

## 5.7 Access, Circulation and Connections

### Internal Paths

The main clearly defined and complaint pedestrian path within the Park is the 5km circuit track known as Vic-Track. The path is gravel surface with sections of bitumen and has steel distance markers every 500m. There is minimal seating and one drinking fountain along the length of the track. Other paths within the Park do not provide sufficient connections, particularly for less able bodied users. The lack of dedicated pedestrian/cycle paths within the Park means the choice for users is to share the road with cars, walk along the road verge, rough tracks or on the grass. There is a need for improvements to road and path surfaces and the provision of better connections and shorter loop walks. Generally there is a lack of way finding signage for pedestrians throughout the Park.

### Perimeter Paths and Connections

There are a limited number of pedestrian entry points to the Park from surrounds, particularly at the western and southern interfaces which are relatively under developed. Pedestrian entries need to be improved, particularly to cater for children riding to and from school, and the safety of road crossings needs to be improved, particularly for older and disabled users. Sturt Street has the most clearly defined pedestrian entries with arched metal park name signage. Other pedestrian entries have limited or no signage, except in the case where the signage is shared with road entries.

The pedestrian conditions along the perimeter of the Park vary and there is no consistent path link around the perimeter. There is a dedicated pedestrian path along the Park perimeter at Winter Street from Gillies to Russell Streets. Typically entry paths aligned with road crossings connect with VicTrack where it runs close to the Park edge. Otherwise they connect with road/verges that double as path connections.

### Key Issues:

- Lack of designated pedestrian path connections to existing network, facilities and surrounds.
- Risk to safety for pedestrians using roads as walking paths.
- Quality of path and road surfaces needs improving.
- Shorter loop walks required and increased seating and drinking fountains along pathways.
- Lack of way finding signage for pedestrians.
- More DDA compliant paths to improve access for the elderly and disabled.



*South east corner - no path*



*Goat track connection to Russell St*



*Victrack*



*Permeable boundary to Russell St*



5.8 Existing Signage

Park Entry Signage

At each vehicle entrance, a park entry sign exists which sufficiently details where you are in relation to the Park, what the Park has to offer and local laws. They are large and, generally, set back from the road enough to allow cars to pull up beside them. In some instances, footings are exposed but otherwise they are in good condition.

Interpretative Signage

There is currently a lack of up to date quality interpretative signage in the Park. There is an interpretive sign outside the amenities block on Sturt Street with information about the Park history, however, historic elements within the Park are otherwise unsigned. Historic elements including the Mullock heap, canons, significant trees, and pine plantation offer opportunities to educate park users through the addition of minimal, well designed signs. Existing interpretive signs for the grassland areas are in poor condition and could be more strategically located and increased in number. There is currently no virtual signage or augmented reality in the Park however this should be considered in future.

Way Finding Signage

Way finding signage within the Park caters better for vehicles than for pedestrians. As well as existing signs at each of the vehicular entrances, basic street name signs mark the avenues. Arched park name signs frame the pedestrian entrances from Sturt Street, one at the corner of Gillies St and one at the Russell St intersection. Distance markers on Vic Track occur every 500m and work well at the pedestrian scale.

Key Issues

- There is a lack of way finding signage, particularly at the pedestrian scale.
- Historic elements such as the mullock heap, and historic events, including gold mining, Arbor Day etc. are not currently signed and interpretative information is lacking.
- Indigenous grasslands are under appreciated partially due to a lack of education and promotion; something improved signage would facilitate.
- Significant trees cannot be easily identified.



Existing distance marker



Existing park entry sign



Mt Holled Smith currently has no interpretative signage



Existing interpretative sign on Sturt Street frontage



## 5.9 Existing Hydrology and Lakes

### Public Amenity

The two existing Lakes provide significant amenity value for the Park but do not function as efficiently as they could for water retention and water quality improvement. Although they were not constructed until the 1980's a larger version of the southern lake was depicted on the 1890 Arbour Day Plan. The lakes area is popular for picnicking, walking, fly-fishing and attracts ducks and other water birds.

The northern lake (Lake 1), known as St Leger Pond, is used for fly-fishing and has grassed banks with intermittent stands of willow. There is a timber platform with seating at the waters edge.

The southern lake (Lake 2) has a bluestone pitcher edge along its eastern edge, installed to prevent erosion at the lakes edge. It presents as hard and methods of suring up the lakes edges using more natural methods should be explored. This lake has a diversity of tree types and a central island that is dense with vegetation. The northern edge of this lake is flanked by an uneven gravel car park which allows cars to pull up on the waters edge.

The lakes are periodically used for water supply to Parks and Gardens during dry periods during which time the lakes hold their level relatively well.

### Hydrology and Flooding

Southern areas of the Park are prone to localised flooding in wet weather as reflected in the flood mapping report, Bonshaw Creek Flood Study prepared by Engeny in March 2013. The areas most affected are Plane Avenue around Lake 2 and the Winter Street edge, though the whole Park is prone to surface ponding during heavy downpours and prolonged rainfall.

Generally, the Park drains to the south. While the west side of the Park drains across land toward the south-east, the east side of the Park drains through a system of open grassed swales that direct water into the lakes. St Leger Pond picks up untreated storm water from the surrounding residential catchment. This overflows to the southern lake, which picks up two additional inflows from St Patricks College and from a small area of the Park to the south. The overflow then drains through an open swale to the south-east corner at Russell Street. The system does not currently have capacity to deal with flood events resulting in flooding near the southern lake.

Due to insufficient crossfall and drainage systems, the roads edges experience drainage issues also.

There is potential to increase the capacity of the existing lakes and for multiple new wetlands in the lakes precinct and along the southern and south-eastern edge. This would assist in improving water storage, water quality and habitat, bio-diversity, and reduce localised flooding throughout the park and along its roads. Water quality could be further improved with modifications to swales and increased swale planting.

### Key issues

- Flooding is an issue in low-lying areas and ponding across the whole Park, but particularly near Lake 2 on Plane Avenue.
- Road edges experience flooding due to insufficient crossfall and drainage systems.
- Vehicle access and car parking requires consolidation to improve lake edge landscape experience.
- Planting around lakes could be improved to increase amenity value.
- There is a lack of defined pedestrian paths around lakes.
- Existing system of open drains and lakes does not allow for significant water capture and storage on site.
- Water quality could be improved through additional wetlands and increased swale planting.
- Catchment near St. Legers Pond needs wetland to filter water.
- Stormwater holding capacity is insufficient for irrigation of nearby ovals.



Existing open swale outlet drain



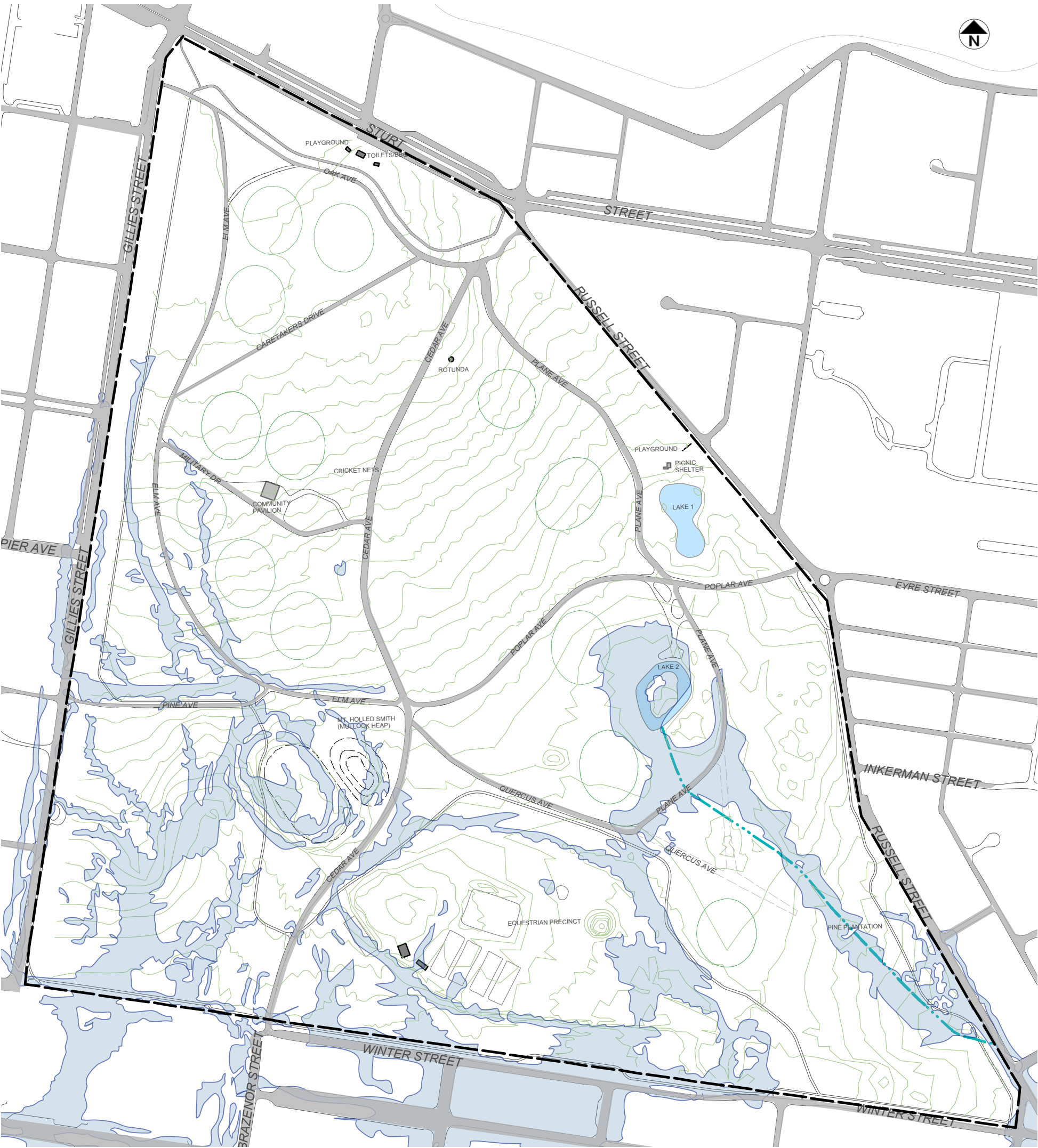
Existing Lake 2



Existing Lake 1



Existing Hydrology and Lakes Plan



KEY

EXISTING HYDROLOGY CONDITIONS

- GRASS OR VEGETATED SWALE (WITH OR WITHOUT AG. DRAINAGE)
- AREA PRONE TO FLOODING
- EXISTING LAKE