

NARRANDERA PARK

LANDSCAPE DESIGN REPORT
NARRANDERA NSW
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1. AUTHORSHIP OF LANDSCAPE INFORMATION

This report and landscape concept has been prepared by Simone Marsh and David Vago (Director) who are registered with the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

This report is to be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- **Draft Plan of Management - Narrandera Park. Revised Feb 2009**
- **09_024_LC01** Landscape Concept Plan.
- **09_024_LC02** Landscape Concept Plan Elevations & Perspectives.
- **09_024_LC03** Lighting Plan & Indicative Planting Palette.

2. DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

The landscape masterplan has been developed in consultation with the council staff, councillors and the community's requirements as outlined in the Plan of Management document.

The design's main objective is to activate the park edges and each of the four corners of the park through landscape treatments so that it provides amenities that are essential to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public. The design elements are positioned so that each portion of new work can be delivered through separate budget and grant funding applications. In essence this park masterplan is a series of smaller projects that fit together to form an overall masterplan vision.

The objectives are:

1. Improve the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public and as a result benefit the community as a whole.
2. Attract transitory visitors who are using Cadell Road to stop at the park and engage with the wider Narrandera community. As Cadell Road forms part of the Newell Highway the interface of this park edge as a gateway to Narrandera is very important.
3. Provide Variety in the landscape through the use of deciduous and evergreen plants. Trees and shrubs have been selected to provide summer shade and reinforce the character of the park, especially along Cadell Street.

4. The vegetation used in the landscaping is to be a majority of native indigenous and endemic species, with a few exotic species located in strategic areas (such as around the Tourist Information Centre) to reflect the cultural evolution of the surrounding neighbourhood areas.
5. Employ a design synergy between architecture and landscape. Feature planting will be positioned to reflect park gateways and frame the existing buildings and proposed play areas. Key gateways are to be highlighted with mature plantings and large canopy trees are to be used to reinforce park edges.
6. Structural landscape elements and furniture within the park are to consist of robust, sustainable, locally available materials that enhance the landscape character of the site and reflect the character of Narrandera Shire.
7. Create a framework through selected spatial compositions for special town events.
8. Attract a variety of demographic user groups into the park through proposed uses such as accessible paths, lunch areas, play ground and visitor facilities.
9. Retain the existing park character as much as possible with the proposed design elements being soft sympathetic features that “blend” in with the park character rather than dominate.
10. Increase safety and security in the park.
11. Re-establish the concept of the “village Green” that refers to the town park being a central hub of community gathering and activity.
12. Incorporate features of the surrounding Narrandera landscape into the park and reference local aboriginal culture and community.

3. DESIGN ELEMENTS

The Park Circulation Network

The hierarchy of the park’s paths has been rationalised, resulting in the layers below:

- A 2m wide shared pedestrian/cycle path has been proposed around the entire park with the intent that this will connect to a greater network of shared paths throughout Narrandera Shire.
- The existing path connecting Cadell Street to Adams Street on the southern side of the oval has been retained and a second mirrored path added to the northern side of the oval to increase the number of through-site links. These connect to three major entrance paths leading from the corners of Twynam/Cadell Streets; Twynam/Adams Streets; and Adams/Douglas Streets. These major entrance paths help to create a ‘sense of arrival’ when entering the park, and reinforce the park as a destination.

- The park's vehicle entry off Douglas Street has been realigned. Bollards are to be located on the park side of the shared pedestrian/cycle path to stop unauthorised access.
- A 1.5m wide decomposed granite path is to be installed around the outer edge of the oval picket fence. This will facilitate the high number of users that walk around the outer edge of the oval and will stop the existing erosion of the ground surface.
- Paths have been linked with picnic areas and furniture to allow better accessibility for all user groups.

The Park Edge Treatments

Cadell Street:

- Both corners along the Cadell Street edge have been opened up to allow greater permeability and view corridors into the park. A formal paved area has been proposed with feature plantings, entry lighting and respite seating. These spaces are intended to act as meeting points for entry to the park. Natural stone boulders and feature trees have been located to frame the main path entries into the park.
- Layers of local history can be incorporated into the paving and key community sponsors involved in the construction of the park may be able to also purchase engraved pavers that can be placed at the entry to the park.
- The existing park entry sign from the corner of Cadell and Twynam Streets is to be relocated to the corner of Twynam and Adams Street. Bus/coach parking has been proposed along the Northern section of Cadell Street to accommodate transitional visitors using the Newell Hwy.
- Angled car parking bays have then been proposed for the rest of the length of this edge.
- Formalised parking has been mainly restricted to this road to avoid excess traffic on the smaller roads surrounding the park.
- The drop in level from the street into the park along the southern edge has been addressed by proposing wide terrace steps. These provide additional seating for both visitors using the park edge as a rest stop and during events such as the markets. Built into the steps are a series of raised planters with feature plantings and trees to define the edge of the park and provide shade to the car park areas.
- All existing trees planted into the edge of the road along Cadell Street are proposed to be retained. (subject to the health of the trees as determined by a qualified arborist)

Twynam Street:

- All existing trees planted at the edge of the road along Twynam Street are proposed to be retained. (subject to the health of the trees as determined by a qualified arborist)

- Buffer planting is proposed along the edge of the playground to separate playing children from the street.
- Formal planting and lighting is proposed on the corner of Twynam and Adams Street to mark the entry point to the park.
- As mentioned above, the existing park entry sign from the corner of Cadell and Twynam Streets is to be relocated to the corner of Twynam and Adams Street.

Adams Street:

- Any existing trees planted at the edge of the road along Adams Street are proposed to be retained. (subject to the health of the trees as determined by a qualified arborist)
- Formal planting and lighting is proposed on the corner of Adams and Douglas Streets to mark the entry point to the park.
- The park paths are to be re-aligned to link in with existing pedestrian crossings.

Douglas Street:

- Any existing trees planted at the edge of the road along Douglas Street are proposed to be retained. (subject to the health of the trees as determined by a qualified arborist)
- Coach/ bus parking bays are proposed along the eastern section of Douglas Street where space is available between existing trees.

The Park Drainage

The existing concrete drainage channel dissecting the southern end of the park is to be removed and filled in as per engineer's details. Stormwater is to be piped underground as required. Integrate new grates into the landscape design.

The small culvert on the northern side of the park near the playground shall be reconfigured with a junction pit and a new underground stormwater pipe that will pick up most of the upper catchment flows.

All excess surface water shall follow a proposed overland flow path running north to south through the site to prevent further site damage and erosion. This can be delivered through the construction of a turf swale that evolves into a planted swale at the southern end of the site. This planted swale is to be connected to the stormwater system and piped underground before it reaches the soft-fall of the adventure playground. A grassed embankment will be built up on the oval side of the swale which will help direct water and have a dual function as a hill to watch sporting activities.

The duck pond in the existing Mini Zoo is to be removed and filled in as per engineer's details. Refer to 'Items to be Removed' for more information.

Tourist Information Centre/ Tiger Moth Pavilion

Both the Tourist Information Centre and Tiger Moth Pavilion are to be retained. It is our strong recommendation that a third proposed building situated between the two existing buildings is not approved. A building in this location will further disconnect the relationship between the town centre and the park, both physically and visually. It would decrease passive surveillance of the park from Cadell Street and therefore also create more security and safety issues. A third building would also suggest that parks are for buildings rather than for open space and recreation, which goes against the objectives of the Draft Plan of Management for Narrandera Park as produced by Narrandera Shire Council.

Our recommendation is to create a new building that incorporates the tourist information centre, the John O'Brien museum and a café that opens out onto the park. This building should be sympathetic to the architecture around the park and be of light weight materials in an open park pavilion style to allow permeability into the park and incorporate the beautiful park atmosphere.

In its current form, a formal paved area is proposed to surround the existing buildings and form a forecourt between the two buildings to act as a meeting place for community groups using the park's facilities and coach groups passing through Narrandera. Formal planting beds and deciduous feature trees are proposed to frame the space and provide shade in summer months.

Three pergolas utilising the use of timber and steel are proposed to frame the buildings/park edge and create a sense of arrival when entering the park and the Narrandera Town Centre. Climbing Roses on the pergolas are proposed to reference the cultural heritage of the Narrandera Shire. Mass planting beds are proposed to frame the entry paths into the park.

A timber deck is proposed to the western side of the existing buildings with one of the pergolas providing shade over part of the deck. The deck will allow for community functions, as an observation area for sport events on the oval and also has the possibility of acting as an outdoor café space if a café were to be incorporated into the Tourist Information Centre at a later date.

Open Air Performance Space- corner of Twynan and Adams Streets

The performance viewing area is to consist of a turf area of approximately 1600m² with the capacity to seat approx. 1600 people seated on the ground and the surrounding sandstone plinths or approx. 1000 people seated on chairs.

A raised, covered performance platform is proposed on the inner park edge of the framed turf area with a connection back to the park footpath network and carparking to allow for the movement of equipment to and from the stage. The performance viewing area is defined by sandstone

plinth benches and existing and proposed palm trees to provide shade in the summer months.

Market Area- South of Tourist Information Centre

The existing arrangement of picnic tables in this area has been reviewed and new tables have been proposed as shown in drawing LC01. The existing play area to the south of this space is proposed to be removed with play equipment to be consolidated within the Adventure Playground. Refer to 'Adventure Playground' for more information.

Power turrets are to be located in a grid throughout the space to provide power to stalls during markets. Exact numbers and positions of the turrets are to be determined with further investigation into market requirements.

Adventure Playground- Southern Edge of Park

An adventure playground catering for children of all ages is proposed to replace the current de-commissioned 'Mini Zoo' that occupies the southern end of the park.

Play equipment will be selected and zoned in areas to accommodate age groups 0-5 years and 5+ years. Play equipment suitable for disabled children will also be included. The existing play area is to be incorporated into the Adventure Playground and existing equipment is to be retained or replaced as deemed appropriate. Where possible the equipment will be custom designed and constructed from timber to meet Australian Standards with off-the-shelf equipment to supplement where necessary.

Low buffer planting will line the southern edge of the playground to separate children from the road. A covered BBQ area and associated picnic tables is to be located on the northern edge of the playground to allow surveillance by parents from a close proximity.

A soft-fall play space including mounding is proposed to the west of the playground to act as an active play space/running track. In the centre of the soft-fall an interactive water feature is proposed and is to include a combination of water bubblers, jets and/or mist on a timed system. This forms a central meeting place for the area and symbolically represents the active heart of the playground.

To the west of the soft-fall surface swathes of native planting beds and an overlaid grid of timber poles create an entertaining maze-like landscape for older children. Planting will be selected so its' mature height will still allow visual surveillance through the area. Timber bridges are proposed to link over the planted culvert.

We suggest the playground reference local aboriginal culture and propose that an aboriginal arts and culture steering committee be formed to help with research on design ideas.

Covered BBQ Shelters and Picnic Tables

Covered BBQ shelters and associated picnic tables have been proposed at strategic locations throughout the park with the aim that the use of the facilities will be distributed throughout the park and to activate as many corners of the park as possible.

Proposed locations include:

- Adjacent to adventure playground along southern edge of park.
- Adjacent to the open 'active' play space at the southern end of the Adams Street edge.
- On the corner of Adam and Douglas Streets (may be used in association with the Douglas Street Playground).

Shelters are to be constructed from a mix of steel and timber and to be designed/ selected so that they do not dominate the park.

Heritage Grandstand

The existing heritage grandstand on the western side of the oval is to be retained. Mass native/ indigenous planting is to be planted on the three enclosed sides of the grandstand to prevent vandalism. The depth and selection of planting will make it difficult for vandals to access the walls of the grandstand.

Items To Be Removed or Replaced

- Mini Zoo in south-west corner of park. To be replaced with 'Adventure Playground'. Refer to 'Adventure Playground' for more information.
- Existing concrete monument and associated footpath on southern edge of oval. To be replaced with turf surface to marry in with surrounding contours.
- Play area in most south-east corner of park. Play equipment to be consolidated in 'Adventure Playground'.
- Existing bins to be removed and replaced as per bin strategy with one consistent model of bin. Refer to drawing LC03.
- Picnic tables. To be removed where they do not match the character indicated in the design strategy and replaced as indicated on masterplan. Refer to drawing LC03.
- Security cameras. Existing security cameras around the Tourist Information Centre are to be relocated to locations that correspond with the masterplan scheme. Locations are to focus around existing buildings and Adventure Playground. Refer to drawing LC03.

Additional Items To Be Implemented

- Lighting. As per lighting plan. Refer to drawing LC03.
- Bollards. To be located on street corners and at vehicle entrance paths as required.
- New seating and park furniture
- Replace all bins with robust bins easy for maintenance and aesthetically consistent with the town character.

Staging

The landscape masterplan has been designed as a series of landscape elements that can be implemented at any time. The decision of which elements to be constructed and the source and allocation of funding shall be determined by council.

Prior to the construction of any of the park features we recommend that the following items form part of the first Stage of construction works:

1. Minor site grading to form swale and mounding around western edge of oval.
2. New Stormwater pipe, pits and connections to be sized by a hydraulic engineer
3. Removal of "mini zoo" and associated fencing/cages/vegetation. The filling in of duck pond to desired levels and compaction rates.
4. Shaping of Adventure playground landform to be constructed in line with drainage earthworks.
5. Removal of concrete channels. Replace with underground stormwater pipe and surface grates.
6. Disturbed earthworks areas to be re-turfed.

3. GENERAL LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

	Design Principle	Implementation
(a)	<i>environmentally sustainable design;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximize stormwater runoff collection - 75-100mm thick mulch used to conserve water - Drought tolerant planting - Indigenous planting - Deciduous tree have been planted where possible to shade building from summer sun and allow sun through winter months - Irrigation system where required shall be drip and connected to rainwater tanks - Recycled materials shall be incorporated into the landscape as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soil additives(soils made from recycled materials and waste) - Mulch from chipping of fallen site trees - Re-used hardwood timbers-incorporate local products - Concrete pavements - Sub-base preparation for pavers
(b)	<i>soil landscapes;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing site topsoil re-used where possible - Minimal soil additives - Gypsum added to clay layer
(c)	<i>minimising soil erosion;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non- existing embankments kept to 1:4 maximum grades - Variety of groundcovers and trees used to help stabilize embankments - Water directed to overland flow paths and swales
(d)	<i>conserving site soil;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing site topsoil re-used
(e)	<i>plant species;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plants used are a mixture of local endemic, indigenous and cultural exotics - Architectural style plants are used to highlight feature areas - Planting on the edges of the development where bushland is adjoining is local endemic and native

(f)	<i>tree protection on construction sites and adjoining public and privately owned land;</i>	<i>- Arborist report to be commissioned as required to review dead or troublesome tree species</i>
(g)	<i>other statutory requirements;</i>	<i>N/A</i>
(h)	<i>minimisation of impervious surfaces – permeable paving;</i>	<i>- Paving on this site has been minimized</i>
(i)	<i>salinity;</i>	<i>N/A</i>
(j)	<i>vegetation communities;</i>	<i>- Mixture of shrub, groundcover and tree planting for food and habitat. - Planting composed of mainly endemic species</i>
	Neighbourhood Amenity and Character	Masterplan Submission
(a)	<i>Integration of Design</i>	<i>- The landscape design has been produced in conjunction with site survey and Draft Plan of Management</i>
(b)	<i>Streetscape</i>	<i>- A majority of the existing trees have been retained where possible to retain the existing site character - Car parking has been incorporated within the development in the form of visitor spaces. These have been positioned along Twynam Street - The park edge has been softened with avenue street trees and landscape planting - The edges of the proposed development site are designed to merge with the surrounding area. Native planting shall define the majority of site edges. Other exotic and native species shall form the landscape framework within</i>
(c)	<i>Community Safety</i>	<i>- The landscape has been designed to allow visual links across the park - Planting consists of groundcovers, shrubs and grasses with clear trunk canopy trees - Driveway entrances are clear and pedestrian sight lines maintained - Lighting is provided at main park entry points, the playgrounds, BBQ areas and along pedestrian paths for surveillance at night - New camera positions will help monitor the park</i>

<i>(d)</i>	<i>Open Space requirements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The site planning has provided for a number of flexible open space areas</i> - <i>These areas include through-site pedestrian linkages, passive and active play environments and flexible community spaces</i> - <i>Open space zones include paths, pergola structures, seating, playground elements, bins and lighting</i>
<i>(e)</i>	<i>Equal access</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>All pedestrian paths and access ways have been designed to AS1428.1 and are accessible to the elderly and people with disabilities</i> - <i>All ramps are designed at 1:14 with handrails or 1:20.</i> - <i>Pedestrian crossings are proposed to be marked and the design has provided for excellent circulation and access across the park and surrounding streets</i>
<i>(f)</i>	<i>Heritage</i>	<i>The retention of as many existing trees as possible aims to retain the existing landscape character.</i>

6. CONCLUSION

The master plan for Narrandera Park has been designed to merge within the context of the surrounding environment while providing amenities that are essential to meet the current and future needs of the local community and visitors to Narrandera. This environment has been designed to respect the tapestry of historical landscape features that define the site.

All landscape elements have designed to form part of a "holistic" landscape while having the ability to be implemented separately as part of staged implementation that is dependant on funding and decisions by council and the community.

We look forward to continuing dialogue with Council officers and the community in order to achieve the best possible outcome for Narrandera Shire.