

Thomas Street Urban Park West End's Town Square

By the West End Community Association (WECA), Kurilpa Futures, local residents and local landscape architects:

**John Mongard, Gavin Hardy, Alvin Kirby
Michelle Kirby-Brown and Andrew Galt**

The new park is West End's only chance to create a truly public square big enough to support the life of the main street. The square vacant site on the corner of Thomas and Vulture Streets was acquired by Brisbane City Council as part of its local neighbourhood planning processes. A workshop run by Councillor Helen Abrahams in August 2015, with a number of local residents, generated a range of emerging ideas for the park including: an events space; a safe children's grassy play area; a loop walk and a street fronting herb and vine arbor entrance.

During the West End Festival in November 2015 the community contributed one thousand ideas through a week of intensive consultation at the community kiosk in People's Park.

A vibrant space with rich detail and many uses is desired by the community. Locals have waited twenty years for a new urban park and it needs to reflect this with a high quality urban space.

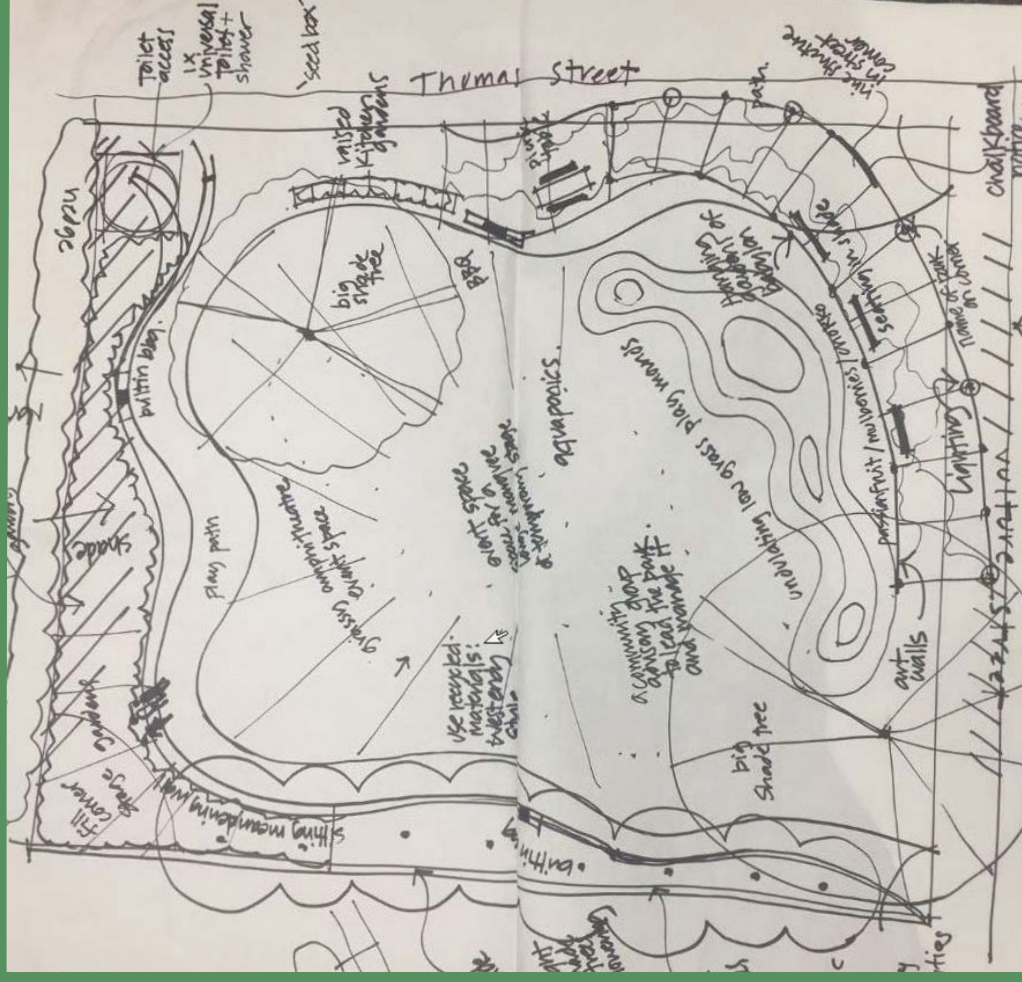
People want a soft, shaded green space for many different activities and events. This village green is the heart of the space. People would also like a town square that embraces Vulture Street and its streetscapes.

The park thus needs to have a town square fronting Vulture Street and a village green in its centre. This space needs to be designed and built with community collaboration, and should feature local artists and creative people.



GREEN HEART - WEST END

A NEW PARK FOR WEST END
CORNER VULTURE AND THOMAS STREET



Collaborative design plan currently being developed by the community

The concept for a new urban park on Thomas Street includes a large central lawn with big shade trees and play mounds, perimeter meandering sitting terraces and a town square frontage with a shade covered arbor.

Thomas Street Urban Park

1,000 community ideas for our new park on Thomas Street

The Main Elements and activities:

- A large lawn for multiple uses.
- A shady natural space with native plants, edible plants including fruit trees and herbs. Provision of another community garden space with food for all. A place for all to be involved in the planting, especially children and the local school.
- A park serviced by toilets.
- A social place for young and old, where you can swap ideas, children can play, have performances, eat lunch in the shade and have some sanctuary in the main centre.
- An event and small stage structure that is used to provide shade and shelter for a variety of uses, including music and performances, talking circles, demonstrations and community events.
- A safe and well lit place.
- Multi-purpose seating and benches that provide the opportunity to adapt the space. Seats under the shade that encourage socialisation. Seats that can be moved depending on the use of the space. Use of rocks and grasses to keep it natural to sit and play in.
- An amphitheatre for performances with a large area to seat many people.
- A variety of play spaces for children, teenagers, and adults.
- Easy maintenance, well lit space with good sight lines so that there are no dark corners.

- A large open space.
- Edible plants and productive kitchen garden.
- Large shady native trees.

- Play areas: Table tennis, half basketball court, parkour, a place to kick a ball, exercise equipment, soft fall play space, rock climbing wall, in ground trampoline, all abilities play-ground, adult swings, trees to climb in and flying fox.
- Large seating areas you can lounge in.
- Maintain the graffiti art wall (and its ceremonial significance to the community).
- Occasional special event pop up activities, night markets, outdoor cinema and cooking demonstrations.
- Spaces to allow for relaxation, massage and meditation.
- A mixture of quiet spaces that provide outdoor rooms.
- Monuments and a memory corner for locals. It is essential to keep the mural wall.
- Aboriginal songlines – reflect into the design of the space.
- A bandstand /stage that also has a sound, light and power system for community use.
- Water features to keep it cool and fun: paddling pool, ponds, fountains and bubblers.

A GREAT PLAN WILL EMERGE FROM THESE IDEAS!



BOUNDARY STREET

THOMAS STREET

VULTURE STREET

AMY STREET

GREEN HEART - WEST END

CONTEXT + LOCALITY PLAN

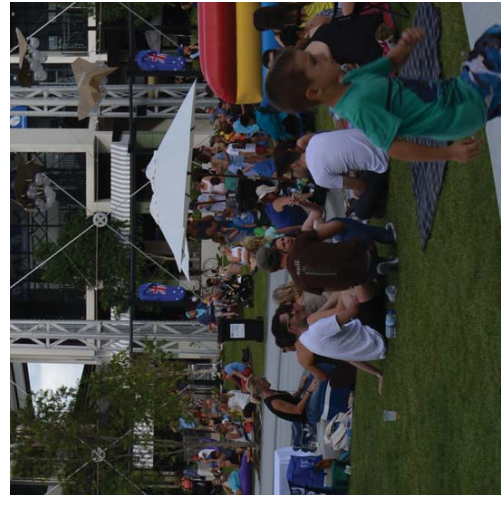
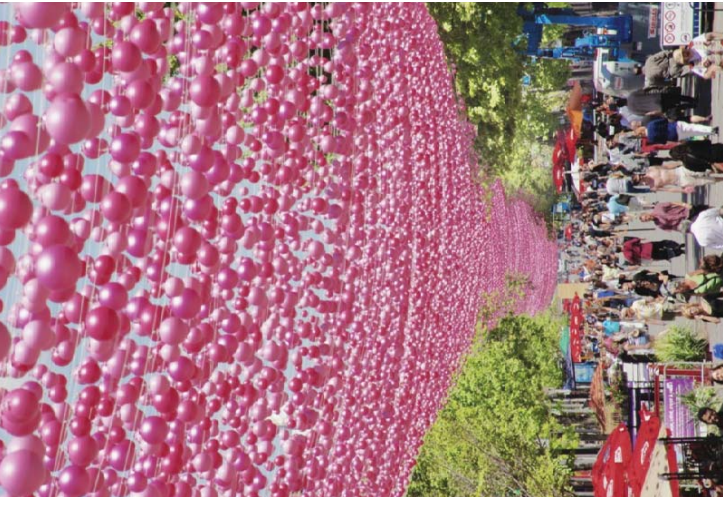
A NEW PARK FOR WEST END
CORNER VULTURE AND THOMAS STREET

Prepared for West End residents, WECA and Kurilpa Futures following Community Consultation during 2015.
Plans prepared by Andrew Galt, John Mongard and ve local landscape architects.



GREEN HEART - WEST END

A NEW PARK FOR WEST END
CORNER VULTURE AND THOMAS STREET



LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN

Landscape Intent Background

Consultation with the people of West End in November 2015 demonstrated that the local community has a diverse set of needs yet a common goal. Underpinning the various ideas that sprouted from the consultation process was a common theme: a genuine desire to create a place where people can come together to celebrate and grow together. Be it a place to relax and play, a kitchen garden or an event space, the new park represented a place of opportunity for this community. Not one idea was more important than the next but rather, the opportunity to have a place was the important thing. To respond to this community brief the park design needs to cater for a range of vibrant uses whilst retaining flexibility, equality and safety.

Vision

The new park will foremost be a gathering space. It will offer a variety of opportunities for its community: places to sit in the shade, space to run and play, a place to grow food and a space for local artists and musicians of all ages to embrace. It will be a common ground to bring all aspects of the community together. It will be able to be worked and adapted by the community to suits their changing needs. The park will be the canvas and people will bring the colour, energy and vibrancy.

Ingredients... just add people.

GREEN HEART - A large, unimpeded, central lawn will provide the community with the greatest amount of flexibility to stage events and adapt the park for its needs. The lawn will playfully roll and mound under trees to provide inviting seating and picnic areas.

ENTRY CORNER will activate the streetscape through ample shaded seating areas and will double as a pop up stage area. The feature shelter will 'connect' with a smaller shelter across the lawn that can also act as a small stage. Lighting and artwork can span the lawn on overhead cables between the two shelters allowing installations to occur to suit community events.

PLAY is for all ages will be intertwined into the park fabric. Hammock poles, balance beams, platforms and swings will make for simple fun.

EDIBLE and formal gardens will generally be low and open with some raised beds for ease of access. These planting areas will allow views across the whole space from the street enhancing the legibility and safety of the place as a whole and ensuring CPTED concerns are addressed.

STORIES will be told through the existing memorial mural wall, artworks and new stencils on pavements, seating and suspended catenary overhead.

COMFORT - Shaded, comfortable seating will underpin the design. Feature trees and orchard trees will border the lawn.

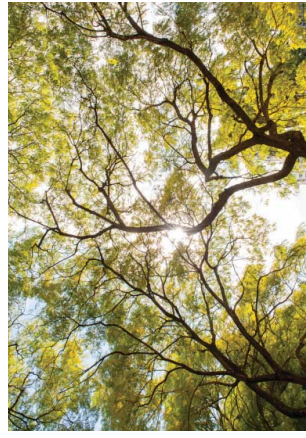
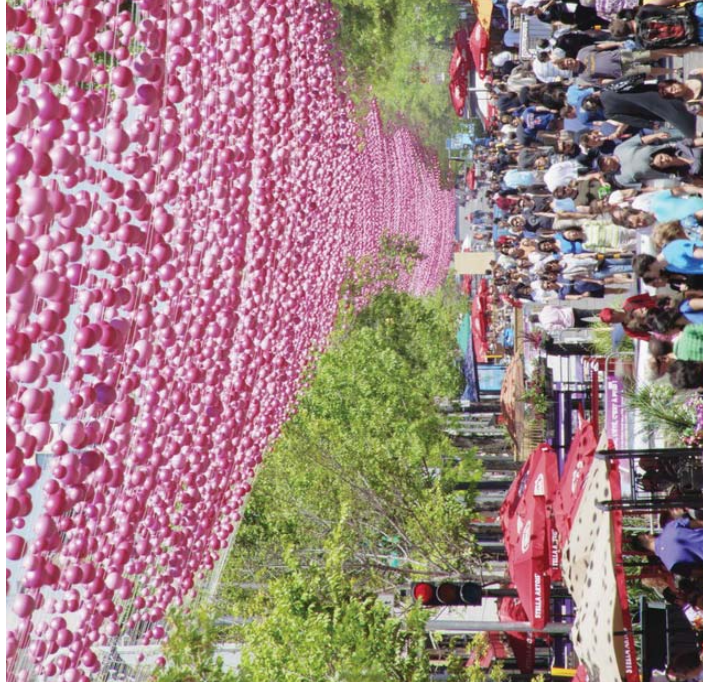
Pavement design will incorporate the BCC palette of pavement finishes associated with the centre. Access to all areas will meet equitable access standards.



GREEN HEART - WEST END

A NEW PARK FOR WEST END
CORNER VULTURE AND THOMAS STREET

DESCRIPTIVE CONCEPT PLAN



GREEN HEART - WEST END

A NEW PARK FOR WEST END
CORNER CULTURE AND THOMAS STREET

CHARACTER IMAGERY