

# THE VISIONING PROCESS

## Why do we need to establish a vision for Victoria Park?

Many modern cities lament the loss of valuable parkland that has been subdivided, allowed to be used for private and commercial purposes, or has become devalued by poor management practices. It is important for the Ballarat community to own a shared vision of what this public asset will provide to future generations when Ballarat's population and city footprint will have significantly expanded.

## Who needs to be involved?

Council invites all residents and users to become involved in developing the vision.

## How can I become involved?

A series of activities will take place over the next 6 months to establish and test the vision. These are open to all to participate in.

- 'Walk and Talk' sessions, covering historical features, significant trees and wildflowers.
- Questionnaires and surveys about your use and observations
- Focus group activities exploring current assumptions, what needs to be conserved and suggested improvements.
- Receive information on the findings of community engagement and provide feedback.
- Participate in Arbour Day commemorative tree planting next Autumn.

## How can I get more information?

Visit our website [www.ballarat.vic.gov.au](http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au) and follow the links to Victoria Park or call our Public Spaces and Environment Team on 5320 5131.



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## VICTORIA PARK Community Visioning Project

Did you know that Ballarat's Victoria Park and Lake Wendouree form an area that is equivalent in size to Central Park in New York?

To have such an expanse of parkland available in the heart of a regional city is almost unheard of. Council is keen to safeguard and maximise the potential of this unique asset and as such is about to start a series of conversations with the community about how Victoria Park could be better used and protected.

The Victoria Park Community Visioning project aims to set the direction for the park for at least the next quarter of a century. Council currently has a broad management plan for Victoria Park, but this plan doesn't capture the potential of the Park, nor does it outline which parts are working well and how to better use areas that are currently underused.

# VICTORIA PARK

## History

Victoria Park was vested in the City of Ballarat by the Victorian Government as a restricted Crown Grant in 1888 “for the purpose of a public park and offices and convenience connected therewith and for no other purpose whatsoever”. At the time it was located well to the west of the Ballarat’s centre and urban development.

Victoria Park is one of Ballarat’s major open space and recreational parklands and one of Ballarat’s most significant historical and cultural landscapes. Its cultural significance is highlighted by the fact that in 1890 it was the site of Victoria’s first Arbour Day planting. On this day, the citizens of Ballarat planted the extensive poplar, cedar, elm and oak avenues. It was once extensively mined for gold and is now one of the best examples of a large, European-style parkland in Australia.

During World War Two Victoria Park was used as a military base. Through the 1940s to 1960s it was used for car rallying and motorcycle racing events, and in 1992 it was the site of the 16<sup>th</sup> Australian Scout Jamboree.

## Attributes

Victoria Park has two ornamental lakes, 13 sporting ovals, a 5km walking track, two playground / picnic areas, an equestrian facility and cricket practice nets making it a significant venue for a range of leisure and sporting activities. Areas of significant volcanic grassland plant species exist as well as seasonal displays of native orchids and lilies. A pine plantation in the south eastern corner provides a contrast to the structured avenue and perimeter tree plantings. A network of meandering tree lined roads provides separation between the various zones of the park. A giant mullock heap (Mt Holled – Smith) reminds us of the park’s former mining activities.

## Existing Plans and Strategies

In 2004 Council prepared the Victoria Park Management, Use and Development Framework to provide an overview of the park’s history, features, uses and management issues and development policies. In 2007 Council prepared the Victoria Park Precinct Outline Development Plan, focusing on the southern precinct and the livestock selling centre. That year the Victoria Park Equestrian Precinct Master Plan was also prepared.

## Users

While the following organisations are based in Victoria Park;

- Ballarat Dog Obedience Club
- Ballarat Pony Club
- Lucas Cricket Club
- Victoria Park Soccer Club,

Many other groups regularly use the park for:

- Cricket
- Football (Australian Rules, soccer, rugby, touch)
- Cycling
- Cross country and road running events
- Angling
- Motor sports
- Schools

# MAP

