

Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan Background Document

January 2022

Traditional Custodian Acknowledgement

Victoria's network of parks and reserves, of which Braeside Park is one, form the core of Aboriginal cultural landscapes, which have been modified over many thousands of years of occupation.

They are reflections of how Aboriginal people engaged with their world and experienced their surroundings and are the product of thousands of generations of economic activity, material culture and settlement patterns.

Parks Victoria acknowledges the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation as the Traditional Custodians of these cultural landscapes, recognising their continuing connection to Victoria's parks and reserves and ongoing role in caring for Country.

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Cover Page Photo 1: Ancient Red Gum

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Photo 2: Red Gums along the Cypress Drive



Executive Summary

Vision

Braeside Park will continue to be a place for people to relax, recreate, be healthy, come together, learn about and enjoy culture and nature.

Background

Braeside Park consists of 312 hectares located in the south-east region of metropolitan Melbourne, within the City of Kingston Local Government Area. The park is a green-space oasis amid an urbanised, residential environment, where, apart from local beaches, access to large public open-space is limited. The park offers a variety of educational and recreational opportunities. It protects significant environmental values and cultural heritage, from Aboriginal occupation to European settlement. The park's Red Gum grassy woodlands, Heathland and the wetlands, provide a series of diverse, complex and valuable environmental communities.

Over 800,000 people visited the park in 2020, particularly with the impact of Covid Restrictions and limited access to open space and parkland. However, the visitor numbers are continuing to grow. These visitors use the seventeen kilometres of multi-purpose trails meandering through the park, providing opportunities for walking, running or cycling. A gentle stroll can be taken through the interactive horticultural space, around the muraled art walls or tree stump carvings. An adventure playground includes modules for both younger and older children including access for those with limited mobility. Barbecues and picnic facilities are also available.

Objectives

The Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan background document, developed in consultation with the community and stakeholders, guides the future of Braeside Park over the next 5- 10 years.

The objective of developing a broader precinct plan for Braeside Park is to acknowledge the changing use and pressures currently impacting and surrounding the park and to pro-actively plan for the future to maintain the park's integrity.

The Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan will provide direction for Braeside Park for the next 5-10 years, informing how the park is used and its natural and cultural assets protected. It will provide short to medium term guidance for management decisions that support the park's future direction. The following outline the approach:

1. Define Braeside Park, its assets, role and uses;
2. Develop a vision for the park ; and
3. Map and describe future activity.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

To gather ideas about future possibilities for Braeside Park and understand how the community currently use the park, Parks Victoria hosted three stakeholder workshops and an online survey via Engage Victoria. The workshops and survey built an understanding of how Braeside Park is currently perceived, understood, utilized and managed from multiple perspectives. These sessions assisted in documenting the varied values and key issues impacting the park, addressed above.

Across the three workshops, 33 key stakeholders attended from Parks Victoria, City of Kingston, Friends of Braeside Park, Dingley Village Men's Shed, Southern Migrant Refugee Centre and other local community groups. Further to the workshops, a community based, Engage Victoria online survey was completed by 1,132 residents and park visitors.

Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan Overview

The following initiatives have been established during the development of the Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan background document:

Key initiatives

1. Entrance and Interface

Increase the visual appeal of the park for passers-by and visitors attending the park, and as a distinctive public space.

2. Community Hub

The community hub consists of the Visitor centre, toilet amenities, the Dingley Village Men's Shed and horticultural space. This area will have a development overlay to inform any future building infrastructure proposed for the park.

3. Events Space

The current open area contained within the asphalt road network and car parks will be maintained as open space, programmed to cater to various other community events.

4. Increased trails

As part of catering to increasing park visitation and the activities of walking, running and park appreciation, additional trails are being added to the park. Additional to existing seating, more rest and respite areas will be located along the journeys.

5. Expanded play space

With the current bush kinder program expanding and an increasing visitation to the park, there is a great opportunity to expand the natural environment play space, reflecting the qualities and values of the park and materials within it.

6. Shared User Path

The Mordialloc Freeway, has a new shared user path running alongside it. To support this initiative, the plan proposes improving key linkages and park entries from the shared user path for greater and easier access into Braeside Park.

7. New Wetlands

To build on the value of environmental restoration and support the environmental values of the park, in an area that remains unremarkable the Keysborough and Dingley Waterways provide an opportunity to initiate and develop new wetlands.

8. Way-finding, Signage and Interpretation Strategy

A strategy for way-finding, signage and interpretation is required to fulfil the ambitions of the other initiatives and meet the key visitor objectives of the park.

Implementation

The initiatives identified in this plan form the basis for future programming of works. This plan outlines a hierarchy for implementation and the potential costs for implementation. The action items prioritised for implementation in the short term include trail linkages, new entrance to the park, the establishment connections to the new Mordialloc Freeway shared user path, the development of a nature-based play space and zoning for future building consolidation. The cost for these works is estimated to be in the order of \$10-\$12 million.

Fully implemented, this plan will provide a range of new and improved facilities, experiences and recreational opportunities to benefit both locals and visitors whilst retaining the environmental and cultural values of Braeside Park.



Photo 3: Red Gums Phar Lap Track

1. Introduction



Photo 4: Braeside Park Wetland

1.1 Braeside Park

Braeside Park consists of 312 hectares and is located in the south-east region of metropolitan Melbourne, within the City of Kingston Local Government Area. The park is a green-space oasis amid an urbanised, residential environment, where access to large areas of green public open-space is limited (not including local beaches). The park offers a variety of educational and recreational opportunities. It protects significant environmental and cultural heritage, from Aboriginal occupation to European settlement. The park's Red Gum grassy woodlands, Heathland and the wetlands, provide a series of diverse, complex and valuable environmental communities.

Seventeen kilometres of multi-purpose trails meander through the park, providing opportunities for walking, running or cycling. A gentle stroll can be taken through the interactive horticultural space, around the muraled art walls or tree stump carvings. An adventure playground includes modules for both younger and older children including access for those with limited mobility. Barbeques and picnic facilities are also available.

Over 502,000 people visited the park in 2019, up from 480,000 in 2018, with visitor numbers continuing to grow. The main visitor group was nature admirers with visitor satisfaction remaining strong. Many people rated the natural, outdoor environment, and kids play space as the most important features within the park.

Since 1989, The Friends of Braeside Park have worked tirelessly and collaboratively with Parks Victoria to improve both the environmental and habitat values of the park. A very active Men's Shed operates in the northern section of the park, offering a gathering and activity space for local men. Several community groups regularly meet at the park and use its facilities, including those at the visitor centre. Six licensed tour operators (LTO) have permits to carry out their activities within the park, offering a range of passive and active recreation opportunities.



Photo 5: Braeside Park Sunrise

2. Project Objectives



Photo 6: Braeside Park Trail

2.1 Objective for the Plan

The objective of developing a broader Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan for Braeside Park is to acknowledge the changing use and pressures currently impacting and surrounding the park and to pro-actively plan for the future to maintain the park's integrity.

The Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan background document will provide direction for Braeside Park for the next 5-10 years, informing how the park is used and its natural and cultural assets protected. It will provide short to medium term guidance for management decisions that support the park's future direction.

Stakeholder and community input is integral in the process of determining this future direction, ensuring Braeside Park continues to be a valued place for recreation while

maintaining the park's significant environmental values. The Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan will do this by:

1. defining Braeside Park, its assets, role and uses;
2. developing a vision for the park ; and
3. mapping and describing future activity.

With growing visitation and ever changing community surrounding the park, there is a need to continually assess Braeside Park's relevance to visitors. Recently, the park has grappled with requests for use of the park for activities that have, historically, not taken place in the park.

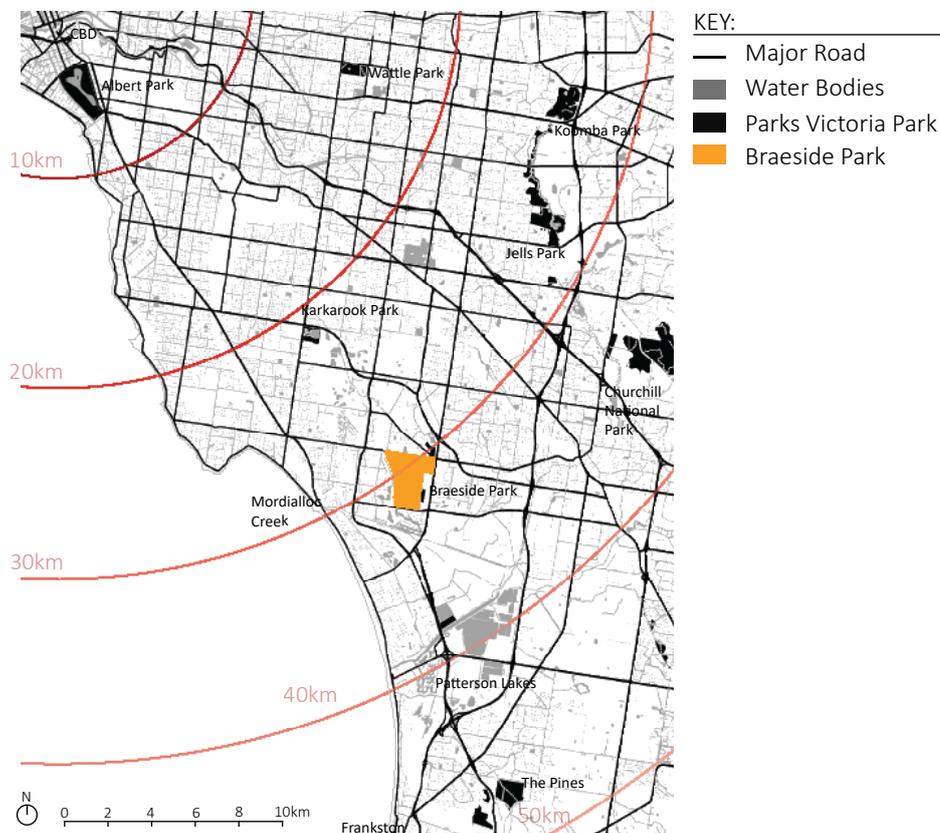
These include:

- Allowing dog activity in the park.
- Allowing horse activity in the park.
- Housing historic farm equipment, in built infrastructure, on park land.
- Development of formalised sports fields, and associated infrastructure in the northern end of the park.
- Establishment of a community hub, inclusive of a horticultural space.
- Introduction of basic camping facilities, potentially at southern end of park.



Photo 7: Sulphur Crested Cockatoo

3. Site Context



3.1 Regional Context

Braeside Park is located approximately 25km from metropolitan Melbourne, and is within the City of Kingston Local Government Area. It is one of two parks managed by Parks Victoria in the municipality, the other being Karkarook Park.

The Braeside Metropolitan Park Master Plan Report (1987) has not been updated, however the primary goal for the development and management of the park remains relevant and consistent: *‘The provision of diverse recreational and educational experiences for the metropolitan community, which are compatible with protection and enhancement of the park’s ecological and cultural resources.’*



Map 2: Current Context

- KEY:**
- Mordialloc Freeway
 - Braeside Park
 - Major Road
 - Water Bodies
 - Open Green Space

The main visitor group that travels to Braeside Park are nature admirers with visitor satisfaction remaining strong and many people rating the natural, outdoors environment, and kids play space as the most important features within the park. Other key visitor groups to Braeside Park are: **Urban Socials** who visit for large social gatherings; **Trail Users** who visit the park for a physical experience; **Passive and Other Users** who visit to relax and unwind in a natural setting; and **Nature Admirers** appreciating the diverse nature the park offers during the changing seasons.

The Friends of Braeside Park, the Braeside Walkers, the Dingley Village Men’s Shed and Southern Migrant Refugee Centre are the most active community groups operating in the park. Several community groups regularly meet at the park, making use of the facilities within the park, including those at the visitor centre. Six Licensed Tour Operators, offering a range of passive and active recreation opportunities, have permits to carry out their activities within the park.

The park offers a variety of educational and recreational opportunities for the area. It protects significant environmental and cultural heritage, including areas of Aboriginal significance and European post settlement relics and artefacts. The park’s Red Gum grassy woodlands, Heathland and the wetlands, provide a series of diverse, complex and valuable environmental communities.

The Mordialloc Freeway is programmed to be opened in December 2021 and will have direct external influences on the park. This will run along the western edge of the park directly alongside the current Parks Victoria office. A 3m high sound barrier will be installed for full extent of the park’s western boundary.

A popular track that will be intercepted by the bypass will be retained by an underpass to the adjacent industrial estate. This will provide continued pedestrian access into the western side of the park. Vehicle traffic noise is expected to impact the amenity of the park, especially along the western edge however the extent of impact is unknown.

3.2 Local Context

The City of Kingston, within which Braeside Park is situated, is a diverse community with residents from over 150 countries of origin, speaking 120 languages and following over 28 faiths. Around 20% percent of the population have a disability, and the City of Kingston older residents make up the fastest growing population group in the municipality. There are over 40 multicultural senior groups in the municipality.

Although there were 502,000 visits during 2019, a 54% increase in visitor numbers since 2000. The visitation increased by 60% to over 800,000 through 2020. Particularly influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and limited access to open space and parkland. This event clearly demonstrated the value of Braeside Park for the local community having the opportunity to explore and utilise their local park. The number of visitors is likely to continue to increase into 2021 if the projection aligns with the increasing regional popularity and the predicted 30% increase in Melbourne’s population.



KEY:

- 1 Social Precinct
- 1a Parks Victoria Office and Depot
- 2 Heathland Conservation Area
- 3 Red Gum Grassy Woodland
- 4 Red Gum Woodland
- 5 Wetland Conservation Area
- 6 S.E.T.S Corridor

Map 3: Braeside Existing Precincts

3.3 Park Overview

Braeside Park is divided into six distinct precincts each with its own character. These are:

1. The park's Social Precinct to the north, houses the major buildings, the sealed road and car parks. The area also contains 1a. the Parks Victoria offices, depot and creative indigenous garden. Part of this precinct is the Cypress Drive boulevard lined with old senescent cypress and bordered by eucalypt woodlands and broad picnic areas in sun or shade.
2. The Heathland Conservation Area contains remnant coastal Heathland flora. Access into this precinct is currently restricted.
3. The Red Gum Grassy Woodlands with open woodland and sparse under-storey creating varied environments and habitats based on the type and density of trees. This area also contains the former Phar Lap Training Track and horse swimming dam. The woodland also hosts a local orchid assemblage.
4. The Red Gum Woodland, a diverse environment with areas of open pasture and ancient trees. This precinct is impacted by grazing and has large expanses of open grassland. This area also contains the Keysborough waterway channels.
5. The Wetland Conservation Area is significant habitat for threatened species and migratory and local waders and is a key attractor of many other birds. It allow visitors open and spectacular water views. It is readily inundated during large rain events that limits accessibility to some sections of the trail.
6. The South Eastern Trunk Sewer (S.E.T.S) formal corridor contains the S.E.T.S. track and the above ground vent stacks and below ground infrastructure.



Photo 8: Reflections- Ephemeral Wetland S.E.T.S. Track

4. Management

4.1 Existing Master Plan

The existing master plan prepared by the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works has not been updated or reviewed since 1987. However, the primary goal for the development and management of the park remains relevant:

‘The provision of diverse recreational and educational experiences for the metropolitan community, which are compatible with protection and enhancement of the park’s ecological and cultural resources.’

At the time, the master plan identified strategies for the park that would satisfy community needs for recreational and educational activities and similarly be compatible with protecting and enhancing the park’s natural assets. These included: Pedestrian trails; Vehicle access and parking; conservation zones including: woodland conservation zone, Heathland conservation zone; main access/picnic zone; and moderate use recreation zone: internal ‘public transit system’ using multi-purpose trails. Principles that hold true for Braeside Park, today and ongoing.

4.2 Parks Victoria Plans

Shaping Our Future

Parks Victoria’s vision is focused around the pillars of Caring for Country: To sustainably manage, protect and conserve Victoria’s natural and cultural landscapes. Connecting People and Nature: To provide experiences for visitors and volunteers to connect with and value nature. Contributing to Healthy, Liveable Communities: To contribute to improving the health, safety and economic well being of all Victorians. Enhancing Organisational Excellence: To enhance our capability, capacity and culture to deliver on our commitments. These are reflected in the priorities for Braeside Park.

Parks Victoria’s (Draft) Conservation Action Plan for Western Port and South East Melbourne 2020.

Is Parks Victoria’s understanding of the major threats to nature and wildlife and the potential actions that can be taken with Traditional Custodians and other partners to care for and improve the health of the South-east Melbourne and Western Port Park Landscape

Parks Victoria Disability Action Plan 2017-2020

Parks Victoria is committed to providing inclusive environments that enable visitors with a disability, as well as their families and carers, to obtain the health and well-being benefits from park visitation. Braeside Park is able to facilitate this by giving a voice to these groups in park planning, providing better access in the park to facilities and activities, as well as providing access to education and training.

Parks Victoria Learning in Nature Strategic Plan 2017-2020

Parks Victoria aims to connect people with natural and cultural heritage through learning programs. The Braeside Park programs focus on encouraging outdoor learning and exploration and increasing the number of students who attend the park and will continue by planning for both existing and future requirements.

4.3 Local and State Government Plans

Other consideration for the future planning of Braeside Park is to take into account the local and state government initiatives that may influence the park, its function and future use.

These documents include:

The City of Kingston (CoK) strategies and plans that overlay the municipality within which Braeside Park sits. These include the CoK:

- Public Health and Well-being Plan 2017 - 2021
- Open Space Strategy 2012: and
- Biodiversity Strategy 2018-2023

Melbourne Water Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018:

This provides a single framework for addressing community expectations and the obligations for waterway management.

Co-Designed Catchment Program for the Dandenong:

Catchment Region 2018 provides a framework for managing waterways in the Dandenong Catchment. It includes some specific performance objectives for Braeside (which sits within the Dandenong Creek Lower Sub-catchment)

State Government documents include:

Protecting Victoria’s Environment–Biodiversity 2037

The strategy assists Victorians to recognise the multiple values that biodiversity provides, and identifies the tools, tasks and roles needed to ensure that Victoria’s natural environment is healthy and positioned to cope with the effects of future population growth and climate change. The ongoing management and development of Braeside Park will be undertaken with consideration to the same biodiversity strategic directions.

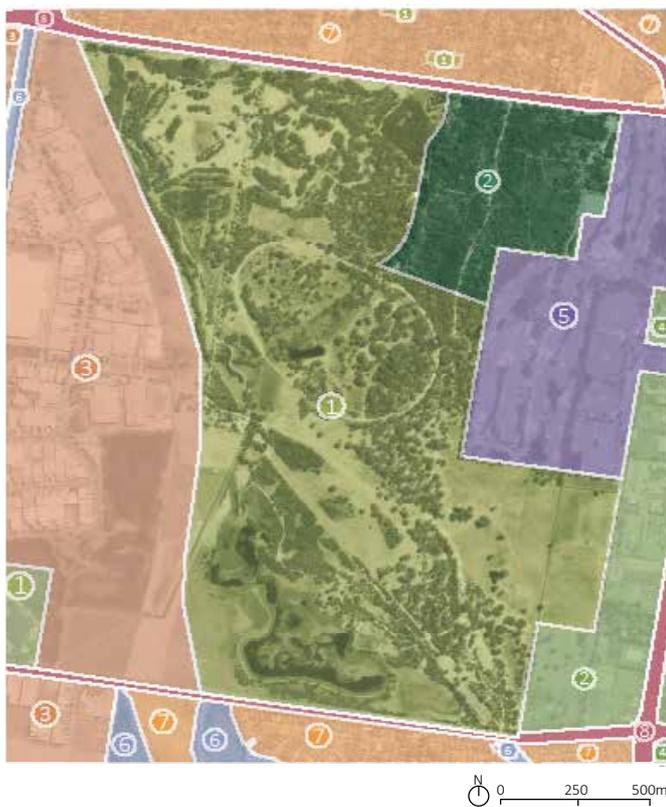
Health 2040: Advancing Health Access and Care:

The Victorian Government has created a plan to address chronic illnesses in the system through early intervention and maximising the health and well-being of Victorians. Braeside Park provides the community open space and nature based activities. This can help to address the symptoms of chronic illness through contact with nature as well as providing opportunities for interaction between people.



Photo 9: Tree Stag (Dead Red Gum)

5. Statutory Regulations



KEY:

- 1 Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)
- 2 Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ)
- 3 Industrial Zone
- 4 Green Wedge Zone
- 5 Special Use Zone
- 6 Public Use Zone - Other Public Use
- 7 General Residential Zone
- 8 Road Zone Category 1

Map 4: Braeside Zone Overlay

5.1 Policies and Strategies

Parks Victoria's strategy, *Shaping Our Future*, recognises the importance of conserving parks while providing opportunities for all people to enjoy Victoria's special places.

Crown Land (Reserves) (Metropolitan Parks) Regulations 2011/19

These regulations are in the process of being upgraded.

Crown Land Reserves Act 1978

- Provides for the reservation of Crown Lands for certain purposes and for the management of such reserved lands and for other purposes. Braeside Park is temporarily reserved for conservation, recreation, leisure and tourism purposes.

Parks Victoria Direct Management under Parks Victoria Act 2018

- Recognises the organisation's role in management of public land and re-establishes Parks Victoria as a more independent statutory authority. The Act embeds Parks Victoria's public functions (like conservation, working with

traditional owners and engaging in community education and health initiatives), and also gives Parks Victoria direct powers over the land that it manages.

City of Kingston Planning Scheme

The following zoning and overlay conditions apply to Braeside Park. These are statutory planning provisions, under the City of Kingston Planning Scheme, and are administered by the City of Kingston.

The Heathland area of Braeside Park is zoned a **Public Conservation and Resource Zone**. This zoning determines to:

- Protect and conserve the natural environment and natural processes for their historic, scientific, landscape, habitat or cultural values.
- Provide facilities which assist in public education and interpretation of the natural environment with minimal degradation of the natural environment or natural processes.
- Provide for appropriate resource-based uses.



Photo 10: Long Swamp (east end- view from Red Gum Trail)

The remainder of the park is zoned **Public Park and Recreation Zone**. This zoning determines to:

- Implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- Recognise areas for public recreation and open space.
- Protect and conserve areas of significance where appropriate.
- Provide for commercial uses where appropriate.

A **Schedule 5 - Design and Development Overlay - DDO5** applies to a section in the west of the park. This determines the following:

- To ensure that the height of all buildings and works are constrained within specified limits to avoid creating a hazard to aircraft near the Moorabbin Airport, and to facilitate safe aircraft operations.
- To ensure that flight paths associated with the Moorabbin Airport are protected from the encroachment of inappropriate obstacles which may affect the safe and effective operation of the Airport.



Map 5: Braeside Planning overlay

KEY:

- ① Heritage Overlay
- ② Public Acquisition Overlay
- ③ Land Subject to Inundation Overlay

5.2 Flood Management

A **Land Subject to Inundation Overlay – LSIO** applies to the Governor Rd end of the park. This determines the following:

- To identify land in a flood storage or flood fringe area affected by the 1 in 100-year flood or any other area determined by the floodplain management authority.
- To ensure that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of flood waters, minimises flood damage, is compatible with the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.
- To protect water quality in accordance with the provisions of relevant State Environment Protection Policies.
- To ensure that development maintains or improves river and wetland health, waterway protection and flood plain health.

Braeside Park has a network of waterways and wetlands that is significantly influenced by rain events and storm water flow.

5.3 Heritage Overlay

A **Heritage Overlay – HO104** applies to two sites in the park. These include the existing PV office site and an area within the Federation Picnic Area.

- To conserve and enhance heritage places of natural or cultural significance.
- To conserve and enhance those elements which contribute to the significance of heritage places.
- To ensure that development does not adversely affect the significance of heritage places.
- To conserve specified heritage places by allowing a use that would otherwise be prohibited if this will demonstrably assist with the conservation of the significance of the heritage place.

(HO104 – indicates that particular works are exempt from the notification and review steps.)



Photo 11: Red Gum- Wetland Trail
22

6. Existing Conditions

Braeside Park is relatively flat and open, making it accessible to a diverse range of people and recreation experiences. Large areas of mown grass characterise the northern section of the park, making it ideal for picnicking, recreation and social gatherings.

The park has a network of trails throughout leading to a range of walking and cycling opportunities. The park topography has a high point of just 31 metres above sea level, and is susceptible to flooding during major rain events. This tendency, along with its wetlands, dam and creek, means that water is a prominent part of the park experience.

There is an ever increasing amount of residential housing nearby, with the light industrial zone to the west and the golf course to the east including other larger scale properties. Other impacts to the site include the historical and current aspects of the sewer treatment plant, agricultural farming and cattle grazing. The Mordialloc Freeway infrastructure will have an ongoing influence on the park. This includes noise and increased air pollution. A benefit the freeway will provide is a shared user path that will connect Braeside Park to the broader walking and riding network and increase access for pedestrians and cyclists. The park will reciprocate the benefit to freeway motorists with an outlook to an established natural landscape.

6.1 Facilities

The park is characterised by functioning but deteriorating facilities and infrastructure. Roads and trails have limited maintenance and the network of visitor car parks along the entry road enables easy access to picnic areas, toilets and the adventure play space.

The park has two toilet facilities, one in the Telford Picnic Area and one in the Red Gum picnic area. Both are in need of upgrading to meet current standards and future capacity.

The Visitor Centre functions more so, as a meeting/workshop space rather than as a place that attracts visitors to the park. It is small and contains various static displays, including taxidermy animals and birds.

Staff accommodation exists in the heritage listed Metropolitan Board of Works building, located at the southern end of Cypress Drive, well away from the main visitor area at the north of the park. Construction of the Mordialloc Freeway is likely to lead to changes to the staff accommodation, although these are yet to be identified. Asset condition in the park is good to average quality, with trails and roads of average to poor condition. The park has a defined road circuit and parking arrangement

to cater to large number of visitors. The trails through the park create a network that traverse various areas and different environments in the park including the red gum grasslands, wetlands and waterways.

6.2 Cultural Values

Aboriginal people have lived on and around the land now occupied by Braeside Park for thousands of years, making use of its resources for food, medicine, clothing, shelter, transport and cultural practices. Aboriginal people have a strong connection to Country and cultural obligations to ensure that their ancestral lands are managed respectfully and appropriately.

There are a number of Registered Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites within the park including a number of Scar trees. The location of these trees has not been advertised or promoted to the public. Most are dead and are at risk of falling. Parks Victoria will work with Traditional Owners to preserve the trees to ensure their significance does not diminish. .

6.2 Environmental Values

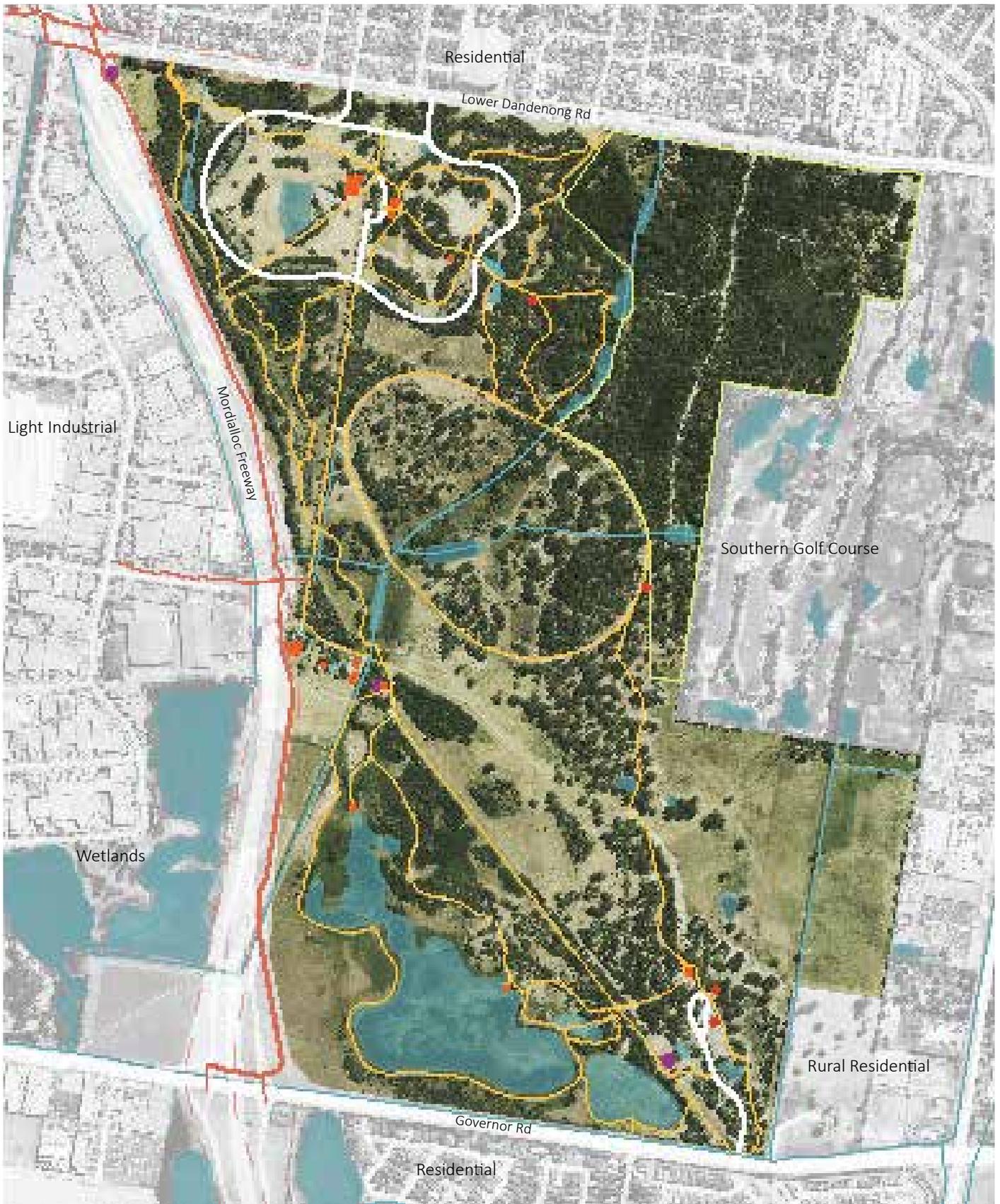
Braeside Park is in various states of environmental health. The park contains an established wetland catering to a number of birds and is a key link for migratory waders. Braeside Park is a conduit for the hydrological journey within the landscape, and water has a significant influence on the experience of the park.

The Heathland is one of the last remaining areas of that vegetation type within the region and contains highly valued and fragile plants and ecosystems.

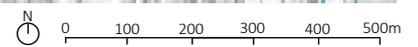
The site is home to mature and long-lived river red gums that have been dated to 800 years, along with magnificent fungi that last only a few days and show themselves on an evening with optimum conditions in the winter.

Detrimental influences to the site include invasive species such as rabbits and foxes and many weedy plant species. However, Braeside Park contains plant species that are now rare in a metropolitan region, as well as remnant vegetation that is of significant or high conservation value.

Coupled with the rich tapestry of the environment with diverse vegetation, local animals and visiting birds the visitor experience is heightened, however may be currently understated. With ongoing revegetation programs and developing visitor programs the park will highlight its quieter jewels and provide an insight into the special values the park contains.



Braeside Park Existing Features Map 6



KEY:	Vic Roads/Other:
Existing Buildings	Mordialloc Freeway Corridor
Road	Proposed Shared User Path
Trail	S.E. Trunk Sewer Vent Pipe
Informal Trail	
Waterway	
Wetland	
Heathland	

7. Park Appraisal

7.1 Site Features and Uses



Park Visitor Groups

The site is popular with walkers, bicycle riders, playground users and picnickers throughout the year. Other organized group activities undertaken in the park include night discovery walks hosted by the 'Friends of Braeside' as well as revegetation projects, propagation, water quality monitoring, bird observations, frog monitoring and many other specifically focused activities.



Farming and Grazing

Farming and grazing have been a part of the park for over 50 years. Remnants of the farming practice are still present on the park today along with live stock. The grazing and cattle management practices are clearly visible on the landscape with large fenced clearings and associated concrete watering points. The configuration of these paddocks and fencing is in the form of a wagon wheel. Earlier farming included growing food crops and ploughing the land. Remnants of the farming era are located along journeys within the park.



Phar Lap Track

Another layer of activity that occurred in the past was horse training around a makeshift running track and a horse swimming dam in the centre of the park. This track is famed for being a training site for one of Australia's iconic racing horses, Phar Lap. The track is still in its original position, and is 2.1kms long. It is now used as a shared path.



Buildings and Infrastructure

The Parks Victoria offices, housed in the old sewage treatment building. Nearby is the Parks Victoria works depot and adjacent community nursery and indigenous garden. The South Eastern Trunk Sewer (S.E.T.S.) venting stacks stand as ominous markers in the landscape with restricted maintenance access. Other buildings and infrastructure includes the Visitor centre, public toilets, men's shed, horticultural space, wetland bird hide, the play space, small water crossings and various insitu art pieces..



Community/Visitor Facilities

The main community/visitor facilities are contained within the park's major asphalt road and associated car parking, with entrance from and exit to Lower Dandenong Road. This area, is supported by the Federation Picnic Area and hosts the Visitor Centre, toilets, car parking, and community group buildings such as a Men's Shed and a horticultural space currently used for programs run by the Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre.



Picnic Areas

There are three picnic areas within the park these include the Red Gum Picnic Area, a popular destination, including areas of wooded landscapes. Access is from Governor Road, with parking close to the wetland and southern end of the park. The Federation and Telford Picnic areas are accessed from Lower Dandenong Road and are contained within the asphalt road and car parking. The Telford Picnic area hosts the adventure playspace.



Trails

The trail network through the park provides a diversity of journeys. They are predominantly compacted gravel trails, are wide, evenly graded and networked through the different precincts of the park. To increase the diversity of journey experience there are low key paths that entice the visitor through other lesser visited, yet special, spaces in the park.



Park Trail Infrastructure

Along the major trails through the park there are a number of information huts, bench seats, shelters and picnic facilities. In various sections of the park access includes 'A frame' step ladders to provide access over fencing. The wetland has another concentration of built form that accommodates bird watching with a bird hide and other viewing platforms. The wetland has a diverse and easily navigable path around it to support the visitor wetland experience.



Heathland

The Heathland covers about 54 hectares and is located on sandy and well drained soils. This community is the largest, most intact plant community in the region and has the greatest diversity of species including sugar glider, echidnas, bats, birds, possums, reptiles and insects. The Heathland community consists of four layers of vegetation, trees, tall and small shrubs, and ground covers.



Wetlands

Located in the south-west corner of the park the wetland comprises herbaceous natives and introduced species in both permanent areas of water and the seasonally submerged sites. Water Couch and other grasses fringe much of the wetland area and rushes occur in patches in and out of the water.



Red Gum Grassy Woodland

Located between the Heathland and wetland the Red Gum Grassy Woodlands covers approximately 75 hectares of the park and are considered to be of significant conservation value.



Waterways

The Dingley and Keysborough Waterway are unfiltered drainage channels. The Keysborough Waterway runs along the eastern boundary of the park. It is an underutilised water source that has the potential to be developed into a wetland to aid in water filtering. The Dingley Waterway enters the park from Lower Dandenong Road. Over time, there have been several small water barriers, wetlands developed along the extent of the waterway. The Dingley Waterway exits the park near the south west corner and travels underneath the Mordialloc Freeway near Governor Road.



Photo 12: Friends Group- Cypress Drive
28

8. Engagement Summary



Photo 13: Volunteer planting day

8.1 Community and stakeholder input

To gather ideas about future possibilities for Braeside Park and understand how the community currently use the park, Parks Victoria hosted three stakeholder workshops and an online survey via Engage Victoria. The workshops and survey built an understanding of how Braeside Park is currently perceived, understood, utilized and managed from multiple perspectives. These sessions assisted in documenting the varied values and key issues impacting the park, addressed above.

Each stakeholder workshop elicited a range of ideas for future planning and use, which were then incorporated into the survey. From the survey, Parks Victoria gained an understanding of how proposed future opportunities and activities, some of which have not previously taken place at the park, would impact current park visitation. Across the three workshops, 33 key stakeholders attended from Parks Victoria, City of Kingston, Friends of Braeside Park, Dingley Village Men's Shed, Southern Migrant Refugee Centre and other local community groups. The online survey was completed by 1,132 residents and park visitors. A detailed engagement report is available online via Engage Victoria.

Most valued aspects

Stakeholders and the community told us the most valued aspects of the park were the unique elements that create a visitor experience different to other parks in the municipality. This discussion focused around the environmental elements such as the opportunity to experience local flora and fauna, but also included the heritage of the park. The community-based activities and programs that exist within the park were also raised as being highly valued.

Key issues and threats

Key issues that were raised during workshops focused around a lack of accessibility and connectivity, especially regarding the lack of signage and interpretation within the park. There was also a need for greater promotion of Braeside Park to the wider community, and additional management resources for the ongoing conservation and protection of the parks special environmental features.

Opportunities for the future

A range of future opportunities have been considered in the planning process.

9.0 Vision

Braeside Park will continue to be a place for people to relax, recreate,



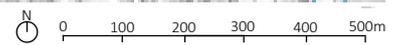
Photo 13: Braeside Park Wetland - Winter Sunrise

be healthy, come together, learn about and enjoy culture and nature.





Braeside Park Improvement Zones Map 7



KEY:	Vic Roads/Other:	Improvement Zones:	Park wide:
Existing Buildings	Mordialloc Freeway Corridor	Park Entrance/Interface	Way finding
Road	Proposed Cycleway	Heathland Area Walking Trail	Universal accessibility
Trail	S.E. Trunk Sewer	Events Space	Trail Seating
Informal Trail		New Wetlands	Drinking fountains
Seats On Trail		Metro Parks Camping	Revegetation Programs
Waterway		Community Hub	
Wetland			
Heathland			

There was a clear view expressed in the engagement process for Braeside Park not to go through substantive change. People like it how it is now. This Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan background document stays true to that ideal, including protecting the natural and cultural values of the park, whilst also enhancing the visitor experience. It aims to deliver on current needs whilst also positioning the park to cater for future needs.

9.1 Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan Considerations

The following key initiatives have been derived to facilitate the future development of the park. Developed from the workshop and engagement process and through site appraisal and understanding. These help to address the parks increased importance in the City of Kingston municipality and as an integral part of a broader natural system that benefits flora and fauna.

The key themes developed from the engagement process are:

- Park entrances/interface
- Heathland Walking Trail
- Community Hub
- Events Space
- Park Accessibility

The Braeside Park Improvement Zone map identifies key areas that will change. These are minor interventions directed to highlight the park without major change to its overall integrity.

Initiatives to support the key themes include: adding two measured trails, at 2km and at 5 km; increasing the way-finding and signage for easier navigation through the park; increasing the accessibility through principles of universal access design; and adding seating and water points along paths.

The Metropolitan Parks Camping facilitated camping is an initiative promoted in line with Victorian Government Great Outdoors Package.

A major positive influence will be with respect to access to the park both visually and physically. An external influence on the park is the new Mordialloc Freeway running along the western boundary of the park. It is major road infrastructure that will significantly increase the volume of vehicle traffic passing by the park, and means that major roads now exist on three sides of the park.

It is essential to continue to maintain the importance of the park as a natural open space asset providing a highly enriched environment within the greater context of the growing urban sprawl and increasing pressures on the park.



Photo 14: Long Swamp (West End)

10. Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan

The Plan defines clear directions for future planning and programming of the site. The operational and management values and how they overlay on the park are clearly outlined to inform the influence of stakeholders and community groups, including the role they will play in the future of Braeside Park.

Other initiatives of the plan are to improve site accessibility through developing greater site signage and way finding. Improving and upgrading toilet facilities to cater to increasing visitor numbers. Installing potable water points along trails and add seating to allow the trail journeys to be more enjoyable. Restoration of environmental values will remain a high priority at Braeside Park to highlight and build on the values and benefits of the park. Dogs and horses will not be permitted in the park, due to impacts on environmental values, cost, potential conflicts with other park users and that there is no overwhelming community demand for these activities.

10.1 Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan Initiatives

1. Entrance and Interface

The park does not have an outward facing appeal to the significant traffic that passes by. The interface between the park and the surrounding urban development does not highlight the jewel that exists within the fence line. Thus, a key initiative is to increase the visual appeal of the park for passers-by, visitors attending the park and as a distinctive public space.

The design ideas to implement this initiative includes utilizing the existing telegraph poles as a canvas to paint with motifs and imagery that relate directly to the park. This will visually identify the park along Lower Dandenong Road, that can then clearly identify the entry points to the park.

To create a single unified boundary fence to accentuate the entry points into the park. The fence detail can be utilized along all sides of the park that allow for access. A specific treatment to the interface with the Mordialloc Freeway may be required. The pedestrian and vehicle gateways can be designed to be robust and clearly legible.

2. Community Hub

The community hub currently consists of the visitor centre, toilet amenities, the Dingley Village Men's Shed and horticultural space. This area will be the focus for infrastructure to support community activation in a setting that enables people to engage with nature. Parks Victoria will work with partners to provide facilities, programs and activities that improve physical and mental health, address

social isolation and provide pathways to employment.

3. Events Space

The current open area contained within the entry road, car parks and Cypress Drive will be maintained as open space, and available for larger community style events. This area is supported by easy vehicle and pedestrian access and ample parking.

Infrastructure development will be kept to a minimum, with event based infrastructure being temporary and removed at the conclusion of an event.

4. Increased trails

Additional trails will be constructed in the park such as the heathland, to enable improved walking, running and cycling experiences. To the existing trails additional rest and respite areas will be located along the journeys. These will provide seating for rest, reflection and respite. The seating will be designed as a family of furniture consistent with the aesthetics of the park.

5. Expanded play space

With the current bush kinder program expanding and an increasing visitation to the park of young families there is a great opportunity to introduce the special qualities of the park to these young minds. This can be through further educational programs, events and potential for an expanded natural environment play space, reflecting the qualities and values of the park and materials within it.

6. Shared user path

With the construction of the Mordialloc Freeway, upgraded shared user path connections to the park's existing entries are proposed. This freeway linear shared user path will allow for greater access to Braeside Park. To support this initiative, the plan proposes an additional park entry from the shared user path at the south end of the park. These entries will be themed in line with the park interface fencing and gateways.

7. New Wetlands

To build on the value of environmental restoration and support the environmental values of the park, in an area that remains unremarkable the Keysborough and Dingley Waterways provide an opportunity to initiate and develop new wetlands. Broadening the area of wetland habitat, trail network and overall park appreciation.

8. Way-finding, Signage and Interpretation Strategy

A strategy for way-finding, signage and interpretation is an initiative required to fulfil the ambitions of the other initiatives. It will direct and inform entry points, navigation through the park, identification of key park features, provide information and learning about the values and heritage of the park.



Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan



KEY

Existing Features:

- Buildings
- Road
- Trail
- Management Track
- Waterway
- Wetland
- S.E.T.S.
- Play space
- Remove Trail

New Features:

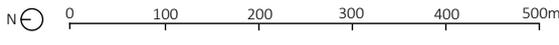
- Gateway
- Pedestrian Access
- Vehicle Access
- New Trail
- Vegetation Restoration Area
- Welcome Fence
- Fence
- Telegraph Pole Graphics
- Events Space
- Community Hub
- Extended Play space
- Traffic Management
- New Wetland

Vic Roads:

- Proposed Cycleway

IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVES

- 1 Park Interface and Entrances
- 2 Community Hub
- 3 Events Space
- 4 New Trails
- 5 Expanded Play space
- 6 Freeway Shared Trail
- 7 Wetlands





Braeside Park Social Precinct Map 8

N 0 100 200 300 400 500m

New Features:

-  New Trail
-  Revegetation Area
-  Telegraph Pole
-  Gateway
-  Fencing
-  Events Space
-  Community Hub
-  Extended Play space

Vic Roads:

-  Proposed Cycleway
- ### Existing Features:
-  Built Infrastructure
 -  Road
 -  Bus Stop
 -  Existing Trail
 -  Artwork
 -  Wetland
 -  Play space

Features

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ① Men's Shed | ⑩ Main Entrance | ⑲ Kestrel Car Park |
| ② Horticultural Space | ⑪ Main Exit | ⑳ Goshawk Car Park |
| ③ Visitors Center | ⑫ Cypress Drive | ㉑ Pelican Car Park |
| ④ Toilets | ⑬ Informal Trails | ㉒ Ibis Car Park |
| ⑤ Playground | ⑭ Phar Lap Art Piece | ㉓ Robin Car Park |
| ⑥ BBQ Shelter | ⑮ Artwork | ㉔ Magpie Car Park |
| ⑦ Information Shelter | ⑯ Park Trail | ㉕ Kookaburra Car Park |
| ⑧ Historic Storage Dam | ⑰ Cycleway | ㉖ Rosella Car Park |
| ⑨ Picnic Area | ⑱ Swallow Car Park | ㉗ Cockatoo Car Park |

10.2 Social Precinct

The Social Precinct is encompassed by the entry/exit road and associated car parking. This area is the most developed open space in the park and a focal destination for the majority of visitors to the park. Based on the easy access to this zone, the Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan contemplates that the open grassed areas can be utilized and programmed for community based and focused events. This events space is spatially defined by a loose framework of vegetation and planted beds.

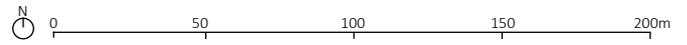
The events space will be naturally sized to cater to small and large audiences and events. Parks Victoria will manage the booking of events as is the current practice, however events will need to be self managed as “bump in bump out” type events.

Contained within the social precinct is the community hub, a development area is considered for any future built structures. This is to consolidate and cluster any future built assets and associated service infrastructure such as power, water and sewer. While there are no immediate plans for any new buildings, the zoning is in place to support longer term planning and the relocation of the Parks Victoria staff accommodation.

Another initiative to support the development of the Social Precinct is to expand the adventure play space. Located in a natural setting the potential expansion is to cater to its growing popularity with the increasing visitor numbers seeking opportunities for engaging place spaces in natural settings.



Braeside Park Boundary Interface Map 9



KEY:	Vic Roads:	New Features:
Land Boundary	Proposed Cycleway	New Trail
Trail		Revegetation Area
Informal Trail		Decorated Pole
Road		Gateway
Bus Stop		Fencing
SETS		



Photo 15: Telegraph pole public art (LGA anonymous)



Photo 16: Service cabinet public art (Richmond VIC)

10.3 Boundary Interface

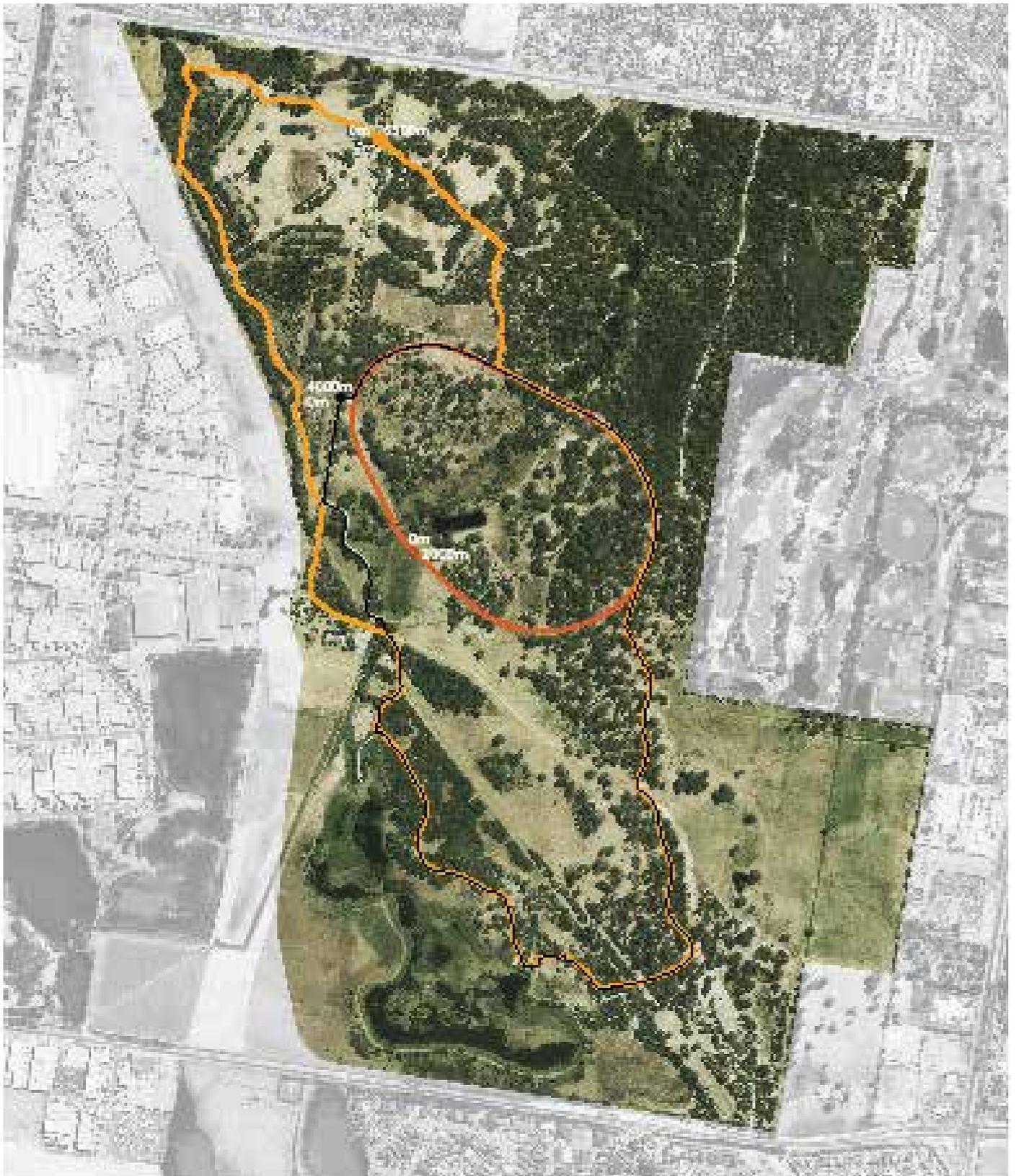
Lower Dandenong Road runs along the northern boundary of Braeside Park and has the major vehicle access to the car parks and community hub. The vehicle entrance and exit are not prominent, along with the general view of the park with low key fencing and bland visual palette without any great identifying features. Without key observation one could mistaken the park as scrubby bushland. This is exacerbated by the overhead transmission lines and pole infrastructure along the Braeside Park boundary. There are 34 transmission poles, grey dull and an awaiting canvas. As with other utility infrastructure, other organisations are seeing these as an opportunity for street art and graphics, to liven the road side and otherwise dull steel cabinets and boxes, expansive building walls and on occasion transmission poles with either graphics or climbing plants.

To enliven the vehicle journey including the approach to the park and creating inviting and welcoming vehicle and pedestrian entries to the park a graphic narrative can be painted on the poles that reflect values of the park and identify the space beyond the poles.

This artistic installation opportunity can be used as an artist program initiative, engaging with local community artists as a collaboration between the City of Kingston and Parks Victoria. With a series of 34 poles available as plain canvases, along the extent of the park boundary, the uniquely painted poles would create a distinctive façade along the northern boundary and creatively identify the edge of the park.

To further promote the park with the intervention of easy access, with a subtler approach, the entries and gate ways into the park could be highlighted with defined fence and gate style to promote the access points. Used as a broad welcome with a wide aperture and the use of natural timber materials, detailed at a human scale.

The western and southern boundaries of the park can be opened with a greater level of access. The three public facing boundaries can maintain a consistent fence and gate treatment. This consistent approach will help to clearly identify the park across all entries and boundaries.



Braeside Park Distance Trails Map 10

KEY:

- 5km Trail
- 5km Trail start
- 4km Trail
- 4km Trail start
- 2km Trail
- 2km Trail start

10.4 Improved Trail Network

Braeside Park provides such a setting for trail running, jogging, walking, strolling, meandering, and idling. The various setting of woodland, wetland, waterways, open plains provide a diversity of environments within which trails are located. The popularity of trail running is increasing, the activity of running along trails in natural environments.

A growing active pursuit is trail running, an activity that has people actively running on trails in natural settings and environments. A 2km and 5 km trail are mapped for active walkers and runners to use these as timed activities over a defined distance.

To broaden the trail experience there will be two additional journeys added to Braeside Park, they are the Heathland trail and the Significant Tree and Vegetation walk. The Heathland trail will venture through the sensitive and fragile last remaining vegetation environment of its type in the region. Unique in its offering to the rest of the park. The Heathland provides another opportunity to enjoy and understand the unique and special qualities of Braeside Park.

The Heathland has had restricted access for many years due to its fragile and sensitive environment. Opening the Heathland to visitors provides a visual experience to the fragile and sensitive nature of the vegetation. Therefore, the trail through the Heathland will be managed to minimize or mitigate impacts of visitors to the space.

The park contains a number of very old Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) which likely pre-date European settlement in the area, and which are not readily accessible by visitors. These trees are not only impressive to look at, provide valuable habitat and have enormous intrinsic value, but also provide an opportunity to connect visitors to a remarkable aspect of nature.

To promote a journey through time over hundreds of years, a trail node can be created to celebrate these ancient living relics. It will be a point of discovery allowing the visitor to observe through a different lens a journey of time past as expressed by thick trunks, gnarled branches and billowing leaves.

The addition of respite and vantage seating can make the trail journeys more enjoyable, interesting and informative. Signage will support the upgrade of existing trails and implementation of new trails.

10.5 Environmental Restoration

Environmental Restoration

A key aspect of the plan is to continue the rehabilitation of the park through continued planting and revegetation, particularly in areas in and around the community hub. The current vegetation restoration program is strongly supported by the Friends of Braeside Park and includes their hands-on involvement in the planting program.

Proposed Wetlands

The Keysborough and Dingley Waterway have no water treatment as the water travels through the park. The waterways would be expanded at the proposed location to create a new wetlands.

This initiative would, over time, improve the habitat area and increase environmental values of the park. It would aid in improving water quality and promote the opportunity to add to the current wetland and trail system of the park.

Extensive environmental restoration of the woodlands would provide increased visitor experience, particularly for nature and bird enthusiasts.

This initiative would be best coordinated in partnership with Melbourne Water as a mutually beneficial environmental collaboration.



Braeside Park Implementation Approach Map 11

11. Implementation Approach

Recommendation	Priority
Landscape Recommendations	
1a. Park Interface: North Boundary- Upgrade fence to one consistent style, install pedestrian gateways (3 No.), install ped/cycle gateway (1 No.), upgrade vehicle entry/exit gateway.	High
1b. Park Interface: West Boundary- Consult with Major Projects for Mordialloc Freeway to upgrade fence along boundary. Design to be consistent design style, install ped/cycle gateway (1 No.) as Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan intent.	High
1c. Park Interface: South Boundary- Upgrade fence to one consistent style, install pedestrian gateways (1 No.), install ped/cycle gateway (1 No.), upgrade vehicle entry/exit gateway.	High
1d. Traffic Management Plan: South Boundary- City of Kingston to prepare a Traffic Management Study in collaboration with VicRoads for vehicle gateway at Governor Rd.	High
2. Park Interface- Pole Art: Establish art program to paint existing power poles with thematics relating to Braeside Park. This will require permissions to access poles from local service authority.	High
3. Park Interface: North Boundary- Install path along length of park along Lower Dandenong Road to facilitate access along full length of park northern boundary. This initiative will require a collaborative approach with City of Kingston.	High
4. New Trails: a. Red Gum Grassy Woodland- Install new trail across area central to Phar Lap track. b. Cypress Drive – Telford Picnic Area trail link	High
5. New Trail- Heathland- Allow for trail access into Heathland, modifying existing service trails to create a walk through the Heathland.	High
6. New Wetlands - In partnership with Melbourne Water, design and install new wetland on the Keysborough waterway in the eastern section of the park. Including earthworks, planting and water management strategy.	Low
7. New Wetland Access- Install new trails to newly established wetland and supporting infrastructure such as lookout, bird hide, seating, interpretative information and shelter.	Low
8. Landscape furniture- Install seating for respite and viewing along existing and new trails at nominal 250m intervals.	Medium
9. Signage way-finding and interpretation- Develop signage and interpretation plan for entry signage including way-finding and interpretative signage throughout the park at key and notable features.	High
9a. Trail Distance Markers- Install distance markers along identified trails used for measured distance walking and running, nominally 2km and 5.5 km.	High
10. Parks Victoria office, depot and nursery- Locate new Parks Victoria office staff accommodation, including toilets and Visitor Centre within the community hub.	Medium
10a. New Changing Places toilet facility, Telford Picnic Area / Community Hub. Potential for this to be a Changing Places facility to enable full accessibility.	High
11. Play Space Expand the offer to include nature play within the park to cater to increasing use for a range of ages and abilities.	Low
12. Vegetation Restoration- undertake planting and land care continuing to build on the environmental values of the park.	High
13. Metropolitan Camping Opportunity- Investigate the potential for including camping in the southern end of the park.	Low



Photo 18: Long Swamp Sunrise
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3. Braeside Park Conservation Objectives (Parks Victoria, 1999).
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8. Braeside Park Visitor Guide (Parks Victoria, 2018).
9. Celebrating 30 Years (Friends of Braeside Park Volunteers, 2019).
10. City of Kingston Biodiversity Strategy (City of Kingston, 2018).
11. City of Kingston Green Wedge Management Plan (City of Kingston, 2012).
12. Melbourne Open Space Strategy (Victorian Government? 2019).
13. Mordialloc Bypass Draft Scoping Requirements (Victoria State Government, 2018).
14. Sandbelt Open Space Project Development Plan (Melbourne Parks & Waterways, 1994).

Appendix A

Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan Decision Matrix

The following table outlines the issues, including potential strategies and opportunities as discussed through the engagement process and project workshops.

Suggestion	For	Against	No Impact	PV Decision	Rationale
Community Hub (to facilitate community activation, health, wellbeing and social inclusion programs)	Engage Vic: 40% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to health and wellbeing of local community Expansion of existing programs / facilities Community suggestions: sustainability programs, facilitated group fitness, walking buddies, art programs 	Engage Vic: 22% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No adverse comments received via Engage Vic Potential resourcing strain depending on particulars of programs 	Engage Vic: 31%	Proceed	Create a community hub zone within the existing visitor access road within the park. <p>Opportunity to support and expand the existing community facilities (eg Dingley Village Mens Shed) and activities already occurring within the park, to better meet community needs and expectations.</p> <p>Targeted area utilises existing infrastructure, creates a focal point and restricts expansion of these activities so as to protect the existing environmental values of the site.</p>
Public Events	Engage Vic: 43% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community activation and increased public awareness of park Demographic split in attitude towards public events – median age supporting 40-44 	Engage Vic: 43% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased litter Overcrowding, capacity concerns Disturbance to park visitors Disturbance to wildlife Demographic split in attitude towards public events – median age not supportive 50-54 	Engage Vic: 11%	Proceed with low impact, low disturbance public events	Activation opportunity, little to no extra infrastructure required, current park format can cater for events with open grassy areas in northern area of park well suited to this type of activity. Consideration should be given to the style of events to suit park setting.
Walking trail through Heathland Conservation area	Engage Vic: 58% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to interpret / educate about environmentally valuable area of the park Increase to network of trails 	Engage Vic: 16% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to the asset from trail construction, trampling and litter Opens area to risk of vegetation removal, firewood collection, access by dirt bikes 	Engage Vic: 20%	Proceed, including removal of existing chain mesh fencing. Replace with bollards / post and rail along front boundary	Activation opportunity and strong community interest, including the associated access to and interpretation of environmental values.
Significant tree (Red Gum) specimen identification, access and interpretation	Engage Vic: 65% interested in environmental values (top ranked topic out of 6 provided)	Risk of vandalism, compaction leading to tree decline and death	-	Proceed, but for one specimen only (near park entrance - Lower Dandenong Road)	Community demand for access to and interpretation of environmental values.
Seating along walking trails	Engage Vic: 61% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High community demand Requested by survey respondents with a disability Top three of most needed facility improvement for 27% respondents 	Engage Vic: 8%	Engage Vic: 34%	Proceed	Community demand
Improved wayfinding	Engage Vic: high mention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current confusion on walking trails Noted poor condition of existing signs 			Proceed	Will result in improved visitor satisfaction and enjoyment of park values, as well as increasing accessibility to a wider range of people.
Improved access (inc visibility of existing)	Workshop and survey comments indicated a desire for the road entrance (especially at Lower Dandenong Road) to the park to be more inviting and visible.			Proceed	Will result in improved visitor satisfaction and improved access to park
Improved toilet facilities	Engage Vic: Top three most needed facility improvement for 55% of respondents			Proceed	Community demand
Improved drinking fountains	Engage Vic: Top three most needed facility improvement for 35% of respondents			Proceed	Community demand

Suggestion	For	Against	No Impact	PV Decision	Rationale
Food and drink available for purchase	Engage Vic: 28% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest in coffee van / low impact / sustainable food options 	Engage Vic: 39% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns for increased litter / disturbance Building / facilities impacting visual aesthetic of park 	Engage Vic: 33%	undecided	More consideration needed to determine if appropriate and in what format.
Group Camping	Engage Vic: 17% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support disadvantaged groups to access camping 	Engage Vic: 42% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public concern for disturbance to day visitors Cost of new facilities / ongoing maintenance 	Engage Vic: 35%	Undecided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *previously decided to proceed based on early stats 	Activation opportunity to be considered in less utilised area of the park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * survey limitation – group camping may not increase the likelihood of current visitors to visit the park more often, however may provide an outreach opportunity for people who do not interact with the park. Further engagement on the topic may be useful.
Fitness stations	Engage Vic: 33% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community interest in fitness stations, including accessible features 	Engage Vic: 25% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of new facilities / ongoing maintenance Public concern for wasted resources due to lack of use in other parks 	Engage Vic: 35%	undecided	No overwhelming community demand
Bicycle hire	Engage Vic: 27% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for low impact active recreation Option for disadvantaged groups without access to personal equipment 	Engage Vic: 25% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing maintenance of bicycles Potential staffing requirements to enable hire 	Engage Vic: 44%	undecided	No overwhelming community demand

Suggestion	For	Against	No Impact	PV Decision	Rationale
Dog walking	Engage Vic: 24% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve personal safety (some people prefer to have their dog with them while walking / running) CoK Open Space Strategy indicated need for more dog walking opportunities 	Engage Vic: 30% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs currently not allowed in park Public concern for impact on wildlife Lack of dogs is current point of difference to Council reserves Potential lack of owner compliance (experience at other PV reserves) Increased litter (dog faeces) Impact on PV resources (patrol) Cost - signage / fencing Potential conflict between dogs and cattle 	Engage Vic: 22%	No Dogs (maintain current arrangement)	No overwhelming community demand, as well as reasons listed in 'against' column
Horse riding	Engage Vic: not asked <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attracting more diverse range of visitors to the park Provide facilities for an additional recreation activity Heritage link to Phar Lap history 	Engage Vic: not asked <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No overwhelming community demand Cost - tracks, signage, fencing, parking, compliance enforcement Conflict with other users Increased litter (faeces) Wheed dispersal (via faeces) 	Engage Vic: not asked	No horses (maintain current arrangement)	No overwhelming community demand, as well as reasons listed in 'against' column
Sports fields	Engage Vic: not asked <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request from City of Kingston 	Engage Vic: not asked <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of new facilities / ongoing maintenance No clear alignment with current purpose and use of park 	Engage Vic: not asked	No formal sports fields	Does not align with the purpose of the park, which is primarily about passive recreation and protection of environmental values.

Appendix B

Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan Engagement Information Summary

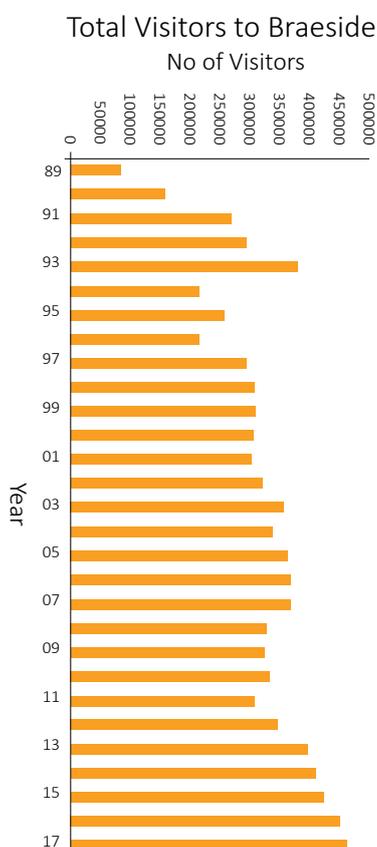


Fig 1: Total Visitors to Braeside

Current Visitation

Visitor Demographics

- 49% male, 51% female
- 86% aged over 18 yrs, 10% under 10 yrs
- 97.6% Victorians
- 89% arrive by car, 5% walk, 5% bike
- 4.9% have a disability
- Average length of trip- 2.4 hrs
- Average party size 7.6

Source: Visitor Satisfaction Monitor Survey 2017/18

Visitation Details:

461,000 people visited Braeside Park during 2017. This represents a 54% increase in visitor numbers since 2000. A 30% increase in population occurred in Melbourne over this same period (ABS data). The projected population growth for Melbourne from 2015-2031 estimates a 30% increase (Victoria in Future 2016). Based on a 30% increase, modelling projections expect approx. 600,000 visitors to Braeside by 2031. However, the parks has seen an increase in 2018 to 480,000 visitors up 4.1%, 2019 increased by 4.6% to 502,000 visitors annually with 2020 seeing more than 800,000 visitors

an increase of 59.36%. While 2020 was a unusual visitor year, the standard projects would indicate if visitor numbers continue to increase at the current rate, we can expect closer to 1,000,000 annual visitors by 2031.

Visitation data indicates that visitor numbers remain high and relatively steady throughout the whole calendar year. Although slightly lower, visitor numbers do not drop significantly over the winter months.

The average number of times a person visits the park in a year is 19.3. This is reflected in the visitor segment information in the next section, which also indicates that most visitors are repeat 'customers'.

Visitor Segments

Figure 2 depicts the visitor segments who use the park and indicates that most visitors are urban socials (68.3%), followed by trail users (15.9%), passive and other users (9.8%) and nature admirers (6.1%).

- **Urban socials** - typically visit for large social gatherings. They might take part in informal social sport and may use the walking trails. This group is likely to visit 5 – 6 times over a 12-month period.
- **Trail users** - visit the park for a physical experience. At Braeside short – medium length walks are available for this type of visitor who is likely to visit the park often and regularly (fortnightly), in small groups.
- **Passive and other users** - visit the park to relax and unwind in a natural setting, typically partaking in low-energy activities. They are usually repeat visitors who visit the park often (up to 9 times per year).
- **Nature Admirers** - visit for a short visual experience, seeking something spectacular and unique. They appreciate nature, views and scenery and are likely to be one-off visitors.

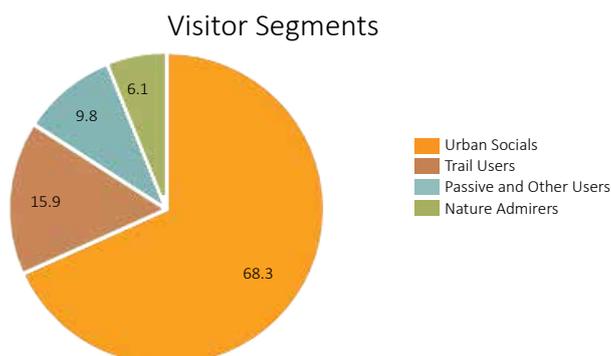


Fig 2: Visitor Segments at Braeside Park

Reason for Visiting

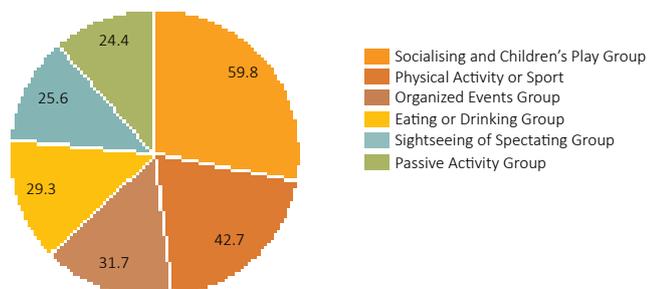


Fig 3: Top Reasons for Visiting Braeside Park

Most Positive Aspects

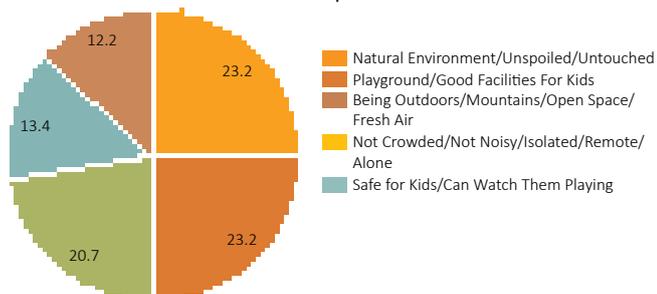


Fig 4: Most Positive Aspects of Visiting Braeside Park

Least Positive Aspects

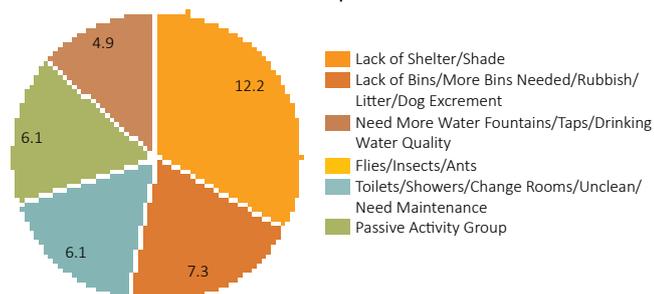


Fig 5: Least Positive Aspects of Visiting Braeside Park

Visitor Satisfaction:

Data collected from the Visitor Satisfaction Monitoring (VSM) Report 17/18 highlights the following Top 6 reasons for visits to the park. This is displayed in figure 3.

VSM data indicates that visitor satisfaction for 2017/18 was rated at 85.1/100. This rating has steadily increased since 2010.

85% of visitors are satisfied with park management. 96% are likely to recommend the park to others and 96.3% intend to revisit the park.

The following charts indicate the most and least positive aspects of a park visit as per the VSM report. The least positive aspects have been reported by relatively low percentages of visitors, therefore this information and any proposed remediation work needs to be considered in perspective of number of responses.

The 5 most important services and facilities (in order are):

- Toilets
- Drinking water
- Parking
- Landscape
- Tracks and paths, with scores between 79 – 83/100.

No aspect was identified as requiring urgent focus.

Commercial Considerations

Six licensed tour operators have nominated Braeside Park as a possible location for the delivery of their activities. These activities include: Ballooning, Birdwatching, Bush walking, Nature Play, Physical Fitness Education, Nature Trail Running.

Other potential commercial opportunities that would be appropriate in Braeside Park are:

- Use of visitor information centre as community education facility.
- Expansion of community activities in partnership with local community groups e.g. Southern Migrant Resource Centre, Men’s Shed.
- Ranger offer in partnership with LTO.

The 15 hectare Spring Park Golf Course, situated on the parcel of land north east of Braeside Park, is on the Commercial Activation list, with the current tenant in a hold-over period.

The following table indicates the existing assets at Braeside Park, followed by a table indicating the condition ratings of the assets.

This is a site with many assets that are in good to average condition which carry a substantial asset replacement value.

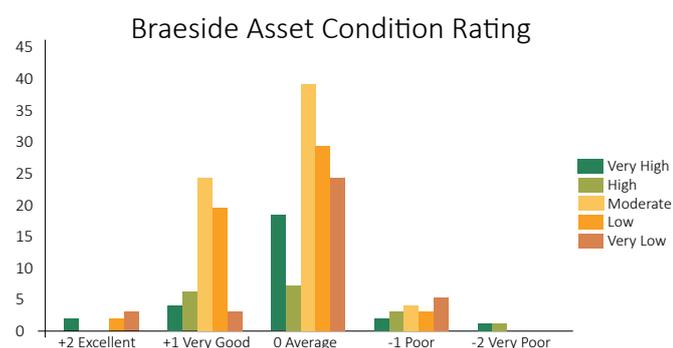
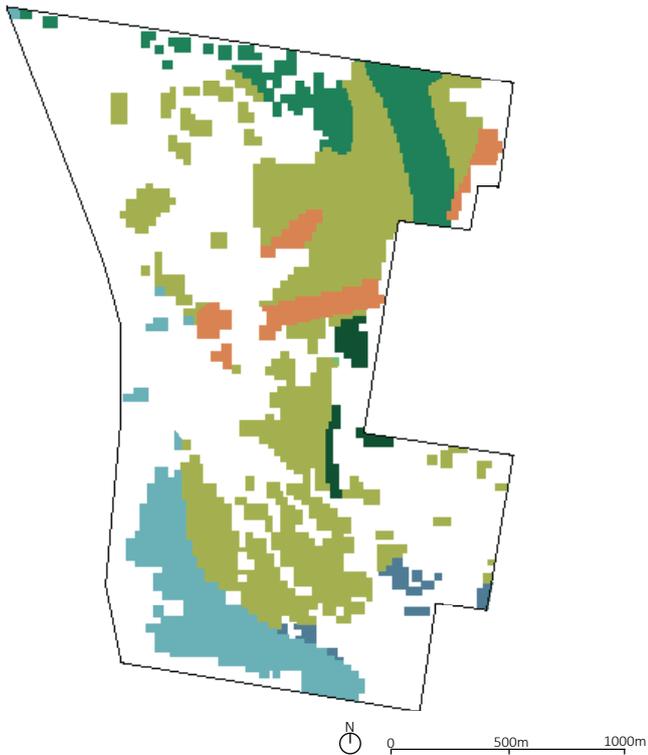


Fig 6: Braeside Asset Condition Rating

Appendix C

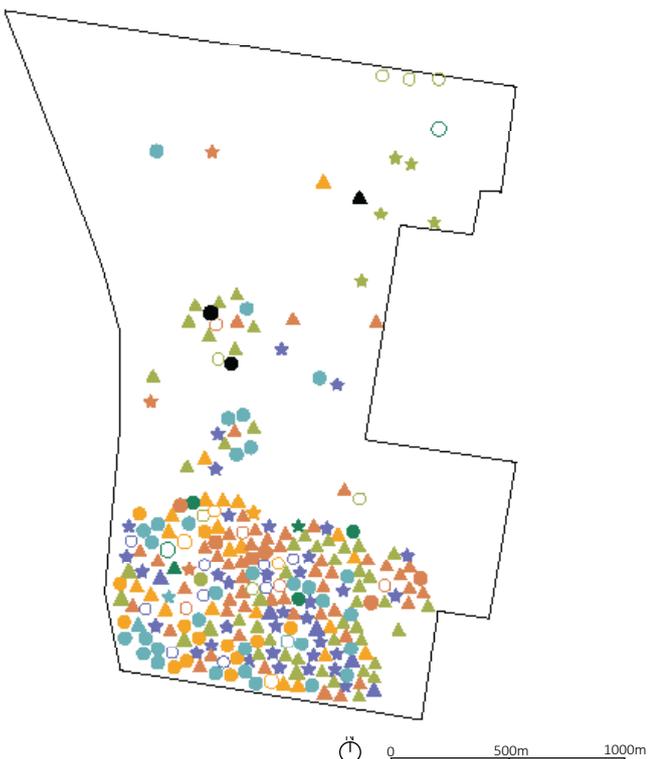
Braeside Park Environmental Mapping



Map 4: Ecological Vegetation Classes

KEY:

- Creek line Grassy Woodlands
- Damp Sands Herb-Rich Woodland/Heathy Woodland
- Heathy Woodland
- Plains Grassy Wetland (Endangered)
- Plains Grassy Woodland (Endangered)
- Swamp Scrub (Endangered)



Map 5: Endangered Fauna and flora

KEY: FAUNA

- | | |
|--|---|
| ● Australian Bittern | ▲ Hardhead |
| ● Australian Shoveller | ▲ Intermediate Egret |
| ● Ballion's Crake | ▲ Little Bittern |
| ● Blue-billed Duck | ▲ Little Egret |
| ● Caspian Tern | ▲ Magpie Goose |
| ● Common Greenshank | ▲ Major Mitchell's Cockatoo |
| ★ Curlew Sandpiper | ○ Marsh Sandpiper |
| ★ Eastern Great Egret | ○ Musk Duck |
| ★ Grey Goshawk | ○ Southern Toadlet |
| ★ Grey-crowned Babbler | ○ White-bellied Sea-Eagle |
| ★ Grey-headed Flying Fox | ○ White-throated Needletail |
| ★ Growling Grass Frog | ○ Wood Sandpiper |

KEY: FLORA

- | | |
|--|---|
| ● Purple Diuris | ▲ Veined-speer grass |
|--|---|



Photo 19: Cypress Drive Sculpture

Appendix D

Braeside Park Visitor Experience Plan Photograph Location Map



Photograph numbers are as indicated in document and locations are indicative of view and feature in image.



Photo 20: Braeside Park Setting Sun