

HAMILTON BOTANIC GARDENS

Hamilton Botanic Gardens is one of Victoria's oldest and most intact regional Botanic Gardens. Situated in the centre of Hamilton the gardens are one of a number designed by William Guilfoyle, the long-time director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens and one of Victoria's most celebrated 19th century garden designers. In 1881 Guilfoyle sent a plan for the Gardens to the Hamilton Town Clerk, with an accompanying letter briefly outlining the design, how it should be implemented and extensive planting lists. This plan and letter, with the exception of one page, still survives and is held by the Hamilton Art Gallery and has been used to guide the production of this Master Plan.

Today many of the major pathways follow the design intended by Guilfoyle, his lake has been constructed and a number of original plantings still exist, although it would appear that much of Guilfoyle's design was not implemented. On this basis, the Master Plan, where practical, continues to implement the work started in the 1880s, to realise more of William Guilfoyle's original vision. This includes modifying the existing pathways to reinstate Guilfoyle's sinuous curves and adding the "furbated" garden beds he intended at pathway intersections and entrances. To incorporate the existing minor pathways a new, curved circuit has been added has a similar, sympathetic character to the Guilfoyle design.

Existing shrub beds are expanded to create a better relationship between the mass and void, with beds being similar in character to the curved islands original intended by Guilfoyle. In some areas these new beds are along the Garden edges, as per the 1881 design, although it is noted that the open character of the Hamilton Botanic Gardens has become an integral part of the place and has therefore been preserved. Plant collections within the Gardens will be expanded, with consideration being given to current plant collections,

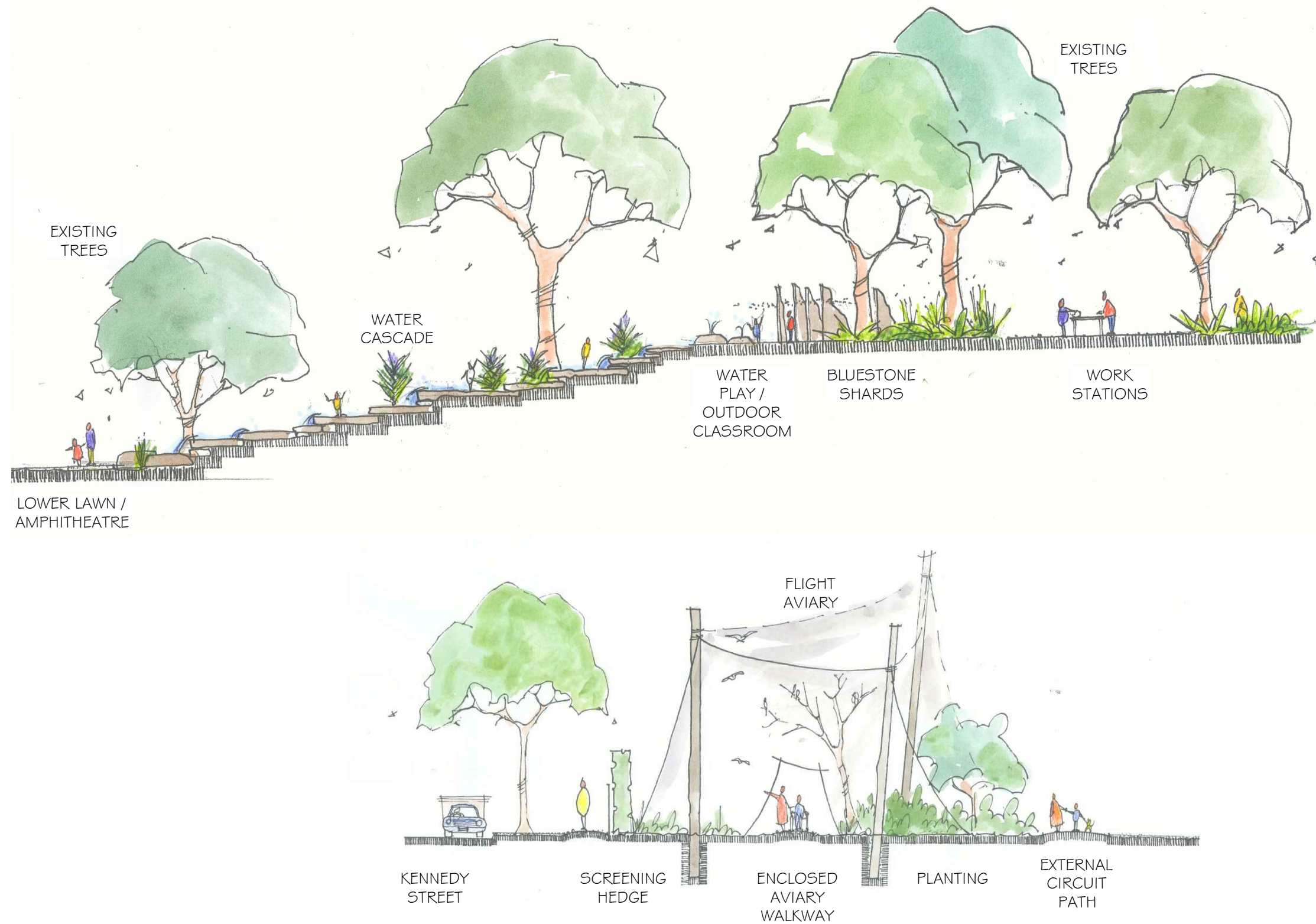
collections which are locally relevant and those recommended by William Guilfoyle. This includes a new parterre style Rose Garden in front of the Thompson Fountain. This garden will provide a better context for the fountain, improve the presentation of the French Street entrance, and implement Guilfoyle's specific recommendation for a rose garden in this area.

Hamilton Botanic Gardens has a long history of aviaries and animal keeping, although this postdates Guilfoyle's work and was never envisaged in his original design. In the past the presence of animals in Botanic Gardens was a reasonably common phenomenon, as the 19th century fashion for rare and exotic plants also extended to the collection of animals. Over time however the majority of the menageries have been removed due to changing fashions and animal welfare expectations. At this time only Hamilton is one of the very few which retain their animal enclosures, although they were once common across the state.

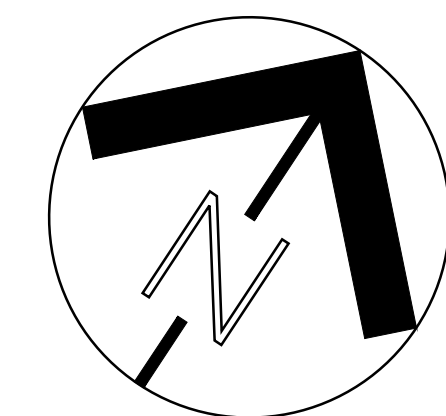
Current zoological facilities at the Hamilton Botanic Gardens are reaching the end of their life, and the former animal enclosure along the Martin Street frontage has been empty for some time. In line with changing public expectations it is proposed to remove all animal enclosures except for the flight aviary, which will be replaced with a new structure which can be open at all times and follows best practices in regards to animal welfare. The removal of the large animal enclosure and small aviaries, together with the ability to decrease the size of the depot area, provides the opportunity to create a new Community Precinct in the Martin and Kennedy Street corner of the gardens, revitalising this space and providing new community facilities including a new entrance, public toilet, nature based play area and an all abilities sensory garden and picnic area which will be developed to complement the Council's Positive Aging Strategy and Community Inclusion Plan.

NATURE BASED PLAY AND WATER CASCADE

SCALE 1:250



NEW FLIGHT AVIARY
SCALE 1:200



HAMILTON BOTANIC GARDENS

MASTER PLAN -

Scale 1:500 @ A1 / 1:1000 @ A3

