

National Arboretum Canberra

Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park (STEP) – Demonstration Garden
Proposed Education Space Concept



Background

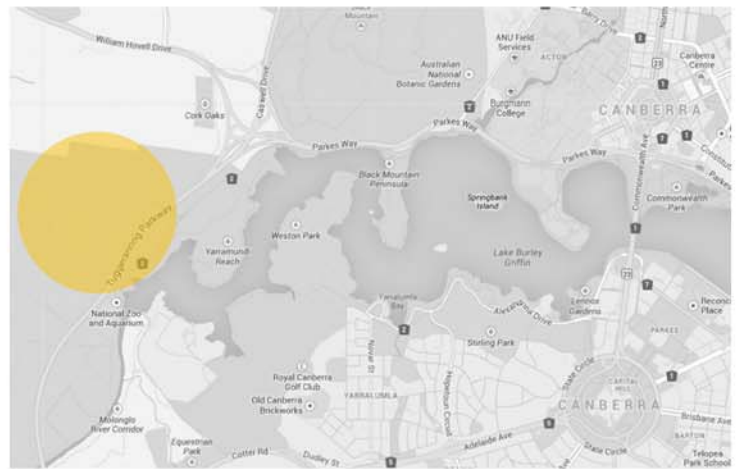
This proposal outlines the design for the proposed education space located within the STEP demonstration garden (Forest 20) of the National Arboretum, Canberra.

STEP was founded in 2002 and its aim is to develop a regional botanic garden representative of the natural ecosystems of the Southern Tablelands, with an emphasis on ground storey plants. The group also seeks to further public education about regional ecosystems and develop practical skills and methods to restore natural landscapes.

Outdoor education spaces are generally designed to provide structure for outdoor lessons and increase and promote student contact with nature. Outdoor classrooms are also an amazing way to foster recovery from mental fatigue in students, teachers and anyone who is spending large amounts of their day indoors. Features such as seating, trees, shelter, planting, cultural and artistic elements are all important in creating spaces which are aesthetic, functional and multipurpose.

This design project will focus on the use of low impact and low cost materials, preferably from site, and the creation of a comfortable and accessible area with a wide ranging outlook.

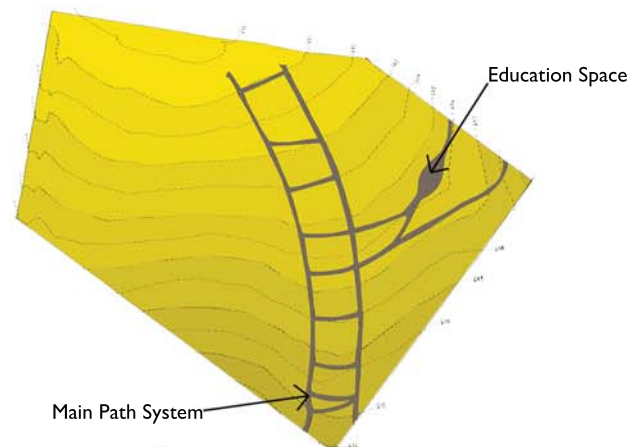
Location



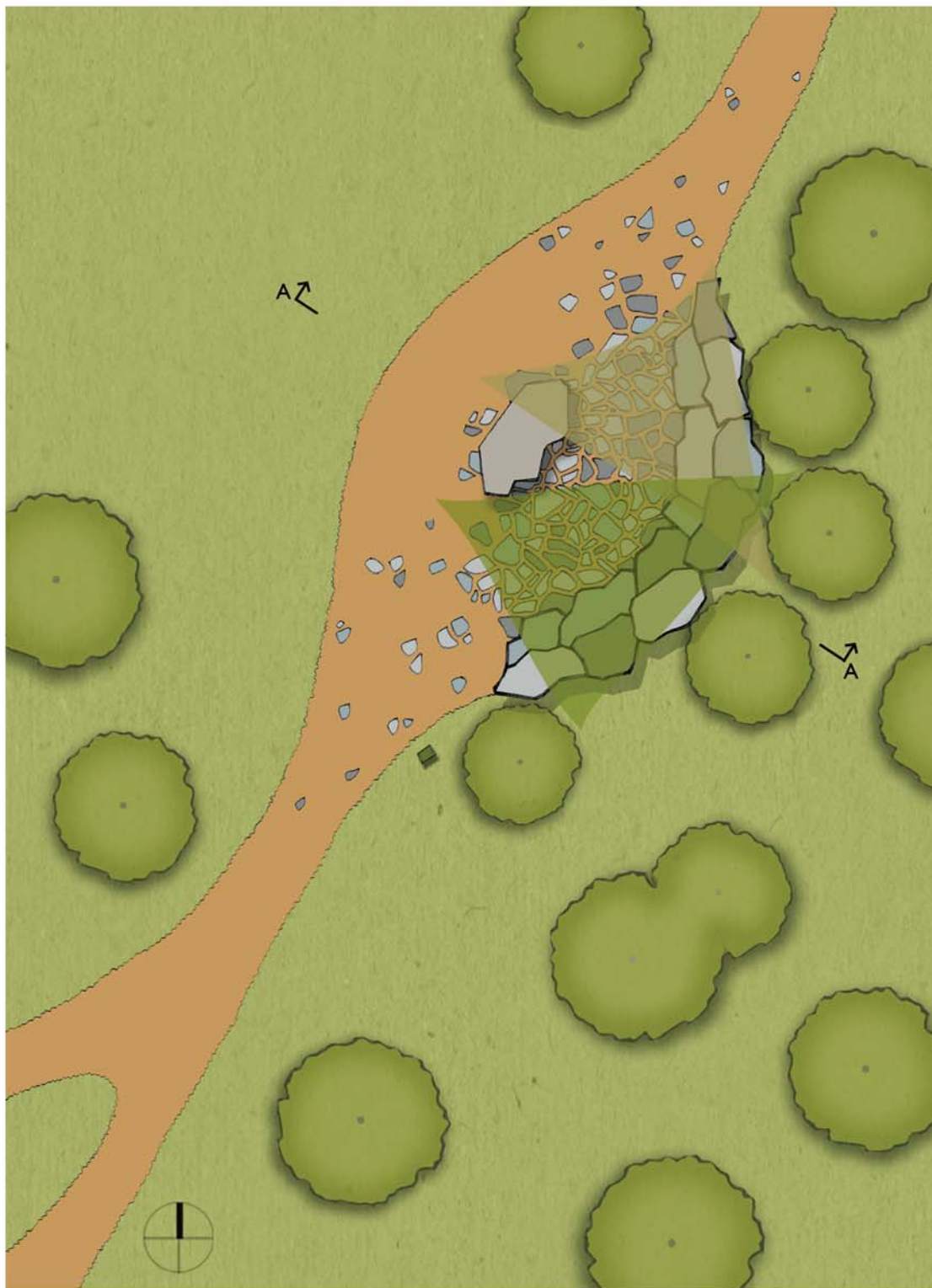
The National Arboretum within Canberra






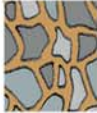




STEP Garden within The National Arboretum



Education Space within STEP Garden

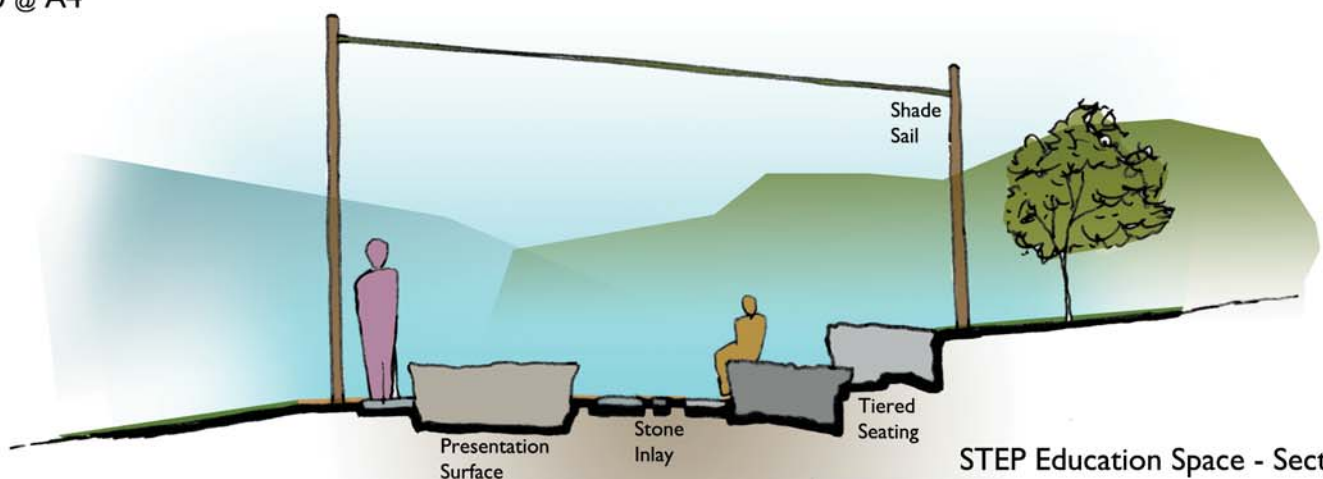


KEY

-  **Proposed Trees** - to match existing species & planting layout
-  **New & Existing Grass & Ground Storey Planting** - to match existing species & planting layout with a focus on indigenous edible plants
-  **Proposed Base** - compacted granite gravel
-  **Proposed Feature** - stone inlay within the gravel to act as a paving feature
-  **Proposed Presentation Surface** - large flat stone for use in presenting material or as a stage/seating element
-  **Proposed Seating Element** - large flat stones set into the slope in a double tier formation
-  **Proposed Shade Element** - shade sails that can be re-purposed when trees have grown
-  **Proposed Signage** - to match existing Arboretum signage elements

STEP Education Space - Concept Plan

1:20 @ A4



STEP Education Space - Section A-A

1:10 @ A4

Inspiration



Inlay Stone | Stone Seating | Curved Seating | Shade Sails | Botanical Shapes | Diffused Light

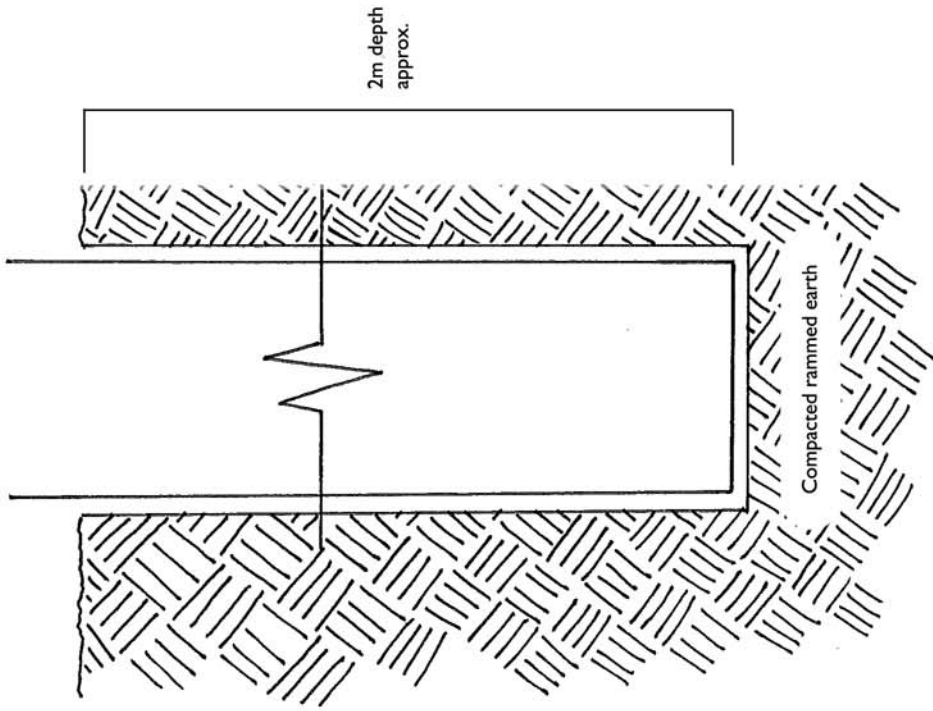
Current Conditions



Materials

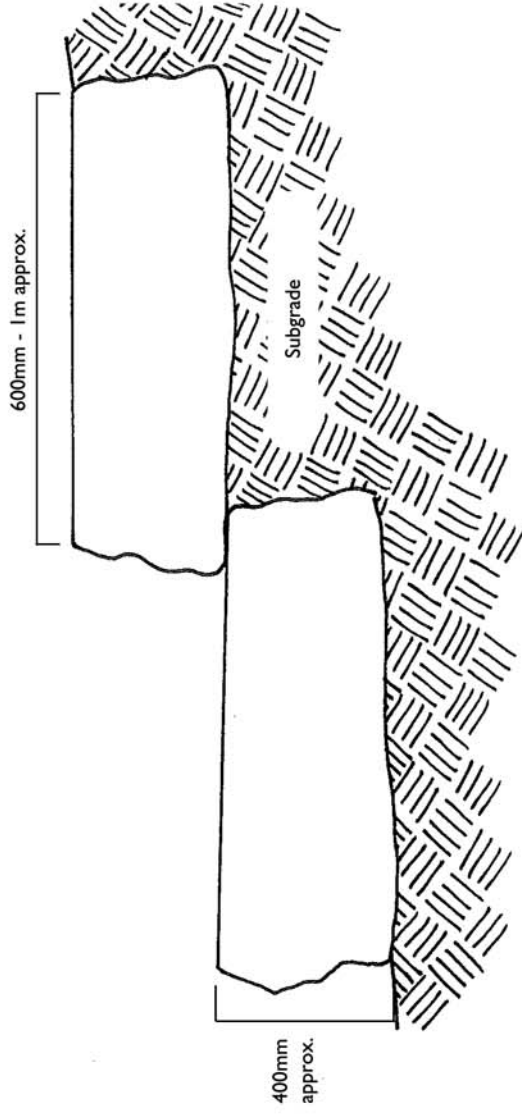


Stone from Site | Crushed Granite Gravel | Native Planting | Shade Sails - Natural Colours



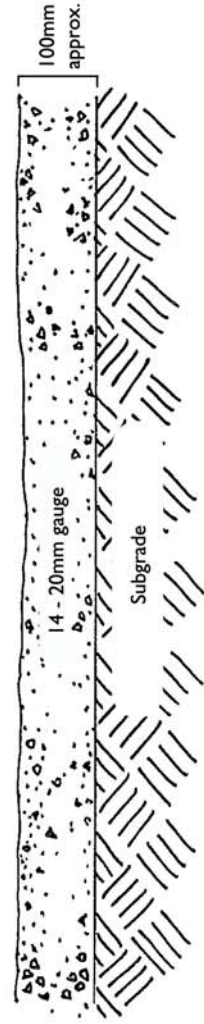
Detail - Shade Sail Posts (Recycled timber / Reclaimed Telegraph Poles)

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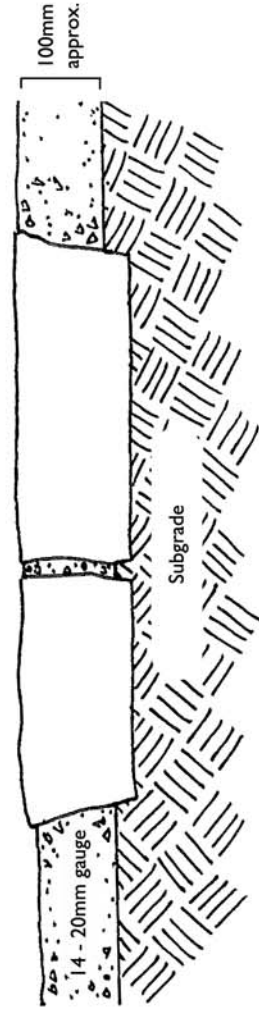
Detail - Tiered Stone Seating

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Detail - Crushed Granite Gravel Base

1:10 @ A4



Detail - Stone Inlay

1:10 @ A4