

Section 7.0

CONSERVATION ACTIONS



Figure 7.1 View of the Arboretum precinct. Photo: David Jones

7.0 CONSERVATION ACTIONS

7.1 USE

7.1.1 Cultural role

Ongoing

- Maintain the role of the Garden as a major repository of a living collection and a cool temperate Adelaide Hills habitat
- Clarify and reinforce the purpose and role of the Garden, specifically, in any legislation that implicates the Garden

Short Term

- Reinforce the role of the Garden by adopting the recommendations of this *Conservation Study* and any parallel *Master Plan*

Medium Term

- Review the purpose and statutory position of the Garden in the *Adelaide Hills Council Development Plan*
- Seek recognition of the *Conservation Study* and any parallel *Master Plan* for the Garden by the Adelaide Hills Council
- Seek a co-operative and participant relationship with the Adelaide Hills Council in any future over-arching management strategy for the overall Adelaide Hills escarpment
- Seek revision of existing cultural heritage citations for the 'Mount Lofty Botanic Garden' to better reflect the recommendations of this *Conservation Study* and its Statement of Cultural Significance

7.1.2 Symbolic and ceremonial roles

Ongoing

- Maintain the role of the Garden as a place where the community can gather for important social events and activities, but also enhance its position as an exemplar of large private hill-station gardens in the Adelaide Hills and their significant cultural contribution to the state and the Adelaide Hills visual and botanical landscape

Short Term

- Reinforce the role of the Garden by adopting the recommendations of this *Conservation Study* and any parallel *Master Plan*

7.1.3 Design and horticultural roles

Ongoing

- Seek quality landscape design interventions and works in the Garden
- Seek quality horticultural works and treatments in the Garden

Short Term

- Adopt the recommendations of a parallel *Master Plan*

Medium Term

- Appoint horticultural and landscape design consultants to ensure consistency of vision and approach in the Garden
- Recognise the 'reading' of the origins and rationale behind and integrated within the 'Report of the Development of the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden' (1965), and the analysis of it contained in this *Conservation Study* (2006), as informing and underpinning any *Master Plan* (2006) for the Garden

7.1.4 Education and interpretation roles

Ongoing

- Continue the existing guides program

Short Term

- Prepare new interpretive literature that enables a more informed appreciation of the Garden
- Consider the installation of an interpretive facility within or adjacent to the Main Lake that reviews the history and occupancy of the Garden

Medium Term

- Install a series of integrated and carefully designed interpretative signage as it relates to identifying and recording all mature tree species as well as way-finding signage
- Seek to progressively establish an electronic tree inventory, including GPS positioning that enables electronic inventory of health, historical and botanical attributes of significant trees and flowering shrubs

7.1.5 Experimentation role

Short Term

- Establish a rigorous experimentation and propagation program for cool temperate species

7.1.6 Botanical research role

Short Term

- Establish a more defined relationship with the horticultural sections of tertiary institutions that enables tree and plant specimen propagation and trailing and research in the Garden

7.1.7 Recreation/leisure role

Short Term

- Continue passive recreation use for Garden
- Enable more celebratory passive recreation activities during select times that are complementary to the spirit and role of the Garden

7.2 SETTING AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

7.2.1 Siting within the landscape

Ongoing

- Ensure a continued biodiversity and habitat conservation role in the Adelaide Hills escarpment
- Conserve the Garden's role as a major visual backdrop and amphitheatre in the Piccadilly Valley

Short Term

- Participate and initiate an integrated master planning strategy for the Piccadilly Valley that address visual, water, biodiversity, cultural landscape and agricultural production to establish a framework to manage the overall vernacular cultural landscape

Medium Term

- Re-position the Garden with the *Adelaide Hills Council Development Plan* as a cultural heritage and landscape asset

7.2.2 Contemporary stylistic influences

Ongoing

- Adopt a policy of ensuring quality landscape design strategies and works in the Garden
- Adopt a landscape design strategy that reinforces the vision and rationale embedded in the 'Report on the Development of the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden' (1965) in guiding the over-arching development actions for the Garden

7.2.3 Engaging with the Australian flora

Short Term

- Redefine the importance of Australian flora in the botanical collection and enhance the Adelaide Hills collection
- Reposition the role and value of the ‘fingers’ and ‘ridgelines’ of Australian forest and flora as integral and contributory to the Garden as a Botanic Garden in the public’s eyes and in the way the collection is presented

7.2.4 Gardening under glass

Ongoing

- Seek carefully visually unobtrusive siting where glass-housing or similar is proposed

7.2.5 Ornamentation

Ongoing

- Restrict the use of plaques etc for ceremonial and symbolic purposes

Short Term

- Establish a policy as to the use, design and siting of ornamentation and plaques in the Garden
- Enable the introduction of limited sculpture and art pieces where complementary to the Garden

7.2.6 Manipulation of water

Ongoing

- Monitor the use, volume and quality of mains and internal water used in maintaining the Garden

Short Term

- Seek options to rationalise water supply and irrigation arrangements for the Garden to reduce any dependence upon mains water
- Consider measures to better retain, store, purify and re-distribute water around the Garden to enable the reduction of reliance upon mains water

7.2.7 Services and Infrastructure

Ongoing

- Limit the visual presence of all garden and associative infrastructure throughout the Garden

7.3 GARDEN COMPONENTS

7.3.1 Exotic Landscape - Lower

Ongoing

- Adopt an amalgam 18th century Gardenesque and 20th century American Romantic style policy for the lower lawns
- Maintain the existing shape, form and alignment of garden beds
- Maintain the existing palette of tree species in the garden beds
- Maintain the lower lawns and adjacent garden beds as an example of a contemporary arboretum landscape design style that eschewed formality and embraced the horticultural pragmatism of easily maintained landscaped expanses
- Maintain and strengthen collections of ferns, *Rhododendron* cv, *Narcissus* ssp, *Azalea* cv, *Magnolia* ssp, South American, New Zealand, and *Acer* ssp to complement and enhance their collections

Short term

- Re-assess the spatial areas, botanical profile, and location of existing significant and minor collections as to their importance, potential growth and expansion, relocation, or ability to cater for additional collections
 - Re-assess the visual properties of lawns, gardens, viewpoints, existing plantings, so as to enable visual sightlines, vistas, and visual accents
 - Apply a policy of restricted and selective ceremonial tree planting within the lower lawns
- Medium term*
- Provide interpretation of the mature specimens
 - Apply a strategic tree replacement policy in advance of aging and senescent specimens

7.3.2 Exotic Landscape - Upper

Ongoing

- Adopt an amalgam 18th century Gardenesque and 20th century American Romantic style policy for the upper lawns
- Maintain the existing shape, form and alignment of garden beds
- Maintain the existing palette of tree species in the garden beds
- Maintain the upper lawns and adjacent garden beds as an example of a contemporary arboretum landscape design style that eschewed formality and embraced the horticultural pragmatism of easily maintained landscaped expanses
- Maintain and strengthen collections of conifers, dwarf conifers, cool temperate Australian and New Zealand species, *Pinus* spp, *Acer* spp, evergreen species to complement and enhance their collections

Short term

- Re-assess the spatial areas, botanical profile, and location of existing significant and minor collections as to their importance, potential growth and expansion, relocation, or ability to cater for additional collections
- Re-assess the visual properties of lawns, gardens, viewpoints, existing plantings, so as to enable visual sightlines, vistas, and visual accents
- Apply a policy of restricted and selective ceremonial tree planting within the upper lawns

Medium term

- Provide interpretation of the mature specimens
- Apply a strategic tree replacement policy in advance of aging and senescent specimens

7.3.3 Australian Forest

Ongoing

- Adopt an agenda of enhancing the biodiversity of Adelaide Hills escarpment habitats including flora, avifauna and fauna for the Australian forest areas
- Strengthen the collection of Adelaide Hills species and similar Australian and New Zealand cool temperate collections
- Monitor ground fuel levels

Short term

- Re-assess the spatial areas, botanical profile, and location of existing significant and minor collections as to their importance, potential growth and expansion, relocation, or ability to cater for additional collections
- Re-assess the visual properties of viewpoints, existing plantings, so as to enable visual sightlines, vistas, and visual accents
- Apply a policy of restricted and selective ceremonial tree planting within the Australian forest
- Devise a fire management strategy that enables the use and application of fire where it enhances the viability of plants and biodiversity

Medium term

- Provide interpretation of the mature specimens
- Apply a strategic tree replacement policy in advance of aging and senescent specimens

7.3.4 Water systems and lakes

Ongoing

- Monitor water quality, sedimentation and cloudiness in water bodies
- Monitor water quality and its natural ground surface movement into and out of the Garden, and in particular the volume and quality of surface water movement from the Garden

Short term

- Re-assess the edge articulation of water bodies so as to better enhance their aesthetic role and contribution to the Garden
- Re-assess the edge articulation of water bodies to enhance their potential in displaying and nurturing flora collections
- Recognise that water bodies and courses are integral display features and visual sightline features in the landscape and need to be better harnessed in any management plan

7.3.5 Administration, works depot and facilities

Ongoing

- Ensure a quality level of maintenance for all buildings and structures

Short Term

- Establish design performance criteria as to the design, siting, infrastructure servicing, colour, material use, safety and interpretive merit of all buildings, hard surfaces, signage, traffic control mechanisms, service facilities, infrastructure and above/under ground services
- Consider the strategic relocation of most buildings into fewer clusters
- Devise a denser planting strategy around each cluster so as to reduce their visual presence
- Consider energy efficiencies and creative water and waste use and transferral strategies for existing building concentrations
- Devise a denser planting strategy to craft vistas from the Garden to adjacent properties so as to reduce their visual presence and intrusion

7.3.6 O'Leary farmland

Ongoing

- Monitor the quality and health of the landscape and any vegetation thereupon

Short Term

- Resolve the future of the land
- Seek to integrate the long term transfer of this land into any Management Plan for the overall Garden

7.3.7 Statuary, ornamental garden furniture and historic features

Ongoing

- Conserve existing sculpture, furniture and historic items

Short Term

- Establish an inventory of existing statuary, furniture and historic features
- Re-position and enhance the role and interpretative value of historic features and places in the Garden as contributory features to the overall cultural landscape
- Prepare an art and sculpture policy for the Garden
- Prepare a policy that establishes guidelines for the erection/positioning and design of ceremonial and memorial plaques, and associated trees or features, in the Garden

7.4 LIVING COLLECTIONS

Ongoing

- Maintain the living collections ranked as being of high and exceptional significance within the context of the Garden's overall collections policy

Short term

- Strengthen the collection integrity of the significant fern, *Acer* ssp, *Magnoliceae* ssp, *Rhododendron* ssp, *Rosa* ssp collections within the context of the Garden's overall collections policy
- Establish a quality inventory and data base on each specimen in the main significant collections to better qualify provenance, habit, and performance of specimens
- Develop a tree and shrub replacement plan for the living collections that make a strong visual contribution to the character of the Garden
- Enhance and strengthen the interpretation and diversity of the Australian forest living collection while maintaining its local indigenous integrity

Long Term

- Include the interpretation of the natural and exotic living collections in an interpretation plan for Mount Lofty Botanic Garden
- Include the interpretation of the natural and exotic living collections in the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden education programs
- Actively seek ways of using the natural and exotic living collections to inspire a new generation of visitors to engage with the Garden

7.5 SIGNIFICANT TREES AND PLANTS

Ongoing

- Monitor the health and condition of existing vegetation and take appropriate arboricultural measures to prolong the longevity of existing mature trees

Short Term

- Nominate select trees as identified in the *Conservation Study* (2006) to the Significant Tree Register of the National Trust of South Australia
- Provide species identification and nomenclature plaques on trees including a numerical coding system
- Seek to establish an electronic tree inventory, including GPS positioning that enables electronic inventory of health, historical and botanical attributes of significant collections

7.6 MANAGEMENT

7.6.1 Adoption and review

Ongoing

- Adopt the recommendations of the *Conservation Study* (2006)
- Adopt the recommendations of any parallel *Master Plan* (2006)

Medium Term

- Establish a five-year review date for the *Conservation Study* (2006) and any parallel *Master Plan* (2006)

7.6.2 Links with Master Plan

Ongoing

- seek the use of management zones and sub-zones complimentary to the garden component spaces identified and used in the *Conservation Study* (2006) to ensue consistency of approach and application.

7.6.3 Funding opportunities and partnerships

Short Term

- Seek additional funding support to undertake strategic water conservation measures and planting actions in the Garden
- Seek additional funding to enable the implementation of master plan activities over the next 5-10 years

7.6.4 Committees

Ongoing

- Continue the role and functions of the existing Board as it relates to the Garden

Short Term

- Enhance the role of a Friends Committee for the Garden
- Establish a Reference Committee to guide, assist and inform the Board as to the implementation of the *Conservation Study* (2006) and the *Master Plan* (2006)