

UNIVERSITY SQUARE

Timeline

Pre-settlement Wurundjeri Country - elevated vantage point overlooking the plains of grassy woodlands down to the banks of the Birrarung (Yarra River).

1854 Law Quadrangle set-out with its central and principal axis extended to the Grattan Street gates.

1864 University Square (Barry Square) land is reserved.

1866 Soil turned, grass planted and perimeter planting of Blue Gums.

1867 Barry Square is fenced.

1868 - 1873 Park falls into disrepair with night-soil from Melbourne University regularly dumped in park.

1873 Permanently reserved, City of Melbourne starts maintenance and Barry Square is renamed to University Square.

1875 - 1876 Bowls club formed and pavilion constructed plus new grass tennis courts.

1885 Nicholas Bickford redesigns park by planting first central avenue of English Elms and extensive new horticultural plantings.

1904 - 1906 Guilfoyle redesigns park with diagonal paths, new London Plane Trees and the commission and installation of the temperance drinking fountain.

1921 £4000 allocated to refurbish the park, park fence removed and rock garden-bed edging installed along with irrigation, seats and lighting.

1947 Temperance drinking fountain relocated to current position in park.

1953 Tennis courts removed and new Elms planted to reinforce north-south axis.

1970 University of Melbourne Master Plan Report states that the strong tree and path north-south axis should be preserved.

2000 - 2002 University of Melbourne underground car park and Grattan Street Plaza construction.

For more information, contact City of Melbourne
Telephone: 03 9658 9658

melbourne.vic.gov.au