

VISION FOR STONY RANGE REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN

Stony Range Botanic Garden should be sustainably managed and protected to retain its character as a bushland reserve and to allow for the ongoing public appreciation of Australian flora.

MANAGEMENT AIMS

Stony Range should be managed to:-

- increase visitation from a wide variety of the public
- expand its role as a place for environmental education and community activity
- continue to be a place that welcomes volunteer community effort in the ongoing management and enhancement of the reserve
- continue the ongoing role of volunteers in creating themed areas and growing plants for the reserve
- maintain and enhance the tree canopy

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Promote Stony Range through website and engagement with local schools and the general community.

- Prepare a guided walks and talks schedule to encourage local visitation depending on available funds
- Consider potential for the reserve being a place for curriculum-based Environmental Education in co-ordination with local schools
- Address the need for facilities and resources that will be required to adequately accommodate environmental education
- Address site interpretation

SIGNAGE

Signage is fundamental to site identity and helps enhance enjoyment and understanding. A comprehensive suite of signage needs to be developed to enhance site legibility, encourage visitation and provide educational and interpretive opportunities:-

- Signage can be part of integrating with maps, leaflets and guided walks as required
- Consider a signage design plan to incorporate design for:
 - Entry and orientation
 - Directional signage
 - Naming and interpretive signage

Legend:

Tracks:

- Track Classification 1 - disabled accessible
- Track Classification 2-3
- Existing track, temporarily closed consider re-opening
- Existing track closed

Structures / Elements:

- Existing gate
- Existing building / structure
- Possible building extension
- New building / structure
- New shelter structure
- New entry feature / public art work / orientation area
- Picnic setting
- Seat
- Existing stone bench / seat
- Light pole
- Bubbler
- Existing bridge structure
- Existing stone steps
- Sandstone overhang
- New formal / decorative planting
- Large existing tree

CENTRAL HUB

Increased visitation will create a need for more facilities and to provide a focus for the visitors to the reserve. The existing Pavilion and proposed amenities can be expanded to link with the track network.

The Pavilion and New BBQ area

- Consideration should be given to moving the existing nursery site and reusing this level site for a new range of visitor facilities
- Consider extensions and improvements to the existing Pavilion for greater access by the public including possible extensions to the meeting room, and a wrap-around verandah on the north of the building to be a flexible indoor/outdoor space with disabled accessible toilets
- Consider bbq facilities behind the Pavilion
- Provide disabled accessible links to the facilities via the Bush Tucker track to the south and from the northern entry
- Consider a kiosk or café
- Existing plant sales could be provided close to the kiosk

New Nursery

The existing BBQ area has the potential to be a future site for the nursery. The site already has double gate access to the car park which can be re-instated for deliveries and rubbish collection and is a level and sunny area, with a path link to the facilities at the proposed central hub.

- Consider moving nursery propagation and growing activities to the site
- Provide green waste bins for removal and area for composting
- Include the nursery in future education programs
- Provide fencing to the new nursery

Garabara Pool Area

The pool area is used for events and has the potential for upgrading to maximise amenity.

- Consider upgrading shade structure close to the pool
- Enlarge the pool area and provide an improved edge for seating
- Continue to plant out the area

BOUNDARIES

The boundaries to Stony Range present challenges to the amenity and long term sustainability of the reserve and need to be carefully managed. Actions to protect the boundaries need to be ongoing and sustained to prevent weed encroachment, screen views to buildings, control stormwater flows and mitigation of traffic noise.

- Use buffer planting along all boundaries up to 20m and avoid the use of tracks within the buffer areas
- Enhance buffer planting along western boundary and consider extending solid fence to provide visual screening
- Consider a solid fence adjacent to the south western boundary to provide permanent screening. Screen planting can be used in addition to a fence
- Planted buffers should be considered in the light of safety and bush fire issues
- Manage water seepage along southern boundary through adequate retention
- Manage weeds on the eastern (residential) boundary through the use of sediment textile and managing overland flow

ENTRIES AND CIRCULATION

Northern Entry

The existing entry should be formalised to provide a more significant point of arrival for visitors to Stony Range

- Consider existing gates as a pedestrian entry with limited vehicle access for emergency and caretaker vehicles
- Create a more formal entry with paving (suitable for vehicle access for deliveries and maintenance) and wall elements close to the gate
- Create a disabled accessible footpath to the existing Pavilion
- Create formal planting beds which enhance the existing trees and plantings including the collection of staghorns
- Use signage and seating to enhance the entry and welcome visitors to the site
- Provide maps on signage for better information about Stony Range
- Provide bubbler and bike racks
- Provide new elements for containing leaflets

South-East Entry (Tango Avenue)

- Provide a new gate for separated emergency pedestrian access
- Use gate for vehicle access
- Provide a level area as a turning circle
- Provide an area for storage of landscape materials

South Western entry – (Officeworks car park)

- Retain entry for maintenance vehicles only

TRACK NETWORK

Develop a classification system according to AS 2156.1 Walking tracks: Part 1 for the paths and tracks at Stony Range.

- Ensure that the track network is rational and clear both for visitation and maintenance
- Avoid creating additional tracks that are too short and lack experiential value
- Ensure that tracks remain at least 20m from the boundary to maximise buffer areas to boundary

Class 1 Track - Disabled Accessible:

Maximise the opportunity for all-accessible access to plants and interpretation to further knowledge of Australian flora enhance the ethos of the botanic garden.

- Extend and re configure the Sensory Track to allow an extended all accessible experience and consider closing parts of tracks which are not accessible
- Extend and enhance the Bush Tucker track to maximise the all accessible experience and link with new and existing and proposed amenities

Path materials and construction:

- Incorporate kerbs on bridges for safety
- ensure that all tracks are 1200mm in width
- consider washed concrete finishes for the all accessible track
- allow for adequate provision of seating and picnic furniture on the all accessible tracks
- provide interpretive and directional signage

Class 2 and 3 Tracks:

The majority of tracks at Stony Range are of a range of materials and grades of steepness. Steps of various finishes have been incorporated. A consistency of materials and treatments should be considered to allow for ease of use and maintenance and to be consistent with the classification to provide 'Opportunity for large number of visitors to walk easily in natural environments'.

The main tracks under this classification are Middle and Upper Cascade Tracks, Bunya Pine Track, Flannel Flower Tracks which should be upgraded where necessary to achieve the Class 2 and 3 classification with the following characteristics:

- The paths are a mixture of decomposed granite, sand surfaces and compacted earth.
- Track width to 900mm or wider
- Improve path junctions
- Avoid small loop tracks which encourage off-track walking and destruction of vegetation
- Adopt a consistency of materials and details
- Provide handrails or barriers where necessary but avoid proliferation
- Consider removal of parallel track to Middle Cascade Track on northern side to reduce duplication
- Consider removal of parallel track to Upper Cascade Track on eastern boundary to allow adequate buffer planting along eastern boundary
- Improve the track and bridging elements across the Federation Cascade with adequate seating to enhance passive recreation

Path materials and construction:

- Consider removal of decomposed granite track sections
- Consider the phasing out of small repairs of the path network to avoid inconsistent use of materials and subsequent erosion
- Consider the use of stabilised and compacted crushed sandstone and granite for path surface and renew in whole sections as funding allows
- Reduce the need for visible edges to the path and blend with surrounding mulch and vegetation
- Carefully consider the incorporation of steps cut from the ground or constructed of stone as required. Follow the construction of the stone steps on the Bunya Pine track as best practice

SEATING

The provision of seating needs to be consistent across the site to allow appropriate rest places and enhance the experience of the site.

Sandstone seats

- The existing sandstone seats are an attraction at Stony Range and should be retained and repaired
- The path area and setting around seats should be improved. Consider using stone flagging where funds allow

Recycled plastic seats

- Remove timber seating that is dilapidated and non-functional
- Proposed recycled plastic seating should be located more consistently along the track network and used to create rest points and to improve gathering areas

LOOK OUT AREA

The tracks and surrounding vegetation of Stony Range offer an enclosed experience of the site. There are currently no look-out places from the site to enable a sense of site context.

- Consider a look out platform on the rocky outcrops at the Bunya Track steps to enhance the experience of the tree canopy
- Ensure the materials and construction of a look-out are discreet and in keeping with site character
- Provide seating and interpretation

WEED CONTROL

Weed management is managed by Council with support from volunteers. It is an important effort and should be continued.

- Assist volunteers with weed management via periodic maintenance contracts. Allow volunteers to continue their efforts in planting and weed control
- Carry out weed prevention measures as needed such as controlled burns
- Increase use of sedimentation cloth and weed prevention along boundaries
- Consider ongoing awareness program for neighbours in managing weed sources and appropriate garden planting
- Continue effort in planting buffer areas around all boundaries

STORMWATER AND DRAINAGE

Federation Cascades

The design and stonework of the Cascades is an integral part of the physical structure of Stony Range and a legacy of volunteer involvement at the site.

- Repair the stonework and constructed elements of the Cascades when required
- Ensure that recycled water is predominantly used in the operation of the Cascades
- Eliminate the need for potable water for the operation of the Cascades

On-site water storage and irrigation

- Investigate the stormwater capacity, the nature and location of flows from outside the site and potential for on-site water retention as part of a specialist report
- Create storage and retention areas on high side of site to capture seepage of water flowing from the playing fields on the high side of the site
- Consider retaining water in a landscaped pond as well as in tanks depending on capacity
- Consider a system upgrade for irrigation on site
- Consider on site sediment control as part of water retention

