

Overview

The City of Sydney has prepared a design for the new public park at Harold Park.

The public park will form part of the open space network within the Johnstons Creek Parklands. It is the next project guided by the Johnstons Creek Parklands Master Plan which was completed in August 2013.

The former Harold Park paceway and Rozelle tram sheds site is on Wigram Road and The Crescent, Forest Lodge. The site is undergoing redevelopment with 3.8 hectares of land to be dedicated as a public park.

The key strategies outlined in the Johnstons Creek Master Plan for the public park at Harold Park include:

- Vegetation areas combined with lawn recreation spaces
- Expanding natural habitats and re-interpret the Lillie Bridge creekline
- Capture and treat stormwater
- Provide spaces for a broad range of uses, including places to meet and picnic, small events and informal games
- Recreation facilities including a 'pocket' playground
- Pedestrian and bike connections to neighbourhoods and parklands
- Opportunities for public art and integrated interpretation that tell the stories of past uses

Following community consultation on the concept design in December 2013, the developed design has been prepared, and we would like to know what you think about the proposed plans.

Key park features and context



1 Open space



2 Cliff



3 Connections

Objectives

The objectives set the design parameters for the design for the new public park at Harold Park.

Environment

- Create a park that enhances natural systems and forms a mosaic of habitat, flora and recreation spaces
- Balance shade and sun in the park
- Reflect the natural and built aspects of the cliff edge in the park design

Water

- Integrate overland stormwater flow into the park design
- Harvest stormwater close to the source to improve the quality of water entering Johnstons Creek and Rozelle Bay

Recreation and community facilities

- Provide a range of spaces for recreation including places to sit, areas to meet and picnic, and children's playgrounds.
- Provide a large open space - a village green, for informal games

Transport access and circulation

- Provide a range of paths to link to existing neighbourhoods, parklands and the continuation of a greater foreshore pathway
- Provide safe and clear pedestrian and bike riding connections through the park

Heritage

- Tell the story of past uses through integrated interpretation and public art
- Maintain views to significant heritage elements in the park

Character and visual amenity

- Create a park that complements diverse landscapes within the Johnstons Creek parklands
- Showcase the park's context and natural assets
- Create viewing opportunities
- Develop an identity for the park through consistent design elements and coordinated materials



- 1 Link path**
Shared pedestrian and bike path incorporating low planting, seating and lighting.
- 2 Entry bridging element**
Suspended walkway or stairs connecting adjacent neighbourhoods and allowing views over the parklands for orientation and creating a sense of arrival.
- 3 Overland flow swale**
Low, linear swale to capture over flow from infrequent storm events, planted with grasses and paths bridging over.
- 4 Cliff edge**
Informal pathways at the bottom of the cliff meandering through native planting. This area is subject to final levels and cliff remediation works.
- 5 The green**
Open, level lawn area for informal ball games and pockets of trees for shade.
- 6 Tram Sheds garden**
The garden design acknowledges the past 'worker's garden' with historic and contemporary ideas.
- 7 Shelter**
Shade shelter for informal group gatherings.
- 8 Play space**
Local scale play area for young children.
- 9 Interpretation**
Art is integrated in a variety of ways throughout the park; incorporating new pieces and reinterpreted items such as the tram sheds water tank and semaphore board.
- 10 Habitat**
Native planting to enhance flora and fauna biodiversity.
- 11 Raingardens**
Captured storm water from neighbouring areas will be "cleaned" in shallow, planted basins that filter the water using geotextile and soil media. The water will then be used for irrigating the park or will be released back into the stormwater system. Final location subject to further technical considerations and cliff remediation works (by others).

Key Changes from the Concept Plan

Habitat and Raingardens

Opportunity for an additional rain garden near the Tram Sheds forecourt, harvests water from the new stormwater lines.

Play space

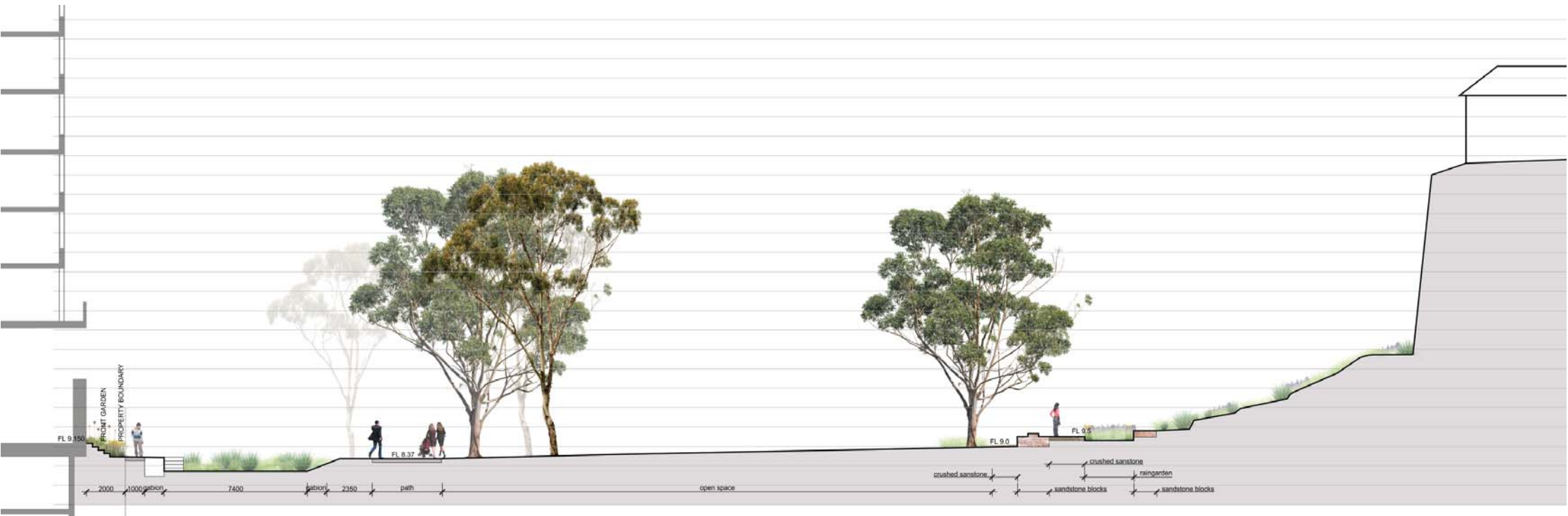
The play space is located centrally. Integrated with its surrounding setting, the local scale play space will include fixed play elements, imaginative play and sensitive play.

Access

Additional paths and bridges connecting the park from surrounding streets have been included.



Typical Section - Cliff face
not to scale



Typical Section - Embankment
not to scale

Technical Consideration

Technical studies are being undertaken to inform the design process.

Hydrology and Flooding

The park is located at the bottom of a highly urbanized catchment and will need to manage existing storm water issues and integrate with the existing and proposed drainage designs.

An initial study was undertaken to identify opportunities for Water Sensitive Urban Design and test impacts on flooding. This study identified opportunities to harvest and treat water from the Toxteth Estate area and incorporate habitat in the over land flow swale.

The final design will be compatible with flood risk, required approvals and integrate with the drainage design for the new residential development site.

Heritage Assessment

There have been several heritage assessment studies undertaken for the site. The park design will take into account the history of the site and incorporate the items with heritage value.

Geotechnical Investigations

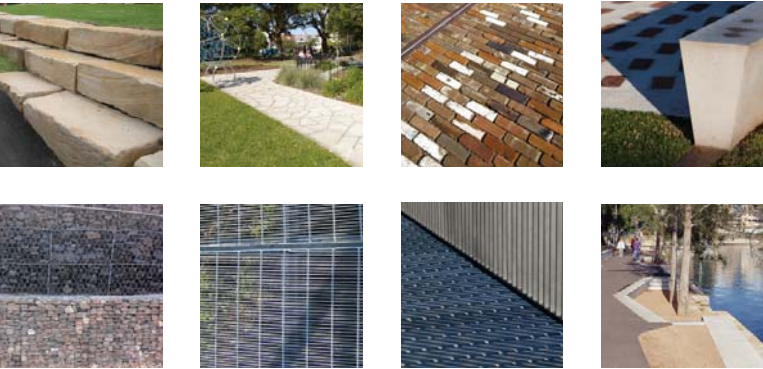
Geotechnical investigations and remediation of the cliff is being undertaken. Design schemes will be developed to respond to the findings in the reports.

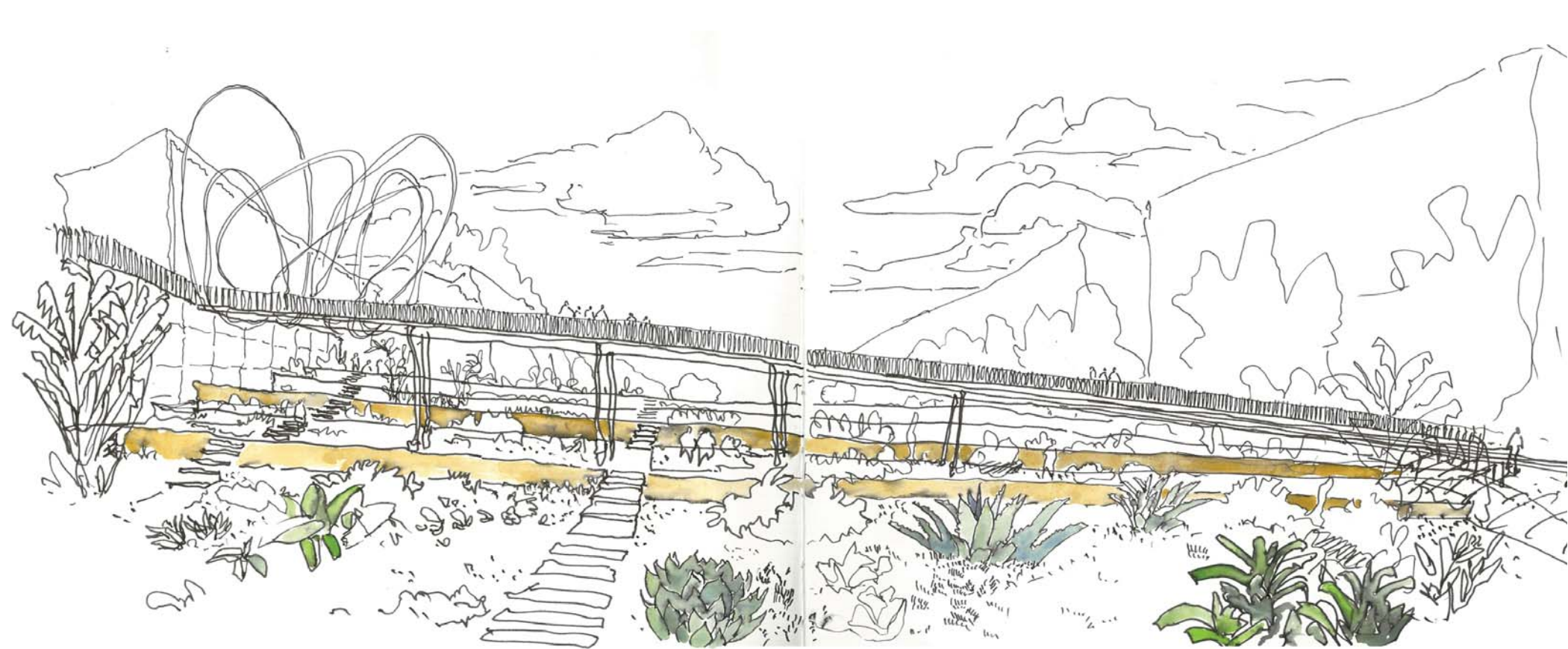
Superb fairy-wren habitat in Glebe and Forest Lodge

Superb fairy-wrens are small native birds that live in south-eastern Australia. A small population exists in Glebe and Forest Lodge.

Members of the Glebe Society and local residents have prepared a study to raise community awareness and provide measures to increase the superb fairy-wren bird population in Glebe and Forest Lodge.

The new park will include native planting areas to provide habitat and increase biodiversity.





Concept development sketch exploring the relationship between the bridge, the garden and the use of ornamental plantings

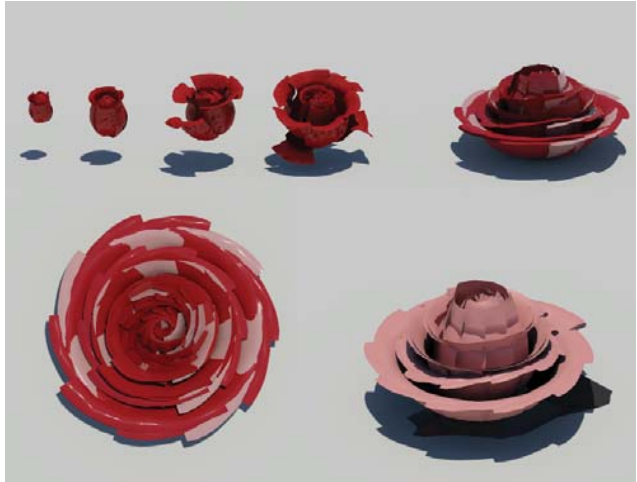


Figure A - The Rose (sculpture) - artist 3D

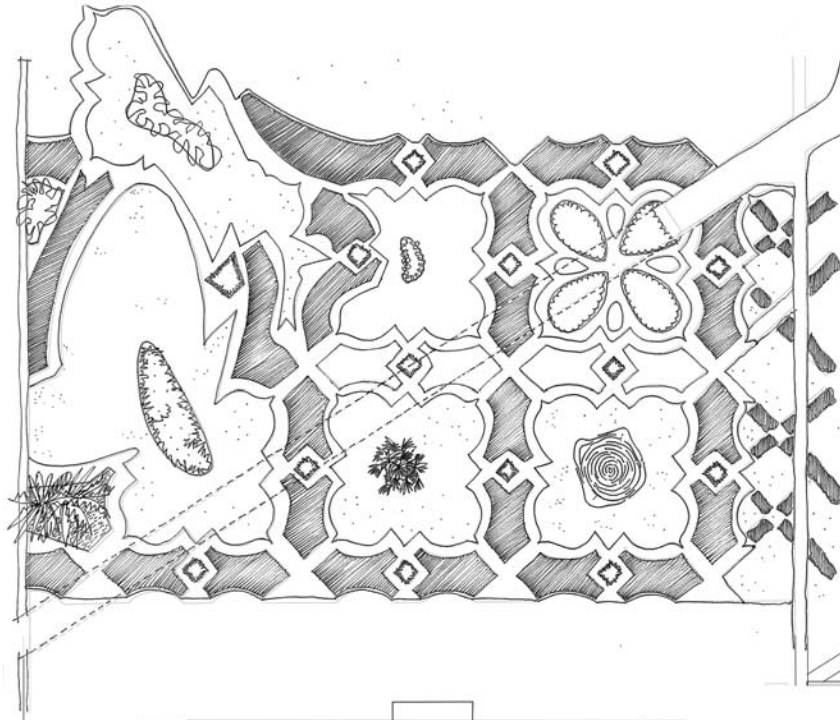
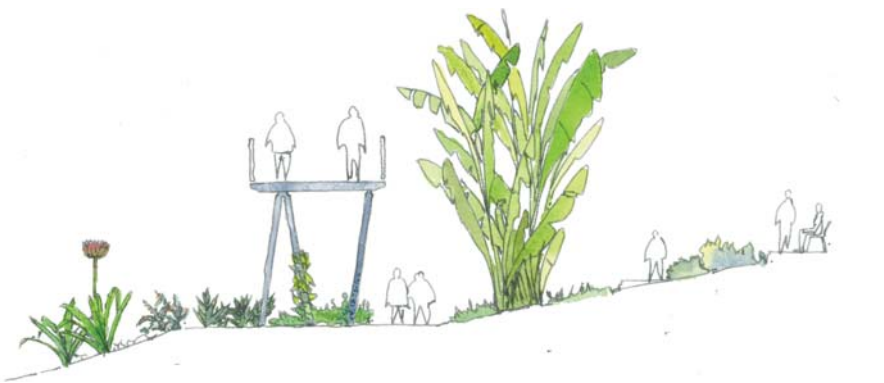
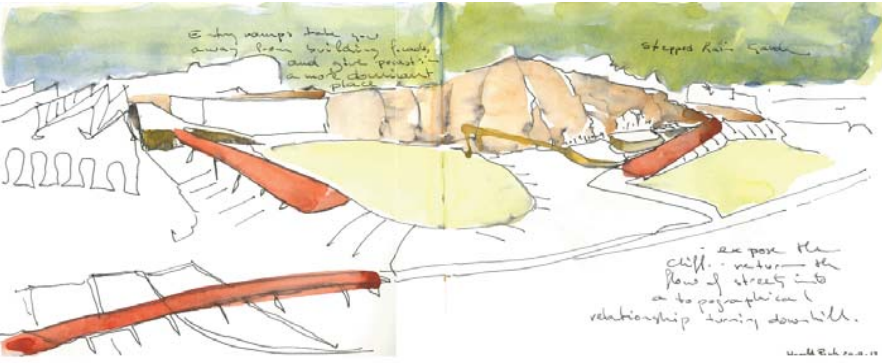


Figure B - Concept plan exploring the use of early 20th century pressed metal pattern to inform garden layout



The design of the Tram Sheds garden is a re-interpretation of the period ornamental garden once in this location, with a rich textural mix of plants, grass and pathways. The contemporary garden is structured in a pattern reminiscent of early 20th Century pressed metal work. See figure B. Inspired by the original tram depot garden the new Tram Sheds Garden will feature an artwork called The Rose.

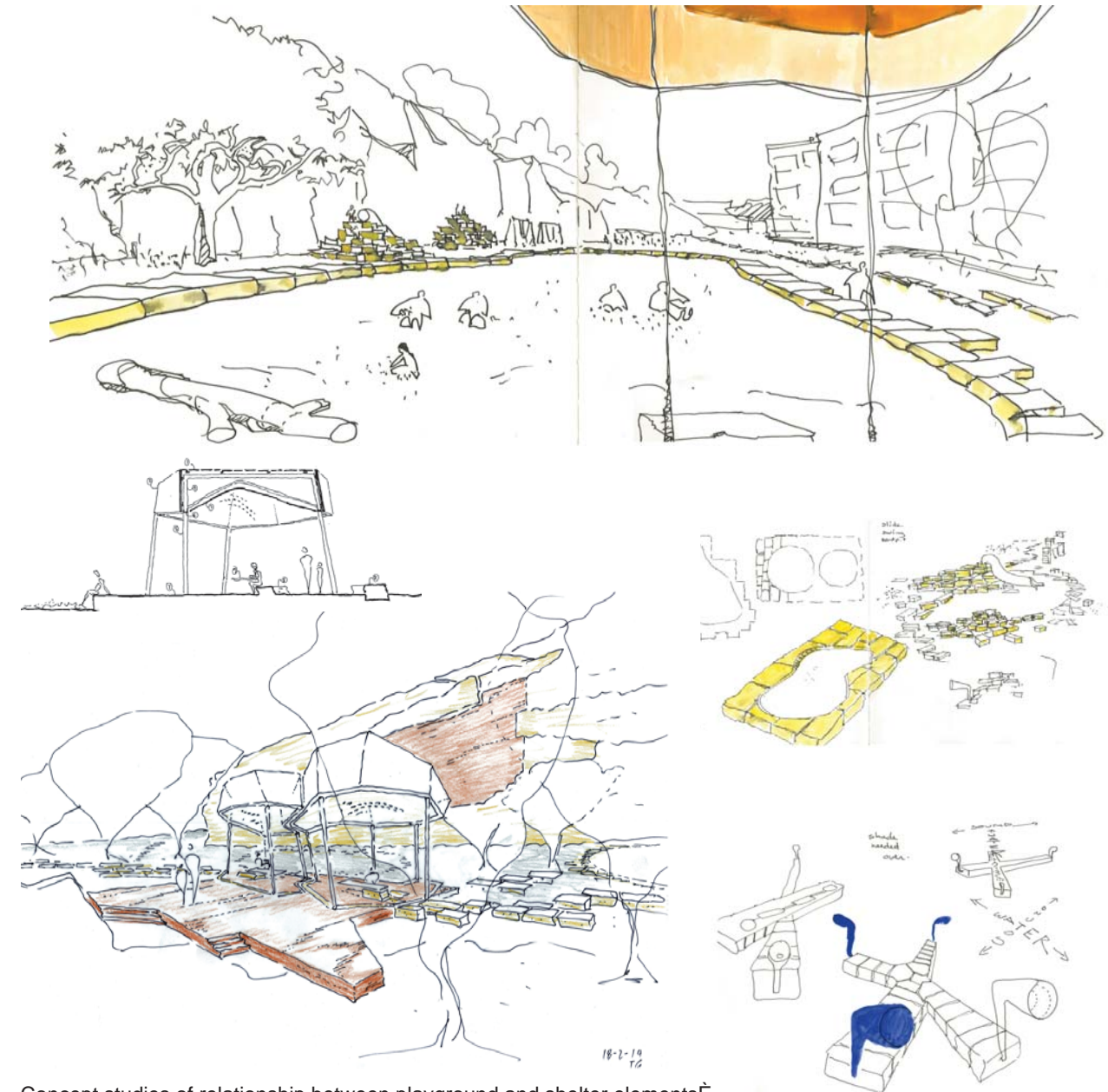
The artwork is an oversized element, giving a sense of larger than life world. See figure A. A pedestrian bridge provides an aerial view of the garden, connecting the park with surrounding areas while also serving as a landmark entry to the park and Tram Sheds. The water tank sits at the highpoint of the walkway as a reference to the prior use of the Tram Sheds.



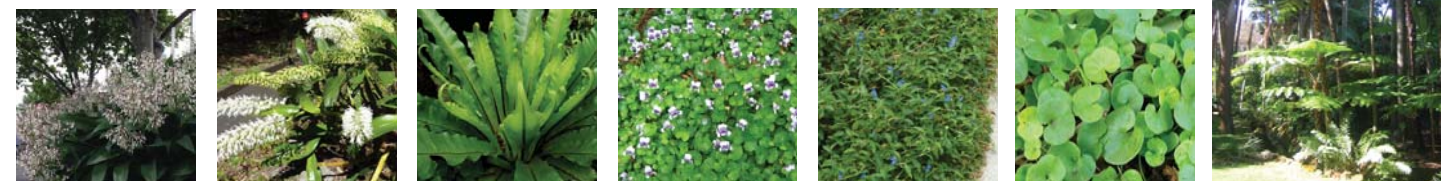
Concept development sketches exploring the use of bridges at the main entries including the Tram Sheds garden



Study sketch of picnic and play zones.



Concept studies of relationship between playground and shelter elements



The link path for pedestrians and bike riders connects the new park to Bicentennial, Federal and Jubilee Parks.

The gateway into the park near Ross Street and Wigram Road is formed by a bridged crossing of the swale and an artwork incorporating the semaphore board, a celebrated relic from the former Harold Park paceway.

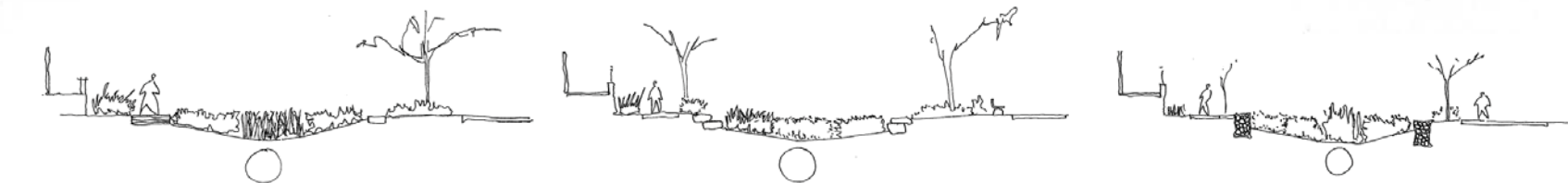
The semaphore board was the public display or indicator board that displayed the race betting

information and the results at the end of each race. In this art work it is retained and reinterpreted to create a way finding entry marker for the park.

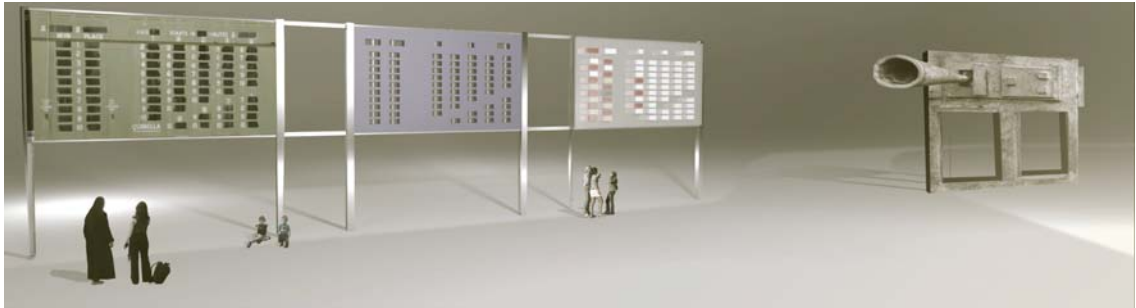
The swale runs the length of the park. Planted with grasses, sedges and small shrubs it creates an area for habitat and a buffer between the parkland and the new dwellings.



Birds-eye sketch of Park looking north



Concept development sections exploring swale options



Semaphore Board - artist maquette