WATTLE PARK

MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

MAY 1994

MELBOURNE
Parks & Waterways
FOREWORD

Wattle Park is a unique area of open space in metropolitan Melbourne because it offers significant social, historical, cultural and natural values in a setting surrounded by a built suburban environment.

The Management Action Plan reflects the importance Melbourne Parks and Waterways and the community place on the park and should ensure that the park will be sensitively and appropriately managed for current and future generations.

The Management Action Plan outlines the tasks to be undertaken in order to achieve the vision and objectives stated in this document.

The plan has largely drawn on information in the Heritage Conservation Plan, Management Plan 1991, Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Report and results from Visitor Surveys and Community Workshops. The success of the plan’s implementation depends upon a close working relationship between Melbourne Parks and Waterways and the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to record my appreciation of the commitment and effort shown by the Project Team and Steering Committee who have had the challenging task of documenting the vision.

Finally, we at Melbourne Parks and Waterways would like to express our thanks to members of the community who have contributed to the planning process. This input has enabled the project team to achieve an excellent result which reflects both community and management expectations of this special park.

Nigel Caswell
Manager Parks
Melbourne Parks and Waterways
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Wattle Park Management Action Plan Project Team would like to acknowledge the assistance of the following people:

- **The Steering Committee**
  Jennifer Lilburn: Melbourne Parks and Waterways  
  Robyn Mullens: Historic Buildings Council  
  Mike Hoy: Parks Superintendent, City of Box Hill  
  Edna Shaw: Friends of Wattle Park  
  Bob Irving: Manager Wattle Park Golf Pty Ltd

- Faye Shepherd: Habitat Consultancy Services

- John Hawker: Historic Buildings Council

- Barrie Gallacher: John Patrick Pty Ltd

- Sheridan Campbell: Staff Search Consulting Pty Ltd

- Most importantly we thank the many interested individuals, and groups who were extremely helpful and gave generously of their time to contribute to this plan through Community Workshops, Open House, Open Access Days, submissions, letters and responses.
SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

The following is a summary of the main actions outlined in this plan. This summary is not in order of priority.

- Retain and enhance the existing character of Wattle Park
- Upgrade all park entrances
- Upgrade main driveway and car parks
- Reinstate accurate replicas of lighting on main driveway
- Provide lighting in car parks and central pathways near Chalet
- Upgrade pathway network enabling all weather access through the park
- Identify bicycle/shared footway as part of City of Box Hill Bicycle strategy
- Upgrade the main picnic area (near Chalet) providing formal areas for fixed barbecues and portable barbecues
- Reinstate tram body picnic shelters
- Provide a structured playground central to the formal barbeque/picnic areas
- Provide informal picnic and play areas near Patterson Avenue and 'five ways intersection'
- Replace existing toilet with a facility that meets visitor needs
- Repair and/or upgrade all visitor facilities such as seats, picnic tables, drinking fountains, rubbish bins
- Investigate joint funding for the toilet facility at 'five ways intersection'
- Provide appropriate and sympathetic park signage and information boards
- Continue to lease Chalet. Upgrade building and promote as a quality restaurant/reception venue
- Refurbish the Curators Cottage to meet requirements for park administration and staff facilities
- Investigate future use of the Curators Office and Former Homestead Stables
- Maintain and upgrade the Tram Waiting Shelters and Entrances to the park to provide a focus
- Construct a permanent shelter on the Band Rostrum
- Upgrade the patriotic area - Memorial Clock Tower and Lone Pine
- Enhance the Lily pond and surrounds as a focal point to the western area of the park
• Upgrade the Tennis Court precinct retaining its existing character. Upgrade courts, fence and shelters
• Demolish the disused toilet block and make area safe
• Assess need and use of the existing pavilion near main oval
• Develop management prescriptions for historic plantings and remnant indigenous vegetation
• Upgrade the Western Creek and Eastern Creek. Improve water quality and provide habitat
• Retain former lower oval as informal open space
• Reinstall garden beds at main entrances and corner of driveway
• Upgrade the Chalet and Curators Cottage gardens
• Reinstall the Wattle Perimeter Plantings
• Reinstall FNCV flora collection.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## FOREWORD

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## SUMMARY OF ACTION PLAN

1.0 **INTRODUCTION**
   1.1 **Brief History of the Park**
   1.2 **Brief Park Description**

2.0 **THE ACTION PLAN**
   2.1 **The Role of the Plan**
   2.2 **The Wattle Park Planning Process**
   2.3 **Community Consultation**

3.0 **THE PARK TODAY**
   3.1 **The Significance of Wattle Park**
   3.2 **The Character of Wattle Park**
   3.3 **Management Precincts**

4.0 **THE VISION AND OBJECTIVES**
   4.1 **Wattle Park - Vision and Objectives**
   4.2 **Management Precincts - Vision and Objectives**

5.0 **MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS**
   5.1 **Safety**
   5.2 **Recreation**
      5.2.1 **Sporting Facilities**
      5.2.2 **Picnicking**
      5.2.3 **Playgrounds**
      5.2.4 **Walking**
      5.2.5 **Cycling**
   5.3 **Visitor Facilities**
      5.3.1 **Toilets**
      5.3.2 **Shelter**
      5.3.3 **Seating**
      5.3.4 **Drinking Fountains**
      5.3.5 **Barbecues**
      5.3.6 **Picnic Tables**
      5.3.7 **Rubbish Bins**
      5.3.8 **Lighting**
      5.3.9 **Fencing**
   5.4 **Park Communications**
      5.4.1 **Information**
         5.4.1.1 **Park Promotion**
         5.4.1.2 **Orientation/Information**
      5.4.2 **Interpretation/Education**
      5.4.3 **Signs**

Page
1
1
1
2
2
2
5
6
6
8
9
12
12
13
15
15
16
17
20
22
23
23
16
24
24
25
25
26
27
27
28
28
30
30
30
31
31
32
5.5 Access and Circulation
  5.5.1 Park Entrances
  5.5.2 Vehicle Access
      5.5.2.1 The Main Driveway
      5.5.2.2 Emergency - Park Management Access
  5.5.3 Public Transport
  5.5.4 Parking Facilities
      5.5.4.1 Chalet car park
      5.5.4.2 Golf Course Car Park
      5.5.4.3 Overflow Parking
  5.5.5 Pedestrian Circulation
  5.5.6 Bicycle Circulation

5.6 Buildings and Structures
  5.6.1 Chalet
  5.6.2 Curators Cottage
  5.6.3 Curators Office
  5.6.4 Former Homestead Stables
  5.6.5 Works Area
  5.6.6 Tram Waiting Shelter and North West Entry
  5.6.7 Tram Waiting Shelter and Central Park Entry
  5.6.8 Band Room
  5.6.9 Memorial Clock Tower
  5.6.10 Playground Shelter
  5.6.11 Tram Body Picnic Shelters
  5.6.12 Lily Pond, Fountains and Rockery
  5.6.13 Tennis Courts and Shelters
  5.6.14 Toilet Block
  5.6.15 Disabled Toilet Block
  5.6.16 Employees Shelter
  5.6.17 Pavilion near oval
  5.6.18 Golf Pro Shop, Golf House and Golf Club House
  5.6.19 PTC Toilet

5.7 Vegetation
  5.7.1 Heritage Precinct
      5.7.1.1 Plant Selection
      5.7.1.2 New and Replacement Plantings
      5.7.1.3 Management - Maintenance
  5.7.2 Bushland Precinct
      5.7.2.1 Plant Selection
      5.7.2.2 New and Replacement Plantings
      5.7.2.3 Management - Maintenance
  5.7.3 Golf Course Precinct
      5.7.3.1 Plant Selection
      5.7.3.2 New and Replacement Plantings
      5.7.3.3 Management - Maintenance

5.8 Fauna

5.9 Views and Vistas
5.10 Memorials
5.11 Historic Bird Boxes
5.12 Pest Management
5.12.1 Pest Plants
5.12.2 Feral Animals
5.13 Services
5.13.1 Drainage
5.14 Companion Animals
5.15 Park Security
5.16 Community Involvement
5.17 Employee Development
5.18 Commercial Activities

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION
6.1 Integration with business planning
6.2 Monitoring and Review
6.3 Works Program and Estimate

REFERENCES

APPENDICES

A. Details - Visitor Facilities
B. Concept Plans
C. Wattle Park Planting Concept - Principal Species

LIST OF FIGURES
1. Planning Approach
2. Management Precincts
3. Heritage Precinct
4. Bushland Precinct
5. Golf Course Precinct
6. Location of Fencing
7. Park Entrances
8. Pedestrian Circulation - Path Network
9. Vegetation zones - Heritage Precinct
10. Relationship between time and aesthetic return derived from a hypothetical tree
11. Vegetation Zones Bushland Precinct
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief History of the Park

In 1915 the Hawthorn Tramways Trust purchased the then rural land from Mrs. Eliza Welch to establish a 'Tramways Park' which would offer recreational facilities to the public. The park was open to the public from 1916 coinciding with the opening of the tram line along Riversdale Road to Warrigal Road. In 1917 the Governor officially opened "Wattle Park."

In 1920 the Tramways Trust was absorbed by the newly created Metropolitan Tramways Board who took control of the park.

In 1926, A.G. Monsbourgh, the Board's Architect produced a Master Plan for the site and over the next ten years designed most of the existing facilities. The park landscape also changed considerably with extensive planting and landscape works. The park was a popular tourist, recreation and sporting venue.

The Chalet opened in 1928 and has operated as a reception venue, restaurant and kiosk since its inception.

In 1983 the Board was taken over by the Metropolitan Transport Authority and later the Public Transport Corporation. In 1991 the park was transferred to Melbourne Water. Today the park is managed by Melbourne Parks and Waterways, an enterprise of Melbourne Water. Melbourne Parks and Waterways manage most of the Metropolitan park system and plays a lead role in the management and revitalisation of Melbourne's Waterways.

The Wattle Park Heritage Conservation Plan 1993 by Allom Lovell and Assoc. gives a comprehensive description of the park's history and development.

1.2 Brief Park Description

Wattle Park is a 55 hectare park located within the City of Box Hill and managed by Melbourne Parks and Waterways (an enterprise of Melbourne Water).

It is recognised historically as a rare example of a pleasure park established, owned and operated by a transport authority with the dual aim of promoting transport services and providing a recreation facility for the public.

Wattle Park has been listed on the Register of the National Estate. Approximately one third of the park (L1 Zone) is included on Victoria's Historic Buildings Register and the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has also classified the Park. The 'Lone Pine' is classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and on the Register of Significant Trees.

The park contains areas of indigenous remnant bushland which has been identified as regionally significant. The Urban Fauna Survey Unit (DCFL 1989) nominated the site as of regional significance on the basis of its high diversity of common native fauna in a suburban environment.

The park provides a diverse range of recreational opportunities, combining aspects of:-
- public open space for passive recreation
- sporting facilities accessed on a fee paying basis
- commercial activities.

Wattle Park is also recognised as a place of 'social value'. It provides a traditional and spiritual connection between the past and present. It provides an essential reference point in the community's identity, and plays a significant role in the daily comings and goings of some members of the community. It is accessible to the public and the repeated use of the park has built up significant associations and values to the community. It is unique and unlike any other park in the Greater metropolitan region of Melbourne.
2.0 MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

2.1 The Role of the Plan

The purpose of the Management Action Plan is to provide broad strategic direction for Wattle Park as well as clear and achievable guidelines for management. The plan should ensure that no action is taken that is contrary to Melbourne Parks and Waterways vision for the park.

The specific objectives of developing the Management Action Plan are as follows:

1. Provide a clear vision for the park which is embraced by park management, staff and the community.

2. To develop a clear and achievable management plan for the park based on
   - an understanding of the historical, cultural, recreational, social and natural
     environmental significance of the park
   - an understanding of the various land use functions and activities occurring
     in the park
   - an understanding of the commercial or business operations occurring in the
     park and the importance of upgrading these functions without detracting
     from the overall quality of the park
   - an understanding of the existing needs of the community
   - an understanding of possible future needs of the community
   - an understanding of resource constraints.

3. Provide a management plan that assists in the efficient, effective and appropriate
   management of the park, outlining priorities and options for management.

4. Facilitate community involvement in the planning and management of the park.

5. Develop clear achievable guidelines and priorities for implementing future works.

2.2 The Wattle Park Planning Process

The preparation of the Management Action Plan involves making decisions about the future management of the park. Management decisions cannot be made unless there is an understanding of the park's value and significance along with the community's values and expectations.

The planning process is a means of relating people to their environment on a continuing and responsive basis.

The process involves negotiation between people with the aim of sharing all ideas in the process of seeking an understanding and solution to the problems at hand.
The Wattle Park Planning Approach

Community
Customers/local community/Friends of Wattle Park/leaseholders/City of Box Hill/Local press

Melb. Parks & Waterways Mgt.  PLANNING  Park Management Staff

Professionals/Consultants
Planning consultant
Landscape Architect
Heritage consultants
Community consultation planner
Environmental consultant
Historic Buildings Council

Figure 1: Planning Approach

This is a non-linear planning model - circular in nature. It starts where we are now and is inter-related with other planning processes. It is continuous, not one-off. It relates to the community and to the environment and places importance on establishing direction - being clear about the differences between ends and means (Hamilton-Smith 1993).

The ends being:
- what we hope to achieve
- (our aims and objectives)
- the outcomes of what we do

The means being:
- how we achieve them
- the inputs to what we do
- our strategies and methods
Wattle Park Planning Process

The Wattle Park Planning Process is set out as follows:

Stage 1. **Project Establishment**

- Establish project team
- Prepare and obtain agreement for the project plan by Steering Committee

Stage 2. **Analysis - Existing Status**

- Collect background information
- Preparation of the following studies:
  - *Wattle Park Heritage Conservation Plan* by Allom Lovell and Associates 1993
  - *Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna of Wattle Park and It's Management* by Carr et al 1993
  - Wattle Park Visitor Survey
  - Addendum Reports to the Heritage and Indigenous Vegetation Studies.
- Identify issues - heritage, environmental, community, park management.
- Community Workshops, 'Open house' (ongoing)

Stage 3. **Release Issues Paper**

Stage 4. **Establish a Vision/Mission for the Park** (the ends)

Stage 5. **Develop Strategies for the Park** (the means)

Stage 6. **Release Draft Plan**

- Public Comment
- Review Comments, incorporate in final plan as appropriate

Stage 7. **Adopt Final Plan**

- June-July
- July-Sept
- Sept.
- Sept.
- Sept-Oct.
- Dec-March.
- May.
2.3 Community Consultation

Planning for the future of Wattle Park should be done in close consultation with the existing users, other local residents, interest groups and relevant councils and authorities.

"Melbourne Water's Corporate Plan emphasises the importance of maintaining dialogue with customers and the community in general. This dialogue must entail elements of community education and consultation to ensure that appropriate levels of service are provided at an affordable price and that our customers clearly understand the trade-offs inherent in reaching solutions to environmental and service issues..... Working with our customers and the community needs to be a way of doing business."

(Working With Our Customers And The Community - Melbourne Water 1993).

In practice, 'community' generally consists of those people who are involved in any way with the park - anyone who interacts with the park.

The problem is that we tend to assume the community is homogenous. The reality is that it is far from homogenous and indeed contains very diverse, often conflicting interests. Any attempt to turn this reality into a consensus in some interests and viewpoints being accepted while others are ignored or even excluded. Therefore community involvement should be broad, covering all sections of the community.

Melbourne Water's aim for community consultation is that it be a two way process of communication between the corporation and community in order to produce policies, plans or actions which can be effectively and efficiently implemented because they are acceptable to the community.

Community consultation aims to promote the exchange of information and ideas; facilitate a more effective working relationship, enable better decision making and assist in a more effective matching of needs and services. It can also provide a framework for problem solving and managing conflict, if it arises.

Community consultation at Wattle Park, as part of the planning process has included:

1. Friends of Wattle Park Representative on the Steering Committee;
2. An invited local community member on the project team;
3. Two community workshops with the aim of identifying community issues and sharing ideas as part of working towards a solution;
4. 'Open Access' consultation days held on two weekday afternoons and a Sunday afternoon for those visitors unable to attend the workshops;
5. 'Open House' held one afternoon per week at the 'Curator's Cottage', enabling visitors to view and contribute to the planning process.
6. Visitor survey conducted in March - April 1993. The information collected provides a valuable profile of visitors to the Park as well as providing important information for Management.
7. 'Open Access' consultation days held on a Saturday and Sunday afternoon - which displayed the various studies, analysis work and issues paper.
8. Presentation of draft action plan at a Box Hill City Council 'Contact' meeting.
10. Review of public comment for inclusion in final plan.
3.0 THE PARK TODAY

3.1 The Significance of Wattle Park

The significance of Wattle Park is multi-layered and is not entirely revealed in a casual visit, but rather unfolds gradually with familiarity.

Wattle Park's significance is highlighted by the interweaving of remnant bushland, historic elements and plantings with social and community values.

The mix of passive and active recreation, commercial activities, the remnant bushland and the 'historic' cultural landscape within a single park contributes to its uniqueness and emphasises the possibility of a range of activities and values existing in one place and satisfying the needs of a range of people.

Wattle Park is recognised as significant from three perspectives, as outlined in the following summary:

1. Historic
   - The park is listed on the Register of the National Estate - Australian Heritage Commission.
   - A portion of the park (known as the L1 Zone) is included on the Historic Buildings Register.
   - The park has been classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
   - The 'Lone Pine' (Pinus brutia) is also classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and included on the Register of significant trees.
   - A number of structures within the park have been identified in the Box Hill Conservation Study which has now been adopted by the Box Hill City Council.

2. Environmental

The conservation significance of the remnant vegetation has been assessed at the plant species level and vegetation community level
   - 8 plant taxa have high regional significance
   - 18 plant taxa have regional significance
   - The Remnant Grassy Woodland Community is of regional significance.
   - All other remnant vegetation is of local significance.
   - The faunal species data requires further assessment, however at this point in time, 3 species have been recorded as of local significance (Ecological Horticulture, 1993).
   - Wattle Park is a site of international significance for the smut fungus (Urocystis destruens) which infects Early Nancy (Wurmbea dioica) (Faithful, 1992).
   - Wattle Park has been nominated as a site of 'Regional B' significance on the basis of its relatively high diversity of common native fauna in a suburban environment (Urban Fauna Survey Unit DCFL, 1989).

3. Social

- Wattle Park has served as a major community recreation facility since its inception.
- The theme and name of the park reflects the strong national fervour of the early decades of the century - the Australian national floral emblem being Wattle.
- Special trees have been planted by notable individuals, the Wattle League, Victorian Field Naturalist Club and special interest groups.
- The park is a long standing venue for regular performances by the Tramways Band and used by the 24th Battalion AIF for ceremonial occasions.
- The Chalet has operated as a cafe, dance hall and venue for receptions, weddings and parties since 1928. (H.B.C.)
• The golf course is a unique small course with a family atmosphere.
• The sporting facilities including golf, tennis, cricket and hockey are sports that have traditionally been played in the park.
• Many people in the local community grew up playing in the park and see it as a special place for themselves, their children and grand children.
• For some members of the community, Wattle Park plays an important part in their daily life. It is a local and familiar place that they visit every day.
Vegetation:
Remnant bushland and trees, arboretum plantings, special trees (ie. Lone Pine, Morell Tree), perimeter plantings, driveway plantings, garden beds and grass areas.

Landscape Elements:
Enterances, driveway, car parks, pathways, bridges, Western Creek, road cutting, picnic facilities, park furniture, play equipment, fencing, lighting and signage.

This area of the park is used by the following visitors:

- Children
- Playgroups - kite flyers
- Disabled groups
- Chalet/patrons
- Melbourne Transit Band
- Walkers
- Joggers
- Dog walkers
- Couples
- Bird watchers

- Naturalists
- Commuters
- Cyclists
- Cross-country runners
- Tennis players
- Cricketers
- Hockey players
- People taking golf lessons
- Aerobics club
- People visiting the memorials
- Contractors/delivery services

Bushland Precinct

This precinct is characterised by woodland planting which primarily consists of an overstorey of trees with a grassy understorey. The woodland vegetation varies considerably and contains the most biologically valuable areas of remnant flora within Wattle Park. This flora is described as Regionally Significant.

The vegetation of this area consists of the following communities:-

1. Remnant Grassy Woodland which embraces remnants of several pre-European plant communities. These remnant communities no longer retain their original floristic and structural characteristics because of severe degradation and species extinction.

2. Exotic Parkland which consists of planted exotic trees, mostly Eucalyps over areas that have been heavily mown over the years. The mown areas consist of a mixture of remnant grasses, herbs and exotic turf species and exotic herbs.

This precinct includes the following features:

Buildings and Structures:
PTC Toilet.

Vegetation
Remnant bushland, ground flora and trees, native tree plantings, exotic tree plantings and perimeter plantings.

Landscape Elements
Pathways, bridge, Western Creek, park furniture, fencing, signage.

This area of the park is used by the following visitors:

- Nature lovers/bird watchers/naturalists
- Dog walkers
- Walkers/joggers
- Commuters
- Doberman Club
- Picnickers-
- People waiting for the tram/visiting shopping centre - who 'lunch' inside the park boundary.

- Local kindergarten
- Cross-country runners
- PTC employees
- Cyclists
- School groups
- Children playing in the creek
Golf Course Precinct

The Wattle Park Golf Course is a 9-hole Public golf course that comprises natural undulating fairways. The golf course was established in 1937 and provides an attractive setting with plantations of mixed native and exotic trees over a mown understorey of grass dividing the fairways.

The creek side vegetation is primarily exotic species with some indigenous species surviving.

This precinct includes the following features:

Buildings and Structures:
Golf Pro shop, Golf House, Golf Club House.

Vegetation:
Exotic tree planting, Native tree planting, remnant flora.

Landscape Elements:
Pathways, bridges, Western Creek, fencing, signage, drinking fountain, bins, seats.

This area of the park is used by the following visitors:

- Naturalists
- Golfers
- Walkers
- Joggers
- Club houses used for Golf Club social functions, Charity functions, community meetings.

4.0 THE VISION AND OBJECTIVES

In order to successfully manage Wattle Park, Melbourne Parks and Waterways staff need to have a clear understanding of what the park has been and what the future of the park will be in terms of its value to the community, its visual appearance and what it may offer visitors.

The vision is the 'reference statement' and the plan should ensure that no action is taken that is contrary to the Wattle Park vision.

4.1 Wattle Park - Vision and Objectives

The Vision

"TO ENHANCE THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF WATTLE PARK, INTEGRATING THE HERITAGE, NATURAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES WHILE PROVIDING A TRADITIONAL SOCIAL SETTING AND QUALITY EXPERIENCE."

Objectives

The objectives to achieve the vision proposed in the plan in accordance with the Melbourne Parks and Waterways vision are:

Customer Service

- To provide a diverse range of appropriate recreation and education opportunities which meet visitor expectations and reflect the traditional uses of the park.
- To encourage and facilitate involvement of the community in appropriate areas of the park’s management strategies.
- To enhance and protect heritage features within the Wattle Park Heritage Conservation Plan guidelines and Burra Charter.

Environmental Management

- To develop and promote sound environmental and land management practices with the aim of:
  - preservation of existing features
  - minimisation/elimination of feature degradation
  - sustaining landscape character/features

Business Performance

- To explore, develop and promote existing and potential commercial opportunities where appropriate, without compromising the heritage, cultural, social and environmental significance of the park.

Employee Development

- To create a supportive work environment in which staff have the opportunity to develop their skills, and increase their involvement in decision-making, thereby increasing their sense of pride in the park.
4.2 Management Precincts - Vision and Objectives

Heritage Precinct

The Vision

"TO MAINTAIN THE HERITAGE VALUES OF THE ESTABLISHED CULTURAL LANDSCAPE WHILE ENSURING THAT THE RELAXED SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE ENHANCED THROUGH SENSITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES."

Objectives

- To enhance and protect the heritage features within the Wattle Park Heritage Conservation Plan Guidelines and Burra Charter.
- To promote and enhance the Chalet as a quality venue without compromising its traditional character.
- To enhance and upgrade the Lily Pond and fountains to provide a focal point for the western area of the park.
- To retain and enhance the formal exotic landscape character associated with the driveway and buildings.
- To retain and enhance the exotic - native woodland character
- To retain and enhance the variety of recreation opportunities
- To protect remnant indigenous vegetation
- To upgrade the creek environment retaining the existing verdant character and removing environmental weed species.
- To provide quality visitor amenity - picnic facilities.

Figure 3: Heritage Precinct
Bushland Precinct

The Vision

"TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE CONSERVATION VALUES OF THE REMNANT GRASSY WOODLAND AND HERITAGE VALUES OF THE HISTORIC PLANTINGS."

Objectives

- To conserve and regenerate the remnant indigenous ecosystem.
- To upgrade the creek environment as part of enhancing the indigenous ecosystem.
- To develop and promote sound environmental land management practices.
- To promote an understanding of the flora and fauna values.
- To provide an informal setting for nature appreciation and passive recreation.
- To retain and enhance the historic plantings.

![Map of Bushland Precinct](image)

Figure 4: Bushland Precinct

Golf Course Precinct

The Vision

"TO PROVIDE A QUALITY RECREATIONAL FACILITY IN KEEPING WITH THE TRADITIONAL CHARACTER AND SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE PARK THROUGH SOUND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT."

Objectives

- To upgrade the golf course without compromising the traditional character and social nature
- To adopt a sound business management approach
- To adopt a sustainable land management approach
- To ensure that the golf course is visually compatible with the adjacent parkland
- To ensure a safe and secure interface between the golf course and the adjacent public and private areas.

![Map of Golf Course Precinct](image)

Figure 5: Golf Course Precinct
5.0 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

5.1 Safety

The question of safety in the park is a broad topic and includes a diverse range of issues relating to facilities maintenance standards, risk management programs, ranger presence and security for park assets.

Strategy

• Maintain a safe environment for visitors and staff in the park.

ACTION

• Develop and implement a Risk Management Plan

• Develop a fire protection plan that is approved by the M.F.B.

• Provide appropriate information around the park informing visitors of potential hazards, i.e. traffic and water features.

• Develop a program for regular inspection and maintenance of visitor facilities, including playgrounds, furniture and other structures.

• Develop procedures for inspection, assessment and remedial work to mature trees. See Section 5.6.

• Develop a strategy in conjunction with the police for anti social behaviour. The strategy should clearly address staff responsibilities and action.

• Develop a first aid strategy for the park to deal with emergencies.

• Ensure that staff adhere to work safety regulations and work procedures in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985 and Melbourne Water's Risk Management Policy.

• Ensure that the use of chemicals is strictly in accordance with manufactures directions and when being used that signs are erected advising visitors that spraying is in progress.

• Develop a security strategy for both park visitors and building security.

• Effectively communicate to the public when and where they can locate staff in case of an emergency.

• Ensure that staff are on duty during times of high visitor use.
5.2 Recreation

Wattle Park provides a spectrum of recreation opportunities ranging from solitary passive leisure to active sporting pursuits.

The recreation opportunities combined with the cultural features and landscape, remnant bushland and commercial activities contribute to the parks unique character and ability to provide a range of recreation experiences for a diversity of people.

Wattle Park has been a major community recreation facility since its inception. The sporting facilities and leisure activities are steeped in tradition and family atmosphere. Many of the facilities however require upgrading to meet community expectations.

Strategy

- Provide a diverse range of recreation experiences for all ages and abilities whilst ensuring the heritage, cultural, natural and social values of the park are not compromised.

- Increase the number of visitors to Wattle Park without losing the quality of the experience or displacing traditional user groups.

- Manage and maintain visitor impact at an acceptable level so as to provide for a quality visitor experience without detriment to the park environment.

- Assess and monitor recreation activities which may have detrimental effects on park values or other visitors. Such activities may be prohibited or restricted to sites, or certain times to minimise impact.

- S sensitively upgrade and/or provide recreation facilities that meet Australian Safety Standards.

- Provide recreation opportunities that meet the needs of visitor groups park management objectives and benefit the long term viability of the park.
5.2.1 Sporting Facilities

The sporting facilities of Wattle Park are integral to the overall character, design and atmosphere of the park. They interrelate clearly with the historical and social significance of the park and contribute to the diverse range of recreational opportunities available to park visitors. The sporting facilities include the 3 tennis courts (2 asphalt, 1 grass court), the sporting oval (utilised presently for cricket and hockey) and the 9 hole public golf course.

Golf Course

The Wattle Park Golf Course is a 9 hole public golf course that comprises undulating fairways. The course was established in 1937 and provides an attractive setting with plantations of mixed native and exotic trees, over a mown understorey of grass dividing the fairways. The rolling hills and bushland setting are noticeable features of the course. The hills and green sited above the creek add to the character and challenge of the course. The creek line retains a verdant character although many of the plants are invasive weed species.

For a more detailed report of the Golf Course refer to Wattle Park Heritage Conservation Study Addendum (1994).

Strategy

- Provide a professionally managed, quality golf course in keeping with the traditional character and social atmosphere.

ACTION

- Tender the management of the golf course.
- Restore the Wattle Park Golf Course in a sensitive and appropriate way to increase patronage and quality of customer service.

This would include the following:
- Refurbishment or replacement of the pro shop, golf club house and Golf House.
- Design of buildings to enhance the visual qualities of the park.
- Retention and recreation of the 1930's character where appropriate in built elements such as handrails on bridges, rustic details, paint colours, etc.
- Provision of a perimeter fence for safety and security.
- Upgrading of pathways and access points, ie. bridge over the creek at the 4th fairway.
- Upgrading of car park.
- Upgrading of irrigation system
- Preparation of a tree planting - revegetation plan (Refer to Section 5.7).
- Address drainage issues.
- Preparation of a golf course plan addressing circulation, planting, possible redesign of course, and design theme for visitor facilities, ie. seats, shelter, path detail, etc.
- Preparation of a sign plan that meets corporate guidelines (Refer to Section 5.4.3).
- Preparation of a grass management plan.
- Preparation of a tree replacement program.
- Preparation of a general maintenance plan, ie. sand bunkers, pin replacement, toilets, paths.
- Implement appropriate security measures.
- Implement an appropriate and sensitive marketing and promotion plan.
Tennis Courts

While the tennis court precinct requires considerable upgrading, the informal 'old fashioned' nature of the precinct is much admired and adds to the charm of the area.

Refer to Section 5.6.11.

Sporting Oval

The oval was one of the early constructed developments in the park (1925) and has historical significance in connection with the trooping of colour ceremony by the 24th Battalion. The main oval is used by a range of people for different activities.

It is valued as an informal gathering site and provides a level surface for walkers, joggers, as well as elderly and disabled people. On weekends the open space provides for informal family games and activities away from picnickers and playground equipment. A number of sporting groups, including four cricket clubs, two hockey clubs and occasional athletics club utilise the space also. This has led to a concern that the main oval is monopolised by organised sporting clubs in deference to its potential for public open space.

Strategy

• Retain and conserve the oval to provide a sporting facility for sporting groups and open space for informal use.

ACTION

• Review the current policy on exclusive use of the oval by sporting groups on weekends.

• Restrict exclusive use by sporting clubs to Saturday only.

• Promote Wattle Park as a venue for events, utilising the oval area.

• Maintain oval to acceptable sporting standard.

• Maintenance of wicket to be the responsibility of the cricket clubs and to meet satisfaction of Park Management.

'Lower Oval' at Elgar Road

The 'lower oval' in the eastern section of the park was used for formal sports over the past decades until more recent years. Lacrosse and Cricket were sports played on the oval and today the dog obedience club regularly use this space.

Some of the problems associated with retaining this location as a formal sports oval include its proximity to the prime remnant bushland, potential impact, the underground stream that runs through the oval area resulting in waterlogged areas, and the requirements and impacts of formal sports groups, ie. parking, access, changing facilities, etc.

Strategy

• Retain part of the former lower oval as an informal open area and manage it appropriately so it does not impact on the remnant indigenous vegetation.
ACTION

- Revegetate western section of oval as part of creek reinstatement.
- Maintain as informal open area.
- Maintain the area to minimise impact on remnant vegetation. Establish a mowing regime to provide an appropriate grass sward to suit informal recreational activities whilst preventing spread of grass seed into neighbouring bushland areas.
5.2.2 Picnicking

Wattle Park has always been a venue for formal and informal picnics. The formal picnic facilities are located to the east of the Chalet in the Heritage Precinct.

The formal picnic area consists of a pine bark mulch surface and timber sleeper edge surround. There are two gas barbecues (four hot plates) and six picnic table sets. The sets consist of a concrete table with timber slat seats on a concrete base. The tram body picnic shelter is located to the east.

The picnic area requires upgrading as its treatment is incongruous with the character of the park. The current treatment also does not cater for disabled access.

The existing facilities are confined to one area of the park which has lead to the overuse of this area and subsequent damage to the environment, ie. erosion.

There is scope however, to improve the quality of experience by upgrading the formal picnic area and provide informal facilities in other areas of the park to distribute visitors, vary their experience and reduce the likelihood of areas becoming over used and damaged.

Refer to Section 5.3 Visitor Facilities.

Strategy

• Provide high quality picnic facilities in Wattle Park.

ACTION

Heritage Precinct

Existing Formal Picnic Area

• Redesign the existing formal picnic area by removing the sleeper edge and mulch and replacing with Dromana gravel with a sweeping concrete edge strip (Refer to Detail 1).

• Retain the existing barbecues (Refer to Section 5.3.5).

• Upgrade the water/washing facilities (Refer to Section 5.3.4).

• Replace existing picnic tables (Refer to Section 5.3.6, Detail 4).

• Locate tram body picnic shelter in a more central location within the gravelled picnic area (Refer to Section 5.6.11, Detail 1)

• Plant clumps of Lomandra spp around base of existing Eucalypts.

Proposed Portable Barbeque Area

• Provide an area for portable barbecues to the north east of the Chalet.

• Surface treatment and edging as per the formal picnic area, ie. Dromana gravel and concrete edge.

• Site a second tram body picnic shelter central to the area (Refer to Section 5.6.11)

• Provide water/washing facility (Refer to Section 5.3.4)

• Provide picnic tables (refer to Section 5.3.6).
Lily Pond and Surrounds (West of Drive)

This area of the park is bounded by the creek and driveway. The area has an open woodland character. This area is underutilised and has the potential to be another hub of the park due to the presence of the Lily Pond.

**ACTION**

- Utilise this area for low key picnicking
- Provide limited numbers of picnic tables (Refer to Section 5.3.6).
- Monitor and review the use of this area and act accordingly.
- Refer to Section 5.6.12 for restoration of Lily Pond.

**Bushland Precinct**

**Informal Picnic/Play Areas**

Two areas have been identified as potential sites for low key - informal picnic/play areas.

The two sites designated for this activity include:

1. The former horse yard - near Patterson Avenue
2. Area near the five ways intersection

**ACTION**

- Provide low key picnic areas in the above locations.
- Provide limited numbers of picnic tables in each area.
- Monitor and review the use of this area and act accordingly.
- Play area (Refer to Section 5.2.3)
5.2.3 Playground

Wattle Park in its entirety is seen as a playground, however, the provision of structured playground facilities in Wattle Park is of historical significance.

The existing play equipment is located north of the chalet and takes the form of a "traditional" playground comprising swings, slides and see-saw constructed in galvanised steel.

A junior playground is located near the playground shelter whilst the remaining equipment is dispersed throughout the play area (north of the Chalet).

Play equipment was located in the north east section of park but was removed by previous management because it failed to meet safety standards.

The playground equipment has always been included in the park's list of facilities and while the existing items do not have individual significance, the provision of playground facilities is of historical significance.

Three areas in the park have been identified as playground sites. It is envisaged that each playground should be different in character, whilst meeting the needs of visitors.

Strategy

- Provide safe children's play areas which includes the provision of constructed playgrounds and natural areas suitable for unstructured play.
- Provide play areas that meet visitor needs and comply with Australian safety standards.

ACTION

- Provide play areas in the following locations:
  i) north east of the Chalet located centrally between the barbecue areas
  ii) south east near Patterson Avenue
  iii) east near the Five Ways intersection.
- Playground areas to be small in scale and designed to blend with the ambience and character of the park.
- Provide a structured playground facility north east of the Chalet. The design of the playground and equipment should be provided for toddlers (0 - 5 years) and juniors (5 - 8 years). The more traditional items such as swings should be spatially arranged throughout the adjoining picnic area for older children and adults.
- Provide more informal, natural areas for unstructured play in the play areas near Patterson Avenue and the Five Ways intersection.
- The size and colour of the playground equipment should not dominate the area. Colours should be attractive and not necessarily restricted to historic colours.
- All equipment to comply with Australian Safety Standards.
- Employ a qualified consultant to assess existing equipment to ascertain whether it complies with safety standards.
• Form a working group to develop design and themes for the playgrounds at Wattle Park. The design process should also involve children. Advertise in the local papers and seek a range of community representatives to work with a designer.

• Ensure that the playgrounds provide a quality experience with a sense of challenge for children. They should aim to stimulate imaginative creative play.

5.2.4 Walking

Refer to Section 5.5.5 Pedestrian Circulation.

5.2.5 Cycling

Refer to Section 5.5.6 Bicycle Circulation
5.3 Visitor Facilities

Many of the visitor facilities in Wattle Park are below a satisfactory standard as compared with other Melbourne Parks and Waterways Parks.

High quality visitor facilities attract visitors to a park and enhance their experience. Visitor facilities in Wattle Park shall be consistent with the needs and expectations of park visitors; meet park management objectives and reflect the historic nature and character of the park.

Design and materials chosen should visually enhance the park, have a high resistance to weathering and vandalism and be relatively maintenance free and cost effective.

5.3.1 Toilets

There is currently one public toilet facility located in the park (except for Chalet and Golf Course) which is below satisfactory standards.

Strategy

- Provide clean, safe, well serviced toilet facilities which meet community expectations.

ACTION

- demolish the existing toilet facility and rebuild a new facility in the same location to meet modern day requirements and community expectations.
- investigate the possibility of joint funding with Box Hill City Council and the Public Transport Corporation to build a toilet facility in the eastern area of the park to service park users, PTC employees, tourists and the shopping centre.
- Refer to Section 6.14 Toilet Block (HBC B10) and 6.19 PTC Toilet.

5.3.2 Shelters

Picnic shelters are popular facilities in MPW parks. The need for more shelters was reflected in results of the park's visitor survey. The provision of shelter in Wattle Park will take the following forms:

- Stone playground shelter
- Tram body picnic shelters
- Pergolas adjoining the Chalet
- Tree planting for shade.

Strategy

- Provide quality picnic shelters and vegetation for shade and wind protection to meet visitor needs.

ACTION

- Retain and upgrade the existing shelters, which include:
  - Stone playground shelter (Refer to Section 5.6.10)
  - Relocate the existing tram body picnic shelter (Refer to Section 5.6.11).
  - Locate a second tram body picnic shelter in proposed portable barbeque area (Refer to Section 5.6.11).
  - Pergolas at the Chalet (Refer to Section 5.6.1).
- Provide tree planting for shade and protection from the wind (Refer to Section 5.7).
- Monitor the need for additional shelter. If additional shelter required, the design and detailing should be consistent with the character of the park buildings.
5.3.3 Seating

There are four types of seating in the park;

- Simple green painted timber benches in the north west corner and eastern section of the park, and
- Three types of seating with heavy concrete bases with green painted timber slats to the seat and back. These seats are located in the heritage precinct, i.e. around the oval near the band stand and playground. The seating is not of historical significance.

Strategy

- Provide quality seating throughout the park that is sympathetic to the character of the park.

ACTION

- Provide park bench seating throughout the park in appropriate locations.
- Progressively replace all existing seating over a number of years.
- Monitor use and impact and relocate as required.
- Recommendations
  1. Park Bench seating with arm rests to be located around Chalet, oval, bandstand and lily pond (Refer to Detail 2 - Appendix).
  2. Bench seats to be located in appropriate areas as required. (Refer to detail 2 - Appendix).
  3. Informal seating made from fallen trees, logs, etc to be located in Bushland precinct near Elgar Road.
- Locate some seating in pairs to encourage more social interaction.

5.3.4 Drinking Fountains and Taps in BBQ Areas

There are ten drinking fountains in Wattle Park. Three fountains are constructed of a tapering conical rubble base with a concrete bowl; two fountains have a cast iron base painted green with an enamel bowl. There are three fountains on the east wall of the Chalet. The fountain in the picnic area and the eastern area near the intersection are attached to a timber post.

The drinking fountains are associated with the early corpus of structures built by the early M. & M.T.B.

There is one tap in the barbeque picnic area used for the rinsing of utensils, etc. The condition of this facility is poor and requires upgrading.

Strategy

- Provide quality drinking fountains in a number of locations to meet visitor needs.
ACTION

- Repair and maintain the following drinking fountains;
  - fountain in the north west corner. Remove the *Lagunaria pteronii* which is obscuring the fountain.
  - cast iron fountain near lily pond and golf course.
  - rubble base fountain near the playground shelter.

- Remove the drinking fountains on the east wall of the Chalet. Build a drinking fountain near by to match the existing rubble base fountains (Refer to Detail 3 - Appendix).

- Provide a drinking fountain near the barbecue picnic areas and play ground design to match the existing rubble base fountains.

- Replace drinking fountain at fiveways intersection with a rubble base fountain.

- Provide a drinking fountain in a more appropriate location near the oval to replace existing tap near the lorne pine.

- Upgrade the washing facilities by improving surrounds and timber posts. Locate a tap - washing area at each of the barbecue areas. Do not associate drinking fountain with tap.

5.3.5 Barbecues

Two gas barbecues each with two hot plates have replaced unsafe gas barbecues in the formal picnic area. The barbecues reflect detailing of the park, i.e. basalt rubble base and have no heritage significance.

The visitor survey indicated that more barbecue facilities are desired by park visitors. The provision of barbecue facilities may take a number of forms such as:-

1. provision of fixed barbecues
2. provision of an area for portable barbecues
3. provision of barbecues for hire.

Strategy

- Provide barbecues (in-park or contract hire) for use by visitors and designate areas for barbecues.

ACTION

- Retain the existing gas barbecues and at this point in time do not increase numbers.

- Provide an area for portable barbecues (Refer to Section 5.2.2)

- Investigate potential of hiring facilities if demand arises.

- Monitor use and need for additional fixed barbecues. If additional facilities are required then consistent detailing should be adopted.
5.3.6 Picnic Tables

There are six picnic tables and seats located in the barbecue picnic area. The picnic table sets consist of a concrete table and unpainted timber slats seats on a concrete base. While the appearance is suggestive of the 1930s style of furniture, it is not very inviting, comfortable or functional.

The picnic tables have no individual heritage significance, however it is the provision of such facilities that is of historic importance.

Strategy

- Provide picnic table and seats in picnic areas
- Provide facilities that are accessible for all visitors and ensure the style of facilities are in keeping with the character of the park.

ACTION

- Provide picnic tables in all picnic areas. Monitor use and impact and relocate as required.
- Replace existing picnic tables with new ones. All picnic tables to be consistent in design.
- Refer to Detail 4 - Appendix.

5.3.7 Rubbish Bins

Rubbish bins are presently sited in the main picnic area north of the Chalet. The black plastic 'wheel away' rubbish bins are an efficient cost effective way of managing rubbish collection, however their design is not sympathetic to the 1930s tramways character.

Rubbish generated in the park is currently not recycled. In order to achieve the objective of sound environmental management a recycling program should be established.

Strategy

- Provide for a rubbish recycling system in the park.

ACTION

- Adopt a rubbish recycling policy for the park.
- Provide separate bins for glass, aluminium, plastics (P.E.T.) and perishables forming a recycling station that is attractively presented (Refer to Detail 5 - Appendix).
- Ensure the recycling policy is communicated effectively and easily understood.
- Provide recycling stations in barbecue and picnic areas only.
- Investigate recycling collection service provided by Box Hill City Council.
- Provide interpretive material and signage communicating the benefits to the park and the environment of that policy.
- Closely monitor the success of the policy.
5.3.8 Lighting

There is currently a range of styles of lighting in the park. The original driveway lights suspended over the road have been replaced by fluorescent fittings.

There was a metal standard light located at the turnaround near the Chalet which was replaced with an angled fluorescent fitting and there is security lighting located in the Chalet carpark and works depot.

There is potential to upgrade lighting along the driveway, in the car parks, around the Chalet and in the long term along the path from the Chalet to the central park entrance.

Strategy

- Provide quality lighting and fittings that meet safety requirements, improves security and is in keeping with the character of the park.

ACTION

- Replace fluorescent light fittings along driveway with accurate replicas of original lighting suspended over the road.
- Replace the light at the turnaround with a more suitable light.
- Replace existing lighting in carpark with replicas on gooseneck standards when carpark is upgraded.
- All new lighting to be replicas on gooseneck standards of a suitable scale and painted green.
- Seek advice from lighting designer to ensure lighting requirements and safety standards are met, whilst minimising impact on fauna.
- Refer to Detail 6 - Appendix.

5.3.9 Fencing

There are several styles of fencing seen in different areas of the park which are all generally in poor condition. There is no consistency or guidelines for determining styles of fencing and consequently fencing has been added to and mended over the years adding to the appearance of dilapidation and general unsightliness.

The main styles of the fencing currently seen in the park are as follows:

i) Steel post and cyclone wire - recycled tram rails have been used as posts in some sections. Sections are located around the golf course and park boundary.

ii) Concrete bollard and cable - located along the main driveway and turning circle (Refer to Section 5.5.2.1).

iii) Timber Post and Rail Barriers - located in the Chalet and golf course car parks.

iv) Timber Picket Fence - east of the Curators cottage.

v) Timber post and wire fence - to the Curators cottage garden is typical of the 1920s and 30s.
Strategy

- Provide quality fencing:
  - to meet safety and security needs
  - to respect the park character and enhance the park's visual qualities
  - to provide uniformity to the park.

ACTION

- Style and location of fencing is outlined as follows:

1. Perimeter/Boundary
   150mm x 150mm cypress pine posts with three strands of 12mm cable at a height of 1.0m (Refer to Detail 7 - Appendix).

2. Driveway - Turning Circle - Car Park and Memorial Clock Tower. 150mm x 150mm concrete bollard with 25mm cable to compliment existing driveway fence (Refer to Detail 7 - Appendix).

3. Golf Course
   Black cyclone fence average height 1.8m. Height will vary depending on location and safety issues associated with the golf course.

4. Works Area
   1.8m high black cyclone fence. Fence to be screened by vegetation.

Legend:
- Perimeter boundary fence
- Driveway/Carpark fence
- Golf Course fence

Figure 6: Location of Fencing
5.4 Park Communications

Communication services are those which provide

- information about the park (pre visit, visit and post visit),
- orientation to the park (its facilities and opportunities),
- interpretive services (which help visitors and the community develop an understanding of park environments, the impact of people on these, and encourage positive action to reduce such impacts.)
- education services (community and school programs which build understanding about the park environment and special attributes.)

Strategy

- Park communication services will be provided to:
  - attract visitors to Wattle Park;
  - enhance visitor experiences of the park;
  - help manage visitor impact on the park environment, including natural and cultural heritage aspects.
- Communication services will be targeted to meet the needs of visitor groups and will be based on the visitor 'trip cycle', providing pre-visit, enroute, orientation, and departure information.

ACTION

- Develop a Park Communication Strategy which identifies target visitor groups, information needs, messages and delivery services.

5.4.1 Information

5.4.1.1 Park Promotion

The majority of visitors to Wattle Park originate from the local area, and tend to be repeat visitors. The park's cultural, social and natural values are not widely promoted. There is scope to increase visitation to Wattle Park (particularly mid week), without detriment to the park experience or environment, and importantly without displacing the 'traditional park users'.

Strategy

- Raise awareness of Wattle Park as a destination for 'family outings' and as a venue for 'special events'.
- Consistently promote the opportunities and values of Wattle Park to set clear visitor expectations.
- Target low use periods encouraging use of the park mid week.
- Use the Wattle Park logo to promote destination awareness.
- Promote Wattle Park as one of the Melbourne Parks and Waterways system of world quality parks.
ACTION

- Distribute the Park Brochure (off site) to stimulate people to visit Wattle Park.
- Develop a yearly 'Calendar of Events', including Wattle Day celebrations.
- Promote upcoming park events on the MPW Parks Hotline.
- Maintain relations with local papers to gain editorial promotion for the Park.
- Develop community networks (such as Box Hill Council) to promote special events and activities.
- Promote coming events in other parks, i.e. banners.
- Utilise the tram waiting shelters to promote park events and facilities.

5.4.1.2 Orientation/Information

The quality of orientation and general information in the park is inadequate and below visitor expectations.

Information can be provided in a number of forms. The visitor survey results show greatest support for information in the form of signs, display boards, brochures and maps.

Strategy

- Develop a hierarchy of on-site information, including personal (i.e. ranger contact) and non-personal services (i.e. signs and information boards).

ACTION

- Design and construct a park information/orientation shelter near car parks.
- Develop a series of Park Notes on a range of themes including flora & fauna, natural and cultural history.
- Develop regularly updated Park News flyers to promote special events or 'seasonal happenings' in the park.
- Ensure Ranger presence and accessibility for the purpose of customer service and visitor management.
- Establish a 'resource library' for students and public inquiry.

5.4.2 Interpretation/Education

Interpretation and education services will be provided within the parameters of visitor demand and to meet park management objectives.

Strategy

- Interpretation and education services will be offered where there is an established demand and to meet management objectives.
- Interpretation and education services must be funded by park sources of income, and therefore will generally be offered on a user pays basis.
• Melbourne Parks and Waterways will be responsible for planning, management, programming and quality control of interpretive and education services, however services may be delivered by appropriately trained park staff, volunteers or contractors.

• Develop an interpretive/education program to meet park management objectives which includes:
  - interpretive services which help visitors and the community develop a better understanding of park environments, the impact of people on these, and encourage positive action to reduce such impacts.
  - education services (community and school) which build understanding about the park environment and special attributes.

**ACTION**

• Develop programs which encourage and provide opportunities for the community and park visitors to become involved in looking after the natural and cultural heritage features of the park.

• Assess the need for the provision of information material and standard presentations for student and teacher enquiries. Develop these where appropriate (on a user pays basis).

**5.4.3 Signs**

The existing information services in Wattle Park are inadequate and need to be improved.

The provision of a uniform sign system throughout the park with simple, clear information will assist in widening the experience for visitors as well as allow safer and easier movement throughout the park.

There are no approach signs on roads leading to Wattle Park which can cause confusion for visitors wanting to enter the park. Once in the park, the internal sign system is inadequate and detracts from the quality of experience for visitors.

**Strategy**

• Develop a comprehensive uniform sign system that reflects the character of Wattle Park and services the needs of park visitors. The Wattle Park logo and MPW logo should be used where appropriate.

• Ensure the sign system complies with corporate guidelines set out in the Melbourne Parks and Waterways Guidelines for Park Signage 1993.

**ACTION**

• Prepare and implement a sign plan for the park that:-
  - addresses park identification, directional and orientational signs
  - complies with Melbourne Parks and Waterways Guidelines for Park signage (Refer to Detail 8)
  - encourages visitors to explore the park.
  - acknowledges Melbourne Parks and Waterways role as Manager
  - adopts the park’s logo and colour scheme

• Provide appropriate signage on the approach roads to the Park clearly indicating the name of the park, location of entrance and major facilities, i.e. Chalet and golf course.
5.5 ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

5.5.1 Park Entrances

There are twelve designated points where visitors can gain entrance to Wattle Park. There are six tram stops along Riversdale Road including the tram terminus at the 'five ways', three entry points along Elgar Road and an entry point on Patterson Avenue. There is also access off Warrigal Road, along the entire park boundary (excluding the golf course).

Of the twelve entry points, there are four entrances that are highly visible which should provide a focal point to the park. These entrances are primarily along Riversdale Road and include:
- the north-west entrance and tram waiting shelter
- the main driveway entry
- the central park entry and tram waiting shelter
- the entry opposite the tram terminus and 'five ways'.

Legend:  
* High profile entry
† Local entry
†E Emergency Park Access point (as well as local entry)

Figure 7 - Park Entrances

Strategy

- Upgrade the four main entrances along Riversdale Road, providing a sense of entry and focal point of the park as well as assisting in the identification and promotion of Wattle Park.
- Provide easily identified, appropriately sited, low key "local" entrance points to the park on Warrigal Road, Elgar Road and Patterson Avenue.
5.5.2 Vehicle Access - The Main Driveway

5.5.2.1 The Main Driveway

Vehicle access is principally off Riversdale Road and the two-way access road terminates at the Chalet carpark. The driveway is the original farm driveway that was extended to the Chalet in 1927. The current appearance of the driveway with the avenues of cedars (*Cedrus deodara*), was established in 1934.

The park entrance is poorly defined and lacks strength when viewed from the high points of Warrigal Highway and Riversdale Road.

The overall condition of the driveway and its immediate surrounds is poor.

**Strategy**

- Upgrade the appearance of the main driveway and immediate surroundings to maintain a formal entry to the park.

**ACTION**

- Upgrade the main entrances to the park by re-establishing formal garden beds consisting primarily of exotic species and feature tree planting, i.e. *Araucaria heterophylla* on both sides of the gateway (Refer to Concept 1).
- Reinstate the missing outer gate post to match the existing post at the entrance.
- Relocate corporate sign to the right hand side of entrance (opposite side of driveway) in accordance with MPW signage policy.
- Erect sign depicting Wattle Park's logo on the left hand side of the entrance.
- Recreate portion of former Ficus *pumila* hedge at entrance precinct for interpretive purposes.
- Resurface the main driveway with bitumen.
- Continue bluestone kerb and channel as per existing to the main entrance.
- Upgrade drainage system.
- Recreate the formal garden bed to the corner of the drive by establishing a rose garden using species popular in the 1920s and 1930s in association with a local horticultural society, i.e. Box Hill Garden Club, Box Hill Rose Society.
- Upgrade the appearance of the driveway fence by:
  - removing white paint and highlighting the corner of drive with reflectors
  - replace timber bollards and damaged bollards (Refer to Section 5.3.9)
  - replace missing sections of cable.
- Replace missing cedars (Refer to Section 5.7)
- Replace existing fluorescent light fittings with original light shades or replicas, whilst meeting safety standards associated with road lighting (Refer to Section 5.3.8).
- Remove *Jasminum nudiflorum* and the three *Eucalyptus cosmophylla* from the corner of the driveway.
• Upgrade the garden bed plantings north of the works area/curators office in keeping with a more exotic/formal philosophy.

• Revitalise the turnaround to provide more of a focal point to the end of the drive and beginning of many of the parks activities by;
  - maintaining/upgrading the bluestone edging
  - trim the lower branches of the oak tree - obtain advise from arboriculturist

• Upgrade garden beds east and south of turn around. Replant with annuals reflecting the 24th Battalion colours.

• Replace timber rail fence with cable fence to compliment driveway/fencing (Refer to Section 5.3.9).

• Investigate the need for installation of a security gate adjacent to Tennis Courts. Design should enhance visual qualities of the park.

• Investigate future undergrounding of existing powerlines which detract from the entry experience.

• Provide appropriate signage (Refer to Section 5.4.3).

5.5.2.2 Emergency - Park Management Access

There is park management and emergency and fire access at Patterson Avenue, Elgar Road and Riversdale Road. The access gate at Elgar Road also provides access to the lower oval.

Strategy

• Retain existing Emergency Fire and Park Management Access Points

Refer to Figure 7.

5.5.3 Public Transport

Wattle Park is easily accessible by tram with 5 stops along Riversdale Road and the tram terminus at the five-ways intersection. The tram leaves the terminus at approximately 15 minute intervals during weekdays and at 40 minute intervals on weekends.

Bus services also run along Elgar and Warrigal Roads.

Strategy

• Promote easy access to Wattle Park by tram and bus through liaison with the Public Transport Corporation.

ACTION

• Incorporate Promotion of access to Wattle Park by tram and bus in the parks communication strategy.

• Utilise the PTC trams as an avenue for promoting Wattle Park as a destination for visitors.

• Investigate historic tram rides to Wattle Park with the National Trust W-Class Tram Committee.
5.5.4 Parking Facilities

There are two public car parks at Wattle Park with a total car parking capacity of approximately 240 cars.

5.5.4.1 Chalet Car Park

The Chalet car park terminates the driveway and has a parking capacity for 75 vehicles. It is not known when the Chalet car park was constructed, and it has been identified as being of no heritage significance. The turning circle is an important feature associated with the car park and Chalet and requires upgrading (Refer to Section 5.4.2.1). The car park is of a poor standard and requires upgrading.

Strategy

- Provide a safe, self regulating car park utilising the existing space efficiently.
- Minimise the impact of the redesigned carpark on the park.

ACTION

- Redesign car park providing a safe self regulating car park for approx 75 cars (Refer to Concept 2 Appendix).
- Upgrade the car park by:
  - resurfacing with bitumen.
  - provide safe pedestrian paths to areas of the park.
  - landscaping providing shade trees and garden bed planting to designate parking areas and extent of car park.
  - remove the white post and rail fence and control vehicle access into the park through the use of a bluestone kerb and channel and concrete bollard and cable fencing (Refer to Detail 7 Appendix).
- Discourage buses using the car park by providing bus parking in the main carpark near the golf course.
- Redesign the car park drainage so that it connects into the existing storm water system. Prevent drainage from flowing into the bushland area.
- Designate appropriate numbers of car spaces for the use of disabled persons. Spaces should be located in north west of car park near Chalet.
- Provide access to Chalet through car park for service and deliveries.
- Retain park maintenance access road south of car park.
- Provide appropriate lighting (Refer to Section 5.3.8)
- Provide appropriate signage (Refer to Section 5.4.3)
- Ensure all detailing is in keeping with the character of the park.
5.5.4.2 Golf Course Car Park

The Golf Course car park was constructed in 1929 and was identified as 'motor parking area' on earlier M. & M.T.B. plans. This car park is generally in poor condition and requires upgrading. The car park has a mix of surface treatments including asphalt, bluestone rubble and grass. The car park falls to the west with an average slope of 1:20. There is an oval turning circle paved in asphalt. The car park is edged by a bluestone planting bed surrounding the four large elm trees to the north. The western side is edged by a white post and railing fence.

Strategy

- Provide a safe self regulating car park utilising the existing space efficiently.
- Provide a car park used by golfers and park visitors
- Minimise the impact of the car park on the park.
- Ensure that the relationship between the car park and golf course buildings encourages a welcoming entrance.

ACTION

- Redesign the car park providing a safe self regulating car park for approximately 160 cars (Refer to Concept 3 - Appendix)
- Provide parking facilities for buses
- Upgrade the carpark by;
  - resurfacing in bitumen
  - providing safe pedestrian areas
  - landscaping providing shade trees, and garden beds where appropriate
  - addressing drainage issues
  - ensuring consistent detailing in keeping with the character of the park.
- Designate appropriate numbers of car spaces for disabled persons use.
- Design the car park to accommodate access into east side of works area for delivery vehicles, etc
- Provide appropriate signage (see Section 5.4.3)
- Provide appropriate lighting (see Section 5.3.8)

5.5.4.3 Overflow Parking

The need to provide overflow parking for special events has been identified. Space is limited in Wattle Park due to the nature of the park and designated overflow parking may vary depending on the location of the event. However, parking is also available on Elgar Road, outside the park boundary.

ACTION

If the occasion arises overflow parking will be catered for at the discretion of park management.
5.5.5 Pedestrian Circulation

Walking is one of the most popular recreation activities for visitors to the park. The history and development of the pathway system is described in detail in the Heritage conservation report. The maximum number of paths appears on the 1945 aerial photo, but many of these have since become disused.

There are eight types of pathway construction at Wattle Park as described in the Issues Paper (1993).

In general, many of the paths are in poor condition, are not traversable all year round and do not link so as to provide a circuit.

Strategy

- Provide a pedestrian pathway circuit and links through the park, encouraging use of all areas of the park.
- Provide a high quality, safe, pedestrian pathway network that is accessible all year round.
- Ensure the pathway construction remains sympathetic to the character of the park.
- Reconstruct sealed pathways to meet heritage guidelines.

ACTION

- Refer to Figure 8 for path network

Mown Grass Pathways

Retain mown grass pathways along creek lines and through bushland area. Locations to be determined by park management and may vary depending on environmental impact.

- Sealed Pathways

North West Corner
- Reseal in black bitumen
- Repair concrete kerb and channel where necessary
- Refer to Detail 9

Chalet Path to Riversdale Road
- Reseal in black bitumen
- Replace terra cotta drain at north end with concrete kerb and channel to match detail at south end of path.
- Address drainage problems
- Refer to Detail 9

Diagonal Path Across Corner of Driveway
- Reinstate path to original profile
- Reseal with coloured bitumen to match salmon coloured concrete.
- Refer to Detail 9

The Path from the Pro Shop to Tennis Courts
- Reseal path in black bitumen
- Repair concrete kerb and channel where necessary.
- Continue seal to driveway on east side of tennis courts.
- Refer to Detail 9
• Unsealed Pathways
  - Remaining pathways to be constructed of Lilydale Toppings at a width of 1.8m (Refer to Detail 9).
  - New pathways to be constructed are pathways from:
    i) Tram shelter in north west corner to the Melalouca avenue.
    ii) Western Creek to the Lily pond.
    iii) Realign perimeter pathway in areas to avoid remnant vegetation, etc.

• Address drainage issues associated with pathways.

Legend:  Sealed paths
         Unsealed paths
         Designated bicycle path

Figure 8: Pedestrian Circulation - Path Network

5.5.6 Bicycle Circulation

There are limited opportunities for bicycle riding in Wattle Park because of the park's relatively small size and steep topography in some areas. Wattle Park does however form part of the City of Box Hill Bicycle strategy and is seen as a significant place of interest within the city.

Strategy

• Confine cycling within the park to areas where conflicts with other users are minimal.

• Promote Wattle Park as a destination for cyclists.
ACTION

- Designate the main driveway and service road to Patterson Avenue as a bicycle route shared footway as part of the City of Box Hill Bicycle Strategy Plan.

- Upgrade southern section of service path in Lilydale toppings to Patterson Avenue to meet shared footway standards, ie. min. 2.5m.

- Implement appropriate signage and consider publishing information on cycling etiquette in park brochures, ie. Cyclist must give way to pedestrians on shared footways.

- Discourage cycling on all other paths.

- Provide limited number of bicycle racks at strategic locations, ie. chalet and picnic areas.

- Refer to Figure 8.
5.6 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

The buildings and structures of Wattle Park are a legacy of the 1920s and 30s architecture, reflecting the Arts and Craft movement in Australia. This movement in Australia generally promoted a "rustic" character as there was a resurgence of pride in artistic expression and craftsmanship. The buildings of special interest such as the Chalet and Curator's Cottage reflect the English domestic revival style of the 1920s and 30s.

The detailing of this period should be conserved and prescribed for strengthening the park's distinctive character where applicable.

Typical features of this period, of which some are seen at Wattle Park, are as follows:

- picturesque half-timbered gables
- pillars and chimneys
- random stone work
- painted brick work
- clinker bricks
- terracotta shingles
- cobblestone surfaces
- heavy roof beams
- steep roof pitches
- red brick walls
- wrought iron work
- slate roofs
- stucco and rough cast walls
- extended roof gables
- white, off-white, cream and buff-coloured wall surfaces.

(Orr Young 1991) Apperly et al 1989

Historically the park has also drawn on the "tramways" theme of screening facilities such as the toilets and works area.

The following section outlines the strategies and actions proposed for the buildings and structures at Wattle Park. This information is largely drawn from the Wattle Park Heritage Conservation Plan by Allom Lovell and Associates (1993).
5.6.1 Chalet (HBC B9)

Designed by the M & MTB Architect A.G. Monsborough, the Chalet was constructed in 1928. It was built to provide meals and entertainment for the increasing number of visitors to the park. The Chalet is the principal building in Wattle Park and has considerable social value assuming the status of an icon as a place where weddings, birthday parties and the like are frequently held.

Strategy

- Promote the Chalet as a popular destination for visitors as a Restaurant/Reception Venue.
- Retain and conserve the Chalet to the extent of the exterior and all public spaces.

ACTION

- Seek responses from parties interested in managing and operating the Chalet as a Restaurant/Reception Venue with the aim of formulating a long term lease arrangement.
- Upgrade the Chalet in a sensitive and appropriate way in order to increase patronage and quality of customer service.

This would include the following:
- repairs to roof slate, gutterings, the loggia and bridal chambers
- minor joinery
- sewerage line repairs
- electrical reticulation system.
- kitchen and services area - plumbing, exhaust, electrical, gas, surface areas, cool room, cooking equipment and fittings.
- kiosk
- toilets
- heating/cooling
- security
- lighting
- cosmetic items - internal painting, carpet, furnishings, etc.

- Original fittings and items of equipment such as the soda machine, which will assist in the interpretation of the Chalet should be preserved either on site.
- Investigate the nature of the original exterior decorative finishes and reinstate in the future.
- Investigate the nature of the original soft furnishings and reinstate where considered appropriate in meeting customer expectations.
- Promote the Chalet to encourage visitors. Promotions should build on the heritage character of the building as well as advertising facilities and visually enhance its qualities.
Chalet Garden and Surrounds

The Chalet garden and surrounds have no botanical or landscape significance. Its significance is historical in that the original 1928 layout is basically intact.

Strategy

- Improve and maintain the quality of the gardens and surrounds.

ACTION

- Prepare a landscape/garden plan for the garden ensuring that the garden links more effectively to the Chalet dining area.
- Develop a 1930s planting theme.
- Retain the courtyard as a separate garden space enclosed by the existing hedges of Cotoneaster salicifolius and Photinia glabra 'Rubra'.
- Augment use of display planting and seasonal variation.
- Replace conifers in pots with more suitable colourful planting.
- Remove proliferation of pots adjacent to entrance.
- Promote garden/courtyard as outdoor eating area.
- Maintain garden to high standard and install irrigation system to enhance plantings.
- Enhance the north and south entrances. The north entrance gates should be opened up to the park encouraging access when appropriate. The south entrance requires enhancement by removal of shrub plantings that screen entrance.
- Enhance pergolas and encourage use as shelter.
- Remove drinking fountains from beneath kitchen window.
- Provide access to garden for disabled persons.
5.6.2 Curator’s Cottage (HBC B16)

The Curator's Cottage was built in 1932 and is typical of the Inter-War houses designed in the Picturesque Cottage Style. The cottage features a bluestone wall and some of the foundations of the earlier homestead building.

The cottage is historically significant as being one of the early park buildings constructed. Significance lies also with the fact that there is a stylistic relationship with the chalet.

The cottage also terminates the vista along the entrance drive.

Strategy

- Refurbish the Curators Cottage for park administration and staff facilities whilst retaining and conserving the exterior and principal interior decorative finishes of the cottage.

ACTION

- Refurbish and adapt the building to meet requirements for office accommodation.

- In adapting the building for office administration, retain and conserve the exterior and principal interior decorative finishes of the cottage.

- Provide an additional staff toilet.

- Repair slate roof.

Garden

- Retain a 1930s period cottage garden as a visually separate garden space to the park. Visually link this area to the former Curators Office and stables.

- Reinstall the fence line and upgrade the fence.

- Address drainage issues

- Prepare a landscape plan addressing design issues, car parking, plant selection, paving detail, fencing detail, etc.

- Consider planting standard roses, bulbs, bedding displays along path and home orchard for interpretive purposes.

- Refurbish the garden providing colourful displays and a focal point terminating a vista along the driveway.

- Realign the cottage boundary fence to include the vacant strip of land to the south and the area to the west currently used for the dumping of vegetative material.
5.6.3 Curator's Office (HBC B14)

This building is thought to be one of the first electric tram shelters in Melbourne. It was transferred to Wattle Park from Prahran between 1927 and 1932 and used as the Curator’s office.

The structure is historically and architecturally significant because it is possibly one of the first electric tram waiting shelters in Melbourne. Its significance has also been enhanced through its setting in a tramways park.

It forms part of the picturesque group of buildings at the corner of the driveway.

**Strategy**

- Retain and conserve the structure and investigate an appropriate future use.

**ACTION**

- Retain and conserve the structure
- Investigate original decorative finishes and consider reinstatement
- Remove all intrusive alterations such as internal partitioning, sink, switchboard (if required).
- Prepare a landscape plan/planting plan for this precinct addressing planting, access, car parking, etc.
- Retain the Curators Office as a focal which forms part of the picturesque set of buildings in this precinct.

5.6.4 Former Homestead Stables (HBC B15)

The Stable building is a remnant of the former farm and is considered of local historical significance in Box Hill. Architecturally it is seen of slight importance due to little evidence of stable use now visible. It is however significant to Wattle Park because of its link to the earlier rural development of the site.

The building is now used as office/staff accommodation and presently doesn't meet modern requirements of park management or staff accommodation.

**Strategy**

- Retain and conserve the structure and investigate an appropriate future use.

**ACTION**

- Conserve the external appearance of the building.
- Stabilise the north wall
- Undertake maintenance such as rewiring, repumbing and joinery repairs.
- The canette ceiling, rubber floor sheeting, wash basins, hot water service and pot belly stove could be removed and upgraded as part of future refurbishment.
5.6.5 Works Area

The works area to the rear of the Stables - Park Administration buildings has always been used for the purposes of park maintenance, works and nursery operations. The works area consists of a red brick toilet block c 1960's - 1970's, several corrugated iron skillion sheds, vine covered pergola, glass house and nursery buildings and horse trough.

The area has some historical significance as being the site of the former farm service area. None of the structure or elements, other than the horse trough are individually significant.

Strategy

• Continue the use of this area as the works depot and nursery and upgrade and replan the area to cater for more modern management requirements.

ACTION

• Redesign the works area to cater for the needs of park management, golf course contractors, cleaning contractors/deliveries and the Friends of Wattle Park Nursery (Refer to Concept 4 - Appendix).

• Redirect traffic flow around the buildings. Delivery vehicles to enter via the golf course carpark and access the works area from the east.

• Demolish the steel tray deck/corrugated iron shed as part of redesign works.

• Upgrade or demolish the existing storage sheds providing structures that are secure and meet maintenance requirements. Ensure the design of any new structures enhances the visual quality of the area, i.e. muted colours.

• Retain and conserve the horse trough.

• Upgrade the security of the area by installing a 1.8m high black cyclone fence.

• Screen the area with suitable plantings around the fence line.

• Finalise the layout design and construction of the nursery area with the Friends of Wattle Park, including storage shed and storage bays.

• Address services, i.e. drainage and power supplies when upgrading the area.

• Prepare measured drawings and photographs before demolition works.
5.6.6 Tram Waiting Shelter (HBC B1) and North-West Entry

The tram waiting shelter and north-west entry are significant as the original entry to the park from the tram terminus. The tram waiting shelter is in the picturesque English Cottage style, constructed from random basalt stone by the M. & M.T.B. in 1929. The building is demonstrative of a particular building type which is becoming increasingly rare.

Strategy

- Conserve the Tram Waiting Shelter and upgrade the surrounds and approach to the shelter providing a focal point and inviting entrance to the park.

ACTION

- Retain and conserve the shelter.

- Undertake necessary repairs to stone work, roof and ceiling

- Investigate original decorative finishes for future reinstatement, ie. paint colour

- Investigate acquisition of wrought iron gates for reinstatement to rear opening

- Retain the existing M. & M.T.B. sign above the front entrance for historic interest.

- Implement an effective antigraffiti policy.

- Upgrade the surrounds and approach to the shelter to provide a welcoming entrance and improve the gateway to the park by:
  - developing garden beds with colourful shrub plantings
  - plantings of Wattles to frame shelter
  - planting feature trees to highlight the entrance, ie. Eucalyptus citriodora.

- Refer to Concept 5 - Appendix.
5.6.7 Tram Waiting Shelter (HBC B4) and Central Park Entry

The Central Park Entry and Stone Shelter were constructed in 1929, after the tram route was extended to Elgar Road. The entry provided the most direct route to the Chalet for tram travellers. The structure is similar to the shelter at the north-west entry as it is constructed in the picturesque English Cottage style. It is of considerable historic significance as one of the original structures erected on the site by the M. & M.T.B. and its demonstrative of a particular building type which is becoming increasingly rare.

Strategy

• Retain and conserve the Tram Waiting Shelter and upgrade the surrounds providing a focal point and inviting entrance to the park with the aim of reviving pedestrian access to the park.

ACTION

• Undertake necessary repairs to spouting, etc.
• Reslate south roof slope to match original
• Investigate original decorative finishes for future reinstatement, ie. painting colour
• Implement an active antigraffiti policy
• Upgrade the surrounds and approach to the shelter and park by;
  - maintaining the hedge plantings
  - replanting the terraces
  - repair the dry stone wall
  - repair the slate steps and drainage channels
  - remove inappropriate and poor specimen shrubs and replace with specimen trees, ie. *Eucalyptus citriodora, Angophora costata.*

• Refer to Concept 6 - Appendix
5.6.8 Band Rostrum (HBC B8)

The Band Rostrum was erected in 1950 to replace a timber portable bandstand. The rostrum is essentially a concrete platform surrounded by random basalt rubble in the form of low walls and planter boxes which were added in 1970.

The rostrum is significant for the association of outdoor recitals with Wattle Park. The Melbourne Transit Band have traditionally used the rostrum for regular recitals in spring and summer.

Strategy

- Conserve and upgrade the band rostrum and its surrounds in order to continue the traditional use and association with the Melbourne Transit Band as well as promote the venue for use by other performers.

ACTION

- Prepare a brief and engage the services of an architect - designer to prepare plans for a permanent shelter canopy in keeping with surrounding buildings. Consider issues such as acoustics, storage and lighting.

- Repair planter boxes and replant with appropriate species.

- Replant hedge at western side of bandstand with more appropriate species, ie. Photinia sp. or Viburnum tinus.

- Reinstall a low hedge to the front of the bandstand.

- Encourage the use of the band rostrum by performers in addition to the Melbourne Transit Band.
5.6.11 Tram Body Picnic Shelters (HBC B6)

Tram body picnic shelters have been located within the park since the 1920's. The present tram body picnic shelter is one of two W-Class trams which presumably replaced the Cable trams in 1963. One of the W-Class trams was removed after being vandalised to the point where it posed a risk to visitors.

The trams provide shelter, a play facility and a meeting place in the park.

The use of tram body picnic shelters at Wattle Park is of significance because of the tradition and the tramways theme of the park. The existing W-Class tram is of historic significance in its own right.

**Strategy**

- Continue the use of tram bodies as picnic shelters associated with the barbecue-picnic area as they are an important part of the thematic interpretation of Wattle Park.

**ACTION**

- Locate two tram body picnic shelters in the picnic area adjacent to the chalet. Replace the missing tram body and relocate the existing tram body shelter close to the picnic area.

- Site the tram body picnic shelters in closer association with the picnic facilities so they are accessed more readily.

- Siting and fixing of the tram bodies are to meet Australian Design Standards for access, step heights, fall heights, etc.

- Implement an active antigraffiti policy.

- The replacement tram bodies should be of an historic type and need not be a W-Class body.

- The tram body picnic shelters will be maintained as far as practicable in colour and body form to represent the original model.

- Authentic historic features which can easily be removed or destroyed will not be introduced to the structure.

- Refer to Detail 1 - Appendix.
5.6.12  Lily Pond, Fountains and Rockery (HBC B2)

The Lily Pond appears to have been part of the original master plan for the park and was created from the old farm dam - c. 1929. The pond is an historically significant and picturesque landscape element which is integral to the park. At present, it is in serious derelict condition. The pond is without water lilies, the island vegetation is overgrown with weeds and some inappropriate planting; the fountains are decaying; the base leaks; the chain mesh fence is unattractive and the vegetation around the stone wall is overgrown.

Strategy

• Restore the lily pond, fountains and rockery in keeping with the 1930s style which will form a focal point to the western area of the park.

ACTION

• In association with the Friends of Wattle Park, review the investigative report on the pond and obtain additional quotes for works.

• Address leaking base.

• Restore rock work/stone work associated with the island, lily pads, base of pads, fish hide and edge of pond.

• Restore/replace fountains to working order.

• Upgrade services if required.

• Prepare landscape plan for island planting and pond surrounds.

• Maintain and rejuvenate the Ficus pumila hedge.

• Remove the overstorey shrubs, allowing views to the pond and fountain.

• Reinstall water lilies and gold fish.

• Remove existing fence and investigate need of a replacement fence. If fence required, style should be in keeping with 1930's character - atmosphere of pond and surrounds.

• Upgrade access to the pond (Refer to the Section 5.5.5).

• Maintain circular rock wall and seating recesses.

• Install seating around the pond and east of the pond and circular wall.

• Retain the grassy slope.
5.6.13 Tennis Courts and Shelters (HBC B12)

The tennis courts and shelters were built over several years from 1930 to 1934. The Tennis Court area contains one grass court and two asphalt courts. This precinct and all its structures are historically significant as part of the recreation facilities planned by the M. & M.T.B. The structures continue the theme of the English Cottage Style which is a distinctive feature of the park.

The tennis court precinct requires considerable upgrading. The fence, tennis court surface and shelters are all in poor condition and require repairs.

**Strategy**

- Retain, conserve and upgrade the tennis court precinct and its structures, providing a viable, historically significant public recreational facility.

**ACTION**

- Retain and conserve elements of the tennis court precinct.
- Repair and maintain shelters. Works to match original detail, i.e. replace corrugated iron roof with Roman tiles; replace lattice.
- Fence to be replaced with cyclone mesh with timber posts to match original.
- Investigate and reinstate original paint colours.
- Repair drainage system as required.
- Upgrade access and steps to meet safety standards.
- Replace asphalt surface with a plexi-pave surface material preferably a dark colour.
- NB. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* to be protected whilst construction works are underway.
- Upgrade the grass tennis court.
- Replace gap in *Cupressus macrocarpa* hedge with established trees of same species.
- Consider installation of lighting if there is a demand.
- Provide opportunities for viewing play on the courts from outside the fence, i.e. seating, review existing shrub planting.
- Investigate commercial opportunities for leasing and upgrading of the courts.
5.6.14 Toilet Block (HBC B10)

The toilet located to the west of the Chalet dates back to 1927. It was used as a women's toilet block until 1971 when it was altered to provide men's and women's toilets.

It is located within earth mounds and surrounded by tree canopy. The toilets are considered of no individual heritage significance but are an interesting example of discrete siting.

The toilet block is currently below satisfactory standards and is the only public toilet facility in the Park (except Chalet and Golf Course).

**Strategy**

- Provide clean, safe, well serviced toilet facilities that meet community expectations.

**ACTION**

- Demolish existing toilet facility and rebuild a new facility in the same location.

- Prepare a brief and engage a designer to prepare a design for a toilet facility in keeping with the character and nature of the park and adjoining buildings. Retain a degree of earth mounding to continue the theme of discrete siting as developed by the original designer.

- Ensure the design meets standards and modern day requirements, i.e. disabled access and facilities, bench - baby change area, etc.

- Toilets to be locked at night.
5.6.15 Disused Toilet Block (HBC B13)

The original men’s toilet block was constructed in 1927 and sited within earth mounds as a means of camouflaging the building. The toilet block was closed in 1970 and is now in derelict condition. The Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) were planted when the building was constructed and are an important feature of the landscape. The building is of no individual heritage significance.

**Strategy**

- To demolish the disused toilet block and make the area safe. Use of this area to be reviewed in the future.

**ACTION**

- Demolish the building and make the area safe.

- Consider some reshaping of the mounds to open the area up and maintain this area of the park to a satisfactory standard.

- Retain existing *Phoenix canariensis* or relocate if necessary.

- Retain existing rock wall.

- Review/investigate the potential use of this area in the future. This area is central to the tennis court precinct, oval and golf course and is a potential site for the development of shelter/changing facilities.
5.6.16 Employees Shelter

The small timber flat roofed shelter is set on a random rubble basalt base located near the former putting green. The building is of no heritage significance, built in 1967 and is thought to be associated with the collection of fees for the putting green.

Strategy

- Retain the employees shelter in the short term and review its function and use in the future.

ACTION

- Undertake minor maintenance works as required.

- Upgrade the pedestrian precinct surrounding the shelter. Remove the yellow hand rail and use a more subtle method of preventing pedestrians running out onto the road, i.e. rumble strip/chicane built to complement the driveway fencing.

- Investigate need and option of providing a shelter on the former putting green (triangular lawn) to service the oval and tennis courts

- Ensure that the design of any new structure enhances the visual qualities - character of the park.
5.6.17  Pavilion near the Oval

The weatherboard changing pavilion is located east of the disused toilet block adjacent to the main oval. This facility originally comprised a weatherboard amenities section and verandah which connected to two cable car trailers providing changing facilities. The amenities section has been incorporated into the existing buildings in which the north and south wings have replaced the original tram bodies.

This building is of no historical significance and is seen to be below satisfactory standard for changing facilities.

Strategy

• Retain the pavilion in the short term and review its function and use in the future.

ACTION

• Retain pavilion in short term.

• Investigate need and options of providing a pavilion to service the oval.

• If pavilion required investigate option of providing a structure that may service oval and tennis courts.

• Consider location of building in area near the disused toilet block.

• Refer to Section 5.6.15.

• Any new structure will be small in scale and must meet with HBC approval.
5.6.18 Golf Pro Shop, Golf House (1937) and Golf Club House (1959)

The Golf Pro Shop was constructed in 1962 and is constructed of concrete block. This building is unsympathetic in choice of material and form, visually intrusive and not in keeping with the character of other structures in the park.

The orientation and siting of the building is poor and it doesn't provide a welcoming entrance to the golf course. The internal layout and design is poor and facilities are inadequate, i.e. no toilet facilities, a wash basin and hot water have been recently installed.

The weatherboard Golf Houses, as buildings, are not considered to have historical significance, however the facilities they provide are historically of some significance in relation to the golf course.

The Golf House (1937) contains the public toilet facilities for the golf course. The Golf Club House (1959) contains a large meeting room, one male and one female toilet and a small kitchen. This building is used by the men's and women's golf clubs plus local community groups.

Architecturally they are sympathetic traditional building forms. Facilities in general are seen as inadequate and both buildings require internal refurbishment. Externally they are also in need of repair, maintenance and repainting.

Strategy

- Refurbish and or replace the Golf Pro Shop, Golf House and Golf Club House as part of the restoration of the Wattle Park Golf Course.

ACTION

- Investigate private commercial opportunities for redeveloping the golf course buildings.
- Determine objectives for redevelopment of these buildings based on present inadequacies and customer demand.
- Refurbish/replace the Golf Pro Shop Golf House and Golf Club House as part of tendering the Management of the Golf Course (Refer to Section 5.2.1).
- Upgrade the buildings and ensure the design enhances the visual qualities and character of the park.
5.6.19 PTC Toilet

The Red brick toilet facility located near the tram terminus on Riversdale Road is used by PTC employees. This building was constructed in 1954, and is considered to be of no historical significance.

Strategy

- Demolish the toilet facility and provide a toilet facility within the confines of the park to service park visitors, PTC employees and the Wattle Park shopping area.

ACTION

- Undertake negotiations with PTC and Box Hill City Council in regard to joint funding of a toilet facility in the eastern area of the park to service park visitors, tourists, PTC employees and the Wattle Park shopping area.

- Ensure that the design of a new structure enhances the visual qualities and character of the park.
5.7 VEGETATION

The park is a valuable biological, botanical, aesthetic and landscape asset to Melbourne. Many of the planted trees are mature and up to 60 years old, whilst the remnant species may be even older.

The vegetation in Wattle Park comprises two types of communities:

1. Remnant Grassy Woodland located primarily in the Bushland Precinct which is recognised as regionally significant.

2. Exotic parkland consisting of exotic trees over a mown turf comprising a mixture of remnant and exotic grass and herb species. Many of the plantings have been identified as historically significant.

The indigenous vegetation and its fauna have been analysed by Carr et al (1993) whilst the Exotic historic plantings have been analysed by Allom Lovell (1993) and John Patrick Pty Ltd (1994). Refer to these reports for more detailed information.

The vegetation component of the park is visually dominated by Eucalypt species however, exotic plantings dominate the main driveway, Chalet and Curator's Cottage precinct. Formal gardens were associated with the driveway, various buildings and structures throughout the park and included rose gardens, mixed flower beds and clipped hedges. Expansive grass areas assist in uniting various areas of the park and consist of remnant indigenous grass species as well as exotic.

An assessment of the existing vegetation reveals that horticultural and environmental management strategies need to be established in order to sustain and enhance the vegetation of Wattle Park.

The following section outlines the vegetation and management actions required to protect and enhance the vegetation in each precinct (as outlined in Section 3.3).

5.7.1 Heritage Precinct

An assessment of the existing vegetation in the Heritage precinct reveals seven categories of plantings.

1. Arboretum Plantings which include a number of tree species unusual in cultivation, eg. *Eucalyptus bosistoana* (Coast Grey Box).
   The arboretum plantings are of botanical significance.

2. Geometric Group Plantings - these consist of single species planted in geometric layouts. Of the 22 group plantings, there are only 3 plantings that have a complete configuration.
   The group plantings are of minor historical significance and represent an approach to infill planting common in the early years of 20th Century. These plantings may be considered of local significance.

3. Avenue Plantings associated with the driveway and some pathways. These plantings include:
   - *Cedrus deodara* along the driveway
   - *Melaleuca styphelioides* along the path running east-west to the Chalet
   - *Acmena smithii* along a former path to the north-west corner
   - *Melaleuca styphelioides* along the golf course northern boundary
   - *Crataegus monogyna* to the south of the lily pond.

The Cedar avenue, Melaleuca avenues and Acmena avenue are of significance to the park. The Crataegus avenue is not significant and should be replaced with a more suitable species.

4. The Native Flora Collection is of historical significance for its association with the FNCV. The flora collection is in a depleted state with fewer than 50 species remaining.
5. **Commemorative Trees** include the 'Lone Pine' and the Morell Tree which are both of historical significance.

6. **Wattle Perimeter Plantings** in 1926 and are now extremely degraded. The Wattle perimeter is of historical significance and horticultural significance for its use of a single genus of native flora to provide an identity to the park.

7. **Remnant Vegetation** - there are surviving elements of remnant vegetation, primarily along the northern boundary and western creek.

Allom Lovell (1993) describes the vegetation in the Heritage Precinct in detail and has divided the precinct further into zones. This reflects the variance in vegetation and character of the park, each zone creating a very different microclimate for plant growth.

The following is a summary of the plantings for each zone within the Heritage Precinct as described by Allom Lovell (1993).

![Map of the Heritage Precinct](image)

**Figure 9: Planting Zones - Heritage Precinct**

**Zone A:** This area has a woodland character containing tree species over a grassy understorey. There is a planting mix of 60 different species, some of which are of rain forest origin with dark green foliage. The dominant species include *Eucalyptus botryoides* (Mahogany gum), *Lophostemon confertus* (Queensland brush box), *Acmena smithii* (Lilly-Pilly) and *Melaleuca styphelioides* (Prickly paperbark). The low-growing foliage of some of these species restricts views.

**Zone B:** The mahogany gums and other Eucalypts give this area a woodland character which is more open than Zone A. The area becomes very wet in the winter months and a problem with poor drainage or soil condition has resulted in the stunted growth of many of the trees, i.e. *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn), *Agonis flexuosa* (Willow Myrtle), *Eucalyptus cosmophylla* (Cup Gum) and *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* (Yellow Gum).
Zone C: The land slopes gently north-west and is characterised as a tall woodland dominated primarily by non indigenous Eucalypt species. Plantings become more concentrated west of the Chalet, around the bandstand and Native Flora area. Other horticultural remnants of historical significance include the Native flora plantings by the Field Naturalists Club and the Melaleuca avenue. There are also remnant indigenous grasses particularly on the embankments.

The dominant species include Eucalyptus bosistoana (Coast grey box); Melaleuca styphelioides (Prickly paperbark); Eucalyptus botryoides (Mahogany gum) and Acacia prominens (Golden rain wattle).

This part of the park is considered an area of solitude. This area is also characterised by an abundance of bird life. The rosellas and galahs are often seen feeding on the oxalis corns.

Zone D: This area of the park is the flattest portion of the heritage area. The land slopes gently to the north and north-west. This zone is characterised by open woodland planting, dominated by Eucalyptus bosistoana (Coast grey box), Acacia prominens (Golden rain wattle) and Lophostemon confertus (Queensland brush box). The trees in the Zone have not attained great size.

There are more open grass areas set amongst the trees which is most likely a result of dead or senescent trees being removed and not replaced.

This area of the park has the highest use because of its proximity to the car park, Chalet and facilities - toilet, barbeque area and playground.

Zone E: This zone extends from the car park and driveway to Patterson Avenue and includes the Oval and its surrounds.

The Oval area is a meeting place for many visitors and provides more open spatial qualities that contrast with the more vegetated areas of the park. Planting east of the Oval merges with the Bushland precinct.

Excellent views can be seen of Melbourne across the golf course. Views to the Dandenongs are currently screened by tree canopies. The dominant tree species include Eucalyptus bosistoana (Coast grey box), Eucalyptus gomphocephala (Tuart) and Angophora costata (Smooth bark apply myrtle). The row of Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress) were planted in 1945 as a shelter belt to the horse yard.

Zone F: Includes the Curators Cottage Garden, Works area, Golf Course Car Park and Tennis Court Precinct. The vegetation is a mix of plantings of various ages, ie. Farm planting (pre 1917), toilet surround (1928), driveway planting and Cypress hedge (1934).

Western Creek (Hercules Creek)

The Western Creek (Hercules Creek) is also referred to as the Burwood Main Drain by Melbourne Water. It enters Wattle Park via a culvert under Riversdale Road and flows south west along the golf course. The creek is of local significance because it is one of two open drainage lines in Wattle Park. The vegetation along the creek line includes remnant vegetation, ie. Eucalyptus melliodora (Yellow Box), Eucalyptus ovata (Swamp Gum), Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria) and Bracken. Planted species include Wattles, Willows, Swamp Cypress and Poplars. Many plants are also self seeded and classified as environmental needs. These include Cotoneaster, Sweet Pittosporum, Ash, Hawthorn and Blackberry. This area is somewhat secluded and considered by some visitors as the exotic, more romantic area of the park. It creates an atmosphere of seclusion/escape.
5.7.1.1 Plant Selection

Future plantings should aim to highlight or strengthen existing characters within each zone of the Heritage precinct.

Species planted should be of an appropriate era, i.e. 1930s. Species that are not thriving or have a limited sustained amenity should be avoided.

Strategy

- Select plants that will retain and enhance the character of each zone in the precinct.
- Ensure that replacement specimens consist of the same species or species of similar form.
- Select exotic plants that are true to type and generally available in the appropriate era.
- Use indigenous plants raised from local provenance seed.
- Use decorative shrubs, perennials and ground covers in garden beds as opposed to high maintenance annuals.
- High maintenance plantings in garden beds such as annuals and roses to be planted if community groups are prepared to sponsor and maintain the areas.
- Avoid environmental weeds.
- Encourage remnant indigenous vegetation to regenerate.
- Collect seed from existing remnant and appropriate exotic vegetation for propagation.
- Avoid plants that are not thriving or have limited sustained amenity, i.e. *Agonis flexuosa* (Willow myrtle), *Eucalyptus botryoides* (Mahogany gum).

ACTION

- Use preferred plant species as outlined in Appendix C, or select plants of similar habit and form, and suited to local conditions.
- Plantings of European origin to be associated with main driveway, Curators Cottage, Curators Office, Chalet, Bandstand and Tram Waiting Shelters.
- Plantings within the precinct primarily took place in the 1930s and 1950s. Today plantings of the 1930s dominate, therefore plant selection should aim to highlight this era of the park's development.
- Avoid planting golden or variegated forms where they would dominate the landscape.
- Consider selecting plants that will enhance the park character by increasing seasonal variation, i.e. deciduous trees, flowering shrubs, bulbs, etc.
5.7.1.2 New and Replacement Plantings

A majority of the structural planting within the Heritage Precinct is of a single age and dates back to the Parks early years of development in the 1930's. This means that a large percentage of the plantings will reach maturity simultaneously, whilst some trees are already showing signs of serious decline and have moved beyond the most aesthetic period of their life span.

**Strategy**

- Ensure the character of each zone is retained (Refer to Section 5.7.1.1).
- Ensure any replacement trees and shrubs are the same species or species with a similar form.
- Adopt a planting replacement program for significant trees, missing or unhealthy specimens.
- Encourage regeneration of remnant indigenous species in selected areas of the park.

**ACTION**

- Prepare detailed landscape plans and programs for all replacement or new plantings.
- The program should include replacement of significant, missing or unhealthy specimens.
- When preparing landscape plans, consideration should be given to landscape spaces, views and removal of intrusive plantings. Intrusive plantings include inappropriate planted species, self sown trees and shrubs and environmental weeds.
- Consider habitat values before removal of vegetation.
- Retain fallen branches or dead trees for habitat in appropriate areas.
- Implement regeneration programs for remnant indigenous species.

Major Actions in each Zone are:

**Zone A**

- Preserve avenue plantings of *Acmena smithii* (Lilly Pilly) and *Melaleuca stypheliodes* (Prickly Papertark).
- Eventually replace with new trees.
- Replace species failing to thrive, ie. *Agonis flexuosa* (Willow myrtle) with plants of similar form/bark characteristics, etc., ie. *Eucalyptus radiata* (Narrow Leaf Peppermint).
- Geometric tree groups
  - do not plant missing trees from group plantings
  - replant senescent groups by:
    i) total removal prior to planting, or
    ii) interplanting prior to removal, or
    iii) replant groups alongside if space permits prior to removal.
  - replace with similar species.
Zone B

- Replace trees that are senescent, i.e. *Eucalyptus botryoides*, or under stress as they cannot tolerate conditions, i.e. *Agonis flexuosa*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* and *Eucalyptus cosmophylla*.

- Replace with trees tolerant of poorly drained soil conditions, i.e. *Eucalyptus ovata* and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*.

- Replace Hawthorn avenue with exotic deciduous trees, that provide seasonal colour without being a potential weed source.

- Replace two missing Cedrus deodara to extend driveway avenue to Riversdale Road.

- Collect seed from remnant trees.

- Geometric tree groups
  - do not plant missing trees from group plantings
  - replant senescent groups as per options listed in Zone A.
  - replace with similar species.

Zone C

- Retain *Melaleuca stypheliodes* avenue and replant progressively.

- Collect seed from remnant trees, i.e. *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box), *Eucalyptus pryoriana* (Gippsland Manna Gum) and *Eucalyptus radiata* (Narrow Leaf Peppermint) - as these trees are senescent.

- Replant three missing Cedrus deodara to extend driveway avenue to Riversdale Road as for Zone B.

- Geometric tree groups
  - do not plant missing trees from group plantings
  - replant senescent groups as per options listed in Zone A.
  - replace with similar species.

- Replace significant trees with same species, i.e. *Eucalyptus bosistoana* (Coast Grey Box).

Native Flora Collection

- Re-establish in current location as defined by the garden edge in lawn.

- Invite FNCV to suggest a list of plants and contribute to the establishment and/or maintenance of the selection.

- Selected species should include plants from 1954 and 1973 plants lists (Refer to Allom Lovell, 1993).

- Plantings should include *Acacia* spp and *Correa* spp.

- Interpretive material should include - labels for plants and notes on the history of the area.
Zone D

- Refer to general actions

- Inappropriate exotic trees and small trees failing to thrive should be removed.

- Morell Tree
  - Conserve specimen of *Quercus palustris* and provide interpretive material.
  - Replace when maintenance costs exceed visual amenity and grow seedlings prior to removal.

- *Acacia melanoxylon* (2 no.) planted at the joint celebration of the 75th anniversary.
  - Conserve specimens and provide interpretive material.
  - Replace when maintenance costs exceed visual amenity.
  - Collect seed from existing trees or other appropriate sources and grow seedlings prior to removal.

- Replace significant trees with the same species, i.e. *Eucalyptus bosistoana*.

- Chalet garden - See Section 5.6.1.

Zone E

- Refer to general actions

- Inappropriate exotic trees and small trees failing to thrive should be removed

- Lone Pine - See Section 5.6.9.

Zone F

- *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) and *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm) in Curators Cottage garden to be maintained and replaced with same species.

- *Ulmus procera* (Elm) (4 no.) and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) to be maintained and replaced with same species.

- *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm) (3 no.) at the disused toiled block site to be retained and relocated if necessary.

- Curators Cottage Garden - See Section 5.6.2.

- Works Area - See Section 5.6.5.

Western Creek

- Progressively remove weed species without jeopardising habitat value.

- Address issues of litter control and water quality in association with Melbourne Water.

- Replace with species that retains the verdant character of the creek which could be a mix of indigenous and non-indigenous species.

- Plant embankments with indigenous grasses and ground cover to assist in erosion control of embankments.
Wattle Perimeter

- The Wattle perimeter is of historical and horticultural significance for its use of a single genus of native flora (Acacia spp) to provide a visual identity.

- Ensure there are gaps in the plantings to accommodate areas of important indigenous vegetation to the north-west corner, and to the north east corner of the heritage precinct along Riversdale Road.

- Ensure there are gaps in the plantings to accommodate important views.

- Indigenous Acacia spp could be considered for gap planting.

- Remove seedlings and weeds which restrict planting, ie. *Pinus radiata* (Radiata Pine) and self sown Eucalypts.

- Refer to Carr et al (1993) for list of indigenous Acacias.

- Refer to Allom Lovell (1993) - Wattle League Circular No. 4 which provides a list of Acacias that should form the basis of selection.

- Ensure plant lists include Acacia species which attain tree proportions.

- Planting should be in informal clumps allowing gaps for views and protection of remnant vegetation.

- Invasive species should not be used.

- Invite FNCV and Ornamental Plant Collection Association (OPCA) to contribute to plant establishment and/or maintenance.
5.7.1.3 Management - Maintenance

Horticultural management strategies for Wattle Park should be dynamic and designed to extend the existing qualities of the park to the middle of the next century.

In order to achieve this objective a policy of sustained amenity should be developed for the vegetation.

Strategy

- Implement a management and maintenance regime that aims to extend the existing qualities of the park to the middle of the next century.

- The management and maintenance plan should include;
  - staged and ongoing tree surgery as required
  - retention of aesthetic qualities and views
  - identification of the need for replacement planting in advance of decline of specimens
  - consideration of risk management issues.

- Adopt sound horticultural practices.

- Adopt guidelines for the use and management of volunteer labour in the park, ie. FNCV, schools, Friends group (Refer to Section 5.16).

ACTION

- Develop a Tree and Shrub Maintenance policy for sustained amenity.

The underlying approach to tree and shrub maintenance is to ensure a degree of sustained amenity. This practice is determined by the characteristic length of the plant's life and its size at maturity. Typically a large number of herbaceous species have a definite life and can be regenerated by replanting or in situ division every 2-5 years. This will ensure that they maintain aesthetic return. Such a management approach to sustaining the amenity of such plantings is a straightforward task. Likewise trees have a finite life. Unfortunately implementing a simple replacement program is a difficult task, especially given that trees have the greatest landscape impact and understandably raise political and emotive issues when they are considered for removal. Consideration should also be given to the habitat value of trees, weighed up against risk management issues and aesthetic values in high profile areas. Hitchmough (1988) highlights this aesthetic return, maturity phase and decline phase for a hypothetical tree quite clearly in the figure below.

![Graph](image)

**Figure 10: Relationship between time and aesthetic return derived from a hypothetical tree (Hitchmough 1988).**

This graph can provide a model on which to plan replacement programs and sustain amenity. Park Management has available a number of strategies to meet their objectives which are listed below and have been modified from Hitchmough (1988). These practices could be adopted in the zones of the Heritage Precinct.

A combination or integration of the strategies outlined below is the most viable long term solution for ensuring sustained amenity in the park.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
<th>Methods</th>
<th>Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cut down and replace mature trees with young trees before mature trees enter decline phase</td>
<td>Avoids costs of tree surgery, eg. cabling, bracing, etc. Allows manager to overcome even aged stands. By avoiding the decline phase, it helps shorten the period for trees to reinstate their aesthetic return.</td>
<td>Inappropriate to trees that are of a lesser historical or other value. Not suited to large numbers of trees.</td>
<td>Implement in a phased approach involving only a few trees at a time.</td>
<td>Zone A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain mature and over mature trees for as long as possible. Replace when no longer safe or attractive with the next generation.</td>
<td>Suited to historically significant trees.</td>
<td>High costs associated with arboricultural practices. Great time lag before the replacement tree begins generating aesthetic return.</td>
<td>Arrest rate of decline by boosting vigour using effective irrigation and using fertilisers high in nitrogen. Eliminate other stresses, eg. soil compaction. Use Integrated Pest/Disease Management for affected trees.</td>
<td>Historical trees. Driveway. Selected parts of Zone C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant young replacement trees adjacent to existing trees prior to removal of the latter.</td>
<td>Reduces impact of mature tree loss by providing some aesthetic and functional return. Best suited to irregular plantings which have large amounts of surrounding space. This space provides opportunities for planting in relation to the existing tree.</td>
<td>Replacements may fail to grow satisfactorily. Limited by the form of tree plantings to be replaced (ie. geometric patterns) in relation to the surrounding garden.</td>
<td>Placement planting adjacent to existing trees with ample space and light for satisfactory growth. Plant species that exhibit shade tolerance in their juvenile and post juvenile stages. Some species which have shade tolerance in these juvenile stages include Acer spp., (some, Acmena spp., Fagus spp., Ficus spp., Podocarpus spp., Quercus spp. (not Q. palustris), Stenocarpus sinuatus, Syzygium spp. and Waterhousia spp. Sensitive pruning of tree canopies or even the felling of every second tree to provide adequate space, light and soil resources for new plantings.*</td>
<td>All zones.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Given that in these cases the soil resources are depleted or modified by tree root growth especially pH (particularly common under coniferous trees) or subject to allelopathy it is recommended that the soil profile be replenished by excavating planting pits as outlined by Hitchmough (1988).
Furthermore, in certain areas within the park the impact of tree planting, is because of the even-aged stands. Single replacement of these species would ruin the initial desired effect therefore it becomes necessary to replicate group plantings.

- Engage an experienced arboriculturalist for all aspects of significant specimen tree maintenance.

**Shrub Maintenance**

- Shrubs to be primarily located in garden beds.
- Develop a shrub maintenance program.
- Keep shrub - garden beds weed free.
- Irrigate efficiently if required.
- Mulch all garden beds with appropriate material (Avoid pinebark - use peastraw or Eucamulch).

**Annuals**

- Annual flowering plants to be selected for use in garden beds in highly visible areas.
- Encourage volunteer labour to maintain annual garden beds.

**Grass Maintenance**

The extensive grass areas are an integral component of the landscape at Wattle Park. The ground flora is variable, from semi natural to predominantly exotic grasslands.

**Strategy**

- Implement grass management policy which ensures the provision of grasslands of a suitable character appropriate to recreational pressures and for the protection of remnant indigenous species.

**ACTION**

- Prepare a grass management plan based on the following:

Hitchmough (1990) cites Wattle Park as being an example of an ideal location for a differential mowing program. This basically means areas of grassland are cut at different heights either for the sake of positively managing natural grasslands, reducing mowing costs and creating areas of textural or seasonal interest.

Grassland areas as management zones can fall into one of the following categories. These have been slightly modified from Whitham (1990).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Irrigation</th>
<th>Cutting height (notes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turf Zone</td>
<td>Areas around buildings and formal gardens</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>35mm when grass reaches 50mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Zone</td>
<td>Picnic and play areas</td>
<td>Yes or No</td>
<td>50mm when grass reaches a height of 80mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow Zone</td>
<td>Background or adjacent areas to play zones and are less intensely used</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>100mm when grass reaches a height of 150mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;No Regular Cutting&quot; Zone</td>
<td>Areas that contain natural to semi natural grasslands</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Not a routine measure or may be necessary to manage sward positively. Grasses are usually cut to 100 - 150mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Prepare a map identifying the zones as part of developing a grassland management plan.
- Mowing practices should ensure that machinery is effectively cleaned regularly. Ideally, machinery should be washed down when moving from predominantly exotic areas to native grassed areas or alternatively, native grassed areas should be treated prior to exotic areas ensuring that machinery is washed prior to use.
- Mowing should be excluded from areas containing significant remnant vegetation and plant population which constitute faunal habitat pending further investigation of these resources and impact of mowing.
- Establish hardy turf species in heavily used public areas.
- Reduce competition from weed species.
- Undertake drainage works as outlined in Section 5.13.1.
5.7.2 Bushland Precinct

The bushland precinct is characterised by woodland species, consisting primarily of overstorey trees with a grassy understorey. This precinct comprises two vegetative communities:

1. Remnant grassy woodland - identified as regionally significant
2. Exotic Parkland - consisting of non indigenous trees, some identified as historically significant over an understorey of exotic and remnant grass species.

Refer to Section 4.2, Carr et al (1993) and the John Patrick Pty Ltd Report (1994) for a more detailed description.

The composition of the vegetation varies considerably in this precinct. This area has also been divided into zones for ease of description and they are outlined as follows:

![Diagram of Bushland Precinct - Vegetation Zones](image)

**Figure 11: Bushland Precinct - Vegetation Zones**

**Zone A:** This zone includes the fenced area of remnant vegetation, former lower oval, and stands of remnant Eucalypts and grassy understorey to the north. The fenced area of remnant vegetation is considered the area of highest botanical significance in Wattle Park containing the most intact Remnant Grassy Woodland community. The area to the north contains fine stands of indigenous grasses as well as remnant Eucalypt species. Historical plantings include remnants from the former Wattle perimeter plantings and remnants of a former avenue of *Eucalyptus bosistoana* (Coast Grey Box).

**Zone B:** The eastern slope contains areas of significant remnant vegetation particularly ground flora. There are some remnant Eucalypts dotted throughout what is primarily plantings and subsequent self seeding of non-indigenous Eucalypts. Native grasses and wildflowers form a spectacular display in spring.

Mowing practices have been altered over the last four years and consequently there is some regeneration of indigenous species. There are also seedlings of *Eucalyptus bosistoana* (Coast Grey Box).

The dominant species in this zone include *Eucalyptus bosistoana* (Coast Grey Box), *Eucalyptus ptyriformis* (Gippsland Manna Gum), *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box), *Eucalyptus radiata* (Narrow leaf peppermint) and *Eucalyptus boiryooides* (Mahogany Gum).

**Zone C:** This area of the park is characterised by mature non-indigenous Eucalypts with a mown understorey as an extension to the picnic area. The dominant species include *Eucalyptus citriodora* (Lemon Scented Gum), *Eucalyptus bosistoana* (Coast Grey Box) and *Lophostemon confertus* (Queensland Box).
Eastern Creek

The creek line is degraded, eroded and weed invaded. The creek is classified as a local drain and therefore the responsibility of Melbourne Parks and Waterways. Uncontrolled urban drainage discharges into this drainage line which contributes to eutrophication causing or exacerbating weed invasion. The drainage line is a shallow drain/swale for more than half its length. The southern area of the creek associated with the remnant vegetation takes on a more incised form although it is highly eroded and weed infested. Indigenous vegetation is very limited and is concentrated at the southern end.

Some exotic species have been planted along the creek line, ie. Salix fragilis (Willow), Quercus palustris (Oak). Much of the existing exotic vegetation is self sown, suckers or garden escapes.

Strategy

- Protect and enhance the conservation values of the remnant vegetation.
- Protect and enhance the heritage values of historic plantings where appropriate.
- Reinstate the creek environment as an extension to the remnant vegetation.

5.7.2.1 Plant Selection

Future plantings should aim to highlight or strengthen the existing character of the precinct, whilst enhancing and protecting the significant remnant and historic vegetation.

Strategy

- Select plants that will enhance the character of each zone.
- Protect and enhance the indigenous vegetation and its dependant fauna which constitutes an irreplaceable biological resource.
- Reconstruct the floristic composition of the original vegetation where applicable.
- Select indigenous species grown from local provenance seed or collected from the closest reasonable source.
- Retain and protect non indigenous plantings identified as historically significant, ie. significant trees and trees unusual in cultivation which do not impact on high quality remnant vegetation.
- Avoid planting environmental weeds.
- Avoid plants that are not thriving or have limited sustained amenity, ie. Eucalyptus botryoides (Mahogany Gum).

ACTION

- Propagate indigenous species from local provenance seed sources or other local sources.
- Plantings identified as historically significant and which do not impact on the significant remnant vegetation should be replaced with the same species or species of similar form and character. For example, Eucalyptus bosistoana (Coast Grey Box) once it has reached senescence could be replaced with Eucalyptus melliodora (Yellow Box).
5.7.2.2 New and Replacement Plantings

The remnant vegetation is consistently under threat and requires protection and enhancement. The majority of the planted Eucalypts are of a single age dating back to the 1940s - 1950s. This means that a large percentage of the plantings will reach maturity simultaneously. Some species are showing signs of serious decline, eg. *Eucalyptus botryoides* (Mahogany Gum), whilst *Eucalyptus bosistoana* (Coast Grey Box) seedlings are prolific on the eastern slope.

**Strategy**

- Select plants that will enhance the character of each zone.
- Encourage regeneration of remnant indigenous species.
- New and replacement plantings should consist of indigenous species except for plants recognised as historically significant which do not impact on high quality remnant vegetation.
- Historic plantings which do not impact on high quality remnant vegetation should be replaced with same species or indigenous species of similar form and character.
- Adopt a planting replacement program for significant trees, missing or unhealthy specimens.

**ACTION**

- Prepare landscape - revegetation - regeneration plans/programs for all replacement and new plantings.
- Investigate potential habitat corridors through park and adjoining areas.
- When preparing plans/program, consideration should be given to landscape spaces, retention of views, screening of unpleasant views and removal of intrusive elements. Intrusive elements include inappropriate planted species, self sown trees and shrubs and environmental weeds.
- Revegetate the highest quality remnant vegetation with indigenous species as a first priority.
- Revegetate bare areas adjoining tracks, bridges, etc. with indigenous grasses and other plants.
- Where appropriate, tubestock planted in Wattle Park should be grown in a soil free or sterilised medium.
- Consider habitat values before removal of vegetation.
- Retain dead trees, fallen branches in appropriate areas.
- Implement revegetation and regeneration programs for remnant areas.
- Establish seed collection program for propagation purposes.
Eastern Creek

- Create a filtration pond in the northern section and regrade/reshape the drainage line forming a more conducive creek environment.
- Retain creek as an open drainage line. Remove weeds, some tree stumps and implement erosion control measures.
- Selected large exotic trees could be retained for their character in certain locations.
- Progressively stem inject invasive exotic trees and progeny from the highest quality remnant vegetation and within 50m of the stream line. This includes the willows and poplars, many of which are past their aesthetic life, invasive and out of character in the area.
- Retain dead trees for habitat value where appropriate.
- Revegetate creek line with indigenous species reinforcing the creek location.
- Revegetate the filtration pond with appropriate indigenous species with the aim of creating habitat and improving water quality.

Wattle Perimeter

- The Wattle perimeter is of historical and horticultural significance for its use of a single genus of native flora (Acacia spp) to provide a visual identity.
- Re-establish Wattle Perimeter using primarily indigenous species of Wattle. Non-indigenous Acacias should be considered if they are not considered invasive species or they are readily maintained.
- Ensure there are gaps in the plantings to accommodate areas of important indigenous vegetation.
- Indigenous Acacia spp could be considered for gap planting.
- Remove seedlings and weeds which restrict planting.
- Refer to Carr et al (1993) for list of indigenous Acacias.
- Ensure plant lists include Acacia species which attain tree proportions.
- Planting should be in informal clumps allowing gaps for views and protection of remnant vegetation.
- Do not plant invasive species.
- Invite FNVC and Ornamental Plant Collection (OPCA) Society to contribute to plant establishment and/or maintenance.
5.7.2.3 Management - Maintenance

Management and maintenance programs should be developed for the protection and enhancement of remnant vegetation and trees identified as historically significant.

Two types of management - maintenance programs will need to be established for this precinct. One will relate to the historic plantings, the other for the remnant vegetation.

Strategy

- Historic plantings - Refer to Section 5.6.1.4.
- Remnant vegetation - maintain existing values in short term aiming to upgrade the biological values in the long term.

ACTION

Historic Plantings

- Implement a tree and shrub maintenance policy for sustained amenity - Refer to section 5.6.1.4.

Remnant Vegetation

- Arrest where possible all degradation processes, i.e. serious sources of cultivated weeds, trampling, erosion.
- Eliminate or control weeds in designated areas, to reduce further spread. Prepare a comprehensive weed management strategy. Refer to Section 5.12.1.
- Remove cultivated exotics that are sources of very serious weed species.
- Remove progeny of cultivated exotics.
- Revegetate areas cleared of weeds immediately.
- Prepare management plans for significant and other important populations (eg. faunal habitat plants).
- Dead trees, fallen trees and branches should be left in high quality areas of remnant vegetation or where considered appropriate.
- In combination with vegetation management, dog access should be restricted because of possible harm to wildlife.
- The use of fire for weed control and vegetation or habitat manipulation should be trialed.
- Monitor creeping mistletoe populations.
- All site works and major management proposals should be evaluated for their potential impact to flora and fauna. Proposals or management practices should be modified if significant adverse impacts can be demonstrated.
- Monitor and document all aspects of park management, i.e. permanent record keeping, permanent photo sites.
- Establish a seed bank for selected species as a security against loss of wild population.
5.7.3 Golf Course Precinct

A discussion on the development and an assessment of the existing vegetation is outlined in the Wattle Park Heritage Conservation Addendum Report.

In general terms the course is vegetated with a mix of non indigenous Eucalypts along the fairways and special tree plantings around tees and holes. The creek is considerably degraded and invaded by environmental weeds.

5.7.3.1 Plant Selection

The current plantings within the golf course are similar to plantings in the park. It is important that the character of the golf course visually links and reflects the character of the Heritage Precinct.

Strategy

- Select plants that will enhance the character of the golf course.
- Protect and enhance the remnant indigenous vegetation along the creek line.
- Retain and protect significant plantings.
- Avoid environmental weeds.
- Avoid plants that are not thriving or have limited sustained amenity, ie. Eucalyptus botryoides (Mahogany Gum).
- Consider selecting plants that will enhance the golf course character by increasing seasonal variation, ie. deciduous trees, flowering natives.

ACTION

- Plantings identified as significant should be replaced with the same species or species of a similar form/character.
- Plant selection should highlight 1930s era of planting.
- Use indigenous species propagated from local seed sources.

5.7.3.2 New and Replacement Plantings

As in other areas of the park a large proportion of the planted Eucalypts are in a state of serious decline and a replacement program is urgently required. Many plants are of the same age and therefore will reach maturity simultaneously. The creek line contains some remnant species, however, in general the creek is very degraded with heavy infestations of exotic/environmental weed species.
Strategy

- Select species that will enhance the character of the golf course.
- Replacement plantings should be of same species or similar species of a similar character.
- Select species tolerant of site conditions.
- Reinforce 1930s character of the golf course.
- Adopt a planting replacement program for significant trees, missing or unhealthy specimens.
- Encourage regeneration of remnant indigenous species where appropriate.

ACTION

- Prepare detailed landscape plans and programs for all replacement or new plantings.
- When preparing plans consideration should be given to the golf course layout, landscape spaces, views, vistas, screening and intrusive elements.
- Consider habitat values before removal of vegetation.
- Retain fallen branches in appropriate areas.
- Establish habitat corridors to other areas of the park.
- Retain and manage the remnant vegetation.
- Remove invasive exotic species from the Western Creek.
- Maintain the existing character of the golf course to each fairway to provide interest to the course. Deciduous trees and flowering natives (e.g. Grevillea robusta) provide seasonal variety.
- Remove diseased/dying specimens from throughout the course, i.e. Eucalyptus botryoides (Mahogany gum).
- Remove small trees in poor condition from western section of southern boundary. Replace with species tolerant of site conditions.
- Retain special character plantings and replace with similar species if necessary. This includes geometric groups, groups of Eucalyptus sideroxylon (Iron bark), poplar grove and large trees to the north of the 9th fairway.
- Wattle Perimeter - establish a Wattle Perimeter on Southern Boundary and Warrigal Road. Refer to Section 5.7.1.2.
5.7.3.3 Management - Maintenance

Horticultural management strategies for the golf course should be dynamic and environmentally sensitive.

Management programs need to be established for the vegetation and grass maintenance.

Strategy

- Implement a management and maintenance regime that aims to extend the existing qualities of the golf course to the middle of the next century.
- The management and maintenance plan should include:
  - staged and ongoing tree surgery as required
  - retention of aesthetic qualities and views
  - identifies the need for replacement planting in advance of decline of specimens
  - addresses risk management issues
  - revegetation, regeneration
- Adopt sound horticultural practices.
- Adopt sound environmental practices.

ACTION

- Develop a tree and shrub maintenance policy for sustained amenity (Refer to Section 5.7.1.3).
- Develop a management - maintenance program for the indigenous vegetation (Refer to Section 5.7.2.3).

Grass Maintenance

Strategy

- Adopt an environmentally sound grass management plan that ensures the provision of suitable and quality grass lands.

ACTION

- Prepare a grass management program giving consideration to the following:
  - When mowing:
    - implement differential mowing regimes to limit or in certain areas cease the need to mow
    - return clippings to soil where practical
  - When using chemicals:
    - ensure high quality spraying equipment is used which is maintained and properly calibrated to ensure pesticide is delivered efficiently and uniformly
    - select pest specific pesticides which have low toxicity, mobility and persistence
    - alternate the use of pesticides
    - introduce Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which requires pest and disease monitoring and may eliminate the need to maintain preventative spray programs. As part of the IPM introduce cultural and biological methods to control pests and diseases
    - avoid pesticide application when heavy rainfall is forecast and soil is saturated
    - schedule irrigation so excessive watering is avoided.
    - Refer to Section 5.7.1.3.
5.8 FAUNA

The identification and recording of fauna within the park to date has largely been achieved through the efforts of the FNCV and the work of Carr et al (1993) (Refer FNCV report 1992 for details).

Fauna within the park includes at least 21 species of butterfly, 60 species of beetles (including the Christmas beetle) and approximately 50 species of birds of which the Musk Lorikeet is considered to be of local significance. Ringtail and Brushtail possums are present while the existence of 5-6 different species of bats highlights these animals as a major component of the native mammalian fauna within the park.

Amphibian life certainly requires further investigation, however yabbies and frogs, of which the Southern Bullfrog is of local significance, are familiar to many park visitors.

Clearly, conflicts will arise in balancing the provision of habitat requirements for fauna and recreation, commercial and heritage values. Management nonetheless must endeavour to protect existing habitat values while working towards enhancement of sites where appropriate.

The basic principles of ecosystem management need to be understood by staff and where possible communicated to the community through interpretation and education programs.

The fauna of the park requires further study, however, some guidelines for the management of faunal habitat are listed below.

Strategy

* Identify, protect and enhance, where appropriate, habitat requirements for the diversity of fauna in the park.

ACTION

Butterflies

* Identify and protect host plants, eg. *Lomandra longifolia* (Spiny Header Matrush), *Muellerina sp.* (Mistletoe).

* Retain senescent Wattles where appropriate.

* Identify and retain habitat of fauna with which butterflies have symbiotic relationship, eg. ants.

Beetles/Reptiles

* Maintain and avoid disturbance of fallen limbs and logs where appropriate.

Birds

* Ensure revegetation works include shrub spp. suitable for scrub dwelling birds.

* Retain unmown grass area in bushland precinct allowing for regeneration of desirable flora.

* Revegetate where necessary with species of known food and habitat value, eg. indigenous species.

* Create and/or enhance links with habitat corridors of neighbouring parklands, etc.
• Preserve the *puna* in the eastern creek as potential habitat for spotted pardalote (and as geological feature of educative value and interest).

• Ensure weed control/removal does not disturb habitat niches where no alternative niche is presently available in park, e.g. non indigenous shrubs providing habitat for Brown Thornbill in western creekline.

**Mammals**

• Complete further study of bat species and their sites within the park.

• Investigate existence of *Hydromys chrysogaster* (Water rat) in park.

**Amphibians**

• Identify major sites of Frog habitation.

• Ensure creek works do not irreversibly disturb existing habitat of frogs and yabbies.

• Enhance creekline habitat with view to encouraging increase in frog numbers.

**Other Insects**

• Require further study/investigation.

**General**

• All existing faunal data should be collated, evaluated and presented in one document.

• All sites of faunal significance should be identified and mapped.

• Foxes and feral cats should be eliminated.

• All site works and major management proposals should be evaluated for their potential impacts on fauna and flora.

• Document/monitor all management works and their impacts.
5.9 VIEWS AND VISTAS

A significant feature of Wattle Park is the quality of views from within the park, the most impressive being views to the City of Melbourne.

Views and Vistas - Views into the Park

- Overall, views into the park from surrounding roads could be improved. Some views require screening while others need strengthening and enhancement.
- Perimeter planting could screen traffic and unify the edge of site whilst allowing an occasional view in.
- Important views into the park are from:
  - the main entrance
  - the Wattle Park shopping area
  - the lower oval at Elgar Road
  - the North West corner - although this potential view is screened by thick vegetation.

Views within the Park

- There are several views within the park which should be retained and enhanced.
- There are outstanding long views to the City of Melbourne from the Oval and Chalet turnaround.
  Views from the oval to the Dandenongs are now screened by vegetation.

Important views from within the Park include:

- Views across the main oval to the Chalet. The main oval provides more open spatial qualities that contrast with the more vegetated areas of the park.
- Views across the parkland and playground from the Chalet.
- Views from the central ridgeline through the bushland areas.
- View from the pathway to the lily pond.
- Internal views toward the western creek.
- Long vistas along the golf fairways.
- Vista to the Curator’s Cottage from the main entrance.
- Glimpse of the Chalet as you move along the driveway.

Strategy

- Maintain, enhance and develop significant views and vistas both into the park and within the park.
- Screen unpleasant views or remove items contributing to the interruption of views.
- Ensure future design work doesn't compromise important views and vistas.
5.10 MEMORIALS

Wattle Park is principally a place for recreation, however there are several memorials dating back to the early establishment of the park. The memorials include:

1. Memorial Clock Tower and Lone Pine (Refer to Section 5.5.7)
2. Morrel Tree (Refer to Section 5.6.1.2).

Strategy

- Protect and enhance the existing memorials and limit to present numbers.

5.11 HISTORIC BIRD BOXES

Bird nesting boxes have an historic precedent as several were installed in the 1930s in trees located near the Chalet.

Strategy

- Historic bird boxes to be built and installed in the park if sponsored by community groups.
- Numbers should be kept to five locations and installed in historic locations as approved by H.B.C.
- Interpret with small signs.
5.12  PEST MANAGEMENT

5.12.1 Pest Plant

Weed invasion is an ever present issue in park management. It is unreasonable to expect to completely eliminate all weeds from the park due to the very nature of the site and weed ecology. Programs should be devised to control plants that:

• threaten the remnant indigenous vegetation

• directly or indirectly detract from the visitor’s experience

• are unsightly or out of context with the character of the park.

Strategy

• Prepare and manage a weed control program that aims to protect and enhance the remnant vegetation and associated fauna, cultural landscape and improves visitor experience.

ACTION

• Eliminate and/or control weeds to reduce further spread.

• Eliminate weed species as identified in Carr et al (1993)

• Eliminate naturalised progeny of planted exotic species, ie. *Acacia schinoides*

• Control annual and perennial herbs.

• Develop a comprehensive weed management strategy that will control;
  - declared noxious weeds
  - environmental weeds relevant to Wattle Park.

• Develop the strategy with short and long term goals.

• Identify and regularly monitor weed species and their population so that early control on elimination can be implemented.

• Provide adequate advice to visitors when herbicides are being used. Refer to Section 5.1.1.
5.12.2 Feral Animals

The indigenous fauna of Wattle Park is constantly under threat because of domestic pests and feral animals such as foxes, cats and dogs. Foxes are an ongoing problem in the park and may never be completely eliminated. The proximity of residential houses to the park also increases the likelihood of domestic pets roaming the park 'unattended', particularly cats at night.

Introduced aggressive birds such as the Indian Minah and Common Starling may also pose a problem. They are very likely to take up residence in erected nest boxes if conditions are suitable.

Strategy

- Control and eliminate feral animals in the park
- Educate and deter owners from allowing domestic pets to roam unattended into the park

ACTION

- Regularly monitor and eliminate foxes and feral cats. Locate and destroy den sites.
- Park Management to liaise with City of Box Hill to ensure vermin management strategies are complimentary.
- Undertake a concerted public education program, outlining the values and benefits of the park and the impact of roaming domestic pets. Aim to encourage cat owning residents in the area to curfew cats at night.
- Undertake a regular monitoring program on aggressive introduced birds where nest boxes are introduced. Eradicate feral species from the erected boxes.
5.13 SERVICES

5.13.1 Drainage

There are many areas in the park that experience water logging during the winter months and erosion because of water being channelled through drains that open out into the park. Facilities such as the car parks and oval have no or minimal drainage control measures and consequently the water is sheeting across the park contributing to erosion.

Storm water drains are minimal and many are not connected to the drainage system that feeds into Riversdale Road. This also causes wet spots in the park. Many of the pipes have deteriorated, and now require replacement. The sewerage system is also deteriorating and many of the pipes require replacement.

Strategy

- Implement a sensitive and environmentally sound engineering approach to resolve drainage issues through out the park.
- Ensure water logged sites in high use areas are drained appropriately to allow continual use of the area.
- Ensure storm water pipes are connected to appropriate system.
- Resolve all drainage issues.
- Improve the quality of the park, protect vegetation, reduce maintenance, improve safety and reduce health hazards.

ACTION

- Prepare and implement a drainage program for the Park. Seek engineering advice focusing on water logged areas and drainage associated with the pathways.
- Ensure that the redesign of the Chalet car park addresses drainage and that the water is directed away from the Eastern bushland area.
- Upgrade drainage associated with the main oval.
- Investigate existing stormwater and sewerage system and upgrade as required.
5.14  **COMPANION ANIMALS**

The issue of dogs off leads in Metropolitan parks generates a great deal of debate in the community.

The prevailing culture at Wattle Park of some dog owners allowing their dogs to run free is contrary to the Melbourne Parks and Waterways By-Law requiring animals to be kept on a leash or halter at all times.

This culture has developed over many years despite a similar by-law existing under previous management. The lack of enforcement by previous management has led to this present practice which is a clear motivation for many dog owners to visit the park.

The results from the visitor survey undertaken in the park in Summer/Autumn 1993 indicated that the greatest support was given to the strategy that dogs should be allowed in the park as long as they are on a lead (63%). The research undertaken by TQA Research Pty Ltd (1993) across a number of parks identified ‘walking the dog’ as one of the top seven activities. They also found that "...the issue of allowing dogs in open space sparked much debate ... (with) ... the main issue ... centred around dog faeces and personal safety for children" (Melbourne Water 1993 Regulatory Impact Statement).

Some dog owners believe it is their ‘right’ to walk their dog unrestrained in a park, however this also needs to be weighed up against the impact that the dog can have on other park visitors who also claim a right to walk in a park without being intimidated by a loose dog. Although the owner may believe their dog is under effective control, this can be subjective. Even the friendliest and most well mannered dog can be intimidating to a visitor who is not used to pets.

There have been accidents in parks caused by dogs running in front of joggers and cyclists, and people being bitten. Dogs (and cats) also pose a threat to the indigenous fauna and flora in the park. For these reasons, dogs are completely excluded from some MPW parks.

Another issue is the inconvenience and unpleasantness experienced when park visitors encounter dog faeces. There is wide support from many dog owners for the ‘pooper scooper’ approach.

The by-law provides an optimal balance by allowing dogs in the park, but ensuring they are restrained by a lead. This provides a safer park environment for visitors whilst allowing those who wish to walk dogs an opportunity to do so in a pleasant environment.

**Strategy**

- Allow dogs in the park providing they are restrained by a lead.

**ACTION**

- Enforce the by-law

- Effectively communicate the reasons for having and enforcing the by-law.

- Investigate opportunities for implementing a ‘pooper scooper’ policy.
5.15 PARK SECURITY

Security of the park should be maintained by the presence of park staff during the day as it has been in the past.

After hours security should not be the responsibility of staff as the effectiveness of a resident Ranger is questionable due to the size and complexity of the park.

Strategy

• Maintain the security of the park.

ACTION

• Undertake all necessary works and actions to secure Wattle Park.
• Employ after hours security patrols if deemed necessary.
5.16 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community involvement and support will be essential to the effective enhancement and management of Wattle Park.

The Friends of Wattle Park is well established and is one avenue of community involvement. There are also other groups or individuals that have specific interest in the park and who can contribute to its management.

The planning process has identified community groups and individuals who now visit the park or may potentially visit the park. This has been valuable in that the project team has been able to determine community expectations and judge reaction to a range of proposals for the park. There is now the potential to involve many of these people in future activities in the park.

Park visitors were noted in Section 3.3. The following outlines the range of community groups that currently have the potential to interact with the park.

1. Council/organised groups
   - Youth groups
   - Senior citizens
   - Neighbourhood houses
   - Day care centres
   - Disabled groups
   - Cultural groups
   - Migrant centres
   - Aerobics group

2. Special Interest Group
   - Friends of Wattle Park
   - Bird Observers
   - Field Naturalists
   - Greenlink
   - Local horticultural Society
   - Ornamental Plant Collection Society
   - Conservation groups
   - Historical society
   - Public Transport Corporation
   - Entomological Society
   - Dog clubs
   - Cycling groups

3. Sporting Clubs/Groups
   - Golf
   - Tennis
   - Hockey
   - Cricket
   - Golf flying disc club
   - Orienteering
   - Athletics

4. Educational Groups
   - Pre-schools
   - Primary schools
   - Secondary schools
   - Tertiary institutions

5. Park Neighbours
   - Properties with a common boundary

6. Local Community
   - 15 min. travel time
   - 5 km radius of park

7. Broader Community
   - Metropolitan area

Strategies

- Promote closer links with the community in order to foster support for the park and provide a forum for involvement in issues and initiatives in the park.
ACTION

- Prepare a program for potential community involvement identifying a range of activities and potential groups.

- Activities may include tree planting, weed removal, propagation, seed collection, bird box monitoring and visitor programs, eg. leading walks around the park related to flora, bird watching, historic interpretation.

- Encourage participation of community representatives in the development of particular projects, ie. Playground design and development.

- Encourage community representatives to join the Wattle Park Advisory Committee (Refer to Section 6.2).

- Seek sponsorship and maintenance responsibilities from community groups for specific projects in the park, ie. FNCV and/or SGAP and establishment and maintenance of the FNCV flora garden and Wattle border; local horticultural society and establishment and maintenance of garden beds.

- Establish clear guidelines and lines of responsibility for community groups.

- Park Rangers to meet regularly with the Friends group to hear their ideas, assist in planning new initiatives and help deal with particular issues or areas of concern.

- Hold regular meetings - 'Open House' information days to inform the community on progress of park's enhancement.

- Involve local artists as a means of bringing the community together in Wattle Park. An art exhibition, essay competition, music festivals, theatre in the park, sculpture in the park are ways of displaying the park and gaining feedback.

- Establish a resource library in the park's administration area on all aspects of the park, which is made readily available to interested members of the community.

- Keep the community informed through advertisements, press releases and articles in the local newspaper.

- Run community workshops, inviting interested people to join in and discuss specific issues, etc.

- Regularly conduct visitor surveys, particularly in high and low-shoulder season.
5.17 EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

Melbourne Parks and Waterways now has a specific business focus which is primarily orientated to better understanding of park visitors and needs and the provision of quality services and products.

The primary management focus is to move away from maintenance to the delivery of targeted customer services. Therefore the maintenance tasks will primarily be carried out by contractors. The challenges for park management include, actively managing the bushland and heritage areas for conservation, providing high quality and diverse recreation opportunities, meeting a wider range of customer needs, building relationships with community groups and operating within a reduced budget.

**Strategy**

- Create a supportive work environment in which staff have the opportunity to develop their skills and increase their involvement in decision making.

**ACTION**

- Identify staff training needs, and develop an annual training program.

- Ensure all staff are trained in the areas of quality resource management and the provision of information services.

- Provide specialist training to staff in areas of land management, management of cultural landscapes, service to visitors, team work, etc.
5.18 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

The commercial activities currently operating in Wattle Park include:

- Chalet - reception centre and tea rooms
- 9 Hole Public Golf course
- Sporting Facilities - including tennis courts and sports oval.

The Chalet and Golf course are presently managed independently under lease arrangements, while the sporting facilities are managed by park staff. While all these facilities require upgrading to varying degrees, they are integral to the overall character of the park and reflective of the multi-layered experiences available to park visitors, eg. recreational, social, heritage appreciation.

The park is currently funded through the Metropolitan Improvement Rate (MIR) and the Parks and Waterways program. Park management is also working with community groups, eg. Friends of Wattle Park, to seek grants for capital works programs. The need remains however to explore additional sources of revenue and funding to assist in the implementation of this plan’s recommendations.

Strategy

- To explore, develop and promote existing and potential commercial opportunities where appropriate, without compromising the heritage, cultural social and environmental significance of the park.

ACTION

The list below provides options for further consideration to meet the aims of broadening park visitation and increasing the revenue raising capacity of the park.

- Chalet: upgrade facilities, promote existing facilities and explore options for increasing the use of this building, eg. restaurant/reception, conference centre, gallery.
- Golf course: potential to refurbish or replace the pro-shop and clubroom facility to meet community expectations.
- Former Homestead: investigate appropriate commercial/community use of building.
- Tennis Courts: upgrade to acceptable standards, provision of lighting to extend time of use. (Potential for courts to be leased.)
- Kiosk: the provision of a kiosk at the Chalet is consistent with traditional use and current visitor demand.
- Visitor Services: promotion of interpretation material, guided tours, sale of books and related publications.
• Special Events: promotion of the park as a venue for hire for approved events, eg. bandstand, oval area:
  - Carols by candlelight
  - Theatre
  - Concerts (in keeping with park atmosphere)
  - Bird Week programs
  - Environment Day programs
  - Senior Citizens Week
  - Wattle Day celebrations
  - Art Shows
  - Tramways Anniversary
  - Jazz music
  - School bands

• Sponsorship: Explore possibility of sponsorship for park events and/or projects related to capital works program.

• Sports Days: Promotion and hiring of oval to sports clubs, clinics, holiday programs.

• Portable/Seasonal Food Vendor: Eg. Spring/Summer and public holidays provision of specialty ice creams, drinks (This may not be appropriate if the kiosk at the Chalet is open).

• Displays: Eg. vintage car exhibition.

• Car Parking Fees

• Film/Photography: Fees, charges for use of park.
6.0 IMPLEMENTATION

In many ways the implementation of the Wattle Park Management Action Plan commenced at the beginning of the Planning process. Considerable effort has gone into generating a greater community appreciation and understanding of the issues at Wattle Park as well as encouraging park management and the community to challenge problems, old practices and beliefs.

The extent of successful implementation will be dependent on the level of funding made available to park management and the involvement of the community in assisting park management.

To this end recommendations in this report have been prioritised and costed as set out in the works program.

6.1 Integration with Business Planning

The Wattle Park Business Plan should be amended as required to incorporate the vision, objective and management actions developed in this plan.

The priorities for action and resources required set out in Section 6.3 should form the basis for capital and recurrent expenditure.

6.2 Monitoring and Review

Ongoing monitoring and review of this plan is required to ensure that recommendations and actions remain relevant, effective and meet the objectives of the park and its visitors. A sound process of monitoring and review is necessary to ensure the plan is a success.

To ensure that the plan retains its value and relevance it is recommended that:

- A Wattle Park Advisory Committee is established replacing the current Steering Committee to broadly overview the implementation of the plan.

  The committee should comprise of representatives from park management, Historic Buildings Council, City of Box Hill, Park Leases, Friends of Wattle Park and community, and should meet at least twice yearly.

  The role of the committee must be formulated and clearly understood.

- A thorough and broad review of the plan be undertaken at the end of five years to assess its value for future management of the park.

  The performance of park management should be assessed against performance indicators developed from this plan. The indicators should also consider the corporate performance indicators which are outlined as follows:
  - total visits
  - quality of visitor experience/visitor satisfaction
  - total costs per hectare open to the public
  - community perception of Melbourne Parks & Waterways performance as a parks manager.
6.3 Works Program and Cost Estimate

The following program outlines the major actions associated with the upgrading of Wattle Park, their priority and an estimate of cost.

The costs are preliminary and for planning and budgeting purposes only. Until detail design has been carried out for some areas, the costs can only be viewed as indicative.

Timing of implementation is dependent on funding available, environmental factors, eg. best time of year to plant or construct paths, as well as visitor demand and community support.

A number of factors have been considered in order to determine the priority of major works as outlined in the plan. They include:

- provision of basic level of services as outlined in the MPW Business Plan.
- meeting safety requirements in accordance with Australian Safety Standards.
- addressing risk management issues.
- meeting the requirements of the Occupational, Health and Safety Act (1985).
- attaining an acceptable 'image' for the park.
- meeting the requirements of the Historic Building Council.
- addressing environmental - land management issues.
- resource constraints.
- commercial factors.
### MAJOR ACTIONS AND INDICATIVE COST ESTIMATE

**Key to Priority Staging**

- **H** = High - Implemented within 1 - 2 years
- **M** = Medium - Implemented within 3 - 4 years
- **L** = Low - Implemented within 5 - 6 years

* Funded by external source other than MP&W.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Priority Staging</th>
<th>Total Indicative Cost Estimate $</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Safety</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Prepare Fire Protection Plan</td>
<td>H</td>
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<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Formulate and implement a risk management plan</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Golf Course *</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establish a permanent tender</td>
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<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Tennis Courts *</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investigate lease</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Upgrade courts and fence</td>
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<td>c.</td>
<td>Picnic Area</td>
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<td>Main Area at Chalet</td>
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<td>Informal Areas (2 no.)</td>
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<td>d.</td>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
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<td>Visitor Facility</td>
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<td>5 ways intersection*</td>
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<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Replace/relocate tram body picnic shelters</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>Seating</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Replace existing park seats and benches</td>
<td>M - L</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>Drinking fountains</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Picnic Area</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other Areas</td>
<td>M - L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>Picnic Tables</td>
<td>M - L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>Rubbish Bins*</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g.</td>
<td>Lighting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Driveway</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Car parks</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paths</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h.</td>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boundary - Elgar/Riversdale</td>
<td>H</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warrigal and Patterson Ave</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Main driveway/turning circle/Chalet car park</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Curators Cottage</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>242,000</td>
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<td>No.</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Priority Rating</td>
<td>Total Indicative Cost Estimate</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Park Communications</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Signs</td>
<td>H</td>
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<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Information Shelters (2 no.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Access and Circulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Park Entrances</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Main Entrance</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North West Corner</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central Entrance</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Ways</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Main Driveway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upgrade road surface, etc</td>
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<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>Parking Facilities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chalet car park</td>
<td>M</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Golf course car park</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sealed Paths</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unsealed Paths</td>
<td>H - M</td>
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<td>Bridges (where required)</td>
<td>H - M</td>
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<td>Buildings and Structure</td>
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<td>a.</td>
<td>Park Administration Area</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Curators Cottage</td>
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<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>Tram Waiting Shelters</td>
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<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>Band Rotunda Shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>Memorial Clock Tower</td>
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<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>Lily Pond, Fountains &amp; Rockery</td>
<td>M</td>
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<tr>
<td>g.</td>
<td>Disused toilet block</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demolish/make area safe</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>140,000</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Vegetation</td>
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<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Prepare Landscape/horticultural plans for the historic landscape.</td>
<td>M - ongoing</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Develop a program for sustained amenity of vegetation.</td>
<td>M - ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>Develop shrub maintenance program and implement</td>
<td>M - ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>Develop weed control program</td>
<td>H - ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>Develop a revegetation/regeneration program and implement</td>
<td>H - ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>Develop a grass management program and implement</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Control Erosion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H - ongoing</td>
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<td>10,000</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Employee Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>H - ongoing</td>
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<td>TOTAL INDICATIVE COST ESTIMATE</td>
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<td>1,400,000</td>
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</table>
REFERENCES

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• Melbourne Parks and Waterways Parks - Marketing Plan 1993-94.


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• Shepherd, F - Habitat Consultancy Services (1989) - Wattle Park Community Liaison Report.

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• Written Submissions to Faye Shepherd (Habitat Consultancy Service), 1989.
APPENDIX A

The following Appendix outlines the construction detailing for the major visitor facilities in the park.

The following elements are detailed:

1. Barbeque/Picnic Area
2. Seating
3. Drinking Fountain
4. Picnic Tables
5. Rubbish Bins
6. Lighting
7. Fencing
8. Signs
WATTLE PARK MANAGEMENT - ACTION PLAN 1994

DETAIL 2 - SEATING

Suppliers: Street and Garden Furniture Co. Brisbane, or similar approved
WATTLE PARK MANAGEMENT - ACTION PLAN 1994

DETAIL 3 - DRINKING FOUNTAINS
PROPOSED - REPLACEMENT CONCRETE BOLLARD AND CABLE FENCE

WATTLE PARK MANAGEMENT - ACTION PLAN 1994

DETAIL 7 - FENCING
1. PARK IDENTIFICATION SIGN

- VIEWED FROM VEHICLE
- located at park entrance

2. DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

- VIEWED FROM VEHICLE
- may portray several messages
- portrays a single message
3. ORIENTATION - GENERAL INFORMATION SIGNS

WATTLE PARK MANAGEMENT - ACTION PLAN 1994
DETAIL 8 - SIGNS
4. INTERPRETATION SIGNS

WATTLE PARK MANAGEMENT - ACTION PLAN 1994
DETAIL 8 - SIGNS
APPENDIX B

The following Appendix provides concept plans for major areas in the park. The concepts provide a framework for further design and/or detailing.

Concepts have been developed for the following:

1. Main Driveway Entrance
2. Chalet Car Park
3. Golf Course Car Park
4. Works Area
5. North West Entry
6. Central Park Entry
7. Memorial Clock Tower - Lone Pine