



Public spaces for a higher density City

The demand for public space and how people use spaces is changing as our population grows, the density of our City increases, and more people live in apartments. We need to design spaces that can withstand higher levels of use, and create more places for people to socialise and connect with nature.

What we want to achieve

Our parks are becoming 'backyards' for those who don't have private open space, and urban spaces act as the 'front porch' where people meet and interact. In this way, our public spaces are becoming an even more important part of our City's social fabric. "Time spent outdoors in green space is good for our physical and mental wellbeing". (VicHealth) Maintaining people's access to nature through protecting and enhancing the network of green parks is crucial in a built-up city such as Port Phillip. Our shopping streets are not traditionally regarded as public space, but in fact offer a significant opportunity to create new urban squares which expand and diversify the network of spaces across our City.



Flexible spaces

We need to consider creating more flexible spaces, and programming of spaces at different times of the day and night, to cater for the needs of more people. Ensuring spaces are inviting and protected from overshadowing and wind, and maintaining the safety and security of public spaces - particularly crowded places - is also important.



Natural features

We need to look at more robust materials, such as synthetic turf on some sports grounds, to allow for increased use. We also need to consider programming spaces to allow time for recovery and prevent over-use, including natural features such as water and landscaping in urban spaces and also some hardscape areas within our green parks.

What Council is already doing

- **Creating and activating new urban squares**, such as Acland Plaza.
- **Redesigning spaces to increase public safety and security.**
- **Implementing our Annual Visitor and Summer Management Program** to prevent / address public safety during peak periods.
- **Upgrading public lighting** to extend the time spaces can be used and to make spaces safer.
- **Reviewing street and beach cleaning** to enhance outcomes from these services.
- **Strengthening planning controls to protect solar access to key public spaces**, including our foreshore, parks and primary pedestrian streets.

What are the opportunities?

Ways we can manage the sharing of our public spaces include:



Creating new urban spaces that activate our shopping streets and reflect the cultural identity of the local neighbourhood.



Creating spaces that connect communities through festivals, markets, street parties, cinema and performances.



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What do you consider are priorities for how we adapt our public spaces for a higher density city?
Which opportunities would you like to see implemented in your neighbourhood and where?
Do you have other ideas?

