

ATTACHMENT 2: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

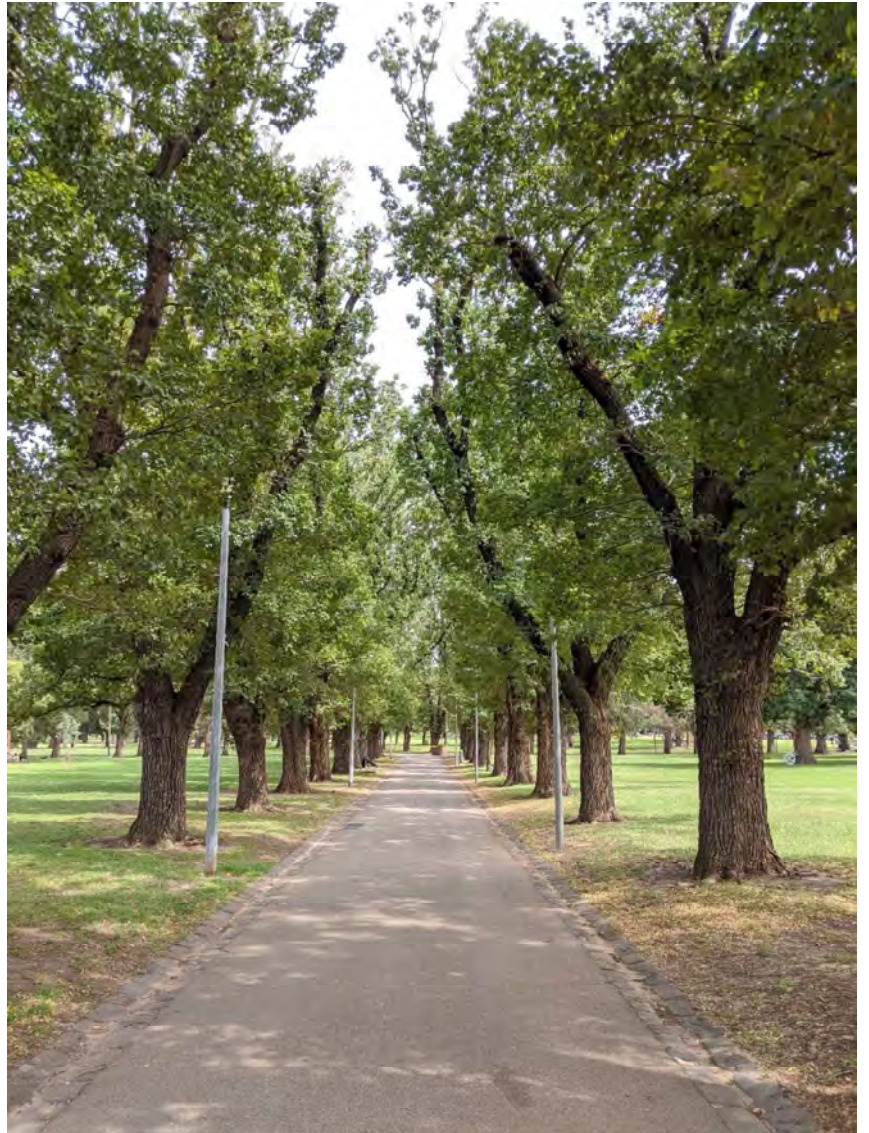


Edinburgh Gardens

including Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand

Conservation Management Plan

Fitzroy North 3068 VIC



April 2021

Prepared by

LOVELL CHEN

Prepared for

CITY OF YaRRA

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EDINBURGH GARDENS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Brief

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Edinburgh Gardens (including the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand) was commissioned by the City of Yarra and has been prepared Lovell Chen. The purpose of the CMP is to provide an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the gardens, buildings and landscape elements and provide guidance and policy to manage the identified heritage values and fabric of these elements.

For the purposes of this report, a Sporting Precinct has been identified based on the historical patterns of development and continuing contemporary use and values. This precinct includes the W.T. Peterson Community Oval (Brunswick Street Oval), the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand, the Freeman Street Entrance Gatehouse, the Bowling Club and Tennis Club facilities, and their immediate surroundings in the south-west of the Edinburgh Gardens.

It is noted that the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is also known as the Fitzroy Cricket Club Grandstand and is described as such in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Yarra Planning Scheme and by the National Trust.

The following assessments were not undertaken as part of this CMP; notwithstanding, recommendations regarding these are made in Chapter 6 Conservation Policy and Management Plan:

- An assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage and associated values
- An assessment of social value.

1.2 Methodology

This CMP broadly follows the principles and processes set out in the *Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, 2013 and its Practice Notes. The *Burra Charter* establishes a standard of practice for those involved in assessing, managing and undertaking works to places of cultural significance.

It also has regard for the recommendations of *Conservation Management Plans: Managing Heritage Places*, prepared by the Heritage Council of Victoria (2010). The technical language utilised in this report is also based on the definitions included on the *Burra Charter*.

The report comprises the following:

- An overview of the history of the site (Chapter 2)
- A physical survey of the built elements and landscape (Chapter 3)
- Assessment of significance (Chapter 4)
- An opportunities and constraints discussion (Chapter 5)
- A conservation policy and management plan (Chapter 6)

Appendices

- Appendix A: Heritage citations

1.3 Location

Edinburgh Gardens is located in Fitzroy North, bounded by Brunswick Street and St Georges Road to the west, Freeman Street to the south and Alfred Crescent to the north and east.

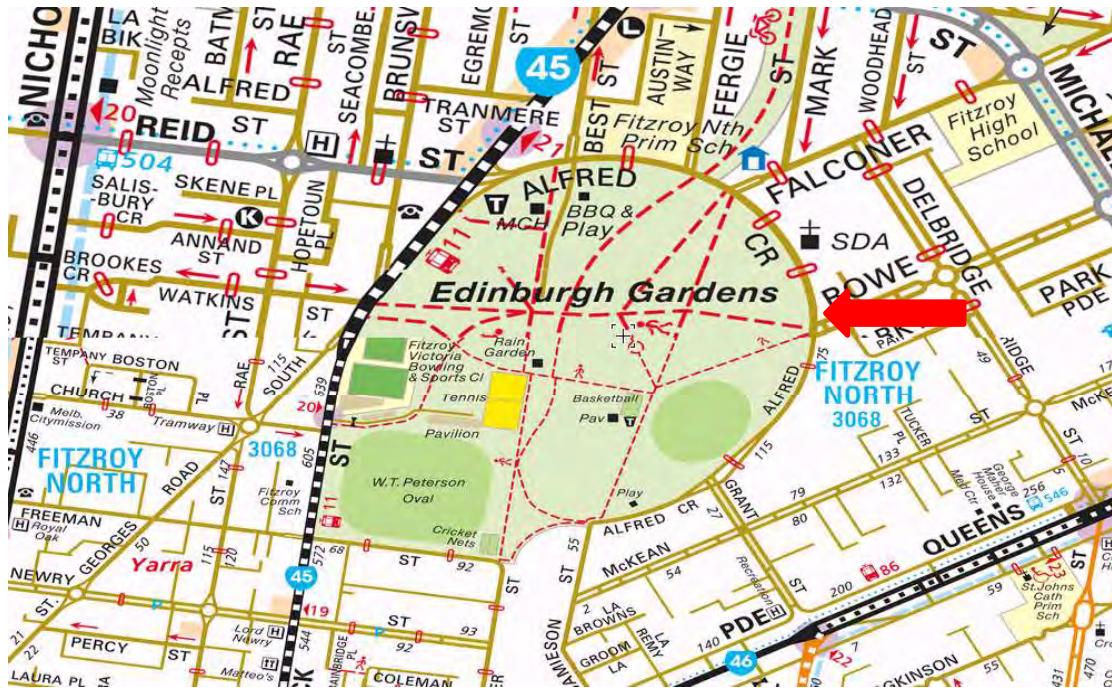


Figure 1 Map of Fitzroy North (part) with Edinburgh Gardens indicated by the red arrow
Source: www.street-directory.com.au



Figure 2 Aerial view of the Edinburgh Gardens
Source: Nearmap, August 2019

1.4 Statutory heritage controls

1.4.1 *Heritage Act 2017*

The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is included on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR), maintained by the Victorian Heritage Council as VHR H0751.

The extent of registration for the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand as included in the VHR documentation is as follows:

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act 2017, I give notice under section 53 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying a place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H0751

Category: Registered Place

Place: Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand

Location: Brunswick Street, Fitzroy North

Municipality: Yarra City Council

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 751 encompassing part of Allotment 6 Section 34 at North Fitzroy, Parish of Jika Jika.

Permits are required from Heritage Victoria for new buildings and works which affect the grandstand or which would occur within the extent of registered land. A series of permit exemptions have been added to the registration which identify minor works for which no heritage permit is required.

The citation is included at Appendix A. Refer to Chapter 5 for a summary of the citation and the extent of registration plan.

1.4.2 *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

The Edinburgh Gardens are individually included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the City of Yarra Planning Scheme (HO213). The heritage overlay for the Edinburgh Gardens comprises an extensive landscaped area and a number of historic and modern structures. Notable individual buildings and landscape elements include the timber entrance pavilion, the Freeman Street entry gatehouse, Sportsman's Memorial, Memorial Rotunda and the site's tree lined avenues and gardens. The Edinburgh Gardens are subject to an Incorporated Plan under the provisions of clause 43.01 of the Heritage Overlay, Planning Permit Exemptions, 2014.¹ This Incorporated Plan provides for permit exemption to be applied for a number of minor works.

The Fitzroy Cricket Ground Grandstand is individually identified in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Yarra Planning Scheme (HO215) reflecting its inclusion on the VHR, noting that the amended VHR registration identifies the place as the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand.

Planning permits will be required for new buildings and works which affect elements included within the Heritage Overlay, with the exception of the grandstand and the registered area around it, which is subject to permit approval from Heritage Victoria.

The citations are included in Appendix A.

1.5 Non-statutory listings

1.5.1 *National Trust of Australia (Victoria)*

The Edinburgh Gardens are not classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). However, the Fitzroy Cricket Club Grandstand is classified at a State level, file number B6060.

A Holm oak (*Quercus ilex*), located north-east of the bowling club, was classified as a tree of local significance on the 10 May 1993, file number T11566.

There are no statutory requirements as a consequence of these classifications.

1.5.2 *Victorian War Memorial Inventory*

The Rotunda is included in the Victorian War Heritage Inventory as follows.

- Fitzroy Memorial Rotunda, place id 126667.

There is no statutory requirement as a consequence of this registration.

1.6 References

This CMP has been informed by the following documents:

- *Edinburgh Gardens Conservation Management Plan*, prepared by Allom Lovell & Associates in association with John Patrick Pty Ltd, 2004.

This CMP includes information and content drawn from the *Edinburgh Gardens Conservation Management Plan*, prepared by Allom Lovell & Associates in association with John Patrick Pty Ltd, 2004. It is understood that this document relied on the *Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study*, prepared by Rex Swanson, Landform Australia Pty Ltd, 1987. Other documentation referred to in the 2004 report including correspondence, maps and other documents in the Crown Lands Reserve file, held by the then Department of Sustainability and the Environment, the Public Record Office of Victoria, including Crown Lands correspondence and City of Fitzroy Minute Books.

Research for this CMP has resulted in a revision of the content in the previous CMP through accessing records available on Trove and the State Library of Victoria. In this respect, the history, physical analysis and assessment reflect the additional research and analysis.

Material provided by Terence Nott Architect.

1.7 Limitations

Access was generally available throughout the gardens and buildings, with the exception of the interior of the Alfred Crescent Pavilion.

1.8 Terminology

The conservation terminology used in this report is of a specific nature, and is defined within the *Burra Charter*. The terms most frequently referred to are *place*, *cultural significance*, *fabric*, *conservation*, *preservation*, *restoration*, *reconstruction*, *adaptation* and *interpretation*. These terms are defined in the revised charter as follows:

Place means a geographically defined area. It may include elements, objects, spaces and views. Place may have tangible and intangible dimensions.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. *Cultural significance* is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric*, *setting*, *use*, *associations*, *meanings*, *records*, *related places* and *related objects*.

Fabric means all the physical material of the *place* including components, fixtures, contents and objects.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the *fabric* and *setting* of a *place*, and its *setting*. Maintenance is to be distinguished from repair which involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.

Preservation means maintaining a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing elements without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material.

Adaptation means changing a *place* to suit the existing *use* or a proposed use.

Use means the functions of a *place*, as well as the activities and traditional and customary practices that may occur at the *place* or are dependent on the place.

Compatible use means a *use* which respects the *cultural significance* of a *place*. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

Setting means the immediate and extended environment of a *place*, that is part of or contributes to its *cultural significance* and distinctive character.

Related place means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another *place*.

Related object means an object that contributes to the *cultural significance* of a *place* but is not at the *place*.

Associations mean the connections that exist between people and a *place*.

Meanings denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.²

2.0 HISTORY

2.1 Introduction

This chapter examines the Edinburgh Gardens and Brunswick Street Oval within a historical context over a period of more than 170 years. It charts the reservation of the gardens as a public park and recreational reserve in the mid-nineteenth century through to its usage as a well-loved community site for passive and active recreational activities. It identifies key phases of development, with emphasis placed on built structures and landscape changes. The chapter has built upon on Allom Lovell's 2004 *Edinburgh Gardens: Brunswick Street North Fitzroy Conservation Management Plan*³, with substantial additional research incorporated which serves to clarify the origin and early development of the Edinburgh Gardens.

Occupation of the study area by the Wurundjeri-willam people of the Kulin nation prior to European settlement has not been addressed in this history.

2.2 North Fitzroy, 1840s-1880s

In contrast to the southern part of Fitzroy which was undergoing vigorous development in the 1840s and 1850s, North Fitzroy's urban growth was slow. By the 1850s very little of North Fitzroy had been developed and it was separated by the more densely settled area of Fitzroy by the Reilly Street Drain (now Alexandra Parade). North of the drain was the desolate wasteland of the Corporation of Melbourne's quarries. In c. 1852, 'Garryowen' wrote an unflattering summary of North Fitzroy:

It was for a long time surmised that building enterprise would never penetrate to any extent beyond the sickly Reilly Street drain. This due north region was the most unpleasant of the surroundings of Melbourne; the cold north wind in winter and the hot wind in summer, produced climatic variations anything but agreeable. One was either half-drowned or half-baked and between mud and dust, and wet and heat, you could hardly dream that homes and hearths could have an abiding place there.⁴

In 1850, the government constructed a bridge over the Reilly Street drain and metalled Heidelberg Road (now Queens Parade). Within a few years, allotments in the government township of Northcote were auctioned, and in the process, portions of land south along the Merri Creek (now North Fitzroy) were also sold.

From the mid-1850s, the colonial government's plan for subdivision of North Fitzroy unfolded. It was prepared by Captain Andrew Clarke of the Survey Department and comprised a series of geometric spaces aligned on an axis (Figure 3). However, the scheme was never realised, possibly because the axial arrangement conflicted with the line taken by the Yan Yean pipe along St Georges Road, supplying fresh water to the growing metropolis.⁵

Despite the failure of the government to implement Clarke's plan, the eventual subdivision pattern and street layout in North Fitzroy was more carefully ordered and much wider than those in the southern portion of the suburb. Additionally, in North Fitzroy, a higher standard of development was encouraged by allotments with a minimum size and street frontage.⁶ In 1868, the naming of the streets surrounding what eventually became the gardens within the borough of Fitzroy was adopted, including Best, Fergie, Church, McKean, Falconer, Rowe, Grant and Watkins streets and Alfred Crescent.

North Fitzroy, and especially the streets around the Edinburgh Gardens, became the favoured area for industrialists and land speculators to reside and grew to become an exclusive residential enclave.⁷ Many of the Fitzroy councillors of the 1880s and 1890s lived or invested there – indeed, it was a speculators' paradise. John McMahon, mayor of Fitzroy in 1892, employed David Masterton, a local

contractor, to erect his large villa facing the Edinburgh Gardens. Local industrialists such as Johannes Yager, and contractors, like W H Deague, also lived near the park.⁸

The streets to the north-east of the Edinburgh Gardens contain a mix of single and double storey, attached and detached housing from both the Victorian and Edwardian periods. Alfred Crescent, which defines the north and east sides of the park, has a large number of substantial and largely intact double-storey dwellings from these periods which overlook the gardens.

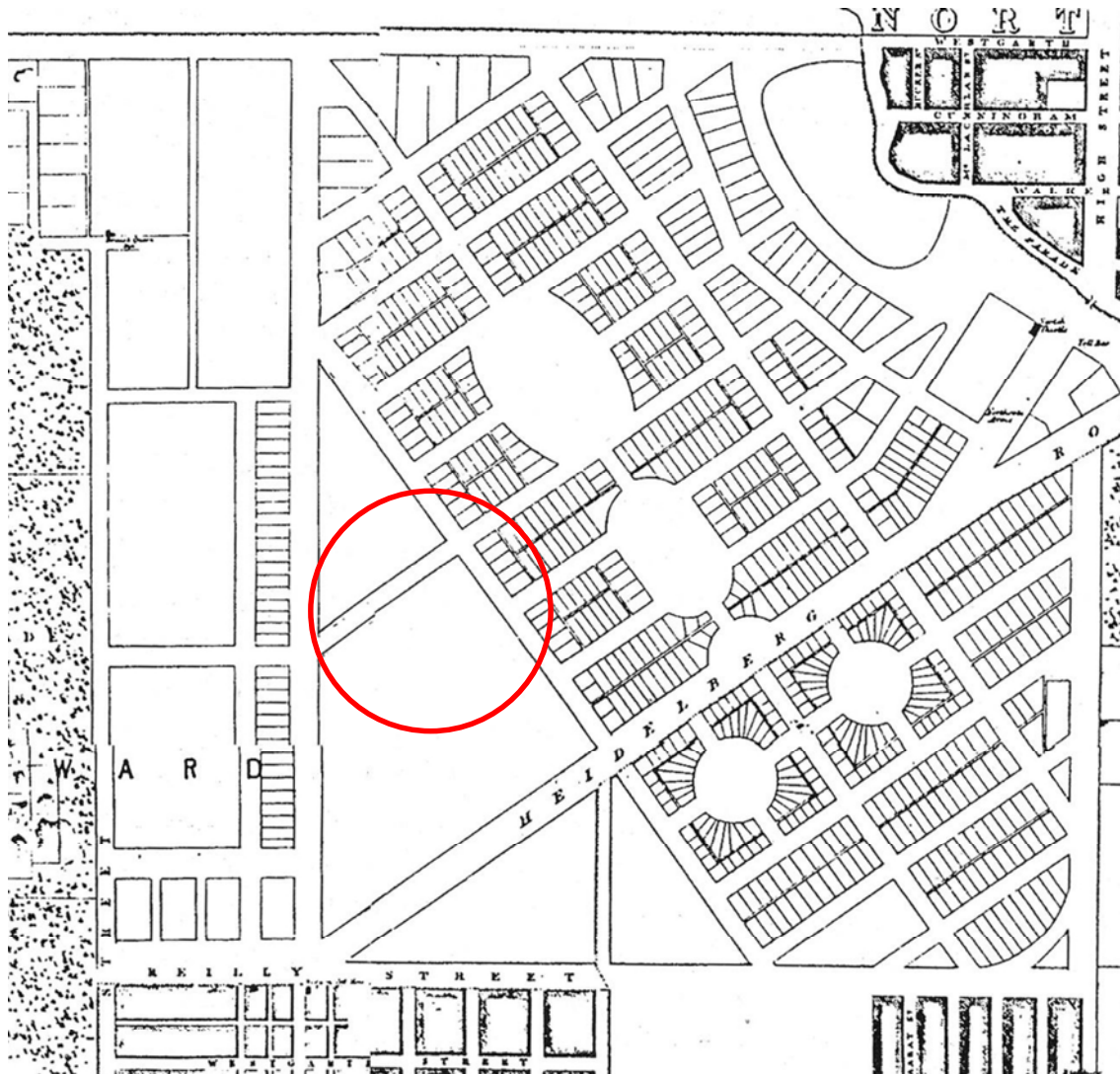


Figure 3 James Kearney's 1855 map showing Captain Andrew Clarke's proposed layout for North Fitzroy, with the approximate location of the Edinburgh Gardens indicated
Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection

2.3 Reservation of the Edinburgh Gardens

The reservation of the Edinburgh Gardens followed a pattern that had been established by the Superintendent of the Colony, Charles Joseph La Trobe in the 1840s. Recreational reserves were perceived as being important community resources that contributed to the physical and moral health of residents, as well as symbolising civility and community 'development'.⁹ The Melbourne Town Council's petition to La Trobe emphasised the:

vital importance to the health of the inhabitants that there should be parks within a distance of the town where they could conveniently take recreation therein after their daily labour ... the effect produced on the minds of all classes is of the most gratifying character.¹⁰

The *Act for the Establishment of Municipal Institutions in Victoria* (1854) provided councils with the power to establish local recreational gardens with grants of land and funds made available by the colonial government.

The present site of the Edinburgh Gardens was unreserved Crown Land when, in January 1862, the Fitzroy City Council requested an area of approximately 50 acres (20 hectares) for public recreation. The motion directing this application was introduced at a council sitting by Councillor Simeon Cohen, who had promised to do so at the previous day's meeting of a Fitzroy cricket club in order to secure a suitable playing ground for the club.¹¹ Accompanying the motion to make an application to the Commissioner of Crown Lands was further direction to the council's Health and Legislative Committees to support the application and to report to council 'upon the best means for encouraging and supporting such recreative and popular amusements as might tend to develop and improve the sanitary condition of the municipality'.¹²

The requested reservation appears to have been in alternative to a much smaller triangular site between Heidelberg Road, and Reilly and Smith streets, which had been temporarily reserved for public recreation in 1859, but which would have proven unsuitable for large-scale organised sports.¹³

The land ultimately selected for the reserve was swampy, with a creek running through it. A Lands Department sketch map of the area dated February 1862 (Figure 4) shows an elongated oval shaped reserve containing few pits or wetlands, and the creek running north-south (broadly following the line taken today by the path running from Jamieson to Falconer streets). The pits may have been made by the Collingwood Volunteers Rifles which were present on the site until the 1880s.¹⁴

Under the direction of Clement Hodgkinson, who as Deputy Commissioner of the Lands Department was a longstanding participant in the planning of Melbourne's recreational parks and gardens, the reserve size was ultimately reduced from 50 acres to approximately 39 acres (15.78 hectares). The length of the reserve was shortened and land released which would form the block to the south of Freeman Street as well as the northerly extension of Brunswick Street to where it now merges with St Georges Road (Figure 4). The northern half-circle of the reserve has been retained as originally planned and gazetted.

The temporary reserve was gazetted in March 1862 as a 'Reserve for Recreation Purposes'.¹⁵ In May, Fitzroy City Council adopted a recommendation that areas of nine acres each be set aside for the use of the Prince of Wales Cricket Club and the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Club, along with one acre for the Fitzroy Quoiting Club.¹⁶ Ultimately, the Lands and Works Department would approve permissive occupancy of about six acres (2.4 hectares) of the reserve for the Prince of Wales Cricket Club by October 1862, and nine acres (3.6 hectares) for the Collingwood Commercial Club by November 1862.¹⁷

The fenced allotments of the two cricket clubs are depicted on an 1867 survey by the Lands Department (Figure 5), together occupying one third of the reserve and extending north from Freeman Street (the

site of the Prince of Wales club ground) to the present location of the rotunda. The two cricket clubs amalgamated in 1872 and were given permissive occupancy of the combined site of 15 acres (six hectares) with sporting activities becoming focused on the southern oval.

During 1868, the name 'Edinburgh Gardens' was adopted by the Fitzroy City Council.¹⁸ The reserve was also sometimes referred to as the 'Duke of Edinburgh Gardens' during the nineteenth century. The name honoured the royal visit of the British Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh, to Australia in 1867-68. A 1938 newspaper article observing the eightieth anniversary of the City of Fitzroy suggested a tree had been planted in the reserve by the Duke during his visit.¹⁹ However, evidence confirming this event has not been located in newspaper coverage of the visit.

In 1881 the government had proposed to excise two acres of the Edinburgh Gardens, east of the cricket club, for a school site. The council promptly expressed its opposition, noting that 'the scheme of drainage for the greater part of Fitzroy north runs through the said land'.²⁰ The present site of the school, on the north side of Alfred Crescent, was subsequently chosen.

On 24 October 1881, land for the Edinburgh Gardens was permanently reserved as a site for a public park and garden. A Crown grant was issued in April 1882 for the larger southern section to the Board of Lands and Works jointly with the Mayor, Councillors and citizens of Fitzroy as a 'site for public park and gardens for the recreation and amusement of our subjects and people'.²¹ In June 1883, a further section of eight acres at the northern end of the gardens was permanently reserved. Although this arc along the south side of Alfred Crescent corresponded to the much earlier surveyed form of the reserve from the 1860s, it was subsequently reported that this section had been added as compensation for the anticipated future loss of land when a railway was constructed through the gardens in the 1880s.²²

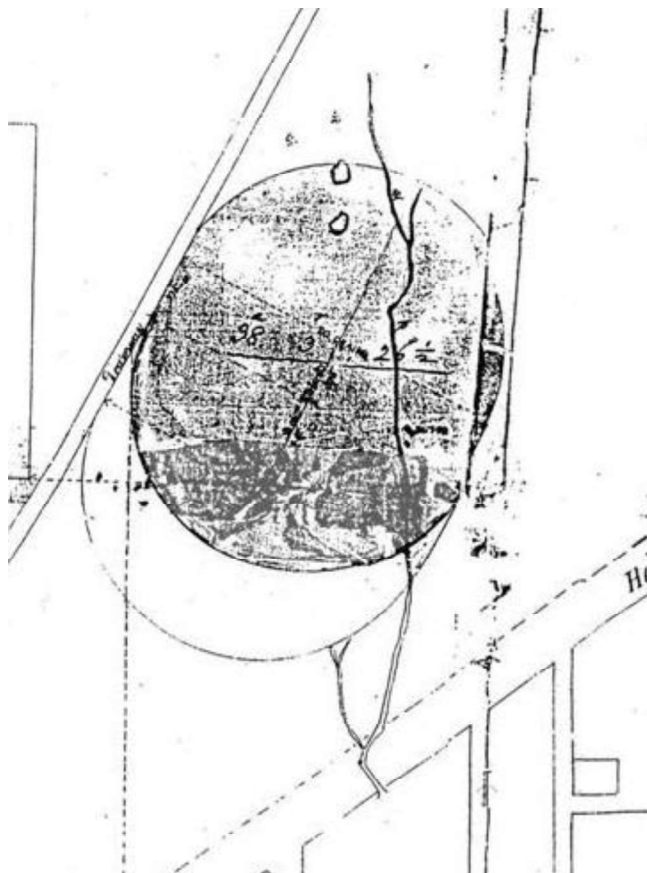


Figure 4 Detail of a Lands Department sketch, 1862, showing the modifications to the reserve
Source: Reserve File RS360, Department of Sustainability and Environment

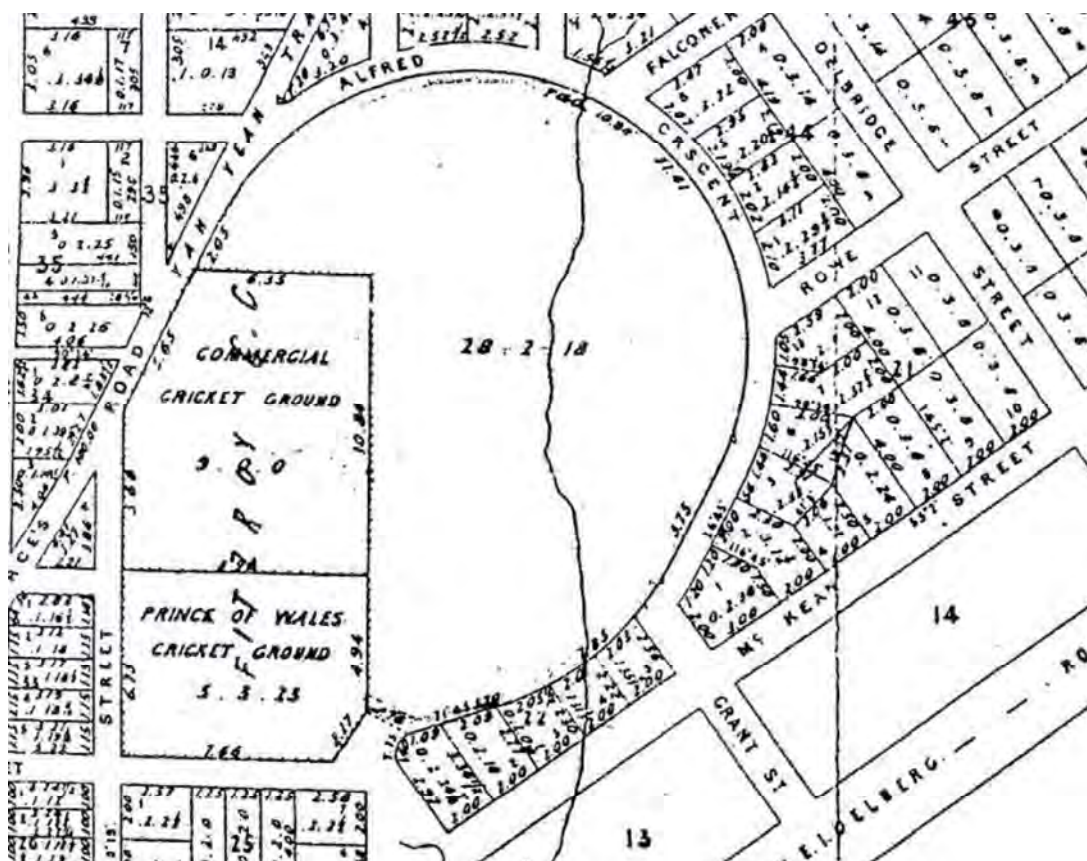


Figure 5 Portion of Lands Department lithographed map of Fitzroy and Brunswick showing the recreation reserve with two cricket grounds, October 1867
Source: Reserve File RS360, Department of Sustainability and Environment

2.4 Early usage and management of the Edinburgh Gardens, 1860s-1880s

2.4.1 Sporting activities

By the 1870s, the evolution in local sporting organisations that had begun in England in the eighteenth century had been taken up in Melbourne with enthusiasm, and formally organised sport was played in many of its parks.²³ When the City of Fitzroy was declared in 1858, Melbourne was expanding to become one of the major cities of the British Empire. As with the establishment of the Public Library in 1852 and the University of Melbourne in 1853, other institutions – such as sporting organisations – appropriate to a British city began to take shape in Melbourne. In 1840 the Flemington racecourse had been formed, and in 1853 the Melbourne Cricket Club was permitted to create a cricket ground with a cottage pavilion on 10 acres to the east of the city (today's Yarra Park).²⁴ While cricket was played in the summer, in August 1858, a game of football between Melbourne Grammar and Scotch College occurred which was the start of Australian rules football.

Municipal councils, like that of Fitzroy, extended the benefits of organised sport to their residents. They committed resources to such activities because of their belief in its value in propagating desirable moral values and promoting health. The Edinburgh Gardens is one of the many parks and reserves in Melbourne where the impact of this revolution in thinking can be observed.

Playing cricket and football drew residents of Fitzroy into the patterns of British sporting culture brought to the colony in its first decades of European settlement. In 1862 and 1863, when the Prince of Wales Cricket Club and the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Club sought permission to play cricket on the site of the Edinburgh Gardens, they replicated the recreational choices of Britain in Fitzroy.

Cricket

From the late 1860s cricket began to assume the structure of organised associations, with constituent clubs entering competitions with teams graded according to skill. It was a popular sport for both players and spectators. In 1862, approximately 25,000 people turned out to see the first English cricket side to visit the colonies. This audience peaked for Test cricket (organised from 1877) and for inter-colonial games, but there were regular crowds for most matches between the strongest clubs, especially from 1895 following the formation of the district competition.²⁵

A playing field was first established on the site of the present oval located at the south-west corner of the Edinburgh Gardens in 1863. In 1872, the Fitzroy Cricket Club was formed from the amalgamation of the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Club and the Prince of Wales Cricket Club. Improvements undertaken by the Fitzroy Cricket Club during the 1870s included the laying of a footpath and running track around the field. Early facilities constructed for the club comprised a timber members' pavilion (located to the north-west of the oval), a small timber stand and seating around the oval. A Lands Department memorandum dated 26 July 1876 noted that the club had, to that date, expended some £450 on improvements within this area.²⁶ It also stated that the remainder of the grounds was enclosed 'by a post and two rail fence at a cost of £90'.²⁷

Early improvements undertaken by the club included building, fencing, trenching and planting works, the latter comprising 'a magnificent assortment of trees ... obtained from Dr von Mueller'.²⁸ Director of the Botanic Gardens (1857-73) and widely regarded as Australia's pre-eminent botanist, Baron Dr Ferdinand von Mueller was responsible for distributing thousands of plants across Victoria for the ornamentation of public spaces.²⁹ The development of the ground during this period is shown in a sketch map submitted to the Lands Department in 1877 (Figure 6). The plan shows seating and the playing ground encircled by a footpath/running track. Sited along the Brunswick Street boundary was a pavilion and ladies reserve, described as 'fenced and planted with trees [and] flowers' with a 'fountain erected in the centre of one of the flower beds'.³⁰ A later newspaper writer recounted that the club had also tried twice to establish a line of trees on its eastern boundary, with both plantings having failed.³¹

By the late nineteenth century, cricket games at the ground had become so popular to warrant the construction of additional spectator facilities. A grandstand on the north side of the oval was built in 1888 to the design of the architect Nathaniel Billing.³² The builder was a Mr Purser and the total amount expended was £2,086.³³ A timber gymnasium was erected at the rear of the grandstand and the existing cricket pavilion was relocated to the eastern side (below the tennis club).³⁴ It appears that the ground floor originally contained some sewered facilities, such as toilets, while the upper floor was possibly a viewing area. The old timber stand, later moved to the eastern side of the oval, was eventually pulled down.

Temporary fences were erected around the ground by the cricket club on match days, giving rise to complaints from local residents. A petition was drawn up in September 1887 asking for the removal of the fences, which were apparently left in place after match days, necessitating detours around the ground and restricting access to public parkland. The petition also requested that 'paths should be made from one gate to another for pedestrians' and that existing paths were 'already worn by feet'.³⁵ The Surveyor-General subsequently recommended the removal of the fences whilst generally praising the efforts of the Committee:

From what can already be seen as the effect of the operation of the trenching and manuring the results achieved by the managing committee in the improvement of the grounds considering the small amount at their disposal is something remarkable.³⁶

Quoits

As recorded above, along with allotments to the two initial cricket clubs, in 1862 the Fitzroy City Council had also approved an acre to be set aside for the Fitzroy Quoits Club. Quoits is a traditional lawn game involving the toss of a hoop or disc at a raised metal spike.

Newspapers record challenge matches between the Fitzroy Select Quoiting Club and other Melbourne and Victorian clubs throughout the 1860s and as late as the 1890s. The club at first operated out of the Labour-in-Vain Hotel on Brunswick Street, with matches recorded to have taken place on a vacant property nearby, but matches against rival clubs are also recorded to have taken place at other hotels and at the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Although surveys do not record that any formal allotment at Edinburgh Gardens was granted to the club, in 1864 a match against Geelong West is reported as having taken place on the Fitzroy Select Quoiting Club's ground 'which adjoins the ground of the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Club'.³⁷

Football

In 1877, the Victorian Football Association (VFA, later Victorian Football League (VFL) and, from 1990, Australian Football League (AFL)) was formed and Fitzroy quickly set about establishing a club to represent the suburb. The cricket club was approached in 1882 regarding the formation of a football club, and in September 1882, the cricket club was granted approval to extend the ground to allow for football games.³⁸ On 26 September 1883, the Fitzroy Football Club was formed at a meeting held at the Brunswick Hotel and chaired by the Mayor of Fitzroy, John McMahon. The club colours of blue cap and knickerbockers with maroon jersey and socks were subsequently adopted and the club was admitted to the VFA. The football club negotiated with the cricket club to share the oval in the Edinburgh Gardens, as reported in the *Australasian* in 1884:

The Fitzroy Club will have a good ground to practise on – a great desideratum for a club, and one highly calculated to fully develop any real talent it may possess. Moreover, it has a large and populous district to recruit from; so that it contains within itself the elements of success, and its future will much depend on its committee of management.³⁹

The first football match at the Brunswick Street oval took place in September 1883 between Melbourne and Carlton football clubs.⁴⁰ Fitzroy Football Club's first game was against Richmond Union Junior Football Club in April 1884. A crowd of some 1,000 people saw the home team score 14 behinds to their opponents' two behinds.⁴¹ During this early period, the football club enjoyed great on-field success, winning four premierships and playing in nine of the first 10 VFL grand finals.

Lawn bowls

Along with cricket and football, Edinburgh Gardens was also home to a local lawn bowls club from the 1870s. The establishment of a bowling green on the site was approved in 1877 by the Fitzroy Cricket Club in its capacity as the Committee.⁴² In July 1880, the Victorian Bowling Association was formed with delegates from Melbourne, Prince Alfred (St Kilda), West Melbourne, Carlton, Richmond, Richmond Union, Fitzroy, North Fitzroy and Ballarat and an apology from South Melbourne. One of its first decisions was to organise an inter-colonial match. The concept of local competition was complemented by the idea of an elite level and, in this development, the North Fitzroy Bowling Club was a major voice.⁴³

Soon after its 1877 establishment, subscriptions from the public and members of the cricket club raised £160 towards the laying of a two-rink green. Within the next two years an additional rink was laid. A timber shed, which had initially served as the club's pavilion and canteen was replaced by a timber

cottage, relocated from the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Ground.⁴⁴ Prior to 1893, the grounds of the club were expanded.⁴⁵ An 1896 Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) plan shows the early arrangement of the bowling green with the timber cottage at its northern end (Figure 11). In 1893, financial difficulties prompted the bowling club to affiliate with the cricket club; this coincided with the 1890s economic depression.

Tennis

Tennis facilities were the last of the nineteenth century sporting facilities established at the Edinburgh Gardens.

The modern game of tennis (lawn tennis) was developed in late 1860s England and formalised in a club organisation there in the early 1870s. As with other sports, the rules of the game were gradually established. Scoring by sets had only been introduced in 1889 and in 1891 the covered ball was finally adopted to replace the rubber ball used up until that time.⁴⁶ While court tennis (eg. indoor racquet) clubs had existed in 1860s Victoria (newspapers record one such club meeting at Geelong in 1865), modern tennis clubs only formed as awareness of the updated outdoor sport percolated into Australia.

By late 1879 tennis had certainly arrived, with the Geelong Advertiser reporting on the publication of a book on 'Lawn Tennis and Badminton'⁴⁷ a Victoria Lawn Tennis Club operating in Carlton and facing a visiting team from the Richmond Bowls Club,⁴⁸ and the Bendigo Parks Committee weighing a request from a Lawn Tennis Club to make use of the bowling green in the town's main reserve.⁴⁹ In 1880 and 1881, more clubs formed and fielded teams for inter-club play, including the Williamstown Lawn Tennis Club,⁵⁰ the Melbourne Cricket Club's tennis club, and the Sandhurst Tennis Club,⁵¹ as well as reference to an 'asphalted lawn tennis court' at the Warehousemen's Cricket Club on St. Kilda Road,⁵² a new lawn tennis court on the Ballarat Cricket Club's Eastern Oval,⁵³ an Essendon and Flemington Bowling and Lawn Tennis Club,⁵⁴ and a Bowling and Lawn Tennis Club forming at Brighton.⁵⁵ At Melbourne, an 1880 update on cricketing reported of the M.C.C. that 'the convenience and comfort of the numerous tennis playing members of the club has been well cared for, and the dimensions to which this particular pastime has attained proves it to be both acceptable and beneficial to the club and a large number of its supporters.'⁵⁶

In the 1880s, tennis was also adopted by residents of Fitzroy, with activity revolving around the existing Cricket and Bowling Clubs at Edinburgh Gardens. In 1884, a pennant competition was reportedly established in Melbourne in which a team from Fitzroy participated.⁵⁷ A Fitzroy Lawn Tennis Club is recorded as meeting at the Bowling Club Pavilion in June 1886;⁵⁸ and within a few months the North Fitzroy Lawn Tennis Club was reported to have held its formal opening event, having constructed a tennis court on the bowling club's grounds.⁵⁹

The next year, a tennis court situated as 'an adjunct of the bowling club' is reported in the Fitzroy Cricket Club's histories to have been removed when the cricket ground's 1888 grandstand was constructed, with the bowling club compensated £40 for this loss.⁶⁰ A new lawn-tennis court was reportedly formed as part of the Cricket Club's 1888 works.⁶¹ As with the bowls club, the tennis club also appears to have become formally affiliated with the Fitzroy Cricket Club in the early 1890s, with the Cricket Club reportedly constructing two tennis courts in 1894 at a cost of £57, and adding a further court in 1901-1902.⁶² The 1901 MMBW plan records this asphalt tennis ground within the current location of the Tennis Club, along with a pair of small pavilions / lavatories to the south of its fenced enclosure.

2.4.2 *Public management and uses to 1880*

In 1866, the Fitzroy City Council applied for money from the Public Parks Improvement Fund for planting the recreation reserve.⁶³ That year the council ultimately received £80 from the Department of Crown Lands 'for fencing and improving public parks and gardens,' and voted to appropriate those funds for 'fencing in the recreation reserve in North Fitzroy.'⁶⁴

In 1868, plans for the laying out of the reserve were passed by the municipal council, the content of which is not known.⁶⁵ Despite these earlier plans, the public portions of the Edinburgh Gardens reserve appear to have remained undeveloped land throughout the 1860s and 1870s, enclosed by a post and rail fence and used for grazing by the Fitzroy City Council.⁶⁶

During this time, an area had been set aside within the park by the City of Fitzroy for the deposit of night soil, a practice which occurred at Princes Park and other metropolitan and suburban parks prior to the completion of the metropolitan sewerage system. At the Edinburgh Gardens, a 'lease of right' was granted, by which a private party was given the right to deposit night soil in the reserve for a moderate annual fee (£4 in 1868). Three men were employed digging trenches some 12 inches deep where the refuse was deposited. When the trenches were three inches above ground, they were then covered over with the excavated soil.

In 1871, a public meeting was held calling for an end to the dumping of night soil within the gardens and urging vigilance to 'preserve the gardens from becoming a manure depot.'⁶⁷ The practice, however, continued, and difficulties were recorded periodically in ensuring that the lessee made these deposits responsibly and with strategic purpose in support of improving the grounds of the reserve. In the 1880s, the gardens were described as 'a refuse heap or corporation 'tip' of the most filthy kind' as house rubbish and street sweepings were buried in its grounds. An 1887 newspaper article noted 'no dead horse or carcass larger than that of a dog has been buried in these gardens since 22nd June last' and referred to the 'usual tip nuisance and smell'.⁶⁸

In 1877, regulations were gazetted for the sports section of the Edinburgh Gardens, by this time known as the Fitzroy Cricket Club and Recreation Reserve. The reserve was divided into four 'divisions': firstly, the grandstand, pavilion, members' and ladies' reserve, secondly, the playing ground, thirdly, the bowling green and, lastly, the remainder of the reserve. The regulations detailed acceptable and unlawful behaviour within the divisions, including entry into the various sections. People were only allowed into the first division if they had purchased a ticket and on days where cricket matches were held, entry in the fourth area was no longer free.⁶⁹ A Committee of Management was also established at this time for the land occupied by the sporting club.⁷⁰ In 1878 the Office of Lands and Survey made Fitzroy City Council the Committee of Management for the remainder of the of the reserve.⁷¹ This was later rescinded and the gardens placed under a joint Committee of Management in 1883.

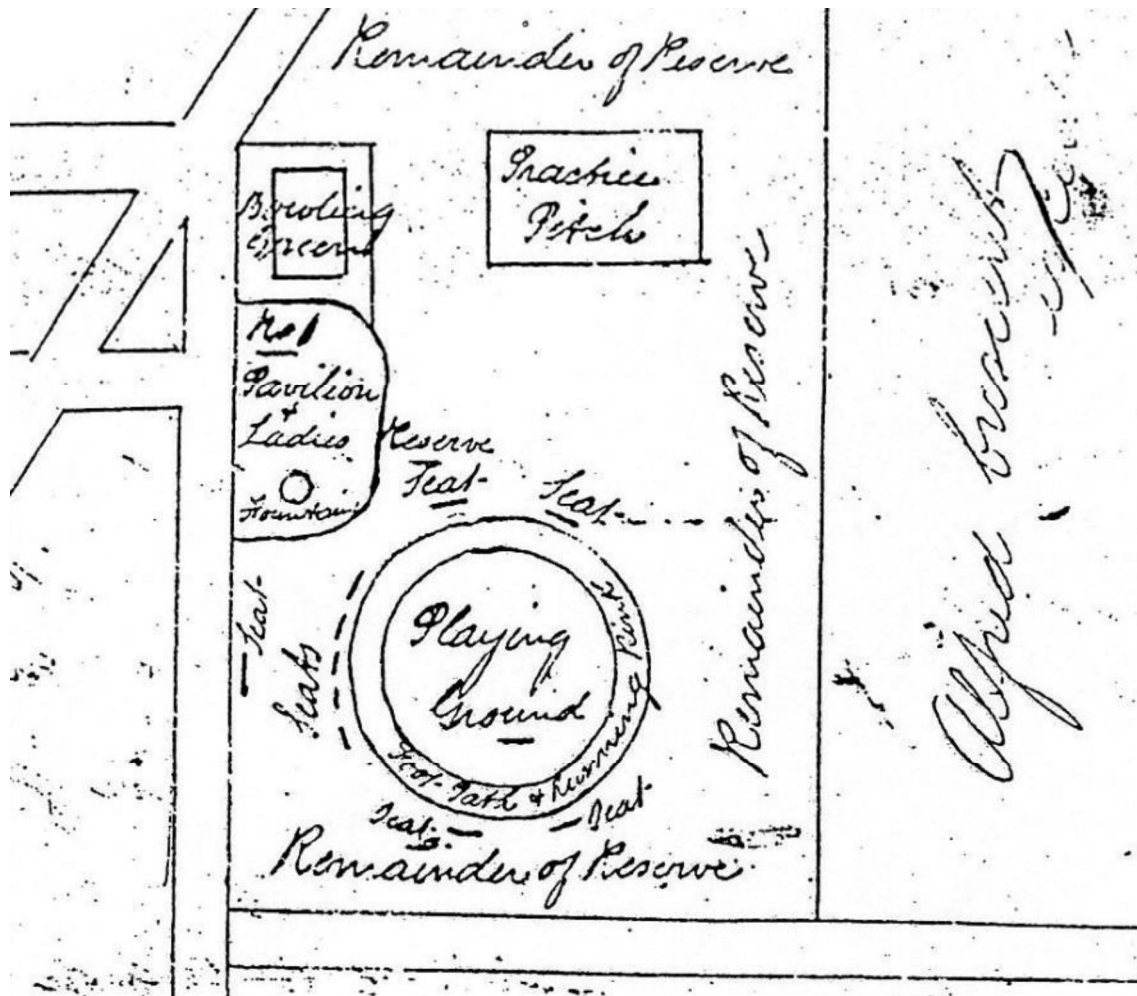


Figure 6 Sketch map of the portion of the reserve occupied by the cricket club, October 1877
Source: Reserve File RS360, Department of Sustainability and Environment

2.5 Formalisation of the public gardens, 1880s-1910s

2.5.1 Initial gardens improvements, 1880-1883

By 1880, the gardens had been trenched and fenced and were awaiting planting. In 1880 Fitzroy City Council commenced the formal planting of the park, with a fenced row planting established around the edge of the site to Alfred Crescent and various plantings made to the interior (described below).⁷²

In 1881, the council's public works committee recommended that a gardener's cottage be erected on the site, 'to further beautify the grounds and have the gardens more thoroughly looked after'.⁷³ One writer would later comment:

the foreman and caretaker, Mr. J. James, lives in a house in the ground, but a great mistake has been made in its site, which is nearly in the middle of the ground, instead of being near the boundary on the highest ground, where convenient access from the street could have been obtained and whence he might have had a view of the whole of the garden.⁷⁴

In September 1881, preparations were made for extensive plantings of trees in fenced clumps, established in trenches 2.5 feet deep, as well as in individual holes protected with guards.⁷⁵ An article that October inventoried the initial plantings:

In the gardens some 400 trees have been planted in the form of clumps, of diamond, oval, and circle shapes, radiating from the centre, with a large forest tree, such as the *Wellingtonia gigantea* [ie. Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)], or large pine, with the Queensland fig, the pepper plant, and the *Grevillia robusta*, interspersed with Californian pines, Norfolk Island pines, pittosporums, and other small flowering shrubs. All round the gardens, at a distance of half a chain apart, rows of *pinus insignis* [ie. Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*)] and blue gums have been planted.⁷⁶ [brackets = modern names]

An 1883 report by the City Surveyor, published in the press, also details these plantings:

These gardens have been planted around with *pinus insignis*, alternated with blue gums. As far as I can judge, at present, the pines are the healthiest and fastest growing tree, a large number of the gums have succumbed to the attacks of a vermin called the black blight which (from what the curator of the various Government gardens and parks states) is almost incurable, except at great expense, such as hand-picking, &c.

Several clumps have been planted in various portions of the gardens, the trees selected being Norfolk pines, *ficus macrophylla*, *lambertiana*, *pittosporum*, cedar and other medium growing trees, as also the pepper tree or *schinus molle*, *grevillea robusta* and Moreton Bay fig.⁷⁷

A commentator in 1884 wrote (presumably after loss of the Blue Gums) that 'two lines of Pines and Pittosporums were also planted around the further side of the gardens, which are of semicircular outline and bounded by Alfred-terrace'.⁷⁸ Further tree plantings were authorised in 1882.⁷⁹ Elm trees were evidently planted, as there is a November 1882 report that two boys were each fined five shillings for destroying a number of these trees in the Edinburgh Gardens.⁸⁰ The complete layout intended by these early 1880s works by the City of Fitzroy is not known. One commentator wrote in 1884:

a commencement was made two or three years ago to lay out and plant the garden in an artistic manner with curved walks and clumps of trees and shrubs, but the curved walks were wisely deemed unsuitable to the situation in which the walks ought to be made for the accommodation of the public, rather than with the object of producing fine landscape effects.⁸¹

2.5.2 *Subsequent improvements undertaken by the Committee of Management, 1883-1890*

In 1883, the gazettal and grant of the gardens was concluded, with the land held by the Board of Land and Works. In July 1883, a Committee of Management for the gardens was appointed, comprising representatives of the Board of Lands and Works and the Fitzroy City Council, with one member nominated by the Minister. The committee and the council agreed to contribute £250 each per annum towards the improvement and maintenance of the gardens.⁸²

Work on the laying out of a more formal network of pathways and avenue plantings appears to have begun in earnest soon after the formation of the Committee of Management in 1883. A report the committee prepared in December 1883 for the Lands Department noted these developments in detail:

We commenced operations by having surveys made and plans prepared of the principal paths leading to the adjoining streets and thoroughfares bordering the Gardens. We also, with the object of creating ornamental avenues, had strips of ground on either side of such paths surveyed and marked out for trenching, this work we had done by tender in all 434lb sq rods at a cost of £144-10-6. We then availed ourselves of the opportunity to which fortunately presented itself of securing gravel from the St Kilda Road, and latter for tenders accordingly in this

way we secured and had delivered in the Gardens 610 cubic yards at a cost of £113-2-1 which we believe will be sufficient for all our requirements. The principal work now being proceeded with is beside the care of existing trees the formation of and the gravelling of the walks giving it in the first place a coat of 2 inch thickness of lime. 20 chains has been completed, the works still progressing. The same length of ground for the avenues has been prepared and is ready for the reception of the young trees at the proper season.⁸³

A plan of the gardens was prepared concurrent to this 1883 report, as shown at Figure 7. The plan depicts a number of elements already present in the gardens, including the north and south ovals, a cricket pavilion, the bowling green, and a gardener's dwelling with a fenced yard. It also depicts a number of fenced enclosures to the east of the sporting grounds, as well as fenced borders around much of the north and east perimeters of the reserve. These fenced enclosures are likely to have contained the bulk of the young trees reported to have been planted c. 1881-83 and provide an excellent record of where previous plantings had occurred prior to the creation of the committee.

The 1883 plan details the main path network established by the Committee of Management, with indications of the trenching which had occurred in preparation for tree planting. Entry points to the park corresponded to the surrounding pattern of radiating streets. The paths were laid out in an irregular but linear fashion approximating the pedestrian desire lines but making concessions from these diagonals in order to meet other paths as well as to connect with two footbridges over the creek.

Common to parks and gardens of the period, regulations drafted in 1883 required that 'persons visiting or walking through the [Edinburgh] Gardens shall keep to the footpath'. This notice was accompanied by a warning that 'no person shall lie on the seats or on the grass'.⁸⁴ Wide paths were therefore required with deeply planted borders; those in the Edinburgh Gardens measured 14 feet (4.2 metres) in width with 16 foot (4.8 metres) planted borders.⁸⁵

New plantings to the pathways followed in 1884. The planting arrangements were made by Nicholas Bickford, who from 1875-90 served as the curator of parks and gardens under joint management within the City of Melbourne in his role as the crown lands bailiff. He appears to have had a similar involvement at other parks under the joint management of the Victorian government and local council.⁸⁶

Bickford summarised the works himself in a later report to the Committee of Management, providing further detail on the apportionment of canopy trees and ornamental shrubs to the initial avenues (refer to Chapter 3 for details).⁸⁷ Although English Elms were an important component, Bickford had also established major avenues of English Oak and of Monterey Pines and Peppercorn trees. Throughout the plantings, each row of avenue trees was accompanied by borders of evergreen ornamental shrubs to both the inside and outside. Further row plantings provided a background to the avenues, including native Eucalypts like Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), Red-flowering Gum (*Corymbia ficifolia*) and Southern Mahogany Gum (*Eucalyptus botryoides*), as well as Bhutan Cypress (*Cupressus torulosa*) and Sweet Pittosporum. Bickford also maintained the original c. 1881 boundary planting of Monterey Pines and Sweet Pittosporum.

An observer that described the works in 1884 noted that the Elms had been raised in Studley Park from suckers harvested in the Fitzroy Gardens, and that the Oaks had been supplied by the state nursery. They also commented on 'the rather peculiar taste of Mr. Bickford' as demonstrated on one walk which had been planted with an alternating pattern of three flowering shrubs: Laurustinus (*Viburnum tinus*), Cape Honeysuckle (*Tecoma capensis*) and Plumbago (*Plumbago capensis*), flowering white, red and blue respectively and purportedly to be known as the 'Tricolor Walk'.⁸⁸

In 1887, an ornamental fountain was erected in the north-west corner of the gardens in honour of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee (fiftieth anniversary of accession). The fountain was constructed following a council meeting on 17 May 1887, with the minutes recording that 'a fountain be erected in the Edinburgh Gardens, to be called the Jubilee Fountain, at a cost not exceeding £100'. It was unveiled in June 1887 with a surrounding garden of flowers and shrubs attributed to Bickford.⁸⁹ The cement fountain was described as 'a Corinthian structure 15 [feet] high, with an octagonal well, 64 feet in circumference, with eight vases; three basins varying in size give to the fountain a very unique appearance.'⁹⁰ Early photographs of the fountain show it to have been located in the centre of a garden bed, and later enclosed by an iron picket fence (Figure 8).

Despite the extensive improvements undertaken, the council continued the deposits of rubbish and dead animals in some sections of Edinburgh Gardens. In response to complaints of local citizens in 1887, one councillor commented that 'only seven horses have been buried in the [Edinburgh] Gardens during the past six years and none of them less than four feet below the surface'.⁹¹ The Minister for Lands subsequently directed that the rubbish dumping stop.⁹²

The 1887 petition (see section 2.4.1) with respect to match day fencing and other issues of public access through the part of the reserve managed by the cricket club, spurred the provision of permanent public access through the area. Diagonal paths were added through the former north oval to make a connection from the gardens to Brunswick Street between the south oval and the bowls club. Following the pattern of the neighbouring avenues, these were also planted with Elm trees.

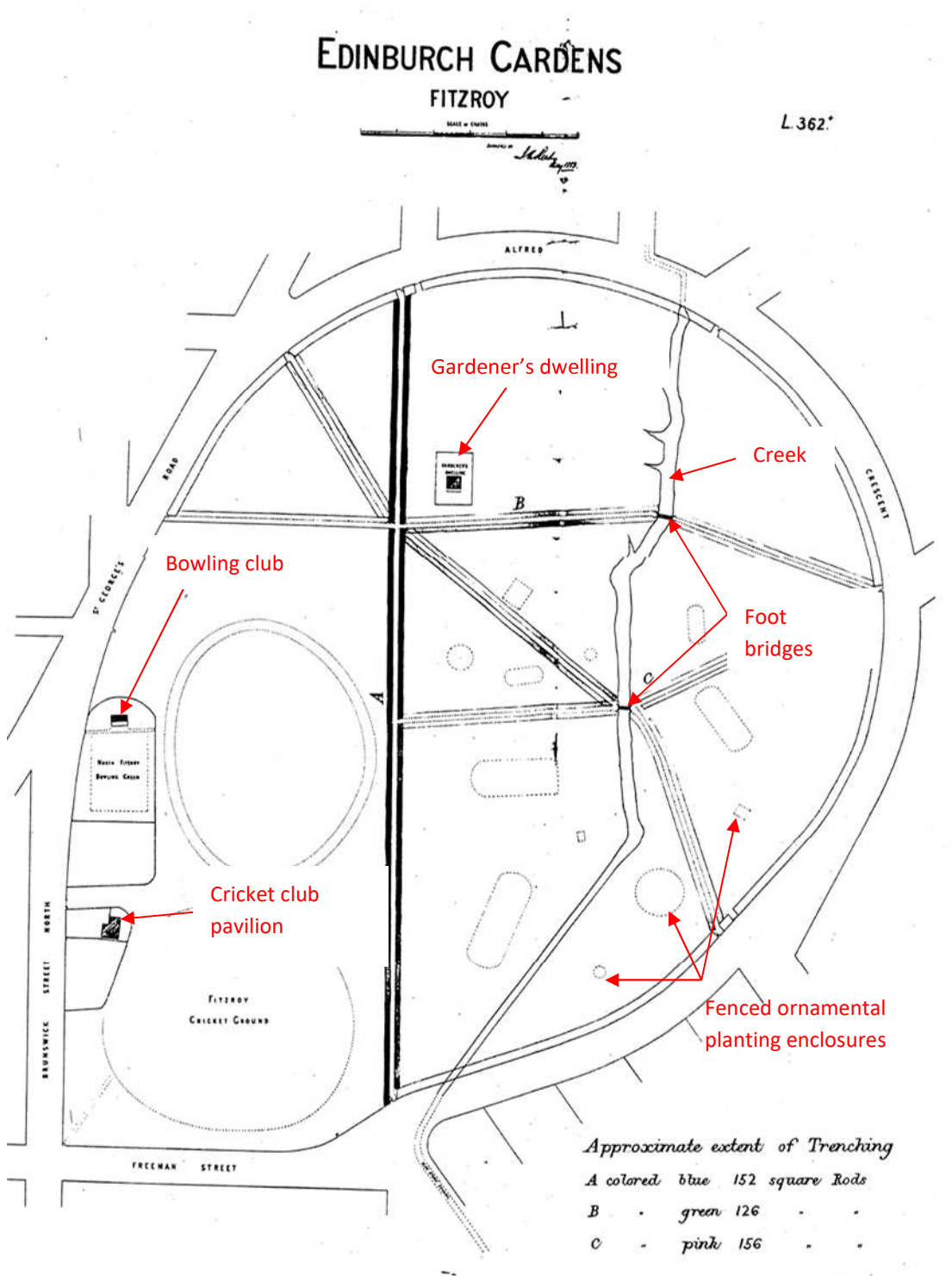


Figure 7 Plan of the Edinburgh Gardens, 1883, with annotations added
Source: VPRS 44/P0/745, Public Record Office Victoria



Figure 8 A c. 1907 postcard of the fountain
Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection

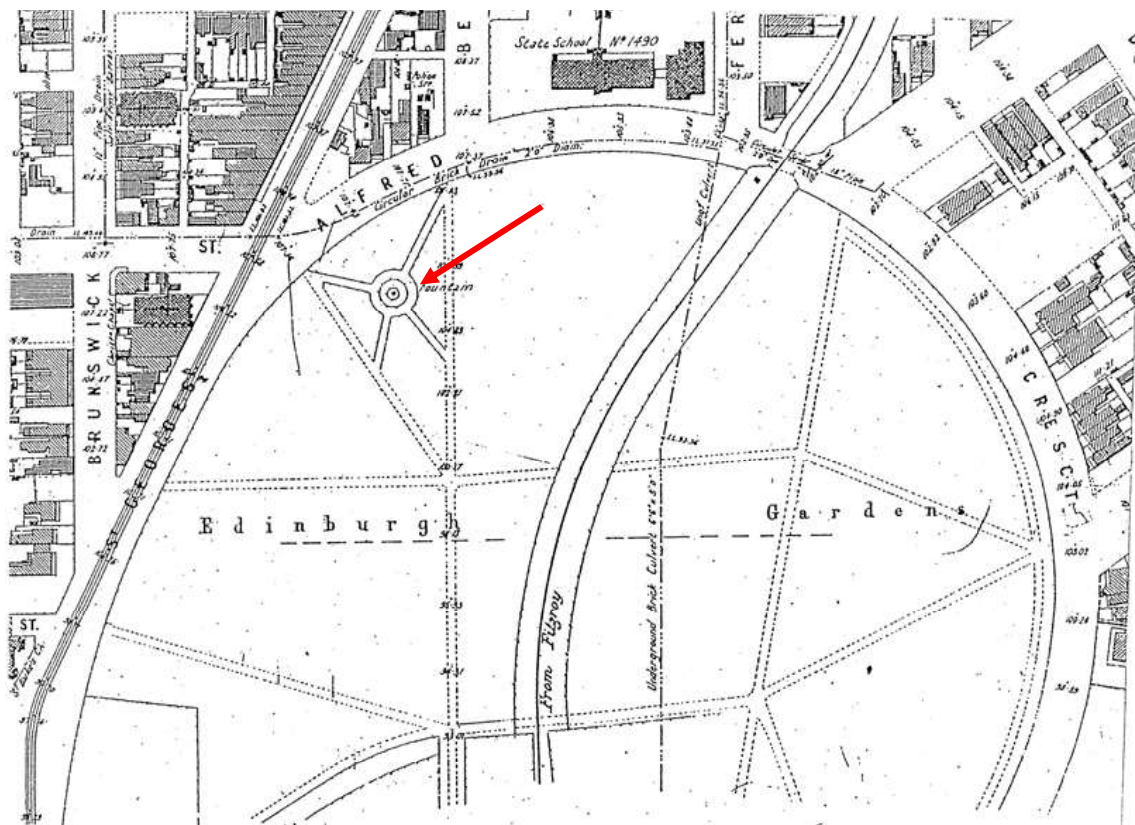


Figure 9 Portion of MMBW Plan 50 (northern section) with the location of the fountain indicated (red), 1900
Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection

2.5.3 *Reservation and construction of the railway line, 1880s*

The construction of the railway line through the Edinburgh Gardens in the 1880s was a controversial issue and altered the park's design. In 1880, there had reportedly been lobbying by certain citizens to have Napier Street extended north through the park but by 1881 the question of the gardens' division had moved resolutely to the prospect of railway construction.⁹³

During the 1880s, legislation authorised the construction of 475 miles (765 kilometres) of new rail lines in Victoria, including branch services like that ultimately built through the Edinburgh Gardens. A plan for suburban circle railways had first been promulgated in the 1870s but was derailed by the 1877 elections. The new government's ministry for railways apparently drew a plan for a railway running from Richmond via Collingwood and Clifton Hill to Brunswick and Coburg via North Fitzroy but abandoned this following a change of ministers.⁹⁴

The Fitzroy City Council became involved in the rail issue in November 1880. The Mayor of Fitzroy, Councillor McMahon, supported a line running from Dight's Paddock through the Edinburgh Gardens to Northcote and points beyond, with a branch serving North Fitzroy and Coburg. Rejecting the government's preferred circle line concept, the council passed resolutions favouring the city's 'inclusion in railway communication' and supporting conference with neighbouring municipalities in a joint lobbying effort. Several members of the council also specifically advocated a railway depot for Fitzroy, so that:

we could have produce dropped at our own doors, instead of being taken to Spencer-street, which entailed additional expense upon the consumer. As one side of Melbourne at present monopolised all the benefits accruing from the presence of a depot it was only fair that this side should have a share of whatever might be derived.⁹⁵

Despite council's late lobbying efforts, the *Railway Construction Act* (No. 682) passed in December 1880 authorised only the North Melbourne to Coburg (via Royal Park) and the Clifton Hill to Alphington lines, with a branch to service Fitzroy not supported by the Minister of Railways, who preferred that a private tramway be constructed.⁹⁶

The prospect of a railway through Edinburgh Gardens did not disappear with these initial approvals. The two lines approved in the 1880 Act were prerequisites of the circle line schemes that would ultimately be adopted later in the decade. Lobbying for a railway connection for Fitzroy, either from Richmond or via North Melbourne or Alphington, was renewed by the council in 1881. This time, the proposals appear to have elicited substantial public alarm from local residents in the vicinity of the park, who understood that the schemes would require 'cutting off a slice of the Edinburgh gardens, the principal reserve in Fitzroy'.⁹⁷

A public deputation to council expressed concerns that the railway would:

injure the only recreation ground belonging to the city. It would also divide it into two parts, and the existence of a number of level crossings which would be constructed would depreciate property and cause great inconvenience.⁹⁸

One report of the debate observed that, although 'very little has certainly been done yet to this place to qualify it being called a garden ... it will, doubtless be a valuable recreation ground some day'.⁹⁹ An opinion piece published soon after spoke out against any of the options and called out the proposal to run a line from North Melbourne for special scrutiny, slapping it as 'costly, it will disfigure no fewer than three recreation reserves, namely, the Royal Park, Prince's Park and Edinburgh Gardens; it will block the traffic in some thirteen streets'.¹⁰⁰

Councillors supporting a railway connection for Fitzroy appear to have been unmoved by this opposition, and continued lobbying for various options that included use of the Edinburgh Gardens for a portion of one route, whether as part of the Inner Circle Scheme or as an extension of the Whittlesea line (some also involved Darling Gardens to the south-east). In winter 1882, the Fitzroy City Council gave permission to the new Minister of Railways, the parliamentarian and notorious land boomer, Thomas Bent, for the Edinburgh Gardens to be used in an extension to the Whittlesea railway.¹⁰¹ This intent was added to that year's railways bill.¹⁰² The railway corridor can be seen marked out on the 1882 plan of the gardens at Figure 10, however the Whittlesea line would ultimately be located further east to make its connection to Clifton Hill.

Bent's 1884 *Railway Construction Act* (No. 821) (known colloquially as the '*Octopus*' Bill) proposed the construction of 65 individual extensions to the network. The bill promised lines to all electorates in order to gain electoral support.¹⁰³ This included a railway to Fitzroy that would run through the Edinburgh Gardens although the final determination of its alignment remained undetermined and the subject of recurring debate and confusion for some time. By 1885, the Inner Circle line was chosen to pass through the park.

Some speakers continued to disapprove of the planned use of the gardens for railway purposes while proponents pointed to the examples of Royal Park and the St Kilda Reserve (Alma Park) as acceptable examples of railways having been run through parklands.¹⁰⁴ When it became clear that only the branch line would be built and that a relatively large portion of the Edinburgh Gardens would be utilised for sidings and associated structures, the Fitzroy City Council passed a unanimous motion 'to the effect that the council regretted that the Railway Department should have considered it necessary to take so much land in the Edinburgh Gardens for railway purposes, and that so many streets should be closed up.'¹⁰⁵ One councillor registered his particular disgust 'with the miserable apology for a railway that we are offered, it is an insult to the City of Fitzroy, just something to bring in firewood and a few palings'.¹⁰⁶

Tenders were finally called at the end of October 1885 for construction of the Inner Circle Railway, including the Fitzroy branch line.¹⁰⁷ The contract included the construction of a brick drain through the Edinburgh Gardens, diverting the creek that had previously run in a gully from Falconer to Napier streets through the east half of the park.¹⁰⁸ The drain was a requirement of the railway construction, which intersected the watercourse (apparently dubbed 'the river of pollution' by the Railways Department) at both the north and south ends of its route through the gardens, and the £4000 cost was shared between the Railways Department and the City of Fitzroy.¹⁰⁹ As part of the works, the existing watercourse and gully were filled.

The Inner Circle line opened on 8 May 1888, with a terminus on each of the branch lines at Fitzroy and Collingwood.¹¹⁰ As its name suggested, the Inner Circle progressed in a semi-circular formation after leaving the Coburg line slightly north of Royal Park Station. From there it ran north-east under The Avenue and Royal Parade, before crossing Bowen Crescent and Park Street at street level. The line then turned eastward, running parallel to Park Street to Rushall Crescent, North Fitzroy, where it curved south-easterly around a bend in the Merri Creek to join the Alphington and Heidelberg line at Clifton Hill.¹¹¹ Near Best Street, North Fitzroy, a single-track branch, or spur line, diverged to run southwards, parallel to Mark Street and then through the Edinburgh Gardens, terminating on the north side of Queens Parade.¹¹² A second spur line ran southwards from Clifton Hill Station as far as Johnston Street, Abbotsford.

The passenger service on the Fitzroy line of the Inner Circle line was short-lived. Although a platform had been built for passenger traffic to and from Fitzroy, in reality, neither of the spur lines were of great use for anything but goods traffic as the passenger services could not compete with the more direct

routes offered by tram services.¹¹³ After patronage on the Inner Circle line failed to prove economical, passenger services to Fitzroy were withdrawn in May 1892. The Fitzroy branch line instead became a major goods route, making coal deliveries for the Metropolitan Gas Company's gas works on the south side of Queens Parade, as well as transporting other inward and outward goods for nearby timber yards, contractors and factories.¹¹⁴



Figure 10 Plan of the 1882 Crown grant with the alignment of the branch line indicated (red)
Source: Parish Plan, North Fitzroy, F99(2), Landata, Victorian Land Registry Services

2.5.4 *Further improvements to the gardens and sporting precinct, 1890s-1910s*

Following the construction of the railway, much planting work in the Edinburgh Gardens appears to have been directed towards screening the railway line. Annual reports of the Committee of Management for 1892-93 noted the purchase of 5,000 Hawthorn 'quicks' or cuttings, with more bought in subsequent years.¹¹⁵ In addition to being planted alongside the railway line, Hawthorn hedges were established elsewhere in the park, including possibly along the boundary fence.¹¹⁶

Improvements continued within the sporting precinct, spurred by the Fitzroy Cricket Club's successful organisation and the growing audience for football. Annual reports of the 1890s record a variety of improvements made to the playing surface and to the grounds surrounding it to improve spectator comfort and ingress/egress. As part of these works already existing embankments around the ground were enhanced in c. 1893 to shelter the oval and provide additional viewing areas.¹¹⁷ Further improvements were later reported across the recreation grounds (including the various other sporting club grounds now under the management of the Fitzroy Cricket Club), under the caretakership of E. Slack, who had been appointed to the position in 1895.¹¹⁸ The club was described as 'showing themselves thoroughly alive in their efforts to improve the surroundings of the ground.'¹¹⁹

The City of Fitzroy's annual reports for 1894-95 noted a one room extension to the caretaker's cottage and a new 'circle' on the eastern side of the railway fenced in iron picket and planted with flowers and shrubs. The 'circle' does not appear on the MMBW plan of c. 1900 (Figure 9), however several circular plantings appear on a c. 1905 directory plan (Figure 12), including beds surrounding an ornamental pond and two other plantings that would become the elm circles remnant today. The 1894-95 annual report also noted that storm water run-off from Rowe Street was carried into the park, this water may perhaps have been employed in the ornamental pond (Figure 14), later constructed nearby although access to articulated water from the Yan Yean system would have also been available.¹²⁰

The 1895 annual report of the Edinburgh Gardens Committee of Management recorded the purchase of four drinking fountains, the type and intended location were not specified.¹²¹ Drinking fountains were introduced into Victorian streets under the influence of the temperance movement and philanthropic organisations who were concerned with the quality of drinking water in the city and sought to provide an alternative to intoxicating beer. The connection to the Yan Yean Reservoir was a major factor in facilitating these improvements as it provided accessibility to water supplies. Nineteenth century drinking fountains tended to be of cast iron with attached taps.

Contradictions between use of the gardens as an ornamental reserve and their practical employment by the council continued. On the one hand, A 1900 commenter recorded that 'flowers are comparatively few in the Edinburgh Gardens but trees and shrubs, and redundancy [sic] in growth, makes it one of the pleasantest of retreats for the wearied walker, of the lover of foliage seclusion'.¹²² Yet in 1902 it was also noted the creation of desirable lawn areas was hampered by the grazing of animals, particularly cows, near the railway line, and the growing of grass to sell as cattle feed.¹²³ The committee had started selling grass for revenue in 1894-95, a common practice in Melbourne's parks and gardens during that time.¹²⁴

However, the role of the gardens as a locus for community activities was becoming increasingly clear. Passive recreational activities, from picnics and walks, occurred as did more active pursuits, including children's games and social events. Open-air concerts had become popular and were reported regularly in the local newspapers from about 1900. In the summer of 1903, the cricket club organised a series of 'open air concerts' with attendances reputedly in the thousands and a brass band performed in the park to raise money for the Drought Relief Fund.¹²⁵

A statue of Queen Victoria received as a gift to Fitzroy City Council was assigned to the gardens' Committee of Management in 1903 and unveiled in the park's eastern section in 1904.¹²⁶ Set on a plinth that remains in place in the gardens, the plaster statue stood at the centre of a circle formed by a fenced garden bed and an encircling path, planted with Elms and established at the intersection of two crossing diagonal pathways.

Also in c. 1903, an 18 feet high grassy mound in the south-east section (near the Grant Street-Alfred Crescent intersection) was constructed from sewer soil and vegetable mould; apparently spearheaded by the City Engineer as a site for children's play. The artificial hillock was reportedly 'the delight of children on Saturday afternoons and Sundays,' and was initially planted with English rye grass.¹²⁷ A visitor to the gardens in 1906 reported the presence and use of the mound, as well as other more conventional playground equipment:

I learned that the green mound was made for little boys to roll down on Sundays ... They keep the gate locked all the week, but they always open it on Sundays, and then we do have fun,' one said, and his eyes sparkled. They all nodded emphatically when I asked them if they would like the gate to be unlocked every day. When I told them I used to play see-saw on a rail through the fence when I was little like them, the spokesman said he would take me to the see-saws. He led the way down a path past some flowering pittosporums, which they all stopped to sniff, then on past a circular flower bed.¹²⁸

The presence of a playground is also confirmed in a 1904 newspaper article which describes the facilities for children's play:

the children have the playground provided for them in the Edinburgh Gardens as well as the gardens themselves in which to play, walk, or bask in the sun. In the playground are see-saws and swings, in the gardens the hill, jestingly dubbed Mount Showers, which is to give them the chance to tumble, climb, or roll down as often as they like, so that the case of the children of the North need not now concern.¹²⁹

Difficulties maintaining the lawns apparently led the council to fence the mound soon after. Its condition subsequently become a recurring target of complaint, such as 'the grass has grown and died many times since that and still the fence remains', and the hill derided as 'Mount Showers' and 'Mount Misery' by critics.¹³⁰

In the first decade of the twentieth century, a number of additions were made to the Edinburgh Gardens. These are shown in some detail on a c. 1905 map (Figure 12). In the western half of the park two new paths were laid, the first along the eastern boundary of the bowling club, and the second, diagonally from the south-east corner of the bowling club to the main north-south path. Also shown on this plan is an additional path which ran from the Falconer Street entrance to a railway crossing on the eastern half of the park. The Best Street entrance to the main north-south path is shown as a 'horseshoe' configuration, similar to that which exists today. In the south-east of the gardens an ornamental pond (Figure 14) was encircled by a garden bed and path containing a small island planted with palms and other shrubbery. Adjacent to the pond, a large circular feature with a path skirting around its western flank apparently represents 'the mound' constructed two years earlier. Located in the centre of the gardens are the existing caretaker's cottage, shown with an enlarged yard area.

The onset of the twentieth century also resulted in further improvements to the sporting club facilities. Developments in 1901-02 included a brick drain around the oval, revamping of the oval and three new bowling rinks and a third tennis court, all totalling £400. The c. 1905 plan at Figure 12 indicates the area occupied by the bowling club had expanded, the fence line differing from that shown in the 1896 plan.

The earlier timber Freeman Street pavilion, constructed c. 1895, is discernible on the south side of the oval (Figure 11).¹³¹ In 1905 further improvements were made, including a new grandstand, refreshment booth and toilet facilities. Completed in 1905 to a design by architects Twentyman and Askew, the new grandstand was required to accommodate the large crowds which Fitzroy matches were then attracting (Figure 15).¹³² At this time, a new brick entrance building was also erected on the corner of Freeman and Brunswick Streets, thereby replacing the timber pavilion.¹³³

The development of the Edinburgh Gardens during this period is also demonstrated on a c. 1906 MMBW plan (Figure 13). The plan appears to have been annotated at a later date and shows the bowling club pavilion which was constructed in 1913 on the south side of the green. The timber cottage previously used by the club can be seen on the north side of the green. By the early 1900s, the area around the oval was more intensively developed. In addition to the two main grandstands, a number of smaller structures are evident, including a tennis club pavilion, entrance pavilions, a gymnasium to the rear of the 1888 grandstand and a number of unidentified structures, including the toilet blocks. The asphalt tennis courts, previously located adjacent to the bowling club, were relocated to make way for the 1905 grandstand.¹³⁴ The cricket club's 1912-13 annual reports record the construction of a brick drain around the perimeter of the playing field.¹³⁵

In the 1910s the bowling club was further expanded. An extra two rinks were added in 1910-1911 and in 1913 construction of a new pavilion was commenced at a cost of £1,600. In 1929-30 the paths around the bowling greens were paved with old stone flags, donated by the Fitzroy City Council. The Fitzroy Railway Station ground remained largely undeveloped at this time and contained oil tanks and a small office building. Where the railway entered the gardens across Alfred Crescent, a gatehouse with a semaphore signal was located to its south.

As detailed above, native trees had been included in the early public plantings established in the Edinburgh Gardens in c. 1881 and 1884, first by the City of Fitzroy and then by Nicholas Bickford working on behalf of the Committee of Management. From 1904, local newspapers printed expressions of public advocacy for inclusion of additional native plantings in the park, referring to other previous advocates for native trees in the gardens.¹³⁶ One writer noted that 'the suggestion to plant wattles in the Edinburgh Gardens was made some years ago by Cr. Robt. Barr, but so far we can see no evidence of the trees'.¹³⁷

In 1913, a writer to the *Herald* expressed their astonishment at seeing one of the Mahogany Gums removed to clear space for electric lighting, and their concern that the complement of Eucalypts in the gardens was being depleted by incautious management and attack by grub. Managers of the gardens, said the writer,

might introduce fresh young trees to replace those that have gone, and provide for others that may be doomed. The value of an area such as Edinburgh Gardens in the midst of a thickly-populated district is indeed great, but that value is considerably increased by the existence of health-promoting eucalypts. Therefore it is sound policy to maintain the original intention of the designers of the gardens and make a speciality of gums. In my opinion, if the pines which skirt the Alfred-crescent border were replaced by eucalypts, it would be a change for the better.¹³⁸

Another writer soon agreed, observing that

It may be worthwhile stating that the site of the gardens was a drain, and the present level was made up by thousands of tons of corporation refuse. No doubt those who planted the trees had the fact in mind. The cause may have disappeared but the teeming population which surrounds the reserve remains as a strong argument for such health-giving trees to be maintained. Several have died

and have not been replaced. This is a chance for the committee to prove that it is more wide-awake than the average garden committee, which, as a rule, is singularly short-sighted.¹³⁹

In 1914, the row of pines which had formed the perimeter of the gardens to Alfred Crescent since c. 1881 were felled as 'it is thought that the trees obstruct the view of the residents in that quarter, and they also militate against the cultivation of ornamental shrubs and flowers'.¹⁴⁰ One newspaper report conveyed the council's intention 'that an avenue of palms and flowers shall take their place. About 40 palms will be planted at distances of a few feet, and they will be surrounded by gay-coloured geraniums. It is proposed also that acacias will be planted next year'.¹⁴¹ If the anticipated plantings were installed at the time, no evidence has been located to that effect. However, a new row planting of native Kurrajongs, is known to have replaced the removed pine row by 1931.

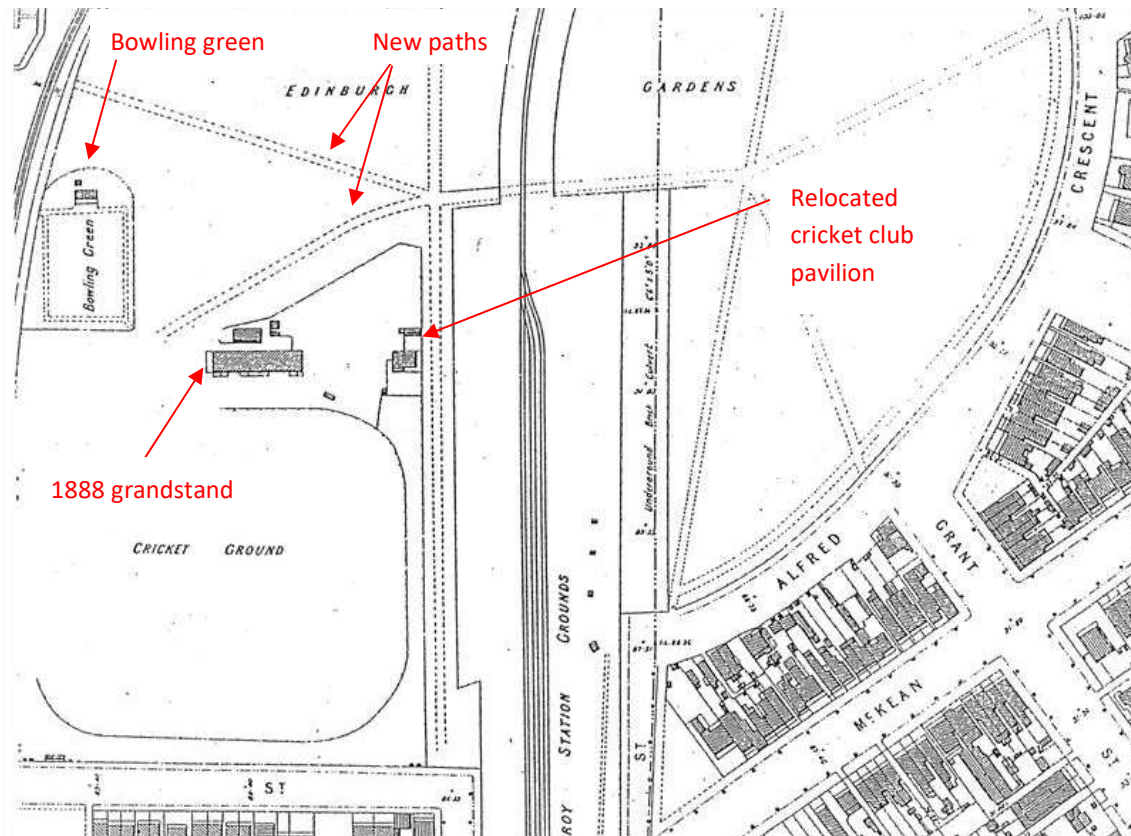


Figure 11 Portion of MMBW, 160': 1", plan no. 29 (southern section), c. 1896, with annotations added

Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection

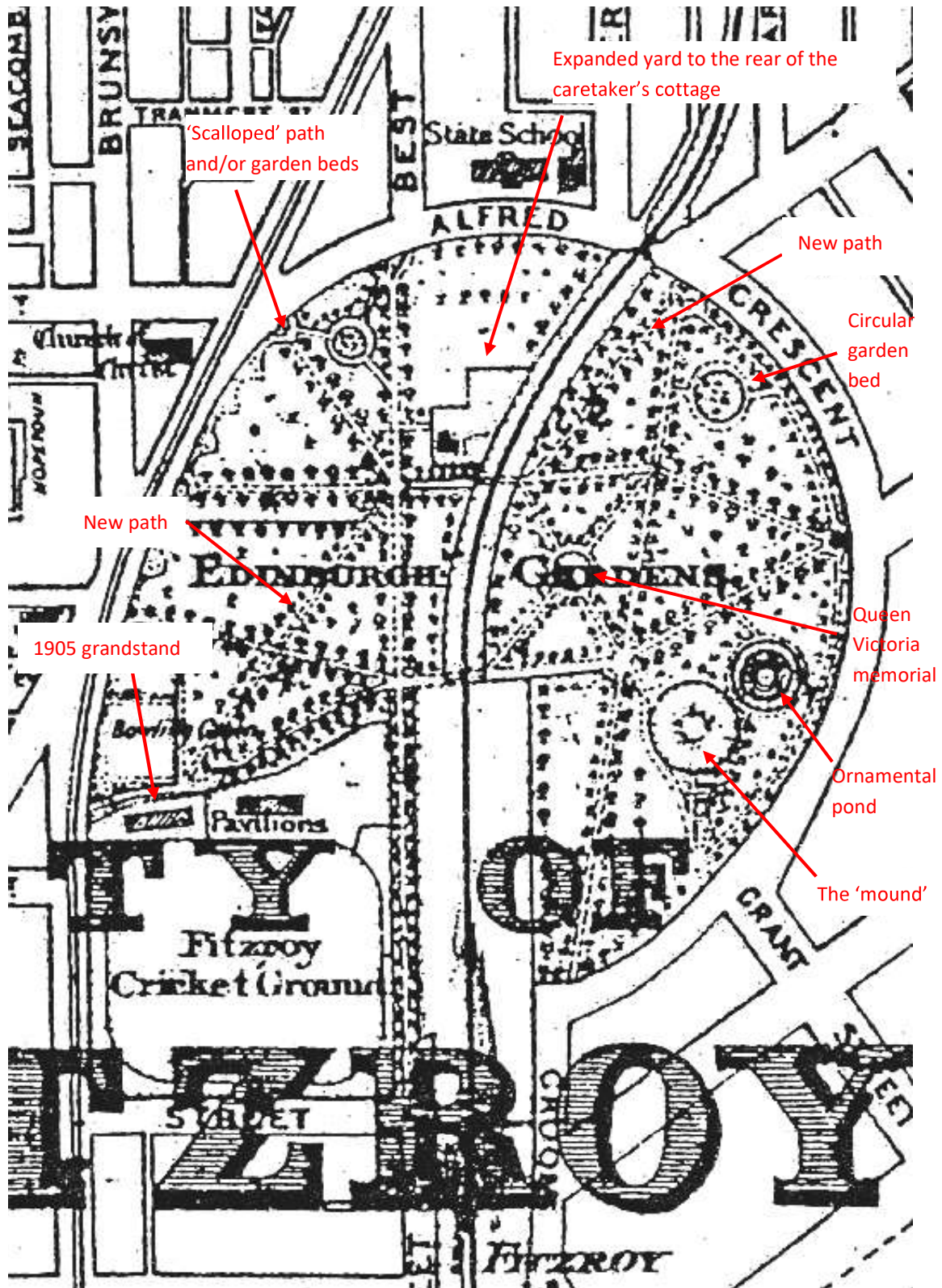


Figure 12 Detail of an unidentified map of the northern suburbs, showing the avenue plantings and other features of the Edinburgh Gardens, c. 1905, with annotations added
Source: Reproduced in Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study

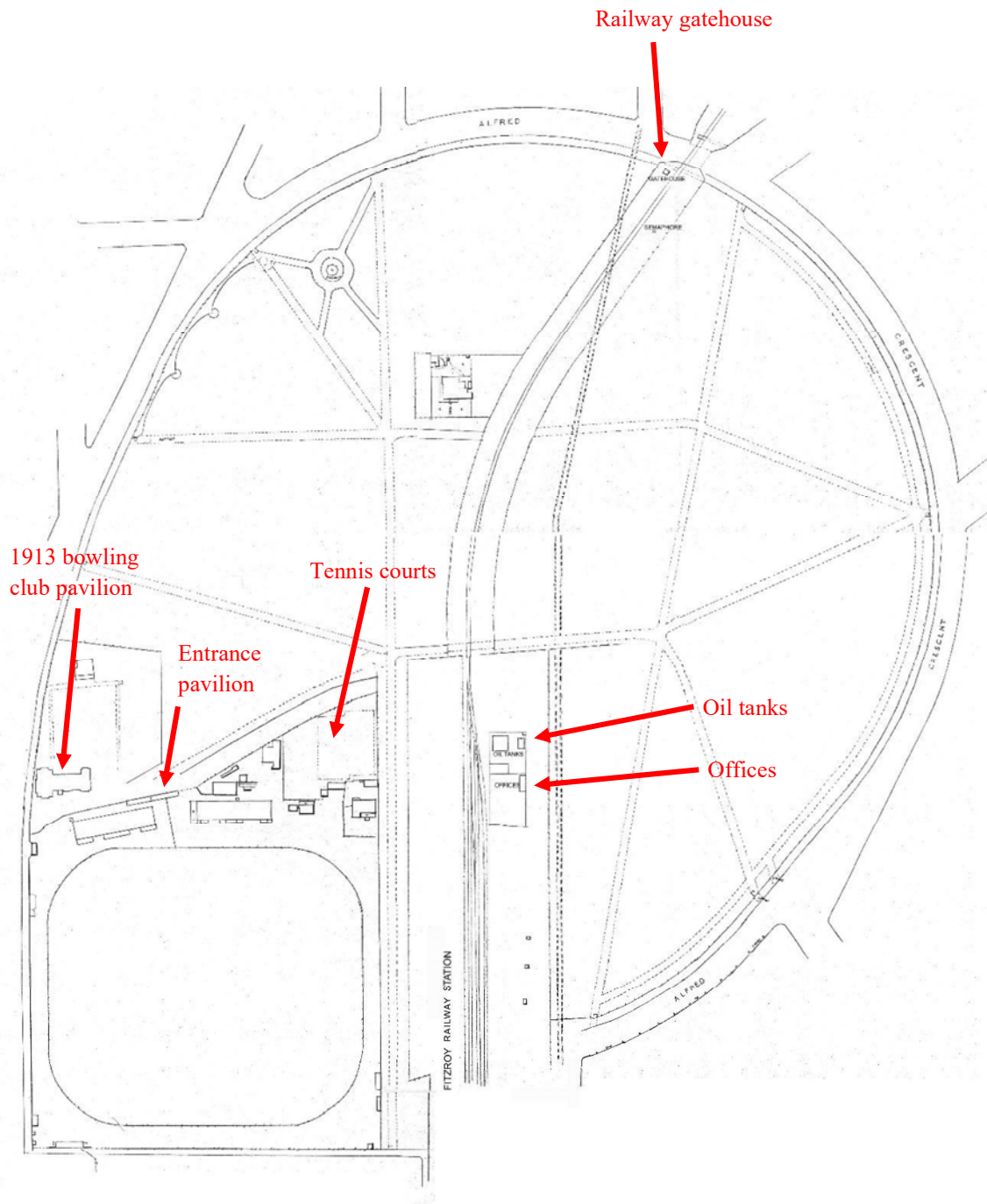


Figure 13 MMBW plan c. 1906, annotated and with later elements noted on the plan
Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection



Figure 14 A c. 1906 postcard of the ornamental pond; in the background are seen (1) the boundary rows of Monterey Pine and Sweet Pittosporum, and (2) a line of Southern Mahogany Gum that was established as a background element to the English Oak Avenue
Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection



Figure 15 View of a football crowd at the Fitzroy cricket ground, c. 1910
Source: Melbourne Regional Libraries, Fitzroy Local History Collection

2.6 The development of the Edinburgh Gardens, 1910s-1930s

Between the late 1910s and the 1930s, the park underwent some major changes; with one of the most significant concerning its management. The Board of Lands and Works ceased to play an active role in the administration of the gardens in October 1917. Following a Cabinet decision, the Joint Committee of Management was revoked, and the Fitzroy City Council was appointed as the committee in full control. Financial contributions to the cost of the upkeep of the gardens from the Crown were then discontinued.¹⁴²

While a 1926 plan of the park shows the pathway arrangement little changed since the end of the nineteenth century (Figure 16), a number of new structures were introduced during the interwar years. Two war memorials were erected, as expected of a nation still grieving for the loss of thousands of young men. The first memorial was an arbour constructed in 1919 by the various sporting clubs occupying the ground, to commemorate their members who died in the war. This Sportsman's Memorial originally stood over the main path running along the northern side of the cricket ground and 'several thousand' people witnessed its unveiling.¹⁴³

The second World War I memorial took the form of a Memorial Rotunda (Figure 16) built in 1925 by the City of Fitzroy.¹⁴⁴ It was designed by Edward Twentyman, long serving office bearer with the Fitzroy Cricket Club and of the well-known architectural firm Twentyman and Askew, who also designed the grandstand and other structures in the sporting grounds. Bearing plaques in honour of the citizens of Fitzroy who had served in World War I and recognising the work of the city council and the Peace Year Citizens Committee who had organised its construction, the Memorial Rotunda originally had a rusticated bluestone base and was encircled by garden beds enclosed by an iron picket fence. A photograph of the rotunda dated 1927 (Figure 17) shows surrounding garden beds with timber post and rail fences, and some timber seating. A plaque was later added to the Memorial Rotunda to honour Fitzroy citizens who served in World War II. The appearance of the rotunda was subsequently altered by the rendering of the quarry-faced bluestone plinth; the date of this modification is unknown.

Also in the 1920s, approval was granted for the construction of a new children's playground, to be located opposite the state school in Alfred Crescent.¹⁴⁵ Playgrounds were built in many of Melbourne's parks and gardens during this period, largely in response to lobbying by the Guild of Play. Established in Melbourne in 1912, the Guild advocated the need for supervised play as an essential component of children's development. The Guild was a local manifestation of an international playgrounds movement formed in the United States and England which had been active since the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The movement sought to alleviate some of the social problems experienced by families living in crowded inner cities areas.¹⁴⁶

A city councillor had raised the issue of new play equipment in 1924, asking whether swings might be returned to the Edinburgh Gardens, after having 'been removed some time ago as they were considered dangerous, but if the swings were lowered they would afford pleasure to the children'.¹⁴⁷ Construction of the new playground in the northern end of the gardens commenced in 1925 and added to the park's existing play equipment and the grassy mound.¹⁴⁸ The new play equipment was so popular with children that the principal of a local primary school complained of increased truancy levels. Others thought them unsafe as they were not supervised by adults.¹⁴⁹

Other park elements installed during this period include the Chandler Drinking Fountain (1926), and an infant welfare centre (1926, demolished c. 1966), initially a small timber building located adjacent to the caretaker's residence and later replaced with the Emely Baker Centre along St Georges Road. It has been suggested that fences to the boundaries of the gardens were probably removed during this phase of development, in keeping with the removal of fencing from other Melbourne parks and gardens.¹⁵⁰

With the park well utilised by the local community, changes to public use and its management aroused strong responses by residents. In the mid-1920s, there was protest at plans to alienate part of the garden to enlarge the Fitzroy Football Club's ground. Complaints centred on the belief that such alienation would be 'an infringement of the rights of the people', especially as it was a public park.¹⁵¹ By 1927, people were criticising the apparent neglect of the gardens. Not only had prolonged dry conditions impacted on the trees and plants which were 'bare and barren instead of green and delightful to the eye;' but areas were filled with foul smelling stagnant water and there was also a tip site near the Napier Street entrance and a resting paddock for council horses within the grounds.¹⁵²

Despite local protests concerning some of the gardens' management practices, sporting activities continued to be well maintained and resourced. The cricket club's annual report for 1930-31 describes the sporting facilities during this period:

in addition to the playing area there are fifteen bowling rinks on two of the finest greens in Victoria, five tennis courts (three of concrete and two of asphalt), the whole forming for Fitzroy citizens a Recreation Reserve which has few equals and no superior in Victoria.¹⁵³

A ladies' dressing room was added to the tennis pavilion between 1933-34 at a cost of £54 and a new shower and toilet block was constructed in 1953-5. An additional tennis court was erected in 1955-56.¹⁵⁴

The extension of the cricket ground in 1934 brought about the most substantial change to the gardens during the interwar period. The Fitzroy Cricket Club had first proposed to extend the ground by 30 feet (9.1 metres) in the mid-1920s, but nothing came of it. The new proposed extension required the removal of some trees bordering the tennis club and the path extending from Rowe to Brunswick streets.¹⁵⁵ A reduced extension of the cricket ground eastwards by 26 feet (7.9 metres) was eventually approved by Lands Department in March 1934.¹⁵⁶ A strip of land was subsequently purchased from the Railways Department and the main north-south path, running alongside the cricket ground, was pushed eastwards to its present alignment. Approval for the extension had been conditional upon the retention of the row of elm trees along the east of the path, which are visible in a 1925 oblique aerial photograph of the area (Figure 18). The trees were, nevertheless, removed by 1938, with the Fitzroy City Council reporting to the Lands Department that they had become an 'eyesore and a danger'.¹⁵⁷ Additional trees adjacent to the tennis courts were removed on the basis that the shadows thrown onto the courts were distracting players and the tree roots had interfered with the surface.¹⁵⁸ The action was further justified by the council on the grounds the:

floral decorative strip along the pathway north of the playing arenas from the Brunswick Street entrance eastwards ... could not be continued to the end of the courts as desired because of these trees.¹⁵⁹

In 1937, the Fitzroy Council accepted the donation of the Cook Memorial by the local artisan J.A. Heyman after the monument had been rejected by Melbourne City Council. Originally intended to have been installed with Cook's Cottage in Fitzroy Gardens, on receiving the monument Fitzroy Council erected it in Edinburgh Gardens, along the path in front of the timber entrance pavilion and grandstands of the Brunswick Street Oval¹⁶⁰ (the monument was later relocated to its present location opposite Rowe Street).

At this time the footpath along the eastern and southern side of the Edinburgh Gardens, abutting Alfred Crescent, was removed and grassed over. Other improvements described by the council include the removal of hedges and picket fences alongside the railway line.¹⁶¹ In 1937, the Fitzroy City Council announced a 'beautification scheme' for the Napier Street entrance, including the construction of an

asphalt path six feet in width along the eastern side of the oval to the tennis courts, and a path of lawn 11 feet wide.¹⁶²

As in the past, the park remained a venue for social gatherings and events, some of which were run by the municipal council or other organisations. The 1933 fete and bazaar which ran for nearly two weeks was held within the grounds to raise funds for the unemployed.¹⁶³ At times, anti-social activities occurred at the park. For instance, in 1919, some 50 to 60 members of two rival gangs, known as 'pushes', were set to battle it out in the gardens when police arrived and dispersed the push members.¹⁶⁴ The next month, a push of about 20 young people attacked a boy who was lying in the grass with two friends.¹⁶⁵

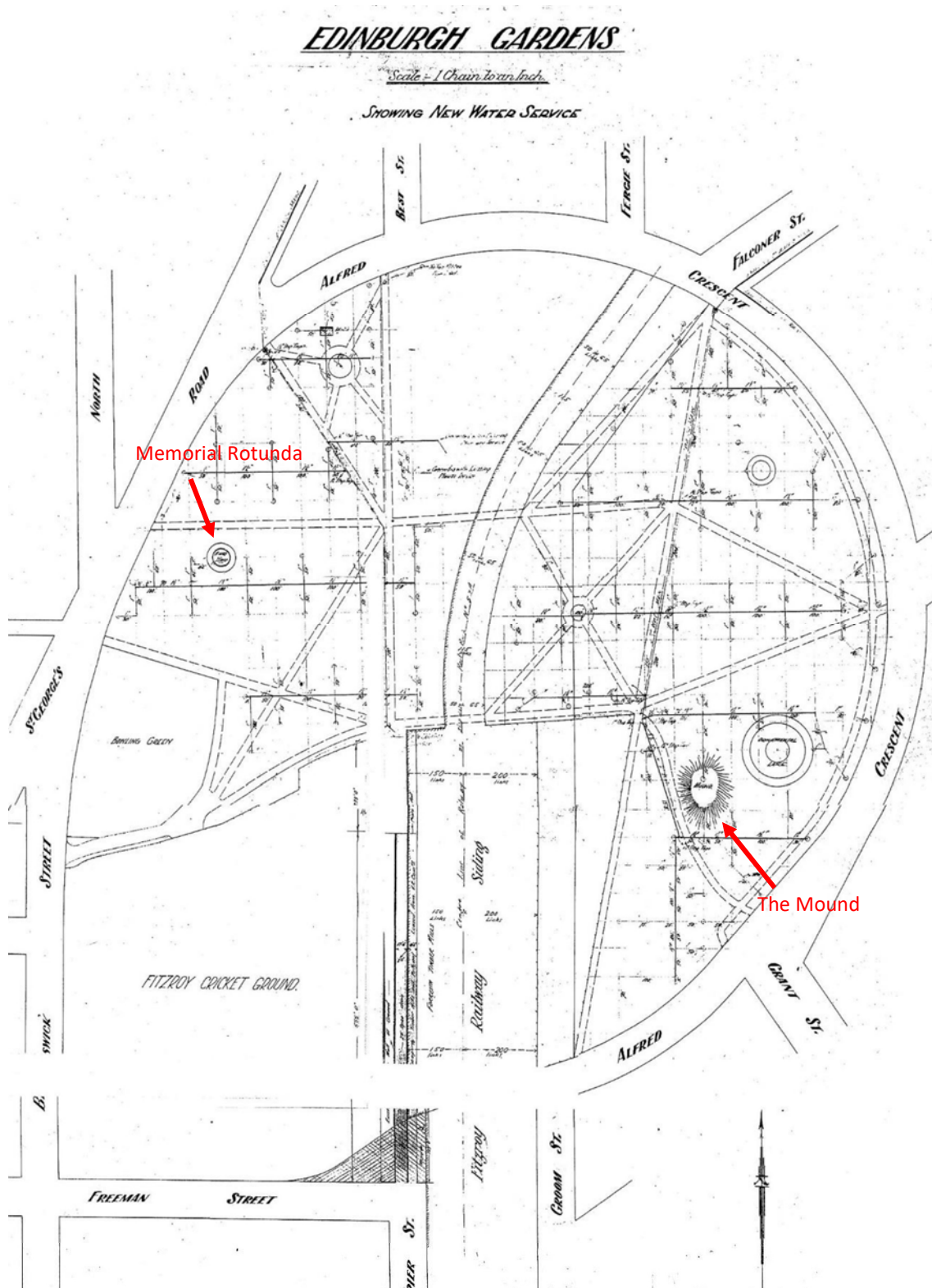


Figure 16 Plan of the Edinburgh Gardens, 1926 (annotations to the east of the cricket ground date from c. 1948)

Source: Reserve File, RS360, Department of Sustainability and Environment



Figure 17 View of the Memorial Rotunda, c. 1927
Source: Yarra Melbourne Regional Libraries, Fitzroy Local History Collection



Figure 18 Oblique aerial view looking south-west, showing part of the Edinburgh Gardens, dated c. 1925; the row of elms removed following the extension of the cricket ground are visible to left of the oval
Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection

2.7 The post-war years, 1940s-1960s

From the late 1940s, the park underwent some significant changes, with a number of older structures removed or modified, garden design simplified and some of its passive use spaces altered. The path layout remained largely unchanged in the mid-1940s with only a few minor variations. A 1945 aerial photograph shows a narrow path, possibly an informal foot track, in the eastern side of the park, running north-south from Falconer Street to the Alfred Crescent/Grant Street intersection (Figure 19). The grassy hillock, known on plans as the 'the mound' (Figure 16) is still discernible in the south-east of the gardens, as is the ornamental pond and surrounding ring of trees. However, one of the diagonal paths radiating outwards from the fountain had been removed. Modifications to the north-south path running past the nursery complex adjacent to the caretaker's house are also evident in the 1945 photograph, with the formation of the existing 'horseshoe' configuration at the entrance off Alfred Crescent.

Changes began to take place in the late 1940s, one of the most substantial being the clearing of the south-east corner of the gardens for use as a playing field in the late 1940s. The sports field, as first proposed by the council in 1945, was to have included two ovals and a single storey pavilion.¹⁶⁶ Local citizens opposed the plans which would have involved the loss of a number of trees as well as 'the mound'. Church groups were also in opposition, fearing the field would be used for Sunday football. The council subsequently amended the proposal by reducing the size of the playing field.¹⁶⁷

In 1948 sporting spaces and facilities were further increased when a ladies bowling green was established in the centre of the park. Both the green and new oval were indicative of:

... a period of public interest in simple open space values and passive recreation in the inner suburban parks [that] declined in favour of more intensive sporting and institutional uses.¹⁶⁸

That year, Fitzroy City Council sought a loan for, amongst other things, £445 for water reticulation of the gardens and £150 for playground equipment.¹⁶⁹ Two years later, a further £2,250 was procured for the garden's water reticulation system.¹⁷⁰

By the mid to late 1960s, a number of modifications to the park had taken place, as is evident in a 1966 aerial photograph (Figure 20). Facilities at the cricket ground had, by this time, been developed to their fullest extent. Terraced viewing areas can be seen to the front of the grandstands while there are a number of pavilions and structures along the east side of the oval.¹⁷¹ The concrete wall is evident to the east, west and south boundaries. The northern end of the railway goods yard, shown largely vacant in the 1945 aerial, had been developed with a large industrial building, for the National Can Company, constructed in the c. mid-1950s.

A circular garden bed is discernible in the 1966 aerial, near the Rowe Street intersection. In the south-east corner of the park the late 1940s playing field is visible, occupying a site half the size of the playing field which exists today. The 'mound' to the north of the path appears to have recently been removed, its location is discernible as a patch of cleared ground. The path which had previously skirted it to the west had been further formalised into a serpentine path, maintaining the 'kink' where the mound had intervened but now also taking a second curve towards the south-east to recentre this minor park entrance at Grant Street. The adjacent ornamental pond had also been removed, along with the trees encircling its southern half. The pond and its stock of goldfish were apparently considered to be too much effort to maintain and it was filled in with earth removed from the mound, the remainder being used as cheap fill by the Fitzroy City Council.¹⁷² Garden beds along St Georges Road, previously reported to have been planted with massed cannas and described as an 'eye catching summer feature' are believed to have been grassed over in the 1960s.¹⁷³ The fountain was also demolished at this time.

The removal of early features is demonstrative of a trend in the post-war period towards the simplification of park management in line with modern economies of labour and other resources.

Further changes to the administration of the gardens took place when the *Fitzroy (Edinburgh Gardens) Lands Act* of 1967 was proclaimed on 12 December 1967. The Act had come about following a realisation that the Crown land occupied by the cricket ground had, through a legal technicality, never been formally allocated to the cricket, football or bowling clubs.¹⁷⁴ Consequently, the Fitzroy City Council was unable to lend money to the clubs and lacked the legal power to raise it for them. To resolve the issue, council was appointed as the Committee of Management of this part of the reserve and so could lease parts of the park to various sporting clubs. The Act also closed a small portion of Freeman Street and incorporated it into the gardens.¹⁷⁵

In c. 1964 the original caretaker's cottage in the centre of the gardens was demolished and a cream-brick villa erected, with the adjacent park depot and nursery complex appearing to have reached its ultimate extent.¹⁷⁶ The service yard had expanded incrementally over the years and appears to have been largely developed by the mid-1960s.

The late 1960s also marked the end of the Fitzroy Football Club's eight-decade long association with the cricket ground. During this period, the club had found itself increasingly in conflict with the council and local residents over requests to upgrade facilities and increase car-parking. Unable to arrive at a satisfactory lease arrangement, the club vacated the ground in 1966. Other sporting facilities, however, were further developed. In 1969, the local council procured a \$75,000 loan to construct a new club house and amenities block for the Fitzroy Bowling Club. An additional \$15,000 loan was sought for the project the following year.¹⁷⁷

Throughout this period, the gardens remained a place where local residents came together as a community, and not just within the sphere of cricket and football. Beyond sporting events, it continued to be used for a range of community events, including fundraising activities. For example, in 1945 a carnival spanning several days was held within the park to raise money for the Fitzroy Citizen's Victorian Police Association Youth Club.¹⁷⁸ Other people continued to use the park for passive activities or walked through it on their way to another place, as illustrated at Figure 21.

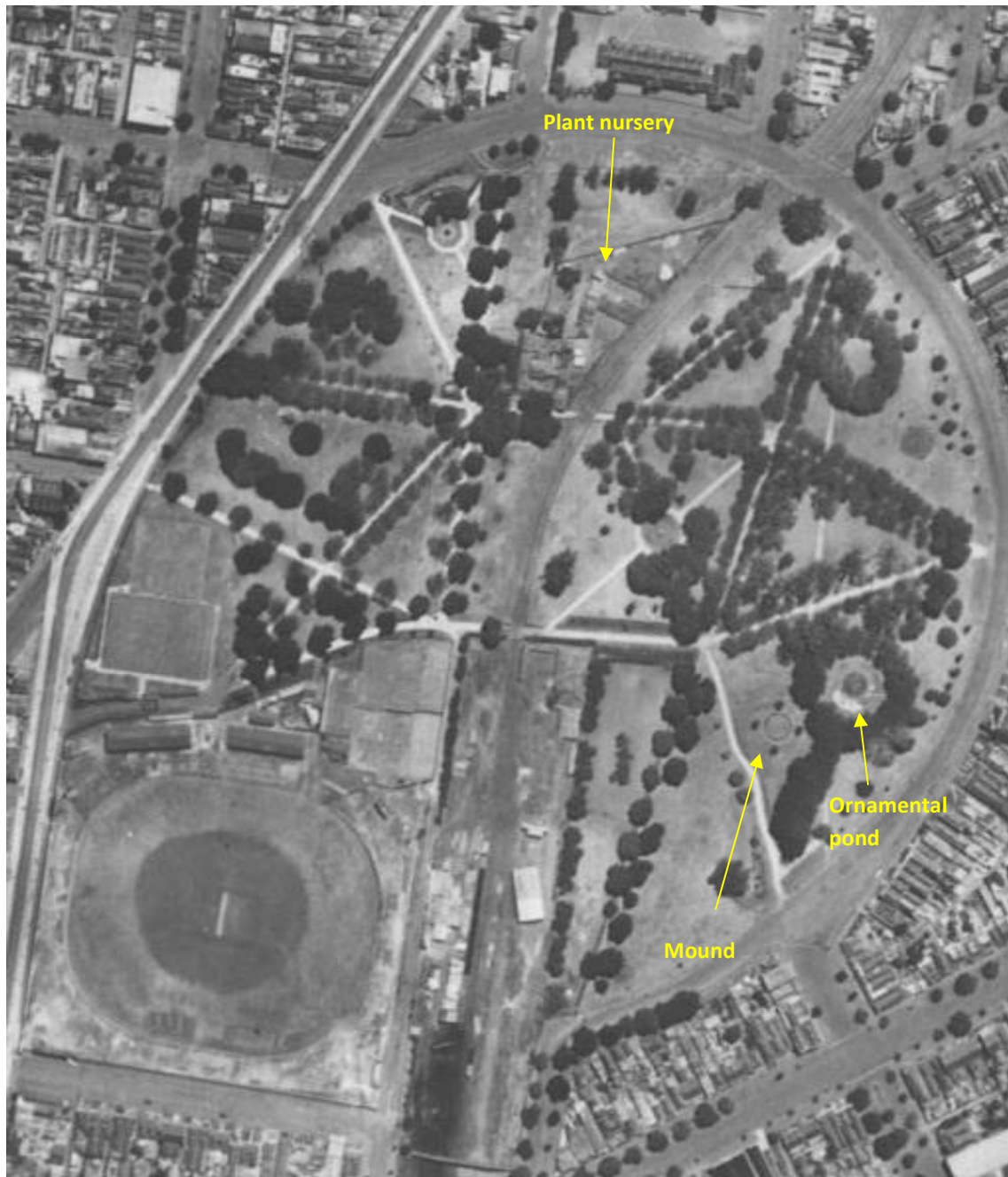


Figure 19 Aerial view of Edinburgh Gardens showing the location of the paths, plant nursery, mound and ornamental pond (empty), 1945
Source: University of Melbourne Archives Image Collection

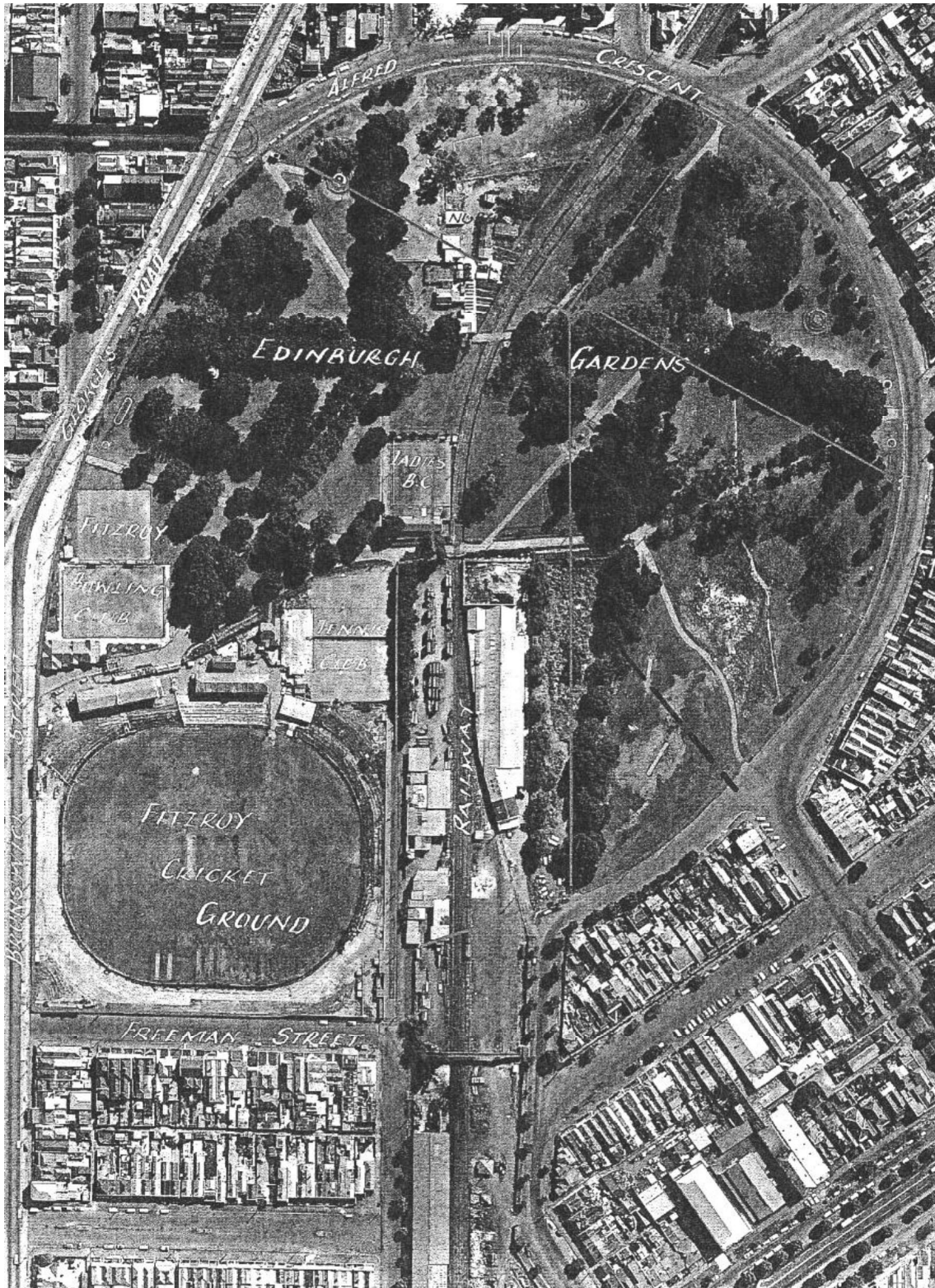


Figure 20 Aerial view of Edinburgh Gardens, 1966
Source: Reserve File RS360, Department of Sustainability and Environment



Figure 21 A mother and infant walk through Edinburgh Gardens, 1954
Source: *Herald*, 9 April 1954, p. 3

2.8 Late twentieth century developments, 1970s-1990s

2.8.1 Public gardens

The 1970s saw the construction of new amenities in the park. In 1970, the council borrowed \$37,000 to construct a new infant welfare centre along St Georges Road, together with a toilet block and shelter shed.¹⁷⁹ In 1972, an additional \$34,000 loan was obtained to build the facilities which were completed later that year.¹⁸⁰ The new structures were built in a starkly utilitarian design typical of parks and gardens architecture of the period. The Emely Baker Infant Welfare Centre was built to replace the 1926 timber building located adjacent to the original caretaker's cottage, a site which occasionally attracted 'undesirable characters'.¹⁸¹ Security concerns and the need for ease of supervision appear to have prompted the relocation of the centre to a site on the perimeter of the park.¹⁸² Another of the park's early structures, a Victorian-era timber lattice gazebo, was demolished to make way for the new pedestrian shelter known as the Centenary Pavilion, located near the National Can Company industrial site. The pavilion was erected in 1977 and officially opened in January the following year to mark the centenary of the City of Fitzroy.¹⁸³

A shift away from the practice of maintaining labour-intensive flowerbeds in the parks and gardens of Fitzroy began in the early 1970s. Also in this period, the council discontinued the traditional June mayoral ball, for which the nursery had played an important role in providing palms and other potted plants.¹⁸⁴ The nursery was vacated in the 1990s, and was demolished sometime between 2004 and 2009.

Other changes within the park at this time included the removal of one of the diagonal paths intersecting the location of the former Queen Victoria statue. The school sports oval was also enlarged, and the serpentine path from the Grant Street entry may have been removed, although a path on a similar alignment was later restored to this area. The removal of the railway line in 1981 had a significant impact on the gardens and no longer divided the park in two. The now-empty rail path became asphalted bicycle and pedestrian pathway. Industrial structures on the former goods yards site were removed in the 1990s and the area south of the railway footbridge redeveloped as public housing.

The gardens developed as the local community evolved. The construction of the bocce courts occurred in the 1980s following the redevelopment of the oval. This reflected the area's changing demographics as it was a game typically played by Italians (particularly men), a community with a strong presence in Fitzroy and neighbouring suburbs. A skate park in the northern section of the gardens was constructed in 1991 for the park's younger users, thereby continuing the provision of both passive and active recreational facilities in the park.

In the late twentieth century parts of the park came to be recognised as being of significance.¹⁸⁵ In 1990, the grandstand was included to the Register of Historic Buildings, a statutory listing that was the precursor to the Victorian Heritage Register. The whole of Edinburgh Gardens was added to the heritage overlay of the Yarra Planning Scheme c. 1999. For example, in 1989, the Fitzroy Cricket Club Grandstand was classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) as a site of state significance since it 'is one of only three surviving grandstands that predate the great depression of the 1890s [and] is one of the last works in the long and distinguished career of Nathaniel Billing'. In 1993, a Holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) specimen north-east of the bowling club was classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) as being of regional significance and included in its Significant Tree Register, a non-statutory list.¹⁸⁶

2.8.2 *Sporting precinct*

By the 1970s the ground had fallen into a derelict state and the 1905 grandstand was destroyed by fire in 1977¹⁸⁷ with the cricket ground remaining largely ignored in the 1970s (Figure 22). Proposals mooted in 1972 to develop the ground as a car-racing track came to nothing.¹⁸⁸ By the early 1980s, redevelopment of the site commenced, with the Fitzroy council committing around \$500,000 to the cost. In 1980 a loan of \$10,000 was provided for the reconstruction of the park's paths, as well as \$23,500 for the redevelopment of its cricket and football oval.¹⁸⁹ The following year, a \$112,000 loan was sought to help fund the Edinburgh Gardens redevelopment project and in 1983, an additional \$40,000 was requested.¹⁹⁰ Works included demolition of the boundary walls and fences, regrading of earth banks and tree planting. The nineteenth century grandstand was restored, the adjacent community room was constructed, and the timber entry pavilion relocated to the main through path. Further restoration works to the grandstand were undertaken in 1991-92 when the grandstand was painted and timber bench seating reinstated.¹⁹¹

In the late 1990s the lawn bowls club was redeveloped. This was carried out as part of the amalgamation of the Fitzroy Club with the Victoria Club to form the Fitzroy Victoria Bowling and Sports Club. Shortly after, the Ladies Bowling Club was relocated from elsewhere in the park and integrated into the new club. The upgraded facilities included the enlargement of the clubhouse, installation of a synthetic surface to the green nearest the clubhouse, additional storage sheds and the relocation of a shed from the Brunswick Street boundary to the eastern boundary adjacent to the gardens. A new chain mesh fence was constructed around three sides of the perimeter to a height of two metres.

In 1992, the Fitzroy Football Club proposed to return to the cricket ground. The proposal also included the enclosure of the 1888 grandstand for administration offices and gymnasium. In response to significant opposition from the local community, the scheme was abandoned. The vulnerability of the

park structures to vandalism and arson was highlighted in 1996 when the timber gatehouse was destroyed by fire. It has subsequently been reconstructed.

2.9 Recent developments at the Edinburgh Gardens

The Edinburgh Gardens continue to evolve as it mirrors the shifting communities it serves, as well as changing landscape design principles and practices, climatic conditions and local expectations. In 2012, a raingarden was installed in the centre of the park, near the former Inner Circle Railway line. Reflecting the concern of drought and changing weather patterns, the garden was created:

to provide a sustainable source of treated stormwater for the parks mature trees and sporting fields in a way that added to the existing landscape character of the park and added interest for users.¹⁹²

It was designed to deliver approximately 60 per cent of the garden's annual water needs and in a style that had a natural, less formal arrangement of plantings. The 700 square metre garden was designed by GHD and cost \$1 million.¹⁹³

In 2017, the northern section of the park was upgraded. This saw the removal of the carpark and demolition of the community centre called International House, the relocation of the playground area, a new active play area (complete with table tennis) and the reinstatement of parkland.¹⁹⁴ This complemented earlier works in 2010 which resulted in the construction of the Alfred Crescent Pavilion to a design by Clarke Hopkins Clarke (Architects). This structure replaced the previous pavilion which had been constructed in 1977. In 2019, upgrades to the Brunswick Street Oval facilities were announced.

Since 2016, the City of Yarra has undertaken a program of temporary art commissions which utilise the Queen Victoria Plinth and reference the former statue. Following previous commissions by Adam Stone and Robbie Rowlands, the most recent is Kathy Holowko's sculpture of an earthworm, 'The Unsung Hero'.¹⁹⁵

In December 2017, further interpretive elements including a large photographic panel were added to the Sportsman's Memorial (Figure 23) as part of the conservation and refurbishment of the arbour. A replica ceramic wreath in a bronze case, produced by local ceramicist Jessica Taylor in collaboration with the Grimwade Centre, was also installed, with the original wreath relocated to Fitzroy Town Hall.¹⁹⁶

Occasionally, contests over the park's use are still played out within its grounds, as evident on New Year's Eve 2013. For many years, large crowds had peacefully assembled at the park to see in the new year but that night the situation became out of control when crowd numbers reached nearly 20,000. Two people were assaulted, people were urinating in public because there were not enough toilets and large quantities of rubbish were left strewn across the park (Figure 24). The local council was criticised for not providing enough facilities (particularly toilets and rubbish bins) to meet the crowd's needs.¹⁹⁷ The following year's alcohol ban further fractured relations between some locals and the Yarra City Council.¹⁹⁸

Today, the park continues to be appropriated by locals for a diverse range of recreational activities and events. Picnics, social gatherings, dog walking, cycling and informal games occur within its grounds. Organised sporting activities continue to be played on the Brunswick Street Oval (now officially called the W.T. Peterson Community Oval) and on its bowling greens and tennis courts. With the introduction of 'Barefoot Bowls', the bowling club is undergoing a recent resurgence with younger players taking up the sport. While the Brunswick Street Oval no longer hosts VFL or AFL football games, it remains the home of Fitzroy Football Club and hosts Victorian Amateur Football Association matches, as well as junior league games.

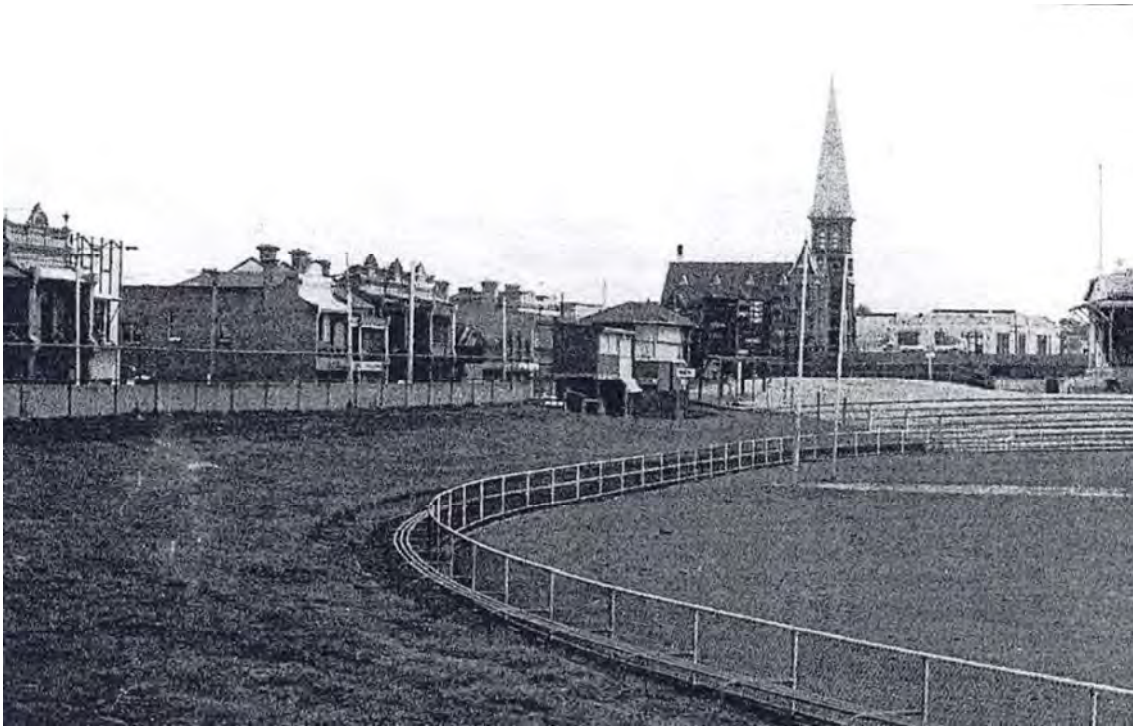


Figure 22 The cricket ground as it stood empty during the 1970s
Source: Reproduced in the *Roar of the Lions*



Figure 23 The 'Sportsman's Memorial' at the Edinburgh Gardens illustrating the photographic panel and encased wreath introduced in 2019



Figure 24 The aftermath of the 2013 New Year's Eve festivities at the Edinburgh Gardens
Source: Adam Elwood, *Herald sun*. 1 January 2014

3.0 PHYSICAL SURVEY

3.1 Introduction

The following physical survey of the buildings and associated elements of the Edinburgh Gardens relies on the historical information from the 2004 CMP, substantial supplemental research undertaken with new sources to inform the current study, and site inspections undertaken in 2019-2020.

The objective of the physical survey and analysis has been to establish, as far as possible the nature and intactness of the original layout, structures and landscape, and to describe where relevant the modifications which have occurred up to the present day. This informs an updated assessment of significance in chapter 4, and the recommended management policies in chapter 6.

Access was generally available throughout the gardens and buildings, with the exception of the interior of the Alfred Crescent Pavilion. Limited additional examination of architectural drawings was also undertaken to inform this chapter. Further information is drawn from the archives of Terence Nott Architect, provided in 2021.

Current information from the City of Yarra's arboricultural inventory was reviewed and is relied upon for species identifications and other details. It is notable and bears discussion that the current inventory differs from previous studies, which appear to have understood that a substantially greater complement of Dutch Elm was present in Edinburgh Gardens and formed the original Elm avenues established in the 1880s. The inventory assigns most of the surviving original avenue plantings as English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), an identification that is consistent with reports from 1884 and 1885 describing the initial plantings (including Nicholas Bickford's own account of the plantings to 1885). Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) is present in numbers at Edinburgh Gardens, but based on the City of Yarra inventory, the cultivar appears to be represented in plantings and infills carried out somewhat later, beginning c. 1900-1905.

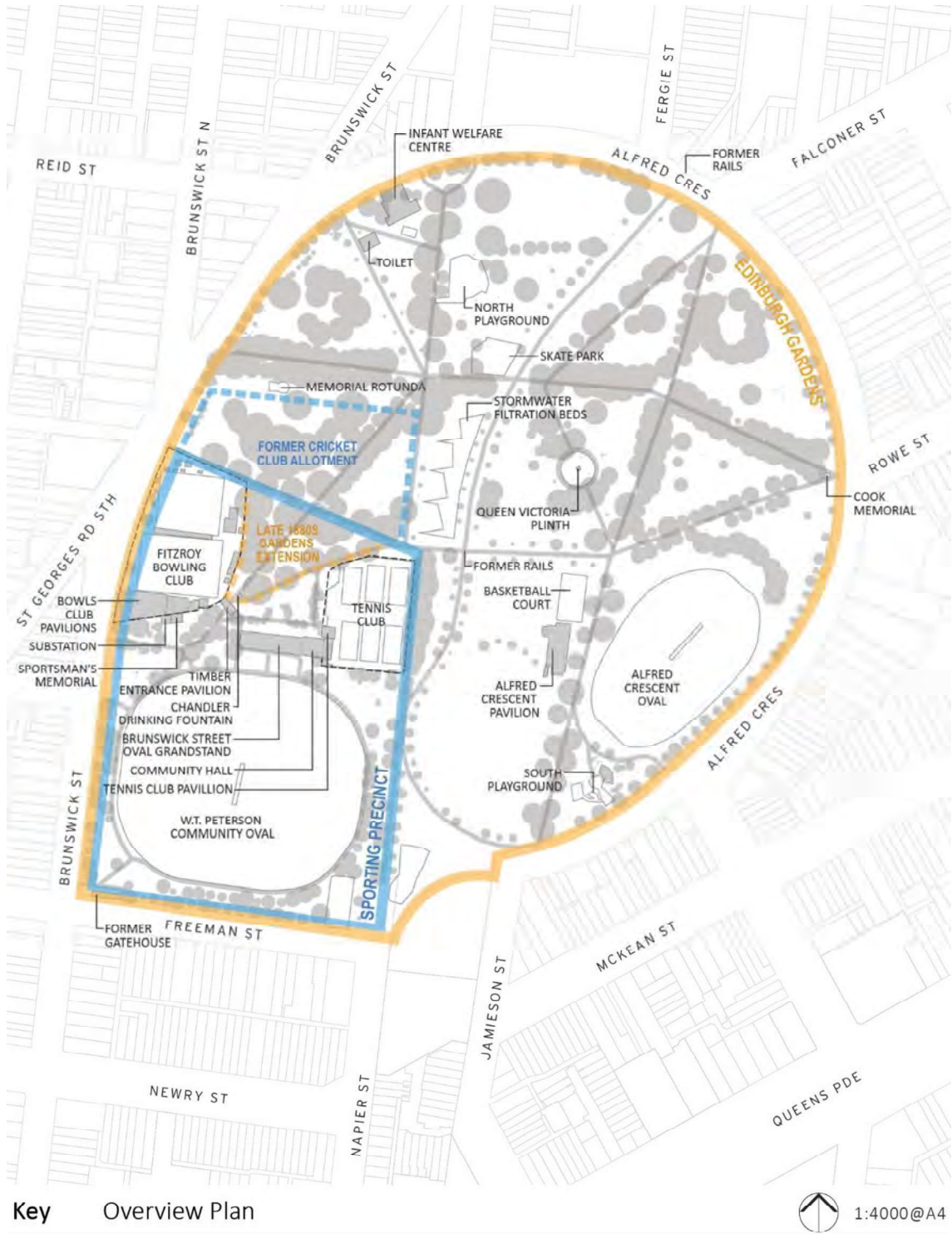


Figure 25 Overview of the Edinburgh Gardens, showing major features and the relative areas of the gardens and the sporting precinct

3.2 OVAL AND SPORTING PRECINCT

3.2.1 *Brunswick Street Oval and Sporting Precinct*

From the outset, a sporting precinct was established in the south-west part of the recreation reserve that would become Edinburgh Gardens. As detailed in Chapter 2, this precinct established around the two cricket clubs which had received allotments in 1862 and 1863 before amalgamating as the Fitzroy Cricket Club in 1872. The Fitzroy Cricket Club went on to manage the land and facilities in the precinct for a number of decades. The lawn bowls club was established in 1877; the Fitzroy Football Club in 1883; and tennis courts added to the precinct in the mid-1880s and moved to their present location after construction of the 1888 grandstand.

The sporting precinct itself, and the presence of the oval and a bowls club, predate the naming of Edinburgh Gardens and the initial layout of the gardens in the 1880s. Early records note that the Cricket Club obtained an assortment of trees from Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens¹⁹⁹ and that a 'ladies reserve' north-west of the oval was 'fenced and planted with trees, [and] flowers'. The grounds administered by the Club during the late 1860s and 1870s were extensive, and ornamental planting may have been undertaken over a broad area before being removed through attrition or to accommodate the addition of bowls and tennis courts, new facilities at the oval and the municipal avenues from the 1880s.

Use of the original commercial club oval to the north of the surviving oval ceased and this area was reassigned to the gardens c. the late 1880s-1890s, with crossing paths and avenue plantings added through the north part of the precinct. However, the remainder of the clubs areas continued to be shaped principally by the development of the sports grounds and club facilities until the 1960s, when the tenure of the Fitzroy Lions and management of the oval by the Fitzroy Cricket Club unravelled.

In addition to the various sporting grounds, the grandstand and the oval's two gatehouses, members of the sports clubs led development of a number of the public ornamental elements of the precinct, including the Sportsman's Memorial and the Chandler Drinking Fountain. The Memorial Rotunda, developed by Fitzroy City Council on the northern edge of the original club allotments, was also designed by a prominent office holder within the Fitzroy Cricket Club.

3.2.2 *Grandstand*

Early facilities at the ground constructed by the cricket club are known to have included a timber members' pavilion (located to the north-west of the oval), a small timber stand, and a number of seats located around the oval. By the late nineteenth century, cricket and football games at the ground had become so popular as to warrant the construction of additional spectator facilities. The grandstand was built in 1888 to the design of the prominent architect Nathaniel Billing.²⁰⁰ The builder was a Mr Purser and the total amount expended was £2,086.²⁰¹ Architectural documentation shows that the two bays to the western ground floor end of the grandstand were constructed with outer brick walls and fenestration. The balance of bays were originally constructed as an open area with brick piers on the north and south sides (Figure 26); the oblique aerial image (Figure 28) indicates that the eastern end bays were infilled, likely with lightweight materials. The mezzanine level (currently clad in horizontal weatherboards) features only regularly placed vents to the upper section of all but the most easterly bay. A timber gymnasium was erected at the rear (north side) of the grandstand (Figure 27) and the existing cricket pavilion was relocated to the eastern side (below the tennis club).²⁰² The various structures to the north of the grandstand are also shown at Figure 28. The old timber stand, also moved to the eastern side of the oval, was eventually pulled down. A second grandstand was erected by the football club in 1905, to the west of the 1888 grandstand (Figure 29-Figure 31), and included a 'refreshment booth and sewerage convenience'.²⁰³ The area to the north of both grandstands evolved

and changed with maps and oblique images indicating a variety of structures including closets (toilets) and the like. The presentation of the 1888 grandstand to the south was largely as seen today, with the ground level exposed; this was prior to the introduction of the terraced areas to the front of the grandstands.

In 1966, the Fitzroy football club vacated the ground, unable to achieve a satisfactory lease from the Fitzroy Council. By the 1970s the ground had fallen into a derelict state and the 1905 grandstand was destroyed by fire in 1977. Aerial imagery dating to 1979 indicates that a number of structures remained to the immediate north of the 1888 grandstand (Figure 32).

In the early 1980s, the 1888 grandstand was restored as part of the redevelopment of the oval facilities for community use. The extent of the restoration work is unknown, and it is expected that early fabric was replaced or reconstructed as part of this project. This work included the construction of the community room to the east of the grandstand, to a design by Peter Elliott Architect.²⁰⁴

By the mid-1980s the terracing to the south of the grandstand, along with the retained terracing to the demolished 1905 grandstand, was removed and the area surrounding the oval was re-graded and landscaped. This work exposed the ground level façade of the building again. The c. 1987 aerial image indicates that the structures to the north of the grandstand were also removed and the landscape altered to introduce pathways, a parking area and the timber entrance pavilion relocated to the north-west (Figure 33).

Further restoration works were undertaken in 1991-2 and included the reinstatement of the timber bench seating (noting that nearly 70% of seating was replaced due to damage) and repainting of the grandstand in a heritage colour scheme (Figure 34-Figure 35).²⁰⁵ The colour scheme for the 1991-92 repainting works was prepared by Terence Nott Architect and established a colour scheme of Haymes Paint 'Deep Indian Red' to metal work (posts, rainwater goods and the like), 'Cumberland Stone' to seat backs, some joinery and cast lacework to the balustrade, 'Light Beige' to the balance of timber work, 'Rustic Tan' to brickwork and a 'Jarrah' decking stain to the timber floor.²⁰⁶ A subsequent paint analysis was undertaken by John Briggs Architect and Heritage Consultant in 2009, and this broadly supported the scheme introduced in 1991-92.²⁰⁷

A redevelopment of the changeroom and internal spaces was undertaken in 2008. Works undertaken in 2016-7 included the introduction of measures to reduce anti-social behaviour and comprised of improved lighting and the installation of security locking systems. Bird proofing was also introduced to the underside of the roof at this time.

The grandstand is located on the north side of the community oval. It is of typical Victorian design with a stepped, timber-framed seating area above a ground level brick storey containing club rooms and change rooms. The jerkinhead roof is clad in corrugated galvanised steel and contains a central gable with weatherboard infill and a circular louvered timber vent (the latter replacing a clock, visible in Figure 30, at an unknown time). It is known that the gable end and vent were subject to fire damage prior to 1996.²⁰⁸ Flagpoles are mounted on the roof at the centre and at either end. To the underside of the roof, the timber roof trusses are supported on cast-iron columns with Corinthian capitals. Extending along the front and sides of the main roof is an awning supported on timber brackets.

Modern timber stairs, located to the centre and each end of the south elevation, provide access to the seating area. At ground level, the face brickwork is painted and punctuated by modern windows, doors and openings fitted with roller shutters. The central opening, formerly the club room entrance from the race, is infilled with a modern timber and glass doors and sidelights.

The seating area has a terraced timber board floor and simple timber bench seating with steel supports to the backrests. Cast iron balustrade panels with a timber handrail between the cast columns make-up

the balustrade to the seating area, with this element extending to the east, south and west elevations. This is set above V-jointed board panels. Behind the seating area, the rear wall features sliding timber-framed panels, which extend across the full length of the rear elevation, above the wall which is lined variously with vertical timber boards and flat panel to the interior side. The central panel to the screens is infilled with either vertical or diagonal v-jointed boards. Cast brackets, bolts and similar fixings are evident on the timber trusses, and timber framing at the seating level. The timber flooring to the seating area is tongue and groove boarding. The floor is stepped, to allow for the seating, the latter of which comprises a timber seat and back with steel supports.

The north elevation is comprised of three distinct levels; the overpainted brickwork of the ground level, horizontal weatherboard clad mezzanine and upper section (relating to the upper level of the tiered seating) which includes a band of vertical boarding, separated by a timber bead from the sliding panels above. Timber brackets are located beneath the roof and the eave is infilled with timber board lining. The ground level brick wall, of which the two westerly bays are likely to be early though modified, extends to the full length of the north elevation; of which the brickwork was introduced at an unknown date. The ground level is fenestrated by two v-jointed board doors, modern doors and windows, and louvered timber-framed windows fitted with wire mesh security screens. The mezzanine level has weatherboard cladding set between timber posts and containing fixed-sash, six-pane, timber-framed windows (these are modern interventions of an unknown date). Two of the timber posts have been replaced with brick piers. Abutting the west elevation is a skillion-roofed verandah supported on timber posts. The sliding panels have been variously replaced and repaired, with these elements being subject to ongoing damage and vandalism; repairs works were undertaken in 1991-92, and subsequently subjected to further damage.²⁰⁹

Internally, the grandstand is divided over three levels: the ground level change rooms and amenities area, the partial mezzanine, and the upper seating area (Figure 36-Figure 41). The ground level of the grandstand includes utilitarian spaces associated with sporting uses, such as change rooms and toilets. The ground level is largely modern in its presentation, having been modified over the years to accommodate related sporting club needs. Early brick internal dividing walls have been altered to create larger spaces and new openings between the spaces. The floor is lined with rubber matting and the internal walls are either overpainted brick or lightweight plasterboard walls. The eastern end of the building is divided into four compartments, and these spaces are subsequently divided to provide for toilets and other amenities. The eastern bay is divided into kitchen and toilet spaces with a canteen and associated spaces, with the corridor extending directly into the adjacent community hall. Some areas, such as the entry way, retain sections of beaded timber lining boards to the ceiling, whereas other sections retain ceiling lined with flat panel with strapping over the joints.

To the northern side of the grandstand interior is a mezzanine level. The floor is enclosed by a lightweight metal balustrade surround; this level is accessed by a modern ladder. The mezzanine is partially open to the ground level. This area is largely used for storage and for services such as hot water units and air conditioning equipment, with ducting extending throughout this space. The key early feature in this area are the early timber trusses, noting some of these have been modified, and remnant timber lining to sections of ceiling and walls, mostly to the eastern end of the space. Cast metal vents are retained in several locations on the north wall, as is a single ceiling vent in the most easterly space. Brick dividing walls have been modified to create access to all spaces in the mezzanine. While retaining early fabric, such as the timber trusses and wall linings which provide evidence of original detailing, this area is in poor condition and reflects numerous ad hoc alterations undertaken over the life of the building (Figure 43-Figure 44).

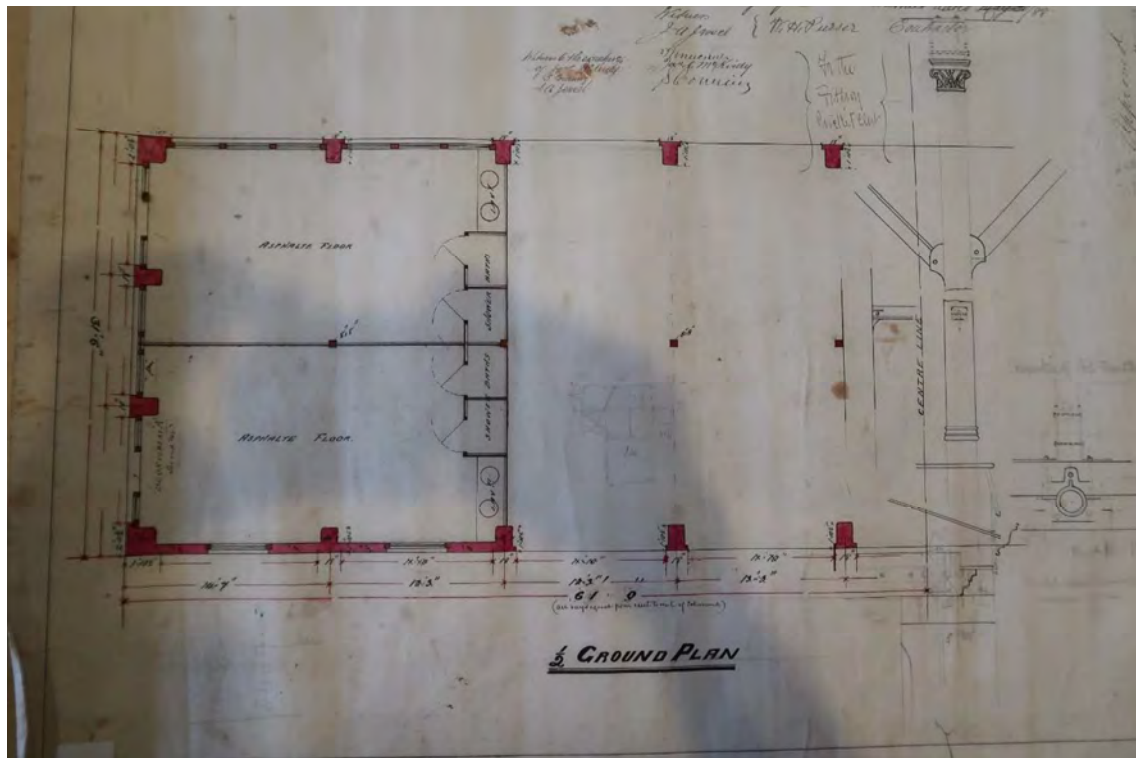


Figure 26 Half ground level plan of the 1888 grandstand
Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection

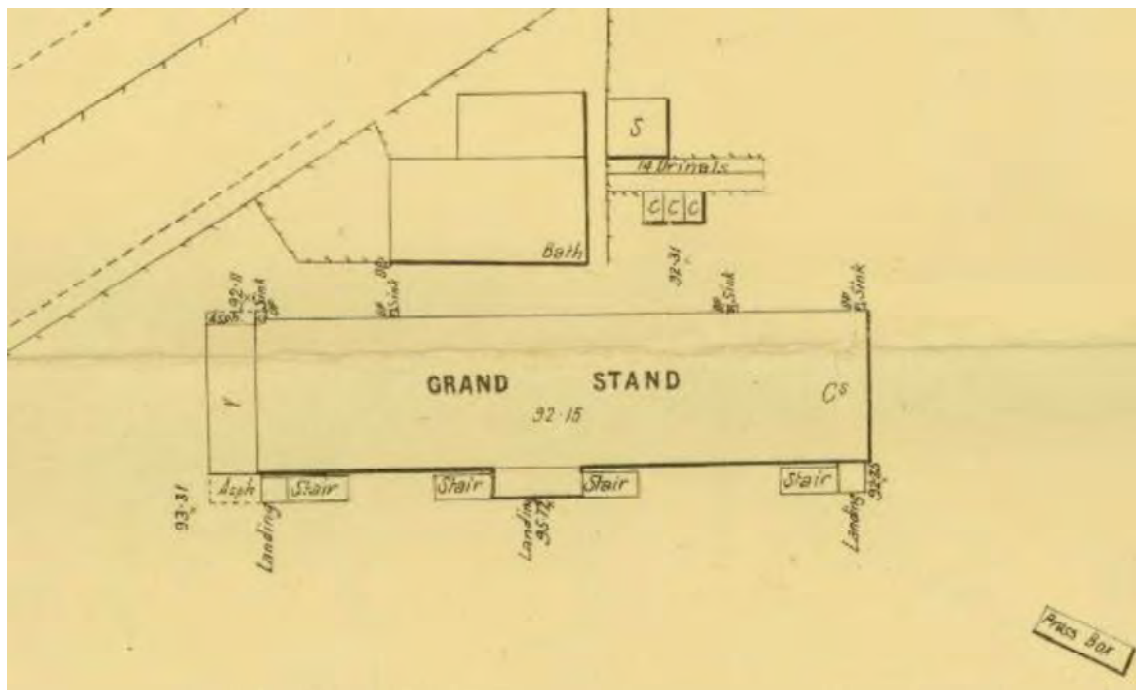


Figure 27 The 1888 grandstand and structures, including the gymnasium, to the north in the c. 1901 MMBW plan No. 1258
Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection



Figure 28 Oblique aerial image of the grandstand dating to c. 1925 illustrating the structures to its north side and the early arrangement of the north facade
Source: Land Victoria

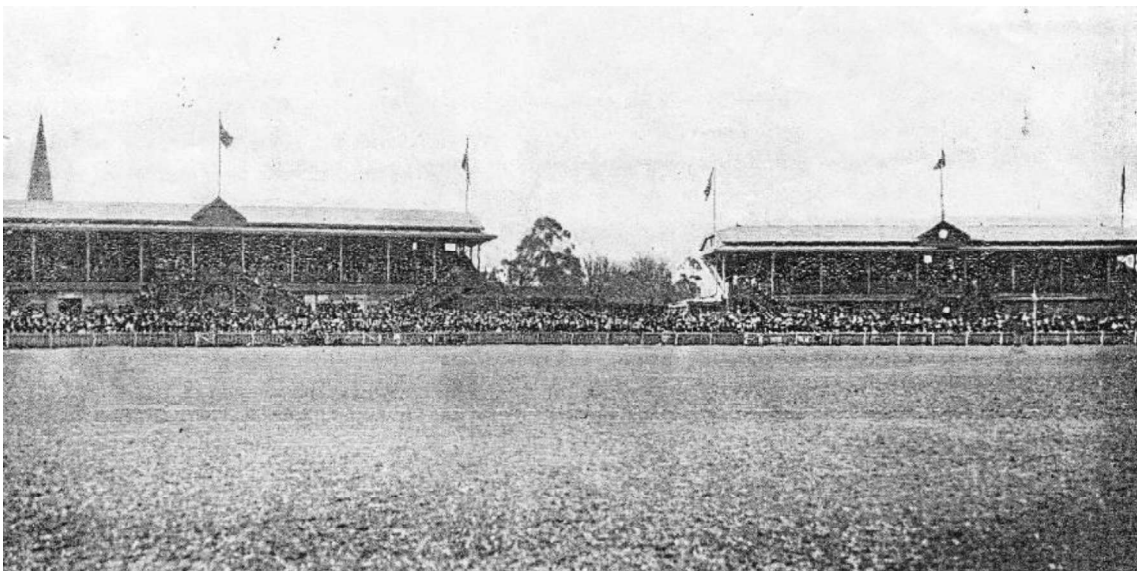


Figure 29 View of the 1905 grandstand (left) and the existing 1888 grandstand (right), c. 1913
Source: Fitzroy Cricket Club Jubilee Annual Report 1912-13



Figure 30 Image titled Councillors Cricket Match, c. 1900-20 showing both grandstands in the background; note the bracketed timberwork to the central gable and clock of the 1888 grandstand (right) and arrangement of stairs and ground level of 1888 grandstand prior to the introduction of mounding and terracing to the front of the building
Source: City of Yarra Library, image CL PIC 18



Figure 31 Player in front of the 1888 grandstand c. 1945-49, noting the tiered arrangement between the oval and the grandstand and the timber picket fence surrounding the oval
Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection



Figure 32 Detail aerial image of the grandstand c. 1979 showing structures to its immediate north
Source: Land Victoria



Figure 33 Detail of c. 1987 aerial image of the 1888 grandstand showing the relocated entrance pavilion (north-west) and altered landscape to the north
Source: Land Victoria



Figure 34 Image of the upper viewing area, looking east, prior to the reconstruction of the seating and repair of timber flooring and other works undertaken in 1991-92
Source: Courtesy of Terence Nott Architect (copyright Terence Nott)



Figure 35 Image of the upper viewing area, looking west, after the reconstruction of the seating and repair of timber flooring and other works undertaken in 1991-92
Source: Courtesy of Terence Nott Architect (copyright Terence Nott)



Figure 36 Grandstand (left) and adjoining Community Hall (right) viewed from the south



Figure 37 Beneath the canopy of the grandstand looking east and showing the current condition of the seating and seating area



Figure 38 North-east view of the grandstand with the Community Hall visible to the left



Figure 39 The west elevation showing the later verandah, though a verandah is shown in this location in the c. 1901 MMBW plan



Figure 40 Internal view of the change rooms and club facilities beneath the grandstand



Figure 41 View of the ground floor of the grandstand, looking east; note the modification of the internal walls to create linked internal spaces; mezzanine is visible at left



Figure 42 Ground level change rooms with open section of mezzanine above



Figure 43 Interior view of the mezzanine area showing timber truss (at left), timber lining boards to wall and ceiling and modern services throughout



Figure 44 View of the mezzanine area showing the section open to the ground floor, partial enclosure of the truss and modern lining to wall and ceiling

3.2.3 W. T. Peterson Community Oval – Former Fitzroy Cricket Ground

The Brunswick Street Oval, officially named as the W T Peterson Community Oval, has been in continuous use as a sporting ground since 1863. It was developed and managed by the Fitzroy Cricket Club until the c. 1970s. The original oval was expanded for football in 1882, and again in 1934, before being reconstructed in the 1980s by the then-Fitzroy City Council.

The oval itself retains its mid-twentieth dimensions and form. Formerly ringed by earth embankments, concrete terracing and brick retaining walls, the 1980s oval redevelopment lowered the profile of the surrounding embankments and planted them with lawns and park trees. The embankment to the north-east corner of the oval, adjacent to the tennis court, is likely more reflective of the original height of the earthworks in this section of the ground than those around the rest of the facility.

Inside the embankments, a brick spoon drain, black cyclone wire fence, and external asphalt path presently encircle the oval. A ringing path (c. 1870s), fence (pre-1901) and brick perimeter drain (c. 1912) all constitute early elements of the oval's perimeter, although the present fabric all dates to the 1980s redevelopment of the oval. A continuous timber bench once ran around the perimeter in the later part of its use as a professional oval.²¹⁰

The path is lined on the outside by a row of Oak trees, comprising a mix of Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) and Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*). Where the embankments face onto Brunswick Street and Freeman Street they are planted with rows of London Plane Tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) and bounded by tall concrete kerbs; Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*) are planted around entrances to the oval from the Freeman Street corner and opposite Church Street. All of these trees date to the 1980s redevelopment.

To the front of the Grandstand an area of level ground contains two small sections of lawn divided by asphalt paths. These were installed as part of the 1980s greening, but did not anticipate the ground's reuse by increasingly popular amateur football, which has reintroduced a level of traffic for which these surfaces are inappropriate.

At the south-east corner of the oval there are four concrete and artificial turf practice wickets in a fenced cyclone wire enclosure over a timber retaining wall. An initial set of practice wickets appear to have been installed in this location with a concrete backstop following the 1980s redevelopment of the oval; the enclosure was subsequently expanded, netted and surfaced with artificial turf.



Figure 45 Peterson Community Oval, viewed from top of embankment at north-east corner



Figure 46 Brick drain, cyclone wire fence and asphalt path to perimeter of oval, with low modern treed berm surrounding.



Figure 47 Row of London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*) on Freeman Street frontage



Figure 48 Cricket practice nets

3.2.4 Grandstand service areas

Areas to the west and north of the Grandstand were redeveloped in the 1980s. These areas were formerly occupied by the 1905 grandstand (destroyed by fire in 1977), by the timber Entrance Pavilion (formerly situated between the two grandstands, constructed in the 1980s in its present location) and by various service structures, enclosures and hardstands.

The 1980s works created a new asphalt-paved vehicular path from Brunswick Street to service the grandstand, tennis club and the new community room, providing service vehicle access as well as informal car parks for users of the facilities. The vehicle route is kerbed between Brunswick Street and the grandstand, but is otherwise treated as a shared use path, with kerb-free connections to smaller pedestrian paths to the oval, to the Sportsman's Memorial and through the timber pavilion to the Edinburgh Gardens paths.

New areas of lawn and plantings of Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) were established along the vehicle path.

Behind the grandstand, the car park/hardstand area was originally hedged, and was planted with a bordering row of Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*). The hedging was removed c. 2010, but the Jacaranda trees remain. A pair of Bocce Courts were constructed on the northern edge of this area, below the diagonal gardens path, c. 1990. Originally fenced, these were subsequently replaced with a single, unfenced court (Figure 50).

A large above-ground rainwater storage tank was installed in the 2000s.



Figure 49 Service areas and c. 1980s landscaping to the rear of the grandstand



Figure 50 Bocce Court, looking east

3.2.5 *Freeman Street Entrance Gatehouse*

An MMBW plan from 1894 shows a long building located in the approximate location of the extant gatehouse, however this building is identified as a timber building (Figure 51). It appears that the ground floor of this building contained some sewered facilities, such as toilets or urinals, while the upper floor was possibly a viewing area. An MMBW plan from 1901 shows a similar arrangement with the addition of urinals to the south of the building (Figure 52). While the building identified in these earlier plans is in approximately the same location as the existing building, the shorter length and timber construction indicate that this is an earlier building on the site.

An annual report from the Fitzroy Cricket Club in 1905 describes the newly erected gatehouse as a 'handsome booth, built in brick, at the corner of Brunswick and Freeman streets', designed by architect Mr. E Twentyman.²¹¹ The brick building is visible in an oblique aerial from c. 1925 and this is the current building at the site. The image shows an entry to the ground to the east of the building, an open arched entry at ground level to the west (possibly housing amenities) and mounding to the ground level of the north façade. It is noted that the gatehouse previously formed part of the formal boundary treatment surrounding the oval, constructed of walls, fences and various outbuildings.

The former entrance gatehouse is a double storey red brick building on a narrow rectangular plan. The building has a corrugated metal clad roof with distinctive pyramidal roofs to either end, surmounted by turned timber finials. Eaves have a beaded tongue and groove board lining with a carved timber valance to the north elevation only. The south elevation is divided into seven regular articulated bays, four of which are gabled. The walls are articulated by brick pilasters and detailed in a continuous band of render along the ground floor and a moulded stringcourse at the first floor level. The four gabled bays have a rendered segmented arch at the ground floor and paired timber louvres at the first floor. Alternating bays are square-headed and finished with a dog-tooth brick course surmounted by a rendered panel. Two of the bays contain small louvred vents with rendered lintels and chamfered sills. The ground floor bay to the western end contains a painted sign which reads: 'VISITING MEMBERS' GATE CORNER ➔'.

Abutting the centre of the north elevation is a recent timber stair providing access to the first floor. The ground level is constructed of face brickwork; with the lower section laid in English Bond (alternate header and stretcher courses) and the upper level in Garden Wall Bond. The brickwork and mortar to the lower section is lighter in colour, possibly due to it being covered by soil for a long period of time. The west end is partially overpainted. A double-leaf flush panel door is located to the centre of the ground floor. Tie-rod plates, coinciding with the interior stabilising structure, and various fixtures are located on this façade. The first floor has a weatherboard infill, between the two end brick walls and a brick column at the western end. The weatherboards are punctuated by a non-original flush panel door and non-original tripartite timber-framed, double-hung sash windows fitted with metal security bars. A small red brick addition with a flat concrete roof is located at ground level at the western end of the north elevation. An electrical cupboard is fixed to its east side.

The east elevation is formed by a recessed brick panel at the ground floor with a rendered segmented-arched head and non-original double-leaf flush panel door. At the first floor is a blank recessed brick panel. The west elevation is similarly detailed, although there is an infilled window/door opening at the first floor; a door is not evident in this location in Figure 54. The ground level arrangement, including the rendered arch over the early entry, has been modified and the lower section of the façade has been overpainted.

Internally, at ground floor level, the length of the building has been truncated by concrete coffers with steel plates and tie rods. There is also a low-height concrete coffer on the southern side. These were

installed to provide structural stability, c. 2010s, amongst other refurbishment works.²¹² These spaces are utilitarian storage spaces. The western-most extent of the space was inaccessible.

The first floor, accessed by the external staircase, has a modern toilet in the east end of the building. The interior space has been refitted with modern timber windows, new ceiling with coved cornices, modern plaster lining behind the weatherboards. There is a step up in the floor level at the western end. This space is utilitarian and used mainly for storage.

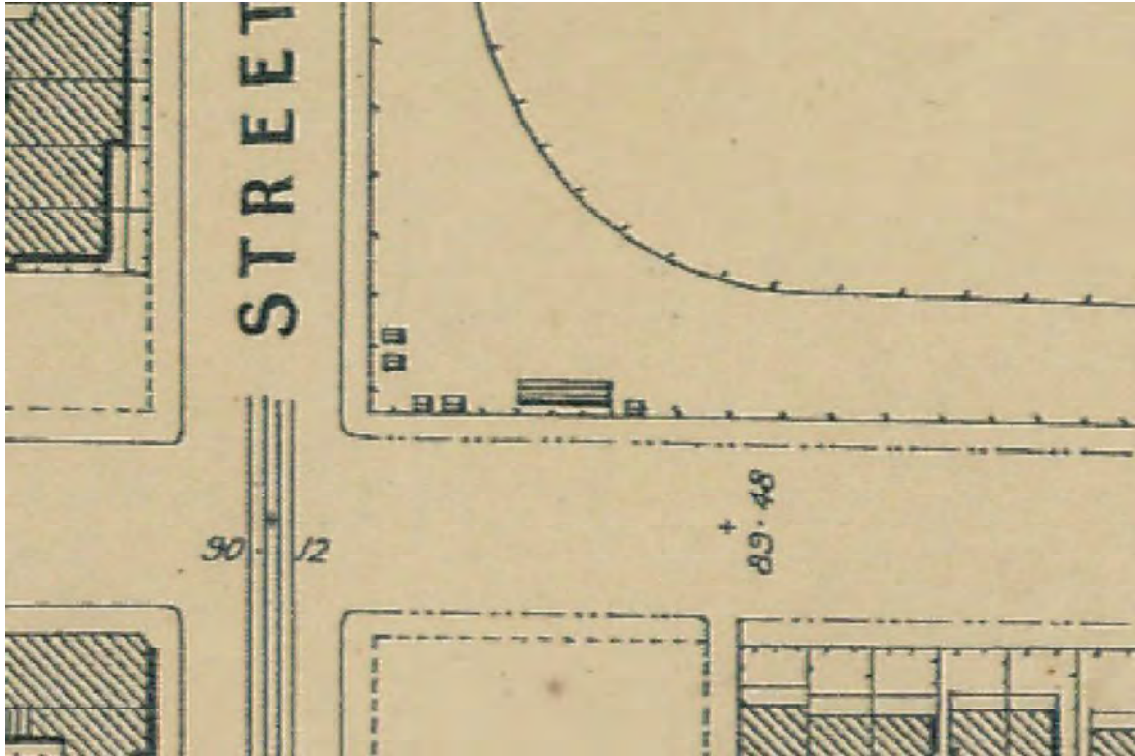


Figure 51 Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Plan No. 29, 1894
Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection

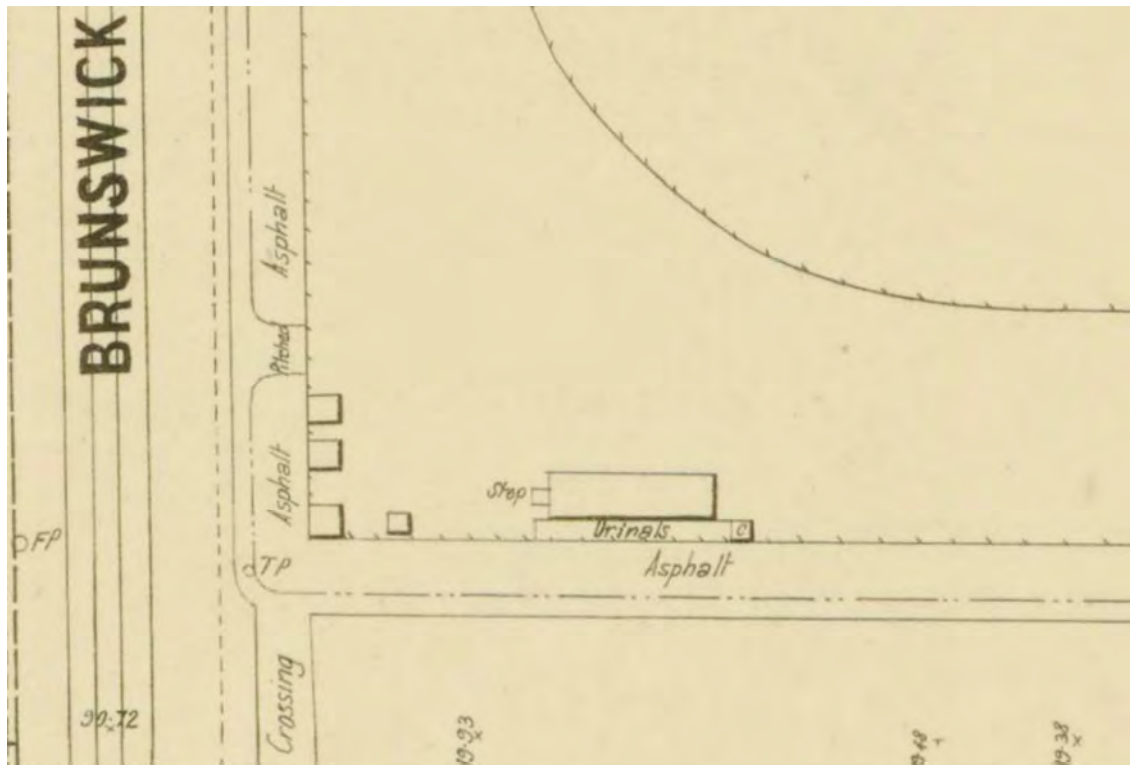


Figure 52 Detail of a c. 1901 MMBW plan 1258 showing the gatehouse and other structures to the boundary of the grounds

Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection



Figure 53 Detail of an oblique aerial view of the gatehouse in c. 1925-1940; the image also shows a fence enclosing the grounds, with an entryway to the east (at left) and other lightweight structures to the north-west (right)

Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection

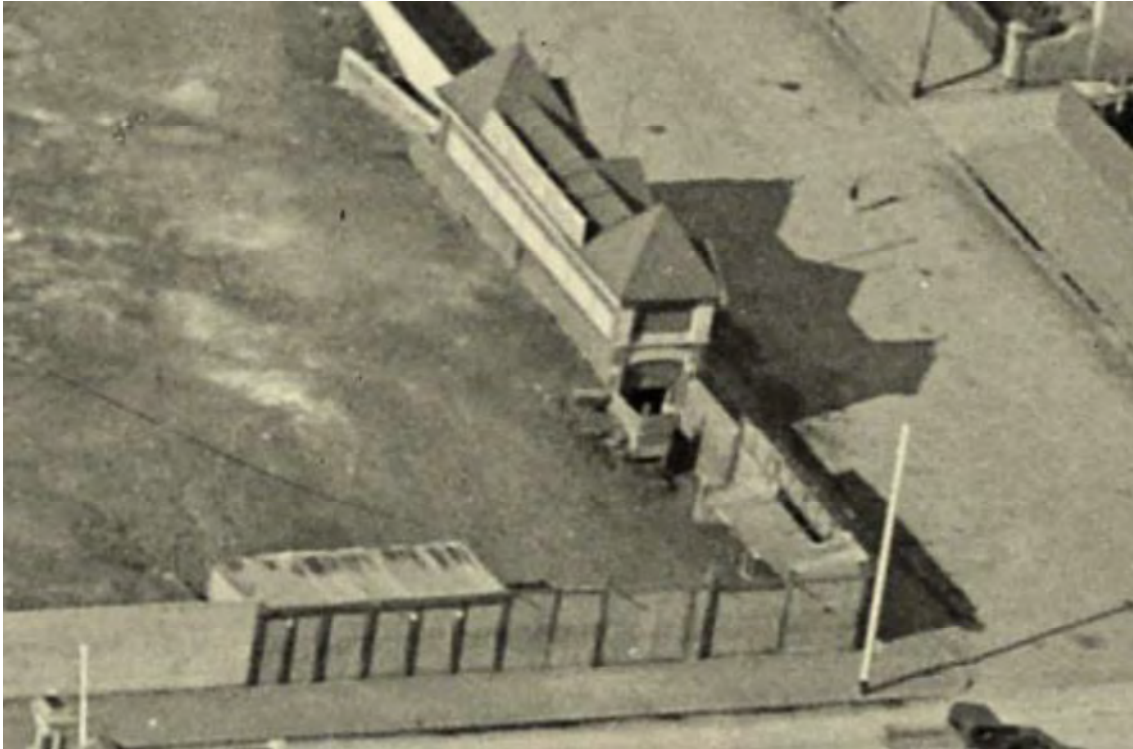


Figure 54 Detail of a c. 1925 oblique aerial image of the gatehouse, viewed from the west, showing the arrangement of enclosure to the sporting precinct, smaller related structures and mounding to the north side of the building; note the subterranean access from the west side at ground level

Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection



Figure 55 South façade of the Freeman Street entrance gatehouse at the original southern entrance to the oval/sport precinct



Figure 56 The north elevation of the entrance gatehouse showing the weatherboard section at the upper level and the later addition (indicated)



Figure 57 East elevation of the entrance gatehouse



Figure 58 West elevation of the entrance gatehouse; note the former ground level entry has been infilled

3.2.6 Timber Entrance Pavilion

The date of construction of the original entrance pavilion was constructed is unknown, though it is likely that this was part of a significant series of works undertaken in c. 1905 which included the construction of the new grandstand and entrance gatehouse at Freeman Street. Contemporary writings describe works as such 'Two attractive entrances, in keeping with the new building were erected-one at Brunswick-street, and the other to replace the old buildings in the gardens.'²¹³ It was originally located between the two grandstands as part of the boundary arrangement (Figure 59) an arrangement

maintained until the 1980s (Figure 60). The pavilion was relocated to its current location in the 1980s as part of the redevelopment works to the oval (Figure 33). The original pavilion was subsequently destroyed by fire in 1996, and the extant pavilion was reconstructed to match the original.²¹⁴

The entrance pavilion (Figure 61) is a utilitarian, timber-framed building on a narrow, rectangular plan. It has a framework of stop-chamfered timber posts and beams with V-jointed board cladding. Passing through the centre of the pavilion, are two wide openings fitted with V-jointed board gates and surmounted by panels of diagonal boarding. The openings are flanked at either end by bays fitted with narrow V-jointed board doors.

The gabled roof is clad in corrugated galvanised steel with cast iron cresting and a central gablet to either side. The eaves are battened and feature a carved timber valance, with a timber valance also on the north and south sides.



Figure 59 Detail of a c. 1930s oblique aerial photograph showing the timber entrance pavilion and the Sportsman's Memorial to the north of the grandstands
Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection

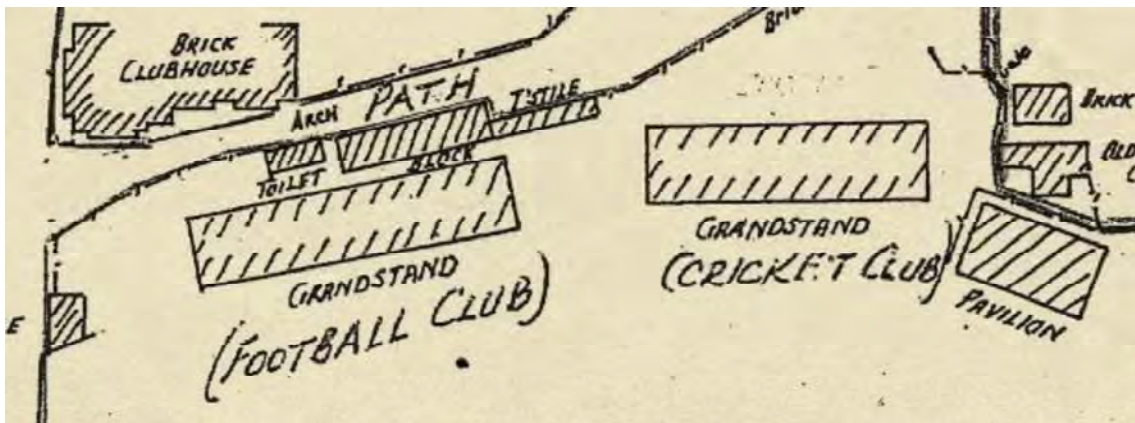


Figure 60 Detail of c. 1966 Department of Crown Lands Survey of the Edinburgh Gardens showing the arrangement of the timber entrance pavilion (described as turnstile) to the north of the grandstands; note the arch identified on the path refers to the Sportsman's Memorial
Source: Lovell Chen archive



Figure 61 The reconstructed timber entrance pavilion in its current location, viewed from north-east

3.2.7 *Sportsman's Memorial*

The Sportsman's Memorial, a commemorative arbour, was erected in 1919 by the various sporting clubs which occupied the Edinburgh Gardens and dedicated to fallen servicemembers who had been connected with the clubs.²¹⁵ The arbour originally stood over the main path running along the northern side of the cricket ground, immediately south of the Fitzroy Bowling Club, east of the club's pavilion (1913) (Figure 62, Figure 63). In the 1960s, the bowling club pavilion was demolished, and a new clubhouse was constructed to the diagonal boundary of the club's allotment, immediately adjacent to the path and arbour.

As part of the 1980s redevelopment of the community oval, the Edinburgh Gardens entrance path was relocated to the south and a substation constructed at the west end of the arbour, works which were complete by 1987.

The Sportsman's Memorial is a concrete arbour supported by six Tuscan order columns resting on pedestals with simple moulded caps (Figure 64, Figure 65). The perimeter beams have a textured rendered frieze and a moulded cornice and support a series of parallel rafters. The beam to the east elevation contains a central pediment with pressed cement swags surmounted by a moulded cornice. Below the pediment is a recessed panel with the inscription 'IN MEMORIAM' in incised lettering. Urn finials, located at either end of the east beam, have been replaced. On the south elevation, the beam contains a marble plaque which reads: 'THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE FITZROY CRICKET, FOOTBALL, BOWLING, BASEBALL AND TENNIS CLUBS TO PERPETUATE THE MEMBERS WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1919'. The plaque originally appears to have been fixed to the panel on the east elevation. A bronze-framed cabinet for the display of a memorial wreath is fixed to the west wall of the adjacent substation. An exposed aggregate concrete floor has been installed, along with an ornamental arrangement of low trimmed rosemary hedges has been established around it and the approach from the main path. A large image has been printed on the south side of the adjacent Bowls Club and is

visible through the arbour, part of a refurbishment of the memorial completed in 2019.²¹⁶ The arbour is presently accessed by way of a small footpath from the south (perpendicular to the structure's original path of approach).

The structure exhibits some cracking to the western beam adjacent to the substation.



Figure 62 Anzac Day service at the Sportsman's Memorial, 1932
Source: Fitzroy Local History Collection



Figure 63 Detail of an oblique aerial photograph from c. 1925-40 showing the unimpeded arbour;
the c. 1913 bowling club building is to the right of the image
Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection



Figure 64 Sportsman's Memorial, looking north, with the Bowling Club building at the rear and substation to the left



Figure 65 Sportsman's Memorial, looking west; note the Bowling Club abutting the harbour (at right)

3.2.8 *Chandler Drinking Fountain*

The Chandler Drinking Fountain is a square-plan, polished granite basin on a plinth of rock-faced Harcourt granite (Figure 66). Two semi-circular bowls extend outwards from the sides of the fountain and are fitted with non-original bubblers. Surmounting the fountain, is a small four-sided 'temple' form with arched openings between polished granite columns and a domed top with an orb finial. The whole of the fountain rests on a bluestone plinth.

An engraved inscription on the side of the fountain reads: 'PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF FITZROY BY COUNCILLOR D J CHANDLER JULY 1926'.

The fountain is located at the intersection of the two diagonal, public gardens paths, outside the former north entrance to the football grounds. It is now directly across from the (relocated) timber entrance pavilion, but was not originally associated so directly with this structure. The entrance pavilion was located to the south on a different alignment to control access from the park entrance path to the secured grounds of the oval.

Ornate drinking fountains housed in stone plinths became a popular style for commemorative and memorial fountains during the first two decades of the twentieth century, with grey Harcourt granite a popular choice.²¹⁷ In addition to service as City Councillor, Chandler was a prominent local identity who was president of the Fitzroy Football Club from 1911 to 1931. Although typical of 'donation' fountains of the period, many of which were installed to burnish the legacy of local councillors, the Chandler Drinking Fountain enjoys the added context of its direct association with the Fitzroy Football Club.

The fountain is in generally sound condition with only minor mortar loss between the two plinth stones and efflorescence to the underside of the arches to the upper section.



Figure 66 Chandler Drinking Fountain viewed from the north-west

3.2.9 *Fitzroy Bowling Club and green*

The Fitzroy Bowling Club comprises a clubhouse, greens and various ancillary structures. The clubhouse is a utilitarian brick building on a long rectangular plan with single and double-storey wings. It has a flat roof with an aluminium fascia and walls with a bagged render finish and aluminium-framed windows. There is one ten-rink synthetic green and one seven-rink synthetic green, with a central stacked stone retaining wall and various plantings including rose bushes, box hedges, edible produce and succulents around the perimeters. The site is enclosed by a chain mesh and galvanised pipe fence, with the main entrance from Brunswick Street passing through a wrought iron memorial gate with red and brown brick piers. Other structures on the site include prefabricated sheds, open sided roof structures and earlier steel-framed shelters to the centre of the green with corrugated sheet awnings. A pair of flagpoles are located on the western fence line and the perimeter of the greens is surrounded by tall light poles. Several other memorials to club members are located around the greens.

The establishment of a bowling green on the site was approved in 1877 by the Fitzroy Cricket Club in its capacity as the Committee of Management.²¹⁸ Subscriptions from the public and members of the Cricket Club raised £160 towards the laying of a two-rink green. Within the next two years an additional rink was laid. A timber shed, which had initially served as the Club's pavilion and canteen was replaced by a timber cottage, relocated from the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Ground.²¹⁹ An MMBW plan of 1896 shows the early arrangement of the bowling green with the timber cottage at its northern end (Figure 67). The cottage would appear to be that visible in a 1912 photograph of the bowling club which also shows the greens enclosed by a timber picket fence with a hedge along the Brunswick Street/St Georges Road boundary.

In 1893, financial difficulties prompted the Bowling Club to become affiliated with the Cricket Club (Figure 68). A further two rinks were added in 1910-1911 and in 1913 construction of a new members' pavilion was commenced at a cost of £1,600 (Figure 69).²²⁰ This pavilion was also designed by Architect Edward Twentymen, in an honorary capacity, and was described at the time as 'the club's jubilee effort'.²²¹ In 1929-30 the paths around the bowling greens were paved with old stone flags, donated by the Fitzroy Council.²²²

A memorial gate was erected on 17 September 1943 in honour of Mr W Hannah, President of the Club from 1936 to 1942. During the 1947-48 season a memorial fountain was erected in memory of T S Rowe, secretary of the club for 16 years, and an additional fountain was placed between the two greens to honour the 1946-47 champion fours.²²³

Between 1969-70 the pavilion was demolished to make way for a new clubhouse. Building works were completed by 1971 at a cost of \$95,000.²²⁴

In the late 1990s the site underwent a general upgrading and redevelopment. This was carried out as part of the amalgamation of the Fitzroy Club with the Victoria Club to form the Fitzroy Victoria Bowling and Sports Club. Shortly after, the Ladies Bowling Club also relocated to the site, from its location in the centre of the Gardens, and was integrated into the new Club. The upgraded facilities included the enlargement of the clubhouse, installation of a synthetic surface to the green nearest the clubhouse, additional storage sheds, and the relocation of a shed from the Brunswick Street boundary to the eastern boundary adjacent to the Gardens. A new fence was constructed around three sides of the perimeter in chain mesh and to a height of two metres.

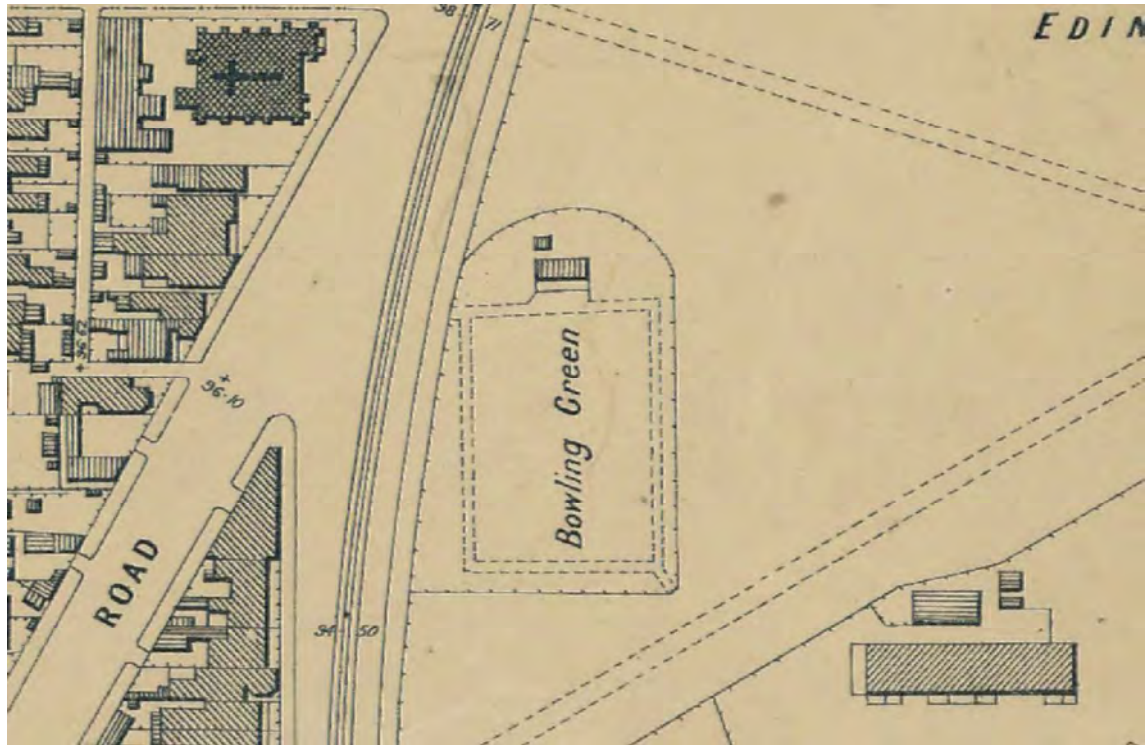


Figure 67 Detail of MMBW plan No. 29, c. 1896 showing the Bowling Green.
Source: State Library of Victoria, Maps Collection 821.09 A 1894-(29)



Figure 68 The Bowling Green, 1912
Source: Fitzroy Cricket Club Annual Report 1912-13

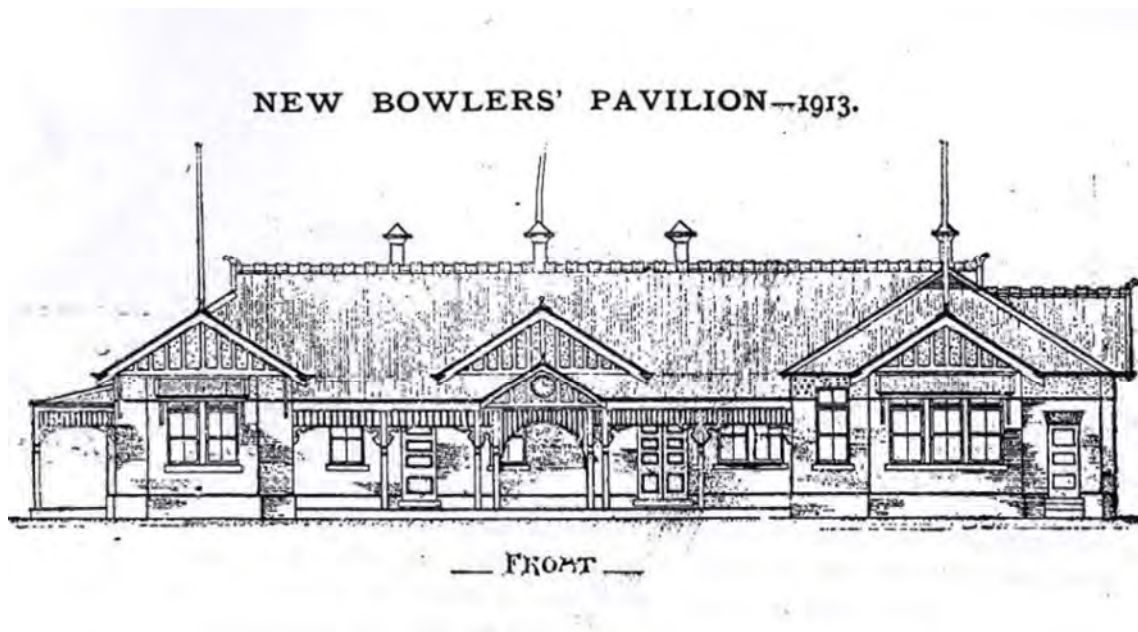


Figure 69 Elevation of the new bowlers' pavilion, c. 1913
 Source: Fitzroy Cricket Club Annual Report 1912-1913



Figure 70 The new Fitzroy Bowling Club in 1975, shortly after its construction
 Source: Yarra Libraries, FL606



Figure 71 Fitzroy Bowling Club and green viewed from the north-west



Figure 72 Hannah memorial gates at the entrance to the Bowling Club



Figure 73 Bowling club looking east over the rinks

3.2.10 Tennis Club and courts

The tennis club is located to the east of the grandstand. The site contains six *en-tout-cas* courts with a high galvanised steel pipe and Cyclone wire fence to the perimeter. The clubhouse, located to the west side of the courts, is a single-storey, timber-framed building with battened fibro-cement cladding above a weatherboard plinth. It comprises two parts: a gambrel-roofed section at the northern end and skillion-roofed section at the south, each with corrugated galvanised steel roof cladding. The skillion-roofed section has a timber-framed verandah extending along the east elevation, facing the tennis courts. The skillion section backs onto the red brick wall of the Community Hall.

The main entrance, located on the south elevation of the gambrel roof section, has a bracketed awning and a non-original flush panel door. Extending across the north elevation of the gambrel-roofed section is a verandah supported on timber posts with prominent carved timber brackets and a central gablet. The wall behind the verandah contains a recent glazed, timber-framed, double-leaf door, flanked on either side by paired timber-framed, double-hung sash windows, and a large new glazed opening on the eastern elevation. A new timber deck runs around north and east sides of the building.

The tennis club was established in 1888.²²⁵ Fitzroy Cricket Club records for that year note the demolition of a tennis court, described as an 'adjunct to the bowling club', to make way for the new grandstand.²²⁶ Tennis courts first appear in plans of the Gardens dated c. 1901 (Figure 74). Asphalt tennis courts, occupying the site of the existing courts, are shown along with a number of buildings and structures. Two small rectangular plan buildings are located along the south of the tennis courts, the one to the west side is marked 'pavilion'. The existing clubhouse may possibly be the building visible directly to the right of the grandstand, albeit in a modified form. In 1894, two tennis courts were constructed at a cost of £57 and a third tennis court was added in 1901-1902.²²⁷ By 1929-30 there were

five tennis courts, two asphalt and three resurfaced with concrete. A ladies dressing room was added to the tennis pavilion between 1933-34 at a cost of £54 and a new shower and toilet block constructed 1953-5. An additional tennis court was erected in 1955-56.²²⁸

A 1966 plan of the cricket ground shows the tennis courts with a cyclone wire fence to the perimeter and two small buildings in the south west corner (Figure 75). One is of brick construction while the other is labelled 'old fibro and weatherboard clubhouse'. This is presumably the existing clubhouse although it appears to have since been relocated further to the north.

Between 1979 and 1987 an additional wing was added to the rear of the tennis clubhouse providing updated facilities including new change rooms and kitchen. This abuts the Community Hall to the west.

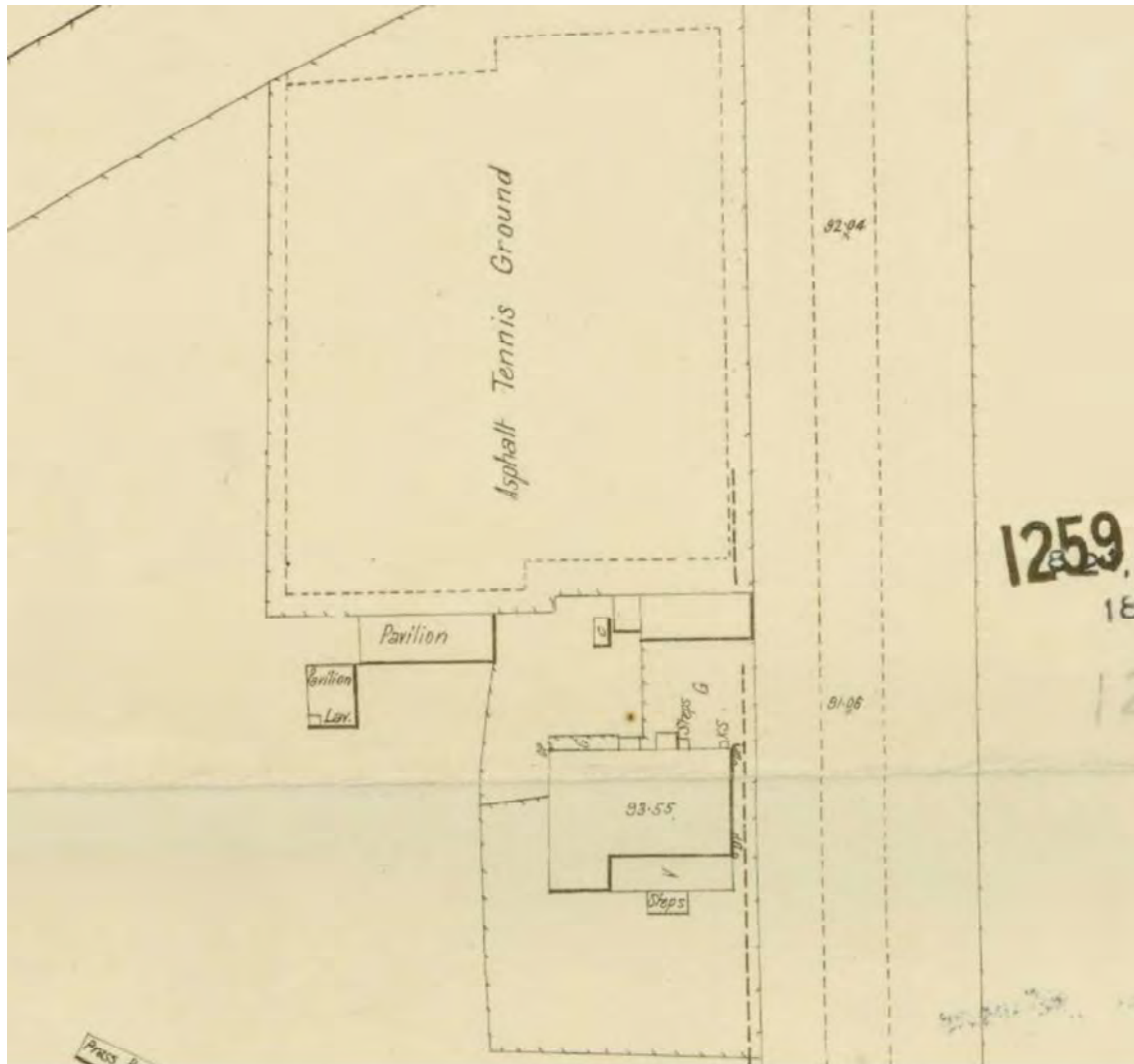


Figure 74 Detail of a c. 1901 MMBW plan showing the arrangement of the tennis club
Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection

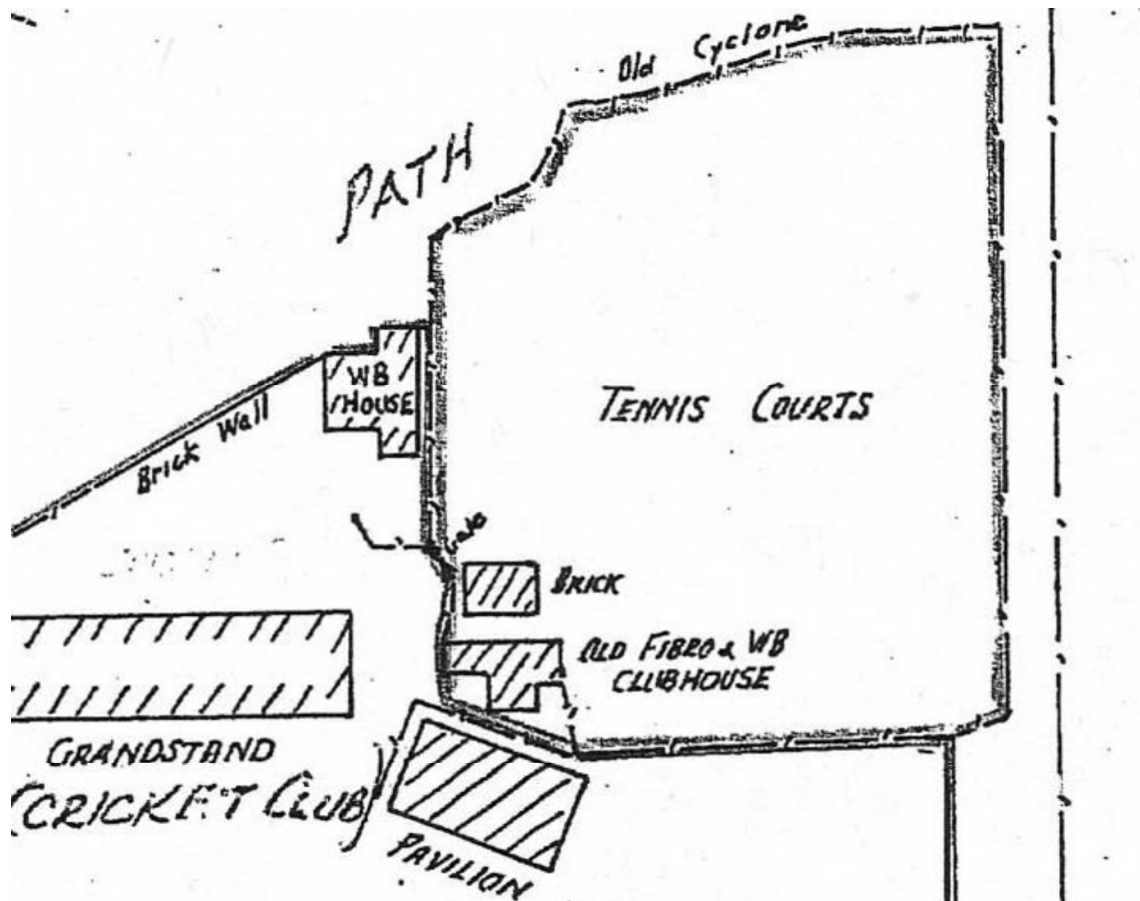


Figure 75 Detail of c. 1966 Department of Crown Lands Survey of the Edinburgh Gardens showing the tennis club
Source: Lovell Chen archive



Figure 76 Tennis Club viewed from the east



Figure 77 South wing addition of the tennis clubhouse showing the face red brick wall behind of the Community Hall

3.2.11 Concrete substation

The concrete substation is located to the south of the Bowling Club and abuts the Sportsman's Memorial, creating a symmetrical presentation to the east and west elevations. The substation comprises a monolithic appearance, with square pilasters, a concrete parapet and metal louvres doors on the western side. The building is constructed of brick with a concrete render finish.

The substation was constructed in the 1980s.



Figure 78 Detail of aerial from 1979 (left) and 1987 (right) with substation visible in the later image but not in the earlier aerial
Source: Land Victoria



Figure 79 South elevation of the substation



Figure 80 West elevation of the substation

3.2.12 Community Hall

Located to the east side of the grandstand, the Community Hall is a steel and timber-framed building with a gabled roof clad in corrugated galvanised steel. The east elevation comprises a brick wall with a stepped parapet, arched at the apex. Extending across the north of the building is a verandah with timber lattice screens while both the north (Figure 81) and south elevations contain large, timber-framed glazed sliding doors. At the eastern end, the wall is a face red brick wall which directly abuts the rear of the tennis club house buildings.

Internally, the Community Hall is a lightweight addition, with sliding glazed walls to the north and south elevations (Figure 82). The roof has a low pitch with beaded lining boards and exposed metal trusses to the ceiling internally. Suspended strip lighting extends along each side of the hall. The floor is clad in timber-look linoleum over a concrete slab.

The building was erected in the early 1980s as part of the redevelopment of the oval undertaken by the City of Fitzroy, reputedly to the design of Peter Elliott Architect.²²⁹



Figure 81 Community Hall viewed from the north



Figure 82 View of the interior of the Community Hall, looking east

3.3 EDINBURGH GARDENS

Edinburgh Gardens is a large open space reserve created by the Victorian Government in the 1860s and managed and developed by the City of Fitzroy (pre-1883) and then by a Committee of Management representing the city and the government's Lands Department. Although temporarily reserved in 1862, as detailed above the initial development of the site appears largely to have been confined to the sporting precinct in the south-west, where various clubs enjoyed permissive occupancy and organised the improvement of the sports fields and surrounding grounds themselves.

The public reserve, while apparently employed for haycutting, agistment and the depositing of nightsoil, streetscrapings and other debris, was only laid out as a public gardens from 1880, when a first phase of plantings on the perimeter and in interior 'clumps' (undertaken by the City of Fitzroy) was succeeded by establishment of the principal planted avenues in 1883-85 when the site came under the authority of a joint Committee of Management appointed by the city and the Lands Department.

Development in the 1880s appears to have been economical, and occurred largely contemporaneously with the lobbying, planning and reservation of the branch railway line. Removal of some of the 1880s developments was nevertheless required by the works to construct the railway and to drain and fill the creek gully, and the 1883 plan provides a good sense of what would have been removed: one diagonal path section, parts of the two east-west avenues that ultimately crossed the railway, and a number of the earlier planted enclosures installed by Fitzroy City Council in 1881. The works overseen by Bickford also included plantings to the creek gully that were removed in its subsequent filling. Many of these trees would have still been young when installation of the drain and railway occurred later in the decade, and it is also possible that some were salvaged and utilised elsewhere, although no record of this or subsequent works adding several other path sections c. 1888 has been identified.

The layout of the gardens, although formalised through the introduction of the avenues and other ornamental plantings, does not appear to have been based on what could be characterised as a formal plan for the place as a whole. Skirting the club-managed precinct in the south-west, the plan implemented by Nicholas Bickford imposed a network of largely rectilinear path segments connecting various destinations around the gardens perimeter and intermediate nodes directed by the geography of the existing site. The 1883-1885 works by Bickford for the Committee of Management also maintained many of the preceding plantings, and introduced new plantings where the deposit of nightsoil had been judged completed. However, rather than a grand vision of planted vistas and detailed gardens, the path network and plantings described were a new practical infrastructure established as a layer on top of previous works.

The avenues laid out in 1883 have been described as following pedestrian desire lines, and this is partly accurate in that they serve to connect the surrounding streets by way of linked linear path segments. However, these were not the committed diagonals of 'true' desire lines, like those seen in Fawkner Park and Yarra Park. Instead, the Edinburgh Gardens path alignments are irregular or 'kinked' to meet each other and other nodes. Notably, the paths were not only arranged with respect to the former creek gully, but also to meet two footbridges which had presumably been located at the most favourable crossing sites along the watercourse.

Although planted as avenues, the details of the pathway plan and the plantings' description by observers at the time offer evidence that these were essentially driven by the expedient need to provide an effective pedestrian experience: maximising ease of survey and construction, as well as the horticultural resources available, while being considerate of a need for physical economy. Similarly, the description of the plantings provided by N.M. Bickford in 1885 reinforces the notion of these avenues as internal horticultural spaces, with the primary tree plantings bordered on both sides by dense shrub selections like *Pittosporum* and *Privet*.

Although Bickford employed northern hemisphere shade trees for the principal avenues established in 1885, the full complement of trees used in the 1881 and 1885 plantings was notably more varied, and included extensive use of Australian and New Zealand Pittosporums, as well as ‘the most ornamental kinds of Eucalyptus.’²³⁰ He also retained a previous planting of Monterey Pine and Pittosporum (and which had also previously included Blue Gums, these plants having failed due to a blight) on the gardens’ circular boundary, as well as establishing a new ‘evergreen walk’, an avenue that alternated Monterey Pines and Peppercorn Trees and which was backgrounded by further plantings of Bhutan Cypress and Eucalypts. Eucalypts were also employed as background plantings to the avenues in other areas—aerial photography shows such a planting in one of the north-east triangles, and a single specimen of Southern Mahogany Gum (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) survives from a similar row to the south of the English Oak avenue.

Throughout the 1890s and early twentieth century, members of the public would agitate periodically in the local press in favour of further native plantings. The boundary pines, removed in 1914, and most of the Pittosporums were replaced by the row of Kurrajongs (*Brachychiton propulneus*) extant today. Other species also appear to have been included into these perimeter plantings at an early date, including Queensland Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) and Native Frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*), each represented today by one-two examples.

In addition to the extensive shrub plantings established by Bickford, a more detailed horticultural layer was added to the gardens from the 1890s, with the establishment of ornamental gardens around major monuments (the former Jubilee Fountain and Queen Victoria statue), in various circular plantings around the site, in association with an eastern ornamental pond, and on the street frontage to Brunswick Street and Albert Crescent. Later, ornamental plantings would also be established around the Memorial Rotunda. Over time, the effects of economy, drought, tree growth and changing public expectations and priorities for the city’s principal recreational reserve would result in the attrition and reduction of this horticultural layer, with the structure of avenue, boundary and feature trees being the primary legacy of the nineteenth and early twentieth century planting of Edinburgh Gardens.

In parallel to the gardens’ evolution as a planted reserve, expanded recreational offerings were introduced, reflective of the evolution of new recreational constituencies and an evolving public role in recreation and related concerns (ie. early childhood health and education). New facilities were accommodated within the gardens (playgrounds, sports courts), and space was made for a new public oval in the south-east. The ultimate resumption and redevelopment of the Brunswick Street Oval as a community oval in the 1980s was an important milestone, and this movement continued through subsequent playground improvements, development of a skate bowl, and current interest in further improvements to the sporting precinct.

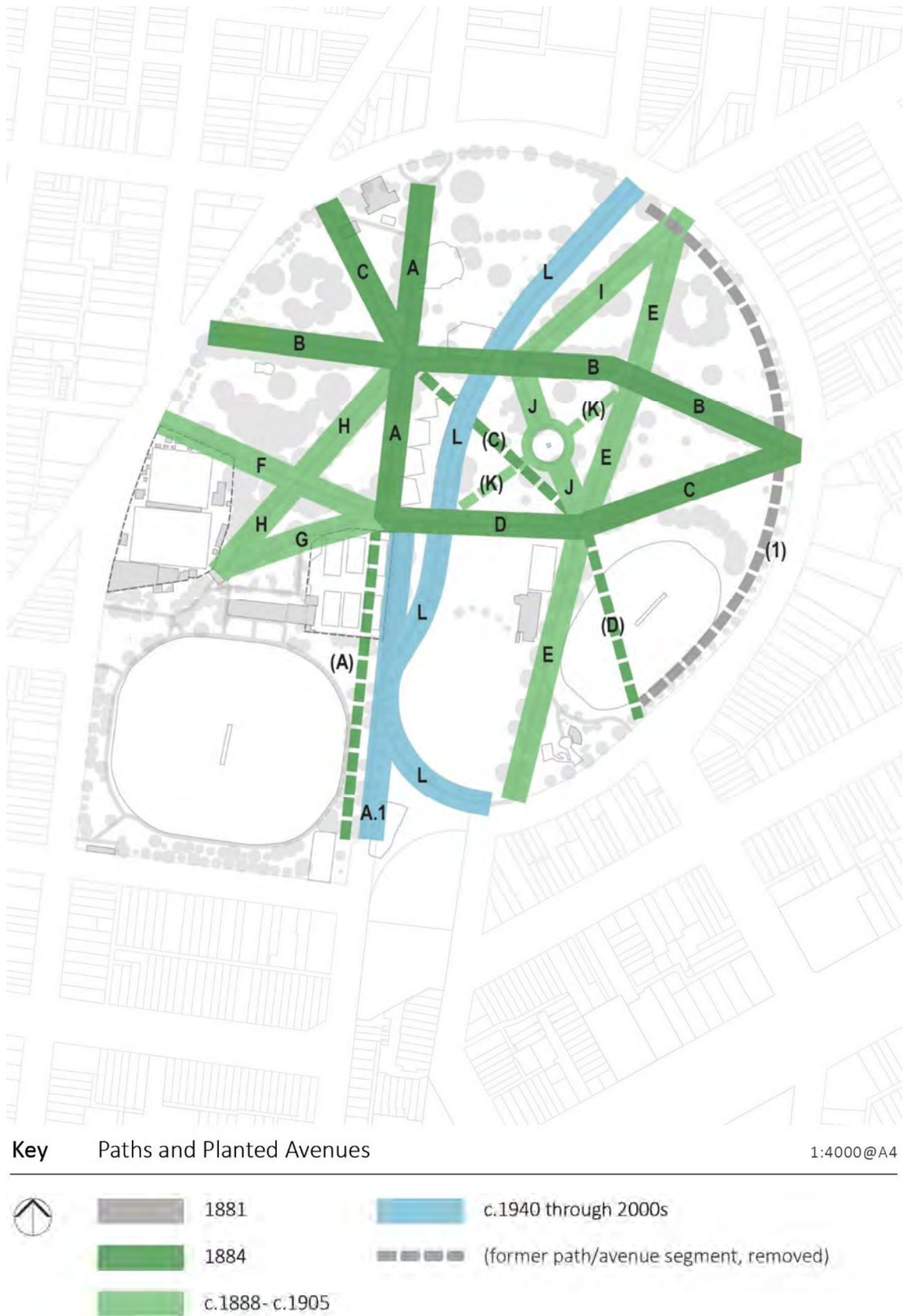


Figure 83 Chronology of major paths and avenue plantings; refer to Table 1 for tree species and other details



Key Notable Early Tree Features and Specimens

1:4000@A4




	Exotic specimens		Native specimens
			
Ba	Flame Tree (<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>)	Ln	Bay Laurel (<i>Laurus nobilis</i>)
Bp	Kurrajong (<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>)	Lp	Norfolk Island Hibiscus (<i>Lagunaria pattersonia</i>)
Cd	Deodor Cedar (<i>Cedrus deodara</i>)	Pc	Canary Island Pine (<i>Pinus canariensis</i>)
Cs	Italian Cypress (<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>)	Pu	Sweet Pittosporum (<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>)
Eb	Southern Mahogany (<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>)	Qi	Holm Oak (<i>Quercus ilex</i>)
Ec	River Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>)	Uh	Dutch Elm (<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>)
Hm	Monterey Cypress (<i>Hesperocyparis macrocarpa</i>)	Up	English Elm (<i>Ulmus procera</i>)
Es	Sydney Blue Gum (<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>)		

Figure 84 Plan showing other early tree features and specimens

3.4 Path network and avenue plantings

Following creation of the Committee of Management in 1883 (jointly appointed by the Lands Department and the City of Fitzroy), works quickly proceeded to establish a network of paths and avenue plantings through the gardens. The committee reported in December 1883 that trenches had been surveyed and marked out along either side of the paths with the object of creating ornamental avenues, which would be installed at the proper season the following year.²³¹ The report included a plan of the trenching works for these avenues (refer to figure). In June 1884 approval was given for trees to be planted in the Edinburgh Gardens.²³² Prior to the planting, the prepared trenches were filled with street scrapings, presumably containing manure, as a soil improvement measure.

Two reports confirm that planting of the avenues proceeded in 1884: a third-party account published in the *Leader* newspaper in July 1884, and an annual report to the Committee of Management from the Lands Department's gardens curator, Nicholas Bickford reprinted in the *Mercury and Weekly Courier* in August 1885. The two reports are generally consistent, although the Bickford report contains greater detail on the plantings associated with each avenue.

The originally planted trees and shrubs along the boundary fence of the garden, by the Alfred Crescent, "Pines and Pittosporums" have been preserved, a few that had died having been replaced with others; the same has been done in dealing with the few clumps planted within the grounds.

The new works and improvements commenced with the calling for tenders for the cartage of gravel to the gardens, the laying out of walks, and trenching strips of ground of one rod in width on each side of such walks for the planting of avenues of trees, as follows.

1st walk, north and south, leading from the wicket entrance opposite Best-street. Width of path, 14 feet; length, 22 chains. Planted into an English Elm avenue, the elms 30 feet apart. The path is fringed with Pittosporum Nigrescens [ie. *Pittosporum tenuifolium*], and at the back of the trenched ground the whole length is planted with Pittosporum Undulatum, "the sweet-scented Pittosporum."

2nd path, leading through the garden from the entrance opposite Rowe-street to the wicket at St George's-road, near St Luke's Church. Length, 20 chains; width, 14 feet; also planting into an Elm avenue. This path is fringed with hardy flowering shrubs, consisting of Laurustinus (white), Tecoma Capenses (red), and Plumbago Capensis (blue), at the back, planted with Pittosporum Undulatum.

3rd path, leading from the same wicket entrance at Rowe-street, then in a southwesterly direction, crossing over the bridge at the gully, thence to the Fitzroy Cricket ground. Planted from the starting point to the bridge into an English Oak avenue, fringed with yellow Jasmine, "Jasminum revolutum," and Laurustinus, and planted at the back with Pittosporum Crassifolia [*Pittosporum crassifolium*]. At the bridge, this path joins the evergreen walk, which leads from the entrance gate opposite Grant-street to the bridge, thence to the Fitzroy Cricket ground. The evergreen walk is planted with Pinus Insignis [ie. *Pinus radiata*], alternate with Schinus Molle (the pepper tree), fringed with Cupressus Torulosa, back-ground with five varieties of Eucalyptus, including the lemon scented, the scarlet flowering, and the Gippsland mahogany. From the bridge, going north west, to the entrance gate at Reid-street, is a continuation of the English Oak avenue, fringed with the hardy double flowering Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum floribundum*) [ie. presumably *Ligustrum sinense*].

The street scavengers are continuing to deposit the street manure in the Gardens, which is utilized to fill up and fertilize the poor and low ground, a shallow trench is dug, in which the manure is put, and the earth taken from the trench is thrown over as a covering. This

will, of necessity, become a rich soil, well-adapted for the growth of trees. A clump of the most ornamental kinds of Eucalyptus have already been planted in one of the prepared sections.²³³

The paths described in the Bickford report are consistent with those shown on the 1883 trenching plan. Further segments were added on a similar basis as occupancy and management of the reserve was rationalised, including the addition of several path segments across the sports precinct after resumption of the former north club oval and other segments in the north-west and east. As additional paths were added to the gardens, treed avenues were developed along these as well. A number of paths and associated plantings would seem to have been added c. 1887-1888 in conjunction with filling of the creek, construction of the railway and resumption of parts of the cricket club occupancies. A second flourish of planting may have occurred c. 1900-1905, with additional diagonal paths formalised and construction of a circular garden around the new Queen Victoria Statue.

Some segments of the path system may not have been planted in this initial period of development, including the entrance path through the sporting precinct from St Georges Road, and the former north-east to south-west diagonal that was associated with the Queen Victoria circle.

The historical avenue layout that survives today was largely complete by c. 1905 when it appeared on a street directory map reproduced in the 1987 *Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study*. Those historical plantings (both extant and former) and more recent additions are tabulated in Table 1 and mapped in Figure 83.

The known avenue tree plantings are inventoried in the following table, including their original composition and the status of the avenue (or segments thereof) today.

Table 1 Edinburgh Gardens avenue tree plantings

Avenue	Est. date	Origin	Composition	Status
(1)	1881	City of Fitzroy	Monterey Pine, Blue Gum, Pittosporum	Removed, save for 2x Remnant Pittosporum. The exterior row was replaced with a row of Kurrajong c. 1920s, and the path was removed c. 1940. (no longer treated as an avenue, refer section 3.5.1)
A	1884	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford)	English Elm (north segment) Mix of English Elm and Dutch Elm (central segment – twentieth century replantings)	North segment: west row largely intact, east row replanted early twentieth century and has gap from former nursery yard Central segment: Entire avenue removed c. 1950 for Ladies Bowling Club and partially replanted at the time. Some surviving trees from 1950 replanting, with gaps filled by a recent replanting South segment: Entire avenue and pathway removed c. 1938

Avenue	Est. date	Origin	Composition	Status
A.1	<i>c. 1940</i>	<i>City of Fitzroy</i>	<i>English Elm (suckers)</i>	<i>Present, self-grown single row, slated for removal</i>
B	1884	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford)	English Elm	Largely intact to original 1884 planting.
C	1884	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford)	English Oak	East segment replanted with English Oak late 1940s. Central segment removed (railway c. 1888). North-west segment variously replanted, most recently with Holm Oak.
D	1884	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford)	Evergreens (Monterey Pine and Peppercorn)	No longer present. South-east segment removed for Alfred Crescent Oval, central segment replanted with Holm Oak, no west segment.
E	c. 1888	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford), after creek filled in	English Elm, Dutch Elm	North and central section largely Dutch Elm with 1-2 English Elm; Dutch Elm a possibly early twentieth century planting. South section English Elm, presumed original with gaps.
F	c. 1888	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford), through former north oval	English Elm	c. 1888 planting generally present, north side only above bowling club.
G	c. 1888	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford), through former north oval	English Elm	c. 1888 planting to north side of pathway only (4 originals, 1 c. 1930s replacement). South side of the c. 1888 avenue was replaced c. 1930s and removed c. late 1940s.

Avenue	Est. date	Origin	Composition	Status
H	c. 1905	Committee of Management	English Elm	Substantially intact to original c. 1900s planting.
I	c. 1905	Committee of Management	Mix English Elm and Dutch Elm	<p>Mix of English Elm (middle of rows) and Dutch Elm (ends), with a gap in the centre</p> <p>The planting appears to have terminated short of the Falconer Street entrance originally or from an early date, perhaps due to railway access requirements (much later, the K174 steam locomotive occupied this site as a static display, but the gap existed in 1945).</p> <p>It is not known if the Dutch Elm specimens are original or early, pre-1940s replacements</p>
J	c. 1905	Committee of Management	Dutch Elm	Central circle is incomplete, either due to losses or intentionally (ie. an original garden treatment subsequently removed). Minor gaps in the avenue planting.
K	c. 1905	Committee of Management	---	Pathway K appears to have never been planted as an avenue
L	c. 2009	City of Yarra	Smooth-barked Apple, Lemon-scented Gum	Variously either double row avenue or single row

3.4.1 Pathway format and materials

As described above, the pathway network provided in Edinburgh Gardens was essentially utilitarian in its layout and intent, although it was extensively embellished with surrounding tree and shrub plantings. Entry points on the network corresponded to the surrounding street pattern and almost all paths ran in straight line segments to connect with major intersections as well with the two former locations of footbridges across the creek that was removed c. 1888.

More localised paths in shorter segments were established around major garden features, including the former Jubilee Fountain, Queen Victoria statue and ornamental pond. As these features were removed or declined in prominence, many of the associated secondary paths were also removed, although some segments remain around the Queen Victoria Plinth and behind the Emely Baker Centre (former Jubilee Fountain garden). A semi-circular pathway running parallel to Alfred Crescent was also removed in the 1930s or 1940s. In addition to the original shrub plantings detailed by Bickford, additional ornamental features were likely added later along the path network, with evidence surviving of some of these features in the form of raised bluestone edging and other details.

New paths have also been created and new avenue plantings established along them, as detailed above. Most prominently, a long curving path has been constructed along the former railway corridor following the removal of the branch line and depot in the 1980s. New paths surrounding the Brunswick Street oval were also added in the 1980s as part of its redevelopment as a community oval.

Relevant characteristics of the pathways and evidence for the date of introduction for their current material details are provided in the discussion below and summarised at Table 2. An example cross-section and a selection of representative bluestone edging details are collected in Figure 55, the latter representing the main bluestone edging arrangements found throughout the site. Photographs showing the variety of typical conditions are included as Figure 87 to Figure 93, while details from historical aerials show the introduction of new path surfaces and edging across the twentieth century at Figure 94 to Figure 96.

Path entrances

No consistent format to the early path entrances from St Georges Road and Alfred Crescent has been identified. Oblique aerial photography from c. 1925-1940 shows that Avenue F flared into a wider, oval-shaped area at its entrance from St Georges Road, with the flared area edged with raised bluestone rubble kerbs (refer further detail on kerb and channel treatments below) and white painted gate posts to either side of the entrance. Whether there was a similar treatment at the entrance to Avenue B is not apparent, however a similar circular nodal area is also visible on the 1931 aerial photograph just inside the entrance of Avenue C (adjacent to the present Emely Baker Centre).

These flared entrances appear to have been removed by the early 1940s, and are not apparent on the c. 1940s oblique aerial or the 1945 conventional aerial. However, the forked arrangement of the Avenue A entrance opposite Best Street, which is evident in conventional 1931 and 1945 aerial photographs and takes in three specimens from the *Brachychiton* row (refer section 3.5.1), remains extant.

Other entrances from Alfred Crescent and from Napier Street appear in the 1931 photograph to have been treated plainly, although ornamental floral areas were later provided around them.

Although not always resolved in the available photography, it is evident that bollards or gate posts were once present at a number of the entrances, and likely in a variety of forms as evidenced by the distinctive treatments of the entrances seen in early photographs.

Path surfacing

The initial c. 1880s path surfaces were reported by Bickford to have been formed of gravel with a coating of tar that was then blinded with sand and street sweepings. Essentially this was a form of lightweight bituminous surface (using coal or gas tar), similar to modern 'chip seal' techniques. On a c. 1901 MMBW plan, the major paths are identified as being asphalt paved, an account of a 1906 visit to the gardens also recounts that 'asphalt footpaths ran in all directions.'²³⁴

Other images appear to show granular surfaces. The 1906 postcard image of the ornamental pond in the north-east shows the secondary path around that feature to have been gravel; the major avenue in the background is also painted as a gravel surface although there is not enough detail from the original photograph to confirm this.

A photograph from the 1920s (Figure 86) shows what would appear to be a major path surfaced with gravel, with a pronounced central crown and trenched gravel gutters to either side. While not determinative, aerial photography of the 1920s-1940s also shows bright pathways which may be considered somewhat more likely to have been a granular rather than a tar or asphalt surface.

Oblique aerial photographs from c. 1925-1940 and c. 1940 show most of the gardens paths to have been evidently brighter than the surrounding tar or asphalt footpaths to Brunswick Street, St Georges Road and Alfred Crescent. An exception to this was a section of darker path surface within the sporting precinct, on the short but presumably heavily used path from Brunswick Street to the north gate to the oval (above the gap between the former pair of grandstands). The 1931 and 1945 aerial photographs also show a darker surface at the forked entry from Alfred Crescent to Avenue A (across from Best Street), suggesting that this area had been paved with the adjoining footpath, and contrasting with the bright surface of the pathway south of the fork.

A 1937 article on the construction of a new path (Avenue A.1) from the Napier Street entrance (after expansion of the cricket ground) notes that this path would be asphalt paved.²³⁵

Today, all paths are asphalt-paved, a change that appears to have occurred in the decades subsequent to 1931, during which time any previous granular surfaces were replaced. The change in reflectivity of the pathways is marked between the 1931, 1945, 1951 and 1969 aerial photographs, and may reflect the gradual paving of the path network with modern asphalt during this period. Although a twentieth century development, the asphalt is similar to the paths' described original treatment of tarred gravel, and appropriate to the gardens' high level of usage, access requirements and position on shared path and cycling networks.

Path edging

No mention is made of path edging in the c. 1880s newspaper reports on the development of the Edinburgh Gardens. Neither is bluestone edging evident on the path shown in the 1920s photograph, except in the foreground where the ornamental shrubberies on the path border (likely at an intersection) appear to have had bluestone rubble walls.

A c. 1925-1940 oblique aerial photograph shows the widespread but discontinuous use of this large bluestone rubble edging around intersections and planting beds in the area immediately north of the sporting precinct. It is evident from this photograph that the rubble edging was used principally as an edge to garden and shrubbery beds, and at street entrances on the west side of the garden where the paths were flared or forked. Along the north side of the tennis courts, it is evident that a kerb was also in place, although it is not clear from the image if this was the current honed bluestone masonry kerb or rubble kerb similar to those seen elsewhere in the photograph. Other sections of the paths visible in that aerial, and in a similar oblique view from c. 1930-40, appear to lack edging or stone masonry guttering.

The oblique aerals, which provide very good detail on this question, suggest that most of the honed bluestone pathway edges and channel gutters date to the mid-twentieth century, and are perhaps associated with the (re-) introduction of asphalt pavements within the gardens from the c. 1940s and later rounds of cyclical reconstruction and improvement.

Certain features can be distinguished as appearing on later aerals where there was no evidence that these were present on earlier images. As an example, the bluestone channel on the west side of Avenue A, north of the tennis courts (Figure 91) appears for the first time on a 1969 aerial image and is not visible on imagery from 1945 and 1951 (Figure 96). Similarly, the integrated bluestone kerb and channel on Avenue E at Alfred Crescent (opposite Falconer Street) does not appear to be visible on the 1969 aerial, and may have been installed after 1969 and before 1987.

Later, concrete kerbing was also introduced to the gardens. A section of concrete kerb along part of Avenue A is likely to have been installed with the 1970s construction of the Emely Baker Infant Welfare Centre. The redevelopment of the community oval introduced concrete kerbs throughout the new and realigned pathways through the sporting precinct.

Path format

Most paths within the gardens run between rows of avenue trees planted at a typical 9.0 metre (30 foot) spacing.

The paths themselves vary substantially in width between 3.0-4.75 metres, with 4.0 metres being perhaps the closest to a typical current value. It is evident that the later addition of bluestone channels and kerbing or edging to what were previously less developed tar or gravel paths is responsible for some of this variation, as in some cases kerbs and channels may have been constructed to the inside of the existing surface and in others to the outside.

Some paths were also evidently built to narrower standards originally, this goes for instance for Avenues H and I, which are diagonal paths added to the gardens layout c. 1905, and are just 3.0 metres in width with 7.5 metres separating the two rows of trees.

Policies with respect to management of pathway format and materials are provided in the Chapter 6.

Table 2 Edinburgh Gardens path format and materials

Avenue	Path width (to front of kerb)	Edge / Kerb	Channel / Gutter	Date of edging and channels
A	4 metres, including channels where present	Rough honed bluestone block, grading from flush edge to raised rubble in parts and replaced in one section with concrete kerb	Some sections with two-course bluestone channel to one or both sides	Channel at south end dates to 1950s-1960s
A.1	3.5 metres	n/a	Trenched channel from three courses of bluestone along west side of path	Trench drain may have been present in 1930s
B (west)	4.0 metres typical including flush edge	Rough honed bluestone block (flush edge)	None	Post-1940s
B (central and east)	4.5 metres including channels	One section with raised bluestone rubble kerbs (poss. former hedging beds at railway corridor), other sections channels only	Sections of two- and three-course bluestone channel to both sides of path	Rubble kerb c. early 1900s; bluestone channels likely c. 1950s-1970s
C (north-west)	4.75 metres, including channels	Channels only	Two-course bluestone channel	Bluestone channels likely 1950s-1960s
C (east)	4.5 metres including flush edge	Flush rough honed bluestone block edge; raised bluestone rubble kerb at west end intersection with Path E	At west end, three-course bluestone channels at intersection with Path E	Rubble kerb poss. c. early 1900s; bluestone channels likely c. 1950s-1970s
D	4.4 metres to front of kerb	Raised bluestone rubble kerb (former hedging beds at railway corridor)	Single-course bluestone channel/edge in front of rubble kerb	Rubble kerb c. early 1900s
E	4.0 metres including channels	Integrated kerb and channel	Two-course bluestone channel with kerb integrated	Likely 1970s

Avenue	Path width (to front of kerb)	Edge / Kerb	Channel / Gutter	Date of edging and channels
F	4.0 metres, not including flush edge	Flush rough honed bluestone edge, raised rubble kerbs at intersection with path H	None	Rubble kerbs c. early 1900s, flush edge likely post-1940s
G	3.5 metres not including kerb / channel, 4.5 metres entire section	Raised honed bluestone kerb south side only	Two-course bluestone channel north side only	c. 1925-1940 photography shows either a bluestone rubble edge or the present bluestone kerb. Channel may be c. 1950s-1970s
H	3.0 metres to front of kerb	Rough honed bluestone kerb/edge; raised rubble kerbs at intersection with path F	None	Rubble kerbs c. early 1900s;
I	3.0 metres	Flush rough honed bluestone edge	None	Post-1940s
J	2.5 / 3.5 metres	Sections with bluestone edging of varying detail	None	Unknown
L	3.0 metres	None	None	n/a (path installed 2009)

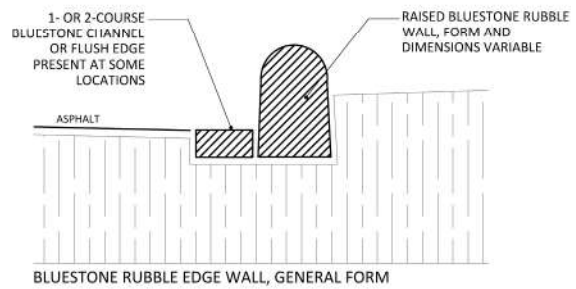
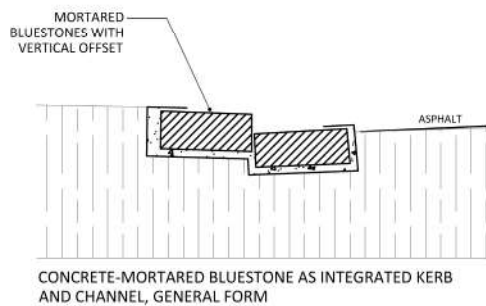
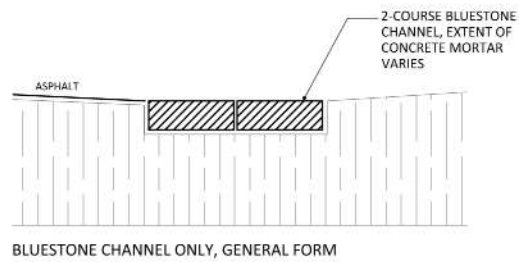
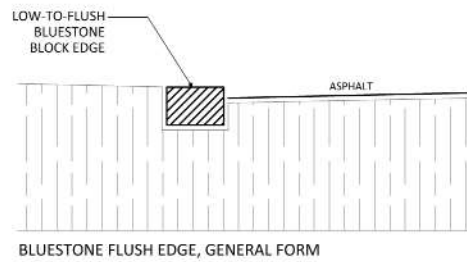
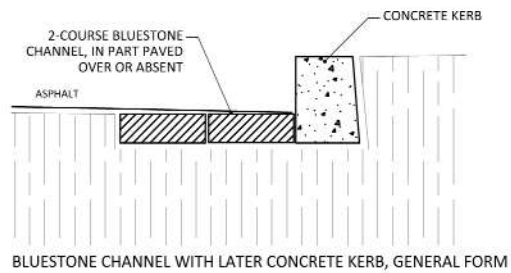
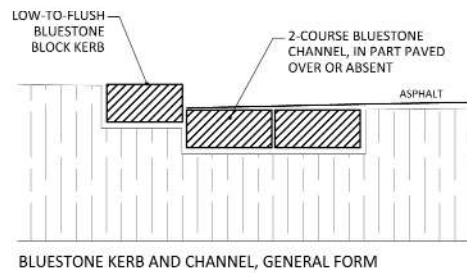
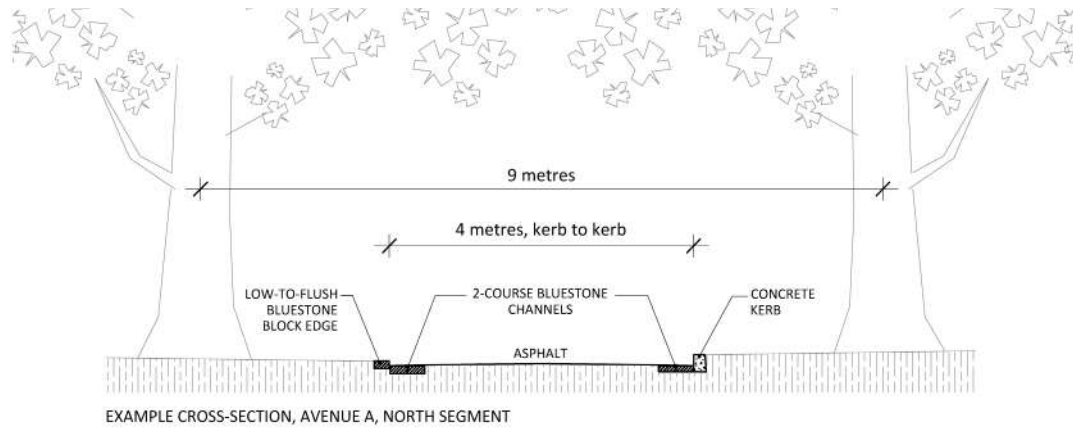


Figure 85 Example pathway cross-section and diversity of bluestone edging details



Figure 86 View along a path in the gardens, c. 1927
Source: Fitzroy Local History Collection



Figure 87 Example of bluestone rubble edging; this form of edging is seen in photographs from the 1920s-1940s, and in many cases served to provide a front edge to garden beds and shrubberies, now removed



Figure 88 Example of a path with a flush bluestone edge; this edging may have been introduced with modern asphalt paving in the c. 1950s



Figure 89 Example of bluestone channel edge without kerbs; similar bluestone channels appear to have been installed in the 1950s-1960s



Figure 90 Bluestone channel and edge kerb; this feature appears from aerial photography to have been installed on Avenue A between 1951 and 1969



Figure 91 Bluestone channel with later concrete drainage pit at intersection of Avenues A, D and F; aerial photography suggests the channel was installed c. 1950s-1960s



Figure 92 Example of an integrated bluestone kerb and channel, with the outer course raised to form a low kerb above the inner course which serves as the gutter, and heavy concrete mortaring; this edging is likely to date to the c. 1970s



Figure 93 Modern (1980s) concrete kerb in vicinity of the community oval



Figure 94 Details from oblique aerial c. 1925-1940, showing apparent granular pathways with sections of bluestone rubble kerb
Source: C. Pratt, State Library of Victoria



Figure 95 Details from oblique aerial, c. 1930-1940, showing pathway and edging treatments; notable in the top image is the removal of the previously 'flared' entry point at St Georges Road on Avenue F, seen in the previous image.



Figure 96 Details from aerial photography of 1945 (top) and 1969 (bottom), showing Avenue D around the former crossing of the railway line, with the former Ladies Bowling Club (current stormwater garden) visible in the centre of the 1969 image; a change in the configuration of the path intersection at the left is visible, including installation of a new bluestone channel (red arrow) seen as a bright line running across the path. Refer Figure 91 for a view of this bluestone channel today.

3.4.2 *Elm avenues*

Although the initial avenues developed by the Committee of Management were more diverse, additional paths and accompanying avenue plantings developed from 1888 cemented the dominance of the Elm tree at Edinburgh Gardens. While English Elm had been employed in the earlier plantings, Dutch Elm was subsequently introduced and avenue plantings today represent both species.

Developments within the gardens and the sporting precinct did have consequences for a number of Elm avenue segments (affecting both those original to 1883 and those added from c. 1888). Construction of the railway had effects on a number of central pathways. Subsequently, the expansion of the main oval and tennis courts in the 1930s resulted in relocation of the original lower half of the north-south avenue on that side of the railway, and removal of the associated avenue trees (which were not replanted due to issues both of space and crowd control around the oval. One side of the planting on the short diagonal path to the north of the sporting precinct was also removed during this period to allow for expansion of the tennis club facilities.

The 1948 construction of the former Ladies Bowling Club green (current stormwater garden) removed an additional section of the north-south avenue on the west side of the gardens. Between 1945 and 1951, several trees were lost from the avenue that now adjoins the west side of the Alfred Crescent Oval, however it is not clear if these were removed to facilitate early use of this area as a sports ground or were lost as a consequence of the 1940s drought. Formalisation of an oval in this location post-dates the loss of these trees (and required the removal of the former mound to the north).

Refer Figure 97 to Figure 103 for typical views within the Elm avenue plantings.



Figure 97 View west inside the principal east-west English Elm Avenue (Avenue B) from Rowe Street, one of the original c. 1884 avenue plantings



Figure 98 English Elm avenue south from Best Street entrance (Avenue A), another of the original c. 1884 avenue plantings



Figure 99 View east in the English Elms of Avenue B, from near St Georges Road



Figure 100 English Elm trees surrounding the five-way junction of pathways in the west of the gardens (Avenues A, B and H seen here) looking south towards the sporting precinct



Figure 101 English Elm trees on the south part of Avenue E, a c. 1888 planting that followed the filling of the original creek gully



Figure 102 A mixed planting of Dutch Elm and English Elm (Avenue I) running south-west from the Falconer Street entrance. The path and avenue are believed to be c. 1905, although the trees themselves were almost certainly planted at two different times



Figure 103 English Elms on one of the diagonal paths (Avenue H) into the sporting precinct; a c. 1888 planting established as part of the formalisation of the path network across the former north oval

English Elm row east of the Tennis Courts (Avenue A.1)

A row of English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) is established along the east of the tennis courts and the abutting path (Figure 104). The trees are irregularly and closely spaced, often only two-three metres apart. Many appear to have originated as two or more plants which have self-grafted to form multi-trunk trees.

This row of English Elm dates to the early 1940s when it established along the fenced boundary to the former rail corridor. The close spacing and often doubled position of trees and leaders, and their inconsistent size in early aerial photographs, suggests the trees established by suckering.

The trees of the original north-south avenue east of the sports precinct (part of Avenue A) were removed between 1934 and 1938 to permit expansion of the oval and tennis courts, and the path relocated to an adjacent strip of land purchased from the Railways Department. Newspaper coverage at the time indicates that the city had determined not to replant trees in this location because of maintenance and crowd control concerns associated with the walled sporting oval. There would have been limited space in any event for a formal planting in association with the relocated path.

As part of the transaction and the path relocation, a fence would have been erected where the line of trees is now located. It is posited that suckers from the root systems of the previous avenue's removed trees regrew along the new fence, protected by the fence from weeding and maintenance. In several specimens the remains of the former fence can be discerned protruding from sections of the trunk which have grown over and around them.

In 1954 the National Can Company occupied the site and remained there until the cessation of the industrial activities in 1996 when the land was converted to parkland by Yarra City Council. The boundary fence was removed around that time.

The trees have generally been evaluated as poor examples of the species with an inherently weak structural form. In accordance with the Edinburgh Gardens Avenue Replacement Plan (John Patrick Pty Ltd, 2015), the City of Yarra plans to remove the Dutch Elm row east of the tennis courts c. 2020-2021.



Figure 104 Self established row of English Elm to the east of the tennis club, on former alignment of fencing associated with the railway corridor and the National Can Company

3.4.3 Oak avenues

English Oak avenue (south-west from Rowe Street entrance) (Avenue C)

A single avenue segment running south-west from Rowe Street is planted with English Oak (*Quercus robur*) (Figure 105). This avenue was originally planted with English Oak in the 1884-85 plantings undertaken by the Committee of Management and reported by Nicholas Bickford. The Oak planting originally continued along further path segments: a NW-SE diagonal path segment that formerly crossed the centre of the park (removed for the railway), and the extent diagonal path from the Reid Street entrance (from which the original avenue was long-removed, but which has recently been replanted with Holm Oak, see below)

Although originally planted with English Oak, the segment from Rowe Street has subsequently been replanted. It is evident from examination of aerial photography that the current Oak trees date to the late 1940s, when they replaced an earlier planting (presumably the original Oaks, but this is not known with certainty). Early aerial photography also makes it clear that both iterations of the avenue were set *to the inside* of additional rows of trees. These appear to have been Southern Mahogany Gum (*Eucalyptus botryoides*), as a single specimen of that species survives south of the English Oak avenue on this alignment and Nicholas Bickford specifically reported having used this arrangement on other avenues in the gardens, with native gums serving as a 'background' to the European avenue trees.

Several young infill specimens are present on the avenue's south row: in the centre where it abuts the remains of an Elm circle north of the Alfred Crescent oval; and at the east end adjacent to the Rowe Street. The trees are relatively small even for their 1940s date, presumably a result of periodic drought stress, constrained soil conditions and competition within the avenue.



Figure 105 View towards east in avenue of English Oak (*Quercus robur*) (Avenue C) originating at Rowe Street entrance, an original planting of the 1884 avenue system but with trees dating to the late 1940s

Holm Oak plantings

Recently, several path sections have been planted with Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*):

- short path segment west of the English Oak avenue (crossing former railway) (formerly part of the Evergreen Walk, Avenue D) (Figure 106)
- path running south-south-east from the Reid Street / St Georges Road / Alfred Crescent intersection (formerly the north-west segment of the Avenue C English Oak planting) (Figure 107)

These avenues adopt a tough, drought tolerant and evergreen Oak species that was historically used elsewhere in the gardens (refer 3.6.3 below). They also reference the original continuity of the English Oak Avenue, which took an indirect course through the gardens from Rowe Street to Reid Street.

It is noted that due to its dense, rounded canopy, the Holm Oak functions quite differently as an avenue tree: it will produce less of the arcing form and dappled shade of the Elm and English Oak Avenues, instead growing into trees of dense structure and deep shade. A tough, slow-growing tree that has performed well in Edinburgh Gardens, the effect of the current plantings once mature should be reviewed before applying Holm Oak as a selection to further avenues within the gardens.



Figure 106 Recently established avenue planting of Holm Oak on a segment of the former 'Evergreen Walk' north of the basketball court



Figure 107 Holm Oak planting (possibly two generations) on the north-west segment of Avenue C, originally an English Oak avenue planted c. 1884

3.4.4 Gum avenue (contemporary) (Avenue L)

Following removal of the railway corridor, a new path and avenue planting were established down the former alignment of the corridor, serving as a continuation of the Inner Circle Rail Trail north of Alfred Crescent. Unlike the nineteenth century avenues, the path runs through a series of curves from its north entrance (between Fergie Street and Falconer Street) to its turn back east to meet Alfred Crescent just east of Jamieson Street at the south end of the gardens. The upper curve, from Alfred Crescent to the crossing of Avenue D, reflects the former alignment of the railway through the gardens, while the lower curve, from south of Avenue D to Jamieson Street, is an invention of the late twentieth century that does not match the layout of the former railway depot.

This avenue is planted with a pair of native Eucalypt species: Smooth-bark Apple (*Angophora costata*) and Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*) (Figure 108). The outcome has not been completely consistent: some path sections were either only planted to one side or have suffered subsequent failures of planted stock; some sections of the avenue planting have also not established well and are markedly smaller.

A row of the same pathway is also established on the southernmost segment of Avenue A.1, south of the English Elm fencerow and the junction with main Gum Avenue on Avenue L.



Figure 108 Avenue planting of native gum trees on the curved pathway (Avenue L) installed on the former railway corridor

3.4.5 *Evidence of railway*

Marking the former path of the railway spur, two sections of rails have been retained within and adjacent to Edinburgh Gardens. One exists at the intersection of Avenue D and Avenue L, east of the tennis courts and south-west of the Queen Victoria Plinth garden (Figure 109). The other is located just outside of the gardens where the railway formerly crossed Alfred Crescent (Figure 110).

Although likely to be the rails and ties present on the site at the time of the railway's decommissioning, this has not been confirmed.



Figure 109 Rails embedded in the pavement of Avenue L in south part of gardens



Figure 110 Rails crossing Alfred Crescent, just outside of Edinburgh Gardens

3.5 Boundary plantings

3.5.1 *Brachychiton* rows / former east perimeter avenue

Rows of *Brachychiton* trees forms much of Edinburgh Garden's circular perimeter, from Watkins Street on the St Georges Road side all the way around to Grant Street on Alfred Crescent. The older trees are Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*), into which a hybrid cultivar (*Brachychiton populneus* x. *acerifolius*)²³⁶ have been interplanted since the late 1980s in order to fill gaps. Additional infill plantings of Illawarra Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) have been established in recent years, an introduction of a new species that in appearance and formal character is much less congruent with the original Kurrajongs than the earlier hybrid infill.

A boundary planting on the perimeter of the gardens had been installed by 1881, when a newspaper inventoried a row of Monterey Pine and Blue Gums 'half a chain apart' (ten metres). That there was a planting to the gardens' perimeter is confirmed on the 1883 trenching plan, which shows what is likely to have been a fenced tree planting running along the park edge from Brunswick Street North to Jamieson Street. The Blue Gums were soon reported to be succumbing to a 'black blight' (perhaps a psyllid attack), but the pines had apparently been more successful. In 1884-85, the perimeter planting was described as being composed of 'Pines and Pittosporums', which had been retained through the works undertaken by the Committee of Management and Nicholas Bickford. A c. 1906 postcard (coloured photograph) of the former circular pond south of the Rowe Street entrance shows the perimeter pathway and a row of pines to the outside. The removal of 'some imposing pine trees, which have formed a sheltering wall along the border of the park near Alfred Crescent'²³⁷ was reported in 1914.

The west Kurrajong row on Brunswick Street and St Georges Road would appear to date to the beginning of the twentieth century, either in conjunction with the initial construction of scalloped annual display beds in this earlier or as part of later improvements to these beds, and almost certainly prior to 1914.

The Kurrajong row to the east side of the gardens appears to have been established in the 1920s, following the 1914 removal of the Monterey Pines, and succeeded or augmented an earlier planting of native evergreen trees that with the pines had previously formed an avenue to a perimeter pathway (removed pre-1945) that ran parallel to Alfred Crescent.

The form and history of each of these plantings is discussed in more detail below.

West Kurrajong rows, St Georges Road and Alfred Crescent

Kurrajongs occur in two rows along the west edge of the gardens to St Georges Road and the beginning of Alfred Crescent. Interrupted at the Emely Baker Centre, then again at Best Street by an arc of Desert Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) (refer section 3.5.3), one Kurrajong section runs from Watkins Street to the start of Alfred Crescent (Figure 111 and Figure 112), with the second short row located to the east of the Emely Baker Centre (Figure 113).

In the southern section, there are two Native Frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*) specimens interplanted into the row, one at its north end adjacent to the Alfred Crescent intersection, and one between the two widely spaced Kurrajongs at the south end.

This extent is consistent with but extends somewhat further south than the fenced boundary planting that appears to be shown (pre-existing) on the 1883 plan. Some plans from the early twentieth century depicted the western arc of the gardens boundary with scalloped garden beds.

A limited portion of these scalloped beds, and the two southernmost Kurrajong trees, are visible in a c. 1925 oblique aerial. This photograph, which captures the specimens with the wider than normal separation that remains extant today, appears to confirm that the trees occupied formal positions within the perimeter garden beds along the St George Street boundary.

The scalloped beds and the Kurrajong row can also be identified on aerial photographs from 1931 and 1945. These photographs show the gap between the two southernmost trees, as well as another gap further north in the vicinity of a large Mahogany Gum specimen within the park. They also show trees in both the positions now occupied by the Native Frangipani specimens, including a small tree that is consistent with the smaller stature of the southern specimen.

The scalloped beds were used for extensive floral displays in the early twentieth century; associated with this use and present at reasonable size in photographs from 1925 and 1931, the west Kurrajong row would appear to date to the beginning of the twentieth century.

The interruption of the Kurrajong row at the Emely Baker Centre also predates that building's construction, as the early aerials show the row interrupted by an elaborate garden in this location associated with the former fountain.



Figure 111 Kurrajong (*Brachychiton propulneus*) row, St Georges Road north from Brunswick Street



Figure 112 Kurrajong row, St Georges Road south from Alfred Crescent



Figure 113 Kurrajong row, east of the Emely Baker Centre on Alfred Crescent

East Kurrajong row, Alfred Crescent

To the east of the former railway corridor, a row of Kurrajong trees extends south along the gardens' boundary (Figure 114 and Figure 115). Infill plantings of other types of *Brachychiton* were established to

fill gaps in the Kurrajong row, mostly south of Rowe Street where the original planting had suffered significant attrition presumably due to soil and moisture conditions. The first infills appear to have taken place between 1987-2003, particularly at the south end of the row beside the Alfred Crescent Oval (Figure 116) and employed a hybrid cultivar (*Brachychiton populneus x acerifolius*) that is broadly similar in mature form to the neighbouring Kurrajongs. More recent infills within the row have employed Illawarra Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*); still juvenile trees, once mature these plantings will be less congruent in their formal appearance to the original Kurrajong trees and may have consequences for the overall perception of this planting as a historical and aesthetic feature.

The presence of a doubled row (eg. avenue) of trees to much of the east perimeter of the gardens is shown indicatively on the 1905 map, with a perimeter path running from the then-railway corridor along the Alfred Street edge to Grant Street. The path also shows up on the c. 1894 MMBW plan 29. Following removal of the pines, the perimeter path along Alfred Crescent was retained, and was present in the 1931 aerial, but removed by the time the gardens were re-photographed in 1945.

The current Kurrajong row appears at a juvenile scale in the 1931 aerial photograph, and becomes more legible in the 1945 and 1951 images. Other larger trees were also present to both sides of the former pathway in these aerials, representing the older (c. 1890-1914) avenue planting. Three native trees are present today in positions that are consistent with this older planting. Two Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) – one to the inside of the Brachychiton row and one within the row itself – are almost certainly specimens of the 1880s planting. A specimen of Queensland Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) is also loosely associated with the Pittosporum and Kurrajong row plantings; the date of this planting is less certain.



Figure 114 Kurrajong row, with incongruent replacement plantings of Illawarra Flame Tree, beside Alfred Crescent Oval



Figure 115 Kurrajong row, with infill plantings, on Alfred Crescent near Falconer Street



Figure 116 Older hybrid *Brachychiton* planting in flower at the south end of the Alfred Crescent Kurrajong row; other than the obvious difference in flowering time and colour, the hybrid cultivar otherwise presents as broadly congruent with the original Kurrajong trees in form and spatial effect



Figure 117 Two specimens of Sweet Pittosporum within and adjacent to the present Kurrajong row are likely remnants of the c. 1881 'Pines and Pittosporums' row/avenue planting that encircled Edinburgh Gardens in the first decades after its formal planting



Figure 118 A specimen of Queensland Brush Box appears to be associated with the other plantings in this area, but is of uncertain date and origin

3.5.2 Alfred Crescent Desert Ash row

A short row of nine mature Desert Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) and one Claret Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywood') is present along the northern frontage of the Gardens to Alfred Crescent (Figure 119), opposite the Primary School.

The Ash row appears to have been established in the 1960s, as it is visible at a juvenile scale in aerial photography from 1969.

The planting re-established the formal planted boundary in this section, which although shown on certain early plans had been removed before the 1931 aerial photograph. This section of the gardens included the old caretaker's cottage and nursery facilities, and may have been implicated occasionally in works to the railway corridor. Although a linear row of trees is present in aerials to the inside of this location, it appears likely that following removal of the original Monterey Pine boundary in 1914, no further planting occurred on the outer perimeter of this section until the Ash trees were installed in the 1960s.



Figure 119 Desert Ash row on Alfred Crescent, a c. 1960 planting

3.5.3 *Elm Row Alfred Crescent south*

A short row of Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) was established on the southern part of the gardens boundary to Alfred Crescent in the c. 1990s, between Grant Street and Jameson Street (Figure 120).

This section is located west of the termination of the former boundary pathway at Grant Street. Although a row planting was indicated here in the 1905 map, the area may not have been replanted following the 1914 removal of pines from the Alfred Crescent boundary (unlike the arc of Alfred Crescent to the north, where new native trees were established as an avenue around the boundary pathway). No trees mark this section of the boundary in the 1931 and 1945 aerial photographs.

Since the installation of the elm row, a large playground has been constructed in this part of the park.



Figure 120 Elm row to southern end of Alfred Crescent, adjacent to south playground

3.6 Internal tree groups

3.6.1 *Elm circles*

A number of formal circles (or remnants thereof) of English or Dutch Elm can be found in the north-west and north-east quadrants of the Edinburgh Gardens. In each case, these tree groups are considered likely to be the remnants of more detailed ornamental planting features, which formerly included display beds and shrubberies and secondary paths, and one case an ornamental pond. Over time and as a result of changing maintenance conditions and increasing competition from the maturing Elm trees, the accompanying plantings were intentionally removed or lost to attrition, leaving only the circles of Elm trees in place to the present day.

North-east Elm circle

A circle of 13 Dutch Elm trees (*Ulmus x hollandica*) is set in one of the lawn areas in the north east of the Gardens (Figure 121). All but one of the trees are mature specimens. The thirteenth is a recent replacement for a missing specimen to complete the circle.

While a circular garden feature is shown to occupy this section of the Gardens on the 1905 map, the tree planting is not indicated. The feature is thought to have been a garden bed with a surrounding path. The *Annual Reports* for the Committee of Management in 1895 note that a new circle was established on the eastern side of the railway, fenced with iron pickets and planted with flowers and shrubs. This is possibly the same garden bed.

By the time of the 1945 aerial photograph a circle of trees with mature canopies was clearly present in this location, with a similar circle of advanced trees around the ornamental pond to the south-east (discussed below). That latter planting is thought to have been established in 1894-95 when the pond was established. A photograph of the latter, thought to be c. 1906, includes the apparent presence of juvenile elm trees around the periphery of the pond path which would be consistent with a mid- to late 1890s planting date. It is possible that the Elms in both locations were planted contemporaneously.

At the north-east circle, the garden bed and the circular path were removed by 1945, possibly in the 1930s when the path along the eastern side of Alfred Crescent was grassed over and hedges were removed from alongside the railway line.

East Elm arc (former circle, north end of Alfred Crescent Oval)

A semi-circle of seven mature Dutch Elms (*Ulmus x hollandica*) rings the northern end of the Alfred Crescent sports oval south of Rowe Street (Figure 122).

The 1905 map indicates a circular ornamental pond in this section of the Gardens, along with markings that may represent this tree planting and are consistent with the 'keyhole' form of the planting. The pond is also depicted and annotated in a 1926 plan for irrigation piping within the Gardens, however the plantings are not shown.

As referred to above, the 1906 postcard photograph of the ornamental pond (Figure 12, Chapter 2) may show evidence of the Elm planting, with one small tree clearly seen at left behind the pond (and evidence of two others), and the shadow of a further tree seen on the foreground surfaces in front of the pond. Aerial photography of 1931 shows clearly that the pond was enclosed by a complete circle trees, with a double row of the same species (and presumably a path) running north to meet it from the Grant Street entrance.

The pond was dry when photographed in aerial photography of 1945, during a drought period. It appears to have been removed by 1951, when the aerial photograph appears to show the site had been replaced with lawn, although the complete 'keyhole' planting of Elms remained in place at that date.

In the late 1940s there were proposals to clear the south-east corner of the Gardens to construct two sports ovals and a pavilion. Public opposition led the council to construct only a small single oval to the south, with 'the mound' and perhaps the pond initially retained (although it does not appear to have been present in 1951). However, c. 1966-1969 the oval was expanded following removal of the hillock, any remaining details of the pond and the southern half of the Elm keyhole, leaving only an arc of trees at the north end of the expanded oval.

North-west Elm group

A circle of nine English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) is present in the north-west of Edinburgh Gardens north of the Memorial Rotunda lawn. There are three gaps in the circle. Unlike the corresponding formation in the north-east section of the Gardens, this circle has three further Elms planted within the circle outline. All specimens are mature and are in good to fair condition.

Although the 1905 plan does not depict a circular planting of trees in the north-west of the Gardens, the 1945 aerial photograph does show such a formation. By this date the canopies are well developed and

are consistent with those of the trees in the north-east circle, thought to have been planted in the mid- to late 1890s (Refer to North-east Elm circle), and with some of the avenue plantings. Although no other evidence has been identified in support of a specific date, the circle appears to have been planted between the late 1880s and the early 1900s when similar ornamental plantings including structural trees were installed (refer above). It is possible that some of the extant trees reflect later (albeit early) infills; the 1945 and 1951 aerial photographs suggest some trees in the circle and adjacent avenue may have been lost in the 1940s drought and subsequently replaced. It is also possible that the additional trees to the interior of the circle are remnants of an original internal organisation of planting beds and pathways that has otherwise been lost.

West Elm circle

An additional small circle of English Elm trees is present east of the Memorial Rotunda, alongside one of the English Elm avenues that run diagonally into the sporting precinct and was added c. 1888. The circle is located between two of the Holm Oak rows (refer 3.6.3 below) and is visible on both the 1931 aerial photograph and a c. 1925 oblique aerial photograph.

The original purpose of this circle is not known. It does not appear on the c. 1905 plan of the gardens (although the main 'Edinburgh Gardens' label is located directly over it. Like other circular Elm plantings, this circle was likely established as a formal perimeter to an ornamental garden feature that was subsequently lost.



Figure 121 Circle planting of 13 Dutch Elms (*Ulmus x hollandica*) in the north-east of the gardens.



Figure 122 Dutch Elm arc (*Ulmus x hollandica*), formerly associated with a circular ornamental pond and now located at the north end of the Alfred Crescent oval



Figure 123 English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) circle with further trees to the interior, in the north-west of the Gardens.

3.6.2 *Queen Victoria garden circle*

Formerly enclosed by a circle of Elm trees at the intersection of two crossing paths, the Queen Victoria statue (refer section 3.10.5) stood in the midst of an elaborate garden. While the NW-SE crossing path was planted with Elms and remains today, the SW-NE crossing path does not appear to have ever been planted with trees, and was subsequently removed (c. 1970s).

It is likely that the circle had originally been fully enclosed by Elm trees; however by the time it was seen in aerial photographs from 1931 and 1945 it had suffered attrition and been reduced to a mostly complete south-east arc and a rump of an arc on the north-west.



Figure 124 The Queen Victoria Plinth and garden is enclosed by a part circle and accompanying avenue of English Elm; a unplanted crossing path was subsequently removed and explains some of the 'missing trees' that would otherwise have formed a circular planting

3.6.3 *Holm Oak rows*

Three lateral rows of Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) are present in the area between the Memorial Rotunda and the sporting precinct. They are of long-standing, and do not appear to relate to neighbouring plantings, including the crossing Elm avenues in this area (established c. 1888 or later), or to any plantings associated with the Memorial Rotunda (constructed 1925). It is possible that the Holm Oak rows relate to plantings undertaken in the 1870s and early 1880s within the original cricket club allotments, including a 'ladies reserve' identified in some accounts, although it is also possible that the Oak rows were a municipal planting of the 1890s-1910s whose original intent has been lost.

The rows are visible on aerial photography of 1931 and 1945, already in a semi-mature state.

One of the Holm Oaks, possibly the one located at the north-east corner of the Bowling Club, has been listed on the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Significant Tree Register for its outstanding size. Other aspects of the Trust's description appear to be incorrect, so there is some uncertainty as to whether the location identifying the registered tree at the Bowling Club boundary is correct.



Figure 125 A line of three Holm Oaks, one of the three remnant east-west rows of the species located between the Memorial Rotunda and the sporting precinct



Figure 126 The northernmost pair of Holm Oaks, just south-east of the rotunda

3.7 Other notable tree plantings

3.7.1 Native *Eucalypts*

Southern Mahogany Gums

A large number of Southern Mahogany Gum (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) appear to have been established in the early gardens, as select specimens survive individually and in pairs throughout Edinburgh Gardens. Southern Mahogany Gum was one of several species of native Eucalypt reported by Nicholas Bickford as having been included in his 1884-1885 plantings at Edinburgh Gardens. Notably, Bickford employed the gum plantings as background rows to a number of the avenue plantings; they appear to have also been employed along the railway corridor and on St Georges Road.

River Red Gums

Three River Red Gums are situated in the north-west of the Gardens, opposite the Primary School. It is unknown whether the trees established prior to the initial European development of North Fitzroy and the creation of Edinburgh Gardens, or whether they were a c. 1880s-1900s planting. The trees may have established along a linear or quasi-linear feature (a small drain or fence line) that ran to the west of the former nursery site. The trees are visible in aerial photography of 1931.

Sydney Blue Gum

A single specimen of Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus salignus*) is present in the north-west of the gardens, in an area that was formerly within the nursery site. The tree is visible in aerial photography of 1931.



Figure 127 Two specimens of Southern Mahogany Gum at the north end of the gardens, positioned to either side of the former railway corridor



Figure 128 Two specimens of River Red Gum in the gardens' north-west



Figure 129 A single specimen of Sydney Blue Gum, located within the former City of Fitzroy nursery site in the north of the gardens

3.7.2 Conifers

From newspaper reports it is apparent that coniferous trees formerly represented a much more substantial component of the Edinburgh Gardens tree canopy than they do today. Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*) were used in an encircling boundary planting (with Blue Gums and Sweet Pittosporum) established by Fitzroy Council c. 1880-81, while an Evergreen Walk reportedly installed in Bickford's 1884-85 plantings used Monterey Pines as an avenue with further exotic conifers planted as a backdrop.

Conifers were also clearly employed in some of the ornamental plantings established around major garden features like the Queen Victoria statue in the 1890s and early 1900s, and as group or specimen plantings in lawn elsewhere in the gardens, as there remain individual specimens and one small group representing several species. These include:

Canary Island Pine (group x3)

A group of three Canary Island Pines (*Pinus canariensis*), comprising two large specimens and a third smaller, in an interior lawn area in the north-east quadrant, adjacent to (behind) an Elm Avenue.

Deodar Cedar

A single large specimen of Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) present in another of the lawn areas, north of the Queen Victoria Plinth.

Cypresses

Single specimens of Monterey Cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) and Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), present near the central east-west path. The Monterey Cypress stands to the south of the path, adjacent to the former railway lands and crossing; the Italian Cypress is to the north-east, south of the Queen Victoria Plinth. The Monterey Cypress may be the sole survivor of an early hedge, while the Italian Cypress is likely to be a single remnant of a larger shrubbery or ornamental arrangement.



Figure 130 Group of three Canary Island Pines



Figure 131 Single specimen of Deodar Cedar, in the north-east of the gardens

3.8 Horticultural plantings

3.8.1 *Ornamental display beds along the St Georges Road frontage*

Ornamental display beds in various forms have been present along the St Georges Road boundary since at least the early twentieth century; at one stage the Kurrajong row in this area appears to have been integrated with feature plantings

The display beds had declined in scale and intensity in the late twentieth century but have recently been renewed, including the restoration of a scalloped edge in line with that seen in early plans and aerial photographs.

Other ornamental plantings have also been present in various forms in this area, whether in association with the Memorial Rotunda or in the late 1800s and early 1900s as garden features possibly associated with the sporting clubs.



Figure 132 Ornamental planting beds to the boundary at Brunswick Street / St Georges Road; elements of the Kurrajong boundary row (early 1900s) and a specimen of Southern Mahogany Gum (possibly c. 1884) have been retained around the newly restored feature beds

3.8.2 *Bluestone planter north of Rowe Street*

A large raised garden bed (Figure 133) is situated in the north-east of the Gardens just south of the nearby Elm Circle. The garden bed is circular in form, with a diameter of about ten metres and a kerb constructed of brick-sized bluestone pitchers in a stacked bond arrangement, with a concrete mowing strip surrounding. The circular form is common to a layer of ornamental planting and decoration added to the Gardens from the late 1880s through the early twentieth century, when various water gardens, the Victoria memorial, and several other circular plantings were added to the site.

A circular bed was recorded in this location in the 1931 aerial photograph, although it does not appear on the 1926 gardens plan. It is not known if the bluestone kerb was an original feature of the bed, or added later; previous authors have interpreted it as a 1960s or 1970s construction based on the style.



Figure 133 Bluestone circular planter

3.8.3 *Rowe Street entrance planters*

The Rowe Street entrance is flanked by a pair of circular beds defined by raised concrete kerbs (Figure 134). The beds date from c. 1950s-1960s, when they were constructed over a previous 'bar' form planting that defined the entrance in the 1940s. Plantings in these beds are refreshed periodically by the City of Yarra.



Figure 134 Rowe Street entrance beds

3.9 Recreation facilities

3.9.1 *Alfred Crescent oval*

A sports oval occupies the south-east of the Edinburgh Gardens. It contains a cricket pitch and is graded to a shallow swale around the perimeter. It is set within a broader area of turf which is defined by surrounding avenue plantings and Alfred Crescent, and accommodates a children's playground to the south.

The oval was constructed in this area in the 1940s, and later expanded in the 1960s. It replaced an ornamental pond and formal tree plantings, as well as a mound added in the early 1900s. The arc of Elm trees at the north end of the oval are remnants of plantings formerly associated with the pond.

The sports oval was further enlarged and improved in the early 1980s.



Figure 135 Alfred Crescent oval

3.9.2 *Basketball Court*

An basketball court with green asphalt playing surface is located directly to the north of the Alfred Crescent Pavilion. The court was originally established behind what was then the Centenary Pavilion in the c. 1970s. It has been recently reconstructed.



Figure 136 Basketball Court

3.9.3 Skate Park

The skate park is located in the north-west corner of the park near the public toilets and infant welfare centre. The park comprises a series of an excavated concrete bowls partially enclosed by a cyclone wire fence.

The skate park was constructed in 1991, continuing the trend towards the provision of both passive and active recreational facilities in the Gardens.²³⁸ The skate park appears to have undergone some alterations since its construction.



Figure 137 Skate park

3.9.4 Playgrounds

History

Approval for the construction of playground in the northern end of the Gardens, opposite the state school, was granted in 1925.²³⁹ Playgrounds were built in many of Melbourne's parks and gardens during this period, largely in response to lobbying by the Guild of Play. Established in Melbourne in 1912, the Guild of Play advocated the need for supervised play as an essential component of a child's development.

Their beliefs stemmed from an international playgrounds movement formed in the United States and England and active in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The movement sought to alleviate some of the social problems experienced by families living in crowded inner cities areas.²⁴⁰

The playgrounds in the north and south of the park are of recent origin.

Description

The northern playground is located close to Alfred Crescent, opposite the primary school while the southern playground is located at the southern end of the section of the Gardens adjacent to the sports ground. The northern playground is open with tam bark ground covering surrounding the playground

structures and post supported shade clothes. The southern playground is enclosed by a small, powder-coated cyclone wire fence with tanbark and some soft, rubber ground covering. The southern playground also includes a post supported canopy with open sides to provide shelter. The play equipment is a combination of steel, timber and plastic construction across both playgrounds.



Figure 138 Northern playground



Figure 139 Southern playground

3.9.5 *Open lawn opposite the Primary School*

A rectangular area of open lawn opposite the primary school is used as an informal playing ground for youth soccer. The area formerly had permanent soccer goal posts at either end (early 2000s).

Open ground in this area may originally relate to this being among the last to receive land filling from nightsoil and street sweepings, and to its proximity to both the former railway corridor and the City of Fitzroy's former nursery site.

The 1905 plan shows this area as open parkland with a curved row of trees along Alfred Crescent (then Monterey Pines and Sweet Pittosporum, later replanted with Kurrajong and even later in this area with Ashes) and another linear row to the south, roughly parallel. In 1925 the City of Fitzroy approved the construction of a children's playground opposite the primary school in Alfred Crescent. However, there is no evidence of the feature in the 1945 aerial photograph suggesting it had been removed by this date, although a playground facility appears to be located north of the depot in the 1966 aerial photo.



Figure 140 Practice ground today



Figure 141 Former soccer goal posts (c. 2004), since removed.

3.10 Gardens buildings and elements

3.10.1 *Memorial Rotunda*

The Memorial Rotunda was constructed in 1925 as a memorial to those who served in the First World War.²⁴¹ It was designed by Edward Twentyman, founder of the well-known architectural firm Twentyman and Askew, and long serving office bearer with the Fitzroy Cricket Club.

The rotunda originally had a rusticated bluestone base and was encircled by garden beds enclosed by an iron picket fence (Figure 142). A photograph of the rotunda dated 1927 also shows surrounding garden beds with timber post and rail fences. The appearance of the rotunda has also been altered by the rendering of the quarry-faced bluestone plinth. In its early days, the rotunda was a venue for weekly performances by the Fitzroy Municipal Band and during the 1950s it was used by the Ladies Bowling Club.²⁴² In more recent times it has served as a meeting room for the local branch of the Australian Labour Party and as a clubhouse for the Bocce Club. Local folklore has it the rotunda may have been used as an air-raid shelter during the War, though evidence to support this has not been found.

An interwar Classical Revival rotunda of rendered masonry and concrete construction. Circular in plan, it has a platform raised above a lower storey base and surmounted by a copper clad dome. The dome is finished by a copper lantern and is supported by eight Tuscan order columns with an entablature containing a moulded cornice and a frieze with triglyphs and plain metopes. The platform is accessed via a flight of stairs with a solid balustrade which curves outwards at the ground floor where it is terminated by panelled and capped piers. A non-original steel gate is fitted to the stair entrance. Two copper plaques are affixed to the drum, either side of the stairs. The plaque to the south side reads:

PEACE MEMORIAL ERECTED BY THE FITZROY CITY COUNCIL AND THE PEACE YEAR
(1918-1919) COMMITTEE IN HONOUR OF THE CITIZENS OF FITZROY WHO SERVED
IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1919 ENLISTED-1453 WOUNDED-521 KILLED-213 – 1925.

The plaque to the north side contains the names of the various committee office bearers responsible for the erection of the rotunda. Adjacent to the south plaque is a small bronze plaque which reads

ERECTED BY THE FITZROY CITY COUNCIL IN HONOUR OF THE CITIZENS OF FITZROY
WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR II 1939-45.

The base walls contain perforated metal vents and two sets of steel-framed, louvred windows with wirecast glazing and external wire mesh security screens. Access to the interior of the base is through a V-jointed board door located below the stairs. Openings to the under-stair area are enclosed by recent wire mesh security gates. Modern floodlights are fitted to the dome entablature and the whole structure stands on a non-original concrete paved apron, partially encircled by garden.

Internally, the deck is an open space, with a painted concrete floor (Figure 143). The interior space is a circular space with central painted columns and a number of windows, with a concrete floor and reinforced concrete coving between the wall and roof.



Figure 142 Views of the Memorial Rotunda c. 1920s (left) and as existing (right)
Source: Reproduced in North Fitzroy Conservation Study 1978



Figure 143 Interior of the rotunda at ground level

3.10.2 Emely Baker Infant Welfare Centre

The Infant Welfare Centre was erected in 1972, just to the north of a site previously occupied by an elaborate fountain dating from c. 1887. Prior to the construction of the existing building, the Infant Welfare Centre was housed in a 1926 timber structure, located adjacent to the former gardener's residence.²⁴³ Security concerns and the need for ease of supervision appear to have prompted the relocation of the Welfare Centre to a site on the perimeter of the park.²⁴⁴

The infant welfare centre is an undistinguished, single-storey, tan-brick building with aluminium-framed windows and a skillion roof clad in metal tray deck (Figure 144). A brick wall with tile coping extends outwards from the side elevations, enclosing the front of the building. The space between the brick wall and the building is utilised as a play area including a sand pit, hard paving and sunshades. The building is currently unoccupied.

A number of native trees, including eucalypts (Lemon-scented Gum, Brittle Gum, Peppermints) and a Silky Oak, are established around the centre. These trees appear to relate to the infant welfare centre's 1970s introduction to this location.



Figure 144 Emely Baker Infant Welfare Centre viewed from the north-west

3.10.3 *Alfred Crescent Pavilion*

The Alfred Crescent Pavilion was constructed in 2010 to design of Clarke Hopkins Clarke Architects to replace an earlier pavilion constructed in 1977.

The Alfred Crescent Sports Pavilion comprises an elongated butterfly roof form which incorporates a curve at its southern end. The roof is clad in sheet metal with a masonry walls and coloured cladding panels to the ground level. The skillion roofs form a clerestory (Figure 145).

The main entrance is located on the western side through paired glazed doors, with roller shutter doors on the north and east elevations, and timber panel doors on the south and west elevations. The southern end of the pavilion incorporates a curved element with timber panelling and public toilets accessible from the exterior of the building. Internally the building includes change rooms, a social room and kiosk. The pavilion is tenanted by the Fitzroy Junior Football Club and the Edinburgh Cricket Club.



Figure 145 Alfred Crescent Sports Pavilion

3.10.4 Public toilets

Constructed in early 2014, this toilet block replaced the toilet block constructed in 1972 that was in this location.

Located in the north-west corner of the gardens, the toilet block is an undistinguished, utilitarian structure with a sheet metal and clear plastic sheet skillion roof, on steel supports with contemporary corrugated sheet metal cladding to the walls (Figure 146). The exterior has been painted in a decorative design.



Figure 146 Modern toilet facilities located in the north-western section of the gardens

3.10.5 Queen Victoria Plinth and garden

A statue of Queen Victoria (Figure 147) was presented to the citizens of Fitzroy by MLC, George Godfrey, following Queen Victoria's death in 1901, one of many such commemorative memorials erected throughout the British Empire as a tribute to her more than sixty years on the Throne. The statue was erected on a tall plinth amidst a circular garden setting.

The MMBW Plan No. 50, depicting the northern half of the Gardens, does not show the diagonal path layout and circular bed which accommodated the memorial, although both are shown in the 1905 plan of the Gardens, consistent with their construction in the intervening period.

An early photograph of the statue shows a setting of what appears to be Chinese Windmill Palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) and round leaf shrubs, camellias or perhaps roses, enclosed by a low iron fence.

The statue, reportedly constructed of timber and plaster, is thought to have disappeared in the 1930s, although the plinth, circular garden beds and surrounding paths were retained. North-east and south-west diagonal paths were removed sometime after 1966, possibly during the 1970s.

The Queen Victoria Plinth comprises a cement rendered pedestal with moulded cornice and a stepped base, located to the centre of the circular garden bed. The south face of the plinth contains a small raised panel, to which a plaque is affixed.

In 1991 Council restored the circular bed to a design by Patrick and Wallace, based on historic photographs of the feature. The design included reinstatement of a sympathetic iron fence and a low clipped Box (*Buxus sempervirens*) hedge. These elements have since been removed, although the bed continues to be maintained as a mass planted display garden.

The addition of new sculptures to the plinth commenced in 2017 in the form of an ongoing series of temporary commissioned installations commissioned by local artists.

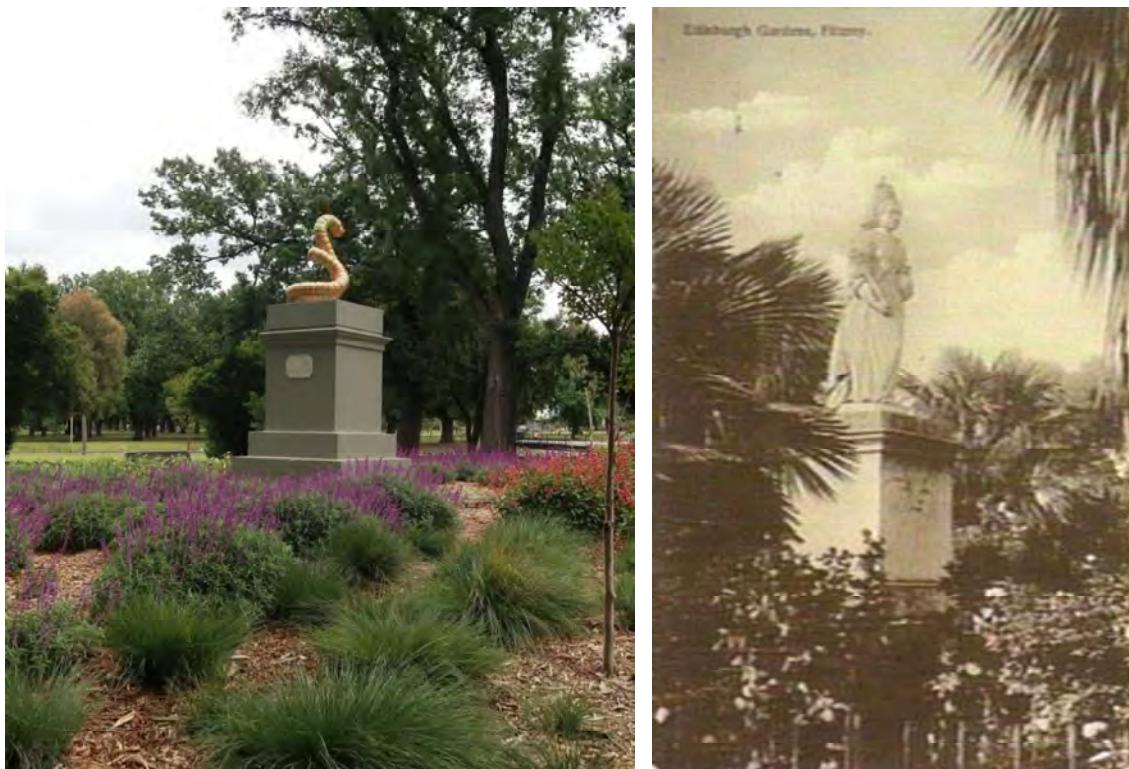


Figure 147 Queen Victoria Plinth with temporary commissioned sculpture (left) and original statue c. 1910 (right)

Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection

3.10.6 *Cook Memorial*

The Cook Memorial (Figure 148) was installed in October 1937 at 'the left of the pavilion entrance to the cricket ground';²⁴⁵ this referred to the original location of the entrance pavilion between the two grandstands (Figure 149 and Figure 150), before this was relocated in the 1980s. The monument was subsequently moved to the Rowe Street entrance to the Edinburgh Gardens; the date of this relocation has not been ascertained but may have corresponded with the 1980s redevelopment of the sporting precinct and the relocation of the entrance pavilion.

The monument consists of a bronze relief portrait of the British Captain James Cook and a series of further plaques affixed to a low granite plinth. A second bronze relief, depicting the Endeavour, Cook's ship on the 1770 voyage, was originally affixed below the portrait (Figure 151), but was removed sometime prior to 2003.

The bronze portrait (Figure 152) was produced by Fitzroy resident J.A. Heyman, and was based upon the 1776 Nathaniel Dunce painting of Cook which is in the collection of the Royal Maritime Museum in the U.K. The NGV collection includes a painted copy of the Dunce work, produced by the Australian painter E. Phillips Fox in 1891 and gifted to the gallery in 1906, while an 1837 engraved print made from the original painting is in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra. The depiction of the Endeavour was said to have been based upon an engraved print exhibited at the National Gallery of Victoria in the 1930s.²⁴⁶

J.A. Heyman (1855-1939) was a sculptor and art metal manufacturer of Danish descent who settled in Fitzroy in the 1920s. Heyman became a prolific benefactor of local institutions, contributing money to various civic and philanthropic causes in both Melbourne and Fitzroy, as well as gifting various bronze relief sculptures he had manufactured.²⁴⁷

The monument is a late entry in a series of idiosyncratic works undertaken to commemorate Cook at the 1930s centenary of the Victorian colony. Cook's first sighting of the Australian mainland in 1770 was reported to have occurred off Point Hicks in far East Gippsland, although the voyage did not land in Victoria and the explorer did not return to the area prior to his later death at Hawaii in 1779. The location and nature of Cook's initial sighting of the Australian mainland have also been disputed.

In the 1920s, the Australian government had erected a granite obelisk at Point Hicks (then known as Cape Everard) to commemorate the sighting. In 1934, to honour the Victorian centenary, the industrialist Sir Russell Grimwade funded the purchase and relocation of a cottage once occupied by Cook's parents, from Great Ayton, North Yorkshire to a site within the Fitzroy Gardens, Melbourne, and the erection of a copy of the Point Hicks obelisk in place of the cottage at its original location in the UK.

The monument by J.A. Heyman was a late entry to this period of interest, and had been intended to serve as an interpretive element at Cook's Cottage in the Fitzroy Gardens. Although his offer to create the monument was initially accepted by Melbourne City Council, once manufactured the Melbourne council's Parks and Gardens Committee rejected it as 'much too big and unsuitable for erection in Cook's cottage,' and 'much too like a tombstone.'²⁴⁸

Heyman subsequently offered the Cook Memorial to the Fitzroy City Council, which accepted it and elected to have it erected in Edinburgh Gardens.²⁴⁹



Figure 148 Cook Memorial, current location at Rowe Street entrance along the gardens' east boundary

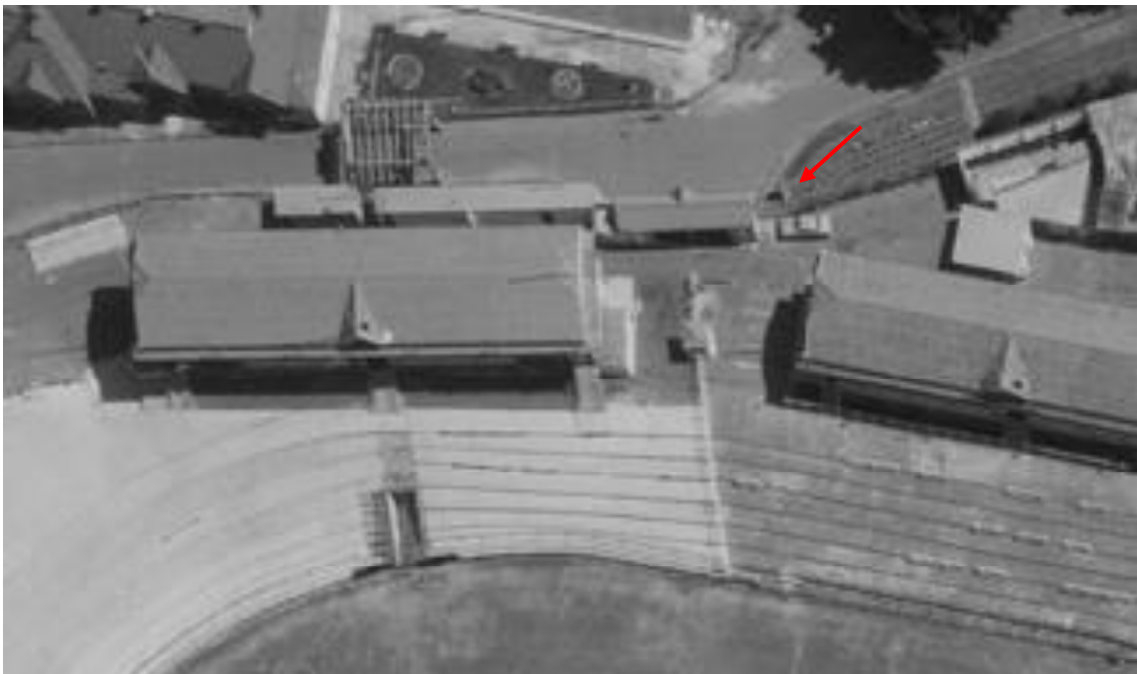


Figure 149 Detail from 1969 aerial photograph; the Cook Memorial can be seen in its original location beside the entrance pavilion to the Brunswick Street Oval (red arrow)
Source: Victorian Land Registry Services



Figure 150 Detail, c. late 1930s-40s oblique aerial photograph, showing the original location of the Cook Memorial (red arrow) to the left of the timber entrance pavilion in its original position

Source: State Library of Victoria

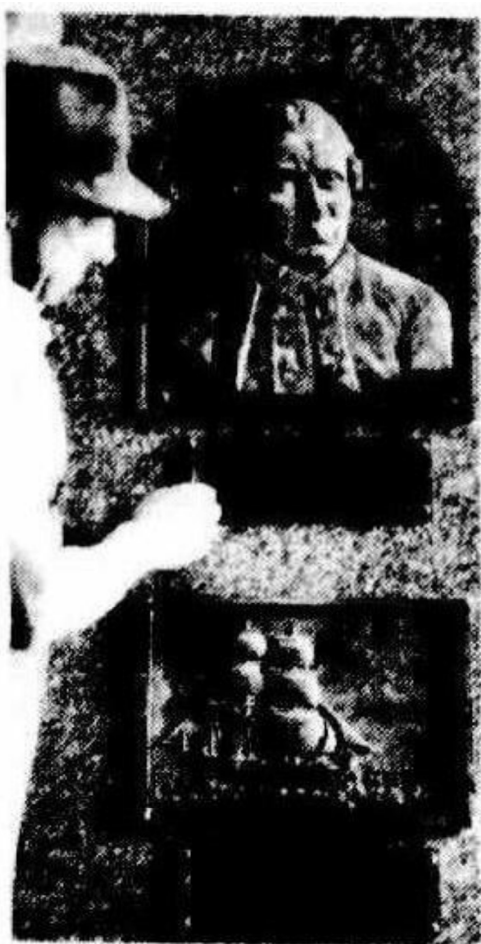


Figure 151 Original format of the Cook Memorial, featuring a second bronze relief plaque depicting *Endeavour*

Source: *Herald*, 25 January 1937, p.3



Figure 152 Detail of bronze relief portrait produced by A.J. Heyman in 1936

3.11 Miscellaneous landscape features

3.11.1 Drainage and water-handling

Bluestone pitcher drains and gutters

An open concrete drain with bluestone pitcher edging runs north-south along the eastern perimeter of the tennis courts and the oval. The open drain, lined with bluestone, is believed to have been constructed in c. 1945 when the path along the side of the tennis courts and cricket oval was relocated further east.

A V-shaped bluestone gutter is also present on the curving path that runs between Alfred Crescent and Freeman Street.



Figure 153 Open drain lined with concrete and edged with bluestone pitchers



Figure 154 V-shaped bluestone gutter on the path between Alfred Crescent and Freeman Street

Stormwater filtration garden

The stormwater filtration garden (Figure 155) is an engineered landscape consisting of a series of concrete and steel terraces and edge walls, a steel channel and planted wetland filtration beds. It was designed by GHD Ltd and installed in 2012 as a joint project undertaken by the City of Yarra and Melbourne Water.

Also referred to as the Edinburgh Gardens Raingarden, the facility diverts captured stormwater from the North Fitzroy Main Drain to a surface filtration garden, where the water is filtered through plants and filter media and UV treated (by exposure to sunlight) before being stored in a 200 kilolitre (kL) underground tank to the east. Water from the underground tank is recycled into the gardens irrigation system.

The design of the garden is a contemporary piece of landscape infrastructure executed in an abstract style, with a series of jagged, angular forms defined by the structural components of the beds (Figure 156). Although adjacent to several major paths, no furnishings, secondary pathways or other human components were included in the design as constructed. Partly as a consequence of this, and in contrast to both the formal order of the surrounding avenues and the rigour of the stormwater garden's internal physical plan, the installation feels informal, and may be perceived as unfinished or neglected. In contrast to the original plan, vegetation in some bays of the garden is also sparse, a condition stemming either from operational issues (prolonged flood conditions in the lower bays due to mechanical failure) or the prevailing regime of inundation and drought having proven unsuitable to the success of some of the plantings.



Figure 155 Edinburgh Gardens stormwater garden

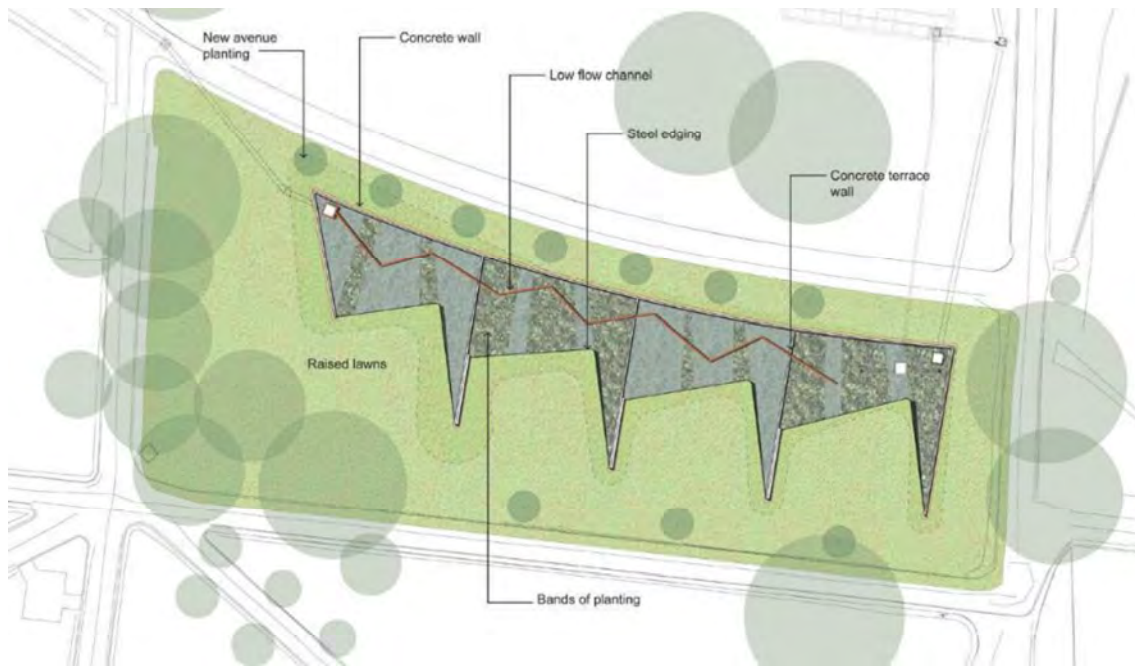


Figure 156 Stormwater garden concept plan by GHD Ltd (c. 2012)
Source: landezine.com

3.11.2 Boundary edges

Like other inner suburban parks, parts of the boundary of Edinburgh Gardens are retained behind walls and kerb edges. These edges are less systematically employed than at some comparable reserves, apparently representing several phases of development in response to changing adjacent conditions and evolving needs for greater formality in the reserve boundaries. At Edinburgh Gardens, substantial volumes of new fill were introduced to many areas through the deposit of night-soil, street sweepings and other refuse and to facilitate the construction of the main drain and railway. Over time, the surrounding roadways would also have been reengineered to modern standards.

Notable boundary edges including the bluestone pitcher retaining wall to the southern part of Alfred Crescent (south of the Alfred Crescent Oval), and the low bluestone pitcher kerb edge to the footpath on parts of St Georges Road and Alfred Crescent in the gardens' north-west. Crenelated bluestone edging is present along one section of Alfred Crescent, to either side of the former railway corridor. In other areas, such as the section of Alfred Crescent from Falconer Street to Grant Street, there is no defined edge (and no footpath) other than the concrete road kerb.



Figure 157 Bluestone retaining wall and gutter along the edge of Alfred Crescent adjacent to the south playground



Figure 158 Crenelated bluestone edge to section of Alfred Crescent adjacent to the former railway corridor



Figure 159 Mortared bluestone pitcher kerb to the west edge of the gardens at St Georges Road

3.11.3 Path lighting and former electrical poles

Most of the major paths through Edinburgh Gardens have been lit with electric night lighting since the 1910s. The initial installation used overhead wiring on timber poles, many of which remain along the garden paths (Figure 163) although underground electrical conduit subsequently replaced the overhead wires.

The need to establish clearances to the former overhead lines would have required a different pruning regime for avenue trees, as well as removal of certain trees – a 1913 letter to the *Herald* decried the removal of a Southern Mahogany Gum (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) to make room for an electric light wire.²⁵⁰

The current complement of lighting is modern in nature, mounted on metal posts and generally post-dating the undergrounding of electrical conduit in the gardens (completed in the c. 2000s). A range of luminaire styles and lighting types are represented (Figures 118-120), with an incoherent selection of several different luminaires often found on the same section of path.

Three arm-mounted electric lamps on repurposed c. nineteenth-century cast iron gas lamp standards were formerly located in vicinity of the Memorial Rotunda. These lamps were erected around the time that the rotunda was constructed in the 1920s, having been laid out to provide night lighting to garden beds and seating areas established around the rotunda. The electric luminaires had been replaced at least once with a different form of cowl and fixture. Electric wiring had been provided by way of basic timber poles strung through to reach the location. The cast iron standards were removed in c. 2014; it is not known if these standards were retained and repurposed by City of Yarra.

Four reproduction aluminium light standards designed to mimic older gas lamps were trialled in the western part of the gardens during the 1980s. The assessment of the 1987 *Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study* (Landform Pty Ltd) was that these 'introduce[d] a fussy, false-historical detail to the park which is undesirable and unnecessary. It is questionable whether they will prove to be sufficiently robust in the long-term.' While at least one of these standards remained in place in 2004, all have subsequently been removed.

It is noted that no evidence has been identified that gas lighting standards were ever used widely in the Edinburgh Gardens; it is considered that the first extensive lighting of the paths and gardens was likely achieved with electric light.



Figure 160 Modern LED-based saucer luminaire



Figure 161 Conical lantern-style luminaire with green casing; a slightly different model is visible on the nearby post to left rear



Figure 162 Fluorescent tube luminaire



Figure 163 One of the numerous timber poles that are a remnant of the previous system of overhead wiring

3.11.4 Sundry Items (Seating, Signage, Furniture, Bollards)

The sundry furniture and signage throughout the Gardens are predominantly of recent origin.

Bollards

In a number of locations, modern removable bollards (steel and timber) control vehicular access to the gardens' paths from the surrounding roadways.

However, one cast iron decorative bollard is present on the entrance to Avenue B from St George's Road. The bollard is a 'Fitzroy Council Bollard', a heritage-style casting topped with a decorative orb that continues to be produced by Furphy's Foundry in Shepparton. The 'Fitzroy Council Bollard' is included in Yarra's streetscape standards, which specify its use in 'locations where a more traditional appearance is important, in particular in historical gardens.'²⁵¹

The remaining bollard appears to be missing its base skirting segment. A second 'Fitzroy Council Bollard' formerly present at this entrance (Figure 131) was removed between 2010-2016, this too had either been installed with the base buried below the asphalt, or was also missing its lower skirt.

The 2004 CMP records similar bollards in use at one other entrance: the Napier Street entrance to the park (the realigned Avenue A.1, constructed in the 1930s) where white-painted Fitzroy Council Bollards were used in lawn to the side of the path, while removable bollards in a somewhat similar but generic style were used on the path.

The Napier Street entrance was reconstructed c. 2006 in conjunction with development of the adjacent private property and the establishment of a perimeter path linking Alfred Crescent to this entrance, it is

presumed that the heritage-style 'Fitzroy Council Bollards' were removed from this location at that time, as Google Street View imagery from 2009 shows the updated entrance with timber removable bollards.

It appears likely that the bollards at both entrances, including the surviving example, were a 'heritage' style employed in the latter half of the twentieth century, rather than early or original fabric.

Furnishings

Furnishings consistent primarily of one type of timber park bench with steel frame (Figure 164). The design is classic in appearance without reading as faux old-fashioned.

Other types of bench seating are present in the clubs areas and at the oval.

Miscellaneous amenities

Adjoining the northern playground is a recent BBQ and drinking fountain constructed of coursed bluestone.

A small number of early cast-iron bollards remain at entrances to the gardens in addition to later cast iron bollards of a simpler design. Other, intrusive, bollard designs include painted treated pine posts and contemporary removable painted steel bollards. A galvanised steel pipe gate is located at the vehicular entrance point to the depot off Alfred Crescent and across the Brunswick Street vehicular entrance to the Gardens, south of the bowling club.

Rubbish bins are housed within perforated steel enclosures (Figure 165) of a contemporary design or in timber enclosures (Figure 166) with a similar, contemporary profile; however these in many areas are supplemented by additional wheeled bins without enclosures in order to address heavy demand.

Electrical sub-boards throughout the park are also housed within plain, powdercoated steel cupboards.

In addition to the above-mentioned sundry items, are a relatively large number of what would appear to be surplus timber and steel posts, poles, and concrete pad footings which appear redundant.

Signage

The gardens contain a variety of current and former signage, including statutory, instruction and interpretation signage of various eras and materials. In some cases, there are signage frames for interpretation that are missing their signage panels. In general, the visual impact of signage in the gardens is very minor, and in many parts of the gardens little or no signage intrudes on the appreciation of the landscape.

Where present, signage is of a relatively recent origin and typical construction. Statutory signs are generally of standard design and fixed to galvanised steel poles with small steel signage panels. Minor instructional signage (ie. signage instructing visitors to keep out of horticultural garden beds) is delivered in a generic, clean style (black text on white field) and at a scale appropriate to the circumstance.

Signage at the entrances is more variable and in some cases presents as informal or relictual.

A small number of interpretative signs on decorative wrought iron pedestals (Figure 167) were introduced in the late 1990s or early 2000s in the vicinity of significant early structures such as the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand, Memorial Rotunda, Queen Victoria Plinth and Chandler Drinking Fountain.



Figure 164 Timber park bench used consistently throughout the Edinburgh Gardens



Figure 165 Steel bin enclosures with supplemental unhoused bins; a redundant older metal post is also present in this location



Figure 166 Timber bin enclosure with supplemental unhoused bins



Figure 167 Existing interpretive signage, believed to date to the late 1990s/early 2000s; some signs are missing the information panel.

3.11.5 Log

A large tree trunk (Figure 168) is situated to the south of the English Oak avenue, on the edge of the Alfred Crescent oval. The history of the log has not been established, however it is of longstanding, being present in aerial photography from 1987 and described and photographed in the 2004 version of this CMP (Figure 169).

A number of large trees were removed from the area to the south in the mid-twentieth century when an ornamental pool and other garden features were removed and the oval enlarged and formalised. The tree may also have been a specimen from the English Oak avenue, the arc of Elm trees that remains from the former Elm Circle, or even from the older avenue of Mahogany Gum of which one specimen survives to the west. Alternatively, the trunk may have originated elsewhere and been placed in this vicinity by staff of the then-City of Fitzroy. The physical evidence for the original species of the living tree has not been examined.

As can be expected of a large untreated tree trunk, the wood also continues to decay through weathering and use as a seat and informal nature play, having lost limbs and grown increasingly cracked and furrowed. It has also been relocated within this vicinity, most recently in c. 2012 when it was relocated several metres south, under the arc of elm trees.



Figure 168 The tree trunk north of Alfred Crescent Oval



Figure 169 The tree trunk in c. 2003, when it was somewhat more intact and located north-west of its current position

4.0 ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Introduction

This chapter assesses the heritage significance of the Edinburgh Gardens and Brunswick Street Oval according to the historical and aesthetic values associated with the site. The approach adopted in this chapter is based on the methodologies outlined in the Practice Note to the Burra Charter 2013, 'Understanding and assessing cultural significance'.²⁵²

The assessment has been informed by the historical research and physical analysis provided in the preceding chapters. A comparative analysis also informs this assessment; this examines sportsgrounds and grandstands in Victoria that are listed on the VHR and compares municipal public gardens in the inner and middle suburbs of Melbourne that are listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) and/or have a heritage overlay (HO).

It is noted that neither a social values assessment nor an assessment of the Aboriginal cultural values has been undertaken for the Edinburgh Gardens. It is evident that the Edinburgh Gardens is a valued place within the local community, as a longstanding public open space within Fitzroy and the City of Yarra. However, determination of whether there are social values that should be recognised as being of heritage significance, with accompanying ramifications for management, would require formal assessment that has not been undertaken as part of this study. Recommendations with respect to social value and Aboriginal and shared values are included in Chapter 6.0.

4.2 Previous assessments

Both the Edinburgh Gardens and the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand (the grandstand) have been assessed for significance on a state and local level in previous assessments.

4.2.1 Heritage Council Victoria

In 1990, the grandstand (VHR H0751) was determined to be of state architectural and cultural significance and included on the then Register of Historic Buildings (now the Victorian Heritage Register). In summary, Heritage Victoria's statement of significance (2000) identifies the grandstand as:

- Historically significant
 - As one of the earliest surviving nineteenth-century examples grandstand in a metropolitan setting
 - For the enduring and continuing association with the development of Australian Rules football and cricket
- Architecturally significant
 - As an example of a 'fine' and intact nineteenth century timber grandstand.²⁵³

4.2.2 City of Yarra

The Edinburgh Gardens has been included in the Schedule to the heritage overlay of the Yarra Planning Scheme as HO213, 'Brunswick Street and Alfred Crescent North Fitzroy Edinburgh Gardens'. No formal statement of significance is known to have been prepared at that time, however past documents and the current HERMES and Victorian Heritage Database listings for the gardens reproduce a 1998 Landscape Citation (John Patrick Pty Ltd). The main points of significance identified in that citation can be summarised as follows:

- Intrinsically linked with local sporting groups and the Fitzroy community generally
- Remnant elements that provide evidence of the site's early land use, including the railway
- Mature tree plantings
- A landscape of 'notable grandeur' within the City of Yarra and a setting for adjacent housing²⁵⁴

4.3 Previous Conservation Management Plan

This assessment of significance draws on an earlier conservation management plan (CMP) completed by Allom Lovell & Associates in association with John Patrick, *Edinburgh Gardens: Brunswick Street North Fitzroy – Conservation Management Plan*, January 2004. The CMP concluded the Edinburgh Gardens was of local historical, social and aesthetic significance:

- Historically significant:
 - Reflects the early municipal council's desire to create a site for public recreation for locals based on the belief that parks provided health benefits for residents and counteracted supposedly unhealthy densely populated inner city living.
 - The park's relationship with its neighbouring streets reflects an approach to town planning that differed to neighbouring suburbs, such as Fitzroy and Collingwood.
 - The park's association with the Deputy Commissioner of the Lands Department, Clement Hodgkinson, who was instrumental in the planning of many of Melbourne's early parks and gardens.
 - The park's circular form is a remnant of early North Fitzroy topography and land use
 - The site's continual use as a public reservation is evident in its planning and physical fabric, including structures for recreational and sporting activities, path networks and plantings.
 - Changes in garden design and plantings demonstrate shifts in aesthetic preferences
- Aesthetically significant:
 - Garden design and plantings, particularly avenues of mature trees
 - A rare example of a formal nineteenth century garden in both Fitzroy and today's City of Yarra
- Socially significant
 - Its enduring use and popularity by local residents for both passive and active recreational activities²⁵⁵

While the 2004 CMP considered the park in its entirety as historically significant it did list some early structures which it deemed significant in their own right. These structures include:

- The 1888 cricket grandstand
 - Historically significant due to its:
 - Intactness
 - Age
 - Enduring association with inner metropolitan cricket and football
 - Its association with AFL, especially when coupled with the oval
- 1902 Queen Victoria Plinth
 - Historically significant for its demonstration of the public's attachment to the monarch
- 1919 Sportsman's Memorial
 - Historically significant as
 - A 'relatively' unusual form of war commemoration
 - Its association with the gardens' sporting clubs
- 1925 Memorial Rotunda
 - Historically significant as a memorial
- Chandler Drinking Fountain
 - Historically significant as a memorial²⁵⁶

An updated statement of significance was prepared as part of the 2004 CMP but does not appear to have been filed in online databases or referred to in the Yarra Planning Scheme. The statement is now considered to be of a form that no longer reflect contemporary heritage practice in Victoria, and references criteria that are no longer in use.

The significance of the place has been substantially reassessed in the current study, and a new statement of significance for the Edinburgh Gardens is provided at section 4.6.

4.4 Comparative Analysis

The historical and aesthetic values of the Edinburgh Gardens relate to design characteristics and their reservation and use for both passive and active recreational activities. The identified architectural and historical values of the grandstand relate to its design characteristics and early date, as well as its sporting associations. The park and grandstand's place within a wider context is discussed below.

4.4.1 Sports grounds and grandstands

From the 1860s, the population influx driven by the gold boom and growing urban and suburban populations drove increased public interest and private expenditure on organised sport. The rise first of local cricket clubs and then of Australian football and of various other sports and games requiring dedicated playing surfaces drove the reservation and improvement of sports ovals and other club grounds throughout Melbourne, its suburbs and regional Victoria.

Public and patron interest drove the construction of dedicated buildings and other structures around many ovals. Grandstands overlooking a town or suburb's primary oval became an essential piece of infrastructure throughout Melbourne and Victoria as cricket and football games attracted large audiences. Some were timber structures with simple details or timber fretwork, with storage facilities or a room or two under the seating. Others were more elaborate and substantial, constructed out of brick, with iron fretwork, decorative roof structures and multiple rooms under the tiered seating, such facilities housed gyms and club meeting rooms. In the case of the Brunswick Street Oval, however, these facilities were housed in auxiliary structures around the grounds.

In Melbourne, Richmond's Punt Road oval dates from 1856 and it is believed the current grandstand is based on the old 'Smoker's Stand' from the MCG (rebuilt 1920s).²⁵⁷ There is little left of the early stands which surrounded the Carlton Oval in Princes Park. The former Lakeside Oval cricket pavilion (1926, Clegg & Morrow), South Melbourne exists, though it now forms part of the Bob Jane Stadium of the South Melbourne Soccer Club. It is presumed that, as larger sporting grounds, that these sites would have also included accommodation for meeting rooms and other facilities.

At some sporting grounds, intensive public spectatorship and club popularity, particularly with the rise of football, also drove further construction of controlled access enclosures (fences, walls and earth embankments) and service structures including ticket booths, entrance gates, toilets and elaborate scoreboards. Early landscape plantings often reflected the prominent public position of the sporting grounds, incorporating exotic trees and garden plantings both in an ornamental role and to provide shelter and climate moderation, particularly from prevailing winds.

Grandstands were more than just raised seating for spectators as they also spoke of the area's prosperity and the community standing of the sporting club. For this reason, some nineteenth century structures were designed by architects demonstrate a level of architectural consideration. For example, Maryborough's Prince's Park cricket grandstand (VHR H1880, Figure 170) was designed c. 1895 by the architectural firm, Thomas Watts and Sons; Stawell's Central Park grandstand (VHR H2284, Figure 171) in 1898 by the Melbourne firm of Kempson and Conolly; and the Camperdown Turf Club grandstand (VHR H2093) by local architect Michael McCabe in 1902-03.²⁵⁸ Often, the grandstand was the most elaborate and substantial building not only on the recreation ground but in the town proper.

Grandstands were frequently modified, relocated or pulled down as needs required, or as the result of the changing nature of spectatorship and participation in organised sports. In the twentieth century, grandstands were extended at Camperdown in 1913 (ten years after it was constructed).²⁵⁹ In some cases, new grandstands replaced earlier structures, like those at St Kilda Cricket Club (VHR H2234) and Collingwood's Victoria Park (VHR H0075).²⁶⁰ Others were moved, such as the Kingston grandstand (VHR H1300) which was built in 1922 but moved to its present location ten years later, or were destroyed by fire, as happened to the Brunswick Oval's 1905 grandstand.²⁶¹

Grandstands were also practical buildings constructed to serve a purpose that frequently expanded over time, whether to seat more people, provide new facilities at ground level or adjust to changing use of the adjoining grounds. In many places, the changing nature of the competition ultimately rendered local grandstands redundant, leading to their decline or removal.



Figure 170 Maryborough Prince's Park Cricket Grandstand (1895)
Source: Heritage Victoria HERMES database



Figure 171 Grandstand (1898) at Central Park, Stawell
Source: Heritage Victoria HERMES database

4.4.2 Grandstand significance

Nineteen places with grandstands have been included in the VHR with three of these, the Melbourne Cricket Ground (VHR H1928), Royal Agricultural Showgrounds (VHR H1329) and Flemington Racecourse (H2220), are not considered here as comparable to the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand because they involve numerous stands and address multiple state and in some cases national values. A fourth, the Olympic Swimming Stadium (VHR H1997) is a closed envelope building containing to its interior two facing terraced stands and central swimming pools, and this presents as a modern and dissimilar architectural typology and era. More relevant comparisons include the municipal and regional grandstands, and these are discussed below.

Waverley Park, Mulgrave (VHR H1883) was a dedicated VFL/AFL oval and grandstand opened in 1970, which was a major milestone in the development of the sport into a commercial and eventually national competition. The oval and grandstand were constructed together, and the oval has been specifically cited for its architectural and engineering significance. The registration followed the cessation of the site's use in professional competition. Waverley Park is of historical, social and architectural significance at a state level.

Central Park, Stawell (VHR H2284) is a town reserve established in the 1860s as a cricket ground, but whose prominence increased after the Stawell Gift short distance running race was moved to the site in 1898. The grandstand and oval are set within ornamental gardens containing race-related monuments as well as two brick ticket offices. The entirety of the reserve has been identified as being of historical and social significance, with the 1898 grandstand recognised for its architectural significance.

Victoria Park, Collingwood (VHR H0075) was purchased by the City of Collingwood c. 1878 for use as a recreational reserve. The Collingwood Football Club was formed in 1892 and used the site continuously in the evolving state and national competition until 1999, with the extant grandstands and other buildings on the site date to the 1920s through the 1990s. The reserve was registered for its historical and social significance, stemming from its associations with the Collingwood Football Club. The collection of grandstands was also identified as being of architectural significance at the state level as representative examples of the scale, extent and visual effect of the facilities developed at a suburban major football league ground during the twentieth century.

St Kilda Cricket Ground, St Kilda (VHR H2234), also known as the Junction Oval, was established in 1856 and became the home ground of the St Kilda Football Club in 1873. In addition to hosting the highest league football play until 1965 (and then again from 1970-84), the oval was one of Melbourne's prestige cricket ovals, playing host to important matches when the MCG was unavailable. It has two extant grandstands, constructed in 1926 and 1934. The ground also includes a manually operated timber scoreboard dating to 1957, extensive concrete terracing and grass embankments, and extensive collections of memorabilia relating to its historical and ongoing use for club cricket and football. St Kilda Cricket Ground is of historical, architectural and social significance at a state level.

Prince's Park, Maryborough (VHR H1880) is an extensive ornamental and recreation reserve established around a cricket club oval. The oval was reserved in 1857 and a grandstand relocated to the site in the 1860s; the extant grandstand was constructed in 1895. An extensive ornamental reserve was developed by the town around that core sporting precinct from the 1860s, including the 1880s excavation of an ornamental lake, with a variety of works undertaken with the advice or assistance of Clement Hodgkinson (1860s), William Guilfoyle (1880s) and Hugh Linaker (c. 1939). The reserve includes a collection of original buildings and structures, including the 1885 fence and gates (later modified as a WW1 memorial), stone drains (1881-1886), a band rotunda (1905), ticket office (1908), bridge (1909), toilet and swimming pool (1940, separately registered), along with an extensive collection of ornamental tree plantations and rare specimen trees. The nineteenth century municipal recreation reserve is of historical, architectural, aesthetic, scientific (botanical) and social significance at a state level.

Comment

The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is a particularly early example of the type in Melbourne and Victoria and is of heritage significance to Victoria primarily on that basis. As tested here and below, that significance rests largely in the grandstand structure itself. There is little in the surrounding sporting precinct that relates directly to the identified significance of the grandstand as a rare and somewhat intact 1888 grandstand structure.

The subject grandstand, constructed in 1888, remains one of the oldest extant grandstands in Victoria, and retains elements consistent with its original design and construction. With reference to the small number of comparative registrations with a pre-1900 construction date, the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is atypical for its metropolitan context and association with the highest levels of club football; other nineteenth century grandstands are generally located in country Victoria and were either constructed for horseracing or were generally associated with local cricket and football rather than higher level competition. If evaluated against contemporary criteria, it is considered that the structure, remains a place of architectural and historical significance as a nineteenth century timber grandstand and one of the earliest such grandstands remaining in the metropolitan area.

Other historical associations are identified in the Heritage Victoria statement of significance; the structure is said to have an enduring association with inner metropolitan football and cricket and stands 'as an important reminder of the contribution made by Fitzroy to the history of Australian football in Victoria.' These statements remain true in the local context, as associations that contribute to the

structure's local heritage significance within the City of Yarra. However, it is considered that these associations would be unlikely to meet the modern test for heritage significance at the state level, in the sense that the association with the development of club football is not one that would be understood better at the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand than most other places in Victoria with the same associations. The other nineteenth century VHR-registered VFL/AFL ovals (Victoria Park and St Kilda) would be evaluated as exhibiting this association much more strongly on the basis of the extent of their retained (albeit evolved) fabric and their strong and continuing association with high-level play.

Indeed, the fact that the 1888 (and 1905) grandstands at the Fitzroy Cricket Club oval were not ultimately replaced with more modern structures by the mid-twentieth century serves to illustrate the limitations of the physical ground and the organisations that managed it. Ultimately, these limitations meant that the association of high-level football with this place was unable to be maintained as the competition evolved into a larger enterprise in the 1950s and 1960s.

Further to this, fabric which would otherwise have made legible the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand's association with the evolution of Australian football in the first half of the twentieth century was also largely removed in the 1980s redevelopment of the oval for community oval. In contrast, at several of the other professional ovals such fabric—including twentieth century grandstands, auxiliary buildings, terracing and embankments, and infrastructure such as races/tunnels—remains extant, as at Victoria Park and St Kilda, as well as at Glenferrie Oval Grandstand, Hawthorn (VHR H0890 - not all of which is included in the VHR), and at the Princes Park Oval, Carlton North (HO control) and at the Whitten (Western) Oval in Footscray (no statutory heritage control).

While the grandstand is assessed as retaining its significance at the state level, that state-level significance is concentrated in the building and does not extend to other elements of the extant place.

4.4.3 *Municipal sporting precincts*

While the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand has been registered on the VHR for its association with the evolution of club football, the cricket club itself played a major role in the development of the south-west precinct of the Edinburgh Gardens and in the concentration of a variety of recreational clubs and facilities in this location.

As identified in the additional historical research carried out for this CMP, local interest in identifying a site for a cricket oval drove the initial 1862 creation of Edinburgh Gardens as a recreation reserve, and development of sporting ovals and other club facilities predated the formal development of the public gardens by more than 15 years. Available space, financial and managerial resources and shared membership led to the concentration of other sporting clubs in this precinct from the 1870s through the 1890s, including not only the lawn bowls and tennis clubs that still occupy the site but also at times quoits and baseball.

Until the 1960s, most of the south-west quadrant of the Edinburgh Gardens remained under the management of the Fitzroy Cricket Club or by delegation the bowls and tennis clubs. Not simply concerned with playing facilities, in the early years these clubs carried out various works to garden and beautify the grounds of the sporting precinct, including installing plants supplied by the botanical gardens curator Ferdinand von Mueller. The social presence and aspirations of the club associations, individually and in aggregate, was also expressed in the development by club members of various structures within the precinct, including the Sportsman's Memorial, Memorial Rotunda, and the Chandler Drinking Fountain.

Participation in the development of local sporting clubs was not restricted to Fitzroy; this historical theme played out across Melbourne's suburbs (and in regional Victoria). Not every suburb developed a concentrated cluster of club facilities: the availability of public reserve land, the financial and political

resources of club members, and individual development histories all appear to have influenced whether sports facilities clustered together or occupied individual sites across the community. In many cases, early club facilities, whether located individually or in clusters, also did not survive changes in participation rates and public and private aspirations for the use of the land they occupied, so that the distribution of these places is different now than it was in the early twentieth century.

The significance of the sporting precinct at Edinburgh Gardens has been recognised through the larger reserve's inclusion in the heritage overlay of the Yarra Planning Scheme; the revised history and assessment of the site included in this CMP updates and reinforces recognition of the precinct's heritage values, with implications for the management of Edinburgh Gardens as a local heritage place.

Throughout Melbourne, a number of similar reserves have also been recognised as places of local heritage significance under the heritage overlay. In these reserves, various public and/or club sports facilities developed together, often in an ornamental context:

- Brunswick Park (Moreland HO184)
- Caulfield Park (Glen Eira HO4 – ornamental gardens only)
- Coburg Oval (Moreland HO31)
- Maribyrnong Park (Moonee Valley HO4)
- Oldis Gardens and Northcote Cricket Ground (Darebin HO197)

Other reserves, such as Elsternwick Park in Elwood, have a similar history but have not received a heritage listing.

Among these places, the sporting precinct at Edinburgh Gardens stands out as a comparatively early example, with club development having taken place from the 1860s and reached its zenith in the 1890s.

At the state level, the following comparable places have been included in the VHR.

- Benalla Botanical Gardens and Art Gallery (VHR H2260)
- Stawell's Central Park (VHR H2284)
- Fawkner Park (VHR H2361)
- HV Mackay Memorial Gardens (VHR H1953)
- Wattle Park (VHR H0904)

Benalla Botanical Gardens and Art Gallery are a nineteenth century town reserve which combines ornamental plantings and recreational facilities in a 5-hectare site. The reserve includes a central oval, tennis courts (c. 1880s) and clubhouse, a 1960s grandstand, a band rotunda, and a variety of memorials and other elements, as well as an ornamental garden layout by Alfred Sangwell and a variety of rare tree plantings. A bowls club was once also present, but relocated. The reserve has been identified as being of historical significance as an important example of a regional botanical garden, and as a rare and intact example of the work of Alfred Sangwell in Victoria; the unusual nature of the reserve, which 'successfully combines a recreation oval with a nineteenth century ornamental garden' is noted.

Central Park, Stawell has been discussed above. The recognised historical and social values of the reserve and its constituent elements relate to its association with the Stawell Gift, Australia's oldest, richest and most prestigious running race, which has been held at the site since 1898.

Fawkner Park, South Yarra was a nineteenth century 'outer ring' park established by Charles La Trobe and formally developed from 1875 by MCC curator Nicholas Bickford. It includes a large number of ovals and other playing fields, tennis courts and various caretaker and amenity buildings, however none of the sports grounds at Fawkner appear to have had a specific association with sporting clubs or were otherwise improved with member or spectator facilities. The relevance of Fawkner Park's state

registration for historical and aesthetic significance is discussed in greater detail with respect to the Edinburgh Gardens as a whole at 4.4.4.

HV Mackay Memorial Gardens, Sunshine was a workers amenity developed as part of the Sunshine Harvester Works, an industrial suburb designed on garden city principles. It included extensive ornamental planting as well as bandstand (no longer extant), tennis courts (no longer extant) and bowling green. It was recognised at the state level for its historical significance as an integral part of an industrial complex of national importance, for its association with HV Mackay, as an early, rare and intact privately funded garden, and as an early and rare example of the application of garden city planning principles. The site was also identified as being of social significance for its community role as a reminder of the industrial activity that was formerly at the centre of community life, and of aesthetic significance in the landscape, although it is noted that tests for these criteria have evolved considerably since its registration in 2001 and whether this site would still be considered to meet the threshold for recognition on social and aesthetic grounds is not known.

Prince's Park, Maryborough is also described above. It has been described as the finest example of a nineteenth century municipal reserve in Victoria.

Wattle Park, Burwood was a recreational parkland developed by the Hawthorn Tramways Trust, combining an ornamental pleasure garden and chalet with recreational facilities including sporting oval, tennis courts and golf course. The site has a long history of associations with sporting clubs and social organisations, as well as a tradition of memorial and commemorative tree planting, including the earliest documented 'Lone Pine' planting in Victoria.

Comment

The concentration of public and club sporting facilities in early suburban reserves was a relatively common phenomenon during Melbourne's expansion, often for practical reasons but also sometimes as a result of social factors. In general, this form of local sports development has not been ascribed state-level heritage significance. Comparative sites that have been included in the VHR are generally distinguished by being associated with particularly rare patterns of development (industrial estates, company-owned pleasure gardens) or as particularly fine examples of municipals reserves combining ornamental features and recreational facilities; other grounds are viewed as unlikely to satisfy historical criteria at the state level, as these were relatively common and rarely of individual note in the state's history.

Although unrecognised at the state level, the question of whether a municipal recreational reserve might merit registration on the basis of its representational value (as demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place) bears some consideration. In that case, the place would need to meet the criteria and threshold guidelines established by the Heritage Council of Victoria:

- A class of places with a clear association with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, important person, custom or way of life in Victoria's history
- The event, phase etc being of historical importance, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria
- The principal characteristics of the class are evident in the physical fabric of the place
- The place being a notable example of the class in Victoria – that is a fine example, a highly intact example, an influential example or a pivotal example.

The sporting precinct at the Edinburgh Gardens is a comparatively early example of the clustering of recreational facilities that would become much more common in suburban parks developed in the early twentieth century. However, most of the original fabric of club pavilions, gymnasias and other supporting structures, and the precinct's original and early landscaping, were removed or replaced with

more modern facilities over the course of the twentieth century, limiting the precinct's ability to stand as a fine or intact example of the type.

Little evidence has been seen that the Fitzroy precinct was recognised as an important or precedential site outside of the City of Fitzroy, or that the particular pattern of club consolidation that occurred at the sporting precinct in Edinburgh Gardens was notable in the state context. On this second point, the precinct appears to have been shaped and ultimately limited by the nature and constraints imposed by the 'grandfathered' clubs allotment that had been established in the south-west part of Edinburgh Gardens by permissive occupancy in the 1860s, a quirk of the local development and planning context without wider application or effect.

As listed above, there are a number of other suburban recreation reserves, dating from the 1900s-1920s, which have been recognised in local heritage overlays and contain a similar (and sometimes broader) collection of sporting grounds and club facilities. The Edinburgh Gardens sporting precinct no longer includes early or original bowling club pavilions, or most of the buildings and infrastructure (gymnasias, etc.) associated with the cricket and football clubs, and the tennis club grounds have been the subject of recurring reorganisation.

In this context, a number of the suburban reserves listed above, although developed later, may be considered to demonstrate a level of integrity and coherence that surpasses the Edinburgh Gardens sports precinct, and would be more likely to be recognised as representative examples at the state level.

That the precinct does not appear to have heritage significance at the state level should not take away from its substantial local significance. Sporting club organisations and the facilities they built were a notable influence on the development of the Edinburgh Gardens and the communities of Fitzroy and Fitzroy North that they served. These values are appropriately recognised at the local level through the heritage overlay.

4.4.4 *Public parks and gardens*

Parks for public use began appearing in England in the nineteenth century and were designed to provide 'breathing spaces and recreation grounds for the people' in increasingly urbanised towns and cities.²⁶² It was generally believed that there was a strong need for green spaces, particularly in industrial towns. Initially, however, these were funded through patronage rather than by the government. In 1843, Birkenhead Park was established outside Liverpool in the hope that 'the congestion and drudgery of factories and docks would in some measure be offset by an open place reflecting country-type scenery'.²⁶³ The parks movement caught on and a year later the first government-funded London park was laid out. Industrialists' concerns for the health and happiness of their workers was shown in the development of the 'Garden Villages' (1879) of Bourneville by the Cadbury Brothers, and also of Port Sunlight (1887), near Liverpool by the Lever Brothers. This principle was developed further by Ebenezer Howard in his 'Garden Cities' proposal of 1898, whereby it was concluded that public parks should be developed within towns which included ample recreation grounds within easy access of all the people.²⁶⁴

The idea of public gardens was embraced by the founders of Melbourne who frequently made provision for public reserves when laying out patterns of subdivision and urban development.²⁶⁵ The most obvious manifestation of this in the metropolitan area is the ring of gardens which encircle the City of Melbourne. These gardens, the Domain and the Alexandra, Carlton, Fitzroy, Treasury and Flagstaff Gardens, were laid out on an ornamental basis by leading surveyors, engineers, landscape gardeners and nurserymen.²⁶⁶ To varying degrees the gardens have retained the qualities of their original designs, which for the most part are characterised by strong avenue plantings.²⁶⁷ The planning of gardens is largely credited to Charles Joseph La Trobe, superintendent of the Port Phillip District and Victoria's first

lieutenant-governor, who was 'instrumental' in reserving 'large tracts of land' from sale for public benefit.²⁶⁸

The drive to construct public gardens in the urban environment continued into the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the development of the public health movement in Victoria brought renewed concerns for 'fresh air' and improved methods of sanitation. Public recreational space was increased in Melbourne's inner suburbs where unhealthy industrial practices and overcrowded streets were feared by public health professionals and government policy makers.²⁶⁹ Parks were seen as the 'lungs' of the inner suburbs and were therefore an essential component of the town layout. Consequently, parks and open recreational spaces proliferated throughout the inner ring of Melbourne suburbs during this period.

In many instances, Crown land was reserved for recreational purposes at the time of survey or early development. Northcote's Oldis Gardens, East Melbourne's Yarra Park and South Yarra's Fawkner Park were reserved in the 1860s. In the ensuing decades, some parks were established on former clay or quarry sites, such as Methven Park in Brunswick, Burnley Gardens in Burnley and Yarra Bend Park in Fairfield. As Melbourne suburban edge expanded, parks were established in the next band of development from the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, including in St Kilda East (Alma Park), St Kilda (Catani Gardens), Albert Park (St Vincent Gardens), Caulfield (Caulfield Park), Elwood (Elsternwick Park), Footscray (Footscray Park), Hawthorn (St James Park and Central Gardens), and Malvern (Central Park, Malvern Public Gardens). In many cases, these reserves combined ornamental paths and gardens with the increasing provision of sports ground and other recreational facilities.

Nineteenth century 'pleasure gardens' developed as another style of park but were less common. One example of a 'pleasure garden' is the former Cremorne Gardens (now demolished) in Richmond which was founded by James Ellis. The gardens comprised:

four hectares of ornamental planting among which were set out attractions that included a theatre, menageries, artificial lake, maze, pavilion for dancing, fountains, grottoes and bowling alleys.²⁷⁰

In 1863, the site became part of a private mental asylum. The gardens closed in 1963 to make way for a new road network.²⁷¹ Burwood's Wattle Park is an early twentieth century example of the evolution of the privately developed pleasure garden, with an increased emphasis on sporting facilities and civic monuments.

From the inception of the urban park in nineteenth century Australia, public spaces accommodated both passive and active recreational activities, a movement which was being paralleled throughout the western world. One of the earliest English examples, the 'People's Park' in Birkenhead, included 'an open field of clean, bright, green-sward, closely mowed' for the playing of cricket, as well as an archery ground.²⁷² These attractions were immediately popular and were adopted enthusiastically, with the exception of botanical gardens which remained the preserve of the genteel, despite often being set aside as a 'botanic garden and recreation reserve'.²⁷³

By 1900, the expanding suburbs of Australian cities saw much park building and it became standard practice to outfit parks with recreational facilities of some type.²⁷⁴ Amenities for passive leisure pursuits included rotundas and pavilions for open air concerts, kiosks for food and beverage consumption, drinking fountains, seating, commemorative monuments and ponds or lakes. Path networks, avenues of trees, landscaped gardens and lawned areas further facilitated such activities.

Facilities for active recreational activities proliferated in many parks. For example, the straightening of the Yarra River near Princes Bridge and the creation of the Alexandra Gardens and parklands enabled

the establishment of paths for walking, cycling and horse riding, as well as facilities for rowing. As a consequence of the newfound zeal for amateur sport, municipal ovals and sporting facilities were established in parks. Many combined facilities for cricket and football with lawn bowls, croquet, tennis, and golf. Elwood's Elsternwick Park evolved from a swampy marsh containing a horseracing track to a grassed park in 1905 with tennis courts, bowling green, golf course, athletics track and cricket oval complete with grandstand.

Within the present City of Yarra, Edinburgh Gardens is one of a few mid to late nineteenth century planned garden spaces. These include Clifton Hill's Darling Gardens (c. 1862), North Carlton's small Curtain Square (1868), and Richmond's Barkly Gardens; within the municipality, Edinburgh Gardens is the largest of these nineteenth century reserves, but was less intensively planned and planted. Other parks were established in Yarra in the early twentieth century, including Fairfield Park (1912) and Citizens Park in Richmond.

Comment

Edinburgh Gardens was the chief recreational and ornamental open space of the City of Fitzroy, reserved in 1862 and formalised in the 1880s with plantings initiated first by the city and then from 1883 by Nicholas Bickford for the joint committee of management subsequently established between the city council and the lands department. In scale and form it is similar to other so-called 'outer ring' parks established in Melbourne in the 1850s-1860s and in other suburban municipalities between this time and the 1920s. It is important at a local level in demonstrating the history of parkland and infrastructural development and the civic aspirations, commemorative activities and growing interest in organised sport that found a home at Edinburgh Gardens in the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Although Edinburgh Gardens reflects to a degree the same historical themes that drove development of these two reserves, and contains some of the same landscape and recreational elements, it would not be considered likely to meet the test for registration at the state level.

Historically, the development of suburban park and recreational reserves at the metropolitan and state level is better understood in the form, scale and relative integrity of Fawkner Park. Edinburgh Gardens was the product of local aspirations, lobbying and development efforts within the City of Fitzroy, and extensively shaped by those efforts, including sporting club development, civic cultural activities and times of mourning and commemorative, and other municipal aspirations, including the city's intensive effort to secure a railway line and depot in the 1880s. Edinburgh Gardens has an important role to play in illustrating and interpreting this history, albeit at the local level.

From a historical and aesthetic perspective as related to landscape values, at the Edinburgh Gardens many of the late Victorian and Edwardian garden elements were later removed or are present now only in a remnant form (the Elm circles for instance, reflecting early ornamental gardens). While this CMP has identified the greater scope and detail of the plantings carried out by Nicholas Bickford and others in the Edinburgh Gardens, with implications for the ongoing management of the place, today these aspects are identifiable in at best a remnant form (and in some cases from archival information only). They are not considered to illustrate the character of this type of ornamental parkland or garden layout as well or better than registered sites like Fawkner Park and Footscray Park.

4.5 Assessment of significance

What follows is an assessment of the cultural heritage values of the Edinburgh Gardens, Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand and sporting precinct, according to the assessment criteria endorsed by the Heritage Council of Victoria in 2008. Reference has also been made to the Heritage Council of Victoria's *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines*, updated 2019.

Criterion A Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history

The Edinburgh Gardens is a largely intact example of a nineteenth century, inner suburban municipal recreational reserve established for local residents for passive and active recreational activities. It is one of a small group of Victorian-era formal garden reserves in the City of Yarra established and run under municipal control for public recreation. It demonstrates the nineteenth century movement to provide open space in urban areas.

The Edinburgh Gardens includes a sporting precinct established and initially developed by private sporting clubs which played an important role in the creation and evolution of the Fitzroy community, not only on the field but in cultural, philanthropic and commemorative efforts that had a civic dimension and association beyond the club walls.

The Edinburgh Gardens was also shaped by important but separate events in the history of the City of Fitzroy, chief among them the nineteenth century desire for and construction of a connection to the metropolitan railway system, although the twentieth century rehabilitation of the former railway corridor as parkland has removed most evidence of this association within the gardens site.

The Edinburgh Gardens was also an important ceremonial site used to facilitate the City of Fitzroy's participation in larger events, particularly in mourning and commemoration. This association began with its naming in 1868 following the visit of Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh (and his survival of an assassination attempt in Queensland). A remnant plinth from a memorial statue to Queen Victoria (1902), the Sportsman's Memorial (1919) established by the sporting clubs to commemorate members lost in World War I, and the Memorial Rotunda (1925) built by the City of Fitzroy and also memorialising the sacrifices of the war all illustrate the gardens sustained importance as a primary civic and commemorative space in early Fitzroy.

This significance is at a local level.

The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand (1888) illustrates the early evolution of cricket and football as spectator sports, and, with the oval itself, is the principal surviving reminder of the original Fitzroy Football Club, one of the founding members of the Victorian Football Association and later VFL/AFL. This significance is at a local level.

Criterion B Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history

The 1888 grandstand is historically significant as a rare example of a timber and brick sporting grandstand in Victoria, and is likely the oldest grandstand of this type within metropolitan Melbourne. Although the ground level has been subject to recurring internal and external renovation, and replacement and modification of aspects of the superstructure is also believed to have occurred, the grandstand retains its rarity and value as an unusually early and superficially intact example of the type. This significance is at a state level.

Criterion C Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history

Not applicable.

Criterion D Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects

The Edinburgh Gardens is an example of nineteenth century suburban development of ornamental gardens and recreation reserves, initially reserved in 1862, and laid out by the City of Fitzroy from 1881 and by a Committee of Management with the involvement of metropolitan gardens curator Nicholas Bickford from 1883. Its 1883-85 linear avenues of English Elm and English Oak, and a perimeter circle of

Brachychiton trees (a twentieth century replacement of an earlier boundary of Monterey Pine, Blue Gum and Sweet Pittosporum) demonstrate the original form of the public gardens, as do other remnant specimen trees throughout the gardens. Later expansions of the path system from the late 1880s, and remnant tree features like circles of Elm trees and rows of Holm Oak, contribute to an understanding of how the form and use of the gardens evolved from the 1880s to the 1940s.

Edinburgh Gardens was also an early instance in which sports club grounds and other active pursuits were accommodated within public reserves, although these uses pre-dated the formalised layout of the public gardens and were kept largely separate and distinct from them.

It is significant for these characteristics at a local level.

The grandstand is a fine and relatively intact example of a nineteenth century grandstand in Victoria. The grandstand incorporates tiered seating in an elevated position, symmetrical composition and simple decorative detailing. Although the ground level has been subject to recurring internal and external renovation, and replacement and modification of aspects of the superstructure is also believed to have occurred, the grandstand retains its value in exhibiting the qualities of a finely constructed early grandstand. The grandstand is significant on a state level.

Criterion E Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics

The Edinburgh Gardens is of aesthetic significance for its network of paths planted with avenues of Elm and Oak trees. Other elements of aesthetic interest or significance are other remnants of Victorian and Edwardian ornamental plantings, including evidence of early use of native tree species as well as the structural plantings of Elm and Holm Oak which remain from early horticultural garden features, and the unusual perimeter row planting of *Brachychiton* species dating to the early twentieth century.

Several other factors contribute to the local aesthetic appeal of the gardens, including a small number of other notable specimen trees, its status as a large 'oasis' of green parkland in the built up inner city location, the presence of the oval with grandstand as a major landscape feature, and features such as the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand, Memorial Rotunda, and the remnant plinth of the Queen Victoria memorial in its surrounding garden circle. Other features, including the Sportsman's Memorial and the Chandler Drinking Fountain, are of aesthetic interest but are not well presented in their current context.

These values are significant at a local level.

Criterion F Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

Not applicable.

Criterion G Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.

Not applicable.

Criterion H Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

Not applicable.

4.6 Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The public reserve known as the Edinburgh Gardens, including the public ornamental gardens and the sporting precinct and the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand.

Historical summary

The area later known as the Edinburgh Gardens was set aside as a temporary public reserve in 1862 at the impetus of the City of Fitzroy. In short order, two sporting organisations were given permissive occupancy: the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Club and the Fitzroy Cricket Club. This established a sporting precinct in the south-west quadrant of the gardens which would quickly evolve to include other club sports, and established a tradition of organised sport within the gardens which continues today.

In 1868 the reserve acquired its name, commemorating Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh. The balance of the park was not immediately laid out or cultivated, and use of the land for other purposes continued through the 1880s. At the same time that plantings did begin in the 1880s, the Edinburgh Gardens was implicated in the Fitzroy Council's pursuit of a railway connection.

In 1882 the site was permanently reserved, and a joint committee of management established between the Lands Department and Fitzroy City Council.

Although plantings took place in 1880-1881 under the direction of the Fitzroy City Council, the extant character of the formalised paths and avenue plantings dates to 1883, when these were established by Nicholas Bickford, the Lands Department bailiff and Metropolitan Parks and Gardens curator, on behalf of the joint Committee of Management.

Construction of the Fitzroy spur line of the Inner Circle Railway was approved in 1885, requiring civil works and construction of railway lines, sidings and depot facilities through the centre of the Edinburgh Gardens. Passenger service was short-lived, but the line remained in use until 1981.

Further development of the path system followed completion of the railway. Various ornamental and civic elements were also added to the public gardens from the late 1880s-1920s, including notable memorial structures and extensive horticultural displays. During this period, the Fitzroy Cricket Club Oval rose to prominence as the home ground of the Fitzroy Football Club, triggering a variety of improvements to the ground from the 1880s-1930s.

The Fitzroy Football Club ceased play at the ground by 1966, with most of the elements of the site's heyday as a professional oval subsequently removed save for the 1888 grandstand and two c. 1905 entrance pavilions. The post-war and early twenty-first century period saw development of new public recreational facilities throughout the Edinburgh Gardens and upgrade and redevelopment of facilities throughout much of the sporting precinct.

Summary description

The Edinburgh Gardens is an approximately 16-hectare public reserve gazetted in the nineteenth century, and includes both a sporting precinct established in the late 1860s and ornamental paths and gardens installed from the beginning of the 1880s. The gardens retains most of its c. 1880s path system, as well as avenues of mature elms and oak trees (original and replacement plantings on original alignments), other specimen trees dating to the nineteenth or early twentieth century, and an unusual perimeter planting of Kurrajong trees established in the early twentieth century.

The evolved sporting precinct, including oval, grandstand, bowling club, tennis club and other club facilities, demonstrates the continuity of organised recreational use of the place from the late 1860s and

includes important early structures, most prominent among them an 1888 grandstand which has been included in the Victorian Heritage Register. The grandstand remains as a survivor of the establishment of the sporting facilities in the broader Edinburgh Gardens, and reflects, through its scale, timber materiality and design, the key aspects of large-scale spectator engagement with sports such as cricket and football in the late nineteenth century. A number of commemorative and memorial structures and elements also remain and illustrate the important civic position of the gardens as well as the role and investments made by sporting clubs at the site.

How is it Significant?

The Edinburgh Gardens are of historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Yarra. The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is of historical significance to the state of Victoria.

Why is it Significant?

The Edinburgh Gardens are historically significant as a major nineteenth century public open space, ornamental gardens and sporting precinct whose history and form reflected the interests and aspirations of the citizens and council of the City of Fitzroy, and other influences, including the involvement of Lands Department curator Nicholas Bickford, investments by early sports clubs, and the rise and evolution of the Australian football code as a professional sport. The Edinburgh Gardens were also dramatically shaped by the Fitzroy City Council's aspiration for a connection to the metropolitan railway network, and its agreement to use of a corridor through the gardens for this purpose, leading to a century-long occupation of the centre of the gardens for this purpose.

The continuous 140-year history of Edinburgh Gardens as a public reserve is displayed in its planning and physical fabric, as well as in the continuity of uses, especially sporting use. While the formal path network was not laid out until the early 1880s, the long and continuous use of the south-western section of the gardens for active recreation is demonstrated in the facilities of this sporting precinct, which have been updated and improved but retain their general arrangement.

The sporting oval and facilities associated with the Fitzroy Cricket Club and Fitzroy Football Club are historically significant at a local level as remnants of the local and suburban genesis of the Australian Football League, and of the site's original prominence as a venue for cricket. The remaining structures and spaces associated with its early use as a cricket and football oval, including the large grandstand and entrance structures, reflect the site's historical use in ticketed professional sport.

The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand constructed in 1888, is of historical significance to the state of Victoria as a fine and rare example of a nineteenth century grandstand. Although the subject of later internal and external renovations, the grandstand remains relatively intact.

The Edinburgh Gardens are of historical and aesthetic significance for their avenues of mature Elm and Oak trees, some dating to the plantings carried out by Bickford in 1884-1885, and for other remnant specimen and structural tree plantings that illustrate the extensive ornamental plantings established in the gardens from the 1880s to the 1920s. Within the City of Yarra, the Edinburgh Gardens is the largest of a small number of public gardens developed by the former local councils which retain major components of their Victorian and Edwardian organisation and planting schemes.

The Edinburgh Gardens are of historical significance for their collection of civic commemorative and memorial structures, including the Sportsman's Memorial (1919), Memorial Rotunda (1925) and Chandler Drinking Fountain (1926), as well as the surviving plinth of a memorial statue to Queen Victoria (1902).

4.7 Levels of Significance

Consideration has been given to the levels of significance of the different elements within the Gardens. Levels of significance have been assigned to the heritage components of the site: primary and contributory. Establishing such a hierarchy indicates where there is greater or lesser scope for adaptation and alteration of any given element without diminishing the overall significance of the place.

Other elements are of little or no significance as pertains to the heritage values of the place, although they may contribute to the maintenance of the Edinburgh Gardens and its sporting precinct as a valued public open space and recreational facility within the City of Yarra.

Elements of primary and contributory significance are shown generally in plan on Figure 172.

4.7.1 Elements of Primary Significance

Elements of primary significance are those which contribute in a fundamental way to an understanding of the cultural significance of the place as it exists. They may be predominantly intact in form and fabric, and/or are particularly demonstrative of the original design or functional concept with regard to form or fabric. As such, they should be retained and, if altered, then it should be done with minimal impact on significant fabric.

Elements of primary significance include:

- Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand (Fitzroy Cricket Ground Grandstand, 1888)
- Entrance Gatehouse (on Freeman Street, 1905)
- W.T. Peterson Community Oval (former Fitzroy Cricket Ground), to the extent of its general form and layout
- Timber Entrance Pavilion (1996 reconstruction)
- Tennis Club Pavilion
- Sportsman's Memorial
- Memorial Rotunda
- Chandler Drinking Fountain
- Queen Victoria Plinth
- Principal elements of the nineteenth century path layout, including the avenues labelled in this report A, B, C, D and E
- Primary English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) and Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) avenue plantings
- English Oak (*Quercus robur*) avenue opposite Rowe Street (Avenue C)
- Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) row plantings – St Georges Road vicinity
- Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) row planting with Illawarra Flame Tree (*B. acerifolius*) infills – Alfred Crescent
- Southern Mahogany Gum (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) specimens throughout the gardens
- River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), three specimens in north-west quadrant

4.7.2 Elements of Contributory Significance

Elements of contributory significance are those which are of a supportive nature in the understanding of the cultural significance of the Edinburgh Gardens as it exists. While they contribute to the overall significance of the complex, they are not of individual distinction with regard to original plan form, fabric or function.

Elements of contributory significance should generally be retained although there may be considerable scope for alteration, adaptation and renewal.

Elements of contributory significance include:

- Asphalt pathway paving, and remnant and renewed basalt kerbs, gutters and retaining walls to the paths and boundaries, as characteristics of the early path system and boundary treatments of the Edinburgh Gardens
- Secondary extensions of the path system, added from the late 1880s to the early 1900s, and accompanying avenue plantings where present
- Remnant sections of rail from the former railway line
- Perimeter path and earth embankments to the oval surroundings in their general form only, acknowledging these were substantially altered and reduced in scale in the 1980s
- Sporting precinct facilities, including the modern bowling club and tennis club courts, in their ongoing recreational use only
- Cook Memorial
- Remnants of former structural plantings and ornamental displays, including the complete and partial circles of English and Dutch Elm and the Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) rows located between the Memorial Rotunda and the sporting precinct
- Queen Victoria garden bed, in its form and layout, and remnant Elm trees and other associated specimen trees in the vicinity
- Other mature specimen trees where these are reflective of Victorian and Edwardian planting schemes, including specimens of Cypress, Canary Island Pine and Sweet Pittosporum
- Recent replacement avenue plantings on original path alignments
- English Elm row east of tennis courts, only to the extent of its continuity with an original path and avenue planting originally located to the west (former segment of Avenue A)

4.7.3 *Elements of Little or No Significance*

Elements of little or no significance include those which were originally minor in nature or contribute little to the cultural significance of the place, areas which have been so altered that they have lost any significance they might have otherwise had in a heritage context, or are of recent origins. Generally, they can be altered, adapted or removed as required.

Elements of little or no heritage significance include:

- Fencing
- W.T. Peterson Oval fabric, including drain, fencing and pathway
- Community Hall
- Modern path and service drives around the oval and grandstand, and modern plantings including Oak, Elm, Fig and Jacaranda, established in the c. 1980s
- Cricket practice nets
- Tennis court fabric and later additions to club house
- Bocce courts
- Bowling Club building, infrastructure and memorial gates
- Substation
- Emely Baker Infant Welfare Centre
- Public toilets
- Skate park
- North and south playgrounds
- Basketball court
- Sundry elements including non-original lighting, bollards, seating, bins, signage, power poles and electrical sub-board enclosures, and log located on northern edge of the Alfred Crescent oval
- Underground and surface drainage, including stormwater filtration garden
- Circular concrete beds at Rowe Street, circular bluestone bed in gardens north-east quadrant
- The contents of modern perimeter and foundation garden and floral displays beds to the tennis and bowling clubs, the Brunswick Street and St George's Road frontages, the Memorial Rotunda, and in conjunction with all modern features including the playgrounds and Emely Baker Centre
- Alfred Crescent sports oval

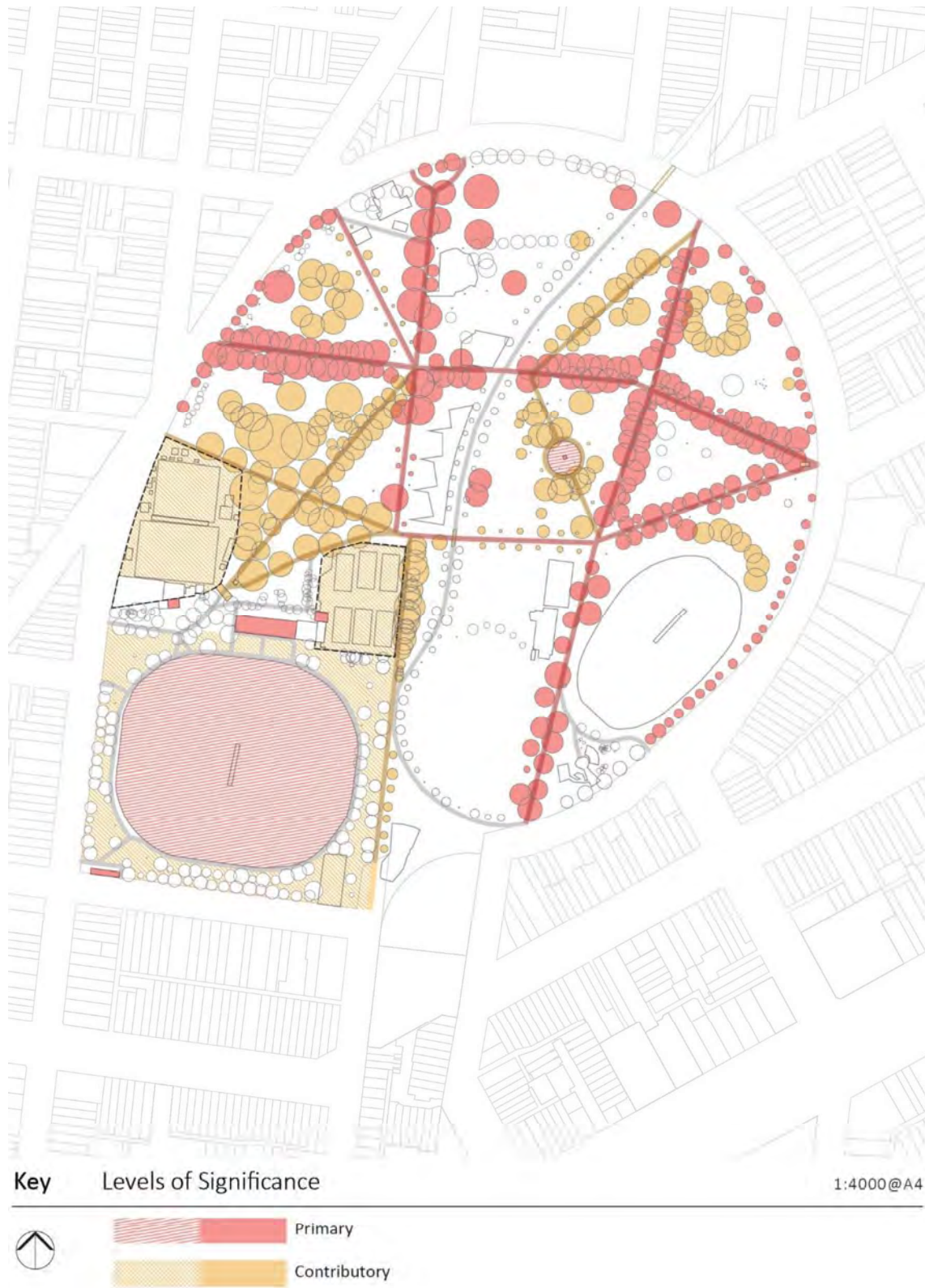


Figure 172 Plans showing elements of primary and contributory significance

5.0 OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter identified a series of key constraints and opportunities that are relevant to and could have a bearing on the future management of the Edinburgh Gardens. These issues relate to the understood significance of the place, statutory requirements and the aspirations of the City of Yarra as owner/manager of the place. The intent in setting out identified opportunities and constraints is to provide a context for the conservation, management and development of the Edinburgh Gardens and the buildings and facilities within it. This recognises that the gardens and associated clubs and facilities operate in a real-world framework and that there are particular issues that will have a bearing on the ongoing management and use of the buildings.

5.2 Implications arising from significance

Chapter 4 provides a revised assessment of the significance of the Edinburgh Gardens and the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand. Arising from this re-assessment, it is considered that the Edinburgh Gardens and the grandstand are significant for the following reasons:

- The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is historically significant at a State level as a rare example of a timber and brick sporting grandstand in Victoria
- The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is architecturally significant at a State level for its value in exhibiting the qualities of a finely constructed early grandstand
- The Edinburgh Gardens are historically significant at a local level as a largely intact nineteenth century, inner suburban municipal recreational reserve established for local residents for passive and active recreational activities
- The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is historically significant at a local level for its ability to illustrate the early evolution of cricket and football as spectator sports, and, with the oval itself, is the principal surviving reminder of the original Fitzroy Football Club
- The Edinburgh Gardens are significant at a local level for its ability to demonstrate nineteenth century suburban development of ornamental gardens and recreation reserves
- The Edinburgh Gardens are historically significant at a local level as an important ceremonial site used to convey the City of Fitzroy's participation in larger events, particularly in mourning and commemoration
- The Edinburgh Gardens are aesthetically significant at a local level for its network of paths planted with avenues and evidence of the early use of native plantings; and for features such as the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand, Freeman Street Gatehouse, Sportsman's Memorial, Memorial Rotunda, Queen Victoria Plinth, and Chandler Drinking Fountain, and their presentation within a landscaped setting in the gardens and sporting precinct.

The implications arising from this assessment is that there are key features, characteristics and attributes that should be conserved as follows:

- The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand
- Individual buildings and built elements within the gardens and sporting precinct, such as the Freeman Street Gatehouse, Sportsman's Memorial, Memorial Rotunda, Queen Victoria Plinth and Chandler Drinking Fountain
- Landscape elements including paths and plantings as illustrated at Figure 83 and Figure 84.

A number of buildings, structures and landscape elements, such as the Alfred Crescent Pavilion, water filtration garden, bins, lighting, toilet facilities, are not significant, primarily due to their recent origin and utilitarian nature. These elements require no management from a heritage perspective, although the replacement or relocation would normally be managed by policy in the following chapter.

5.3 Management

Edinburgh Gardens and the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand are managed by the City of Yarra with the Yarra City Council being the Committee of Management for the Crown Land, known as Edinburgh Gardens.

It is noted that the management and day-to-day operations of various spaces within the gardens including the Bowls Club, Tennis Club and Community Hall is through local organisations.

The City of Yarra has a number of policies and protocols which are relevant to the management of the gardens and buildings, these include the:

- Heritage Strategy 2019-2030
- Access and Inclusion Strategy 2018-2024
- Urban Forest Strategy 2017
- Public Toilet Strategy 2017-2027
- Nature Strategy 2020-2024 (under development)
- Green Infrastructure Toolkit
- Asset management Strategy 2012 to 2022
- Council Plan 2017-2021

The CMP is consistent with the recommendations of the Heritage Strategy as it implements a key action, being the preparation of a CMP. The CMP establishes the significance of the heritage place and sets out methods for the protection of heritage values and fabric in accordance with the Heritage Strategy.

5.4 Statutory requirements

The managers of the Edinburgh Gardens are subject to the provisions of the following:

- *Heritage Act, 2017*
- *Planning and Environment Act, 1987* (Yarra Planning Scheme)
- National Construction Code (Building Code of Australia)
- *Disability Discrimination Act, 1992*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act, 2006*

Table 3 Applicable legislation

Legislation	Summary
<i>Heritage Act, 2017</i>	<p>Provides for the protection, management and conservation of places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register.</p> <p>Permits or another form of approval are required from Heritage Victoria for all buildings and works within the site (with the exception of subdivision), other than where these are specified as permit-exempt.</p> <p>The provisions of the Heritage Act excludes control over the use of a place, though the physical impact of a proposed use on the place's significant values can be considered.</p> <p>Provides for the protection of archaeological relics including all unidentified relics 75 or more years old.</p>

Legislation	Summary
<i>Planning and Environment Act, 1987</i>	<p>Provides a framework for the planning, use, development and protection of land in Victoria.</p> <p>The relevant planning scheme under this Act is the Yarra Planning Scheme. This scheme identifies the zoning for the site and any applicable overlays.</p> <p>Under the provisions of the HO no permit is required to develop a heritage place included on the VHR (with the exception of applications for subdivision). This would apply only to the Fitzroy Cricket Club Grandstand (Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand).</p>
National Construction Code (Building Code of Australia)	<p>The intent of the NCC is to achieve national standards in the areas of safety, health and amenity. Compliance with the NCC is required when any major refurbishment works are undertaken to an existing building.</p>
<i>Disability Discrimination Act, 1992</i>	<p>The intent of this Act is to eliminate discrimination against persons on the grounds of disability, ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are equitable before the law with the rest of the community and promote recognition and acceptance of equal rights of those with disabilities.</p> <p>Discrimination under this Act can arise in relation to the provision of access to a place (Section 23). At the Edinburgh Gardens this would apply to access to the buildings and structures such as the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand.</p> <p>Premises Standards</p> <p>On 1 May 2011, the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards (Premises Standards) took effect under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. These standards align with changes to the 2011 edition of the BCA. The alignment of the provisions of the DDA and BCA with regard to access has been brought about by a number of factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the DDA contains intent and objectives, but not the technical details of how to provide access for people with a disability • the current technical requirements of the BCA are not considered to meet the intent and objectives of the DDA • the existence of two legislative requirements in relation to access for people with a disability to buildings, being the BCA and DDA, gives rise to potential inconsistencies <p>New buildings, and works to existing buildings are required to comply with the Premises Standards. However, there exists potential to balance access requirements with the heritage values of existing non-compliant elements of buildings and places of heritage significance.</p>
<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and its Regulations, 2017</i>	<p>Provides for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria. Establishes a register of Aboriginal sites and includes approval requirements for particular activities.</p>

5.4.1 *Heritage Act*

The Grandstand, known as the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is subject to the statutory requirements of the *Victorian Heritage Act 2017*, through being included on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR H0751). The extent of registration is described as follows:

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act 2017, I give notice under section 53 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying a place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H0751

Category: Registered Place

Place: Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand

Location: Brunswick Street, Fitzroy North

Municipality: Yarra City Council

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 751 encompassing part of Allotment 6 Section 34 at North Fitzroy, Parish of Jika Jika.

The mapped extent of registration for the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is illustrated at Figure 173.

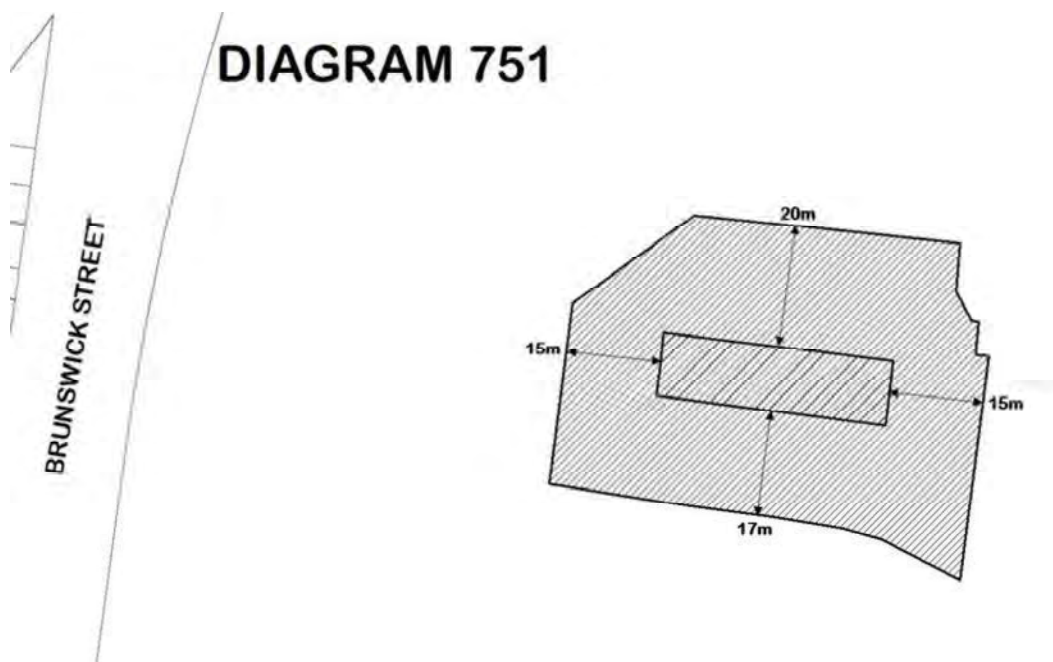


Figure 173 Extent of registration plan for the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand VHR H0751
Source: Victorian Heritage Database

Works to the Grandstand and within the extent of registration will require approval from Heritage Victoria by way of Heritage Permit or permit exemption where works are not exempted as noted in the registration by way of s 92 (3) of the Heritage Act.

Notwithstanding, the registration for the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand includes the following preamble and permit exemptions:

Preamble

The purpose of this information is to assist owners and other interested parties when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

The extent of registration of the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand (sic) in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 751 including the land, buildings (exteriors and interiors), roads, trees, landscape elements and other features. Under the Heritage Act 2017 a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a permit exemption is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.38 of the Heritage Act) or after registration (under s.92 of the Heritage Act). It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Disrepair of registered place or registered object

Under s.152 of the Act, the owner of a registered place or registered object must not allow that place or object to fall into disrepair.

Failure to maintain registered place or registered object

Under s.153 of the Act, the owner of a registered place or registered object must not fail to maintain that place or object to the extent that its conservation is threatened.

Conservation management plans

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is developed to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

If works are proposed which have the potential to disturb or have an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage it is necessary to contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain any requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is necessary to immediately contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

Other approvals

Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

Archaeology

There is no identified archaeology of state level significance at the place.

Cultural heritage significance*Overview of significance*

The cultural heritage significance of the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand lies in the grandstand building, attached features and fixtures and its relationship to the oval and broader context. The 1980s community room to the east of the grandstand is not significant. Other recreational facilities introduced in the late twentieth century such as the bocce court are not significant.

CATEGORIES OF WORKS OR ACTIVITIES (PERMIT EXEMPTIONS) RECOMMENDED UNDER S.38

The following works do not require a permit provided that they are carried out in a manner which does not harm the cultural heritage significance of the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand.

General Conditions

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the significant fabric of the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand.

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

All works should ideally be informed by a Conservation Management Plan prepared for the place.

The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

Specific Permit Exemptions

GRANDSTAND

Exterior

- Minor repairs and maintenance which replaces like with like. Repairs and maintenance must maximise protection and retention of significant fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Any repairs and maintenance must not exacerbate the decay of fabric due to chemical incompatibility of new materials, obscure fabric or limit access to such fabric for future maintenance.
- Repair to or removal of items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae and aerials.
- Works or activities, including emergency stabilisation, necessary to secure safety in an emergency where a structure or part of a structure has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and poses a safety risk to its users or the public. Note: The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, must be notified within seven days of the commencement of these works or activities.
- Painting of previously painted surfaces in the same colour, finish and product type provided that preparation or painting does not remove earlier paint finishes or schemes. Note: This exemption does not apply to decorative finishes or unpainted, oiled or varnished surfaces.
- Cleaning including the removal of surface deposits or graffiti by the use of low-pressure water (less than 300 psi at the surface being cleaned) and neutral detergents and mild brushing and scrubbing with plastic not wire brushes.
- Repair and maintenance to existing signage and replacement of signage where it is to the same scale and in the same location.
- Repair to and removal of existing exterior lighting and public address systems.

Interior

- Painting of previously painted surfaces in the same colour, finish and product type provided that preparation or painting does not remove earlier paint finishes or schemes. Note: This exemption does not apply to decorative finishes or unpainted, oiled or varnished surfaces.
- Removal or replacement of devices for the hanging of wall mounted artworks, noticeboards and signage in existing locations.
- Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings and window furnishings such as curtains and blinds.
- Removal or replacement of smoke and fire detectors, alarms and the like, of the same size and in existing locations.
- Repair, removal or replacement of existing ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the central plant is concealed, and that the work is done in a manner which does not alter building fabric.
- Installation of plant within the roof space, providing that it does not impact on the external appearance of the building or involve structural changes.

1980S COMMUNITY ROOMS

All the works and activities specified for the Grandstand, plus:

- All works to the interior of the Community Room.

Events

The installation and/or erection of temporary elements associated with authorised short-term events provided they are not attached to the grandstand building and are in situ for a maximum period of 30 days after which time they must be removed. This includes:

- o Temporary structures such as marquees.
- o Temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems.
- o Temporary infrastructure, including lighting, portable toilets, public address systems and the like

to support events and performances.

- o Temporary micro tenancies such as food trucks and the like, with ground protection.
- o Temporary operational equipment such as freestanding wayfinding/directional signage.

LANDSCAPE/ OUTDOOR AREAS

- The processes of gardening including mowing, pruning, mulching, bedding displays, removal of dead shrubs, planting and replanting of garden beds, disease and weed control and maintenance to care for existing plants.
- Management and maintenance of trees including formative and remedial pruning, removal of deadwood and pest and disease control.
- The removal or pruning of dead or dangerous trees to maintain safety.
- Establishment of new garden beds and low-level plantings except where this involves major excavation.
- Installation of new pathways where they do not involve major excavation or interface with the fabric of the grandstand.
- Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of existing watering and drainage systems or other services provided there are no visible above ground elements. Existing lawns, gardens and hard landscaping, including paving, footpaths and roadways are to be reinstated on the completion of works.
- Repair and maintenance of existing hard landscaping including paving, footpaths and roadways where fabric, design, scale, form and method of fixing is repaired or replaced like for like.
- Repair, maintenance or removal of bocce court.
- Removal or replacement of external directional or informational signage provided the size, location and material remains the same.
- Maintenance, repair and replacement of existing services such as plumbing, electrical cabling, surveillance systems, external lighting, pipes or fire services

which does not involve changes in location or scale of above ground elements, or major excavation.

- Maintenance, repair and removal of the existing water tank, bins, bin cages, benches, bollards and fencing and replacement of these items provided they are of the same scale and in the same location.

5.4.2 Yarra Planning Scheme

Edinburgh Gardens is individually identified as HO213, with the Fitzroy Cricket Club Grandstand (Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand) individually identified as HO215 in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Yarra Planning Scheme. In accordance with Clause 43.01 of the Yarra Planning Scheme, no permit is required from the City of Yarra, 'To develop a heritage place which is included on the Victorian Heritage Register, other than an application to subdivide a heritage place of which all or part is included in the Victoria Heritage Register' (43.01-2). Planning permits may be required for proposals as a result of non-heritage related planning controls, depending upon their nature. It is noted that this requirement relates specifically to the Grandstand, due to its inclusion on the VHR but not to other buildings or the gardens.

Edinburgh Gardens is surrounded by the North Fitzroy Precinct (HO327).

In addition to the statutory heritage controls, Edinburgh Gardens are also subject to a number of other clauses within the City of Yarra Planning Scheme including:

- Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)
- Special Building Overlay (SBO)

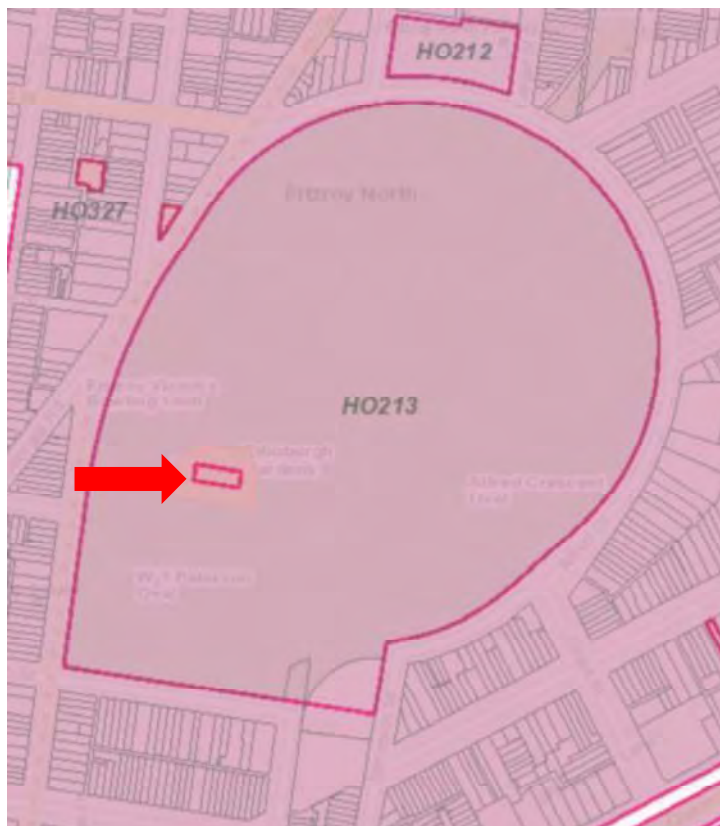


Figure 174 Detail of HO map with location of the Edinburgh Gardens (HO213); HO215 is the Fitzroy Cricket Club Grandstand (Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand) indicated by the arrow
Source: Vicplan

5.4.3 *Building Code of Australia/NCC*

The National Construction Code addresses all building compliance requirements as related to specified classes of buildings. In Victoria the NCC operates in conjunction with the *Victorian Building Regulations 2018* and under the provisions of the *Building Act, 1993*. In its formulation and reference to relevant construction standards the NCC has necessarily been developed for new construction. In this regard the application, wholesale to the refurbishment or redevelopment of a heritage building has the potential to have significant impacts, particularly if a 'full compliance' with the code is triggered.

Addressing this issue, the *Victorian Building Regulations, 2018*, provide for some flexibility where alterations are proposed to existing buildings, under Part 16, Regulation 233.

This regulation states as follows:

233 Alteration to existing building

- (1) Building work to alter an existing building must comply with these Regulations.
- (2) Subject to regulations 234 and 236, if the proposed alterations to an existing building, together with any other alterations completed or permitted within the previous 3 years, relate to more than half the original volume of the building, the entire building must be brought into conformity with these Regulations.
- (3) Despite subregulations (1) and (2) and subject to subregulation (6), the relevant building surveyor may consent to partial compliance of building work or an existing building with subregulation (1) or (2).
- (4) In determining whether to consent to partial compliance with subregulation (1) or (2) in respect of any alteration to a building, the relevant building surveyor must take into account—
 - (a) the structural adequacy of the building; and
 - (b) the requirements necessary to make reasonable provision for—
 - (i) the amenity of the building and the safety and health of people using the building; and
 - (ii) avoiding the spread of fire to or from any adjoining building.
- (5) Any consent to partial compliance under subregulation (3) must be in the form of Form 18.
- (6) If any part of the alteration is an extension to an existing building, the relevant building surveyor may only consent to partial compliance in respect of the extension if the floor area of the extension is not greater than the lesser of—
 - (a) 25% of the floor area of the existing building; and
 - (b) 1 000 m².

In addition, the *Building Act*, 1993 provides for further consideration of dispensation to compliance requirements in the case of buildings included on the Victorian Heritage Register. The relevant section states:

28 Historic buildings and special buildings

- (1) Despite section 24, the relevant building surveyor may issue a building permit for the carrying out of building work that does not comply with the building regulations if the work is to be carried out on, or in connection with—
 - (a) a building included on the Heritage Register established under the Heritage Act 2017.
- (2) The building permit may be issued to enable the carrying out of work appropriate to the style, manner of construction and materials of the building.
- (3) In deciding an application for a building permit in respect of a building to which subsection (1) applies, the relevant building surveyor must take into account—
 - (a) the structural adequacy of the building; and
 - (b) the requirements necessary to make reasonable provision for the amenity of the building and the safety and health of people using the building.
- (4) The consent and report of the Executive Director under the Heritage Act 2017 must be obtained to an application to demolish or alter a building which is on a register established under that Act.

In formulating a response to building regulatory requirements a third factor to consider is that of the opportunity to develop 'Performance Solutions' to the NCC 'Performance Requirement' as opposed to applying 'Deemed-to-Satisfy' solutions. In adopting such an approach there may be scope to demonstrate that traditional construction practice as supported by relevant expert advice can meet the performance requirements of the NCC, albeit not compliant with current new construction standards.

Having regards to the above considerations in developing a design response to conservation and new works careful consideration needs to be given to the actions which might trigger full code compliance obligations and if this is the case, the nature of dispensations which might be sought. Activities and compliance requirements which have the potential to have the greatest impact on the fabric include:

Issue	Potential Impact
Hazardous materials removal	Loss of evidence of original and early decorative finishes. Destruction of significant fabric.
Seismic compliance	Introduction of new structure requiring significant intervention into original fabric.
Energy performance (NCC Section J) compliance	Replacement of original materials (glass and window joinery) and introduction of insulating material— loss of and/or impact on original fabric.
Fire protection and separation	Introduction of fire services and new fabric to provide fire separation.

5.4.4 *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*

Access for people with a disability as relevant to future works to the buildings at Edinburgh Gardens are addressed under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), 1992, and also under the NCC and the Australian Human Rights Commission 'Premises Standards'. While the DDA sets out compliance requirements it is a document which also provisions for complaints where these requirements are not met. In the case of the NCC, the requirements under Part D3 are express requirements which must be met under the Deemed to Satisfy provisions or by way of a Performance Solution. Additionally, the Premises Standards provide guidance on both new works and works to existing buildings to meet access requirements.

Having regard to these documents bringing heritage buildings into compliance typically requires a carefully resolved design response which frequently requires a balancing of access and heritage outcomes. Given the absolute need to provide equitable access design solutions to upgrading and reuse need to be developed in a manner which optimises access points and paths of travel to avoid multiple interventions.

The 'access to buildings component' of the DDA is applied only to buildings that are available for the general public to enter and use, as employees, patrons, customers or the general public. This clearly has relevance to the Edinburgh buildings and structures, which have a high level of public access to parts of the building.

Accordingly, the property manager is required to meet these objectives as far as is possible. Again, where this has implications for significant fabric and elements of the Edinburgh Gardens buildings and structures, the advice and input of a heritage practitioner should be sought.

5.5 **Owner requirements and aspirations**

5.5.1 *Current uses*

The Edinburgh Gardens, including the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand, continues to be used for recreational purposes. The gardens support a number of active and passive recreational activities, through its collection of playgrounds and equipment, skate park, basketball court, ovals and Alfred Crescent Pavilion and grounds. The gardens are also the home of the Fitzroy Football Club, Fitzroy Bowling and Sports Club, the Edinburgh Cricket Club and the Fitzroy Tennis Club, all of which have been located in the gardens since the late nineteenth century. The gardens retain avenue plantings, pathways and informal landscaped areas. The gardens are a heavily utilised and appreciated place within the City of Yarra and often accommodates large public events (several areas within the gardens are able to be booked for private events) as well as access to buildings for hire.

5.6 **Operational issues**

The discussion below has been informed by consultation with City of Yarra staff.

There are a number of issues which have been identified in the operation and management of the Edinburgh Gardens and the buildings and facilities in the gardens. These include issues which are common to a number of the buildings, as well as constraints which are associated with the divergent and sometimes conflicting uses of the individual buildings and areas within the gardens. Common building issues relate primarily to the provision of access, effective security, building performance and maintenance.

The continued use of the grandstand for its sporting function is positive and reflects the place's historical value. A continued use for sporting purposes is consistent with the heritage values associated with the building and intended purposes. However, the structure is used for accommodation by rough-sleepers and this raises a number of particular management issues such a maintenance of building

fabric, cleaning issues (frequency, potential to affect building fabric) in addition to an increased fire and safety risk for occupants, staff and the public. At the time of writing, a temporary hoarding has been installed to limit access to the tiered area though this is not considered to be a suitable long-term measure. It is recognised that addressing the use of the grandstand for rough sleeping is not simple and requires the involvement of multiple groups across Council. From a heritage perspective, the implication of this type of occupation is related to impact on fabric, through damage or loss, and through the need to implement interventions to limit access which could result in damage to the building fabric.

Management of the grandstand building fabric requires high-level access, for roof mounted solar panels and rainwater goods, introducing OH & S issues for council staff. There is no compliant or equitable access to the tiered seating area, though the ground level is relatively flat and access to the community room and interior of the grandstand is available. It is noted that access and safety issues are also relevant to other heritage structures in the gardens in relation to maintenance access.

The provision of facilities to support the public usage of the gardens is an ongoing issue, with an ever-increasing expectation to provide public conveniences in easily accessible and safe and secure locations throughout the gardens, additional play areas, both sporting and children's, and expansion of existing elements such as the skate park. There is an ever-present tension in the provision of sufficient passive and active open space for users of the gardens. Introduction of new structures throughout the gardens has the potential to interrupt and diminish landscape presentation and impact on significant landscape and buildings if these are not designed and planned with a view to the overall cultural values associated with the place.

Landscape and management issues include the maintenance of suitable water supply, provision of tanks/storage, lighting and other amenities. Associated with this is the issue of soil contamination and the management/retention of spoil on site from any excavation. Landscape areas and planting adjacent to buildings and structures introduce building maintenance issues, such as the trees adjacent to the Memorial Rotunda. Vehicle access to some buildings and areas within the gardens is not formalised and introduces additional management and safety issues.

It is noted that the gardens and structures and elements within it are managed by multiple groups/stakeholders across council. From an internal management perspective, there are opportunities to formalise internal communication within the organisation to ensure that all works (e.g. maintenance, capital works) are considered by stakeholders and any relevant information is available to inform shared decision making.

5.7 Future use and development opportunities

Noting the preceding discussion, there are a number of opportunities for the development within the gardens. These include the reuse or redevelopment of existing buildings and structures that are of little to no significance, reinstating early pathways and landscape arrangements to reinforce the significance of the place and reconsideration of current planting regimes to reflect sustainable practices. A key issue with development in the gardens is the engagement between the buildings and broader landscape in a way which maintains the identified heritage values. This goes to the master planning for the gardens and the design and location of individual elements.

The following structures and landscape areas provide opportunities for re/development:

- Emely Baker Infant welfare centre
- Bowling club pavilion
- Substation
- Community Hall

- Tennis club: Noting the retention of the pavilion within the tennis court complex
- Landscape area to the south-east of the gardens.

5.8 Further investigations

As related to further research and investigation and understanding the place it is recommended that a social and shared values assessment be undertaken to determine whether these values are extant (refer to the policy at 6.3.5). The findings of this assessment could contribute to the development of an interpretive programme for the place (refer to the policy at 6.3.5).

6.0 CONSERVATION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Introduction

This conservation policy is based on the preceding assessment of the cultural significance of the Edinburgh Gardens and the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand. It has been developed with an understanding of:

- The heritage values, both state and local, ascribed to the Edinburgh Gardens and the Brunswick Oval Grandstand
- The relative significance and contribution to the heritage significance of the place through individual elements, areas and physical fabric
- Constraints and opportunities arising from the identified cultural significance of the place, manager aspirations and statutory requirements as set out in Chapter 5.

The principal objectives of the conservation policies are to provide guidance and direction on the conservation and management of the Edinburgh Gardens and specific elements within this, including the state significant grandstand. These are to inform the consideration of future works, development and change in use.

This includes general policies that apply to the whole of the place and specific policies that relate to individual elements and features, including landscape elements. Further specific policies have been developed for individually significant elements and landscape elements.

The policies also address matters relating to the management of the place, including the statutory heritage frameworks and compliance with other statutory requirements, and other matters with the potential to impact on heritage significance and values.

6.2 Basis of Approach

Having regard to the significance of the Edinburgh Gardens and associated elements and the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand, the conservation policies are framed to address the following overarching objectives:

Use: The primary association of the place is with recreational uses, both passive and active, and the continued use of the gardens and individual elements within it for these purposes is an important aspect of its identified significance.

Fabric: Conservation and management of significant built fabric and landscape elements and planning layout.

Change management: Management of the heritage values associated with the built and landscape fabric through the continuing change and evolution of the place.

6.3 General policies

6.3.1 Significance

Policy: Significance should form the basis for future planning and works.
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Retention and conservation of the attributes, associations and physical fabric identified as significant in this CMP should be a key objective in the management of the place and planning future works.

Specific conservation objectives include:

- The retention and conservation of significant elements and fabric and landscapes in accordance with the policies and recommendations of this CMP

- A sensitive and respectful approach to adaptation, new works, future development where significant areas, spaces or fabric may be affected.

If alterations or changes are proposed which support an appropriate and viable use for a space, element or area of the place, works should be undertaken in a manner which has minimal impact on fabric and the form and presentation of the space, element or area where these are identified as significant (either primary or contributory – see 6.4.1).

Appropriate and viable uses are those which are consistent with the identified heritage values of the Edinburgh Gardens and Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand and those that maintain the current use of the gardens as a place for recreational purposes.

6.3.2 *Use of the CMP*

Policy: The findings of the CMP should be understood and incorporated in the frameworks established to manage assets owned by the City of Yarra.

Policy: The CMP should be used to inform assessments of heritage impact for works projects and inform the preparation of heritage impact statements (HIS) where these are required.

Policy: The findings of this CMP should be made available to all staff and Council stakeholders responsible for the shared management of the Edinburgh Gardens and Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand.

The CMP should form the basis of decision making with regard to the use and management of the place, in addition to guiding any physical works.

The CMP should inform the development of works programmes, including maintenance and capital works, with regard to the management and conservation of identified heritage values, elements and fabric.

The CMP should inform the planning of works (capital or otherwise) to understand and assess the impact of those works/actions/activities and guide mitigation/minimisation of impact/s on heritage values and fabric. It should also inform the preparation of heritage impact statements (HIS) to support permit applications for works to Heritage Victoria (for the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand) and the City of Yarra (for the Edinburgh Gardens).

The CMP should be made available to all departments, staff and Council stakeholders to guide the shared management of the Edinburgh Gardens and its landscape and built elements as well as the VHR registered Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand. To ensure the policies in this CMP inform future works, and the recommendations are followed as appropriate, all City of Yarra staff should be made aware of the policies most relevant to their work and project planning.

Policy: The CMP should be updated every five years or when significant change has occurred or is proposed.

Triggers requiring the review of CMPs could include where major works are proposed or have occurred; where management protocols/regimes change with the potential to impact on cultural heritage significance; and where significant new information has come to light.

As related to landscape, this includes the revision of maintenance and management policies and master planning for the Edinburgh Gardens.

The CMP should be updated to reflect the findings of additional research and studies, such as those that arise from a social and shared values study (see 6.3.5). Accordingly, revise the statement of significance to reflect additional identified values and information.

6.3.3 *Burra Charter*

Policy: All future conservation and other works which affect elements and attributes of significance should be carried out having regard for the principles of the *Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, 2013.

When assessing the suitability of proposed works to the significant elements and fabric at the Edinburgh Gardens and the Brunswick Oval Grandstand the principles of the Burra Charter and its practice notes should be referenced. These principles provide guidance on the conservation and adaptation of places and elements identified as being of cultural heritage significance.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

Policy: All future works should be undertaken with regard to the Burra Charter Practice Note *The Burra Charter and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management* (Australia ICOMOS 2013).

Key precepts of the practice note are that:

Understanding a place and assessing its cultural significance are the first two steps in the Burra Charter Process. The Burra Charter Process should be followed for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous places. The assessment and management of Indigenous heritage places may require the practitioner to adopt modified methodologies, placing greater emphasis on some aspects than others. For example, comparative analysis may not always be appropriate for beliefs that are fundamental to Indigenous tradition.

Of key importance is the fact that the practitioner may not necessarily be equipped with the knowledge to make an assessment of significance about a place where that knowledge resides in Indigenous parties. This calls for a particularly inclusive, holistic and consultative approach from practitioners working within this field.

6.3.4 *Legislation*

Policy: Managers of the Edinburgh Gardens and the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand should comply with all applicable legislation.

It is important that all those involved in the day-to-day management of gardens and associated buildings, structures and features, as well as those who are involved in the long-term planning and management of the place are aware of the statutory heritage controls that apply and their obligations under those controls. Processes should be developed and followed when proposing maintenance and repair work, or other activities which potentially involved changes to significant spaces or fabric. These processes should clearly identify the need to seek approvals under the Heritage Act and to consult with Heritage Victoria officers in relation to works to the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand and within the extent of registration.

There is likely also to be a need to obtain approvals under the Yarra Planning Scheme for some works under the Planning and Environment Act. Seek advice from the statutory planning department on matters of approvals for works to the Edinburgh Gardens including built and landscape elements.

Applicable legislation extends beyond that related to heritage, refer to Chapter 5.

6.3.5 Understanding and Engagement

Social significance and shared values

Policy: Undertake a social and shared values assessment to inform the understanding of significance of the place and connections to community, including to the Aboriginal community.

While the longstanding association of the Edinburgh Gardens and the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand with the community is self-evident, there are other associations and connections which are less obvious. An assessment of social significance necessarily involves community engagement and consultation to understand the nature and breadth of community associations to the place.

While outside of the scope of this CMP, there is an opportunity for the City of Yarra to explore the potential for Aboriginal values and shared values, as related to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal engagement, with the Edinburgh Gardens, the grandstand and sporting and recreational facilities. Further engagement and consultation with the community (including the Aboriginal community) should be undertaken to confirm the potential social, shared or Aboriginal cultural values attached to the place.

The Heritage Council Victoria (HCV) and Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (VAHC) have established a framework for assessing and understanding the shared values of heritage places, so where there are state-level values these can be recognised in the Victorian Heritage Register. This project seeks to recognise the shared, or concurrent, values that some registered places may hold as significance thresholds are not applicable to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR).

Social and shared values may be identified at state and local level. Guidance for understanding and assessing social significance and shared values is found in the following documents:

- Heritage Council of Victoria, *Recognition of Shared Values*, <https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/research-projects/recognition-of-shared-values/>
- *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines*, The Heritage Council of Victoria, Reviewed and Updated 4 April 2019, with specific reference to Criterion G
- *Guidance on identifying places and objects of state-level social value in Victoria*, The Heritage Council of Victoria, Version 1.0, 4 April 2019.

Statement of significance for the Edinburgh Gardens and Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand

Policy: Adopt the revised statement of significance for the Edinburgh Gardens and the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand.

The 2020 statement of significance should be adopted and promulgated to appropriate databases. In accordance with the current Victorian Planning Policy, the new statement of significance should also ultimately be referenced in the local planning scheme.

It is noted that the statement of significance in this CMP references the gardens and the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand. The VHR citation only reflects the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand.

Interpretation

Policy: Implement an interpretation programme that comprehensively reflects the history and cultural heritage values of the Edinburgh Gardens, including the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand.

Interpretation is an effective means of public education and expressing the heritage significance of the gardens, its history of development and development of the clubs and community users of the

gardens and its facilities. The messages included in any interpretation programme should not be static and regular review of the content, associated objects and materials should be undertaken. Accepting that the social and shared values of the place have not been established yet, the connection to the community or specific communities would also be a valuable component of an interpretation programme.

There are a small number of interpretive signs and displays located in the gardens, and these typically are in poor condition and require review for content and legibility. It is recommended that the existing interpretive material be renewed and updated to include additional historical information, as established in this CMP, and reflect the local and state heritage values associated with the gardens and the individual buildings within it.

Interpretation of the Edinburgh Gardens and Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand should be undertaken by appropriately qualified practitioners.

Interpretation could include a variety of media and materials to enable broad access to the community of this information. Interpretation materials should be reviewed on a five-yearly basis to ensure that the messaging and presentation remains fresh and accessible. Where digital resources, such as QR codes and websites are linked to an interpretation programme, ensure that live links are maintained.

6.4 Management policies

6.4.1 Levels of significance

Emphasis in the following policies is placed on the retention and conservation of the fabric and elements identified as being of primary significance. While there is a preference for retaining fabric and elements of contributory significance, there may be more scope for change. There is greater flexibility in the case of fabric and elements of little or no significance. Refer to Chapter 4.

Primary significance

Policy: Retain and conserve elements and landscape of primary significance.

Wherever possible, change (either through alteration or adaptation) should avoid permanent intervention into areas and elements of primary significance and all changes in these areas should be reversible, i.e., not requiring significant reconstruction of the heritage fabric when the interventions are no longer required. Change should be carefully planned, and designed on the basis of a detailed understanding of the values ascribed to the fabric and presentation of the element.

Contributory significance

Policy: Elements and landscape of contributory significance should preferably be retained and conserved, though there is some potential for considered alteration and adaptation.

There is greater scope for adaptation and alteration of elements and landscape of contributory significance. Elements of contributory significance provide further opportunities for change where this is consistent with the ongoing use of the places for recreation purposes. Consistent with this, there is an increased tolerance for change to elements of contributory significance, and there is considered to be less impact on the heritage place as a whole when changes are focussed on these. Alterations to fabric of contributory significance should avoid adverse effects on related external fabric where this is of primary significance and to adjacent elements of primary significance.

Little or no significance

Policy: Fabric and elements of little or no significance can be altered, adapted or demolished as required.

Elements and fabric of little or no significance can be altered as required, however any changes to external fabric of little or no significance should avoid impacts on the surrounding fabric of primary or contributory significance.

6.4.2 Maintenance and repair

Policy: Buildings and landscape elements of primary significance should be subject to a cyclical inspection and maintenance program, including regular inspection and timely preventative maintenance and repair.

Policy: Specialist heritage and conservation advice should be sought before any action is proposed or undertaken that will, or is likely to have an impact on the heritage values and significant fabric of the place

Policy: Wherever possible, repair and replacement works to all significant fabric should be undertaken on the basis of like for like

As advised by City of Yarra staff, many of the buildings are subject to a reactive maintenance and repair regime. In preference, buildings and landscape elements of primary significance should be managed with maintenance plans that identify key issues and inspection programs. These should reflect current pressures and be responsive to levels and types of usage.

Broadly the approach to maintenance should firstly be to maintain and ensure that the significant original fabric does not deteriorate further and secondly to maintain all existing fabric. Ad hoc repairs or patch-ups should be avoided.

Where existing fabric needs to be renewed, the replacement generally should match the original in design, materials and construction unless there are strong overriding functional reasons for altering the original design or materials. New material needs to be marked on the back with the date (year/month) of installation.

Regular inspections of significant building fabric should occur, with an emphasis on susceptible areas, which typically include guttering and downpipes, door and window openings and general drainage around and under buildings. Generally, day-to-day maintenance work can be carried out in accord with the conservation policies and without particular reference to a conservation specialist. However, major maintenance works should be undertaken under the direction of an appropriately qualified conservation practitioner.

The essential aim of repair work should be to retain as much as possible of the historic material. In specific cases, such as the treatment of original and significant interior decoration and fabric, early advice should be sought from a heritage practitioner, as the works may alter or diminish the significance of the place.

Maintenance

Maintenance addresses all existing components of the place, including built fabric, objects and the setting. Introducing new elements (such as new structures) or changing and adapting existing buildings is not maintenance and should be subject to the relevant policies and recommendations included elsewhere in this CMP.

Maintenance works include:

- Cleaning out gutters, drainage systems and other water storage and drainage areas.
- Securing loose or dislodged fabric (may require specialist input).
- Servicing existing equipment and services.
- Maintaining existing power or pipelines or other services where this involves no alteration to the fabric of the place.
- Replacing or upgrading services (may require specialist input for substantial works).

Regular monitoring of the condition of significant fabric is also an important aspect of 'maintenance'.

Engage suitably qualified practitioners (e.g. heritage consultant) to advise on maintenance works where these are likely to affect significant fabric to ensure the approach does not impact on the values and presentation of the building or element. Where required, engage skilled practitioners to undertake maintenance works where these require specialist skills.

Repairs

It is generally recommended that, from a heritage perspective, repairs of significant buildings and structures should involve replacing 'like with like': i.e. the replacement of material (missing, deteriorated, broken etc) with fabric to match the existing. Accepting this principle, it is also important to determine if the material proposed for replacement was appropriate in the first place (i.e. it may not be original); the advice of a qualified heritage practitioner should be sought on this. Wherever possible, only actual decayed fabric of a heritage structure should be replaced, instead of the whole host element.

Repairs to significant structures should be carried out by appropriately skilled practitioners, preferably individuals with demonstrated expertise in vernacular building technologies and materials (as relevant). In some cases, prior to works being carried out, there may be a requirement for analysis of the composition of the fabric to be repaired/replaced (e.g. mortars, renders, surface treatments, etc). Specialist input may also be required for the identification and eradication of any damage caused by pest infestations; rectification may involve repair to, or replacement of, damaged fabric.

Adaptation and change

6.4.3 Adaptation of existing structures

Policy: Adaptation of and changes to the Edinburgh Gardens and buildings within it, including the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand, to support ongoing operational and functional requirements should be responsive to the significance of the place as a whole and contribution of the affected elements and fabric to this.

There is a continued expectation that the gardens will evolve in response to contemporary user expectations, manager aspirations and management requirements. This is consistent with the historical evolution of the place and reflects the dynamic nature of the gardens as a public recreation reserve. That said, the process of adaptation of buildings and structures within the gardens and landscapes for alternative purposes should be responsive to the level of significance of individual elements and their contribution to the place as a whole.

The potential for buildings such as the Memorial Rotunda to sustain substantial change is limited, being designed to serve a singular purpose. In contrast, the Emely Baker Infant Welfare Centre

provides ample opportunities for change to fabric to support new and alternative uses, with the potential to impact on the values of the gardens being limited if contained within the existing building footprint.

6.4.4 *Development and setting*

Policy: Any new development, including new structures and landscape changes, should be sited to be visually unobtrusive and avoid impacts on significant buildings, elements and landscape features.

Accepting that there is an expectation for the provision of modern and renewal of existing facilities within the gardens, there is a need for a cautious and considered approach to the introduction of new elements. The key issues relate to location, impact on key presentational aspects and scale of new structures, particularly where proximate to significant elements. New structures should, in preference, be visually unobtrusive and appropriately deferential to the significant element. This also goes to the materiality and form of new elements.

With regards to location, it is recommended that new elements are co-located with existing facilities of a like nature and purpose. The Alfred Crescent Pavilion, for example, contains public amenities and is co-located with the basketball court, the south playground and the Alfred Crescent oval. Introducing new pathways, freestanding amenities (toilets, bbqs and the like) in this area is preferred. Smaller freestanding elements, such as the Memorial Rotunda and the Queen Victoria Plinth, are less able to tolerate the introduction of new structures in their immediate vicinity and development should preferably be avoided adjacent to this type of element.

A further planning and design consideration is the placement of new buildings and elements relative to the gardens' boundary. Except for the buildings in the sporting precinct and the Emely Baker Infant Welfare Centre, the Edinburgh Gardens perimeter largely free of built structures. In preference, future development should be located sufficiently away from the garden perimeter to maintain a deep, landscaped presentation.

If the opportunity arises to remove the Emely Baker Infant Welfare Centre, it is recommended that this area of the gardens is returned to a landscape consistent with the early layout of this area.

Landscape

6.4.5 *Conservation of landscape*

Policy: The heritage landscape of the Edinburgh Gardens should be conserved. Conservation of living landscapes is an ongoing process of renewal. This process requires that the maintenance of valued elements be combined with the considered replacement and adaptation of elements in order to maintain the values of the whole.

While Edinburgh Gardens contains and has come to be associated with key nineteenth century avenue plantings of English and Dutch Elm and English Oak, these are the principal survivors of a more diverse and extensive planting which included:

- Boundary plantings to the major street edges;
- Formal flanking and foundation plantings to the main avenues;
- Detailed ornamental feature plantings that included not only the formal shapes of Elm and Holm Oak that survive today but also associated shrub, groundcover and specimen tree plantings;
- Extensive use of native Eucalypts, often in formal rows providing a backdrop to the avenue plantings;

- Use of other native evergreen trees, including Kurrajong and Sweet Pittosporum, again in predominantly formal arrangements;
- Use of exotic conifers as boundary and avenue trees, as well as specimens in ornamental beds;
- Extensive use of evergreen shrubs.

An approach to heritage management that is limited to addressing only the replacement of existing avenue trees would be unnecessarily narrow, and unlikely to achieve the conservation of the breadth of the place's historical and aesthetic values for the future. It also cannot address the broader scope of expectations and requirements that apply today to a major public open space like the Edinburgh Gardens.

Conservation of the heritage landscape of Edinburgh Gardens must address not only the retention and successional replacement of the primary extant avenues, but also the renewal of the broader landscape, including restoration of a broader planting palette and attention not only to avenue canopy trees but also to other planted features. As detailed in the policy, renewal requires commitment to both replacement and adaptation of the landscape.

Adaptation, as compared with like-for-like replacement, allows managers to address not only decline and senescence of individual specimens but also changing environmental and social conditions that may undermine the success, suitability and values of the whole planting. Guided by historical information and heritage analysis, adaptation may accommodate considerable change and evolution in individual plant selections while maintaining the structure, character and experiential value of the landscape as a whole.

With specific reference to the history and values of the Edinburgh Gardens, attention to opportunities for adaptation and innovation in the gardens' plant palette can assist in recovering the contribution made by known early features which are now present only in a remnant form, including the mass formal planting of native Eucalypts and evergreen native and exotic trees, as well as the use of trees and shrubs in combination in ornamental and feature beds.

In the case of the latter, while the original form, extent or plant selections may be impractical or unappealing today, the amenity and display functions of these plantings may be reinterpreted to address contemporary tastes and aspirations, as well as to provide an improved support and foundation for avenue and feature replacement plantings (refer to 6.4.6).

6.4.6 *Tree Replacement Strategy*

Policy: Major tree replacements and new plantings should be undertaken in accordance with a Tree Replacement Strategy. The Tree Replacement Strategy for Edinburgh Gardens should address replacement and/or succession planting for significant avenues, feature groups and valued specimen trees.

A Tree Replacement Strategy should be developed for Edinburgh Gardens to inform management and planning decisions with respect to the gardens' tree canopy and significant historical feature plantings. This document should be updated periodically.

Replacement, succession planting and adaptive strategies are required to maintain the character and value of key plantings in the Edinburgh Gardens, including avenue trees, feature groupings and valued individual specimens. Avenue plantings in particular can be undermined by the progressive loss of individual specimens, requiring a more wholesale replacement to be undertaken when the decline of the constituent trees reaches a threshold where the value and effect of the group planting has been undermined.

In many cases, replacement of trees in heritage landscapes will employ like-for-like species and cultivars in order to maintain valued form and qualities of the original plantings. In rare cases genetic clones from existing trees may also be cultivated to conserve the character of the original (particularly where replacements are not otherwise available from production nurseries); however such considerations are not applicable to the common trees used in historical plantings at the Edinburgh Gardens.

An existing Avenue Replacement Plan (John Patrick Pty Ltd, 2015) provides general recommendations with respect to the replacement of the major nineteenth century avenue tree plantings in the Edinburgh Gardens. A new Tree Replacement Strategy, updating and expanding upon that document, was in preparation in mid-2020, and comments on a draft document were provided by the CMP project team.

Broadly, the discussion and general recommendations provided in the 2015 plan remain valid, although it is noted that the plan is not definitive with respect to questions such as species selection, approaches to avenue replacement, and anticipated schedule of replacements. Aspects of tree replacement planning should be flexible in order to accommodate changes in resourcing, species availability, best practice and the uncertain nature of tree decline and risk management. However, the discussion of considerations and options in the existing report is very broad, without providing sufficient guidance and conclusions to support a consistent approach to management decision-making and planning determinations.

The current CMP study carried out in 2019-2020 has identified new historical information on the form of early tree and shrub planting in the Edinburgh Gardens which is relevant to decision-making not only with respect to avenue replacement but also to the removal and replacement of other trees and the design of new plantings in the gardens. In particular, it is now understood that native trees were widely used in the early gardens plantings, around the perimeter of the site and as a background to several of the major avenue plantings. This historical and physical analysis has also improved the available understanding of the intent, form and chronology of the early path and avenue layout, and of accompanying ornamental plantings and planted features located elsewhere within the gardens. That information is now reflected in an updated levels of significance plan.

The 2020 Tree Replacement Strategy should consider and incorporate the findings of the 2020 CMP, including the need to address the replacement and/or adaptation of secondary feature and specimen planting and 'background' plantings to the major avenues.

Given the presence of a variety of remnant features and specimens, and improved knowledge of the character of Victorian and Edwardian plantings throughout the gardens, an updated Tree Replacement Strategy can now address all tree replacements and new planting requirements in Edinburgh Gardens. In particular, it should address with greater detail and clear guidance the objectives, form and species selection for:

- avenue plantings;
- boundary and open space plantings within the lawns; and
- ornamental and amenity selections.

In doing this, the updated Tree Replacement Strategy can and should address both the conservation of the heritage significance of the place and the incorporation of other key objectives of council management.

Climate adaptation, the use of native and indigenous species, and the provision of new amenities to the gardens are all considerations that require specialised responses that conserve and enhance the

heritage and amenity values of Edinburgh Gardens, and that are guided by known characteristics of the gardens' heritage.

The updated Tree Replacement Strategy should provide key and instructive advice on where the like-for-like replacement of extant heritage plantings is preferred or required, and where a broader palette of planting selections may be available that support the conservation or rehabilitation of the place's heritage character while addressing twenty-first century requirements and aspirations.

6.4.7 *Path layout and materials*

Policy: The layout, characteristics and material palette of the Edinburgh Gardens path network should be conserved. Upgrade paths as required to meet contemporary access and operational requirements, provided that the historical material palette and overall character of the path system are retained.

Layout

The layout of the primary extant paths and their accompanying avenue plantings within Edinburgh Gardens should be conserved, consisting of Avenues A-D (c. 1883-84) and E (c. 1888) as identified on Figure 59 in Chapter 3.

The layout of some more minor pathways, such as Path J at the Queen Victoria Plinth, and the forked northern entrance to Avenue A, which were in some cases associated with later garden works and other developments, should also generally be conserved.

A need to consider a somewhat greater scope for change has been recognised within the Sporting Precinct, into which the Edinburgh Gardens path network was extended from the late 1880s (Avenues F, G and H). Policies with respect to the Sporting Precinct are provided at section 6.5 below, although management of paths within the precinct should continue to have regard for this general policy.

The layout of Avenue L, a modern pathway constructed after the removal of the railway, has no identified significance and can generally be updated or removed as required. Modern secondary pathways associated with playgrounds and other facilities can also generally be updated or removed to reflect evolving requirements.

Material characteristics and dimensions

As reviewed in the physical analysis at section 3.4.1, the fabric of the path network within the gardens has been subject to ongoing iterative change to allow for upgrades to path surfaces and drainage systems and to accommodate evolving operational requirements. Bluestone fabric in particular is varied in its form, construction details and purpose, reflecting ongoing iterative improvements carried out in the twentieth century.

Path cross-sections, widths and arrangements of edging and channels have also evolved to meet requirements. While a level of consistency is desirable, functional variations in surface width can for instance be accommodated within the existing arrangements, in order for instance to accommodate a widening of certain paths for sharing with bicycles and other mobility users.

The principal limitation on such works is the spacing of the mature avenue plantings and the surface grades and root zones in their immediate vicinity; where required, path widening would ideally be carried out in concert with avenue tree replacement in order to manage impacts within the root zones of existing trees. As part of any future path widening works, a small expansion of the typical 9.0 metre width between rows could also be considered to achieve functional improvements to

major pathways, provided that the effect on the overall presentation of the avenue and adjacent spaces is reviewed and understood to be negligible.

Pathway fabric, including bluestone channels, edging and other details, appears to be predominantly of a mid-twentieth century origin. The principal exception consists of limited areas of raised, irregular bluestone rubble edging that appear to date to the early twentieth century and which were often associated with shrubberies and other planting beds at path intersections, entrances and crossings of the former railway corridor. Where practical, these raised rubble edges should be retained and conserved, particularly where associated with planting beds whose use can be renewed.

In contrast, most other bluestone path edging within the gardens reflects a variety of functional types associated with path upgrades carried out from the c. 1940s through the 1970s. Further upgrades to these edges and drainage channels, including replacement of existing bluestone fabric with material that has been honed and installed to modern standards, is appropriate, noting that where practical existing stones should be recycled.

6.4.8 *Lighting, furnishings and infrastructure*

Policy: Light standards, furnishings and service infrastructure such as bin enclosures should be consistent, functional, and display a standard of material design appropriate to the Edinburgh Gardens as a major public setting. While the adoption of traditional design details may in some cases be appropriate, the consistent use of contemporary fixtures and details which support the public profile of the gardens and contemporary requirements is supported.

Supporting infrastructure for the public use of the Edinburgh Gardens, including light standards, furnishings, bin enclosures and other sundry elements, should be functional and of a suitably high material quality appropriate to its public setting. Furnishing systems, including lighting, should be deployed consistently across the whole of the place, with a proliferation of unique or bespoke solutions generally discouraged.

Traditional design details, in the form of traditional park benches and the like, may be employed where these remain consistent with contemporary requirements. However, the use of reproduction standards and furnishings, or other ‘faux historic’ styles and details is not otherwise encouraged where evidence does not exist to support the use of these styles.

6.4.9 *Civic monuments and memorabilia*

Policy: Historical monuments and memorabilia within the Edinburgh Gardens should be conserved and managed in accordance with their assessed individual and collective values, physical form and physical and cultural context. The provision of new monuments to the place could also be contemplated provided these uphold the identified values and character of the Edinburgh Gardens.

Beginning with the erection of the Queen Victoria statue in 1902 (and arguably preceding it in the naming of the Edinburgh Gardens after the Duke of Edinburgh in conjunction with his 1867-68 visit to Australia), the gardens were treated as an important civic landscape for the City of Fitzroy.

Between the turn of the century and WW2, members of the sports clubs and the broader community led the construction and installation of a variety of monuments and memorials. Some reflected broadly held community expressions of value and mourning, including the Sportsman’s War Memorial and the Memorial Rotunda, while others like the Chandler Drinking Fountain and the Cook Memorial were more narrowly derived memorabilia.

This tradition is an important element of the historical use and development of the Edinburgh Gardens as the City of Fitzroy's largest public reserve; the monuments have heritage value both individually in some cases and in the aggregate as contributors to this tradition. It is also recognised that in some cases the values and histories of such monuments may be subject to contestation.

Most of the monuments are included in the YCC's Arts and Culture collections and are presently managed on that basis by conservators.

Management of the individual monuments should attend to the overall values of the Edinburgh Gardens, while also being tailored to the elements' individual qualities, histories and conservation requirements. To that end, a more detailed discussion is provided of the principles which should be applied to the management of these monuments and the planning of potential change:

Conservation

Several of the monuments have specialised material conservation requirements, such as the maintenance of decorative pressed render or ceramic elements and original bronze plaques, which are appropriately addressed through the ongoing work of the Yarra Arts and Culture team. Where physical conservation issues may overlap with building science and skilled building trades in the context of the Memorial Rotunda and the Sportsman's Memorial, appropriate expertise in architectural conservation should be consulted.

Relocation and reconfiguration

Certain monuments survive in altered context or have been previously relocated. It is recognised that further changes may be required to support an appreciation of the significance of monuments or to address the negative effects of past change. Monuments in preference will be retained in original locations, but relocation can be considered case by case where monuments have been moved previously or where this may otherwise support an improved conservation outcome.

The Chandler Drinking Fountain stands at its original location at the threshold between the grandstand entrance to the Brunswick Street Oval and the Edinburgh Gardens; while the fountain should be maintained in this area of the site, its exact location could be adjusted if this came to be desired from a functional perspective. Similarly, the relocation of the Sportsman's Memorial within the Sporting Precinct could be contemplated to restore it to a freestanding configuration and position of prominence appropriate to its original intent.

The Cook Memorial has previously been relocated from the Sporting Precinct to its present location in the north-east; further moves could reasonably be contemplated where required.

In contrast, and particularly in the absence of the original Queen Victoria statue, the relocation of the Queen Victoria Plinth would be likely to result in the loss of most of the remaining values and associations of this element and would not be supported. The value of the plinth as a remnant artefact pertains directly to its former function and to its placement within a purpose-built section of garden which remains legible within the broader place.

Relocation off-site

In most cases, relocation of a monument out of the Edinburgh Gardens would substantially diminish its heritage values by severing its original context and association with the site's historical civic and sporting communities. Such moves would not generally be supported for monuments to which a level of significance has been assigned in the Edinburgh Gardens.

However, off-site relocation could reasonably be contemplated as a future management action for the Cook Memorial. This monument, a granite plinth bearing bronze plaques including a relief

portrait of Captain James Cook by a local sculptor, was not originally produced for the Edinburgh Gardens and has a history of previous relocations. Although the memorial pertains to the civic and memorial traditions of the place, it does not have the same level of association to those traditions as that reflected in the Sportsman's Memorial, the Memorial Rotunda, and even the Chandler Drinking Fountain, which were all situated more intentionally within the gardens as local civic expressions. To the extent that the Cook Memorial has a heritage value to the City of Yarra as a historical artefact and a work of the artist J.A. Heyman (late of Fitzroy), it is as a moveable cultural object, and it would be expected to retain that value and association if relocated to another site within the municipality.

Interpretation

Typically, the monuments within Edinburgh Gardens include original commemorative plaques, although these are of varying condition and do not always provide sufficient information to understand the element in its modern context. In most cases, supplemental interpretive panels should be provided to describe the historical and thematic context of each monument; these can also include an acknowledgement of contested values where relevant. Interpretative signage should typically be freestanding or otherwise separated from the original monument, and should be designed and situated so as to not intrude on the original presentation of the element being interpreted.

New monuments

Recognising the value of the civic tradition of Edinburgh Gardens, from a heritage perspective it would be reasonable to contemplate the future erection of further monuments and memorials within the place, particularly within the context of the Sporting Precinct and the extended zone along the gardens' west boundary that has a heightened civic profile. Such future memorabilia should be consistent in character, form and subject matter to the existing monuments: i.e. any new monuments should consist of discrete built form of high aesthetic quality, sympathetic to the gardens' evolved nineteenth century setting, and be associated with a broadly held civic memory, and proposed new monuments should be sited and designed to avoid negative physical or presentation impacts to other significant elements of the place.

For these reasons, memorial elements of a more private or personal nature, such as tree or bench dedications, are not appropriate to the civic context of the Edinburgh Gardens and would not be supported from a heritage perspective.

6.4.10 Evidence of railway

Policy: The principal surviving evidence of the former Fitzroy railway spur at Edinburgh Gardens, being two sections of rails, one within the gardens' path network and a second running across the Alfred Crescent roadway, should be conserved. The original alignment of the railway corridor should also continue to be acknowledged in the gardens' landscape and interpretive systems.

Two sections of rails have been retained within and adjacent to Edinburgh Gardens: one at the intersection of Avenue D and Avenue L south-west of the Queen Victoria garden, and one just outside of the heritage place (i.e. not subject to the heritage overlay) where the railway formerly crossed Alfred Crescent.

For the purposes of this policy, it is assumed that both locations contain original rails and buried ties associated with the later twentieth century operations of the spur line and the Fitzroy depot; this has not been confirmed. However, even if their fabric has been altered, these sections of rail have a degree of interpretive value.

Although artefactual in nature, the retained sections of rail interpret the former spur line, whose construction was a major event in the municipal history of Fitzroy, and which as constructed became a major historical feature and influence on the gardens' development and prevailing character for much of the site's history. A desire to restore a contiguous landscape to the parkland following the line's closure in the 1980s led to removal of most other evidence of the railway corridor's former layout and characteristics.

The retained sections of rail should be conserved on the railway's original alignment, and maintained as a visible surface feature, taking appropriate measures as required to maintain safe access over and around the rails. Interpretation of these features should be provided in accordance with the Interpretation policy at Section 6.3.5.

If in the course of future works, other sections of railway line are found buried within the gardens, options for recording and/or retaining additional sections of line in situ should be considered.

6.5 Sporting Precinct

6.5.1 Use of the place

Policy: Continue to use the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand and buildings and structures within the sporting precinct for their intended recreational purpose as a means of conserving the values identified for the place as a whole.

The continued use of the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand and the sporting precinct for its original sporting and recreational related purpose is key to the retention of the significance of this area and the building. This includes maintaining the Bowls and Tennis clubs as active and longstanding components of the sporting precinct, the oval and providing a context for the Freeman Street Entrance Gatehouse.

Further, new elements that support the continued function of the sporting precinct, such as scoreboards and the like around the oval and seating, can be introduced. That said, care should be taken in locating new infrastructure to ensure that key views to the grandstand and the connection between the grandstand and the oval are not interrupted.

6.5.2 Paths and landscape

Policy: Manage and upgrade paths and landscape elements within the sporting precinct as required to support the identified heritage values of the precinct and the Edinburgh Gardens as a whole.

The sporting precinct is significant for its history of clubs usage as reflected in the place's continuity of use in organised cricket, football, bowling and tennis, and in select physical fabric of historical significance at variously the local and state level. The landscape of the precinct should be managed (and where feasible, improved) in a way that supports these values, by supporting the precinct's ongoing use in organised club sport, and by supporting the conservation and retention of the significant built fabric elements. In addition to certain precinct-specific considerations, management of historical landscape features within the Sporting Precinct should have general regard to the policies provided at sections 6.4.5-6.4.7 and should seek to conserve significant elements and characteristics of the Edinburgh Gardens landscape.

With the exception of a small number of Holm Oak trees whose original planted purpose is not known, the extant landscape features of heritage significance are path alignments and Elm tree avenues that post-date the original c. 1883-85 Edinburgh Gardens paths, and stem from the extension of that path system into the area of the original club allotments from the late 1880s.

Other landscape features within the precinct are predominantly of modern origin; most relate to the redevelopment of the oval as a community facility in the 1980s.

The precinct and its integration with the gardens has been constrained by tightly fenced boundaries, awkward thresholds and a preponderance of informal and service spaces on public frontages. This historically has also left some early landscape elements in an eroded condition. For instance, the original Avenue A segment to the east of the oval was removed in its 1930s expansion, and on the replacement path (Avenue A.1) a row of Elm trees grew informally on a fence line in lieu of a properly situated formal planting.

One side of the Elm planting on Avenue G was also removed in the c. 1940s, with the fenced tennis club enclosure expanded in a way that left the path and fragmentary avenue in a less formal condition. This path has also constrained the improvement of the tennis club courts to meet modern standards and capacity requirements, leaving both elements in a compromised form.

Issues of informality manifest throughout in the precinct in other ways. The small lawn areas to the front of the grandstand are inappropriate to current levels of use; as a result they become trampled, muddy, and require frequent replacement. The fenced tennis club and bowling club enclosures produce informal areas between their fences and the nearest park paths which are generally not formally programmed (by way of furnishings or plantings) and are also not comfortable spaces for public occupancy; several sections of the precinct also have issues with visual access for public surveillance.

Future development within the sporting precinct (ie. facilities replacements and upgrades and/or construction of new facilities) would ideally seek to address the informal nature of the precinct's existing public areas and should avoid creating new areas of informality or poor structural support to public and club uses.

Although there is an expressed preference that heritage landscape elements within and adjacent to the precinct are supported and renewed where and when required, it is recognised that rationalising land use within the precinct and improving the quality and performance of public spaces and infrastructure (as well as club infrastructure) may require the removal or modification of existing elements, including trees and path alignments.

Where impacts to heritage landscape elements are required, preference is expressed that these address elements that are of lower integrity and have been subject to previous change. Paths and avenues within the sporting precinct were post-1885 additions which were constrained from the beginning by the existing layout of surrounding club compounds; as noted the paths and avenue plantings on Avenue A.1 and G have been subject to previous change that has also affected their physical integrity.

6.5.3 *Grandstand*

Policy: Any development of the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand and the surrounding area should be responsive to and consistent with its identified heritage values.

Policy: New development in the vicinity of the grandstand should be located in a way to maintain the visual connection between the viewing areas and the oval.

Development of the grandstand should be based on the continued use and occupation of the building for its original sports-related function.

The purpose of the grandstand is for the viewing of sporting activities on the oval to the south. This was reinforced when the area to the immediate south was modified to introduce a terraced

arrangement to provide additional elevated viewsheds to the oval; an arrangement introduced in the early twentieth century and maintained into the 1980s. The historic record, in addition to early plans and photographs of the grandstand, confirms that the area to the north of the building was occupied by buildings and related structures to support the functions of the Fitzroy Cricket and Football clubs. From an architectural perspective, the principal elevation of the grandstand is the south, with the east and west elevations being secondary (oblique views from the south-east and south-west in addition to those from the south being the primary valued viewsheds to the grandstand). The north elevation, particularly at ground and mezzanine levels, is of a more utilitarian nature. Accordingly, there is a lessened sensitivity to views of this elevation.

In preference, any future development or additions to the grandstand should be located to the north side so as to maintain the viewing relationship between the upper tiers, former terraced area and oval. Removal of the modern Community Hall, to the east of the grandstand, would also reinforce the freestanding reading of the grandstand in views from the south and south-east.

Any development of the grandstand should address DDA compliance issues, such as provision of equitable access to the upper tiered area, and OH & S issues relating to safe access to enable the maintenance of roof level infrastructure. The latter should be carefully designed so as to not diminish the presentation of principal elevations and interrupt key views of the building.

Redevelopment of the exterior ground level walls should seek to introduce a more cohesive presentation of these elements, accepting that these have been significantly altered over time.

Development of the interior ground level presents no heritage issues.

6.5.4 *Freeman Street Entrance Gatehouse*

Policy: Introduce, where possible, elements that reflect the early presentation of the Freeman Street Gatehouse as part of the former boundary arrangement to the sports precinct.

The Freeman Street Entrance Gatehouse is currently appreciated and understood as a freestanding element. The analysis at Chapter 3 has confirmed that the c. 1905 building was presented as part of the broader boundary treatment of the sports precinct, with fencing and gates adjoining its east and west ends and mounding to its north side. If the opportunity arises, it would be beneficial to install fencing and the like to reinforce the historical boundary arrangement and provide an appropriate contextual presentation and interpretation of this building.

Demolition of the addition to the north-west and relocation of the electrical services cupboard is preferred.

6.5.5 *Sportsman's Memorial*

Policy: Reinstate the original freestanding presentation of the Sportsman's Memorial.

Accepting that recent works have improved the general presentation of the Sportsman's Memorial through the introduction of formal paving, hedges and a large photographic panel and related conservation works, the current presentation of the structure is diminished through its attachment to the substation to the west and Bowling Club building to the north.

If a suitable opportunity is identified, it is recommended that the memorial be disengaged from these later structures to reinstate it in a freestanding setting and contextual presentation within the Sporting Precinct, reflecting the original intent of the structure and the values expressed in the memorial.

If the Sportsman's Memorial remains in its present location, the future removal of the substation would be strongly encouraged. In the event that the Bowling Club building is redeveloped in future, a preference would be expressed that the area immediately abutting the memorial within the club compound be reinstated as landscape.

6.5.6 *Bowling Club*

Policy: Future development of the Bowling Club Building should preferably include the reinstatement of an appropriate context and presentation for the Sportsman's Memorial.

The current Bowling Club building replaced the c. 1913 freestanding structure between 1969-70. This multi-level structure was constructed to match the alignment of the diagonal path to the south. The unfortunate outcome of this was the engagement of the Sportsman's Memorial within this adjacent built form and the loss of its freestanding presentation.

The Bowling Club Building is of little or no significance in its own right, and demolition of this structure would be acceptable. However, any replacement building should be designed in such a way to provide sufficient separation from and an appropriate landscaped presentation and landscaped context for the Sportsman's Memorial to its northerly aspect. In preference, any replacement building should be constructed away from the current diagonal boundary of the Bowling Club and should support the removal of the substation, in order to enable the reinstatement of a path through the Sportsman's Memorial and the reading of the harbour as a freestanding structure within a landscape context.

Any future redevelopment of the Bowling Club should seek to manage the visual impacts of a modern building within the context of the gardens. To this end, visual impact can be managed through the articulation of scale and elements and limiting the building height to no more than two-levels. As noted above, disengaging the bowling club structure from its current southern boundary would enable the re-establishment of the garden character at the western entry pathway.

6.5.7 *Tennis Club Pavilion*

Policy: Relocation of the tennis club pavilion within the tennis club is acceptable.

The tennis club pavilion is a structure that has been relocated numerous times within its history, though always within the context of the tennis club compound. Relocation of the tennis club is an acceptable action from a heritage perspective as long as an appropriate context and presentation is retained. The arrangement, materiality and presentation of the tennis courts is not a heritage concern.

6.5.8 *Timber Entrance Pavilion*

Policy: Relocate the Timber Entrance Pavilion to a more appropriate location if the opportunity arises.

Accepting that the Timber Entrance Pavilion is a reconstruction of the c. 1905 structure, it is an element which contributes to the interpretation and understanding of the early boundary treatment of the sports precinct. If the opportunity arises, relocate the reconstructed structure to a location that better reflects and approximates its original position between the two grandstands.

6.5.9 *Risk management*

Risk management is an important means of protecting and conserving the heritage values of all heritage places. As such a Risk Management Strategy should be integrated into the broader

management and administration of the Edinburgh Gardens, including the significant structures in the broader gardens, and the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand.

While a detailed assessment of risk is outside the scope of this report, the following risk preparedness analysis outlines potential threats and hazards posed to the physical fabric and landscape of the place by environmental and social factors:

Table 4 Risk analysis

Threat	Probability	Preparation / Response
Fire	Always present	Maintain and upgrade as necessary fire prevention measures to individual buildings, specifically the grandstand, timber entrance pavilion and Freeman Street Entrance Gatehouse. The grandstand, due to its use for rough sleeping is at particular risk. In addition to technological measures, such as sprinkler systems, include other surveillance measures to monitor for fire risk.
Vandalism and theft	Always present	Being a public garden with publicly accessible facilities there is an always present risk of vandalism to the buildings and landscape elements. Maintain intensive monitoring and response systems to address vandalism as it occurs. Engage the input of a suitably qualified heritage consultant to advise if significant buildings and landscape elements are damaged as a result of vandalism.
Storm Damage	Moderate	<p>Maintain roof areas in good order; inspect fixings; inspect and maintain windows and doors in good order; regularly inspect and clean the gutters and downpipes to all structures.</p> <p>Trees may be vulnerable to storm damage. This heightens the importance of ensuring that vulnerable trees are monitored and receive appropriate arboricultural maintenance consistent with Australian Standards, including use of cabling and/or exclusion zones where appropriate. Where necessary, replace trees in accordance with a staged and managed replacement plan (refer to policy 6.4.6).</p> <p>Inspect drainage systems on a regular basis to detect blockages from eroded soil, recreation surfaces, organic matter or tree root damage,</p>

Threat	Probability	Preparation / Response
		and ensure these systems perform to design in storm conditions.
Water ingress	Moderate	Maintain and keep clear all rainwater goods (gutters, downpipes and sumps). Regularly inspect and maintain the roof and windows to the ensure watertightness of the buildings.
Earthquakes	Possible	Have appropriate response and recovery strategies in the event of structural and other damage.

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Victorian Heritage Register

VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER NUMBER	H0751
NAME	BRUNSWICK STREET OVAL GRANDSTAND
LOCATION	BRUNSWICK STREET FITZROY NORTH, YARRA CITY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	YARRA CITY
CATEGORY	Registered place
GAZETTAL DATES	GAZETTAL TYPE
27/06/1990	Addition
18/06/2020	Amendment



Victorian Heritage Register Report

EXTENT: As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act 2017, I give notice under section 53 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying a place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H0751

Category: Registered Place

Place: Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand

Location: Brunswick Street, Fitzroy North

Municipality: Yarra City Council

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 751 encompassing part of Allotment 6 Section 34 at North Fitzroy, Parish of Jika Jika.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand building including its fixtures and fittings. The 1980s Community Room to the east of the grandstand is not significant.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

The place satisfies the following criteria for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places/objects.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is historically significant as one of the earliest surviving nineteenth-century grandstands in the metropolitan area. Constructed in 1888, the grandstand has an enduring association with the development of Australian rules football and cricket and their growth as popular recreational pastimes from the late nineteenth century onwards. The ground was the home of the Fitzroy Football Club from 1884 until 1966 and the Grandstand remains as an important reminder of the contribution made by Fitzroy to the history of Australian rules football in Victoria (Criterion A).

The Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand is architecturally significant as a fine and intact example of a nineteenth-century timber grandstand. It was designed by noted architect Nathaniel Billing and exhibits high quality design characteristics in its symmetrical composition and restrained decorative details. Many grandstands constructed in this era have been demolished or substantially altered and it remains a comparatively intact surviving example (Criterion D).

PERMIT EXEMPTIONS:

INTRODUCTION TO PERMIT EXEMPTIONS

Preamble

The purpose of this information is to assist owners and other interested parties when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

The extent of registration of the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 751 including the land, buildings (exteriors and interiors), roads, trees, landscape elements and other features. Under the Heritage Act 2017 a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

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If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a permit exemption is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.38 of the Heritage Act) or after registration (under s.92 of the Heritage Act). It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Disrepair of registered place or registered object

Under s.152 of the Act, the owner of a registered place or registered object must not allow that place or object to fall into disrepair.

Failure to maintain registered place or registered object

Under s.153 of the Act, the owner of a registered place or registered object must not fail to maintain that place or object to the extent that its conservation is threatened.

Conservation management plans

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is developed to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

If works are proposed which have the potential to disturb or have an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage it is necessary to contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain any requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is necessary to immediately contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

Other approvals

Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

Archaeology

There is no identified archaeology of state level significance at the place.

Cultural heritage significance

Overview of significance

The cultural heritage significance of the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand lies in the grandstand building, attached features and fixtures and its relationship to the oval and broader context. The 1980s community room to the east of the grandstand is not significant. Other recreational facilities introduced in the late twentieth century such as the bocce court

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are not significant.

CATEGORIES OF WORKS OR ACTIVITIES (PERMIT EXEMPTIONS) RECOMMENDED UNDER S.38

The following works do not require a permit provided that they are carried out in a manner which does not harm the cultural heritage significance of the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand.

General Conditions

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the significant fabric of the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand.

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the Brunswick Street Oval Grandstand are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

All works should ideally be informed by a Conservation Management Plan prepared for the place.

The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

Specific Permit Exemptions

Grandstand

Exterior

- Minor repairs and maintenance which replaces like with like. Repairs and maintenance must maximise protection and retention of significant fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Any repairs and maintenance must not exacerbate the decay of fabric due to chemical incompatibility of new materials, obscure fabric or limit access to such fabric for future maintenance.
- Repair to or removal of items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae and aerials.
- Works or activities, including emergency stabilisation, necessary to secure safety in an emergency where a structure or part of a structure has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and poses a safety risk to its users or the public. Note: The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, must be notified within seven days of the commencement of these works or activities.
- Painting of previously painted surfaces in the same colour, finish and product type provided that preparation or painting does not remove earlier paint finishes or schemes. Note: This exemption does not apply to decorative finishes or unpainted, oiled or varnished surfaces.
- Cleaning including the removal of surface deposits or graffiti by the use of low-pressure water (less than 300 psi at the surface being cleaned) and neutral detergents and mild brushing and scrubbing with plastic not wire brushes.

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- Repair and maintenance to existing signage and replacement of signage where it is to the same scale and in the same location.
- Repair to and removal of existing exterior lighting and public address systems.

Interior

- Painting of previously painted surfaces in the same colour, finish and product type provided that preparation or painting does not remove earlier paint finishes or schemes. Note: This exemption does not apply to decorative finishes or unpainted, oiled or varnished surfaces.
- Removal or replacement of devices for the hanging of wall mounted artworks, noticeboards and signage in existing locations.
- Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings and window furnishings such as curtains and blinds.
- Removal or replacement of smoke and fire detectors, alarms and the like, of the same size and in existing locations.
- Repair, removal or replacement of existing ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the central plant is concealed, and that the work is done in a manner which does not alter building fabric.
- Installation of plant within the roof space, providing that it does not impact on the external appearance of the building or involve structural changes.

1980s Community Rooms

All the works and activities specified for the Grandstand, plus:

- All works to the interior of the Community Room.

Events

The installation and/or erection of temporary elements associated with authorised short-term events provided they are not attached to the grandstand building and are in situ for a maximum period of 30 days after which time they must be removed. This includes:

- o Temporary structures such as marquees.
- o Temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems.
- o Temporary infrastructure, including lighting, portable toilets, public address systems and the like to support events and performances.
- o Temporary micro tenancies such as food trucks and the like, with ground protection.
- o Temporary operational equipment such as freestanding wayfinding/directional signage.

Landscape/ outdoor areas

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- The processes of gardening including mowing, pruning, mulching, bedding displays, removal of dead shrubs, planting and replanting of garden beds, disease and weed control and maintenance to care for existing plants.
- Management and maintenance of trees including formative and remedial pruning, removal of deadwood and pest and disease control.
- The removal or pruning of dead or dangerous trees to maintain safety.
- Establishment of new garden beds and low-level plantings except where this involves major excavation.
- Installation of new pathways where they do not involve major excavation or interface with the fabric of the grandstand.
- Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of existing watering and drainage systems or other services provided there are no visible above ground elements. Existing lawns, gardens and hard landscaping, including paving, footpaths and roadways are to be reinstated on the completion of works.
- Repair and maintenance of existing hard landscaping including paving, footpaths and roadways where fabric, design, scale, form and method of fixing is repaired or replaced like for like.
- Repair, maintenance or removal of bocce court.
- Removal or replacement of external directional or informational signage provided the size, location and material remains the same.
- Maintenance, repair and replacement of existing services such as plumbing, electrical cabling, surveillance systems, external lighting, pipes or fire services which does not involve changes in location or scale of above ground elements, or major excavation.
- Maintenance, repair and removal of the existing water tank, bins, bin cages, benches, bollards and fencing and replacement of these items provided they are of the same scale and in the same location.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name: Fitzroy Cricket Club complex: Grandstand, Timber Gatehouse, Entrance Gateway, Brick Gatehouse
Address: 578-694 Club Brunswick Street FITZROY NORTH
Place Type: Sports Club
Citation Date: 2007
Significance Level: State



Fitzroy Cricket Club complex

Recommended Heritage Protection VHR -

HI -

PS -

Architectural Style: Victorian Period (1851-1901)

Integrity

not assessed

History and Historical Context

The Fitzroy Cricket Ground Grandstand was constructed in 1888 to the design of the architects N Billing and Son. ... The ground, usually known as the 'Brunswick Street Oval', was the home of the Fitzroy Football Club until 1966.

REFERENCES
Heritage Victoria

Description

Physical Description

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT



It is of typical nineteenth century form with central divided entry stair emphasised by a small pediment and restrained use of cast iron for balustrading.

Physical Description

Victorian Heritage Register address is Freeman St;

Statement of Significance

This property is on the Victorian Heritage Register - H751.

For more information on this property, refer to the Victorian Heritage Register information.

Recommendations 2007

External Paint Controls

-

Internal Alteration Controls

-

Tree Controls

-

Fences & Outbuildings

-

Prohibited uses may be permitted

-

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

-

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name: Edinburgh Gardens, landscape & structures
Address: 578-694 Brunswick Street FITZROY NORTH
Place Type: Urban Park
Citation Date: 2007

Significance Level: Local



Edinburgh Gardens - Rotunda

Recommended Heritage Protection VHR -

HI -

PS -

Architectural Style: Victorian Period (1851-1901)

Integrity

Fair

History and Historical Context

The site was temporarily reserved for public use in 1862, and was initially used for cricket. In 1877 a bowling club was established on the site. The site was permanently reserved as a park in two sections in 1881 and 1883. Following this, development started in earnest. Low areas were filled with garbage and manure, as well as for the disposal of night soil. A number of horses were (sic) also buried on the site.

Avenues within the park were apparently developed along pedestrian wear lines through the site.¹ A creek that ran through the park was eventually converted into an underground drain. Early features of the park included a fountain and a pond, both of which have been removed. A significant development in the history of the park was the construction of the North Fitzroy rail line in 1888, that effectively cut the park into two distinct sections. The rail line was removed in 1981.

REFERENCES

Edinburgh Gardens, landscape & structures
Hermes No 103220

Heritage Citation Report
04-Feb-2020 10:51 AM

Allom Lovell and Associates, 1998. City of Yarra Heritage Review: Vol 3

Description

Physical Description

The Edinburgh Gardens is a large park surrounded by residential development. The park contains a wide variety of active recreational facilities, as well as extensive passive recreation areas. Edinburgh Gardens falls within the North Fitzroy Precinct-see City of Yarra Heritage Review: Heritage Overlay Precincts (1998).

Remnant Fabric (Man Made)

The site contains many built structures; most are associated with active recreation, and are of recent origin and low conservation significance. Of note is the prominent Peace Memorial located on the Brunswick Street frontage, erected in 1925. This Classical Revival rotunda appears to be of brick or concrete construction, finished with a cream render, and the bronze domed roof is supported by eight Doric columns. Asphalt paths throughout the park are edged in basalt. A garden bed located centrally within the park features a large pedestal that was mounted by a wooden statue of Queen Victoria. The statue is no longer in place. A path bisecting the park in a rough north south alignment follows the alignment of the now defunct railway, with a short section of rails extant near the junction of Fergie Street and Alfred Crescent.

Remnant Fabric (Vegetation)

The site is dominated by mature trees, most notably Elms (*Ulmus procera* and *Ulmus x hollandica*) and Common Oak (*Quercus robur*), both of which are used extensively as avenue plantings. A notable row of Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) is located along the park street frontage. Other notable specimens include Fastigate Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Fastigiata'), Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) and Bay Tree (*Laurus nobilis*). A mature Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) near the Peace Memorial has been recorded on the National Trust of Australia's (Victoria) Significant Tree Register. A privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) hedge in the southern section of the park relates to the defunct railway line.

Potential Threats

The wide variety of uses of the park and the various structures associated with these uses has led to a disparate layout of the park. Further introduction of inappropriately detailed facilities would erode its heritage character. Coupled with this is the poor level of maintenance of the plant material. Recent plantings, for example around the central garden bed, are inappropriate to the character of the park.

Management Steps

Edinburgh Gardens require the preparation of a detailed conservation study to more fully identify elements of high conservation significance, and outline policies for the gardens on-going conservation. This would effectively update the report prepared by Landform Australia in 1987. A new master plan should then be prepared that would unify the various disparate elements within the park, following the policies set out in the conservation study, to ensure the parks inherent heritage character is preserved.

It would include guidelines for the management of existing plant material, replacement strategies for senescent trees and introduction of new plant material and detailing of hard landscaping features and structures.

Physical Description

2 Bay Trees (*Laurus nobilis*)- see 1998 description: The site contains many built structures; most are associated with active recreation, and are of recent origin and low conservation significance. Of note is the prominent Peace Memorial located on the Brunswick Street frontage, erected in 1925. This Classical Revival rotunda appears to be of brick or concrete construction, finished with a cream render, and the bronze domed roof is supported by eight Doric columns. Asphalt paths throughout the park are edged in basalt. A garden bed located centrally within the park features a large pedestal that was mounted by a wooden statue of Queen Victoria. The statue is no longer in place. A path bisecting the park in a rough north south alignment follows the alignment of the now defunct railway, with a short section of rails extant near the junction of Fergie Street and Alfred Crescent.'

Statement of Significance

The following wording is from the John Patrick Landscape Citation, 1998 for the property. Please note that this is a "Landscape Citation", not a "Statement of Significance". For further information refer to the Landscape Citation held by the City of Yarra.

Landscape Citation, 1998

Description

The Edinburgh Gardens is a large park surrounded by residential development. The park contains a wide variety of active recreational facilities, as well as extensive passive recreation areas.

The site was temporarily reserved for public use in 1862, and was initially used for cricket. In 1877 a bowling club was established on the site. The site was permanently reserved as a park in two sections in 1881 and 1883. Following this, development started in earnest. Low areas were filled with garbage and manure, as well as for the disposal of night soil. A number of horses were also buried on the site. Avenues within the park were apparently developed along pedestrian wear lines through the site. A creek that ran through the park was eventually converted into an underground drain. Early features of the park included a fountain and a pond, both of which have been removed. A significant development in the history of the park was the construction of the North Fitzroy rail line in 1888, that effectively cut the park into two distinct sections. The rail line was removed in 1981.

Remnant Fabric (Man Made)

The site contains many built structures; most are associated with active recreation, and are of recent origin and low conservation significance. Of note is the prominent Peace Memorial located on the Brunswick Street frontage, erected in 1925. This Classical Revival rotunda appears to be of brick or concrete construction, finished with a cream render, and the bronze domed roof is supported by eight Doric columns. Asphalt paths throughout the park are edged in basalt. A garden bed located centrally within the park features a large pedestal that was mounted by a wooden statue of Queen Victoria. The statue is no longer in place. A path bisecting the park in a rough north south alignment follows the alignment of the now defunct railway, with a short section of rails extant near the junction of Fergie Street and Alfred Crescent.

Remnant Fabric (Vegetation)

The site is dominated by mature trees, most notably Elms (*Ulmus procera* and *U. x hollandica*) and Common Oak (*Quercus robur*), both of which are used extensively as avenue plantings. A notable row of Kurrajong (*Brachyglottis populneus*) is located along the park street frontage. Other notable specimens include Fastigate Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Fastigiata'), Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) and Bay Tree (*Laurus nobilis*). A mature Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) near the Peace Memorial has been recorded on the National Trust of Australia's (Victoria) Significant Tree Register. A Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) hedge in the southern section of the park relates to the defunct railway line.

Statement of Significance

Edinburgh Gardens are locally significant as a major and early recreational facility within the Fitzroy area. The site is intrinsically linked to a number of local sporting groups and the Fitzroy community generally. It contains elements that illustrate the early use of the site, particularly the railway, and contributes significantly to the heritage character and general

amenity of the local neighbourhood, particularly as a setting for adjacent significant housing which culminates in a landscape of notable grandeur within the City of Yarra. The site is also significant for the notable numbers of mature trees, one of which is recorded by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

Recommendations 2007

External Paint Controls

-

Internal Alteration Controls

-

Tree Controls

-

Fences & Outbuildings

-

Prohibited uses may be permitted

-

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

-

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

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