Wellington Street and Mater Street Park

Concept Design Package



Respite



Texturally Diverse



Street-scale nostalgia

Community Profile & Design Response

Young, Urban Population



Design Implications

- Provide short-stay, flexible spaces that support daily routines (commuting, meeting, resting)
- Seating suited to informal use rather than long dwell times
- Integrate shade, drink fountains and phone-friendly seating to support everyday urban life
- Avoid over-programming; allow the park to function as a pause rather than a destination

Inclusive & Diverse Community





Design Implications

- Create a space that feels open, safe and inclusive:
  - good sightlines
  - passive surveillance
  - no hidden or exclusionary zones
- Use neutral, non-gendered design language
- Allow for subtle interpretation and storytelling acknowledging:
  - First Nations presence
  - layered migration history
- Avoid symbolic or exclusive gestures; focus on everyday inclusivity

High Proportion of Lone & Non-Traditional Households



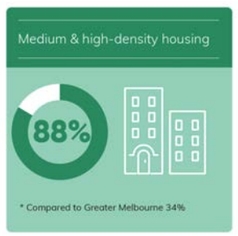


Design Implications

- Design for individual use and small social groupings, not family-centric infrastructure
- Emphasise:
  - single seats
  - low walls
  - flexible edge seating
- Avoid playground-dominated outcomes; instead support:
  - quiet observation
  - informal social interaction
- Create spaces that feel welcoming without requiring group participation

High-Density Living & Rental Population



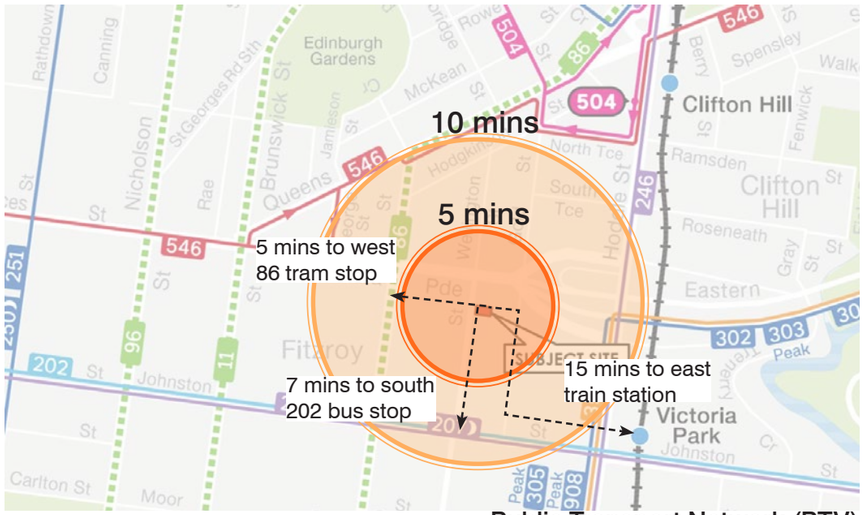


- Pocket park functions as a shared “outdoor living room”
- Provide amenity often lacking in apartments:
  - comfortable seating
  - shade
  - greenery
- Design should be:
  - robust
  - low maintenance
  - legible to first-time users
- Clear wayfinding and intuitive layout to support short-term residents and visitors

Source: ‘A Place to Play: Yarra Play Space Strategy’

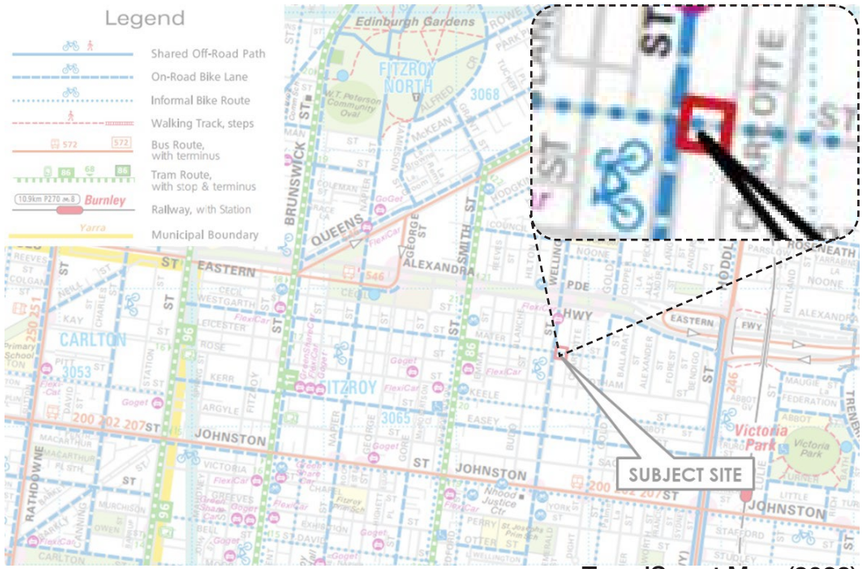
Transport Analysis

Linear pedestrian aligned east–west and north to south.



Public Transport Network (PTV)

North-south on-road Bike Lane & east-west informal bike route



TravelSmart Map (2023)

Source: ‘Traffic Impact Assessment Roads to Parks - Mater Street & Wellington Street, Collingwood’

Design Actions that Reinforce the Park as a Respite Node

- Seating clusters oriented towards central park activity and located adjacent to primary access routes, small groups for short rest and social regrouping, and individual options for quiet retreat and reflection.

- Short-stay cycle facilities — 3 inverted-U racks close to the Wellington / Mater threshold, one compact repair pump/stand, and a clear circulation zone for bikes to enter/exit without conflict. Reference TravelSmart informal cycle routes for placemaking.

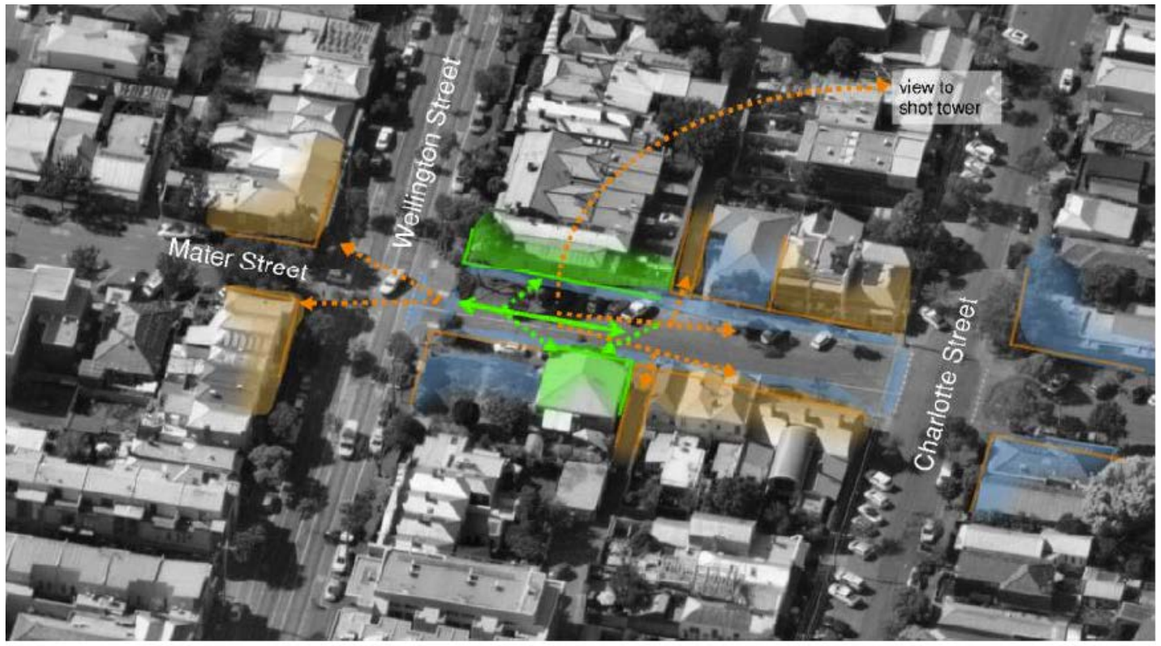
- Wayfinding & transit info — simple map/placard showing nearest tram stop (Route 86 / Smith-Johnston), walking time to Collingwood station and nearby bus stops — positioned for people arriving by any mode.

- Comfort & microclimate — shade trees (carefully sited to retain heritage sightlines), splash of shelter/pergola for weather respite, and a drinking fountain to support active commuters. Keep planting low near heritage facades so views remain clear.

- Robust, legible paving — durable surfaces to withstand cyclist and pedestrian flows; tactile transitions at street edges and clear markings for shared use zones. Reference bluestone and concrete palette to read sympathetically with the precinct.

- Low visual obstruction — maintain open sightlines toward the Salvation Army Hall and along Mater Street so the park reads as a brief, safe pause in movement rather than an enclosed destination.

Heritage Analysis





Major Colour:

Source: 'Mater Street, Collingwood Heritage Advice'

Heritage Overlay

- Located within HO321 – Gold Street Precinct
- Surrounding buildings predominantly Victorian & Edwardian working-class housing
- Mix of residential, commercial and community uses reflects Collingwood's industrial history

Individually Significant Place

- Salvation Army Young Peoples Halls & Youth Centre (1950)
- Socially and architecturally significant
- Strong three-dimensional presence to Mater Street
- Ongoing community and youth function

Contributory Elements

- Low-scale attached dwellings along Mater Street and Wellington Street
- Side elevations and party walls visible from the site
- Rear laneways forming part of the historic street network

Heritage Consideration

Historic street alignment
Bluestone infrastructure
Low-scale context
Significant buildings
Working-class character
Community history

Design Response

Linear park layout aligned east–west
Reuse or reference in paving / seating
Human-scaled furniture and structures
Clear sightlines and framing views
Simple, durable materials
Flexible spaces supporting everyday use

Precedent & Reference Projects

These precedent parks demonstrate how small, constrained inner-city spaces—often derived from former road reserves—can successfully operate as informal, human-scaled respite spaces that support everyday movement, social interaction and neighbourhood identity.

Bedford Street Pocket Park - North Melbourne





Design Relevance

- Demonstrates how a **former road reserve** / **residual space** can be successfully transformed into a **small, legible neighbourhood park**
- Strong example of a **human-scaled, intimate public space** within a dense inner-city residential context
- Balances **hardscape and planting** to accommodate short stays, informal use and passive surveillance
- Shows how **simple planting and seating** can soften surrounding built form without dominating it

Relevance to Mater & Wellington

- Comparable scale and tight urban setting
- Useful precedent for designing a space that supports **everyday pause and social interaction**, rather than destination use

Reinforces the idea of a park that feels like an **extension of the street**, not a separate green reserve

Hawke and Adderley Street Park - West Melbourne





Design Relevance

- Located at a **busy intersection**, acting as a buffer between traffic corridors and residential areas
- Functions as a **rest point between transport routes**, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists
- Demonstrates the use of **robust materials, clear edges and layered planting** in a high-movement context
- Emphasises safety through **clear sightlines and openness**

Relevance to Mater & Wellington

- Direct precedent for a park operating as a **respite space adjacent to a major movement corridor (Wellington Street)**
- Supports the idea of prioritising:
  - comfort
  - legibility
  - short-stay use

Reinforces the importance of designing for pause rather than prolonged occupation

Roden Street Liner Park - West Melbourne





Design Relevance

- A clear example of **reclaiming linear infrastructure** / **street space** for public use
- Retains a strong sense of the **original street alignment** while introducing planting and amenity
- Demonstrates how **movement and rest can coexist**, with seating integrated into edges and planting
- Shows how linear parks can stitch together neighbourhood movement networks

Relevance to Mater & Wellington

- Highly relevant as Mater Street is a **former** / **truncated street corridor**
- Supports the concept of:
  - interpreting historic street alignment
  - designing along a linear axis
- Useful precedent for balancing **pedestrian and cycle movement** with places to stop and sit

Mount Street Park - Prahran





Design Relevance

- Successfully integrates **landscape, seating and trees** into a small urban park with strong surrounding character
- Demonstrates how **planting can provide enclosure and shade** while maintaining openness
- Functions as a **neighbourhood living room**, supporting a diverse range of users
- Shows careful consideration of **microclimate, comfort and informal social use**

Relevance to Mater & Wellington

- Illustrates how a pocket park can feel **welcoming and comfortable** without over-programming
- Useful precedent for:
  - tree placement for shade
  - layered planting
  - informal seating arrangements

Reinforces the importance of designing for a **diverse, inner-city community**

Summary – Key Lessons Applied to This Project

Across all four precedent parks, shared principles relevant to Mater Street & Wellington Street include:

- Reclaiming residual or former street space for **people-focused public realm**
- Designing for **short stays, pause and everyday use**
- Maintaining **clear sightlines and openness** in constrained urban contexts
- Using **simple, robust materials and layered planting**

Allowing planting and seating to **soften movement corridors**, not compete with them

Site Context & Existing Conditions



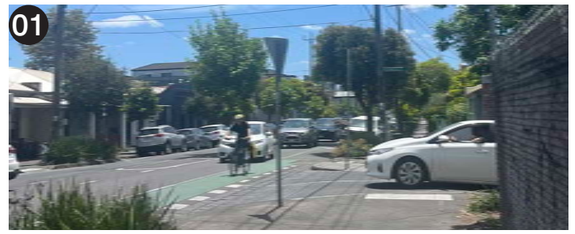
The project site is a compact urban pocket located at the intersection of Mater Street and Wellington Street, Collingwood. The surrounding context comprises a mix of low- to medium-density residential development, heritage listed terrace housing, adapted industrial buildings and active commercial frontages.

The site occupies a highly visible and accessible location within a walkable neighborhood, with strong pedestrian movement along Wellington Street and connecting local streets.

Existing site conditions include the Mater Street roadway, comprising of asphalt pavement, kerbs and associated road infrastructure, along with scattered street trees and informal vegetation. The space currently lacks defined recreational infrastructure, seating or programmed use, and provides limited ecological and social amenity.

Surface levels are generally flat, supporting accessibility and adaptability for future public use; however, localised drainage and minor flooding issues have been observed and will require consideration in the design response. The site's openness and visibility present opportunities to enhance passive surveillance, safety and community engagement, supporting its potential transformation into a small but meaningful public space within the neighborhood.

Site Photos













Existing Trees



Existing tree layout (Source: Xylem TreeCare Pty Ltd, 2025)

Tree	Botanical_Name	Common_Name	Height m	Width m	DBH cm	TPZ m	SRZ m	Health	Structure
1	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash	4	1	8	2	1.5	Good	Good
2	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash	5	2	10	2	1.5	Good	Good
3	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash	7	2	10	2	1.5	Good	Good
4	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash	7	2	10	2	1.5	Good	Good
5	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash	7	2	10	2	1.5	Good	Good
6	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash	7	2	10	2	1.5	Good	Good
7	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash	5	1	6	2	1.5	Good	Good
8	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash	4	1	5	2	1.5	Good	Fair
9	Ligustrum lucidum	Broad-leaved privet	7	4	30	3.6	2.3	Good	Poor
10	Laurus nobilis	Bay Tree	6	4	30	3.6	2.5	Good	Poor
11	Ficus carica	Fig	5	5	32	3.8	2.5	Good	Poor
12	Prunus persica	Peach	5	6	19	2.3	1.8	Fair	Fair
13	Pyrus calleryana	Callery Pear	5	2	13	2	1.7	Fair	Fair
14	Pyrus calleryana	Callery Pear	6	3	13	2	1.8	Fair	Fair
15	Acer buergerianum	Trident Maple	1	1	1	2	1.5	Good	Good
16	Eucalyptus leucoxylon	Yellow Gum	11	8	47	5.6	2.6	Fair	Poor
17	Callistemon viminalis	Weeping Bottlebrush	7	5	30	3.6	2.4	Good	Fair
18	Callistemon viminalis	Weeping Bottlebrush	7	5	35	4.2	2.4	Good	Fair
19	Malus sargentii	Sargents Crab Apple	6	5	22	2.6	2	Fair	Good
20	Syzygium smithii	Common Lilly Pilly	7	4	23	2.8	2.3	Fair	Good
21	Tristaniopsis laurina	Water Gum	3	1	10	2	1.5	Good	Fair

A total of 21 trees across 12 genera were surveyed. The tree stock is generally in good condition, with 71% in good health and 57% having a useful life expectancy of 25–50 years. No trees are listed as significant under the City of Yarra Significant Tree List. Existing canopy cover is approximately 225 m² (20% of the site), with trees primarily located within the streetscape or adjoining properties and some TPZs extending into the site. One *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* with poor structure and decay is recommended for removal.

No planning permits are required for tree removal or pruning, as Clause 52.17 does not apply, and there are no relevant vegetation or landscape overlays. While the site is within a Heritage Overlay, no tree controls apply, and no protected flora were identified.

Fourteen trees across six species are listed on the Advisory List of Environmental Weeds in Victoria (2022). Although potentially invasive, these species are not subject to mandatory removal and should be managed in the context of park amenity and long-term landscape outcomes.

Recommendations include targeted low- to medium-priority pruning, consideration of weed species management through design and maintenance, and compliance with AS4970–2025 tree protection measures during construction.

Functional Arrangement Considerations

1. **Respect and respond to heritage**
   facades by providing appropriate setbacks and spatial transitions, ensuring new interventions acknowledge and complement the existing streetscape character.

2. **Consider restricted sightlines**
   at the corner of the dwelling in design response

3. **Soft, passive respite area**
   (e.g., grassed surfaces) providing informal relaxation and rest opportunities.

4. **Provide landscape buffer**
   to Wellington Street

5. **Accommodate and encourage**
   passive cyclist movement to the north of the pocket park, ensuring safe and unobtrusive integration with pedestrian activity.

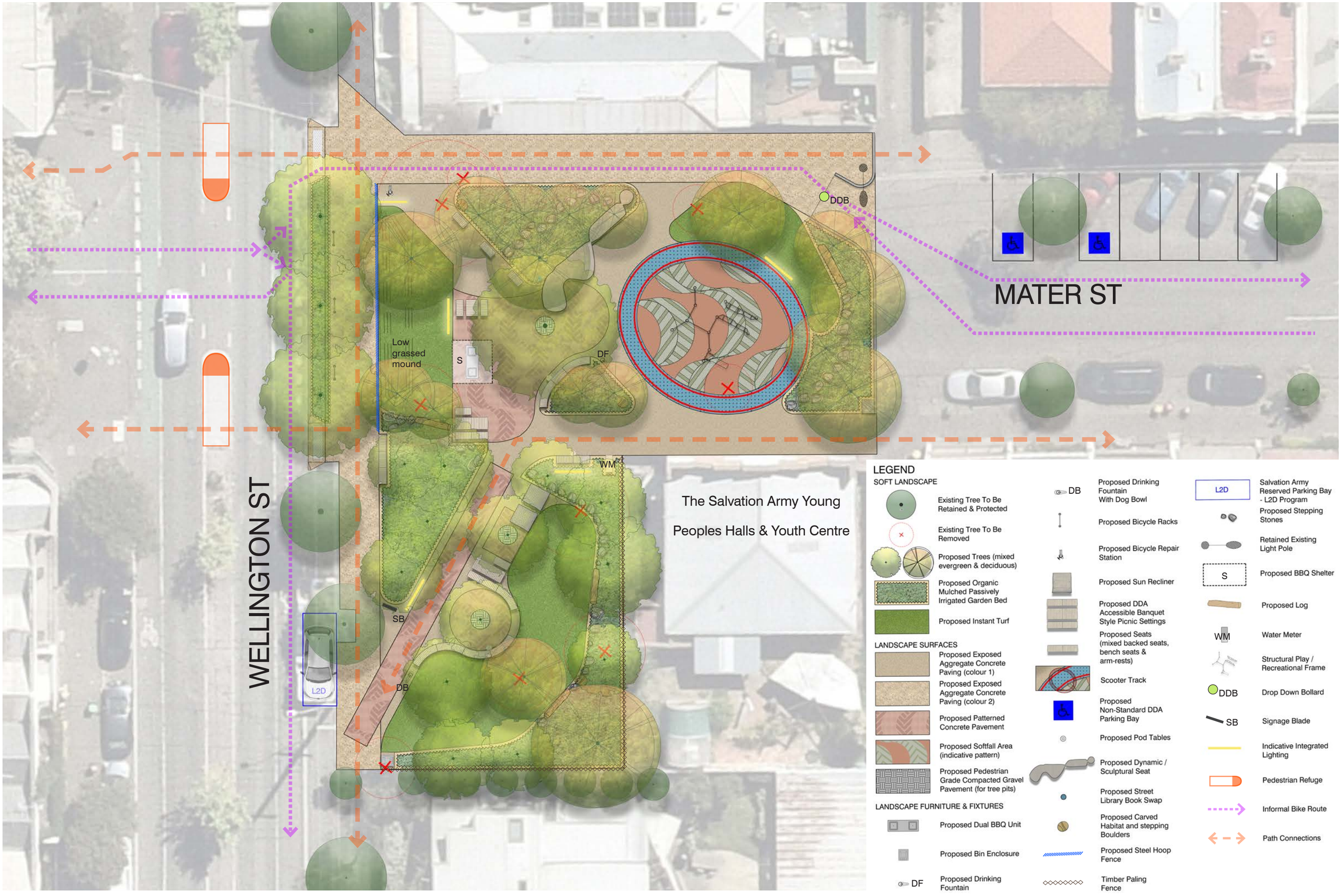
6. **Provide a pedestrian**
   and/or visual cross-connection through the site to enhance connectivity.

7. **Reinforce and extend**
   the existing streetscape character by introducing design elements such as a continuous avenue of trees, materials, and spatial rhythms that complement the surrounding context.

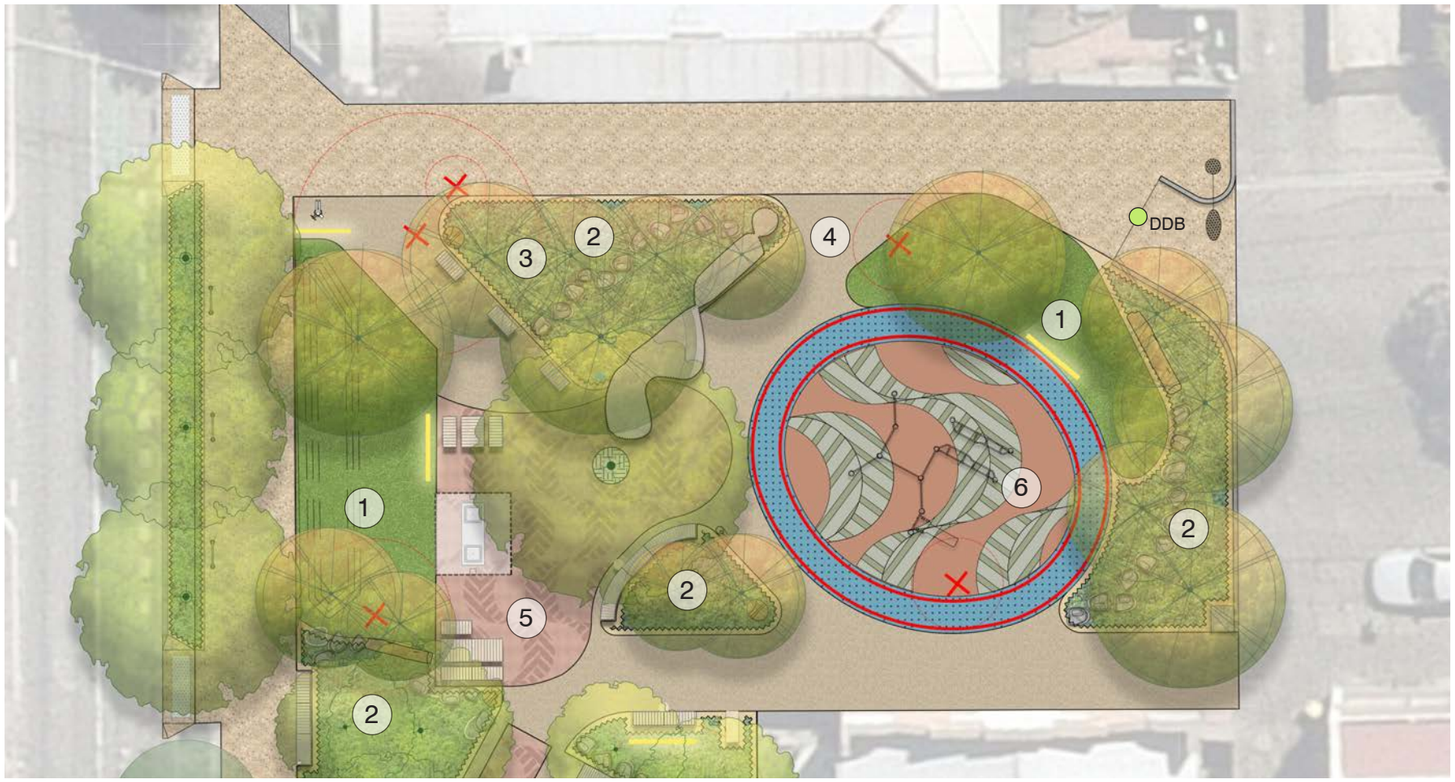
8. **Position the primary active use**
   area set back from Wellington Street to provide a quieter, more sheltered space for respite away from traffic.

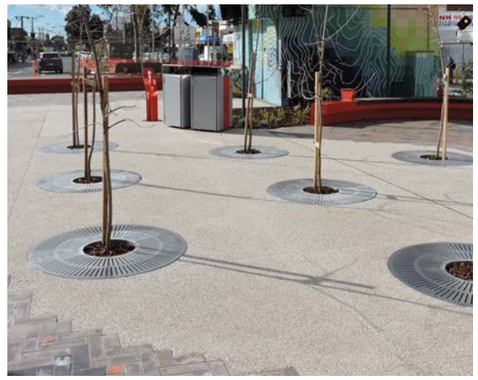
9. **Opportunity for a passive WSUD**
   feature at the Mater Street termination to capture and treat runoff from the road and proposed pocket park, while creating a green landscaped buffer to the street.




MATER ST
WELLINGTON ST
DDB
Low grassed mound
S
DF
WM
SB
DB
L2D
The Salvation Army Young
Peoples Halls & Youth Centre
LEGEND
SOFT LANDSCAPE
Existing Tree To Be Retained & Protected
Existing Tree To Be Removed
Proposed Trees (mixed evergreen & deciduous)
Proposed Organic Mulched Passively Irrigated Garden Bed
Proposed Instant Turf
LANDSCAPE SURFACES
Proposed Exposed Aggregate Concrete Paving (colour 1)
Proposed Exposed Aggregate Concrete Paving (colour 2)
Proposed Patterned Concrete Pavement
Proposed Softfall Area (indicative pattern)
Proposed Pedestrian Grade Compacted Gravel Pavement (for tree pits)
LANDSCAPE FURNITURE & FIXTURES
Proposed Dual BBQ Unit
Proposed Bin Enclosure
DF Proposed Drinking Fountain
DB Proposed Drinking Fountain With Dog Bowl
Proposed Bicycle Racks
Proposed Bicycle Repair Station
Proposed Sun Recliner
Proposed DDA Accessible Banquet Style Picnic Settings
Proposed Seats (mixed backed seats, bench seats & arm-rests)
Scooter Track
Proposed Non-Standard DDA Parking Bay
Proposed Pod Tables
Proposed Dynamic / Sculptural Seat
Proposed Street Library Book Swap
Proposed Carved Habitat and stepping Boulders
Proposed Steel Hoop Fence
Timber Paling Fence
L2D Salvation Army Reserved Parking Bay - L2D Program
Proposed Stepping Stones
Retained Existing Light Pole
S Proposed BBQ Shelter
Proposed Log
WM Water Meter
Structural Play / Recreational Frame
DDB Drop Down Bollard
SB Signage Blade
Indicative Integrated Lighting
Pedestrian Refuge
Informal Bike Route
Path Connections

Landscape Plan





4 **Exposed aggregate paving**
used as the primary surface, creating a cohesive and unifying ground plane throughout the reserve.



5 **Acid-etched patterned concrete ‘picnic rug’ pavements**
layered into the primary ground plane, creating playful moments of interest and use. Patterning to be developed in future stages, referencing the park’s key themes and offering opportunities for artist collaboration.



1 **Grassed areas**
that create comfortable spaces for passive respite, informal play and casual gathering.



2 **Proposed garden beds**
passively irrigated via runoff from adjacent hardstand and road pavements.

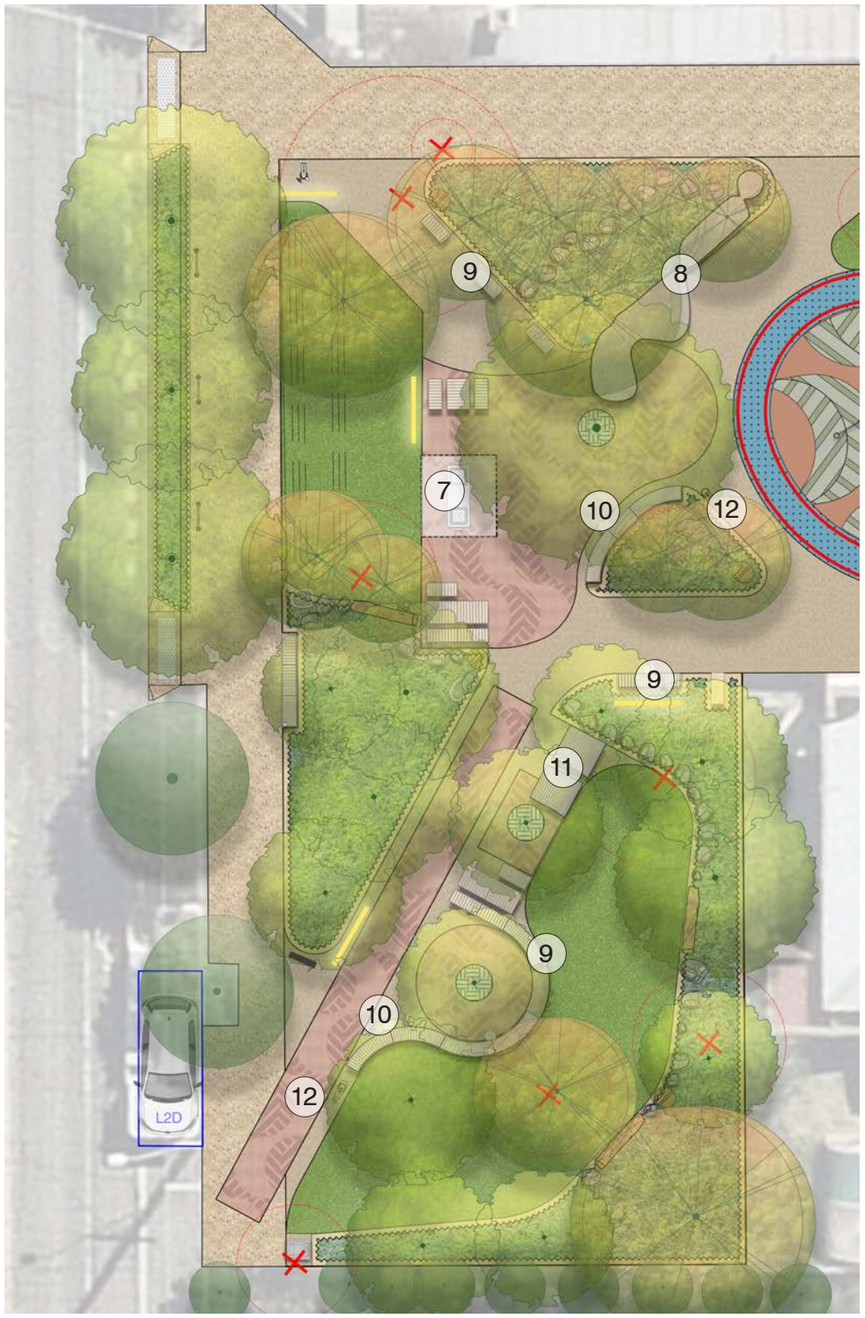


3 **A mix of evergreen and deciduous trees**
providing layered, seasonal shade across the reserve. Clear-trunked forms are used to maintain open sightlines, with planting along Mater Street echoing the rhythm and structure of the existing street tree alignment.



6 **Proposed softfall surface**
for an active area. The pattern may be artist-designed, with potential collaboration from an Aboriginal artist.

Landscape Plan





7 **Picnic area**
offering large banquet-style tables and a dual BBQ, thoughtfully arranged to encourage social interaction and accommodate several groups at once.



8 **Dynamic sculptural furniture**
forming a central focal point within the development, encouraging playful engagement and offering opportunities for rest, balance, climbing, sliding, and informal respite.



9 **A range of seating options**
offers spaces for individuals and groups, promoting passive engagement, conversation, and relaxation. Seating types vary from unbacked benches to backed seats with armrests, creating a flexible and welcoming environment.



10 **Integrated pod tables**
offer spaces for small personal items while encouraging incidental play via embedded board game markings, including noughts and crosses.

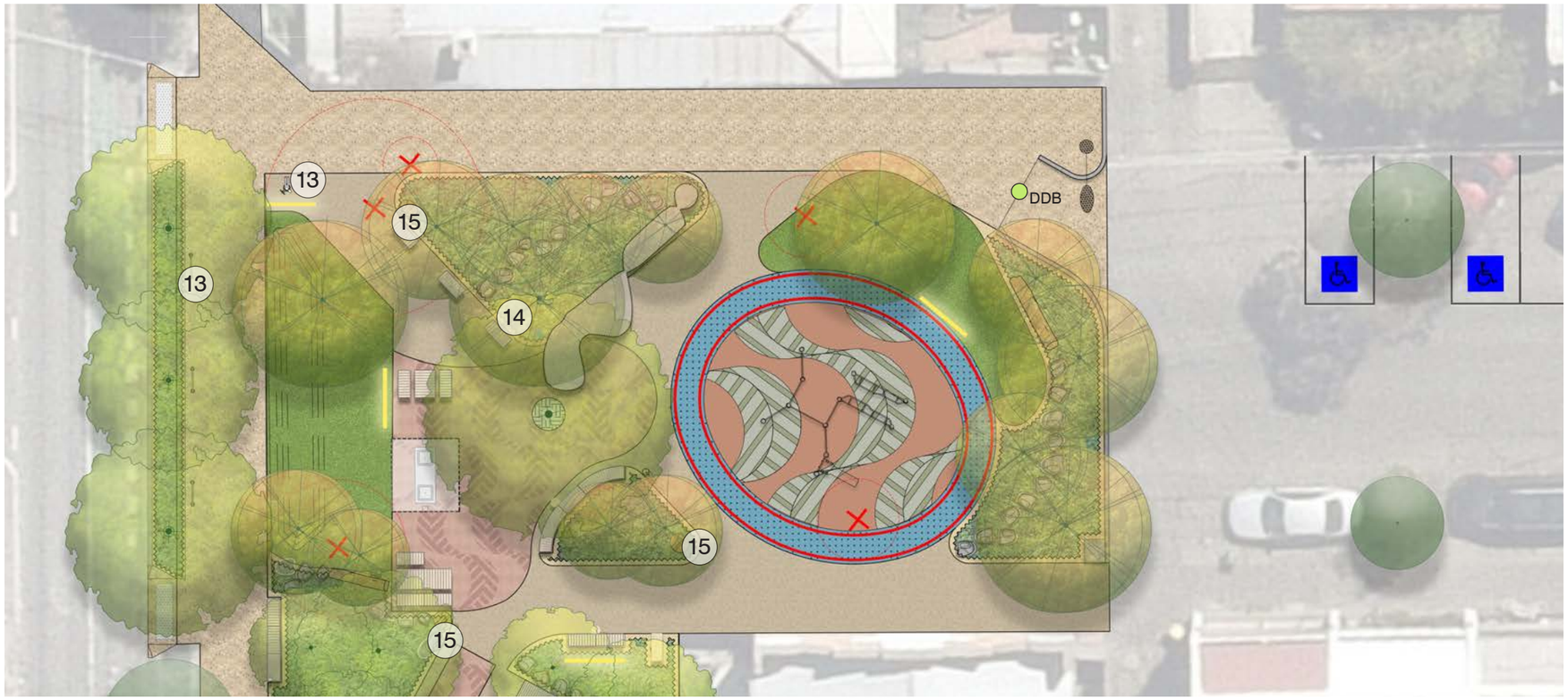


11 **Integrated sun lounges**
provide a comfortable alternative seating opportunity within the development.



12 **Strategically located DDA-accessible drinking fountains**
provide hydration for people at main activity areas, including BBQ zones, bicycle connections, and active play spaces. One dog bowl provided for pets on periphery of park.

Landscape Plan





13 Strategically located bicycle racks and repair station

along the primary cycle route, enhancing cycling accessibility and encouraging active transport.



14 Street library

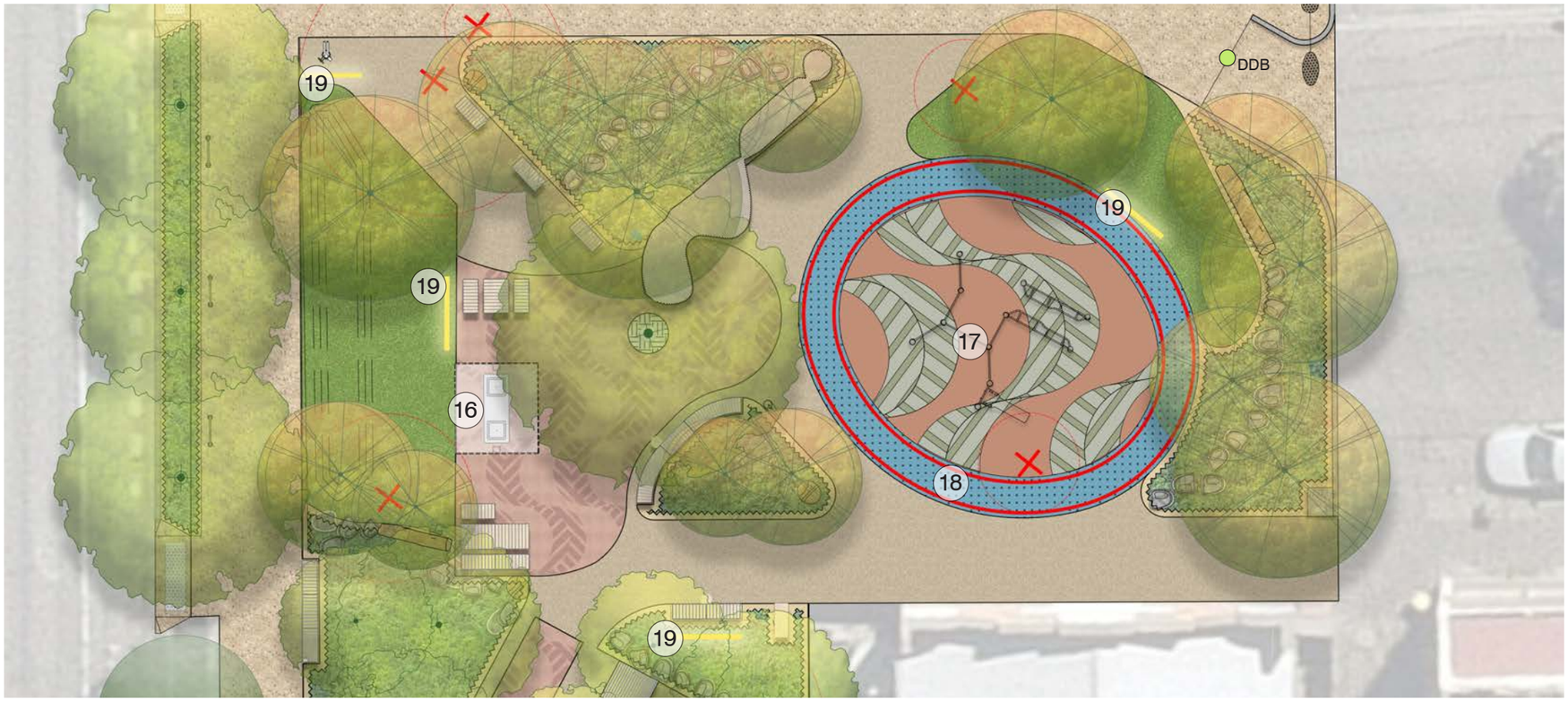
offering opportunities to borrow and swap books, encouraging reading and strengthening community engagement in the park.



15 Carved stone features

creating small water collection pools, providing habitat and hydration opportunities for local fauna.

Landscape Plan





19 **Integrated lighting solutions**
provide safety and comfort while discouraging anti-social behaviour at night.



16 **DDA-accessible BBQ**
with a clear circulation space and nearby accessible seating for inclusive use.



18 **Scooter track**
with a flowing loop to support different skill levels while maintaining clear sightlines and safe movement.





17 **Structural play / recreational frame**
with a range of structured elements for strength, balance, and mobility arranged to support flexible play and inclusive workouts.

Artists Impression #1 - View looking west from Mater Street





Artists Impression #2 - View looking north west from Wellington Street





Artists Impression #3 - View looking south east from Wellington Street



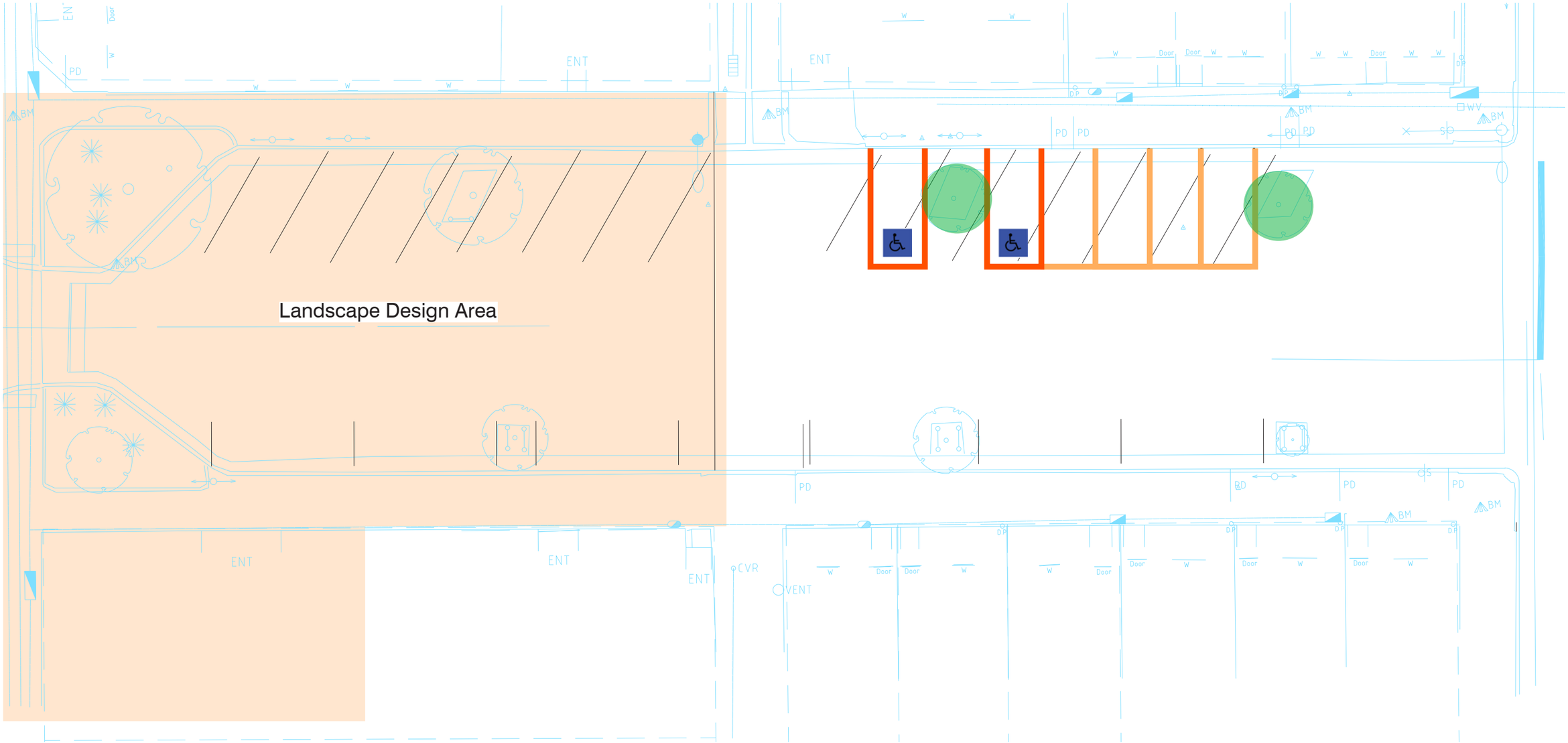


OMG Parking plan

Number of Existing bays: 18

Number of Proposed bays: 8

Net loss: 10



Indicative Plant Palette

The tree selection reinforces Inner North streetscape character using accepted native and noninvasive exotics that provide canopy, shade and identity without the allergen, maintenance or weed concerns.

Understorey planting builds a layered, sensory landscape, with fragrance (notably Jasmine), texture, seasonal colour and movement supporting the sites role as a respite point between transport corridors. Indigenous species strengthen biodiversity outcomes, while familiar garden plants reflect the lived character of surrounding streets such as Charlotte Street.

Overall, the palette is heritage-respectful, ecologically responsible and publicly legible, suitable for Council review and long-term management.

Primary Street & Canopy Trees

(Suitable for reinforcing streetscape character without weed or allergen risk)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Height (m)	Spread (m)	Streetscape & Design Rationale
Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese Elm	12–15	10–15	Non-invasive cultivar stock widely used in Melbourne; strong urban tolerance, fine canopy, seasonal change without allergen intensity of planes.
Eucalyptus sideroxylon (small–medium form)	Red Ironbark	8–12	6–8	Indigenous, durable street tree increasingly used in Yarra; strong identity and habitat value.
Angophora costata	Smooth-barked Apple	8–12	6–8	Highly valued Melbourne streetscape tree; sculptural trunk, dappled shade, civic presence.
Corymbia maculata	Spotted Gum	10–15	6–8	Tall, elegant native; common in Yarra streets and medians; good canopy without dense shade.
Tristaniopsis laurina ‘Luscious’	Water Gum	6–8	4–6	Reliable, compact canopy, glossy foliage; excellent for tighter verges and park interiors.

Note: Where formal street continuity is desired, *Ulmus parvifolia* remains acceptable and widely retained by Councils; where a more contemporary or ecological character is sought, native canopy species are preferred.

Secondary / Accent Trees (Pocket Park Scale)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Height (m)	Spread (m)	Role
Melaleuca linariifolia	Snow-in-Summer	6–9	4–6	Softens space, summer flowering, movement and sound.
Melaleuca armillaris	Bracelet Honey-myrtle	5–8	4–6	Hardy, tolerant of pollution; strong nectar source.
Callistemon viminalis (compact forms)	Weeping Bottlebrush	6–8	4–6	Familiar inner-city native; seasonal colour and bird activity.
Allocasuarina verticillata	Drooping Sheoak	6–10	4–6	Fine texture, wind movement, acoustic softening; indigenous.
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia	6–10	4–6	Indigenous, strong habitat value, sculptural seed cones.

Shrubs – Sensory, Structure & Urban Toughness (Expanded)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Height (m)	Spread (m)	Sensory / Functional Benefit
Jasminum officinale	Common Jasmine	3–6 (trained)	2–4	Key fragrance species; climbing or free-form along walls/fences.
Trachelospermum jasminoides	Star Jasmine	1–2	2–3	Evergreen fragrance; lower allergen impact than planes.
Bursaria spinosa (compact)	Sweet Bursaria	2–3	2–3	Native, fragrant summer flowering; ecological keystone species.
Correa alba	White Correa	1–1.5	1.5–2	Soft foliage, winter flowers, bird habitat.
Correa reflexa	Native Fuchsia	1–2	1.5–2	Shade tolerant; sensory colour and texture.
Westringia fruticosa	Coastal Rosemary	1–1.5	1–1.5	Structured form; resilient in urban streets.
Melaleuca wilsonii	Wilson’s Honey-myrtle	1.5–2.5	2–3	Fine foliage, pink flowers, pollinator friendly.

Indicative Plant Palette

Grasses & Strappy Plants – Movement & Sound

Scientific Name	Common Name	Height (m)	Spread (m)	Role
Poa labillardierei	Tussock Grass	0.6–1.2	0.6–1.0	Soft movement; indigenous; absorbs traffic noise.
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass	0.5–1.0	0.5–1.0	Seasonal colour, sense of place.
Lomandra longifolia	Mat-rush	0.6–1.0	0.6–1.0	Durable, tactile, low maintenance.
Carex appressa	Tall Sedge	0.6–1.0	0.6–1.0	Shaded / damp zones; soft texture.
Dianella revoluta	Flax-lily	0.5–1.0	0.6–1.0	Blue flowers and berries; bird attraction.

Groundcovers – Fragrance & Softness

Scientific Name	Common Name	Height (m)	Spread (m)	Benefit
Trachelospermum asiaticum	Asiatic Jasmine	0.2–0.3	2–4	Fragrance at ground level; links to Charlotte St character.
Myoporum parvifolium	Creeping Boobialla	0.1–0.3	2–3	Tough, evergreen groundcover.
Dichondra repens	Kidney Weed	0.05–0.1	1–2	Soft appearance; shade tolerant.
Viola hederacea	Native Violet	0.1–0.2	0.5–1.0	Delicate flowers; cool microclimate.
Rosmarinus officinalis ‘Prostratus’	Creeping Rosemary	0.2–0.4	1–1.5	Strong aroma; drought tolerant.