

**Landscape Vision-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** Caulfield Park is both physically and functionally divided into two by the combination of road, Council Depot and sporting clubs. A distinct difference in landscape styles also occurs at this point. The western half contains numerous mature specimens of exotic and native trees, while the east contains a more limited collection of mixed specimens sparsely planted in turf playing fields. An opportunity exists to strengthen the park's landscape character by reinforcing this difference.

**Recommendation:** To acknowledge and reinforce the different nature of the two halves of Caulfield Park through a tree planting and replacement policy. A possible vision for Caulfield Park is one that sees the mostly exotic 19<sup>th</sup> C. Gardens of the west conserved. In the east, a low maintenance - water sensitive 21<sup>st</sup> C. native landscape of trees, low shrubs and groundcovers in mulched beds begins in the old Aviary from where it spills out to fill the spaces between sports ovals. A second strong landscape type is therefore created to balance that of the east and meet the demands of a broad cross section of the community.

**War Memorials-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** Two major War Memorials are located within the park. The 'Cenotaph' is popular and the site of present Remembrance ceremonies while the 'Cross' is under utilized and generally thought to be unattractive.

**Recommendation:** The two memorials are to be consolidated into one by the relocating of the Remembrance Plaque from the 'Cross' to a position adjacent to the 'Cenotaph' on a newly constructed granite podium. The size of the podium plus the reshaping of existing levels to be determined so as to better facilitate Remembrance ceremonies. The amphitheater of the 'Cross' is to be demolished, while the poorly performing rosemary hedges and roses beds are to be removed and the area given back to the park.

**The Aviary-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** The question of whether bird aviaries are appropriate is a contentious issue that needs to be addressed. Comments recorded at community consultations suggested that the creation of natural habitat was a better way to bring bird life into the park.

**Recommendation:** An effort has been made previously to make the Aviary attractive. This work should be the basis of an alternative bird life feature within Caulfield Park. Cages are to be replaced with native bird attracting plants that are to extend beyond the confines of the present aviary and into the eastern half of the park. (See Landscape Vision)

**Roads & Parking-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** The existing North-South internal road is a divisive and inappropriate element within the park, while the current single entry/exit on Balaclava Road is inadequate to meet traffic demands. The present practice of cars parking on lawn areas is undesirable.

**Recommendation:** Remove the central section of roadway and create a 'one way' loop road with separate entry and exit in Balaclava Road. The new section of roadway will create additional parking spaces adjacent to sporting clubs, in particular disabled bays, while allowing a green corridor to be formed where once a roadway existed. The present Inkerman Road entry/exit will be for the exclusive use of Council depot vehicles. The use of fences and lockable gates, plus stricter policing of illegal parking should discourage car parking on grassed areas. Signage will identify that parking on grass is illegal.

**Sporting Ovals & Pavilions-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** The sporting field to the east is an area of high activity on weekends. Presently, the potential for accidents is high with many games being played concurrently on overlapping ovals. Bounding these irregular ovals are sparse groups of trees, which offer little in the way of shade or visual screening. Most ovals are not serviced by any path network while the existing pavilions are felt to be inadequate and poorly sited in relation to the ovals they are meant to serve.

**Recommendation:** Reduce the number of ovals from seven to six and site them to eliminate overlapping of boundaries. Plant belts of native trees, low shrubs and groundcovers in the new enlarged areas between ovals in a way that will provide greatest shade, wind protection and visual screening. Replace the two existing pavilions with two purpose-built buildings and site them to best serve all playing fields and other recreational resources.

**The Conservatory-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** The Conservatory is rudimentary, often closed and offers little in real value to the regular park user.

**Recommendation:** Investigate the possible leasing of the building for conversion to a Cafe or Tearooms. This under used resource could then become a popular facility for the regular park visitor.

**General Amenities-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** Community consultation identified a lack of toilets, drinking fountains, taps and rubbish bins within the park. Lighting was seen as being inadequate for today's security needs.

**Recommendation:** Additional facilities to be supplied and sited as indicated on Final Master Plan.

**Play Facilities (adolescents)-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** A shortage of play equipment and facilities for adolescents exists in Caulfield Park. The two existing cricket practice nets will need to be relocated due to the construction of the new loop road.

**Recommendation:** Provide an additional basketball court and tennis hit-up wall plus basketball-shooting circle. Three new cricket practice nets to be situated south of Council Depot.

**Play Facilities (children)-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** The three existing playgrounds are dated in their design and only adequate in their level of amenity for supervising adults. Security fencing now standard in many new playgrounds is non-existent.

**Recommendation:** Major upgrades i.e. new equipment, additional seats in shade + security fencing, to be carried out on larger Park Crescent and smaller Inkerman Road playgrounds. A minor upgrade i.e. security fencing plus additional shaded seating is appropriate for the small playground east of the lake.

**The Walking Trail-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** The walking trail is a popular and much used facility, it's upkeep is therefore an important part of the park's maintenance program. The complementary fitness equipment is basic and by modern standards dated.

**Recommendation:** Ensure the entire path is of a standard minimum width of 2.0m and in good repair. Upgrade fitness equipment to current acceptable standards.

**Public Toilets-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** A shortage of public toilets has been identified in both community consultations and survey work. The shortage is particularly critical in playground areas.

**Recommendation:** Construct two new toilets adjacent to the playgrounds on Inkerman Road and south of the main oval. Replace existing aged toilet block at the Park Crescent playground/BBQ facilities. Add additional automated toilet to existing at Hawthorn and Balaclava roads intersection.



**Park Entries & Signage-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** Caulfield Park is a large (253,000+ square metre) open edge style park with a multitude of pedestrian entry points. Many are both poor in design and condition. Presently the only formal gateway is a 70' designed mini plaza at the intersection of Hawthorn and Balaclava roads.

**Recommendation:** Signage within the park is poor or non-existent making navigation difficult for occasional visitors.

**Recommendation:** A review and redesign of entry gateways with special attention paid to the provision of disabled access plus the provision of Park maps at each entry.

**Ornamental Lake-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** In terms of landscape beauty the lake in its present condition is a lost opportunity. The health and cleanliness of the lake is not of an acceptable standard.

**Recommendation:** Empty and clean the lake, repair/replace the existing fountain and lighting equipment within the lake. Plant aquatic plant material to provide added beauty and amenity for local bird communities. Implement a new maintenance schedule so as to maintain the lake's health and cleanliness.

**Maintenance Standards & Practices (General)-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** Community consultation identified strong disapproval with the current maintenance standard for the park. In particular, the general cleanliness of such areas as the lake and BBQ / picnic areas.

**Recommendation:** Undertake a review of current park maintenance standards and practices, particularly in the identified problem areas.

**Maintenance Standards & Practices (Horticultural)-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** A number of poor or dangerous tree specimens were identified in an adjunct Tree Survey of Caulfield Park. Garden beds and shrubberies are poorly maintained and limited in number.

**Recommendation:** To review all existing tree management guidelines and horticultural standards and practices to formalise new ones that will better manage the resource. New shrub beds to be designed for key high visibility locations such as Entry gateways.

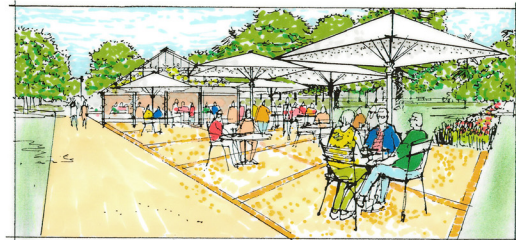
**BBQ & Picnic Facilities-**

**Problem / Opportunity:** Existing cooking facilities are used intensively by both large and small groups. Presently, the great majority of electric BBQ's are located adjacent to a playground at the eastern end of the park. This congregation of one type of facility in one location limits the range of choices for park patrons.

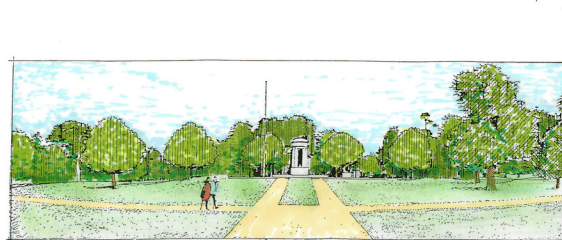
**Recommendation:** Existing eastern facilities to be upgraded in conjunction with playground. Create a second picnic/playground west of Council depot that will offer an alternative facility for smaller groups and meet the needs of people watching events on the main oval.



Hawthorn-Inkerman Rds. Entry.



The Fernery Cafe.



The Cenotaph.



New Native Garden (The Old Aviary)



Ovals ringed by Native Trees.

**LEGEND**



**MASTER PLANS**

**Question:** What is a Caulfield Park Master Plan?  
**Answer:** A Master Plan for Caulfield Park is a document which identifies specific problems and opportunities that exist in the park and in turn suggests possible solutions and courses of action to be taken.

**CAULFIELD PARK**  
**MASTER PLAN**  
**The City Of Glen Eira**

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