

### 3.02.09 Vista Area

Few places within Queen's Park are sufficiently elevated to offer views across and into the park. Some views are available from this area. Historically this was the site of the service buildings for the Queens Park staff, including the Curators Cottage which housed the public reference library for all things horticultural. Most of the park service functions are now based elsewhere in Maryborough freeing up this area for potential increase in use by the public.



View to the Brolga theatre from Landscape Unit 9.

#### PHYSICAL EDGES

Walker Street and the mass of the Brolga Theatre complex defines the northern edge of this area. To the east and south a high bank which would have originally been carved by the course of Gardens Creek drops abruptly to the river flat. To the west a gentle slope merges this area with the geographical and horticultural character of landscape unit 7.



Western slope from Landscape Unit 9.

#### VISUAL EDGES - VIEWS IN AND OUT

As already noted this area offer views across Queens Park towards the central business district of Maryborough. The photographs on page 64 were taken from this area, circa 1880, and 2003. The 1880 photograph indicates that park planners intended from the earliest times that the park space was to be well vegetated with a collection of specimen trees and extensive avenue plantings of large trees. High depot fencing would once have screened views into this area from Walker Street. Today what was the 'back door' is now permanently open with another new 'front access' from the Brolga Theatre.



View into Landscape Unit 9 from the Brolga Theatre.

#### VISUAL TRANSPARENCY

Currently the space itself presents a large open area edged along the top of the bank to the river side with the tangled canopies of senescent vegetation. The newest picnic facility in the park is located here but the poor aesthetics of the design of the installation detract from this key location in the park.

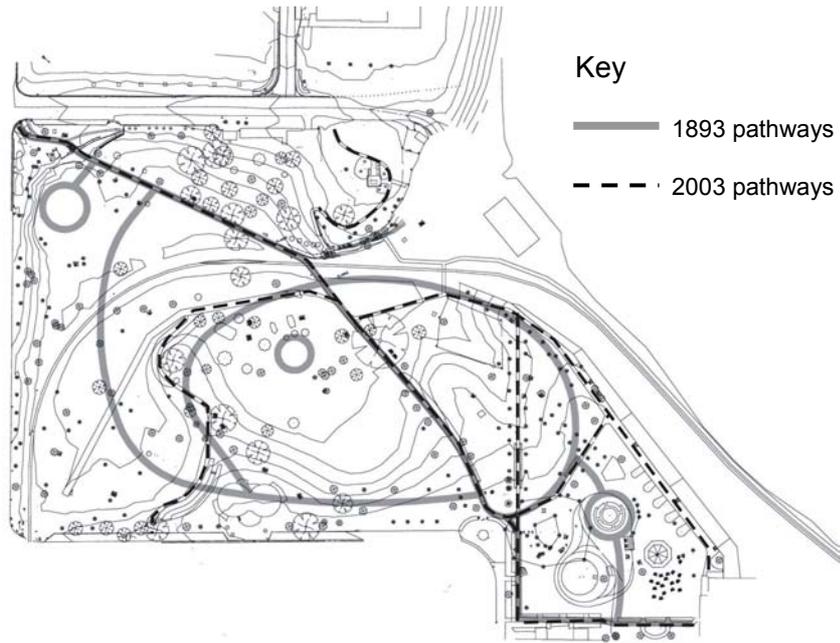
#### AT GROUND LEVEL

Construction on a new pathway from this area to access the Saddle area through the park has been stopped pending the re-design of the work to meet accessible design standards.

### 3.02.10 Pathways through Queens Park



Intersection of the north-western diagonal entry pathway with the railway crossing and the historical crossing of Gardens Creek



**Figure 44** Overlay of the 1893 indicative path layout for Queens Park with the park plan in 2003.



Judges (Top) Walk looking East circa 1870



Judges (Top) Walk looking East circa 1910



Judges (Top) Walk looking East 2003

The overlay of the 1893 path plan on the 2003 plan of existing conditions in Queens Park, Figure 44 above, highlights a number of points of interest. Enduring routes are the diagonal access path that crosses the park from the north-west (corner of Walker and Lennox Streets), to the south-east. The direction of this park kinks at what must have been the ornamental bridge across Gardens Creek and this change in direction is preserved in the park today although the creek was buried over sixty years ago. The access path along the Bazaar street boundary also endures as does the Judges Walk pathway behind the Court House.

Pathways through the Historic Heart of the gardens have changed in relation to the change in the size of the circular ornamental gardens. Parts of some of the current pathways through this area may coincide with parts of the sweeping curve of a perimeter pathway indicated on the 1893 plan. This inner perimeter pathway encircled the area of the park that was to the south of Gardens Creek and enfolded within the constraints of the river bank and the central ridge from the end of Adelaide Street. A partial outer curved perimeter pathway is also shown on the 1893 plan to the south-west of the park. No evidence remains of this path today.

Both these 'vanished' perimeter pathways are indicated as generously sweeping around the park, apparently paying more heed to the imposition of a regular geometry to the plan form rather than responding to the undulating topography of the site that has been mentioned from the earliest writings as imparting a significant and distinctive aesthetic to the landscape design.

#### PHYSICAL EDGES

As described in the forgoing analyses of the nine landscape units in the park many of the pathways now provide the physical edges to the



North western entry path looking towards the railway line crossing



Pathway through the Historic Heart looking from the riverbank towards the Banyan Tree that is potentially on the alignment of part of the inner perimeter pathway indicated in the 1893 indicative path layout.

landscape units and in doing so underline the strong legibility of the existing landscape design of Queens Park. When the park was fully fenced, up until the early 1950s, access points were limited, clearly identified, and controlled to admit foot traffic only.

#### VISUAL EDGES - VIEWS IN AND OUT

The edges of the major paths through Queens Park have historically been visually reinforced with the planting of bordering avenues of trees of mixed species. Due to the maturity of these trees and the 'bowl like' character of the park topography views into the area are either blocked by, or filtered through, foliage and views out are up and under the canopy of the same vegetation.

#### VISUAL TRANSPARENCY

The pathways through Queens Park offer journeys of mystery and discovery rather than impressive landscape vistas. The spaces are perceptually enclosed by the vegetation associated with the pathways but they are neither claustrophobic or isolated. This is largely due to the transparency and height of the foliage associated with them.

#### AT GROUND LEVEL

The surface materials for the pathways in the park are either broomed concrete or bitumen. Advice indicates that the early surface was ironstone gravel, a local material of tiny red pebbles in texture quarried from under wallum soils. It was laid using a process of successive wetting and rolling of thin layers of the material in much the same way that decomposed granite is laid for pathways today.

The surface condition and widths of a number of these pathways does not conform with accessibility and safety standards required of pathways serving public places today.

#### FURTHER POINTS TO NOTE

The park has always been used by pedestrian commuters to access the CBD and other near-by places of employment, note particularly the diagonal pathway from the corner of Walker and Lennox Streets in this regard. When the park was fenced bicycles were not permitted in the park and entrances were designed to exclude these vehicles. During field work for this study bicycles were observed using the diagonal north-west entry path, the azalea walk, the river walk pathway and the surface of the drain over Gardens Creek.

### 3.02.11 Edges to Queens Park



View of the Mary River and sailing club.

Within its urban context Queens Park, Maryborough is significant visually as a verdant, picturesque parkland that is in stark contrast with its urban/suburban and riverside setting.

#### PHYSICAL EDGES

Queens Park is bound by some of Maryborough's most notable urban and natural features /elements: the Mary River, the town/city centre (including its heritage precinct), the Brolga Theatre, and Lennox Street. Lennox Street serves not only local traffic, but as a sugar cane haulage and tourist route, carrying significant amounts of traffic past the park, and carrying visitors into the city. The visual and



View to the Cenotaph entry from Bazaar St.



View east to the Band Hall and the Ambrose White Car Park entry from the Judges Walk.



View to the intersection of Adelaide and Sussex Streets from the central ridge pathway.



Sussex St. edge.

physical integrity of these boundaries plays a fundamental role in defining and protecting the park's botanic and recreational role, its intactness, character and sense of place.

The urban setting that provides a strong framework for the park ironically offers the potential to undermine and infiltrate the park's edges and therefore compromise the heritage significance of the park itself. Examples of this are periodic flooding, dedicated incursions for parking, footpaths, cyclepaths, lane widening etc, and spill-over of the requirements of community entertainment events.

Existing facilities such as BBQ's, picnic seating etc at the corner of Lennox and Walker Street, are inappropriately located. This is a key visual node in the city centre: a signature corner for vehicles arriving from the north that tells the story not only of the park, but of its relationship with the river and the city itself.

#### VISUAL EDGES - VIEWS IN AND OUT

Views to the park, and the importance of such visual connections, have been instrumental in determining the siting of significant park elements such as the fernery that terminated the vista north along Adelaide Street to the Park; and similarly, the War Memorial and entry gates that feature at the park end of Bazaar Street.

Tree planting around the perimeter of the park dates back to at least the beginning of the 20th century. The purpose of such planting was threefold, to provide amenity within the park, to define the park's boundaries, and to advertise the presence of the park to both local residents and visitors to the town.

The park's topography, a central bowl surrounded almost completely by higher grades, has historically limited outward views. In many areas of the park this has been exacerbated by tree and foliage development over time, particularly in association with views towards the city and the river. This emphasises the feeling of removal from the urban context from within the park, and limits relationships with key aspects of the park's siting, the contrasting urban environment, and the river.

#### VISUAL TRANSPARENCY

Early photos of Queens Park show it as a primarily open landscape affording views into and across the park between Sussex and Walker Streets, to the river from Lennox Street, and from the Post Office tower. In general, tree growth and the expansion of their canopies over time has progressively limited the availability of such views, although periodic tree clearing (within and surrounding the park), offers views in to limited areas of the park.

#### AT GROUND LEVEL

With the perimeter fencing now removed from the majority of the boundary of the park the green lawn space flows out over the edge of its bowl onto the adjacent footpaths and is stopping abruptly at the kerb line. At the bottom of the bowl the green sward flows out towards the Mary River in much the same way that the waters of gardens creek would once have done.