



## Initiative 2 – Albert Park planting strategy

Cities are known for their contribution to the ‘heat island’ effect – where the large amounts of absorptive surfaces combined with materials of high thermal mass result in cities storing heat, reducing comfort over the summer months as referred to in the *Victorian Health and Wellbeing Act, 2008*.

The City of Melbourne’s Urban Forest Strategy 2012–2032 clearly identifies the benefits and importance of trees and their vital link to the health and well being of communities. These include:

- Environmental – shade and mitigation of the urban heat island effect
- Community – encourages outdoor activity which leads to greater positive impact on the community
- Economic – positive impact on tourism and decreasing health costs.

Building on the excellent work started by the City of Melbourne and the City of Port Phillip with respect to an Urban Forest Strategy, the master plan recommends the planting approach for Albert Park aligns with the current urban forest principles to guide the establishment and expansion of vegetation throughout the park over the long-term and support the case for ongoing carbon sequestration. This includes undertaking a study on the existing canopy coverage and thermal heat mapping conditions to provide detailed information for areas requiring a greater amount of tree planting, to understand which areas of Albert Park are most vulnerable and should be modified to lower temperatures.

The reduction in paved surfaces and additional planting has a direct impact on countering this effect, improving the summer comfort for visitors to the park, and those residing in surrounding buildings.

Specifically selected and located trees, to be planted, will provide a lasting legacy to be enjoyed by future generations. The planting strategy will be reviewed in consultation with existing events, lessees and organisers with a long-term vision for a greener Albert Park.

The current tree canopy at Albert Park comprises approximately 25% native and 75% exotic trees scattered in open lawn and grassy precincts and trees planted in avenues and rows that delineate current and former roads.

The ongoing selection of trees and ground covers will seek to address the native/exotic tree balance and draw on the previous 100 years of plantings in and around the park, inspiration from the indigenous flora of Port Phillip’s coastal hinterland and a contemporary approach to address the climate change over the next 100 years. It will extend existing patterns in the park as the basis for establishing the different landscape characters.

Emphasis will be placed on the selection of tree and plant species that are able to thrive in the more frequent temperature extremes, which will occur with climate change. Further reed beds within the lake filter storm water, provide additional habitat, and soften the urban edge to reframe a more natural, innovative urban ecology.

The planting approach should aspire to the following objectives:

- Utilising Albert Park as a heat sink, mitigating the impacts of the urban heat island effect through a long-term vision for a mature and established collection of trees
- A park landscape which provides a wide range of settings to support a diversity of visitor experiences
- Species which will be resilient to climate change
- A variety of exotic, native and indigenous species, suited to the specific site conditions
- Maintain formal planting patterns and historically important trees in select locations, to express connections and heritage, and to define and identify key locations such as the Palms Lawn and Pinetum
- Enhance indigenous conservation areas within the park to increase biodiversity and habitat values.

### **Action:**

**Review the planting strategy for Albert Park to consider the landscape character types, plant species and to increase plant numbers to provide improved shade, shelter and amenity relevant to visitors across the park including sport fields. The planting strategy provides direction and principles to guide the location for different plant community types and succession planting to respond to climate change impacts.**

### Initiative 3 – Learning in nature

Albert Park will provide an inviting and engaging environment to support various learning programs. It will provide an extension to local schools, providing a space for outdoor classrooms.

The master plan aim is that Albert Park will provide a critical connection between nature and health, providing physical, mental, social and economic health and wellbeing benefits. These benefits are well documented by the Victorian Government and referenced in appendix A: Policy context under the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019*.

Parks Victoria has developed a learning in nature plan outlining programs and initiatives that will reinvigorate the education and interpretation offer available in Victoria’s parks, including Albert Park. The plan includes a range of programs to enable learning in nature, such as the Wild Cities program, Urban Nature ‘Learn-scapes’, Junior Ranger program,

Citizen Science and Digital Discovery tours. The plan also supports Traditional Owners to share cultural knowledge and experiences with visitors and the local communities.

A low-key nature education area adjacent to and facilitated by the South Melbourne Park Primary School provides a space where children can learn about the interaction between nature and the environment in an urban park setting. The low-key nature play space will be accessible and available to Albert Park visitors.

**Action:**

**Implement ‘learning in nature’ programs to complement the Albert Park setting, in collaboration with partner organisations. Work to deliver programs and initiatives that engage and connect various sectors of the community in healthy park programs.**



Image: Brimbank Park, Melbourne  
Photo credit: Parks Victoria, 2018.

#### Initiative 4 – Maximise use of sustainable materials and resources

Increasing the use of sustainable materials and minimising the park’s overall consumption of resources is a priority for management.

Parks Victoria will aim for all new buildings and works to meet a high environmental standard and star rating for energy and water use including insulation, passive cooling, water tanks and solar panels. Parks Victoria will aim for a net zero emissions from all new lighting in the reserve.

Supporting the implementation of this initiative will be a set of design and development parameters to adhere to and that align with the principle of material and resource sustainability. The new Parks Victoria office at Albert Park will be exemplar in sustainable design to meet and support ongoing sustainable objectives.

New leases and development agreements provide a key mechanism for government and Parks Victoria to enforce improvements. Design and development parameters, are to be developed to provide a key reference tool against which all future developments and works must be assessed.

**Action:**

**Develop guiding principles for future management and potential development of any asset or feature within Albert Park to meet with responsive sustainability principles and best practice guidelines.**

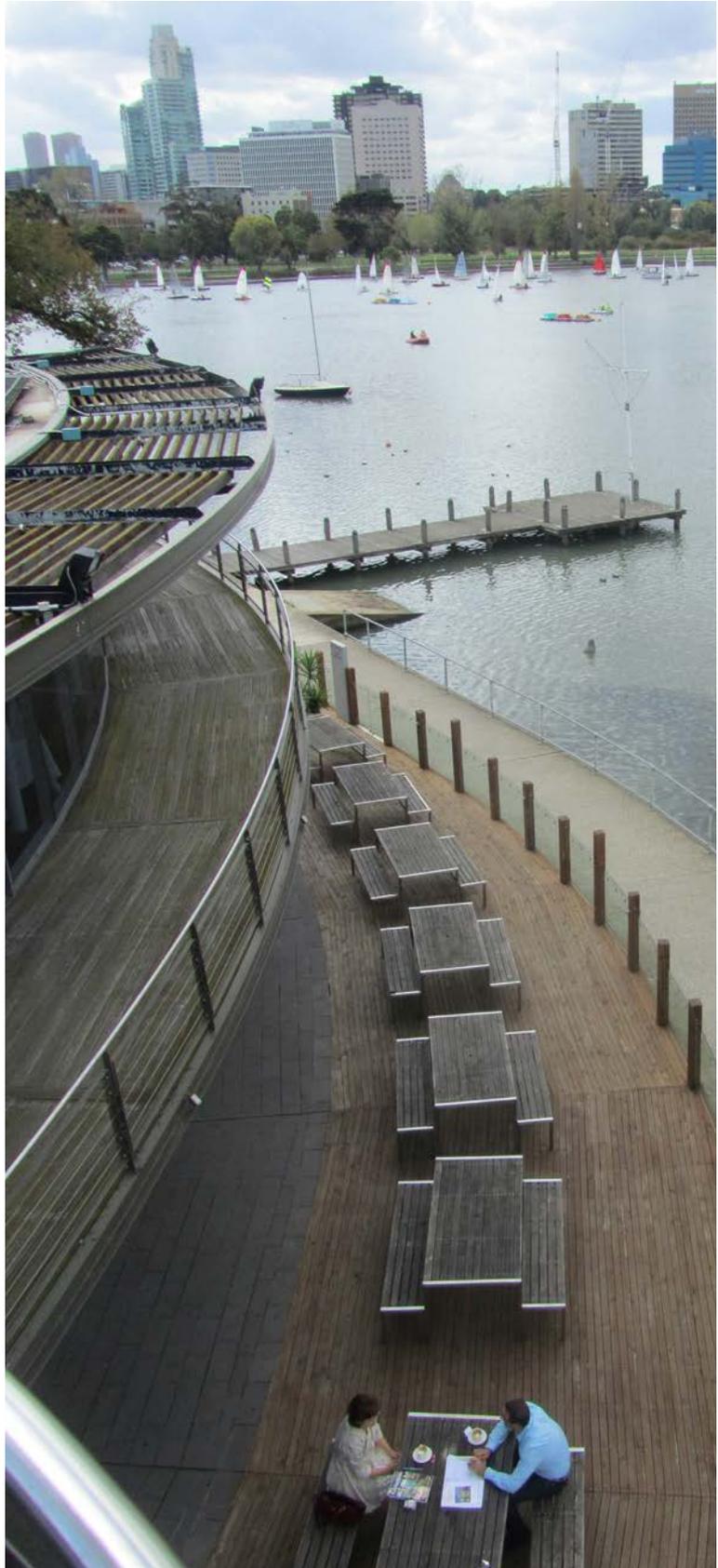


Image: Albert Park, Melbourne  
Photo credit: Parks Victoria, 2018.

### Initiative 5 – Improve social sustainability

Albert Park will be a central metropolitan park venue used to explore opportunities with volunteer and partner organisations working to deliver programs that engage and connect various sectors of the community in healthy park programs.

**Action:**

**Deliver programs in collaboration with partner organisations that develop and improve the aims and aspirations of a socially sustainable environment across all sectors of the community.**

Albert Park brings millions of people together every year. The master plan aims to encourage the sense of connectedness and community within the diversity of people who visit the park. Sports clubs play a vital role in building sense of team and sense of community for those engaging in structured sports.

Volunteering allows the community to share a common sense of place and social connectivity. It affords beneficial social interaction, communication and learning in a shared space and rich park environment.



Image: Melbourne City Bike Share, St Kilda  
Photo credit: City of Port Phillip, 2018.

## Initiative 6 – Celebrate the importance of the lake as the centre of the park

The lake sits at the centre of Albert Park and is a major body of fresh water that plays a key role in the network of parks in and around Melbourne. The lake defines and distinguishes Albert Park from other large open spaces around Melbourne. The water provides a focus for recreation, supporting sailing, rowing and fishing. It affords views to and across the water and engagement with the benefits of increased access and proximity to fresh water.

The lake has an important ecological function and service, for the storage and treatment of storm water captured from surrounding neighbourhoods.

The master plan aims to reinvigorate the lake surrounds, with a new lake edge, boardwalk and the expansion and enhancement of the existing wetlands. This will provide a range of different ways for visitors to engage more closely with the aquatic environment.

### **Action:**

**Deliver a new and holistically integrated interface with the lake and lake edge that focuses on the environmental wetland aspects with consideration for pedestrian and water craft access.**



Image: Albert Park, Melbourne  
Photo credit: City of Port Phillip, 2018.

## Initiative 7 – The lake promenade as the primary destination

The Lake Promenade will be a generous path around the lake's edge. It will incorporate both the existing 'lake path' and the 'lake circuit', as they currently referred. The aim of combining these two paths is to improve the accessibility and quality of the park's primary destination.

The aim of widening the lake promenade is to better accommodate groups of walkers, families, runners, casual and family cyclists and will be similar in width to the "Tan" track around the Botanic Gardens (6.5m wide). Trees located between the two existing paths will be retained and incorporated in the Lake Promenade.

Wherever possible the Lake Promenade hugs the lake edge, ensuring a continuous relationship between users and the lake. In two locations where the lakeside venues, sailing clubs and boat sheds are located, the Lake Promenade will divide into two. This will provide a continuous path for jogging, running and casual riding away from the conflict with rowing and sailing rigging areas.

Lakeside venues and sporting clubs have an important interface with the lake edge that is critical to their success and operations – be that lakeside dining or boat launching. The experience by casual strollers and families walking continuously along the lakeside section of the wide Lake Promenade will be enhanced by consolidating car parking away from the lake edge. The dedicated boat rigging areas will also be separated from the continuous lakeside promenade.

The Lake Promenade will be extended as a continuous gravel pavement, to measure five kilometres in length and be ideally suited to training schedules and distance events such as fun runs and the weekly 'Park Run'. Additional lighting will be provided to allow for safe, extended use in the shorter day winter months.

The Lake Promenade will provide direct access and connections to a range of activities, including:

- picnic areas, play spaces and fitness stations that relate to the local context of the park
- fitness nodes including the fitness park
- board walks through the lake reeds with associated platforms
- cafés, restaurants and event areas
- boat harbouring and rigging areas.

### **Action:**

**Improve and extend the existing lakeside path to a five kilometre-long lakeside promenade to act as a signature destination for the park.**



Image: Albert Park, Melbourne  
Photo credit: Parks Victoria, 2018.

## Initiative 8 – Support lake recreation

The aim of the master plan is to increase lake recreation as Albert Park Lake remains an important asset for water based activities.

In addition to existing recreational and competitive lake activities, specific approaches will be considered to aim to maintain the lake at a depth with suitable clearance for sail boats, and enable a rowing course through the centre of the lake. An increase of a range of recreational opportunities will be explored such as kayaking and canoeing.

With the full length of the lake currently being utilised for sailing and rowing, the southern end of the lake will include passive recreation activities. A wetland area will offer the experience of a small channel to invite further exploration.

Fishing is an important recreation activity on the lake and will be enhanced through addition of fishing platforms.

### **Action:**

**Support an increase in lake and water craft activities that align with Albert Park broader activation objectives including recreational fishing.**



## Initiative 9 – Wetland boardwalks

A meandering timber board walk will traverse the wetlands to provide an opportunity for visitors of all abilities to access and interact more closely with the wetland. The aim of the board walk is to include opportunities for visitors to pause and enjoy the surrounding environment, particularly on boardwalk platforms that appear to float and provide unique picnic opportunities.

Wetlands play an important role in maintaining the health of the lake and will provide a great opportunity for visitors to explore and learn about the value of wetlands in water filtration, nutrient stripping and erosion control. The lake will provide a diverse ecosystem and habitat for a range of aquatic and bird species.

Reminiscent of the original pre-settlement landscape, new wetlands at the north and south end of the lake look to re-establish the indigenous plant species including trees, sedges and water plants, providing habitat for birds and aquatic life. The wetland will be constructed on the landward side of the lake wall and extend into the lake. There is an opportunity to explore the wetlands from the lake's perspective as a kayaker.

A timber boardwalk encircles the wetlands at the Albert Road/Lakeside Drive end of the lake, providing an opportunity to experience the interface between the wetlands and the lake. These new wetlands are an integral component of the storm water treatment system, and will build upon the existing smaller wetland system where, through a series of wetland-based treatment ponds, local storm water is collected and filtered by the wetlands. This reduces flows of untreated storm water into Port Phillip Bay, contributing to the ongoing health of the bay.

Further investigation with sailing and rowing clubs will be required in developing the design and location of the wetlands and boardwalks to mitigate potential impacts for yachting and rowing.

### **Action:**

**Deliver an integrated wetland and boardwalk system to facilitate access and experience of the lake environment and wetland ecosystem.**

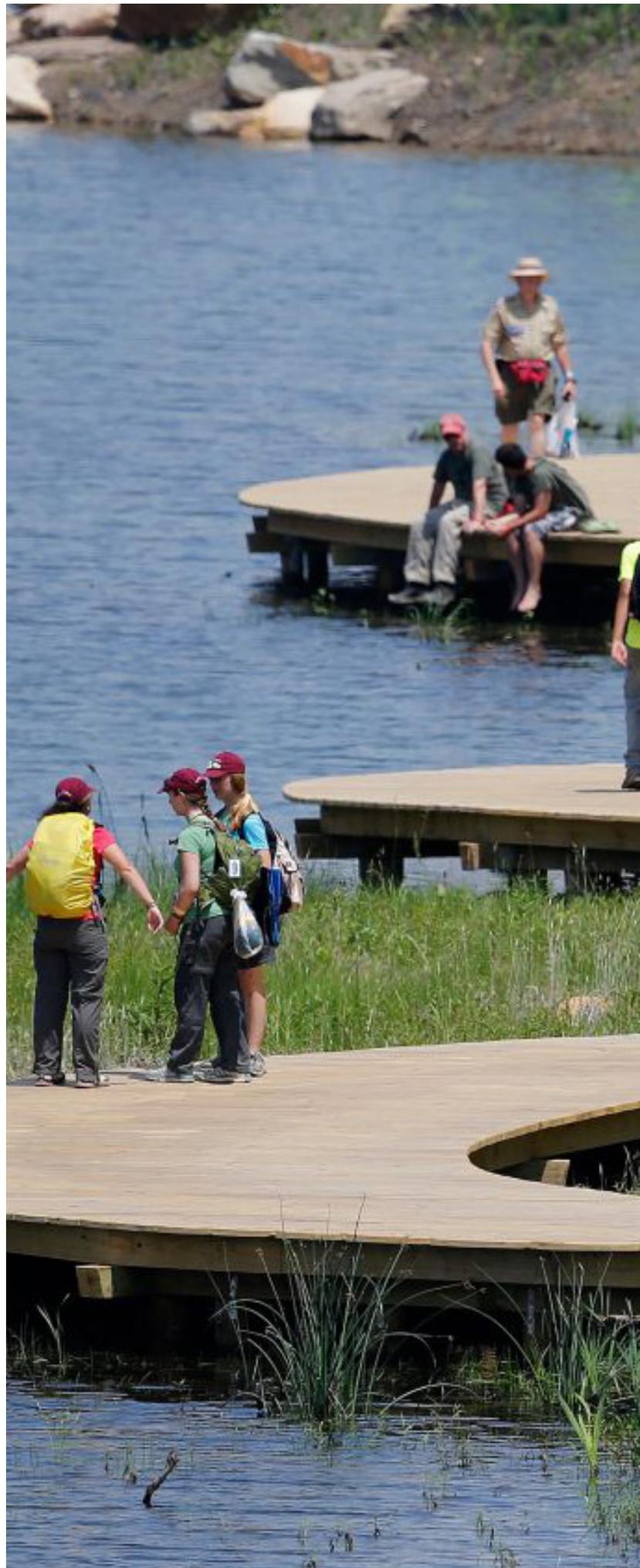


Image: Summit Bechtel National Scout Reserve wetland boardwalk  
Photo credit: Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, 2018.



### Initiative 10 – Gunn Island

Gunn Island, a central feature in the lake, will be retained. The island vegetation will be sensitively managed so that it can provide a safe refuge for roosting and breeding water birds and other fauna. The absence of feral cats and foxes on the island, coupled with very low levels of human disturbance make it an important site for bird life in a busy park setting. Retaining the island as a refuge is important for maintaining populations of the lake’s iconic Black Swans and other birds and animals.

To further enhance the lake’s conservation values, the conservation zone around the two smaller islands will be retained and managed to ensure the safety and protection of native animals and their habitat.

In addition to the wetlands, the surrounding parkland provides habitat for a number of bird species and native mammals and is an important source of food for many species. This habitat is enhanced through additional plantings along the lake shore.

The focus on using native trees and shrubs, indigenous to this area, assists in supporting habitat for native species ensuring they can continue to thrive in the urban environment.

**Action:**

**Develop and retain Gunn Island as a safe refuge for flora and fauna and maintain a management approach for the preservation and protection of Gunn Island and other islands that form part of Albert Park Lake.**

### Initiative 11 – Wetlands play and recreation

Located along the Lake Promenade and close to the gateway from Queens Road, the wetland play space adds to the range of play experiences dotted around Albert Park.

The wetlands play space will provide a simple and engaging experience in a natural lake setting. The attraction may be centred around the interplay and control of water via water sprays, through building channels and dams and opening sluice gates.

**Action:**

**Deliver a wetland play space that engages and connects with the various sectors of community, particularly children, in line with the healthy parks program.**



# 9. Theme two – community connections

## A community parkland

Albert Park provides a vitally important setting for people from all around Melbourne to connect through formal sports, recreation and enjoyment of the open space it provides for a range of leisure activities.

In order to continue to meet community needs, Albert Park will need to be flexible, to adapt to the ways in which visitors choose to recreate, as different sports become more popular, new activities emerge and the demands on park infrastructure change.

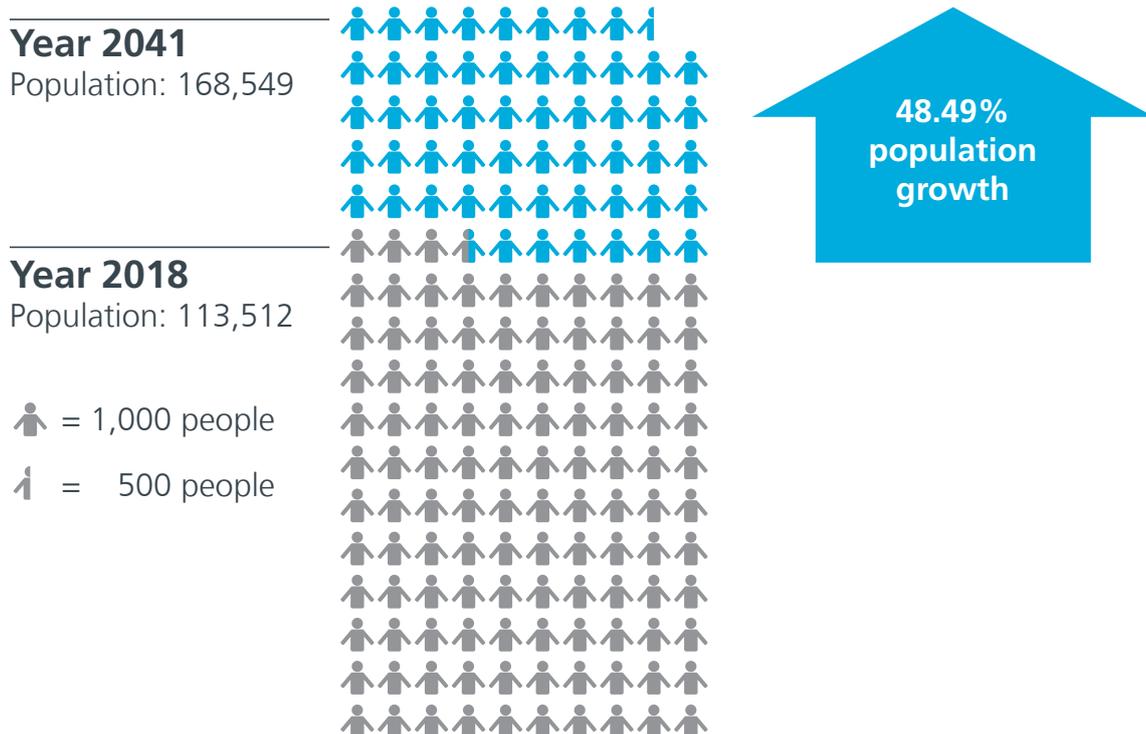
Visitors to Albert Park currently arrive by walking or cycling from neighbouring suburbs, by public transport or by travelling in private vehicles. Albert Park is uniquely positioned to access a wealth of public transport and active transport and travel options.

### Big changes

Big changes are needed to better cater for the dramatic increase in visitation that is projected for Albert Park. Locally, the City of Port Phillip population is projected to grow by 48.49% by 2041.

Albert Park must evolve over time to ensure that it continues to be an attractive place for people to come together, relax and enjoy sport recreation. There may be current functions that do not contribute to Albert Park’s core park values, that could be shed. These are propositions the master plan responds to and that will shape the future of Albert Park.

### City of Port Phillip projected population growth



## 9.1 Future direction - a welcoming park for everyone

Albert Park is serviced by a broad cycling network, four tram lines, bus stops and the new Anzac underground railway station. Bicycle routes from the City of Port Phillip direct cyclists through Albert Park on their way north to the centre of Melbourne and surrounding areas. The relatively flat topography provides for all abilities access.

The greatest barriers to visitation are poor access, significant barriers to pedestrian movement and poor signage, particularly along the park's eastern boundary. Providing better access and permeability along the eastern edge of the park through to the lake, is a key challenge.

In future, as transport technologies change, a continuing shift is anticipated away from private vehicle use towards walking, cycling and public transport, ride sharing, self-driving vehicles and other as yet unknown forms of transportation. Albert Park will need to adapt to these trends and accommodate new transport technologies as they establish.

Furthermore, as a valued part of Melbourne's open space network, Albert Park will be an exemplar for access via sustainable transport, providing a diverse range of options for visitors to travel to and within the park, highlighting its sustainability function as identified in the City of Port Phillip 'Move, Connect, Live' Draft Integrated Transport Strategy 2018–28.

Roads and car parking infrastructure currently comprise approximately 5% of the park by area. Consideration must be given to the flexibility and performance of these assets for functions other than transport.

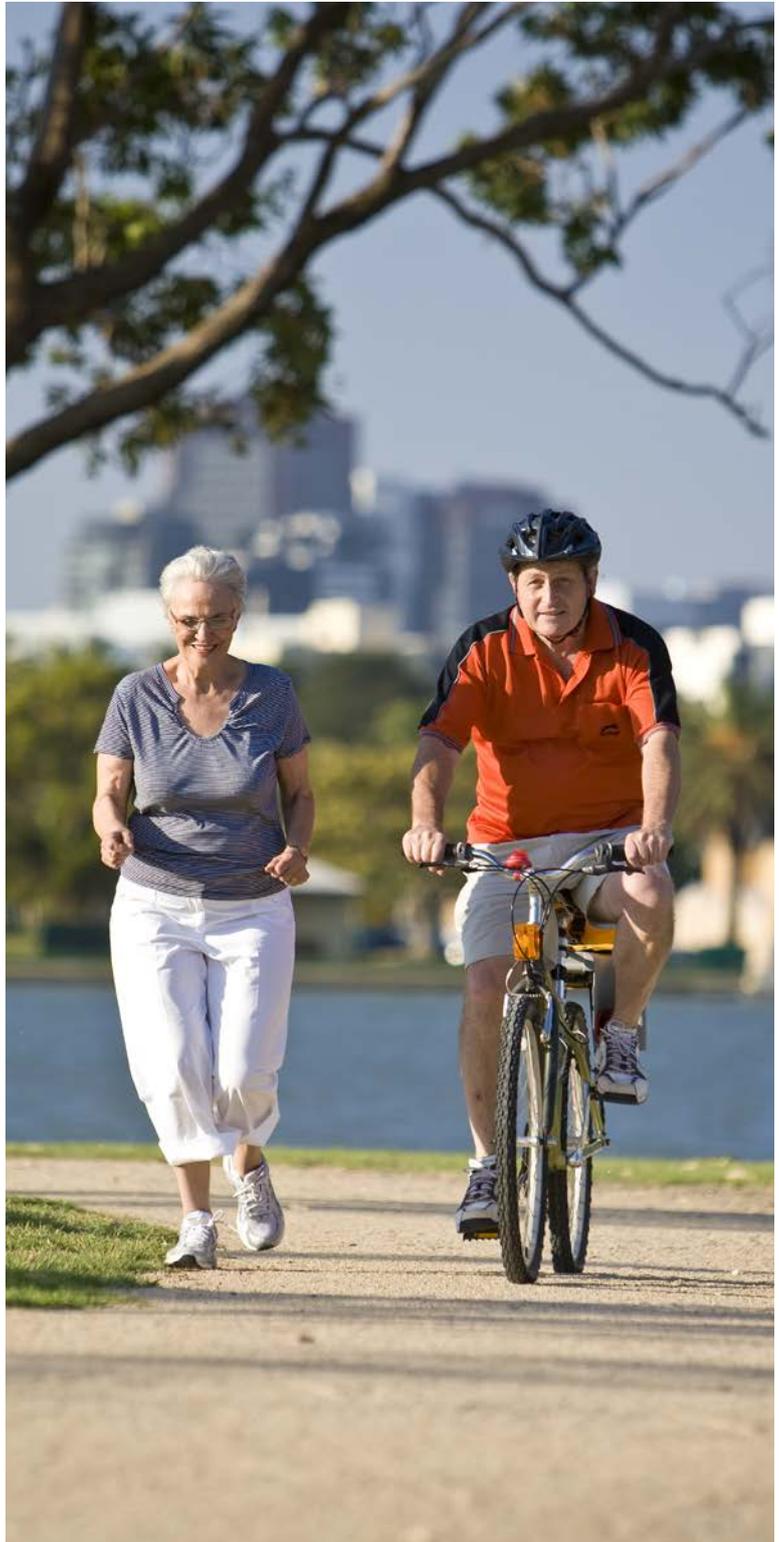
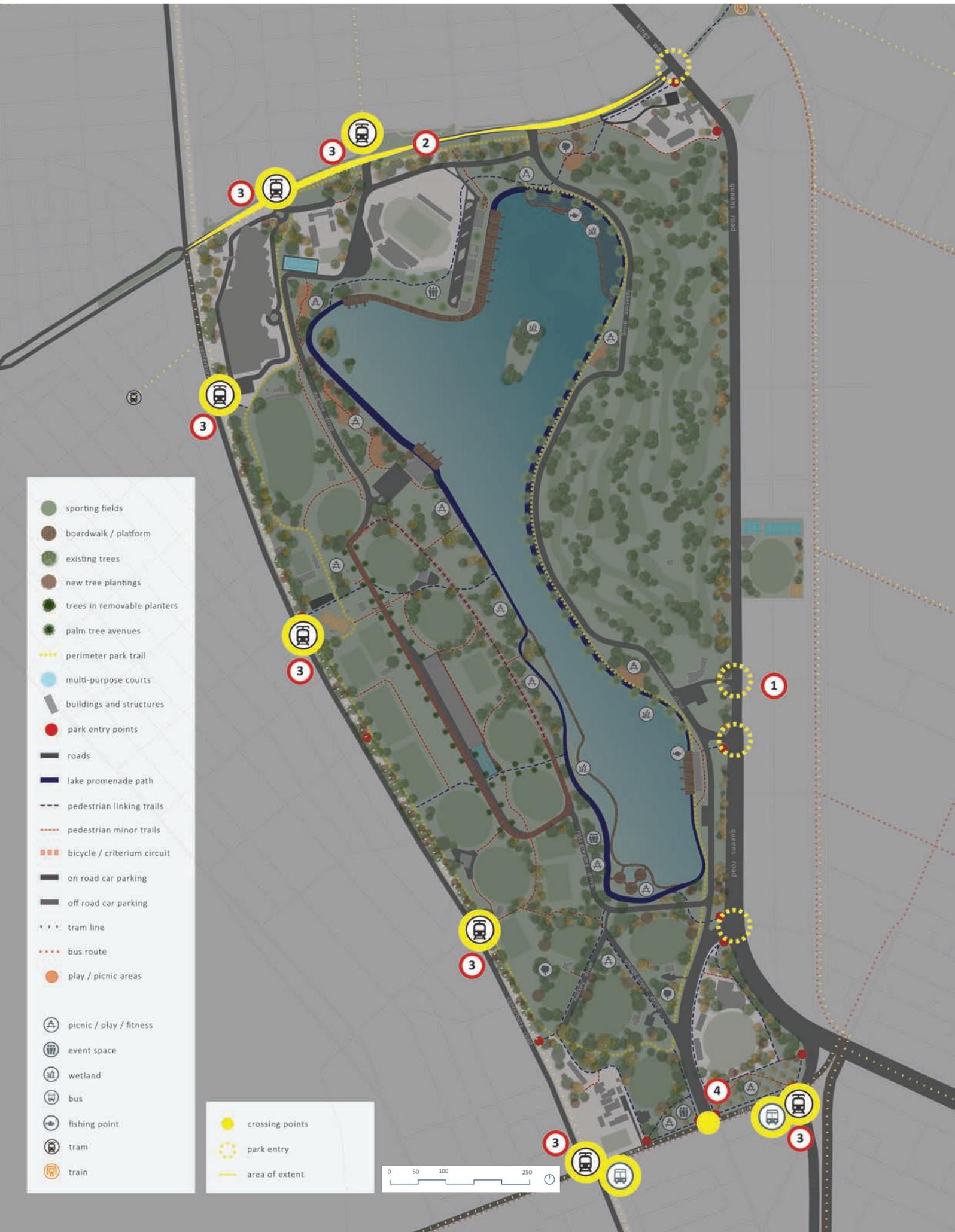


Image: Albert Park, Melbourne  
Photo credit: Parks Victoria, 2018.



- sporting fields
- boardwalk / platform
- existing trees
- new tree plantings
- trees in removable planters
- palm tree avenues
- perimeter park trail
- multi-purpose courts
- buildings and structures
- park entry points
- roads
- lake promenade path
- pedestrian linking trails
- pedestrian minor trails
- bicycle / criterium circuit
- on road car parking
- off road car parking
- tram line
- bus route
- play / picnic areas
- A picnic / play / fitness
- T event space
- W wetland
- B bus
- F fishing point
- T tram
- R train

- crossing points
- park entry
- area of extent



## Park interface

### 1 Initiative 1 – upgrade Queens Road at grade pedestrian crossing points

The master plan identifies an upgrade of the at-grade pedestrian crossing over Queens Road, at the intersection of Lorne Street. This will help connect the residents of St Kilda Road and Prahran with the park. All other existing at-grade pedestrian crossings across Queens Road will be retained.

#### **Action:**

**Consider safe access to Albert Park from Queens Road at the Lorne Street crossing and other potential at-grade pedestrian crossings along Queens Road to provide improved levels of accessibility.**

### 2 Initiative 2 – Albert Road boulevard

The aim in the master plan is to connect Albert Park into the fabric of its surrounding urban setting. This can be achieved by landscape treatments and tree planting that fits with the character and palette of Albert Park. This can include a tree lined avenue accommodating wide, separated cyclists and pedestrian paths, all connecting back into the park. With the changes at Anzac Station, there will be an increase in public transport commuters in the immediate vicinity.

#### **Action:**

**Extend the park character to Albert Road to intuitively identify Albert Park as a key park destination.**

### 3 Initiative 3 – prioritise public transport connections

All public transport stops that directly border the park will provide an integrated, seamless connection into the park. The master plan aims to make the most of the number of existing and proposed public transport options including an improved connection to the new Anzac station. Of the six tram stops that directly border the park, two are located along Albert Road, three along Canterbury Road and one

along Fitzroy Street. The aim for these entrances is to prioritise them as pedestrian entrances. This will include providing safe plantings, amenities and lighting to cater to higher use.

On-site parking will be reconfigured over time to encourage sustainable transport methods whilst catering for required park dependent needs, in alignment with the City of Port Phillip's Sustainable Transport Strategy (2014).

Planning and design of infrastructure will enhance the convenience and efficiency of access by public transport. A long term strategy will be developing planning controls, leases and agreements that will preference sustainable transport options for park leaseholders and events.

#### **Action:**

**Prioritise Albert Park's pedestrian access and public transport nodes and hubs.**

### 4 Initiative 4 – Fitzroy Street access enhancement

An aim of the master plan is to encourage a stronger connection between the residents, workers and visitors from the Fitzroy Street precinct, St Kilda Junction and Albert Park through the strengthening of the park entrances at Fitzroy Street and Queens Road.

#### **Action:**

**In collaboration with government partners work together toward the enhancement of existing pedestrian crossings along Fitzroy Street, including the underpass access from St Kilda Road Junction, at the intersection of Queens Road.**





## Park entrances

### Initiative 5 – clearly define park entrances

The master plan defines primary and secondary entry points that require specific landscape treatment to make them more identifiable as welcoming and open entrances to Albert Park and to increase visibility, accessibility and safety.

- **Primary entry points**

Primary entry points act as ‘signature’ entrances – they provide highly identifiable main access points into Albert Park, for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. Tree-lined pedestrian avenues lie adjacent to road entrances, which will provide wide, clear and safe threshold and entrance points.

- **Secondary entry points**

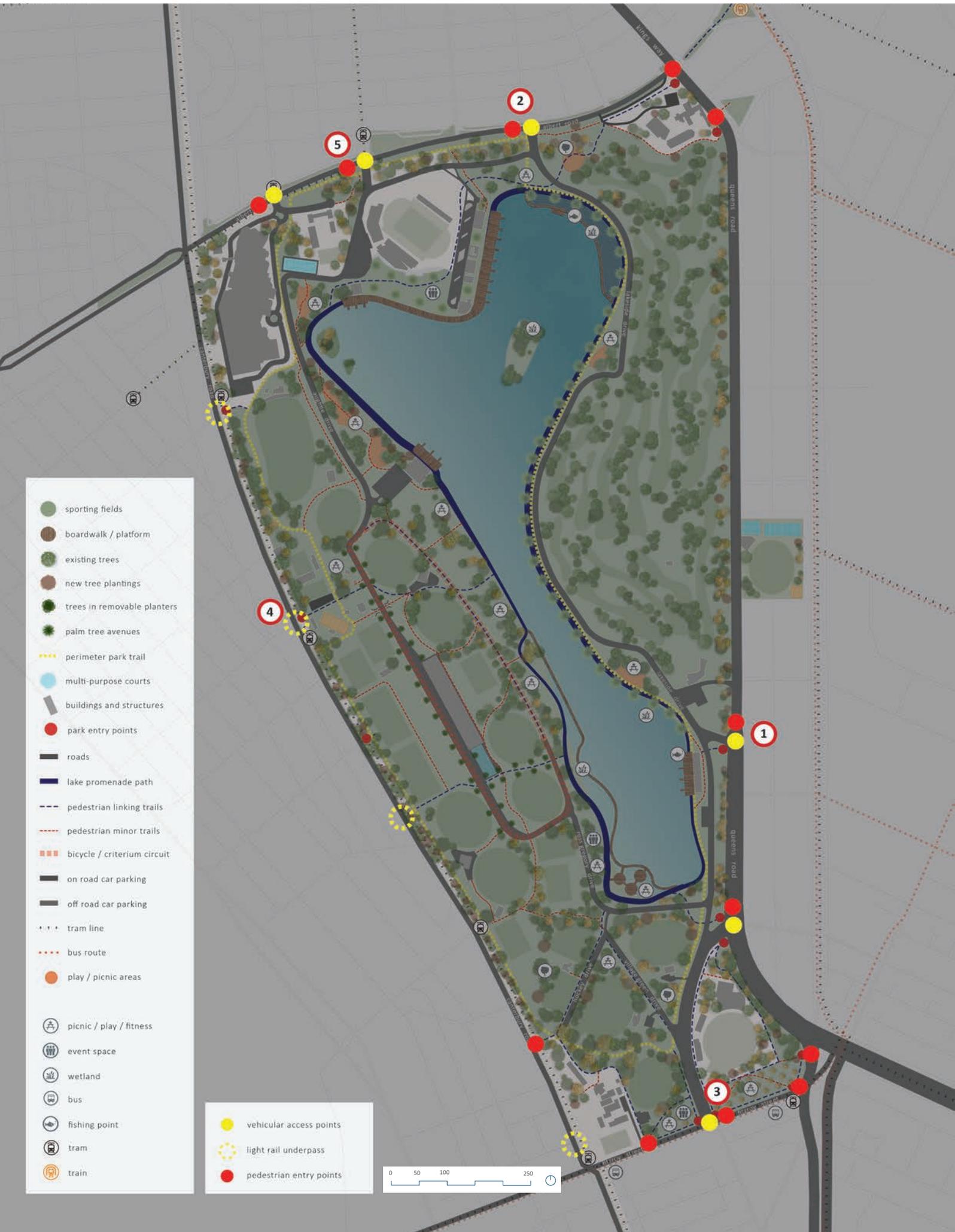
Secondary entry points are identifiable as more informal access points into Albert Park, suited to regular users requiring efficient, direct and convenient access to their destinations within the park. These entrances are consistent in style with each other, but exhibit a local planting character. The secondary entrances will be enhanced with path widening and landscape treatment to provide safe and inviting access.

Each entry will respond to its specific conditions while remaining recognisable as one of many possible entry points. Garden beds with a mixture of tree and low shrub plantings will help define each of the main entrances, while different species, colours and textures will differentiate entrances from each other. Through variations in planting, each entrance will be distinct and memorable along its boundary, while ensuring clear sight lines are maintained based on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, by addressing the principles of passive surveillance and legibility.

Entrances will include high quality signage and information to assist with way finding around the park.

**Action:**

**Define and formalise park entrances with dedicated planting, clear and safe access and easily definable destinations.**



- sporting fields
- boardwalk / platform
- existing trees
- new tree plantings
- trees in removable planters
- palm tree avenues
- perimeter park trail
- multi-purpose courts
- buildings and structures
- park entry points
- roads
- lake promenade path
- - - pedestrian linking trails
- - - pedestrian minor trails
- - - bicycle / criterium circuit
- on road car parking
- off road car parking
- · - · tram line
- · - · bus route
- play / picnic areas
- A picnic / play / fitness
- E event space
- W wetland
- B bus
- T fishing point
- TR tram
- TR train
- vehicular access points
- light rail underpass
- pedestrian entry points



# Getting to the park

## Initiative 6 – define primary accesses

### 1 Primary Access – Lakeside Gateway

The primary access point from the east will be the Lakeside Gateway, located at the intersection of Queens Road and High Street, which provides direct access to the Lake Promenade near the Powerhouse building. The Queens Road slip lane pedestrian crossing will be retained.

### 2 Primary Access – Lakeside Drive

A new primary entrance will be established along the Albert Park boundary, between Queens Road and Lakeside Drive. This will provide a generous, high volume entry point for visitors arriving from the new Anzac Station wishing to access the eastern edge of the park.

A second primary entrance will be established on the western side of Lakeside Drive capturing visitors arriving from north of the park.

### 3 Primary Access – Fitzroy Street

The Fitzroy Street entry provides the main entrance for visitors approaching from St Kilda, the foreshore and the proposed new tram super-stop. This entrance connects visitors from the leafy urban plaza landscape to the southern edge of the Lake Promenade along a wide tree lined avenue.

This entry is supported by secondary entrances at St Kilda Junction and adjacent to St Kilda Park Primary School.

### 4 Primary Access – Canterbury Road

The primary entrance on the western edge of the park will retain the existing underpass entrance at Middle Park, and also has dedicated vehicle access. This primary access will be supported with a series of secondary entrances located adjacent MSAC (underpass), Langridge Street (underpass) and Canterbury Way Reserve (underpass). An additional at-grade light-rail crossing exists at Fraser Street.

Entrances adjacent MSAC and at Middle Park will integrate with the light rail tram stops, while all entrances align with adjacent pedestrian crossings on Canterbury Road. The Bay Trail integrates the commuter cycling network with the Fraser Street entrance.

### 5 Primary Access – Aughtie Drive

The former gates at the Clarendon Street entrance to Aughtie Drive are to be retained and celebrated as a historic marker. This entrance will provide access to Lakeside Stadium and the north-west corner of the park.

The Clarendon Road entrance will be supported by a secondary entry point at Cecil Street, providing local access to South Melbourne Park Primary School and Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC). Both of these entrances are serviced by existing tram stops.

#### **Action:**

**Consolidate and revitalise existing park entrances as primary entrances and differentiate from informal secondary entrances.**

## Access the park

### Initiative 7 – improve the light rail underpasses

A key strategy for improving access at St Kilda Junction and along the western boundary of the park is to work collaboratively with partners to provide welcoming, accessible, safe and well-lit underpasses. This includes the underpass at St Kilda Junction and along the Canterbury Road light rail at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, Middle Park, Langridge Street and Canterbury Way Reserve.

Upgraded underpasses will support connections to public transport nodes, day-to-day use by walkers and cyclists and more effective visitor arrival and exiting during major events such as the Formula One Grand Prix. This process will involve collaboration between Parks Victoria, VicTrack and the City of Port Phillip.

Consideration will be given to integrated artwork, designated street art locations, installations and urban design treatments (including lighting) to maximise passive surveillance and visibility, while mitigating the potential impacts of anti-social behaviour.

#### **Action:**

**Work with stakeholders and Government agencies to improve light rail access points from Canterbury Road and St Kilda Junction.**



Image: Park entry experience, Canadian Gates, Green Park, London  
Photo credit: Parks Victoria, 2018.





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- T tram
- R train

- universal access points
- universal paths
- round the lake path



## Visitor circulation

The primary visitor circulation path network will broadly consist of a perimeter loop path that connects to each of the entrances around the boundary of the park; the new Lake Promenade and a series of tree-lined avenues that join the two. This provides a logical and legible framework for access that connects the path network to adjacent public transport and local bicycle networks. Quality trafficable surfaces will ensure that the primary path network is accessible to everyone. The provision of lighting will provide safe access to main avenues from the park boundary to and around the Lake Promenade at all times of day.

### 1 Initiative 8 – improving equitable, universal access

Albert Park master plan aims to create an exemplar of accessibility and inclusivity by bringing the park's paths and assets into compliance with requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act, 1992*, the *Victorian Disability Act, 2006* and industry codes and standards.

The path network and all facilities will be designed to the highest accessibility standards for people of all abilities, those with specific needs, for young people, the elderly and a diversity of cultural backgrounds and practices in line with principles in the World Health Organisation Age Friendly City Guidelines and Child Friendly Cities Guidelines.

The park's relatively flat topography means that universal access to virtually all areas, facilities and buildings are possible. This includes integration with adjacent public transport stops, which will generate economic benefit through its appeal as an accessible destination for tourism and events.

'Changing Places' toilets and other specialist facilities will be incorporated to increase the park's broader appeal to visitors.

#### **Action:**

**Ensure the implementation of paths, access, assets and facilities comply and meet with universal access principles including all current standards.**

### 2 Initiative 9 – removal of barriers to pedestrian movement

Free and unobstructed ground level public access will be maintained to all areas of the park, including limited access to lease areas.

An objective of the master plan is to avoid the inclusion of fences, bollards, clutter and other barriers, as they limit access and at other times, obstruct the flexible use of open space. Alternative techniques for controlling access such as mounds, swales and vegetation should be considered in preference to structures.

Roads and car parks often create a psychological barrier to movement, discouraging access to certain areas. At-grade crossings and the prioritisation of pedestrians and cyclists at key crossing points and intersections is supported.

#### **Action:**

**Remove and avoid landscape clutter, obstructions and psychological barriers to increase the quality of the visitor experience and ease and legibility of navigation through the park.**

## Visitor circulation

### 3 Initiative 10 – enhanced lighting, signage and amenities

Best-practice lighting and signage strategies will be developed for optimum safety and performance for the primary path network at all times of the day. This will include providing for increased access and use of the sporting fields, the Lake Promenade and other key locations.

The existing lights will be upgraded to meet with Albert Park's growing objective of broader environmental and social sustainability.

Lighting upgrade to the underpasses is to be considered in collaboration with other government partners and the principles of Safety in Design and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

A signage strategy will help to identify the park. It will provide a process for delivery of prudent distribution of:

- clear entrance signs
- clear directional signs
- interpretive and information signs
- regulatory signs.

A furniture manual will support the provision of high quality amenities including seating, picnic facilities, drinking fountains and other landscape furniture elements and add to the quality and significance of Albert Park as a primary visitor destination.

Signage will provide critical and useful navigation information that remains effective during major events or when park closures are in place. Another signage layer is to consider the identification of key destinations and points of interest through the varying linkages to places beyond the park boundary.

Utilising current and future digital technologies will be an additional asset in providing interpretation and information to park visitors and users, and will provide visitors with an insight into the park's heritage and its natural and cultural values.

#### **Action:**

**Deliver a whole of park landscape style guide including lighting and signage strategies to increase broader visitor activation and to foster a safe environment with easy navigation.**



Image: Shaded Avenue- The Mall and Literary Walk, Central Park  
Photo credit: Ahodges7, 2018.



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- T event space
- B bus
- F fishing point
- T tram
- T train

- park access points
- off road cycling paths
- tree lined avenues
- perimeter path
- commuter (on road)



## Visitor circulation

### 1 Initiative 11 – promote perimeter path

A perimeter path will utilise the existing path network with new, short, joining sections of path as required to form a continuous 7km loop trail for pedestrian and casual cyclists. The aim of this alternative path is to provide a quieter, sheltered and additional walking experience to the walk around the Lake Promenade. This loop trail will connect each of the current entrances and connect with the Lake Promenade.

Any future changes to access through the Eastern Woodlands (golf course) could provide an opportunity to realign this section of path. Additional opportunity exists to further extend the length of the trail by connecting the perimeter path/Lake Promenade with the nearby Royal Botanic Gardens 'Tan' track.

#### **Action:**

**Create a park perimeter walking loop to encourage a walking experience to take in other aspects of the park.**

### 2 Initiative 12 – tree lined avenues

The master plan aim is to create tree-lined avenues to promote tree shaded walks and locations to sit and rest or watch sporting events. The tree lined avenues will help with orientation and identification of location within the park.

Generously proportioned tree-lined avenues will connect entrances to the Lake Promenade. Pedestrian crossing facilities located at road crossings and aligning with these avenues will be improved (existing crossings) or provided (new).

In the short-term, events and access provisions limit tree planting in many areas and alternatives for tree planting will be investigated including relocatable planter boxes.

Over time, as park functions change, opportunity will be sought to establish avenues of mature shade trees and planting beds to help formalise the avenues and further provide shelter and shade.

#### **Action:**

**Deliver an increase of avenue tree planting as a component of the overall Albert Park Planting Strategy with particular reference to avenues and other key structured and formal tree plantings.**

### 3 Initiative 13 – an integrated cycling network

Bicycle paths and access will be improved with new on-road bicycle lanes and greater access to an off-road path network.

An objective of the master plan is to provide greater connectivity to the local bicycle networks north and south of Albert Park, and improve bicycle access within the park for casual, recreational and commuter riders including 'arm powered' hand-cycling. This aims to strengthen the connections from Moray Street, and with the Bay Trail increasing the universal access opportunities for all abilities. This approach supports the Victorian Government initiative called 'Shrine to Sea', to create a boulevard connecting the Domain Gardens to Port Philip Bay to promote and improve cycling and pedestrian links along Albert Road and connection into Albert Park along its journey.

Within the park, the generously proportioned primary path network will provide sufficient width to cater to a broad range of users, including casual and family riders. Commuter cyclists will be discouraged from using the western cycling path (a dog off-lead zone) and encouraged to use Aughtie Walk through Aughtie Drive. Casual and family leisure riders will continue to be able to cycle the western bike path.

On-road bicycle lanes will be integrated in both directions along Lakeside Drive to greater support commuter riders, and a city-bound bicycle lane along the northern length of Aughtie Drive will be provided subject to further consultation with VicRoads.

#### **Action:**

**Implement improved bicycle paths and access including new on-road bicycle lanes and greater access to off-road path network.**

### 4 Initiative 14 – programmed cycling circuits

Through utilising existing road infrastructure the master plan provides for the inclusion of street and criterium circuits. Both will be programmed as part of the sporting offers within the park.

#### **Action:**

**Provide a criterion cycling circuit as a component of the cycling network offer.**



- sporting fields
- boardwalk / platform
- existing trees
- new tree plantings
- trees in removable planters
- palm tree avenues
- perimeter park trail
- multi-purpose courts
- buildings and structures
- park entry points
- roads
- lake promenade path
- pedestrian linking trails
- pedestrian minor trails
- bicycle / criterium circuit
- on road car parking
- off road car parking
- tram line
- bus route
- play / picnic areas
- A picnic / play / fitness
- E event space
- W wetland
- B bus
- F fishing point
- T tram
- R train

- vehicle access points
- arterial route
- bus drop off
- vehicular parking



# Vehicles

## 1 Initiative 15 – rationalise vehicle access and circulation

The aim of the master plan is to encourage and support the Victorian Government direction for road users to regularly use public transport as the alternative to car travel.

The existing road network including the Grand Prix track will be retained, in recognition of its cultural, historic and tourism importance. Roads are viewed as an adaptable and flexible resource to provide opportunities for other community or social events. They can also support a more diverse range of functions over time and as demands change.

The separation between road, bicycle and pedestrian paths will reduce conflict. During events and on weekends when Lakeside Drive is closed to through traffic, the Golf Precinct Car Park will be accessed directly off Queens Road. Any event or weekend road closures for Aughtie Drive will mean that car parking for the Sports Precinct will be via the light rail underpass.

## 2 Initiative 16 – reduce vehicle through traffic

Reducing vehicle through traffic by initiating speed limit reductions within Albert Park, installing temporary road closures and reconfiguring a key intersection will help to make Albert Park more pedestrian friendly, safe and accessible.

Commuters use roads through Albert Park as alternatives to Queens Road. Unnecessarily high volumes of non-park related traffic through the park disrupt pedestrian access and park amenity.

While recognising the need for vehicular access and parking, particularly in the short-term, the master plan aims to reduce vehicle through traffic over time, in order to create a safer and more accessible pedestrian experience. Roads within Albert Park will reflect their context within a park environment, as distinct from the surrounding urban environment.

This will be achieved through a variety of traffic calming initiatives and methods, introduced incrementally over time, including infrastructure treatments, speed reductions, partial road closures and intersection reconfigurations.

The master plan recommends the investigation of:

- A reduction of the speed limit for Lakeside Drive to 40km/hr.
- Additional temporary road closures during weekends, on public holidays and non-peak periods to provide a car-free environment for cycling, community use and events. These strategies would be implemented incrementally over time, initially as a trial.
- The intersection of Lakeside Drive at Queens Road opposite Union Street will be reconfigured to direct city-bound Lakeside Drive commuter traffic onto Queens Road, to minimise vehicle through traffic in the park. The function of turning left at this intersection and to continuing along Lakeside Drive in a northern direction to Queens Road slip road will remain. The addition of traffic calming devices will identify this section of road as a less preferred option providing cyclists priority of access through this intersection.

These measures will further support the approach to reducing the carbon footprint of Albert Park.

### **Action:**

**Reduce the volume of vehicle traffic and rationalise vehicle access and circulation.**

# Vehicles

## 3 Initiative 17 – consolidate car parking

Car parking at Albert Park is to be considered as a flexible resource which will change over time in response to demand, mode shifts to cycling, public transport and sustainable transport options, and with the emergence of new transport technologies such as ride sharing and driver-less vehicles.

In this context, the long-term strategy is to take opportunities through development proposals to rationalise car parking resources and maximise the provision of open space.

Car parking will be carefully managed through a needs-based approach with a clear preference for visitors with specific parking needs. These include people with disabilities, visitors with boat trailers and local individuals who often carry large quantities of equipment such as coaches, golfers, trainers, umpires and local business operators.

The vast majority of other visitors access Albert Park for relatively short periods, primarily for drop-off and pick-up requirements. They are able to park within Albert Park for limited periods. Consequently, the majority of parking within the park should be short-term during the day, converting to longer-term parking at night time to improve access to park restaurants and cafés.

Car parking along Albert Road in the ‘Shrine to Sea’ master plan proposal (under development) will be developed with the Melbourne Metropolitan Rail Authority ‘Domain Precinct Development Plan’.

### Lakeside car park

The master plan identifies restructuring Lakeside car park to provide a safer, greener and easier entry to Albert Park. Dividing the parking into two separate areas will provide better views to the lake on arrival. The parking for vehicles with boat trailers between the boating hub and Lakeside Stadium will be retained.

#### **Action:**

**Consolidate visitor car parking and provide clear provision for other specific needs parking.**

## 4 Initiative 18 – drop-off and bus parking areas

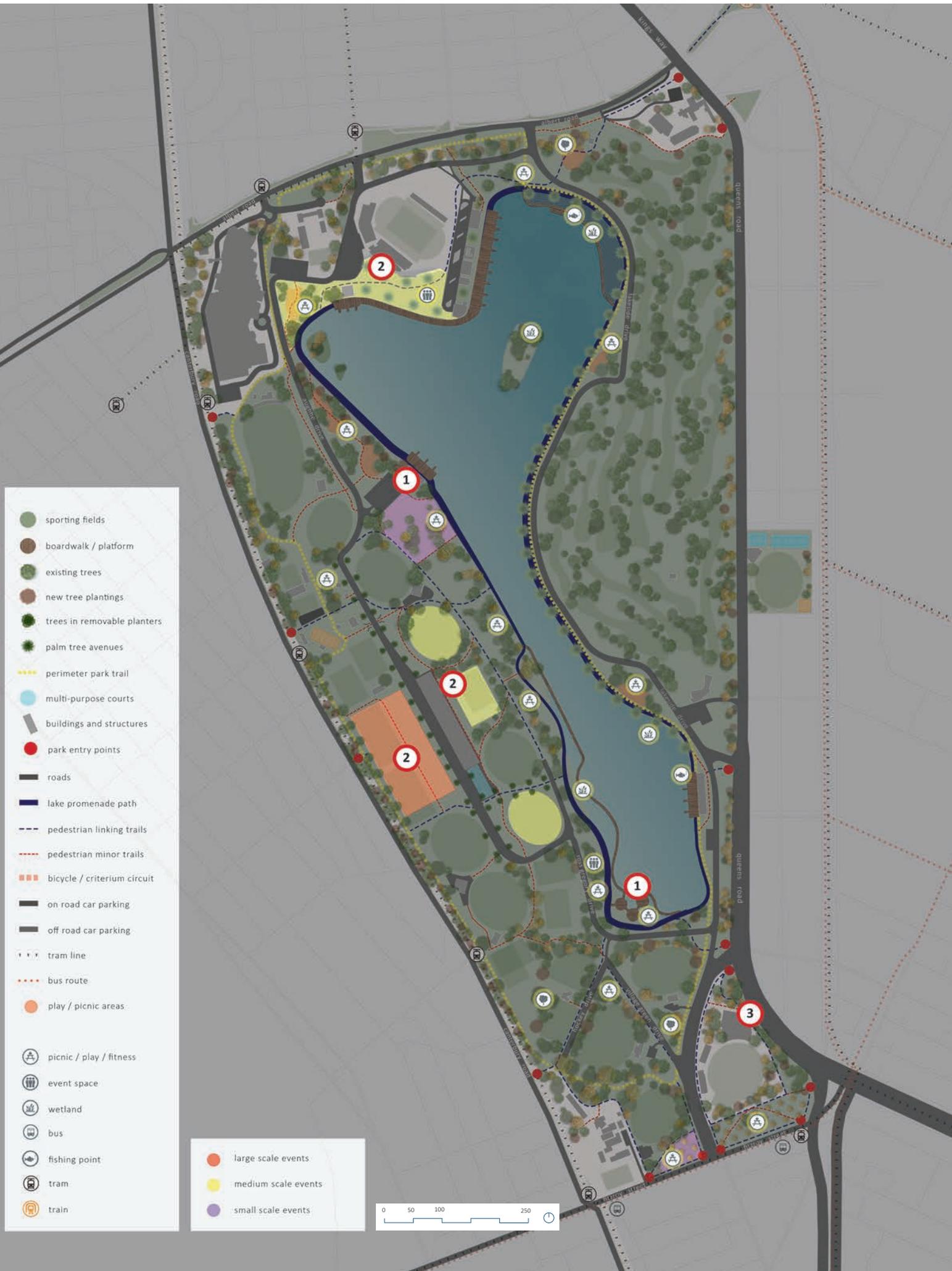
Efficient car and bus drop off facilities will be required in order to minimise traffic congestion and maximise pedestrian safety. A dedicated car and bus drop-off and pick-up area in front of Lakeside Stadium will provide ease of access to the Albert Road precinct, utilise existing pedestrian crossings whilst reducing traffic and the need for visitor buses to drive further into the park. This area will also cater for bus drop-off and pick-up for visiting groups such as other schools, and for the Melbourne Tourist Bus. Access to existing school car parks and dedicated entrances including to park neighbours such as Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre are retained.

Within the park, the master plan recommends that all new development proposals, including sporting club pavilions, consider the need for drop-off facilities to complement and offset the need of on-site parking.

#### **Action:**

**Consolidate general and large vehicle parking and provide clear provision for specific needs parking, drop-off and bus parking areas.**





## 9.2 Future direction – A healthy environment where people can connect with one another while being immersed in nature and culture.

There is a considerable body of research that indicates that time spent in nature, including parks and plantings, brings appreciable health benefits and contributes to population health outcomes as identified in the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019 and the accompanying Population Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework. Albert Park provides an important setting for people to visit, gather and participate in events.

A greater amount and variety of flora and fauna species will encourage people to spend more time in the park, and to return often, as they are more likely to experience something new each time they visit. There are opportunities for park users to have both an incidental and active engagement with Albert Park's environmental setting, in the following ways:

- Incidentally – through an increased presence of flora and fauna, as people are undertaking their regular activities (e.g. running, social gatherings, sporting events); and
- Actively – through the provision of interpretation and structured activities for school and community groups to learn about biodiversity in Albert Park.

Programs and spaces will need to be adaptable for a healthy community and to cope with climate change.

### **1 Initiative 1 – quality amenities and facilities**

A suite of high quality, contemporary facilities is required to support increases in visitation projected during the course of Albert Park renewal over the next 25 years. This will include:

- Increased tree planting
- An identified hierarchy of walking and cycling trails
- Boardwalks and decks
- Public toilets with universal access
- Benches, seating and tables
- Shelters
- Drinking fountains
- Fencing, bollards and rubbish bins
- Way finding, signage and interpretation.

The aim of the master plan is to ensure these facilities are considered holistically as a collection of complementary materials, design and elements which together contribute to the sense of place of Albert Park.

The public use of shared facilities and amenities associated with clubrooms will be considered, to minimise the number of buildings and structures within the park. Refer to Theme three 'Healthy and active'.

#### **Action:**

**Develop a series of design and development parameters to provide guidance on the design of park assets and facilities.**



# A healthy urban parkland

## 2 Initiative 2 – flexible event spaces

Albert Park will provide flexible and adaptable spaces of varying scale that will enable multiple events of various sizes and duration to occur simultaneously within the park. The aim of the master plan is to provide event spaces that will be developed in coordination with the programming for the use of the sporting fields.

Many of the current event spaces within Albert Park are located alongside and occasionally on the highly utilised sporting fields. With Albert Park continuing to be an important parkland venue for numerous Melbourne events, additional pressure is placed on access, traffic congestion, availability and the quality of playing surfaces.

Events that attract participant numbers in the order of 100 to 3,000+ people will continue to be accommodated, ensuring there is a demonstrated community benefit (as outlined in the City of Port Phillip, Open Space Strategy, 2009). Further investigation of events working with the sporting fields programming will be explored, so that the maximum availability for sports on high quality playing fields is prioritised. This will take into account any possible remediation works required post event to ensure the fields are at optimum quality for play. These areas would be suitable for hosting medium sized events and smaller community events.

Any major future changes to the park will require the current event locations and sizes to be reviewed for greater access and use of under-utilised areas of the park.

Events run and operated by tenants within their leased premises will continue to be accommodated within the management of the park.

### Major events – approximately 3,000 guests

The Noel Clarke and Barry Dixon sporting fields will remain the location for major events. The aim of the master plan is for all events to coordinate with the sporting fields programming, prioritising club sport availability on high quality playing fields. As an alternative, the Pelican Lawn and Ibis picnic/event areas can be combined to provide the space to cater to smaller large events.

Major event areas will include the following features:

- A large open lawn area suitable for a temporary stage and festival space, with good vehicular access
- Establishment of trees, which over time will provide much-needed shade and shelter surrounding the events area
- Permanent plug and play points for event exhibitors, ensuring easy access to power, water and data
- New all-abilities access public amenities facilities co-located with another building.

### Medium-scale events – 1,000 to 2,999 guests

Medium scale events and community events that attract up to 2,999 people have multiple location options available in the park.

These areas will include an open lawn area including trees for shade and character. To accommodate event infrastructure, access to power, water and communications will be provided in specific all weather locations.

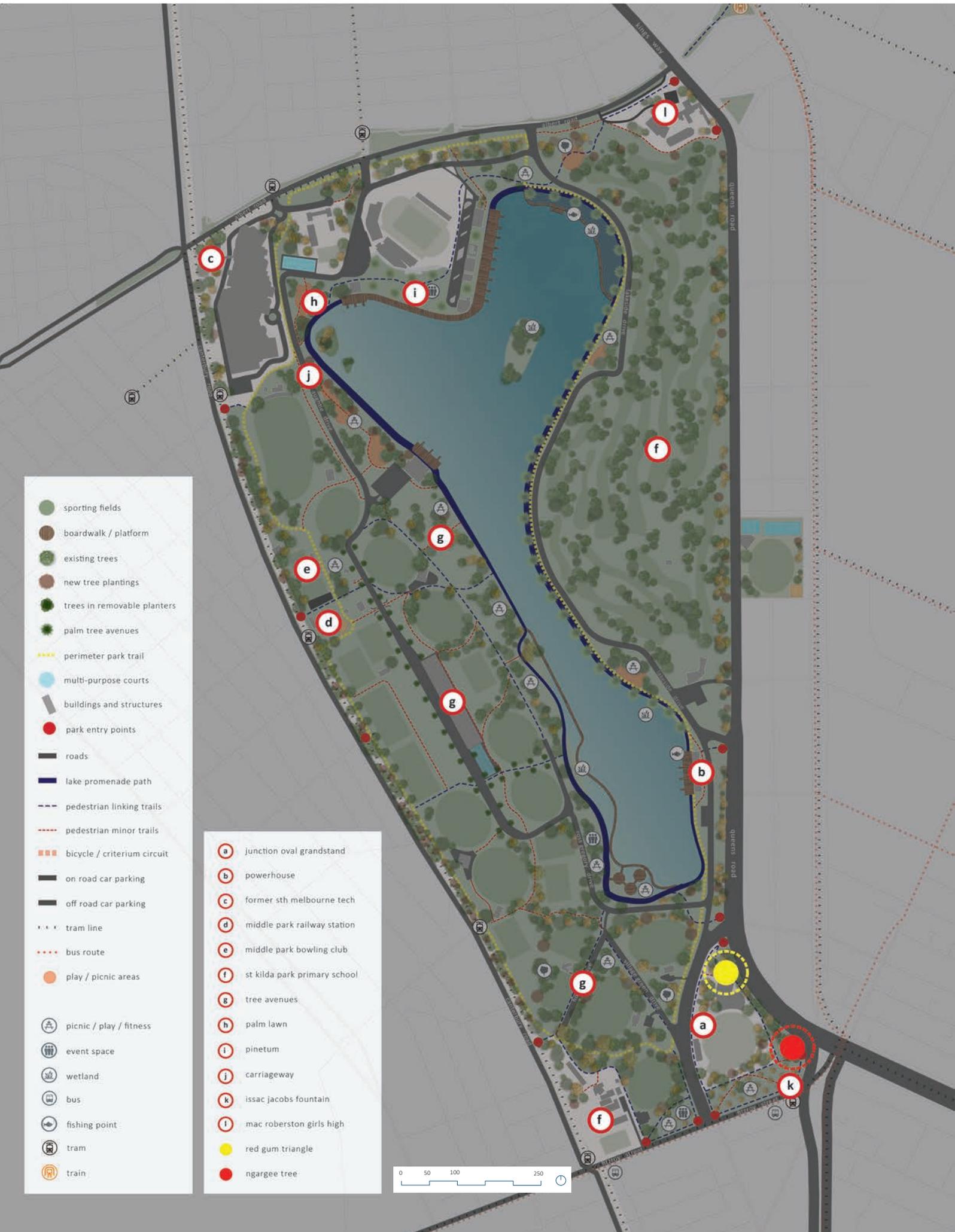
### Small-scale events – 100 to 1,000 guests

Smaller events and community events that attract up to 1,000 people have multiple locations available in the Park. These areas include:

- the leafy urban plaza located at the Fitzroy Street end of the park
- the open lawn amphitheatre adjacent 'Carousel'
- the area behind the St Kilda Park Primary School; and
- Grebe Picnic Area.

### Action:

**Include flexible event spaces in ongoing planning of Albert Park for planned and social events including a schedule for the upkeep of the event spaces.**



- sporting fields
- boardwalk / platform
- existing trees
- new tree plantings
- trees in removable planters
- palm tree avenues
- - - perimeter park trail
- multi-purpose courts
- buildings and structures
- park entry points
- roads
- lake promenade path
- - - pedestrian linking trails
- - - pedestrian minor trails
- - - bicycle / criterium circuit
- on road car parking
- off road car parking
- - - tram line
- - - bus route
- play / picnic areas
- ⊕ picnic / play / fitness
- ⊕ event space
- ⊕ wetland
- ⊕ bus
- ⊕ fishing point
- ⊕ tram
- ⊕ train

- ⊕ a junction oval grandstand
- ⊕ b powerhouse
- ⊕ c former sth melbourne tech
- ⊕ d middle park railway station
- ⊕ e middle park bowling club
- ⊕ f st kilda park primary school
- ⊕ g tree avenues
- ⊕ h palm lawn
- ⊕ i pinetum
- ⊕ j carriageway
- ⊕ k issac jacobs fountain
- ⊕ l mac roberston girls high
- red gum triangle
- ngargee tree



# Culture and heritage

## Initiative 3 – recognise and celebrate cultural heritage

The master plan will reference the park heritage through any new design. The aim of celebrating the culture and heritage of the park is to ensure the layering of the park's history is recognised and embedded into its future.

Prior to European occupation, the area that is Albert Park was a swampland and lagoon, and a valuable food source for Traditional Owners, whose understanding of Country through their knowledge systems allowed them to live off the land.

Over the past 200 years, the landscape has been highly modified, making it difficult to read Country as a knowledge system, in the way of Traditional Owners. Successive waves of swamp drainage, grazing, land filling, and establishment of formal plantings have all shaped the park, as it appears today. The many layers of the park's natural and cultural history are subtly woven through the site.

Albert Park has experienced multiple waves of redesign and development in response to changing aspirations. Originally covering around 600 hectares in size, the current 255 hectare park has been shaped by settlement pressures, wars and elite sports. Notable existing features of the park include the Ngargee (Corroboree) Tree and select avenues of trees, the carriageway near the Queens Road boundary, and the Blackie Ironmonger stand at the Junction Oval.

Initial discussions with the Traditional Owners need to be further developed to ensure their aspirations for the immediate area, surrounding the Ngargee (Corroboree) Tree and for the greater park, are realised prior to any further works within this area. More interpretation of the European heritage is also proposed, and will need to be developed as part of an overall Interpretation Strategy.

### **The Ngargee (Corroboree) Tree**

The Ngargee Tree is an old River Red Gum and is highly significant for the Traditional Owners of the area, due to its age.

The aim for the immediate area surrounding the Ngargee Tree is to be further developed in collaboration with the Traditional Owners of the area, to ensure their aspirations for the site are realised.

The Ngargee Tree is included in Victoria's National Trusts of Australia Register of Significant Trees.

The Ngargee Tree and its immediate environs are culturally important to the Traditional Owners as a living link to a pre-settlement time. Contemporary use of this place is for contemplation and learning about the cultural and natural history of the area.

Initial discussions with Boon Wurrung foundation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Wurundjeri Land Council identified their respective aspirations. Further discussions will be required to determine an agreed direction for the space prior to any additional planting works being undertaken in this area.

### **The Red Gum Triangle**

Located on the north side of the Junction Oval, the Red Gum Triangle provides a snapshot of the indigenous vegetation of the area, that can be accessed via a low key pedestrian path.

The aim of the master plan is to ensure continued support for the retention of the indigenous character of the Red Gum Triangle area and providing pedestrian access for an educational and immersive experience located in a highly urbanised area.

The Red Gum Triangle boasts stands of Red Gums and other native trees, with its characteristic native under storey, providing a picturesque, shaded pocket of local, indigenous vegetation.



## Culture and heritage

Largely the result of work by park volunteers to date, continued support for indigenous restoration will ensure this unique character endures for many decades to come.

Visitors will be encouraged to meander along a defined path, developing a greater appreciation and understanding of the area's original vegetation. This pocket of remnant vegetation established around the historic Ngargee Tree provides an opportunity to build volunteer services and educational programs.

A secondary pedestrian path will connect the Red Gum Triangle with the Ngargee Tree environs to the south and, north to the perimeter path.

### European heritage

European heritage sites listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, including those immediately neighbouring the park, will be conserved and incorporated into an Interpretation Strategy.

The master plan aim is to ensure the layering of the park's heritage is recognised and celebrated into the future.

The Interpretation Strategy will include other relevant registered sites under the Victorian Heritage Register and any identified on the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

Other cultural elements that will be incorporated into the Interpretation Strategy include the gates at the Aughtie Drive entrance at Albert Road, and the Isaac Jacobs Memorial Fountain. Currently located in the south eastern corner of the Park, adjacent to Fitzroy Street, the fountain will be relocated within the park and away from the park boundary.

### Action:

**Develop an interpretation plan to consider Albert Park's cultural and historic values. Protect the cultural values and engage directly with Traditional Owner groups to determine agreed course of action for cultural values and heritage.**

# 10.0 Theme three - healthy and active

## Healthy parks, healthy people

The City of Port Phillip is the most densely populated local government area (LGA) within inner Melbourne with more than 50% of its residents living in high density units, flats and apartments. Although Albert Park is not the only public open space within the municipality, it does provide nearly 40% of the available public open space for the City of Port Phillip.

Albert Park provides and will continue to provide a range of open space facilities that are easily accessible and cater to the increasing needs of municipal, metropolitan and regional communities including national and international visitors. The Albert Park Master Plan will increase the capacity of sporting reserves by upgrading facilities and grounds in order to promote and provide for foundation level sports opportunities including

increasing junior and female sporting pursuits. This is equally supported by a key recommendation of the 'City of Port Phillip Open Space Strategy 2009'.

High quality surfaces and increasing access to paths and walking tracks aim to provide greater and diverse opportunities for walking, which was identified as the most popular activity in both the 'City of Port Phillip Open Space Strategy 2009' and Albert Park Master Plan engagement process.



Image: Active Play, Melbourne  
Photo credit: Parks Victoria, 2018.

## 10.1 Future direction – an adaptable and diverse urban park that is enjoyed and valued for relaxation, sports and recreation.

### 1 Initiative 1 – programming sports ground use

Albert Park will ensure access to sports fields for training and games by developing more efficient programming and sharing of sporting grounds and facilities.

The aim of the master plan is to provide sporting grounds and facilities to cater to the increase in participation rates of diverse sports and greater team diversity and numbers.

A number of opportunities have been considered to increase the availability of sporting grounds while minimising impacts on existing tenants and ensuring major events are not affected.

In the medium-term, the current location and general layout is considered appropriate. Future changes to the use of the Sporting Precinct area will require broader precinct context consideration for integrated and holistic outcomes.

To provide for a greater carrying capacity and to better cater for future demand, Parks Victoria will work with the sporting clubs to increase the potential for greater diversity and participation. Developing efficient programming and the sharing of sporting grounds and facilities is based on ‘best practice’ approach, both locally and internationally, to deal with the increased pressure on existing sporting grounds. The implementation will be staged over time.

Where pavilions and clubrooms require significant upgrade, consideration could be given to shared use needs and public accessibility to amenities and facilities. Albert Park will remain a state wide destination for organised amateur sports, attracting players and clubs from around Melbourne.

The key challenge for the future is how to provide an adequate range of high quality sports grounds as visitation and demand increases over time.

### 2 Initiative 2 – increase resilience and performance of sports grounds

In order to cater to increasing demand, further investigation of new and emerging technologies such as synthetic surfaces and new hybrid grasses will be undertaken with the aim of increasing resilience and availability of sports fields.

Where sports grounds are to be upgraded, the size, configuration and surface type should be reconsidered in light of the available technology and specific needs.

#### **Action:**

**Detail plans for the upgrade of sports grounds and facilities for future upscale of sport participation and use. Develop an efficient program for the shared use and activation of sports grounds to maximise use and minimise impact and maintenance.**



- sporting fields
- boardwalk / platform
- existing trees
- new tree plantings
- trees in removable planters
- palm tree avenues
- perimeter park trail
- multi-purpose courts
- buildings and structures
- park entry points
- roads
- lake promenade path
- pedestrian linking trails
- pedestrian minor trails
- bicycle / criterium circuit
- on road car parking
- off road car parking
- tram line
- bus route
- play / picnic areas
- picnic / play / fitness
- event space
- wetland
- bus
- fishing point
- tram
- train

- outdoor fitness stations
- youth and community hub



## Health and activity

### 3 Initiative 3 – retain a golfing offer

The aim within the master plan is to retain the current 18 hole golf course and golf driving range at Albert Park in their current location. A key feature of the existing golf course is the well established planting and tree cover. This landscape adds to the significant character of Albert Park. Increased tree planting throughout Albert Park will build on and support the landscape character of the current golf course.

Parks Victoria will assess the golf offer provided at the golf course and golf driving range and consider a competitive allocation process for a future offer, in accordance with policy and legislative requirements.

Guiding principles for golf have been prepared by key stakeholders including golf clubs, current lessees and Parks Victoria to direct future actions and improvements to the golfing offer in Albert Park. (Refer Section 12.0 Appendices: Appendix C)

#### **Action:**

**Use the principles for golf in Albert Park to determine future improvements to the golfing offer in Albert Park.**

### 4 Initiative 4 – youth and community social hub

The aim of the social hub is to provide an outdoor space that encourages young people to gather and participate in informal sports and activities. It is a common space and a place to meet and catch up with friends, a similar social function of MSAC. Immediately located south-east of MSAC, on the Lake Promenade alongside the fitness park, outdoor facilities, structures and spaces are proposed that complement Albert Park's existing recreation opportunities.

Targeting young people and those visiting MSAC, it will cater to a variety of exercise opportunities, such as parkour, table tennis and half-court basketball, encouraging social interaction.

#### **Action:**

**Deliver a youth and community social hub that facilitates and builds on social connectivity and visitor amenity and health.**

### 5 Initiative 5 – multi-use courts

The multi-use courts provide important recreation spaces for children and youth as well as overflow spaces for the school and community. The objective is to provide programmable opportunities for the multi-use of a highly desired space.

The courts are designed to cater a range of activities including activities such as netball, basketball, volleyball, 5-a-side soccer and other similar activities. The courts will cater for both school programming and casual 'drop-in' sessions by locals out of school hours.

School drop-off and pick-up, together with parking are all programmable opportunities of the multi-use courts. An additional flat grassed open space between the school and Lakeside Stadium will also be able to be used in the same manner.

#### **Action:**

**Provide programmable opportunities for the multi-use courts given they are highly desired spaces.**

### 6 Initiative 6 – outdoor fitness

In line with Parks Victoria's Healthy Parks, Healthy People philosophy, fitness equipment that incorporates natural fitness elements will be located close to the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, with a greater number of facilities located at specific intervals along the Lakeside Promenade.

An outdoor fitness park with a range of equipment will provide fitness opportunities for a diversity of skills, ages and abilities. The aim of this outdoor fitness park is to contribute to and encourage the health and fitness of visitors to Albert Park.

This will supplement the existing opportunities that are provided in the surrounding City of Port Phillip, and will provide a location for serious fitness devotees, those who thrive on group activities, and pushing the fitness envelope.

#### **Action:**

**Plan and deliver outdoor fitness spaces to cater to a diversity of participants that facilitate and contribute to the health of park visitors.**

## Health and activity

### 1 Initiative 7 – contemporary play spaces

The park's vegetation and a number of play spaces will provide a diverse range of play experiences targeting the varying and different needs of visitors.

The objective of the master plan includes a major interest in a diverse range of play spaces, with further research to be undertaken for existing play space offers within the neighbouring area. Many visitors come to Albert Park with their children to play. Play spaces provide an engaging activity for children of parents visiting to participate in walking, sports or picnicking. Most of the play spaces are located adjacent to the Lake Promenade, making them easily accessible. Facilities including shade, toilets, water fountains and fitness stations are important in supporting play experiences.

#### Family play space

The family play space provides an engaging experience for the entire family, with larger adult and family-scale natural and constructed play equipment encouraging interaction between parents and their children, providing an important adjunct to traditional play equipment. It will be located closer to Albert Road.

#### Nature play space

Nature play provides greater opportunities for engagement with the natural and cultural environment of Albert Park, by encouraging activities that may involve modifying and interacting with the natural landscape. Nature play can be experienced across the park, in particular within areas of native vegetation adjacent to the Lake Promenade, and specifically on the western side. These areas act as adaptable open space – a place for nature play, a place to picnic and a place for gatherings.

Creative and densely planted, these spaces create opportunities for more intense nature play. These areas of thick plantings are scattered around the lake and adjacent to the community playground.

#### Adventure play space

The adventure play space creates an exciting and energetic play environment for older children encouraging exploration and discovery. An obstacle course provides a range of challenging tasks for children of varied ages, through a combination of the natural environment interspersed with unstructured play features.

#### All abilities and needs play space

All play spaces in Albert Park will provide for opportunities to integrate play for all age groups, interests, abilities and needs. A play space focusing particularly on special needs, such as those required for children on the autism spectrum, with hearing, sight or visual impairment or mobility limitations will be located along the northern end of the Lake Promenade. This play space will form part of an overall play strategy to provide greater opportunities and access to amenities for all.

The existing toilet block at the north-western corner of the lake will be remodelled to provide for all



Image: Central Park, New York  
Photo credit: ngfbruno, 2018.

abilities, including a changing places facility, suitable for people with severe and profound disabilities. The increase in palm canopy of the adjacent Palms Lawn will provide a more comfortable and shade amenity, connecting the play space, changing places facility through to the boat shed with its sail-ability program for people of all abilities.

The relatively flat topography of Albert Park, together with an increase in high quality opportunities for all abilities activities and access will label Albert Park as an exemplar park and a destination of choice.

### **Community space**

The timber play structure of the Middle Park Community Playground is to be upgraded to meet current play standards. An adjacent new nature-based play space primarily targeting early teenage children will make up the community play space.

### **Wetland play space**

The wetland playspace sits adjacent to the Lake Promenade and engages with the lake. It will provide

a simple and elegant water play experience in a natural setting. Like most water parks, the attraction is around the interplay and control of water such as water sprays, channels and control of water through building of dams and opening sluice gates.

The wetland play space adds to the range of combined picnic/play/fitness experiences located around Albert Park.

Fitness opportunities will be incorporated into the spaces to allow for casual fitness activities to be undertaken in a relaxed environment by parents of children.

### **Action:**

**Deliver a series of play spaces along a defined park journey and landscape narrative to cater to the diversity of visitors and young people that explore, investigate and experience the various environmental aspects of the park and lake.**





- sporting fields
- boardwalk / platform
- existing trees
- new tree plantings
- trees in removable planters
- palm tree avenues
- perimeter park trail
- multi-purpose courts
- buildings and structures
- park entry points
- roads
- lake promenade path
- pedestrian linking trails
- pedestrian minor trails
- bicycle / criterium circuit
- on road car parking
- off road car parking
- tram line
- bus route
- play / picnic areas

- family play space
- adventure play space
- nature play space
- existing bbq / picnic
- proposed bbq / picnic
- road cycling circuit
- criterium circuit
- dog off lead areas



## Health and activity

### 2 Initiative 8 – revitalise picnic areas

Four existing picnic and barbecue facilities located around the Lake Promenade will be improved with an additional six to be created.

Albert Park's picnic facilities are outdated and under-provisioned; the aim of the master plan is to undertake a significant expansion and upgrade to cater to future demand and meet contemporary standards and cultural needs.

Picnicking is particularly popular with different cultural communities who may gather in larger groups to celebrate events. Facilities that cater for cultural needs and practices as well as large groups are an attractor, including appropriately sized and arranged tables and spaces, toilets and type of barbecue facilities.

Albert Park will provide a greater opportunity for visitors to enjoy and connect with nature in attractive and sheltered environments. The four existing picnic and barbecue facilities to be improved include:

- Coot picnic area
- Swan picnic area
- Lakeside Drive (adjacent Eastern Woodlands)
- North of Cormorant picnic area.

The six new picnic areas will include:

- Wetlands picnic area (near Queens Road Slip Road)
- Nature play picnic area (between the lake and the golf course)
- Various locations along the western side of the Lake Promenade
- Near the Fitzroy Street interface
- Adjacent to the Ross Gregory Oval on the north-eastern side (including barbecue facilities)
- Southern wetlands (including barbecue facilities).

An iconic new feature of Albert Park, the wetland picnic area will consist of a number of individual decks leading off the boardwalk, providing an innovative new experience consisting of a network of small retreat spaces, each unique and distinctive in its location, which respond to the aquatic environment of the wetland. Together with the wetlands play space, this creates a major new destination for families.

#### **Action:**

**Upgrade existing picnic and barbecue facilities and provide additional picnic and barbecue facilities to accommodate greater visitation to and use of the park.**

### 3 Initiative 9 – lakeside platforms

The aim of the master plan is to create increased engagement opportunities with the lake and lake edge. The placement of occasional lakeside platforms located along the Lake Promenade will provide a range of different functions supporting yachting, rowing, fishing and model boat racing.

Integrating platforms into the design of the lake edge will provide the opportunity for walkers and joggers to stay close to the water. Continued access and views for park businesses and water based clubs will be maintained and enhanced.

#### **Action:**

**Deliver a series of lakeside platforms that engage with the lake to provide greater and more flexible opportunities for interaction, education and interpretation.**

### 4 Initiative 10 – criterium circuit and road cycling

The aim of the master plan is to provide adaptable multi-use and functional spaces wherever possible and adapting existing infrastructure to create such opportunities. One initiative is to create a criterium circuit and on-road cycling route using existing pavement infrastructure.

The criterium circuit will utilise a section of Aughtie Drive and Aughtie Walk on the western side of the park.

An additional programming opportunity exists for a cycling street circuit, utilising existing road infrastructure around the entire lake. Further consultation with Cycling Victoria, and local cycling clubs will be required to ensure that any circuit can be designed to provide for a breadth of functions from local competitions through to elite events, while continuing to function as a park at other times. This programming is responsive to the 'Shrine to Sea'

cycling and pedestrian initiative that looks to create a major pedestrian and cycle link to run along Albert Road and enable connection into Albert Park.

**Action:**

**Develop a criterium circuit and on-road cycling route utilising existing pavement infrastructure for programmed use.**

**5 Initiative 11 – dog off-lead areas**

The master plan aim is to continue to cater to the dog walking activity at the park and to retain dedicated dog off-lead areas.

Dog walking is an important recreational activity and many visitors to the park prefer to walk their dogs off-lead. Defined dog off-lead areas provide this opportunity while reducing the risks to other park users.

With the opening of the new South Melbourne Park Primary School in 2019, the dedicated dog off-lead area along the Albert Park Road park interface has been reduced. The section directly in front of the new school, from Aughtie Drive to Lakeside Drive has been removed for the safety of the local school children.

The existing dog off-lead area on the western side of the park will remain to its current extent.

**Action:**

**Continue to provide dedicated dog off-lead areas for visitor and dog walker needs, focusing on the social aspects and visitor safety.**

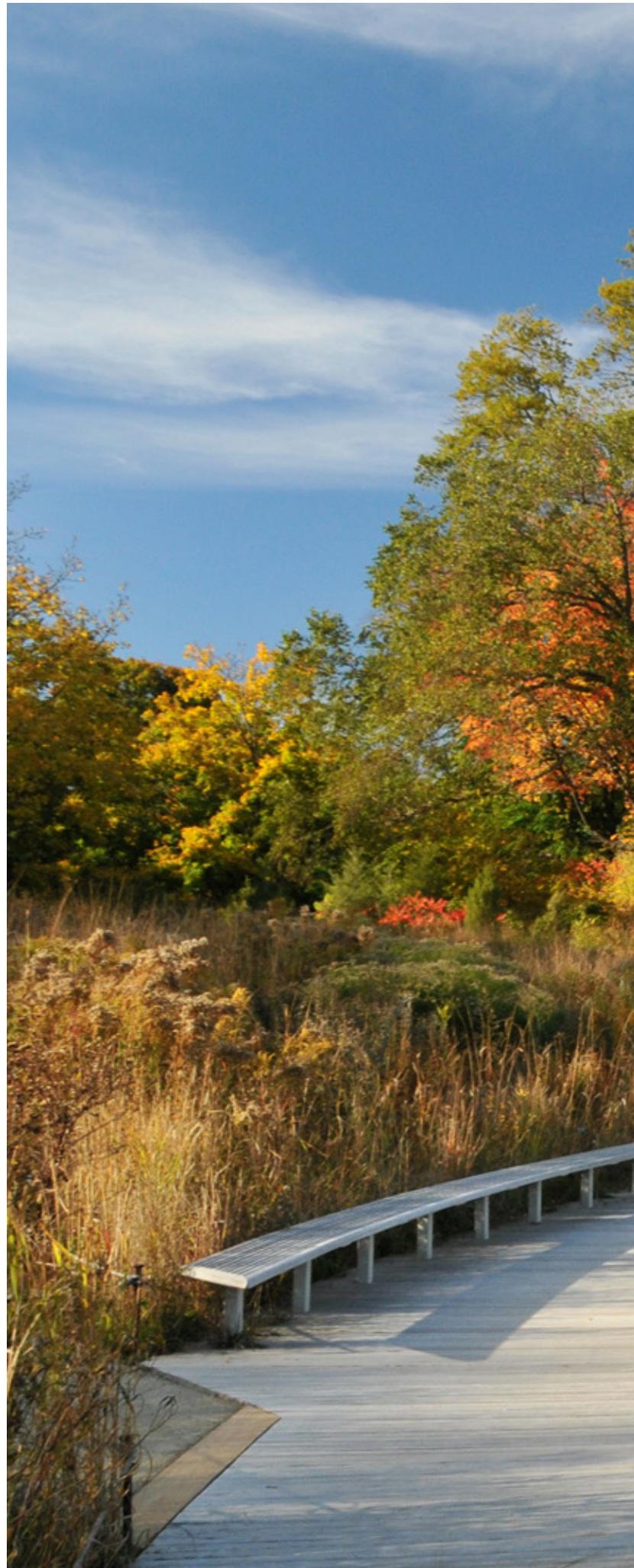


Image: Boardwalk  
Photo credit: HorsePunchKid

