

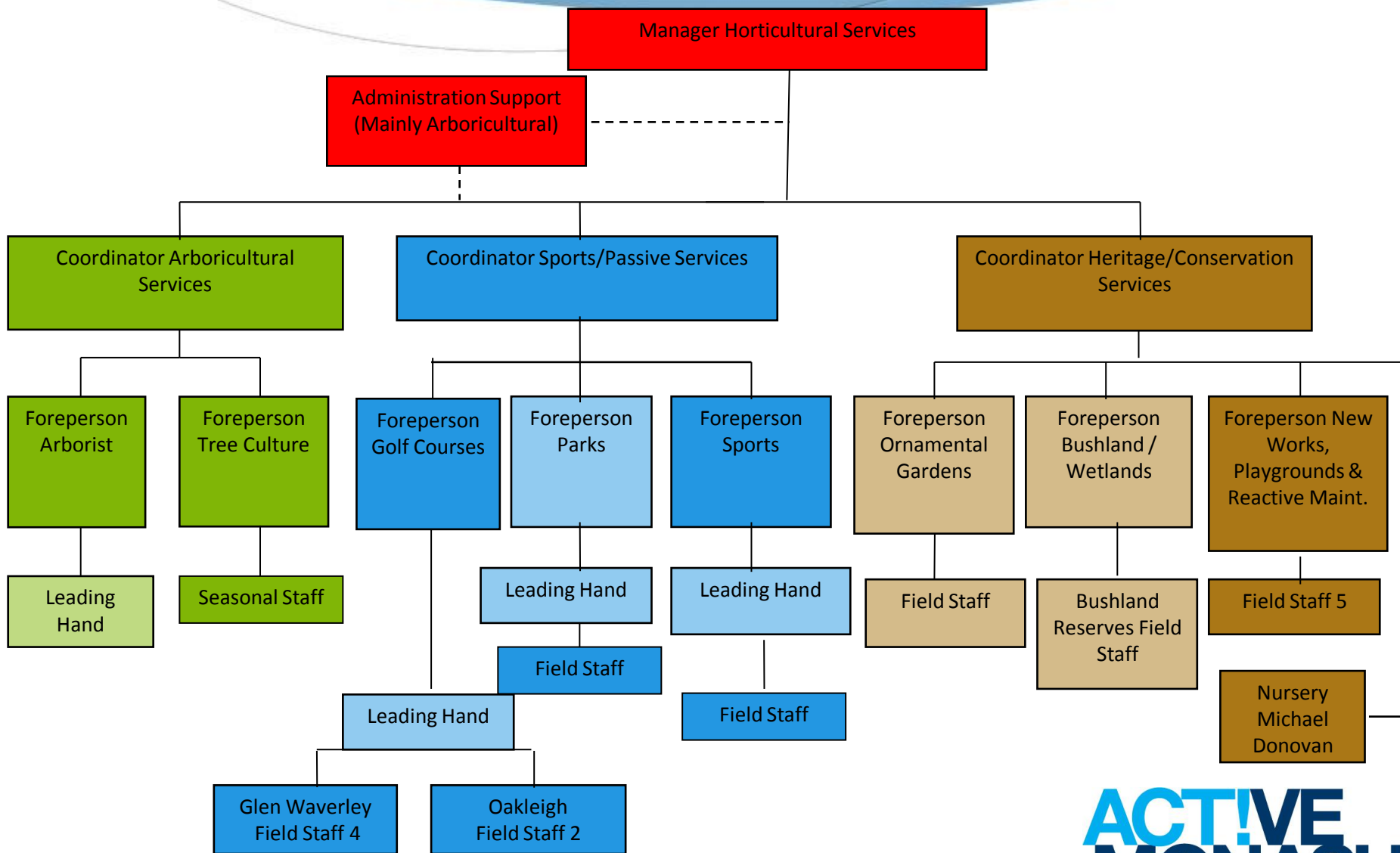
# Community Gardens means Community Engagement

Lucas Skelton  
Coordinator Sport and Park Maintenance  
Services  
Infrastructure Services, City of Monash



# Horticulture Services







# Sports and Park Maintenance Services



# Sports Ground Maintenance

- ◆ 9 Full time qualified staff
- ◆ Maintenance of 65 Sports fields including turf athletics and turf croquet.
- ◆ 14 turf wicket tables
- ◆ 50 irrigation systems.



# Sports Ground Challenges

- ◆ Access to sports fields for renovation works.
- ◆ Decreasing windows between seasons – summer to winter.
- ◆ Increasing usage of sports fields and impact on turf.





# Golf Course Maintenance

- ◆ 6 Full time qualified staff & 1<sup>ST</sup> Year Apprentice.
- ◆ Glen Waverley Public Golf Course -18 holes & Practice facilities.
- ◆ Oakleigh Public Golf Course – 9 Holes



# Golf Course Challenges

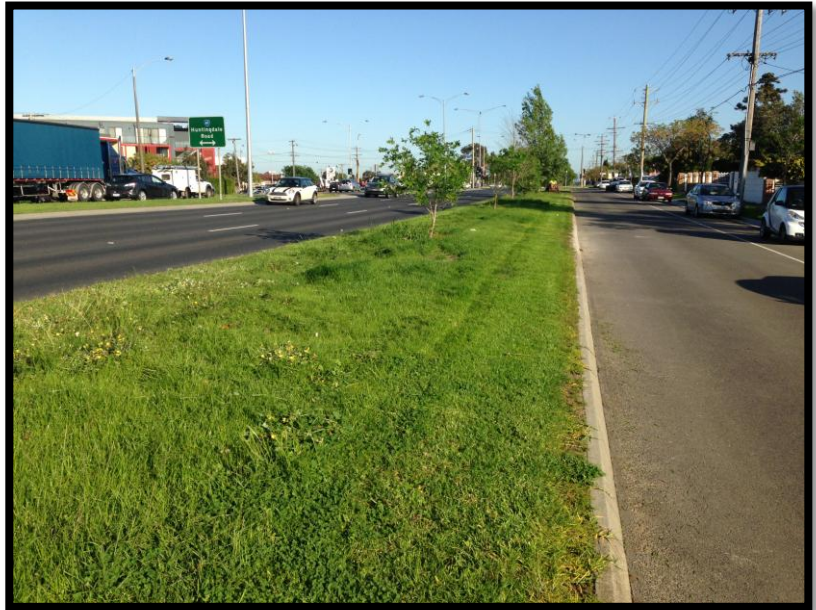
- 💧 Irrigation water quantity
- 💧 Upgrade of irrigation system to use water efficiently.
- 💧 Upgrade of playing surfaces to meet current standards





# Arterial Roads Vegetation Maintenance

- Contracted Service to Insight Horticultural Management.
- Grass mowing, garden beds, rubbish and tree debris clean up, weed spraying and nature strip maintenance.



# Arterial Roads Challenges

- ◆ Dumped rubbish
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Maintaining healthy landscapes
- ◆ Renewal gap



# Park Maintenance Operational Overview

- ◆ Mowing and gardening completed at 560 sites across City of Monash.
- ◆ 3 New Holland tractors with Howard mowing and Gyrol edging attachments.
- ◆ Mowing Crews of 2 field staff with truck and trailer at 2-6 week intervals.
- ◆ Weed control program completed by 2 spray vehicles at 10 week intervals.





# Reserve Improvement Program- Why ???

- Works orders and complaints relating to 'poor condition' or anti social incidents in reserves.



# Reserve Improvement Program- Why ???

- Results from City of Monash – Community Satisfaction Survey



# Reserve Improvement Program- Why ???

- ◆ Consultation with recreation, urban design and other horticulture departments.





# Council Plan 2013-2017

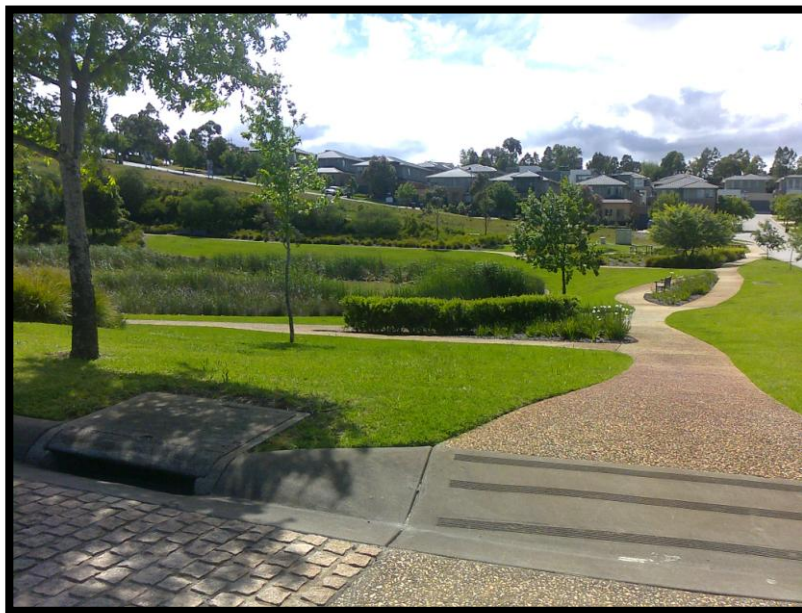
- ◆ **Our Vision of Monash:** An inviting city, diverse & alive with activity, designed for a bright future.
- ◆ **Council's Mission:** Making a difference through commitment, expertise & leadership.



**ACTIVE  
MONASH**

# Council Plan 2013-2017

- 💧 ENSURING OUR CITY HAS INVITING PLACES & SPACES
- 💧 ACHIEVING A HEALTHY & ACTIVE MONASH
- 💧 FOSTERING CONFIDENT, CONNECTED COMMUNITIES
- 💧 TAKING ACTION FOR OUR FUTURE



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MONASH**

# Reserve Improvement Program - Why ???

- 💧 Feedback from Park maintenance field staff.
- 💧 Monitoring of routine maintenance program versus service quality and efficiency.
- 💧 Assessing health of established trees and understory in reserves.





# Reserve Improvement Works

## – Where ???



# Reserve Improvement Program – How ???

- 💧 What is the aim of the 'reserve improvements' ?
- 💧 Budget – what is this going to cost and who is going to pay for it?
- 💧 No Funding – What do we do?





# Reserve Improvement Program – How ???

- ◆ Consultation with key council stakeholders.
- ◆ Planning to combine routine maintenance with specific 'reserve improvement works'
- ◆ Scheduling of staff to complete works by Parks Maintenance Foreperson.





# Overgrown Vegetation



# Overgrown Vegetation





# Repair of reserve assets





# Removal of Graffiti



# Upgrade of Garden Beds





# Planting Preparation





# Community Communication

- 💧 Planting Day Invitation letter to residents.
- 💧 Advertised on council website
- 💧 Promoted in Active Monash newsletter
- 💧 Councilors invited via weekly e-bulletin from CEO.



# Community Planting Day Planning

- 💧 Planting Day Event Schedule
- 💧 Event OH&S and Risk Assessments.
- 💧 Catering
- 💧 Arrange Horticulture field staff to work Sunday to assist residents.



# Bayview Park Planting Day

- 60 local residents attended planting day.
- 1000 tube stock planted, watered and mulched.





# Bayview Park Reserve Planting Day



# Positive Feedback

- Local residents letters to Mayor.
- Positive comments from community during and after works to field staff.
- Park Maintenance nominated by CEO and awarded 'Outstanding Service Excellence' at City of Monash 'Rewards and Recognition event.





# Where to next?

- 💧 Budget initiative for 2014/15 submitted and approved to fund further reserve improvements.
- 💧 Program to include 1 reserve in each of the 4 council wards.
- 💧 Strategic approach to selecting future reserve improvement sites.
- 💧 Combine planting days with other community events to broaden exposure.





# QUESTIONS

