

Concept Design Report

February 2022

# URALLA PARKS

PIONEER PARK, THE GLEN AND  
ROTARY PARK UPGRADES





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# Contents

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 Project background	6
1.2 Site Context	6
<b>2. SITE ANALYSIS</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 Pioneer Park	8
2.2 The Glen	10
2.3 Constellations of the South	12
2.4 Rotary Park	14
<b>3. OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>16</b>
3.1 Pioneer Park	16
3.2 The Glen	18
3.3 Rotary Park	20
<b>4. SITE STRATEGIES</b>	<b>22</b>
4.1 Pioneer Park	22
4.2 The Glen	24
4.3 Rotary Park	26
<b>5. CONCEPT DESIGNS</b>	<b>28</b>
5.1 Pioneer Park	28
5.2 The Glen	32
5.3 Rotary Park	34
<b>6. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK</b>	<b>36</b>
6.1 Community information session	36
6.2 Preferred option: Fibonacci Park	36



# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project background

Uralla Council has been successful in receiving funding from the NSW Government's Public Spaces Legacy Program for upgrading Pioneer Park, Rotary Park and The Glen; a once in a generation opportunity to provide quality community destinations and facilities, which will enhance the lives of residents, both current and future. This program is aimed at creating high quality open spaces consistent with the NSW Government Greener Spaces and Better Placed design guidelines. The Program aims to make a real and lasting positive impact to the community. The upgrades to the three parks which are part of the project were identified as catalyst projects in Council's recent Open Space Strategy for Uralla. The catalyst projects were selected based on their potential to have a significant positive impact on the open space network in the town.

Civille has been engaged to develop concept design options for these parks, consult the community and develop detailed designs for the preferred options.

This report provides an overview of the site analysis, principles & objectives, design strategies and concept design options for Pioneer Park, Rotary Park, and The Glen.

## 1.2 Site Context

Uralla is located on the Northern Tablelands, at the intersection of the New England Highway and Thunderbolts Way, approximately 20km south-west from Armidale. Uralla is a vibrant historic town with an actively engaged community. A brief description of each of the three parks is provided below.

### Pioneer Park

Pioneer Park is located centrally in Uralla and opposite the Visitor Information Centre and the Captain Thunderbolt statue. Due to its central location, opportunity to park larger vehicles and its new amenities it is a popular rest stop for travellers.

Before 1987, a hardware supplies store was located at where the park now is, but it got burned down and was never rebuilt, leaving a vacant lot.

The current Open Space Strategy recommends that a nature based play space be adopted at Pioneer Park to encourage travelling families to spend time in Uralla.

Some members of the community have promoted a Fibonacci themed park, which is linked to the postcode for Uralla, 2358, which is at the beginning of the Fibonacci sequence. Supporters of the Fibonacci themed park see the strengths of the idea in creating something unique to Uralla, which is co-created with the community and to provide a playful connection to the township through the mathematical sequence.





The Glen

The Glen is a delightful natural parkland located on Rocky Creek and its tributaries. The Glen is on the northern entry to Uralla, and just off the New England Highway, making it a convenient rest stop for travellers.

The Glen contains a range of existing elements including a former water body which has since been colonised by reeds such as typha and phragmites. There is interest in the community for this water body on Rocky Creek to be converted into a lake with the potential for use by model boats and similar watercrafts.

The park also contains the Constellations of the South sculptures by local artists Joan Relke and Carl Merten. The sculptures sit atop beautiful monolithic granite boulders sourced from the local district. The original proposal was to consist of 8 sculptures with interpretations of the constellations, but only two have been installed to date. The original proposal also included a walking trail with exercise stations along the route and new bridges to provide accessible connections throughout the site, allowing for visitors to walk along the loop. The walking track provides the opportunity for visitors to engage with both the natural elements including creeks and significant trees, as well as the sculptures and their interpretation and other cultural elements and their interpretation.

Rotary Park

Rotary Park is located adjacent to the Glen and is a smaller park. Rotary Park, in comparison to the Glen, has an amenities block, making it a convenient rest stop and popular stopping point for travellers. Rotary Park also has good shade and combined with its picnic shelters and picnic tables and BBQ facilities makes it a pleasant park to visit.

Similar to The Glen, at Rotary Park there is the potential to refresh the existing facilities including the existing picnic shelter, the existing timber bollards, and the amenities and car park and access road area. The current grant funding is an opportunity to revitalise the park and its appearance.

Rotary Park is also located adjacent to the local community garden and Uralla Swimming Pool and hence has the opportunity to leverage off the visitation to the pool and garden. There are good opportunities to create better linkages between The Glen, Rotary Park, the community garden and the swimming pool, linking these diverse and versatile public open spaces in Uralla.

At Rotary Park there are also opportunities to support the existing tree planting at the park, including the row of pine trees along the access road with additional feature tree planting. There are also opportunities to provide areas of low maintenance garden areas to help formalise the existing park areas.



Pioneer Park



The Glen



Rotary Park



## 2. SITE ANALYSIS

### 2.1 Pioneer Park

#### Site character

Pioneer park is an open space centrally located in Uralla and consists of a relatively new toilet block, a water bubbler, a few picnic benches, a small shade structure and a couple of empty concrete pads. The edges of the park along the street frontage have been planted out with birch trees, obscuring views to and from the park and blocking sight-lines into and from the park, which makes the park feel cut off from the street-scape and Uralla Town Centre.

The northern and western boundary of the site are colorbond and timber fences, which sit on top of the slope at an elevation 3.5m higher than the lower part of the park. From the top of this bank, people can look into the private properties. A row of birch trees planted centrally in the park block views over the park and into town and spatially divides the small space in two.

The park consists of a small lawn area and has a flat open space behind the row of trees and hedges. This is the most usable part of the park, but currently it is not well used. The flat space extends to behind the toilet block, but this area is waterlogged after rainfall and feels like a 'left-over' space.

To access the park, pedestrians need to cross Bridge St - a busy main street of approximately 20m wide. The parking strip on the north side is approximately 6m wide.

The brick paving characterising the town centre is does not continue to Pioneer Park and instead a narrow 1.2m wide path runs along Bridge St and a 1.5m wide path along Salisbury St.

Despite the park's central location in Uralla, the park is under-utilised and disconnected from the town's urban fabric. There is a potential to activate the space, connect it to the town centre, and make it more welcoming to the broader community of Uralla and visitors.

#### Legend

- a.** Existing vegetation blocking views into and out of the park
- b.** Fence line
- c.** Slope up to fence line (3.5m from bottom)
- d.** Open & flat space
- e.** Steep slopes and left-over space behind toilet block
- f.** Desire line
- g.** Existing amenities building & street furniture (bins, picnic benches, shelter, bubbler)







Pioneer Park amenities building & signage



Views towards Uralla Town Centre blocked by vegetation



Colorbond fence & timber fence on western and northern boundary of the site



Vegetation blocking views into the park & concrete path along the park's edges



Less usable space behind the toilet block at the bottom of the slope



View to the northern site boundary: steep slope, existing vegetation, timber fence and & electric cables sticking out of a PVC pipe.



View towards Bridge St: existing trees central in the park block views. Existing sewer main running through park.



View from park towards town centre and the central flat part of the park, south of the amenities building



2.2 The Glen

Site character

The Glen is a beautiful natural area dissected by Rocky Creek. The park borders to the New England Highway to the west and the railway line to the east. The area used to be in agricultural use. After the New England Highway was built, the land was given to Uralla Shire Council, who transformed this space into a linear public park.

Throughout the park bushtracks are formed, including two informal crossings over the creek. People use the park and the trails for running, walking and dog walking (dog off-leash area). The informal creek crossings can be challenging to cross, particularly during wet periods when the paths are flooded. The northern crossing requires people to climb down a steep path.

The small water body to the south of the park is silted up and overgrown by reeds. No open water is visible and the recreational use is limited. There is potential to increase the amount of open water, which could enable opportunities for recreational use.

The dam at the south of the park also forms a driveway to the parking area and has three culverts through which water overflows from the lake. Potentially, water levels in the dam could be increased by raising the overflow levels of the culverts.

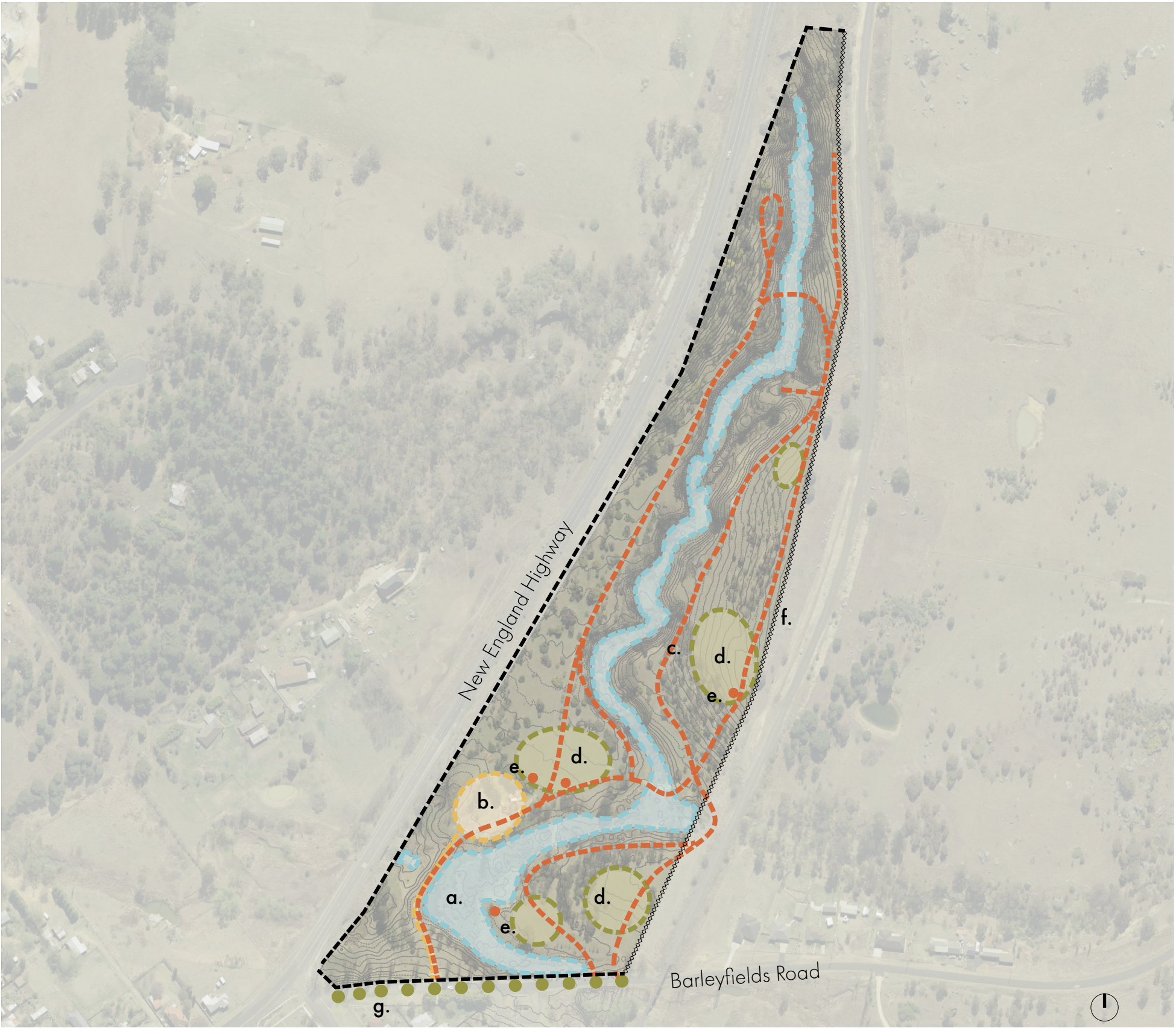
Throughout The Glen are open lawn spaces, surrounded by native trees and bush vegetation. One of these open spaces has been dedicated to ‘Constellations of the South’, an art project in which 8 sculptures each capture and interpret a constellation. Two of the 8 sculptures have been constructed and this project offers the opportunity to realise the final 6.

The space in the south-eastern corner of the park is currently cut-off from the rest of the parklands, only connected via a narrow trail at the top of the bank, outside the site boundary. To access this path requires entering the railway corridor.

A row of poplars along Barleyfield Rd mark the southern boundary of this space. These exotic trees are somewhat out of place on this site with a natural character and vegetated with endemic species.

Legend

- a. Water body & creek (overgrown by reeds)
- b. Existing driveway & car park
- c. Informal path structure
- d. Clearings within the natural landscape
- e. Existing sculptures
- f. Existing railway fence
- g. Existing row of poplars







Car park at the entrance of The Glen



The Glen waterbody overgrown with reeds



Information panel and bins at carpark at entrance of The Glen



A flooded creek crossing



Constellations of the South artwork on the edge of an open space in the park



Informal bush tracks through The Glen



Artwork on the edge of an open space in the park



Informal and challenging crossing of the waterbody to complete the 'loop'



## 2.3 Constellations of the South

This information is a summary of information provided by Carl Merten. More information is available on <https://sculptors.net.au/sculptors/Constellations%20of%20the%20South/index.htm>

### Background

The key objective for The Glen is to create a “unique and inspired blending of astronomy, sculpture and history both as a community asset and attraction to visitors, to be enjoyed for generations.” (Carl Merten, 2021)

The Constellations of the South was launched nearly twenty years ago after receiving a small grant from the Third City of the Arts and the generosity of volunteers in the early 2000s, which resulted in the first two of eight sculptures being erected at The Glen. The Constellations of the South will honour the clear night skies of the New England Tablelands in a parabolic installation of sculptures referencing the circumpolar constellations of the Southern hemisphere. The project will incorporate a 19 metre high obelisk in stainless steel, sited to the axis of the Southern Constellations at the Summer Solstice.

The idea as expressed by Carl Merten is for the project to be a ‘world first’, with all the potential of becoming a Southern version of a contemporary Stonehenge or similarly famous Northern hemisphere icons. During the night, each chosen constellation is seen within or indicated by a sculpture. By day the site provides a special place and space for concerts, performance and theatre.

### Next steps

Markers and large boulders have been placed at the locations of where the sculptures should be erected. The first step in completing the Constellations of the South project is to erect the boulders in the identified locations. This will enable artists to design their sculptures.

A call for Expression of Interest (EOI) for sculptors will be made to invite artists to develop the remaining 6 sculptures to complete the Constellations of the South. Based on this EOI, artists will be selected to prepare a sculpture for the project.

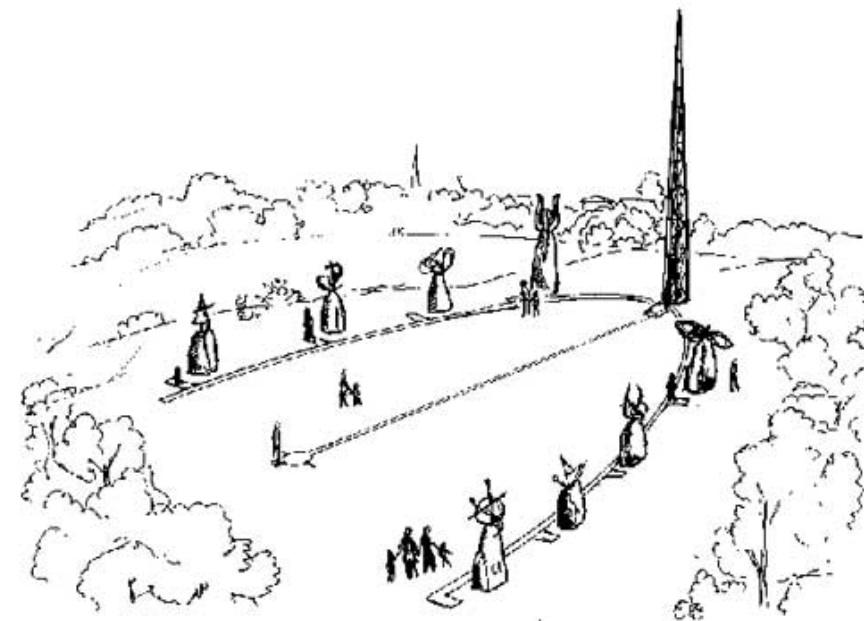


Illustration of the Constellations of the South project (by Carl Merten)



Illustration of the Constellations of the South project (by Carl Merten)



Sketch plan for the Glen (by Carl Merten)



To date, two sculptures have been erected at The Glen and the following section provides an overview of the existing two sculptures developed by sculptors Carl Merten and Joan Relke. The following text is based on descriptions of the works from the artists.

### The Constellation of Carina - Carl Merten

Carina, graced by the presence of the brilliant Canopus, is the main part of the former constellation representing the Argo. Carina is crossed by the Milky Way, and the star Canopus stands out: it is a supergiant, and its spectral class indicates that it should be yellowish, though most people will certainly call it white. Canopus is the furthest star to the right in Carina.

The Ancient Greeks saw Carina as the keel of the Argo, the ship which took Jason and the Argonauts to Colchis in search of the Golden Fleece. At the time of the Ancient Greek civilisation, c500 BCE, the constellation of the Argo sat on the southern horizon as a ship would sit on the sea. Because of the precession of the equinoxes, today this constellation can no longer be seen from the northern hemisphere, and is now one of the southern circumpolar constellations, seen only from the southern hemisphere.

#### Artist's statement

*As you pause to look up at this sculpture, you have also entered into a visual dialogue with the absent artist... something is communicated about the purpose, motivations, aesthetics and creative energy used to express a personal, yet shared vision.*

*In making this work, I've drawn on astronomy, myths, mathematics, and music.*

*The initial concept was sparked during lunch with Charles Rudd at the Coachwood and Cedar hotel, Uralla, NSW, reflecting our shared interest and experience of astronomy.*

*The mythic tale of the Ship Argo features strongly in our Southern night sky. Carina is the main section of the now-dismembered constellation Argo, appealing to my interest in boats and sailing. The other mythic element is contained in the form, reflecting the first Australians' perception of the Milky Way as a cosmic serpent.*

*Mathematically, we try to unlock the mystery of existence. Measuring vast distances by the speed of light, using the brilliant Canopus to guide our space probes and satellites, we listen to the music of the stars, the hum of the universe, and wonder if we are alone.*

*This sculpture is created to exercise our awareness. From the Earth underfoot we lift our eyes, our minds, and our souls to contemplate our place in this tiny speck of matter set in the brilliant vista of stars in our galaxy, itself only a fraction of the infinite continuity of deep space.*

### The Constellation of the Southern Cross - Joan Relke

The Southern Cross (Crux) is the best known and most represented star group in the Southern Hemisphere. The group's distinctive shape is easily located because of its brightness and close proximity to each other. It can be seen all year round from almost anywhere in the Australia. As a southern circumpolar constellation, it is not visible in the northern hemisphere.

The Southern Cross contains four bright stars so situated that they depict the extremities of a Latin cross. Thousands of years ago these four stars were an object of reverence in the Near East. In the Biblical days they were just visible at the horizon. But despite its visibility to the ancient civilisations of the northern hemisphere, no Greek or Roman myths or legends are associated with it. Today it is no longer visible at latitudes north of 25 degrees.

The constellation was again discovered in the early sixteenth century by European navigators and explorers who used it to steer by and also to calculate the time of day. Australian Aborigines have many stories to tell using the stars of the Southern Cross, and those from Central Australia see it not as a cross, but as an eagle's footprint. Had the Christian Cross not been associated with it, we might see it today as a kite, flying through the night sky.

#### Artist's statement

*Central Australian Aborigines saw the footprint of an eagle in the Southern Cross. Thousands of years ago these four stars were an object of reverence in the Near East. In the Biblical days they were just visible at the horizon, and were last seen from the latitude of Jerusalem at the time of the crucifixion of Christ. Still today, Christians see their sacred symbol in the shape of this constellation. Now it revolves in the Southern Sky, a circumpolar constellation, barely dipping below the horizon. Visible even on a moon-lit night, these stars form a provocative pattern. Perhaps it is a cosmic kite, fluttering across the night sky, its tail, the pointer stars, trailing behind.*

*As a sculptor, using the solid materials of the earth, I created The Spirit of the Southern Cross to bring this constellation closer to us. She reaches up from her earthly home to grasp the rising constellation as it moves along its trajectory through the night sky. As it passes between her hands, she grasps it, momentarily connecting earth and sky - the world of mortals and the heavenly realm. She holds it like a cat's cradle, taut between her hands, before releasing it back to heaven.*

*Sitting on top of a 4 metre high boulder, the Spirit of the Southern Cross reaches up to catch the cross between her hands as it passes overhead.*

*The figure is 3 metres from the tip of her long hair to the tip of her fingers and is made of cast aluminium, which can be seen at night and also by day from the passing highway. The ideal time to see the Southern Cross held in her hands is midnight on the autumnal equinox.*



The constellation of Carina sculpture (photo by Carl Merten)



The Southern Cross Sculpture



2.4 Rotary Park

Site character

Rotary Park is situated south of The Glen, on the south side of Barleyfield Rd. The park is mainly used as a rest-stop, as it is easily accessible of the highway, contains a car park, an amenities building, picnic tables, BBQ, grove of pine trees, and an informal lawn open space. In general, the park has potential for improved park furniture, accessibility and legibility. Some of the park elements are also due to be replaced or upgraded, including path networks, the amenities, shelters and picnic tables.

From Barleyfields Rd, a wide u-shaped driveway provides access into the park and the car park. Both the vehicle access and car park are in a poor condition and require an upgrade, including providing equitable access from the car park to the amenities.

Just south of the amenities building is a well-maintained community garden and further to the south is the St Joseph School and Church. There is an opportunity to provide an accessible pathway, linking town with the community garden, Rotary Park (including the amenities building and the car park), the pool, and The Glen. This future pathway could link the parks and the town centre together.

The amenities building is in a poor condition and the community has expressed their desire to replace this building with a new contemporary one.

North of the amenities building are a few rows of densely planted mature pine trees. Some of these trees are in a poor condition and the space underneath the trees is dark. There is an opportunity to remove some of the unhealthy trees to create more space for activation (e.g. informal play), bring more light in, and give the remaining trees more light and space.

Legend

- a. Existing amenities building
- b. Existing driveway and car park
- c. Existing shelters, picnic tables, BBQ, and logs
- d. Rows of pine trees
- e. Community gardens
- f. Open space linking Rotary park with Uralla Town.







View from Wood St towards Rotary Park



Car park with poor quality surfacing at Rotary Park



Access path to amenities building from car park: the path is not accessible and a dirt trail has formed



Existing amenities building, storage shed, and car park



Lines of pine trees between the amenities building and the picnic area



View towards The Glen and entrance driveway of Rotary Park



View into Rotary Park from Barleyfields Rd



Existing double driveway and old picnic shelter



## 3. OPPORTUNITIES

### 3.1 Pioneer Park

The main objective for Pioneer Park is to transform it from an under-utilised open space to a new park for residents and visitors, and reflects its location in the town centre. The new park should connect and relate to Uralla, it's character, people, and history.

Given its location in the historic town centre of Uralla, the park should reflect the materiality of the town centre. This will reinforce the connection between the park and the town centre, and provide better visual continuity and coherence between the park and the town centre.

A key use of the park is as a rest stop. It is proposed to provide (shaded) seating areas. A space for passive recreation, nature play or informal play could be incorporated in the design, adding interest to the space for kids as well as adults.

The park could also provide opportunities for markets. Seating areas for market visitors, or spaces to set-up marquees could be considered, including along Salisbury Road.

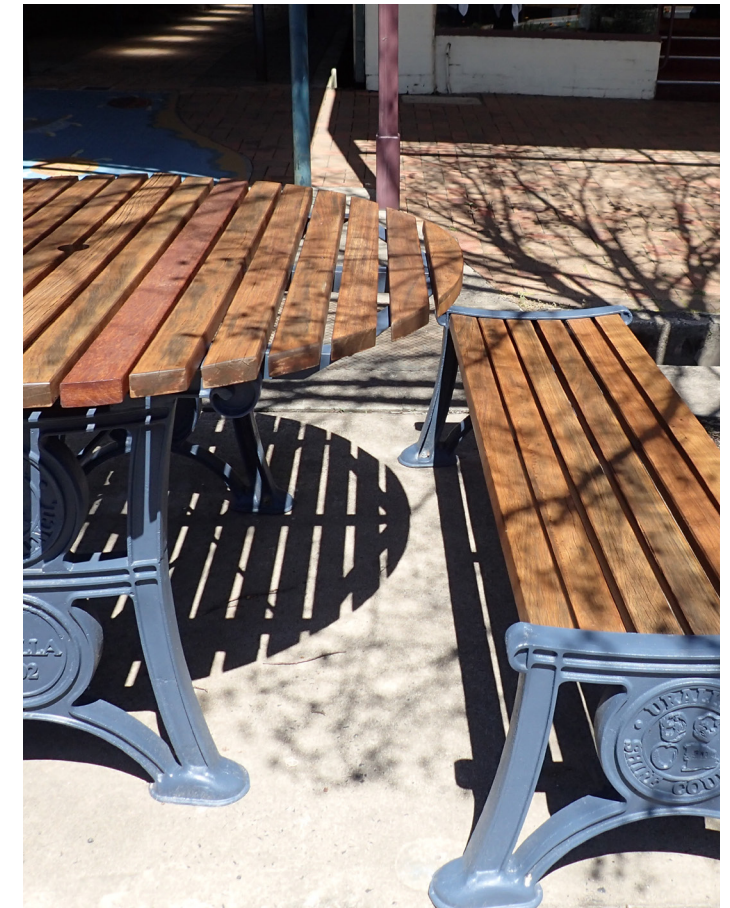
The postcode of Uralla 2358 forms part of the Fibonacci sequence. This sequence could be expressed in the design of the space.



1. Connect to Uralla's local character, identity, and materiality



2. Connect to Uralla Town Centre



3. Provide seating

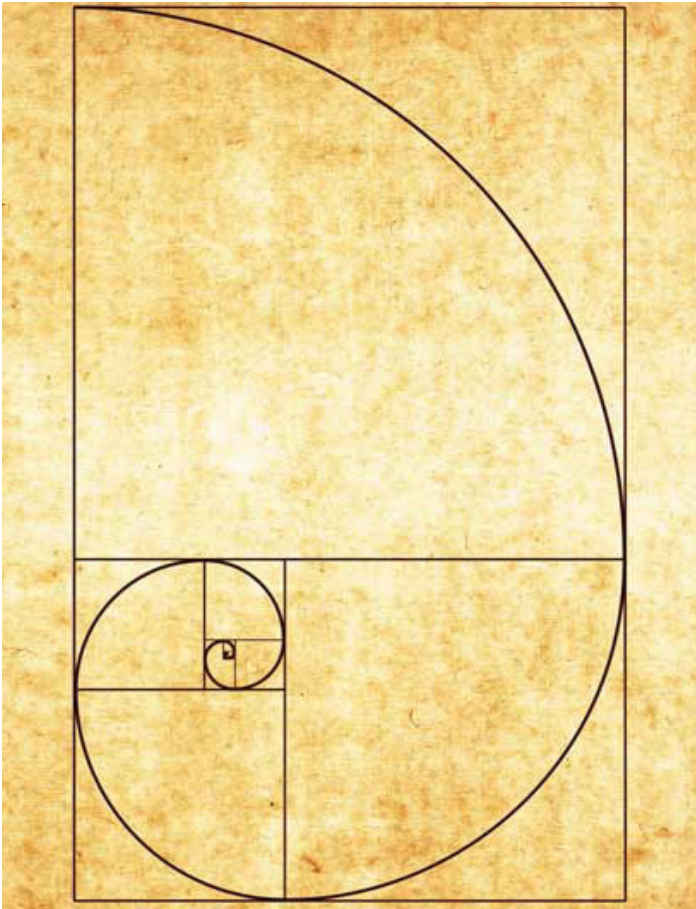




4. Appreciate and interpret the site’s cultural history



5. Provide opportunities for markets



6. Explore the Fibonacci sequence as park theme



7. Incorporate informal, natural play and learning opportunities



3.2 The Glen

The main objective of the Glen is to provide a park in keeping with its beautiful natural character and which celebrates arts and particularly sculpture. The existing natural bushland character provides an opportunity to be in nature on the doorstep of the township. The design elements in the park are to facilitate the enjoyment of the natural spaces without detracting from it.

A central objective of the upgrade to The Glen is to complete the Constellations of the South project. This will be undertaken by an invitation for sculptors to submit their ideas for the remaining sculptures to complete the works. There is also opportunities for additional environmental themed and inspired sculptures to be located throughout the park which become part of a wider sculptural trail around the park.

While the park provides a pleasant walking environment it is currently restricted by the lack of creek and bridge crossings. Hence an important objective is to provide a more accessible all weather walking track which facilitates walking, dog walking and jogging around the park.

Additional opportunities at the park include children’s nature play, a lake for sailing model boats, picnic areas, exercise stations, sheltered picnic tables and benches.

There is also the opportunity to better link The Glen to Rotary Park and the township through improved path connections to the entrances of the Park. There are also opportunities to improve the local ecology through additional tree planting and understorey planting.



1. Respect the natural features of the park with appropriate uses



2. Complete the Constellations of the South sculpture project, as initiated and designed by Carl Merten and the late Charlie Rudd



3. Create bridge connections and a path network to improve accessibility and connectivity





4. Provide exercise equipment, nature play and seating along trails



5. Restore the native vegetation



6. Create model boating opportunities



7. Public art integration along the trails



### 3.3 Rotary Park

Rotary Park is mostly used as a place where people driving along the New England Highway have a rest stop and stretch their legs. The upgrades to Rotary park are aimed at improving amenities for this user group.

A new amenities building is proposed for the park. The new building could incorporate sustainability initiatives, including for the community gardens.

It is also an objective to formalise the car park and make parking more structured and efficient, while maintaining the park's rural and natural character.

Another objective for Rotary Park is to improve accessibility and connectivity. A new pathway through the park will link Uralla town with The Glen, providing equitable access.

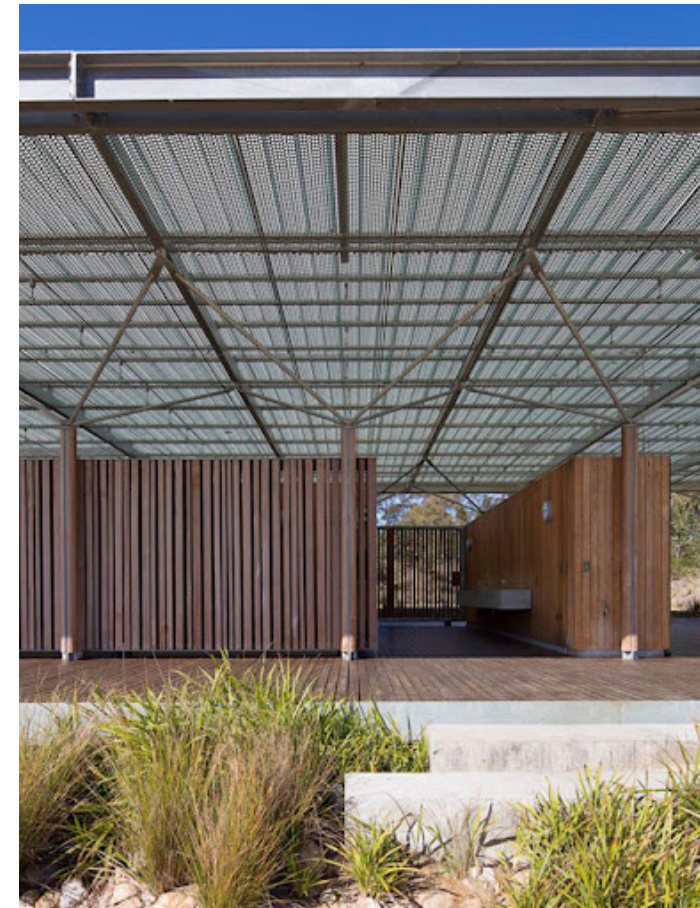
The improved access will also add structure to the park. Along the pathway upgraded park facilities will be placed.

The park connects to the back fences of private residential properties. This edge could be softened by providing new vegetation.

The space has two distinct character areas; the space adjacent the community gardens, which relates more to Uralla town and has a more communal/residential feel to it, and the space north of the car park, which connects more to The Glen and has a more park-like or natural character. The design of Rotary Park will strengthen these characters of the space.



1. Improve accessibility & connectivity within the park and to the surrounds



2. Provide a new amenities building



3. Incorporate sustainability initiatives in the park





4. Upgrade picnic benches & shelters



5. Strengthen the park's character and identity



6. Buffer planting to the private properties



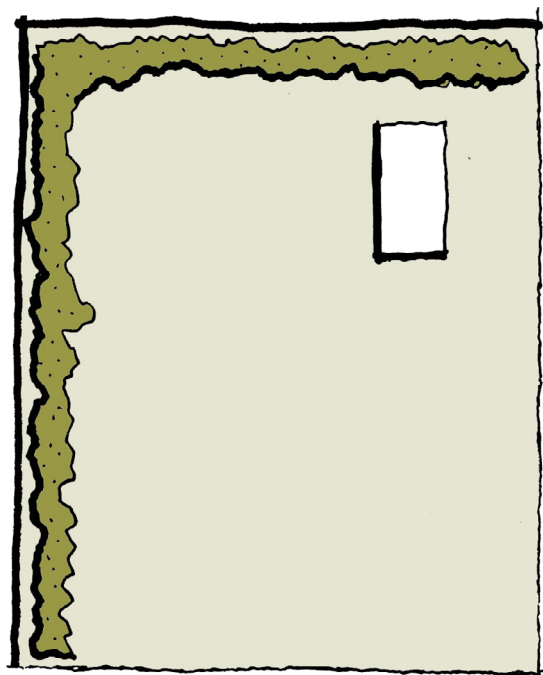
7. Formalise the car park, but maintain the park-like character



## 4. SITE STRATEGIES

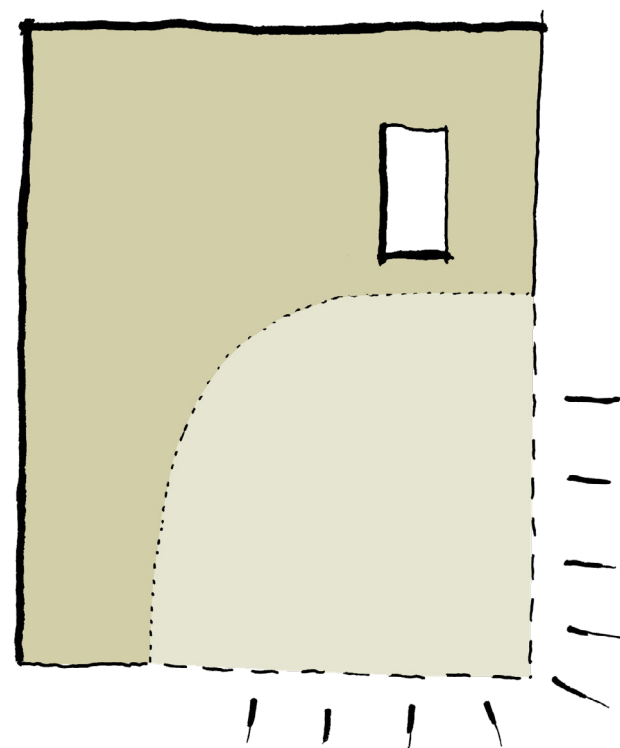
The site strategies include key moves that will enable the objectives for three sites. These strategies are high-level design principles that will inform the concept designs for the parks.

### 4.1 Pioneer Park



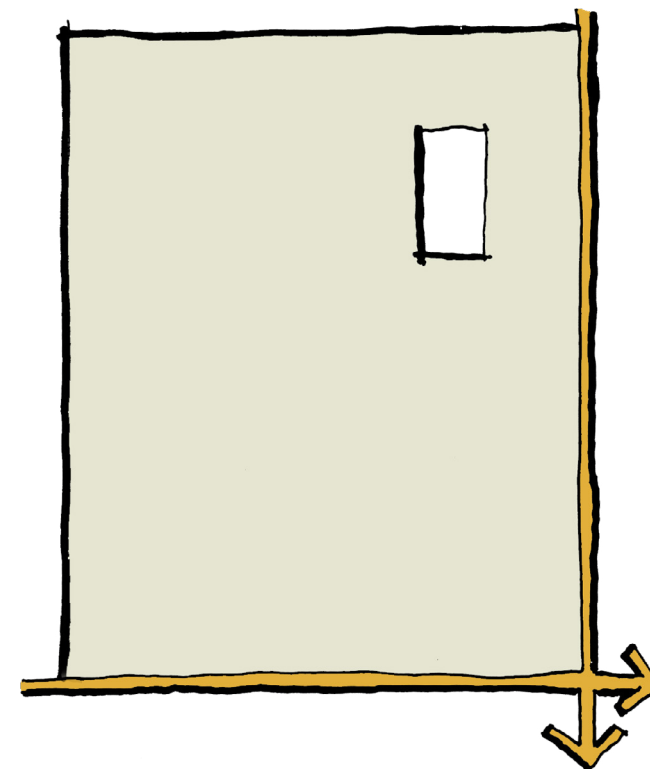
#### 1. Provide screening along fence line

By providing vegetation along the fence line, a green, backdrop can be created that embraces the park, while also creating a buffer between the private residences and the park, improving their privacy.



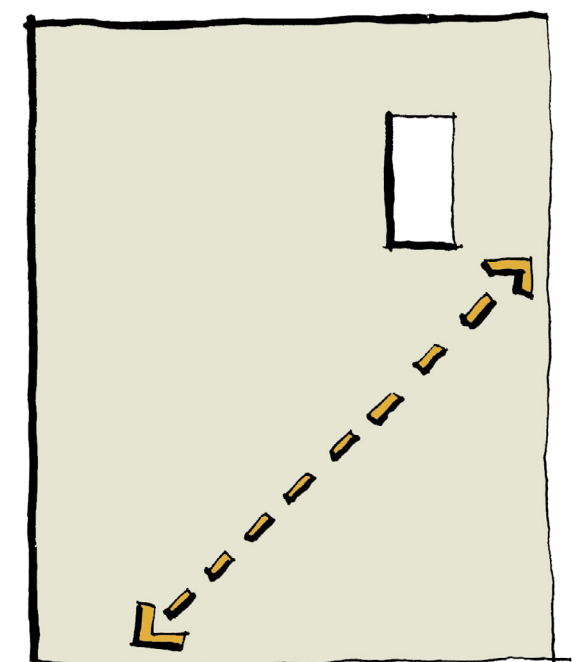
#### 2. Open up towards the town centre

Remove or relocate the existing vegetation interfacing Bridge St / Salisbury St and change the orientation of the park towards Uralla Town Centre.



#### 3. Connect to town centre

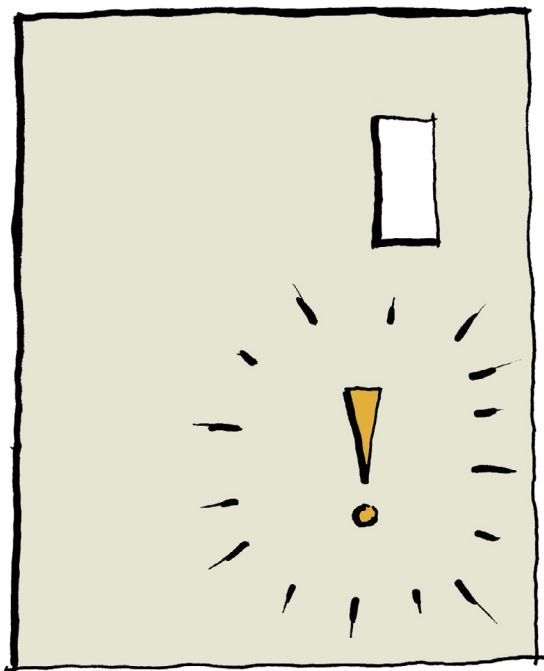
Providing a continuation of the brick paving material of Uralla Town Centre and improved street crossings. This improved connectivity would promote the park, while also encouraging visitors of the park to wander into town to buy some lunch or a coffee.



#### 4. Formalise desire line

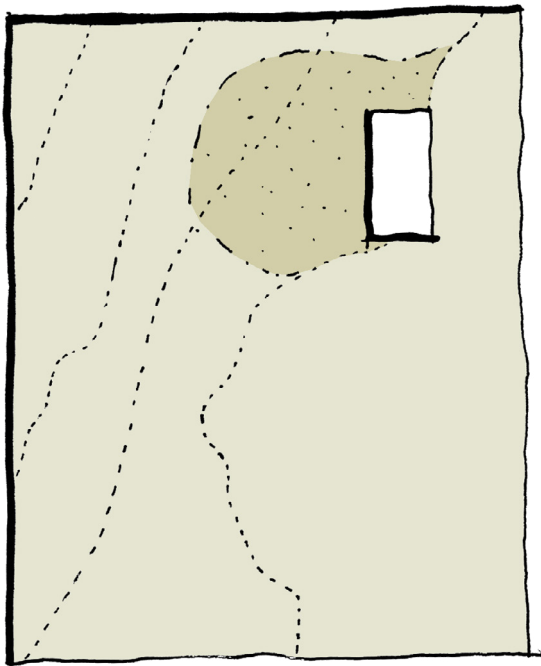
Formalise the desire line and provide a pathway through pioneer park.





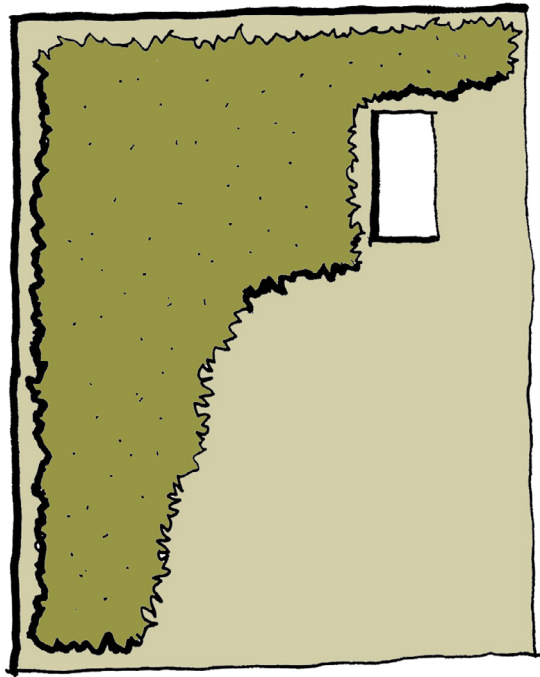
**5. Activate the flat space**

The flat space in the park is most suitable for use, but is currently under-utilised. Providing program and space activation would enhance the park’s amenity, functionality and usability.



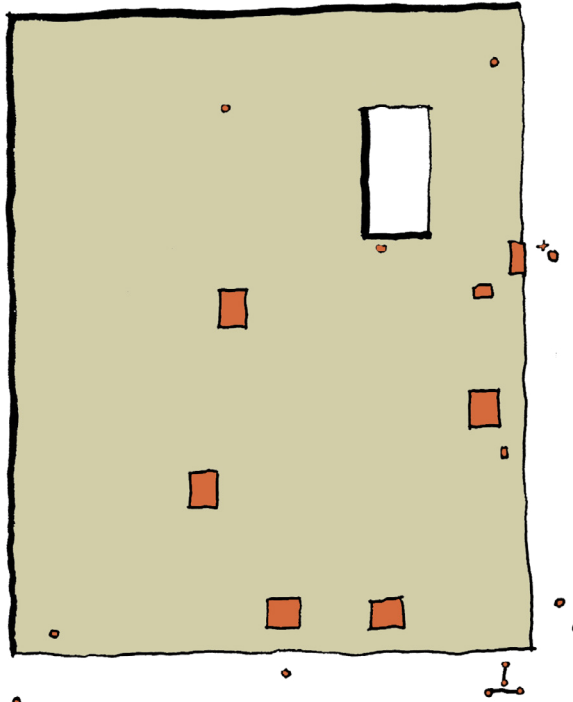
**6. Fill the soggy low point behind toilets**

The area behind the toilets is an unappealing space, with limited passive surveillance. Filling in the low point in this area and making it part of the bank, would enable the slope to fully ‘embrace’ the activated flat space of the park.



**7. Create a garden on the slope**

On the slope, a native garden incorporating nature play could be created, with local boulders and rocks to create terraces stepping up the bank. Informal seating areas with views over the park and into town can be created. The garden would provide a backdrop to the park, while also providing opportunities for passive recreation and ecology.

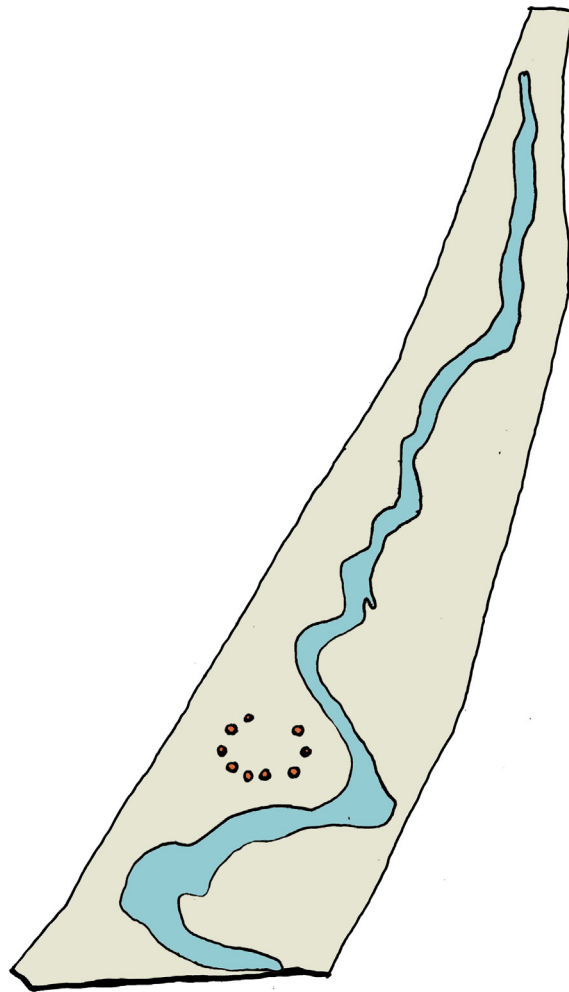


**8. Declutter the park and street interface**

In and along the park a wide range of elements have been placed that clutter the space. Several street and park signs, electricity poles, concrete pads, benches, and other elements are spread around without much consideration. Cleaning up some of these elements would provide clarity and legibility to the space.

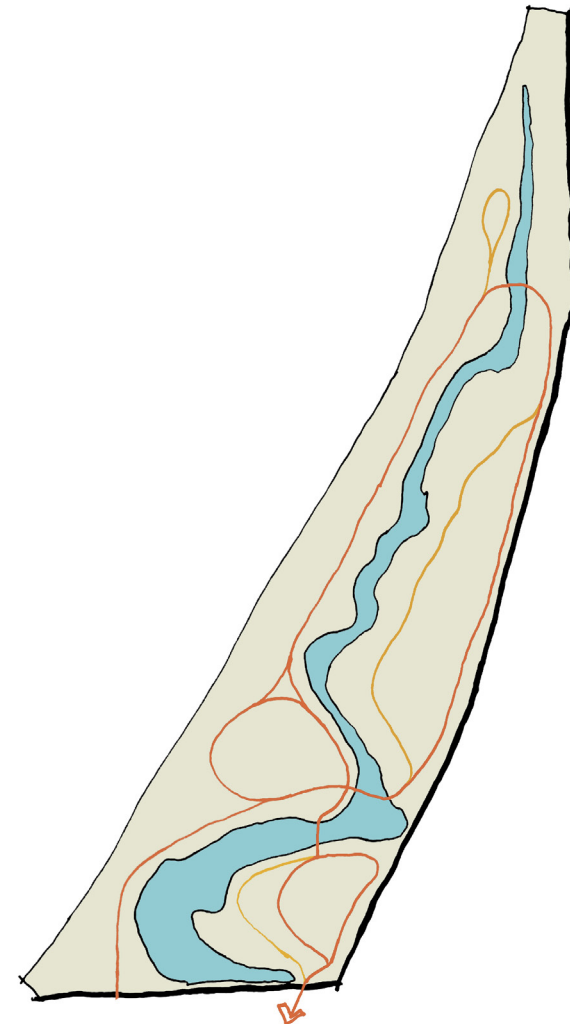


## 4.2 The Glen

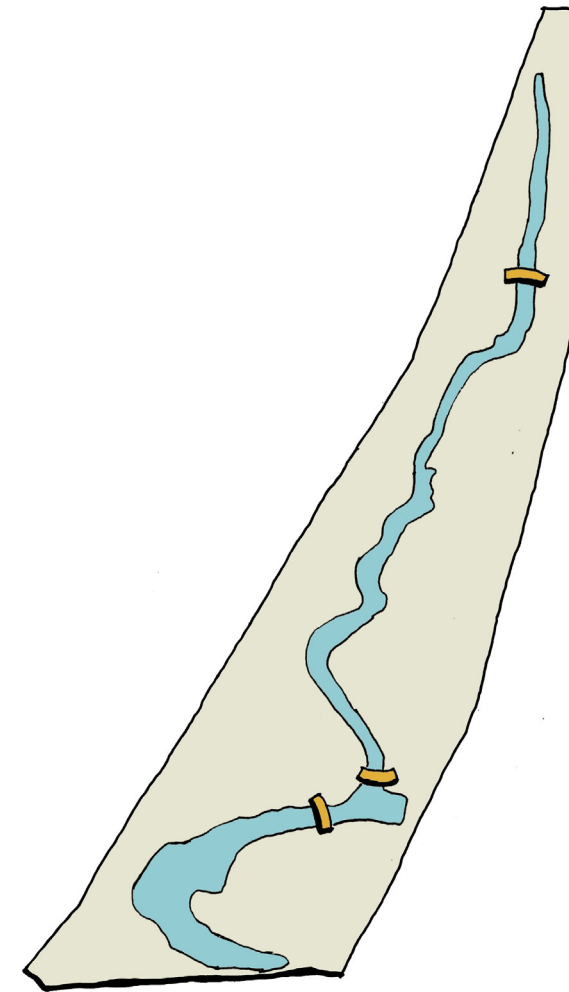


### 1. Complete Constellations of the South

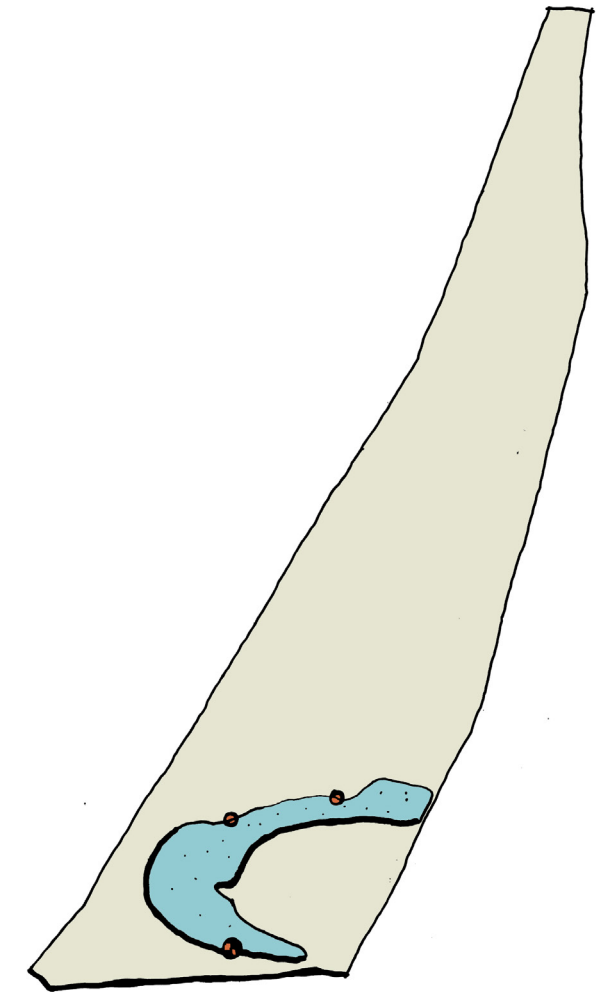
Complete the Constellations of the South sculpture project & explore opportunities for public art along the trails and at prominent locations in the park.



**2. Formalise the pedestrian path network**  
Provide a network of pathways throughout the park, including accessible routes that allow access for all abilities, and informal 'bush tracks' that form a secondary network.

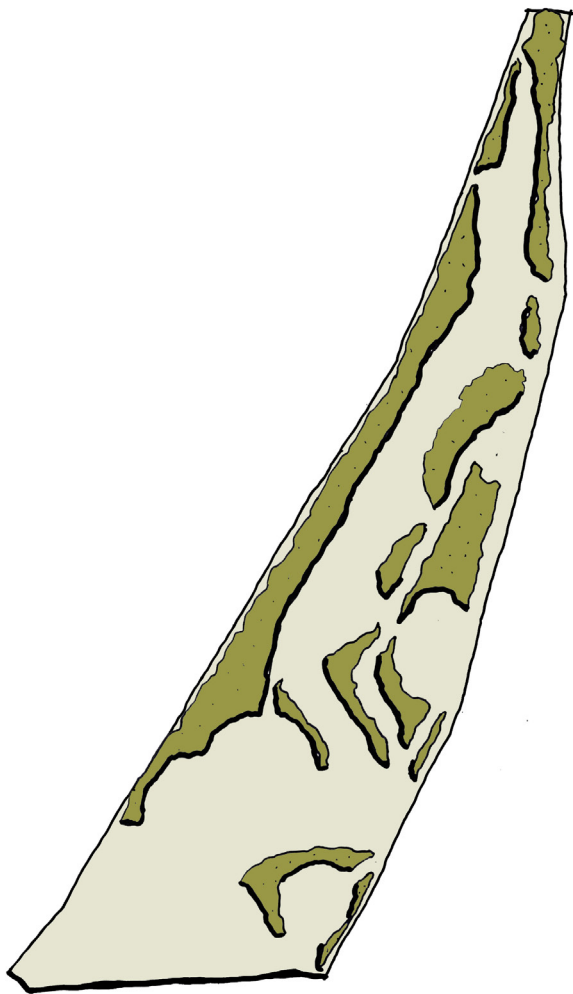


**3. Provide bridges**  
New bridge structures improve connectivity and accessibility throughout The Glen and will help activate underutilised areas.



**4. Create model boating opportunities**  
Create model boating opportunities, by removing reeds, creating open water, and providing model boating facilities.



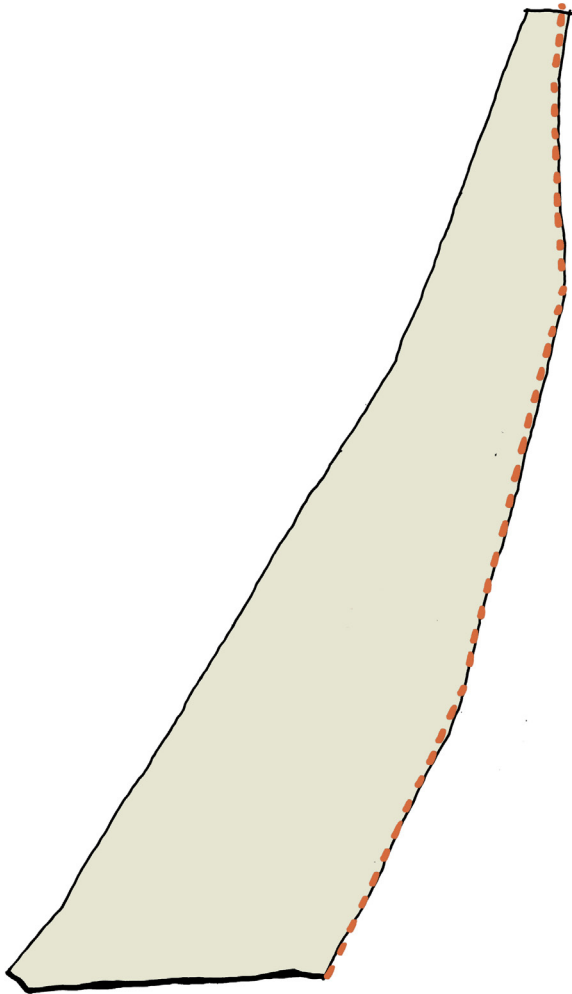


**5. Restore native vegetation**

Continue to restore native vegetation in The Glen and define the spaces by providing new planting.

The natural bushland character of the park is a key feature of the Glen. Additional native vegetation would strengthen this, while also attracting native fauna.

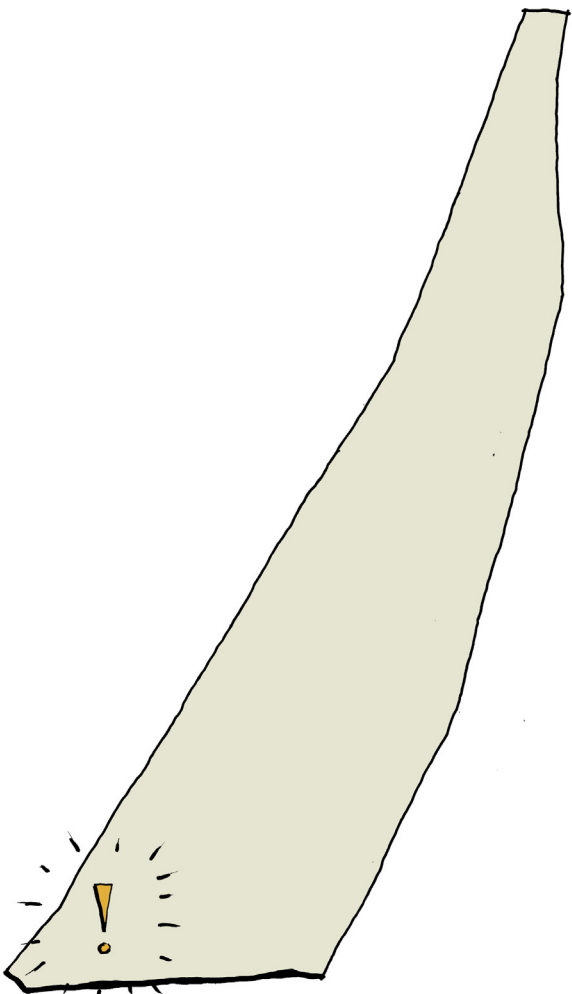
Exotic plant species, including the poplars on Barleyfields Rd, can be removed and replaced by natives.



**6. Restore/renew the railway fence**

The fence on the eastern boundary of the site, along the railway line, is damaged in several locations and needs to be fixed or replaced.

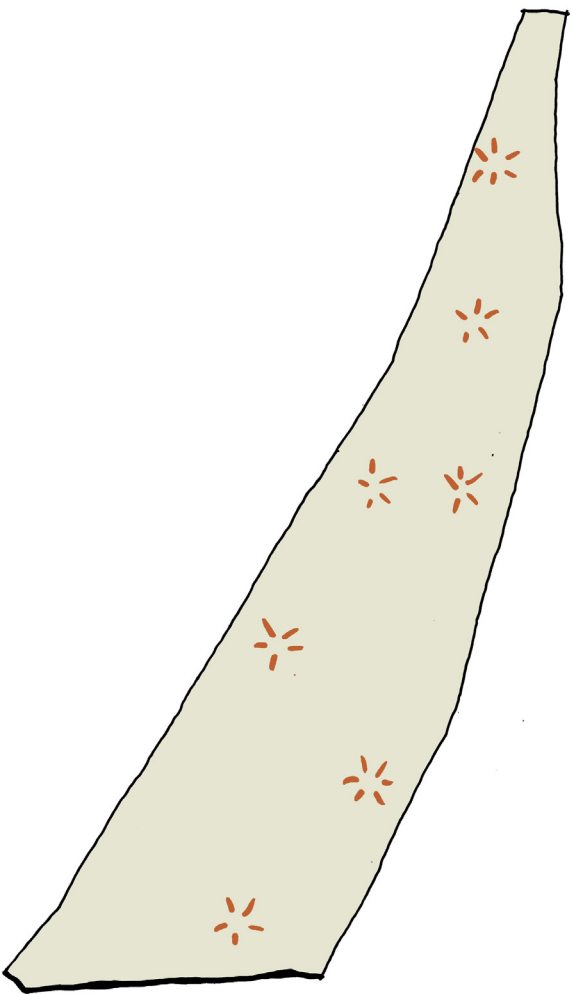
Access into the railway corridor should be discouraged. The style of the fence should be in keeping with the current 'rustic' character.



**7. Provide a clear entrance & signage**

Provide a clear entrance to the park that is visible for people driving along the New England Highway, which would encourage people to visit The Glen.

Interpretation signage and wayfinding throughout the park could also be included to provide information about the park and to guide visitors.



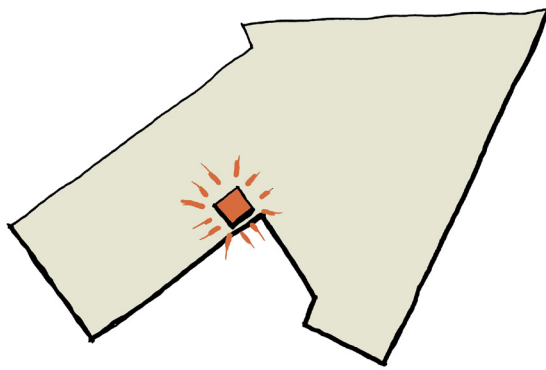
**8. Activation along the pathways**

Provide exercise equipment, nature play elements and seating along the pathways to further activate the park.

These elements should be in keeping with the natural character of the space.

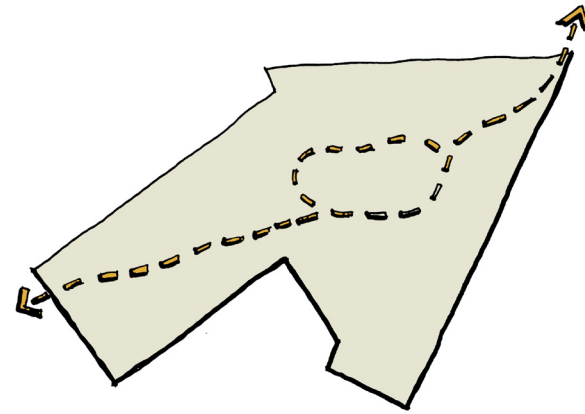


### 4.3 Rotary Park



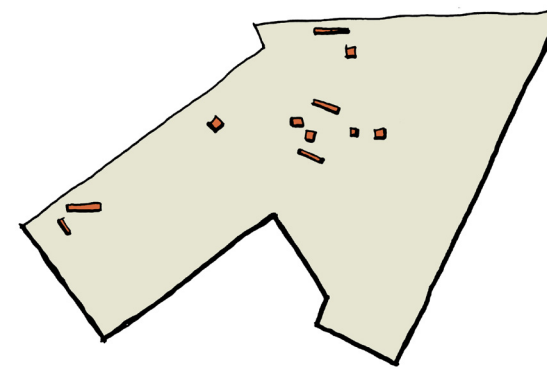
#### 1. New amenities building

The existing amenities building is almost 30 years old and needs replacement. There is an opportunity to provide a new and more functional amenities building, including an accessible toilet, baby changing facility and male and female toilets.



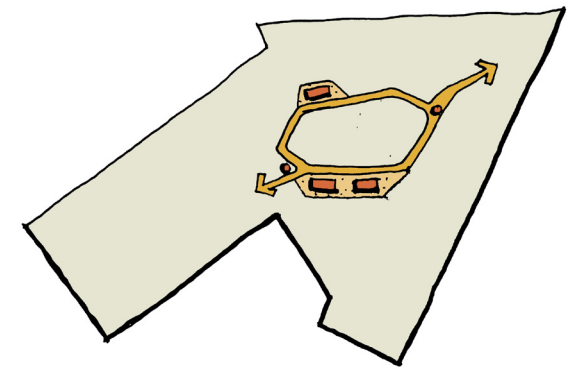
#### 1. Connectivity & accessibility

Provide accessible pathways through the park, connecting St Joseph School, the community garden, the new amenities building, car park, Rotary Park and The Glen.



#### 3. Declutter the park

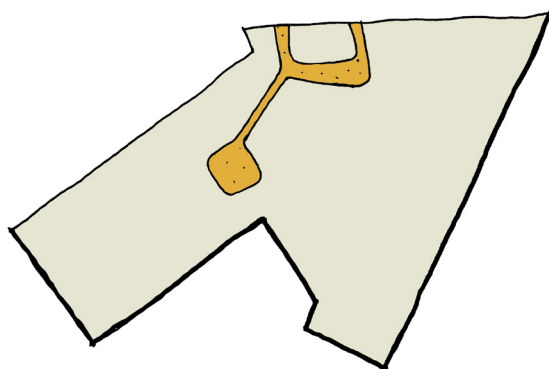
In the existing layout of the park, a range of park benches, shelters, information plaques, timber car stops, a peace totem, signage, and a BBQ are scattered throughout the space. There is an opportunity to declutter the space and provide some clarity to the park.



#### 4. Rationalise the park structure

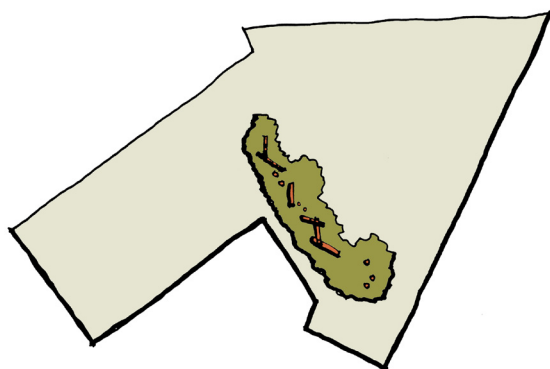
A new path structure could help rationalise and reorder the park structure. This would make the park facilities accessible, while creating well-defined spaces.





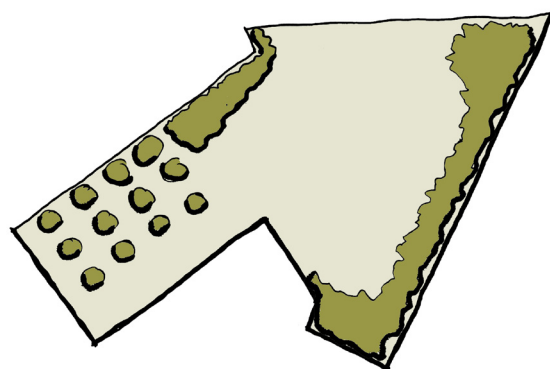
**5. Upgrade the car park and driveway**

The existing driveway and car park needs an upgrade. Accessibility from the car park to the amenities needs to be improved as well, removing all grade separation and providing gentle gradients on a even path surface.



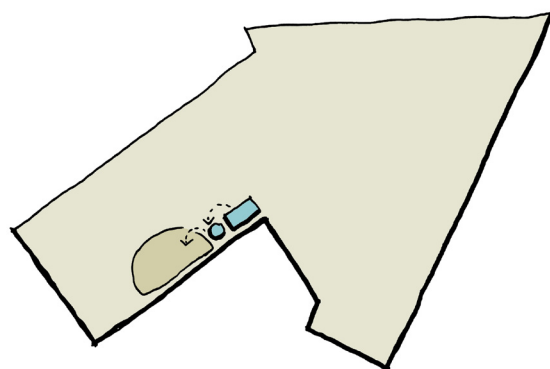
**6. Activate the 'pine forest'**

Some of the trees could be removed in the rows of pine trees, to allow some light into the area and to give more space for the remaining trees. Within this space there is an opportunity to provide simple nature play elements.



**7. New vegetation**

Native vegetation can be provided to further define the park spaces and to give a backdrop to the space. In the area next to the community garden, fruit or nut trees could be planted to provide some additional shade, while also providing produce for the community.



**8. Sustainability initiatives**

Explore opportunities for sustainability initiatives, including harvesting and reuse of rainwater. For example, rainwater can be collected on the roof of the new amenities building and stored in a water tank. This water can be used to water the plants in the community garden.



# 5. CONCEPT DESIGNS

## 5.1 Pioneer Park

### Option 1: Fibonacci Park

An idea that has been proposed for Pioneer Park by members of the community is to incorporate the Fibonacci sequence as a theme into the design of the park. Uralla's postcode is 2358, numbers at the start of the Fibonacci sequence.

The Fibonacci numbers are a sequence starting with 0 and 1, and continuing by adding the previous two numbers. The next numbers in the Fibonacci sequence, for instance, are 1,2,3,5,8,13, and 21.

The ratios of sequential Fibonacci numbers (e.g.  $21 / 13 = 1.615$ ) approach the golden ratio. In fact, the higher the Fibonacci numbers, the closer their relationship is to 1.618. This number is also the growth factor of the golden spiral.

#### The design

The proportions, shapes and composition of the spaces are defined by the golden ratio and the Fibonacci sequence.

The curve of the 'golden spiral' provides the transition between the lawn and the planted slope. The curve of the 'golden spiral' is a seating wall facing the town centre and embracing the flat space of the park. The spiral continues as concrete inset in the paving. The paving would be sandblasted, showing numbers of the sequence, and words relating to Fibonacci. A ceramic artwork designed as a community art work working with an experienced artist would be added to the seating wall.

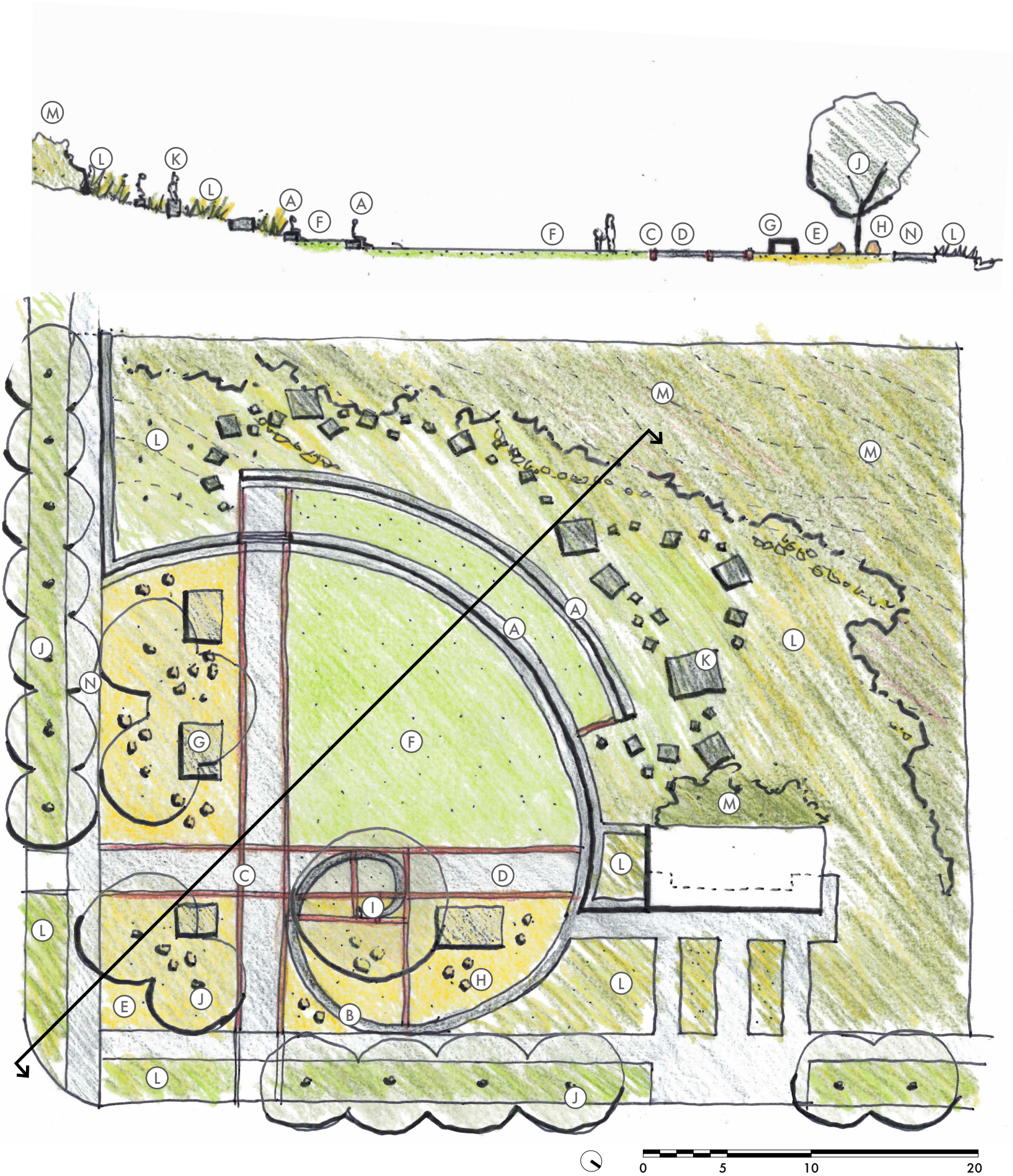
The space is broken up in geometries relating to the sequence and the golden spiral. Within this space, seating, shade trees, boulders, and a lawn is provided.

The space on the slope would include bespoke nature play and seating elements, native planting, and buffer planting to the park's edges.

The materials would be local materials including brick, granite boulders, decomposed granite, and concrete.

#### Legend

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| (A) Terraced seating wall (with ceramic artwork) | (H) Large granite boulders           |
| (B) Sandblasted concrete spiral inset in paving  | (I) Feature tree                     |
| (C) Brick edging                                 | (J) Existing / new trees             |
| (D) Concrete paving                              | (K) Informal play & seating elements |
| (E) Decomposed granite                           | (L) Low native planting              |
| (F) Lawn   | (M) Native buffer vegetation         |
| (G) Tables and benches                           | (N) Widened pedestrian pathway       |





Option 2: Community Park

This option is defined by a circular lawn space that creates a small village green. The village green becomes a flexible space that can be used for small events, markets, and includes opportunities for outdoor dining eating food and beverages from the local town shops.

A seating wall that defines the flat space and forms an edge to the planted slope behind it. The slope would be planted out with local native plants and would form a feature garden.

A circular lawn space with a diameter of 23m provides a flexible space that can be used as an informal space to walk the dog, picnic area, market space, for small events or to throw a frisbee.

The circular lawn is framed at the four corners of the lawn by tables and benches, which are placed under the canopy of new trees. Granite boulders are scattered around, forming informal seating and informal play elements.

Three smaller circular spaces are proposed on the planted slope, which provide opportunities for informal nature play, seating, and also a small seating area. These spaces are connected by stepping stones, which guide visitors through a feature native garden. A small slide on the slope could be included, providing opportunity for additional play elements.

The materials for this option have been simplified to concrete and decomposed granite without additional brick elements . Words could also be sandblasted in the concrete seating wall as part of a local art work celebrating local stories.

The option also subtly references the Fibonacci theme in a very understated way. The circles, blocks, boulders, trees, and benches are proportioned and clustered in the 1,2,3,5,8 sequence. This could be also expressed as creative interpretation elements.

- Legend
- (A)

Concrete seating wall

(B)

Decomposed granite

(C)

Lawn

(D)

Tables and benches

(E)

Large granite boulders

(F)

Existing / new trees

(G)

Informal play & seating elements
- (H)

Stepping stones

(I)

Low native planting

(J)

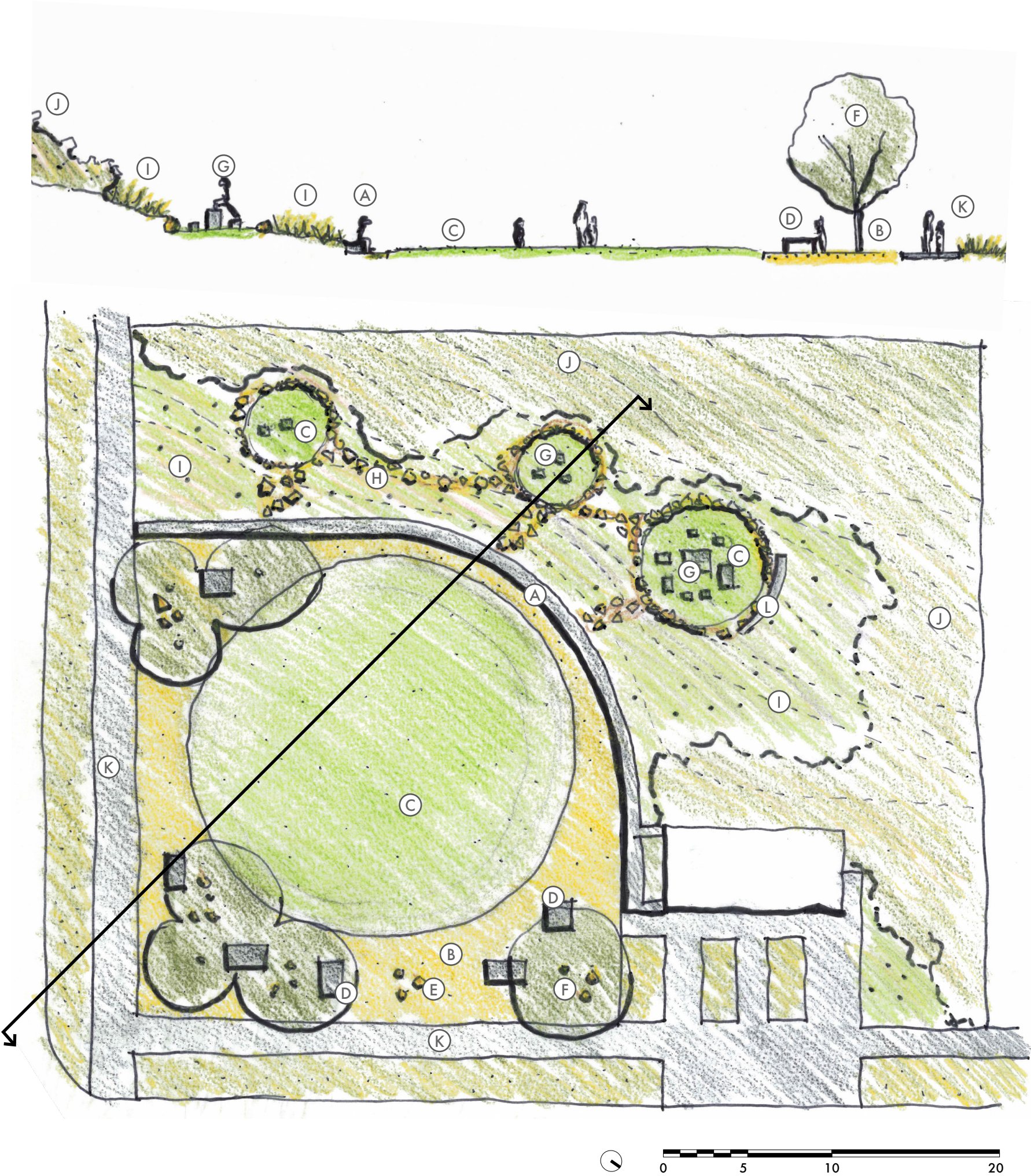
Native buffer vegetation

(K)

Widen pedestrian pathway

(L)

Slide on slope





Option 3: Plaza Park

The third option includes a series of different spaces in the park including picnic and seating areas as well as of lawn defined by paved paths. The park provides a flexible multi-use space for people to have a rest stop and stretch their legs and enjoy the park.

The third option incorporates references to the Fibonacci theme and the golden spiral is expressed in a series of central raised concrete blocks, that are designed as informal play and seating elements. The sizing of these blocks is based on the proportions of the Fibonacci sequence (1,1,2..). While the spiral won't be visible from eye-perspective it will guide visitors through the space, as they can jump or walk from block to block.

A smaller circular space is proposed on the slope, which provides an informal play and seating area. Three smaller circular spaces are proposed on the planted slope, which provide opportunities for informal nature play, seating, and also a small seating area. These spaces are connected by stepping stones, which guide visitors through a feature native garden. A small slide on the slope could be included, providing opportunity for additional play elements.

A seating wall encloses the flat space and forms an edge to the slope behind it. The open space is defined by a large circle which is expressed at brick paving in the ground plane (not visible vertically). The circle is broken into smaller geometries based on the Fibonacci sequence. Within this space, seating, shade trees, boulders, and lawn spaces are provided.

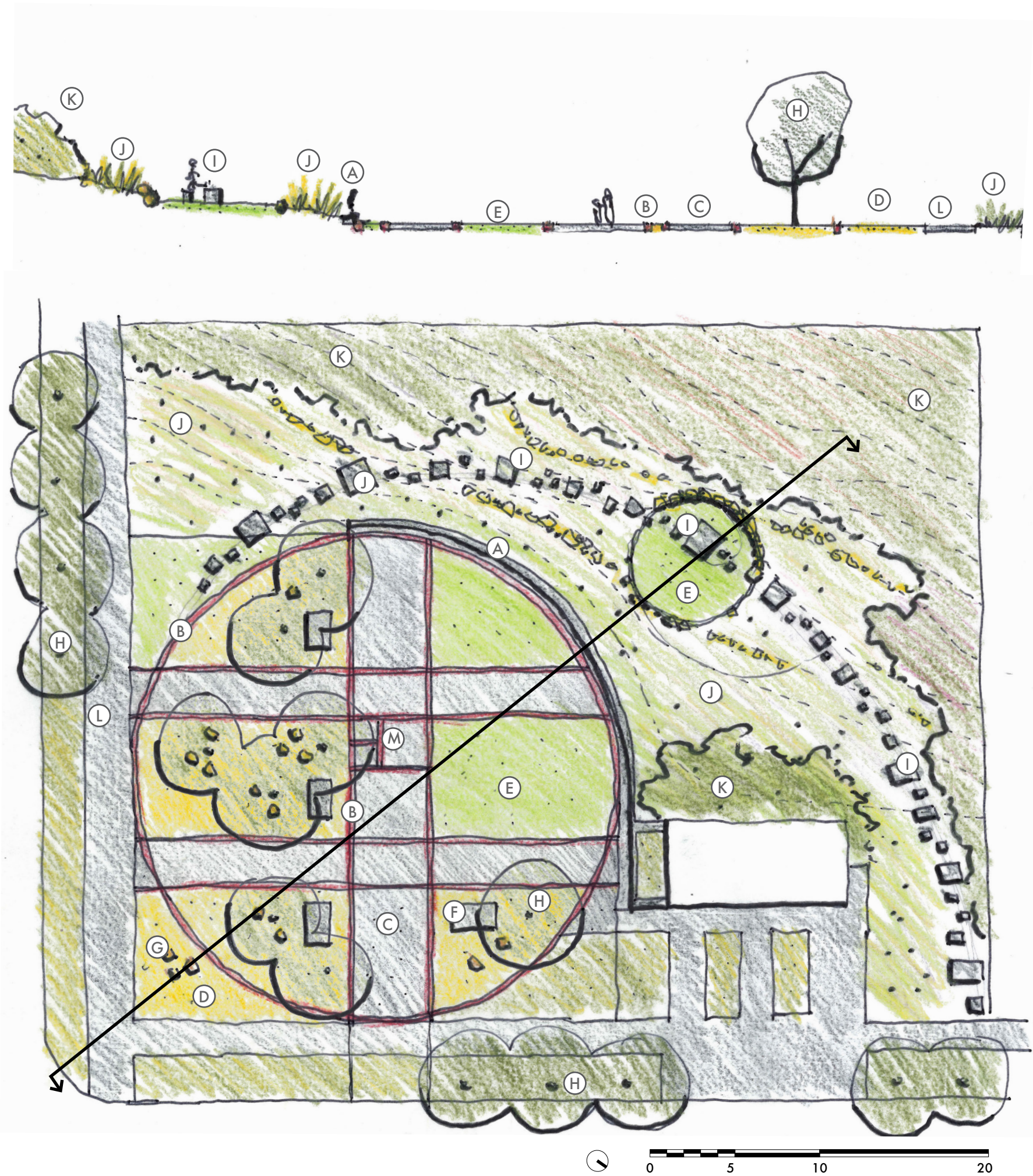
A 5m wide concrete path runs through the space, providing a potential market space.

The proposed materials all relate to local materials from Uralla, including brick, granite boulders, decomposed granite, and concrete.

It is proposed to create a native garden on the slope, with buffer planting to the park's edges. The slope also includes informal nature play and stepping stones with potential for a slide as well, similar to Option2.

Legend

- |                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (A) Terraced seating       | (H) Existing / new trees             |
| (B) Brick edging           | (I) Informal play & seating elements |
| (C) Concrete paving        | (J) Low native planting              |
| (D) Decomposed granite     | (K) Native buffer vegetation         |
| (E) Lawn                   | (L) Widened pedestrian pathway       |
| (F) Tables and benches     | (M) Raised Fibonacci blocks          |
| (G) Large granite boulders |                                      |







Brick, decomposed granite, and concrete



Slide on slope



Seating wall



Ceramic artwork in seating wall



Picnic tables and benches



Sandblasted words in concrete seating wall



Boulders/blocks as informal play and seating elements



Decomposed granite paving with large boulders as informal seating/play elements



Native grasses and understorey vegetation



Lawn surrounded by decomposed granite



5.2 The Glen

The proposed concept design for The Glen includes the following key elements:

- Completing the Constellations of the South project: the 6 remaining sculptures will be undertaken as part of this project.
- Formalise the existing informal track network by providing an accessible loop path network in the park
- New bridges and crossings: it is proposed to provide new bridges and crossings to improve connectivity and accessibility throughout the park including allowing for creek crossing during wet weather conditions
- Provide model boating opportunities: the existing small water body will be partially cleared of reeds and a launching platform will be provided for model boating.

Other proposed works include improvements of the existing driveway and car park, a new fence on the eastern boundary, native planting and bush care, separated formalised lawn areas with potential for use for events, signage and wayfinding. There is also potential for exercise equipment, nature play elements and seating to be provided along the pathways to provide for further use and enjoyment of the park. All elements should be in keeping with the natural character of the space.

As future works there is also potential to expand sculptures at the Glen by creating a sculptural trail along the proposed path network, similar to the Walcha sculpture trail. These could be located at scenic points along the path network at sites selected by artists as well as at key entrance points to the park.

Legend

- (A) Formalise path network
- (B) Constellations of the South
- (C) New bridges/crossings
- (D) Park entry signage
- (E) Provide a new model boating open water area
- (F) Reseal driveway & expand car park
- (G) Lawn area (flexible use space)
- (H) Native grasses & shrubs
- (I) Bush regeneration
- (J) Provide new fence
- (K) New connection to Rotary Park
- (L) Potential locations for new artworks







Upgrade boundary fences



Nature play opportunities



Native tree planting and bush care



Completion of Constellation of the South sculptures



Flexible use lawn area



New pedestrian bridge



Model boating area



Native grasses and understorey vegetation



5.3 Rotary Park

The concept design proposal for Rotary Park shows works that are proposed to be undertaken as part of this project subject to budget.

The proposed works under consideration include an upgraded amenities building, an accessible pathway to the new amenities as well as pedestrian connections from Wood St through Rotary Park and connects to the Glen, new park entry signage, new simple nature play elements under the pine trees, new tree planting with potential for fruit tree planting near the existing community garden, and new native planting in the park. Proposed works also include a realignment of the driveway, an upgraded car park, a new loop path within Rotary Park, new shelters, new park furniture including tables, bins, benches and BBQ and relocation of the existing interpretive signage in the park.

Existing park facilities, including the car park, tables and benches, BBQ, and shelters could be initially retained.

Legend

(A)

 Accessible pathway

(B)

 New amenities building

(C)

 Park entry signage

(D)

 Nature play (under pines)

(E)

 Native planting

(F)

 Existing community garden

(G)

 Existing trees / vegetation

(H)

 Proposed trees

(I)

 Upgraded parking

(J)

 Accessible car park

(K)

 Improved driveway

(L)

 Loop path

(M)

 New shelter

(N)

 New seating

(O)

 Pedestrian crossing

(P)

 Relocated interpretive signage







Incorporate sustainability initiatives in amenities building



Accessible pathway



Nature play



Picnic tables and benches



Pedestrian crossing (creative)



Upgraded car park



New shelters (future scope)



Native grasses and understorey vegetation



New amenities building



# 6. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

## 6.1 Community information session

The analysis report and draft concept designs for the Public Spaces Legacy Program project upgrades for Pioneer Park, Rotary Park and The Glen were open for public comment from 17 December 2021 until 30 January 2022.

On 27 January 2022 a community information session was held in Uralla. Civile presented the concept designs for the three sites and the community provided feedback.

A summary of the community feedback is listed in the table overleaf as well as the initial responses. Items in green will be incorporated in the designs and items in yellow will be considered during further design development.

Generally, the community was supportive of the proposed designs for The Glen and Rotary Park. Most feedback was provided on the concept options for Pioneer Park. Of the three presented options, the 'Fibonacci Park' was preferred.

## 6.2 Preferred option: Fibonacci Park

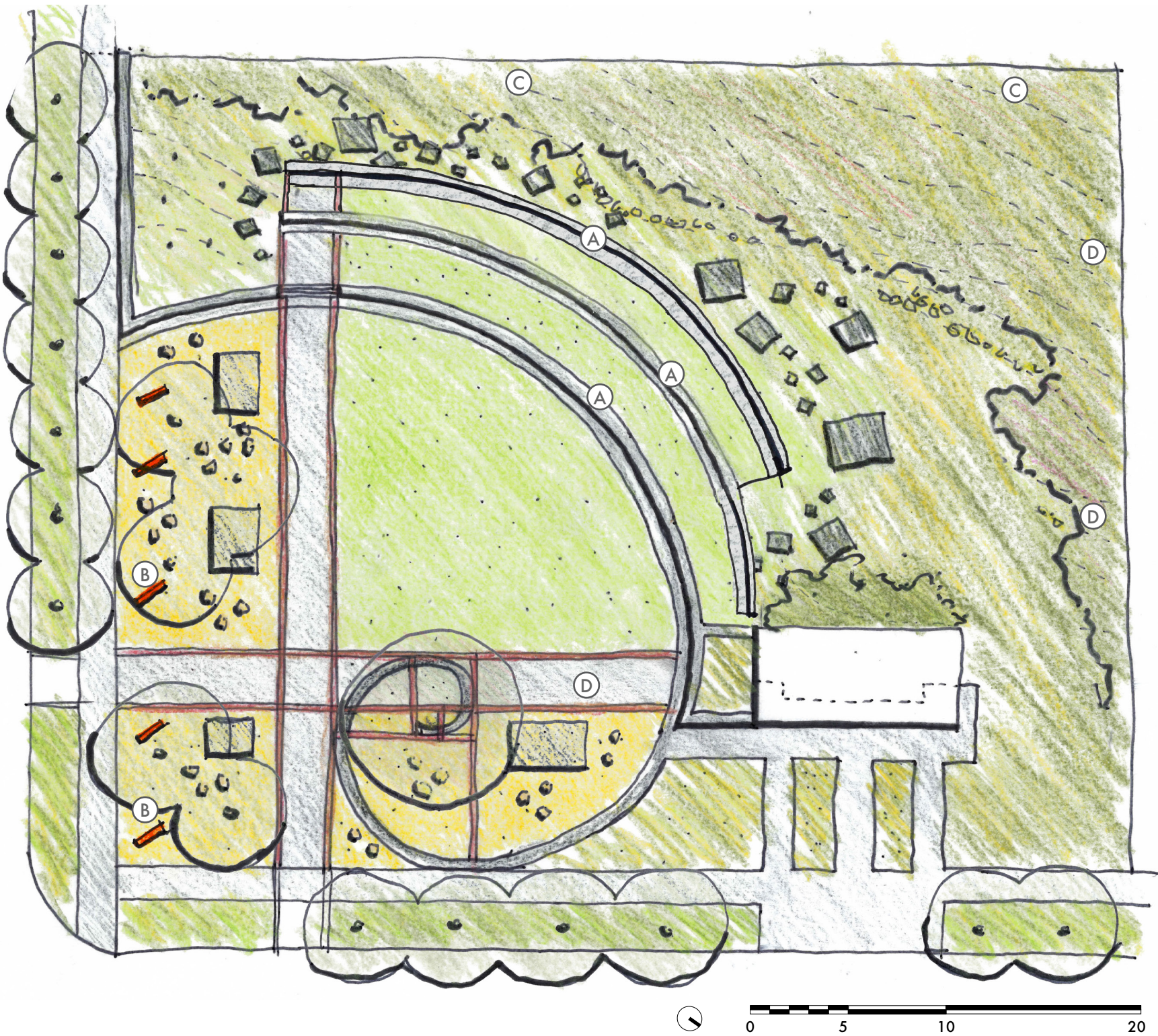
Based on the provided feedback, the design has been amended to reflect the community feedback. Key comments included:

1. Alignment of 'Golden Rectangles' along the Highway
2. Incorporation of 'water play' into the design not appropriate at this location
3. Remove birch trees from behind toilet block and relocate to site's perimeter
4. Retain views into the park from neighbouring residents
5. Minimise cut into the existing hill
6. Materiality of the park to be further considered and discussed
7. Tree species to be used to be further discussed
8. Civile and Guy Crosley have a design workshop
9. A staged approach was suggested, considering limited time and budget
10. Potential for a 'sounding board', consisting of community members, could be included in the process as the project moves forward.

Several renders and an 3D artist impression has been prepared to visualise the proposed concept design for the 'Fibonacci Park'.

### Legend (revised design elements)

- (A) Terraced seating wall (with ceramic artwork)
- (B) Gateway 'Golden Rectangles'
- (C) Birch trees relocated to perimeter
- (D) Retained views into the park from neighbouring residents





## Minutes of community information session, 27-01-2022, Uralla Community Centre

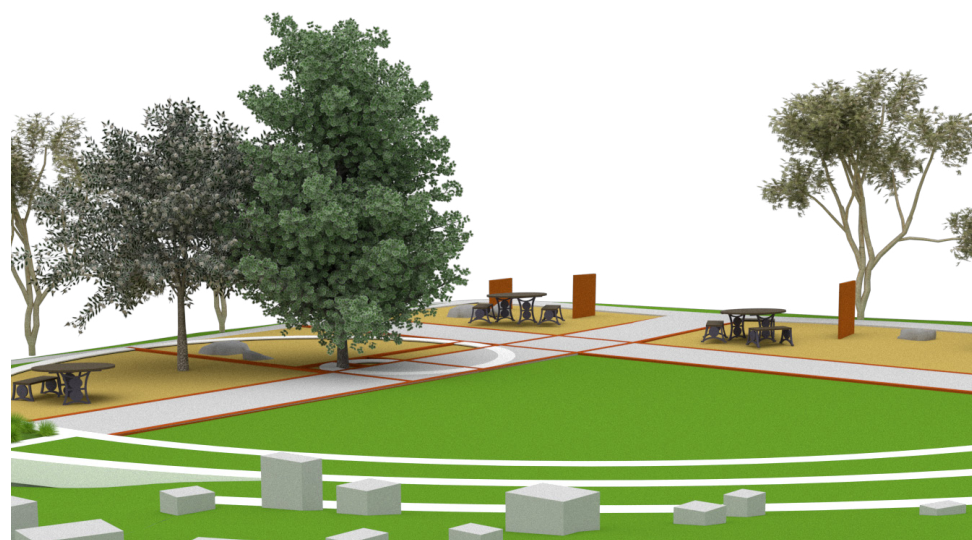
1.0	Rotary Park			
Item	Comment	Revised concepts to incorporate	For consideration	Notes
1.1	Consider upgrade of pavement and retaining wall of car park as priority works	Noted		Council and Civile will review priority works and cost based on cost estimates
1.2	Remove all existing pines due to safety risk and age	Dead / unhealthy pines will be removed, the others will be removed over time as other new trees establish		We will follow up with Rotary directly at appropriate stage to discuss further
1.3	Rotary can help with planting	Noted		
1.4	Pathway design is appreciated	Noted		
1.5	Provide seats to toilets in new amenities building (not steel)	To be included in design		
2.0	The Glen			
2.1	Consider maintenance & long-lived design	Design will consider and ensure use of robust and durable materials		Maintenance not funded through this project
2.2	Gully/drainage off railway line (north in park) is sometimes flooded and needs a boardwalk	Noted and we will review on site and provide appropriate crossing solution		Location is where there is currently a reinforced turf crossing, was dry during site visits, but is currently flowing after significant rainfall
2.3	Include upgrade of parking as priority works	Noted		Council and Civile will review priority works and cost based on cost estimates
2.4	The northern bridge is perhaps not at the best location. The creek might be narrower a bit more to the north	Will review and relocate crossing if this works better		Will refine and review priority works and cost
2.5	Consider raising the culverts to create 1 m water depth	Will do, if impact on existing trees is limited		Might impact existing trees
2.6	Consider less lawn areas to minimise maintenance	A portion of turf are proposed to be replaced with native planting		The current design is reducing the existing lawn area and is proposing to replace this with native planting
3.0	Pioneer Park			
3.1	Bold and bright colouring of ceramic mosaic wall is out of keeping with Uralla’s historic character	Noted, this will be further developed as the design progresses		There were differing opinions on the approach to colours, with some favouring bold colours and others not
3.2	The existing birch trees don’t provide any shade and are out of character of this place; consider removal	Potential to relocate and replace with tree species for shade		Opinions were divided on the birch trees
3.3	Some Eucalypt trees can drop branches - take into consideration	Noted		Safe trees will be used
3.4	Alignment on of the ‘Golden Rectangles’ along the Highway	To provide better visual connection for vehicles		
3.5	Incorporation of ‘water play’ into the design	Water play generally not used in small parks due to summer use only		
3.6	Suggested to place the ‘Golden Rectangles’ under an angle	Angles to be further investigated on site and further developed		
3.8	Adjacent neighbour has strong preference to to retain views into the park	Species selection will ensure views are retained		
3.9	It was requested not to cut into the existing hill	Extent of earthworks into the hill will be further investigated		
3.10	It was requested to remove the existing birch trees behind the toilet block	Noted		
3.11	It was noted that decomposed granite paving might wash away	Crushed granite will be reviewed and if it is adopted, only where there is very flat grades and where there is no runoff flowing over the granite		Suitable paving material will be selected
3.12	It was suggested Civile and Guy Crosley have a design workshop	Civile will contact Guy Crosely to discuss		
3.13	A staged approach, as outlined in Kent Mayo’s written submission (stage 1 consultation) was suggested, considering limited time and budget	Noted		
3.14	The approach of ‘bold’ approach including in colour, elements and wall heights which gave the town a landmark park and which was based on the Fibonacci series was discussed	The resolution of the detailed of the Fibonacci elements will be further developed and investigated		
3.15	Noted preference to use trees which reference the Fibonacci series (e.g. pear trees)	Noted		Propose to email attendees with invitation to join
3.16	Suggested to form a ‘sounding board’, consisting of 6 community members, who will be included in the process as the project moves forward	Noted		Propose to email attendees with invitation to join



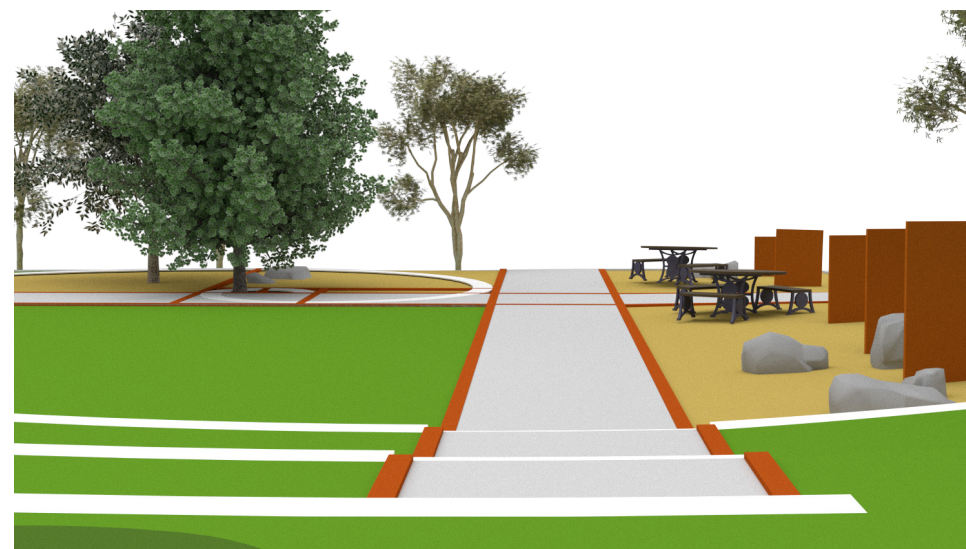


Artist impression Fibonacci Park





View 1. Facing east towards town centre from top of bank



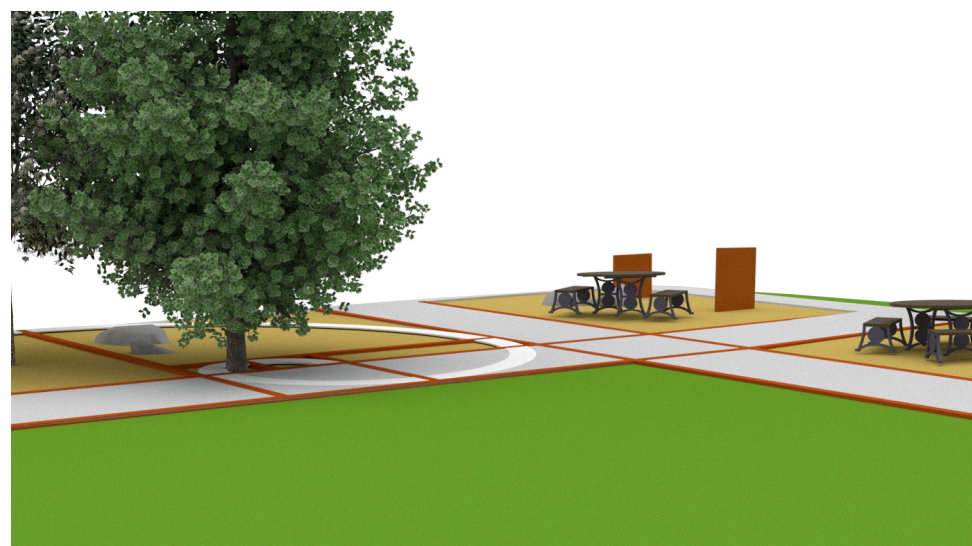
View 2. Facing north-east towards town centre from top of stairs



View 3. Facing south towards Bridge St looking into the park



Image 4. Facing west towards looking into the park



View 5. Facing east towards town centre from centre of the park

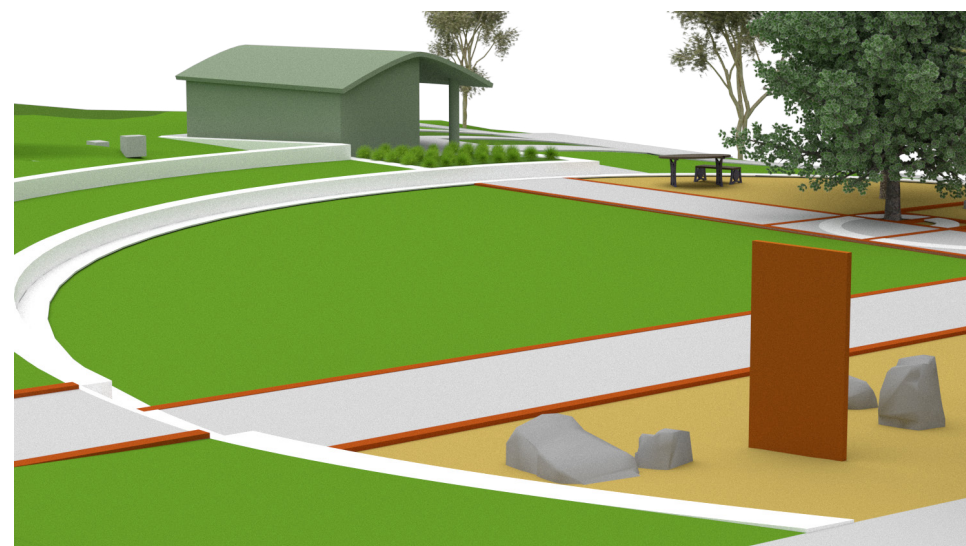


Image 6. Facing north looking into the park





Civille

Uralla  
URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

NSW  
GOVERNMENT