

Balingup Golden Valley Tree Park

A Celebration of Trees



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A place of beauty, tranquillity and rejuvenation

A place of learning and transformation

A community-developed and internationally recognised arboretum
comprising world and Australian tree collections



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**



This document was produced and endorsed by the
Golden Valley Tree Park (GVTP) Management Committee and the
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Western Australia



What we do

The Golden Valley Tree Park is Western Australia's largest arboretum in terms of area and number of tree species.

The management committee and its partner the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions who have tenure of the park, bring volunteers and communities together to protect and enhance the conservation and heritage values of the Golden Valley Tree Park and promote its educational and recreational values.

The work of volunteers is vital to the achievement of these priorities and goals.

Who we are

The Golden Valley Tree Park is a community-developed and internationally-recognised arboretum comprising world and Australian tree collections set in steep and scenic rural countryside 1.5km south of Balingup.

Strategic Priorities and Goals

These are our four strategic priorities and six goals:

A place of tree conservation with trees from Australia and other parts of the world

- To be a unique and internationally recognised arboretum of excellence
- To plan and manage the park as a sustainable and adaptive global showcase

A place of beauty, tranquillity and rejuvenation

- An inspirational destination for visitors

A place of learning and transformation, including recognising its Aboriginal and post-European settlement histories;

- A rich learning environment for people of all ages;
- A celebration of ancient living cultures co-existing with and enriching post-European settlement and evolving contemporary cultures

A place for recreation

- An exceptional visitor experience.



Our Goals

Goal	Objective	Management and planning approach
To be a unique and internationally recognised arboretum of excellence	To conserve and maintain a community-developed, volunteer-driven and internationally recognised arboretum comprising a unique and extensive collection of world and Australian trees	Partner with DBCA and our volunteers to promote biodiversity and conservation to promote sustainable management of tree species and tree appreciation generally as an attraction in the department's care.
To plan and manage the park as a sustainable and adaptive global showcase	To provide the community with an arboretum that is managed based on research and the application of conservation science, including water conservation in partnership with DBCA. To seek and establish research collaborations with other great parks and arboreta	Link conservation science and approaches to tree health considering climate change and mitigation measures towards carbon neutrality. Develop policies that ensure the on-going financial sustainability of the park and that acknowledge ethical donations. Embrace adaptive arboriculture and silviculture practices in order to make the best use of human and material resources.
To be an inspirational destination for visitors	To provide the community with an arboretum of great beauty, tranquillity and rejuvenation	Showcase a global diversity of temperate trees in an inspirational setting, fostering their intrinsic values.
To be a rich learning environment for people of all ages	To develop a place of learning and transformation that is based on the park's biodiversity and natural assets	Collaborations with Traditional Owners, TAFE, universities and other botanical gardens and arboreta to provide a place of learning for current and future generations of Australians. Ongoing provision of high-quality tree information.
To celebrate ancient living cultures co-existing with and enriching post European settlement and evolving contemporary cultures	To protect and conserve the value of the park in a way that respects the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people and apply Heritage Council criteria for the conservation of trees, building and landscapes	Establish protocols to promote customary Aboriginal activities compatible with other management objectives of the park and its tenure. Establish protocols for the collection, storage and retrieval of local Aboriginal and more recent post European settlement history. Develop conservation management plans and strategies for any listed heritage assets, including buildings and significant trees. Explore other locally significant heritage values of the park including Aboriginal and more recent post European settlement history.
To be a place of exceptional visitor experiences	To provide infrastructure that improves visitor amenity, safety and access	As far as practical, construct facilities using natural, locally sourced materials. Balance safe practical visitor access with stimulating learning experiences, without being overdeveloped. Continue to facilitate a tranquil rural feel. Develop a children's precinct in the Magic Oak Wood.

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge and respect the Wadandi, Pibulmun and Ganeang Peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands on which the Golden Valley Tree Park sits.

We seek to conserve, celebrate and learn from their culture and knowledge, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



Our Park's milestones

Founded in 1980, the Golden Valley Tree Park is Western Australia's largest arboretum in terms of area and species numbers.

35 hectares are devoted to a world collection and 25 hectares to an Australian collection.

The park was given a permanent entry on the Register of Heritage Places protected under the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*:

"Golden Valley, with its natural topography, creek, the homestead and early cottage form a significant cultural landscape. The interwar tree planting and subsequent arboretum plantings have a significant landscape value." (Heritage Council Assessment Document, p1)

In 2014, the park was listed in the Directory of Australian Botanic Gardens, and in 2020 was given international recognition as a Tree Park of value by the International Dendrology Society (IDS).

In 2021, an updated Golden Valley Tree Park Conservation Appeal was established in recognition by the National Trust (WA) as *"being important for both cultural and natural heritage reasons as an area of program opportunity for natural heritage conservation"*.

How we operate

The management of the park relies heavily on the work of volunteers and donations received locally. As well, the management committee actively seeks to work with local, national and international partners with shared values and goals to ensure an exceptional visitor experience, to contribute to a vibrant and diverse community and region and to provide leadership in conservation approaches.

Our partners include long-term volunteers, Local and State Government agencies, not-for-profit organisations, Universities, TAFEs, industry and commerce and the scientific community.

The Golden Valley Tree Park Management Committee (Inc) works within a Constitution framework under the *Western Australian Associations Incorporation Act 2015* and aligns in its management and operational planning with the outcomes sought by the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

All donations assist with the conservation, protection and promotion of the Golden Valley Tree Park's educational values. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible and can be made to Golden Valley Tree Park Conservation Appeal National Trust of Australia (WA)
www.nationaltrust.org.au/services/golden-valley-tree-park-balingup

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