



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**



Kings Park and Botanic Garden

Management Plan 2021–2026





Noongar dancers performing in Kings Park. Photo – Mark Griffin/BGPA



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the Whadjuk Noongar people as the traditional custodians of Kings Park land. We seek to preserve, celebrate and learn from their culture and knowledge.

Kaarta Koomba, or Kings Park and Botanic Garden, is a highly significant place to Whadjuk Noongar people. Noongar names for Kings Park include Kaarta Koomba, Kaarta Gar-up, Mooro Kaarta and Kata Moor.

Kings Park lies at the natural heart of Whadjuk Noongar culture, with its location at a key junction of the river and a chain of lakes, all of which are linked by songlines and continuing cultural practice.



Community consultation

This management plan has been prepared in consultation with key stakeholders, including government and private organisations and the general community. Details of public comments on the draft management plan can be found in a separate document titled Audit of Public Submissions on the Draft Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan 2021–2025.

The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) thanks everyone who contributed to the development of this management plan including members of the community and stakeholder organisations who participated in workshops, completed surveys or provided submissions.

This collaboration has been significant in shaping the direction and focus of this management plan and has highlighted the strong sense of ownership and engagement that the community has with Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

More information

For further information regarding Kings Park and Botanic Garden please visit the BGPA's website at www.bgpa.wa.gov.au.

For information regarding specific management or operational matters please email enquiries@bgpa.wa.gov.au or telephone (+61 8) 9480 3600.

BGPA is a Statutory Authority of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. The plan has been prepared in accordance with Part 4 of the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998*.

The plan has been produced in electronic format and is available to download as a pdf from the BGPA website www.bgpa.wa.gov.au. Alternative formats are available on request.

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Cover photo – Visitors viewing the wildflower display outside Aspects of Kings Park Gallery Shop. Jason Thomas/BGPA
Back page photo – A concert at the Pioneer Women's Memorial. Alan Barrett/BGPA

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Children participating in a Kings Park Education program. Photo - Jody D'Arcy/BGPA



Lemon-scented gums along Fraser Avenue. Photo – Jason Thomas/BGPA

At a glance

The Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan 2021–2026 (the plan) outlines the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) planned activities and programs in Kings Park and Botanic Garden (Kings Park) to achieve strategic priorities consistent with the BGPA statement of purpose:

To practise and inspire environmental conservation and celebrate local identity by immersing and empowering communities in world-recognised botanic gardens, parklands and urban bushlands.

The plan outlines guiding frameworks and policies for park management and details initiatives for 2021–2026 under five management categories: Community engagement and participation, Visitor experiences, Science and environmental conservation, Plant collections and displays, and Amenity and infrastructure.

In formulating the plan, the BGPA has considered the outcomes of community and stakeholder consultation and external influences. These include population growth and urban infill as well as environmental challenges, the State Government's tourism agenda, mobile information technology and community appetite to connect with nature for physical and mental health.

While BGPA has statutory responsibility for the management of Kings Park, stewardship of its inherent values and cultural heritage is a role shared with the community. **Strengthening community engagement and participation of traditional custodians, other key stakeholders and the broader community to achieve a shared sense of place, identity and belonging** is a priority under this plan.

Kings Park also provides recreation and tourism opportunities that deliver authentically Western Australian visitor experiences. **We will provide rich**

and immersive nature-based activities and authentic cultural experiences that connect visitors to the environment and provide information about our rich culture and unique biodiversity. Our activations aim to make a positive difference in the community and we will play a part in promoting an inclusive, sustainable and liveable community by providing accessible healthy spaces, demonstrating social inclusion and connecting visitors to nature, culture and a shared sense of identity.

Another key priority under this plan is to act on complex environmental challenges and to demonstrate leadership in science and environmental conservation to deliver positive outcomes for ex-situ (or off-site) conservation, ecological restoration, and bushland conservation. This will be achieved through sustainable and science-led management practices. **Kings Park will be our stage, classroom, and laboratory to advance knowledge and enhance community appreciation of the natural environment** through active involvement in research, education and environmental conservation.

Under this plan we will develop and manage plant collections and displays as a diverse botanical resource for the ex-situ conservation of the State's flora (away from its natural habitat), including mitigation of climate change impacts and other threatening processes. Demonstrating leadership in horticulture and arboriculture, **the Western Australian Botanic Garden will be showcased as an iconic cultural, educational and research institution** that provides a welcoming and inspiring horticultural landscape for community enjoyment.

Maintaining and improving park amenity and infrastructure will ensure a safe and quality visitor experience and improve park accessibility to meet the evolving needs of Western Australians. **Quality facilities and infrastructure will support community use of the park for commemoration and reflection, education and nature-based recreation and tourism** and we will strive to maintain Kings Park's international reputation as a premier attraction.



Visitors at the Pioneer Women's Memorial. Photo – Jason Thomas/BGPA

Kings Park and Botanic Garden: the natural heart of Perth

Kings Park and Botanic Garden is a world recognised botanic garden, parkland and urban bushland that conserves and celebrates Western Australian biodiversity, promotes wellbeing and is a much loved community asset.

Kings Park attracts around five million visitors annually for recreation, tourism and nature appreciation, as well as cultural and ceremonial events.

The Whadjuk Noongar people are the traditional custodians of the land, which has historic and continuing cultural significance to Aboriginal people and includes registered sites of significance that are respected and actively used today. These elements contribute to the rich cultural fabric of the park and underline its importance for all Western Australians.

Kings Park is one of the world's largest inner-city parks, covering 400 hectares and located 1.5 km from central Perth. It sits on Mount Eliza and provides spectacular views over the city, the Swan River (Derbarl Yerrigan), Canning River (Djarlgarro Beelieer) and the Darling Range (Katamordo) to the east.

Set aside for public purposes in 1831, the area was first gazetted as a public park in 1872. It was officially created as a Class A Reserve in 1900, affording it the highest level of protection for public land under Western Australian law. The care and management of the lands is vested with BGPA, a statutory authority within the broader Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

More than two-thirds of Kings Park is remnant banksia and tuart woodlands. The bushland is an important refuge for 327 native plant species, 80 bird species, 20 reptile species, over 300 species of fungi and hundreds of invertebrate species. The area is regionally significant as a *Bush Forever* site and includes two Threatened Ecological Communities as listed by the Australian Government.

The Western Australian Botanic Garden is an important cultural and scientific institution that is a key resource for horticultural and botanical research and the ex-situ conservation of Western Australian flora. This living museum serves as an environmental education tool and its displays and interpretation promote Western Australian flora, conservation and the significance of plants to life on Earth. Environmental education is also advanced through Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park, a learning and discovery area that promotes an appreciation of cultural heritage and environmental stewardship by encouraging children to connect with nature.

Kings Park is home to a range of significant memorials, including the State War Memorial, the Honour Avenues and numerous others commemorating important people and events in the history of the State.

Nearly 1000 volunteers and supporters are involved in community service across the park. Their involvement creates a great sense of community and connection between Kings Park and the people of Perth.

Governance

Board and legislation

BGPA is a statutory authority governed by a Board of Management. BGPA operates under the provisions of the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998* (BGPA Act) and *Botanic Gardens and Parks Regulations 1999*. The Minister for Environment is the Minister responsible for the administration of the BGPA Act.

The BGPA Act entrusts BGPA with the care, control and management of Bold Park and Kings Park and Botanic Garden, and requires BGPA to undertake the following functions:

- a) Provide, improve and promote recreational and tourism services and facilities on the designated land.
- b) Conserve and enhance any native biological diversity of the designated land.
- c) Conserve and enhance the natural environment, landscape features and amenity of the designated land.
- d) Conserve, develop, manage, display and undertake research into collections of Western Australian and other flora.
- e) Enhance and promote the understanding and conservation of the biological diversity of the designated land and of biological diversity generally.
- f) Conserve, enhance and promote the Aboriginal, colonial and contemporary cultural heritage of the designated land.
- g) Promote the use of flora for the purposes of horticulture, conservation and education.
- h) Undertake and promote research and investigation into matters related to or connected with BGPA's functions.

Part 4 of the BGPA Act states that BGPA must control and manage Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park in accordance with a management plan. Management plans are to include policies or guidelines proposed to be followed and a summary of proposed operations. Plans are required to be reviewed every five years and are subject to a formal public consultation process and Ministerial approval. These arrangements ensure a high level of transparency in the management of Kings Park and reflect the high level of community investment in the park. This management plan is due to expire on 1 May 2026.

Funding arrangements

BGPA operations are predominantly funded using monies appropriated by Parliament to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, which are allocated for services delivered by BGPA.

BGPA also generates income from commercial activities, leases and operating licences, sponsorships, technical services, research and other grants, bequests and donations.

Further details about funding arrangements and financial administration are provided in BGPA Annual Reports available via the BGPA website.



A family of tawny frogmouths. Photo – Dave Blumer/BGPA



The Flame of Remembrance and Pool of Reflection at the State War Memorial. Photo – Mark Griffiths/BGPA

Planning framework and policies

Planning framework

Several plans and documents guide the operational management of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. The diagram below provides an overview of our planning framework and key documents that inform this plan.



Policies applied in the management of Kings Park and Botanic Garden

The following information provides an overview of the main plans and policies applied in the management of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. The policies listed below are published on the BGPA website, while other documents listed are available on request.

New Businesses and Events Policy

BGPA's New Businesses and Events Policy provides guidelines for the consideration of a proposal from a proponent for a new major event, infrastructure, business, product placement or significant activation. Proposals are considered on their merits and the net public benefit they can generate. The policy ensures the values of the park are preserved and decisions on businesses and events enhance the services, accessibility and sustainability of the park.

Living Plant Collections and Displays Policy

This policy provides a framework for the development of living plant collections and displays, whilst allowing flexibility to respond to changes in scientific, environmental, social and cultural factors. The policy describes the themes and criteria for evaluating existing and proposed new collections and provides guidelines for the development, acquisition and disposal of collections and individual accessions.

Memorials Policy

The Board's position is that the erection of new memorials within BGPA designated lands should be carefully limited to protect the sanctity of existing memorials and other spaces. The Memorials Policy describes the Board's decision-making parameters for possible future memorials and outlines the requirements and application process for proponents.

Gifts, Donations and Bequests Policy

BGPA values all offers of assistance in the form of gifts, donations and bequests, and gives careful consideration to all such offers. The Donations and Bequests Policy ensures that decisions to accept or reject offers of gifts, donations and bequests are made appropriately and are consistent with the core business and values of BGPA.

Tree Management Policy

The BGPA Tree Management Policy provides a strategic framework for the management of trees within BGPA designated lands. The policy's overarching objectives are to ensure that public risk related to trees is well managed, and to provide for the long-term preservation and enhancement of trees in Kings Park and Bold Park.

Kings Park Conservation Plan for the Developed Areas

The Kings Park Conservation Plan for the Developed Areas contains statements of significance in terms of the cultural heritage significance of Kings Park. This plan states that "all works which may have an impact on the cultural heritage significance of Kings Park must be carried out with regard to the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter)".

Regulations

A range of 'policies' is captured by the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Regulations 1999* (the Regulations). The Regulations are designed to protect the natural environment and the quiet enjoyment of the park by visitors. The Regulations are similar to a policy in so far as they provide rules for visitors and park users. The Regulations also provide park management officers with certain powers to support compliance.

The Regulations describe a range of requirements and outline matters requiring formal authorisation including, but not limited to:

- conducting an organised event, including a sporting event
- running any kind of commercial activity
- picking wildflowers
- lighting a fire of any kind, including barbecues.

Bushfire Management and Response Plan

The BGPA Bushfire Management and Response Plan documents BGPA's fire management objectives and strategies that are implemented to reduce bushfire-related risk. It also documents BGPA's response procedures for a bushfire in Kings Park or Bold Park.

BGPA strategic priorities

Statement of purpose

To practise and inspire environmental conservation and celebrate local identity by immersing and empowering communities in world-recognised botanic gardens, parklands and urban bushlands.

Strategic themes and goals

BGPA has five strategic priority themes and goals which are supported by targeted approaches for fulfilling our statutory functions. These provide strategic guidance for the management of Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park and are described below. Management initiatives in this plan contribute to one or more of the BGPA themes. These relationships are indicated in the key management initiatives tables under each management category.

Theme	Goal	Approach
 <p>TRULY LOCAL EXPERIENCES</p>	<p>Perth's green heart Immerse our visitors in experiences of nature and our local identity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and support wildflower and eco-tourism within our parks and regional Western Australia. Meet demand for Aboriginal cultural experiences and knowledge. Provide safe and welcoming experiences that celebrate the natural environment, local identity and culture.
 <p>COMMUNITY WELLBEING</p>	<p>Healthy spaces Encourage community health and social inclusion through connection to nature, culture and identity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand community engagement through meaningful volunteering. Provide welcoming links between our parks and neighbouring areas. Engage visitors in activities that reflect the important role of our parks and nature in a healthy community. Provide for evolving visitor demographics and needs.
 <p>CULTURE AND HERITAGE</p>	<p>Significant places Conserve, enhance and celebrate the cultural and natural heritage of our parks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively promote, respect and understand Whadjuk Noongar culture and knowledge of these lands. Honour Kings Park as an important place of commemoration, reflection and social history. Gather and share stories of Kings Park and Bold Park.
 <p>SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION</p>	<p>Nature for our future Protect local biodiversity and tackle complex environmental challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address challenges to biodiversity conservation in landscapes posed by threatening processes. Undertake conservation to support the recovery of threatened species and ecosystems. Contribute to the global effort and body of knowledge about ecological restoration through research and practice. Enhance environmental appreciation and action through education, outreach and visitor experience.
 <p>WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BOTANIC GARDEN</p>	<p>Beauty rich and rare Conserve and enhance the WA Botanic Garden as an iconic cultural, educational and research institution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance understanding and appreciation of horticulture and conservation through the Western Australian Botanic Garden and its education programs. Provide leadership in horticulture and arboriculture, locally and internationally. Promote the role of the Western Australian Botanic Garden in ex-situ conservation and as a living laboratory for addressing environmental challenges such as climate change.

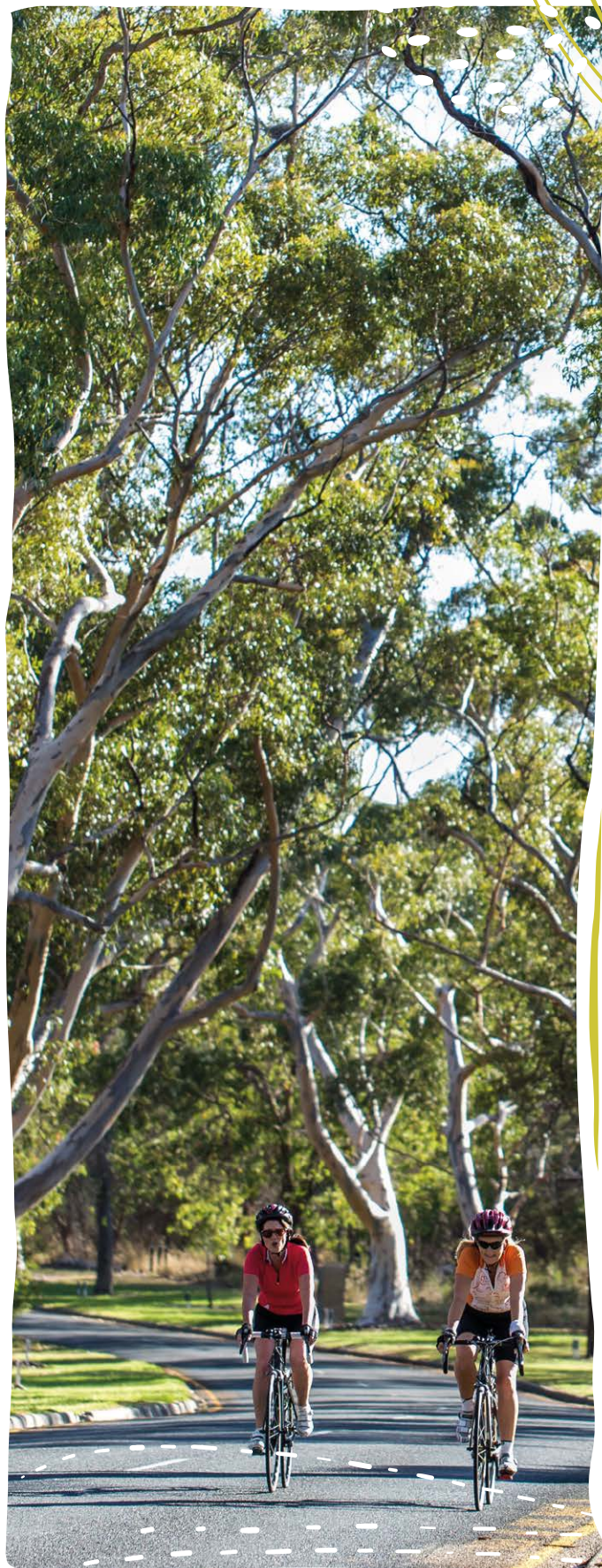
Management effectiveness

Kings Park and Botanic Garden enjoys excellent visitor satisfaction ratings. BGPA is regarded internationally for scientific and horticultural excellence and has also received accolades nationally for the Kings Park education programs and contributions to tourism.

As a Western Australian Public Authority, BGPA operates in accordance with public sector governance and accountability requirements and is consistently named as a best practice small entity by the Auditor General in quality and timeliness of reporting. Effective internal management systems and processes support this achievement and BGPA strives to be ethical, collaborative and sustainable.

To support the achievement of priorities and goals and deliver the initiatives in the management plan, BGPA will maintain a strong focus on:

- maintaining a diverse, knowledgeable, professional and engaged workforce through ongoing professional development, excellent customer service, inclusive attitudes and ethical behaviours
- implementing systems and processes to ensure safe and sustainable work practices
- enhancing collection and analysis of performance data to support continuous improvement
- supporting the ongoing harmonisation of business systems, practices and processes across the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to deliver better outcomes and efficiencies for the Western Australian community.



Cyclists on Lovekin Drive. Photo – Jason Thomas/BGPA



Children playing in Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park. Photo – Jason Thomas/BGPA

Looking back: key achievements from the 2014–2019 management plan

Some of the key achievements from the previous Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan are outlined below.

Acknowledgement of Noongar connection to the land

Kings Park continued to acknowledge and celebrate Noongar connections to this land and immerse visitors in Aboriginal culture and heritage. Highlights include:

- a Noongar name for Kings Park 'Kaarta Koomba' displayed at the park's main entrance
- support for Aboriginal businesses to run tours and cultural experiences in the park
- Kings Park Education's Aboriginal programs expanded including an annual Aboriginal cultural festival
- Aboriginal artwork and naming incorporated in new capital works developments
- Acknowledgement of Country protocols used for all Kings Park events.

'Wanju Marr' a new volunteer hub

Kings Park's first purpose-built volunteer facility was constructed and opened in 2019, providing workshops, offices and space for meetings and social gatherings for the park's active volunteers. The facility recognises the critical role volunteers play in Kings Park and will enable volunteering roles to be expanded in the future. The hub's name 'Wanju Marr' means 'welcome hand' in Noongar. Construction was funded through a Lotterywest grant provided to the Friends of Kings Park.

Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park

Record visitation to Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park followed the completion of a \$3 million Stage 2 development funded by Rio Tinto in 2017. Education programs in the precinct won the Premier's Science Award in Science Engagement in 2018.

50th anniversary of the Western Australian Botanic Garden

The 50th anniversary of the Western Australian Botanic Garden was celebrated in 2015. The anniversary was commemorated with a major capital works project with funding support from the Friends of Kings Park and Lotterywest. Works included the Botanic Terraces and Pavilion and a substantial new sculpture and entry statement for the Western Australian Botanic Garden. Events to celebrate the anniversary included festival exhibitions, a garden party, an extensive seed collecting trip to the Kimberley region and a series of self-guided walks through the Western Australian Botanic Garden.

Biodiversity Conservation Centre extension

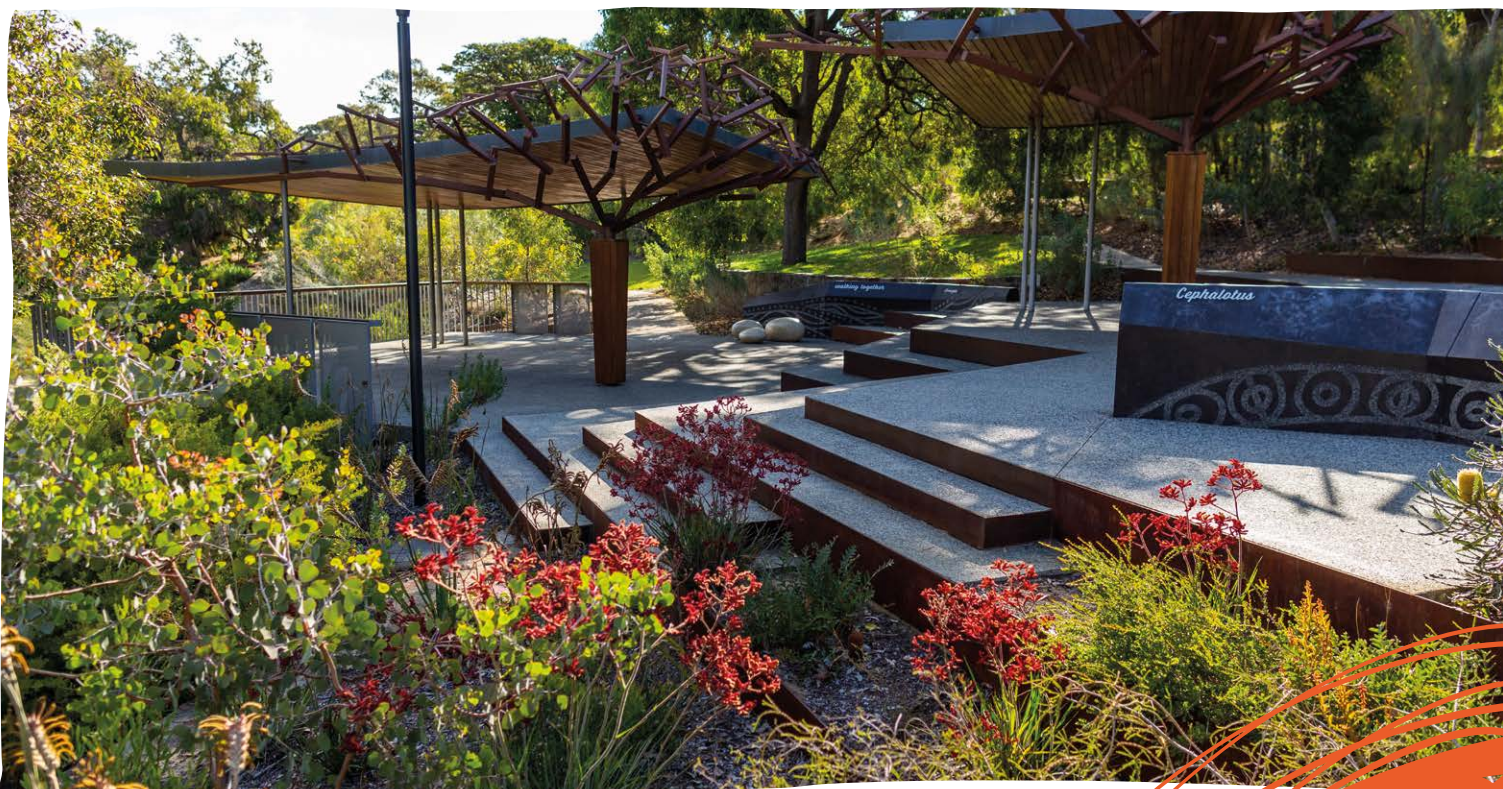
A major extension to the Biodiversity Conservation Centre included new seed science laboratories, incubator rooms with associated high-tech equipment, and a world-class walk-in seed freezer vault and controlled-environment drying room facilities to enhance the Western Australian Seed Centre – Kings Park. An operations manual was developed to set standards for seed collection, processing, testing and storage. Seed science research remains a core priority for scientists in the park.

Tree health and management

A world-class approach to managing Kings Park's estimated 40,000 trees was formalised in a comprehensive Tree Management Strategy to protect Kings Park's living tree collection and effectively manage safety risks. A dedicated research program uncovered high alkalinity of the park's irrigation water as a contributing cause of chlorotic decline syndrome in parkland trees. The research informed management strategies to be implemented under this plan.

Restoration of Kings Park Bushland

Along with extensive weed control, research and monitoring activities, more than 61,000 native plants were planted in restoration sites in Kings Park Bushland over the past five years, with about 50 species represented. Seed was collected from an average of 75 species per year for use in restoration planting programs and for the conservation of vulnerable flora.



The Botanic Terraces and Pavilion. Photo – Jason Thomas/BGPA



View of Perth city from Roe Gardens. Photo – Dave Blumer/BGPA

Looking forward: issues and trends shaping this Management Plan

Kings Park and Botanic Garden supports a diverse range of functions and activities, each operating in a complex environment with unique opportunities and challenges. Some of the significant trends and influences that have informed this management plan are outlined below.

Population growth and urban infill

Perth is home to 2.6 million people and attracts an estimated 2.2 million visitors from interstate and overseas each year. Perth's population is predicted to grow to 3.5 million by 2050 becoming the third largest city in Australia after Sydney and Melbourne.

Perth is growing and maturing as a modern capital city with a network of inner urban villages such as Yagan Square and Elizabeth Quay. This change, combined with infill in neighbouring suburbs, will likely change the way people use Kings Park and engage with the services and experiences on offer. Improving the quality of information about visitor use of the park will be key in building our ability to respond appropriately to evolving community needs over time.

Green spaces like Kings Park become increasingly precious to residents living and working in high density areas and the park's value as a place of recreation as well as an inner urban sanctuary is expected to be heightened. Providing welcoming links to local neighbourhoods is a priority and BGPA will strive to improve access for everyone, including pedestrians, cyclists, the elderly, and people with disability.

Kings Park also has a contributing role to play in promoting and influencing community behaviours towards healthy and sustainable modes of travel in the interests of sustainability and mental and physical wellbeing.

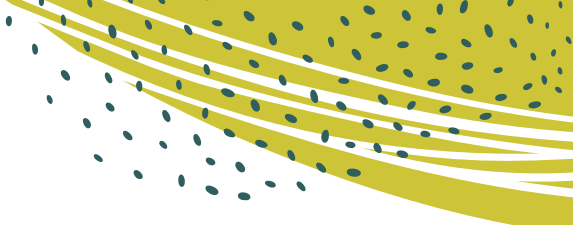
Environmental challenges in Kings Park and beyond

The *Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain* and *Tuart Woodlands and Forests of the Swan Coastal Plain* were listed as Threatened Ecological Communities by the Australian Government in 2016 and 2019 respectively, reflecting the importance of conserving these remnant bushland areas dispersed across much of the greater metropolitan area including the Kings Park Bushland.

Climate change and other environmental pressures are affecting these ecological communities, including detrimental impacts from reduced winter rainfall, higher temperatures, urbanisation and severe weather events.

Threatening processes are giving rise to greater community awareness and desire for environmental action and education. Many people are seeking information and advice on how they can play their part in solutions to environmental issues and want to engage actively in conservation activities.

Kings Park provides a focal point, classroom and platform for building community knowledge and capacity to influence conservation outcomes across a broader landscape than the park itself.



BGPA will maintain a strong focus on its on-ground conservation activities, education, restoration and scientific research, and will extend its engagement and outreach programs to build knowledge and capability in the community to effect conservation outcomes both within and outside the park's boundary.

The experience economy

Capitalising on tourism is a priority for the Western Australian economy. As Perth's most visited destination, Kings Park has an important role to play in offering authentic and inspiring experiences to visitors. In the short term, catering for Western Australians as tourists in their home state is a relevant driver. In the future, a new generation of tourists will be attracted to the unique experiences of nature and culture available in Perth and in Western Australia.

Maintaining the status of Kings Park as Perth's most visited attraction requires an ongoing focus on high standards of presentation and amenity but also provides an opportunity to amplify the Aboriginal cultural narrative of the park. This will be done through continuously improving existing activities and by providing new experiences that cater for a broad range of visitor and community interests to ensure Kings Park remains 'the people's park'.

Using the virtual to enhance the physical experience

In an increasingly connected world, the internet, mobile devices and 'apps' might be seen as competitors to a nature experience. While opportunities to 'unplug' in the park will be promoted, the innovative use of new technology will be increasingly applied to maximise the reach and accessibility of Kings Park. This will enrich the visitor experience by using the digital realm to deliver information, share stories and create new opportunities for engagement with culture, science and conservation.

A shared sense of place

Kings Park holds significant memories for many people in our community and plays a role in our individual and shared sense of place. The commemorative elements of Kings Park and its contemporary heritage is well understood. The richness of Aboriginal culture and connection to country is less understood but is increasingly appreciated for its uniqueness and importance. Having an improved understanding of this continuing living culture helps to build a deeper sense of place for the whole community.

BGPA will continue to honour Kings Park as an important place of commemoration, reflection and social history. BGPA will strive to support social inclusion, respect and understanding of Whadjuk Noongar culture and knowledge of these lands as a heritage that all Western Australians can engage with and celebrate.

Back to nature for physical and mental health

Evidence shows that access to quality green spaces improves physical and mental health and wellbeing, reduces obesity, increases longevity and makes people feel healthier.

The Perth Children's Hospital and new Kids' Bridge provide an opportunity for collaborating on initiatives that connect a health precinct with a nature precinct to promote the value of time in nature for patients, their families and for the community generally.

Providing safe and welcoming community spaces and amenities to support recreation and community wellbeing outcomes is an important role for Kings Park, particularly as the population ages and becomes more culturally diverse, and as the community strives to address social isolation and mental health challenges.



The Western Australian Botanic Garden entrance. Photo – Dave Blumer/BGPA

Planned activities

2021–2026



Visitors at Saw Avenue Picnic Area. Photo – Jason Thomas/BGPA



Visitors on a guided walk with Kings Park Volunteer Guides. Photo – Dave Blumer/BGPA

1. Community engagement and participation

Planning context

Community participation is essential to ensuring Kings Park and Botanic Garden remains inclusive and strongly supported by the public. Strengthening our relationships and engagement with traditional custodians, key stakeholders and the broader community is a priority under this plan.

Kings Park plays a significant role in promoting an inclusive and liveable community by providing accessible healthy spaces, encouraging social inclusion and connecting visitors from diverse backgrounds to nature, culture and our unique Western Australian identity.

Central to that priority is ensuring activities demonstrate respect for the rights, responsibilities, knowledge and aspirations of Aboriginal people through meaningful partnerships. This partnering philosophy will be extended to all community and institutional stakeholders. The commercial sector also plays an important role in supporting public benefit outcomes that meet the diverse needs and expectations of the Western Australian community.

A community survey undertaken to inform this plan generated interest from frequent park visitors and members of the community that rarely visit Kings Park but still value it as a protected natural place for families, recreation and conservation. Responses and comments highlighted the strong connections the community has to the park and its heritage.

Our intended focus

Management activities and initiatives in this category build on the high level of community stewardship for Kings Park, including from our volunteers. BGPA will actively collaborate with the community and pursue productive partnerships with businesses, and the not-for-profit and community sectors.

As part of that engagement BGPA will respond to the opportunities and imperatives highlighted in a range of external strategies and frameworks including, but not limited to:

- reconciliation action planning frameworks and objectives
- Western Australian Government strategies designed to improve social, economic, health and cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people
- Western Australian multicultural policy frameworks and strategies
- whole of community volunteering strategies
- encouraging and supporting *Smoke Free WA* objectives
- reinforcing and nurturing the interest and enthusiasm of children and young people to engage with cultural heritage and participate in environmental conservation.



Truly local experiences



Community wellbeing



Culture and heritage



Science and conservation



WA Botanic Garden

Key management initiatives

	Truly local experiences	Community wellbeing	Culture and heritage	Science and conservation	WA Botanic Garden
1.1 Enter into a cultural agreement with leaders of the Whadjuk Noongar community to recognise and formalise the relationship between BGPA and traditional custodians.		✓	✓		
1.2 Enhance recognition of Noongar and other Aboriginal culture, heritage and connection through increased engagement of Aboriginal people in the management and delivery of services; creating an Aboriginal heritage focal point in a prominent location; and continuing Noongar naming of Kings Park features.	✓	✓	✓		
1.3 Maintain and enhance relationships that commemorate Western Australians in wars, and continue to honour the State War Memorial as an important historic and ongoing symbol of those sacrifices, and a significant landmark within Kings Park and the city.		✓	✓		
1.4 Foster and enhance relationships with the Western Australian business community to provide support for programs, events and the continuing conservation, presentation and celebration of the natural and cultural values of Kings Park.		✓	✓	✓	
1.5 Increase opportunities for meaningful volunteering that foster a culture of stewardship within our community including citizen science programs.		✓	✓	✓	
1.6 Undertake community engagement and strategic partnerships with State and local government, and not-for-profit and other organisations to promote native flora conservation outcomes and to increase native flora use in landscapes outside Kings Park.	✓	✓		✓	✓
1.7 Develop and expand education and outreach programs to provide a wider range of learning opportunities for children, adults, community and corporate groups in areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • native gardening • sustainability and environmental stewardship • knowledge of Aboriginal culture. 	✓			✓	✓
1.8 Develop and implement partnerships and programs that promote physical, mental, social, spiritual and cultural wellbeing through connection to nature and multicultural inclusion.	✓	✓			
1.9 Deliver advice and professional development activities to other land managers and allied organisations to promote best practice in native horticulture and bushland restoration.				✓	✓
1.10 Expand the park's smoke-free areas to encompass the whole park to promote the health and wellbeing of all visitors and to further reduce fire risks to assets.		✓		✓	



Visitors viewing an interpretive sign on Noongar culture. Photo – Jody D'Arcy/BGPA

2. Visitor experiences

Planning context

Kings Park and Botanic Garden offers a unique opportunity for the community and visitors to experience the green heart of Perth. The park attracts around five million visitors a year with the vast majority being Western Australians. Maintaining a connection with the natural environment offers a way to address a range of health and wellbeing challenges in our community and Kings Park provides many opportunities to get outdoors and connect with nature.

Many visitors expect immersive nature-based activities and authentic cultural experiences. People want to connect at a personal level and make a positive contribution to the world we live in. Kings Park provides immersive 'self-guided' and guided experiences. Our diverse natural landscape, cultural and interpretive features and informative programs are valued by locals and tourists alike.

Kings Park as a place for Western Australian families and the community, was ranked alongside conservation values as the highest priority in a community survey undertaken to inform the plan. BGPA's goals of providing spaces for leisure and recreation with a range of eating and drinking options and offering tours and services for visitors are important drivers for park management. In delivering these services BGPA will assist in presenting Perth and the State as an attractive and unique tourist destination.

Our intended focus

BGPA will provide experiences that immerse visitors in nature and provide a window into our authentic Western Australian culture and identity. This will be done with consideration for the land BGPA carries shared stewardship with our partners, the community and Whadjuk Noongar custodians. In balancing these priorities, the activities and initiatives in this category will consider broader goals and priorities associated with:

- aligning functions and service priorities to State Government's COVID-19 recovery objectives
- supporting whole of State Government nature-based tourism strategies for Western Australia
- contributing positively to opportunities to help position Perth as a vibrant, connected and progressive city
- providing quality services and facilities consistent with the park's long-term conservation values in a safe, accessible environment.



Key management initiatives

	Truly local experiences	Community wellbeing	Culture and heritage	Science and conservation	WA Botanic Garden
2.1 Create and provide experiences that connect visitors with neighbouring precincts, including the City of Perth, City of Subiaco, Swan River, University of Western Australia and QEII Medical Centre Reserve.		✓	✓		
2.2 Explore opportunities to expand the range of cultural events presented in Kings Park as Perth's premier outdoor venue.	✓	✓	✓		
2.3 Continue to provide and explore opportunities for innovative and world-class experiences that attract visitors, create a sense of adventure and celebrate and respect our natural and cultural environment.	✓		✓	✓	
2.4 Share recognition of Noongar culture, heritage and connection through providing authentic ecotourism and interpretation experiences that foster biodiversity conservation and cultural understanding.	✓		✓		✓
2.5 Enhance visitor hospitality experiences in partnership with businesses and the community.	✓	✓			
2.6 Review the BGPA New Businesses and Events Policy to ensure alignment of resources to values and market needs and to deliver a net public benefit.	✓	✓	✓		
2.7 Explore and provide sustainable transport services that improve visitor movement within Kings Park and connections to surrounding precincts and destinations.	✓	✓		✓	
2.8 Develop a visitor-oriented, interactive web presence and social media strategy that presents our unique experiences and ensures broad appeal and accessibility.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.9 Adopt new multimedia technologies such as mobile apps and augmented reality to enhance visitor experiences and learning.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.10 Manage cultural heritage places and landscapes as locations with opportunities for cultural tourism, biodiversity conservation, recreation, education, and community involvement.	✓	✓	✓		✓



Scientists at work in the Biodiversity Conservation Centre. Photo – Jason Thomas/BGPA

3. Science and environmental conservation

Planning context

BGPA conserves and enhances the native biodiversity and natural environment in Kings Park and Botanic Garden through an adaptive management approach to bushland restoration, underpinned by scientific research. BGPA also provides opportunities for community engagement through active participation, interpretation and education to enhance understanding of the natural environment, threatening processes, and its importance to community health and wellbeing.

Community feedback highlighted that protecting Kings Park Bushland was rated as the highest-ranking goal for Kings Park by 97 percent of community survey respondents. The involvement of BGPA in supporting the conservation of threatened Western Australian plant species and protecting their natural environment through research were also seen as key functions, and there was strong support for environmentally sustainable practices.

Our intended focus

A goal of BGPA is to act on complex environmental challenges and demonstrate leadership in the research and delivery of environmental conservation, ecological restoration, bushland management and the conservation of the State's flora outside its natural habitat (ex-situ conservation). BGPA will adopt sustainable practices and enhance community appreciation of the natural environment through active involvement and education in science and environmental conservation. This includes activities with a local focus and others that involve a contribution to the broader scientific and environmental conservation role of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Within Kings Park Bushland, BGPA aspires to reinstate native ecological communities that are as biodiverse, representative, regionally integrated and self-sustainable as possible, and that are highly valued by the community.

Management strategies in this category include activities to conserve and enhance Kings Park Bushland and effectively manage risks related to conservation, bushfire and stability of the Mount Eliza escarpment. They also include scientific research to support the conservation of Western Australian species, as well as bushland conservation and restoration in Kings Park, throughout the State and globally.

Management initiatives are significantly influenced by a global agenda, national frameworks in conservation, and waste management and sustainability strategies of government including:

- Conservation of the *Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain* and the *Tuart Woodlands and Forests of the Swan Coastal Plain*, consistent with their listing as Threatened Ecological Communities under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) by the Australian Government
- The need to respond to threatening processes such as climate change and loss of native species and native vegetation in Western Australia
- Demand across the resources industry for research input to address knowledge gaps relevant to mine closure and restoration
- State Government policy for a sustainable future, embracing environmentally sustainable design and practices and reducing waste in keeping with the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030.



Key management initiatives

	Truly local experiences	Community wellbeing	Culture and heritage	Science and conservation	WA Botanic Garden
3.1 Respond to climate change challenges through research, restoration and management activity; and show leadership in environmental sustainability to encourage sustainable practices in the community.		✓		✓	
3.2 Protect and restore Kings Park Bushland for future generations, valued for its representation of two Threatened Ecological Communities, its significance to Whadjuk Noongar people and its contribution to community health and wellbeing.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3.3 Integrate research with adaptive management of Kings Park Bushland for its ongoing conservation. This includes undertaking research to address knowledge gaps for bushland management, biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration, and building on our ecological records of local biodiversity.			✓	✓	
3.4 Participate in the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) through research, leadership in adaptive bushland management, ecological restoration, and community engagement.		✓		✓	
3.5 Continue to lead long-term fire ecology research to understand the best methods of managing bushfire risk and protecting biodiversity in the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain and associated communities.		✓	✓	✓	
3.6 Support the conservation of Western Australian native flora through prioritised research, propagule banking (plant material stored for ex-situ conservation and future use), and translocation and restoration projects.				✓	✓
3.7 Manage bushfire risks in Kings Park for community safety, protection of park assets and to conserve native biodiversity in the bushland.		✓	✓	✓	
3.8 Manage the Mount Eliza escarpment biodiversity and geotechnical risks through regular inspections, remediation and ecological restoration activities as required.		✓	✓	✓	
3.9 Apply landscape treatments on the perimeters of Kings Park Bushland to enhance conservation outcomes and improve internal connections as well as those to surrounding suburbs.	✓	✓		✓	
3.10 Promote the relationship between the health of Kings Park Bushland and the health of our community and work in partnership with Friends of Kings Park volunteers to achieve bushland restoration goals.		✓		✓	



Wildflower display in the Western Australian Botanic Garden. Photo – Dave Blumer/BGPA

4. Plant collections and displays

Planning context

BGPA develops and curates an extensive living collection of primarily Western Australian plant taxa in Kings Park and Botanic Garden as an ex-situ collection (not within its natural habitat). This provides a botanical resource for scientific and horticultural research, education, and the ex-situ conservation of Western Australian flora, to safeguard species against threats posed in their natural habitats.

The Western Australian Botanic Garden is distinguished from other public gardens and parks through a statewide program of documented, known origin plant collections, through laboratory and nursery research activities and by interpretation made available for visitors.

Displayed in themed and interpreted garden beds in the 17 hectares Western Australian Botanic Garden, in Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park and in horticultural displays throughout parkland areas, this living museum forms a welcoming attraction for tourists and the local community and inspires appreciation of the State's diverse flora, its use in horticulture and its significance to our daily lives.

Feedback from community consultation for this plan gave a very high rating to the role of Kings Park as a sanctuary for native plants and wildlife and placed a high value on our role in the ex-situ conservation of Western Australian flora. The Perth community also demonstrated a strong appetite for advice on growing Western Australian plants in home gardens and on waterwise and habitat-friendly plant selection and cultivation.

Our intended focus

BGPA will continue to develop and manage the living collections and displays as a diverse botanical resource for the ex-situ conservation of the State's flora, including mitigating impacts of climate change and other threatening processes. Demonstrating leadership in horticulture and arboriculture through high standards of presentation, plant curation and landscape management, the Western Australian Botanic Garden will be showcased as an iconic cultural, educational and research institution that provides an inspiring horticultural landscape for community enjoyment.

Management initiatives in this category include activities to conserve and enhance collections of Western Australian flora for ex-situ conservation, cultivation, interpretation and display, to promote the diversity of the State's flora, its conservation in the natural environment and its use in horticulture, and to demonstrate a sense of place that inspires a positive environmental impact and enhances health and wellbeing. Initiatives have also been influenced by a broader framework that includes:

- National and State legislative requirements for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, including threatened species
- statewide interest in wildflower tourism as a significant contributor to the regional economy
- demand for information to enable native planting schemes in public landscapes through Perth and beyond that build on the State's wildflower brand as an attraction, and that develop a sense of place and identity for the Western Australian community and national and international visitors.



Truly local experiences



Community wellbeing



Culture and heritage



Science and conservation



WA Botanic Garden

Key management initiatives

	Truly local experiences	Community wellbeing	Culture and heritage	Science and conservation	WA Botanic Garden
4.1 Maintain world-class standards of horticultural presentation and management through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic renewal of labelled plant collections • selection, cultivation and display of Western Australian plant diversity within planting themes • development and implementation of management plans for significant collections • conservation of landscape integrity. 	✓		✓	✓	✓
4.2 Expand the Conservation Garden to include landscape displays of Western Australian threatened ecological communities and threatened flora with interpretation to promote their conservation in the natural environment.	✓		✓	✓	✓
4.3 Develop the plant collections and appropriate interpretation in the Western Australian Botanic Garden and Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park to provide a living demonstration for the community on adapting native gardens to the effects of climate change.		✓		✓	✓
4.4 Collect, research and bank seed from throughout the State in the Western Australia Seed Centre - Kings Park to increase collection diversity and to safeguard species, including those susceptible to the threat of myrtle rust.			✓	✓	✓
4.5 Expand the range of Western Australian flora in cultivation for ex-situ conservation collections and display, and for restoration and translocation programs across the State, through specialist propagation, research and management techniques.	✓		✓	✓	✓
4.6 Develop new Western Australian plant varieties that have a positive environmental impact, high ornamental value and are suitable for display and marketing locally and globally through the Kings Park plant development program.				✓	✓
4.7 Maintain demonstration gardens at key locations, with associated visitor information and advice to promote the sustainable use of native plants in home gardens.	✓	✓			✓
4.8 Sustain and enhance the significant tree landscape including renewal of declining memorial avenue trees to adapt to climate change effects over time, and manage risks from trees using globally recognised best practice in arboriculture.			✓	✓	✓
4.9 Enhance the major entrances to Kings Park with displays of Western Australian flora that create a sense of arrival and place for visitors and build the park's identity as a centre for native flora.	✓		✓		✓
4.10 Manage biosecurity surveillance of plant collections to protect against pests and diseases and continue as an active member of the national Botanic Gardens Biosecurity Network to build expertise and capacity.			✓	✓	✓



Visitors on the Lotterywest Federation Walkway. Photo – Debbie Newcombe/BGPA

5. Amenity and infrastructure

Planning context

Providing quality facilities and amenities that support and encourage community visitation to Kings Park and Botanic Garden for health benefits, recreation and tourism is an important activity for BGPA. Kings Park's infrastructure facilitates enjoyment of the park by the community and tourists from around the world and caters to the long-term conservation and maintenance of the park's natural and built heritage assets.

Community and stakeholder feedback confirmed that Kings Park is an important place for Western Australian families and the community to relax and recreate. Ensuring that the park remains a safe place for the community to visit was rated as important by 97 percent of survey respondents; and 94 percent of respondents indicated that providing good access for people with special needs is important. Achieving these goals in a way that is environmentally sustainable has strong community and stakeholder support.

Our intended focus

Management activities and initiatives in this category seek to improve overall visitor amenity and infrastructure in Kings Park. This is done through excellence and innovation in design, environmentally sustainable principles in planning and development, and conserving natural and cultural heritage values.

BGPA will improve visitor safety and accessibility to meet the evolving needs of Western Australians and the growing Perth population, and maintain Kings Park's international reputation as a premier visitor destination.

In progressing these aims, our management activities will acknowledge the position and profile of Kings Park in relation to its suburban hinterland and will consider a range of metropolitan planning strategies and frameworks associated with:

- metropolitan planning, urban infill and higher density living
- Perth's transport network
- universal access objectives as detailed in disability access and inclusion planning
- a sustainable future, embracing environmentally sustainable design and practices and reducing waste including the Waterwise Perth Action Plan.



Key management initiatives

	Truly local experiences	Community wellbeing	Culture and heritage	Science and conservation	WA Botanic Garden
5.1 In partnership with the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation, Main Roads Western Australia and other key stakeholders, complete the planned Kids' Bridge between QEII Medical Centre and Kings Park, including path upgrades to link to May Drive Parkland.	✓	✓		✓	
5.2 Install new up-lights for the lemon-scented gums along Fraser Avenue using new technology to improve reliability, flexible use and sustainability in lighting this iconic avenue.	✓			✓	
5.3 Upgrade park security in high visitation areas to enhance public safety and to protect memorials, plant collections and other assets.		✓	✓		✓
5.4 Safeguard living collections with improved irrigation infrastructure that will ensure a reliable water supply and improve water efficiency and water quality for plant health.				✓	✓
5.5 Create new visitor amenities, a new community pavilion, refreshed play areas and improved path linkages in May Drive Parkland for community enjoyment and wellbeing.	✓	✓			
5.6 Undertake an integrated transport planning exercise to inform longer term upgrades to pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle circulation and parking throughout Kings Park.	✓	✓		✓	
5.7 Develop and implement a Korean War Memorial in the Tobruk Precinct and upgrade nearby community facilities in consultation with key stakeholders.		✓	✓		
5.8 Explore options and opportunities to establish new linkages to reconnect Kings Park and the Swan River.	✓	✓			
5.9 Undertake master planning processes for key visitor precincts including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lotterywest Family Area and Hale Oval to upgrade visitor amenities, access, playground, and café • Fraser Avenue West precinct including car parking and access, the BGPA administration building and the Kings Park Education precinct, and consider connectivity with the Kaarta Gar-up Lookout and Fraser Avenue East. 	✓	✓			
5.10 Plan water harvesting, solar power generation and other upgrades to the Kings Park Nursery.				✓	✓

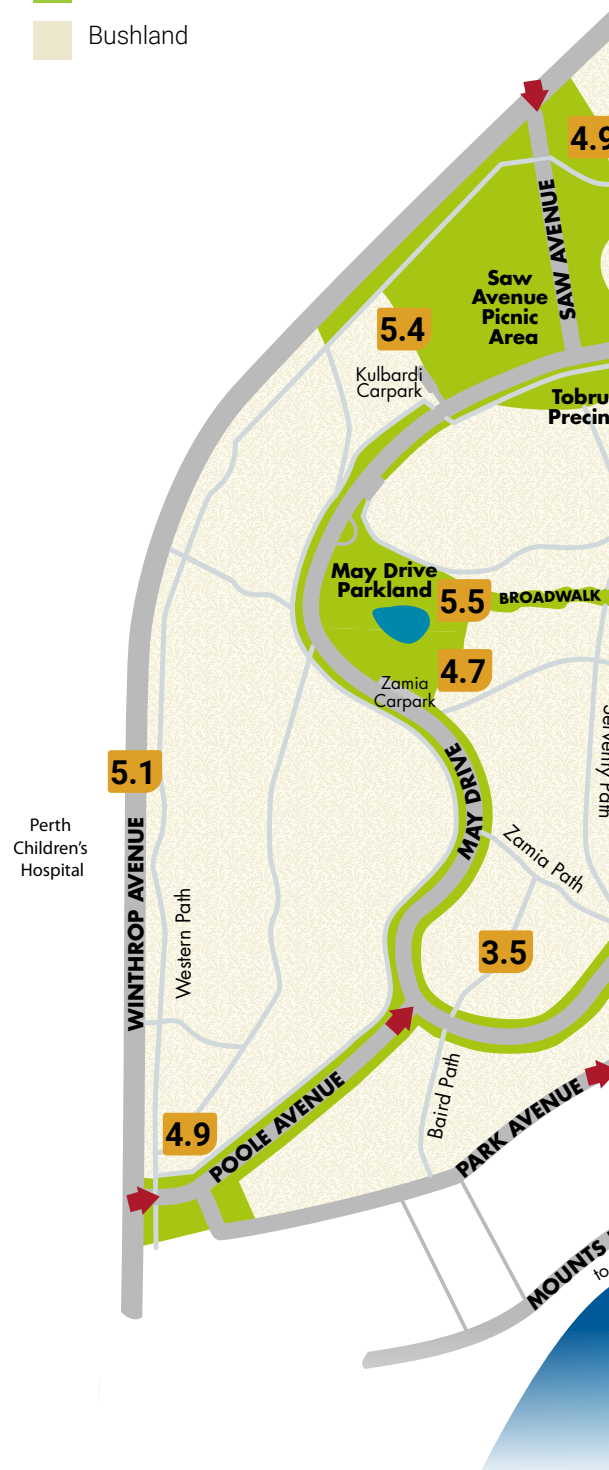
Kings Park and Botanic Garden: location specific key management initiatives

- 1.3** Honour the State War Memorial as an important symbol of sacrifice
- 3.2** Protect and restore Kings Park Bushland
- 3.5** Lead long-term fire ecology research
- 3.8** Manage Mt Eliza escarpment biodiversity and geotechnical risks
- 4.2** Expand the Conservation Garden to include landscape displays of threatened ecological communities
- 4.3** Develop plant collections and appropriate interpretation
- 4.7** Maintain demonstration gardens at key locations
- 4.9** Enhance major entrances with displays of Western Australian flora
- 5.1** Complete the planned Kids' Bridge between QEII Medical Centre and Kings Park
- 5.2** Upgrade up-lights for the lemon-scented gums on Fraser Avenue
- 5.3** Upgrade security in high visitation areas
- 5.4** Improve irrigation infrastructure to safeguard living collections
- 5.5** Create new visitor facilities at May Drive Parkland
- 5.7** Develop and implement a Korean War Memorial in the Tobruk precinct
- 5.8** Explore options to establish new Swan River linkages
- 5.9** Undertake master planning processes for specific precincts
- 5.10** Plan water harvesting and solar power generation for the Kings Park Nursery

Map of Kings Park and Botanic Garden

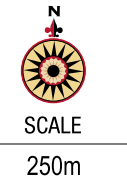
Legend

- Western Australian Botanic Garden including Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park
- Parkland
- Bushland





KINGS PARK ROAD
 Speargrass Path
 Pioniers Path
 Magpie Path
THOMAS STREET
 Western Path
 Boomerang Path
MAY DRIVE [HONOUR AVENUE]
 May Circle
 Wren Path
LOTTERYWEST FAMILY AREA
 Tennis Club/ Next Generation
 Jorang Carpark
 Biodiversity Conservation Centre
5.9
 Manri Walk [Honour Ave.]
5.10
RIO TINTO NATURESCAPE KINGS PARK
4.3
 Wardong Bus park
5.9
KINGS PARK EDUCATION
 Reservoir
5.9
 Mt Eliza House
5.2
FRASER AVENUE
 BELLEVUE TEE
3.8
 Kings Park Administration
 Kaarta Gar-up Lookout
1.3
STATE WAR MEMORIAL
 Volunteer Hub
5.3
 Wadjuk Carpark
4.2
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BOTANIC GARDEN
 Botanic Garden Carpark
 Nature Trail
 DNA Tower
4.3
5.8
 Kennedy Fountain
 Mt Eliza Escarpment
3.8
 Roe Carpark
 Place of Reflection
5.8
 Law Walk
5.8
 Balga Carpark
5.8
FORREST DRIVE
 Swan Carpark & Dryandra Lookout
5.8
BAY ROAD
 Perth city
 Swan Canning Riverpark





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