

GREENING ALBERT PARK & MIDDLE PARK

URBAN FOREST PRECINCT PLAN



JUNE 2026

DOCUMENT REGISTER

Project	Greening Albert Park & Middle Park
Report Title	Urban Forest Precinct Plan
Project Code	LS000939
Prepared for	City of Port Phillip
Author	LatStudios

Issue	Date	Approved	Details
A	27/11/2025	AR	Draft
B	04/12/2025	AR	Draft
C	18/02/2026	AR	Final
D	01/05/2026	AR	Final
E	19/06/2026	AR	Final

This document has been prepared solely for the benefit of City of Port Phillip and is issued in confidence for the purposes only for which it is supplied. Unauthorised use of this document in any form whatsoever is prohibited. No liability is accepted by LatStudios, any employee, contractor, or sub-consultant of this company with respect to its use by any other person. This disclaimer shall apply notwithstanding that the document may be made available to other persons.

Acknowledgement of Country:

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.



Eucalyptus leucoxylon

Endemic Species of Bunurong and Wurundjeri Country.

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 3

01. INTRODUCTION

01.1 FOCUS AREAS 5

01.2 PROJECT PURPOSE 7

01.3 KEY ACTIONS 7

01.4 KEY ACTIONS - EXPLAINED. 8

02. METHODOLOGY

03.1 PROJECT METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW 11

03.2 SPATIAL DATA & POLICY ANALYSIS 12

03.3 URBAN FOREST OPPORTUNITIES AND MAPPING 14

03.14 WALK QUALITY - PRIORITY STREETS FOR SHADE INCREASE 22

03.15 HIGH-PRIORITY STREETS 23

03. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

02.1 MULTI-FUNCTIONAL ROLE OF STREETS & PUBLIC SPACES 25

02.2 ALBERT PARK & MIDDLE PARK. 26

04. STREET TYPES & OPPORTUNITIES

04.1 STREET TYPES & OPPORTUNITIES. 29

05. OPEN SPACE TYPES & OPPORTUNITIES

05.1 OPEN SPACE TYPES 43

05.2 EXISTING OPEN SPACE TYPES - ALBERT PARK & MIDDLE PARK 45

06. PRECINCT ACTION PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITISATION

06.1 ACTION PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITISATION . . . 57

06.2 ACTION PLAN. 58

06.3 POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS 60

06.4 IMPLEMENTATION 62

06.5 TRACKING OUR PROGRESS. 64

06.6 FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS. 66

06.7 FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS. 66

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: STREETS & OPEN SPACE ATTRIBUTES 68

APPENDIX B: DESIGN TOOLKIT 75

APPENDIX C: BACKGROUND DOCUMENT SUMMARIES, CASE STUDIES & BEST PRACTICE 100



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Urban Forest Precinct Plan (UFPP) is to guide tree planting and biodiversity projects to achieve the targets and outcomes of the Urban Forest Strategy, creating a healthy, biodiverse and connected urban forest. This UFPP focuses on the Middle Park & Albert Park neighbourhood, one of nine neighbourhoods in the City of Port Phillip (CoPP).

This UFPP is developed by LatStudios and the City of Port Phillip, and incorporates analysis by Swinburne Institute of Technology Walk Quality research project. The Walk Quality project analyses current streetscape conditions and ways to improve pedestrian accessibility, safety and comfort. The research identifies streets that are used frequently and lacking in shade, making them high priority for urban forest canopy increase.

This UFPP for Middle Park & Albert Park provides guidance for greening interventions, responding to the neighbourhood's unique existing and future character, the objectives of the Urban Forest Strategy, and addresses other neighbourhood-specific urban forest challenges.

The Urban Forest Strategy Objectives are:

1. Increased canopy cover on public and private land for a liveable, sustainable, equitable and vibrant city.
2. Cooler and greener city which is resilient to more extreme weather and changes in rainfall.
3. Our community is engaged, trees and plants are valued, and we build partnerships to green our urban environment across all land types.
4. A well-managed forest, including tree health and quality, pest and disease management, and succession planning for iconic species and locations.
5. A biodiverse urban forest with diverse species, healthy ecosystems and habitat.

This UFPP for Middle Park & Albert Park:

- Identifies tree planting opportunities to improve equity, including shade in areas with higher heat vulnerability along key walking and cycling routes, public transport stops and around activity centres.
- Identifies opportunities for biodiverse planting in streets and parks.
- Captures delivery options aligning with water sensitive urban design, traffic safety and footpath renewal programs and partnering with other land holders.
- Identifies where minor uplifts can occur to existing streetscapes by infill planting filling in gaps or gradually transitioning trees to a different species to improve canopy cover and biodiversity.
- Provides a summary of how Council can work with other land holders for a greener neighbourhood.
- Provides a priority implementation plan for the next 10 years.

Legend

-  Content common to Urban Forest Precinct Plans (UFPP) across all neighbourhoods in CoPP
-  Content unique to the Albert Park & Middle Park Urban Forest Precinct Plan

CHAPTER	CONTENT COVERED			
01. INTRODUCTION	PROJECT PURPOSE	KEY ACTIONS		
02. METHODOLOGY	SPATIAL DATA & POLICY ANALYSIS	URBAN HEAT & HEAT VULNERABILITY	MOVEMENT NETWORK ANALYSIS	GREEN AND BLUE FUNCTION ANALYSIS
03. STRATEGIC CONTEXT	THE ROLE OF STREETS AND PUBLIC SPACES	TREES AND VEGETATION IN PARKS AND RESERVES	GREENING ON PRIVATE LAND	RESIDENTIAL GROWTH & FUTURE DEVELOPMENT
04. STREET TYPES & OPPORTUNITIES	STREET TYPES & OPPORTUNITIES			
05. OPEN SPACE TYPES & OPPORTUNITIES	OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES			
07. PRECINCT ACTION PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITISATION	ACTION PLAN	IMPLEMENTATION	TRACKING OUR PROGRESS	FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS
APPENDICES	DESIGN INTERVENTION TOOLKIT	WALK QUALITY RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	STREETS & OPEN SPACE ATTRIBUTES	SPECIES LIST & N'HOOD TREES



01 INTRODUCTION

01.1

FOCUS AREAS

The suburbs of Albert Park & Middle Park form one of nine neighbourhoods within the City of Port Phillip (CoPP).

In 2023, the CoPP assessed tree canopy cover on both public and private land between 2012 and 2022. The study examined canopy cover on roads, public spaces, and private properties. Over the ten-year period, the analysis revealed a slight overall decline in tree canopy cover of 0.69%. Roads had a canopy cover of approximately 26%, significantly higher than the average for inner-city Melbourne. Most canopy growth came from the growth of existing street trees, while canopy levels in parks remained largely unchanged. However, tree removals on private land reduced overall canopy cover by 1.09%. Notably, more than half of the private land canopy resulted from new plantings during this period.

This study revealed that the Albert Park & Middle Park Neighbourhood has an overall canopy cover of 14% the fifth highest in the municipality.

Neighbourhood	Current Canopy Cover (2022)*
1 Elwood & Ripponlea	25%
2 Balaclava & St Kilda East	20%
3 St Kilda & St Kilda West	19%
4 St Kilda Road	16%
5 Albert Park & Middle Park	14%
6 South Melbourne	18%
7 Port Melbourne	16%
8 Montague	8%
9 Sandridge & Wirraway	8%

*Note that canopy cover excludes tree canopy within Albert Park. The canopy cover of Albert Park is 16%. For more information on canopy cover, see the City of Port Phillip’s Tree Ledger Report (2012-2022).





Figure 01: Frank and Mary Crean Reserve, Middle Park,

01.2

PROJECT PURPOSE

URBAN FOREST STRATEGY (2024-2040)

In 2019, the hottest and driest year in Australia’s recorded history, the City of Port Phillip (CoPP) declared a climate emergency. The most effective way to mitigate urban heat islands is through greening, that is planting trees and diverse vegetation. Greening provides additional benefits including improved biodiversity, health and well-being, reduced air and noise pollution and enhanced commercial areas all of which contribute to liveable, sustainable, equitable and vibrant neighbourhoods.

To improve urban greening across the municipality CoPP released its second Urban Forest Strategy in 2024 (2024-2040), setting the following vision: In the City of Port Phillip, urban greening is healthy and abundant, biodiversity is valued and supported, and nature connects the community.

The Urban Forest Strategy contains five objectives:

- 1. Objective 1: Increased canopy cover on public and private land for a liveable, sustainable, equitable and vibrant city.
- 2. Objective 2: Cooler and greener city which is resilient to more extreme weather and changes in rainfall.
- 3. Objective 3: Our community is engaged, trees and plants are valued, and we build partnerships to green our urban environment across all land types.
- 4. Objective 4: A well-managed forest, including tree health and quality, pest and disease management, and succession planning for iconic species and locations.
- 5. Objective 5: A biodiverse urban forest with diverse species, healthy ecosystems and habitat.

As part of the Urban Forest Strategy, the CoPP has set a target to achieve 30% canopy cover on streets and a minimum of 40% canopy cover in public spaces (excluding sports field areas) by 2040, along with an increase in biodiverse planting and permeable surfaces.

The Greening Albert Park & Middle Park Urban Forest Precinct Plan (this document) is an action-based plan that outlines how the objectives of the Urban Forest Precinct Plan will be delivered in these neighbourhoods over the next 10 years.

01.3

KEY ACTIONS

GREENING ALBERT PARK & MIDDLE PARK, URBAN FOREST PRECINCT PLAN (2026)

Informed by the local community the Urban Forest Precinct Plan provides the background and context to the prioritisation of urban greening initiatives in these suburbs, in terms of both location and timing. It prioritises areas where street tree planting will be increased, and/or the choice of tree species reviewed to improve the performance of trees, while supporting biodiversity and increasing canopy coverage. In areas of open space, the plan identifies areas where garden beds can be improved, areas for succession planting and opportunities for new and/or upgraded Water Sensitive Urban Design initiatives.

Additionally, within the Urban Forest Precinct Plan there is a strong emphasis on advocacy and partnerships to enable the delivery the objectives of the Urban Forest Strategy. For example, advocacy to improve greening and biodiversity outcomes at Albert Park Lake and partnering public transport companies and Department of Transport and Planning to increase tree planting and other greening solutions at public transport stops with limited summer shade.

The seven key actions in the Greening Albert Park and Middle Park Urban Forest Precinct Plan are:

①	Designing new streets for greening and shade
②	Enhancing and maintaining existing streetscapes
③	Increasing canopy and biodiversity in parks and open space
④	Greening beyond council land through partnerships and advocacy
⑤	Proposed canopy trees, including replacement species and staged transformations to address issues of disease and site-specific challenges
⑥	New canopy planting to address significant heritage conditions
⑦	Canopy that can withstand foreshore condition

01.4 KEY ACTIONS - EXPLAINED

1 Designing New Streets for Greening and Shade

Integrate tree planting and biodiversity into new or redesigned streetscapes to maximise canopy cover, pedestrian comfort, and climate resilience, prioritising key pedestrian areas and areas with high heat vulnerability.



- New street projects and street upgrades can improve tree canopy and biodiversity by changing layouts, like adjusting parking and planting trees in the road, adding central medians or kerb outstands. See the Intervention Toolkit in Appendix B for design options to maximise planting opportunities in constrained streets.
- Streetscape integration projects can align tree planting with transport, safety and urban design upgrades.

2 Enhancing and Maintaining Existing Streetscapes

Improve the health, diversity, and canopy cover of existing street trees through proactive maintenance, infill planting, and species transition.



- Infill planting of new street trees in vacant street spaces is a simple and affordable way to boost canopy cover.
- Some tree species are not providing enough shade and several are not suited to future climate conditions. Gradually replacing these trees with more suitable species, as they reach the end of their life, will help create a more resilient and climate-ready urban forest while maintaining canopy cover.
- Improvements to early tree establishment will help trees flourish, but some trees planted over the past decade have failed to thrive and will be identified for gradual replacement with ongoing tree audits and infill planting efforts.
- Council has 'business as usual' programs to uplift park and streetscape planting, implement water sensitive urban design to improve storm water quality, and install street modifications, such as speed bumps, to improve safety. These programs create opportunities for planting, improving canopy and biodiversity throughout the neighbourhood. Combining programs will result in multiple benefits and cost savings.

3 Increasing Canopy and Biodiversity in Parks and Open Space

Achieve 40% canopy cover in public open spaces and enhance biodiversity through targeted planting and community partnerships.



- Council will continue to support and expand community greening initiatives to increase canopy and greening in streetscapes and open spaces.
- Succession planting and biodiversity improvements to garden beds in parks and streetscapes will be delivered.
- Canopy cover and biodiversity planting, in keeping with local character will continue to be incorporated into open space renewal projects.

4 Greening Beyond Council Land through Partnerships and Advocacy

Expand the urban forest by working with other landholders and agencies to green non-Council land and improve shade at public transport stops.



- Comfortable public transport stops with shelter from sun and wind improves public transport access for everyone. Targeted tree planting near public transport stops will improve shade and shelter. Where trees cannot be planted, we will partner to trial alternative solutions, such as Yarra Tram's urban arbours.
- Canopy and biodiversity improvements throughout the neighbourhood will require collaborative working with State Government, neighbouring Councils, VicTrack along the rail line and Parks Victoria in Albert Park. Council will continue to seek partnerships with landholders to improve greening outcomes across the precinct.

5

Proposed canopy trees, including replacement species and staged transformations to address issues of disease and site specific challenges

Incorporates suitable replacement species and phased planting transitions to manage disease risks, respond to site-specific constraints, and ensure long-term canopy health and resilience.



- Preserve and enhance native dune vegetation and biodiversity along the foreshore.
- Increase shade and canopy cover along the foreshore by prioritising plantings in high-use areas such as footpaths, playgrounds, BBQ zones, seating, and picnic spaces.
- Manage access to sensitive dune systems and migratory shorebird feeding and roosting sites around Cowderoy Street outlet, through landscaping and educational signage.
- Initiate banksia rehabilitation along foreshore according to best tree management, biodiversity and climate ready practices to address poor health, growth and loss of trees.

6

New Canopy Planting to Address Significant Heritage Conditions

Integrate new canopy planting into streetscapes and open spaces with sensitive or significant heritage contexts, enhancing canopy cover while respecting and reinforcing the area's historic character and visual integrity.



- Council will continue to develop management plans to make species selections that are sympathetic to significant heritage conditions in parks, gardens and streetscapes.

7

Canopy That Can Withstand Foreshore Conditions

Provide strategic species choices and planting programs to foreshore areas that enable trees to thrive in challenging coastal environments.



- The Albert and Middle Park foreshore areas are iconic, and planning for forward tree planting and succession is critical to maintain shade and neighbourhood and character. Coastal environments are challenging for urban trees with exposure to strong winds, salt spray, high temperatures, and sandy, low-nutrient soils.
- Council will continue to trial a range of tree species to identify those best suited to the challenging conditions along the residential edges of Beaconsfield Parade and Beach Road, ensuring long-term canopy health and resilience.

A photograph of a street lined with large, mature trees. A silver car is parked on the left side of the road. In the background, there are buildings and a clear sky. The image has a slightly desaturated, teal-tinted appearance.

02 METHODOLOGY

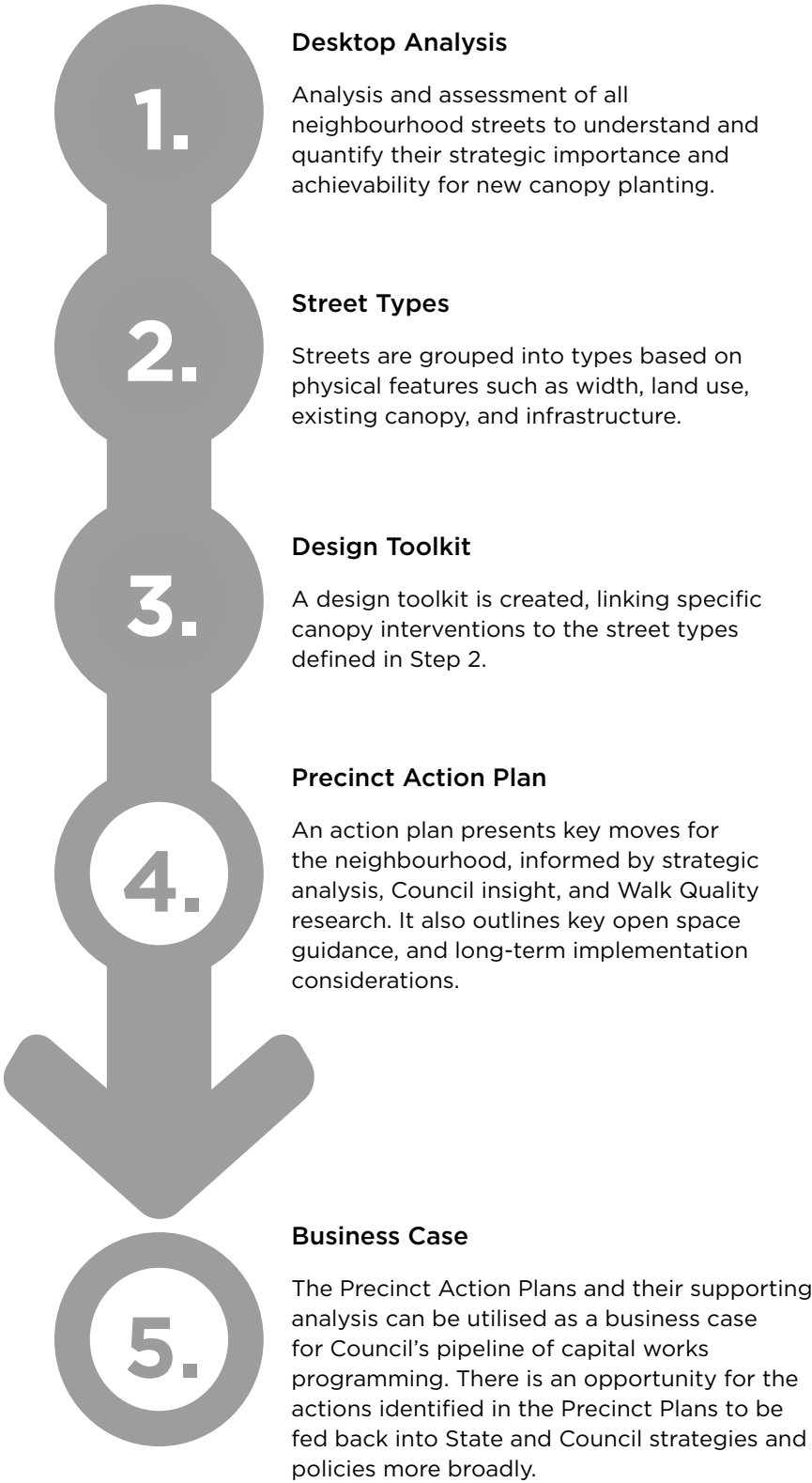
02.1

PROJECT METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

This chapter outlines the methodology used to develop an urban forest precinct plan for Albert Park & Middle Park, leading from high-level spatial data analysis to an implementable action plan.

The first step was a comprehensive analysis of all neighbourhood streets to assess their strategic importance and feasibility for increased canopy cover. Streets were classified into typologies based on physical characteristics, forming the basis for a tailored design toolkit of streetscape canopy improvement interventions - see Appendix B. Streets and their requisite urban forest interventions were then prioritised through an action plan informed by spatial analysis, Council insight, and Walk Quality research findings.

This chapter highlights the spatial data analysis that took place as part of the first step in this project methodology, leading into the development of street types, a design toolkit and precinct action plan.



02.2

SPATIAL DATA & POLICY ANALYSIS

A detailed spatial analysis in GIS was undertaken to systematically map and assess key streetscape features and inform the recommended actions of the Urban Forest Precinct Plan.

The analysis utilised QGIS and Google Earth to assess data such as land use, active and public transport, heat vulnerability and urban heat island data and biodiversity data. This was further strengthened through a desktop review of Council strategic documents.

By overlaying these datasets, the complexity of urban forest interventions was evaluated, identifying both constraints and opportunities for implementation of urban forest increases.

To further refine this assessment, a matrix classification was developed to categorise data into three key groups:

- Alignment With Objectives: a combined dataset to prioritise streets which have the greatest need for increased canopy, based on the objectives of the urban Forest Strategy.

- Achievability: a combined dataset has been provided to highlight streets with more favourable conditions for planting, combining attributes such as wider verges, unrestricted parking controls and existing canopy percentages.
- Ongoing Review and Unknowns: a data list of attributes which are either unknown, beyond the current project scope, or requiring further investigation in detailed design phases, such as soil quality and long-term maintenance feasibility. On the ground inspections identified streets with vacant tree plots and where species changes could occur.

This structured approach will ensure that tree canopy expansion is prioritised strategically, aligning with the broader goals of the UFPP and Council policy.



Alignment with Objectives

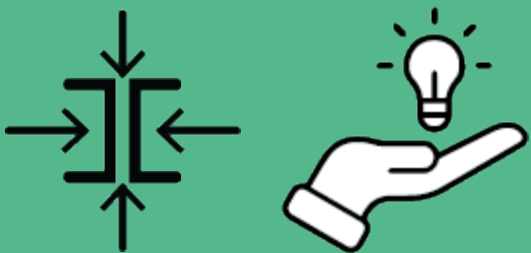
Data analysis is used to help determine which streets should be prioritised to meet equity and Urban Forest Strategy objectives.





Achievability

Some data can be used to help determine which streets may have more favourable conditions for planting trees.





Ongoing Review

Some data can be used to help improve ongoing maintenance, biodiversity and planning strategy.





Unknowns

Some data is unknown at this stage, or not feasible to be considered within the scope of this project.

Some data may be relevant to determining ability to increase canopy coverage, however the data may be complicated to measure, or difficult to abstract for the purpose of making decisions.

This data may need to be considered during more detailed design phases.

WHAT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED?

DATA MAPPING

The accumulated opportunities and constraints data was reviewed to determine a short-list of key attributes which have a clear link towards delivering increased tree canopy.

Each street was assessed against this list to help determine an overall priority to guide Council's future actions.

For a full list of considered spatial data, refer to the opportunities & constraints mapping in the appendices.

DOCUMENT REVIEW

A review of existing Council strategies and reports and similar projects in other locations was undertaken to inform the UFPP. These documents helped identify Council aspirations for the functionality and hierarchy of streets and their various attributes.

For example, whether streets were identified as active travel corridors or potential biolinks, where the most substantial changes in residential density are forecast, and which streets have already been identified as being a priority for additional street tree planting. Some of the key implications from these documents have been summarised in the strategic analysis maps in the following pages.

Alignment with Objectives

Some data is used to determine which streets should be prioritised to meet equity and Urban Forest Strategy objectives.



- Ownership and responsibility – whether a street is Council-owned or other agency-managed to determine Council's role in delivery, partnership or advocacy.
- If there is an existing planning process underway to master plan a street, and if the UFPP can defer to this.
- Surrounding heat vulnerability index level
- If the street falls within 400m walking catchment of an activity centre, and people are more likely to walk in any given street.
- Whether a street is a designated cycling route, to improve cyclist comfort and experience.
- Whether a street has public transport stops, for the purpose of shading passengers whilst waiting.
- Swinburne Walk Quality research recommendations for improving shade to sections of the pedestrian network.
- Potential to improve biodiversity.

Achievability

Some data can be used to help determine which streets may have more favourable conditions for planting trees.



- Existing canopy coverage and uplift potential.
- Larger area of road reserve (width x length) which provides a general indication of impact potential.
- Whether the street has powerlines, which may constrain tree planting.
- Whether the street has existing street driveway crossovers, which may reduce areas for planting.
- Potential surplus trafficable width within carriageways.
- If there are wider existing verges that provide more flexibility in choosing interventions.
- Appetite for altering existing street parking allowances.

Ongoing Review

Some data can be used to help improve ongoing maintenance, biodiversity and planning strategy.



- Age and health – trees that aren't thriving and are at the end of their useful life expectancy could be proactively replaced to increase canopy quicker.
- Abutting building heights and setbacks from road reserve may reduce available canopy spreading space.
- Consider future redevelopment sites, and potential to contribute towards urban forest.
- Whether street is prone to flooding or high water table. This can impact species selection and intervention choices.
- Consider existing street species diversity, and whether succession planting is recommended to improve resilience and fauna habitats.
- Whether a tree species contributes to heritage places and/or the character of the area.

Unknowns

Some data is unknown at this stage, or unfeasible to be considered within the scope of this project.



- On-the-ground knowledge of existing trees (GIS data is a few years out of date and needs review).
- Underground utilities locations.
- Detailed costing of chosen interventions for each street.
- Community and stakeholder support.
- Cultural sensitivity and potential for heritage significance in underground locations.
- Geotechnical information and soil conditions.

02.3

URBAN FOREST OPPORTUNITIES

MOVEMENT AND PLACEMAKING

The movement and placemaking functions of streets is an important factor in determining where and how increased tree planting can occur. Trees add shade and shelter that make streets more comfortable for walking, cycling and catching public transport.

Several projects within the precinct are improving movement corridors by providing streetscape and open space enhancements including opportunities for new canopy tree provision. These are summarised in the adjacent table.

The Shrine to Sea Masterplan along Kerferd Road is a major project that will be delivered in collaboration with Victorian State Government.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

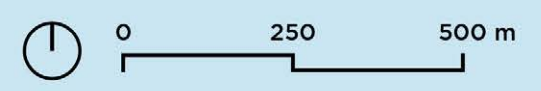
The background document review revealed several key strategic considerations for the ecological and hydrological functions of streets and open spaces in Albert Park and Middle Park. The City of Port Phillip is built on reclaimed land to the south and the north and soil contamination is an issue across the municipality. Growing vegetation near the coast can be challenging due to a combination of harsh environmental conditions that can include intense sun exposure, high winds, salt spray, and sandy soils. Much of the municipality is only one to three metres above sea level; and coastal areas are particularly exposed to the impacts of climate change, including flooding and erosion and sea-level rises that will cause change groundwater levels and quality.

Pickles Street Dunes, Lagoon Reserve, Danks Street, Middle Park Beach Dunes, Fraser Street Dunes, West Beach Duines and the Canterbury Road Urban Forest contain some of the most ecologically significant open spaces in this precinct (and the municipality). The Danks Street Biolink has been a major renewal project along the Danks Street median. It is important to consider the location and role of both existing and future open spaces and how the urban forest can integrate into this open space network to create shaded, walkable streets and enhance habitat connectivity. Several projects within the precinct are either planned or underway with the potential to provide canopy increases. These are summarised in the adjacent table.

Map ID	Plan Feature	Urban Forest Precinct Plan Implications	Source
	Existing Trees	Based on Council-provided data, this layer identifies locations and ‘crown size’ of existing trees as recorded in 2022. This dataset provides insight towards areas of higher or lower canopy coverage and assists in determining canopy intervention priorities across the study area.	GIS shapefile layer ‘all_council_trees’ (2022) provided by CoPP.
	Improve Avenue-Style Street Tree Planting	Streets within the precinct including Armstrong Street, Bridport Street, Cowderoy Street, Mills Street and Montague Street are identified for additional street trees where feasible to increase canopy cover and improve pedestrian amenity and connections.	Public Space Strategy, 2022-2032 (pg 15)
	Existing Public Open Space	There are opportunities to review the existing canopy, design, function of these open spaces to identify potential canopy uplift. The UFPP should support the Public Space Strategy’s suggested open space planting actions (listed on pages 250-251) where possible.	Public Space Strategy - Technical Report (pages 231-251).
	Foreshore	City of Port Phillip’s ‘Places for People - Public Space Strategy’, identifies Middle Park and Albert Park foreshore for renewal through increased tree planting, enhanced infrastructure and advocacy for a coordinated plan to manage the impacts of climate change.	Public Space Strategy, 2022-2032 (pg 15-16)
	Danks Street Biolink	The Biolink is a part of the Greening Port Phillip Strategy that envisions CoPP as having a ‘healthy and diverse urban forest that uses innovative greening solutions to enhance the community’s daily experience, ensuring environmental, economic, cultural and social sustainability for future generations.’ The Danks Street Biolink was delivered in 2024 and has opportunities for future vegetation and tree plantings that emphasise rare indigenous species.	https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/projects-and-works/danks-street-biolink/
	Shrine to Sea Masterplan	City of Port Phillip will partner with Victorian State Government to deliver a new green boulevard linking Domain Gardens to Port Phillip Bay along Albert and Kerferd Roads. It will strengthen the boulevard’s landscape character, Kerferd Road medians in particular present opportunity for tree planting. This increased canopy coverage will support the plans goals around layered habitats, climate resilience and improved stormwater management.	Yani Barribarripuyt (Formerly Shrine to Sea) Master Plan (2024)
	Pickles Street Foreshore	City of Port Phillip’s ‘Places for People - Public Space Strategy’, proposes the investigation of Pickles Street Foreshore for the planting of additional shade trees.	Places for People - Public Space Strategy 2022-2032 (pg 16)
	Victoria Avenue (CoPP)	Victoria Avenue intersects with the Danks Street Biolink and therefore planting in and around the verges are an opportunity to support the diverse tree species selection of the project. City of Port Phillip’s ‘Places for People - Public Space Strategy’, identifies Victoria Avenue Activity Centre as an opportunity to deliver avenue-style street tree planting. This will provide canopy cover to integrated seating and support pedestrian amenity and connections to the foreshore.	City of Port Phillip Planning Scheme Places for People - Public Space Strategy 2022-2032 (pg 16)
	Bridport Street (CoPP)	City of Port Phillip’s ‘Places for People - Public Space Strategy’, identifies Bridport Street Neighbourhood Activity Centre as an opportunity to deliver avenue-style street tree planting. This will provide canopy cover to integrated seating and support pedestrian amenity and connections to Gasworks Arts Park, Lemnos Square and the foreshore.	City of Port Phillip Planning Scheme Places for People - Public Space Strategy 2022-2032 (pg 16)
	Armstrong Street (CoPP)	City of Port Phillip’s ‘Places for People - Public Space Strategy’, identifies Armstrong Street Neighbourhood Activity Centre as an opportunity to deliver avenue-style street tree planting. This will provide canopy cover to integrated seating and support pedestrian amenity and connections to Albert Park Reserve, Armstrong Street shops and the foreshore. The City of Port Phillip Planning Scheme notes that design development within Armstrong Street Neighbourhood Activity Centre must respect views toward the foreshore, which has the potential to be impeded by existing street trees.	City of Port Phillip Planning Scheme Places for People - Public Space Strategy 2022-2032 (pg 16)

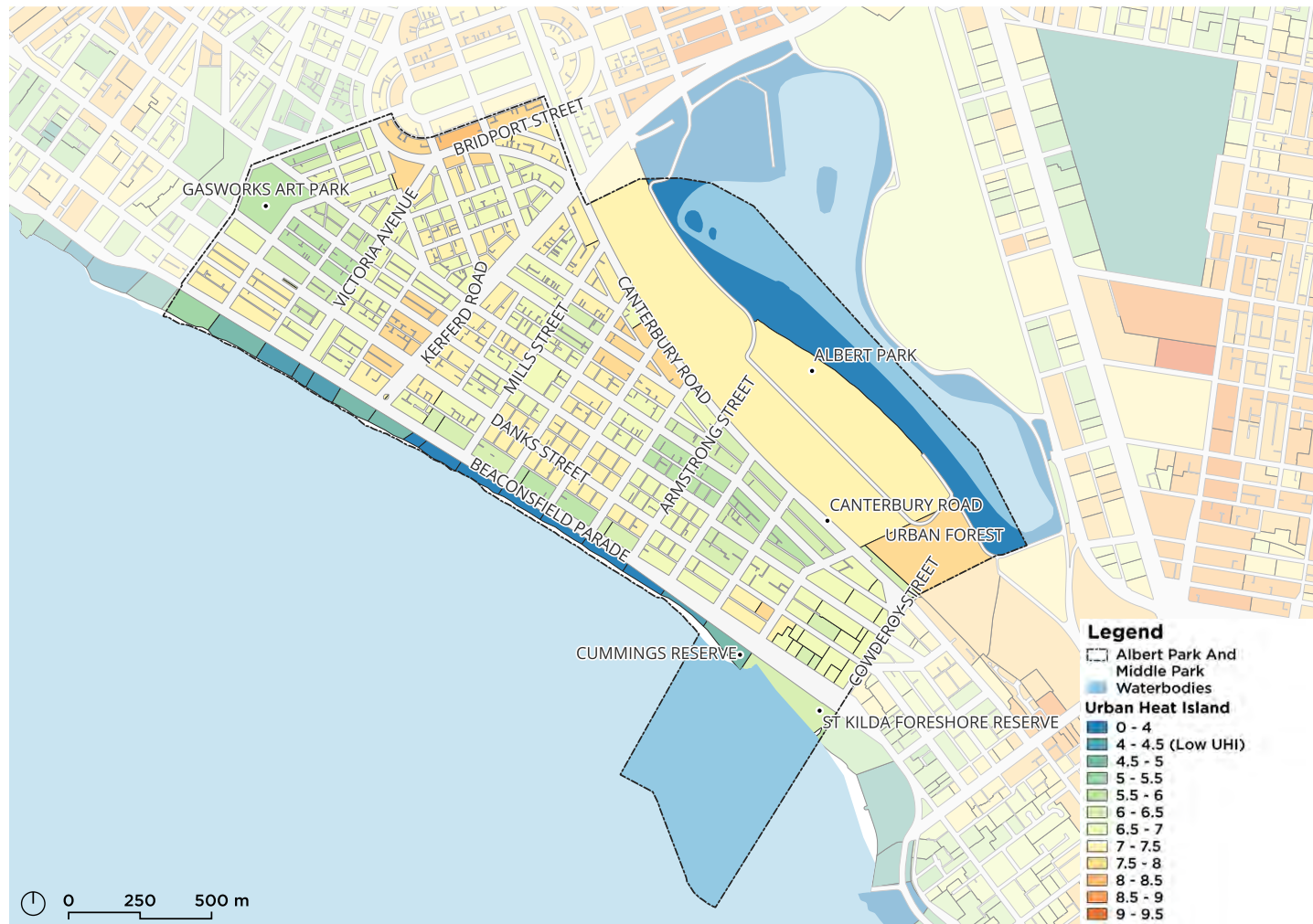


- Legend**
- Albert Park And Middle Park
 - Waterbodies
 - Foreshore
 - Open Space
 - Activity Centre Area
 - Existing Tree
 - Bus Stop
 - Tram Stop
 - Tram Route
 - Bus Route
 - Strategic Cycling Corridor
 - Improve Avenue-Style Street Tree Planting
 - Danks Street Biolink
 - Shrine to the Sea Masterplan



02.4

URBAN HEAT ISLAND



KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

The urban heat island (UHI) effect occurs when built-up areas become significantly warmer than their surroundings because hard surfaces absorb and retain heat while limited vegetation reduces natural cooling. It is assessed by comparing urban and rural temperatures and analysing factors such as surface materials, building density and vegetation cover. UHI impacts are strongest at night as stored heat is released, and mapping hotspots helps identify where canopy and greening efforts are most needed to provide cooling. In this context, Albert Park and Middle Park experience relatively low heat pressures, with temperatures intensifying somewhat around Bridport Street and towards the eastern edge of Albert Park open space.

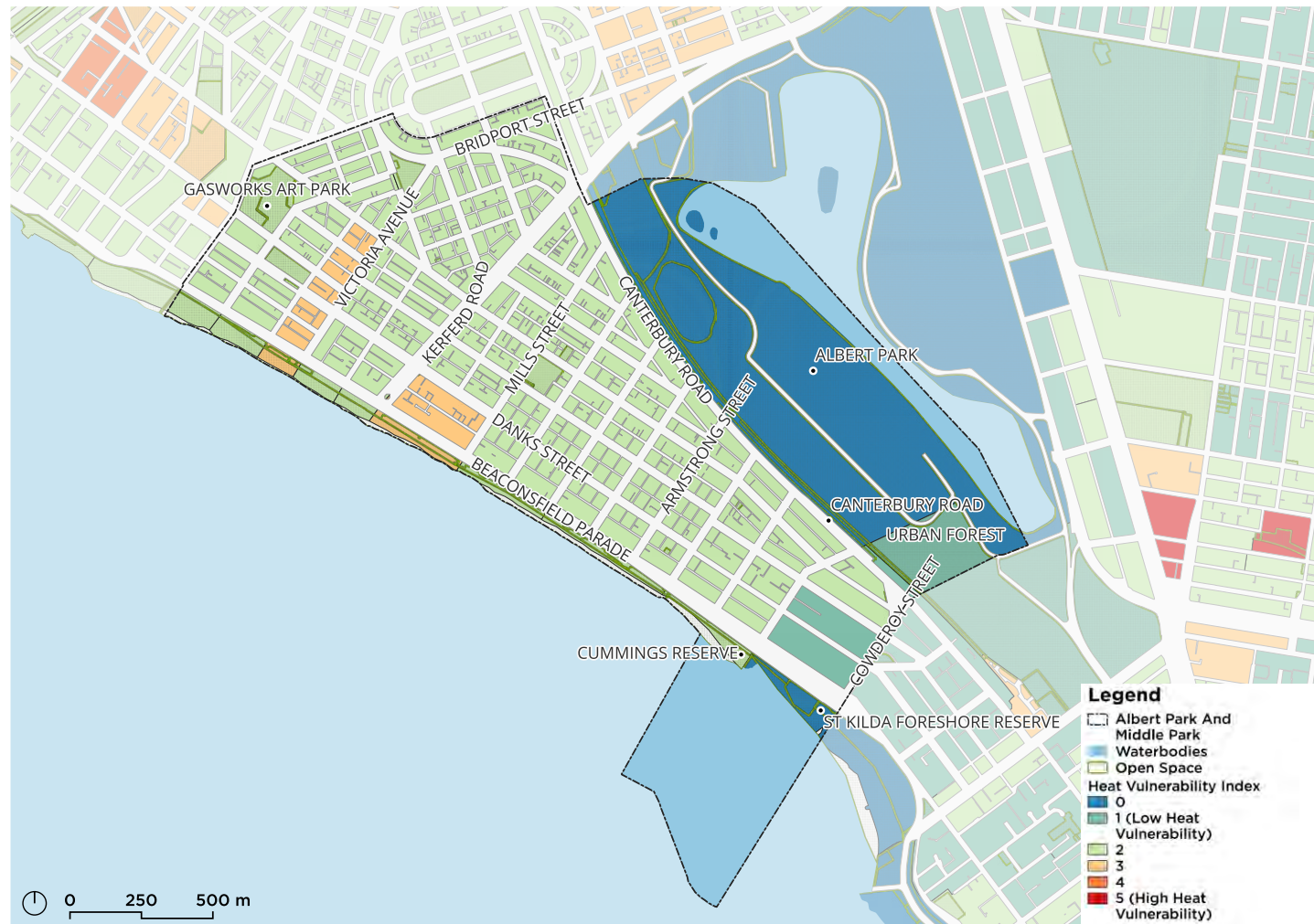
Note: Data represented in this map is correct at the time of publication.

WHAT THE DATA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO:

KEY ACTIONS	STREET TYPES	STREET TREE TOOLKIT	SPECIES SELECTION	STREET PRIORITY	OPEN SPACE
✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

02.5

HEAT VULNERABILITY



KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Heat vulnerability reflects how at risk individuals and communities are to adverse health impacts during extreme heat, and is assessed through three factors: exposure (such as UHI intensity and lack of shade), sensitivity (age, health conditions and socio-economic status) and adaptive capacity (access to cooling, green spaces and financial resources). The Victorian Government’s Heat Vulnerability Index rates areas from 0–5, with higher scores indicating greater risk of heat-related illnesses, particularly for vulnerable groups like the elderly, children and low-income households. Albert Park and Middle Park predominantly falls in the lower range of heat vulnerability. Understanding these patterns helps prioritise interventions such as tree planting and greening.

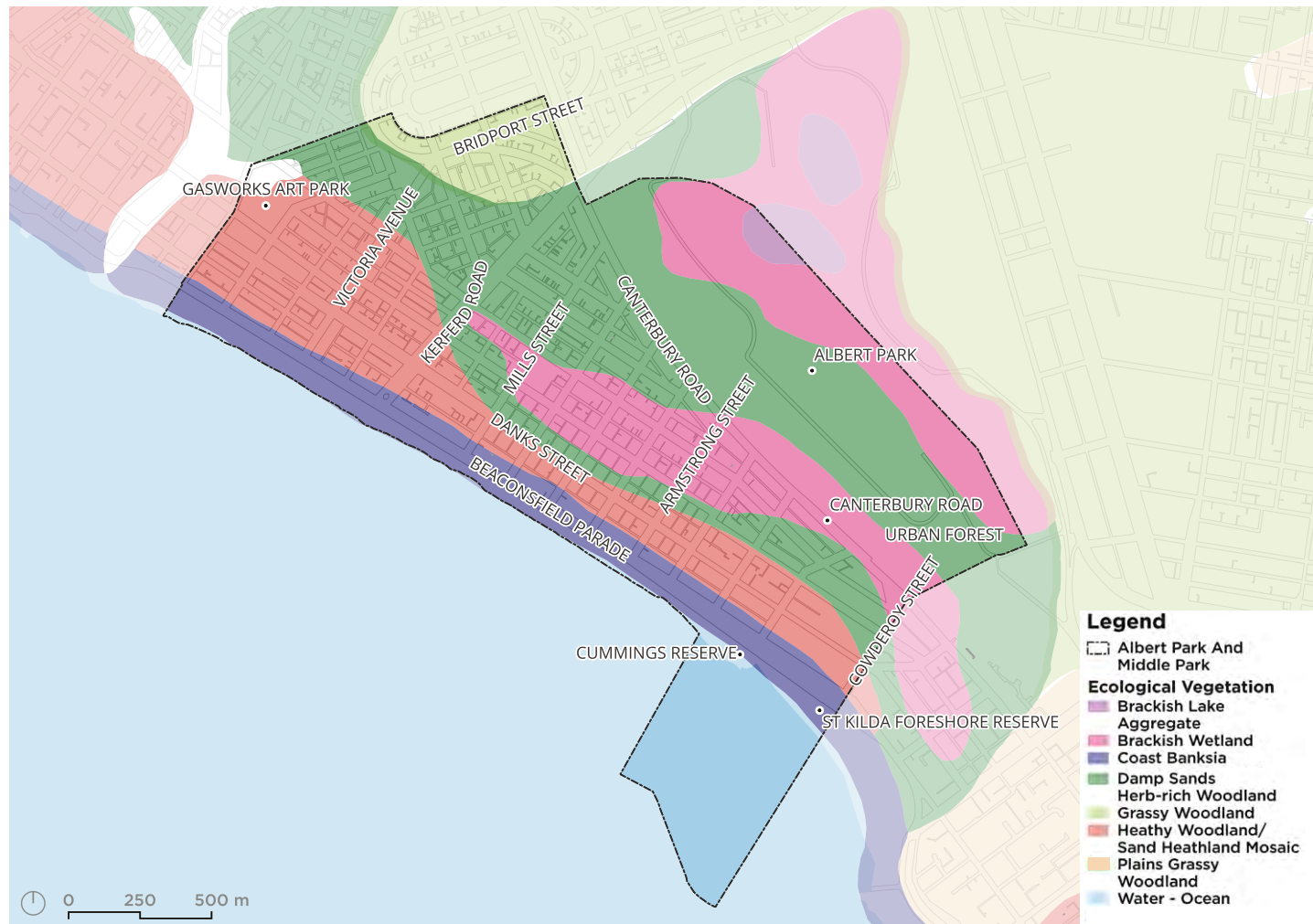
Note: Data represented in this map is correct at the time of publication.

WHAT THE DATA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO:

KEY ACTIONS	STREET TYPES	STREET TREE TOOLKIT	SPECIES SELECTION	STREET PRIORITY	OPEN SPACE
✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

02.6

HISTORICAL ECOLOGIES



KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Historical ecologies are mapped using the Pre-1750 Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs), which describe the native vegetation communities that existed prior to widespread settlement, classified according to climate, soil, hydrology and landscape context. The precinct contains eight different EVCs, providing a crucial ecological baseline for understanding which tree and understorey species are truly endemic to an area. This supports species selections that enhance resilience, biodiversity and habitat connectivity across the precinct.

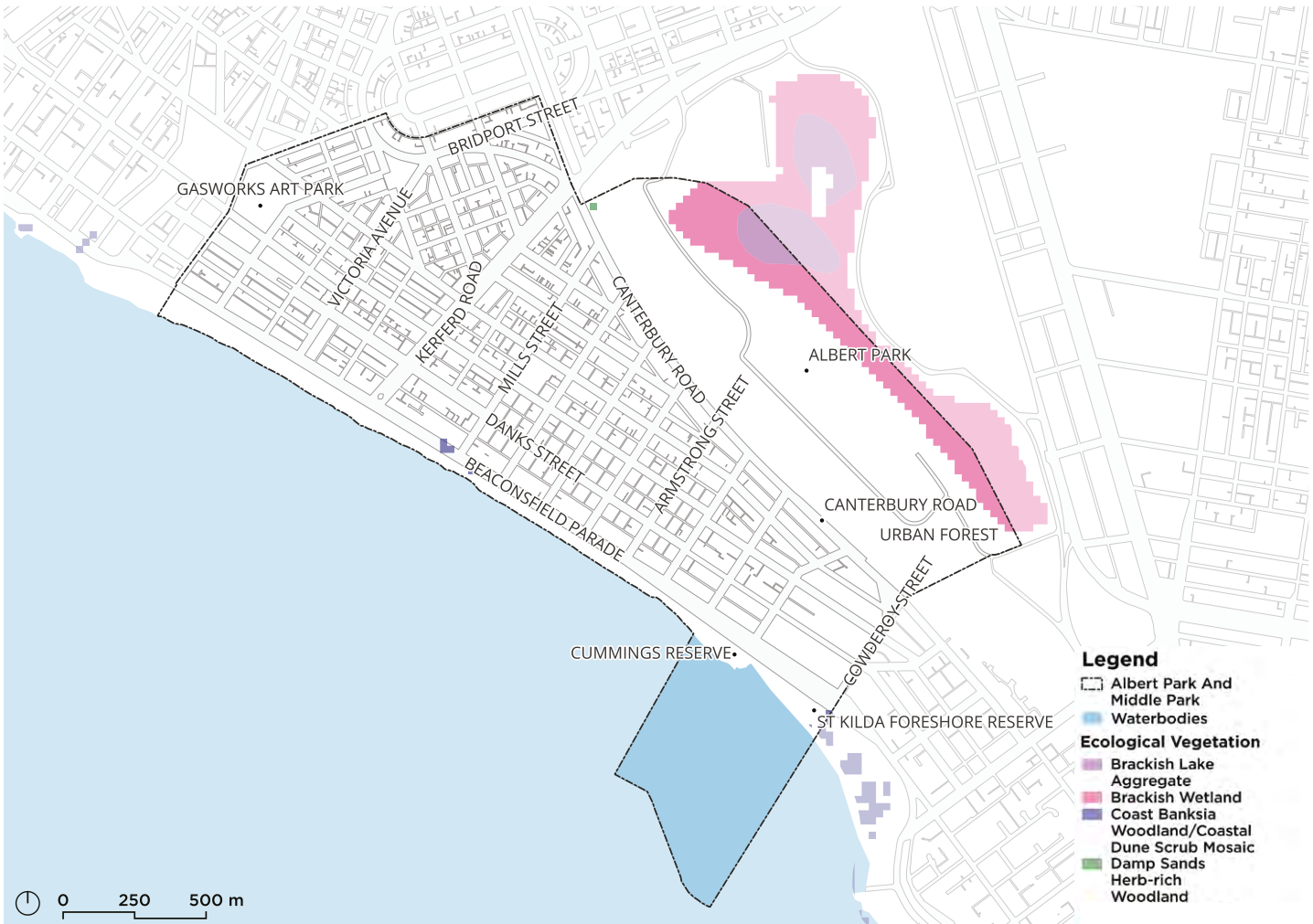
Note: Data represented in this map is correct at the time of publication.

WHAT THE DATA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO:

KEY ACTIONS	STREET TYPES	STREET TREE TOOLKIT	SPECIES SELECTION	STREET PRIORITY	OPEN SPACE
✓			✓	✓	✓

02.7

REMNANT ECOLOGIES



KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Remnant ecologies are mapped using the 2005 EVCs, which describe the native vegetation communities that have persisted since settlement, classified according to climate, soil, hydrology and landscape context. Within the precinct, scattered patches of remnant vegetation remain along the foreshore. This information can inform species selection, guide targeted ecological initiatives and help prioritise actions to strengthen resilience, biodiversity and habitat connectivity in key areas.

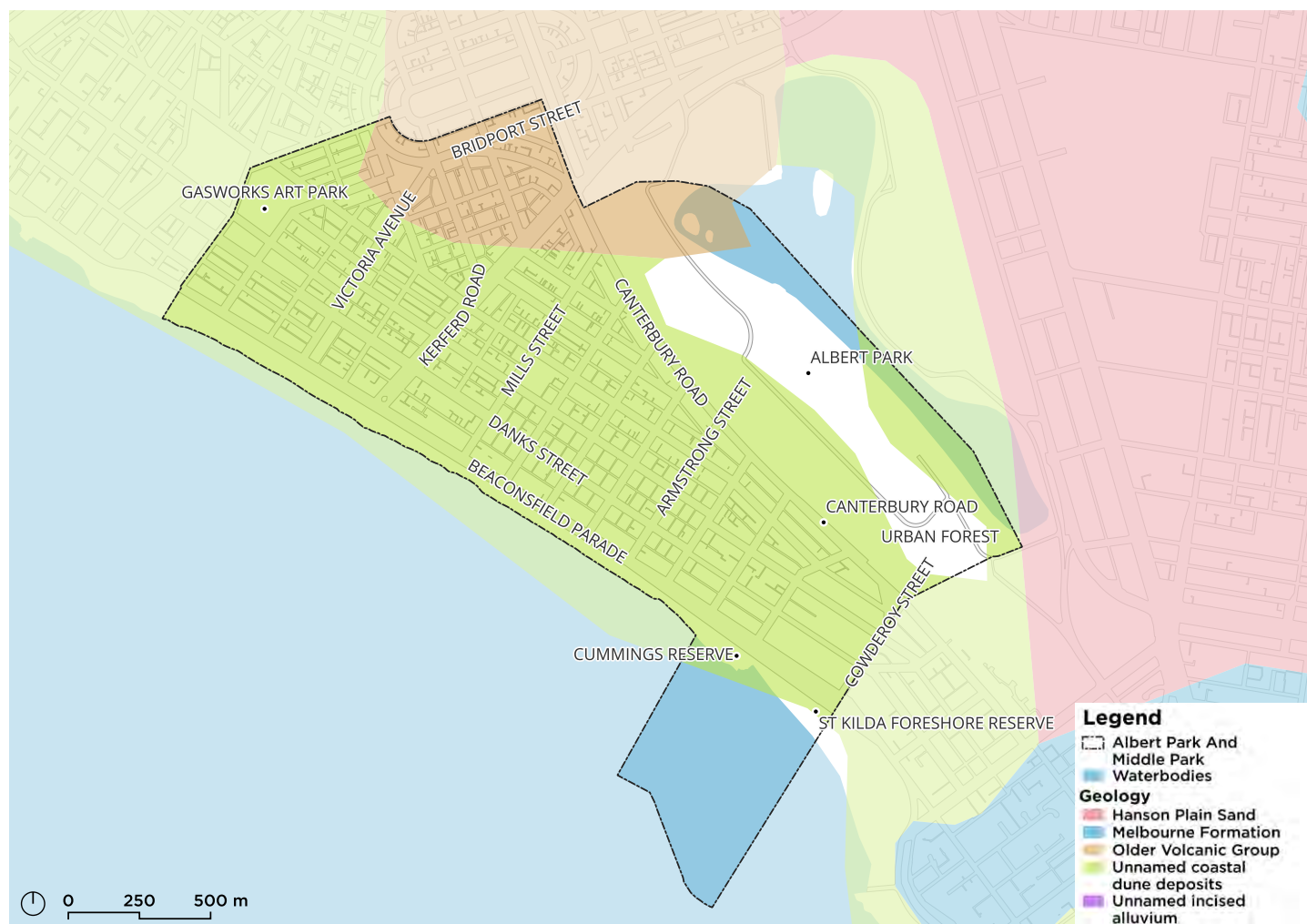
Note: Data represented in this map is correct at the time of publication.

WHAT THE DATA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO:

KEY ACTIONS	STREET TYPES	STREET TREE TOOLKIT	SPECIES SELECTION	STREET PRIORITY	OPEN SPACE
✓			✓	✓	✓

02.8

GEOLOGY



KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

This broad scale geological map shows the soil and rock types that can be found near the surface reflecting soil conditions across the precinct. The foreshore and lower-lying areas are dominated by sandy dune and alluvial deposits, while heavier clays and older geological formations occur further inland. These soil units determine the suitability of tree species selections, shape drainage patterns, and landscape performance, influencing how different parts of the precinct respond to change. Understanding this soil variation can guide species selection, inform water-sensitive design responses and support targeted habitat restoration. It also assists in prioritising areas where soil constraints or opportunities may influence long-term resilience, ecological outcomes and the feasibility of future landscape interventions.

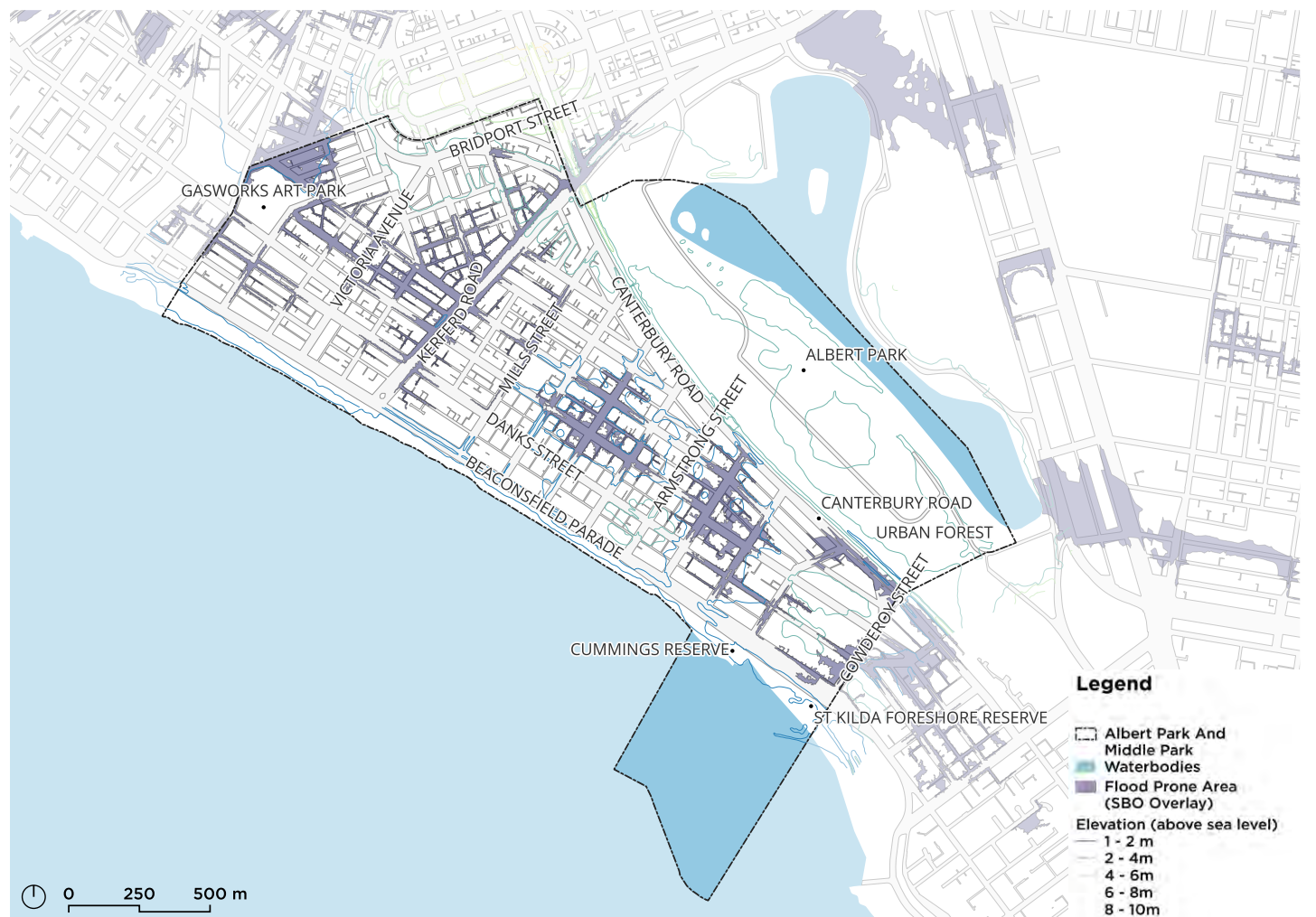
Note: Data represented in this map is correct at the time of publication.

WHAT THE DATA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO:

KEY ACTIONS	STREET TYPES	STREET TREE TOOLKIT	SPECIES SELECTION	STREET PRIORITY	OPEN SPACE
✓			✓		

02.9

ELEVATION AND INUNDATION



KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

This map shows elevation as well as flood-prone areas to show which streets may experience stormwater accumulation or flows. This information may hold implications for tree species selection or design intervention choices in the UFPP. Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) interventions in flood-prone streets (such as permeable pavements, rain gardens, and bioretention systems) could help absorb and manage stormwater locally, easing pressure on stormwater infrastructure. The UFPP could also consider tree species which are more resilient when experiencing flooding or extended dry conditions.

Note: Data represented in this map is correct at the time of publication.

WHAT THE DATA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO:

KEY ACTIONS	STREET TYPES	STREET TREE TOOLKIT	SPECIES SELECTION	STREET PRIORITY	OPEN SPACE
✓			✓		

02.10
EXISTING TREES



KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

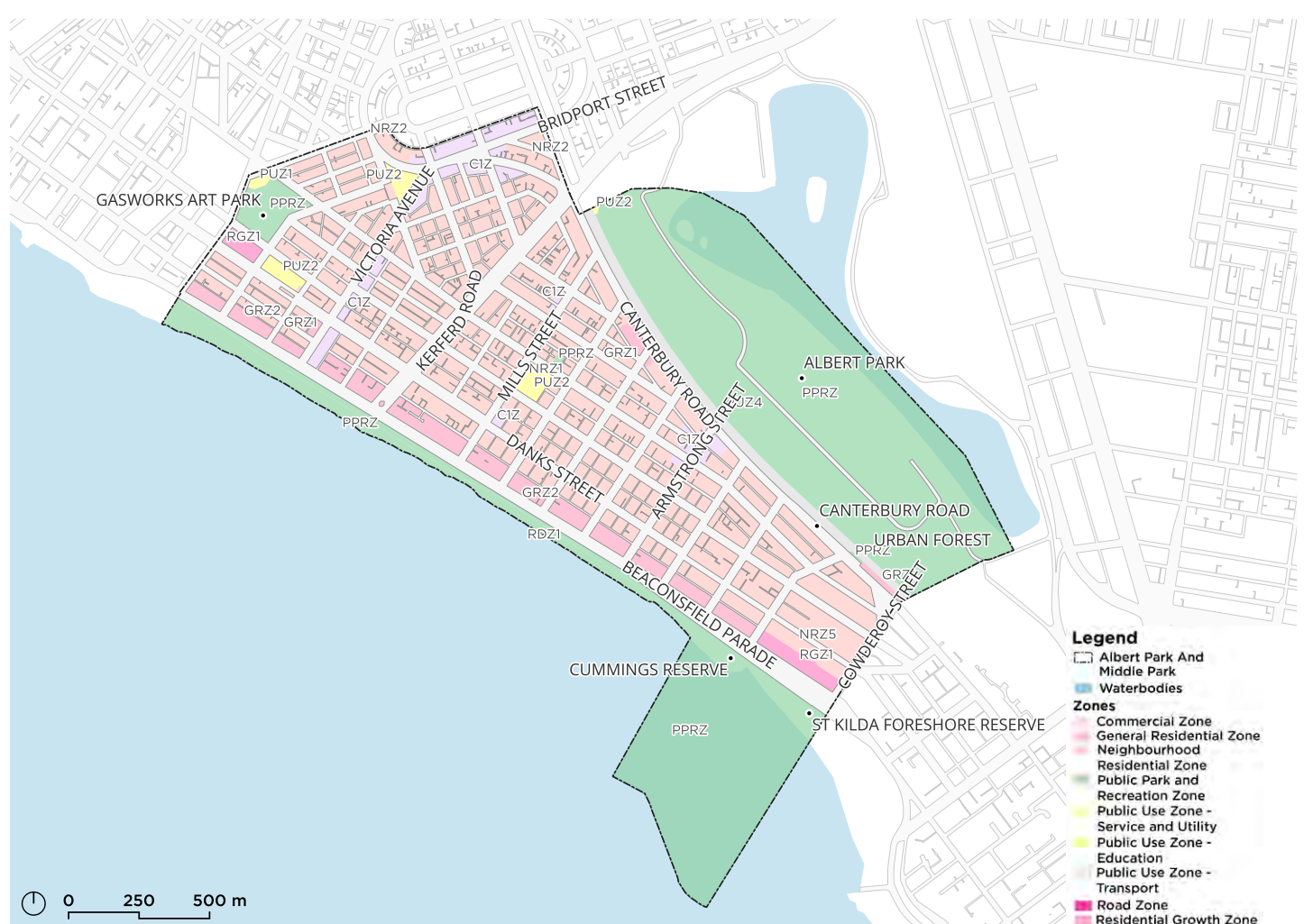
This map shows existing canopy in streets and open spaces. The map is based on Council-provided data and shows the locations and ‘crown size’ of existing trees as recorded in 2022. This dataset provides insight towards areas of higher or lower canopy coverage and assists in determining canopy intervention priorities across the study area, selection of infill species, the street tree tool kit and selecting street types.

Note: Data represented in this map is correct at the time of publication.

WHAT THE DATA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO:

KEY ACTIONS	STREET TYPES	STREET TREE TOOLKIT	SPECIES SELECTION	STREET PRIORITY	OPEN SPACE
✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

02.11
ZONING



KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

This map shows land use zoning in Albert Park and Middle Park. Zoning has fed into the development and selection of the street types for the UFPP. This is based on the different land uses in certain areas affecting the type of street tree planting that is appropriate.

Note: Data represented in this map is correct at the time of publication.

WHAT THE DATA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO:

KEY ACTIONS	STREET TYPES	STREET TREE TOOLKIT	SPECIES SELECTION	STREET PRIORITY	OPEN SPACE
✓	✓				✓

02.12
MOVEMENT



KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

This map shows the public transport routes and stops in Albert Park and Middle Park, including buses and trams. Public transport has fed into the street types that were developed for the UFPP as well as the priority process for determining streets requiring intervention. The map also shows the Strategic Cycling Corridor which has also fed into the priority process.

Note: Data represented in this map is correct at the time of publication.

WHAT THE DATA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO:

KEY ACTIONS	STREET TYPES	STREET TREE TOOLKIT	SPECIES SELECTION	STREET PRIORITY	OPEN SPACE
✓			✓		

02.13
ROAD HIERARCHY



KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

This map shows the hierarchy of roads in the precinct based on the VicRoads Road Class Code data which categorises roads based on their size and function. Road hierarchy has fed into the street types as well as the street assessment priority process.

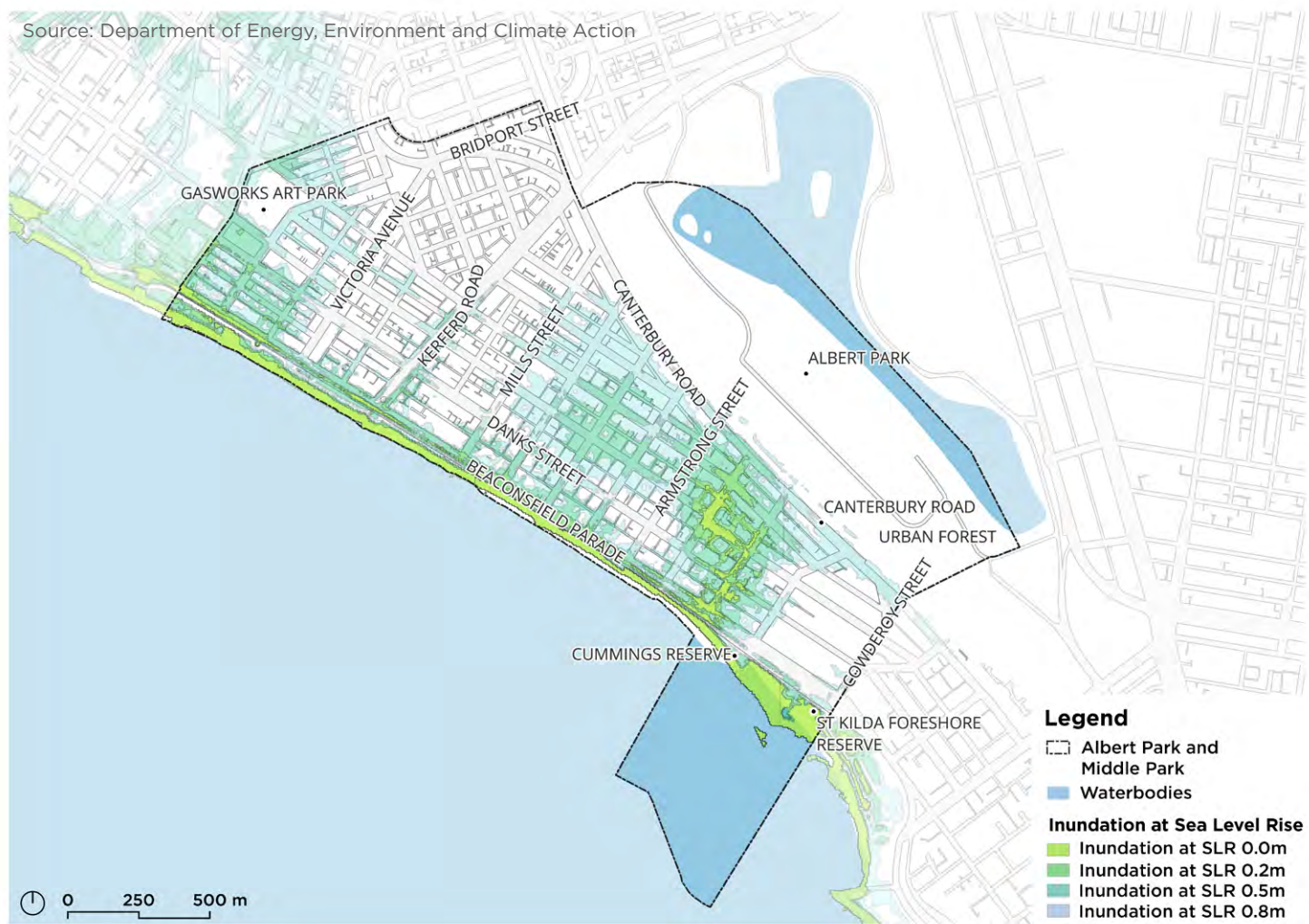
Note: Data represented in this map is correct at the time of publication.

WHAT THE DATA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO:

KEY ACTIONS	STREET TYPES	STREET TREE TOOLKIT	SPECIES SELECTION	STREET PRIORITY	OPEN SPACE
✓	✓		✓	✓	

02.14

INUNDATION EXTENT



KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

The Victorian Government has modelled storm tides and mapped coastal inundation to improve understanding of flood prone areas and assist with planning for hazard adaptation. This map shows the storm tide inundation extents for various sea level rise scenarios from 0.0m to 0.8m. It shows areas potentially affected by short-term (temporary) inundation (in the absence of any management measures). Within the City of Port Phillip some of the lower lying land near the coast is prone to coastal flooding. With sea level rise, areas flooded by the sea during storms may become bigger. Coastal flooding can also combine with catchment flooding of creeks, waterways and drains due to rainfall. This information may hold implications for tree species selection (trees may need to be tolerant to periods of waterlogging and/or salt) or design intervention choices in the UFPP.

WHAT THE DATA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO:

KEY ACTIONS	STREET TYPES	STREET TREE TOOLKIT	SPECIES SELECTION	STREET PRIORITY	OPEN SPACE
✓			✓		

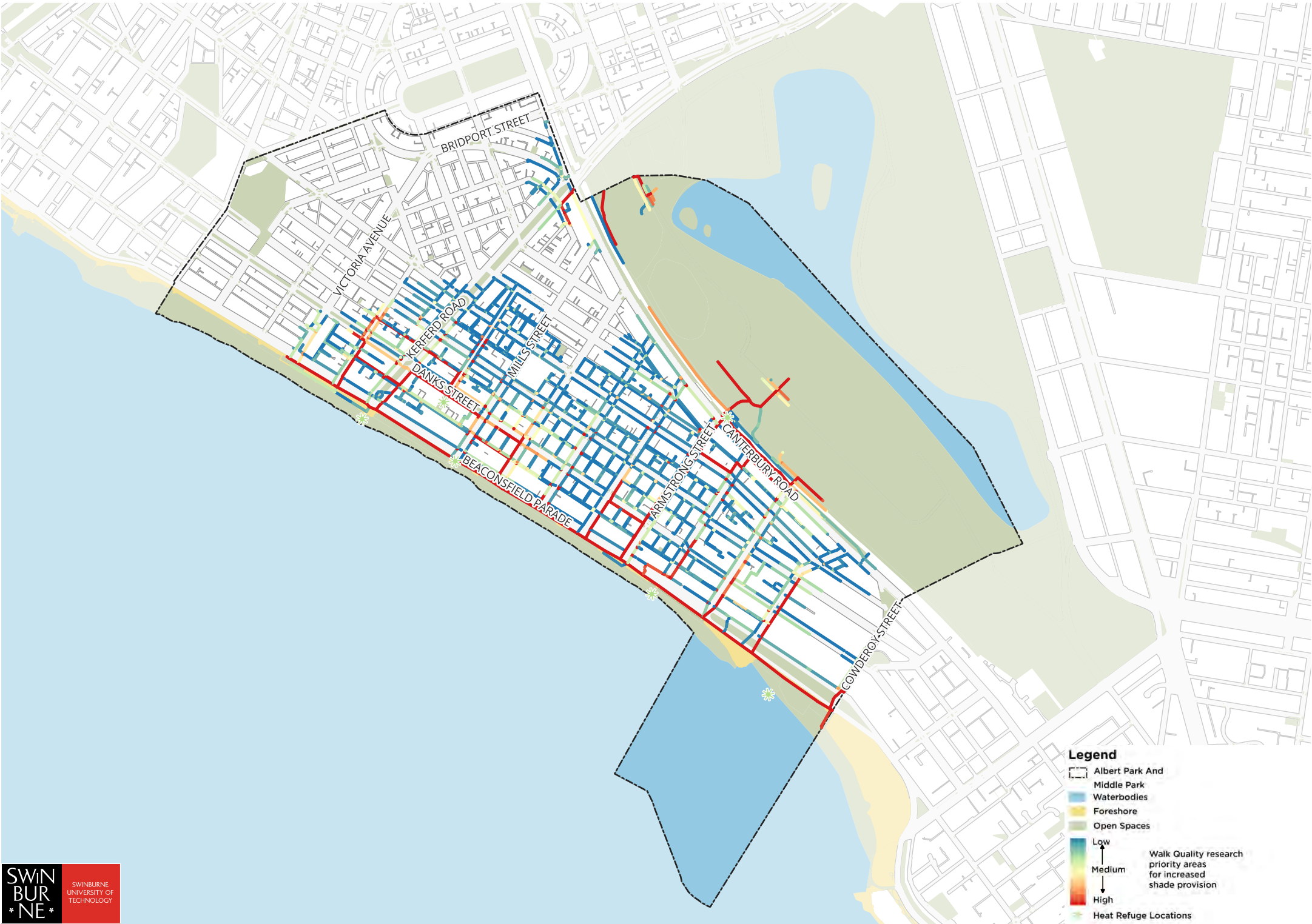
WALK QUALITY - PRIORITY STREETS FOR SHADE INCREASE

Port Phillip has partnered with the Walk Quality research project, a collaboration between Swinburne University of Technology and the University of Melbourne, aiming to enhance urban walkability by developing a design platform that evaluates and tests improvements to pedestrian experiences.

Funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant and industry partners, the project focuses on key urban design elements that affect pedestrian comfort, such as accessibility, slope, thermal comfort, conflicts with motor vehicles and cyclists, and pollution. A significant component of the research - and one that aligns closely with this UFPP - is the analysis of the impact of shade on walkability.

Using advanced 3D modelling techniques, the project team has developed detailed representations of municipal areas to assess where pedestrian paths are and aren't shaded. Walking catchments have been generated for key destinations and heat refuge locations across the municipality.

These walking catchments simulate the distance a pedestrian could walk under defined sun exposure time limits (2-, 4-, 6-, 8-, and 10-minute catchments). From this, street segments consistently affected by insufficient shading across multiple pedestrian catchments are identified as high priority for increased canopy cover, as shown in the adjacent map. This approach quantifies existing shade coverage and visualises its impact on pedestrian behaviour, supporting targeted interventions to enhance urban walkability.



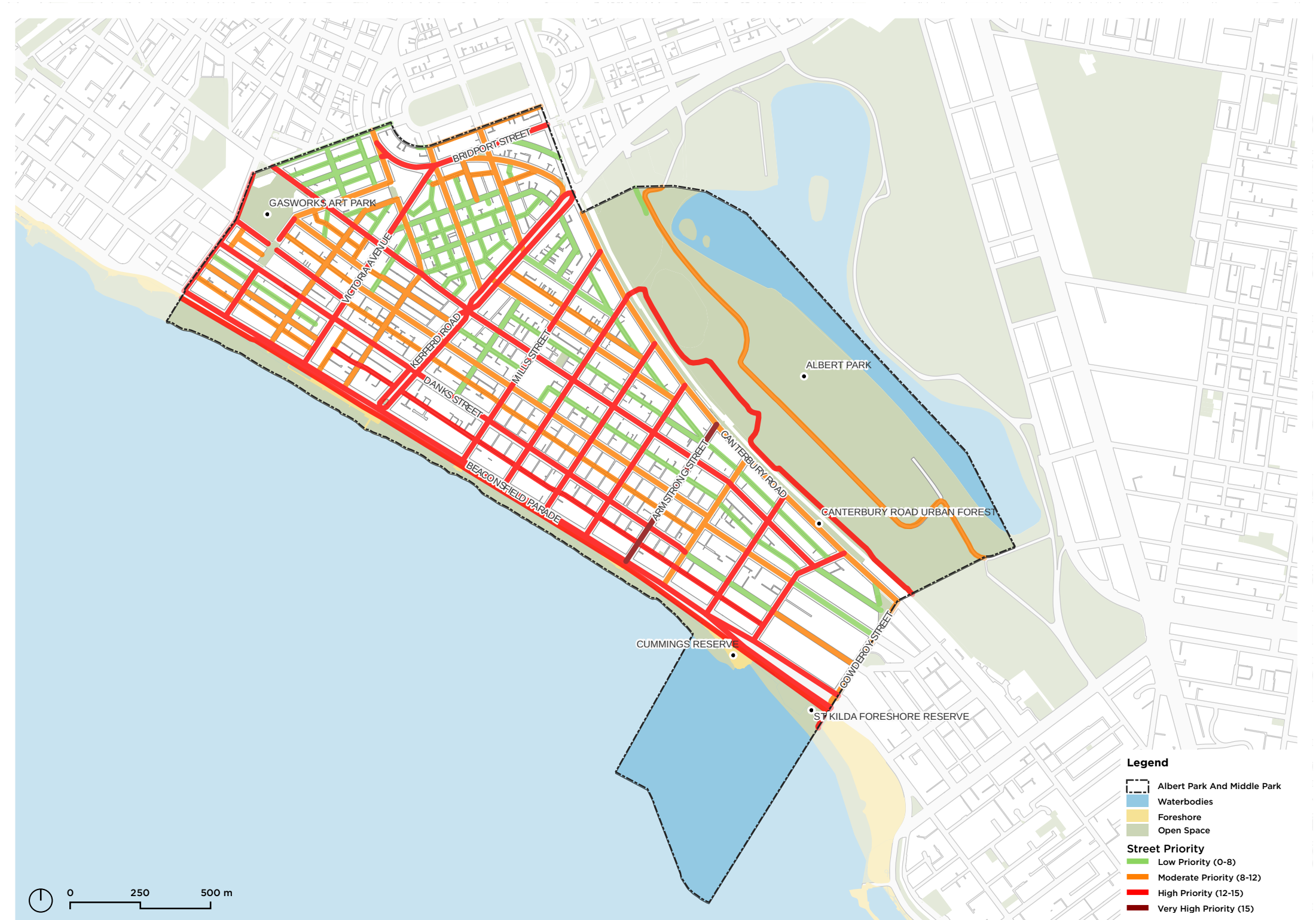
02.16

HIGH-PRIORITY STREETS

The prioritisation of precinct streets has been informed by research to date undertaken by LatStudios, in collaboration with City of Port Phillip. The Swinburne University Walk Quality assessment has informed the prioritisation process but does not contribute to the overall scoring of streets. This scoring process has been detailed in the Street Attributes Table, in Appendix A. Attributes that have informed scores include proximity to activity centres, presence of cycling infrastructure, road ownership, public transport, heat vulnerability, urban heat island, council strategy, biodiversity connections.

As the Swinburne Walk Quality Assessment focuses directly on tree canopy, an attribute not included in the scoring process, results may differ between the two prioritisation mappings. Swinburne Walk Quality results are more granular (i.e. not averaged across the length of the street), therefore cannot be easily integrated into the scoring process. Therefore the walk quality results should be considered an added overlay to the street prioritisation mapping, informing key areas for intervention along high priority streets.

Refer to Appendix A for the full table of assessed street prioritisation as per the adjacent mapping.





03

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL ROLE OF STREETS & PUBLIC SPACES

Like other established neighbourhoods in Melbourne, streets and footpaths in Albert Park & Middle Park can be narrow, and sometimes trees and power poles can restrict accessibility along footpaths. We can improve accessibility by considering tree placement during the design process and when undertaking tree replacement programs.

These strategic roles and physical conditions help to inform increased canopy and biodiversity opportunities. See the appendices for the full suite of opportunities and constraints analysis maps.



ALBERT PARK & MIDDLE PARK

The established bay side suburbs of Albert Park & Middle Park are predominantly residential neighbourhoods characterised by the Port Phillip Bay foreshore interface, heritage housing and a leafy fine grain street network that supports active travel connections.

Albert Park and Middle Park share a similar heritage residential fabric; Victorian and Edwardian terraces, Federation houses, and inter-war apartments. Along the internal residential streets, interfacing with 20th-century terraces are generous landscaped verges and mature trees. According to City of Port Phillip's 'Greening Port Phillip - Street Tree Planting Program 2017-2022', Middle Park and Albert Park together show street tree canopy coverage above the municipal average, despite a park canopy coverage that is lower than average.

The key assets of the foreshore and open space network support mature planting and shade providing trees. Planting along the foreshore prioritises coastal species such as palms compared the more dense forest canopy in the residential streets. Council record mapping shows that overall canopy coverage has dropped slightly since 2012, in particular within the private land tree canopy. The consistent street grid across this precinct is intersected by a network of access laneways connecting the rear of this low-scale built form. These narrow streets are limited in providing street tree canopy, however they regularly feed into wider boulevards, many with street tree avenues (e.g. Kerferd Rd, St Vincent Rd).

Strong leaf canopy and consistent planting, along these streets connects into some of the precincts larger destination open spaces. These include Gasworks Arts Park, Pickles Street Foreshore and Albert Park Lake — a major open space defining the suburb's edge and identity. Trees within Albert Park include planes, elms, and mature eucalypts. Although Albert Park contributes to a higher than average open space percentage than other precincts, Council does not manage the open space. To Albert Park's southern edge is the unique strip of urban forest along Canterbury Road, a softened landscape buffer between the road corridor and Albert Park.

Neighbourhood Canopy Cover

Overall Canopy Cover: 14%

Street Canopy Cover: 26%

Public Space Canopy Cover: 10%

Private Land Canopy Cover: 9%



Figure 03: Pickles Street Foreshore, Albert Park



Figure 02: H.R Johnson Reserve, Middle Park



Figure 04: Boyd Street, Albert Park



Figure 05: Kerferd Road, Albert Park



Figure 06: Bridport Street, Albert Park



04

STREETSCAPE TYPOLOGY REVIEW

04.1

STREETSCAPE TYPOLOGIES - MIDDLE PARK AND ALBERT PARK

The streets of Middle Park and Albert Park are arranged in a fine-grain grid framed by wide boulevards, a coastal boulevard and tree-lined avenues, with consistent block patterns leading towards the foreshore and the lake, while smaller residential streets and laneways provide local connections within the neighbourhood.

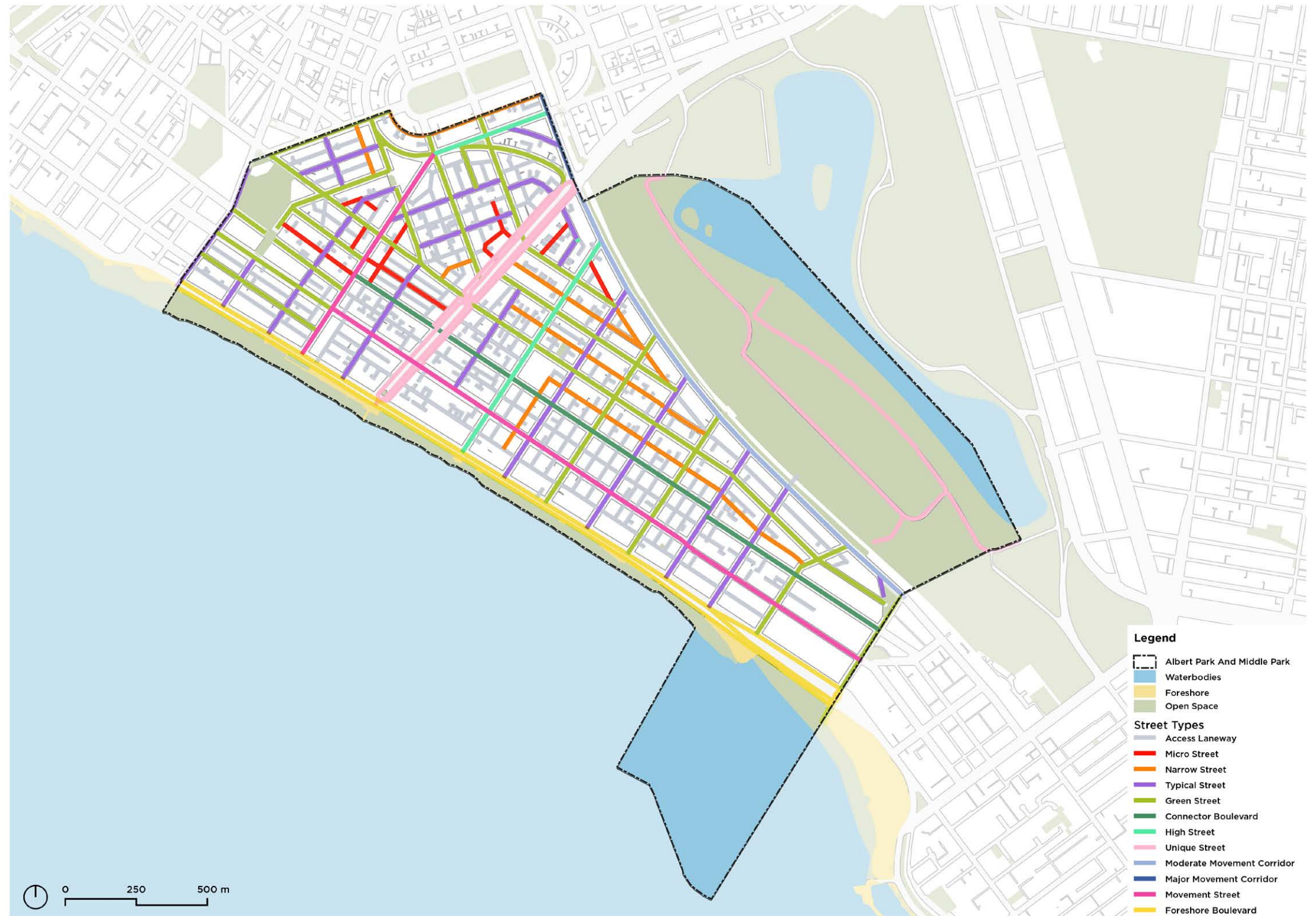
Through analysis of Council strategies and data, the streetscapes of Middle Park and Albert Park have been grouped into 12 typologies based on their physical attributes and movement functions. These include 10 of the typologies identified in the Balaclava and St Kilda East UFPP, with changes to their attributes to accommodate for the shift in context.

These attributes shaped the framework through which the streets of Middle Park and Albert Park were categorised.

These attributes include:

- Overall width (property boundary to property boundary)
- Footpath width
- Number of vehicle lanes and carriageway width
- Verges and verge planting
- Bicycle infrastructure
- Car parking
- Infrastructure (powerlines, public transport modes)
- Existing canopy coverage
- Built form and land use interfaces
- Street function (through street, one-way).

This typological approach to the streets within the study area enables the development of a system of potential streetscape interventions that are outlined later in the report.



ACCESS LANEWAYS (3.0 - 7.0m wide)

Access Laneways are primarily interfacing with residential fences, apartment building car park access and commercial back-of-house or rear loading. This street typology does not support street trees, canopy cover is typically only provided by the overhang of large trees in residential gardens. Temporary greening measures can be explored in these constrained spaces, interventions such as modular system green walls or moveable planters.

Footpaths	Typically no footpaths, but in some cases a narrow access footpath of 1m to one or both sides of the laneway.
Bike Lanes	None
Traffic Lanes	1 traffic lane, either the width of the laneway or adjacent to 1 lane of parallel parking.
Parking	Typically no parking, but in some cases 1 lane of parallel parking.
Verges	None
Existing Trees	None aside from trees in the private realm.
Powerlines	None
Lighting	None or limited lighting from building interface.
Building Interfaces	Typically fences or back-of-house vehicle access, buildings built to the boundary and directly interfacing with the laneway
Tree Selection Considerations	Initiatives limited to temporary greening measures based on constrained spaces
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	Initiatives limited to temporary greening measures based on constrained spaces

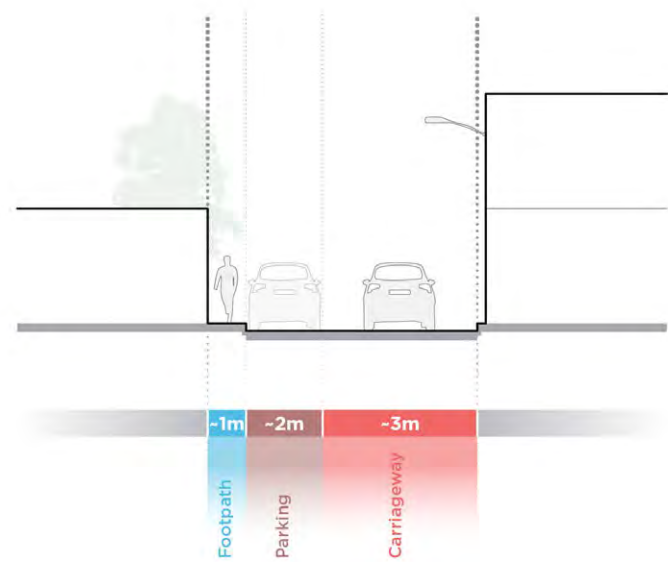


Figure 07: A typical cross section of an Access Laneway.



Figure 08: Little Page Street in Albert Park is an example of an Access Laneway



Figure 09: An example of an access laneway in Dundas Lane, Albert Park

MICRO STREET (7.0 - 11.0m wide)

Micro Streets support slow-moving local traffic, moving in both directions utilising a central shared lane that requires passing vehicles to give way by pulling into the adjacent parking lane. Due to the constrained nature of these streets, there is limited space for tree planting, therefore canopy cover is generally low. Street trees are sometimes located within the parallel parking lane, breaking up parking. Trees within private gardens also contribute to canopy coverage.

Footpaths	Typically ~1.3-1.5m wide on both sides, often impeded by signs and poles
Bike Lanes	None
Traffic Lanes	1 lane (~3.2m)
Parking	Parallel parking both sides of street (~2m each side)
Verges	None
Existing Trees	Street trees within the roadway, often separating parallel parking.
Powerlines	One side (in conjunction with lighting).
Lighting	One side (in conjunction with powerlines)
Building Interfaces	Combination of fencing, buildings built to the boundary or with minimal setback (~2.0-4.0m)
Tree Selection Considerations	Responds well to pruning, provide shade with low soil volume requirements, trees that are tolerant of future climatic conditions. Canopy shape and size of street trees should be considered when planting next to two storey built form, especially when planting in footpath.
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	Localised traffic lane narrowing, corner build-outs, tree containers and temporary greening, kerb outstands (within road), opportunity to designate street as a shared zone and plant trees in footpaths

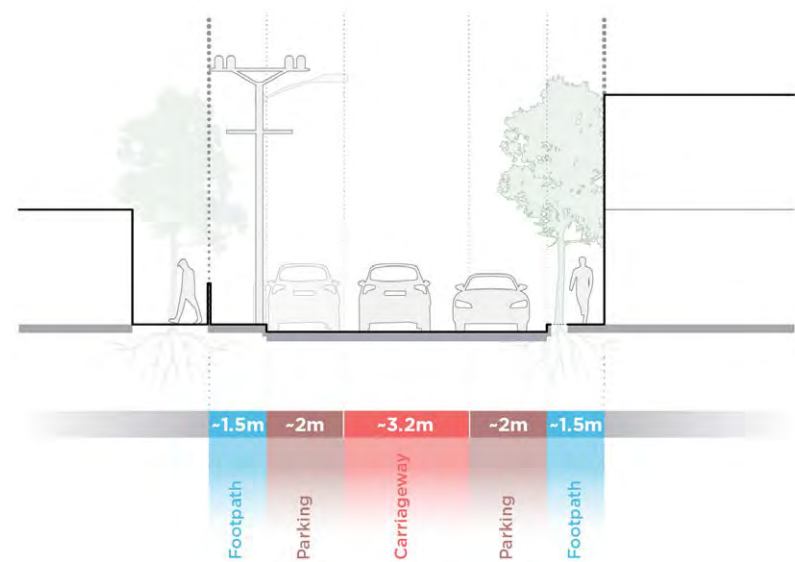


Figure 10: A typical cross section of a Micro Street.



Figure 11: Little Graham Street in Albert Park is an example of a Micro Street (Image Credit: Google Earth).



Figure 12: Neville Street in Middle Park is an example of a Micro Street.

NARROW STREET (11.0 - 13.0m wide)

Narrow Streets support slow-moving local traffic, moving in both directions utilising a central shared lane. When the parked cars have filled the parallel parking lane, passing vehicles are required to give way by pulling into the adjacent parking lane. Canopy cover is generally low along Narrow Streets. Street trees are often located within the parallel parking lane, or sometimes within the footpath. Trees within private gardens also contribute to canopy coverage.

Footpaths	Typically ~1.4-1.7m wide on both sides, sometimes impeded by signs and poles
Bike Lanes	None
Traffic Lanes	1 wide lane (~3.7m)
Parking	Parallel parking both sides of street (~2.2m each side)
Verges	None
Existing Trees	Semi-regular street trees, typically within the roadway or sometimes within the footpath
Powerlines	One side (in conjunction with lighting)
Lighting	One side (in conjunction with powerlines)
Building Interfaces	Combination of fencing, buildings built to the boundary or with minimal setback (~2.0-4.0m)
Tree Selection Considerations	Responds well to pruning, trees that are tolerant of future climatic conditions, species that provide shade. Canopy shape and size of street trees should be considered when planting next to two storey built form, especially when planting in footpath.
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	Localised traffic lane narrowing, corner build-outs, tree containers and temporary greening, kerb outstands (within road), footpath widening, tree cut outs (within footpath)



Figure 14: Smith Street in Albert Park is an example of a Narrow Street.

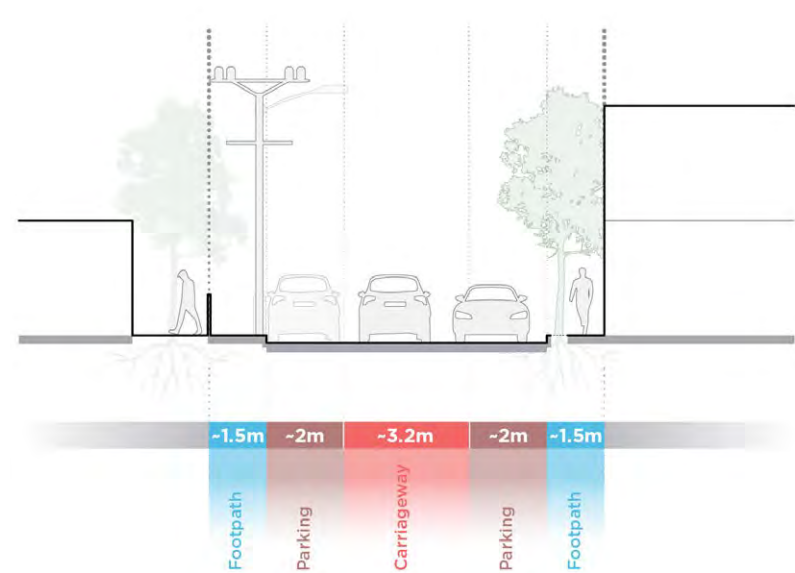


Figure 13: A typical cross section of a Narrow Street.

TYPICAL STREET (13.0 - 16.0m wide)

Typical Streets support local residential traffic and through-traffic connecting into high-order roads. Canopy coverage within Typical Streets varies across the precinct. Street trees are often located within the footpath. Trees within private gardens also contribute to canopy coverage.

Footpaths	Typically ~2.0-2.5m wide on both sides with regular tree cutouts
Bike Lanes	None
Traffic Lanes	2 traffic lanes (~5.8-6.5m trafficable width)
Parking	Parallel parking both sides of street (~2.2m each side)
Verges	Typically none, but in some cases a narrow grass verge ~1m in width
Existing Trees	Regular trees located in cutouts along footpath
Powerlines	One side (in conjunction with lighting)
Lighting	One side (in conjunction with powerlines)
Building Interfaces	Combination of fencing, buildings built to the boundary or most commonly setbacks ~3.0-7.0m. These setbacks often support mature, medium-scale landscaping of front gardens with trees
Tree Selection Considerations	Responds well to pruning, provide shade with low soil volume requirements, trees that are tolerant of future climatic conditions. Many areas where houses have a narrow setback and heritage ornamentation on roof. Where nature strips aren't generous, and powerlines are present the species selection needs to consider if there is enough space to develop and sustain canopy in compliance with electrical line safety clearance requirements.
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	Localised traffic lane narrowing, corner build-outs, tree containers and temporary greening, protected pedestrian crossings, kerb outstands (within road), footpath widening, tree cut outs (within footpath)

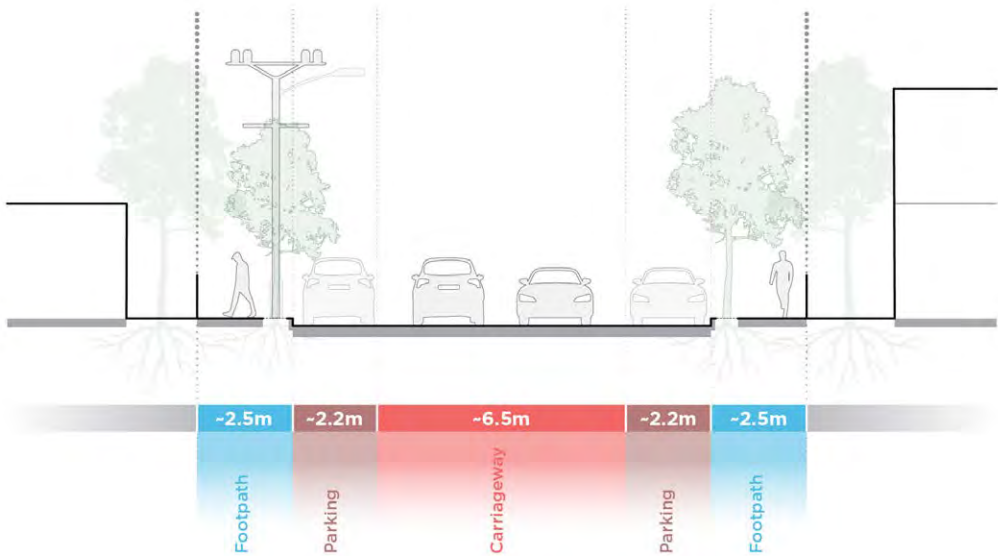


Figure 15: A typical cross section of a Typical Street.



Figure 16: Durham Street in Middle Park is an example of a Typical Street (Image Credit: Google Earth).



Figure 17: Greig Street in Albert Park is an example of a Typical Street.

GREEN STREET (16.0 - 18.0m wide)

Green Streets support local residential traffic and through-traffic connecting into higher-order roads. They are generally unmarked and provide enough width for two directions of traffic movement and parking on both sides in varying arrangements. Canopy coverage is generally high, well-established and supported by larger verges and spacing.

Footpaths	Typically -1.6-2.0m wide on both sides with regular tree cutouts
Bike Lanes	None
Traffic Lanes	2 traffic lanes (~5.5-6.0m trafficable width)
Parking	Parking on both sides of the street, including one or a combination of parallel, angled and perpendicular (~2.2-5.3m each side)
Verges	Planted verges on both sides of street (~2.0-2.2m)
Existing Trees	Consistent, well-established trees in cutouts and/or verges along footpath
Powerlines	One side (in conjunction with lighting)
Lighting	One side (in conjunction with powerlines)
Building Interfaces	Low-rise apartment buildings are generally built to the boundary or have minimal setback. Most commonly setbacks ~3.0-7.0m. These setbacks often support mature, lower-scale landscaping of front gardens. Trees less common in front gardens due to shade provided by street trees
Tree Selection Considerations	Responds well to pruning, trees that are tolerant of future climatic conditions, large canopy species for shade
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	Localised traffic lane narrowing, corner build-outs

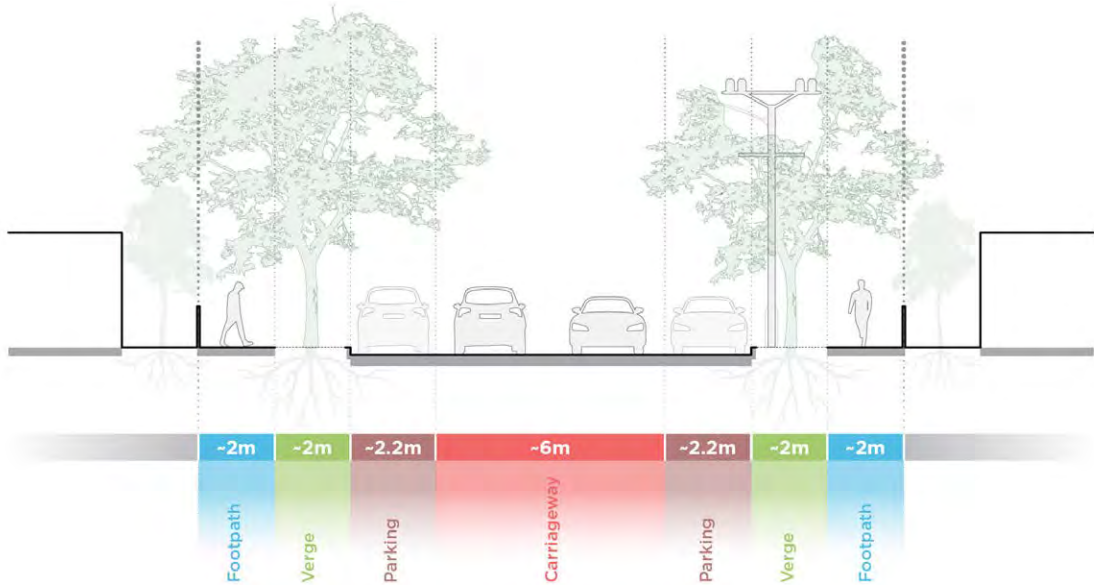


Figure 18: A typical cross section of a Green Street.



Figure 19: Park Road in Middle Park is an example of a Green Street.



Figure 20: Page Street in Middle Park is an example of a Green Street.

CONNECTOR BOULEVARD (18.0 - 19.5m wide)

Connector Boulevards support local traffic, through-traffic connecting into higher-order roads and dedicated bicycle movements. They are marked and provide enough width for two directions of traffic movement and parking on both sides in varying arrangements. Canopy coverage is generally moderate to high, semi to well-established and supported by verges and spacing.

Footpaths	Typically -1.6-2.0m wide on both sides
Bike Lanes	-1.6m each side
Traffic Lanes	2 marked traffic lanes (-5.8-6.5m trafficable width)
Parking	Marked parallel parking both sides of street (~2.3m each side)
Verges	Planted verges on both sides of street, varying widths (-1.0-2.2m)
Existing Trees	Regular trees located in verges
Powerlines	Typically one side, in some cases both sides for distribution
Lighting	Alternating sides
Building Interfaces	Low-rise apartment buildings are generally built to the boundary or have minimal setback. Building setbacks vary -2.0-12.0m. These setbacks often support medium scale landscaping of front gardens with trees
Tree Selection Considerations	Responds well to pruning, trees that are tolerant of future climatic conditions. Where nature strips aren't generous, and powerlines are present the species selection needs to consider if there is enough space to develop and sustain canopy in compliance with electrical line safety clearance requirements.
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	Corner build-outs, protected pedestrian crossings, kerb outstands (within road), providing trees in central medians

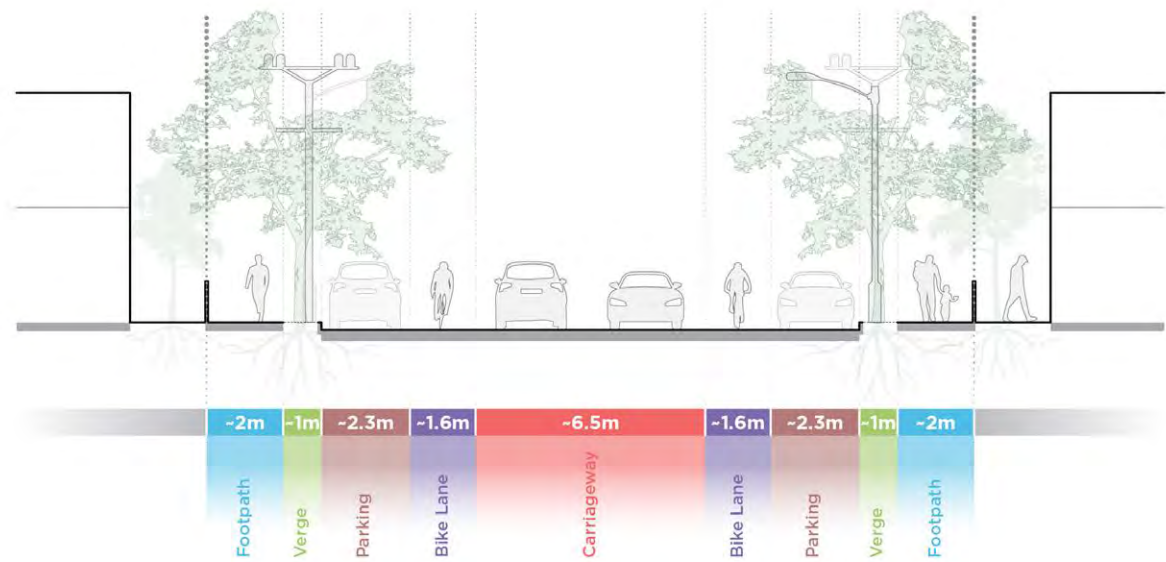


Figure 21: A typical cross section of a Connector Boulevard.



Figure 22: Boyd Street in Albert Park is an example of a Connector Boulevard.



Figure 23: Park Road in Middle Park is an example of a Connector Boulevard.

HIGH STREET (19.5 - 21.0m wide)

High Streets are destination streets and therefore support a range of vehicle movements and public and active transport, visitor and local alike. This includes cycling, buses, trams, some heavy vehicles as well as private vehicles. They are instrumental to the activity centres and their wider connections. Canopy coverage is generally low, in some cases due to the limitations of tram infrastructure (e.g. overhead wiring).

Footpaths	Typically 2.4-2.7m on both sides, with semi-regular tree cutouts
Bike Lanes	~1.6m each side
Traffic Lanes	2 marked traffic lanes (~6.5m trafficable width), shared with trams
Parking	Marked parallel parking both sides of street (~2.3m each side)
Verges	Typically none, but in some cases a narrow grass verge ~1m in width
Existing Trees	Semi-regular street trees located in cutouts along footpath
Powerlines	Typically both sides of the street, integrated with tram overhead infrastructure and in some cases lighting
Lighting	Typically both sides of the street
Building Interfaces	Buildings in activity areas are generally retail and built to the boundary. Elsewhere setbacks vary ~2.0-12.0m, supporting a diverse scale of landscaping
Tree Selection Considerations	Responds well to pruning, trees that are tolerant of future climatic conditions, mature growth suits application of lights, suitable for placement around public transport stops and public events, root requirements, impact on lighting, impact on footpath trading and outdoor dining, views, vandalism considerations, trunk width. Positioned to ensure clearance from shopfronts and footpath awnings.
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	Corner build-outs, tree containers and temporary greening, kerb outstands (within road)

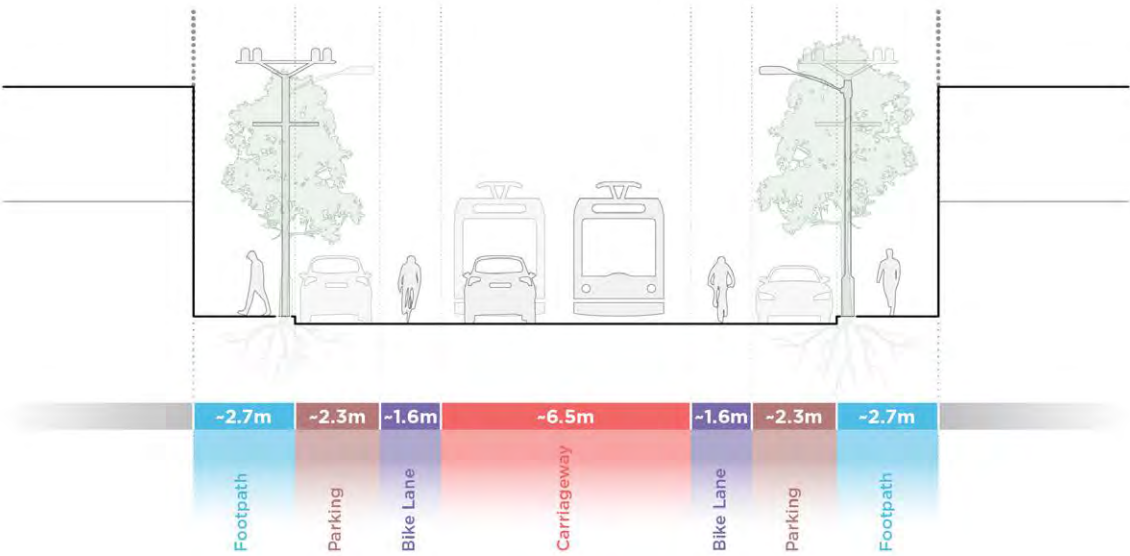


Figure 25: A typical cross section of a Connector Boulevard.



Figure 24: Armstrong Street in Middle Park is an example of a High Street (Image Credit: Google Earth).



Figure 26: Bridport Street in Albert Park is an example of a High Street.

MOVEMENT CORRIDORS

Moderate Movement Corridors support moderate to heavy traffic movements across 4 lanes. In some cases, 2 of these lanes may function as clearways at specified times of day and parallel parking otherwise. In some cases this includes bus or tram routes along shared roads. Speed limits of these roads vary as they pass between activity centres. Canopy coverage is generally low to moderate, with regular mature trees within verges and/or footpath cutouts.

Major Movement Corridors support heavy traffic movements across 6-8 lanes. In some cases this includes tram routes along shared roads or separated within a median strip. Throughout some stretches, Major Movement Corridors include service roads setback with wider verges. As a higher-order road, they have faster speed limits and accommodate for heavy vehicles and transport. Canopy coverage is generally low to moderate, with regular mature trees within verges and central medians.

	Moderate Movement Corridor (20.0-22.0m wide)	Major Movement Corridors (40.0-60.0m wide)
Footpaths	Typically ~2.4-2.7m wide on both sides with semi-regular tree cutouts	Typically ~1.5-1.8m wide on both sides
Bike Lanes	None	Typically none, but in some cases ~1.6m each side either within service road or integrated with shared user paths
Traffic Lanes	4 marked traffic lanes (~14m trafficable width)	6-8 marked traffic lanes (~27-34m trafficable width), including central median strip sometimes shared with trams
Parking	Parallel parking both sides of street at specific times of day (~2.3m each side)	Parallel parking within service roads, typically only on built form side of service road (~2.3m one side)
Verges	Typically none, but in some cases a narrow grass verge ~1m in width. Varies significantly	Planted verges on both sides of street (~1.0-2.2m), verges separating service road from main road (~2.0-5.0m) and central median strip (~5-7m). Varies significantly
Existing Trees	Regular trees located in cutouts along footpath	Regular, well-established trees located in verges and central median strip
Powerlines	Typically one side, in some cases both sides for distribution	Both sides of the street, integrated with tram overhead infrastructure and in some cases lighting
Lighting	Alternating sides	Both sides of the street and in median verge
Building Interfaces	Low-rise apartment buildings are generally built to the boundary or have minimal setback. Elsewhere setbacks vary ~3.0-7.0m. These setbacks often support medium scale landscaping of front gardens with trees	Low-rise apartment buildings are generally built to the boundary or have minimal setback. Elsewhere setbacks vary ~3.0-7.0m. These setbacks often support medium scale landscaping of front gardens with trees
Tree Selection Considerations	Responds well to pruning, trees that are tolerant of future climatic conditions, large canopy species	Responds well to pruning, trees that are tolerant of future climatic conditions, large canopy species
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	Interventions within the roadway will require advocacy with Department of Transport and Planning, footpath interventions can be achieved by Council.	Interventions within the roadway will require advocacy with Department of Transport and Planning, footpath interventions can be achieved by Council.



Figure 27: Canterbury Road in Middle Park is a Moderate Movement Corridor.

MOVEMENT STREET (19.5 - 21.0m Wide)

Movement Streets support vehicular, public and active transport for local and through traffic connections. They are marked and provide enough width for two directions of traffic movement, shared with trams or buses, parallel parking on both sides and in some cases bike lanes on both sides separating parking lane from traffic lane. Canopy coverage is generally high, with regular trees within verges and/or footpath cutouts.

Footpaths	Typically ~2-2.4m on both sides, with semi-regular tree cutouts
Bike Lanes	~1.6m each side
Traffic Lanes	2 marked traffic lanes (~6.5m trafficable width), shared with trams
Parking	Marked parallel parking both sides of street (~2.2m each side)
Verges	Planted verges on both sides of street, varying widths (~1.0m)
Existing Trees	Consistent, well-established trees in cutouts and/or verges along footpath
Powerlines	Typically both sides of the street, integrated with tram overhead infrastructure and in some cases lighting
Lighting	Typically both sides of the street
Building Interfaces	Low-rise apartment buildings are generally built to the boundary or have minimal setback. Most commonly setbacks ~3.0-7.0m. These setbacks often support mature, lower-scale landscaping of front gardens. Trees less common in front gardens due to shade provided by street trees
Tree Selection Considerations	Responds well to pruning, trees that are tolerant of future climatic conditions, suitable for placement around public transport stops, root requirements, impact on lighting, views, vandalism considerations, trunk width. Canopy shape and size of street trees should be considered when planting to ensure clearance from tram infrastructure with minimal pruning.
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	Interventions will require advocacy with the Department of Transport and Planning and VicRoads

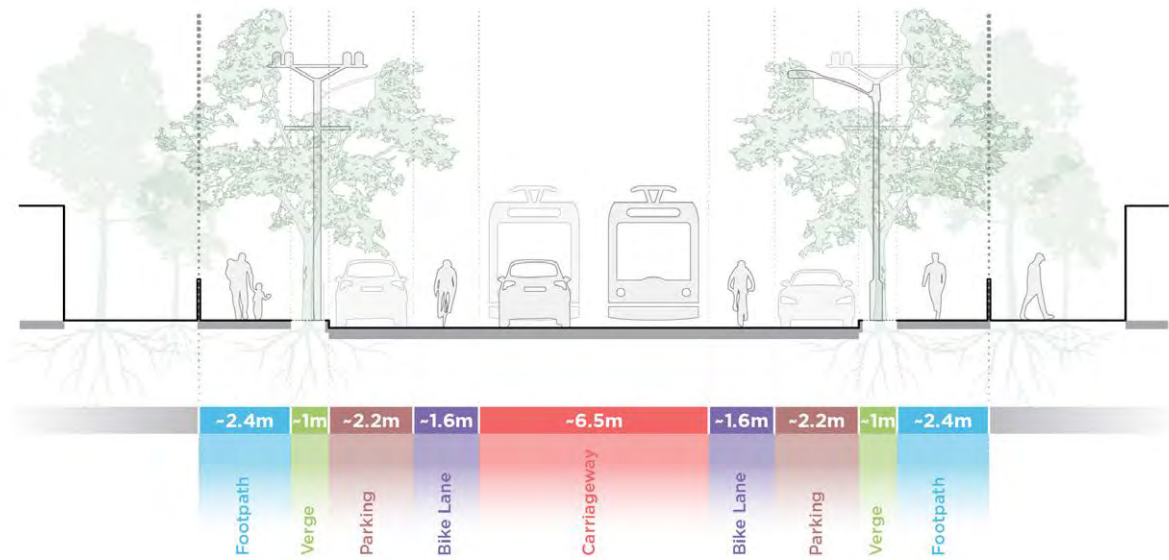


Figure 29: A typical cross section of a Movement Street



Figure 28: Mills Street in Albert Park is an example of a Movement Street



Figure 30: East of Mills Street, Danks Street in Albert Park is an example of a Movement Street

FORESHORE BOULEVARD (30.0m+ wide)

Foreshore Boulevards are a unique street type, with diverse interfaces impacting their tree planting success and approach. They accommodate arterial traffic, with marked two-lane roads that provide enough width for parking on either side. They typically have urban interface to the north and the foreshore to the south. They typically have an urban environment on the inland side of the road opposite the foreshore. Boulevards are typically planted with mature palms and the majority of pedestrian and active transport users are on the foreshore side.

Footpaths	Typically ~2.7-3m on both sides, with semi-regular tree cutouts on residential side of the boulevard
Bike Lanes	~2m bi-directional bike lane along beach front and ~1.6m dedicated bike lane opposite
Traffic Lanes	5 marked traffic lanes, 3 along beach interface, 2 on residential interface (~15.5m trafficable width)
Parking	Marked parallel parking on residential side of street (~2.3m each side)
Verges	Planted verges both sides of street and median verge (~2.0-4.5m)
Existing Trees	Consistent and well-established trees within verges along footpath
Powerlines	The majority of Beaconsfield Parade in Albert Park and Middle Park does not have overhead powerlines. They are present on the residential side in St Kilda west, south of Fraser Street. There is one bundled span on the residential side of Albert Park between Pickles and Johnson St.
Lighting	Typically within median verge
Building Interfaces	Interfaces on the beach front side of the road vary. Typically low to medium scale landscaping or car parking. Low-rise apartment buildings are generally built to the boundary or have minimal setback. Most commonly setbacks ~3.0-7.0m. These setbacks often support lower-scale landscaping of front gardens
Tree Selection Considerations	Consider succession for foreshore palms and moving towards new species, responds well to pruning, trees that are tolerant of future climatic conditions, soil amelioration compatibility canopy tree selection to support localised placemaking/events functions and public transport stops, consideration of sightlines into adjoining open spaces, Triangle Car Park beautification project for species integration
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	Dune plantings and fencing for success of trees, central medians, tree containers and temporary greening, kerb outstands (within road), tree cut outs (within footpath). Widen residential side tree plots and increase passive irrigation to tree plots. Interventions within roadways will require advocacy with Department of Transport and Planning, footpath interventions can be achieved by Council.



Figure 32: Beaconsfield Parade, running through Albert Park and Middle Park, is an example of a Foreshore Boulevard.

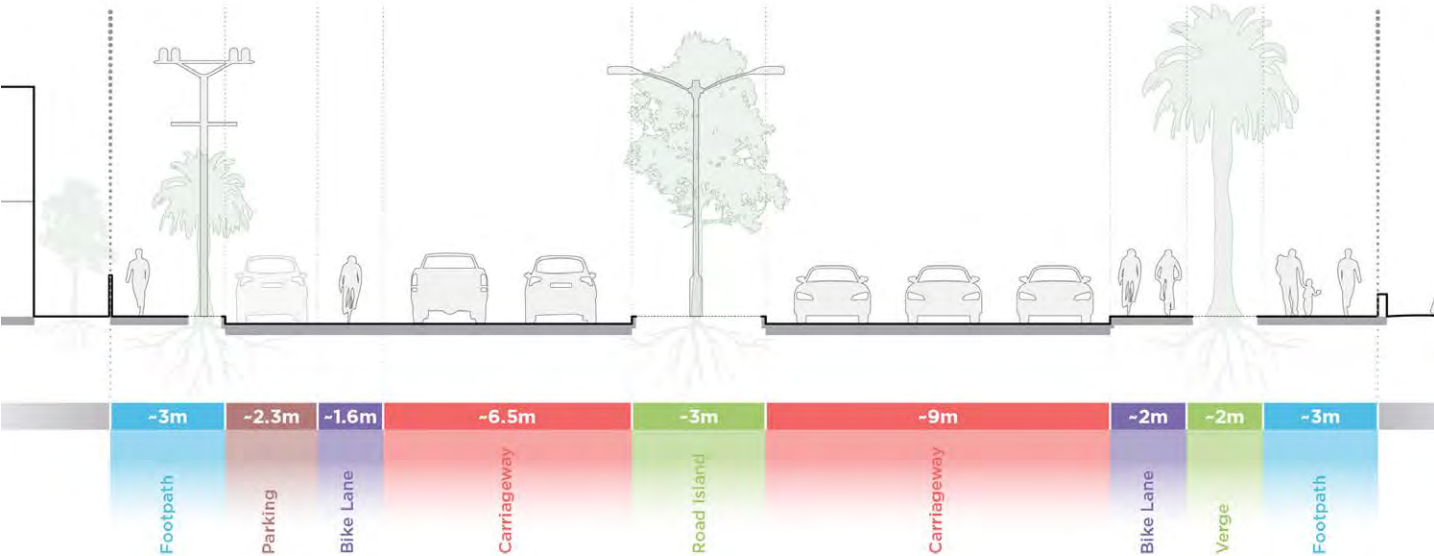


Figure 31: A typical cross section of a Movement Street

UNIQUE STREETS

Unique Streets are those streets which are outliers and do not fit into any of the predefined street type categories. Kerferd Road and the internal roads in Albert Park are the only Unique Streets in the precinct.



Figure 33: Kerferd Road in Albert Park is an example of a Unique Street



Figure 34: Aughtie Drive runs through Albert Park and is an example of a Unique Street



Figure 35: Richardson Street, Middle Park

A photograph of a playground area, partially obscured by a semi-transparent green overlay. In the foreground on the left, a grey plastic slide is visible. In the center, a red metal swing set stands on a blue safety mat. To the right, a large tree with dense green foliage and white flowers dominates the frame. The background shows a brick wall and more trees.

05

OPEN SPACE TYPES AND OPPORTUNITIES

05.1 OPEN SPACE TYPES

The open space types have been drawn through from the City of Port Phillip's open space categorisation. The designation of types will help to guide a targeted approach to tree planting and urban foresting within the City of Port Phillip open space network.

City of Port Phillip's open space types have been included in the analysis as follows:

- Foreshore
- Natural Heritage Areas
- Parks and Reserves
- Sports Ovals
- Road Closures
- Significant Gardens

The following open space types have been omitted, either because tree planting opportunities may be limited or because they fall within street type opportunities:

- Community Service Facilities
- Piers
- Medians
- Nature Strips and Car Parks
- Roundabouts and Traffic Treatments
- WSUD Reserves

The following analysis of the above included open space types identifies the types within Middle Park and Albert Park. This analysis includes a series of tree selection considerations and opportunities to increase canopy for each open space types.

The City of Port Phillip will continue to support community led greening initiatives in public space through the delivery of Action 22 of the Urban Forest Strategy:

Action 22: Support the community to implement the Nature Strip Guidelines (2022) and Community Gardens Assessment Guidelines (2021) and continue to provide community gardening support to promote sustainable gardening and biodiversity in public spaces.



Figure 37: Gasworks Art Park, Albert Park



Figure 36: Frank and Mary Crean Reserve, Middle Park



Figure 38: Moubray Street Community Park, Albert Park



Figure 39: Canterbury Road Urban Forest, Middle Park

05.2

EXISTING OPEN SPACE TYPES - ALBERT PARK & MIDDLE PARK

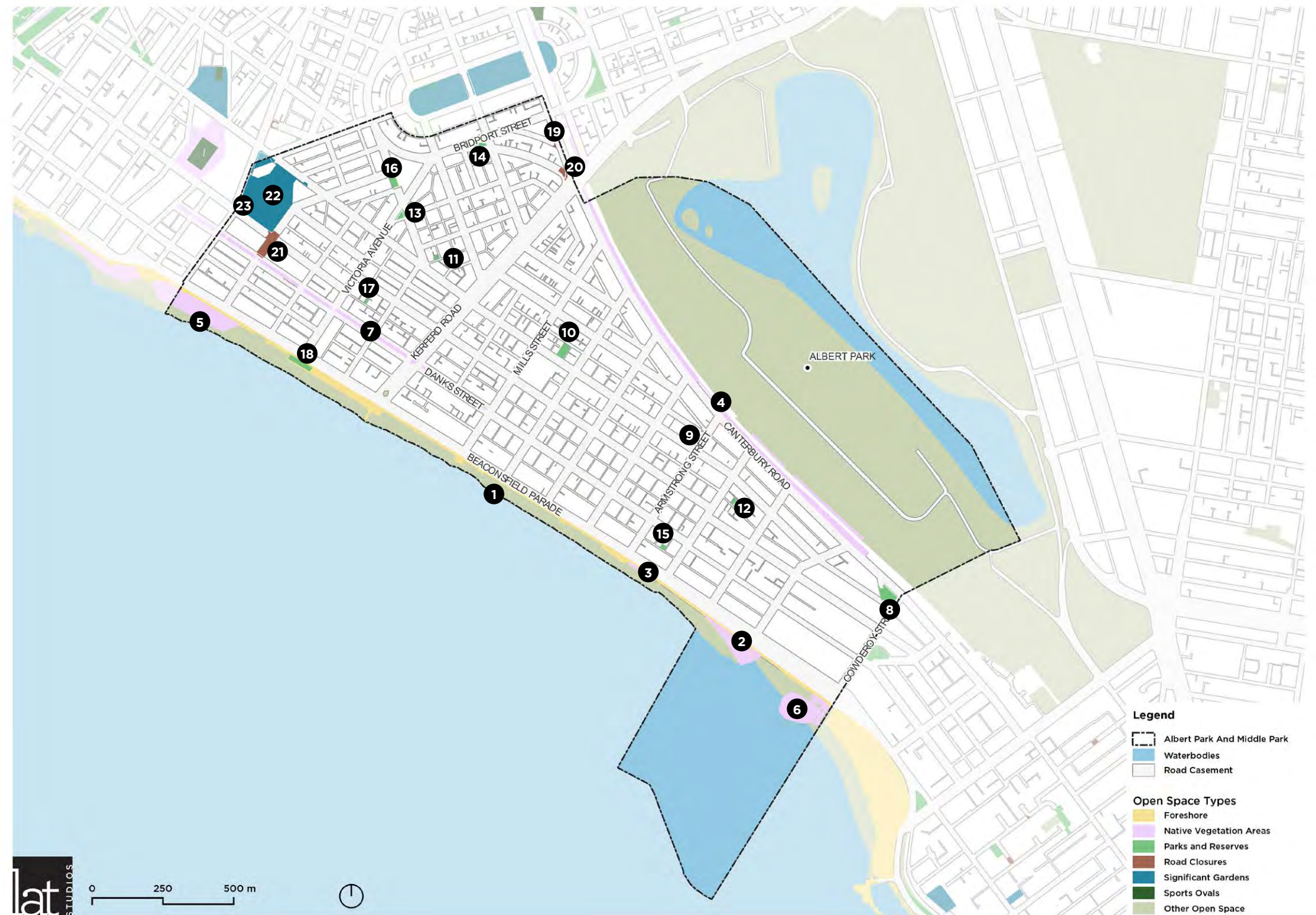
Public space canopy cover in Albert Park & Middle Park is 10%, including sports field areas. Including areas which cannot be planted with trees, most open spaces in CoPP have above 17% canopy cover. Albert Park & Middle Park has the 3rd lowest public space canopy cover relative to other precincts.

Currently, Albert Park & Middle Park have 26 open spaces, making up 31% of the total neighbourhood area, this is above the City average of 17%. The foreshore is the largest open space and contains a variety of playgrounds, reserves and dune areas. Other local open spaces in the neighbourhood include the Gasworks Arts Park and Moubay Street Pop-Up park.

A variety of recently completed open space works have been delivered since the publishing of City of Port Phillip's 'Places for People: Public Space Strategy 2022-32', including:

- Upgrades to Gasworks Arts Park.
- Moubay Street Pop-Up Park has been transformed into a permanent public space.
- Plans underway to deliver more shade trees at the Pickles Street Foreshore.

These initiatives have and will provide opportunities for canopy increases.



The following open spaces and their map ID numbers relate to the Open Spaces map on the previous page.

Open Space #	Open Space Name	Open Space Type	Suburb	Total Area
1	BEACONSFIELD PARADE RESERVE	Foreshore	Middle Park	34,995m ²
2	FRASER STREET DUNES	Foreshore	Middle Park	7185m ²
3	MIDDLE PARK DUNES	Foreshore	Middle Park	561m ²
4	CANTERBURY ROAD URBAN FOREST	Native Vegetation Areas	Middle Park	9235m ²
5	PICKLES STREET FORESHORE	Native Vegetation Areas	Albert Park	20,643m ²
6	WEST BEACH DUNES	Native Vegetation Areas	Middle Park	12,000m ²
7	DANKS STREET	Native Vegetation Areas	Albert Park	12,761m ²
8	H.R. JOHNSON RESERVE	Native Vegetation Area / Parks and Reserves	Middle Park	3397m ²
9	ARMSTRONG STREET SHOPS	Parks and Reserves	Middle Park	155m ²
10	FRANK AND MARY CREAN RESERVE	Parks and Reserves	Middle Park	1384m ²
11	LITTLE FINLAY RESERVE	Parks and Reserves	Albert Park	209m ²
12	NEVILLE STREET RESERVE	Parks and Reserves	Middle Park	250m ²
13	RATS OF TOBRUK RESERVE	Parks and Reserves	Albert Park	524m ²
14	BROADWAY RESERVE	Parks and Reserves	Albert Park	626m ²
15	ASHWORTH PARK	Parks and Reserves	Middle Park	344m ²
16	MOUBRAY STREET PARK	Parks and Reserves	Albert Park	802m ²
17	LITTLE PAGE STREET RESERVE	Parks and Reserves	Albert Park	198m ²

Open Space #	Open Space Name	Open Space Type	Suburb	Total Area
18	PLUM GARLAND MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND	Parks and Reserves	Albert Park	1504m ²
19	FERRARS/MADDEN ROAD CLOSURE	Road Closures	Albert Park	144m ²
20	KERFERD ROAD/DUNDAS PLACE TT3	Road Closures	Albert Park	145m ²
21	LEMNOS SQUARE	Road Closures	Albert Park	358m ²
22	GASWORKS PARK	Significant Gardens	Albert Park	26,731m ²
23	GASWORKS NATURAL HERITAGE AREA	Significant Gardens	Albert Park	5430m ²

FORESHORE OPEN SPACES

Running through both precincts, the foreshore includes the City of Port Phillip’s most iconic public open spaces featuring beaches and adjacent parklands that shape the city’s character. Foreshore Open Spaces are managed to balance sea views, recreation, biodiversity and climate resilience (coastal erosion, stormwater and public safety are core issues), and Council treats the foreshore as a place for both everyday use and major events while protecting its environmental values.

The Urban Forest within Foreshore Open Spaces features historic, coastal-tolerant trees such as the Canary Island date palm and other exotic species, alongside small pockets of native vegetation rather than a continuous canopy. Trees are concentrated in formal gardens like Catani Gardens, along promenades, and in boulevard plantings, while large open lawns remain mostly treeless to preserve sea views and support major events. This pattern reflects the challenges of managing a coastal environment where salt, wind, sandy soils and the need to maintain sight lines limit tree density and species selection. As a result, planting focuses on resilient coastal species, specimen trees and targeted renewal. Overall, the foreshore tree scape combines heritage character and environmental resilience, balancing shade, biodiversity and recreation in one of the city’s most visited landscapes.

Tree Selection Considerations	• Have strong visual character and enhance the aesthetic identity of the Foreshore and its existing tree species i.e. Canary Island Palms, Norfolk Island Pines. • Species that are tolerant of formative pruning to retain sight lines. • Minimise dropping of large seed pods or branches onto busy footpaths. • Species that are tolerant of coastal conditions including: salt spray, wind, sandy soils. • Endemic species where appropriate to promote biodiversity and coastal character.
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	• Opportunities for succession planting of aging heritage trees to replace with like species, or endemic tree species in more naturalistic, mixed species arrangements. • Many good examples of open spaces with endemic coastal tree plantings that can be emulated in open space upgrades throughout the precinct. • There are many large foreshore open spaces with room to accommodate more/ larger trees.



Figure 40: Fraser Street Dunes, Middle Park (Image Credit Google Earth)



Figure 41: Beaconsfield Parade Reserve, Middle Park

NATIVE VEGETATION AREAS

Native Vegetation Areas are pockets of native vegetation, coastal hinterland and remnant habitat within the municipality that are managed for biodiversity and ecological health rather than formal recreation. Council's maintenance focus here is weed control, indigenous revegetation, litter management and working with community 'friends' groups, these areas are prioritised for habitat restoration and nature-based outcomes.

The Urban Forest within Native Vegetation Areas supports remnant and restored native vegetation that reflects Port Phillip's original coastal and wetland ecologies. Tree cover is generally sparse and interspersed with open grasslands, coastal scrub and wetland habitats, where maintaining ecological integrity takes precedence over dense canopy planting. Vegetation management prioritises the protection of remnant species, weed control and habitat restoration to support biodiversity and strengthen ecological connectivity across the municipality. Planting typically focuses on indigenous and locally adapted species that enhance habitat resilience, manage erosion and respond to changing climate conditions. Overall, these areas are valued for their environmental significance and their role in conserving the city's remaining natural landscapes.

Tree Selection Considerations	- Species that are tolerant of coastal conditions including: salt spray, wind, sandy soils and seasonal inundation in wetland areas. - Species that are locally native to the area and contribute to habitat creation and biodiversity. - Select species resilient to drought, heat stress, and changing rainfall patterns. - Consider species diversity to reduce vulnerability to pests or climate shifts. - Avoid visually dominant or non-native species that conflict with the ecological setting.
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	- Many good examples of open spaces with endemic coastal tree plantings that can be emulated in open space upgrades throughout the precinct. - Given the informal and naturalistic character of these spaces, there is greater opportunity to establish trees at higher densities than in other types of open space. - As they're intended as natural areas, trees can be installed at lower installation sizes, including tubestock, reducing the cost of planting. - Strong community stewardship, including active 'Friends' groups, supports ongoing planting and maintenance, helping to minimise long-term costs to Council.



Figure 42: Pickles Street Foreshore, Albert Park



Figure 43: Canterbury Road Urban Forest, Middle Park

PARKS AND RESERVES

Parks and Reserves are the formal network of municipal greenspaces including neighbourhood parks, larger reserves and landscaped gardens that provide playgrounds, picnic areas, paths, informal play and social space. The Public Space Strategy frames these areas as the backbone of local amenity, guiding investment, access improvements and linkages so parks meet leisure, wellbeing and urban greening objectives across the city.

The Urban Forest within the Parks and Reserves of both precincts features a mix of established canopy trees, avenue plantings and copses that provide shade, visual structure and comfortable settings for community use. Tree planting in these areas balances aesthetic, functional and ecological objectives enhancing amenity, supporting biodiversity and reinforcing precinct landscape character. These open spaces feature a mix of native and exotic trees, with an emphasis on providing shade, seasonal interest and accent to high use areas.

Tree Selection Considerations	• Select shade tree species for comfort and passive recreation. • Species should offer seasonal interest through flowers, foliage, or autumn colour. • Reflect the heritage, boulevard, or designed parkland character of each reserve. • Consider iconic or specimen trees to reinforce identity and sense of place. • Long-lived species • Tolerant of formative pruning • Where possible, include indigenous species to support local biodiversity. • Planting can create habitat corridors within a predominantly recreational landscape. • Trees must tolerate high foot traffic, soil compaction, and planting in grassed areas. • These spaces offer opportunity to trial tree species that haven't been widely planted in Melbourne prior to using the species more widely in streets.
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	• Opportunities for succession planting to replace existing aging specimen trees with endemic tree species in more naturalistic, mixed species arrangements. • Many good examples of open spaces with endemic coastal tree plantings that can be emulated in new open spaces and open space upgrades throughout the precinct. • There are examples of Parks and Reserve open spaces with room to accommodate more/larger trees. • This open space type typically features the most unconstrained land for tree planting.



Figure 44: Little Finlay Reserve, Albert Park



Figure 45: Frank and Mary Crean Reserve, Middle Park

SPORTS OVALS

Sports ovals are purpose-managed turf reserves and associated pavilions used for organised sport (football, cricket, soccer, etc.), training and competitions; the City runs seasonal allocation systems and facility-management protocols to ensure fair access and field quality. Council maintains ovals for both community sport and casual use (with bookings, conditions of use and upgrades coordinated through Sport & Recreation programs).

The Urban Forest within Sports Ovals in the City of Port Phillip is carefully managed to support recreation while enhancing urban greenery. Trees are generally located around the edges of ovals, along boundaries or pathways, providing shade for spectators, wind protection, and amenity without compromising playing surfaces or sightlines. Species selection prioritises hardy, low-maintenance trees suited to high-use areas, compacted soils and exposure to coastal conditions. Tree planting and maintenance are guided by Council's OSS principles of balancing recreation, amenity and environmental resilience, contributing to the broader urban forest network while supporting active community use.

Tree Selection Considerations	• Avoid species with large root systems that could damage playing surfaces. • Select trees that do not shed excessive litter onto fields or courts. • Select species that are tolerant of formative pruning to maintain open sightlines for sport and spectator safety. • Provide shade for spectators, pathways, and seating areas without encroaching on the oval. • Select species with closed canopies to provide shelter from wind. • Select locally native trees where possible to provide habitat and improve urban biodiversity. • Trees must tolerate high foot traffic, soil compaction, and planting in grassed areas.
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	• Opportunities for succession planting to replace aging specimen trees with endemic tree species in more naturalistic, mixed species arrangements.



Figure 46: Bob Skilton Oval in Albert Park



Figure 47: Alan Davidson Field in Albert Park (Image Credit Google Earth),

ROAD CLOSURES

‘Road closures’ in the public-space context are streets or intersections temporarily (or in some masterplans, permanently) taken out of vehicular use to create event space, pedestrianised plazas or extended public realm. The City manages closures through permits and event notifications (and through transport/roadworks processes) to balance movement, safety and activation while ensuring legal/traffic requirements are met.

Road closures in the precincts provide temporary extensions of public open space, supporting recreation, social activity, and community events. Trees in these closures are typically coastal-tolerant and hardy species, including plane trees, eucalypts, and selected ornamental exotics, chosen for their resilience to urban conditions, pedestrian traffic, and local climate. Trees are generally arranged to create shade, defining spaces, and enhancing the streetscape without impeding circulation or event use.

Tree Selection Considerations	• Have strong visual character and enhance the aesthetic identity of the street trees in adjacent areas. • Species that are tolerant of formative pruning to retain sightlines. • Minimise dropping of large seed pods or branches onto busy footpaths or seating areas. • Species that are tolerant of coastal conditions including: salt spray, wind and sandy soils.
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	• Many of these spaces include native trees in naturalistic arrangements, meaning that it's relatively easy to provide dense groupings of trees in these spaces without a jarring change of landscape character. • There are opportunities to provide more Road Closures to increase the Urban Forest.



Figure 48: Lemnos Square, Albert Park



Figure 49: Foote Street, Albert Park (Image Credit Google Earth)

SIGNIFICANT GARDENS

Significant Gardens are intentionally designed, heritage or botanic garden spaces (for example Gasworks park, Albert Park) that hold historical, horticultural and social value and are managed to high horticultural and heritage standards. These gardens function as cultural assets — places for formal planting displays, education, community programs and tranquil respite — and often attract partnership activity (community groups, EcoCentre and events).

The Urban Forest within Significant Gardens in the City of Port Phillip contributes to the city’s cultural and landscape heritage. These gardens feature formal and historic tree plantings, often including avenues of plane trees, Canary Island date palms, and ornamental exotics, complemented by specimen trees and designed shrub layers. Tree arrangements are typically structured and symmetrical, reinforcing garden layouts, vistas, and heritage character. The trees play a key role in defining spaces, providing shade, framing views, supporting biodiversity, and enhancing the overall sense of heritage and amenity within the gardens.

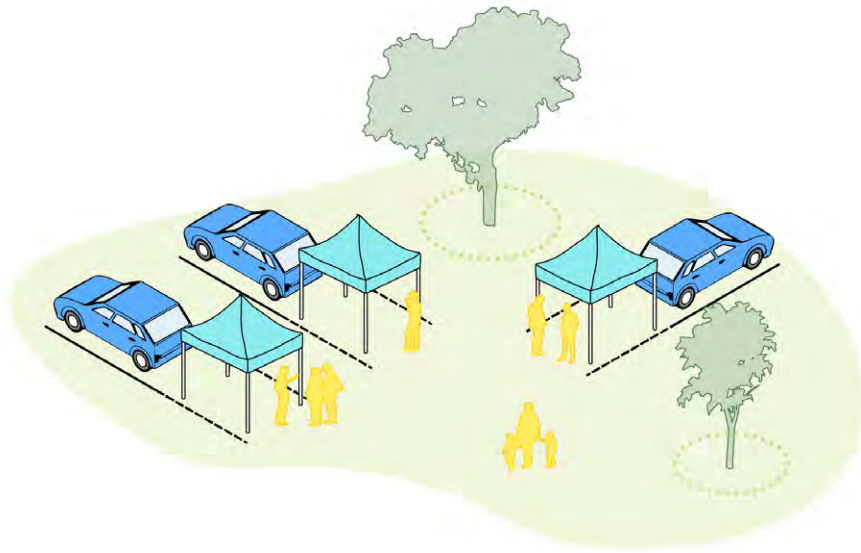
Tree Selection Considerations	• Have strong visual character and enhance the aesthetic identity of the street trees in adjacent areas. • Species that are tolerant of formative pruning to retain sightlines. • Minimise dropping of large seed pods or branches onto busy footpaths or seating areas. • Species that are tolerant of coastal conditions including: salt spray, wind and sandy soils.
Opportunities to Increase Canopy	• Many of these spaces include native trees in naturalistic arrangements, meaning that it's relatively easy to provide dense groupings of trees in these spaces without a jarring change of landscape character. • There are opportunities to provide more Road Closures to increase the Urban Forest.



Figure 50: Gasworks Park, Albert Park

05.3 OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

The following series of illustrations and best practice project examples, demonstrate potential interventions to increase canopy in open spaces within the precinct.

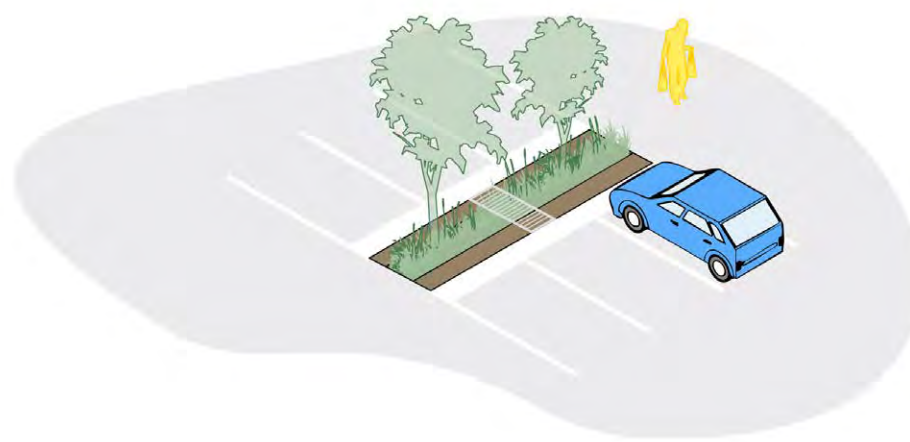


TREES SUPPORTING EVENTS

Thoughtful consideration of operational needs and spatial requirements for events can guide the design of planting programs and open-space upgrades that strategically increase canopy cover.

A well-planned tree canopy can support events in a variety of ways, including:

- Framing key views to stages and event space.
- Delivering essential shade and comfort for spectators, market goers, and the wider community.
- Offering acoustic buffering to reduce noise spill to surrounding areas.
- Creating zones and wayfinding cues.



CANOPY AND GREENING OPPORTUNITIES IN CARPARKS

Underutilised Council owned carparks associated with open spaces provide opportunities to provide additional trees, greening and Integrated Water Management infrastructure.

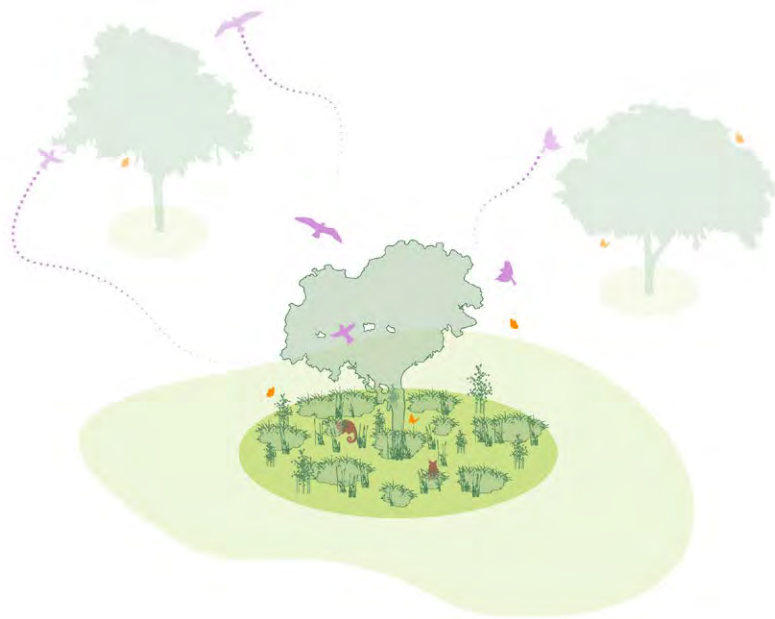


TREES SUPPORTING SPORTS FACILITIES

Thoughtful consideration of operational needs and spatial requirements for sports facilities can guide the design of planting programs and open-space upgrades that strategically increase tree canopy.

A well-planned tree canopy can support sports facilities in a variety of ways, including:

- Framing key sightlines to fields, courts, or spectator areas.
- Providing essential shade and comfort for players, spectators, and the wider community.
- Offering acoustic buffering to reduce noise spill to surrounding areas.
- Enhancing the overall aesthetic and identity of the sports precinct.
- Providing buffers to built form.
- Providing greening to unutilised areas of the sports precinct.
- Providing shade to play spaces (in particular to metal play elements).

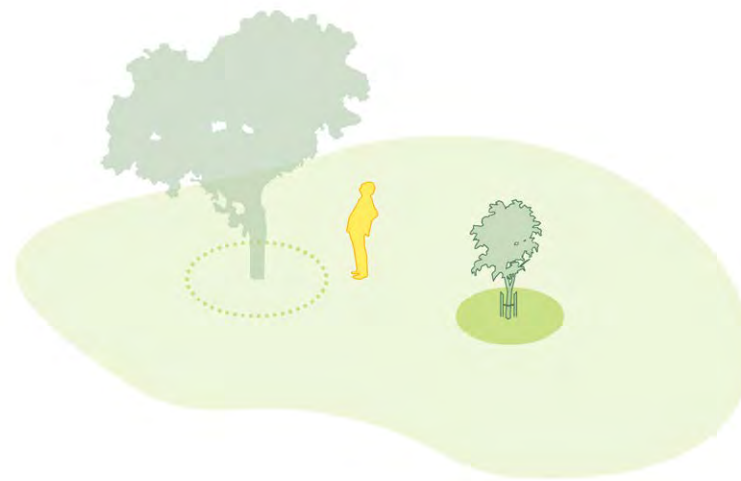


PROVIDING UNDERSTOREY TO EXISTING TREES

Replacing grass or pavement around existing trees with biodiverse understorey plantings offers multiple benefits for trees, the broader ecosystem, and the community. These include:

- **Enhanced tree health:** Improved access to water and nutrients, along with improved soil aeration and reduced soil compaction supports larger, healthier trees. Removing pavement enhances root connectivity and supports the development of a healthy soil micro-organism community.
- **Increased greening and visual amenity:** Rich understorey plantings can enhance the aesthetic quality of open spaces and streetscapes.
- **Habitat creation:** Diverse plantings provide shelter and food for birds, invertebrates, small mammals, and reptiles, supporting local biodiversity.

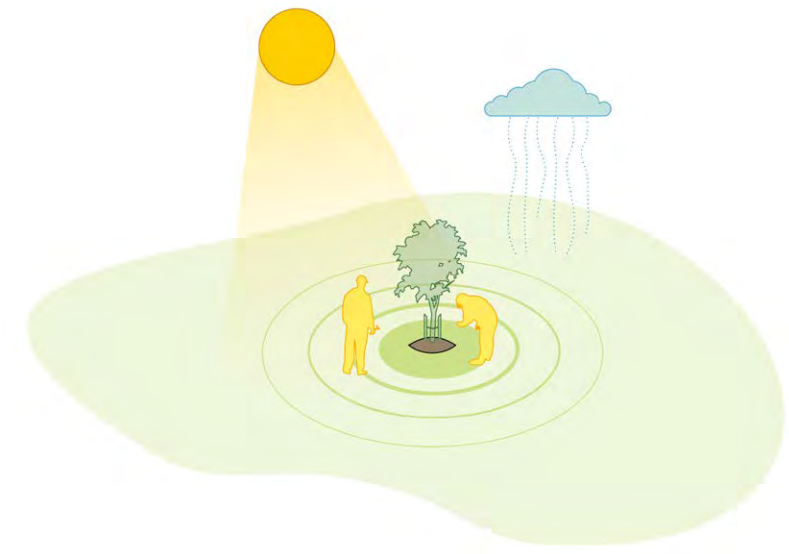
Trees grow bigger and live longer through these measures, reducing costs of repeated removal and replacement. When trees are connected through shared areas of exposed soil and planted understorey, their roots help maintain a healthy, living soil environment. This forms an important first line of defence against infections and deadly plant pathogens such as Fusarium wilt and Phytophthora.



SUCCESSION AND INFILL PLANTING

Considering the useful life expectancy of existing canopy trees and planning for succession is a critical strategy for maintaining and increasing canopy in open spaces. Key benefits include:

- **Continuity of canopy cover:** Succession planting ensures that new trees are established well before existing canopy trees reach the end of their life, reducing the impact of tree loss on shade, amenity, and landscape character.
- **Long-term landscape planning:** Planning for succession allows for thoughtful spatial and species selection, ensuring that future trees complement existing infrastructure, sightlines, and public spaces.



PLANTING LEGACY TREES

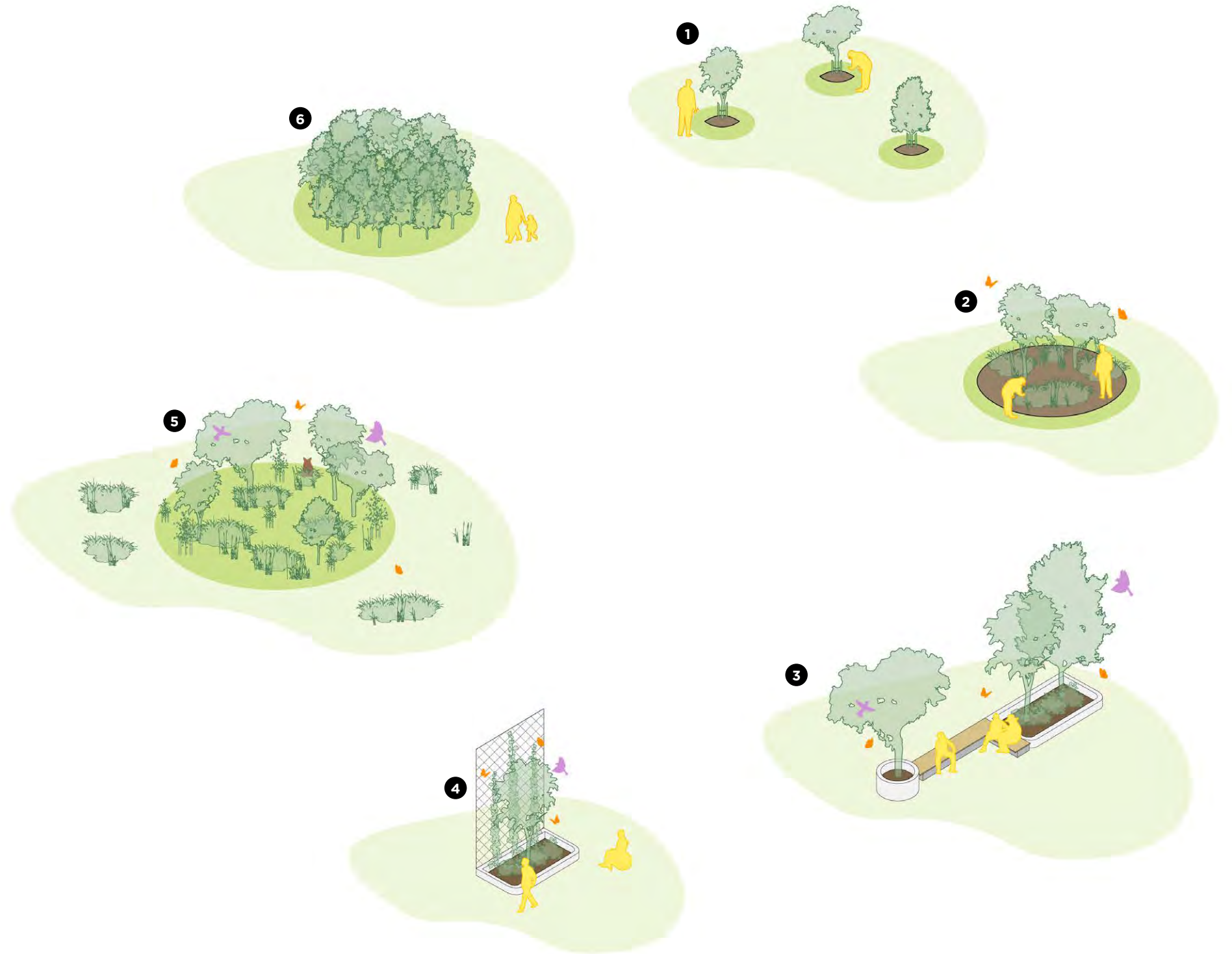
Legacy trees are trees that are deliberately planted in positions and growing conditions that will facilitate maximum canopy and shade growth. Planting legacy trees has the following benefits:

- **Long-term canopy and shade:** Legacy trees provide substantial canopy well into the future, offering shade, cooling, and visual amenity to open spaces.
- **Sustainable landscape strategy:** Legacy trees are a sustainable method for maintaining and enhancing green infrastructure over time, reducing the need for frequent replacements.
- **Ecological benefits:** Their size and longevity support habitat for birds, invertebrates, and other wildlife, contributing to local biodiversity.
- **Cultural and social value:** Legacy trees create enduring landmarks within the community, fostering a sense of place and connection to the landscape across generations.

INNOVATION

Open spaces may be able to deliver additional vegetation and create habitat through innovative selection of materials and planting techniques, such as:

1. Continuing to support species trials.
2. Smart integration such as monitoring soil moisture to support adaptive water management, and real-time monitoring of ecosystems.
3. Nature based solutions that integrate nature into design solutions and create habitat in urban environments.
4. Innovation in above-ground landscaping that may provide additional opportunities for urban greening where soil conditions or site constraints limit planting in ground.
5. Planting Woody Meadows that incorporate Australian shrubs, maintained by coppicing (to promote flowering and create dense canopies to exclude weeds).
6. Densely planted micro-forests that incorporate native species.



05.4

GREENING ON PRIVATE LAND AND LAND MANAGED BY OTHERS

The Urban Forest Strategy (2024-2040) recognises that everyone has a part to play in urban greening, including the objective that: *Our community is engaged, trees and plants are valued, and we build partnerships to green our urban environment across all land types.*

The Urban Forest Strategy actions for private land include:

- For Victorian Government-Managed Land:
 - Action 6: Advocate to the Victorian Government to ensure appropriate consideration of canopy cover in Electrical Line Clearance Regulations and for funding to support engineered solutions that address safety while reducing negative impacts on canopy coverage.
 - Action 8: Advocate to Victorian Government, including the Department of Transport, Parks Victoria, VicTrack, Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, and other agencies to increase maintenance, canopy coverage and biodiversity on state-managed land in the municipality.
- For new developments:
 - Action 14: Facilitate increase of canopy trees, and other type of innovative and resilient urban greenery in private developments via planning tools.
 - Action 15: Protect significant trees and vegetation in private realm that are valued by communities, including large canopy trees and indigenous vegetation via suitable planning tools and develop clear guidelines for Significant Tree Removal applications under the Local Law.
 - Action 25: Partner with developers to support greening, permeability, biodiversity and stormwater detention in public and private spaces in line with Act and Adapt and the Public Space Strategy.
- For supporting home gardeners:
 - Action 22: Support the community to implement the Nature Strip Guidelines (2022) and Community Gardens Assessment Guidelines (2021) and continue to provide community gardening support to promote sustainable gardening and biodiversity in public spaces.
 - Action 23: Deliver annual community activities to educate, incentivise and build greening capacity to improve the urban forest including resources for home gardeners and investigate ways to support home and community gardening.
 - Action 24: Provide resources to educate residents and provide guidance to developers on planting, biodiversity, and sustainable gardens to enhance the urban forest on private property.

Land managed by Victorian Government agencies includes many key transport routes, where high-quality canopy cover is essential for promoting active travel. Locations such as road reserves, the Middle Park light rail line and local schools can provide opportunities to improve biodiversity and canopy cover by advocating to and collaborating with the relevant land managers.

Private land (which accounts for 49% of the total land area in the City of Port Phillip) plays a vital role within the City's urban green space network. Residents and private landholders play an important role in planting, maintaining, and caring for urban vegetation. Whether in private gardens and balconies or through community gardening projects, greening on private land is a fundamental component of the urban forest.

Residential gardens and adjacent nature strips can provide critical habitat, cooling, and ecological benefits. When connected with the broader network of public parks and reserves, they can assist in the creation of a more resilient and liveable urban environment.

As part of the delivery of the Urban Forest Strategy Council will continue to work with developers and other stakeholders to embed greening, habitat connectivity and permeability into the urban form, ensuring a healthy future urban forest.



Figure 51: Large tree canopy on private property providing shade to Little Page Street, Middle Park



Figure 52: The Canterbury Road Urban Forest is an example of the potential of underutilised government land to contribute to urban forest.