

DENNIS RESERVE OPEN SPACE AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Design Concept Plan

PREPARED: OCT 2019
NOT TO SCALE

HOBSONSBAY CITY COUNCIL



LEGEND

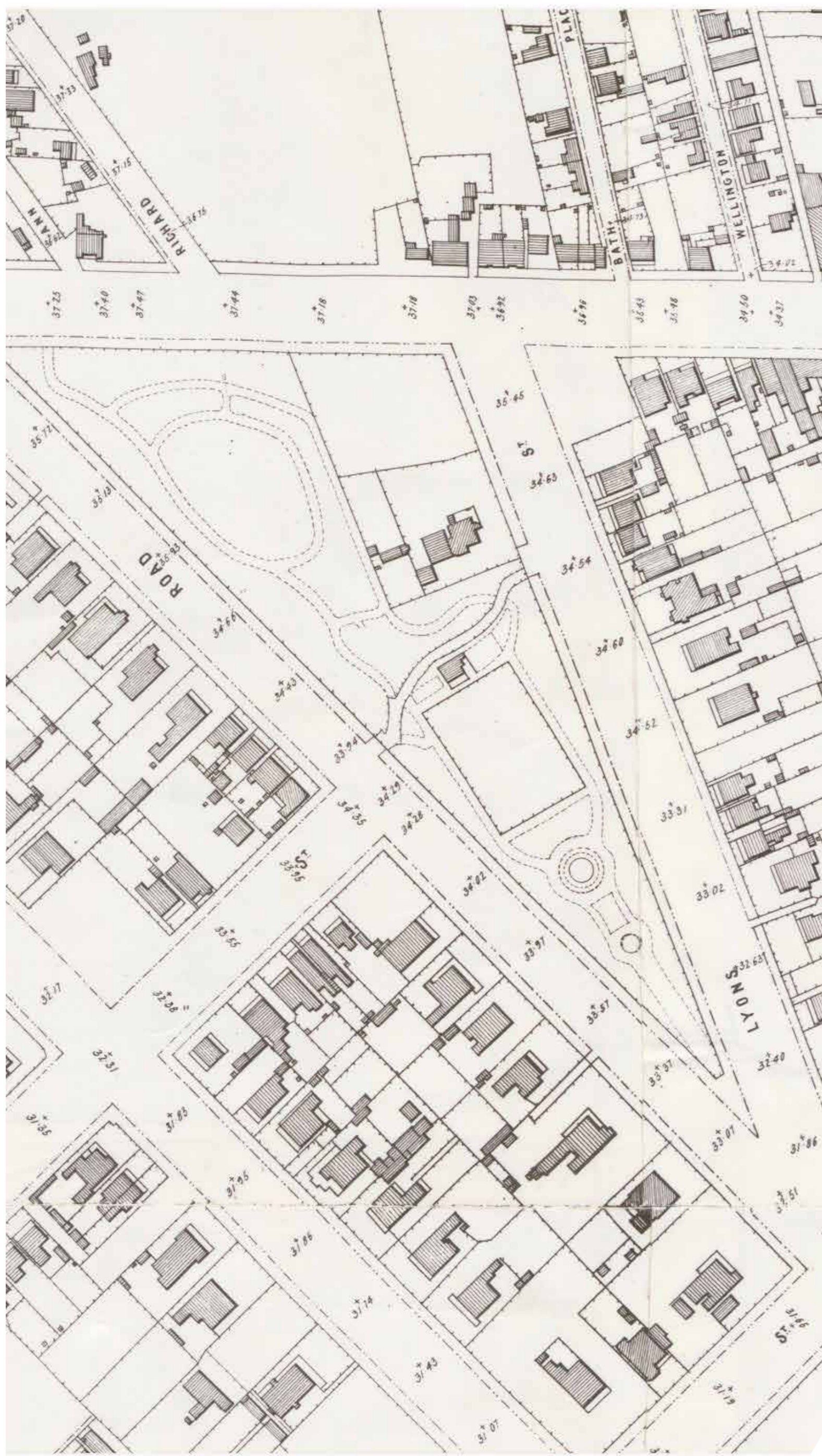
- EXISTING TREES
- EXISTING PINE TREES
- EXISTING PALM TREES
- NEW TREES
- NEW PALM TREES
- LAWN AREA
- ASPHALT FOOTPATH
- GRANITIC GRAVEL FOOTPATH
- NEW BLUESTONE PAVING
- ASPHALT PAVING / FOOTPATH
- CONCRETE ACCESS PATH
- NEW GARDEN BED
- NEW FEATURE PLANTING
- NEW PLAY SPACE
- NEW BICYCLE HOOPS
- NEW TIMBER SEATS
- EXISTING SEATS
- H.P. HISTORICAL PLAQUE (IN NEW LOCATION)
- SURROUNDING HOUSES / BUILDINGS
- EXISTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
- EXISTING COURTS, BUILDING AND BOWLING GREEN TO BE REMOVED

DESIGN IDEAS

- 1 New play space** is moved from Melbourne Road and uses garden beds to protect it from traffic.
- 2 Open passive recreation space** with irrigated lawn and more shade trees
- 3 Garden beds are refreshed and extended** with the path winding through and pocket seating spaces.
- 4 New gravel paths** to create a loop circuit.
- 5 Existing seats** to be set amongst a garden bed backdrop along the front of the park.
- 6 Formal setting for the heritage monument/lamp** with bluestone/red brick paving and a garden bed surround.
- 7 Existing heritage trees** are given a formal circular gravel setting.
- 8 Outdoor paved seating area** extending out from the new building. (TBC)

NOTE: This is a design concept only and is subject to change.

Celebrating the heritage character



Dennis Reserve is one of the original reserves set aside by the Government Survey Plan and was one of the early public reserves established in Williamstown. Originally constructed in 1885-1940, it was established in the same period as the Williamstown Botanic Gardens. For this reason, it would have had a similar plant and tree species palette and overall aesthetic as the Botanic Gardens while also being reflective of the general character of the Victorian/Edwardian era. Aesthetically the original feel was as a formal Victorian and Edwardian character this is evident with the rare coronation lamp, remaining mature trees including the Aleppo Pines, Canary Island Pines, and Peppercorn trees, Cypress, English Elms and Canary Island Palms.

The street furniture throughout the park will be updated to the more heritage style, and paved seating areas will have sawn bluestone and red brick paving with half hoop edging, steel and bluestone rockwork edging to garden beds. Plaques from outside the Williamstown Library will be relocated into the park.



Plant palette

The garden beds will be refreshed and extended using plants typical of the Victorian era, many of which are also found in the Williamstown Botanic Garden. The focus will be on more colour, textures and interesting combinations of plants. This reflects the Victoria era interest in the exotic and things from travels to all corners of the world. Low water use and low maintenance will also be factors considered with the final plant species selection.



More green open space for passive recreation

The old Ladies bowling green will be transformed into an open lawn area. The surface will be flattened out and the fencing removed to create a large central lawn area with new shade trees. The lawn areas will also have a new irrigation system installed which will create a lush green environment year round.



Dennis Reserve - heritage path

“... I find gardens essential to the creative process; as a physician, I take my patients to gardens whenever possible. All of us have had the experience of wandering through a lush garden or a timeless desert, walking by a river or an ocean, or climbing a mountain and finding ourselves simultaneously calmed and reinvigorated, engaged in mind, refreshed in body and spirit. The importance of these physiological states on individual and community health is fundamental and wide-ranging.”

(Oliver Sacks, British neurologist, naturalist, historian of science, and author)



A new playground

The play ground will be set closer to Lyon Street. The new location and careful consideration to the layout of new and existing garden beds will help to protect it from the traffic. While small scale, the play space will provide a range of equipment for a range of ages. The equipment selected will be sympathetic to its garden surroundings in the materials used, themes and colours focusing on childrens' stories and the mini-world in the garden.



Double rockers



Single rockers



Seesaw



Cubby



Rockers



Royal Park, City of Melbourne



Spinners



Ransom Reserve, Altona



Junior Climbers



Older Climbers

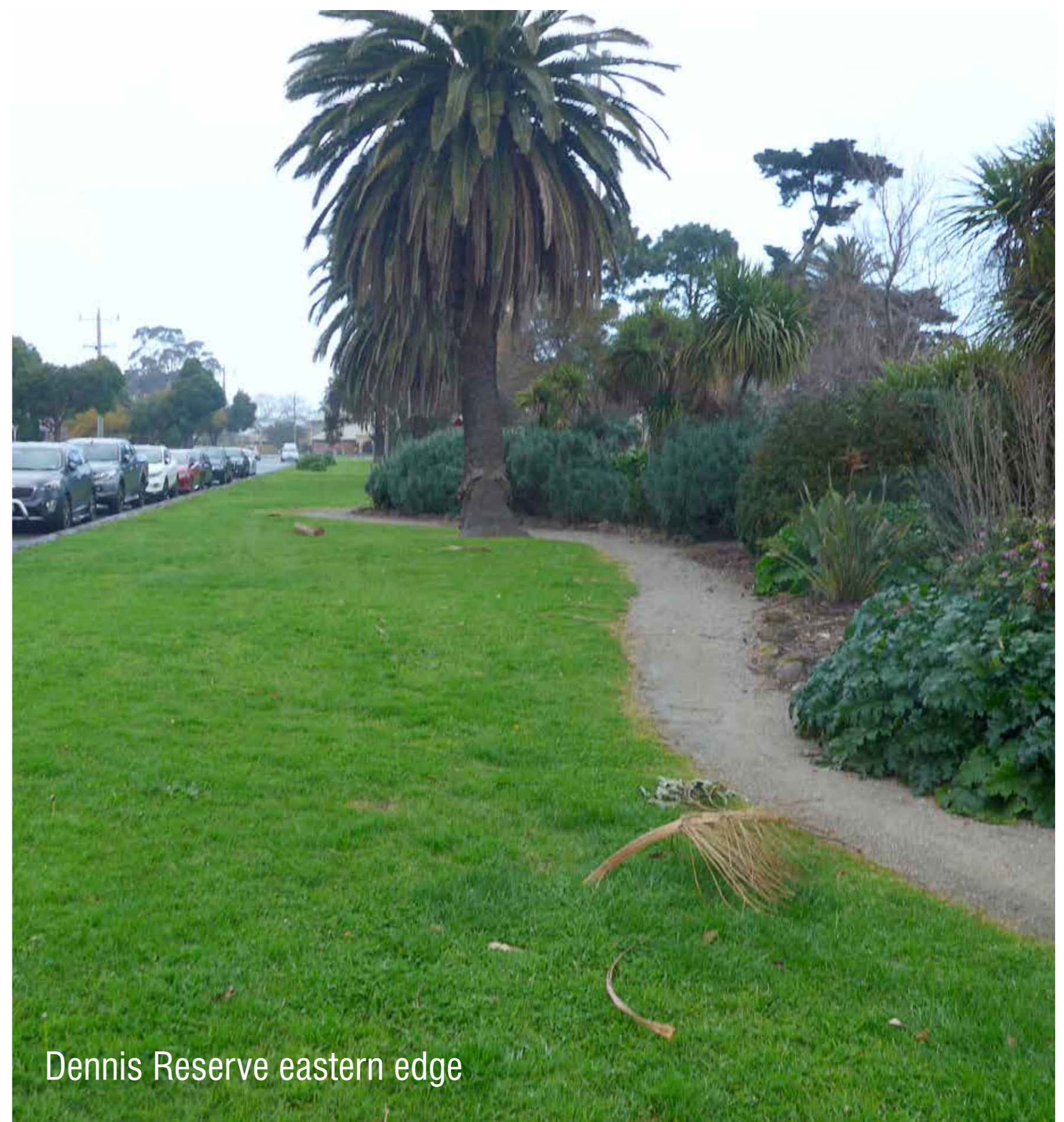
An improved and winding path network

In Victorian era garden design there were aspects of the garden which were formal and geometric and others which were natural and informal. This is reflective of the Victorian concept of having geometry (artificiality) close to the home and a more informal character further away. It is expressed for example in Dennis Reserve with the asphalt central winding path between the sporting areas while the other paths are gravel moving through and around garden beds. This logic will be retained.

Victorian garden design typically used gravel paths meandering through garden beds and lawns to secluded spots to sit and read or to lead to a surprise at the end of the walk. A plan of the original path network has been used to guide the alignment of new gravel paths. It combines elegant curves to create walking circuits with access to seating spaces and facilities. The asphalt heritage pathway through the middle of the park from Lyon Street to Melbourne Road will remain as a significant aspect and key feature in the path network design.



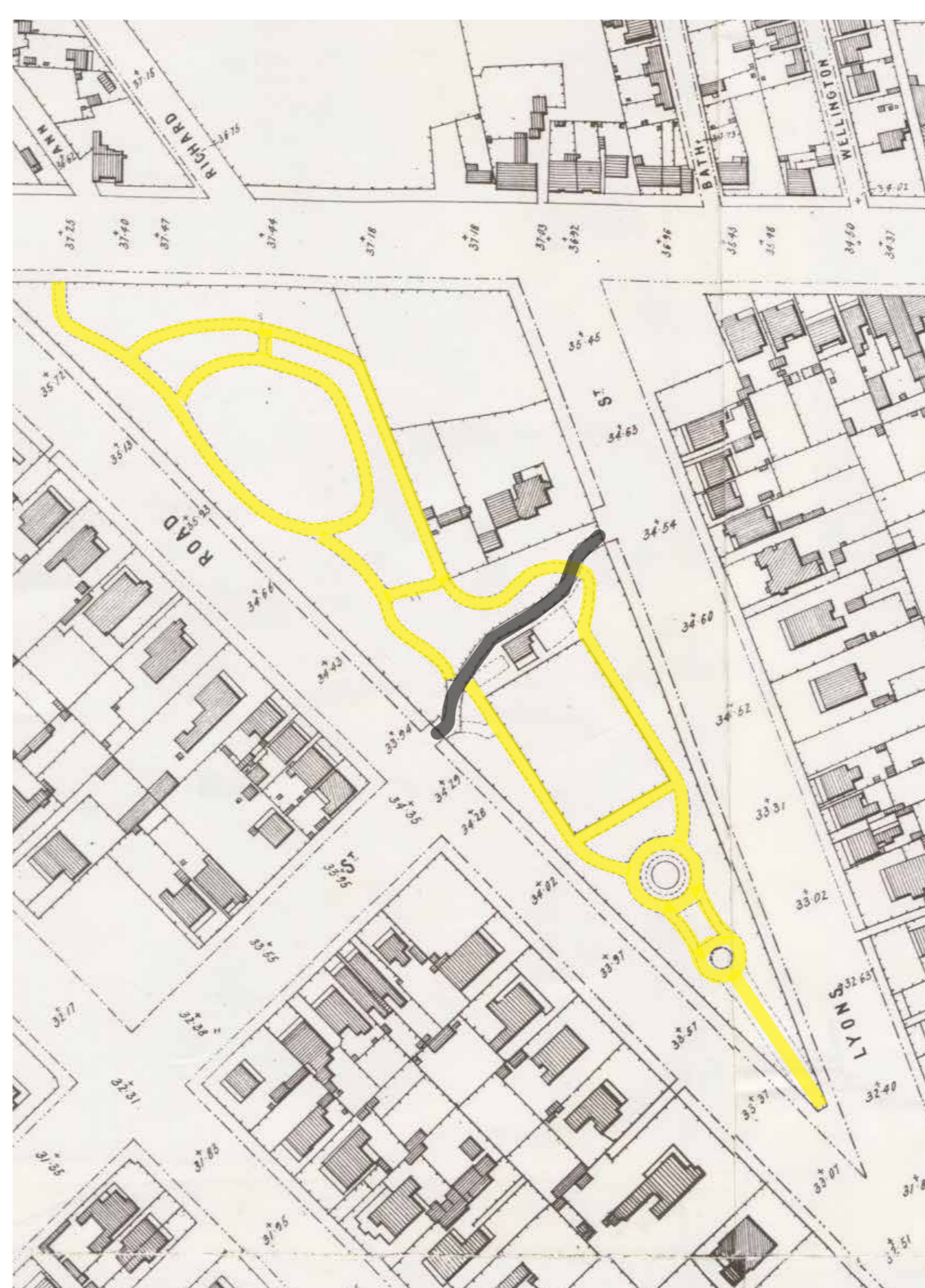
Williamstown Botanic Gardens



Dennis Reserve eastern edge



Design Concept Plan



Dennis Reserve plan from 1894



Aerial photo of site - with existing path network

Pocket spaces for sitting and relaxing

The combination of elegance and formality will also be reflected at key entrance locations where the gravel paths will lead to symmetrically shaped paved seating spaces (inspired by the original design layout) with new seats, bike parking and historical plaques. There will also be smaller pocket seating along the paths set within the garden beds to create a feeling of sitting within the landscape surrounded by nature.

