

Growing Green

An Environmental Sustainability Plan for the City of Melbourne's open space and recreational facilities



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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 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 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 suited to 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.

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Chair, *Growing Green Perspectives*

Kate Redwood
Chair, Environment, Community and Cultural Development Committee

Following consideration by the Environment, Community and Cultural Development Committee, this plan was approved by Council on 27th February 2003

Acknowledgments

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

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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 La Trobe, Fitzgibbon and Hodgkinson ensured that the City of Melbourne today has inherited 560 hectares of fine open space, a significant reason why Melbourne is considered 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 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, which will have an impact on future open space management. 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, which will lead to an increase in demand for passive recreation spaces.
- 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.

Strategy Development

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 on inside back cover). 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 477 hectares of open space managed by the Melbourne City Council, including parks, gardens, sports fields and pavilions, creeks and waterways, medians, road reserves, public toilets, park furniture and depots. It also refers to the aquatic facilities and street trees managed by Council. The phrase "open space and recreational facilities" is used throughout the report to encompass all these elements.

Planning for the future

The Vision to 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.

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 does not 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 phasing out car parking in parkland within specified time frames.

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 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 or action 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.

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		
	I N P U T S		O U T C O M E S
Park Policy		Protecting & Enhancing Biodiversity	
Tree Policy		Leafy City	
Baby Boomers & Beyond			
Social Planning Framework		Meeting Community Needs	
A Great Start			
Recreation & Leisure Strategy (draft)			
Sustainable Water Management (draft)		Celebrating Our Heritage	
Greenhouse Action Plan			
Corporate Energy Policy		Using Resources Wisely	
Corporate Purchasing Policy			
Waste Management Plan	Being Waste Wise		

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 link in with 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 energy use, 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 plan.

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 a broader cross section of the community, with the aim of improving the health and well being of the community, can 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.

The 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 outlines the State Government's 30-year development 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 of materials, reduced use of energy and land use planning that protects habitat and biodiversity.

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 micro organisms 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 which can compromise the diversity of fauna and flora, reduce the number of green areas and destroy 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 in the City. 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 number. 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, and protecting and propagating from existing remnant vegetation areas.

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 partnership 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 affect 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 ecosystems 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.

Objective 1

An increased variety and number of appropriate plants and animals in the City

Actions

Increase the range of plant and animal species

- Expand the range and complexity of native and exotic species planted in open space, with a particular emphasis on providing additional habitat for birds.
- Develop projects that contribute to habitat creation, such as wetlands and nesting sites, where appropriate.
- Develop fauna management programs for native and non-native fauna as required.

Enhance the ecological value of waterways

- Improve storm water quality by implementing the storm water strategy.
- Control soil erosion and potential overshadowing caused by building developments along waterways.
- Encourage the establishment of wetlands for stormwater management, habitat creation and water re-use where possible.
- Continue to support and maintain an active involvement in regional waterway and catchment management planning activities.

Enhance biodiversity through partnerships with other land managers

- Develop biodiversity partnership projects with other agencies such as the Royal Botanic Gardens, other municipalities and Parks Victoria.
- Encourage private landholders and developers to plant for biodiversity by providing information on indigenous plants.
- Investigate incentives in the planning scheme for private developments to provide greening and habitats, including roof top gardens.

Increase community awareness of biodiversity the City.

- Provide information on habitat improvement opportunities in the City
 - Involve schools, local communities and other organisations in planting, revegetation and monitoring projects.
 - Provide information to residents on local indigenous plants suitable for home gardens.
 - 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.
 - Develop interpretive programs that highlight nature in the City.
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Objective 2

Protection of existing remnant indigenous ecosystems and the creation of new habitat areas as opportunities arise

Action

Enhance remnant sites of indigenous flora and fauna

- Identify remnant indigenous sites and regionally significant species and develop management plans for each site and species.
 - Provide buffers around remnant sites and links between them.
 - Control weeds and pest plants in remnant areas and buffers.
 - Finalise the City's Biodiversity Strategy and develop an implementation plan.
 - Ensure that the maintenance of remnant sites is consistent with conservation objectives.
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Objective 3

Minimal adverse environmental impact of Council activities on other habitats and ecosystems.

Action

Reduce environmental impact of goods and services used for open space and facilities management

- 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.
- 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.
- Require Council contractors to comply with this Council policy.

Indicators

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

Indicator	Desired outcome	Measure
Environmental		
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. Number of species with viable populations.
Environmental health of the Yarra River environs	An improvement in the ecological health of the River environment.	Amount of funding spent on environmental improvements.
Social		
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.
Economic		
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 values.

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 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 habitat and resource consumption implications in mind. 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 green also requires 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 where appropriate 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.

Objective 1

An increased number of trees, plants and green spaces across Melbourne

Actions

Implement a major greening program across Melbourne

- Identify new areas for planting trees, shrubs and grasses in existing streets, nature strips, medians and lanes.
- Review the current street spaces with a view to converting asphalt areas, where appropriate, to areas for planting.
- Investigate increasing the proportion of permeable surface in streets to achieve reduced run-off and enhanced vegetation.
- Advocate the undergrounding of powerlines wherever possible.
- Work with other public land managers to increase quantity of plants and trees in the City.
- Pursue possible green links between open space areas and waterways to provide an integrated green network.

Encourage more greening by private landholders

- Review the trial rooftop greening programs and expand if the trials are successful.
- Develop landscape guidelines for developers to promote effective planting within new developments.
- Incorporate greening objectives in planning permits under the Melbourne Planning Scheme where appropriate.

Implement tree plantings to affect greenhouse gas emissions

- Continue tree planting to meet Council's greenfleet carbon dioxide reduction commitment.
 - Assess viability of the City Green software system as a means of better estimating Council's contribution to greenhouse gas reduction.
-

Objective 2

An increased robustness and range of tree species and vegetation with selection considering local climatic conditions, urban setting and heritage values

Action

Enhance the diversity, robustness and viability of the tree stock in the City

- Increase the range of trees species planted, both exotic and native.
 - Develop and implement a replacement program for trees in major park avenues and boulevards.
 - Select tree species and manage trees to minimise resource inputs while respecting heritage values and urban settings.
 - Control pests and diseases in trees and use biological controls, where possible.
 - Revise and update Council's Tree Policy (1997).
-

Indicators

The following indicators will measure progress towards achieving the objectives.

Indicator	Desired outcome	Measure
Environmental		
Amount of green space	An increase in the total amount of green space in the City of Melbourne	Total area of green space
		Area of newly greened space
		Increase of permeable surfaces
		Total number of trees in streets
Social		
Equitable distribution of green space	New green spaces developed throughout the City	Area of publicly accessible green space per head of population
Economic		
Investment in trees	An increase in the number of trees in streets the municipality	Annual expenditure on new tree planting
		Asset value of tree stock

Theme 3

Meeting Community Needs

Melbourne's open space 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 2001, a parks survey established that over 12 million visits were made to Melbourne parks and open spaces each year. Surveying has also found that 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 now growing rapidly. There is a significant demand for open space to be used for private commercial and community 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 friendly, well designed and attractive facilities that will meet current and future community needs;
- improving access to parks by providing public transport, pedestrian and cycling links;
- completing the suite of master plans for all major parks and gardens;
- phasing out car parking in parkland within specified time frames;
- integrating environmental considerations into the implementation of park master 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.

Objective 1 Publicly accessible open space and recreational facilities of sufficient quantity and quality to meet community needs.

Actions

Identify deficiencies in the current open space distribution and type and plan for future provision

- Develop an open space strategy to identify gaps in the current network and plan for anticipated demographic changes.
- Report periodically on net loss/gain in open space across the municipality.

Create new public space and facilities in line with community needs

- In line with the recommendations of the open space strategy, obtain new open space areas by direct purchase or through developer open space contribution.
- Re-allocate, where appropriate, existing roadway space to create new open space areas.
- Work with other land management agencies to provide complementary open space links and recreational services.

Provide a diversity of recreational experiences in open space and facilities

- Ensure open space recreational opportunities link with the objectives of the draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy and match population profile and cultural needs.
- Ensure all major parks and facilities meet disabled access requirements.
- Maintain the balance between capital city and local recreational needs.
- Complete the suite of master plans for all major parks and gardens to ensure balanced future development of parks.
- Ensure that developments on land adjacent to open space areas are sympathetic to the values of those areas.
- Further investigate the potential for more community gardens in the municipality.
- Provide opportunities to experience near natural environments in parts of Royal Park.
- Improve the efficiency of sports facilities by encouraging multi use and shared use.
- Encourage purpose-built facilities for dedicated sporting activities not to be located in parkland.

Objective 2 Open space and facility assets managed in line with community needs and environmental sustainability principles

Actions

Ensure that use of parkland for events is sustainable

- Ensure that types of events permitted are appropriate to specific park and garden sites.
- Ensure that the carrying capacity of particular parkland sites is not exceeded by the size or frequency of events.
- Ensure that events do not result in alienation of parkland.
- Ensure that event organisers pay the total costs involved in parkland use.
- Facilitate community based events that contribute to Melbourne's fabric while precluding commercialisation of parkland.

Ensure improved environmental performance of new assets

- Ensure that environmental criteria are met when new work is undertaken in parkland or recreational facilities
-

Objective 3

Access to open space and recreational facilities provided by environmentally friendly transport modes.

Actions

Encourage the use of public transport to access the City's open space and recreation facilities

- Work with the State Government, sporting organisations and major event organisers to ensure sufficient, safe, disability friendly public transport to parkland and recreational facilities.
- Ensure public transport plans, including possible combined transport and entry ticket arrangements are developed for major events and venues in open space.
- Phase out car parking in parkland within specified time frames.

Encourage bike and pedestrian access to and between open spaces

- Implement the bike path network as outlined in the City's Bike Plan.
 - Install bicycle parking facilities at key open space and recreational facilities.
 - Identify and promote safe walking and cycling routes between open spaces in the City.
-

Indicators

The following indicators will measure progress towards achieving the objectives.

Indicator

Desired outcome

Measure

Environmental

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

Social

Equitable distribution of open spaces and recreational facilities

A match between community needs and provision of facilities

Level of participation in events, use of recreational facilities and overall number of park users

Economic

Economic value of park or recreational facility asset

Maximise the benefit cost of the asset, while meeting community needs

Cost per head of operating recreational facilities

Theme 4

Respecting Our Heritage

Protect the heritage values of the City's parks, gardens, open spaces and recreational facilities, 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 open spaces and recreational facilities are constantly changing through natural processes and human intervention. They reflect cultural and community values and also provide an important link to the past.

The gardens surrounding the central city were established in the 19th Century with a view to recreating European landscapes in Australia. They consist of strong, often formal patterns 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 view of 'landscape' has changed over time as evidenced by its newest park, Birrarung Marr, which is linked to local indigenous culture through its name and use of native plants.

Many of the City's parks and gardens 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 La Trobe's Cottage in the Domain, the former Grand Rank Cabman's Shelter in Yarra Park, and Speakers' Corner in Birrarung Marr.

A number of parks and individual trees managed by Council are listed on the Victorian National Trust's Register. Boulevards, such as St Kilda Road, are also 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 open space 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 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.

Objective 1 **Heritage assets managed in an environmentally and socially responsible way.**

Actions

Protect heritage places while optimising environmental outcomes

- Protect heritage assets and develop conservation management plans for gardens and facilities listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.
- As part of open space contracts, develop environmental management plans that are consistent with heritage objectives for parks and facilities.
- Review the design of heritage horticultural features to reduce water and chemical inputs while retaining their heritage values.
- Implement actions under the themes of using resources wisely, being waste wise and leafy city to the management of heritage areas.

Replace obsolete infrastructure in heritage areas to reduce the environmental impact of their management

- Implement findings of the Melbourne City Baths energy audit (Sept 2001).
- Replace park infrastructure in historic parks with systems which are more water and energy efficient.

Develop interpretation activities that recognise heritage areas and sites of environmental significance

- Identify and develop interpretation programs for sites of historical interest or features of Melbourne's natural or built environment.
-

Objective 2 **Ongoing recognition of the links between indigenous culture and open space areas.**

Action

Ensure Indigenous culture is adequately recognised and represented in open spaces and facilities

- Participate in Council's broader process to establish more effective relationships and possible partnerships with the local community.
 - Work in partnership with the local Aboriginal communities to acknowledge, better understand and respect their connections with the land.
 - Develop interpretation signage and programs that explain the ongoing connection of the Aboriginal community to the land and significant places and events.
 - Acknowledge Indigenous people as the original custodians of the land wherever possible.
 - Work with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria to develop long term management and renewal plans for registered sites in parkland.
-

Indicators

The following indicators will measure progress towards achieving the objectives.

Indicator	Desired outcome	Measure
Environmental		
Retention of cultural and heritage assets	Identified cultural and heritage features in open spaces and facilities protected and well managed	Number of plans, actions or capital works for heritage areas/sites
Social		
Interpretation of features	A greater community understanding of the heritage features in open spaces	Number of features with interpretation Level of awareness of the Indigenous communities' connection with the land
Economic		
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 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. The current maintenance of turf, for example, often requires intensive irrigation, mowing regimes and fertiliser. Recreational facilities, such as swimming pools and golf courses also consume large 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 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 retained 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 Councils participating in the pilot of ICLEI's international water campaign. In conjunction with Melbourne Water, it is developing a Sustainable Water Management Strategy that 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 for the metropolitan area.

Energy is another resource consumed in the City's 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 make

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 reduced greenhouse gas 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 from the Parks and Recreation Group 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.

Currently, 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 similar 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 both safe and environmentally appropriate. Council will continue to investigate alternative products and select those that both minimise the 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 open spaces and recreational facilities, taking into account recreational needs, and developing action plans to reduce current levels of use;
- developing a better understanding of current levels of consumption of water, energy and chemicals;
- exploring alternatives to using potable drinkable water in open space management;
- integrating environmental requirements into the design and construction of new facilities;
- reducing chemical use and its environmental impact in open spaces and 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 open spaces and recreational facilities.

Actions

The following actions will achieve these objectives.

Objective 1

An overall reduction in energy, water and chemical use in the management of all open spaces, trees and recreational facilities.

Actions

Set total reduction targets for energy, water and chemical use in open space and facilities

- Determine ecological footprint required for the management of open space and recreational facilities and the current consumption levels by area and type of use
- Adopt overall targets, for energy, water and chemical use
- Develop individual open space area and facility targets, by type of open space and use of facility

Integrate environmental management systems into all open space tree and recreational facility contracts

- Require the development and implementation of environmental management plans in the next round of contracts for open space and tree management with a particular emphasis on waste, water, energy use and chemical management
- Establish agreed targets based on environmental management plans and corporate targets
- Report annually on the progress towards reduction targets for waste, water and energy use, and chemical management

Reduce energy use and light spill from park lights

- Replace current substandard lights in parks in line with Council's Park Lighting Strategy

Reduce the amount of water used in the management of trees, other vegetation, turf and facilities

- Develop a water conservation plan for open space, trees and recreational facilities
- Identify areas of grass and lawn where water use can be reduced. Allow a greater amount of turf browning in summer, or plant drought tolerant species
- Experiment with different turf types and maintenance regimes to improve durability and hardness of turf stock
- Investigate non-turf surfaces in selected high use areas of medians and nature strips where appropriate
- Review selected horticultural plantings to achieve plantings with reduced water requirements
- Install water-sensitive monitoring equipment in open space areas to assist in determining more accurately the water requirements for irrigation
- Remove or replace obsolete irrigation systems with water efficient irrigation equipment and systems

Improve environmental performance of capital works projects

- Include the requirement for ongoing water, energy and chemical savings in all design briefs
 - Assess energy and environmental impacts of materials and construction methods used in all capital works projects
 - Review project management processes for construction and demolition/disposal of assets to reduce energy and waste
 - Use Council's purchasing policy to guide selection and use of materials
-

Objective 2

An increase in the use of products from renewable resources in the development, refurbishment and management of open space and recreational facilities.

Actions

Reduce the amount of potable water used for irrigation by developing alternative water sources

- 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
- Construct the Royal Park wetland and water re-cycling system
- Investigate retention and reuse of stormwater within open space and recreational facilities

Increase the amount of renewable energy used in open space and facilities management

- Identify opportunities for the use of solar technology, including solar lighting in open space infrastructure or service buildings, and solar panels on facilities

Substitute chemicals with products and systems with less environmental impact where possible

- Identify and implement opportunities for using non-chemically based materials in horticultural applications
- Investigate and implement opportunities for integrated pest management or use of biological pest control in open space and tree management

Indicators

The following indicators will measure progress towards achieving the objectives.

Indicator	Desired outcome	Measure
Environmental		
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 open space and other recreational facilities management	Reductions achieved through specific projects and offset achieved from tree plantings.
Social		
Community satisfaction	Public acceptance of change in visual appearance of some assets	Levels of satisfaction with water use
Economic		
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 pollution. Waste also includes facilities and objects that have reached the end of their life and litter generated from capital works projects.

Inappropriately managed 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 that minimises 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 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 reduce the amount of dog faeces in the City's parks and gardens, dung beetles have been released and waste bag dispenser units installed in some parks to encourage appropriate disposal. Waste issues can 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. Council aims to incorporate waste wise principles into the future management of open space and recreational facilities.

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

- developing reuse and recycling systems in open space and for all recreational 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.

Objective 1

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

Actions

Provide recycling facilities in open space areas and recreational facilities

- 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)
- Develop maintenance systems to service recycling infrastructure
- Raise community awareness of the changes in waste arrangements and the need to reduce waste through reduced consumption and recycling

Reduce the amount of litter, including dog faeces, in open space and recreational facilities

- 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'
- Require all sporting organisations using Council's facilities to adopt "waste wise" principles
- Encourage visitors to open space areas wherever possible not to drop litter, including cigarette butts
- Continue to install dog faeces bag dispenser units where required
- Evaluate impact of dung beetle trial on reducing volume of dog faeces and extend if required
- Review bin design and placement to eliminate spread of litter by possums, birds and wind
- Install litter traps on drains leading to streets and waterways from parkland to reduce amounts of litter entering waterways
- Implement Council's stormwater management strategy in open space and for recreational facilities

Objective 2

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

Actions

Design new open space and recreational facility infrastructure to minimise waste

- Include waste minimisation infrastructure, such as recycling bins, waste water reticulation systems and organic waste systems, in all new facilities
- Design new infrastructure to maximise durability and eventual reuse/recycling of materials components
- Minimise waste generated through construction works by including waste management, reuse and recycling standards in contract specifications

Include green waste minimisation principles in all open space and tree management contracts

- Require all contractors to prepare and implement green waste plans as part of the next round of contracts
-

Indicators

The following indicators will measure progress towards achieving the objectives.

Indicator	Desired outcome	Measure
Environmental		
Level of recycling and reuse of materials from open space maintenance and events	Replacement of new materials with recycled products, where options exist	Amount of waste disposal and recycling from facilities and events
		Amount of green waste recycled from open space
	Increase in recycling rates	Percentage of events which are waste wise
Social		
Litter in open space	Elimination of litter from open space areas	Number litter traps
		Number of complaints relating to litter
Economic		
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 both some new directions and continued support over the long term.

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

- Ensuring that decisions made on open space and 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, and 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 data is available.
- Providing information to ratepayers through rate notices on issues such as accessing indigenous plants 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.
- 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.
Ecological footprint	a measurement of the amount of biologically productive land and water required to sustain resource consumption and waste discharge from either an individual or a human population
Green power	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 and boulevards
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.

City of Melbourne Open Space Map



City of Melbourne Open Space

MAJOR PARKS, GARDENS AND WATERWAYS

1. Fawkner Park
2. Domain Parklands
3. Yarra Park
4. Fitzroy Gardens
5. Carlton Gardens
6. Princes Park
7. Royal Park
8. Holland Park
9. Maribyrnong River
10. Moonee Ponds Creek
11. Flagstaff Gardens
12. Birrarung Marr

-  **Open Space**
City of Melbourne Responsibility
-  **Open Space (other organisations)**
Parks Victoria, R.B. Gardens, Melb Water, etc.
-  **Major Recreational Facilities**
-  **Docklands Authority Boundary**



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

For the Boonerwung, Woiworung, 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.

(based on the Acknowledgement Wording endorsed by the Melbourne City Council Aboriginal Consultative Group, 2000)

**Do you have a question for
the Melbourne City Council?
Call and speak to us.**

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9280 0717	廣東話
9280 0718	Ελληνικά
9280 0719	Bahasa Indonesian
9280 0720	Italiano
9280 0721	國語
9280 0722	Somali
9280 0723	Español
9280 0724	Türkçe
9280 0725	Việt Ngữ
9280 0726	All other languages
9280 0727	English



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This is a publication of Melbourne City Council