



# 03 PUBLIC SPACES

...LAND AND WATER-BASED SPACES THAT  
ARE DIVERSE, IDENTIFIABLE, SUSTAINABLE...

Quay Park, NewQuay.

## INTRODUCTION

Public space includes all publicly accessible squares, waterways, parks, gardens and building forecourts. Waterfront promenades and creek corridors are defined as public spaces in this Plan.

The recommended principles and guidelines apply to all publicly accessible areas in Docklands regardless of ownership status. The previous sections noted that there is adequate provision of space for local and civic needs in Docklands. This Plan advocates for the refinement of these existing and proposed public spaces.

This section of the Docklands Public Realm Plan includes the following:

### **Public space overview:**

Context and directions that inform the design principles and recommended design guidelines for public spaces in Docklands. All background information is summarised and mapped in Appendix 2.

### **Design principles and guidelines:**

Recommended design guidelines to achieve land and water based spaces that are diverse, identifiable, sustainable, activated, comfortable, convenient, inclusive and well connected.

### **Design check list:**

An illustrative example of design principles applied to a local park.

### **Design briefing notes for key public spaces:**

Outlines recommendations and considerations for each key public space in relation to the overall public space network. Important recommendations for minimum programming and infrastructure requirements are included alongside other important design considerations.

**Note:** Exact locations for public spaces shown in proposed masterplans and base maps (Appendix 2) are subject to change.



## PUBLIC SPACE OVERVIEW

Since the time of the Kulin nation, the area now known as Docklands was the traditional land of several Aboriginal communities including the Wurundjeri, the Boonewrung, Djadja Wurrung and the Wathaurong. Docklands has always been an important meeting place for events of social, education, sporting and trading significance.

Parklands to the east, north and south of the central city are a legacy of Melbourne's early planning history from 1842 onwards. Significant parks, gardens and squares contribute to Melbourne's character. Reserves of public land to the west of Spencer Street were developed for gas work, port, seafaring and railway facilities<sup>3</sup>. The waterways in the Docklands area were reshaped to suit functional requirements by port-related industries. The wharves, piers and docks provide valuable public spaces for

the city and redefine Melbourne as a city on the water. The renewal of Docklands as a significant extension of the central city since 1995 has seen the delivery of a range of refurbished and new public spaces and streets, including its waterways.

Today, Docklands has a good distribution of existing and proposed public spaces<sup>4</sup>. There is a good range of public spaces with regard to both sizes and basic types including civic parks and squares, local parks, local squares, waterfront promenades, creek corridor and forecourts. In Docklands, the Yarra River, Moonee Ponds Creek and Victoria Harbour form a significant part of the public realm, often named Melbourne's 'blue park'. These waterways have spaces reserved for public berthing, recreational and public transport activities.

<sup>3</sup> City of Melbourne Strategic Statement (2010).

<sup>4</sup> Proposed in approved Development Plans and Masterplans that may be amended in the future.

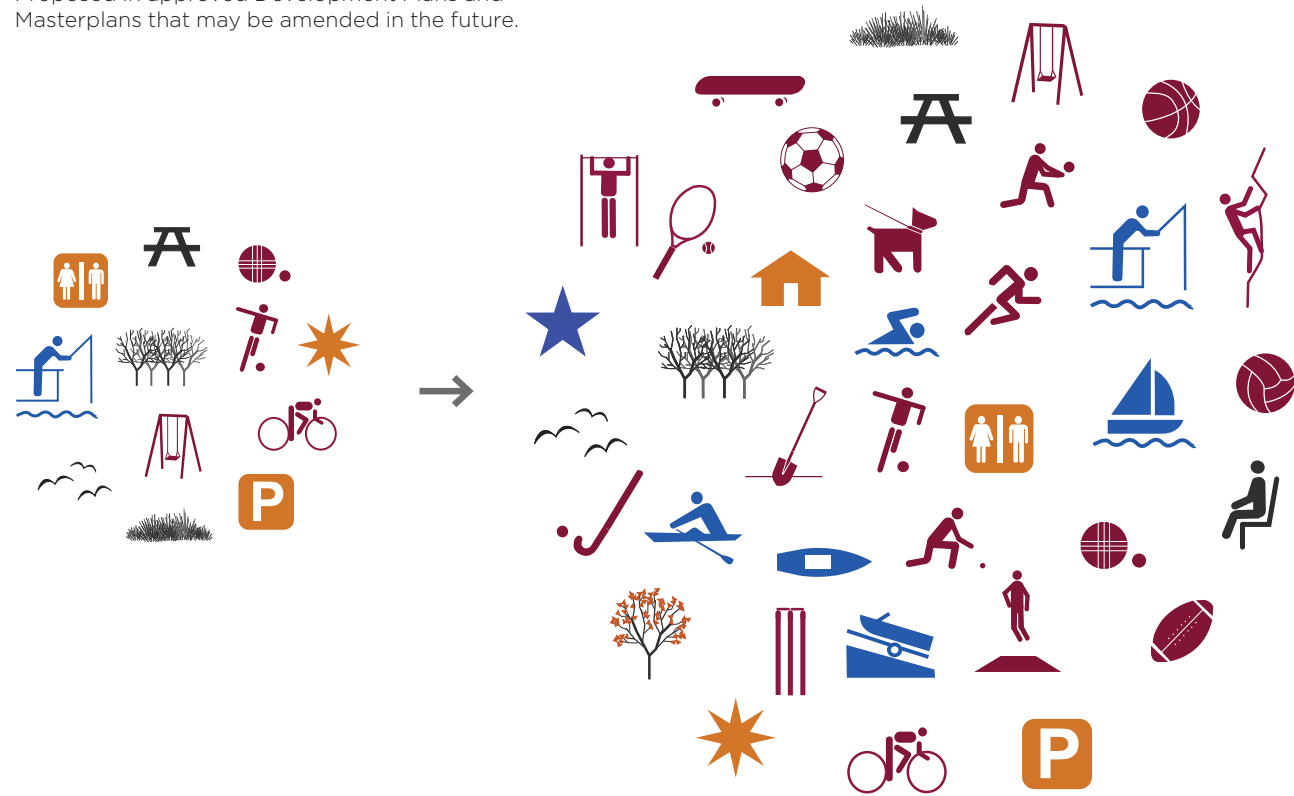


Fig 3.01 Key direction: increase diversity of uses over the next decade.

### Melbourne open space context

This Plan coincides with the release of the *Melbourne Open Space Strategy* (2012). The directions for all Melbourne precincts include:

- maintain and expand a quality open space network
- provide distributed open space within easy walking distances
- improve community health and wellbeing
- additional Capital City open space in urban renewal areas
- additional Municipal open spaces in urban renewal areas, including Docklands
- urban heat island mitigation and environmental improvements.

The Melbourne Open Space Strategy provides specific directions and recommendations for Docklands including:

- improvements along the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor
- provision of convenient small local open spaces
- provision of new Municipal open space with community sports and recreation facility
- continued waterfront links to enhance access to key public spaces.

Other key policy context documents are referenced throughout this document and listed in Appendix 1.



Fig 3.02 Proposed municipal open space network (City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy 2012).

## PUBLIC SPACE OVERVIEW

### PUBLIC SPACE CHARACTER AND TYPE

There are a range of existing and proposed public space typologies in Docklands including:

- waterfront promenade
- creek corridor
- civic park/square
- local park
- local square
- forecourt.

Based on existing spaces and current proposed masterplans, the distribution, size and links to these space types provides a good foundation for a comprehensive public realm network in the future. As recommended in the Melbourne Open Spaces Strategy there are opportunities to expand the quality and diversity of the network and consider an additional Municipal open space. The Docklands Public Space Strategy outlines recommended principles and guidelines for public space types in the following sections. Here are the main issues and opportunities that relate to existing public space types:

#### Water promenades

- Strengthen active relationships between land and water-based public spaces.
- Additional protection and/or alternative routes to waterfronts.
- Additional greening along waterfront.

#### Creek corridor

- Continue to improve amenities and linkage for recreational cyclist and (dog) walkers as an important water-oriented experience along the Capital City Trail.
- Continue to improve riparian landscape.
- Explore potential visual and physical connections with the Bolte Bridge and the western side of the creek (with relevant partners).

#### Civic parks, squares and waterfront

- Improve NewQuay Central (formerly Waterfront Piazza) into a new civic park.
- Introduce a significant civic square to Victoria Harbour (Dock Square / Bourke Dock).
- Rejuvenate Harbour Esplanade as a significant civic waterfront with associated water activity.
- Strengthen interfaces and edges to public spaces with complementary buildings, activities and elements (trees/water).
- Enable flexibility to accommodate future needs and uses.

#### Local parks and squares

- Introduce local squares and pocket parks to the public realm network.
- Introduce structured and unstructured recreation and sporting activities to local spaces.
- Strengthen interfaces and edges to public spaces with complementary activities and elements (trees/water).
- Improve comfort and convenience.
- Reinforce a range of identities and uses for local spaces.

#### Forecourts

- Continue to provide forecourts that are accessible to the public.
- Ensure all spaces are comfortable and convenient.

#### Municipal open space

- Explore integrating a new Municipal open space (up to 3 hectares) with structured sporting facilities for the community.



Fig 3.03 Existing and future public space typologies, 2012.

**Note:** Images in this document are provided for illustrative purposes only and are subject to change. Base maps require periodic review and revision to accord with current conditions in the built environment and revised proposed development plans and masterplans



The existing public spaces in Docklands provide opportunities for passive recreation such as casual socialising, reading, eating lunch, sitting and walking. As the population in Docklands grows, a wider range of activities, in particular active recreation and programmed events will be required.

The following key public space activity requirements emanate from current demographic patterns and forecasts (see Appendix 2):

- high quality outdoor space, particularly for apartment dwellers: fitness, walking, dog walking, sunshine, fresh air, play spaces
- public play spaces (playful experiences) for young children
- facilities that support sports and recreation activities, particularly at lunchtime including: jogging circuits, ball games and fitness training
- local and visitor water-based activities
- outdoor dining, barbecues and amenities to support casual meeting spaces
- excellent connections with public transport and commuter cycle links, including water-based transport.

These patterns inform proposed uses for existing and future public spaces.

**Waterways**

The *Docklands Waterways Strategic Plan 2009-2018* (City of Melbourne, VicUrban and Parks Victoria) sets out the shared vision and objectives for waterways in Docklands. The Docklands Public Realm Plan supports the Waterways Strategic Plan.

**Vision**

Docklands is an integrated working harbour that is accessible to Melbourne and its visitors, with commercial and leisure boating opportunities and a vibrant and active events space.

The vision builds on the four major themes:

- integrated – integration of water and land-based services and facilities
- accessible – public ownership, use and accessibility to key assets and spaces
- active – increase activity with events, colour and movement, enhance visitor experience
- position – development of world-class destinations and tourism hub.

The Docklands Waterways Strategic Plan identifies the following priorities in support of the vision:

- support the development of new water transport
- increase the frequency and diversity of water-based public activity
- maximised the use and viability of facilities by delivering flexible multi-purpose assets
- increase awareness of waterways in Docklands as well as repeat visits by Melburnians and other visitors.

Key aspirations of the *Docklands Waterways Strategic Plan 2009-2018* that are supported in the Docklands Public Realm Plan include:

- the development of water transport
- a concentrated effort to increase water-based activity
- the need for a designated marine precinct
- reserving suitable water areas for commercial berthing/operations, such as Central Pier, the south basin of Harbour Esplanade, and the north bank of the Yarra River between Collins Landing and Bourke Dock
- a layer of heritage, authenticity and integrity in the form of a maritime precinct – cluster of heritage ships
- greater protection of water space for public activities
- a program of congruent on water events that do not impede day-to-day commercial operations
- infrastructure for recreational fishing

- investigate the possibility of constructing a small vessel boat ramp within the confines of Moonee Ponds Creek
- provide an access point for kayaks, canoes and other man powered craft – Moonee Ponds Creek.

The *Port of Melbourne's Port Interface Landscape Masterplan* (2012) includes detailed recommendations for public realm access, activities and infrastructure on Port of Melbourne land in the Moonee Ponds Creek area that interfaces with Docklands. The Masterplan recommends a: *'focus on creating a waterside public realm at the Yarra River frontage, adjoining an important ecological landscape and buffer to the port, with increased indigenous plantings along Moonee Ponds Creek. A refined vision and concept for this area will need to be undertaken in collaboration with the City of Melbourne, Places Victoria and the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek'*. The key objective is to: *'enhance estuarine and riparian ecology and the public landscape experience'*.



Visitor berthing area, Victoria Harbour.

# DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

## 1. DIVERSITY OF USE

### Provide a mix of public spaces to support a diversity of uses and meet the needs of current and future populations in Docklands.

A network of diverse public spaces enables a variety of experiences and uses. Public spaces in Docklands must be complementary to the needs of the local community whilst ensuring they also complement the broader open space system.

Six types of public space have been identified to meet the recreation and leisure needs of Docklands residents, workers and visitors. The categories are based on the main character and role of the space.

A strategy has been developed for each of the public space types in Docklands.

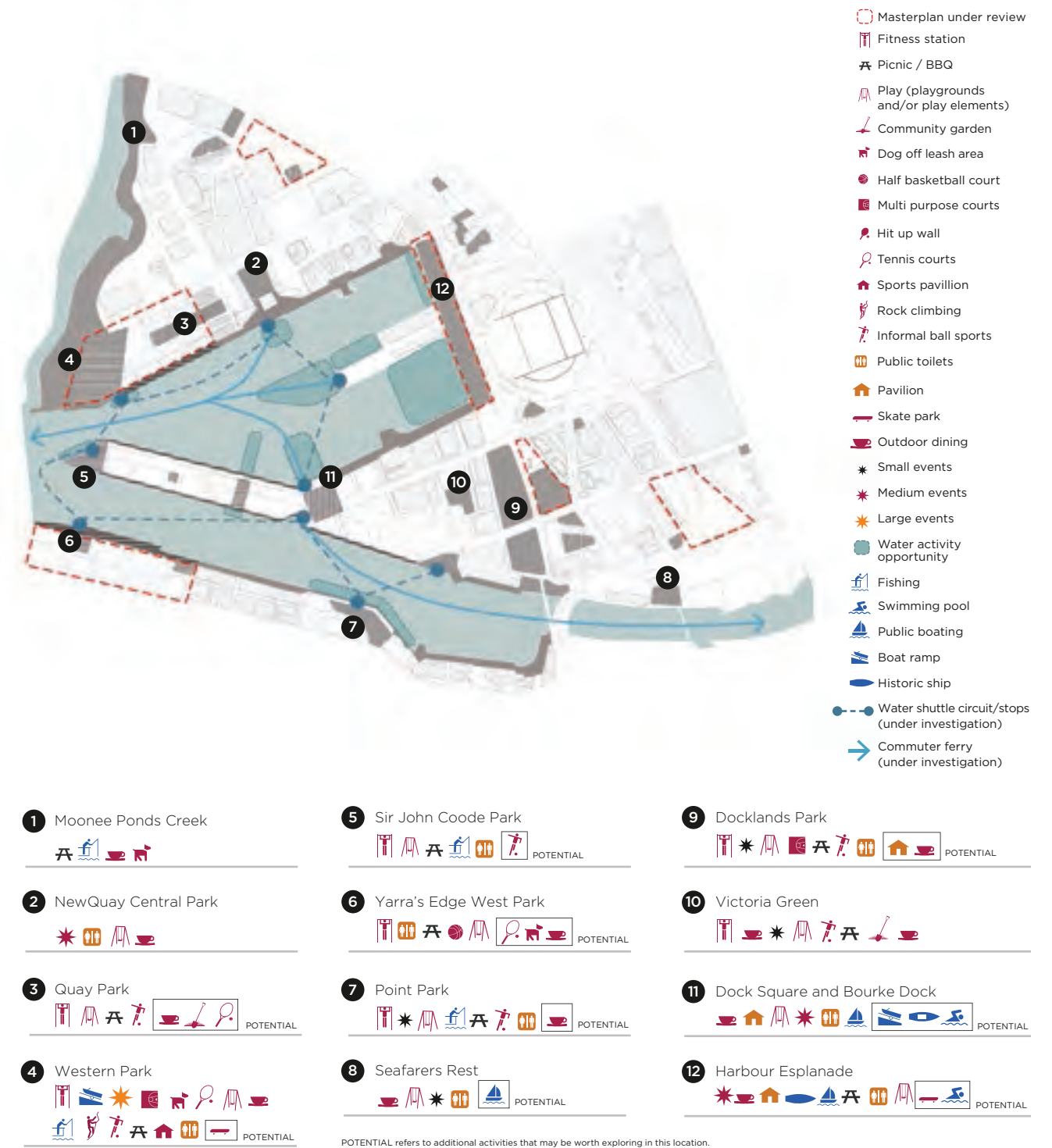
The *City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy* (2012) should be referenced for the municipality's overall open space network.

The size and location of existing and new public spaces is set out in Figure 3.05 opposite. Proposed public space uses have been considered based on the following:

- convenience and walkability
- access to public transport
- existing and forecast demographic catchments (within approximately 400 metres)
- physical surroundings (topography, wind exposure, solar access)
- potential opportunities for public space within existing masterplans
- interfaces (physical qualities and land uses)
- surrounding land uses
- the overall public space network provision.



Fig 3.04 A network of diverse and complementary activities.



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Fig 3.05 Proposed uses and activities in key public spaces, 2022.



# DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

## 1. DIVERSITY OF USE



Federation Square, Melbourne.

### Civic parks, squares and waterfronts

Civic public spaces are designed to accommodate social gatherings and events whilst also supporting other uses. Located adjacent to community or civic buildings, they generally have an urban character.

**1.1 Ensure civic spaces are designed to accommodate a range of events and civic gatherings and provide a comfortable environment for everyday uses.**



Royal Park, Melbourne.

### Local park

Parks contain areas of vegetation and primarily provide for local use with infrastructure to support a range of activities including structured and unstructured recreation.

**1.2 Improve and increase the amount of trees in parks and provide for a range of uses which include structured and unstructured recreation.**



Bryant Park, New York.

### Local square

Squares and plazas have a hard landscape focus with an urban character and human scale. Squares can be used for a range of activities including small events and social gatherings but primarily provide for passive uses.

**1.3 Introduce local squares to Docklands and improve the provision of shelter, diversity of character and design quality of current squares.**

### Forecourt

These small spaces at the entries of private buildings are also accessible to the public for use as a passive public space.

**1.4 Ensure forecourts are inviting, accessible, comfortable and usable public spaces.**



717 Bourke Street, Docklands.

### Creek corridor

The corridor includes the creek and public space adjacent to the creek. Creeks can be valuable recreation spaces and wildlife corridors for birds and animals and generally have a natural character. They are often used as a movement corridor for pedestrians and cyclists.

**1.5 Explore the potential for the creek to provide a recreational link and nature corridor.**



Moonee Ponds Creek, Docklands.

### Waterfront promenade

The promenade includes the Yarra River or Victoria Harbour and public space adjacent to these waterways. Water promenades support a range of activities including access to boats, fishing and outdoor dining. They are often used as a movement corridor for pedestrians and cyclists.

**1.6 Provide a range of opportunities to connect and engage with the river and harbour.**



Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands.



## DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

### 1. DIVERSITY OF USE

#### 1.7 Provide a range of diverse land and water-based activities in public spaces to suit different uses, meet local demand and attract a more diverse population to Docklands.

The public space network aims to accommodate a wide range of activities. The *Proposed uses and activities in key public spaces, 2022* (Fig 3.05, page 31) recommends the location of uses based on the following considerations:

- future uses, needs and demand based on future population forecasts (resident/worker/visitor populations) and catchments for each space including catchment from areas surrounding Docklands
- requirements identified and recommended in relevant policies (Appendix 1)

- complementary uses within each public space type, considering how these uses might co-exist (for example, active and passive uses)
- neighbouring land uses
- size and capacity of each space
- existing and potential access – children’s independent travel to spaces, public transport, loading capacity and parking
- existing and potential infrastructure including power, water and lighting
- physical qualities of the space (wind, solar, topography, ground conditions etc.).

The uses have been chosen to provide a complementary network. These may need to be reconsidered over time as the presence, demands and use patterns of each space evolve. Local community engagement will be encouraged as part of the design process on a project-by-project basis.



Dragon boat racing, Victoria Harbour.

#### 1.8 Provide a range of activities and uses that connect and engage with the water.

Activities that take place in and around the water are fundamental to the local and visitor experience in Docklands.

- Retain public access to the waterfront edges (harbour, river, creek).
- Ensure waterfront promenades are a sufficient width to incorporate a range of future uses.
- Enhance the Moonee Ponds Creek as a recreational link and nature corridor, including restoration of native riparian landscape and suitable materials palettes.
- Retain the boat building and restoring activity, recreational fishing and other authentic maritime activities in Victoria Harbour.
- Review the range of marine infrastructure and materials palette on the Yarra River and Victoria Harbour’s edges and focus on providing more continuity of character.
- Provide more ways to get close to the water and to touch the water, such as being able to dangle your feet in the water on hot days.

- Ensure pontoons offer more than simply access to marinas and that they are considered and treated as part of the public space design.
- Investigate access points for small vessels such as kayaks and canoes in Moonee Ponds Creek.
- Implement a waterways activation strategy to guide:
  - water uses including fishing, boat racing, recreational boating, river cruises, water-related events, kayak/canoe/boat hire
  - land and water access points
  - authentic cultural activities such as boat building and restoration, fishing, swimming, bird watching, walking, seafood markets and eateries
  - water transport such as a Yarra shuttle and a commuter ferry.
- Strategies for short-term commercial berthing licences available in ‘undeveloped water areas’. These offer an opportunity for short-term innovative boat-based activities.



Wooden boat launch, Victoria Harbour, Docklands.



## DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

### 1. DIVERSITY OF USE

#### 1.9 Provide facilities to support structured and unstructured recreation.

Particular facilities have been identified as appropriate for the community's recreational needs in Docklands by 2020, and accommodating these within one or more public spaces by 2020 is a minimal target for the overall network. These facilities include:

- hard courts for amateur/community sports including tennis, netball, basketball, futsal, multi-purpose, and hit up walls
- turf areas for amateur/community sports including hockey, junior cricket and football/soccer, multi-use
- community sports including jogging infrastructure, shared cycle paths and fitness stations
- water sports including kayaking, dragon boat racing, recreational boating
- recreational fishing facilities.

Consider the following potential public facilities for a broader cross section of community:

- skate park
- table tennis tables
- in-ground trampoline
- public swimming pool
- rock climbing
- add a Municipal open space to the public space network (*City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy, 2012*)
- investigate Western Park, the western end of Docklands Drive adjacent to the Moonee Ponds Creek, to accommodate a range of active recreational facilities to serve Docklands and surrounding communities
- improve the recreational opportunities in Docklands Park, which has the largest worker catchment and attracts significant visitors (*Visitor Survey, City of Melbourne, 2009*).

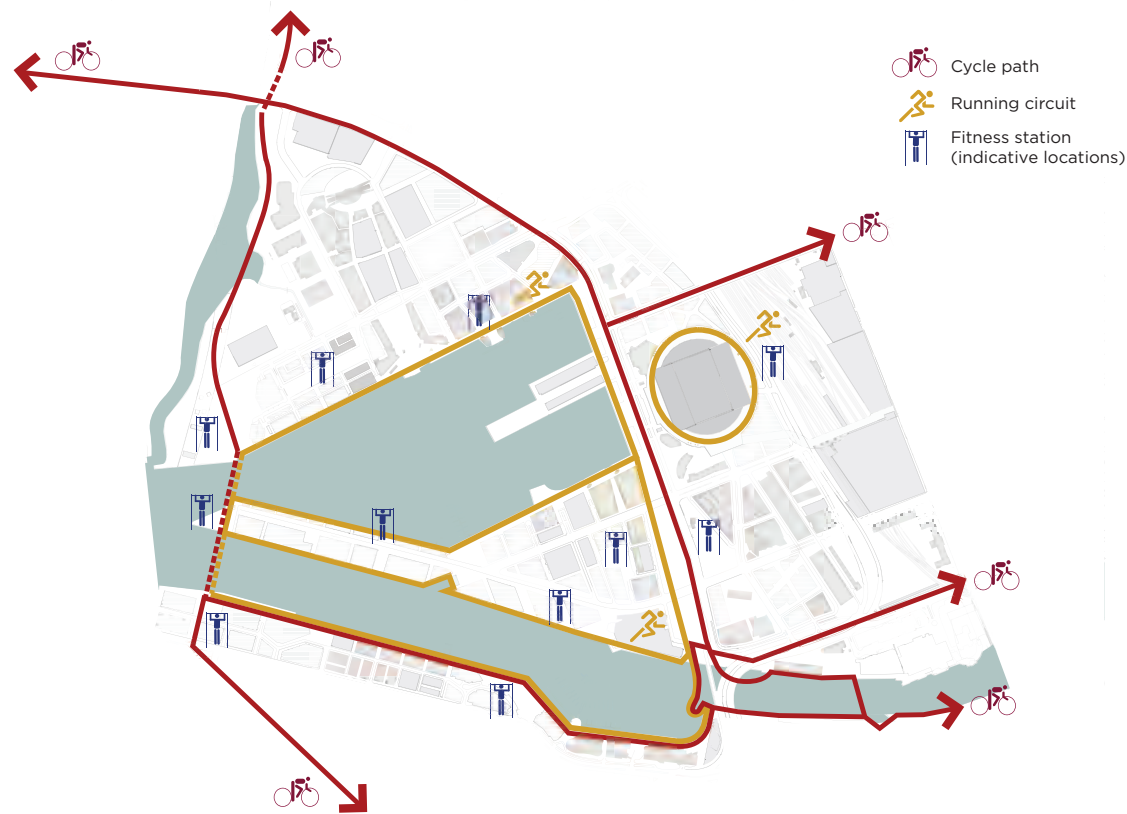


Fig 3.06 Proposed jogging routes and fitness stations locations and improved shared cycle paths.



Recreational cycling, Harbour Esplanade.



## DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

### 1. DIVERSITY OF USE

#### 1.10 Increase opportunities for complementary events that contribute to the identity of Docklands.

The proximity of Docklands to the central city and waterfront make it an ideal location for certain types of events. The future vision is to provide a range of public spaces to support a thriving year-round events calendar commensurate with the offer in the central city and to accommodate a range of local community events.

As existing vacant sites and industrial sheds are redeveloped, alternative sites should be considered for existing and anticipated future events that add value to Docklands.

With growing pressures on existing parks in the central city, it may be appropriate to relocate events to spaces in Docklands that are 'fit for purpose'. Relocating suitable city events to Docklands would stimulate activation in this evolving area.

- Consider a range of outdoor public events such as:
  - concerts in the park, on the water
  - cinema in the park, on the water

- markets in the square, esplanade
- festivals by the water
- competitions for water recreation
- water-focused events
- youth/children-focused events
- fun runs
- arts and culture events
- community events.
- Provide infrastructure for large-scale events in the public space west of NewQuay, **Western Park**. This is an ideal location for events that will generate noise which can be difficult to locate near other uses.
- Provide infrastructure for medium scale events in **NewQuay Central Park, Harbour Esplanade** and **Dock Square**. As new public spaces, these can be custom designed to ensure appropriate design and supporting infrastructure are provided for events. The proximity of these open spaces to the waterfront makes them ideal for water-related events.
- Provide infrastructure to support small local events in **Seafarers Rest, Docklands Park, Victoria Green** and **Point Park**.

- \* Small events (< 2,000 people)
- \* Medium events (2,000-5,000 people)
- \* Large events (> 5,000 people)
- \* Water events

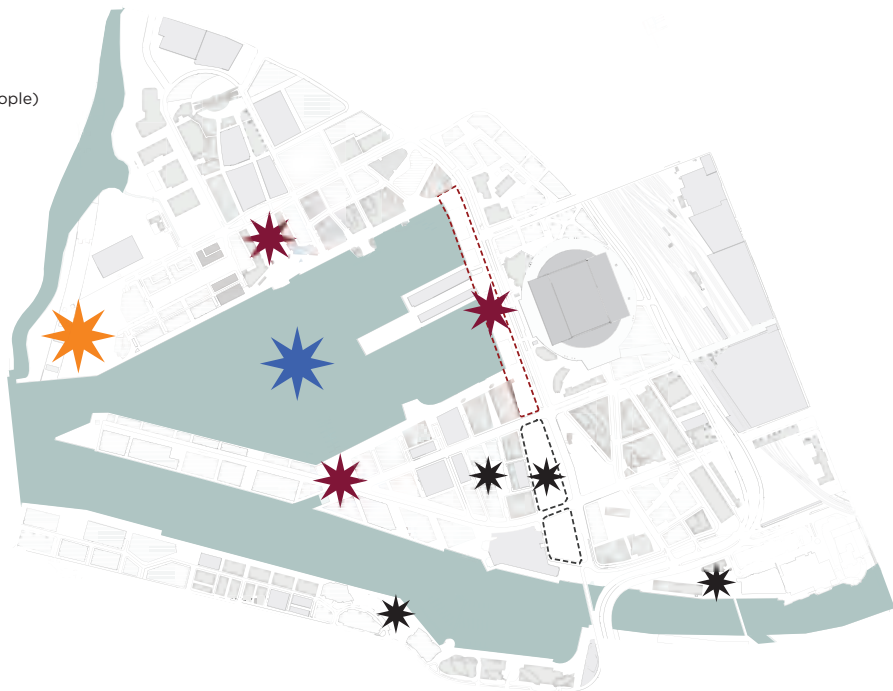


Fig 3.07 Proposed events space network.



Docklands Park, a play space for 0-12 year olds.



# DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

## 1. DIVERSITY OF USE

### 1.11 Provide more play opportunities in Docklands.

Children need a variety of experiences and settings for play. It is important to provide opportunities for cognitive and imaginative play as well as active play.

Families living in an apartment are likely to rely on public space. With a private garden, children can be supervised from inside the home, which can enhance the sense of independence and undirected play for children. Providing the same sense of independence for unstructured play in public spaces requires attention through the design of the space.

For local children, there is a need for the 'local or neighbourhood' park, which is within easy walking distance. It offers a place of respite and recharge, a place to run around (especially if you live in an apartment), where you can be noisy and active, or quiet and contemplative. Most importantly, it is a place for unstructured outdoor play, essential for healthy childhood development.

In addition to children growing up in Docklands, many children will also visit the area as Docklands has many places designed as 'destinations', attracting people from all over Melbourne and beyond. These spaces enhance the diversity of experiences for children. All public spaces should be child-friendly and provide play opportunities where possible (not just playgrounds).

- Provide local play spaces in **NewQuay West, Wharf Park, Western Park** and **Point Park**.
- Increase the play value the regional play space in **Docklands Park**.
- Provide playful elements to encourage opportunities for children's play in **NewQuay Central Park, Dock Square, Harbour Esplanade, Sir John Coode Park** and **Seafarers Rest**.



*Playful elements, toddlers play space, Victoria Green.*



*Connection with nature, Docklands Community Garden.*

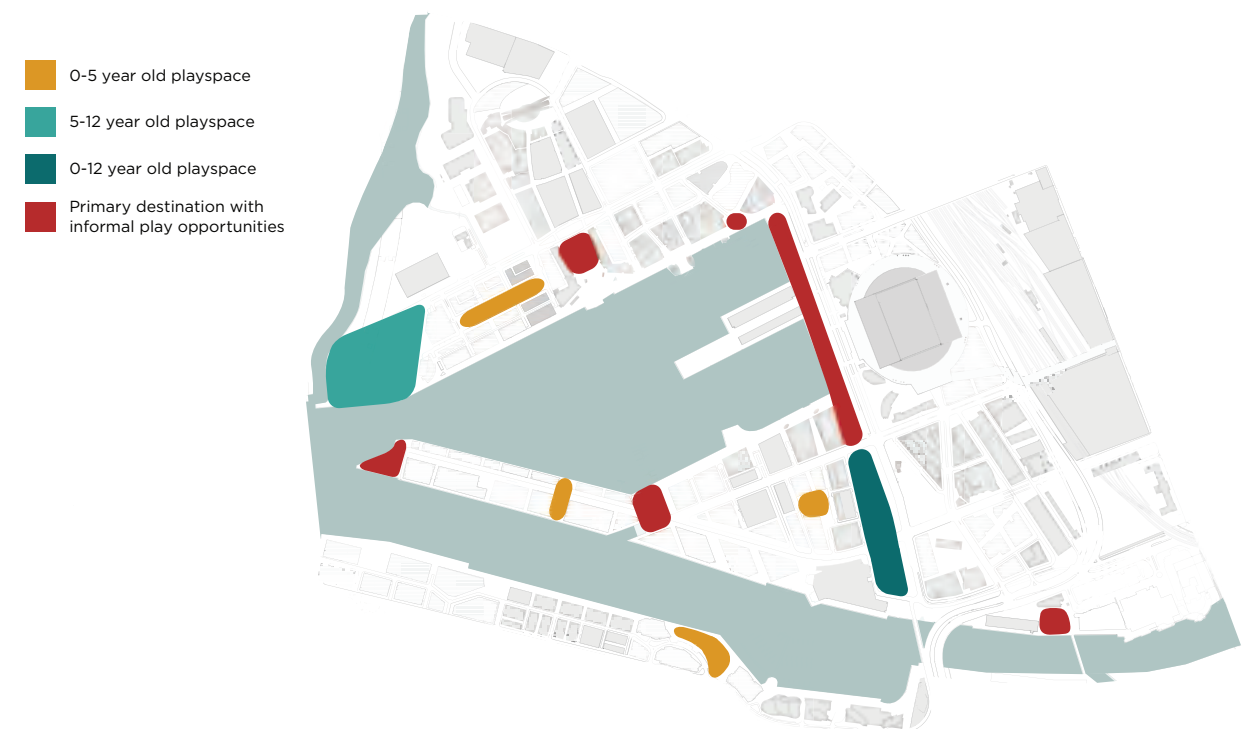
### General guidelines:

Provide the following types of activities or settings for play across Docklands:

- places for physical development and active play – places to run, hop, skip, jump, learn to ride, ride, skate, climb, balance, hang, swing and rock
- environments which stimulate cognitive play – using the imagination, ordering, categorising and manipulating objects to construct or create, sensory experiences and problem solving
- places for social play – experiences which involve other children, often involving games of the imagination, dramatic role play, rules and creative or physical activity
- a combination of built and natural elements (such as cubbies among vegetation, sand, logs) and spatial qualities which enhance activities (such as partial enclosure or a sense of elevation)
- a balance between fast and slow, light and shade, loose materials and fixed equipment, noisy and quiet spaces, smoothness and texture, enclosed and open spaces and opportunities to move up and down.

Provide the following to meet children's play needs in Docklands:

- opportunities for unstructured outdoor play
- opportunities for children to be physically active
- local spaces that older children may access independently
- opportunities for diverse activities (not just playgrounds)
- local easy-to-access areas for the 0-5 age group
- places that cater for children of different age groups
- facilitate use of urban environment for older children's play. (such as hard walls for handball, basketball rings in hard paved areas)
- connectivity between spaces – for easy and safe access
- places for children to be supervised, but retain a sense of independence.



**Fig 3.08** Proposed play space network.



## DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

### 2. IDENTITY OF PLACE

**Create public spaces with authentic character(s) and identity.**

#### 2.1 Draw on the embedded qualities of the site to instill the character of public spaces.

Embedded qualities (physical and non-physical) may include:

- the climate
- access to the water
- special views
- heritage remnants
- authentic activities
- vegetation patterns and structure
- built form character/scale
- activities that respond to local users.



**Fig 3.09** Opportunities to connect with water engender a real water experience.



#### 2.2 Incorporate and/or interpret heritage elements into public space design where possible.

The river, harbour and creek waterfronts form a significant part of the identity of Docklands. The local and visiting public have a genuine interest in Melbourne's history.

- Retain and enhance existing heritage elements including wharves, shed elements, mooring bollards, heritage vessels and rail lines to contribute to the sense of place. These offer a layer of historic meaning and an authentic character.
- Provide integrated information about local heritage in public spaces.

#### 2.3 Ensure all public space is purposeful and well defined.

Ensure all public spaces are useable and not a consequence of 'left-over' development.

#### 2.4 Promote well-integrated and place-responsive public art.

The *Docklands Public Art Policy (2010)* provides the policy framework for public art and the *Docklands Public Art Guidelines (2010)* provides practical guidance on public art planning and delivery. The *Docklands Public Art Masterplan* maps the intended distribution of basic art types in respect to a typology of urban character areas.



#### An integrated landscape response to the Yarra River.

*OPPOSITE:* Maritime heritage elements, boat building activity and open views to the central city contribute to Victoria Harbour's unique character.

*LEFT:* Maritime heritage elements add character to the water.

*LOWER LEFT:* The presence of authentic heritage boats such as the tall ship *Alma Doepel* contributes to a 'sense of place'.

*BELOW:* *The Rivers Run Through It* (Mark Stoner, 2011), Collins Landing and Collins Street, Victoria Harbour.





## DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

### 2. IDENTITY OF PLACE

#### 2.5 Promote temporary activation of public spaces, particularly while Docklands is evolving.

The incomplete and changing nature of Docklands can be embraced. As the Docklands community grows and evolves, temporary events and projects can activate 'empty' space and test potential uses, helping to seed the role and character of the evolving areas.

- Incorporate temporary installations to explain future projects and initiatives in the public domain. Creative and clear information helps to manage public expectations and involves the community in the urban renewal process.
- Encourage short-term uses on vacant sites including 'creative spaces', installations, pop-up tenancies and events.
- Encourage temporary activities such as busking, pop-ups, vendors and flower stalls to activate public spaces.



The 'Urban Reforestation' project provided successful temporary activation of Victoria Harbour promenade, 2009-2011.



'Dirty Buoy' temporary installation at 'Urban Realities', September 2011.

## DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

### 3. SUSTAINABILITY

#### Design public spaces with a sustainable approach.

Public spaces provide significant opportunities to contribute to sustainable outcomes. Their design should minimise pressure on non-renewable resources and enhance the natural environment. Life-cycle analysis to maximise environmental outcomes should be factored into design decision-making.

#### 3.1 Use sustainable materials.

All of the following should be considered in materials selection, with particular emphasis on robustness and longevity, as frequent replacement is considered unsustainable:

- robustness
- life span
- embodied energy
- ongoing maintenance
- minimising use of non-renewable materials.

#### 3.2 Minimise energy consumption in the design and operation of public space.

- Choose energy efficient lights.
- Manage energy use.
- Consider embodied energy in the design of the space.
- Design to last.

<sup>5</sup> See City of Melbourne Urban Forest Strategy (2012) for targets.

#### 3.3 Reduce potable water consumption and encourage on-site water catchment and treatment.

- Increase the area of permeable surfaces in open spaces.
- Encourage stormwater harvesting, storage and re-use.
- Promote Water Sensitive Urban Design in public spaces to improve the quality of stormwater running into the waterways.

#### 3.4 Increase greening.

- Increase tree canopy cover<sup>5</sup> to reduce the heat island effect and provide comfortable shaded environments in summer.
- Choose vegetation that responds to local conditions and encourages biodiverse birdlife and insect habitats.
- Use planted rather than paved and synthetic surfaces where practical.
- Provide vegetation to maximise environmental benefits and develop resilience in the landscape.
- Link open spaces with biodiversity value such as Royal Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens through provision of wildlife corridors.



Integrated wetlands, Docklands Park.



## DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

### 4. INTERFACES

**Ensure building interfaces contribute to the use of public space.**

#### 4.1 Create high quality surroundings for public spaces.

Areas which interface with public spaces, including buildings and the activities they accommodate, affect the quality and character of the space.

- Provide uses around public space edges that spill out into or enhance activity in the space.
- Use built form definition to provide enclosure and shelter to the space.
- Provide active edges to public spaces, particularly at ground levels.



High quality café with outdoor seating has an active interface with the City Square, Flinders Lane and Swanston Streets.

#### 4.2 Encourage passive surveillance opportunities and adjacent uses to increase the safety of public spaces.

The types of uses and facade treatments in the lower levels of buildings can have a significant impact on the safety of the public space.

- Provide active uses, windows and balconies on surrounding buildings to provide passive surveillance of public space.
- Sleeve car parks, service areas and other non-active uses adjoining public spaces with active uses to support safety and activation.
- Provide a range of uses in adjacent buildings to stimulate a diversity of activities in public spaces at different times of the day providing natural surveillance through use. For example, Victoria Green has office workers and residents using the space for different activities such as eating lunch, reading, walking the dog and barbecues at various times. The future playspaces and cafes proposed at the edges of this park will further diversify activities.



Safe laneway connection between Victoria Green and Docklands Park is well lit and addressed by residential building entries.

## DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

### 5. AMENITY

**Design public spaces to high standards of amenity and comfort.**

#### 5.1 Ensure public spaces have access to the sun while also providing adequate shelter and wind protection.

- Public spaces should be free of significant overshadowing between 11am and 3pm at the spring and winter equinox (22 September and 21 June).
- Consider shade and wind protection when choosing the species of trees.
- Provide shade for play spaces through trees or shade devices.
- Avoid use of wind screens for wind amelioration in public spaces.

#### 5.2 Ensure lighting is designed to provide a safe and attractive public space environment at night.

- Provide adequate lighting in public spaces along all pedestrian routes to ensure safety at night.
- Enhance the visual quality, character and ambience of spaces through the lighting design.
- Consider maintenance in the choice of light fittings and lighting design.

#### 5.3 Ensure adequate provision of seating, drinking fountains, bins, public toilets, signage and other amenities in public spaces.

- Maximise opportunities for social interaction through arrangement of seating and other infrastructure.
- Keep location of street furniture predictable to support access by people with visual impairments, especially along main pedestrian routes through the space.
- Consider maintenance in the design of park furniture. Use City of Melbourne standard range or carefully considered bespoke pieces in selected locations.
- Ensure public toilets are safe, accessible, clean and environmentally sustainable and placed in locations that best meet community needs.
- Locate amenities in a range of different settings and environments across Docklands to provide choice.
- Refer to the *Docklands Design and Construction Standards for Public Infrastructure Works* for guidance on directional signage for streets and waterways.

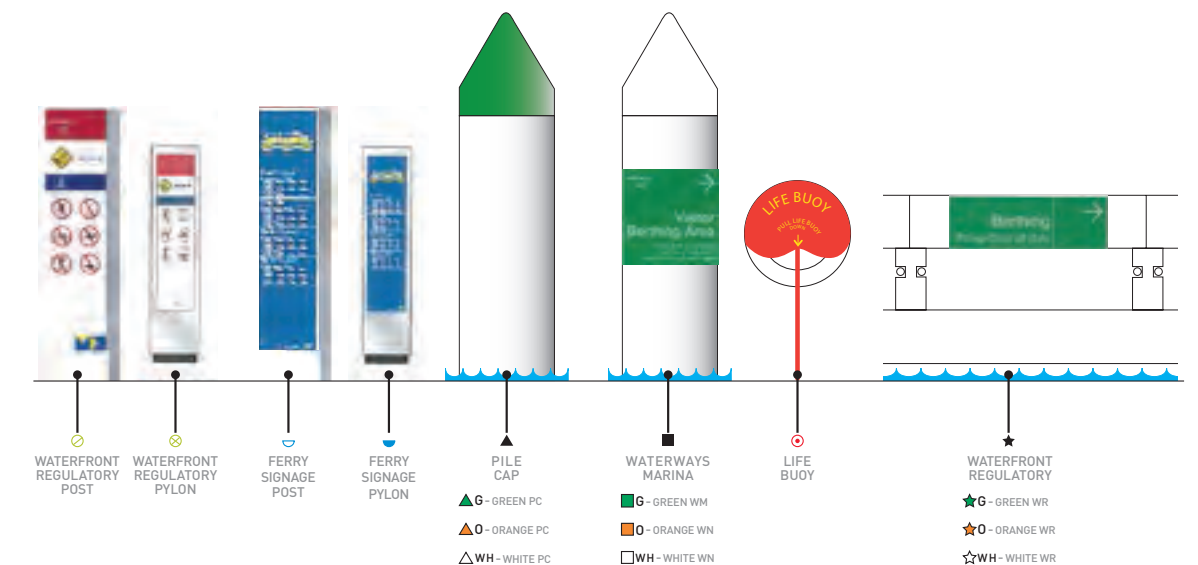


Fig 3.10 Palette for waterways directional and information signage.



## DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

### 6. COMMUNITY

**Ensure land and water-based public spaces engage the local community and contribute to community health and wellbeing.**

#### 6.1 Engage with local communities in public space planning and design.

The emerging residential, student and worker populations are key users of public space in Docklands. Genuine community needs are paramount in defining design briefs for public spaces.

#### 6.2 Co-locate community buildings with public space.

There are often benefits to locating community facilities such as libraries, schools, community meeting rooms, child and maternal health services adjacent to public spaces to stimulate mutual use. Community buildings are being considered in Harbour Esplanade and adjacent to Dock Square and Point Park.



*Docklands Community Garden, Village Green.*

#### 6.3 Encourage community cohesion through considered design of existing public space.

The design of public space can help unite communities by:

- facilitating casual interaction as neighbours meet at the playground or walk their dogs
- offering a place to meet and share skills such as a community garden
- providing amenities such as barbecues and picnic tables to cater for social gatherings
- offering a venue for outdoor events, community events, festivals and markets where communities can gather
- facilitating organised or informal sports and recreation opportunities.

#### 6.4 Design public space to contribute to community health and wellbeing.

The design of the space should provide opportunities to:

- connect people with nature
- reduce sun exposure and heat-related illness through provision of shade
- improve mental wellbeing
- play formal and informal sports
- improve physical fitness.



*Recreational boating, Victoria Harbour.*

## DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

### 7. CONNECTIVITY

**Provide safe, high quality links within Docklands' public spaces and to the broader public space network.**

#### 7.1 Improve walking and cycling connections through and between public spaces.

Convenient and well-designed walking and cycling links between public spaces will ensure accessibility throughout the Docklands precinct. Links can be an integral part of the recreational and leisure experience.

- Improve walking and cycle connections in Docklands Park and the site adjacent to the Hub building.
- Continue to investigate footbridges over the Victoria Harbour entry and the Yarra River to improve connections between public spaces in Docklands and neighbouring precincts.
- Ensure links are designed with high amenity and recreational opportunities such as exercise stations and encourage activities such as walking, cycling, running, skating and personal training.



*Refreshment stop for recreational cyclists at Yarra's Edge.*

#### 7.2 Improve existing connections to the broader public space network.

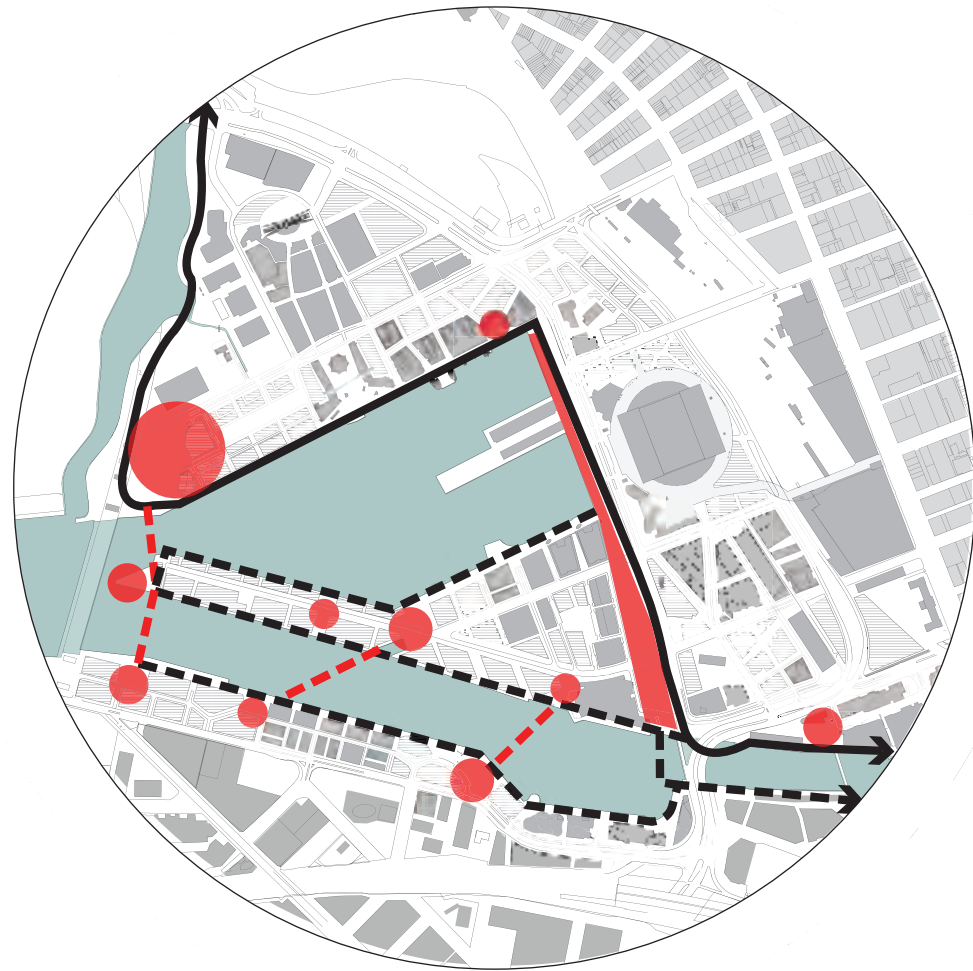
Connections to the broader public space network will enable Docklands residents, workers and visitors to access the full extent of recreational activities that the city has to offer. This is important because no single public space in Docklands is large enough to offer the concentration of diverse recreational opportunities provided in the much larger city parks. These connections also provide greater opportunities for access to Docklands for users wishing to experience the waterfronts and waterways.

- Improve connections to significant existing public spaces including:
  - Royal Park
  - Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain parklands
  - Flagstaff Gardens
  - Westgate Park.
- Provide quality routes from Docklands to new public spaces in adjacent urban renewal areas including:
  - E-Gate
  - Fishermans Bend
  - Arden-Macauley.



**7.3 Improve connections along the waterways:  
Yarra River, Victoria Harbour and Moonee Ponds Creek.**

- Upgrade the Harbour Esplanade to include a series of public spaces and community-focused buildings for events, water-based activities, outdoor dining and play in the key centrally-located maritime heritage precinct.
- Extend the NewQuay Promenade to the west and upgrade the Plaza space fronting the Conder and Quay apartments.
- Extend the Victoria Harbour promenade to the west and upgrade the Water Plaza.
- Improve paths along the Moonee Ponds Creek to connect Docklands to Royal Park and provide easy access to the creek's recreational spaces.
- Improve connections along the Yarra River between Docklands and adjacent areas.



**Fig 3.11** Proposed improvement to connections along waterways.

**7.4 Use links between public spaces to enhance biodiversity and environmental values.**

Docklands, a highly urbanised area with an industrial history currently has minimal biodiversity value. Nevertheless, created systems can provide habitat and enhance biodiversity. On their own, small public spaces do not contribute significant habitat, but links between spaces potentially increase the overall area available for planting and the creation of habitat and wildlife corridors.

- Ensure linkages to and along the Moonee Ponds Creek are designed to enhance biodiversity.
- Increase canopy cover in streets linking public spaces to provide wildlife corridors.

Refer to Section 4, Public Streets and Routes (page 98) in this document. Many of these actions are also relevant for ensuring public spaces are well-connected and linked to the broader public space network.



**Fig 3.12** Proposed increase in vegetation structure to enhance biodiversity and environmental value.



## DESIGN CHECKLIST

This diagram illustrates how the recommended design principles may be applied to a local park in Docklands.

- 1 Diversity of use**  
A variety of different programs including children's play, community garden, fitness equipment and picnic area provide for a diversity of uses.
- 2 Identity**  
The intimate, relaxed character of the park is enhanced by the circle of trees, well-defined built form edges and a diversity of local uses.
- 3 Sustainability**  
Trees have been selected to provide a good canopy and are suitable for climate and soil conditions of Docklands. Sub-surface water storage tanks are integrated under the lawn area.
- 4 Amenity**  
Well-distributed seating, lighting and bins provide high standards of amenity and comfort.
- 5 Interfaces**  
Ground levels provide a mix of uses including residential, cafes and offices to activate the edges of the park.
- 6 Connectivity**  
Safe connections through the site consider the broader pedestrian network.
- 7 Community**  
A community garden encourages community engagement and activity.



Acknowledgements to Lend Lease and Aspect Studios and Oculus for use of their concept plan for proposed public space interventions at Victoria Green.