



BOLD PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016 – 2021



BOLD PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016 – 2021

CONTENTS

Community Consultation	2
Executive Summary	3
Overview of Bold Park	4
Guiding Management	8
Overview of Planned Activities	12
Biodiversity Conservation	14
Ecological Restoration	16
Visitation and Community Engagement	18
Planning and Boundary Management	20
Review and Revision	22



Photo: J. Thomas

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

This Management Plan has been prepared by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) with significant consultation from key stakeholders, including government, private organisations and the general community. A draft plan was prepared following a review of the Bold Park Management Plan 2011 – 2016 including community feedback received via a survey of stakeholders and a public workshop. Submissions were sought through a formal public submission period from 15 January to 18 March 2016, with notification via direct correspondence with stakeholders and notices in the Government Gazette, state and local newspapers and on the BGPA website. A total of 107 submissions were received from individuals, community groups and government organisations, with some minor amendments made in response to specific comments.

The draft plan received considerable support, especially for the consistent, long term focus on biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration and the protection of Bold Park from clearing of bushland for developments such as roads or schools. Submissions related to the proposed closure of the Bridle Trail were divided in their views, however as an appreciable number were opposed to the closure, the plan has been amended to retain it for this current period. Further details on submissions can be found in a separate publication, Audit of Public Submissions: Draft Bold Park Management Plan 2016 – 2021, available from the BGPA's Administration.

Front cover photos:

Top (main image): Photo: J. Thomas

Bottom (from left to right):

Cockie's Tongue, Photo: B. Knott

Prickly Moses and Native Wisteria, Photo: B. Nuske

Red-capped Parrot, Photo: B. Knott

Golden Wood Fungus, Photo: B. Nuske



Donkey Orchid, Photo: B. Knott

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bold Park is an A-class reserve of coastal bushland set aside for its outstanding conservation, landscape and recreation values. Covering 437 hectares, it is one of the largest bushland remnants in the metropolitan area of the Swan Coastal Plain, providing an important refuge for its rich diversity of flora, fauna and fungi, and a wilderness experience for visitors seeking an escape from the urban environment to explore its many walking trails. It has been managed by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority since August 1998 in accordance with the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998 (the Act)* and consistent with approved management plans.

The preparation of this plan follows a review of the 2011 – 2016 Management Plan as required by Part 4 of the Act. This plan specifically addresses activities related to management of the land of Bold Park and continues to build upon the endorsed objectives and strategies in previous plans using an adaptive management approach.

In striving to provide for the diverse range of visitor interests and to ensure the conservation of native biological diversity and cultural heritage of its designated lands, the BGPA is committed to the following vision and mission:

Vision: To create and provide world-recognised botanic gardens and parks and to inspire the conservation of biological diversity.

Mission: To conserve and enhance Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park with the community, and to conserve biological diversity generally.

In addition, the inaugural Bold Park Environmental Management Plan 2000 – 2005 established the following principal management objective for Bold Park:

“To ensure that native biological diversity of Bold Park bushland is conserved and enhanced, that public risk is well managed, and that passive recreation, education and scientific activities consistent with conservation are facilitated.”

This plan provides an overview of Bold Park and the BGPA strategic management framework, a summary of achievements against priorities in the 2011 – 2016 Management Plan, an outline of the strategic direction in each of four management categories, and key priorities for management of the land from 2016 – 2021. A map indicating key management priorities is provided for reference.

Many of the proposed initiatives in this plan are within anticipated budget allocations, while others remain aspirational. The BGPA will pursue a range of funding opportunities as appropriate, with resources allocated to the highest priority activities.

Some priorities for Bold Park in this plan include:

- Development of a long term vision and a 100 year framework plan for the Bold Park bushland, including measurable biodiversity targets.
- Ongoing ecological restoration of disturbed bushland in priority sites to aid their recovery and conserve native biodiversity.
- Provision of support and encouragement for community volunteer involvement in Bold Park.
- Conservation and enhancement of Bold Park, consistent with the BGPA Act, to ensure the long term conservation of its significant native biodiversity values.
- Progression of a fire ecology research program to assess the best methods of bushfire risk management and conservation of natural environments on the Swan Coastal Plain.
- Improved emergency access and visitor safety with revised access and carparking off Rochdale Road.
- Continuation of horse riding opportunities with managed access on a reduced Bridle Trail, with use monitored for further feasibility assessment in the next plan period.



Dichopogon capillipes.
Photo: B. Nuske

Sanctuary by the sea



Photo: Wings Photographic

OVERVIEW OF BOLD PARK

Bold Park is a significant 437 hectare area of coastal bushland within the Perth metropolitan area in Western Australia. The major topographical feature of the park is Reabold Hill, a natural high point (84.8 m AHD) that provides excellent views over the park, the coast, Perth City and surrounding suburbs including Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

First reserved as a park in 1936, Bold Park was officially designated as an A-class reserve in August 1998 for its outstanding conservation values, natural landscape and nature-based recreational opportunities. At that time, management responsibility was assigned to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

The tuart-banksia woodlands and limestone and dune heaths within Bold Park support a rich diversity of flora, fauna and fungi, including regionally significant and vulnerable species. The park has a long and

interesting cultural history including important Aboriginal heritage links, and with its extensive walk trails and bushland experience is a significant passive recreation reserve, visited mostly by walkers.

Scientifically based adaptive management is considered a key component in the management success of Bold Park. Adaptive management is underpinned by scientific knowledge and reliant on the continual supply of new information from research and monitoring. This approach ensures that management can be adapted to incorporate leading-edge research findings and changing conditions on the site over time to deliver appropriate outcomes for Bold Park.

Community involvement and scientifically based adaptive management have been identified as priorities to restore and maintain a well-recognised urban bushland and promote the BGPA as a leader in urban bushland management. Sustained community involvement is essential to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of Bold Park, to highlight the importance of Bold Park for visitors and the community, and to provide the necessary support for long-term ecological restoration.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Bold Park contains a mosaic of native plant communities with tuart and banksia woodlands and limestone heath predominating. These support a rich biodiversity with over 1000 native species of flora, fauna and fungi identified. Bold Park is recognised as being regionally significant in an environmental context through its listing as a Bush Forever site, and is an important scientific resource for research.

To date surveys within the park have identified 310 extant, locally-native plant taxa and 232 naturalised non-native plant taxa in the bushland. Five native species are currently listed as Priority Flora by the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the BGPA has identified fifteen species as vulnerable because they are poorly represented populations in Bold Park. These species remain a focus of individual management plans and annual surveys.

A 2009 weed survey was conducted over 1700 permanent grid points throughout the park, replicating an earlier survey in 1997. A key finding was a dramatic reduction in three weed species; *Ehrharta calycina*, *Euphorbia terracina* and *Pelargonium capitatum* over the twelve year period. In spring 2014 a flora survey was conducted over 577 survey points capturing information relating to both native and weed species. Analysis of this data informs the Bold Park ecological database, revision of current vegetation community maps and species abundance and distribution changes within the park.

Three native and five introduced mammal species have been recorded in Bold Park with no documented changes to abundance in the last five years. A total of 91 bird species have been recorded in Bold Park, including seven species that are not native to the area. Native herpetofauna in the park include 29 reptile species and three amphibian species.



Menzies Banksia. Photo: J. Thomas

The invertebrate fauna inventory now totals over 300 species for Bold Park. As resources allow, further studies will be undertaken to develop more accurate data on invertebrate species richness and the associated management implications.

Regular fungi surveys conducted in the park have led to the identification of 479 species of macro fungi. Surveys continue to identify new records for the park as well as a number of previously undocumented species. Additional research into fungal diversity has been incorporated into the BGPA's Fire Ecology research program.

Australian Kingneck. Photo: B. Knott



Brimming with birdlife

ENVIRONMENTAL (CONTINUED)

Four unplanned fires occurred in Bold Park between 2011 – 2016, two of which were of moderate size (10 ha and 14 ha). These sites have undergone intensive weed control to assist regeneration, and ongoing vegetation and fire fuel level monitoring is being conducted to inform future management. The sites of two previous major fires during the 2000 – 2005 period continue to be the focus of ongoing restoration efforts.

The BGPA has initiated a long-term research program into the Fire Ecology of Swan Coastal Plain vegetation, which includes some small experimental burning, research and monitoring activities in Bold Park. The program will improve scientific knowledge about the best management approaches to reduce bushfire hazards for community and asset safety while conserving and enhancing native biological diversity. This research program is anticipated to continue over the next 20 year period.

Groundwater monitoring bores installed in 2011 continue to be monitored to provide an understanding of fluctuations in groundwater levels and movement.

CULTURAL

Bold Park has a long and interesting Aboriginal and colonial cultural history. The area has special historic and cultural significance to Aboriginal people and two Aboriginal Heritage Sites of Significance in Bold Park are registered with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA 20178, encompassing the entire area of Bold Park and DAA 3734, Stephenson Avenue camp). These sites are managed in accordance with requirements of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

The site also contains evidence of early colonial activity, particularly around the historic Perry House where the area known as the Limekilns Estate was used for limestone quarrying, lime burning works and a stock slaughterhouse. Named for Joseph Perry who purchased the estate in 1879, the current Perry House was built in 1919 to house the caretaker of the Perth City Council Endowment Lands, replacing Perry's former stone cottage that was once nearby. Perry House is now managed to conserve its heritage values. Camel Lake in Bold Park was named in reference to its use for quarantining imported camels before being sent to work in the goldfields during the gold rush years.

An estimated 200,000 people visit Bold Park annually with Reabold Hill lookout remaining a key visitor attraction for its accessibility, facilities and spectacular views. The undulating topography, bushland experience and views appeal to visitors exploring the extensive walking trails and seeking tranquillity and a refuge from the urban environment.

The most recent visitor survey results indicate an extremely high level of overall satisfaction with Bold Park (100%), with park cleanliness and the bushland experience rating the highest (100% each). The survey showed 44% of visitors were aged 50 years or more with 33% aged 36 – 49 years, and the majority (68%) were females. Of those surveyed, 70% were from the western suburbs and 71% visited regularly, at least once per week.

Community volunteers provide support for management through direct and indirect involvement in activities such as bushland restoration, guided walks and promotion of the park's biodiversity and other natural and cultural values. Facilities are provided for the Friends of Bold Park Bushland, the Wildflower Society of WA and BirdLife WA community groups to conduct their environmental activities. The Western Australian Ecology Centre provides a venue for community events and activities related to the BGPA's core business.

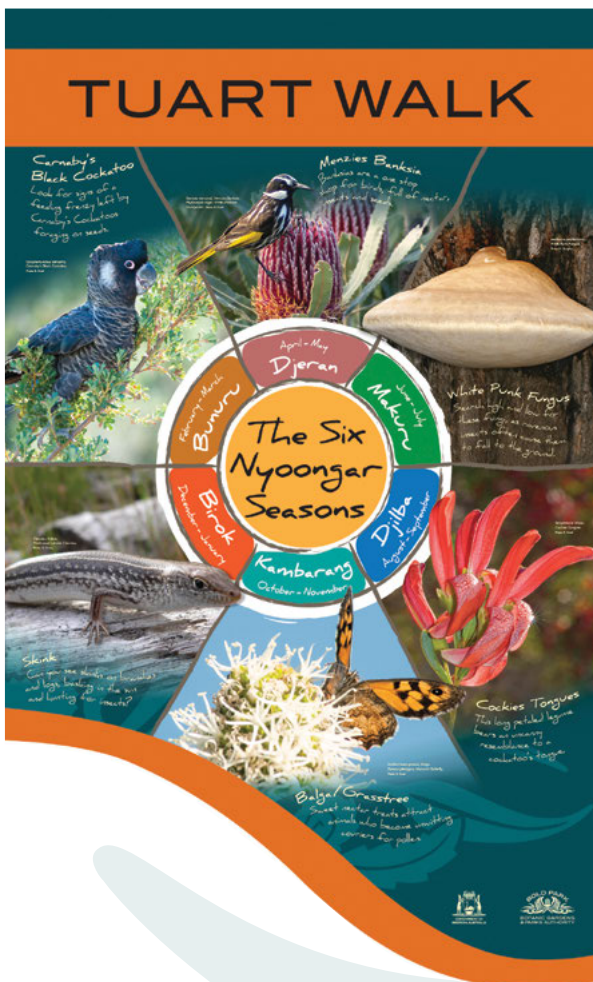




Photo: J. Thomas

PLANNING CONTEXT

The current Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) illustrates the Stephenson Highway road reserve through high conservation value bushland in the northern portion of Bold Park and the important regional bushland link of the Wembley Golf Course. The BGPA, in conjunction with other stakeholders, continues to seek permanent removal of this future potential highway route in the MRS from Bold Park.

External development around the perimeter of the park has increased significantly, placing greater importance on Bold Park as a bushland retreat from the surrounding urban environment and a key remnant in Perth's green corridors. Recent developments include new housing adjacent to the southern section of the park and east of Stephenson Avenue. In addition, the redevelopment of the

Perry Lakes Stadium site and surrounds for housing and the nearby construction of indoor sporting facilities have contributed to a reduction of public open space in the urban areas surrounding the park. Bold Park was formally designated as a Bushfire Prone Area by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management in December 2015, which will guide future planning and development within Bold Park and its immediate surrounds.

Transfer of management of an additional 2.85 ha of degraded bushland to the BGPA on the southern boundary of the park is currently underway. This land will have minor landscaping and revegetation activities conducted in association with an adjacent development by LandCorp. Government approvals for some minor boundary adjustment processes to benefit Bold Park bushland that were initiated in the previous plan period continue to be progressed.

Inspirational coastal panoramas



Little Eagle. Photo: B. Knott



Photo: J. Thomas

GUIDING MANAGEMENT

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998* established the BGPA and charges it with the care, control and management of designated lands in accordance with publicly endorsed management plans. Current designated lands are Bold Park and Kings Park and Botanic Garden, both with high levels of community value and exceptional biodiversity.

The BGPA is a statutory Authority within the Western Australian Government, and is part of the Environment portfolio. The Minister for Environment appoints members to a Board of Management. The Chief Executive Officer of the BGPA reports to both the Minister for Environment and the Board of Management.

The Act identifies the eight specific functions and the relevant powers that govern the management of the designated lands and provide for the promotion of conservation of biological diversity generally. They include the provision of recreational and tourism services and facilities; conservation of natural landscapes; plant management, interpretation and display; biodiversity management; conservation, enhancement and promotion of cultural heritage; and education and research programs.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Under the Act and within the overall State Government goal of achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians, the State Government requires the BGPA to deliver two key services:

- 1. Customer Service and Cultural Heritage**, with the desired outcome of awareness and appreciation of recreation and tourist resources, and cultural heritage for visitors' enjoyment.
- 2. Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research**, with the desired outcome of conservation and enhancement of Western Australia's bushland and other flora.

In striving to provide for the diverse range of visitor interests and to ensure the conservation of native biological diversity and cultural heritage of its designated lands, the BGPA is committed to the following vision and mission:

Vision: To create and provide world-recognised botanic gardens and parks and to inspire the conservation of biological diversity.

Mission: To conserve and enhance Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park with the community, and to conserve biological diversity generally.

The inaugural Bold Park Environmental Management Plan 2000 - 2005 established the following principal management objective for Bold Park:

“To ensure that native biological diversity of Bold Park bushland is conserved and enhanced, that public risk is well managed, and that passive recreation, education and scientific activities consistent with conservation are facilitated.”

The strategic framework and directions of the BGPA are based on the Functions outlined in the Act (Part 3, S. 9.2), which underpin the management plans for the designated lands. The strategic framework comprises the following eleven key areas (not listed in any order of priority):

- 1. Corporate Governance:** In line with its values of Respect, Inclusiveness, Sustainability, Accountability and Excellence, the BGPA is committed to ensuring ethical, transparent and responsible governance, delivering sound financial management and achieving value for money. The BGPA aims to improve government and other funding support and to maintain existing and develop new strategic alliances for mutual benefit.
- 2. Funding:** The BGPA receives part of its funding from the State Government of Western Australia. Significant revenue is also generated through other sources, including various events, leases and licenses and through research grants, international consultancies and sponsorships. All BGPA revenue is directed towards maintaining very high standards of management practices, scientific research, visitor services and facilities and maintaining significant cultural and memorial sites.
- 3. Risk Management:** Risks in Bold Park are actively managed as far as practicable for the protection of people and the long-term conservation and landscape value of the park. Risk management is a high priority of the BGPA and is inherent in all management activities. The identification, evaluation, management and monitoring of existing and potential risks is intended to provide a safer experience as far as is possible in an urban bushland setting.
- 4. Community Engagement:** A sense of community ownership is fostered through communicating key values and conservation messages and in welcoming participation through volunteer groups such as the Friends of Bold Park Bushland. The BGPA services and outcomes in Bold Park are supported through contributions of the many people, including community groups and volunteers, involved in the promotion and conservation of the natural environment of Bold Park as a scientific, education and passive recreation resource. The BGPA Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and the Aboriginal Reconciliation Action Plan are also key elements in community engagement.
- 5. Visitation, Tourism and Recreation:** The BGPA seeks to provide, improve and promote quality services and facilities compatible with the long-term conservation values in a safe, accessible environment. Visitor services focus on the park's natural settings and nature-based recreation is enhanced through conservation and restoration activities that enhance the bushland environment along with improvements to visitor access, orientation and information. The BGPA will continue to maintain a high level of accessible visitor facilities and subsequent satisfaction with services in Bold Park.
- 6. Inspiring Conservation of Biological Diversity:** Interpretation and education strategies promote knowledge and appreciation of the identity, biodiversity and cultural heritage of the designated lands. These include the use of interpretive signs, brochures and other publications, the website, guided walks and community activities to inspire the conservation of native biological diversity. Environmental education opportunities including communication of research outcomes enhance community appreciation of the bushland and its management.

7. Cultural Heritage: The BGPA has a key function under the Act to conserve, enhance and promote the Aboriginal, colonial and contemporary cultural heritage of Bold Park. Aboriginal cultural heritage is recognised in use of Nyoongar language in site naming facilities where appropriate and the Reconciliation Action Plan to build relationships, show respect and improve opportunities. Conservation and management plans protect culturally significant elements and values of the built and natural landscapes, including sites of Aboriginal significance.

8. Conservation of Native Biological Diversity: The BGPA is required to conserve and enhance the native biological diversity of Bold Park. Ecological restoration is undertaken to reduce threats to native biodiversity, improve bushland condition and encourage resilient ecological communities. The adaptive ecological restoration approach incorporates: research to optimise bushland management strategies; weed removal; production and planting of local native plant species; appropriate fire management activities; pest animal and disease control; native fauna management; monitoring of flora, fauna and fungi; review; and communication. The BGPA contributes more broadly to conservation programs within and beyond park boundaries through plant production of threatened species, seed and vegetative collection for storage and cultivation, and other conservation techniques and research.

9. Conservation of Landscape and Amenity: The BGPA develops master plans to guide decision making, maintenance and future development for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, landscape features and amenity of the park. It provides visitor facilities including paths, roads, gardens, trees, artworks and seating. Landscape and amenity is enhanced while ensuring sound water and energy conservation, waste management practices and minimal impact on the bushland.

10. Collections and Promotion of Western Australian and Other Flora: The Act requires the BGPA to conserve, develop, manage, display, and undertake research into, collections of Western Australian and other flora and also to promote the use of flora for the purposes of horticulture, conservation and education. This is done to a limited extent in Bold Park through display gardens surrounding the Western Australian Ecology Centre and also through the management of bushland for conservation, research and visitor enjoyment.

11. Research: The BGPA is internationally recognised in biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration research, which aims to enhance the effectiveness of bushland management practices. Research to improve ecological restoration knowledge and apply best practice is undertaken in Bold Park and elsewhere, with outcomes shared with other land managers and the community.

Further detail on the BGPA's Strategic Direction and Framework is available in the BGPA Strategic Plan, accessible on the BGPA website: www.bgpa.wa.gov.au.

In addition to the Strategic Plan, the BGPA has a range of policies and internal planning documents that guide decision making in Bold Park. These include the Bold Park Restoration Plan, Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and a Reconciliation Action Plan. Policy documents cover risk management, memorials, bequests, new businesses and events, and plant collections and displays, providing support for the Bold Park Management Plan.



Photo: J. Thomas

Wellbeing through wilderness

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Part 4 of the BGPA Act 1998 requires the development of five year management plans for each of the designated lands to document the intended management policies or guidelines to be followed and a summary of the operations proposed to be undertaken during that five year period. If the BGPA considers that a management plan does not require amendment or revision it may determine that the existing management plan is to continue without amendment.

Management plans summarise the detailed strategies developed in other internal documents used to provide longer-term focus. The inaugural Bold Park Environmental Management Plan (EMP) 2000 – 2005 was a comprehensive document released in April 2001. This current management plan builds on the detailed objectives and strategies in the inaugural EMP and delivers a strategic overview of future management. Further detail of annual park activities is developed regularly at an operational level by the BGPA.

This management plan has been developed following a review of achievements in the preceding period, a review of available resources and consideration of the short, medium and long term priorities for the land. The process included consultation with relevant stakeholders in preparing the plan and a formal period during which public submissions were invited. Various initiatives outlined in this plan are within the anticipated budget allocations, while others remain aspirational.

This plan addresses management specifically related to the land of Bold Park rather than the full scope of activities undertaken by the BGPA. The plan is presented in the following management categories:

- Biodiversity Conservation,
- Ecological Restoration,
- Visitation and Community Engagement, and
- Planning and Boundary Management.

Each of the sections includes a report on the progress against priorities of the 2011 – 2016 plan, followed by the strategic direction and priorities for 2016 – 2021. Individual strategies may be relevant across more than one category but rather than duplicate strategies, they are listed in this document under the category considered most relevant. The priorities for 2016 – 2021 within each category are not listed in order of importance.



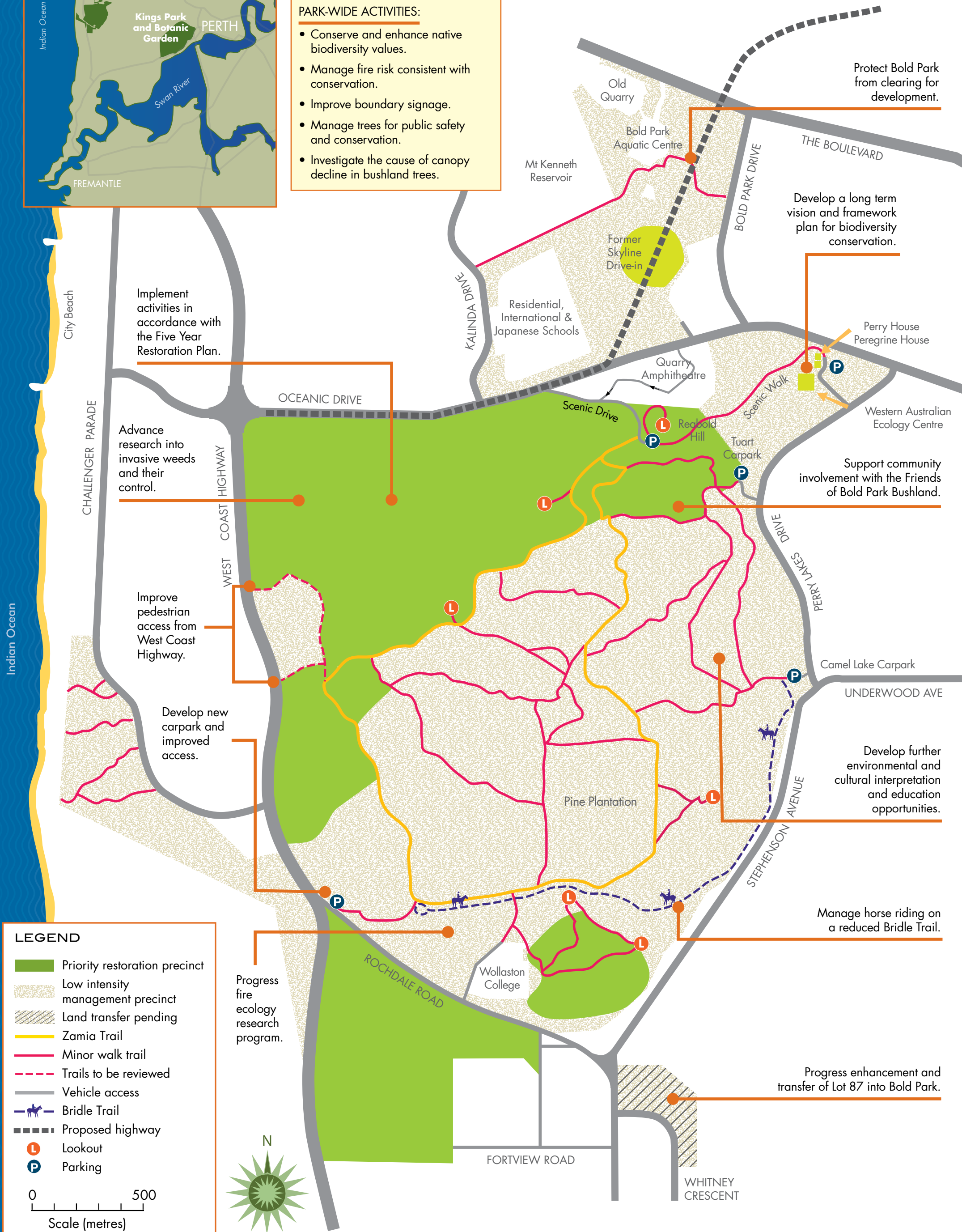
Top: Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo. Photo: B. Knott
Bottom: Wild Violet. Photo: B. Nuske

OVERVIEW OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES



PARK-WIDE ACTIVITIES:

- Conserve and enhance native biodiversity values.
- Manage fire risk consistent with conservation.
- Improve boundary signage.
- Manage trees for public safety and conservation.
- Investigate the cause of canopy decline in bushland trees.



Implement activities in accordance with the Five Year Restoration Plan.

Advance research into invasive weeds and their control.

Improve pedestrian access from West Coast Highway.

Develop new carpark and improved access.

Progress fire ecology research program.

Protect Bold Park from clearing for development.

Develop a long term vision and framework plan for biodiversity conservation.

Perry House Peregrine House

Western Australian Ecology Centre

Support community involvement with the Friends of Bold Park Bushland.

Camel Lake Carpark

Develop further environmental and cultural interpretation and education opportunities.

Manage horse riding on a reduced Bridle Trail.

Progress enhancement and transfer of Lot 87 into Bold Park.

LEGEND

- Priority restoration precinct
- Low intensity management precinct
- Land transfer pending
- Zamia Trail
- Minor walk trail
- - - Trails to be reviewed
- Vehicle access
- Bridle Trail
- Proposed highway
- Ⓛ Lookout
- Ⓟ Parking

0 500
Scale (metres)





Photo: R. Miller



Photo: J. Thomas

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Biodiversity Conservation strategies encompass activities to conserve and enhance the native biological diversity of Bold Park including flora, fauna, fungi and the natural processes that support them. Many of these activities relate also to the 'Ecological Restoration' category.

PROGRESS ON THE PRIORITIES IN THE 2011 – 2016 MANAGEMENT PLAN

The BGPA has further documented Bold Park biodiversity with a series of survey and monitoring programs undertaken during the 2011 – 2016 period. In spring 2014 staff resurveyed 570 survey points for native and weed flora capturing data relating to species distribution, abundance and phenology. Analysis against previous survey data will provide an indication of change through time related to environmental and management variables where possible. Weed control focused on invasive grasses, Geraldton Wax, Bridal Creeper, Geraldton Carnation and Pelargonium.

In 2013 the BGPA initiated a significant Fire Ecology research program aimed at better understanding the responses of Swan Coastal Plain vegetation to fire.

This long term program focuses on Bold Park and Kings Park predominantly with additional field sites located in other coastal reserves. The results of this work will better inform biodiversity and fire risk management in Bold Park into the future.

Regular monitoring of vegetation and fuel structure at permanent locations within the 2012 fire sites continued to inform management responses, with results also fed into fire ecology research. Monitoring has focused on dominance and distribution of native and weed species along with phenology information.

Groundwater bores were installed in 2011 at four locations across Bold Park. These bores were monitored monthly to measure and document groundwater level fluctuations within the park.

Research into seed biology of environmental weeds continued with an honours project completed, along with a PhD thesis investigating the off-target effects of herbicides.

Links with research institutes were maintained with an ongoing focus on introduced species management, canopy decline and genetics research. Long-running external research projects related to herpetological assemblages in Bold Park and bird populations continued, including work by the Bold Park Bird Banders group that progressed a long term avian study.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- Conserve and enhance the native biodiversity of Bold Park including flora, fauna, fungi and the natural processes that support this biodiversity.
- Manage threats to native biodiversity including fire, weeds, pests and diseases.
- Progress research into the unique biodiversity of Bold Park to inform appropriate management.
- Maintain an appropriate survey program to update inventories on flora, fauna and fungi and integrate outcomes of research and surveys into management strategies.
- Enhance community appreciation and understanding of native biodiversity and its management by communicating research outcomes, biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration activities.

PRIORITIES FOR 2016 – 2021

- Develop a long term vision and a 100 year framework plan for the Bold Park bushland, including measurable biodiversity targets, in consultation with relevant environmental professionals.
- Manage identified vulnerable flora for their ongoing protection in accordance with species management plans.
- Expand existing information on local flora, fauna, fungi and their ecological functions through survey, research and literature review to build a comprehensive ecological record for the bushland.
- Continue to focus weed control programs on targeted invasive species and in priority areas such as restoration sites, and advance research into relevant weeds and their control.
- Maintain a fire ecology research program to identify appropriate vegetation management approaches to manage both fire risk and biodiversity conservation outcomes.
- Collaborate with external professionals to progress relevant fauna research and use outcomes to inform management.
- Investigate appropriate pest management in consultation with fauna and industry professionals and neighbouring land managers where relevant.
- Continue to investigate the cause of canopy decline in bushland trees and apply feasible strategies from research outcomes to management.

Photo: A. McCristell



White-winged Fairy Wren. Photo: B. Knott



Western Bearded Dragon. Photo: R. Glowacki



ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of a degraded ecosystem and underpins the conservation of native biodiversity. Ecological restoration programs are informed by related scientific research activities undertaken by the BGPA and other land managers and universities.

PROGRESS ON THE PRIORITIES IN THE 2011 – 2016 MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Five Year Restoration Plan was finalised and implemented in priority areas including the Reabold Hill, Oceanic, Mt Claremont and Eastern Gateway precincts, with site boundaries expanded to connect intensive restoration areas. In addition to these existing restoration activities conducted over 70 ha, targeted weed control was implemented in the 2012 fire sites, adding a further 23 ha.

The Five Year Restoration Plan was reviewed annually to maintain currency. Key restoration activities included seed collection of local provenance stock, control of invasive introduced species and planting of greenstock to supplement natural recruitment.

Several restoration research projects were progressed in areas including: fire ecology; direct seeding; seed germination ecology; and conservation seed banking. Rabbit control activities were conducted and consultation on metropolitan fox populations was undertaken with surrounding land managers.

Evaluation of canopy decline in the Camel Lake area included assessments of soil, water, disease and nutrients, but development of a wetland restoration plan for this area was deferred.

Active collaboration with volunteers and community groups included support for a Carnaby's Black Cockatoo habitat restoration project with BirdLife Australia and the Friends of Bold Park Bushland, assisted by a Department of Parks and Wildlife Perth Banksia Woodland Community Restoration Grant.

Other community activities included the Friends of Bold Park Bushland restoration activities, Bold Park open days and support for BGPA volunteer information sessions.



Photo: J. Thomas



Photo: M. Mykytiuk

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- Restore the native ecological communities in Bold Park bushland in the long term to be as biodiverse, representative, regionally integrated and self-sustaining as possible given the park's context.
- Manage impediments to natural ecological functioning that result in species loss and ecosystem degradation, such as fire, erosion, weeds, pests and diseases.
- Replace introduced flora in bushland, including the pine plantation in the long term, with appropriate provenance native species to build resilient ecological communities.
- Focus restoration activities in high priority areas to enhance existing restoration sites and conserve and enhance areas of good condition bushland.
- Review restoration priorities as an adaptive management response to unplanned disturbance events such as fire.
- Continue restoration research to enable adaptive management underpinned by scientific knowledge.
- Continue to manage the former Skyline Drive-in site for highly invasive species with a long term view to restore the site and reconnect the significant surrounding bushland to protect it from degradation.
- Consider opportunities for the future use of the former Turf Farm to advance restoration activities in Bold Park.

PRIORITIES FOR 2016 – 2021

- Implement restoration activities in accordance with the Five Year Restoration Plan including the following precincts: Oceanic, Reabold Hill, Eastern Gateway, Mt Claremont, West Coast Highway, 2012 fire sites and the Western Australian Ecology Centre.
- Annually review the Bold Park Five Year Restoration Plan in the context of the long term vision for Bold Park bushland and identified biodiversity priorities.
- Conduct restoration research into priority activities including weed management, feral animal control, pollination, seed dormancy, conservation genetics and revegetation techniques.



Photo: J. Thomas

- Support regular community involvement in bushland restoration with the Friends of Bold Park Bushland and other relevant community groups.
- Continue monitoring activities with a focus on restoration sites, post fire regeneration areas and other priorities identified in the 100 year framework plan for Bold Park.



Purple Tassels. Photo: B. Nuske

A haven for native flora



Photo: Wings Photographic

VISITATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Visitation and community engagement strategies deliver safe and suitable access and facilities for visitors, and provide passive recreation opportunities that are compatible with the long-term integrity of Bold Park's conservation values. The BGPA encourages community involvement and engagement to enhance knowledge and appreciation of the identity, biodiversity and cultural heritage of Bold Park. The BGPA works with the community to protect the park's conservation values and deliver a safe, high quality visitor experience.

PROGRESS ON THE PRIORITIES IN THE 2011 – 2016 MANAGEMENT PLAN

Recommendations from the External Review of the BGPA Fire Management and Response Plan were implemented including a Comprehensive Bushfire Risk Assessment. This resulted in the preparation of a park evacuation plan, a park closure plan related to Fire Danger Rating, and revision of the Fire Management and Response Plan.

A Tree Management Policy was endorsed by the BGPA Board, including the use of the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment system which was subsequently implemented in Bold Park annually from 2015.

The Tuart and Camel Lake carpark were upgraded to protect trees and improve entry points and access, and substantial upgrades to selected walking tracks

were completed. A concept for the provision of visitor access from the West Coast Highway underpass was developed but further design was deferred due to other priorities.

Use of the Bold Park Bridle Trail was monitored weekly over five years and a review of data collected demonstrated very low and infrequent use by horse riders but greater use by pedestrians. Public submissions related to the proposed closure of the Bridle Trail were divided in their views, however as an appreciable number were opposed to the closure, managed access for horse riding will continue for this current plan period.

Feedback from the community led to the initiation of a one way cycling strategy on Scenic Walk to permit uphill cycling only for improved visitor safety. Active engagement with visitors continued to seek feedback on management and facilities and to encourage appropriate behaviour and conservation.

Improvements were made to directional and interpretive signage throughout the park, including new major entry signs incorporating maps, Aboriginal interpretation relating to seasonal variations and general visitor information. Bold Park was also included in the Whadjuk Trail Network.

People counters were installed at two key locations to monitor park visitation, however results have been inconsistent due to poor battery performance.

Community use of the Western Australian Ecology Centre continued with revised access to the building from 2014 to be by appointment only due to resource limitations. It is the aspiration of the BGPA to re-open this Centre to the general public in the future as resources permit.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- Manage risks, including risks associated with trees, fire and fuel loads and visitor access, as far as practicable for the protection of people and the long-term conservation and landscape value of the park.
- Provide safe and accessible visitor facilities, including access, orientation and information, compatible with the long-term conservation values of the site.
- Maintain existing pedestrian access for passive recreation, with any expansion considered in the context of balancing both demand and conservation priorities.
- Foster and encourage communication, involvement and active participation with volunteers and the wider community to promote awareness, understanding and conservation of the natural environment of the park.
- Conserve, enhance and promote the Aboriginal and other cultural heritage values of Bold Park.
- Inspire bushland conservation, understanding and appreciation through a range of interpretation and education opportunities.

PRIORITIES FOR 2016 – 2021

- Maintain high standards of fire related risk management, including appropriate fuel load management, through implementation of the BGPA Bushfire Management and Response Plan, community engagement and liaison with Department of Fire and Emergency Services.
- Implement the BGPA's Tree Management Policy to conserve trees and manage tree related risk, using the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment system.
- Maintain and upgrade existing trails for pedestrian access and safety, and proceed with provision of formal access from the West Coast Highway underpass to Zamia Trail and the conversion of a previous section of the Bridle Trail to pedestrian access as resources permit.
- Continue to provide horse riding opportunities with managed access on a reduced Bridle Trail, with use monitored for further feasibility assessment in the next plan period.



Photo: J. Thomas

- Retain current cycling access arrangements on Scenic Walk and Scenic Drive, and in consultation with key stakeholders, investigate additional opportunities for leisure activities in Bold Park consistent with public safety, visitor enjoyment, recreation and conservation objectives.
- Upgrade and install minor infrastructure, such as seats, drinking fountains and fencing where appropriate, as well as entry statements, boundary and other signage to increase the profile and level of community understanding of Bold Park.
- Continue to support and strengthen relationships with relevant volunteer community groups, including the Friends of Bold Park Bushland, and encourage community participation in appropriate conservation activities within Bold Park.
- Implement relevant strategies in the BGPA Reconciliation Action Plan to conserve, enhance and promote the Aboriginal cultural values of Bold Park.
- Engage with the community through continued interpretive and environmental education opportunities to raise the profile of the bushland and improve community appreciation of its function and its conservation values.
- Engage with park visitors to foster cooperation to ensure both the environment and other visitors are respected, particularly in relation to restraining dogs on leads.

Connecting people with nature

PLANNING AND BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT

Planning and Boundary Management strategies relate to the investigation and forward planning of any new developments or substantial changes to existing facilities in the park, and providing input on neighbouring external developments or other matters that may affect the management of Bold Park or its conservation objectives. They also include maintaining good working relationships with adjacent landowners and managers, and formal consolidation of park boundaries where anomalies exist.

PROGRESS ON THE PRIORITIES IN THE 2011 – 2016 MANAGEMENT PLAN

The BGPA maintained active involvement in relevant planning issues and provided input to proposed developments in neighbouring areas. This included liaison with the Town of Cambridge on the development of their upgraded Bold Park Aquatic Centre and discussion of issues of mutual interest such as the management of limestone slope stability and bushfire risk management. Input was also provided on the neighbouring Wollaston College Fire Management Plan.

The BGPA provided formal responses to a review of Emergency Management legislation, draft State Planning Policy and draft guidelines for bushfire risk management. Feedback was also provided on the designation of Bold Park as a Bushfire Prone Area, which was formally implemented in December 2015.

This is likely to impact any future construction within the park and within close proximity to it.

A State Government decision in 2012 resulted in an additional 2.85 ha of land, Lot 87 Mount Claremont, being scheduled for transfer to BGPA management as part of Bold Park, with formal transfer to follow completion of agreed landscape and revegetation works. Works on the land, formerly known as Banksia Farm, were initiated by LandCorp in consultation with the BGPA to enhance the site in preparation for LandCorp's residential development on the adjacent lot.

Progress was slow on other agreed land transfers to rationalise the reserve boundary to enhance Bold Park, including land west of West Coast Highway and land around the former City Beach High School, with formal transfer to the BGPA yet to be finalised by the Department of Lands.

The BGPA liaised with the Education Department regarding potential sites for a new secondary college to be built in the western suburbs near City Beach, including the former Skyline drive-in site in Bold Park. The BGPA advised that the sale or lease of Bold Park land for this purpose was not compliant with the Functions of the BGPA Act and would impact on efforts to conserve the native biodiversity in this area and cause irreversible fragmentation of the significant surrounding native vegetation communities.

A consultant study into the feasibility of building a new office facility around Perry House for community groups with an environmental focus was initiated by a consortium of community groups led by the Friends of Bold Park Bushland, with significant input from the BGPA. A formal proposal is currently being developed for consideration by the BGPA.

Photo: J. Thomas



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- Maintain active involvement in planning issues related to Bold Park and nearby development proposals to ensure the ongoing protection of Bold Park.
- Maintain the physical extent of Bold Park bushland, rationalising its boundary to favour biodiversity conservation within Bold Park.
- Continue collaboration with neighbouring landowners and managers for compatible and efficient management of Bold Park and surrounding land, and effective management of boundary issues of mutual interest.
- Where there is a direct benefit to biodiversity conservation in BGPA-managed lands, consider opportunities to accommodate identified community groups in extended or replacement buildings in the Perry/Peregrine House fenced precinct while maintaining the heritage values of Perry House.
- Consider any new development proposals in or adjoining Bold Park, giving highest priority to conservation of native biodiversity as well as assessing the benefits they contribute to the BGPA vision and mission and to the community.

PRIORITIES FOR 2016 – 2021

- Design and construct a new carpark on cleared land off Rochdale Road in consultation with relevant authorities and revise the entry into Bold Park at the former Turf Farm for improved access for fire management and visitor safety.
- Continue to liaise with LandCorp on the enhancement of the Lot 87 Banksia Farm land and progress the land transfer for its formal incorporation into Bold Park.
- Finalise minor land transfers and exchanges currently in progress to rationalise the reserve boundary and enhance Bold Park, and review boundary management strategies with adjoining land managers.
- Conserve and enhance Bold Park, consistent with the BGPA Act, to ensure the long term conservation of its significant native biodiversity values.
- Continue to oppose the section of Stephenson Highway road reserve between Empire Avenue and Oceanic Drive as currently proposed in the Metropolitan Region Scheme to protect the conservation, landscape and recreation values of Bold Park.

Scalsman's Beard. Photo: B. Nuske





Painted Button-quail. Photo: B. Knott



Photo: J. Thomas

REVIEW AND REVISION

The BGPA's Chief Executive Officer will annually review the implementation program for this Management Plan. Minor amendments to the plan may be required during the five-year term to allow for adaptive management. If major changes are proposed, an amendment to the plan will be prepared in accordance with Part 4 of the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998*.

This plan is due for formal review on 1 July 2021.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The BGPA acknowledges and appreciates the many contributions made in the preparation of this Management Plan through workshops, feedback surveys and written submissions, and sincerely thanks all involved in its development.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on Bold Park, please visit the BGPA website at www.bgpa.wa.gov.au.

For information regarding specific management or operational issues in Bold Park, please contact Kings Park Administration on (+61 8) 9480 3600 or via enquiries@bgpa.wa.gov.au.



A young boy in a yellow shirt and blue cap is reaching up to touch a branch of yellow flowers. In the background, another person wearing a green vest and a hat is visible, holding a tablet. The scene is outdoors with bright sunlight and a blurred background of greenery and more yellow flowers.

*Conserving a
natural legacy for
future generations*

BOLD PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016 – 2021



Gastrolobium. Photo: B. Nuske



Photo: M. Conroy, Silverstone Photography



HEAD OFFICE: Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
Kings Park and Botanic Garden, 1 Kattidj Close, Kings Park WA 6005
Telephone: (+61 8) 9480 3600 • Facsimile: (+61 8) 9322 5064

BOLD PARK: 165 Perry Lakes Drive, City Beach WA 6014
Telephone: (+61 8) 9480 3990 • Facsimile: (+61 8) 9284 9802

Email: enquiries@bgpa.wa.gov.au • Website: www.bgpa.wa.gov.au