

Victorian Heritage Register

VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER NUMBER	H2337
NAME	ROYAL PARK
LOCATION	FLEMINGTON ROAD and ROYAL PARADE and GATEHOUSE STREET and THE AVENUE and ELLIOTT AVENUE and PARK STREET and POPLAR ROAD and MACARTHUR ROAD and OAK STREET and BRENS DRIVE PARKVILLE, Melbourne City
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	MELBOURNE CITY
CATEGORY	Heritage place
GAZETTAL DATES	GAZETTAL TYPE



Victorian Heritage Register Report

EXTENT: NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including Heritage Register Number H2337 in the category described as Heritage Place.

Royal Park
Parkville
Melbourne City

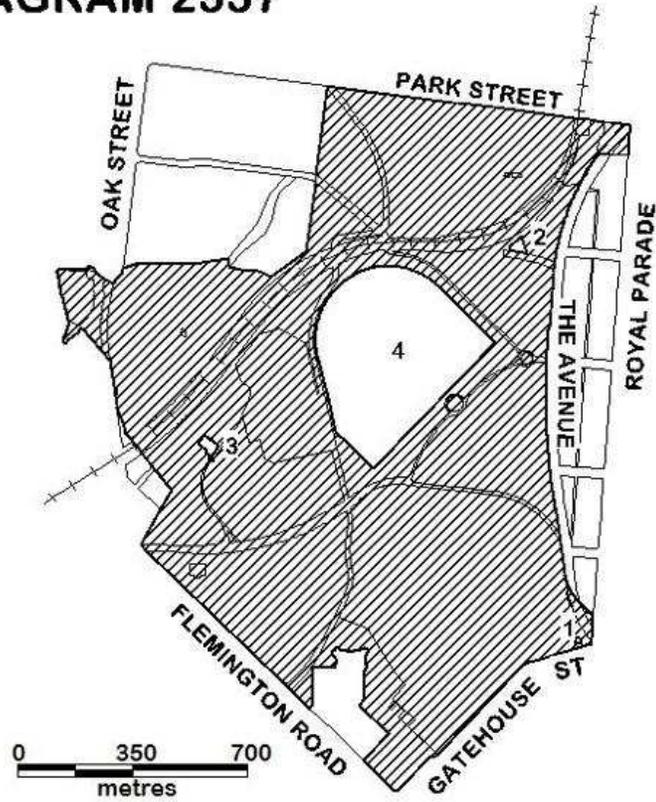
All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 2337 encompassing all of Crown Allotments 2019, 2020, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2144, 2250, 2274, 2327, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2354, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2563, 2564, all of Crown Allotment 9B of Section D, all of Crown Allotments 9 and 11 of Section 98, all of Crown Allotments 2A, 2B, 4A and 6D of Section 99A, Parish of Jika Jika, all of Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 427739, all of Lot 1 on Title Plan 865423, parts of Crown Allotments 2140, 2355, 2356, 2562, part of Crown Allotment 13 of Section 98, Parish of Jika Jika and parts of the road reserve for The Avenue and Oak Street, Parkville, but not the places already included in the Heritage Register and marked as follows on Diagram 2337:

- 1 Walmsley House (H1946)
- 2 Womens Sport Pavilion (H1585)
- 3 Anzac Hall (H1747)
- 4 Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens (H1074)

Dated 23 October 2014

TIM SMITH
Executive Director

DIAGRAM 2337



STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Royal Park is a large public park of 188 hectares established in 1854 in the northern part of the City of Melbourne. It contains a wide range of designed and informal landscapes incorporating remnant indigenous vegetation, together with historic buildings, structures and community facilities.

History Summary

Royal Park was an integral element in Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe's vision, from the mid-1840s, of Melbourne as a city surrounded by extensive public parklands, which were considered to be vital to the health and wellbeing of the inhabitants. The site was part of the large area of land north of the city reserved for public purposes in 1845, and La Trobe personally identified the boundaries of the future park on the day of his departure from the colony in 1854. By the time the park was gazetted in 1876 it had been reduced in size by residential development. The park has provided the site for various scientific endeavours, including the establishment of an Experimental Farm (1858) and as a reserve set aside for the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria (1861), part of which later became the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens. The park received national recognition as the starting point of Burke and Wills' expedition to the Gulf of Carpentaria in 1860, an event marked by a memorial cairn in 1890. Royal Park has been used for a range of military purposes from the late-nineteenth century: as the site for a government powder magazine, for displays and parades and as an important military camp during World Wars I and II. The Park has also been the site of various institutions for public health and welfare, including the Royal Children's Hospital. It has provided an open space for large public gatherings and civic functions as well as being an extensive public recreation ground. It has been a venue for various sporting competitions from the late 1850s, including cricket, football and golf, and is particularly associated with women's sport. Royal Park has been appreciated as a place of beauty since the arrival of European settlers, and this is evident in writings and artworks. Throughout its history there has been ongoing concern for its preservation, and despite various excisions the reserve has remained relatively unchanged in size since 1876. The retention and replanting of much indigenous vegetation is a feature of Royal Park and in 2010 the City of Melbourne won national recognition for its implementation of the 1984 Master Plan which helped preserve and develop the natural landscape so close to the city centre.

Description Summary

Royal Park is a 188ha park which is located close to the northern edge of Melbourne's city centre and forms part of the network of open parklands that characterise the city and inner suburbs. Royal Park is bordered by Park Street along the northern boundary, The Avenue along the eastern boundary, Gatehouse Street along the south-east boundary, Flemington Road along the south-western boundary (excluding the Royal Children's Hospital) and Southgate Street and Manningham Street along the western boundary (excluding the institutional complex in the north-west corner). The centre of the park accommodates the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens (VHR H1074).

Royal Park comprises large open spaces for passive and informal recreation, areas of native and indigenous vegetation including grassland, open woodland and wetland habitats, historic buildings and monuments, and areas for sporting activities, including ovals, buildings and other facilities.

Royal Park is part of the traditional land of the Kulin Nation.

How is it significant?

Royal Park is of historic and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criteria for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history

Criterion B Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history

Criterion E Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics

Why is it significant?

Royal Park is significant at the State level for the following reasons: Criterion A Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history

Royal Park is historically significant as an outstanding and largely intact example of the public parks set aside by Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe from the mid-1840s as part of his vision for the city of Melbourne. It retains its early use and demonstrates La Trobe's contribution to the provision of public open space in the colony and also the vision of the colonial administration for the future development of Melbourne. Largely as a result of La Trobe's vision Melbourne now has a group of spectacular parks.

Royal Park is historically significant as the site of scientific institutions important to the development of the colony, including an Experimental Farm (1858) and the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria (1861), part of which later became the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens (VHR H1074) on the site. Many trees on the site were planted by the Acclimatisation Society between c1862 and 1900. Royal Park is historically significant as the starting point of Burke and Wills' ill-fated expedition to the Gulf of Carpentaria (1860), an event which gained national recognition and was depicted by prominent Australian artists, including William Strutt and Nicholas Chevalier. Royal Park is historically significant for its use for military purposes since the 1860s. It was the site of a major Australian military camp and training ground during the First World War, was used for the mobilisation of Anzacs to the Western Front, and was a camp for both Australian and US troops during the Second World War prior to their deployment to Pacific War campaigns (1941-45). Royal Park is historically significant for its long association with sport in Victoria. It is the site of one of the earliest public golf courses in Victoria (1903), of Australia's first dedicated baseball field (Ross Straw Field c1970) and from the early 1900s has played an important role in the advancement of women's competitive sport in Australia.

Criterion B Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history

Royal Park is rare as the most outstanding and intact example of the metropolitan parks aside from the 1840s for the people of Victoria, which retains its basic form, its early use, remnant indigenous vegetation and important views to the city. It is the only example of an inner Melbourne park which retains stands, as opposed to specimens, of remnant indigenous vegetation and clearly demonstrates an ongoing dedication to planting native and indigenous trees over a period of more than 150 years.

Criterion E Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics

Royal Park is aesthetically significant as an outstanding example of a large metropolitan park, particularly notable for its remnant indigenous vegetation and important views to the city. It is the only example of an inner Melbourne park which

retains stands of remnant indigenous vegetation and clearly demonstrates an ongoing dedication to planting native and indigenous plants over a period of 150 years. The Park landscape provides significant internal and external vistas, including the native grassland 'hilltop' circle where a 360-degree panorama provides a dramatic and sensory appreciation of the city skyline and surrounding landscape. An appreciation of the aesthetic value of the park is evident in the numerous contemporary descriptions of the place from the nineteenth century onwards, and in the numerous paintings, sketches and photographs of the Royal Park landscape. The most recent layer of development associated with the 1984 Master Plan is significant for its design philosophy and natural landscape aesthetic. In 2010, the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects awarded the City of Melbourne the "ALIA national award for sustainable settlement, green infrastructure and landscape principles" for "its stewardship of Royal Park as a nationally significant landscape".

Royal Park is also significant for the following reasons, but not a State level:

Royal Park is of historical significance at a local level for its long history of recreational use, including the early establishment of the Brunswick Cricket Club in 1858 and its early use for Australian Rules football (by 1865). It is historically significant at a local level for its use as Emergency Public Housing by the Housing Commission of Victoria (1947-56) on the site of Camp Pell following the withdrawal of army troops.

Royal Park is significant at a local level for its association with Victorians who have played leading roles in its development: early trustees such as Ferdinand Mueller and William Davidson; the Town Clerk of Melbourne E G Fitzgibbon, who opposed nineteenth century attempts to alienate the parkland; the landscape architect Grace Fraser, designer of the Australian Native Garden; and with the City of Melbourne Councillors Elliott, H.G. Smith, William J. Brens, and Colin C. McDonald (who was also an Australian Test cricketer). It is also associated with prominent sports people including Julius Lockington 'Judy' Patching (athletics) and prominent Australian baseball figure Ross Straw.

Royal Park is of social significance at a local level for its continuing use by community sporting groups across Melbourne and Victoria.

PERMIT POLICY:

PERMIT POLICY

Preamble

The purpose of the Permit Policy is to assist when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

The extent of registration of Royal Park on the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2337 including the land, all buildings, roads, trees, landscape elements and other features. Under the *Heritage Act 1995* a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a permit exemption is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42 of the *Heritage Act*) or after registration (under s.66 of the *Heritage Act*).

It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Cultural heritage management plans and master plans
The key management documents for Royal Park are:

- . City of Melbourne, Royal Park Master Plan, 1997.
- . Andrew Long and Associates, *Royal Park, Parkville, An Aboriginal Archaeological and Historical Heritage Study* (2002).
- . SERCO, *Royal Park Native Vegetation Management Plan* (2007)
- . ALM, *Australian Native Garden - Vegetation Management Plan* (2001)
- . SERCO, *Royal Park Vegetation Zones Plan* (2013)
- . City of Melbourne, *Tree Retention and Removal Policy* (2012)

Elements of no heritage significance

The State Netball and Hockey Centre building is of no cultural heritage significance. Specific permit exemptions are provided.

Archaeological

Ground disturbance, except for those activities specifically exempted, may affect the archaeological significance of the place and require a permit or permit exemption issued in accord with s.66(3) of the Heritage Act. If during any exempted works archaeological deposits are discovered, all works in the vicinity should stop and this office notified of the discovery.

PERMIT EXEMPTIONS:

PERMIT EXEMPTIONS (under section 42 of the Heritage Act)

Landscape exemptions

*The process of gardening, including mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead shrubs, disease and weed control, and maintenance to care for existing plants.

*The removal of dead or dangerous trees and emergency tree works to maintain safety. If the tree is identified as either remnant indigenous vegetation or part of the first wave of tree planting associated with the acclimatisation period c1860-1900 in Map B of Christine Dyson 'Cultural and Historic Significance of Royal Park', Prepared for the City of Melbourne, September 2013 (see below), the Executive Director must be notified of these removals within 21 days of them being undertaken.

*Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373-1996.

* Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Protection of Trees on Development Sites AS 4970-2009.

*Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering and drainage systems or services outside the canopy edge of significant trees in accordance with AS4970 provided that works do not impact on archaeological features or deposits.

*Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act* 1994.

*Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.

* New plantings in accordance with:

- o City of Melbourne, Royal Park Master Plan, 1997
- o SERCO, Royal Park Native Vegetation Management Plan (2007)
- o ALM, Australian Native Garden - Vegetation Management Plan (2001)
- o SERCO, Royal Park Vegetation Zones Plan (2013)

*All works associated with water harvesting and storage outside the canopy edge provided that archaeological features and deposits are not impacted.

*Repairs and maintenance to all hard landscape elements, fences, gates and lighting (excluding memorials and historic signage).

*The installation of Royal Park specific and standard City of Melbourne furniture, including rubbish and recycling bins, park seats, picnic tables, park and interpretative signage, drinking fountains, pathway park lights, park fencing and safety barriers outside of tree protection zones and not within 5 metres of historic monuments, statues and signage.

Road, carpark and public transport infrastructure exemptions (excluding works and activities associated with East West Link):

*All works associated with operating and maintaining the existing road and public transport infrastructure including:

- o All carparks, signs, fire hydrants, parking meters, seating, shelters, speed humps, pedestrian refuges and splitter islands, footpaths, tramlines, railway tracks, kerbs and channels.
- o Royal Park train station building and platforms.

Sports facility exemptions:

*In areas designated for sport in the 1997 Royal Park Master Plan, maintenance and repair of existing facilities and the addition of minor structures related to sports activity or safety, for example resurfacing playing surfaces, fencing and cricket nets.

*All interior and exterior works to the State Netball and Hockey Centre complex.

Building exemptions:

*All internal works

*External repairs and maintenance that replaces like with like.

Event exemptions:

*Any event under 5 days in duration which has received an event permit from the relevant event approvals body.

East West Link Project exemptions:

Works and activities comprising or relating to the East West Link (Eastern Section) Project (the Project) that are authorised by the approval decision made by the Minister for Planning under section 77 of the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009*, being the following works and activities:

Southern Sector (between The Avenue and Elliott Avenue)

*The construction of an underground (bored) tunnel from the northern side of Elliott Avenue to The Avenue.

Western Sector (between Elliott Avenue and the Upfield Railway Line)

*The construction of a tunnel using a combination of cut and cover and bored tunnel construction methods from Elliott Avenue to the tunnel portal immediately north of the Upfield Railway Line, including assembly of the tunnel boring machine, removal of vegetation, excavation works and the construction of temporary car parking and lay-over areas.

*The construction of a tunnel ventilation stack approximately 20 metres high in oval plan form approximately 45 metres to the south of the Upfield Railway Line. The treatment of the ventilation stack is to be finalised in consultation with the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria.

*Reinstatement works including landscaping, pedestrian and bicycle paths, the construction of new sporting fields, the construction of associated sporting pavilions, and the installation of associated lighting, fencing and the like. The design of new sporting pavilions is to be finalised in consultation with the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria.

Works associated with the laying of concrete or asphalt, kerb and channel construction and drainage construction associated with permanent car parks fall outside the scope of these exemptions.

Western Sector (north of the Upfield Railway Line, including Ross Straw Field)

*Construction of a tunnel portal west of the Upfield Railway Line, excavation of the embankment and grade separation of the Upfield Railway Line.

*Excavation works, removal of trees, vegetation and topsoil.

*Construction of temporary and permanent surface road works and elevated road structures including ramps from the tunnel portal toward CityLink and other parts of the arterial road network, in both southerly and northerly directions.

*Construction compound works and activities including erection of buildings, sheds, tanks and workshops, storage and warehousing, site office and amenities, installation of services and utilities including temporary electric switch-station and sub-station, construction of access roads and parking, noise attenuation, removal of wetlands and widespread surface impacts.

*Underground water storage and water treatment works.

*Reinstatement and rehabilitation works including construction of expanded wetlands, new landscaped areas including active play space and education centre, construction of permanent car parking and shared use paths, relocation of services and utilities and reinstatement of the White Skink habitat area.

*Construction of temporary and permanent pedestrian bridges over the Upfield Railway Line.

All exempted East West Link Project Works are to be undertaken in accordance with the Approval Decision made by the Minister for Planning under section 77 of the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009*, including the variations granted pursuant to s.90 of that Act as at the date of this determination.

Return to Royal Park Project exemptions:

*Works already approved for the 'Return to Royal Park' project. This project will see parkland reinstated on the site of the old Royal Children's Hospital (see approved scheme following).

The City of Melbourne and Department of Health are working together on the Return to Royal Park project, which will see parkland reinstated on the site of the old Royal Children's Hospital. The park will be established on the corner of Gatehouse Street and Flemington Road in Parkville, providing a new entrance to Royal Park. The goal is to create a native park which complements the existing vegetation and landscape character of Royal Park.

For more information see www.returntoroyalpark.com.au

Exception

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

Additional requirement

All works should be consistent with (as relevant):

*City of Melbourne, Royal Park Master Plan, 1997

*Andrew Long and Associates, *Royal Park, Parkville, An Aboriginal Archaeological and Historical Heritage Study* (2002)

*SERCO, *Royal Park Native Vegetation Management Plan* (2007)

* ALM, *Australian Native Garden - Vegetation Management Plan* (2001)

*SERCO, *Royal Park Vegetation Zones Plan* (2013)

*City of Melbourne, *Tree Retention and Removal Policy* (2012).

Continued application of planning and building requirements

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.