

ITEM 2 PUBLIC EXHIBITION - WOLLONGONG BOTANIC GARDEN DRAFT MASTERPLAN

The draft Wollongong Botanic Garden Masterplan provides a proposed ten-year program of projects and services to manage the place and enhance the visitor experience of this key city asset.

This report recommends a public exhibition of the draft Wollongong Botanic Garden Masterplan be undertaken and reported back to Council prior to adoption

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council publicly exhibit the draft Wollongong Botanic Garden Masterplan for a period of 28 days.
- 2 Community and stakeholder feedback from the exhibition period be reported back to Council for consideration prior to adoption.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Vanni De Luca, Manager Open Space + Environmental Services [Acting]
Authorised by: Paul Tracey, Director Infrastructure + Works (Acting)

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Wollongong Botanic Garden Masterplan 2025 - 2035 Report
- 2 Draft Wollongong Botanic Garden Masterplan graphic

BACKGROUND

The development of the Wollongong Botanic Garden Masterplan commenced in 2018-19, with the original Masterplan going through an extensive consultation and public exhibition process. It was always intended that a site masterplan would be adopted with an accompanying Conservation Management Plan for the Gleniffer Brae precinct of the site.

A five-year approval process via Heritage NSW for the Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan (which was endorsed by the Heritage Council in 2023) has previously prevented both documents being submitted together for Council adoption.

The Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan (technical document) provides guidance for the management of conservation values of this significant state heritage listed site located within the Botanic Garden. As it is a Heritage Council endorsed document, it is not proposed for any further amendments.

Both documents provide the detail required to ensure the total Botanic Garden site is managed appropriately for the next 10 years and in accordance with the Botanic Garden Plan of Management 2020.

Due to the length of time since the original public exhibition, further stakeholder engagements in 2023/24 and updates to the draft masterplan which have occurred, it is appropriate that a new public exhibition process be undertaken prior to finalising and providing the draft Wollongong Botanic Garden Masterplan to Council for adoption.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

It is proposed to place the draft Botanic Garden Masterplan on public exhibition for 28 days. This will involve:

- Exhibit the Masterplan and supporting documents for a minimum of 28 days, commencing in July.
- Notify key stakeholders including previous participants who commented on first draft of the Masterplan.
- Have information available on the Our Wollongong website, in hardcopy at the libraries and promoted on-site at the gardens.
- Incorporate the exhibition into face-to-face events the Engagement team runs as part of their regular events schedule.
- Note that the Heritage Council endorsed Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan (technical document) is available for information only during the exhibition period, but not amendment.

Report back to Council what was heard during the engagement period to the community.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Goal 3 “Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city.”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032	Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy	Service
3.5 Provide communities with access to quality local spaces and places to meet, share and celebrate	Botanic Garden & Annexes

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Botanic Garden and Nursery service currently underpin many sustainability outcomes across the city including Urban Greening, Natural Area restoration, environmental / waste education and hands-on community outreach projects.

Conservation is a core value of the service and the partnerships facilitated. The Botanic Garden seeks to demonstrate sustainable practices and implement efficiencies wherever possible to reduce resource use and minimise its environmental footprint.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The recommended public exhibition process represents a low-risk action, the outcomes of which will be reported back to Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A number of priority projects identified for short term completion (next 1-2 years) are funded via operational budget or the Infrastructure Delivery program (Capital) and involve asset renewal/maintenance.

Longer term projects will require approvals via Council’s business proposal process, and include funding options including Operational funds and Capital, funding provided via the Friends of the Wollongong Botanic Garden and from grants or externally sourced funds.

Short-term priorities 1-2 years (funded)	Mid-term 2-5 years (funding to be confirmed)	Long term 5-10 years (Business Proposal required)
Murphy's Avenue entry/accessible toilet (capital funded)	Cratloe Cottage Café or alternative site feasibility (operationally funded)	Accessible entry from Northfields Avenue Bus and pathways throughout site (Business proposal/capital)
Gleniffer Brae Heritage renewal works (capital funded) – works underway	Site irrigation/ Duck Pond water quality aerator and silt investigation (operationally funded)	Murphy's Avenue Entry Carpark Upgrade (business proposal)
Propagation Glasshouse/Solar/Depot renewal (capital funded)	Gleniffer Brae carriageway, accessibility and other capital improvements (capital funding/grants req'd)	Joseph Banks Glasshouse/Temperate Garden re-imagined (detailed consultation and business proposal)
Site Activation market testing for suitable activities on site that will enhance the visitor experience and align with permissible uses (operationally funded)	Mercury Fountain interpretation (BG Friends contribution)	Rainforest final stage all access and aerial walk (grants/sponsors)
Kawasaki Bridge renewal (grants/sponsors/capital)		

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that a public exhibition of the draft Wollongong Botanic Garden Masterplan be undertaken and reported back to Council prior to adoption.



WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL
DRAFT WOLLONGONG BOTANIC GARDEN MASTERPLAN
2025 - 2035

S17-0075
Issue P • 27/06/2024
DRAFT FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION



WOLLONGONG BOTANIC GARDEN MASTERPLAN

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Document	Issue	Date	Status	Reviewed	Verified	Validated
S17-0075 R01	P	27/06/2024	FINAL	CC	CL	CL
S17-0075 R01	O	10/07/2018	FINAL	CC	CL	CL
S17-0075 R01	N	09/07/2018	FINAL	CC	CL	CL
S17-0075 R01	M	06/07/2018	FINAL	CC	CL	CL
S17-0075 R01	L	04/07/2018	FINAL	CC	CL	-
S17-0075 R01	K	03/07/2018	FINAL	CC	CL	-
S17-0075 R01	J	02/07/2018	FINAL	CC	CL	-
S17-0075 R01	I	15/06/2018	FINAL	CC	CL	-
S17-0075 R01	H	18/04/2018	DRAFT	CC	CL	-
S17-0075 R01	G	11/04/2018	DRAFT	CC	CL	-
S17-0075 R01	F	19/03/2018	DRAFT	CC	CL	-
S17-0075 R01	E	16/03/2018	DRAFT	CC	CL	-
S17-0075 R01	D	16/03/2018	DRAFT	CC	CL	-
S17-0075 R01	C	30/11/2017	DRAFT	CC	CL	-
S17-0075 R01	B	03/11/2017	DRAFT	CC	CL	-
S17-0075 R01	A	15/09/2017	DRAFT	CC	CL	-

OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

The Wollongong Botanic Garden, managed by Wollongong City Council, is a highly valued botanic garden and recreation space for the community. It is a service of Wollongong City Council.

A 10-year masterplan is required to identify long term improvements to guide the development and service delivery for this key regional facility. This masterplan maintains and enhances horticulture and plant conservation, environmental education, passive recreation and the heritage of the site.

This masterplan has been updated to reflect work undertaken and anticipates services and projects over a 10-year timeframe between 2025-2035, after which a new masterplan will be developed.

THE WOLLONGONG BOTANIC GARDEN TODAY

Established in 1971, the Botanic Garden is open 363 days per year and has free entry. It contains a significant living plant collection of Australian forest plantings and exotic succulent, palm and flowering plant collections. It also hosts passive recreation activities as well as community and commercial events.

Built features include the heritage listed Gleniffer Brae Manor House, three school buildings occupied by the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music, the Discovery Centre, the Towri Centre, the Greenplan plant nursery and an all abilities playground.

CONTEXT OF THE WOLLONGONG BOTANIC GARDEN

The Wollongong Botanic Garden is a 27ha site located in Keiraville, Wollongong. It is bounded by the University of Wollongong to the north, and residential developments to the west, south and east.

The Botanic Garden, Mount Keira Summit Park, Puckeys Estate and Korrongulla Wetlands sites combine to form an accurate geographical representation of the City of Wollongong itself, which sits on a narrow coastal plain. Vegetation communities found within the escarpment include sandstone heath, wet and dry sclerophyll forest and rainforest, leading down to the coastal plain with its own unique dunal systems and fresh and saltwater plant communities.

The photographs and maps in the following pages illustrate this context.

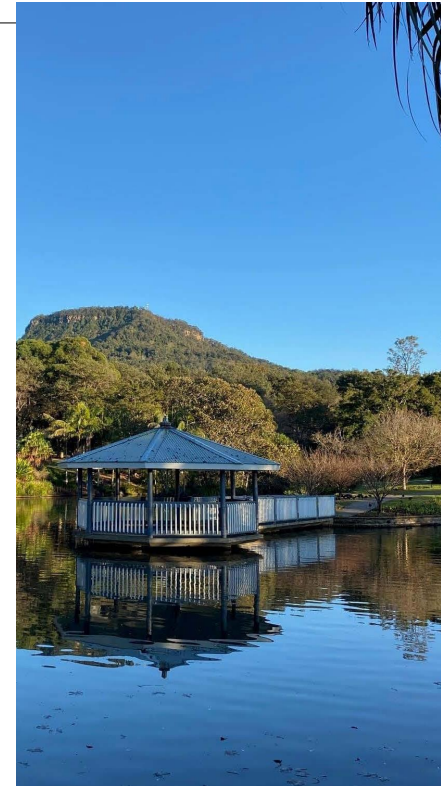
VISION

The Wollongong Botanic Garden is a Regional Botanic Garden of Excellence meeting the diverse visitor experience expectations of the community at the local level, whilst making a valued contribution at a global level through our work in Horticulture, Plant Conservation and Environmental Education.

MISSION

The Vision for the Garden will be realised through two commitments by Council and the Garden management and staff:

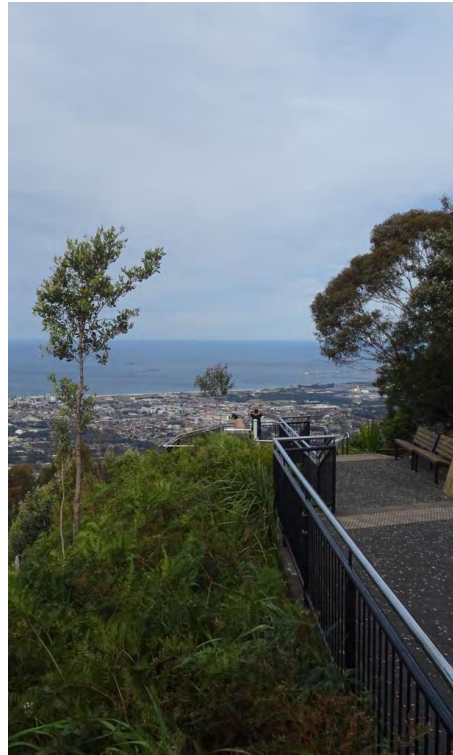
- To deliver a beautifully presented contemporary landscape space for the people of the City of Wollongong that provides a diverse recreational benefit whilst respecting the site's history and its role in supporting broader plant conservation objectives.
- To continue to be innovative educators promoting an awareness and appreciation for the natural environment, and the greater role plants have in supporting our everyday lives.



OVERVIEW

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BOTANIC GARDEN

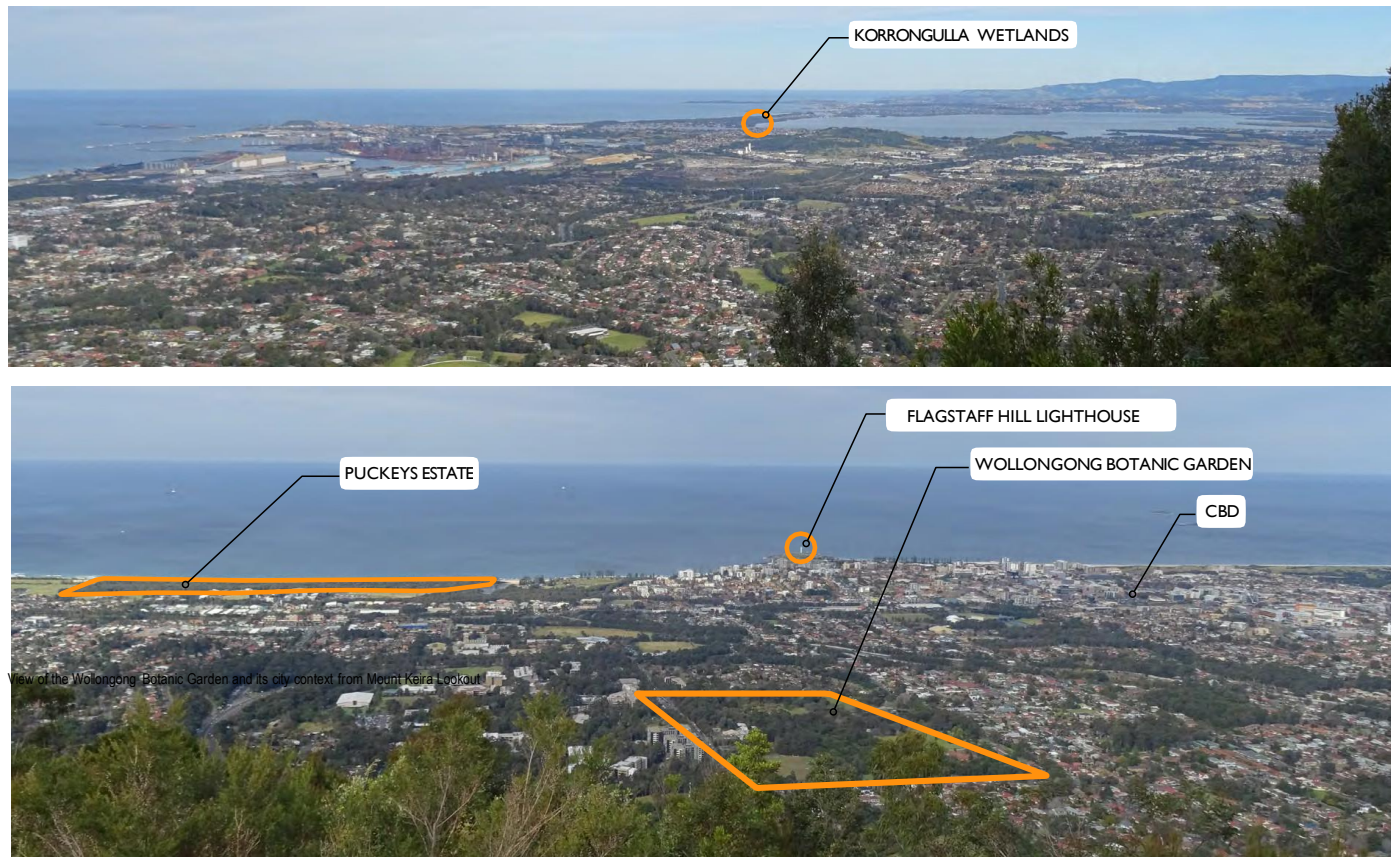
Key periods of development of Garden are identified as follows. This is useful for understanding the historical development of the site and identifying surviving elements that have the potential to interpret key periods.



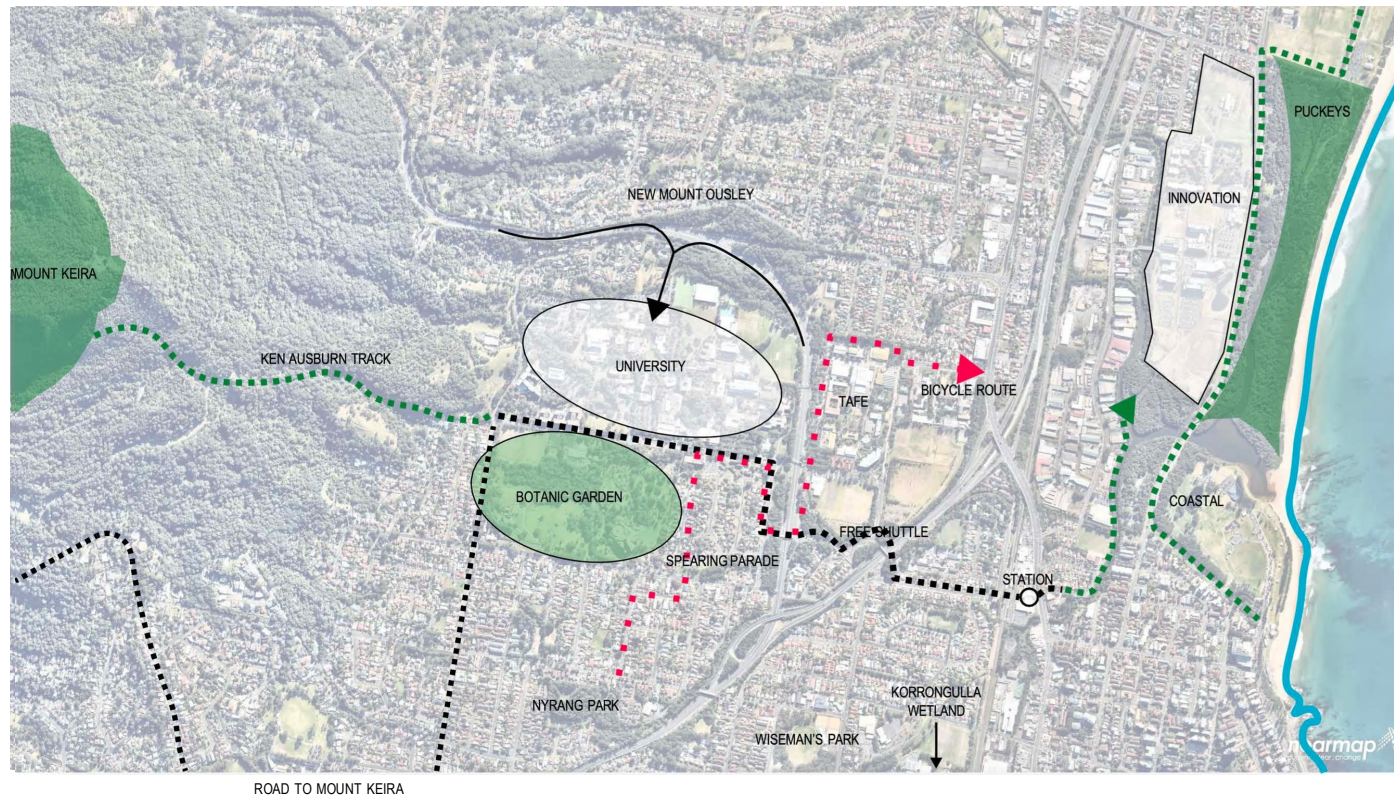
Mount Keira Lookout

KEY PERIOD	DATE RANGE	MANIFESTATION
Aboriginal Occupation	Pre-European Settlement	Vegetated Creek Landform (Mount Keira) Vegetation remnant Turpentine
Rural Estate	1825-1937 Paulsgrove 1825-1900 Fitzgerald 1901-1937	Clearing for Dairy Cratloe Cottage and Fence Claremont Cottage
Hoskins Era	1929-1955 Hoskins Occupation- 1937-1954	Gleniffer Brae House Sorensen Gardens and Planting Paths to Cratloe Cottage and Claremont Cottage Total combined site Fence lines
Botanic Garden Establishment	1955-1976 Spooner Plan 1962-1976 Zonal basis	Spooner design Zonal planting, Strong diagonal entry Service area northeast corner Cratloe Cottage and Claremont Cottage excluded from site Pathways constructed Rose Garden, Lake, Asiatic Zone Framework Planting Sir Joseph Banks Glasshouse RED Scheme Works – concrete paths; brick wall to rose garden; brick path around lake
SCEGGS -Gleniffer Brae	1955-1976	School buildings to southwest Caretaker's Cottage Playing fields, pool site, tennis court site
Botanic Garden Consolidation	1977- 1999 Miller Plan 1977-1988 Habitat based Focus on Illawarra flora	Site expansion to full extent. Association Planting of Natives: Rainforest, wet/dry Sclerophyll, Bog, Moraine, Dryland Garden Exotics grouped in habitat: Succulents, Conifers, Flowering Trees and Shrubs, Temperate, Woodland Nursery relocation, Northfields Ave Gates, Mercury Fountain (Woodward), Kawasaki Bridge, Rotunda in Lake, Service entry move Temple Garden, Cratloe Cottage repurposed as education centre, Leased Property Gleniffer Brae and outbuildings to Wollongong Conservatorium of Music.
Master Plan	2000-current	Towri Bush Tucker Garden, Sandstone Garden, Palm Collection, Tiny Forest Discovery Kitchen Garden, Period Gardens Gleniffer Brae All Abilities Playground, Rotunda, Car parking to Cratloe Cottage

OVERVIEW



OVERVIEW



Wollongong Botanic Garden its City Context

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

OVERVIEW



The Wollongong Botanic Garden 2018

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

INTRODUCTION

A core focus in the early development of this Master Plan was the preparation by the Wollongong Botanic Garden management team of a suite of goals and related objectives for the future of the Garden.

The following five Goal areas were identified:

- Partners and Stakeholders
- Horticulture and Conservation
- Environmental Education and Interpretation
- Sustainable Future
- Our Culture.

Set out below is a written statement for each Goal area, accompanied by a suite of related Objectives that have informed and directed the Master Plan.

1. PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Goal

We will effectively engage with our partners and stakeholders and deliver unique quality experiences and outcomes.

Objectives for Our Community

We will actively engage with the local community through:

- Understanding and addressing the demographic of the local community
- Educating the community in the philosophy of the Wollongong Botanic Garden
- Ensuring our services continue to align with visitor experience and expectations through a range of events and activities
- Identifying with the overall role of a contemporary Botanic Garden

Objectives for Our Friends

We will value the voluntary contribution of the Friends of the Wollongong Botanic Garden and will foster supportive relationships to ensure shared success by:

- promoting the role of the Wollongong Botanic Garden to the wider community.
- Providing dedicated space for activities, use of broader facilities and assisting in raising funds.

Objectives for Our Partners

We will collaborate with a diverse range of partners whose visions align with our own to foster appropriate business, fundraising support outcomes by:

- Ensuring commercial events are appropriate for the site and well supported
- Supporting like-minded organisations on environmental pursuits
- Supporting volunteer groups engaged in gardening, horticulture, natural resources management, and other relevant environmental pursuits.

Objectives for Our Local Associations

We will work collaboratively with other Botanic Gardens, Land Managers and educational institutions to complete our plant conservation work including:

- Southeast Bioregion Working Group
- UOW and TAFE Illawarra
- Primary and High Schools
- Research opportunities (through Bioregion and UOW as above)

Objectives for Our Communication

We will actively listen to our community and lead the conversation on the role of plants in our natural environment by:

- Investigating various forms of communication such as signage, our website, brochures/magazines and social media
- Linking into existing communication systems
- Developing the Wollongong Botanic Garden branding.

2. HORTICULTURE AND CONSERVATION

Goal

We will be the leading regional centre for Horticultural excellence, and make a major contribution to the protection of our local threatened flora.

Objectives for Our Living Plant Collections

We will ensure that the living plant collections are presented to the highest standard by maintaining our:

- Living collections plan
- Provide a database and plant survey commensurate with contemporary Botanic Garden
- Implement and maintain the database
- Integrate database with plant labels and interpretation
- Climate change response strategy
- Horticultural standards guidelines

- Provide operational efficiencies

- Displays relating to contemporary horticulture trends.

- Provide a site wide irrigation system to reduce water usage and provide operational efficiencies

Objectives for Threatened Flora

We will actively participate in the conservation of the world's threatened flora with a specific focus on NSW Southeast Corner and Sydney Basin Bioregions by ensuring that:

- New Botanic Garden living collections have a threatened species focus
- We continue to work with SEBWG on threatened species ex situ actions.

Objectives for Local Biodiversity Support

We will continue to protect and promote local biodiversity through our Botanic Garden nursery by offering:

- Greenplan rate payer subsidised plant sales
- Natural Area service support programs, eg Bushcare, Dunecare
- School biodiversity projects.
- Botanic Garden Living Collection
- Species suitable for urban greening.

Objectives for Biodiversity Outcomes

We will actively work to improve biodiversity outcomes and accessibility within the Botanic Garden annexes through:

- Bushcare volunteers and restoration work
- Protection of EECs
- Signage and infrastructure.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

3. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Goal

We will provide unique and valuable learning experiences and knowledge and teach people about the natural world in which they live.

Objectives for School and Tertiary Education

We will offer unique curriculum-based environmental education programs by delivering:

- Primary school programs
- High school programs
- Tertiary programs.

Objectives for Community Awareness and Education

We will deliver unique environmental education opportunities for the community by delivering:

- School holiday programs
- Adult Education – environment, horticulture, heritage and culture
- Passive/Incidental education – dynamic, adaptive
- Engagement with education service providers to deliver specialised interpretation programs across the indigenous, heritage, environmental, cultural and passive recreation areas
- Market research to undertake service delivery gaps, ie 12-17 year old market.

Objectives for Natural Environment Interpretation

We will continue to utilise our spaces to interpret wider issues about the natural environment into a local setting within the Garden by:

- Providing interpretive signage
- Introducing Citizen Science programs eg plant watch, pollinator counts
- Providing a Global context for local issues.
- Utilising App/QR codes/Virtual tours as appropriate.
- Interpretive gardens and plantings such as tiny forest and Discovery Centre garden

Objectives for Education Partners

We will facilitate learning opportunities for the community through partnerships ie TAFE, community gardens etc through:

- Follow-on type programs, integration with partner organisations
- Community empowerment and capacity building.

Objectives for Unique Learning Opportunities

We will interpret through our Botanic Garden and annexes unique learning opportunities

- Interpret the unique environments and ecosystems
- Increase awareness of EECs and threatened species.

4. SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Goal

We will ensure our impact on the natural and built environment safeguards the Botanic Garden for future generations

Objectives for Our Assets

We will manage our assets efficiently and follow sustainable building guidelines for the design, implementation and management of infrastructure at the Garden by:

- Identifying the current limitations and future requirements for the built assets of Wollongong Botanic Garden.

Objectives for Environmental Management

We will develop an Environmental Management Plan to ensure that the environmental impact of the site is reduced by implementing efficiencies in

- Water use
- Energy consumption
- Waste management
- Minimising the environmental impact of the operations
- Providing a safe and compliant environment for all users.

Objectives for Our Heritage

We will recognise, respect and celebrate our heritage including:

- Gleniffer Brae (Conservation Management Plan).
- Sorensen garden (CMP)
- 50 years of operation (2021)
- Living Collections.

5. OUR CULTURE

Goal

We will ensure our people are skilled, valued and engaged to deliver a Regional Botanic Garden of Excellence.

Objectives for Our Workforce

Our workforce will be adaptable and flexible in meeting the needs of the site and

its customers by:

- Providing an appropriate HR Structure
- Providing staff succession planning including trainees and apprentices.

Objectives for Skills and Knowledge Development

We will deliver opportunities for enhancing skills and knowledge by:

- Providing skill development program/rotations/secondment
- Offering staff exchanges through the BGANZ network.

Objectives for a Safe Workplace

We will provide a safe workplace for all staff and volunteers by:

- Ensuring a safe and compliant environment for all users
- Complying with all WHSE.

Objectives for Our Team Culture

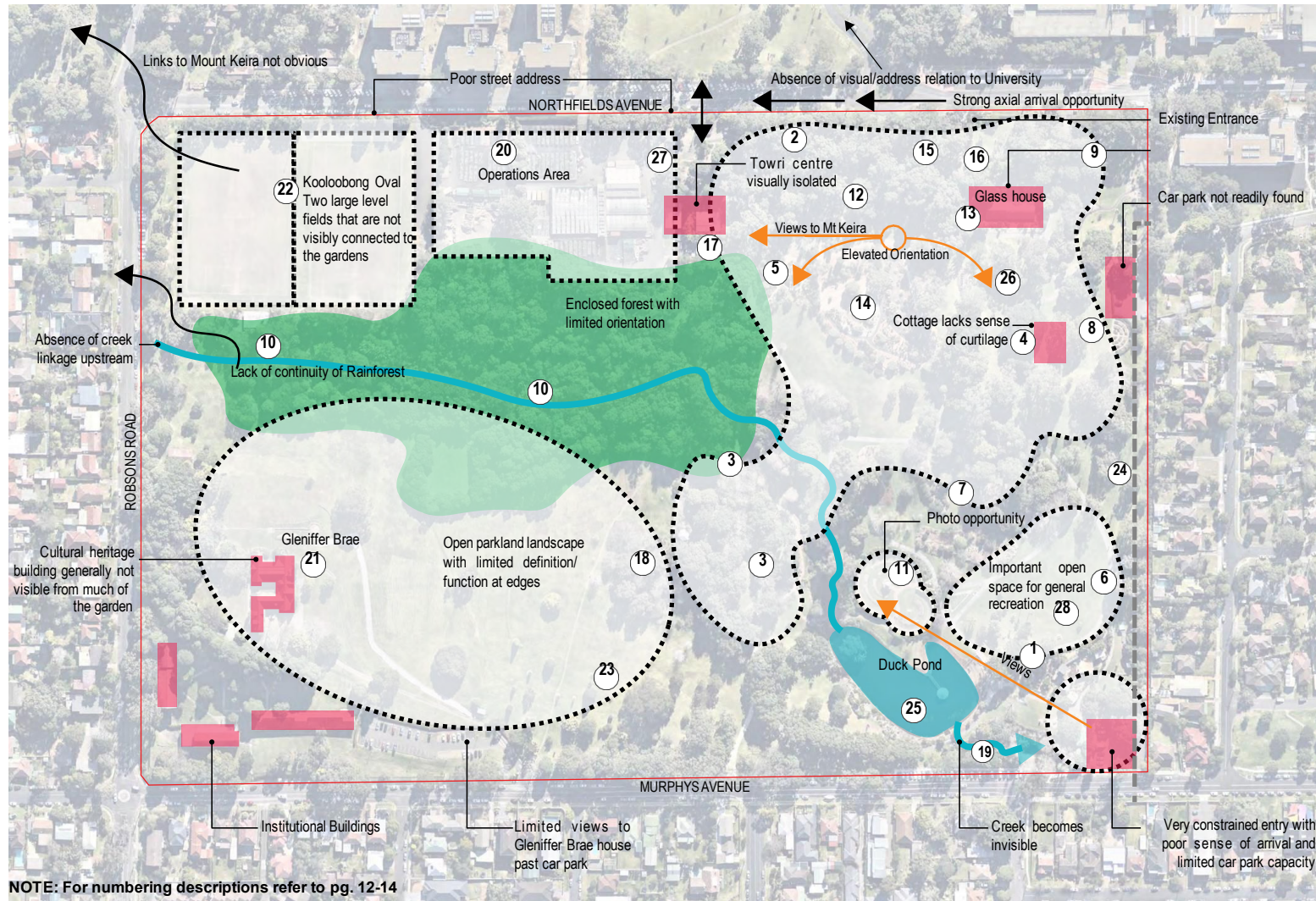
We will promote a positive culture in our team which will value and take pride in all that they do by:

- Providing an environment which supports the team-based culture.

We will have good governance and financial management practices to:

- Provide an environment that facilitates funding opportunities.





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SITE ANALYSIS

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ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following Issues, Constraints and Opportunities were identified in the Masterplan process, through site investigations and consultation with staff and key stakeholders. The map opposite summarises many of these observations.

FUNCTIONALITY

- Garden reads as several separate areas not a combined Botanic Garden
- Orientation and wayfinding when entering and walking around the Garden needs attention
- Garden entry offers a poor sense of arrival (lacks a signature photo opportunity)
- Lack of accessible toilet facilities across the gardens. Existing facilities require updating.
- Lack of site wide irrigation system and coordinated waterways.
- Location of amphitheatre needs to consider service restrictions and parking.

LINKAGES

- Visual and physical connections to Gleniffer Brae Manor House and gardens is limited
- Connectivity to Wollongong University and CBD could be improved
- Encourage University students to spend time in the gardens as well as when passing through.
- Improve connections with other Botanic Garden and plant societies that overlap with our core collections
- Opportunities to link to Wollongong City Council events
- Wet Sclerophyll and Eucalypt gardens link to indigenous planting at the University should be explored
- Softer landscape edge would activate and reinforce Garden boundaries
- Method of transport to site needs to be considered, as does link to Park & Ride at University connecting Botanic Garden to City.
- Links to Mt Keira could be improved, providing a landscape and ecological link from Rainforest Walk to Ken Ausburn track.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Opportunity for an accessible site entry from Northfields Avenue for older/ or people with mobility issues.
- Disability access at the gardens via the new Rainforest Path network
- All Abilities Playground highly accessible
- Opportunity to provide diverse spaces in the garden eg. sensory garden for visually impaired and other groups seeking peaceful/quiet areas.
- Opportunity to provide disability access to Gleniffer Brae and Manor House and Gardens
- New western pedestrian entry into the Rainforest off Robsons Road would increase visitor circulation opportunities.
- Opportunity to Provide manageable range of quality experiences that reinforce "botanicness"
- Encourage accessibility to Annexes (Mr. Keira, Puckey's Estate, Korrongulla Wetlands).

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

- Parking pressure due to proximity to University
- Carparking is not controlled to favour Wollongong Botanic Garden users
- Opportunity to improve parking access to key precincts within the Garden. It is important to separate cars and people
- Opportunity to review optimisation of car parking currently at five locations (Gleniffer Brae, Murphys Avenue, Madoline Street, Depot staff and Greenplan).
- Gleniffer Brae carpark is currently unrestricted. Nighttime usage of Gleniffer Brae requires controlled access afterhours.
- Murphy's Ave carpark maximum has 2-hour restriction which limits community/recreational visitation.
- Depot Staff parking restricted/permit parking is under consideration
- Parking area between the depot/nursery and the sports field used for Greenplan Customers parking on Plant Sale Days, potential to overflow parking

- Coaches – lay by drop off could be explored; a controlled access gate is the preferred outcome with separate parking
- Limited on street parking for events; park and ride could be combined with temporary on-site overflow parking.

WAYFINDING, SIGNAGE AND INTERPRETATION

- Opportunity to grow visitation to Botanic Garden with clearer identity
- Opportunity to reinforce Wollongong Botanic Garden as a 'destination' in its own right, not an 'activation' site
- Explore ways to further improve interpretation of the Garden to a wider audience –eg mobile phone app. multicultural/lingual interpretation, community notice boards, contemporary styling, creative interpretation using different engagement methods, including social media.

PLANT CONSERVATION

- Opportunity to increase public awareness of Conservation work undertaken in the Botanic Garden.
- Opportunity to promote SE Bioregion Partnership in future plant displays with interpretation and continue advancement of regional flora focus within the Garden
- Opportunity to showcase threatened plants in all plant collections - walks designed to take in collections across the gardens site.
- Opportunity to consider Climate Change predictions in selection of showcased plant collections.
- Opportunity to promote local biodiversity through Nursery facility through outreach to increase public awareness.
- Opportunity to promote a variety of habitats and plant communities, through events and promotions.
- Opportunity to celebrate BGCi Accreditation (WBG one of the first seven in world) and promote WBG as an Urban Greening "engine room"
- Opportunity to promote the ecological value of using local natives through Greenplan, Bushcare and Urban Greening Initiatives.

ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

LIVING COLLECTION

Generally, across the Garden there is a need and opportunity to:

- Maintain presentation of living plant collections
- Review taxonomic collections for Climate change predictions
- Continue to build connections with Botanic Gardens and plant societies that overlap with core collections
- Succession planting of trees from 1970s that are ageing
- Continue to develop the Site Plant Survey
- Assess native plant collections/ new collections within a regional needs' framework
- Avoid duplication of exemplar facilities (world class grevillea garden 10km to the north, Millenium Seedbank and proposed herbarium, Mt Annan Botanic Garden)
- Reinforce Collections that reflect mid twentieth century to present
- Review and interpret lower creek

FRAMEWORK AND COLLECTION BASED ISSUES

Framework - Middle Creek Corridor

10. Rainforest Collection

- Opportunity to provide continuity and orientation within Garden
- Continue to develop eastern half of rainforest
- Under current theming review Botanical themes in western half of rainforest
- Maintain Heritage listed view corridors from Gleniffer Brae to north and east which have been compromised by recent planting
- Maintain creek line and associated infrastructure.
- Continue to promote Rainforest as an attraction to increase visitor rates

3. Azalea Bank and Middle Creek Collection

- Promote as earliest part of Garden executed and remnant of Spooner zonal scheme
- Retain and maintain Kawasaki Bridge
- Maintain canopy and creek line
- Opportunity to collaborate with sister city Kawasaki to strengthen Asiatic Garden theme.

ARRIVAL, ORIENTATION AND OPERATIONS

20. Northfields Depot Landscape

- Screens to Northfields Avenue
- Presents as back of house
- Require refurbishment of aging depot buildings and facilities
- Promote the use of regional plants in the Greenplan garden to educate the public.
- Limit operational footprint to limit environmental impact.
- Ensure sustainable building guidelines and energy efficiency
- Consider expansion requirements for research and learning
- Promote public access to staff activity

17. Towri Bush Tucker Garden

- Consult with local First Nations communities to evolve collection

CORE COLLECTIONS AND GARDENS

North Fields Entry (pedestrian entry)

- Limited potential as a major entrance to the site
- Original entry access is undefined and orientation is not intuitive.
- Difficulty in re-establishing as major entry due to location of bus interchange and Northfields Ave roundabout.
- No intuitive orientation
- Original entry axis now undefined
- This entry less relevant to expanded Botanic Garden site,
- Mature canopy limits redevelopment of garden.
- Enhance visual amenity through planting review.

26. Turpentine Lawn

- Five Islands Fountain is valuable asset and to be maintained
- Five Islands Fountain was originally in large urban space
- Provide interpretation of fountain origins and designer

15. Temple Garden

- Popular for weddings and photography.
- Maintain sandstone pathways
- Acknowledge design by Jocelyn Brown through interpretation

13. Sir Joseph Banks Glasshouse

- Main entry axis adjacent to former service area
- Glasshouse requires more height, space and sun access
- Shadowed by significant Leopard Tree.
- Potential for rebuilding as a 'signature' building.

ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

2. Australian Open Forest and Grassland

- Need to review Dry Sclerophyll collection due to incorrect soil type
- Opportunity to showcase different native collections more suited to soil type.

16. Temperate Garden

- Over shaded garden in need of review.

14. Succulent Collection

- Dramatic collection viewed against Mt Keira backdrop a drawcard.

5. Australian Arid Collection

- Need to enhance Dryland Garden with more hard landscaping
- Develop the existing dry creek bed
- Improve relationship: plants / geology / landscape
- Improve sculptural element potential undulation, use of aggregates, dry creek bed
- Potential for Seating under Coolabah tree
- Pathways work well – but require repair and orientation.

12. Sandstone Collection

- Need to enhance the Sandstone Garden by developing the existing dry creek bed.

4. Cratloe Cottage/Education Centre Sustainable Garden

- Opportunity to interpret early uses and fenced garden setting of Cratloe cottage.
- Respect heritage values of cottage by retaining original fabric and interpreting uses
- Provide curtilage and setting that respects heritage values
- Promote as a venue for Botanical Art Group/ Friends/ Volunteer education.
- Potential to showcase Sustainable building practices.
- Encourage use of original name 'Cratloe'

8. Tiny Forest

- The semicircular collection is to be retained and maintained
- Continue linkage to education opportunities

9. Palm Collection

- Potential to improve layout to improve vehicle access.
- Original Service Area (now Palm Collection) relocated
- Enhance entry points and understory.
- Expand cycad collection.

PLEASURE GARDENS

24. Specimen Trees

- Display ornamental Horticulture: Lake / Rose Gardens / Zonal Scheme / Habitat Scheme/Local Native Street Trees require focus
- Potential to bring people into gardens through popular planting
- Opportunity to provide planting ideas to suit residential applications
- Improve wayfinding to improve orientation

19. Lower Creek

- Current entry is small and congested; does not provide an appropriate entry for Botanic Garden
- Limited presentation of collection
- Gates should identify Botanic Garden and link to entries across the site that define the extent of the Garden.
- Toilets, signs, bins and coffee cart detract from entry experience
- Conflicts with popular playground

1. All Abilities Playground

- Renew the playground
- Playground should relate to the Wollongong Botanic Garden Collection
- Opportunity for interactive play based on collections
- Draw users from playground into Garden collection
- Potential for kids to draw parents into gardens
- Potential for nature play inclusion
- Priority for food and coffee outlet close by.

25. Lake and surrounding planting

- Retain Canna collection which is seasonal and spectacular
- Address Lake edge – depth control
- Address lack of shade to the duck feedings
- Address Lake depth currently inadequate at around 600mm versus original design depth of over 5m
- Provide silt trap to prevent silting.
- Review Lower Creek
- Remove Suckering Populus sp. and Taxodium sp. in lower creek.
- Potential for collaboration with sister city Kawasaki through Japanese Kawasaki Bridge and Teahouse.

ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

11. Rose Garden

- Retain exemplar rose garden representative of the local climate
- Potential to reintroduce perennials to roses, to supplement beds in winter
- Potential to reinforce design features around sundial
- Maintain recognition of The Friends of the Wollongong Botanic Garden
- Retain Tribute to stolen generation plaque in Rose Garden
- Promote relationship with NSW Rose Society which has social value.
- Maintain and enhance Rotunda (popular for weddings and photos).

28. Fig Lawn

- Currently the only practical cinema location in the Botanic Garden
- Provide car parking and access and facilities to other locations
- Proximity to residential areas is problematic with noise at night

7. Flowering Trees and Shrubs Garden

- Review taxonomic collections to promote plant family.

HERITAGE CULTURE ARTS

21. Gleniffer Brae / Sorensen Garden

- Respect heritage curtilage of the State listed Heritage Item- house and garden
- Interpret historical significance of Gleniffer Brae site
- Identify and promote the Sorensen Garden collection as a cultural garden.
- Reinstate Sorensen Garden as expressed in Conservation Management Plan

- Integrate Gleniffer Brae and the rest of the Botanic Garden
- Reinstate views to Gleniffer Brae
- School buildings present to Murphys Ave and Robsons Road
- Recover lost views to and from Gleniffer Brae
- Interpret heritage values of site
- Potential for 'Multi Use Cultural Space' on site
- Potential to utilise different site levels
- Limited functionality of amphitheatre, appropriate facilities required to allow for use
- Remove Amphitheatre planting as limits use of the amphitheatre
- Planting intrudes upon Sorensen landscape defined by creek vegetation.
- Review of the Amphitheatre drainage
- Provide power/ services
- Space can accommodate 2000 people
- Utilise open space between Woodlands Garden and existing amphitheatre for larger events
- Potential to link into Northfields bus drop off.

23. Conifer Lawn

- Conifer Lawn forms a part of eastern slopes of Gleniffer Brae
- Conifer area could accommodate additional uses
- Planting beds have been removed over time.
- Reconsider collection in this area to better link to Gleniffer Brae.
- Potential to enhance setting of Gleniffer Brae
- Potential for Arboretum style planting to illustrate a diversity of trees.

18. Woodland Garden

- Woodland garden features plants predominately from northern hemisphere.
- Improve communication about role of plants in the collections with signage
- Reinstate suitable canopy species to protect understorey plants where trees have been removed due to poor health.

issue.

- Potential to reinstate canopy to protect sensitive plants to sunlight.
- Turpentine's use of water, limits collection that can be grown.
- Problem with water supply and pressure are currently limiting success of collection
- Require thematic review of the collection.

RECREATION EVENTS AND SPORTS

22. Kooloobong Oval

- Isolated large two - level area.
- Oval identifies as part of the Botanic Garden through planting
- Within State Heritage Listing of Gleniffer Brae
- Sporting fields are a permissible use and currently leased to Wollongong University for soccer
- Provide links to Mt Keira
- Primary use for sport
- Carpark used by Greenplan Nursery parking and Kooloobong Oval users
- Increased university accommodation and movement through gardens
- Potential to pursue synergies with the University at academic and research level, as well as sport

ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ANNEXES

- Promote Botanic Garden walking trail linking Mt Keira - Botanic Garden and potentially Puckey's Estate via bus
- Link Botanic Garden and annexes to Aboriginal plant uses and culture

Korrongulla Wetlands:

- Lack of formalised street presence
- Focus on wetland and aquatic species and range of ecological systems with high conservation value
- Funded by opportunistic grant funding
- Require specific Plan of Management

Puckeys Estate:

- Puckeys Estate has greater potential for public visitation
- Has major maintenance program by Wollongong Botanic Garden
- First biobank in Wollongong provides perpetual funding
- Potential for greater interpretation of collection
- Focus on contractor restoration with bush care assistance
- Require specific Plan of Management

Mt. Keira

- Plan of Management guides actions
- Vision and planning principles adopted by Council
- Iconic city attraction and photo opportunity

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- Engage with community through range of events and activities.
- Garden provides critical open greenspace for increased population in the area.
- Support the Friends of the Gardens to promote garden in community.
- Promote Environmental educational opportunities through interpretation programs.
- Promote National Tree Day to schools
- Expand Greenplan on the road to connect and educate.
- Engage lower socio-economic areas with Greenplan via plant package for new homes
- Develop the connections between the history and heritage of the site and education e.g. Victorian Gardens by Hoskins, Aboriginal heritage and how that underpins what we do eg. Towri Garden Collection
- Consider Botanic Gardens in cities? What it means for the future?

- Engage University students in the Garden rather than just shortcut. Cater for increased connection with International Students from University of Wollongong with cultural and plant education

- Foster partnerships with TAFE and community gardens

- Promote Sculptures' bi-annual acquisition competition event. Improved sculptural presence – may occur naturally as hosting the bi-annual Sculpture in the Garden Exhibition in the gardens

- Promote Health & Wellbeing as a benefit of landscape in long term

- Use sustainable environmental design principles for such things as material selection and construction techniques

- Promote the Botanic Garden to be seen as an educator

- Promote the Glasshouse as an educational tool

- Promote Botanic Garden's Day – duty to educate – how we deliver and link our workshops

- Expand the role as a hub or advocate of the sustainable educators network

- Extend school holiday program, night education, bushwalks, going out to schools for garden education, linkage between the Scouts and the community;

- Promote Botanic Garden as a site for bird spotting

- Interpretation of early farm use at Cratloe Cottage

- Partner with successful community gardens throughout the city, teach people the basics, then send them to a community garden near their home – linking education with social outcomes

- Recognise and interpret historical layers in the Master Plan, and within the garden – signage

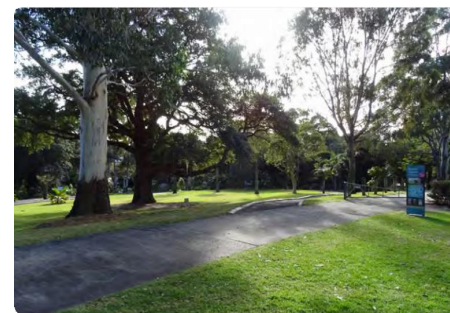
- Recognise importance of work of Deane Miller – Woodland / Flowering Trees and Shrubs / Dryland / Wet and Dry Sclerophyll Gardens etc as well as Peter Spooner.



Dryland Garden



Succulent Collection looking toward Illawarra escarpment



Palm Collection near Madoline entry

ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Aerial photograph of the Duck Pond

ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



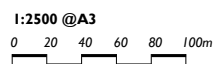
Greenplan Nursery looking toward Northfields Avenue



Succulent Collection

COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Need to balance commercialism with environmentalism focus
- Potential to provide Twilight walks and Nocturnal walks
- Gardens are a popular wedding venue
- Cafe needed for site – could have a cultural focus on bush tucker food, part of menu and a flower of the week on tables
- Provide takeaway kiosk at entrance
- Consider inviting garden clubs and horticultural societies to hold their meetings and workshops in the Garden
- Promote unique programs at the Botanic Garden focusing on our point of difference and not duplicating existing programs within and out of Council
- Promote paid programs here that no one else does internally or externally with an overarching marketing plan
- Promote community garden tour guide and kitchen garden workshops for nearby student communities, garden clubs, Probus and the public
- Link nursery, education and technical team – conservation seed bank program getting schools to adopt a rare and endangered species.
- Partner with the Discovery Space at Wollongong University which also uses Botanic Garden for lunching for schools
- New built infrastructure to incorporate staff input of designed open spaces for inclement weather education, gathering point spaces, indoor/outdoor areas for activities, rest points, sustainability education and garden spaces
- Promote coach tours – visit Illawarra, Mt Keira, Nan Tien Temple, Kiama Blow Hole. Low end, short, targeted tours
- Link into Destination Wollongong activity-based events
- Link into Cruise market. A trialed stopover at Wollongong was successful.
- Link into national curriculum-based programs of science, history and sustainability at the core of curriculum ideas
- Refine cafe location through feasibility study
- Well suited to benefit from university users
- Garden centre cafes provide a different offering to Uni/Campus setting, fast food)
- Promote short visit options – 10 min walk.



ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

VIEWS AND VISTAS

One of the most appealing aspects of the Garden is its landscape setting, with striking views to Mount Keira to the west and to the coast and City to the east.

The successful growth of much of the planting in the Garden over many years has progressively reduced views to the Garden's wider landscape context. While the Garden now offers the appeal of both open views and enclosed spaces, it will be important for the enduring landscape and botanical values of the Garden to ensure that the best views into, across and out of the Garden are conserved.

The map opposite and the adjoining photographs record the most significant existing views in the Garden, as documented in the Gleniffer Brae CMP (Conservation Management Plan). The documentation of these views needs to be used to ensure that new plantings and maintenance of existing planting actively frames and enhances the views, so that they are not lost over time.

There is also an opportunity to create on the ground 'reminders' of these views by placing seats in the best view locations with adjoining interpretation of the setting and view.



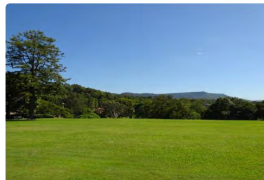
VIEWPOINT 1- Significant View (CMP)



VIEWPOINT 2- Significant View (CMP)



VIEWPOINT 3- Significant View (CMP)



VIEWPOINT 4- Significant View (CMP)



VIEWPOINT 5- Significant View (CMP)



VIEWPOINT 6- Significant View (CMP)



VIEWPOINT 7- Significant View (CMP)



VIEWPOINT 8- Significant View (CMP)



VIEWPOINT 9- Significant View



VIEWPOINT 10- Significant View



VIEWPOINT 11- Significant View



VIEWPOINT 12- Significant View



VIEWPOINT 13- Significant View

PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

This section draws on the foregoing analysis of the issues, opportunities and constraints to outline the Principles that meet the Goals and Objectives set out in the Overview chapter at the beginning of this document.

The Principles are followed by a Strategic Framework that underpins the design proposals and concepts illustrated in the subsequent Master Plan.



PLANNING, DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

Context. (Achieves Goal 1)

- Connecting the Gardens to their broader landscape
- Nurturing synergies through partnership with the University
- Embracing the local community.

Garden's Focus. (Achieves Goal 2 & 3)

- Collection and display of plants from around the world framed in an Australian landscape setting
- Commitment to plant conservation of past and present threatened species in partnership with other Botanic Gardens
- Focus on education ranging from community awareness through schools programs to tertiary research
- Local, regional and national educational, business and community partnerships

Visitor Experience. (Achieves Goal 1 & 3)

- Making the arrival experience inspiring
- Elevating the Garden's botanical values for all visitors
- Seamlessly blending the recreational and botanical values
- Ensuring opportunities for activity and quiet reflection
- Enhancing informal education and awareness
- Combining ephemeral with permanent Collections

Access and Circulation. (Achieves Goal 1)

- Maximising the effectiveness of the arrival experience
- Establishing intuitive wayfinding and ease of orientation
- Offering universal access
- Maintaining a circulation hierarchy

Environment and Heritage. (Achieves Goal 3 & 4)

- Maximising ecological connectivity
- Integrating the story of the site through its landscape

Character and Identity. (Achieves Goal 1,2 & 3)

- Maintaining regional landscape framework
- Integrating the cultural and scientific
- Promoting the role of the creek through the Garden

Built Form and Infrastructure. (Achieves Goal 5)

- Optimising and consolidating built form footprint
- Co-locating complimentary activities
- Maximising indoor/outdoor relationships

Sustainability. (Achieves Goal 4 & 2)

- Extending biodiversity
- Managing and expressing water in the landscape
- Mitigating heat island effects through vegetation
- Managing waste sustainability

Management and Maintenance. (Achieves Goal 5)

- Maintaining user friendly management models
- Tailoring facilities to resources and expertise.

Signage and Interpretation (Achieves Goal 1 & 3)

- Understand the importance of the site.
- Interpret in the most appropriate way.
- Best utilise the broad range of communication media.

Plant Diversity and Plant Conservation (Achieves Goal 2)

- Provide database and plant survey commensurate with contemporary Botanic Garden
- Develop climate change response strategy
- Enforce horticultural standards guidelines
- Implement and maintain the database
- Promote displays relating to contemporary horticulture trends
- Provide a side wide irrigation system to reduce water usage and provide operational efficiencies
- Integrate database with plant labels and interpretation

PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGY

STRATEGIC RATIONALE AND CORE ELEMENTS

The application of these Principles in the Master Plan reflects five Goals for the future of the Garden ensuring that the Garden will be:

Locally Integrated – embedded in the landscape and culture of the city, ranging from geographic connections between bush and sea, to engaged synergies with the University and the wider community and business (see map opposite).

Regionally Significant - playing a central role in conserving and displaying threatened species climatically suited to the Garden, while performing an educational role for the region covering primary school to tertiary academic research.

Nationally Connected – maintaining partnerships with other Botanic Gardens across the nation in sharing collections, research findings and species conservation and partnerships, including with OEI, Bushcare and Landcare Groups and Land Custodians and the BGANZ which represents 2,500 Botanic Gardens.

Globally Referenced – incorporating iconic species from around the world that provide visitors with an international perspective on the critical role that plants play in the health of our environment and our day to day wellbeing. (This includes being globally referenced online to conservation work and BGCI accreditation. Botanic Garden supports Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, with Target 8 having 75% of threatened plant species in existing collections, preferably in country of origin and at least 20% available for recovery and restoration programs."

CORE ELEMENTS

The core conceptual elements that underpin the design of the Master Plan include:

Structure and Precincts – a landscape framework that forms the setting for a series of connected visitor, management and character precincts

Access and Circulation – a legible and logical arrival sequence and an intuitive

circulation flow and hierarchy

Collections and Gardens – a clear and coherent thematic strategy for the nature, purpose and layout of the gardens across the entire site. In essence, defining the Gardens' inherent 'botanic-ness'

Visitor Overlays – a layering of uses and functions that complement the core purpose of the Garden such as wayfinding, public art, interpretation etc

Design Language – a consistent approach to all design elements across the Garden that are unique to this site, and which reflect the Garden's mid/late 20th Century origins

Education – with the immediately adjacent University of Wollongong, opportunities for collaboration in academics such as research and conservation. The Botanic Garden is also an optimal venue for introducing Australian culture to international students.



The diagram above illustrates the important relationships that should be fostered between the Garden, its Annexes and its geographical context. As importantly, the relationship to the University and to the local community offers opportunities for the Garden to embrace and nurture the values of science, learning, culture and recreation.



PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGY

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The principal organising element that establishes the structural 'architecture' of the Garden is the Middle Creek corridor which runs diagonally across the site generally in a northwest/southeast alignment.

This natural feature fulfils a number of roles in the design and layout of the Gardens including:

- A landscape setting and backdrop comprised of locally native trees that contains individual gardens and collections (eg rainforest, woodland, riparian)
- A pedestrian spine that connects and frames the five distinct precincts within the Garden (see below)
- An ecological corridor that links the Garden to its wider landscape context and outlying 'Annexes' (ie Mount Keira and Puckeys Estate).

Middle Creek and its associated riparian Rainforest plantings therefore form the central organising spine for the Garden's various Precincts.

GARDEN PRECINCTS

The map opposite illustrates the six distinctive Garden Precincts that are proposed to be used in all aspects of the Garden's planning design and management to retain and enhance their varying functions and characteristics, as described below.

A - Administration and Operations

This precinct is an active interface with the multiple activities associated with the day to day operations of the Garden, administration, depot and nursery.

B - Core Collections and Gardens

The precinct offers direct address to the University, reflecting the importance of the synergies and partnerships between the two organisations.

This precinct lies immediately adjoining the Administration and Operations precinct and reflects its role as the core botanic focus of the Garden. Offering an immersive experience for the visitor that is wholly centred on thematic collections replicating a gallery-style experience, which offers the visitor an intuitive self-guided tour through a series of connected gardens (see further details below).

C - Pleasure Gardens

This precinct, located in the southeast quarter of the Garden reflects its already popular recreational focus for local visitors, offering a large all-abilities playground, a duck pond and gazebo, a rose garden (popular for weddings) and a large, sloped lawn that hosts an annual outdoor cinema season every summer.

The choice of the name Pleasure Gardens for this precinct draws an important

distinction from a parkland; while this precinct will have a strong recreational focus it will still retain a Botanic Garden orientation, being framed by a landscape of plant collections with a particular emphasis on seasonal colour and interest

D - Heritage, Culture and Arts

This precinct focuses on the heritage buildings and landscape curtilage of Gleniffer Brae. The extensive estate style landscape (with its remnant tree plantings by Paul Sorensen) offers an ideal opportunity to interpret the history and evolution of this landscape and buildings, while maintaining the continuity of its uses (music, arts and functions).

E - Recreation and Sports

The large two-level nature of this precinct sporting events use. While the principal use of this precinct at present is focused on field sports and is used by the University and the local community, the space remains part of the Garden landholdings.

The perimeter planting reflective of the rest of the garden.

F - Middle Creek Framework

The character of Middle Creek changes as it descends through the Garden, starting as a Rainforest in its upper sections, giving way to ornamental gardens on its banks before opening into the Lake and from there to the southeast corner of the Garden.

COLLECTIONS AND GARDENS

All precincts will contain gardens with a focus on botanic displays and settings that relate to the intended user experience for that precinct. In summary these collections - numbered on the map opposite - will relate to their respective Precincts as follows:

Precinct A – this is the Administration and Operations precinct and will include large iconic trees within demonstration gardens as an introduction.

Precinct B – this precinct forms the core of the garden collections and is the immersive botanic gardens experience –based broadly on the original Spooner layout, including collections 2,4,5,8,9 and 12-17.

Precinct C – this focuses on collections with popular appeal particularly with seasonal colour and interest. This Precinct which houses collections 6,7 and 11 may have more of a garden approach that would relate to visitors own gardens.

Precinct D – this cultural precinct provides opportunities to revisit and reinforce the original Sorensen plantings to assist in giving more shape to the landscape which is presently quite loose in form. The opportunity to include the woodlands and rainforest gardens to frame the edges of the open lawns can also be explored

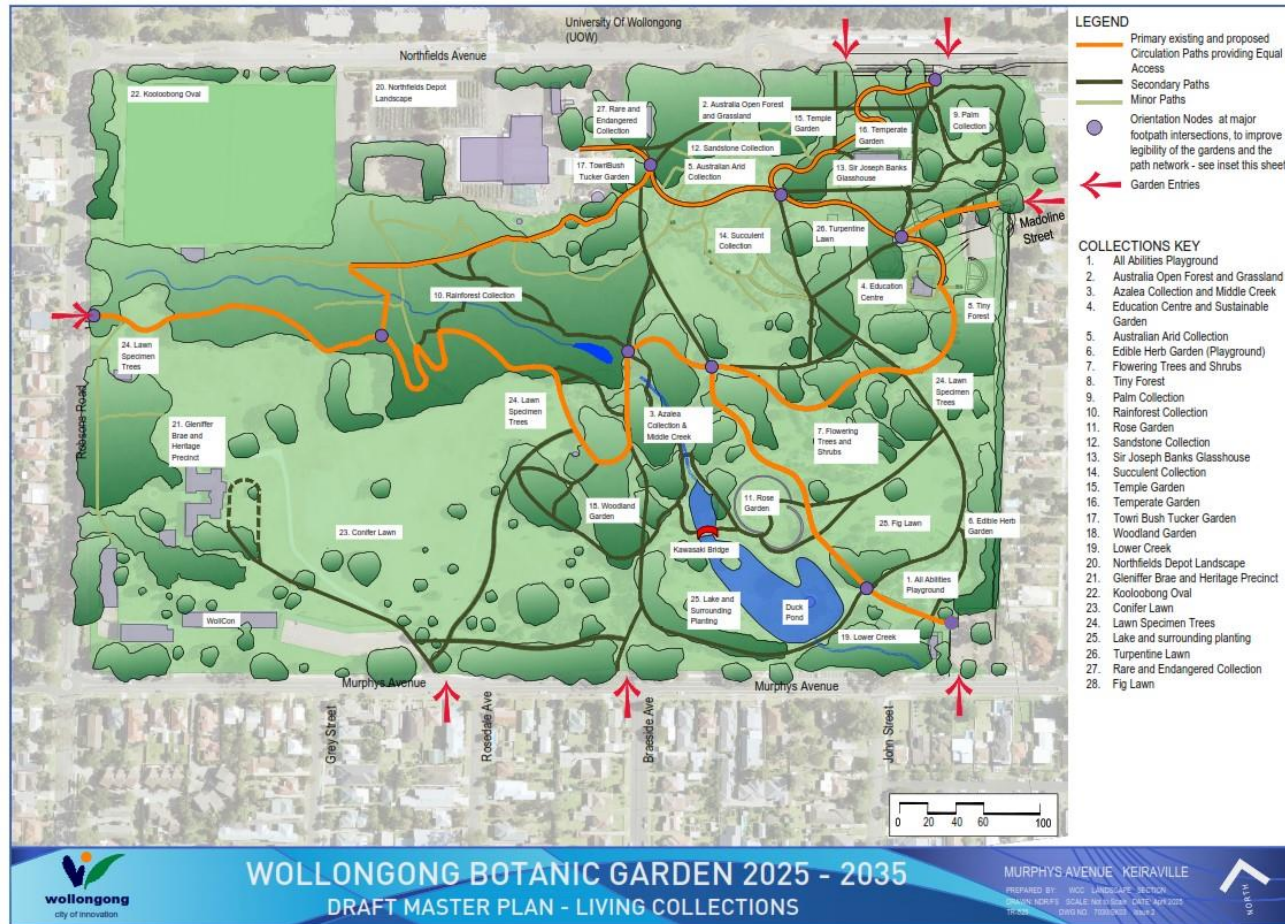
Precinct E – this precinct is focused on a large, two-level oval area suitable for sports. The landscape of this space should continue with a bushland focused framework of planting within which individual botanical specimens are highlighted.

Precinct F – the principal collection focus in this precinct centres on the rainforest collection with Asian planting in Middle Creek and deciduous ornamental collection woodland to lower creek.

DESIGN LANGUAGE

One of the most distinguishing features of the Gardens is its mid/late 20th Century origins (including Gleniffer Brae) and this suggests an opportunity to adopt a design language that reflects aspects of the late Modernist era, including broad organic forms and landscape layouts (see the Precedents section later in this document).





CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - LIVING COLLECTIONS

Collection	Collection Type	Precinct	Current Condition	Future Management Actions
1. All Abilities Playground	N/A	C. Pleasure Gardens	Mixed plantings to soften hard landscaping.	Retain landscape to support playground. High use part of garden. Planting theme to ensure interaction and inspiration of children. Playground towards end of current life span so renewal likely in next 5-10 years.
2. Australia Open Forest and Grasslands	Habitat collections	B. Core Collections and Gardens	Dry and Wet Sclerophyll forest plants from the East coast of Australia. Mainly a Eucalypt Canopy and understorey of Banksia, Doryanthes, grasses and ferns.	Retain Collection. Refine species in collection to enhance diversity of Wet and Dry sclerophyll communities. Develop collections to enhance this diverse display area.
3. Azalea Bank and Middle Creek	Taxonomic / Historical significance	F. Rainforest and Creekline Corridor	A mainly Asian themed area with traditional planting including Azalea, Rhododendron, Camellia, Maples, Dawn Redwoods, Swamp Cypress, Iris, Lillies and Cherry Trees.	Retain Collection. Retain the original plantings within the Botanic Garden, some of the Azalea collections requires replacing with fresh stock. Develop exemplar Japanese garden, building on relationships with Kawasaki.
4. Education Centre and Sustainable Garden	Educational	B. Core Collections and Gardens	A sustainable home grown produce garden including food plants, herbs and ornamental plantings. Examples of recycled / upcycled elements incorporated into landscape, visually this garden conflicts with the surrounding landscape, and lacks interpretive signage explaining its purpose.	Review the collection. Continue current plantings until use for the building is decided. Future building use to determine future collections, ie domestic produce garden that compliments the history of Cratloe cottage and a cottage style landscape, as applicable.
5. Australian Arid Collection	Taxonomic/Habitat	B. Core Collections and Gardens	A focus on inland arid plant species from areas with extremely low rainfall to showcase adaptation made by plants in this environment and highlight the differing evolution from the exotic neighbours in the Succulent Collection.	Retain Collection. Future plantings are to ensure the collection remains a distinct contrast to sandstone Garden. Install interpretive signage that compares low rainfall plant adaptations from different countries.
6. Edible Herb Garden (Play-ground)		C. Pleasure Gardens	Herb collection for use by visitors	Review the collection - Not situated with enough sun to maintain a high level of display and production, review location and requirement.
7. Flowering Trees and Shrubs	Taxonomic	C. Pleasure Gardens	Mainly exotic species showcasing flowering trees and shrubs from 13 plant families.	Retain Collection. Maintain under current theming, minimal proposed changes to collections, with the exception of species enhancements, and replacement of failing sections of the collection to enhance displays. Potential to add plant families not yet represented.

Collection	Collection Type	Precinct	Current Condition	Future Management Actions
8. Tiny Forest	Habitat collections	B. Core Collections and Gardens	Formerly the Herb Garden, this area was redeveloped to showcase the Tiny Forest concept as part of the Urban Green Strategy. This collection represents the plant species found locally in the Coastal Plains and Foothills environments surrounding the Botanic Garden.	Retain Collection. Continue current use to showcase the Tiny Forest concept and use as an educational tool across its lifespan as the forest grows and develops.
9. Palm Collection	Taxonomic	B. Core Collections and Gardens	A collection of rare, endangered and uncommon palm species.	Retain Collection. Continue to develop this collection and species diversity with a focus on the understorey level to enhance display. Continue to develop interpretive signage that highlights the environmental impacts causing these plants to become endangered in habitat.
10. Rainforest Collection	Habitat collections	F. Rainforest and Creekline Corridor	Rainforest collections with a native focus on the Illawarra and East Coast, but also displaying exotic collections from Lord Howe Island, Norfolk Island and New Caledonia.	Retain Collection. Continue to develop Illawarra, regional, east coast Australian Rainforest. Develop western end of the collection to showcase local Illawarra specimen trees to support Urban Greening. Continue to develop accessible pathway to provide a genuine rainforest experience for all.
11. Rose Garden	Taxonomic	C. Pleasure Gardens	A collection displaying many rose cultivars including Hybrid Tea, Floribunda, Old Fashioned, Weeping and Standards. A diverse perennial border surrounds the rose garden.	Retain Collection. Maintain and develop under current theming. Bed layout redesign and opening up walls under review. Perennial border to continue as showpiece display within the garden.
12. Sandstone Garden	Habitat collections	B. Core Collections and Gardens	A collection of plants from the shallow nutrient poor sandstone areas found in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven including grass trees, native conifers and Banksia.	Retain Collection. Maintain and develop under current theming. Develop interpretive signage that highlights Australian Plant species adaptations.
13. Sir Joseph Banks Glass-house	Habitat collections	B. Core Collections and Gardens	Representing plants from around the world from the Dry Tropics and Wet Tropics, that need to grow under a controlled environment in Wollongong's climate.	Review collection and infrastructure in line with asset renewal.
14. Succulent Collection	Taxonomic / Habitat	B. Core Collections and Gardens	A collection of species found growing in the arid regions of the world, with a focus on the Americas and Africa. Highlights adaptations made to survive in arid climates that differ from Australian Native species.	Retain Collection. Maintain and develop under current theming with a view to diversify the species of succulents within the collection. Interpretive signage to highlight plant adaptation comparisons between Australian Dryland and succulent collections.
15. Temple Garden	Historic Significance	B. Core Collections and Gardens	Ornamental display.	Retain basic structure of the garden surrounding the temple.

Collection	Collection Type	Precinct	Current Condition	Future Management Actions
16. Temperate Garden	Ornamental	B. Core Collections and Gardens	Protected microclimate growing more delicate species from ferns to ornamentals and fruit trees.	Review Collection. Failing infrastructure requires this collection and infrastructure to be reviewed. Open up temperate area to improve access and create a visual line of sight of glasshouse collections whilst maintaining protected environment and a quiet and restorative space to sit and reflect.
17. Town Bush Tucker Garden	Educational	B. Core Collections and Gardens	An education collection showcasing native Australian plants used in Aboriginal culture for food, medicine and shelter with a focus on Illawarra species.	Maintain and develop under current theming.
18. Woodland Garden	Habitat collections	C. Pleasure Gardens	A cool climate plant display of trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials of the Northern Hemisphere.	Retain and review collection. Review and diversify plant collections and re-establish deciduous canopy in areas it has declined or been lost.
19. Lower Creek	Habitat collections	F. Rainforest and Creekline Corridor	A poorly managed part of the garden with two conflicting collections that currently create a confused landscape. Northern hemisphere deciduous trees conflict with a partly planted local rainforest corridor planted circa 2000.	Retain and review collection, remove failing tree specimens and re-establish canopy for a healthy riparian corridor. Changes to adjacent infrastructure will occur in 2-5 year timeframe which may impact this area.
20. Northfield Depot Landscape	Conservation / Biodiversity Collections	A. Operational Area	Infrastructure under review/renewal program.	Existing collections showcase species produced for Bushcare and Greenplan in a highly landscaped form.
21. Gleniffer Brae and Heritage Precinct	Heritage collection	D. Heritage Culture and Arts	Sorensen designed landscape and planting.	Retain Collection. Garden to be retained and managed in accordance with Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management plan and Sorensen design.
22. Kooloobong Oval		E. Recreation, Events and Sports	Mixed tree perimeter with no real theme.	Maintain existing boundary tree plantings to retain perimeter character.
23. Conifer Lawn	Taxonomic	D. Heritage Culture and Arts	Mixed conifer collection	Refine and Retain Collection Refine collection to focus on Araucariaceae planted as lawn specimens - Araucaria, Agathis, and Wollemia genus.

Collection	Collection Type	Precinct	Current Condition	Future Management Actions
24. Lawn Specimen Trees		Garden Wide	Mixed	Expand palette of specimen trees across gardens. Eastern Boundary of garden from Discovery Centre to All Abilities playground requires an enhancement to the existing vegetation buffer.
25. Lake and surrounding planting		C. Pleasure Gardens	Canna border, connecting to Middle Creek Planting, with mixed natives used in design of S/SW bank.	Retain North side of pond plantings with a focus on colour and water reflection including deciduous flowering trees. Enhance plantings on S/SW bank to improve the view across the pond.
26. Turpentine Lawn	Specimens / Taxonomic collections	B. Core Collections and Gardens	A number of existing Eucalypt specimens, Cycad, Myrtaceae, Banksia and Proteaceae Collections	Retain Collections. Continue to develop Proteaceae and Cycad as appropriate.
27. Rare and Endangered Collection	Taxonomic	B. Core Collections and Gardens	A collection of rare and endangered Australian plant species with a focus on East Coast. Planted around the existing Administration Building and Carpark	Retain and replicate collection. Collection to be replicated to plant place species within their habitat throughout the rainforest, dryland, and sclerophyll collections as part of a new Rare and Endangered walk.
28. Fig Lawn		C. Pleasure Gardens	A collection of Palms, Pines, Figs and Eucalyptus microcorys planted in adhoc layout. Some of the fig specimens have failed. High use area of the garden for recreation and shade is critical.	Revise Collection. Work to remove palm species with sharp spines as difficult to maintain and pose risk in this high use recreational area. Review and replant trees to enhance pleasure garden feel whilst remaining open for recreation and events.

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - LIVING COLLECTIONS



Orange Botanic Gardens



Waterview in Bicentennial Park



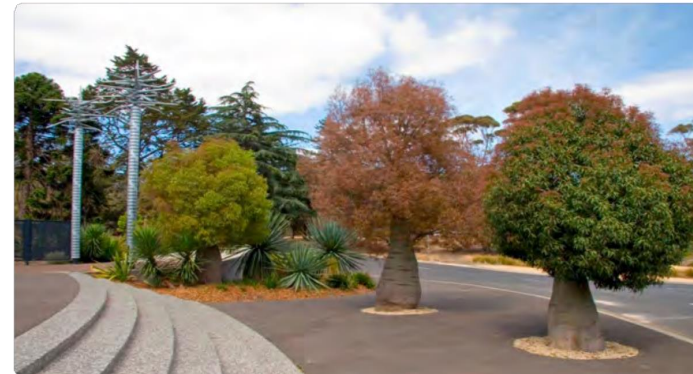
Wisley Gardens



Waterview in Bicentennial Park



Geelong Botanic Gardens



Geelong Botanic Gardens



Geelong Botanic Gardens



Geelong Botanic Gardens

