

CITY *Botanic* GARDENS

MASTER PLAN
2014







A message from Lord Mayor Graham Quirk

Brisbane is at the centre of one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. Over the next 20 years we anticipate significant growth for the city and it's important we introduce measures now in order to protect our unique way of life.

As a clean, green, outdoor-orientated city, our parks and open spaces are an important part of Brisbane's identity. These natural assets need to be preserved and enhanced so they can be enjoyed by future generations.

In the heart of the Central Business District is Brisbane's popular and much-loved heritage park, the City Botanic Gardens. Spanning 18 hectares and 1.2 kilometres of river frontage, it provides a leafy sanctuary amongst the urban bustle of the city centre.

The City Botanic Gardens Master Plan 2014 will guide planning for the anticipated increase in demand on this iconic open space.

At its core, the master plan focuses on ensuring the gardens remains an enjoyable and well-managed park that meets the needs of our growing city.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all members of the Community Reference Group for the ideas and opportunities they have presented to help devise the master plan and to all the residents who got involved and helped shape the future of this historic inner-city park.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham Quirk".

Graham Quirk
Lord Mayor

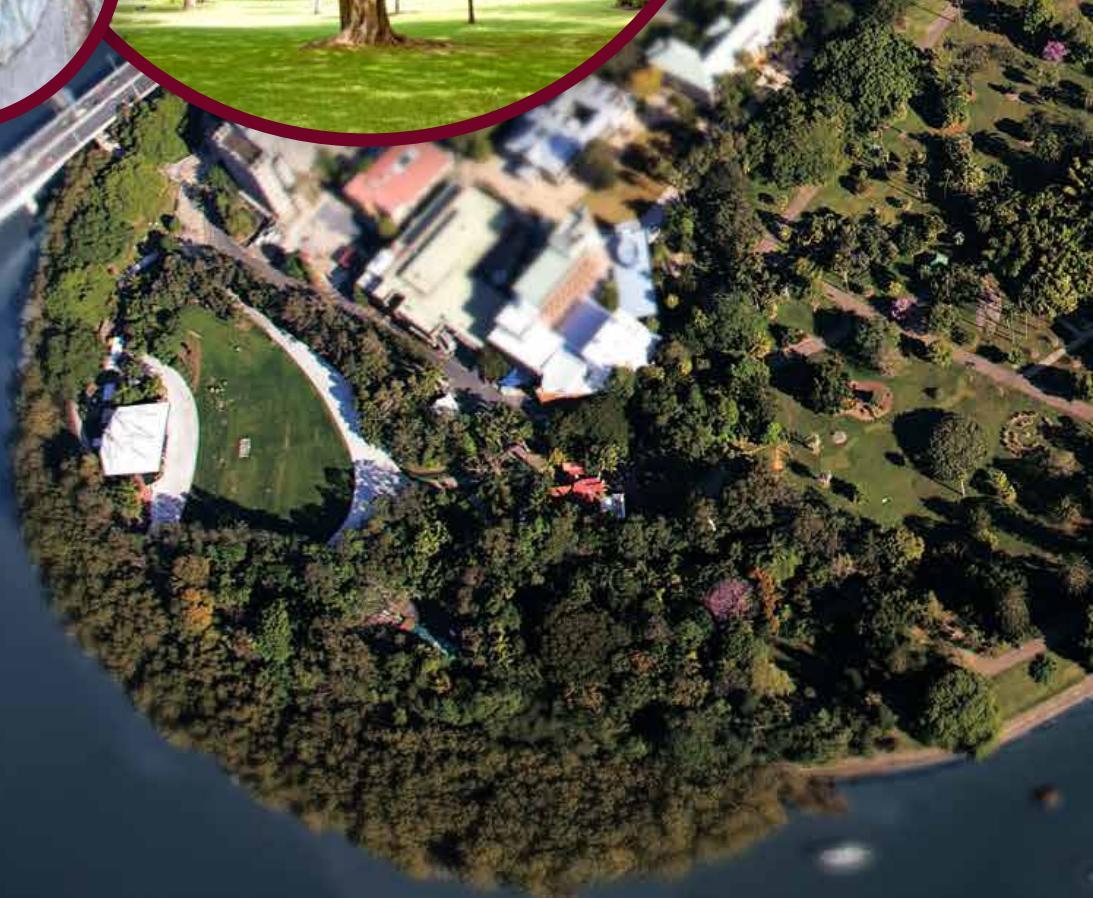


VISION

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS: PRIORITY PROJECTS

The master plan vision will be achieved through the delivery of nine priority projects. These projects will commence during the next five years. Aspirational projects suitable for long-term consideration are also identified.

Brisbane's most treasured gardens celebrate Brisbane's unique, rich horticultural history, long-lived trees and subtropical lifestyle.



N

Our gardens are world-class, contributing to Brisbane's emerging global reputation as Australia's New World City.

The river edge and outdoor spaces in the gardens are safe, inclusive and extend opportunities for recreation, reflection, entertainment and learning.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Brisbane City Centre Master Plan 2014 and Rivers Edge Strategy 2013

The City Botanic Gardens is an historic 18 hectare riverfront park located right in the heart of our growing city centre. Over its lifetime, the gardens have been a source of education, entertainment and enjoyment for the people of Brisbane. The City Botanic Gardens Master Plan 2014 will help to preserve the history of the park while planning for and managing future demands that will be placed on this unique inner-city open space.

As Brisbane emerges as Australia's New World City, the next 20 years will see an increase in the number of people visiting, living and working in the city centre. Projections suggest that every day 150,000 workers, 8900 residents and 9000 tourists will find their way to the city centre, increasing demands on the city's open spaces, including the City Botanic Gardens. Improving access to this inner-city reach of the Brisbane River will become important as projects such as the Queens Wharf precinct bring new vitality to the Gardens Point area of the city centre.

Brisbane City Council's City Centre Master Plan 2014 sets the vision for an open city centre that celebrates our outdoor, subtropical lifestyle. Council's 2013 Ideas Fiesta informed the development of that plan by encouraging the Brisbane community to explore the future of our city centre. Close to 16,500 people attended 27 community events to share their ideas and feedback. Through the fiesta, the community told us that the City Botanic Gardens is highly valued as a leafy, green, tranquil sanctuary from the busy urban life of the city and that a major threat to this was over-commercialisation.

Council's River's Edge Strategy 2013 identified opportunities to improve the way we use the inner-city reaches of our river. The Brisbane City Centre Master Plan and River's Edge Strategy inform the planning challenge for the City Botanic Gardens. We need to plan to accommodate growing demand for green, open space in the inner city while renewing the gardens as a place of knowledge, sanctuary, entertainment and activity. The gardens need to be easily accessible by all and offer experiences that underpin a global reputation.





THE CITY BOTANIC GARDENS, THE GREEN SPINE AND ONE OF THREE GREEN ANCHORS IN THE INNER CITY

A 'green spine' linking Roma Street Parkland to the City Botanic Gardens via Albert Street is identified as a city-making move and priority project to help deliver the vision for an open Brisbane. The City Botanic Gardens, Roma Street Parkland and the ever-popular South Bank Parklands are 'green anchors' in the bustle of the inner city.

"Rich with stories of our past, the city's most treasured park rests lazily by the river. A lush leafy playground for us all, the City Botanic Gardens will continue to offer respite from the urban bustle, playing host to events ranging from triathlons to music festivals. We will undertake public realm improvements to ensure the park evolves to meet the changing needs of the city. The gardens will remain the perfect spot for a Sunday family picnic beneath the figs."

Brisbane City Centre Master Plan 2014

Our City Botanic Gardens

A green sanctuary in the emerging Brisbane metropolis that has a rich and unique history.



JOHN OXLEY'S OBSERVATIONS 1823

In his journal notes for Tuesday 2 December 1823, the day Oxley named the Brisbane River, he wrote that the Gardens Point land was 'low and brushy', but did not stop to go ashore, instead keeping to the deeper channel along the southern side of the river.



ALEXANDER COWAN (Head Gardener 1886-1889)

continued the work of Hill and Pink on the riverbank grading and levelling, and began a pharmaceutical plant collection, adding zinc labels to plants.



J F BAILEY (Curator 1905-1917)

oversaw the introduction of electricity to the gardens. From August to May the gardens were open every night, and hosted popular evening concerts. During his curatorship, the gardens underwent a significant change when nine acres were removed from the tip of Gardens Point. Many large trees were lost and the fill was used to level areas of the gardens.

WALTER HILL (Director 1855-1881)

During Walter Hill's time as director, the gardens grew from the original six acre block to nearly 28 acres, which included the area of the former penal settlement's Government Gardens and Queen's Park. He planted the Bunya pines and fig trees, which are still in the gardens today.

1820

1830

1840

1850

1860

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

GOVERNMENT GARDEN 1828-1842

In the 1820s, convicts cleared the land and established the Government Gardens to grow subsistence crops to feed the penal colony.



JAMES PINK (Head Gardener 1881-1886)

added rose gardens and created palm avenues.



PHILLIP McMAHON (Curator 1889-1905)

aimed to plant a palm of each type in the world and also introduced many Australian native trees. He was a keen educator and each Arbor Day he dispatched thousands of plants to communities across Queensland.



Jhe master plan for the City Botanic Gardens identifies ways we can best showcase its heritage values and protect them for future generations. It considers ways to improve access to the river's edge, balance the need for activity and tranquility and connect to other open spaces in the city. It has been prepared in accordance with conservation and land management plan requirements. This was important as the site is listed in the Queensland Heritage Register and is a Crown reserve for botanic gardens purposes with Council as the trustee.

The City Botanic Gardens is a living museum of diverse plant collections and features a mix of historic specimens and present-day plantings from Australia and around the world.

One of three 'green anchors' of inner-city Brisbane, the gardens features unique botanical heritage values including a large long-lived collection of rare specimens, figs and Bunya pines. The gardens also contain historic artefacts such as gates, fountains, rotundas and the Bunya Walk along the river front. Importantly, this unique open space is located right in the heart of Brisbane's city centre.

The City Botanic Gardens is Brisbane's original botanic gardens and provides insight into the cultural values that underpin Brisbane's society. The gardens are more than 150-years-old and represents the hard work

and dedication of curators whose contribution to the gardens can still be seen today.

The City Botanic Gardens is located at Gardens Point, known as *Mianjin* by the local Indigenous people. In the early 1820s convicts cleared the land and established the Government Gardens to grow subsistence crops to feed the penal colony of a thousand people.

The City Botanic Gardens was formally established by the New South Wales Government in 1855 under Walter Hill, the first director of the gardens. Trained at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in London, Hill was responsible for the layout and acquisition of plants. He distributed cuttings of sugar cane, cotton seeds and other plants to new settlers, allowing them to start their own farms. His work contributed to the foundation of an agricultural economy in the newly established colony of Queensland.

During Hill's time as director, the gardens more than quadrupled in size, growing from the original six acre block to nearly 28 acres. Hill planted the Bunya pines, fig trees and many other native and exotic species, which still stand tall in the gardens today.

In the years following Hill's directorship, the gardens constantly evolved as each head gardener and curator shaped them in their own way.

ERNEST BICK
(Curator 1917-1940) expanded the aviary and zoo, which were significant visitor attractions with flamingos, deer, monkeys, bears, kangaroos, emus and a Galapagos tortoise.

GARDENS POINT REDEVELOPMENT AND BEYOND 1985

From 1982, designs for the gardens were considered by Council and Queensland Institute of Technology (now Queensland University of Technology) and these were implemented in 1987. The changes included the introduction of the information rotunda, realignment and widening of pathways, creation of entries within Queensland Institute of Technology and the renovation of the curator's residence as a kiosk. In the same year, work began on a soundshell and amphitheatre in the Domain. The Riverstage was opened in 1989 and continues to be a popular outdoor venue, in particular for the Lord Mayor's Carols by Candlelight concert. Popular guided walking tours led by volunteer guides take place twice daily (excluding Sundays) and highlight features of the gardens.



In 2013, work began on an upgrade to Gardens Point Road, creating a modern, urban edge to QUT. In early 2014, an all-abilities playground was unveiled on the Baldwin Lawn, creating a popular destination for children of all ages and abilities.

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

In the early 1940s through to the end of WWII there was no curator or director.

JOHN R BAILEY
(Curator 1946-1956) introduced an extensive labelling system. The gardens grew as a popular place during this time and in 1953 a permanent orchestra shelter was erected.

HAROLD CAULFIELD
(Curator 1956-1980) was curator during a time of great change. The zoological collection was disbanded and replaced by an elaborate waterfall and rockery designed by Harry Oakman. In 1972, work began on the new Brisbane Botanic Gardens at Mt Coot-tha and the scientific role of the gardens officially ceased.

The master plan for the City Botanic Gardens identifies ways we can best showcase its heritage values and protect them for future generations. It considers ways to improve access to the river's edge, balance the need for activity and tranquility and connect to other open spaces in the city. It has been prepared in accordance with conservation and land management plan requirements.



DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND

With its rich history, the City Botanic Gardens has special significance for our community. The following design principles guided the development of the master plan, to preserve and enhance what is important and to extend the benefits of the gardens for all to enjoy.

MAP OF THE CITY BOTANIC GARDENS



01

PROVIDE AN EXCITING RIVERSIDE PUBLIC REALM.

02

BRING BRISBANE'S UNIQUE CULTURAL HERITAGE TO LIFE.

03

INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTION.

04

ENHANCE BRISBANE'S SUBTROPICAL LIFESTYLE.

05

CHAMPION PARTNERSHIPS THAT INCREASE OUR GLOBAL REPUTATION.

OPPORTUNITIES

Delight visitors and residents with the quality and variety of spaces, facilities and programs to unlock the potential of the gardens and its riverside location.

City Botanic Gardens - A PLACE OF MANY EXPERIENCES



Reveal the aesthetic, heritage, scientific, social and cultural values of Queensland's first botanic gardens. Reveal and interpret these values so they are known and appreciated by visitors and residents alike.

City Botanic Gardens - A PLACE OF KNOWLEDGE AND HISTORY



Make a clear connection through the Albert Street green spine to Roma Street Parkland. Provide wider connection to South Bank Parklands, Kangaroo Point and Howard Smith Wharves. Respectfully integrate active transport connections and provide well-designed infrastructure that is safe, universally accessible and inclusive.

City Botanic Gardens - A CONNECTED AND ACCESSIBLE PLACE



Grow the profile of the gardens as the green sanctuary in the city centre. Take advantage of our inviting subtropical climate by providing opportunities for everyone to enjoy a variety of outdoor spaces and activities and provide a green, leafy respite from the urban bustle.

City Botanic Gardens - A PLACE OF SANCTUARY AND ENLIGHTENMENT



Partner with community and business to unlock the potential for improving the gardens, the Domain and Riverstage, providing activation, funding and marketing opportunities.

City Botanic Gardens - A PLACE WITH A GLOBAL REPUTATION



A place of

01 | MANY EXPERIENCES



The gardens can be a lush, leafy and safe playground for all ages and abilities, offering a wide range of play and recreation spaces, experiences, activities and events. This vibrant and exciting character will be balanced with areas for respite and sanctuary.

**PROJECT
PRIORITY**
**ALBERT STREET
CONCOURSE**



**PROJECT
PRIORITY**
PATHWAYS



ASPIRATIONAL PROJECTS FOR LONG-TERM CONSIDERATION

THE DOMAIN

The Domain provides opportunities to embrace large-scale change to meet the needs of the growing city. Its location and history of modification allow broad scale change without affecting historic artefacts or vegetation. The terrain of the site and dense rainforest planting adjacent allow busy activities to occur without affecting the quiet core of the gardens.

RIVER EDGE

Engage more with the river by improving access, providing facilities for recreation, introducing infrastructure to enable dining and pop-up events and creating opportunities to access the water.

CONCOURSE

Upgrade the Albert Street concourse to provide an iconic botanical spectacle at this key entrance and position in Brisbane's green spine. Provide activation through events and performances.

QUEEN'S PARK, RIVER EDGE AND GARDENS POINT ROAD

In Queen's Park field provide facilities and finishes to better support active recreation including jogging, training, cycling and informal games. Along the river edge provide points for river based recreation. At Gardens Point and Riverstage assess the potential provision of access to open, grassed spaces.

PLAYGROUND

Review and refresh the playground to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the all abilities community.

NIGHT GARDENS

The gardens should extend the 'city of lights' strategy of the City Centre Master Plan with night-time activities, lighting and security infrastructure to allow key areas to remain open all hours. Feature lighting can highlight special trees and garden elements.

PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR SHORT-TERM DELIVERY



1 Improve the quality of the river edge pathway.

The gardens are situated at the heart of an inner-city web of transport routes. Improving the quality of the river edge pathway will enable more park users to safely engage with the Brisbane River, enjoy recreation along the banks of the river and contribute to the gardens status as a world-class waterfront park.

This project will allow continued shared use by pedestrians and cyclists to be accommodated without diminishing community enjoyment and the cultural values of the gardens, whilst also delivering safe pathways for all park users.

2 A redesign of Albert Street concourse.

Upgrading the Albert Street concourse will create a welcoming garden entry and reinforce the idea of a 'green spine' connecting Wickham Park and Roma Street Parkland with the City Botanic Gardens through a lushly planted Albert Street.

This project offers an opportunity to create a sensitively designed, adaptable destination space that can be used for small-scale uses, temporary events and performances, leaving the balance of the gardens for quiet, tranquil pursuits and the appreciation of the historically significant plantings.

A place of

02 KNOWLEDGE AND HISTORY

The first City Botanic Gardens played a critical scientific role in the fledgling settlement of Brisbane, and helped to establish an agricultural economy in Queensland. This master plan proposes to return the focus to educational and knowledge-based activities and experiences related to the history and riches of the gardens, botany, horticulture and sustainability. The following strategies will reinvigorate the gardens as a place of knowledge.



PROJECT
PRIORITY
RENEWAL



An idea for the visitor kiosk to be located near the QUT border

ASPIRATIONAL PROJECTS FOR LONG-TERM CONSIDERATION

VISITOR CENTRE

Create a visitor centre as an accessible, high-profile touch point for information and a place to savour delights from the gardens.

TECHNOLOGY

Provide digital interfaces to the educational aspects and resources of the gardens.

INTERPRETATION

Tell the colourful stories of the gardens, their collections and creators and their place in our history through activations, artworks, signage and digital platforms.

ENGAGEMENT

Create a series of marked trails and stories to engage visitors and lead them through the gardens.

RENEWAL

Reinstate plant collections and seek partnerships and sponsorships to maintain, publicise and interpret special collections.

ACTIVATION

Curate performances and events to activate spaces in the gardens and on the river's edge. Program events, enable pop-ups and activities and build meaning with recurring events like artists-in-residence. Curate the three 'green anchors' together to showcase and strengthen the unique identity of each inner-city green space.

PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR SHORT-TERM DELIVERY



① Introduction of a new information kiosk and visitor centre.

Creating an information kiosk and visitor centre will provide the foundation for learning and exploration of the gardens. Located on the site of the original kiosk, the new kiosk will take advantage of commanding views across the gardens, close to the QUT border.

② Investigate the renewal of historic plant collections including edible crops, fruit trees and medicinal plants.

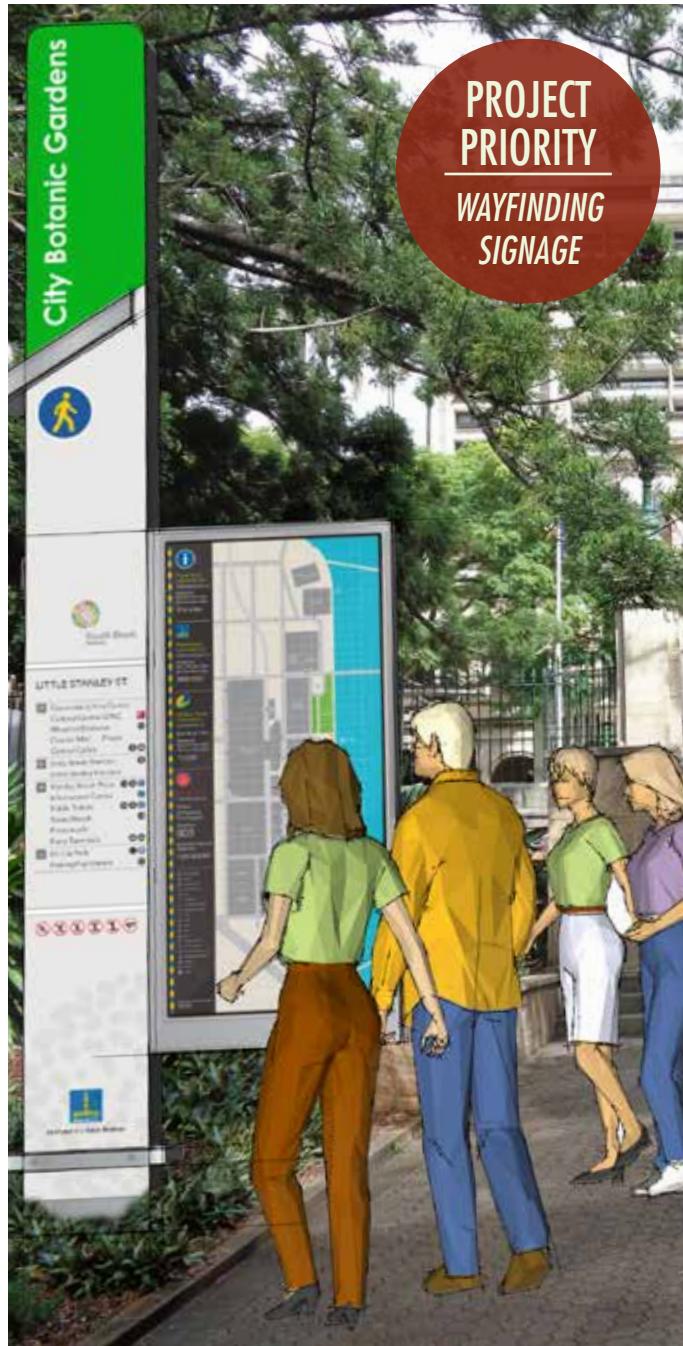
The City Botanic Gardens has more than a 150-year history as Queensland's first botanic gardens and is arguably the most significant cultural heritage place in Queensland. Reinventing plant collections and seeking partnerships to maintain special collections ensures that the gardens remain a living illustration of Queensland's botanical history.

This project ensures that the botanical role of the gardens is showcased and that the gardens' point of difference as the most historic green space in the city is celebrated. Edible crops, fruit trees and medicinal plants will all be considered, as well as the inclusion of native plants to enhance the international visitor experience.

03 | A CONNECTED & ACCESSIBLE PLACE

*T*he gardens' connection with streets, pedestrian bridges and the river will be inviting and complement its surrounds. The gardens are well placed to offer moments of respite to inner-city workers on their daily commute. Pathways within the gardens will allow visitors to wander and explore the gardens without feeling lost.

An idea for wayfinding signage



PROJECT PRIORITY

CYCLE RACKS



ASPIRATIONAL PROJECTS FOR LONG-TERM CONSIDERATION

ACTIVE TRANSPORT

Improve the active transport connections around the edges of the gardens to the inner-city network without compromising the quiet character of the gardens' core. Provide end-of-journey facilities at key nodes, rest stops and viewing points.

PATHWAYS AND ACCESSIBILITY

Improve the pathway network to create an accessible and inclusive hierarchy which connects entry points to gardens' facilities and the river edge.

WAYFINDING

Provide wayfinding and signage for improving the quality and accessibility of information in the gardens, consistent with the city centre foreign language wayfinding signage.

PARKING AND DROP-OFF

Manage parking and vehicular access to retain the pedestrian focus of the gardens. Consider options for the Alice Street frontage and Domain to provide drop-off, parking and access points.

PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR SHORT-TERM DELIVERY



1 Design a suite of wayfinding signs to help visitors find their way around the gardens and locate facilities and displays.

Designing a suite of interpretive wayfinding signs will allow park visitors to easily move around the gardens, locate facilities and displays and facilitate greater understanding of the gardens' botanical importance for Queensland whilst also telling its historical stories.

This project ensures that the experiences of all types of visitors will be enhanced.

2 Provide cycle racks at entries and major facilities to allow visitors to securely park their bicycles and explore the gardens.

Providing cycle racks at the gardens' three main entries, and at key destinations, will improve the gardens' connectivity to the inner-city network without compromising the quiet character of the gardens' core.

This project ensures that the gardens remain easily accessible for a variety of park visitors.

A place of

04 SANCTUARY AND ENLIGHTENMENT

The gardens offer respite from the bustle of the city centre and space to pause and reconnect with nature. The quiet sense of sanctuary within the gardens — a place to rest and find tranquility — is highly valued by the community. We need to protect and strengthen the character of the gardens while it evolves to meet the needs of our growing city.



ASPIRATIONAL PROJECTS FOR LONG-TERM CONSIDERATION

STRONG EDGES

Trees and planting at the gardens' boundaries and river's edge will provide a vibrant green statement and buffer to the busyness and scale of the city. Subtropical streetscapes will reflect the richness of the gardens and the urban qualities of Albert, Edward and Alice streets.

DEFINED ENTRIES

Create a memorable statement at each entry to welcome and delight visitors. Each entry will incorporate a theme developed from the historic plant collection in that part of the gardens.

PASSIVE RECREATION

Invest, extend and improve the passive recreational facilities to meet the requirements of workers, residents, students and tourists.

VEGETATION

Vegetation is fundamental to the character of the gardens. Heritage trees will be retained and protected from impacts and plants and lawns managed to ensure good health and vigour.

DINING IN THE GARDENS

Dining in the gardens can become a unique and memorable opportunity to slow down and enjoy the subtropical climate, lush colourful vegetation, food grown on site and peace and quiet.

ARTWORK

Incorporate public artwork to express an ongoing creative dialogue between visitors, history and plants. Align and integrate with the riverside public art trail and the city centre public art strategy.

PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR SHORT-TERM DELIVERY



1 Establish a 'Friends of the Gardens' group of volunteers to participate in an ongoing program to improve vegetation quality in the gardens.

Establishing and supporting a formal 'Friends of the Gardens' group provides an opportunity for Brisbane residents to contribute to the care and maintenance of the gardens, strengthening the valuable contribution made to date.

2 Investigate the lighting of trees within the gardens.

Investigating ways to enable lighting of the trees will enable a more diverse use of the gardens and showcase the myriad of unique and interesting plantings throughout the gardens.

This project provides the opportunity to use light to not only improve perceptions of public safety and increase the gardens' patronage but also to demarcate those places that are more active and those that are more in repose – both day and night.

A place with

05 | A GLOBAL REPUTATION



*T*he gardens will help to define Brisbane's cultural identity and relaxed, outdoor lifestyle. The gardens will create memorable experiences for our visitors. They will help the community to come alive, to connect and to care.

**PROJECT
PRIORITY**
**THE GARDENS
BRAND**



ASPIRATIONAL PROJECTS FOR LONG-TERM CONSIDERATION

NEW WORLD CITY

The gardens experience is a major contributor to the outdoor lifestyle which sets Brisbane apart as Australia's New World City. Festivals and events in the shade of spreading trees next to the river will help define our cultural identity and high-quality relaxed lifestyle.

ECONOMIC GENERATOR

Opportunities are embraced to unlock funding streams for maintenance, programming and ongoing investment.

PARTNERSHIPS

The gardens will develop a stronger relationship with the community by providing opportunities for input into its ongoing function, programming and maintenance.

SPONSORSHIP, PHILANTHROPY AND GRANTS

Opportunities are provided for the public, organisations, institutions and corporations to sponsor the care and activation of the gardens, including: trees, plant collections, facilities, infrastructure, performances and artwork.

WORLD-CLASS DESIGN

All new elements and structures will be planned and designed to protect the gardens' values, to build the gardens' theme and incorporate a botanical focus.

TOURISM AND VISITATION

A visit to the gardens helps to unlock the fascinating history of Brisbane and Queensland for visitors from other parts of Australia and overseas with easy access to information and the creation of memorable experiences, spaces and structures.

PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR SHORT-TERM DELIVERY

BUILD THE CITY BOTANIC GARDENS BRAND

Brisbane residents felt that the master plan should "embrace and celebrate the history of the gardens, to create a point of difference to South Bank and Roma Street Parkland".

They felt that achieving this would, in turn, assist Brisbane's global reputation but that they wished the gardens could remain a "secret" for locals. The City Botanic Gardens brand is to be that place where people living, or working in, and

visiting the city can seek "a connection with nature" and "a place for contemplation and tranquillity", while enjoying the "old world colonial nature" that is unique to the gardens.

This project provides the opportunity to ensure that the gardens retain their point of difference to other areas of the city as this is a "Botanic Garden, the birthplace of Queensland horticulture and agriculture".



Quality 24-hour spaces



Subtropical planting



Events to encourage tourism



Philanthropy builds means



Unique Queensland design



World-class events



Unique history



Everyday horticulture



Something for everyone



Creative access to information



Explore and learn



Unique volunteer experiences

Projects considered

IN THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS



01

PROVIDE AN EXCITING RIVERSIDE PUBLIC REALM: A PLACE OF MANY EXPERIENCES

- Demarcate the Domain entry to the gardens with a custom-designed sign, lighting, seating and wayfinding.
- Improve planting in the Domain to create a subtropical entry statement.
- Improve lighting to the pathway connecting the Goodwill Bridge to Bunya Walk.
- Improve the quality of the river edge pathway.
- Remove the existing Information Rotunda roof and remodel the area above the toilets as a viewing platform and informal dining area to open up views into the gardens.
- Develop a detailed plan for the redesign of the Albert Street concourse to allow for the provision of servicing, increased activation for events and as a key destination in the 'green spine'.
- Create a maintenance strategy for the Queen's Park Field to improve the quality of lawns in this well-used area of the gardens.
- Upgrade lighting throughout the gardens to allow night use.
- Investigate the establishment of a public art trail along the Bunya Walk.
- Create a subtropical plaza in the Domain which welcomes visitors with lush vegetation, green walls and boutique retail outlets.
- Investigate locations for integrated view points and interpretive signage.
- Redesign the current lookout over the river to be more accessible and include opportunities for river's edge activation and pop-up dining.
- Investigate interventions along the river's edge to blur the boundary between land and water and provide for boat mooring, viewing areas and pop-up dining.
- Investigate a location for a welcome showpiece fountain.



02

BRING BRISBANE'S UNIQUE CULTURAL HERITAGE TO LIFE: A PLACE OF KNOWLEDGE AND HISTORY

- Create an information kiosk as the first phase of a visitor centre. Located on the site of the original kiosk, above the 1890s flood level, the new kiosk will take advantage of commanding views across the gardens, close to the QUT border.
- Replant the native border with butterfly and bird attracting plants to acknowledge the gardens' bygone role as a zoo.
- Design a suite of interpretive signs to tell some of the historic stories of the gardens.
- Investigate the establishment of a butterfly house or aviary.
- Extend the information kiosk to become a visitor centre as the hub of information and wayfinding for the gardens. Investigate building structures that have a subtropical feel and room for interactive displays and cafe-style dining.
- Develop a museum-quality network of information linked from the visitor centre into the gardens with publicly accessible portals at the Albert Street concourse, Edward Street entry, rainforest, playground and in the Domain.
- Investigate the renewal of historic plant collections including edible crops, fruit trees and medicinal plants.
- Investigate the redesign of the Albert Street concourse to make a focus for creative events, facilitate the installation of a fountain and communicate the heritage values of the gardens. Consider other locations within the gardens that provide opportunities for temporary events, performances and displays to showcase the heritage values of the gardens.



03

INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTION: A CONNECTED AND ACCESSIBLE PLACE

- Retain the disability parking close to the Edward Street entry.
- Create a new boardwalk link between the Albert Street concourse and Bunya Walk to provide access to the playground and to protect the health of Hill's Fig Avenue. Install interpretive signage and shade-tolerant understorey planting.
- Design a suite of wayfinding signs to allow visitors to find their way around the gardens and locate facilities and displays.
- Provide cycle racks at entries and major facilities to allow visitors to securely park their bicycles and explore the gardens.
- Investigate the installation of a pontoon to allow access to the Brisbane River for kayaking and other water-based activities.
- As part of the proposed Kangaroo Point Pedestrian Bridge project, investigate the relocation of disability parking at the Edward Street entry to Alice Street and explore further opportunities for parking at the Domain with accessible pathway links into the gardens.
- Investigate drop-off points and stops along Alice Street for private vehicles and coaches to allow tour groups and users with special needs to be dropped off close to the core of the gardens.
- Develop and implement a clear hierarchy of pathways to improve the clarity of connections and upgrade major pathways with a high-quality surface finish.
- Provide additional pathways to connect to existing displays and gardens features and to create loops for walkers and joggers.



04

ENHANCE BRISBANE'S SUBTROPICAL LIFESTYLE: A PLACE OF SANCTUARY AND ENLIGHTENMENT

- At each entry to the gardens, create a sense of welcome, wayfinding and unique themes related to historic plant collections. Upgrade irrigation to ensure vegetation is well maintained.
- Improve the entry at Gardens Point Road and the Domain to create a strong, legible and attractive welcome to the gardens from the Goodwill Bridge.
- Support the existing Gardens Club café to help educate visitors about current and historical edible crops in the gardens. Investigate the installation of bee hives to provide honey for use in the café.
- Review vegetation and lagoon management practices to align with the other green anchors of South Bank and Roma Street Parklands to ensure a consistent inner-city parkland quality.
- Establish a 'Friends of the Gardens' group of volunteers to participate in an ongoing program to improve vegetation quality in the gardens.
- Investigate the lighting of trees within the gardens.
- Investigate opportunities for temporary and flexible food and coffee outlets by providing plug-in points in busier parts of the gardens.
- Improve planting at the boundaries to provide a memorable subtropical identity and edge to the city.
- Develop a detailed plan for the renewal of the Middle Gardens to upgrade existing displays, integrate medicinal plantings and install a small band stand.
- Improve the quality of the lawns for recreational use.
- Implement the ongoing renewal of historic plant collections as part of a vegetation management plan.
- Improve the quality of the rainforest with understorey planting, a new boardwalk and interpretive signage.
- Create a suite of furniture throughout the gardens that will increase the level of passive recreation, especially seats located to take advantage of interesting views and shaded locations.



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