

MERRIWA PARK LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, and pay our respects to their elders past present and emerging, recognising their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

Issue	Title	Date	Prepared	Checked
1	Merriwa Park Analysis Report + Landscape Master Plan	22/10/2021	HZ	ZC/NM
2	Merriwa Park Analysis Report + Landscape Master Plan	05/11/2021	HZ	ZC
3	Merriwa Park Analysis Report + Landscape Final Master Plan	04/03/2022	HZ	ZC
4	Merriwa Park Landscape Final Master Plan Report	17/03/2022	HZ	ZC
5	Merriwa Park Landscape Final Master Plan Report	30/03/2022	HZ	ZC

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INTRODUCTION

Merriwa Park is a large, beautiful park, tucked away within the Wangaratta CBD. The park acts as part of the gateway that greets visitors to the Wangaratta CBD from the west, via Ryley Street.

Apart from its wide-open lawns and historic red gums forest, the park also consists of a number of features including, but not limited to:

- A fernery;
- Tennis club (22 courts);
- Concert sound shell with a grassed amphitheatre (primarily used for annual Christmas event);
- Playground
- BBQ and shelter facilities;
- Public toilets and;
- An ornamental lake/lagoon which encircles the park.

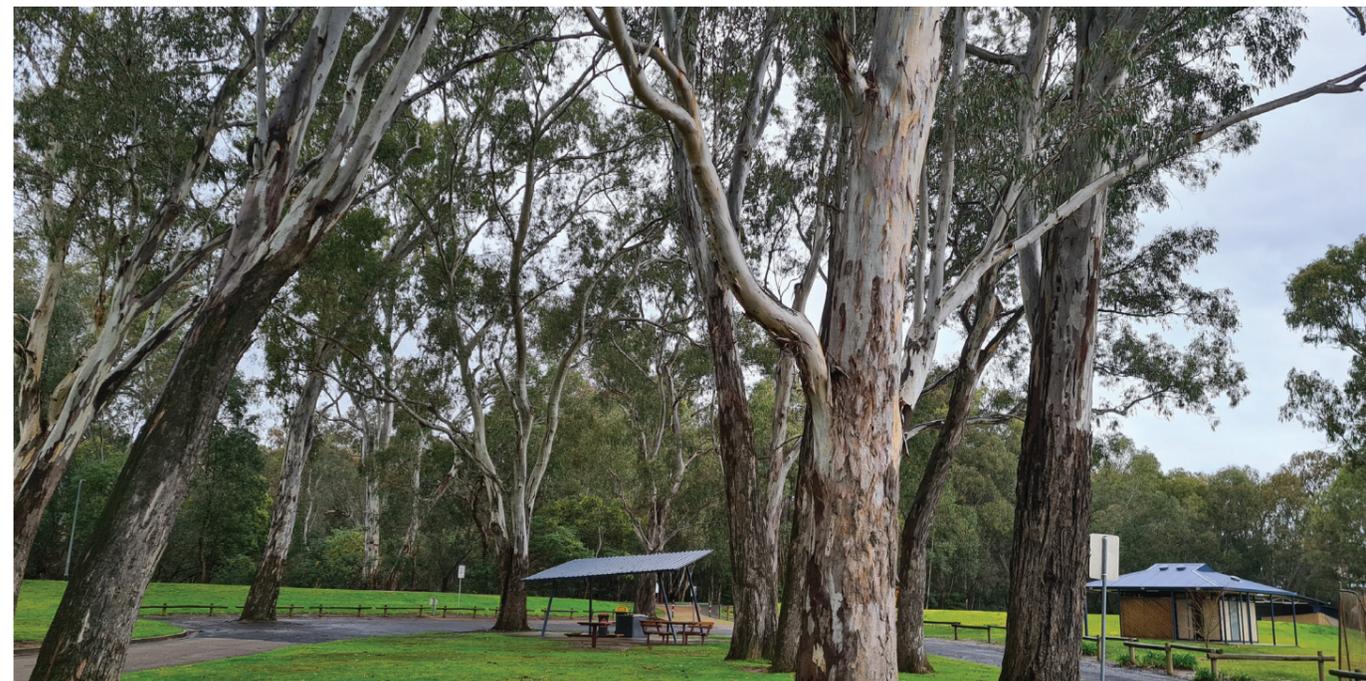
Merriwa Park is well loved by its community of users for a wide range of purposes ranging from picnics and dog walking, to open air concerts and weddings.

Kaluna Park which adjoins Merriwa Park consists of 5.2ha of natural remnant River Red Gum riverine and is bordered by the King River, a billabong and levee bank which separates it from Merriwa Park. A network of walking tracks with seating and interpretive signage can be found within Kaluna Park which is accessed via the south end of Merriwa Park.

In February 2015, a landscape concept masterplan was prepared for Merriwa Park and Kaluna Park which identified key issues and proposed a number of suggested solutions.

In July 2021, Group GSA was engaged by the Rural City of Wangaratta to review the previous masterplan, as well as to conduct community and stakeholder engagement to identify what the community wants and needs are for the future development of Merriwa Park and Kaluna Park.

This Landscape Masterplan documents the process and provides a schematic design plan of Merriwa Park (and Kaluna Park) in consideration of a number of key observations and design principles identified throughout the consultation process.



VISION FOR MERRIWA

The guiding vision for the future of Merriwa Park has been developed through the collection and compiling of feedback received from a number of engagement activities with various community and stakeholder groups.

It is through understanding what the community loves about the existing park, how they use it, and what they want to see improved – that will drive the design outcomes that are described in this vision for Merriwa Park and within the landscape masterplan.

Building upon the unique characteristic of Merriwa Park as a submerged oasis in the middle of town, we seek to capture the different aspirations of the community to create a masterplan that encapsulates the essence of the parks' success and potential to become a favourite recreational destination for locals and visitors alike.

Our Vision for Merriwa Park is:

“To protect and enhance Merriwa Parks’ beautiful natural environment and provide an environment of fun and relaxation, with activities for the whole family to enjoy”

Specifically, this vision seeks to:

- Enable the park to cater for a range of activities and users with different abilities.
- Invite and inspire people of all ages to appreciate and respect the natural environment.
- Become a place to improve people’s mental and physical well-being.
- Provide a safe and convenient place for families to enjoy different recreational activities.
- Enhance the visibility of the park and attract more visitors to use the park facilities.
- Improve the access to the park for visitors coming by different modes of travel, including bus, car, bike and by walking.

The final design of the Landscape Masterplan will also assist with the preparation of cost estimates and a 10-year action plan which details the priority actions for implementation and delivery.

ACTIVITIES / FLEXIBILITY



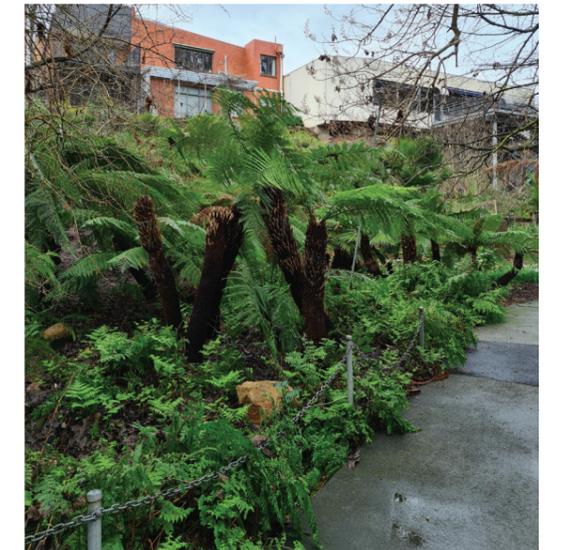
EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO FACILITATE ORGANIZED EVENTS AND ENABLE A FLEXIBLE USAGE OF THE PARK.

AMENITIES



PROVIDE BETTER AND SAFER AMENITIES THAT ARE RESPECTED AND VALUED BY THE STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT / ECOLOGY



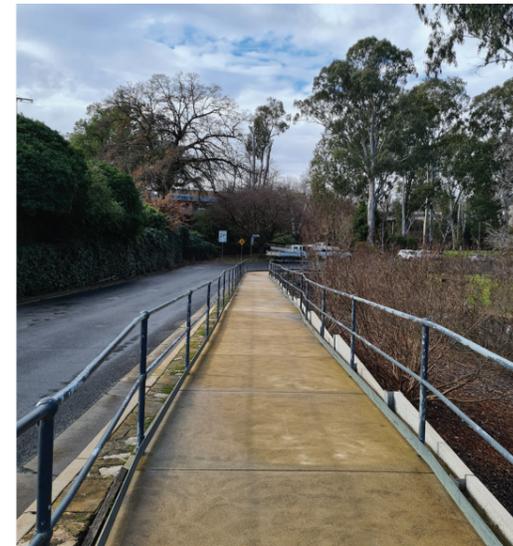
PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE UNIQUE NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS WITHIN THE PARK AND ENSURE LONGER EXISTENCE OF THIS SPECIAL QUALITY

PARK AESTHETICS / LOCAL CHARACTER



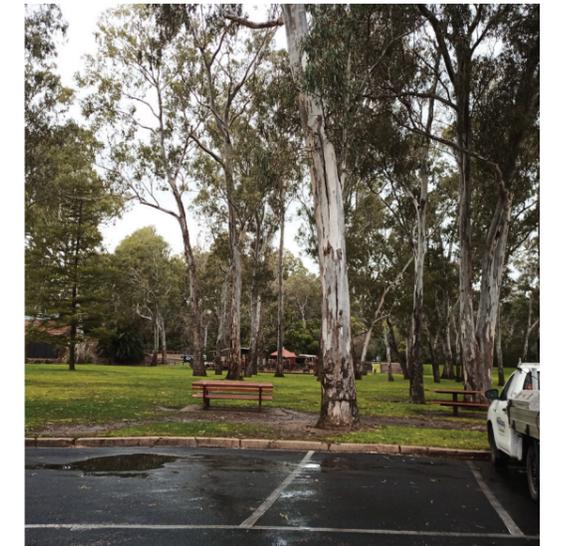
FORMALISE AND BEAUTIFY THE DETERIORATED ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PARK FOR PEOPLE’S ENJOYMENT

ACCESSIBILITY



IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE PARK AND FACILITIES AND ENSURE EXPERIENCE FOR USERS OF ALL ABILITIES

TRAFFIC / PARKING



IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AT MAIN ACCESS POINT FOR SAFETY OF USERS AND REDUCE HAZARDS BETWEEN PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICLE FLOWS.

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

Opportunities

- 1 Formalise and standardise the current seating and picnic settings around the park, keep consistent in modern style, subject to Council preference.
- 2 Repair and make safe the rock edge to Lagoon (north of site).
- 3 Retain the established trees at the north opening grass areas and establish new exotic trees at the south grass areas.
- 4 Ensure adequate provision of power and water connections to cater for future uses of the well maintained grassed areas for events.
- 5 Repair and standardise treatment of retaining walls and batters from the back of adjacent properties.
- 6 Explore how the upgraded section of the retaining wall can be integrated with new functions to activate the grassed area as an outdoor event space.
- 7 Refurbish Sound Shell and lawn area to incorporate permanent audio and lighting infrastructure - catering to various events.
- 8 Explore DDA accessible ramp from Ryley Street and Ely Street to Merriwa Park, to also cater for future cycle path connections through to Ely Street.
- 9 Relocate the existing public toilet closer to the car park and picnic areas.
- 10 Repair and improve internal road for maintenance vehicle access and larger vehicles during event set up.
- 11 Beautify site embankments between back of neighbouring properties and the lagoon; providing visual relief to park users. Investigate new retaining walls, garden beds and lawn terraces along the Lagoon banks.
- 12 Develop a continuous walking track along east edge of the Lagoon and connect with existing footpaths. Upgrade existing gravel track to a concrete path.
- 13 Provision of additional seating along the banks of the lagoon.



Constraints

- A Cost of installation of underground channelling cables to safely connect the Sound Shell to a power supply.
- B The moat and water feature in front of the stage no longer serves a purpose and is potentially dangerous.
- C Internal roads are located within the TPZ of existing established trees and repairs to the road surfaces may potentially damage root zones.
- D Tennis courts create a physical and visual barrier between the lagoon and the grassed area to the east of the site.
- E The majority of the site is prone to flooding.
- F Relocation of existing public toilets may be difficult with service connections and extension.
- G Maintenance access to the retaining/embankment treatment could be difficult.
- H Lack of pedestrian access/connectivity from the fernery to the CBD areas.

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

Opportunities

- 14 Modernise and upgrade the existing playground equipment with consideration to inclusive play.
- 15 Improve accessibility into, within and around the playground.
- 16 The location of the playground can be reconsidered if deemed unsuitable.
- 17 Improve park lighting along pathways to improve safety of the park at night time.
- 18 Investigate power supply improvements required to cater to larger events at the Sound Shell.
- 19 Improve vehicle access/entrance at Ryley Street to enhance Merriwa Park's presence and significance as the southern gateway to Wangaratta CBD.
- 20 Upgrade to centralised irrigation system (to work from the reduced water meters 80-mm).
- 21 Renew Kerb & channel and drainage throughout the park & lagoon.
- 22 Remove excessive vegetation/sedge at south end of Lagoon and improve water quality and reticulation.
- 23 Re-establish looped track from Fernery over lagoon and historic donkey track.
- 24 Increase height and reduce gradient at the existing levee bank for ease of maintenance.
- 25 Review and upgrade wayfinding and signage within Kaluna Park. Maintain informal gravel tracks.
- 26 Improve kerbside appeal of Merriwa Park through the removal of a number of exotic trees near the bike hub entrance to open up view of the park from the street level, subject to community feedback.



Constraints

- I Established site trees affect usage of the site for events.
- J Merriwa Park's presence on Murphy/Ryley Street is not strong due to significant difference in elevation.
- K Existing lagoon and water way needs to be cleaned up and water quality improved.
- L Erosion issue to the levee bank at east of the site.
- M Existing furniture and retaining walls are inconsistent through out the park. There isn't a Public Domain Manual to inform how these should be selected/specified for future works within Merriwa Park (and surrounding public reserves).
- N The playground fencing is not fully enclosed, creating risk and safety issues for playground users.

CONSULTATION SUMMARY

The Rural City of Wangaratta, with the assistance of Group GSA, facilitated several consultation sessions with the local community, stakeholders, and Council departments to collect a rounded perspective of views and opinions that will inform the concept development of the masterplan.

The format of this consultation process is a 'clean slate' approach where it functioned as an information gathering exercise for the project team.

Additionally, an online survey was conducted by the Council to give the wider community an opportunity to provide further feedback. A similar questionnaire was provided to the local Primary school kids to complete, and the results were also compiled.



Upgrade the main pedestrian entrance to Merriwa Park from Ryley Street, with new signage, seating, feature lighting (environmentally sensitive) and planting to enhance the presence of the park to visitors of Wangaratta.

Proposed speed hump to calm down the internal traffic flow and reduce hazards.

Proposed bus parking on Ryley St.

Proposed playground relocation and upgrade, secured with fencing and modernized equipment for equal access to all ability and age groups: swing set, two-way rocker, seesaw, slide and spinner.

Repair the internal road surfaces and formalize and provide line marking to car park, maintain the number of net car parking spot.

Estimated car park number
North of tennis court: 33
North of Playground: 25
North of Sound Shell: 5

New public place recycling bin station and drinking fountain to the proposed picnic area.

Relocate and upgrade the toilet block, including changing facility and disable toilet.

Proposed bench seats (no back) adjacent to tennis courts for spectators.

Re-establish the foot bridge.

New seating to open areas along the lagoon.

Clean sedges at the lagoon edge and improve water circulation.

Explore universally accessible pedestrian ramp at Meldrum Street.

Implement strategies to improve the kerbside appeal of Merriwa Park to improve visitor attraction and comfort.

Proposed universally accessible pedestrian ramp connecting Ryley Street with Merriwa Park and incorporate the standardised new retaining wall development.

Retain the bridge and upgrade the Fernery and re-establish the historical track, provide seating along the path.

Upgrade and replace the existing park furniture and ensure uniformity and cohesiveness throughout the Merriwa Park, include new public place recycling bin station, BBQ and drinking fountain.

Repair and make safe the rock edge to Lagoon.

New shelter and BBQ to picnic area.

Proposed raised wombat crossing for pedestrian safety.

The connection of the proposed path will ensure adequate grades are achieved, meeting universal accessibility standards for access onto Ely Street.

Retain red gums and maintain as open grass area, with upgraded irrigation system.

Retain and stabilise the levee bank.

Formalise roundabout to enable heavy vehicle turns, subject to traffic engineering assessment.

Retain the maintenance access area and ensure sufficient rear car park.

Power and water from the removed toilet block is to be maintained to enable access for future events.

Upgrade the existing shelter and provide furniture of uniformity.

Proposed additional play area with natural themed play elements, eg: timber logging. Reuse of fallen tree material as furniture or play items.

Upgrade Kaluna Park entry signage and further investigate the feasibility to deliver the Kaluna Park Pathway enhancement project, providing a connection from Merriwa Park to Wilson Road.

Infill the moat to improve safety around the Sound shell. Support and assist Lion's club to seek funding for improving Sound shell facilities including stage and canopy size, toilets, power and lighting.

Retain existing rear car park open area south of the Sound shell for vehicle access during event times and maintenance. Preserve the land adjoining the Sound shell to cater for future expansion.

LEGEND

- SITE EXTENT
- PROPOSED TREES
- EXISTING TREES
- CONCRETE PATH
- LAGOON
- GRASS
- EMBANKMENT PLANTING
- GARDEN BED PLANTING
- FERNERY
- PLAYGROUND FENCING
- REPAIRED LAGOON EDGE
- SOFTFALL
- ASPHALT
- Sound Shell STAGE
- GRANITIC GRAVEL
- PICNIC SETTING
- SEATING
- PUBLIC PLACE RECYCLING BIN STATION
- DRINKING FOUNTAIN

REFER PAGE 19 FOR SIGNAGE PLAN AND REFERENCE IMAGE

- ① VEHICLE ACCESS FROM RYLEY STREET
- ② PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM RYLEY STREET
- ③ UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE RAMP
- ④ FERNERY UPGRADE
- ⑤ LAGOON EDGE REPAIR
- ⑥ FORMALISE/UPGRADE PARK FURNITURE
- ⑦ EXPANDED NEW PLAYGROUND
- ⑧ NEW PICNIC AREA
- ⑨ REPAIR ROAD SURFACE AND FORMALISE CAR PARK
- ⑩ LOOPED FOOTPATH
- ⑪ TWO-WAY VEHICLE LANE
- ⑫ EXTRA NATURE PLAY AREA
- ⑬ RELOCATE AND UPGRADE EXISTING SHELTER AND BBQ
- ⑭ RELOCATE AND UPGRADE TOILET BLOCK
- ⑮ RETAIN EXISTING MAINTENANCE ACCESS
- ⑯ STABILISE THE LEVEE BANK

Note:
1. All ramps and paths are shown indicatively, subject to detailed design with feature survey and based on site conditions.
2. Refer to 'Key Project Items, Treatment Methods and Priority' section of the report for detailed actions to the deliverables.



VISUAL IMPRESSION RYLEY STREET PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND ACCESSIBLE RAMP



VISUAL IMPRESSION RYLEY ST ENTRY

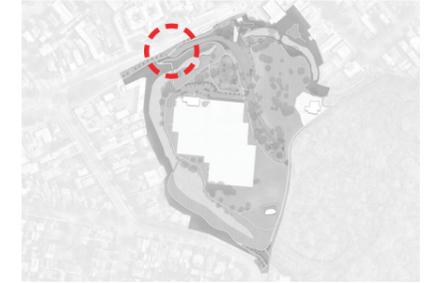


Note: This visualisation is an artistic impression and not indicative of the final design outcome, subject to change at detailed design

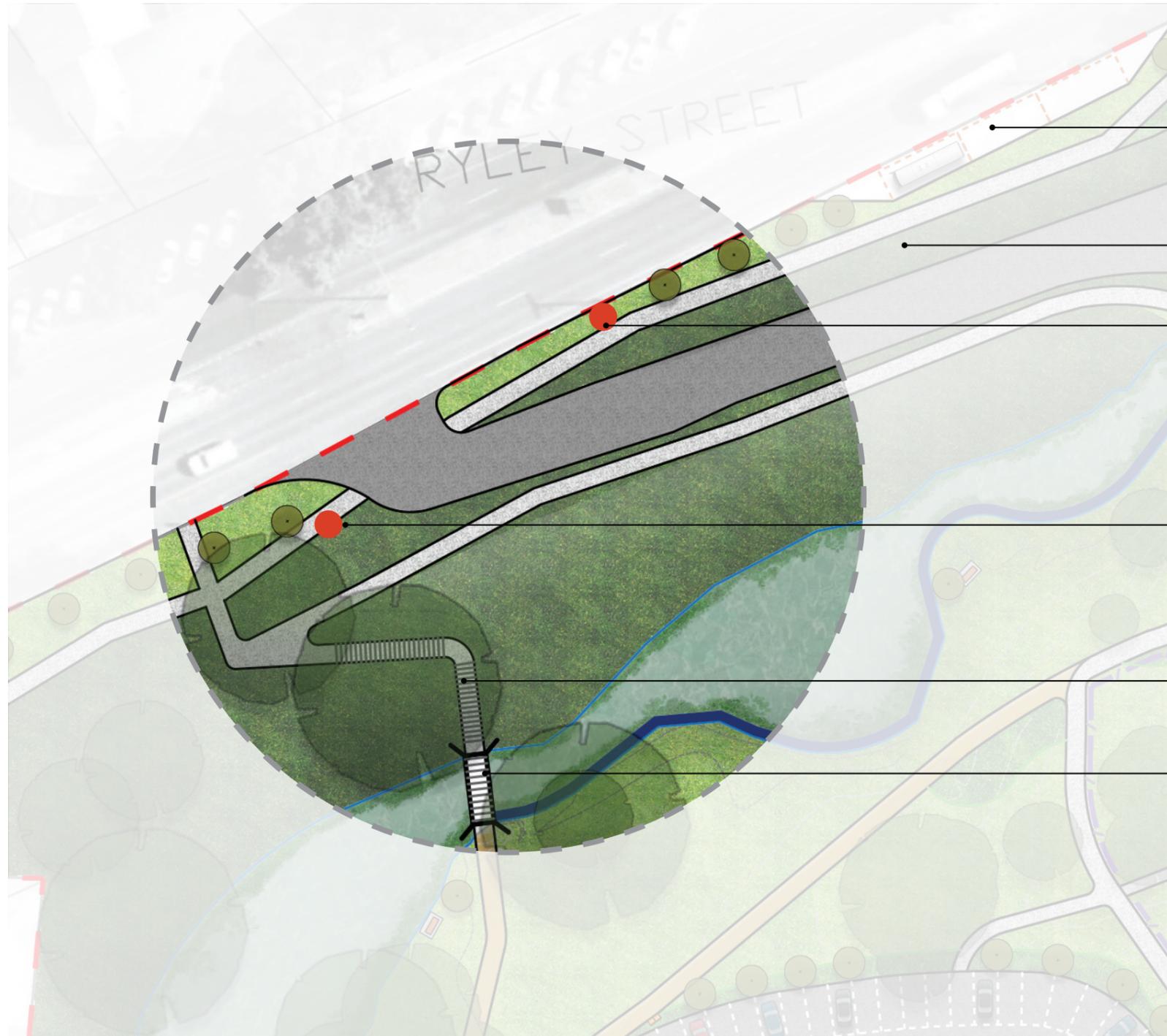
VISUAL IMPRESSION OPEN GRASS AREA



DETAIL PLAN 01 RYLEY ST ENTRY



KEY PLAN



Proposed bus parking on Ryley St

Replace and infill native planting to the embankment

Warning Signs close to the entry point
Subject to Traffic Engineer assessment

Warning Signs close to the entry point



Staircase

Retain the existing bridge

SOFTSCAPE



Infill / replacement planting

HARDSCAPE



Asphalt Road Paving

Note:

1. The layout as shown is indicative only, subject to traffic engineering assessment.
2. Refer to 'Key Project, Action and Implementation Plan' section of the report for detailed actions to the deliverables.

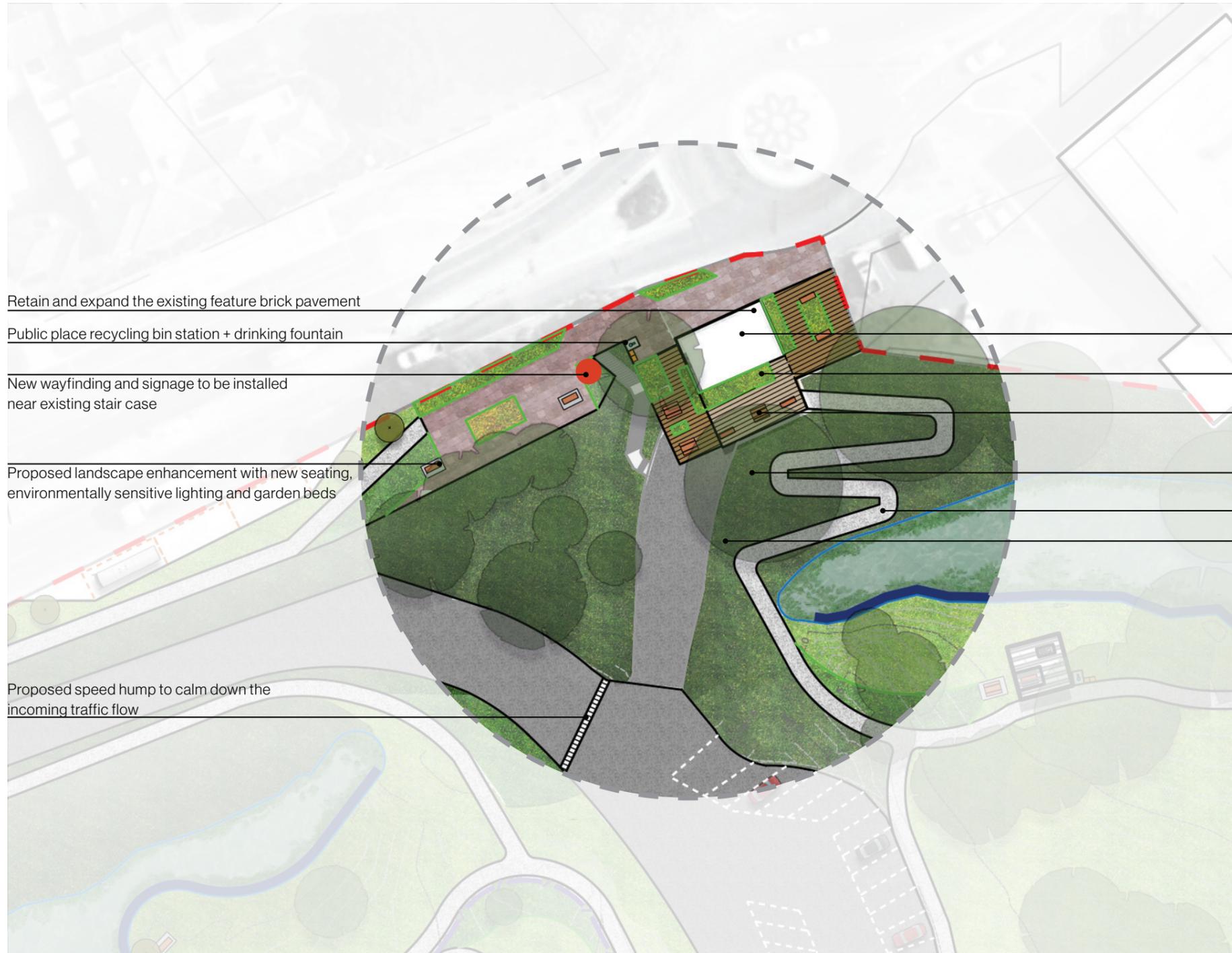


DETAIL PLAN 02

RYLEY STREET PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND ACCESSIBLE RAMP



KEY PLAN



Retain and expand the existing feature brick pavement

Public place recycling bin station + drinking fountain

New wayfinding and signage to be installed near existing stair case

Proposed landscape enhancement with new seating, environmentally sensitive lighting and garden beds

Proposed speed hump to calm down the incoming traffic flow

SOFTSCAPE



Garden bed with feature native planting

FURNITURE



Universal Access Seating with backrest and armrests

Retain the toilet facility

Raised garden bed / planters as the buffer to improve user comfortableness

Expanded timber decking viewing area with additional seating for small gatherings

All existing trees to be preserved and protected

Proposed universally accessible ramp

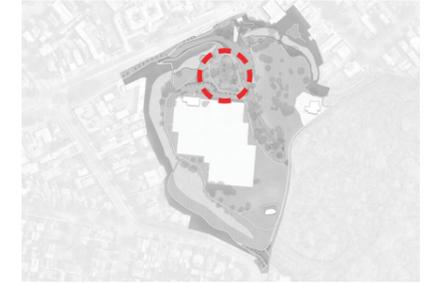
Renew the existing planting using indigenous species of local provenance

Note:

1. The ramp layout as shown is indicative only, subject to change in accordance with future retaining wall works.
2. Refer to 'Key Project, Action and Implementation Plan' section of the report for detailed actions to the deliverables.



DETAIL PLAN 03 PLAYGROUND UPGRADE



KEY PLAN

PLAYGROUND



Modern play equipment



Enclosed fencing



Proposed Garden Bed to soften the corner

Revised path connection

Proposed seating with arm rest

Fully enclosed fencing to playgrounds with access points

Proposed playground extension secured with fencing and modernized equipment for equal access to all ability and age groups: swing set, two-way rocker, see-saw, slide and spinner.

Proposed softfall to play areas

Proposed scooter track

Proposed shelter, BBQ and formalised furniture

Public place recycling bin station + drinking fountain

Relocate and upgrade the toilet block, including changing facility and accessible toilets

Feature garden bed planting

FURNITURE



Universal Access Seating with backrest and armrests



Universal Access Picnic Setting



Drinking Fountain



Public Place Recycling Bin Station

Note:

1. The playground equipment as shown is indicative only, subject to Council / Community preferred categories.
2. Playground layout is preliminary only and subject to detailed design.
3. Refer to 'Key Project, Action and Implementation Plan' section of the report for detailed actions to the deliverables.



DETAIL PLAN 04 NATURE PLAY



KEY PLAN



Proposed raised wombat crossing for pedestrian safety

Proposed concrete path

Proposed bench seats (no back) adjacent to tennis courts for spectators.

Half enclosed timber barrier fencing to nature play areas with access points

Timber bench seat made from recycled material

Proposed additional play area with natural themed play elements, e.g.: timber logs, stumps. Reuse of fallen tree material as furniture or play items.

Nature play area to include indigenous elements to pay tribute to the cultural significance of Kaluna Park. Items include timber totem poles with indigenous artwork, red gum (natural timber) boomerang designed seat/s & signage with QR information codes.

Two-way vehicle lane

Proposed softfall to play areas

Relocate and upgrade shelter, BBQ and formalise furniture

Low post and rail with gaps

Universally accessible car park

Universal pedestrian access

PLAYGROUND



Timber play elements (made from sustainable and recycled material)

FURNITURE



Timber seat made from sustainable and recycled material



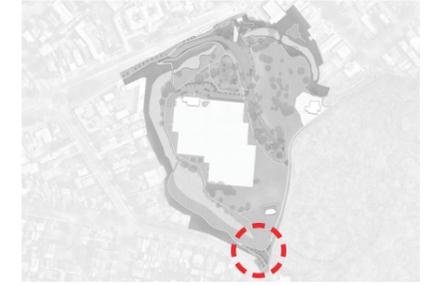
Bench seat for spectators

Note:

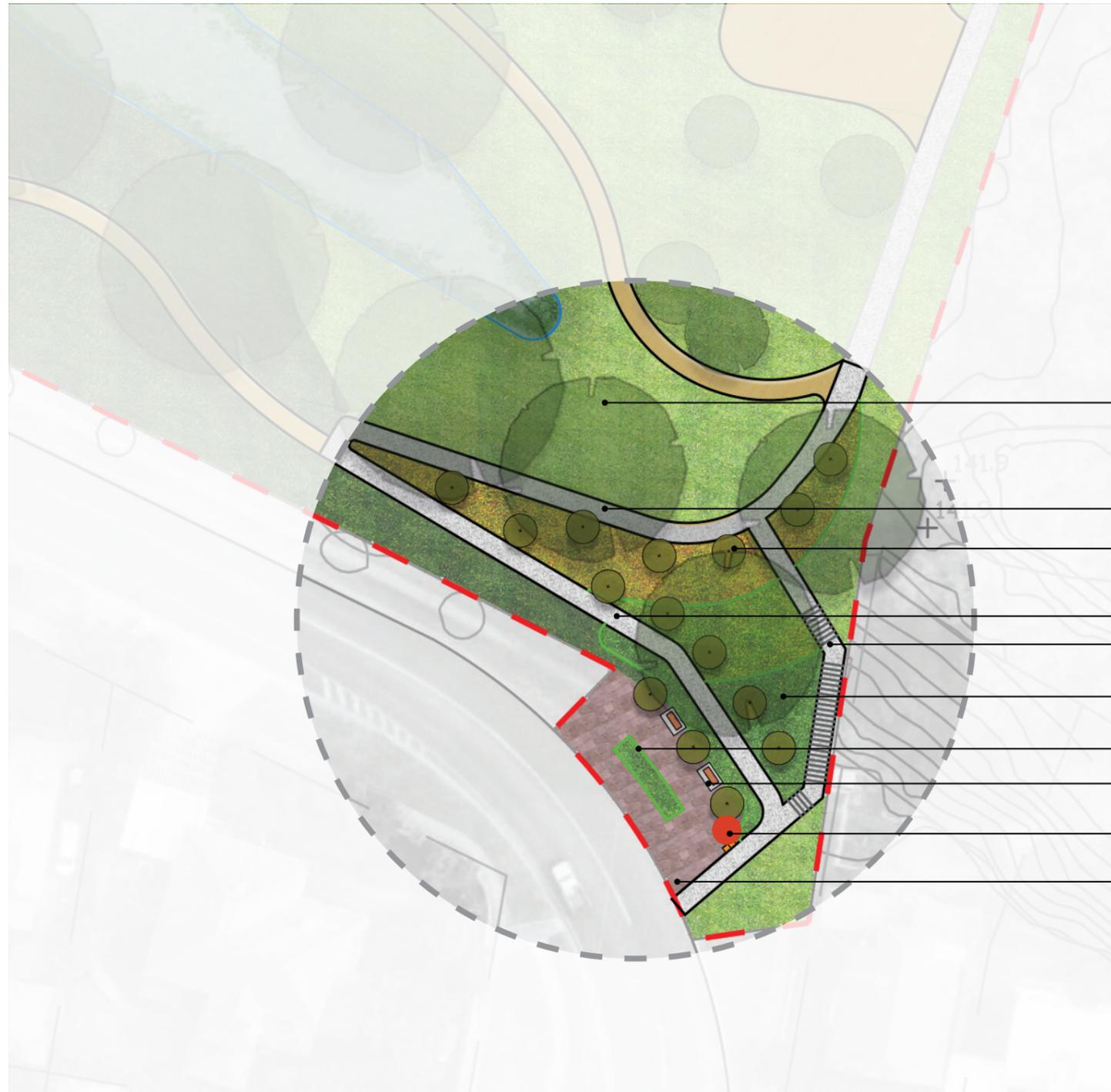
1. Traffic management issues could be resolved by closing of this road during event times. Ensure the proposed roundabout is suitable for heavy vehicle movement during event times. Final layout is subject to Traffic Engineering at detailed design.
2. The playground equipment as shown is indicative only, subject to Council / Community preferred categories.
3. Playground layout is preliminary only and subject to detailed design.
4. Refer to 'Key Project, Action and Implementation Plan' section of the report for detailed actions to the deliverables.



DETAIL PLAN 05 MELDRUM ST UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN RAMP



KEY PLAN



Retain the existing open grass area

Concrete Path

Proposed feature native tree planting

Proposed 1 in 20 Universally accessible pedestrian ramp

Retain the existing staircase

Renew the existing planting

Feature garden bed

Proposed shaded seating with arm rest

Signage at the entry of Meldrum St

Proposed feature brick paving

FURNITURE



Wayfinding / Signage



Universal Access Seating with backrest and armrests

HARDSCAPE



Concrete Path

Note:

1. The ramp layout as shown is indicative only, subject to change in accordance with up to date feature level survey and the site conditions.
2. Refer to 'Key Project, Action and Implementation Plan' section of the report for detailed actions to the deliverables.



SIGNAGE PLAN AND REFERENCE IMAGE



Primary Entry Signage



Secondary Entry Signage



Directional Track Marker



Note: Examples shown only, subject to detail design by a signage design specialist

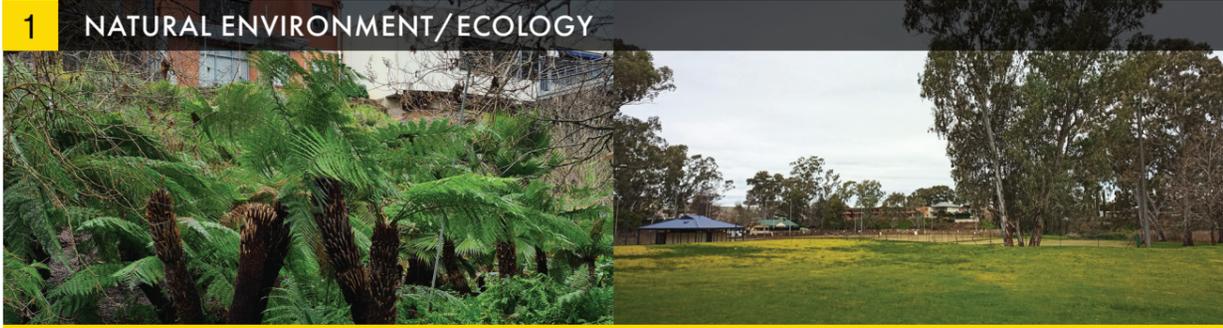


LEGEND

- Primary Merriwa Park Entry Signage
- Secondary Entry Signage
- Directional Track Marker
- Primary Kaluna Park Entry Signage

PARK AESTHETICS & LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT WITHIN MERRIWA PARK

1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT/ECOLOGY



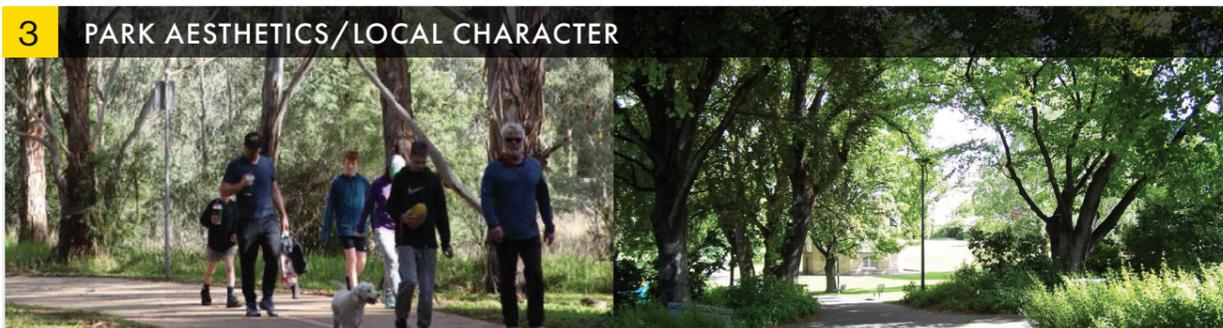
Retain and protect all existing trees and open lawn picnic areas
 Promote, protect and improve the Fernery
 Improve the conditions of the Lagoon and upgrade the southern lagoon precinct

2 ACTIVITIES/FLEXIBILITY



Upgrade & expand existing playground, catering to all abilities
 Provide an additional play space for nature play within Merriwa Park

3 PARK AESTHETICS/LOCAL CHARACTER



Upgrade and promote main entrances into Merriwa Park from Ryley Street & Meldrum Street
 Retain the connection to the Wangaratta Lawn Tennis Club & Christopher Robin Kindergarten



PARK AESTHETICS & LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT WITHIN MERRIWA PARK

4 ACCESSIBILITY



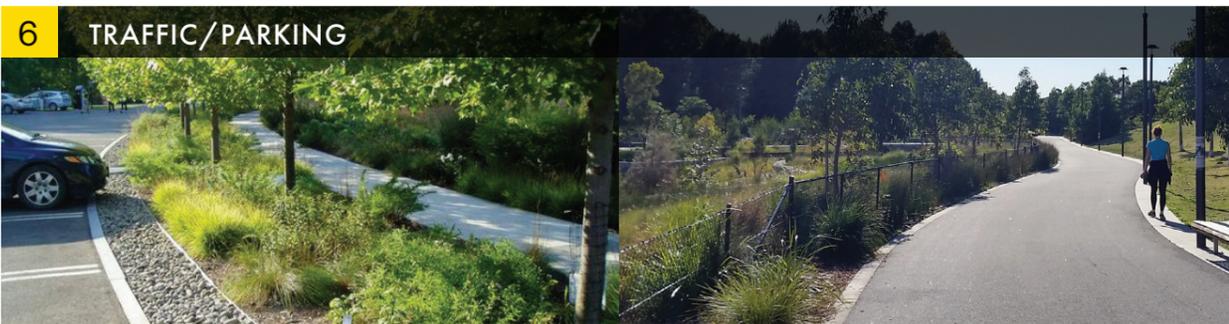
Improve pedestrian and bicycle access with universal access considerations
 Improve and promote Little Kaluna Park with universal design considerations

5 AMENITIES



Repair and improve existing levee bank at Merriwa Park
 Upgrade and centralise existing irrigation system for Merriwa Park
 Relocate existing toilets within Merriwa Park and upgrade to cater for additional users
 Upgrade to lighting, signage, park furniture, BBQ and picnic facilities.

6 TRAFFIC/PARKING



Realign and improve internal access roads; including traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures
 Retain and improve maintenance vehicle access to Kaluna Park
 Retain and formalise existing car parking at Merriwa Park



KEY PROJECT, ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

• The implementation plan has been prepared to assist in the delivery of the Merriwa Park Masterplan. The delivery of the key outcomes identified within the plan will be subject to external funding availability.

The following timeframes have been proposed:

Short term (0-5 years)

Medium term (6-8 years)

Long term (9-10 years)

KEY PROJECTS	NO.	ACTIONS	Short (0-5 years)	Medium (6-8 years)	Long (9-10 years)
1 Improve and Promote Natural Environment of Merriwa Park and Kaluna Park	A1	Improve the conditions of the Lagoon Improve water quality of the lagoon through a number of steps (priority to be confirmed with Council's Parks and Gardens team) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upgrade existing pumps to circulate water and create a positive flow within each of the main water bodies. - Infill suitable wetland planting to support sediment control and improve the filtration system. - Remove weedy species within the lagoon areas, particularly at the inlet and outlet of water from adjacent water course. - Repair deterioration waters edge (northern banks) to match existing. - Seating nodes along the proposed perimeter path provides opportunities for sitting, setting up and spectating. - Provide interpretive signage and information to outline the lagoon and what can be found within. 		✓	
	A2	Retain and protect all existing established trees and open lawn picnic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retain and protect all existing established trees, including but not limited to red gums throughout any future works within Merriwa Park. - Half yearly Arborist Assessment & Tree Management Plan to be prepared to determine the health of each tree. - Removal of dangerous limbs over any existing or proposed furniture beneath the trees. - Revegetation using locally sourced red gum stock. - Protect and retain any trees potentially impacted by the proposed internal road upgrade/repairs. - Retain and protect existing lawn open space. - Rectify any damages to the lawn area due to construction works. 	✓	✓	✓
	A3	Upgrade Merriwa Park embankment zone and retaining walls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace existing deteriorating retaining wall structures to the park embankment, mostly on the northern end of Merriwa Park. - New retaining walls are to be constructed using the same material to ensure uniformity across the park, improve overall park aesthetics and visitor enjoyment of the park. - Unless otherwise stated, new retaining walls are to be made of galvanised steel (edges and posts) and a dark brown composite timber sleepers (infill panels), similar to the existing retaining walls constructed at the south end of Merriwa Park, at the ramp access to Meldrum Street. The use of recycled and sustainable products / materials in the final design outcome will be considered where appropriate. - Revegetate exposed areas above and below retaining walls with native grasses (such as Lomandra longifolia) and low to medium level planting to improve visual amenity and stability of the embankment. Replacement and infill planting should be using native species of local provenance (as a priority) in the final design outcome. - Existing retaining walls with larger vertical span to the east side of Merriwa Park can explore alternative treatments and usage. Such as inviting local artists to create an art piece, or transformation of the space into informal outdoor cinema (which would require some forward planning, including projector, lighting and speaker set up). 		✓	
	A4	Repair and improve existing levee bank at Merriwa Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repair damaged areas of the levee bank. - Explore opportunity to regrade levee bank batter to enable mowing. 	✓		

KEY PROJECT, ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

KEY PROJECTS	NO.	ACTIONS	Short (0-5 years)	Medium (6-8 years)	Long (9-10 years)
	A5	Implementation of strategies to manage growing ibis population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration to tree species planted within the park to reduce nesting and roosting opportunities. - All public place recycling bin stations within Merriwa Park are to be installed with a lid or roof to prevent scavenging activity. - Allowance for the investigation and development of an 'Ibis treatment and management plan' for Merriwa Park. 	✓		
	A6	Promote, protect and improve the Fernery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retain and improve the quality of the existing fernery through revegetation of the fern gardens and embankments to the adjacent property boundaries. Replanting should aim to conceal existing undesirable visual elements in the embankment such as exposed drainage pipes and concrete pits. Replacement and infill planting should be using native species of local provenance (as a priority) in the final design outcome. - Repair and upgrade historic looping track, use a combination of materials based on the existing palette of brick, stone, concrete and composite timber to maintain the historical aesthetics familiar to local users. - Provision of additional formal and informal seating to enable further passive recreation and supervision of children for family visitors. Formal seating should be proprietary (part of the overall furniture suite to be used within Merriwa Park) to include arm rest and seat back for comfort and accessibility considerations. Informal seating can be made of natural materials such as mudstones and treated timber logs at varying heights. Reuse of existing timber from felled trees within Merriwa Park is preferable. - Fernery bridge to be retained and repaired if required, repairs made are to match original and existing materials, including the black painted iron fence and gate. - Potential to repair existing water feature or replace with a new system within waterbody near the fernery. - Provision of contaminated material (asbestos) removal from the fernery/lagoon retaining wall/edging. 			✓
	A7	Improve and promote Little Kaluna Park with universal design considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retain existing and repair damages to paths after flood events. - Improve wayfinding signage into and within Little Kaluna Park; work with local indigenous networks to capture the site's history and provide information when entering the site through QR codes. This will be developed at a detailed design stage as a separate project. - Investigate universal access pathways into Kaluna Park for users of different abilities, such as raised boardwalks which do not disturb the natural ground level and existing natural environment. The use of recycled and sustainable products / materials in the final design outcome will be considered where appropriate. - Design interventions within Kaluna Park must consider materials and layout to complement the existing site conditions, factoring in the fact that it will be periodically flooded. Any new structures must be designed to withstand these changing conditions. - Further investigate the feasibility to deliver the Kaluna Park Pathway enhancement project, providing a connection from Merriwa Park to Wilson Road. 			✓
	A8	Upgrade the southern lagoon precinct (south-west embankment of Merriwa Park) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rectify footbridge connection to the southern lagoon precinct (western embankment). - Improve embankment treatment with appropriate landscape interventions. - Reduce OH&S and maintenance concerns 			✓

KEY PROJECT, ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

KEY PROJECTS	NO.	ACTIONS	Short (0-5 years)	Medium (6-8 years)	Long (9-10 years)
2 Access and Circulation within Merriwa Park	A9	<p>Upgrade and promote main entrances into Merriwa Park from Ryley Street & Meldrum Street</p> <p>For the Ryley Street entrance, utilise a combination of the following strategies to improve the kerbside appeal to visitors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install clear signage with mapping of the overall park's site plan for wayfinding. - Increase shaded seating opportunities at Ryley Street level where appropriate. - Installation of feature paving to indicate the area as a place of interest. <p>For the Meldrum Street entrance to Merriwa Park, the following are to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the conditions of the existing staircase to meet DDA/equal access requirements, adopt measurements as required to improve cyclists' and pedestrians' safety. - Upgrade the existing access ramp to achieve DDA compliance. - incorporation of new planting and signage to beautify this southern entrance to Merriwa Park. - Planting to infill gaps in the existing landscape embankment. Replacement and infill planting should be using native species of local provenance (as a priority) in the final design outcome. - Install clear signage with mapping of the overall park's site plan for wayfinding. 	✓		
	A10	<p>Retain and formalise existing car parking at Merriwa Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revision of car parking within Merriwa Park to work with proposed revised internal road layout. - Formalise car parking north of the tennis club. - Formalise car parking near the sound shell, for maintenance vehicle parking. - All car parking within Merriwa Park are to have time limits as per the Wangaratta CBD Car Park & Traffic Plan (current parking limits is 2 hrs within Merriwa Park). - Review parking layout with Traffic Engineer at detailed design stage. - Provide accessible parking spaces with dedicated shared area and bollards to Australian Standards. - Maintain a zero net-loss of car parking. - Explore at detailed design to cater for heavy vehicle movements required for events. This includes the provision of food vans (3-4), portable toilets (truck x 2) and enabling disability drop off zone. 		✓	
	A11	<p>Realign and improve internal access roads; including traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed realignment of the existing internal road connecting the tennis club parking area to the main car park, to the location south of the existing playground location. - Provide raised wombat crossings to enable safe access from the proposed expanded playground to the Tennis Club and across to the red gum forest to the east of the road. - Revise and consolidate existing internal road towards the Sound Shell area to become a dual access road. Traffic management issues could be resolved by closing of this road during event times. Ensure the proposed roundabout is suitable for heavy vehicle movement during event times. Final layout is subject to Traffic Engineering at detailed design. Retain and protect all existing trees where possible. - Improve and repair kerb and channel drainage along the internal road (causing drainage issues throughout the park) to better drain excess water from the hard surfaces. 		✓	

KEY PROJECT, ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

KEY PROJECTS	NO.	ACTIONS	Short (0-5 years)	Medium (6-8 years)	Long (9-10 years)
	A12	Improve pedestrian and bicycle access with universal access considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of DDA compliant access paths into the park and between different areas of the park. These paths are to be light or sandy coloured concrete to complement the park's natural aesthetics as well as enabling wheelchair and pram access. - Ensure access path surfaces and treatments meet Australian Standards for slip resistance and are of sufficient thickness to cater for the weight of the vehicle loads (eg, maintenance paths will need to be thicker to cater for heavier vehicles). - Provision of wayfinding signage and sufficient lighting along pathways. - Fencing elements along paths to be made consistent. - Incorporation of a ramp from Ryley Street to achieve universal access into the park and providing a cycle path connection through to Ely Street. Universal access also to be considered at the Ely Street connection of the path. - Provide raised wombat crossing to calm traffic and prioritise pedestrian users while crossing the car park. Location of the crossing to be finalised with input from a Traffic Engineer. - Consideration to pedestrian connection into Little Kaluna Park (including provision of universal access paths to meet DDA standards). - Upgrade existing ramp and staircase access from Meldrum Street, with consideration to universal access. 	✓		
	A13	Provision of a perimeter walking/jogging loop track <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed perimeter loop path to provide a formalised jogging/exercise track for users, incorporating a mixture of light coloured concrete path and granitic gravel path as appropriate. - Connect to existing and updated path networks. - Ensure the major traffic and connection nodes of loop path are DDA compliant. - Provision of shaded bench seating along the path at periodic distances (these can be used for spectating tennis games) - Incorporate dimmable lighting at key nodes of the path to allow users to safely use the track during darker times of the day (ie, dawn and dusk) 	✓		
	A14	Provision of bus parking at Rylet Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigate opportunity to add a bus pick up and drop off zone at Ryley Street, between the Ryley Street vehicle ramp and the pedestrian stairs near the bike hub. Ensure and prioritise disability access during events. Note that this option may block views into Merriwa Park for other vehicles travelling along Ryley Street. 		✓	
	A15	Retain and improve maintenance vehicle access to Kaluna Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retain existing maintenance vehicle access location. - Upgrade maintenance gates and vehicle exclusion bollards to improve aesthetics. 		✓	

KEY PROJECT, ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

KEY PROJECTS	NO.	ACTIONS	Short (0-5 years)	Medium (6-8 years)	Long (9-10 years)
3 Upgrade of Park Facilities and Additional Amenities	A16	Upgrade of BBQ and picnic facilities, including shelters - Upgrade park facilities including BBQ's, drinking fountain and shelters to be consistent for ease of maintenance and repair. - Generally, colour of the park furniture should be a combination of earthy tones, greens and blues, as a reference to the natural environment of Merriwa Park and Kaluna Park.			✓
	A17	Upgrade of park seating - Upgrade park furniture and amenities including seating, picnic settings, public place recycling bin stations. - Incorporate a range of seating types to cater to different needs of the community using the park; including the addition of arm rests and seat backs; seating within shaded areas are also to be considered. - Park furniture should consider materiality appropriate to the natural look and feel of Merriwa Park; therefore it is suggested that proposed furniture items are predominantly constructed out of timber (or composite timber), incorporating existing site features where appropriate (eg, use of brick in existing foot path at the lagoon picnic area).	✓		
	A18	Relocate existing toilets within Merriwa Park and upgrade to cater for additional users - Construction of a new toilet block located within close proximity to the playground. - New toilet block to cater for small to medium size events and adhere to the Places of Public Entertainment ratio requirements. With a recommendation of 4 x male, 8 x female, 1 x accessible toilet. - Toilet block to consider accessibility, family change room requirements, environmental aesthetics (given proximity to the red gums) and CPTED principles for safety. - Ensure path connections all cater to universal access. - Decommissioning of the existing toilet block located at the rear of the park. Power and water is to be maintained to enable access for future events.		✓	
	A19	Upgrade & expand existing playground, catering to all abilities - Expand playground to incorporate area north west of it's current location. The proposed playground upgrade will be designed as an unique experience and fit within Merriwa Park's own setting, catering to multi-age groups from the broader community. - Include equal access paths and furniture. - Include picnic settings for families. - Include public place recycling bin stations and drinking fountains. Bins are to have a lid or roof cover. - Upgrade play equipment (modernise) to include all ability equipment. - Install safety perimeter fencing with child proof gates adjacent to carparking or chicane fencing towards open space. - Explore opportunity for bespoke, natural looking fencing that blends with the Merriwa Park characteristics. - Incorporation of shade structures around seating.		✓	

KEY PROJECT, ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

KEY PROJECTS	NO.	ACTIONS	Short (0-5 years)	Medium (6-8 years)	Long (9-10 years)
	A20	Upgrade to the existing Ryley Street toilet block and Bicycle Hub / viewing area - Retain existing toilet and shower facilities at Ryley street, opportunity to provide additional toilets, showers and baby change room. - Explore integration of a DDA compliant ramp as part of the timber decking viewing platform. - Explore opportunities to open up the south part of the existing building and provide additional shaded seating areas with views into Merriwa Park. Allow for bespoke raised planters/garden beds with seasonal planting displays (subject to future detail design and Council maintenance constraints). These planters will help create a physical and visual buffer adjacent the existing toilets and provide a more comfortable and safe environment for all users of the space. - Deliver a feasibility study to determine the Bike Hub current usage, user requirements and preferred locations. Continuing to further promote and support Wangaratta's Walking and Cycling Strategy. - Works within this area are to be considerate to the preservation of the First Pioneers of Wangaratta District plaque and review the current position of the plaque to create a focal point.	✓		
	A21	Improve lighting within Merriwa Park for pedestrian safety - Review of overall park lighting. - Provide sufficient lighting to enable the park to be usable during evenings or early mornings. Design consideration must be given to the use of environmentally sensitive lighting or downward directed lighting to minimize impact to the flora and fauna within the natural environment of Merriwa Park.	✓		
	A22	Upgrade and centralise existing irrigation system for Merriwa Park - Upgrade and centralise overall park irrigation system for ease of maintenance. - Wireless Control Systems - Water conservation considerations	✓		
	A23	Improve the connection between the Wangaratta Lawn Tennis Club & Merriwa Park - Existing footprint to be maintained. - Fencing to consider visual impact to the rest of the park when being replaced. - Additional park seating at perimeter fencing for spectators to use during tennis matches and tournaments. Explore opportunities for shading.			✓
	A24	Retain the connection between the Christopher Robin Kindergarten and Merriwa Park - Retain and ensure proposed works in adjacent areas do not impact on the day to day functions of this Kindergarten.	✓		

KEY PROJECT, ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

KEY PROJECTS	NO.	ACTIONS	Short (0-5 years)	Medium (6-8 years)	Long (9-10 years)
	A25	Incorporation of interpretive signage within Merriwa Park and Kaluna Park - Install Primary Park Entry wayfinding totems at major entry points to Merriwa park with maps, directional messages and regulatory information - Install Secondary park Entry wayfinding totems at minor entry points to Merriwa park with directional messages and regulatory information - Install Primary Park Entry wayfinding totem at entry/juncture point between Merriwa and Kaluna Parks with maps, directional messages, interpretive text and image content, QR link code and regulatory information to provide general wayfinding and capture key cultural and historic interpretive themes of Kaluna Park - Install minor track/path markers at decision points within Merriwa Park with minimal direction messages and arrows Install Interpretive signage totems/panels within Merriwa Park at significant locations with interpretive text and image content, QR link code and park mud map detailing cultural and historical significance	✓		
	A26	Provide an additional play space for nature play within Merriwa Park - Inclusion of an additional nature play area to the east of the tennis courts, in between existing gum trees. - Safety barrier fencing to be designed with a natural aesthetic, such as timber posts with black painted fencing panels. - Existing shelter in the area to be upgraded for consistency and uniformity in park furnishings. - Opportunity to utilise any removed trees (dead trees or those marked for removal by an Arborist), after being treated, to become part of the play equipment or seating within this space. - Nature play area to include indigenous elements to pay tribute to the cultural significance of Kaluna Park. Items include timber totem poles with indigenous artwork, red gum (natural timber) boomerang designed seat/s & signage with QR information codes.		✓	
	A27	Improvements to the Sound Shell and amphitheatre lawn - Infill existing moat in front of the sound shell stage to make the area safer for users. - Backfilling of the moat in front of the apron is to be current height to allow for the existing temporary apron to be installed at a width of approximately 5m. - Preservation of the land adjoining the Sound Shell to cater for future expansion - Support and assist Lion's club to seek funding for improving Sound shell facilities including stage and canopy size, toilets, power and lighting. - Explore the provision of additional power and lighting to cater to more event (small scale only) - The area south of the existing gravel footprint is to remain as open space for vehicle access during event times, and the Lions Club are aware existing vegetation will be retained. - Provision/designation of flat open area near the Sound Shell and grassed amphitheatre to cater for portable toilets (including accessible toilets) to be brought in and set up during events.		✓	
	A28	Promotion of Merriwa Park as an Events Precinct - Upgrade park provision of power the community can 'plug into', to cater for small scale events such as weddings or group exercise (eg, cross fit, yoga, taichi) - Access to additional water taps. - Retain ability to host boutique live music events for up to 2,000 people. - Larger events to be relocated to alternative locations. - Better egress lighting.		✓	

End of Report

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