

Victoria Park Barrambin

Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Master Plan
SUMMARY
2023



Acknowledgment of Country

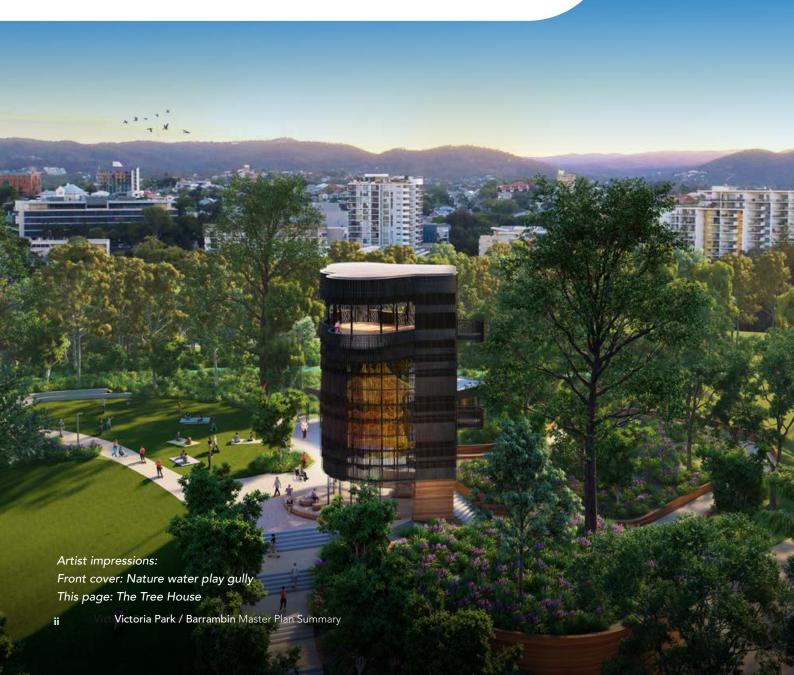
Brisbane City Council acknowledges this Country and its Traditional Custodians. We acknowledge and respect the spiritual relationship between Traditional Custodians and this Country, which has inspired language, songs, dances, lore and dreaming stories over many thousands of years. We pay our respects to the Elders, those who have passed into the dreaming; those here today; those of tomorrow.

May we continue to peacefully walk together, in gratitude, respect and kindness in caring for this Country and one another.

History of the dual name

Barrambin (meaning 'windy place') and Walan / Woolan (meaning 'bream') comprised the areas now known as Herston and Bowen Hills. The land was undulating, with hills punctuated by a chain of waterholes and gullies. Barrambin and Walan were meeting and gathering places for groups travelling to and from other parts of South East Queensland, as well as dance and corroboree sites, and hunting and fishing lands for local Aboriginal people of Brisbane. The area now contained within Victoria Park / Barrambin was an extensive Aboriginal camp and is a significant European contact and cultural site.

In 2008, the dual name of Victoria Park / Barrambin was given to the park, following engagement between the local Turrabal group and Brisbane City Council.



Restoring our city's greenspace



Victoria Park / Barrambin is Brisbane's biggest new park in generations and residents and visitors have quickly discovered it's a great place to explore.

With easy transport links and 64 hectares of greenspace, the park is transforming into a premiere destination with something for everyone.

The return of Victoria Park to public open space presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deliver a new must-do destination, and our exciting Master Plan to achieve this is a long-term roadmap that's been created by and for the people of Brisbane.

We have worked with Traditional Custodians, residents, businesses and community groups to design a park that meets the community's long-term wants and needs for this space. From the initial ideas phase in 2019 and 2020 through to the release of the Draft Master Plan in 2022, more than 80,000 people have engaged directly by sharing ideas, providing feedback, attending events and discovering what's planned for this city-shaping project. Following every engagement phase we have adjusted our plans to respond to the community.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with support to restore the natural landscape, revitalise the park's wetlands and waterholes, increase tree canopy cover to 60% and create unique spaces such as the Tree House and nature water play gully.

At the heart of the transformation is the community vision for the parkland as a natural retreat and urban park for adventure, discovery and reconnection.

Victoria Park has already established itself as a vibrant inner-city venue. It has hosted everything from small community events and school carnivals through to larger-scale events. More than 100,000 people have visited the park for events and activations since it opened to the public in 2021.

In less than a decades' time, the park will be the temporary venue for the equestrian cross country and BMX freestyle events during the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which will present an opportunity to showcase the park's restored landscape and rich cultural heritage to a global audience.

I want to thank everyone who has helped shape Victoria Park's exciting transformation into a sustainable and inclusive destination that will help ensure Brisbane gets even better.

Adrian Schrinner Lord Mayor





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Introduction

The Victoria Park / Barrambin Master Plan presents a refined and tested roadmap for the park's future, detailing how Brisbane City Council will transform the 64 hectares of inner city greenspace over the coming years into a natural retreat and urban park for adventure, discovery and reconnection.

The Victoria Park Vision was the starting point for the transformation of the park. The Master Plan builds upon the Vision, providing a guide for the park's growth and development over the coming years.

The full Master Plan includes artist impressions of what the park could look like, with spatial maps of key features, spaces and connections.

The park will be part of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games as the temporary venue for the equestrian cross-country and BMX freestyle events. These temporary events have been integrated into the master planning process. The plan incorporates design elements that will support the park in delivering these events, and in its evolution as a vital inner-city sanctuary for the people of Brisbane.

The engagement process and scope for the Draft Master Plan was used to seek community feedback on the proposed uses that could be considered secondary to the park's primary purpose of park and recreation. This process will enable the Master Plan to serve a dual purpose as a Land Management Plan.

The Master Plan is proposed to be lodged with the Department of Resources for consideration as a Land Management Plan.

Council will also commence a process to seek appropriate approvals under the Queensland Government's *Planning Act 2016* to facilitate the implementation of the Master Plan.

Timeline: Victoria Park / Barrambin Vision and Master Plan





early projects

Community engagement phases

Community engagement phases for the Victoria Park Barrambin Vision and Master Plan

The Victoria Park / Barrambin Master Plan is informed by the insights and feedback of the community, stakeholders, Traditional Custodians and detailed technical assessments.

Phase 1: Ideas and Visioning

Ideas

July-December 2019

- Strategic context and site analysis
- Lessons from around the world
- Community and stakeholder ideas

Traditional Custodian engagement

- Identify values of the site
- Aspirations for the park
- Seek cultural input

Have your say - Ideas for Victoria Park

5400+ ideas submitted

>16,000 people involved through events and online

Idea themes and priorities:

- Native gardens with trees, shade and forest
- Areas for all ages play, exercise, adventure and nature play
- Water features
- Paths, connectivity and accessibility
- Food and community gardens
- Indigenous spaces
- Events and music spaces
- Iconic art and architecture
- Open and unstructured greenspace
- Day and night use

Victoria Park Vision January-December 2020

- Development of the Vision statement, guiding principles and eight strategies
- Design of illustrative concept
- Community and stakeholder engagement

Traditional Custodian engagement

- Provide research
- Respond to the project and landscape
- Identify project proposals
- Describe cultural themes, elements and the actions, processes and stages of custodial vision.

Have your say - Victoria Park Vision

86% support for the draft vision

2000+ pieces of feedback, submissions and surveys received >35,000 people engaged with the draft vision online

Strategies (in order of support):



Room for water (50%)



Unique experiences (30%)



Connected habitats (46%)



Cultural landscape (20%)



Health and recreation (40%)



Creative expression (17%)



Connections (39%)



Partnerships and relationships (9%)

>80,000 people engaged online and at events throughout the Vision

and Master Plan phases

Starting with the ideas that helped to create the draft vision in 2019 and continuing through to the release of the Draft Master Plan in 2022, the different phases of community engagement have shaped the Master Plan. Community consultation reports have been released on the Vision and

Draft Master Plan phases with detailed information on the engagement methods and feedback from the community. These reports are available on Council's website – brisbane.qld.gov.au/victoriapark

Phase 2: Master Plan

Draft Master Plan January-October 2022

- Detailed technical site assessments
- Preparation of the Draft Master Plan
- Planning and preparation for the Land Management Plan
- Community and stakeholder engagement

Traditional Custodian engagement

Framework established based on:

- Response to Country
- Connections outside the site
- Language
- Truth telling
- Celebrating culture

Have your say - Draft Master Plan

78% overall support for the Master Plan >30,000 people engaged with the Draft Master Plan online

Top ten features the community wants delivered for the park:

- 1. Rewilding to achieve 60% canopy cover and enhanced habitats (53%)
- 2. Revitalised wetlands (40%) 8. Tree House lookout and
- 3. Walking trails (37%)
- 4. Naturalised waterholes (30%)
- 5. Community edible gardens (21%)
- 6. New bikeways through the park (21%)
- 7. New Inner City Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge (eastern bridge) (21%)
- 8. Tree House lookout and café (20%)
- 9. Nature water play gully (18%)
- 10. Upgraded western cycling and walking bridge (16%)

Master Plan and approvals November 2022 onwards

- Master Plan refined based on community feedback and technical assessments
- Master Plan finalised for purposes of Land Management Plan
- Statutory consultation for planning pathway

Traditional Custodian engagement

Delivery of Cultural Landscape Strategy in partnership with Traditional Custodians

Have your say – Statutory consultation for the approved planning pathway

Master Plan implementation

The Master Plan

NORTH

- 1 Urban pump park
- Park administration and operations
- Adventure Valley with mountain bike track and high ropes course
- 4) The Tree House and lookout
- (5) Kelvin Grove busway access
- 6 Green waste storage
- 7 Parkway loop
- 8 York's Hollow (revitalised)
- Elevated connection to land bridge
- Nature water play gully
- (11) Education Hub
- Lower wetlands and boardwalk
- (13) Adventure playground
- (14) Parkway kiosk
- (15) Naturalised waterholes
- Community sports precinct including a sports field, multi-purpose court, cricket nets, and tennis courts

- Gilchrist Avenue drop-off
- (18) Upper wetlands
- Function centre, driving range, bistro and putt putt
- (20) Main car park
- (21) Parkland arrival
- Main parkland entry (with signalised intersection)
- (23) Herston busway access
- Old Clubhouse
- Inner City Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge
- Commuter bikeway/active transport connection
- 27 Lift to accessible elevated walkway*
- 28 Dog park*
- Upgraded pedestrian and cycle bridge*
- Commuter bikeway/active transport connection*

SOUTH

- (31) Community tennis courts
- (32) Spring Hill Common
- Community edible garden and connection to land bridge
- Centenary Pool with upgraded car park
- 35) Dog park
- Gundoo Memorial Grove (rehabilitated)

Delivery of the Inner City Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge and upgraded pedestrian and cycle bridge is subject to funding contribution from the Queensland Government and Australian Government as citywide infrastructure initiatives.



Figure 1 The Master Plan

^{*} New features subject to resolution with Department of Transport and Main Roads and/or Queensland Rail



Bringing the Vision to life

Council has connected widely with the Brisbane community to find out what people most wanted to see in a new urban greenspace. The feedback we received was clear and has informed the eight core strategies that we've used to shape the Master Plan.

Three guiding principles

Three guiding principles connect each of the strategies in the park:



Recognition

We will create a place that honours and celebrates the connections between Country, culture and history across past, present and future generations.



Restoration

We will heal the landscape by reinstating and reintroducing the interconnected ecosystems unique to the region.



Reconnection

We will create transformational connections that weave the park into Brisbane's city fabric.

Master Plan strategies

Each strategy reflects a core theme identified by the community through the Vision process and reinforced during consultation on the Draft Master Plan. In each strategy, we set out the specific actions we are proposing to achieve our shared vision for the park.



Cultural landscape



Room for water



Connected habitats



Health and recreation



Connections



Unique places and experiences



Creative expression



Partnerships and relationships



Other key enablers







The park will become a natural space celebrating Country and Brisbane's shared Aboriginal and European heritage. For thousands of years this area has been a central gathering point for groups with different knowledge systems and languages. As a living landscape, the park's stunning natural features will merge this history with art and culture to educate and delight locals and visitors.

Aboriginal culture

The park has been designed for visitors to connect with Country through a range of spaces promoting play, education and reflection.

This connection to Country will be established through:

- built forms incorporated into the landscape and surrounding views, reflecting the site's diverse histories through the materials used
- the use of Aboriginal languages in the park
- Aboriginal employment and business opportunities to manage and maintain the park's landscape

- the Tree House and its elevated views of distant mountain ranges, hills and landscapes
- places and spaces to gather, yarn, dance and share Aboriginal and heritage stories
- an adventure playground sharing stories of Country—the seasons, animals and plants
- delivery of sensory landscapes celebrating seasons and supporting play, education and cultural knowledge sharing
- performance spaces and dancing circles for traditional customs, storytelling and gathering
- a healing circle for areas of quiet reflection.

European heritage

The European story of the park reflects Brisbane's early colonial days. The Master Plan acknowledges this heritage alongside Aboriginal narratives of place, recognising and sharing our unified history. This heritage will be shared through:

- preservation of key remnants of the park's early post-settlement years
- recognising heritage plantings across the site
- stories of Brisbane's early history and the park through creative interpretation and signage, integrated art and design.

Room for water

Re-established waterways, wetlands and waterholes will contribute to urban cooling, and provide cleansing, drainage and sitewide irrigation functions, while also providing habitats for wildlife.

- Park users and visitors can interact with water through wetland boardwalks, stepping stones and a nature water play gully.
- The park's role in flood management for the local area is acknowledged, including water storage during floods.
- Water will be used sustainably for recreation, irrigation and wildlife.

Water returned as a central feature

Through the Master Plan, water will be reintroduced by:

- reinstating the park's traditional functions as a place of water through the re-creation of centralised waterholes
- creating areas for play through naturalising the existing gully into a living waterway that mimics a natural creek with flowing water, aquatic plants, rocks and log habitat features
- expanding the areas of diverse aquatic habitat to support natural ecological systems, attracting and allowing the reintroduction of various native fish and birds
- designing an upstream sediment capture pond to protect York's Hollow and allow for efficient maintenance. This is in addition to implementing vegetation to improve water quality and habitat value.

Sustainable water use

The Master Plan will balance water use and water quality outcomes by:

- implementing a stormwater harvesting tank underground at Gilchrist Avenue turnaround
- reinstating water elements at Kelvin Grove by intercepting stormwater and diverting it into a naturalised channel*
- investigating options to reuse water as a reliable alternative source to rainfall
- utilising recycled water, roof water run-off and harvested stormwater for toilet flushing.

*Subject to resolution of tenure with Department of Transport and Main Roads









Connected habitats

Council is committed to restoring, protecting and enhancing the 64-hectares of greenspace for future generations. This strategy aims to restore the traditional landscape, whilst creating a parkland that reflects the area's pre-settlement ecology. This strategy emphasises the importance that healthy and connected ecosystems hold in maintaining biodiversity and connection to Country and culture.

Bringing nature to the city

Making a significant contribution to the green lungs of the city, the close proximity of the park provides an opportunity for the community to readily enjoy, connect and interact with nature.

Through the Master Plan:

- habitat corridors will be rehabilitated and re-established with native and endemic species to provide new connections for fauna in the park
- an avenue of trees will be created along the parkway loop
- new nature-based learning experiences will be developed, including an outdoor 'bush classroom'.

Rewilding

The park will see the reinstatement of flora and ecosystems that pre-date European settlement with a rewilding program across the park that will deliver 60% canopy cover. This will also include:

- open forest planting on the hillsides with eucalypts to provide overhead canopy and rainforest understory for wildlife habitat
- re-vegetating gullies and dry creek beds.

Enhanced biodiversity

Healthy, connected ecosystems are critical to maintaining Brisbane's biodiversity. Delivering more diverse plantings and habitats within the park attracts transient species and encourages some species to stay longer or establish resident populations. The plan for the park will:

- protect key habitats and hollows
- deliver aquatic and riparian species
- reintroduce pollinators
- plant for continuous flowering.



Located in the heart of the city, the park will exist as a retreat promoting healing and wellness through a strong connection to nature. It will become a new setting for Brisbane's relaxed, outdoor lifestyle featuring a range of formal and informal spaces for activities.

Physical activity

The Master Plan will include:

- a consolidated sports precinct south of Gilchrist Avenue including a sports field, cricket nets, tennis courts, multi-purpose court, equipment storage and amenities
- exercise routes including the creation of circuits for running, walking and cycling, as well as a dedicated urban pump track.
- the Centenary Pool as an iconic facility.

Outdoor adventures

Outdoor activities and spaces include:

- areas for inclusive play
- nature water play gully
- Adventure Valley, which will feature mountain biking trails and a high ropes course with varying degrees of difficulty.

Places for pets

Pets will be welcomed at the park via:

- the introduction of a dog park near Kelvin Grove*
- the existing dog off-leash area at Spring Hill.

Health and wellness

Opportunities to enhance health and wellness via:

- sanctuary spaces to enjoy quiet reflection and immerse yourself in nature
- healing and sensory gardens with an array of fragrances, sounds, colours and textures to stimulate the senses.

A place for retreat and relaxation

There's many ways to unwind, including:

- the community edible garden, where local residents and visitors can grow food and share with the community
- the Spring Hill Common, featuring a flat, open area with tiered stepped seating and plenty of room for play and relaxation
- ample picnic spaces and amenities.

* Subject to resolution of tenure with Department of Transport and Main Roads.











A key principle of the Master Plan is reconnecting the park with its neighbours and the wider community. Connecting the park makes it easier to get to and encourages sustainable travel choices; reducing cars on Brisbane's roads.

This strategy is about making travel to, and within the park as easy as possible for everyone.

- It supports active transport through a long-term view of minimising traffic and parking pressure on the park and surrounding streets.
- As more people choose shared and private e-mobility transport options, visitors and local residents will have more convenient travel choices open to them.
- Car parking facilities will also be upgraded.

City-shaping bridge connections

A key component of our connections strategy is the proposed development of two bridges, providing important links to overcome the barriers of the Inner City Bypass and rail line. These bridges serve not only the park but also improve pedestrian and bicycle access between important inner-city precincts and key public transport nodes.

These bridges include:

- new Inner City Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge to the east of the park
- the upgraded western pedestrian and bikeway bridge (subject to resolution with Queensland Rail and Department of Transport and Main Roads).

Promoting sustainable travel options

Positioned on the doorstep of the city centre, there are many sustainable ways to access the park, including:

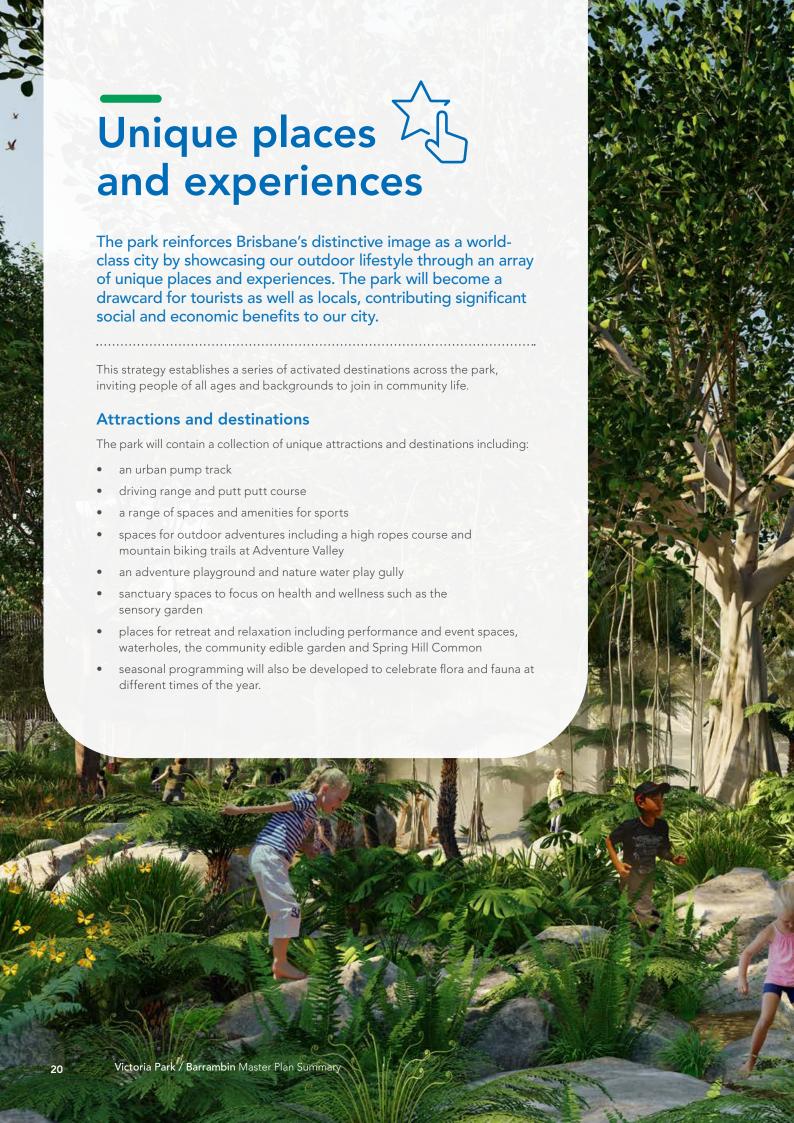
- via bus along the Inner Northern Busway and future Brisbane Metro stations from Herston or Kelvin Grove
- high-quality walking and cycling paths to and within the park.

Accessibility

A central feature of this strategy is ensuring the park's accessibility to people of all ages and abilities. This includes:

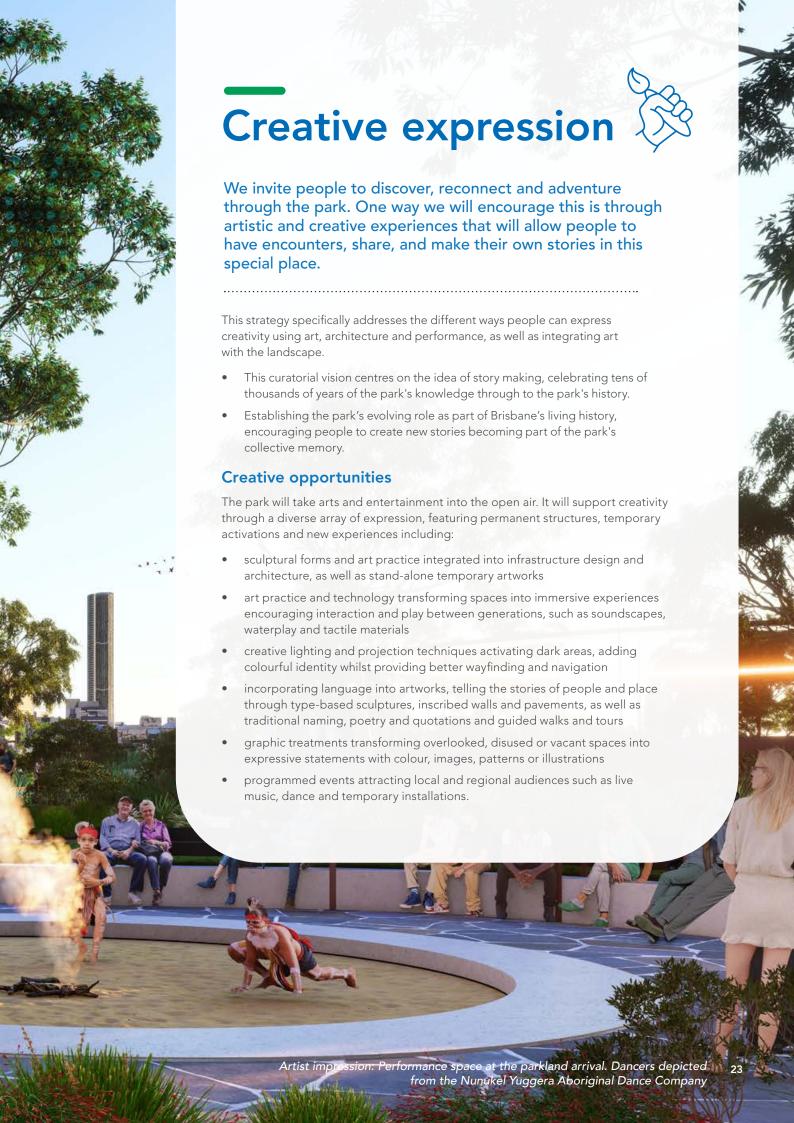
- the parkway loop. A two-kilometre long and seven-metre wide central feature of the park with shared access for pedestrians, wheelchair users, low speed cyclists and e-mobility riders
- 18 kilometres of park pathways and connections designed to meet inclusivity and compliance standards.

Delivery of Inner City Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge and upgraded pedestrian and cycle bridge is subject to funding contribution from the Queensland Government and Australian Government as citywide infrastructure initiatives.









Partnerships and relationships

Council is committed to exploring and supporting a range of partnerships to ensure the park's broad use, community connection and joint stewardship well into the future. The park's unique position to the nearby communities of knowledge, health and creativity enables it to become a beloved place of learning, innovation and expression for generations to come.

Supporting community-building and local business

With the nature of the park's spaces suited for multiple uses, Victoria Park / Barrambin will play host to a range of programs, activities and events with broad community appeal, keeping it active and lively throughout the year. Council will continue to engage with the local and wider community, including businesses, institutions, universities, schools and peak bodies throughout the park's evolution.

Some initial ideas and opportunities include:

- working with Traditional Custodians to implement employment opportunities and horticultural traineeships
- development of cultural events and experiences delivering educational opportunities that share stories and connection to Country
- working with local schools, universities, hospitals and fitness groups leveraging the park's greenspace for health and wellbeing programs
- exploring opportunities with universities on research programs, including biodiversity, waterway mapping and health and wellness studies, whilst integrating curriculum with outcomes promoted by the Master Plan
- continuing to develop partnerships with neighbouring universities supporting student art exhibitions and activations within the park
- supporting local and citywide events for the community, including Outdoor Cinema in the Suburbs, Green Heart Fair and Brisbane Festival
- working with neighbouring Kelvin Grove Urban Village, Herston Quarter and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital precinct, King Street Precinct, local schools and new developments to establish connections and programs in the park
- working with Brisbane Economic Development Agency to position the park on a national and international level through hosting and producing drawcard events
- exploring the development of a community bushcare group supporting rewilding in the park, whilst continuing to host the Green Heart Fair promoting sustainability and environmental initiatives.

If you have an idea and are interested in exploring a partnership opportunity with Victoria Park / Barrambin, contact Council at victoriapark@brisbane.qld.gov.au





Other key enablers

The park takes a world-class approach to its operational, management and maintenance functions. This not only ensures the park's long-term viability, sustainability and safety, but considers the park as the temporary venue for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, for the equestrian cross country and BMX freestyle events.

Park management and operations

Council will manage the park using an integrated park management approach including two dedicated on-site locations for operations and maintenance facilities.

- These facilities will cater to the maintenance needs of the park, as well as contributing more broadly to other Council-managed parks and assets.
- The front-of-house park administration and operations facility is supported by a green waste storage and sustainable water reuse facility near the Inner City Bypass corridor.

Access and inclusion

The park's approach to accessibility and inclusion incorporates mandatory disability standards including:

- National Construction Code/Building Code of Australia Part H.2, Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002.
- Best-practice professional advice to meet the intent of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the goals/ principles of universal design.

Wayfinding

The approach to wayfinding integrates the requirements of accessibility, information, identification, orientation, safety, education and interpretation including:

- a spectrum of design elements including physical signage identifying major and minor entry points for all user types
- wayfinding design and approaches building an identity and showcasing the park as a world-class destination parkland, whilst acknowledging its unique role in the city.

Event management

As a large inner-city park with excellent transport links, the park will serve as a venue for both small community and larger scale events with processes and systems implemented to effectively manage parking, traffic, transport, noise, security, waste and other essential event requirements.



Safety and security

The park's design incorporates the thoughtful placement of paths, connections, amenities and places in a way that promotes social behaviours aligning with the park's purpose, boosting visitors' sense of safety at all times. This incorporates:

- lighting to enhance night-time experiences and visitors' sense of safety that doesn't disturb the park's neighbours or nocturnal wildlife
- code-compliant lighting along all primary path connections providing safe routes through the park at night
- closed-circuit television (CCTV) network supported by 24/7 security with on-site monitoring.

Technology-enabled

As a contemporary park, technology capability and capacity now and into the future are critical. It includes:

- capturing key operational and maintenance data
- important data and metrics identifying how the park is used
- environmental monitoring of things such as air quality, temperature, water use and quality, noise, lighting levels and wildlife activity
- a network of sensors and fibre optic cabling ensuring connectivity across its different precincts, as well as programming capabilities for elements like creative lighting.

Sustainability

Redeveloping Victoria Park / Barrambin into a worldclass iconic park is an ideal opportunity for us to embed large-scale, best practice sustainability principles, and showcase our city's innovation and leadership. With this in mind, the Master Plan ensures the park:

- is as energy efficient as possible
- supports Council's carbon neutral city outcomes
- tracks the amount of carbon sequestered in the urban forest
- moves toward clean energy operations and maintenance regimes
- reuses local materials to minimise emissions
- incorporates significant revegetation to reduce the impacts of urban heat and promote urban cooling
- cleanses water on site using natural processes
- captures and reuses stormwater to support irrigation across the site
- maximises on-site power generation including introducing photovoltaic (PV) technology to rooftops to capture solar energy for use on site
- makes active travel an easy choice to get to the park.

These aspirational features align with *Brisbane Clean*, *Green*, *Sustainable 2017-2031* and have been integrated into the Master Plan.



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Every effort is made to ensure that information is correct at time of publication



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