

Victoria Park Draft Vision

Growing your Brisbane lifestyle
with a world-class and iconic
parkland that is uniquely Brisbane.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Lord Mayor's message

Victoria Park will have something for everybody.

Brisbane City Council is growing your Brisbane lifestyle by turning Victoria Park into a world-class and iconic destination, giving residents and visitors more to see and do in a clean and green Brisbane.

Our existing spaces must become even more usable, beautiful and accessible as the city grows. Victoria Park offers a rare opportunity to reimagine a significant green space in a prime inner-city location, so we need to get it right.

Every day, Council works with residents and local communities to make sure the Brisbane of tomorrow is even better than the Brisbane of today. We've taken your ideas and combined them with advice from local and international design experts to generate a vision for the future.

The Victoria Park Vision will guide the park's evolution into an amazing new public parkland that is uniquely Brisbane. More than double the size of the City Botanic Gardens, the new park will become one of the world's great public spaces.

Responding to the community's main request, the design brings nature back into the city. Much of the site will be revegetated with native species, while the original lagoons and waterways will be reinstated. It also respects the site's significance to Aboriginal people and celebrates our rich cultural heritage.

World-class architecture will complement natural landscapes, and host a Cultural Hub, new community spaces, multi-sports parks, productive gardens, adventure playgrounds, water parks and a lake, and new places to eat, meet and celebrate.

Victoria Park will strengthen Brisbane's reputation as one of the world's most liveable and healthy cities, and a destination of choice for tourists and investors.

Brisbane's biggest new park will have something for everybody and is another way we're making Brisbane better.

I encourage you to share your thoughts on this draft vision so we can continue to grow our Brisbane lifestyle.

Adrian Schrinner

LORD MAYOR



Acknowledgement of Country

Brisbane City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and their unique relationship with their ancestral Country. We pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders of Brisbane, and recognise their strength and wisdom.

Table of contents

1	Lord Mayor's message
3	Acknowledgement of Country
5	Shaping Brisbane's biggest new park
7	Snapshot of Victoria Park
9	The Victoria Park Vision
10	Guiding principles
11	Strategies
13	Unique experiences
15	Connections
17	Cultural landscape
19	Room for water
21	Connected habitats
23	Health and recreation
25	Creative expression
27	Relationships
29	Illustrative concept (map)
Back cover	Have your say

Shaping Brisbane's biggest new park

Council is converting the 18-hole golf course into an expansive new park following feedback from residents who have told Council they want more greenspaces with new places to relax.

More than 16,300 people helped shape the Victoria Park Draft Vision. Through an online survey and community engagement events, more than 5400 ideas were shared. Your ideas can start taking shape from 2021 and guide the park's evolution for the next 50 years.

More people are choosing to live and work in Brisbane, drawn by our subtropical climate and magnificent lifestyle. The city is strengthening as a tourism destination, attracting more than nine million domestic and international visitors to the greater Brisbane region each year.

As the city grows and inner-city housing evolves, our parks will play a greater role as places for residents to experience the natural world and retreat from city life.

Victoria Park will be critical to Brisbane's evolution as a New World City, providing much needed open space for residents and giving the city a competitive edge in attracting tourists and workers. It presents an opportunity to showcase our clean, green and sustainable lifestyle in a well-designed destination that puts Brisbane's liveability attributes on the world stage.



MORE THAN
16,300
PEOPLE INVOLVED



MORE THAN
5400
IDEAS SUBMITTED

Most wanted features



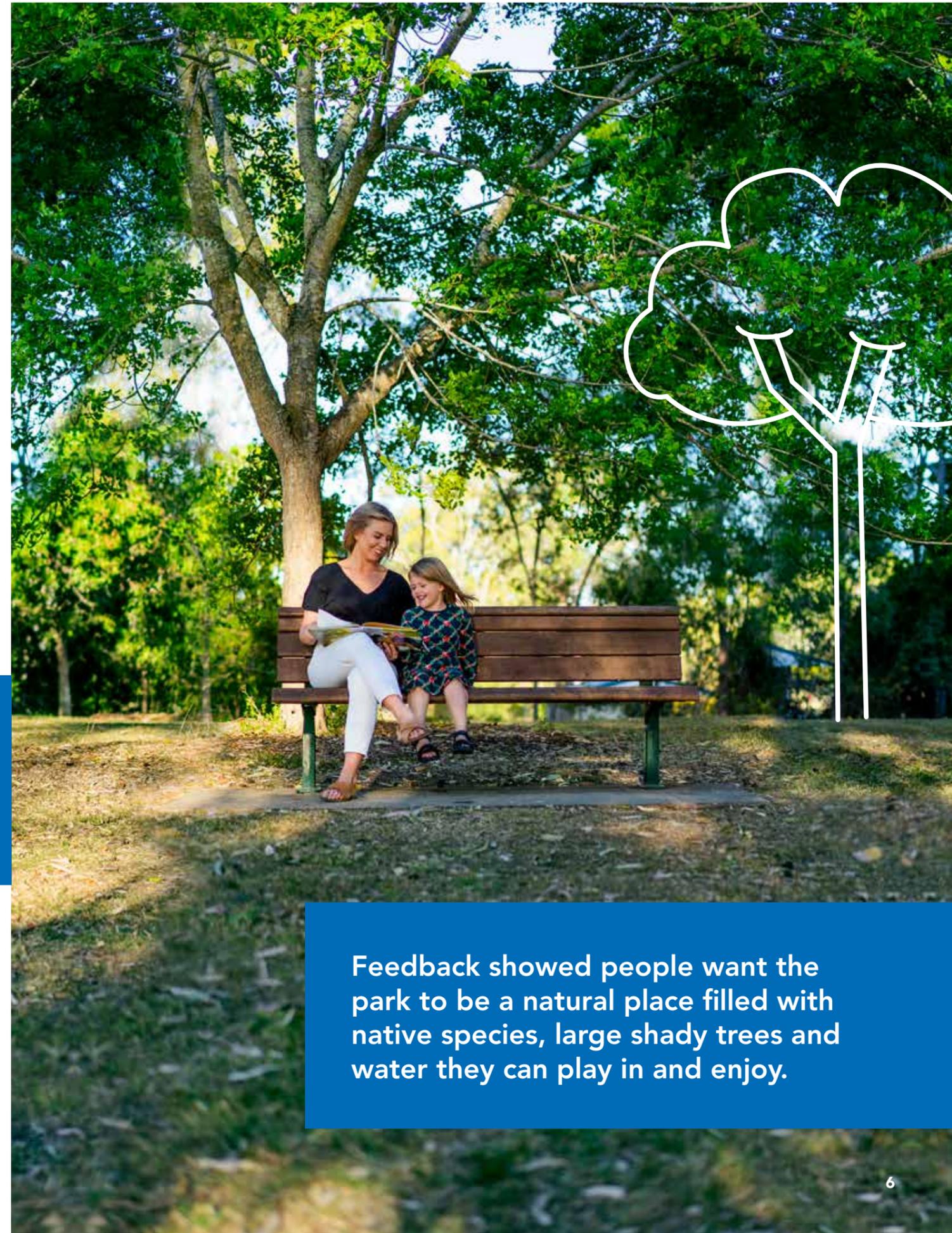
Native gardens, trees, shade, nature



All-ages activities, creative playgrounds, BBQs, shelters



Water features



Feedback showed people want the park to be a natural place filled with native species, large shady trees and water they can play in and enjoy.

Snapshot of Victoria Park

Victoria Park is one of Brisbane's largest and oldest greenspaces. The park is located on the city centre's northern edge, surrounded by residential suburbs, business precincts and large institutions including universities, hospitals, schools and churches.

The surrounding suburbs are some of the most densely populated and economically diverse areas of Brisbane.

The resident population of these localities is projected to increase from approximately 52,500 people in 2019 to 80,500 people by 2041.

As part of the Victoria Park Vision, Council is committed to protecting and enhancing almost 45 hectares of this greenspace for future generations.



Key statistics

6000+
employees

at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital



250

events every year at Brisbane Showgrounds

95,000+

international students in 2019



7600+

school students surrounding the park



270,000
people visited

Centenary Pool in 2018-19

The Victoria Park Vision

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

You told us this is what you want, and this draft vision captures the essence of community feedback and the spirit of Brisbane's biggest new park. Your ideas inspired the design framework, which is formed by three principles and eight strategies to guide more detailed planning.

This is your Victoria Park Draft Vision, with something for everybody.

It will be culturally authentic, celebrating the many layers of human contact with the landscape and the site's significance to Aboriginal people.

Revegetated forests, native bushland pockets and waterholes will speak of the site's original landscapes.

A Cultural Hub will showcase Brisbane's world-class architecture and take visitors deeper into the natural environment and the city's heritage.

This immersive park on the edge of the city centre will challenge, delight and inform.

Vibrant at the edges, the park will quieten at its core, offering space for contemplation, room for water and habitat for wildlife.

Reinstated natural systems will cool, cleanse, restore and inspire play, exploration and relaxation. From tree tops to gullies, opportunities to connect with nature will be everywhere.

Victoria Park will be a platform for public life, a sensory playground and a pillar of Brisbane's healthy, outdoor lifestyle. It will be easy to access and hard to bid goodbye. Neighbours will embrace it as their own and visitors will return for more.

Activities will change with the times and seasons, but the park's appeal will be timeless.

Victoria Park is another way we're making Brisbane better for future generations.

It will be culturally authentic, celebrating the many layers of human contact with the landscape and the site's significance to Aboriginal people.

Guiding principles



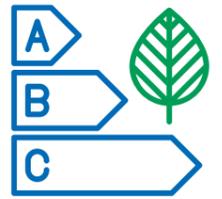
Recognition

Creating a place to respectfully celebrate the connection between culture, history and nature across past, present and future generations.



Restoration

Celebrating our unique interwoven landscape and ecosystems.



Reconnection

Making transformational connections that stitch the parkland back into the city.



Strategies

The Victoria Park Vision capitalises on a once-in-a-generation chance to reshape the city around a deeper understanding of history, culture and nature.

Eight strategies articulate how the vision will be achieved. Strategies consider the park's unique history, the needs of the city and surrounding communities, environmental imperatives and opportunities offered by the site's natural features and location.



Unique experiences

Peaceful, natural spaces in the park's centre will be a striking counterpoint to its lively edge, where community life is played out.



Connected habitats

Revitalised ecosystems and restored habitats will draw wildlife back to the city and enrich our connection with nature.



Room for water

Lagoons, wetlands and a lake will bring water back to the site and restore natural cooling, cleansing and flood management systems.



Connections

Going green will be the easiest way to get to the park, with walking, cycling, bus and train the modes of choice. Every journey in the park itself will be an experience.



Health and recreation

Outdoor adventures will challenge people of all ages and abilities, inspire active lifestyles, offer a natural experience in the city and support reconnection with the natural world for mental health.



Relationships

Well-located links and thoughtfully designed facilities will invite neighbours to move through and explore the park, and adopt its spaces and places as their own.



Creative expression

World-class architectural forms and unique public spaces will enable cultural expression, facilitate community gatherings and make the park a showcase for visitors from around the globe.



Cultural landscape

The park will inspire sharing, the telling of stories and learning in the landscape, with opportunities to understand and engage with Brisbane's cultural heritage.

Unique experiences

A series of state-of-the-art cultural and social venues at Victoria Park will provide hubs that draw in people of all ages to take part in community life, day and night. This is the place to be for daytime relaxing, night-time recreation and city celebrations.

Active edges, quiet core

Community hubs, adventure areas, entertainment and dining precincts, and visually dynamic cultural attractions will enliven the edge of Victoria Park, while nature takes centre stage in its quiet heart.

Almost 45 hectares of greenspace will be enhanced and protected for future generations, and new facilities will cluster around existing buildings and major entry points, with excellent walking, cycling and public transport access and easy links to surrounding neighbourhoods.

Moving toward the core, the park calms to enable solitude, exploration and reconnection with nature. Experiences at both the core and edges will evolve over time as the park matures, new plantings grow and community needs change.

World-class Cultural Hub

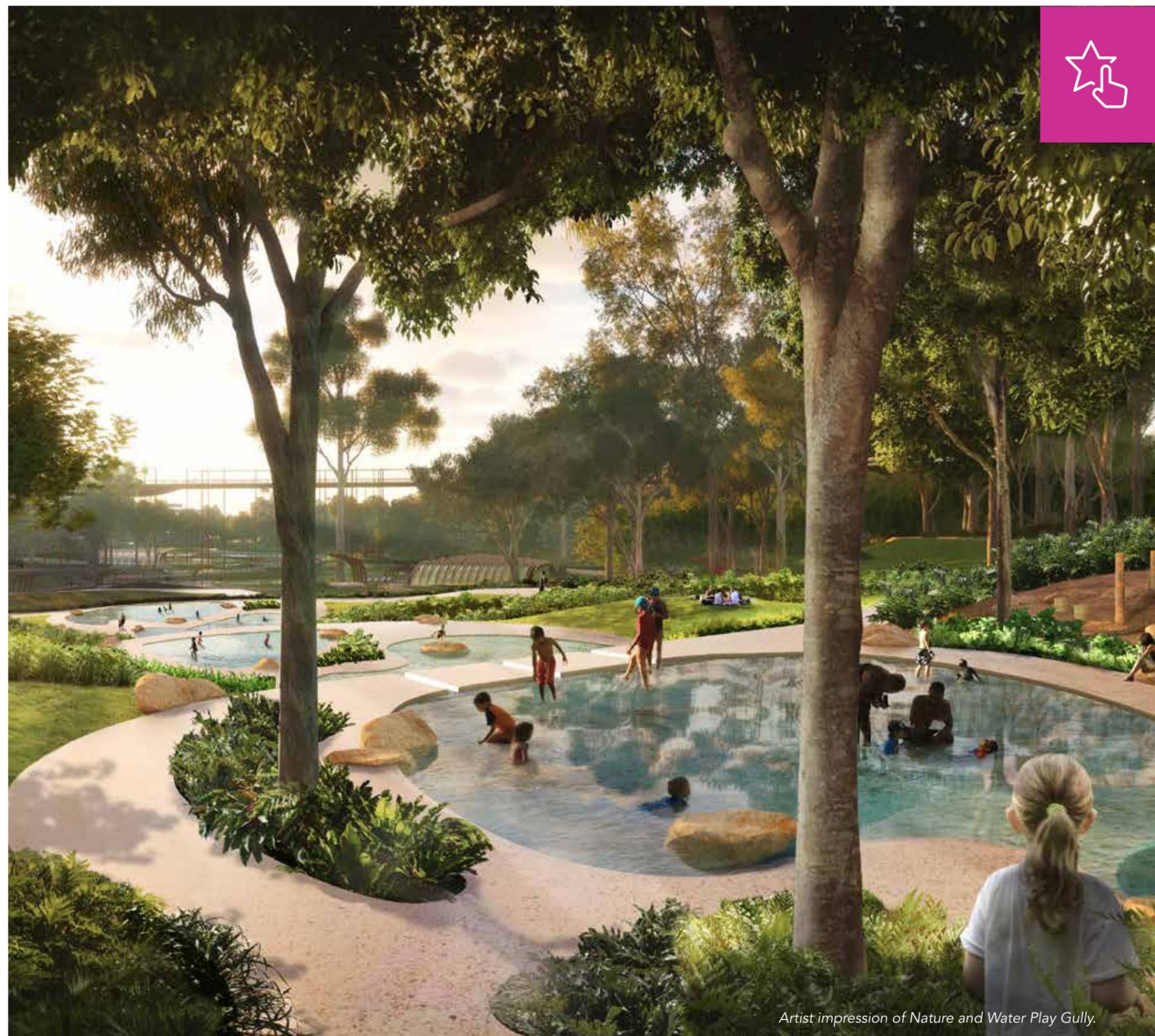
A new Cultural Hub will be the park's standout attraction. Three constructed ecosystems will transport visitors to South East Queensland's subtropical rainforest, coastal communities or other distinct landscapes to explore our cultural connections to place. This attraction will become a 'must do' for visitors seeking a uniquely Brisbane experience.

Hilltop entertainment precinct

The popular golf course facility with driving range, putt putt course, bistro and function centre will be part of a hilltop entertainment precinct. City views and expansive green lawns will make this the best spot for dining, events, community gatherings and festivals. AI fresco dining, kids play spaces and high-capacity function centres give this area buzz, so visitors can journey into the forest or lakeside for a quieter dining experience. These facilities will provide more opportunities to enjoy Brisbane's beautiful climate and connect with family and friends in the places that make our city great.

Farming in the city

A gentle slope on the park's southern side offers an ideal spot for community gardens or a small urban farm, with a northern aspect for maximum sunshine and good access to surrounding neighbourhoods. A farm gate selling produce from the local producers as well as potential beekeeping or composting facilities will give residents and visitors more to see and do.



Artist impression of Nature and Water Play Gully.

Connections

Expanding Brisbane's active transport network and encouraging sustainable travel choices, Victoria Park will have more green transport infrastructure to get more cars off the road. Victoria Park will reconnect the park to its neighbours and the wider community, giving everybody more choice when it comes to travel.

Reconnecting the park

Victoria Park is on the doorstep of the city centre. It's a short bus ride from the CBD along the Northern Busway and two busway stations sit on the park's edge. With the turn-up-and-go Brisbane Metro stopping close by, the park will be accessible for all of Brisbane.

New cycleways, extensive walking networks, new park entries and reoriented spaces around busway stations will open access to and through the park, stitching it back into the urban fabric and reconnecting neighbourhoods to each other. Corridors will be created to accommodate a broad range of park users, from pedestrians and commuter cyclists to leisurely bike rides.

Tracks, trails and cycleways

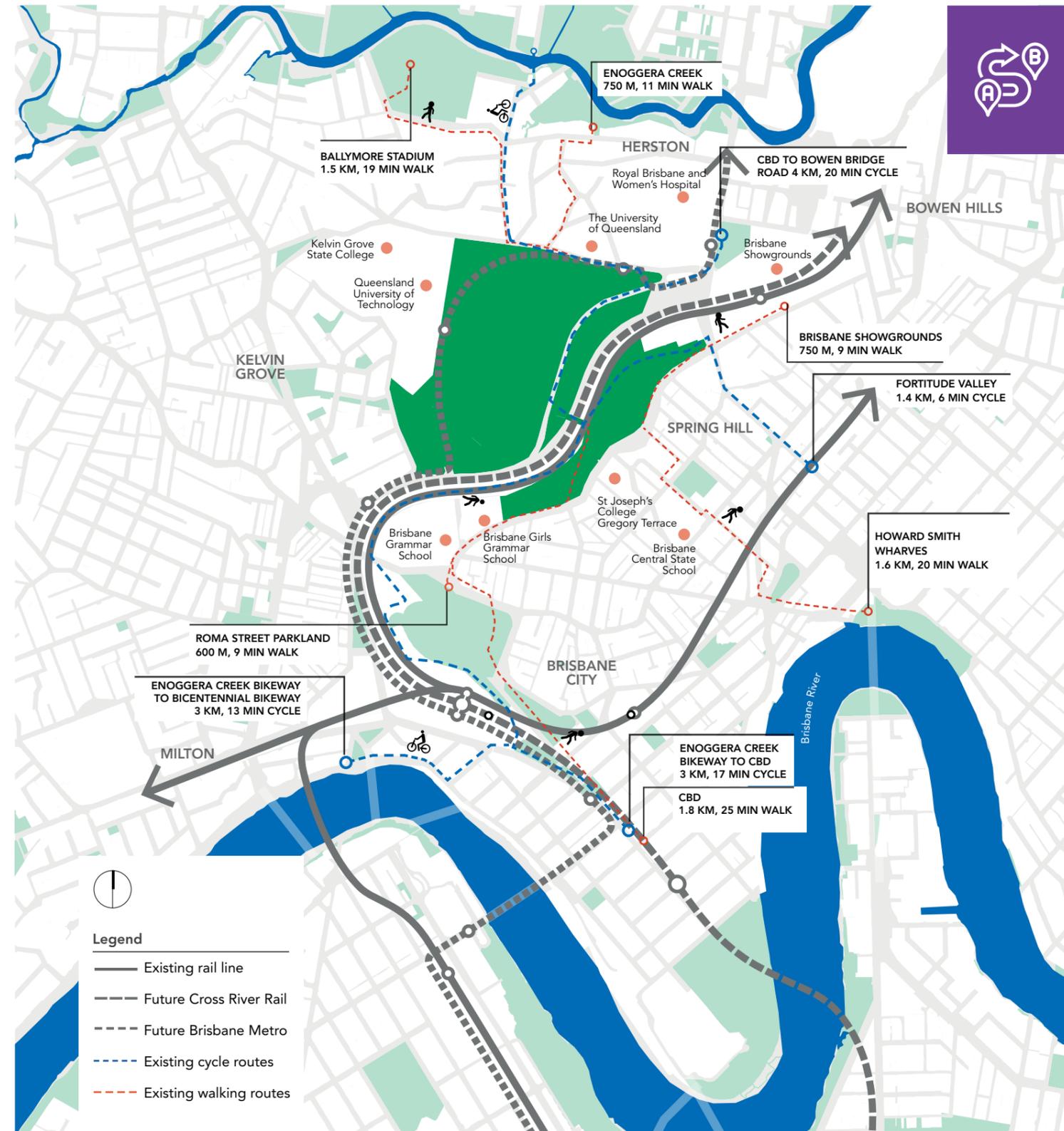
Environmental sky walks will touch the site lightly between ridges while discovery trails will cross at ground level. Cycling trips from northern suburbs to the CBD will be quicker with new direct north-south links on the park's edge to the Enoggera Creek Bikeway and new North Brisbane Bikeway.

Turn-up-and-go transport

Introducing Brisbane Metro services on the busway and construction of a nearby Cross River Rail station will bring turn-up-and-go public transport to Victoria Park. Brisbane Metro will be a key part of Brisbane's greater transport network, connecting the city to the suburbs. Changes to local streets will help manage traffic flow by slowing car speeds and making it safer for pedestrians and cyclists to get to the park.

Legend

- Cycle route
- Ridge loop (2 km)
- Valley loop (3 km)
- Gully trails
- 3 m cycle path
- 6 m shared path
- 5 m shared path
- pedestrian only



Cultural landscape

Victoria Park will be a world-class and iconic destination that celebrates Brisbane's heritage by combining a stunning natural setting with recreational, events, community and tourist facilities. Art, history, culture and nature will combine to delight and educate, giving residents and visitors more to see and do.

Rich layers

The new design preserves natural and built features, showcasing the park's use over time, from the rocky gullies where Indigenous children once played, to the heritage-listed golf clubhouse and the fairway to the ninth hole.

Design and details in the new park will reflect key stages in the site's evolution. Public art, paving, interpretive experiences and the activities we can do will give a nod to the park's important past.

Stories celebrated

Many Aboriginal people once knew Victoria Park as 'Barrambin', the windy place. Later, it became York's Hollow before being renamed again in honour of Queen Victoria. This significant Aboriginal camping and gathering site sat within a broader Indigenous landscape that included the greater Brisbane and Moreton Bay area.

Aboriginal cultural heritage and connection with the landscape will be celebrated in multiple ways. Artworks, discovery trails, performance and interactive learning experiences all offer possible vehicles to enhance visitors' understanding of Indigenous cultural heritage and make Victoria Park a hub for Aboriginal cultural education and heritage experiences.

Opportunities to preserve Aboriginal cultural heritage have been the subject of discussions with traditional owner representatives. Council will continue to engage with the traditional custodians of the land to further explore and develop these ideas.



Artist impression of Cultural Hub.

Room for water

Restoring Victoria Park's original waterways will re-establish natural cooling, cleansing and drainage systems and provide habitat for wildlife.

Wetlands and waterholes

Victoria Park was once known for its chain of waterholes that ultimately flowed into the Brisbane River, but over time they were piped underground and forgotten. Restoration works will see the land energised and cleansed by flowing water once again, through the creation of wetlands, waterholes and a 1.4-hectare lake.

Returning waterways to their natural state means stormwater from onsite built areas and surrounding suburbs can be captured, treated and released back into the water system or used to irrigate the park's many grassy lawns and picnic spots. It also builds flood-resilience into the park so it can cope with heavy rains and recover quickly from inundation.

At the water's edge

Visitors will find many ways to interact with water. Boardwalks and trails will meander through wetlands, while small, intimate spaces and more generous multipurpose areas for gathering, events and art installations will line the water's edge. Lake Barrambin will become a venue for kayaking, and there will be more places for swimming.



Artist impression of Lake Barrambin.

Connected habitats

Council is committed to protecting and enhancing almost 45 hectares of greenspace for future generations through the Victoria Park Vision. Revegetating parts of Victoria Park with native species will ensure Brisbane remains Australia’s most biodiverse capital city and contribute to achieving Council’s goal of increasing Brisbane’s habitat cover.

Building biodiversity

Healthy, connected ecosystems are critical in maintaining a variety of plants and animals. Brisbane’s distinct ecosystems support thousands of species of native wildlife, and by planting native tree species in some areas of the park and creating freshwater wetlands and eucalypt forests, we hope to reintroduce urban fauna and bird life.

Improved shade cover will grow with rehabilitation and the creation of a new urban forest. The park’s wildlife-friendly land bridge will be retained and bird hides, viewing platforms and other structures will take people deeper into nature for up-close encounters.

A remnant spotted gum woodland remains just outside the park’s western boundary and is protected under Queensland’s *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. New gum plantings along western ridgelines will take the woodland into the park to strengthen this essential habitat and become a potential resource for nature research.

Partnerships and learning

The park’s planting palette will consider further opportunities to explore the healing properties of native plants with nearby universities and research institutions, in collaboration with Aboriginal people. Interpretive signage and education experiences will foster a deeper connection with nature and appreciation of ecological systems. Educational institutions could also share their expertise to monitor and manage new vegetation.

Legend

-  Ridgeline forest restoration, gums, grassland, wild flowers
-  Rainforest restoration, ‘Fig city’, ferns, vines, native orchids
-  Lowland forest restoration, paperbark forest, birds, boardwalks
-  Green open space



Tree canopy cover to increase from 10% to 55%.

Health and recreation

With more to see and do at Victoria Park, people will connect with nature high in the tree tops, down in the gullies, out on boardwalks and within rocky waterholes. This natural retreat in the heart of the city will provide something for everybody and become a new setting for our relaxed, outdoor lifestyle.

A natural high

Council is protecting and expanding greenspace to make it easier for you to enjoy the lifestyle our great city has to offer. Victoria Park will grow Brisbane's network of 2100 parks and become an outdoor tourism destination for the city.

Residents will have another natural retreat to encourage mental wellness. With the physical benefits of parks well-established, and the mental benefits now becoming clearer, Victoria Park will become a place to be out in nature, lower stress and feel happier.

Outdoor adventures

Nature-based recreation at Victoria Park will appeal to young and old, with something for everybody. At Adventure Valley, visitors will travel through the trees on the all-abilities high ropes course, while mountain bikers will challenge themselves on the rainforest trails below.

Lake Barrambin will be ideal for kayaking, while the kids will love splashing about in Nature and Water Play Gully, which will be a series of naturalised constructed waterholes in addition to the new water play park at Centenary Pool. Some activities will be available early, while others must wait for new vegetation plantings to mature before they can be established.

Active living

Families will gather on the park's many sunny lawns and waterside picnic spots, and people will enjoy the running and cycling trails, multi-sports park, skate bowl, tennis courts, playing field and cricket nets. Regardless of age, culture, mobility or background, residents and visitors will be inspired to head outdoors and live an active life.



Creative expression

Global in appeal, but local in character, Victoria Park will showcase the richness of our community, culture and landscape, and become an outdoor setting for creativity.

Art and activation

Victoria Park will take arts and entertainment into the open air. Flexible, multipurpose outdoor spaces will host a year-round calendar of events and an eclectic array of pop-up activities, short-term exhibitions and performances, giving residents and visitors more to see and do. A sculpture park and art throughout the park will extend the Cultural Hub into the landscape and set the scene for temporary art installations, Indigenous arts and creative experimentation.

Architectural excellence

Sculptural buildings will offer a modern interpretation of traditional architecture, mimicking the form of the landscape and the patterning of Indigenous gnyahs (shelters). This grid-like structural element will repeat in the twisting form of the Tree House and its skirt that floats across the landscape. Lit at night, the Tree House will stand out as a beacon in the landscape, while the building forms grow from the earth.

Climate-responsive design

Architectural forms will reflect our love of space, sunlight and water, embracing the subtropical climate that has shaped Brisbane's distinctive character. Shade structures, patterned screens, open edges, integrated artwork, light wells, transparent or semi-enclosed roofing and subtropical plantings will create light-filled, sensory places to move through and enjoy. Natural ventilation will be a focus.

Structures will frame and enrich the public realm and sustainable building design will save water and energy, improve comfort and reduce operating costs. Victoria Park's positive contribution towards the global response to carbon neutrality and climate resilience will inspire businesses and individuals to strive for the same goal.



Artist impression of Canopy Walk.

Relationships

Victoria Park will leverage its unique position within the vicinity of tertiary campuses, research precincts and creative facilities that make up Brisbane's knowledge corridor to become a place of learning, innovation and expression for generations to come.

Responsive design

Three of the city's major knowledge precincts overlap at Victoria Park.

- A health and wellness precinct – with the Herston Health Precinct on the northern boundary incorporating the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Queensland Health facilities, The University of Queensland's (UQ) core campus for clinical health teaching and research, and Herston Quarter, an emerging \$1.1 billion health and wellbeing precinct. Multiple informal parks and sporting fields line the creek further north as part of the popular Enoggera Creek sport and recreation precinct.
- An arts, creativity and events precinct – with the Queensland University of Technology's (QUT) Creative Industries campus on the western boundary and Brisbane Showgrounds to the east.
- A research and education precinct – with multiple schools, hospitals and research centres complementing the university campuses.

The park's design is distinctly Brisbane and directly responds to the unique needs and characteristics of its neighbours. Herston busway station broadens to become a major gateway to the health precinct, with

generous gathering areas for hospital visitors, lakeside spaces and cafes for lunchtime breaks and wide, even paths to make it accessible to the bridge across the lake.

Walking paths between busway stations follow the preferred path of students moving between university campuses, while the relocated tennis courts, playing field and cricket nets are ideally situated for the schools that will use them. The park's western entry directly joins with QUT's campus, giving students, teachers and visitors easy access to primary commuter connections, while the eastern entry is a short walk to the showgrounds and local schools.

Partnering for the future

Council is committed to providing more to see and do for residents and visitors, and will explore partnerships to activate the park and extend the influence of its neighbours during master planning. Ways to work with community groups and peak bodies will also be investigated, for example, function rooms could double as lecture spaces, open green areas could host festivals, wellness clinics and outdoor learning, architectural structures could become canvases for digital art, and revegetation could sustain environmental and medical research.



Artist impression of Farm Gate and Community Garden.

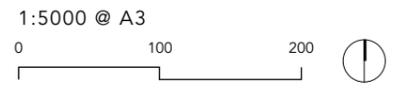
Illustrative concept

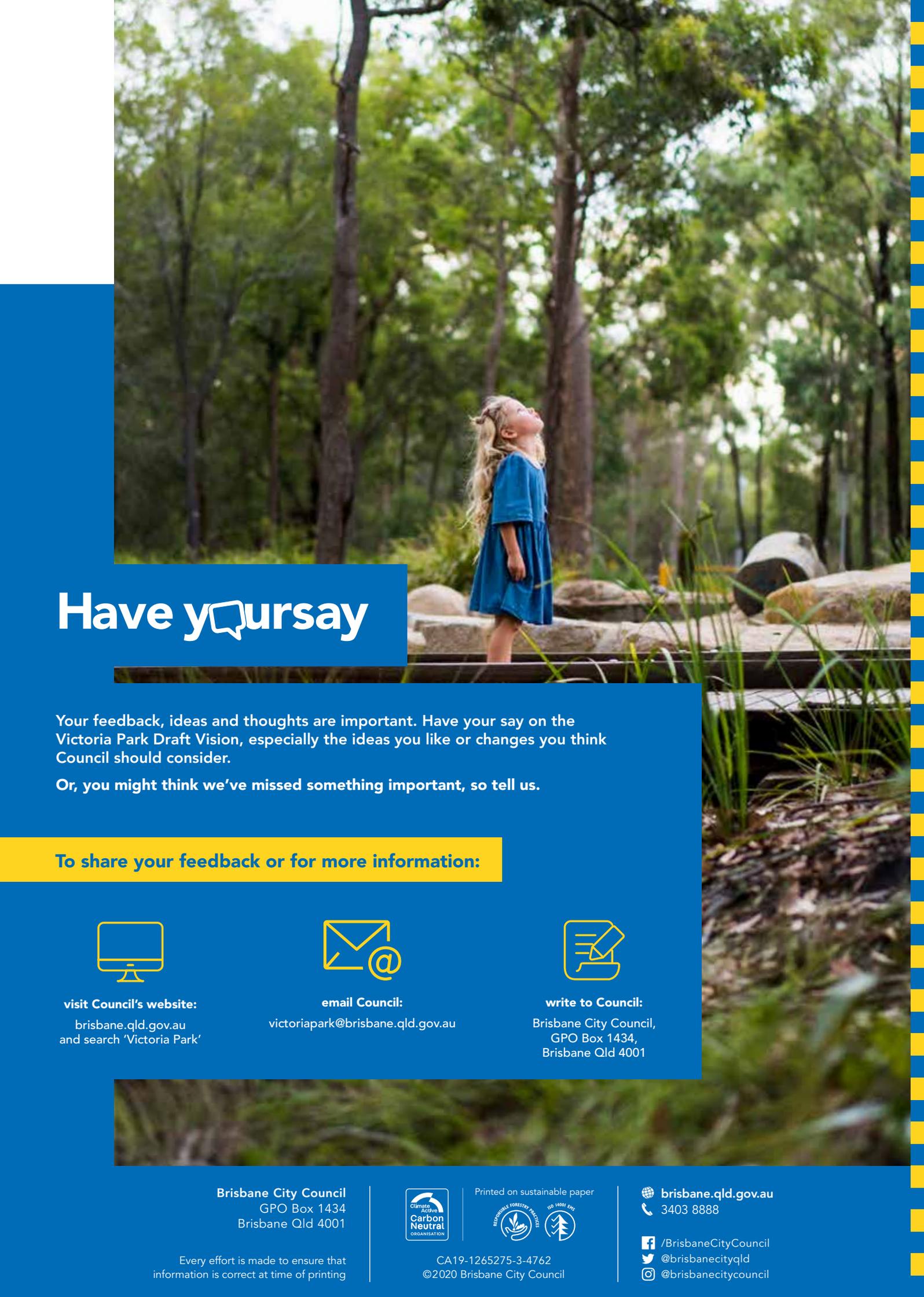
This concept plan shows how the Victoria Park Draft Vision could be realised on the ground. Council is committed to working with residents to advance the vision and develop a detailed master plan for the site.



LEGEND

1. Cultural Hub
 2. The Green
 3. Lake Barrambin
 4. Lake pavilions
 5. Boat house and canoe launch
 6. The Wetlands
 7. Yorks Hollow
 8. Nature and Water Play Gully
 9. Sensory adventure trails
 10. Connector bridge
 11. Canopy Walk
 12. Canopy pods
 13. The Tree House
 14. Art/exploratory trails/sculpture park
 15. The Rolling Hill
 16. Adventure Valley
 17. Community Hub
 18. Spring Hill Water Play
 19. Community Green
 20. Picnic pods
 21. Farm Gate
 22. Productive Gardens
 23. Spring Hill Common
 24. Relocated community tennis courts
 25. Upgraded land bridge
 26. Entry plaza
 27. New shared path bridge (Queensland Rail owned)
 28. Kelvin Grove arrival
 29. Dog off-leash area
 30. Entry portals
 31. New function facility
 32. New function lawns
 33. New golf 'skills' green
 34. Existing driving range
 35. Existing putt putt golf course
 36. Existing Victoria Park Bistro
 37. Existing Victoria Park function rooms
 38. Existing Centenary Pool
 39. Car parking (overall increase of 20-30%)
 40. Gilchrist Avenue reduced and upgraded
 41. Historic golf clubhouse
 42. Maintenance facility
- Playgrounds





Have y^oursay

Your feedback, ideas and thoughts are important. Have your say on the Victoria Park Draft Vision, especially the ideas you like or changes you think Council should consider.

Or, you might think we've missed something important, so tell us.

To share your feedback or for more information:



visit Council's website:

brisbane.qld.gov.au
and search 'Victoria Park'



email Council:

victoriapark@brisbane.qld.gov.au



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