

11.0 ONGOING TREE AND AVENUE MANAGEMENT

11.01 TREE LINED AVENUES

The tree-lined avenues, mostly of English Elm, *Ulmus procera*, define the circulation patterns and walkways, provide a sense of rhythm, pattern and space; define the intervening grass open spaces – as a series of external rooms, some large, some small; and provide seasonal variation and change to the character of these spaces with leaf growth and drop, even changing the ground colours, in autumn, to yellow.

11.02 EXISTING TREE MANAGEMENT

Treelogic have described in their Tree Assessment the existing management procedures, and the varied success rate, in protecting the existing trees from compaction, related to event car parking, on grass areas.

The existing use of woodchip mulch, to define no-parking zones, has not always been carefully detailed, or adequately policed or managed.

Treelogic have identified a range of ground preparation techniques, around existing trees, and/or under new trees, including so-called 'structural soils' which can be used to address these issues.

A design guideline has been prepared for avenue and tree protection during event parking. The typical avenue treatment shows granitic sand crossing points at regular intervals between trees. The use of these crossing points can be rotated, and controlled with removable bollards. Bollard and pipe rail vehicle barriers are moved back to a line behind the trees, leaving the pedestrian walk as an open visual corridor. The internal grassed open spaces, will be defined by crisp, straight edges, rather than spotty heaped mulch patches. Parking on the mulch will not be allowed.

11.03 TREE LINED AVENUE UPGRADE + REPLACEMENT

One of the main landscape elements of Yarra Park is the tree lined pedestrian walks.

Continued use of the Elm tree species is recommended, using either the same species: English Elm, *Ulmus procera*, or Dutch Elm, *Ulmus x hollandica*.

Most of the mature tree-lined avenues are approaching the end of their useful life spans, and will need to be replaced over the next few decades. Trees are proposed to be replaced in 'whole segments' of side lengths of the triangular diagonal paths. Trees would be replaced with advanced trees about three metres height. The priority list established by Treelogic would be used as a guide. The whole program would take a cycle of about 20-30 years.

Issues such as control of Elm leaf beetle are discussed in Treelogic Tree Assessment and Tree Management Plan.

In some cases, past management practices, particularly inappropriate pruning, and current site conditions, including compaction, combined with the tree age, would suggest that the some avenues will require more prioritised action.

Three possible scenarios for tree removal and replacement are proposed.

Method 1 – Replacing each tree within an avenue as it dies.

This will only remain effective in the short term until a larger number of trees die, and it leads to lack of uniformity in tree height and form. And it is difficult to re-establish trees due to competition from adjacent, mature trees.

Method 2 – Remove and replant the entire avenue length.

This approach creates a sudden loss of amenity of a mature landscape. However, it does allow for replacement with a uniform avenue.

Method 3 – Remove and replant in smaller manageable sections over regular time intervals.

The advantages of this method of tree replacement are that it can be staged over time, to meet the available resources and budget, it avoids problems of competition between juvenile and established trees, specific short-term 'problem' areas can be targeted and the visual impact is not so dramatic.

All three methods could have application for Yarra Park, although the latter two are recommended.

