



ST VINCENT GARDENS

MAJOR LANDSCAPE RENEWALS

Following consultation with the St Vincent Gardens Advisory Committee and a review of the St Vincent Gardens Conservation

Management Plan, Council identified the need for a range of landscape renewals to supplement the improved maintenance program adopted for these significant gardens.

As part of this year's Capital Works Program, the City of Port Phillip allocated \$275,000 to implement a range of landscape improvements within St Vincent Gardens. The proposed works have been prioritised in accordance with the St Vincent Gardens Conservation Management Plan and Council has sought and obtained Heritage Victoria approval to proceed with the works.

Recently, Council commenced a range of maintenance works within the Gardens. These works, which are now complete included:

- The removal of the old arbors (entry pergolas) which did not form part of the original design for the Gardens. These arbors will not be replaced.
- Re-mulching and composting of garden bed areas to improve growing conditions for plants throughout the Gardens.
- Lawn renovation and fertilising works.
- Mulching around significant trees to improve growth.
- Irrigation system repairs.
- Re-levelling and reinstatement of lawn to the old depot site.

In addition to the above maintenance works, Council has proposed a range of upcoming major landscape renewals which will have a significant visual impact, returning the form and structure of the Gardens to that of the original design intent. These works are programmed for the coming months and will include:

- The installation of 8 new Canary Island Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) into "gaps" around the perimeter of the Gardens where palms have died and/or been removed over time. This will be carried out to match the original palm layout and alignment.

- Drainage works to reduce waterlogging and provide better growing conditions for the establishment of the palms.
- Reinstatement of the hedge. The original design for St Vincent Gardens incorporated a perimeter hedge. Future works will include the installation of a single species of hedge around the entire perimeter of the Gardens. This will also include pruning, plant removals and transplanting to facilitate the installation of the hedges. Timing of these works will be dependant on availability of suitable hedge and/or the need to "Contract Grow" hedges.
- Reinstatement of "Entry Posts". Council is currently researching and re-designing a number of posts which will be placed at entry points to the Gardens and which match posts that formed an original part of the Gardens.
- Montague Street Boundary Treatments. This will include the removal of a central path not originally part of the original layout of the Gardens. This path will be replaced with lawn, while the empty garden beds along Montague Street will be cultivated, fertilised and replanted with hedge.
- Tree Pruning and Removals. Following completion of an in-depth plant assessment study, a database of information for each plant including its maintenance requirements and a list of trees and shrubs that should be removed has been prepared. Council will soon commence a range of pruning and tree removal works in accordance with both the Conservation Management Plan and this plant assessment study.
- Replanting: A planting plan is currently being prepared by our Heritage Consultant, Jill Orr-Young. Once complete, replanting works will be carried out to improve the diversity of species and to ensure that the composition of the plants in the Gardens matches that of its period.
- Miscellaneous Landscape Works: A variety of other miscellaneous landscape works will also be carried out over the next few months. These include:
 - Installation of new timber edges to garden beds.
 - Irrigation system rectification works.
 - Reinstatement and fertilising of lawn areas.
 - Restoration of the heritage fountain.

The objective of the above works is to re-instate the heritage layout and framework of the original design for St Vincent Gardens and to ensure that an accurate database is maintained to ensure all future works are carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan.

"Improving our Parks"

**If you have any queries regarding the above works, please contact
the ASSIST CENTRE on 2909 6777**
