



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**



Bold Park

Management Plan 2022–2027





Aerial view of Bold Park looking towards Perth City.



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the Whadjuk Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the land we call Bold Park. We seek to learn from Whadjuk culture and knowledge and to conserve and celebrate traditional and contemporary connections to Bold Park.

Bold Park is a significant place to Whadjuk Noongar people. The Park is a Registered Aboriginal Site (Site 20178) and the listing for the site recognises associations as being historical, mythological, a location for camps, a hunting place, a place for plant resources and a lookout point.

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 Bold Park Management Plan 2022–2027. This document is available from the BGPA website www.bgpa.wa.gov.au.

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 Bold Park.

More information

For further information regarding Bold Park 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.

© Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority 2022.

The Bold Park Management Plan 2022–2027 is copyright. It may be reproduced provided the source is acknowledged. All photographs within have been used with permission and remain the property of BGPA or the contributors.

Cover photo - Visitor looking out from Reabold Hill scenic lookout. Photo – Jason Thomas/BGPA

Back page photo – Friends of Bold Park Bushland leading a tour. Photo – Jason Thomas/BGPA

Contents

At a glance	7
Bold Park: a sanctuary by the sea	9
Governance	10
Planning framework and policies	11
BGPA strategic priorities	13
Looking back: key achievements from the 2016–2021 management plan	15
Looking forward: issues and trends shaping this management plan	18
Planned activities 2022-2027	21
1. Community engagement and participation	22
2. Visitor experiences	24
3. Science and environmental conservation	26
4. Amenity and infrastructure	28



Bold Park provides a welcoming community space. Photo - Ali Brooks



Variegated fairy wren (*Malurus lamberti*). Photo - Friends of Bold Park Bushland

At a glance

Priority initiatives include deepening our understanding about the Park's Aboriginal cultural heritage, furthering efforts on ecological conservation and bushland restoration and responding to the challenges of our changing climate.

The Bold Park Management Plan 2022–2027 (the Plan) outlines activities and initiatives that the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) plans for Bold Park to progress strategic priorities consistent with statutory functions. BGPA interprets its functions through a 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.

This plan outlines policies and frameworks for park management and details initiatives to be actioned during 2022–2027 under four management categories: Community engagement and participation, Visitor experiences, Science and environmental conservation, and Amenity and infrastructure. Where appropriate, key management initiatives mirror those in the Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan 2021-2026 but are described in a Bold Park context. In preparing the Plan, BGPA considered significant issues and trends in our operating environment, government policy and community and stakeholder input.

Bold Park is a popular location for bushland immersion, as one of the largest remaining bushland remnants in the urban area of the Swan Coastal Plain and a site of cultural and ecological significance.

Connection with the natural environment creates a multitude of benefits for community wellbeing. The Plan includes the intent to expand the provision of engaging and innovative nature-based and authentic cultural experiences that provide information and facilitate understanding about the Park's rich culture and unique biodiversity.

Bold Park's unique attributes and location also make it an important community asset for recreation and tourism. In considering such opportunities, the Plan includes a focus on amenity, facilities and services that celebrate the natural and cultural values of the Park and deliver authentically Western Australian visitor experiences. The provision of facilities will enhance community satisfaction while conserving ecological communities.

Through the listed initiatives, BGPA aims to make a positive difference for the environment and for park users in partnership with the community, not-for-profit organisations and commercial operators. Partnerships will focus on accessible healthy spaces, social inclusion and connecting visitors to nature, culture and a shared sense of identity. Partnerships will aim to involve and educate visitors in the conservation of our unique biodiversity and culture.



History and continuing legacy

Whadjuk Noongar people are the custodians of timeless cultural knowledge and history at this location. Bold Park, and its surrounds, including Perry Lakes and the Indian Ocean provide plants, animals and resources for food, shelter, clothing, medicine and implements. Indigenous people camped in the area up until the 1960s.

There are a number of sites in the Park holding colonial and contemporary historical significance. For example, Camel Lake was a quarantine site for imported camels

required during the years of the gold-rush. Quarrying and lime burning works on the land from 1839 are now hidden by bush in the hillside near Perry House. A fig tree planted within the Park still stands as a symbol for when Aboriginal people who inhabited the area were forced to find new campsites around Bold Park.

Bold Park was established as a place 'for the people of Perth' by the Perth City Council in 1936. It was named after William E. Bold, who was the longest serving Town Clerk for the City of Perth (serving 1900 to 1944).

35 years of community engagement and participation

1983: The Environmental Protection Authority recommended Bold Park and adjacent bushland be preserved because of its high conservation, recreation and education value.

1987: The Friends of Bold Park Bushland Inc. was formed as a community group committed to protecting Bold Park. They played a key role in securing Bold Park as an A class reserve.

1998: Bold Park was formally handed over to the State Government for management.

2000: The inaugural Bold Park Environmental Management Plan 2000-2005 was released by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

2001: Camel Lake Heritage Trail officially launched as a joint project with Birds Australia, Wildflower Society, Friends of Bold Park Bushland and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

2004: The Western Australian Ecology Centre was officially opened.

2005: The Reabold Hill Boardwalk and Lookout was completed with a raised entry statement, boardwalk, new lookout and interpretive signage.

2006: The Bold Park Management Plan for 2006-2011 was released by the Minister for the Environment; Racing and Gaming, Hon Mark McGowan.

2010: The Friends of Bold Park Bushland Guides were established, and the first guided walks commenced.

2011: The Bold Park Management Plan 2011 – 2016 was approved and endorsed by the Minister for Environment; Water, Hon Bill Marmion MLC.

2014: Decadal flora survey was revisited in 2014 providing a snapshot of the bushland, showing changes since 2004 and informing the management of biodiversity.

2016: The Bold Park Management Plan 2016 – 2021 was approved and endorsed by the Minister for Environment; Heritage, Hon Albert Jacob.

2016: The first research fire is implemented in Bold Park as part of a Fire Ecology Restoration Project.

2022: The Bold Park Management Plan 2022 – 2027 was approved by the Minister for Environment; Climate Action, Hon Reece Whitby MLA.



Bold Park is an urban bushland environment for all ages. Photo - Ben Nuske/BGPA

Bold Park: a sanctuary by the sea

Whadjuk Noongar people have lived in the Bold Park area for tens of thousands of years. The area has provided plants, animals and resources for food, shelter, clothing, medicine and implements.

Bold Park remains a significant urban bushland remnant. The Park hosts five ecological communities listed as Priority 3 by the State (two of which are also listed as threatened ecological communities under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*). Bold Park is a Bush Forever site and a designated A-class reserve for its high conservation, landscape and recreation values and vested with the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for management.

The Park has experienced a steady increase in visitation over 20 years and now averages around 330,000 visitors annually, with a noticeable increase during the COVID-19 pandemic. A noticeable increase in visitation reflects the growing value of Bold Park as a destination for unique experiences.

The conservation, research and educational value of Bold Park is high due to its coastal location and the diverse range of flora, fauna and fungi that occurs in the Park. The Park provides valuable linkages to remnant vegetation surrounding Campbell Barracks to the south-west; Perry Lakes, Wembley Golf Course and Herdsman Lake to the north; Shenton Bushland, Underwood Avenue Bushland and Kings Park to the east; and Cottesloe Golf Course and Lake Claremont to the south.

The Park's mosaic of native plant communities supports a rich diversity of life. Fungi, insects and plants provide the basis of a complex food chain involving amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

During the period of management by BGPA, there have been significant infrastructure enhancements such as the construction of the Western Australian Ecology Centre in 2004, Reabold Hill entry statement, boardwalk and lookout in 2005 and the upgrade of carpark infrastructure.

Visitor services have been enhanced through the development of the Camel Lake Heritage Trail in 2001, the introduction of guided walks by Friends of Bold Park Bushland Guides in July 2010 and a growth in activations by community groups, recreation clubs and educational institutions.

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 enables 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 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 Bold Park. This management plan is due to expire on 1 May 2027.

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.



Carousel spider orchid (*Caladenia arenicola*). Photo - BGPA

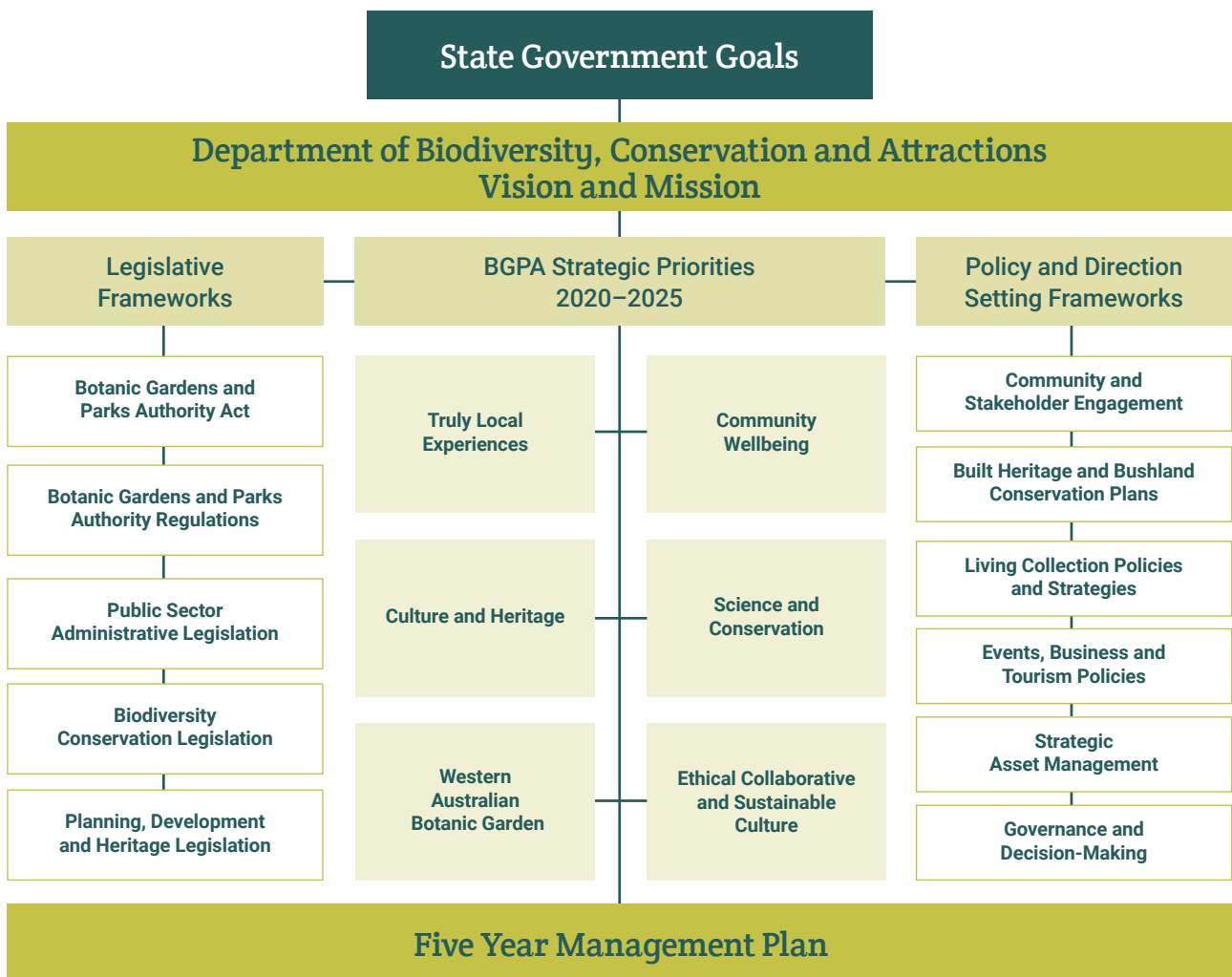


Bold Park offers many trails for an immersive bushland experience. Photo - Jason Thomas/BGPA

Planning framework and policies

Planning framework

Several plans and documents guide the operational management of Bold Park. The diagram below provides an overview of our planning framework and key documents that inform the Plan.



Policies applied in the management of Bold Park

The following information provides an overview of the main plans and policies applied in the management of Bold Park. 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 an idea or proposal from a proponent for a new major event, infrastructure, business, product placement or a significant activation. Proposals and ideas are considered on their merits and in terms of the net public benefit they can generate. The policy ensures the values of the Park are preserved and decisions on businesses and events in BGPA designated lands enhance the services, accessibility and sustainability of the Park.

Memorials Policy

BGPA manages lands with a significant number of important memorials, such as the State War Memorial at Kings Park and Botanic Garden. The Memorials Policy describes the Board's decision-making parameters for possible future memorials on BGPA designated lands and outlines the requirements and application process for proponents.

Gifts, Donations and Bequests Policy

BGPA recognises the cultural, historical, social and environmental significance of Kings Park and Bold Park to individuals, families, groups, organisations and communities within Western Australia. 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.

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.



Waroona cuckoo bee (*Thyreus waroonensis*) on *Ptilotus* sp. Photo - Alison McCristell/BGPA

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 Bold Park and Kings Park and Botanic Garden 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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the Western Australian 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

BGPA is regarded internationally for scientific and horticultural excellence and has received accolades nationally for its education programs and contributions to tourism. Bold Park and Kings Park both enjoy excellent visitor satisfaction ratings.

As a Western Australian Public Authority, BGPA operates in accordance with public sector governance and accountability requirements and is frequently 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.

The BGPA will monitor key management initiatives to support the achievement of priorities and goals outlined in the management plan. BGPA will have a strong focus on:

- maintaining a diverse, knowledgeable, professional and engaged workforce through ongoing professional development, excellent customer service, inclusive attitudes and ethical behaviours
- systems and processes that 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
- improvement on the ecological integrity of Bold Park with metrics on restoration activities and vegetation condition
- enhancing inclusive experiences and creating a welcoming environment acknowledging and reflecting the diversity of the Western Australian community
- building upon community participation and stakeholder engagement opportunities
- visitor satisfaction, accessibility, safety and diversity of experiences within the Park.



Volunteer at work in Bold Park. Photo - Ben Nuske/BGPA



BGPA bushland staff conducting surveying in Bold Park. Photo - BGPA

Looking back: key achievements from the 2016-2021 management plan

BGPA continues its focus on delivering local experiences, promoting culture, furthering bushland restoration efforts and maintaining and improving facilities at Bold Park. Some of the key achievements from the previous Bold Park Management Plan are outlined below.

Acknowledgement of Noongar connection to the land

BGPA recognises Bold Park as a significant place for the Whadjuk Noongar people.

In a continuation of BGPA's commitment to respecting the culture and history of traditional custodians, Aboriginal Cultural Protocols were developed in 2016 for use at all BGPA events.

Indigenous material was incorporated into Bold Park brochures and Noongar six seasons interpretive panels were added to main entry signs. Indigenous cultural information along with Bold Park content was included in the Bidi Bo Djinoong regional walk trail signage and a brochure produced by the Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils.

Ecological monitoring

A comparison of native plant species abundance between 1998 (when management responsibility was transferred to BGPA) and 2014 (after 16 years of ecological restoration activity) was undertaken, showing that native cover and native species richness had significantly increased. At the species level, a third of native species increased in abundance and less than 10 percent declined.

Survey outcomes in 2016 included the identification of a new species in the Park (*Austrostipa mundula*, a native grass of conservation significance) and improved understanding of fungi diversity.

A long-term passive fauna monitoring program was implemented in 2019 using static motion detecting cameras. The array of cameras collected fauna activity across 11 locations in the Park, informing BGPA's understanding of medium sized, ground foraging fauna populations.

Ground vertebrate monitoring by external researchers is ongoing. A 2019/20 survey report stated the capture rate of the entire reptile assemblage continued to rise and was the highest recorded over the last 20 years, while the amphibian capture rate was again the highest ever recorded.

Restoration activities in priority precincts

Restoration works continued to be a focus with planting and weed control conducted in key restoration sites including Reabold Hill, Oceanic, Mt Claremont and Eastern Gateway precincts across the five-year period, and more than 60,000 plants averaging 40 native species per year were planted. Further work was undertaken on the propagation and establishment of Bold Park vulnerable species, with eight species incorporated into horticultural plantings to encourage establishment and provide future restoration material. Veld grass control was undertaken over 282 hectares with a focus on the 2000 and 2012 fire sites. Highly invasive species remained a priority for control with historical sites revisited to confirm control success and trials undertaken on physical removal of Black flag in highly disturbed sites.

Fire ecology research

April 2016 saw the implementation of fire treatment at the fire ecology research site in Bold Park. This project focuses on the impact of different fire and weed management activities on the persistence of native plant species in Kings Park and Bold Park. It also examines the effect of weed management on fuel loads and fire risk, and the effect of fire management on weed cover. The study involves application of a combination of weed management and fire (fuel) management techniques in bushland adjacent to Rochdale and Wollaston Roads and implementation was a collaboration between BGPA, Department of Parks and Wildlife (now Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) and Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Since the fire, BGPA scientists have been tracking changes in the ecosystem as a result of the fire and subsequent management treatments.

Successful volunteer partnerships

BGPA continued to welcome the support of Friends of Bold Park Bushland through their on-ground and other activities. Engagement with Friends of Bold Park Bushland assisted in increasing volunteer numbers and provided on-ground outcomes, including planting days, weeding, seed collection and rubbish collection.

In October 2017 Friends of Bold Park Bushland celebrated an important milestone through a 30th Anniversary Open Day with the support of BGPA.

Engagement also continued with Kings Park Volunteer Guides, Volunteer Master Gardeners and Friends of Kings Park Bushland Carers with a number of joint events held to encourage collaboration and involvement in Bold Park. A closer collaboration in developing the annual calendar for bushcare activities was undertaken enabling the resourcing of activities and encouraging the engagement of new participants.

Other works included the continuation of restoration in the Eastern Gateway precinct through a Community Action Grant with BirdLife WA and Friends of Bold Park Bushland. This funding targeted restoration of Carnaby's cockatoo habitat in the banksia woodland community.

Rochdale Road carpark construction

To improve visitor safety and access for fire management a revision was made to the Bold Park entry at the former Turf Farm. A new carpark was designed to provide safe access, shifting the entry further from the West Coast Highway intersection that was designed and constructed on the cleared verge of Rochdale Road in consultation with relevant authorities. Both the carpark and access upgrade were completed in June 2018 and signage installed in late 2018.








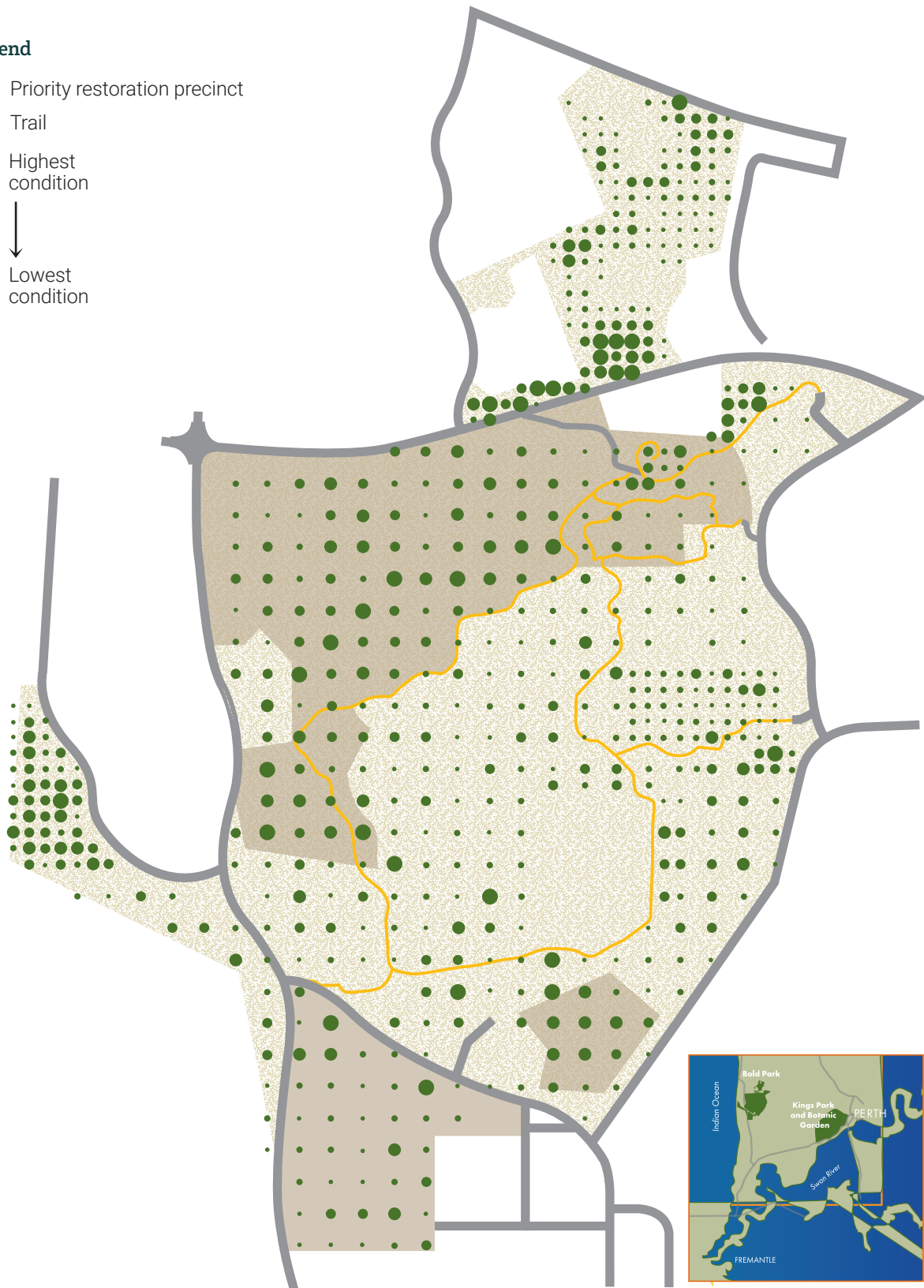
Interpretative signage at a popular walking trail. Photo - BGPA

Bushland condition

Regular assessment of Bold Park bushland using the Keighery Vegetation Condition Scale will be initiated in 2022 to track changes in bushland condition over time. The following map, generated from existing floristic monitoring data collected by BGPA during 2014 and overlaid on Restoration Precincts, serves as an interim bushland condition map for Bold Park. For the purpose of the map below, condition was determined using the ratio of native to weed plant cover and species richness.

Legend

-  Priority restoration precinct
-  Trail
-  Highest condition
-  ↓
-  Lowest condition





Striated pardalotes (*Pardalotus striatus*) are common in Bold Park. Photo - Friends of Bold Park Bushland

Looking forward: issues and trends shaping this management plan

Bold Park supports a diverse range of functions and activities, with unique opportunities and challenges. Some of the significant trends and influences that have informed this management plan are outlined below.

A shared sense of place

Bold Park's rich Aboriginal cultural significance is less understood compared to other metropolitan locations, but the Park is appreciated for its uniqueness and importance. Increasingly, Western Australians appreciate the importance of Aboriginal culture to our shared sense of place and identity. People are motivated to learn and engage with this aspect of our identity. Improving the community's understanding of Bold Park through the lens of Whadjuk Noongar knowledge holders will help to build a deeper sense of connection for the whole community. BGPA will work to support social inclusion, respect and understanding of Whadjuk Noongar culture and knowledge of these lands while continuing to reflect the colonial and contemporary history of Bold Park.

Population growth, urban infill and recreation pressure

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 Melbourne and Sydney. Perth is growing and maturing as a modern capital city with a network of inner urban villages. This change can be seen in the Bold Park neighbourhood with infill projects completed in the old Perry Lakes athletics stadium and in neighbouring suburbs. Natural spaces like Bold Park become increasingly precious to residents living and working in higher density areas and Bold Park's value as a place of recreation, as well as an urban sanctuary, is expected to increase over time.

Infill and population growth are changing the demographic profile of the community and the way locals and other visitors will seek to use Bold Park. Catering for increased visitation and responding to diverse recreational interests while preserving core heritage and nature conservation values will be key factors in responding appropriately to community needs. 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 a disability.

Bold Park also has a role to play in promoting and influencing community behaviours towards more healthy and sustainable practices. This includes more sustainable modes of travel, community engagement in conservation practices, encouraging citizen science as well promoting native horticulture in domestic gardens and the role of the community in preserving, maintaining and increasing the urban tree canopy for habitat and to mitigate urban heat island effects.

Environmental challenges in Bold Park and beyond

Bold Park supports the following ecological communities: Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain, Tuart woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain, Northern Spearwood shrublands and woodlands, Acacia shrublands on taller dunes (southern Swan Coastal Plain), and Southern Swan Coastal Plain tuart – *Agonis flexuosa* woodlands (the first two also being listed as threatened ecological communities under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*). The listings reflect the pressure these ecological communities are under from land clearance, weed invasion, altered fire regimes and disease and highlights the importance of conserving these remnant bushland areas. Threats are compounded by climate change and other environmental pressures such as reduced winter rainfall, higher temperatures and more frequent severe weather events. Community concern about these issues and desire for environmental action and education are a notable trend that the management of Bold Park can respond to. Many people are seeking information and advice on how they can play their part in addressing environmental challenges and want to engage actively in conservation activities. Productive relationships with community groups that are based at or use Bold Park are key to our efforts in this area.

The experience economy

Capitalising on tourism is a priority for the Western Australian economy. Bold Park can play a valuable role in showcasing our unique biodiversity and cultural heritage and in hosting authentic and inspiring experiences for visitors. Conserving and enhancing the value of Bold Park as a tourist attraction requires a focus on accessibility, presentation, interpretation and amenity. That focus also provides an opportunity to reveal and amplify the Aboriginal cultural narratives of the park through signage and storytelling in partnership with Aboriginal businesses and knowledge holders. Such experiences are in high demand and responses to that demand will need to cater to a broad range of visitor and community interests.

Using the virtual to enhance the physical experience of Bold Park

In an increasingly connected world, the internet, mobile devices and 'apps' might be seen as a competitor to a nature experience. While opportunities to 'unplug' in the Park will be promoted, the innovative use of new technology will be applied to maximise the reach and

accessibility of Bold 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.

Back to nature for physical and mental health

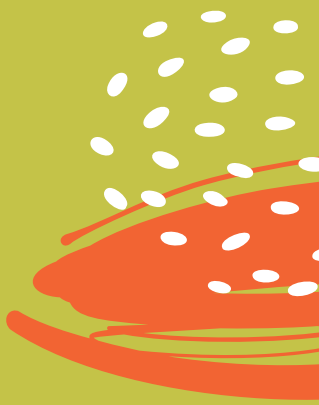
Evidence shows that access to quality natural spaces improves physical and mental health and wellbeing, can contribute to a reduction in levels of obesity, increases longevity and makes people feel healthier. Providing safe and welcoming community spaces and amenity that supports community wellbeing outcomes through appropriate forms of recreation is an important driver for the management of Bold Park, particularly as the population ages and becomes more culturally diverse. In addition to recreation, volunteering, learning and other community engagement activities are significant activities for promoting wellbeing as the community strives to address social isolation and mental health challenges.



Bold Park provides a location for exercise. Photo - Annalisa Merino



Friends of Bold Park Bushland volunteer. Photo - Jason Thomas/BGPA



Planned activities

2022-2027



Friends of Bold Park Bushland lead many walking tours for visitors. Photo - Jason Thomas/BGPA



A school group attending a Bold Park program from Kings Park Education and Learning. Photo - BGPA

1. Community engagement and participation

Planning context

Community participation is essential to ensuring Bold Park remains inclusive and well supported. Strengthening our relationships and engagement with traditional custodians, key stakeholders and the broader community is a priority under the Plan.

Bold Park can play 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. This may include the provision of translated materials along with access to interpreting services.

Central to that priority is ensuring BGPA demonstrates respect for the rights, responsibilities, knowledge and aspirations of Aboriginal people through meaningful engagement and partnerships. This partnering philosophy will be extended to all community stakeholders.

Community consultation undertaken to inform the plan highlighted community appreciation for the Park as a protected natural area, valued for recreation and conservation. Consultation also showed a value for its cultural history and a desire to learn about it, in particular its Whadjuk Noongar heritage.

Our intended focus

Management initiatives in this category build on the high level of community stewardship for Bold Park, including from volunteers and community organisations. There has been limited formal engagement with the traditional owners and there is an increasing recognition that we need to improve our understanding of the cultural history and connection to Bold Park through meaningful involvement. BGPA will actively collaborate with the community and pursue productive partnerships with the not-for-profit and the community sectors, local government, education institutions and businesses. 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 to promote health and wellbeing
- reinforcing and nurturing the interest and enthusiasm of children and young people to engage with cultural heritage and participate in environmental conservation, through formal BGPA education programs.



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 as it relates to the management of Bold Park.		✓	✓	✓	
1.2 Enhance recognition of Noongar culture, heritage and connection through increased engagement and further Noongar naming of park features.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.3 Maintain, enhance and develop relationships with not-for-profit and community organisations to facilitate the continuing conservation, presentation and celebration of the natural and cultural values of Bold Park and biodiversity conservation values more generally.		✓	✓	✓	
1.4 Foster and enhance relationships with the Western Australian business community and local governments to provide support for recreation and tourism outcomes, programs, events and the continuing conservation, presentation and celebration of the natural and cultural values of Bold Park.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.5 Increase opportunities for meaningful volunteering that foster a culture of stewardship within our community, including citizen science, conservation, and park maintenance.		✓	✓	✓	
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 Bold 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"> • bushland restoration and conservation practices • Aboriginal cultural heritage and knowledge • health and wellbeing. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	
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 training to other land managers and allied organisations to promote best practice in bushland restoration.				✓	
1.10 Promote Bold Park as a smoke-free area to promote the health and wellbeing of all visitors and to further reduce fire risks to assets.		✓		✓	



Many visitors come to Bold Park to learn about WA's native flora and fauna. Photo - Jason Thomas/BGPA

2. Visitor experiences

Planning context

Bold Park offers a unique opportunity for the community and visitors to experience natural urban bushland in Perth. The Park attracts around 330,000 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 Bold Park provides many opportunities to get outdoors and connect with nature.

Community consultation undertaken prior to the development of the plan showed that many visitors want immersive nature-based and authentic cultural experiences. People want to connect at a personal level and make a positive contribution to the world we live in. Bold 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.

BGPA's goals of providing spaces for leisure and recreation for visitors are important drivers for park management. In delivering these opportunities, 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 in partnership with the community. In balancing these priorities, the initiatives in this category will consider broader goals and priorities associated with:

- 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 by exploring opportunities to host or celebrate multi-cultural events
- providing a safe and accessible environment consistent with the Park's long-term conservation values (e.g. encouraging responsible dog walking)
- aligning functions and service priorities to State Government's COVID-19 recovery objectives
- contributing to educational and engaging experiences for Western Australians to learn and connect with nature.



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 City Beach, Perry Lakes, Floreat and Mount Claremont.	✓	✓	✓		
2.2 Explore opportunities to host cultural events in Bold Park.	✓	✓	✓		
2.3 Explore opportunities for innovative experiences that attract visitors, create a sense of adventure and celebrate and respect the Park's natural and cultural environment.	✓		✓	✓	
2.4 Share recognition of Noongar culture, heritage and connection through providing authentic tourism and interpretation experiences that foster biodiversity conservation and cultural understanding.	✓		✓	✓	
2.5 Explore 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 Retain current cycling access arrangements on Scenic Walk and Scenic Drive and investigate opportunities for bicycle access to other areas of the Park on designated paths consistent with public safety, visitor enjoyment, recreation and conservation objectives.	✓	✓		✓	
2.8 Develop a visitor-oriented, interactive web presence and social media strategy that presents Bold Park's uniqueness and ensures broad appeal and accessibility.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.9 Adopt new multimedia technologies such as mobile apps, QR codes 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.	✓	✓	✓	✓	



The BGPA bushland team conduct annual surveys of Bold Park fauna. Photo - BGPA

3. Science and environmental conservation

Planning context

BGPA conserves and enhances the native biodiversity and natural environment in Bold Park through an adaptive management approach to bushland restoration, underpinned by high professional standards and rigorous 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.

Feedback obtained through community consultation in the preparation of the plan highlighted how much Bold Park bushland is valued and enjoyed by park users. It also showed strong support for ongoing environmental conservation and restoration efforts in the Park.

Our intended focus

Within Bold 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. 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.

Similarly, the plan considers landscape-scale connectivity in restoration and community engagement and outreach programs and may include focus on priority species.

Management strategies in this category include activities to conserve and enhance Bold Park Bushland and effectively manage risks related to conservation, bushfire and stability of limestone cuttings. They also include scientific research to support the conservation of Western Australian Swan Coastal Plain species, as well as bushland conservation and restoration in Bold Park, Kings Park and across the Swan Coastal Plain.

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 five ecological communities listed as Priority 3 by the State
- conservation of the Tuart woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain listed as Critically Endangered, and the Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain listed as Endangered, under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- the need to respond to threatening processes such as climate change and loss of native species, consistent with Federal and State threatened species strategies and native vegetation policies relevant to Western Australia
- 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
- demonstrating best practice in managing threatening processes including weed control, invasive species management, bushfire risk, and plant disease mitigation, including recognition of ethnobotanic and ethnobiological knowledge in conservation practices.



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
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 Wherever possible, recognise traditional Noongar knowledge and understanding of ecological systems and management practices in BGPA science and environmental conservation activities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3.3 Prepare a long-term Bushland Conservation Plan for Bold Park to guide integration of scientific research with adaptive management of Bold 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 Involve Bold Park as part of BGPA's participation in the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) through research, leadership in adaptive bushland management, ecological restoration, and community engagement within and beyond the Park.		✓		✓	
3.5 Continue to involve Bold Park in long-term fire ecology research to understand the best methods of managing bushfire risk and protecting biodiversity in key ecological communities represented in Bold Park.		✓	✓	✓	
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 restoration projects.				✓	✓
3.7 Manage risks in Bold Park, including risks associated with trees, fire, erosion, biosecurity and visitor access, for community safety, protection of park assets and to conserve native biodiversity in the bushland.		✓	✓	✓	
3.8 Apply landscape treatments on the perimeters of Bold Park Bushland to enhance biodiversity outcomes and improve internal connections as well as those to surrounding suburbs.	✓	✓		✓	
3.9 Promote the relationship between the health of Bold Park Bushland and the health of our community and work in partnership with stakeholders, landowners and the broader community to achieve bushland conservation goals in the Park and in key connecting corridors.		✓		✓	
3.10 Investigate opportunities to reintroduce locally extinct fauna species prioritising those that positively contribute to ecosystem function.			✓	✓	



The Western Australian Ecology Centre in Bold Park. Photo - Jason Thomas/BGPA

4. Amenity and infrastructure

Planning context

A connection with the natural world is the foundational experience for visitors in Bold Park. Providing quality facilities that encourage nature-based activities, while compatible with the integrity of Bold Park's conservation values, is an important activity for BGPA. Bold Park's infrastructure facilitates the 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 assets.

Current infrastructure includes: the extensive walk trails with signage and lookouts, including Reabold Hill lookout; Scenic Walk - Drive cycling circuit; Scenic Drive vehicle access; Western Australian Ecology Centre, Perry House and Peregrine House; carparks at Reabold Hill, Ecology Centre precinct, Tuart Carpark, Camel Lake Carpark and Banksia Carpark.

Community and stakeholder feedback confirmed that Bold Park is an important place for the Western Australian community to relax and recreate within a natural environment. It highlighted the use and value of Bold Park's extensive network of trails and the opportunity to improve visitor experience through additional infrastructure, including signage and public conveniences.

Our intended focus

Management initiatives in this category seek to improve overall visitor amenity and infrastructure while protecting Bold Park's conservation values. This is done through excellence and innovation in design, environmentally sensitive and sustainable principles in planning and development, and conserving natural and cultural heritage values.

BGPA will seek to improve visitor safety, accessibility and amenity to meet the evolving needs of Western Australians and the growing Perth population.

In progressing these aims, our management efforts will acknowledge the position and profile of Bold Park in relation to its suburban hinterland while engaging with stakeholders to maintain the natural values of our lands. This will consider a range of metropolitan planning strategies and frameworks associated with:

- metropolitan planning, urban infill and higher density living
- Perth's transport network, including the Stephenson Highway road reserve proposed on the Metropolitan Region Scheme
- universal access objectives as detailed in disability access and inclusion planning to create welcoming and meaningfully engaging spaces and opportunities
- a sustainable future, embracing environmentally sustainable design and practices and reducing waste including the Waterwise Perth Action Plan and the Perry Lakes Replenishment Project
- interpreting strategies, making information more accessible including disability access and communities from linguistically diverse backgrounds.



Truly local experiences



Community wellbeing



Culture and heritage



Science and conservation



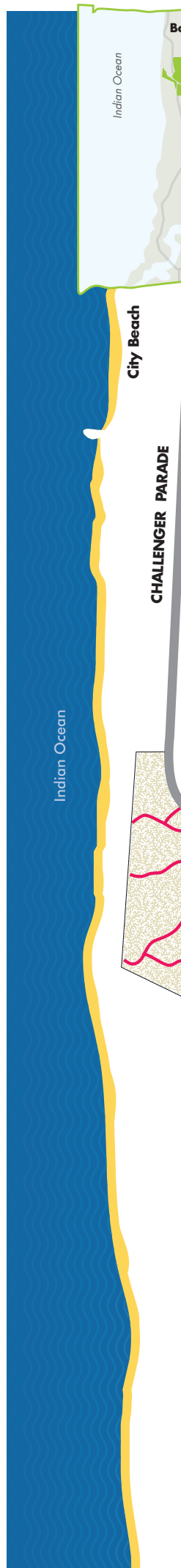
WA Botanic Garden

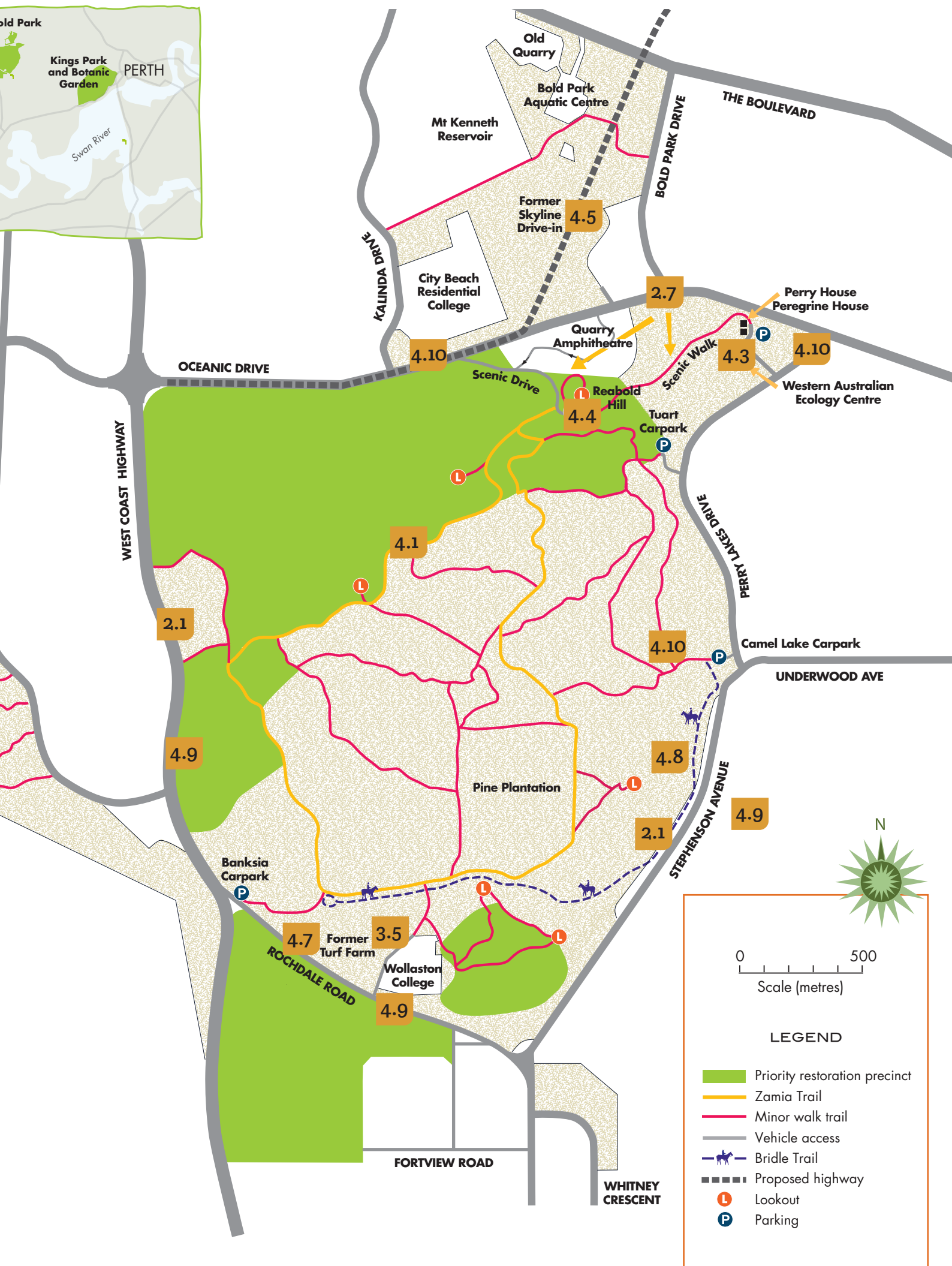
Key management initiatives

	Truly local experiences	Community wellbeing	Culture and heritage	Science and conservation	WA Botanic Garden
4.1 Enhance and maintain the trails network for improved access, amenity and visitor safety including the provision of improved access from the West Coast Highway boundary to the Zamia Trail.	✓	✓	✓		
4.2 Review directional and interpretive signage provided at Bold Park and implement a new interpretive plan to ensure ease of wayfinding and improved cultural and environmental educational outcomes for visitors.	✓		✓	✓	
4.3 Undertake a master planning process for the Western Australian Ecology Centre precinct to become a visitor gateway for Bold Park and a community engagement hub, including new facilities for community groups and improved public amenity.	✓	✓	✓		
4.4 Undertake a master planning process for the Reabold Hill precinct with a view to improve access, safety and amenity.	✓	✓	✓		
4.5 Explore the long-term use and future of the Skyline Drive-in site for opportunities that can deliver enhanced biodiversity and restoration outcomes balanced with fit-for-purpose recreational activation of the site.	✓	✓		✓	
4.6 Upgrade and install minor infrastructure, such as improved shelters and plantings at lookouts, drinking fountains and fencing where appropriate.	✓	✓			
4.7 Investigate opportunities to use the former Turf Farm including considering conservation opportunities in the form of a seed orchard while incorporating visitor amenities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.8 Continue to provide horse riding opportunities with managed access on the Bridle Trail.	✓	✓			
4.9 Work with neighbouring land managers to consider infrastructure supporting safe transport linkages to Bold Park through a local recreational paths and green corridor network to encourage reduced dependence on vehicles.	✓	✓		✓	
4.10 Upgrade and install entry statements, boundary and other signage to increase the profile and level of community understanding of Bold Park.	✓	✓			

Bold Park: location specific key management initiatives

- 2.1** Provide experiences that connect visitors with neighbouring precincts
- 2.7** Retain current cycling access arrangements and investigate opportunities for cycling in other areas
- 3.5** Continue long-term fire ecology research
- 4.1** Enhance and maintain the trails network
- 4.3** Undertake a master planning process for the Western Australian Ecology Centre precinct
- 4.4** Undertake a master planning process for the Reabold Hill precinct
- 4.5** Explore the long-term use and future of the Skyline Drive-in site
- 4.7** Investigate opportunities for use of the former Turf Farm
- 4.8** Continue to provide horse riding opportunities with managed access
- 4.9** Consider infrastructure to provide safe transport linkages for local community access
- 4.10** Upgrade and install entry statements and signage







Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

1 Kattidj Close, Kings Park, WA (+61 8) 9480 3600 enquiries@bgpa.wa.gov.au www.bgpa.wa.gov.au

 KingsPark.WA

 Bold Park

 kingsparkandbotanicgarden

 kingspark_wa

 Kings Park and Botanic Garden