Williamstown Botanic Gardens is one of the oldest Botanic Gardens in Victoria. With a sweeping, arborescent path system designed by Edward Lear, the Botanic Gardens provide a haven for the scientific management of plant collections and the facilities needed to support the science expected of a modern Botanic Garden.

The northern half of the Botanic Gardens is visually pleasing, with a good structural framework of arborescent paths, open lawns, mature trees and botanically diverse garden beds. Therefore the changes proposed by the Master Plan to these Northern Gardens are minimal – and are aimed at enhancing the already strong character by improved planting detail and presentation to the surrounding streets. This includes retaining the planting, adding new garden beds, and providing decorative entrances.

The southern portion of the site, known as the Pinetum, has a strong visual character and it is by enhancing this aspect and continuing the work of visually unifying the Pinetum and the Northern Gardens that the Master Plan makes its most substantial recommendations. Pinetum works include removing the fences that divide the site, therefore strengthening the strong axial alignment and introducing a ground plane of decorative planting. This planting will not interfere with the current spatial character of the Pinetum but will simply reinforce the connection between the two spaces.

In recent years, the public's expectations of Botanic Gardens have changed, and to stay relevant, Botanic Gardens are expected to be more than just collections of plants and places to walk and picnic. Visitor services such as educational facilities, information desks and goods accessible to public toilets are also expected, and help build the reputation and popularity of a Garden. In order to provide these resources, it is recommended that the former Williamstown City Council Parks Depot be returned to the Gardens, and redeveloped into a gardens management, education and visitor centre.

The Williamstown Botanic Gardens is in a strong position, where due to the success of previous work programmes, the Gardens can now embark on the next stage of their development – building what is already a valuable resource into one of Victoria's premier Botanic Gardens.