

**SEPTEMBER 2012**

# Gateway Park Master Plan

Landscape & Open Space Planning  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## Introduction

Gateway Park is located in Kangaroo Flat along the Bendigo Creek Linear Trail adjacent to the Calder Highway. Its prominent location as the 'gateway' park to Bendigo when entering from the south and the presence of itinerant traders makes it a popular rest stop. Gateway Park is a municipal park that incorporates a lake, function centre, public toilets, car parking, barbecue and picnic facilities. The meandering Bendigo Creeks native vegetation helps create a unique natural character for a park located within a residential area.

## Purpose of the Master Plan

The development of a Master Plan for Gateway Park is a recommendation of the City of Greater Bendigo *Open Space Strategy (2005)*. The Master Plan will be a strategic document that will help prioritise and guide the ongoing development and management of Gateway Park for the benefit of existing and future users, residents, visitors and the broader community of Greater Bendigo.

## Community engagement

A Community Engagement Framework was developed to identify stakeholders and ensure an effective community engagement process. Two stages of consultation were undertaken in the development of the Gateway Park Master Plan.

Preliminary community engagement was undertaken prior to the development of the

Draft Master Plan to ascertain and further a greater understanding of the community's aspirations, needs, likes and dislikes in regards to Gateway Park. A subsequent second stage of community engagement was then undertaken to gain feedback on the Draft Master Plan.

The Master Plan takes into consideration the comments made during the community engagement process and incorporates them into the plan (refer Chapter 5 – Consultation Summary).

## Planning and design objectives

The site context, planning context, strategic context and community consultation results were analysed to produce a set of planning and design objectives to guide the development of the site. These include:

### Circulation

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle circulation through the site and around the lake itself to provide a broader range of experiences.
- Improve the aesthetics, functionality and accessibility of existing car parks.

### Facilities and Buildings

- Improve and better integrate existing facilities and buildings into the surrounding environment.
- Support opportunities for recreation, community events and social gatherings.
- Expand opportunities for picnics and family gatherings.
- Reinforce existing natural character through appropriate material selection and use.

## Landscape and Vegetation

- Improve the ecological value and biodiversity of the park to encourage local fauna.
- Improve the water quality of the lake.
- Support ongoing revegetation of the Park with indigenous species.
- Enhance the aesthetic appeal, appearance and functionality of the park, whilst maintaining its existing character.

## Key recommendations

The Master Plan makes a number of recommendations for the future improvement of Gateway Park. These have been developed in accordance with the above planning and design objectives. Some of the key recommendations are briefly outlined here. For more details see the rest of the document and the accompanying plans.

### Circulation

- Create a boardwalk crossing over the spill way to allow for safe passage.
- Create a circuit walk by installing a boardwalk at the southern end of the lake.
- Improve the functionality and appearance of the existing car parks whilst better facilitating itinerant traders.
- Implement path upgrades and way finding signage to improve pedestrian circulation.

## Facilities and Buildings

- Review Committee of Management agreements to clarify future management responsibilities and liabilities.
- Retain and work with local youth to improve the dirt jumps area.
- Upgrade or replace the existing toilet block to facilitate universal access and improve appearance.
- Improve park amenity by developing a new picnic area with shelter, barbecues, seating and a viewing platform.
- Remove the Beverley Street play ground and create a new natural play space located near the picnic area.

## Landscape and Vegetation

- Continue revegetation works across the site and in particular the lake edges.
- Work with CMA to improve the appearance and quality of the waterways.
- Maintain and improve open space areas for community events and social gatherings.