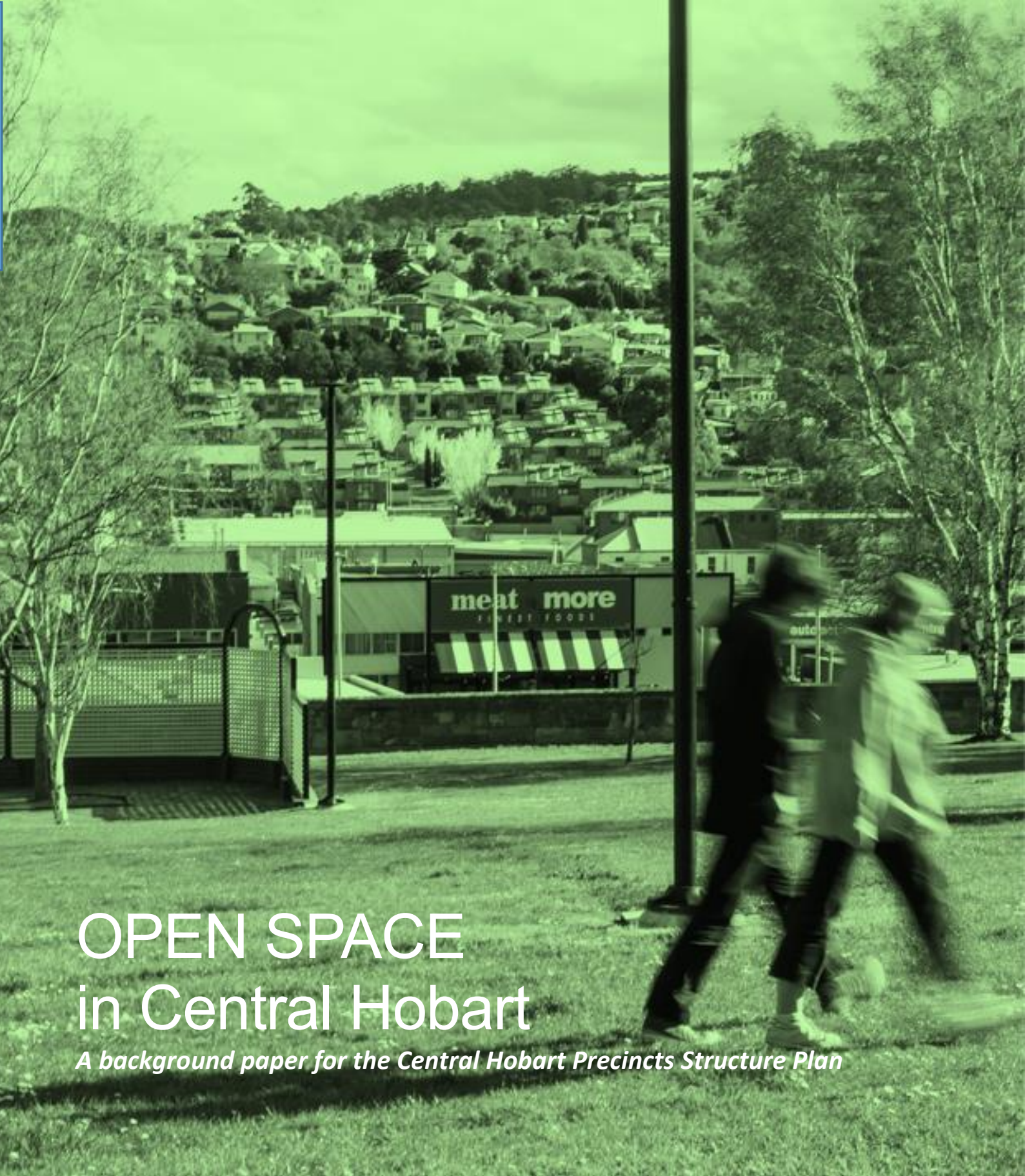




OPEN SPACE in Central Hobart

A background paper for the Central Hobart Precincts Structure Plan

February 2023



City of **HOBART**

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Amendment Table

Date	Status	Revised by	Approved by	Changes
04/03/2022	☐ Draft			
04/07/2022	☒ Endorsed	Jill Hickey	Philip Holliday	
20/02/2023				Corrections

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INTRODUCTION

Nipaluna/Hobart was home to the Muwinina people who thrived on country for more than 40,000 years. Hobart today is defined by reference to the dramatic landscape it sits within. Views from the city bring an immediate sense of place¹ that is cherished by the people of Hobart and our visitors. The scale of the bushland estate on our doorstep makes Hobart unique among state capital cities.

The City of Hobart covers an area of 7790 hectares of which 40 per cent (3086 Ha) is public open space, the significant majority (2787 Ha) of which is bushland. 79 hectares are classified as urban and neighbourhood parks and 80 hectares are classified as sports facilities and grounds.



Overall, the current provision of public open space for the City of Hobart's population equals approximately 574m² per resident, which on face value is generous². However, the figure is skewed due to Hobart's unusual bushland context and relatively compact urban area in comparison.

When assessing a suitable amount of open space in the context of urban infill planning, understanding what is available within walking distance from homes (the walking catchment) is a more useful measure for assessing provision. Proximity by walking, is important to ensure that people can access the benefits of open space and

urban greening in their daily lives. Planning for a liveable Central Hobart with increased density should respond to the following important questions:

- Can existing and future residents, workers and visitors easily access urban green space in their daily lives?
- Are green spaces well located and coherently designed? The design of a public space should be flexible, with good connections and be responsive to context. Design should allow a space to 'work' for a range of users and be adaptable for a range of uses.
- Are our urban parks of sufficient size and variation to encourage visitation and physical activity, with different age groups catered for?
- Are open spaces healthy, green, full of life and well maintained?
- Are people of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds encouraged to participate and engage?

Scope and Purpose

The City of Hobart recognises the need to plan for future public open space and greening, in consideration of the forecast growth in our community, change and intensification of land uses in the Central Hobart area and the changing climate.

The purpose of this paper is to provide background open space analysis, to inform the development of the Central Hobart Precincts Plan. The paper does not provide analysis of the whole municipality of City of Hobart, but rather, focuses on the Central Hobart Precincts Plan study area. A separate paper, specifically looking at opportunities for street trees, is being developed concurrently.

¹ Gehl architects, *Hobart: A city with people in mind*, 2009, p16

² Victorian Planning Authority, *Metropolitan open space network distribution*, June 2017.

WHAT IS OPEN SPACE?

This paper is primarily concerned with open space.

Open space is defined as the range of public spaces that are open to the sky and provide landscape and/or urban design features which are set aside primarily for rest, recreation, nature conservation, passive outdoor enjoyment and/or public gatherings.

Open space also includes sports grounds, streetscapes, nature strips, community food gardens, urban plazas, parklets, and overlapping uses of space with schools, public asset providers and other institutions.

Definitions

Public Realm

Public realm is any part of the built or natural environment that is in public ownership and is open to the public. It forms a complex of social, cultural, economic and recreational exchanges that may be planned, spontaneous or accidental. In the urban context, public realm typically refers to parks, plazas, streets, laneways, bridges and the public and informal spaces between buildings, and the surfaces and infrastructure within those spaces. Public realm may refer to buildings and indoor facilities however for the purpose of this paper, the public realm refers to outdoor spaces.

Public open space

Outdoor spaces that are publically owned, set aside for the purposes of recreation, relaxation and / or conservation, including parks, gardens, playing fields and plazas. They are accessible to the public.

Ancillary open space

Ancillary open space refers to other types of public realm spaces, such as streetscapes, footpaths, laneways and the urban spaces between buildings. These spaces are important to the fabric of the city and their quality can influence walkability, accessibility, character and economic vibrancy.

Open spaces associated with schools and university campuses also tend to be considered ancillary open space – they can contribute to the community's network of available open space and can provide facilities similar to those provided by the City in neighbourhood parks, such as play grounds, ball courts, sports fields, gardens, trees and outdoor seating.

However, these areas are not technically 'reserved' as public open space, and this means that it is possible for the land to be used, sold or developed for other purposes, with the open space benefits being lost in the process.

Ancillary open spaces complement the public open space network, however should not be relied on as a replacement for public open space

Publically accessible private open space

Open space that is privately owned but open and available for public use can complement the city's open space system. Examples include private building forecourts, plazas and courtyards that might provide seating, shade and other amenities, and landscaped church grounds. Examples of publically accessible private open spaces in Central Hobart include the garden at St Davids Cathedral and the landscaped courtyard at the government buildings at 188 Collins Street.

Streets as places

The streets and roads of a city are increasingly recognised as public spaces as streets can perform social 'place' roles in addition to providing space for the movement of goods and people. For example, a pedestrian mall is technically a road, but with seating, street trees, retail frontages and activities, it can provide some of the benefits provided by parks in an urban setting, often combined with pedestrian movement and after hours loading and servicing access.

Streets or roads generally make up around 80% of a city's public realm. Streets should be understood, planned and designed according to their role as a place as well as their role in movement. As a place, a street is a destination in its own right, a place where daily life, cultural,

social and economic exchange occurs and in these streets the design and allocation of space

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework 2010

The Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework (2010) proposes an open space hierarchy for local governments to use in planning. Parks and open spaces are categorised by size (the hierarchy) and use or purpose (classification) – see below.

Tasmanian Open Space Hierarchy	Tasmanian Open Space Classification
Local	Parks
District	Outdoor sports
Sub regional	Landscape and amenity
Regional	Linear and linkage
State	Foreshore and waterway
National	Conservation and heritage
	Utilities and services
	Proposed open space

While consistency across Tasmania's agencies responsible for managing open space is valuable, the framework doesn't provide guidance around factors of proximity or walkable distances from residences, or other more 'granular' approaches to open space planning that account for the importance of walkable neighbourhoods, equity of access and liveability. Increasingly, these are the criteria for success at the urban precinct scale.

Proximity to residences (and walkable catchments) is considered an accurate proxy for success when considering health and wellbeing and liveability objectives of compact, walkable places. For the Central Hobart Precinct Plan, it is useful to look to other examples where planning objectives include increasing residential density, prioritising equitable access and high levels of amenity and walkability.

should consider the needs of people and active travel ahead of car use.

Southern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy 2010-2035

The STRLUS 2010-2035 provides an overview on the importance of open space within a holistic and integrated planning framework, including the role of open space in encouraging physical activity, in supporting climate change futures, contributing to liveability in urban areas, conserving natural, cultural and utilitarian values. The STRLUS encourages an integrated approach to planning, and refers to the Tasmanian Government's hierarchy and classification system. Relevant strategic directions include:

SD1: Adopting a more integrated approach to planning and infrastructure

SD2: Holistically managing residential growth

SD6: Increasing responsiveness to our natural environment

SD8: Supporting strong and healthy communities

SD9: Making the region nationally and internationally competitive

SD10: Creating liveable communities

Walkability and sustainable transport is highlighted under this strategy, as an important factor in open space planning:

ROS 1.5 Ensure residential areas, open spaces and other community destinations are well connected with a network of high-quality walking and cycling routes

Hobart Interim Planning Scheme 2015

Public open space is articulated in one of the regional objectives in clause 3.0.10 of the Hobart Interim Planning Scheme (HIPS) 2015:

Objective: To create liveable communities.

Desired Outcomes: An integrated open space and recreation system that responds to existing and emerging needs in the community and contributes to social inclusion, community connectivity, community health and well-being,

amenity, environmental sustainability and the economy.

Outcomes to be achieved by: Applying the Recreation and Open Space Zones to land accommodating active sporting facilities and passive recreation respectively.

Other plans and policies

Plans, policies and working documents that are considered, including:

City of Hobart

- Hobart: A city with people in mind, Gehl and Associates, 2010
- Hobart Rivulet Park Strategic Master Plan 2011
- Queens Domain Master Plan 2013-2033
- Franklin Square Master Plan 2012
- City of Hobart Street Tree Strategy 2017
- Sustainable Hobart Action Plan 2020-2025
- Draft City of Hobart Transport Strategy 2018-2030
- Technical paper: Tree Planting report for the Central Hobart area (2022)
- Hobart City Council Land Review 2008
- City of Hobart Public Open Space Contributions Policy 2021 (reviewed annually)

- City of Hobart Open Space and Landscape Strategy 1994
- City of Hobart Open Space Framework (draft working paper)

By other agencies, relevant to Hobart

- Macquarie Point Development Corporation, Macquarie Point Master Development Plan
- University of Tasmania Southern Campus Transformation Preliminary Urban Design Framework, May 2021
- Infrastructure Tasmania, Hobart Transport Vision 2018
- Department of State Growth, Greater Hobart Vision (draft Metro Plan)

Research based planning guidance for liveability and sustainability

- Guide to Low Carbon Precincts (Low Carbon CRC 2019)
- Creating Liveable cities in Australia (RMIT Centre for Urban Research 2017)
- COAG, Creating Places for People – an urban design protocol for Australian Cities, 2011

IMPORTANCE OF OPEN SPACE AND URBAN GREENING

Community Vision Alignment

Hobart's dramatic landscape, natural environment, heritage and human scaled built form all contribute to a valued sense of place. The community vision specifically expresses the importance of open space and greening in pillars 1 (sense of place) and 6 (natural environment).

Pillar 1 – Sense of place

- Open and natural spaces bring peace and inspiration to our lives
- We create and retain spaces where people feel connected with Hobart, each other and the environment, where we are safe, engaged and inspired
- We consider our natural surroundings, maintaining clear line of sight from major public spaces to the mountain and the river
- Our spaces are well connected to one another. They are inviting, diverse, attractive and safe and inspire movement. They include space that we value for offering peace, quiet and reflection. They maintain the community feel of Hobart.

Pillar 6 – Natural environment

- Greenways thread through our city. We create and enhance linkages to parks and reserves, and wildlife have corridors relevant to their behaviours and habitats
- We are able to carry out our daily lives in nature and with access to nature. We do not think of the natural environment as separate or somewhere else but rather part of the city.

Growing evidence for benefits of green space

Public open space provides multiple benefits for medium-density residential neighbourhoods, making places more sustainable, healthy and liveable and responsive to the challenges of climate change, environmental decline and increasing populations.

Benefits include the provision of space for social interaction, encouraging physical activity and supporting mental health, enhancing the attractiveness of the urban environment, cooling of urban areas during extreme heat events, and supporting natural systems.

Public open space supports social encounters and community activities that bring people together, develop social ties and foster friendships.

Ecological and climate benefits

There is a strong evidence base for the benefits of urban nature and green spaces, for human health and wellbeing, biodiversity and ecosystem services. From regulating ambient temperatures and improving thermal comfort, filtering air, mitigating noise, sequestering carbon, attenuating storm water and adding biodiversity and habitat for birds and pollinator species.³

However it's important to note that most studies into the benefits of urban nature have focussed on larger cities⁴, and the Central Hobart precinct area is distinctive as a small city heart, flanked by an expansive natural area of kunanyi / Mt Wellington and foothills, and the Queens Domain. This gives the city's inhabitants excellent opportunities to access natural environments, compared with inner urban residents of larger cities. This relationship provides benefits but of course also makes Hobart more vulnerable to risks such as bushfire.

³ Byrne J, Sipe N (2010) Green and open space planning for urban consolidation – A review of the literature and best practice, Urban Research Program, Brisbane Australia, 11 (2010)

⁴ Kendal, D, Egerer, M, Byrne, JA, Jones, PJ, Marsh, P, Threlfal, CG, Allegretto, G, Kaplan, H, Nguyen, HKD,

Pearson, S, Wright, A, Flies, EJ, City size bias in knowledge on the effects of urban nature on people and biodiversity, Environmental Research Letters, 15 Article 124035. ISSN 1748-9326 (2020)

Street trees and green spaces mitigate urban heat island effect which will become increasingly important as the climate warms and more frequent extreme heat events are experienced in Hobart. Cities around the world are investing in urban forests and green spaces in order to mitigate risks associated with urban heat. Green spaces are places of urban respite, cooling in summer and a place to catch sunshine in winter.

Health and wellbeing benefits

Public open spaces promote physical health, mental wellbeing and social inclusion for individuals, families and communities, while the evidence connecting street trees with improved health outcomes is such that urban trees are considered to be a social determinant of public health⁵. People with better access to nature, including in the form of parks, green spaces and tree-lined streets have been shown to live longer, are less stressed, become ill less often and are less likely to be overweight or obese. When people have access to green spaces they more likely to have physically active lifestyles, combatting public health challenges associated with sedentary lifestyles and car dependence. Research shows that adults with a wide range of green spaces around their home report 37% lower hospitalisation rates.⁶

The Heart Foundation advocates for urban trees due to the health benefits, stating ‘the presence of trees encourages people to walk both for exercise and transport and is associated with reduced incidence of heart attack and type 2 diabetes’.⁷ Trees absorb considerable quantities of airborne pollutants which has been shown to cut childhood asthma levels.⁸

Access to green space is especially important for children and their development, and the nature-

based play movement of recent years has generated abundant research about the benefits to emotional regulation and attention that time outdoors provides for children, enhancing learning, encouraging creative, sensory and active play and boosting positive social behaviours.

Economic benefits

Researchers have found that parks and green infrastructure provide significant wider economic benefits including reduction in health care expenses by promoting regular physical activity, uplift in property values for homes near greenspaces and in streets with trees. Green infrastructure can improve consumer activity in some precincts, and contribute to a city that is attractive to residents, workers and tourists.

Social inclusion considerations

“As the custodians of the majority of public space within Hobart, from sporting grounds to streetscapes, retail precincts to playgrounds, we are responsible for ensuring that our city is liveable, safe and accessible for all. Our staff maintain a broad understanding of the needs of our diverse communities and keep up to date with best practice to support inclusive design and delivery of public spaces.”⁹

In order for public open spaces to provide the community benefits described in the earlier section, there needs to be sufficient provision (quantity), high quality, place based design (amenity), diversity of experience and ease of access. These settings must be achieved in order for benefits to be realised to particular groups or demographic types in urban infill areas.

⁵ Wolf K, Lam S, McKeen J, Richardson, G, van den Bosch M, Bardekjian A, 2020, “Urban Trees and Human Health: A scoping review”, Environmental Research and Public Health, 2020, 17, 4731

⁶ Pereira, G, et al. (2012). “The association between neighborhood greenness and cardiovascular disease: an observational study”. BMC Public Health 12: 466

⁷ National Heart Foundation of Australia, Ely M. Building the case for the role of landscaping in urban street design, 2012

⁸ Lovasi G, Quinn J, Neckerman K, Perzanowski M, Rundle A. Children living in areas with more street trees have lower prevalence of asthma. Community Health, 2008; 62:647-9

⁹ Hobart: A city for all - City of Hobart Community Inclusion and Equity Framework

Some important social considerations include:

Design for access and diversity –to suit the cultural and behavioural characteristics of a local community. Park design should consider diversity of activity across a range of user groups including age groups, and be responsive to changing user needs across the course of a day and over changing seasons.

Children – children and families have a greater need for open space and access to nature for play, mental health, social, emotional and physical development. Open spaces need to be close to home and safe and easy to access to encourage day to day use. Children need access to spaces and facilities that engage their imaginations, encourage appropriate challenge and risk, while being safe.

Older people – ageing is a feature of Hobart’s community and many older people live alone. Social contact and physical activity, particularly walking, are significant factors in promoting health and wellbeing for older people. Public open spaces must be close to home, convenient to access, offer comfort and confer a feeling of safety.

Young people – in well-designed open space that caters to their needs, teens can express themselves authentically, whether that means boisterous play or just hanging out with friends without being actively supervised. When considering types of spaces and provision for young people, gender should be a consideration, as often provision for ‘young people’ translates to active opportunities such as skate parks, mountain biking and ball courts, whereas some evidence suggests that young women and girls have different open space needs from boys and young men, and seek opportunities to socialise and talk, cosy outdoor spaces, art and games and opportunity for fun and movement that fosters interaction, not competition.

City of Hobart’s Social Inclusion Framework – Hobart: A city for all (2021) - outlines a range of factors as important as we work towards providing and maintaining a city for all:

- Truth and reconciliation
- Participation and access
- Wellbeing and knowledge
- Safety and resilience



Figure 2 'Swing Time' by Doweler and Yoon Architecture in Boston. Designed for teenage girls (Photographer: Howeler + Yoon Architecture)

WHAT IS CHANGING IN CENTRAL HOBART?

Central Hobart is undergoing significant change and development, and these trends are predicted to continue in coming decades.¹⁰

Climate change

In Hobart, the frequency and intensity of risks and hazards such as heatwaves, drought, bushfire, heavy rain events, storms are set to increase with climate change. These effects will place additional pressure on the city's infrastructure. Green infrastructure provides multiple benefits in response to environmental and social challenges, thereby enhancing resilience in urban communities.

Major developments in the City

A range of developments will contribute to an intensification of use and activity in the city in coming years. These developments will occur alongside significant growth in residents, students, workers and visitors to the city.

- University of Tasmania has a major development plan underway which will have an increase in learning, teaching, research and administrative activities in the city centre, across various campus precincts. The University has articulated its vision which includes a number of open spaces included in several development sites in the middle of the Central Hobart study area, adding green public open space to a part of the city which is currently poorly serviced.
- Increasing population housed in medium density residential - there is potential to house up to 10 000 residents over the next 20 years, with medium density residential

development many parts of the project area, in sites that are currently underutilised¹¹.

- Macquarie Point, a significant urban renewal site on the edge of the city
- Major developments such as the Royal Hobart Hospital, TMAG extension, a future public transit centre.
- Growing visitor accommodation – an upward trend has seen several major hotels opening in recent years, and further hotels are anticipated to support anticipated visitation growth.

Planning for growth: Central Hobart Precincts Plan

The Central Hobart Precincts Plan is currently being developed by the City of Hobart in partnership with the Tasmanian Government. The plan identifies precincts to the north of the central city with potential for infill development, changing land uses and urban renewal.



Figure 3 'Underutilised' areas of Central Hobart can be seen in darker shading

¹⁰ Hill PDA Consulting, Central Hobart Precinct Plan: economic, demographic and employment study, 2020

¹¹ Central Hobart Precincts Plan, Discussion Paper, City of Hobart, 2021

CURRENT OPEN SPACE IN CENTRAL HOBART

Within Central Hobart, people can enjoy expansive views to the surrounding natural areas including the River Derwent, kunanyi/ Mt Wellington and the Queens Domain. This visual access is highly valued and contributes to a strong local sense of being connected with the landscape. However, there is a relatively small amount of public open space that can be reached within easy walkable distance of homes and workplaces in parts of the Central Hobart area.

Historically, open space planning metrics focussed on the amount of space per thousand residents. Using these measures, City of Hobart residents are well off for public open space, however this is due to the vast bushland estate that sits within the City of Hobart boundary. If we look at open space that is reachable within a short walk from homes and workplaces (the spaces that people are more likely to access and use every day), the amount of open space is much lower, and unlikely to provide health and wellbeing benefits for a growing urban population.

Increasingly, urban planners are concerned with the public health impacts of car dependency and therefore a key factor in contemporary open space planning is the degree to which residents have access to open space within an easy walk from home, is a key factor in planning. Most capital cities in Australia have a target for the proportion of residents who live within walking distance of a park (typically 400 metres).

When assessing the capacity of the existing open space network, important considerations include:

- Projected future residential growth
- Projected future employment growth
- Location, connection and access – proximity to people who may use them, and considerations of barriers to access such as topography and busy roads
- Current levels of use of existing open spaces
- Size of parks and the variety of facilities and activities within parks

- Quality and coherence of design
- Other values such as heritage, biodiversity



Figure 4 Franklin Square is a significant historic park in Central Hobart



Figure 5 The bushland estate on our doorstep makes Hobart unique among Australian capital cities

Existing open spaces in and near Central Hobart



Figure 6. Existing open space in and near Central Hobart

1 FRANKLIN SQUARE
2 MATHERS PLACE
3 CULTURAL (SKATE) PARK
4 ST ANDREWS PARK
5 GARDEN OF MEMORIES
6 RAILWAY ROUNDABOUT
7 TMAG FORECOURT
8 ELIZABETH MALL & WELLINGTON COURT
9 UNIVERSITY ROSE GARDENS
10 CENOTAPH AND REGATTA GROUNDS
11 QUEENS DOMAIN

12 HOBART RIVULET PARK
13 ST DAVID'S PARK
14 PARLIAMENT LAWNS
15 SALAMANCA LAWNS
16 SOUNDY PARK
17 NORTH HOBART OVAL
18 ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL CLOSE
19 MAWSON PLACE
21 INTERNATIONAL WALL OF FRIENDSHIP
22 VICTORIA WALK
23 UTAS FACILITIES
24 COLLINS COURT

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Towards open Space indicators and targets

Indicators and targets provide a way of assessing the size and number of open spaces needed for a precinct or area where people live. The list below has been adapted from the Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines prepared by the Victorian Growth Areas Authority (2009).

Indicator	Target	Notes	Map / gap analysis
Local parks are accessible within safe walking distance of dwellings	95% of all dwellings	Safe walking distance is 400 metres. Pedestrian crossing facilities, access points and busy roads may impact accessibility	Map showing 400 walking radii from parks, indicating gaps
Active open spaces within 1 km of dwellings	95% of all dwellings	Active open spaces tend to be minimum 2Ha	Map showing 1km radii around active open spaces (greater than 2Ha)
Linear parks and trails within 1 km of	95% of all dwellings		Map showing 1km radii around entrances to linear park / trails
Total amount of open space available in residential areas	10 per cent of land area	In residential areas	Calculate by precinct (include open space area and percentage on each precinct map)
Amount of open space available in major employment areas	Approximately 2% of net developable area	Usually with passive recreation function	Calculation of open space in employment centre (include plazas and malls but not streets)
Indoor recreation facilities	Present within all residential precincts	E.g. swimming pools, climbing centres, gyms, yoga studios	Map showing these facilities

Developing a hierarchy

Developing an open space hierarchy allows us to define and classify the types of open space currently provided in Central Hobart. It is used to document the size, intended use and distribution of the existing open space, and assess what types of open space are required in the future to provide for the growth scenarios documented in various works supporting the Central Hobart Precincts Plan. A hierarchy is useful for assessing diversity within an open space network, and will guide decision making, planning and prioritising future needs.

This hierarchy, having been developed specifically for the precinct scale, could be the starting point for an expanded hierarchy for municipal or regional scales.

Applying an open space hierarchy to Central Hobart

An open space hierarchy has been developed for the Central Hobart area, with future urban renewal and intensification of residential, education, health, visitor and commercial uses in mind. The hierarchy has been applied to the existing open spaces in the Central Hobart precincts, to assess the current provision and future need. It includes public open spaces that may be outside of the boundary but that would still be accessible within the recommended distance from homes within the precincts. The categories are based on size and proximity to residences, as these factors influence the way open spaces are used and whether they are easily accessed.

Description				Examples		
Open space type	Size (Ha)	Purpose or role	Target	Place name	Area (Ha)	Uses, character, facilities, features
Regional	NA	In Hobart, regional parks cater for a broader catchment of users. Generally easily accessible to people from adjoining municipalities and may be of recreational importance and/or state or regional environmental value.	NA	Queens Domain	126	Recreational / dog walking, access to nature, mountain bike tracks, soccer fields, playground and community hub, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre, Tasmanian Cricket Association ground, athletics centre, Hobart Tennis Centre, toilets.
Municipal	Min 3 Ha	Valued by people primarily within the municipality, provide amenity or facilities of a broader scale or greater significance than neighbourhood or local parks. Cultural values may be higher than neighbourhood parks	2 km from homes	Hobart Rivulet Park	8.67	Recreational and dog walking, active travel commuter route, access to nature, waterway, interpretation and heritage
				Knocklofty Reserve	151	Recreational walking, dog walking, access to nature
Neighbourhood	Min 1 Ha	Neighbourhood uses within walking distance of homes, diversity of character and facilities that appeal to a local community. A family or groups of people can visit the park for an extended time, with a range of facilities to meet different needs. Hobart examples include Cascade Gardens and West Hobart Oval.	500m from homes	University Rose Gardens	1.19	Gardens, seating
				St David's Park	2.04	Gardens, trees, monuments, lawn areas. Significant cultural values give this park an important role.
				Princes Park	1.89	Play, mature trees, open lawn, toilets, seating, pedestrian links, interpretation
Local	0.26-0.99 Ha	Located within easy, safe walking distance of home and large enough to provide for at least two activities in the one open space reserve – eg. playground and open area with seats. Generally more intimate spaces that are not intended for large groups. However many Hobart examples in this size category include heavily utilised parks, with utilisation depending on access. Eg Caldew Park, St Andrews Park, Park, North Hobart Cultural Park	300m from homes	Soundy Park	0.7	Play, dogs, bbqs, seating, grass area
				North Hobart Cultural Park	0.7	Skating, play, bbqs, seating
				Parliament House gardens	0.69	Trees, lawn
				St Andrews Park	0.42	Play, trees, lawn

Small local (pocket park, pause point or link)	Min 0.03-0.25 Ha	Located within easy safe walking distance of home and generally able to accommodate a single use including rest and relaxation, play, socialising, urban heat mitigation, contact with nature and memorial. This could be a pause point along a pedestrian route or a linking space.	300m from homes	Garden of Memories	0.05	Seating, trees, memorial, pause point
				Railway Roundabout		Seating, trees, lawn, fountain – pedestrian link / pause point
Urban Plaza	NA	Generally small spaces within the precincts plan area, but may not include greenery or access to nature. Could include laneways, courtyards and malls, important for city workers, often part of the road asset class. Publically accessible urban plazas can also be provided as part of commercial and government buildings.	NA	Elizabeth Mall		Retail area, art, seating, dining, trees, pedestrian link
				Wellington Court		Retail area, public art, seating, activations
				Collins Court		Seating, tree, pedestrian links
				Mathers Place		Seating, trees, pedestrian links, activations
				Franklin Square	0.64	Monument, seating, water feature, trees
				Mawson Place		Seating, waterside access, shade, pavilion, interpretation
Ancillary	NA	Not in public ownership however may contribute to the open space provision of the community if they are able to be accessed by the public. The University of Tasmania has provided some and plans to provide more open spaces as part of their development. These spaces are intended to be open and accessible. They are valuable spaces but not reserved or zoned for open space, and therefore these values could be lost at a later time.	NA	University courtyards and laneways around the Melville Street apartments		Seating, pedestrian linkages, trees and greening

Assessing the current provision

The current provision of public open space in Central Hobart, including the strengths and gaps, is shown in the maps in this section, drawing on the hierarchy and the key indicators. Each open space has a role within the network depending on size, location, character and use. For this analysis, size and location were the basis for assessing future needs. Character, heritage, use, biodiversity and cultural values are important for a more comprehensive understanding, but they have not been assessed in this analysis.

Distribution

To deliver the benefits of open space to the population, public open spaces need to be provided within easy walking distance for most people in the community. A 400 metre distance is used as a proxy for a five minute walk to a local open space. Busy roads and hills are barriers that impact walkable access. The following pages show gaps in the network according to walkable distance to local parks, access to walking routes and larger parks that promote physical activity. As the city grows, additional open spaces will be needed to address these gaps.

Are there local parks within safe walking distance of dwellings?

Local open spaces are large enough to provide for at least two activities in the one open space reserve – eg. a playground and open grassed area with seats. These are generally more intimate spaces that are not intended for large groups, however they can be programmed to host larger gatherings in an organised way, such as Street Eats at Franklin Square. In Central Hobart and the surrounding neighbourhoods, parks in the local size category include very heavily utilised parks, e.g. Caldew Park, Soundy Park and North Hobart Cultural Park.

Observations:

- St Andrews Park, Franklin Square and North Hobart Cultural (Skate) Park all contribute to the open space network in the Central Hobart area, however there are gaps where current and future residents or workers are not within easy walking distance of a local open space

- For urban local parks to be well utilised, they need to be located near existing pedestrian networks. St Andrews Park is an example of a park that is not well located for pedestrian access, being off the main walking route. Consequently it is underutilised
- UTAS master plan proposes small open spaces along Melville Street that would provide open spaces to people living, working and studying in Hobart.
- Opportunities for a new public open space should be sought in the south western part of the central Hobart area where there are clear gaps. Ideally, land adjoining the waterway and sites that are well connected within the pedestrian and cycling network should be prioritised.
- Opportunities to provide, partner or acquire new local public spaces should be sought in areas that are likely to experience an increase in residential development. For example, there may be an opportunity to provide public access to Campbell Street Primary School grounds outside of school hours.

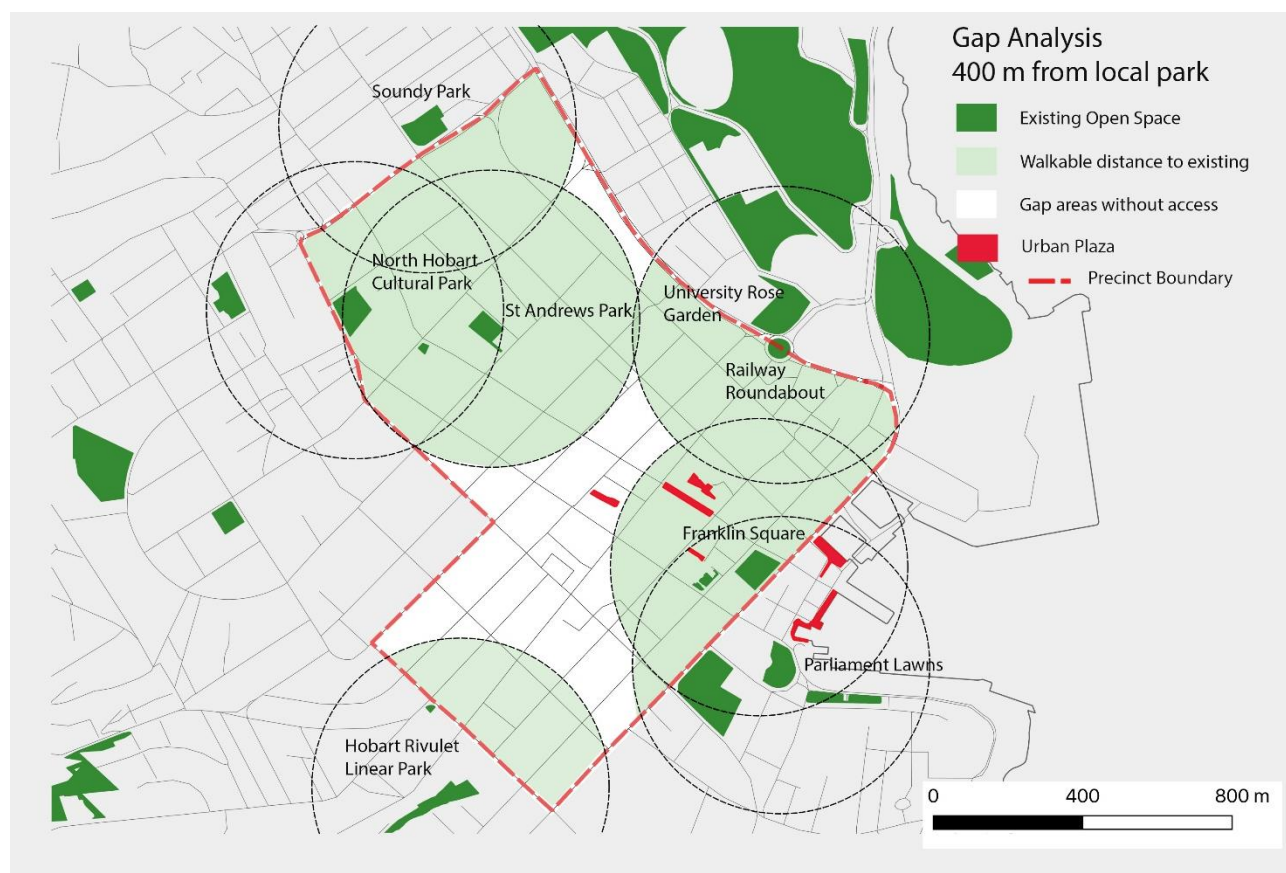


Figure 7. Local parks 400m walkable catchment analysis.

Are there larger open spaces to encourage physical activity, within 1 km of dwellings?

People are more likely to participate in physical activity and gain physical and mental health benefits when accessing open spaces that are about 1.5 hectares or more¹². Therefore, larger spaces are needed to support healthy, active communities.

Observations:

- A number of larger parks providing opportunities for physical activity are located within 1km of most of the Central Hobart area.
- Parks with sports fields that are open to the public like Queens Domain, Hobart Rivulet Park, West Hobart Oval, Cornelian Bay, provide for informal ball sports as well as

organised sport, contributing to healthy and active communities

- Walking connections, toilets and park access points are important to ensure ease of access by walking or cycling
- North Hobart Oval could be opened up for public use at certain times to provide additional options for informal active recreation.
- Consider strengthening pedestrian connectivity between the northern part of Central Hobart and the Queens Domain
- Larger public spaces allow for community gardens / urban agriculture. Consider opportunities for community-led gardens near residential areas

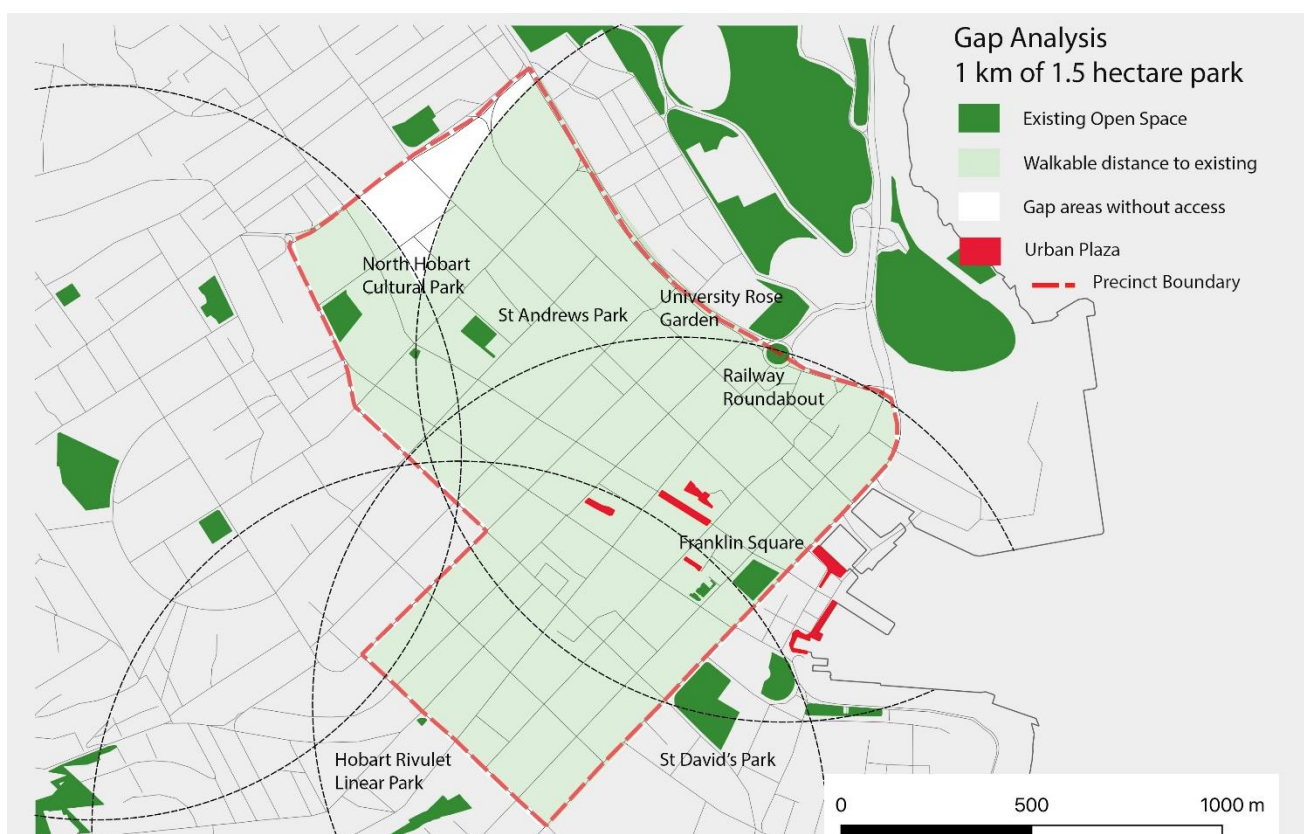


Figure 8. 1.5Ha or larger parks within 1km walkable catchment analysis.

¹² Veitch, J., Salmon, J., Parker, K., Bangay, S., Deforche, B., Timperio, A., (2016) Adolescents' ratings of features of parks that encourage park visitation and

physical activity, International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity, 13:73

Are there linear parks and trails for recreational walking within 1 km of dwellings?

Access to longer recreational walking routes, loops, circuits and trails, including for dog walking and walking for fitness, is an important consideration for healthy and active communities. Off-street walking trails should be accessible within 1km of homes to provide opportunities for longer walks.

Observations:

- A number of recreational walks are available from Central Hobart, including the Hobart Rivulet Park Track which can provide walking access to the summit of kunanyi/Mount Wellington. The Rivulet Track is also a popular active transport commuter route
- Addition of new pedestrian bridges at the Brooker and Tasman Highways has provided excellent recreational walking opportunities to the Queens Domain, and to the Regatta Grounds and the InterCity Cycleway which can connect to Cornelian Bay and beyond to the northern suburbs along the former rail line.

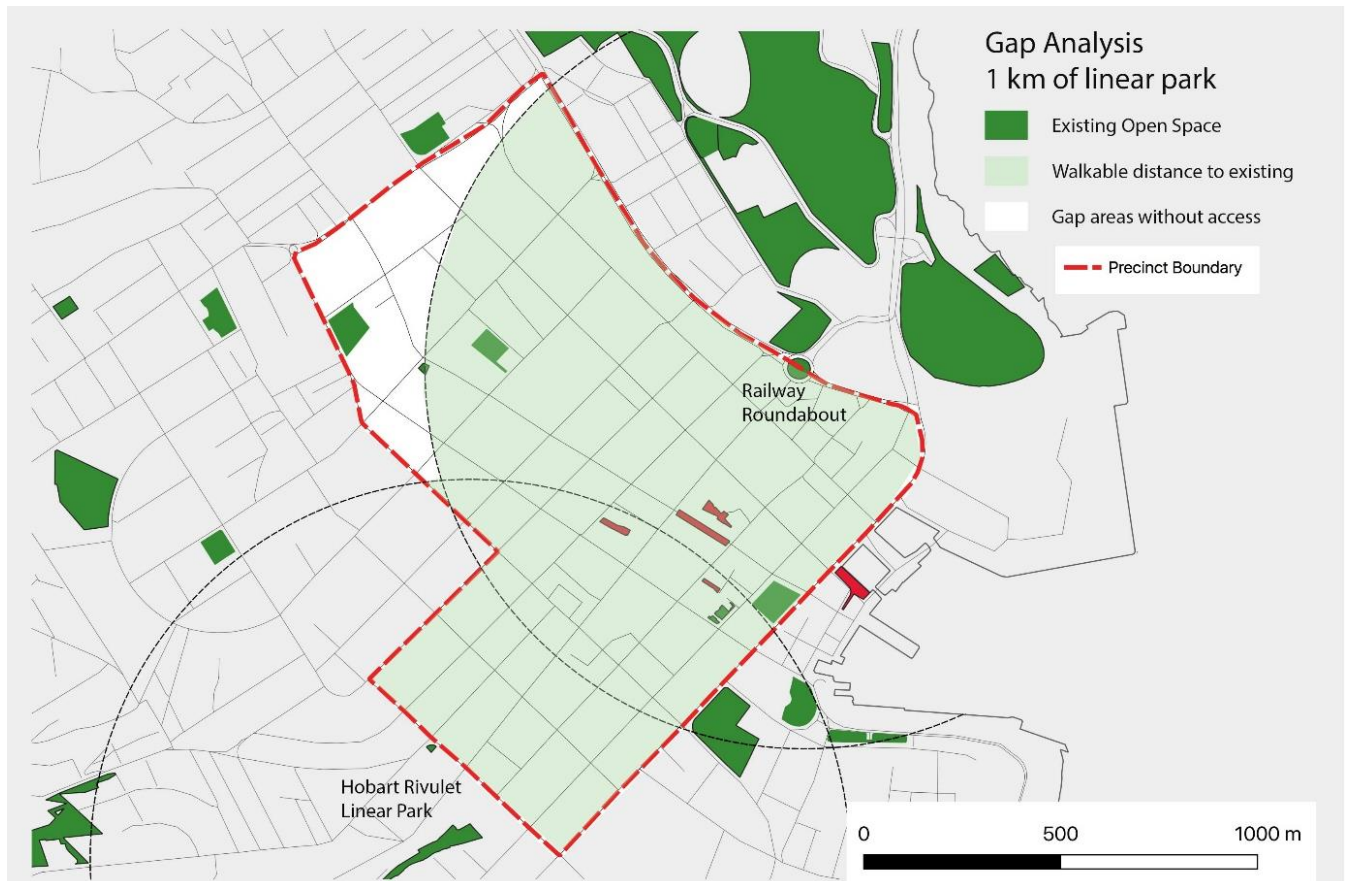


Figure 9. Hobart Rivulet Linear Park and Railway Roundabout 1Km walkable catchment analysis.

Design principles for new open spaces

The following principles are proposed to guide open space planning and design within the Central Hobart precinct area. These are drawn from a review of current best practice literature on open space provision in the context of urban infill developments, discussions with City of Hobart staff from a range of areas, and relevant studies specific to the Central Hobart built environment.

Walkable and connected – open spaces are successful when located strategically to strengthen the pedestrian network. A well-functioning network connects the public spaces in an attractive and inviting way to lead people from space to space through the city. New spaces are accessible to all and should have more than one entry point.

Green and alive – open spaces and living assets contribute to the urban forest, mitigating urban heat, contributing to wellbeing and bringing nature into the city. Wherever possible, trees should be incorporated into open spaces, including urban plazas and streets for people. Parks and plazas should incorporate green surfaces such as lawns, grasses and planter beds

as appropriate. Sunlight should be prioritised and protected to public open spaces.

Characteristic – local sense of place is strengthened through high quality landscape design that references landscape, heritage, community and culture. Local community input should be invited at the earliest stages of design.

Diverse – open spaces provide experiences for everyone, with a variety of uses and facilities.

Playful – a city that is child and family friendly is inviting for everyone. Strengthen opportunities for physical play, recreation, interactive elements, evening and winter activities. Seek opportunities for public realm and open space design to deliver ‘surprise and delight’¹³ through urban art programs, playful interpretation and signage, and furniture.

Multifunctional – open spaces perform many functions and good design will explore and provide adaptable, multipurpose spaces which deliver wide ranging benefits for residents. For example, a well-designed park provides opportunities for social connection and events, access to nature, physical activity, urban cooling and management of rain water.

¹³ Gehl associates, 2010, Hobart: A city with people in mind.

Potential future directions

A number of potential future directions related to open space and urban greening are proposed, to ensure that open space provision is suitable for meeting the needs of the growing urban community in Hobart.

Relevant directions outlined in the Central Hobart Precincts Plan – Discussion Paper

The following directions have been included for community consultation in the Central Hobart Precincts Plan's discussion paper, including:

Idea seven: Greening the city

- Increase tree planting, green open space and water-sensitive urban design features
- Make better use of current open spaces
- Coordinate with other agencies to formalise public access to other open spaces, such as school and church grounds
- Work with UTAS to ensure the new open spaces provided as part of its relocation to the city centre are well, designed, open to all and integrated with other public open spaces
- Seek opportunities to provide pocket parks and local parks where there are gaps in provision
- Develop plans for increasing (and valuing as assets) blue and green infrastructure, working with natural systems to increase resilience

Idea eight: Connecting with the landscape

- Seek opportunities to improve pedestrian and cycling connectivity between Central Hobart and the waterfront
- As residential communities develop, plan for appropriate walkable connections to the green spaces nearby, including Queens Domain, Hobart Rivulet Park and Knocklofty Reserve
- Work with the Macquarie Point Development Corporation to ensure the development site is connected and accessible to and from the Central Hobart area and the Waterfront
- Continue to strengthen the pedestrian and cycling connection between Hobart Rivulet Park and the city, with a focus on improved active travel infrastructure on Collins Street
- Maintain and celebrate key view corridors and visual connections to the surrounding landscape

Idea twelve: Environmental excellence

- Encourage the development of green roofs and green walls, develop guidance and policy

Idea thirteen: Sustainable travel choices

- Develop a streetscape master plan for Elizabeth Street, and other key city streets
- Consider ways of improving amenity for walking by improving pedestrian crossings, planting street trees and creating high-quality environments

Future open space directions

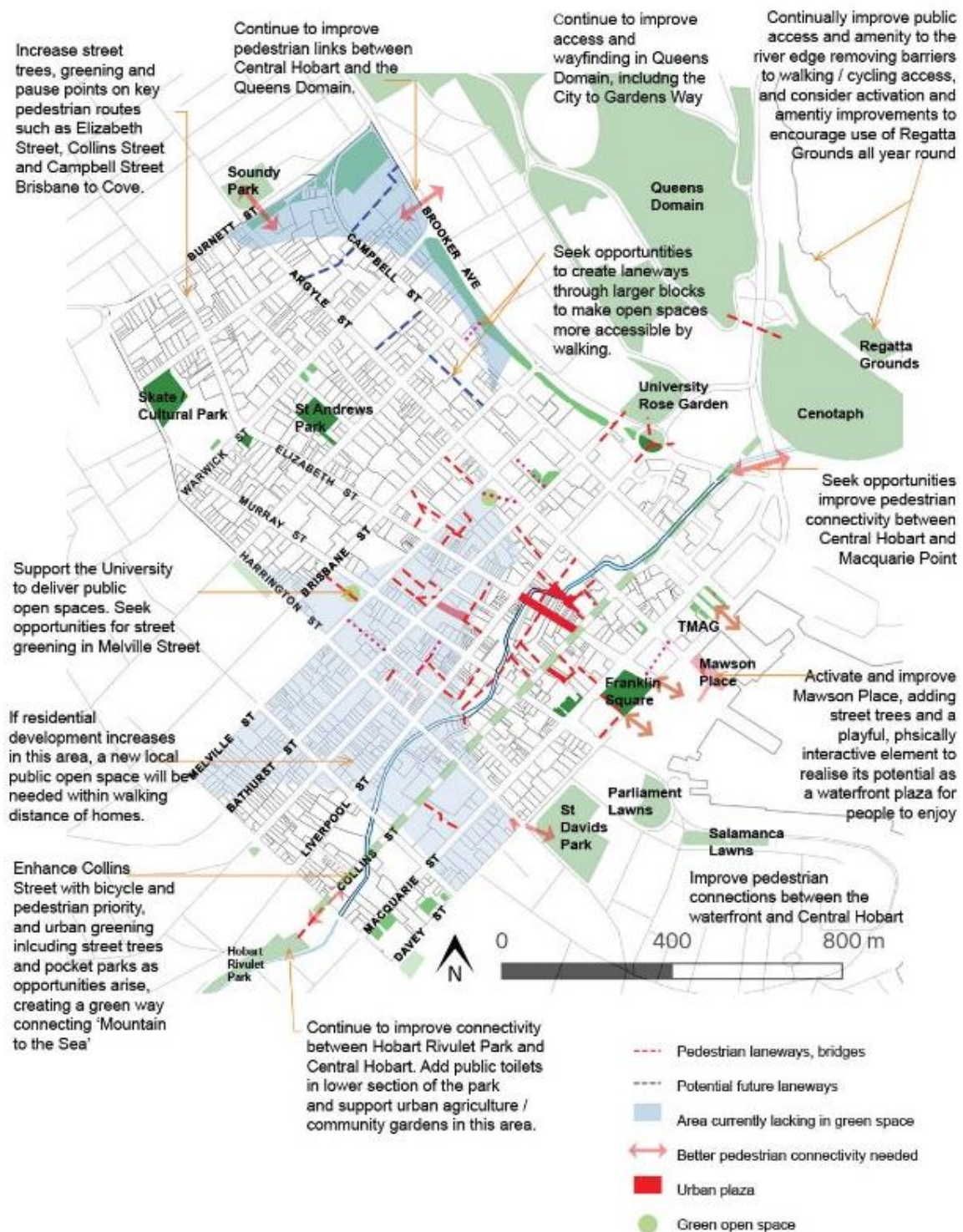


Figure 10. Proposed future open space ideas.

Additional directions based on open space analysis

The below list includes general directions for open space planning, emerging from the needs analysis. These are in addition to the directions included in the table above, from the CHPP discussion paper.

- Identify opportunities for future open spaces and urban greening in the areas that currently lack green space and in high pedestrian areas, including:
 - o pocket parks, pause points and street greening along key pedestrian routes to provide green ‘moments’
 - o As residential densities increase, seek opportunity to provide a high quality local green open space that is large enough for active uses and a range of users. A similar size to Soundy Park.
- Encourage active edges with commercial, civic or community uses to new open spaces where possible
- Prioritise streetscape improvements (using streets for people principles) where footfall is high, or where there is a desire to significantly grow footfall – i.e. along key walking routes and central retail area.
- Seek opportunities to reveal, interpret and ‘re-wild’ Hobart Rivulet where the technical constraints allow. Increase water sensitive urban design across the city including rain gardens and green spaces in overland flow paths, to increase greening and ground surface permeability.

Summary of recommendations - make better use of existing parks:

Descriptions of each of the existing parks can be found in Appendix 1.

Franklin Square

- Continue to support Franklin Square as a place for quiet reflection, and also as an events space for community events and cultural celebrations such as Street Eats @ Franko, Dark MOFO, art installations and busking
- Continue succession planning for the maturing trees, seek opportunities to better connect the park with the city and waterfront, and to activate public facing edges (such as the Treasury buildings).

Mathers Place

- Mathers Place is an example of how good design can make the most of underutilised urban spaces, transforming back lanes and car parks into green and interesting spaces where people want to spend time.
- Other opportunities to develop pedestrian links and courtyards could be sought as Hobart develops.
- Mathers Place has potential to provide an outdoor function space for Playhouse Theatre opening nights or roving performances.
- Any future remodelling of the State Library could provide a high quality public entrance and outdoor space by positioning an entrance facing Mathers Place, increasing the 'active edges' and further enhancing the community value of this area

North Hobart Cultural Park (Skate Park)

- Skate Park is very popular for active recreation with young people who may not be well catered for in other settings in the city. It is important in the precincts plan to not have a net loss of this type of open space for young people and instead there should be a net gain.

- Consideration could be given to use and programming and design within the park, in the context of the City's Social Inclusion principles, to determine the optimal balance of facilities and user groups being catered for here, in the context of the precinct.

St Andrews Park

- St Andrews Park is a beautiful, sunny open space with potential for greater utilisation. It has potential to become a neighbourhood focal point, as residential uses develop in surrounding precincts.
- There is potential for the park to provide greater neighbourhood benefits with community-led placemaking events or celebrations, or more day-to-day local uses such as a community garden or barbecue facilities.

Garden of Memories

- Encourage further active edges as adjacent sites are developed
- Consider streetscape improvements to further enhance the 'pause point' appeal of the pocket park (refer to the Local Retail Precincts Plan for concept design)
- Look for other opportunities for corner pocket parks, along busy pedestrian routes, to provide high quality, compact local, green open spaces as the city grows.

Railway Roundabout

- Proximity to the Royal Hobart Hospital could provide accessible open space opportunities for patients and staff.
- Potential for creative activations, with capacity for light installations, creative community projects and roving performances.
- An important connecting role between the CBD and open spaces and facilities on the Domain.

TMAG gardens

- This tiny garden provides design cues for future landscaping around the TMAG site and central city, using local indigenous plants to

create inviting entries, a green refuge from the street and a strengthened sense of local place and connection to country where the original shoreline of Derwent was located. This location is of particular significance to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community for this reason.

- The gardens may be removed or remodelled during a future stage of TMAG expansion. The concept design for that next stage must include an expansive public space with similar indigenous plantings, in a different position on the Dunn Street Car Park site.

Wellington Court

- Potential to develop, with stakeholders, a place plan to revitalise Wellington Court
- Revitalisation should aim for a space that is family-friendly, playful, vibrant and alive, with trees and greening, and include a year-round activation plan co-created with surrounding commercial tenants and community groups, to ensure spaces are lively and attractive.
- Consider using Wellington Court for artistic and evening events – such as Light up the Lane, with opportunities for music and projections

University Rose Gardens

- The use of the garden is currently dominated by people walking or cycling through, however with the University utilising the Domain campus the park may see greater use and activation in future
- Any interventions must be sympathetic to the historic values
- Wayfinding between the city and the Queens Domain through the City to Gardens Way project will improve awareness and visibility of the garden
- Potential for e-scooter tours for tourists to access the Queens Domain
- The University Rose Garden also has the potential to provide access to nature and a 'healing garden' for patients and staff of the Royal Hobart Hospital, their families and carers.

Queens Domain

- For a growing city residential population, Queens Domain provides outstanding opportunities for access to nature, fresh air and exercise, within walking distance from the City.
- Access to the park, although improved significantly with the construction of the Bridge of Remembrance and Rose Garden Bridge, may need further improvements in order for an expanding residential population to be able to take advantage of the Queens Domain as a local park. This may mean a future pedestrian access point or bridge near the northern end of the Central Hobart Precincts Plan area.
- Continue to improve wayfinding with the City to Gardens Way project, and consider the potential for more people to access the Queens Domain with bikes and e-scooters.

Hobart Rivulet Park

- Consider ways to reveal the waterway, coupled with green space, in the urban reaches
- Improve connections between the Central Hobart area and the Hobart Rivulet Park (will be delivered with the installation of pedestrian traffic signals at the corner of Molle and Collins Street)
- Further improvements along Collins Street to enhance the route as a pedestrian and cycle green way, will further connect the Hobart Rivulet Park into the city
- As residential uses in the Central Hobart area grows, Hobart Rivulet Park will provide important local open space values for people living and working within the Rivulet precinct
- Options for community gardens for city residents, or other community-led uses, in the lower area of the Rivulet Park

St Davids Park

- A significant heritage site, any interventions should be sensitive to the historic values of the park
- The rotunda lends itself to musical and circus performances with removable balustrading

allowing for the use of scaffolding to create additional stage area.

- Creative uses should be encouraged to provide cultural experiences for the community in a beautiful green setting.

Parliament Lawns

- Succession planning for the very mature trees in and around Parliament Lawns is important to ensure a sustainable living canopy

Salamanca Lawns

- The Salamanca Lawns are an important green refuge within the waterfront and like the Parliament Lawns area, succession planning for the mature trees is important to ensure replacements can be staged and to avoid many trees reaching end of life at the same time.
- Salamanca Lawns form part of a green corridor that connects Princes Park to St Davids Park. Future opportunities should be sought to introduce trees and greening in the 'gaps' currently occupied by car parking.

- The lawns are used regularly as a spillover venue for seasonal food festivals (Taste, Winter Feast) based in Princes Wharf. A tight management regime is required to ensure the longevity of the lawns

Soundy Park

- The size, siting and design of Soundy Park provides for a good mix of active and passive recreational activities, group sizes and user groups in the local area.
- For the Central Hobart Precincts Planning project, consideration of another park of similar size in the area would ensure the open space needs of a growing residential, worker and student population are catered for.

North Hobart Oval

- Given the popularity of nearby Soundy Park as North Hobart's local park and the need for more public open space in the Central Hobart area, consideration in future could be given to opening the ground to community use for exercise at some times.

APPENDIX 1 Existing public spaces in and near to Central Hobart

1 Franklin Square

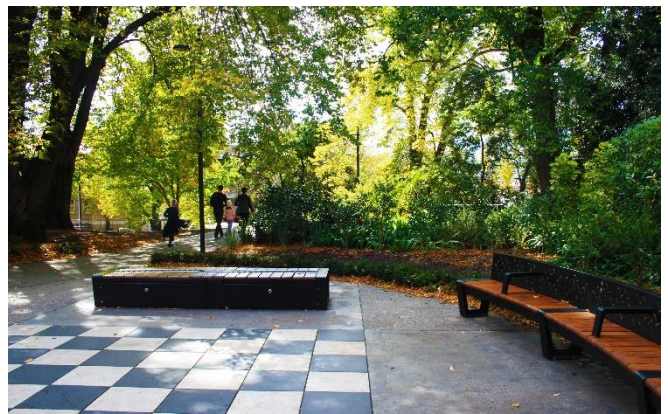
Franklin Square is a historic city park located in the heart of the central precinct, flanked by significant heritage architecture including Treasury Buildings, Hobart Town Hall, Hobart GPO and St Davids Cathedral. Its lawns, formal paths and garden beds, central fountain and mature deciduous trees, and proximity to the bus mall, make this a popular park for workers and students for everyday activities like relaxing, eating lunch and meeting friends. Active physical uses such as play are limited by the relatively small size (0.64Ha), lack of activated edges and the high traffic volumes on the surrounding road network.

Franklin Square is sited where British settlers first established camp, on Muwinina country in 1803. This and many other stories of colonisation and dispossession of first nations people have led to the site being described as a place of sorrow by members of today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community. In recent years the City of Hobart has instigated artworks 'Two Islands' and a series of reinterpretations of the William Crowther memorial presenting other narratives and inviting the community to discuss issues of identity and truth.

Guided by a Heritage Conservation Plan (2007) and Master Plan (2013) Franklin Square was rejuvenated in 2018, designed to celebrate its earlier gardenesque design, be more accessible to all users and equipping the park for contemporary use. Following the refurbishment, 'Street eats @ Franko' has brought stalls, installations and food vans, live music on Fridays through summer season - a family-friendly attraction for locals and visitors.

Planning considerations

- Continue to support Franklin Square as a place for quiet reflection, and also as an events space for community events and cultural celebrations such as Street Eats @ Franko, Dark MOFO, art installations and busking
- Continue succession planning for the maturing trees, seek opportunities to better connect the park with the city and waterfront, and to activate public facing edges (such as the Treasury buildings).



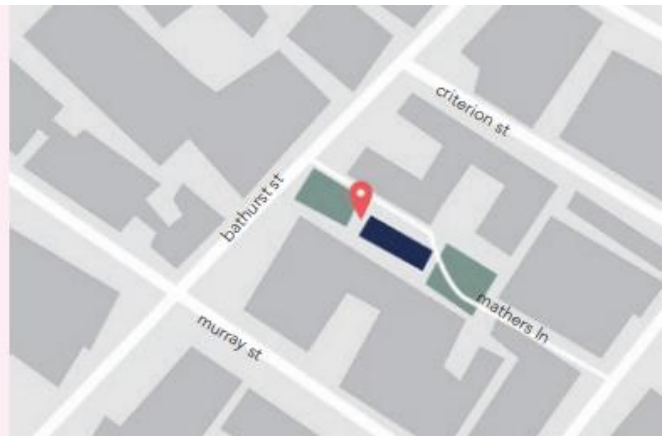
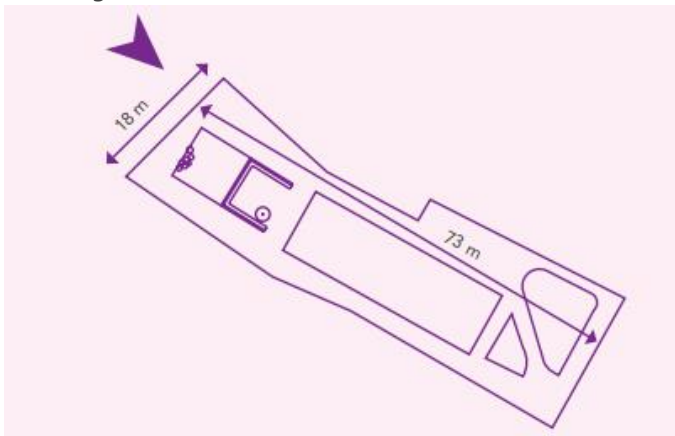
2 Mathers Place

Mathers Place is a pedestrian link connecting Bathurst, Criterion and Liverpool Streets, in a high foot-fall part of the city. There are two pocket parks with manicured, level grassed areas and amphitheatre style seating to pause and take in the city atmosphere. It is also creative space featuring public art with a program of works on rotation and occasional events such as 'Light up the Lane'.

Mathers Place is surrounded by community uses, including Mathers House providing programs for older people, the State Library, a childcare centre and Playhouse Theatre. The space is popular with people accessing the nearby shops and services, being in the city's busiest retail area with high levels of footfall and few green spaces. Many small businesses, shops and cafes are located in the surrounding streets and lanes, and a recent addition of a new window and doorway providing an adjacent café with a frontage to the courtyard, demonstrates the benefit of ensuring that public spaces are faced with 'active edges' – creating safer and more interesting people places.

Mathers Place is well used on Sundays for play, dining, socialising, rest and performance space for the weekly Farm Gate Market.

Planning considerations



- Mathers Place is an example of how good design can make the most of underutilised urban spaces, transforming back lanes and car parks into green and interesting spaces where people want to spend time.
- Other opportunities to develop pedestrian links and courtyards could be sought as Hobart develops.
- Mathers Place has potential to provide an outdoor function space for Playhouse Theatre opening nights or roving performances.
- Any future remodelling of the State Library could provide a high quality public entrance and outdoor space by positioning an entrance facing Mathers Place, increasing the 'active edges' and further enhancing the community value of this area



3 North Hobart Cultural Park/Skate Park

Hobart's largest Skate Park is located on Murray and Tasma Streets, next to Elizabeth College. It provides a skating facility, children's playground and public toilets in a green setting.

The 0.7Ha local park features interpretation about Hobart's multicultural community including a migration wall and cultural totem poles.

The park is a popular and regular attraction for young people who enjoy skating and scootering, and the co-location with Elizabeth College enhances the youth appeal.

However as much of the park is dedicated to skating, there are other groups who may feel that the design of the park is not inclusive or accessible to them. For example, women, younger children and older people.



Planning considerations

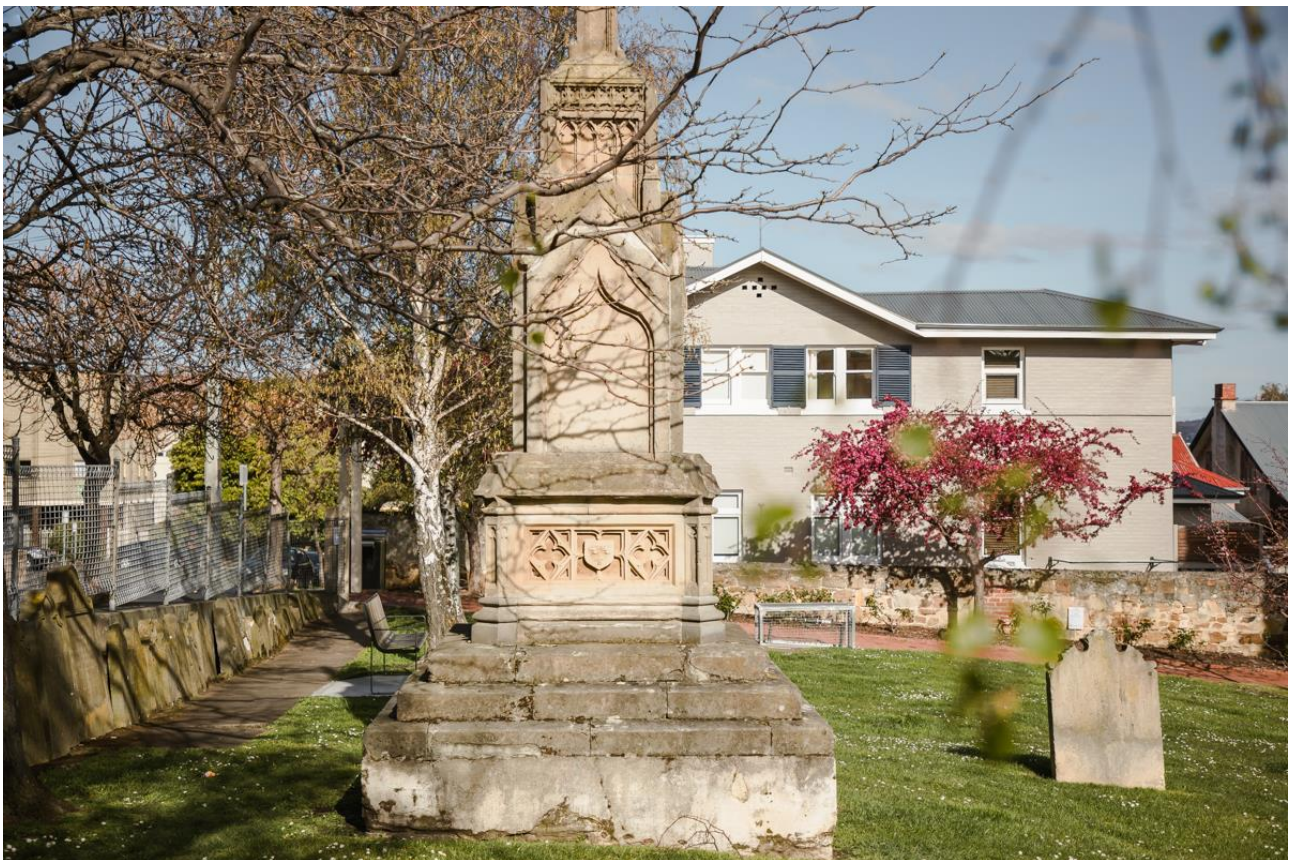
- Skate Park is very popular for active recreation with young people who may not be well catered for in other settings in the city. It is important in the precincts plan to not have a net loss of this type of open space for young people and instead there should be a net gain.
- Consideration could be given to use and programming and design within the park, in the context of the City's Social Inclusion principles, to determine the optimal balance of facilities and user groups being catered for here, in the context of the precinct.

4 St Andrew's Park

St Andrew's Park is a small local park of 0.42 hectares in Hobart's Trinity Hill neighbourhood. It features play equipment, seating, a grassy area, bins, shade trees and lighting, and dog walking is allowed. The park's location is relatively close to Elizabeth Street and is one of very few green spaces in the Central Hobart area, however visitation is low because it is not connected to or visible from a main pedestrian corridor. The footpath gradient is steep for visitors to reach the park from either Elizabeth Street or Argyle Street, and this limits its use to the local neighbourhood.

The park faces Church Street and is also connected to Patrick Street by a tree lined laneway.

The heritage listed park was originally the Presbyterian Burial Ground associated with St. Andrew's (now Scots) Church. The first burial took place in 1829, and in 1933 it was gifted to the Council and converted to a memorial reserve with the graves moved to Cornelian Bay and many gravestones still present on site.



Planning considerations

- St Andrews Park is a beautiful, sunny open space with potential for greater utilisation. It has potential to become a neighbourhood focal point, as residential uses develop in surrounding precincts.
- There is potential for the park to provide greater neighbourhood benefits with community-led placemaking events or celebrations, or more day-to-day local uses such as urban agriculture or barbecue facilities.

5 Garden of Memories

The Garden of Memories is a small pocket park (0.05Ha) on the corner of Warwick Street and Elizabeth Street. It was once the site of George Augustus Robinson's home, and today commemorates the service of guide dogs. It is a popular pause point along the busy pedestrian route between the CBD and North Hobart, with deciduous trees offering shade in summer. It is well used by nearby students from Elizabeth College, as a meeting place, and the nearby café activates the site with outdoor dining spilling out from one edge. This 'active edge' ensures that the park feels alive and inviting.



Planning considerations

- Encourage further active edges as adjacent sites are developed
- Consider streetscape improvements to further enhance the 'pause point' appeal of the pocket park
- Look for other opportunities for corner pocket parks, along busy pedestrian routes, to provide high quality, compact local, green open spaces as the city grows.

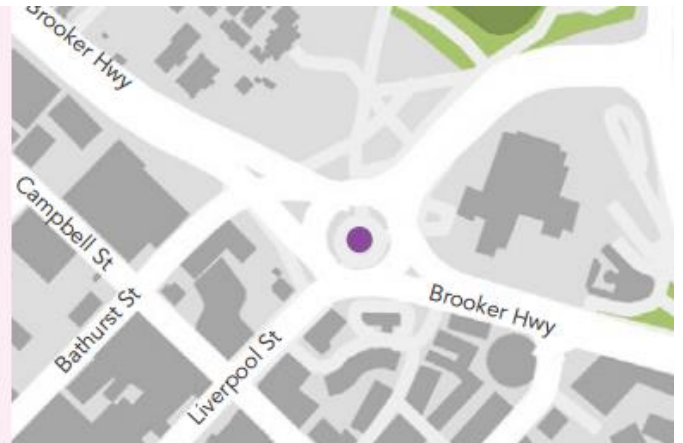
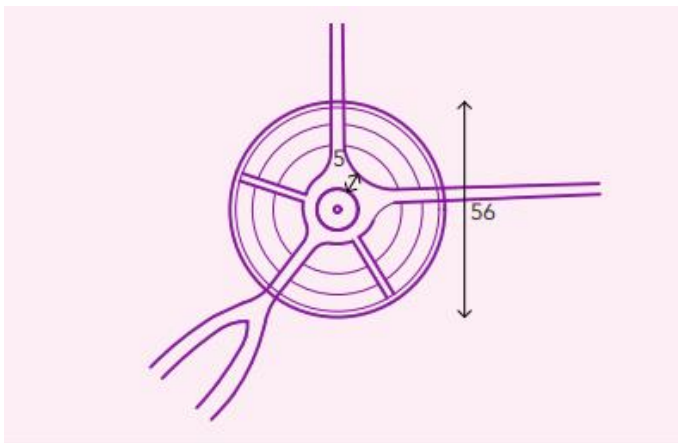
6 Railway Roundabout Fountain

Railway Roundabout is Hobart's quirky, award-winning traffic circle located on the eastern edge of City at the gateway to Central Hobart. It was designed in 1963 as a competition entry by three engineering students who were employees of Cadbury. After restoration works in 2012, the roundabout was named 'world roundabout of the year' by the International Roundabout Appreciation Society who were impressed by the dedication and inventiveness taken to restore Hobart's favourite roundabout.



It was built as a connection between the CBD, the Queens Domain and the then central railway station (which is where the ABC building is today). The roundabout featured on postcards of the day, promoting Hobart as a future-focussed city after WW11.

It features a modernist fountain which sits in the centre of a circular, terraced garden and path network allowing pedestrians to walk through under the roadway. The space provides pedestrian connectivity between the city centre, the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre, Hobart Tennis Centre, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, University Rose Gardens and the University's Domain Precinct. A rejuvenation of the fountain in 2013 included colour changing lighting and sensors to adjust the fountain's jets in windy conditions. Power and seating are available.



Planning considerations

- Potential for creative activations, with capacity for light installations, creative community projects and roving performances.
- An important connecting role between the CBD and open spaces of the Domain.
- Proximity to the Royal Hobart Hospital could provide accessible open space opportunities for patients and staff.

7 TMAG Gardens

The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Garden is a tiny, walk-through native garden that connects Macquarie Street to Dunn Street, and provides the entry experience to the courtyard entry to TMAG.

The over-story trees provide a cool refuge from the hotter urban streetscape, and the detail is delightfully informal with a mix of sandstone pavers at the street edge, compacted sandstone gravel within the garden and a selection of local native ground covers. An Aboriginal language installation provides glimpses of the pre-colonial place.

Although small in scale, the garden provides a striking juxtaposition against the colonial sandstone architecture of the TMAG complex, imbuing this corner with an authentic local sense of place. The private

courtyard space and the more public garden spaces work together, with the inner courtyard creating a contained space for people, activity and gathering, and the gardens providing an inviting entrance experience, complementing the architecture and contributing to the street.



Planning considerations

- The site may be redeveloped in a future stage of TMAG expansion. The concept design for that next stage includes an expansive public space, in a different position on the Dunn Street Car Park site.
- This tiny garden provides design cues for future landscaping around the TMAG site and central city, using local indigenous plants to create inviting entries, a green refuge from the street and a strengthened sense of local place and connection to country where the original shoreline of Derwent was located. This location is of particular significance to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community for this reason.

8 Wellington Court

An internal urban courtyard that connects, via a series of arcades and laneways from Liverpool and Collins Street, Elizabeth Street Mall to Argyle Street. Wellington Court contains a small play facility, a fountain and outdoor seating and is a popular venue for a weekday lunch or coffee and buskers.

Wellington Court is a busy city square, edged by retail frontages, including an entrance to Wellington Centre and Argyle Street car park. At times, the space has been an attractive community hub, it was once the home of the City's enormous Christmas tree and more recently, was used to screen the Olympics.

In recent times, antisocial behaviour has created issues for retailers, and activation efforts have assisted in lifting the atmosphere.

There is potential, with input from local stakeholders, for this square to be refreshed and further activated. Renewed infrastructure, playful urban design and greening would enhance the appeal and safety of Wellington Court.



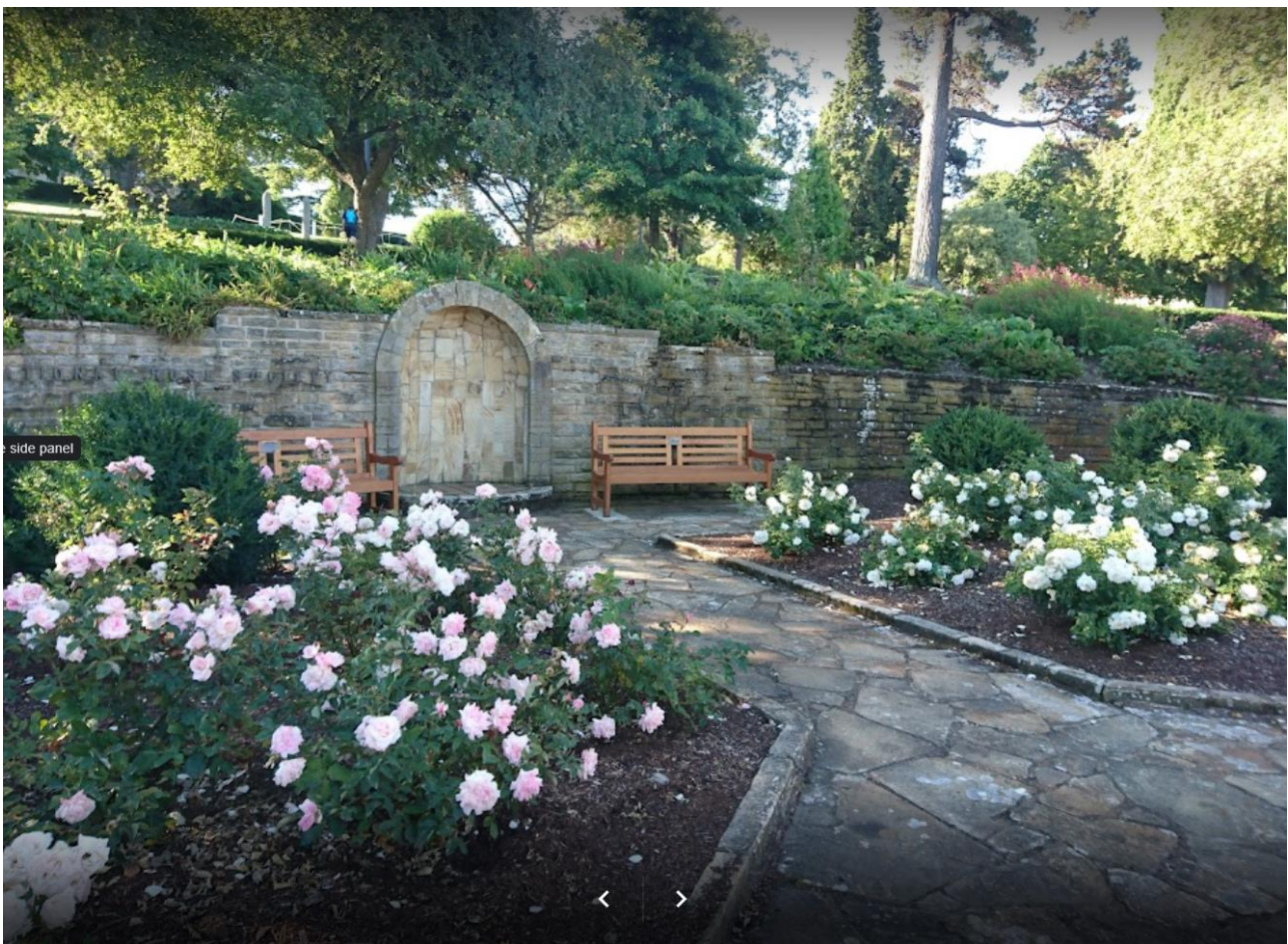
Planning considerations

- Potential to develop, with stakeholders, a place plan to revitalise Wellington Court.
- Revitalisation should aim for a space that is family-friendly, playful, vibrant and alive, with trees and greening, and include a year-round activation plan co-created with surrounding commercial tenants and community groups, to ensure spaces are lively and attractive.
- Consider using Wellington Court for artistic and evening events – such as Light up the Lane, with opportunities for music and projections.

9 University Rose Gardens

The heritage listed University Rose Garden provides a formal parkland gateway into the neighbouring Queens Domain and only a short five minute walk from the CBD via the Railway Roundabout or the Rose Garden Bridge.

Located on the City corner of Queens Domain, the 1.2 Hectare garden once formed part of the grounds of the University of Tasmania and today contains approximately 1500 rose specimens which are renowned amongst rose enthusiasts. It provides a classical parkland retreat for city workers, and a connection for commuters on foot or bike, passing through to the Aquatic Centre, Intercity Cycleway or Cenotaph.



Planning considerations

- The use of the garden is currently dominated by people walking or cycling through, however as University activity increasingly occupies the Domain campus, the park may see greater use and activation in future
- Any physical interventions must be sympathetic to the historic values
- Wayfinding between the city and the Queens Domain – through the City to Gardens Way project – will improve awareness and visibility of the garden
- Potential for e-scooter tours for tourists to access the Queens Domain

- The University Rose Garden also has the potential to provide access to nature and a 'healing garden' for patients and staff of the Royal Hobart Hospital, their families and carers.

11 Queens Domain

Hobart's premier urban park, the Queens Domain, is located on the northern edge of the City on the edge of the Derwent River. It covers 230 hectares of primarily bushland and contains a range of recreation attractions, facilities and values.

Surrounded by urban development and Hobart's road network, the Domain is a large patchwork landscape of remnant escarpment bushland containing key regional/state based sports facilities for cricket, tennis, swimming, athletics, and football; cultural elements including sites and landscapes of Aboriginal and biodiversity value, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Government House, the State's pre-eminent war memorial at the Cenotaph, Regatta Grounds and the historically significant Soldiers Memorial Avenue and other important heritage buildings and sites. These values and facilities are set amidst large tracts of rare native open grassy woodlands containing nationally endangered plant species.

The implementation of the City's *Queens Domain Master Plan 2013-2033* has driven a range of improvements facilitating better pedestrian and cycling access to and within the Queens Domain. Of particular importance to Central Hobart is the construction of the two new pedestrian and cycle bridges in 2019 that connect the city to the Domain. In the same year a range of new facilities were opened including Legacy Park, a regional playground and community hub next to the Soldiers Memorial Ovals, a multi-use jogging, cycling and pedestrian track; the Summit Loop, a mountain bike track that circumnavigates the summit of the Domain, the completion of the reinstatement of the Soldiers Memorial Avenue, and improvements to sporting and picnic facilities.

Development of a primary trail network known as the City to Gardens Way is programmed for 2022-2023; it will connect the City to the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. The Macquarie Point Development authority recently constructed a new stairway that connects Sullivans Cove to the Cenotaph. The Macquarie Point Development Plan proposes another stair and lift that will connect Macquarie Point to the Regatta Grounds.



Planning considerations

- For a growing city residential population, Queens Domain provides outstanding opportunities for access to nature, fresh air and exercise, within walking distance from the City.
- Access to the park, although improved significantly with the construction of the Bridge of Remembrance and Rose Garden Bridge, may need further improvements in order for an expanding residential population to be able to take advantage of the Queens domain as a local park. This may

mean a future pedestrian access point near the northern end of the Central Hobart Precincts Plan area.

- Continue to improve wayfinding with the City to Gardens Way project, and consider the potential for more people to access the Queens Domain with e-scooters.

12 Hobart Rivulet Park

The Hobart Rivulet Park is a linear reserve that serves as an important recreational corridor linking the mountain into Central Hobart. The rivulet track provides pedestrian and cycling links for locals, visitors and commuters extending 2.5 kilometres from the CBD to South Hobart following the banks of the Hobart Rivulet. The park entrance is located at Molle Street in the City which then connects to the World Heritage listed Cascades Female Factory, Cascade Gardens, Cascade Brewery in South Hobart, and then into the vast network of recreational tracks and trails of the wilder kunanyi/Mt Wellington.

The Hobart Rivulet trail passes through rivulet parkland and plantings with the spectacular scenic backdrop of kunanyi/Mt Wellington. Along the trail, seating, play facilities, heritage interpretation and free electric barbecues are found, and further afield Cascade Gardens also offers a playground, expansive lawns and mature trees, picnic facilities and toilets.



Planning considerations

- A masterplan for Hobart Rivulet Park guides future planning directions for this park
- Improved connections between the Central Hobart area and the Hobart Rivulet Park will be delivered with the installation of pedestrian traffic signals at the corner of Molle and Collins Street
- Further improvements along Collins Street to enhance the route as a pedestrian and cycle green way, will further connect the Hobart Rivulet Park into the city
- As residential uses in the Central Hobart area grows, Hobart Rivulet Park will provide important local open space values for people living and working within the Rivulet precinct

- There may be an opportunity for community gardens for city residents, or other community-led uses, in the lower area.
- Toilets are likely to be required in the lower section of the park, between Molle and Gore Streets, to support increasing use.

13 St David's Park

In proximity to both the Waterfront and the city centre, St David's Park is a formal English-style walled park dating from 1926, located between Davey Street, Sandy Bay Road and Salamanca Place. The park is a lunchtime green refuge for city workers, a summer picnic spot for families and friends, a place for yoga and other 'healthy Hobart' programs and on weekends, visitors to the neighbouring Salamanca Market love to visit. It has hosted many large events such as concerts and Carols by Candlelight.

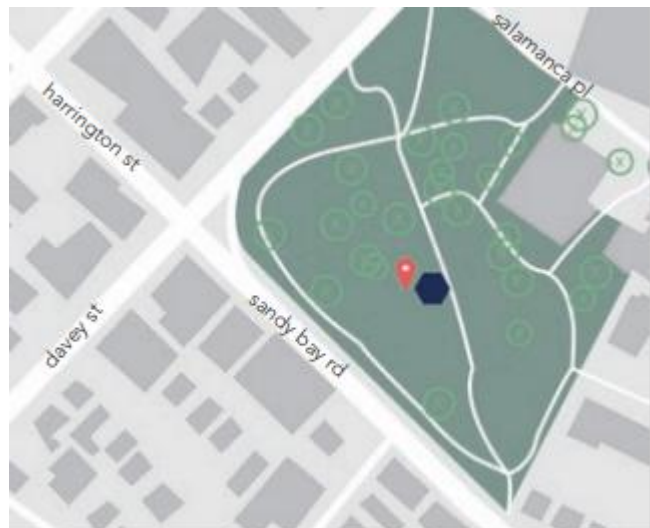


It was originally called St David's Cemetery, and was the first colonial burial ground in Tasmania, in recognition of the Colony's founding Governor, Lt Col David Collins who was buried in the park in March 1810. The cemetery was closed with the opening of Cornelian Bay Cemetery in 1872.

The park contains many monuments and a major feature is the memorial wall which is made up of original headstones. Verdant grassed lawns, large parkland trees and a central band rotunda, popular for weddings and events, are features.

Planning considerations

- A significant heritage site, any interventions should be sensitive to the historic values of the park
- The rotunda lends itself to musical performances and circus acts with removable balustrading allowing for the use of scaffolding to create additional stage area. Creative uses should be encouraged to provide cultural experiences for the community in a beautiful green setting.



14 Parliament House Lawns

Parliament House Lawns provide the formal parkland forecourt for Parliament House with stately large elms and oak trees shadowing manicured lawns and formal garden beds.

Due to its proximity to Parliament House it is a site of protest and political gatherings throughout the year and in summer creative arts, food and music festivals. It is a popular green refuge for city workers at lunchtime, all year round.

It forges a close landscape connection to the Salamanca Lawns, and is popular as a resting place during the Salamanca Market.

Planning considerations

- Succession planning for the very mature trees in and around Parliament Lawns is important to ensure a sustainable living canopy



15 Salamanca Lawns

A linear lawn lined with plane trees, Salamanca Lawns are used intensively due to their proximity to the weekly Salamanca Market, annual summer Taste of Tasmania and Dark Mofo's Winter Feast which spreads out from the Princes Wharf onto the lawns with music and food tents.

The Salamanca Lawns provide much needed green space in the cove, and together with Parliament Lawns, St Davids Park, Franklin Square and Princes Park, form part of an 'emerald necklace' of very significant public open space in Hobart's waterfront.



Planning considerations

- The Salamanca lawns are an important green refuge within the waterfront and like the Parliament Lawns area, succession planning for the mature trees is important to ensure replacements can be staged and to avoid many trees reaching end of life at the same time.
- Salamanca lawns form part of a green corridor from Princes Park to St Davids Park, and future consideration should be given to greening in the 'gaps' currently occupied by pockets of paved car parking (near Tasman Memorial and opposite Wooby's Lane)
- Tree planting should be undertaken in the recently paved 'Montpelier plaza', and continue up Montpelier Street, building on and extending the row of lindens and Cornish Elms on Morrison Street
- The lawns are used intensively as a spillover venue for seasonal food festivals (Taste, Winter Feast) based in Princes Wharf. A tight management regime is required to ensure the longevity of the lawns

16 Soundy Park

Soundy Park is a fenced local park (0.7Ha) located on the corner of Argyle and Burnett Streets in North Hobart, just outside of the Central Hobart Precincts Plan area and within walking distance of future proposed residential infill areas. There is a pedestrian connection from the Central Hobart area via pedestrian signals, and an underground walkway.

It provides a playground, grassed area, trees, picnic tables, barbecues and toilets.

It is a popular park for families, social gatherings, birthday parties and school groups. It is also popular for local dog owners who visit regularly, with regulated times available for dog exercise.

The park is very well utilised for its small size, providing a lot of value to the residents of North Hobart.



Planning considerations

- The size, siting and design of Soundy Park provides for a good mix of active and passive recreational activities, group sizes and user groups in the local area.
- For the Central Hobart Precincts Planning project, consideration of another park of similar size in the area would ensure the open space needs of a growing residential, worker and student population are catered for.

17 North Hobart Oval

North Hobart Oval is a large sports complex of 3.5 Hectares, featuring oval used for Australian Rules football, and also including bowls club facilities on the Letitia Street end of the site. It is not open to the public but is home of North Hobart Football Club and hosts women's AFL competition games.



Planning considerations

- Given the popularity of nearby Soundy Park as North Hobart's local park and the need for more public open space in Central Hobart, consideration in future could be given to opening the North Hobart ground to community use for exercise at some times.