

Our social/civic vision...

1. The Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan recognises that the City of Ballarat's open spaces such as parks, gardens, sporting ovals, wetlands, tracks and trails provide places for social gatherings, recreation, physical activity and relaxation and are important to the community's wellbeing and health. The establishment of the Canadian Multi Use Forest Park is consistent with this plan.

2. Ballarat's identity as a "liveable city" would be enhanced through the establishment of the Canadian Multi-Use Forest Park. As the city attempts to balance population growth, it would enable a "semi-urban" feel to be retained. Urban growth would be managed in sympathy with the City of Ballarat's Planning schemes including the Canadian Valley Outline Development Plan (C95).

3. Is for the Canadian Multi Use Forest Park to recognise the Wadawurrung people's prior and continuing their ongoing connection to the land.

4. Is for the network of existing Canadian Forest trails, currently used by a broad range of community groups, to be built upon and augmented by a mosaic of open spaces and facilities. Dedicated areas for outdoor recreational activities, based on current and future use would be further developed. Barbecue & picnic areas would reinforce social connectedness and enjoyment of nature for Ballarat 'in perpetuity'

5. Is for the Canadian Multi Use Forest Park to support an interconnected network of trails that link the state forest to Geelong Rd, Central Ballarat and Federation University. This would enhance Ballarats reputation for fostering participation in recreational, social and sporting activities.

6. Is to establish trails with appropriate infrastructure for fitness and for quieter exercise regimes, including a disability accessible trail.

7. Ballarat's identity as a "heritage city" would be enhanced. Residents and visitors would be able to explore our goldfields and natural environment within sight of Sovereign Hill

8. For a Canadian Forest walking trail running along the ridge line of the forest, to be integrated into the Great Dividing Trail Association's Wallaby Track and linking Mt Buninyong with the Ballarat CBD via the Canadian Forest.

A Social/Civic, Environmental, & Economic Vision

For establishing a **CANADIAN MULTI-USE FOREST PARK** In the Canadian Corridor

Friends of the Canadian Corridor July 2014



The ex-plantation areas February 2014

Composed by FoCC July 2014
Sourced from participants' responses in forums held by FoCC in March 2013 & 2014

Our environmental vision...

1. Is to establish a Canadian Multi Use Forest Park within the current Canadian Forest and the ex-plantation land within its boundaries. This would bring Ballarat it into synchrony with other regional tourist destinations such as Daylesford Hepburn, Creswick, Maryborough Bendigo and Castlemaine. Each of these destinations has a regional, state or national park adjacent.
2. For a Management Plan to be developed to guide action and care for the whole area as a Canadian Multi use Forest Park. This means the land would be conserved for the enjoyment of future generations.
3. Conservation goals of the Ballarat's Koala Plan of Management would be attained by revegetating the habitat corridor and buffer areas to connect existing ESO5 islands of native vegetation to the forest .
4. Is to enhance forest biodiversity with benefits such as, cleaner water, erosion reduction, enhanced biodiversity and carbon sequestration being provided. The north-south bio link, part of the Great Eastern Ranges Wildlife Corridor - would be stabilised and remain intact for indigenous flora and fauna. This may be significant for the species' future adaptation to climate change.
5. Re-establishment of habitat would provide a natural 'arboretum' for residents and visitors to view displays of seasonal local wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Bird and native animal habitat would also be rejuvenated with an expectation of increased population numbers.
6. Is for the riparian stream-sides to be rejuvenated in conjunction with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA), environmental and local Landcare organisations.
7. Is for the land to endure as the "lungs of Ballarat" as it has been known from Shire of Buninyong days. Problem weeds and rubbish dumping would be addressed via enhanced public recognition and use of the forest.
8. Is for landscape values including ridge lines, non urban breaks, vegetated backdrops and rural "vistas" to be protected and enhanced.
9. Is for the area to have a clear fire management plan to lower potential fire risks. Sensitive design would be a priority. The CFA could support the establishment of a community fire action plan.

Our economic vision is

1. To build on Ballarats existing reputation for high quality, recreational and history based tourism. A healthy Canadian Multi Use Forest Park would promote Ballarat as an environmentally positive destination for family living, business and tourism development with a beautiful city backdrop. Sovereign Hill and the Ballarat Observatory would be assisted by the establishment of the park.
2. To increase visitors and participants in recreational activities leading to increased accommodation and hospitality activity. The walking and cycling trails envisaged would support an increased range of sporting and recreational activities such as mountain biking, orienteering and geo caching. Increased economic activity from national and state wide events attracted to the Canadian Multi Use Forest Park.
3. To build on existing enterprises that utilise the forest, such as horse riding, seed harvesting and fitness training programs.
4. For the Canadian Multi Use Forest Park to provide a suitable area for local offset planting, in which managed revegetation of the land is accounted for within city planning offset strategies.
5. For a photo voltaic cell solar electricity generation park similar to the Solar Cities installation at Ballarat Airport to be established in open areas not covered by forest vegetation. It may be co-located with existing electrical infra-structure for minimum visual disturbance
6. For enhancement of the Great Eastern Bio-link which runs from the Creswick Forest to the Enfield forest via the Canadian Forest. This link is of national importance and will contain walking land cycling trails. There is the opportunity within the wider Bio Link corridor to undertake commercial tree plantations, tree planting and carbon capture.
7. Development of a natural amphitheatre within the Canadian Multi Use Forest Park to provide a hub for half or whole-day arts events.
9. To compliment school curriculum, the use the forest for educational activities, youth development, recreation and undertake heritage works in conjunction with adjacent institutions, schools, camps and community organizations