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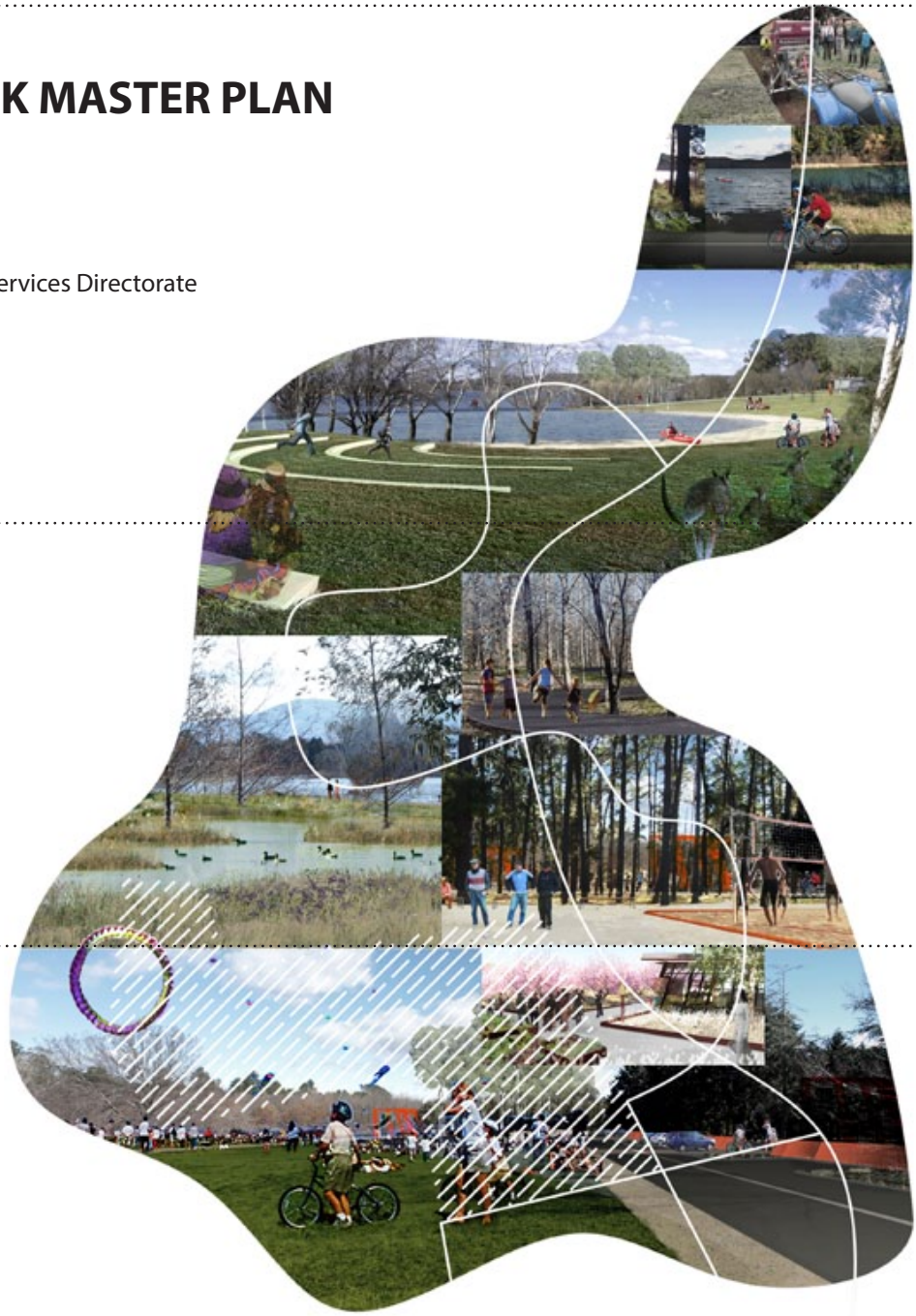
# WESTON PARK MASTER PLAN

## CANBERRA

Prepared for  
Parks and City Services  
Territory and Municipal Services Directorate  
ACT Government

**Oxigen**  
URBAN DESIGN  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
URBAN PLANNING

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**FINAL MASTER  
PLAN REPORT**

JUNE 2013



**Weston Park  
Master Plan Report**

**Prepared for the**

Parks and City Services  
Territory and Municipal Services Directorate  
Australian Capital Territory Government

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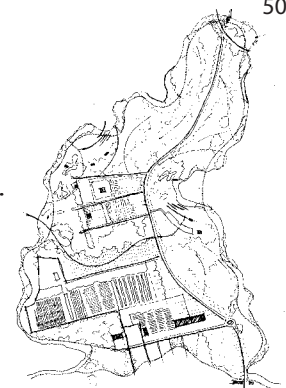
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Final Report

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*Concept sketch, Oxigen*

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Weston Park



*Lake parklands study by Griffin, 1915*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Weston Park is one of Canberra's most important parks. Its central location adjacent to Lake Burley Griffin provides a recreational and cultural focus within the Canberra open space system; a place for the whole community and an important tourist destination. In many ways Weston Park epitomises the planned urban landscape approach taken in Canberra: the way the park is spatially organised and planted, the facilities found there and the presence of the Yarralumla Nursery which played a fundamental part in the development of Canberra's landscape character.

This report is a response to a brief issued by the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, ACT Government, calling for a master plan that recognises the significant heritage values of Weston Park. This master plan responds by making recommendations that are consistent with the Conservation Management Plan for Weston Park.

The implementation of the master plan will deliver more than just physical improvements. It is a key step in maintaining and enhancing Canberra's key competitive strength as a city – its liveability and status as the nation's capital. Cities with well developed open spaces offering a high level of amenity are not only attractive to live in, but they support lively and healthy communities that value environmental responsibility, social interaction, active recreation and cultural expression.

The master plan provides a direction for new initiatives as well as for managing existing resources and assets. As the amenity of the park is improved and new activities and facilities introduced, more people will be attracted to the park, justifying increased expenditure for new capital works, management and maintenance. The master plan sets a long term vision and recommends actions that can be further investigated and implemented as resources allow.

The report describes the site and some of its distinctive qualities, including its prominent location, convenient access, open space qualities, distinctive heritage and cultural values, recreational opportunities, varied topography, aspect and plantings.

Three coordinated systems comprising movement, activities and environment are described as a means of organising the spatial arrangement of activities and environmental zones within the park. Considered together, these form a consolidated master plan for the park.

Implementation of the recommendations will occur over time as capital funding becomes available either through successful budget bids or via other agency or commercial contributions towards partnership projects. All of the recommendations contained within this master plan report are subject to funding being available and confirmation that the works are needed.

The master plan was prepared by Oxigen Landscape Architects + Urban Designers. Susan Conroy assisted with consultation and Duncan Marshall with the heritage component.



# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 The Importance of Weston Park

Weston Park is one of Canberra's most accessible urban parks with a rich cultural history that extends back to Canberra's early landscape development. Of particular significance are plantings carried out by Thomas Weston, after whom the park is named, followed by Alexander Bruce, John Hobday and Lindsay Pryor, among others, all of whom were key in establishing Canberra's landscape. Weston Park is heavily and frequently used with many visitors using the play spaces and picnic facilities. In 2011 Weston Park attracted an estimated 1,050,073 users (TAMS ACT Sportsgrounds, Parks and Open Spaces User Satisfaction Survey 2011) visited Weston Park. The open grasslands, mixed tree plantings and views to and from the park make it a popular place active and passive recreation as well as regular large community events. Yarralumla Nursery, located centrally within the park, continues the history of developing Canberra's landscape through its propagation and retail operations.

The Weston Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP), prepared by Godden Mackay and Logan in July 2011, outlines the heritage importance of Weston Park and provides guidance for the proposals and recommendations outlined in this master plan report. The CMP is referenced throughout the master plan to provide the necessary link to the recommendations and actions contained within the CMP. The intention is for the master plan to be read in conjunction with the CMP.



*L-R, T-B: Yarralumla Nursery (Weston Park) Pre Lake; Yarralumla Nursery; Fruit Trees Yarralumla Nursery 1933; Children's Play Pond 1981; Children's Play Pond existing; Existing play equipment; Existing miniature railway; Australia Day in park 1985; Father's Day in Park 2008; Christmas celebrations in Weston Park.*





Weston Park

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## 1.2 Background

The intent of this master plan is to provide a long term vision for the on-going development and management of Weston Park. The master plan builds on previous and current reports and studies that outline the physical characteristics and qualities of the site, as well as its cultural and historic significance. The master plan fits into the ACT Government Territory Plan and the National Capital Plan frameworks, including the latter's intentions for Lake Burley Griffin and adjacent parklands.

The master plan provides new ideas for facilities and activities within the park, as well as providing direction for managing the existing site assets and landscape qualities. In arriving at a long term vision for the park, there is a recognition of the value of partnerships and the opportunities that are provided by working with federal and local government agencies and the Canberra community in the realisation of common goals. For example, the master plan argues for greater use of the Yarralumla Nursery and recommends the establishment of productive gardens within the Nursery site, as well as a new interpretive and educational centre adjacent to the Nursery.

It is intended that the master plan guides future capital investment, management and maintenance within Weston Park. An invigorated park will not only mean that more people will be attracted to the park and the facilities it offers, but also management that is better focused towards maintaining and upgrading these assets. The considerable cultural significance inherent in Weston Park, including the historic value of tree plantings and the spatial arrangement of open space within the park, and the value of Yarralumla Nursery itself in the cultural interpretation of Canberra's landscape development, is further recognised, interpreted and thereby valued.

### The Master Plan Brief for Weston Park:

- *recognises culturally and historically significant features of Weston Park and recommends measures that strengthen its heritage character;*
- *recommends measures that strengthen the heritage character of Weston Park;*
- *reconsiders the main entry to Weston Park so that this becomes a recognisable and appealing point of arrival;*
- *reviews pedestrian, cycle and vehicle movement through the park so that access is improved and conflicts to circulation and safety within the park are mitigated;*
- *rationalises car parking so that it is more convenient and better relates to recreational activities;*
- *increases amenity and biodiversity by introducing new planting and testing of new tree species;*
- *reviews the adequacy of amenities such as picnic facilities, play equipment, park furniture and toilets;*
- *nominates spaces for major events in the park;*
- *incorporates environmentally sustainable design features; and*
- *considers water sensitive urban design.*

The master plan for Weston Park has been developed following thorough investigation of the many reports and studies concerned with the park as well as site investigations. Equally important has been input from stakeholders who use the park, statutory and non-statutory agencies and bodies with a role in managing the Park, as well as interested community groups and the broad Canberra community who were invited to comment on the draft. A summary of the consultation carried out during preparation of the master plan is included as *Appendix 1.0: Consultation Report*.

The master plan responds positively to the historic, cultural and landscape qualities of the site, retaining its distinctive and well-liked character. Existing features are retained and enhanced where they contribute towards achieving the desired vision for the park and are consistent with the recommendations contained in the CMP. The master plan resolves cycle, pedestrian and vehicle movement, parking, provision of recreational facilities and public amenities, access to the Lake Burley Griffin shoreline, tree management and new tree planting. Increased activation during the day and for certain regulated activities at night is encouraged, as is an over-riding environmental agenda that promotes principles of low water use and energy conservation. The master plan realises a variety of parkland experiences that are accessible and attractive to current and new users of the park.

Transformation of Weston Park will be staged over a period of time as funding permits the upgrade of existing infrastructure, new capital works and maintenance of the existing assets.



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## 1.3 Heritage Value

The Conservation Management Plan for Weston Park was prepared as “a practical guide for conserving, managing and interpreting Weston Park’s heritage. It discusses factors that need to be considered when managing the site, such as its statutory context, recommendations in the 2009 draft Weston Park Master Plan and interpretation opportunities” (Godden Mackay Logan, 2011, page i).

The CMP describes the importance of Weston Park as follows:

“Weston Park, which contains the Yarralumla Nursery within its boundary, is a highly significant, designed cultural landscape with important heritage values for Canberra. Weston Park and the Nursery provide physical evidence of Walter Burley and Marion Mahoney Griffin’s vision for Canberra as a Federal capital city of international standing. Weston Park is a significant component of the original plan for Canberra and there are great opportunities for the promotion and interpretation of Weston Park and the Nursery in the broader historic setting of Griffin’s plan” (Godden Mackay Logan, 2011, page i).

Weston Park has an association with Canberra’s landscape development that extends back to the Federal Government’s earliest initiatives to establish a livable and attractive city on the Limestone Plains. Within Weston Park, Yarralumla Nursery and Hobday’s Cottage, once the Chief Nurseryman’s house and an early example of Commonwealth Government housing for Canberra, are important heritage items in the ACT. The plantings, many of them experimental, assisted in determining which species were best suited to the Canberra climate. Weston Park, the Yarralumla Nursery and adjacent Westbourne Woods are included within the Australian Capital Territory Heritage Register and their citations are found at [http://www.environment.act.gov.au/spf/heritage\\_register](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/spf/heritage_register).

While recognised for plant propagation and other nursery practices, Weston Park is significant as a site for horticultural experimentation, both for exotic species thought likely to prosper in Canberra’s climate and soils, and for hybridization of indigenous species for urban horticultural use. A major benefit that arises from this master plan for Weston Park is the opportunity to interpret the history of the park in a meaningful way. The arrangement of spaces in the park and the detailed proposals illustrated in the master plan build on the earlier plantings within Weston Park and actively interpret their value to Canberra’s landscape development, including the opportunity to introduce new trial plantings consistent with Weston’s original approach.

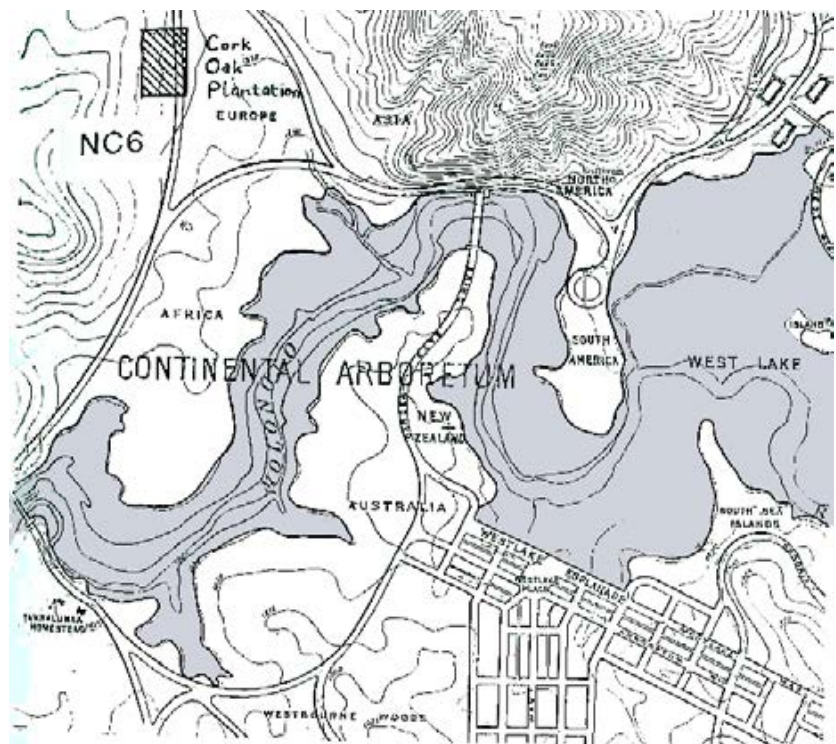
Also of importance is the evolution of Weston Park since the 1960’s as a recreational park for Canberra. During this time elements such as the Maze, which has now been removed, and a range of other recreational facilities including adventure play features, the Pond and The Train (Miniature Railway) were introduced.

To assist with incorporating the recommendations of the Weston Park Conservation Management Plan into this master plan, a checklist was prepared as a working tool to assess the impact of the master plan against the CMP. This checklist is included as a separate attachment to this master plan report (*Appendix 2.0 Weston Park Heritage*).

The Master Plan has been cross-referenced against the findings of the CMP so that the two work in conjunction with, and complement, each other. The relevant findings of the CMP are referenced throughout the master plan by annotation: eg. *Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP12*. (The reference relates to CMP Section 7.2 **Specific Precinct Conservation Policies** which begin on page 131, P2CP12 may be interpreted as: **Precinct 2 (P2) - Nursery Park and The Ramble**, page 132 - **Conservation Policy 12 (CP12) - Maintain the controlled dog exercise facility in the precinct**, page 133).



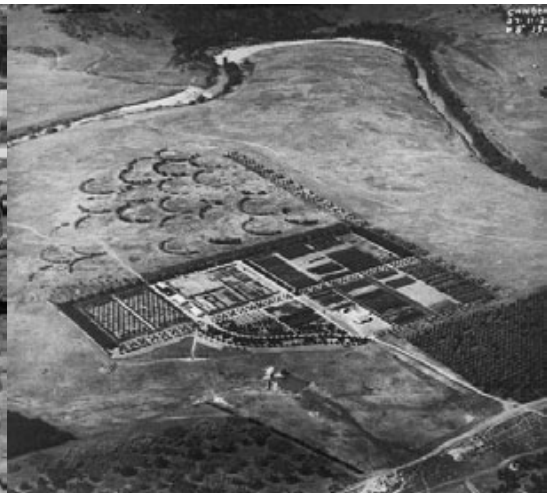
Weston Park,  
Griffin Plan 1916



Weston Park,  
Griffin Plan 1918

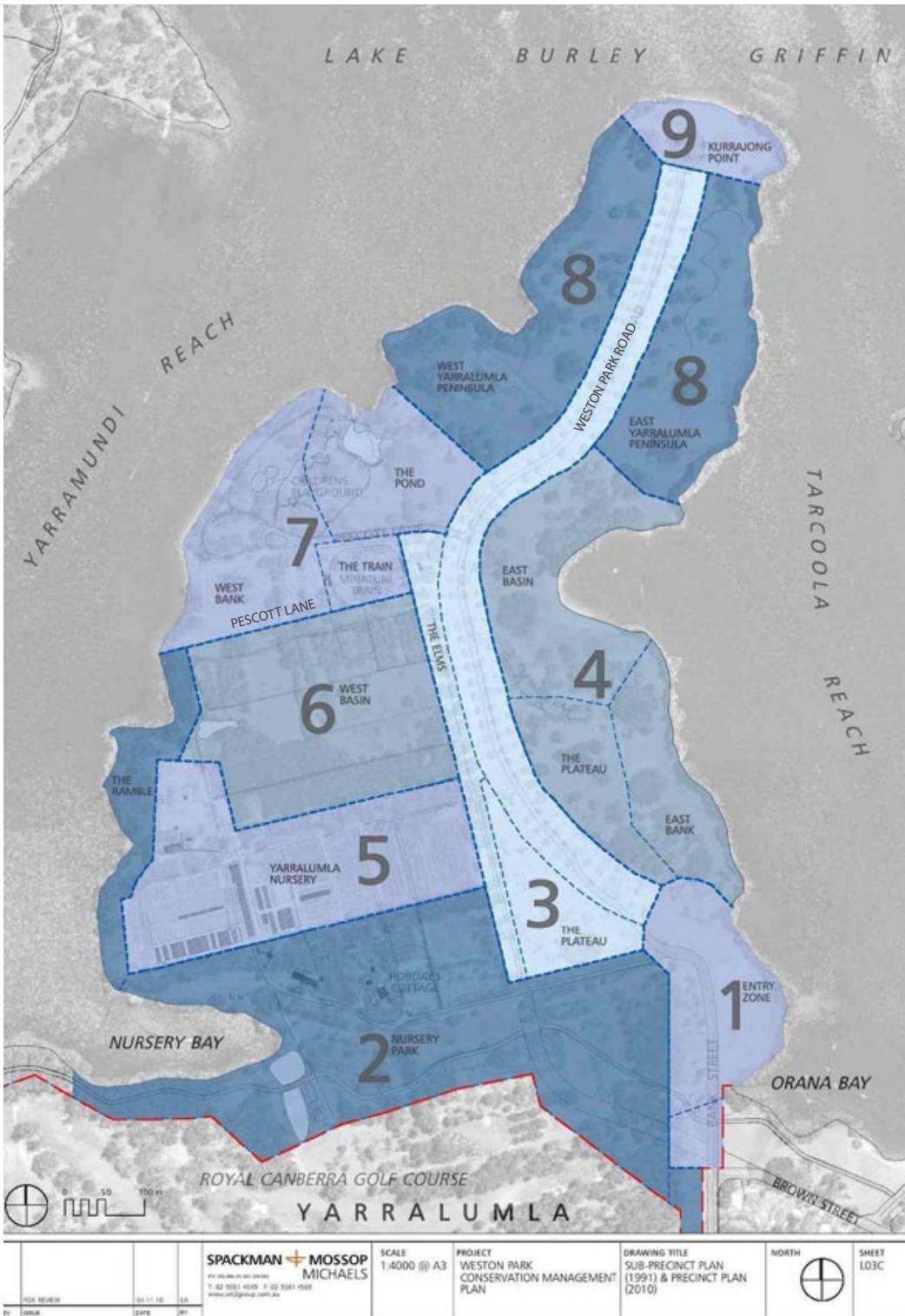


*L-R Thomas Weston, Lindsay Pryor, Robert Boden*



*L-R Historic Nursery; Weston Park pre-lake - aerial view of Yarralumla Nursery (Photo W.J. Mildenhall Source National Library of Australia)*





Precinct Plan of Weston park showing the nine numbered precincts and the named sub-precincts. (Source Spackman Mossop Michaels - Sub Precinct Plan (1991) and Precinct Plan (2010) included as part of the Conservation Management Plan (Godden Mackay Logan - July 2011)



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## 1.4 Legislative Framework

### National Capital Plan

Weston Park is a 'designated area' within the National Capital Plan (NCP). The NCP is the strategic plan for Canberra and the Territory. It ensures that Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance. Works proposed for Weston Park must obtain works approval from the National Capital Authority (NCA).

The Conservation Management Plan for Weston Park notes that 'NCA referral of proposed actions is controlled under the NCP, not the Heritage Act, and it is outside ACT Heritage control.' This master plan for Weston Park has been prepared recognising the statutory and strategic requirements of the National Capital Plan, and has included consultation with the NCA regarding its content.

The CMP also notes that 'The status of Weston Park as a designated area for recreation means that "development" is limited to small-scale items that help recreation and tourism. They may include commercial concessions for kiosks, refreshment rooms, restaurants, and other entertainment and hire facilities as appropriate to the area.' (CMP page 96)

### ACT Heritage Act 2004

Weston Park was registered in the ACT Heritage Register on 25th August 2011. The registration notes the following features as intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place:

- *The parkland setting, including the diversity of tree species and the open spaces between plantings, and planting patterns including regular formation.*
- *The existing road layout.*
- *Lake edge plantings.*
- *Circular trial planting pots.*
- *The individual tree plantings noting that the trees may require removal and replacement due to age and/or safety concerns.*
- *The English Garden.*
- *Weston Park Road central avenue planting of alternating Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*) and Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*).*
- *Planting of endangered Hillgrove gum (*Eucalyptus michaeliana*).*
- *Relationship to the Yarralumla Nursery and Westbourne Woods.*
- *Views and vistas to and from Lake Burley Griffin, Black Mountain, Red Hill, Civic, Mt Ainslie and Parliament House.*
- *Recreational areas.*

(Heritage (Decision about Registration for Weston Park, Yarralumla) Notice 2011 Notifiable Instrument NI 2011 - 498)

Other relevant legislative instruments affecting proposed development works and management of the existing assets within Weston Park include the **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999** and the **Nature Conservation Act 1980**. The Conservation Management Plan notes that a desk top study did not identify any threatened or endangered species in Weston Park (page 98). The CMP does note, however, that the replanting of robinia adjacent to Weston Park Road is 'unlawful' under the Nature Conservation Act as it is considered a noxious weed. This issue is discussed later in the master plan (Tree Planting page 41) where the planting of a non-suckering variety of robinia is recommended.

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## 1.5 Consultation Summary

Community consultation was an important component throughout the development of this master plan for Weston Park, providing opportunities for a diverse range of community interests, and the opportunity for business and government to contribute to information sharing and community engagement.

**Two stages of consultation were implemented:**

**Stage 1-** Consultation with key stakeholders, community groups and government agencies throughout September and October 2008, a public consultation session held in the park in November 2008, and posting of the draft master plan and an online questionnaire on the TAMS website during November, and December 2008. These results were incorporated into the draft final master plan.

**Stage 2-** The draft master plan was circulated to government stakeholders for review to ensure alignment with management and policy requirements. The comments received were incorporated into the draft master plan before it was released for public comment. The second round of public consultation consisted of circulating the draft master plan as an online display accompanied by a questionnaire on the TAMS and CMD websites, by means of public notification in the media, and a public display at the Yarralumla Shops. The draft plans were also displayed at the five main libraries in Canberra to obtain an ACT wide perspective on the proposals. A public meeting was held in July 2009 in response to a request from the Yarralumla Residents Association. This meeting provided the opportunity for the public to discuss the master plan proposal with TAMS.

**The following summarise the issues and opportunities arising from the consultation:**

### **Heritage**

Weston Park is particularly valued for its links to the early landscape history and heritage of Canberra. People commented on its character as an informal, open, spacious park with the seamless relationship to the lake edge and its mix of indigenous and introduced plantings. There was keen interest to see the master plan elevate and articulate aspects of the history and development of the park to inform the Canberra community. Widespread support was given for an interpretive centre in the park to present its history and the role played in the development of the Canberra landscape. Others commented on the value of the SIEV X memorial. Also valued were the English Gardens, mature tree plantings, the nurseries and informal open park spaces. General support was given for the active management of Weston Park's tree asset including removal of dead trees, trees that posed a safety hazard or were in poor health.

### **Activities**

Many people who use the park were unaware of the range of activities and community events that take place within the park. A number of participants suggested the park has greater potential to be a destination for the Canberra community as well as for visitors. Many people reflected on their previous use of the miniature railway and its attractiveness as a recreational asset within the park, although many people also considered that this facility should be upgraded from its present somewhat rundown state.

### **Quality**

There is a general perception that the quality of the landscape and park facilities have diminished over time and that there is less public amenity than previously. General support was given for improvements to toilets, barbecues and shaded picnic areas and the provision of shelters and seating. There was also agreement on the need for drought tolerant species as part of the new master plan together with a viable maintenance program for healthy trees and a sustainable landscape.

### **Access**

Many people supported improved pedestrian and cycle access around the foreshore by means of the proposed shared use cycle/pedestrian loop path, with the qualification that such a route did not divide picnic areas or create a hard edge to the foreshore. Generally there was support for linking the existing dead-end roads to create loops that provide increased accessibility and improved traffic management. The one element that the community generally showed limited support for was the proposal for a pedestrian/cycle bridge over the lake to connect Black Mountain to the park. The bridge has been deleted from the draft version of the master plan (2009).

A full consultation report is included as a separate attachment to this master plan report (*Appendix 1.0 Consultation Report*).

## 2 DESCRIPTION

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### 2.1 Site Description

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#### Existing Condition

Weston Park provides a level of amenity that attracts Canberra's residents primarily for informal recreational activities such as walking, picnics and use of the play facilities within the park. The general consensus from our own observations and the results of consultation with TAMS asset managers is that the infrastructure assets that support these activities are generally in average condition.

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#### Topography

Weston Park comprises a topographic spur leading from the suburb of Yarralumla towards the Molonglo River and Black Mountain beyond. The park sits as a prominent high point adjacent to Lake Burley Griffin which surrounds the park on three sides and the elevated topography of the park provides impressive views from Weston Park east towards the Museum of Australia and Acton Peninsula, north towards Black Mountain and west along Lake Burley Griffin towards Scrivener Dam.

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#### Southern Edge

Weston Park lies adjacent to Westbourne Woods and the Canberra Golf Course on its southern boundary. The latter is fenced, preventing direct access between the golf course and Weston Park. The open wooded landscape character of Westbourne Woods flows seamlessly into Weston Park and the existing cycle path and cyclone wire security fence delineates the southern edge to the park.

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#### Lake Edge

In contrast, the eastern, northern and western edges to the park are defined by a varied and uneven foreshore edge to Lake Burley Griffin. The lake provides the setting for the park and a foreground to the landscape beyond. Whilst there are no sections of lake edge wall in Weston Park that might prevent access to the water direct, accessibility to the lake is restricted to small beaches. Dense tree planting and weed invasion, including poplar, willow, elder and other species existing along the length of the majority of the foreshore, makes physical access to the water difficult and blocks or channels views from the foreshore.

The Weston Park foreshores need to be considered in the context of the overall Lake Burley Griffin landscape and its variety of natural and cultural landscapes. Weston Park's role as an important recreational focus for Canberra's residents is enhanced by an active and varied lake edge. In some places, access to the lake edge is possible and this encourages water-based activities and achieves an appropriate standard of amenity (for example; access, shade, picnic facilities) adjacent to the water.



### Vehicle Movement and Car parking

Vehicle access to Weston Park is restricted to a single entry from Banks Street in Yarralumla. Within the park, vehicle movement is restricted to the central spine road leading to the northern tip of the park and a number of lateral roads that enable public and service access to the Yarralumla Nursery, and the park's main recreation and car parking areas. These roads are dead-ends, contributing towards poor vehicle circulation within the park and serious vehicle congestion when the park is busy. Buses using the park are generally restricted to Weston Park Road and Pescott Lane; the existing parallel car parking along Pescott Lane can prevent bus access on busy days. Generally, park roads are narrow with little or no road marking, regulatory signage, kerb and guttering or stormwater infrastructure.

Whilst there are designated car parks located strategically within the park, vehicles are often parked parallel to the roads in non-designated areas, particularly during major events (such as the annual Father's Day picnic) or at busy times of the year such as Christmas. At these times, temporary over-flow car parking on non-irrigated grass areas is allowed.



### Pedestrian Movement and Amenity

Pedestrian movement within the park comprises limited sealed footpaths and dirt tracks. Walkers use the existing roads, rubble maintenance tracks, worn natural earth tracks (eg. adjacent to the western foreshore in the vicinity of the Nursery) or open grasslands where no alternatives exist. Access throughout the park for people with disabilities is generally lacking.

Pedestrian amenity within the park is generally poor, with park furniture, including seating, bubblers, rubbish bins and pedestrian lighting either lacking, poorly located or in poor condition. There are four public toilet blocks within the park in addition to toilets within the English garden.



### Concessions

There are currently three leased areas within the park – Hobday's Cottage, the retail outlet at Yarralumla Nursery, and the miniature train and kiosk located adjacent to the main picnic and play areas.

Hobdays cottage is a popular destination for park users who are attracted by the small café/gallery in its attractive setting within the English Garden. A semi-permanently erected marquee located as part of the facilities is used for functions such as weddings. These facilities have insufficient car parking, particularly during functions, and poor visual presence.



The retail outlet at Yarralumla Nursery attracts visitors to Weston Park, incidentally reinforcing the park's historic role in the development of Canberra's landscape. Whilst the facilities themselves could be upgraded, the retail component of the Nursery contributes in a positive way to the overall function of the park.

Likewise, the miniature train is well-known and generally liked by Canberra residents (refer to *Appendix 1.0 Consultation Report* carried out as part of the preparation of the master plan). The CMP recommends restoring and upgrading the miniature railway in keeping with the heritage values of the park together with replacement of the existing kiosk with a new kiosk. Existing tree planting within the boundaries of the miniature train lease are generally in average to poor condition requiring active management to renew this asset.





### Structures

The various structures existing within Weston Park reflect the period when they were built. Whilst there is no consistency in style, none of the structures are visually detrimental to the landscape character of the park.

TAMS manages the toilet blocks in Weston Park.

*Appendix A: Built Element Inventory of the Conservation Management Plan* includes a detailed report on structures within Weston Park.



### Planting

The CMP includes details of the existing plantings within Weston Park as *Appendix B: Weston Park Cultural Landscape Analysis* and *Appendix D: Weston Park Tree Assets Report*. It identifies the important groups of trees within the park, including the cedar avenue running adjacent to Weston Park Road. The health of these trees has improved recently following installation of water basins and watering after previous drought years. The issue of replacement of dead or dying robinia adjacent to the cedars is addressed in this report.

Equally important to the park tree asset is the avenue of English elm running parallel to Weston Park Road. Like the cedars, these trees have suffered from drought and some trees are nearing the end of their useful life. This master plan report recommends active management (succession planting) of these trees.



### Signage + Furniture

Many of the items of park furniture existing within Weston Park are in average condition and some are inappropriately located away from areas of high use. A full audit of park furniture is recommended to either replace (refer to the recommendations in Section 5: Proposals of this report) or relocate items to areas of high use where they are needed



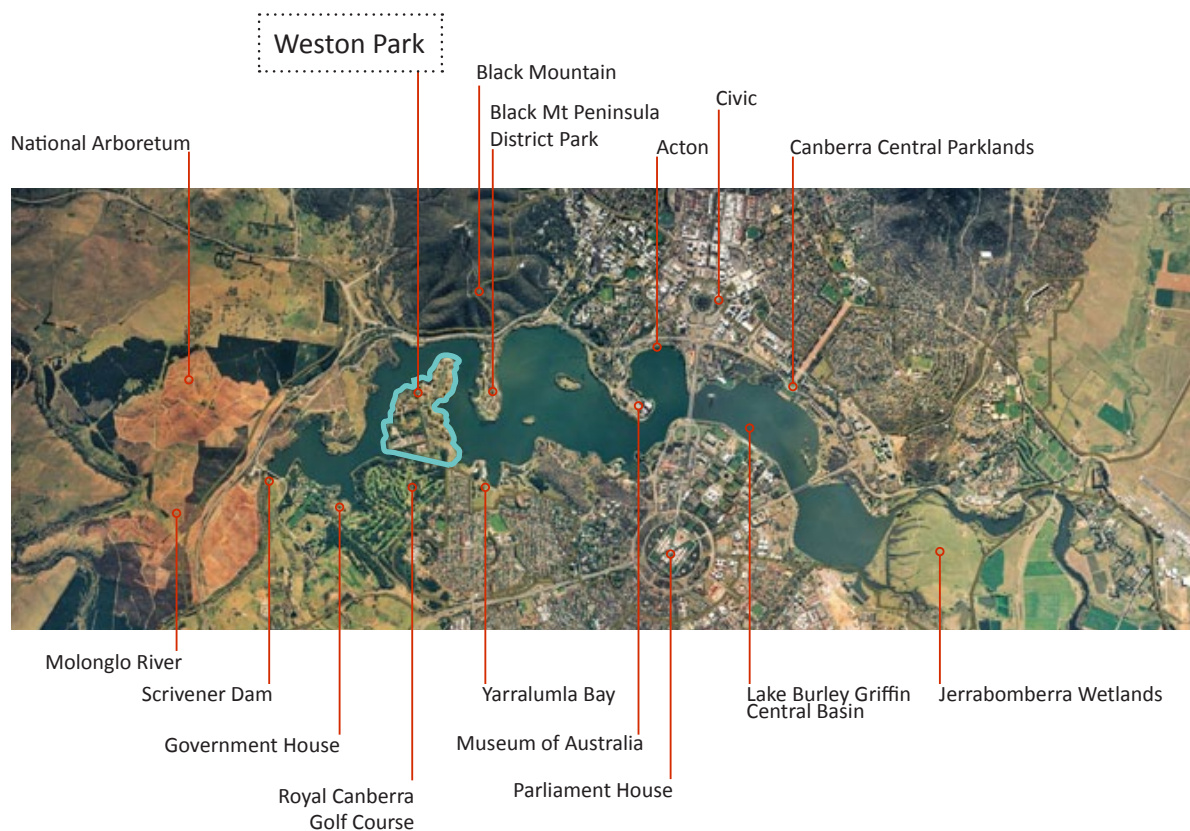
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## 2.2 Distinctive Qualities

Weston Park has many positive attributes that contribute towards its distinctive and well-liked character. These include:

### Prominent Location

Weston Park sits within the broader Lake Burley Griffin parklands physically surrounded by water on three sides and with Black Mountain as a dominant landscape backdrop. Weston Park is an important and visually dominant contributor towards the Lake Burley Griffin landscape given its prominent location, landform and significant mature tree planting. From within the park built form is only occasionally glimpsed or heard (eg. the Glenloch Interchange).



*Weston Park context aerial*

### Convenient Access

Despite the single point of vehicle entry into Weston Park from Yarralumla, Weston Park is relatively easy to access by walking, cycling and private vehicles. Private bus operators and ACT Internal Omnibus Network (ACTION) buses access the park on occasion for tourist groups and school excursions, although both advised during the consultation phase that the existing road widths, turning circles and on street car parking arrangements cause access difficulties. The nearest public bus stop is on Novar Street near to the Yarralumla Shops.

### Open Space Qualities

The open grass spaces, scattered tree plantings and long views across the lake create a sense of openness and an impression that the park is far from the City centre. This quality, combined with the park's central location makes it very attractive as an easily accessible destination for recreation from many parts of Canberra.

The open space qualities of Weston Park are summarised in the Heritage (Decision about Registration for Weston Park, Yarralumla) Notice 2011 Notifiable Instrument NI 2011 – 498 Assessment Against the Heritage Significance Criteria.

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### **Distinctive Heritage Values**

Yarralumla Nursery has an association with Canberra's landscape development that extends back to the Federal Capital Commission and the Federal Government's earliest initiatives to establish a livable and attractive city on the Limestone Plains. Weston Park's heritage qualities have been described previously in this master plan report (section 1.3, page 9 and section 1.4, page 13).

### **Multiple Recreational Opportunities**

Weston Park provides the setting for a wide variety of recreational opportunities including walking, jogging, picnics, formal and informal play, ball games, dog walking, water-based activities such as swimming, and community events. The park is large and its landscape, particularly its topography and planting, is varied to accommodate multiple and varied activities.

### **Varied Topography, Aspect and Plantings**

Weston Park displays a variety of landscape types that provide different recreational opportunities and environments - proposals for these are described in Section 5 of this report. The existing plantings, including tree rows and individual and group amenity tree plantings, contribute towards a varied landscape with its own distinctive character.



*L-R,T-B: Westborne Woods; Nursery Bay, Lake Burley Griffin; local wildlife; Black Mountain Peninsula; SIEV X Memorial; Hobday's Cottage, Cafe + Gallery; ACT Government Nursery; Public Nursery*

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## 2.3 Summary of Opportunities

The following identifies opportunities that arise from an assessment of the existing layout and activities currently occurring in Weston Park. These opportunities take into account the recommendations of the CMP and its desire to conserve and, where appropriate, build on the park's existing features and qualities.

### **Traffic movement + rationalisation of car parking:**

Reorganising traffic movement within the park eliminating, where possible, dead ends and awkward road intersections. These proposals build on, rather than change, the existing road layout within Weston Park. Rationalising car parking and deterring informal kerbside parking by providing designated car parking strategically located throughout the park adjacent to activities and points of destination.

### **Equitable access:**

Increasing access for pedestrians, cyclists and the less physically abled to more areas of the park and its facilities.

### **Interpretation of history and planting in the park and the broader Canberra landscape:**

Interpreting Weston Park's history as the site of some of the earliest plantings in Canberra's development, as well as the site for the experimentation of species suitable for Canberra's climate and soils. Interpretation of the park's history, and the parallels that can be drawn to the development of Canberra's urban landscape through the development of an interpretive signage program within the park. The Weston Park Conservation Management Plan acts as a practical guide for conserving, managing and interpreting Weston Park's heritage. The CMP supports interpretation of Weston Park's heritage, including tree species and historic planting arrangements.

### **Site for public art:**

Identifying sites for community and environmental art and installations, encouraging creative participation in the park's on-going development.

Installation of public art that reflects the heritage values of Weston Park are supported by the Weston Park CMP. However, more memorials, such as the Siev X memorial, are not recommended as these are *"inconsistent with [Weston Park's] cultural heritage character."* CMP page 21

### **Consolidation of park amenity:**

Increasing amenity within the park by provision of a coordinated and consistent suite of park furniture, shelters, toilets and other park infrastructure that supports a diverse range of activities and needs.

### **Continuation of experimentation, innovation, new ideas and techniques. Opportunity to advocate Weston Park as a culturally sustainable place that builds on and conserves the heritage significance of the park:**

Continuing to use Weston Park as a testing ground for innovation, experimentation and the testing of new ideas and techniques concerned with the on-going and sustainable development of Canberra's landscape, particularly focusing on tree planting and planting techniques suited to low water use conditions.

### **A place to encourage increased recreational use:**

Increasing recreational opportunities within the park that have wide appeal to Canberra residents and visitors to the National Capital, including everyday casual use play spaces, active and passive sports, events and festivals, and exhibitions. Promoting Weston Park as a destination within Canberra's open space system with inclusive and accessible play spaces.

### **Education partnerships:**

Providing opportunities for school groups, as well as the interested public, to engage with and learn from the park's horticulture, heritage and continuing contribution (through the Yarralumla Nursery) to Canberra's landscape development. There may be opportunity for the ACT Government to partner with the private sector in establishing a new interpretive and education centre within the park.





*These images illustrate some of the types of potential opportunities which could occur, building onto the Park's existing features and qualities*

## **3 LANDSCAPE FRAMEWORK**

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A broad and robust master plan will incorporate the different factors which make up the physical and cultural identity of Weston Park and encapsulate the aspirations for this place now and into the future. These aspirations respect and build on to the significant heritage assets and values of the site.

No master plan is ever fixed in time. Rather, this report seeks to identify and illustrate those underlying characteristics and design parameters which are important to a long term view of Weston Park, one that is economically and environmentally sustainable, and has as its core respect for the heritage significance of the park. This approach supports and encourages new investment in the park, and a forward looking approach that will ensure the park's popularity and sustainability as an open space resource into the future.

### **3.1 Principles**

Three coordinated systems - Movement, Activities and Environment - are proposed to organise the spatial arrangement of Weston Park. Together they achieve a consistent approach to development of the park that meets the needs and expectations of local people and those visiting and observing the National Capital.

Underlying these systems are the heritage considerations outlined in the Conservation Management Plan for Weston Park - these provide the over-riding structure and requirements that are considered and embedded within this master plan.



## Movement

To maximise its function as an active place for people, a logical and clear pedestrian, cycle and vehicle movement system is developed with connections to existing road and pathway networks. The movement network proposed for vehicles, buses, cycles and pedestrians aims to eliminate conflicts between vehicles, pedestrian and cyclists, thereby improving safety. The proposed network also places emphasis on achieving access to areas of the park that are currently poorly serviced.

## Activities

Weston Park has a wide variety of public uses, events and facilities that support social, cultural and physical activities consistent with broader objectives concerned with well-being and healthy communities. There are spaces for a wide range of passive and active recreational activities that attract Canberra residents and tourists to Weston Park. People experience the park in different ways depending on their activity and time spent in the park. This means that infrastructure within the park needs to cater for a broad cross section of the community. The design approach is for a flexible master plan and resulting layout that allows and encourages new uses and activities to be introduced in the future and the existing uses to take new forms.

## Environment

As part of Canberra's integrated open space system, Weston Park contributes towards the environmental health of the city by encouraging active recreation and amenity. It is also part of the network of linked green spaces comprising the city's planned structure. The park supports an existing diversity of habitat for wildlife, birds and plants through its tree layer and at the interface to the lake, at the same time providing a flexible and attractive place for recreation. The protection of existing and establishment of new vegetation proposed in the master plan, including experimental plantings, increases the environmental and education value of the park to the Canberra community.

## 4 MASTER PLAN

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### 4.1 Approach

The master plan illustrates the overall spatial layout of Weston Park including its relationship with adjacent land uses. The plan indicates a coherent and long term strategy for development that supports the following goals:

- A landscape framework that accommodates a wide and diverse range of uses, activities and programs, including active and passive recreation, education and social and cultural activities.
- A landscape that functions as an integral part of the broader Canberra open space system including Lake Burley Griffin.
- The creation of an easily maintained and sustainable landscape that is environmentally diverse and also demonstrates alternate and innovative techniques for parkland management.
- A culturally rich landscape that builds onto and conserves the existing natural site features, assets and heritage values as outlined in the Weston Park Conservation Management Plan.
- A landscape that can be implemented over time, focusing on the current needs and expectations of the Canberra community, and national and international visitors to the park.

The master plan illustrates the overall organisation of the site and the components which comprise the park. It also illustrates the many smaller incremental actions that will contribute towards a rich diversified landscape.

### Legend

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*Refer references Master Plan on page 25.*

- 1 = Entry gatehouse
- 2 = Lakeside loop path
- 3 = Existing cycle path
- 4 = New round-a-bout, road re-aligned
- 5 = Lake edge weed species removal to enhance views
- 6 = New interpretive, educative centre + car parking
- 7 = Public access productive gardens
- 8 = Hobday's Cottage (Yarralumla Gallery + Oaks Brasserie) + functions pavilion within English Garden
- 9 = Nursery Bay picnic area
- 10 = Improved Interface And Connection To Existing shared-use path with additional parking
- 11 = New lake loop path connection to existing shared-use path through wetland
- 12 = Existing ACT Government Nursery
- 13 = New loop road with car parking

- 14 = Open field event space for community and larger scale events.  
Covered arbor walkway
- 15 = Wetlands
- 16 = Foreshore events space
- 17 = Foreshore concession (eg pop-up cafe)
- 18 = Outdoor recreation rooms + gardens, miniature train facility
- 19 = Car parking
- 20 = Upgraded play space with picnic + barbeque facilities, toilets, shelter
- 21 = Children's play pond + amphitheatre steps with barbeque, shelter + picnic tables
- 22 = Play field / activity field with picnic + barbeque facilities
- 23 = Beach upgraded with amphitheatre steps, picnic + barbeque facilities, toilets, shelter
- 24 = Trails through dryland grass meadows + tree planting
- 25 = Beach and look out with improved car parking, new barbeque, picnic facilities + sitting terrace
- 26 = Existing SIEV X memorial.  
Upgraded beach
- 27 = Nursery maintenance access road  
F= Ferry



## 4.2 Master Plan

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## 5 PROPOSALS

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The proposals contained in this master plan have been developed following analysis of the site and input from key stakeholders, asset owners, land managers and the community. The consultations show that many Canberrans have a fondness for Weston Park and appreciation of its unique landscape and heritage qualities.

An over-riding objective of the master plan has been to protect and build on the existing heritage qualities of the park - these are outlined in the Weston Park Conservation Management Plan. This master plan, like the CMP, calls for active management of the park to support conservation of its heritage character and values, and for an appropriate level of maintenance of its amenities and landscape. Improvement to amenities and effective maintenance is achieved by the many small, incremental improvements outlined in the master plan.

The master plan includes a number of infrastructure proposals that will require further investigation as to their feasibility and economic benefit. For example, an interpretive education centre is proposed to provide a regional resource and focus for the interpretation of Canberra's urban landscape development. This initiative is supported by the CMP. Any commercial or semi-commercial activity in the park must be well-thought through and must achieve a high quality of design and management commensurate with the overall master plan intentions for the park. It is recommended that revenue from commercial activity generated from activities in the park be channeled directly back for capital improvements and ongoing maintenance.



*Open Field event space  
Image Oxygen*

# Existing Infrastructure



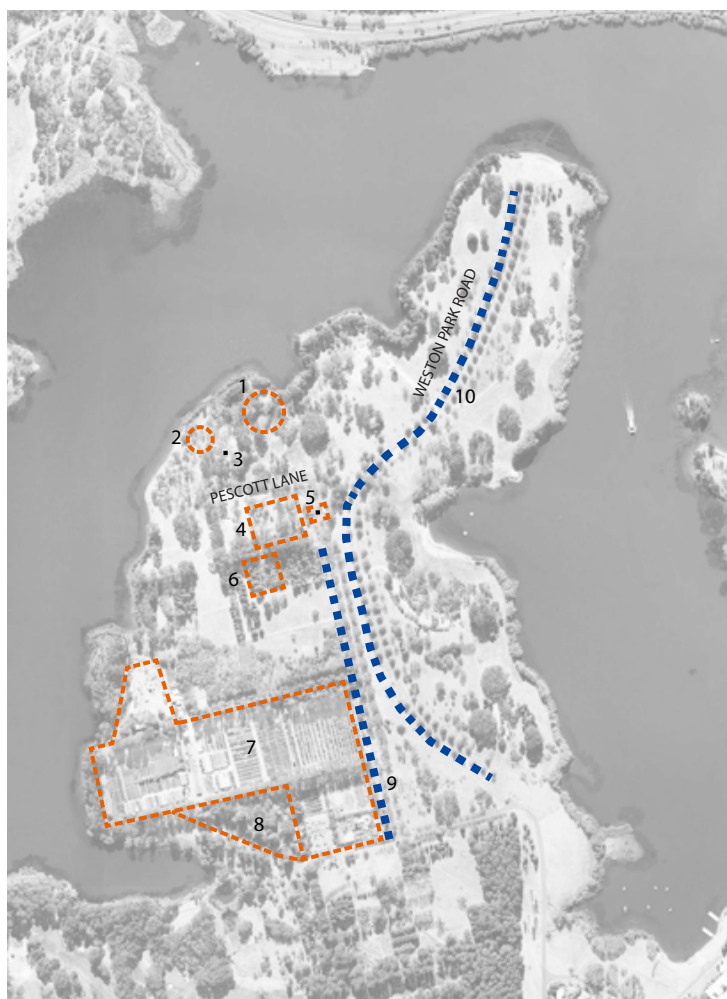
## Existing Infrastructure

- Existing sealed road
- - - Existing unsealed road
- Car parking
- Pathway (unsealed)
- Pathway (sealed)
- B BBQ Picnic Facilities
- T Toilets
- 1 Playground
- 2 Mini Railway and Maze
- 3 Nursery
- 4 Beach
- 5 SIEV X Memorial
- 6 Entry Gate



## Short Term Proposals

A key short term action in implementing the master plan for Weston Park will be management of existing facilities and infrastructure assets including, in some cases, capital improvement or, conversely, removal of out dated or dysfunctional infrastructure.



### 9. Elm Avenue

Manage the mature elm avenue including watering during periods of stress. Prepare a management plan that includes planting of new elms as part of a succession (replacement) strategy. *Conservation Management Plan Reference P3CP16 and P3CP18*

### 10. Weston Park Avenue: cedar avenue

Manage the cedar avenue along Weston Park Road including watering during periods of stress. Replace vertical log barriers with a combination of vehicle control methods including swales, additional planting and signs.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P3CP15*

### 1. Water Feature - Pond

This facility is currently being upgraded. Consider extending these works to include the broader setting of the facility.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P7CP46*

### 2. Water Playground

Continue to upgrade the water play spaces to maintain safety and improve play opportunities.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P7CP45*

### 3. Toilet Block/Shelter

A new toilet block was constructed in 2011 to replace the previous log structure.

### 4. Miniature Railway (existing commercial lease)

Retain the miniature railway facility. Work with the lessee to integrate the facility more within its landscape setting including reorganising and sealing the adjacent car park.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P7CP50*

### 5. Toilet Block

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P3CP23*

### 6. 'The Canberra Maze'

Consider the feasibility of reinstating the Maze either as a government capital works project or in partnership with a commercial operator on a lease.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P7CP48*

### 7. Existing ACT Government Nursery

Retain and upgrade the nursery facilities. In planning the future proposed new interpretive centre, consider joint use of buildings, car parks, toilet facilities and gardens.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP7, P2CP35, P3CP22, P5CP32, P5CP33, P5CP34*

### 8. English Garden

Retain and upgrade. Retain commercial lease (cafe and functions) at Hobdays Cottage.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP6*

The following sections describe in detail the recommendations contained in the master plan. The layers described include movement (entries, pedestrian and cycle movement, vehicle circulation and ferry and public transport access); facilities and activities (buildings and structures, recreational zone and environmental zones); tree planting; irrigation; signage; lighting; materials; and furniture.

## Movement

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The master plan improves circulation for pedestrians, cycles and vehicles within the park, improves access for buses, rationalises car parks and provides for a future ferry wharf. In addition, the master plan proposes a signage strategy to assist in movement and wayfinding throughout the park (refer page 43).

### Entry

The main entry to Weston Park from Banks Street becomes more defined providing a point of entry into the park. A new gatehouse structure is proposed to mark the entry, provide information on activities and to distribute interpretive material. Other minor entries from the existing cycle path are signposted. The design of the gatehouse should fit into the landscape setting of Weston Park by utilising 'natural' materials in construction (for example timber and corten steel) and a form sympathetic to the landscape character of the park. Further direction on the desired character of new structures in the park is provided in Facilities and Activities (pages 34 and 35) below.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P1CP1, P1CP2, P1CP4*

### Pedestrian and Cycle Circulation

Shared-use pathways connect activities and provide safe and equitable access:

- **Lake Loop Shared-Use Pathway**

A new path follows the lake edge, providing better access to areas of the park. Ferry and kayak landing facilities along the path provide additional access to the water, whilst picnic facilities and upgraded beaches provide new places for people to enjoy. The new path is set back from the edge of the lake, following the existing contours to achieve a relatively flat grade. Major grading or construction of retaining walls as part of the pathway construction is discouraged. Sections of the new path follow an existing 'goat' track which is most noticeable on the Yarramundi Reach side of the park. A sealed 3.0m wide hotmix path constructed to TAMS standards for cycleways is proposed. Construction of a section of this path commenced in 2012.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP10, P6CP39, P3CP21, P6CP40*

- **Cross Park Circulation**

Secondary paths encourage people to engage with the park utilising interpretive trails, off road bike tracks, boardwalks and informal tracks providing different challenges and levels of accessibility. A variety of surface materials are proposed including hotmix (primary pathways), compacted rubble with a granulitic topping (secondary pathways), and boardwalks (recycled hardwood timber - class 1 durability timber or equivalent). These materials are summarised in Materials (page 46) below.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP10, P6CP39, P6CP42, P3CP21, P6CP40*

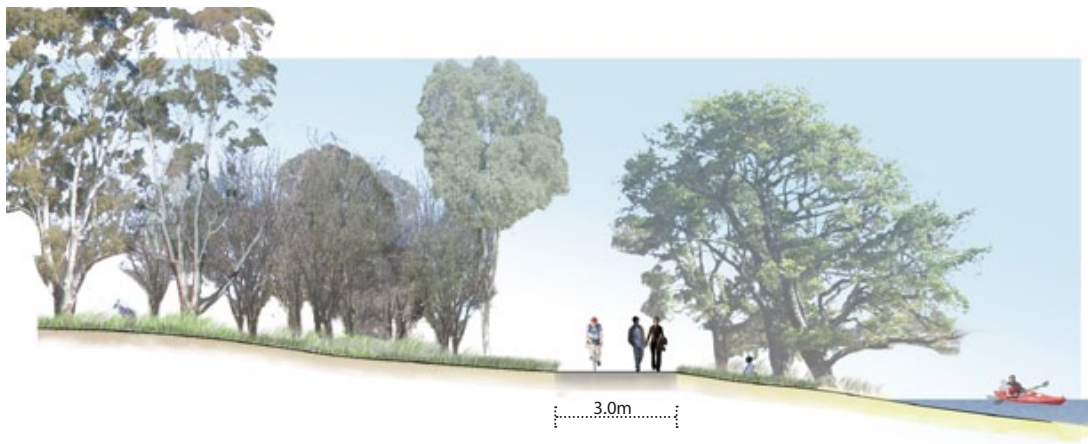


*Lake Loop path provides a variety of experiences for walkers, joggers and recreational cyclist around the perimeter of the park.  
Image Oxigen*



**Pedestrian Circulation**

-  Entries
-  Existing shared-use pathway
-  New primary pathways
-  New secondary pathways
-  Boardwalks
-  Ferry / kayak dock



*Typical Loop Path Section  
Image Oxygen*



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## Vehicular Circulation

Vehicle circulation is improved by eliminating dead ends where possible and replacing them with loop circuits. With increased vehicle use and visitation of the park, the dead ends result in vehicle congestion on busy days and a potentially unsafe mix of vehicles and people accessing facilities. Loop circuits increase pedestrian safety and allows better accessibility to the well-used and less accessible areas of the park, as well as benefiting bus drop off and access for maintenance vehicles. The road network proposed builds on to the existing road network within Weston Park.

- **Parking**

Car parks are strategically placed closest to where activities occur at the periphery of high-use recreation areas, including the nursery and proposed new interpretive centre. The car park strategy aligns with the recommendations contained in the CMP by retaining the existing car parks and their arrangement within the park. Where car parks are currently unsealed, these are proposed to be sealed with hotmix to increase efficiency in layout, thereby reducing the car park footprint on the park. Sealing also eliminates current issues arising from erosion of the car park surface and dust in summer.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP12, P3CP17, P3CP20, P4CP29, P7CP52, P8CP55, P9CP62*

- **Buses**

Bus lay-down and drop-off areas are located close to the proposed new interpretive centre and in close proximity to the high use activity areas. Bus access is currently restricted within Weston Park because of the existing organisation of roads, dead ends which make bus turn arounds difficult, and parallel car parking along roads which reduces the carriageway width and can prevent the passage of buses.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P3CP20*

- **Maintenance / Service Access**

Maintenance access within the park is improved with the proposed loop circuits. Existing maintenance roads and entry points are retained.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P3CP20*

## Ferry and Public Transport Access

Ferry docks are proposed adjacent to the eastern beach and at Nursery Bay. Elimination of informal car parking along internal roads and provision of adequate car parking frees roads for bus access and provision of a regular public transport service to the park. Ferry docks have been sited with the intention of minimising conflict with other regular water activities such as rowing.



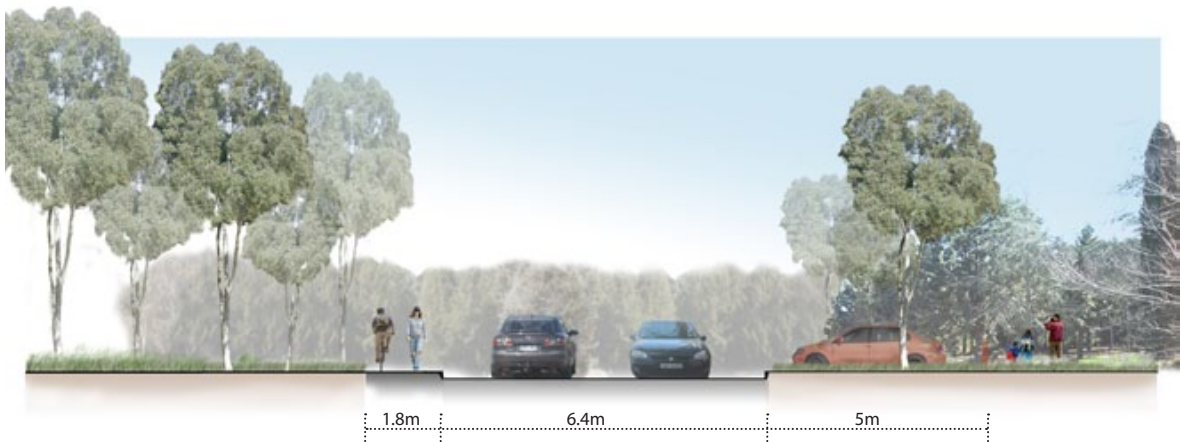
*Proposed entry to the park with gatehouse. A new secure sliding gate is integrated into the design to restrict after hours vehicle access.  
Image Oxigen*





### Vehicular Circulation

- Entries
- Public roads
- Nursery maintenance access
- Car parking
- Approx spaces
- Overflow parking
- Bus drop off
- Round-a-bout
- Ferry / watercraft dock



Typical loop road section with nose in parking.  
Image Oxigen

## Facilities and Activities

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The master plan builds on the existing spatial structure of Weston Park, its facilities and activities. It aims to improve the park's amenity and use to cater for the needs and expectations of the Canberra community and tourists, as well as to preserve and emphasise the park's landscape character and heritage values consistent with those expressed within the Conservation Management Plan.

### New Buildings + Structures:

The park's facilities, such as public toilets and shelters, contribute towards the successful functioning of the park, increasing amenity and supporting the wide range of recreational activities that are occurring there now or can occur in the future. Existing facilities are retained where they are functional and contribute towards the heritage values of the park. New structures are proposed where they increase amenity or support new uses.

- **Interpretive, Education Centre**

Weston Park, with its rich heritage, provides an opportunity for a purpose built multifunctional information centre used by visitors as the go-to place in the park, providing education, orientation and interpretation about Weston Park and the development of Canberra's urban landscape. This facility will provide a 'gateway' to Canberra's urban park network, complementing the role of Tidbinbilla as a gateway to the national/rural park system.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P3CP22, P5CP32, P5CP34*

- **Foreshore Concession**

A new concession to service the active areas of the park is provided adjacent to the western foreshore. This also incorporates a new viewing platform for rowing regattas and provides views across the lake to the National Arboretum. A permanent built structure is not envisaged - rather, a pop-up (temporary) cafe facility that serves pre-prepared light foods and drinks and is serviced by electrical connection and water.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P6CP39*

- **Toilets**

Upgraded toilet and baby changing facilities are provided to service existing and new activities throughout the park.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P3CP23, P7CP53*

- **Shelters**

New open shelters are provided to increase the use of the park for school and community groups.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P8CP58, P4CP31, P2CP11*

- **Gatehouse**

A new gatehouse marks the major entry point to the park providing visitors with direction to the major attractions and upcoming activities and events.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P1CP2*

- **Hobday's Pavilion**

A new lightweight pavilion is located adjacent to the existing Hobday's Cottage for functions. An upgrade of the cottage provides opportunities to market produce from the adjacent Yarralumla Nursery / interpretive centre and productive gardens. Both of these initiatives may be achieved through a public-private partnership.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP6*

- **Event Infrastructure**

New event infrastructure, such as power outlets and water connections, are strategically provided in the areas identified to hold larger community events.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P4CP28, P6CP38*





### Structures Location

#### Existing

- 1 = Hobday's cottage
- 2 = Nursery administration
- 3 = Nursery maintenance sheds
- 4 = Toilet

#### Proposed

- 5 = Entry gatehouse
- 6 = Interpretive centre
- 7 = Shelter with barbecue facilities
- 8 = Foreshore concession (temporary pop-up facility)
- 9 = Hobday's pavilion
- 10 = Arbor walkway (existing tree avenue)
- 11 = Sitting terrace at Kurrajong Point adjacent to loop path
- 12 = Informal amphitheatre
- ⓔ = Ferry / watercraft dock

### Integrated Park Structures

The following photos illustrate park structures that fit successfully into their landscape setting. These examples are of a scale and character similar to those envisaged for Weston Park. Whilst contemporary in character, they illustrate how new structures can fit with the existing buildings.



L-R: Kroller-Mueller, Apeldoorn, Netherlands, New Weston Park Toilet. Design Oxigen. Photo Oxigen

New structures and facilities within the park will:

- be integrated with the landscape by appropriate location, built form and use of materials;
- sit "lightly on the land";
- be contemporary and demonstrative;
- reflect local identity by utilising local materials in construction and interpreting local culture; and
- be designed to be consistent with other materials and building techniques utilised throughout the park.

The overall intention is to locate new structures, such as the proposed interpretive centre building, entry gatehouse and replacement shelters, as integral elements to the overall landscape character. Existing buildings are to be retained unless noted in the master plan.



## Recreational zones:

The master plan provides the opportunity for a wide range of active and passive recreational opportunities within the park. New activities complement existing ones, making Weston Park an even more attractive place for visitors. The intensity of recreation use which is currently concentrated in existing areas of the park (for example, adjacent to the children's play space) is spread further throughout the park. The proposals include:



### Primary Activity

Areas located in close proximity to car parking incorporate areas of irrigated grass, shelters, picnic / barbeque facilities and play spaces. These areas are large enough in size to retain their function as activity nodes.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P7CP51, P4CP31*



### Play Spaces

Additional opportunities for play are provided through consolidation of the existing play equipment. Weston Park's open spaces also provide opportunities for informal play.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P7CP45, P7CP46, P7CP47*



### Passive Recreation

New pathway circuits encourage people to engage with the park through interpretive trails, off road bike tracks, boardwalks and informal tracks.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP11, P8CP56*



### Recreation Rooms (outdoor spaces)

Recreational rooms provide for a wide range of activities such as volleyball and petanque, with potential for the continuation of commercial operations or development of new facilities - either commercial or community/club based.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P6CP37, P7CP47, P6CP41*



### Gardens

The English Garden adjacent to Hobday's Cottage is restored and expanded. Additional plantings to the gardens are provided for display, and small outdoor events such as weddings and informal recreation.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP6*



### Interpretation + Demonstration

A new link (secured at night) from Hobday's Cottage to the interpretive centre integrates cultural interpretation and practical demonstration of nursery and horticultural practice. The existing nursery buildings may be used as part of this activity.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P1CP3, P3CP22, P5CP32, P5CP34*



### Beaches

New treatments to the lake edge will encourage more water-based uses such as rowing, kayaking and fishing in Lake Burley Griffin.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P4CP26*



### Jetties + Landings

These allow watercraft access for kayakers and rowers.



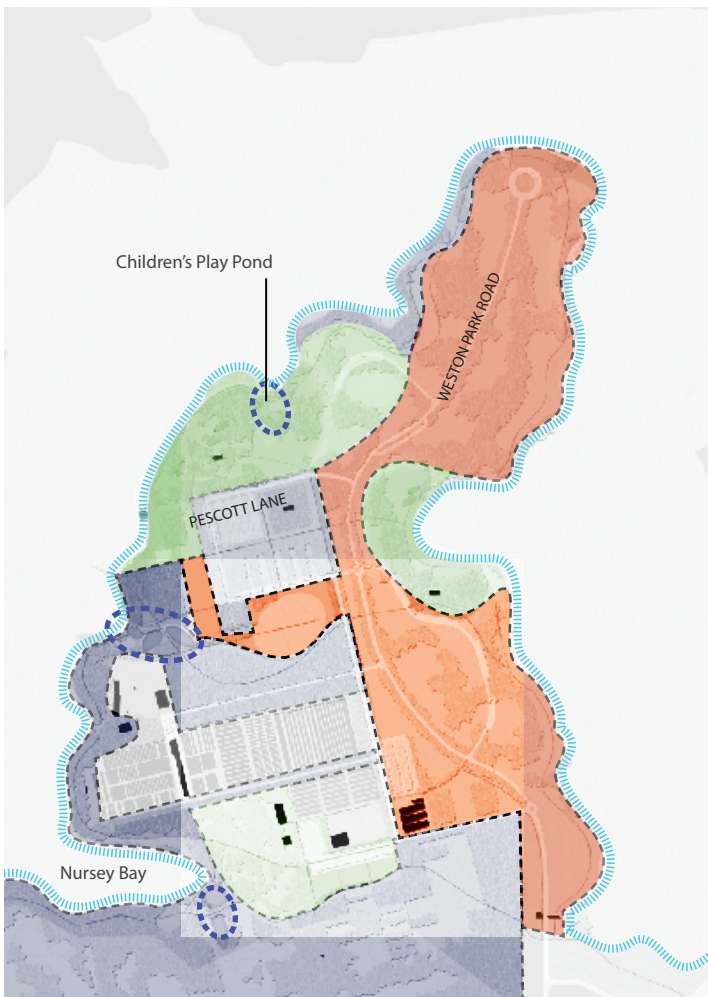


Proposed woods boardwalk; Recreation rooms; Amphitheatre steps at the eastern beach. Images Oxigen



## Environmental Zones:

Site environment is one of the main considerations which has determined the spatial organisation of the master plan. The environmental zones proposed provide a way of understanding, developing and managing Weston Park consistent with the recommendations of the CMP. In particular, the CMP recognises and seeks to preserve the existing tree planting and open space park character that exists. *Appendix D Weston Park Tree Assets Report* of the CMP provides details and recommendations on the park's tree and ecological assets.



### Habitat Corridors— Flora + Fauna

Weston Park currently has a variety of different habitats that support a wide diversity of flora and fauna. The park retains corridors, including food sources and refuges for small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. Of particular importance are the restoration of the lake edge zones and the continuity of tree planting from Westbourne Woods to Lake Burley Griffin.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP9*

### Lake Edge Riparian

Improvements to this zone will benefit both function and amenity, allowing the riparian zone to realise its high biodiversity potential. The improved riparian zone facilitates the breeding of fish, amphibian, mammal and invertebrate species, providing food and nutrients for plants and animals, and re-establishing the interactions between aquatic and terrestrial biota. Woody weeds and undesirable plant species such as alder, willows and poplars are proposed for removal and new native aquatic plantings added.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P1CP5, P2CP9, P4CP27*

### Wetlands

The existing wetlands to the north of Yarralumla Nursery are expanded consistent with their original historic function as test areas for aquatic planting. These wetlands also have a secondary function filtering water from the park before it enters Lake Burley Griffin. The existing concrete-lined children's play pond is reconstructed in the same location with an interactive wetland consisting of boardwalks and decks made safe for children's play and interpretation. Wetlands adjacent to Nursey Bay are retained and rejuvenated.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP9, P6CP43, P7CP46*

### Open Woodlands

Open assemblages of mixed species are interspersed with flowering shrubs, grasses and orchids. Native dryland grass species are managed in some areas to allow foot traffic and in others to provide habitat and reduce water or wind driven soil erosion. These grasses provide drought-tolerant and non-invasive alternatives to traditional exotic species.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP9, P4CP30*

### Dense Woodlands

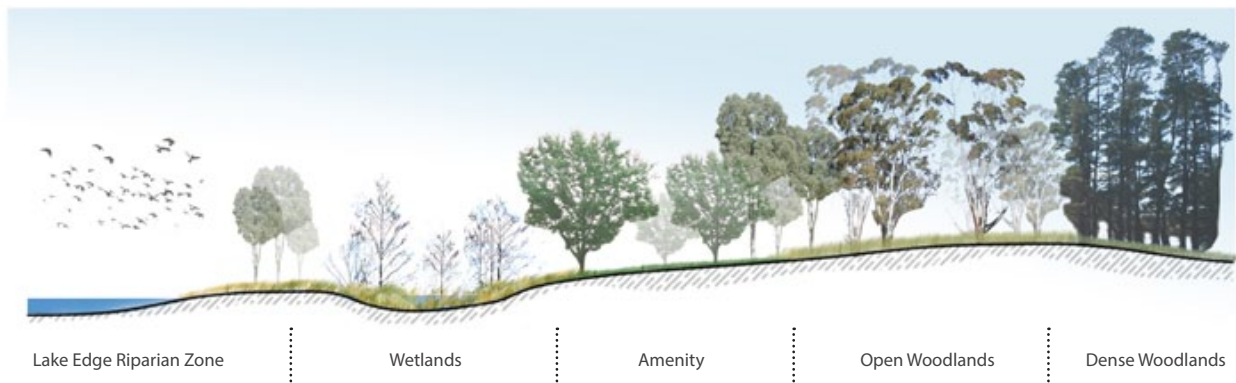
Dense woodlands provide protection from prevailing winds and spatial enclosure for activities. Windbreaks planted as avenues or rows are retained and managed for succession.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP9, P5CP36, P6CP41, P7CP49*

### Amenity

High intensity use areas comprise shade trees and open grass spaces. The intent of the original tree planting is reinforced by replacement planting where trees have died and been removed.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP9*



Lake Edge Riparian Zone

Wetlands

Amenity

Open Woodlands

Dense Woodlands

*Environmental zones park cross section*



*The revitalisation of the existing wetlands adjacent to the Yarralumla Nursery allows people to connect with and experience the surrounding wetlands.*



*Dryland grass areas in the northern and eastern parts of Weston Park are rehabilitated as native dryland grass meadows suitable for recreation. Direct seeding techniques will be tested and may have broader application to other similar areas within the Canberra Open Space System.  
Images Oxygen*



# Tree Planting

## Tree planting strategy

New tree planting reinforces the existing established tree plantings in Weston Park with the primary objective of infilling trees where they have died and been removed, and managing the succession of plants as the tree asset ages. It is also intended to introduce new tree species into the park consistent with the historic experimental plantings that characterise Weston Park. In particular, species tolerant of low water use and suited to Canberra's soils and climate will be introduced. New planting will consist of individual trees within open space areas and trees within avenues, following the planting techniques and arrangements characteristic of the original plantings in Weston Park. *Conservation Management Plan Reference P4CP25, P8CP58*

The overall tree planting scheme for Weston Park has the following goals:

1. Retention of the existing plantings (individual trees, avenues and groups) as well as retaining the original planned landscape character and spatial organisation of the park.
2. Introduction of a new tree layer of both Australian native trees and exotic trees that contribute increased species diversification and amenity, and is consistent with good horticultural management practice and successional planting. New tree planting will take into account the existing plantings.



\*Avenue to be replaced as necessary. Currently *Robinia pseudoacacia* is declared weed species – category 5 and should not be planted in the ACT. Planting of robinia using non-suckering rootstock should be considered.

### Existing Tree Canopy

#### Shoreline

There are currently a variety of lake edge treatments. An important feature of the master plan is the removal of weed species adjacent to the lake which also has the benefit of opening views from the park to Lake Burley Griffin and beyond. Replacement planting will achieve stabilisation of the shoreline, shade and take advantage of views.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P1CP5, P2CP9, P4CP27, P6CP38, P6CP39, P6CP43, P7CP49, P8CP54, P9CP59, P9CP60*

#### Formal Avenues

The existing formal tree avenues within the park, including the main spine of cedars and robinia\* and avenues of pin oak, elm and cypress, are retained, managed and interpreted for their significant heritage values. These formal tree avenues also define pedestrian, cycle and vehicle routes.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P3CP18, P2CP10*

#### Formal Plantings

Planting rows remain from the Yarralumla Nursery operations both within the current nursery boundary and outside of it. Whilst not part of the original plantings within Weston Park, these tree rows establish a strong landscape character that is retained as part of the tree canopy strategy described in the master plan and illustrated in the diagram opposite. These formal plantings contrast with the open character of other parts of the park, reminding visitors of the horticultural heritage of Weston Park and providing a spatial structure to new uses.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP8, P5CP36, P6CP41, P7CP49*

#### Woodlands

Part of the existing landscape quality of Weston Park derives from its open woodland character. The master plan maintains this character but also introduces new trees where the existing trees have failed or amenity is increased by new tree plantings. Existing tree planting groups are thickened whilst still maintaining open space areas for recreation.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P4CP24, P3CP19*

#### Westbourne Woods

The master plan considers the relationship of the park to the adjoining Westbourne Woods and continuation of the tree canopies that link the two.



## Proposed Tree Canopy

The strategy for new tree planting focuses on:

- Active management of the existing tree asset, replacing dead, moribund (in a dying state) dying or missing trees, and planting for future replacement to maintain the original planting arrangements.
- Retaining the historic circular tree planting arrangements and specimen trees.
- Retention of open grassed spaces and lawns to maintain the overall landscape character of the park.
- A planting design that is based on an analysis of the topography, soils and microclimate of the site, focusing on the layering of plantings (canopy, middle and under-storey) and succession of species.
- Planting that also offers a diversity of habitats for fauna.
- Creating ecological corridors that link to the broader open space system including Westbourne Woods.
- Selecting drought tolerant species and continuing the careful introduction of new tree species (experimental plantings).

The location of new tree planting is designed to reinforce the overall spatial organisation of the park. Apart from the removal of selected willows, alders and other exotic species adjacent to the shoreline, existing trees are retained and supplemented by new tree planting. The following list of trees builds onto the existing tree species found in Weston Park.

### Proposed Tree Canopy



### Tree Selections

#### EXOTIC

*Acer sp.*  
*Cedrus atlantica*  
*Cedrus deodara*  
*Cedrus libani*  
*Ginkgo biloba*  
*Gleditsia tricanthos*  
*Juniperus drupacea*  
*Lagestromia sp.*  
*Pinus halepensis*  
*Pistacia sp.*  
*Prunus cerasifera*  
*Quercus douglasii*  
*Quercus kelloggii*  
*Quercus palustris*  
*Quercus phellos*  
*Sophora japonica*  
*Tilia petiolaris*  
*Tilia platyphyllos*  
*Torreya californica*  
*Ulmus parvifolia*  
*Ulmus picturata*  
*Ulmus procera*  
*Wollemia nobilis*  
*Zelkova serrata*

Maple  
 Atlantic cedar  
 Himalayan cedar  
 Cedar of Lebanon  
 Ginkgo  
 Honey locust  
 Syrian juniper  
 Crepe myrtle  
 Aleppo pine  
 Chinese Pistachio  
 Flowering plum  
 Blue oak  
 Kellogg oak  
 Pin oak  
 Willow oak  
 Japanese pagoda tree  
 Weeping silver lime  
 Large-leaved lime  
 California nutmeg  
 Chinese elm  
 Picture elm  
 English elm  
 Wollemi pine  
 Japanese zelkova

#### AUSTRALIAN NATIVE

*Angophora costata*  
*Angophora floribunda*  
*Adansonia gregorii*  
*Araucaria bidwillii*  
*Araucaria cunninghamii*  
*Brachychiton populneus*  
*Casuarina cunninghamiana*  
*Corymbia citriodora*  
*Corymbia maculata*  
*Eucalyptus blakelyi*  
*Eucalyptus bridgesiana*  
*Eucalyptus melliodora*  
*Eucalyptus mannifera*  
*Eucalyptus obliqua*  
*Eucalyptus polyanthemus*  
*Eucalyptus rossii*  
*Eucalyptus rubida*  
*Eucalyptus scoparia*  
*Eucalyptus viminalis*

Smooth-barked apple  
 Rough-barked apple  
 Boab  
 Bunya pine  
 Hoop pine  
 Kurrajong  
 River sheoak  
 Lemon scented gum  
 Spotted gum  
 Blakely's red gum  
 Apple box  
 Yellow box  
 Brittle gum  
 Australian oak  
 Red box  
 Scribbly gum  
 Candle bark  
 Wallangarra white gum  
 White gum

### Experimental Tree Plantings

The master plan continues the spirit of experimental plantings which have been such an important part of Weston Park's heritage. New exotic and native species are proposed which are suited to Canberra's soils and climate, and may prove to be suitable for planting in Canberra's other parks, streets and public spaces.

# Irrigation

## Irrigated Areas

Irrigation is restricted to areas of the park which are intensively used for recreation, or where irrigation is necessary to maintain the existing tree plantings. Other areas within the park comprise non-irrigated grass meadows and planted areas adapted to the site conditions.



**Areas of Irrigated Grass**  
Areas of irrigated grass are restricted to high intensity areas of use and active recreation areas, including play spaces, picnic areas and areas used for casual sports, such as ball games. It is intended that all irrigation will eventually be from lake water.  
*Conservation Management Plan Reference P6CP37, P4CP31*

**Areas of Irrigated Planting**  
Some planted areas will benefit from irrigation, including the English Garden adjacent to Hobday's Cottage and the proposed multi-purpose recreation rooms.  
*Conservation Management Plan Reference P2CP6, P7CP45*

— Irrigation by dripper or water truck is provided to cedars lining the main access road of the park.

**Nursery Irrigation**  
Yarralumla Nursery will continue to utilise lake water for irrigation. Stormwater run-off is collected, stored and reused to supplement lake irrigation.

**Seasonal Event Irrigation**  
Provision for irrigating the park's proposed event areas enables these spaces to be used, as required, during the summer months.

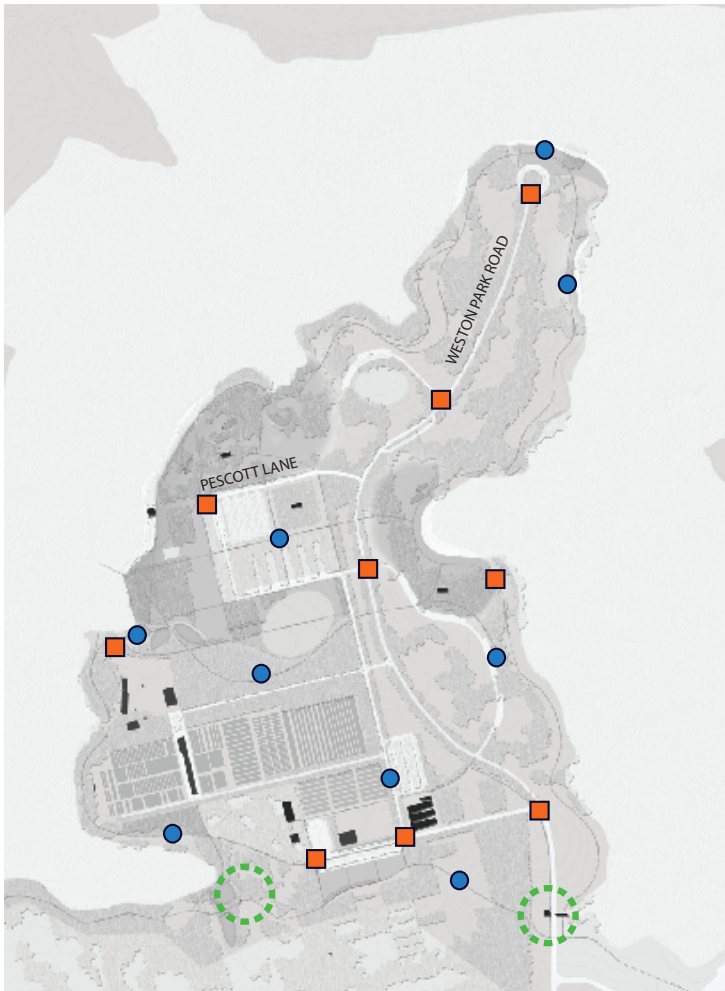


Image: Oxygen

# Signage

## Signage Strategy

An easy to use, integrated suite of directional, behavioral and interpretive signage is included for learning, recognition of cultural and heritage significance and orientation. Integrated signage throughout the park will enhance awareness of the park's activities and facilities. Signage must be consistent with the TAMS design standards and TAMS standard specifications for signage and is developed in a manner that assists in badging Weston Park as a distinctive place. Signage is also consistent with the CMP's recommendations for promoting the heritage values of Weston Park through interpretive signage and wayfinding.



### Entry Signage

The park's entry points are identified with an entry statement accompanied by information such as park opening times, upcoming activities and events, as well as posting updates on the park's future development.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P1CP3, P5CP34*



### Directional + Behavioral Signage

Directional and behavioral signage is located along major pathways and roadway intersections identifying the park's major destinations. Behavioral signage is incorporated to direct specific uses; for example 'no dogs' zones or 'shared use path'.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P1CP3, P5CP34*



### Interpretive Signage

Interpretive signage is generally located in site specific places for recognition of heritage and/or cultural significance.

*Conservation Management Plan Reference P1CP3, P3CP22, P5CP32, P5CP34*



Appropriate interpretive signage: Design Oxygen



# Lighting

## Park Lighting

Lighting for the park is carefully considered and limited to minimise light spill into the night sky. Lighting is proposed in some locations for safety and security enabling night time use of some areas within the park, particularly during summer for park events. Whilst the CMP does not specifically make recommendations in relation to lighting, this approach is considered to be consistent with conservation of the landscape character and use of the park. Lighting is considered to be an important contributor to the amenity of the park, but should not dominate the overall landscape character.



**Pathway Lighting**  
4.5m high post top lights in accordance with TAMS design standards  
*Conservation Management Plan Reference P1CP4, P2CP10*

**Roadway Lighting**  
6.0m high posts with outreaches in accordance with TAMS design standards  
*Conservation Management Plan Reference P1CP1, P1CP4, P2CP10, P3CP15*

**Event lighting**  
Pole top floodlighting including provision for additional temporary lights  
*Conservation Management Plan Reference P4CP28*

**Facility Lighting**  
Building or security lighting

**Power outlets**  
Provision for power outlets to be located in areas likely to be used for community events. Outlets can be located within new structures or stand-alone power bollards  
*Conservation Management Plan Reference P4CP28*



.....

*Illustrative images showing proposals*



*Loop Path*



*East Basin Upgrade*



*Woods Boardwalk*



*Interpretive Centre*



*Open Event Field*



*Recreation Rooms*



*Native Grasslands established utilising direct seeding methods*



*Wetlands*

# Materials

## Material Selection

The master plan proposes a consistency of materials and construction techniques that establishes a strong local identity to Weston Park and distinguishes it from other parks in Canberra. Materials are chosen for their robust nature, long term cost effectiveness, local availability and identity.

### Hotmix

**Applications:**  
Primary pathways  
Roadways



### Compacted Granulitic Sand / Decomposed Granite

**Applications:**  
Secondary pathways  
Breakout spaces  
Recreation rooms



### Recycled Hardwood Timber

**Applications:**  
Boardwalks + decks  
Garden trails  
Shelter structures



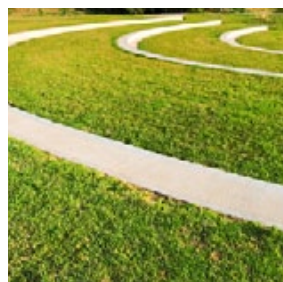
### Corten Steel (HW350)

**Applications:**  
Signage  
Cladding of structures  
Fencing / barriers



### Concrete

**Applications:**  
Edges  
Amphitheatre steps



### Rubber Softfall / Organic Material

**Applications:**  
Playspaces  
Recreational sports / spaces edges





# Furniture

## Furniture

A suite of contemporary, robust park furniture, including seating and picnic facilities, improves the amenity of the park. Park furniture is located within areas of high intensity recreational use. Barbecues, drinking fountains and picnic settings are located close to play spaces. Bench seats are located along pathways, providing rest points and viewpoints. Fencing and bollards are used to allow safe pedestrian access around and into car parks, as well as edging spaces.

**Picnic Setting**  
**Supplier:** Iguana  
**Model:** Picnik  
 Mild Steel Frame,  
 GRC Tops.  
 Wheelchair access  
 option



**Bench Seat**  
**Supplier:** Urban Art Projects  
 or Iguana  
**Model:** PL01  
**Timber:** Class 1 Durability  
 Hardwood



**Barbeque**  
**Model:** DA Christie  
 Free electrical double with corten surround  
 Wheelchair access  
 option



**Drinking Fountains**  
**Supplier:** Street Furniture Australia  
**Model:** Arqua  
**Colour:** Dark grey



**Fencing**  
**Supplier:** HDM / Iguana  
 Corten steel (HW350)



**Bollards**  
**Type:** Custom corten steel  
**Supplier:** HDM / Iguana



**Street Lighting (In accordance with Roads ACT Guidelines)**  
**Supplier:** Sylvania Lighting  
**Model:** Elipt Series  
**Pole:** Vicpole 'Forde'



**Play Equipment / Play Art**  
**Supplier:** Standard manufacturer  
 supply + commissioned



**Litter Bins**  
**Supplier:** Iguana  
**Model:** Waste station 1



## Summary

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Weston Park is attractive as a place to visit because of the complexity of recreational and cultural activities that visitors can experience within the park. This master plan recognises these many layers of activities and values, bringing them together in an integrated and coordinated way.

- **Horticulture**

Weston Park became a site for testing species that might be suited to broadscale planting in Canberra's streets, parks and gardens. This spirit of experimentation is continued in the master plan by trialling new species (for example, water-wise cultivars) and techniques for landscape establishment.

- **Interpretation**

Weston Park has an important story to tell that relates not only to the park's development, but also the broader establishment of Canberra's landscape. The presence of Yarralumla Nursery within the park is a major asset and attraction to Canberra's residents and to tourists. Its interpretation, along with the plantings within Weston Park and adjacent Westbourne Woods, are an important focal point and opportunity for interpretation within the park.

- **Events, Activities, Public Art Programs and Memorials**

The master plan proposes a spatial organisation for the park that is suited to the inclusion of programmed events, festivals and performances, exhibitions, permanent and temporary artworks and performance art. New areas are provided for community events with supporting infrastructure. Environmental art installations are encouraged. The inclusion of events, activities and public art programs should be considered within the framework of existing ACT Government policies and programs.

- **Ongoing Cultural Programs**

Responsibility for on-going cultural programs within Weston Park rests with the Canberra community working with the ACT Government. By establishing a matrix of flexible spaces and programming opportunities, the master plan enables a wide diversity of involvement and spirit that will invigorate the park, providing the events and stories that make places memorable.

- **Recreation**

The master plan builds on the considerable existing recreational assets of Weston Park, increasing the quality and diversity of opportunities for activities and providing increased access for members of the Canberra community and visitors to Canberra. Both active and passive recreation is accommodated within the park.





## 6 IMPLEMENTATION

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### 6.1 Strategic Implementation

The strategic planning of projects, including the provision of new infrastructure, provides the opportunity to maximise available funds.

In implementing the master plan proposals, the ACT Government could consider alternate funding options and opportunities, such as joint use of facilities, new technologies (eg. alternate service solutions) and alternative management and maintenance models.

Innovations include joint use and co-location of facilities between agencies, community enterprises and partnership with the private sector. For example, the proposed interpretive centre might be used by various agencies for conferences, meetings, community events and education programs. From the viewpoint of long term property management, facilities should be co-located wherever possible. As needs change, co-location allows facilities to be more easily modified or adapted to new uses. Co-location acknowledges that government agencies must adopt a long-term whole-of-government view to the management of sites such as Weston Park.

#### **Opportunities for joint use and co-location include:**

- A new shared administrative, education and conference building that also services the Yarralumla Nursery and includes concessions such as a shop and cafe.
- A new gatehouse with concessions such as bike hire.
- Shared maintenance depot facilities servicing the park and nursery.

### 6.2 Priorities and Staging

There are three main objectives in the staging of work described in the master plan:

1. Creating an impact from work in the first stage of investment, increasing active use of the park and generating enthusiasm and commitment to further stages.
2. Establishing a physical landscape framework that is robust and flexible enough to accommodate changes and introduction of new uses over time.
3. Coordinating new capital works and management programs with existing and new activities and events, providing infrastructure and services that supports increased and better use of the park.

Priorities for implementation depend on available funds and leverage from allied programs and initiatives.

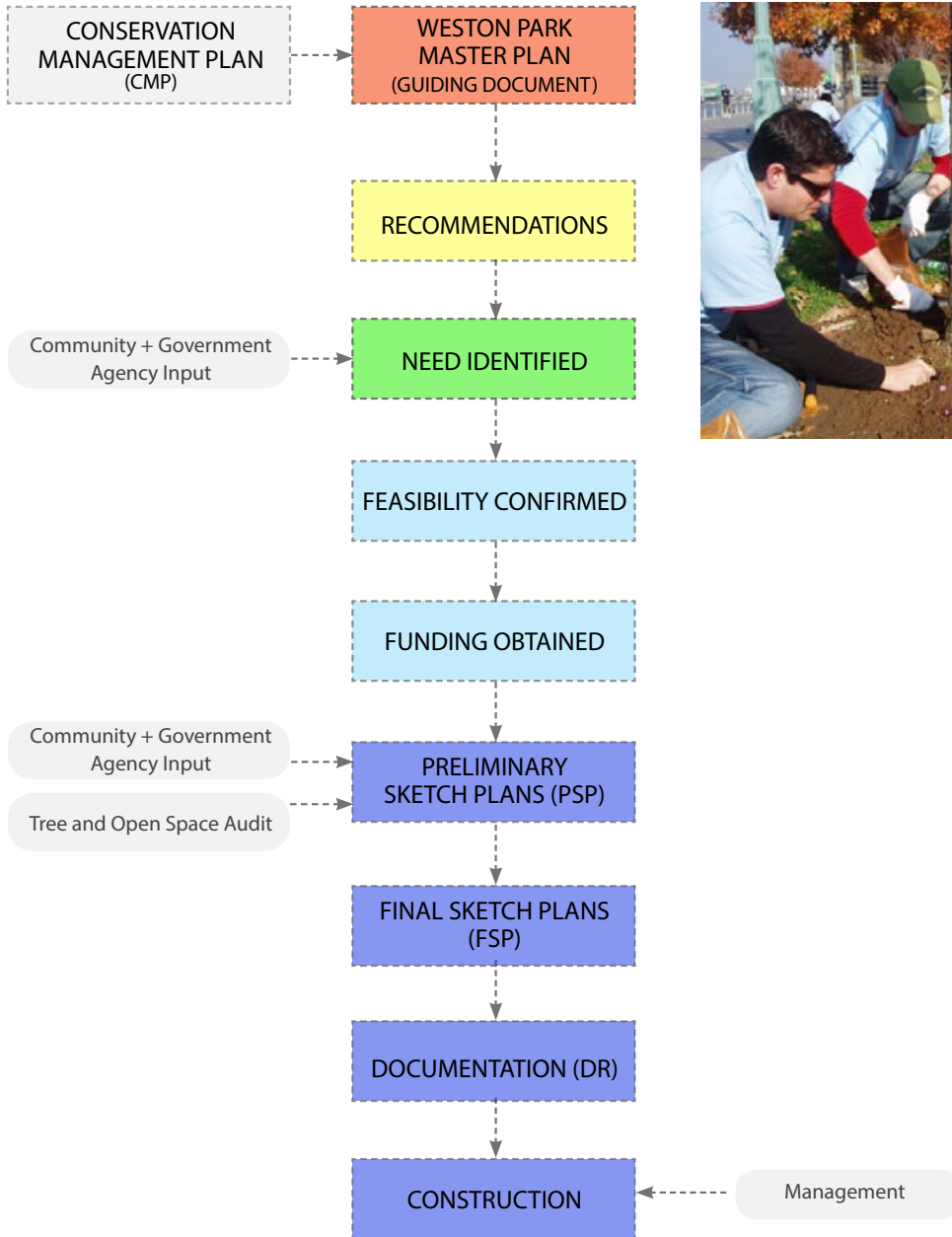
### 6.3 Project Delivery

This master plan is the first phase in a strategic program for upgrading Weston Park. As a guiding document, it outlines a future based on community input and achievable outcomes. The master plan outlines an over-arching and coordinated vision for the park, identifying projects to assist in determining forward budgets. The master plan does not, purposefully, provide detailed designs for the many projects and programs that will lead to revitalisation of the park. These works will occur as funds become available and partnership opportunities are realised.

The individual projects described in the master plan will be developed with community and government agency input.

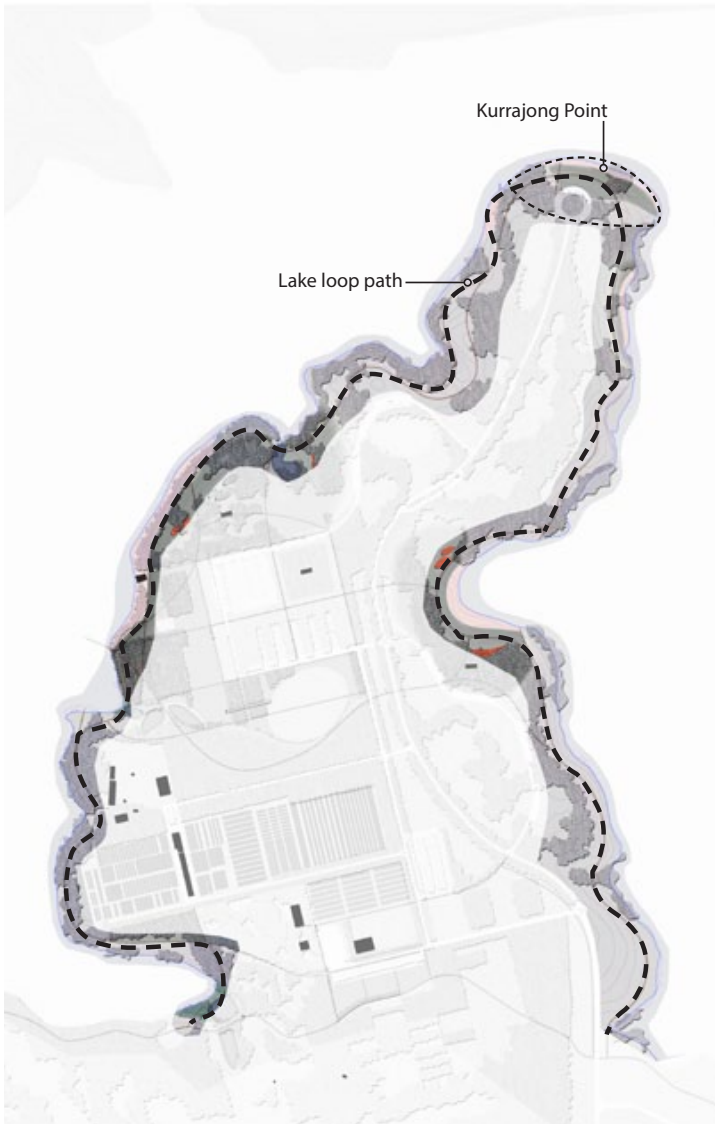
# 6 IMPLEMENTATION

## 6.1 Strategic Implementation



## 6.4 Project Actions

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### LAKE EDGE LOOP PATH

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- boardwalks for pontoons / watercraft landings
- lake edge path, including benching out (excavation), sub-base and hotmix surface. Includes timber edging. Path 3 metres wide for use as joint cycle and pedestrian path.
- decks
- park furniture (inc benches, picnic settings, drinking fountains, bbqs)
- tree planting

### KURRAJONG POINT

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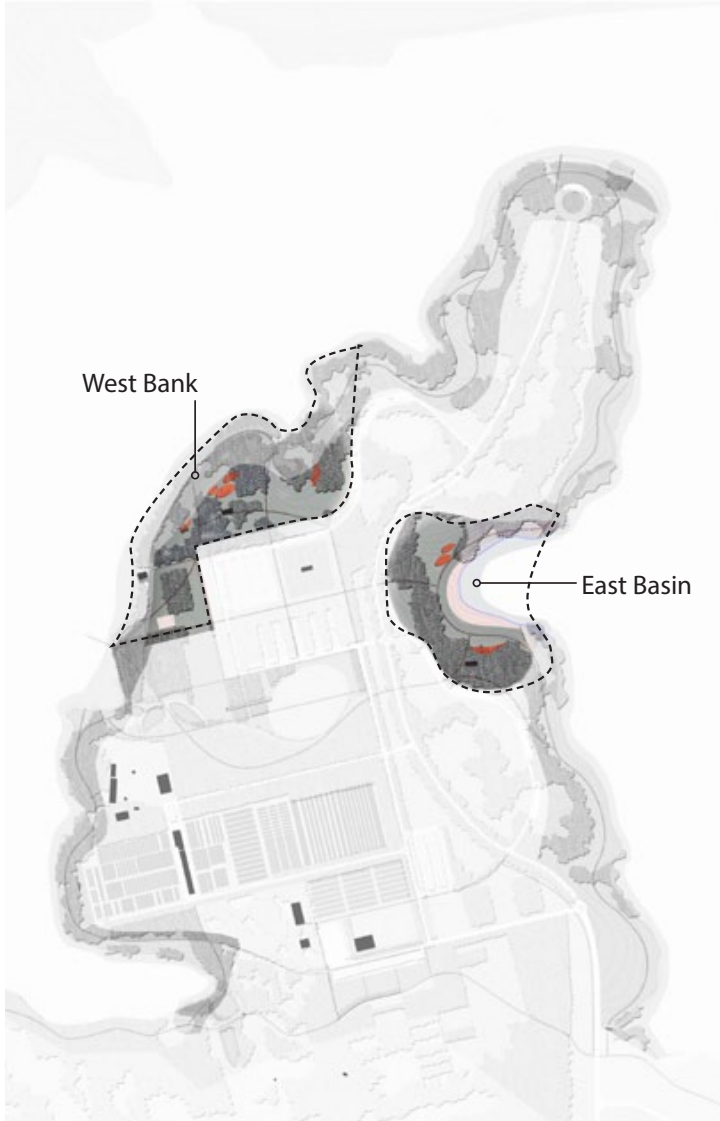
#### Formalised car parking (in construction)

- minor grading + shaping, sub-base and hotmix surface
- bollards / concrete kerbing

#### Surrounding surface + edge treatments

- dryland grassing / turfing
- minor paths (compacted granulitic sand with timber edging)
- concrete terrace
- park furniture (inc benches, picnic settings, shelters, drinking fountains, bbqs)
- tree planting





### **EAST BASIN UPGRADE**

- shelter
- park furniture (inc benches, picnic settings, shade shelters, drinking fountains, bbqs)
- surface treatment (compacted granulitic sand)
- planting

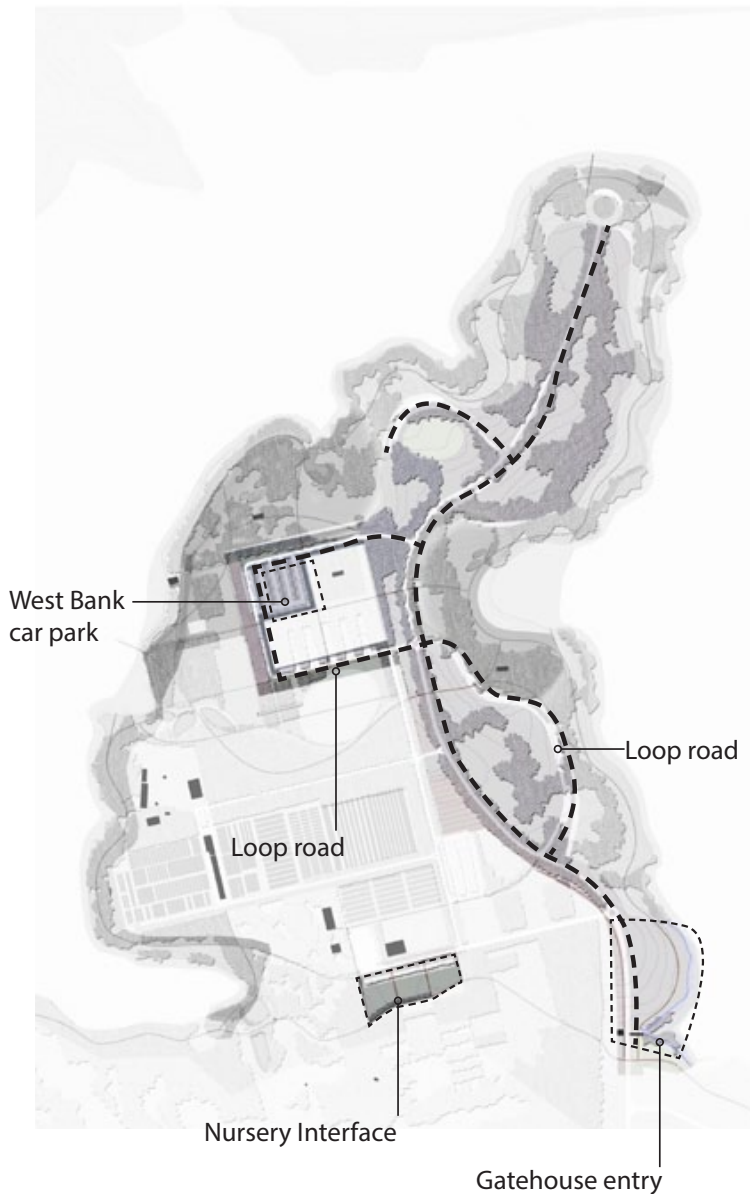
### **WEST BANK UPGRADE**

#### **Western playspace**

- equipment (mostly 'non-specified' equipment such as terraces, boulders, poles, but also includes swings)
- planting
- surface treatment (rubberised surface + some compacted granulitic sand)
- partial fencing of play space

#### **Pond upgrade**

- edge treatments (including boulders, concrete terrace steps + beaches)
- minor pathways
- minor boardwalks
- planting
- artwork
- shelter
- park furniture (inc benches, picnic settings, shade shelters, drinking fountains, bbqs)



## PARK VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

- trimming of trees along existing roads
- gatehouse, park entry + security gate
- entry road re-alignment (including grading + shaping, sub-base and hotmix surface)
- loop roads (including grading + shaping, sub-base and hotmix surface)
- round-a-bout (including grading, sub-base and hotmix surface, concrete kerbing, planting)

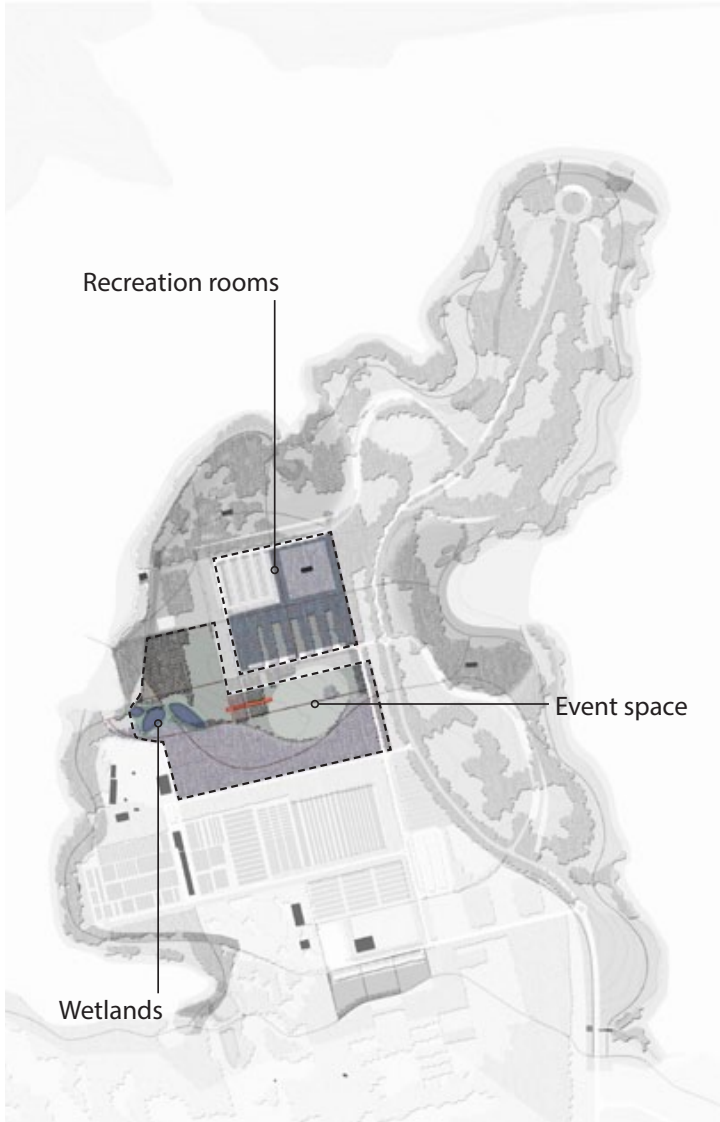
## Parking

- car parking (nose in) along loop roads (including grading + shaping, sub-base and hotmix surface)
- West Bank car park (including grading + shaping, sub-base and hotmix surface)
- bus layoff areas (including grading + shaping, sub-base and hotmix surface)
- formalised car parking at Kurrajong Point (in construction)

## NURSERY INTERFACE

### Formalised Parking

- minor grading + shaping, sub-base and hotmix surface + bollards / concrete kerbing
- tree planting
- pathways connection to existing shared use path
- minor pathways



## RECREATION ROOMS

### Surfaces + edging

- major pathways (hotmix with timber edging)
- minor pathways + breakout areas (compacted sand, timber edging)
- paved areas (paving / shotblasted concrete)
- planting / gardens
- perimeter fencing (hedges and low fences)
- shelter
- park furniture (inc benches, picnic settings, shade shelters, drinking fountains, bbqs)
- tree planting

## OPEN EVENT FIELD + WETLANDS

### Pathways

- major pathways (hotmix with timber edging)
- minor pathways + breakout areas (compacted sand, timber edging)
- boardwalk

### Wetlands

- grading + shaping
- planting
- trails
- boardwalks
- tree planting

### Additional Items

- park furniture (inc benches, picnic settings, drinking fountains, bbqs, power bollards)
- arbor





Nursery Bay

English garden

Interpretive centre

## INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

### Interpretive centre

- building structure
- additional car parking
- surrounding landscape works (paving, pathways, planting)
- signage

### Productive gardens

- pathways (hard paved with corten edging)
- irrigation
- planting beds / planting boxes

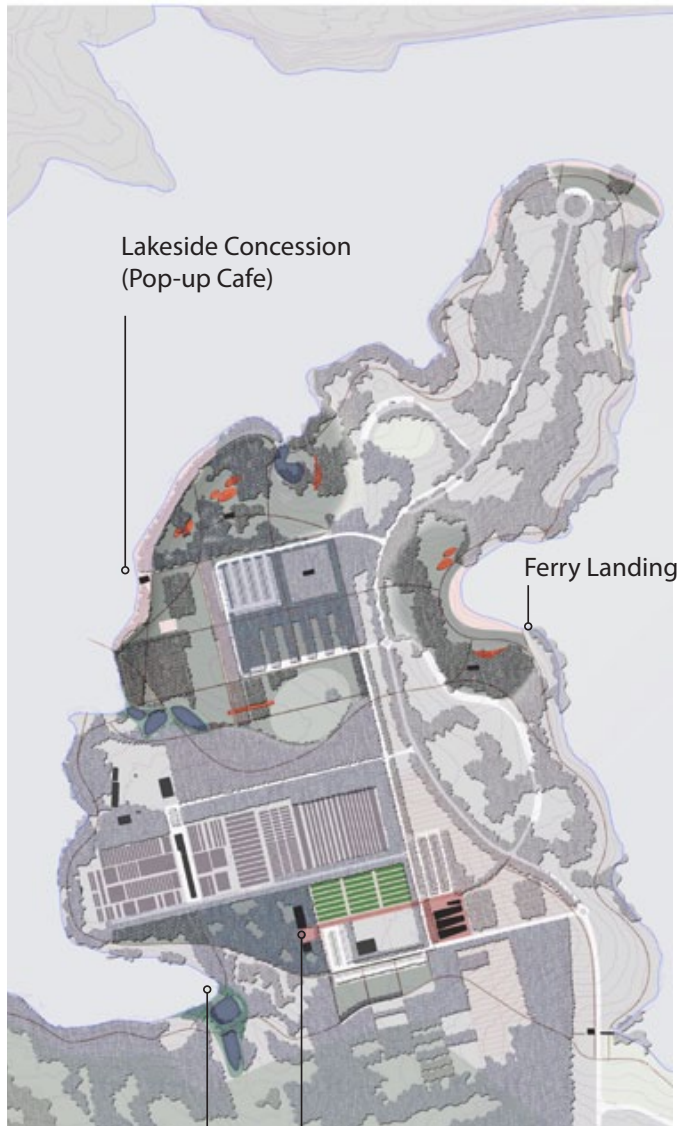
### Public art + signage

## ENGLISH GARDEN + NURSERY BAY PICNIC AREA

- upgrade to English Garden (inc. maintenance of existing trees, replanting, compacted granulitic sand minor paths with edging, irrigation)
- park furniture (inc. benches, picnic settings, shade shelters, drinking fountains, bbqs)
- Nursery Bay wetlands (inc. planting, minor shaping + trails)
- new tree planting
- ferry landing
- Hobday's pavilion

## Additional Items

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Ferry Landing

Hobday's pavilion

### **MEADOWS, TREE PLANTING, TREE MAINTENANCE**

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- meadows
- tree planting
- tree maintenance

### **FUTURE BUILDINGS + STRUCTURES**

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- lakeside concession (pop-up café:  
non permanent facility)
- Hobday's pavilion
- ferry landings

### **LIGHTING**

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- road lighting

### **ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

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- free standing shelter - large
- free standing shelter - small
- lighting - roadway
- lighting - pathway
- event power bollards

### **SIGNAGE**

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- interpretive strategy (whole  
park)
- directional / behavioural  
major
- directional / behavioural  
minor
- interpretive

## Image References

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Hudson Community Planting, Oxygen Image Library.



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# **Appendix 1**

## **Weston Park Draft Master Plan**

### **Consultation Report**

Prepared by **Susan Conroy Cultural Planning**

For Parks, Conservation and Lands,  
ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services,  
December 2009  
(11.12.09 Issue)

## **Acknowledgements**

The consultants wish to acknowledge and thank the members of the community who provided comment for the Master Plan consultation. Your collective knowledge and enthusiasm for your local community has been inspiring and a source of encouragement for the team.



## Executive Summary

Weston Park, on the southern shores of Lake Burley Griffin, is a key destination in Canberra for both residents and visitors to the City. Over 720,000 people visit the park annually. The park contains structures and features of historical significance to the establishment of Canberra's landscape including the English Garden, Hobdays Cottage, Yarralumla Nursery, and plantings by Thomas Weston and Lindsay Pryor. Weston Park is used for informal gatherings and picnics as well as large scale sporting and community events such as cross country events, triathlons and fun runs.

The *Weston Park Master Plan Report* was undertaken by ACT Landscape, a division of Totalcare Industries in 1999. The document is now seen as dated and Parks Conservation and Lands (PCL) have identified the need for a new master plan for the park.

The park infrastructure has deteriorated over the last 20 years. Some facilities have been replaced through the capital improvements program. However, changes such as the closure of the maze and a general deterioration of the park's assets have resulted in the need to revitalise this important part of Canberra's recreational and historic infrastructure. The master plan will provide a strategic direction to guide this process.

This consultation report documents the values, concerns and priorities of users of the park and provides direction for the Master Plan being prepared by Oxigen Landscape Architecture for the proposed upgrade and future planning and management of Weston Park as a major urban park in Canberra.

Weston Park is a well-known and liked park in Canberra which is frequented by local residents, the broader Canberra community and visitors to the City. This wide range of users also means that there is a variety of expectations for the master plan that range from a 'hands-off' approach to the provision of facilities within the park to ones which seek to maximise the use of the park for recreation, sporting and community events.

Many people have focused on the importance of preserving the heritage qualities of the park, particularly the historic plantings by Thomas Weston and Lyndsay Pryor who are acknowledged as important influences in the development of Canberra's distinctive landscape. The park is also the site of trial plantings of Eucalypt cultivars which are botanically significant. A major outcome of the consultation process is the requirement for a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) to be developed prior to any endorsed proposals for redevelopment.

The broad Canberra community have consistently expressed the aspiration that the significant landscape qualities of the park are preserved in the new master plan, including plantings, open space and views, and a high level of informal recreational amenity that serves a wide cross section of the local and national community.

The draft master plan has received some media attention focussing on the proposed pedestrian bridge and future of the miniature train.

In broad terms the key findings support most of the Master Plan proposals to redevelop Weston Park as an inviting, accessible and safe focal point for the community and visitors.

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## Introduction

Oxigen Landscape Architecture and Urban Design has engaged Susan Conroy Cultural Planning consultant to assist with and manage a consultation program and prepare a consultation report for Draft Master Plan, Weston Park, ACT. This report will help inform the finalisation of the master plan which is to provide direction for the necessary improvements to the public places and infrastructure at Weston Park.

The preparation of this report has involved an extensive consultation program and desk-top research in order to seek information and insights that will test ideas proposed in the draft master plan, build confidence in the process, enhance outcomes for the client, other Government agencies and the community and encourage those consulted to become advocates for the master plan outcomes.

From this consultation work as well as additional research, the aspirations, values, needs and priorities of the users of Weston Park have been identified.

## Objectives

The four key objectives of the consultation program are:

1. Collect and comprehend information and ensure that community and government engagement mechanisms are informative, participatory and accessible to achieve the study outcomes.
2. Structure consultations so that information generated through the consultation process can be used for informing the master plan process and outcomes.
3. Provide clear information about the issues and challenges to all stakeholders.
4. Develop an understanding of the values, aspirations, concerns and interests of community and government stakeholders and members of the community that will inform the master plan.

## Limitations

It is not within the scope of this consultation to address:

- Maintenance or development on private lease areas.
- Public area and infrastructure outside of the study area.
- Business and retail assessment and/or development.

## Methodology

The methodology was guided by a rationale to ensure a 2-stage integration of community values, concerns and aspirations into the Master Plan. This has been facilitated by extensive consultation throughout the conceptual development phase (Stage 1) and evaluation phase (Stage 2). Additional Stages 3 and 4 were added to the consultation program when it was perceived that more opportunity for public comment was required.

The program was focused on:

1. Identifying stakeholder issues
2. Prioritising stakeholder issues
3. Channelling priorities into master plan development

4. Providing opportunity for stakeholder comment on draft master plan

All stages of the consultative process involved government and public stakeholders.

## Process

The process for this study has included:

1. **Identification** of key stakeholders.
2. **Preparation** of consultation plan for agreement with the client.
3. **Research**
  - Site visits
  - Desktop research using data bases, internet, text and expert sources including review of relevant ABS data as well as context and planning analysis
4. **Promotion**
  - Distribution of information flyers.
  - Posters at the Yarralumla Shops (Stage 1 for Drop-in)
  - TAMS website postings.
  - Advertisements in the Canberra Times.
  - Radio interviews.
  - Follow-up phone calls to encourage attendance
  - Exhibition of Draft Master Plan on-site, at shops, libraries, on-line and at a public meeting.
5. **Key stakeholder consultations**
  - ACT Government.
  - National Capital Authority.
  - AFP Water Police.
  - Schools.
  - Sporting groups.
  - Lake Burley Griffin Users (business, sport and recreation groups).
  - Youth coalition.
  - Disability groups.
  - Business representatives.
  - Heritage groups.
  - Horticulture/Forestry Groups.
  - Community groups.
  - On-site users.
  - Canberra community.
6. **Management** of consultation program which is detailed below.
7. **Provision** of input and collaboration with the landscape designer (Oxigen) to ensure that the interests, issues, values and priorities of the user groups of Weston Park have been considered in the preparation and recommendations of the Master Plan.
8. **Evaluation** of the draft Master Plan with the ACT Government and community
9. **Final Report** detailing Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the consultation program.



## Consultation

The consultation program is designed to inform the master plan by identifying opportunities and constraints for improving the amenity and public infrastructure of the park.

### Media

- During March 2009 the lessee of the miniature train generated some media attention regarding the proposal to terminate the lease for the facility and PCL received 23 email and phone enquiries about the future of the railway, all of which supported the retention of the facility.
- The Canberra Times contained an article on the proposed pedestrian bridge 18 February 2009. Given the media interest in the Immigration Bridge proposal it is anticipated that the idea for a pedestrian bridge contained in the draft master plan will generate further media interest and public debate.
- The SIEV X memorial was the centre of a newspaper article in November 2008. The article focused mainly on the background to the memorial but also referenced the master plan and call for community comment.

## Stage 1 – Conceptual Development

### Gathering information and identifying priorities

Key stakeholders, community groups and government agencies were consulted throughout September, October and November 2008. The community consultation was arranged to capture input from schools, sport and active recreation groups, advocacy groups (Pedal Power, YRA and Woden Community Council), young people, people with a disability, business, history and heritage, tourism, environment and landscape, professional associations and other individuals identified through the consultation plan. Input was also sought from the North Canberra Community Council in recognition of the role and use of the park by the wider Canberra community, however, the consultants were not able to secure input from this group.

#### In summary, stage 1 consultation has consisted of:

- Development of a consultation database and consultation plan for approval by TAMS.
- Development of a template for interviews. *See Appendix 1.1.*
- One to one interviews with National Capital Authority (NCA), ACT Government and community informants.
- Small group interviews.
- Group consultation with relevant ACT Government Agency representatives.
- Attendance at a meeting of the Yarralumla Residents Association.
- Attendance at a meeting of NCA Lake Users Group.
- Transcribing and issuing consultation notes to participants for their review and confirmation.
- Consultation with NCA and ACT Government stakeholders.
- Drop-in consultation for the community in Weston Park.
- First online public consultation including online questionnaire. *See Appendix 1.2.*
- Preparation of the consultation report.

## Weston Park Draft Master Plan Consultation

Close to 100 people as individuals, representatives of Government, community organisations and business were invited to participate in the Stage 1 consultations. A list of key stakeholder groups invited to consultation sessions is at *Appendix 1.3*.

The master plan was available for public comment over a four-week period in November and December 2008 and a drop-in consultation was advertised in local papers and on the TAMS web site. All Stage 1 participants received information to advise them of the consultation options.

The drop-in consultation was held in Weston Park between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008. Approximately 50 people attended the consultation session. Many of the attendees were from Yarralumla although a reasonable number of people were from elsewhere in Canberra. Unseasonal low temperatures may have influenced attendance. Responses were generally positive to the proposals contained within the draft master plan

The draft master plan and an online questionnaire were posted on the TAMS website on 7 November 2008. The official period for public comment closed on 8 December 2008. 37 responses were received from the online questionnaire with the majority being of the positive nature.

### **Summary of Stage 1 Consultation**

A wide range of issues, concerns and interests were canvassed with regard to Weston Park within the consultation process. The following summarises the values, aspirations and issues identified through the consultations.

### **Use of Weston Park**

The commonest activities identified as occurring in Weston Park included:

- Picnics and BBQs.
- Personal exercise activities for health and fitness.
- Meeting friends at the restaurant / gallery (Hobdays Cottage).
- Attendance at community events e.g. Father's Day, memorial commemoration.
- Buying plants at the nursery.
- Walking pets.
- Work / Christmas party functions.
- Sports events e.g. race walking, cross-country, orienteering, marathons, etc.
- Petanque piste held weekly on Sundays in the English Gardens.
- Access through the park to lake for regattas – parts of the western shore are used for launching and for spectators.

People observed that at different stages of life, use of the park changed. Many participants thought the mini train no longer functioned and noted that with the removal of children's play equipment and reduced maintenance of park spaces that the quality of the park environment and experience has diminished.

### **Park Qualities to be Preserved and Enhanced**

Participants particularly value:

- Informal, open and varied park environment that is not overly structured or manicured – the feeling of a natural environment.
- Shade, openness, grasslands.
- A park-like, spacious environment in the heart of the city.
- The mix of introduced and indigenous plantings.
- Being a place for families and children oriented activities.
- Being a place for community celebrations and events such as Father's Day, club recreation competitions such as cross country and marathons, community fund raising events, etc.
- The heritage values of the park which are associated with the development of Canberra's landscape i.e. the association of Charles Weston, Lindsay Pryor, and others; the planting of experimental tree species as well as the trialling of planting methods.
- The natural shoreline.
- The views and vistas.
- The small businesses such as nurseries, restaurant/café/gallery, mini train.
- SIEV X memorial.
- Off-leash dog area with shade, seating, water access.

Across the consultations, people noted the poor quality of the mini train experience including its environment and associated food outlet. While some want it removed completely, there was a perception that if the quality of the facilities were improved it would again become an attractive activity for families with children.

Awareness of park facilities and business was mixed and related to how and why people use the park. There is a common perception that facilities and activities in Weston Park have closed or are unavailable and there is an impression that this impacts on use of and awareness of Weston Park as a place to visit. It was fairly common that people who use the park are unaware of the existence of the nurseries or restaurant and the range of activity which takes place within the park now. One participant group proposed that the nurseries should be removed.

A number of participants also suggested that the park has greater potential to be a destination for the Canberra community as well as for visitors.

### **Access and Mobility**

Participants were asked to provide views and observations about how to improve access to and within the park. Comments related predominantly to roads, tracks as well as barrier structures and included:

- The intersection of the cycle route from Westbourne Woods onto Banks Street is a major hazard and right of way between cyclists and motor vehicles needs to be clarified.
- The entry road alignment and roundabout intersection for access to the nurseries was commonly recognised as unsafe.
- Create a link from the recreation path which runs through Westbourne Woods into the park and particularly toward Hobday's Cottage restaurant.

## Weston Park Draft Master Plan Consultation

- The barriers at the northern end of the park means that an organisation that provides outdoor recreation activities for people with disabilities can no longer use the park to launch boats for their clients.
- The lack of direct paths with accessible grades between picnic facilities and public amenities is an issue for park users and in particular for people with limited mobility, sight impairment or other disabilities and parents with young children in strollers.
- Improved wheelchair access within park, at BBQ and public amenities, parking and along the foreshore.
- Improved vehicle access on the northern point for off-loading of canoes for regattas and training events.
- Improvements to car parking arrangements for event parking - this includes the loss of vehicle access to the park for casual users.
- The road pattern with dog-legs and dead ends was acknowledged to take away from park usability as well as contribute to creating unsafe areas.
- Car parking arrangements are inadequate for community events such as fun runs, Father's Day, etc, with considerable impacts back into surrounding streets being reported.
- The lack of coach access including parking and turning circle impacts on capacity for promoting public transport for events and for school groups looking for a lunch and a run about space between visits to national attractions.
- The need for multiple paths to promote connectivity and ease of walking and cycling access within and across the park.
- Footbridge/s at some locations to protect the lake environment and to add to park/lake experiences.
- The lack of public transport in proximity to the park entry impacts on use of the park for people reliant on public transport which can include people with visual impairment and decreased mobility, older people as well as young people.

There was a diverse range of views about shared pedestrian and cycling facilities around the lake foreshore with some preferring a separation of cycling from pedestrian facilities. While most participants supported the provision of a new path around the lake edge, people were keen to ensure that the location of paths not divide or segment informal recreation areas and that it would not require creating a hard edge along the lake foreshore. There is concern that establishment of a path around the foreshore would impact on established routes for cross country, fun runs and other club recreation events.

There were mixed opinions about creating pontoon/wharf structures with a key concern being potential alienation of the northern end of the peninsula to the wider community and detrimental impact on the lake environment if motorised boats could access the park. Tourist boat operators were generally of a view that they would have minimal need to use pontoon facilities at Weston Park.

While generally people perceived problems with vehicle access and parking, participants were keen to ensure that reorganisation did not impact on park character, amenity and that there would still be areas reserved for social interaction within the park environment away from cars.



### **Facilities and Infrastructure**

Participants were asked to comment on the types of facilities that could improve use of the park and the needs for infrastructure to facilitate use of the park. Responses to these two questions were generally very similar.

All participants identified the need for new and improved play equipment opportunities within the park. There were suggestions for consideration of play equipment to cater for different groups including younger and older children as well as adults. Facilities for disabled children and adults were discussed in the context of access to the water's edge, boat loading ramp to enable people to get into boats, design of spaces and ensuring that some areas provided definition and privacy.

There was general support for improvements to toilets, BBQs and picnic areas including shade, shelter and seating on the basis that any such development would be sympathetic to the park qualities. There was also support for improved pedestrian and cycle access around the foreshore with the qualification that such a route did not divide picnic areas or create a hard edge to the foreshore.

Other suggestions/observations included:

- Drinking fountains and rubbish bins.
- Emergency phone/s.
- Power and community event infrastructure.
- Safe even paths which enable people with mobility impairment or other disabilities to access key areas within the park.
- Provision of accessible picnic and toilet facilities.
- Vehicle control and traffic signage.
- Options for alternate traffic flow during events which include road closures.
- Coach turning and layover area.
- A sensory garden.
- A request to rebuild the maze, tree house and other children's play equipment;
- Under-cover area for school groups.
- A summer outdoor evening venue for picnics and musical events.
- Improvement to quality of beaches and retain informal access to the water's edge.
- Wharf/pontoon/boat ramp.
- Starter's tower for regattas.
- Informal viewing areas for regatta spectators.
- Space to play petanque piste.
- Enclosed dog area with seating and shade.
- Improve the café at the train and provide other options for cafes.
- City farm and other commercial activity if it is designed and developed to be sensitive to heritage values and park character and is well managed.
- Art and sculpture.

While some people had reservations about signage, most people suggested there is a need for improved way finding signage as well as developing interpretive signage to help people appreciate aspects of the park's history and relevance to the development of the Canberra landscape and environment as well as information about tree species. It was noted that the existing map on the TAMS web site is confusing for some people and people with dogs are not sure about off-leash areas.

A number of people suggested Centennial Park in Homebush, Sydney and its provision of park infrastructure and management as a model for Weston Park for the future.

### **Living History Landscape and Biodiversity**

Participants were asked to comment on opportunities to interpret Weston Park's history and the history of development of Canberra's landscape. While a majority of participants were unfamiliar with the park's history participants were generally positive about increasing park visitors' knowledge of the history. People were also interested in gaining information about what trees are growing in the park and that it would enhance the park's value to the wider community.

A number of organisations and individuals with a known interest and knowledge in the landscape, horticultural and forestry history of Canberra participated in the consultations including Friends of the Australian Capital Territory Arboreta (FACTA), ACT for Trees, Robert Boden and John Dargavel.

There is keen interest to see the masterplan through design, planting, signage and programming elevate and articulate aspects of the history of the park. The master plan was seen as a primary opportunity to contribute to the Canberra community and others in gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of the history of the park and its development.

There was interest in an interpretive centre to be located in the park to present the history of the park and the role it played in the development of the Canberra landscape. Such a development was viewed as a positive opportunity for local schools and the Canberra community in particular but could be of interest to visitors as well to explain the horticultural, botanical and forestry research and experimentation which under-pinned Charles Weston's approach and the development of the Canberra landscape. If the interpretive centre is to proceed, participants who commented on this were keen to ensure that the design was in keeping with the character of the park and used environmental measures to demonstrate environmental sustainability for park visitors.

Other opportunities for interpretation of Canberra's landscape noted included forestry and horticultural research and links with Yarralumla Nursery, the former Australian Forestry School, former CSIRO Division of Forestry at Yarralumla, Westbourne Woods and the Lindsay Pryor Arboretum. It was also noted that there are internationally rare species within the park which need protection and conservation and that the English Garden is the birthplace of the Canberra city landscape.

Other ideas included recognition of local indigenous history, a children's history trail, that the park is a demonstration of the bush capital in the centre of the city and recognition of the park's evolution and more recent social history.

Participants reiterated a desire to maintain the park character as a place of both introduced and indigenous plantings. The consultant was encouraged to plant in the "Spirit of Weston" i.e. being experimental about plant species and styles of planting as well as not preserving trees that don't grow.

Biodiversity was generally seen as a specialist area with many participants not confident to comment but believing that the principle of increasing plant biodiversity is sound. Several participants were concerned that this might mean changing the character of the park such as removing introduced tree

species. One observation noted that while the role of a city park is not to build biodiversity, the attraction of wild life and birds is an attractor for park visitors. Participants noted that it was important to plant for drought tolerant species into the future. It was also noted that there is need for serious attention and investment in a maintenance program for existing trees including judicious removal of trees to protect the qualities people value about the park.

### **Activities and Programs**

Across the discussions regarding activities and programs which would be part of Weston Park's future, people were concerned to see activities and programs which complement the character of the park as a quiet place with a diverse range of open park spaces for the enjoyment of families and the Canberra community.

There was an emphasis on activities which already take place such as picnics and BBQs, walking and cycling, child and family related activities as well as one day community and club recreation events.

New activities suggested included small musical events, dog carnivals, new small-scale commercial ventures, heritage interpretation programs and tandem cycling (for visually impaired). Weston Park was not seen as a suitable location for large-scale events which take place over an extended period.

### **Looking to the Future**

People were asked to nominate the three most important improvements for them or their organisation to be made in Weston Park. Responses commonly related to:

- Improving park/picnic facilities such as toilets, shelter, BBQs, seating.
- Maintaining the park character and amenity.
- Reintroduction of play equipment and play spaces and access to nature based play.
- Improvements to and management of movement and circulation for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles (cars/coaches) in the park including review of road alignment, parking, traffic control.
- Assessing heritage values and providing multiple opportunities for interpretation and 'reading' the history of the park.
- Improving park amenity and appearance through judicious planting and maintenance.
- Improving water edge access and maintaining the informal lake edge.
- Improving accessibility and mobility.

Other comments included:

- Provision of event infrastructure – natural amphitheatres, power.
- Improvement to the amenity of the miniature train.
- Improvement of the under-developed area between the nursery and the train.
- Opportunities for commercial developments including cafés.
- Regatta facilities.
- Earlier opening times.
- Marketing and advertising.
- Improved connectivity between the recreation path through Westbourne Woods and Weston Park.
- Removal of weed species and clean the shoreline.

### **Conclusion**

There was a high degree of commonality of views about the way participants described the park character and how it is used. While the early history of Weston Park as a place for experimental plantings and its enduring role in the maturing Canberra landscape is not widely understood, the development of the new master plan is seen as an opportunity to acknowledge and interpret that history in a variety of ways.

There is a general perception that the quality of the landscape and park facilities which would attract people to the park have diminished over time. There was agreement on the need for drought tolerant species as part of the new master plan associated with a viable maintenance program for healthy trees and a sustainable landscape.

Frequent park users including sporting and recreation club members all noted the need to reduce opportunities for conflict between pedestrian, cycle and vehicle movements at park edges such as on Banks Street and Westbourne Woods and within the park.

The SIEV X memorial is valued and there is a perception that there could be some opportunities for site-specific art works which help to articulate the park and be part of the park's future.

The English Gardens, mature tree plantings, the nurseries and informal open park spaces with access to the lake edge which can be used in a variety of ways underpin peoples expectations of the diversity of landscape and type of experience people expect of Weston Park.

## Stage 2 – ACT Government Evaluation

An internal circulation of the draft final master plan through the main TAMS business units was completed by the beginning of April 2009 and comments incorporated into the final draft document.

**The following ACT Government stakeholders provided comment: Asset Management Services, Community and Infrastructure Services, Australian Capital Tourism, Roads ACT, Yarralumla Nursery, National Capital Authority and Parks Presentation.**

In general terms the works proposed in the draft master plan were approved by government agencies. Specific comments to be considered in finalising the draft master plan included:

- Consideration of stormwater, lighting, transport planning (including access, circulation and parking for cars, buses, delivery or waste vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and personal mobility aids) at preliminary stages of planning to reduce adjustments in future detailed submissions.
- Recommend a Transport and Parking Study be conducted.
- Recommend Site Investigation for stormwater, overland flow and drainage particularly in larger facilities such as car parks and roads.
- Recommend Access Report to determine optimum access to facilities including appropriate grades and proximity of toilet facilities.
- If pedestrian bridge is developed lighting linked to road lighting required.
- Traffic Control Device signage/lines necessary for parking and vehicular circulation.
- Further input from Roads ACT will be made at detailed design in relation to footpaths, cycle paths and related works including signage, pavement material and infrastructure such as bike racks, lighting details, design and responsibility for management and design and construction of pedestrian bridge.
- Consider recognition of the ability of Weston Park to stage larger events beyond community level.



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- Suggestion that the retail group of Hobdays Cottage, Heritage and Yarralumla Nursery Garden Centre be described as the Retail Precinct.
- Consider moving the Interpretive Centre closer to the Retail Precinct
- Assess need for toilets in the Interpretive Centre.
- Concern that use of open space within nursery boundary for productive gardens (Item 7, page 20, Master Plan) would impact on nursery's deciduous tree open root operation.
- Consideration of road version alternative to rail-based mini train to provide flexibility of routes.
- NCA require further detailed assessment of developments on and over the lake - pedestrian bridge, three ferry jetties, boardwalks and foreshore kiosk –including heritage assessments, national land license agreements and further consultation and resolution of issues with lake users and other key stakeholders
- NCA request that design team consider relevant extracts of their draft Heritage Management Plan that relate to Westlake and Weston Park.
- NCA request continuing discussion with design team to ensure integration of facilities and functions of the Yarralumla Bay Recreation Hub Master Plan with Weston Park Master Plan.
- Due to the specialised construction of the entry gate, protection such as removable bollards necessary to minimise damage to the gate and replacement / repair costs.
- Consider minimizing damage to *Cedrus atlantica* from car parking causing compaction on western side of road/ gatehouse.
- Assess maintenance vehicle access of the lakeside loop path.
- Review irrigation system in public access productive gardens.
- Assess access for garbage trucks in Nursery Bay picnic area.
- Consider provision of toilets/ refurbished toilet facility at Hobdays Cottage.
- Assess and respond to concerns that car park at Nursery Park will encroach on irrigated area.
- Explore options for upgrades such as secondary paths, new shrub beds, picnic tables, bbq. At Nursery Park.
- Assess significant trees in Nursery Park.
- Assess and respond to concerns about the ability of the wetlands to naturally drain water from the lake. If necessary pumping with original Australian "Windmill" from lake to top pond of wetland. It may also be necessary to treat runoff from the nursery that drains into the wetland area.
- Note that children's play and adventure considered one of the greatest strengths of the park therefore focus and considerable effort should be directed in designing and retaining this type of infrastructure.
- Assess whether existing willows are to be removed from the lake edge.
- Respond to concern that boardwalk may create connectivity issues between lake and beach access.
- Respond to concern over boardwalk maintenance.
- Review and consider options for upgrading beach adjacent to the SIEV X memorial on the eastern side of the peninsula.
- Review and consider options to minimise SIEV X reducing connectivity and access through the park.
- Assess and respond to suggested relocation of the pedestrian bridge from north of the proposed

boardwalk on the Eastern side of the park to the closest point of Black Mountain Peninsula to provide greater connectivity and benefits for access between areas.

- Consider signage to be included where new bridge is located.
- Consider an integrated approach of retaining bollards in some areas and succession planting with eventual removal of all bollards.
- Consider option to have a toilet facility located in the north-eastern section of the park.
- Consider option to make existing walking tracks/desire lines into secondary paths.
- *Robinia pseudoacacia* is prone to suckering.
- *Platanus acerfolia* can trigger allergies and are uncomfortable to sit under because of the furry fruits and the slow decomposition of leaf matter.
- Park lighting along main roads in park may require tunnel boring to minimise damage to existing avenue of trees.
- Consider permanent sculptures in the park be dual purpose e.g. art and child friendly play sculpture.

Given the significant changes proposed in the draft master plan, two additional stages of consultation on the final draft master plan were undertaken as follows.

### **Stage 3 – Community Evaluation and Input**

#### **Drop-In Consultation**

On Saturday 27 June 2009 Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) staff in association with Oxigen representatives held a community information/consultation session for the final draft master plan for Weston Park. The purpose of the presentation was to gather and review comment on the proposals.

The session was held at Yarralumla Shops between 9:00am and 11:00am. Approximately 70 people attended the session and an estimated 40 questionnaires relating to the final draft master plan were taken by interested participants to be completed after the consultation. Four questionnaires were completed and returned on the day.

The information on display was based on input gathered from the first round of consultation with key government and non-government stakeholders and the general public. The main comments and issues of concern received during the Saturday drop in session are summarised below.

#### **Parking**

- Existing parking facilities were considered by some participants to be sufficient except at Hobday's Cottage and the nurseries.
- Some participants considered that current overflow parking arrangements during big events in the park such as Fathers Day are adequate and that additional parking is not warranted.
- The majority of participants supported the additional parking as it would serve public accessibility to the existing public resources and the proposed education/information centre, the lakeside café, the new loop road and any future expansion of the commercial leased area currently occupied by the miniature train facility.

### **Traffic**

- Some participants were of the opinion that many of the proposals contained in the draft master plan would attract more people to the park and therefore increase traffic volume and noise and volumes in the surrounding residential areas and on Alexandrina Drive and therefore did not support the master plan.
- The expanded road network proposed to alleviate 'dead-ends' in the park and to improve circulation was considered unnecessary by some participants as they believed it would increase traffic use and volumes in and around the park including buses. This was considered a potential hazard for children.
- Some participants suggested that buses should not be encouraged into the park as they will require the widening of existing roads and increase traffic noise and volumes in the park and on the surrounding road networks. It was suggested that buses should be encouraged to off-load their passengers at the main vehicle access gate at the northern end of Banks Street (Item 1) and then encourage the passengers to walk into and around the park.
- The majority of participants supported the master plan proposals as it would provide better accessibility to the park's existing and proposed infrastructure.

### **Pedestrian/Cycle Paths**

- The improved and expanded pedestrian network, particularly the lakeside loop path (Item 2), was well received by the majority of participants on the condition that access to the lake edge was not hindered and that trees were not removed to accommodate the paths.
- There was an even split between participants supporting or objecting to the need for Item 24 (boardwalks) over the bays on the eastern and western lake edges.
- Some participants expressed concern over the speed of cyclists on the proposed lake edge loop path and that this would discourage recreational users. However most participants realised that the new path would not attract commuter cyclists and therefore would be a relatively low speed environment.
- Some suggested that there may be a problem with the perimeter path that would entice people to walk dogs in the dog prohibited areas of the park.

### **Pedestrian Bridge (Item 29)**

The majority of participants objected to the proposal to link Weston Park to the northern shores of Lake Burley Griffin via a shared use bridge. Reasons for objection included negative impacts on views and other recreational activities such as rowing and sailing, capital cost, uncontrolled access after hours, it may encourage high speed commuter cyclists to use the lake edge loop path and bridge, and that the proposal does not align with Burley Griffins plans.

### **Education/Information Centre (Item 6)**

Supported by the majority of participants. More information was sought on how it would be funded and operated.

### **Public Access Productive Gardens (Item 7)**

Supported by the majority of participants. More information sought on how it would be funded and operated.

### **Miniature Train (Item 18)**

The retention of the current facility was supported but general opinion was that it is in need of a major upgrade.

### **Children's Play Equipment**

- Many participants supported the proposals to upgrade existing play equipment such as the water play area and also supported the expansion of play areas onto the eastern side of the peninsular.
- Many participants expressed disappointment in the past removal of the tree house and mouse house play structures. Some participants suggested that a tree house type facility be returned to the park. They understood the reason for removal - safety issues and that these would be difficult and potentially costly to deal with.
- The majority of participants supported the installation of more innovative play equipment.

### **Foreshore Kiosk (Item 17)**

The majority of participants supported the Foreshore Kiosk on the western lake edge. Some participants realised a need for more commercial development on the lake edge to make the most of the views of the lake, to the arboretum and the Brindabella's beyond. Many saw the advantage of the kiosk doubling up as a viewing point for rowing regattas. Some participants did not support any development on the lake edge as it would detract from the natural feel of the lake and park.

### **Other Comments**

- There were some objected to any proposal that would alter the current image of the park.
- Some participants supported only an upgrade of existing facilities (BBQ's, toilets and general maintenance) and were against the proposal to increase options for alternative uses and activities and, that the park should be retained as it is with no further development, particularly if it was going to attract greater numbers of people and vehicles to the park.
- Some participants suggested that more consultation be undertaken on the master plan.
- Some suggested that there should have been more notice of the drop-in consultation session – i.e. notification signs put up at the shops alerting people to the upcoming session.
- For some, there was a perception that too much money had been spent on the master plan and that money should have been put towards maintaining the park.
- Some participants suggested that the master plan report did not explain why the pedestrian bridge was still included as a possible development despite many Yarralumla residents and some other people objecting to the proposal.
- Some participants suggested that the consultation summary in the master plan report should more clearly explain why key development proposals remain in the report when many objections have been raised.

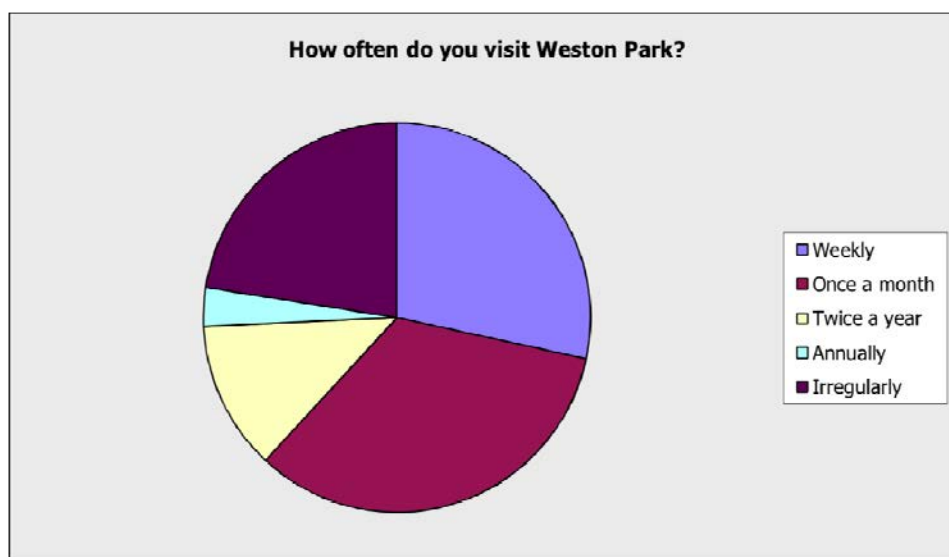


## On-line Survey

The final draft master plan was posted on [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au) - 'Get Involved' and an online questionnaire was linked to this site. Public comment on the final draft master plan was extended from the original closing date of 19 July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2009 in response to community request. There were over 200 respondents to the survey and a range of key common issues have emerged. In general terms there was a degree of polarisation of opinions between those who enthusiastically welcomed proposals for improvement and development and others who were strongly against any type of development in the park and preferred it to be a natural bush setting. Findings from the on-line survey are summarised below and the complete survey is contained in *Appendix 1.4*.

### Question 1 – How often do you visit Weston Park?

Of the 218 people who responded to this question, the highest group at 33.5% stated that they visited the park once a month and the next highest group at 28.4% stated that they visited weekly. 3.2% of respondents stated that they visit annually.



### Question 2 – How do you use Weston Park?

Participants in the on-line questionnaire recorded a wide variety of reasons for visiting the park but the two key activities cited by respondents were social picnics and barbeques (45%) and water based activity such as sailing and rowing (32%).

Outdoor exercise was a common response with 30% of participants claiming walking was their main reason for going to the park with cycling, jogging and walking the dog also identified as common pursuits.

The other theme which emerged from the responses to this question was that Weston Park is strongly family oriented, a favoured destination for family get-togethers and for parents and grandparents to take young children for outings.

Taking visitors to see the park, the lake and the Governor General's residence was another popular recreational activity cited in the questionnaire.

Many respondents recorded nostalgic memories of times past at the park typified by the following:

*“When my children were little we picnicked here nearly every weekend with friends and visitors to Canberra. I now walk there and when my grandchildren visit we go to the play areas and to the water area with a creek and bridges. It is the highlight of their visit.”*

### **Question 3 – What attributes of Weston Park do you value the most?**

The most favoured attribute of the park cited by questionnaire respondents was the quality of the natural landscape, lack of man-made structures and formality which generated a sense of tranquillity. 45% of respondents named this quality as the most valued attribute of the park typified by the following:

*“The lack of development in the area. The feeling of being out of the city while still being close to the centre...the serenity, forest setting, open spaces...natural beauty, unspoilt nature...peace and quiet.”*

38% of people who responded to this question said they valued the park for its ‘child friendly qualities’ and the green open spaces that allowed young children to run around and play in safety.

27% of respondents appreciated the access to the lake and ponds and how this provided passive and active participation in a wide range of water sports.

The other highly valued attributes cited by respondents were the views and vistas, the trees both Indigenous and European and the miniature railway.

### **Question 4 – Do you believe the DRAFT master plan recognises and enhances these attributes?**

Of those who answered to this question, 27% agreed that the master plan did respond to the valued attributes of the park, while 72.8% did not agree. In reviewing the answers to the survey as a whole, this response is clearly related to concern about a specific feature (pedestrian bridge) and concern about potential for over-development or that the character of the park would change while other aspects of the plan are strongly supported.

The main objection to the master plan by 55% of respondents focussed on the proposal for the pedestrian bridge and concerns that it would will impact on the beauty of the landscape, the useability of LBG for water activities, reduce safety for children and encourage more rapid through traffic

Other reasons cited in the on-line survey were fears of over development and how this may impact on the natural feel of the park, concern that the miniature railway may be discontinued as part of the master plan proposal and uncertainty about the affect the that the linked road network may have on safety, tranquillity and amenity.

Of the number of people who supported all aspects of the plan, some felt that the park would be better utilised through the upgrade of amenities while others applauded the foreshore loop path as providing a much better connection between water and land.

### **Question 5 – Education/Interpretation Centre**

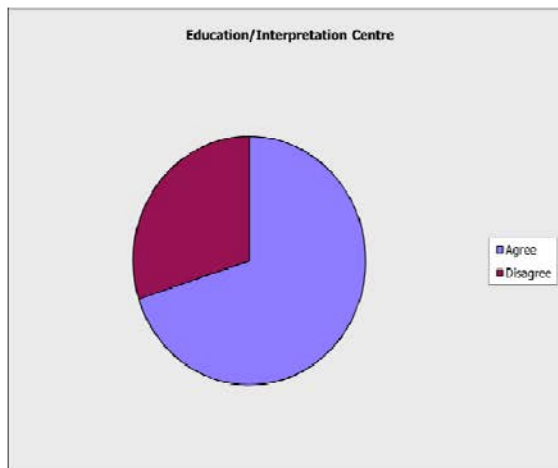
Support for the Interpretation Centre by respondents to the on-line survey was strong with 70% of participants in support of the proposal.

Reasons cited included that the centre would:

- Promote and encourage the value and history of the park.
- Assist community and visitors to better appreciate the amenities of the park.

- Generate respect for the park.
- Acknowledge the important cultural significance of Weston, arboretums and native urban planting experimentation.
- Provide an educational experience particularly valuable for schools.

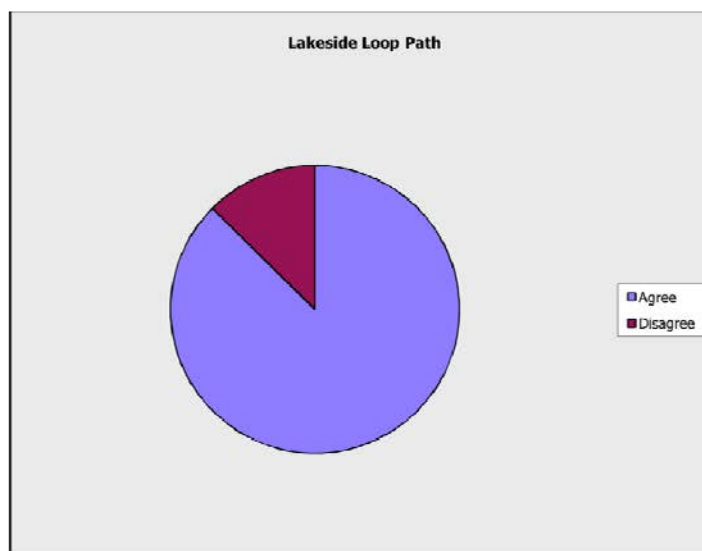
Those respondents who opposed the facility were of the opinion that the park should be left as natural as possible with minimal man-made structures and that those resources could be better employed elsewhere.



#### Question 6 – Lakeside Loop Path

This proposal was very well supported by 87% of respondents to the on-line survey who thought it was a great enhancement to the existing amenity of the lake and would provide safer access for pedestrians and cyclists. Those who offered qualified support cited sensitive design as a requirement for the proposal to be acceptable.

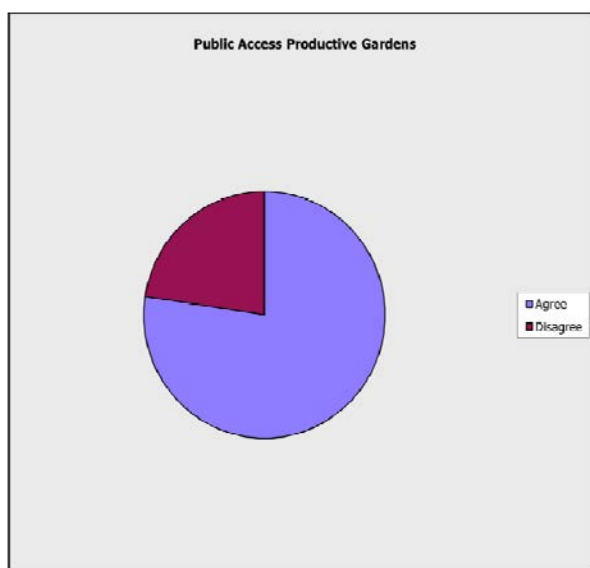
Participants who did not support the proposal (12%) were generally of the opinion that any development of the park is too much development.



**Question 7 – Public Access Productive Gardens**

This proposal was supported by 77% of respondents who stated that it would be unique in Canberra, and a useful and educational resource. Others felt that this was a type of resource which would encourage community engagement and a similar facility in Hobart Botanical Gardens was cited as an exemplar of its type. Those who supported the proposal with a proviso were concerned that the gardens be well integrated, carefully managed and well funded.

Those who did not support the idea cited experience with similar projects which were unsuccessful, resulting in a risk that the facility would be vandalised, neglected or exploited. Others felt that Weston Park was not the right location for productive gardens and they would be better located at Pialligo. Some people stated that they preferred the natural ambience of the park with minimal development.

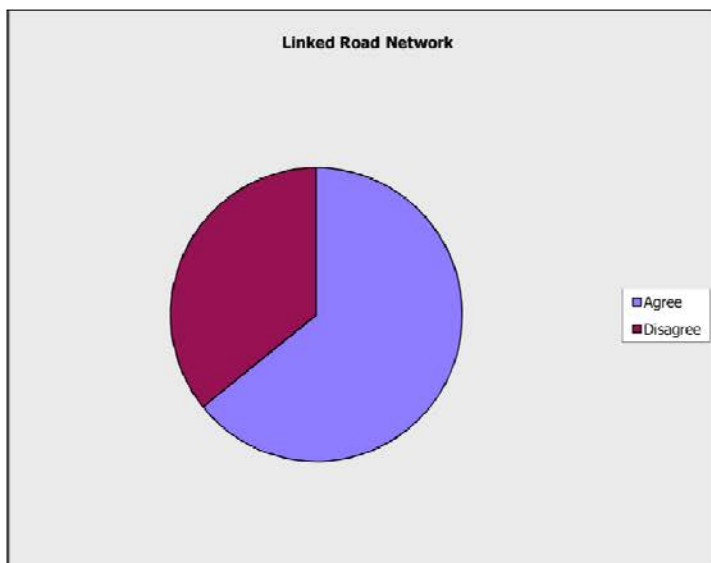


**Question 8 – Linked Road Network**

The Linked Road Network proposal was support by 64% of people who responded to the on-line survey. The reasons for support were that the existing road system is inadequate and that the proposal would improve traffic flow through the park. Some participants registered qualified support with a request that there be very slow speed limits, frequent pedestrian crossings and other traffic calming devices to discourage unsafe driving.

Of the 36% of respondents who did not support the idea, most were of the opinion that the existing access and road network is adequate. Others stated that it would be contrary to the open space/ water front character and would diminish the serenity of Weston Park. Some respondents wanted less emphasis on car access into the park.

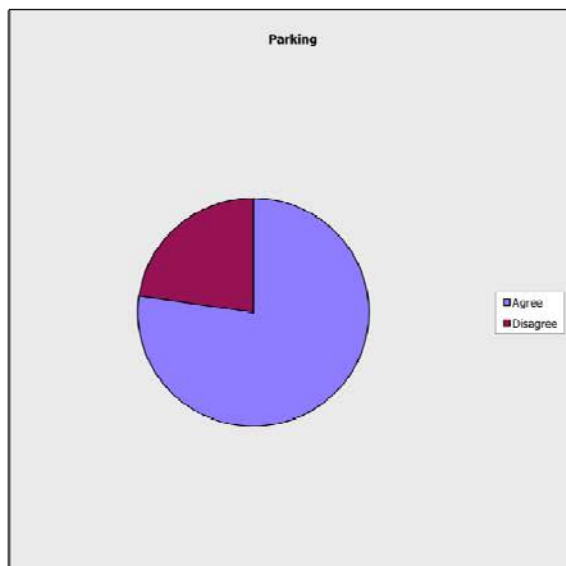




**Question 9 – Parking**

77% of respondents agreed with the proposal to improve parking arrangements stating that existing parking provision is inadequate leading to safety issues, infringement issues and damage to grassed areas. There was a request that more parking be provided in particular at Hobdays Cottage and the nursery. Others believed that parking provision needed to be well distributed and strategically placed away from picnic areas, that it should provide for little groups as necessary not masses and able to be multi functional. Some people felt that parking should only be provided for disabled park users and that all parking would need time limits.

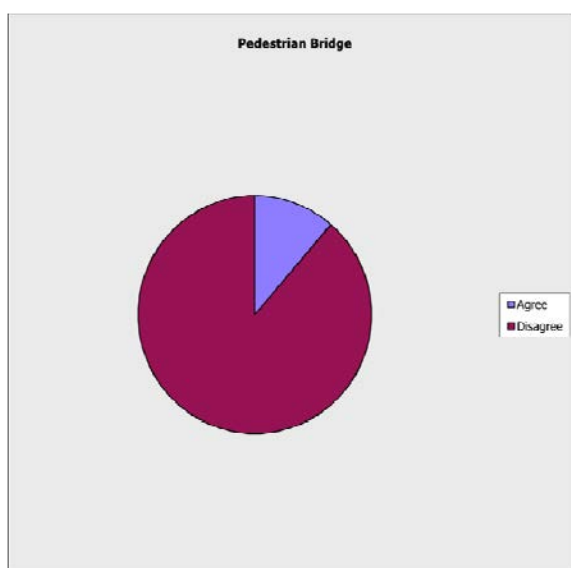
23% were not in agreement with the proposal because they feel that the existing informal parking arrangement is sufficient. Again these participants were concerned that the car does not become the central focus of the park because it would take away from the peaceful experience they value. They stated that the park should be reserved for pedestrians.



### Question 10 – Pedestrian Bridge

There was a strong response to this proposal with 89% of participants stating that they could not support it. The main reason was the impact it would have on water craft sport and recreation and other activity such as ballooning, fishing and tourism. Also cited was that it was unnecessary, not useful and that there was no demonstrated community need for a pedestrian bridge to link Weston Park with Black Mountain. Others felt it would have an unacceptable impact on the natural beauty and ambience of the park and interrupt views of the lake and park while some felt it would be a waste of time and money.

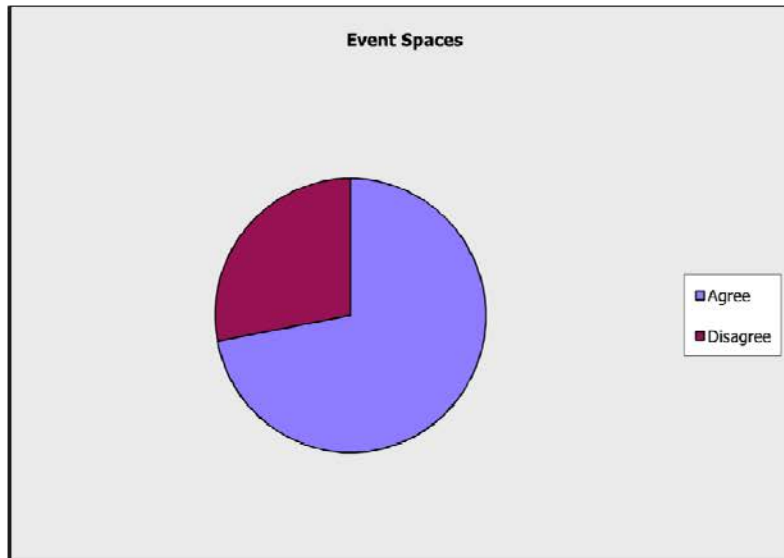
Those who supported the proposal thought it would be convenient for commuting cyclists/ pedestrians and would enhance the recreational use of circuit paths. Some people liked the proposal because it was in Burley Griffin’s original design.



### Question 11 – Event Spaces

72% of participants were in support of the proposal for event spaces stating that Weston Park is an unusual and attractive venue which is underutilised in this way. Respondents felt that more events would increase community usage and in particular with regard to water events. Some people qualified their support with the request that the event spaces be designed and managed so as not to detract from other qualities of the park, that they be subtle, designed on a modest scale with no additional permanent infrastructure.

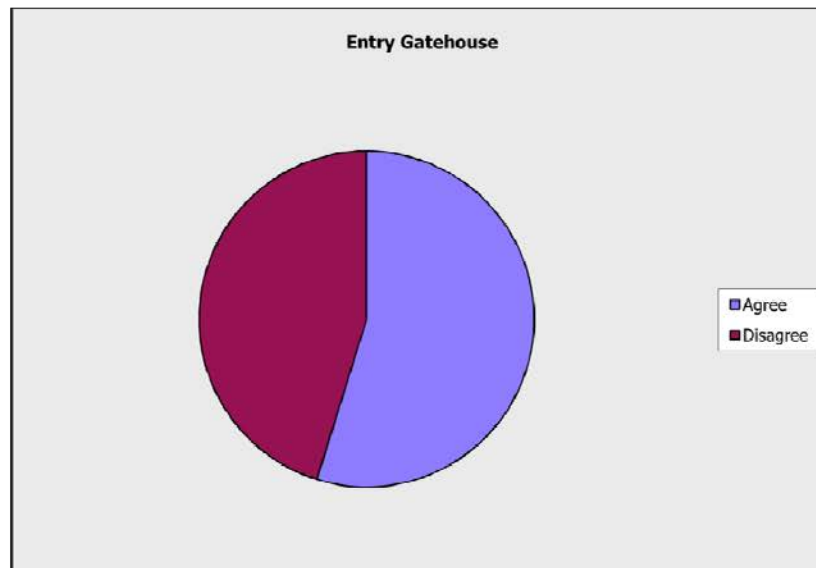
Of the people who were not in support, most felt that Weston Park is not a suitable location for events and that the “heritage values of the park should be left untouched”. These people wanted to see the park remain “simple and non-commercial” and stated that there are plenty of other locations for this type of activity. Some people had concerns about preservation of the green space and quiet neighbourhood while others felt that there was insufficient detail for them to be able to give the proposal proper consideration.



### Question 12 – Entry Gatehouse

There was a fairly equally divided response to this proposal with 55% of respondents in support and 45% who were not in support. Those who supported the proposal did so because they felt this was an appropriate way to formalise the entry to Weston Park, that this would designate the park area and could support security, control vehicle access and provide information and maps of the park.

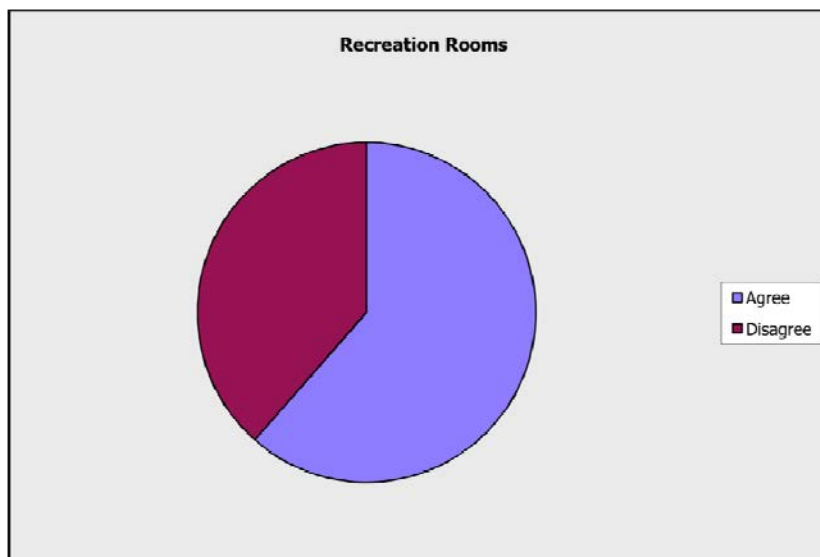
Those who did not support the idea stated that an entry sign would be sufficient and that current controls are satisfactory. They felt that this was a low priority and some people said that the park does not need a 'pretentious grand entry', that it would seem restrictive and was not justified. Many felt that the gatehouse would lead to an entry fee being imposed while some people misinterpreted this as already a fait accompli if the gatehouse were installed. Some people said they do not want the park to be closed at night and others thought the money could be better used elsewhere.



### Question 13 – Recreation Rooms

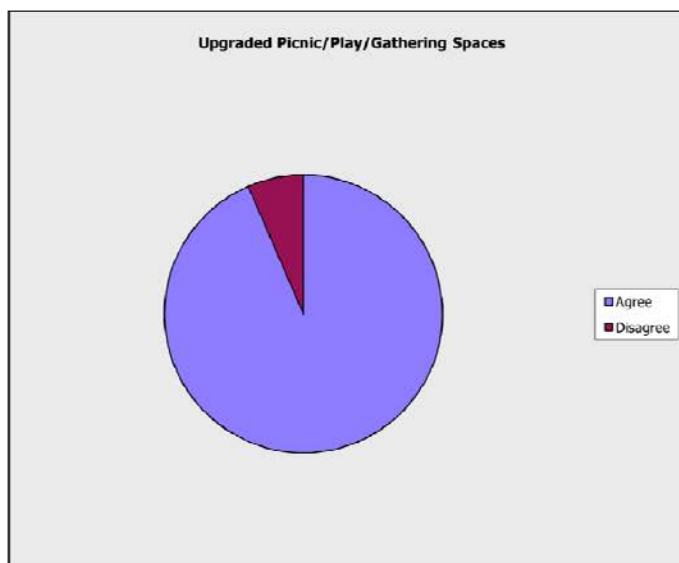
There was some misinterpretation of this proposal in that many people understood this to be about a built indoor environment. Despite this 62% of respondents supported the idea stating that the park had the potential to provide attractive sites for various specific-use recreational activities which would also encourage social interaction.

Those who did not support the proposal did so on the grounds that further commercial use of the park was undesirable and a desire to keep building to a minimum. People stated that Canberra already has these provisions, that the emphasis in Weston Park should be on outdoor natural activity and they felt that the proposal would ruin the park's ambience.



### Question 14 – Upgraded Picnic/Play/Gathering Spaces

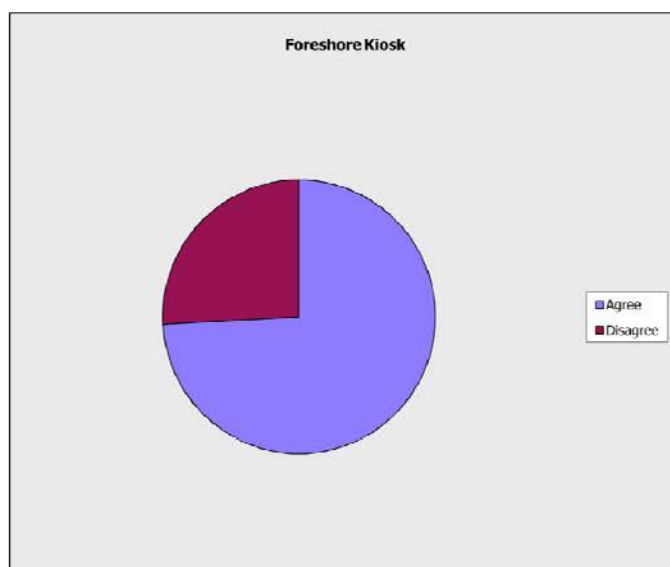
This proposal was highly regarded and strongly supported with 94% of respondents in support. People felt that the park needs this upgrade to enhance family opportunities and asked that the play opportunities for children not be “namby pamby – something adventurous”. Participants felt the proposal would enhance the overall image and purpose of the park. Many people stated that the park needs less formal spaces and would like to see modest improvement, with no additional infrastructure and without spoiling the natural feel. Some people also expressed a desire to keep the miniature railway. Those who did not support the proposal stated that the existing provision is sufficient.



### Question 15 – Foreshore Kiosk

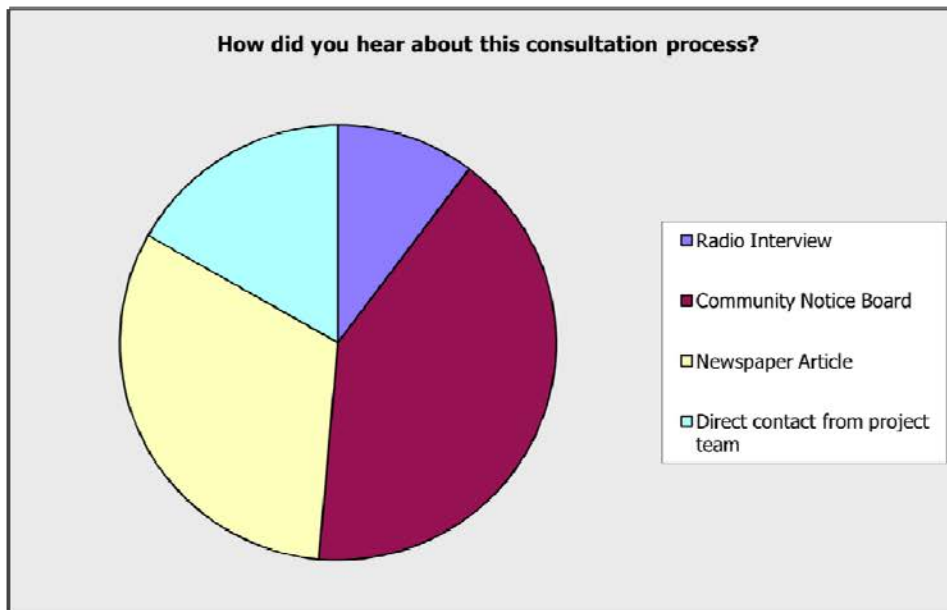
74% of respondents support the proposal for a foreshore kiosk citing a clear need for such a unique facility *“coffee on the foreshore would enhance gathering and tourist opportunities and provide a great aspect for viewing/judging water event... boat docking area for water access to kiosk”*. Some qualified their support asking that this development be discrete, relatively small and sympathetic with the nature of the area. A number of participants who supported the proposal also questioned the commercial viability of the plan while others felt there was a strong need to develop a waste plan in relation to the proposal to ensure that the lake was not polluted from kiosk activity.

Those who did not support the proposal stated that the park does not need another building and that current facilities are sufficient. They felt that such a proposal would change the natural character of the precinct and there were concerns that it could lead to further commercial development. Some participants requested an upgrade of the existing kiosk and railway instead – *“best coffee in Canberra”* and one respondent requested that the design team refer to a Senate Inquiry led by Senator John Knight into foreshore usage which recommended lake frontage be kept as open space.





**Question 16 – How did you hear about the consultation?**

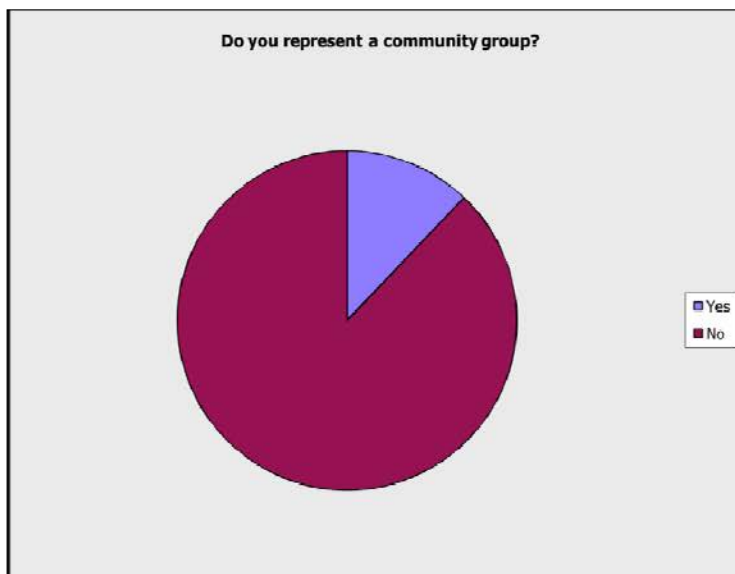


**Question 17 – What suburb do you live in?**

There was a fairly even spread of respondent suburbs across Canberra with concentration in the following suburbs in descending order:

- Yarralumla
- Narrabundah
- Deakin
- Chifley

**Question 18 – Do you represent a community group?**



## **Public Submissions**

Copies of the draft final report and the questionnaire were also available at the Belconnen, City, Dickson, Tuggeranong and Woden libraries as well as the four ACT Government Shopfronts. A total of 36 emails and 7 mailed submissions were received from individuals and groups. The key common issues which emerged from these submissions are noted below.

### **Miniature Railway**

With a petition containing over 1000 signatories taken into account, the concern for the miniature railway to be on-going and upgraded was the most frequently cited concern in the public submissions. The lessee of the miniature train facility has made a number of representations to TAMS which have focused on the desire to obtain government approval and financial assistance to retain and upgrade the facility.

### **Response**

The Draft Master Plan does not propose to remove the Miniature Railway or the associated concession facility which is part of the lease conditions. It should be noted that the ACT Government is not responsible for upgrades to private property and will not be making concessions to the planning process to accommodate the lessee. The Miniature Train lessee is subject to standard Territory Development Application procedures and should the owner wish to make changes through an upgrade that would change the current lease provisions it is their responsibility to do so in accordance with ACTPLA's & NCA's requirements. TAMS are currently in discussion with the operator to establish ways in which the facility can be improved to bring it up to a standard that is suitable for Weston Park.

### **Pedestrian Bridge**

Objection to the proposal to construct a pedestrian bridge linking Kurrajong Point to Black Mountain, Item 29 on the master plan, was the second most frequently mentioned issue in the public submissions. The majority of these submissions made the objection because they felt it would impact on water activity, obstruct park and lake views and create some safety issues.

### **Response**

The pedestrian bridge is an idea based on the intentions of Walter Burley Griffin's early plans for the area. The 1913 and 1915 plans illustrated a bridge to Black Mountain Peninsular whilst the 1918 plan shows a bridge directly to Black Mountain. A pedestrian crossing supports one of the main objectives of the master plan by making the park more accessible and creates another recreational cycling and pedestrian circuit. Through the master planning process there has been consultation with a wide range of people and groups and the bridge has received support through the consultation period from several participants. If the bridge was to be retained, it would need to be designed in consultation with all lake users to ensure their needs are met. A pontoon that can be dismantled may be another option.

### **Preservation of Heritage and Natural Values**

Questions about how the master plan would align with the Heritage Plan and concern that master plan proposals may impact on the natural aesthetics of Weston Park were the key issues of the third most commonly stated concerns in the public submissions. How the master plan would ensure that the aesthetics of the "bush capital" park were preserved in particular regarding the foreshore kiosk/restaurant and other formal landscape elements typified the concerns. There was a request that the park be left undeveloped and information sought about the total area of "hard surfaces"

proposed in the master plan. These submissions contained objections to more built infrastructure in the park and strong support for retaining a maximum of informal open space.

### **Response**

The masterplan has been commissioned in recognition that current maintenance and management regimes are based on an outdated plan (1999) and recognition that it no longer serves a useful purpose for management and maintenance of the park. A Conservation Management Plan is to be prepared which will ensure that all proposals contained within the master plan do not compromise heritage values of the park. There has been and will continue to be consultation with the National Capital Authority. Weston Park is a man-made feature as is the lake. Existing facilities such as the playgrounds, toilets, miniature train and nurseries are all facilities that fit well within the existing setting and the design team believes that the foreshore kiosk can be designed to fit sensitively within the site whilst providing an exciting option for park and lake users to experience the precinct.

The master plan seeks to introduce activity and additional attractions to the park and only proposes small scale developments such as the interpretation/education centre and foreshore kiosk/café. These developments are intended to support both current visitors as well as attract greater numbers of visitors to the park which will attract more maintenance funding from the Government. The intention is to return the park back to its glory days in the 1970's and 80's, provide the opportunity to replace the attractions to the park that we all remember when we were young and to improve the way it works. Any development to Weston Park will be designed after consultation with key users and target groups to best meet their requirements.

### **Facilities for children**

Several submissions asked that there be a stronger focus on safe, age and ability appropriate play spaces and equipment for children including consideration of reinstating the tree house, upgrading the water play facility, redevelopment of the maze plus support for the ponds proposal.

### **Response**

Some play equipment was removed as it did not meet current playground design standards and was a financial burden on the Territory due to constant repairs being required to maintain ageing and damaged infrastructure. The ACT Government is preparing a planning and design document for existing and proposed playgrounds known as the "Accessible and Inclusive ACT Playspaces". It is in draft form and will be released in December 2009. The document sets out design guidelines for refurbishing existing playgrounds and for the design of new playgrounds to make them accessible and inclusive for all ages and abilities. This will inform future inclusion of play equipment and play spaces within the park.

### **Consultation**

Some submissions expressed concern that the consultative process was inadequate, there was a perception that important user groups were not contacted and a request for an extension of the consultation period.

### **Response**

TAMS believes that this consultation process has been thorough and has attempted to reach as broad a cross-section of the community as possible. (Please refer to pages 4 and 5 of the consultation report which outlines the process and methodology.) In response to community concern, the consultation period was extended and an additional two stages were added to the program to ensure a wide range of comment and input was received, recorded and incorporated into the final report.

### **Traffic management**

There was some concern that the traffic plan proposal may impact on the park in negative way including concern about increasing risks to young children playing in the park; increased noise and dust affecting user experiences, attract undesirable motor vehicle activity and, impede on the spacious natural open-spaces.

### **Response**

Link roads will not attract more traffic. They will remove dead-ends and help circulation throughout the park.

### **Other views articulated in the public submissions included:**

- Support for site ecology.
- Request that there be consideration of outdoor artworks.
- Support for Conservation Management Plan.
- Support for Interpretation/Education Centre.
- Support for further development of road and cycle ways.
- Support for diversification of recreational opportunities.
- Concern that increased development of the park may create security issues.
- Support for ongoing maintenance and management of the park.
- Questions about safety in relation to shared use of lakeside loop.
- Query about visitor numbers.
- Congratulations and general support for master plan.
- Support for lakeside loop pathway.
- Request for priority of works and estimate of commencement of works.

## **Stage 4 – Community Evaluation and Input**

### **Albert Hall Meeting**

On Monday 27 July 2009 Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) staff held a community meeting for the final draft master plan for Weston Park. The meeting was held in Albert Hall between 6:00pm and 7:30pm. 31 members of the public attended the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Ms Yersheena O'Donoghue, Senior Manager for TAMS Community Engagement and Communications Unit supported by Ms Julie Barnes. Project team members present at the meeting were Ms Diana Hill, Manager of Design and Development, Mark Overton, Project Officer and James Hayter, Director of Oxigen, Landscape Architects, the project consultant.

James Hayter and Diana Hill presented the rationale behind the six main proposals contained in the draft master plan:

1. Pedestrian Bridge
2. Link Roads
3. Interpretive/Education Centre
4. Foreshore Kiosk/Cafe
5. Lakeside Loop Path
6. Entry Gatehouse

A transcript of the presentation is contained in *Appendix 1.5*

### **Question Time**

The meeting was opened up for questions from the floor and a summary of the proceedings follows with the full transcript contained in *Appendix 1.5*.

### **Pedestrian Bridge**

The discussion was dominated to some extent by questions and statements which related to the pedestrian bridge proposal. Participants expressed concern that the bridge may impact on some water based activity and pedestrian safety was also raised. One participant asked if the proposal was responding to future development plans at Black Mountain. There were statements that the proposal did not reflect the Walter Burley Griffin plan and a suggestion that a tunnel be considered instead. Some people asked why the bridge was still included in the master plan when consultation had revealed community opposition to the idea and there was a suggestion that the consultative process was not effective due to the bridge staying on the masterplan despite objections.

One attendee fully supported the idea stating that it would improve access into the park and attract more visitors, while other participants expressed qualified support for the bridge proposal, saying they would like to see more detailed design and hear more robust debate around the advantages and disadvantages.

### **Response**

Participants were reassured that the bridge had not been proposed in response to any future development on Black Mountain, nor was there any known development and that the bridge would be designed in consultation with all lake users to ensure their needs were met. The master planning process ensures consultation with a wide range of people and groups and the bridge proposal remains in the draft plan because it has received support through the consultation period. The consultation report contained within the master plan will be amended to reflect the views of all those consulted.

There was a request that the bridge proposal be put to the vote which resulted in 5 people raising their hand in support of the proposal and 16 against.

### **Overdevelopment**

The other predominant concern was that the proposals in the master plan may result in the park losing some of its natural ambience and 'Darling Harbour Syndrome' was cited as an example of undesirable development. Attendees expressed concern that the open green and grassy quality of the park may be compromised by too much infrastructure, additional roads and more formal pathways. Safety for younger children was raised as a particular concern with regard to a perceived increase in traffic brought about by the link roads and bus access. There was also concern that the proposed kiosk, jetties and boardwalks would impinge on beach access from the water and add unnecessary infrastructure to the shoreline.

### **Response**

The project team explained that the emphasis on the master plan is to restore the park to its former glory and reinstate much of the amenity which many attendees remember from childhood. There was no intention to overdevelop the park and the ideas proposed in the master plan are all minor in terms of development. The proposals are designed to improve the viability of the park by introducing activity and additional attractions. Link roads will not attract more traffic. They will remove dead-ends and help traffic flows throughout the park. The jetties kiosk, bridge and boardwalks will all be designed after consultation with key user groups to best meet their requirements and the safety of pedestrians/cyclists.



### **Water Quality**

There were questions about water quality in the lake and concern that the lake was closed for most of last summer due to poor water quality.

### **Response**

It was acknowledged that water quality in Lake Burley Griffin is a major issue as it is with many inland water bodies around the country. The master plan proposes to reinvigorate the original wetland areas to the north of the Nursery. They will double up as a collection point to filter stormwater flows from the park before being discharged into the lake and can be used as trial areas for wetland and aquatic plantings. TAMS will seek advice on other stormwater treatment initiatives around inner Canberra.

### **Support for Master Plan**

Several participants expressed appreciation for the effort that has gone into the master plan and congratulated the team on a wonderful job. The conservation and ecological proposals in the plan were applauded.

### **Additional Matters**

Other questions and statements included:

1. Concern that the gatehouse proposal would lead to entry fees being charged in the park and how would it be locked each day?
2. Will the jetties be large enough to cope with larger boats?
3. Does the government intend to remove the miniature railway?
4. How was the visitor figure of 720,000 calculated?

### **Response**

1. The current ACT Government has no intention to charge entry fees to the park. TAMS have a contractor that locks all major parks around the ACT in accordance with prescribed seasonal closing times.
2. The jetties will be designed after consultation with all user groups to ensure their needs are met.
3. There is no motive to remove the miniature train. TAMS are commencing discussions with the operator to establish ways in which the facility can be improved to bring it up to a standard that is suitable for Weston Park.
4. The team will provide information on the source of data used to determine visitor figures.

## **Conclusion**

Great public spaces are destinations that are accessible in a multitude of ways. People react psychologically to the spaces they enter and are drawn to attractive, welcoming outdoor settings. Thriving public spaces are critical to liveable cities and healthy communities.

Communities should be involved from the outset in planning and design, making changes and generating a vision for their public places. The Weston Park master planning process has consulted with a broad cross-section of park users, government agencies and the wider community in defining the project from the start. The consultation program has provided multiple opportunities for both stakeholders and the wider community to get involved. This has provided a prime opportunity to gather local knowledge and ideas and it also fosters a sense of ownership that contributes to the ongoing success of the park.

## Weston Park Draft Master Plan Consultation

While Weston Park and the Lake are man-made features, the consultations reveal that the aesthetics of the park reflect a treasured characteristic of Canberra as 'the bush capital'.

A wide range of users and types of uses were identified, and recognised in the development of the new masterplan. The draft masterplan supports use by families and people looking for a quiet place for solitude and contemplation. Equally, it is a popular location for formal sporting and recreation events as well as community events. Weston Park is an extension of some people's backyards while for others it is an important heritage repository of the horticultural design and development of Canberra.

The master plan for Weston Park strives to reinvigorate a well-loved park that supports a range of active and passive uses and the key challenge for the design team has been to develop the space to meet the needs of a range of users and target groups identified through the consultations. Parks succeed when people come first and landscape is flexible enough to accommodate a variety of uses.

**The majority of people consulted were supportive of the proposals contained in the draft master plan with the exception of the pedestrian bridge.**

Funding allocated in 2009-10 Budget to a four year program for Town and District Park Upgrades will see the construction of key improvements to the park such as the perimeter path, improvements to the play, car parking, BBQ and picnic facilities. A Conservation Management Plan will be prepared in the 2009/10 financial year. This will ensure that all proposals contained within the master plan properly align with the heritage values of the park.

Further feasibility studies and consultation will be undertaken for a number of key master plan proposals such as the Educational/Information Centre, Pedestrian Bridge Link and the Lakeside Kiosk.

Capital works bids will be prepared and submitted for budget consideration over the next 5 to 10 years to fund the implementation of key proposals contained within the endorsed master plan.

## ***Appendix 1.1. Interview Template***

**Weston Park Master Plan  
Stakeholder Consultation Record**

Organisation Name:

Name/Title:

Email:

Phone/Mobile:

Address:

Preferred contact method:

1. How do you currently use Weston Park?

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2. What are the most important aspects or features of Weston Park that should be preserved and/or enhanced?

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3. How could access to the park be improved, as well as movement for vehicles, cycles and people through the park?

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4. What additional facilities could be provided within the park to improve its use?

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5. How important is achieving biodiversity within the park by the introduction of a wider range of plant species?

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6. What activities, including recreational activities and events, should be part of Weston Park's future?

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7. What opportunities are there for partnerships, such as funding partnerships, to deliver an agreed future for Weston Park?

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8. What infrastructure needs does your organisation have in relation to planning Weston Park's future?

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9. How do you think we can interpret better Weston Park's history and, furthermore, the history of development of Canberra's landscape?

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10. What do you consider to be the three most important improvements that could be made to Weston Park?

a)

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b)

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c)

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11. Any other comments that will help us with the planning of the park?

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***Appendix 1.2. Key Stakeholder Groups***

Weston Park Draft Master Plan Consultation

	Organisation	Contact Person	Contact Details	Comments
CONSULTATION MEETING ON FRIDAY 19 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER; 11-12.30PM; AT MACARTHUR HOUSE, NORTHBOURNE AVE				
1	Catholic Education Office	John Barker; Finance & Planning Peter Clarke, Manager of Planning	Ph: 6234 5455 <a href="mailto:peter.clarke@cg.catholic.edu.au">peter.clarke@cg.catholic.edu.au</a>	Let details of consultation for Friday 19; 11-12.30 at Macarthur House with their secretary, Rachel Miller confirmed that Peter Clarke can attend this consultation. <i>email invite sent. CEO sent apology while consultation was underway. Sent questions 24/9/08</i>
2	Karabar High School	Phil Batey, Head teacher in sport	Ph: 6298 4335 (direct) <a href="mailto:PHILIP.BATEY@det.nsw.edu.au">PHILIP.BATEY@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	Unlikely to be able to attend this session but would like to be consulted either by phone or email. <i>Sent questions 24/9/08</i>
3.	Lake Ginninderra College			<i>Don't want to participate.</i>
4.	St Francis Xavier, Florey			<i>School unable to identify relevant person.</i>
5.	Alfred Deakin High School	Todd Brazier, PE Department	Ph: 6205 5559 (direct) <a href="mailto:todd.brazier@ed.act.edu.au">todd.brazier@ed.act.edu.au</a>	Yes regularly use for Cross Country events and would like to be involved in consultation meeting.
6.	Kinross Wolaroi School Rowing Club	Mr Donnelly, Bursar of the school and Head Rowing Coach	Ph: 6392 0310 (direct)	Interviewed over phone 24/9/08
7.	Birragai	Ms Marli Ayrton	Ph: 6205 6748 <a href="mailto:marli.ayrton@ed.act.edu.au">marli.ayrton@ed.act.edu.au</a>	Attend consultation Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September.
8.	National Capital Education Tourism Project	Garry Watson	6162 4460 <a href="mailto:garry@ncetp.org.au">garry@ncetp.org.au</a>	Interviewed
9.	Canberra Youth Theatre		Ph: 6248 5057	<i>Don't want to be involved.</i>

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	Organisation	Contact Person	Contact Details	Comments
10.	Youth Coalition	Carrie Fowle	Ph: 6247 3540 <a href="mailto:carrie@youthcoalition.net">carrie@youthcoalition.net</a>	Interviewed
11	Royal Canberra Golf Club	Ian Trevena General Manager	Ph 6281 3882 <a href="mailto:gm@royalcanberra.com.au">gm@royalcanberra.com.au</a>	Meet Thurs 2 Oct – wants Exec Summary of Brief before meeting
12	Lake Burley Griffin Cruises	Jim Paterson	0419 418 846 <a href="mailto:jimbo@lakecruises.com.au">jimbo@lakecruises.com.au</a>	Meet Fri 19 Sept 9.30. Due to Floriade running cruises 10 – 4.30pm plus evening cruises
13	MV Southern Cross	Brian Marriott Advised that Lake Users Gp meet with NCA on Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	6273 1784 <a href="mailto:brian.marriott@csc.com.au">brian.marriott@csc.com.au</a>	Can't attend meetings Thurs/Fridays Daily trip 3pm On Thursdays do 2 extra trips: 10am Government House Cruise + evening dinner cruise. Also take private bookings + education tours
14	Lakeside Ferry Cruises	John Agnese	0418 828 357 did not want to provide email or address	Consult by phone. Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> 11am Frustrated with other consultation processes on other projects eg Kingston Foreshore – feels like his time being wasted.
15	Canberra Lake Cruises	Stephen Winthrop	0407 074 371	Consultation by phone.
16	COTA	Paul Flint	6282 3777 <a href="mailto:pflint@cota-act.org.au">pflint@cota-act.org.au</a>	Could be available next week. Wants info before determining if he or others come.
17	ACROD	Kate Little	Ph 6283 3213/ 0409 800 <a href="mailto:acrod_act@acrod.org.au">acrod_act@acrod.org.au</a>	Sent questions
18	Canberra Blind Society	Judy Hackett	Ph 6247 4580	Will circulate and get someone to attend

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	Organisation	Contact Person	Contact Details	Comments
			<a href="mailto:canblind@tpg.com.au">canblind@tpg.com.au</a> <a href="mailto:sharon.sobey@emailme.net.au">sharon.sobey@emailme.net.au</a>	
19	Guide Dog Association NSW & ACT	Beth Helmers	6285 2988 <a href="mailto:bhelmers@guidedogs.com.au">bhelmers@guidedogs.com.au</a>	
20	Leapfrog Adventures	Jed and Barry Cooper	6287 4267 <a href="mailto:lfrogadv@tpg.com.au">lfrogadv@tpg.com.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Can't attend meeting.</b> Want to be advised when master plan ready for comment</li> </ul>
211	Sailability ACT	Pat Gabriel	6281 0987 <a href="mailto:sailact@netspeed.com.au">sailact@netspeed.com.au</a>	Attended consultation
22	ACT National Trust	Dr Peter Dowling Eric Martin	Ph 6230 0533 <a href="mailto:peter@act.nationaltrust.org.au">peter@act.nationaltrust.org.au</a> <a href="mailto:eric@emaa.com.au">eric@emaa.com.au</a>	<b>Eric Martin attended consultation</b>
23	Friends of Westbourne Woods	Ken Eldridge	6161 1025 <a href="mailto:ken.eldridge@netspeed.com.au">ken.eldridge@netspeed.com.au</a> <a href="mailto:ken.eldridge@csiro.com.au">ken.eldridge@csiro.com.au</a>	Attended consultation  Has run walking tours through the Westbourne Woods. Ken is an honorary research fellow with CSIRO in the plant history section
24	ACT for Trees	Robert Boden		<b>Ill – no longer available</b>
25	FACTA	Tony Fearnside	6288 7656 <a href="mailto:janton@netspeed.com.au">janton@netspeed.com.au</a>	Attended consultation

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	Organisation	Contact Person	Contact Details	Comments
26	Australian Garden History Society	Tony Byrne  Madeleine Maple	6247 3642 <a href="mailto:tonybyrne@effect.net.au">tonybyrne@effect.net.au</a>  6274 2155 (W) 6295 9286 (H) 0413 598 493 <a href="mailto:mmapple@grapevine.com.au">mmapple@grapevine.com.au</a>	Attended consultation Will pass on information to Madeleine Maple. Madeleine and Max Bourke undertook study which included condition report English Garden with ACT Government grant. Also developed a walking guide map of the English Garden. Its to be launched by a Minister (after election)
27	Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park	Cathy Robertson	62571951	Recommended to discuss biodiversity. Connected to Arboretum development.
28	Australian /Forest History Society	John Dargavel	6258 9102 <a href="mailto:john.dargavel@ozemail.com.au">john.dargavel@ozemail.com.au</a>	Interviewed
29	Weston Park Railway Model Train	Max Mele	0412 989 702 <a href="mailto:maxmele@tpq.com.au">maxmele@tpq.com.au</a>	Interviewed
30	Go Bush Tours	Terry and Helen Dack Suggested talking to NSW Bus and Coach Assoc + Vic Bus and Coach Assoc	6231 3023	Uses Weston Park occasionally but depends on weather and group for picnic lunches as part of tour. Need amenities not too far from coach parking. Recommended talking with Monaro Coaches. Noted issues with lack of undercover shelter generally in Canberra for bus operators and that often can be found under Parliament House in wet weather for lunch.
31	Monaro Coaches	Malcolm Risby	6161 6300 <a href="mailto:monaro@netspeed.com.au">monaro@netspeed.com.au</a>	Attended consultation
32	Murrays Coaches	Doug Fitzgerald	132251 / <a href="mailto:doug@murrays.com.au">doug@murrays.com.au</a>	Attended consultation



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	Organisation	Contact Person	Contact Details	Comments
		Nektaria Stravropoulos	<a href="mailto:nektaria@murrays.com.au">nektaria@murrays.com.au</a>	

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33	Capital Coaches	Mick Hackett	6260 1001 <a href="mailto:info@capitalcoaches.com.au">info@capitalcoaches.com.au</a>	Attended consultation
34	ACTION Charter Buses	Rebecca Finnegan Manager, Les Gallagher – Area Manager	6207 8059	Interviewed
35	Rowing ACT	Matthew Ronke  Randal Lawrence	<a href="mailto:actra@rowingact.org.au">actra@rowingact.org.au</a>  0417 415 040 <a href="mailto:randal.lawrence@netspeed.com.au">randal.lawrence@netspeed.com.au</a> 3 Bass Gardens Griffith/8 Alexandrina Dr Yarralumla	R Lawrence attended consultation
36	Canberra Cycling Club ACT Cycling		<a href="mailto:act.info@cycling.org.au">act.info@cycling.org.au</a>	Not interested in study
37	Orienteering ACT	John	<a href="mailto:orienteering.act@webone.com.au">orienteering.act@webone.com.au</a>	
38	Canberra Two Day Walk	Kathleen	6288 6401/ 0432 143 922 <a href="mailto:aussiewalk@aussiewalk.com.au">aussiewalk@aussiewalk.com.au</a>	
39	Pedal Power	Paul Truebridge	<a href="mailto:office@pedalpower.org.au">office@pedalpower.org.au</a>  6254 2985/ 0408 201 212 37 Kriewaldt Cct, Higgins 2615 <a href="mailto:dptruebridge@grapevine.com.au">dptruebridge@grapevine.com.au</a>	P Truebridge attended consultation
40	Triathlon ACT	Debbie Styman	6260 4430 <a href="mailto:admin@triathlonact.com.au">admin@triathlonact.com.au</a>	Apology. Debbie forwarded email comments – unable to attend consultation

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41	ACT Cross Country Club	Ken Eyeon  David Hobson	<a href="mailto:kene@incanberra.com.au">kene@incanberra.com.au</a> <a href="mailto:secretary@canberrarunner.com.au">secretary@canberrarunner.com.au</a> ;  <a href="mailto:d-j-hobson@bigpond.com">d-j-hobson@bigpond.com</a> 6258 2676 GPO Box 252 Canberra 2601	D Hobson attended consultation
42	Exercise Walks		<a href="mailto:eagers@iinet.net.au">eagers@iinet.net.au</a> ;	
43	ACT Racing and Fitness Walking	Doug Fitzgerald	6257 6427 <a href="mailto:Wilkopaddles@hotmail.com.au">Wilkopaddles@hotmail.com.au</a> ;  0417 254 844 <a href="mailto:dougfitz@gmail.com">dougfitz@gmail.com</a> 141 Shackleton Cct Mawson 2607	D Fitzgerald attended consultation
44	ACT Veteran Cycling Club		<a href="mailto:info@actvets.cc">info@actvets.cc</a>	
45	Canberra Dragon Boat Racing	Bruce Brown	<a href="mailto:brucebrown@hotmail.com.au">brucebrown@hotmail.com.au</a> <a href="mailto:admin@cdba.com.au">admin@cdba.com.au</a>	
46	YMCA Sailing Club	Hamish Balfour	<a href="mailto:sailing@ymca.org.au">sailing@ymca.org.au</a>	Apology
47	Canberra Southern Cross Yacht Club	Brian Marriott	6273 1784 <a href="mailto:brian.marriott@csccl.com.au">brian.marriott@csccl.com.au</a>	
48	ACT Outdoor Education Association	Annette Lee	6237 5158 <a href="mailto:annettel@outwardbound.com.au">annettel@outwardbound.com.au</a>	
49	Sri Chinmoy Marathon	Amalendu	6248 0232 6251 2813 <a href="mailto:canberra@srchinmoyraces.org">canberra@srchinmoyraces.org</a>	

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50	Dragons Abreast ACT	Marion Blake Judy Richmond	0417 237 638 Po Box 7191 Yarralumla 2600 <a href="mailto:marionblake@bigpond.com">marionblake@bigpond.com</a>	Attended consultation
51	Canberra Outrigger Canoe Club	Dan Curtis	<a href="mailto:dan.curtis@defence.gov.au">dan.curtis@defence.gov.au</a> <a href="mailto:Canberraoutriggers@hotmail.com">Canberraoutriggers@hotmail.com</a>	
52	AIS Rowing	Dean Oakmann	<a href="mailto:dean.oakmann@ausport.gov.au">dean.oakmann@ausport.gov.au</a>	
53	Bilbys Triathlon Club	Julie Quinn	<a href="mailto:Julie.Quinn@environment.gov.au">Julie.Quinn@environment.gov.au</a>	
54	Lake Users Group	c/o Peter Byron + Louise Williams NCA	6257 1068 <a href="mailto:peter.byron@natcap.gov.au">peter.byron@natcap.gov.au</a> <a href="mailto:louise.williams@natcap.gov.au">louise.williams@natcap.gov.au</a>	L Williams provided data base for Group contacts to advise of study and invite to consultation
55	Yachting ACT	Peter Russell	<a href="mailto:pirussell@netspeed.com.au">pirussell@netspeed.com.au</a>	
56	Lake Burley Griffin Canoe Club	John Harmer	6254 9299	
57	ACT Petanque (Bouledogs)	Ivo Ostyn	6292 1629 – h/ 6282 4677 – w <a href="mailto:ostyn@ozemail.com.au">ostyn@ozemail.com.au</a>	Attended consultation
58	Community activist - by request PCL	Di Johnstone	6273 1054 / 0427 975 500 <a href="mailto:dijohnstone@bigpond.com">dijohnstone@bigpond.com</a>	
59	YRA	Dorothy Jauncey ,Jannet Harris Denise Page, Robyn Cooper Max Simpson Morgan, Les Landau, Anne Charlton	68 Mueller St Yarralumla 6281 1936 – h 6125 8931 – w ANU <a href="mailto:dorothy.jauncey@gmail.com">dorothy.jauncey@gmail.com</a>	

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60	Woden Community Council	Bill O'Brien	0439 862 003 <a href="mailto:weobrien@bigpond.net.au">weobrien@bigpond.net.au</a>	
61	North Canberra Community Council	Len Crossfield	<a href="mailto:admin@nthcanberracc.org.au">admin@nthcanberracc.org.au</a>	Made several attempts to contact him including phone + email
<p><i>ACT Government</i></p> <p>Stephen Hughes PCL  Diana Hill PCL  Michael Brice PCL  Lea Durie PCL  Kathy Strehar OCE  Gary Byles ESN  Michael Kidd ESN  Gerard Allen ACTPLA</p> <p>Bryce Brown AFP Water Police – 624567393 <a href="mailto:Bryce.Brown@afp.gov.au">Bryce.Brown@afp.gov.au</a>  Rebecca Finnegan ACTION Coach Tours  Ani Mather, Public Art, artsACT, CMD  Karen Stewart-Moore, Centenary Project, CMD  Simonne Shepherd, Director ACT Tourism 6205 0657  <a href="mailto:simonne.shepherd@act.gov.au">simonne.shepherd@act.gov.au</a>  Can Ercan ACT Heritage <a href="mailto:can.ercan@act.gov.au">can.ercan@act.gov.au</a></p>			<p><i>NCA</i></p> <p>Tod Rohl , Managing Director Planning and Urban Design</p> <p>Peter Clarke Senior Project Officer /0401 997 434 <a href="mailto:peter.clarke@natcap.gov.au">peter.clarke@natcap.gov.au</a></p> <p>????</p>	



### **Appendix 1.3. Online Questionnaire (1)**

1. Did you attend the on-site presentation on Saturday 8 November 2008?

Yes
No

2. How often do you visit Weston Park?

Weekly
One a month
Twice a year
Annually
Irregularly

3. How do you use Weston Park? eg walking the dog, running, weekend picnic, to show visitors etc.

4. What attributes of Weston Park do you value the most?

5. What features of Weston Park would you like to see improved?

6. Do you support the proposals illustrated in the draft Weston Park master plan?

Yes
No

7. What suburb do you live in?

8. Do you represent a community group?

Yes
No

*Parks, Conservation and Lands, ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services has been provided with results from online surveys in full.*

## Appendix 1.4. Online Questionnaire (2)

1. How often do you visit Weston Park?

Weekly
One a month
Twice a year
Annually
Irregularly

2. How do you use Weston Park? eg walking the dog, running, weekend picnic, to show visitors etc.

3. What attributes of Weston Park do you value the most?

4. Do you believe that the DRAFT master plan recognises and enhances these attributes?

Yes
No

5. Education/Interpretation Centre

Agree
Disagree
Why

6. Lakeside Loop Path

Agree
Disagree
Why

7. Public Access Productive Gardens

Agree
Disagree
Why

8. Linked Road Network

Agree
Disagree
Why

9. Parking

Agree
Disagree
Why

10. Pedestrian Bridge

Agree
Disagree
Why

11. Event Spaces

Agree
Disagree
Why

12. Entry Gatehouse

Agree
Disagree
Why

13. Recreation Rooms

Agree
Disagree
Why

14. Upgraded Picnic/Play/Gathering Spaces

Agree
Disagree
Why

15. Foreshore Kiosk

Agree
Disagree
Why

16. How did you hear about this consultation process?

Radio Interview
Community Notice Board
Newspaper Article
Direct contact from project team
Other (please specify)

17. What suburb do you live in?

18. Do you represent a community group?

Yes
No

*Parks, Conservation and Lands, ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services has been provided with results from online surveys in full.*

***Appendix 1.5. Transcript of Albert Hall Meeting***

### **Pedestrian Bridge - Rationale**

The pedestrian bridge, Item 29 on the master plan, is an idea based on the intentions of Walter Burley Griffin's early plans for the area. The 1913 and 1915 plans illustrated a bridge to Black Mountain Peninsular whilst the 1918 plan shows a bridge directly to Black Mountain.

A pedestrian crossing supports one of the main objectives of the master plan by making the park more accessible to all Canberrans through provision of an alternative access to Weston Park. The site lies approximately half way between Commonwealth Avenue bridge and Scrivener Dam, resulting in a shorter cycle and pedestrian circuit around the lake.

### **Opportunities**

- Offers an alternative connection to Weston Park and the southern suburbs from the north side.
- Provides an alternative recreation experience via a non-vehicular lake crossing.
- Increases options for recreational lake pedestrian/cycling circuit.
- Provides a more direct non-vehicular access route to the northern side attractions such as ANBG, Black Mountain Peninsular, Black Mountain and the proposed expansion of the National Museum
- Offers an opportunity for a high quality, architectural/engineered example of public infrastructure.
- Provides an alternative viewing point for water-based activities (e.g the five sailing events per annum).

### **Link Roads - Rationale**

The link roads, Items 13 on the master plan, will aid in making more of the park accessible to more people of all abilities. The current 'dead end' system confines access to the main areas and restricts access to some of the parks more exciting areas e.g. the grassed and wooded area between the nursery and miniature train.

### **Opportunities**

- More people of all access ability experience the historical and visual beauty of the park that is currently inaccessible.
- Improved and stabilised maintenance access.
- Safer and more suitable access for buses delivering school, elderly and disabled visitors.

### **Interpretive/Education Centre - Rationale**

This proposal, Item 6 on the master plan, recognises the need to provide publicly accessible information on the heritage values and recreation opportunities of Weston Park and details on the history and operation of the Yarralumla Nursery. The master plan does not prescribe details on how the centre will operate but provides a framework for what the centre can offer the park and the public. The Interpretive Education Centre has an important role in educating children on the value of our urban landscape, as well as practical education focused on plant propagation and food (eg vegetable) production.

### **Opportunities**

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- Education, orientation and interpretation about Weston Park and the development of the Canberra landscape
- A gateway to Canberra's urban park system complimenting the role Tidbinbilla plays as a gateway to the ACT's rural and national park system. Information about the history of Canberra's urban landscape (Commonwealth Park, Black Mountain etc) could be provided at this centre.
- The centre could act as the first stop for visitors where it could provide information on the history of Weston Park, the history and development of the English Gardens, details on the Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands Heritage Management Plan (prepared by the NCA).
- Starting point for interpretive guided or self guided tours of the park and surrounds
- Starting point for nursery and productive garden tours
- Opportunity for establishing partnerships with Birrigai, CSIRO, NCA etc.

### **Foreshore Kiosk/Cafe - Rationale**

The foreshore kiosk, Item 17 on the master plan, will provide an alternative concession to service the most active portion of the park.

#### **Opportunities**

- Will double up as a viewing platform for rowing and sailing regattas.
- A destination point on the lake edge circuit that many would find appealing based on the success of the Reconciliation Place café.

### **Lakeside Loop Path - Rationale**

Item 2 on the master plan aims to maximise the function of the park as an active place for people and to formalise the movement network by making it accessible to all.

#### **Opportunities**

- Inclusive access to the park and lake edge in general.
- Additional recreation resource.
- Minimises conflict between vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists.

### **Entry Gatehouse - Rationale**

The gatehouse will provide a formal and dignified entry to a park with considerable national significance.

#### **Opportunities**

- First point of contact for visitors providing information on the park and surrounds.
- Ability to promote coming attractions within the park.
- May have a concession facility providing an opportunity for bike hire.
- Improve after-hours security.

### **Summarised Transcript of Question Time, Albert Hall July 27<sup>th</sup> 2009.**

#### **Question**

Gate House: Will the gatehouse lead to entry fees to the park? How will the gate be locked?



**Response**

The current ACT Government has no intention to charge entry fees to the park. TAMS have a contractor that locks all major parks around the ACT in accordance with prescribed seasonal closing times.

**Question**

Is there a development planned on the north side of the lake to justify the expense of the construction of the bridge?

**Response**

No development is planned. There is no room for a development in the immediate vicinity.

**Statement**

The bridge is a silly idea. It does not reflect Burley Griffins plans, it will affect water based activities and ignores the National Capital Authorities heritage management plan. The bridge duplicates the Immigration Bridge proposal and is unwarranted.

**Statement**

Locally based architect – Lake Burley Griffin has been so carefully managed over the years that it has restricted access to the lake. The bridge is a great idea as it opens up access to Weston Park and the lake and it will attract more visitors to the park. The bridge can be carefully and sensitively designed. Congratulations on a wonderful master plan.

**Statement**

The bridge will need to be 20 metres high to cater for sailing requirements. There will be inherent safety issues with the main bridge and the other smaller bridges spanning the bays.

**Question**

Will the master plan sort out the water quality issues of the lake? The lake was closed for the most of last summer due to poor water quality.

**Response**

Water quality in Lake Burley Griffin is a major issue as it is with many inland water bodies around the country. The master plan proposes to reinvigorate the original wetland areas to the north of the Nursery. They will double up as a collection point to filter stormwater flows from the park before being discharged into the lake and can be used as trial areas for wetland and aquatic plantings.

TAMS will seek advice on other stormwater treatment initiatives around inner Canberra and respond directly.

**Statement**

Mums can let children run around the park without worrying about them going onto the roads. The loop roads will increase traffic and increase the risk of traffic incidents.

**Question**

Why do you want to develop the park when we have everything we want in our park? Children and old people want to walk in open grassed areas and there is no need for new paths.

**Response**

The master plan seeks to introduce activity and additional attractions to the park. Increased activity and visitors will attract more maintenance funding from the Government.

**Question**

Was not invited to the previous consultation sessions. Is a member of the Lake Users Group. Will the jetties be large enough to cope with a boat their size and will the bridge be high enough? (boat is 5.5 metres high and weighs 45 tonnes)

**Response**

The jetties and bridge will be designed in consultation with all lake users to ensure their needs are met. A jetty will most likely be constructed in Nursery Bay as that was the feedback from tourist boat operators.

**Question**

Has a tunnel been considered instead of a bridge?

**Response**

No. The bridge provides an opportunity for greater access to the park and creates another recreational cycling and pedestrian circuit. A pontoon that can be dismantled may be another option.

**Question**

Appreciates the effort that has gone into the master plan and the team has done a wonderful job. Applauds the conservation and ecological proposals in the plan. However, is it really necessary to develop everything? Is this going to suffer a Darling Harbour Syndrome? We don't need more development with a capital 'D'.

**Response**

The master plan only proposes minor developments such as the interpretation/education centre and foreshore kiosk/café. These minor developments are intended to attract greater numbers of visitors to the park. There is no intention to over develop the park. The intention is to provide the opportunity to replace the attractions to the park that we all remember when we were young and to improve the way it works. Greater numbers of visitors will attract better commercial opportunities.

**Question**

The owner of the miniature railway has been trying for 10 years to upgrade his business. Has the Government got an ulterior motive to get rid of the operation?

**Response**

There is no motive to remove the miniature train. TAMS are commencing discussions with the operator to establish ways in which the facility can be improved to bring it up to a standard that is suitable for Weston Park.

**Statement**

He has an unregistered lease which makes it difficult to obtain funding for upgrades. People don't know the background to his attempts to obtain development approvals. The government has stopped all his actions to attempt upgrades. Watch this space for future developments.

**Statement**

We want a vote on who objects to the bridge over the lake. It appears that the consultation process isn't working because the bridge is still in the master plan.

**Response**

The master planning process has consulted with a wide range of people and groups. The bridge has received support through the consultation period. Will take a vote at the end of the meeting to reflect the level of support for the bridge proposal at the meeting.

**Question**

The figure of 720,000 visitors to the park each year is absurd. How did the government come up with the figure? The War Memorial does not have that many visitors each year.

**Response**

This was one of the questions submitted by the Yarralumla Residents Association. The team will respond with details via the YRA together with a response to their other questions.

**Question**

The link roads will stop people from letting their children play safely because of increased traffic. The link road near the toilet and BBQ area (south of the eastern beach area) will stop people from kicking balls around and playing cricket. Why do we need a link road there?

**Response**

Link roads will not attract more traffic. They will remove dead-ends and help circulation throughout the park. There is currently a dirt maintenance track between the two existing roads and it is sensible to seal that and provide better traffic flows.

**Statement**

The master plan is focussed on land-based activities. The link roads need a rethink. The government should be forcing people to walk to their destinations from existing carparks. More work needs to be done on improving water quality in the lake. The foreshore kiosk and boardwalks will affect beach usage by preventing people from accessing the beaches from the water. We don't want our park over planned. Leave it as a free and open space. Safety on bridges and boardwalks is a serious issue.

**Response**

The master plan is aiming to return the park back to its glory days in the 1970's and 80's. The kiosk, bridge and boardwalks will all be designed after consultation with key user groups to best meet their requirements and the safety of pedestrians/cyclists.

**Statement**

The master plan needs to retain the natural aesthetics of the park. Concerns over the consultation process. Keep on consulting and every one says no to the bridge but it still remains in the plan.

**Response**

The consultation report contained within the master plan will be amended to reflect the views of those consulted.

**Bridge Poll**

16 participants objected to the bridge proposal

5 participants supported the bridge proposal

**Statement**

Support the concept of the bridge but would need to see designs and how it would meet the needs of lake users.

**Statement**

Support for the bridge concept but would like to hear a more robust argument supporting the need for a bridge such as how many uni students would use it, how many commuters from Woden to City may use it etc.

## **Appendix 2.0**

### **Weston Park Heritage**

## Appendix 2: Weston Park Heritage

Statement of Significance	Attributes	Response of Master Plan
<p><b>Register of the National Estate</b></p> <p>Weston Park and Yarralumla Nursery, developed during the twentieth century, is important for its unusual richness of cultural features, mostly historic plants, significant as individual specimens and as generic groups of former horticultural experiments (Criterion A.3).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weston Park and Yarralumla Nursery</li> <li>• Richness of cultural features</li> <li>• Historic plants, significant as individual specimens and as generic groups of former horticultural experiments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The overall spatial organization of Weston Park is retained including the important heritage features such as the tree plantings and central ridge road. Yarralumla Nursery is retained in its current location and operations.</li> <li>• The existing cultural features are retained and built upon including new plantings, access pathways and recreation opportunities.</li> <li>• Historic plantings are retained by a program of interpretation including signage. New experimental plantings are included within the new plantings.</li> </ul>
<p>The landscape is important for demonstrating cultural phases, significant for the evolution of Canberra, as follows: the Weston period including the planning influence of W Burley Griffin, demonstrated by amenity plantings of shelter belts and windbreaks, aesthetic plantings of avenues and circular plots, and the overall layout; the Pryor Period, demonstrated by the <i>Eucalyptus</i> hybridisation plots, trial plots of generic groups and additional plantings of circular plots; the Lake Period demonstrated by the lakeshore plantings; and the recreation amenity features (Criterion A.4).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape is important for demonstrating cultural phases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weston period including the planning influence of W Burley Griffin, demonstrated by amenity plantings of shelter belts and windbreaks, aesthetic plantings of avenues and circular plots, and the overall layout</li> <li>• Pryor Period, demonstrated by the <i>Eucalyptus</i> hybridisation plots, trial plots of generic groups and additional plantings of circular plots</li> <li>• Lake Period demonstrated by the lakeshore plantings</li> <li>• recreation period demonstrated by the development of recreation and amenity features</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Individual specimen of the endangered species <i>Eucalyptus michaeliana</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing cultural phases of development are recognized and will become an important focus for interpretation of Weston Park. As well as the four phases identified, the contribution of Robert Boden to the plantings in Weston Park will be acknowledged, as will the later contribution from the Territory City Parks Department including, amongst others, Peter Sutton.</li> </ul>
<p>The site is important for containing a planted individual specimen of the endangered species <i>Eucalyptus michaeliana</i> (3rca)(Criterion B.1).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual specimen of the endangered species <i>Eucalyptus michaeliana</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These trees are retained and interpreted as part of the program of development. Particular care will be taken not to locate infrastructure that may affect the health of these trees. New planting in the vicinity of the trees will be carefully selected not to affect their visual presence.</li> </ul>

Statement of Significance	Attributes	Response of Master Plan
<p>The site is important for demonstrating the practice of a working nursery which has been carried on for seventy-five years (Criterion B.2).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working nursery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The operations of the Yarralumla Nursery will not be affected by the proposed new works. As part of the Master Plan, an interpretation/education centre is proposed that will increase the awareness of the nursery and its importance to Canberra's development.</li> </ul>
<p>Plantations and tree groups are important research subjects and period benchmark sites (Criterion C.1).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plantations and tree groups as research and benchmark sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The existing historic plantings and tree groups will be retained and incorporated into the overall site organization. New plantings will complement the existing plantings and not detract from their visual presence.</li> </ul>
<p>Weston Park is important for its design and aesthetic qualities valued by the community which consist of: a variety of views, intimate and open, or enframed, some with activity and some with tranquil and some with imposing terminal features such as Government House and Black Mountain; a variety and contrast of vegetation form and colour; a variety of spatial characteristics; areas of visual landscape themes which relate to cultural activity such as the experimental research area, the nursery beds area and the recreation area; visual stimulation from the variety of bird life; and, grandeur of some tree specimens in the nursery area (Criteria E.1 and F.1).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and aesthetic qualities valued by the community which consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a variety of views, intimate and open, or enframed, some with activity and some with imposing terminal features such as Government House and Black Mountain</li> <li>a variety and contrast of vegetation form and colour</li> <li>a variety of spatial characteristics</li> <li>areas of visual landscape themes which relate to cultural activity such as the experimental research area, the nursery beds area and the recreation area</li> <li>visual stimulation from the variety of bird life</li> <li>grandeur of some tree specimens in the nursery area</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall, the richness of the landscape and its spatial qualities will be enhanced by the Master Plan. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Views are an important aspect of the site organization. Jetties and decks at the lake edge are located to open up views.</li> <li>The existing variety of vegetation types will be further enhanced with mixed plantings of native and exotic species.</li> <li>The Master Plan provides greater diversity of spatial types than existing – this is an important aspect of increasing use of the park for a wide variety of activities and recreational opportunities.</li> <li>The existing visual landscape themes are acknowledged in the Master Plan and are included within the program of interpretation.</li> <li>The Master Plan promotes increased bio-diversity within Weston Park, including providing meadows for wildlife, including birds, kangaroos, etc.</li> <li>All of the mature trees within the nursery are retained. Visually, the planting of new trees will not compromise the existing trees.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Statement of Significance	Attributes	Response of Master Plan
<p>The site is important for demonstrating a high degree of technical achievement as follows: early hybridisation experiments on eucalypts; grafting and propagation experiments; rare and uncommon species collected from different global locations; experiments in growth characteristics of generic groups; and, experiments with plants of particular ecological habit (Criterion F.1).</p> <p>The site is important for its association with individuals whose activities have been significant in the history of Canberra, as follows: Walter Burley Griffin, Thomas Charles Weston, Lindsey Pryor, David Shoobridge and Robert Boden (Criterion H.1).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aspects demonstrating a high degree of technical achievement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>early hybridisation experiments on eucalypts</li> <li>grafting and propagation experiments</li> <li>rare and uncommon species collected from different global locations</li> <li>experiments in growth characteristics of generic group</li> <li>experiments with plants of particular ecological habit</li> </ul> </li> <li>Features associated with Walter Burley Griffin, Thomas Charles Weston, Lindsey Pryor, David Shoobridge and Robert Boden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The existing experimental plantings, including hybridized species and planting techniques such as the circular plots, are retained and acknowledged as part of the program of interpretation. The precedence of experimental plantings will be continued as part of the new plantings within Weston Park by the introduction of new species consistent with changed requirements for water-sensitive urban horticulture.</li> <li>The interpretation of Canberra's early plantings and the role of Yarralumla Nursery will be the focus for the program of interpretation within Weston Park. The proposed education centre will provide the public with an accessible resource that will increase awareness and interest in the history of Canberra's landscape development and the role of Yarralumla Nursery and individuals in its development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ACT Heritage Register (Based on Draft Citation NOT formally adopted)</b></p> <p>Weston Park is significant as an open wooded landscape with a richness of deciduous and evergreen tree species of different planting ages ranging from 1914 to the present. It has a close association with other horticultural and arboricultural features in western Yarralumla including Yarralumla Nursery, Westbourne Woods and CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products Research Division. It also has historic association with the Australian Forestry School and Westridge House on Banks Street, Yarralumla.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open wooded landscape with a richness of deciduous and evergreen tree species of different planting ages ranging from 1914 to the present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The open wooded landscape character of Weston Park is retained in the Master Plan. The richness of deciduous and evergreen, exotic and native trees is maintained and enhanced with further mixed plantings. The program of interpretation focused on the education centre will provide an important resource for interpretation of the Canberra landscape.</li> </ul>

Statement of Significance	Attributes	Response of Master Plan
<p>It has significance as an outdoor recreation space with children's play areas, two tree houses, barbecue facilities and lakeshore beaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor recreation space with children's play areas, two tree houses, barbecue facilities and lakeshore beaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recreational qualities of Weston Park are enhanced in the Master Plan. The existing children's play areas are rationalised (some out-of-date and non-complying equipment will be removed and replaced with new equipment) and a new play area is provided at the eastern side of the park adjacent to the main beach. Access to the existing beaches is improved by providing a new shared-use (cycle and pedestrian) path adjacent to the lake edge.</li> </ul>
<p>It is located on Yarralumla Peninsula and therefore has extensive views to the east, north and west. It is significant when viewed from the Lake by the absence of dominating built structures. Its western foreshores are significant for the pattern of evergreen and deciduous tree cover, open spaces and lack of intrusive built features.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive views to the east, north and west</li> <li>• Views from the Lake without dominating built structures</li> <li>• Western foreshores with the pattern of evergreen and deciduous tree cover, open spaces and lack of intrusive built features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Master Plan proposes an education centre located adjacent to the eastern side of Yarralumla Nursery. The location of this facility is set back from the eastern foreshore and will not impact visually on views to Weston Park from the lake or Yarralumla foreshores. A minor facility is proposed at a low point adjacent to the entry to Weston Park and this will have only a minor visual impact when viewed from outside the park. No new built structures (apart from minor play equipment) are proposed adjacent to the western foreshores.</li> </ul>
<p>The site includes plantings of the rare and endangered species, Hillgrove gum (<i>Eucalyptus michaeliana</i>), eucalyptus hybrids resulting from manipulated pollination and an initial eucalyptus seed orchard.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plantings of the rare and endangered species, Hillgrove gum (<i>Eucalyptus michaeliana</i>)</li> <li>• Eucalyptus hybrids resulting from manipulated pollination</li> <li>• Eucalyptus seed orchard</li> <li>• English Garden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing rare and endangered species, including the Hillgrove gum, are retained and acknowledged in the program of interpretation. New plantings will not visually intrude on these trees.</li> </ul>
<p>The place also includes the English Garden started in the 1960s within a framework of trees, some of which were planted by T.C.G.Weston.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Garden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The English Garden is retained in its current location. Minor improvements to the garden are proposed, including new plantings and a more defined 'edge', consistent with the original intent of the garden.</li> </ul>

(DM 16 March 2008)

## **Appendix 3.0**

### **Comparative Matrix: Weston Park Master Plan Review against the Weston Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP) 2011**

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN			MASTER PLAN	
Conservation Policy	Conservation Action	Timing Category	Master Plan Action	Current compliance with CMP/Action
<b>Precinct 1: Sub-Precinct—Entry Zone</b>				
<b>1</b> Improve the entrance into Weston Park so that it complements the high heritage value of the whole site.	Design and implement a new arrival into Weston Park, one that complements the heritage values and formal avenue of Weston Park Road.  A new landscape treatment should signal the entry to Weston Park. The design should respond to the heritage values and incorporate consideration of views, landscape character, traffic and pedestrian access. To be in accordance with the heritage values, improvements to the entry road should be correctly aligned with the original cedar tree avenue, if funding is available and subject to impact on existing trees. The parking near the leash-free dog zone should be formalised or preferably removed from the park entry.	Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP realigns the entry road to its original location through the Cedar Avenue, establishes an entry to the park and removes carparking. Formalised dog zone parking is not included; however, dog owners can use the overflow carparking adjacent to the entry.	Complies
<b>2</b> Emphasise the open space of the precinct through a design which creates a landscape feature of the entry zone.	Emphasising the entry zone through landscape design will provide a better definition of the road. Whereby, the approach to the formalised avenue is made clearer and there is a more structured road junction.	Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP illustrates a new round-a-bout at the intersection of the main entry road and the secondary road accessing the retail nursery. As above, the road alignment is proposed to be altered to the original alignment through the Cedars. The spatial simplification of the entry zone including new entry gatehouse, lakeside loop path and clean-up of the lake edge emphasises the entry zone through landscape design. The entry structure is envisaged as a means to visually mark the entry and provide opportunity for control of vehicle access into the park and dissemination of interpretive and wayfinding information to users.	Complies
<b>3</b> Interpret and integrate the symbiotic relationship between Yarralumla Nursery and recreational uses of Weston Park.	Install directional and interpretive signage at the road junction between Yarralumla Nursery in one direction, and to Weston Park in the other, where the historic cedar avenue of Weston Park Road commences.	Short term: within 24 months.	The MP proposes a wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy. An important element in the MP is the proposal for a new Interpretive, Educative Centre. The CMP appears to be following the lead of the MP here.	Complies
<b>4</b> Implement a more defined entry route and improve pedestrian safety.	Reconfigure and define the entry road to align with the original cedar tree avenue, to improve pedestrian safety and complement the heritage values of the park. This would be subject to avoiding impacting existing significant trees, and funding. In the short term, provide a barrier device along road existing alignment and ensure traffic and pedestrian safety at the junction.	Medium term: 2-5 years.	Commentary as above.	Complies
<b>5</b> Introduce a vegetative transition between Orana Bay and Weston Park.	Plant supplementary native trees adjacent to the Orana Bay foreshore to contrast with formalised exotic avenue planting eg Casuarina species. These species will visually buffer the bay from the avenue, provide additional habitat, and will continue the tradition of native tree planting on the site.	Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP recommends actions to improve the entry to Weston Park including removal of weed species at the lake edge. The CMP appears to be recommending additional tree planting adjacent to Orana Bay - both within Weston Park and outside its boundary. The MPPs has been amended to include more planting within the entry zone.	Complies

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN			MASTER PLAN	
Conservation Policy	Conservation Action	Timing Category	Master Plan Action	Current compliance with CMP/Action
<b>Precinct 2: Sub-Precincts—Nursery Park &amp; The Ramble</b>				
<b>6</b> Upgrade the English Garden/ Hobday's Cottage facilities and amenities.	The existing, and any future, commercial enterprises or leases should be cognisant of the heritage values. The leases in Weston Park and Yarralumla Nursery should ideally have functions which are sympathetic to the heritage values of the place, and expand or highlight the historic experimental horticultural activities of the Park and the Nursery.	Ongoing.	The MP recommends retention of the Hobday's Cottage facilities and amenities, including the pavilion, and supports the upgrade of the English Garden.	Complies
<b>7</b> Conserve and retain the existing Yarralumla Nursery function and commercial activity.	Conserve and develop the existing nursery service areas to ensure the viability of both the horticultural research capacity and the commercial requirements. Allow some additional limited forms of commercial or community and interpretation activities within the Nursery or unused nursery areas, such as garden or plant fairs on an occasional basis. Any new activities should be in keeping with the heritage values of the place, such as community gardens or plots in the unused nursery areas.	Ongoing.  As required.	The MP recommends retention and upgrading of the Nursery and its facilities, including possible joint use of some facilities with the proposed new interpretive centre. The MP recommends inclusion of compatible uses such as community gardens.	Complies
<b>8</b> Rationalise unused nursery areas into the open space of Weston Park or properly incorporate into the Nursery.	Incorporate nursery areas deemed no longer required by the nursery into the open space system of Weston Park or conversely return the unused areas into viable nursery land. Ensure the historic use of the former nursery areas are interpreted—included in the interpretation and communication strategy.	Medium term: 2-5 years	The MP recommends retention of the current Nursery boundary. Areas previously used by the Nursery for growing on of open-rooted stock to the north of the Nursery boundary are recommended in the MP for use as parkland.	Complies
<b>9</b> Reinforce habitat connections and canopy links across the precinct.	Provide supplementary planting or allow the regeneration of existing forest areas. Supplementary planting would help to form a continuation of the canopy with Westbourne Woods in accordance with Tree and Ecological Assets Report (Geoff Butler & Associates, September 2010). This will have the added benefit of reinforcing the Park's boundary planting, thus strengthening the definition of the Park along the southern edge.	Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP recommends new Ecological Zones within Weston Park, proposing a strategy of Lake Edge Riparian, Wetlands, Open Woodlands, Dense Woodlands, Armenty, and Habitat Corridors - Flora and Fauna.	Complies
<b>10</b> Improve cycle and pedestrian access across the precinct, and link to new picnic facilities.	Design and implement additional pathways in key locations to encourage Lake Burley Griffin 'Cycle Track' users into Weston Park. A shared path access through The Ramble could be created as an important link between the English Garden and West Basin, and to improve safety.	Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP proposes a strategy to "Connect" increasing connection to and within the park by clearly marking entries to the park improving cycle and pedestrian access, rationalising vehicle circulation and parking and providing opportunities for public transport and ferry access. Pedestrian circulation is proposed by including shared-use pathways connecting activities and providing safe and equitable access. Specific proposals include a new lake loop shared-use pathway, cross park circulation and a new pedestrian bridge link (the latter is contrary to other recommendations in the CMP and will be removed in the revised MP).	Complies
<b>11</b> Enhance passive recreational opportunities areas in the precinct.	Increase passive recreational areas that have a northnortheasterly aspect, which are valuable in winter. Install a Nursery Bay picnic area linked to the West Basin facilities via new pathway connections. These will provide vantage points along the shoreline with views of the lake and Government House to the west and rest points with suitable seating.	Short term: within 24 months.  Short term: within 24 months.	The MP recommends increasing the overall amenity of the park through a number of strategies built around the MP's themes to 'Connect, Intensify, Maintain and Connect'. The recommendations include passive recreational areas and a picnic area in Nursery Bay.	Complies
<b>12</b> Maintain the controlled dog exercise facility in the precinct.	Maintain the newly introduced dog exercise facility within the identified area. Improve the ad hoc parking arrangements related to this function, which is currently intrusive at the entrance to Weston Park.	As required.	The MP retains the dog exercise facility and organises carparking in the overflow carparking area on the southern side of the road.	Complies
<b>13</b> Conserve the buildings and elements of Exceptional, High and Moderate significance and maintain a consistent approach for architectural elements in the precinct (and the whole of Weston Park).	The buildings and elements of Exceptional, High and Moderate significance require conservation and management planning to ensure appropriate uses are maintained.  The architectural elements, including furniture, fencing and signage, should be in accordance with designs consistent with Weston Park heritage values.	Ongoing  Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP acknowledges the importance of the existing buildings in Weston Park, in particular Hobday's Cottage and the historic buildings within the Nursery.  The MP proposes a palette of furniture, etc that is purposefully designed to respect the heritage values of the park; ie. it is not a generic palette that could apply to 'any place' - rather it is of 'Weston Park'. This palette is chosen for durability and robustness, aesthetics and cost effectiveness.	Complies  Complies

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN		MASTER PLAN	
Conservation Policy	Conservation Action	Master Plan Action	Current compliance with CMP/Action
<p><b>14</b> Conservation of the heritage values in this precinct is required through removal of intrusive elements or their redesign to be sympathetic to and complement heritage values. Expert assistance may be required.</p>	<p>The conservation within this precinct involves the removal or adjustment to the intrusive elements. Intrusive elements in this precinct could be softened or improved by seeking landscape advice consistent with heritage values. For example, the pavement around Hobday's Cottage, the alignment of the brick wall containing the English Garden sign and the poorly defined boundary between Westbourne Woods and the Royal Canberra Golf Course, could be reassessed. The inconsistent boundary vegetation should be reinforced with additional tree planting.</p>	<p>The CMP covers more detail than the MP in its discussion of the pavement around Hobday's Cottage, the alignment of the brick wall, etc. This is considered to be a level of detail that is best handled as part of specific recommendations for the individual areas. The MP recommends additional planting on the Weston Park/Westbourne Park edge (south of the Nursery).</p>	<p>Complies</p>



CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN		MASTER PLAN	
Conservation Policy	Conservation Action	Master Plan Action	Current compliance with CMP/Action
Precinct 3: Sub-Precincts—The Plateau, The Elms and Weston Park Road		Timing Category	
15	Retain the importance of the ridgetop avenue—Weston Park Road—as the dominant access through the Park.	Weston Park Road is the main central access through the Park precincts and its alignment, as originally planned and delineated by plantings, should be retained as the major access route for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, in addition to appropriate tree management (refer to policies in Section 6.0). The traffic and parking arrangements should be investigated and the amenity improved to ensure the conservation of this exceptional element.	Ongoing.  The MP retains the ridgetop avenue.  Complies
16	The Elm avenue should be conserved and interpreted.	Conservation, continued use and interpretation of this avenue should be considered. Continued use for light Nursery traffic, pedestrian and cycle access will help ensure its survival in addition to appropriate tree management (refer to policies in Section 6.0). The unsealed surface should be retained both for character and to limit vehicle speed.	Short term: within 24 months.  The Elm Avenue is recommended for retention, management and interpretation.  Complies
17	Improve the entry to Weston Park by reinstating and realigning the original entry road through the cedar tree avenue.	Reinstatement and realign the original entry to correspond to the original double avenue alignment of Weston Park Road—based on the physical evidence of the existing cedar trees and the photographic evidence (refer to Figure B.11 in Appendix B).	Medium term: 2-5 years.  The MP recommends reinstatement of the double avenue.  Complies
18	Plan for replacement tree planting to ensure the survival of the formal avenues (Weston Park Road and the Elm avenue).	Locate the entry point at the Banks Street entrance and widen Weston Park Road to enable parallel on-street car parking (that does not extend beyond Brown Street).  Commence planning for replacement of senescent trees along Weston Park Road and the Elm avenue.  Undertake replacement in accordance with Tree Asset Report (refer to Appendix D), the heritage values, this CMP and subject to further arboricultural assessment and the tree management plan which is to be developed.	Medium term: 2-5 years.  The MP recommends overflow parking adjacent to the entry. The CMP does not comment on this. The CMP's recommendation for on-street car parking is not inconsistent with the MP although may not be favoured by Yarralumla residents (refer MP Consultation Summary Report). On balance, inclusion of parallel parking as far as Brown Street seems a reasonable approach to 'formalise' car parking for dog zone users and others accessing the walking paths in Weston Park.  This recommendation in the CMP is consistent with retention and maintenance of the significant avenues of trees. Additional words have been added to the MP to reflect the requirement for replacement plantings.  Complies  Noted. Additional words are added to the MP to cover this.  Complies with additions.
19	Conserve the views and vistas through and out from Weston Park Road.	The views and vistas along the ridge top avenue of Weston Park Road should be conserved (refer to Figure 3.9).  Any future tree planting required should ensure that vistas to the lake and Black Mountain are retained.	As required  Noted. Not inconsistent.  Complies
20	Manage vehicle access and parking to protect the park's tree assets.	Facilitate safe travel along Weston Park Road by limiting parking adjacent to the avenue corridor and prevent parking among the avenue trees. Prevent carparking in the outer row of the avenue to protect tree roots from compaction. Refer to Policy 36 in Section 6.0 to undertake a traffic study.	As required  Noted. The MP proposes a new vehicle circulation system that creates 'loops' rather than 'dead ends'. Part of the advantage of the former is that road widths can be minimised and car parking better controlled (eg where practicable not within the TPZ's of the existing significant trees). This issues is discussed more below.  Complies
21	Maintain the clarity and simplicity of vehicle and pedestrian movement through Weston Park.	Maintain the natural perimeter edge of the park and avoid cross links or loops, or if they are necessary, keep these to a minimum and design them in a way that does not detract from the heritage value and primary role of the central road spine and informal character of the lake edge.	As required  The MP complies with the intent of the CMP in maintaining the natural perimeter edge of the park. The MP has been modified to propose completion of 2 loops servicing the western sector of the park (including the children's playspace, new toilet, carpark and western foreshore) to better manage vehicles and car parking within the park (particularly at busy periods) and the eastern foreshore. 'Connected' or loop roads were a requirement of TAMS and bus operators - both are concerned with traffic management, access and pedestrian safety within the park - their location does not diminish the intent of the CMP in maintaining the natural perimeter edge to the park. The CMP does not rule out 'loops' if they are deemed necessary.  Not inconsistent as qualified in the CMP.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN		MASTER PLAN	
Conservation Policy	Conservation Action	Master Plan Action	Current compliance with CMP/Action
<p><b>22</b> Investigate the possibility of interpretation centre.</p>	<p>As per Policy 29 in Section 6.0, investigate the need and benefits for developing an interpretation centre in, or near, Weston Park which has a broader scope for creating a connection between Yarralumla Nursery and Weston Park, to interpret and reinforce the symbiotic relationship. This may include investigating or adapting existing facilities at Weston Park or the Nursery or be incorporated into signage.</p>	<p>The MP recommends a new interpretation centre in Weston Park to increase the commercial viability of the Nursery and its presence in Weston Park, to act as a community educative facility and to assist in the overall interpretation of Weston Park. We agree that a cost benefit analysis and careful investigation should occur before such a facility is agreed to. Additional words have been added to the MP to recognise this process.</p>	<p>Complies</p>
<p><b>23</b> Retain and upgrade the toilet block located adjacent to Weston Park Road.</p>	<p>The 1960s toilet block structure should be retained and upgraded; its architectural character should be retained.</p>	<p>The MP considers this toilet block redundant given the presence of a (newly rebuilt) toilet block adjacent to the Children's Playspace. The TAMS asset manager has argued strongly that this toilet is unsuitable for retention given it does not comply with current requirements for equal access (Australian Standards), its location that does not meet current spatial and activity arrangements and the difficulties in maintaining an older asset. Following further discussion and consideration, we have deleted the toilet from the MP.</p>	<p>Not compliant.</p>

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN		MASTER PLAN	
Conservation Policy	Conservation Action	Master Plan Action	Current compliance with CMP/Action
		Timing Category	
<b>Precinct 4: Sub-Precincts—The Plateau, East Bank and East Basin</b>			
<b>24</b> Conserve the landscape character of the precinct.	The precinct should be conserved, retained, managed and interpreted.	Ongoing.	The landscape character of this precinct is retained under the MP. Current elements such as the road, carparking, beach and toilet block are retained. New tree planting builds on existing.
<b>25</b> Manage and maintain circular experimental plots of trees.	Manage and maintain Weston experimental plots planted in circular fashion according to a tree management plan (to be developed).	Ongoing.	Weston and Pryor's prior plantings are referred to in the MP and are retained.
<b>26</b> Upgrade beach and waterbased recreational facilities eg swimming/beach areas.	Upgrade swimming facilities as part of on-going maintenance regime to service water-based recreation and needs.	Medium term: 2-5 years	The MP recommends continued use of beach, including upgrading.
<b>27</b> Remove lake edge weed species to enhance views and improve the 'natural' shoreline and access to the lake edge.	Consider removal of weeds to restore important views. Remove the intrusive weed species from the lake edge, taking care to maintain the cultural plantings on the lake edge.  Weed removal should be undertaken to maintain and retain access and views to the lake. It should be undertaken in accordance with horticultural advice to ensure weed removal does not impact upon the heritage values of Weston Park, including exotic cultural plantings along parts of the lakeshore.	Short term: within 24 months  Ongoing.	The MP recommends removal of lake edge weed species.  Complies
<b>28</b> Ensure event infrastructure does not adversely impact the heritage values.	Ensure that any future event infrastructure which caters to outdoor events is temporary (permanent power outlets and toilet facilities can be managed through the revised draft WP MP) and does not impact on the heritage values of the Park nor impact on the views from the lake to the Park.  Utilise the natural amphitheatre for outdoor events.	As required.  As required	The MP does not propose permanent event infrastructure.  Complies  The CMP is not explicit regarding the proposal in the MP for new amphitheatre steps. These steps are not considered to be 'event infrastructure', rather a feature that supports use of the park.  Complies
<b>29</b> Improve vehicle circulation and assess current carparking viability	Refer to previous policies for improving traffic and parking arrangements. This should be investigated and the amenity improved. Complex loop roads and large car parks are inappropriate.	Short term: within 24 months	
<b>30</b> Maintain native grassland character	Manage and maintain the native grassland in this precinct, so that it continues into the northern area (Precinct 8) and for visual continuity. Avoid planting with 'infill' trees or replacing the historic planting pattern with a new one.  Maintain and manage grassland to increase recreational usage.	Ongoing  Short term: within 12 months	The MP recommends Dryland Grass Meadows in the CMP's Precinct 8 consistent with the Conservation Action. Additional tree planting is recommended to increase amenity (shade) and replace missing, dead or dying trees. Additional words in the MP will be added to clarify intent. New tree planting is part of 'active management' and will be in a similar style to the original plantings.  As above
<b>31</b> Upgrade amenities and barbeque/picnic facilities.	Upgrade the barbeque facilities in accordance with Weston Park furniture palette (to be developed) with a final location dependant on further detailed studies.  The new toilet block is unsympathetic, yet provides a useful amenity. Consider alterations to ensure the appearance of the toilet block is sympathetic to the surrounding landscape environment (eg repaint in subdued natural colours).	Medium term: 2-5 years.  Long term: 5-10 years.	The MP recommends upgrading picnic facilities utilising the furniture palette illustrated in the MP.  Noted. The MP does not provide advice on the new toilet block.  Complies  NA

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<b>Precinct 5: Sub-Precinct—Yarralumla Nursery</b>				
<b>32</b> The important physical and historic connection between Yarralumla Nursery and Weston Park should be conserved and interpreted.	Conserve and interpret the important connection to the history and establishment of Yarralumla Nursery and Weston Park. The whole of Weston Park is important because of the establishment of Yarralumla Nursery.	Ongoing	The proposed actions in relation to the Nursery and recommendation for a new interpretive centre supports the connection between the Nursery and Weston Park.	Complies
<b>33</b> Conserve and retain the nursery or horticulture related functions as intrinsic elements at Weston Park	The Yarralumla Nursery site should continue as a nursery and be conserved as a key component of Weston Park, including the following elements: - nursery buildings, including the Dispatch Office, Dispatch Preparation, Potting Shed Propagation Facility workshops and glasshouses; - the nursery function as primary source of trees for both public and private plantings across Canberra; - windbreaks and avenue/access road plantings in the Nursery and Weston Park; - experimental pocket gardens within the Nursery; - early pastoral use, including the defining 'block' plantation of the Elm avenue and the early dam, near Nursery Bay; and - early access road layout.	Ongoing	The MP recommends retention of the Nursery and its functions.	Complies
<b>34</b> Retain, augment and consolidate public access to both the Nursery and Weston Park.	Document the operating procedures and access requirements of the Nursery. Determine how the Nursery functions in association with Weston Park and develop strategies for integrating and increasing visitors to both the Park and the Nursery. For example, community education programs for sustainable gardens, with garden plots for access by the community. Upgrade way-finding signage to ensure logical pathway connections to and from the Nursery.	Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP supports public access to the Nursery and its continuing functions. The proposed interpretive centre supports community education including education programs and demonstration plots.	Complies
<b>35</b> Improve public awareness of nursery operations, and restore public interaction.	Define and rationalise operational uses and the physical areas for future Nursery or Park use. Nursery operations could be expanded to gain greater awareness by including (for example) demonstration gardens, public programs involving Nursery visitation or overflow event carparking.	Short term: within 24 months. Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP includes a detailed signage and wayfinding strategy.	Complies
<b>36</b> Conserve and replant major structural plantations where they have become depleted, such as the eastern and western windbreaks.	Conserve shelterbelt planting which provides a strong contrast with the rest of the park. Supplementary and replacement trees could be introduced to the structural plantations of the windbreaks, to maintain the heritage values and provide an ongoing buffer protection from the prevailing winds. These include the eastern and western windbreaks around the original rectangular area of the Nursery site where they are depleted, displaying senescence or missing. (In accordance with Tree Assets Report, Appendix D and subject to a future tree management plan.)	Short term: within 12 months.	Noted above. Additional car parking is proposed to the south of the Nursery, as well as re-organisation of the existing carpark. The MP recommends additional infill tree planting to replace senescent trees or where trees are missing. The MP is amended to include specifically the eastern and western windbreaks.	Complies

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<b>Precinct 6: Sub-Precinct—West Basin</b>				
<b>37</b> Conserve and reinforce the landscape character, with particular reference to the NCDC phase of recreational landscape overlay.	Conserve and reinforce the area for its important connection to the NCDC phase of landscape improvements—the formalising of Weston Park for recreation.	Ongoing.	The MP includes strategies for a spatial organisation of the park that is suited to the inclusion of programmed events, festivals and performances, exhibitions, permanent and temporary artworks, performance art, memorials and commemoration. These uses are consistent with attracting users for recreation. Other strategies including improved and safer access and improved pedestrian and cycle circulation in the park are consistent with this aim.	Consistent
<b>38</b> Retain the informal park character.	Retain and develop the exotic/wild character of the lake edge in this precinct and utilise lake foreshore vantage points. Avoid construction of large and dominant event infrastructure.	Ongoing.	The MP recommends retention of the informal character of the lake edge.	Consistent
<b>39</b> Increase access to the lake edge from within the West Basin precinct.	The windbreak along the foreshore should be retained and enhanced. Maintenance and removal of suckering weed species and thickets should be undertaken, to open up access and views to lake. Provide secluded vantage points to observe/experience sunsets along the vegetated foreshore.	Ongoing.	The MP does not recommend large or dominant event infrastructure.	Consistent
<b>40</b> Provide alternative pedestrian and cycle access routes to make links to other parts of Weston Park.	Provide shared access route to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists from the Lake Burley Griffin Cycle Track via Precincts 2 (through the English Garden), along lake edge of Precinct 6 (The Ramble) to Precinct 7 (the children's playground area and Pescott Lane).	Short term: within 24 months.	The MP is consistent with the CMP - eg. the proposed shared use path (lakeside loop path) will increase public access to the western side of the park. A foreshore kiosk is proposed. The MP is amended to describe this as a new feature that is visual unobtrusive.	Complies
<b>41</b> Regenerate existing vegetation in the north of the precinct.	Allow the Oak & Conifer plantation to regenerate (perhaps by fencing off the area from public access for a period of time). Continue to maintain the vegetation and remove dead trees to prevent fire and safety hazards. Investigate the viability of use of the area to create outdoor 'recreation rooms', for passive recreation in accordance with event space requirements.	Short term: within 24 months.	The proposed lakeside loop path achieves this shared access referred to in the CMP. Parts of the loop path are currently in construction.	Consistent
<b>42</b> Create a walking trail/path through the Oak and Conifer stands.	Thin out the oaks to the south and conifer plantings to provide access between Precincts 5 & 7, and to provide access near and around the existing wetland, and also for greater recreational use and appreciation of the heritage values. The path should be directed through the sparser areas, where possible, to avoid tree loss. Also consider fencing off the area to prevent public access for a period of time to allow the vegetation to re-establish.	Short term: within 24 months.	The MP recommends maintenance of these plantations and the creation of 'recreation rooms' for recreation. The MP is amended to include additional words regarding management of this area by fencing.	Consistent
<b>43</b> Revitalise the pond/wetland.	Inspect the wetland (currently overgrown and unkempt) for water quality, vegetation growth, safety and interpretation opportunities. Revitalise the wetland in accordance with the investigation report—its findings and recommendations.	Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP recommends a new connecting path and boardwalk in this area.	Consistent
			The MP recommends rehabilitating the existing ponds into a wetland. The wetland is useful in managing stormwater and irrigation run off from the Nursery.	Consistent

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Precinct 7: The Pond, West Bank and The Train (Miniature Railway)		Timing Category	
44	Precinct 7 is ranked as having a High level of significance and should be conserved as such. Elements of a High ranking should be retained and conserved. These elements require a high level of care in their management, but can tolerate change when it is undertaken in accordance with the CMP and with heritage advice.	Ongoing	The MP recommends retention of the elements of Precinct 7 comprising the childrens play area, amenity ponds and picnic facilities. Consistent.
45	Conserve and retain the extant NCDC play features, including the 1980s childrens playground, play pond (refer to the policy below) and the white play sculpture. The adventure play features should be conserved and, where in conflict with current code requirements, should be sensitively reconciled with necessary upgrade planning and design. Note the 1980s playground was recently upgraded in 2009. Research the original NCDC design for the play pond, which included a waterfall, and seek heritage advice for reinstatement, while adhering to current safety regulations.	Ongoing  Medium term: 2-5 years	The MP recommends upgrading the playspace with picnic and bbq facilities, toilets and shelter. Consistent.  Noted. Additional words added to the MP to reflect. Consistent.
46	Conserve and retain play pond, assess safety and upgrade. Reinstate the pond and the waterfall for children's play. Research the original character and design intent of the pond to determine feasibility for restoration and refurbishment of the pond. Assess the pond depth adjacent to the perimeter of the playground and consider reducing to a depth of 300mm.	Medium term: 2-5 years	As above Consistent
47	Expand the play facilities to re-create a 'play precinct'. Assess potential locations for playground expansion, and develop ideas for creative and adventure play equipment to suit various ages. Refer to, or possibly reinstate/reinterpret former elements of the 1960s adventure play items, such as the tree houses/forts and mouse house, where possible, within current Australian safety standards for play spaces.	Medium term: 2-5 years	Noted. We will add additional words to this effect in the MP. Consistent
48	Investigate and reinstate the Maze. Undertake further research and investigation to find a suitable location for re-creating the Maze—possibly in Precinct 7, adjacent to the other play facilities—and provide interpretation.	Medium term: 2-5 years	Noted. Additional words to this effect added to the MP. Consistent
49	Provide wind protection from the west. Supplementary and replacement trees could be introduced to the structural plantations of the windbreak, to maintain the heritage values and provide an on-going buffer protection from the prevailing westerly winds. Allow for opportunities to access the lake edge and to maintain for views out across the lake.	Short term: within 24 months.	The MP recommends some additional tree planting on the western side as well as removal of weeds adjacent to the lake edge. The MP notes the importance of maintenance of views. Consistent
50	Restore and upgrade the miniature railway so that it is in keeping with the heritage values. As a condition of the lease, the owners / managers should be required to restore and upgrade the miniature railway facility, so that it is in keeping with the heritage values and this CMP. Consider the replacement of the existing kiosk with a new kiosk/cafe building, to facilitate a structure which is in keeping with the heritage values of Weston Park. If changes are proposed, ensure the heritage impacts are mitigated. For example, retain the existing location, adjacent to Pescott Lane which is in keeping with the heritage character of the precinct.	Ongoing  Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP recommends retention of the miniature railway. This issue was subject to extensive discussion previously in TAMS with Asset Managers generally wanting to terminate the lease and restore the area for other recreational uses. The MP currently shows the miniature railway as being retained. Additional words added to the MP to state compliance with the CMP. As above. Additional words added. Consistent with additional words.
51	Upgrade barbeque and picnic areas. Upgrade the picnic furniture in accordance with a consistent Weston Park furniture palette, and relocate as necessary in accordance with park-wide strategy (based on the revised masterplan).	Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP notes upgraded picnic facilities. The furniture palette proposed has been reviewed to ensure compliance with the heritage values outlined in the MP. Consistent with additional words.
52	Upgrade the Pescott Lane car park to better service the precinct. Upgrade existing carpark to make more efficient and review the line marking. Minor expansion is possible provided an assessment of potential heritage impacts is undertaken.	Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP recommends an upgrade to the carpark. Consistent
53	Upgrade toilet amenities. The pine log shelter has been removed recently (west bank) and is proposed to be replaced. The design of all new amenities should be subject to heritage impact assessment.	As required.	The pine log shelter's removal was subsequent to the preparation of the MP. We have amended the words to the MP to recommend compliance with the CMP recommendations. NA



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		Timing Category	
<b>Precinct 8: Sub-Precincts—East and West Yarralumla Peninsula</b>			
<b>54</b> Precinct 8 is ranked as having a High level of significance.	Elements of High significance should be retained and conserved. These elements require a high level of care in their management, but can tolerate change when it is undertaken in accordance with the CMP and with heritage advice.	Ongoing	The CMP recognises the existing landscape structure and inclusions and the views to Black Mountain and the lake as the elements of high significance in this precinct. The MP proposes retention of the existing landscape and minimal additional inclusions (including retention of the Siev X Memorial which the CMP is not complimentary about). There is no adverse affect on views.
<b>55</b> Upgrade carparking to better service the precinct.	Upgrade the carpark; however, due to the proximity of the lake it is recommended to seal the carpark and to assess the viability of employing 'Water Sensitive Urban Design' (WSUD) principles to collect run-off.	Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP recommends upgrading the carpark but to a much smaller footprint - nose in along the new loop connection rather than as a large, visible surface carpark. This carpark is particularly visible in its current location and condition detracting from the visual amenity and use of this section of the park. A smaller footprint supports other recreational uses consistent with other conservation actions within the CMP and will be less visible than the existing. Additional words added to include WSUD.
<b>56</b> Increase opportunities for passive recreation	Increase passive recreation opportunities in the precinct (small parking nodes, picnic tables, etc). Investigate the area as a possible location for events.	Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP recommends passive recreation in Precinct 8 with little change to the existing. Consistent
<b>57</b> Conserve and retain vegetation, including the circular tree plantations.	Monitor existing circular eucalypt plantations and new tree lots and regularly check for plant performance. Replace as required in accordance with CMP and the tree management plan (to be developed). Establish and maintain dry grass meadows.	Medium term: 2-5 years.	The MP retains the meadows. We have strengthened the words in the MP to reinforce the circular plantings.
<b>58</b> Install new barbeque and picnic areas.	Upgrade barbeque facilities in accordance with a consistent Weston Park furniture palette. The locations are dependant on further detailed studies (through the revised masterplan) including careful consideration of the visual impact from the shoreline.	Medium term: 2-5 years	As above, the MP includes upgraded picnic facilities. Consistent

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Precinct 9: Sub-Precinct—Kurrajong Point		Timing Category	
59	Precinct 9 is ranked as having a High level of significance. Elements of a High significance ranking require a high level of care in their management, but can tolerate change when it is undertaken in accordance with the CMP and with heritage advice.	Ongoing	The MP acknowledges the importance of views from Kurrajong Point and retains the existing landscape character improving the treatment of the round-a-bout and car parking consistent with the recommendations of the CMP.
60	Conserve and maintain important views out from Kurrajong Point. Conserve and maintain important views. Remove the identified weed tree species in adjacent precincts (refer to Appendix D).	Ongoing	The MP recommends removal of weed species. New tree planting does not block views. Consistent
61	Conserve and maintain the beach area for swimming and fishing. Conserve the beach for swimming and fishing. Allow lightweight watercraft to access or launch from the beach.	Medium term: 2-5 years	The MP retains the beach, including access for watercraft on the western side. Consistent
62	Remove the carpark from the Point Seal the carpark and assess the viability of employing WSUD principles to collect runoff	Short term: within 24 months.	The MP recommends removal of the existing inefficient and unattractive car park and replacement with a sealed road surface and rationalised sealed car park on the eastern side of the round-a-bout.