

Carlton Gardens Master Plan



As part of its commitment to indigenous Australians, Melbourne City Council respectfully acknowledges the traditional people of the Kulin Nation.

For the Boonerwung, Woiworung, Taungurong, Djajawurrung and the Wathaurung that make up the Kulin nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place and location for events of social, educational, sporting and cultural significance.

(based on the Acknowledgement Wording endorsed by the Melbourne City Council Aboriginal Consultative Group, 2000)

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Foreword

Melbourne is privileged to have an outstanding network of parks, gardens and boulevards.

Carlton Gardens is a unique and special part of this network. Redesigned for the Melbourne International Exhibition in 1880, the Gardens along with the Royal Exhibition Building have important heritage values which were recognised by their inclusion on the World Heritage List in 2004.

The City of Melbourne's challenge is to manage the Gardens to provide on-going recreational and community use, while protecting and improving their historical integrity. This also requires Council to work closely with Museum Victoria, which manages the Royal Exhibition Building and its immediate surroundings, and other interest groups.

The Carlton Gardens Master Plan outlines the vision for the Gardens and sets out key actions to be achieved over the next 10 years.

Many people have participated in the development of this Master Plan and on behalf of Council I would like to thank all who have contributed.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John So". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John So
Lord Mayor
City of Melbourne

May 2005

Following consideration by the Planning and Environment Committee, this plan was approved by Council on 29 March 2005.

Museum Victoria supports the proposed actions in this Plan within the Exhibition Reserve.

Master Plan Vision

The Carlton Gardens will be the living setting for the world significant Royal Exhibition Building and reflect the historical, cultural and social aspirations of late nineteenth century 'Marvellous Melbourne'.

The Gardens will be a treasured recreational space, contributing significantly to Melbourne's public domain.

1. Introduction

The Carlton Gardens form the essential and unique setting for the majestic Royal Exhibition Building, which together form Australia's first built environment to be included on the World Heritage List.

With its stunning tree avenues, formal garden beds and pathways, the site is linked to the historic International Exhibition movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Originally established in the 1850s, the Gardens were redesigned for the 1880 Melbourne International Exhibition and the 1888 Centennial International Exhibition. They are one of Australia's most significant heritage gardens. The site also played a part in the story of Australian federation, with the opening of the first National Parliament held at the Royal Exhibition Building in 1901. The site is also on the National Heritage List.

The Gardens are much loved by Melburnians and form a key component of Melbourne's inner-urban open space network. They also provide a valuable recreational space for Melbourne residents, workers and visitors.

1.1 Purpose of the Master Plan

Within the broad planning framework for this World Heritage listed site, the Master Plan sets out the future directions for the management of the Gardens and the three forecourts of the Royal Exhibition Building. This Plan outlines the long-term vision and guides the development and management of these areas for the next 10 years. **Plan 1** shows the area covered by the Master Plan.

1.2 Preparation of the Plan

This Master Plan was prepared with the extensive involvement of the community. A three-step approach was adopted for its development, as follows:

- Release of an Issues Paper seeking public input between February and April 2004, which resulted in valuable comment and input
- Release of a draft Master Plan between August and December 2004 seeking further public comment
- Review of the draft Plan and preparation of the final Master Plan for submission to Council and Museum Victoria for approval.

The preparation of the Master Plan was assisted by a Reference Committee representing groups associated with the Carlton Gardens.

The most important objective of the Master Plan is to ensure that the Carlton Gardens are managed in accordance with their heritage significance. For this reason, many of the recommendations in this Master Plan are underpinned by the recommendations of the draft *Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens Conservation Management Plan*, prepared by Alan Lovell & Associates and Contexts Pty Ltd, in July 2004. This draft Conservation Management Plan outlines the overall heritage significance of the Carlton Gardens and the Royal Exhibition Building and sets out a series of objectives for protecting and enhancing their historic features.



Other documents that have been used in preparing the Master Plan are:

- Carlton Gardens Conservation Analysis, John Patrick Pty Ltd, September 2002
- The Carlton Gardens Master Plan, City of Melbourne, 1990
- Melbourne's Historic Public Gardens: A Management and Conservation Guide, Rex Swanson, 1984
- Carlton Gardens Shrub and Floral Plantings, 1880 Melbourne International Exhibition Draft Report, Meredith Gould Architects Pty Ltd, June 2004
- Nomination of Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens by the Government of Australia for Inscription on the World Heritage List, Environment Australia, 2002.
- The Australian ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter), Australia ICOMOS, Canberra, 1999

The recommendations also take account of developments that have occurred in the precinct since 1990, such as construction of Melbourne Museum, and also reflect, as far as possible, the views of the community expressed following the publication of the Issues Paper and the draft Master Plan.

2. The Setting

2.1 Historical Context

The original inhabitants of the area were the Woiworing people who knew a eucalypt woodlands landscape very different from today's urban environment.

The present Carlton Gardens were originally set aside for public use as part of the 1850s subdivision of Melbourne. In 1878, they were acquired for the Melbourne International Exhibitions held in 1880 and 1888. The South Carlton Gardens were redesigned to form the setting of the Royal Exhibition Building and remain substantially intact today.

The North Carlton Gardens were almost completely covered by annexes during the 1880 International Exhibition and again during the 1888 Centennial Exhibition. After both of the Exhibitions, these buildings were demolished and the Gardens reinstated, today retaining much of the original fabric from the 1890 reinstatement. However the North Gardens also include subsequent twentieth century developments such as the tennis courts and playgrounds.

Between the North and South Carlton Gardens lies the Exhibition Reserve site, where the Royal Exhibition Building and the contemporary Melbourne Museum, which opened in 2000, is situated.

2.2 Heritage Significance – World, National, State and Local

The heritage significance of the Royal Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens can be considered as a hierarchy, ranging from world heritage significance, followed by national, state and local levels. Each level of significance is assessed against different but complementary sets of criteria. The draft Conservation Management Plan outlines each of these levels of significance in detail.

In summary, the levels of significance are:

- (1) World Heritage — The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Garden are inscribed on the World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee under criteria (ii) of the World Heritage Convention adopted by UNESCO in 1972. This inscription is based on the significance of the Royal Exhibition Building and the surrounding Carlton Gardens as the main survivors of a Palace of Industry (still in the original setting) from one of the major International Exhibitions that were part of the international exhibition movement of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.
- (2) National Heritage — The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens are also listed on the National Heritage Register as a place of National Heritage significance. This listing is based on the role of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens played in the exhibition movement and the Federation of Australia. It was the place where the first National Parliament was held in 1901 and the place where the first Australian flag was flown. It was also the location of the Victorian Parliament while the National Parliament temporarily used Parliament House in Spring Street until the Parliament House in Canberra was constructed.
- (3) State Heritage — The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens are also listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. The site is recognised for its historical, architectural, aesthetic, social and scientific (botanical) significance to the State of Victoria. The Royal Exhibition Building is historically significant as the only major extant nineteenth-century exhibition building in Australia and one of the few to survive worldwide. Together, with the associated landscaped gardens, the building forms one of the major surviving nineteenth-century exhibition precincts in the world. The Carlton Gardens, the setting for the Royal Exhibition Building, are aesthetically significant for their nineteenth-century 'Gardenesque' style, featuring specimen trees and parterre garden beds in a symmetrical design with the use of axial views and foci. The Hochgurtel and the 'Grand Allé' lined with Plane Trees are integral to the setting of the Royal Exhibition Building.
- (4) Local Heritage – The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens have been assessed using criteria of the Register of the National Estate and found to contain several structures and elements of local historical significance such as the internal garden fencing and tennis court pavilion. The site is included under heritage overlay in the City of Melbourne planning scheme. The Morton Bay Fig in the south-east side of the Garden, opposite Gertrude Street, has also been recognised as a contemporary site of importance to the local Aboriginal community.

2.3 Planning and Management Responsibility

As a World Heritage listed site, planning and management responsibilities are specified under Commonwealth and State legislation as follows:

(1) International Obligations

The Australian Government has signed and ratified the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention). Under the World Heritage Convention all countries that have ratified the convention are expected to protect the World Heritage values of the properties inscribed and are encouraged to report periodically on their condition. The Australian Government protects and manages the World Heritage values of World Heritage listed sites through the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

(2) Commonwealth Legislation

The EPBC Act requires that no actions are taken that would have a significant impact on the world or national heritage values of the site, and also requires the development of comprehensive management arrangements for the site.

Until there is an accredited World Heritage Site Management Plan, any actions in the Gardens that will or are likely to have a significant impact on declared World Heritage values must be referred to the Minister for Environment and Heritage for assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

(3) State Legislation

i) The Victorian Heritage Act (1995) requires the approval of the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, for any works at the site that have not been granted a permit exemption. The Heritage Council is the appeal body for heritage permits and refusals.

In 2004 the Heritage Act was amended to reflect the World Heritage listing of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens. The amendment requires the preparation of a World Heritage Management Plan for the site and a Strategy Plan for the precinct surrounding the site (see below). The Management plan will assist in meeting the obligations required in the EPBC Act for a planning and management framework.

ii) The Crown Land Reserves Act (1978) provides the underpinning reservation of the Carlton Gardens as permanently reserved as Public Gardens, and enables the Melbourne City Council to manage the Carlton Gardens as committee of management. The Act also provides for the Crown land containing the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne Museum, and open space between and around these buildings to be reserved as the Exhibition Reserve.

iii) The Museums Act (1983) gives Museum Victoria responsibility for managing the Exhibition Reserve.

World Heritage listing requires co-ordinated planning and management across all levels of government for the whole site. To meet the legislative requirements the following documents will need to be prepared:

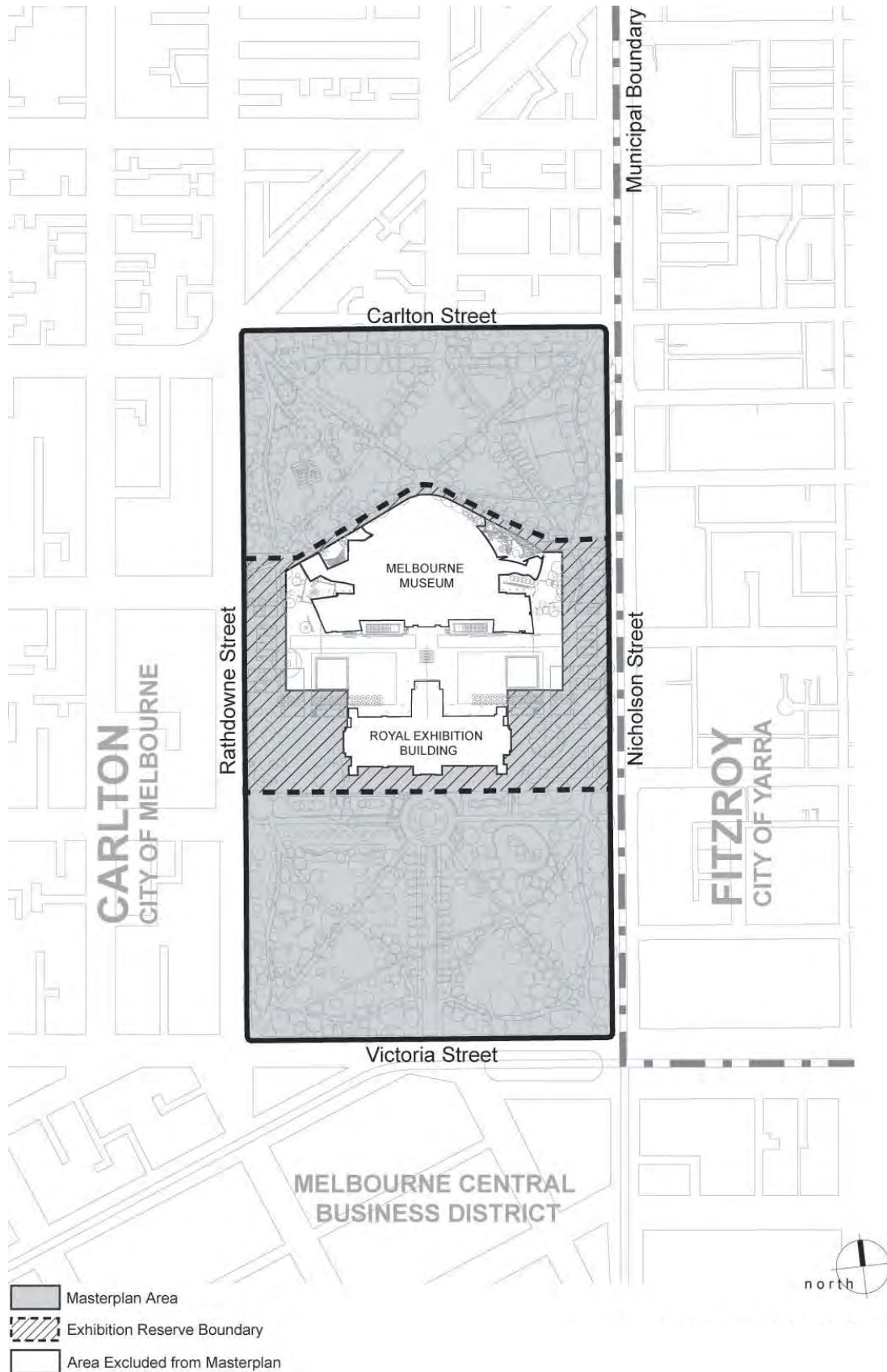
1. World Heritage Strategy Plan — This strategy will be prepared by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, for the area immediately around the site, to ensure that any proposed developments are consistent with the World Heritage values of the site. When drafted, the Heritage Council is required to receive public submissions, amend the plan if required, and then make recommendations to the State Minister for adoption of the Plan. Once the Plan is adopted, amendments to local planning schemes may be required.
2. World Heritage Management Plan — The development of this Plan is the responsibility of the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, with input from a ministerially appointed Steering Committee. Public submissions on the plan will be considered by the Steering Committee which will amend the plan if required, then forward to the Minister for approval. It is understood that the Management Plan could then be accredited under a bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth Government. A number of specific documents will lie under the framework of this Plan, viz:
 - i) The Royal Exhibition Building and Exhibition Reserve Master Plan, being prepared by Museum Victoria to guide future management and works for the building and plaza area of the Reserve lying between the Royal Exhibition Building and the Museum



ii) The Carlton Gardens Master Plan (this document), prepared by the City of Melbourne in conjunction with Museum Victoria. This Plan sets out the future structure, works and management directions for:

- The North and South Carlton Gardens (managed by the City of Melbourne)
- The area of the Exhibition Reserve (managed by Museum Victoria) that comprise the south, east and west forecourts of the Royal Exhibition Building and the connections adjacent to Nicholson and Rathdowne Streets that link the North and South Carlton Gardens (see **Plan 1**)

iii) The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens Conservation Management Plan. A draft of this Plan has been prepared jointly by the City of Melbourne and Museum Victoria. This Plan assesses the significance of all the elements of the site and proposes heritage management objectives for each of these elements. The objectives of this Plan are reflected in the Carlton Gardens Master Plan. It is anticipated that the Plan will be finalised by Heritage Victoria, Museum Victoria and the City of Melbourne, in conjunction with the Australian Government.



Plan 1 Area covered by Master Plan

3. Future Directions and Guiding Principles

Future management of the Carlton Gardens and the forecourts of the Royal Exhibition Building will be undertaken in line with World Heritage management requirements. These requirements are incorporated in the recommendations of this Master Plan, which both addresses protection of the site's heritage assets and ensures continuing community use. The recommendations also take into account other relevant issues relating to community safety, equitable access for people with all abilities, and environmental management.

Future directions and guiding principles in this Plan are set out under the following headings: heritage and conservation; urban context, fabric, features and planting; uses and activities; connection and linkages; pedestrian and vehicle movement; environmental sustainability; and interpretation.

Recommendations specific to individual garden precincts within the site as a whole are outlined in Section 4 under the headings: Royal Exhibition Building forecourts — south, east and west; South Carlton Gardens and North Carlton Gardens.

3.1 Heritage and Conservation

Recommendations relating to heritage values and features of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens are based on the objectives and guidelines of the draft Conservation Management Plan (2004) and the World Heritage listing determination.

The draft Conservation Management Plan identifies the key period of significance for the site as from 1880–1901, the period which covers both structures and events recognised as being of international, national and state importance.

Therefore, the primary, but not exclusive, heritage objective of this Master Plan is to maintain the historical, aesthetic, cultural and social significance of the Carlton Gardens relating to this period. All recommendations relating to this period and adaptation works affecting elements of significance will be carried out in line with the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter 1999. It should be noted that information on certain historical features is limited and further research and investigation will be needed before detailed plans can be prepared.

Lithograph of the Royal Exhibition Buildings from Australasian, 4 August 1888. Reproduced courtesy of Museum Victoria



Community feedback received following release of the Issues Paper and draft Master Plan indicated an overall appreciation of the historical and cultural significance of the Carlton Gardens and the Royal Exhibition Building and support for the conservation of the heritage values of the site.

Recommendations relating to heritage and conservation are:

- (1) To ensure the Carlton Gardens and forecourts of the Royal Exhibition Building provide a suitable landscape setting for the Royal Exhibition Building.
- (2) To support the continuing use of the Royal Exhibition Building as an exhibition space.
- (3) To improve the visual and landscape connection between the North and South Carlton Gardens along the eastern and western frontages of Exhibition Reserve and to enhance the perception of a single site and a garden setting for the Royal Exhibition Building.
- (4) To conserve the landscape and structures remaining from the period of major heritage significance (between 1880 and 1901) in form and character by preservation or restoration, where practicable.
- (5) To progressively remove vegetation, landscape elements or structures that have a significant negative impact on the heritage values of the Carlton Gardens.
- (6) To restore or reconstruct, where appropriate and practicable, damaged or altered structures or hard or soft landscape elements that were significant to the design of the Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building forecourts between 1880 and 1901.
- (7) To further investigate the feasibility of reintroducing some missing features of the period of significance, such as sections of the original fence and gates where this assists the understanding or interpretation of the site. (One such option could be the reconstruction of the original gateway at the northwest entrance where the remnant of the original fence and gate is still located).
- (8) To ensure that no new structures (including monuments or memorials) are permitted in the Carlton Gardens unless specified in this plan, are replacements of existing structures, or are required for management of the Carlton Gardens (for example, new lighting).
- (9) To maintain and enhance identified significant views and vistas both to the Royal Exhibition Building and within the Gardens themselves (see **Plan 2**).

3.2 Urban Context

The Carlton Gardens and the Royal Exhibition Building are greatly enhanced by their setting within the fabric of inner Melbourne. Many of the buildings surrounding the Carlton Gardens were constructed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and their preservation is important for maintaining the context of the Royal Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens.

Protection of surrounding areas will be achieved through the implementation of the World Heritage Strategy Plan that will set out strategies for appropriate development in the immediate area.

Recommendations relating to the Carlton Gardens' setting are:

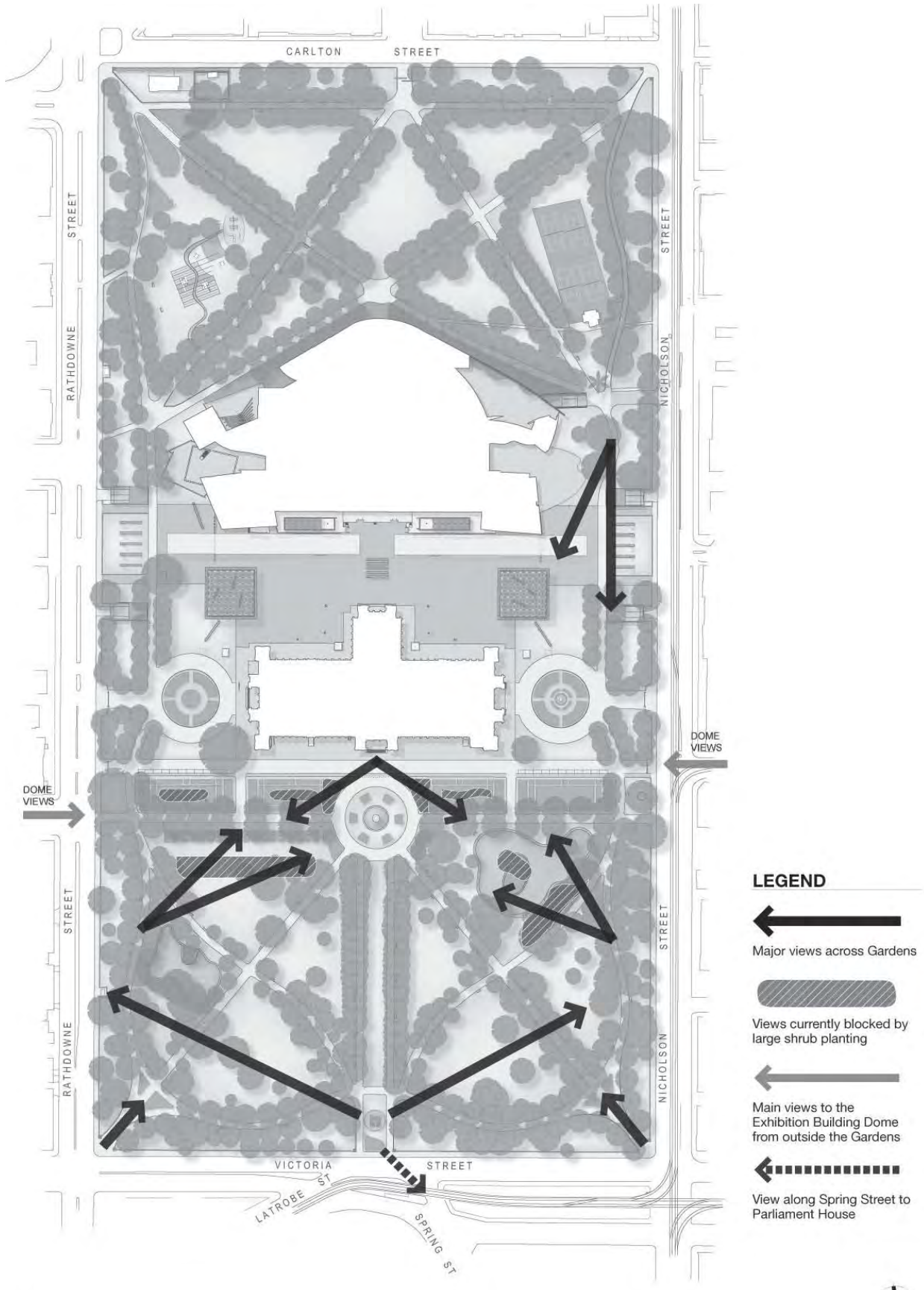
- (1) That the Museum Victoria, the City of Melbourne and the City of Yarra work with Heritage Victoria and other relevant agencies in the preparation of the World Heritage Strategy Plan to ensure that measures are enacted through the relevant planning schemes to protect the heritage aspects of the site.

3.3 Fabric, Features and Planting

The essential components of historic gardens are living and growing plants, necessitating a different management approach to that applied to historic buildings. While buildings can be preserved, restored and managed without significant change, gardens need proactive management to ensure the long term sustainability of their assets. Public gardens also have a role in providing valuable recreational open space for nearby residents and other visitors.

Management of the Carlton Gardens must give consideration to ensuring that they continue to be sustainably managed and available for community use consistent with the heritage significance of the site.

The following recommendations detail how specific features of the gardens should be managed.



Plan 2 Views and Vistas

1. Pathways

Much of the original pathway fabric of the Carlton Gardens remains intact and all surviving elements of the original layout should be conserved. Where practical, missing elements should be reconstructed.

Recommendations relating to pathways are:

- i) To preserve the surviving nineteenth-century layout of the path system and restore or reconstruct missing parts of the nineteenth-century path system.
- ii) To retain and preserve the asphalt surfacing of the pathways, while developing a consistent edge treatment for the pathways based on historical evidence.
- iii) To provide new path connections between the North and South Carlton Gardens on both the eastern and western sides of Exhibition Reserve, designed to be compatible with the style of existing Garden pathways.

2. Trees

Trees are a major feature of the landscape of the Carlton Gardens and are a significant element of the heritage character. They provide a canopy over much of the site and are set out as avenues along many of the pathways. The majority of trees are deciduous, providing shade in summer and seasonal colour in autumn and winter.

Conservation of the existing tree population requires good management to ensure the healthy life span of individual trees. However, unlike some heritage assets, trees also require planned removal and replacement. As many trees in the Carlton Gardens are over 100 years old and are expected to reach the end of their life over the next 15–20 years, a proactive replacement program is urgently needed to ensure the tree population is sustainable in the long-term and that the essential character of the Gardens is maintained into the future.

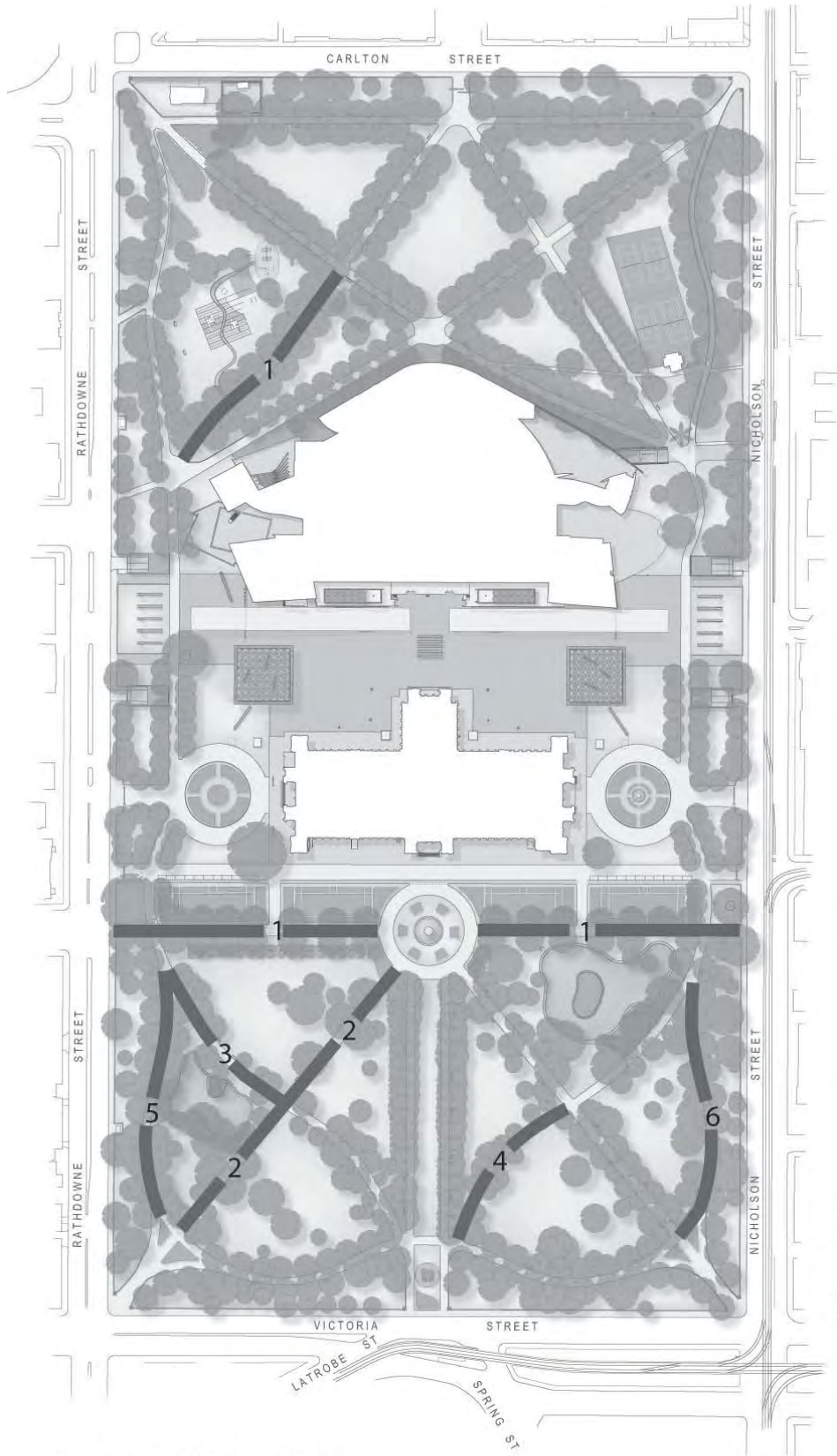
There are a small number of trees that have specific significance unrelated to the period of World Heritage significance, due to their botanical rarity or cultural significance, such as the Morton Bay Fig near Nicholson Street which has significance to the local Aboriginal community.

Recommendations relating to the trees in the Carlton Gardens are:

- i) To plant within the Gardens a range of tree species, primarily exotic with the selection being consistent in character with those planted in the 1880–1901 period of significance.



- ii) To progressively implement, in consultation with stakeholders, a planting program for the tree avenues. As healthy even-aged avenues of trees can only be maintained if groups of trees are planted at the same time, good avenue management requires the selective removal and replanting of sections of avenues at the one time (which may include removal of some healthy old trees). Replacement priority will be given to avenues where most of the trees exhibit advanced decline or those avenues where many of the trees are already missing. The priorities for replacement of avenue trees are outlined on **Plan 3**. As the species forming these avenues are considered of heritage significance, these trees will be replaced with the same species and similar configuration.
- iii) To undertake further detailed investigation to determine suitable species from a historical perspective for planting in the lawn and perimeter areas.
- iv) To develop in consultation with group stakeholders, a detailed planting program for trees in lawn areas and the perimeter of the whole site.
- v) To propagate and plant in the Gardens individual tree specimens identified as historically significant to maintain genetic provenance. Those identified are *Acmena ingens* (a rare species) and *Harpephyllum caffrum* (Kaffir Plum, rare and large).



AVENUE PLANTING PRIORITY

1-6 Priorities for staged replanting over 10 - 15 years

All other avenues will be reviewed for replanting in the long term



Plan 3 Tree Avenue Planting Priorities

3. Garden beds

The layout and plantings in garden beds has changed over time and some original beds have been removed. The perimeter shrub plantings of the late nineteenth century no longer exist, the garden beds under tree avenues are no longer viable due to increased tree canopy and other beds have been simplified or removed as a result of increased mechanisation of garden maintenance. Plantings within the garden beds have also changed as planting fashions have changed.

This Plan recommends the reconstruction of the form of some nineteenth century garden beds but not others, such as the perimeter shrub plantings which would reduce view lines and may lead to public safety issues if reconstructed.

Some species planted in the late nineteenth century would also no longer be appropriate as they are now considered weed species. Also, public submissions have indicated that people enjoy the colourfulness of seasonal displays of plantings in the current garden beds, and plantings should reflect this requirement.

Recommendations in relation to planting beds are:

- i) To identify and, where appropriate, conserve the surviving elements of the historical nineteenth-century planting schemes.
- ii) To maintain and progressively renovate historic garden beds, maintaining the form and structure of the original layouts based on historic evidence. Species selection should take into account availability, community expectations and sustainability. If historic plant species are not available or are inappropriate, then other species should be used.
- iii) To reconstruct the former parterre garden bed concept across the south forecourt of the Royal Exhibition Building in accordance with the nineteenth-century design. Plantings should be managed so they do not disrupt the significant views of the building.
- iv) To renovate the planting on the islands and areas around the lakes.

4. Entrances

Entry through the gateways into the South Carlton Gardens during international exhibitions would have conveyed a 'sense of arrival' to the Gardens. Although re-creation of the original entries is impractical, the development of new features which reintroduce a 'sense of arrival' is possible.

The once important east–west entrances from Nicholson Street and Rathdowne Street to the Exhibition Reserve adjacent to the Royal Exhibition Building are also now degraded and detract from the vista of the building from these streets.

Recommendations in relation to the entrances are:

- i) To interpret the original 'goose neck' entrance at Victoria Street either by design elements or planting.
- ii) To reintroduce planter beds at the south-east and south-west entrances.
- iii) To improve the entrances to the Exhibition Reserve at Nicholson and Rathdowne Streets.

5. Cast iron palisade fence and bluestone plinth

A cast iron fence on a bluestone plinth and gates were constructed around the perimeter of the Carlton Gardens and Exhibition Reserve as part of the works for the 1880 Exhibition. Most of the fence was removed in 1928, except for a small section adjacent to the Curator's Cottage. In more recent times, some sections of the bluestone plinth were removed, particularly along the east and west sides of the Exhibition Reserve.

Recommendations in relation to the bluestone plinth and surviving fence are:

- i) To retain, conserve and repair the bluestone plinth.
- ii) To retain, repair and conserve the palisade fence and gate adjacent to the Curator's Cottage. This will require removal and replacement of the Bhutan Cypress Hedge.

6. Internal garden bed iron fencing

Some examples of the original iron hurdle temporary fencing, which was moved between garden beds, still survive.

Recommendations for the internal garden bed fencing are:

- i) To retain and conserve all existing portions around garden beds and the Curator's Cottage and to reconstruct a small portion of missing fence to complete the enclosure of the flower bed adjacent to the western playground.
- ii) To relocate fencing, as required, between garden beds.

7. Lakes

The Gardens originally contained three lakes, the oldest being located in the North Garden which now forms the site of the larger playground, and two in the South Garden which remain in modified form.

Recommendations in relation to the lakes are:

- i) To investigate possible reconstruction of the lakes to their original form and shape in the long term (see recommendation 4.2 South Carlton Gardens, recommendation (v) and 4.3 North Carlton Gardens, recommendation (vii)).
- ii) To refurbish the lakes in the interim in the South Gardens to ensure minimal water leakage and more appropriate edge treatment. The use of recycled water to fill the lakes should also be investigated.

8. Park furniture

As with all gardens, park furniture such as toilets, lighting, rubbish bins, and seating is required to support public use of the Carlton Gardens.

Recommendations relating to park furniture are:

- i) That the existing toilets be retained and upgraded as necessary to meet community safety standards.
- ii) That other park furniture, including lighting, rubbish bins and seating, be designed to be compatible with the heritage status of the Gardens, while providing maximum safety, disabled access and convenience for all users. Standard City of Melbourne design furniture should be used where appropriate, and where necessary new designs for specific items of furniture should be created.

3.4 Uses and Activities

The Carlton Gardens have long provided an ideal place for informal recreation for people who live in the nearby area and for those who visit the gardens from further away. With over two million visitors every year, they are one of Melbourne's most popular green spaces.

The South Carlton Gardens located on the edge of the Central Business District (CBD) cater for city workers, quiet contemplation, walking or relaxing and occasional events. The North Carlton Gardens are used by local residents and cater for both passive and informal active recreation. In addition, the tennis courts provide dedicated facilities for tennis.

The Carlton Gardens are also a popular venue for activities such as wedding ceremonies, filming and small-scale community events. In conjunction with the Royal Exhibition Building, the Gardens have a history

of hosting large-scale exhibitions even though the nature of these events has changed over the years.

The South Carlton Gardens and the Royal Exhibition Building have been the venue for the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) since 1996. This event is compatible with the World Heritage listing of the Gardens and was recognised in the submission for World Heritage listing as a modern day expression of the international exhibitions of the late nineteenth century.

In order to seek advice on the management of this event, Council established an Advisory Committee in 2003. Council and MIFGS also established a fund, with a financial contribution obtained from the Show, which will be used to improve the Carlton Gardens in line with this Master Plan.

The Carlton Gardens also cater for other activities such as picnicking and dog walking. The playground area is well used by local school children and children visiting Melbourne Museum.

Over time it is anticipated the number of visitors to Carlton Gardens will grow due to increased residential development in the local area. Likewise, the number of tourists visiting the Gardens may increase following the inscription on the World Heritage list, and this increased usage will need to be carefully managed to minimise possible negative impacts.

The current range of recreational activities that occur in Carlton Gardens, such as informal games, picnics, play and passive leisure activities, have strong community support. People are also generally happy with current range of recreational facilities. Specific requests have been made for more seating and picnic tables, which are compatible with the passive use of the Gardens.

Requests have also been made for greater bicycle access, creation of dog off-leash areas and opportunities for more active recreational activities. However these proposals have also been strongly opposed by others who support the current arrangements.

This Master Plan supports maintaining the current arrangements for recreational uses and events in Carlton Gardens, with a few minor amendments (as detailed below).

Recommendations relating to uses and activities are:

1. Recreation

- i) That the Carlton Gardens continue to be managed as a whole primarily for passive recreation. Formal organised active recreational activities (other than tennis on the existing tennis courts) should not be permitted. However, given the limited open space in inner Melbourne and the lack of alternative areas,

the use of the North Carlton Gardens for some local informal active recreational activities should continue.

- ii) That the use of the North Carlton Gardens for tennis should continue for the foreseeable future. The tennis pavilion, which is of local heritage interest, should be retained and kept in good condition. Any repairs or modifications to the structure should be consistent with the original fabric and design of the pavilion. If community use of the facility ceases or the usage becomes non-viable in the future, then the removal and relocation of the facility to a site outside the Carlton Gardens should be considered. No increase in the footprint of the facility will be permitted.
- iii) That the existing playground facilities should be retained and consolidated with no increase in area in the short term. However, their replacement in the longer term with a new playground in a less visually intrusive area of the Gardens (for example, possibly close to the north wall of Melbourne Museum), should be investigated (see 4.3 North Carlton Gardens, recommendation (ix)).
- iv) That the current prohibition on bicycle-riding in the Carlton Gardens should remain. However, to improve bicycle priority and movement in the precinct, bicycle routes around the Gardens should be significantly upgraded to make them attractive and safe alternatives to riding through the Gardens (see 3.5 Connections and Linkages, recommendation (iii)).
- v) That, if an alternative site for basketball becomes available in the local area, or if community use of the current facility ceases, then the half basketball court should be removed.
- vi) That as the Carlton Gardens are formal gardens with limited lawn spaces, dog walking on a lead should continue to be permitted but no off-lead areas should be created. Any opportunities for changes in dog off-leash areas should be considered on a 'whole of municipality' basis.

2. Events

- i) That activities such as filming, wedding ceremonies, photography and small scale community events should continue to be permitted in both the North and South Carlton Gardens. A set of clear guidelines to manage these events should be developed.
- ii) That no commercial event that requires exclusive occupation of any part of the Carlton Gardens (other than the MIFGS) should be permitted in the Gardens unless such an event specifically relates to the World Heritage status of the site. While the



Gardens and the Royal Exhibition Building are the location for MIFGS, stringent conditions that ensure the protection of the historical significance and environment of the Gardens are required. Also further investigation should be undertaken for use of the plaza area between the Royal Exhibition Building and the Melbourne Museum for higher impact structures associated with MIFGS.

3. Uses

- i) That the historic Curator's Cottage continues to be used as a gardener's residence for the immediate future. If a community or interpretive use consistent with heritage requirements is identified, and a sound business plan developed, the cottage including the backyard could be considered for conversion to accommodate this use. No other use should be considered.
- ii) That requirements for access for people of all abilities be incorporated in the design of all new facilities provided in the Gardens.

3.5 Connections and Linkages

The Carlton Gardens provide an open space destination not only for residents of the CBD, Carlton and Fitzroy, but also for visitors from across Melbourne and Victoria.

Many visitors walk to the Carlton Gardens and Melbourne Museum either from adjoining areas or from Parliament Railway Station, tram stops in Victoria Street and Nicholson Street or bus stops in Rathdowne Street. However, the current configuration of the Victoria Street–Latrobe Street intersection is a major barrier to pedestrians accessing the Gardens from the Central Business District. The major roads of Nicholson Street on the east and Rathdowne Street on the west also form barriers that prevent easy access to the Gardens and Exhibition Reserve.

The community responses strongly supported improving pedestrian links to the Carlton Gardens, especially across Victoria Street.

The precinct experiences a high level of bicycle traffic and is well served by on- and off-road routes. Canning Street, north of the Gardens, and Rathdowne Street, are key north–south bicycle routes. Queensberry Street to the west of the Gardens and Gertrude Street on the east side are marked east–west bike routes and the Nicholson Street shared path on the east side of the gardens provides a north–south off road link.

Many people have suggested that bicycle riding should be permitted through the Gardens, particularly along the pathways from Carlton Street diagonally through to Nicholson and Rathdowne Streets. However, taking into account the views of those opposed to bicycle riding in the Gardens, rather than changing this policy, this Plan recommends that routes around the Gardens be significantly improved to cater for this demand.

The south forecourt of the Royal Exhibition Building is also a desire line for bicycle riders between Gertrude Street east of the Gardens and Queensberry Street west of the Gardens. However, for safety reasons, Museum Victoria, which controls this land, is not supportive of creating this bicycle route linkage at this stage.

Recommendations relating to connections and linkages (see **Plan 4**) are:

- i) To investigate and develop in conjunction with VicRoads, the redesign of the Victoria Street–Latrobe Street intersection to improve pedestrian access from the CBD (and tram stop) to the original main entrance of the Gardens.
- ii) To investigate and develop options to improve pedestrian priority and linkages across Rathdowne Street to Pelham Street in Carlton and (in conjunction with the City of Yarra) across Nicholson Street to King William Street in Fitzroy.
- iii) To enhance bicycle routes around the Gardens with the objective of making them more attractive to riders than the pathways through the Gardens. Specific measures should include:
 - Investigating the redesign of the Barkly–Carlton–Rathdowne Street intersection to improve bicycle movements
 - Investigating development of a safe dedicated bicycle route along Rathdowne Street south of Carlton Street

- Modifying the bicycle and left-turning lane at the Rathdowne–Victoria Street intersection to make it safer for bicycle riders
- Investigating better access for cyclists to the CBD along Exhibition Street
- Investigating options for improving the quality of the shared bicycle–pedestrian path along Nicholson Street between Carlton Street and Victoria Parade.

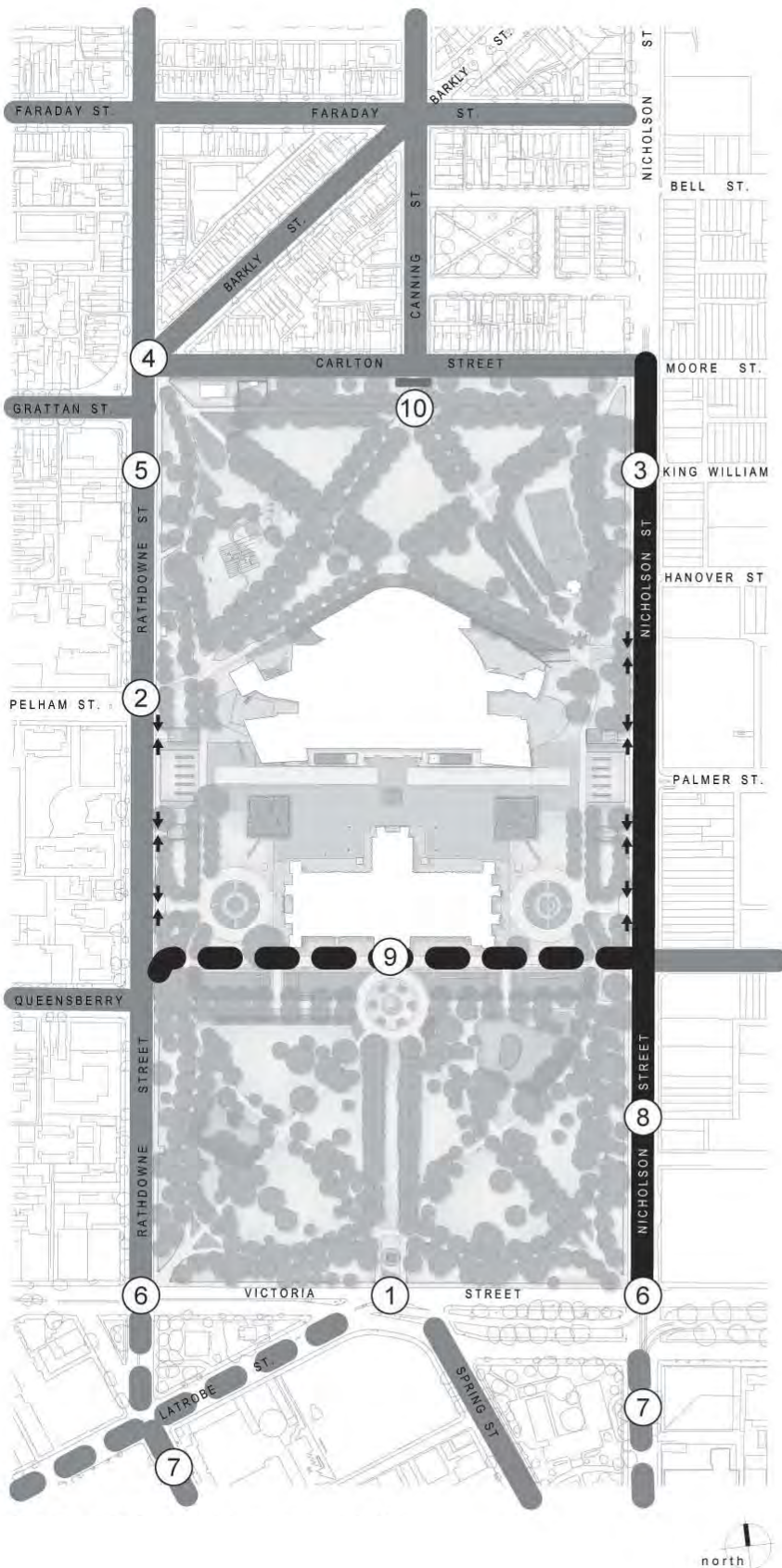
- iv) To further investigate with Museum Victoria the issue of bicycle riding along the south forecourt of the Royal Exhibition Building between Nicholson and Rathdowne Streets.

3.6 Pedestrian and Vehicle Movement

Pedestrian safety and conflicts between pedestrian and vehicle movements on the site (for example, vehicle movements associated with exhibitions held in the Royal Exhibition Building), parking within Exhibition Reserve, and loading associated with Melbourne Museum, are of community concern.

Recommendations relating to pedestrian and vehicle movement are:

- i) That the whole site be managed as a pedestrian precinct, with pedestrians having priority and vehicle movements kept to a minimum.
- ii) That pedestrian priority areas be designated where vehicle and pedestrian movement may conflict (for example, across the loading bay entrance east of Melbourne Museum and at the vehicle entry and exit points from the Royal Exhibition Building).
- iii) That loading and unloading activities for the Royal Exhibition Building be managed so that pedestrian safety is not compromised.
- v) That vehicle access for garden maintenance works, law enforcement and emergency access continue to be allowed. All other vehicle movement should be subject to specific approval.
- vi) That in the long term, the objective be to remove all surface car parking around the Royal Exhibition Building, with the area on the south side of the building near the entry door being the first priority for action. This could be accomplished by design solutions such as providing replacement car parking and/or exhibition loading through enlarging and/or creating better connections to the underground car park, or by other means.



- EXISTING ON-ROAD BICYCLE ROUTE
- INVESTIGATE PROPOSED ON-ROAD BICYCLE ROUTE
- EXISTING OFF-ROAD SHARED PATH ON NICHOLSON STREET FOOTPATH
- FURTHER INVESTIGATE SHARED PATH
- IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING DETAILS AT INTERFACE WITH CARPARK ENTRIES

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. In conjunction with VicRoads, investigate the redesign of the Victoria Street / Latrobe Street Intersection to improve pedestrian access from the CBD (and tram stop) to the original main entrance of the Gardens.
2. Investigate options to improve pedestrian priority and linkages across Rathdowne Street to Pelham Street in Carlton.
3. In conjunction with the City of Yarra, improve pedestrian priority and linkages across Nicholson Street to King William Street in Fitzroy.
4. Investigate redesign of the Barkly / Carlton Street / Rathdowne Street intersection to improve safety for pedestrians and bike riders.
5. Investigate development of a safe dedicated bike route along Rathdowne Street.
6. Upgrade crossing conditions for pedestrians at Rathdowne/Victoria and Nicholson/Victoria Street intersections to improve safety and efficiency.
7. Investigate better access for bike riders to the CBD along Exhibition Street and Nicholson Street.
8. Investigate options to improve the shared path bike route along Nicholson Street between Carlton Street and Victoria Parade.
9. Further investigate with Museum Victoria the option of bike riding along the south forecourt of the Royal Exhibition Building between Nicholson and Rathdowne Streets.
10. Install cycling barrier at Canning St when other works completed.

Plan 4 Bicycle and Pedestrian Movement Plan

3.7 Environmental Sustainability

Management of all parks and gardens requires significant resource inputs of water, chemicals and energy. Management of gardens also generates significant quantities of waste.

Community expectations to reduce water use and manage gardens in a more sustainable manner have increased in recent years. Council's commitment to more sustainable management of its parks and gardens is outlined in *Growing Green - An Environmental Sustainability Plan for the City of Melbourne's Open Space and Recreational Facilities*.

There is strong community support for the principle of either reusing stormwater or using recycled water in the Carlton Gardens, if feasible.

Policy recommendations relating to environmentally sustainable management are:

- i) That a water management plan be developed for the Carlton Gardens to minimise the use of water while ensuring the health of the trees and adequate maintenance of garden beds and lawn areas.
- ii) That the root zone areas under trees be mulched as required for tree health, in a pattern which reflects and interprets the historic bed layout associated with the tree avenues.
- iii) That tree, garden bed and grass species be selected, where possible, to achieve minimum watering requirements, while ensuring compatibility with the heritage values of the Carlton Gardens.
- iv) That alternative water sources to mains water, such as use of stormwater or recycled water, be explored for irrigating the Carlton Gardens and for supplying the fountains and lakes. Infrastructure associated with use of this water should be unobtrusive.
- v) That improved storm water management systems be developed for the Carlton Gardens.
- vi) That waste recycling facilities be provided for users of the Carlton Gardens and waste, including green waste, produced from management of the Gardens be minimised.
- vii) That the possum population in the Carlton Gardens be managed so that it does not exceed the Gardens carrying capacity. The feeding of possums should be discouraged and vegetation should be protected from possum damage as required.

viii) That all native wildlife in the Carlton Gardens (such as native birds) be managed sensitively.

ix) That tree pests and diseases be controlled using biological controls, where available.

3.8 Interpretation

Raising community awareness and developing interpretation programs for the Royal Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens are major challenges following the listing of the site on the World Heritage List. It is therefore expected that an interpretation strategy will form a major component of the future management plan for the whole site. Development of the interpretation strategy will require the involvement of all parties, including the Australian Government, Heritage Victoria, Museum Victoria and the City of Melbourne.

Current interpretation of the Carlton Gardens and Exhibition Reserve is provided by Museum Victoria, with tours of the Royal Exhibition Building and the Golden Mile Heritage Trail and recent installation of signage. Little or no interpretation has been developed specially for the Carlton Gardens.

The historic nature of the site as a whole lends itself to the development of an interpretation program which could cover both the historical and botanical features of the Carlton Gardens as well as the Royal Exhibition Building. Such a program is strongly supported and is complementary with all the recommendations of this Master Plan, providing that such a program is unobtrusive and does not compromise the everyday pleasure of visiting the Gardens.

Recommendations relating to interpretation of the Gardens are:

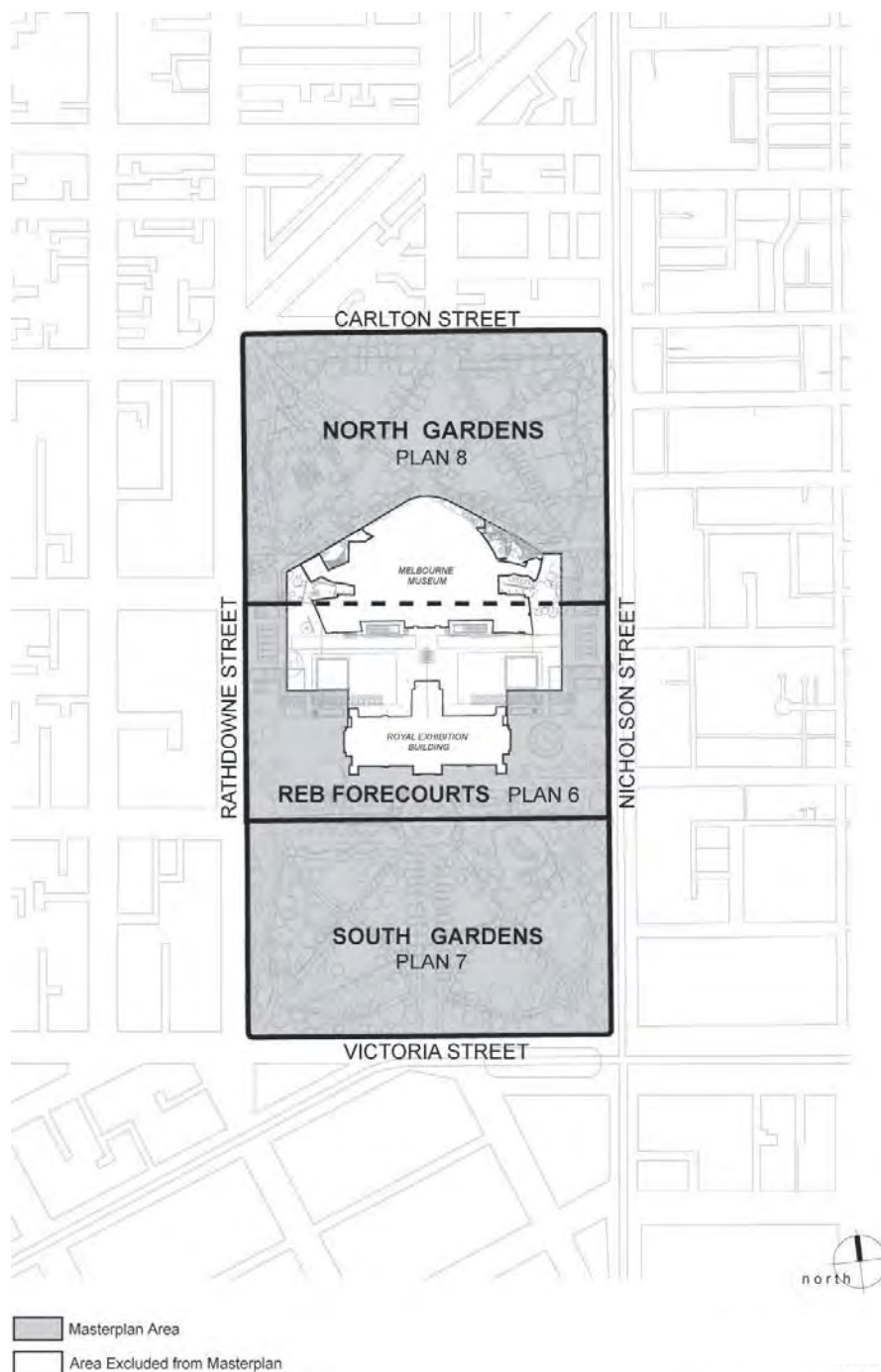
- i) That interpretation of the Gardens is undertaken within the framework of an overall interpretation plan prepared for the whole World Heritage listed site and its location within an urban setting.
- ii) That such a plan considers signage, brochures, explanatory literature, self-guided tours and tours conducted in conjunction with tours of the Royal Exhibition Building and an overall tourism strategy. This could include the possible use of the Caretaker's Cottage (see 3.4 Uses and Activities: Uses, recommendation (i)).
- iii) That interpretation of the site recognises the long occupation of the original inhabitants and its significance to the Aboriginal community.
- iv) In the interim, an information brochure be developed in conjunction with Museum Victoria.

4. Garden Precincts

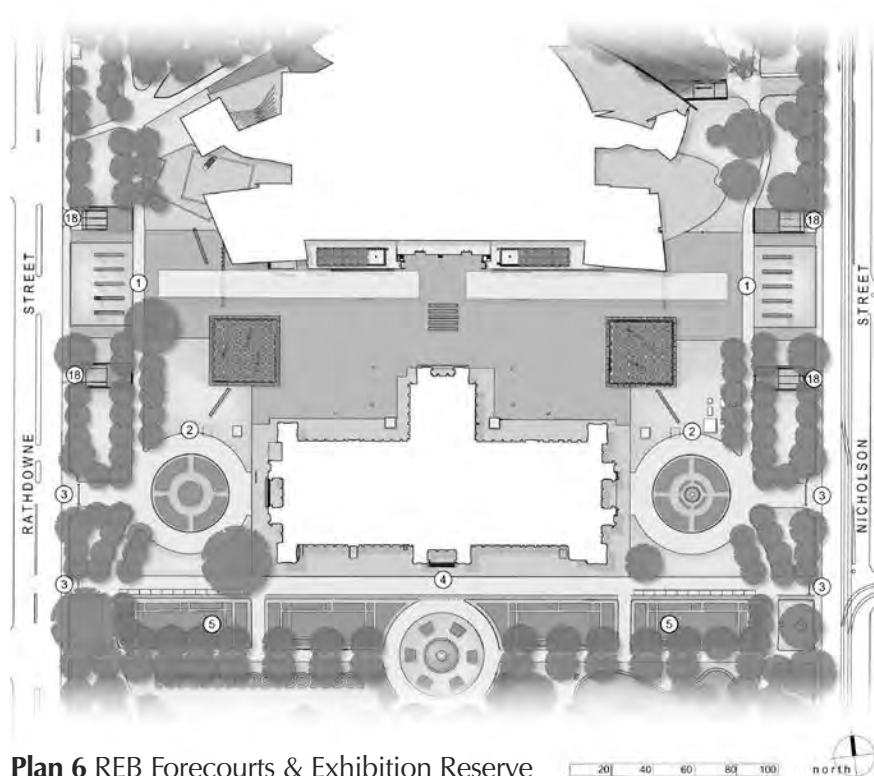
For the purpose of this Master Plan, the site comprising the Carlton Gardens and the Royal Exhibition Building forecourts is considered as three separate precincts (refer **Plan 5**):

- The Royal Exhibition Building forecourts — south, east and west
- The South Carlton Gardens
- The North Carlton Gardens

In this section these precincts are considered independently with separate but complementary recommendations. Many of the proposals outlined below require further historical research and should be considered in this context.



Plan 5 Garden Precincts



Plan 6 REB Forecourts & Exhibition Reserve

1. New North - South Connection

Create a landscape connection and a pedestrian link between north and south gardens. Increase tree planting and green space aligned with the perimeter of Nicholson and Rathdowne Streets.

2. Eastern and Western Forecourts

Improve major forecourts to the REB by reconstructing the German Circle in a manner consistent with the 1880 design. Continue to accommodate REB loading requirements within forecourts, and limit bus drop off and parking to the western forecourt. Investigate possible relocation of carpark vents to allow for the completion of the northern arcs of the turning circles.

3. Forecourt Vehicle Entries

Improve entrances to the Exhibition Reserve at Rathdowne Street and Nicholson Street.

4. REB Southern Forecourt

Progressively remove carparking from building frontage. Replace asphalt adjacent to building with suitable new material, adjust grades, and address drainage to restore setting to the southern forecourt.

5. Parterre Garden

Reconstruct large scale formal planted beds. Where archival material exists use this information as basis of new planting scheme to compliment the setting of the REB southern forecourt and to meet sustainability principles.

18. Carpark Entries

Upgrade pedestrian priority at all vehicular entries to the gardens.

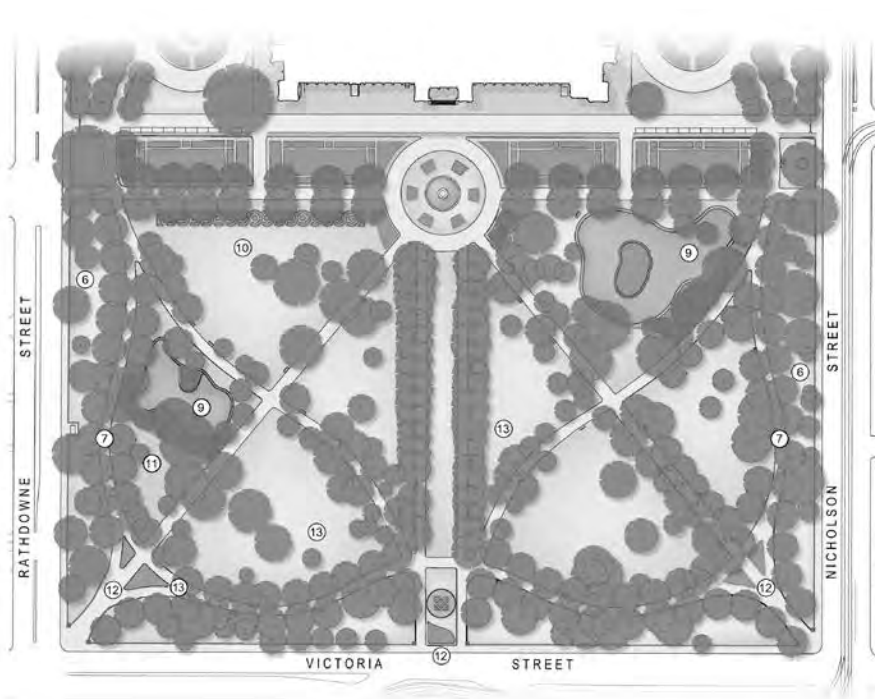
4.1 Royal Exhibition Building Forecourts (Refer Plan 6)

The south, east and west forecourts of the Royal Exhibition Building form its immediate surrounds and the setting for the building, which are key components of the site's World Heritage status. The south forecourt comprises the promenade, garden beds south of the promenade and the Hochgurtel fountain and was the original main entrance to the Royal Exhibition Building. However, today the area is degraded, not pedestrian friendly and the promenade is used for car parking. The west end of the southern forecourt slopes towards the building draining stormwater into the basement of the building.

The east and west forecourts originally played an important role as major entrances to the Royal Exhibition Building and provided a connection between the North and South Carlton Gardens. The east forecourt has retained its original French Circle in an altered form but the west forecourt has lost almost all its original layout.

Recommendations in relation to the forecourt areas are:

- i) To reconstruct, as far as practical, the appearance of the south, east and west forecourts to provide a setting for the Royal Exhibition Building reminiscent of the 1880–1901 period.
- ii) To reconstruct, as far as practical, the southern forecourt as a grand pedestrian promenade. This should involve removing a strip of asphalt abutting the southern wall of the Royal Exhibition Building and replacing it with grass, ground cover plantings or more appropriate hard surfacing. It should also involve progressively removing car parking from the vicinity of the southern entrance.
- iii) To reconstruct the garden parterre beds in a layout consistent with those that existed in the period of significance (between 1880 and 1901), using historical and archaeological evidence.
- iv) To create a landscape connection on the eastern and western frontages between the North and South Carlton Gardens. This should include:-
 - Establishing perimeter tree plantings parallel to Nicholson and Rathdowne Streets



6. Lawn and Perimeter Tree Planting

Replant in the Perimeter and some lawn areas, using species to be determined.

7. Avenues – South Gardens

Progressively restore avenue planting, balance replanting with protection of significant views to REB.

9. Lakes

Undertake archaeological investigation to determine original edge of lakes and feasibility of reconstruction. Replant edges and islands with species which to open views to REB.

10. Chain Walk

Remove chain walk and associated shrub planting and restore lawn surface. Investigate archival records to reconstruct original decorative garden beds south of the melia walk.

11. Peace Garden

Simplify the Peace Garden and integrate into garden setting.

12. Garden Entries

Construct formal garden beds and / or create interpretive built features for the Rathdowne, Nicholson and the Victoria/Spring Street entries.

13. Pathways

Reinstate curved path; remove short cut path and restore lawn surface.

Plan 7 South Carlton Gardens



- Maintaining suitable pedestrian access to Melbourne Museum.
- Providing enhanced pedestrian links from the North and South Carlton Gardens
- Retaining surviving significant trees
- Exploring ways to reduce the visual impact of visual elements of Melbourne Museum such as car park entrances on the western side of Melbourne Museum
- Providing for current exhibition loading and unloading requirements
- Upgrading the pedestrian entrances to the Exhibition Reserve from Nicholson Street and Rathdowne Street
- v) To reconstruct the German Circle in the west forecourt based as much as possible on historical and archaeological evidence.
- vi) To limit bus movements and bus parking to the west forecourt associated with reconstruction of the German Circle.

4.2 South Carlton Gardens (Refer to Plan 7)

The South Carlton Gardens were laid out as the southern setting for the Royal Exhibition Building for the 1880 Melbourne International Exhibition. The fabric of these gardens, including the Grand Allé of Plane trees extending from Victoria Parade to the Hochgurtel fountain, remains largely intact from that era.

Recommendations relating to specific elements of these gardens are:

- i) That all existing original pathways be retained. However, the diagonal 'desire line' pathway, not being part of the original path layout, should be removed.
- ii) That the original curve pathway, linking the pathway parallel to Victoria Parade with the one parallel to Rathdowne Street, should be reconstructed.
- iii) That the south-east and south-west Garden entries be enhanced with planter beds constructed to reflect the 1880 design.

- iv) That the original 'goose neck' entrance to Victoria Street be interpreted through a suitable ground-level design element or plantings.
- v) That further investigation from historical records and archaeological evidence be undertaken to determine how much the shape and size of the two lakes in the South Carlton Gardens has changed since 1880. If the original layouts can be clearly established, then consideration should be given to re-establishing the original outlines. The impact on existing plantings, especially trees, would need to be carefully considered prior to any work being carried out. A new and more appropriate edge treatment based on historical evidence should be developed for the lakes. Planting on the islands and around the lakes should be rehabilitated in line with 3.3 Fabric, Features and Planting: Garden Beds, recommendation (ii).
- vi) That the bed forming the original rose garden be reconstructed and planted with species selected in line with 3.3 Fabric, Features and Planting: Garden Beds, recommendation (ii). This may require the removal of existing diagonal garden beds.
- vii) That the chain walk garden bed be removed and the area returned to lawn in line with the Gardens' original layout.
- viii) That the Peace Garden be reorganised by removing shrub plantings and installing a new plaque conveying the peace message. A specimen tree similar in form and leaf shape to the Bodhi tree should be planted at the site.
- ix) That avenue tree planting be undertaken as indicated on Plan 3, and in line with the recommendations in 3.3 Fabric, Features and Planting: Trees.

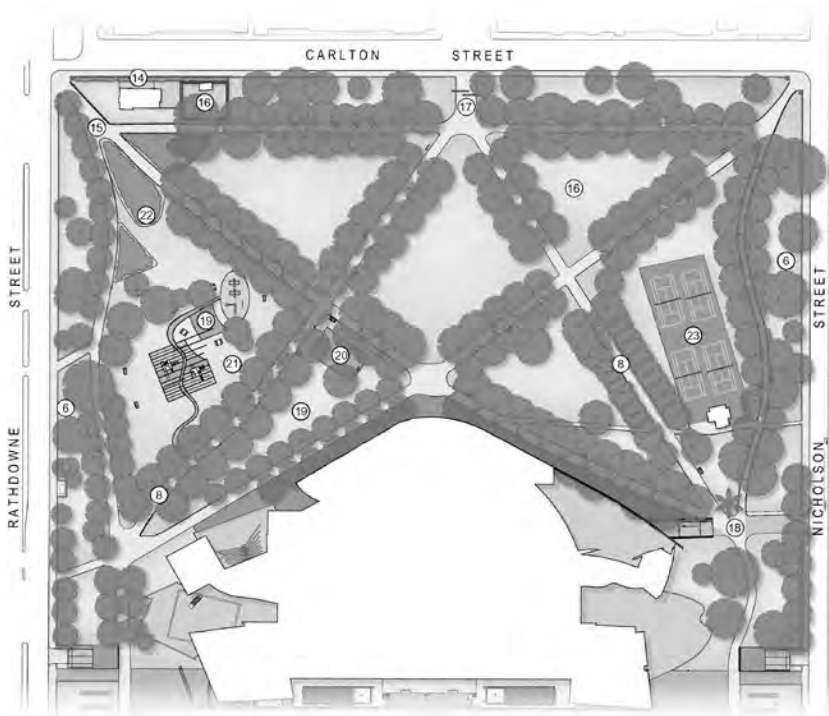
4.3 North Carlton Gardens (Refer to Plan 8)

The North Carlton Gardens were re-established in 1890 following the 1888 Centennial Exhibition when temporary exhibition buildings covered most of the area. The fabric of the North Carlton Gardens has not been significantly altered since 1890 but some features have been added, including tennis courts, a maintenance depot and playgrounds. These community facilities largely reflect the role of the North Carlton Gardens in providing for local community use.

Recommendations relating to elements of the North Carlton Gardens are:

- i) That all pathways be retained.
- ii) That consideration be given to restoring the original alignment of the pathway parallel to Carlton Street at its western end adjacent to the Curator's Cottage. This would require:
 - Works to be carried out without impacting on the health of the mature trees in the area
 - Part of the iron hurdle fence and gate to be relocated to the northern side of the extended pathway
 - Part of the iron hurdle fence from the southern isolated garden bed to be reused around another garden bed
- iii) That the remaining section of fence, the gate and the bluestone plinth near the north-west corner be protected and restored. This will require removal of the Bhutan trees, which should be replanted and managed as a hedge if research determines that they were planted between 1880 and 1901.
- iv) That the significant external and internal fabric of the Curator's Cottage and outbuilding be conserved and maintained to a high standard. See 3.4 Uses and Activities; Uses, recommendation (i) for recommended uses of the lodge.
- v) That the planting and layout of the garden surrounding the Curator's Cottage be managed to ensure that they retain a style appropriate for their setting.
- vi) That the existing works depot be removed and a new garden maintenance facility be provided on the site behind the Curator's Cottage. This may require reduction in the size of the backyard of the cottage. The existing depot site should then be restored to parkland.





6. Lawn and Perimeter Tree Planting

Replant in the Perimeter and some lawn areas, using species to be determined.

8. Avenues - North Gardens

Progressively restore avenue planting.

14. Curator's Cottage

Retain and conserve the cottage. Replace Bhutan hedge. Restore bluestone plinth, gate and cast iron fence.

15. Pathway parallel to Carlton Street

Investigate the restoration of the path south of the curator's cottage; reinstate garden beds.

16. Garden Maintenance Facility

Remove depot; restore grass and avenue planting. Relocate maintenance facility to rear of curator's cottage.

17. Canning Street Entry

In conjunction with precinct improvements to bicycle routes, install barrier to deter cyclists from entering the gardens.

18. Carpark Entries

Upgrade pedestrian priority at all vehicular entries to the gardens.

19. Toddlers Play Ground and New Picnic Tables

Relocate existing playground adjacent to main play ground, restore grass surface and install 3 picnic tables.

20. Half Basketball Court

Retain court and install a netball hoop at one end.

21. Northern Lake

Use archaeological evidence to interpret original lake.

22. Garden Bed Fencing

Restore fencing.

23. Tennis Courts

Retain courts and pavilion. Presentation of the pavilion to be maintained consistent with original design intent.

Plan 8 North Carlton Gardens



- vii) That the original location and extent of the former lake (near the large western playground) be interpreted. Relocation of the playground to a less intrusive site closer to Melbourne Museum should be considered when the existing playground reaches the end of its life, at which time the option of reconstructing the original lake should also be considered.
- viii) That the tennis courts and pavilion be retained for the foreseeable future. See 3.4 Uses and Activities: Recreation, recommendation (ii).
- ix) That the large western and nearby playground be retained in the short term. However, design changes should be investigated then to determine whether the visual impact of the structure could be reduced and component equipment modified or replaced, as required, to ensure that the facilities continue to meet playground safety standards. However, alternative facilities should be investigated in the longer term. See also 3.4 Uses and Activities: Recreation, recommendation (iii).
- x) That the toddler's playground on the eastern side of the pathway be removed and replaced by new equipment adjacent to the junior playground area, ensuring an equivalent play experience for toddlers.

The current toddler's playground should then be returned to lawn.

- xi) That the half basketball court should be retained unless an alternative site became available in the local area, or if community use of the current facility ceases. If this occurs, the half court should be removed. In the interim, one of the basketball rings should be replaced with a netball ring. See also 3.4 Uses and Activities: Recreation, recommendation (v).
- xii) That avenue tree planting be undertaken as indicated in Plan 3 and in line with the recommendations in 3.3 Fabric, Features and Planting: Trees.
- xiii) That three picnic tables of an appropriate design be installed at the north-western side of Melbourne Museum to facilitate better use of the Carlton Gardens by disabled and elderly people.
- xiv) That a barrier be installed at the Canning Street Garden entrance on Carlton Street in conjunction with measures to improve bicycle movement around the Gardens, to provide a deterrent to cyclists entering the Carlton Gardens, while maintaining access for service vehicles.

5. Management Arrangements

Although the Exhibition Reserve is managed by Museum Victoria and the Carlton Gardens are managed by the City of Melbourne, co-ordinated management of the whole site is essential to ensure that the objectives of the Plan are realised. In June 2004 Museum Victoria and the Melbourne City Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding which commits both organisations to regular liaison meetings and co-ordinated management of the whole site.

As outlined in Section 2, the development of a World Heritage management plan may result in other additional management systems or arrangements, which would come into place during the life of this Plan.

A high standard of maintenance of the Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building forecourts is required to meet community expectations of a World Heritage listed site. Feedback from the community has indicated a range of management issues that need to be addressed.

Recommendations in relation to management arrangements are:

- i) That the option of a single contractor to manage the Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building forecourts be explored.
- ii) That the contract specifications for the Carlton Gardens be reassessed in light of World Heritage listing, to ensure that they specify the standard of management expected of a World Heritage listed site.
- iii) That the highest standard of work be required by the Open Space and Tree Management Contractors in line with the contract specifications for the Gardens.
- iv) That a high level of ranger presence be maintained to ensure that inappropriate activities in Carlton Gardens are minimised.
- v) That all people responsible for the care and management of the Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building forecourts are familiar with the heritage significance of the site and its component elements.



6. Implementation

World Heritage listing of the site requires the development of further plans including the World Heritage Site Management Plan, the Strategy Plan and an interpretation plan. This Master Plan will provide key input into these plans, especially relating to proposals for improving the forecourts of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens.

Many of the Master Plan recommendations can be implemented through normal operational arrangements while others require further development and/or substantial capital investment over a number of years.

Potential funding sources for these improvements include the Australian Government, Victorian Government, Museum Victoria, City of Melbourne and private sources. Ongoing liaison between all the agencies involved is required to develop funding arrangements.

6.1 Implementation Priorities

To provide guidance, based on community input provided during the development of the Master Plan, the recommended priorities for action are listed below. Further consultation will need to be undertaken with all parties and the community on each specific project prior to implementation.

i) Major priority projects recommended that will enhance pedestrian and bicycle access to and around the Gardens are:

- Investigation of a redesign of the Latrobe Street–Victoria Street intersection (in conjunction with VicRoads) to improve pedestrian access from the CBD to the Gardens (see 3.5 Connection and Linkages, recommendation (i)).
- Improvement of bicycle movement around the Gardens, specifically along Rathdowne and Nicholson Streets, and further investigation of the provision for bicycle riding along the southern forecourt of the Royal Exhibition Building (see 3.5 Connections and Linkages, recommendation (iii) and (iv)).

ii) Major priority projects recommended that will enhance the heritage values of the Gardens and/or improve opportunities to community enjoyment are:

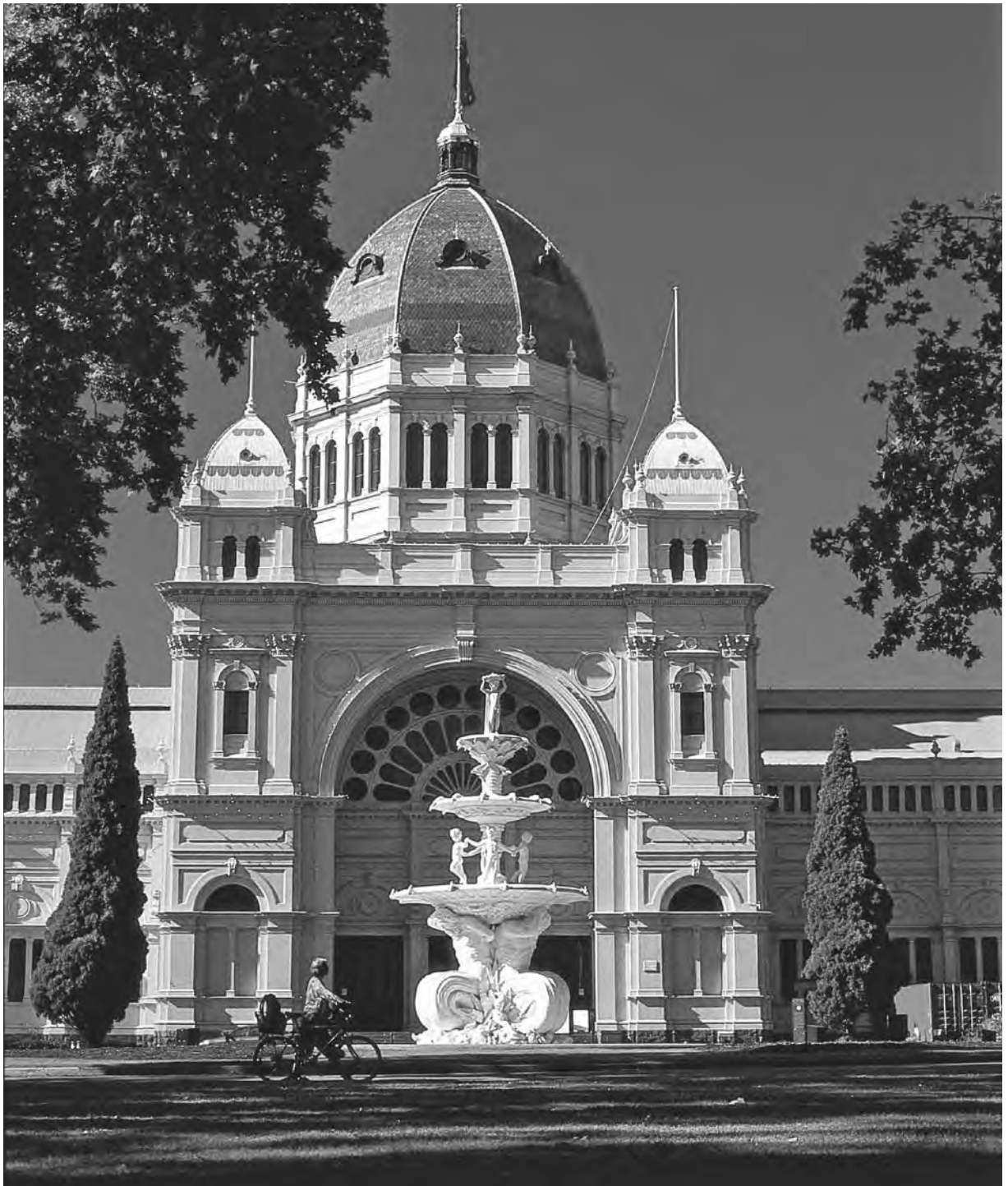
- Reconstruction of the southern forecourt as a grand pedestrian promenade, including reinstatement of the garden parterre bed layout (see 4.1 Royal Exhibition Building Forecourts, recommendation (ii) and (iii)).

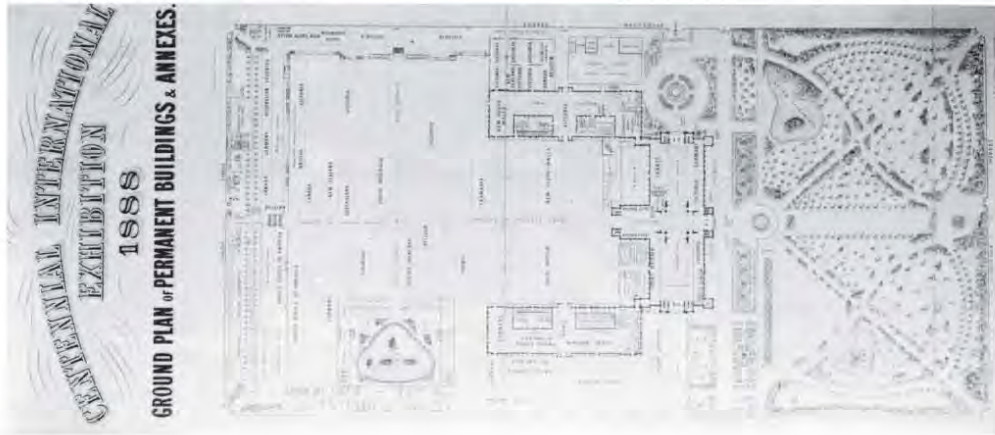
- Creating a landscape connection on the eastern and western frontages, to provide a landscape connection between the North and South Carlton Gardens (see 4.1 Royal Exhibition Forecourts, recommendation (iv)).
 - Re-creation of the German circle in the western forecourt (see 4.1 Royal Exhibition Forecourts, recommendation (v)).
 - Re-instatement of the original curve pathway, linking the pathway parallel to Victoria Street with the one parallel to Rathdowne Street (see 4.2 South Carlton Gardens, recommendation (ii)).
 - Reintroduction of the planter beds at the south-east and south-west entrances (see 4.2 South Carlton Gardens, recommendation (iii)).
 - Re-creation of the original rose bed and removal of the chain walk garden bed (see 4.2 South Carlton Gardens, recommendation (vi) and (vii)).
 - Protection and restoration of the remaining section of fence, gate and bluestone plinths at the north-west corner of the Gardens (see 4.3 North Carlton Gardens, recommendation (iii)).
 - Removal of the existing works depot and replacement with a new facility (see 4.3 North Carlton Gardens, recommendation (vi)).
 - Removal the existing toddlers' playground and replacement with new equipment in the junior playground (see 4.3 North Carlton Gardens, recommendation (x)).
- iii) Priority projects recommended to ensure sustainable management of the Gardens are:
- Implementation of a major tree planting program, including both the tree avenues (see 3.3 Fabric, Features and Planting: Trees, recommendation (ii)) and tree planting in lawn areas (see 3.3 Fabric, Features and Planting: Trees, recommendation (iii) and (iv)).

7. Review of the Plan

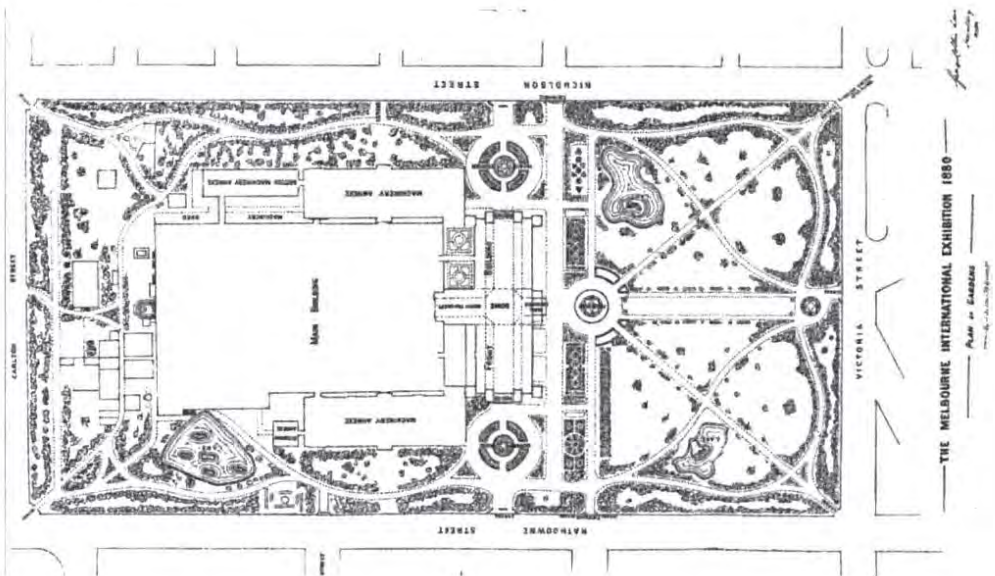
Although the World Heritage Management Plan has not yet been prepared and the Conservation Management Plan has yet to be finalised, it is not anticipated that the completion of these plans will require any of the recommendations contained in this Master Plan to be changed. However, the further information that may be contained within these plans could assist the detailed design required to implement many of the Master Plan recommendations.

The Heritage Act requires that the World Heritage Site Management Plan be reviewed seven years after approval. As the approval of the Site Management Plan is anticipated to occur in 2006 it is therefore proposed that this Master Plan be reviewed at the same time as the Site Management Plan is reviewed in 2013.

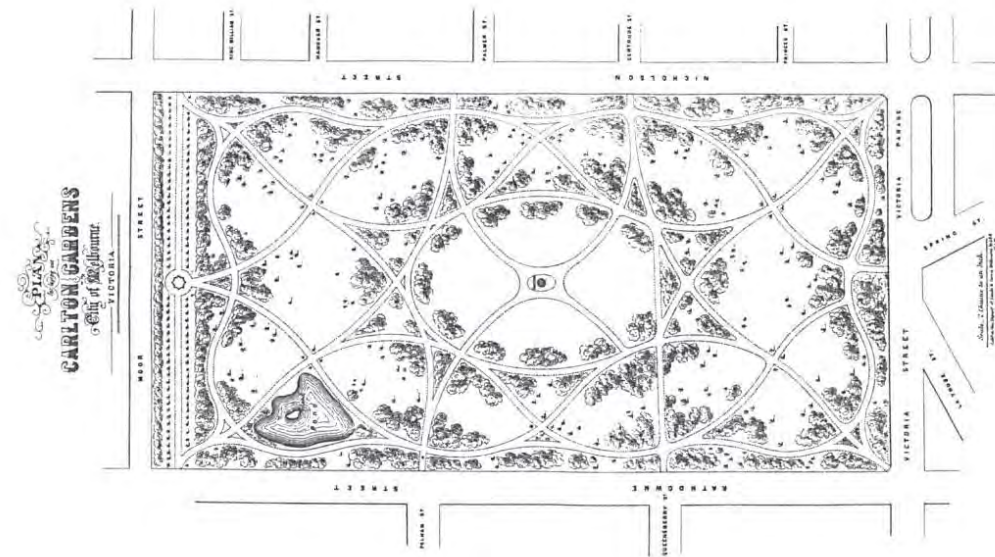




PLAN FOR CENTENNIAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION 1888



PLAN FOR MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION 1880

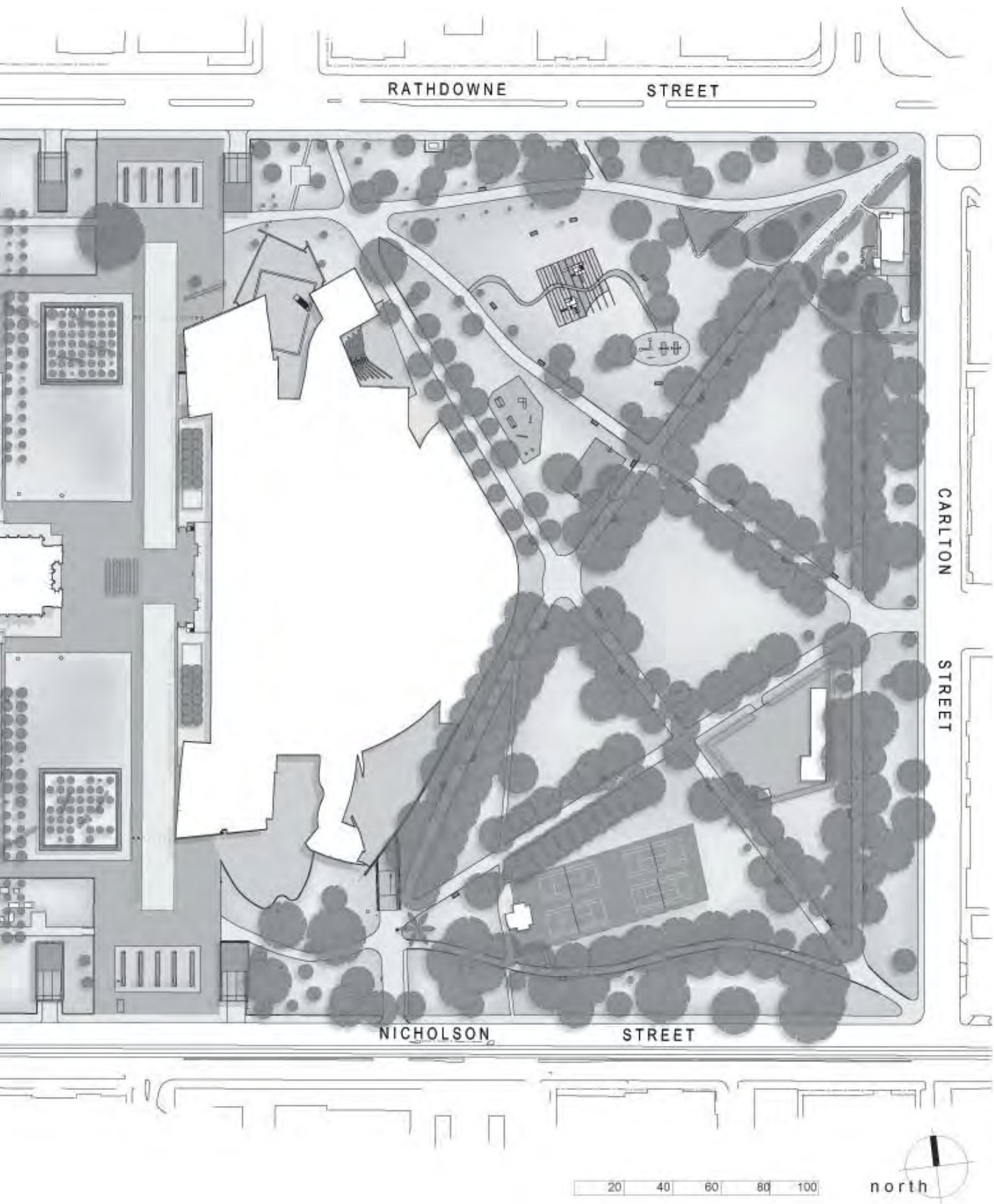


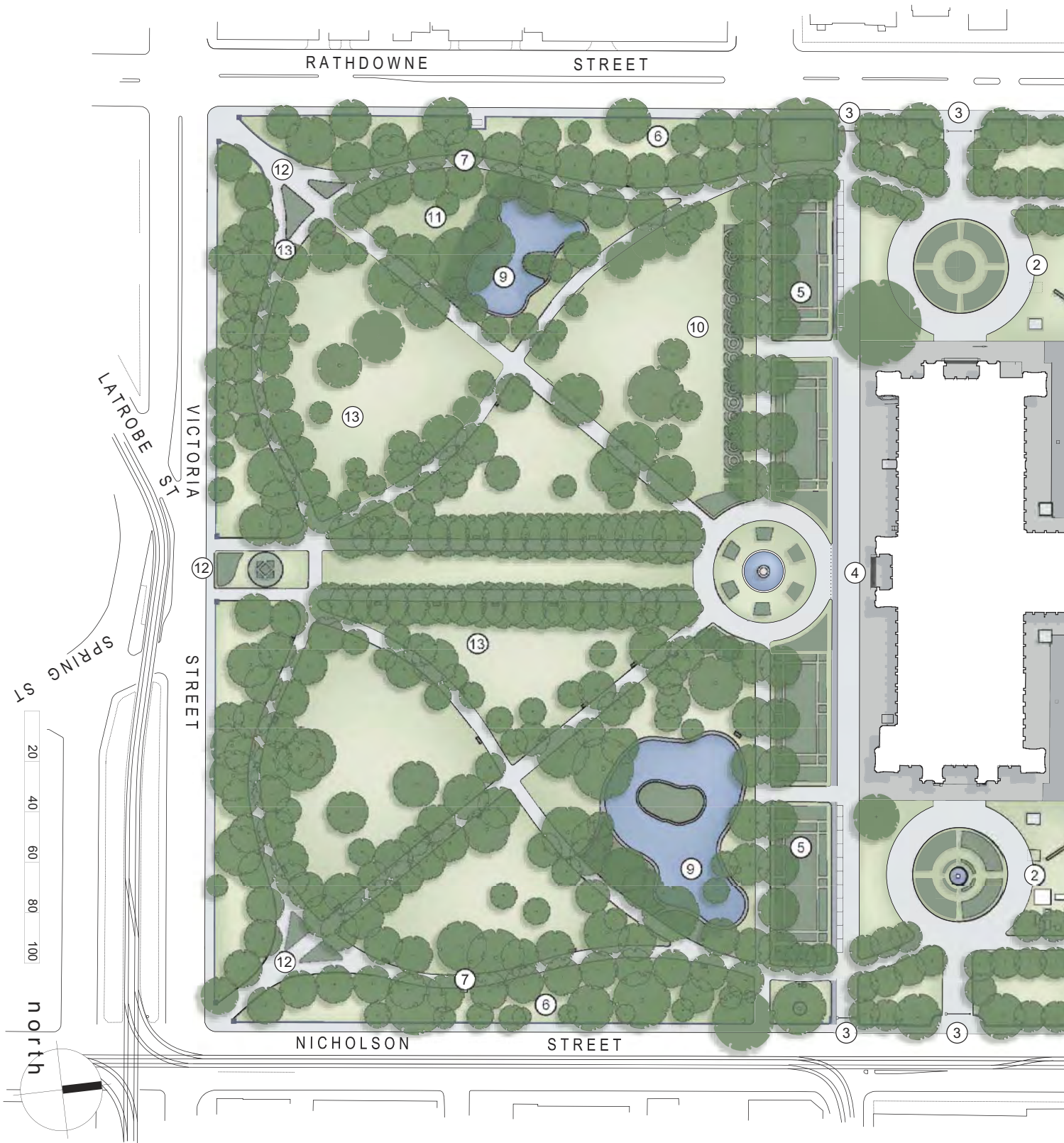
PLAN FOR CARLTON GARDENS 1874

Plan 9 Carlton Gardens - Historic Plans

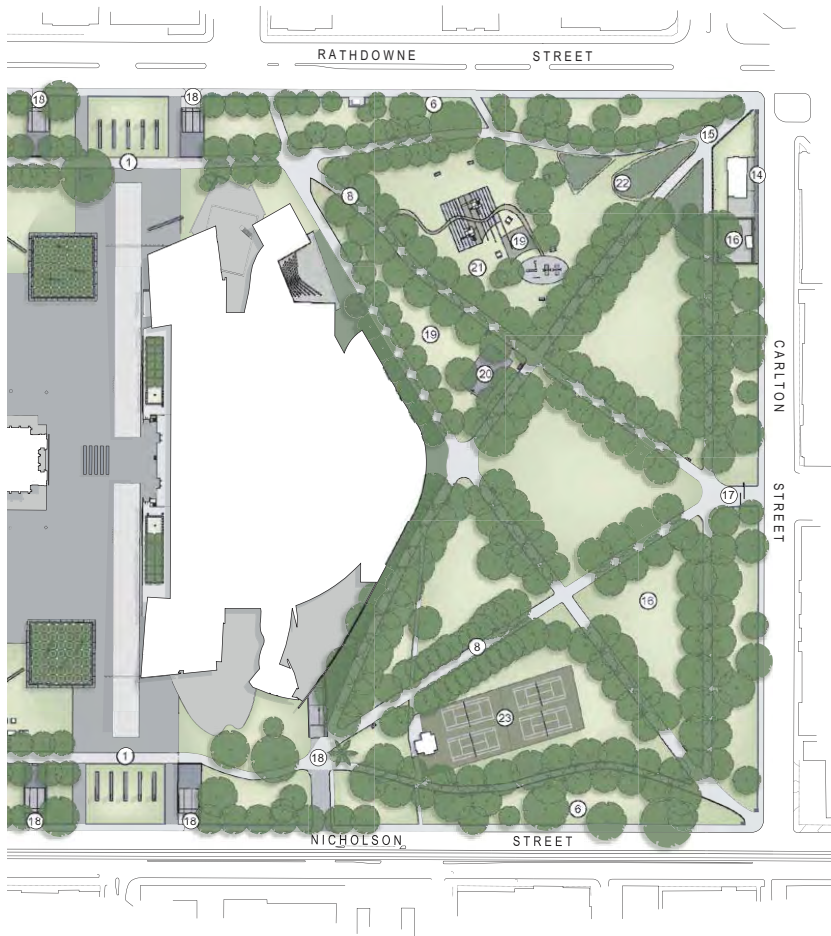


Plan 10 Carlton Gardens - Existing Conditions





Plan 11 Carlton Gardens - Masterplan



MASTERPLAN NOTES

1. New North - South Connection

Create a landscape connection by creating a pedestrian link between north and south gardens. Increase tree planting and green space aligned with the perimeter of Nicholson and Rathdowne Streets.

2. Eastern and Western Forecourts

Improve major forecourts to the REB by reconstructing the German Circle in a manner consistent with the 1880 design. Continue to accommodate REB loading requirements at the eastern forecourt and limit bus drop off and parking to the western forecourt. Investigate possible relocation of carpark vents to allow for the completion of the northern arcs of the turning circles.

3. Forecourt Vehicle Entries

Improve entrances to the Exhibition Reserve at Rathdowne Street and Nicholson Street.

4. REB Southern Forecourt

Progressively remove carparking from building frontage. Replace asphalt adjacent to building with suitable new material, adjust grades, and address drainage to restore setting to the southern forecourt.

5. Parterre Garden

Reconstruct large scale formal planted beds. Where archival material exists use this information as basis of new planting scheme to compliment the setting of the REB southern forecourt and to meet sustainability principles.

6. Lawn and Perimeter Planting

Replant in the Perimeter and some lawn areas, using species to be determined.

7. Avenues - South Gardens

Progressively restore avenue planting, balance replanting with protection of significant views to REB.

8. Avenues - North Gardens

Progressively restore avenue planting.

9. Lakes

Undertake archaeological investigation to determine original edge of lakes and feasibility of reconstruction. Replant edges and islands with species which to open views to REB.

10. Chain Walk

Remove chain walk and associated shrub planting and restore lawn surface. Investigate archival records to reconstruct original decorative garden beds south of the melia walk.

11. Peace Garden

Simplify the Peace Garden and integrate into garden setting.

12. Garden Entries

Construct formal garden beds and / or create interpretive built features for the Rathdowne, Nicholson and the Victoria/Spring Street entries.

13. Pathways

Reinstate curved path; remove short cut path and restore lawn surface.

14. Curator's Cottage

Retain and conserve the cottage. Replace Bhutan hedge. Restore bluestone plinth, gate and cast iron fence.

15. Pathway parallel to Carlton Street

Investigate the restoration of the path south of the curator's cottage; reinstate garden beds.

16. Garden Maintenance Facility

Remove depot; restore grass and avenue planting. Relocate maintenance facility to rear of curator's cottage.

17. Canning Street Entry

In conjunction with precinct improvements to bicycle routes, install barrier to deter cyclists from entering the gardens.

18. Carpark Entries

Upgrade pedestrian priority at all vehicular entries to the gardens.

19. Toddlers Play Ground and New Picnic Tables

Relocate existing playground adjacent to junior play ground, restore grass surface and install 3 picnic tables.

20. Half Basketball Court

Retain court and install a netball hoop at one end.

21. Northern Lake

Use archaeological evidence to interpret original lake.

22. Garden Bed Fencing

Restore fencing.

23. Tennis Courts

Retain courts and pavilion. Presentation of the pavilion to be maintained consistent with original design intent.

Do you have a question for the Melbourne City Council? Call and speak to us.

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9280 0717	廣東話
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9280 0721	國語
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9280 0726	All other languages
9280 0727	English



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