

MASTER PLAN ACTIONS SUMMARY



1

Planning for trees

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



2

Barry Street new park spaces

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



3

Leicester Street road within a park

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



4

Plaza and Grattan Street

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



5

Water Terrace

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



6

The Green

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



7

Pelham Street parkfront and biodiversity corridor

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



8

Creating social spaces

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



9

Building a living laboratory

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



10

Integrated public art vision

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



1 PLANNING FOR TREES

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

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

Useful life expectancy

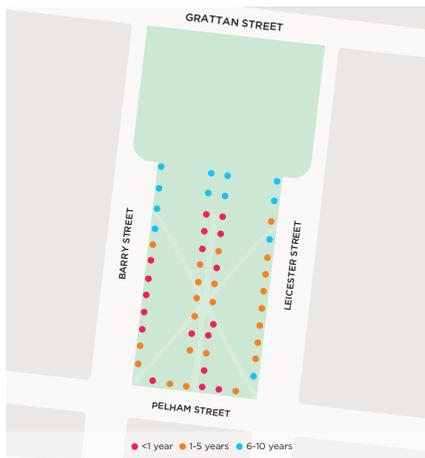
Useful life expectancy (ULE) is an estimate of how long a tree is likely to remain in the landscape based on health, amenity, environmental services contribution and risk to the community. It is not a measure of the biological life of the tree and it is not used as a timetable for scheduling tree removals.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

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

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

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

'By proposing a strategic and staged approach to tree removals, we create planting conditions that allow future generations to enjoy a similar uniform and knitted tree canopy.'



Useful Life Expectancy Audit University Square 2014

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

Succession tree planting

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

Interplanting versus block planting

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

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

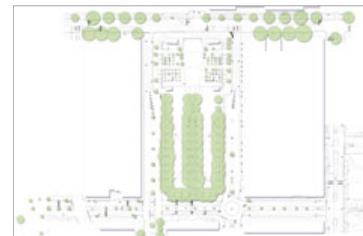
While interplanting can be used in some landscape scenarios, the results of such an approach at University Square will not work in traditional avenue plantings where uniformity of size and shape is expected.

New tree planting

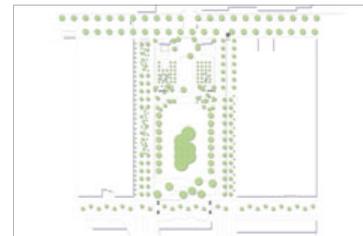
At University Square, our approach will be to remove the elm trees that are in advanced decline while retaining some of the healthy trees for longer. At the same time, we will plant over 250 new trees so that while a portion of the existing elms are removed, new trees are growing to 'off-set' these losses.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

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

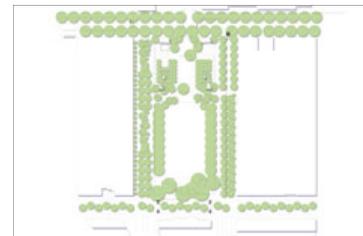
By proposing a strategic and staged approach to tree removals, rather than replacing one tree at a time, we create planting conditions that allow future generations to enjoy a similar uniform and knitted tree canopy, such as the one that was originally planted at University Square.



Existing tree canopy 2016



Interim tree canopy



Established urban forest at University Square



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



2

BARRY STREET NEW PARK SPACES

Barry Street: existing conditions

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



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



Plan of existing conditions of Barry Street

Existing conditions



Barry Street looking north towards Grattan Street



Barry Street park boundary



Barry Street centre



Heritage bluestone paving



Heritage flagstone paving

Barry Street: design response

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

Proposed park boundary



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



Plan of proposed Barry Street

Illustrative examples





Barry Street looking north towards Grattan Street

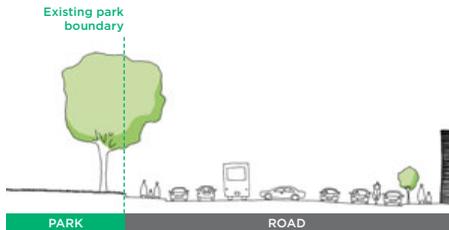


3

LEICESTER STREET ROAD WITHIN A PARK

Leicester Street: existing conditions

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



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



Plan of existing conditions of Leicester Street

Existing conditions



Leicester Street looking south towards Pelham Street



Leicester Street park boundary



Leicester Street park boundary



View south from Leicester Street



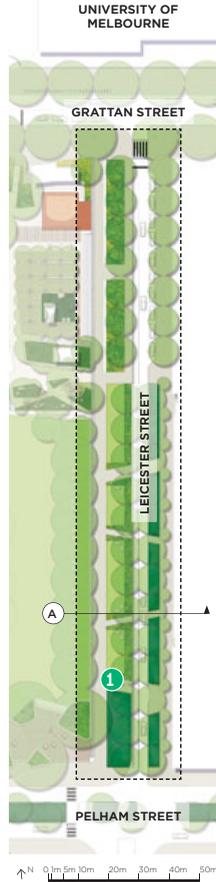
Corner of Leicester and Pelham streets

Leicester Street: design response

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



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



Plan of proposed Leicester Street

Illustrative examples



Bicycle friendly



Intimate garden spaces
Credit: AAUPC Agence Patrick Chavannes



Walking connections



Leicester Street looking south towards Pelham Street

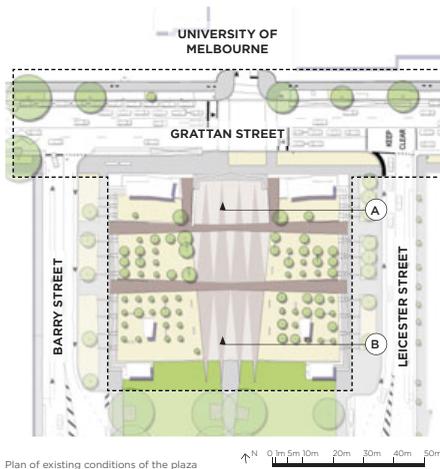


4

PLAZA AND GRATTAN STREET

Plaza and Grattan Street: existing conditions

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



Plan of existing conditions of the plaza

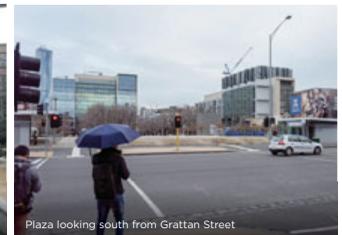


Section A: Existing conditions of the plaza looking south towards the lift building and vents for the underground car park



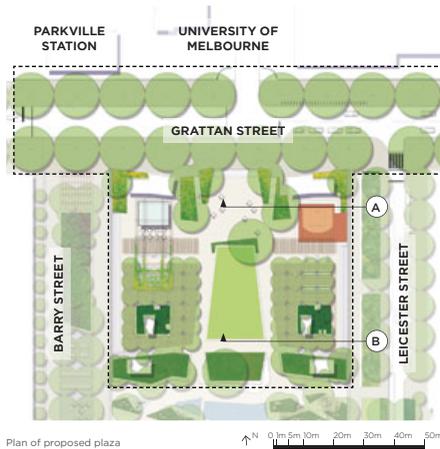
Section B: Existing conditions of the plaza looking north toward the access stairs for the underground car park

Existing conditions



Plaza and Grattan Street: design response

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



Illustrative examples





Social seating area and new horticulture



New shelters and movable outdoor furniture



Basketball half-court



Grattan Street entrance



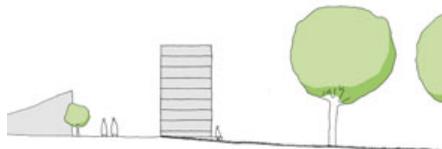
5 WATER TERRACE

Water Terrace: existing conditions

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



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



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

Existing conditions



Plaza looking south towards Pelham Street



Ventilation stack for underground car park



Ventilation stack for underground car park



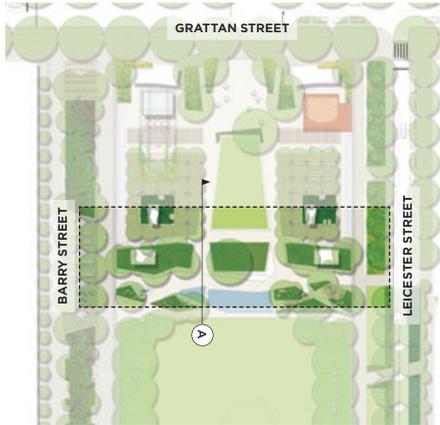
Dappled shade over path



Lack of shade in plaza

Water Terrace: design response

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



Plan of proposed transition between the plaza and the park



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

Illustrative examples



Opportunities for water play



Integrated public art



Nature play



Water feature. Credit: rushwright.com



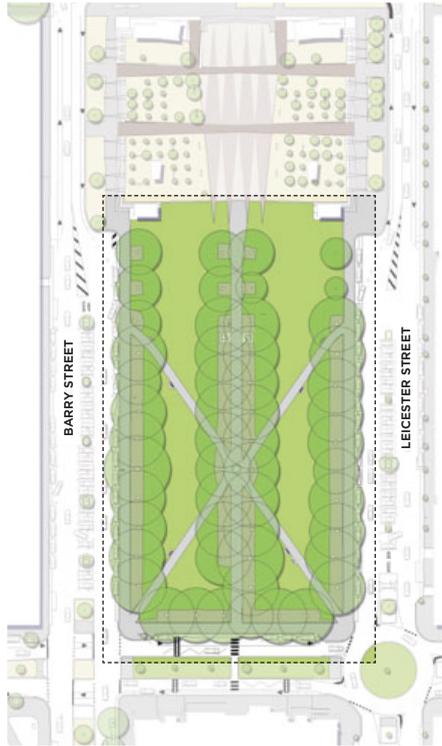
Water Terrace looking south west



6 THE GREEN

The Green: existing conditions

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



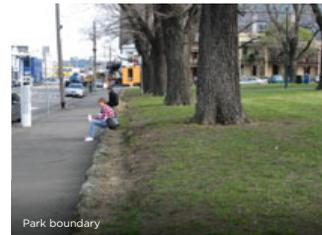
Plan of existing conditions of The Green with ageing elm avenues and union jack path layout.



Existing conditions



Central lawn looking south towards Pelham Street



Park boundary



Central path



Seating and picnic tables



Temperance fountain

The Green: design response

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



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



Illustrative examples





7 PELHAM STREET PARK FRONT
AND BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR

Pelham Street: existing conditions

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



Plan of existing conditions of the transition between the park and Pelham Street



Section A: Existing conditions section showing the site gradient falling from north to south

Existing conditions



Pelham Street looking east towards Leicester Street



Pelham Street roundabout



Law building



Central parking bays



Pelham Street park boundary

Pelham Street park front: design response

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



Illustrative examples

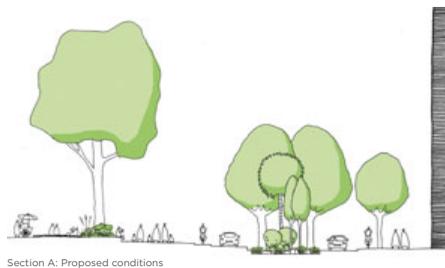
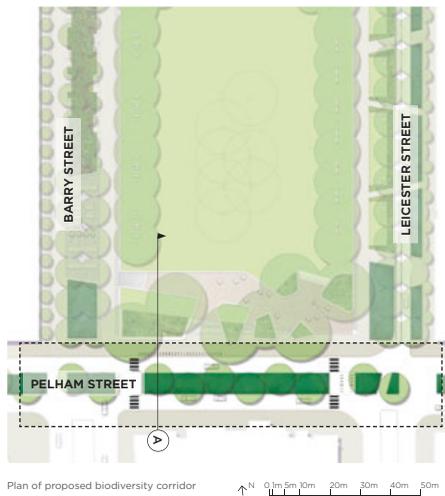




Pelham Street park front from the corner of Leicester Street with relocated temperance fountain

Pelham Street biodiversity corridor: design response

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



Illustrative examples





Looking east along the Pelham Street biodiversity corridor towards Lincoln Square

8 CREATING SOCIAL SPACES

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

Park furniture response

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

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

Lighting response

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

The lighting design will achieve the following objectives:

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

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

Planting response

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

Illustrative examples



9 BUILDING A LIVING LABORATORY

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

Baseline data collection

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

Alternative energy sources response

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

Biodiversity

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

Fostering research opportunities

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

Illustrative examples



Citizen scientists



Flood mitigation and stormwater quality



Climate monitoring



Trial new species



Design for ecology. Credit: Studio Erick Saillet

10 INTEGRATED PUBLIC ART VISION

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

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

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

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

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

Public Art Curatorial Adviser

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

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



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



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



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

Creative vision statement

Robert Owen A vision: Time Passage

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

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

A symbolic and poetic framework

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

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

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

Each of these zones correspond to particular, though sometimes overlapping locations on the University Square site, and relate to a philosophical proposition, or symbolic and imaginative theme. Each zone is coded with a mix of metaphorical allusions and meanings: a muse, a number, a colour, a text and so on.

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

Scope

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

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

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

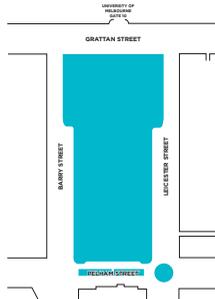
MASTER PLAN OUTCOMES

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

PARK EXPANSION

Before

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



After

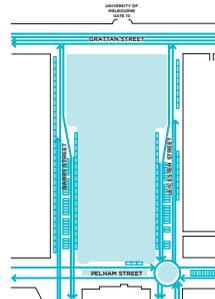
- 8739m² of new open space.
- Park extends from building to building on Barry and Leicester streets.
- Pelham Street becomes a green biodiversity corridor.



CAR PARKING AND TRAFFIC

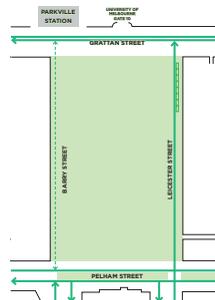
Before

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



After

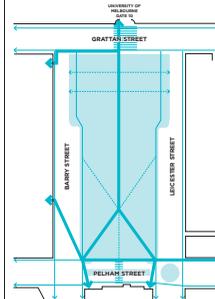
- Grattan Street downgraded to two lanes of traffic as a legacy of Parkville Station.
- Barry Street is closed to all traffic except emergency vehicles.
- Leicester Street is one way, northbound traffic only.
- Pelham Street roundabout is removed.



PRIORITISING PEDESTRIANS

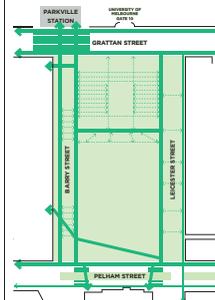
Before

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



After

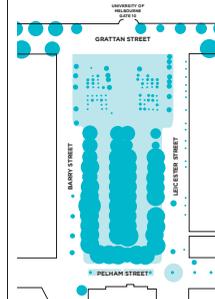
- Grattan Street pedestrian crossing shifts directly north of Barry Street as a legacy of Parkville Station.
- Pedestrians paths are focused on Barry and Leicester streets with a finer network of movement encouraged throughout the park.



URBAN FOREST

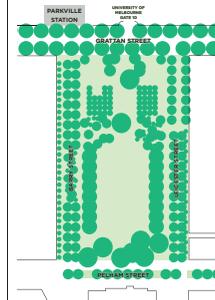
Before

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



After

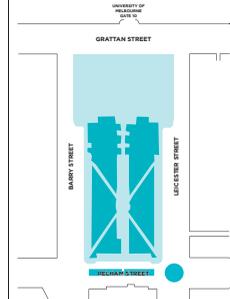
- 253 new trees.
- Diverse mix of exotic, native, evergreen and deciduous species.



URBAN HEAT ISLAND AND BIODIVERSITY

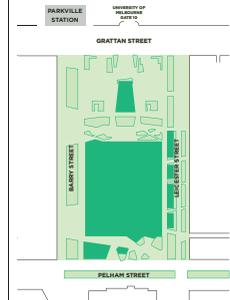
Before

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



After

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



IMPLEMENTATION



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

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

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

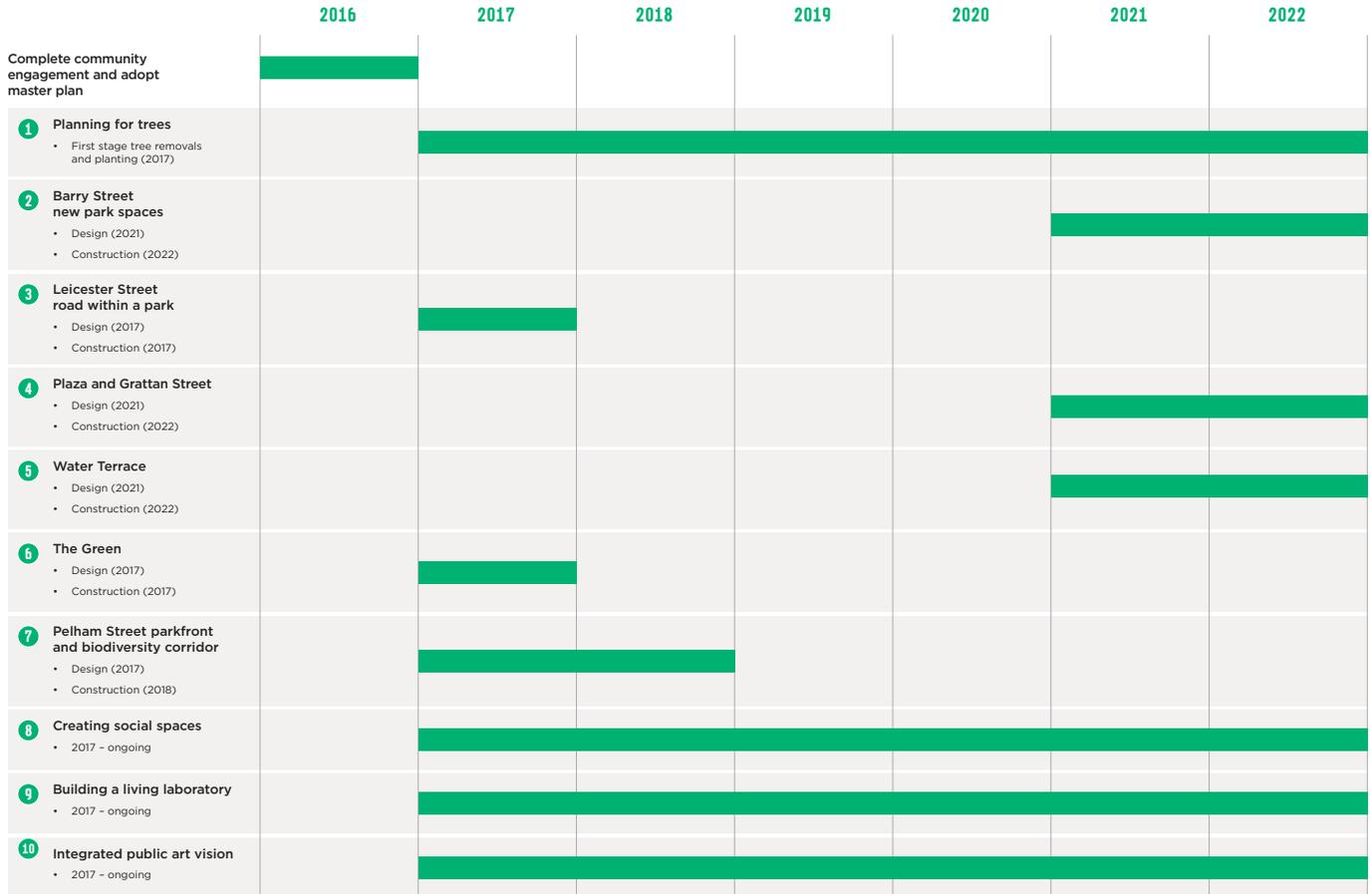
As a result, some master plan actions may be implemented before and during construction of Parkville Station. It is also possible that the implementation of all of the University Square Master Plan will be delayed until after the construction of the new Parkville Station.

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

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

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

Proposed implementation timeline



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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



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

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