

# UNIVERSITY SQUARE DRAFT MASTER PLAN

2016



CITY OF MELBOURNE

# AN ECO CITY

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



# CONTENTS

Overview	4	Barry Street new park spaces	48
Master plan snapshot	6	Leicester Street road within a park	56
Community and stakeholder engagement	10	The Plaza and Grattan Street	64
<b>Context</b>	<b>19</b>	Water Terrace	<b>72</b>
Master plan framework	20	The Green	80
Site history	22	Pelham Street park front and biodiversity corridor	86
Existing conditions	24	Creating social spaces	98
Future context	26	Building a living laboratory	100
<b>Strategic framework and context</b>	<b>28</b>	Integrated public art vision	<b>102</b>
Shaping a 21st century park	36	Master plan outcomes	104
Master plan principles	37	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>106</b>
Master plan actions summary	40	Acknowledgements	110
Planning for trees	44		

Issue 1 - Draft Master Plan

26 August 2016

### Disclaimer

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

To find out how you can participate in the decision-making process for City of Melbourne’s current and future initiatives, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate)



# OVERVIEW

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

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

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

## Why a master plan?

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

### Demographic

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

### Open space

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

### Environmental

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

## How to use this master plan

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

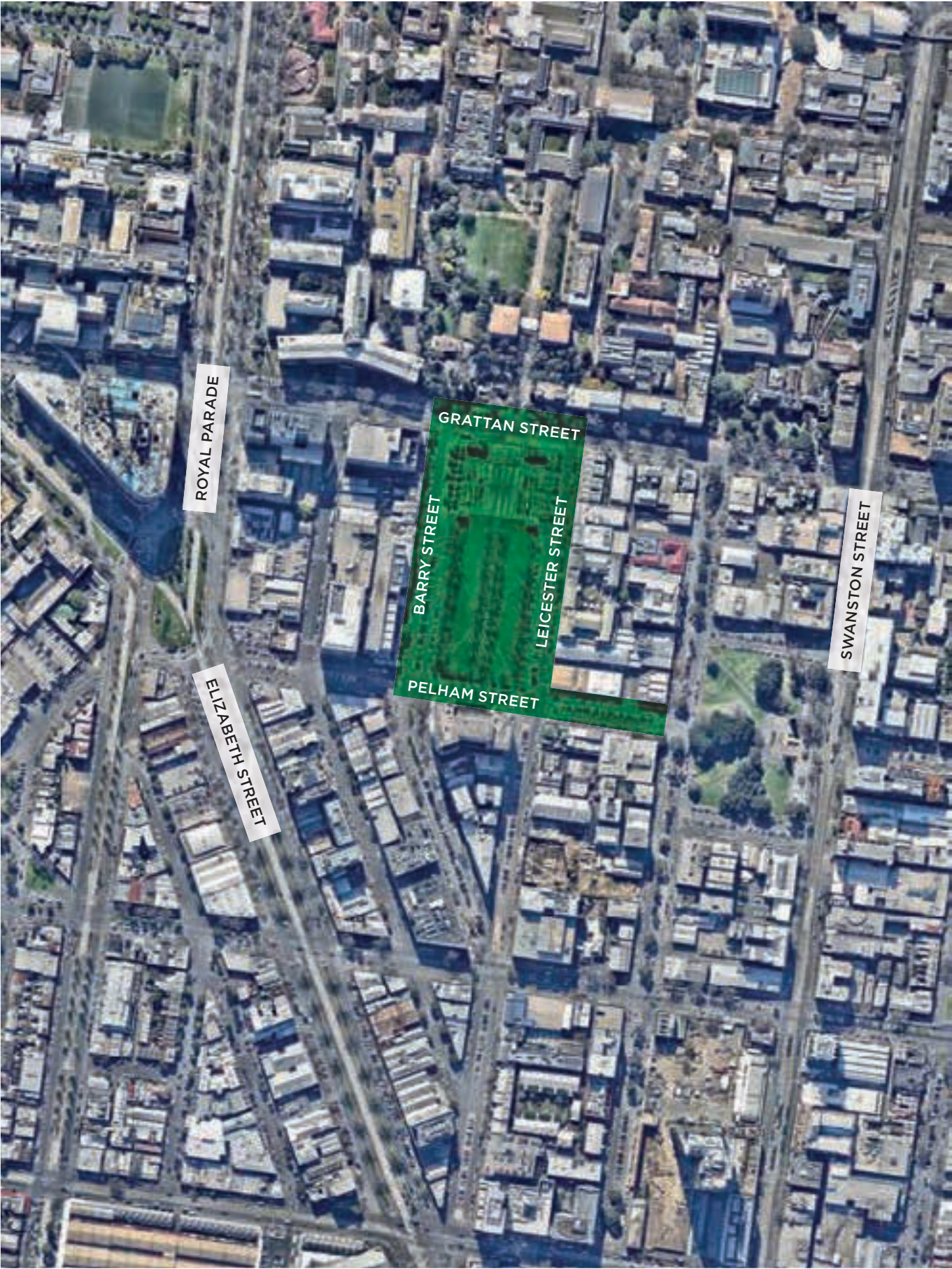
- context
- actions
- implementation.

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

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

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

Map 1: University Square Master Plan area





# MASTER PLAN SNAPSHOT

## MASTER PLAN PRINCIPLES

A connection to the past

Meeting the needs of the future

Balancing priorities in a limited space

## MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

1  
Planning for trees

2  
Barry Street new park spaces

3  
Leicester Street road with a park

4  
The Plaza and Grattan Street

5  
Water Terrace

6  
The Green

7  
Pelham Street parkfront and biodiversity corridor

8  
Creating social spaces

9  
Building a living laboratory

10  
Integrated public art vision

## BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSAL

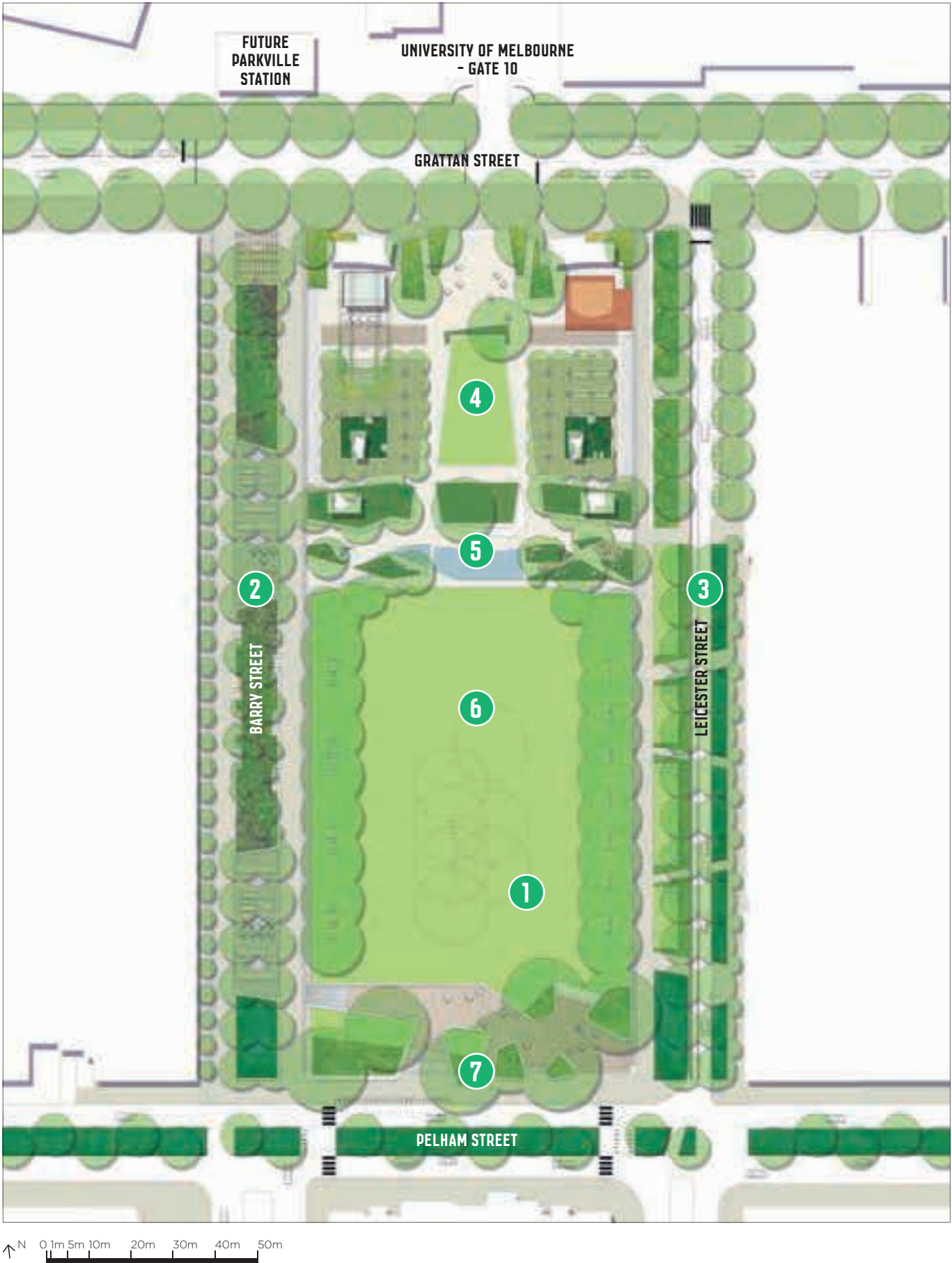
**8739**  
square metres of new public open space by closing roads (48% increase from 2016)

**4300**  
square metres of new garden beds (currently none)

**253**  
new trees (47% increase from 2016)

**2009**  
square metres of new lawn (30% increase from 2016)

Map 2: Draft master plan







1. PLANNING FOR TREES



2. BARRY STREET  
NEW PARK SPACES



3. LEICESTER STREET  
ROAD WITHIN A PARK



4. THE PLAZA AND  
GRATTAN STREET



5. WATER TERRACE



6. THE GREEN



7. DELHAM STREET PARK FRONT  
AND BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR





# COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

**Phase 1 - introduce the project**

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

**Phase 2 – ideas plan**

- here’s what you told us and here are the City of Melbourne’s strategic objectives – did we get it right?

**Phase 3 – Draft concept plan**

**Phase 4 – Display of draft master plan**

**Community engagement objectives**

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

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

**Inform and connect**

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

**Involve all stakeholders**

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

**Provide many ways to engage**

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

**Be inspired and unique**

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

**Stakeholder analysis**

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

**Key project partners and stakeholders**

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

Other key stakeholders include:

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



## Phase one community engagement summary (What’s your vision?) September, 2014

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

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

### What did we ask?

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

### Spreading the word

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

- An information package, including a questionnaire, was sent to over 5000 households in the Carlton area.
- The City of Melbourne website directed visitors to the Participate Melbourne page.

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

### Who responded?

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

### What did we hear?

Four prominent themes emerged from phase one community engagement:

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

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

### Park expansion

We introduced the concept of park expansion by asking:

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

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

## Phase two community engagement (Ideas Plan) January to March, 2015

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

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

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

### What did we ask?

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

### Spreading the word

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

- An information package, including a questionnaire, was sent to over 5000 households in the Carlton area.
- The City of Melbourne website directed visitors to the Participate Melbourne page.

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



University Square Ideas Plan



Who responded?

INDICATOR	NUMBER
<b>Page visits</b> Overall page visits for the duration of the project engagement. (Note: page visits do not include any administrator or project manager visits)	2061
<b>Unique page visits</b> Number of distinct users visits for the duration of the project engagement. (Note: page visits do not include any administrator or project manager visits)	1658
<b>Informed visits</b> Number of unique participants that have visited a specific piece of information (ie viewing a photo, clicking a link, visiting key dates, viewing a forum question).	739
<b>Engaged Visits</b> Number of participants that have made a contribution on the page (ie making a comment on the forum, filling out a survey).	73

What did visitors look at?

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

What did visitors contribute?

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

What did we hear?

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

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

It provided clear direction to take the Ideas Plan to draft concept plan stage and to develop concepts from the Ideas Plan.

Phase three community engagement (draft Concept Plan) August to October, 2015

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

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

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

What did we ask?

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

Spreading the word

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

- An information package was sent to over 5000 households in the Carlton area informing people of the draft Concept Plan and directing people to Participate Melbourne.
- The City of Melbourne website directed visitors to the Participate Melbourne page.
- Public notice boards were erected at University Square with information about the project and the Participate Melbourne website.

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

Who responded?

Over 4800 people visited the Participate Melbourne hub and viewed the draft Concept Plan. The table overleaf illustrates the number of participants and which parts of the Participate Melbourne site were visited.



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

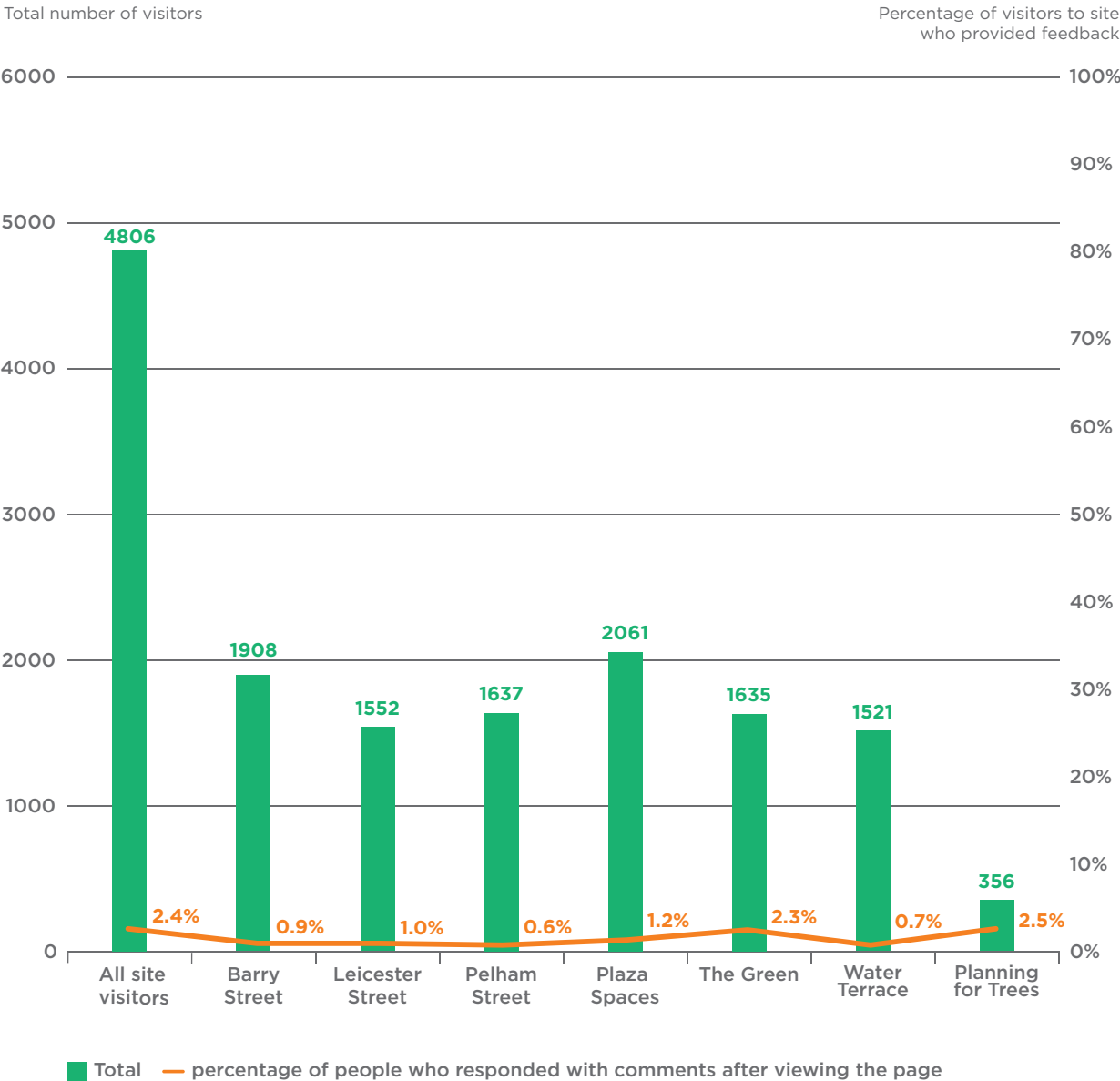
UNIVERSITY SQUARE PRECINCTS

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



Stage 3 community engagement Participate Melbourne University Square homepage





Site visitor numbers and respondent proportions

### What did we hear?

#### Barry Street (62 comments)

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

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

#### Leicester Street (63 comments)

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

#### Pelham Street park front and biodiversity corridor (33 comments)

- This precinct received a relatively small number of comments. Overall, there was support for developing a green link.
- A few participants made specific comment on the details of road design. This included retaining a few car parking spaces in specific places and the heights of road surfaces in specific places.
- A small amount of support was provided for eucalyptus trees, swales, meeting areas and improved access.
- There were a few comments in favour of retaining a central path.

#### Plaza (86 comments)

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



# CONTEXT

## The Green (139 comments)

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

## Water Terrace (34 comments)

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

## Planning for trees (87 comments)

- The removal of trees was the most commonly discussed topic related to trees. Many wanted the existing Elm trees kept, particularly those in the middle of the park. A number of reasons were given for keeping them, including: shade, heritage value, habitat for animals and aesthetics.
- Some participants suggested a staged removal of trees and it was suggested to deliberately leave some to show to people what happens when trees die. A few participants were complimentary of the succession plan that had been put in place.
- Regarding replacement tree types there was a mixed response to planting Eucalyptus trees, with some believing they would be a great option because they grow in the conditions whereas others were more in favour of deciduous European species, particularly Elms that let light in in winter and shade in summer. Other tree varieties were also suggested including fruit trees.

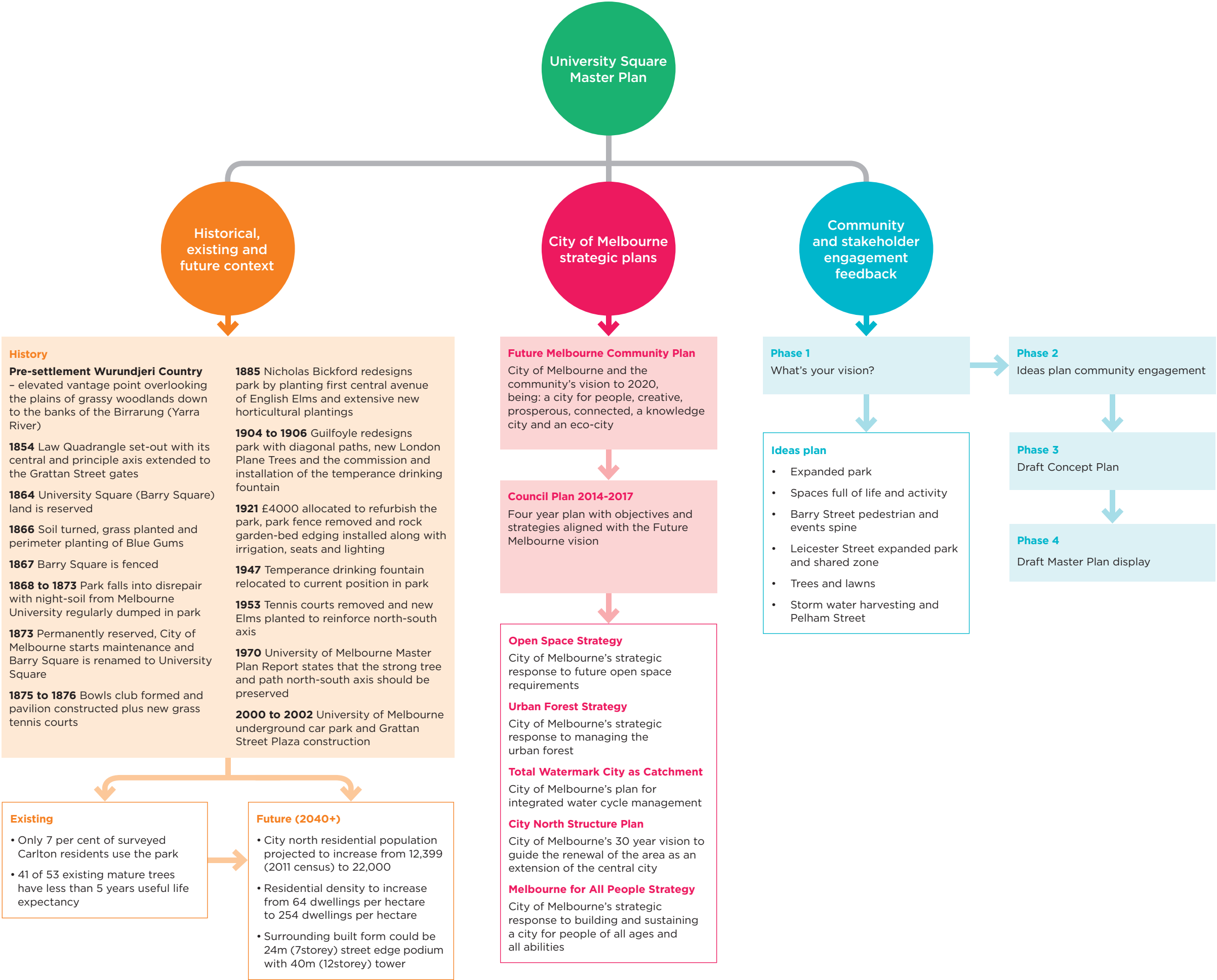
## Overall summary (79 comments)

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



# MASTER PLAN FRAMEWORK

The draft University Square Master Plan considers three main drivers.





# SITE HISTORY

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

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

In the 1850s it was set-out as a park by John Batman as part of the new suburb of Carlton and the University of Melbourne precinct. As part of the Carlton layout, University Square forms part of a chain of squares with two other parks, Lincoln and Argyle Squares, all located along the east-west axis of Pelham Street. The reservation of the Carlton Squares as parks had its basis in London’s garden squares tradition which created open spaces in the centre of new residential neighbourhoods for surrounding residents. While these garden squares remain fenced, semi-private spaces in London, in Melbourne they are now public parks with the fences at University Square removed in 1921.

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

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

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

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



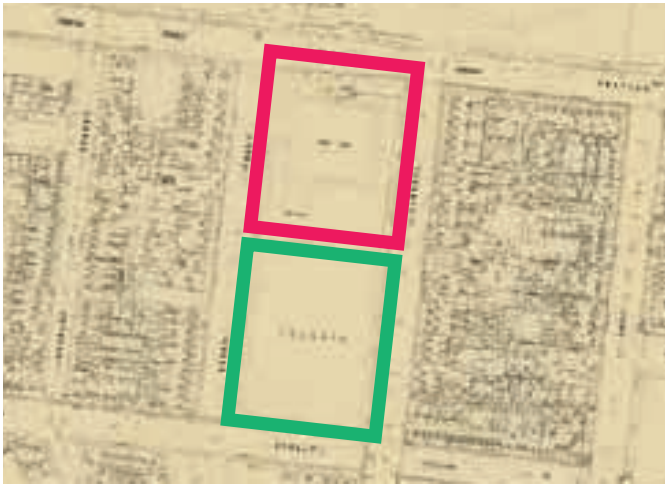
Before settlement, University Square was the site of an elevated vantage point overlooking the grassy plains and woodlands down to the banks of the Birrarung (Yarra River). 1865 “Merri Creek” by Charles Troedel. Source: State Library of Victoria



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



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



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



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



# EXISTING CONDITIONS



University Square aerial photograph 2014

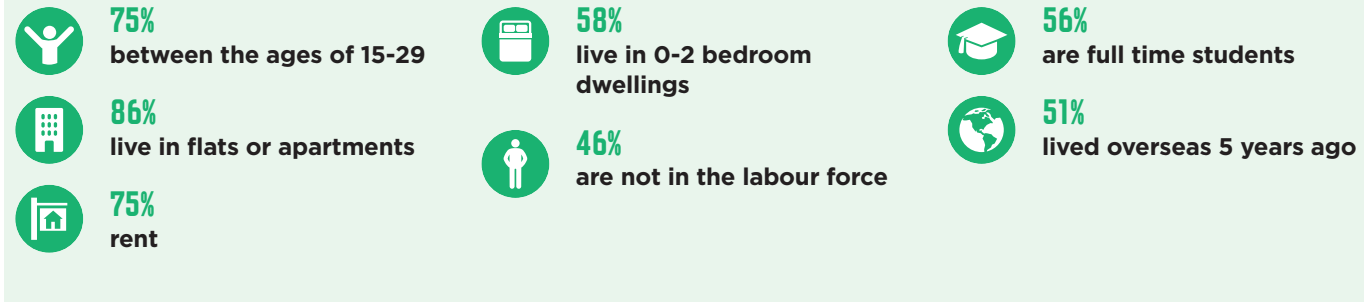
University Square is a failing landscape. It has an ageing tree population, planted in avenues, with no succession planting.

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

It sits at the top of the Elizabeth Street water catchment and plays no role in flood mitigation or storm water capture.

University Square needs to do more.

## Demographic snapshot



## University Square Elm tree useful life expectancy 2014



University Square existing Elm trees useful life expectancy map showing 41 out of 53 trees have less than five years useful life expectancy (assessment undertaken in 2014)



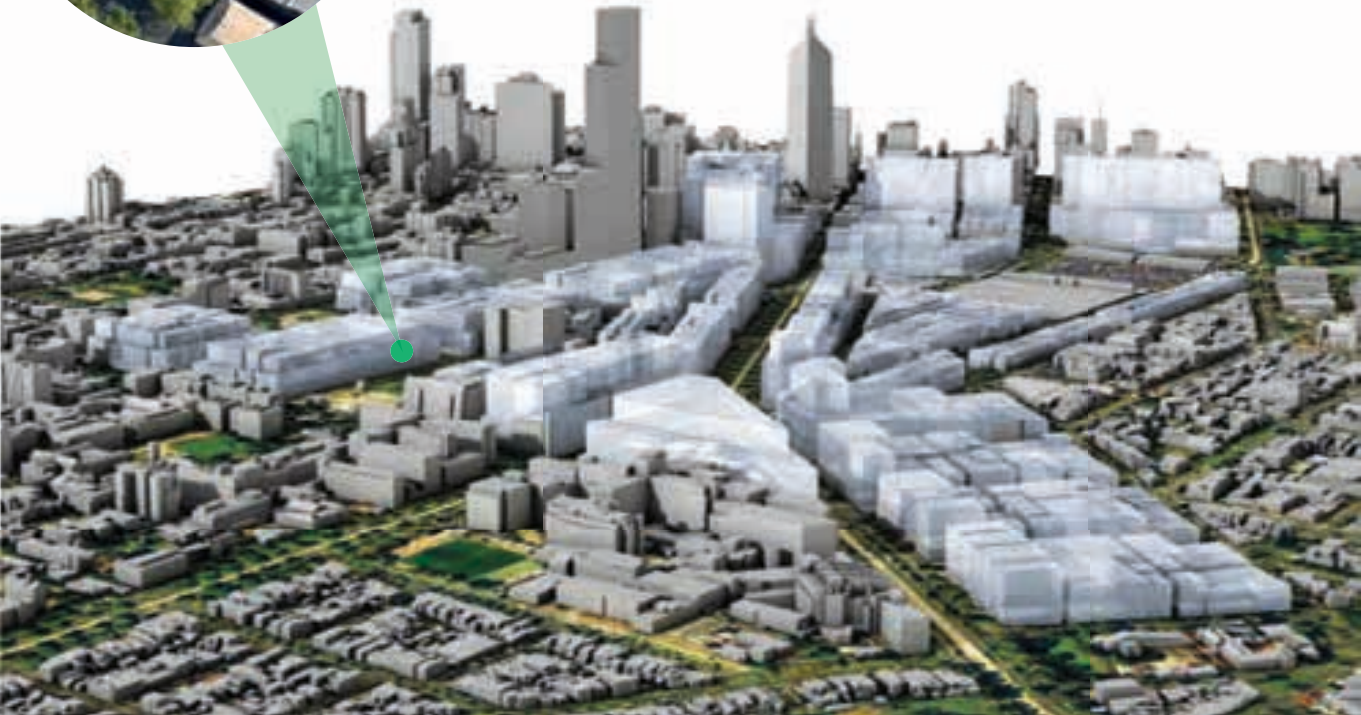
Photographs taken in summer 2014 of the existing Elm trees, where the trees are showing clear signs of decline



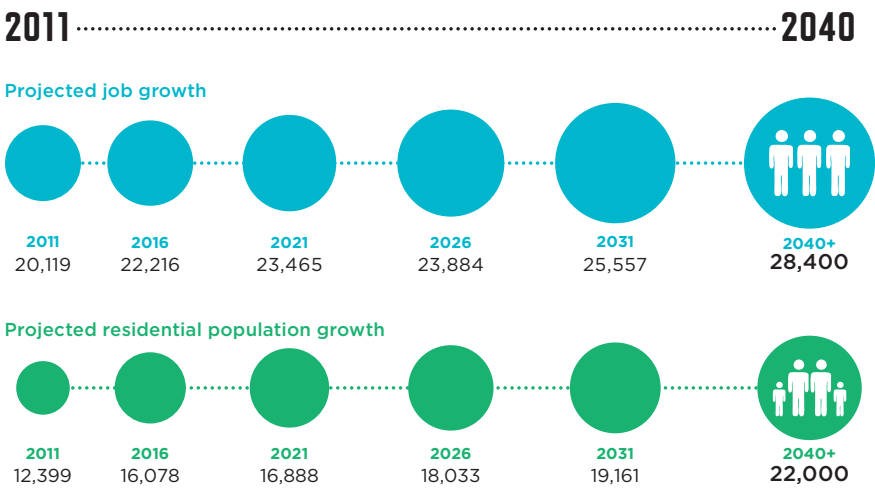
# FUTURE CONTEXT

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

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



Perspective of potential built form in City North Growth Area showing University Square surrounded by up to 12 storey buildings. Source: City of Melbourne City North Structure Plan



Demographic projection data from City North Structure Plan

## Metro Tunnel Project

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



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



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



# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND CONTEXT

Key City of Melbourne strategies underpin and guide the University Square Master Plan.

These include:

- Open Space Strategy
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Total Watermark – City as a Catchment Strategy
- Elizabeth Street Catchment Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan
- City North Structure Plan.

The University Square Master Plan is also connected to and guided by the following complementary City of Melbourne strategies:

- People for All Melbourne Strategy
- Safer City Strategy
- Knowledge City Strategy
- International Student Strategy
- Melbourne Transport Strategy
- Walking Plan
- The Bicycle Plan
- Public Art Framework (2014-2017)
- Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2014 and Aboriginal Heritage Action Plan 2016-2018.

## Open Space Strategy





The City of Melbourne manages more than 500 hectares of open space. This represents almost 15 per cent of the total area of the City of Melbourne.

Our first Open Space Strategy provides the overarching framework and strategic direction for open space planning in the City of Melbourne for the next 15 years. A key objective of the strategy is to plan Melbourne's open space network to be within easy walking distance to the community, particularly in areas of forecasted population growth.

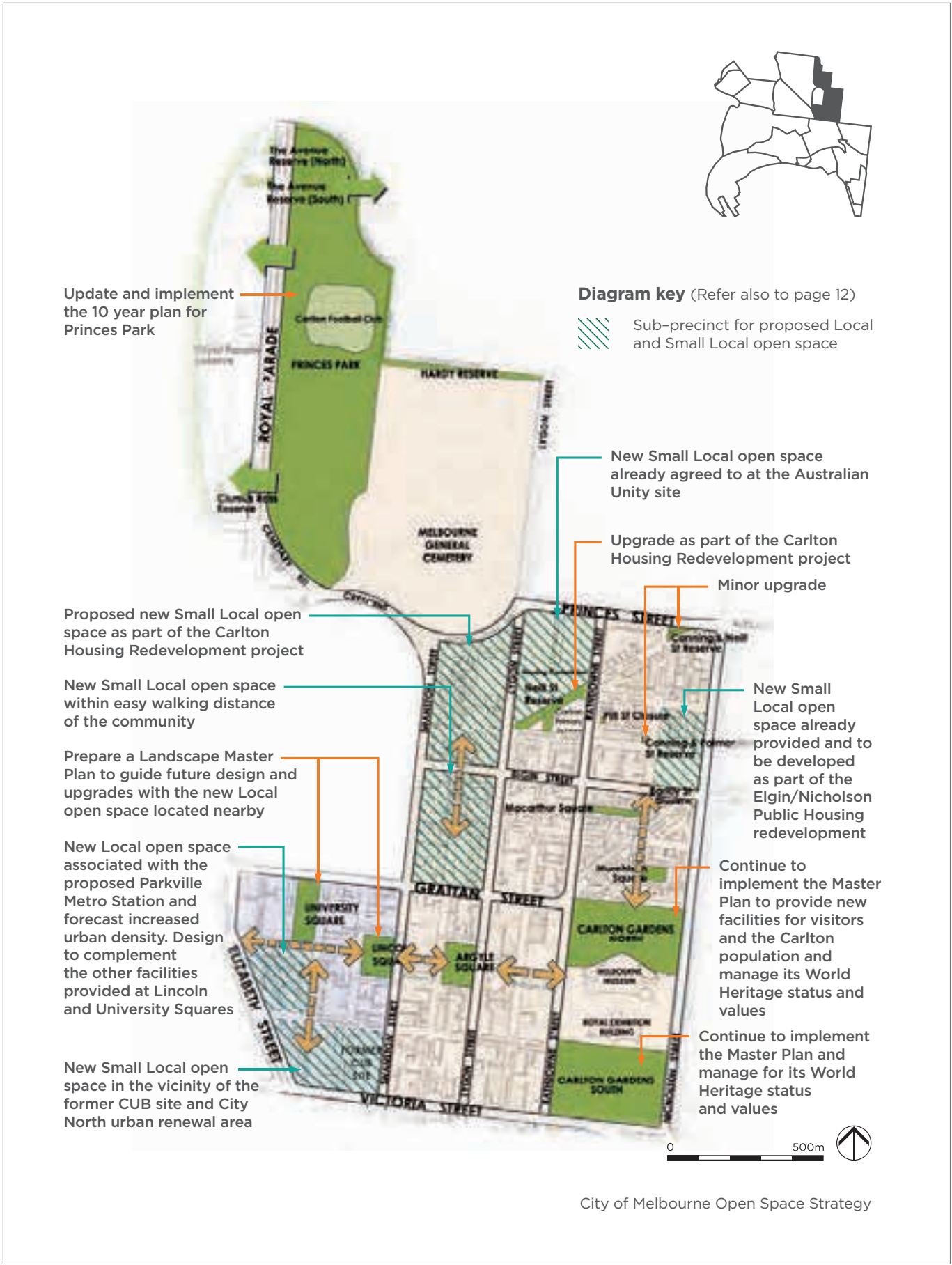
The Open Space Strategy provides direction on:

- the unprecedented demand for open space as Melbourne's population continues to grow
- climate change – a decade of drought, water restrictions and extreme weather and the predicted impacts of climate change provide additional challenges in the management of parks and reserves and the role they can play in climate change adaptation
- ensuring open spaces can provide for and adapt to differing needs and uses, providing people with the opportunity to connect with nature.

### University Square deliverables

-  **8739** square metres of new public open space by closing roads (48% increase from 2016)
-  **4300** square metres of new garden beds (currently none)
-  **2009** square metres of new lawn (30% increase from 2016)
-  **253** new trees (47% increase from 2016)

Map 3: Open Space Strategy - Carlton snapshot





# Urban Forest Strategy

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

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

The strategy aims to:

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

We will achieve this by:

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

## University Square deliverables



**253**  
new trees



**SPECIES DIVERSITY**  
Replacement of existing monoculture with 20 different species of trees



**8739**  
Square metres of new public open space



**4300**  
Square metres of new garden beds



**DELHAM STREET**  
Establishment of the biodiversity corridor

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





# Elizabeth Street Catchment Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan

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

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

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

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

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

## Objectives

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

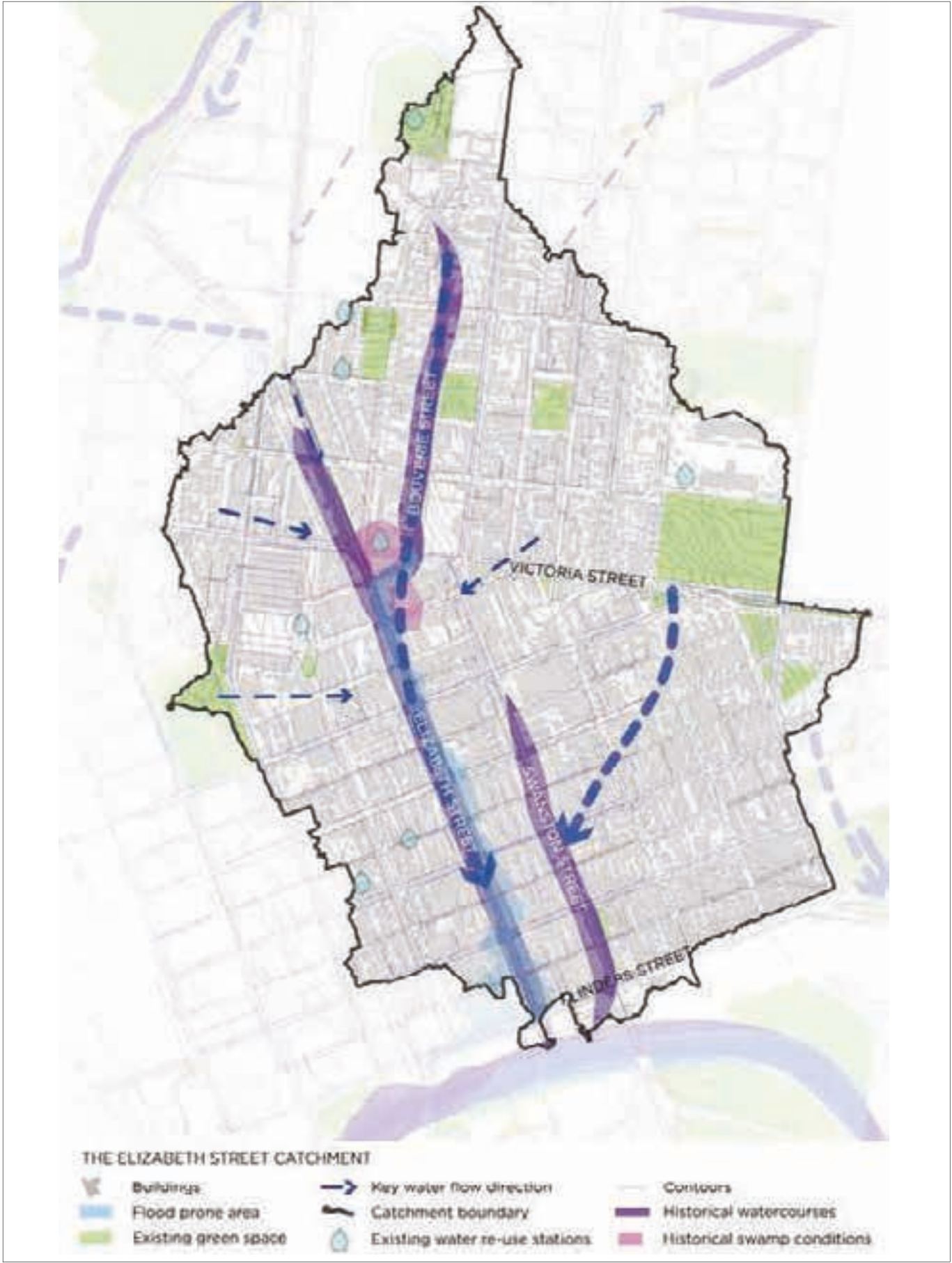
## University Square deliverables

**FLOODING**  
2 million litres of storm water removed from the Elizabeth Street catchment

**ALTERNATIVE WATER USE**  
30% reduction in potable water demand

**WATER QUALITY**  
Improving storm water quality by increasing the number of water sensitive urban design treatments

**OPEN SPACE**  
8739 square metres of new open space





City North Structure Plan

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

Summary

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

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

Strategies and actions

Strategies and actions in the City North structure plan include:

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

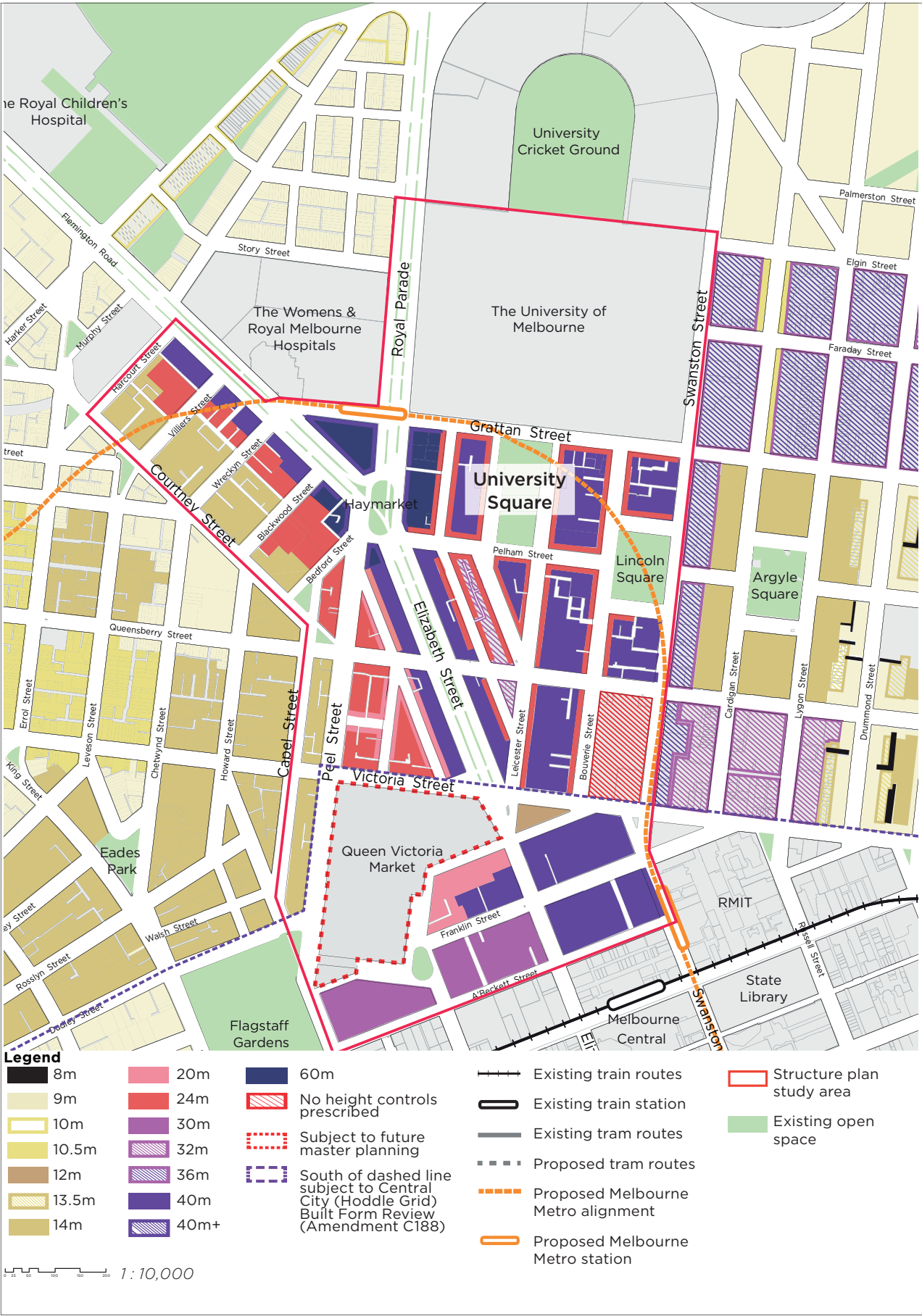
University Square deliverables

**INCREASED PARK ACTIVITIES**

**PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE CONNECTIVITY**  
**Better pedestrian connectivity**  
**Bicycle lane and increased bicycle parking**

**SAFER STREETSCAPES**  
**Improved lighting**  
**Improved streetscape at Grattan Street**

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





# SHAPING A 21ST CENTURY PARK

## MASTER PLAN PRINCIPLES

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

### 1. A connection to the past – heritage

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

#### Knowing our heritage

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

#### Protecting our heritage

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

#### Managing our heritage

This involves developing guidelines to assist decision-making and management.

#### Communicating and celebrating

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

#### Aboriginal Heritage Action Plan

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



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

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

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

Urban renewal

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

Resource efficient and climate change adapted

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

Water

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

Ecology

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

Transport

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

3. Balancing priorities in a limited space

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

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

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

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



Location of the three Carlton Squares along Pelham Street