

VICTORIA PARK
FINAL DRAFT MASTER PLAN
OCTOBER, 2015

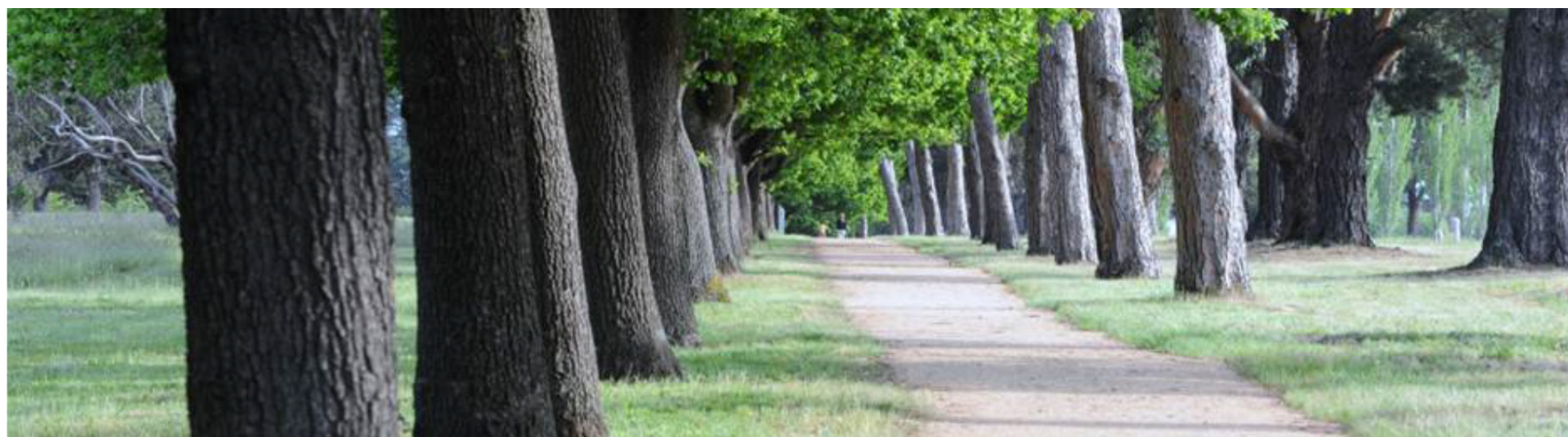
Volume 1



Table of Contents – *Volume 1*

1 Executive Summary	3	6 Master Plan and Management	27
2 Introduction	4	Recommendations	
2.1 Victoria Park		6.1 Proposed Landscape and Vegetation	
2.2 Master Plan Background		6.2 Proposed Event Infrastructure and Social Amenity	
2.3 Master Plan Format		6.3 Proposed Facility Development	
2.4 Site History		6.4 Organised Sports and Clubs	
3 Background Documents	7	6.5 Traffic and Vehicle Management	
3.1 City of Ballarat Strategic Documents		6.6 Access, Circulation and Connections	
3.2 Victoria Park Documents		6.7 Public Appreciation and Signage	
3.3 Showgrounds Relocation Documents		6.8 Hydrology and Lake Improvements	
4 Community & Stakeholder Consultation	9	6.9 Key Improvements Master Plan and Proposed Precincts	
4.1 Victoria Park Vision (2012)		7 Master Plan Implementation	47
4.2 Master Plan Development		8 Appendices	<i>Volume 2</i>
4.3 Master Plan Consultation 2015		8.1 Victoria Park Master Plan Community Engagement - Summary Report City of Ballarat June 2015	
4.4 Sport & Recreation Stakeholder Consultation		8.2 Green Infrastructure Case Study #1: Victoria Park, Ballarat Version 2 E2 Design June 2015	
4.5 Summary of Design Themes and Objectives		8.3 Victoria Park Master Plan - Summary of Sport / Recreation Considerations for the Victoria Park Master Plan SED May 2015	
5 Site Analysis and Existing Conditions	13	8.4 Victoria Park - Preliminary Draft Master Plan - Community Feedback Summary - October 2015	
5.1 Existing Precincts			
5.2 Landscape and Vegetation			
5.3 Event Infrastructures and Social Amenity			
5.4 Facility Development			
5.5 Organised Sports and Clubs			
5.6 Traffic and Vehicle Management			
5.7 Access, Circulation and Connections			
5.8 Existing Signage			
5.9 Existing Hydrology and Lakes			

1 Executive Summary



Victoria Park is one of Ballarat's most significant and iconic parks. It has a rich history of recreational and cultural use and is highly valued by the Ballarat Community. It was once extensively mined for gold and in 1890 was the site of Victoria's first Arbor Day planting; providing the foundation for what has become one of the best examples of a large European style parkland in Australia today.

Amongst 130 hectares of parklands separated by gently curving tree lined avenues are a diverse range of landscape features and recreation facilities including: 13 ovals, clubrooms, equestrian grounds, walking trails, lakes, playgrounds, picnic and BBQ shelters, groups of established trees, a mullock heap and large areas of remnant native grasslands and open spaces. All of these features and facilities are well used by the community for a variety of recreational activities and leisure purposes.

Victoria Park also has a history of hosting significant events. During World War Two it was used as a military base. Through the 1940's to 1960's it was used for car rallying and motorcycle racing events and in 1992 it was the site of the 16th Australian Scout Jamboree.

Originally located on the western fringe of Ballarat, Victoria Park is now located centrally between the CBD and the western growth corridor of the City. In recent years Ballarat's population and urban growth has increased pressure upon Victoria Park and further highlighted the need to address a number of development challenges and opportunities including:

Preserving and enhancing the Park's historical plantings, open parkland character and native grasslands and environmental values.

Increasing demand for improved sport and recreation facilities to support shared and multi-functional use.

Increasing demand for community use for a range of leisure activities and events supported by improved access, connections, parkland amenity and community safety.

Increasing traffic, flooding and infrastructure maintenance issues. Identifying a suitable location for a major events facility with large outdoor open lawns within the Ballarat region.

Despite these challenges Victoria Park has never had a Master Plan however a Vision developed in 2012 following an extensive community engagement process identified Victoria Park as:

The Lungs of the City – A Park for People: the City of Ballarat will preserve and enhance the historic features of Victoria Park while encouraging the community's use and enjoyment of the Park's diverse range of facilities and landscapes.

The Victoria Park Vision was further recognised in the Ballarat Strategy (2015) which identified Victoria Park as a recreational icon. The Strategy also recommended that a Master Plan be developed to provide guidance on Victoria Park's long term future and for the Ballarat community to own a shared vision of what the Park can provide to future generations.

Development of the Victoria Park Master Plan commenced in April 2015 with a community engagement process including an Open House, surveys, submissions and interviews with key stakeholders. The feedback from this process was then considered and reflected in the development of the Preliminary Draft Master Plan which was placed on exhibition during August to September 2015 to seek further community feedback. Over 200 survey responses and submissions were received during this period, generally indicating broad community and stakeholder support for a range of key recommendations in the Preliminary Draft Master Plan including:

- Increased tree planting, enlarged native grassland areas and improved vegetation management.
- Increased events capacity with an open lawn events space in the south-west corner and water and power services throughout the Park.
- Improved recreation facilities including: clubrooms with publicly accessible toilets, oval resurfacing, criterium course upgrades, and equestrian precinct improvements.
- Improved parkland amenity and leisure facilities including: dog off leash areas, playgrounds, BBQ's, seating, drinking fountains, and wayfinding and interpretive signage.
- Additional and improved walking paths and pedestrian and cycling access and connections.
- Improved entrances, traffic management, vehicle control and car parking.
- Additional and improved water bodies and drainage works to reduce flooding, increase park amenity and provide opportunities for stormwater harvesting for irrigation.

It is envisioned that the progressive implementation of the Master Plan will protect and further enhance Victoria Park's unique landscape qualities and features, whilst providing for increased demand for a broad range of recreational facilities, leisure opportunities and spaces for community events; ensuring that Victoria Park continues to be highly valued by the Ballarat community into the foreseeable future.