

4 February 2003

**GROWING GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN  
FOR THE CITY OF MELBOURNE'S OPEN SPACE AND  
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

**Division** City Assets & Services

**Presenter** Vince Haining, Group Manager Parks and Recreation

**Purpose**

To seek Council approval for the *Growing Green Environmental Sustainability Plan for the City of Melbourne's Open Space and Recreational Facilities (Growing Green)*.

**Time Frame**

The vision for *Growing Green* is a fifty-year time frame. Many of the actions are of a short and medium term nature and implementation of many can commence over the next two years. Early approval of *Growing Green* is desirable to enable it to influence other processes such as the capital investment program for 2003/2004 and the renewal program for open space and tree management contracts which will commence in the near future.

**Finance**

The Actions contained in *Growing Green* are proposed to be progressively implemented through normal business activities (primarily Parks and Recreation) including through the next round of Open Space and Tree Management contracts. Actions will also be implemented through park and recreational facilities and capital replacement programs. Tender prices for the management contracts could be affected by the requirements of *Growing Green* to ensure more sustainable management of parks, gardens and recreational assets. Capital investment bids will incorporate any additional funding required to design and construct assets in a more sustainable manner.

**Legal**

The subject matter of the policy is consistent with the functions and powers of the Council under the *Local Government Act 1989*.

**Sustainability**

The objectives, strategies and actions in *Growing Green* will lead to positive environmental impacts by reducing energy consumption, greenhouse gas levels, use of non-renewable resources, waste levels, water consumption and general levels of pollution, and improving the biodiversity in the City. *Growing Green* commits to the continued protection of identified heritage values within the context of environmental sustainability.

## **Recommendation**

That the Environment, Community and Cultural Development Committee recommend that Council approve the *Growing Green Environmental Sustainability Plan for the City of Melbourne's Open Space and Recreational Facilities* (Attachment 2).

### **Attachments:**

1. Summary of submissions on draft Growing Green Management Plan
2. Growing Green Environmental Sustainability Plan for the City of Melbourne's Open Space and Recreational Facilities

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### Purpose

1. To seek Council approval for the *Growing Green Environmental Sustainability Plan for the City of Melbourne's Open Space and Recreational Facilities (Growing Green)*.

### Background

2. *Growing Green* provides the vision for Melbourne in 2050, a City that is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable, with interconnected green open spaces more accessible to residents and visitors alike. Although primarily concentrating on environmental issues, *Growing Green* also outlines broader sustainable objectives and actions for the future planning and management of open space, parks, gardens, trees and recreational assets managed by the Melbourne City Council.
3. *Growing Green* has been developed in line with Council's broad sustainability commitments as outlined in City Plan 2010, and the Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities. It also builds on existing commitments and policies such as the Sustainable Energy and Greenhouse Strategy and the Sustainable Water Management Strategy. It complements and extends actions contained in existing park and recreation policies such as the Parks, Tree, Sports and draft Recreation and Leisure policies and strategies.
4. *Growing Green* is intended to ensure that future decisions on Melbourne's green spaces are more responsive to triple bottom line principles, while also providing immediate environmental criteria on which to base the next round of open spaces and tree management contract specifications.
5. This final draft of *Growing Green* has been prepared after extensive consultation with the community which involved preparation and consultation on an Issues Paper and a Draft Plan (see Consultation section of this report). It also follows consideration and approval for release of the Draft Plan by the Environment, Community and Cultural Development Committee at its meeting on 4 June 2002. The final document has been prepared taking into account the 33 submissions received on the draft document, and feedback received at a public meeting.

### Issues

6. To fully achieve the objectives of the Growing Green Vision, new directions will be required to be pursued in a number of key areas. These include:
  - 6.1. recognising that more naturalistic systems can be less resource intensive and thus more economical to operate;

- 6.2. recognising the health benefits that access to quality passive recreational spaces provides to communities and ensuring that such access is considered in planning the future development of the City;
  - 6.3. broadening the overall range of tree and other plant species to increase the level of biodiversity and especially bird life, while maintaining a mix of exotic and mature trees;
  - 6.4. identifying and developing opportunities for new open spaces as the population of the City increases and ensuring equitable access for everyone;
  - 6.5. reclaiming where appropriate a proportion of existing road space for planting trees and creating small community spaces;
  - 6.6. planting tree species that minimise water and other resource inputs where this is compatible with heritage and design considerations;
  - 6.7. replacing grass in some areas with drought tolerant grass species or applying less water and allowing areas of grass to “brown” in summer;
  - 6.8. sustaining parklands by managing the number of events in parkland in a way that does not compromise the long term viability of the parkland;
  - 6.9. investing in new infrastructure to improve the environmental sustainability of open space, parks and recreational facilities;
  - 6.10. reducing the energy input in the management of open space and recreational facilities;
  - 6.11. reducing the use of potable (drinking) water for the management of parks, street trees and recreational facilities; and
  - 6.12. reducing the negative impacts of vehicles by promoting the shift of commuters to public transport, prioritising short term parking in the core retail area, and removing car parking from parkland as other parking opportunities become available.
7. *Growing Green* outlines a range of objectives, actions and indicators to achieve its broad vision under six themes. These themes are:
- 7.1. Protecting and Enhancing Biological Diversity - Actions under this theme aim to increase the range of plants and animals in the City, protect remnant indigenous habitat areas and minimise the adverse environmental impacts of Council’s activities on other ecosystems;
  - 7.2. Melbourne a Leafy City – Actions under this theme aim to increase the number of trees and green spaces, and to increase the robustness of tree species;
  - 7.3. Meeting Community Needs – Actions under this theme aim to provide sufficient open space and recreational facilities for community needs, to ensure that they are managed in line with best practice environmental principles and to ensure access to parkland by environmentally friendly transport modes;
  - 7.4. Respecting Our Heritage – Actions under this theme aim to ensure that heritage assets are managed in an environmentally responsible way and to recognise links with indigenous culture;
  - 7.5. Using Resources Wisely – Actions under this theme aim to achieve a reduction in energy, water and chemical use, and increase the use of renewable produces in the management of open space and recreational facilities; and

- 7.6. Being Waste Wise – Actions under this theme aim to reduce waste generated from users of open space and recreational facilities, and from capital construction and maintenance operations.

### **City Plan 2010/Municipal Strategic Statement**

8. *Growing Green* is consistent with City Plan 2010 and applies its objectives to park, garden, tree and recreational facilities management. The most relevant strategic directions in City Plan 2010 are:

***Environmentally Responsible City*** - in particular the following commitment to:

- 8.1. reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated in the City of Melbourne;
- 8.2. encourage efficiencies in resource use and waste reduction in the City;
- 8.3. protect and enhance the City's biodiversity; and
- 8.4. create a sustainable built form for the City.

***Connected and Accessible City*** - commitments to:

- 8.5. ensure an sustainable and highly integrated transport system services City needs and links key assets.

***Inclusive and Engaging City*** - commitments to:

- 8.6. protect Melbourne's distinctive physical character and ensure that it continues to develop a strong sense of place and identity;
- 8.7. enhance the quality of the existing public and private built form and further develop the City as an exemplary urban environment; and
- 8.8. continue to develop the Yarra River corridor as the City's primary recreational and leisure feature.

### **Relation to Council Policy**

9. *Growing Green* is also complementary to a number of other Council policies including:
  - 9.1. *Sustainable Energy and Greenhouse Strategy* – commits Council to reductions in greenhouse emissions;
  - 9.2. *Sustainable Water Management Strategy* – commits Council to sustainable water management;
  - 9.3. *Triple bottom line assessment and reporting* – commits Council to considering social, economic and environmental criteria in all its activities; and
  - 9.4. *Parks, Tree, Sports, Recreation and Leisure policies* - commit Council to managing its parks, trees and recreational facilities to the highest standards.

## Consultation

10. *Growing Green* was prepared with extensive community consultation. A total of 54 submissions were received in the two stages of consultation which were as follows:
  - 10.1. release of the Issues Paper in October 2001. A total of 21 written submissions were received as well as verbal feedback at a public meeting; and
  - 10.2. release of the Draft Plan in June 2002. A total of 33 written submissions including a combined submission from all the resident groups in the City were received. Further verbal feedback was also received at another public meeting. A summary of these submissions is included in Attachment 1.
11. Both the Issues Paper and the Draft Plan were widely distributed to stakeholders and residents groups, and were promoted in the local newspapers and on the Council's website.
12. The preparation of the Plan was assisted by the "Growing Green Perspectives Group", an external reference group chaired by Councillor Risstrom with members comprising Councillor Kate Redwood and representatives from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Parks Victoria, University of Melbourne, City West Water, EPA, Department of Natural Resources, Environs Australia, ICLEI and Greening Australia.
13. The community feedback indicated strong support for the direction and intentions of *Growing Green*. Some of the key comments on the draft Plan related to:
  - 13.1. the need for better specification of indicators in the Plan - now incorporated;
  - 13.2. the selection of plant species, particularly the role of both native and exotic species in increasing biodiversity. The wording of *Theme 1 – Protecting and Enhancing Biological Diversity* and *Theme 2 Melbourne – A Leafy City*, have been revised to reflect this feedback;
  - 13.3. the need for strengthening the commitment to maintain heritage assets - now incorporated in *Theme 4 – Respecting Our Heritage*;
  - 13.4. improving the recognition of Indigenous communities involvement in open space planning/management –the wording of *Theme 4 – Respecting Our Heritage*, has been revised to reflect the feedback;
  - 13.5. the need to more strategically plan open space distribution in the municipality ie relate open space needs to current anticipated population levels and distribution, *Theme 3 – Meeting Community Need* now incorporates an Action to prepare an Open Space Strategy to address this issue; and
  - 13.6. comments on a wide range of specific issues including the use of gravel surfaces, litter and waste management, bike riding in parks and the phasing out of parking on grass in parks - where appropriate the wording under each theme has now been modified to reflect this feedback.

## Government Relations

14. The Department of Sustainability and Environment representing the Minister for Environment and Conservation, who is responsible for Crown land and parks, participated in the preparation of *Growing Green*. Also *Growing Green* is compatible with Melbourne 2030 (draft) which sets out the State Government's directions for the development of metropolitan Melbourne over the next 30 years.

## **Implementation**

15. *Growing Green* will be implemented both through existing business processes and through proposed new capital investment. Key implementation proposals include:
  - 15.1. integrating implementation with the open space, tree and recreational facilities contracts as the contracts are renewed;
  - 15.2. incorporating '*Growing Green*' initiatives into the asset replacement capital investment program. Key proposed initiatives include the proposed Royal Park wetland, new water efficient irrigation systems, updated energy efficient park lighting, solar panels on park facilities, water recycling systems in fountains, and introducing recycling facilities in parks and gardens;
  - 15.3. providing information to the community on *Growing Green* initiatives, such as advice on indigenous plants suitable for home gardens;
  - 15.4. incorporating *Growing Green* initiatives in other Council strategies when they are developed or revised, such as the Recreation and Leisure Strategy, the proposed Open Space Strategy, revisions to the Park and Tree policies and future park master plans;
  - 15.5. developing criteria for event approval that recognise capacity limits on the use of parkland for events; and
  - 15.6. adopting targets for reducing energy, water and chemical use and also for the recycling of green waste.

## **Recommendation**

16. That the Environment, Community and Cultural Development Committee recommend that Council approve the *Growing Green Environmental Sustainability Plan for the City of Melbourne's Open Space and Recreational Facilities* (Attachment 2).

## GROWING GREEN DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Summary of submissions to draft Growing Green Draft Masterplan 16 August 2002

No.	Comments	P and R response/comment
1	Supports anything that gets cars off the streets in Melbourne	
2	<p>Likes long term vision</p> <p>Would prefer to keep parks green by investing more in recycled/re-use water systems, rather than letting them brown off</p> <p>Suggests more flowering gums to support native bird life</p> <p>Questions the plans' focus on reporting and measuring outcomes</p> <p>Language of some of objectives/actions needs to be strengthened</p> <p>Consider role of private developments in greening effort: eg rooftop gardens, controls on new developments</p> <p>Supports more facilities in parks such as seating, lighting barbeques, fountains, bike paths, however doesn't support chain link fencing eg at Gordon Reserve</p> <p>Supports recycling in parks but questions proposed reduction in bin numbers</p> <p>Not against limited parking on grass, suggests putting carparking underground and green space on top</p> <p>City issues: police presence in streets, bins at tram stops, city provide transport and put powerlines underground</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>This proposal is covered in "Using resources wisely", however overall water use will still need to be reduced in parks, and this may result in some yellowing off of some grass in summer</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Proposals are consistent with Council's current reporting framework</p> <p>This issue was also raised in public meetings. Have reworded some of the final plan</p> <p>Comments will be referred to development planning &amp; environment unit</p> <p>The chain link fencing is now of historic value. Would not be used in a modern park. Current uses of fencing in parks is primarily to control car access</p> <p>This proposal will be trialed and evaluated</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Comments will be referred to Strategic Planning</p>
3	Very interested in the Growing Green project and would like to be involved	Noted

	Has a low water use, native garden, suggests a neighbouring reserve could reduce water use and have native, bird-attracting plants	
4	<p>Additional issues to consider:</p> <p>Solar powered park lighting</p> <p>Community Gardens</p> <p>Integrated pest management program</p> <p>A number of additions/amendments to the proposed indicators/benchmarks</p> <p>Word and editing suggestions across the document</p> <p>Suggested change in order of themes</p> <p>Copy of paper “People-Park-Plant Paradigm” (prepared for international conference)</p>	<p>All three issues can be added to the strategy</p> <p>Will be considered as part of revision of this section</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
5	<p>Access to City parks is for the elderly and families is often difficult because of the nearby parking is often very restrictive</p> <p>If parking near parks is to be restricted a concerted effort is required to lobby for affordable and useful public transport</p> <p>Supports emphasis on energy and water conservation</p> <p>Overall support for the plan</p>	<p>This issue needs to be acknowledged and addressed in detailed park planning and Masterplans</p> <p>Noted</p>
6	<p>Strongly supports objectives of Protecting and Enhancing Biological Diversity, especially actions to encourage native birds</p> <p>Does not support parking on parkland in any form. Concerned about illegal parking on parks and medians and contractors use of vehicles in parks. Supports park access by environmentally friendly modes</p> <p>Strongly opposed to use of gravel in any situation, suggests mulch, grass or use of native plants and grasses as alternatives, as they all provide some habitat value: gravel provided none and would need to be regularly herbicided.</p> <p>Supports other objectives of the plan</p> <p>Additional suggestions: use of solar lighting and recycling of park clippings and pruning for use as park mulch.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Strategy does not suggest phasing out all parking, but parking on grassed areas, and positive encouragement of alternative transport modes</p> <p>Strategy suggests gravel may be an appropriate solution in very specific situations: eg high use areas such as tram stops on medians/nature strips and could be a better alternative to asphaltting. It is not advocating for gravel as a general landscaping solution, and is generally biased towards use of appropriate plants and turf.</p> <p>Action on Solar lighting added to strategy. Use of garden waste for mulch will be addressed in contractors environmental management plans</p>
7	Strategy should look at conservation of remnant trees and ecosystems	This is intended in Theme 1 objective 1, but needs to be further developed

	<p>within the City And City of Melbourne's wider contribution to nature conservation (other ecosystems) Comments on management of remnant vegetation sites in Royal Park</p> <p>Suggests indigenous revegetation along Moonee Ponds Creek and Inner railway loop to Moonee Ponds Creek Edges of Princes Park Melbourne General Cemetery Along Yarra River and nearby parklands</p> <p>Conserve remnant river redgums by avoiding compaction of roots, excluding irrigation and planting bird attracting plants which in turn will eat tree insects Propose Council adopt policy of progressively replacing existing street trees and plants with indigenous, tube size stock</p> <p>Require indigenous plants in development application landscaping Need active environmental weed awareness and control program (esp for Chilean needlegrass and Desert Ash) Supports concept of wetlands: suggests Princes Park, North Melbourne and Carlton as potential sites. Limit car and truck thoroughfares and use space for ponds and native vegetation</p>	<p>through detailed planning and completion of Biodiversity Strategy This is the intention of Theme 1, objective 2</p> <p>New management plans for these sites have recently been completed and ongoing program of restoration works will commence this year. Current vegetation commitment is to indigenous planting Currently encompassed in Masterplans for Royal and Princes Park Current Masterplan recommends mixture of exotic and native trees Cemetery managed by Necropolis, Springvale Apart from indigenous revegetation project currently being designed for the Yarra banks between Punt Rd and Morrell bridge, River planting is primarily exotic Programs to conserve individual remnant trees will be developed under Theme 1</p> <p>A blanket policy change to planting only indigenous street trees is not supported for both practical and heritage reasons, however, the range of possible street trees could be extended to include some indigenous trees (none are included at the moment) Referred to Development planning for action Currently have no environmental weed program, apart from in Royal Park</p> <p>Royal Park only committed wetland at this stage. More possible in the longer term</p>
8	<p>Supports the intentions of Growing Green Need to both recognise benefits but actively plan for management of urban native animals which may increase as a result of increasing biodiversity. Examples of a) valuable role microbats play in insect control and ecological health: b) noisy feeding and roosting habits of megabats suggests that bat habitat trees are best planted away from residential areas</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Issue of native fauna planning and management will be addressed in more detail in biodiversity strategy</p>

	<p>Need to consider the role of Melbourne's parks and gardens in preserving endangered species, both now and in the future</p> <p>Need to acknowledge the natural heritage of Melbourne pre-1835 and what has been lost since then</p>	<p>This issue is not well understood by Council at the moment, but will need to be addressed in the Biodiversity strategy</p>
9	<p>Supports intention to access and link parks by environmentally friendly means of transport such as bicycles.</p> <p>Proposes current "no bicycles" rule in gardens be changed, and designated shared paths be allowed, particularly in Fitzroy and Carlton Gardens</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Blanket change to 'no bicycles' rule not supported. Bike access needs to be considered in the context of specific park masterplans</p>
10	<p>Proposes that gardens be opened up to cyclists. Current restrictive policy is not sustainable, and notes that City of Port Phillip has been able to accommodate a range of activities on beach pathways</p>	<p>Noted</p>
11	<p>Strong support for more native and indigenous plants, wildlife and increased biodiversity in parks</p> <p>Support better waste and water recycling and use of recycled products</p> <p>More community information on what the environmental issues for parks are</p>	<p>All comments consistent with direction of strategy</p>
12	<p>Need to liaise with traditional owners (Wurundjeri) before park works are done</p> <p>Supports Memorandum of Understanding between City of Melb and Wurundjeri</p> <p>Suggest signage in parks which recognises traditional owners</p> <p>Involve Wurundjeri people who have park management experience in park planning</p>	<p>As required by law, P and R refer major works planned for Crown Land to DNRE, for referral to Miriambiak.</p> <p>Concept of Memorandum including parks is supported: recommend that the issue be worked through the council wide process.</p> <p>Noted: could be actions arising out of the Memorandum</p>
13	<p>Endorses concept of paper and it's role in Council policy</p> <p>Elm avenues an important feature of the City which needs to be protected</p> <p>Need more green areas to meet biodiversity objectives</p> <p>Support phasing out of carparking in parks</p> <p>Elms are a tree that meets the objectives of leafy city</p> <p>Supports the current Tree Policy position on avenues and boulevards</p>	<p>Noted</p>

	<p>Supports undergrounding of powerlines and more water efficient watering systems</p> <p>Supports further development of biological control of tree pests</p> <p>Noted that the many areas of the City are not covered by Growing Green- need to encourages to contribute</p>	<p>Current plan refers to private ownership education and responsibilities and developing partner ships with other land agencies with the municipality</p>
14	<p>Generally likes the strategy</p> <p>May need additional strategies and actions to achieve the right balance between capital city and local recreational needs. Consider links between this strategy and Rec and Leisure strategy</p> <p>Park interpretive and education services could also encompass tourism services and Hotline</p> <p>Need to look at if there are any long term financial implications for maintaining parks and gardens in face of increased residential population and number of events</p> <p>More waste wise events quite achievable</p>	<p>Rec and leisure draft paper now available, so can make the connections</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>To be investigated as part of event strategy</p>
15	<p>Generally supports the plan, however believes plan should commit to a definite preference for use of indigenous plants, both understorey and trees in many parks. Eg: Disappointed more indigenous plants weren't used at Birrarung Marr</p> <p>Community education on view of landscapes needs to be included</p> <p>Noted a few editing errors</p>	<p>The current plan recommends a broader suite of plant types be used in open space and streets, which would include indigenous plants where appropriate, however it does not recommend a specific preference for indigenous plants.</p> <p>Community view on this issue may change over time strategy suggest using indigenous plants and providing information about them to residents</p>

<p>16</p>	<p>Supports efforts to improve environmental amenity of open space and rec facilities, however believes a more holistic view is required  Prefers COAG definition of env. sus development that than the current C of M definition  Existing human population is unsustainable: current lifestyles continue to degrade ecosystems and most resources of the country flow to the big cities  Proposes stream buffers of native vegetation for all streams and waterways: with a minimum of 40 m for Yarra</p> <p>Restoration of native vegetation in parks eg large hollow bearing tees with understorey  Stop use of known environmental weed species in open space and streets  Preservation of icon species in their natural habitats  Prohibit building on river frontage and overshadowing on river banks  Focus on indigenous species for Docklands</p> <p>Create list of fauna species in parks (includes offer to assist)  Indigenous species should be given priority when selecting plants for open space  Phase out sprinkler systems and plant drought tolerant grass species and phase out mowing by using native grasses (would also increase biodiversity)</p>	<p>Growing Green framed within the current agreed Council definition of sustainability: reviewing the definition would be a whole of Council task</p> <p>Env Dev unit are currently undertaking a project on the “ecological footprint” of the City- will assist in addressing this</p> <p>Native planting occurs on Moonee Ponds and majority of Maribyrnong Rivers: opportunities to create linear open space network pursued when opportunities become available.  Yarra River has little native planting: in some areas (eg: Southbank) presence of built form prevents such a buffer. Opportunities for more planting along this River needs to be identified  Will be addressed as part of biodiversity strategy</p> <p>This issue needs to be addressed</p> <p>Will be addressed as part of biodiversity strategy  Current plan proposes to control, but not prohibit, this  Dockland are not controlled by City of Melbourne: current landscaping plans contain a range of exotic and native species  To be done as part of biodiversity strategy  See previous comments</p> <p>This needs to be dealt with at a site specific level, rather than as a broad-brush policy. Maintenance is required for all types of planting: need to look at resources used for each type</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>As statement of principle content of Growing Green is supported.  Difficult issues identified such as competing use of parks, relationship between past and future character of public open space and potential for preservation of heritage assets and best practice</p>	<p>Noted  Triple bottom line approach is meant to be able to deal with individual issues and potential conflicts. Growing Green can not be written so it applies in detail to every situation- applying Growing Green principles</p>

<p>sustainability</p> <p>Need to establish what the relationships between Growing Green and with existing Council policies and recent ones</p> <p>Majority of GG principles are inherently at odds with the high maintenance requirements of exotic species and grassed areas-argues that all public open space be reviewed for heritage significance and management plan developed before GG is adopted</p> <p>GG should reflect a more comprehensive understanding of the issue of biodiversity and its complexity in the municipality. Promotion of biodiversity is not restricted to indigenous species only</p> <p>Need to match strategies and actions more tightly to indicators Suggest alternative order for themes Proposes (as part of GG) the development of Municipal Public open space masterplan to plan for the right type, distribution and use within the municipality Should include a map of all open space, current and future demographics, current masterplan objectives etc Establish a GG community reference group to guide development of public open space masterplan</p>	<p>should give you a more holistic solution, not an either/or one</p> <p>This is included in the Draft plan as a diagram- some explanatory words. Revised in final plan to reflect recent Council policy eg: City Plan 2010 and social planning framework</p> <p>Should not assume that heritage can only be maintained at current resource levels. For most of their existence, heritage parks would have had much less resources put into them than they do at the moment. The current example of the RBG shows that env practices can be improved dramatically with no negative impact on landscape outcomes. All major parks have had a Conservation Analysis completed, which identifies features of heritage importance, regardless of what the formal heritage status is. Development of management plans will follow. It is not necessary to delay adoption of GG to do this Native plants and animals are present in all types of open space- however, (apart from possums) Council does not have a current strategy to enhance/preserve and/or properly manage these features. The intention of this theme is to map out a broad approach to this issue- however, given the range of responses to this section, needs to be explained more clearly Issues of global diversity (eg elms) could be identified as an issue in either this theme or “leafy city” Indicators</p> <p>Strategies under Objective 1 in Theme 2 have been revised to make an open space strategy a more specific priority- but needs to be a separate piece of work to this GG Plan. A map of all open space by land status (which would be a good basis for the broad strategy) has just been completed, and will be printed and publicly available. Reference group to be considered as part of development of open space strategy</p>
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	<p>The commitment is GG to reducing parking in parks is less than that in the Parks Policy. Needs to be strengthened with focus on rationalisation and elimination of parking against time frames and promotion of PT.(for street medians only)</p> <p>Impacts of events on parkland should be monitored and reviewed, especially major annual events, to see if the use is appropriate Should be linked to Open Space strategy</p> <p>Suggest use the term “public open space” to cover all gardens, parks, reserves etc- confusing in current document. Also terms such as indigenous, native, exotic, biodiversity, env. sustainability</p> <p>Each theme needs an implementation section</p> <p>General funds available for street greening has declined in the capital works budget. Current levels insufficient for scale of greening proposed in GG. Develop a Greening fund by using open space contributions, expanding definition of o.s. contrib. to include streetscapes, advocate that park levy on water rates ratepayers pay be spent in the municipality</p> <p>Opposed to increased reliance on events and functions (for funding?)</p> <p>A list of editorial and detailed rewording suggestions for all sections</p>	<p>Noted. This needs to happen across Council not just P and R</p> <p>Theme 2 proposes the development of an event management strategy which would be based on information about impact and carrying capacity</p> <p>Agree-Definitions were included in “Issues Paper” In final plan the term “open space and recreational facilities” is used to cover all terms</p> <p>A broad implementation section is included in the final plan. A detailed implementation plan will be developed annually</p> <p>Don’t support advocating for water rates levy back into Melb only- because most of the \$\$ are used for regional parks-of benefit to all</p> <p>Specific Greening fund could be looked at</p> <p>Do not support expanding open space contributions to streetscapes</p> <p>Noted</p>
18	<p>Melbourne needs to promote the Australian fauna and flora and aromas which makes it unique. It looks like every other major City in the world, rather than promoting it unique treasures as a major asset to the public and tourists</p>	<p>Comments noted. Also need to look at interpretation and information</p>
19	<p>Resubmission of comments made to Carlton Gardens Masterplan (now on hold). Issues of particular relevance to Growing Green include need for better irrigation management, management of possums, range and management of tree species, need to better manage/prevent cycling in Gardens, impact of Garden show on Gardens, especially during dismantling period, park interpretation.</p>	<p>Although specific to one park, the relevant issues need to be generally addressed across all parks, and are covered in Growing Green strategies and actions.</p>

20	<p>Particularly supports GG commitments to reducing stormwater run-off, bike parking facilities for parks and waste wise measures. Need implementation schedule to assess full impact of the plan. Suggests a number of additions and amendments to the current list of strategies and actions in the areas of indicators, bike plans, need to consider impact on parking provision and overcrowding from increased street greening, need to provide both recycling and rubbish bins, better management of gravel in street medians</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Plan will be developed annually Comments noted and amendments as required</p>
21	<p>GG will make a significant contribution to Council's sustainability goals Would be helpful if the document expanded on how GG fits in with other Council policy documents and the link into Council's wider agenda on sustainability Proposals should be promoted for uptake by other agencies and residents Link these indicators with social indicators currently under development within Council Theme 2- need to look at park use (social role) as well as managing resources, cultural backgrounds and current and future users Refer to Cityplan for definition of social equity Recognition of traditional ownership could be included in this and other park master plans Need to document the health benefits (to people) of a leafy city Role of public art and statues in cultural life needs to be considered Acknowledgment of aboriginal culture may encompass new art works and/or public spaces Businesses and residents could be encouraged generally to adopt principles of themes 5 and 6.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>More context is provided in final plan Relationship to Council's wider sustainability agenda is outlined on page 6 ( This is referred to in specific strategies and actions</p> <p>Noted Linked in with City Plan 2010 indicators</p> <p>This issue will be addressed more fully by the rec and leisure strategy and any open space masterplan undertaken, however context outlines links</p> <p>Noted Included in introduction of final plan</p> <p>Will be achieved through indicator reporting</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
22	<p>Submission covers comments on how Princes and Royal Park are currently managed. General areas of concern include: mower damage to young trees, need to remove dead trees and limbs, lack of possum</p>	<p>Comments referred to managers of parks identified for follow up action General issues raised indicate close attention has t be paid to environmental management issues</p>

	management, insect management for eucalypts.	
23	<p>Supports overall ideas and intentions of Growing Green</p> <p>Happy to see specific small scale use of gravel, does not support the large scale use of gravel eg: City and Univ Square as it effects useability of the space</p> <p>Could reduce watering on parks and ovals by watering in the evening, and reducing number of trees near grassed areas as they compete with water</p> <p>Needs of sports users on ovals often misunderstood:-cricket ovals do not have to be lush and green for a good game</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Benefits of trees for shade, habitat has to be balanced against competition with grass</p> <p>Noted-referred to park managers</p>
24	<p>GG is a good initiative, but needs to be integrated further in to Council's overall activities. Will need to see continuous improvement</p> <p>Could be more ambitious: for example set a target for amount of open space within 50 years</p> <p>Proposes no parking in parks or gardens within 3 to 5 years. Does not support conversion of parkland to paved parking</p> <p>Tree policies and choices must be well set out and explained (eg: when will exotic, native or indigenous plants be used)</p> <p>Maintaining and improving public transport to parks important (eg: debate over Jolimont station)</p> <p>Existing by-laws for parks need to be enforced</p> <p>Historic parks need to be buffered from overshadowing and high rise development around the perimeter</p> <p>Garden heritage considerations should be applied to developments on the perimeter of parks (human scale development)</p> <p>Cigarette butts and dog litter particular waste issues which need to be better managed</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Set target as part of development of Open Space strategy</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>To be followed up</p> <p>Refer to strategic planning City Plan 2010 indicates this intention</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>To be included in proposed waste management plans</p>
25	<p>Supports the City of Melbourne's commitment to sustainability</p> <p>Outlines organisation's current commitment to environmental management, and ways that, as a service provider, maybe able to assist with implementation of Growing Green strategies and actions</p>	<p>Noted</p>
26	Need to show how this plan integrates with Council's other	See previous comments

	<p>environmental policies and City Plan.  Short and medium term objectives need to be included to make a link to the 50 year vision  Reporting and continual improvement sections for each theme need to be added (in addition to the indicators section.) This would assist with operational management and contract review.</p>	<p>Listed strategies and actions are focussed at medium term  Reporting and indicators section reviewed to link in with City Plan 201</p>
27	<p>Broadly supports the document with the additional comments:  Need to get a better connection between the objectives/indicators and measures  Tree selection should recognise type of activity in the area eg: trees which tend to drop limbs should not be in pedestrian areas  Gravel has negative effects such as uneven surface, movement  Planting in nature strips should not obscure traffic signage or impede driver visibility  The cost/benefit of converting road space into “greened” space needs to be considered: eg impact on users, cost of conversion</p>	<p>See previous comments on this issue  Tree selection already consider this  Noted  Agree  Agree- a triple bottom line process to evaluate each conversion should be developed</p>
28	<p>Broadly supports the principles of environmentally sustainability embraced in the document  Increasing specific fauna populations can be at the expense of overall biodiversity- needs to be actively managed and monitored  Does not support promotion of one single native species (flying fox) to the exclusion of other natural assets for tourism or other purposes  Strongly support improved planning and management of the living landscape. Planting should be of species suited to Melbourne, which includes both indigenous species, as well as plants from other regions of the world which have similar growing conditions.  Selecting for drought tolerance is important, however, in the case of street trees in the CBD waterlogging may be more of an issue.  Further research should be done prior to any definite decisions are made  Changes to water management for turf needs to consider maintenance of tree root zones and potential future tree disease or lack of vigour.</p>	<p>Noted  Management of fauna populations in urban settings needs to be taken up further in Biodiversity Strategy  This is not proposed in Growing Green  Leafy City theme recommends increasing the number of types of plants used  Further information required for specific street tree plans  Noted  Agree- maintaining trees is very important- may mean installing watering systems which are focussed on the trees, rather than the lawn</p>

	<p>Need to look at each situation individually</p> <p>Supports better waste and stormwater management especially control of litter movement-which is not always to the street</p>	<p>Revise current strategy to cover all litter movement</p>
29	<p>Need to link City Plan biodiversity objectives with GG</p> <p>Suggests park management resource reduction targets be set before GG is finalised, so implementation can be better managed</p> <p>Suggest opportunities for further greenfleet planting be identified before strategy is finalised</p> <p>Actions should be prioritised</p> <p>Identifying location of remnant sites will help increase awareness of them</p> <p>Link waterway strategies with existing plans actions</p> <p>Need to update City Plan 2010/MSS references</p> <p>MSS will be reporting annually on net lose/gain in open space- suggest use same indicators</p> <p>Greening by private landholders via the planning scheme may be better served by developing landscape guidelines for each precinct to be used by planner and applicants</p> <p>Need to clarify difference between energy targets and greenhouse reduction targets</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Strategy commits to meeting current corporate targets: specifics need to be done as part of contract renewal process</p> <p>Could have a go at this</p> <p>Part of implementation plan</p> <p>Strategy checked and revised as appropriate</p>
30	<p>Issues missing</p> <p>Experience and number of maintenance staff in parks and gardens- (this will effect outcomes)</p> <p>Need to recognise negative effect of busy streets bordering parks and gardens (noise, ait pollution- erodes their original intention</p> <p>Melb's parks and gardens have a place in many people's memories (so collective cultural importance of them-and link to interpretation)</p> <p>Suggest utilising existing water run off from surrounding buildings and infrastructure to water lawns and trees in Fitzroy Gardens, rather than allow it to run straight into the stormwater system</p> <p>Does not support proposal for more boat traffic on the Yarra River- noisy and created pollution from fuel discharges</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Can be linked to overshadowing controls through planning scheme</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Concept supported, need to look at logistics</p> <p>Refer to Parks Victoria</p>

	<p>A number of queries specific to Fitzroy Gardens (details of how the park is managed)</p> <p>Thinks a Elm is better for shade than a Eucalypt</p> <p>A number of press clippings attached (horticulture, waste reduction, crows)</p>	<p>These can be answered directly to submitter</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
31	<p>Should incorporate health related objectives in “community needs” theme eg: providing shade in public spaces</p>	<p>Should be part of specific design objectives for activity areas eg: playgrounds, picnic areas, sports pavilions etc Also refer to Recreation strategy</p>
32	<p>Strategy presents a seeming bias against exotic vegetation</p> <p>Native wildlife do use exotic vegetation</p> <p>Commitment to increasing the range and complexity of species should be site specific</p> <p>Would prefer parks “european” in style to remain that way</p> <p>Future open space standards need to reflect increased residential population</p> <p>Future regional sports facilities do not need to be in open space, but can be part of built form</p> <p>Safety in parks- group plantings of trees and shrubs may reduce feeling of safety in parks</p> <p>Need more dog off lead areas or less restrictions</p> <p>Maintain elm and exotic avenue plantings and grass</p> <p>Princes park has heritage value-needs to be recognised</p> <p>Supports use of recycled water for park maintenance uses</p> <p>Exotic trees provide shade in summer and sunlight in winter- and help moderate climate in the city</p> <p>Need more dog waste bags and dispensers in parks for effective management</p>	<p>This is not the intention</p> <p>Some species do- but need variety of vegetation to achieve variety of wildlife</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Part of open space strategy considerations</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>It may depending on location- need to design well</p> <p>Not be supported at this stage, as part of this process</p> <p>All other comments noted</p>
33	<p>Need to consider links between GG and other policies (state and Council) and potential to link in with urban design to encourage appropriate development and place-making</p> <p>Supports increase in use of surface permeable materials in both public and private developments</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

34	The input of Urban design surrounding open spaces and parks needs to be highlighted. Also the exotic vegetation assets as providing a sense of place.	Wording incorporated under Theme 3 – Meeting Community Needs. Theme 4 – Respecting our Heritage refers to this issue.
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# ***Growing Green***



**Environmental Sustainability Plan for the City of  
Melbourne's Open Space and Recreational Facilities  
Final Report**

**Attachment 2  
Agenda Item 5.5  
Environment, Community and Cultural Development Committee  
4 February 2003**

**February 2003**

As part of its commitment to Indigenous Australians, Melbourne City Council respectfully acknowledges the traditional people of the Kulin Nation.

For the Boonerwung, Woiworong, Taungurong, Djajawurrung and the Wathaurung that make up the Kulin Nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place and location for events of social, educational, sporting and cultural significance.

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## Foreword

Melbourne has outstanding parks, gardens and boulevards which contribute significantly to Melbourne being considered as one of the most livable cities in the world. We are privileged to have inherited these assets from our predecessors to use and enjoy. However, we also have a responsibility to manage them in trust and pass on to future generations an open space network that is in better condition and/or more responsive to community needs than it is today.

The *Growing Green* Environmental Sustainability Plan outlines a vision for Melbourne and its open space and recreational facilities in 2050 which is a city that is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. The City will consist of a web of interconnected communities with a strong culture of social justice, equity and open decision making. It will have interconnected green open spaces accessible to residents and visitors alike. It will be greener, less dependent on cars, and with more trees throughout the City.

The green spaces, sporting facilities and trees will be managed in a more environmentally sustainable way, with less water, energy and chemical inputs, ie having a smaller overall ecological footprint. Plantings will be more suitable for Melbourne's climate, yet the essential heritage attributes of the City's historic parks, gardens and boulevards will be preserved.

*Growing Green* provides a framework for decision making which will progressively move us to the 50-year vision.

Many people have made comments and suggestions during the process of developing the *Growing Green* plan. We are all the custodians of these wonderful assets for future generations of Melburnians. We therefore hope that you remain engaged in the realisation of the plan.

**David Risstrom**

Chair, *Growing Green* Perspectives

**Kate Redwood**

Chair, Environment, Community  
and Cultural Development Committee

Following consideration of this Plan by the Environment, Community and Cultural Development Committee, Council approved this Plan on

## **Acknowledgments**

### ***Growing Green Perspectives Group***

Council acknowledges the contribution this group has made in assisting in the preparation of this document.

The members are:

Cr David Risstrom (Chair)  
Cr Kate Redwood  
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City West Water – Des Horton  
Environment Protection Authority – Harry Blutstein  
Environs Australia – Steve Ray  
Greening Australia – Glen Terry  
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives – Jeremy Maslin  
Natural Resources and Environment – John Burley  
Parks and Recreation, City of Melbourne – Vince Haining  
Parks Victoria – Chris Hardiman  
Royal Botanic Gardens – Dr Philip Moors  
University of Melbourne – Dr David Aldous

## **Project Team**

### **Consultants:**

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### **Parks and Recreation Group:**

Vince Haining  
Ian Harris  
Angela Hill

## Introduction

Melbourne is endowed with some of the best parks, gardens and boulevards in the world due to the foresight of earlier generations. Key people such as Governor Latrobe, Fitzgibbon and Hodgkinson ensured that Melbourne today has inherited 560 hectares of fine open space contributing to Melbourne being considered as one of the most livable cities in the world.

The open space areas range from the 188 hectares of Royal Park which is progressively being developed as an Australian landscape, to the Fitzroy, Carlton and Flagstaff Gardens which comprise some of the most important heritage areas in Melbourne.

The parks and gardens are important social and recreational spaces catering for over 12 million visitors and over 6000 organised events per year. They also provide for a wide range of sporting activities such as cricket, football, soccer, baseball, tennis, bowls and rugby.

Most importantly, the parks, gardens and the numerous other small open spaces provide a space for use and enjoyment of the community, whether for children's play, walking the dog or just relaxing in an open setting.

### **Why *Growing Green*?**

The objective of this strategy is to create a long-term framework within which short and medium term decisions can be made. Rather than reacting to major social, environmental and economic changes, *Growing Green* seeks to anticipate the emerging future trends and change the management of our open spaces so that the best outcomes can be delivered into the future.

There are a series of powerful "global" and local trends evident. These form the underlying assumptions of *Growing Green* and are that

- Urbanisation is increasing and in particular the density of inner urban Melbourne will continue to increase.
- Australia's population is aging and the demand for passive recreation spaces will increase.
- Communities and residents will increasingly require access to quality and well located green spaces.
- The "well being" and health of individuals and communities is enhanced through the provision of green space.
- Global climate changes will require new approaches to green space planning.

The *Growing Green* Environmental Sustainability Plan presents an ambitious commitment to achieve a sustainable city by 2050. It differs from other plans and strategies, being a holistic approach with a time frame extending beyond all other plans and strategies.

*Growing Green* builds on existing Council commitments and policies including the Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities, Council's commitment to achieving sustainability, Council's City Plan 2010 and other policies relating to greenhouse gas emissions, sport, recreation and leisure and the management of water, parks and trees.

*Growing Green* has been prepared following extensive community consultation on an Issues Paper released in October 2001 and a Draft *Growing Green* Plan released in June 2002. Fifty-four submissions were received during this process and considered in preparing the Plan. In addition valuable input and guidance was provided by the *Growing Green* Perspectives Group chaired by Councillor David Risstrom.

*Growing Green* primarily relates to the open spaces, trees and recreational facilities managed by the Melbourne City Council (see map). It does not apply directly to land managed by Federal or State Government, other councils or private land. However it does seek to set an example for other land managers and seeks to influence decision-making where appropriate.

*Growing Green* specifically relates to the major and minor parks, gardens, sports fields and pavilions, aquatic facilities, recreation centres, creeks and waterways, street trees, medians, road reserves, public toilets, park furniture and depots managed by the Melbourne City Council. The phrase “open space and recreational facilities” is used throughout the report to encompass all these elements.

## ***Growing Green Vision 2050***

**The City of Melbourne in 2050 will have the highest quality parks, gardens, trees and recreational facilities easily accessible to and enjoyed by all who live in or visit the City. These assets and the life that they support will be sustainably managed on behalf of the community and future users with a reduced ecological footprint.**

### **Vision 2050**

To fully achieve the objectives of the *Growing Green* Vision, new directions will be required in a number of key areas. These include;

- recognising that more naturalistic systems can be less resource intensive and thus more economical to operate,
- recognising the health benefits that access to quality passive recreational spaces provides to communities and ensuring that such access is considered in planning the future development of the City,
- broadening the overall range of tree and other plant species to increase the level of bio-diversity, especially bird life while maintaining a mix of exotic and native trees,
- identifying and developing opportunities for new open spaces as the population of the City increases and ensuring equitable access for everyone,
- reclaiming where appropriate, a proportion of existing road space for planting trees, plants and creating small community spaces,
- planting tree species that minimise water and other resource inputs where this is compatible with heritage and design considerations,
- replacing grass in some areas with drought tolerant grass species or applying less water and allowing areas of grass to “brown” in summer,
- sustaining parkland by managing the number of events in parkland in a way that doesn’t compromise long term viability of parkland,
- investing in new infrastructure to improve the environmental sustainability of open space, parks and recreational facilities,
- reducing the energy input in the management of open space and recreational facilities,

- reducing the use of potable (drinking) water for the management of parks, street trees and recreational facilities,
- reducing the negative impacts of vehicles by promoting the shift of commuters to public transport, prioritising short term parking in the core retail area and removing car parking from parkland as other parking opportunities become available.

### **Themes of *Growing Green***

*Growing Green* outlines a range of objectives and actions that together will guide the management of the City's open spaces, trees and recreational facilities towards the 50 year vision.

The overall objectives of *Growing Green* are considered under six broad themes each with a list of specific actions, for easy consideration. These six themes are:

1. Protecting and Enhancing Biological Diversity
2. Melbourne: A Leafy City
3. Meeting Community Needs
4. Respecting Our Heritage
5. Using Resources Wisely
6. Being Waste Wise

Each theme in *Growing Green* includes a brief discussion of the issues, long-term objectives, and a set of actions to achieve the objectives, and a number of indicators.

### **Indicators**

At the end of each theme, a number of indicators are listed for monitoring and reporting on progress towards the *Growing Green* vision. The indicators are listed under environmental, social and economic headings, to allow progress to be monitored across the "triple bottom line".

The indicators are not a comprehensive set of "outcome" statements relating to each objective actions listed under each theme. They are selective, and represent key elements that will assist in tracking change over time.

Where appropriate, indicator measures identical to City Plan 2010 have been used.

## **Growing Green Policy Context**

*Growing Green* has been prepared taking into account the framework of existing Council commitments and policies.

The most relevant are listed below.

### **Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities**

In May 2002, the City of Melbourne endorsed the **Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities**. Developed in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Program, the Environment Protection Authority and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), the purpose of the Principles is to guide the community's thinking on the creation of environmentally healthy and sustainable cities.

At the World Summit for Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in August 2002 the Melbourne Principles were strongly endorsed by local government delegates from around the globe.

There are ten Principles, which when used together will take Council on the journey towards becoming a sustainable city. They are to:

1. Provide a long-term vision for cities based on sustainability.
2. Empower people and foster participation inter-generational, social, economic and political equity and their individuality.
3. Recognise and build on the characteristics of cities, including their human, cultural, historic and natural systems.
4. Build on the characteristics of ecosystems in the development and nurturing of healthy and sustainable cities.
5. Achieve long term economic and social security.
6. Expand and enable co-operative networks to work towards a common sustainable future.
7. Enable communities to minimise their ecological footprint.
8. Enable continual improvement, accountability and transparency and good governance.
9. Require effective demand management and appropriate use of environmentally sound technologies for cities.
10. Recognise the intrinsic value of biodiversity and natural ecosystems and protect and restore them.
11. Promote sustainable production and consumption, through appropriate use of environmentally sound technologies and effective demand management.

*Growing Green* adopts these principles as a basis for its objectives and actions.

### **Sustainability**

Council's commitment to sustainability underpins *Growing Green*. The City of Melbourne defines sustainability as:

"... the simultaneous pursuit of economic prosperity, social equity and environmental quality. The objective of the City of Melbourne is to manage the municipality and its own

operations in a way that maximises all three of these goals and ensures the long term viability of all three systems by increasing the City's natural, social and economic capital".

Council measures progress towards sustainability through a triple bottom line reporting and decision-making framework.

*Growing Green* is a key strategy for achieving the sustainable management of open space and recreation facilities, which are highly regarded by the community.

## **City Plan 2010**

City Plan 2010 is Melbourne City Council's primary policy and planning strategy. The intention of City Plan is to move towards a more thriving and sustainable city. Four inter-related themes set the broad strategic directions for City Plan.

They are;

- Connected and Accessible City,
- Environmentally Responsible City,
- Inclusive and Engaging City,
- Innovative and Vital Business City.

The themes, objectives and actions in *Growing Green* link with the strategic directions of City Plan, and interpret them within the framework of open space, trees and recreational facilities.

## **Other Council policies**

A wide range of Council policies have been developed under the broad umbrella of City Plan 2010. Those that relate to environmental, social and open space issues relate to the objectives in *Growing Green*.

Relevant environmental policies include the Sustainable Energy and Greenhouse Strategy, which commits Council and the community to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The corporate Energy Policy, Purchasing Policy, and Waste Policy set directions and targets for Council's own performance in the areas of the use of energy, waste reduction and product purchasing.

All the improvement targets identified in *Growing Green* are consistent with corporate commitments in these areas.

The intentions of the Sustainable Water Management Strategy, (currently in draft form) have also been taken into account in the preparation of this Strategy.

The Recreation and Leisure Strategy, also currently under development, is complementary to *Growing Green*. This Strategy is primarily focussed on delivering improved recreational and leisure opportunities, particularly through improving access and equity, increased participation in physical activity by the community and a greater diversity of services. The expanded use of open space by the broader cross section of the community with the aim of improving the health and well being of the community can all be realised within the context of good environmental management.

Social strategies such as “A Great Start” for children and “Baby Boomers and Beyond” for older people provide the social needs analysis necessary to plan effectively for these specific groups in open space and recreational facilities.

Park and Tree Policies have been long standing policies of Council. *Growing Green* does not depart from the broad principles of these documents. The Parks Policy commits Council to protecting and managing the City’s parks and gardens to the highest standard. Specifically it commits Council to best practice environmental management in relation to water, energy, chemicals and waste. Actions to advance these outcomes are identified in *Growing Green*.

The Tree Policy commits Council to increased tree planting, managing the tree stocks to a high standard, and planting a greater diversity of tree species. It commits Council to maintaining Melbourne’s unique elm avenues and other exotic trees where appropriate. All of these commitments are compatible with the actions in *Growing Green*.

*Growing Green* requires that decisions made today in line with these shorter-term Council policies also take into account the longer-term opportunities, consequences and often intergenerational implications of such decisions.

### **State Government Policy - Melbourne 2030**

Melbourne 2030 (draft) outlines the State Government’s 30 year strategy for the Melbourne metropolitan area, including the City of Melbourne. It commits the State Government to ensuring Melbourne will have a greater sense of place and community, that it is a safe city, its heritage buildings and values will be protected and that there will be more open space and new parks with access for all. It proposes that Melbourne will have more sustainable water use, less waste, more reuse and recycling, reduced use of energy and land use planning that protects habitat and biodiversity

## How *Growing Green* Links into City Plan 2010

CITY PLAN 2010			
TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE REPORTING			
Specific Council Policies Which Further Develop City Plan	<i>Growing Green</i> Themes		
Park Policy	I N P U T S	Protecting & Enhancing Biodiversity	O U T C O M E S
Tree Policy		Leafy City	
Baby Boomers (draft)		Meeting Community Needs	
Social Planning Framework		Celebrating Our Heritage	
A Great Start (draft)		Using Resources Wisely	
Recreation & Leisure Strategy (draft)		Being Waste Wise	
Sustainable Water Management (draft)			
Greenhouse Action Plan			
Corporate Energy Policy			
Corporate Purchasing Policy			
Waste Management Plan			

## **Theme 1 - Protecting and enhancing biological diversity**

### ***Increase biodiversity in Melbourne's green spaces and minimise adverse environmental impact on habitats and ecosystems beyond the municipality.***

Biodiversity is the variety of all forms of life: from the physical environment to the individual plants, animals and microorganisms and their inter-relationships or ecosystems. Biodiversity is essential to life. The protection and enhancement of biological diversity is crucial for the sustainable future of Melbourne. A healthy, bio-diverse environment is necessary to maintain water quality, air quality, soil formation, plant regeneration, nutrient cycling and decomposition of organic waste. A robust, biologically diverse environment will enhance the City making it a more comfortable place to live, work and visit.

Heavily developed urban areas, such as central Melbourne, face particular challenges to preserve and enhance biodiversity. Built environments include buildings, roads and other infrastructure that can compromise the diversity of fauna and flora, reducing the number of green areas and destroying original habitats. Many of the City's open spaces have been designed to favour exotic vegetation over native indigenous species, limiting both the range and number of birds, plants and animals. A particular challenge is to encourage the long-term survival of the small number of remnant vegetation sites that remain in the City.

Melbourne's open spaces currently provide a good support system for a range of both native and non-native fauna. Some native species, such as possums and bats, are well supported by city landscapes and are expanding in size. Native animals such as the brush tail and ringtail possums favour Melbourne's unique English elms as nesting sites. However, many other species of fauna, such as small native birds have almost disappeared from the City due to lack of suitable habitat.

There are considerable opportunities to enhance and protect the levels of biodiversity within the City of Melbourne. These include broadening the range of plant species, both native and exotic, protecting and propagating from existing remnant vegetation and soil conservation.

The City's impact on the level of biodiversity goes beyond municipal boundaries. Waterways, such as the Yarra River, Maribyrnong River and Moonee Ponds Creek, are vital ecosystems that extend beyond the City of Melbourne. By working in partnerships with adjoining municipalities and land management authorities, the City aims to improve the ecological value and habitat opportunities of Melbourne's waterways.

As a major urban area and consumer of resources, the City of Melbourne also impacts on the biodiversity of other areas of Australia or the world. Council's current purchasing policy aims to reduce waste and encourage the use of recycled products. It provides up to a ten per cent price differential to allow Council to purchase more environmental sensitive products where a choice of two similar products is available.

Some key directions that will help to protect and enhance biodiversity are:

- expanding the range of exotic and native species used in open spaces and streets;
- identifying, retaining and rehabilitating all identified areas of remnant vegetation;
- creating wetlands and other habitats to enable greater fauna diversity;

- influencing other landholders (other agencies and private owners) to create more biologically diverse environments;
- working co-operatively with other agencies, especially adjoining municipalities, to enhance urban biodiversity;
- ensuring purchasing activities of Council and service providers actively assist and do not negatively effect other ecosystems outside the City of Melbourne;
- providing public education and awareness of the importance of biological diversity.

### **Objectives**

Council's objectives for protecting and enhancing biodiversity are to achieve:

1. An increased variety and number of appropriate plants and animals in the City.
2. Protection of existing remnant indigenous eco systems and the creation of new habitat areas as opportunities arise.
3. Minimal adverse environmental impact of Council activities on other habitats and ecosystems.

### **Actions**

The following actions will be undertaken to achieve these objectives.

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>An increased variety and number of appropriate plants and animals in the City</b> <b>Actions</b>
Increase the range of plant and animal species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the range and complexity of native and exotic species plant in open space, with a particular emphasis on providing additional habitat around and between identified habitat nodes especially for birds.</li> <li>• Develop projects that contribute to habitat creation, such as wetlands, water and nesting boxes where appropriate.</li> <li>• Develop fauna management programs for native and non-native fauna as required.</li> </ul>
Enhance the ecological value of waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve storm water quality by the implementation of the storm water strategy.</li> <li>• Control soil erosion and potential overshadowing caused by building developments along waterways.</li> <li>• Encourage the establishment of wetlands for stormwater management, habitat creation and water re-use where possible.</li> <li>• Continue to support and maintain an active involvement in regional waterway and catchment management planning activities.</li> </ul>
Enhance biodiversity through partnerships with other land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop biodiversity partnership projects with other agencies such as the Royal Botanic Gardens, other municipalities and Parks Victoria.</li> </ul>

managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage private landholders and developers to plant for biodiversity by providing information on indigenous plants.</li> <li>• Investigate incentives in the planning scheme for private developments to provide greening and habitats, including roof top gardens.</li> </ul>
Increase community awareness of biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information on habitat improvement opportunities in the City.</li> <li>• Involve schools, local communities and other organisations in planting, revegetation and monitoring projects.</li> <li>• Provide information to residents on local indigenous plants suitable for home gardens.</li> <li>• Monitor and report on status of flora and fauna, with particular emphasis on the diversity and abundance of plant species, the spread and types of weeds, fauna species diversity, and any new or current threatening processes.</li> <li>• Develop interpretive programs that highlight nature in the City.</li> </ul>

<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Protection of existing remnant indigenous ecosystems and the creation of new habitat areas as opportunities arise</b>
	<b>Action</b>
Enhance remnant sites of indigenous flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify remnant indigenous sites and regionally significant species and develop management plans for each site and species.</li> <li>• Provide buffers around remnant sites and links between them.</li> <li>• Control weeds and pest plants in remnant areas and buffers.</li> <li>• Finalise the City's Biodiversity Strategy and develop an implementation plan.</li> <li>• Ensure that the maintenance of sites is consistent with conservation objectives.</li> </ul>

<b>Objective 3</b>	<b>Minimal adverse environmental impact of Council activities on other habitats and ecosystems.</b>
	<b>Action</b>
Reduce environmental impact of goods and services used for open space and facilities management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review sources of materials used in open space and facilities management and assess their ecological impact on other natural systems. Use alternatives when they are available.</li> <li>• Investigate applying Council's current purchasing policy principle of up to 10 per cent price differential for capital works, all contracts and other services that have a positive impact on biodiversity.</li> <li>• Require Council contractors to comply with this Council policy.</li> </ul>

### **Indicators**

The following indicators will be used to measure progress towards achieving the biodiversity objectives.

Indicator	Desired outcome	Measure
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>		
Changes in bird populations	An increase in the number and diversity of species of birds native to the Melbourne region.	Number of native bird species observed.
Environmental health of the Yarra River environs	An improvement in the ecological health of the River and it's banks.	Number of species with viable populations.  Amount of funding spent on environmental improvements.
<b>SOCIAL</b>		
Community attitudes and actions that support biodiversity	An increase in participation in environmental groups and activities.	Number of community environmental groups/activities.  Number of participants at activities  Area revegetated or maintained by the community.
<b>ECONOMIC</b>		
Value of diverse range of flora and fauna	Increase value due to increased species range.	Change in value of tree assets due to increased species range.

## Theme 2 - Melbourne: a leafy city

***Retain and enhance Melbourne's international reputation as a 'garden city' by increasing the number of trees, plants and green spaces across the City. Increase the robustness and diversity of tree species with selection considering local climatic conditions, urban setting and heritage value.***

Melbourne's grand boulevards and generous parks and gardens are a major contributing factor to its international reputation as 'the world's most livable city'. Melbourne's image as a 'garden city' attracts a large number of visitors and as a result, plays a significant economic role in the life of the City.

Trees and other plants in streets, medians and private spaces play an important role in urban environments. Vegetation contributes to the aesthetic harmony of the City and helps create a pleasant environment for social activities. It also has practical benefits, providing shade for buildings and people and habitat that contribute to biological diversity. Trees and plants also help modify the immediate climatic extremes of heat and cold.

Many of the Melbourne's streets and boulevards feature planting based on nineteenth and early twentieth centuries landscape designs. While there are significant native and some indigenous plants within the City, an historical bias towards exotic or European trees has influenced the evolution of the City's open spaces. Council currently manages about 50,000 park and street trees including over 6500 English elms and many significant and heritage listed trees. The City is committed to a high standard of tree management to ensure these valuable assets thrive.

Many of Melbourne's exotic trees are now approaching the end of their life. Replacement planting needs to be considered with a view to habitat and resource consumption implications. Native trees are generally more drought-tolerant and provide better habitat for birds but may not adapt well to modified urban environments. Exotic trees generally provide shade in summer and access of sunlight in winter but many species requires a great deal of water and other resources to survive in Melbourne's climate.

There can be a high environmental cost associated with a 'green' image. Managing large areas of open space and parkland is extremely water intensive. Over the past ten years, the City's open spaces have been successfully maintained through the increased use of automatic irrigation systems. Keeping grassed median and nature strips alive requires particularly large quantities of water.

The City is committed to reducing the amount of resources required to manage streetscapes. Alternative management options include reducing the intensity and frequency of turf irrigation, allowing some yellowing of grass in summer periods and using more drought-tolerant grass species. In some areas, it may be more effective to replace grass with alternative planting. While not favoured for use on a broad scale, gravel has been found to be an effective alternative in areas where it is difficult to keep grass alive, such as tram stops.

As part of its broader goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Council is committed to increasing the overall planting level in Melbourne. While it may not be possible to create major tree carbon 'sinks' within the City area, increased planting will help redress the major imbalance between greenhouse gases produced and greenhouse gases absorbed.

As the population of the City increases, so will the demand for greater green space. Opportunities to create more green spaces and planting in the streets are constrained by the established nature of the City and the demands of infrastructure such as roads and

above ground power lines. Where possible, the City will identify and plan for opportunities to convert areas of asphalt into green spaces. Some of these opportunities may arise as part of new private developments in the City, which involve major infrastructure change. New green space will need to meet community needs and contribute to a more sustainable local environment.

In high-density urban environments existing trees and small open spaces are often removed to make way for buildings and associated parking. This type of gradual reduction in green assets needs to be recognised and avoided where possible.

Council will continue to investigate new approaches to increased street greening. One program of interest is “Greenways” which operates successfully in Europe and America. The program facilitates a green web of high-quality pedestrian space running through cities. The web is made up of a combination of vegetated areas and areas of high environmental quality for walking.

Some key directions that will enhance Melbourne as a leafy city are:

- creating more green spaces by converting existing road, parking and other hard paved areas into green spaces;
- using tree and plant species that will be more in balance with the local climate, but still provide shade and aesthetic attributes that respect their urban setting and heritage attributes;
- identifying areas of lawn and other grassed areas where less resource intensive management systems or alternative planting can be introduced;
- increasing the diversity and robustness of tree species when replacing street trees;
- developing watering regimes that make better use of water;
- encouraging complementary planting on private land,
- advocating replacement of street infrastructure in ways that impact less on trees, (for example, using underground power).

### **Objectives**

Council’s objectives for enhancing Melbourne as a leafy city are to achieve:

1. An increased number of trees, plants and green spaces across Melbourne.
2. An increased robustness and diversity of tree species (exotic and native) and vegetation with selection considering local climatic conditions, urban setting and heritage values.

### **Actions**

The following actions will be undertaken to achieve these objectives.

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>An increased number of trees, plants and green spaces across Melbourne.</b> <b>Action</b>
Implement a major greening program across	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify new areas for planting trees, shrubs and grasses</li> </ul>

Melbourne	<p>in existing streets, nature strips, medians and lanes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the current street spaces with a view to converting asphalt areas where appropriate to areas for planting.</li> <li>• Investigate increasing the proportion of permeable surface in streets to achieve reduced run-off and enhanced vegetation.</li> <li>• Advocate the undergrounding of powerlines wherever possible.</li> <li>• Work with other public land managers to increase quantity of plants and trees in the City.</li> <li>• Pursue possible green links between open space areas and waterways to provide an integrated green network.</li> </ul>
Encourage more greening by private landholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the trial rooftop greening programs and expand if the trials are successful.</li> <li>• Develop landscape guidelines for developers to promote effective planting within new developments.</li> <li>• Incorporate greening objectives in planning permits under the Melbourne Planning Scheme where appropriate.</li> </ul>
Implement tree plantings to affect greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue tree planting to meet Council's greenfleet carbon-reducing commitment.</li> <li>• Assess viability of the City Green software system as a means of better estimating Council's contribution to greenhouse gas reduction.</li> </ul>

<b>Objective 2</b>	<p><b>An increased robustness and range of tree species and vegetation with selection considering local climatic conditions, urban setting and heritage values</b></p> <p><b>Action</b></p>
Enhance the diversity, robustness and viability of the tree stock in the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the range of trees species planted both exotic and native.</li> <li>• Develop and implement a replacement program for trees in major park avenues and boulevards.</li> <li>• Select tree species and manage trees to minimise resource inputs while respecting heritage values and urban settings.</li> <li>• Control pests and diseases in trees and use biological controls, where possible.</li> <li>• Revise and update Council's Tree Policy (1997).</li> </ul>

## **Indicators**

The following indicators will measure progress towards achieving the objectives.

Indicators	Desired outcome	Measures
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>		
Amount of green space	An increase in the total amount of green space in the City of Melbourne	Total area of green space Per cent of newly greened areas/ increase in impervious surface Total number of trees in streets
<b>SOCIAL</b>		
Equitable distribution of green space	New green spaces developed throughout the City	Distance to leafy/green spaces Area of publicly accessible green space/population
<b>ECONOMIC</b>		
Investment in trees	An increase in the number of trees in streets the municipality	Annual cost of new tree planting Asset value of tree stock

## Theme 3 – Meeting community needs

### ***Melbourne's parks, gardens and recreation facilities will meet the diverse needs of a significantly increased resident, worker and visitor population.***

By international standards Melbourne has generous amounts of open space and quality recreational facilities. Open space is an important community asset that plays a significant part in the economic life of the City, attracting many visitors from metropolitan Melbourne, as well as tourists from within and outside Australia.

Open space and recreational assets such as swimming pools and sports facilities are highly valued by the community. Beyond the obvious opportunities for playing sport and active recreational pursuits, these assets contribute significantly to community health and well being. Parks and gardens can contribute psychological, emotional and spiritual benefits across all age and socio-economic groups. In 2000, a Parks Satisfaction Survey found that over 15 million visits were made to Melbourne parks and open spaces each year. The survey found the two most popular reasons for visiting the parks and gardens were relaxation and eating lunch.

The use of Melbourne's open spaces is increasingly complex, brought about by a more sophisticated and demanding user community and a greater range of demands on the space. Open spaces and recreational facilities are also under increasing pressure. After years of decline, the population of inner city Melbourne is growing rapidly. There is a significant demand for open space to be used to commercial and public events. New open space, such as Birrarung Marr and in the Docklands, may partially offset some of these pressures, as may the recent development of recreational opportunities on waterways.

In the future, open space will continue to play an important social and economic role in the City, but with a greater emphasis on the need for environmental sustainability. Although many of the actions required to protect and enhance the social capital of open space are outside the scope of *Growing Green*, there are some fundamental land use principles which should be established to ensure that the social capital value of the City's open space and recreational facilities is acknowledged and planned for.

These principles include taking a precautionary approach to trading off existing open space to achieve other development objectives, even when there is no overall loss of open space. Land use decision making should also ensure that open space is equitably distributed across the municipality, is accessible for people of all abilities and well served by a range of transport options, including public transport. Facilities should be well designed and flexible to support a range of activities, as well as being sustainable in form and function.

Some key directions that will help to meet community needs in the long term are:

- creating new open space areas wherever possible;
- ensuring the sustainability and quality of open space over time;
- ensuring equity in the distribution of and access to open spaces;
- maintaining the right balance between local and capital city recreational needs, sporting and passive uses, and broader ecological objectives;

- recognising the current and future cultural diversity of users;
- providing adequate area of local open space for the increasing number of residents;
- building environmentally, well designed and attractive facilities that will meet current and future community needs;
- improving access to parks by providing public transport, pedestrian and cycle access and links;
- completing the suite of masterplans for all major parks and gardens;
- reducing parking in parkland as other alternatives become available;
- integrating environmental considerations into the implementation of park plans;
- recognising the need to provide opportunities for future generations.

### **Objectives**

Council's objectives for continuing to meet community needs are to achieve:

1. Publicly accessible open space and recreational facilities of sufficient quantity and quality to meet community needs.
2. Open space and facility assets managed in line with community needs and environmental sustainability principles.
3. Access to open space and recreational facilities provided by environmentally friendly transport modes.

### **Actions**

The following actions will be undertaken to achieve these objectives.

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Publicly accessible open space and recreational facilities of sufficient quantity and quality to meet community needs.</b>
Identify deficiencies in the current open space distribution and type and plan for future provision	<p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an open space strategy to identify gaps in the current network and plan for anticipated demographic changes.</li> <li>• Report periodically on net loss/ gain in open space across the municipality.</li> </ul>

<p>Create new public space and facilities in line with community needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In line with the recommendations of the open space strategy, obtain new open space areas by direct purchase, or through developer open space contributions so that land can be retained or purchased.</li> <li>• Re-allocate where appropriate existing roadway space to create new open space areas.</li> <li>• Work with other land management agencies to provide complementary open space links and recreational services.</li> </ul>
<p>Provide a diversity of recreational experiences in open space and facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities to experience near natural environments in parts of Royal Park.</li> <li>• Ensure open space recreational opportunities link with the objectives of the draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy and match population profile and cultural needs.</li> <li>• Ensure all major parks and facilities meet disabled access requirements.</li> <li>• Maintain the balance between capital city and local recreational needs.</li> <li>• Complete the suite of masterplans for all major parks and gardens to ensure balanced future development of parks.</li> <li>• Ensure that developments on land adjacent to open space areas are sympathetic to the values of those areas.</li> <li>• Further investigate the potential for more community gardens in the municipality.</li> <li>• Improve the efficiency of sports facilities by encouraging multi use and shared use.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Objective 2</b></p>	<p><b>Open space and facility assets managed in line with community needs and environmental sustainability principles</b></p> <p><b>Action</b></p>
<p>Ensure that use of parkland for events is sustainable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that types of events permitted are appropriate to specific park and garden sites.</li> <li>• Ensure that the carrying capacity of particular parkland sites is not exceeded by the size or frequency of events.</li> <li>• Ensure that events do not result in alienation of parkland.</li> <li>• Ensure that event organisers pay the total costs involved in parkland use.</li> <li>• Facilitate community based events that contribute to Melbourne's fabric while precluding commercialisation of</li> </ul>

	parkland.
Ensure improved environmental performance of new assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that environmental criteria are met when new work is undertaken in parkland.</li> </ul>

<b>Objective 3</b>	<b>Access to open space and recreational facilities provided by environmentally friendly transport modes.</b> <b>Action</b>
Encourage the use of public transport to access the City's open space and recreation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the State Government, sporting organisations and major event organisers to ensure sufficient, safe, disability friendly public transport to parkland and recreational facilities.</li> <li>• Ensure public transport plans including possible combined transport and entry ticket arrangement are developed for major events and venues in open space.</li> <li>• Implement Council's policy in relation to car parking in parkland.</li> </ul>
Encourage bike and pedestrian access to and between open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the bike path network as outlined in the City's Bike Plan.</li> <li>• Install bicycle parking facilities at key open space and recreational facilities.</li> <li>• Identify and promote safe walking and cycling routes within open spaces in the City.</li> </ul>

### **Indicators**

The following indicators will measure progress towards achieving the objectives.

Indicator	Desired outcome	Measure
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>		
Physical standard of open space and recreational facilities	Improved asset condition and park user satisfaction over time	Annual audit condition of open spaces and recreational facilities  Customer satisfaction survey - perception of City's parks
<b>SOCIAL</b>		

<p>Equitable distribution of open spaces and recreational facilities</p>	<p>A match between community needs and provision of facilities</p>	<p>Level of participation in events, use of recreational facilities and overall number of park users</p> <p>Customer survey</p>
<p><b>ECONOMIC</b></p>		
<p>Economic value of park or recreational facility asset</p>	<p>Maximise the cost benefit of the asset, while meeting community needs</p>	<p>Cost per head of operating recreational facilities</p>

## Theme 4 – Respecting our heritage

***Protect the heritage values of the City's parks and open spaces and achieve greater recognition of the links between Melbourne's indigenous culture and history and open space areas.***

A city's environment reflects its culture, history, community values and lifestyle. Melbourne's parks and open spaces are constantly changing through natural processes and human intervention. They reflect cultural and community values and also proved an important link to the past.

The gardens surrounding the central city were established in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century with a view to recreating European landscapes in Australia. They consist of a strong, often formal pattern of paths, exotic trees, shrubs and flowerbeds. The facade of the Melbourne City Baths building reflects the aspirations and wealth of Melbourne at the time it was built. The City's newest park, Birrarung Marr, is linked to local indigenous culture through its name and use of native plants.

Many of the City's parks have high heritage values; including valuable historical features, or areas of remnant vegetation that represent Australia's natural history. Fitzroy Gardens, Carlton Gardens and the Melbourne City Baths are listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. Other sites such as the Flagstaff and Treasury Gardens are under consideration for listing. Also listed on the State Heritage Register are particular structures within parklands such as Anzac Hall and Walmsley House in Royal Park, The Stables and Latrobe's Cottage in the Domain, the former Grand Rank Cabman's Shelter in Yarra Park, and Speakers' Corner in Birrarung Marr.

A number of individual trees managed by Council are listed on the Victorian National Trust's Significant Tree Register. Boulevards, such as St Kilda Road, are noted as important under local heritage planning overlays. It is vital that future planting and management regimes respect the significant quality of these tree avenues.

Living landscapes, such as parks and gardens, require constant renewal. Heritage listing does not mean renewal and development cannot occur, but that changes need to be consistent with identified heritage values. There is plenty of scope to improve environmental management of the City's open spaces without jeopardising inherent heritage and cultural values.

There are many sites significant to indigenous culture and history in the City Of Melbourne. Scarred trees, for example, are listed on the Archaeological Sites Register. The City recognises the need to forge greater links between parks as public lands and indigenous culture in the future planning and management of its open spaces.

Some key directions that will aid the ongoing respect for our heritage are:

- developing specific park and facility management plans that deal with the heritage and environmental management issues of the assets;
- encouraging interpretation, events and visitor activities appropriate to the nature of the garden or facility;
- developing a greater understanding of the Aboriginal values for this land by working actively within the broad Council processes set up to develop a land use agreement
- ensuring all historical and cultural places are maintained for future generations to enjoy.

## **Objectives**

Council's objectives for achieving a greater acknowledgment of heritage are to have:

1. Heritage assets managed and promoted in an environmentally and socially responsible way.
2. Ongoing recognition of the links between indigenous culture and open space areas.

## **Actions**

The following actions will achieve these objectives.

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Heritage assets managed in an environmentally and socially responsible way.</b> <b>Action</b>
Protect heritage places while optimising environmental outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop conservation management plans for gardens and facilities listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.</li> <li>• As part of open space contracts, develop environmental management plans that are consistent with heritage objectives for parks and facilities.</li> <li>• Review the design of heritage horticulture features to reduce their water and chemical inputs while retaining their heritage values.</li> <li>• Implement actions under the themes of using resources wisely, being waste wise and leafy city to the management of heritage areas.</li> </ul>
Replace obsolete infrastructure in heritage areas to reduce the environmental impact of their management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement findings of the Melbourne City Baths energy audit (Sept 2001).</li> <li>• Replace park infrastructure in historic parks with systems which are more water and energy efficient.</li> </ul>
Develop interpretation activities that recognise heritage areas and sites of environmental significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and develop interpretation program for sites of historical interest or feature Melbourne's natural or built environment.</li> </ul>

<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Ongoing recognition of the links between indigenous culture open space areas.</b> <b>Action</b>
Ensure Indigenous culture is adequately recognised and represented in open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in Council's broader process to establish more effective relationships and possible partnerships with the local community.</li> </ul>

spaces and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in partnership with the local Indigenous communities to acknowledge, better understand and respect their connections with the land.</li> <li>• Develop interpretation signage and programs that explain the ongoing connection of the Indigenous community to the land and their significant places and events.</li> <li>• Acknowledge Indigenous people as the original custodians of the land wherever possible.</li> <li>• Work with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria to develop long term management and renewal plans for registered sites in parkland.</li> </ul>
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### **Indicators**

The following indicators will measure progress towards achieving the objectives.

Indicators	Desired outcome	Measures
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>		
Retention of cultural and heritage assets	Identified cultural and heritage features in parks and facilities protected and well managed	Number of plans, actions or capital works for heritage areas/sites
<b>SOCIAL</b>		
Interpretation of values	A greater community understanding of the heritage values in open spaces	Number of sites designated for interpretation  Level of awareness of the Indigenous communities' connection with the land
<b>ECONOMIC</b>		
Culturally based tourism	Promotion of the unique heritage features of Melbourne's open space network to City visitors in a sustainable way	Visitor numbers to heritage sites

## Theme 5 - Using resources wisely

### ***Achieve an overall reduction in energy, water and chemical use in the management of all parks, open spaces and recreational facilities.***

A significant amount of resources are required to maintain the appearance and performance of Melbourne's open spaces and recreational facilities, with some landscape styles being more demanding on resources than others. In summer the maintenance of turf, for example, requires intensive irrigation, mowing regimes and fertiliser. Recreational facilities, such as swimming pools and golf courses also consume vast amounts of energy, water and chemicals.

The City aims to reduce resource consumption where possible. In particular, to minimise the use of non-renewable resources.

Water is the main resource used in all parks, open spaces and facilities. While water is a renewable resource, the amount currently consumed by the City is not sustainable in the long term. Use of potable (drinking) water must be reduced and alternative sources identified and utilised. Alternative water sources include retaining rainwater, recycling and reusing stormwater runoff, and extracting and cleaning water from sewer lines (sewer mining).

The City of Melbourne is one of the Australian Council's participating in the pilot of ICLEI's international water campaign. In conjunction with Melbourne Water Council is developing a Sustainable Water Management Strategy, which sets the ambitious working target of a 15% reduction in Council's use of potable water by 2020. Melbourne Water is also developing similar water reductions targets across the metropolitan area.

Energy is another resource consumed in the City's parks, open spaces and facilities. With improvements in energy efficient technology and greater understanding of solar-oriented design, much of the City's older park and facility infrastructure has become outmoded. Regular upgrades and retrofitting of facilities provides an opportunity to improve energy savings. Additional improvements can be achieved by upgrading management systems and staff training.

The City of Melbourne's Sustainable Energy and Greenhouse Strategy commits the organisation to reduce its greenhouse emissions. Council has set targets to reduce energy consumption across its activities by 30% by 2010 (based on 1996 levels). Council is also committed to cleaner and more efficient energy/fuel sources and increased use of renewable energy by 5% by 2005 and by 10% by 2010.

In 2000 and 2001 greenhouse emissions were reduced by 270 tonnes through Greenfleet plantings and park lighting upgrades. Council is also purchasing 23% of municipal lighting from green power. Park lighting is included in this contract, so further reductions in greenhouse emissions are expected this year.

Presently, Council's energy policy does not apply to contractors or to facilities where the contractor, not Council, pays the bills – but it could. There are also opportunities to reduce overall energy consumption and to use renewable energy (particularly solar energy) in parks and facilities. In 2003, solar panels will be installed on the roof of the Queen Victoria Market. Council is committed to investigating other options for the installation of solar technology on swimming pools, depots and other park buildings.

The City uses a range of chemicals to control pests and provide soil nutrients in its open spaces. In swimming pools, chemicals are used for cleaning and managing water quality. Chemical use requires regular review to ensure that it is safe and environmentally

appropriate. Council will continue to investigate alternative products so as to select the resources that both minimise impact on the environment and are cheaper in the long term. Council currently uses a limited number of biological pest control strategies but is keen to explore this alternative to chemical use where possible.

Some key directions that will help reduce resource use are:

- establishing the total energy and water requirements for all parks and facilities, taking into account recreational needs, and developing action plans to reduce current levels of use;
- develop a better understanding of current levels of consumption of water, energy and chemicals
- exploring alternatives to using potable drinkable water in parks and gardens;
- integrating environmental requirements into the design and construction of new facilities;
- reducing chemical use and environmental impact in parks, facilities and reducing off-site impacts; and
- linking existing corporate commitments relating to energy, greenhouse and purchasing, and applying similar principles to contract management.

### **Objectives**

Council's objectives for using resources wisely are to achieve:

1. An overall reduction in energy, water and chemical use in the management of all open spaces, trees and recreational facilities.
2. An increase in the use of products from renewable resources in the development, refurbishment and management of parks, open spaces and recreational facilities.

### **Actions**

The following actions will achieve these objectives.

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>An overall reduction in energy, water and chemical use in the management of all parks, open spaces, trees and recreational facilities.</b> <b>Action</b>
Set total reduction targets for energy, water and chemical use in open space and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine ecological footprint required for the management of open space and recreational facilities and the current consumption levels by area and type of use</li> <li>• Adopt overall targets, for energy, water and chemical use</li> <li>• Develop individual park and facility targets, by type of park/facility and recreational requirements</li> </ul>
Integrate environmental management systems into all open space tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require development and implementation of environmental management plans in the next round of contracts for open space and tree management with a</li> </ul>

and recreational facility contracts	<p>particular emphasis on waste, water, energy use and chemical management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish agreed targets based on environmental management plans and corporate targets</li> <li>• Report annually on progress towards reduction targets for waste, water and energy use, and chemical management</li> </ul>
Reduce energy use and light spill from park lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace current substandard lights in parks in line with Council's Park Lighting Strategy</li> </ul>
Reduce the amount of water used in the management of trees, other vegetation, turf and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a water conservation plan for open space, trees and recreational facilities.</li> <li>• Identify areas of grass and lawn where water use can be reduced. Allow a greater amount of turf browning in summer, or drought tolerant species.</li> <li>• Experiment with different turf types and maintenance regimes to improve durability and hardness of turf stock.</li> <li>• Investigate non-turf surfaces in selected high use areas of medians and nature strips where appropriate.</li> <li>• Review selected horticultural planting to achieve plantings with reduced water requirements.</li> <li>• Install water-sensitive monitoring equipment in open space areas to assist determining more accurately the water requirements for irrigation</li> <li>• Replace obsolete irrigation systems with water efficient irrigation equipment and systems</li> </ul>
Improve environmental performance of capital works projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include the requirement for ongoing water, energy and chemical savings in all design briefs</li> <li>• Assess energy and environmental impacts of materials and construction methods used in all capital works projects</li> <li>• Review project management processes for construction and demolition/disposal of assets to reduce energy/waste</li> <li>• Use purchasing policy to guide selection and use of materials</li> </ul>

<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>An increase in the use of products from renewable resources in the development, refurbishment and management of parks and recreational facilities.</b> <b>Action</b>
Reduce the amount of potable water used for irrigation by developing alternative water sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct feasibility studies and cost/benefit analyses of alternative water sources, such as sewer mining, retention and use of stormwater run-off, and use of grey and reclaimed water</li> <li>• Construct the Royal Park wetland and water re-cycling system</li> <li>• Investigate retention and reuse of stormwater within open space and recreational facilities</li> </ul>
Increase the amount of renewable energy used in open space and facilities management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities for the use of solar technology, including solar lighting in park infrastructure or service buildings, and solar panels on facilities</li> </ul>
Substitute chemicals with products and systems with less environmental impact where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and implement opportunities for using non-chemically based materials in horticultural applications</li> <li>• Investigate and implement opportunities for integrated pest management or use of biological pest control in open space and tree management</li> </ul>

### **Indicators**

The following indicators will measure progress towards achieving the objectives.

Indicators	Desired outcome	Measures
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>		
Water use	Decrease in amount of potable water used in open space and facilities	Annual reductions in water use achieved through specific projects and infrastructure changes
Greenhouse gas emissions	A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from park and other recreational facilities	Reductions achieved through specific projects and offset achieved from tree plantings.
<b>SOCIAL</b>		
Community satisfaction	Public acceptance of change in visual appearance of some assets	Levels of satisfaction with water use

<b>ECONOMIC</b>		
Cost of investment in water saving infrastructure	Long term operational cost savings through reduced consumption to offset possible higher infrastructure costs	Cost/benefit analysis of each project over time
Cost of carbon dioxide offset projects against benefits to Melbourne	Offset projects are financially efficient	Cost of planting trees for greenhouse reduction

## **Theme 6 - Being waste wise**

***Contribute to a cleaner and more attractive city by ensuring the principles of reducing, reusing and recycling are integral to the way all open space and recreational facilities are managed and used.***

The maintenance and use of the City's open spaces and recreational facilities create waste. This waste comes in a variety of forms ranging from discarded rubbish, removed vegetation such as grass clippings, leaves and branches, chemical residues, stormwater run-off and animal faeces to sewerage. Waste also includes facilities and objects that have reached the end of their life and litter generated from capital works projects.

Inappropriately dealt with waste can produce air and water pollution leading to poor environmental health and degraded habitat for fauna and flora. Waste is also an economic issue. The monetary cost of dealing with waste is very high; waste has to be collected, separated and dealt with in a way to minimise its impact on society and the environment.

The City Of Melbourne strongly supports the waste management principles of 'reduce, reuse and recycle'. Council has made the corporate commitment to reduce waste by ten per cent over three years, as outlined in the Waste Wise Plan 2002-2005. However, Council currently has no formalised requirements or systems in place to reduce, recycle or reuse waste in the City's open spaces, parklands or recreational facilities. While many sporting clubs using the City's park facilities voluntarily recycle bottles and cans, Council is yet to provide recycling bins in all open spaces or recreational facilities.

In some areas, Council is already implementing waste wise initiatives. For example, to counter dog faeces in the City's parks and gardens, dung beetles have been released and dispensers installed in some parks. Waste issues have the potential to be improved by appropriate facility provision, careful management, education and changes to community behaviour. Much of the organic 'waste' generated in the City's open spaces has recycling potential, in particular as mulch or compost. The City Of Melbourne aims to incorporate waste wise principles into the future management of parks and recreational facilities.

Some key directions that will help reduce waste and improve waste management are:

- developing reuse and recycling systems for all facilities;
- continuing to develop community education programs to promote appropriate waste disposal practices in parks and recreational facilities by building on existing State Government programs such as "waste wise";
- developing policies and procedures to encourage waste reduction in all new or refurbishment projects for buildings and facilities within parks and recreation areas;
- improving the recycling and waste management systems at all events; and
- ensuring open space, tree and recreational facilities management contractors become waste wise.

### ***Objectives***

Council's objectives for waste minimisation are to achieve:

1. A reduction in the overall amount of waste generated by park and facility users.

2. A reduction in waste generated in parks and facilities from construction and maintenance operations.

### **Actions**

The following actions will achieve these objectives.

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>A reduction in the overall amount of waste generated by park and facility users.</b> <b>Action</b>
Provide recycling facilities in open space areas and recreational facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install recycling facilities in recreational facilities and at major activity nodes and pedestrian thoroughfares in open space (for example, club rooms /sports ovals and picnic areas)</li> <li>• Develop maintenance systems to service recycling infrastructure</li> <li>• Raise community awareness of changes in waste arrangements and the need to reduce waste through reduced consumption and recycling</li> </ul>
Reduce the amount of litter, including dog faeces, in open space and recreational facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage visitors to open space areas wherever possible not to drop litter, including cigarette butts</li> <li>• Pilot for the introduction of ‘waste wise’ procedures for events, and then require all events held in the City of Melbourne parks and recreation facilities to be ‘waste wise’</li> <li>• Require all sporting organisations using Council’s facilities to adopt “waste wise” principles</li> <li>• Continue to install biodegradable dog faeces bag dispenser units where required</li> <li>• Evaluate impact of dung beetle trial on reducing volume of dog faeces and extend if required</li> <li>• Review bin design and placement to eliminate spread of litter by possums, birds and wind</li> <li>• Install litter traps on drains leading to streets and waterways from parkland to reduce amounts of litter entering waterways</li> <li>• Implement Council’s stormwater management strategy in open space and for recreational facilities</li> </ul>

<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>A reduction in waste generated in parks and facilities from construction and maintenance operations.</b> <b>Action</b>
Design new open space and recreational facility infrastructure to minimise waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include waste minimisation infrastructure, such as recycling bins, waste water reticulation systems and organic waste systems, in all new facilities</li> <li>• Design new infrastructure to maximise durability and eventual reuse/recycling of materials components</li> <li>• Minimise waste generated through construction works by including waste management, reuse and recycling standards in contract specifications</li> </ul>
Include green waste minimisation principles in all open space and tree management contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require all contractors to prepare and implement green waste plans as part of the next round of contracts</li> </ul>

### **Indicators**

The following indicators will measure progress towards achieving the objectives.

Indicators	Desired outcome	Measures
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>		
Level of recycling and reuse of materials from open space maintenance and events	Replacement of new materials with recycled products, where options exist  Increase in recycling rates	Amount of waste disposal and recycling from facilities and events  Amount of green waste recycled from open space  Percentage of events which are waste wise
<b>SOCIAL</b>		
Litter in open space	Elimination of litter from open space areas	Number litter traps  Number of complaints relating to litter
<b>ECONOMIC</b>		
Cost of waste management and disposal	Substitution of waste disposal costs with reuse and recycling costs	Proportion of contractors maintenance budget spent on green waste disposal.

## **Implementing and monitoring *Growing Green***

### Implementation

The recommendations in *Growing Green* are relevant to all aspects of Council's management and development of open space and recreational facilities. To fully achieve the long term vision and objectives will require some new directions as well as continuing support in the long term.

In the short and medium term, *Growing Green* actions will be achieved primarily by:

- Ensuring that decisions made on open space recreational facilities management reflect the longer-term objective of *Growing Green* to achieve a more sustainable outcome.
- Changes in service delivery by amending contract specifications when open space and tree contracts are renewed (currently March 2004), to include requirements that contractors must undertake and implement environmental management plans.
- Implementing and developing park master plans and applying triple bottom line thinking and actions to specific planning tasks, projects, capital works decision making processes.
- Increasing or re-prioritising capital resources to enable replacement and new investment in more environmentally sustainable infrastructure in parks and recreational facilities
- Increasing the resources available to implement strategies and actions arising from *Growing Green*
- The development of more detailed plans and collection of more information where required. For many issues identified in *Growing Green*, there is currently insufficient baseline information to set clear targets or specific guidelines (for example, reliable water consumption data is not available for all areas). Specific benchmarks and targets can only be set after more detailed work data is available.
- Providing information to rate payers through rate notices including on sustainable indigenous plant for planting within the City.
- Providing information on Council's website.

### **Reporting**

- Reporting progress towards the *Growing Green* objectives and actions will be achieved by reporting through Council's triple bottom line achievements and meeting corporate environmental targets. There had been modest reporting on environmental objectives and corporate environmental targets prior to 2001–02.
- Reporting on the indicators outlined at the end of each theme in *Growing Green*. Some of this information is already collected or can be easily obtained. Other indicators will require more work to identify what information is required before ongoing monitoring can occur.

### ***Growing Green* plan review**

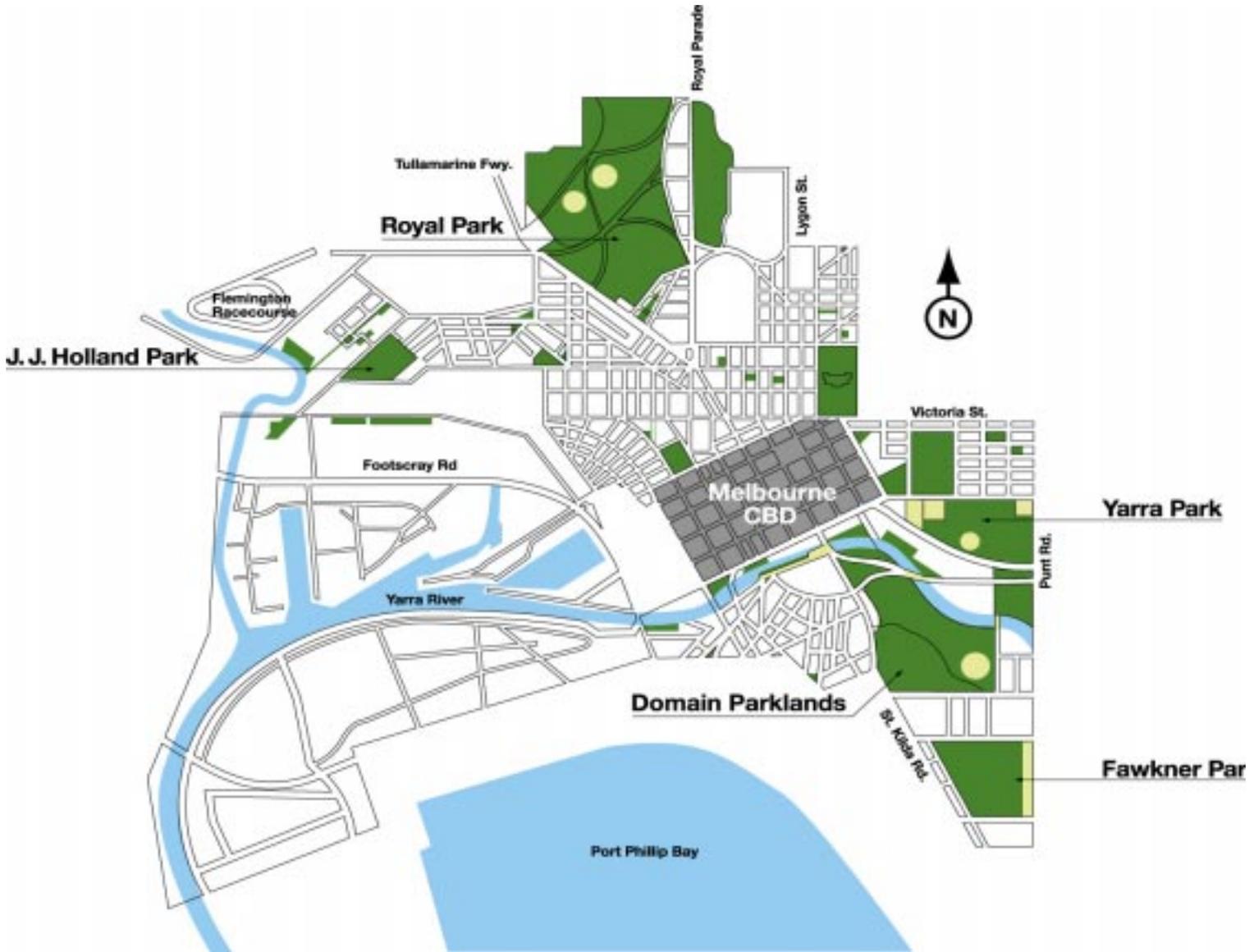
Council will review *Growing Green* as part of its business planning framework cycle. Actions will be reviewed annually and priorities set for the following year.

Consistent with City Plan 2010, *Growing Green* monitoring indicators and actions will be reviewed every 3 years.

## Glossary of terms

Biodiversity	the variety of life including the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, the population they live in and the ecosystem in which they form a part
Carbon sink	long-term stable stores of carbon usually secured from the atmosphere through photosynthesis (eg. Forests, tree plantations)
Cultural value	the expression of the city's diverse people, their values and aspirations referring to the aesthetic, historic, scientific, educational, and social value for past, present or future generations.
Ecosystem service	services provided by the ecological processes that are of benefit to humans
Embodied energy	the energy used to produce something (eg. mine and process raw materials to create a finished product).
Green power	sources of energy derived from renewable sources
Greenhouse effect	the gradual warming of the earth's atmosphere by the build up of certain gases which cause the trapping of warmth from the sun
Habitat	the external environment in which an organism or population lives
Indigenous plant	plants and trees which were native to an area or region prior to European settlement
Interpretation	to show, clarify or explain a meaning
Open space	public areas such as parks, gardens, waterways, sports fields, medians, boulevards and road reserves
Triple bottom line	A framework for decision making that considers social, environmental and economic responsibilities
Remnant vegetation	small areas of original plant community that are native to a region
Sustainability	the simultaneous pursuit of economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental quality.

## Major Parks and Open Space managed by the City of Melbourne



Major Parks and Open Space managed by the City of Melbourne

**FINANCE ATTACHMENT**

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**GROWING GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE CITY OF  
MELBOURNE'S OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

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Funding requirements will be subject to the future budget processes.

**Joe Groher**  
Manager Financial Services

## LEGAL ATTACHMENT

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### GROWING GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE CITY OF MELBOURNE'S OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

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Schedule 1 of the *Local Government Act 1989* ("Act") provides that the functions of a Council include:

- "7. *Any other functions relating to the peace, order and good government of the municipal district including –*
- (5) *Information;*
  - (7) *Encouragement of commerce, industry and agriculture;*
  - (8) *Environment control, protection and conservation;"*

In addition, the objectives of the Council detailed in section 7 of the Act include:

- "(c) to ensure adequate planning for the future of its municipal district;*
- (d) to represent and promote the interests of the community and to be responsive to the needs of the community;"*

The recommendation is within the Council's functions and powers under the Act.

**Kim Wood**  
Acting Manager Governance Services