

MASTER PLAN AND PRECINCT DESCRIPTIONS

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

8.0



KEY ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

**STRATEGIC RESPONSES
AND ACTIONS**

**MASTER PLANS
AND
PRECINCT DESCRIPTIONS
AND PROJECTS**

8.1 Overall Principles and Masterplan

The Master Plan for Adelaide Botanic Garden and Botanic Park brings together the influences inherent in the landform of the site, its heritage of garden making over 150 years, and the institution's aspirations for the future. The Plan is the physical representation of a vision to firmly establish the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide as a major scientific and cultural institution within South Australia. Many of the enhancements embodied in the plan are driven by the need to improve and consider three aspects of the Gardens:

ACCESS

Both intellectual and physical access to the Gardens are improved. Within the site this is manifest through enhanced visitor facilities, information services, path networks and interpretation. Access to the site is improved through links to adjacent path systems and precincts, and the provision of more inviting, convenient and recognisable entrances.

REGENERATION

All aspects of the Gardens are considered in the light of their regenerative potential. The waterways, vegetation and built elements are enhanced to maximise their value to the Gardens and its visitors. In particular, elements are modified to improve their flexibility and ability to simultaneously deliver multiple outcomes.

SUSTAINABILITY

A prime consideration in framing the Master Plan is the enhancement of sustainability within the Gardens through horticultural practices, water use, increased biodiversity and plant conservation, and within the wider community through improved education and interpretation opportunities.

The master planning of the Adelaide Botanic Garden and Botanic Park is guided by the following set of site planning principles derived from the existing features of the site, the Garden's heritage, and the BGA Board's vision for the Garden's future.



WATERWAYS

Improve the aesthetic, biodiversity and water conservation values of the Garden's waterways.



EDGE TRANSITION

Enhance the sense of identity of Botanic Park's boundaries and improve the transitional qualities of Adelaide Botanic Garden's edges in a manner which projects the vision of the institution beyond its borders.

THEMED GARDEN SPACES AND DESTINATIONS

Acknowledge and build on the legacy of gardens and buildings which are destinations predominately within the northern sector of the Adelaide Botanic Garden.



GARDEN STRUCTURE

Acknowledge and build on the varying garden structure of the site i.e:

Botanic Park – open and informal

ABG Northern Sector – geometric and formal

ABG Southern Sector – informal and flowing





ENTRIES

Enhance the major existing and potential entries to the site:

- ABG South (pedestrian) – Transition to the City
- ABG North (car) – Transition to Botanic Park
- ABG East (buses/cars) – Transition to Hackney Road
- ABG West (pedestrians/cars) – Link to River and Universities
- Botanic Park North East and North West (pedestrian/bicycle) – Link to River Trail
- Botanic Park South West (pedestrian/bicycle) – Link to River and Universities
- Botanic Park South East (car) – Transition to Hackney Road

Link ABG entries with the central heart of the Garden.

Enhance the dispersive nature of Botanic Park movement throughout the site, while supporting existing east-west pedestrian and bicycle routes across the Park.



NORTH - SOUTH CONNECTION

Enhance north-south movement through the Garden, particularly along the heritage path via Main Walk and Fig Tree Avenue.

EAST - WEST CONNECTION

Create an east-west route that links the major destinations across the Garden and capitalises on the proposed new Western Entrance.



AUSTRALIAN AND SEMI-ARID PLANTINGS

Link and extend the existing Australian and semi-arid collections to form a continuous band of thematically related plantings from the Mallee Collection over the ridge and along the First Creek valley to Frome Road.





Site Master Plan

Adelaide Botanic Garden

60 degree angled parking with footpath
on south side of Plane Tree Drive

Improved access to Botanic Park from
Hackney Road carpark

Intersection improvements

Link to ACC Parklands Recreational Trail

Improved walking and bicycle access
to River

Indigenous riverine plantings

Traffic calming at Garden entries

Retention of open grassed central space

Bridge over Torrens River

Service infrastructure improvements
for temporary events

Footpath on north side of parking
along Botanic Drive

Improved path along Zoo
boundary

Improved access from Zoo
entrance to ABG

Relocated depot

Improved lighting and public safety



Site Master Plan

Adelaide Botanic Garden
and Botanic Park

8.2 Adelaide Botanic Garden and Botanic Park Precinct Description

In analysing the Gardens, precincts of common activities, plantings or history have been identified. For all precincts, various design options have been considered during the Master Planning study, and the most appropriate outcome recommended.

Within each precinct, projects have been proposed which address the issues, objectives and strategic responses. The projects represent clusters of actions proposed in the previous section of this study. Each project is assigned a priority that reflects the urgency and magnitude of the issues addressed and the project's relationship with overall BGA objectives and goals. Priority timeframes are nominated according to the following scale:

- (H) High Priority i.e. 1-5 years
- (M) Medium Term Priority i.e. 5-10 years
- (L) Longer Term Priority i.e. 10+ years

Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.1 BOTANIC CREEK AND LAKES

The north side of Main Lake is envisaged as a major focal point within the Gardens. The Simpson Kiosk is renovated as a quality restaurant with its primary outlook to the Lake.

The primary north-south vista and walk across the lake is re-established with the extension of Main Walk to the lake and the construction of a bridge linking Main Walk and Fig Tree Walk. The Ficus collection is strengthened to reinforce the Main Walk extension.

Easy access to the Amazon Waterlily Pavilion is possible from all directions. The Amazon Waterlily Pavilion is visible from the south side of the lake and is an iconic structure within the Garden. The Pavilion is surrounded by formal terrestrial Bromeliad garden beds. The main east-west path through the Garden traverses the north side of the pavilion and provides generous access to the neighbouring Mediterranean Garden and Schomburgk Pavilion.

The lake edge is renovated, with dense planting strategically removed to allow views to the water. In particular, the vista along the Araucaria Avenue to the Palm House is re-established.

The overflow from Main Lake is reconstructed to divert peak floodwaters west to First Creek. Botanic Creek water quality is improved by reconfiguring the channel with a more natural profile and introducing riparian planting and a system of pools and riffles.

Projects:

- North-South vista re-establishment (H)
- Amazon Waterlily Pavilion and environs (H)
- Service road and path system upgrade (H)
- Simpson Kiosk renovation (M)
- Lake Edge renovation (M)
- Main Lake overflow project (M)
- Extend Main Walk to lake edge and strengthen Ficus collection (M)
- Botanic Creek improvement (L)
- Bridge over lake (L)



Botanic Creek and Lakes



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.2 CENTRAL LAWNS

The Central Lawns are one of the primary passive recreation spaces within the Garden. The vista along Main Walk is opened up to allow views to Main Lake, with the Walk extending across the lake via a footbridge. The Conifer collection to the east and the Cycad collection to the west are extended and enhanced. Access to the west side of the lake is facilitated by a path south of the Palm House. Views to the lake are selectively opened up along its south edge.

The eastern Central Lawns are extended with a curved path linking the Mallee Garden with the Dahlia Garden and the south side of the Museum of Economic Botany. The usage of these lawns for major events is managed to minimise impact on the Conifer Collection. The lawns to the south and east of the Museum of Economic Botany and Schomburgk Pavilion serve as complimentary event spaces when appropriate.

The eastern side of the lawns is edged by a collection of arid and semi-arid plants. The high point of the ridge provides a lookout point with panoramic views to the south west, west and north. The Araucaria Avenue is enhanced by its extension to the top of the east ridge, and the placement of the Nymph statue at its terminus.

Projects:

- North –South vista re-establishment (M)
- East Lawn and path re-alignment (M)
- Relocate the Nymph statue (M)
- Reinforce and enhance the Cycad and Conifer Collections (M)

Central Lawns



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.3 MUSEUM OF ECONOMIC BOTANY AND MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN

The Schomburgk Pavilion is the major visitor facility within the Garden. It houses an interpretation and exhibition area, information kiosk, bookshop and refreshment kiosk. In addition, the lawns adjacent and to the east are a major education program venue.

The Museum of Economic Botany is a major education/interpretation and exhibition space within the Garden opening both to the south lawns and the Schomburgk Pavilion to the north.

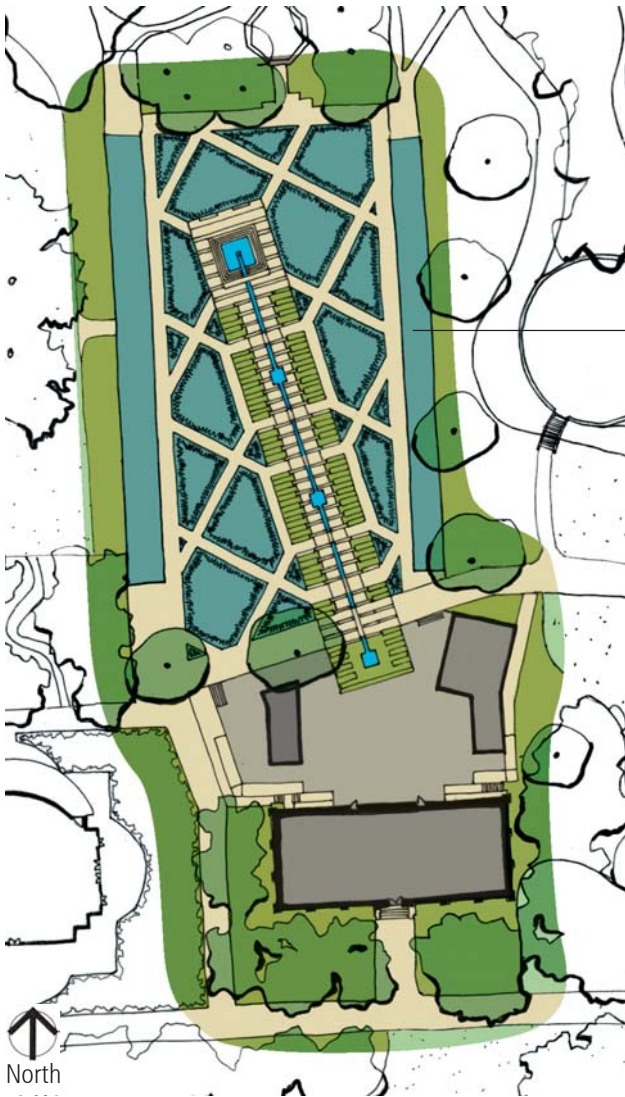
The major east-west route through the Garden brings visitors to the Amazon Waterlily Pavilion to the west and Hackney Road entrance to the east. To the north the Mediterranean Garden showcases plants from the five Mediterranean climate zones of the world. Plant diversity, endangered species, the role of water and plant adaptations to dry summers and fire are major themes interpreted in the garden.

The Wisteria Arbours provide a strong border to the garden while the tall trees of the Australian Forest and the Plane Tree lawns form an enveloping green edge which further defines the space.

Projects:

- Re-invigorate wisterias on arbors adjacent Mediterranean Garden (M)

Museum of Economic Botany
and Mediterranean Garden



Wisteria Arbors re-invigorated

Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.4 FIG TREE AVENUE AND LAWNS

Fig Tree Avenue is the major Garden entrance from the north. At the northern and southern ends high quality pavements signal the Avenue's importance as an access route into the Garden. The central section of the walk is paved with a surface which protects the Fig Tree roots and provides an acceptable level of public safety. The path is extended to the lake edge and bridge.

The lawns either side of the Avenue are renovated to improve drainage and grass cover.

Projects:

- Lawn renovation (M)
- Figtree Avenue pavement (L)

Fig Tree Avenue and Lawns



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.5 AUSTRALIAN FOREST

The Australian Forest both weaves together and provides edge definition to the adjacent formal gardens i.e. Classground, Mediterranean Garden, Plane Tree Lawn and Bicentennial Conservatory. The dense canopy of Australian trees provides a strong sense of enclosure, while their large trunks are awe inspiring in their size.

The understorey of the forest is planted with a wide range of Australian subtropical and tropical species, providing visitors with access to plants which grow within a closed canopy forest.

The path system reinforces the informal rambling nature of the precinct, providing visitors with a range of routes to explore.

Projects:

- Extend Australian Forest around east and south of Bicentennial Conservatory (M)

Australian Forest



Australian Forest
extended to east

Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.6 CLASSGROUND

The Classground is a strongly defined garden room which was previously utilised for an experimental and nursery garden.

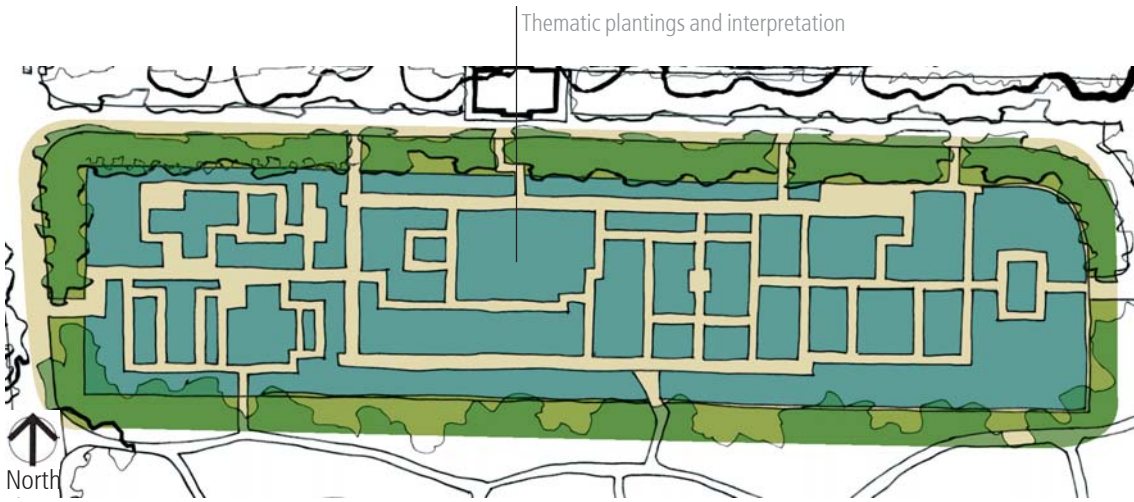
The garden displays the organisation of plants using the scientific classification system. Overlaid with this system is the story of human-plant interaction including the role of Botanic Gardens in discovering, classifying and distributing useful plants around the world.

Through attention to the visual and spatial aspects of the plantings, and the sensitive reworking of paths and garden bed layouts, the garden is a highlight of the ABG.

Projects:

- Renovation of plantings layout and interpretation (M)

Classground



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.7 HACKNEY ROAD PRECINCT

The Hackney Road frontage of the Garden strongly signals the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide values. A generous pedestrian space with signature trees fronts the Goodman Building and Trambarn Building. Through traffic for public vehicles is removed from the frontages of the two buildings in order to create a more formal pedestrian entry plaza. Bus drop-off is provided along the plaza's edge with Hackney Road. The carparking is separated into two distinct areas north and south the plaza. The carparks across the frontage are treed, and a definite boundary to the Garden is established through the combination of fencing and planting. Native planting associated with the adjacent wetland frames the Goodman Building.

The Goodman and Trambarn buildings are linked to create a generous enclosed entry space for reception and public administration regarding The Gardens, Herbarium and Plant Biodiversity Centre. New laboratories and office space for scientific and plant conservation projects are also housed.

Pathway links provide direct access to the Rose Garden to the north and the Wetland that abuts the south side of the main path west of the centre.

The junction of the East Entrance path and the path leading to the south entrance of the Bicentennial Conservatory forms a major interpretation/orientation point within the Garden. Seating, paving and interpretive and directional signage combine with planting and lawns to create a gathering place for groups entering from Hackney Road and those meeting in the lecture theatre at the western end of the Trambarn. Introductory interpretive information is provided for the International Rose Garden, the Australian Forest, the Wetland and Bicentennial Conservatory.

Projects:

- Hackney Road Carpark and Entrance Space (M)
- Investigate feasibility for new linking building proposal (M)
- Major Interpretive Point (L)



Hackney Road Precinct



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.8 INTERNATIONAL ROSE GARDEN

The International Rose Garden is integrated within the fabric of the Garden. All internal fences are removed and easy access is provided to adjoining spaces.

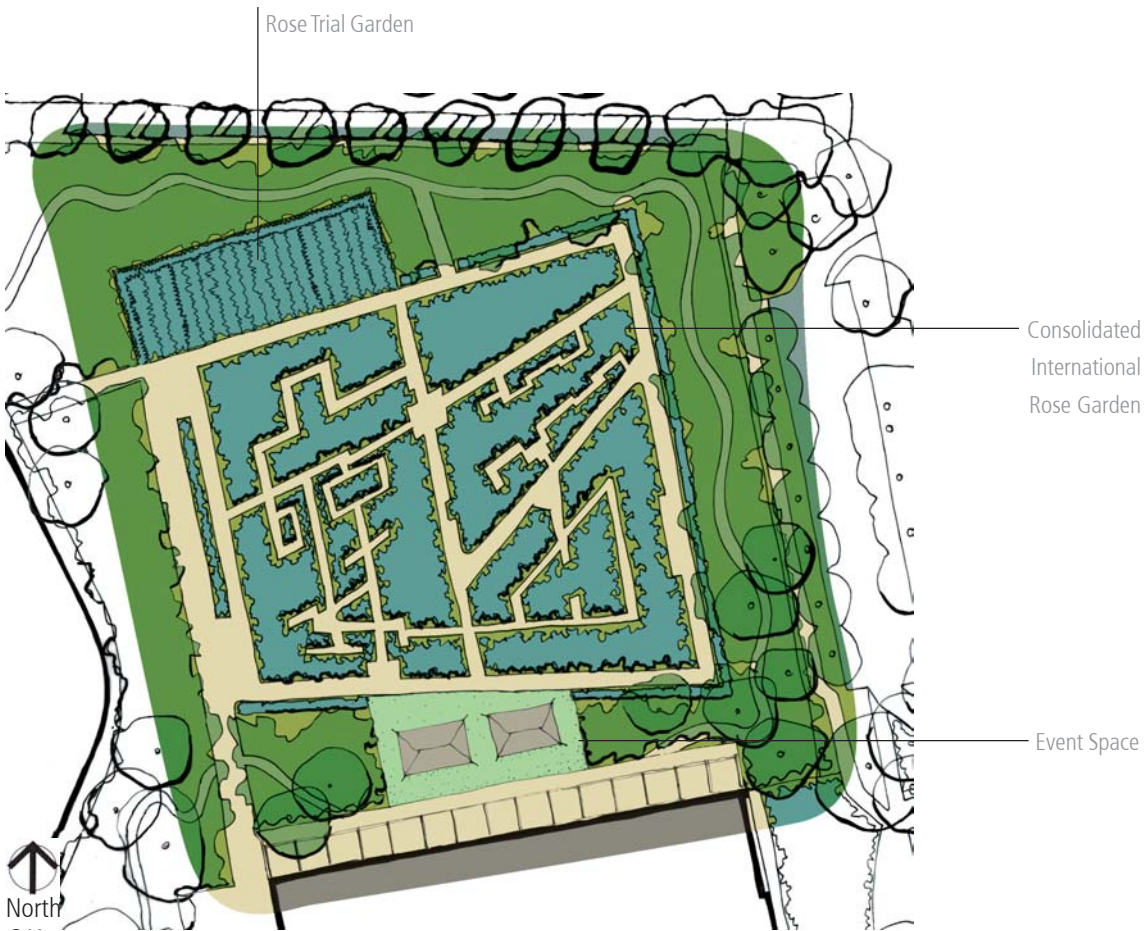
After extensive consultation and analysis of options the Rose collection is consolidated into the central section of the Garden. Additional space is created within this zone by rationalising path locations and reducing path widths and lawn areas.

The Rose Trial Garden is located on the north side of the main collection display in a separate area with its own interpretation. The south, east and west sides of the Garden are planted with trees and understorey plantings which frame the Rose Garden, the Trambarn Building and the Bicentennial Conservatory. The plantings are designed to reflect the current BGA objectives and where possible showcase focus collections. Careful selection, placement and spacing of trees avoids detrimental impacts on the roses.

Projects:

- Removal of internal fencing (H)
- Consolidation of the Rose Collection and Rose Garden redesign (H)
- Relocation of the Rose Trial Garden (H)

International Rose Garden



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.9 FIRST CREEK

The section of First Creek through the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and Botanic Park is a model for urban creek rehabilitation in Adelaide. Biodiversity, stormwater, aesthetic and recreation values are significantly enhanced.

In partnership with the the National Wine Centre, a vegetated wetland and flood retarding basin forms an ephemeral lake located adjacent Hackney Road. Filtered water from the wetland with significant pollution reduction is harvested for storage in underground aquifers and utilised for irrigation within the Garden. The wetland plantings are interpreted, forming an important part of the Garden's education program. The flood retardation measures reduce water velocity and allow the creek channel to be reconfigured with a more natural profile and a system of pools and riffles. Riparian planting takes advantage of the proximity to moisture and visually reinforces the creek's presence in the Garden.

The new creek profile allows visitors access along the length of the creek, thereby also linking adjacent Garden spaces and collections.

Improvements to the creek environment are interpreted for visitors.

Projects:

- Wetland (H)
- Aquifer storage system (M)
- First Creek channel rehabilitation (M)
- Creekside path (L)

First Creek



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.10 HERITAGE GARDEN

The North Terrace Entrance to the Garden is maintained as the principal pedestrian entry and connection with the city. Directional information at the entrance is enhanced, encouraging patrons to visit the Schomburgk Pavilion for more detailed information regarding the Garden.

The vista to Main Lake is opened up and the Elvis Presley memorial relocated. While the layout of paths, lawns and garden beds is unchanged, the plantings are reviewed and renovated to more closely reflect current BGA objectives, and in particular to showcase focus collections in this high profile sector of the Garden. The character of the precinct, however, reflects the gardenesque and highly ornamental quality of the original Francis plan.

Where possible, the precinct's connection with the first director George Francis is also enhanced through replacement tree plantings and retention of remnant path alignments.

Projects:

- Review and enhancement of collections and paths leading from main walk (H)
- Improved security along Botanic Road boundary (H)
- Improved landscape setting for Francis Obelisk (M)

Heritage Garden



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.11 MALLEE SECTION AND ENVIRONS

The Mallee Garden is an important component in an arc of arid and semi-arid plantings that extend from Botanic Creek over the main ridge to First Creek.

The garden has a network of meandering paths among fine leaved mallee species which throw a filtered light characteristic of semi-arid Australian vegetation.

The north eastern areas of the precinct continue the theme of dryland plantings, with predominantly Australian native flora. The Sunken Garden houses a collection of perennial flowering plants and is a popular venue for weddings and events.

Project:

- Eastern arid/semi-arid garden (M)

Mallee Section and Environs



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.12 WESTERN GARDEN

Located between the Economic Garden and the western boundary of the Garden, the Western Garden is an important opportunity for a collections focus.

The main path from the western entrance traverses the precinct, thereby ensuring that significant numbers of visitors interact with the gardens. The gardens in return provide a striking entry to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

A new Physic Garden is created in the space which focuses on the scientific and medicinal uses of plants, thereby creating a strong thematic link with the adjacent hospital and universities.

A service road extends the hospital access road into the Garden, linking with the main east –west route on the north side of the Palm House.

Projects:

- Creation of new western gateway, fencing and path (H)
- Creation of New Western service entry (H)
- New Physic Garden (M)

Western Garden



Physic Garden

Western Entrance

Service Entry

Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.13 BICENTENNIAL CONSERVATORY

This iconic building within the Garden houses the Australasian tropical plant collection.

Entry is from the south side thereby linking with the adjacent interpretive terrace and group gathering space. With bus drop-off located at the Hackney Road entrance the majority of Conservatory patrons approach from the east and south.

The view of the Conservatory is enhanced by the careful placement of tall Eucalypt species (from the Australian Rainforest Collection) adjacent its southern and eastern sides. The vertical trunks of the trees provide a series of frames through which the rising arc of the building passes, thereby emphasising its striking form. The lower walls of the Conservatory are partially screened with vegetation to moderate its bulk at ground level.

Projects:

- Transfer entry to south side and improve weather protection (M)
- Complimentary plant selection and landscaping to south and east side (M)

Bicentennial Conservatory



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.14 HOSPITAL BOUNDARY

The west boundary of the Garden is heavily planted with bold profile trees to screen the adjacent Royal Adelaide Hospital buildings.

The fence is renovated or replaced to produce a uniform backdrop.

The rationalisation of the buildings adjacent the Francis Arbour, including the development of new toilet facilities and redevelopment of the Arbour itself inline with the Conservation Study, allows for a more uniform vegetation edge to the path from Main Walk to the Palm House and Western Entrance.

Projects:

- Construction of Main Lake overflow swale (H)
- Rationalisation of buildings and placement of screen plantings (L)
- Fence is renovated or replaced (L)

Hospital Boundary



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

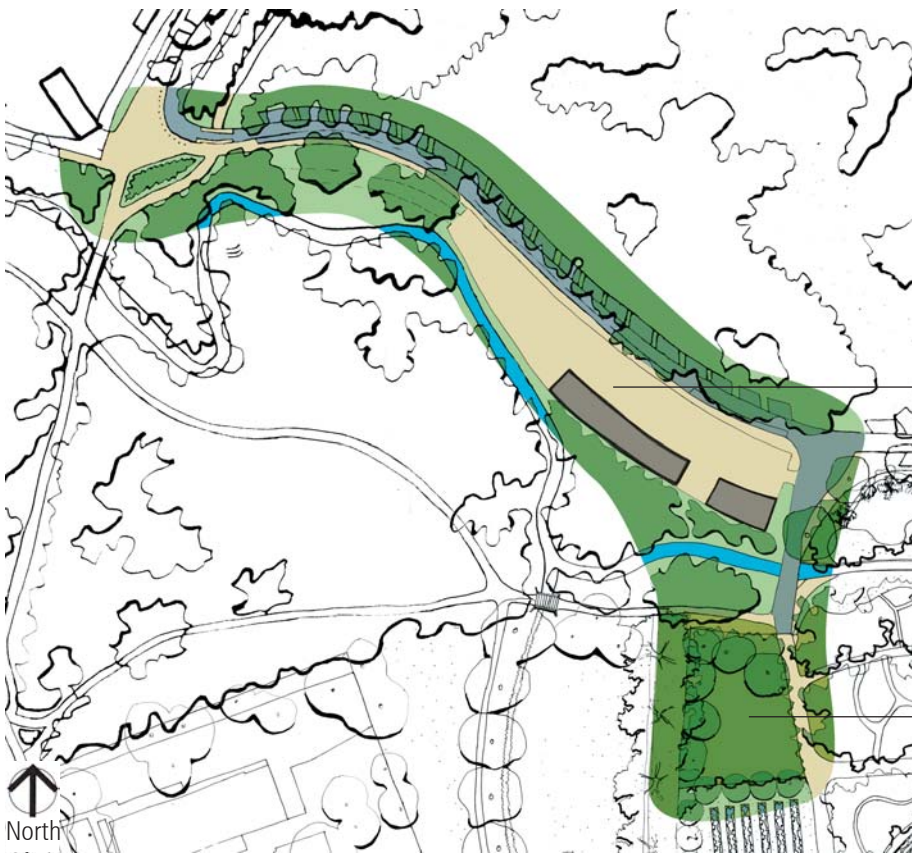
8.2.15 DEPOT

Following a review of various options the Depot in the north western sector of the Garden is relocated to Botanic Park thereby freeing up Gardens space for collections display. The new location also allows for the sharing of some facilities with the Adelaide Zoo.

Projects:

- Undertake a review of all depot and operational issues with the Gardens, including consultation with Adelaide City Council and Adelaide Zoo in relation to potential shared facilities (M)
- Depot rationalised and relocated (M)

Depot



Relocate facilities to Botanic Park

Expand plant collections into former depot site

Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.16 PALM HOUSE AND ENVIRONS

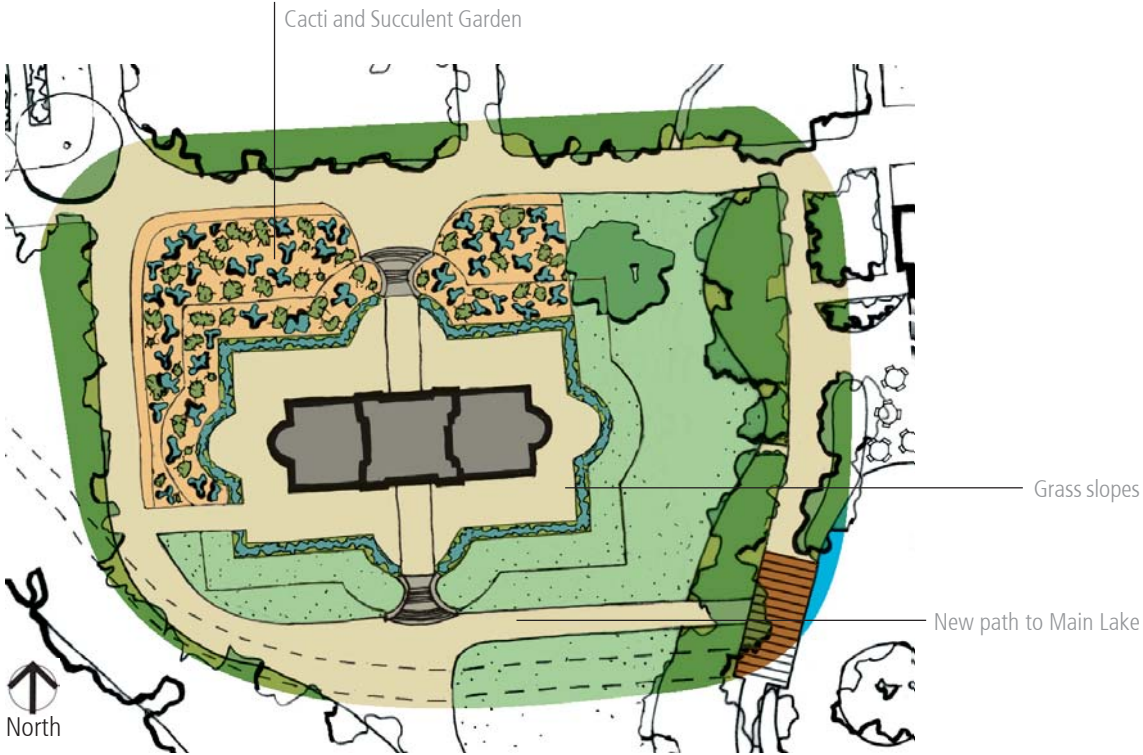
Located on the main east–west route the Palm House is the major architectural element in the western sector of the Garden.

The podium adjacent the building is edged with cacti and succulents carefully chosen and placed to compliment the visual and heritage integrity of the Palm House.

Project:

- Reinstatement of Cactus and Succulent Garden on west and north slopes. Retain grass to south and east slopes. (H)

Palm House and Environs



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.17 ECONOMIC GARDEN

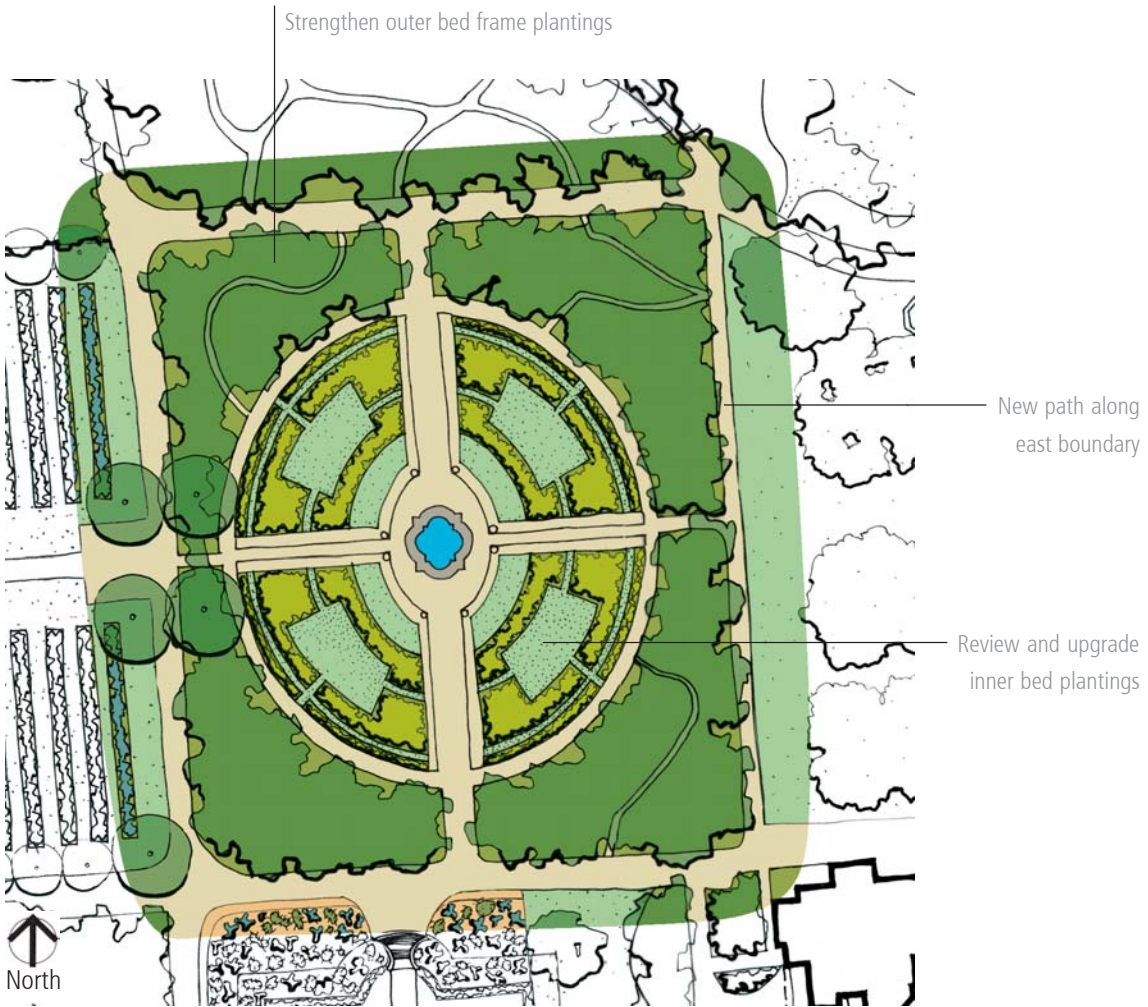
The Economic Garden is one of the most formal spaces within the Adelaide Botanic Garden

The garden is a major component of the western entry experience. Visitors are directed to the garden's east-west axis from where they can proceed east, south or north. The path along the outer east edge of the garden accommodates north-south movement and assists in defining the garden's boundary with the adjacent lawn.

Projects:

- Undertake a review of the plant collection once the adjacent Physic Garden has been developed (H)
- Upgrading of Economic plantings in inner beds (M)
- Enhancement of framing plantings in outer beds (M)
- Review and upgrade of minor path system in outer beds (L)

Economic Garden



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.18 WESTERN WILD GARDEN

Consisting of trees and ground covers, this garden provides visitors with an informal and informative experience within a discrete section of the Garden. The combination of the enclosing tree canopy, sinuous paths and a wide variety of ground cover textures makes this a small but visually rich garden. This garden is a rare example of twentieth century garden design in the Garden, styled on the work of Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx.

Projects:
Nil

Western Wild Garden



Adelaide Botanic Garden Precincts

8.2.19 PALM GARDEN

The Palm Garden occupies a discrete space bounded by East Lodge, First Creek and the Plane Tree Drive fence.

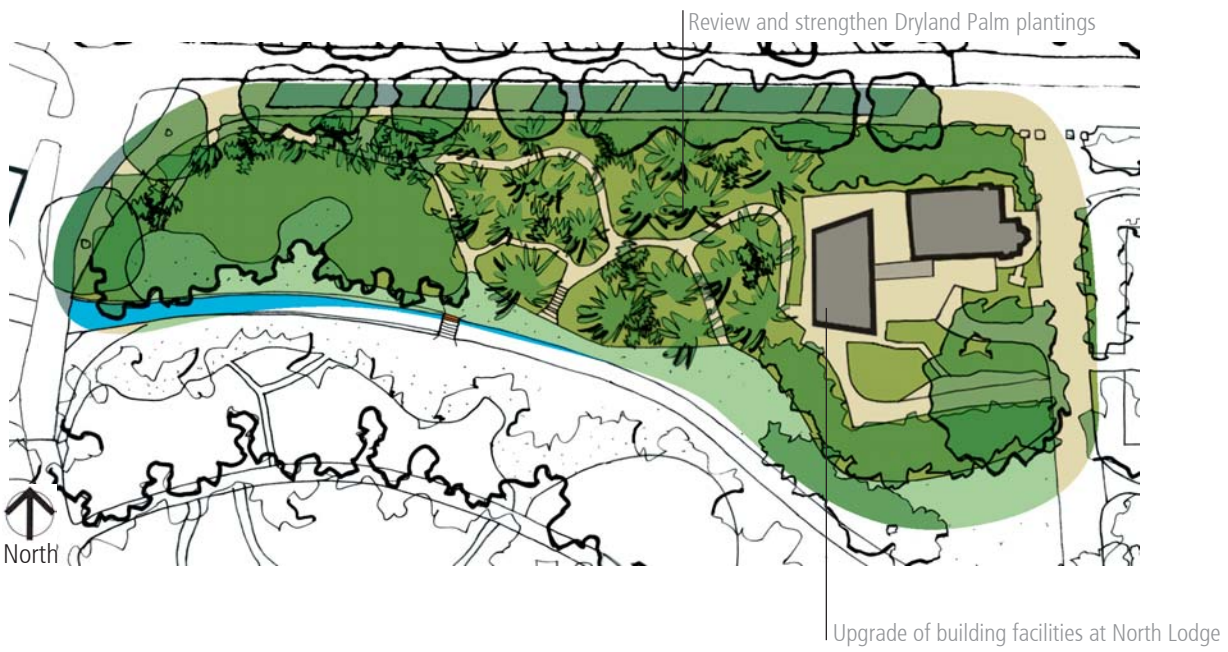
A significant collection of dryland palms, this garden highlights the diversity of plants which live in semi arid and arid environments.

Understorey plants, ground surfaces and mulches accentuate the dryland character of the garden.

Projects:

- Review and strengthen dryland Palm plantings (L)
- Improve access to the collection, particularly from the new Western Entrance (L)
- Upgrade of building facilities at North Lodge (M)

Palm Garden



Botanic Park Precincts

8.2.20 THE DELL

The Dell with the adjacent Western Entry presents a quality park setting to Frome Road. Clearly identified as part of the BGA, the Dell is a shady creekside open space with major pedestrian and bicycle routes linking the university precinct with Botanic Park and beyond.

The site's history as Speakers Corner is interpreted. Indigenous riverine planting lines the creek, while the eastern part of the precinct is an extension of the adjacent Palm collection.

Clear access to the south west corner of the Adelaide Zoo is maintained to facilitate implementation of possible future options.

A creekside path promotes walking between the main Frome Road entrance to the Adelaide Zoo and the ABG Western Entry.

Clear signage, good sight lines and a high standard of lighting make this a safer route for pedestrians to use at night.

Projects:

- Path network improvements, including pedestrian lighting (H)
- Engineering and landscape works to improve the flow, safety and aesthetics of First Creek (H)
- Undertake conservation work on bridge (M)
- Palm Collection developed in eastern section (L)
- Extend SouthernConifers and Tall Flowering Tree Focus Collections in western sector of precinct (L)

The Dell



Botanic Park Precincts

8.2.21 BOTANIC PARK LAWNS

The broad open lawns of Botanic Park provide a venue for both major events and informal picnicking and games. Arboretum planting is consolidated around the perimeter of the large central lawn space which spreads across the site with its sinuous informal edge defined by the tree canopy.

The Arboretum collection is labelled and interpreted for the general public.

Vehicle, pedestrian and cycle paths and roads allow for the safe movement of visitors throughout the park. Plane Tree Drive in particular provides a pedestrian friendly environment where those with disabilities can safely access the Garden entries.

A new depot facility is created in the south-west corner of the precinct.

Projects:

- Plane Tree Drive review and redevelopment (parking changes, south footpath, traffic calming) (H)
- Depot developed (H)
- Plane Tree Drive/Hackney Rd intersection upgraded (M)
- Service infrastructure enhancement for events (M)
- Path network improvements (L)

Botanic Park Lawns



Botanic Park Precincts

8.2.22 CONIFER RISE

This densely planted ridge provides a buffer between the busy Hackney Road and the central lawns of Botanic Park.

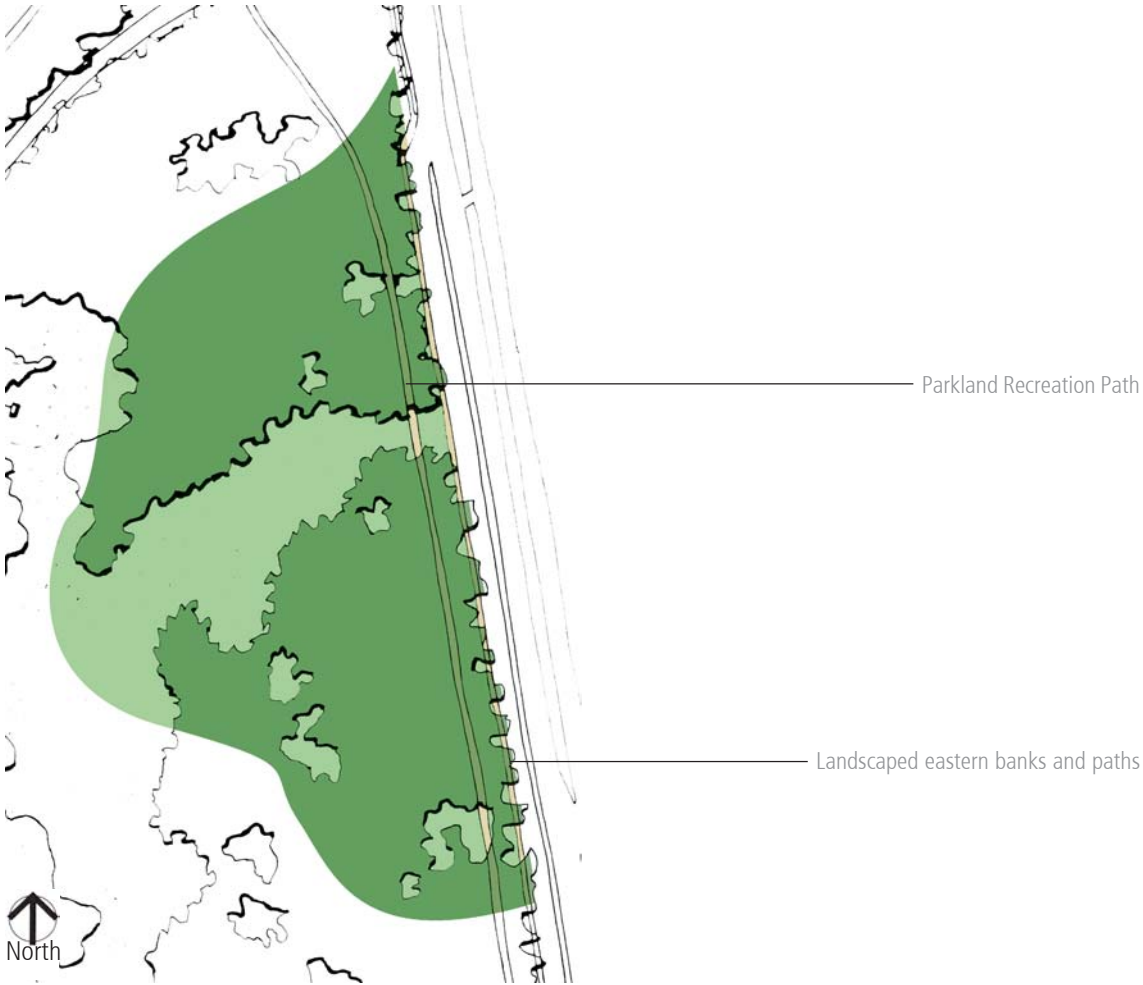
A shared pedestrian /bicycle path traverses the precinct linking the ABG with the Torrens River and beyond.

The bank adjacent the carparks and the general carpark environs along Hackney Road are planted, while steps allow easy access from the carpark up into the park.

Projects:

- Parkland Recreational Path (M)
- Landscaping of eastern banks adjacent carpark (L)

Conifer Rise



Botanic Park Precincts

8.2.23 TORRENS BANKS

The area between Botanic Drive and the Torrens River contains a collection of riverine indigenous plantings and is a showcase of creekside rehabilitation design and management.

Plantings allow clear sight-lines for pedestrians and cyclists along lit paths which provide easy and safe access between the riverside and the upper plateau.

A bridge allows access across the Torrens River to the north bank.

Projects:

- Indigenous riverine plantings (M)
- Path network and lighting improvements (L)
- Work closely with Adelaide City Council to develop a pedestrian bridge over Torrens River (L)

Torrens Banks



