

Hannah Watts Park - Draft Master Plan



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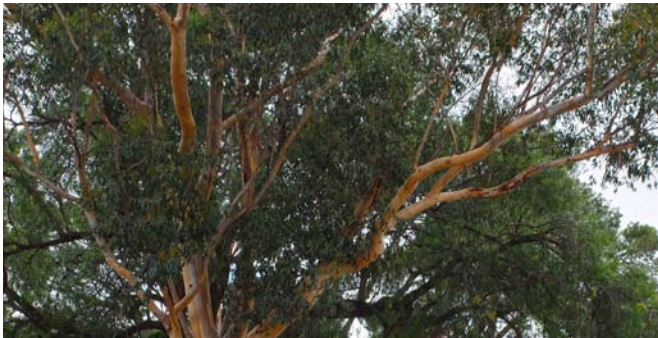
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Urban Initiaves acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as custodians of the land upon which we work.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Executive Summary

As the City of Melton continues to grow Hannah Watts Park will be a central place of gathering, recreation and respite with high quality contemporary facilities set in a natural creek landscape, rich in local history. The Draft Master Plan aims to revitalise the park, a much loved community asset, through improved connections and facilities, creek restoration and increased opportunities for recreation and gathering.

The Draft Master Plan provides a vision for the park to guide Council in prioritising park upgrades to meet the needs of the growing population. The process has involved extensive engagement with the community and consultation with internal stakeholders as well as rigorous site assessment and review of background documents. From this understanding, key themes emerged that form the basis of the nine over-arching principles that underpin the plan. Each principle is explored as it relates to the park as a whole and informs specific recommendations within each precinct of the park.

The intention is to gather community feedback prior to the Draft Master Plan being presented to Council for adoption. Comments and submissions can be made online until Sunday 7th October at:

melton.vic.gov.au/council/hannahwattsupgrade



Fig. 1 Hannah Watts Park Master Plan Area

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Hannah Watts Park

Hannah Watts Park is approximately 22 hectares and is located in the City of Melton, within nineteen kilometres of Melbourne in the outer urban west. It's rural bush feel, with rustic fencing and glimpsed views of natural vegetation (in combination with the golf course to the north) creates an appealing, and characteristically 'Melton', gateway landscape on the approach to the town centre from Melbourne.

The area of parkland covered by the Master Plan includes Hannah Watts Park, The Melton Recreation Reserve, Police Paddock, The Willows Historical Park, The Melton Country Club, Melton Bowls Club and adjoining park spaces.

Council's Active Participation Survey 2013 identified the park as the most visited park in the municipality. People of all ages and abilities enjoy the park for a wide variety of active and passive recreation, organised sports, and events of varying scales. Park users form the greater Melton community include individuals and families, school groups, holiday programs, and local and regional clubs. The park is also a popular stopping point for visiting tourists and bus tours travelling between Melbourne and Ballarat.

2.2 Master Plan Background

The Hannah Watts Master Plan was developed by Urban Initiatives and Melton City Council to provide a holistic vision for the future development of the park that will ensure the park continues to be enjoyed and valued by the growing Melton community for years to come.

The plan will help Council prioritise future works by envisioning future development within the park. The plan is informed by the opportunities and constraints of the site as well as the feedback and ideas received during community and stakeholder engagement.

2.3 Master Plan Objectives

The over arching objectives of the Master Plan are:

- Integrate a range of uses to meet the recreational and tourism needs of the broader Melton Community
- Provide strong connections to the Melton Town Centre and surrounding community facilities
- Create safe and accessible spaces with high quality facilities
- Enrich the local heritage and natural environment including Toolern Creek
- Provide a strong sense of place as the gateway to the Melton Town Centre



2.4 Site History

Hannah Watts Park sits on Kurung-jang-balluk country. The Kurung-jan-balluk are part of the larger Wurundjeri language group and local to this region of the Victorian Volcanic Plain. They have lived on and near this site for over 40,000 years.

The wider landscape is dominated by flat to undulating basaltic plain with stony rises, old lava flows, numerous volcanic cones and old eruption points. The local ecologies of which this area is comprised are Plains Grassland/Chenopods shrubland and poorly draining Plains Woodland. Despite the rest of the region being dotted with shallow lakes, both salt and freshwater, the country on which Hannah Watts Park and the City of Melton is situated is exceptionally dry, exhibiting the lowest average rainfall in the Port Phillip district. This is illustrated by the existence of the 'Melton Mallee' woodland near the Djerriwarrh Creek, which is the only place where mallee vegetation, typical of semi-arid regions, is found south of the Dividing Range.

The rich volcanic soils of the basaltic plains are ideal for farming. This fact combined with the discovery of gold at Ballarat in 1851 played a major part in the settlement and development of the area around the existing location of the park by the early pioneers. In 1852 the local parish of Djerriearrh was subdivided to create a village named after Melton Mowbray – a fashionable hunting ground in England.

As with many towns situated between the Port Phillip settlement and the diggings, there was much to be gleaned off the back of the findings on the goldfields. The easy crossing of the Toolam-Toolern (Pennyroyal)

Creek (which today runs through the park,) at this point, contributed to large numbers of prospectors passing through; the local economy boomed both from their revenue and from supplies sold directly to the growing communities on the diggings.

Buildings typical of the era, such as the surviving Willows Homestead were erected and dry-stone walls utilising excavated local basalt and traditional skills, many which stand today, impressed upon the area a colonial character. The Military Mounted Police hobbled horses in Pyke's Paddock (the Police Paddock) until 1853 and established a foraging depot used by both troopers and gold escort personnel. By 1862 Melton was the centre of a flourishing pastoral district of 73000 acres.

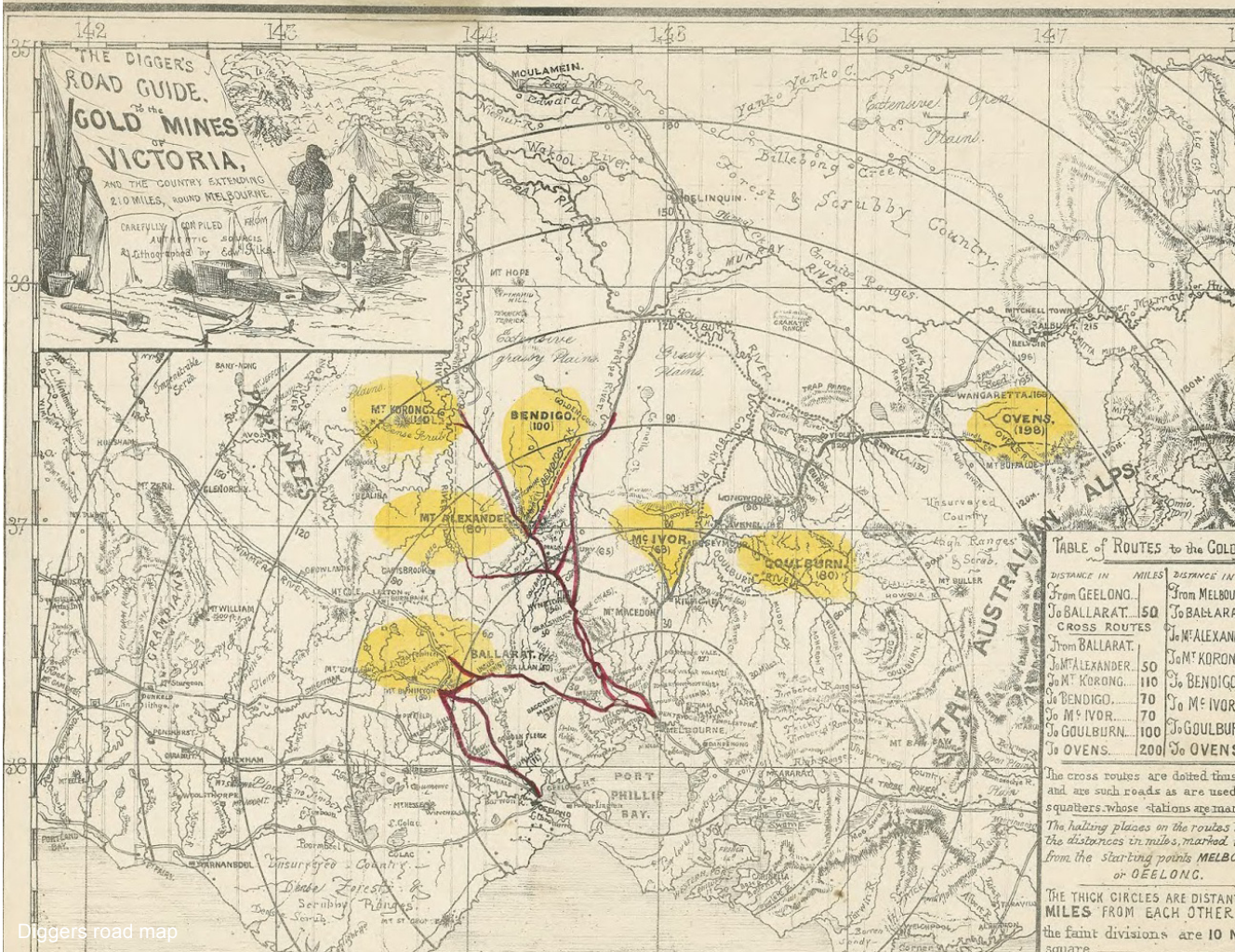
In the same year as gold was discovered in Ballarat, Hannah Watts, after whom the park is named, emigrated from Ireland with her husband. She was an illiterate twenty-year-old who exhibited inherent nursing skills when she stepped in as midwife to assist the ship's doctor in the delivery of seven babies on the long voyage to Australia. Settling in Melton she became the town's first mid-wife working for much of her life on a voluntary basis. She also served as a bush nurse and established Melton's first private hospital, officially recognized as such in 1911. She worked there until her death at age 90 in 1921, having instilled herself as one of the town's most honoured personalities and its 'most-loved pioneering woman'.

Despite the thriving economy generated by the Gold Rush, water supplies owing to its extremely dry climate were erratic. While the

town developed, extending further from the creek, it became more and more difficult for residents to transport water to their properties and in 1877, within the site of the existing park, an earth reservoir was formed. The success of the Reservoir in achieving its objectives was limited, and in 1890 the McKenzie Street Weir and Ford (listed for their local heritage significance,) were constructed. In 1916 the earth reservoir was formalised into the Melton Reservoir: heritage-listed also for its local significance. Ironically, as the town struggled to establish a reliable source of drinking water, those that could, travelled to Melton for its mild climate to recover from pulmonary ailments.

The town was principally dependent on bore and tank water until the delivery of reticulated water from the Djerriwarrh Dam in 1963. The former Reservoir became used as a town swimming pool and in recent decades its front-of-house location at the gateway of the Melbourne approach to the town saw it become the centerpiece for the development of Melton's best-loved passive recreation park.

In the early 1990s Hannah Watts Park underwent a significant upgrade. Funded through a federal employment programme, new facilities were constructed throughout the park. This included the entry walls, toilets, picnic shelters, bridges, playgrounds and pathways. Approaching 30 years since the upgrade was undertaken, some important park elements are requiring replacement. Where necessary this has been identified in the Master Plan.



2.5 Zoning, Ownership and Leases

The park is zoned Public park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) with the southern part of Police Paddock (also called Pound Paddock) zoned Public Use Zone - Service and Utility (PUZ1)

Current lease holders in the park include:

- Essendon Football Club - The Melton Country Club
- The Lions Club of Melton - Police Paddock
- Melton Bowling Club - Melton Bowling Club
- Melbourne water is responsible for the management of the Toolern Creek waterway

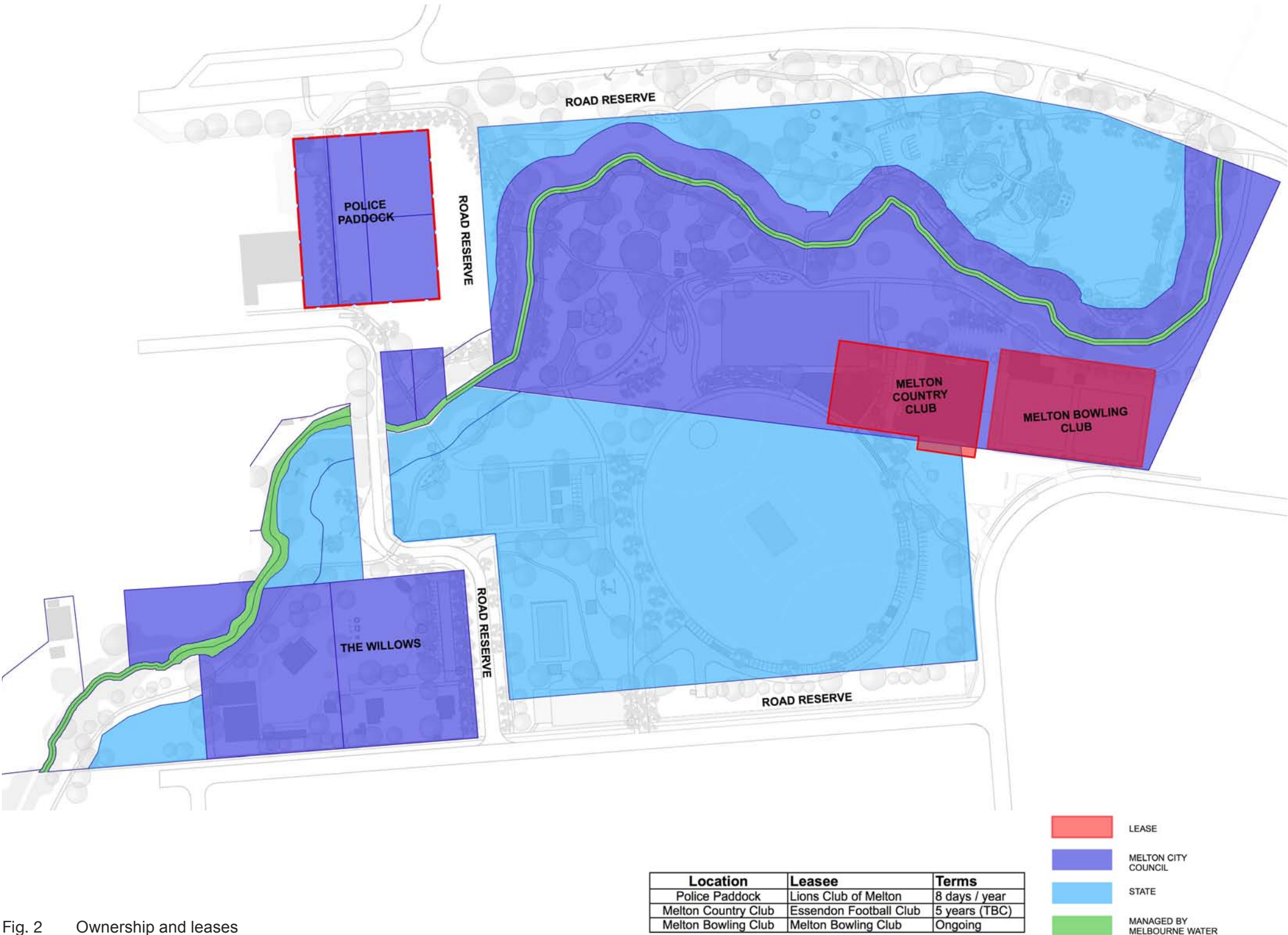


Fig. 2 Ownership and leases

3 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

2.6 City of Melton Strategic Documents

- City of Melton 2013 Active Participation Survey (Ross Planning October 2013)
- Melton City Council Open Space Plan 2016-2026 (Melton City Council February 2016)
- Melton Shire Council - 2010 Active Participation Survey Report

2.7 Hannah Watts Park Documents

- The Willows Melton Master Plan (City of Melton 18th August 2016 - Not Endorsed)
- Site Assessment - Hannah Watts Park (City of Melton 2013)
- Site Assessment - Melton Recreation Reserve (City of Melton 2013)
- Building Condition Audits (FGDixon 2018)
- Hannah Watts Recreation Reserve Customer Site Management Plan (Western Water)
- Site Assessment - Police Paddock Reserve (City of Melton 2013)
- Site Assessment - Pound Paddock Reserve (City of Melton 2013)
- Shire of Melton Heritage Study - Stage 2: Heritage Overlay No. 083 - Citation No. 221 - 'Raglan's Cottage'
- Shire of Melton Heritage Study - Stage 2: Heritage Overlay No. 075 - Citation No. 208 - Former Melton Reservoir
- Shire of Melton Heritage Study - Stage 2: Heritage Overlay No. 007 - Citation No. 226 - 'The Willows'

- Shire of Melton Heritage Study - Stage 2: Heritage Overlay No. 084 - Citation No. 227 - Melton Weir
- Shire of Melton Heritage Study - Stage 2: Heritage Overlay No. 081 - Citation No. 216 - Coronation Tree, Hannah Watts Park

2.8 Base Information and Survey

This plan was prepared without a complete base survey of the Hannah Watts Park Precinct. Survey was completed for the Stage 1 Works area in Precinct 1 only (works to begin construction in September 2018).

The following plans were developed using aerial photography and limited Council GIS information.



Open Space Plan 2016-2026



4 COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

4.1 Community Consultation

4.1.1 Overview

Over 950 written ideas and views were gathered throughout the community engagement process via the hardcopy and online surveys. A further 420 opinions, thoughts and ideas were gathered via other engagement tools including the dotmocracy activity, drawings, voting pods and giant chatboards.

289 people completed a survey, 153 online, 117 at the pop-up consultations, 16 at school workshops and 3 surveys were posted back to Council.

96 children and young people provided their feedback by drawing their ideas.

163 people engaged with the dotmocracy activity at the pop-up events and school workshops.

30 students participated in an ideas workshop.

131 people engaged with the voting pod activity.

30 comments and drawings were received via the giant chat boards at pop up consultations.



Pop-up Event

4.1.2 Method

Pop-up Events

Three place-based pop-up consultation events were held onsite at Hannah Watts Park, on Thursday 12 April between 10am-1pm, Sunday 22 April between 11am-2pm and Thursday 26 April between 3:30-6:30pm. The pop-up events included a free coffee cart.

School Workshop

Four local schools were invited to attend an 'ideas workshop' onsite at Hannah Watts Park using the pop-up ChatterBox trailer. Both St Dominic's Primary School and Melton Specialist School were involved in the workshops. The workshops were held on Thursday 26 April.

Online Survey

An online survey was developed to enable the community to provide their feedback and ideas if they were unable to attend the place-based pop-up consultation sessions. The online survey was hosted by ChatterBox Projects via the Melton City Council Have Your Say website. Online surveys closed 29 April 2018.



School Workshop

The online survey was promoted via on-site signage, a letterbox drop, emails to user groups and the schools (newsletter/ sessions).

4.1.3 Stakeholder Workshops

Two stakeholder workshops were held for Council staff and external key stakeholders. ten representatives attended the first workshop held on Monday 16 April.

Stakeholder groups consulted include:

- Melton South Football Netball Club, Bridgette's Dog School
- Willows Historical Society
- Nordic Walking Group
- Vietnam Veterans
- Melbourne Water

The second workshop was to take place on Thursday 19 April but was cancelled due to low numbers.



Individual meetings were carried out with a range of groups and clubs including:

- The Melton South Junior and Senior Football Club and Netball Club
- The Melton Bowls Club
- The Melton CFA
- Friends of Toolern Creek
- Melton Rotary Club
- Melton Country Club



4.2 Consultation Summary

4.2.1 Survey Summary

Of the 289 people who completed a survey:

- The most widely represented age group was that of people aged 26-34 years and 36-45 years (27.19%) followed by people under 12 years (11.84%) and 13-17 years (7.89%).
- 72.46% of respondents were female, 25.85% male and .42% other
- Just over 25% of respondents lived in Melton
- 17.24% lived within walking distance to the Hannah Watts Park precinct
- 85% of respondents usually drive and 11.92% usually walk to Hannah Watts Park
- The two most important features within the precinct are the playspaces (58.1%) and places to gather with others (55.4%)
- The three most popular elements currently at Hannah Watts Park playground are swings (57.7%), slides (55.2%) and the donut spinner (38.9%)

- The top two changes respondents would like to see to the precinct are an upgrade to the playground (37.8%) and more and improved picnic shelters and BBQs (24.27%).
- The two most important playspace elements as voted by respondents are things to climb (45.7%) and adventure/challenging elements (38.3%)
- The three top things respondents would like to see in the new playspace are water play elements (24.5%) big and/or curly slides (20%) and climbing elements (17.9%)
- 45.1% of respondents would like to see more picnic areas / shelters and 32.7% would like to see more BBQs within the precinct

4.2.2 Dotmocracy summary

- 164 people participated in the dotmocracy activity with 492 votes being received, 381 from young people under 18 years and 111 votes from people over 18 years.
- The six most popular images as chosen by young people were:

- giant slide with 60 votes (47.2%)
- flying fox with 45 votes (35.4%)
- inground trampolines with 33 votes (25.9%)
- giant rock climbing wall (bouldering) with 29 votes (22.8%)
- a picture of a flat bike/scooter track with 20 votes (15.7%)
- a basketball court with 19 votes (14.9%)
-
- The five most popular images as chosen by adults were:
- inground trampolines with 20 votes (54%)
- giant slide with 15 votes (40.5%)
- flying fox with 10 votes (27%)
- manmade creek with 8 votes (21.6%)
- wooden adventure playground and large sand pit with 6 votes (16.2%)

4.2.3 Big ideas drawings summary

- Of the 96 detailed drawings received by children and young people, the five most frequently drawn elements were:
- big slide (tunnel or curly) (35.4%)

- giant/basket swing (26%)
- a flying fox/zip line (19.7%)
- trampolines (18.7%)
- monkey bars (18.7%)

4.2.4 Voting Pod summary

- Of the 131 people who voted for their most important thing at Hannah Watts Park precinct, 22.1% voted for playspaces, followed by pathways and trails with 21.37% and formal sport with 20.6%.
- Of the 84 young people who voted, 22.6% voted for informal sport followed by playspaces (21.4%) and pathways and trails (19%).
- Of the 47 adults who voted, pathways and trails and formal sport received 25.5% of the votes, followed by playspaces (23.4%).

4.3 Summary of Themes

4.3.1 Playspaces

- Most popular topic to emerge from the consultation was the need to upgrade playspaces
- All playspaces within the precinct are well used and loved.
- The spectators that attend the football, cricket and netball are frequent users of both the central playspace and the southern playspace near the skate park.
- Safety issues were raised regarding the location of the southern playspace location near the main road into Melton Recreation Reserve
- The football/netball club would like to see the entry to the reserve relocated to ensure safe access to the playspace and assist with being able to manage gates on game days.
- The central playspace is also well used, mostly by older children who can be further away without such close adult supervision. The maze and basket swing are favourite elements at this playspace, however some comments alluded to the belief that the maze is used for unsavoury behaviour, such as drug deals.



4.3.2 Picnic Facilities

- The second most popular topic to emerge was the picnic and BBQ facilities
- Many requests for them to be upgraded and many more installed.
- There were comments around the need for more picnic facilities in the southern area of the precinct near the skate park, netball court and playspace, as well as signage to provide direction to the central picnic area and playspace so it's better utilised.

4.3.3 Pathways And Trails

- Pathways and trails are very well used and appreciated
- Need for a crossing on High Street, to connect the town centre to Hannah Watts Park. It was also seen as a way to create a walking loop from Hannah Watts Park, through the underpass to the golf course, along High Street to Yuille Street and back across to Hannah Watts Park.
- Respondents would also like to see more walking/bike paths around the precinct and the connection of existing paths. The walking groups would like to see an additional path on the southern side of the creek linking the path at the north east corner to the path leading



from Hannah Watts Park to the Melton Recreation Reserve (see map below). Some respondents would also like to see a new pathway from the pavilion to the central playspace/picnic area (also see map below).

- The issue of the dip in the pathway to cross the creek was also raised on many occasions as a safety and accessibility issue, respondents would like to see a bridge installed here.
- More seating around the precinct was also requested by many respondents, for the purposes of sitting and enjoying the surrounds and assisting people with mobility issues whilst out walking.

4.3.4 Active Sporting Precinct

- Improvements to the southern end of the precinct, including the Melton Recreation Reserve, skate park, netball court, tennis courts, Melton Bowling Club and Country Club were mostly raised by the clubs themselves, along with a few general users of these facilities.
- The football club would like to see the ground realigned to allow for an extension to full size.
- Request to upgrade the pavilion to include



female change facilities for both netball and football teams as well as storage. With 11 netball teams currently playing, one netball court is not sufficient. The club would like to see another court included in the master plan.

- Users of the skate park would like to see some small upgrades including a bigger, more weather-proof shelter, a drink tap closer to the shelter, bike racks, more seating and the removal of the half-pipe to make room for an extension of the skate park in the future. A long-time user of the half-pipe would like to see the half-pipe relocated to another location rather than be destroyed.
- Netball spectators currently have no seating to watch the game and instead sit on the skate street course equipment. The installation of seating for netball spectators is required.
- There was not enough feedback regarding the two tennis/netball courts so no comments or recommendations about these facilities have been provided.



4.3.5 Safety

- Safety concerns were raised about a range of spaces and elements of Hannah Watts Park, including the safety concerns over the main entry point to Melton Recreation Reserve.
- There were concerns raised about the unsociable behaviour at the toilet block at Hannah Watts Park
- Other safety concerns included the crossing between the Hannah Watts Park Precinct to The Willows. The position of the crossing on a bend in the road means that people often find it unsafe to cross. It is recommended another crossing point to improve the connection between the Melton Recreation Reserve and The Willows be investigated.
- Safety issues were raised around the width of some pathways and the issues that come with both cyclists and pedestrians sharing these. There was a suggestion that signage on pathways be installed to remind people that they are shared.

4.3.6 Open And Natural Spaces

- Respondents really appreciate the open and natural spaces of the Hannah Watts Park precinct and most people visit this park for these reasons.
- There were many comments from respondents in relation to cleaning up the creek and waterways, the need to protect the banks of the creek and maintain the green open space.
- “total clean-up of the water system running around the park, so it becomes more inviting for people to site and enjoy the wild life”

4.3.7 Signage

- The need for signage was brought up by both clubs and many park users. There were requests for signage throughout the park to both promote other spaces and facilities within the precinct, as well as provide direction and distance markers.
- There were also requests for signage to explain what you can and cannot feed the ducks and birds, to explain the aboriginal history of the area and to honour Hannah Watts and her connection to Melton.

4.3.8 Public Toilets

- Both the public toilets at Hannah Watts Park and the Melton Recreation Reserve were mentioned on numerous occasions by respondents as well as by the Melton Police. The toilets at Hannah Watts Park are well known to be used for unsociable behaviour and many respondents indicated that they would not use these toilets at all, especially after 3pm, and would not allow children to access these alone.
- We also heard that the public toilets at the Melton Recreation Reserve are also used for unsociable behaviour such as drug taking. It was suggested by the police that the toilets at the Melton Recreation Reserve be relocated closer to the skate park and netball courts, to allow for more passive surveillance.



5 THEMES AND KEY PRINCIPLES

This section considers background documents, community consultation feedback and existing conditions analysis to make recommendations relating to the nine key themes within the Hannah Watts Park Master Plan area. Each Theme includes key principles based on community values, and summaries of key issues and recommendations relevant and applicable to that theme. These recommendations are explained in more detail in Section 6 Precinct Plans. The key themes include:

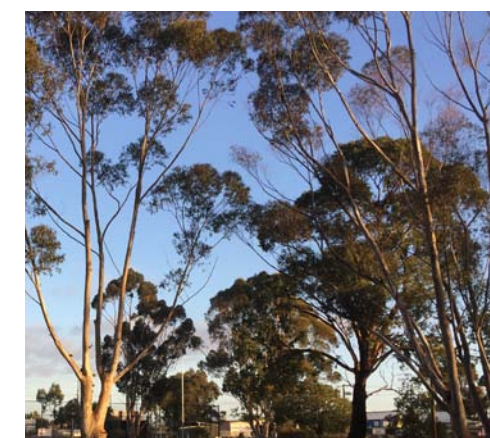
1. Facilities and amenities

Provide appropriate new park facilities to cater for increasing usage and equitable use of Park space. Include additional facilities that will cater for increased use (playground equipment, picnic facilities etc.) and improve safety and access to facilities for all users. Park facilities and amenities should be in good condition with consistent styles that blend in with the landscape character.



2. Landscape & Vegetation

Preserve, enhance and celebrate the Toolern Creek Landscape. Extend the informal and natural landscape character of the creek into other parts of the site. Maintain existing tree canopy and increase trees with native (preferably indigenous trees). Reduce the visual impact of the highway and adjacent factories with additional screen planting.



3. Access, Circulation and Connections

Improve access, circulation and connections, both within the Park, to Central Melton and to surrounding areas, to improve safety and amenity for pedestrians and reduce reliance on car use. Paths should be safe, well connected and provide for a range of recreational uses including walking, running and low speed bicycles. Improve permeability and relationships between the precincts eg. better integrate the Recreation Reserve, The Willows etc within the wider park landscape.



4. Recreation - Health and Wellbeing

Hannah Watts Park and surrounding environment supports walking, running, active sporting activities and the overall health and wellbeing of the Melton community. Implement necessary renewal and upgrades to existing recreation facilities that encourage health and well being.



5. Event Infrastructure and Social Amenity

Hannah Watts Park should continue to be utilised and promoted to support major events and tourism. Build on the social and cultural heritage of the Park in providing for varied activities, events and healthy outdoor recreation for the whole community.



6. Organised Sports and Clubs

Provide improved facilities (including sports pavilions) that balance the needs of various organised user groups, schools and clubs at different times so as to maximise use and minimise the park space required.



7. Buildings

Buildings should be kept to a minimum and should have multi-functional shared use and community benefit. The footprint and visual impact of any new buildings should be minimal.



8. Traffic, Parking and Vehicle Management

Improve safety and amenity for all Park users including pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and all other recreational users by reducing the impacts of vehicles and traffic congestion both within and around the Park. Car parking capacity should be flexible to adapt to the varying demands of the Park precinct while having minimal impact on its environs. Additional or new permanent car parking should not be provided in the precinct where it results in the permanent loss of open space or parklands.



9. Public Appreciation and Signage

Hannah Watts is recognised by the Melton community as the key central open space. Both its Indigenous and European histories should be appropriately protected, enhanced, acknowledged and celebrated. Signage as a method of interpretation should be rationalised and integrated within Wayfinding signage to ensure historical information is displayed and to minimise visual clutter. Enhance public knowledge about the Park, its character, vegetation, points of interest and history through improved interpretative and way finding signage.



5.1 Facilities and Amenities

5.1.1 Key Principles:

- Provide appropriate new park facilities to cater for increasing usage and equitable use of Park space.
- Include additional facilities that will cater for increased use (eg. playground equipment, picnic facilities etc.) and improve safety and access to facilities for all users.
- Park facilities and amenities should be in good condition with consistent styles that blend in with the landscape character.

5.1.2 Key issues

- There is a demand for more picnic facilities, playgrounds and furniture
- Picnic shelters, playgrounds and furniture do not meet current accessibility standards and are inconsistent in style
- Perceptions of safety are poor at toilets, play maze, skate park and isolated area at back of Melton Country Club
- Playgrounds are not well integrated with landscape and require buffer from roads and creek
- Bridges and path connections over creek are not DDA compliant / safe

5.1.3 Summary of Existing Conditions:

Existing facilities cater to numerous different user groups and have been developed in an ad-hoc fashion resulting in varied styles and quality of facilities across the park. A number of the facilities, including toilets, picnic facilities and the sports pavilion do not meet current standards for accessibility and safety, and do not cater to diverse user groups. There is a need to rationalise the location, number and type of these facilities

to ensure they are flexible and cater for a growing number of users in an equitable manner.

5.1.4 Recommendations:

- New furniture, shelters, toilets and signs will be consistent and contemporary and selected from the palettes provided
- A new sports pavilion should be provided that caters for all genders and accommodates for various user groups
- Unsafe / out-dated bridges to be replaced with DDA compliant bridges
- Consolidate play areas away from roads and provide new equipment that is equitable and well integrated with the landscape
- All facilities are to comply with current standards for access
- Increase the number of picnic and play facilities



Examples of inconsistent and non-compliant existing furniture and structures

5.1.5 Indicative Furniture Palette

Furniture and facilities requiring upgrades should either be propriety elements selected from the indicative palette provided or high quality contemporary custom designed elements with materials and finishes that are sympathetic with the standard palette.

The palette has been selected to ensure robust, easily maintained quality products are used with consistent styles that suit the park character and the broader Melton context.

Preferred colours/finishes for standard furniture are natural timber and steel finishes and recessive paint colours that blend with the natural settling.

Timbers should be regularly oiled with a uniform product to ensure consistency and longevity.



Penninsula Skillion Roof Shelter



Coastal Timber Restroom



DDA compliant bridge



'Vialume' Light Fitting



Timber fence



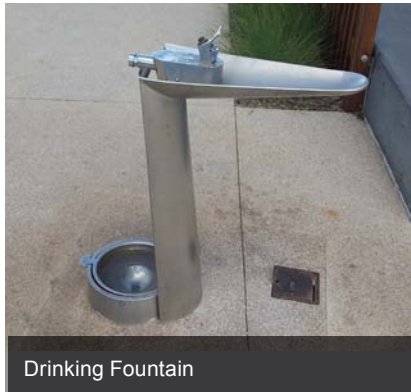
Wheelchair Accessible Metro Setting



'Imagination Play' Exercise Equipment



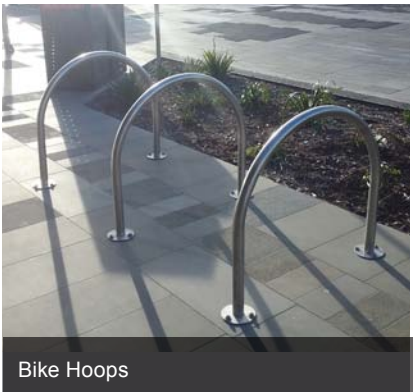
Access Double Plate BBQ



Drinking Fountain

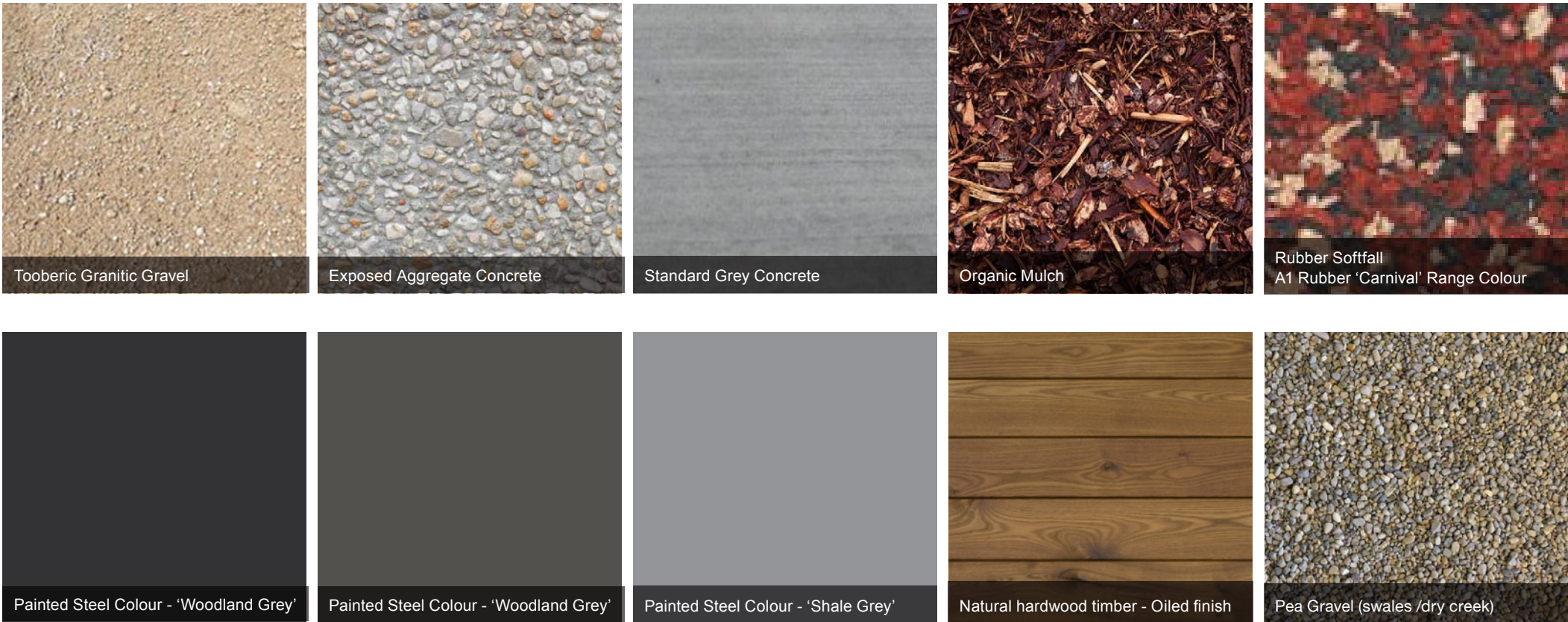


Dual Bin Surround



Bike Hoops

5.1.6 Indicative Materials & Finishes Palette



5.2 Landscape and Vegetation

5.2.1 Key Principles:

- Preserve, enhance and celebrate the Toolern Creek Landscape.
- Extend the informal and natural landscape character of the creek into other parts of the site.
- Maintain existing tree canopy and increase trees with native (preferably indigenous trees).
- Reduce the visual impact of the highway and adjacent factories with additional screen planting.

5.2.2 Summary of Existing Conditions:

The Toolern Creek landscape forms the central spine of the park. The quality of the Creek landscape varies from areas of remnant and planted vegetation to degraded sections with eroded banks and exotic vegetation.

The park is located within the Victorian Volcanic Plains Bio-region and the creek-line includes endangered Creekline Grassy Woodland vegetation (EVC 68). The old Melton reservoir includes endangered Tall Marsh vegetation (EVC 821). Creek management is shared between Council and Melbourne Water.

The park has numerous significant existing trees, the majority of which are native and indigenous. A dense tree canopy and understory vegetation occurs mainly along the creek. Most of the park is open and grassed with scattered trees, the exception being the Willows which includes a native garden and some exotic garden plants. A significant number of indigenous River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and native Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) are located adjacent high use areas and require monitoring and maintenance to ensure the risk of limb drop is minimised.

There are a number of significant Redgums throughout the park which have high environmental, amenity and habitat value.

Exotic trees include large pines near the sports pavilion and the Coronation Tree planted to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's coronation.

5.2.3 Key Issues:

- Distinct maintenance line between creek landscape and surrounding parkland
- Reservoir currently not holding water. Class B water is available from golf club but requires treatment for use in reservoir
- Irrigation not available when Golf Club is irrigating
- Creek vegetation is poor quality in some areas and banks are eroded
- Large Eucalypts overhanging paths and amenities require ongoing monitoring to prevent risk of limb drop
- More screening required on High St and back of Melton Country Club
- Lack of understory vegetation outside of revegetated areas



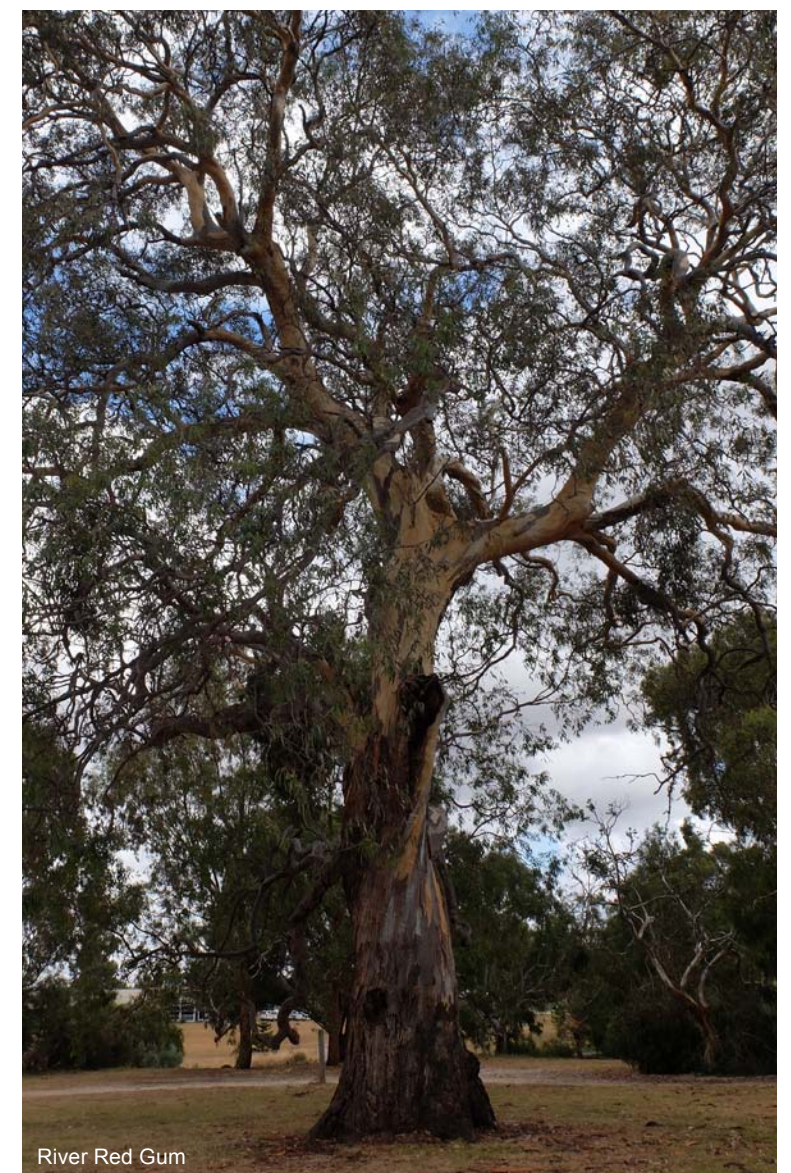
Maintenance Line at Creek Edge



Revegetated Creek Edge



Exotic Creek Edge



River Red Gum



Scattered Trees

5.2.4 Recommendations:

- Prepare a Revegetation Plan for the full extent of Toolern Creek within the park. The vegetation within the creek corridor is to be indigenous species of local provenance from the Creekline Grassy Woodland Ecological Vegetation Community (EVC 68 - refer Practical Ecology Report in Appendix).
- Introduce more indigenous amenity planting adjacent creek to enhance experience of creek landscape and integrate with usable areas Where the creek vegetation extends out of creek corridor and into adjacent park spaces (amenity planting) the plant selection should include robust species from the Plains Woodland revegetation list (refer Practical Ecology Report in Appendix).
- Plants to be carefully selected to ensure view lines are maintained for safety
- Areas away from the creek including playgrounds, picnic facilities and building surrounds should include robust and drought tolerant indigenous and native species.
- Re-introduce water to the reservoir. Upgrade golf club pump (and install UV filter if necessary) to allow top up. Re-direct car park drainage to reservoir.
- Ensure ongoing maintenance and monitoring of large Eucalypts by arborist
- Plant screening plants to High St frontage and back of Melton Country club to



Fig. 3 Existing Vegetation



Fig. 4 Proposed Vegetation

5.2.5 Indicative Plant Palette

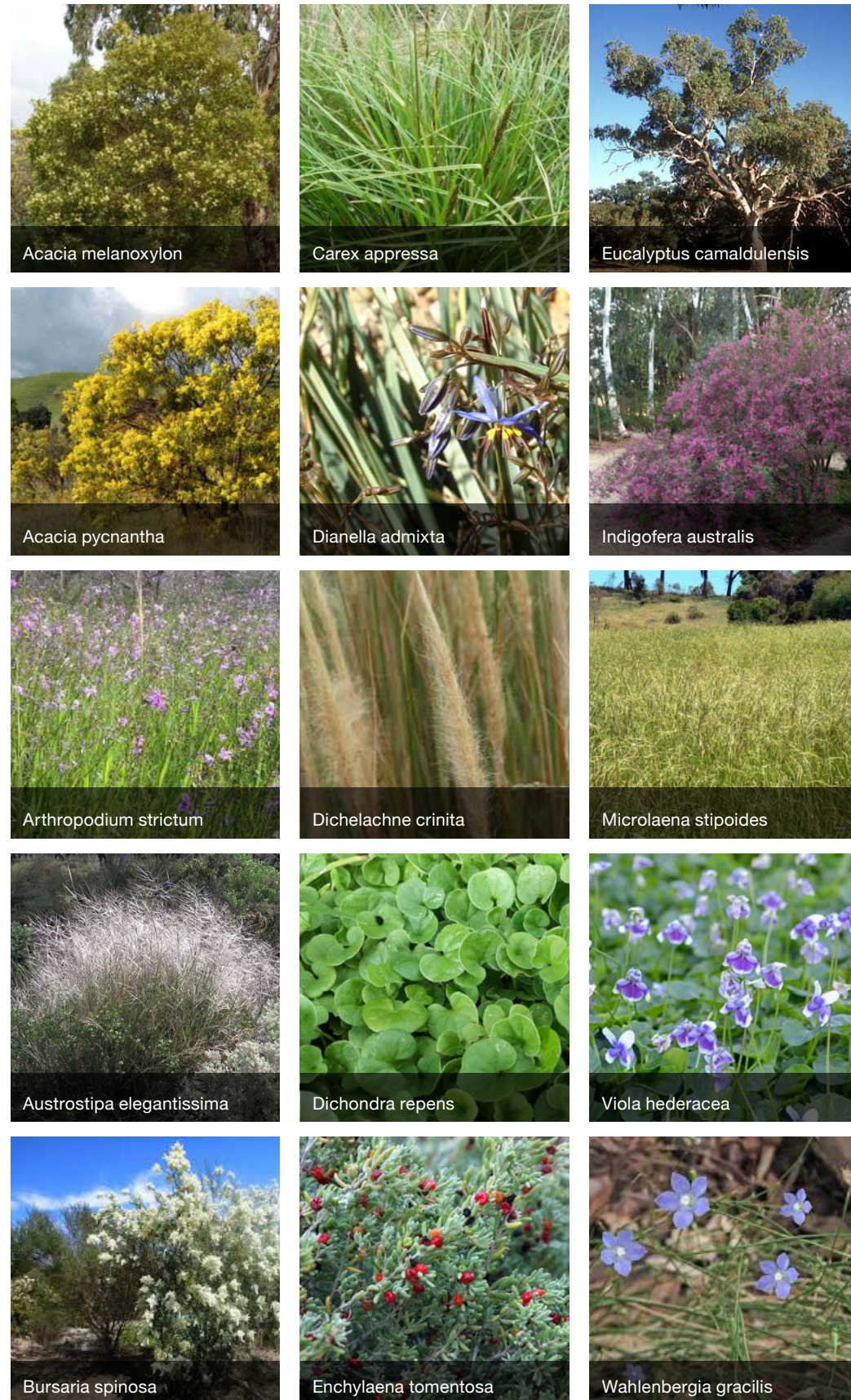


Fig. 5 Indigenous Plants

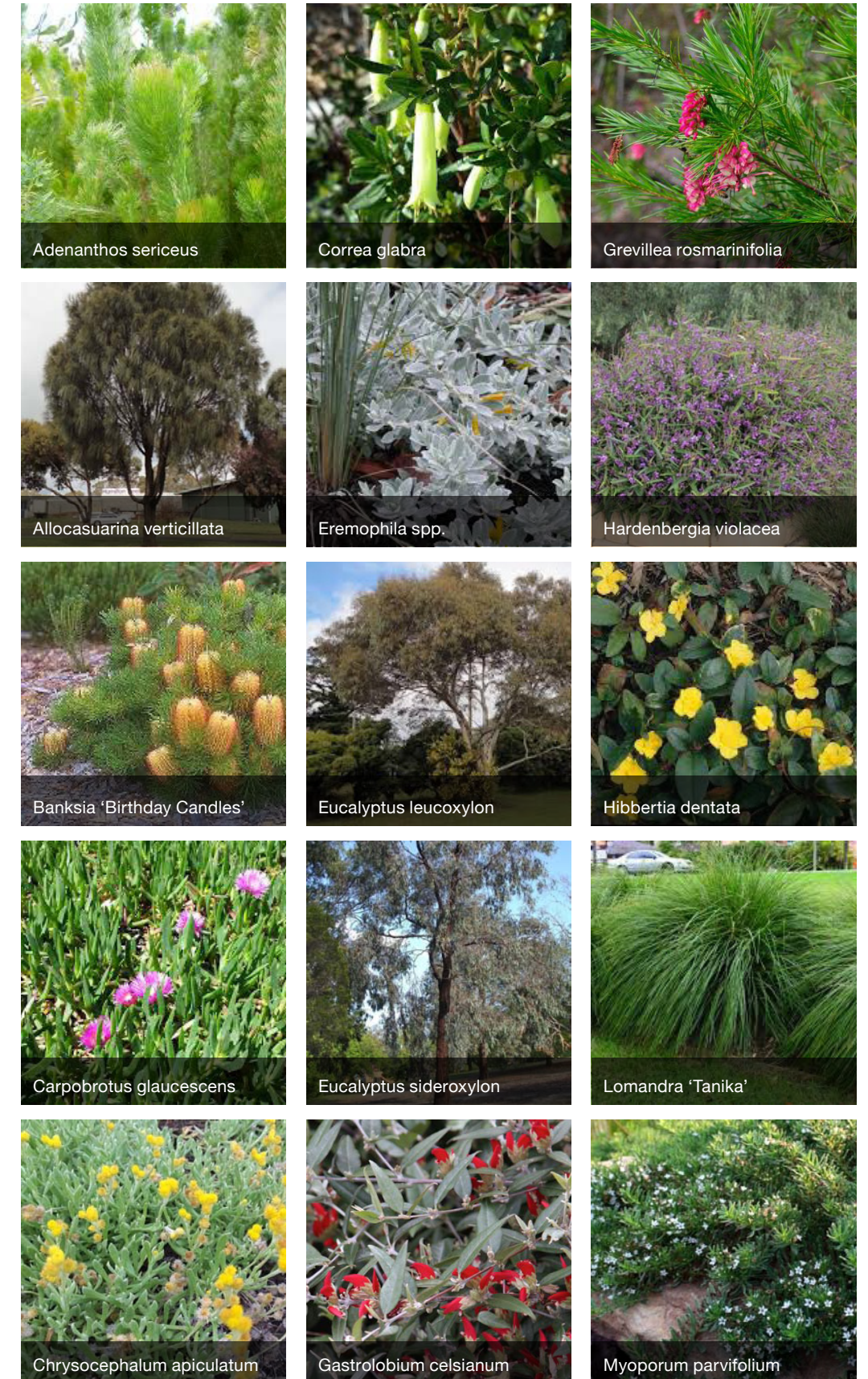


Fig. 6 Native Plants

5.3 Access, Circulation and Connections

5.3.1 Key Principles:

- Improve access, circulation and connections, both within the Park, to Central Melton and to surrounding areas, to improve safety and amenity for pedestrians and reduce reliance on car use.
- Paths should be safe, well connected and provide for a range of recreational uses including walking, running and low speed bicycles.
- Improve permeability and relationships between the precincts eg. better integrate the Recreation Reserve, The Willows etc within the wider park landscape.

5.3.2 Summary of Existing Conditions:

There are a number of wide high quality shared paths in the park however they do not connect up. More footpaths are needed along boundaries and roads to provide direct routes to park from surrounding areas and to improve safety by reducing conflicts between cars and pedestrians.

A new path connection is required along the Northern park boundary for pedestrians walking to town from the east along the south side of High St, as well as a safe crossing point on High St near Police Paddock.

There is one non-compliant path crossing the creek that is unsafe, and at times impassable, as well as three bridge crossings that require upgrading to meet current standards.



Shared path



Crossing point required across Hig St to Police Paddock



Abrupt end to path



Non-compliant creek crossing



Nixon St nature strip lacking formal path connections

5.3.5 Key Issues:

- Path network is incomplete and some paths end abruptly
- No circuit path for exercise use
- Unsafe to cross High St at Police Paddock
- No clear path link to Botanic gardens
- Lack of footpaths causing conflicts between pedestrian and cars on roads
- Non-compliant path connection across creek
- The back of the bowls club is isolated and would benefit from increased pedestrian use to mitigate undesirable activities



Fig. 7 Existing Context - Open Space and Shared Paths

5.3.6 Recommendations:

- Provide new path connections to the park from the city centre and the botanical gardens
- Provide signalised pedestrian crossing at High st
- Provide raised crossings at Nixon Street and the Hannah Watts entry car park
- Provide new footpaths along roads
- Clearly delineate pedestrian and vehicle areas using surface types and/or low post and rail barriers

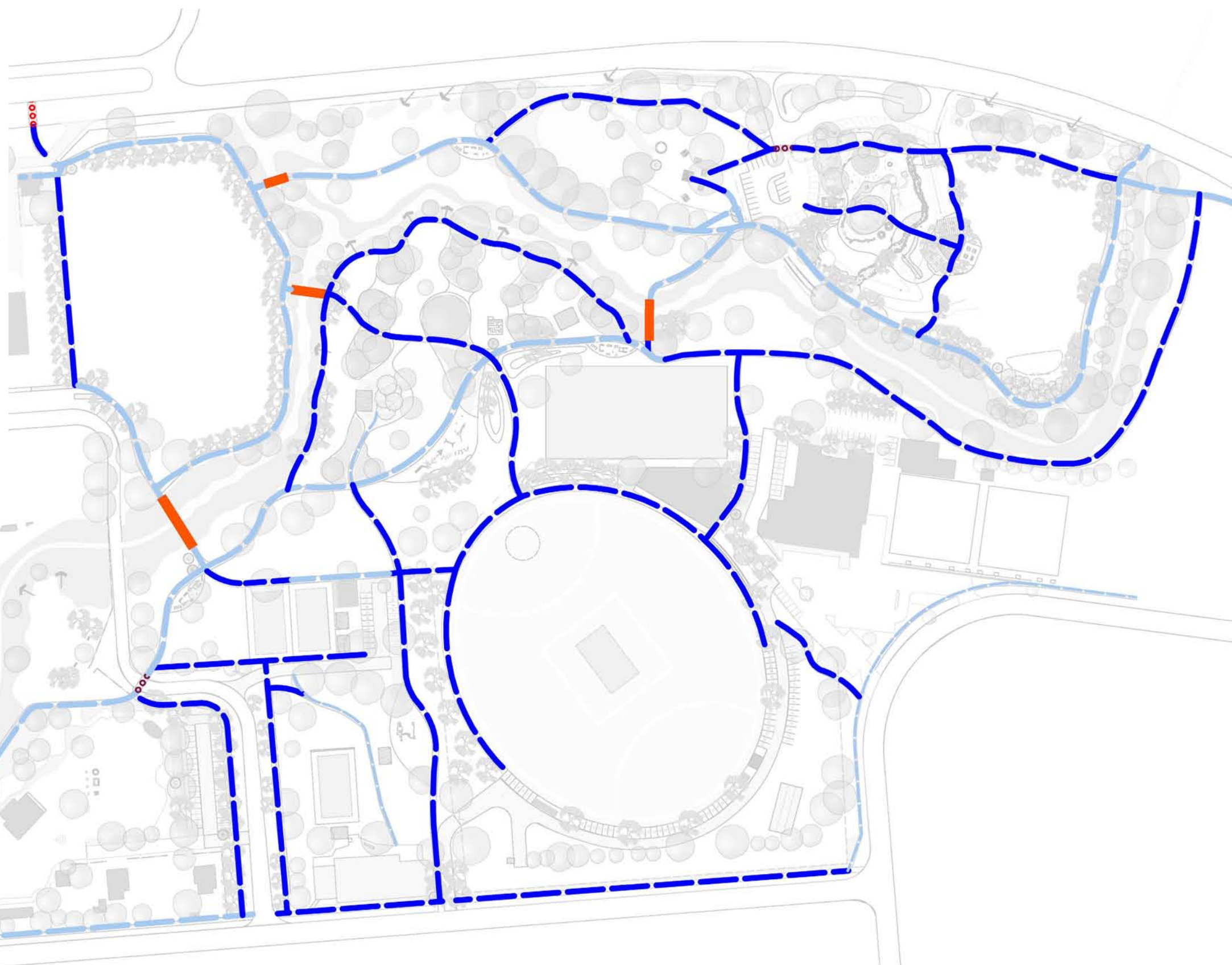
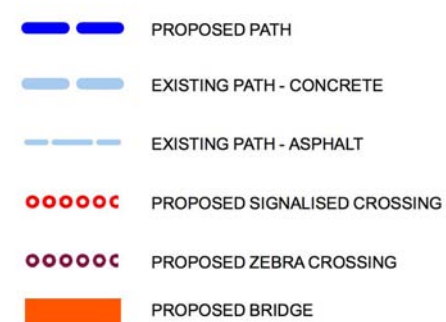


Fig. 8 Proposed Paths

5.4 Recreation (Health and Wellbeing)

5.4.1 Key Principles:

- Hannah Watts Park and surrounding environment supports walking, running, active sporting activities and the overall health and wellbeing of the Melton community.
- Implement necessary renewal and upgrades to existing recreation facilities that encourage health and well being.

5.4.2 Summary of Existing Conditions:

Hannah Watts Park is a popular venue for recreational activities with opportunities for walking, dog walking, jogging, skating, casual cycling and sports, bocce, bird watching and play. The park is used for these activities by local Melton residents, regional visitors and passing travellers who stop to picnic and play and make use of the amenities. Visitors include individuals and groups (disability groups, school holiday programs and large family groups) who use the park as a place to appreciate nature and to recreate, gather and socialise in a relaxed outdoor setting.

The existing path network lacks connections, navigational signs, drinking fountains, and exercise equipment that would support walking and jogging around the park.

The existing irrigated multi-purpose field in the centre of the park is in good condition and provides a good opportunity for casual sports. The adjacent space behind the Melton Country Club requires activation and would be well suited as a dog off lead area.

5.4.3 Key Issues:

- There park lacks an circuit path for running / exercise
- Lack of fitness stations, directional markers, drinking fountains along paths within the park
- skate park area requires improvements including replacement ramp
- netball court is poorly located too close to skate facility
- lack of allocated dog off lead area for dog walkers
- lack of lighting to shared path

5.4.4 Recommendations:

- Create circuit path for walking and jogging
- Install exercise equipment, signs and drinking fountains along path
- Prepare skate strategy and upgrade skate area including multi-purpose court and graffiti wall
- Provide more paths along creek with seats, bird hide, opportunities to engage with creek landscape
- Provide dog off lead area near central kick about space
- Improve facilities for picnic and play



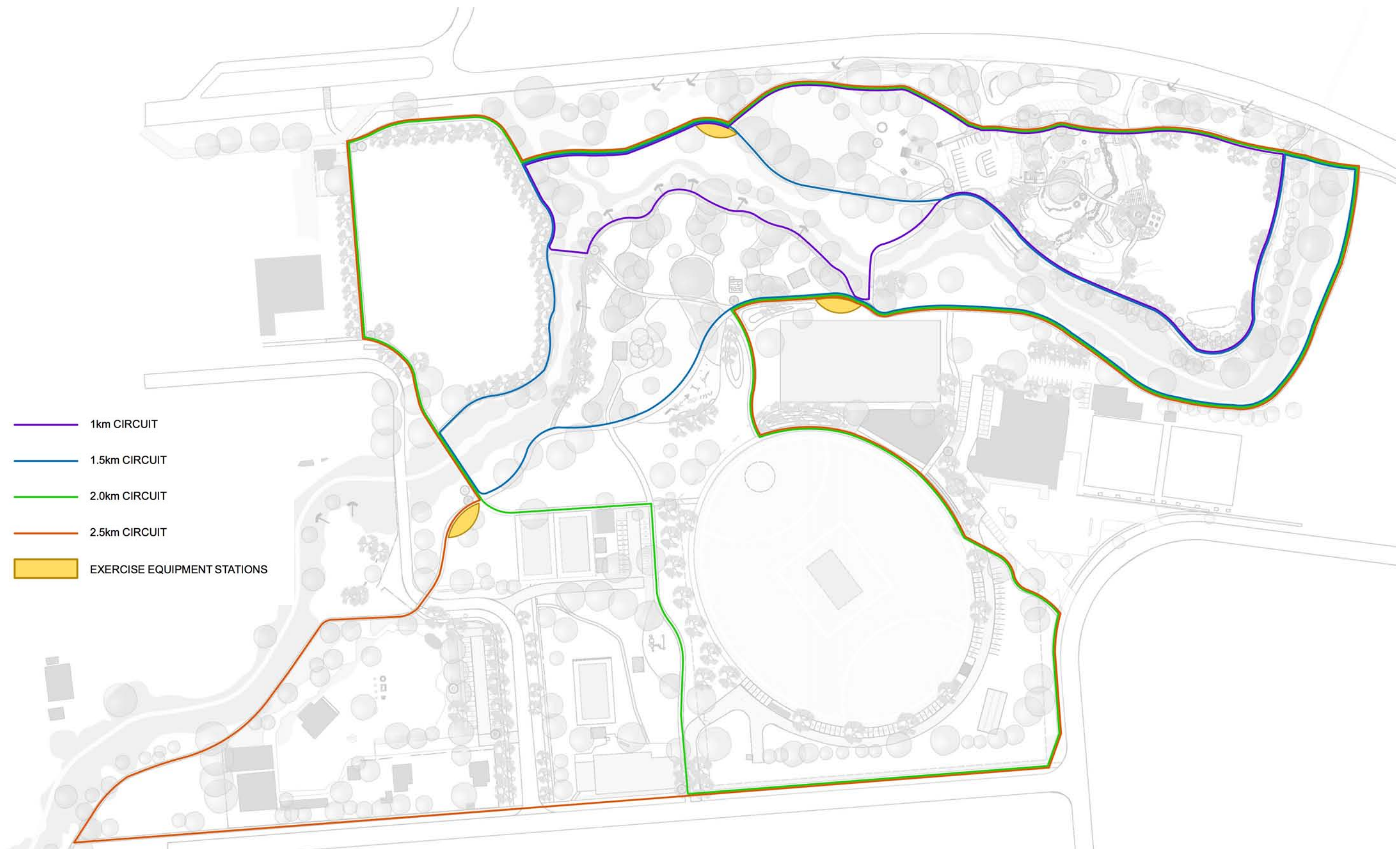


Fig. 9 Possible running circuits on proposed path network

5.5 Event Infrastructure and Social Amenity

5.5.1 Key Principles:

- Hannah Watts Park should continue to be utilised and promoted to support major events and tourism.
- Build on the social and cultural heritage of the Park in providing for varied activities, events and healthy outdoor recreation for the whole community.

5.5.2 Summary of Existing Conditions:

The park is the site of a number of significant annual events including the Council run Djerriwah festival, Carols by Candlelight and Harmony Day. Numerous community groups host their own events in the park and this number is increasing.

The Djerriwah festival is held in November and operates across the whole park. The Lions Club Carnival occurs simultaneously and is set up in Police Paddock. Carols by Candlelight is held in the small events space in Precinct 1. Harmony Day is held at The Willow in March.

5.5.3 Key Issues:

- There is no power provided on site for events and generators are currently brought in at considerable cost and are unsightly and loud.
- Anzac Day memorials are currently held at the Council Buildings on High Street and crowd numbers mean that High Street has to be closed during the ceremony.

5.5.4 Recommendations

- Review power requirements and provide power for events at Hannah Watts park, Melton Recreation Reserve and other locations as required.
- Investigate opportunity to relocate war memorials from current location on High St to The Willows Historical Park
- Maintain Police Paddock as flexible open space for events and overflow parking



5.6 Organised Sports and Clubs

5.6.1 Key Principles:

- Provide improved facilities (including sports pavilions).
- New facilities should balance the needs of various organised user groups, schools and clubs at different times so as to maximise use and minimise the park space required.

5.6.2 Summary of Existing Conditions:

A number of different groups use the park for organised sports including football, netball, cricket, bowls and skating.

The sports facilities at the Melton Recreation Reserve are shared by a number of clubs including football, netball and cricket and are not sufficient and flexible enough to cater for all users. Upgrades are required to the pavilion, oval, netball/tennis courts and skate area to better accommodate the needs of these groups.

The cricket club is unable to use the oval for senior games as the existing north-south hard wicket is not suitable. There are two practice nets that are in good condition, and two old nets that should be upgraded or removed.

The CFA fire track is in good condition and well used. It includes sub-surface pumps and water storage and is built to a standard that can host competitions.

The skate park is in good condition and provides variety but the vertical ramp is not well used and could be removed to open up the site.

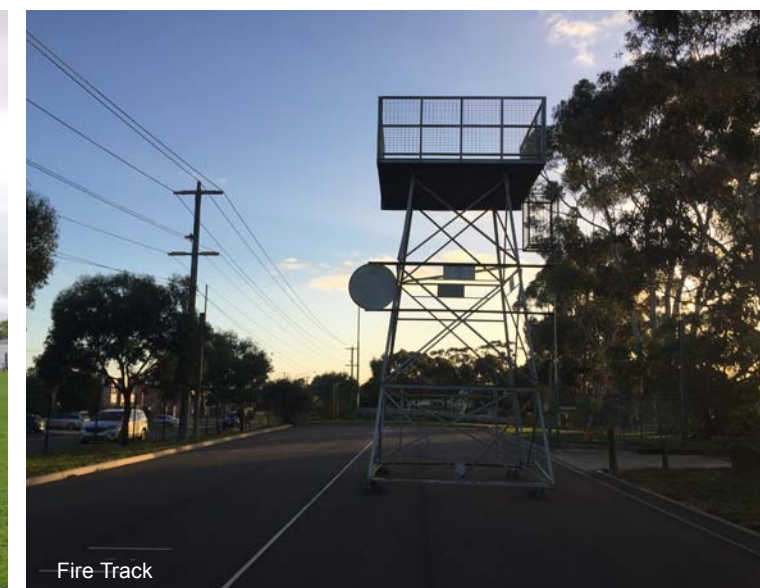
The bowls club includes two synthetic bowling greens (1 floodlit) and the clubhouse has recently been upgraded and is in excellent condition.

The Melton Country Club is leased from Council by the Essendon Football Club and the lease area includes the building and a

portion of land to the west used for overflow parking (Refer Fig.2 Section 2.5)

5.6.3 Key Issues:

- Pavilion does not cater for all users (See Section 5.7 Buildings)
- Oval is too small for senior football (145m goal to goal), and on undesirable east west alignment.
- The hard wicket creates a barrier across the ground for football.
- The turf surface is in poor condition with uneven surface, no sub-surface drainage and mixed turf species
- Hard wicket is not suitable for senior cricket
- Extra cricket practice net required
- Temporary fencing installed for ticketing is being left in place between games creating barrier between oval and parkland
- The high quality netball court (installed in 2016) is too close to the skate park resulting in vandalism and player discomfort
- The two older tennis / netball courts are in poor condition and lack floodlights
- Skate park requires upgrades including removal of vertical ramp and upgraded facilities (wifi points, floodlights, power to host events)



5.6.4 Recommendations:

Option 1 - Minimal change (Not preferred)

- Increase oval size and maintain east-west orientation
- New pavilion in similar position to existing
- Defined pedestrian paths, vehicular access roads and parking
- New turf wicket, practice net and associated maintenance shed with power
- Landscaped oval surrounds including mound, terraces and tree planting
- Sleeved removable fencing on new alignment
- Netball, football and cricket facilities (including change rooms and storage) located in pavilion

Advantages:

- Less costly
- Co-location of all sports facilities in pavilion
- Large Eucalypt retained

Disadvantages:

- East - west oval alignment not preferred for sports
- Playground removal required
- Roads and building have larger footprint in parkland and relationship with surround park is not optimal

Option 2 - Re-align Oval (preferred)

- Increase oval size on north south orientation
- New pavilion to north east of oval
- Defined pedestrian paths, vehicular access roads and parking
- New turf wicket, practice net and associated maintenance shed with power
- Landscaped oval surrounds including mound, terraces and tree planting
- Sleeved removable fencing on new alignment
- Separate netball facilities by netball courts

Advantages:

- Improved oval alignment for sports
- Improved relationship between oval and parkland
- Existing playground retained and could be expanded and integrated with landscape
- Minimised vehicle traffic in park with reduced conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles, particularly at playground
- Building location relates well to Melton Country Club

Disadvantages:

- More costly
- Separate netball facilities required
- Requires removal of one large Eucalypt

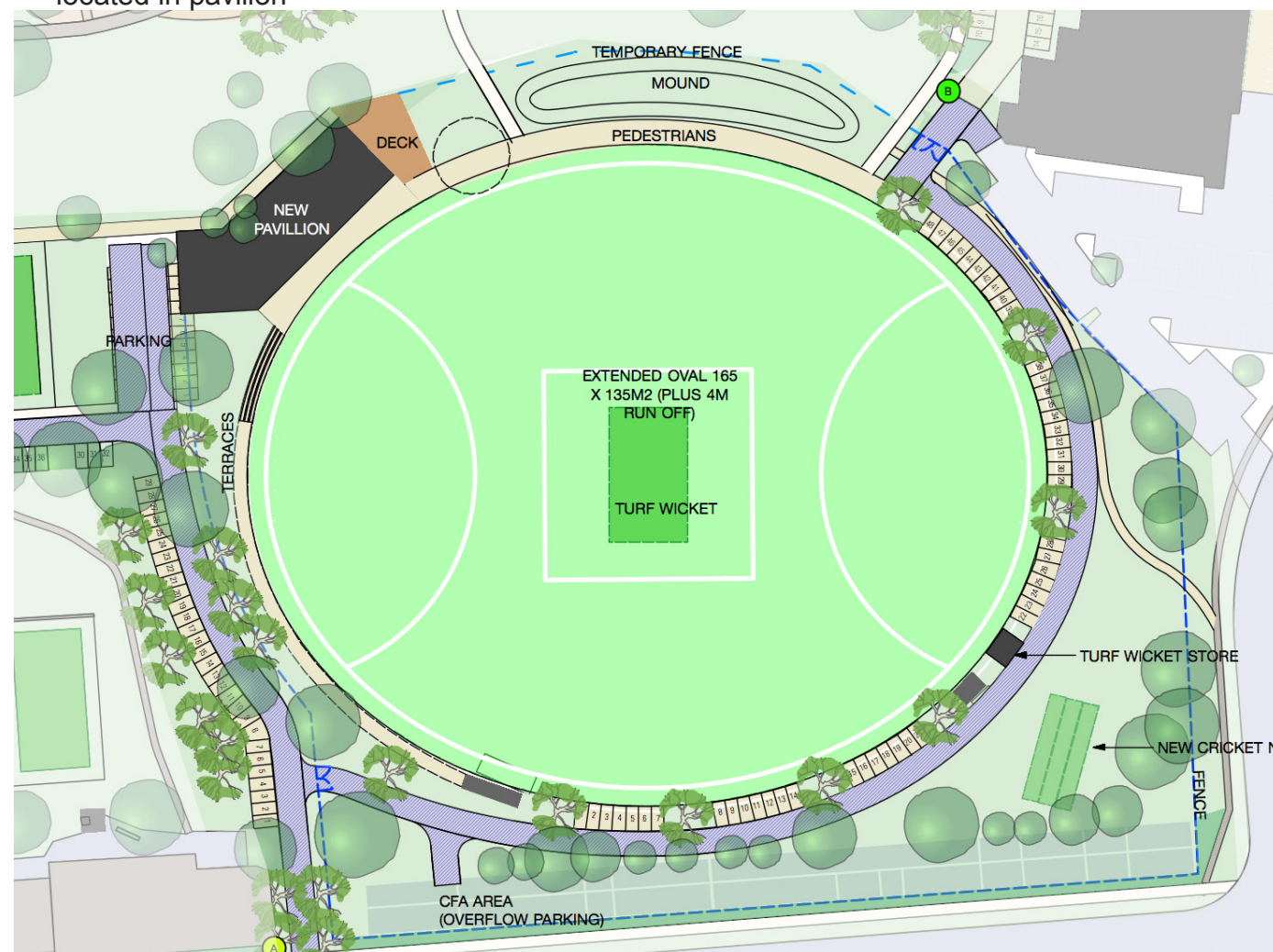


Fig. 10 Oval Re-alignment Option 1 - Not preferred



Fig. 11 Oval Re-alignment Option 2 - Preferred

5.7 Buildings

5.7.1 Key Principles:

- Buildings should be kept to a minimum and should have multi-functional shared use and community benefit.
- The footprint and visual impact of any new buildings should be minimal.
- The new pavilion should be well designed and contemporary

5.7.2 Summary of Existing Conditions:

The park includes approximately 20 buildings that vary in age from historic settler cottages and outbuildings to a variety of shelters, toilets and pavilion installed between the 1980's and today.

Building conditions audits have been carried out by Council to assess the physical state of each structure with each building receiving a rating.

The consultation process highlighted issues with the buildings, particularly around safety and fitness for purpose. Of particular concern are the lack of compliant change rooms and lack of womens facilities in the existing sports pavillion and safety concerns around toilets.

The existing pavillion has non-compliant male only change rooms and does not adequately cater for netball club users. Netball clubs are currently using temporary change facilities housed in a portable building and a new short - mid term facility is about to be installed near netball court.

The recommendations made in this report take into account both the physical conditions audits and the feedback from the consultation process.

5.7.3 Key Issues

- Pavilion does not cater for all users and has non-compliant male only change rooms, lacks secure storage. The existing kitchen is too small and separate serveries are required for food and alcohol
- Recreation Reserve public toilets require replacement to meet access standards and improve safety
- Shelters and rotundas are dated, not consistent in style and not meeting current accessibility standards
- The Willows machinery sheds and historic dairy require structural review to prevent safety risk
- Raglan Cottage location is exposed and does not have usable outdoor space for occupying artists

5.7.4 Recommendations

- Replace existing Melton Recreation Reserve pavilion with a new multi functional building (Appox 1000m2 footprint). New building to have all gender change rooms, secure storage, improved social rooms, kitchen and servery.
- Remove existing Melton Recreation Reserve public toilet block and portable amenities and incorporate within new pavilion building
- Relocate short to mid term netball change building adjacent to proposed new netball courts
- Undertake structural review of historic buildings in poor and fair condition to determine extent of repairs required to maintain use (subject to heritage specialist review and advice)
- Create separate garden space around Raglan Cottage for use artists in residence

- Remove defunct buildings with failed ratings including the tennis shed
- Outdated shelters and rotundas should be replaced with well designed custom shelters or standard proprietary shelters (Refer section 5.1)

EXISTING BUILDING SCHEDULE

| Reference | Building Name | Condition Rating |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| 1 | Raglan Cottage | Fair |
| 2 | Melton Recreation Reserve Pavilion | Good* |
| 3 | Dunvegan Cottage | Fair |
| 4 | The Willows Historical Homestead | Fair |
| 5 | Willows Machinery Shed | Poor |
| 6 | Melton Bowling Club | Good |
| 7 | Willows Toilets | Good |
| 8 | Melton Recreation Reserve Toilets | Good |
| 9 | Macs Cottage | Fair |
| 10 | Tennis Shed | Failed |
| 11 | Macs Cottage Storage Shed | Fair |
| 12 | Willows Storage (Historical Society) | Excellent |
| 13 | Willows Historic Machinery Shed | Poor |
| 14 | Willows Historic Dairy | Poor |
| 15 | Melton Bowling Club | Good |
| 16 | The Willows Rotunda | Fair |
| 17 | Melton Recreation Reserve Rotunda | Fair |
| 18 | Men's Shed | Excellent |
| 19 | Hannah Watts Park BBQ Shelter | Excellent |
| 20 | Melton Recreation Reserve Storage Shed | Good |
| 21 | Hannah Watts Park Toilet Block | N/A* |

* Denotes buildings not fit for purpose

Building Condition Audit Ratings (physical attributes only)

Excellent - Not new but in Excellent condition with no indicators of any future obsolescence and providing a very high level of remaining service potential

Good - Aged and in good condition and provide an adequate level of remaining service potential. No signs of immediate or short term obsolescence.

Fair - Providing an adequate level of remaining service potential but some concerns over the ability of the asset to continue to provide an adequate level of service in the short to medium term. May be signs of obsolescence in short to mid-term.

Poor - Indicators that will need to renew, upgrade or scrap in near future. Should be reflected by inclusion in the Capital Works Plan to renew or replace in short-term. Very low level of remaining service potential

Failed - At intervention point. No longer providing an acceptable level of service. If remedial action is not taken immediately the asset will need to be closed or decommissioned. A high risk of serious impact, public safety hazards exist.

(from FG Dixon Group Condition Inspection reports 2018)

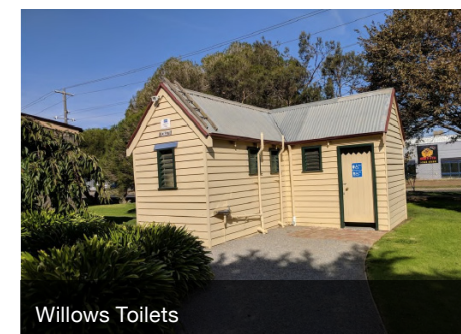
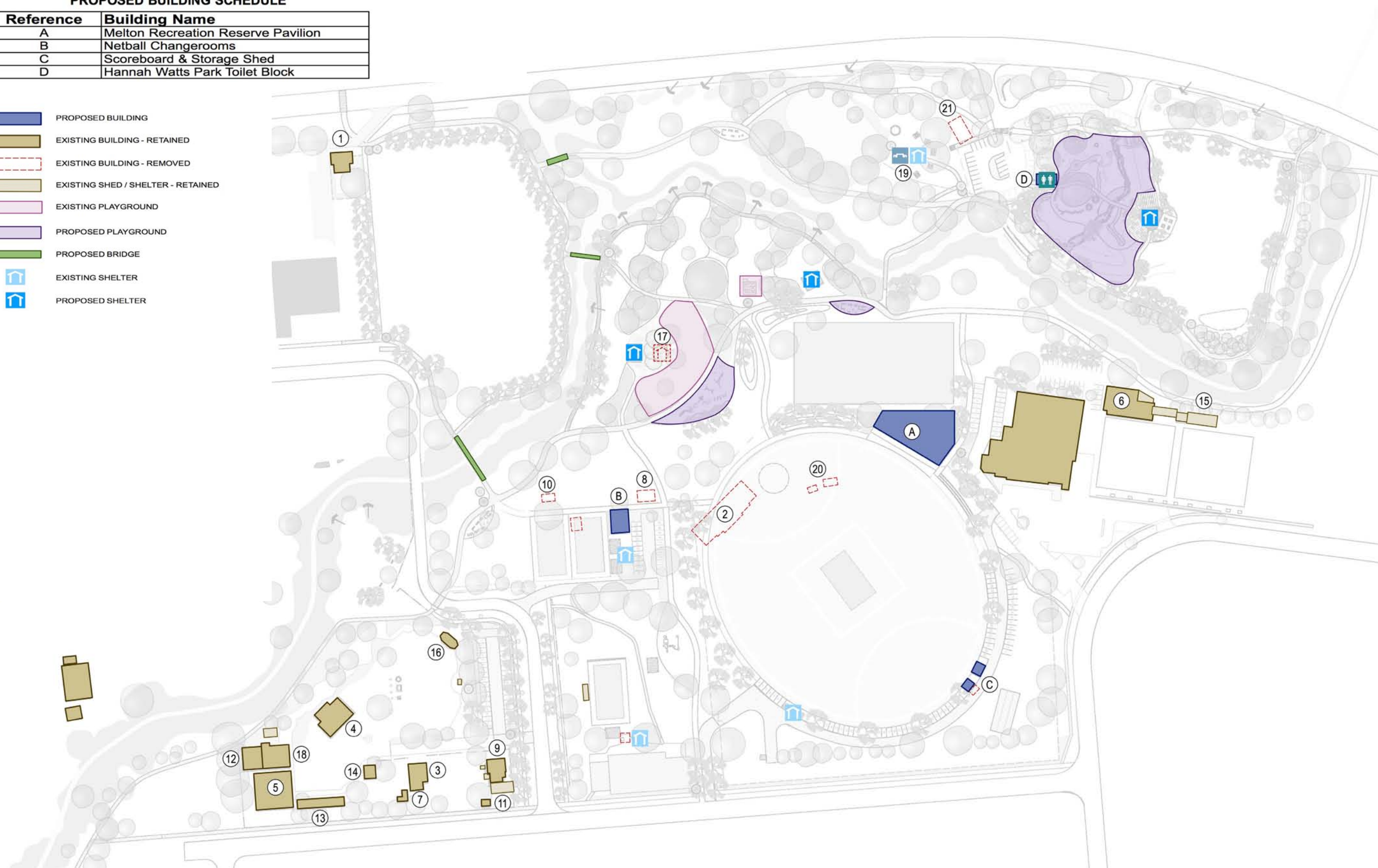


Fig. 12 Existing Buildings

PROPOSED BUILDING SCHEDULE

| Reference | Building Name |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| A | Melton Recreation Reserve Pavilion |
| B | Netball Changerooms |
| C | Scoreboard & Storage Shed |
| D | Hannah Watts Park Toilet Block |

- PROPOSED BUILDING
- EXISTING BUILDING - RETAINED
- EXISTING BUILDING - REMOVED
- EXISTING SHED / SHELTER - RETAINED
- EXISTING PLAYGROUND
- PROPOSED PLAYGROUND
- PROPOSED BRIDGE
- EXISTING SHELTER
- PROPOSED SHELTER





5.8 Traffic, Parking and Vehicle Management

5.8.1 Key Principles:

- Improve safety and amenity for all Park users including pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and all other recreational users by reducing the impacts of vehicles and traffic congestion both within and around the Park.
- Car parking capacity should be flexible to adapt to the varying demands of the Park precinct while having minimal impact on its environs.
- Additional or new permanent car parking should not be provided in the precinct where it results in the permanent loss of open space or parklands.

5.8.2 Summary of Existing Conditions:

Existing roads are functioning well for vehicles, and parking is considered sufficient to meet driver needs. However the lack of definition of vehicular areas is impacting on the quality of the parkland and creates unsafe conditions for pedestrians within the park. Of particular concern is the Recreation Reserve entry road proximity to the southern playground.

Large undefined gravel areas for parking should be rationalised to increase parking in set areas and reduce parking footprint on the park.

The CFA fire track is sealed and well located to provide overflow parking for events. Gravel areas for overflow parking would benefit from removable bollards or low barriers with removable sections to stop vehicles accessing them at all times except during events. These areas could then be grassed and function as parkland at other times.

5.8.3 Key Issues:

- Conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians, particularly between southern playground and oval
- Parking areas are not clearly defined and expansive gravel parking areas require rationalisation to maximise capacity and reduce footprint on parkland
- Main reserve access road forms a barrier between the oval precinct and the playground/netball court
- The access road and car parking around the oval is unsealed and there is no separation between pedestrians and vehicles
- Safe pedestrian crossing points required at High St, Nixon St and Hannah Watts entry carpark

5.8.4 Recommendations:

- Re-align road around oval away from playground and netball courts and seal
- Provide gravel parking bays facing onto oval with trees for shading and to better delineate space
- Provide pedestrian only path around the northern oval edge
- Provide signalised pedestrian crossing at High St
- Provide raised pedestrian crossings Nixon St and Hannah Watts entry car park
- Use surface treatments and low post and rail barriers to prevent vehicles accessing parkland areas





Fig. 13 Proposed Vehicle Access and Parking

5.9 Public Appreciation and Signage

5.9.1 Key Principles:

- Hannah Watts is recognised by the Melton community as the key central open space. Both its Indigenous and European histories should be appropriately protected, enhanced, acknowledged and celebrated.
- Signage as a method of interpretation should be rationalised and integrated within Wayfinding signage to ensure historical information is displayed and to minimise visual clutter.
- Enhance public knowledge about the Park, its character, vegetation, points of interest and history through improved interpretative and way finding signage.

5.9.2 Summary of Existing Conditions:

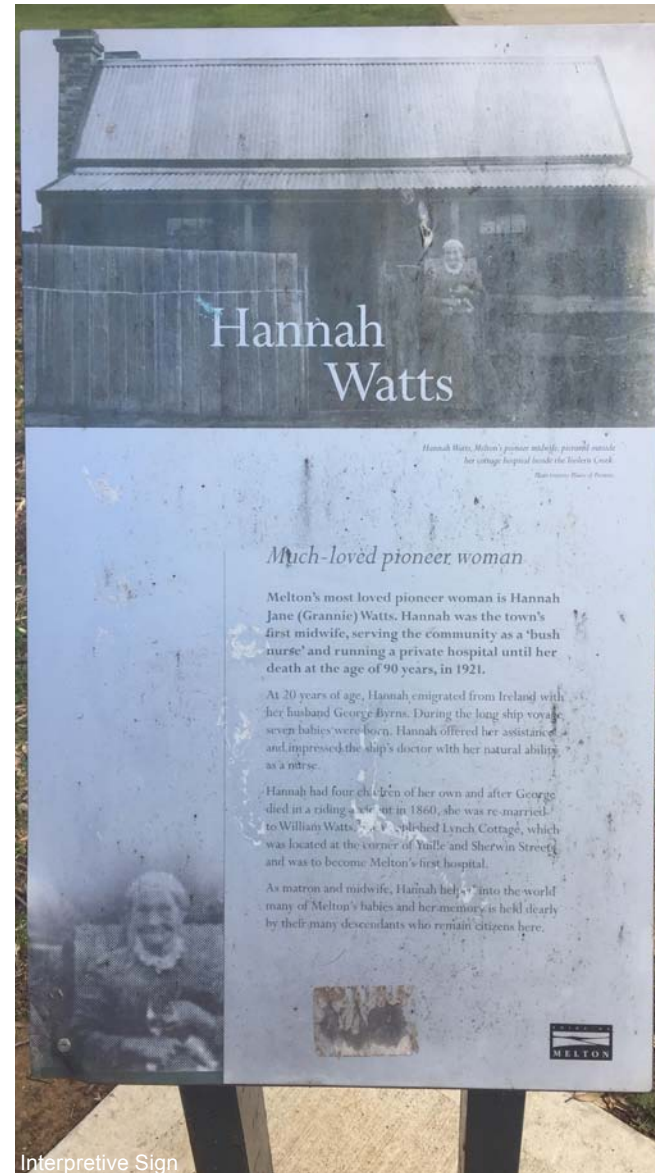
There are a variety of existing signs throughout the park but they are not consistent in style.

Wayfinding signage is currently limited to the Toolern Creek Trail signs that connect the creek pathway with the broader creek landscape outside the park. There are currently no signs with maps and directional arrows to provide direction to destinations within the park or to surroundings including the Town Centre, Library, Council Buildings and Open Space network.

Interpretive signs contain some good information but are text heavy and in need of renewal. Emphasis is on post settler history. Local indigenous representatives should be consulted to ensure new signs incorporate their history and knowledge in an equitable and appropriate manner.

Existing warning signage is inconsistent in style.

The dry stone wall at the park entry is an attractive feature however the existing inset timber name sign is small and not easily read from passing cars.



Interpretive Sign



Warning Sign



Park Entry Sign



Toolern Creek Trail Sign



Willows Interpretive Sign



Willows Interpretive Sign

Fig. 14 Existing Park Signs

5.9.7 Key Issues:

- Signs are not consistent in style
- Lack of wayfinding signs with park
- Interpretive signs are faded and text heavy
- Entry signage is small and outdated
- Indigenous history is not equitably expressed and content not current

5.9.8 Recommendations

- Install new suite of signs that incorporate wayfinding, interpretation and warnings
- Replace name sign at Park entry on High St with larger steel lettering (fixed to existing wall)
- Create a small version of dry stone entry feature with park name sign on Reserve Road
- Consult with local indigenous representatives about sign content and increase amount of indigenous content in signs



Fig. 16 Precedent Images - Entry Name Sign

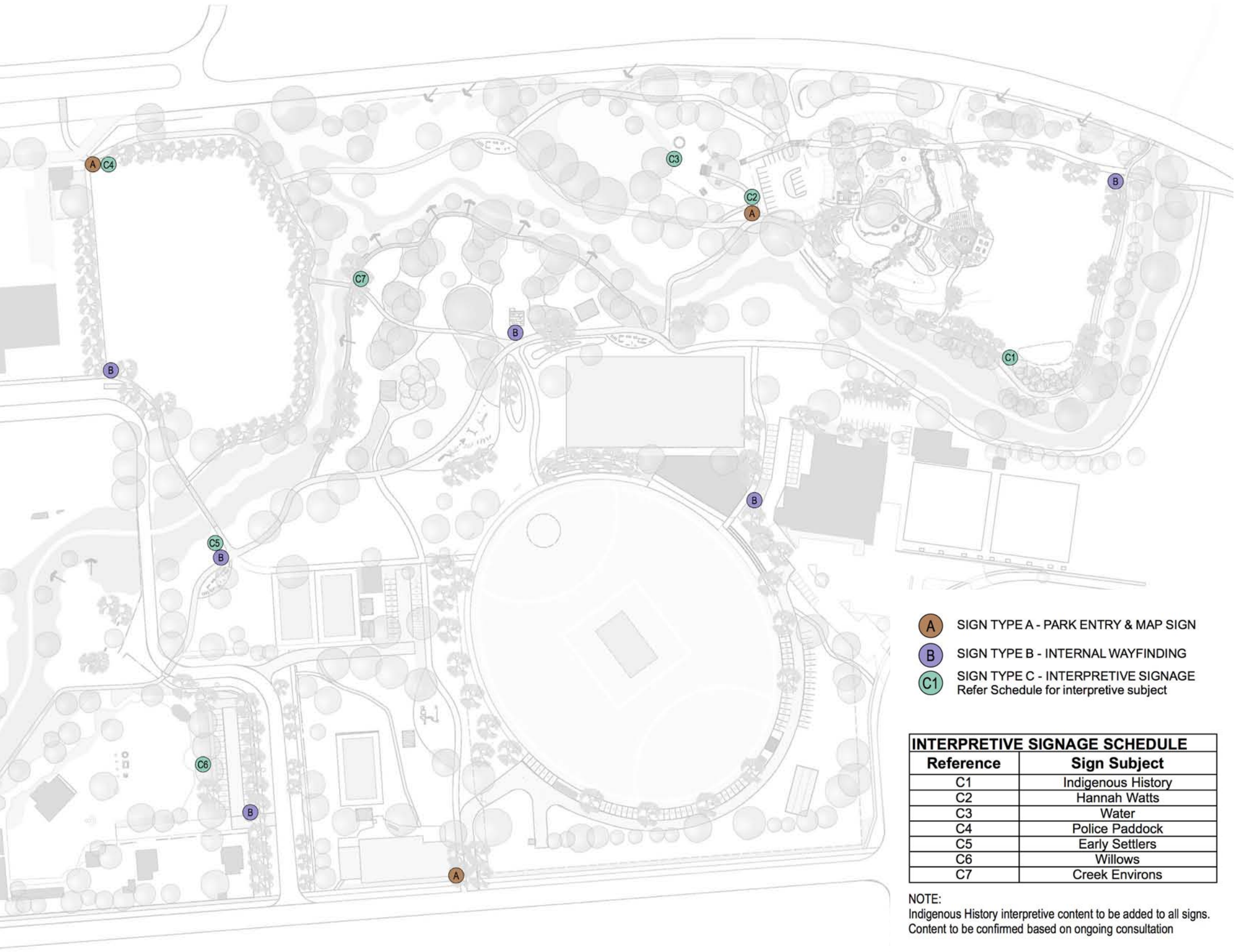


Fig. 15 Proposed Sign Locations Plan

HANNAH WATTS PARK
SIGNAGE DESIGN
SIGNAGE SUITE



Fig. 17 Draft Signage Suite

HANNAH WATTS PARK
SIGNAGE DESIGN

Map

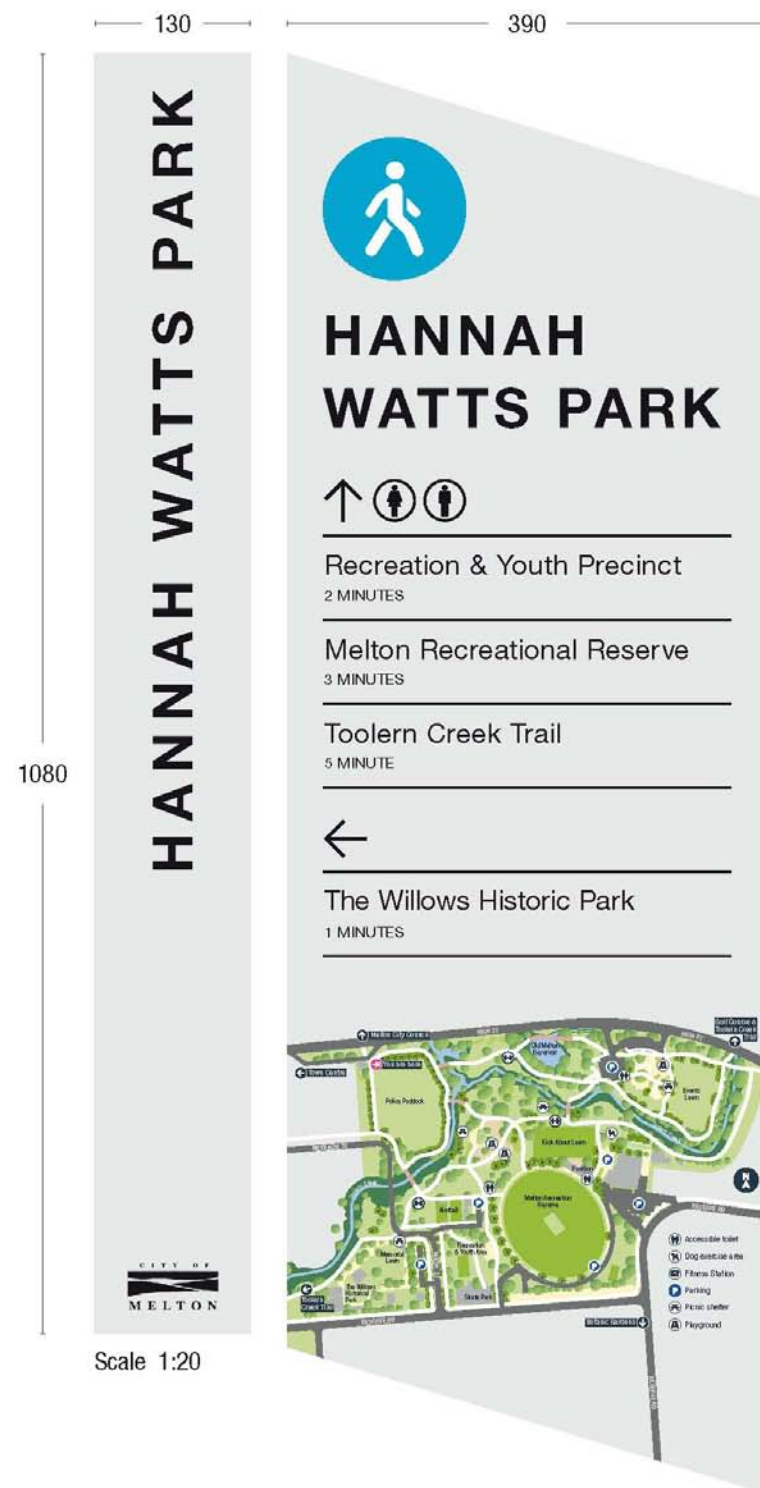


Fig. 18 Draft Wayfinding Sign Map

HANNAH WATTS PARK

SIGNAGE DESIGN

SIGN TYPE A



Sign Background

PMS 424C 15%

Walk Icon

PMS 312C

Text

PMS 433C

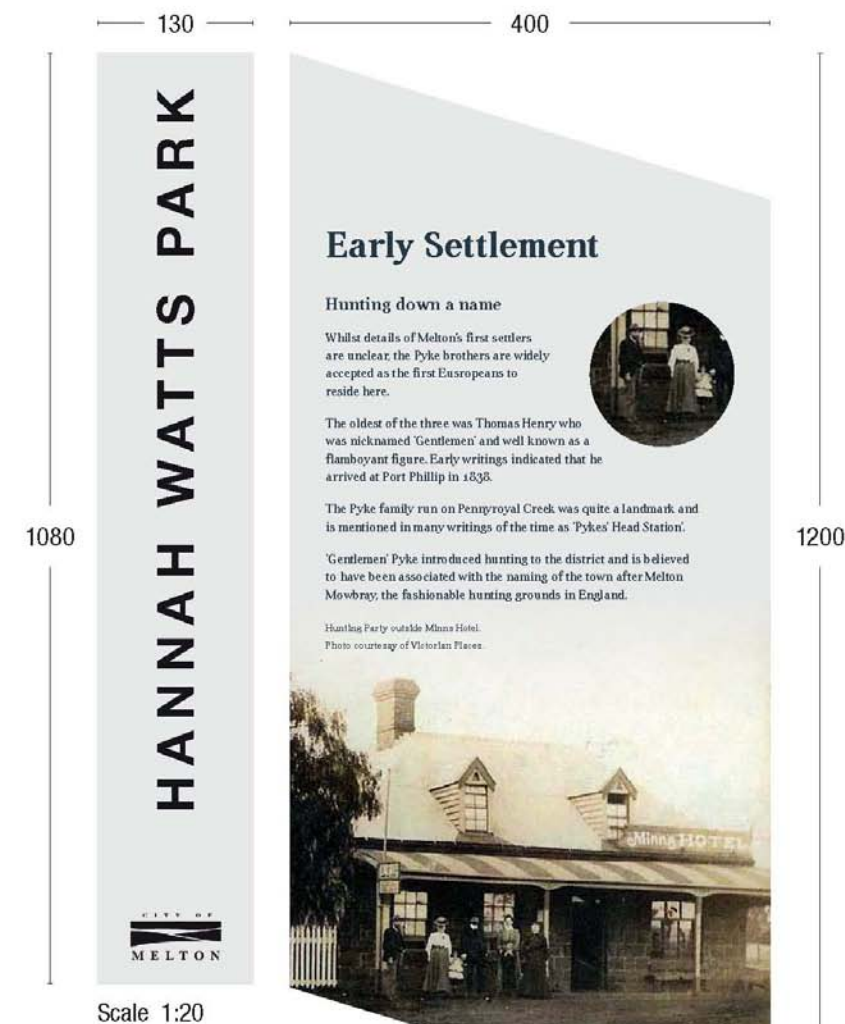
Sign Type A includes:

- Hannah Watts Park title included on the front and side of the sign.
- City Logo.
- Distinctive and easy to identify wayfinding / walk symbol.
- Park destinations (65pt), directions, facilities and walk times (35pt).
- Park map, off map destinations and map key.

HANNAH WATTS PARK

SIGNAGE DESIGN

SIGN TYPE B



Sign Background

PMS 424C 15%

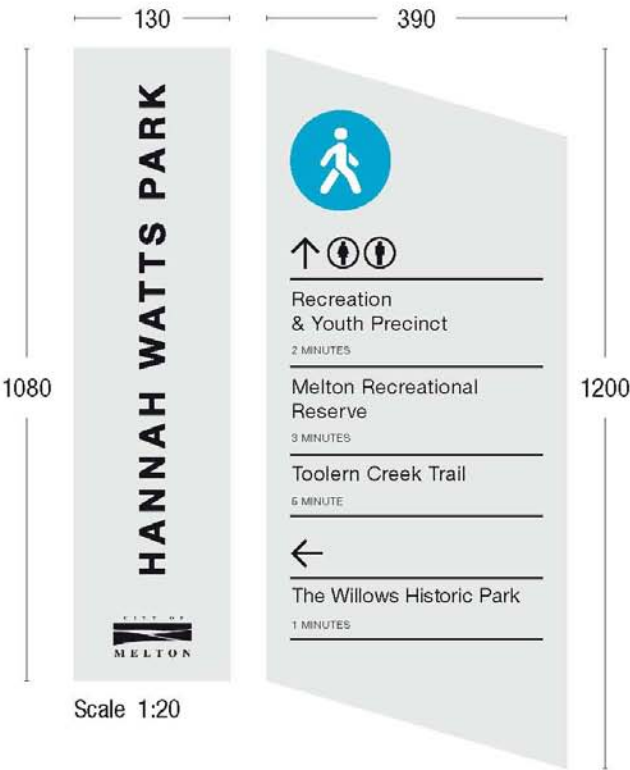
Text

PMS 433C

Sign Type B includes:

- Hannah Watts Park title included on the side of the sign.
- City Logo.
- Interpretive Information (body copy 30pt) and accompanying photos.

HANNAH WATTS PARK
SIGNAGE DESIGN
SIGN TYPE C



Sign Background

PMS 424C 15%

Walk Icon

PMS 312C

Text

PMS 433C

Sign Type C includes:

- Hannah Watts Park title included on the front and side of the sign.
- City Logo.
- Park destinations (50pt), directions, facilities and walk times (25pt).
- Park destinations, facilities and walk times.

6 PRECINCT PLANS

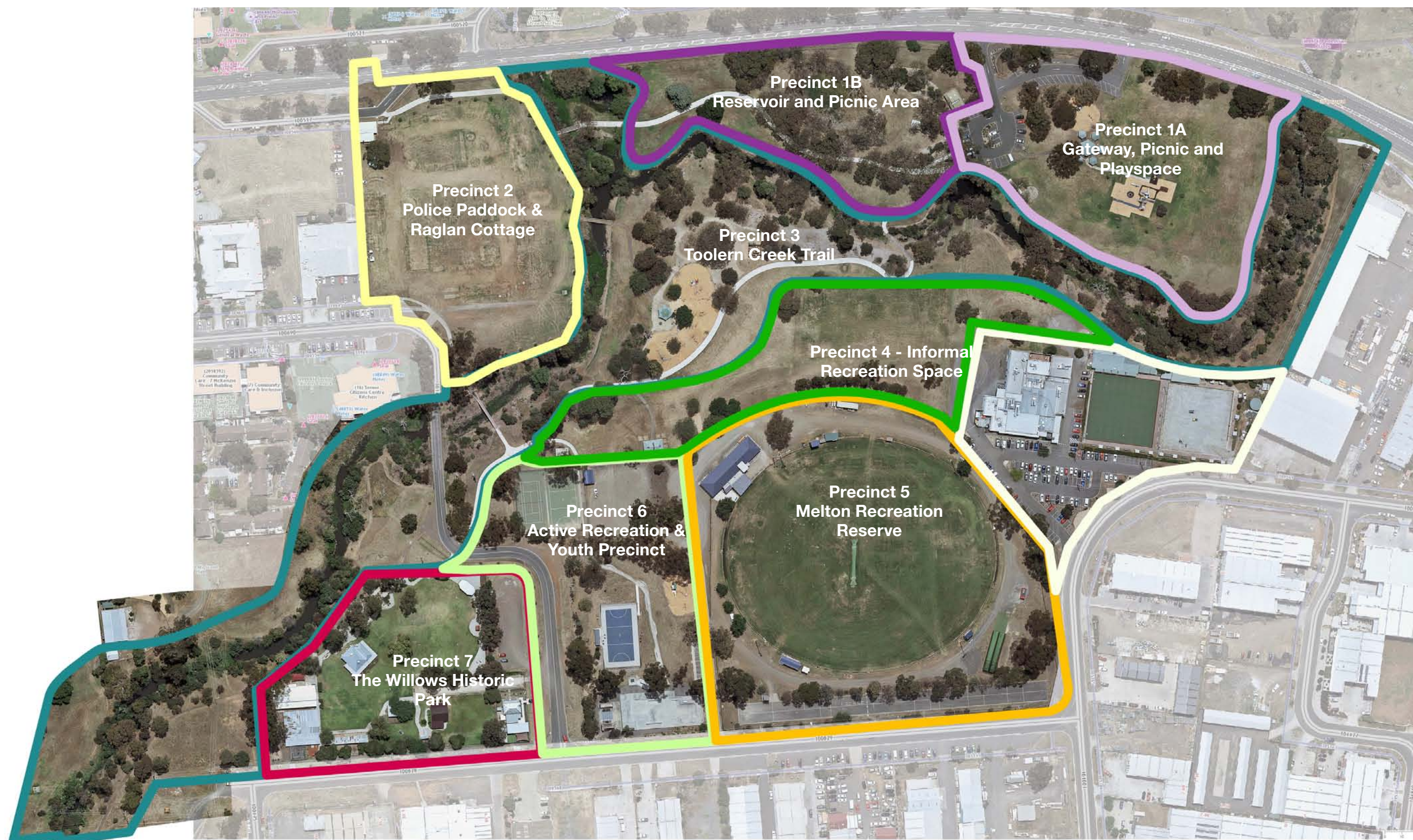


Fig. 19 Existing Aerial with Precincts

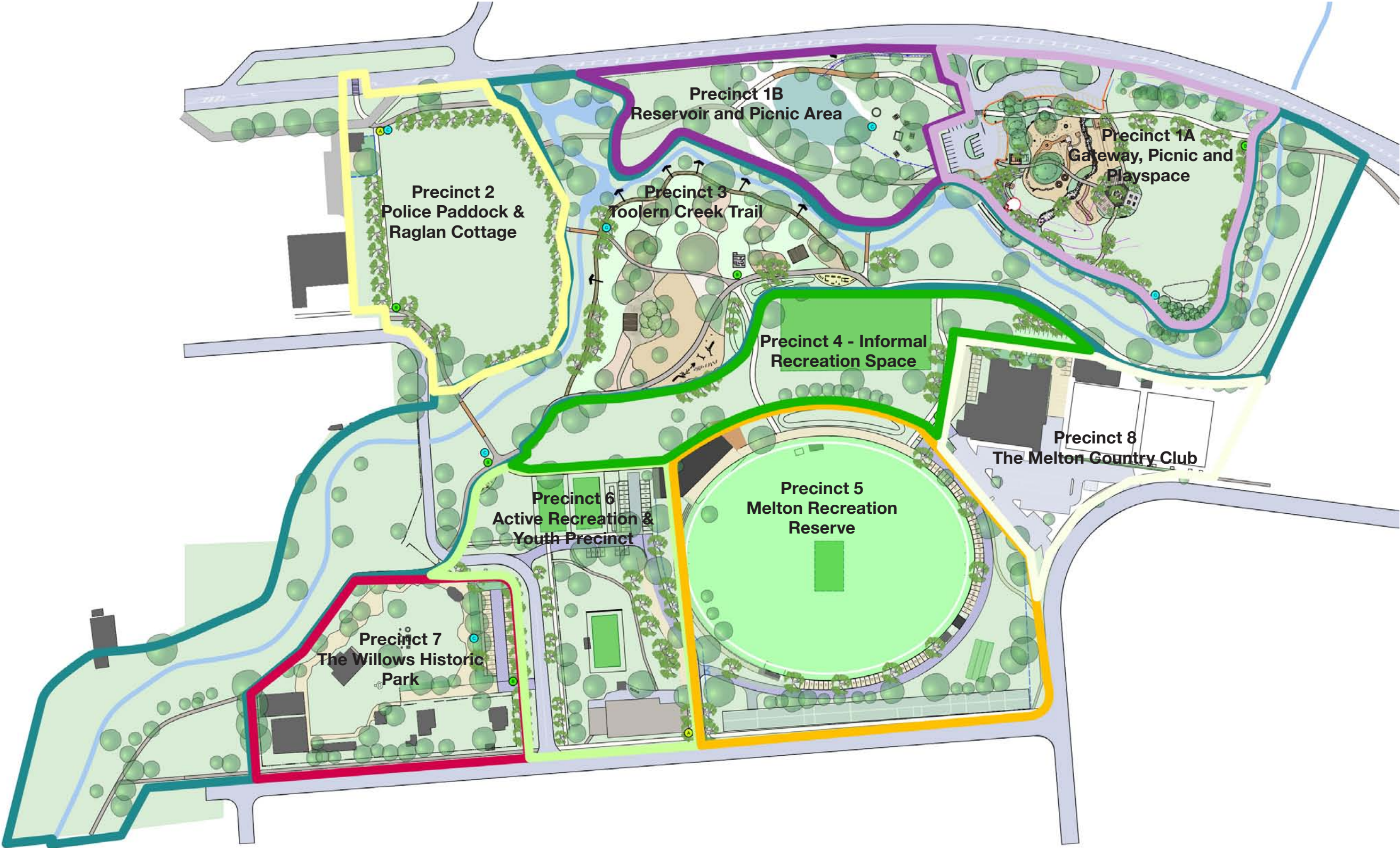


Fig. 20 Proposed Master Plan Precincts

6.1 Precinct 1A - Gateway, Picnic and Playspace

6.1.1 Existing Conditions Summary

Landscape Character

- High profile open grassed park space with picnic area, playgrounds, stone stage, toilets and irrigated lawn area for local events.
- Main entry to Hannah Watts Park with dry stone wall entry feature
- Northern frontage onto High Street with rustic timber fence and open views to road
- Strong natural creek landscape with significant trees and bird life to south and east

User Groups

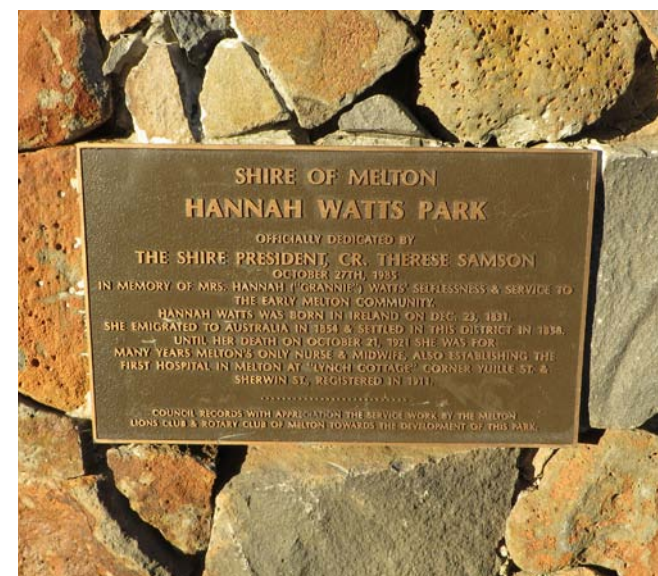
- Passing school groups and bus groups
- Walkers
- Family groups
- Local community events including Carols by Candlelight

Facilities

- A new playspace and picnic area have been designed and construction will begin in September 2018. Refer appendix.
- Asphalt carpark with 46 no. car parks and 3 no. bus spaces. Carpark requires lighting and line marking upgrades for DDA compliance
- Existing shared path connection from north east corner along creek
- Irrigated events lawn



Dry stone entry walls



Car Park



Creek vegetation



Car Park



6.1.2 Objectives

- Improve site layout to better accommodate various uses and increase safety
- Improve DDA compliance
- Provide additional toilets
- Improve pedestrian connectivity to surrounds (particularly along High St edge)
- Improve functionality of events lawn
- Reduce visual impact of road on site
- Enhance visual character of park entry and park frontage along High St
- Create safer connection across carpark
- Enhance connection with natural creek landscape
- Improve pedestrian navigation around park and strengthen public awareness of park history

6.1.3 Recommendations

- 1 Install new shared path connection along northern edge
- 2 Install kerb ramps and pedestrian crossing to car park
- 3 Install lighting upgrades to carpark
- 4 Install lighting to gravel path north of picnic shelters
- 5 Install duplicate toilet block
- 6 Install power to events lawn
- 7 Install third shelter to picnic area
- 8 Upgrade linemarking to disabled car spaces
- 9 Install stair nosings and handrail to existing stone stage
- 10 Extend creek type planting to event lawn edge
- 11 New planting to road edge
- 12 New sign to dry stone wall at entry



Fig. 21 Precinct 1A Plan

6.2 Precinct 1B - Gateway, Picnic and Playspace

6.2.1 Existing Conditions Summary

Landscape Character

- High profile open grassed park space with picnic area, playgrounds, stone stage, toilets and irrigated lawn area for local events.
- Main entry to Hannah Watts Park with dry stone wall entry feature
- Northern frontage onto High Street with rustic timber fence and open views to road
- Strong natural creek landscape with significant trees and bird life to south and east

User Groups

- Passing school groups and bus groups
- walkers
- family groups
- local community events including Carols by Candlelight

Facilities

- A new playspace and picnic area have been designed and construction will begin in September 2018. Refer appendix.
- Asphalt carpark with 46 no. car parks and 3 no. bus spaces. Carpark requires lighting and line marking upgrades for DDA compliance
- Existing shared path connection from north east corner along creek
- Irrigated events lawn



6.2.2 Objectives

- Improve picnic facilities and accessibility of picnic area pavements (DDA compliance)
- Enhance experience of the reservoir and understanding of historical significance
- Improve pedestrian connectivity to surrounds and permeability – particularly across creek, along High St edge and from carpark
- Ensure creek crossings are accessible at all times
- Enhance connection with natural creek landscape
- Improve pedestrian navigation with wayfinding signage
- Reduce visual impact of road on site
- Improve perceptions of safety in picnic area

6.2.3 Recommendations

- 1 Provide new furniture that is consistent with park furniture palette
- 2 Provide new shared path connection & boardwalk along northern edge to connect pedestrians from east to Melton town centre
- 3 Provide DDA path access to picnic area from carpark
- 4 Provide new DDA compliant bridge over creek in place of path crossing
- 5 Provide new planting along northern edge to increase separation between road and park (maintain sightlines for passive surveillance).
- 6 Improve vegetation around creek and extend further into park to reduce hard edge between creek and grassed areas.
- 7 New interpretive signs around low rainfall and reservoir history

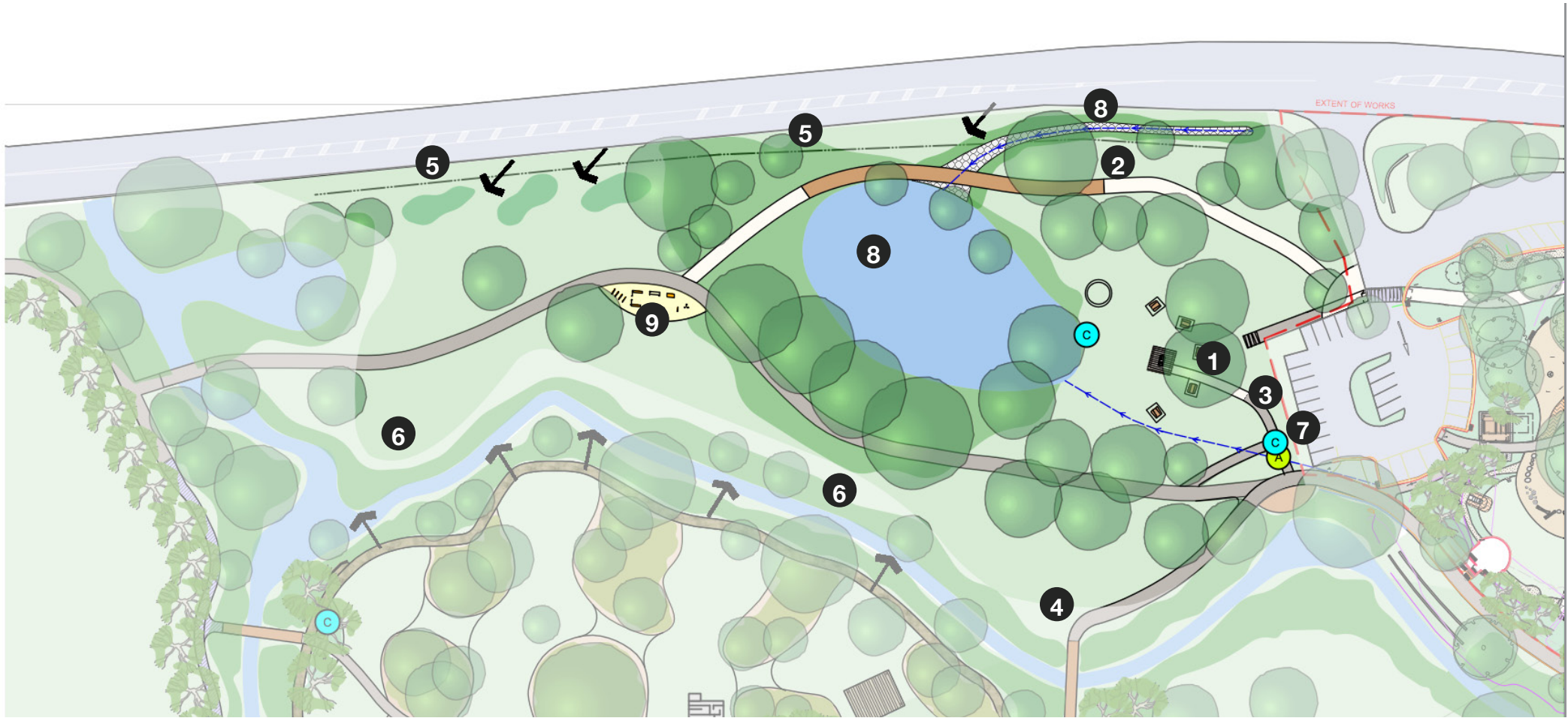


Fig. 22 Precinct 1B Plan

- 8 Re-introduce water to reservoir by connecting to storm water and top up with recycled water supply from golf course (may require UV filter)
- 9 Install new exercise equipment

6.3 Precinct 2 - Police Paddock

6.3.1 Existing Conditions Summary

Landscape Character

- Open flat grassed paddock with a few trees at edges
- Separated from park by Toolern Creek
- Open to CFA carpark along western edge
- Recent planting of single row of Norfolk Island Pines along path by creek
- Historic Raglan Cottage sits on exposed north west corner
- Rustic fence and shared path connection along northern boundary with high exposure to High St

User Groups

- Walkers
- Djerriwarrh Festival (fireworks) and other large scale events
- Artists currently occupying Raglan Cottage
- Parking for festivals
- Lions Club Carnival (leased to Lions Club until 2023)

Facilities

- Open grassed field
- Irrigation infrastructure
- Concrete walking path along creek
- Concrete driveway for vehicle entry on corner Nixon and McKenzie Streets
- 1no. Police Paddock name sign and 1no. Raglan Cottage interpretive sign
- Shared path connection along High St frontage



Raglan Cottage



Open grassed paddock



Shared path along High St



Interpretive sign



Norfolk Island Pines



view from High St

Objectives

- Retain current festival uses including fireworks and carparking
- Formalise edges to create better delineation of space from surrounds
- Reduce visual impact of adjacent carpark and development
- Formalise vehicle entry points
- Increase shade along boundaries
- Improve setting around Raglan Cottage and include dedicated outdoor space

Recommendations

- 1 New trees and under planting along north and west (maintain view lines for passive surveillance)
- 2 Strengthen creek type native planting on eastern edge. Replace Norfolk Island Pines with Indigenous species to enhance natural creek landscape
- 3 Create private garden space with designated outdoor work area, seating and planting for artists occupying Raglan Cottage
- 4 Provide new path connection along Western site edge
- 5 Provide new signalised pedestrian crossing point across High St
- 6 Provide new wayfinding and improved interpretive signage
- 7 Review services valves and reduce visual prominence in space



Fig. 23 Precinct 2 Plan

6.4 Precinct 3 - Toolern Creek Trail

6.4.1 Existing Conditions Summary

Landscape Character

- Toolern Creek meanders through the park creating a vegetated informal native spine with trees, riparian vegetation and rocks. The creek is dry in parts with some areas of open water
- The vegetation condition along the creek varies with areas of strong native character to overgrown areas requiring clean up and weed management and areas of eroded banks
- A playground (older age), maze and picnic area are located immediately adjacent the south side of the creek in the centre of the park
- The heritage listed stone weir (located beneath the Nixon St road crossing) is not easily visible
- Current maintenance practices have created a distinct line between the creek landscape and it's immediate surrounds

User Groups

- Picnickers, walkers, families, Friends of Toolern Creek, Vehicular traffic on Nixon St

Facilities

- picnic area with 2 table settings, 1 double BBQ, 1 bin, 1 large Rotary Rotunda
- Playground with junior play area, older years play area, maze and rustic bench seats
- Concrete shared path connects from north east (Precinct 1) along creek line to south west
- Gravel paths to playground and picnic area



Creek Landscape



Eroded section of bank



Toolern Creek Bridge



Abrupt delineation between creek and park



Play maze



Picnic facilities



Older years playground

6.4.2 Objectives

- Create opportunities to occupy creek space and get close to creek edge
- Extend creek landscape into adjacent areas
- Improve creek health by revegetating with indigenous species
- Improve visitor understanding of water related history
- Better connect creek and picnic area

6.4.3 Recommendations

- 1 Prepare revegetation strategy to improve entire length of creek within park
Revegetate eroded banks and remove weeds clogging waterway
- 2 New DDA compliant bridges
- 3 Provide new path connection from High St, along southern side of creek and across the north of kick-about space



Fig. 24 Precinct 3 Plan

6.4.4 Recommendations - Central Play and Picnic Area Upgrades

- 1 Prepare revegetation strategy to improve entire length of creek within park
Revegetate eroded banks and remove weeds clogging waterway
- 2 New DDA compliant bridges
- 3 Provide new path connection from High St, along southern side of creek and across the north of kick-about space
- 4 New accessible picnic area with new shelter and furniture
- 5 New playground with nature play
- 6 Provide new exercise equipment along circuit path
- 7 Small seating areas close to creek with views to water (low planting only)
- 8 Provide indigenous amenity under-planting to extend creek landscape into picnic and play areas
- 9 New park suite wayfinding and Interpretive signage
- 11 Improve transparency of play maze
- 12 Bird Hide
- 13 Creek exploration trail
- 14 Landscaped shady grove
- 15 Consider opportunity for rock stepper creek crossing
- 16 New creek side terraces and deck (subject to aboriginal Cultural heritage approval)
- 17 Existing playground retained with improved landscape surround



Fig. 25 Precinct 3 Detailed Plan

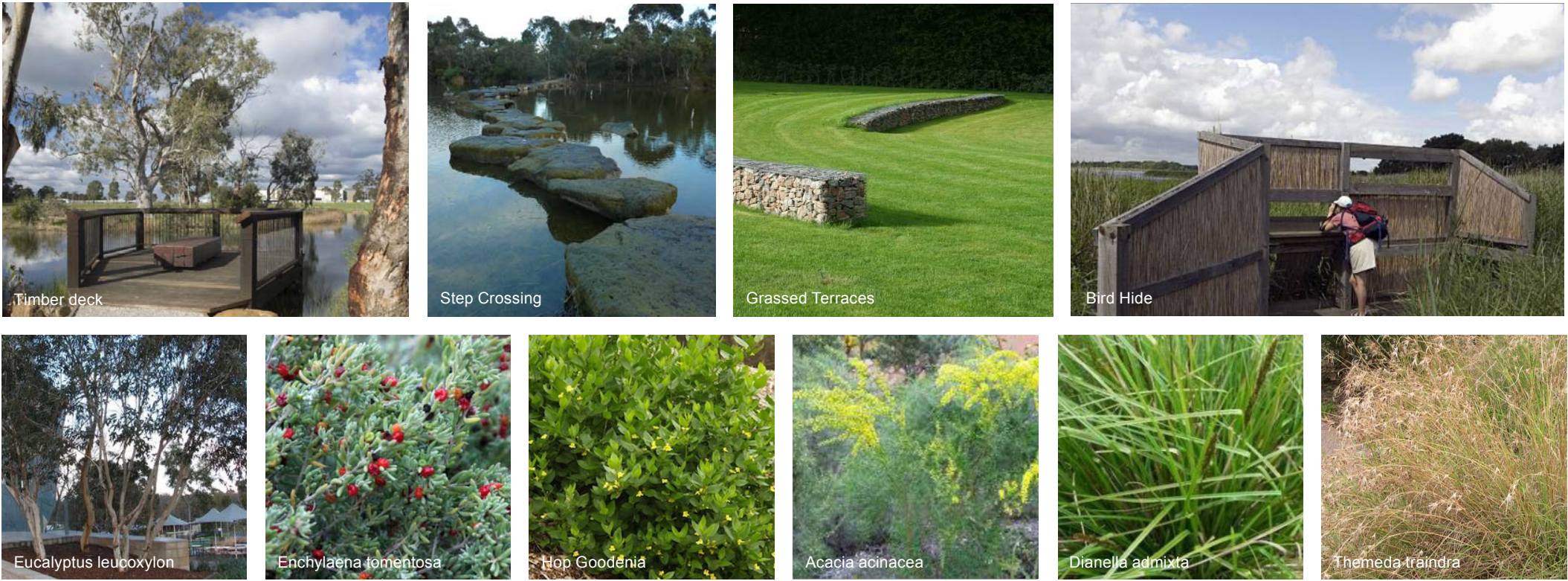


Fig. 27 Example of landscape elements

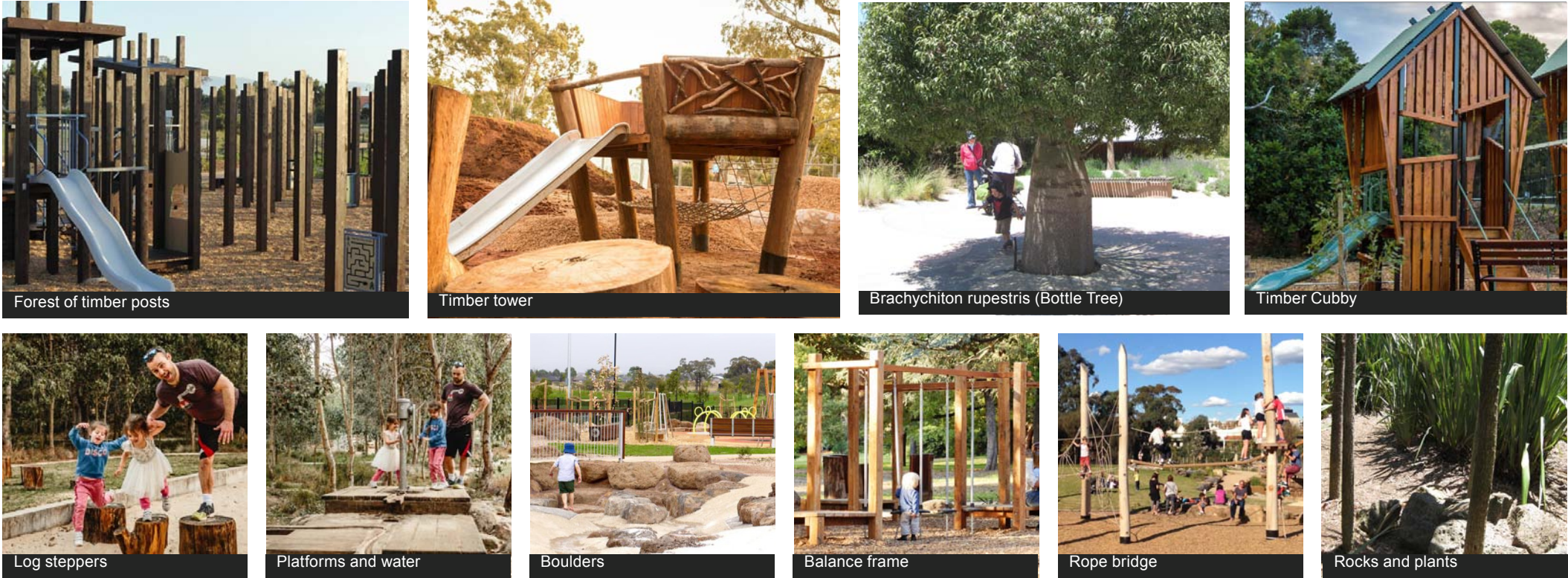


Fig. 26 Examples of play elements

6.5 Precinct 4 - Informal Recreation Space

6.5.1 Existing Conditions Summary

Landscape Character

- Large flat open grassed 'kick-about' space in the centre of the park
- Minimal vegetation and lack of definition to spaces
- Open views to surrounds including the back of TAB
- Boundary to sports pavilion and oval includes some screen planting and a few large exotic and native trees

User Groups

- Walkers, Casual sports, Organised sports training, Djerriwarrh Festival

Facilities

- Open irrigated grassed field
- Irrigation infrastructure
- Toilet block



Grassed playing field



Existing significant tree



Toilet block



View to back of Melton Country Club



Irrigation infrastructure



Shared Path



View to oval

6.5.2 Objectives

- Better delineate and activate space
- Continue to provide for events, including power as required
- Consolidate and formalise parking around Country Club
- Lessen visual impact of Melton Country Club on site
- Improve path connections
- Improve wayfinding
- Increase shade

6.5.3 Recommendations

- 1** Provide three new North-South path connections
- 2** Review services infrastructure and ways to reduce prominence in space (eg. remove fenced enclosures and install pit lids or conceal with planting)
- 3** Provide new park suite wayfinding and signage
- 4** Provide dog off lead area
- 5** Maintain irrigated lawn area / kick about space for sports training and casual recreation
- 6** Provide planting to east to screen back of Country Club
- 7** Informal grassed parking with tree planting at back of bowls club. Use planting and / or removable bollards / low post & rail fence to define space

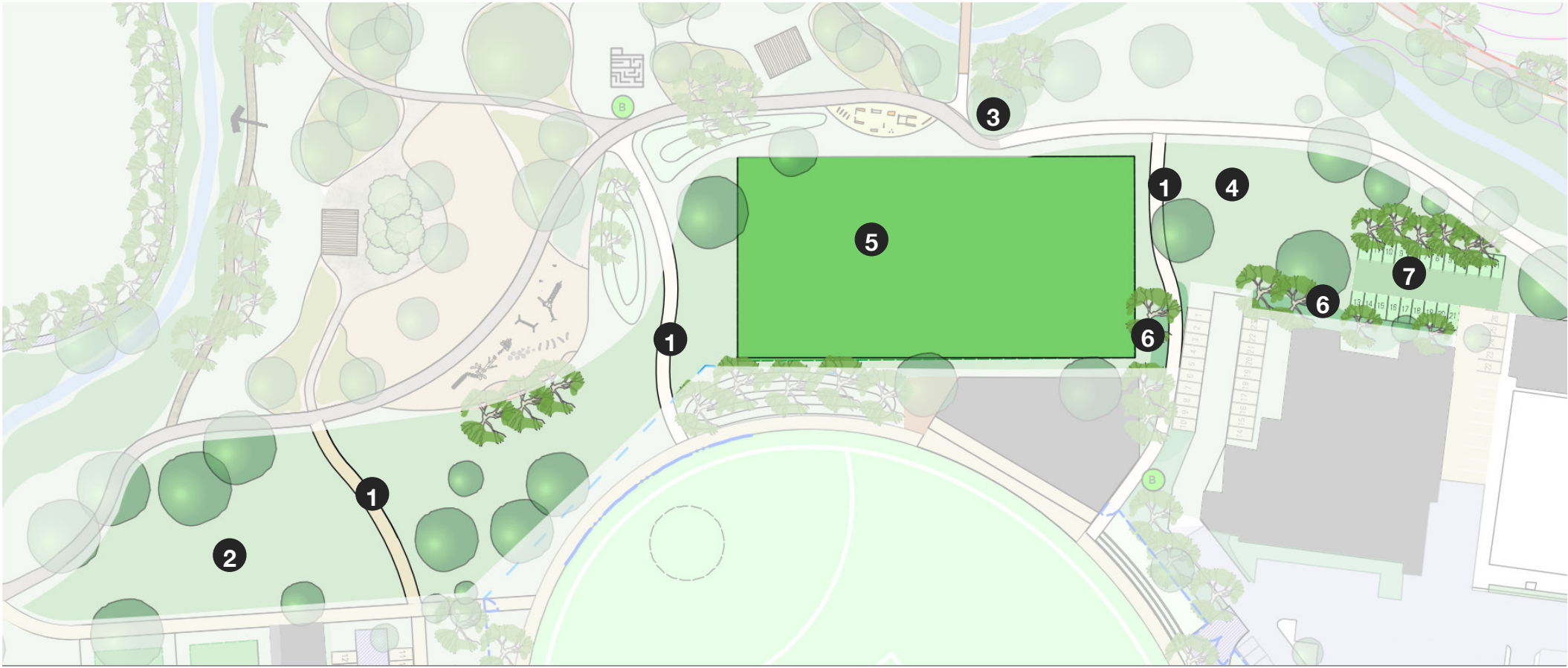


Fig. 28 Precinct 4 Plan

6.6 Precinct 5 - Melton Recreation Reserve

6.6.1 Existing Conditions Summary

Landscape Character

- Fenced community oval used for organised sports
- Landscape surrounding oval is flat with open views and a smattering of native trees
- Sports pavilion in at north west corner backs onto park and surrounded by gravel car parking
- Entire circumference of oval is vehicle accessible via gravel
- Cricket practice wickets located across the oval from car parking and pavilion
- Reserve road frontage is fenced (chain mesh) and asphalt paved CFA fire track runs along the inside edge of fence
- Asphalt entry road from Reserve Road leading to gravel car park behind pavilion

User Groups

- Melton South Junior Football Club (football & netball)
- Melton South Football Club (football & netball)
- Melton South Cricket Club
- Melton CFA

Facilities

- Sports pavilion with male only change facilities
- Grassed east-west oval (150m long) with hard wicket
- Score board
- 2 shelters with bench seats
- Cricket practice pitches
- Fire track with viewing tower is used for training and competitions

- Bench seats and bins, mainly around pavilion
- Portable public toilets
- Fencing to restrict access during games
- Gravel parking accommodates crowds of approx. 500-1000 people
- Entry road creates unsafe crossing from oval to playground and netball courts
- Temporary fencing to northern perimeter of oval



Access gates



Gravel entry



Pavillion



View to back of Pavillion



Temporary fencing and amenities building



CFA fire track



Cricket practice nets

6.6.2 Objectives

- Facilitate a broader range of users including all genders
- Provide for flexible use of facilities wherever possible
- Improve sports facilities and provide new facilities as required by teams (eg. turf wickets, enlarge oval etc)
- Rationalise vehicular access and parking to improve pedestrian safety
- Better integrate oval within park landscape and improve connections to surrounding facilities
- Improve frontage to Reserve Road

6.6.3 Recommendations

- 1 Provide a new pavilion with improved change rooms that accomodate all genders, storage, and improved kitchen with separate bar and food serving areas
- 2 Re-align oval and increase size of playing surface (approx 15m)
- 3 Provide turf wicket, maintenance shed and associated power and new practice net for senior cricket
- 4 Provide new netball court/courts with new floodlights in location away from skate area (refer youth precinct plan)
- 5 Re-align entry road and consolidate parking to improve amenity and safety
- 6 Formalise entry points and upgrade fencing
- 7 Provide new furniture consistent with park furniture palette
- 8 New tree planting to oval surrounds to provide shade for spectators and better define space
- 9 Review lighting requirements and consider options (possibly add globes to existing floodlight towers)

- 10 New viewing terraces
- 11 New outdoor deck to north of pavillion
- 12 Install sleeved for removable fencing to northern edge of oval



Fig. 29 Precinct 5 Plan

6.7 Precinct 6 - Active Recreation and Youth Precinct

6.7.1 Existing Conditions Summary

Landscape Character

- An informal bush land feel active facilities scattered through out including skate park, netball and tennis courts, playground, and shelters
- Vegetation includes large Eucalypts scattered across the site and areas of grassing
- Gravel car parking zones and roadways are separated from other areas with post and rail fencing
- Rustic timber fence along Reserve Rd frontage and Nixon Street
- Recent avenue planting of Queensland Bottle Tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*) each side of Nixon Street

User Groups

- Skaters, netballers, tennis players, families with children, general park users parking, walkers

Facilities

- Skate park with concrete skate elements and half pipe, 1 shelter with picnic table, 2 bins, 2 seats, 1 graffiti wall
- 1 tennis court
- 2 netball courts
- 1 shelter
- 2 seats
- 1 bin
- Large gravel carpark
- Playground



Tennis Court



Netball Court



Skate bowl



Half Pipe



Shelter



Car park



Playground

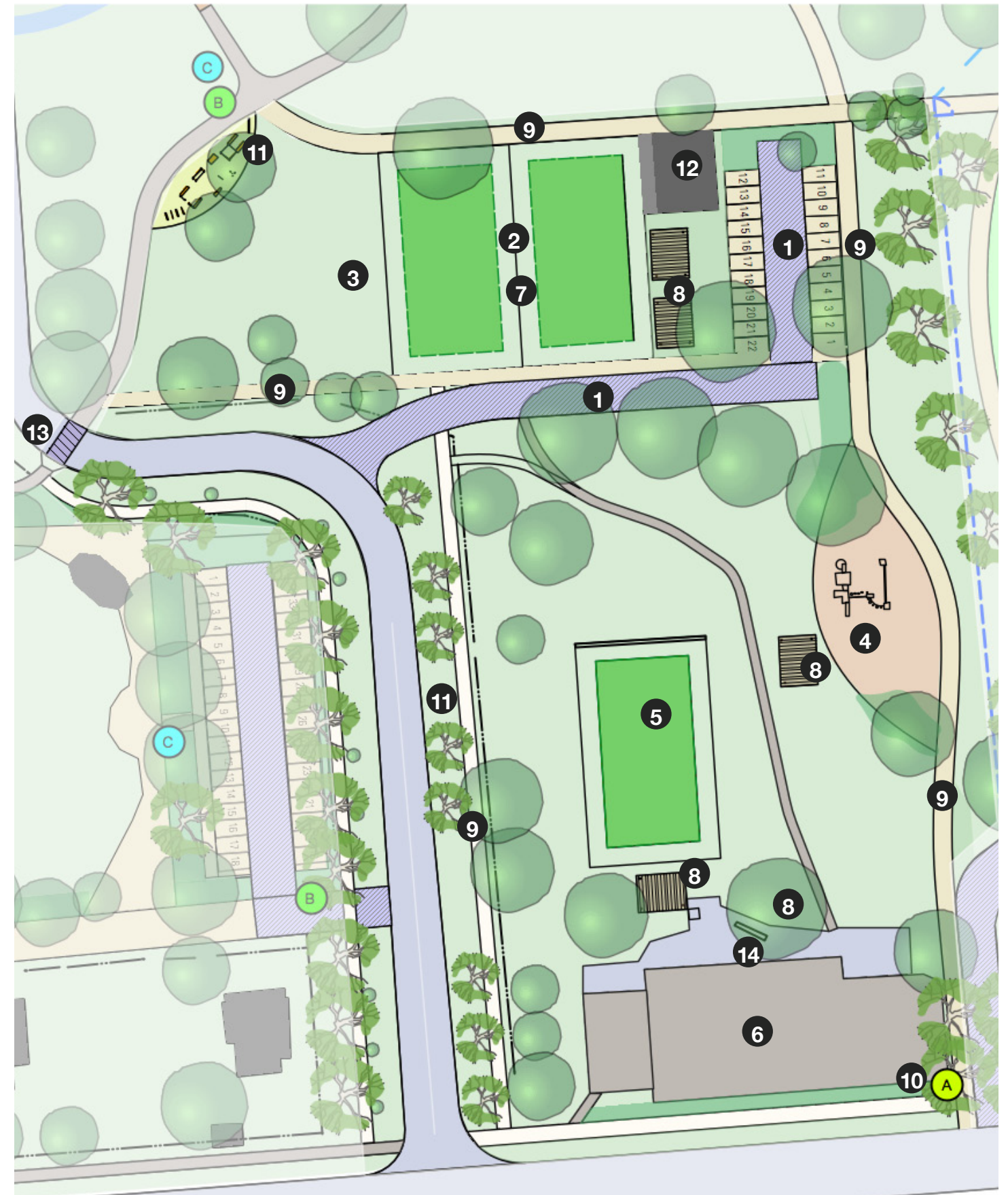
6.7.2 Objectives

- Improve Reserve Rd frontage
- Replace out dated half pipe
- Consolidate parking
- Upgrade shelters and furniture
- Improve pedestrian connections
- Improve wayfinding
- Improve safety
- Improve netball facilities
- Improve skate facility & youth area

6.7.3 Recommendations

- 1 Provide new entry to netball courts from Nixon St and formalise carparking
- 2 Relocate netball courts further north away from skate area to resolve ongoing conflicts
- 3 Remove existing old tennis courts
- 4 Retain and upgrade playground and landscape to better integrate with surrounds
- 5 Convert existing netball court to multi-use courts (basketball, handball, graffiti wall etc) adjacent skate area
- 6 Develop skate strategy that provides direction around replacement of half pipe
- 7 Provide new netball lighting to new courts
- 8 Provide new shelters and furniture consistent with park furniture suite
- 9 Provide new path connections along Reserve Road frontage, along Nixon Street and around netball courts
- 10 Provide new park suite signage
- 11 Provide new exercise equipment along circuit path
- 12 Relocate mid-term change facility next to netball courts
- 13 New raised crossing over Nixon St

- 14 Facilitate street art to foster a sense of ownership over skate park. Review maintenance regimes for graffiti clean-up and reduce unnecessary clean-up of artwork in skate area



6.8 Precinct 7 - The Willows Historical Site

6.8.1 Existing Conditions Summary

6.8.2 Landscape Character

- Fenced heritage site with a central grassed lawn, numerous heritage items, and a number of buildings including historical museum, The Willows homestead, men's shed, RSL
- Large open carpark in front of site on Nixon Street
- Native trees around boundary and Australian native garden on western edge adjacent creek
- Heritage style picnic area

User Groups

- Picnickers, families, Mens shed group, Veterans, School groups

Facilities

- Informal, fenced gravel carpark
- Shared trail connection outside fence along creek to north west
- 1 Picnic shelter
- 1 double BBQ
- 2 double picnic tables
- 8 internal seats
- 2 seats at entrance
- Multiple buildings - refer Section 5.7



Car park



Entrance from car park



Picnic facilities



Willows homestead, Mens Shed and well



Existing steel picket fence



Native garden



Lawn



Corner Reserve Rd and Nixon St

6.8.3 Objectives

- Better integrate with park to north and accessibility for general park users
- Improve Reserve Rd & Nixon St frontage
- Improve appearance of carpark & formalise vehicle entry along Nixon St & Reserve Rd
- Improve path connections
- Improve appearance of fencing on Reserve Rd.
- Minimise fencing

6.8.4 Recommendations

- 1 Provide new pedestrian path along Reserve Road Frontage
- 2 Provide new pedestrian path along Nixon St
- 3 Create planted buffer between carpark and road to soften appearance of carpark and enhance sense of entry to park
- 4 Provide new pedestrian entry to north as shown on Council Master Plan
- 5 Remove steel picket boundary fencing from northern, eastern and western boundaries
- 6 Replace chain mesh fence along Reserve Road with higher quality fence (consider re-painting steel picket fence and re-using along street frontage)
- 7 Investigate opportunity to relocate war memorials from existing location on High St to Willows lawn and relocate Anzac Day activities to the Willows
- 8 Install new park suite signs at entry points
- 9 Seal well and remove fencing from surround
- 10 Undertake structural review of Historic Machinery Shed, Barn and Dairy and carry out repairs as necessary



6.9 Precinct 8 - The Melton Country Club and Bowls Club

6.9.1 Existing Conditions Summary

6.9.2 Landscape Character

- The Melton Country club includes a building, carpark and lawn bowls club that face onto Reserve Road and are not well integrated with the surrounding park landscape
- The back of the buildings and carpark are visually prominent from inside the park and currently detract from the park experience

User Groups

- Football Club members
- General public for dining and entertainment
- Melton Bowling Club
- The Melton Country Club is a business of the Essendon Football Club who lease the building from Council. The lease boundary currently extends across the gravel car park to the west and into the irrigated kick about space.

Facilities

- Large asphalt car parking in front of building on Reserve Road
- Large Signage on Reserve Road
- Gravel Carpark at rear of building facing onto park
- Melton Bowling Club



Melton Country Club



Front Car park



Melton Bowls Club



Park interface - back of Country Club



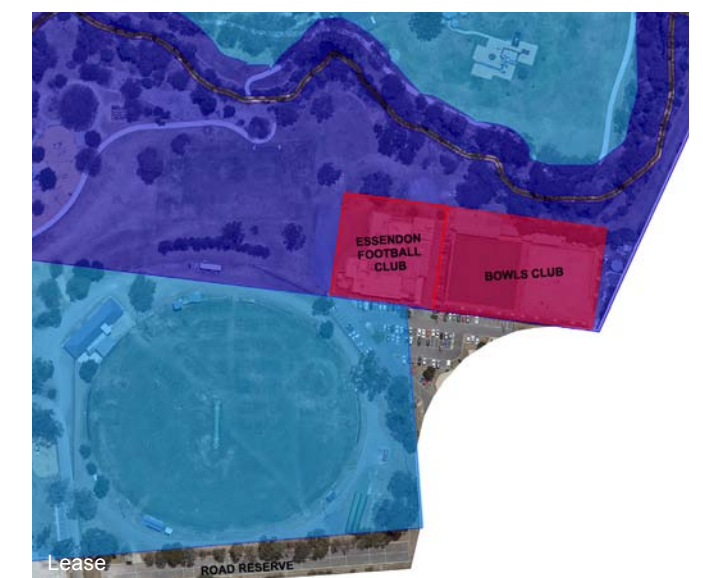
Back of Bowls Club



Signage

Ownership boundaries

- Lease
- Melton City Council
- State

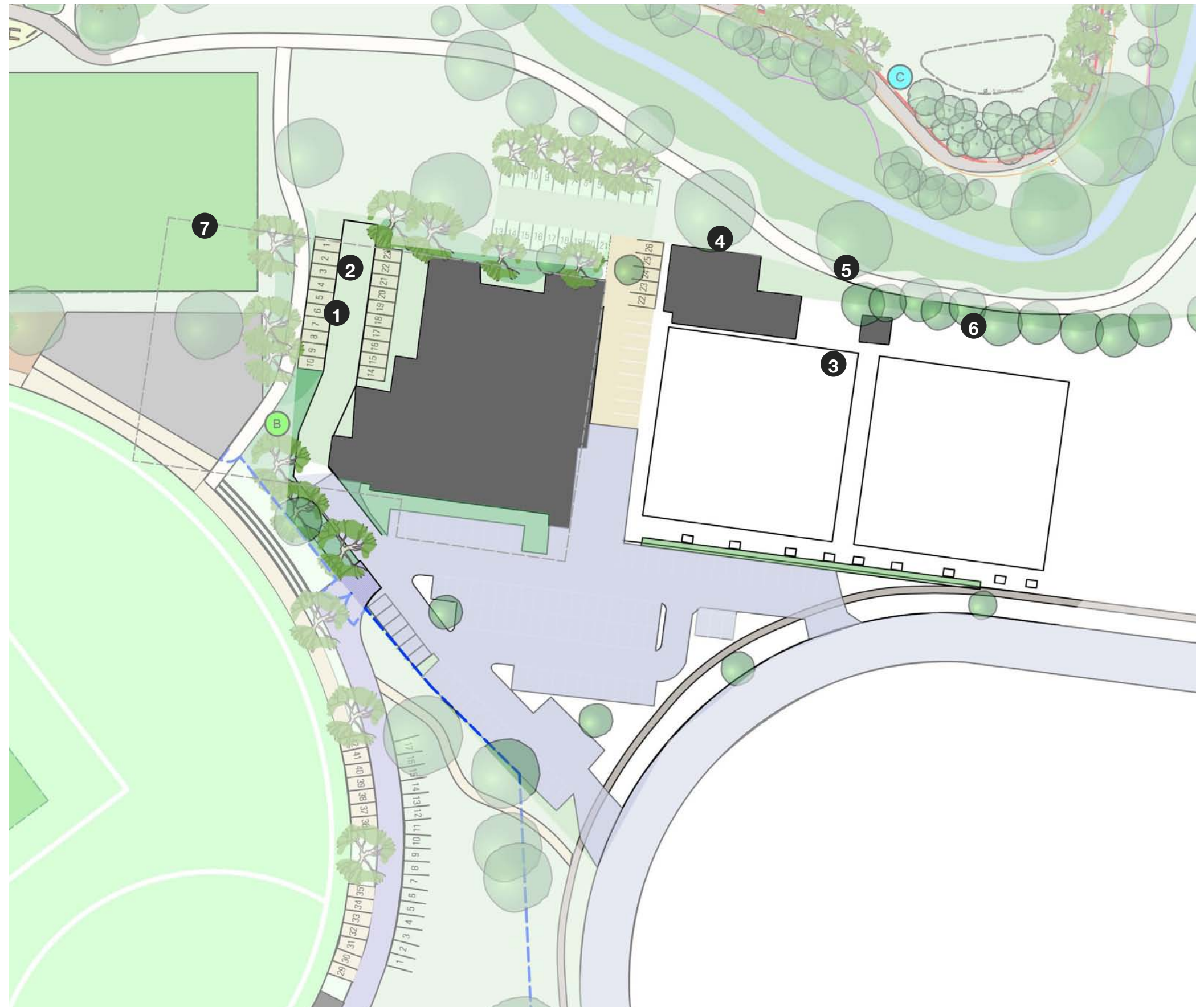


6.9.3 Objectives

- Consolidate parking for Country Club and Bowls Club
- Reduce visual impact of back of buildings on park and improve views from park
- Improve sense of safety where carpark behind buildings meets park
- Improve path connections to park to increase activity (particularly behind buildings)
- Provide opportunities for Country Club users to connect with creek landscape

6.9.4 Recommendations

- 1 Formalise carparks at back of building and incorporate trees and planting to soften and screen views of building from recreational areas
- 2 Improve lighting to parking areas for increased safety
- 3 Consider upgrades to lighting at bowls club
- 4 Explore opportunities for outdoor areas (eg.decks) on creek side of buildings to enable users to connect with the creek and park landscape and enhance passive surveillance to improve safety
- 5 Provide new path connection to High St on south side of creek
- 6 Infill gaps in planting on creek side of Bowls Club to create visual screen
- 7 Consider re-negotiating lease boundary to minimise incursion on parkland.



7 DRAFT MASTER PLAN

7.1 Summary of Recommendations

- 1 New paths
- 2 New raised pedestrian crossing
- 3 New signalised pedestrian crossing
- 4 New playground with nature-play
- 5 New exercise equipment along circuit path
- 6 New DDA compliant bridges
- 7 Re-oriented larger oval with turf wicket
- 8 New pavilion with all gender change rooms and toilets and facilities for all sports clubs - football, cricket and netball
- 9 Relocated and upgraded netball courts with lighting and change rooms
- 10 Car parking
- 11 Overflow parking
- 12 Revegetate eroded creek banks & remove weeds clogging waterway
- 13 Re-introduce water to reservoir
- 14 Upgrade skate facilities (requires skate strategy)
- 15 New park wayfinding and interpretive signs and Interpretive signs (see key)
- 16 New shelters
- 17 New road alignment

