



Places for People: Public Space Strategy

2022-32

Volume 1

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Council's vision

A well connected network of public spaces for all people that nurture and support the health, wellbeing, social connection, creative expressions, economy and environment of our community.

What is public space and why is it important?

Public space contributes to the liveability of our City and defines our unique sense of identity and place. It is open and accessible to people. It is essential to our physical and mental wellbeing. It is where we meet our friends, exercise, play sport and relax. It is generally publicly owned and includes footpaths, urban plazas, parks, sports fields and beaches.

In this strategy, public space is described in the following ways:



Public open space

Referred to in this strategy as open space – parks, gardens, reserves, the foreshore and urban spaces.



Streetscapes

These are the key streets that link our public spaces and shopping strips.



Publicly accessible space on private land

Spaces that are linked to major commercial and residential buildings that are privately owned but accessible to the public.



Shopping strips (activity centres)

These are the destination public spaces which people visit to socialise and relax.



Contributory public space

Public space such as waterways, civic plazas, forecourts and Victorian Government owned and managed land (such as schools).

What are we hoping to achieve through this Strategy?

The outcomes we are seeking to achieve for our City through this strategy include:



Diverse, attractive and inclusive

Our public spaces are designed with all people and their needs in mind. Everyone, no matter their age, gender, ability or background, should feel welcome. Our public spaces are able to host a variety of uses including active, informal and passive recreation for everyone to enjoy.



Better access

Our public space network is more extensive and better connected as we find ways to improve access to parks, gardens, reserves and high quality public space through enhanced green links, building on the movement and place network identified in Move, Connect Live Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2028.



Vibrant and adaptable

Our public spaces maximise opportunities to improve community wellbeing and enhance the identity, sense of place and amenity in our City. Our public spaces can be easily repurposed for physical distancing as well as facilitating increased active transport and stimulating social and economic recovery.



Blue-green

Our public spaces are greener incorporating water sensitive design and management. A diversity of healthy tree species and vegetation in our streets and public spaces have a positive influence on the health and wellbeing of our community and support a range of biodiversity. Incorporating water in public spaces makes them greener and cooler, helps to mitigate flooding and ensure water is not wasted.



Active

Our public spaces encourage our community to be active and healthy.



Cultural

Our spaces connect people to place and provide the opportunity to celebrate our culture, diversity and creativity.



Sustainable

Our public spaces are well maintained and climate resilient so that they can be enjoyed for generations to come.

How do we prioritise our efforts to achieve these outcomes?

We prioritise our efforts to achieve the above City-wide outcomes using four key criteria. These have been applied to projects contained within the Strategy and will be used into the future to assess new ideas, potential projects and requests for public space.



Equity

Access to public space is important to the health and wellbeing of our community. Wherever possible, we prioritise equitable provision in our investment in public spaces across our municipality now and into the future.



Quantity

We are a dense and growing inner city municipality. Wherever possible, we prioritise improving the quality of existing open space and creating new open space (noting that there are limited opportunities to create new open space).



Multiple use

Public space is limited and sometimes contested. We prioritise investment in public spaces that lend themselves to a variety of uses including active, informal and passive recreation for everyone to enjoy and share.



Innovation

We see investment in public space as benefiting current and future generations. That's why we prioritise opportunities to invest in testing and trialling innovative and temporary solutions to deliver short-term outcomes and ensure the benefits of long-term investment are maximised.

In assessing how we prioritise achieving our desired outcomes, first we determine how well a new idea, potential project or request for public space is strategically aligned with this Strategy.

We then look at our available funding (including the likelihood of funding from other sources such as State and Federal Government), consider the cost and, where possible, the associated benefits of projects.

This process is outlined in the Diagram 1 - Strategic alignment, funding and deliverability assessments.

1

Strategic alignment assessment

- Equity
- Quantity
- Multiple use
- Innovation

2

Funding assessment

- Partnership opportunities
- Council budget position
- Cost / cost benefit analysis of projects / portfolio

3

Deliverability assessment

- Portfolio capacity and capability

Diagram 1 - Strategic alignment, funding and deliverability assessments.

The Strategy informs Council's ongoing planning and investment in public spaces and will transform our existing spaces through an integrated action plan for each of our neighbourhoods.



What type of actions are proposed?

The prioritisation process described above and subsequent actions in Volume 3 of the Strategy will drive the future provision and management of public space in our City.

An Action Plan has been prepared for our neighbourhoods to guide investment in our public spaces. Each neighbourhood has specific actions tailored to deliver on the needs of the community, which may evolve over time as we undertake more detailed consultation on a project by project basis with our community. The types of neighbourhood actions include:

- new public open spaces, including exploring land acquisition opportunities
- expansion of existing open spaces
- upgrades to existing open spaces
- play space upgrades
- new pedestrian crossings
- landscape masterplans
- foreshore upgrades
- dog off-leash areas
- temporary projects
- street tree planting
- advocacy and partnerships
- structure plans

Strategies, guidelines and timeframe

The Victorian Government is currently implementing the Fishermans Bend Framework and preparing Precinct Implementation Plans for the neighbourhoods of Montague and Sandridge / Wirraway in Fishermans Bend. This will inform the future public space network; therefore no specific actions for Fishermans Bend are included in the Action Plan.

Our timeframes

The Action Plan has three stages for delivery:



What's happening in your neighbourhood?

Our City is made up of nine neighbourhoods (two in Fishermans Bend), each with their own distinctive character and community. While the City-wide spaces (the foreshore and Albert Park Reserve) contribute significantly to the overall network, the public spaces in each of the City's neighbourhoods are greatly valued by our community. Take a look at the key moves in each neighbourhood below.



1

Port Melbourne

- Improve the quality and diversity of three existing open spaces to increase appeal and level of use (Buckingham Reserve, Graham Street Underpass and Station Pier Linear Park).
- Prepare a framework plan to guide the future use and design of Waterfront Place.
- Prepare a landscape masterplan for the Port Melbourne Light Rail Linear Parks, including investigating the opportunity for a dog off-leash area.
- Improve pedestrian amenity in key local streets through increased greening.
- Advocate for improved pedestrian crossings across Williamstown Road to Fishermans Bend.

2

Fishermans Bend: Montague and Sandridge/Wirraway

- Council will advocate to, and partner with, the Victorian Government for:
- improving the quality and diversity of existing open spaces (Elder Smith Reserve, JL Murphy Reserve, North Port Oval and Kirrip Park)
 - early delivery of key open spaces within Fishermans Bend to respond to population growth
 - improved connectivity between public space in Fishermans Bend, South Melbourne and Port Melbourne
 - delivering high quality public spaces with a range of uses and functions to meet the needs of the future community.

3

Albert Park / Middle Park

- Improve the quality of two existing open spaces (Gasworks Arts Park and Moubray Street Community Park).
- Improve pedestrian amenity in key local streets through increased greening and seating.

4

South Melbourne

- Investigate the opportunity for two new open spaces (one in the South Melbourne Activity Centre and one in the South Melbourne Employment Area).
- Improve the quality and diversity of four existing open spaces (Ludwig Stamer Reserve, Sol Green Reserve, Eastern Reserve North and St Vincent Gardens).
- Increase the size of two existing open spaces (Sol Green Reserve and Eastern Reserve North) through reallocation of road space.
- Upgrade the Skinners Adventure Playground.
- Improve pedestrian amenity in local streets through increased greening.
- Advocate to Parks Victoria for a seamless connection between Albert Road Reserve and Albert Park Reserve as part of the Shrine to Sea project.

5

St Kilda Road

- Create a new public plaza in the Domain Precinct through reallocation of road space (Cobden Street Pocket Park).
- Increase the size of Bowen Crescent Reserve through reallocation of road space.
- Improve pedestrian amenity in local streets through increased greening.
- Advocate to Parks Victoria for public access to Albert Reserve and improved pedestrian connections and access into Albert Park Reserve.
- Investigate agreements with local schools to enable public access to their open spaces.

6

St Kilda / St Kilda West

- Create a new plaza outside the Palais Theatre through reallocation of road space.
- Improve the quality and diversity of six existing open spaces, including those along the foreshore (Acland Street Plaza, Pier Road, St Kilda Pier Landside, Rotary Park, South Beach Reserve and St Kilda Botanical Gardens).
- Upgrade the St Kilda Adventure Playground.
- Improve foreshore paths and cross-over safety between Donovans and Marina Reserve
- Improve pedestrian amenity in key local streets through increased greening.
- Engage in advocacy and partnership projects for the foreshore including St Kilda Pier and St Kilda Marina.

7

Elwood / Ripponlea

- Trial the expansion of Glen Eira Avenue Reserve in Ripponlea through reallocation of road space.
- Improve the quality and diversity of four existing open spaces along the foreshore to increase appeal and level of use (Clarke Reserve, Elwood Park and Elwood Foreshore, Glen Eira Avenue Reserve and Point Ormond Reserve).
- Support a dog off-leash area at MO Moran Reserve.
- Improve pedestrian amenity in key local streets through increased greening and seating, including along the shopping strip on Ormond Road.
- Investigate providing ongoing access to the Rippon Lea Estate through a long-term agreement with the National Trust of Australia.

8

Balacalava / St Kilda East

- Trial four temporary new spaces (two in Balacalava and two in St Kilda East).
- Undertake temporary beautification to a portion of the Green Line from Balacalava Station.
- Create two new small local open spaces (one in St Kilda East and one in Balacalava).
- Investigate the acquisition of land for additional new open space in St Kilda East.
- Increase the size of two existing open spaces (Pakington Street Reserve and Woodstock Street Reserve).
- Improve the quality of two existing open spaces (Alma Park East and Hewison Reserve).
- Improve pedestrian amenity in key local streets through increased greening and improve the existing pedestrian crossing to Alma Park.
- Investigate a partnership opportunity with the National Trust and Glen Eira City Council for access for the City of Port Phillip community to Glenfern Estate.
- Advocate to and partner with the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust to make the St Kilda Cemetery a more accessible, user-friendly public space.



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For more information, please contact us via:
portphillip.vic.gov.au/contact-us

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