

Identification and location

Name of place: Specimen trees at Yarraville Gardens

Other Name Phoenix canariensis'

Address off Hyde Street

Yarraville

Place Identifier 22597

Heritage Significance Regional

Creation date(s) 1913-1915c

Map (Melway) 42C7

Boundary description These trees are being assessed as part of a separate project being managed by City of Maribyrnong.

Local Government Area City of Maribyrnong

Ownership Type Public

Description

Site Type: Tree(s), specimen

Physical Description

Specimen trees in the Yarraville Gardens include the dominant Canary Island palms, conifers, pittosporum and coprosma, interspersed with what is likely to be a 19th Century garden core as described in 1913 viz. hoop, Canary Island and Aleppo Pines, mature elms, and pepper trees.

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Condition

fair (disturbed, reasonably preserved)

Integrity

substantially intact/some intrusions

Context

Part of notable Yarraville Gardens & Cuming Reserve garden precinct, with industry and the river to the east.

Threats:

Pruning for added and existing service lines, removal with maturity, carparking, root compaction, adjoining development or activity.

History

These gardens were described on early survey plans as the Footscray municipality's Botanical Gardens. However, this grand vision did not materialise for many years after these plans were drawn.

In response to a threat by the State Government to the continuation of the Yarraville Gardens as a reserve, Footscray Council submitted a 'scheme of improvements' ... 'to beautify the ground for the benefit of the citizens as a pleasure resort { RS1453: 24/6/13 }'. A photograph of the park in 'Footscray's First Fifty Years' 1909 shows an immature but dense tree plantation {Butler, 1989}.

David Matthews joined the Footscray Council as a 'working landscape gardener' in 1916. Within 6 years he had gained the confidence of the Council and local interest groups, working with them to beautify many public reserves { Lack, 1991, 209}. Aided by sustenance labour he was able to achieve many ambitious schemes in the inter-war period. He retired in 1964 with an MBE in 1965. Footscray Park is considered to be his showpiece {Lack, 1991}. This garden was one of his projects.

The 1945 aerial view shows the staged planting of the reserve with well established trees and pathways on the south-west section and new planting on the north. A 1945 city publication noted as one of the few permanent reserves in the City, having 'Gardens & lawns, one cricket wicket, two tennis courts'.

(These trees and the reserve are being assessed as part of a separate project being managed by the City of Maribyrnong)

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme

PAHT Subtheme

Local Theme(s)

Cultural Significance

These trees are being assessed as part of a separate project being managed by City of Maribyrnong.

Comparative Examples:

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Recommendations

Heritage Victoria Register

Register of the National Estate:

Historic Places - Significant Trees in the City of Maribyrnong

National Trust Register:

Other Heritage Listings

Planning Scheme Protection

External Paint Controls Apply?:

Internal Alteration Controls Apply?:

Tree Controls Apply?:

Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Act:

Are there Outbuildings or Fences not Exempt?:

Prohibited Uses may be Permitted

Recommendations:

Prepare a conservation management plan which accounts for the heritage or cultural value of these trees and the park and recommended management techniques to ensure their preservation.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

A4 Importance for their association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, state, region or community.

Represents the surge in public landscaping in the City during the early 20th century

B2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practiced, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.

represents an uncommon group of mature exotics in the City

G1 Importance as places highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations.

the setting for a public place over an extended period, enjoyed by many local residents and pictured in local publications.

historical significanc architectural significan social significance scientific significanc

Documentation

References

Lack, 1991, 'A History of Footscray';
Butler, 1989. City of Footscray Urban Conservation Study;
City of Maribyrnong collection: 1931 aerial
Landinfo aerial 1945 images
'Footscray's First Fifty Years' 1909: 135
Footscray Council committee minutes (VPRO) VPRS 005337;
City of Footscray, 1945. 'Facts about Footscray City', n.p.;
Jenni Lee, City of Maribyrnong, 2000: Yarraville Gardens Management Study being undertaken

Historic Places - Significant Trees in the City of Maribyrnong

by Jill Orr-Young Landscape Architects, anticipating completion in Sept. 2000.

Data recording

Assessed By:

Assessed Date:

