

Grange Burn Precinct Hamilton



City of Hamilton Conservation
Study 1991

Location

HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Grange Burn is of regional significance for its historical associations and for its landscape value. The creek has played a key role throughout the district's history and has seen some of its most important events. Parts have been beautified and Victoria park has special significance for its design and planting. It is also of significance as a repository and nursery for a full range of remnant vegetation and this is important for other areas in Hamilton.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Hermes Number	24249
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Grange Burn meanders around the town in a large arc from the north-east to the west after turning south and then north. It is never more than a small stream although it has now been dammed and forms Lake Hamilton. The banks vary from open and flat floodplains to quite steep cliffs especially at the southern end of the original township. The Grange Burn area has two characters; the one which is more natural or informal and the other which has been laid out to some design. The latter are reserves which are for deliberate recreation purposes and include Lake Hamilton, the Apex Park, Kennedy Park and Victoria Park. The rest of the creek seems to be left more or less to fend for itself.

It is not possible to say within the scope of this study how much of the existing vegetation along the Grange Burn is remnant and indeed likewise throughout Hamilton. However, there are considerable sections which are overgrown with thickets of elm suckers and other weeds. The formal reserves have quite elaborate plantings. These have now deteriorated but not irretrievably. The relationship between Victoria Park and the Botanic Gardens deserves to be explored in detail.

The most important formal area along the Grange Burn is Victoria Park. High ground on the Martin Street side falls away to the floodplain by the creek. The cliff still shows the scar of the early quarry. The park is edged on the Martin Street side with avenue plantings of alternating *Ulmus X hollandica*, Dutch Elm and *Quercus robur*, English Oak. A path from the top of the hill traverses the Park diagonally down the cliff face. It is planted with *Crataegus laevigata*, English Hawthorn and *Fraxinus excelsior*, English Ash. Other trees include: *Ulmus X hollandica*, Dutch Elm; *Quercus robur*, English Oak; *Acer platanoides*, Norway Maple; *Brachychiton acerifolius*, Illawarra Flame Tree; *Fraxinus excelsior* 'Pendula'; and what must be remnant vegetation in *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, River Red Gum. The most notable exotic is the impressive *Ulmus X hollandica* 'Vegeta', Huntingdon Elm at the base of the slope. The Park is in a run-down condition and considerable sensitive tree work is required. The park has also been used to store Council equipment, mostly abandoned, and for the grazing of sheep to keep down the grass.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>