

Mansfield Shire Council

Botanic Park Masterplan

October
2023



Mansfield Shire

Mansfield Shire Council acknowledges the Taungurung people as the traditional owners of the land upon which our Shire is located. We pay our respects to the Taungurung elders, past, present and future and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Acknowledgements

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- ▶ Cr. Mark Holcombe
- ▶ Cr. Rohan Webb
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Contents

..... 1

Overview4

 Background4

 Purpose4

 Study Area.....6

Site Analysis8

Photo Audit10

Methodology15

Background Research16

 Strategic Alignment16

Literature Review17

Demographics Summary.....18

 Key User Groups.....19

Consultation20

 Analysis21

 Recommendations24

The Masterplan26

 Vision.....26

 Mission Statement.....26

 Objectives.....27

 Themes28

Illustrative Masterplan29

Masterplan Implementation.....30

 Projects30

 Implementation Timeline33

Design Framework.....35

 Planting Schedule39

Literature Review50



Overview

Background

Mansfield Botanic Park, nestled in the heart of Mansfield Township, Victoria, is steeped in history, cultural significance, and natural beauty. Originally conceived as a race course, the park has since evolved into a beautiful space that serves both residents and visitors alike. Over the years, the park has borne witness to the changing landscapes of urban development, the ebb and flow of natural phenomena, and the footprints of countless visitors who have sought solace, recreation, and community within its grounds.

Mansfield Township itself, with its rich heritage and dynamic community spirit, has always viewed the Botanic Park as an essential part of its identity. The park not only offers a tranquil retreat but also stands as a testament to the township's commitment to environmental sustainability, conservation, and community well-being.

However, with changing times come new challenges and opportunities. Rapid urban development, increasing tourism, environmental shifts, and a renewed focus on health and well-being have presented a pressing need to revisit, re-envision, and revitalize Mansfield Botanic Park.

This project was originally funded through the Outdoor Activation Grant which was used to engage Michael Smith and Associates who created the original draft plan. Mansfield Shire Council would like to formally recognise their valuable contribution towards the plan which forms the basis of the final plan as it now stands. Michael Smith and Associates conducted the first round of community engagement with Council and prepared the initial draft masterplan after consulting relevant authorities and analysed community feedback to inform the plan. Following the end of the funding round, the plan was completed in-house with additional consultation and subsequent redrafts of the plan.

Purpose

The Mansfield Botanic Park Masterplan aims to provide a comprehensive, long-term vision for the park's development over the next 20 years. This strategic plan is designed with the primary objective of ensuring that the park continues to serve the evolving needs of the community while preserving its ecological integrity and cultural heritage.



Figure 1 Context

Study Area

Mansfield Botanic Park, spanning 8.5 hectares, is a distinguished passive recreation facility strategically positioned immediately east of Mansfield's Central Business District (CBD).

Within the Mansfield township, there are 19 open spaces without restrictions. Among these, the Mansfield Botanic Park stands out as the second largest.

Council's Open Space Strategy recognizes the park for its regional significance, defining it with an open grassy landscape and as a hub for family and social gatherings. The amenities offered within the park include:

- ▶ Ford Creek
- ▶ A parking facility accessible from High Street
- ▶ Play area for children
- ▶ Public restroom facilities
- ▶ 'Village green' playing field
- ▶ Exercise apparatus
- ▶ Gardens showcasing produce and Indigenous heritage
- ▶ Wooded sections and wetland areas
- ▶ Comfortable park furniture
- ▶ Barbecue and picnic shelters.

The park effectively serves multiple purposes, catering to a spectrum of recreational and community needs. Among these are informal play sessions, family assemblies, pet strolls, walking, cycling, jogging, gentle workouts, spaces for rest and introspection, community activities, and gatherings for gardening enthusiasts. It also stands as a prominent venue for noteworthy community festivities, including the annual Australia Day celebrations.

In a commendable move to expand its outreach, an adjoining 3.8-hectare tract of untouched land to the park's north is slated for integration. This addition will augment the park's expanse to approximately 13 hectares. The newly expanded park will be flanked by residential estates to the north, Mansfield-Whitfield Road to its east, High Street intertwined with commercial and residential entities to its south, and a blend of commercial and residential properties on its western boundary.



Figure 3 Site and Surrounds

Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  Public Open Space
-  Future Residential Development

North



Site Analysis

1. Accessibility and Pathways

- ▶ **Vehicle Access:** The park provides a parking facility of 23 spaces, located on the service lane adjacent to High Street.
- ▶ **Pedestrian Entry Points:** The park can be entered from various formal and informal points including:
 - Footbridge off High Street
 - Carparks on the service lane from High Street
 - Path access point on Somerset Crescent
 - Bridges on Baldry Street and High Street that traverse Ford Creek
 - Park boundaries along High Street, Highett Street, and Mansfield to Whitfield Road.
- ▶ **Special Features:** A notable steep embankment in the north-west corner ascends to residential properties on Somerset Drive. The embankment has an asphalt switchback pathway leading to Somerset Drive.
- ▶ **Concerns and Considerations:** Discussions have addressed the drainage from the Mansfield to Whitfield Road, which affects the park's north-east corner. Challenges such as path erosion, water pooling, and gravel path scouring in wet conditions have been noted. The park's central asphalt path, used for maintenance vehicle tracking, is wider in certain areas and may need resizing for visual appeal.

2. Parking

- ▶ **Current Parking Facilities:** Alongside High Street's service road, there are asphalt alcoves that accommodate around 23 car parking spaces targeting the park's south side.
- ▶ **Future Parking Needs:** With growing visitor numbers, additional parking is essential without disrupting existing amenities. Potential new parking could be located along a central park avenue, accessible from Mansfield-Whitfield Road.

3. Signage

- ▶ **Existing Signage:** Close to the wetland, the Ngobi-an Gadhaba Garden showcases indigenous plant species. Informational signboards with plant illustrations are placed nearby, detailing each species.
- ▶ **Signage Needs:** The park needs directional signage at entry points and within the park, along with welcome signs, distance markers for joggers, and markers for walkers at specific points.

4. Art Installations and Commemorative Plaques

Artistic and memorial installations pepper the park, enriching its cultural heritage. These include various sculptures, artworks, commemorative plaques, and specialized seating areas. Notable mentions are the tribute to John Patrick Fogarty and the Mansfield Garden Club's 50th Anniversary plaque.

5. Fencing

The park's boundaries are distinguished by timber bollard and chain fencing, especially in the south-east corner and along the Mansfield-Whitfield Road. Additionally, the children's play area boasts a pool-type barrier fence to prevent access to Ford Creek.

6. Garden Areas

- **Ngobi-an Gadhaba Garden:** This Indigenous Peoples Garden, designed by the Gadhaba Local Aboriginal Network, offers insights into native plant species used by First Nations Peoples. The garden features informative boards detailing these plants' diverse uses.
- **Other Gardens:** The park houses themed garden beds, showcasing native grasses, correas, callistemons, and conifers, enhancing its botanic allure.

7. Water Management and Drainage

The park's eastern quarter boasts a waterbody/wetland, currently presenting at a low water level. There's a potential for enhancement with aquatic plantings. Stormwater from the Mansfield-Whitfield Road feeds into this waterbody. Ford Creek, running through the park's southern region, demands significant rehabilitation. Periodic flooding from Ford Creek is an ongoing concern, demanding careful management strategies.

8. Vegetation and Grassy Areas

The park strikes a harmonious balance between evergreen and deciduous trees. An orchard area, various distinctive trees, and evocative groupings of She Oaks dot the park, providing sensory pleasure to visitors.

9. Playing Field and Village Green

The park's terrain showcases a series of large grassy mounds, adding dimension to its landscape. A village green-style space, surrounded by various trees, caters to informal play activities.

10. Amenities

Historically a race course, the park now features a contemporary playground, a public toilet facility echoing the design of cattleman's huts, and an outdoor gym area. The playground's flying fox, water play areas, dry creek bed, and rope climbing structures are particularly popular among families.

Photo Audit

Courtesy of Mike Smith and Associates.



The park has excellent connectivity to the core retail strip in High Street via a pedestrian bridge and car parking areas on the service road parallel to High Street.



A pedestrian bridge crosses Ford Creek at the Hightett Street end of the park, close to the town centre.



A key action of the Masterplan is to prepare appropriate spaces for new activities to take place on the 3.8-hectare area to the north of the park.



A pedestrian bridge across Ford Creek and connects Baldry Street and High Street to the park.



A feature of the garden is the low mounding of some grassed areas interwoven with garden beds of mainly native plants.



The park has a few garden beds of mainly native plants.



A metal sculpture on a path in the park. The plaque on the rock is in memory of John Patrick Fogarty - Superintendent of Parks and Gardens from 1961 to 1995.



There is one picnic and barbecue shelter in the park located close to the car park area of High Street and close to the play space and public toilets.



The existing wetland to the eastern end of the park could be regraded to increase its storage capacity.



Two Swamp Cypress trees are close to the existing wetland to the eastern side of the park.



The park has several garden beds of mainly native plants.



There is limited seating in the park. Several seats are donated in recognition or memory of the artisans who crafted some of the seats in the park.



Centrally located beside the main access route through the park is a conifer garden bed.



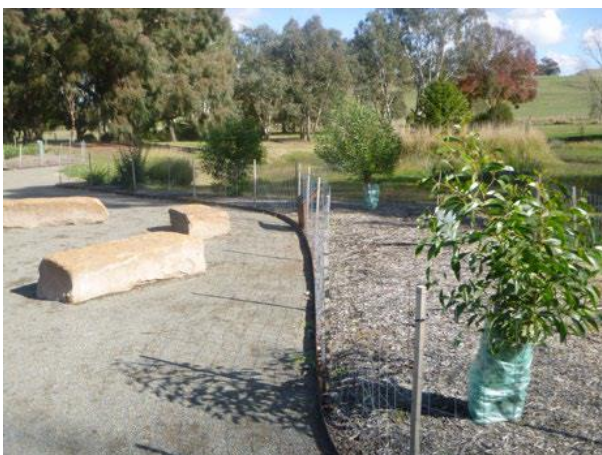
The eastern and part of the southern boundary to the park is defined by timber bollard and chain fencing.



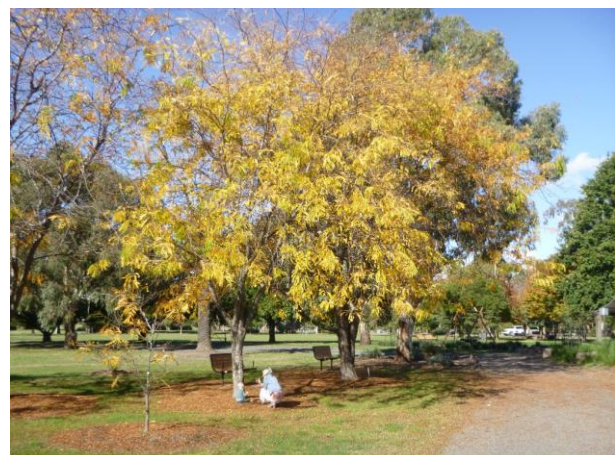
There is excellent signage about each of the local plants used by the Gadhaba people.



A gravel path connects the several garden beds of local plants and seating in the Gadhaba indigenous garden.



The Ngobi-an Gadhaba indigenous peoples garden displays some of the local plants used by local indigenous people for food, medicine, tools and fibre.



There is a range of native and exotic trees in the park. Autumn colours and Autumn leaves offer interest for children.



Ford Creek runs to the southern side of the park. The creek's embankments are infested with woody weeds such as Poplars, Ash and Willows.



Council has received grant funding of \$15,000 to undertake further clearance of weeds and revegetation. Further grant funding needs to be applied for ongoing rehabilitation of the creek.



Centrally located within the park a timber arbour supports a grape vine as part of the produce garden.



Mounding of certain grassed areas in the park creates drier spots for conducting events and creates visual interest in otherwise flat land.



The park has a range of specimen trees and only a couple are botanically labelled.



The produce garden has a range of various fruit trees and several timber boxes for growing flowers and vegetables.



The village green or small playing field is well used by the community and is the central area for events and festivals. The space is regularly used by people exercising dogs.



Several Chinese Elms, Oaks, Lindens and a row of Brittle Gums surround the village green's playing field.



The recently constructed play space close to High Street is well used.



The playspace has low mounding that creates interest and mudstone rocks provide steps for access to play apparatus.



The climbing nets are a feature of the playspace.



The recently constructed toilet facility close to the carpark on High Street and the playspace references the organic form of cattlemen huts of the high plains.

Methodology

Stage 1: Preliminary Research, Engagement, and Comprehensive Analysis

- ▶ **Review of the Existing Masterplan:** A thorough examination of the current masterplan to understand its foundational structure and glean insights that can inform the update.
- ▶ **Background Research:** Delving into historical, environmental, and cultural aspects of the site to ensure that the updated plan is rooted in context and relevance.
- ▶ **Site Analysis:** An in-depth evaluation of the site's physical characteristics, environmental considerations, and existing infrastructure to identify strengths and constraints.

Stage 2: Identification of Issues and Exploration of Opportunities

- ▶ **Community and Stakeholder Engagement:** Engaging with local community members, businesses, and other relevant stakeholders to gather their insights, perspectives, and aspirations for the precinct.
- ▶ **Drafting the Precinct Masterplan:** Synthesizing all the insights and findings from the initial research and engagement phases to draft a preliminary masterplan.
- ▶ **Council Review and Feedback:** Presenting the draft to the council for an initial review, allowing for feedback and guidance on desired modifications.

Stage 3: Finalization and Adoption of the Masterplan

- ▶ **Analysis and Incorporation of Feedback:** Assimilating all the feedback received from the council, community, and stakeholders to finalize the masterplan's components.
- ▶ **Presentation of the Final Masterplan to Council:** Submitting the polished masterplan to the council for final review and official adoption, thereby setting the stage for the next steps in the precinct's development.

Background Research

Strategic Alignment

Promoting Sustainable and Liveable Communities

One of the key objectives of the Victorian State Government is promoting sustainable and liveable communitiesⁱ. The Mansfield Station Precinct Masterplan, which could involve the preservation and development of open green spaces, walkability improvements, and cycling paths (such as the Great Victorian Rail Trail), would contribute to this objective by enhancing the sustainability and liveability of the Mansfield area.

Cultural Heritage and Recognition of Indigenous Peoples

The Victorian Government is committed to recognizing and preserving the cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples. If the Mansfield Station Precinct Masterplan includes elements that respect and recognize the Taungurung and Gadhaba peoples' history and culture, it would align with this objective.

Economic Development and Tourism

As part of the Mansfield Shire Council's strategic objective to stimulate economic growth and boost tourism, the Precinct Masterplan might propose features that make the precinct a tourist attraction or support local businesses.

Community Engagement

The Mansfield Shire Council has emphasized community engagement and trust in their plan. If the development of the Masterplan involves extensive community consultation and aims to create spaces that serve the local community's needs, it would align with this objective.

Environmental Sustainability

The Victorian Government has made commitments towards environmental sustainability. If the Masterplan incorporates eco-friendly design elements or contributes to local biodiversity, it will align with this objective.

Literature Review

The masterplan has been created to proactively achieve the needs and vision set fourth through wide community and stakeholder consultation. In preparing the masterplan, detailed research was undertaken which is included as an appendix to this report. Research included reviewing a broad range of strategies and plans used to inform the creation of the plan. Some of these strategies and documents include:

- ▶ Mansfield Planning Strategy, 2022
- ▶ Great Victorian Rail Trail Strategic Development Plan, 2019
- ▶ Mansfield Shire Environmental Strategy, 2019
- ▶ Mansfield Shire Stage One Heritage Survey, 2015
- ▶ Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria
- ▶ Taungurung Land and Waters Council Strategic Plan 2021-2025, 2021
- ▶ Taungurung Country Plan
- ▶ State disability plan (2022-2026)
- ▶ Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Victoria)
- ▶ Victoria's Tourism 2020 Strategy
- ▶ Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023
- ▶ Victoria's Cycling Strategy 2018-2028
- ▶ Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria
- ▶ Goulburn Valley Regional Growth Plan 2014
- ▶ Regional Development Victoria Strategic Framework
- ▶ Regional Movers Index March 2023 quarter report, 2023
- ▶ Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities 2010-2020
- ▶ Hume Regional Growth Plan, 2014
- ▶ MSC Council Plan 2021-2025
- ▶ MSC Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
- ▶ MSC Open Space Strategy 2022
- ▶ MSC Sports Facility Strategy 2018
- ▶ MSC Environment Plan 2019-2023
- ▶ MSC Economic Development Strategy 2020-25
- ▶ MSC Access and Inclusion Charter
- ▶ Mansfield Township Structure Plan 2015
- ▶ Mansfield Township Approaches and Guidelines Study, 2019

Demographics Summary

Our demographic makeup reveals a diverse, vibrant community with various needs. The Masterplan will ensure accessible, inclusive facilities that cater to everyone, from young families to older adults. With a significant proportion of lone households, small dwellings, and communal spaces will be essential.

The education demographics underline the need for child-friendly spaces. With high employment levels, facilities supporting local businesses and commuting will be prioritized. Our plan recognizes the need to maintain Mansfield's low-density residential character while also accommodating a mix of homeowners, renters, and low-income earners.

Finally, given the proportion of residents with long-term health conditions, our Masterplan will strive to ensure that the environment is inclusive and healthcare services are easily accessible.



Housing Tenure and Income

We've got a mix of 41.3% homeowners, 29.3% homebuyers, and 20.4% renters, with 26.7% earning a low income.



Dwelling Summary

We love our space, with 92.0% living in separate houses, and 14.1% of dwellings often unoccupied, hinting at holiday homes.



Labour Force

Employment is high here, with 98.1% of our population actively involved in the workforce.



Education

Our young learners are ahead, with 11.0% in pre-school or primary versus 5.9% in secondary school and 3.7% in tertiary education.



Population

Mansfield Township has a close-knit community of 5,541 with a balance of 48.1% males and 51.9% females. 6.5% require special assistance.



Age Structure

Our age diversity shines, with 17.8% "Parents and homebuilders" and 16.0% "Empty nesters and retirees."



Household Types

We host varied households, 31.3% "Couples without children," 22.9% "Couples with children," and a substantial 28.1% being "Lone person households."



Health Conditions

Health is a priority, with 35% having long-term health conditions.

Key User Groups

Walkers

The botanic park caters to those looking for calm, passive recreational walking activities within a short distance from their home or the centre of town. Some users can be seen purchasing coffee and going for social walks throughout the park.

Dog Walkers

The park is often used by many casual dog walkers. It is currently not clearly specified whether dogs must be on a leash in the park.

Runners

Runners are often seen using the park for outdoor recreation due to its long open space and meandering footpaths. The park has also previously been used for 'parkrun' which is held each weekend and caters to runners of all age levels.

Cyclists

Cyclists primarily use the station precinct because it is located at the end of the Great Victorian Rail Trail. There are existing facilities on site for general bike repair, parking and public toilets.

Visitors

This group includes residents, tourists, and day-trippers who come to the park for leisure, relaxation, and exploration. They may engage in activities such as strolling through the gardens, picnicking, and enjoying the natural beauty and horticultural displays.

Fitness and Wellness Groups

The botanic park recreational opportunities for fitness enthusiasts, such as jogging paths, yoga sessions, and outdoor fitness classes. The natural setting provides a serene environment for wellness activities.

Families and Children

The park includes play areas and family-friendly attractions which cater to families with children. It also provides educational opportunities for children to learn about plants and nature.

Seniors and Retirees

For this groups, the park provides for relaxation and socialization. Benches, shaded areas, and walking paths create a pleasant environment for them to enjoy.

Consultation

In the development of the Botanic Park Masterplan, it was crucial to integrate the voices and perspectives of our community. This section provides an analysis of submissions and survey responses to capture the collective vision and concerns surrounding the precinct's development.

Consultation undertaken through multiple rounds. An initial round involved:

- ▶ Engage Online community survey (2021)
- ▶ Briefing and onsite meetings with Council Officers, Councillors and the Consultant Team.
- ▶ Online meeting with Councillors to discuss the Opportunities Plan
- ▶ Online meeting with Council Officers and Councillors to further clarify and comments on the Opportunities Plan

Following the release of a draft botanic park masterplan, a media release update to the engage Mansfield webpage was undertaken. Multiple members of the community, primarily within Redgum drive submitted objections to the proposal for a carpark abutting this street.

Council officers changed their position on the carpark, sending letters to every resident within the Cambridge Drive estate confirming Council's intention to remove the proposed carpark and redraft the plan.

A new concept plan was then released to the community with the carpark removed and an avenue included instead. The following engagement activities presented this updated plan.

- ▶ Notification to over 1,000 ratepayers via direct letter
- ▶ Community survey
- ▶ Community drop in session at Council Chambers
- ▶ An online engagement meeting
- ▶ Internal stakeholder meeting with Mansfield Shire Council Staff
- ▶ 2 Walks through the botanic park with community members

Over 15 people attended the botanic park site walks, 2 members of the community wrote submissions to the plan and 19 completed the survey.

Analysis

Council officers collated, analysed and summarised all feedback to the plan. Including all feedback verbally given during the site walk through the precinct. The key points raised during consultation were as follows:

Overall, the community sentiment towards the Mansfield Botanic Park Masterplan is largely positive, as indicated by the broad engagement and the constructive feedback provided in the survey responses. It is clear that the park holds significant value to the community, serving as an essential space for recreation, leisure, and connection with nature.

Most respondents are frequent visitors and local residents, highlighting the park's role in the daily lives of community members. The predominant activities, such as walking, exercise, and dog walks, demonstrate the park's role in promoting community health and well-being.

The survey responses also indicate an appreciation for the current state of the park, with a particular emphasis on its open spaces and walking paths. The preservation of these features should be a priority in the masterplan. However, the lower rating for picnic areas and art installations suggests a need for improvement in these aspects.

The main concern arising from the survey feedback relates to the management of shared spaces, particularly in relation to dog control. The community has indicated a need for restricted off-leash areas for dogs to prevent conflicts between different park users.

Solving this issue could involve the creation of designated off-leash zones, as well as fenced areas where dogs should be restricted, such as playgrounds. Clear signs and education about these areas could also help manage user expectations and maintain harmony among different park users.

Another concern relates to park amenities and infrastructure. Many respondents requested additional picnic areas and shelters, improved walking paths, and more car parking. Addressing these needs could involve infrastructure upgrades, as well as a thorough assessment of the park's capacity to handle increased vehicle traffic without detriment to its natural environment.

Finally, the community's strong emphasis on environmental sustainability suggests potential tension between development and preservation. This concern could be managed by integrating sustainability principles throughout the Masterplan, such as by prioritising native vegetation in landscaping, ensuring new structures are eco-friendly, and treating stormwater onsite to nourish the park's vegetation and improve wetland areas.

Below is an assessment of each survey response summarised to include the overall view of responses from participants:

Q1: How did you hear about the Botanic Park Masterplan?

Given that most respondents heard about the Masterplan through social media, this communication channel should continue to be leveraged for future outreach and engagement. However, the variety of sources indicates that a multi-channel communication strategy is important to reach a broader audience.

Q2: What is your relationship with the Mansfield Botanic Park?

The high number of respondents who are local residents or frequent visitors emphasizes the importance of the park in local community life. As such, the park development should prioritize the needs and feedback of these groups.

Q3: How often do you visit the Mansfield Botanic Park?

Regular use of the park (daily or weekly visits) indicates its crucial role in community recreation. Maintaining or improving park facilities will likely directly impact the quality of life of these frequent users.

Q4: What activities do you typically engage in at the park?

The predominance of walking, exercise, and dog walks indicates that the park is mainly used for physical activities and wellbeing. Future park development should continue to prioritize and support these uses, potentially by improving paths or adding exercise equipment.

Q5: What do you like most about the current Mansfield Botanic Park?

Respondents value open spaces and walking paths, which supports the idea of preserving the natural environment and maintaining ample space for leisure walks. Lower-rated aspects like art and picnic areas could be improved or promoted better to enhance park experience.

Q6: What improvements would you like to see in the future at Mansfield Botanic Park?

The demand for more picnic areas, improved walking paths, and enhanced natural areas points to a desire for a more diverse, user-friendly, and nature-centred park. These insights should guide future enhancements and the integration of new features.

Q7: Are there any specific projects or features you would like to see implemented at the Mansfield Botanic Park?

Requests for designated dog areas and enhanced natural features show a desire for both structured use (specific areas for specific activities) and more integration of natural elements. These factors should be considered when planning future projects or features.

Q8: What aspects of the current park are

most important to you?

The high importance given to preserving natural areas emphasizes the need to protect and enhance the park's natural features. Although community events were ranked lower, they should not be entirely disregarded as they may foster community involvement and ownership.

Q9: Are respondents happy with the current park facilities?

Most respondents are happy with the current facilities, suggesting that major overhauls may not be necessary. However, with one Unhappy response, it would be worth investigating specific areas of dissatisfaction to further improve user experience.

Q10: What types of events or programming would people like to see at the park?

The preference for varied events such as concerts, fitness classes, festivals and fairs, educational workshops, outdoor movies, and art exhibitions indicates a desire for the park to be a multifunctional community hub. A diverse events calendar could help cater to these interests.

Q11: Is environmental sustainability important in the development of the park masterplan?

Environmental sustainability is clearly important to respondents. Future development should prioritize sustainable practices, potentially including the use of renewable energy sources, water conservation measures, or the selection of local and sustainable materials.

Q12: Does the park adequately serve the needs of all ages and abilities?

With mixed responses, it's clear that further work could be done to make the park more inclusive. Steps could include improving accessibility (e.g., wheelchair access, facilities for the elderly), creating child-friendly spaces, or providing amenities to cater to various ability levels.

Q13: What common themes of improvement are mentioned?

Suggestions for restricted off-leash areas for dogs, improved access and seating, and better-quality amenities like shade for picnics and path drainage indicate a need for specific enhancements. These upgrades could be prioritized in the park's masterplan.

Q14: Is it important for the park to be well-connected to other parts of town?

Given the importance of connectivity to respondents, future plans could consider ways to improve the park's links to other areas. This might involve better walking and biking paths, clear signage, or even collaborations with public transport providers.

Q15: What are the suggestions for the Mansfield Botanic Park Masterplan?

Suggestions reflect a desire for a well-planned, multi-purpose park. Therefore, a detailed and practical layout addressing diverse needs - from dog training areas to event venues and trail circuits - could be beneficial. The varied responses underscore the importance of flexible design and iterative planning, considering a wide range of user feedback.



Figure 4 Adventure Playground

Recommendations

The first round of engagement included suggestions for a large variety of new elements within the park. Upon review these aspirational goals were commendable but were of a cost vastly in excess of Council's budget without any possible funding and would not serve multiple purposes or provide the flexibility needed within the changing demography of Mansfield Shire.

Based on the assessment of submissions and feedback from the community, here are some suggestions for the Mansfield Botanic Park masterplan to meet the wants and needs of all respondents and maximize the benefits of the park:

Preserve and Enhance Natural Features:

- ▶ Prioritize the preservation of open spaces and walking paths, which are highly valued by the community.
- ▶ Consider enhancing natural areas and biodiversity by incorporating native plant species and wildlife habitats.

Address Dog Control and Shared Spaces:

- ▶ Create designated off-leash zones for dogs, while also establishing areas where dogs must be on a leash, especially around playgrounds and sensitive environmental areas.
- ▶ Install clear signage and educational materials to inform park users about dog control measures and etiquette.

Improve Park Amenities and Infrastructure:

- ▶ Address the demand for more picnic areas and shelters by strategically placing them throughout the park for convenience and comfort.
- ▶ Enhance walking paths for accessibility and safety and assess the need for additional car parking spaces to accommodate visitors' needs.

Diverse Programming and Events:

- ▶ Plan a diverse range of events and programming, such as fitness classes, educational workshops, concerts, art exhibitions, and family-oriented activities to cater to various interests and age groups.

Environmental Sustainability Integration:

- ▶ Integrate sustainability principles throughout the masterplan, including using eco-friendly materials, incorporating renewable energy sources, implementing water conservation measures, and adopting environmentally conscious landscaping practices.

Inclusivity and Accessibility:

- ▶ Improve accessibility for all ages and abilities by ensuring wheelchair-friendly paths, seating areas, and amenities.
- ▶ Design child-friendly spaces and facilities for seniors to encourage intergenerational use.

Communication and Outreach:

- ▶ Continue leveraging social media for communication, but also utilize a multi-channel approach to ensure a broader reach.
- ▶ Keep the community informed about the masterplan's progress and involve them in decision-making.

Balanced Development:

- ▶ Develop a masterplan that balances natural preservation with community needs for amenities and activities, ensuring a harmonious coexistence between development and conservation.

Flexibility and Iterative Planning:

- ▶ Design a flexible layout that can accommodate various activities, ensuring spaces can be repurposed to cater to changing community needs over time.

Collaboration with Local Businesses:

- ▶ Collaborate with local businesses to enhance the park's offerings, such as providing refreshments, rental equipment, and unique experiences for visitors.

Enhanced Connectivity:

- ▶ Improve the park's connectivity to other parts of town through well-marked walking and biking paths, clear signage, and potential partnerships with public transport providers.

Promotion of Lesser-Known Features:

- ▶ Promote aspects of the park that received lower ratings, such as art installations and picnic areas, through improved signage and targeted marketing efforts.

Community Engagement:

- ▶ Continue engaging with the community during the masterplan's development and implementation phases to ensure ongoing alignment with community needs and preferences.

User-Centric Design:

- ▶ Ensure the masterplan is designed with the end-users in mind, considering the varied interests, needs, and suggestions expressed by respondents.

Sustainability-Focused Infrastructure:

Consider sustainable infrastructure solutions like solar-powered lighting, rainwater harvesting for irrigation, and habitat restoration to reinforce the park's environmental stewardship.



Figure 5 Peace olive grove within the botanic gardens

The Masterplan

At the heart of the Botanic Park Masterplan lies an all-encompassing theme dedicated to cultivating community engagement, enriching health and wellbeing, celebrating the park's beauty and embracing sustainable practices. Each meticulously crafted project within the masterplan is strategically aligned with one or more of these pillars, ensuring a seamless and integrated vision for the park's progressive transformation.

The park's core focus on nurturing community engagement, prioritizing wellbeing, and advocating for sustainability resonates deeply with the key priorities of relevant government bodies. This resonance positions the masterplan as a prime candidate for garnering support and funding from the governing entities. Projects that actively encourage active lifestyles, enhance accessibility, safeguard cultural heritage, and advance environmental sustainability are poised to thrive under this supportive framework, given their direct alignment with the objectives outlined in pertinent state policies and strategies.

Through the lens of this holistic approach, the Council could construct a compelling case for securing essential funding from state sources. This approach adeptly showcases how each individual project harmoniously complements and advances overarching state objectives, contributing holistically to elevate the quality of life for residents of Mansfield Shire.

Vision

By 2043, the Botanic Park will flourish as a dynamic and sustainable hub, seamlessly weaving together the rich tapestry of natural beauty and **sense of place**. This harmonious fusion of nature and culture will **catalyse** the promotion of active lifestyles, foster meaningful social connections, and champion the ethos of **environmental engagement**. The park will emerge as a symbol of unity within the community, a testament to its enduring spirit, and a model for sustainable growth.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to orchestrate the metamorphosis of the Botanic Park into a thriving and sustainable sanctuary that reverently preserves its natural beauty, fosters robust community engagement, champions active and healthy living, and takes on the mantle of environmental stewardship. Guided by this mission, we endeavour to craft a space that seamlessly integrates the essence of historical significance, the serene allure of natural landscapes, and modern amenities. This transformation shall provide solace, inspiration, and empowerment to current and future generations, embodying the harmonious blend of nature, culture, and wellbeing.



Figure 7 Community Garden Entrance

Objectives

Enhanced Accessibility and Inclusive Amenities:

- ▶ Develop pathways and amenities that ensure ease of access for all park visitors, accommodating diverse age groups and abilities.
- ▶ Introduce new amenities that cater to a range of recreational activities, while ensuring they seamlessly blend with the park's existing ambiance.

Active Recreation and Enjoyable Spaces:

- ▶ Design areas within the park that encourage physical activity and various forms of recreation, fostering a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere.
- ▶ Integrate activity-friendly features such as exercise stations, designated play areas, and multipurpose spaces for community gatherings.

Preservation of Natural Charm:

- ▶ Preserve the park's existing natural character and open spaces that hold sentimental value for the community.
- ▶ Incorporate new elements thoughtfully to maintain a harmonious balance between development and the park's established atmosphere.

Cultural Heritage and Identity:

- ▶ Pay homage to the park's cultural heritage by integrating design elements and features that reflect the local identity and history.
- ▶ Enhance the sense of place by considering the unique stories and traditions that contribute to the community's connection with the park.

Thoughtful Sustainability Integration:

- ▶ Integrate sustainable practices that align with the community's expectations, while ensuring they seamlessly complement the park's overall vision.
- ▶ Incorporate eco-friendly materials, where appropriate, and consider measures to conserve resources without altering the park's cherished ambiance.

Themes



Nature's Heritage Enriched

Cherish the park's natural heritage by nurturing its existing green spaces, pathways, and native flora. Integrate new features that enhance the park's allure, without compromising its cherished natural identity.



Inclusive Recreational Harmony

Embrace the diversity of park users by creating an environment that welcomes people of all ages and abilities. Encourage a harmonious blend of activities while retaining the park's beloved character.



Cultural Identity Connection

Celebrate the park's cultural significance through design elements that honour the local heritage. Craft an environment where past and present stories converge, offering a meaningful connection to the community's identity.



Active Engagement and Serenity

Foster a sense of vibrancy through spaces designed for active recreation, while also maintaining tranquil areas for relaxation and reflection. Strike a balance that resonates with both energetic and contemplative park-goers.



Thoughtful Sustainability Integration

Infuse sustainability measures that align with community values while upholding the park's unique charm. Seamlessly weave eco-conscious practices into the fabric of the park, harmonizing with its inviting ambiance.

Illustrative Masterplan



Masterplan Implementation

Projects

The following section is a description of projects shown within the masterplan, separated by location and with additional information provided for each project.

Enhancement Projects Within Existing Park Area:

I. Community Garden Refurbishment:

Refurbish the existing community garden, revitalizing the space and providing an area for community members to connect, garden, and share their horticultural skills. Implement signs advertising the garden as a community space and investigate the potential to create a community group who are passionate about the botanic gardens.

K. Ngobi-An Gadhaba Garden Improvement:

Enhance the Ngobi-An Gadhaba Garden, optimizing its design and layout to provide an engaging and culturally significant space for reflection and relaxation.

L. Ash Tree Drainage Diversion:

Divert drainage away from the ash tree located at the entrance from Mansfield-Whitfield Road, ensuring the tree's health and preserving its prominence in the park.

M. Future Carpark and Bridge Planning:

Strategically plan for a future carpark and bridge, anticipating the park's evolving needs and potential expansion, while maintaining its ecological integrity. Advocate for the future development of 1 High Street to integrate with the botanic park as a restaurant, or similar industry which encourages activity within the botanic park.

N. Upgraded and Revegetated Fords Creek:

Enhance Fords Creek by implementing upgrades, introducing native vegetation to create an appealing and ecologically rich creek area for park visitors and improving the management of water flowing through the creek.

O. Extension of Playground-Creek Fence:

Extend the existing fence between the playground and the creek area, ensuring safety and delineating play spaces from natural water features.

P. Designated Lone Pine Tree Location:

Location for the planting of the symbolic Lone Pine tree, commemorating history and preserving the park's heritage.

Q. New Dog-Barbecue Area Separation Fence:

Install a new fence to create clear separation between the dog-friendly area and the barbecue zone, allowing both activities to coexist harmoniously.

R. Versatile Multi-Purpose Performance Area:

Develop a flexible performance area with various amenities to accommodate a range of events, such as cultural performances, Australian of the year celebration, community gatherings, sheltered picnics and live concerts.

S. Central Footpath Sealing and Expansion:

Seal and extend the central footpath, providing a comfortable and accessible route for visitors to traverse, encouraging exploration and connection within the park and allow for ease of maintenance access for Council vehicles .

T. Formalized Car Park with Line Marking:

Transform the car park area into a formalized space by incorporating line marking, optimizing parking layout, and enhancing traffic flow for the convenience of park visitors.

Expansion Area Enhancement Projects:

A. Continued Rainforest Planting:

Extend the existing rainforest style planting along the north western drainage to enrich the park with lush vegetation, fostering biodiversity and recreating a captivating rainforest environment for visitors to explore and appreciate. Extend this planting through the proposed mountain bike circuit.

B. Dedicated Dog Obedience Area:

Create a fenced space specifically for dog obedience training, offering a safe and controlled environment for dog owners to engage in training activities with their pets.

C. Mountain Bike Circuit Creation:

Develop a purpose-built mountain bike circuit, catering to cycling enthusiasts and providing a dedicated trail for short recreational rides within the park's scenic landscape to cater for a younger age group within the park. This track will be planted with temperate rainforest botanics and is intended to be a low impact area for cyclists to learn how to ride.

D. Wetland Establishment:

Establish a new waterbody/wetland enriched with indigenous plantings and a bird hide, creating an ecologically diverse and engaging habitat for both visitors and wildlife.

E. New BBQ Area with Artistic Elements:

Introduce a new barbecue area complete with hard stands for picnics, complemented by captivating art installations that enrich the outdoor dining experience. Place these circular hard stand areas in the shape of the pleiades constellation, recognising the significance of this to the Taungurung Land and Waters Council.

F. New Public Toilet:

Construct an accessible public toilet facility that meets the needs of park visitors, ensuring comfort and convenience during their park outings. Locate this near the barbecue shelters and accessible sensory garden to maximise accessibility for all users.

G. Accessible Sensory Garden:

Design and establish an accessible sensory garden that engages visitors' senses, offering an immersive experience and creating a tranquil retreat within the park. Locate this near the proposed avenue and additional accessible carparks to ensure access for user groups.

H. Avenue with Central Sculpture:

Create an avenue adorned with a central sculpture, serving as a focal point and providing an aesthetically pleasing pathway for park visitors to enjoy. Create a shared footpath spanning the width of the park to allow for ease of connection for future residents in Mansfield. If needed, construct the avenue in stages, creating the additional road past the roundabout when necessary. Ensure that traffic calming methods are in place to avoid cars infringing on the calm of the park. Investigate the potential and need to have parallel parking which caters for long vehicles. Consider the use of this avenue to be used for events.

J. Enhanced Accessible Carpark Facilities:

Expand the provision of accessible carpark spaces to accommodate the needs of visitors with limited mobility, ensuring ease of access to the park's amenities.

General Enhancements

Seating and Tables Installation: Introduce strategically placed seating and tables throughout the park, providing comfortable resting spots and areas for visitors to relax, socialize, and enjoy the natural surroundings.

Nature-Inspired Landscape Design: Introduce a variety of trees, shrubs, and grassed areas throughout the expansion area, cultivating a lush and inviting natural landscape for recreation and relaxation.

Cattlemen Hut-Style Picnic Shelters: Design picnic shelters inspired by the rustic character of cattlemen huts, providing shaded and comfortable spaces for families and groups to gather and enjoy outdoor meals.

Conversation Nooks: Introduce conversation nooks and resting spaces, offering intimate spots for relaxation and social interaction amidst the natural surroundings.

Effective Stormwater Management: Implement efficient stormwater drainage systems to mitigate water-related issues and maintain the park's aesthetic appeal and usability.

Bridges Over Water Outflows: Install short bridges over water outflows from the new waterbody/wetland, enhancing connectivity and providing picturesque views for park visitors.

Functional Outdoor Furniture and Signage: Place functional outdoor furniture, such as seats, picnic tables, litter bins, and informative signage, throughout the expansion area to enhance visitor comfort and guidance.

Indigenous Waterbody/Wetland Enhancement: Establish a new waterbody/wetland enriched with indigenous plantings and a bird hide, creating an ecologically diverse and engaging habitat for both visitors and wildlife.

Enhanced Pedestrian Access Network: Establish a comprehensive pedestrian access network, including maintenance vehicle paths, to facilitate safe and convenient movement throughout the expansion area.



Figure 8 Botanic Park existing BBQ area

Implementation Timeline

Project	Short Term (0-5 years)	Medium Term (6-9 years)	Long Term (10+ years)	Estimated Cost
Community Garden Refurbishment				\$10,000
Ngobi-An Gadhaba Garden Improvement				\$250,000
Ash Tree Drainage Diversion				\$30,000
Future Carpark and Bridge Planning				\$250,000
Upgraded and Revegetated Fords Creek				Funded through grant
Extension of Playground-Creek Fence				\$5,000
Lone Pine Tree Planting				\$5,000
New Dog-Barbecue Area Separation Fence				\$4,000
Versatile Multi-Purpose Performance Area				\$250,000
Formalized Car Park with Line Marking				\$10,000
Continue Rainforest Planting				\$100,000
Dedicated Dog Obedience Area				\$100,000
Mountain Bike Circuit Creation				\$350,000
Wetland Establishment				\$250,000 or funded by developer
New BBQ Area with Artistic Elements				\$400,000
New Public Toilet				\$300,000
Accessible Sensory Garden				\$400,000
Avenue with Central Sculpture				\$1,000,000
Enhanced Accessible Carpark Facilities				\$150,000
Seating and Tables Installation				\$15,000
Nature-Inspired Landscape Design				\$700,000
Cattlemen Hut-Style Picnic Shelters				\$60,000
Conversation Nooks				\$80,000
Effective Stormwater Management				\$200,000

Mansfield Shire Council Botanic Park Masterplan

Project	Short Term (0-5 years)	Medium Term (6-9 years)	Long Term (10+ years)	Estimated Cost
Bridges Over Water Outflows				\$60,000
Functional Outdoor Furniture and Signage				\$200,000
Indigenous Waterbody/Wetland Enhancement				\$250,000
Enhanced Pedestrian Access Network				\$630,000
Subtotal				\$5,769,000
Design and Construct Contingency (15%)				\$865,350.00
Total Cost				\$6,967,850

Design Framework

Ensuring that the Botanic Park encapsulates the essence of the area and promotes a consistent and cohesive design throughout its spaces is essential. These guidelines stem from the deep-rooted historical and aesthetic values integral to Mansfield. It seeks to ensure that regardless of the scope, budget, or nature of any individual project within the precinct, there exists a harmonious design language that anchors the site to its identity, providing a unifying sense of place.

The following subsections are the frameworks which will act as a guide for the design of the precinct with accompanying examples shown below:

Colour Palette:

Drawing from the Sign Policy created for Mansfield Shire Council in 2008, the colour palette captures the vibrant hues of snow gums, pristine snow, the rusticity of Craig's hut, and the earthy tan tones reminiscent of horses and timber. These colours not only represent the site's natural beauty but also resonate with the rich cultural and historical narratives interwoven in Mansfield's tapestry.



Figure 9 Colour Palette, based on Mansfield Shire Council Direction, Tourism and Advertising Signs Policy, 2008 (MSC T&A 2008)

Materials and Tones:

- ▶ **Wood/Posts:** Ideal for structures such as park benches, picnic tables, boardwalks, and signage posts. Wood offers a warm and natural aesthetic that seamlessly integrates into the park environment. Use of local timber species, when appropriate, could further enhance the site's connection to its location.
- ▶ **Post and Rail:** This is a great option for fencing or barrier systems within the precinct, providing both safety and visual accessibility. It can be used to demarcate spaces without impeding views or access.
- ▶ **Rusting Steel (Corten Steel):** This material ages beautifully, with a rust-like appearance that blends well with natural settings. It can be used in construction of elements like signage, art installations, barriers, and possibly structural elements in buildings or shades.
- ▶ **Patina Brass:** The aged look of patina brass adds a timeless element to the design. It can be used for elements like plaques, signs or accent details on structures, providing a contrast to other materials.
- ▶ **Aluminium:** Lightweight and durable, aluminium could be used for various infrastructure, including light poles, railings, or other structural elements. It's especially useful for structures that require a lighter material or ones exposed to elements.
- ▶ **Rammed Earth:** This sustainable building method has great thermal mass and can create beautiful, textured walls. Ideal for larger structural elements, such as walls for buildings or enclosures, rammed earth also has a natural aesthetic that fits well with a park setting.
- ▶ **Galvanised Steel:** This material is ideal for structures requiring high durability and resistance to weathering. It could be used for infrastructures like railings, pergolas, bike racks, and structural components in buildings or shades.
- ▶ **Stone/Rocks:** These could be used in various ways, from pathways and patios to decorative and retaining walls. Natural stone and rocks can enhance the natural landscape aesthetics and can also be used for seating or natural play elements.

Typography:

To maintain a consistent visual communication across the precinct, the suggested fonts are **FFMetaPlus** and **ITC Baskerville**. These fonts have historical precedence, given their use on township signs throughout the Shire, ensuring a coherent visual narrative.



Figure 10 Font examples (MSC T&A, 2008)

Mansfield Shire Council Botanic Park Masterplan

WOOD/TIMBER POSTS
RUSTING STEEL
PATINA BRASS
RAMMED EARTH
ALUMINIUM
GALVANISED STEEL
STONES/ROCKS

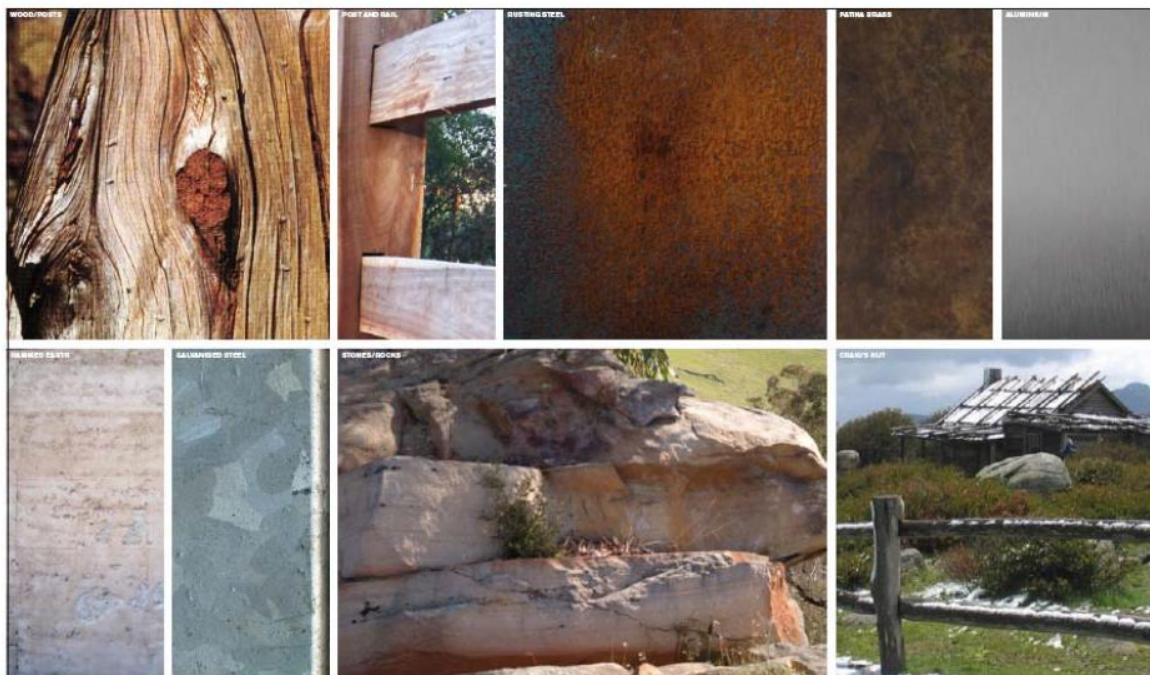


Figure 9 Materials (MSC T&A, 2008)



Lightweight Cladding types - vertical panel



Lightweight Cladding types - timber



Brick, stone, and rammed earth

Figure 11 Building elements (MSCT&A, 2008)

Planting Schedule

Although the planting schedule remains to be clarified, the masterplan designates 4 separate themed planting areas to formalise the new botanic park area as a location which showcases various plant types and forms a holistic design language for users to explore. Some indicative suggested plantings for a native themed area include:

Specimen Trees

Common Name	Size H-W	Habit	Uses	Growth Rate	Features
Tulip Tree	20m x 8m	Conical to Oval	Spectacular specimen tree	Moderate to Fast	Yellowish green flowers resembling Tulips in Spring
Kawakami Maple	10m x 5m	Upright rounded	Specimen tree, Avenues	Fast	Veriagated green leaves
Canadian Maple	13m x 9m	V Shaped	Specimen	Moderate	Lustrous 5 lobed leaves turning pinkish red in Autumn
Italian Alder	15m x 6m	Pyramid	Large parks	Fast	Pendulus catkins in spring and bright green foliage
Silver Birch	12m x 6m	Pendulus	Group plantings	Moderate	Feature bark, light green foliage turning yellow in Autumn
European Hornbeam	10m x 6m	Vase shaped	Specimen	Moderate	Catkin like flowers, Autumn colour is golden yellow
Chestnut Tree	12m x 10m	Round	Specimen	Fast	Dark green foliage with white and yellow flowers. Edible fruit.
Chinese Toona	12m x 4m	Narrow	Specimen	Fast	Bright pink folige in spring with white flowers
Robinia Black Locust	5m x 3m	Ovate/round	Small specimen tree	Fast	Elegant, compact attractive tree with beutifull white flowers
Dove Tree	15m x 10m	Oval	Specimen	Medium	2 beautiful white bracts that surround the small true flour, resembling dove wings
Angophera	20m x 12m	Broad Domed	Specimen, bird attracting	Fast	Atractive Australian Native loved for it's smooth slightly purple bark
Black Walnut	30m x 20m	Broad crown	Large specimen, shade	Medium	Large stately tree with a short trunk and broad crown
Myrtle Beech	30m x 8m	Medium dome	Large specimen	Slow	Evergreen ancient tree native to Tasmania and Victoria.
Kowhai	10m x 4m	Spreading	Specimen	Medium	Semi deciduous, silver grey foliage with yellow drooping pea like flowers
European Larch	45m x 9m	Pyramid	Huge specimen tree	Slow	Beautiful yellow foliage in autumn, long lived.

Mansfield Shire Council Botanic Park Masterplan

Indian Bean Tree	10m x 8m	Spreading	Specimen, street tree	Moderate	Creamy white flowers in summer and bright green leaves turning yellow in autumn
N.Z. Christmas Tree	10m x 10m	Spreading	Specimen	Moderate	Brilliant display of large red flours around Christmas time
Tupelo	11m x 6m	Round	Specimen	Moderate	Ornamental bark with deep ree foliage that turns yellow and scarlet in Autumn
Lancewood	15m x 6m		Specimen	Slow	Evergreen. A spectacular slow-growing specimen with narrow, green, softly-serrated juvenile leaves.
Irish Strawberry Tree	7m x 5m	Round	Specimen, street tree	Slow to Moderate	Evergreen with bright flowers resembling bells. Fruit is edible bright red balls
Carob Tree	10m x 6m	Domed	Specimen, shade	Medium	Evergreen with dark green compound leaves
Monkey Puzzle	40m x 6m	Pyramid	Large specimen	Fast	Evergreen huge unusual feature tree
Magnolia Grandiflora	25 x 10m	Domed/oval	Specimen, bees and birds	Medium	Evergreen. Dark green glossy leaves with white flowers in spring
Kauri Pine	50m x 10m	Columnar	Huge spectacular tree	Slow	Evergreen, New Zealand's largest tree with smooth bark
Jacaranda	10 x 8m	Broad Domed	Specimen, street tree	Fast	Evergreen with spectacular lavender blue blooms
Huon Pine	40m x 12m	Dense Pyramidal	Specimen	Slow	Evergreen Native to Tasmania, can live for 2000 years in it's natural environment
Autumn Blaze	13 x 10	Oval to round		Moderate	Autumn Colour
Japanese Maples	4 x 3			Slow	
Willow myrtle	7 x 5	Pendulous		Moderate	Weeping habit, dark burgundy foliage
Spotted Gum	20-30 x 10-15		Specimen	Slow to moderate	Distinctive mottling on the trunk
Japanese Pagoda Tree	9 x 6	Ovate, Upright		Moderate to fast	
Japanese Elm	14-Oct	Vase shaped		Moderate to fast	Adaptable and graceful tree
Linden Tree	12 x 7	Broadly pyramidal	Specimen	Moderate	Elegant tree with excellent symmetrical branching habit
Illawarra Flame tree	6-10 x 5-10	Stocky habit	Specimen	Slow	Stunning red floral display

Mansfield Shire Council **Botanic Park Masterplan**

Forest pansy	5 x 5	Open and low branching		Slow to moderate	Colourful purple leaves
Queensland bottletree	5-12 x 6-7		Specimen	Slow	Swollen trunk that resembles a bottle.
Golden raintree	6 x 4	Round	Specimen		Feature flower
Eucalyptus Hybrid Coral Gum	7 x 6	Broad domed	Specimen		Evergreen Feature bark, bird attracting, feature flower
Ficus Podium	6-9 x 6--9	Round	Specimen		Evergreen Feature foliage
Japanese Cedar	15 - 30m tall	Pyramidal to conical shape			Japanese cedars have evergreen foliage and a pyramidal shape, making them attractive throughout the year
Chinese Fringe tree	4-5 x 6	Round to Oval			Chinese fringe trees produce clusters of fragrant, white, fringe-like flowers in late spring.
Katsura Tree	12 - 18 tall	upright to pyramidal become more rounded with age			Katsura trees offer heart-shaped leaves that turn shades of yellow, orange, and red in the fall. They also have a sweet fragrance in autumn.
Chinese Pistchio	6-12 tall	broadly spreading canopy			Chinese pistache trees are valued for their brilliant fall foliage, which can range from orange to red.

New Zealand Trees

Totara	Totara is a native tree species found in New Zealand. It belongs to the Podocarpus genus and is known for its tall, straight trunk and distinctive red-brown bark. The leaves are small, needle-like, and dark green. Totara trees are often found in mixed native forests and can grow up to 30 meters tall. They produce small, edible fruits and are an important food source for native birds like the kereru (New Zealand pigeon)
Ti Cabbage Tree	The Ti Cabbage Tree, also known as the Cordyline or Cabbage Tree, is a tall, slender tree native to New Zealand. It has long, sword-like leaves that cluster at the top of its trunk, forming a distinctive crown.
Harakeke	Harakeke, commonly known as New Zealand flax, is a versatile plant native to New Zealand. It has long, strap-like leaves that can vary in color from green to red and even bronze. In summer, it produces tall flower spikes
Akakura	Metrosideros carminea is a tree that can reach heights of up to 10 meters (33 feet) or more. It has distinctive red or crimson flowers, which are why it is often referred to as the New Zealand Christmas tree. The flowers are typically tubular in shape and appear in dense clusters. They bloom in late spring to early summer, which coincides with the Christmas season in the Southern Hemisphere

East Coast Kaka beak	The most distinctive feature of <i>Clianthus puniceus albus</i> is its white, pea-like flowers. These flowers are typically tubular with a curved beak-like shape, resembling a parrot's beak, which is why it is also commonly known as "parrot's beak." The white flowers are borne in clusters and can be quite striking against the dark green foliage
Nikau	Description: Nikau is a palm tree species native to New Zealand. It has a slender trunk, fan-shaped fronds, and small red fruits. Nikau is the only native palm species in New Zealand.

Wild Flowers

Royal Bluebell	Royal Bluebell is a native wildflower in Australia. It produces beautiful, bell-shaped blue flowers with white centers. This plant is often found in woodlands, heathlands, and grasslands
Waratah	Waratah is a genus of native Australian shrubs known for their large, vibrant, and distinctive flowers. The most famous species is <i>Telopea speciosissima</i> , which is the floral emblem of New South Wales. Waratah flowers are usually red, but there are also pink and white varieties. They are commonly used in floral arrangements and gardens
Pink Common Heath	Pink Common Heath is a small evergreen shrub native to southeastern Australia. It is known for its dainty, tubular pink flowers with white tips. This plant is often found in heathlands and sandy coastal areas
Fire Orchid	Fire Orchids are known for their bright red or orange flowers and are often found in heathlands and forests
Tall bluebird	Tall Bluebell has delicate blue or purple bell-shaped flowers. It's found in grasslands, woodlands, and heathlands
Blue Pincushion	Blue Pincushion is a small, blue-flowered plant that grows in sandy soils. It's often seen in coastal regions and heathlands
Greenhood Orchid	Greenhood Orchids are terrestrial orchids with distinctive green, hood-like flowers. They can be found in forests and woodlands
Billy Buttons	Are globe-shaped, golden-yellow flowers that grow on tall stems. They are a favorite among florists and bloom from spring to summer.
Chocolate Lily	The Chocolate Lily produces bell-shaped flowers in shades of brown, purple, or mauve. It's known for its distinctive fragrance and can be found in various habitats.

Japanese

Azalea	<p>Azaleas are popular ornamental shrubs known for their vibrant, trumpet-shaped flowers. They come in a wide range of colours, including pink, white, red, and purple.</p> <p>Azaleas are often grown in gardens and are prized for their springtime blooms. They prefer well-draining, acidic soil and partial shade</p>
Camellia	<p>Camellias are evergreen shrubs or small trees appreciated for their glossy, dark green leaves and exquisite, waxy flowers.</p> <p>The most well-known species is <i>Camellia japonica</i>, which produces various flower forms and colours.</p> <p>They thrive in well-drained, acidic soil and partial shade.</p> <p>Camellias are prized for their winter and early spring blooms</p>
Bamboo	<p>Bamboo is a group of fast-growing, woody grasses known for their tall, hollow stems. It is one of the fastest-growing plants on Earth.</p> <p>Bamboo is used for various purposes, including construction, furniture, and as a decorative plant.</p> <p>Different bamboo species vary in size, shape, and hardiness</p>
Prunus - Cherry	<p>The genus <i>Prunus</i> includes various cherry tree species, such as <i>Prunus avium</i> (sweet cherry) and <i>Prunus serrulata</i> (ornamental cherry).</p> <p>Cherries are known for their delicious fruit, while ornamental cherry trees are prized for their beautiful springtime blossoms.</p> <p>Cherry trees prefer well-drained soil and full sun</p>
Hosta	<p>Hostas are popular perennial plants known for their attractive foliage.</p> <p>They come in a wide range of leaf colours, sizes, and shapes.</p> <p>Hostas are commonly grown in shade gardens and require moist, well-drained soil</p>
Hydrangea	<p>Hydrangeas are deciduous or evergreen shrubs known for their large, showy flower clusters.</p> <p>The flower colour can vary based on soil pH; acidic soils produce blue flowers, while alkaline soils yield pink flowers.</p> <p>They thrive in moist, well-drained soil and partial shade</p>
Iris	<p>Irises are a diverse group of plants known for their stunning, six-petaled flowers with unique patterns and colours.</p> <p>There are various species and hybrid cultivars of irises.</p> <p>They are often grown in gardens and come in different types, including bearded, Siberian, and Japanese irises.</p> <p>Irises require well-draining soil and full sun to partial shade</p>
Rhododendrons	<p>Rhododendrons are evergreen or deciduous shrubs or trees known for their large, showy, and often fragrant flowers.</p> <p>They are available in a wide range of flower colours, including pink, purple, red, white, and yellow.</p> <p>Rhododendrons thrive in acidic, well-draining soil and partial shade.</p> <p>They are popular in gardens and landscapes, especially in regions with cool, temperate climates</p>

Mansfield Shire Council **Botanic Park Masterplan**

Japanese maple	<p>Japanese maples are small to medium-sized deciduous trees or shrubs known for their stunning foliage.</p> <p>They have deeply lobed leaves that can range from green to red or purple, depending on the variety.</p> <p>Japanese maples are prized for their ornamental value and are often used in landscaping and as bonsai trees.</p> <p>They prefer well-drained soil and partial shade, especially in hotter climates</p>
Peonies	<p>Peonies are herbaceous perennials known for their large, fragrant, and ruffled flowers.</p> <p>They come in various colours, including pink, white, red, and yellow.</p> <p>Peonies are long-lived plants and can be a focal point in gardens.</p> <p>They thrive in fertile, well-drained soil and prefer full sun to partial shade</p>
Chrysanthemums	<p>Chrysanthemums, often called "mums," are popular fall-blooming perennials.</p> <p>They produce a wide range of flower forms and colours, making them a favourite choice for autumn gardens.</p> <p>Chrysanthemums require well-drained soil and full sun for optimal growth and flowering</p>
Styrax	<p>Styrax is a genus of deciduous or evergreen trees and shrubs known for their fragrant, bell-shaped white flowers.</p> <p>Styrax species are often grown for their ornamental value in gardens and parks.</p> <p>They thrive in well-drained soil and full to partial sun</p>
Black pines	<p>Black pines, also known as Japanese black pine, are evergreen trees native to Japan and Korea.</p> <p>They are characterized by dark green needles and distinctive bark.</p> <p>Black pines are often used in bonsai and Japanese-style gardens.</p> <p>They are adaptable to various soil types but prefer well-drained soil and full su</p>

Rainforest

Brush box (Lophostemon confertus)	<p>The Brush Box is a large, evergreen tree native to eastern Australia.</p> <p>It is known for its attractive, dark green foliage and rough, flaky bark.</p> <p>Brush Boxes produce small white flowers in clusters and are often used in landscaping and as street trees</p>
Ficus spp	<p>Ficus is a diverse genus of trees, shrubs, and vines, with many species found worldwide.</p> <p>Ficus trees are known for their distinctive lobed leaves and fig fruits.</p> <p>The common fig (<i>Ficus carica</i>) produces edible fruits, while other species are used for ornamental purposes</p>
Eucryphia moorei	<p>Eucryphia moorei is a small to medium-sized evergreen tree native to eastern Australia.</p> <p>It is valued for its attractive pink to white flowers, which have a pleasant fragrance.</p> <p>Pinkwoods are often found in cool, temperate rainforests</p>

Antaric beech	<p>Antarctic Beech is a large, slow-growing tree found in cool temperate rainforests of southeastern Australia.</p> <p>It is an ancient tree species and is believed to have Gondwanan origins.</p> <p>These trees have smooth, silver-grey bark and serrated leaves</p>
Eucalyptus regnans	<p>Eucalyptus regnans, also known as the Mountain Ash, is one of the tallest tree species in the world.</p> <p>It is native to southeastern Australia and can reach heights of over 300 feet (90 meters).</p> <p>Mountain Ash trees have distinctive white bark and are important for timber production</p>
Wollemi Pine	<p>The Wollemi Pine is often referred to as a "living fossil" because it was thought to be extinct until its rediscovery in Australia in 1994.</p> <p>It is a unique conifer with dark green foliage and rough, bark-covered stems.</p> <p>The Wollemi Pine is critically endangered, and conservation efforts have been made to protect and propagate this rare species</p>

Cycad Pine

Pineapple Cycad	<p>Pineapple Cycad is a cycad species native to South Africa.</p> <p>It gets its common name from the resemblance of its leaves to pineapple foliage.</p> <p>It has stiff, arching fronds with spiky leaflets.</p> <p>Pineapple Cycads are prized as ornamental plants and are often grown in gardens and as potted specimens</p>
Sago Palm	<p>The Sago Palm is not a true palm but a cycad native to Japan.</p> <p>It features a thick trunk topped with feathery, pinnate leaves.</p> <p>Sago Palms are popular in landscaping and as indoor plants.</p> <p>They are slow-growing and can live for many years with proper care</p>
Burrawang	<p>Burrawangs are a group of cycads native to Australia.</p> <p>They have large, leathery, fern-like fronds and produce large cones.</p> <p>Some species of Burrawangs were historically used as a food source by Indigenous Australians after proper preparation.</p> <p>Burrawangs are admired for their distinctive appearance and are sometimes grown as ornamental plants</p>
Encephalartos altensteinii	<p>Encephalartos altensteinii is a cycad species native to South Africa.</p> <p>It is a large cycad with a stout trunk and long, arching fronds.</p> <p>This species is highly sought after by collectors and enthusiasts for its unique appearance</p>
Ceratozamia mexicana	<p>Ceratozamia mexicana is a cycad native to Mexico.</p> <p>It has pinnate, feather-like fronds and produces cones.</p> <p>Mexican Cycads are known for their tolerance to a wide range of growing conditions, making them popular in cultivation</p>

Natives

Eremophila	Eremophila, also known as Emu Bush, is a genus of Australian shrubs and small trees known for their colorful tubular flowers
Scaevola	Scaevola, or Fan Flower, is a genus of flowering plants that produce fan-shaped flowers. They are popular in gardens and hanging baskets
Leptospermum	Leptospermum, or Tea Tree, is a genus of plants with small, aromatic leaves and delicate white or pink flowers. They are used for making tea and essential oils
Lomandra	They are often used in landscaping for their hardiness and attractive foliage
Westringia	They are known for their drought tolerance and are used in gardens and as hedging plants.
Xerochrysum	Paper Daisy or Golden Everlasting, is a genus of flowering plants native to Australia. They produce bright, papery flowers
Adenanthos	Adenanthos is a genus of Australian shrubs known for their unique, needle-like leaves and tubular flowers
Chorizema	Chorizema is a genus of plants with pea-like flowers native to Australia. They are often seen in sandy soils.
Conostylis	Conostylis is a genus of plants known for their grass-like appearance and tubular flowers. They are adapted to sandy soils
Hibbertia	They produce bright yellow flowers and are used in gardens

Arid – Cactus

Euphorbia:	Euphorbia is a large and diverse genus of flowering plants, commonly known as spurge. They come in various shapes and sizes, including succulents, shrubs, and trees. Euphorbias are known for their unique growth patterns and striking forms. Some species contain a milky latex that can be toxic, so handle with care. Examples include Euphorbia milii (Crown of Thorns) and Euphorbia tirucalli (Pencil Cactus).
Agave	Agaves are succulent plants native to arid regions of the Americas. They are known for their rosette-shaped leaves with sharp spines at the tips. Agaves are commonly used in landscaping and for making tequila. They require well-draining soil and plenty of sunlight
Echeveria	Echeveria is a genus of succulent plants known for their rosette-shaped, fleshy leaves. They come in various colors and are popular in succulent gardens and arrangements. Echeverias are relatively easy to care for and thrive in bright sunlight
Graptopoveria	Graptopoveria is a hybrid succulent resulting from a cross between Graptopetalum and Echeveria. They inherit characteristics from both parent genera and often have attractive rosettes with colorful leaves. Like other succulents, they require well-draining soil and sunlight.

Sedums	<p>Sedums are a diverse group of succulent plants known for their hardiness and low maintenance.</p> <p>They come in various shapes, sizes, and colors.</p> <p>Sedums are ideal for ground covers and rock gardens</p>
Sempervivums (Hens and Chicks)	<p>Sempervivums are low-growing succulents that form tight rosettes.</p> <p>They are hardy and can withstand cold temperatures.</p> <p>They are often used as decorative plants in rock gardens or containers</p>
Hesperaloe	<p>Hesperaloe parviflora, commonly known as Red Yucca, is a succulent native to Texas and Mexico.</p> <p>It has long, narrow leaves and produces tall flower spikes with red or coral-colored flowers.</p> <p>It is drought-tolerant and attracts hummingbirds.</p>
Yucca	<p>Yuccas are plants with long, sword-like leaves and tall spikes of white or cream-colored flowers.</p> <p>They are hardy and often used in xeriscaping and arid landscapes</p>
Echinopsis	<p>Echinopsis is a genus of cacti known for their large, showy flowers.</p> <p>They have cylindrical or globular stems and are native to South America</p>
Ferocactus	<p>Ferocactus is a genus of barrel cacti known for their spherical or cylindrical shape.</p> <p>They have prominent ribs and can grow quite large</p>
Rebutia	<p>Rebutia is a genus of small, globular cacti native to South America.</p> <p>They are known for their vibrant flowers and small size</p>
Prickly Pear	<p>Prickly Pear cactus belongs to the Opuntia genus and is characterized by flat, oval-shaped pads covered in spines.</p> <p>They produce colorful fruits known as prickly pears, which are edible</p>
Cactus Cup	<p>Cactus Cup" does not refer to a specific plant but could be a term used for a container or decorative pot made to resemble a cactus or succulent</p>



Allocasuarina torulosa
Forest Oak

Mature Height:
15m

Mature width:
6m

Flower Colour:
/

Flowering Time:
/



Eucalyptus leucoxylon
Yellow Gum

Mature Height:
20m

Mature width:
7m

Flower Colour:
Pink/Red/White

Flowering Time:
Winter



Eucalyptus melliodora
Yellow Box

Mature Height:
25m

Mature width:
15m

Flower Colour:
White

Flowering Time:
September to December



Tristaniopsis laurina
Water Gum

Mature Height:
8m

Mature width:
5m

Flower Colour:
Yellow/White

Flowering Time:
Summer



Cupaniopsis anacardioides
Tuckeroo

Mature Height:
15m

Mature width:
10m

Flower Colour:
White

Flowering Time:
March to July



Tetratheca ciliata
Pink Bells

Mature Height:
0.6m

Mature width:
0.6m

Flower Colour:
Pink/Purple

Flowering Time:
July to November



Correa reflexa
Common Correa

Mature Height:
2m

Mature width:
3m

Flower Colour:
Yellow

Flowering Time:
March to September



Goodenia ovata
Hop Goodenia

Mature Height:
2m

Mature width:
3m

Flower Colour:
Yellow

Flowering Time:
August to December



Spyridium parvifolium
Dusty Miller

Mature Height:
3m

Mature width:
1.5m

Flower Colour:
White

Flowering Time:
July to November



Grevillea alpina
Mountain Grevillea

Mature Height:
0.6m

Mature width:
0.6m

Flower Colour:
Orange/Red/Yellow

Flowering Time:
All Year

Mansfield Shire Council **Mansfield Station Precinct Masterplan**



Acacia pycnantha
Golden Wattle

Mature Height:
6m

Mature width:
3m

Flower Colour:
Yellow

Flowering Time:
July to October

Acacia acinacea
Gold Dust Wattle

Mature Height:
2m

Mature width:
4m

Flower Colour:
Yellow

Flowering Time:
August to October

Prostanthera lasianthos
Victorian Christmas Bush

Mature Height:
8m

Mature width:
4m

Flower Colour:
Pink/White

Flowering Time:
Summer

Bursaria spinosa
Sweet Bursaria

Mature Height:
8m

Mature width:
5m

Flower Colour:
White

Flowering Time:
December to March

Hibbertia empetrifolia
Scrambling Guinea-flower

Mature Height:
0.6m

Mature width:
1.5m

Flower Colour:
Yellow

Flowering Time:
August to October



Astroloma humifusum
Cranberry Heath

Mature Height:
0.5m

Mature width:
1m

Flower Colour:
Red

Flowering Time:
April to September

Acrotriches serrulata
Honey-pots

Mature Height:
0.5m

Mature width:
0.6m

Flower Colour:
/

Flowering Time:
/

Gonocarpus tetragynus
Common Raspwort

Mature Height:
0.3m

Mature width:
0.5m

Flower Colour:
/

Flowering Time:
/

Chrysocephalum semipapposum
Clustered Everlasting

Mature Height:
OC

Mature width:
2m

Flower Colour:
Yellow

Flowering Time:
October to February

Bulbine bulbosa
Bulbine Lily

Mature Height:
0.6m

Mature width:
0.3m

Flower Colour:
Yellow

Flowering Time:
September to December

Literature Review

Victorian State Government Plans and Strategies

Document	Purpose/relevance	Implications for the Botanic Park Masterplan
Plan Melbourne 2017 - 2050	This strategic planning document outlines the vision for Melbourne's growth and development, focusing on housing, connectivity, sustainability, and maintaining Melbourne's unique character. While primarily focused on Melbourne, its principles and policies can provide a broad guide for regional Victoria as well.	The Masterplan should adhere to principles of integrating transport and land-use planning, promoting walkable neighbourhoods, and enhancing local character
State disability plan (2022-2026)	This plan has the purpose of ensuring that things are fairer for people with a disability and presents itself as a key document to hold the Victorian Government accountable in making all parts of a community inclusive and accessible for everyone. It is relevant to the development of the masterplan because the open space must be designed in such a way that it incorporates principles to ensure that it is accessible for everyone to fully enjoy.	The Masterplan should ensure the precinct is universally accessible with provisions for wheelchair access, clear signage, and inclusive facilities
Victorian Planning Provisions:	These are the state-wide planning provisions that govern land use in Victoria. They include rules and regulations about zoning, overlays, particular provisions, general provisions, and definitions. Any Masterplan will need to comply with these provisions.	The Masterplan should adhere to these provisions and consider different zones and heritage overlays, if applicable
Climate Change Act 2017 (Victoria):	The Act outlines Victoria's approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation. It sets net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 as a legislative target. Masterplans should align with these goals, promoting sustainability and reducing emissions where possible.	The Masterplan should incorporate climate change mitigation strategies such as green spaces, sustainable building designs, and promotion of low carbon transportation options
Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Victoria)	This Act provides for out-of-court settlements between the State and traditional owners. It recognizes that traditional owners have rights to land and resources and can be involved in land management. Given that the Mansfield area is part of the Country of the Taungurung people, engagement and consultation with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council should be considered in the master planning process.	Consultation with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council is vital to respect traditional owners' rights and consider their cultural heritage in precinct development
Victoria's Tourism 2020 Strategy	This state-wide strategy aims to grow Victoria's tourism sector, an aspect that could be relevant if the Masterplan seeks to promote tourism in the Mansfield Station Precinct.	If the Masterplan aims to promote tourism, distinctive architectural designs, public art, and tourist-friendly facilities should be incorporated
Victoria's 30-Year Infrastructure	This long-term strategy provides guidance on Victoria's infrastructure needs and priorities. Any major construction or redevelopment within the	Any major infrastructure within the precinct should align with this strategy, considering

Document	Purpose/relevance	Implications for the Botanic Park Masterplan
Strategy	precinct would need to consider this strategy.	future community needs and allowing for adaptability
Creative State 2021-2025	This is Victoria's strategy for growing the state's creative industries and culture. If the Masterplan includes components related to arts and culture, this strategy would be relevant.	If arts and culture elements are included in the Masterplan, alignment with this strategy's goals should be considered
Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023	This strategy outlines the government's key priorities for improving health and wellbeing. If the Masterplan includes components aimed at improving community health (like recreational facilities, walking paths, etc.), it will need to consider this plan.	The Masterplan should promote community health through recreational facilities, walkable spaces, and areas for social interaction
Victoria's Cycling Strategy 2018-2028	If the Masterplan includes infrastructure for cycling or aims to promote cycling, this strategy will provide a useful guide.	If cycling infrastructure is included in the Masterplan, it should provide safe and accessible bike lanes, bike parking, and connectivity to other cycling routes
Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria	Provides an exhaustive guide to how to design public spaces, including principles of design for parks to make them safe and accessible for all users. Elements of these guidelines relevant to the masterplan are all those located within section 3 of the guide.	The Masterplan should promote sustainable development while preserving the precinct's natural and cultural heritage
Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051	This strategy looks at all the future infrastructure requirements across Victoria through detailed analysis of future demand and existing scenarios. The plan also looks at regional Victoria and makes recommendations for infrastructure provision to them. Recommendation 83, to update community infrastructure, is relevant to the masterplan as it advocates for state funding to improve community infrastructure where current community facilities are no longer fit for purpose.	The Masterplan should support community development and stimulate economic growth

Regional Plans and Strategies

Document	Purpose/relevance	Implications for the Botanic Park Masterplan
Goulburn Valley Regional Growth Plan 2014	The plan provides direction for sustainable growth in the region over the next 30 years. It emphasizes environmental resilience, connectivity and transport, economic diversification, and balancing growth with the preservation of natural and cultural heritage.	The Masterplan should promote environmental sustainability The Masterplan should consider this, designing to accommodate population growth and attract visitors with high-quality facilities and services
Regional Development Victoria	This strategy aims to grow and develop vibrant regions in Victoria with a focus on innovation, creating jobs, and supporting community	Should consider how the Botanic Park can contribute to regional growth, innovation,

Document	Purpose/relevance	Implications for the Botanic Park Masterplan
Strategic Framework	development.	job creation, and community development.
Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities 2010-2020	This strategy provides a vision and framework for sustainable communities in the Hume region, which includes Mansfield. It outlines initiatives in areas such as housing, transport, employment, and climate change adaptation.	Should align with the sustainable initiatives in areas like housing, transport, and employment, and adapt to climate change.
Hume Regional Growth Plan, 2014	Identifies Mansfield as a key sub-regional settlement where growth is likely to occur. It estimates Mansfield Shire's population to be 9,000 in 2021 and reach 10,200 by 2031. Mansfield Shire's population reached 10,318 in 2022, 9 years prior to what was estimated ⁱⁱ . The plan also sets out key directions for growth within the Hume region, but not specifically for Mansfield Township. The background report identifies Mansfield as being a tourism destination and marks that it is desirable to increase the range of high quality and diverse accommodation in Mansfield.	Should consider how the park can contribute to tourism development, providing high-quality and diverse experiences, and align with population growth.

Mansfield Shire Council Plans and Strategies

Document	Purpose/relevance	Implications for the Botanic Park Masterplan
MSC Council Plan 2021-2025	This Plan seeks to Maximize health and wellbeing of families and communities, promote connection and fitness, and ensure intelligent land use and infrastructure. Strategies: Support arts community, create an environment for recreation and socializing, protect natural vistas, and improve roads, drainage, and footpaths.	The Masterplan's recommendations should aim to help implement relevant objectives, strategies, and initiatives of the Council Plan, including encouraging physical activity, socializing, and connecting, improving recreation infrastructure, and providing suitable spaces for events
MSC Community Vision 2040	This Strategy outlines a long-term vision for Mansfield Shire. This vision is expressed in the form of key destinations. The vision is to create an Engaged and active community, physically and mentally healthy residents, rich environment with open spaces, and robust, sustainable, and equitable infrastructure	The Masterplan should support the key initiatives of the Community Vision: an engaged and active community, sustainable and environmentally friendly infrastructure, and protection and enhancement of flora and fauna
MSC Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025	The plan outlines the Council's key priorities with respect to the health and well-being of its community and the action it will take to implement to achieve these key priorities. These priorities include the need to encourage active and healthy lifestyles and maintain the spaces in which these activities can occur.	The key priorities/actions of the Health and Wellbeing Plan should be considered when framing the Masterplan's directions, including encouraging physical activity and maintaining and

Document	Purpose/relevance	Implications for the Botanic Park Masterplan
		improving playgrounds and recreational spaces
MSC Open Space Strategy 2022	The aim of the Open Space Strategy is to establish a strategic vision and policy directions to guide the future planning, provision and management of open space across the Mansfield township over the next 20 years (2021-2040).	Relevant findings, guiding principles, and actions from the Open Space Strategy should be considered in the Masterplan, including balancing various demands on open space, enhancing connectivity, ensuring high-quality spaces, promoting active and healthy lifestyles, reflecting cultural heritage, utilizing natural landscape assets, and implementing actions such as park expansion, habitat protection, and community engagement
MSC Sports Facility Strategy 2018	This Documents makes recommendations about the future provision of recreation facilities in Mansfield. It finds that upgrades to existing sporting field facilities are required and that investigations for future activity areas is appropriate.	Should consider recommendations for creating an activity area or improving existing facilities might be necessary.
MSC Environment Plan 2019-2023	This Strategy contains Council's intentions and commitments with respect to protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The references in the Strategy that have relevance to Mansfield Botanic Park are as follows: Maintain public drinking water taps, improve biodiversity, encourage urban tree cover, support renewable energy projects, advocate for low carbon infrastructure.	Should align with goals for improving biodiversity, supporting urban tree cover, and encouraging public infrastructure investment.
MSC Economic Development Strategy 2020-25	This document contains a strategy to guide the growth and resilience of the local economy over the five year period between 2020-25. Some key recommendations are to improve and increase events throughout Mansfield Shire.	Should consider how the park can contribute to the economic well-being of Mansfield, particularly through targeted tourism and events.
MSC Access and Inclusion Charter	This Charter outlines Council's commitments to improving opportunities for people with disabilities or experiencing other disadvantages from participating in community life. The commitments that have relevance to Mansfield Botanic Park are as follows: Reduce barriers for access to goods, services, and facilities, aim for inclusivity, accessibility, and affordability.	Should enhance the physical accessibility of the park and its structures and reduce barriers to all goods, services, and facilities.
Mansfield Township Structure Plan 2015	This Document provides a plan for the development of Mansfield from a land use perspective. The information/suggestions contained in the Plan that have relevance for and should be considered when framing the Station	Should consider suggestions about potential subdivision and development, improving park access, and extending bicycle paths.

Document	Purpose/relevance	Implications for the Botanic Park Masterplan
	Precinct Masterplan. Some key features of the plan include Potential development north of the park, expansion and enhancement of park, improved access from surrounding streets, extension of bicycle paths, and intersection upgrades.	
Mansfield Township Approaches and Guidelines Study, 2019	This study makes recommendations for the built form and landscape design of the 4 township approaches to Mansfield Township.	The Botanic Park is located along the Mansfield Whitfield Road approach. Any detailed design or form should respond to the guidelines specified within the study.

ⁱ Action in *Plan Melbourne*

ⁱⁱ See .idcommunity statistics profile for Mansfield Shire.