretative signage, seating and planting.  
Estimated Project Cost: \$250,000
- E** Heritage Garden Path Network  
Includes eastern area paths and linking paths to the river and the east car park, picnic areas, irrigation, renewal of heritage stonework (where not undertaken in association with larger projects) and planting.  
Includes demolition of the eastern toilet block and reinstatement of grassed bank.  
Replacement of existing stage with new rotunda.
- F** Festival & Event Lawn  
Pedestrian Spine completion  
Fishing Jetty Picnic Area  
River East Picnic Area  
Mills Close Connection  
Event Stage  
Tennis Courts completion  
Includes pavements, exercise equipment sites, picnic and seating areas, fencing, irrigation and planting.
- G** Ballarat Road Park Entrances  
Ballarat Road Lookout (subject to feasibility)  
Includes new path connections, fencing and signage, entrance features and seating, shared cycle path, on-street parking and intersection changes (subject to Vic Roads approval).
- H** Farnsworth Avenue Entrance  
Traffic Calming Intervention  
Maribyrnong Boulevard completion  
River West Picnic Lawns  
Includes pavements, path connections to residential areas, picnic areas, fencing, entrance signage and planting.
- I** East Car Park & Picnic Area  
Includes pavements and path connections, picnic areas planting and car park lighting.
- J** Historic Palm Avenue  
Includes transplant of existing palms within the transmission line easement to new locations and widening/realignment of existing shared path along river.
- K** Community Sports Pavilion  
Cricket Practice Nets  
Includes new building, path connections, planting, fencing, and safety lighting.
- L** Parks and Gardens Depot



**NOTE:**  
Ongoing replacement planting to re-establish the design strength and quality of the heritage tree formations and other trees across all areas will be undertaken annually, in accordance with approved Planting Plans and the Tree Management Plan (2010).