

DOMAIN PARKLANDS MASTER PLAN

2019-2039



CITY OF MELBOURNE



A CITY THAT CARES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental sustainability is the basis of all Future Melbourne goals. It requires current generations to choose how they meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to be able to do the same.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) people of the Kulin Nation and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

For the Kulin Nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place for events of social, educational, sporting and cultural significance.

Today we are proud to say that Melbourne is a significant gathering place for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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June 2019

Cover Image: Domain Parklands aerial. Photo Credit: Andrew Curtis

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FOREWORD FROM THE LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE AND COUNCILLOR



Domain Parklands Master Plan 2019-39

The Domain Parklands is a treasured part of Melbourne. Rich in history, the parklands are highly valued by the city and its people. We have developed this master plan to guide our future management of the parklands, balancing increased use with the need for passive recreation spaces.

It's well-established that open space is vital to a city's liveability and to the wellbeing of all who enjoy our parks and gardens. However climate change, extreme heat and water restrictions present significant challenges, demanding well-informed approaches to how we manage our landscapes.

Recognising these challenges, the City of Melbourne takes a lead in strategic planning to manage our green spaces well into the future. Our Urban Forest Strategy and Nature in the City Strategy are embedded in this master plan. When implementing these strategies, we will prepare for future climate challenges and support biodiversity in the city.

We also have many opportunities to partner with other land managers such as the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria to expand our arboretum, cool the city and improve the resilience of environments that nourish our mental and physical well-being.

Significantly, the Domain Parklands Master Plan identifies what additional services we should provide for our visitors. Improving access in and around the parklands is a high priority. Working with the Traditional Owners to better acknowledge the significant Aboriginal cultural heritage of the parklands is also of upmost importance to us.

Many people across our community have contributed to the development of this master plan, and they deserve our warm thanks. We are confident this master plan will help us retain the qualities of the much-loved parklands, while also managing the needs of a growing city. Caring for the parklands in this way ensures they will flourish for current and future generations.

**Lord Mayor
City of Melbourne**
Sally Capp

Cr Cathy Oke
Portfolio Chair, Environment

1. OVERVIEW

One of Melbourne's most beautiful open spaces, the Domain Parklands are rich in history, unique and special for their location and presence. This master plan will help us manage the parklands for the next 20 years and ensure these defining spaces remain contemporary.

They are part of the 'emerald necklace' of parklands which were set aside with such vision by Governor La Trobe.

Together with the sports and events precinct area immediately north of the Birrarung (Yarra River), the Domain Parklands form part of Melbourne's green heart, a meeting place for more than 40,000 years and the cornerstone of Melbourne's reputation for liveability.

The name Domain Parklands describes the collective parks and gardens known individually as Alexandra Gardens, Alexandra Park, Queen Victoria Gardens, Kings Domain, Kings Domain South, Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Melbourne Gardens (Royal Botanic Gardens), Melbourne Observatory, Shrine of Remembrance Reserve and Government House Reserve.

The Domain Parklands Master Plan encompasses areas managed by five different Land Managers. It seeks to recognise the individual and unique destinations while also strengthening the parklands as one Domain.

Note: Where there is mention of the term Melbourne Gardens, it is in reference to the area commonly known as the Royal Botanic Gardens, managed by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Note: In this master plan the Yarra River is called by its traditional name Birrarung meaning 'river of mists' in the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung languages.

The Domain Parklands encompasses a collection of individual and unique destinations managed by five different Land Managers. While recognising the outstanding cultural heritage of each destination, the Domain Parklands Master Plan seeks to strengthen the precinct as one Domain.

Each of the Land Managers has responsibility for the areas they manage. The Shrine of Remembrance and Melbourne Gardens have landscape master plans for the areas they manage. While this Domain Parklands Master Plan focuses on the areas managed by the City of Melbourne, it also guides management for the areas of common interest for all the Land Managers.



1.1 Why do we need a master plan?

The Domain Parklands Master Plan guides the future management of the Domain Parklands – a treasured and important part of Melbourne.

Before European settlement the area was of great importance to Aboriginal people. Since Victoria's first Lieutenant- Governor Charles La Trobe set aside land for the Domain Parklands in the 1840s they have played a major role in the life and development of Melbourne.

Today the Domain Parklands remain one of Melbourne's favourite destinations with strong visual connections to the CBD and surrounding city, containing some of its most iconic spaces and places.

The first Domain Parklands Master Plan was endorsed by the Melbourne City Council in April 1997. This was the first document to combine the various 'Parks and Gardens' and river corridor into a cohesive plan and describe the area as the Domain Parklands.

Much has occurred since 1997, including drought, water initiatives, a dramatic growth in visitation, the Observatory Gate development, Victorian heritage registration, greater provision of events and increasing residential density in the area. Many trees in the Domain Parklands are in decline and there is a need to plan for their replacement. The broader context for parks management has evolved with climate change, extreme heat, and water restrictions demanding different approaches.

This master plan incorporates contemporary Council policies such as the Urban Forest Strategy 2012, Open Space Strategy 2012, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2017 and the Nature in the City Strategy 2017.

It embeds city strategies and policy directions to prepare the parklands for the major challenges presented by population growth and climate change. It responds to the significant changes in the surrounding areas including the Arts precinct, Southbank, the central city, Birrarung Marr and the Sports precinct across the Birrarung (Yarra River).



Broad range of users: residents, workers and visitors



The face of Melbourne
key view lines
into and out of the city



Over 120 ha
of public realm



Diverse ecology
creating lungs
for the city



Historic living
vegetation



1.8 km
of river frontage



1.5 km
of boulevard
frontage



History and culture
that has changed
significantly over time



A collection of
significant Melbourne
destinations



A place
for passive and active
recreation, formal events
and informal gatherings
ranging from a few people
to over 50,000!

1.2 Vision

Valuing the treasured parklands at the heart of Melbourne and celebrating their past, present and future.

The master plan outlines a vision for the Domain Parklands that will:

- Respect and reveal the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the area, and reflect the broader cultural values of historical and contemporary significance to Melbourne.
- Provide a centre of excellence in urban horticulture where contemporary and diverse landscapes are resilient, resource efficient, well managed and maintained. These landscapes will acknowledge heritage values, support ecological and biodiversity aspirations and be landscapes that are enjoyed by the community.
- Strengthen 'One Domain' where accessible journeys support all visitors to explore and use the parklands.
- Provide amenities that support the needs of all visitors and encourage positive experiences of the parklands.
- Reflect the experience people are seeking in the Domain Parklands in the planning, management and balancing of priorities.
- Enhance and elevate the important relationship between the parklands and the Birrarung.
- Foster partnerships between the Land Managers to improve the parklands and enhance visitor experiences.



1.3 Domain Parklands Master Plan snapshot

1.3.1 Key values

The Master Plan sets five key values to guide future management of the Domain Parklands over the next 20 years.

- A healthy and resilient parkland
- A parkland of history and cultural heritage
- A parkland for people
- A parkland that connects
- A parkland of partnerships

Fundamental to all the values is the principle that there be no net loss of parkland and that future change should bring positive benefits to the Domain Parklands.

These values will form the base for decision making over the life of the 20 year master plan, as it is not possible to anticipate all influences and changes that will arise.

1.3.2 Themes

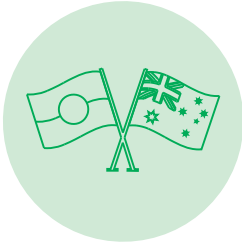
Proposals in the master plan have been described within five themes, each with a number of action areas:



1. Nurture a diverse landscape and parkland ecology

Key action areas

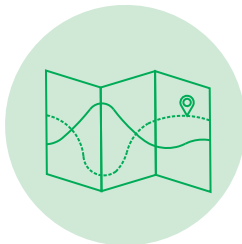
- Elevate horticultural complexity and management
- Support a healthy ecosystem
- Manage a city arboretum
- Manage soil and water



2. Acknowledge history and cultural heritage

Key action areas

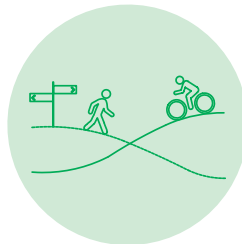
- Respect and celebrate Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Reflect cultural values and historical significance
- Manage memorials in the Domain Parklands (areas managed by City of Melbourne).



3. Support exceptional visitor experience

Key action areas

- Provide facilities (amenities) to meet future needs
- Enhance visitor experience
- Manage organised activity spaces
- Manage events



4. Improve pedestrian movement and access

Key action areas

- Improve parklands entrances
- Improve internal pathway networks
- Reduce barriers and improve access over roads
- Support access by public transport
- Network approaches to improve cycling routes
- Contemporary wayfinding in the Domain Parklands
- Create journeys in the Domain Parklands
- Rethink the use of existing road space
- Car parking – support visitor access while adapting to future trends



5. Management and partnerships to build resilience

Key action areas

- Make one parkland of many unique destinations
- Create a framework for priorities and decision-making
- Commitment to future management and collaboration
- Manage uses in the areas managed by the City of Melbourne
- Reduce the impact of services

1.4 Preparation of the master plan

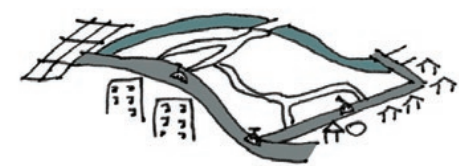
The master plan has been created to reflect the multiple layers which make up the place and how it is used. Wide community and stakeholder consultation was conducted, along with detailed research, analysis and planning.

The consultation explored the opinions and ideas of community members and stakeholders for the future of the Domain Parklands. The technical analysis examined uses and activities, heritage, landscape character, traffic and parking, horticulture and other social and environmental values of the parklands. The relationships between the individual parts of the Domain Parklands were explored along with opportunities to improve interfaces and visitor services.

Specific research prepared to inform the master plan included the Domain Parklands Parking and Traffic Study 2016, Domain Parklands Conservation Management Plan 2016 and Domain Parklands: a shared values study 2017.

Other strategic documents which informed the master plan include:

- Urban Forest Strategy 2012
- Open Space Strategy 2012
- Parks Policy, 1997
- Shrine Reserve Landscape Management Plan 2015
- Melbourne Gardens Master Plan draft 2019
- Active Melbourne Plan 2018
- Reconciliation Action Plan 2015 – 2018
- Aboriginal Heritage Action Plan 2015 – 2018
- Total Watermark – City as a Catchment 2014
- Climate Change adaptation strategy 2017
- Nature in the City Strategy 2017
- Transport Strategy draft 2019
- City Road Master Plan 2016
- Bicycle Plan 2016 -2020



urban context



parkland ecology



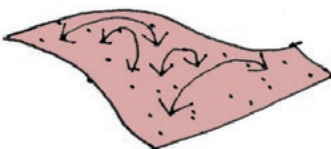
visitors



cultural heritage



access and movement



land management



landscape characters



uses and activities



trees and vegetation

1.5 Community and stakeholder engagement

This master plan was prepared following wide stakeholder and community engagement, which further informed the detailed research and analysis.

A two-phase community engagement program obtained community input and ideas for the Domain Parklands:

- PHASE 1

Share your memories of Domain Parklands
The first phase was conducted in September to November, 2015. It gathered information about what people value about the Domain Parklands by inviting them to share memories, prompting conversations about the themes and aspirations for the future of the parklands. Specific programs were held to engage with children.
- PHASE 2

Discussion Paper
The second phase in July – August 2016 involved the release of a discussion paper seeking public comment on key themes to set the direction for the future of the Domain Parklands.
- PHASE 3

Draft Domain Parklands Master Plan
A third phase of engagement in August – October 2018 sought feedback on the draft master plan.

Key project partners and stakeholders

Preparation of the master plan was guided by a management steering group representing each of the Land Managers, community members, Traditional Owners and the Victorian Government.

Other organisations consulted included Parks Victoria, Heritage Victoria, VicRoads and the National Trust. More detailed consultation was undertaken with some groups including the rowing clubs for specific analysis on the Alexandra Gardens and the rowing precinct.

Discussions were held with three Traditional Owner groups which informed values, recommendations and themes. It is acknowledged that these discussions will be ongoing, to explore further ways to work together and ways to represent the Aboriginal cultural heritage in the parklands.

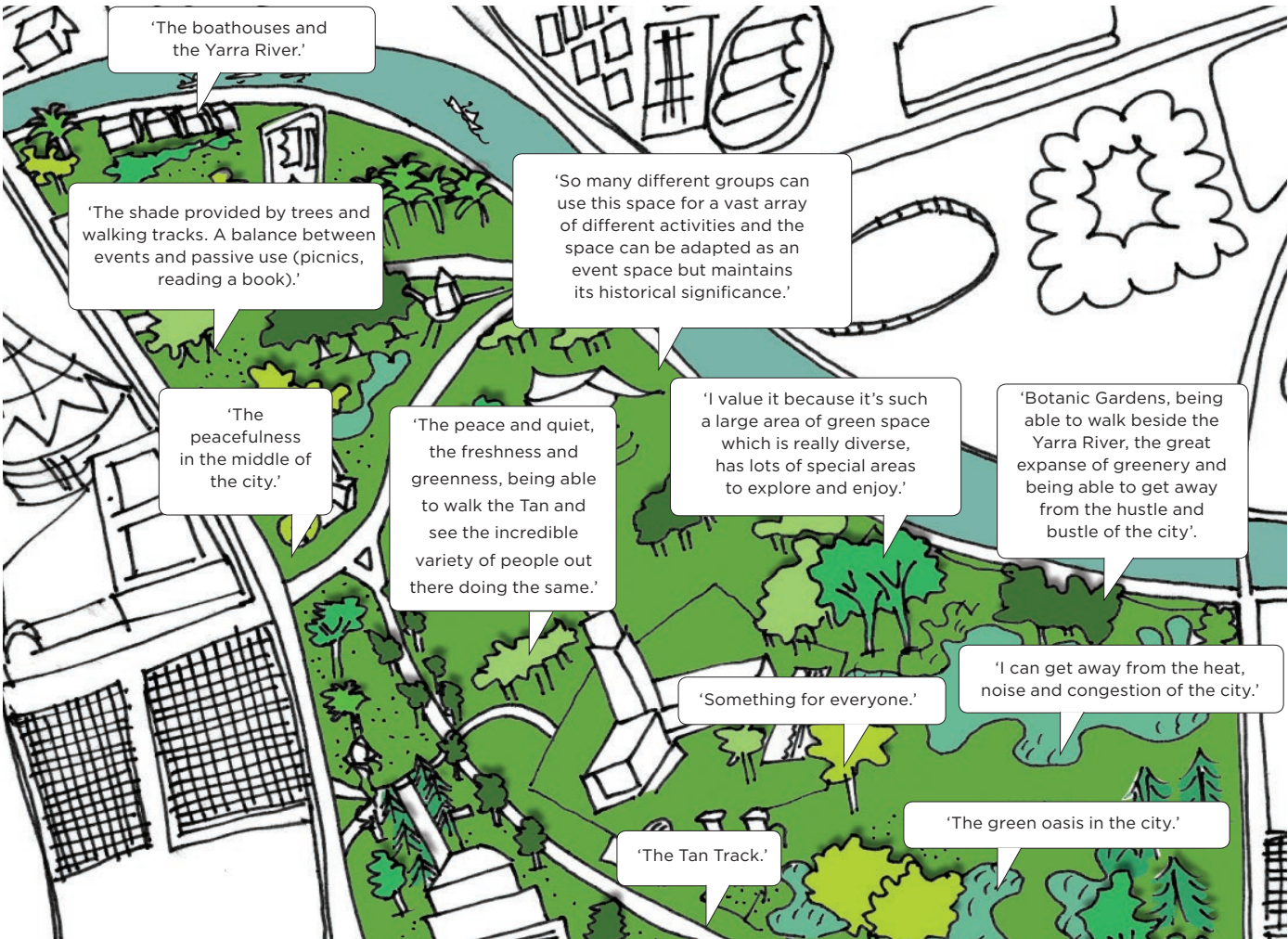
The City of Melbourne Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee gave extensive assistance to develop the master plan.

The City of Melbourne Disability Advisory Committee provided valuable advice and input, with members taking part in site visits.

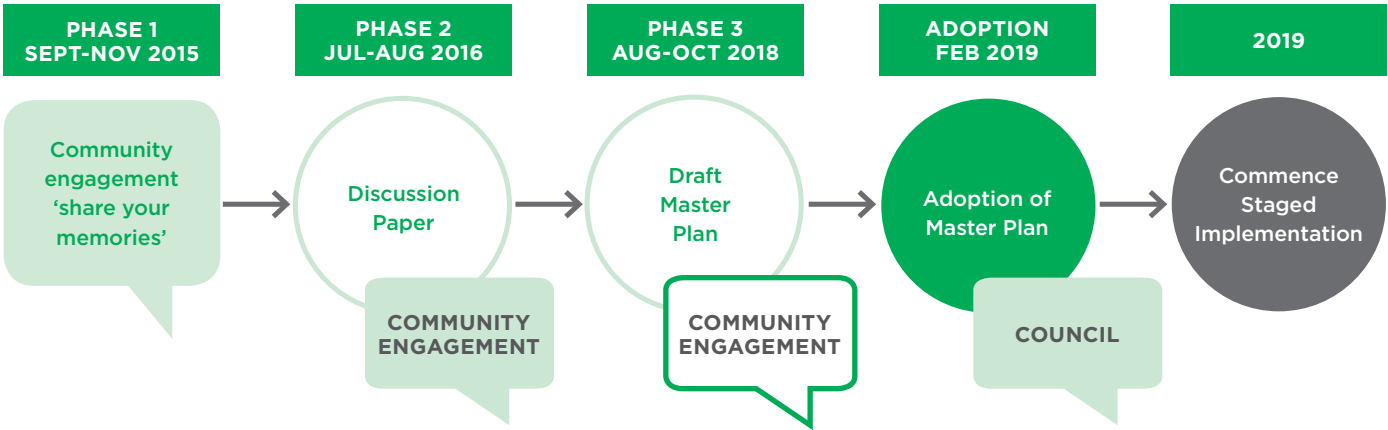
This master plan was endorsed by the Melbourne City Council in February 2019.



'Share your memories' children's consultation September 2015



Community Engagement responses: 'What do you value most in the Domain Parklands?' 2015



Domain Parklands master plan project timeline

2. DOMAIN PARKLANDS

2.1 The history of the site

Cultural landscape history

Before European settlement, the land surrounding the Birrarung (Yarra River) was a life source for the Aboriginal people. Vegetation would have included open grasslands and grassy woodland, including River Red gums, and on the higher areas most likely plains grassland. The Birrarung would periodically flood and replenish a series of billabongs and wetlands. The swampy south bank was also a place of beauty, with lagoons fringed with native grasses, the riverbank edged with tea-tree scrub, and a sprinkling of large eucalypts.

Aboriginal people managed the land and its resources carefully and respectfully, according to ancient lore. This was the Traditional Country of the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) peoples of the Kulin nation. For Aboriginal people, the river was Birrarung ('River of Mists'); central to their identity and their livelihood.

The area had long been an important meeting place for the Aboriginal population. Further downstream along the river were 'the Falls', a relatively substantial ledge of volcanic rock that spanned the river. This was significant as a crossing place and a fishing place, and marked the divide between the salt water and fresh water. The central high ground in the landscape was important with views in several directions and a good place to see the sky.

Aboriginal people have seen vast environmental variation and change as the sea advanced and retreated and rainfall oscillated from very dry to very wet periods. In the same way the flora and fauna would have changed. The wetlands were rich sources of food and other important materials. Aboriginal people enjoyed a varied and plentiful diet on this rich flood plain. Eels and fish were caught in the broad lagoons, and it was a good place to camp. Along with fish, abundant water birds, a range of small to medium or large mammals (kangaroos, wallabies, possums) and tubers and fruits provided a diverse diet.

The historic landscape

In 1841, following British colonial planning tradition, high ground overlooking Melbourne was reserved as land for a vice-regal residence. In 1846 additional land was reserved for a botanic gardens. The natural vegetation was modified and replaced, wetlands were filled in and topography was altered. The river flooding was substantially controlled by the early 1900s through the straightening of the Birraung (Yarra River) north of Princes Bridge. These works in turn created new areas in the Domain, including Alexandra Gardens, Alexandra Avenue, Alexandra Park and Queen Victoria Gardens.

Over time formal gardens were established, trees were planted, and as time progressed there were adaptations and changes reflecting something of Melbourne's evolution. Over an extended period several significant directions in design have been implemented, some of which remain intact today.

Key periods include:

1860

Ferdinand Mueller plan

1874

William Guilfoyle and Sayce plan

1890's

Catani plan

1933

Linaker plan

The lesser told story occurring as Melbourne was establishing was the displacement of Aboriginal people, and the hardship and misery experienced by immigrants. A Canvas Town and Immigrants home were located on land within the parklands. A missionary reserve was established. But the stories of the Aboriginal people and Melbourne's early European settlement was largely forgotten. Melbourne became a prosperous city and the Domain Parklands reflected how Melbourne wanted to see itself.



Planting along the old river alignment.
Melbourne from the Domain Reserve Lagoon
Nettleton, Charles, 1826-1902 photographer.
Source: State Library Victoria

Melbourne founded 1835



1866 view over the Domain Parklands
Isometrical plan of Melbourne & suburbs, 1866
De Gruchy & Leigh, lithographer.
Source: State Library Victoria

Shrine of Remembrance opened 1934



1938 Aerial view of Domian Parklands
Aerial view of Melbourne looking south
Victorian Railways, photographer
Source: State Library Victoria

Domain Parklands Master Plan 1997



2015 view over the Domain Parklands

Domain Parklands Master Plan 2018

2040

Pre-European settlement

- 1841 Site reserved for Government House and grounds
- 1846 Reserve for a botanic gardens added to Domain
- 1860s Ferdinand Mueller Plan
- 1870s Guilfoyle and Sayce Plan
- 1890s Catani Era
- 1900 Birrarung re-alignment
- 1933 Linaker Plan

- 1959 Sidney Myer Music Bowl opened
- 1960s Drought periods
- 1980s Drought periods

- Severe drought periods
- Climate change awareness
- 2013 Parklands added to the Victorian Heritage Register

- 2018 Parklands added to the Australian National Heritage List
- 2019 - 2039 Domain Parklands Master Plan

Timeline of key moments in the history of the Domain Parklands

2.2 The Domain Parklands today

The Domain Parklands occupy an area totalling 123 hectares generally bounded by the Birrarung (Yarra River), Anderson Street, Domain Road and St Kilda Road.

The Domain Parklands are identified as Capital City and State open spaces in the City of Melbourne’s Open Space Strategy 2012. It describes these as iconic and synonymous with the character and identity of Melbourne and often used to stage activities and events of international, national, state and metropolitan importance.

The Domain Parklands are important for physical and mental health and wellbeing of the community and social connectedness. They cool the city, support biodiversity, profile cultural heritage and character, and are important for economic development, tourism, river users, events and the arts. The parklands shape Melbourne’s cultural relationship with the Birrarung (Yarra River), and make a significant contribution to the quality and diversity of the city’s open spaces.

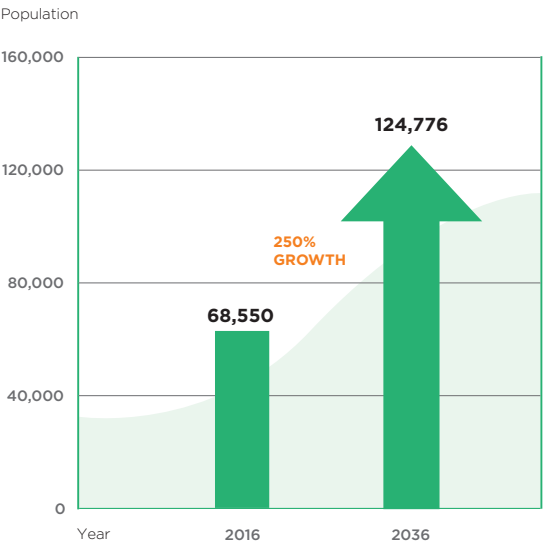
Visitors to the parklands are increasing as the municipality’s resident, worker and visitor populations grow. The Domain Parklands are the major open space within walking distance to many residents in Southbank, the CBD and South Yarra. There is a particularly high dependence by Southbank and CBD residents on the Domain Parklands as most people live in apartments and there are few local parks.

The population within these areas was 72,019 in 2017 and is expected to grow by 120% to 158,565 by 2037, with most of the residential growth in Southbank and the CBD.

2.3 Strategic context and influences

The parklands connect with surrounding areas including the Arts precinct, Southbank, the central city, Birrarung Marr and the Sports precinct across the river. These areas are developing and changing and all experiencing growth.

Key city-shaping projects underway will also dramatically influence the urban context for the Domain Parklands over the next few decades. These projects include the Metro Tunnel project, the Swan Street Bridge redevelopment, Southbank Boulevard redevelopment and continued development of the Sports precinct and Arts precinct.



Population growth in Southbank and the CBD



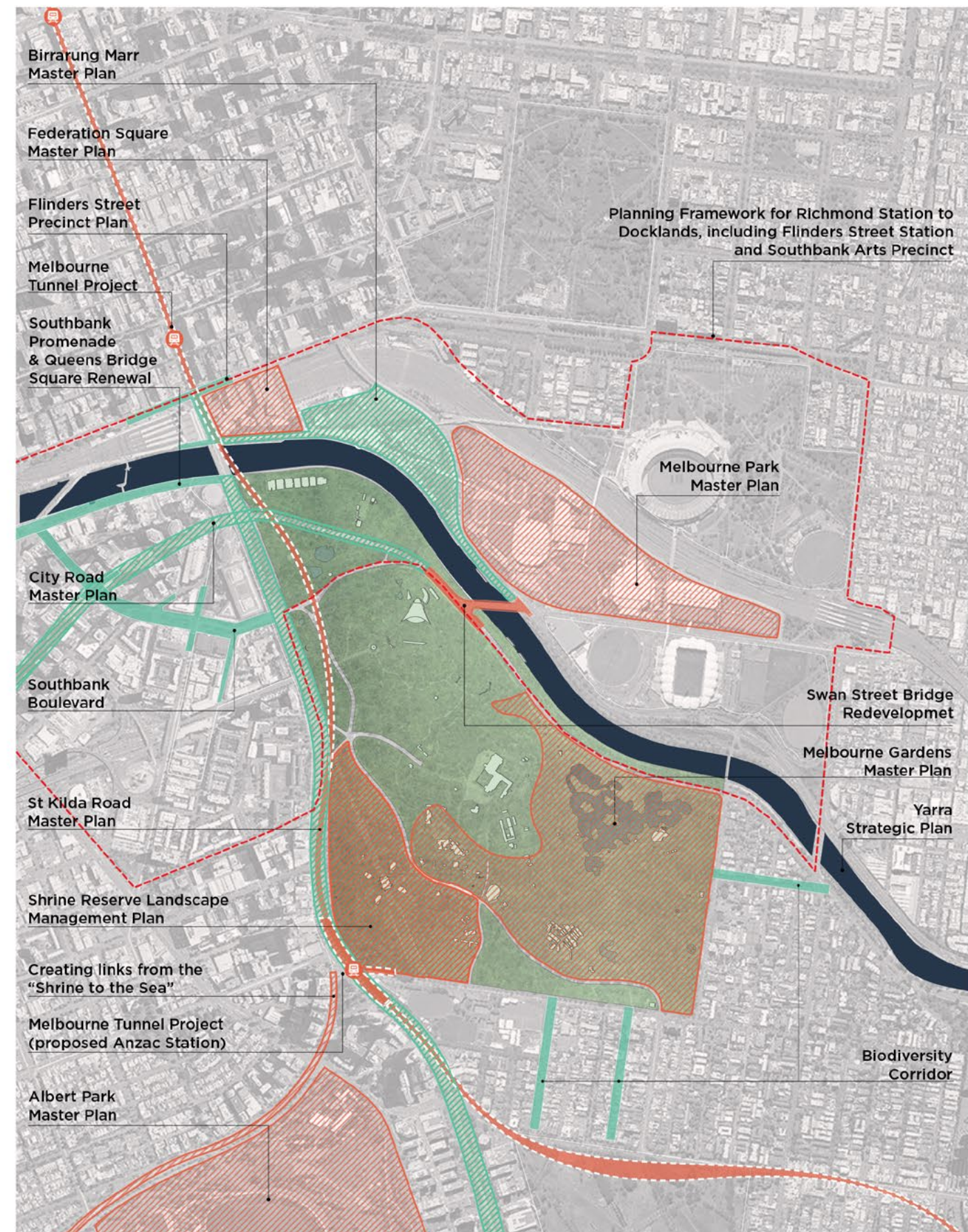
City of Melbourne municipality Domain Parklands 'emerald necklace' park network

Domain Parklands location with the City of Melbourne municipality



Public open space Sports precinct Cultural/arts precinct Population growth Train station

Domain Parklands surrounding context

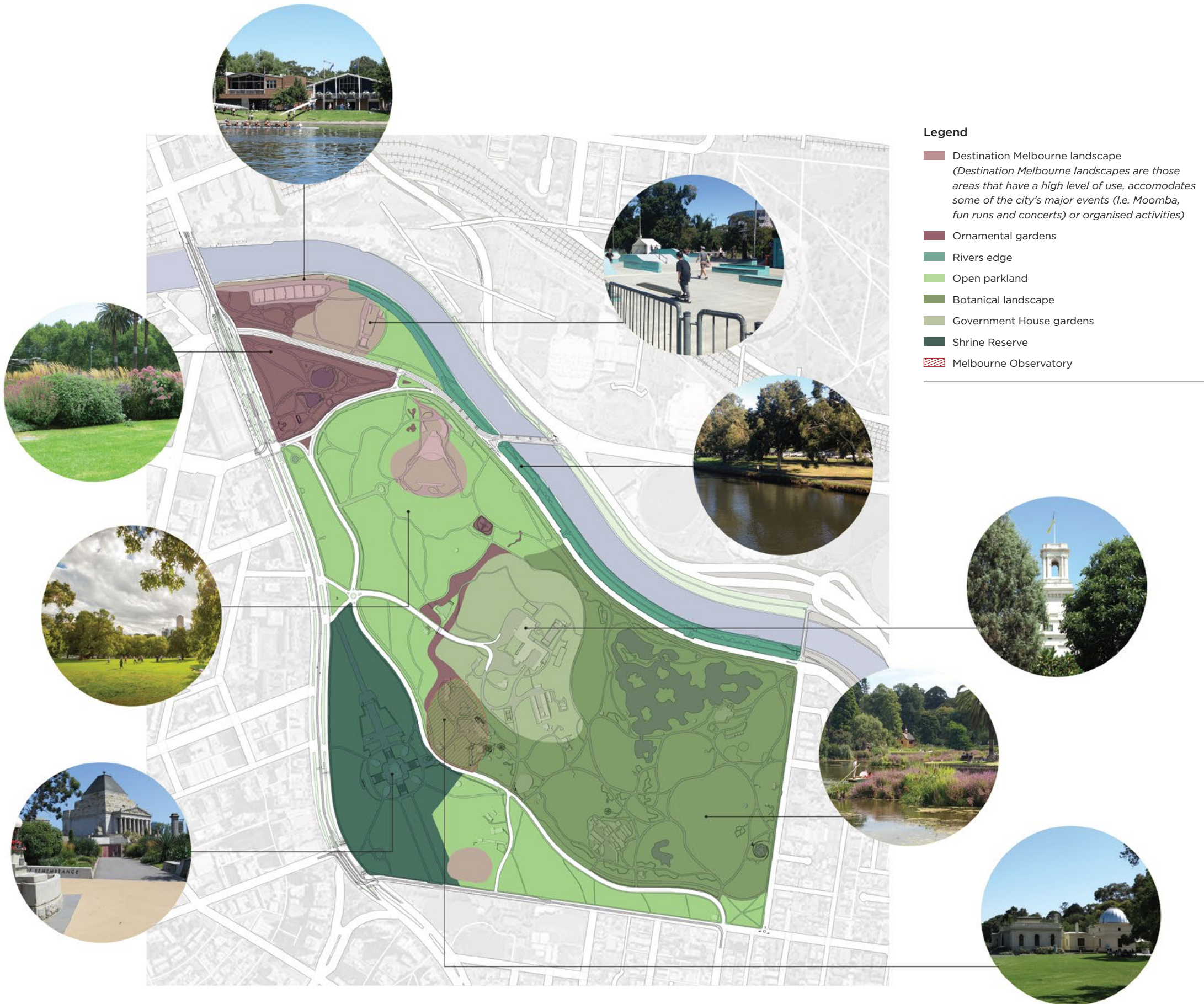


Master plans by City of Melbourne Project by City of Melbourne Master/management plan by others
Master/management plan by others Project by others New train station

Surrounding projects affecting the Domain Parklands

2.4 Landscape characters

The landscape of the Domain Parklands comprises a number of distinct character areas within it. Landscape characters contribute to the experiences people have and value. The master plan will seek to retain experiences people enjoy while diversifying the landscape where appropriate, for example along the river corridor. In the future planting plans will continue to complement landscape characters and preserve significant view lines, while also allowing for testing and monitoring plants to adapt to a changing climate.



Landscape characters within the Domain Parklands

2.5 Land management and status

All the Domain Parklands are Crown land, permanently reserved from sale for a specific public purpose pursuant to the provisions of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*.

Some Reserves comprise several allotments set aside for different purposes including public parks and gardens, ornamental plantations, memorials and statues. The Melbourne City Council has been appointed Committee of Management of most of the Reserves. The Government House Reserve, Shrine of Remembrance Reserve, Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Melbourne Gardens and Melbourne Observatory have more specific purposes and under this remit are managed by other Land Managers.

The City of Melbourne manages a number of leases and licences for facilities within the Domain Parklands for community benefit. These include the Yarra Boathouses, leased to rowing clubs, La Trobe’s Cottage, leased to the National Trust, and the Domain House, licenced by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

The Domain Parklands primarily lie within the Public Park and Recreation Zone of the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

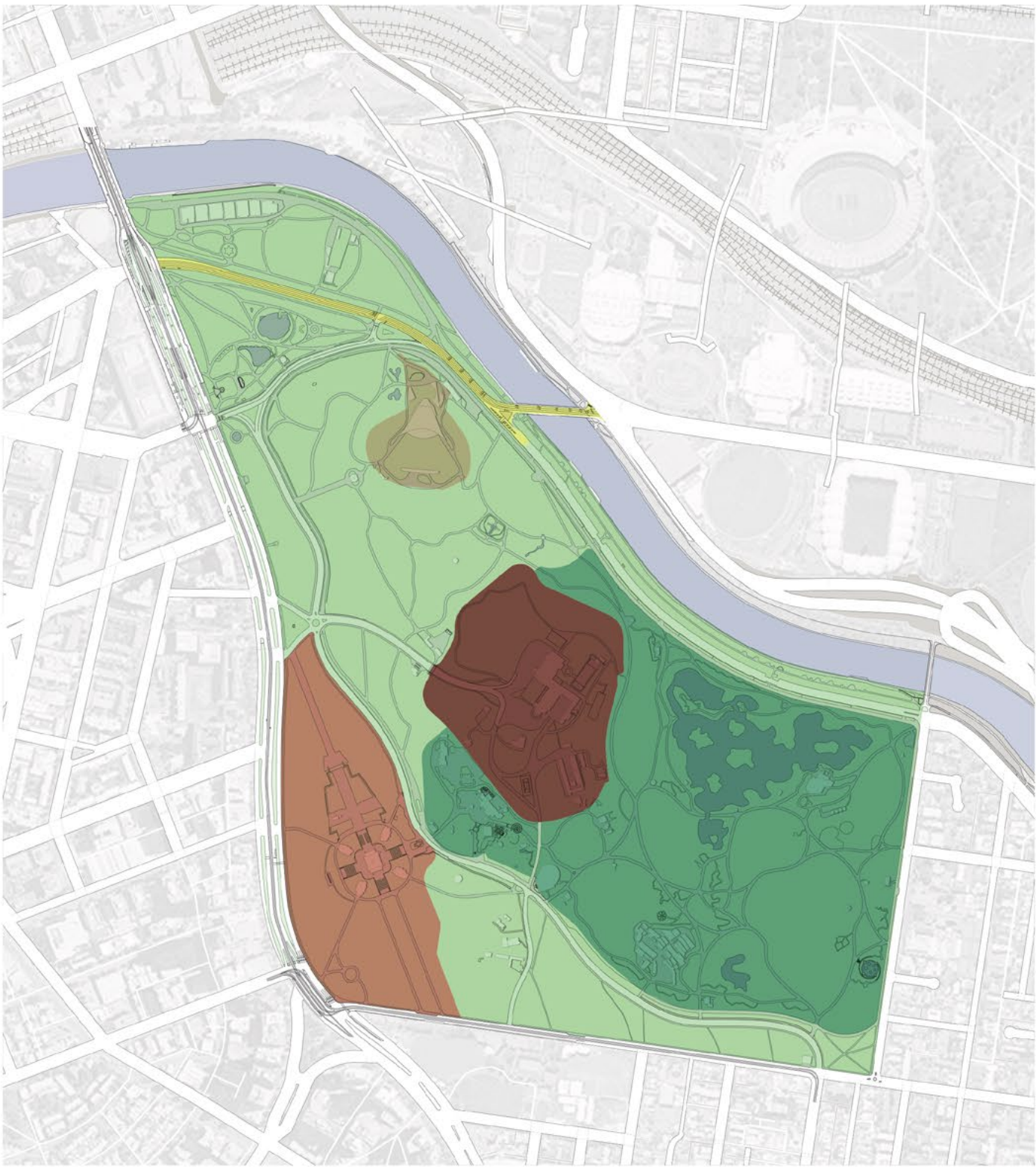
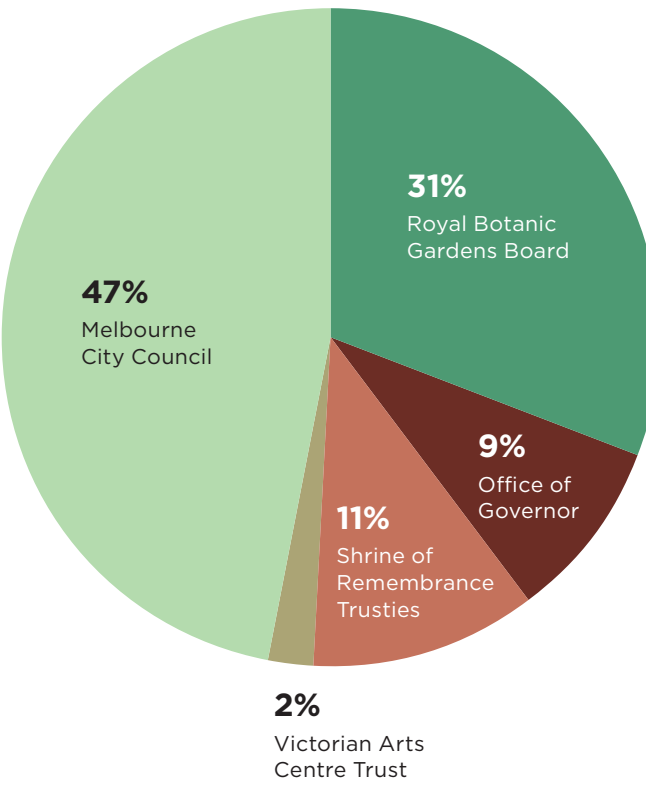
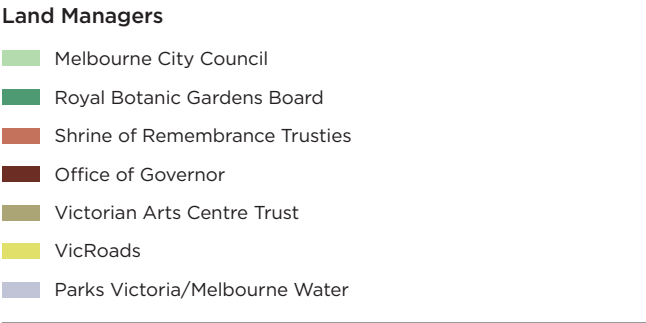
The Domain Parklands were added to the Victorian Heritage Register as a Heritage Place/Archaeological Place (H2304) in 2013 pursuant to the Heritage Act 1995. This indicates the historic values of the place are at a State level of importance.

Government House, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sidney Myer Music Bowl, the Shrine of Remembrance Reserve, Melbourne University Boat Club, the Melbourne Observatory, La Trobe’s Cottage and various monuments were already listed on the Victorian Heritage register.

The Sidney Myer Music Bowl and its setting are included on the National Heritage List (place ID 105743). The parklands, St Kilda Road, and the Melbourne Observatory but excluding the Melbourne Gardens, were placed on the National Heritage List as part of the Melbourne’s Domain Parkland and Memorial Precinct (place ID 106305) on 12 February 2018.

The Melbourne Observatory was one of only four nineteenth century observatories in the southern hemisphere and provided critical infrastructure for the functioning of the colony and the wider scientific world. Its functions included providing meteorological data essential for predicting weather, providing accurate longitudinal data for the continent and was Melbourne’s key time keeper.

The King’s Domain Resting Place has outstanding national heritage value to the nation for its association with Australia’s national repatriation story.



Land managers within the Domain Parklands

2.6 Landscape conditions



Course of Lower Yarra River during colonisation (1864)

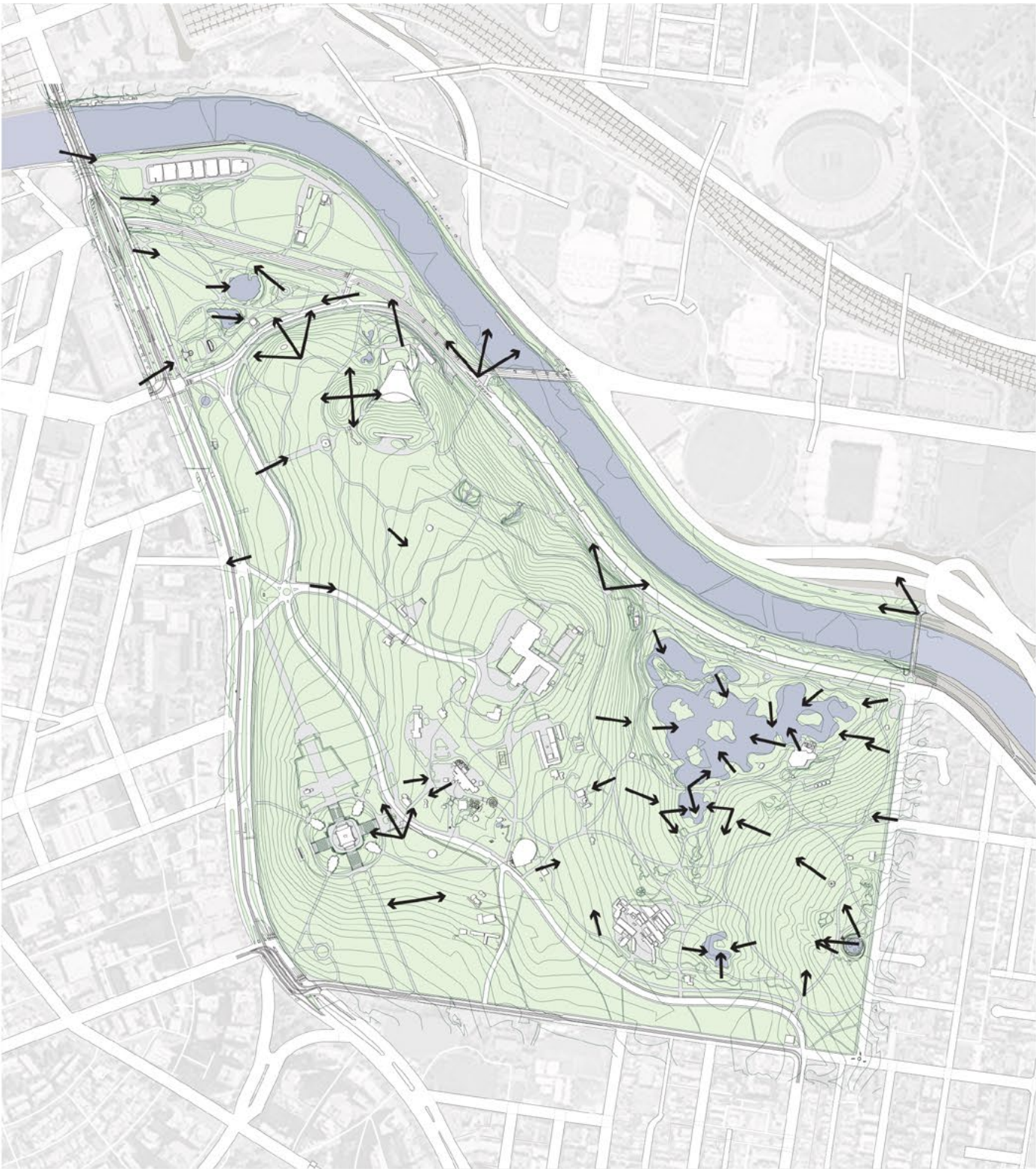


Aerial image of Domain Parklands (2018)

Legend

→ Significant view

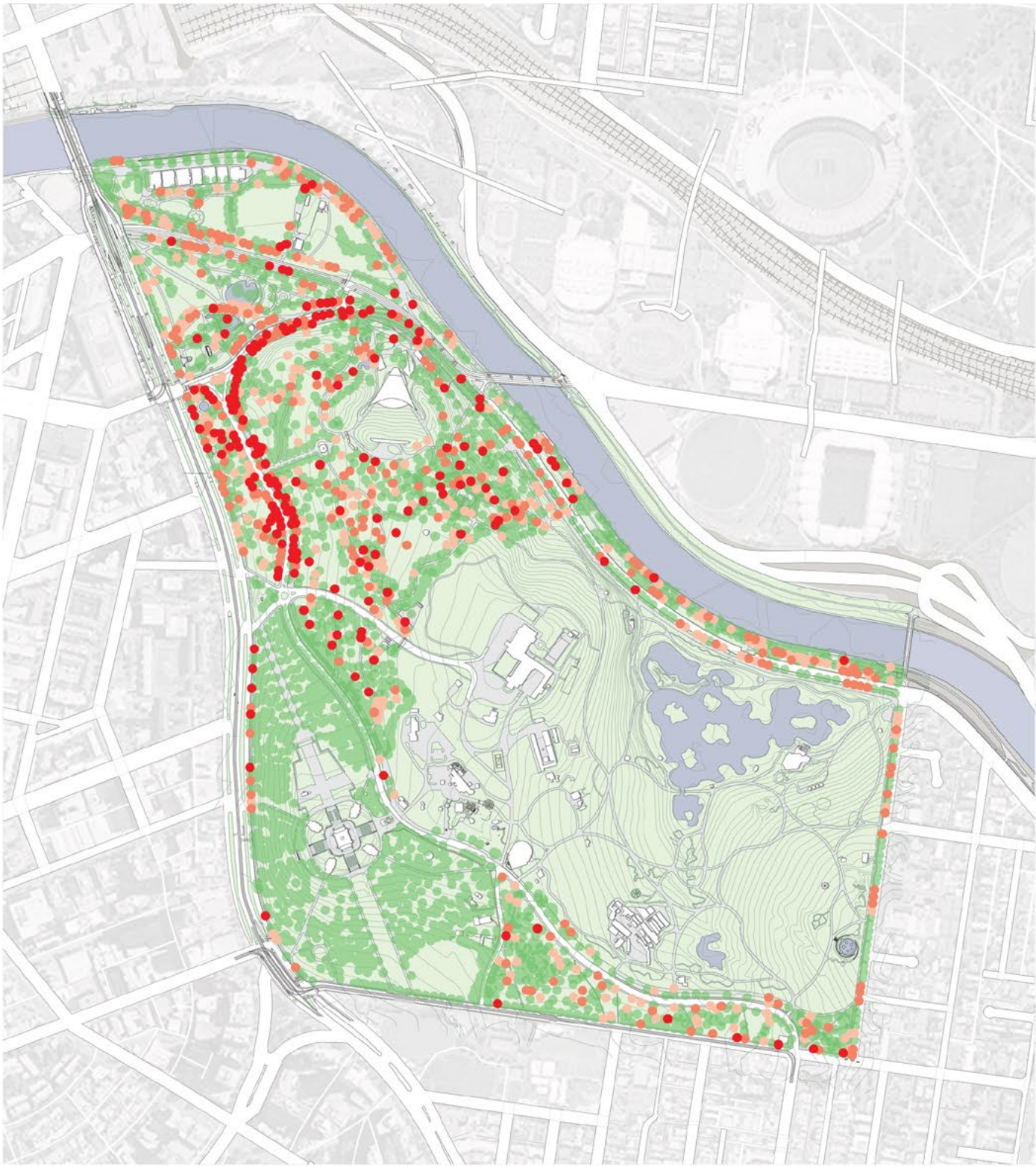
— Contour line



Significant view lines within and around the Domain Parklands

Tree Useful Life Expectancy

- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- 20+ years



Trees within the Domain Parklands in red and pink nearing their useful life expectancy (The City of Melbourne manage the trees in the Shrine reserve on their behalf).

3. MASTER PLAN VALUES

The Domain Parklands Master Plan sets five key values to guide the evolution and management of the Domain Parklands over the next 20 years.

Fundamental to all the values is the principle that there be no net loss of parkland and that future change should bring positive benefits to the Domain Parklands.

3.1 A healthy and resilient parkland

The Domain Parklands will have an even more important role in the future as climate change brings greater challenges. We recognise that healthy parklands contribute essential environmental services to urban environments. To support a healthy and resilient parkland we need to increase canopy cover and urban forest diversity, improve vegetation health, habitat and improve soil moisture and water quality.

Climate change will influence the future planning and management of the parklands.

We know:

- Tree canopies and root systems reduce stormwater flows and nutrient loads that would end up in waterways during weather events. Trees intercept rainfall and unpaved areas absorb water, slowing the rate of runoff and contributing to the stormwater management.
- On days of extreme heat, the trees in the Domain Parklands provide respite from the heat and cool the city.
- Planning for landscape succession is integral to managing healthy landscapes.
- Trees play many essential roles, providing beauty, creating landscape settings, stimulating the senses and positively influencing our mental health and wellbeing.
- The parking of vehicles on the landscape is detrimental to the health of trees, reduces visual amenity and is inconsistent with park purposes.
- Urban ecology and biodiversity are important indicators and contributors to healthy parklands.
- Selecting the right plants for the right place will support biodiversity in the city.
- Horticultural elements provide some of the pleasure enjoyed by people visiting the parklands.
- Managing levels of use is important to maintain a healthy landscape.
- Healthy parks are an essential ingredient for healthy people.



3.2 A parkland of history and cultural heritage

We recognise that the parkland is a place of cultural and historic interest to the people of Victoria as evidenced by various listings on the Victorian Heritage Register, National Heritage List and Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register. In addition to the official histories, monuments and structures there is also the 'other' history the stories and memories of people over generations, which influences what people value today. This is also a place of living culture, not just one reflecting the past.

We know:

- The area that is now the Domain Parklands is significant to Aboriginal People. It is a place of shared Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal history and cultural heritage values.
- All people value the cultural diversity and heritage of the parklands as it connects and gives them a sense of place.
- The role of the parklands as the setting for Government House, the Shrine of Remembrance, the Melbourne Gardens, Melbourne Observatory, Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Boathouses, and its association with the history of Melbourne is important and needs to be maintained and enhanced.
- Managing the parklands as a heritage place while allowing it to evolve to reflect contemporary values is important to continue to meet the needs of the city.
- There are unique parts of the parklands which contribute to the cultural significance.
- The opportunity to recreate elements of indigenous landscape and places for gathering, reflection and education will be explored. Development of opportunities for education about Aboriginal culture in the parklands will be supported.
- The important civic, ceremonial, recreational and landscape experiences and features that this place provides for the capital city should be celebrated.



3.3 A parkland for people

Parks are critical for physical and mental health and wellbeing. By improving access and balancing uses we support equity and facilitate participation by all. We recognise the importance of encouraging participation in physical activity and promoting opportunities for relaxation, community and learning.

We know:

- The beauty of the landscape setting is an essential part of the quality of the visitor experience.
- People visit the parklands from near and far. The parklands are important for people who live nearby as well as for people from across the state who may visit less frequently. Recognising the different ways the parklands are used is an important part of supporting visitors.
- Visiting parks is good for the physical and mental health and well-being of the community.
- Places of quiet reflection and landscape beauty provide relief from the urban environment.
- Recognise that people of all ages and abilities visit the parklands.
- New journeys, improved path links and better public transport connections are needed to improve access to the key destinations within the parklands.
- Provision of well-located amenities encourages participation by all and makes the visit a positive experience.
- Good wayfinding supports the visitor. It allows people to discover new experiences as well as helping them get to their destination.
- Play in parks is important for the healthy development of children and young people.



3.4 A parkland that connects

The Domain Parklands are valued well beyond their boundaries. They are an essential ingredient to the liveability of the city, and contribute to who we are as a city. Viewed from the ground and above, they provide layers of joy and discovery for residents and visitors from all over the world. They connect us to the city and the Birrarung (Yarra River) and are part of our knowledge of Melbourne.

We know:

- The Domain Parklands contribute significant health, environmental, economic and social benefit to the city.
- The Domain Parklands are a major factor in our international reputation as an attractive and liveable city and desirable tourist destination. They are a major contributor to property values in the city, Southbank and South Yarra and contribute significant direct economic value to the city.
- The Domain Parklands provide economic benefits through cultural services including recreation, health and tourism. Additionally they provide ecosystem services such as air filtration, storm water cleaning, climate regulation and cooling the city. Their contribution to the city economy is substantial.

- The wider economic benefit of the parklands contributes to our present and future quality of life, health and prosperity. To continue to capture the economic benefits the city must invest in the renewal and care of the parklands.
- The Alexandra Gardens provide a primary point of access for river users.
- Prominent landmarks in the parklands connect with the city and help people navigate.
- Access and movement to and within the parklands is best planned with the pedestrian as the priority.
- Good access to and around the parklands is an essential ingredient for the quality of the visitor experience.
- A network and hierarchy of accessible paths, journeys, wayfinding, access by public transport and links to surrounding parks and the Birrarung (Yarra River) are integral to good access.



3.5 A parkland of partnerships

The Domain Parklands are one special place, created by the distinct character of the individual destinations within it. We recognise there is opportunity for Domain Parklands Land Managers to collaborate to enhance the broader destination management.

We know:

- Strengthening the environmental services role for the city and improving the visitor experience of the place, will benefit from collective oversight and direction.
- There are unique destinations with specific purposes. Together they create ‘Parklands’ to be celebrated.

- Common values and a united vision for the Domain Parklands will elevate innovative management for the parklands.
- Partnerships in management will help to build resilience.
- Collaborative approaches to management will incorporate strategic direction, guidance and communication.





4. MASTER PLAN THEMES

4.1 Nurture a diverse landscape and parkland ecology



The City of Melbourne is currently facing three significant challenges: climate change, urban heating and population growth. These will place pressure on the fabric, services and people of the city. We need to respond to these challenges by proactively building healthy resilient landscapes for future generations.

The Domain Parklands play a critical environmental health role, acting as lungs for the city. All its natural elements—soil, water, trees and plants—require effective management and resourcing over the short and long term. We want to maximise the environmental contribution of the parklands and incorporate this into future decision-making.

The parklands are also significant in that they provide pleasure, respite and contact with nature to people visiting the parklands. The quality of the experience is enhanced through landscape design and horticultural expertise.

4.1.1 Elevate horticultural complexity and management

Enhancing horticultural elements in the landscape and connecting to other significant landscapes such as the Melbourne Gardens and Birrarung (Yarra River), will attract visitors, and enhance visitor experience through appreciation of the landscape. Technical expertise and good management is needed to support a healthy landscape, respect heritage and achieve cost effective maintenance. A management plan and guiding principles will be developed to enable operational decision making, to inform park renewal, routine maintenance and operational plans, including where garden beds should be reinstated or removed. The management plan will include all asset classes (such as horticulture, paths, infrastructure, and water features). The plan will guide selection of a healthy mix of exotic and native species as well as functional aspects such as shade for the Tan Track. Through the master plan we will continue to ensure the parklands are a centre of excellence in urban horticulture.

Master Plan Actions

- Implement City of Melbourne Eco-City strategies while retaining landscape design elements that have been assessed as having primary conservation significance.
- Develop and implement a management plan and guiding principles that facilitates horticultural excellence for planting styles, locations and maintenance regimes for the parklands.
- Strategically introduce native plant palettes in key areas including the Birrarung (Yarra River) edge.
- As part of the detailed designs for Kings Domain South, Kings Domain (Tom’s Block) and Alexandra Park, improve landscape character and planting diversity.

4.1.2 Support a healthy ecosystem

The Domain Parklands are one of the major biodiversity hotspots in the Melbourne municipality. They contain diverse vegetation that supports animals and other living creatures, forming unique urban ecosystems. These ecosystems are crucial for maintaining health and wellbeing by filtrating air and water and providing shade and places for recreation.

We need to understand, monitor and facilitate the many ways the Domain Parklands promote and support urban ecology and biodiversity in the municipality and ensure our management protects and improves these values.

Master Plan Actions

- Implement the principles of the Urban Forest Strategy and Nature in the City Strategy to improve biodiversity and urban ecology.
- Partner with Land Managers on initiatives to improve biodiversity outcomes, integrate approaches to water management and advance the arboretum.

4.1.3 Manage a city arboretum

Ferdinand Mueller, who became the first director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, planted an arboretum through the parklands in the 1850s and 1860s. An arboretum is a collection of trees, cultivated and managed for conservation, scientific, research and educational purposes.

Trees play an essential role in defining the character of the Domain Parklands. They provide beauty, habitat, create landscape settings, stimulate the senses and positively influence our mental health and wellbeing. Trees are vital for cooling the city and the tree canopies and root systems reduce stormwater flows and nutrient loads that would end up in the Birrarung (Yarra River) and our waterways.

Many trees in the Domain Parklands are reaching the later part of their life and will need replacing in the coming decades. New tree planting and planting renewal will be informed by research identifying trees which are better at coping with future climate conditions.

It is proposed to further expand the city arboretum in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Through the city arboretum, a stronger emphasis will be placed on science, research and education. The trees will be managed at a higher level of cultivation than usual,

to facilitate leading research. The learning from this will be applied to tree selection and management across the municipality. Selection of planting locations will be guided and designed carefully to coordinate with landscape character, heritage influences, view lines and open areas to retain, and how the area is used.

Opportunities to develop an education centre to promote understanding of the role of the urban forest will be explored (see Visitor Experience - section 4.3).

Master Plan Actions

- Develop and manage the city arboretum in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.
- Recommend funding for program delivery of science, research and education for the arboretum.
- Develop a detailed tree planting and maintenance plan and collections policy for the arboretum.

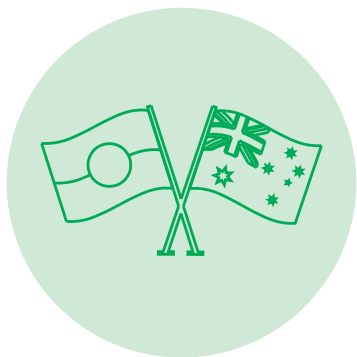
4.1.4 Manage soil and water

Management of soil and water in the landscape will continue to be of critical importance in nurturing a healthy and resilient parkland. Soil moisture is influenced by rainfall and irrigation as well as the soil structure. Adapting and improving soil management and irrigation practises increases the absorptive and water holding capacity of the soil. We will continue to work toward integrated water management systems throughout the parklands, including investigating alternative water supplies.

Master Plan Actions

- Continue innovative approaches to soil management
- Continue to work towards integrated water management.
- Investigate and recommend investment in alternative water supply systems in partnership with Land Managers to achieve a 50 per cent target of all irrigation water used in the parkland being from a non-potable source.

4.2 Acknowledge history and cultural heritage



There are many cultural values and characters within the Domain Parklands. The Domain Parklands have evolved over time, boundaries have changed, important places have been built, and the Birrarung (Yarra River) has been a constant connection. It is a place of shared Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal history and cultural heritage values.

- The Aboriginal cultural heritage is a missing layer in the current Domain Parklands.
- The Kings Domain Resting Place has outstanding National Heritage value to the nation for its association with Australia's national repatriation story. The resting place represents Indigenous communities asserting control to ensure the return and (re)burial of their ancestors in accordance with their community's cultural protocols.
- Unique parts of the parklands contribute to the cultural significance.
- The parklands were set aside as the 'domain' for Government House. They were also the place for other important government functions including the Melbourne Gardens and Melbourne Observatory.
- The Shrine of Remembrance monument is evidence of the high profile role of the Domain Parklands.

4.2.1 Respect and celebrate Aboriginal cultural heritage

The area that is now the Domain Parklands is significant to Aboriginal people. There are two distinct communities represented in the parklands. The Kings Domain Resting Place is important for all the nations in Victoria. There are also specific groups with stated connection to the area.

Before European settlement the land known now as the Domain Parklands was a rich and fertile landscape. The Birrarung (Yarra River) followed a different course, with extensive wetlands along much of the lower parts of the area. It provided food supplies and was an important meeting place.

This master plan will acknowledge the Aboriginal history of the Domain Parklands, while also creating a platform to celebrate Aboriginal culture in Melbourne in the 21st century. People want to know the story of this country.

In the future the use of Aboriginal place names to recognise history will be explored.

Kings Domain Resting Place is a commemorative site of remembrance holding 38 Victorian Aboriginal people's remains.

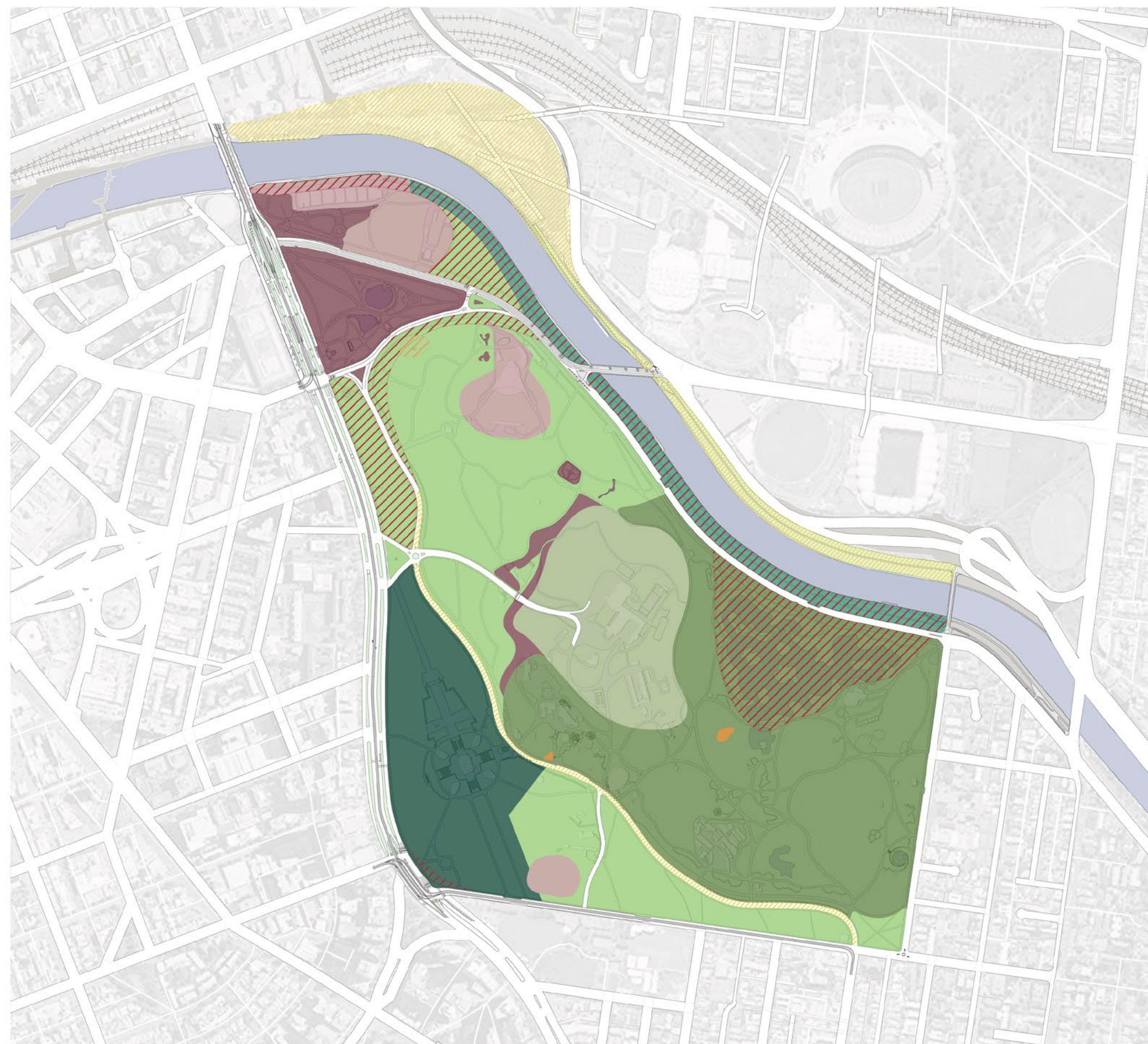
Master Plan Actions

- Work collaboratively with the Traditional Owner groups to build a stronger story of the Aboriginal connection to the area of the Domain Parklands, Birrarung (Yarra River) and its banks.
- Commission further research of historical data from primary sources and the Lower Yarra landscape's cultural values, with a focus on the Domain Parklands.
- Explore and strengthen the link to Tromgin (Indigenous social gathering site) and along the Birrarung (Yarra River), in collaboration with Traditional Owners and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.
- Develop a self- guided Melbourne walk in collaboration with Traditional Owners and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.
- Working with all the Land Managers and Traditional Owners, develop a joint Cultural Heritage Management Plan to guide the management of the place.
- Explore renaming places within the parklands to recognise Aboriginal history and culture.
- In collaboration with Traditional Owner groups create new landscape setting for Kings Domain Resting Place.



Legend

- Existing indigenous planting
- Opportunity for indigenous /native planting
- Proposed opportunity to enhance indigenous / native planting
- New landscape setting for Kings Domain Resting Place
- Destination Melbourne landscape
- Ornamental gardens
- Rivers edge
- Open parkland
- Botanical landscape
- Government House gardens
- Shrine Reserve



Key areas for enhancing native plant palette

4.2.2 Reflect cultural values and historical significance
The Domain Parklands, Government House, the Shrine of Remembrance, Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Melbourne Observatory and St Kilda Road are included in the National Heritage List of Melbourne’s Domain Parkland and Memorial Precinct. This precinct is recognised for outstanding heritage value to the nation because of its historic significance and rare characteristics. Of particular importance is the Kings Domain Resting Place for its association with the national repatriation story. The precinct also demonstrates a rare government Domain with strong Victorian era components.

The Domain Parklands is of historical, archaeological, aesthetic, architectural, scientific (horticultural), and social significance to the State of Victoria. The Domain Parklands were listed on the Victorian Heritage Register in July 2013.

The parklands are particularly noted as a setting for places of outstanding value, being Government House and Grounds, the Shrine of Remembrance, the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, the Melbourne Gardens and Melbourne Observatory.

- Unique parts of the Domain Parklands that contribute to the cultural significance also include:
- Places such as the Pioneer Women’s Memorial Garden, La Trobe’s Cottage, the fern gully, the Tan Track, the Queen Victoria memorial, and Janet Lady Clarke rotunda.
 - The Boathouses and the historic association of rowing with the City of Melbourne and the Birrarung (Yarra River).
 - Specific journeys or path links, particular views, elements of Aboriginal cultural significance, horticultural places such as the floral clock and unusual features such as the Robinette rockeries.
 - Fountains and water features, artwork and sculptures.

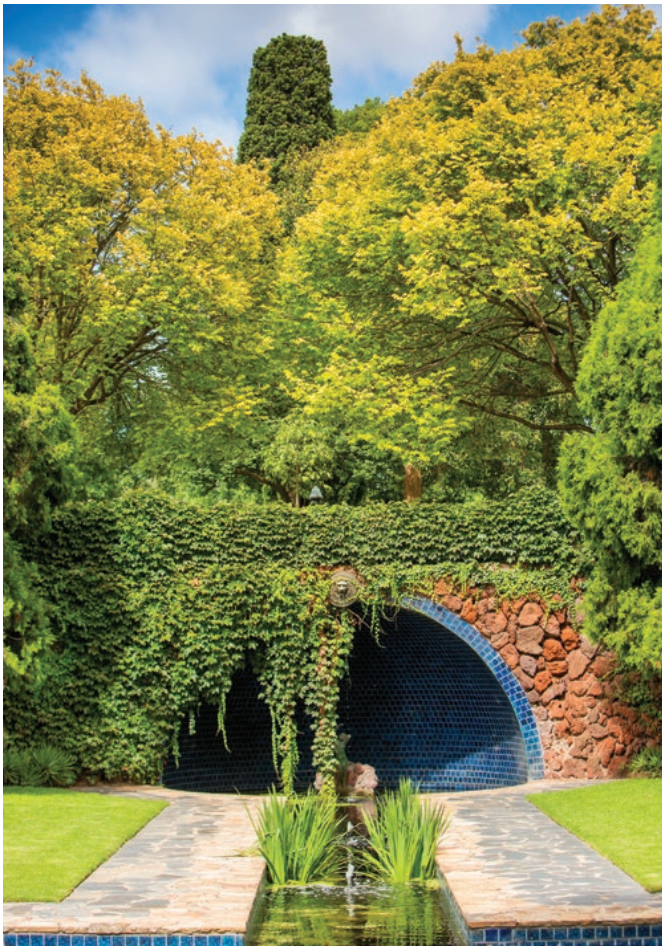
Of enormous importance is the use of the parklands by the people of Victoria and beyond. The parklands are highly valued by all. The parklands are used for passive and active recreation, for celebration and commemoration, for ceremonial and civic functions. These are of ongoing importance to the city and its people.

A number of elements such as fountains, artworks, sculptures and rockeries enhance the recreation experience for visitors as well as being of cultural and historic value. They are, and should continue to be, maintained and restored as part of the cultural collection.

The City of Melbourne has an important role to promote and protect the cultural heritage values of the areas it manages, including the National Heritage values recently recognised on the National Heritage List. It is proposed to prepare a Heritage Management plan to assist in this role, recognising the complexity of management responsibilities and other important values to support in the parklands. It is proposed to work with the Land Managers to prepare a Heritage Management Framework which coordinates the heritage management principles for the National Heritage List sites.

Master Plan Actions

- Promote an increase in community understanding and recognition of cultural heritage. Increase the public visibility of the history of the parklands through information and interpretation.
- Continue to maintain and restore the unique parts of the cultural collection.
- Prepare a Heritage Management plan for the Domain Parklands National Heritage place.
- Working with the Land Managers, prepare a Heritage Management framework for the Domain Parklands National Heritage List sites.



4.2.3 Manage memorials in the Domain Parklands

There are many memorials within the Kings Domain. Due to its location, character and high profile, the Kings Domain is frequently requested as the location to place new memorials. While each existing memorial has merit, the ad hoc accumulation over time has resulted in visual clutter and limitations on the way the parklands can be used.

In order to manage and protect the landscape values and uses of all the parklands, the City of Melbourne has developed a Plaques and Memorials policy (2016) which establishes criteria to guide decision-making.

Any future proposals for memorials within the areas of the Domain Parklands which City of Melbourne manages, other than within the Shrine Reserve, need to be managed within the policy and alternative methods of commemoration should be considered.

It is proposed that no further large memorials be placed in the Kings Domain, and any future memorialisation only be considered where it could become part of the landscape rather than as a specific element. Alternative methods for commemoration could be considered such as horticultural memorials (including display garden beds) which would be more consistent with the park setting and contribute to the ecological diversity and visitor experience. De-accession or rotation policies for existing memorials, similar to galleries, are other possibilities.

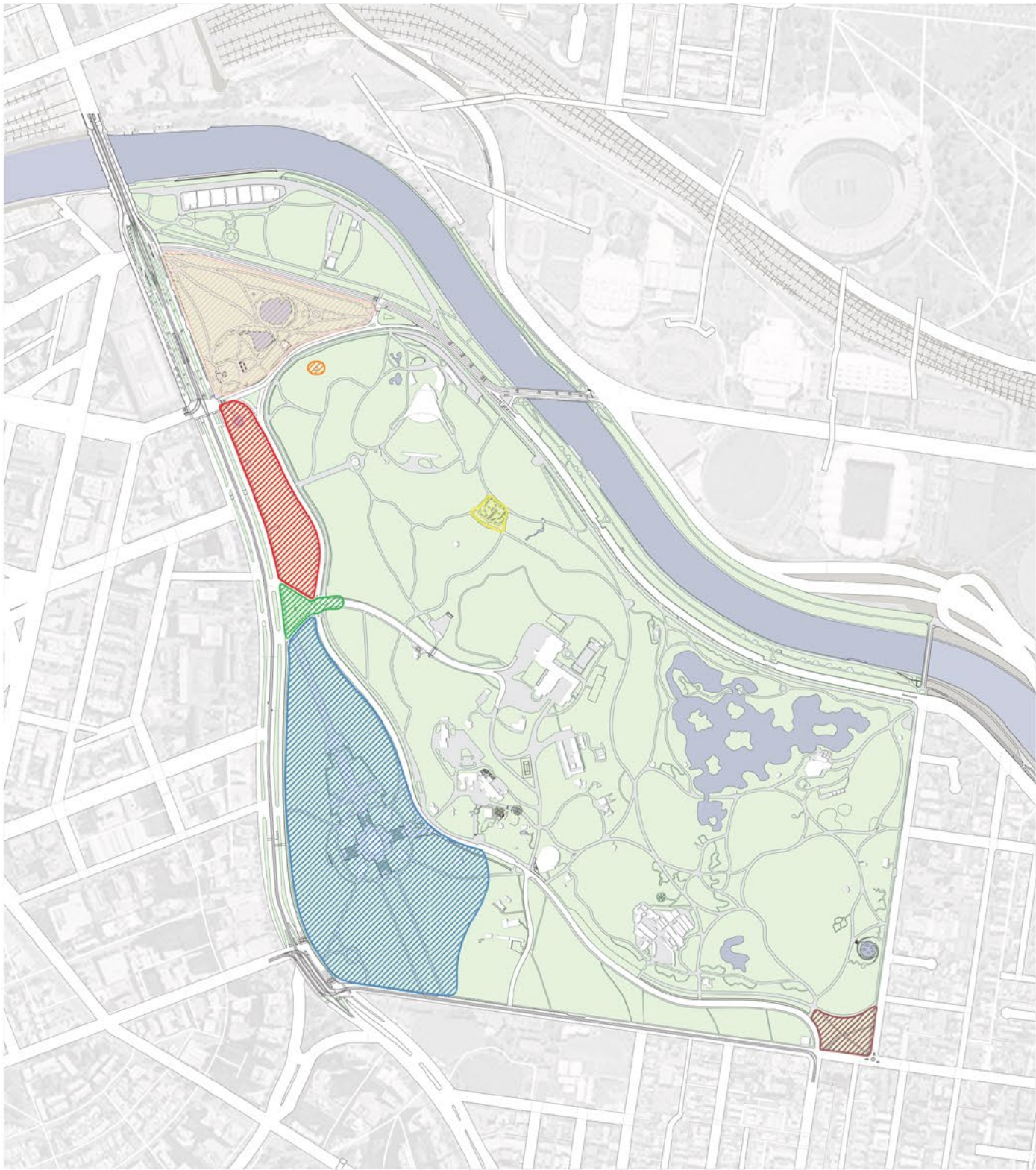
Future plaques for Rotary commemoration are ideally located within Rotary Corner, which has capacity to support additional dedications.

Master Plan Actions

- Requests for future memorialisation, other than within the Shrine Reserve, are only considered if in keeping with the Plaques and Memorials policy (2016).
- No additional large memorials or monuments, unless replacing existing ones, be permitted within areas of the Domain Parklands managed by the City of Melbourne.

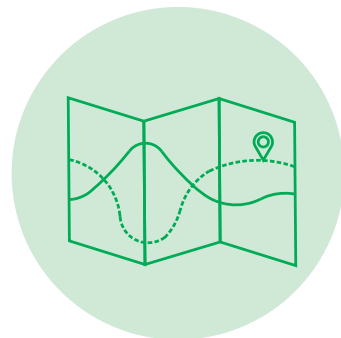
Legend

- Queen Victoria Gardens - royal memorials
- Tom's Block - civic/institutional memorials
- Shrine Reserve - war memorials
- Rotary corner - community groups
- Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden
- Government House Drive+Anzac Avenue - government and military leaders
- Kings Domain resting place - Aboriginal commemorative site



Areas characterised by memorials in the Domain Parklands

4.3 Support exceptional visitor experience



People come to visit particular destinations in the Domain Parklands including the Melbourne Gardens, the Shrine of Remembrance and the Sidney Myer Music Bowl. People also visit the parklands for a range of sport and recreation activities, both formal and informal, e.g. to relax, walk, exercise, for picnics and gatherings, to row, to skate, for play, walk the dog on a lead, attend events and public programs, concerts, ceremonies and commemorations and to generally explore and enjoy the parklands. Visitors include residents, workers, local, interstate and international tourists.

While actual visitor numbers are difficult to collect, it is clear they are high. The Melbourne Gardens have over 1.9 million visitors and the Shrine of Remembrance (monument and Reserve) also receive around 1.5 million visitors each year. The Sidney Myer Music Bowl has around 200,000 visitors a year. Recent Tan Track counts have from 4,000 to 6,000 people using the track each day, which equates to 1.7 - 2.2 million visitors per year.

The rowing clubs have between 200,000 and 300,000 individual visits a year, and this number increases with external rowers visiting the precinct for regattas.

Places of quiet reflection and landscape beauty provide relief from the urban environment. Enhancing the visual amenity and landscape setting of the Domain Parklands to provide this respite is a high priority. Provision of well-located amenities encourages participation by all and makes the visit a positive experience.

The number of visitors to the parklands will continue to grow. There is increasing pressure regarding the levels and types of uses in the parklands and the effect of some activities on the passive enjoyment of the parklands. A balanced approach, to enable different activities to occur while retaining experiences, is essential to supporting exceptional visitor experience.



4.3.1 Provide facilities (amenities) to meet future needs

The term ‘amenities’ describes facilities such as seats, drink fountains, bins, public toilets, lighting, picnic and BBQ areas which support visitors. Improvements to amenities include assessing gaps in provision, upgrading toilets and improving signage to toilet and picnic areas.

The picnic / BBQ area in Alexandra Park next to the Birrarung (Yarra River) needs redesigning and upgrading to improve access (refer section 4.3.2). There is also the opportunity to provide further picnic and BBQ areas at different locations within the parklands, including Kings Domain South.

Path lighting is important for public safety, amenity and access. There are some areas where improvements to lighting are a priority. These include Alexandra Gardens, especially near the boathouses, and in the access to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

Bicycle parking locations and repair stations should be provided in suitable locations within the parklands. Provision of facilities to support recharging motorised scooters and wheelchairs could be investigated in conjunction with the other Land Managers.

Master Plan Actions

- Upgrade the depot toilets (at Government House gate) and Alexandra Avenue (S) toilets.
- Determine the optimum size and location for new public toilets at the Alexandra Gardens and provide them. Determine location and provide sewer connection for temporary toilets for events.
- Relocate the toilets currently adjacent to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl to a more suitable location (to be determined during detailed design).
- Review toilets adjacent to The Shrine of Remembrance as part of Kings Domain South detailed design.
- Identify the location and provide a ‘changing places’ facility to support people with profound disabilities.
- Improve directional signage to public toilets.
- Redesign and upgrade the picnic/BBQ area adjacent to the Birrarung (Yarra River) in Alexandra Park (S).
- Identify suitable locations for new picnic/BBQ areas including in Kings Domain South.
- Assess the location of existing seating, drink fountains, bins, lighting, bike parking and bike repair stations. Develop guidelines and service levels for their type, location and spacing and provide new amenities where required.
- Provide facilities for recharging motorised scooters and wheelchairs.

4.3.2 Enhance visitor experience

The highest use of the parklands is unstructured recreation. Unstructured recreation describes activities that are usually non-competitive, spontaneous, informal or social in nature, such as walking, play, picnicking and contemplation.

Understanding the importance of these experiences is important for managing and balancing priorities within the parklands. A balanced approach to enable different activities to occur concurrently or consecutively within the parklands, while not displacing the experiences sought by the majority of users will be sought.

In addition to programming of events and activities, the quality of the visitor experience is influenced by their positive interactions with others, the landscape setting, the amenities that are provided, and their ability to find their way around the parklands. Enhancing the visual amenity and landscape setting of the Domain Parklands will continue to provide the community with relief from the harshness of the urban environment.

The southern section of Alexandra Park, adjacent to the Alexandra Avenue (S) is a popular riverside picnic and BBQ area with a pleasant landscape character. It also has an increasing use by cyclists. A detailed design is a high priority for this area, to improve accessibility of the path network, upgrade the picnic areas, and separate the cyclist movement corridor by creating a dedicated cycle path at road level. This design will also incorporate accessible path links between the Melbourne Gardens and boat landing to support additional transport options to the Melbourne Gardens, and better connect the landscapes (with the Gardens). Other considerations will include planning for tree renewal and other initiatives which link to the draft Melbourne Gardens Master Plan. These projects will be developed with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Parks Victoria.

The Anzac Station (currently under construction) presents an opportunity to create a new entrance to the parklands in Kings Domain South. Accessible paths need to be created to bring visitors to the entrances of the Melbourne Gardens and the Shrine of Remembrance from the station.

A new visitor and nature centre is proposed, to welcome visitors and introduce them to the unique destinations within the parklands. It is envisaged that the nature centre would include an urban forest and ecology education hub, promoting the importance of the urban forest, arboretum, green infrastructure, urban horticulture and nature. The visitor centre component could be curated to introduce themes relating to the evolution and changing character of the parklands. These themes include civic and governance role (Government House), military history and commemoration (Shrine of Remembrance), Aboriginal cultural heritage, science and history (Observatory), botanical

(Melbourne Gardens) and the settlement and planning of Melbourne. In consultation with Traditional Owners, information celebrating and acknowledging Aboriginal cultural heritage could also be shared. The proposed National Herbarium of Victoria, which has a critical research and storage function as well as an education and information role, could have elements co-located with the nature centre.

The eastern side of Kings Domain South has a different character, and the detailed design for this area will reflect a range of different ‘neighbourhood’ uses including paths, seating, picnic tables, fitness equipment and bocce.

The parklands are a rich landscape for play with space, trees to climb, and an interesting variety of places to hide and places to run. Imaginative and unstructured nature play will continue to be encouraged in the parklands. Opportunities and prompts for play could particularly be explored in Kings Domain South.

Master Plan Actions

- Prepare a detailed design for Alexandra Park (S). This will include resolution of accessible path locations, upgrading picnic areas and separating cyclist movement corridors.
- Work with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria to develop the detailed design to enhance the interface and improve pedestrian links with the Melbourne Gardens.
- Create a new entry to the parklands from the Anzac Station, including accessible paths to entries at the Melbourne Gardens and Shrine of Remembrance.
- Investigate the development of a new visitor and nature centre, in partnership with the Land Managers.
- Investigate opportunities for collaboration with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in the visitor information and education services associated with the proposed new Herbarium within the visitor and nature centre.
- Prepare detailed design for the eastern side of Kings Domain South.
- Introduce programming and prompts for greater play experience in the Domain Parklands.

4.3.3 Manage organised activity spaces

There are a number of spaces within the Domain Parklands where organised sporting and recreational activity is supported. These include the skate park, rowing precinct in Alexandra Gardens, the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Tan Track and Edmund Herring Oval. In addition to these there are a number of cultural and management facilities including La Trobe's Cottage which is managed as a heritage property and the Domain House which is a multi-purpose space supporting engagement with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria mission and vision. There are two maintenance depots in the parklands.

The Alexandra Gardens are located adjacent to the Birrarung (Yarra River) and are a gateway to the river and a key destination for the parklands. The gardens support a number of activities including skating and provide the premier rowing precinct in the State. The operational needs of rowing include storage and access to the river for launching, and the sport can only occur at this junction of parkland and river. Rowing contributes a vibrant and lively character to this central part of Melbourne. A coordinated and integrated approach to the design and management of these gardens is required in order to achieve the best outcome for all users, now and into the future.

The western side of Kings Domain South currently consists of a beautiful treed landscape and a cluster of buildings and functions that do not relate to each other or fit well in the landscape. There is a need for a detailed design for this area, but it is difficult to be certain of the exact vision for the space as there are a number of changes occurring, such as the development of the Anzac Station.

The dramatic changes (both temporary and permanent) present new opportunities. What is certain is that this will be a new entry to the parklands, and it is important that decisions are made to upgrade the area to support this. The proposal for accessible pathways will open this area of parkland and invite people to discover its beauty.

It will be appropriate to reorganise the built structures in the area as part of this detailed design. What can be anticipated is that the depot buildings that are not heritage listed can be removed. The Domain House will need upgrading to address the parkland and new pathways. A new pedestrian path is also required along Dallas Brooks Drive from Domain Road.

The Edmund Herring Oval is located in Kings Domain South and straddling at its western end the Shrine Reserve. Demand for sports fields in the municipality far exceeds supply, and this demand will continue to increase as the city densifies and the population increases. If the sports ground is

to remain, the use must increase. The Edmund Herring Oval could absorb increased use by improved turf management or by converting to a synthetic playing surface. Both approaches will allow more sport to be played on the oval without increasing the footprint of organised sport within the parklands. In the short term it is proposed to continue with an improved grass surface, which is more consistent with the landscape. In the future this may need to be reassessed. The retaining wall needs to be repaired and it is proposed to incorporate terraced seating.

Installation of sports lighting is also required to increase the time available to use the oval. Current technology ensures lighting is contained within the playing area. It is proposed to install sports lighting which will not spill or impact on the surrounds including the visual significance of the Shrine of Remembrance, the Melbourne Gardens, Melbourne Observatory or local biodiversity. A new pavilion will be required and its location determined in the detailed design for Kings Domain South.

It is acknowledged that decisions in this area may require review in the context of determining the optimum location for the visitor and nature centre (refer section 4.3.2).

With over 2 million people using the Tan Track annually, the “Tan” is an iconic destination for many people who want to develop and maintain their fitness. Providing facilities such as fitness equipment, targeting this user group will support and improve their visitor experience.

Changes in the management of large crowds and the way events are provided have led to an increase in the infrastructure needed at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

There is a need to improve the interface between the Sidney Myer Music Bowl and surrounding area of the Kings Domain. This can be done by improving entries, path connections, fencing and where possible concealing built structures in the landscape. Enhancing the natural sound barrier on the perimeter of the Sidney Myer Music Bowl by providing additional tree planting should also be explored.

These improvements will be partnership projects between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Arts Centre Trust. In the short term the fenced area near the toilets needs to be realigned to improve pedestrian access and circulation, and vehicle entry improvements will be explored.

Master Plan Actions

- Prepare a detailed design for the Alexandra Gardens:
 - Redesign and upgrade the Riverslide Skate Park and adjacent house and provide new public toilets that are better integrated into the gardens.
 - Improve physical and visual access along the river, provide shade and seating for viewing the river.
 - Improve lighting.
 - Work with the key stakeholders to develop the detailed design for Alexandra Gardens to achieve the best outcome for all users, now and into the future.
 - Prepare design and management solutions to reduce conflict between pedestrians, commuter cyclists and vehicles.
 - Work with the key stakeholders to develop management protocols to reduce vehicle movement behind and in front of boathouses, manage boat trailer use, improve pedestrian safety and relocate waste bins.
 - In partnership with the Victorian Government and Parks Victoria, design and provide a new boat landing at the boathouses, including improved design for the river bank.
 - Prepare a detailed design for Kings Domain South. This will include creating a new park entry, new accessible paths from the station, and removing surplus buildings in the depot. Provide a path adjacent to Dallas Brooks Drive from Domain Road.
 - Following the Metro Tunnel project, improve the grassed surface of Edmund Herring Oval to increase capacity for use. If use exceeds the capacity of natural turf, convert the oval to a synthetic surface. Repair the retaining wall incorporating terraced seating.
 - Install sports lighting to allow for evening training, that is sensitive to the local biodiversity, Melbourne Gardens, Melbourne Observatory and the Shrine of Remembrance.
 - Identify the optimum location and provide a new pavilion / multi-purpose community room adjacent to the Edmund Herring Oval.
 - Amend the Crown Land boundary to reflect responsible Land Managers at the Edmund Herring Oval.
 - Provide well integrated fitness equipment stations in Kings Domain South and other suitable locations adjacent to the Tan Track.
 - Review the service and use of the two maintenance depots to determine if both are still required.
- In partnership with the Victorian Arts Centre Trust, proposals relating to the management of the Sidney Myer Music Bowl include:
- Work in partnership with the Victorian Arts Centre Trust to adapt to contemporary trends in use at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, while also respecting the importance of passive recreation in the adjacent parkland.
 - Conduct a strategic review of the interface with the Sidney Myer Music Bowl and Kings Domain.
 - Prepare a detailed landscape plan to improve the access to and interface with the Sidney Myer Music Bowl and to improve entries to the venue.
 - Work with the Victorian Arts Centre Trust in preparation of a master plan for the Sidney Myer Music Bowl to facilitate improvements and rationalisation of public amenities, toilets, lighting, storage, fencing, access and entrances, and where possible conceal infrastructure in the landscape.
 - Explore design and management improvements to vehicle (truck) entry to the ‘back of house’.
 - Reduce and resolve the need and impact of temporary infrastructure on the landscape.
 - Realign the fencing near the toilets to improve pedestrian circulation.
 - Refine path layout in Kings Domain to improve access to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl. Improve path lighting for public safety.

4.3.4 Manage events

The Domain Parklands have become increasingly popular for organised events which are held by the City of Melbourne, various Land Managers in the Domain, and external organisations. These events vary in their size, attendance numbers, duration, impact, and the area they use.

Investigation into high impact events in the Domain Parklands and feedback from the community has raised questions about their number and sustainability. Resource demands of parkland reinstatement after events, and effects on parkland ecology and landscape quality is significant.

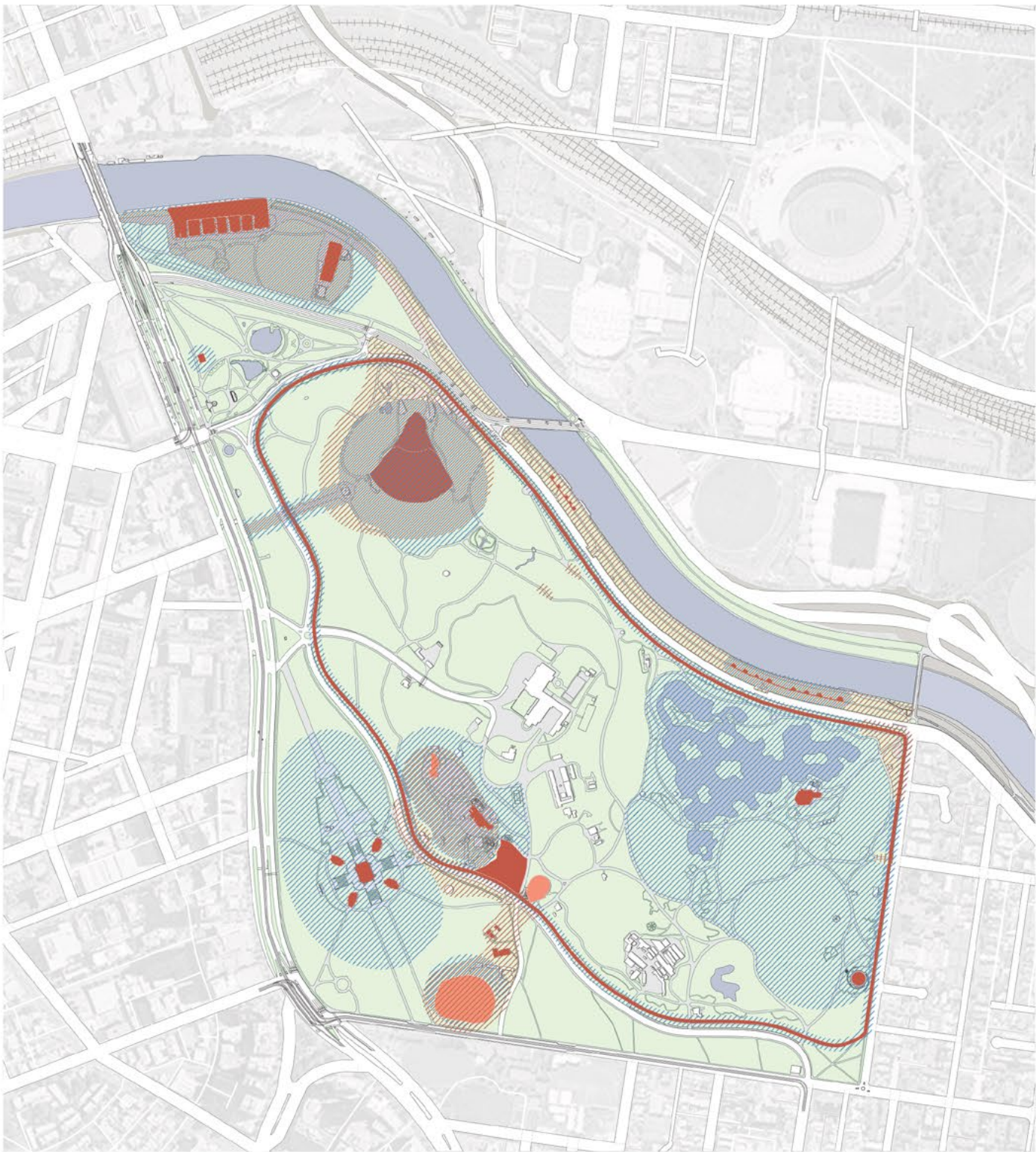
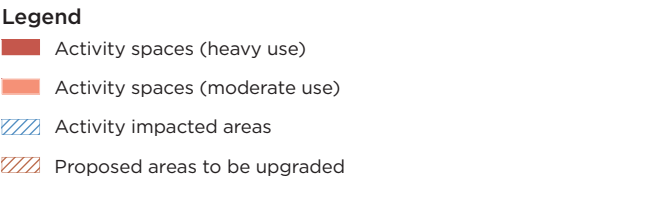
Unstructured recreation use of the parklands has been affected, particularly as access is restricted when there are extended periods to set up and dismantle events and then reinstate surfaces. In addition to static events within the parklands, fun runs also have an impact on other users, venues in the precinct and residential areas.

Some of these events can have a detrimental effect on those seeking informal passive enjoyment of the Domain Parklands, as normally quiet spaces for informal gatherings can be significantly disrupted by these events.

Coordination for timing of events held across the Domain Parklands including the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Melbourne Gardens, Shrine of Remembrance and Government House needs to be improved.

Master Plan Actions

- Establish a Domain Parklands Event Program Group to discuss and coordinate the calendar of events across the Domain Parklands.
- Develop a clear position to balance the use of the parkland for passive and event use and review the events sustainability guidelines.
- Continue to seek a balanced approach to park and event management.
- Investigate moving some fun run start / finish areas to locations where adequate infrastructure is already in place.
- Initiate events curated more specifically for the Domain Parklands.
- Where appropriate, relocate some events to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.



Major activity areas and impacted surrounding areas within the Domain Parklands

4.4 Improve people movement and access



The Domain Parklands are visited by millions of people each year and these numbers are expected to grow. The parklands have many beautiful areas that are easy to find and visit. There are also hidden jewels, providing a discovery experience for visitors.

Supporting access to and within the parklands is important for its role as a welcoming, safe and enjoyable space. Good access provides an invitation to enter the parklands.

The key themes around people movement and access show:

- Access will be improved by establishing a network and hierarchy of paths and identifying and communicating accessible paths of travel.
- Accessible paths of travel will consider journeys and different levels of ability, enabling people to reach destinations as well as meander.
- The network of accessible paths of travel will, where possible, have manageable grades, suitable path surfaces, width and good maintenance.
- Wayfinding is a key ingredient of good access and will include signage, which needs to be in the right place, with the right information, provided in a variety of accessible formats.

4.4.1 Improve parklands entrances

Main entrances are located around the perimeter of the Domain Parklands. Most entrances are not formally defined, and it is not clear which part of the parklands you are entering. There are also a number of locations where entrances are not accessible to people with disabilities.

This can make wayfinding for visitors who are not familiar with the parklands problematic. Improving legibility and in some cases moving gateways and paths into the park will facilitate better access to the parklands.

A detailed design is needed to improve the entry and enhanced visitor arrival experience at the Melbourne Gardens, Melbourne Observatory and Shrine of Remembrance hub. This will include changes to circulation and entry for the Melbourne Gardens, consistent with their draft Melbourne Gardens Master Plan. This design will be in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and the Shrine of Remembrance.

We will continue working with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria to improve access to other entries at the Melbourne Gardens, particularly A Gate, C Gate and the proposed new entry (Rivergate entry - Alexandra Avenue).



Wide paths on historic alignments



Desire lines into the parklands from tram stop along St Kilda Rd

Master Plan Actions

- Improve entrances:
 - At the major park entry at Linlithgow Avenue and St Kilda Road.
 - At the tram stops along St Kilda Road and Domain Road. Improve access and wayfinding from all tram stops adjacent to the parklands.
 - By designing a new accessible entry from the Coventry Street / Dorcas Street tram stops with the Shrine. Realign and reconstruct the stairs.
 - At the Alexandra Gardens entry at St Kilda Road and the accessible path entry to Queen Victoria Gardens.
 - To the rowing precinct and within the river corridor.
- Work with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria to improve entries, in particular the Anderson Street entries (A Gate and C Gate).
- Create accessible paths from the river landing entry to connect to a new Melbourne Gardens entry along Alexandra Avenue (S).
- Create a pedestrian plaza and drop off zone at the Melbourne Observatory, to improve visitor arrival experience at these destinations and improve the interface with the Melbourne Gardens and Shrine of Remembrance. The detailed design will be prepared in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Shrine of Remembrance.

4.4.2 Improve internal pathway networks

The internal path network of the Domain Parklands is extensive. There is a need to review this network to refine its hierarchy, identify accessible paths of travel and ensure the functionality of the paths suits their purpose.

In addition to the terrestrial path network there is opportunity to explore provision of new experiences, such as a tree top walk. Starting at the escarpment north of the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, a tree top walk could be created linking to the Melbourne Gardens, which would give excellent views over the Birrarung (Yarra River) as well as creating an accessible path through challenging topography.

Master Plan Actions

- Review the path network to identify a hierarchy of paths.
- Identify and promote key routes for accessible paths of travel through the parklands.
- Provide new paths, including new alignments to improve accessibility adjacent to the Birrarung (Yarra River). Create the 'River Walk' as part of this project.
- Identify accessible paths of travel to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl through the parklands. Highlight these paths to patrons with in-ground lighting.
- Investigate provision of a tree top walk and viewing area from the escarpment.

4.4.3 Reduce barriers and improve access over roads

There is a road network within the parklands which divides and isolates sections of the parklands. Pedestrian movements and continuity of the parklands can be improved by reducing pedestrian barriers, reimagining road functions and improving access over roads that are to be retained. Pedestrian priority can be reinforced with consistent and clear pedestrian crossings at regular intervals and key locations. Other initiatives include: protected bicycle lanes, shared zones, reducing speed limits, reducing the dominance of the car and narrowing of roads.

The biggest barrier is created by busy Alexandra Avenue (N) between Alexandra Gardens and Queen Victoria Gardens. Opportunities to improve the connection between these sections of parkland in addition to the proposed new pedestrian crossing need to be explored.

Subject to and aligned with anticipated Victorian Government development on the north bank, the location, purpose and need for a pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the Birrarung (Yarra River) should be further explored, and if supported to be funded by the Victorian Government.

Sections 4.4.8 and 4.4.9 describe proposals to support the gradual removal of cars to give the space back to people.

Master Plan Actions

- Assess current visual and physical barriers and boundaries. Improve links and access by providing consistent and clear pedestrian crossings at regular intervals and key locations.
- Explore opportunities to improve the connection between the Queen Victoria and Alexandra Gardens, such as a land bridge across Alexandra Avenue (N), and ways to reduce the impact of noise on the parkland visitors.
- Provide an additional signalised pedestrian crossing over Alexandra Avenue (N).
- Subject to and aligned with Victorian Government development on the north bank, investigate the location, purpose and need for a new bridge to improve pedestrian and bicycle access across the Birrarung (Yarra River), and if supported, to be funded by the Victorian Government.
- Improve approach to F Gate at Melbourne Gardens at Dallas Brooks Drive and Birdwood Avenue.

4.4.4 Support access by public transport

Access by public transport to the key destinations within the Domain Parklands is poor. This is due to the location of stops with little or no relationship to destinations in the parklands, lack of attention to the topographical challenges in the parklands, and the type of public transport that currently operates within and immediately abutting the parklands.

Much of this is beyond the control of Council; however, in order to support visitor access and provide alternatives to car travel, there is a need to advocate for substantial improvements to public transport.

The current Metro Tunnel project represents an opportunity to create an accessible link from the new station to the Birdwood Avenue entries to the Shrine of Remembrance and Melbourne Gardens. Council is seeking to influence the design of the station entries to ensure this new link is logical and implementable.

Options for public transport along Birdwood Avenue, including autonomous vehicles should be explored. Options for public transport along the Birrarung (Yarra River) to the Melbourne Gardens should be explored.

Master Plan Actions

- Advocate for substantial improvements to public transport to the Domain Parklands and destinations within it.
- Work with the Land Managers and Metro Rail to provide a new accessible pedestrian path from Anzac Station into the parklands and to the Birdwood Avenue entries to the Shrine of Remembrance and Melbourne Gardens.
- Investigate future options for public transport, including autonomous vehicles.
- Work with Parks Victoria to develop a strategic approach to the location and style of boat landings which will support visitor transport to the parklands.

4.4.5 Network approaches to improve cycling routes

The Domain Parklands link at a key convergence within the city's existing bicycle network.

The routes along the Birrarung (Yarra River) corridor (Capital City trail) are heavily used by commuter, recreational cyclists and rowing coaches. There are several points of conflict along the trail, especially in Alexandra Gardens at the boathouses and along Boathouse Drive.

Within the parklands the Capital City trail is narrow, and sight lines are not consistent. This is problematic as the path is also used by high numbers of pedestrians, meandering tourists, people exercising and dog walkers.

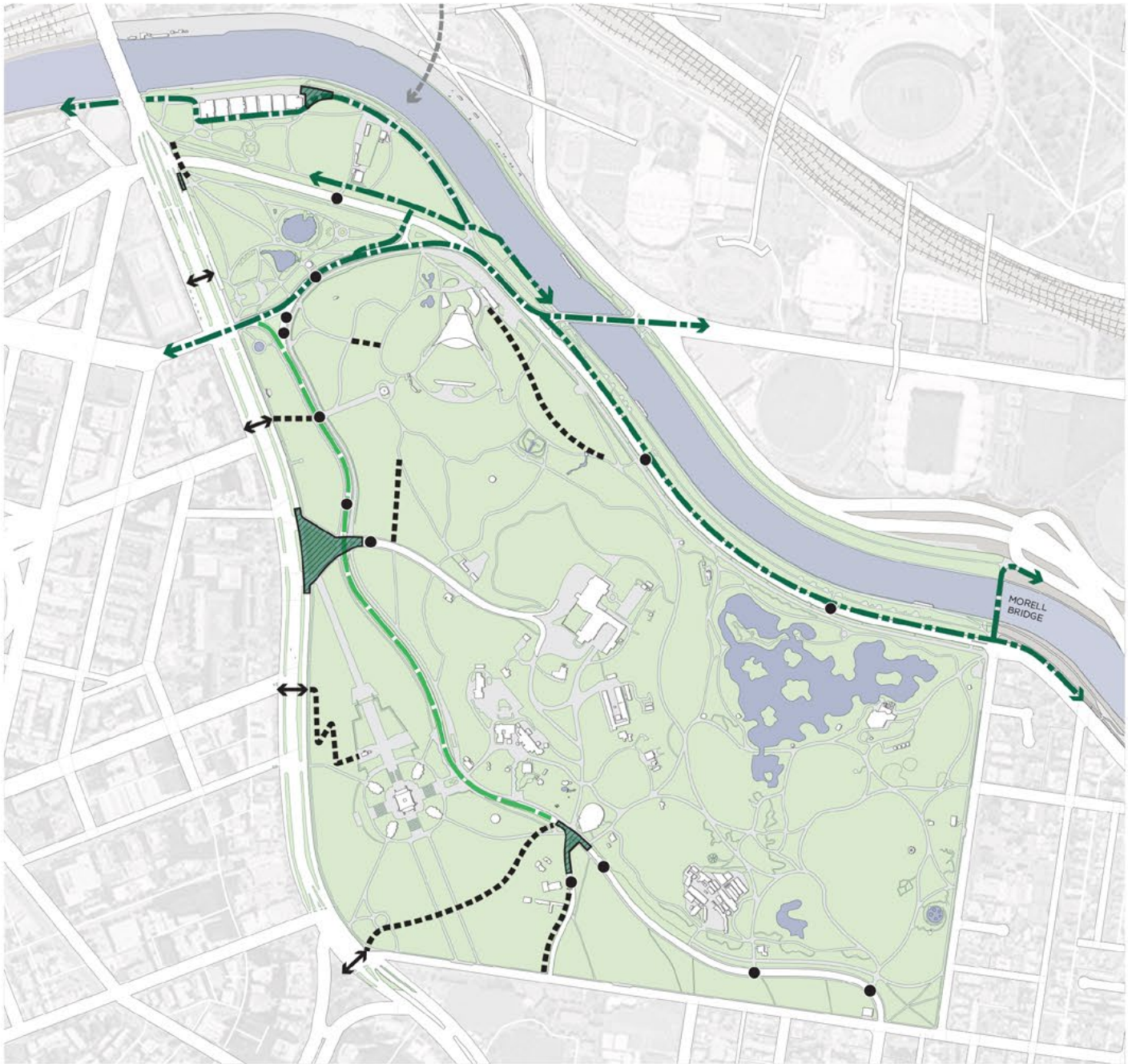
With participation in cycling growing and the number of visitors to the parklands increasing, a network-based solution to reduce points of conflict between commuter cyclists and other parklands users is needed. This will be supported by proposals to rethink the ways roads within the parklands are used and regulated (refer section 4.4.8).

Master Plan Actions

- Develop a network based solution to the points of conflict between cyclists and other parklands users, consistent with the Bicycle Plan 2016 - 2020.
- Design and implement a dedicated cycle lane following the Birrarung (Yarra River) corridor along or adjacent to Alexandra Avenue (S) from Morell Bridge, to connect to new Linlithgow Avenue and Southbank Boulevard cycle lanes.

Legend

- Upgrade cycle link
- Proposed pedestrian path
- Proposed park promenade
- Connection improvement (tram to park entrance)
- Proposed drop off/pick up zone
- Proposed pedestrian crossing
- Investigate location, purpose and need for bridge



Proposed connections within and around the Domain Parklands

4.4.6 Contemporary way-finding in the Domain Parklands

Currently there is insufficient and poorly placed signage within the parklands. In order to maximise the visitor experience directional information, maps and information to support a visit to the parklands should be easily accessible.

A strategy which reviews the existing signage and identifies how and where to deliver signage and information at key decision points in a visitor’s journey is required.

It is also proposed to develop an interpretation plan to include information about history, botanical points of interest, commemoration, monuments in the Kings Domain, the civic role and development of the State identity, and the arboretum.

Master Plan Actions

- Using new and existing technologies develop and implement a comprehensive way-finding strategy for the Domain Parklands in consultation with the other Land Managers. This will include:
 - A framework for creating interpretive landscapes and signage with Traditional Owners.
 - A staged approach to removal and installation as well as maintenance guidelines.
 - An interpretation plan to provide information about the Domain Parklands



A wayfinding strategy will guide improvements to support the visitor experience

4.4.7 Create journeys in the Domain Parklands

It is proposed to define and promote a variety of journeys for navigating through the parklands for different levels of ability. This will also enable people to reach destinations via the most direct route or choose to meander and discover something new.

Three major walks have been identified:

- The Domain Parklands Walk, providing the most direct route to the Shrine of Remembrance and Melbourne Gardens, will provide a continuous accessible path of travel mostly within the parklands rather than on the boundary.
- The River Walk presents an opportunity to enhance connection to the Birrarung (Yarra River), while also bringing people to the Melbourne Gardens.
- The Botanical Walk is a journey through the parklands with options for entry to the Melbourne Gardens as well as the main entry to the Shrine of Remembrance.

Many levels of improvement will be required to curate these walks.

In the future new journeys should be curated from the proposed visitor and nature centre.

A new treetop walk, north of the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, could also be investigated.

Master Plan Actions

- Define and promote a variety of journeys for navigating through the parklands.
- Develop and promote a Domain Parklands walk, a River Walk and a Botanical Walk.



New journeys within the Domain Parklands

Legend

- Proposed Domain Parklands Walk (primary accessible path)
- Proposed River Walk
- Proposed Botanical Walk
- Proposed Aboriginal Melbourne Walk (refer section 4.2.1)
- Proposed Tree-top Walk

4.4.8 Rethink the use of existing road space

An extensive road system surrounds and dissects the parklands. The network within the parklands includes Alexandra Avenue, Linlithgow Avenue, Birdwood Avenue and Dallas Brooks Drive.

The roads and parking spaces in the Domain Parklands are used by:

- Parkland users – these are the people that have come to enjoy the parks and gardens and/or visit the various attractions within.
- Non-parkland users – those destined for locations outside the parklands who drive through or those who use the roads as a convenient low cost car park.

The key themes of how the roads are currently used show:

- Most traffic is through traffic.
- There is more than adequate parking for parklands users.

The current traffic activity and parking use detracts from the experience of being within the parklands. Through traffic has increased on all internal roads in the parklands and speeds are not conducive to its setting. It is anticipated that these behaviours and outcomes will compound as the city densifies and the population increases if we do not rethink how we can use these roads.

As the roads occupy a significant area within the parklands they present several opportunities to improve the pedestrian circulation, enhance the parkland visitor experience and improve the environmental function of the parklands.

Rethinking the way we use existing road space anticipates a gradual change to the function of the road. It describes bringing the road into the parkland, to be a place for people rather than a road for cars.

It is proposed to close Linlithgow Avenue (S) to through traffic to better connect these sections of the Kings Domain. This proposal will improve the visitor experience by reducing the impact of cars (of both through traffic and empty parked cars) and return the road space to people.

It is expected that access along Linlithgow Avenue (S) for the horse and carriage operators could continue following road closure as they offer a tourist and recreational experience which can be managed in pedestrianised parkland areas.

It is proposed to close Linlithgow Avenue (S) to through traffic to better connect these sections of the Kings Domain. This proposal will improve the visitor experience by reducing the impact of cars (of both through traffic and empty parked cars) and return the road space to people.

It is expected that access along Linlithgow Avenue (S) for the horse and carriage operators could continue following road closure as they offer a tourist and recreational experience which can be managed in pedestrianised parkland areas.

The 2016 parking and traffic study highlighted:

- 78 per cent of vehicle movement is through traffic on an average weekday,
- Of the 22 per cent stopping in the parklands many are using the all -day car parking but not visiting the parklands.
- Weekend traffic volumes are lower than weekday traffic volumes.
- Over 1300 car parking spaces are located along parklands roads.
- 63 per cent of car parking is used at the busiest period on an average weekday, 61 per cent of car parking is used on the weekend. Nearly half the weekday parking is by commuters.
- Parking demand is heavily influenced by events within the Domain Parklands or nearby precincts (MCG or Melbourne Olympic Park area).
- Parking occupancies during events can reach very high levels.
- When no events are held, parking occupancy is similar on weekdays and weekends.
- Most of the parking is used for destinations other than the Domain Parklands.

Master Plan Actions

- Change the language and appearance of the roads to prioritise pedestrians and the parkland setting.
- Introduce traffic calming measures on internal roads.
- Trial temporary road closures for pedestrian and cycle use, and events on Linlithgow Avenue (S), and other internal roads where possible.
- Reduce speed to 20km per hour on Boathouse Drive.
- Create a new drop off / pick up / turning circle for cars at the east end of the boathouses. Restrict vehicle access along the front and back of the boathouses.
- Establish a new shared zone behind the

boathouses, to create a good alternative for cyclists and discourage commuter cycling from the front of the boatsheds in the short term.

- Undertake detailed design to install a bike path and improve pedestrian access at Linlithgow Avenue while retaining vehicle access to Boathouse Drive.
- Remove slip lane between Linlithgow Avenue and Linlithgow Avenue (S). Reinstate park in current road reserve and create accessible path link.
- Investigate changes to Alexandra Park and Alexandra Avenue (S) to create a separated cycle lane.
- Create drop off areas at Marquis of Linlithgow Reserve and at Observatory Gate and Shrine of Remembrance. While providing bus drop off / pick up adjacent to the Shrine, relocate bus parking to the park perimeter on St Kilda and Domain Roads.
- Investigate closure of Linlithgow Avenue (S) to through traffic, to create generous shared path while maintaining access for service vehicles.
- Review locations of bus drop off and bus parking for Melbourne Gardens.
- In the longer term, following completion of the Metro Tunnel project and subject to alternative options for pedestrian access, investigate closure of Birdwood Avenue (N) to through traffic, to create generous shared path while maintaining access for service vehicles.

4.4.9 Car parking – support visitor access while adapting to future trends

We recognise it is important for some people to drive and park at the parklands when visiting. However, parking analysis gives us confidence that car parking can be repurposed in several areas in the parklands.

While parking to visit destinations within the Domain Parklands will be provided, some on-street car parking can be repurposed to improve the amenity, safety, visual experience and better connect the parklands. This will provide space for pedestrian crossings on internal roads, and more dedicated cycle lanes within the parklands.

Changes to parking restrictions in some areas will prioritise park visitors. Changes in the Boathouse Drive area will better support the rowing use in the area.

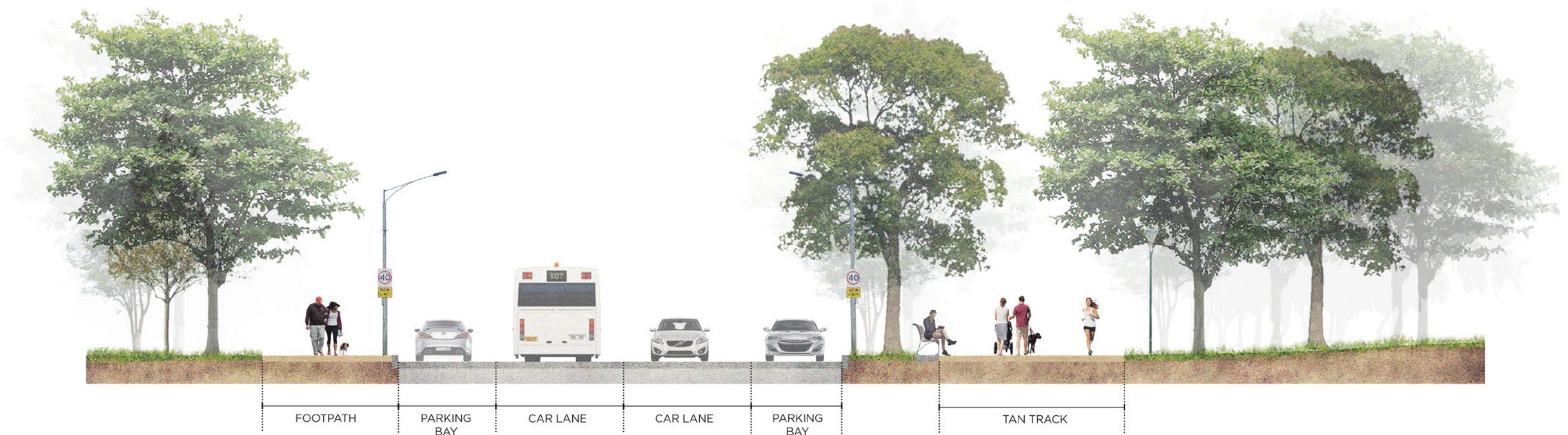
There will be some change in Alexandra Park and Alexandra Avenue (S) as part of the broader detailed design to upgrade the pedestrian and cyclist movement in this area of parkland.

There is a need to improve accessible parking at key destinations. Explore drop off/pick up options for visitors to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

The Shrine of Remembrance Trustees currently permit and manage car parking within the Shrine Reserve for use by their staff, volunteers and invited guests. Alternative solutions should be explored.

Master Plan Actions

- Repurpose car parks to reduce the width of road pavements and landscape to improve environmental services and amenity.
- Review and modify parking restrictions to ensure they reflect and support the needs of visitors to the Domain Parklands. Provide greater consistency in application of parking restrictions across the parklands.
- In the short term, change all day parking to 4 hour parking in Linlithgow Avenue (S) to better support park visitors.
- Install pedestrian priority crossings at regular intervals along Linlithgow Avenue (S) Birdwood Avenue, Dallas Brooks Drive and Alexandra Avenue (S).
- Work with the Melbourne Gardens, to improve the pedestrian crossing on Dallas Brookes Drive (N).
- Review location and quantity of drop off bays, bus parking, accessible parking and taxi, food vendor and horse carriage bays. Increase accessible parking at key destinations.
- Repurpose car parking spaces in Linlithgow Avenue to provide dedicated bicycle lanes.
- Modify parking restrictions on St Kilda Road at the Alexandra Gardens entry to support a drop off / pick up area for rowers.
- Work with Land Managers to minimise the parking of cars on the landscape.

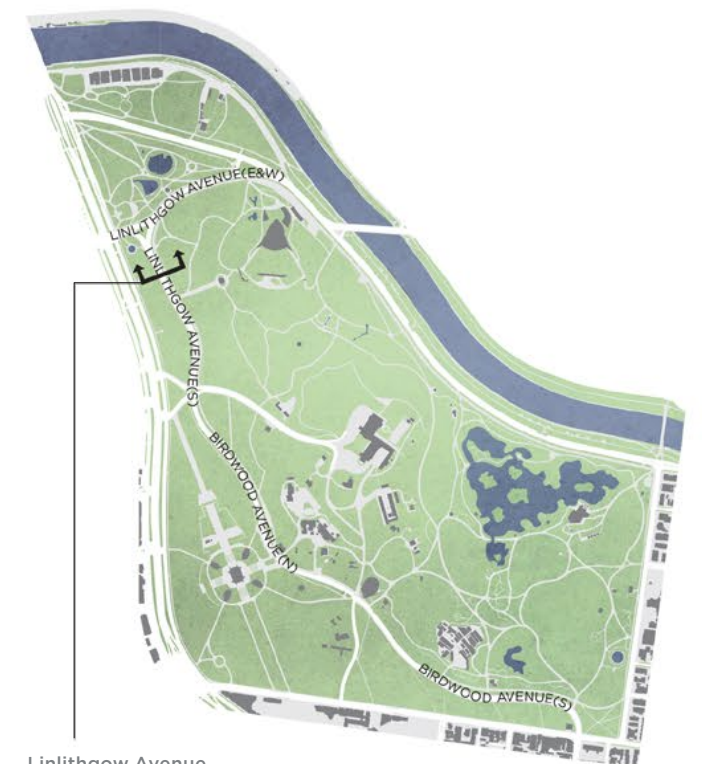


Existing conditions Linlithgow Avenue (north/south)

- wide road reserve
- double side car parking
- generous road carriageway



Linlithgow Avenue
Road closure during Moomba parade 2018 - supports celebration + activation



Linlithgow Avenue
section line

Scenario 01: repurposing the road (Linlithgow Avenue north/south)



Proposed conditions Linlithgow Avenue (short term)

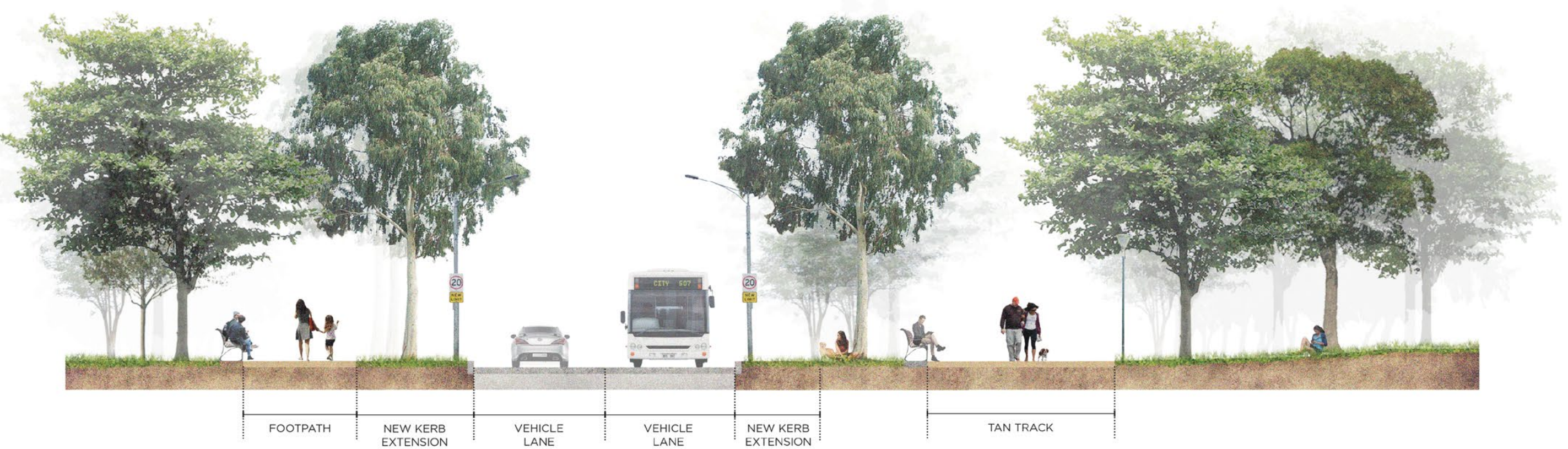
- occasional temporary closure for fun runs etc.
- use the road hard stand for events eg. street festivals



Proposed conditions Linlithgow Avenue (long term)

- regular temporary closure
- close the road to traffic and maintain for recreational use only

Scenario 02: reducing the road (Linlithgow Avenue north/south)



Proposed conditions Linlithgow Avenue (short term)

- remove some parking
- reduce the traffic speed
- possible water sensitive urban design planting or garden bed extension to allow better tree growth along the existing road edge



Proposed conditions Linlithgow Avenue (long term)

- use the road hard stand for temporary recreation and events, weekend closure or full closure

4.5 Management and partnerships to build resilience



Five public Land Managers have responsibility for separate areas of the Domain Parklands. Each Land Manager has particular responsibilities, and has their purpose set by legislation. Collectively they contribute to the function and success of the entire parklands.

- There is opportunity for the Land Managers to collaborate to enhance the broader destination management.
- Potential benefits could include enhanced visitor experience through connected information and journeys to destinations, integrated approaches to management of parkland resources and coordinated event management.
- Collaborative approaches to management will not dilute the individual character and significance of each destination.
- Management responsibility for the Birrarung (Yarra River) rests primarily with Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water. Coordination and collaboration on the management of this interface will continue to be very important.

4.5.1 Make one parkland of many unique destinations

The City of Melbourne does not manage all parts of the Domain Parklands. The Melbourne Gardens, Shrine of Remembrance, Sidney Myer Music Bowl and Government House have separate governance and purposes. When combined they provide 123 hectares of parkland. This is significant on many levels.

Uniting these parklands will strengthen the environmental services role for the city, as well as greatly improve the visitor experience of the place.

Master Plan Actions

- In addition to the proposals to improve pedestrian access and environmental services, ‘making one parkland of many unique destinations’ will be strengthened by establishing an agreed vision for the Domain Parklands with all Land Managers.

This action recognises that there are distinct organisational vision and profiles for each Land Manager (and their organisation), as well as specific legislation directing their purpose.

4.5.2 Create a framework for priorities and decision-making

This master plan has been developed to guide future management of the Domain Parklands and will provide the framework for priorities and decision-making.

It is clear that the broader environmental service function of the parklands as a whole, and the critical role parkland plays in the health of the community, needs to be a high priority in decision-making. When any decision is made, the effect of this decision on the environmental service function should be an important consideration.

Master Plan Actions

- Develop an implementation plan for the master plan which clearly articulates short, medium and long term actions to logically implement the master plan actions.
- Review and update the master plan 10 years after it is endorsed by Council.

4.5.3 Commitment to future management and collaboration

It is proposed to initiate regular meetings of the Land Manager executives to allow regular communication and coordination across the parklands. In addition to the four Land Managers, Council will engage with external entities whose activities may impact and influence the parklands (e.g. Parks Victoria, Metro Rail, Vic Roads).

The sharing of information, greater communication and a better understanding of Land Manager and visitor requirements to each destination will assist in co-ordinated decision making, facilities provision and management actions.

Master Plan Actions

- Initiate regular meetings of the Land Manager Executives.
- Introduce regular meetings for operational staff to examine visitor requirements to inform planning for improved services.
- Explore shared use provision of some visitor services.

4.5.4 Manage uses in the Crown reserves managed by the City of Melbourne

The individual Reserves which make up the Domain Parklands are all permanently reserved Crown Land, set aside for specific purposes. Most recreational activities can occur within these broad purposes. However, there are times where applications are made for activities or events which are inconsistent with the purpose of the reservation.

The Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 sets out processes for the management of inconsistent uses within the reservation. This intensive process is used for activities with a greater impact on the parklands. Where an activity has a lesser impact on the park, Council manages the application using the local law permit process.

The practice provides appropriate levels of approval or scrutiny, which enable hundreds of events to occur, while ensuring thoughtful decisions are made on events of greater impact. This forms part of the important protection of parkland for future generations.

Master Plan Actions

- Continue and improve (as required) the management practices developed by the City of Melbourne with DELWP to assess uses inconsistent with the parklands reservations.

4.5.5 Reduce the impact of services

There are regular and frequent requests by utility service providers, government projects, and activity organisers to install permanent or temporary services in the Domain Parklands.

There is a current request for a permanent telecommunications tower to be installed in a higher location in the parklands to support the increased demand for services from major events in the precinct. Temporary towers have been used to date.

Utility service installations impact on visual amenity, usability, recreational value, and environmental service function. It is proposed to protect the landscape character of the parklands by avoiding new utility service structures or expansion of existing structures.

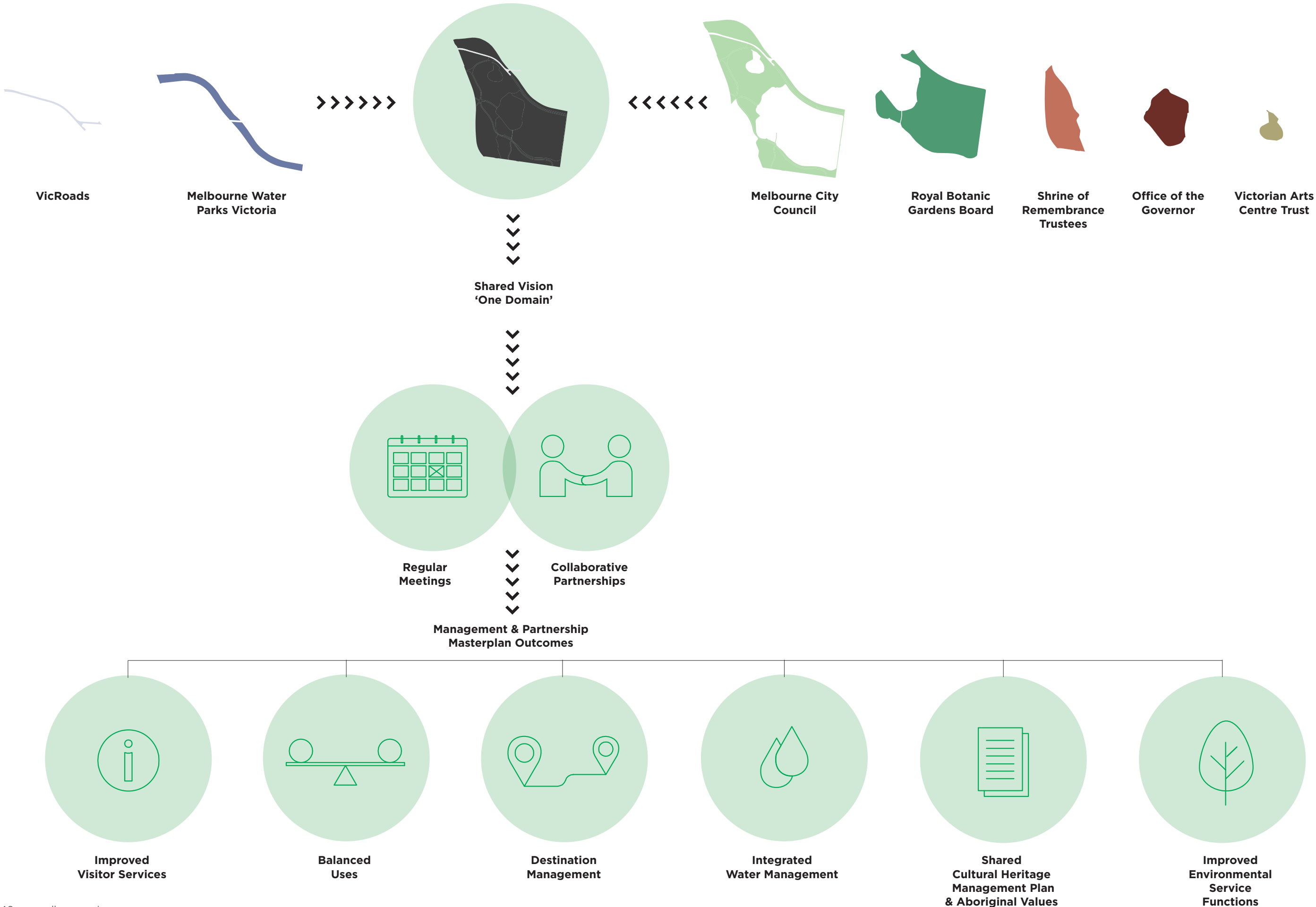
As stated in the Master Plan values, fundamental to all the values is the principle that there be no net loss of parkland and that future change should bring positive benefits to the Domain Parklands.

Master Plan Actions

- Protect the landscape character of the Domain Parklands by avoiding new or expansion of existing above ground utility structures associated with electricity, gas or telecommunications.
- Seek opportunities to work with Land Managers to reduce duplication of services, ensure infrastructure is discrete and consolidated.
- Address the negative visual impact of service cabinets on St Kilda Road boundary of Queen Victoria Gardens and other services in the parklands.
- Review the potential to provide more permanent telecommunications support within existing infrastructure.

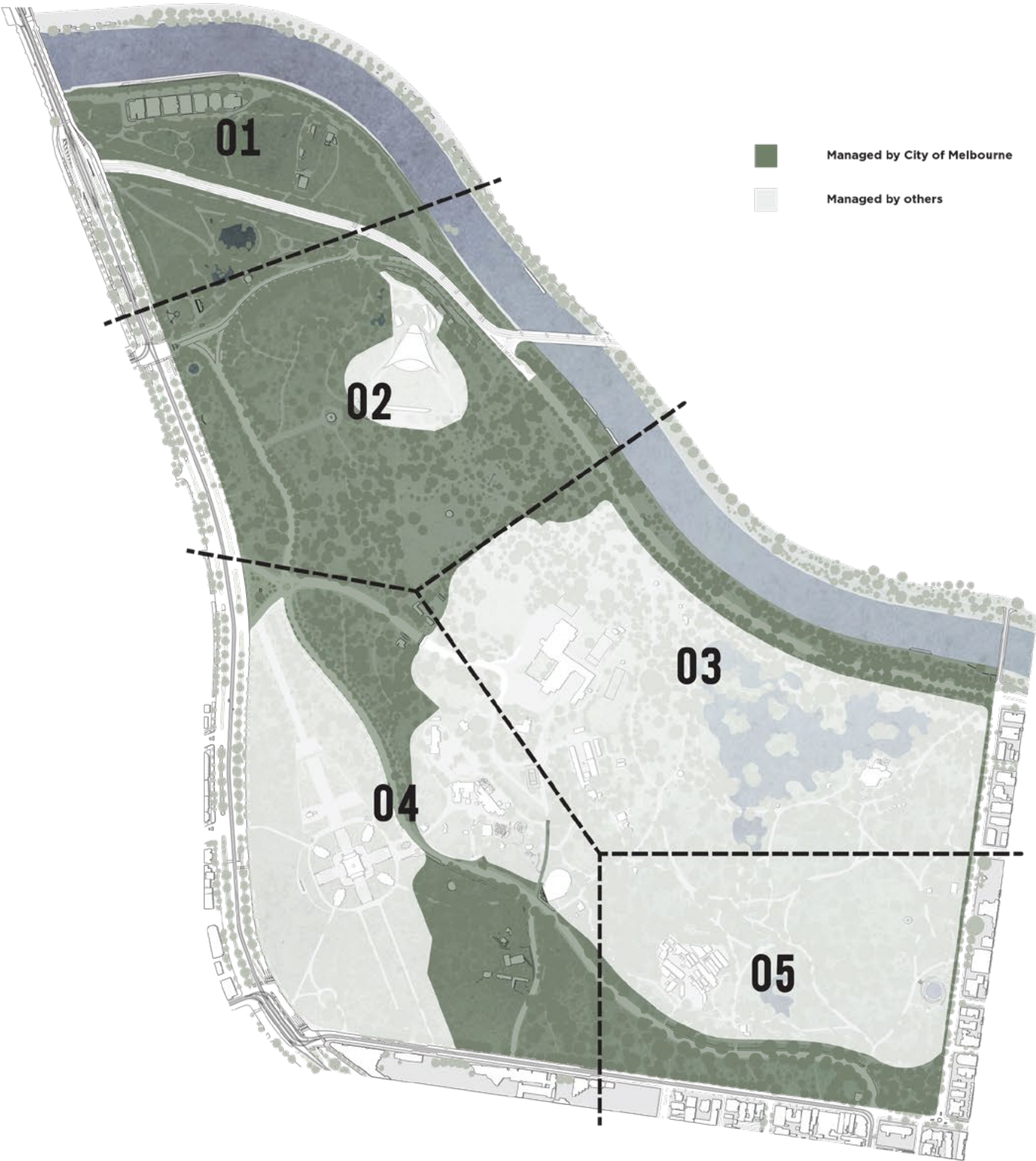
External land managers

Parklands land managers



5. DOMAIN PARKLANDS PRECINCT PLANS

Section five shows the Domain Parklands divided into five precincts. The plans explain a summary of proposed upgrades to the areas and the key precinct actions.



5.1 Precinct 01 - Alexandra and Queen Victoria Gardens

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Prepare detailed design for Alexandra Gardens
- Determine optimum size and location for new public toilets at the Alexandra Gardens and provide them
- Prepare design and management solutions to reduce conflict between pedestrians, commuter cyclists and vehicles
- Establish a new shared zone behind the boathouses, to create a good alternative for cyclists and discourage commuter cycling from the front of the boathouses
- Reduce vehicle movement in front and behind boathouses
- Manage boat trailer parking and remove non-essential car parking behind boathouses
- Improve waste management in the precinct
- Improve physical and visual access along the river. Investigate ways to improve views to the river
- Introduce new native planting adjacent to the Birrarung, extent subject to future design
- Improve lighting

In partnership with Victorian Government and Parks Victoria, design and provide new rowing landing and improve design for river bank

Modify parking restrictions on St Kilda Road to support drop off/pick up of rowers. Improve path lighting to boathouses

Investigate future land bridge at high point to extend pedestrian link over Alexandra Avenue

Upgrade entry to include accessible path

New accessible connection into park from tram stop

Consolidate service cabinets in single cover

Build new signalised pedestrian crossing and review associated pedestrian movement, including locations of path connections

Create new drop-off /pick-up zone at east end of boathouses

Upgrade/redesign skate park and improve relationship to adjacent spaces

Subject to and aligned with Victorian Government development on the north bank, investigate the location, purpose and need for a bridge to improve pedestrian and cycle access across the Birrarung

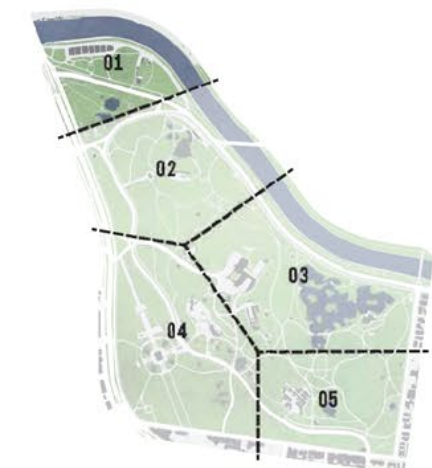
Reduce speed on Boathouse Drive to 20km/h.

Provide tree canopy shade and seating for viewing along the river front

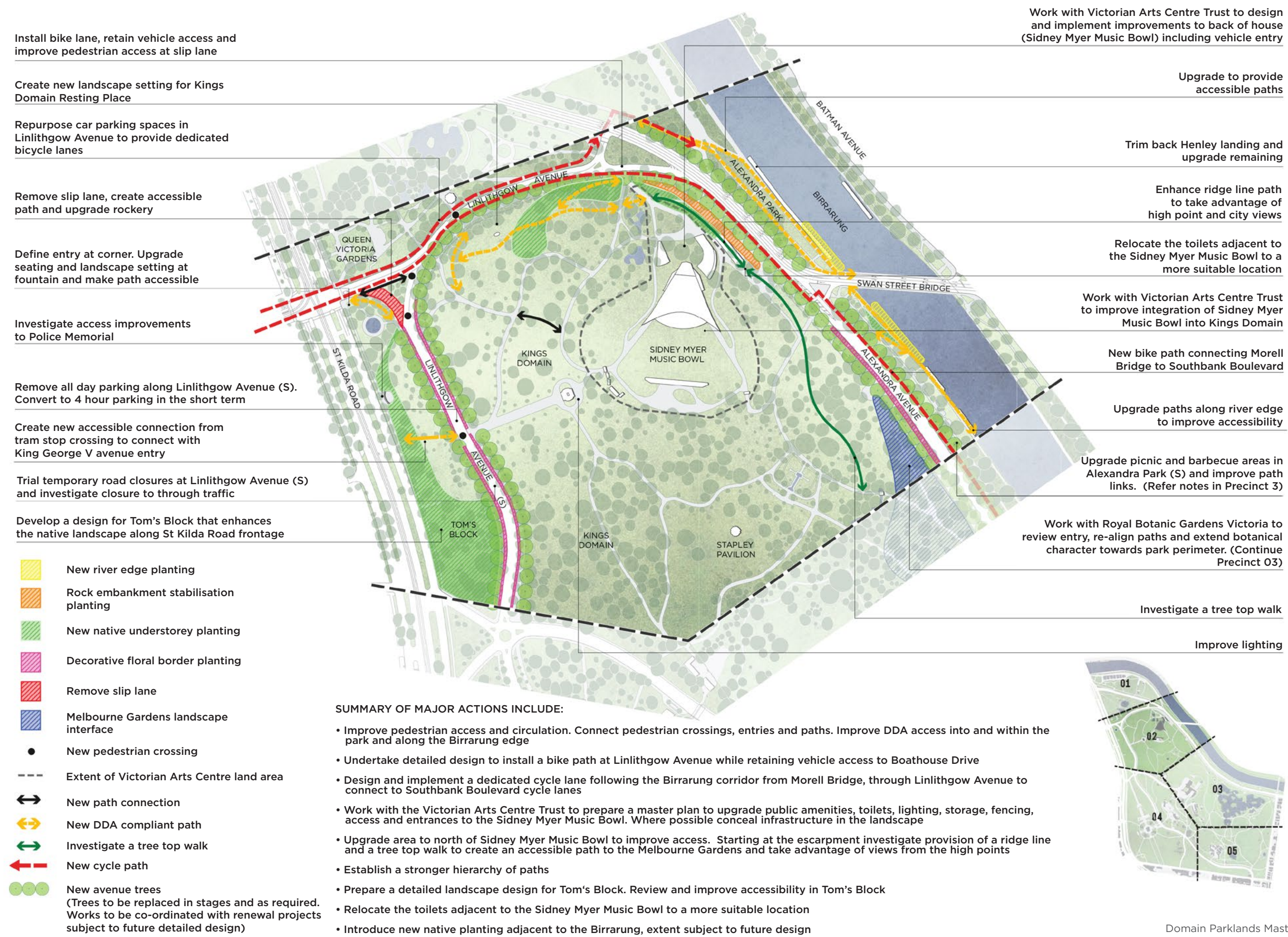
Upgrade paths adjacent to and along the river edge to improve access

Investigate location for temporary event toilet sewer connection

-  Boathouse precinct
-  Skatepark upgrade
-  New river edge planting
-  New native understorey planting
-  New low buffer planting
-  New path connection
-  New DDA compliant path
-  Potential future links



5.2 Precinct 02 - Kings Domain



5.3 Precinct 03 - Yarra Frontage and Government House

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Prepare a detailed design for Alexandra Park (S). This will include resolution of accessible path locations, upgrades to picnic and barbecue areas and separate cyclist movement corridors
- Improve links to Richmond Railway Station
- Introduce new native planting adjacent to the Birrarung, extent subject to future design



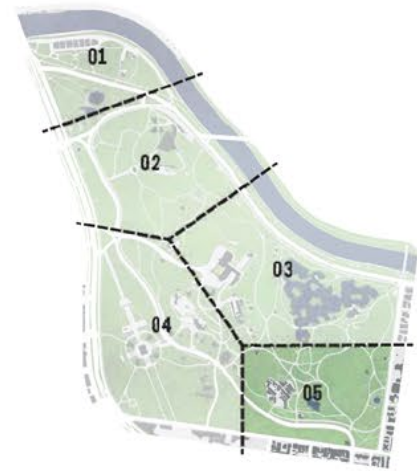
5.4 Precinct 04 - Visitor Precinct



5.5 Precinct 05 - Kings Domain South

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Prepare a detailed design for the eastern side of Kings Domain South. This will include design of neighbourhood settings for picnic tables, BBQs and paths. It will also include diversifying tree species, additional planting and well integrated fitness equipment along Birdwood Avenue
- Investigate and create new granitic sand paths





6. MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Indicative phasing for master plan implementation

The following section outlines the indicative phasing that is recommended to implement the master plan.

The priorities have been developed with consideration of funding, technical constraints and coordination with the Melbourne Metro Tunnel Project.

It is proposed that an implementation plan be prepared to support the process. The implementation plan will

identify project scope, stakeholders, and indicative costing. Management initiatives will also be documented, with project leads and target dates proposed.

Many identified projects will require detailed design. This term has been used in the master plan to refer to development of a schematic design, design development and contract documentation.

6.2 Review of the plan

Although the vision and broad direction of the Domain Parklands Master Plan should be ongoing, the specific recommendations of master plans may require additional review after 10 years. This should enable major influences on the area, such as the Melbourne Metro Tunnel project, to be properly reflected.

While the Domain Parklands Master Plan is a 20 year plan, it is proposed that a minor review be prepared for Council endorsement in 2028.

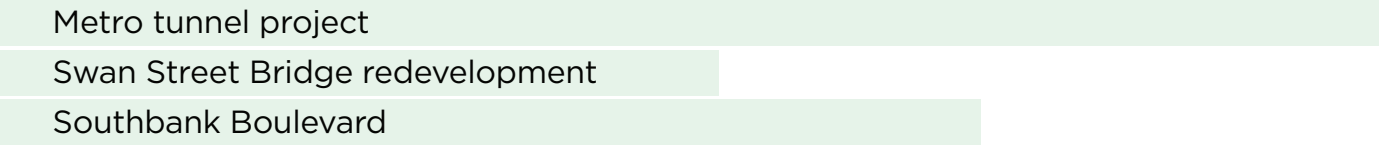
Projects by City of Melbourne Projects by others Projects by City of Melbourne collaboration with other land managers



Master Plan Implementation



External Projects (Affecting Implementation)



6.3 Master plan implementation summary

Nurture a diverse landscape and parkland ecology

INITIATIVES	ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION	INDICATIVE TIMELINE		
		SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
Elevate horticultural complexity and management	Implement City of Melbourne Eco-City strategies while retaining landscape design elements that have been assessed as having primary conservation significance.	Ongoing		
	Develop and implement a management plan and guiding principles that facilitates horticultural excellence for planting styles, locations and maintenance regimes for the parklands. High priority initiative			
	Strategically introduce native plant palettes in key areas including the Birrarung edge.			
	As part of the detailed designs for Kings Domain South, Kings Domain (Tom's Block) and Alexandra Park, improve landscape character and planting diversity.			
Support a healthy ecosystem	Implement the principles of Urban Forest Strategy and Nature in the City Strategy to improve biodiversity and urban ecology.	Ongoing		
	Partner with Land Managers on initiatives to improve biodiversity outcomes, integrate approaches to water management and advance the arboretum.	Ongoing		
Manage a City Arboretum	Develop and manage the city Arboretum in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.	Ongoing		
	Recommend funding for program delivery of science, research and education for the arboretum.			
	Develop a detailed tree planting and maintenance plan and collections policy for the arboretum.			
Manage soil and water	Continue innovative approaches to soil management.	Ongoing		
	Continue to work toward integrated water management	Ongoing		
	Investigate and recommend investment in alternative water supply systems in partnership with Land Managers to achieve a 50 per cent target of all irrigation water used in the parkland being from a non-potable source.			

Acknowledge history and cultural heritage

INITIATIVES	ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION	INDICATIVE TIMELINE		
		SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
Respect and celebrate Aboriginal cultural heritage	Work collaboratively with the Traditional Owner groups to build a stronger story of the Aboriginal connection to the area of the Domain Parklands, Birrarung and river banks.	Ongoing		
	Commission further research of historical data from primary sources and the Lower Yarra landscape's cultural values, with a focus on the Domain Parklands.' High priority initiative			
	Explore and strengthen the link to Tromgin (Indigenous local gathering site) and along the Birrarung, in collaboration with Traditional Owners and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.			
	Develop a self-guided Melbourne walk in collaboration with Traditional Owners and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.			
	Working with all the Land Managers and Traditional Owners, develop a joint Cultural Heritage Management Plan to guide the management of the place.			
	Explore renaming places within the parklands to recognise Aboriginal history and culture.			
Reflect cultural values and historical significance	In collaboration with Traditional Owner groups, create a new landscape setting for the Kings Domain Resting Place.			
	Promote an increase in community understanding and recognition of cultural heritage. Increase the public visibility of the history of the parklands through information and interpretation.	Ongoing		
	Continue to maintain and restore the unique parts of the cultural collection.	Ongoing		
	Prepare a Heritage Management Plan for the Domain Parklands National Heritage place.			
	Working with the Land Managers, prepare a Heritage Management framework for the Domain Parklands National Heritage List sites.			
Manage memorials in the Domain Parklands	Requests for future memorialisation, other than within the Shrine Reserve, are only considered if in keeping with the <i>Plaques and Memorials Policy (2016)</i> .	Ongoing		
	No additional large memorials or monuments, unless replacing existing ones, be permitted within areas of the Domain Parklands managed by the City of Melbourne.	Ongoing		

Support exceptional visitor experience

INITIATIVES	ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION	INDICATIVE TIMELINE		
		SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
Provide facilities ('Amenities') to meet future needs	Upgrade the depot toilets (at Government House gate) and Alexandra Avenue (S) toilets.			
	Determine the optimum size and location for new public toilets at the Alexandra Gardens and provide them. Determine location and provide sewer connection for temporary toilets for events.			
	Relocate the toilets currently adjacent to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl to a more suitable location (to be determined during detailed design).			
	Review toilets adjacent to Shrine as part of Kings Domain South detailed design.			
	Identify the location and provide a 'changing places' facility to support people with profound disabilities.			
	Improve directional signage to public toilets.			
	Redesign and upgrade the picnic/BBQ area adjacent to the Birrarung in Alexandra Park (S).			
	Identify suitable locations for new picnic/BBQ areas including in Kings Domain South.			
	Assess the location of existing seating, drink fountains, bins, lighting, bike parking and bike repair stations. Develop guidelines and service levels for their type, location and spacing and provide new amenities where required.			
	Provide facilities for recharging motorised scooters and wheelchairs.			

INITIATIVES	ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION	INDICATIVE TIMELINE		
		SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
Enhance visitor experience	Prepare a detailed design for Alexandra Park (S). This will include resolution of accessible path locations, upgrading picnic areas and separating cyclist movement corridors.			
	Work with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria to develop the detailed design to enhance the interface and improve pedestrian links with the Melbourne Gardens.			
	Create a new entry to the parklands from the Anzac station, including accessible paths to entries at the Melbourne Gardens and Shrine of Remembrance.			
	Investigate the development of a new visitor and nature centre, in partnership with the Land Managers.			
	Investigate opportunities for collaboration with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in the visitor information and education services associated with the proposed new Herbarium within the visitor and nature centre.			
	Prepare detailed design for the eastern side of Kings Domain South.			
	Introduce programming and prompts for greater play experiences in the Domain Parklands.			

Support exceptional visitor experience

INITIATIVES	ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION	INDICATIVE TIMELINE		
		SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
Manage organised activity spaces	Prepare a detailed design for the Alexandra Gardens. High priority initiative			
	Redesign and upgrade the Riverslide Skate Park and adjacent Former Gardener's Cottage and provide new public toilets that are better integrated into the gardens.			
	Improve physical and visual access along the river, provide shade and seating for viewing the river.			
	Improve lighting.			
	Prepare design and management solution to reduce conflict between pedestrians, commuter cyclists and vehicles.			
	Work with the rowing clubs to develop the detailed design for Alexandra Gardens to achieve the best outcome for all users, now and into the future.			
	Work with the rowing clubs to establish management protocols to reduce vehicle movement behind and in front of boathouses, manage boat trailer use, improve pedestrian safety, and relocate waste bins.			
	In partnership with the Victorian Government and Parks Victoria, design and provide a new boat landing at the boathouses, including improved design for the Birrarung (Yarra River) bank.			
	Prepare a detailed design for Kings Domain South. This will include creating a new park entry, new accessible paths from the station, and removing surplus buildings in the depot. Provide a pedestrian path adjacent to Dallas Brooks Drive from Domain Road.			
	Following the Metro Tunnel project, improve the grassed surface of Edmund Herring Oval to increase capacity for use. If use exceeds the capacity of natural turf, convert the oval to a synthetic surface. Repair the retaining wall and incorporate terraced seating.			
	Install sports lighting to allow for evening training that is sensitive to local biodiversity, Melbourne Gardens, Melbourne Observatory and the Shrine of Remembrance.			
	Identify the optimum location and provide a new pavilion / multi-purpose community room adjacent to the Edmund Herring Oval.			
	Amend the Crown Land boundary to reflect responsible Land Managers at the Edmund Herring Oval.			
	Provide well integrated fitness equipment stations in Kings Domain South and other suitable locations adjacent to the Tan Track.			
	Review the service and use of the two maintenance depots to determine if both are still required.			

INITIATIVES	ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION	INDICATIVE TIMELINE		
		SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
Manage organised activity spaces	In partnership with the Victorian Arts Centre Trust, proposals relating to the management of the Sidney Myer Music Bowl include:			
	Work in partnership with the Victorian Arts Centre Trust to adapt to contemporary trends in use at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, while also respecting the importance of passive recreation in the adjacent parkland.			
	Conduct a strategic review of the interface with the Sidney Myer Music Bowl and Kings Domain.			
	Prepare a detailed landscape plan to improve the access to and interface with the Sidney Myer Music Bowl and to improve entries to the venue.			
	Work with the Victorian Arts Centre Trust in preparation of a master plan for the Sidney Myer Music Bowl to facilitate improvements and rationalisation of public amenities, toilets, lighting, storage, fencing, access and entrances, and where possible conceal infrastructure in the landscape.			
	Explore design and management improvements to vehicle (truck) entry to the 'back of house'.			
	Reduce and resolve the need and impact of temporary infrastructure on the landscape.			
	Realign the fencing near the toilets to improve pedestrian circulation.			
	Refine path layout in Kings Domain to improve access to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl. Improve path lighting for public safety.			
Manage events	Establish a Domain Parklands Event Program Group to discuss and coordinate the calendar of events across the Domain Parklands. High priority initiative			
	Develop a clear position to balance the use of the parkland for passive and event use and review the event sustainability guidelines. High priority initiative			
	Continue to seek a balanced approach to park and event management. High priority initiative			
	Investigate moving some fun run start / finish areas to locations where adequate infrastructure is already in place. High priority initiative			
	Initiate events curated more specifically for the Domain Parklands. High priority initiative			
	Where appropriate, relocate some events to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl. High priority initiative			

Improve people movement and access

INITIATIVES	ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION	INDICATIVE TIMELINE		
		SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
Improve parkland entrances	Improve entrances: <ul style="list-style-type: none">At the major park entry at Linlithgow Avenue and St Kilda Road.At the tram stops along St Kilda Road and Domain Road. Improve access and wayfinding from all tram stops adjacent to the parklands.By designing a new accessible entry from the Coventry Street / Dorcas Street tram stops with the Shrine. Realign and reconstruct the stairs.At the Alexandra Gardens entry at St Kilda Road and the accessible path entry to Queen Victoria Gardens.To the rowing precinct and within the Birrarung (Yarra River) corridor.			
	Work with the Royal Botanic Gardens to improve entries, in particular the Anderson Street entries (A Gate and C Gate).			
	Create accessible paths from the river landing to connect to a new Melbourne Gardens entry along Alexandra Avenue (S).			
	Create a pedestrian plaza and drop off zone at the Melbourne Observatory, to improve visitor arrival experience at these destinations and improve the interface with the Melbourne Gardens and Shrine of Remembrance. The detailed design will be prepared in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Shrine of Remembrance.			
Improve internal pathway networks	Review the path network to identify a hierarchy of paths. High priority initiative			
	Identify and promote key routes for accessible paths of travel through the parklands. High priority initiative			
	Provide new paths, including new alignment to improve accessibility adjacent to the Birrarung. Create the 'River Walk' as part of this project. High priority initiative			
	Identify accessible paths of travel to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl through the parklands. Highlight these paths to patrons with in-ground lighting.			
	Investigate provision of a tree top walk and viewing area from the escarpment			

INITIATIVES	ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION	INDICATIVE TIMELINE		
		SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
Reduce barriers and improve access over roads	Assess current visual and physical barriers and boundaries. Improve links and access by providing consistent and clear pedestrian crossings at regular intervals and key locations.			
	Explore opportunities to improve the connection between the Queen Victoria and Alexandra Gardens, such as a land bridge across Alexandra Avenue (N), and ways to reduce the impact of noise on the parkland visitors.			
	Provide an additional signalised pedestrian crossing over Alexandra Avenue (N).			
	Subject to and aligned with Victorian Government development on the north bank, investigate the location, purpose and need for a new bridge to improve pedestrian and bicycle accessibility across the Birrarung (Yarra River), and if supported to be funded by the Victorian Government.			
	Improve approach to F Gate at Melbourne Gardens at Dallas Brooks Drive and Birdwood Avenue.			
Support access by public transport	Advocate for substantial improvements to public transport to the Domain Parklands and destinations within it.			
	Work with the Land Managers and Metro Rail to provide a new accessible pedestrian path from Anzac station into the parklands and to the Birdwood Avenue entries to the Shrine of Remembrance and Melbourne Gardens.			
	Investigate future options for public transport, including autonomous vehicles.			
Network approaches to improve cycling routes	Work with Parks Victoria to develop a strategic approach to the location and style of boat landings which will support visitor transport to parklands.			
	Develop a network based solution to the points of conflict between cyclists and other parklands users, consistent with the Bicycle Plan 2016 – 2020..			
	Design and implement a dedicated cycle lane following the Birrarung (Yarra River) corridor along or adjacent to Alexandra Avenue (S) from Morell Bridge, to connect to new Linlithgow Avenue and Southbank Boulevard cycle lanes. High priority initiative			

Improve people movement and access

INITIATIVES	ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION	INDICATIVE TIMELINE		
		SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
Contemporary way-finding in the Domain Parklands	Using new and existing technologies develop and implement a comprehensive way-finding strategy for the Domain Parklands in consultation with the other Land Managers. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A framework for creating interpretive landscapes and signage with Traditional Owners.A staged approach to removal, installation and as well as maintenance guidelines.An interpretation plan to provide information about the Domain Parklands. High priority initiative			
Create journeys in the Domain Parklands	Define and promote a variety of journeys for navigating through the parklands.			
	Develop and promote a Domain Parklands Walk, a River Walk, and a Botanical Walk.			
Rethinking the use of existing road space	Change the language and appearance of the roads to prioritise pedestrians and the parkland setting.			
	Introduce traffic calming measures on internal roads.			
	Trial temporary road closures for pedestrian and cycle use, and events on Linlithgow Avenue (S), and other internal roads where possible.			
	Reduce speed to 20km per hour on Boathouse Drive High priority initiative			
	Create a new drop off / pick up / turning circle for cars at the east end of the boathouses. Restrict vehicle access along the front and back of the boathouses.			
	Establish a new shared zone behind the boathouses, to create a good alternative for cyclists and discourage commuter cycling from the front of the boathouses in the short term.			
	Undertake detailed design to install a bike path and improve pedestrian access at Linlithgow Avenue while retaining vehicle access to Boathouse Drive.			
	Remove slip lane between Linlithgow Avenue and Linlithgow Avenue (S). Reinstate park in current road reserve and create accessible path link.			
	Investigate changes to Alexandra Park and Alexandra Avenue (S) to create a separated cycle lane.			
	Create drop off areas at Marquis of Linlithgow Reserve and at Observatory Gate and Shrine of Remembrance. While providing bus drop off / pick up adjacent to the Shrine of Remembrance, relocate bus parking to the park perimeter on St Kilda and Domain Roads.			

INITIATIVES	ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION	INDICATIVE TIMELINE		
		SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
Rethinking the use of existing road space	Investigate closure of Linlithgow Avenue (S) to through traffic, to create generous shared path while maintaining access for service vehicles.			
	Review location of bus drop off and bus parking for Melbourne Gardens.			
	In the longer term, following completion of the Metro Tunnel project and subject to alternative options for pedestrian access, investigate closure of Birdwood Avenue (N) to through traffic, to create generous shared path while maintaining access for service vehicles.			
Car parking- support visitor access while adapting to future trends	Where appropriate and possible, repurpose car parks to reduce the width of road pavements and landscape to improve environmental services and amenity.			
	Review and modify parking restrictions to ensure they reflect and support the needs of visitors to the Domain Parklands. Provide greater consistency in application of parking restrictions across the parklands.			
	In the short term, change all day parking to 4 hour parking in Linlithgow Avenue (S) to better support park visitors. High priority initiative			
	Install pedestrian priority crossings at regular intervals along Linlithgow Avenue (S) Birdwood Avenue, Dallas Brooks Drive and Alexandra Avenue (S).			
	Work with the Melbourne Garden to improve the pedestrian crossing on Dallas Brooks Drive (N).			
	Review location and quantity of drop off bays, bus parking, accessible parking and taxi, food vendor and horse carriage bays. Increase accessible parking at key destinations.			
	Repurpose car parking spaces in Linlithgow Avenue to provide dedicated bicycle lanes. High priority initiative			
	Modify parking restrictions on St Kilda Road at the Alexandra Gardens entry to support a drop off / pick up area for rowers.			
	Work with Land Managers to minimise the parking of cars on the landscape.			

Management and partnerships to build resilience

INITIATIVES	ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION	INDICATIVE TIMELINE		
		SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
Make one parkland of many unique destinations	In addition to the proposals to improve pedestrian access and environmental services, 'making one parkland of many unique destinations' will be strengthened by establishing an agreed vision for the Domain Parklands with all Land Managers. <i>This action recognises that there are distinct organisational visions and profiles for each Land Manager (and their organisation), as well as specific legislation directing their purpose.</i>			
Create a framework for priorities and decision-making	Develop an implementation plan for the master plan which clearly articulates short, medium and long term actions to logically implement the master plan actions. High priority initiative			
	Review and update the master plan 10 years after it is endorsed by Council.			
Commitment to future management and collaboration	Initiate regular meetings of the Land Manager executives.			
	Introduce regular meetings for operational staff to examine visitor requirements to inform planning for improved services.			
	Explore shared use provision of some visitor services.			
Managing uses in the Crown reserves managed by the City of Melbourne	Continue and improve (as required) the management practices developed by the City of Melbourne with Department of Environment Land Water and Planning to assess uses inconsistent with the parklands reservations.	Ongoing		
Reduce the impact of services	Management approach Protect the landscape character of the Domain Parklands by avoiding new or expansion of existing above ground utility structures associated with electricity, gas or telecommunications.	Ongoing		
	Seek opportunities to work with Land Managers to reduce duplication of services, ensure infrastructure is discrete and consolidated.	Ongoing		
	Address the negative visual impact of service cabinets on St Kilda Road boundary of Queen Victoria Gardens and other services in the parklands.			
	Review the potential to provide more permanent telecommunications support within existing infrastructure.			

How to contact us

Online:
melbourne.vic.gov.au

In person:
Melbourne Town Hall - Administration Building
120 Swanston Street, Melbourne
7.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
(Public holidays excluded)

Telephone:
03 9658 9658
7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday
(Public holidays excluded)

Fax:
03 9654 4854

In writing:
City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603
Melbourne VIC 3001
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