



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Victoria Park Barrambin

Master Plan
2023



Acknowledgement 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 Bowen Hills and Herston. 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 Turrbal group and Brisbane City Council.

An aerial artist impression of the Victoria Park / Barrambin Master Plan. The scene is set at sunset or sunrise, with a warm orange glow over a cityscape in the background. In the foreground, a lush green park is filled with mature trees and vibrant purple flowers. A prominent feature is a tall, cylindrical, modern building with a dark facade and a glass-enclosed upper section, surrounded by a paved plaza and steps. People are seen walking and sitting on the grass, and a winding path leads through the park. The overall atmosphere is one of a modern, green, and community-oriented urban space.

Artist impression:
Front and back cover: The waterholes
and wetlands
This page: The Tree House

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



Artist impression:
Adventure playground



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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, an urban park for adventure, discovery and reconnection.

Strategically, the park is an important greenspace for the city, zoned for sport and recreation uses at a metropolitan scale. Council manages the park as trustee on behalf of the Queensland Government under a Deed of Grant in Trust. The parkland will be restored for habitat, with greening and water elements being key outcomes. The park will have multiple functions for the city with various recreational spaces, formal and informal sporting facilities and spaces suitable for a range of events and activities.

What is a Master Plan?

A master plan is a refined guide for future growth and development of a precinct over the longer term. The preparation of a master plan is a well-considered process that is typically informed by a vision, consultation outcomes and detailed technical studies.

The community-led Victoria Park Vision was the starting point for the transformation of the park, providing an aspirational framework for its future design. This Master Plan builds on the vision and includes artist impressions of what the park may look like and spatial maps that show key features, spaces and connections that will be delivered throughout the park.

It also includes sitewide actions that further support the community vision. The master plan aligns with key city-wide policies including *Design-Led City – A Design Strategy for Brisbane*, *Brisbane's Future Blueprint*, *Brisbane Clean, Green and Sustainable 2017-2031* and *Brisbane City Plan 2014*.

Timeline: Victoria Park / Barrambin Vision and Master Plan

Aug-Sep 2019

Have Your Say –
Ideas for Victoria Park

Jan 2021-Jun 2022

Detailed technical site assessments
and master planning

Phase 1

Phase 2

Jan-Jul 2020

Have Your Say –
Draft Victoria Park Vision

Dec 2020

Victoria Park
Vision released

Sep-Oct 2022

Have Your Say –
Victoria Park /
Barrambin Draft
Master Plan

What's Next?

In consultation with the Queensland Government's Department of Resources, 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 has been changed to reflect the community feedback. 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. Technical assessments have been prepared to support this process and this information will be made available to the community for statutory consultation as required by legislation.

Further information about Council's planning pathway for the project will be made available on Council's website – brisbane.qld.gov.au/victoriapark

Brisbane 2032 Games

Victoria Park / Barrambin will be part of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games as the 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.

Council is working with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games Organising Committee and the relevant international sporting federations to progress plans for the temporary courses for these two events, to ensure the integrity of Victoria Park / Barrambin is maintained in the lead up to, during and after the 2032 Games.

Nov 2022

Consider community feedback and update *Victoria Park Barrambin Master Plan*

Jun 2023 onwards

Seek Land Management Plan approval and commence planning approval pathway

Phase 3

Jun 2023

Release final *Victoria Park Barrambin Master Plan*

Jul 2023 onwards

Implementation of the *Victoria Park Barrambin Master Plan* including early projects

Community engagement phases

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%)
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

Victoria Park / Barrambin

Over time

From thousands of years of Aboriginal occupation through to more recent European settlement and development, Victoria Park Barrambin's stories are part of what makes Brisbane the city it is today.

20,500 years ago Archaeological evidence

The Wallen Wallen Creek archaeological site in Moreton Bay reveals evidence, including stone tools and animal bones, of continual Aboriginal occupation from over 20,000 years ago. *Source: Hall and Hiscock 1988.*

4000-5000 years ago Archaeological evidence

Another archaeological site in Brisbane's north-west reveals evidence of Aboriginal occupation dating back to the time when the Pyramids of Giza were being built. Few archaeological sites remain undisturbed in Brisbane because of the area's rapid expansion following the closure of the Moreton Bay penal settlement in 1842.



*View from Gregory Terrace over what was then known as York's Hollow, 1864
Source: John Oxley Library #108131*

1840s-1860s

Colonisation and conflict

Free settlement leads to conflict between settlers and Aboriginal groups in the area. Settlers erect temporary dwellings on site and convert the local 'pullen-pullen' (tournament) ground into a brick-making yard. Aboriginal people from the area supply much of the charcoal, firewood, fish, bark sheets and decorative native plants for the growing town.

1860s-1870s

Naming and defining the park

The Queensland Secretary for Lands reserves the land as a public park named in honour of Queen Victoria. Neighbouring schools use part of the park for sporting fields. The Queensland Rifle Association establishes a rifle range in the north-east corner for the Queensland Voluntary Brigade.

1800s-1840s

Early exploration

Early explorers and surveyors record the area as covered with gum trees, ironbarks, bloodwoods, stringybarks, wattles and dense scrub. Wetlands host tea-trees, casuarinas and mangroves. Lagoons, gullies, streams and waterholes dot the landscape. Kangaroos, possums, emu, gliders, echidna, waterfowl, and fish are abundant.

1880s-1890s

Railway, quarry and landfill

In 1882, Queensland Railways opens a new line that bisects the park. A quarry is established on the park's north-eastern boundary and operated by George Bowser. Portions of the park are used for landfill until the 1900s. The last remaining lagoon is drained to Breakfast Creek via a culvert.

1930s

Victoria Park Golf Course

The golf course and clubhouse open in 1931. Gilchrist Avenue construction starts and the park's Jacaranda trees are planted.

1940s

WWII military camp

The Commonwealth Government requisitions Victoria Park in 1942 for a military camp. Named Camp Victoria Park, it serves Australian and US troops, closing in 1946.

1910s-1920s

Warehouse and university site

During the First World War, the Queensland State Wool Committee leases the former quarry and builds numerous woolsheds and a railway siding. Brisbane City Council's Electricity Department subsequently occupies part of the area. Council transfers some of the site to the University of Queensland but construction of a new campus doesn't eventuate.



Victoria Park Assembly Area, August 1944
Source: Australian War Memorial, #068147

1990s-2010s

Native title and infrastructure

Local Aboriginal representatives register the Turrbal Native Title claim, and other Native Title claims are lodged. Archaeological excavations conducted ahead of the Inner City Bypass construction uncover artefacts that are given to the Queensland Museum. In the 2000s, the Inner City Bypass and Inner Northern Busway are completed, and the York's Hollow area is redeveloped. The southern portion of the golf course is resumed during construction of the Legacy Way Tunnel in the 2010s.

2008

Barrambin meaning 'windy place', adopted as the Aboriginal name for Victoria Park after engagement with Traditional Custodians Turrbal Association Inc.

2023 and beyond

Exciting future and transformation of the park.

2020s

Enhanced transport and a new Victoria Park

Council announces the Victoria Park transformation project in 2019. The *Victoria Park Vision* is released in 2020. Cross River Rail construction gets underway in the park's north-east. Looking ahead, the Brisbane Metro will service the park with the nearby Exhibition Station set to open in 2025.

Last stages in construction of Club House, 1931
Source: John Oxley Library, #191374



1950s-1980s

Queensland's centenary and golf course expansion

The Queensland State Housing Commission retains the barracks as emergency housing for homeless and vulnerable people, including Aboriginal families. This discontinues in the 1960s, and the barracks are demolished. The Centenary Pool is built to celebrate Queensland's centenary. The golf course is extended, adding York's Hollow, an artificial lake, as part of Australia's bicentennial celebrations.

Victoria Park / Barrambin:

A driver for our city's future success

Victoria Park / Barrambin is the largest inner-city parkland project currently being planned in Australia, with the potential to become a globally significant destination. Located within an important and growing precinct in the inner city, it presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape Brisbane's future liveability, accessibility, inclusiveness, creativity and prosperity.

Role and function within the city

Victoria Park / Barrambin plays a distinct and complementary role within Brisbane's broader strategic network of parks, recreational spaces and ecological systems.

Brisbane's existing network of inner city parklands and major open spaces

provide a diverse range of recreation and entertainment functions, with an emphasis on formally-designed European horticulture. Victoria Park Barrambin will establish a rewilded landscape of distinctly local ecological and cultural significance, embedding traditional, naturalistic landscapes and experiences in the heart of the

city. It will also provide much-needed greenspace for the surrounding suburbs and contribute to the green lungs of the city.

The park will be an accessible and adaptable community asset that enhances Brisbane's liveability.



Global competitiveness

Access to nature and high-quality greenspaces are critical factors in the global competition for attracting and retaining talent. Victoria Park Barrambin represents an opportunity to renew, revitalise and boost the impact of Brisbane's parks network, ensuring our continued appeal and relevance in a dynamic global-city context.

Supporting innovation and economic prosperity

The park sits at a significant junction of Brisbane's health, knowledge and innovation corridor and local neighbourhoods such as Kelvin Grove and Herston. It is well-served by high-frequency transport infrastructure. As a major driver of inner-city improvement, Victoria Park Barrambin will increase precinct

appeal and help attract investment to support sustainable job growth and strengthen Brisbane's economic output.

Boosting events capacity

Victoria Park / Barrambin will boost Brisbane's capacity to host an expanded range of diverse events and activations. Offering a full spectrum of spaces and infrastructure, the park will program everything from small-scale activations through to major festivals, furthering Brisbane's vibrancy, diversity and its international appeal.

Brisbane City Plan and South East Queensland regional plan

The park is located within the Urban Footprint under the South East Queensland (SEQ) Regional Plan. A priority in the plan is to accommodate

consolidated urban growth, which includes sport, recreation and open space infrastructure. The Master Plan supports the vision for consolidation within SEQ to make better and more efficient use of existing infrastructure and provide better access to sport, recreation and open spaces for communities.

Within the *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan), the Master Plan is included in the Sport and Recreation Zone, specifically within the Metropolitan and District Zone precincts. The proposed development of the park will create a key destination for open space and amenity that is consistent with the policy intent of City Plan. Additionally, it aligns with Council's Local Government Infrastructure Plan which identifies the future provision of metropolitan recreation infrastructure on the site.



Legend

- Areas of growing population density
- Significant destination/venue
- Green connections and amenity
- Key health/education focus

Sustainability

Brisbane is becoming a world leader in sustainability. Transforming Victoria Park / Barrambin from a former golf course into an inclusive, accessible and activated public park has presented a unique opportunity to embed sustainability principles at a large scale and showcase best practice, innovation, community partnership and leadership in design and delivery of the park.

Victoria Park / Barrambin will play a significant role in the expansion of the city's network of parks and greenspace. With extensive rewilding across the 64 hectares, restoration of natural habitats and revitalising wetlands and waterholes, the park will enhance the inner-city natural environment that is vital to our ongoing success as a liveable and prosperous city.

Ecosystem health

Key features:

- A key focus on attaining a self-sustaining vegetation that requires minimal interventions during operation (eg. irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides) with the recognition that irrigation may be required in more formal planting areas.
- Victoria Park / Barrambin contains some weeds that will be treated and removed prior to significant replanting efforts to enhance ecosystem functionality.
- Animal pests within the park can be a threat to existing and future fauna use with predatory pest removal and monitoring programs for cats, rats and cane toads incorporated into park management.

Water

Key features:

- Stormwater harvesting wetlands and tanks will help achieve the park's aim to reduce pressure on our potable water supply.
- A stormwater harvesting wetland adjacent to York's Hollow will capture and treat stormwater for transfer to storage tanks, totaling 2.2 megalitres storage capacity, to provide water to irrigate and maintain water levels across the parklands.
- Roof water from the maintenance depot will be locally stored for reuse and roof water from new buildings may be directed to toilet flushing, with overflow to the wetlands and naturalised waterholes, topping up water level stores.
- Water generated from hard surfaces within Victoria Park / Barrambin will be directed to adjacent landscape areas providing passive irrigation, cooling and treatment.

Energy and operations

Key features:

- Exploring on-site power generation including introducing photovoltaic (PV) technology to appropriate rooftops to capture solar energy for use on site.
- Ongoing monitoring with the view to controlling energy costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The integration of LED lighting throughout the park will result in many environmental and sustainable outcomes including energy efficiency, reduction of toxic elements, less lights, and extended life span.
- Coupling batteries with renewable energy generation allows that energy to be stored during times of low demand and released (or dispatched) at times of peak demand.

Alignment to Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031

Clean Air, Urban Forest, Biodiversity

Water Smart City

Low Carbon

Alignment to Council's Corporate Plan 2021-2022 to 2025-2026

Improved environmental health of the city.

Improved quality and network of natural habitat and greenspaces within the city.

Increased community participation in Council environmental programs and education activities.

Increased resilience and reduced risks to residents and property from natural hazards.

Maintain carbon neutral status of Council.

Six sustainability features of the park (described below) are underpinned by carbon emissions and climate resilience principles. These categories provide a framework for a series of aspirational features which align with *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031* and have been integrated into the Master Plan for achievement throughout the parklands, future construction, operations and management.

These features and outcomes will enable the parkland to contribute to achieving Council's sustainability and carbon reduction targets as a Carbon Neutral organisation.

Materials

Key features:

- Reclaimed materials can be used in whole form or de-constructed and dismantled to create a completely new object such as rammed earth and selected signage elements.
- The integration of recycled materials into the parkland to avoid sending useful materials to landfill including recycling of landscaping greenwaste to improve soil and compost production for reuse onsite.
- Partnership opportunities with precinct stakeholders to upcycle manure and stable waste into soil for reuse at Victoria Park / Barrambin.
- Materials have been selected for their ability to be recycled, e.g. concrete pathways can be recycled to create a more cost effective alternative to gravel for drainage and backfilling retaining walls.

Active travel

Key features:

- Delivery of active travel options ensures Victoria Park / Barrambin promotes public and active transport options with a long-term objective of getting more cars off the road and minimising traffic and parking pressure on the park and surrounding streets.
- Residents and visitors will have even more sustainable and convenient travel choices with the growth of shared and private e-mobility likely to continue.
- More direct primary cycle routes through the site have been addressed with the provision of a direct north south bicycle route connecting to Roma Street Parkland and the CBD, and an east-west bicycle route connecting to existing bikeways such as the Northern Bikeway.

World class parks

Key features:

- Ongoing engagement with local schools and universities.
- Access and inclusion has been optimised to respond to community expectations.
- Pursue partnership opportunities with schools, universities, industry and community groups.
- Engagement with Aboriginal representatives as a statutory requirement for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage as well as continue ongoing engagement with Traditional Custodians and elders in relation to delivery of the Master Plan.
- Provide a diverse range of recreation and sporting facilities, park programming, activities and events .

Key spatial moves and actions in the Master Plan will support Council's *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031* goals in the following areas.

Waste and Resource Recovery

Green Transport

Parks

The Master Plan will support delivery on the following Corporate Plan progress indicators.

Reduced waste generation and increased resource recovery.

Increased sustainable transport patronage and active travel.

Increased community participation in Council environmental programs and education activities.

Increased participation in local events and activities.

Improved Council facility and park use and user satisfaction.

The Master Plan

NORTH

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Urban pump park | 17 Gilchrist Avenue drop-off zone |
| 2 Park administration and operations | 18 Upper wetlands |
| 3 Adventure Valley with mountain bike track and high ropes course | 19 Function centre, driving range, bistro and putt putt |
| 4 The Tree House and lookout | 20 Main car park |
| 5 Kelvin Grove busway access | 21 Parkland arrival |
| 6 Green waste storage | 22 Main parkland entry (with signalised intersection) |
| 7 Parkway loop | 23 Herston busway access |
| 8 York's Hollow (revitalised) | 24 Old Clubhouse |
| 9 Elevated connection to land bridge | 25 Inner City Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge |
| 10 Nature water play gully | 26 Commuter bikeway/active transport connection |
| 11 Education Hub | 27 Lift to accessible elevated walkway* |
| 12 Lower wetlands and boardwalk | 28 Dog park* |
| 13 Adventure playground | 29 Upgraded pedestrian and cycle bridge* |
| 14 Parkway kiosk | 30 Commuter bikeway/active transport connection* |
| 15 Naturalised waterholes | |
| 16 Community sports precinct including a sports field, multi-purpose court, cricket nets, and tennis courts | |

SOUTH

- | | |
|--|--|
| 31 Community tennis courts | 34 Centenary Pool with upgraded car park |
| 32 Spring Hill Common | 35 Dog park |
| 33 Community edible garden and connection to land bridge | 36 Gundoo Memorial Grove (rehabilitated) |

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

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



Figure 1 The Master Plan



HERSTON

UQ School of Dentistry

Herston Quarter

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

RNA Showgrounds

SPRING HILL

St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace



From Draft to Final

The *Victoria Park Vision* was the starting point for the transformation of the park. Council has carefully considered the community feedback on the Draft Master Plan, and together with the outputs of technical investigations, has developed the final Master Plan for the park.

Overall, 78% of people who completed the have your say survey or quick polls were supportive of the Draft Master Plan. A number of people provided additional feedback on the plan.

Further information on community feedback on the Draft Master Plan can be found in the Community Engagement Report on Council's website - brisbane.qld.gov.au/victoriapark



Figure 2 *Victoria Park / Barrambin Master Plan 2023, Draft Master Plan 2022, and Victoria Park Vision*

Figure 3 *Summary of key changes to the Master Plan following community feedback on the Draft Master Plan.*

Suggestions from community and stakeholders	What has changed
<p>Reconsider the amount of concrete and hard infrastructure; concerns there is too much going on in the park.</p>	<p>The Visitor Centre, water squirt play area, significant arrival plaza at Spring Hill, Community Fitness Precinct and car park off Victoria Park Road, Kelvin Grove have been removed in response to community feedback. Concrete plazas have been reduced in scale to limit the amount of hard infrastructure.</p> <p>The multi-level car park has been removed. A managed car park solution, with an element of paid parking, will be introduced for the main car parks at Herston Road and Spring Hill. Parking demand will be monitored, and this decision will be re-evaluated as park visitation increases over time. The park administration and operations building will include screening vegetation on the sides to reduce its impact.</p> <p>Primary paths, including the parkway loop, will be concrete with low carbon options to be explored. The parkway loop will be seven metres wide to ensure the path is wide enough to accommodate pedestrians, mobility devices, wheelchairs, prams and cyclists.</p> <p>Secondary paths will be a mix of concrete and alternative surface treatments.</p>
<p>Reconsider the amount of parking, including the multi-level car park.</p>	<p>The multi-level car park and the car park off Victoria Park Road, Kelvin Grove have been removed. Consequently, a managed car park solution, with an element of paid parking, will be introduced for the main car parks at Herston Road and Spring Hill. Parking demand will be monitored over time, and the decision in relation to the multi-level car park will be re-evaluated as park visitation increases over time.</p> <p>There are currently 447 car park spaces in the park. Approximately 217 additional car park spaces will be delivered as part of the Master Plan. A number of paid parking facilities are also in the area outside of the park.</p> <p>Additionally, the park has excellent public and active transport connections which provide more travel options for park patrons.</p>

Suggestions from community and stakeholders	What has changed
Concerns about commercial uses in the park.	<p>Existing secondary uses (including relocation of some) remain unchanged, although the plan has been updated to reflect the secondary use of the playing fields.</p> <p>The multi-level car park and Visitor Centre have been removed. This has resulted in the at grade car park being included as a secondary use to reflect the potential for a managed car park solution. Parking demand will be monitored and this decision in relation to the multi-level car park will be re-evaluated as park visitation increases over time.</p>
Remove the driving range and rewild the area.	<p>The driving range is under a lease arrangement until 2029 and will be retained as a recreational use in the park. In the medium term, the driving range will also be used for larger-scale events.</p>
Remove vehicle access to the Tree House.	<p>Vehicle access to the Tree House has been removed. It was never intended that vehicles would be permitted on the parkway loop (except for emergency and maintenance vehicles) and this has been retained.</p>
Provide separated cycle paths for commuter use.	<p>The location of separate bikeways has been made clearer in the Master Plan.</p>
Concerns over impacts to local residents from traffic, parking, noise, lighting, events, security and opening hours.	<p>Events will continue to be held in the park subject to operational measures for noise, lighting, security and parking management.</p> <p>The park will be open 24 hours a day, however lighting within the park after 9pm will be restricted to the parkway loop and commuter paths to minimise impact to wildlife. Lighting will be designed and installed in accordance with the relevant Australian standards to manage potential impacts.</p>
Provide more open lawn areas.	<p>Rewilding of the park to achieve 60% canopy cover is the highest priority for the community. This needs to be balanced with feedback to increase lawn space.</p> <p>Additional lawn areas will be provided around the Tree House precinct, near the parkland arrival and near the Education Hub for picnicking, informal gatherings and to enable small to medium-scale community events. Nature water play gully will also be reduced in length to allow more lawn space in the centre of the park. Additional rewilding will occur in the eastern area of the park between Gilchrist Avenue and the Herston busway access to retain the long term goal to achieve 60% canopy cover.</p>
Greater focus on the involvement of Aboriginal people in the park's design and operation.	<p>Building on the engagement approach through the Vision and Master Plan phases of the project, Council will continue to take an inclusive approach to engaging with all Aboriginal groups and Elders that have a connection to Country in the park.</p> <p>The Cultural Landscape strategy has been updated to include Aboriginal employment pathways to manage and maintain the landscape, including training and recruitment of Aboriginal people in land management, cultural awareness and cross-cultural education programs.</p>
Provide greater information on sustainability measures in the park and integration with Council's 'Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable' strategy.	<p>Master Plan updated with additional information on the alignment of the Master Plan with Council's Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031.</p>
Council has been unable to confirm areas for inclusion in the Master Plan boundary.	<p>The area of the park along Victoria Park Road, Kelvin Grove is owned by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The existing pedestrian bridge has been closed by Queensland Rail. These areas have been shaded in the final Master Plan. Delivery of the elements of the Master Plan in these locations is subject to resolution with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and/or Queensland Rail.</p>

Bringing the Vision to life

Principles and strategies for
realising our shared vision
for Victoria Park / Barrambin



*Artist impression: Aerial view over the parkland arrival
looking to the south-west*

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.

The Vision:

The park will be a natural retreat, an urban park for adventure, discovery and reconnection.

The Master Plan incorporates technical guidance as to how the park will develop, as well as design elements that suggest how the park may look. The following section describes each of the themes for the park and sets out strategies for how Council will deliver on these community aspirations.

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

Cultural landscape



The park will become a natural space that celebrates 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 alike.

Council has engaged with Traditional Custodians through the Vision and Master Plan phases of the project. Council takes an inclusive approach to engagement and has engaged with Turrbal, Yagarabal Elders / Moreton Gorenpul and Nunukul Yuggera, Jagara Daran, Yugara Yugarapul, and elders that have a connection to Country at the park.

We will continue to consult with the area's Traditional Custodians throughout the project and beyond, to feature Aboriginal design elements, language, stories and culture across the park.

Key spatial moves



Parkland arrival

Create a welcoming and inclusive space that provides a gathering place, information about the park and its history.



Deliver sensory landscapes

Establish immersive and regenerative landscapes that celebrate the seasons and support play, education and cultural knowledge sharing.



Connecting to Country

Create visual and storytelling links from elevated views – from nearby connections, to more distant mountain ranges, hills and landscapes.



Performance space / dancing circle

Dedicate places for gathering, performing and storytelling, with places for cultural exchange, reflection and formal and informal dancing circles for traditional performance and customs.



Learning through play

Design play spaces to incorporate cultural knowledge and activities inspired by Aboriginal ways of knowing, playing in, and managing the landscape.



Playground

Build a nature-based destination playground that shares elements and stories of Country, through sensing and experiencing Country in different ways in an innovative playspace.



Create quiet places

Define places of calm that allow for quiet, immersive landscape experiences.



Yarning

Introduce places and spaces that encourage groups of various sizes to gather, yarn and share stories.



Healing circle

Include a healing circle for quiet reflection in a tranquil part of the park.



Connection to Kelvin Grove and Herston

Establish landscape and cultural connections to QUT's Kelvin Grove Campus that align with its own Campus to Country Strategy and Herston Health precinct's Metro North Health Equity Strategy.



York's Hollow

Restore York's Hollow to improve habitat quality and create landscape spaces for quiet enjoyment.



Continue the sporting legacy

Celebrate almost 100 years of sport on the site by formalising a consolidated sports precinct that integrates the heritage-listed 'Play the game' artwork wall.

Other actions

Truth-telling

Acknowledge Country and allow shared histories to be told through interpretation, programs and artful treatments.

Use Aboriginal languages through the park

Work with Traditional Custodians to use language and place names throughout the park that reflect its importance to Aboriginal groups.

Aboriginal Care for Country employment pathways and economic opportunities

Establish employment pathways to manage and maintain the landscape, including training and recruitment of Aboriginal people in land management, cultural awareness and cross-cultural education programs. Provide Aboriginal local business opportunities and partnerships.

Outdoor classrooms

Establish outdoor spaces that will encourage people to participate in educational, informational, ceremonial and other knowledge sharing opportunities.

Celebrate Aboriginal knowledge and cultural systems

Program activities and experiences that are specific to contexts, locations, seasons and culture – supporting the sharing of stories, knowledge and history. Create channels that allow a two-way exchange of educational, informational, ceremonial and other forms of knowledge.

Built form expression

Incorporate elements in built forms that respond to the site's diverse histories and reflect their connection to Country. This may be through the materials used, like earth, stone, timber, and other resources, and how they're blended with the landscape and surrounding views.

Enhance awareness of layered, post-settlement history

Expose and preserve key remnants of the park's early post-settlement years through to its role as a WWII camp for American and Australian forces.

Acknowledge heritage plantings

Recognise heritage plantings by Harry Oakman, Brisbane's first Superintendent of Parks, across the site.



Figure 4 Cultural landscape strategy – key spatial moves

Aboriginal culture

Victoria Park / Barrambin was once an open woodland, marked by waterholes and lagoons, and fed by gullies and ravines. 'Barrambin', 'Walan' or 'windy place', was used by some Traditional Custodians and historians to describe the area later known as 'York's Hollow'. Aboriginal people have lived here, gathered here, performed ceremony here, and cared for this Country over many thousands of years, right up until present times.

The park is being reimagined as a place where Country is once again understood as a unifying experience of the park's myriad of offerings. Here, the walks and activities, meeting spaces and landscapes contribute to an appreciation of Country and its importance in creating healthy places and fostering healthy lives. The shelters and built elements within the park have been influenced by engagement with Traditional Custodians, and reflect both materials and forms that make a clear connection to the park's historic role as an Aboriginal campsite.

The park's design takes its cues from Country, with restored habitats and improved water quality. The design includes visual connections to distant landscapes such as Mt Coot-tha and beyond.

Places for joyful play and educational experiences feature strongly, along with spaces that allow for quiet reflection and for recognising the impacts of colonisation and conflicts on the site. Performance spaces will support exciting cultural events and language will be shared through place names and building names, as well as through signage and wayfinding. The design captures the nuances of the cultural seasons and builds understanding through considered landscape restoration and interpretation.

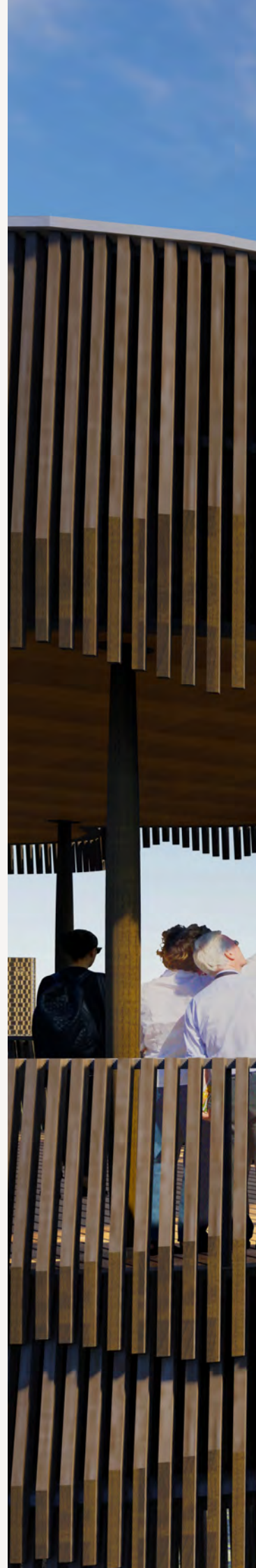
We will create a sense of welcome at significant entry points to the park. These will frame visitors' experience and understanding of this significant place. The renewed Victoria Park / Barrambin will celebrate, entertain, educate and encourage interactions on Country.

European heritage

The story of the park has many chapters: from its time as a place that supported a permanent Aboriginal presence, to the days of Brisbane's colonisation, to the migrant population that lived here in temporary housing, to its more recent entry on the Queensland Heritage Register as one of the state's most important cultural places. The Master Plan will link these narratives and create opportunities for people to experience this rich and layered history first-hand.

Victoria Park / Barrambin's history lives on today in many ways: as existing structures and plantings, as archaeological remains, and in the intangible stories it holds. The Master Plan explores, understands, and celebrates this rich and diverse history. The stories of Brisbane's early history and the role the park played in this narrative will be recognised through architectural design, integrated art, careful management of heritage items and creative interpretive approaches.

The Master Plan retains and amplifies elements of the park that link it to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This includes the use of interpretive signage to recognise its earlier uses for the city's fledgling industries and as a rifle range.





The Master Plan acknowledges the park's recent European heritage alongside Aboriginal significance and connection to this place, recognising and sharing our history and experiences as a unified community.

Artist impression: The Tree House lookout

Room for water



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

Council will enhance and reintroduce water as part of a broader approach to healing the land. We will use water sustainably to support a range of outcomes including recreation, irrigation, and providing wildlife habitats. This approach acknowledges the important role the park plays in flood management for the local area, including water storage during floods.

Key spatial moves



Recreate centralised waterholes

Establish a series of connected naturalised waterholes in the heart of the park, linking to its traditional function as a place of water. The waterholes play a key role in balancing water in the broader park and catchment, and offer tranquil water elements for visitors to enjoy in the park's quieter core.



Cleanse stormwater through wetlands

Establish wetlands with densely vegetated native aquatic plants that will filter and cleanse stormwater, ensuring the water system's ongoing health.



Harvest stormwater for irrigation

Filter and store stormwater as a sustainable alternative source for irrigation in the park. Expand storage by duplicating the existing 0.6 megalitre header tank near the Tree House and adding a one megalitre stormwater harvesting tank underground at the Gilchrist Avenue turnaround.



Enhance and protect York's Hollow

Renew and naturalise York's Hollow, with vegetated edges to improve water quality and habitat value. An upstream sediment capture pond will protect York's Hollow and allow for efficient maintenance.



Refresh water during dry times

Recirculate water that has been filtered and cleaned in the wetlands as a means of refreshing water quality during dry spells.



Incorporate passive irrigation

Capture water run-off from hard surfaces such as roads and car parks, and reuse it for passive irrigation and park cooling. Landscape elements direct water to shade trees and vegetation to replenish soil moisture levels, and promote larger, healthier canopy trees or support lush landscapes and turf.



Preserve overland flow paths

Maintain the existing overland flow paths to cater for large rain events and convey stormwater flows.



Explore effective passive turf irrigation

Explore the use of passive irrigation to optimise drainage to key turfed areas.



Deliver a natural water play gully

Naturalise the existing gully, creating a living waterway that mimics a natural creek with flowing water, aquatic plants, rocks and log habitat features. Pump water to ensure constant flow.



Reinstate water elements at Kelvin Grove*

Intercept stormwater and divert it into a naturalised channel to improve water quality through native vegetation and infiltration.

Other actions

Manage flood levels for the local area

Retain current flood storage volumes and detention functions. Provide flood resilience into the park by making room for water and retaining overland flow paths.

Recycle water

Investigate options to reuse water to provide a reliable alternative source to rainfall. Recycled water, roof water, run-off and harvested stormwater could provide water for toilet flushing and reduce pressure on the potable water supply.

Showcase water systems

Provide opportunities to teach visitors how water is sustainably used in the park. This includes the benefits of recycled water, how the wetlands reduce stormwater pollutants, and how stormwater is used as an alternative irrigation source.

Reintroduce native aquatic habitat and fauna

Expand the areas of diverse aquatic habitat to support natural ecosystems, attracting and allowing the reintroduction of various native fish and birds.

Restore cultural values

Enhance existing water systems within the park to reinstate culturally significant and relevant flora and fauna.

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



Figure 5 Room for water strategy – key spatial moves

Water returned as a central feature

There is a strong community focus on returning water to the park as it did in the earliest days of Brisbane's history. A chain of wetlands and natural waterholes follow the central park gully and highlights these water elements as the heart of the park.

The Master Plan lets park users and visitors interact with water in a multitude of ways. From meandering wetland boardwalks, stepping stones along the naturalised edges of the waterholes to the flowing nature play gully, water is a source of enjoyment, education and a defining feature of the park.

Sustainable water use

The Master Plan adopts a fit-for-purpose approach to water use, matching its uses with appropriate water quality to achieve a sustainable balance. This means using stormwater and recycled water where possible, and reducing the demand on potable water.

Stormwater harvesting provides an alternate source of water for irrigation and maintains water levels in the wetlands and waterholes. Native landscapes with dense tree canopies and breezes across water will cool the parklands and encourage recreation throughout the year. The Master Plan maximises opportunities to capture water runoff from hard surfaces within the park, and passively irrigate spaces, reducing urban heat island impacts.

The Master Plan design allows parts of the park to continue to function naturally as overland flow paths and flood plains, building in its resilience to flood events.



Artist impression: Nature water play gully

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 and create 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 links to Country and culture. The park will grow its vital role as part of our city's greenspace network, contributing to its character, liveability and environmental credentials.

Key spatial moves



Connect habitat corridors

Expand and rehabilitate areas of the park that contain remnants of traditional ecosystems and endemic flora species. Create a planted habitat corridor that provides connections for fauna within the park that helps them succeed.



Create an avenue of trees

Create a structured avenue of trees to frame sections of the parkway loop. Use straight, fast-growing species iconic to Brisbane and South East Queensland.



Protect key habitats and hollows

Many of our native animal species rely on tree hollows for shelter and nesting. Protect existing hollow-bearing trees that provide important habitats for native birds and animals.



Reinstate woodland character to the hill tops and ridge lines

Reintroduce spotted gum woodlands with a native wildflower understorey aligned to the original planting character of the higher points of the park.



Rewild the hillsides as eucalypt open forest

Supplement the existing hillside terrain with open forest planting including eucalypts to provide overhead canopy and a rainforest understorey critical for wildlife habitat.



Revegetate gullies and dry creek beds

Introduce denser rainforest and fig species in existing gullies and dry creek beds with a rainforest understorey to help attract and sustain native fauna.



Deliver aquatic and riparian species

Reintroduce soft, weeping foliage, sedges and grasses around the wetlands and waterholes that reflect pre-settlement planting based on a broad-leaved paperbark wetland environment.



Enhance Gundoo Memorial Grove

Focus on enhancing the historic community-planted grove of trees by enhancing the existing understorey with pollen-rich native shrubs and pockets of turf.



Education Hub to deliver on-site learning

Enhance the community's awareness of the biodiversity, ecosystems and processes that sustain the environment through conservation and education programs. Include an outdoor bush classroom as the epicentre of these and other gatherings.

Other actions

Reintroduce pollinators

Select plants that provide an all-year flowering cycle and dense structure for smaller pollinators. Animal pollinators like native bees, flying mammals and birds play important roles in maintaining healthy ecosystems and improving the park's biodiversity.

Attract species that act as system engineers

Encourage fauna that live and forage in ground vegetation. Species like scrub turkeys, insects and small mammals play a vital role in aerating and creating soils. They improve water infiltration to plants, spread seeds, and assist in seed germination.

Reinstate planting to its origins

Select plant species that are representative of past vegetation types, have particular cultural significance for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultures, and provide cyclic foraging resources for endemic fauna.

Plant for continuous flowering

Select plant species that will provide winter food resources and will contribute to year-round fruiting and flowering, in concert with other species. This supports different species' survival during periods of limited resources such as late autumn, winter and early spring.

Deliver 60% canopy cover

Implement a staged strategy of planting canopy trees that will progressively deliver a minimum of 60% coverage over the life of the Master Plan. This provides better thermal regulation in habitats, and contributes to park cooling.

Optimise healthy soil

Introduce groundcovers and mulch with forest litter and woody debris to maintain healthy soil moisture levels. This supports invertebrates and micro-organisms that are important to sustaining healthy soil and plant communities.



Figure 6 Connected habitats strategy – key spatial moves



Artist impression: The lower wetlands

Bringing nature to the city

Making a significant contribution to the green lungs of the city, a core principle of the Master Plan is to bring the natural environment closer to the city and its residents, workers and visitors. The park provides an opportunity for the community to enjoy, connect and interact with nature directly. It provides us with a chance to get a deeper understanding of unique ecosystems, flora and fauna that are different from other urban parks in the city.

Rewilding

Rewilding in the context of urban greenspace is about reconnecting modern society with wilder spaces. Rewilding focuses on enhancing ecosystems to protect, consolidate and enhance natural areas so they function in a self-sustaining manner with less human intervention.

A key part of this strategy is reinstating the flora and ecosystems that pre-date European settlement. By revegetating areas of the park, we create new, resilient patches of habitat and strengthen existing ones. This approach builds habitat and creates multi-layered plantings in forested areas of the park while also making a significant contribution to our target of 60% canopy cover and improved urban cooling.

Enhancing 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 Master Plan focuses on planting that creates a mosaic of species that will flower and fruit at different times throughout the year. This provides food and other resources to resident native animals and encourages honey-eaters (birds), and other pollinators to visit.

The park has many old and mature trees. These veteran trees are considered ecological assets as many contain hollows that animals use for shelter and nesting. This strategy will prioritise retaining and enhancing areas for these trees.

Micro-habitats such as fallen logs, deep leaf litter, rocky shelves and introduced artificial habitat hollows enhance the diversity for plant and animal life in the park.

Native plant pollination is often an ecosystem function that can suffer in urban environments. This strategy focuses on bringing back the bird pollinators through planting dense vegetation. In addition, reintroducing stingless native beehives will improve the park's diversity, its ongoing pollination and endemic seeding. Figure 7 below outlines the spectrum of species and biodiversity targeted for Victoria Park / Barrambin.



Figure 7 Target biodiversity species for Victoria Park / Barrambin

Health and recreation



The park will be a retreat in the heart of the city that promotes healing and wellness through a strong connection to nature. The park will have something for everyone and will become a new setting for Brisbane's relaxed, outdoor lifestyle with a range of formal and informal spaces and activities.

Outdoor activities, adventures, community sporting facilities and amenities will cater to people of all ages and abilities, inspiring active lifestyles. The park offers a natural experience in the city; somewhere people can reconnect with nature as part of maintaining their mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Key spatial moves



Consolidate community sports

Create a consolidated sports precinct. This includes a rugby-sized sports field, 20 cricket nets, four tennis courts and one multi-purpose court, along with equipment storage facilities and an amenities block.



Provide areas for inclusive play

Introduce accessible and inclusive destination play spaces to connect children and families with nature and water.



Introduce a park running trail (5 km circuit)*

Formalise a park running loop that starts and finishes at the parkland arrival plaza.



Introduce a parkway loop (2 km circuit)

Formalise a comfortable running, walking and cycling loop along the parkway with links to Brisbane's broader active transport network.



Maintain the driving range as a key activity

Continue to operate the existing golf driving range as an important activator of the park.



Retain putt putt as a key attraction

Keep the existing putt putt as a key attraction for the park.



Centenary Pool

Continue to operate Centenary Pool as an iconic facility at Victoria Park / Barrambin.



Deliver a nature water play gully

Create a natural gully where water flows and visitors can explore and play.



Create spaces for quiet reflection

Introduce a variety of sanctuary spaces within the park for quiet reflection and immersion in nature.



Provide ample public amenities

Locate accessible toilets at convenient and key positions through the park.



Provide new community dog parks*

Deliver new dedicated small and large dog off-leash area near Kelvin Grove



Offer new cycle experiences

Add an urban pump track to the northern parkland near Herston Road.



Create the Spring Hill Common

Formalise a flat, open area with stepped seating, fringing shade, and room for active play and recreation at Spring Hill.



Introduce Adventure Valley

Add mountain biking trails and a high ropes course with varying degrees of difficulty as exciting activities.



Create healing/sensory gardens

Establish areas of plants that stimulate the senses with an array of fragrances, sounds, colours and textures.



Encourage managed community edible gardens

Build a community garden where local residents and visitors can grow food and share their interest.

Other actions

Facilitate electric/shared bicycle usage

Encourage visitors to ride their own bikes. Alternatively, provide facilities for visitors to borrow or hire from bike share stations across the park.

Allow for formalised nature-based activities

Enable formalised outdoor activities that make use of the natural landscape, such as cross-country running and orienteering.

Offer ample picnic spots

Provide picnic spaces and amenities across the park.

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



Figure 8 Health and recreation strategy – key spatial moves

A place for all

Creating a sense of inclusivity is important. Urban parks are at the heart of our city, providing valuable social, cultural and environmental functions. Research affirms how having a place for social interaction and connection to nature that is accessible to all is critical for cities' wellbeing¹. Rather than split nature from society and culture, this Master Plan recognises the mental and physical benefits people gain from greenspace that are integrated with other urban areas.

Active opportunities

Council is protecting and expanding our city's greenspaces to make it easier for everyone to enjoy the great lifestyle Brisbane offers. The park will be a cornerstone of our park network and be an outdoor tourism destination for the city.

Outdoor adventures

Nature-based recreation in the park will appeal to young and old, with spaces and activities that will suit everybody. At Adventure Valley, visitors can travel through the trees on the high ropes course, while mountain bikers and trail runners will challenge themselves on the myriad of trails and tracks below.

Children will love exploring the nature water play gully, an all-ages wild-play area with water elements in a gully setting.

Physical activity

Victoria Park / Barrambin will continue to provide the driving range and putt putt activities, as well as locations for sports competition, interspersed with spaces for running, cycling, exercise and activity programs for individuals and small groups.

¹ Source: *Nature by Design*, S.R Kellert, 2018.



Contemplative spaces

The park is a place people can go to reconnect to nature, reduce stress levels and feel happier.

Health and wellness

The restorative and healing spaces of the park's natural landscape, sensory gardens and flowing water provide meaningful opportunities for healing and wellness. The park's direct connection and relationship to neighbouring health-focused institutions such as the Herston Health Precinct, QUT Kelvin Grove, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and UQ Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences gives surrounding students, researchers, workers, visitors and patients alike an important asset and source of retreat and respite.

A place of retreat and relaxation

The park offers a natural environment with a balanced range of experiences, including areas for safe and comfortable sanctuary, activity and social stimulation. This strategy delivers sanctuary spaces that complement the more programmed and active parts of the park. These locations will play a critical role in giving people a chance to find some respite from the busy world while promoting a sense of healing and regeneration.



Artist impression: Adventure Valley high ropes and mountain biking

Connections



A key principle of the Master Plan is to reconnect the park with its neighbours and the wider community. Connecting the park makes it easier to get to, and encourages and promotes sustainable travel choices, which in turn helps to keep more cars off Brisbane's roads.

This strategy is about making travel to, and within the park as easy as possible for everyone. This strategy 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. Despite the site's hilly terrain, the Master Plan achieves equitable and inclusive access across most of the park's pathways.

Key spatial moves



Define key entries

Create clear and easily recognisable gateways to mark significant entry points for pedestrians, cyclists and those using e-mobility.



Deliver an accessible internal parkway loop

Create a generous shared accessible parkway loop for people walking, cycling and using e-scooters.



Connect primary active transport routes

Cater for higher-speed commuter traffic (e.g. cyclists, e-scooters) with a dedicated separate cycle route.



Create a new north/south active transport link

Introduce a dedicated north/south separated active transport connection through the park.



Deliver high-quality pedestrian and secondary active transport connections

Provide a clear hierarchy of secondary paths across the park.



Connect to surrounding pedestrian pathways

Provide seamless pedestrian connections to the surrounding network of footpaths and routes.



Unlock inner city active travel connection

Introduce a significant city-shaping shared cycle/ pedestrian bridge that provides critical connections to key transport, employment and residential areas in Herston, Fortitude Valley and Bowen Hills.



Provide a new shared connection*

Replace the current pedestrian-only bridge with a shared walking and cycling connection that opens up the western end of the park and facilitates north-south connections.



Overcome terrain at Kelvin Grove*

Provide an elevated walkway to help pedestrians overcome the very steep terrain, and connect Kelvin Grove with the Tree House and the rest of the park.



Link the land bridge to the heart of the park

Provide an elevated pedestrian and cycle link from the land bridge over York's Hollow into the park.



Deliver busway and Brisbane Metro station entry plazas

Introduce clear, welcoming arrival spaces to the park at public transport nodes.



Connect vertically

Provide lifts for inclusive access where it is not feasible to provide ramped access.

Other actions

Augment connections and access into the park and its surrounds

Introduce new connections into the park and enhance existing ones to create a sense of welcome, and to integrate it with surrounding suburbs.

Enhance e-mobility use

Locate e-mobility hubs at transport stations to enhance access into the park.

Provide cycle parking

Provide enhanced cycle parking at key locations in the park including Centenary Pool and the main entry area off Herston Road.

* Subject to resolution with Queensland Rail and Department of Transport and Main Roads

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.

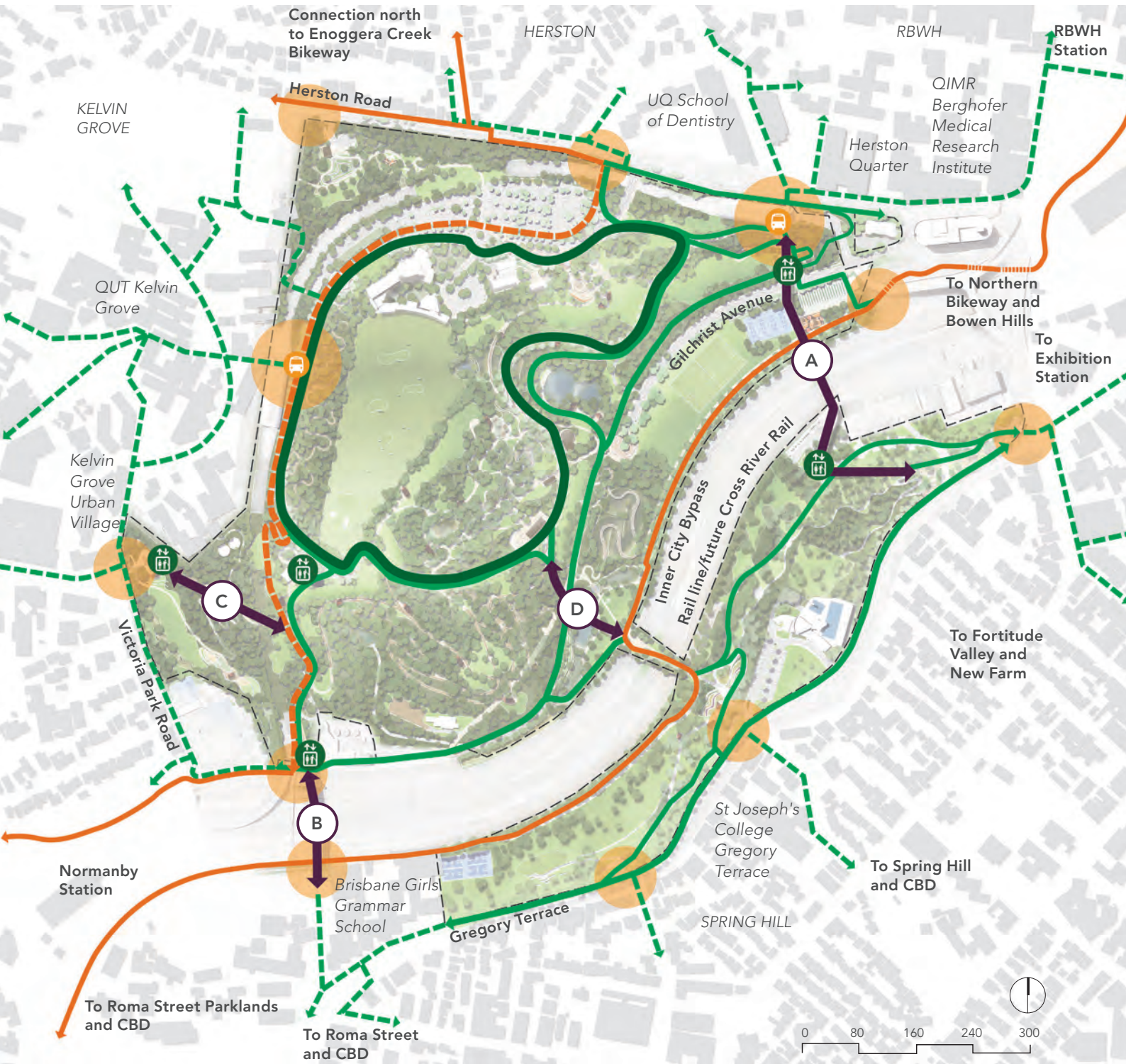


Figure 9 Connections strategy – Sustainable travel key spatial moves

Promoting sustainable travel

Public transport

Victoria Park / Barrambin is right on the doorstep of the city. It's a short bus ride from the city along the Inner Northern Busway. The Herston and Kelvin Grove busway and Brisbane Metro stations are on the park's edge. With high-frequency, turn-up-and-go public transport services planned as part of the Brisbane Metro, as well as high-quality walking and cycling paths to and within the park, public and active transport will be an attractive, sustainable travel choice for many park visitors.

Cycle connections

We have had strong community support for more direct primary cycle routes through the park. To address this, direct cycle routes are included that connect with the broader cycle network. The north-south active transport route through the park offers direct and flatter grades. This move, along with a better alignment of the east-west route to the Northern Bikeway, will greatly improve the park's connectivity between the city centre and the northern suburbs.

City-shaping bridge connections

The two new bridges proposed in the Master Plan are significant city-shaping moves. They provide important linkages that help overcome the barriers of the Inner City Bypass and rail line. The bridges serve not only the park but also improve pedestrian and bicycle access between important inner urban precincts and key public transport nodes.

The alignment of the inner city pedestrian and cycle bridge to the east of the park has been specifically designed to provide much needed connectivity from the south to the north. This means areas such as Fortitude Valley, RNA and Exhibition rail stations are easily accessible from Herston Quarter and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

The new western pedestrian and cycle bridge creates a more direct connection between the city centre, Roma Street Parkland and the Grammar schools on the south, to the suburbs and bikeway network to the north.

E-mobility

E-mobility vehicles such as electric scooters and bikes are another option for visitors to travel to and around the park. Geofencing technology will manage shared e-scooter speeds and parking within the park. This will regulate slower speeds on the accessible parkway loop and minor paths that are shared by pedestrians. There is potential for the shared e-bike scheme to extend to Victoria Park Barrambin, with e-mobility hubs proposed for the busway and Brisbane Metro stations and other key locations to give people different travel choices throughout the park. Parking will be provided for cycling and e-mobility devices at key locations in the park.

Moving around the park

One of the most important considerations in the Master Plan's design is ensuring it is as easy as possible to navigate and move around the full extent of the park. Whether on foot, bike or arriving by vehicle, enjoying safe, intuitive and easy access is essential to the long-term success and performance of the park.

Inclusive, equitable connections and access

The park's undulating terrain adds to its unique appeal but also makes walking and cycling a challenge. A central feature of this strategy is ensuring people of all ages and abilities can access the park. In key areas of particularly steep elevation, we have included lifts that connect to elevated walkways.

The Master Plan design delivers 18 kilometres of park pathways and connections, 96% of which meet inclusivity and accessibility compliance standards.



Figure 10 Strategic connections and arrival

The parkway loop

The parkway is the central organising feature of the park. Two kilometres long and seven metres wide, the parkway loop uses gentle, sloping gradients, making it accessible and easy to use for people of all abilities. The parkway will be a shared access path for pedestrians, wheelchair users, slower-speed cyclists and e-mobility riders. It does not have general vehicle access but will be used for occasional event management, maintenance and emergency vehicles.

The parkway weaves through the northern portion of the park creating a loop that links the main park entry to the wetlands and naturalised waterholes. It winds past the nature water play gully, through patches of existing stands of significant vegetation, and south to the landmark Tree House lookout and cafe. It then continues along the western edge of the park linking back to the function centre, bistro and main car park.

An indicative design of the parkway loop incorporates a modern interpretation of the patterning found on the trunk and bark of the native paperbark tree. The pavement pattern links back to this inspiration with elements of white and ochre-coloured exposed aggregate and coloured concrete.

The Master Plan includes widened areas along the parkway near amenities and attractions where people can stop and take in the beautiful views of the surrounding landscape including the Brisbane CBD and Mount Coot-tha.





Artist impression: The parkway loop



Artist impression: Inner City Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge, and adjacent lawn near Gilchrist Avenue








Vehicular access and car parking

This strategy proposes clear vehicular access points and car parking that caters for the uses within the park while meeting the demand generated by new visitors.

The strategy comprises two main at grade car parks. A managed car parking arrangement with an element of paid parking will be introduced. In addition, car parking will continue to be monitored as park visitation increases to determine if additional car parking is required.

Overall the park will see an additional 217 new car park spaces delivered on top of the existing 447 spaces currently in the park.

Key spatial moves

- 
Create distinct vehicle entries and connections
 Provide dedicated motor vehicle access points and carriageways to enable easy drop-off and connection to parking resources.
- 
Provide suitable parking
 Introduce supplementary car parking at the urban pump track and off Gregory Terrace. These resources provide greater access and options for people with a disability.
- 
Accommodate flexible overflow parking
 Use the flat grassed area and playing fields as temporary additional parking during events.
- 
Improve vehicle access and drop-off
 Introduce new drop-off zones.
- 
Expand car parking
 Upgrade car parking at the main entry and Centenary Pool.
- 
Upgrade entry off Herston Road
 Introduce a new, signalised intersection at the main entry to the park to manage network demand. Retain the existing bridge link for cyclist, pedestrian and emergency vehicle access.
- 
Maintain intersection signals at Gregory Terrace
 Keep the existing intersection signal configuration and access road.

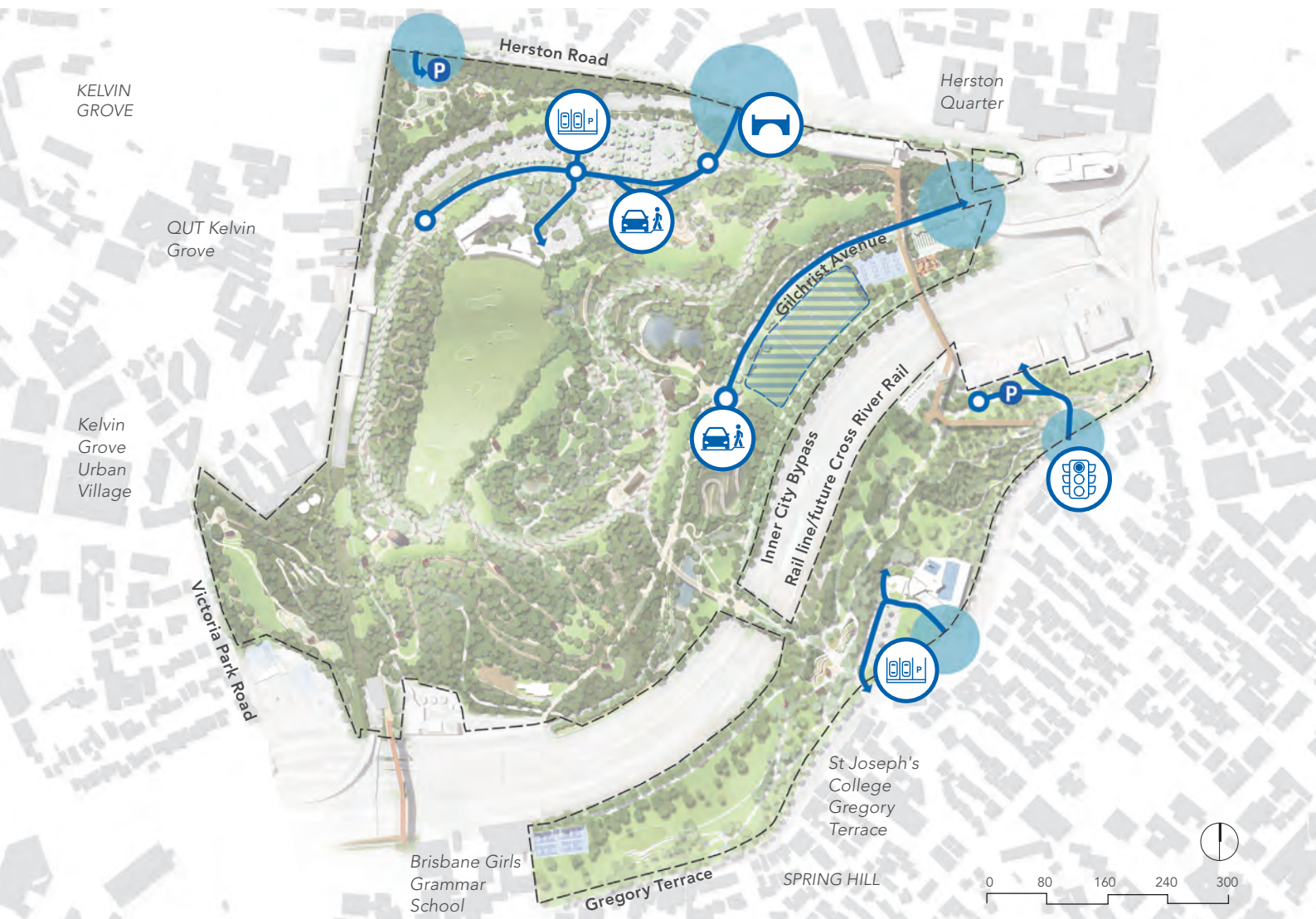


Figure 11 Connections strategy – Vehicle access and parking key spatial moves

Unique places and experiences



The park reinforces Brisbane's distinctive image as a world-class city by expressing our outdoor lifestyle in an array of unique places and experiences. The park will become a drawcard for tourists as well as locals, contributing significant social and economic benefits to our city.

This strategy establishes a series of activated destinations across the park, inviting people of all ages and backgrounds to join in community life.

The rewilded natural park is the place to experience nature in the city, and to retreat for daytime relaxing, night-time fun and city-wide celebrations.

Great parks shape cities

International research shows successful public spaces share four basic attributes: they are accessible, comfortable, can host activities, and are meeting places for locals and their visitors². The best parks capture a city's spirit while working with the site's existing features and community. Building these attributes into the park ensures it fulfils its true potential for our city.

Hosting diverse activities

The park's design locates the various destinations, facilities and activities close to the parkway, and around existing buildings and major entry points. Over time, Victoria Park / Barrambin's experiences will evolve to reflect the community's changing needs and appetites, maturing alongside new plantings as they grow and establish, and create a truly iconic Brisbane place.

The park will build on the success of the existing bistro, function centre, driving range and putt putt facility and Centenary Pool. It will add to Brisbane's quality venue offerings for small, medium and larger-scale events.

The park's many lawns and open spaces caters for relaxed events and community gatherings. Smaller scale, curated events can occur along the parkway. Larger events will be hosted in the driving range turning this into a multi-purpose space. All events will be able to make the most of the park's easy bump-in and bump-out infrastructure.

A place to meet

With its panoramic views of the city and surrounds, its proximity to nature and expansive green lawns, the park will become one of Brisbane's best spots to meet and relax. Various food and beverage offerings will range in scale and style, from the parkway kiosk and casual dining at the Tree House, to the more formal spaces in the function centre.

² Source: Research provided by Project for Public Spaces.

Key spatial moves



Attractions and destinations

Establish a collection of unique attractions and destinations across the park.



Provide amenities and shelters for gatherings

Install shelters and BBQ facilities throughout the park to encourage community gatherings and social interactions.



Quiet core

Establish a quieter inner core with a focus on connecting with nature. Include spaces for reflection and exploration, as well as opportunities for learning.



Reconnecting outwards

Extend access networks into the surrounding neighbourhoods to make it easier to access the park.



Mark arrival points

Incorporate sculptural entry-points markers at key locations.

Other actions

Identity and image

Establish the park's identity as a centre of social and cultural life in a distinct natural setting.

Flexibility in design

Design spaces in a way that allows them to be used in a variety of ways.

Seasonal strategies

Change park programming with the seasons, celebrating different flora and fauna at different times of the year.

Central role of management

Centralise and integrate park management to ensure the park remains a safe and lively place to go.

Range of event spaces

Deliver spaces across the park that can accommodate a diverse range of events of varying scales.

Bespoke architecture

Design built elements across the park to incorporate and complement local traditions and stories. This approach, coupled with the quality and authenticity of the architecture, will make it uniquely 'of this place', enhancing the park's appeal.

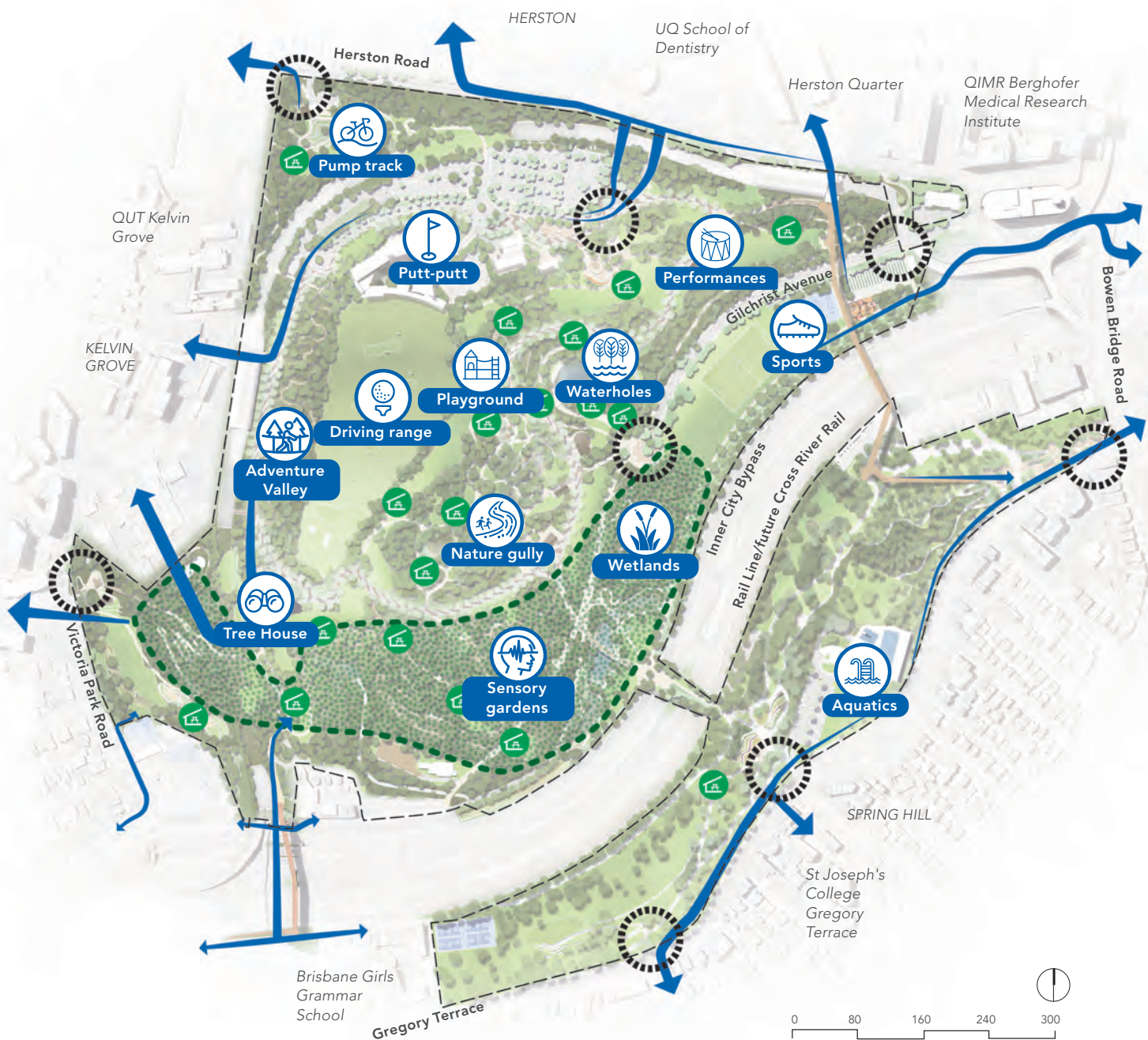


Figure 12 Unique places and experiences strategy – key spatial moves

A day in the park...

The park offers plenty of experiences and opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy all day long.

Park gatherers

These people are everyday users who come to the park to meet friends, to gather, and to enjoy their free time in and around nature. They come to relax and refresh in a beautiful greenspace.

2

Park adventurers

These people are attracted to Victoria Park / Barrambin for a specific purpose. They come to participate in sport, for events, and to enjoy curated activities.

3

Park discoverers

Discoverers appreciate the park's wild qualities, its natural amenity, and its healing, restorative powers. They enjoy getting up close with the flora and fauna, and learning about the park's Aboriginal and European history, as well as its sustainability aspects.

Locals enjoy a stroll through the park with their dogs.



Children join in various activities on the community sports field, cricket nets, tennis, multi-purpose court and running tracks.



Birdwatchers try to spot early morning fauna activity.



Early morning

6am

Peak morning

9am

Mid-morning

10.30am



Fitness groups are in full swing at the park's fitness equipment.



Family groups congregate around the nature water play gully and playscapes across the park.



Community members tend to the community edible gardens.

Groups enjoy picnics and early afternoon BBQs near the nature water play gully.



Visitors amble through the park and around the waterholes.



Visitors grab a bite to eat at food trucks.



Midday

12 noon

Mid-afternoon

3pm

Early evening

6pm

Evening/night-time

9pm



Lunch at the Tree House and Bistro.



Runners, joggers and dog-walkers make use of the park's path network.



Evening light show⁴. Feature lighting, evening activation and events. Relax on the lawn under the Tree House.

⁴Evening light show images credit: Artist: Skunk Control. Artwork – Bastions of Light, 2018 45

Creative expression



We invite people to discover, reconnect and adventure through the place that is Victoria Park Barrambin. One way we will encourage this is through artistic and other creative experiences that will let people have encounters, share and make their own stories in this special place.

The park will play a significant role in creative and cultural life in Brisbane. This strategy specifically addresses the different ways people can express creativity in the park using art, architecture and performance, as well as integrating art with the landscape. One of this strategy's principal aims is to express stories through time.

This curatorial vision centres on the idea of story making, celebrating tens of thousands of years of Aboriginal knowledge through to the park's European history. It is also about the park's evolving role as part of Brisbane's living history, and will encourage people to create new stories that will become part of the park's collective memory of experience.

Creative principles

Draw the park's creative principles from these narrative themes:

Connection to Country

Work with Aboriginal artists to share their stories of Country, community and continuing culture.

Revealing the landscape

Integrate with and draw inspiration from Brisbane's natural habitats to connect visitors to the park's environmental features.

Memories across generations

Create a place where people come together to share both old and new experiences, build new stories and generate ongoing cultural and artistic expression for generations to come.

Uniquely South East Queensland

Commission established and emerging local artists and makers to create works that share South East Queensland perspectives.

Authentic placemaking

Create a memorable, world-class cultural destination for Brisbane through artistic and other creative interventions.

Design excellence

The park's design quality reflects Brisbane's unique character, identity and climate.

Creative opportunities

The park will take arts and entertainment into the open air. The park will support creativity through a diverse array of expression, including permanent structures, temporary activations and new experiences.

Sculptural forms

- Sculptural architecture, bridges and furniture
- Inspired by natural forms
- Stand-alone sculptural artworks
- Kinetic sculptures

Interactivity

- Artist-designed play elements
- Soundscapes
- Water play
- Tactile materials

Creative lighting

- Illuminating unique design features
- Wayfinding and navigation
- Projection

Language

- Type-based sculptures
- Language on walls and pavements
- Naming, poetry and quotations
- Guided walks and tours

Graphic expression

- Graphic application to pavements, ceilings and undercrofts
- Colour and shapes in sport and fitness areas

Program

- Brisbane events and festival partnerships
- Live performance, music and dance
- Temporary activations and exhibitions
- Artists and thinkers in residence programs

Sculptural forms



Artist: Jamie North
Artwork: Reminders 20 & 21, 2018

Language



Artist: Jenna Lee
Artwork: Language pillars, 2022

Graphic expression



Artist: Ingrid Bartkowiak
Artwork: Native Flora, Fauna and Backyard Feel, 2021

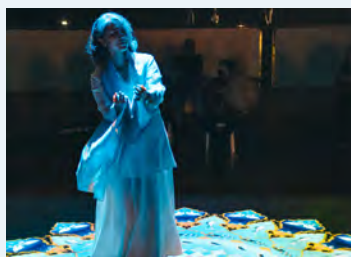


Creative lighting



Artist: Esem Projects
Artwork: Superorganism, 2021

Program



Artist: Leila Honari
Artwork: Farsh-e-Parandeh (Flying Carpet), 2022

Interactivity



Artist: Susan Hawkins
Artwork: Between the River and the Cliffs, 2019

Figure 13 Creative expression framework

Partnerships and relationships



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

A place of excellence, ideas and wellbeing connected by a world-class park

Together, the neighbourhoods surrounding the park form one of the most significant urban renewal areas and innovation precincts in Brisbane. The area is also home to one of the state's most successful knowledge and technology clusters, with hospitals and allied health facilities, universities, schools, research institutes and creative arts precincts interwoven with accommodation and event spaces.

Brisbane's ongoing major urban regeneration projects are providing a dynamic mix of lifestyle amenities for the area, including housing, dining, retail, commercial and entertainment. The new Brisbane Metro and Cross River Rail stations will provide high-frequency, high-capacity public transport infrastructure for workers and visitors to access the district's heart at Victoria Park / Barrambin and the nearby RNA Showgrounds. Better active transport connections will integrate each of these elements seamlessly with each other, and with the city more broadly.

Victoria Park / Barrambin's health and recreation benefits will play a key role in attracting and retaining knowledge workers, and in enhancing the residential community. The wider district will also attract a diverse mix of services and facilities, growing a vibrant entertainment and leisure destination that is essential to sustaining its significant resident, worker, student and visitor population.

A living laboratory

The park's size, strategic location and transformative potential provides a vital source of 'green relief' for residents, workers, students and visitors. The park's central location in this globally renowned innovation district presents a unique opportunity for it to be a 'living laboratory'.

Here, we can study new ideas and concepts that align with the wider district's health, education, research and creative industries' focus.

Victoria Park / Barrambin's transformation opens opportunities to carry out long-term studies into the benefits of greening urban spaces, including biodiversity, urban cooling, air and water quality, and community health and wellbeing.

Supporting community-building and local business

Victoria Park / Barrambin will play host to a range of programs, activities and events that will have broad community appeal and keep it active and lively throughout the year. The nature of the park's spaces lends them to multiple uses such as:

- open green areas could host wellness clinics and outdoor horticultural learning experiences and festivals
- indoor and outdoor spaces could serve as classrooms
- architectural structures could become canvases for digital art or performance backdrops
- revegetated areas could sustain environmental and medical research, or work placements for secondary and tertiary students.

Council will continue to engage with the local and wider community, including businesses, institutions, universities, schools, not-for-profit organisations and peak bodies throughout the park's evolution. We look forward to building a sense of custodianship and shared ownership of the park's places and spaces through community collaboration and partnerships. This includes encouraging local businesses, particularly local Aboriginal businesses, to offer services that align with the park's vision for its visitors.

Council will explore partnerships and relationships with the Brisbane community and its surrounding neighbours to ensure the park is a connected space for everyone to enjoy.

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

Category Initial ideas and opportunities

Aboriginal culture

Work with Traditional Custodians to implement employment opportunities and horticultural traineeships, develop cultural events and experiences, and deliver educational opportunities to share stories and connection to Country.

Health, recreation and wellbeing

Work with local schools, universities, hospitals and fitness groups to utilise the park's greenspace and leverage health and wellbeing programs.

Research and learning

Explore opportunities with universities on research programs, including biodiversity, waterway mapping, health and wellness studies, and integrating curriculum with the outcomes promoted by the Master Plan.

Arts, culture and events

Continue to develop partnerships with neighbouring universities to support student art exhibitions and activations within the park, and support local and citywide events for the community, including Outdoor Cinema in the Suburbs, Green Heart Fair and Brisbane Festival.

Neighbours and local community

Work with neighbouring Kelvin Grove Urban Village, Herston Quarter and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital precinct, King Street Precinct, local schools, new developments and community groups to establish connections and programs in the park.

Tourism

Host and produce drawcard events and work with Brisbane Economic Development Agency to position the park on a national and international level. Explore opportunities for volunteer programs like Brisbane Greeters to the park.

Sustainability, horticulture and habitat restoration

Explore the development of a community bushcare group to support rewilding in the park and continue to host Green Heart Fair to help promote sustainability and environmental initiatives.

Local food

Work with the local community to establish community gardens and food waste composting hubs in the park.

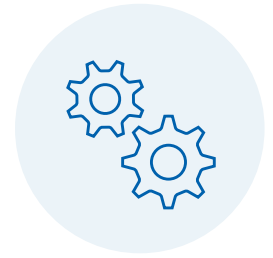
Local businesses

Curate produced events using local businesses and explore opportunities to support local food and beverage experiences in the park (e.g. local picnic providers) as well as local art and craft markets.



Figure 14 Framework for partnerships and relationships strategy

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 venue for events and programmed activities.

Park management and operations

Victoria Park / Barrambin's long-term success as a world-class parkland demands a high standard of maintenance and operational management.

Council will manage the park using an integrated park management approach including two dedicated locations on site for operations and maintenance facilities. These facilities will cater to the needs of the park itself, as well as contributing more broadly to other Council-managed parks and assets. Park operations will be managed by both Council and Aboriginal groups/staff. The front-of-house park administration and operations facility is located between the Inner Northern Busway and the current Victoria Park Bistro. It is supported by a green waste storage and sustainable water reuse facility near the Inner City Bypass corridor. A Council maintenance facility is located in the southern parkland under the Inner City Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge.

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*. It also implements 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. A spectrum of design elements including physical signage identify major and minor entry points for all user types. Wayfinding design and approaches will build an identity that showcases the park as a world-class destination parkland and acknowledges its unique role in the city.

Safety and security

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

Lighting is used to enhance night-time experiences and visitors' sense of safety, without disturbing the park's neighbours or its nocturnal wildlife. Code-compliant lighting along all primary path connections provides safe routes through the park at night allowing for use 24 hours a day. A closed-circuit television (CCTV) network is supported by 24/7 security with on-site monitoring.

Technology-enabled

As a contemporary park, technology capability and connectivity now and into the future are critical. Capturing key operational and maintenance data plays a significant role in keeping the park functional and improving the visitor experience.

Opportunities to measure could include how many visitors there are to the park, how the park is used, as well as environmental factors like air quality, temperature, water use and quality, noise and lighting levels, and wildlife activity. The park's network of sensors and fibre optic cabling will ensure connectivity across its different precincts, and programming capabilities for elements like creative lighting. The park will also allow visitors to stay connected with public Wi-Fi services to be established as part of our smart, connected 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. Processes and systems will be established to effectively manage parking, traffic, transport, noise, security, waste and other essential event requirements.



Figure 15 Other key enablers strategy – key spatial moves

Key spatial moves



Support sustainable park management
Introduce park administration and operations facilities to support sustainable management.



Deliver 24/7 security
Provide monitoring rooms and dispatch to ensure after hours safety and responsiveness.



Showcase park identity with wayfinding and signage
Incorporate a suite of wayfinding signs at key locations and attractions around the park.



Illuminate plaza and key spaces
Light plaza and larger spaces to improve safety.



Light primary travel paths
Install code-level path lighting ensuring safe passage through the park after hours.

Northern parkland

Master Plan precincts

Design intent and detail

Western parkland

Parkland centre

Artist impression:
Aerial view of the park from Spring Hill

An aerial rendering of a parkland development. The parkland is outlined with a white dashed line and contains various green spaces, trees, and a central road. A blue callout box at the top points to a specific area, and another at the bottom points to a different area. The surrounding city is visible in the background.

Parkland main entry

Southern parkland

Parkland main entry

The parkland's main entry serves as the primary arrival and formal celebration point, welcoming visitors to Victoria Park Barrambin.

Volunteer guides can meet visitors, share their knowledge of the park's history and features, and answer questions before people explore its varied offerings.

The main car parking area is located close to the entry and provides easy access to the park and the existing venues. The existing car park next to the driving range and the function centre will be retained.

A second large lawn space, adjacent to the Herston busway and Brisbane Metro station also provides a flexible area for small community events. An amenities block located near the Parkway services this part of the park.

The Inner City Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge is a critical link between the parkland and the CBD. It connects with the Herston busway and Brisbane Metro station, providing shared access to the Herston Quarter.

Legend

- 1 New primary parkland entry with signalised intersection (subject to negotiations with Queensland Government)
- 2 Repurposed existing entry bridge for active travel and emergency access
- 3 Managed car park (approx. 304 spaces) with easy access to the parkway loop and venues
- 4 Managed car park (approx 111 spaces)
- 5 Retained existing car park (approx. 70 spaces)
- 6 Victoria Park function centre
- 7 Victoria Park function centre marquee
- 8 Vehicular drop-off and forecourt plaza for park and function centre
- 9 Parkland arrival
- 10 Performance space
- 11 Sloping lawn with capacity for small community events
- 12 The parkway loop provides continuous accessible path of travel throughout the parkland
- 13 Amenities block
- 14 Herston busway access
- 15 Path connection to Gilchrist Avenue and Herston Road
- 16 Inner City Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge with lift connection to Gilchrist Avenue
- 17 Community sports precinct including a sports field, multi-purpose court, cricket nets, tennis courts, amenities and storage shed



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 16 Detailed plan of the parkland's main entry

The bridge safely navigates pedestrians and cyclists over the Inner City Bypass, while offering glimpses of the broader parkland setting. The bridge includes lift access to the community sports field, cricket nets and tennis courts south of Gilchrist Avenue.



Precinct location within the park



Parkland arrival

The parkland arrival space includes signature artwork and makes the most of the city's iconic views and elevated position. It serves as a gathering and meeting point for visitors, providing orientation and information about the stories, activities and destinations within the park.

A performance space is incorporated making use of the natural terrain and existing vegetation.





Artist impression: Performance space at the parkland arrival. Dancers depicted from the Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dance Company.

Parkland centre

The parkland's centre provides a deep connection to the natural and rewilded environment, offering spaces for quiet retreat as well as opportunities to engage with water, flora and fauna.

The traditional nature of the land will be restored and reinstated by creating a series of wetlands and waterholes. These will be aligned with the park's natural contours and existing overland flow paths, while maximising visibility and access. The waterholes will be tiered to support water flow and cleansing. Visitors can explore the native beauty of the water systems along its boardwalks, walkways and stepping stones.

Water is sustainably captured and managed through the park's network of waterholes, and flow paths and wetlands, which cleanse the water and improve its quality.

The Master Plan maintains the existing land bridge connection to the southern part of the parkland at Spring Hill, with elevated links providing direct access to the parkland's main activity nodes.

An adventure playground blends a contemporary and sophisticated play structure with engaging nature play based on expressing themes of Country in a sensory and immersive way.



Precinct location within the park

Legend

- 1 The parkway loop provides continuous accessible path of travel throughout the parkland
- 2 Walkway over upper wetland
- 3 Upper wetlands
- 4 Naturalised waterholes
- 5 Emergency vehicle access to parkway
- 6 Flexible lower lawn
- 7 Gilchrist Avenue set down, arrival plaza and vehicular turnaround
- 8 Parkway kiosk
- 9 Adventure playground
- 10 Amenities block
- 11 Lower wetlands and boardwalk
- 12 Education Hub
- 13 Nature water play gully
- 14 Elevated connection to land bridge
- 15 Trails and rewilding area
- 16 Healing circle for quiet reflection
- 17 York's Hollow (revitalised)
- 18 Sediment and biofiltration basin
- 19 Active transport connection
- 20 Proposed location for green waste storage

Figure 17 Detailed plan of the parkland centre



Inner City Bypass

Rail line/future Cross River Rail

0 20 40 60 80



Artist impression: Nature water play gully



Nature water play gully

Flowing water is reintroduced into the heart of the park. Making use of the existing topography, local hydrology and ecological heritage, the nature water play gully is a series of channels and ponds that cascade from near the Tree House down to the waterholes.

The nature water play gully is an inclusive experience that provides an abundance of play value for every visitor, regardless of age or ability. Play has been embedded intuitively with experiences rather than a reliance on equipment.

Visitors can engage in nature play and explore among stepping-stones and logs, hunt for tadpoles and insects, and get their hands dirty. Soft weeping foliage, sedges and grasses enhance the distinct nature of each pond providing interest for visitors year-round. The play experience extends to an adventure playground established within the rewilded landscape.

Northern parkland

The northern parkland creates opportunities for people to enjoy passive and active recreation pursuits in a space that capitalises on the dramatic landscape and extensive existing vegetation.

Tucked next to the existing Murray Spinaze Bushland in the park's north-east corner, the northern parkland is a green retreat and play-space for the Brisbane community. Its pedestrian links connect it with QUT's Kelvin Grove campus and Herston Road, creating a blended and accessible landscape for all to enjoy.

The northern parkland takes advantage of the dramatic topography, incorporating an urban pump track. Shade pavilions, public amenities, terraced seating and a picnic green makes this space a perfect location for a day out with the family.

Importantly, the Murray Spinaze Bushland remains, and is expanded within the parkland, along with significant stands of existing Corymbia and Eucalypt species on the boundary with QUT. Combined with a colourful wildflower understorey, showcasing plants native to Kelvin Grove and Herston, this landscape creates a verdant and cool sanctuary for park visitors.

Sustainable and efficient management and maintenance of the park is essential. The park's administration and operations compound is located in this precinct to help minimise any disruptions to the park's visitors, and maximise efficiency for the park's maintenance and operations teams. Nestled between the entry road and the existing Inner Northern Busway, the compound will be screened and planted so it blends with its surrounds.

Legend

- ① Small car park (approx. 15 spaces)
- ② Urban pump park
- ③ Pedestrian connection to QUT Kelvin Grove
- ④ Picnic lawn
- ⑤ Small skateable features
- ⑥ Emergency access to the Inner Northern Busway tunnel
- ⑦ Path connection to the function centre, bistro and putt putt, venues and other parts of the park
- ⑧ Car park (approx. 111 spaces)
- ⑨ Park administration and operations including sustainable design features
- ⑩ The parkway loop provides continuous accessible path of travel throughout the parkland
- ⑪ Active transport connection
- ⑫ Vehicle drop-off
- ⑬ Path connection and existing bridge to QUT Kelvin Grove
- ⑭ Victoria Park bistro and putt putt course
- ⑮ Victoria Park driving range
- ⑯ Car park (approx. 70 spaces) including water sensitive design



Location
of park

Figure 18 Detailed plan of the northern parkland



Herston Road

Murray Spinaze
Bushland

Inner Northern Busway/future Brisbane Metro

0 20 40 80 100

Urban pump track

A cycling pump track with small skateable features creates a destination for Brisbane families. The pump track offers a space for younger children, along with elements for intermediate riders, creating the perfect day out for the whole family.

A small car park, amenities block and informal seating areas are also featured to enhance the family-friendly destination.





Artist impression: Urban pump track

Western parkland

The western parkland provides a variety of user friendly park activities and spaces as well as an important access point to Kelvin Grove and suburbs immediately west of the park.

The land on the western edge is owned by Department of Transport and Main Roads. Delivery of features in this area (shaded on the map), including the dog park, revitalised waterway and accessible path, and are all subject to the resolution of tenure matters with the Department of Transport and Main Roads. It is envisaged that from the western-most edge, an accessible and compliant pathway weaves its way through existing eucalypt forests – home to native fauna – connecting the Tree House with the park and Kelvin Grove Urban Village. An eight-metre high lift tower and connecting pathway network could provide easy access to the Tree House, further promoting inclusion across the site.

Visitors could access the reinstated waterway and enjoy stepping stones, native vegetation and landscaping that blends with the revegetated forest canopies, leading visitors to shaded picnic areas and a dog park.

Above the water line, plantings of native flora give shade and space to take in the surrounds, while bush walks through existing forests would give visitors the chance to reconnect with nature.

Further within the park, Adventure Valley focuses on revegetating and rewilding large portions of the landscape, transforming it into endemic forest. Once the newly planted trees reach a mature height, they will provide a lush backdrop for a high ropes course and mountain bike track.

To the west, the parkway loop connects the Victoria Park Bistro to the Kelvin Grove busway and Brisbane Metro station, and the Tree House. This gives the park a key north-south connector for pedestrians and cyclists.

The Tree House

Perched at the site's highpoint, the Tree House is a spectacular landmark within the park. The Tree House's elevated viewing platform will take in panoramic views of Brisbane's CBD and Mt Coot-tha. No visit to the park is complete without a trip to the top of the Tree House.



Precinct location within the park

The Tree House lookout has slender and lightweight form, and maximum three storey height. Timber is incorporated into the building with the potential to mimic natural textures such as layers of paperbark tree or patterning of the bunya nut cone. The viewing deck and balconies are visible as a landmark in the park, enticing visitors to explore the building itself and enjoy the views it offers.

The Tree House is complimented by a large open lawn and kiosk located next to the tower. This place gives visitors the chance to enjoy a drink, gather and attend nearby events, all backdropped by panoramic cityscape views.

The dog park

We heard how important a dog off-leash area is for nearby residents and the community of Kelvin Grove Urban Village. In response, the Master Plan proposes a dog park, nestled in the tree-lined embankment of the western parkland edge near the area known locally as Shaggy Ridge (and on the land currently owned by the Department of Transport and Main Roads).

A paved pathway shaded by existing vegetation set in a rewilded landscape leads to the dog park, which includes a sheltered space with informal seating for relaxation and socialising.

An upgraded pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Inner City Bypass has the potential to provide access to the western edge of the parkland and connect cyclists and pedestrians with Kelvin Grove Village, nearby local schools, the city centre and northern suburbs (subject to resolution with Queensland Rail).

Legend

- 1 Lift to accessible bridge
- 2 Picnic green
- 3 Connection to QUT Kelvin Grove
- 4 Reinstated waterways
- 5 Dog park
- 6 Accessible pathway through tree-lined incline
- 7 Adventure Valley with mountain bike track and high ropes course
- 8 The parkway loop provides continuous accessible path of travel throughout the parkland
- 9 The Tree House with lookout and cafe
- 10 Active transport connection
- 11 Upgraded pedestrian and cycle bridge (subject to resolution with Queensland Rail and Department of Transport and Main Roads)



Kelvin Grove busway and Brisbane Metro station

QUT Kelvin Grove

Inner Northern Busway

Rochester Street

Victoria Park Road

Normanby Terrace

Brisbane Grammar School tennis courts

Legacy Way

Inner City Bypass (ICB)

Subject to resolution with Queensland Rail and Department of Transport and Main Roads. Delivery of the upgraded pedestrian and cycle bridge is subject to funding contribution from the Queensland Government and Australian Government as citywide infrastructure initiatives.

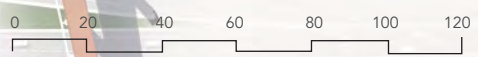


Figure 19 Detailed plan of the western parkland



The dog park

We heard how important a dog off-leash area is for nearby residents and the community of Kelvin Grove Urban Village. In response, the Master Plan includes a dog park, nestled in the tree-lined embankment of the western parkland edge near the area known locally as Shaggy Ridge.

A range of dog exercise areas are provided along with informal seating. A paved pathway shaded by existing vegetation set in a rewilded landscape leads to the dog park, which includes a sheltered space for relaxation and informal socialising.



Artist impression: The dog park

Southern parkland

The southern parkland serves as a gateway into the park's northern precincts, and as a destination for the surrounding residential communities of Spring Hill, Bowen Hills and Fortitude Valley.

The existing heritage gates of the former horse riding row, at the intersection of Bowen Bridge Road and Gregory Terrace provide a welcoming arrival to this precinct and the park. A heritage entry plaza extends into the park and the landing of the Inner City Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge.

Visitors to the southern parkland can meander along the forest trails in the enhanced Gundoo Memorial Grove. The spaces and trails provide a sensitive natural retreat through large eucalypts, and encourages people to feel a deeper connection to Country.

The network of upgraded paths lead deeper into the precinct, where visitors can enjoy the dog park. Adjacent to the Centenary Pool car park is a new community edible garden and accessible pathways connecting Spring Hill to the land bridge. This space creates a central point from which visitors can choose to adventure any way they please. While some may cross the land bridge into the northern park, others may elect to dwell in the community edible garden or wander to the Spring Hill Common that bookends the southern-most point of the precinct. The Spring Hill Common provides a level turfed area, offering additional recreation space for residents and the broader community.



Precinct location within the park



Gregory Terrace



Legend

- ① Heritage entry plaza
- ② Retained signalised intersection and access
- ③ Inner City Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge
- ④ Council maintenance facility
- ⑤ Gundoo Memorial Grove
- ⑥ Dog park
- ⑦ Playground
- ⑧ Centenary Pool car park (approx. 131 spaces)
- ⑨ Land bridge arrival plaza and connection point
- ⑩ Community edible garden
- ⑪ Amenities block and community garden storage
- ⑫ Spring Hill Common
- ⑬ Community tennis courts

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

Figure 20 Detailed plan of the southern parkland



Community edible garden

A managed community edible garden brings a permaculture experience to the city. The garden is positioned near the land bridge connection as a series of terraces to make the most of the grade changes at Spring Hill and the location's northern aspect.

The community edible garden offers a chance for locals and visitors to come together, learn and enjoy the benefits of locally grown fresh food as part of a sustainable and healthy lifestyle. The community edible garden will have storage and other appropriate amenities to support maintenance and operations.



Artist impression: The community edible garden

Land management planning

A large portion of land within the Master Plan area is managed by Council as trustee to the Queensland Government under a Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT). The permitted primary purposes for the land under the DOGIT are for park and recreation. Council as trustee, is required to maintain and manage the land consistent with these purposes.

A land management planning process has been adopted to ensure the land is managed in a sustainable way, upgrades and changes occur in a planned way over time, and that secondary uses are suitable for the park. This process has considered the uses proposed in this Master Plan and has identified those that are secondary uses.

A 'secondary use' is a term for a use or activity on land either carried out by the trustee that may be inconsistent with the primary purposes, or under a trustee lease or trustee permit issued by the trustee to another person or organisation. Secondary uses are permitted where these uses do not compromise the primary purposes assigned to the land. However, there is flexibility for secondary uses which are inconsistent with the primary purpose of trust land to be approved by the Minister for Resources. Secondary uses often generate ongoing revenue that will contribute to the ongoing maintenance of the park.

The process undertaken for the Master Plan has considered broader community requirements through multiple rounds of community consultation. Submissions put forward by the community and other key stakeholders have been considered in the development and finalisation of the Master Plan, including the extent and nature of any proposed secondary uses.

The Land Management Plan (LMP) process is outlined in Figure 21 below.

The *Queensland Government's Guideline Land Management Planning for Trust Land SLM/2021/5632 and Operational Policy Secondary use of trust land under the Land Act SLM/2013/493* provide guidance for the preparation of land management plans and the criteria for considering whether a proposed secondary use of trust land is appropriate, having regard to the primary purposes for which the trust land is set aside. Figure 22 identifies the existing (including relocated) and proposed secondary uses within the park.

The secondary uses proposed have a strong nexus with park and recreation providing important supporting functions that serve the public interest and enhance the use of the land for its primary purpose.

An assessment against the relevant criteria has been undertaken, which demonstrates that the proposed secondary uses are appropriate on the trust land forming part of the Master Plan.



Figure 21 Process for the Land Management Plan



Figure 22 Secondary use plan

Legend

- DOGIT boundary
- Existing secondary use (built element)
- Existing secondary use (outdoor element)
- Proposed secondary use (built element)
- Proposed secondary use (outdoor element)
- Existing secondary use relocated (outdoor element)
- 1 Victoria Park function centre
- 2 Victoria Park bistro and putt putt
- 3 309 Herston Road (Old Clubhouse - commercial offices and medical suites)
- 4 Centenary Pool (including commercial premises)
- 5 Managed car park
- 6 Parkway kiosk/cafe and multipurpose function room

- 7 Adventure Valley high ropes course (ticketed and privately operated parkland experience)
- 8 Driving range
- 9 Tree House (lookout structure with ground level cafe/bar and integrated iconic design)
- 10 Spring Hill tennis courts
- 11 Managed car park
- 12 Gilchrist Avenue tennis courts and cricket nets
- 13 Sports field

Note:
The park will accommodate the equestrian cross country and BMX freestyle events for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as temporary hire-able spaces for events and functions which may also be considered to be secondary uses of a temporary nature.

Table 1 Secondary Use Criteria

Criteria ³	Assessment
<p>Strategic Value</p> <p>'the proposed use should be appropriate to the strategic value of the land's capabilities'</p>	<p>The Master Plan and its secondary uses support the strategic value of the park and its place as a significant piece of central green infrastructure for the City of Brisbane.</p> <p>It is strongly aligned with various strategic outcomes sought for the city and region. Importantly, the development enhances Brisbane as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an active, healthy city • a clean, green and sustainable city • a friendly, safe city • a vibrant, creative city • an accessible, connected city • a well-designed, subtropical city. <p>The secondary uses will assist with enhancing the use of the land for park and recreation purposes. This includes providing a diverse mix of open and green areas, community spaces and sport and recreation facilities.</p>
<p>Consistency with the primary use</p> <p>'the proposed use should be consistent with the designated purpose of the trust land and should also facilitate or enhance, not diminish, the purpose of the trust land'</p>	<p>The secondary uses proposed are consistent with, and enhance, the primary purposes of the park. They provide important, supporting functions associated with the use of the site for park and recreation purposes, and support the activation and enjoyment of the park by a diverse range of community members.</p>
<p>Commerciality</p> <p>'the strength of the commercial motive behind the proposed use and whether it will have a negative effect on the public interest, needs consideration'</p>	<p>The proposed secondary uses could potentially be operated by a third-party, through a trustee lease or permit. The proposed secondary uses represent only a small proportion of the total area of the DOGIT. In addition, the potential revenue generated from these uses represent a fraction of the ongoing maintenance and operational costs of the park.</p> <p>Revenue generated from the trustee lease or permits (in terms of rent provided by the lessee) will be reinvested into the park to contribute to its ongoing maintenance, thereby directly supporting the use of the site for park and recreation purposes.</p>
<p>Exclusivity</p> <p>'refers to secondary occupation which excludes use by the wider community'</p>	<p>Access and use for all members of the community are accommodated and enhanced across the park. With specific reference to the proposed secondary uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential managed car park ensures genuine park visitors are accommodated, and deters parking associated with other purposes. A managed car park would likely include a period of free parking before the paid element commences. • Leased recreation and social activities are designed to enhance the park visitor experience and will be offered to the public at a reasonable cost. In addition, the park offers significant areas which are able to be accessed without payment, and the park is able to be enjoyed without requiring use of paid activities. • The parkway kiosk and the Tree House with café and lookout provide small-scale food and beverage facilities at key locations in the 64-hectare greenspace to support the enjoyment of park visitors. • Revenue generated from the trustee lease or permits (in terms of rent provided by the lessee) will be reinvested into the park to contribute to its ongoing maintenance, thereby directly supporting the use of the site for park and recreation purposes.

³ Source: *Operational Policy Secondary use of trust land under the Land Act SLM/2013/493*

Criteria³

Assessment

Incremental progression and forward planning

'the proposed use may contribute to an incremental chain of events that lead to a final outcome quite different from that initially intended'

The establishment of this Master Plan identifying all proposed secondary uses and their relationship to the entire park is designed to prevent incremental progression.

In addition, the standardised trustee leases incorporating the Department of Resources Mandatory Standard Terms for Trustee Leases prevents changes to either the improvements or the use of the lease area beyond what was originally intended.

The Master Plan has been prepared for the trust land incorporating the results of technical investigations and community consultation, and will be submitted to the Department of Resources for approval as a LMP in accordance with the *Land Act 1994*.



Artist impression: The Spring Hill Common

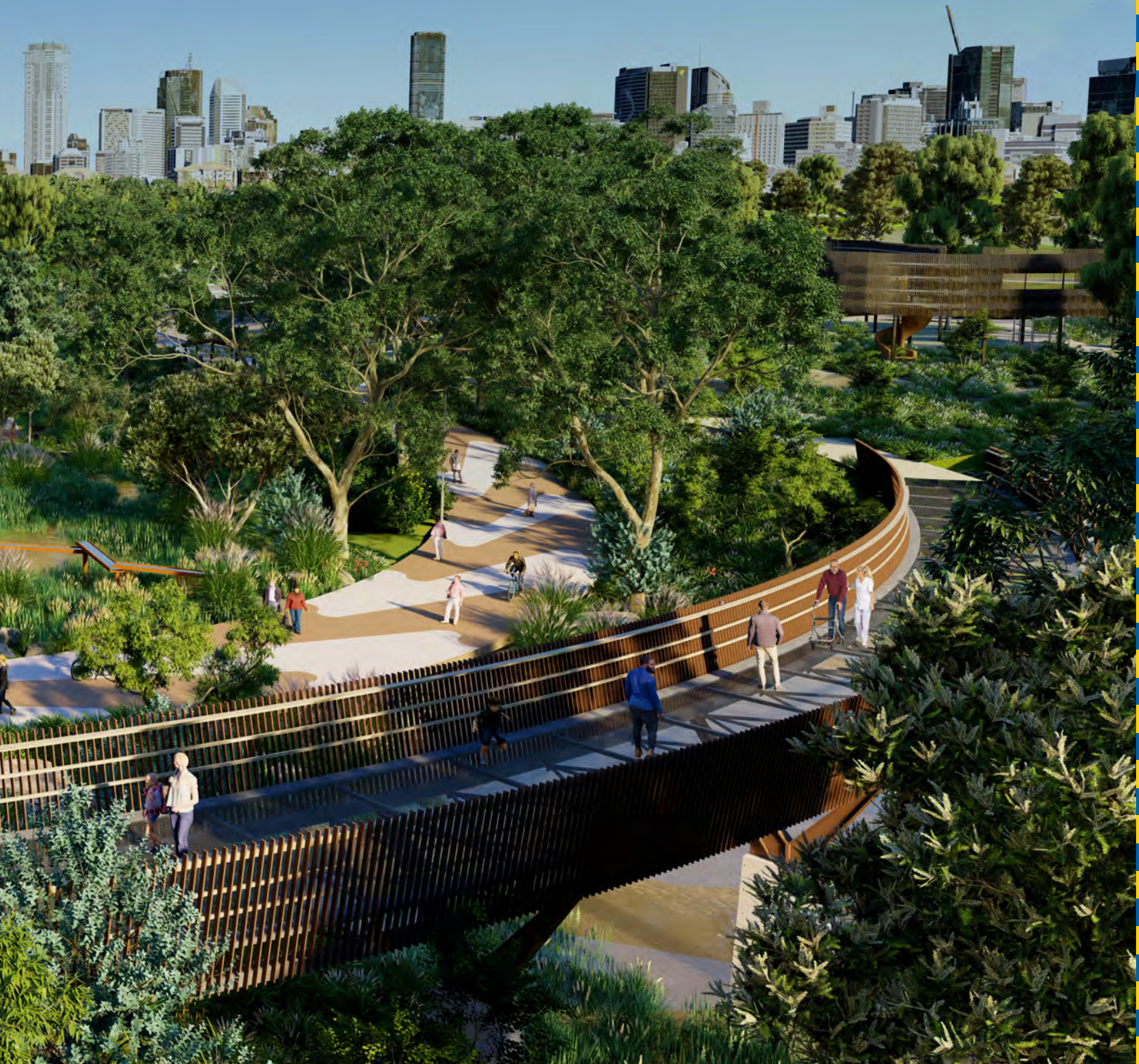


Artist impression:
Aerial view of the park from Spring Hill
78 Victoria Park / Barrambin Master Plan





Dedicated to a better Brisbane





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Every effort is made to ensure that
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