

APPENDIX A



Australian Institute
of Landscape Architects

The AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards

Project Description Form

Please complete the following information and supply with images and other submission material after entering your details via the online entry system.

Entry number (this will be provided by the online entry system)

Statement of Achievement (maximum of 500 words)

Wanginu Park, Sunbury consists of 13.54 ha of once highly degraded landscape at the foot of a remnant volcano within Victoria's Western Volcanic Plains.

Leadership

GbLA provided a lead role in the restoration and development of the site. We were instrumental in guiding the preparation and implementation of vegetation management plans, providing leadership on the siting of the constructed wetland, co-ordinating civil and landscape design and providing on site support during civil and landscape construction.

Thinking

Key Challenges:

- Highly erosive soils
- Steep grades up to 1:1
- Numerous archaeological sites to negotiate
- Existing live waterways
- EVC grasslands and required Net Gain targets
- Effective community integration
- Local authority ambivalence to landscape vision

Results

The brief required a landscape masterplan to guide the restoration, development and management of the sites assets to deliver a parkland that:

- Revealed and enhanced the natural character of the site.
- Enabled passive recreation and engagement of the local community.
- Achieved native vegetation offset management of 0.62 Habitat Hectares of Plains Grassland.
- Integrated stormwater retention and water quality treatment via a perched wetland
- Restoration of natural systems.
- Provided for an improved landscape amenity of the site.

Key areas of innovation and best practice for this project included:

- Mulching of site woody weeds to provide cover for natural re-generation
- Early land management practices years in advance of actual project commencement
- Seed collection from site.
- Mosaic burning of grassland patches to remove weed biomass and promote seed bank regeneration.
- Planting design influenced by site microclimates, species natural occurrence and anticipated maintenance regimes to help achieve long term vegetation enhancement outcomes
- Utilising gps markers to define grassland patches.
- Encouraging natural recruitment to help achieve a viable and effective long term solution for the flora and fauna of the site.
- Re-connection of vegetation patches to create consolidated vegetation composition and quality to increase bio-diversity and to help protect and improve vegetation values.
- Implementation of sustainable land management practices including:
 - Native seed and cuttings collected from site, propagated locally and re-instated
 - Xeriscape landscape
 - Mulch in part collected from woody weed biomass across the site
 - Retention, management and improvement of site soil.
 - Plant design and installation methodology according to soil characteristics, aspect, existing vegetation and artifact sites

Effective co-ordination was required amongst and with the following authorities, departments and groups to help achieve the vision for the site.

- Places Victoria
- Hume City Council
- Melbourne Water Corporation
- Wurrundjeri Tribe

The restoration of the site demonstrates a best practice approach to achieving low impact, environmentally sustainable solutions for land systems restoration and rehabilitation. The open space has been thoroughly integrated with the surrounding urban fabric providing essential and valuable passive open space opportunities for local residents while also significantly improving the availability and quality of habitat for local wildlife.

Credits and Attributions (please list each person and company on a separate line). These will be included on any Award Certificate.

Image captions (please label each image as saved and acknowledge the photographer for each)

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Supporting documentation (please label each additional item supplied and provide a number below to correspond)

