

Report to the Future Melbourne (Planning) Committee

Agenda item 6.4

University Square Master Plan

6 December 2016

Presenter: Rob Adams, Director City Design and Projects

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the University Square Master Plan (Attachment 2).
2. Council Action Goal 5: An eco-city 5.5.2: Complete master plan and commence construction of University square expansion - is a major initiative of Council's 2015-16 Annual Plan. The University Square Master Plan is underpinned by Council's Open Space Strategy (2012) and the Elizabeth Street Catchment Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan (2015) and the City North Structure Plan (2012).
3. The University Square Draft Master Plan was shaped by extensive community engagement. The draft master plan was approved for community engagement in August 2016 and displayed in September 2016.
4. The endorsement by Council of the University Square Master Plan before the Minister for Planning signs the Melbourne Tunnel Project Environmental Effects Statement (expected to be before Christmas, 2016) provides more certainty for the implementation of the University Square Master Plan.

Key issues

5. The University Square Master Plan is a blueprint for the future of University Square, a critical public space in Carlton. It sets the direction and plan to transition a 19th century landscape into a 21st century space that responds to significant demographic and contextual change while recognising the rich history of the site. The master plan includes ten actions to deliver park expansion and improvements.
6. The new master plan is a partnership between the City of Melbourne, the Victorian Government and the University of Melbourne. The University of Melbourne has been involved as a key stakeholder and is a strong advocate of the master plan contributing \$2 million. The Victorian State Government has also funded the project by contributing \$1.887 million and \$200,000 has come from Council's Capital Works Program.
7. A four-phase community engagement program was completed in September, 2016. Phase four community engagement confirmed that the master plan was supported by key stakeholders and the community (Attachment 3). Master Plan Action 1 (Planning for Trees) and Action 6 (the Green) generated the most feedback. Also, a public art curator has been appointed since community engagement. As a result, the main changes in the master plan are:
 - 7.1. Action 1 (Planning for Trees) – biodiversity assessments will be undertaken at University Square to prepare inventories of micro bats, possums and birds and habitat locations with a view to informing our tree removal strategy and rehousing strategy. Tree removals will be staged over a number of years and a copse of elms will be retained in the centre of the park until new trees are established.
 - 7.2. Action 6 (The Green) – the recommendation that the central footpath should be removed has been retained. The construction of Parkville Station will block access to University Square from Grattan Street except at Leicester Street and following construction of the new station; the main pedestrian crossing will be located at Barry Street. The University Square Master Plan addresses both changes.
 - 7.3. Action 10 (Public Art) – Robert Owen has been appointed as the public art curatorial adviser for University Square project. Representing the history of the English Elms at University Square will be part of the brief and will be an opportunity for the community to be involved.
8. Implementing the University Square Master Plan will need to be staged to respond to the construction requirements of the new Parkville Station (Melbourne Tunnel Project) – see Attachment 1. Extensive negotiations continue between the MMRA and the City of Melbourne Metro team in order to secure the best outcome for the City.
9. The likely result will be that Master Plan Actions 1 (Planning for Trees), 3 (Leicester Street), 6 (The Green) and 7 (Pelham Street park front) will be implemented in 2017 – before construction of the new station begins. This will ensure that a viable public open space remains open for the community and students during construction of the station and that a future generation of park trees can be established.

Recommendation from management

10. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 10.1. adopts the University Square Master Plan
 - 10.2. authorises the Director City Design and Projects to make any further minor editorial changes to the University Square Master Plan before publication
 - 10.3. authorises the preparation of detailed design and tender documentation for stage one works with a view to start stage one construction in 2017
 - 10.4. authorises commencement of the road discontinuance process.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (page 3 of 110)
2. University Square Master Plan for endorsement (page 5 of 110)
3. University Square Phase 4 Community Engagement Summary (page 69 of 110)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation from management.

Finance

2. The cost to build stage one works at University Square (Leicester Street, The Green and the Pelham Street park front) is estimated at \$3 million. Funding for these works is allocated from the following sources:
 - 2.1. University of Melbourne has agreed to contribute \$2 million. One million will be paid to Council August 2017 followed by the second million in the 2018-19 financial year. Funding is contingent on work starting.
 - 2.2. \$1.8 million will be funded through existing funding from the Office of Living Victoria (Victorian State Government) and a carry-forward of \$200,000 from Council's Capital Works program from the 2016/17 financial year.

Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Stakeholder consultation

4. A Project Steering Committee was established at the beginning of the project in July 2014 with key internal stakeholders. The Project Steering Committee and Council approved a four-phase community engagement process culminating in the display of the draft master plan in September 2016 (see Attachment 2).
5. Meetings with key stakeholders and members of the community have occurred at each phase of community engagement including the Carlton Residents' Association, Graduate House, Public Transport Victoria, the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority and local hospitals.
6. A regular Project Working Group meeting, as per the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Melbourne and Council occurred quarterly.

Relation to Council policy

7. Key City of Melbourne strategies underpin the University Square Master Plan including the Open Space Strategy (2012), the Elizabeth Street Catchment Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan (2015) and the City North Structure Plan (2012).
8. The Open Space Strategy recommends that a landscape master plan should be prepared to guide future design and to provide a diversity of open space that will meet the needs of the existing and forecast substantial additional population.
9. The master plan delivers on the Council Action Goal 5: An eco-city 5.5.2: Complete master plan and commence construction of University Square expansion (2014).

Corporate social responsibility

10. Implementation of the University Square Master Plan will be an opportunity to engage with traditional owners and tell the rich aboriginal story of this land through public art and to improve the environmental sustainability of University Square through a number of means.

- 10.1. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders strategies – The master plan was prepared in consultation with Murrup Barak - the University of Melbourne's Institute for Indigenous Development. The public art curator will continue to work with the Institute and traditional owners to ensure that the rich aboriginal history of this site is integrated in design and public art.
- 10.2. Environmental – Significant environmental gains will be achieved by the implementation of the University Square Master Plan. These include 8739 square metres of new public open space by repurposing roads, 4300 square metres of new garden beds, over 250 diverse and climate-appropriate new tree species to improve the Urban Forest – a 47% increase on the current tree population. In addition, water permeability improvements will be achieved by expanding public open space and storm water quality will be improved by extensive water sensitive urban design initiative. Flood mitigation in the Elizabeth Street Catchment and a reduced dependency on the potable water supply are already underway through the installation of the new 2 million litre storm water harvesting and flood mitigation tanks at Lincoln Square. Working with the University of Melbourne, there is also scope to include solar energy collection to reduce the demand for energy for University Square from the grid.

UNIVERSITY SQUARE MASTER PLAN

2016

DRAFT





AN ECO CITY

We provide solid foundations for the sustainability of Melbourne's communities. We embrace the unfamiliar if it helps us achieve our ambitions. We continue to encourage our community to take positive actions and we lead by example locally, nationally and globally.

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December 2016

Disclaimer

This master plan is provided for information and it does not purport to be complete. While care has been taken to ensure the content in the master plan is accurate, we cannot guarantee it is without flaw of any kind. There may be errors and omissions or it may not be wholly appropriate for your particular purposes. In addition, the publication is a snapshot in time based on historic information which is liable to change. The City of Melbourne accepts no responsibility and disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information contained in this report.

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MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE



University Square is one of Melbourne's oldest parks. Located in the heart of our innovation precinct, in the rapidly changing neighbourhood of Carlton, it will soon be on the doorstep of a new Parkville Railway Station to be called "University" I hope!

Increased population density and a changing climate present challenges for University Square that require an innovative and forward-thinking response.

To recognise the Square's role and location as a gathering space for residents, students, visitors and workers, the University Square Master Plan has drawn on extensive community feedback to guide the design of this space; to craft a 21st century park.

We want to create a larger park and make the landscape more user friendly and engaging. Over time, many of the elm trees at University Square have declined; a legacy of the drought from 1998 to 2007. In response we will increase the tree canopy and species diversity by planting more than 250 climate-appropriate trees and add a rich understorey, while preserving the Square's existing trees during transition.

In the years ahead we can look forward to a new urban forest and the new avenues that will emerge for future generations of Melburnians to enjoy.

In addition to creating vibrant social spaces that respond to the needs of our community, we will increase the size of University Square, create new plazas and activity areas, capture stormwater, install solar energy and WiFi and introduce moveable furniture so park users can immerse themselves in activity or find a quiet corner of the park. Public art will be integrated at the design stage with the appointment of a public art curator.

The master plan is a partnership between the City of Melbourne, the Victorian Government and the University of Melbourne. Our joint aim is to protect and improve University Square well into the future for the whole community.

Hon Robert Doyle
Lord Mayor of Melbourne

OVERVIEW: SHAPING A 21ST CENTURY PARK

The University Square Master Plan is a blueprint for the future of University Square - a critical public space in Carlton.

It sets the direction and plan to transition a 19th century landscape into a 21st century space that responds to significant demographic and contextual change, while recognising the rich history of the site. It is based on extensive community and stakeholder engagement and sets the vision for University Square including a short and medium-term implementation plan.

The master plan outlines a new vision for University Square that will:

- Create a bigger park by increasing public open space to meet the needs of a rapidly growing, changing and more densely populated community.
- Respond to our changing climate by using open space to redirect and re-use stormwater, capture solar energy, increase tree canopy cover to reduce the urban heat island effect and to contribute to the ecological and human needs of urban space by using understorey plantings.
- Provide for a greater range of use and activity to meet different needs at different times.
- Restore a failing landscape and create a new open space hub that better serves the local community including residents, students, workers and visitors.

Why a master plan?

University Square is seen as a strategically important site for a master plan process. A master plan delivers a comprehensive process that considers planning, community and stakeholder engagement, funding requirements and opportunities, implementation and management. The decision to prepare a master plan was triggered by a number of factors including:

Demographic

- The population of Carlton is expected to increase by 60 per cent in the next decade.
- Carlton has Melbourne's youngest median age of 25, and combined with Parkville, has the highest student population in Melbourne.
- Carlton's population is one of Melbourne's most diverse with more than 56 per cent born overseas.

Open space

- The demand for public open space in Carlton is changing rapidly with over 80 per cent of Carlton residents living in apartments with little or no access to private outdoor space.
- The demand on open space and public realm at University Square has significantly changed. The University of Melbourne is now the single landowner of all buildings that surround University Square.

Environmental

- University Square is an ageing landscape with residual plantings and park design interventions from the 1880s and early 20th century.
- A significant proportion of its 53 elms (*Ulmus procera*) are in severe decline with over 40 per cent having less than a 12-month useful life expectancy.
- Opportunities to improve water cycle management, including stormwater harvesting and flood mitigation in the Elizabeth Street Catchment, by capturing water have been identified.

How to use this master plan

The University Square Master Plan is divided into three main sections:

- context
- actions
- implementation.

Ten major actions have been identified. In addition to the six park precincts, four actions have been identified that relate to:

- planning for trees
- public art
- creating social spaces
- building a living laboratory.


An implementation plan is also included that outlines projected construction phases.


Map 1: University Square Master Plan area




MASTER PLAN SNAPSHOT

MASTER PLAN PRINCIPLES

- 

A connection to the past
- 

Meeting the needs of the future
- 

Balancing priorities in a limited space

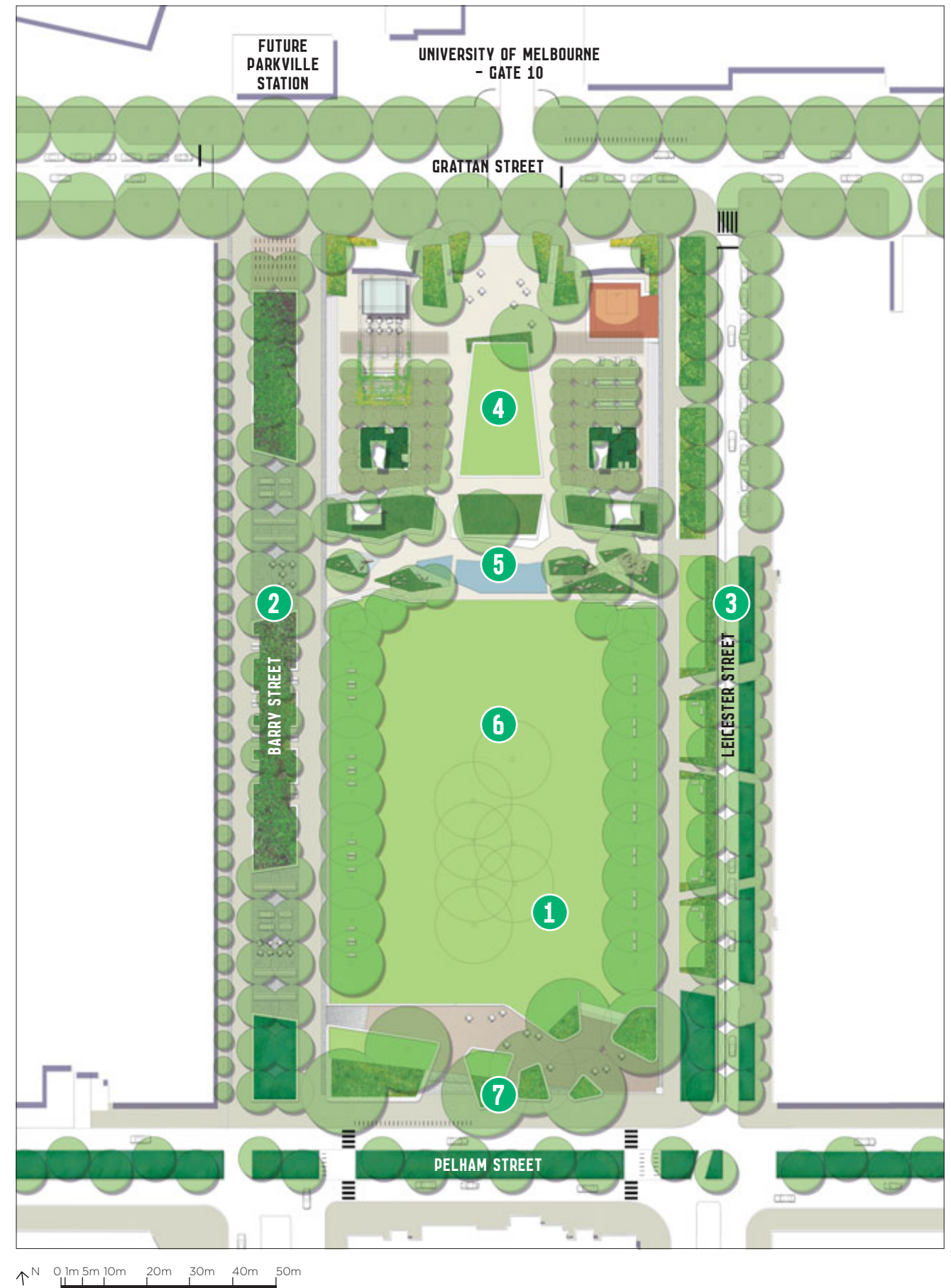
MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

 <p>1 Planning for trees</p>	 <p>2 Barry Street new park spaces</p>	 <p>3 Leicester Street road within a park</p>	 <p>4 Plaza and Grattan Street</p>	 <p>5 Water Terrace</p>
 <p>6 The Green</p>	 <p>7 Pelham Street parkfront and biodiversity corridor</p>	 <p>8 Creating social spaces</p>	 <p>9 Building a living laboratory</p>	 <p>10 Integrated public art vision</p>

BENEFITS OF THE MASTER PLAN

 <p>8739m² new public open space by closing roads (48 per cent increase from 2016)</p>	 <p>4300m² new garden beds (currently none)</p>	 <p>253 new trees (47 per cent increase from 2016)</p>
 <p>2009m² new lawn (30 per cent increase from 2016)</p>		

Map 2: Master plan diagram





1. PLANNING FOR TREES



2. BARRY STREET NEW PARK SPACES



3. LEICESTER STREET ROAD WITHIN A PARK



4. PLAZA AND GRATTAN STREET



5. WATER TERRACE



6. THE GREEN



7. PELHAM STREET PARK FRONT AND BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR



MASTER PLAN PRINCIPLES

The University Square Master Plan is based on three overarching principles.

1. A connection to the past – heritage

The City of Melbourne adopted the Heritage Strategy in 2013. It articulates the City of Melbourne's plan to protect heritage buildings, places and objects. It was developed to ensure the city's rich combination and traditions, memories, places and objects are identified and protected. It states that the City of Melbourne aspires to be a leader in its approach to knowing, protecting, integrating and interpreting the city's heritage values and character.

Knowing our heritage

This involves identifying, assessing and documenting heritage places and assets and to make this information publicly accessible. The University Square Master Plan achieves this by having investigated, identified and assessed items and places of cultural and natural heritage significance.

Protecting our heritage

This entails securing statutory protection for identified places and objects and is achieved by undertaking a review of heritage at University Square and the related Carlton squares and by documenting their natural, cultural and historic significance.

Managing our heritage

This involves developing guidelines to assist decision making and management.

Communicating and celebrating

Melbourne's heritage is important to people who live, work, study and play in the city. University Square encompasses a wealth of stories. The University Square Master Plan will enable a new interpretation of these stories and create connections linking heritage, history, place, culture and communities.

Aboriginal Heritage Action Plan

The City of Melbourne adopted the Aboriginal Heritage Action Plan in 2015. It sets out how the City of Melbourne will work towards the improved recognition and management of Aboriginal heritage in the city.

2. Meeting the needs of the future – planning for future growth

Melbourne's growth surge that began in the 1990s, will see the number of residents, workers and students in the city double by 2030. In Carlton and Parkville, the population is expected to grow by 60 per cent in the next decade.

As Carlton grows, there are greater opportunities and improvements required to ensure that public open space meets the needs of the future. These opportunities must be identified, designed and planned for carefully to ensure the future city remains liveable and meets the needs of the community.

Urban renewal

The transition to a knowledge-based economy is nowhere more pronounced than in Carlton and Parkville. Through ongoing urban renewal, the University of Melbourne now owns each property that surrounds University Square. The ability to create a master plan that recommends significant change, including the closure of Barry Street and partial closure of Leicester Street to expand public open space, would not be possible if multiple landowners were present.

Resource efficient and climate change adapted

It is predicted that Melbourne's future climate will be hotter and drier. The inner city is particularly vulnerable to this change with its concentration of buildings, roads and other infrastructure adding to increased temperatures, known as the heat-island-effect. It is also predicted that climate change could result in larger storm events with higher intensity rainfall. Water catchment management is critical in managing both flood and drought.

Water

Rapid climate change is resulting in less but more intense bursts of rainfall. We must ensure that we use the right water for the right purpose, while minimising flood risk. We need to be clever about how we design our city.

Ecology

Healthy ecosystems and rich biodiversity are vital for the liveability of our city. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity will support the health and wellbeing of our community and contribute to effective climate change adaptation actions. By considering our city as an ecosystem, we will actively foster connections between people, plants, animals and the landscape, to create the legacy of a resilient, balanced and healthy urban environment for future generations to enjoy, and to nurture delight in the natural environment.

Transport

Our vision for University Square is as a connected space. A connected space means a place for people, bicycles, public transport and traffic. The University Square Master Plan promotes an integrated approach, linking all modes of transport and coordinating with city development and urban renewal. Working with the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority to ensure that the new Parkville Station and associated infrastructure integrates with University Square is a critical design principle.

3. Balancing priorities in a limited space

University Square is one of three historic Carlton squares along with Lincoln Square and Argyle Square.

Each square is located in a different area and responds to the needs of its surrounds. Argyle Square is a place where residents, workers and visitors stop to soak-up the atmosphere of Lygon Street. It has been designed as a place to meet and linger featuring a piazza.

Lincoln Square is surrounded by apartments and a hotel and has more of a residential atmosphere. The Bali Memorial is set in Lincoln Square as well as a children's play space.

Each square is designed to respond to its context and to complement the other squares. This enables each square to offer different experiences in an area that has limited public open space.



Location of the three Carlton squares along Pelham Street

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The master plan has been informed and shaped by detailed community and key stakeholder engagement.

Community engagement objectives

The following community engagement objectives were adopted for the University Square Master Plan process, based on the IAP2 (International Association for Public Participation) principles: inform, consult and involve.

Inform

- We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influences the decision.
- We will work with you to ensure your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decision.

Consult and connect

- We will deliver a broad, genuine, innovative and robust community engagement process - more than a traditional local government approach.
- We will ensure people have the information they need to take part in engagement activities.
- We will validate strategic directions and introduce the potential of the project.
- We will provide accurate information about proposed changes to traffic and car parking.
- We will provide accurate information about the declining elm population in University Square and proposed solutions for a new generation of trees.

Involve all stakeholders

- We will enable input from all community members including residents, students, workers and visitors.
- We will seek input from key stakeholders and project partners.

Provide many ways to engage

- We will enable people to have input in a variety of ways (more than one engagement method).
- We will provide regular updates.
- We will provide easy and approachable contact with the project team.

Be inspired and unique

- We will capture the way people use University Square and what they think about University Square.
- We will capture people's vision for the future of the square - 'What's your vision?'
- We will inspire people about the project's potential.
- We will inspire and generate ideas for the look, feel and activity in the new public space.

Community engagement program

Starting in 2014, an extensive four-phase community engagement program was planned and conducted based on the following key deliverables:

Phase 1 - What's your vision?

What's your vision for University Square? Tell us how you use the square and what changes, if any, you would like to see.

Phase 2 - Ideas plan

Report back on what you told us and outline the City of Melbourne's strategic objectives - did we get it right?

Phase 3 - Draft concept plan

Prepare a draft concept plan based on previous rounds of engagement and present to the community for feedback.

Phase 4 - Draft master plan

Refine the draft concept plan in response to community feedback in phase three into a draft master plan and display for further feedback, before the draft master plan is presented to Council for their adoption.

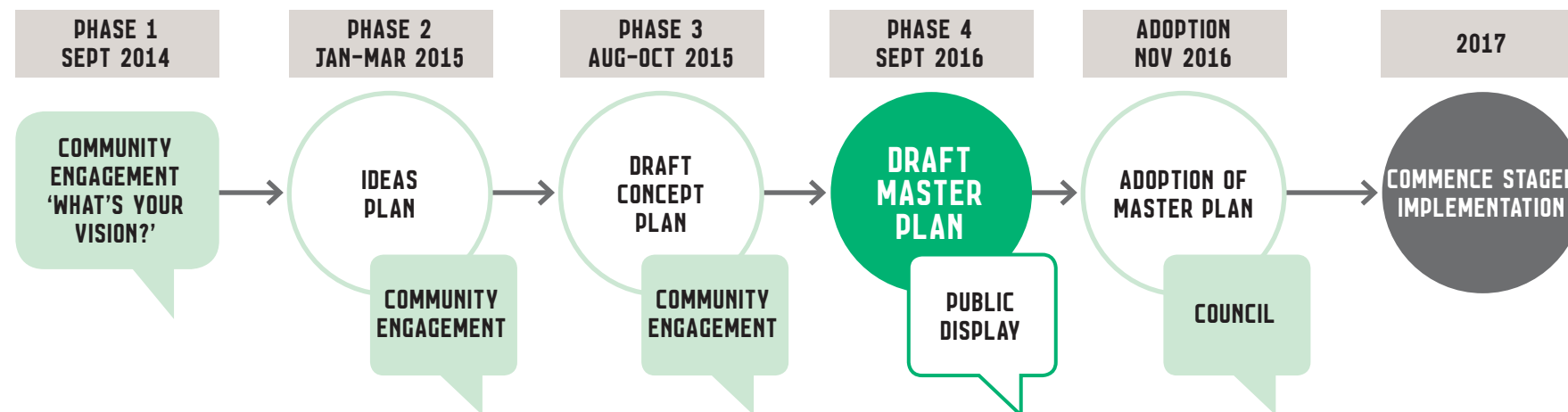
Stakeholder analysis

Several different groups of stakeholders were identified as critical in shaping the future of University Square.

Key project partners and stakeholders

The City of Melbourne is working with the University of Melbourne and the Victorian State Government - both of which are financial partners in this project. Other key stakeholders include:

- Carlton Residents' Association
- Melbourne Metro Rail Authority
- The University of Melbourne Graduate House
- The University of Melbourne Business School.



Phase 1: What's your vision? September 2014

Phase one community engagement was conducted from early September to mid-October 2014. The purpose of the engagement was to raise awareness of the project, develop an understanding of the community's current experiences of University Square and find out what the community wanted to see and do at University Square. The community was invited to share their experiences of University Square by completing a questionnaire online at Participate Melbourne or in-person at three pop-up sessions.

We also outlined the master plan process including the four-phase community engagement plan and anticipated timelines for each phase.

What did we ask?

We asked people whether they currently used University Square, what they liked and disliked and what they would like to see happen. We also discussed some strategic objectives that we wished to explore including the management of a declining tree population, stormwater harvesting and re-use, and increasing the size of the park by closing roads and removing car parking.

Spreading the word

Community engagement was promoted by the City of Melbourne through a range of mediums to reach as many people as possible who live near, visit and use University Square including:

- An information package, including a questionnaire, was sent to over 5,000 households in the Carlton area.
- The City of Melbourne website directed visitors to the Participate Melbourne website.

- Public notice boards were erected at University Square with information about the project and the Participate Melbourne website.
- Postcards were delivered to local businesses, the University of Melbourne Library and Union House.
- Social media featured on the City of Melbourne Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Email to key stakeholders.
- The project was also promoted by external organisations and media outlets including the University of Melbourne student magazine, *Farrago*.
- Three pop-up information sessions were held at University Square for members of the public to drop-in and discuss the project.

Who responded?

In total, approximately 275 responses were received. The engagement generated involvement from the 18-25 age group right through to over 65, but the highest level of participation was from the 18-25 age group (39 per cent) followed by the 26-35 age group (25 per cent). The respondent mix was diverse with workers (27 per cent) making-up the largest single respondent group followed closely by students (23 per cent).

What did we hear?

Four prominent themes emerged from phase one community engagement:

- The plaza area, located next to Grattan Street and on top of the underground car park, was the least liked space in University Square. The extent and emphasis of this sentiment is best captured by the following comment: 'The plaza looks like a cross between a bad imitation of Paris, a car park exit, and a neglected planter box'.

- People expressed a strong desire for more things to do at University Square: 'I use the park to pass through; there's no reason to linger', 'make the space work, vibrant and alive' and 'balance the square's two core functionalities - as a place to hang-out and a place to get you from point A to point B'. These comments highlight the key challenge of re-designing University Square.
- People love the lawn area and shady trees.
- Make the park bigger.

Park expansion

We introduced the concept of park expansion by asking:

'One concept we would like to investigate is making University Square bigger. This would increase the useable space of University Square and allow more trees to be planted in conjunction with capturing stormwater. What do you think about reducing the size of the road and parking spaces in order to increase the size of University Square?'

Some 80 per cent of respondents were in favour of making University Square bigger by decreasing the size of Barry and Leicester streets including the removal of car parking spaces.

Phase 2: Ideas Plan January to March 2015

After initial community consultation in 2014, an Ideas Plan was developed to respond to the community's vision for University Square and to encapsulate our strategic vision. Its main features included:

- An expanded park with a new generation of trees.
- Spaces full of life and activity.
- The closure of Barry Street to expand the park and create a pedestrian and events spine.
- The expansion of the park into Leicester Street while maintaining some traffic - a road in a park.
- Climate-adaptation features including stormwater harvesting, solar power and new horticulture - including a concept to build a flood mitigation and stormwater tank for the three Carlton squares.
- Succession planting so that we are able to manage and plan for tree maintenance, removal and re-planting in a way that ensures maximum re-planting opportunities to create a more resilient landscape.

It was also an opportunity to check-in with the community to ask: 'have we got it right - is this the right direction?'

What did we ask?

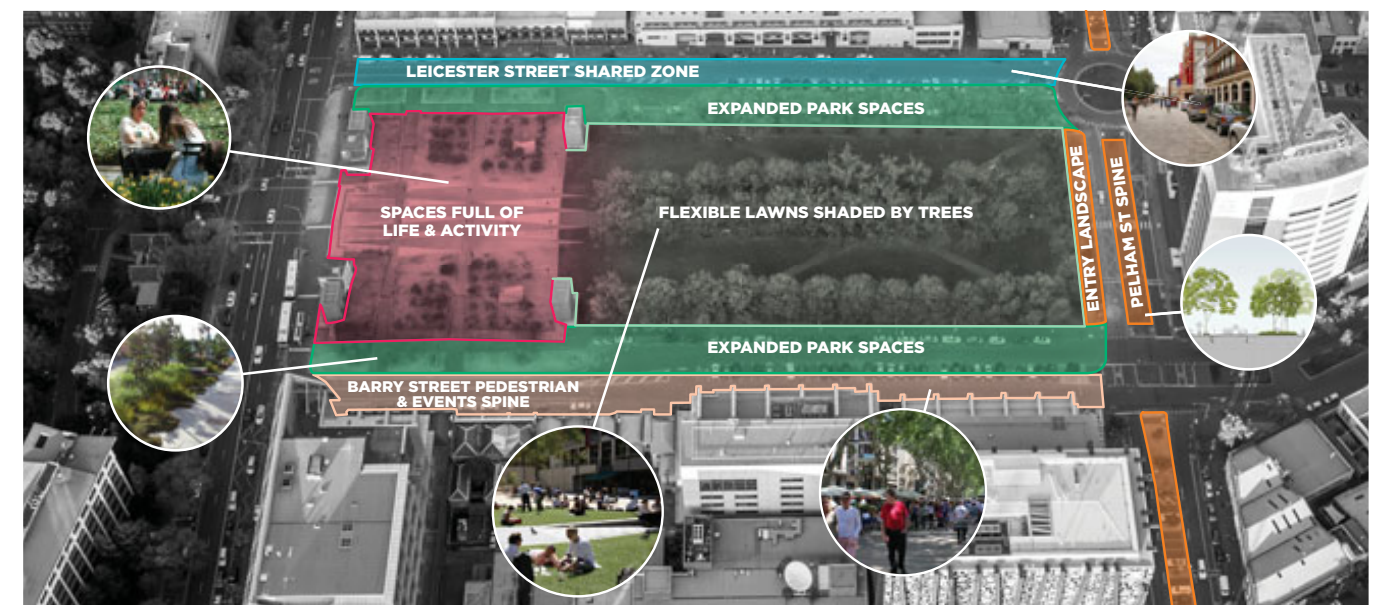
We asked people to explore the Ideas Plan and we introduced park precincts and precedent images. We offered people the opportunity to comment on the Ideas Plan in general or to comment on individual precincts.

Spreading the word

Community engagement was promoted by the City of Melbourne through a range of mediums to reach as many people as possible who live near, visit and use University Square including:

- An information package, including a questionnaire, was sent to over 5,000 households in the Carlton area.
- The City of Melbourne website directed visitors to the Participate Melbourne website.

- Public notice boards were erected at University Square with information about the project and the Participate Melbourne website.
- Postcards were delivered to local businesses, the University of Melbourne Library and Union House.
- Social media featured on the City of Melbourne Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts.
- Email to key stakeholders.
- The project was also promoted by external organisations and media outlets including the University of Melbourne student magazine, *Farrago*.
- Three pop-up information sessions were held at University Square for members of the public to drop-in and discuss the project.



University Square Ideas Plan

Who responded?

INDICATOR	NUMBER
Page visits Overall page visits for the duration of the project engagement. (Note: page visits do not include any administrator or project manager visits)	2,061
Unique page visits Number of distinct users visits for the duration of the project engagement. (Note: page visits do not include any administrator or project manager visits)	1,658
Informed visits Number of unique participants that have visited a specific piece of information (ie viewing a photo, clicking a link, visiting key dates, viewing a forum question).	739
Engaged Visits Number of participants that have made a contribution on the page (ie making a comment on the forum, filling out a survey).	73

What did visitors look at?

INDICATOR	NUMBER
Timeline views	17
Document library downloads	77
... <i>Reimagining University Square community engagement summary report - November PDF</i>	44
... <i>Reimagining University Square community engagement summary report - November DOC</i>	11
... <i>University Square historical timeline</i>	17
... <i>University Square historical timeline</i>	5
University Square Ideas Plan views	698
... <i>Expanded park</i>	443
... <i>Spaces full of life and activity</i>	524
... <i>Barry Street pedestrian and events spine</i>	431
... <i>Leicester Street expanded park and shared zone</i>	409
... <i>Trees and lawns</i>	482
... <i>Stormwater harvesting and Pelham Street</i>	374

What did visitors contribute?

INDICATOR	NUMBER
Overall contributions Number of comments, votes and surveys completed	82
Ideas Plan feedback submissions	82

What did we hear?

Majority support continued for park expansion by road closure and the removal of car parking. The Ideas Plan illustrated major concepts including the closure of Barry Street and a reduction in size of Leicester Street. It also introduced using the plaza as an activity area while preserving the lawn and shady tree 'green'.

There was general support for proposed design principles and precinct intervention.

It provided clear direction to take the Ideas Plan to Draft Concept Plan stage and to develop concepts from the Ideas Plan.

Phase 3: Draft Concept Plan August to October 2015

Phase three community engagement introduced the Draft Concept Plan. It was the first opportunity at which an evolved design was presented including the locations and extent of new spaces, road closures, changes to trees, specific activities and circulation changes. While fine-grain design details were not resolved, including tree species selection, park furniture palette and lighting design, the location and composition of each major intervention, including a proposed staged tree removal program, were introduced.

The Draft Concept Plan responded to previous community feedback and suggestions and set a new direction for the future of University Square by proposing the creation of a bigger park, planting a new generation of trees, giving priority to pedestrians, preserving open lawn areas, injecting life and activity, and responding to population growth and climate change.

The Draft Concept Plan was divided into six precincts: Barry Street, Leicester Street, Pelham Street, Plaza, The Green and the Water Terrace.

What did we ask?

People were asked to provide comments and feedback on the overall Draft Concept Plan as well as for individual precincts.

Spreading the word

Community engagement was promoted by the City of Melbourne through a range of mediums to reach as many people as possible who live near, visit and use University Square including:

- An information package was sent to over 5,000 households in the Carlton area informing people of the Draft Concept Plan and directing people to the Participate Melbourne website.
- The City of Melbourne website directed visitors to the Participate Melbourne website.
- Public notice boards were erected at University Square with information about the project and the Participate Melbourne website.

- Postcards were delivered to local businesses, the University of Melbourne Library and Union House.
- Social media featured on the City of Melbourne Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts.
- Email to key stakeholders.
- The project was also promoted by external organisations and media outlets including the University of Melbourne student magazine, *Farrago*.
- Two community information meetings were held for members of the public.

Who responded?

Over 4,800 people visited the Participate Melbourne website and viewed the Draft Concept Plan. The table overleaf illustrates the number of participants and which parts of the Participate Melbourne site were visited.

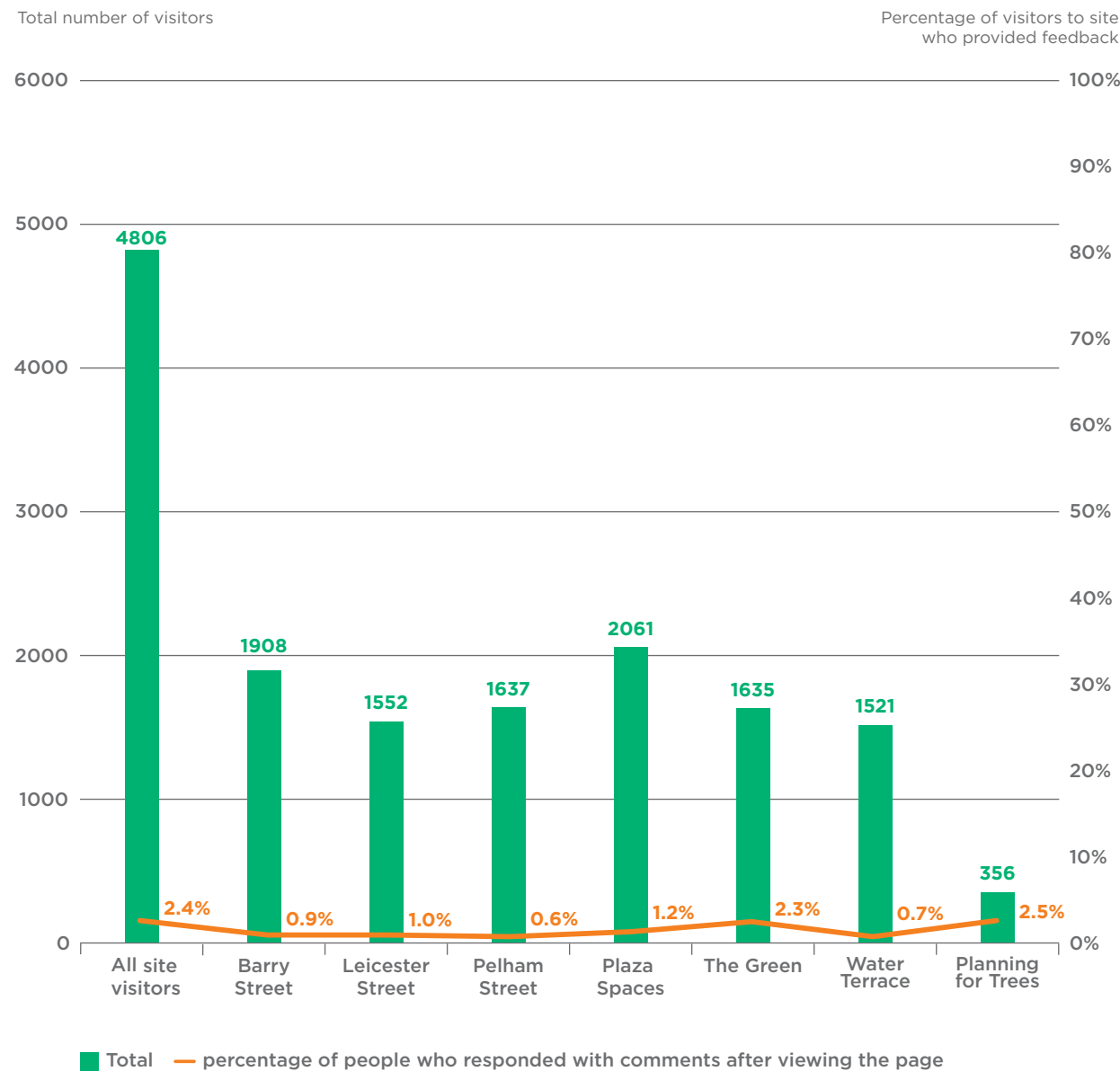
The Draft Concept Plan responds to your suggestions and sets a new direction for the future of University Square by proposing the creation of a bigger park, planting a new generation of trees, giving priority to pedestrians, preserving open lawn areas, injecting life and activity, and responding to a changing population and climate.

UNIVERSITY SQUARE PRECINCTS

The draft concept plan has been divided into six precincts. Explore the plan by clicking on each precinct for more information or click the buttons at the bottom of the page for supporting information.



Phase 3 community engagement Participate Melbourne University Square homepage



Site visitor numbers and respondent proportions

What did we hear?

Barry Street (62 comments)

- The closure of Barry Street to vehicles received the greatest number of comments for this precinct. Slightly more comments were in favour of closing Barry Street than maintaining the status quo.
- The most commonly made points in support of closing Barry Street were:
 - the connections between the surrounding areas would improve
 - increased use will improve security
 - land would be put to more people friendly uses, rather than vehicle use
 - displaced car users could park somewhere else or use public transport.
- The most commonly made points in opposition to closing Barry Street were:
 - closure will discriminate against the disabled who require parking close to the University
 - security risks will increase due to a loss of passive surveillance from vehicle users
 - it is difficult to find alternative transport to private vehicle use, and so there is a subsequent need for parking.
- The facilitation of food vans in the area was supported, as this would attract people.
- Participants were in favour of planting more trees in this area.

There was support for increasing the size of University Square along Barry Street.

Leicester Street (63 comments)

- Narrowing Leicester Street was generally supported, although some preferred retaining a two-way road, because it would slow traffic better.
- There was support for bus use of the road, with some feeling buses should have exclusive use.
- There were a relatively large number of comments about the provision of a bike lane. The most common request was for the bike lane to be two-way as this would be more functional for multiple types of commuters. A relatively large number of participants stated the cycle lanes should be separated from vehicles and pedestrians.
- Some participants were concerned about the removal of parking spaces from Leicester Street. Some stated that they should be retained, while others thought that they should at least be replaced elsewhere. The needs of specific groups were identified in support of retention, including: disabled, elderly, late night working students, non-public transport users and local residents. A few participants specifically stated that they supported the removal of the parking spaces.
- There was general support for planting trees and developing a 'road within a park'.

Pelham Street park front and biodiversity corridor (33 comments)

- This precinct received a relatively small number of comments. Overall, there was support for developing a green link.
- A few participants made specific comment on the details of road design. This included retaining a few car parking spaces in specific places and the heights of road surfaces in specific places.

- A small amount of support was provided for eucalyptus trees, swales, meeting areas and improved access.
- There were a few comments in favour of retaining a central path.

Plaza (86 comments)

- The provision of a half-court for basketball attracted a large number of comments. Support and opposition for its inclusion was relatively even.
- The main reasons for supporting the inclusion of the court were:
 - that it would be popular and well used
 - there are physical and mental health benefits from sport activity
 - the court will make good use of the space.
- The main reasons for opposition were:
 - there were adequate facilities elsewhere already and this was the wrong place for this activity
 - the court will disrupt the peace and greenery of the area, be an inconvenience for those who had to walk around it and look tacky.
- Utilisation of the court and plaza space for a variety of sports/games was sought. The inclusion of table tennis tables was suggested.
- There was mixed support for a cafe, with a number of suggestions and considerations for what this might look like provided.
- Increased shade, shelter, trees and gardens were generally supported.
- The proposed facilities, renewable energy and lighting were generally supported.

The Green (139 comments)

- The Green was the precinct that received the most comments. Almost half of the comments on The Green disagreed with removing the trees along the central path because of their shading, heritage, historical, biodiversity and aesthetic values.
- Almost one third of comments strongly disagreed with the removal of the central and diagonal pathways. The main reasons for this opposition were that walkers would cross the park anyway resulting in worn desire lines and that the removal of the path would be a great inconvenience. Several suggestions were made for improving the proposed central crossing including a variety of ideas on construction materials.
- There was some opposition to making significant changes to The Green in order to create a larger lawn, particularly the internal changes (removal of paths and trees). Participants preferred the current layout because the smaller zones were believed to facilitate more passive activities, as well as separating activities from each other. It was also stated that with the extended perimeter area there would be enough space for users without removing the paths. Some believed the changes would result in the loss of a historic space.
- Those in support liked the idea of an uninterrupted large open space, but generally still wanted a centre path retained, even if it was narrower than the current path.
- Extending the perimeter path was generally supported, though not as a replacement for the central path.
- A few queried what will happen to the central fountain.

Water Terrace (34 comments)

- The Water Terrace received a relatively small number of comments.
- Overall the proposed Water Terrace concept was supported in around two thirds of the comments made on this topic. The benefits of a water feature were considered to be: great for children and adults to dip their feet in and play; provide general cooling and; be good for bird life.
- Consideration of incorporating the Bouverie Creek was raised by some and reference was also made by a few to the South Lawn pond as an exemplar of how to incorporate water. The need to consider indigenous values was also raised.
- The one third who opposed the water feature were concerned about its presence during droughts and subsequent water restrictions, and that it was inappropriate in this space, especially since it is aimed at children and this area is predominantly used by adults.

Planning for trees (87 comments)

- The removal of trees was the most commonly discussed topic related to trees. Many wanted the existing elm trees kept, particularly those in the middle of the park. A number of reasons were given for keeping them, including: shade, heritage value, habitat for animals and aesthetics.
- Some participants suggested a staged removal of trees, other suggested trees be deliberately left to show people what happens when trees die. A few participants were complimentary of the succession plan suggested in the Draft Concept Plan.

- Regarding replacement tree types there was a mixed response to planting eucalyptus trees, with some believing they would be a great option because they grow well in local conditions, whereas others were more in favour of deciduous European species, particularly elms, which let light in during winter and provide shade in summer. Other tree varieties were also suggested including fruit trees.

Overall summary (79 comments)

A number of suggested additions to the plan were put forward. These were all relatively unique and are described below:

- Personal security was discussed in a few different parts of the plan. Safety in public places at night was the biggest concern. There were different view-points put forward related to the area becoming more or less safe as a consequence of the changes.
- As a result of the proposed plan a significant number of car parking spaces will be lost. A few participants disagreed with the loss and thought they should be replaced somewhere else, while a few thought replacing hard surfaces with grass was a good idea.
- There were mixed views on the provision of facilities for skateboarders, amongst the several comments made on the topic.
- A few comments indicated there was general support for the inclusion of a cafe and food trucks.
- There were significantly more generally positive comments than generally negative comments.

Phase 4: Draft Master Plan September 2016

Phase four community engagement, the final phase of community engagement for the project, introduced the draft master plan to the community and key stakeholders. The University Square Draft Master Plan featured ten master plan actions and supporting information relating to the background, project context and community engagement process.

Key features of the draft master plan included more detail in relation to the Metro Tunnel Project and the impact of the proposed Parkville Station on University Square and the proposed master plan implementation program. It also provided specific responses to items raised in phase three community engagement including better design resolution of the Water Terrace (Master Plan Action 5), more clarity in relation to Planning for Trees (Master Plan Action 1) and introduced non-precinct or overall master plan actions including more details regarding the approach to public art at University Square (Master Plan Actions 8, 9 and 10).

The main focus of phase four community engagement was to provide more detail in relation to how the proposed Parkville Station would influence design and master plan recommendations. Specific areas included new pedestrian crossings from the station to Barry Street, changes to Grattan Street and impacts of construction to the implementation of the master plan. The fundamental importance of the University Square Master Plan as a blueprint for the future of this precinct was emphasised.

What did we ask?

People were asked to provide comments and feedback on the ten master plan actions and to rate their satisfaction on the overall master plan.

Spreading the word

Phase four community engagement involved a number of elements with the digital engagement platform, Participate Melbourne, at its core. These elements were:

Online information platform

Participate Melbourne is the digital engagement hub for all City of Melbourne consultations. On this platform, participants could find all relevant project documentation. Over the duration of the engagement, the platform attracted 4,850 unique page views, with the interactive draft master plan receiving 12,455 page clicks.

Online comments section

Participants were able to leave submissions in the form of comments directly on the relevant master plan action (eg Planning for Trees, Leicester Street, public art etc). A total of 112 comments were lodged by 67 participants.

Community workshop

Stakeholder were invited to attend two workshops hosted by The Space Agency. A total of 18 participants took part in the workshop sessions.

Social media

Social media posts by the City of Melbourne Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts attracted 3,462 visitors to Participate Melbourne.

Direct engagement

The City of Melbourne is working with the University of Melbourne and the Victorian State Government – both of which are financial partners in this project.

Who responded?

Over 12,000 people visited the Participate Melbourne hub to view the draft master plan. Of those views, 4,275 unique views were recorded and 112 respondents left individual comments and recommendations. The table below illustrates the number of overall participants and levels of community engagement.

What did we hear?

Overall, the 87 formal participants contributed 227 recommendations relating to the draft master plan. Some 80 per cent of these recommendations were submitted through Participate Melbourne.

From a demographic perspective, 63 per cent of participants said they work in the municipality, 45 per cent of participants said they live in the municipality, and just over 20 per cent identified as ratepayers. Over 90 per cent of those aged 30+ worked in the municipality and 100 per cent of people under the age of 30 were studying.

Participants were asked to associate a score indicating their level of support for the proposed actions outlined in the draft master plan. The average score for the draft master plan was three out of five, which equates with the statement: '(I) Support some parts of it but not others'.

Participants directed nearly 60 per cent of their recommendations towards five principle areas of interest, these included:

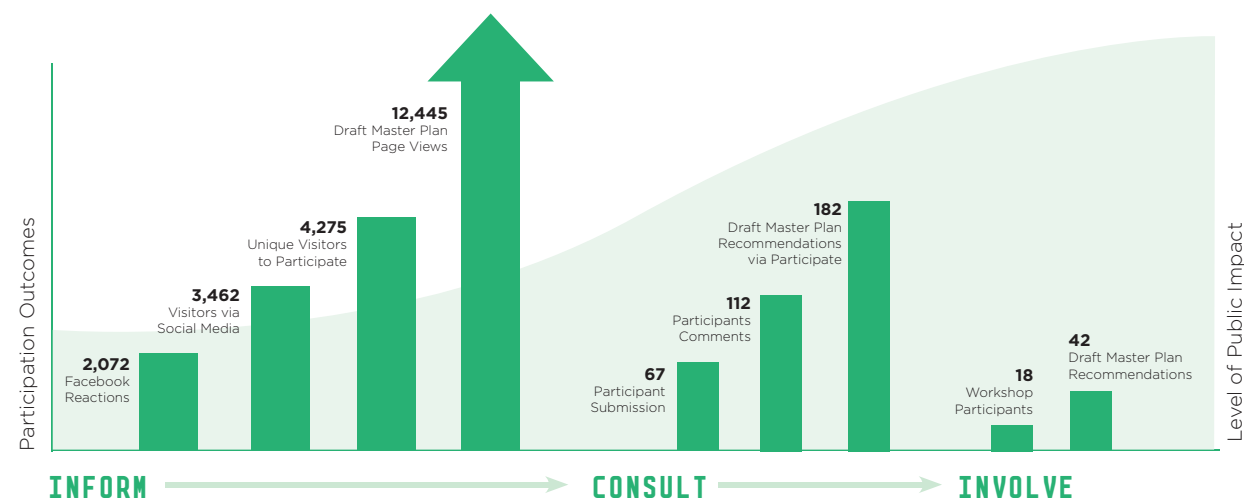
- The overall design and place making features within the action areas (18.5 per cent). This included considerations as to the kinds of activities, spaces and seating that would be included in the future park, as well as specific design recommendations relating to the action areas.
- The maintenance of the existing elm trees within the park (13.2 per cent).
- The management of traffic and parking as a result of proposed changes to the areas streets (9.7 per cent).

- The preservation of the existing paths in The Green (8.8 per cent).
- New planting and greenery (7.9 per cent). This included consideration for the type and variety of trees.

Outside of general comments which received the highest number of comments (65) and recommendations (79), the action areas that received the most interest from participants were:

- Planning for trees
- The Green
- Plaza and Leicester Street.

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



Participate Melbourne is the digital engagement hub for all City of Melbourne consultations. On this platform, participants have access to all relevant project documentation. **Over the duration of the engagement, the platform attracted 4,275 unique visitors, with the interactive Draft Master Plan receiving 12,455 page views.**

Through Participate Melbourne, participants were able to leave submissions in the form of comments directly on the relevant project sections. **A total of 112 comments were lodged by 67 participants.** Another 2 submission were placed via email.

Stakeholders were invited to attend two workshop sessions. **A total of 18 participants took part in the workshops and contributed 42 recommendations.**

Master plan response

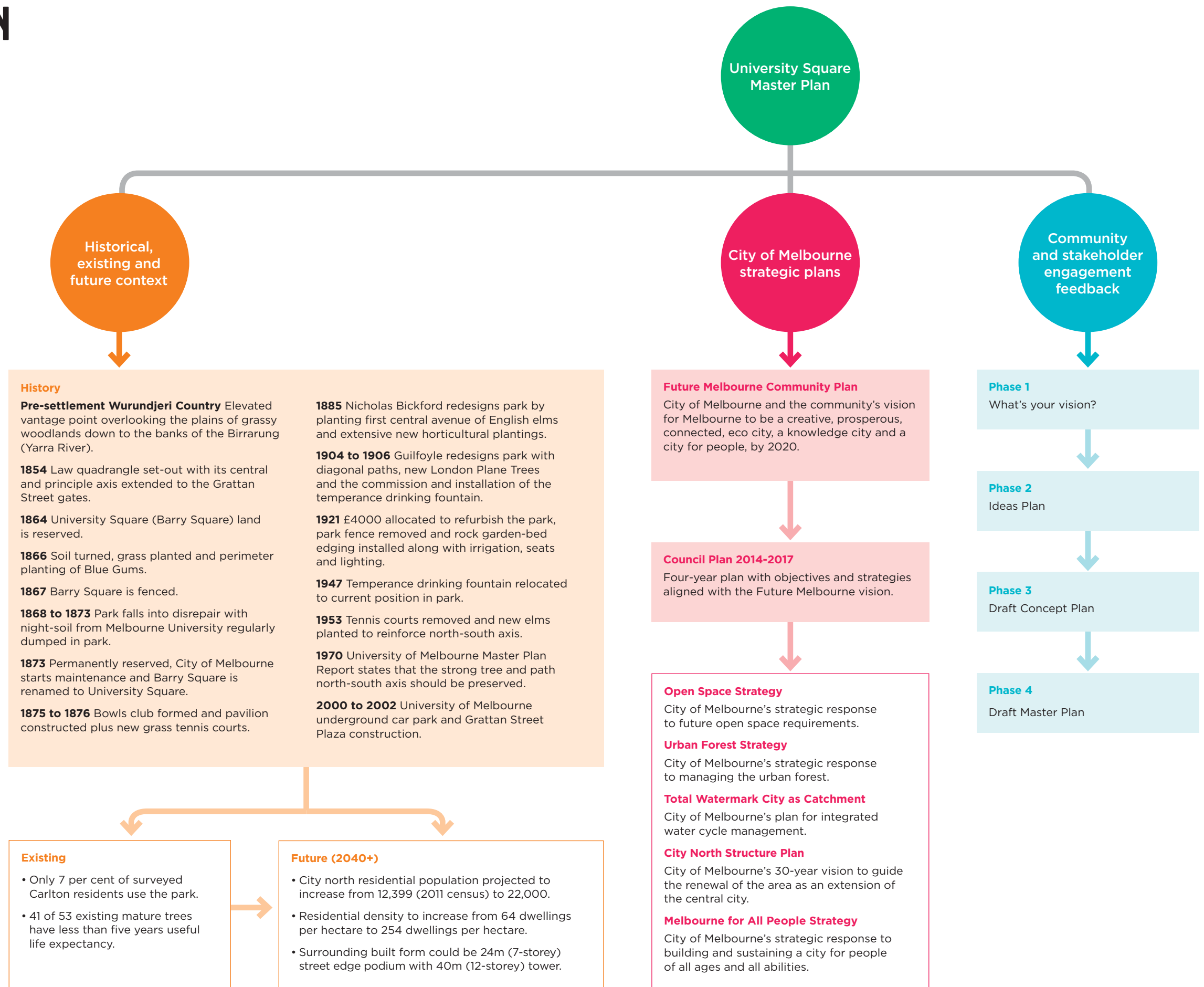
<p>Planning for trees</p> <p>We heard:</p> <p><i>'Please retain as many of the elm trees as possible!'</i></p> <p><i>'What about the protected wild animals that live in the trees? Can we have a plan for them?'</i></p> <p><i>'It sounds fair that it's time to do an upgrade of the trees that are in definite decline but I would like to see more information on the actual planting plan, what types of trees, what the landscape will look like etc.'</i></p>	<p>Master plan response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the poor health of the existing trees, tree removals are a necessary part of planning for the future of University Square. Not every tree will be removed at the start of construction, a staged approach for removals will be taken over a number of years. Elm trees that have been assessed to be in the poorest condition and those that prevent the planting of new trees will be prioritised for removal first. A detailed biodiversity inventory focussing on microbats, possums and birds will be undertaken and be used to prepare a fauna management plan before tree removals start. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A public art curator has been appointed to work with the community to tell the story of University Square's elm trees and to incorporate their story into the future. A diverse range of species, including over 250 native, exotic, deciduous and evergreen trees, will be replanted and extensive new garden beds will also be installed. This detail will be developed in 2017 and presented to the community before stage one construction begins.
<p>The Green</p> <p>We heard:</p> <p><i>'There needs to be a path in the middle of the lawn. The majority of people use this space to walk from Grattan Street down to either The Spot or the Law Building.'</i></p> <p><i>'I am worried that without made paths, grass will be quickly decimated by the large numbers of pedestrians crossing the park daily.'</i></p>	<p>Master plan response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University Square has responded to its location in a changing neighbourhood and will continue to do so as the new Parkville Station is built. The central path had less prominence prior to 2000, when the Lawn Bowls Club blocked access to University Square from Grattan Street and Gate 10. The new Parkville Station entrance will be located at the Barry and Grattan Street intersection along with a new signalised pedestrian crossing. Barry Street will become the major pedestrian crossing point for students and members of <p>Grattan and Pelham streets making the existing central path redundant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During construction of Parkville Station, the only north-south access in University Square will be on Leicester Street. The University Square Master Plan responds to these changes by relocating major pedestrian access points to correspond with the new station entrances and site constraints during the construction of Parkville Station.
<p>Plaza and Grattan Street and Water Terrace</p> <p>We heard:</p> <p><i>'This is all great and the park will be really nice, but it's all of little use if Grattan St is still impossible to cross. There must be better pedestrian connections apart from having to wait 5 minutes for the pedestrian light to change as cars zoom past.'</i></p> <p><i>'Looks good! If RMIT Urban Square is any indication, this BBall court will be VERY popular!'</i></p> <p><i>'I am against a basketball court due to the noise disturbing the peace and tranquility of the park. Who would want to relax or have a coffee near the bull thud of a basketball.'</i></p> <p><i>'I think this is an opportunity lost. This would have been a wonderful place to celebrate our indigenous heritage in a prominent place. I think this should have been an indigenous garden.'</i></p>	<p>Master plan response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grattan Street will change as a result of the Metro Tunnel Project. Grattan Street will be closed to traffic during construction of the new station. After construction, it is likely that Grattan Street will be reduced from a four-lane carriageway to two lanes with an additional signalised pedestrian crossing at Barry Street. Crossing Grattan Street can be much easier. By using the concrete plaza as the focal point for activities including barbecues, table tennis, picnic areas and more active recreation including basketball, it enables the rest of an expanded University Square to cater for more passive activities. The design of the basketball half-court is recessed, taking advantage of one of the existing planter beds. This will mitigate sound. The University Square Public Art Curator will work closely with the University of Melbourne's Institute for Indigenous Development and traditional owners to celebrate the rich Aboriginal history of this site.
<p>Leicester Street</p> <p>We heard:</p> <p><i>'Most aspects are really good. Though I think that a physically separated bike lane would be better as it's safer for cyclists and prevents motorists from stopping in the bike lane to let people in/out. A contra-flow bike lane heading south would also be a good idea.'</i></p> <p><i>'Leicester St is a huge waste of space and the road within a park concept is great. Agree that the bike lane could be separated by more than a painted line when it has to contend with one of Melbourne's busiest bus routes.'</i></p> <p><i>'This is a good part of the plan. However the impact of the removal of the roundabout on car speeds should be considered.'</i></p>	<p>Master plan response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leicester Street will be rezoned to a 40 km/h speed limit. Some kerbside car parking, accessible car parking and loading zones will be created on the eastern side of Leicester Street. The creation of a separated cycle lane for a small section of Leicester Street at University Square will not be useful as it does not extend, in any direction, outside of the University Square precinct. It is likely that Grattan Street will be redesigned, following the completion of Parkville Station, to include bicycle lanes connecting with the main Swanston Street bicycle lanes.

CONTEXT



MASTER PLAN FRAMEWORK

The University Square Master Plan considers three main drivers.



SITE HISTORY

University Square has a rich and diverse history having undergone several transformations. This process of change and evolution continues today.

Before settlement, the land on which University Square sits was the site of an elevated vantage point, overlooking the grassy plains and woodlands, down to the banks of the Birrarung (Yarra River). Located at the top of the Elizabeth Street and Bouverie Creek catchments, this area was a favourite place of the Wurrundjeri for gathering and catching eels. Even though both creeks have long since been piped and covered over, it is said that eels still occupy the creeks.

In the 1850s it was set-out as a park by John Batman as part of the new suburb of Carlton and the University of Melbourne precinct. As part of the Carlton layout, University Square forms part of a chain of squares with two other parks, Lincoln and Argyle squares,

all located along the east-west axis of Pelham Street. The reservation of the Carlton squares as parks had its basis in London's garden squares tradition, which created open spaces in the centre of new residential neighbourhoods for surrounding residents. While these garden squares remain fenced, semi-private spaces in London, in Melbourne they are now public parks with the fences at University Square removed in 1921.

The park has a long relationship with the University of Melbourne. It was initially named Barry Square, after the first Chancellor. It sits on a north-south axis encompassing the 1854 law quadrangle and the Grattan Street gates. It is said that the reservation of this square was made to subdue concerns expressed by the new University of Melbourne that insufficient land had been allocated to the campus and that the park would act as a grand foyer to the new campus. Until the 1980s, many of the properties surrounding University Square were private homes. The University of Melbourne is now the sole landowner of all perimeter properties.

University Square has undergone many transformations since being set-out in the 1860s. It was planted first with a perimeter of Tasmanian Blue Gums (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and fenced. In 1873, the park formally came under management of Melbourne City Council and was renamed from Barry Square to University Square. A lawn bowls club and tennis courts were built at the northern end of the square in 1875 – interrupting the grand axis between the law quadrangle and the square.

In 1885, the beginnings of the landscape that currently exists at University Square was established. The English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) avenues were planted and extensive new ornamental garden beds established. Public park trappings including seats, the new diagonal paths, drinking fountains and irrigation were installed in the 1920s.

Following the removal of the tennis courts in the 1950s, the lawn bowls club was removed in 1999 to make way for a new underground car park for the University of Melbourne and with a public plaza above.



Before settlement, University Square was the site of an elevated vantage point overlooking the grassy plains and woodlands down to the banks of the Birrarung (Yarra River). 1865 "Merri Creek" by Charles Troedel. Source: State Library of Victoria



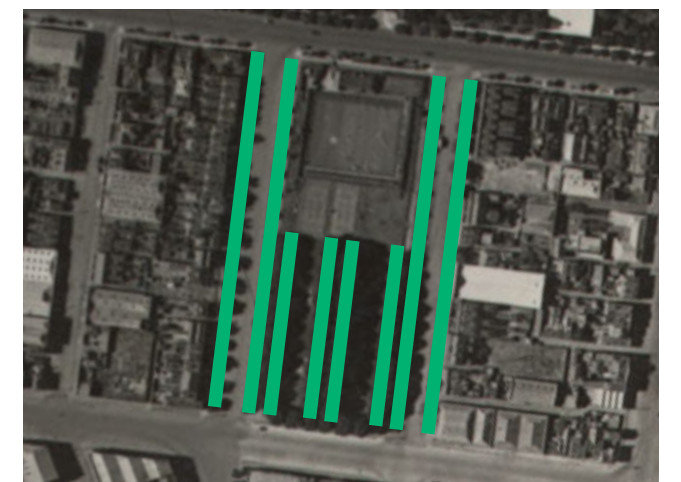
1851 to 1852: Map of Melbourne which shows the original setout of Carlton did not include University Square. "Melbourne and its suburbs"; engraved by David Tullock and James D. Brown. Source: State Library of Victoria



1864 to 1875: Ornamental Reserve. Carlton 'garden squares' connected by Pelham Street to Haymarket roundabout, Lincoln Square, Argyle Square and Carlton Gardens. Source: 1867 Crown Record



1875 to 1876: Bowls club, pavilion and tennis courts. Balance of active recreation facilities and passive recreation amenity for the local community. Source: c1897 MMBW plan



1885 to 1906: Bickford and John Guilefoyle Park redesigns. Extensive and diverse horticultural plantings and formal tree avenues. Source: c1945 aerial photo

EXISTING CONDITIONS



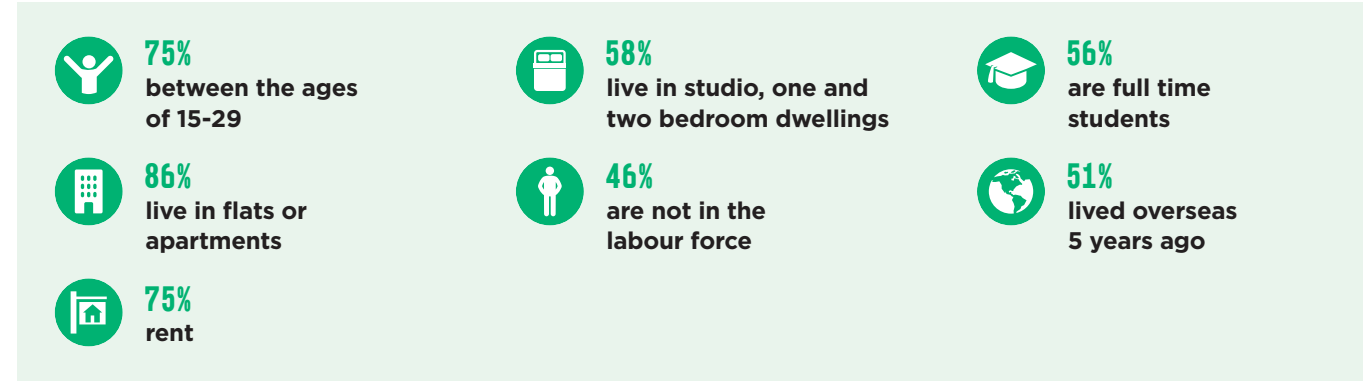
University Square aerial photograph 2014

University Square is a failing landscape. It has an ageing tree population, planted in avenues, with no succession planting to date.

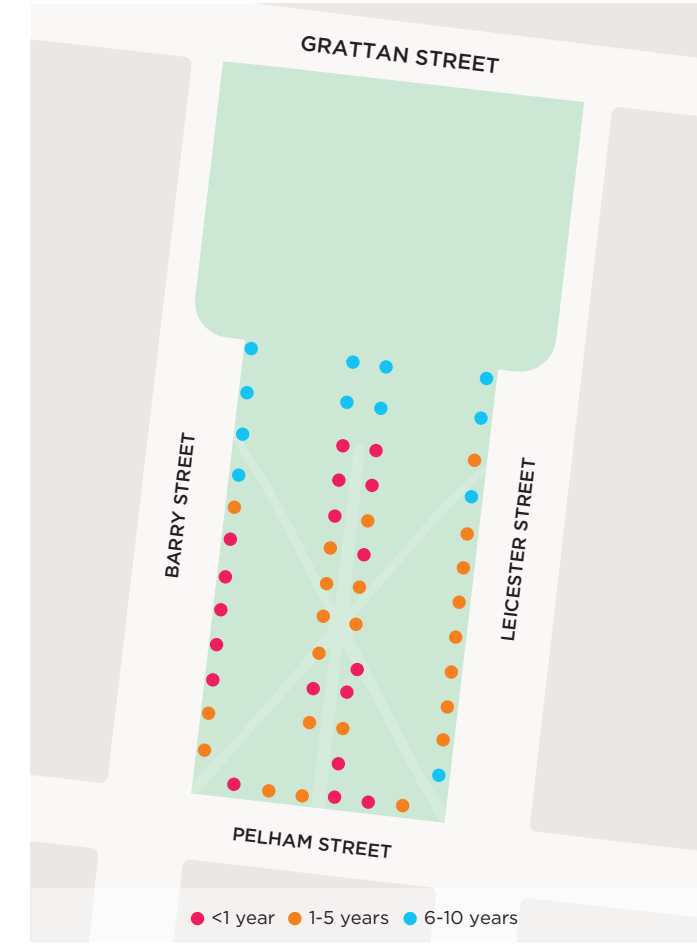
University Square is no longer surrounded by private homes. It is now in the heart of Melbourne's education precinct, an area with the youngest average age in Melbourne. Over 86 per cent of local residents and students live in apartments with little or no access to private open space.

The Square sits at the top of the Elizabeth Street water catchment and currently plays no role in flood mitigation or stormwater capture. University Square needs to do more.

Demographic snapshot



University Square elm tree useful life expectancy 2014



University Square existing elm trees useful life expectancy map showing 41 out of 53 trees have less than five years useful life expectancy. Source: City of Melbourne 2014.

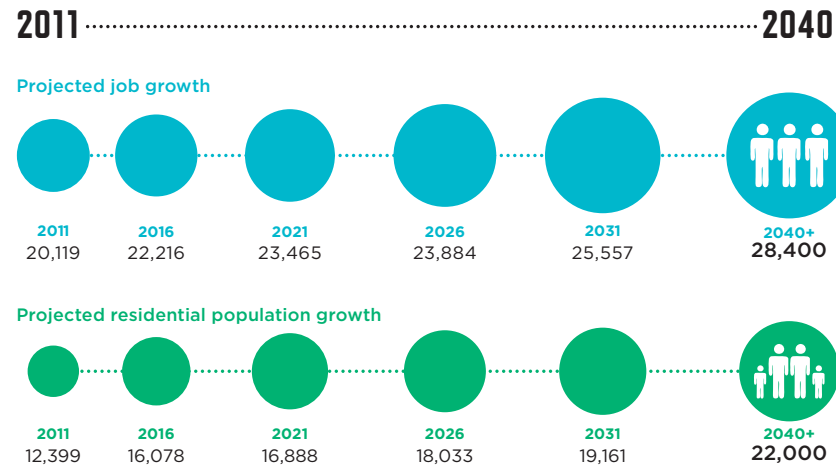


Photographs taken in summer 2014 of the existing elm trees, in which the trees show reduced canopy foliage, a clear sign of decline.

FUTURE CONTEXT

Parkville is a world-class education, health and research precinct. It is critical to Victoria's and Australia's leadership in biotechnology, medical research, education and health services and draws people from across the metropolitan area and regional Victoria.

In the next 15 years, the population of this area is expected to double, which will have a significant impact on the density of buildings and the reliance on public open space. The image below shows a projection of how this area may develop around University Square.



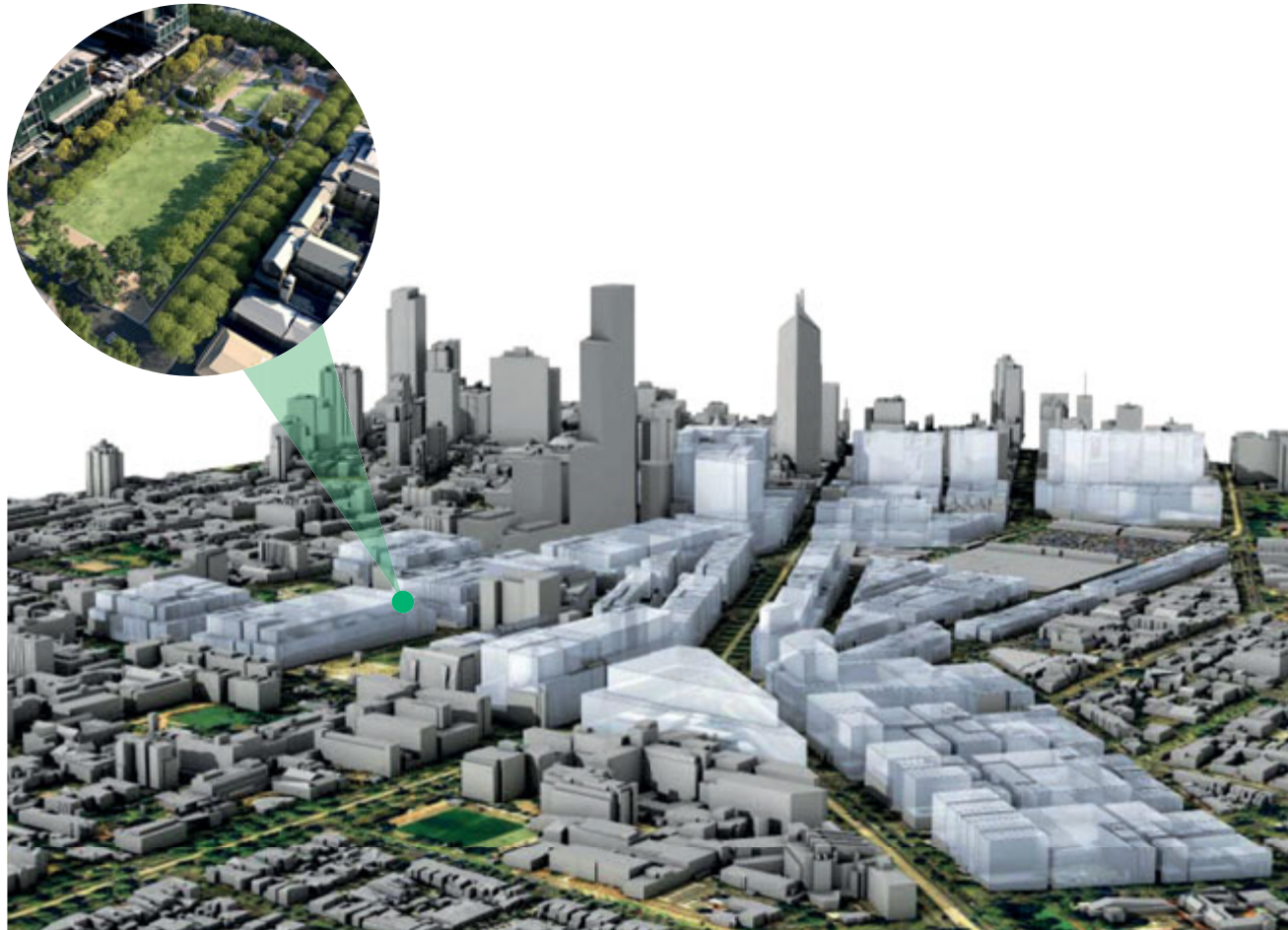
Demographic projection data from the City of Melbourne City North Structure Plan

Metro Tunnel Project

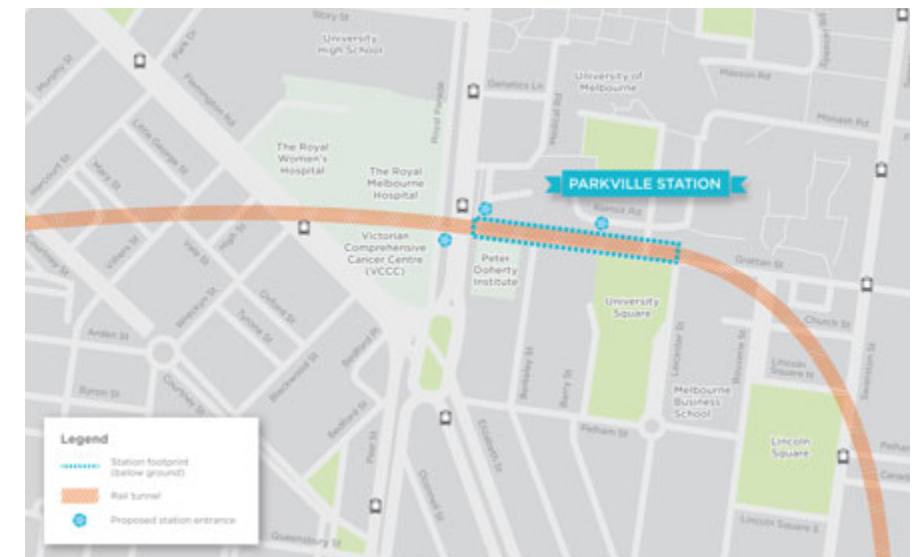
In 2018, construction of the Metro Tunnel Project, an \$11 billion Victorian State Government project, will continue to change and shape the Carlton and Parkville area. University Square will be at the heart of this change.



Metro Tunnel Project map showing the proposed alignment of the underground tunnel and location of the five new train stations at Arden, Parkville, CBD North, CBD South and Domain. Source: Melbourne Metro Rail Authority



Perspective of potential built form in city north growth area showing University Square surrounded by buildings up to 12 storeys high. Source: City of Melbourne City North Structure Plan



Metro Tunnel Project map showing Parkville Station located on Grattan Street between Royal Parade and Leicester Street. Source: Melbourne Metro Rail Authority

Map 4: Urban Forest Strategy - Carlton precinct canopy cover and biodiversity outcomes

Urban Forest Strategy

The City of Melbourne is facing the significant challenges of climate change, population growth and urban heating, placing pressure on the built fabric, services and people of the city. A healthy urban forest will play a critical role in maintaining the health and liveability of Melbourne.

Our Urban Forest Strategy seeks to manage this change and protect against future vulnerability by providing a robust strategic framework for the evolution and longevity of Melbourne's urban forest.






The strategy aims to:

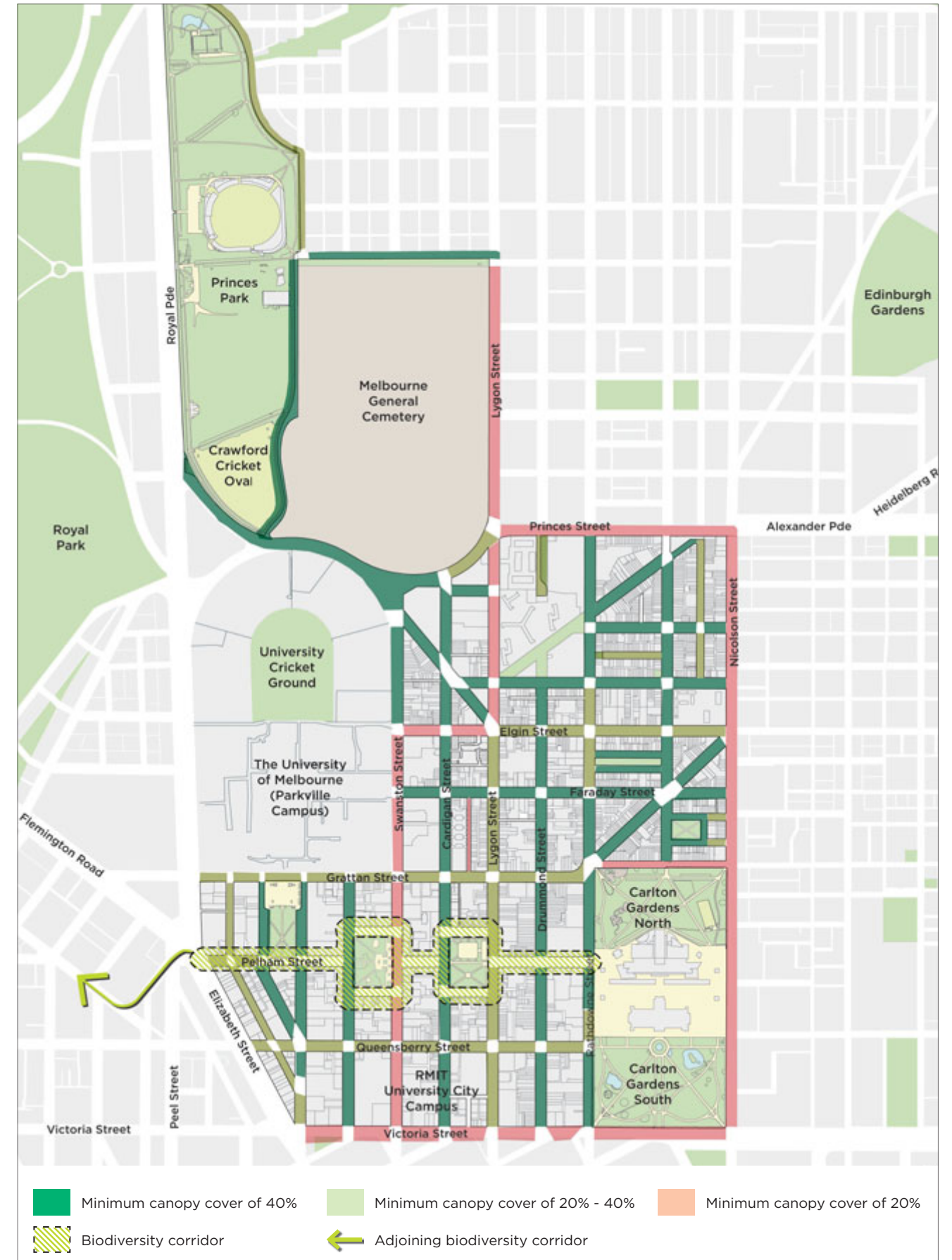
- adapt our city to climate change
- mitigate the urban heat island effect by bringing our inner-city temperatures down
- create healthier ecosystems
- become a water-sensitive city
- engage and involve the community.

We will achieve this by:

- increasing canopy cover from 22 per cent to 40 per cent by 2040
- increasing forest diversity with no more than 5 per cent of one tree species, no more than 10 per cent of one genus and no more than 20 per cent of any one family
- improving vegetation health
- improving soil moisture
- improving biodiversity
- informing and consulting with the community.

University Square deliverables

-  **253 new trees**
-  **SPECIES DIVERSITY replacement of existing monoculture with 20 different species of trees**
-  **8739M² new public open space**
-  **4300M² of new garden beds**
-  **PELHAM STREET establishment of the biodiversity corridor**



Elizabeth Street Catchment Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan

The Elizabeth Street Catchment Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan is a strategy for sustainable water management within the 308-hectare Elizabeth Street Catchment that will guide our actions for the next 15 years to 2030.

The catchment sits entirely within the municipality of Melbourne. It starts at College Crescent in Carlton and finishes where the Elizabeth Street drain joins the Yarra River below Flinders Street Station.

The Elizabeth Street Catchment is categorised by Melbourne Water as being at extreme flood risk - the highest level. Our plan includes an approach to reduce this flood risk. It also includes ways to use alternative water sources to irrigate existing and future parks and open spaces.

As one of the biggest water users in the municipality and as the manager of stormwater on roads, parks and open space within the city, the City of Melbourne has a leadership role to play in water cycle management.

The plan involves all the elements of the water cycle that the City of Melbourne can influence - water consumption, rainwater, stormwater, wastewater and groundwater management.

Objectives

1. To reduce the catchment's Melbourne Water flood risk rating from 'extreme' to 'high'.
2. To increase open space, soil moisture and areas of unsealed soil in the Elizabeth Street Catchment.
3. To mimic the natural water cycle by retaining more rainwater in the upper section of the catchment and reducing stormwater runoff.
4. To improve the health of existing vegetation through irrigation from alternative water sources.

University Square deliverables

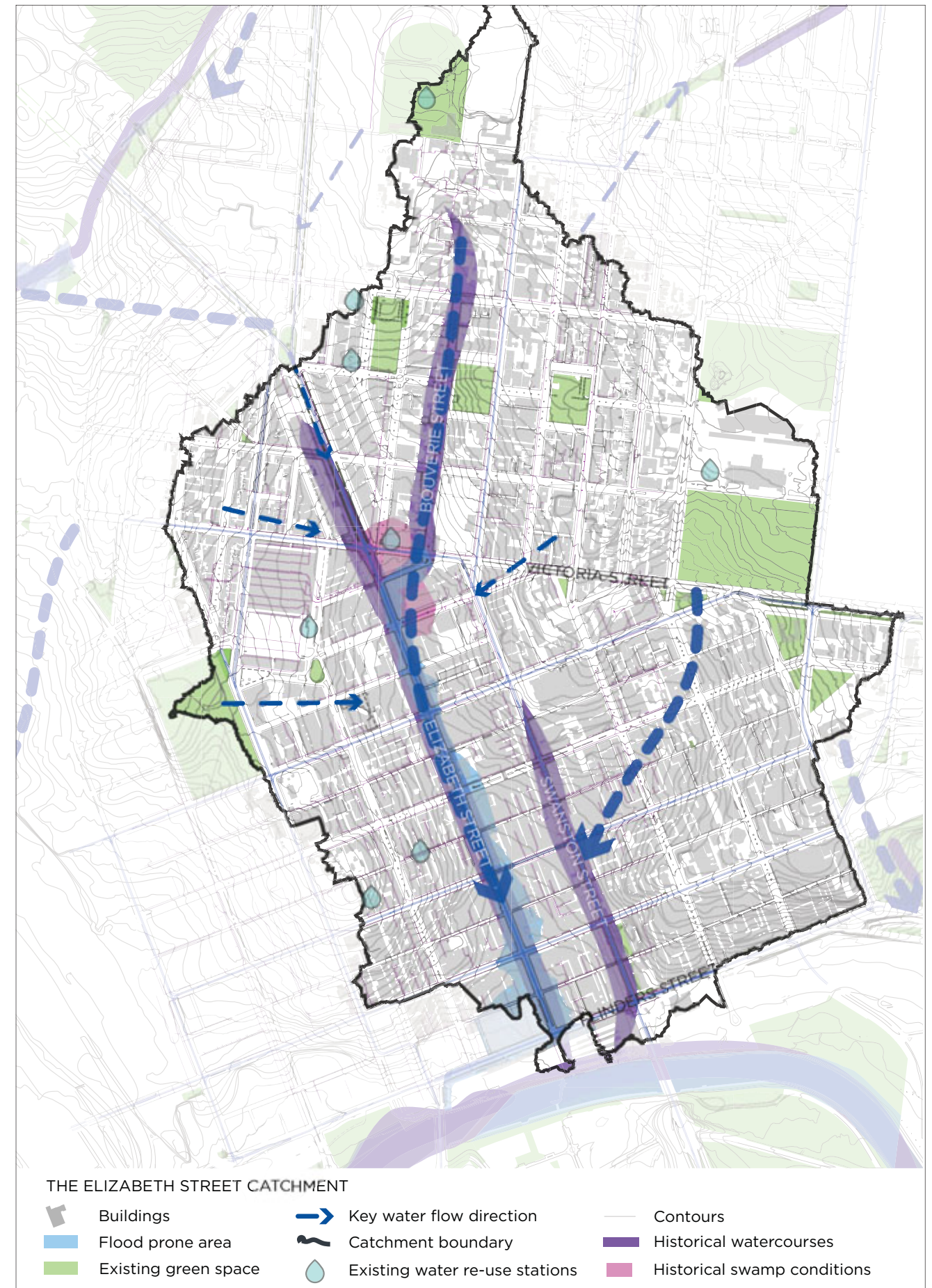
FLOODING
2 million litres of stormwater removed from the Elizabeth Street Catchment

ALTERNATIVE WATER USE
30 per cent reduction in potable water demand

WATER QUALITY
improving stormwater quality by increasing the number of water sensitive urban design treatments

OPEN SPACE
8739m² of new open space

Map 5: Elizabeth Street Catchment Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan - Catchment Plan



Map 6: City North Structure Plan - City North Growth Area

City North Structure Plan

We have identified City North as an urban renewal area that will accommodate significantly more residents and employment growth over the next 30 years. The City North Structure Plan 2012 provides a 30 year vision to guide the renewal of the area.

Summary

City North covers an area of 130 hectares to the north of the central city, taking in Grattan, Swanston, Victoria, Peel, Capel, Courtney and Harcourt streets.

The area has a diverse mix of industrial, commercial, retail and residential uses and is home to major health, education and research institutions and the Queen Victoria Market.

Strategies and actions

Strategies and actions in the City North Structure Plan include:

- activities and land uses to integrate a more diverse mix of activities
- urban structure and built form to guide building heights, form and density
- transport and access to ensure a high level of connectivity and to sustainably manage traffic, car parking, walking, cycling, public transport, private vehicles and freight transport routes
- public realm to deliver new and improved open spaces and attractive and safe streetscapes
- community infrastructure to deliver community services
- sustainable infrastructure to ensure that City North is a self-sustaining and efficient area.

University Square deliverables



INCREASED PARK ACTIVITIES



PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE CONNECTIVITY

better pedestrian connectivity

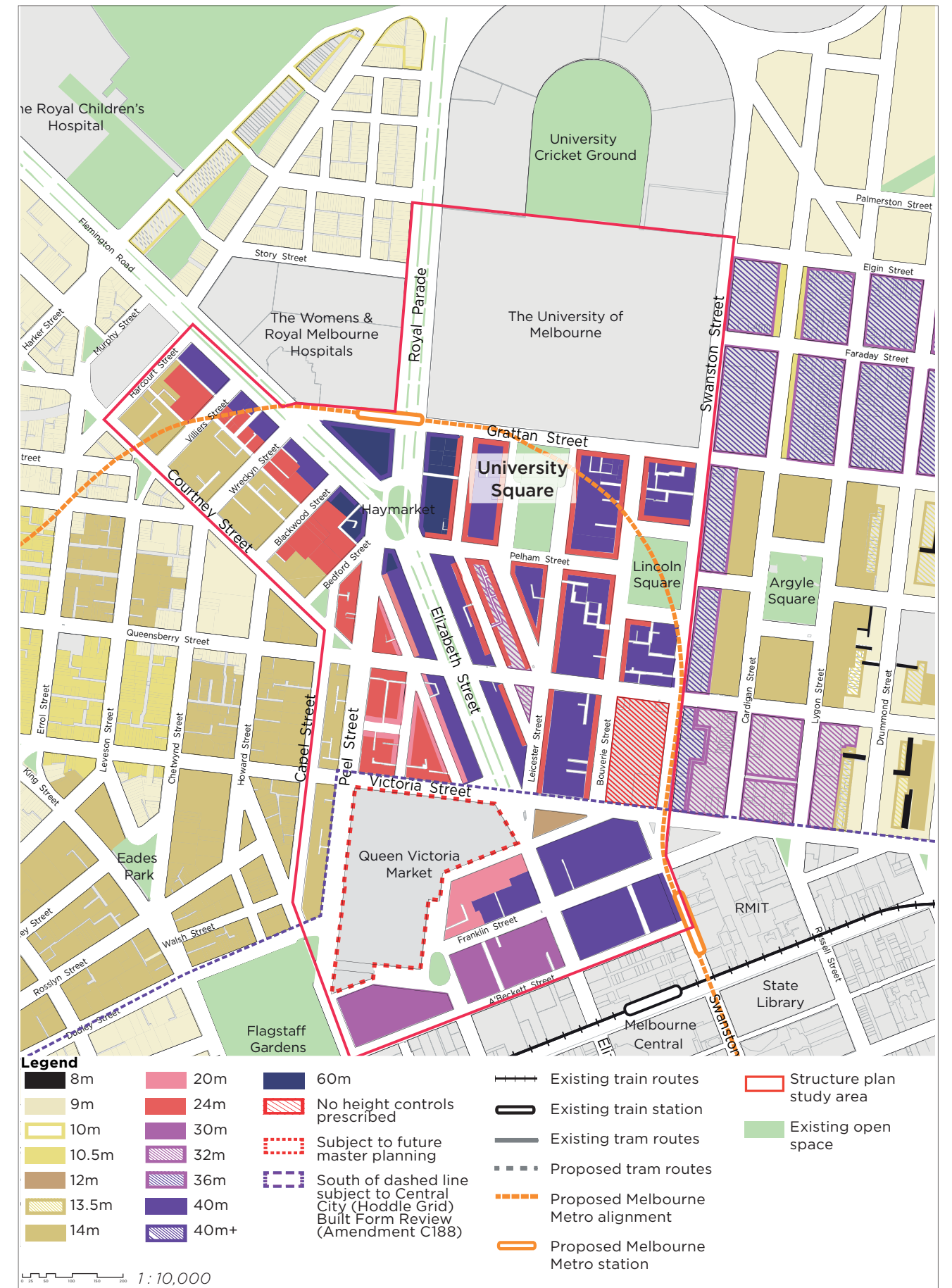
bicycle lane and increased bicycle parking



SAFER STREETSAPES

improved lighting

improved streetscape in Grattan Street



MASTER PLAN ACTIONS SUMMARY



1 Planning for trees

Create a new urban forest at University Square, with the addition of almost 250 new trees. To maintain the square's distinctive leafy profile, we must strike a balance between retaining and removing the declining mature elm trees in order to start planting new avenues of trees to keep the park looking green for generations to come.



2 Barry Street new park spaces

Increase the size of the square by closing Barry Street to traffic and car parking. Expand the lawn, plant new trees, establish new gardens beds and create 'new park spaces' with additional seating, communal tables and movable furniture. These spaces can be suitable for small events, food vans and public art installations.



3 Leicester Street road within a park

Reduce the width of Leicester Street and maintain northbound traffic only to retain essential bus services, bicycles and traffic while enlarging the square. Leicester Street will become a 'road within a park' that can be easily crossed by pedestrians and is lined with trees. The smaller road will also allow space for new shared perimeter paths and a dedicated bike lane.



4 Plaza and Grattan Street

Build a new heart for University Square in a re-designed plaza. New features include diverse trees and gardens, a recessed basketball half-court, table tennis and chess boards. Communal tables with Wi-Fi and charging points will create an outdoor study space, while barbecues and picnic tables provide space for socialising and relaxation beside a new cafe.



5 Water Terrace

A transition from the Plaza to The Green will be created with a Water Terrace. The new space will include trees, gardens and aquatic plantings with a focus on water. The space will feature water jets and misters, public art and play.



6 The Green

Expand and improve the square's much-loved lawn area. Remove the existing central and diagonal paths to create a single unified lawn space. Build new perimeter paths along Leicester and Barry streets to become new pedestrian thoroughfares for access through the park and to adjacent sites and buildings.



7 Pelham Street parkfront and biodiversity corridor

Replace the current single central entrance with a new park entrance and address at Pelham Street. Pelham Street itself will be transformed into a green corridor linking University and Lincoln squares, by replacing central street parking with new trees. The median strip will also be reconfigured as a water sensitive garden.



8 Creating social spaces

Design and locate park elements that meet the needs of social, accessible and connected spaces in the new park including seating, lighting, bicycle infrastructure, picnic, barbecue facilities, drinking fountains and bins. Focus on both permanently fixed and movable park elements and incorporate technology to meet the needs of an education and innovation precinct.



9 Building a living laboratory

Provide opportunities and infrastructure that encourages research and prototyping in fields such as alternative energy sources, biodiversity, air quality, heat-island-effect and connect with the University of Melbourne's research aspirations.



10 Integrated public art vision

Integrate art into University Square from the design phase through a strategic creative vision that enables art to be a fundamental component of the site's design, grounded in the essential values and priorities underlying the reimagining of the space. Implement an art program that is inclusive, coherent, well-considered in relation to the evolving context, and that produces suitably innovative works capable of animating public awareness and imagination.



1 PLANNING FOR TREES

The existing avenues of English elms were planted in the 1880s. These trees have been the one constant in the changing landscape of University Square and the surrounding neighbourhood. Unfortunately, their advanced age, the Millennium Drought in the first decade of this century, and the use of poor pruning techniques such as lopping, has seen the health of many of these trees deteriorate beyond repair.

The City of Melbourne has used every arboricultural practice available in the last decade to extend the life of these trees including mulching, irrigation, elm bark and beetle control measures and formative pruning. Even with this level of intervention, many of the elms continue to deteriorate, particularly specimens located at the southern end at the Pelham Street boundary.

Useful life expectancy

Useful life expectancy (ULE) is an estimate of how long a tree is likely to remain in the landscape based on health, amenity, environmental services contribution and risk to the community. It is not a measure of the biological life of the tree and it is not used as a timetable for scheduling tree removals. The primary benefit of a ULE assessment is that it facilitates strategic planning for the longevity of the urban forest. It allows for tree population decline to be identified and for long-term responses to be developed.

A ULE assessment for the City of Melbourne's urban forest was undertaken between March 2011 and April 2012, following the end of the Millennium Drought. Over 35,000 trees across the municipality were assessed with results indicating that 23 per cent of the tree population will be at the end of its useful life in the landscape within 10 years and 39 per cent within 20 years.

The 53 elm trees at University Square were assessed as part of this audit. A second assessment was conducted in August 2014 to more accurately inform the University Square Master Plan and community engagement process.

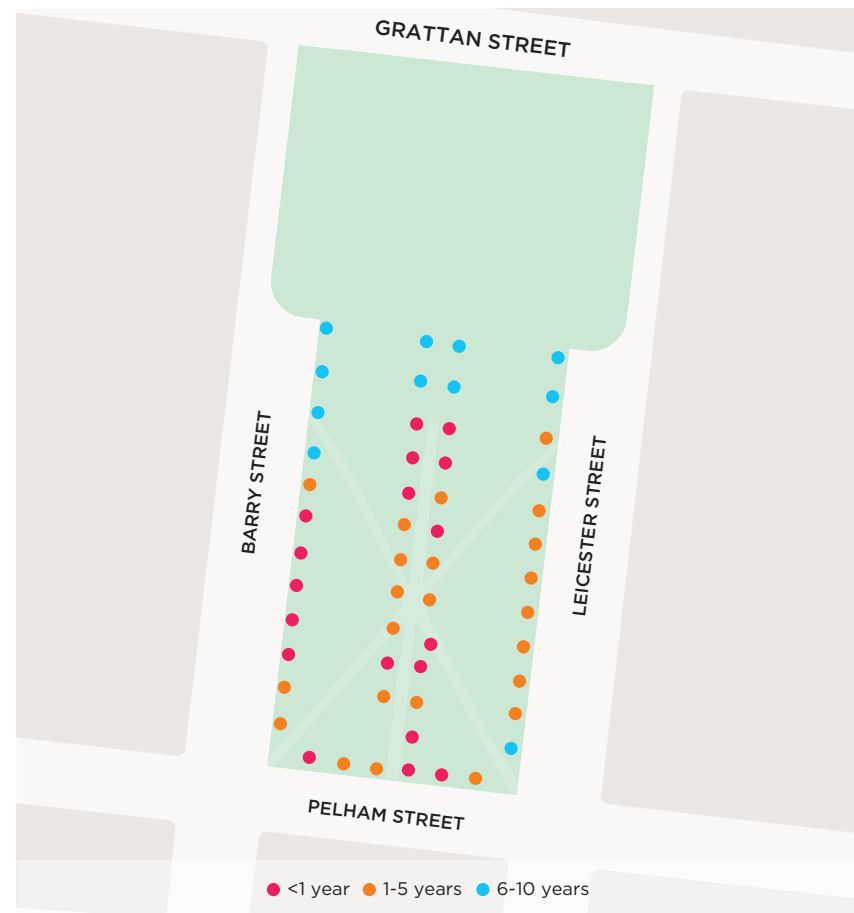
With 80 per cent of the total elm tree population at University Square in advanced decline, and 18 trees assessed as having less than 12 months useful life expectancy, we need to act now to ensure that we manage trees that can be retained and remove trees that

have reached the end of their useful life expectancy so that we can plant a new generation of trees.

Succession tree planting

Trees have always been an integral part of the fabric of Melbourne, as evidenced by the public response during community engagement. As such, careful consideration has been given to succession planting in University Square and the management of declining tree stock.

'Trees have always been an integral part of the fabric of Melbourne, as evidenced by the public response during community engagement.'



Useful Life Expectancy Audit University Square 2014

Interplanting versus block planting

The approach of maintaining and retaining trees in the landscape until they die, or become hazardous, is difficult as it reduces re-planting opportunities, compromises planning for future trees and prevents the re-creation of formal avenue planting.

Flexibility and adaptability are important in approaching tree replacement at University Square. Interplanting new trees next to existing mature trees is problematic because established trees compete with new trees for resources such as water, light and nutrients, causing stunted growth.

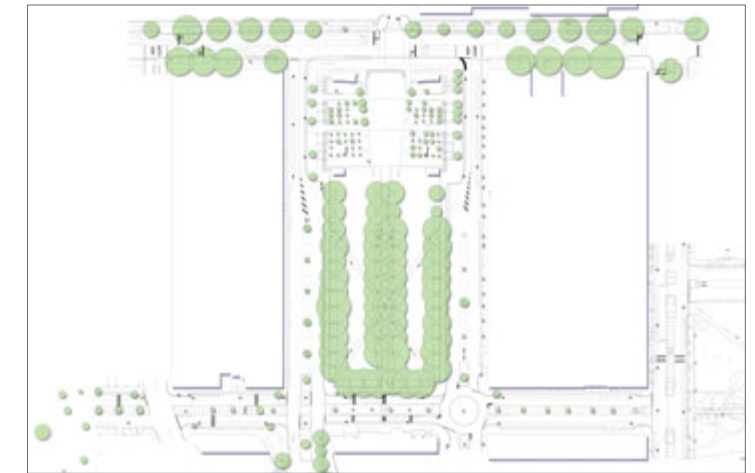
While interplanting can be used in some landscape scenarios, the results of such an approach at University Square will not work in traditional avenue plantings where uniformity of size and shape is expected.

New tree planting

At University Square, our approach will be to remove the elm trees that are in advanced decline while retaining some of the healthy trees for longer. At the same time, we will plant over 250 new trees so that while a portion of the existing elms are removed, new trees are growing to off-set these losses. This staged approach is illustrated in the 'Planning for trees' diagrams and may take up to 10 years to achieve.

A diverse mix of replacement tree species will be selected to create many different experiences in the park, including a mixture of deciduous and evergreen trees, native and indigenous trees as well as exotic species. Selecting a variety of species will optimise resilience to climate change and disease, and increase biodiversity.

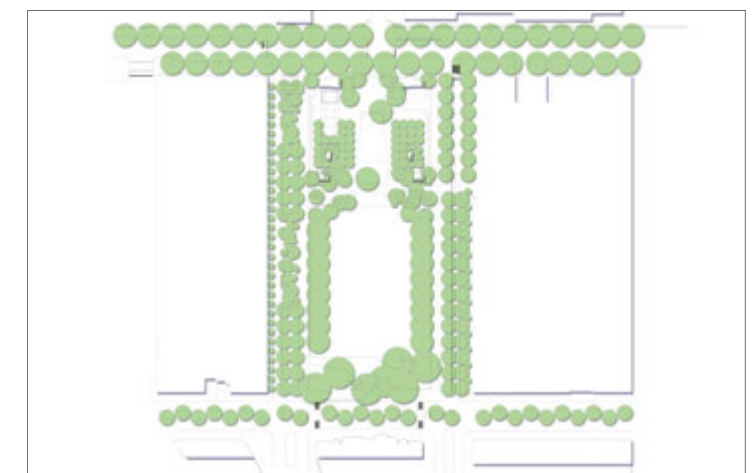
By proposing a strategic and staged approach to tree removals, rather than replacing one tree at a time, we create planting conditions that allow future generations to enjoy a similar uniform and knitted tree canopy, such as the one that was originally planted at University Square.



Existing tree canopy 2016



Interim tree canopy



Established urban forest at University Square



Stage 1: Tree removal and replanting with selective retention of existing elm trees



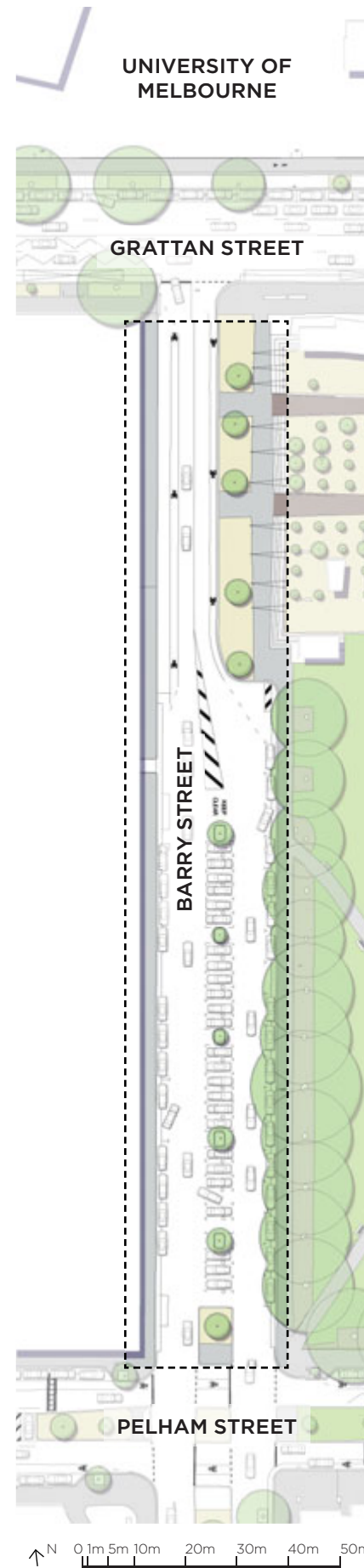
**2 BARRY STREET
NEW PARK SPACES**

Barry Street: existing conditions

- Car dominated streetscape with parallel and median car parking (30 metre wide asphalt road).
- Issues with speed – cut-through between Grattan, Pelham and Victoria streets.
- Limited shade due to lack of street trees.
- No species diversity or understorey planting.
- Poor pedestrian access to the park due to rock retaining edge and mulching under trees.
- Poor private-public interface with buildings and public space.
- Flagstone pavers of primary heritage significance on the corner of Barry and Grattan streets.
- Poor lighting with timber poles and overhead electrical service.
- Poor connection and access into the University of Melbourne's original Parkville campus across Grattan Street.



Section A: Existing conditions of Barry Street looking north towards Grattan Street showing the car-dominated street and poor relationship to the park



Plan of existing conditions of Barry Street

Existing conditions



Barry Street looking north towards Grattan Street



Barry Street park boundary



Barry Street centre



Heritage bluestone paving



Heritage flagstone paving

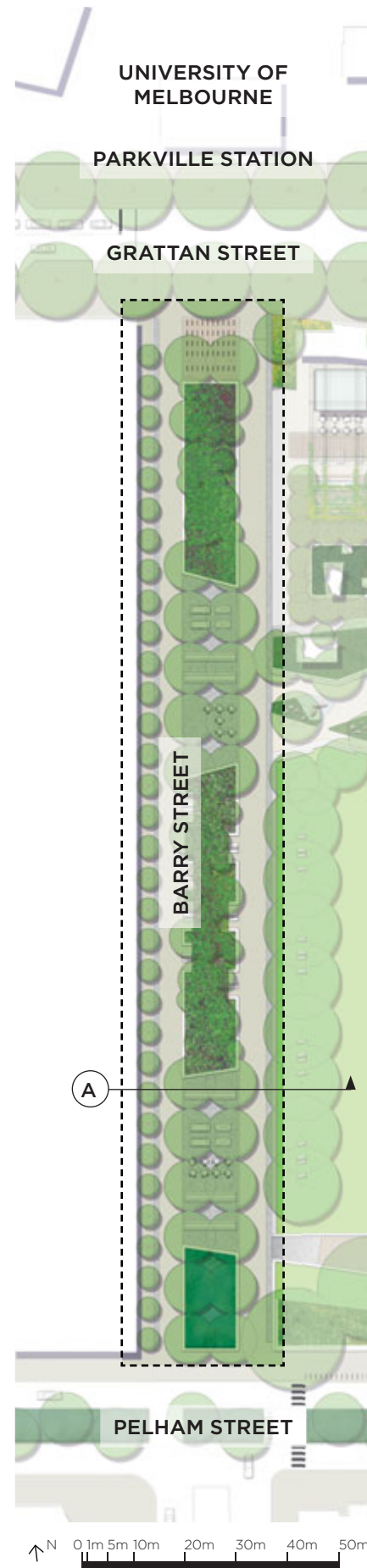
Barry Street: design response

- Close Barry Street to traffic and car parking.
- Increase the size of University Square by expanding the lawn and creating new 'park spaces' in place of the road.
- Design and create extensive new tree planting and gardens including productive horticulture.
- Incorporate water sensitive urban design for street tree planting and new garden beds where possible to improve stormwater quality and increase permeability.
- Design and install seating, outdoor dining, communal tables and movable furniture.
- Create spaces for small events, food vans and public art.
- Design and install public lighting that supports activities in these spaces.
- Design and build better connections to surrounding buildings while retaining access space for emergency vehicles.

Proposed park boundary



Section A: Proposed conditions of Barry Street looking north towards Grattan Street showing the park extending to the building edge with extensive spaces for people and planting



Plan of proposed Barry Street

Illustrative examples





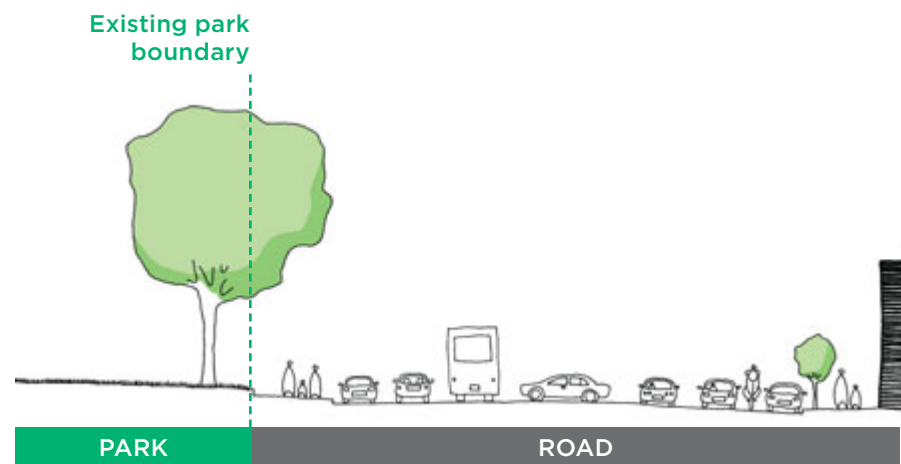
Barry Street looking north towards Grattan Street



3 LEICESTER STREET
ROAD WITHIN A PARK

Leicester Street: existing conditions

- Car dominated streetscape with parallel and median car parking (30 metre wide asphalt road).
- Car speed issues.
- Limited shade due to lack of street trees.
- Lack of species diversity and understorey planting.
- Poor pedestrian access to the park due to rock retaining edge and mulching under trees.
- Poor private-public interface with buildings and public space.
- Part of the 401 bus route - critical and busy bus route from North Melbourne Station.
- Poor lighting with timber poles and overhead electrical service.
- No dedicated bicycle lanes.
- Poor connection and access into the University of Melbourne traditional Parkville campus across Grattan Street.



Section A: Existing conditions of Leicester Street looking north towards Grattan Street showing the car-dominated street



Plan of existing conditions of Leicester Street

Existing conditions



Leicester Street looking south towards Pelham Street



Leicester Street park boundary



Leicester Street park boundary



View south from Leicester Street



Corner of Leicester and Pelham streets

Leicester Street: design response

- Reduce the width of Leicester Street from 31 metres to 5 metres to expand the park and maintain northbound traffic only including essential bus services – creating a road within a park.
- Reduce speed limit to 40 km/h.
- Design and build a dedicated bicycle lane.
- Ensure the new road can be easily crossed by pedestrians.
- Design and create spaces for a new generation of park and street trees including smaller, more intimate lawn and garden spaces that are connected to the expanded central lawn.
- Incorporate water sensitive urban design for street tree planting and new garden beds where possible to improve stormwater quality and increase permeability.
- Design and construct loading and drop-off parking zones where required, close to the Grattan Street and Pelham Street intersections.
- Remove the roundabout at the Pelham and Leicester Street intersection.

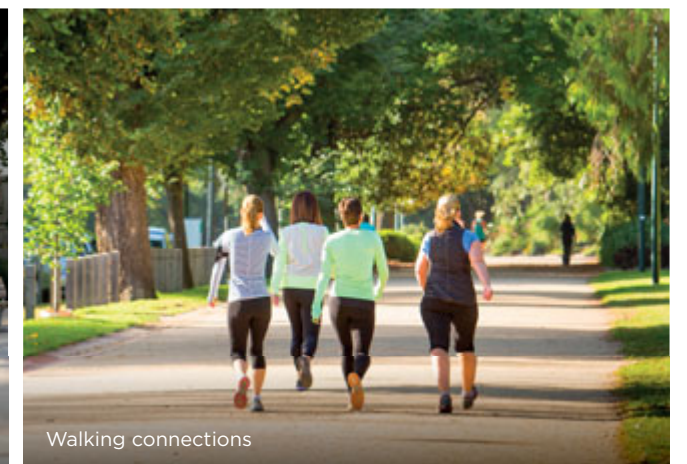
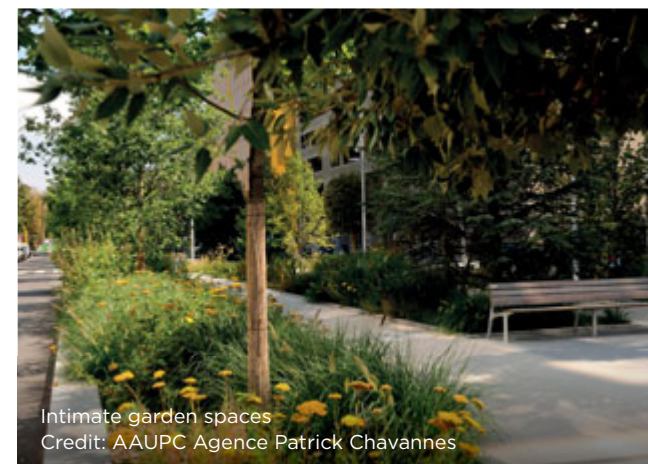


Section A: Proposed conditions of Leicester Street looking north towards Grattan Street showing the park extending to the building edge, wide pedestrian paths and a single northbound traffic lane 'road within a park'



Plan of proposed Leicester Street

Illustrative examples





Leicester Street looking south towards Pelham Street

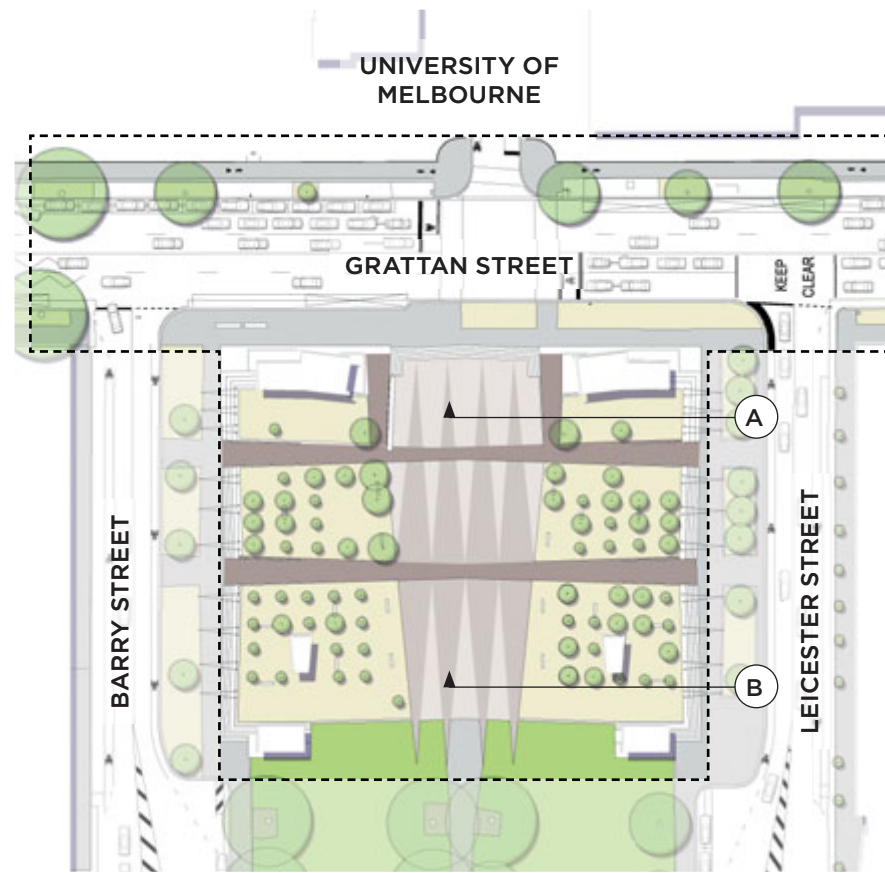


4 PLAZA AND GRATTAN STREET

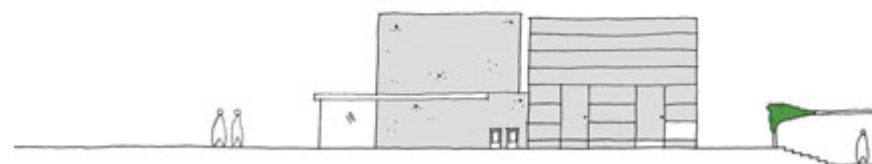
Existing conditions

Plaza and Grattan Street: existing conditions

- A hard-stand space with no shade.
- No activities.
- A walk-through space.
- Disconnected from the rest of University Square.
- Grattan Street is a large barrier and difficult to cross.
- A bleak, uninviting space with failed horticulture.
- The above ground car park infrastructure dominates the landscape.
- Grattan Street is a busy four-lane road with multiple bus stops and a single crossing point between University Square and the University of Melbourne Gate 10. It is dominated by car infrastructure, is poorly lit and has few street trees.



Plan of existing conditions of the plaza



Section A: Existing conditions of the plaza looking north towards the lift building and vents for the underground car park



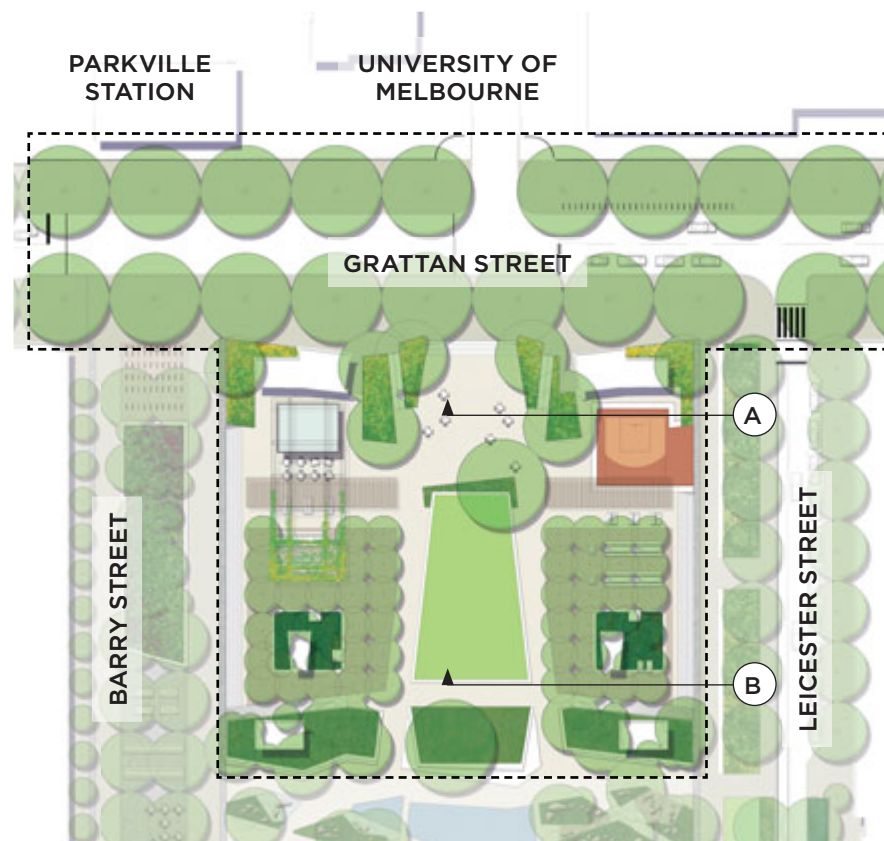
Section B: Existing conditions of the plaza looking north toward the access stairs for the underground car park



Illustrative examples

Plaza and Grattan Street: design response

- Take advantage of the hard-surfaced area by using it to create spaces for activities including a recessed basketball half-court, table tennis and chess.
- Design and locate a cafe and retail premise on the Barry Street side of the plaza that will be in close proximity to the new Metro Station, with facilities to borrow movable furniture and activity equipment for use in the park.
- Design social spaces by installing communal tables with Wi-Fi and charging points.
- Install barbecues and picnic tables.
- Design and install shelters and shade.
- Renovate existing garden beds to create a diverse horticultural offer including trees, understorey planting and display.
- Design and install new public lighting to extend access hours.
- Investigate the incorporation of renewable energy generation that supports the energy needs of the park.
- Improve the sense of arrival at University Square on Grattan Street including possible relocation of bus stops.
- Work with the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority to create a pedestrian friendly road after construction of Parkville Station, by redesigning the streetscape and creating additional pedestrian crossing points to align with Barry Street and the new station entrances.
- By locating these activities on the existing built form of the plaza, the more informal open lawn of 'The Green' will be preserved.



Plan of proposed plaza



Section A: Proposed section through basketball half-court on eastern side of plaza



Section B: Proposed section showing planting diversity



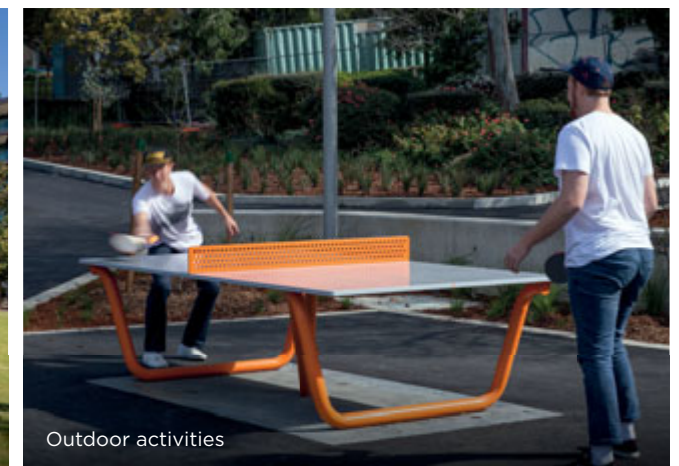
Places to meet



Multipurpose court



Recreational spaces



Outdoor activities



Diverse horticulture. Credit: www.junglemusic.net



Social spaces



Social seating area and new horticulture



New shelters, movable outdoor seating and table tennis tables



Basketball half-court



Grattan Street entrance

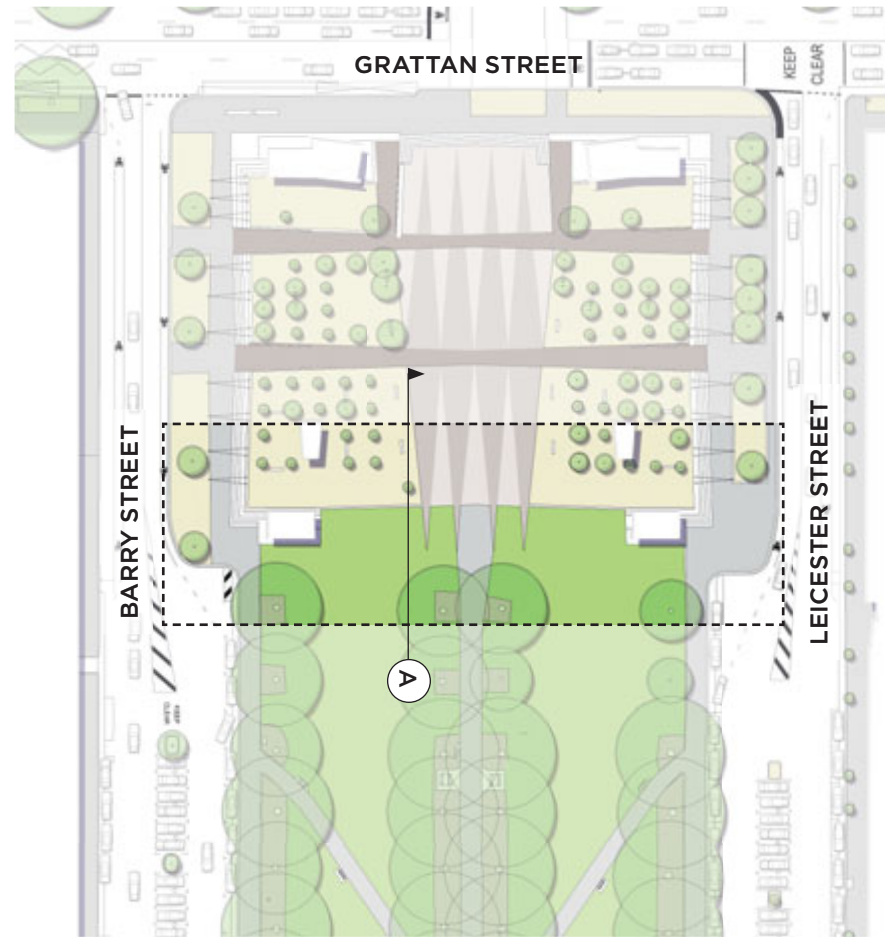


5 WATER TERRACE

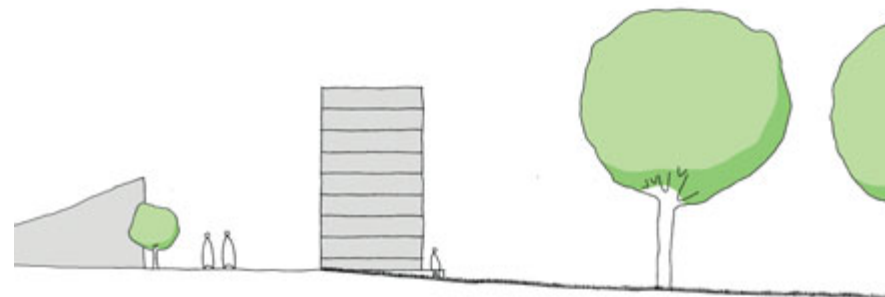
Existing conditions

**Water Terrace:
existing conditions**

- Uneven transition area between the hard-stand plaza and the central lawn.
- Lack of planting or gardens.
- Dominated by the gabion clad car park ventilation structures.



Plan of existing conditions of the transition between the plaza and the park



Section A: Existing section showing the prominence of the vents and stair access buildings for the underground car park



Plaza looking south towards Pelham Street



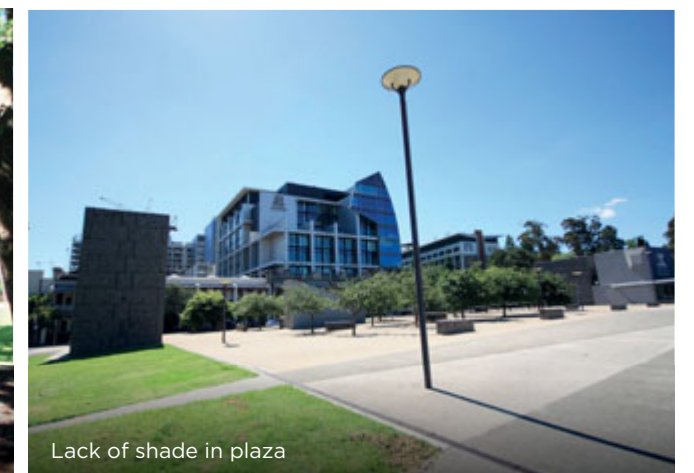
Ventilation stack for underground car park



Ventilation stack for underground car park



Dappled shade over path

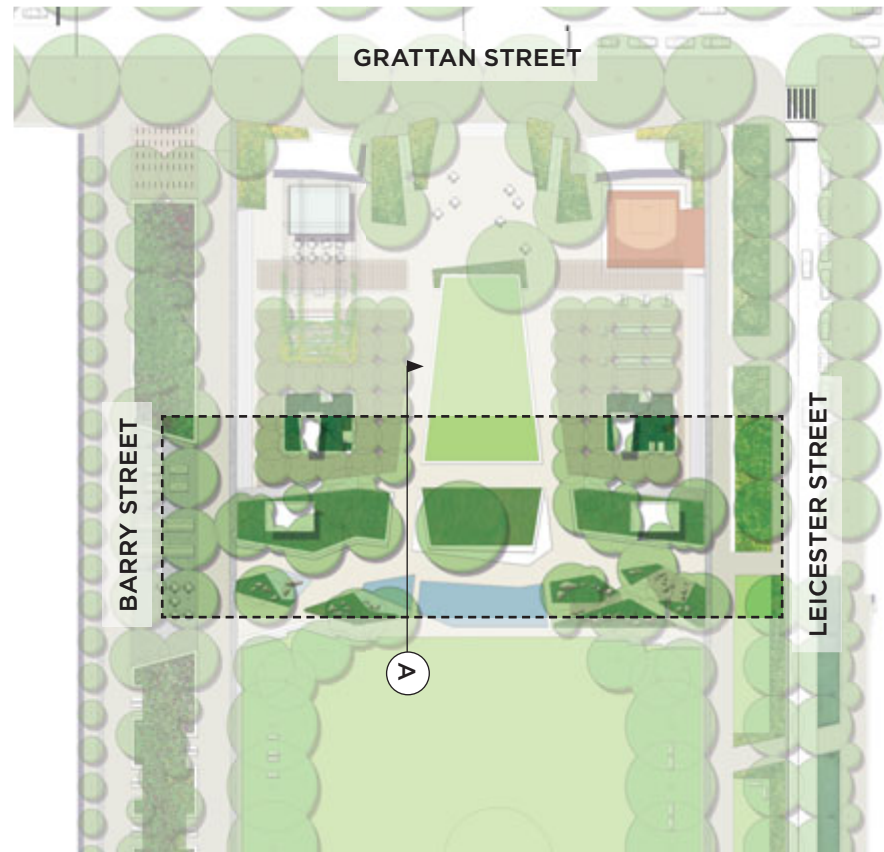


Lack of shade in plaza

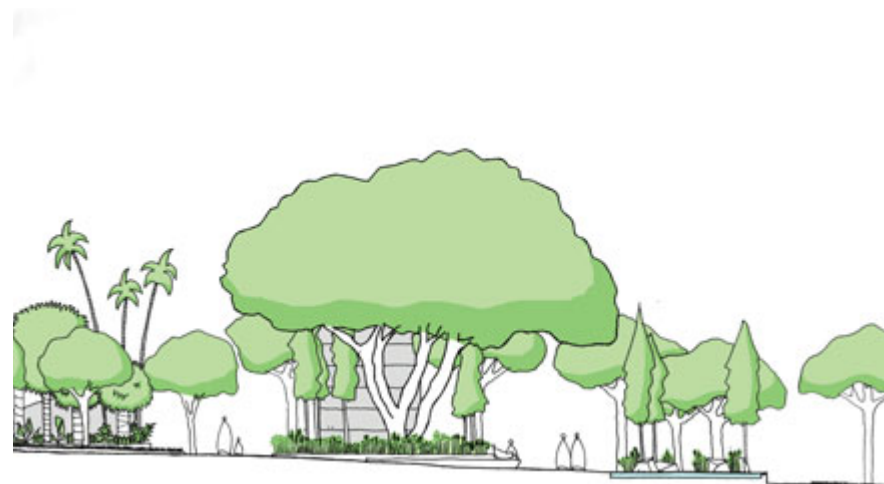
Illustrative examples

Water Terrace: design response

- Design and create a new transition space between the plaza and 'The Green'.
- Use water as a key element to enable the transition between these spaces and to incorporate public art to tell the story of nearby creeks at Bouverie and Elizabeth streets and the rich pre-settlement stories of this site.
- Incorporate play through water and plantings.



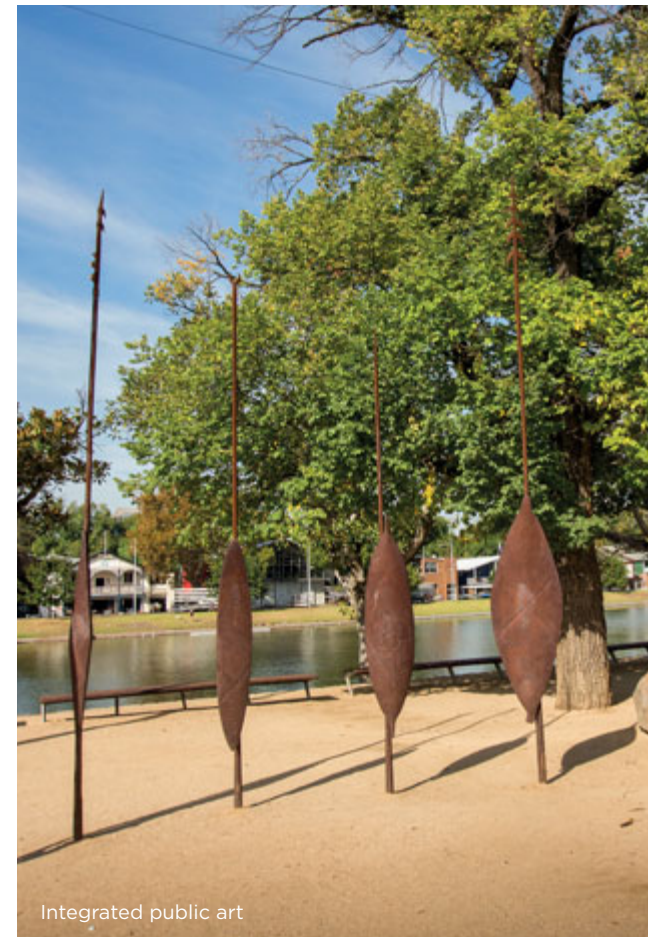
Plan of proposed transition between the plaza and the park



Section A: Proposed water terrace transition between the plaza and The Green



Opportunities for water play



Integrated public art



Nature play



Water feature. Credit: rushwright.com



Water Terrace looking south west

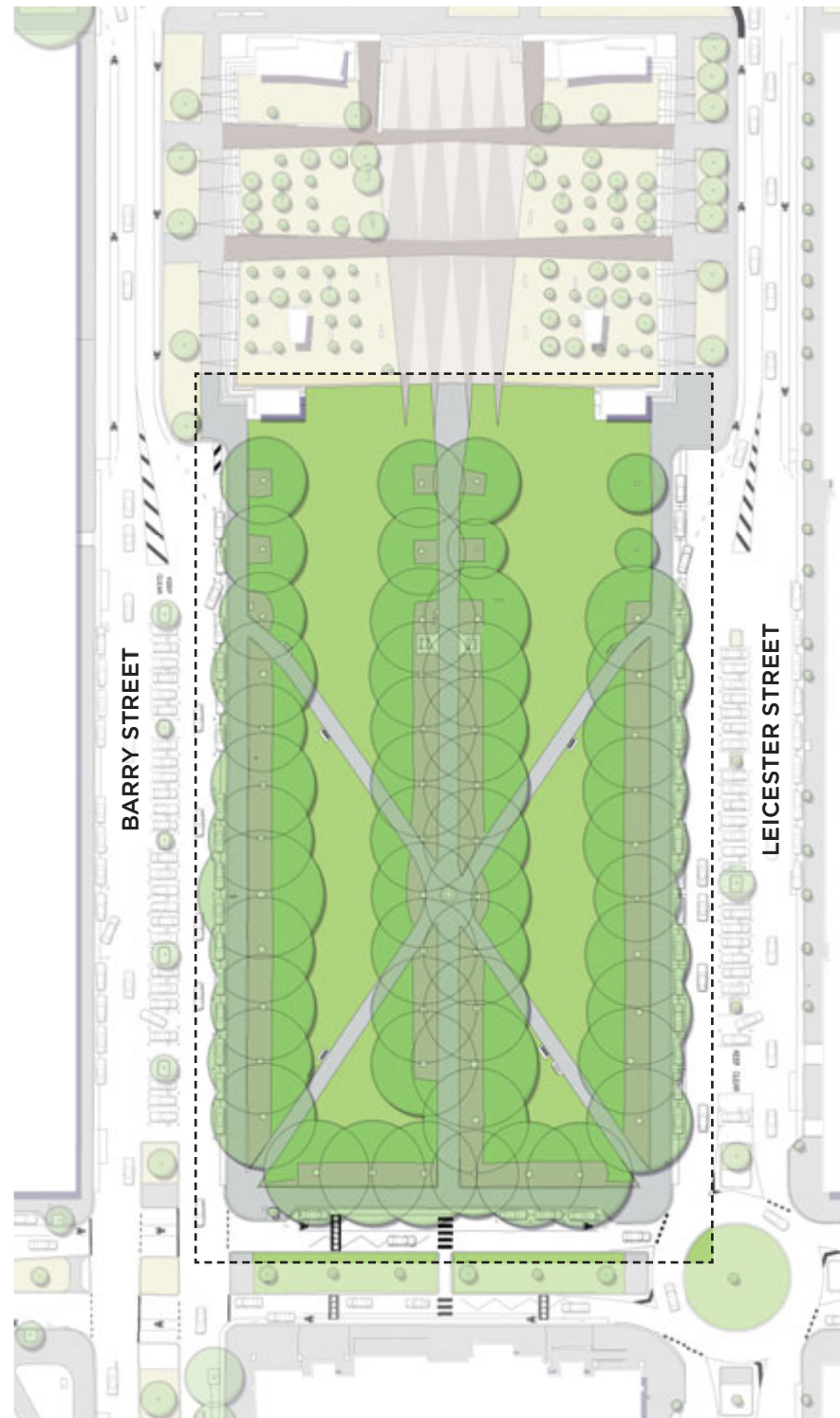


6 THE GREEN

Existing conditions

The Green: existing conditions

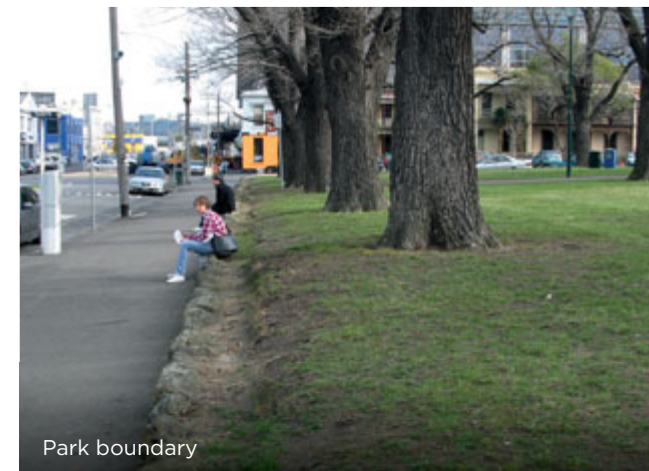
- Popular lawn for passive recreation and informal activities.
- Dappled shade and pleasant area to sit.
- Uneven surface and significant slope due to grade change.
- Divided by paths.
- Central path is inaccessible at Pelham Street and terminates at a deadend.
- Inadequate seating provision.
- Lighting on paths only.
- Elm trees in decline.
- Heritage fountain located at junction of paths.



Plan of existing conditions of The Green with ageing elm avenues and union jack path layout



Central lawn looking south towards Pelham Street



Park boundary



Central path



Seating and picnic tables

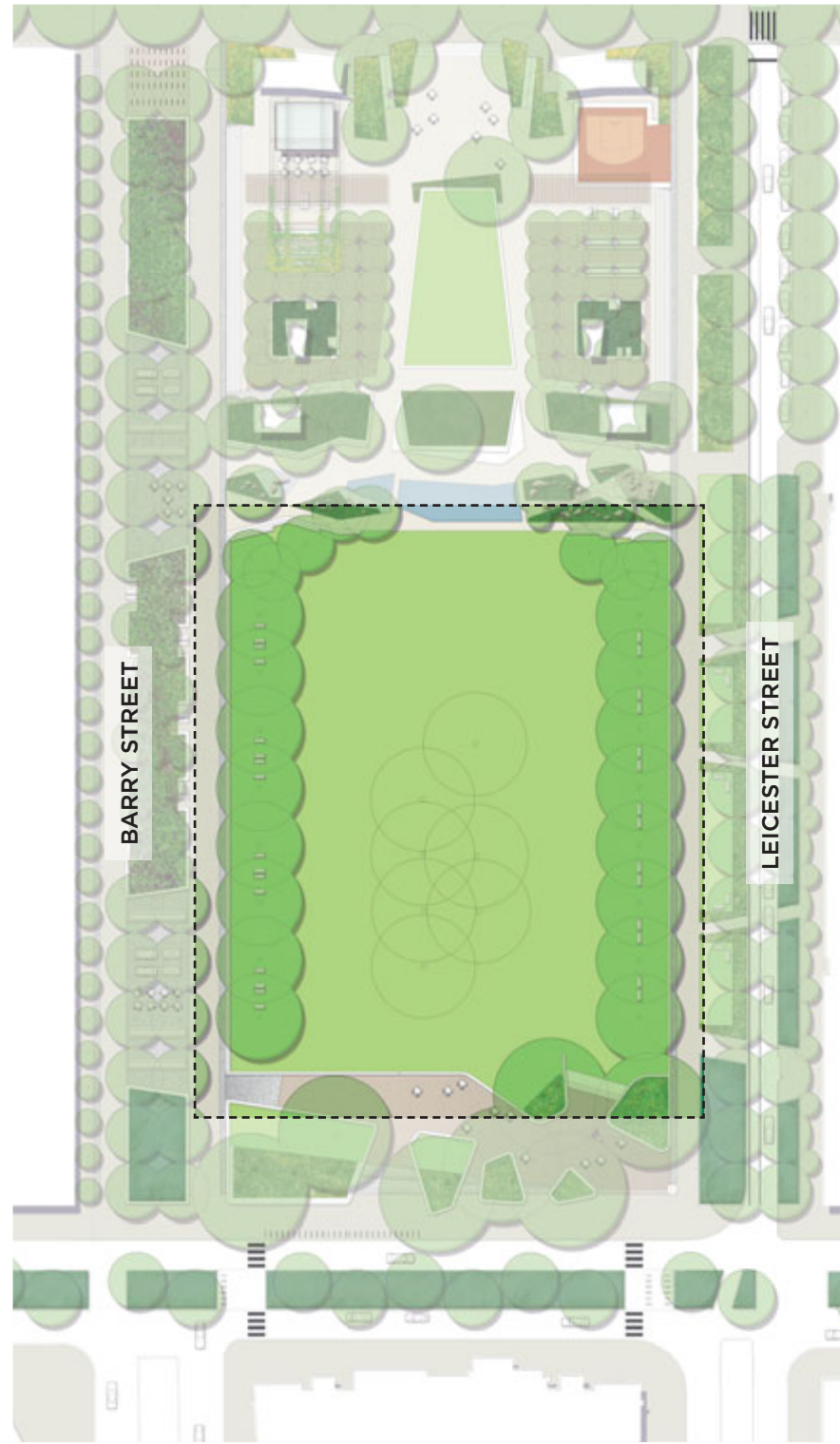


Temperance fountain

Illustrative examples

The Green: design response

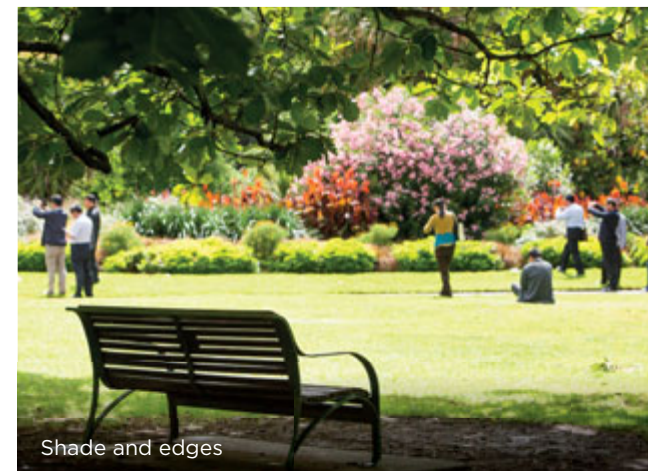
- Increase lawn area by removing central and diagonal asphalt paths.
- Create a more level surface where possible.
- Construct new pedestrian paths on Barry and Leicester Street edges to connect directly with new pedestrian crossings on Pelham Street and future pedestrian crossings on Grattan Street and at Parkville Station.
- Design and install new public lighting.
- Install new seating.
- Retain and manage selected elm trees in the centre of The Green where possible.
- Establish new perimeter tree plantings to replace declining elm trees and to create avenue plantings for the future.
- Relocate the temperance fountain to the new Pelham Street park front.



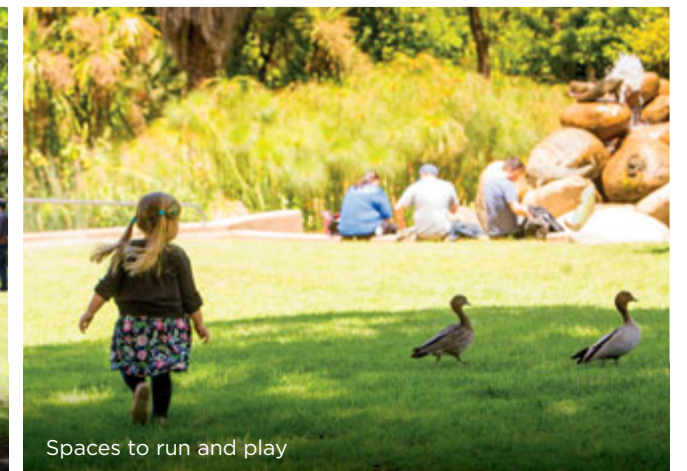
Plan of proposed green with central elms retained in the short term



Open green spaces and long views



Shade and edges



Spaces to run and play



Active park edges



Informal recreation

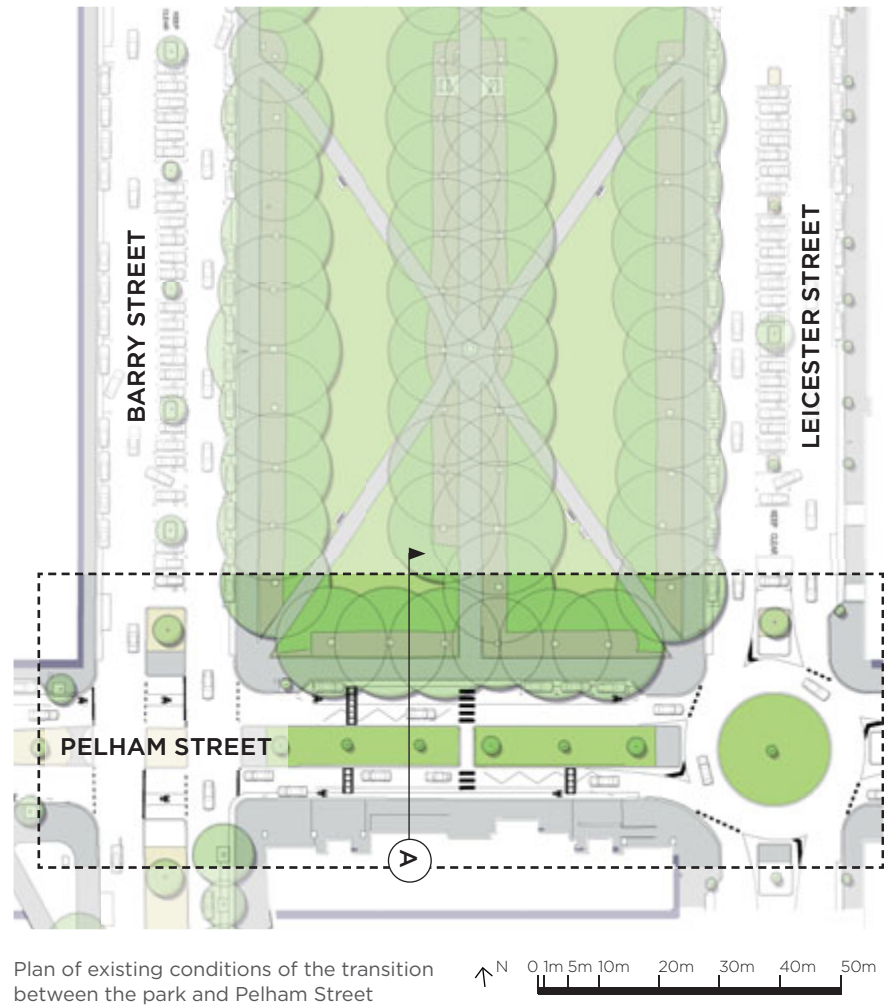


7 PELHAM STREET PARK FRONT AND BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR

Existing conditions

Pelham Street: existing conditions

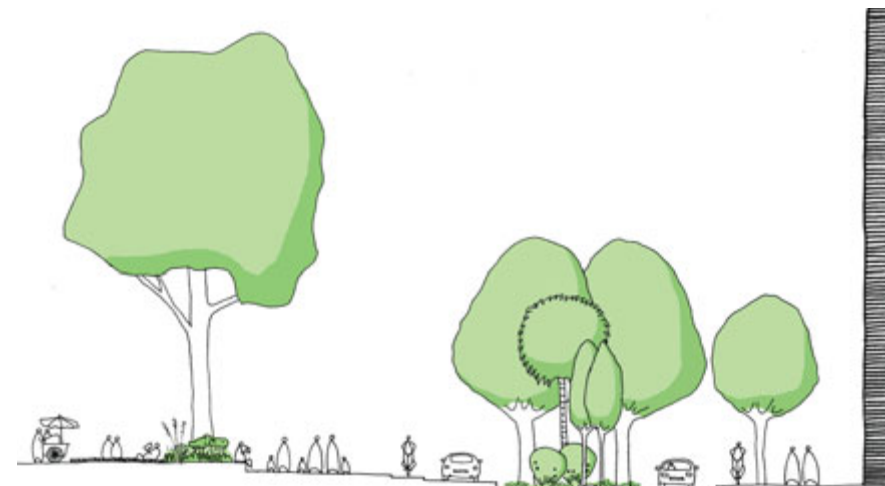
- Steep and inaccessible path entrance.
- Lack of address or sense of entrance for the park.
- Poor pedestrian access to the park due to rock retaining edge and mulching under trees.
- Pedestrian crossing does not connect to the entrances of the University of Melbourne Law Building.
- Highest number of elm trees in advanced decline - useful life expectancy of less than 12 months (2014).
- No seating or social spaces.
- Large centre median strip with grass and small street trees.
- Lack of shade and diversity of species.
- No acknowledgement of connection to Lincoln Square.
- No water sensitive urban design infrastructure despite location at bottom of the Grattan/Barry/Leicester Street catchment.

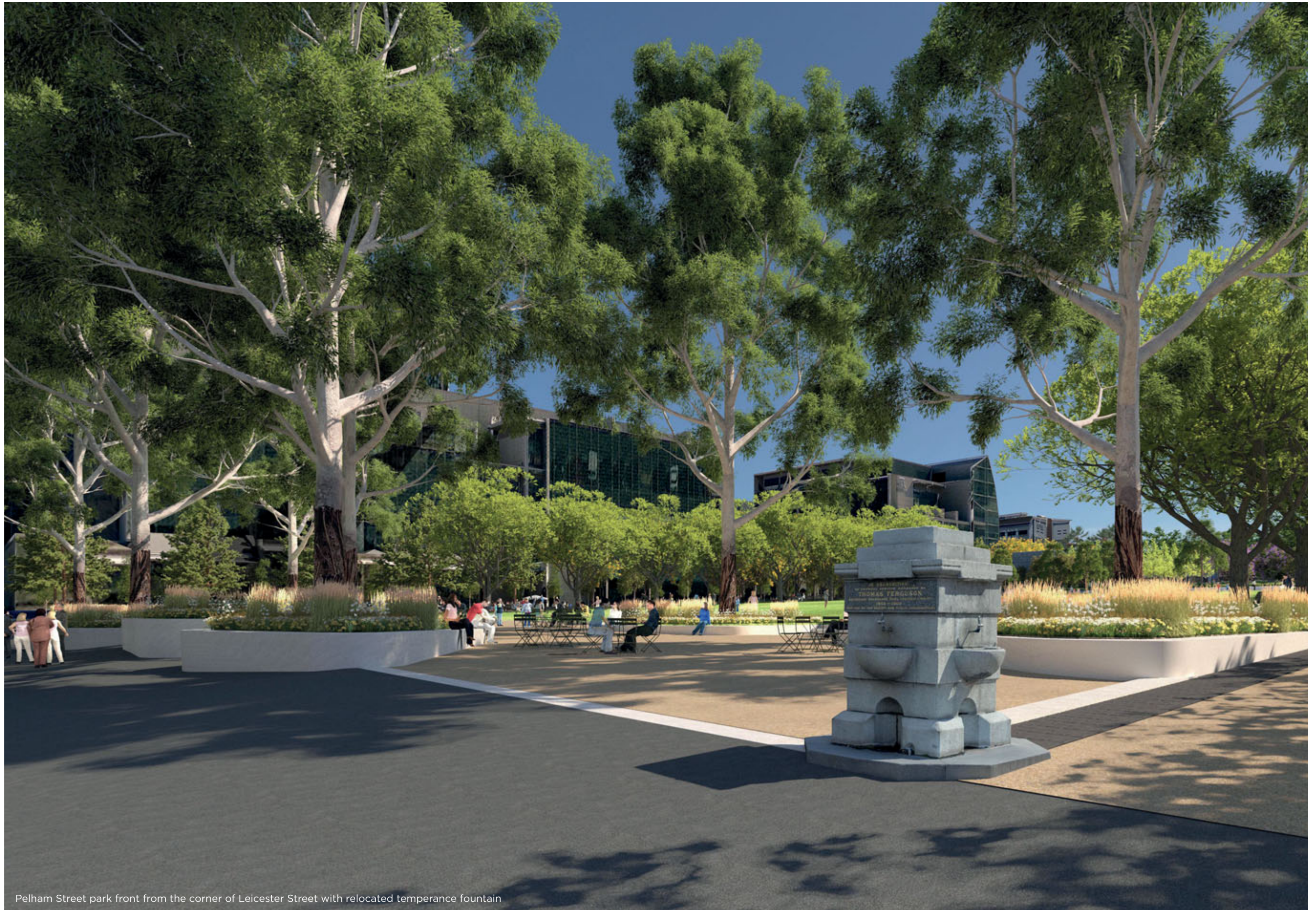


Illustrative examples

Pelham Street park front: design response

- Remove centre pedestrian crossing and steep park entrance.
- Install new pedestrian crossing points to connect Leicester and Barry Street pedestrian paths across Pelham Street to prioritise pedestrians at these intersections.
- Redesign the road alignment at the Pelham and Leicester Street intersection by removing the roundabout and prioritise bus movements turning right from Pelham Street into the new northbound only Leicester Street.
- Design and create generous entranceways at the corner of Pelham and Leicester streets to encourage people to meet, gather and explore the broader spaces in University Square.
- Design and establish a pedestrian path connection through the new parkfront that facilitates east-west movement through University Square between Leicester and Barry streets.
- Design and plant new trees and gardens with a focus on using tall native eucalyptus trees to connect with the pre-settlement landscape and to mitigate the tall built form of the University of Melbourne Law Building at this location.
- Design and creation of retaining and seating walls to create a level transition between The Green and the new Pelham Street park front.
- Relocate and use the temperance fountain as a feature of the new Pelham Street park front.



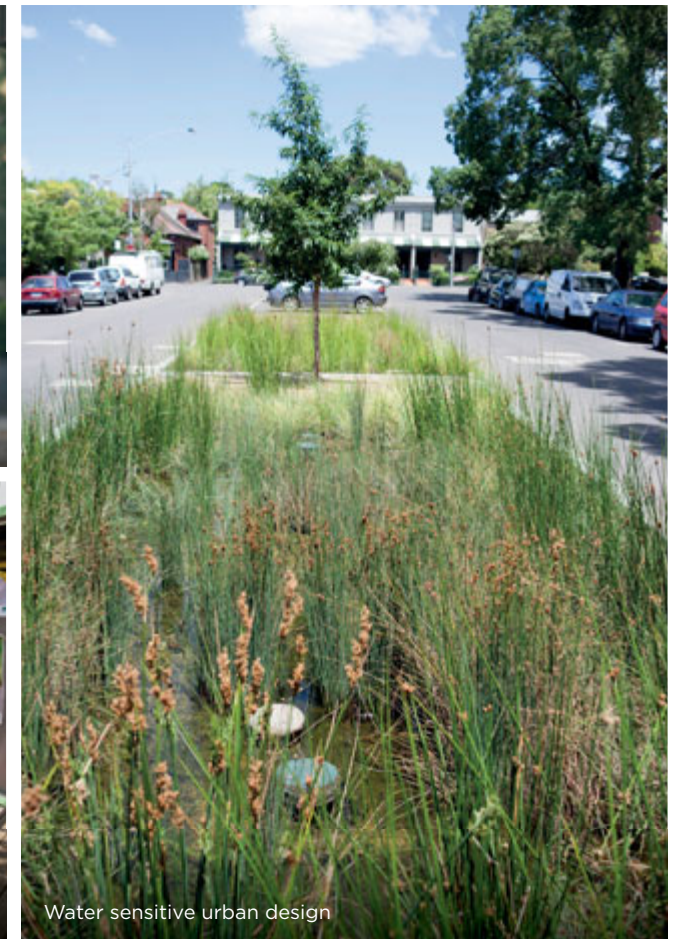
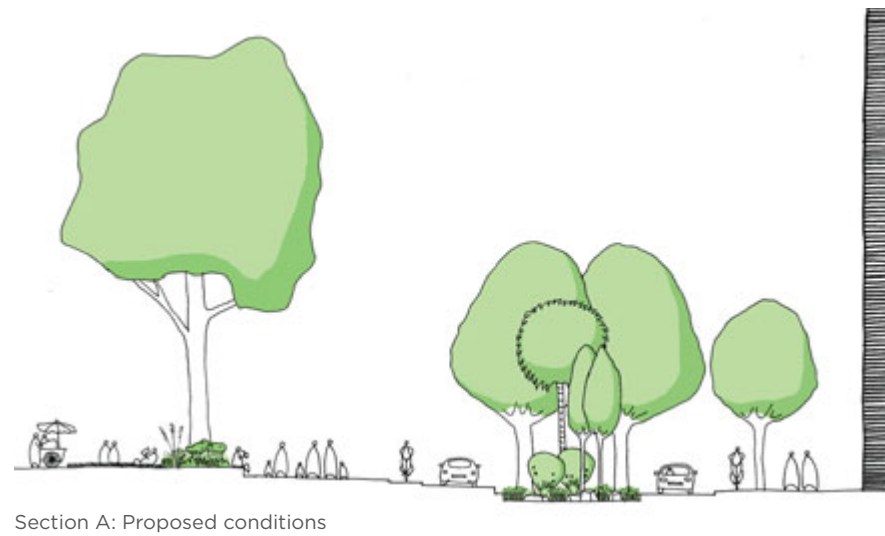
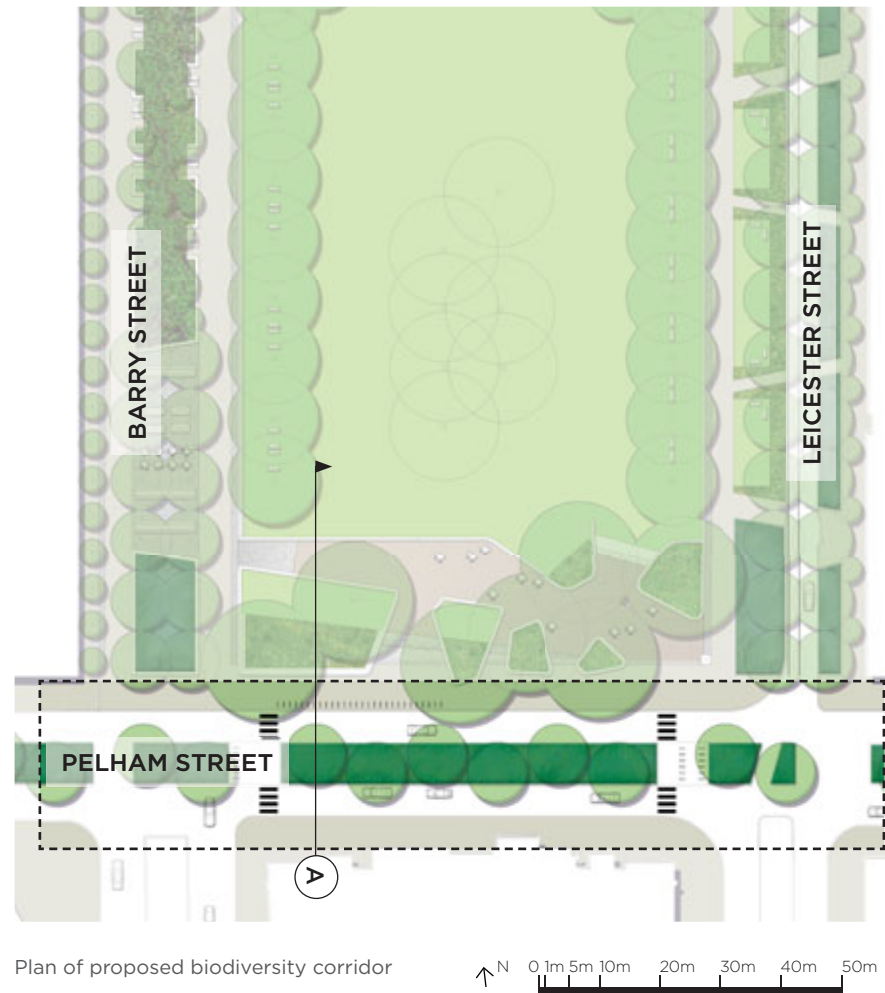


Pelham Street park front from the corner of Leicester Street with relocated temperance fountain

Illustrative examples

Pelham Street biodiversity corridor: design response

- Modify Pelham Street median to create a stormwater retention planting swale featuring new indigenous trees and understorey plantings.
- Create a green link with Lincoln Square by extending the central median on Pelham Street and remove central car parks in Pelham Street between Leicester and Bouverie streets.





Looking east along the Pelham Street biodiversity corridor towards Lincoln Square

8 CREATING SOCIAL SPACES

Provide social, accessible and connected spaces at University Square including seating, lighting, bicycle infrastructure, picnic and barbecue facilities, drinking fountains and bins. Focus on both permanently fixed and movable park elements and incorporate technology to meet the needs of an education and innovation precinct.

Park furniture response

- Design and arrange permanent seats and tables to create opportunities for group gathering and communal dining.
- Facilitate the operation of movable seating along Barry Street.
- Provide accessible seating opportunities for people of all abilities.
- Design high performing park elements such as seating with charging points for electronic devices.
- Provide seating opportunities for quiet resting and contemplation around the perimeter of 'The Green'.
- Locate rubbish and recycling bins near activity nodes and around the park perimeter.
- Significantly increase overall bicycle parking capacity by locating bicycle parking in strategic locations, with a focus on Pelham Street and Grattan Street, ensuring that these facilities are placed in easily accessible, well lit areas with good surveillance.
- Investigate the suitability of installing a bicycle pump and maintenance station.
- Provide barbecue areas with sheltered cover to cater for both large and small group cooking and outdoor dining.

- Install drinking fountains to provide accessible drinking water and reusable bottle refill options.
- Install an integrated City of Melbourne public toilet in the proposed cafe/retail premise at the plaza at the corner of Barry and Grattan streets.
- Retain and re-install commemorative plaques using an integrated approach in the context of the new design.

Lighting response

The approach to public lighting at University Square will focus on enhancing people's experience after dark while ensuring responsible energy use. It promotes improvements to safety and amenity, especially for pedestrians. In doing so, it also recognises that people's sense of wellbeing results from a complex mix of factors. At night, these include way-finding and visual comfort, as well as road safety and personal security.

The lighting design will achieve the following objectives:

- The park must remain safe, comfortable and engaging after dark.
- Important nodes, paths and markers will remain legible and recognisable.
- Emphasis will be given to the expressive potential of light as it contributes to University Square's unique public space identity.
- Permanent lighting will be simple, elegant and clearly structured.
- Temporary lighting will be used for events such as public festivals.
- An emphasis on good, functional lighting rather than elaborate, decorative installations or ostentatious special effects. This approach is consistent with the City of Melbourne's commitment to environmental sustainability.

- Lighting design will balance priorities between high quality lighting and greenhouse gas emissions/energy consumption.
- Minimise ecological light pollution.
- Sky glow, glare and other lighting nuisances will be kept to a minimum.
- Light poles and fittings to reflect City of Melbourne's design standards for park furnishings.
- Lighting will be turned off at 1am with the exception of major pedestrian thoroughfares and other areas deemed important for public safety.
- Road safety and personal security remain fundamental.

Planting response

- Select species that are expected to be well suited to expected future climate.
- Increase the diversity of species used to build resilience across Melbourne's tree population.

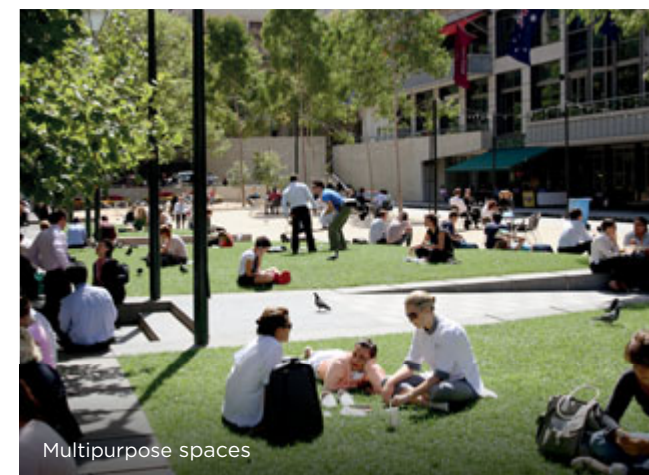
Illustrative examples



Spaces for people



Safety and lighting



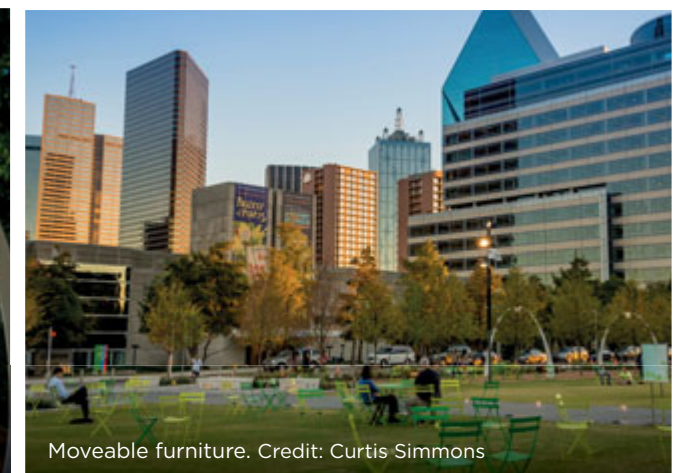
Multipurpose spaces



Park furniture



Creative lighting. Credit: Andy Lutten



Moveable furniture. Credit: Curtis Simmons

9 BUILDING A LIVING LABORATORY

Illustrative examples

Provide opportunities and infrastructure that encourages research and prototyping in fields such as alternative energy sources, biodiversity, air quality, heat-island-effect and connect with the University of Melbourne's research aspirations.

Baseline data collection

- Capture baseline data relating to public life including pedestrian counts and stationary activity pre-construction.
- Capture tree canopy coverage percentage.
- Capture air quality data.

Alternative energy sources response

- Explore the use of renewable energy options to meet the parks needs including solar and geothermal - in association with Melbourne Metro Tunnel Project.

Biodiversity

- Assess the vulnerability of key species in the ecosystem and identify target species and habitats for rewilding programs.
- Research, implement and advocate appropriate habitat opportunities such as dead trees, artificial tree hollows and bee 'hotels'.
- Research, implement and install habitat opportunities for microbats including microbat 'hotels'.
- Integrate caring for country principles to inform more sustainable land management.
- Utilise water sensitive urban design (WSUD). Many WSUD features can contribute to climate change adaptation and should also be considered for reducing run-off, harvesting water, recycling grey water and the storage of flood water.
- Improve soil health - vegetation health is dependent on soil biology, fertility and structure.
- Manage pest species.

Fostering research opportunities

- Tackle the big issues and challenges in new and innovative ways.
- Foster research opportunities and partnerships that help to connect the City of Melbourne and the University of Melbourne's multi-disciplinary research expertise.



Citizen scientists



Flood mitigation and stormwater quality



Climate monitoring



Trial new species



Design for ecology. Credit: Studio Erick Saillet

10 INTEGRATED PUBLIC ART VISION

Public art comes to you. It can be a permanent feature of the cityscape, or fleeting: there one day, gone the next. It can be a thing to look at or an experience. Whatever form it takes, public art is about ideas and it is there to make life more interesting and more wonderful.

Public art was identified as a key component of a revived University Square by the community and Council. The University Square project will be the first of its kind under the new Public Art Framework, which creates a strategic partnership between the City of Melbourne's city design and public art programs to deliver high-quality public art integrated into the landscape.

The University Square Master Plan identifies the following key principles underpinning public art for University Square:

- Public art at University Square will be visionary and future-thinking, matching the evolving and changing use of public open space in Carlton.
- The thinking and design of new public art for University Square will start at the design stage.
- Public art at University Square will not be restricted to one form, it should evolve with the design and in response to the community and strategic objectives of the project. The finished product should take the most suitable form(s) – design, sculptural, water, programmed etc.

To achieve this goal, planning for public art will be embedded into the project at the master plan stage, allowing the vision for public art to evolve with the design and in response to the community and strategic objectives of the project.

Public Art Curatorial Adviser

The City of Melbourne has appointed distinguished Melbourne artist Robert Owen as the University Square Public Art Curatorial Adviser.

As Curatorial Adviser, Robert Owen will provide creative leadership and work in collaboration with the University Square design and public art teams.



Groundings, OSW (Scott Mitchell, Natasha Johns-Messenger, Bianca Hester and Terri Bird), 2005, Queen Victoria Gardens, Melbourne



Veil of Trees, Janet Laurence and Jisuk Han 1999, The Domain, Sydney



Three Posts, by Ian Hamilton Finlay, Little Sparta, Dunsyre, Scotland. Source: Derek Brown, 2013

Creative vision statement

Robert Owen A vision: Time Passage

Time Passage is University Square's creative vision, acknowledging the site's rich and diverse associations with journeys and the process of transformation and change, including the passing of the English elms, the transformative journey of education, the physical path of water passing through, metro travellers from the new Parkville Station, and the broader perspectives that evolve out of place making. Engaging in partnerships through Public Art Melbourne projects, the artworks will be realised through a collaborative and co-ordinated process, unrolling over the duration of the site's development and evolving within the University Square context.

Time Passage is a conceptual framework to inspire and guide the implementation of a program of public art for University Square, emphasising art's connectedness to its site and the relatedness of individual artworks through an integrated plan. The vision is guided by symbolic and poetic terms, in correlation with a keen sense of how each work interacts with its context, and with our times.

A symbolic and poetic framework

A framework of nine 'zones' acknowledging themes of universal symbolic and poetic significance will each represent a structure for selection of artists shortlisted and outcomes.

Artists representing excellence from a diversity of art forms and career levels will be chosen to present works that respond to particular sites, and which also make sense in terms of their own lines of inquiry and thinking as artists. Each artist will be selected with a clear sense of their relevance to the themes and contexts of the site and conceptual framework.

The nine zones that comprise the concept for Time Passage and guide the selection of artists and works are: Memory, Light, Water, Time, the Body, Observation, Diaspora, Play and the Shadow.

Each of these zones correspond to particular, though sometimes overlapping locations on the University Square site, and relate to a philosophical proposition, or symbolic and imaginative theme. Each zone is coded with a mix of metaphorical allusions and meanings: a muse, a number, a colour, a text and so on. The Greek origins of civitas; passing through the university like water passing through the park.

These associations provide the starting points for the selection, inspiring and briefing the artists who will create works for University Square. It is anticipated the artworks relating to each of these zones will reflect universal and/or vital aspects of human nature, with particular reference to the contexts of Melbourne and University Square. They will together convey interactive and flexible narratives, fragments of history, memory, beauty, time and light, evoking interpretations of contemporary and past cultures, and reflecting the complex and contested history of this city.

Scope

The changing landscape of University Square throughout its redevelopment and during the construction period of the new Parkville Station will influence the public art context, and the program will consider timing and relevance of selected works to engage with this narrative unfolding in the space.

For example, the zone of Memory could recognise the past and continuing presence of Aboriginal connections and meaning associated with the site. The zone of Water should be considered at a time when integrating design features into the park's irrigation is practical within the master plan development program, and the zone of Diaspora could have a focus on the metro station and be programmed to align with the station's construction and budget allocation.

The framework allows for flexibility in the number, scale and type of works. It aims to have a strong presence, able to be experienced, enjoyed, discussed, contemplated and interacted with by a wide public on a very immediate level. It will also invite serious scholarship and art criticism, with anticipated connections to the story of Melbourne's identity, as a city of narrative and semiotics, and representing University Square and Melbourne as a model for contemporary public art projects.

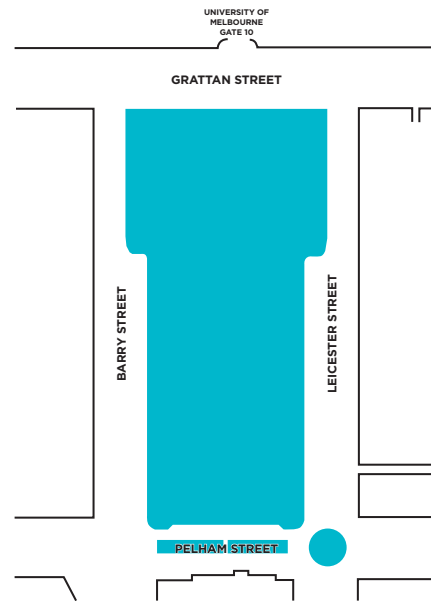
MASTER PLAN OUTCOMES

The combined actions of the University Square Master Plan will deliver the following outcomes.

PARK EXPANSION

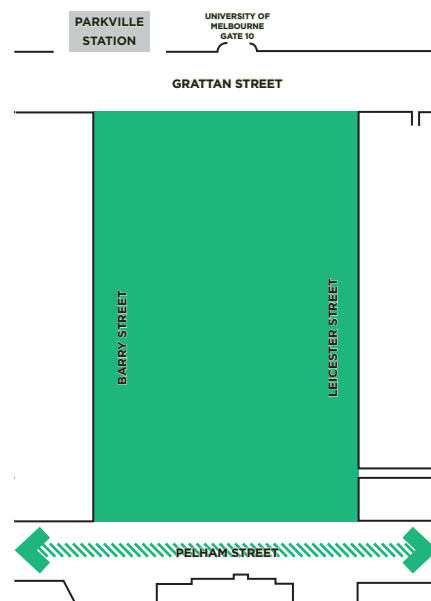
Before

Park is bound by car-dominated roads on all four sides.



After

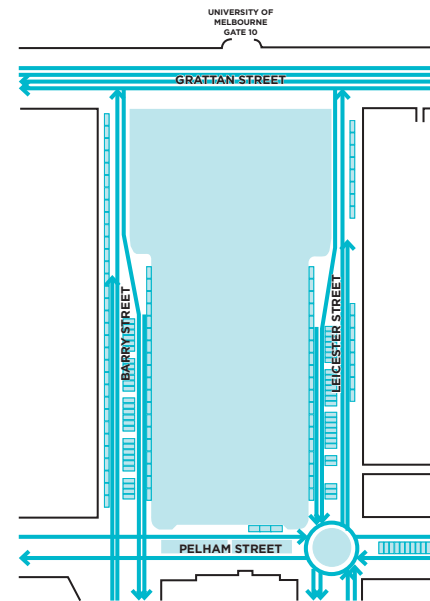
- 8739m² of new open space.
- Park extends from building on Barry and Leicester streets.
- Pelham Street becomes a green biodiversity corridor.



CAR PARKING AND TRAFFIC

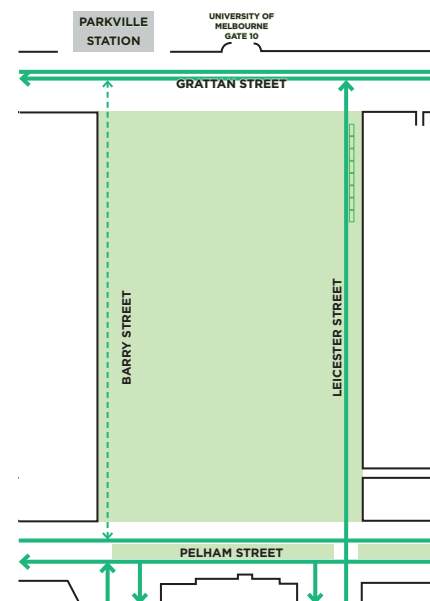
Before

- Park is bound by roads and car parking on all four sides.



After

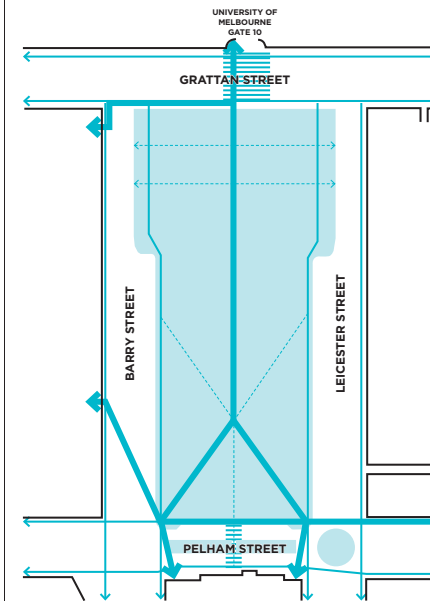
- Grattan Street downgraded to two lanes of traffic as a legacy of Parkville Station.
- Barry Street is closed to all traffic except emergency vehicles.
- Leicester Street is one way, northbound traffic only.
- Pelham Street roundabout is removed.



PRIORITISING PEDESTRIANS

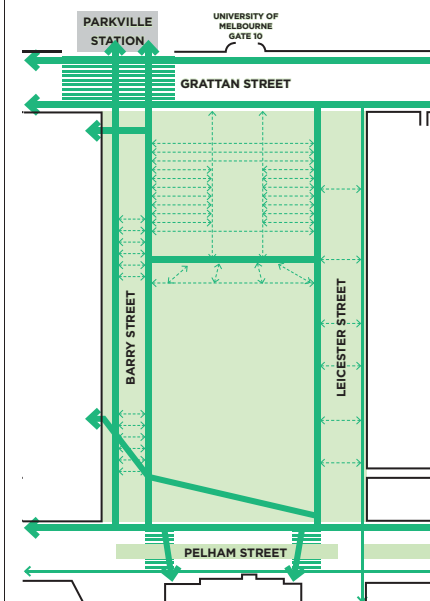
Before

- Path network divides the park and does not lead to key destinations.



After

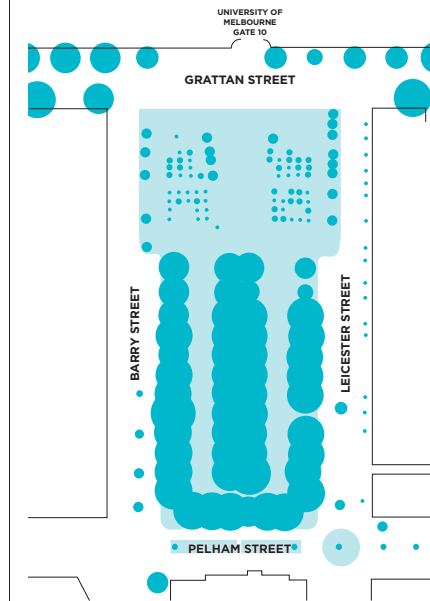
- Grattan Street pedestrian crossing shifts directly north of Barry Street as a legacy of Parkville Station.
- Pedestrians paths are focused on Barry and Leicester streets with a finer network of movement encouraged throughout the park.



URBAN FOREST

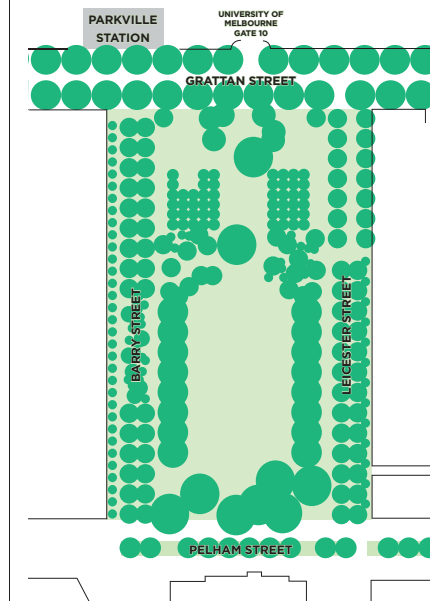
Before

- Six species of exotic tree species, five of which are deciduous.
- Failing trees in both the plaza and the park.



After

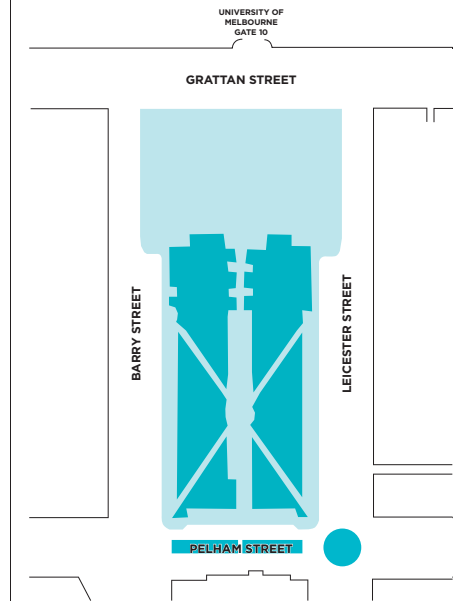
- 253 new trees.
- Diverse mix of exotic, native, evergreen and deciduous species.



URBAN HEAT ISLAND AND BIODIVERSITY

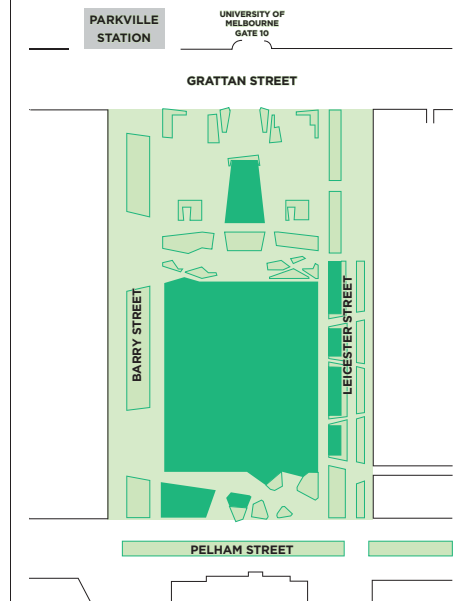
Before

- Central lawn space is divided by path network.
- No garden beds or understorey planting.



After

- 4300m² of new garden beds.
- 2009m² of new lawn.



IMPLEMENTATION



The purpose of developing the University Square Master Plan is to ensure that there is a blueprint for the future of this significant public open space.

Since the University Square draft concept plans were developed in October 2015, the location of Parkville Station, as part of the Metro Tunnel Project, was confirmed as being adjacent to University Square.

The extent and timing of constructing the new Parkville Station is yet to be finalised, but needs to be factored into the implementation schedule of the endorsed University Square Master Plan.

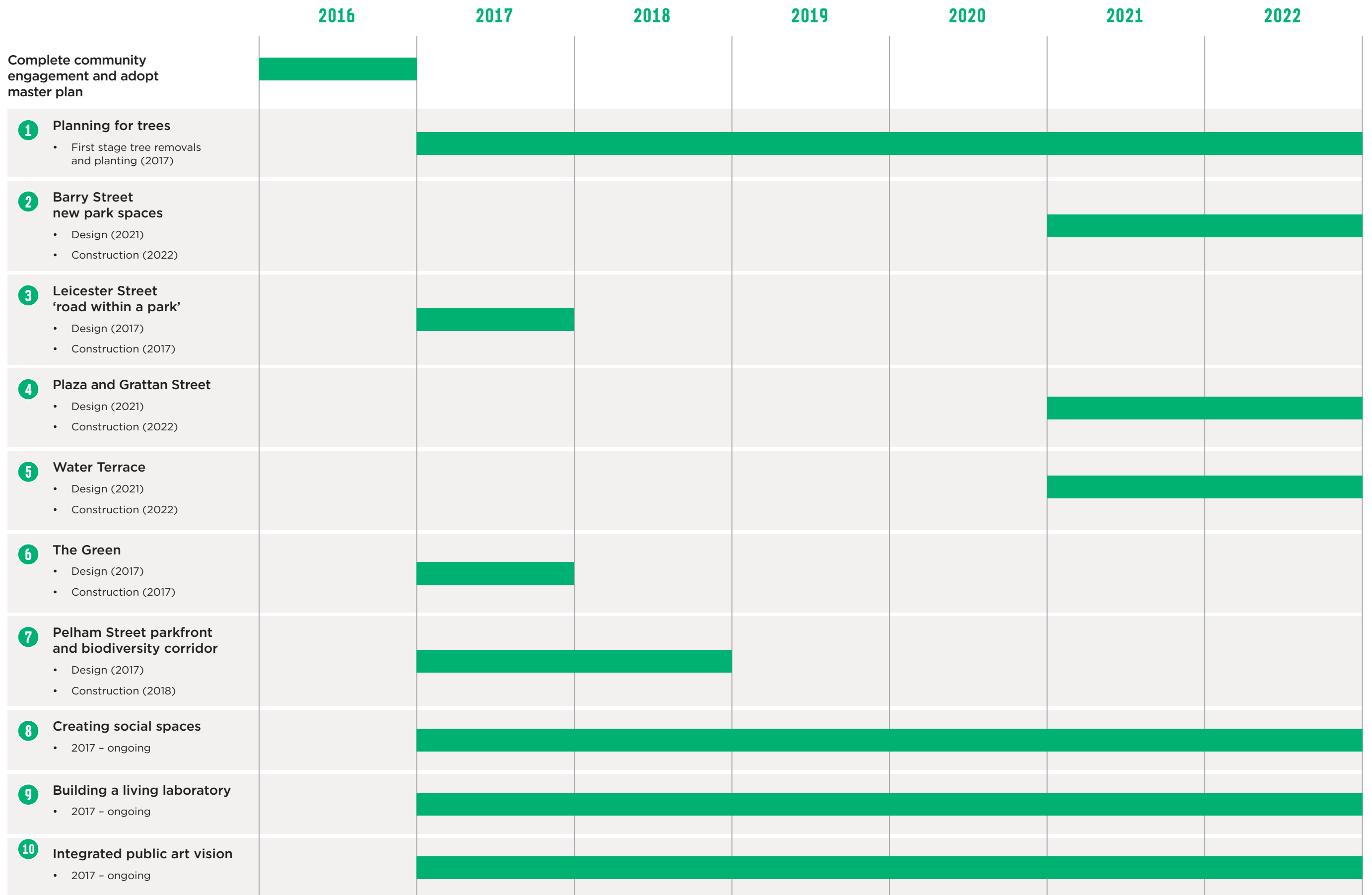
As a result, some master plan actions may be implemented before and during construction of Parkville Station. It is also possible that the implementation of all of the University Square Master Plan will be delayed until after the construction of the new Parkville Station.

Both the City of Melbourne and the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority are committed to delivering both projects for the community in an integrated manner.

Regardless of the staging program, the City of Melbourne and the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority will ensure that the actions detailed in this master plan will be implemented in their entirety.

An indicative staging program has been outlined based on current information.

Proposed implementation timeline



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Melbourne would like to acknowledge contributions to the University Square Master Plan process from funding partners. This project is supported by both the University of Melbourne and the Victorian State Government.



The City of Melbourne also wishes to acknowledge the local community and key stakeholders who have been involved in this master plan process.

How to contact us

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(Public holidays excluded)

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GPO Box 1603
Melbourne VIC 3001
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Interpreter services

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03 9280 0716 አማርኛ
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03 9280 0720 Italiano
03 9280 0721 國語
03 9280 0722 Soomaali
03 9280 0723 Español
03 9280 0724 Türkçe
03 9280 0725 Việt Ngữ
03 9280 0726 All other languages

National Relay Service:

If you are deaf, hearing impaired or speech-impaired,
call us via the National Relay Service: Teletypewriter (TTY)
users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 03 9658 9658
9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (Public holidays excluded)

UNIVERSITY SQUARE DRAFT MASTER PLAN



PHASE 4: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2016



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This engagement summary has been commissioned by The City of Melbourne and complete by The Space Agency - an independent consultancy specialising in community engagement:

Every effort has been made to accurately represent participant feedback and insights within this document. For recommendations or questions, Please contact: urbanlandscapes@melbourne.vic.gov.au



1. PLANNING FOR TREES



2. BARRY STREET
NEW PARK SPACES



3. LEICESTER STREET
ROAD WITHIN A PARK



4. THE PLAZA AND
GRATTAN STREET



5. WATER TERRACE



7. DELHAM STREET PARK FRONT
AND BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR



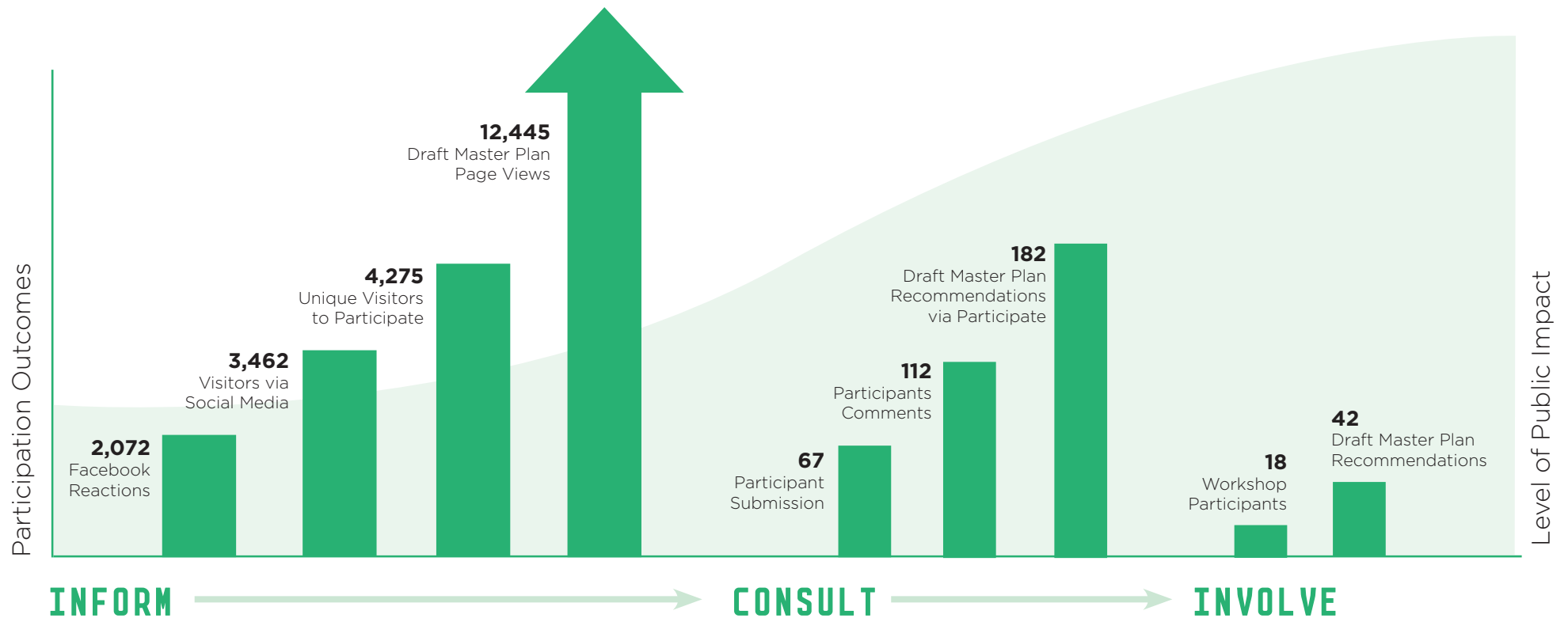
6. THE GREEN



PART A: ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES



ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



Participate Melbourne is the digital engagement hub for all City of Melbourne consultations. On this platform, participants have access to all relevant project documentation. **Over the duration of the engagement, the platform attracted 4,275 unique visitors, with the interactive Draft Master Plan receiving 12,455 page views.**

Through Participate Melbourne, participants were able to leave submissions in the form of comments directly on the relevant project sections. **A total of 112 comments were lodged by 67 participants.** Another 2 submission were placed via email.

Stakeholders were invited to attend two workshop sessions. **A total of 18 participants took part in the workshops and contributed 42 recommendations.**

ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Overall, the 87 formal **participants contributed 227 recommendations** relating to the Draft Master Plan. 80% of these recommendations were submitted through Participate Melbourne.

63% of participants said they work in Municipality. 45% participants said they live in the municipality, and just over 20% identified as ratepayers. Over 90% of those aged 30+ worked in the municipality and **100% of people under the age of 30 were studying.**

Participants were asked to associate a score indicating their level of support for the proposed actions outlined in the Draft Master Plan. **The average score for the Draft Master Plan was a 3 out of 5 - translating as '(I) Support some parts of it but not others.'**

Participants directed nearly 60% of their recommendation towards five principle areas of interest, these included:

1. The overall **design and placemaking** features within the action areas (18.5%). This included considerations as to the kinds of activities, spaces and seating that would be included in the future park, as well as specific design recommendations relating to the action areas.

2. The **maintenance of the existing elm trees** within the park (13.2%).
3. The management of **traffic and parking** as a result of proposed changes to the areas streets (9.7%)
4. The **preservation of the existing paths** in The Green (8.8%).
5. New **Planting and Greenery** (7.9%). This included consideration for the type and variety of trees.

Outside of General Comments which received the highest number of comments (65) and recommendations (79), The action areas that received the most interest from participants were:

1. **The Green:** 18 comments, 35 recommendations
2. **Leicester Street:** 14 comments, 23 recommendations
3. **Planning for Tree:** 13 comments, 24 comments.
4. **The Plaza:** 13 comments, 19 recommendations.

Each action area of the Draft Master Plan is reviewed in Part C of this document (starting from page 20).

ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Comments in this section have been arranged from the highest number of recommendations received to the lowest. This section provides an overview of the most common recommendations from participants to improve the Draft Master Plan.

- **Design and Placemaking:** Participants recommended reviewing the proposed design for the Plaza, Water Terrace and Green. It was considered that more could be done to enhance the Plaza and Water Terrace and make it more attractive to users. Participants did not want to see significant change to the current design of the Green.
- **Maintaining Existing Trees:** Participants felt that more could be done to extend the life span of the existing elm trees in the Green. While many understood the need to transition these trees, they wanted a better understanding of the useful life expectancy.
- **Parking and Traffic Management:** Overall, participants were happy with the proposed changes to parking and roads however they expressed concern for students, families and visitors looking to access the area in the future. They asked whether low cost parking might be provided in proximity.
- **New Planting and Greenery:** Participants were supportive of the proposed new green spaces and increased number of trees. There was a mixed response from participants requesting European vs. native varieties.
- **Accessibility:** Participants recommended a range of improvements to support pedestrian safety and access to the park by prams and wheelchairs.
- **The Green:** Overall, participants did not agree with removing trees from the central lawn area. They were concerned that by opening up this space there would be insufficient shade in summer and the area would be used for group sports - affecting the quiet enjoyment of the park.
- **Protecting Wildlife:** Participants were concerned for native wildlife and recommended a plan be put in place to re-home possums, bats and birds if the elm trees are removed.
- **Historic Features:** Participants wanted to see historic features of the park maintained. This related the Temperance Fountain, the choice of European trees in the planting, and the layout of the paths.
- **Interim Planting:** Participants recommended an interim solution that would keep tall trees in the park - providing shade for users - while the new trees matured.
- **Metro:** Participants wanted more information on how the proposed Metro station might impact the site and change the configuration of the Plaza.
- **Maintenance:** Participants were concerned about litter and graffiti in the park and wanted to understand how the space would be managed.
- **Respectful Use:** Participants wanted to ensure that the area would not be used for team sports or loud activities.

PHASE 4 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The Phase 4 community engagement involved a number of elements with the digital engagement platform - Participate Melbourne - at its core. These elements were:

Online Information Platform

*Participate Melbourne is the digital engagement hub for all City of Melbourne consultations. On this platform, participants could find all relevant project documentation. **Over the duration of the engagement, the platform attracted 4,850 unique page views, with the interactive Draft Master Plan receiving 12,455 page clicks.***

Online Comments Section

*Participants were able to leave submissions in the form of comments directly on the relevant project section (e.g. Water Terrace, Leicester Street, The Green). **A total of 112 comments were lodged by 67 participants.***

Community Workshop

*Stakeholder were invited to attend two workshop hosted by The Space Agency. **A total of 18 participants took part in the workshop sessions.***

Social Media

*Social media posts by the City of Melbourne Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts **attracted 3462 visitors to Participate Melbourne.***

Direct Engagement

The City of Melbourne is working with the University of Melbourne and the Victorian State Government – both of whom are financial partners in this project.

Other key stakeholders include:

- *Carlton Residents' Association*
- *Melbourne Metro Rail Authority*
- *The University of Melbourne*
- *Graduate House*
- *The University of Melbourne*

MEDIA SUMMARY

The community engagement initiative was featured on:

- [Herald Sun Online](#) (23 August, 2016): 'Carlton's 'pretty barren' University Square set for \$9m makeover with solar-powered charging stations'
- [ArchitectureAU](#) (26 August, 2016): 'Melbourne's 'hostile and forbidding' University Square to be transformed'
- [Australian Design Review](#) (2 September): Parks of the future: new green spaces for Carlton and Southbank

These two sources **attracted 149 visitors to the Participate Melbourne** online engagement portal.

Social Media

The project was pushed through the City of Melbourne Social channels (Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter). Across the course of the engagement, **3462 people were engaged by social media posts** and clicked through to Participate Melbourne.

Facebook post by the City of Melbourne received a total of **2072 reactions** - including likes and shares.



ARCHITECTUREAU

Melbourne's 'hostile and forbidding' University Square to be transformed



The City of Melbourne has released further details of a draft masterplan for the redevelopment of University Square in Carlton.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

The engagement attracted a **total of 87 participants** who shared their insights through formal process - namely: through the online engagement portal, community workshop or via email.

Formal Participants	N	% of Total
Participate Melbourne	67	77.0%
Community Workshop	18	20.7%
Email Submission	2	2.3%

Table 1: Submissions by format.

Overall, **participants were more likely to be female (62.1%) and under the age of 55 (68.9%)**. There was a strong representation of people under the age of 30 (35.6%).

Gender	N	% of Total
Male	41	47.1%
Female	54	62.1%
Other	8	9.2%

Table 3: Participants' stated gender identity.

Age Group	N	% of Total
Under 30	31	35.6%
Between 30 and 55	29	33.3%
Over the age of 55	15	17.2%
Unknown	11	12.6%

Table 4: Participant age profile.

63% of participants said they work in the municipality. 45% participants said they live in the municipality, and just over 20% identified as ratepayers. Over 90% of those aged 30+ worked in the City of Melbourne and **100% of people under the age of 30 were studying in the city.**

Relationship to the City	N	% of Total
Live	42	48.3%
Pay rates	20	23.0%
Work	55	63.2%
Visit	26	29.9%
Study	38	43.7%
Own a business	8	9.2%
Unknown	1	

Table 5: Participants' stated relationship to the City of Melbourne.

Relationship to the City	< 30		30 -55		55 >	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Live	13	46.4%	17	85.0%	6	54.5%
Pay rates	4	14.3%	9	45.0%	5	45.5%
Work	16	57.1%	18	90.0%	13	90.9%
Visit	12	42.9%	7	35.0%	4	36.4%
Study	28	100.0%	7	35.0%	1	9.1%
Own a business	0	0.0%	5	25.0%	1	9.1%
Unknown	11					

Table 6: Participants' stated relationship to the City of Melbourne - segmented by age.

LEVEL OF SUPPORT

Participants were asked to associate a score indicating their level of support for the proposed actions outlined in the Draft Master Plan.

The average score for the Draft Masterplan 3 out of 5 - translating as '(I) Support some parts of it but not others.' These scores are explored in detail in Part C: Recommendations.

Score Card:

1. Do not support it at all
2. Do not support most parts of it
3. Support some parts of it but not others
4. Support most parts of it
5. Strongly support it all

Actions Areas	Comments	Average Score	1 (Lowest)		2		3		4		5 (Highest)	
			N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
General	37	3.5	5	13.5%	2	5.4%	10	27.0%	10	27.0%	10	27.0%
Planning for Trees	13	2.1	6	46.2%	3	23.1%	2	15.4%	1	7.7%	1	7.7%
Barry Street New Park Spaces	10	3.9	1	10.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	4	40.0%	4	40.0%
Leicester Street	14	3.1	2	14.3%	2	14.3%	4	28.6%	4	28.6%	2	14.3%
The Plaza and Grattan Street	13	3.0	0	0.0%	6	46.2%	2	15.4%	4	30.8%	1	7.7%
Water Terrace	11	2.7	1	9.1%	3	27.3%	5	45.5%	2	18.2%	0	0.0%
The Green	18	2.2	8	44.4%	1	5.6%	8	44.4%	0	0.0%	1	5.6%
Pelham Street Parkfront	7	3.0	1	14.3%	2	28.6%	1	14.3%	2	28.6%	1	14.3%
Creating Social Spaces	1	2.0	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Building a Living Laboratory	2	4.5	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	1	50.0%
Integrated Public Art Vision	1	5.0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
TOTAL	127	3.0										

Table 8: Participant indicated support level for action areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Participant responses ranged from 5-200 words. Each submission has been carefully reviewed by an independent examiner in order to extract individual recommendations and place them into an appropriate over-arching theme.

Overall, the 87 formal **participants contributed 227 recommendations** relating to the Draft Master Plan. 80% of these recommendations were submitted through Participate Melbourne.

Responses	Participants	Comments	Recommendations
Participate	67	112	182
Workshop	18	42	42
Email	2	2	3

Table 7: Number of participants by formal submission type and number of suggestions made by participants by formal submission type.

- 35% of recommendations did not correspond to a specific action area. They have been combined into a separate category named 'General Comments.'
- Most of the General Comments were submitted as part of the workshop sessions.
- Of the proposed action areas, The Green received the highest number of comments (18) and recommendations (25).
- Creating Social Spaces, Building a Living Laboratory and Integrate Public Art Vision did not receive sufficient comments to perform a meaningful analysis.

Recommendations	Comments	Recommendations
General Comments	65	79
Planning for Trees	13	24
Barry Street New Park Spaces	10	13
Leicester Street	14	23
The Plaza and Grattan Street	13	19
Water Terrace	11	18
The Green	18	35
Pelham Street Parkfront	7	8
Creating Social Spaces	1	3
Building a Living Laboratory	2	2
Integrated Public Art Vision	2	3

Table 8: Number of participant recommendations by action area.

KEY THEMES

Following the review of participant recommendations, each entry was individually categorised into an appropriate theme to assist with data interpretation and comprehension.

Theme	Recommendations	% of Total
Design and Placemaking	42	18.5%
Maintaining Existing Trees	30	13.2%
Parking & Traffic Management	22	9.7%
Existing Paths	20	8.8%
New Planting and Greenery	18	7.9%
Accessibility	14	6.2%
The Green	14	6.2%
Protecting Wildlife	13	5.7%
Historic Features	12	5.3%
Other	11	4.8%
Cycle Lanes and Cyclist Safety	8	3.5%
Interim Planting	7	3.1%
Metro	7	3.1%
Maintenance	5	2.2%
Respectful Enjoyment	4	1.8%

Table 9: Number of participant recommendations by action area.

Participants directed nearly 60% of their recommendation towards five principle areas of interest, these included:

1. The overall design and placemaking features within the action areas (18.5%). This included considerations as to the kinds of activities, spaces and seating that would be included in the future park, as well as specific design recommendations relating to the action areas.
2. The maintenance of the existing elm trees within the park (13.2%).
3. The management of traffic and parking as a result of proposed changes to the areas streets (9.7%)
4. The preservation of the existing paths in The Green (8.8%).
5. New Planting and Greenery (7.9%). This included consideration for the type and variety of trees.

These themes and their corresponding participant recommendations can be explored in detail within Part C of this document.

Within the action areas, the themes have on occasion been split when there is sufficient participant to warrant a deeper exploration of their considerations.

PART B: APPROACH



PROJECT CONTEXT

Background

The City of Melbourne is leading a project to transform University Square in partnership with the University of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

University Square was set-out in the 1850s along with two other 'London-style' squares – Lincoln and Argyle squares. University Square is characterised by its mature Elms. These trees, planted in the 1880s, are reaching the end of their useful life. Drought, extreme heat and age have taken their toll on these trees. Some 40% of existing Elm Trees at University Square have been assessed as having less than 12-months of useful life expectancy remaining.

In the next 15 years, the population of this area is expected to double, which will have a significant impact on the density of buildings and the reliance on public open space.

Now is a good time to think about how we can improve University Square for all users and create a climate-adapted landscape for the future.

Draft Masterplan

The University Square Draft Master Plan outlines how we intend to transition the current landscape into a 21st century space that responds to significant demographic and contextual change, while recognising the rich history of the site.

Shaped by extensive community feedback, the draft master plan aims to restore a failing landscape and creates new spaces that serve the local community. The draft master plan outlines 10 actions that form the basis of our vision for University Square.

The master plan outlines a new vision for University Square that will:

- Create a bigger park by increasing public open space to meet the needs of a rapidly growing, changing and more densely populated community.
- Respond to our changing climate by using open space to redirect and reuse storm water, capture solar energy, increase tree canopy

cover to reduce the urban heat island effect and to contribute to the ecological and human needs of urban space by using understorey plantings.

- Provide for a greater range of use and activity to meet different needs at different times
- Restore a failing landscape and create a new open space hub that better serves the local community including residents, students, workers and visitors.

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The master plan has been shaped and informed by detailed community and key stakeholder engagement. Starting in 2014, an extensive four-phase community engagement program was planned and conducted based on the following key deliverables:

Phase 1 - introduce the project: the why and how, and tell us how you use University Square and what changes, if any, you would like to see.

Phase 2 - ideas plan: here's what you told us and here are the City of Melbourne's strategic objectives - did we get it right?

Phase 3 - Draft concept plan

Phase 4 - Display of draft master plan

Phase 3 - Outcomes

- Phase 3 community engagement took place between August 25 to October 5 2015.
- In total, 149 participants provided comment on the draft plan. These comments translated into 243 recommendations towards the draft plan.
- The website was the most common feedback medium for both number of participants (77%) as well as the number of comments (70%). The number of website visitors (4806) versus feedback from respondents (115), was 2.39% of website visitors. Participants were predominantly workers (57%), students (41%) and residents (34%), and in the age brackets of 26-35 (27%) and 18-25 (23%).
- There was a significant number of generally positive comments, including support for the overall plan. The greatest identified negative outcome to achieve the positive change was the loss of established Elm trees.
- The Green (139) received the most comment of all the precincts; followed by The Plaza (86), Leicester Street (63), Barry Street (62), Water Terrace (34) and Pelham Street (33).



Chart 1: Community engagement timeline

ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The following community engagement objectives were identified and were based on the IAP2 (International Association for Public Participation) spectrum - Inform - Consult - Involve:

- We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.
- We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decision.

Inform and connect

- To deliver a broad, genuine, innovative and robust community engagement process - more than a traditional local government approach.

- Ensure people have the information they need to take part in engagement activities.
- To validate strategic directions and introduce the potential of the project.
- To provide accurate information about proposed changes to traffic and car parking.
- To provide accurate information about the declining Elm population at University Square and propose solutions for a new generation of trees.

Involve all Stakeholders

- Enable input from all community members including residents, students, workers and visitors.
- Enable input from key stakeholders and project partners.

Provide many ways to engage

- Enable people to have input in a variety of ways (more than one engagement method).
- Provide regular updates.
- Ensure easy and approachable contact with the project team.

Be inspired and unique

- To capture the way people used University Square and what they thought about University Square.
- To capture people's vision for the future of University Square - 'What's your Vision?'
- To inspire and generate ideas for the look, feel and activity in the new public space.

ACTION AREAS



The University Square Master Plan is a blueprint for the future of University Square.

It sets the direction and plan to transition the landscape and sets the vision for University Square.

At the core of the draft master plan are the following 10 key action areas.

1. PLANNING FOR TREES

Create a new urban forest at University Square, with the addition of almost 250 new trees. To maintain the square's distinctive leafy profile, we must strike a balance between retaining and removing the declining mature elm trees in order to start planting new avenues of trees to keep the park looking green for generations to come.



2. BARRY STREET NEW PARK SPACES

Increase the size of the square by closing Barry Street to traffic and car parking. Expand the lawn, plant new trees, establish new garden beds and create 'new park spaces' with additional seating, communal tables and movable furniture. These spaces can be suitable for small events, food vans and public art installations.



3. LEICESTER STREET ROAD WITHIN A PARK

Reduce the width of Leicester Street and maintain northbound traffic only to retain essential bus services, bicycles and traffic while enlarging the square. Leicester Street will become a 'road within a park' that can be easily crossed by pedestrians and is lined with trees. The smaller road will also allow space for new shared perimeter paths and a dedicated bike lane.

ACTION AREAS



4. THE PLAZA AND GRATTAN STREET

Build a new heart for University Square in a re-designed plaza. New features include diverse trees and gardens, a recessed basketball half-court, table tennis and chess boards. Communal tables with Wi-Fi and charging points will create an outdoor study space, while barbecues and picnic tables provide space for socialising and relaxation beside a new cafe.



5. WATER TERRACE

Create a transition from The Plaza to The Green by designing a Water Terrace. The new space will include trees, gardens and aquatic plantings with a focus on water. The space will feature water jets and misters, public art and play.



6. THE GREEN

Expand and improve the square's much loved lawn area. Remove the existing central and diagonal paths to create a single unified lawn space. Build new perimeter paths along Leicester and Barry streets to become new pedestrian thoroughfares for access through the park and to adjacent sites and buildings.



7. PELHAM STREET PARKFRONT

Replace the current single central entrance and create a new park entrance and address at Pelham Street. Pelham Street itself will be transformed into a green corridor linking University and Lincoln squares, by replacing central street parking with new trees. The median strip will also be reconfigured as a water sensitive garden.

ACTION AREAS



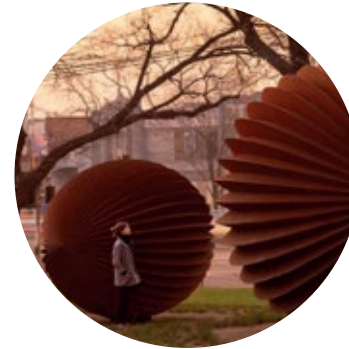
8. CREATING SOCIAL SPACES

Design, provide and locate park elements that meet the needs of social, accessible and connected spaces in the new park including seating, lighting, bicycle infrastructure, picnic and barbecue facilities, drinking fountains and bins. Focus on both permanently fixed and movable park elements and incorporate technology to meet the needs of an education and innovation precinct.



5. BUILDING A LIVING LABORATORY

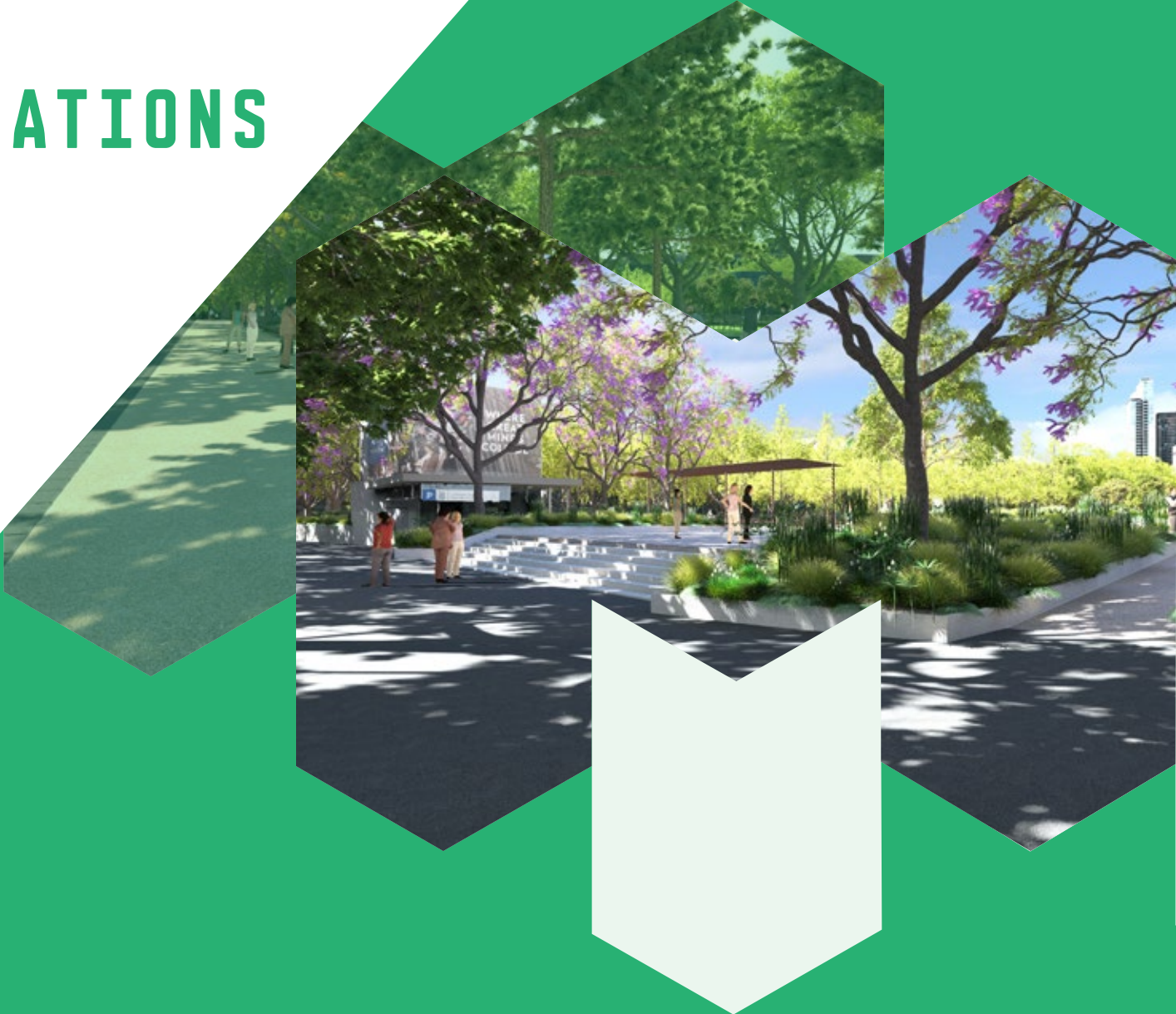
Provide opportunities and infrastructure that encourages research and prototyping in fields such as alternative energy sources, biodiversity, air quality, heat-island-effect and connect with the University's research aspirations.



10. INTEGRATED PUBLIC ART VISION

Integrate art into University Square from the design phase through a strategic creative vision that enables art to be a fundamental component of the site's design, grounded in the essential values and priorities underlying the reimagination of the space. Implement an art program that is inclusive, coherent, well-considered in relation to the evolving

PART C: RECOMMENDATIONS



GENERAL COMMENTS

65 Comments, 79 Recommendations

The highest number of comments and recommendations submitted by participants related to the overall proposal - as opposed to specific action areas. These comments and recommendations were primarily contributed by workshop attendees as the sessions were not specific to action areas.

Overall 54% of respondents either supported most parts of the Draft Master Plan or strongly supported it all. The average score associated by participants was a 3.5 out of 5.

The primary concern of participants was the removal of trees to form The Green and the removal of existing pedestrian paths that intersect the path along its centre and diagonals.

Participants recommended doing all that is possible to maintain the existing elm trees for as long as they can be preserved, and ensuring strong contingencies are in place to support native wildlife if trees do need to be removed.

Participants were in favour of extending the park and introducing new planting. Their main concern was the interim plan for trees and shade, and ensuring that there would be sufficient cover in the park for users as the older trees decline and the new trees reach maturity.

A number of participants were concerned by the impact of the new metro station on the amenity of the area.



Image 1: Overall Concept Plan

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	5	13.5%
2. Do not support most parts of it	2	5.4%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	10	27%
4. Support most parts of it	10	27%
5. Strongly support it all	10	27%

Table 10: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: General Comments.

GENERAL COMMENTS

What Participants Said

The Green (10 comments)

Overall, participants liked the idea of a large lawn area. They were, however, concerned that without trees to provide shade the space would be underutilised in summer and would be difficult to maintain during drought. Some participants were concerned that a large open space would disturb the serenity of the park, as it might be used for group sports. There was also concern that the space might be booked for public events. One participant raised the need to provide garbage bins in proximity to the green to keep it clean.

Existing Paths (9 comments)

While there was general support for a large lawn area, a number of participants wanted to maintain the central and diagonal paths. While the primary concern was that without paths crossing the green, new desire lines would form and the park would look shabby. One participant highlighted that the paths did more than allow for pedestrian movement, they divided the park into different spaces that could be used for different purposes - as opposed to a large space that might become a football oval or be taken over by one activity. Another participant said that the current path layout was important because of its historical legacy.

Maintaining Existing Trees (9 comments)

Participants were in favour of maintaining the existing trees as long as possible. While some participants recognised the need for the elm trees to go, many wanted to see these replaced with interim planting that would maintain shade cover in the centre of the green. Some participants wanted new testing to understand better the useful life expectancy of the trees.

New Planting and Greenery (8 comments)

Participants were in favour of creating the new park space and increasing the number of trees and greenery in the park. Participants were keen to understand better the types of trees being proposed, how they would be irrigated, and how tall they would be when fully established.

Protecting Wildlife (8 comments)

Participants were concerned about the future of native wildlife in the park and how the native bird and possum population would be relocated if the elm trees are to be removed. Overall, participants wanted to see a proposal for how existing wildlife in the park would be protected and transitioned.

GENERAL COMMENTS

What Participants Said

Parking and Traffic Management (8 comments)

While generally in favour of the changes to the roads and removal of parking, participants were concerned that it would make it more difficult for those who are obliged to drive to the area or who live locally and own a car. Participants were interested to know if there was to be added provision for parking elsewhere (on campus), and what impact the traffic changes were likely to have on surrounding streets. One participant raised their concern with the 401 bus route, recommending it be relocated for pedestrian safety.

Metro (6 comments)

Participants were concerned that the time frame and disruption caused by the Metro Rail project would affect the transition of the park and the enjoyment of the area for some time to come. Participants recommended an updated plan when the proposed design of the station is issued to demonstrate how the plaza area would function.

Interim Planting (3 comments)

Participants were in favour of the interim planting strategy. They asked what the time frame would be for re-planting and how shade could be maximised over the period when old trees are dying and new trees are growing.

Historic Features (3 comments)

Participants wanted the historical character of the park to be maintained. They recommended a focus on planting European trees over native varieties, and maintaining the historic layout. One participant asked about the future of the Temperance Fountain and how this would be included in the design.

Water Terrace (3 comments)

Participants were concerned that the design of the water terrace would restrict pedestrian movement. One participant was concerned that it may be a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Respectful Enjoyment (3 comments)

Participants wanted to ensure that the park would continue to be a place for respectful enjoyment of leisure activities. They were concerned that the large lawn area might be taken over by team sports. This would impact on the tranquility of the park. One participant was concerned that the new space would become the 'University's park' and local residents and workers would be pushed out. Another participant suggested that the basketball court would make the area noisy and affect other park users.

GENERAL COMMENTS

What Participants Said

Maintenance (3 comments)

Participants were concerned about the ongoing management of the park and what would be done to keep it clean and remove graffiti. With many secluded areas in the design, it was seen that this might increase anti-social behaviour. One participant noted that the current drainage of the park is insufficient and will need to be addressed if the Green is to function.

Accessibility (2 comments)

Participants recommended ensuring that there were wheelchair and pram compatible ramps to access the park. One participant asked whether there would be additional accessible parking bays in proximity.

Cycle Lanes and Cyclist Safety (2 comments)

Participants recommended that fully separated cycle paths would be safer for users. There was concern that with painted lanes, cars parked illegally or performing drop offs might block cyclists.

Other (2 comments)

Other recommendations included incorporating the wood from the elm trees into a public artwork, and installing deterrents preventing the area being used by skaters.

PLANNING FOR TREES

13 Comments, 28 Recommendations

This section of the Draft Masterplan received the lowest average score of the action areas, with a participant support level of 2.1 out of 5. Of the 13 participants who commented on this section, 46.2% did not support the proposal at all.

Participants did not agree with the removal of the central elm trees. They recommended that everything possible be done to prolong their useful life expectancy. They also suggested that the current layout of trees should be maintained with new planting to replace the older elms one they have died.

Participants said that if the trees were removed, the overall aesthetic and character of the park would be compromised. A group of participants considered the layout of the elm trees to be an important historic feature that should be continued in the new design.

Furthermore, participants were concerned that removing trees would impact local wildlife. A group of participants recommended a native wildlife plan be prepared and implemented to protect animals during the park's transition.



Image 2: The Green

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	6	46.2%
2. Do not support most parts of it	3	23.1%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	2	15.4%
4. Support most parts of it	1	7.7%
5. Strongly support it all	1	7.7%

Table 11: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Planning for Trees.

PLANNING FOR TREES

What Participants Said

Maintaining Existing Trees (7 comments)

Several participants asked how the existing elm trees that form the avenue in University Square might be preserved - recommending that everything be done to maintain the existing trees. Among this group, three participants expressed doubts that the useful life expectancy of these trees was accurate.

New Planting and Greenery (6 comments)

A number of participants recommended that a staged approach to planting should be applied, allowing for new trees to replace the declining ones over time. Two participants agreed of the importance of planting new trees and expanding the canopy cover in line with the Urban Forest Strategy. One participant requested to see more detail of the types of trees that would be planted, and another participant requested that no London Plane Trees be included in the design as they stimulate hay-fever.

Protecting Wildlife (5 comments)

Participants were concerned about the future of the possum population that currently live in the square's elm trees and how they will be properly transitioned into a new habitat. Participants requested a native wildlife plan for the park.

Historic Features (5 comments)

Participants flagged the historical and cultural significance of the current layout of elm trees in the square - stating that it was important to preserve the character of the park. One participant flagged for the City of Melbourne to preserve its old trees and not modernise the area. One participant expressed their desire to keep the avenue of trees and the diagonal paths.

Interim Planting (4 comments)

Participants suggested that a more appropriate interim plan for trees would see new planting become established as the older trees died. They were concerned of the amount of time it takes for trees to reach maturity, and the lack of shade in the new park if established trees were removed.

Respectful Enjoyment (1 comments)

One participant noted that the current layout of the trees maintained the respectful use of the site - ensuring that there was not too much activity (group sports) and that the park was a relaxing and quiet space. They expressed concern that by removing the trees, the use of the park would change for the negative.

BARRY STREET NEW PARK SPACES

10 Comments, 13 Recommendations

Participants were generally supportive of the proposed draft plan for Barry Street. 80% of participants said that they either supported most part of it all supported it all. The proposal received an average support score of 3.9 out of 5.

There was not a stand out recommendation from participants, rather their feedback was spread out across a few themes including parking and traffic management (5 comments), accessibility (2 comments), and new planting (2 comments).

While generally supportive of removing parking places, participants wanted to understand the implication this would have on people accessing the area and if additional parking would be provided elsewhere.



Image 1: Barry Street

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	1	10%
2. Do not support most parts of it	1	10%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	0	0%
4. Support most parts of it	4	40%
5. Strongly support it all	4	40%

Table 12: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Barry Street New Park Spaces.

BARRY STREET NEW PARK SPACES

What Participants Said

Parking and Traffic Management (5 comments)

Two participants supported the removal of parking spaces, and one participant flagged their concern - particularly for students that need to drive to class. Two participants requested further detail of how future parking arrangements would be managed to ensure that resident, families and visitors to the area would be able to access nearby parking.

Overall (3 comments)

Three participants expressed their satisfaction with the proposed vision for Barry Street. One participant highlighted what an asset this new space would be for the University and future residents.

Accessibility (2 comments)

A participant was concerned that the layout might make it difficult for students to access campus buildings. It was also requested that sufficient space be incorporated into the design to allow ample access for people using wheelchairs or prams - with particular attention to the height of the curbs.

New Planting and Greenery (2 comments)

One participant was concerned that the tall trees in this section would prevent people from viewing the facades of buildings. Another participant recommended breaking up the pavement with more greenery and mixed height planting.

Footpath Trading (1 comments)

One participant recommended activating the pedestrian space with a kiosk to sell coffee or fruit. They also suggested this could be an area for a small stage for buskers to add another layer of activity and enjoyment.

LEICESTER STREET ROAD WITHIN A PARK

14 Comments, 23 Recommendations

The proposal for Leicester street received mixed feedback with many participants supporting the initiative while others raised concerns over parking and traffic management, cycling and cyclist safety and accessibility. Overall, the this action area received an average support score of 3.1 out of 5.

Regarding traffic management, participants thought that removing the roundabout would remove an important speed controller. One participant recommended installing traffic lights. Similar with Barry Street, the removal of parking spaces was a concern to some participants.

Pedestrian safety was of concern to some participants who thought a pedestrian crossing and more lighting in this area was needed.

There were a number of comments regarding the proposed cycle lane. Participants suggested that allowing cycle traffic in both directions would be advantageous. Some participants were concerned that a painted bike lane was insufficient for cyclist safety, particularly as this road was to be shared with a busy bus route. They recommended installing fully separated lanes.



Image 4: Leicester Street

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	2	14.3%
2. Do not support most parts of it	2	14.3%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	4	28.6%
4. Support most parts of it	4	28.6%
5. Strongly support it all	2	14.3%

Table 13: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Leicester Street Road within a Park.

LEICESTER STREET ROAD WITHIN A PARK

What Participants Said

Parking Traffic Management (9 comments)

Overall, participants were concerned that changes to the roads would result in traffic problems, particularly in side streets (Pelham). Three participants thought that by removing the roundabout, traffic speeds would not be suitably controlled. One contributor suggested adding traffic lights. While one way access was generally supported, one participant suggested that the road should remain two way for cyclists. Two participants expressed concern that removing parking and not replacing it elsewhere would make it more difficult for students to access the campus.

Cycle Lanes and Cyclist Safety (6 comments)

Three participants wanted to see a south-bound cycle path installed. They were concerned about the current high use of cycling infrastructure in the area and how this plan would consider future use. Two participants recommended fully separated cycle paths to increase cyclist safety - particularly as cyclists will need to share the road with one of Melbourne's busiest bus routes.

Overall (3 comments)

Two participants agreed with the proposal and considered the extension of the park onto Leicester Street to be a great initiative. One participant requested to see 'before and after' photos to accompany the renders.

Accessibility (3 comments)

Participants raised concerns over pedestrian safety, flagging the need for pedestrian crossings as well as overhead lighting to illuminate the area at night. One participant suggested that the 401 bus route should be re-directed as it poses a risk to pedestrian safety.

New Planting and Greenery (2 comments)

While agreeing in principle with the road within a park, one participant flagged the amount of time it would take for this avenue to appear in full. They suggested a more immediate solution be investigated. Another participant did not think that the current plan for ground cover planting would be successful because of lack of light once the tree canopy is established.

THE PLAZA AND GRATTAN STREET

13 Comments, 19 Recommendations

The proposal for the Plaza and Grattan Street received a support score of 3 out of 5. Overall, participants were not impressed by the design and thought that it could be made more exciting.

There was a mixed reaction to the placemaking ideas, with some participants concerned that this might become a new destination for skateboarders, that the basketball half court would be noisy, and that the cafe was unnecessary.

With regards to the cafe, participants felt that it was important to keep public spaces for the public and disagreed with adding a private enterprise into the picture.

Overall, participants felt that the area needed less gravel and concrete as well as more shade.



Image 5: The Plaza

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	0	0%
2. Do not support most parts of it	6	46.2%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	2	15.4%
4. Support most parts of it	4	30.8%
5. Strongly support it all	1	7.7%

Table 14: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: The Plaza and Grattan Street.

THE PLAZA AND GRATTAN STREET

What Participants Said

Placemaking (7 comments)

Two participants did not want to see the basketball court installed. They were concerned that this would create noise and impact on the tranquil enjoyment of the space. One participant enthusiastically supported the idea of a basketball court - noting how popular the one at RMIT was with students. Another participant was concerned that the area might attract skateboarders and recommended installing deterrents. There were suggestions for other placemaking initiatives for this area including kids and adult play equipment as well as a public BBQ.

Design (6 comments)

Overall participants thought the design for the plaza was okay but could do more to be special or unique. Participants thought that too much gravel in this area would make it unappealing for visitors to dwell. They suggested more shade and green in this area.

Cafe (5 comments)

Overall, participants did not want to see a cafe in this space. They flagged that there was sufficient provision in the area and that a private business in a public space was not a desired outcome for the plaza. One participant supported the idea of a cafe saying it would add to the areas vibrancy.

Accessibility (1 comments)

One participant was concerned for pedestrian safety when crossing Grattan Street and recommended an improved pedestrian crossing.

Metro (1 comments)

One participant was concerned that the future metro rail station would significantly change this area and cautioned that the design of this space should take into consideration the placement of the Parkville station.

WATER TERRACE

11 Comments, 18 Recommendations

The water terrace received an average support level of 2.7 out of 5. Overall, participants thought the design could have been more imaginative - recommending a design that allowed adults and kids to play in the water, or to create an iconic and eye-catching water feature such as the fountain in the Exhibition Gardens.

Participants were particularly concerned that the design and placement of the water terrace would block pedestrian access to the lawn area. They recommended a design that was more integrated into the landscape.

Participants desired more tree cover in this area to provide shade as well as additional benches and seating beside the water so that users could dip their toes in the water.

The issue of ongoing maintenance was raised with concern for how the site would endure a prolonged drought. It was flagged that if the space needed to be closed because of water restrictions, this would leave a large empty space in the centre of the new park.



Image 6: Artists impression of Water Terrace

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	1	9.1%
2. Do not support most parts of it	3	27.3%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	5	45.5%
4. Support most parts of it	2	18.2%
5. Strongly support it all	0	0%

Table 15: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Water Terrace.

WATER TERRACE

What Participants Said

Design (7 comments)

Overall, participants liked the idea of a water feature but did not think the design went far enough - stating that they thought it was too simple and uninspiring. One participant suggested making the water feature more iconic such as the fountain in the Exhibition Gardens. Another participant suggested making the feature something that kids and adults might be able to 'run through' and play in. Participants suggested adding more benches in this area or places where visitors could dip their toes and cool off. They were keen to minimise the amount of concrete and have as much green in the space so that wildlife would fill the area and visitors could listen to the sound of birds. One participant suggested incorporating an element of the areas Aboriginal history into the design.

Pedestrian Movement (6 comments)

Participants were concerned that the water terrace would block North-South pedestrian movement through the park and saw it as an inconvenience. They asked if consideration had been made to compensate for students needing to quickly get to campus buildings. One participant suggested that the feature might be better integrated into the landscape to allow for North-South pedestrian movement.

Maintenance (2 comments)

Participants were concerned about the effects of drought and water restrictions - suggesting that in the next prolonged drought this feature might be turned off for an indefinite period - making this a large unused space in the new park. One participant was concerned about the cost of maintaining water features and whether this was an appropriate spend.

Shade (3 comments)

Participants were concerned that there was not sufficient shade around the water terrace for people to enjoy the area in summer.

THE GREEN

18 Comments, 35 Recommendations

The Green received the highest number of participant comments and recommendations of the proposed action areas. Overall, The Green received the second lowest score, with an average support level of 2.2 of 5.

Of particular issue to participants was the removal of the existing paths that intersect the park vertically and diagonally. Participants were concerned that if the paths were to be removed, new desire lines would be created by users who need to cross the park in a hurry.

Participants did not approve of the removal of the mature elm trees and recommend that as much as possible should be done to preserve them.

While they generally agreed with the idea of keeping a large lawn area, participants thought the size of The Green was too big and there would be insufficient shade for users. As a large open space, participants flagged that it may become an area for team sports. This form of activity was unwelcome as it would affect the peaceful enjoyment of the area.

Participants were happy that the fountain was being incorporated in the new design, but overall felt it should be kept in the same location with the same paths intersecting around it.



Image 7: The Green

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	8	44.4%
2. Do not support most parts of it	1	5.6%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	8	44.4%
4. Support most parts of it	0	0%
5. Strongly support it all	1	5.6%

Table 16: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: The Green.

THE GREEN

What Participants Said

Existing Paths (11 comments)

Participants overwhelmingly wanted to see the existing layout of paths retained in the final design. Participants were concerned that changing the path would alter the character of the park and would be an inconvenience to users. Some participants understood that with the addition of the water terrace and expansion of the park onto the current roads, meant that the central North South pathway would not be as important, however the diagonal paths would be still useful. Participants were concerned that if formal paths were removed, messy desire lines would form in their place.

Maintaining Existing Trees (9 comments)

Overall, participants wanted to maintain the existing configuration of trees and do as much as possible to keep existing trees healthy. They recommended planting new elms along the avenue as old ones needed to be removed. Participants did not want to see any trees removed unless they were dead - not just in decline. They suggested further research might establish a firm date as to the useful life expectancy of the current trees.

Design and Placemaking (7 comments)

Participants were generally unhappy with the proposed design of The Green. As with the removal of the paths and the existing elm trees, participants wanted to see this area maintained rather than transformed. Participants stated that they were currently happy with the layout and recommended keeping large trees at the centre of The Green to offer shade. Participants were concerned that one large open space would become a venue for team sport and this kind loud activity that would change the character of the park.

Lawns (4 comments)

Participants did not agree with the idea of a large lawn area, instead wanting there to be more shade cover and more spaces where different activity could take place. Mostly, participants wanted the lawn areas to be shaded by trees.

Temperance Fountain (4 comments)

Participants wanted to see the fountain maintained in the future design of the space, recommending that it be made functional again.

PELHAM STREET PARKFRONT AND BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR

7 Comments, 8 Recommendations

The average support level of participants for this action area was a 3 out of 5. Participant responses were mixed with half the participants supporting the initiative. A number of participants in this section raised their concern over the proposed tree removal in The Green.

What Participants Said

Maintaining Existing Trees (5 comments)

In this section, a number of participants expressed their concern for the removal of the central elm trees. They asked whether sufficient experts had been consulted to establish that the trees were in decline and whether more could be done to prolong their life expectancy. One participant recommended that if they must be removed, they should be replaced with similar European trees - stating that there is a high provision of native trees in Royal Park.

Overall (2 comments)

Two participants said they thought the proposal for this area was a great idea. One participant requested the Temperance Fountain could be made functional again.

Shade (1 comments)

One participants questioned whether the line of gum trees in the proposal would provide sufficient shade for park users.



Image 7: Pelham Street Park Front

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	1	14.3%
2. Do not support most parts of it	2	28.6%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	1	14.3%
4. Support most parts of it	2	28.6%
5. Strongly support it all	1	14.3%

Table 17: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Pelham Street Parkfront and Biodiversity Corridor.

CREATING SOCIAL SPACES

1 Comment, 3 Recommendations

This action area received the lowest number of participant comments and recommendations. Unfortunately, this area did not attract a sufficient number of comment to preform a meaningful analysis.

What Participants Said

Design (3 comments)

One participant provided three recommendations on how the design of social spaces might be improved. They suggested that keeping concrete to a minimum and providing more shade would allow people to use these space year round. Furthermore, it was recommended that wooden park benches be kept in the park as they were warm in winter and cool in summer. The participant was concerned that having a commercial cafe or kiosk in the park would make the space more noisy and disrupt the tranquility of the park.



Image 8: Plaza

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	0	0%
2. Do not support most parts of it	1	100%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	0	0%
4. Support most parts of it	0	0%
5. Strongly support it all	0	0%

Table 18: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Creating Social Spaces.

BUILDING A LIVING LABORATORY

2 Comments, 2 Recommendations

Unfortunately, this area did not attract a sufficient number of comments to preform a meaningful analysis.

What Participants Said

Overall (2 comments)

Participants were interested in the living laboratory proposal. One participant said they loved the idea of obtaining baseline data from monitors in tree hollows. Another participant was interested in how small species - bugs and insects - will be affected by the tree removal and if there was a provision to maintain the current ecosystem, namely by keeping some decaying trees.



Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	0	0%
2. Do not support most parts of it	0	0%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	0	0%
4. Support most parts of it	1	50%
5. Strongly support it all	1	50%

Table 19: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Building a Living Laboratory.

INTEGRATED PUBLIC ART VISION

2 Comments, 3 Recommendations

Unfortunately, this area did not attract a sufficient number of comments to preform a meaningful analysis.

What Participants Said

Overall (3 comments)

Participant commenting in this section suggested that the public artwork should be an iconic and visionary piece - that avoided too much colour or 'of the moment' design trends. They flagged how timeless pieces of public art were generally minimalist in their design and pointed to Chicago's Millennium Park as a good example of how to mix conventional public space with interesting and provocative artworks. They also suggested that a larger piece might fit into the design of the Plaza, where it would both fill the empty space and also have greater impact from the street.



Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	0	0%
2. Do not support most parts of it	0	0%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	0	0%
4. Support most parts of it	0	0%
5. Strongly support it all	1	100%

Table 20: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Integrated Public Art Vision.

THANK YOU

This engagement summary has been commissioned by The City of Melbourne and completed by The Space Agency - an independent consultancy specialising in community engagement:

Every effort has been made to represent participant feedback and insights accurately within this document. For recommendations or questions, Please contact: urbanlandscapes@melbourne.vic.gov.au

