Statement of Significance: Victoria Gardens, 361-381 High Street, Prahran (June 2026)

Heritage Place:	Victoria Gardens 361-381 High Street, Prahran	**PS ref no:**	HO153



Figure 1: *Victoria Gardens*, 361-381 High Street, Prahran (Extent Heritage, 2022).

What is significant?

The park at 361-381 High Street, Prahran (also known as Victoria Gardens), is significant.

Specifically, the mature plantings, including avenues of mature London plane (*Platanus* × *acerifolia*) trees planted around the perimeter of the oval, mature pine (*Pinus*) plantings along the perimeter of the High Street entrance, layout and landscaping of the late Victorian era urban park, along with its remnant decorative features, including the fountain, statues and rockeries is of local heritage significance.

Remnant interwar improvements, including the c.1927 High Street boundary fence and iron entrance gates, c.1928-1929 Murray Street boundary fence and entrance gates, c.1935-36 pergola and c.1947 path realignments designed by Edna Walling are also elements which contribute to the significance of the place.

Later alterations and additions following this period are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Victoria Gardens is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

The Victoria Gardens is of historical significance as a late Victorian urban park that was established in the populous area of Prahran during the boom period. Part of the Prahran Council's early program of parks and gardens, the development was tied to late nineteenth century understandings of health, which saw public parks as beneficial to residents' health and sanitation. Designed in the traditional English style, the aesthetically landscaped park not only served the recreational needs of locals, but also hosted a range of civic and entertainment activities, including outdoor performances and charity fetes. (Criterion A)

The Victoria Gardens is of aesthetic significance as a fine and intact example of a traditional English style park with sympathetic interwar era improvements. It incorporates several picturesque qualities associated with this landscape style, including curved serpentine pathways, large avenues of mature London plane (*Platanus* × *acerifolia*) trees planted around the perimeter of the oval and dating to the early twentieth century, mature pine (Pinus) plantings along the perimeter of the High Street entrance, both dating to the early to mid-twentieth century period, face red brick guttering, a central oval depression and decorative features including a three tired Renaissance style fountain, bronze pedestals and urn finials, and a prominent 'Victory' statue set atop a pedestal. These picturesque qualities are further enhanced by interwar improvements and additions, including path realignments, designed by noted landscape designer Edna Walling, allowing for wider views of the landscape, timber pergola at the High Street entrance, boundary fencing and ornate iron entrance gates at the High Street and Murray Street entrances respectively, retaining walls along the eastern edge of the sunken oval and remnant garden beds. Together, these elements combine to form an attractive landscaped public park and garden in the heart of Prahran. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Prahran and Windsor Heritage Review (Extent Heritage, April 2024).