

CORONATION PARK Landscape Master Plan Report

Landscape
Report

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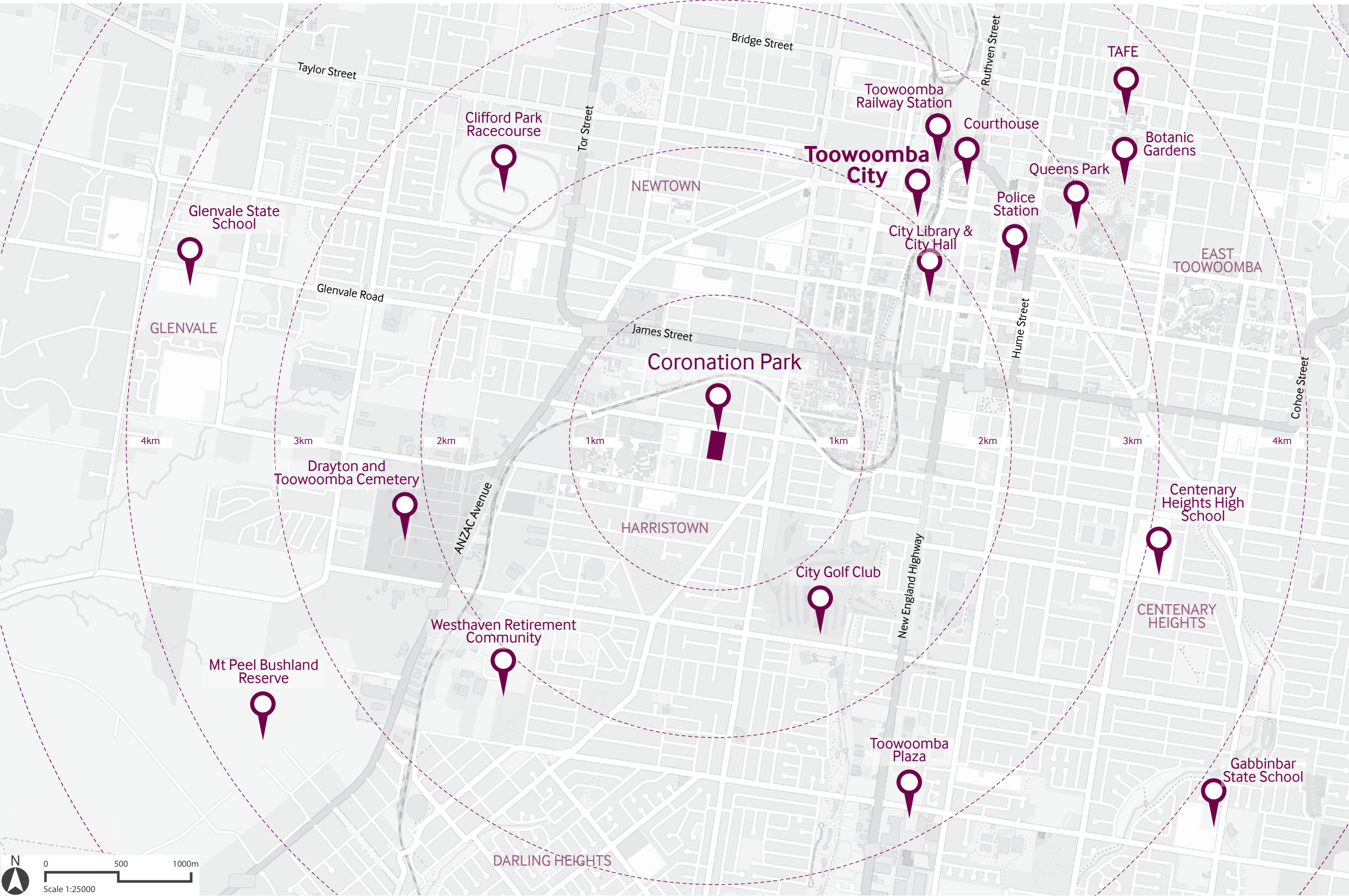
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INTRODUCTION

Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) is developing a master plan for Coronation Park in Harristown to set the vision for the park for the next 10–20 years. The master plan makes recommendations to guide the future development, including bringing it to a district level standard of amenity and new toilet building in an alternative location. It will be an aspirational plan that guides future budgets once funding becomes available.

This document presents the Coronation Park landscape vision for a district park upgrade and focuses on creating a diverse, compelling and sustainable community asset. It defines several guiding principles in response to embedded site characteristics, community aspirations, principles to be applied in guiding future planning, design development and detailed design.

CITY CONTEXT



LOCAL CONTEXT



LOCAL CONTEXT

Coronation Park Lot 298 on AG2121 located at 102-108 Stephen Street, Harristown is currently designated as a Local Park and the Toowoomba Regional Council plans to upgrade it to a District Recreation Park in 2020/2021. The approximate area is 1.95ha and it is located approximately 2km from the Toowoomba City Centre.

The park is surrounded by low-density and low-medium density residential land and several community facilities. It is well positioned to provide recreational amenity to the surrounding residents, religious groups and schools, as well as the broader community.

Other nearby parks, establishments, schools and notable landmarks that may influence the master plan include:

- Islamic Community Mosque along the corners of West Street and Stephen Street
- Concordia Lutheran College, Concordia Primary School, Harristown State High School, Harristown State Primary School and St. Anthony's School
- Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery
- Stephen Street Store
- Clifford Shopping Centre
- Toowoomba Hospital
- City Golf Club
- Toowoomba Regional Council depot
- Defence Force Recruiting Centre Toowoomba
- Rowena Park
- O'Quinn Street Park
- Avondale Park
- Harristown Park
- Newington Park
- West Creek Park

The suburb of Harristown has two sports parks and an oversupply of local recreational parks, as identified in the Toowoomba Regional Council Open Space Strategy. The strategy stipulates that some recreation parks will be upgraded to a district level park.

CORONATION PARK

Coronation Park is utilised by numerous locals and visitors, some enjoy its passive nature, simply walking, sitting in the shade, enjoying the mature trees and observing local bird life, others find it a useful spot for lunch. It is a thoroughfare for residents and for children on their way to school. Several Fitness groups use the park for activities like boot camp, or simply running circuits around the perimeter. The large grassed area is used for more active pursuits, like kicking a football. The park is also used by dog owners to walk and exercise their dogs. The unfenced dog off leash area is popular amongst these users. Most people walk or drive to the park, however it is also serviced by bus route 901. Elements within it include:

- Large mature shade trees dominate its character;
- An outdated amenities building that is unsafe and has been associated with undesirable activities;
- Play equipment in the north west corner that is dated, some items requiring repair;
- A small shelter which leaks when raining and a BBQ;
- Park furniture includes numerous styles, some decades old;
- An unfenced dog off leash area; and
- Open kick-about lawn



Stephen St local Store



Community engagement



Stephen Street



Memory Street



Local bus stop



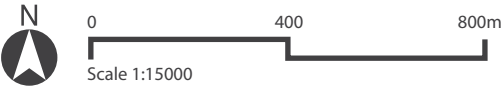
Harristown State School Sports fields



Rowena Park



St. Anthony's School



BACKGROUND

The Harristown catchment currently has no District Recreation Park and an oversupply of Local Recreation Parks. Toowoomba Regional Council defines a District Recreational Park as a large park that has space for multiple activities. *“These parks form the basis of community connection, unstructured recreation activity and neighbourhood amenity”. “District parks cater to a broad range of end users from the immediate local catchment through to the regional visitor.”* This master plan for Coronation Park is focused on introducing a variety of activities and amenity that encourages visitors to stay longer, including additional carparking, upgraded of toilet facilities, shade, seating, play and a broader range of amenity.

Coronation Park was named to mark the Queens Visit to Toowoomba in 1954. Historically the site was once used for cattle dipping, as well as cricket matches between locals, which were held between Memory Street and Lloyds Street. Memory Street was once a simple laneway until local residents requested a more formalised street. The master plan aims to retain historical aspects of the site where possible, one way to achieve this is to maintain remaining parts of the original cricket shape through the existing tree line.

The surrounding local parks at Harristown were inspected to identify the existing local amenity and play experience. The Coronation Park upgrade strives to create a park identity that is unique and provides amenity not currently available locally. Analysis undertaken of the local demographic found a relatively even balance of age groups, with no age group dominating. Therefore the proposed design aims to create an inclusive park with amenity suited to a wide range of ages, abilities and interest.

In addition to site influences identified above, the master plan has been shaped by several other factors, including:

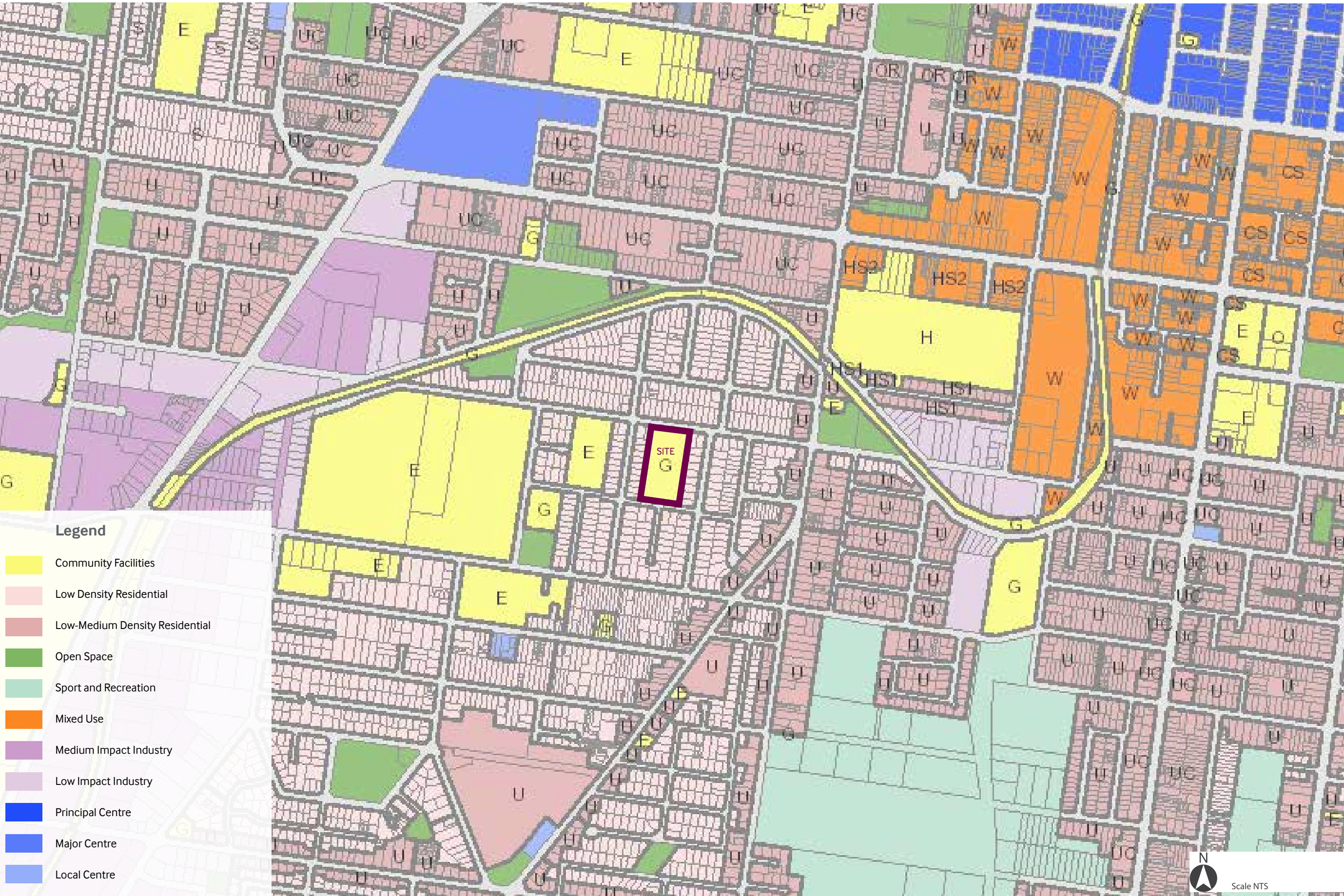
- Site conditions
- Existing uses
- Past uses
- Community feedback
- Budget
- Council aspirations
- Toowoomba Regional Council Planning policy
- Toowoomba Regional Council Open Space strategy
- Desired standards of service for Dog Off Leash areas
- Harristown local character
- Harristown stakeholder groups
- Functionality
- Safety
- Accessibility
- Aesthetics
- Inclusiveness
- Surrounding park amenity.



Rich traditions. Bold ambitions. 



PLANNING SCHEME ZONING PLAN



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Consultation was undertaken with the community prior to development of the draft master plan. The objective of this engagement was to understand community views and how their ideas may be applied, while ensuring the process was meaningful and inclusive.

To ensure effective community and stakeholder participation, the approach focused on engaging existing groups and networks, as well as providing multiple opportunities for community review and comment. An engagement session was undertaken at Coronation Park on 6 April 2019. The public and stakeholders were invited to meet and express their views to the TRC and design team from RPS, it was also an opportunity to explain the master plan process. From this session the design team gained vital information about the park, the key park users and ideas on how the community believe the park could be used in future. In addition to this meeting, further information and feedback was gathered by the TRC 'Have Your Say' web site page, where visitors were invited to complete a survey and provide comment.

Based on the feedback from the engagement process it is clear the community are very fond of Coronation Park. Positive comments were received regarding large mature trees, the natural setting, bird life, its informality and open space. The master plan will focus on retaining these positive attributes and strengthening them where possible.

The key trends identified through consultation are outlined below:

- Numerous comments were received regarding the existing toilets, comments centred around safety concerns, unacceptable behaviour, poor condition and inappropriate location.
- Few water points
- Seats
- Bbq facilities
- Age of play equipment
- Lack of attractions for older children

In addition to the above it was found that 35% of people surveyed felt unsafe when in the park. Based on comments received during the park open day and feedback to Council, these concerns are centred around the location and configuration of the toilets. The master plan has addressed these concerns by proposing a new amenity building in a more visible location and an open building style that maximises surveillance.

36% of people agreed there is adequate parking, however safety concerns were identified with the on-street car parking on Stephen Street. To mitigate this, 5 additional indented parallel parking bays are proposed.

A lack of resting and picnicking facilities was identified, to address this additional seats, tables, shelters and a new BBQ have been proposed.

60% of the users believe the dog off leash area should remain unfenced. In line with this response a fence has not been included in the initial master plan. However, the ultimate plan does make provision for a future fence which Council may introduce if funding becomes available. In the meantime, to assist in defining this area and deter dogs from running onto the road, a planting strip has been proposed along the Memory Street boundary. Additional regulatory signage has also been included.

Regarding the possible installation of exercise equipment and a basketball half court, the community feedback indicated a 50/50 split. Therefore, these items have been identified as non-essential embellishments and earmarked for future installation if funding becomes available.

Feedback received on community preferences for landscape style indicated 75% of people preferred an informal landscape style of planting and 90% were aligned with the natural play theme. These results influenced the planting and playground design of the master plan.

The draft master plan was published on the Toowoomba Regional Council 'Have Your Say' website from 25 May - 10 June 2019 to inform the community on how the master plan developed based on initial feedback from the community.

Council received 6 feedback emails from the community. This feedback was generally positive, one community member requested the park be left untouched, with the exception of the toilet block upgrade. The evolution of the final design has endeavoured to respond to all community feedback and incorporate comments where possible.

The next stage is to progress the design through to construction. Many of the points raised will be resolved as the park is designed in more detail. All suggestions will be considered, subject to available funding.



SITE PHOTOS



1 Stephen Street Entry



4 Picnic table



8 Playground



12 Unfenced dog off leash area



2 Amenities Block



5 Shelter and BBQ



9 Memory Street Entry



13 Amenities adjacent dog off leash area



3 Stephen Street verge



6 Maintenance access off Stephen St



10 Memory Street parking



14 Line of shrubs dividing the park



7 Kick-about

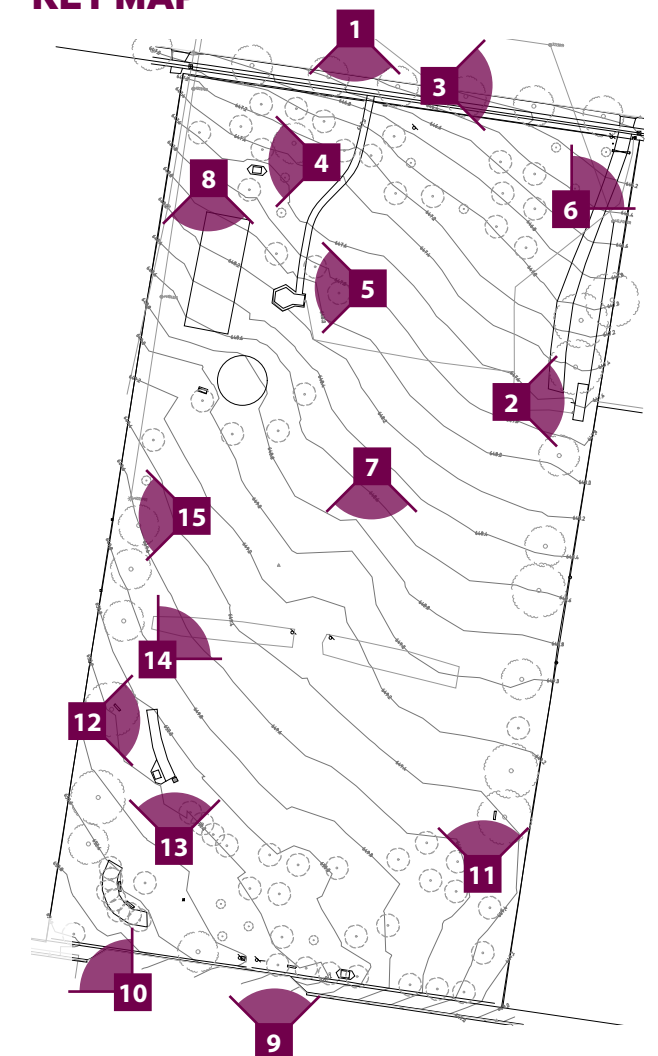


11 Large mature trees

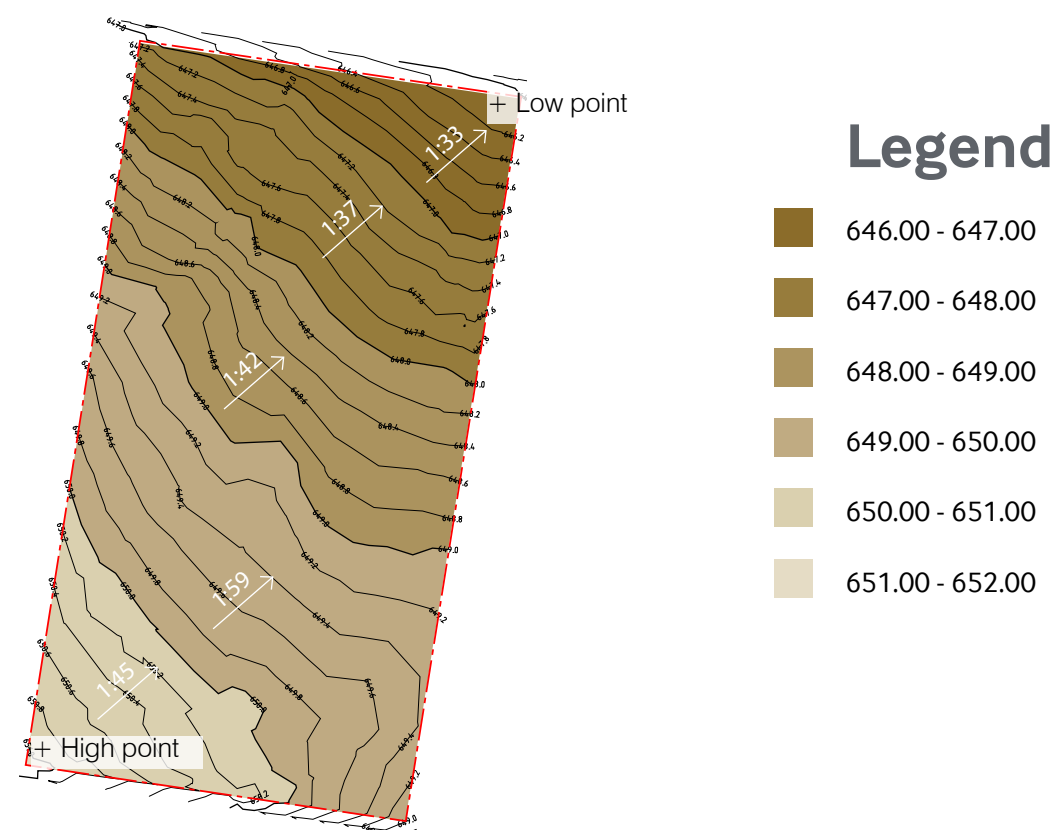


15 Residential interface

KEY MAP



SLOPE ANALYSIS



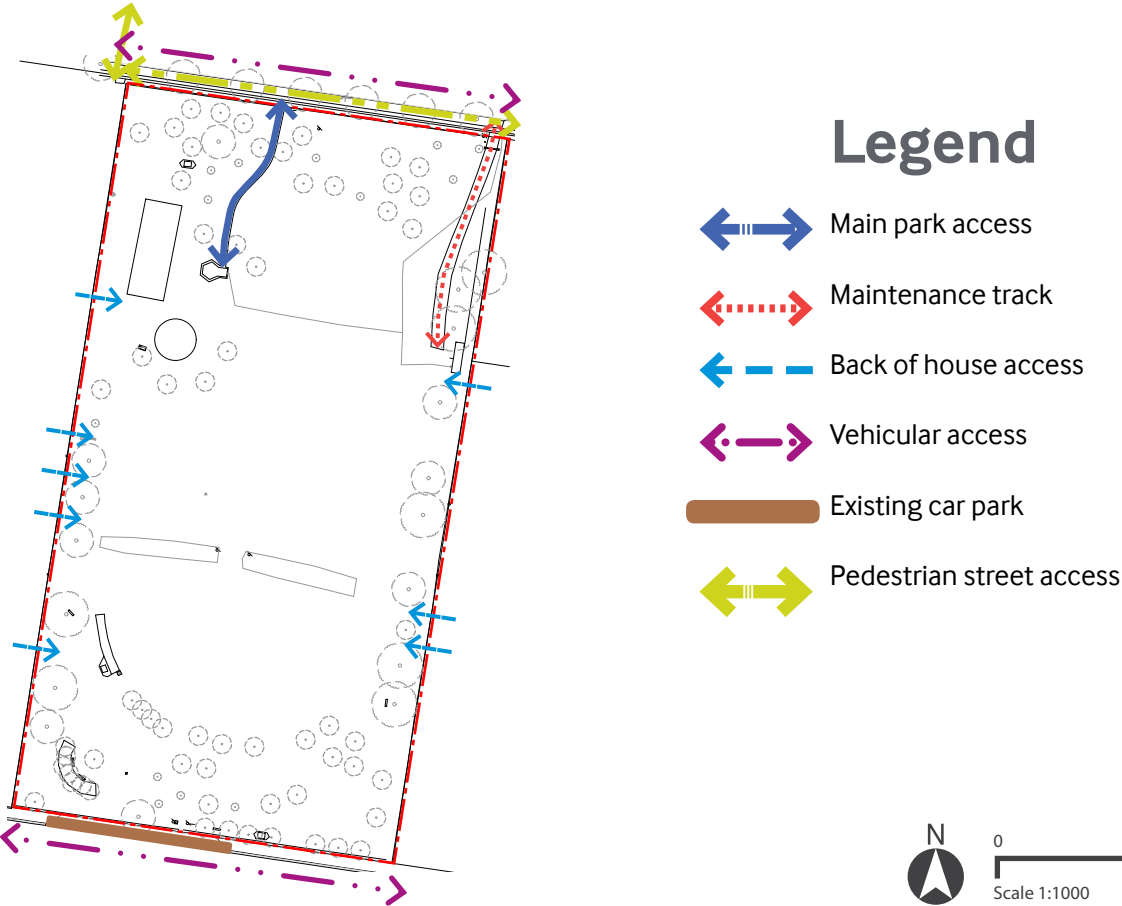
TREE ANALYSIS



LAND USE PLAN



SITE CIRCULATION



OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

Legend

- ① Existing grass area in poor condition. Dead patches and weeds present.
- ② Existing unfenced dog off-leash area.
- ③ Existing playground is outdated, equipment requires replacement, no shade and appeals to narrow age group.
- ④ A variety of solid and semi-transparent fences from 1.2 - 2m high form the east and west edge.
- ⑤ Poor formal connectivity through park. Existing footpath terminates at playground only.
- ⑥ Existing trees limits parking extension along Memory Street.
- ⑦ Existing gardens are a visual and physical barrier across the park.
- ⑧ Existing historical tree structure inside the park.
- ⑨ Existing group of trees in excellent condition provide good shade. Consider succession planting.
- ⑩ Existing shelter provides seating and shelter for small group only, less than 6 people.
- ⑪ Existing park toilets in poor and hazardous condition. Location has poor surveillance. Existing service layout restricts relocation options.
- ⑫ Busy road creates a hazard for pedestrians and park users parking along Stephen Street.
- ⑬ Private residential access
- ⑭ Pedestrian access from Memory Street is not prominent.
- ⑮ Existing parking bays not sufficient to service park.
- ⑯ Pedestrian desire lines.
- ⑰ Running circuit used by fitness group.

Key

- Existing Trees
- Kickabout
- Dog off leash area
- Cricket pitch tree line
- Playground
- Key views
- Residential fences
- Concrete footpath
- Existing planting bed
- Pedestrian desire line
- Running circuit
- Private residential access
- Busy road



VISION

In upgrading Coronation Park from a local park to a district park the landscape aims to foster a safe, healthy and equitable community that celebrates diversity and promotes a quality lifestyle.

The landscape will ensure community and legacy uses and geometry are respected while integrating new amenity. Functional areas such as the parking, amenities, play and the dog park will all consider legibility, safety and creativity in forming a unique park that contributes to community and instills a sense of ownership/stewardship.

The existing green open landscape characterised by its mature leafy trees will drive the identity and activity of this park. This master plan aspires to celebrate the natural beauty and embrace revitalisation to create an authentic and distinctive park.

DRIVERS



Community

- Encourage community interaction
- Promote local gatherings and events
- Create a safe and welcoming place
- Respond to community aspirations



Enduring

- Create a destination
- Instil timeless qualities
- Protect mature trees
- Strengthen existing framework
- Respect its history and environment
- Respond to surroundings



Amenity

- Provide activities that differ from surrounding parks
- Generate active and passive experiences
- Increase functionality
- Improve existing facilities
- Present opportunities to interact with nature

MASTER PLAN

The master plan aspires to deliver an amenity-rich landscape with a range of diverse open spaces and distinctive places which facilitate interaction, exploration, promote an active and healthy lifestyle, generate creativity and foster a warm and relaxed community. The park will function as a community recreational, social, and leisure space.

Coronation Park will have a wide range of embellishment to encourage people to stay longer. It aims to service the whole of the Harristown community and beyond in providing green relief from the urban setting and a unique human scale environment.

The park includes grassed fields, a new amenity building, canopy trees, dog off leash area, playground and a pedestrian footpath connecting Stephen Street and Memory Street. The playground is nestled into the landscape beside the central axis, it includes proprietary play equipment that is integrated with natural play, planting and elements such as mounding and balancing boulders. Its central position ensures legibility and ease of movement to the kickabout and other park areas. The proposed amenities building has been positioned to maximise legibility and casual surveillance from Stephen Street, zero loss of trees and conveniently located adjacent to the playground and picnic facilities. Five new indented car parking bays including a bay for people with disabilities are proposed for Stephen Street, they will provide convenient and safe parks for visitors.

The proposed planting strategy within the master plan aims to:

- Respect, maintain and reinforce the historic form of the cricket oval by retaining existing trees along this curved alignment and proposing supplement planting to strengthen the structure.
- Create an 'urban forest' and gateway to the park at the northern and southern boundaries by reinforcing the existing grove of trees;
- The 'urban forest' will define the edges of kickabout and dog off leash areas;
- Implement succession planting and provide a buffer along the east and west edges;
- Large feature trees (*Agathis robusta*) are proposed to strengthen the central axis and provide a gateway between landscape spaces;
- Small shrub and groundcover planting will be located at the playground to assist play integration and provide a nature play experience;
- A planting strip is proposed to the southern end of the unfenced dog off leash area to define its boundaries and provide a barrier to Memory Street; and
- The existing planting strip at the northern end of the dog off leash area will be retained.



MASTER PLAN



0 10 20m
Scale 1:500

Legend

Sandstone block seat	
Light	
Drinking fountain and tap	
Entry Sign	
Interpretive Sign	
Regulatory Sign	
Cycle rack	
Bin	
Existing tree	 
Proposed tree	 
View location	
Section/Elevation location	

- ①

Park axis - reinforced by paving, feature trees, signage and landscape spaces
- ②

Entrance – park name, signage, feature trees
- ③

Large feature tree – shade and strengthening park axis
- ④

Urban forest as 'book ends' to park - existing trees retained and infill tree planting
- ⑤

Tree line of former cricket pitch is retained and strengthened by additional tree planting
- ⑥

Kick-about area
- ⑦

Football goal post
- ⑧

Playground – play equipment including flying fox, traditional games, triple swing, climbing mound and slide, nature play theme and shade structure
- ⑨

Shelters, BBQ, disability compliant picnic table
- ⑩

Amenities building – 3 units,
- ⑪

Unfenced dog off leash area
- ⑫

New low planting- defines dog off leash area
- ⑬

Planting bed to be retained
- ⑭

Lighting to dog off-leash area, amenities building and picnic area
- ⑮

On street car parking – 5 additional parallel spaces
- ⑯

Interpretative signs – describe trees and birds found with the park including web links to supporting information
- ⑰

Landscape space – passive recreation and rest point, shade, seating and signage
- ⑱

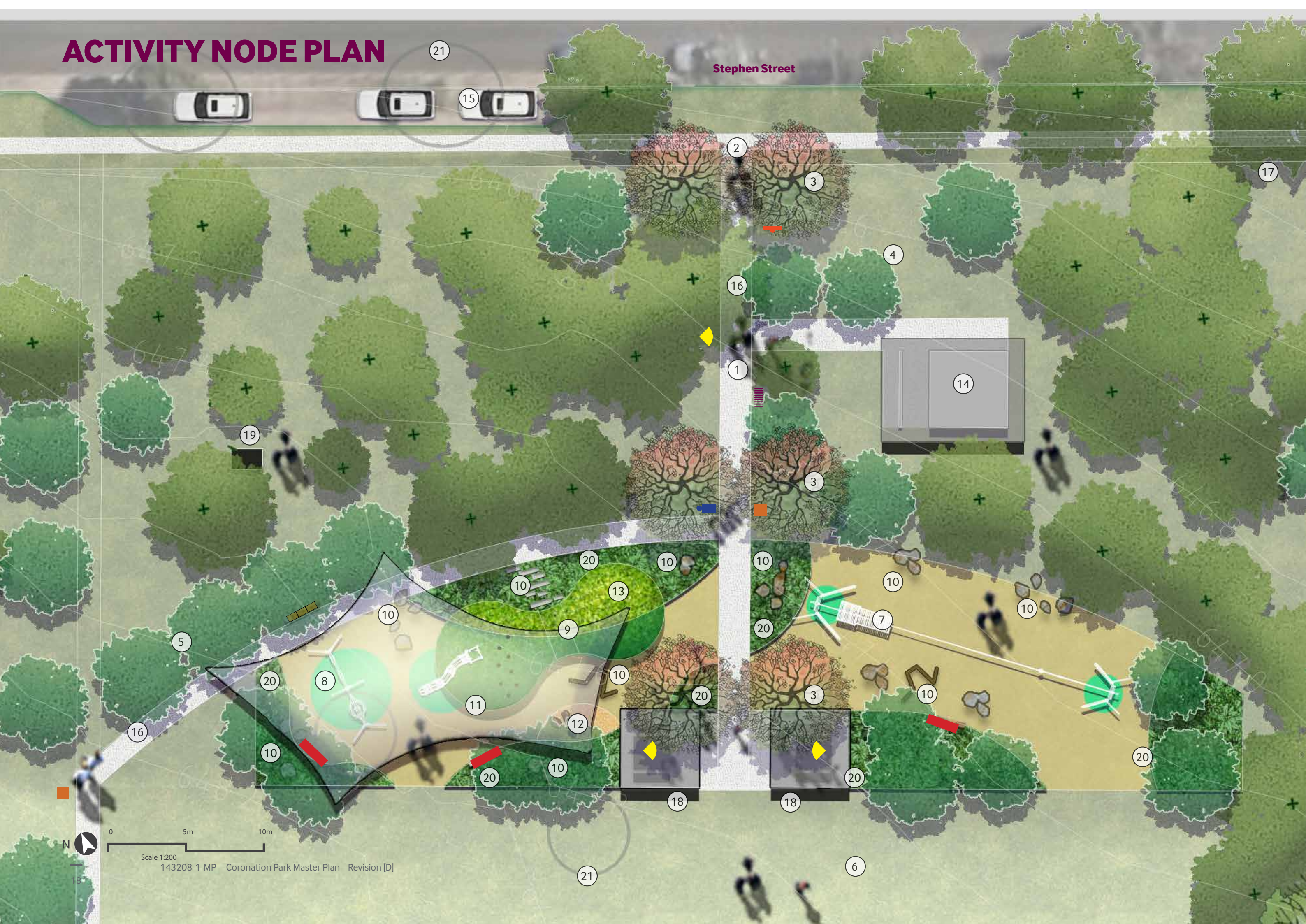
Concrete path
- ⑲

Maintenance vehicular access
- ⑳












Existing furniture to be retained and replaced once funding becomes available
- ㉑

Potential removal / relocation of existing trees to be confirmed during detail design

ACTIVITY NODE PLAN



Legend

Bench seat	
Sandstone block seat	
Light	
Drinking fountain and tap	
Entry Sign	
Cycle rack	
Bin	
Existing tree	 
Proposed tree	 

- 1

Park axis - reinforced by paving, feature trees, signage and landscape spaces
- 2

Entrance – park name, signage, feature trees
- 3

Large feature tree – shade and strengthening park axis
- 4

Urban forest as 'book ends' to park - existing trees retained and infill tree planting
- 5

Tree line of former cricket pitch is retained and strengthened by additional tree planting
- 6

Kick-about area
- 7

Flying fox
- 8

Swings including standard seat, nest, mum and me combination and disability compliant basket swing and access.
- 9

Climbing mound with slide, tunnel, and hill climb rope.
- 10

Nature play elements including boulders, balance logs, stepping stones and timber sculpture.
- 11

Shade structure
- 12

Sand play provides additional tactile experience
- 13

Artificial turf to back of mound provides additional tactile experience
- 14

Amenities building – 3 units
- 15

On street car parking – 5 additional parallel spaces
- 16

Concrete path
- 17

Maintenance vehicular access
- 18

Shelter with picnic table and BBQ
- 19

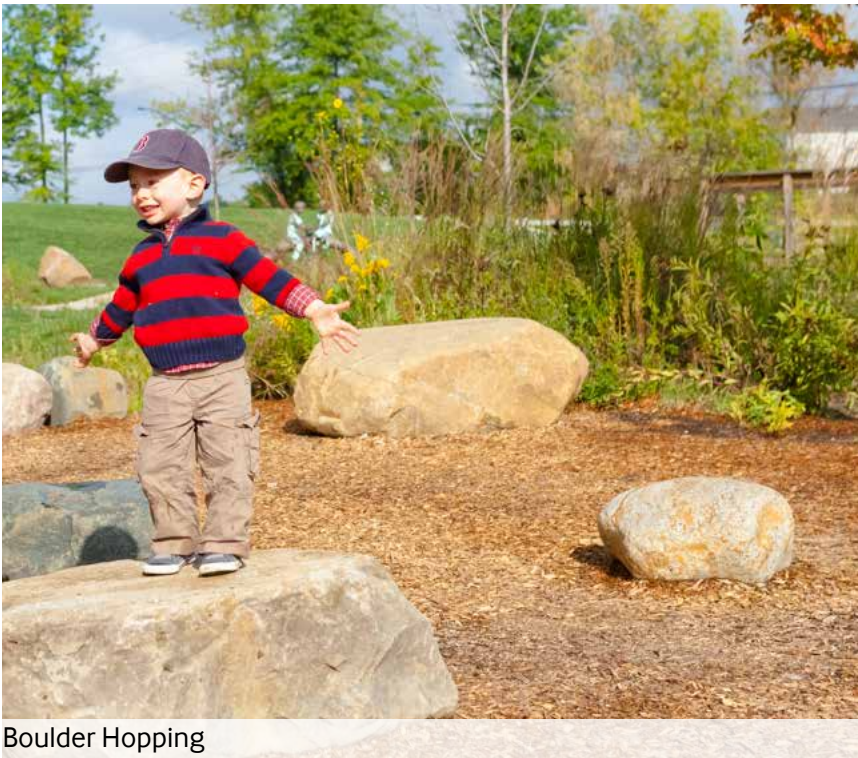
Existing seats to be retained and replaced once funding becomes available
- 20

Planting beds. Form part of play experience. Children are encouraged to venture through the bed by way of stepping stones and other nature play elements.
- 21

Potential removal / relocation of existing trees to be confirmed during detail design

PLAY EXPERIENCE

The play equipment focuses on nature play and encourages the adventurous side of children. It is aimed at inspiring children to reconnect with nature through unstructured play and outdoor learning. There is something for every age group while providing a different play experience from surrounding parks. A selection of swings have been chosen to be inclusive, allowing a range of uses from the nest swing, including disability compliance and access, as well as the 'mum and me swing' providing a close connection between carer and infant.



Boulder Hopping



Play mounds



Traditional Play



Stilts



Stepping stones



Sand Play



Kick-about



Balance logs



Hill slide



Hill climb



Shade sail



Flying fox (20m)



Soccer or football post



Standard swing



Nest swing - disability compliance and access



Mum and me swing

ARTISTS IMPRESSION 1 - ENTRY PATH

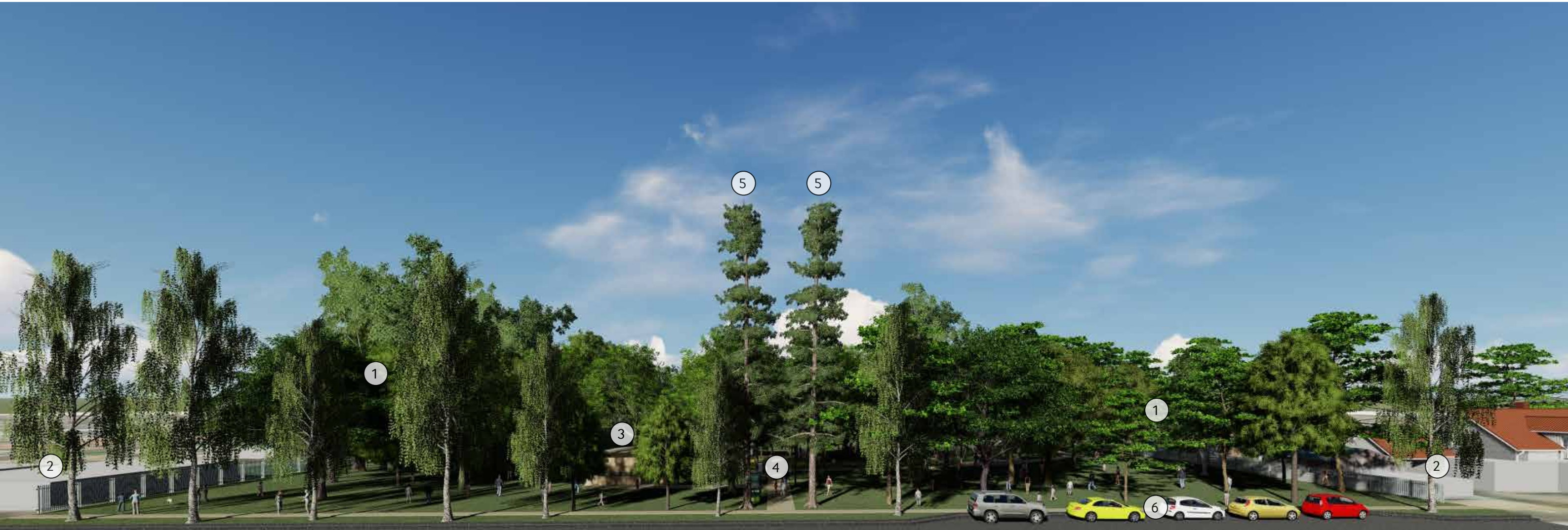


ARTISTS IMPRESSION 2 - PLAY NODE



ARTISTS IMPRESSION A-A - STEPHEN STREET

- ① Urban forest
- ② Property line
- ③ Proposed amenities building
- ④ Park central axis
- ⑤ Feature trees on central axis
- ⑥ Proposed parallel car parks



SECTIONAL ELEVATION B-B - PARK CENTRAL AXIS

- ① Stephen Street
- ② Entry Sign
- ③ Urban forest
- ④ Amenities building
- ⑤ Playground
- ⑥ Feature trees on park axis
- ⑦ Shelter
- ⑧ Kick-about area



ARTISTS IMPRESSION C-C - VIEW FROM KICKABOUT

- ① Shelter
- ② Play mound
- ③ Swing
- ④ Slide
- ⑤ Flying fox
- ⑥ Park central axis
- ⑦ Feature trees on central axis
- ⑧ Proposed amenities building



ARTISTS IMPRESSION D-D - DOG OFF LEASH ENTRY

- ① Park central axis
- ② Feature trees on central axis
- ③ Paved entry
- ④ Low planting
- ⑤ Entry and regulatory signs
- ⑥ Furniture including bin and drinking fountain
- ⑦ Existing parking to Memory street



FURNITURE

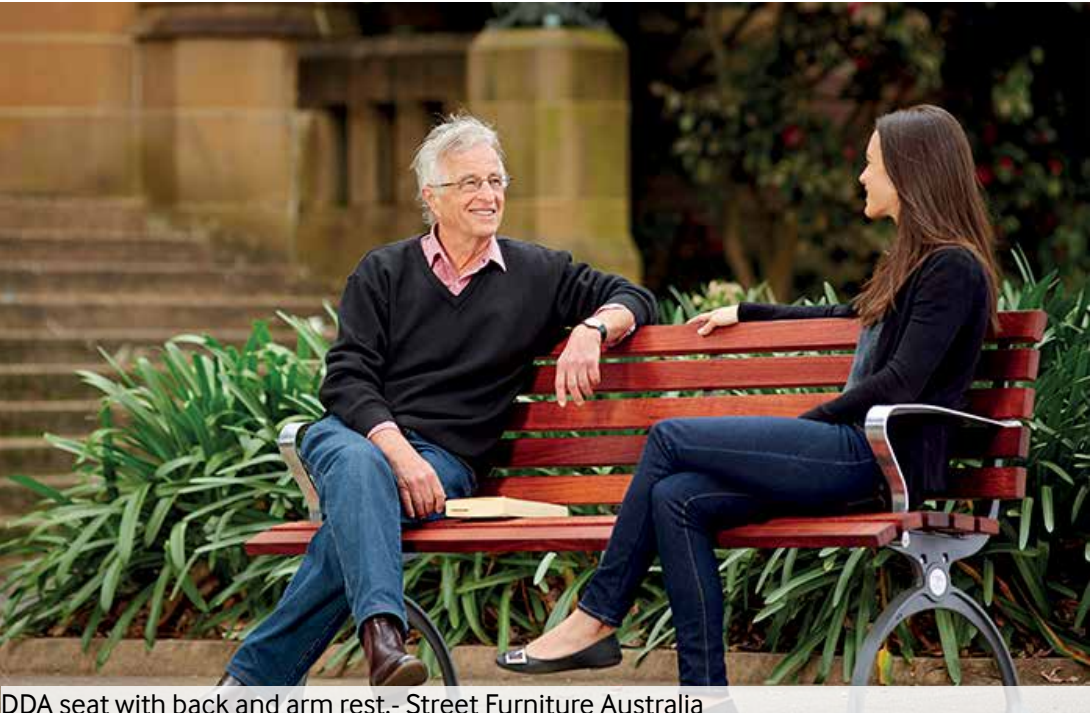
The furniture has been chosen for robustness, functionality, aesthetic value and well as value for money. A variety of seating types have been selected to appeal to a wide range of uses. The propriety seating uses aluminium battens with a wood grain finish. The aluminium ensures seats don't become too hot in the sun, it outlives traditional timber battens while still achieving timber like aesthetic. Seating and tables have been selected to comply with The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Tables have a overhang that allow for wheelchair access and seating accommodates all ages through provision of arms and an upright backrest. Some existing furniture will be retained initially, then replaced as funding becomes available.



Picnic shelter 5x5m- Gossi Park



Interpretive signage



DDA seat with back and arm rest.- Street Furniture Australia
Aluminium wood grain batten



Frame bin enclosure-Street Furniture Australia
Aluminium wood grain batten



DDA picnic setting- Street Furniture Australia
Aluminium wood grain batten



Water bubbler-UFF Apollo 280
Dog bowl and bottle fill tap



Sandstone seat. Precision sandstone block
with a smooth top finish

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Interpretive signs are proposed around the park, promoting education and knowledge of local natural features. This fosters a connection with nature and encourages a stewardship over the park, the interpretive signs will describe flora and fauna. It is envisioned the signs would include images and QR web link to further information.



PLANTING

The proposed plant palette will be selected for aesthetics and function. Structured planting near entry points, feature areas, and activity nodes create a legible and welcoming landscape. Species have been chosen that compliment the existing vegetation and respond to the local environment. The following are tried and tested, hardy species that will also encourage fauna to the park.



PLANTING



Toona australis
Red Cedar



Buckinghamia celsissima
Ivory Curl Flower



Agathis robusta
Queensland Kauri Pine



Quercus palustris
Pin Oak



Lophostemon confertus
Bush Box



Tristaniopsis laurina
Water Gum



Banksia ericifolia 'Red Rover'
Lantern Banksia



Grevillea poorinda 'Royal Mantle'
Grevillea Royal Mantle



Melaleuca Claret Tops
Honey Myrtle



Grevillea curviloba
Narrow Curved-leaf Grevillea



Vinca Minor
Lesser Peirwinkle



Liriope Evergreen Giant
Evergreen Giant



Lomandra hystrix
Mat Rush



Myoporum ellipticum
Coastal Myoporum

MATERIALS AND FINISHES

The colour palette for the park takes inspiration from local native flora. The vision is to take a sensitive approach to selecting finishes, materials and colours to ensure structures are nestled into the landscape, complementing the textures and tones of the existing environment. It is therefore proposed to use neutral and natural colour tones with galvanised steel and timber elements wherever possible.



The range of finishes focus on natural and raw to celebrate the existing beauty of this park. The playground incorporates a diverse range of tactile finishes to further engage the imagination and reinforce the nature play character. Playground colours will also be natural, loud and gaudy colours are to be avoided.



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ULTIMATE MASTER PLAN

The ultimate master plan is an aspirational design that adds further assets and embellishments that may be included when funding becomes available. It is envisioned these additional elements, appropriate for a district level park, would further service the local neighbourhood and visitors from the wider community. Opportunities exist to engage with the community to incorporate art and placemaking, these initiatives will be explored further when funding becomes available.

The ultimate master plan would include :

- fitness equipment,
- basketball quarter court,
- sensory plantings,
- additional play equipment,
- more activity nodes,
- seating and shelters,
- dog agility equipment,
- more tree planting and
- potentially a fenced dog off leash area.

Innovative inclusions could also include:

- WIFI
- charging points,
- sculpture seating,
- art interventions
- placemaking and
- luminous paving



Sculpture seating



Charging points



Sensory plantings



Basketball quarter Court



Luminous paving



Exercise



Balancing



Seesaw



Climbing



Spinning















Sound play

ULTIMATE MASTER PLAN



Legend

Bench seat	
Sandstone block seat	
Seat with wi-fi	
Lounge seat	
Picnic table	
Light	
Interpretive Sign	
Regulatory Sign	
Cycle rack	
Bin	
Proposed tree	
Shelter	

- 1 Park axis - reinforced by paving, feature trees, signage and landscape spaces
- 2 Entry feature paving – coloured concrete or innovative paving
- 3 Urban forest – ‘book ends’ to park, existing trees retained and infill tree planting. Some open space to be retained
- 4 Playground extended with additional play equipment
- 5 Intimate lawn/ yoga lawn
- 6 Deco or concrete path
- 7 Shelters with disability compliant picnic setting
- 8 Boot camp/fitness equipment – paving, seating, step-up blocks, chin up bar

- 9 Teenage hangout – basketball, soccer goal, graphics, Wi-Fi/charging station Seating
- 10 Dog agility equipment
- 11 Future fence to off-leash area including fenced small dog area
- 12 Additional interpretative signs – describe trees and birds found with the park including web links to supporting information
- 13 Additional landscape space – passive recreation and rest point, shade, seating and signage
- 14 Sensory planting
- 15 Maintenance vehicle access