



A new regional park at Elsternwick Park North

Bayside City Council is seeking a \$3 million commitment towards the redevelopment of Elsternwick Park North.

The Priority

The creation of environmentally focused, open space at Elsternwick Park North represents a unique and regionally significant opportunity to improve liveability within inner metropolitan Melbourne.

Located in an area of major urban growth and increasing population density, the redevelopment of the park will achieve significant environmental, economic, health and social benefits.

Elsternwick Park North borders the Cities of Bayside, Port Phillip and Glen Eira and was previously the site of the Elsternwick Golf Course.

In March 2018, in response to extensive community and stakeholder consultation, Council determined that Elsternwick Park North be adopted as an area of passive open space with an environmental focus complemented by upgrades to Oval 2.

Council has conducted initial works to remove golf course bunkers, fencing, greens and other infrastructure at the park which reopened to the community on 1 July. Planning for the development of a comprehensive Master Plan for the park has commenced, with community consultation expected later in 2018/early 2019.

Bayside City Council is investing up to \$3million for the basic redevelopment of the park. The City of Port Phillip has indicated it may commit \$1million. Melbourne Water, as the regional water authority, has committed to funding flood mitigation works.

The transformation of Elsternwick Park will require significant funding to achieve maximum benefit to the region from this exceptional opportunity. Bayside City Council is seeking \$3 million from the federal government to help realise these benefits for our local community and the broader region.



The Opportunity

A transformed Elsternwick Park North will provide a range of liveability benefits.

Open space and recreation

High quality open space for passive recreation is an essential ingredient to establishing a healthy and active community.

The Elsternwick Park North is located in an area experiencing significant urban growth and increasing housing density. The park is on the doorstep of the New Street public housing estate, the first Bayside site of the State Government's Public Housing Renewal Program. This program is set to deliver 310 public and private dwellings at the site, an increase of 183 dwellings.

Elsternwick Major Activity Centre lies within a 5 minute walk of the park. The Centre has experienced significant growth in recent years which is set to continue under the state government's Plan Melbourne strategy.

With increased population and housing growth, facilities for passive recreation are becoming increasingly important, particularly for our aging population. A significant investment in park infrastructure will be required to develop and maintain the park including paths, directional and interpretive signage, amenity facilities, park furniture and viewing platforms.

Council's aim is to create exceptional public amenities that complement the green, natural spaces while creating opportunities for passive recreation and quiet enjoyment within the natural environment.

Environmental

The redevelopment of the park provides an opportunity to expand the existing wetlands and increase indigenous and native vegetation. This will provide high quality habitats for indigenous plants and animals, improving biodiversity and providing a refuge for threatened and locally important species.

With increased vegetation, the park can further act as a green lung for the southern metropolitan area of Melbourne.

Natural spaces within urban areas provide an important function in contributing to carbon capture, air filtration and addressing the urban heat island affect. The revegetation of the park also supports Resilient Melbourne's Metropolitan Urban Forest Strategy.

Flood mitigation and water quality

The redevelopment of Elsternwick Park North presents an invaluable opportunity to establish integrated flood mitigation and water quality infrastructure for the Elster Creek Catchment.

The park is located at the bottom end of the Catchment, which is located across the Cities of Bayside, Port Phillip, Glen Eira and Kingston. More than 2,352 properties in the City of Port Phillip and a number of properties in Bayside are assessed as at extreme risk of flooding in the lower reaches of Elster Creek.

Flows from Elster Creek run into Port Phillip Bay via the Elwood Canal. Drainage overflows contribute to stormwater pollution, impacting aquatic life and the Port Phillip ecosystem as well as recreational and casual users of Port Phillip Bay through beach closures, poor water quality and high levels of litter on Port Phillip Bay beaches.

A working group, convened by Melbourne Water as the regional drainage authority, with Chief Executive Officer representation from the Cities of Bayside, Port Phillip, Glen Eira and Kingston is actively progressing the development of the Elster Creek Action Plan. This includes the delivery of water conveyance and storage facilities including an expanded wetlands, retarding basin, drainage and waterway works.

This initiative supports delivery of the State Government's Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, and leverages strong partnerships between the four councils and private industry.

Further funding is required to investigate and implement the above, along with knowledge and assistance from industry experts and stakeholders such as Melbourne Water.

Strategic justification

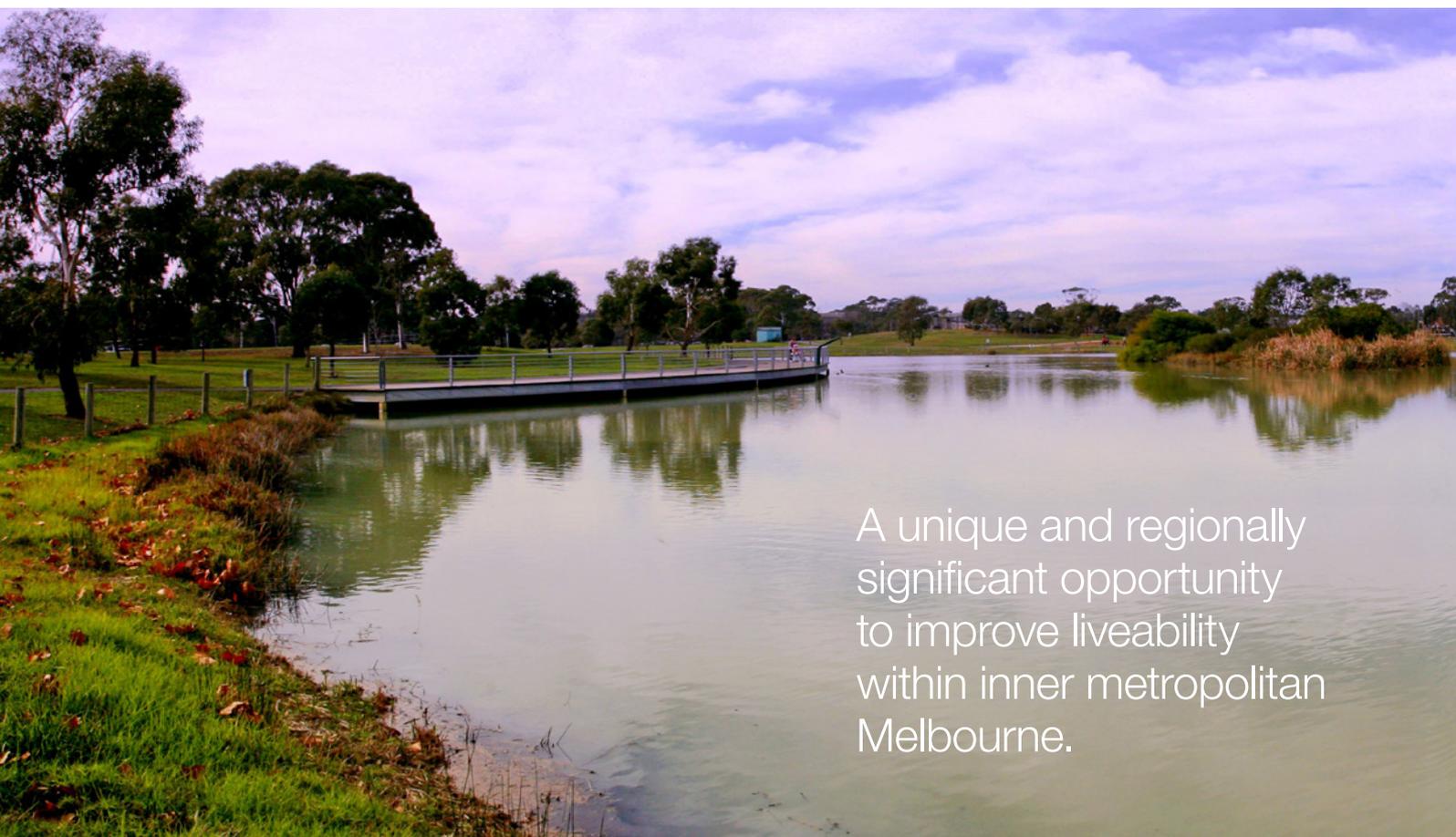
The transformation of Elsternwick Park North into an environmentally focussed park is guided by the Bayside Open Space Strategy 2002.

In the state context, the redevelopment of the park supports the Victorian State Governments' Plan Melbourne strategy for strategic growth and planning.

Flood mitigation works at the park will help to deliver the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy and the contribution of recreation infrastructure contributes to achieving an Active Victoria (the State's strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria 2017 – 2021).

This project links to the following Federal Government strategies

- 20 Million Trees Programme
- National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy
- Draft Revision of Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010 – 2030
- Australia's Strategy for Nature 2018 – 2030



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