

# THE GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

West End, Highgate Hill and South Brisbane



How West End's residents and local  
landscape architects plan to re-purpose  
11 hectares into open space





The West End Derby is a reclaim the street festival

West Enders love their streets. They believe in their community's right to celebrate and gather in the public realm. They support growth as long as quality public spaces are delivered along the way. West Enders also support the idea of local food, with a long history of productive gardens which have fed city dwellers.

After twenty years of collective thinking the community has developed The Green Space Strategy.



## 45 BIG NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN WEST END AND ONLY ONE FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ?!



**GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY  
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!**

## West End Community Association all are welcome to our upcoming events:

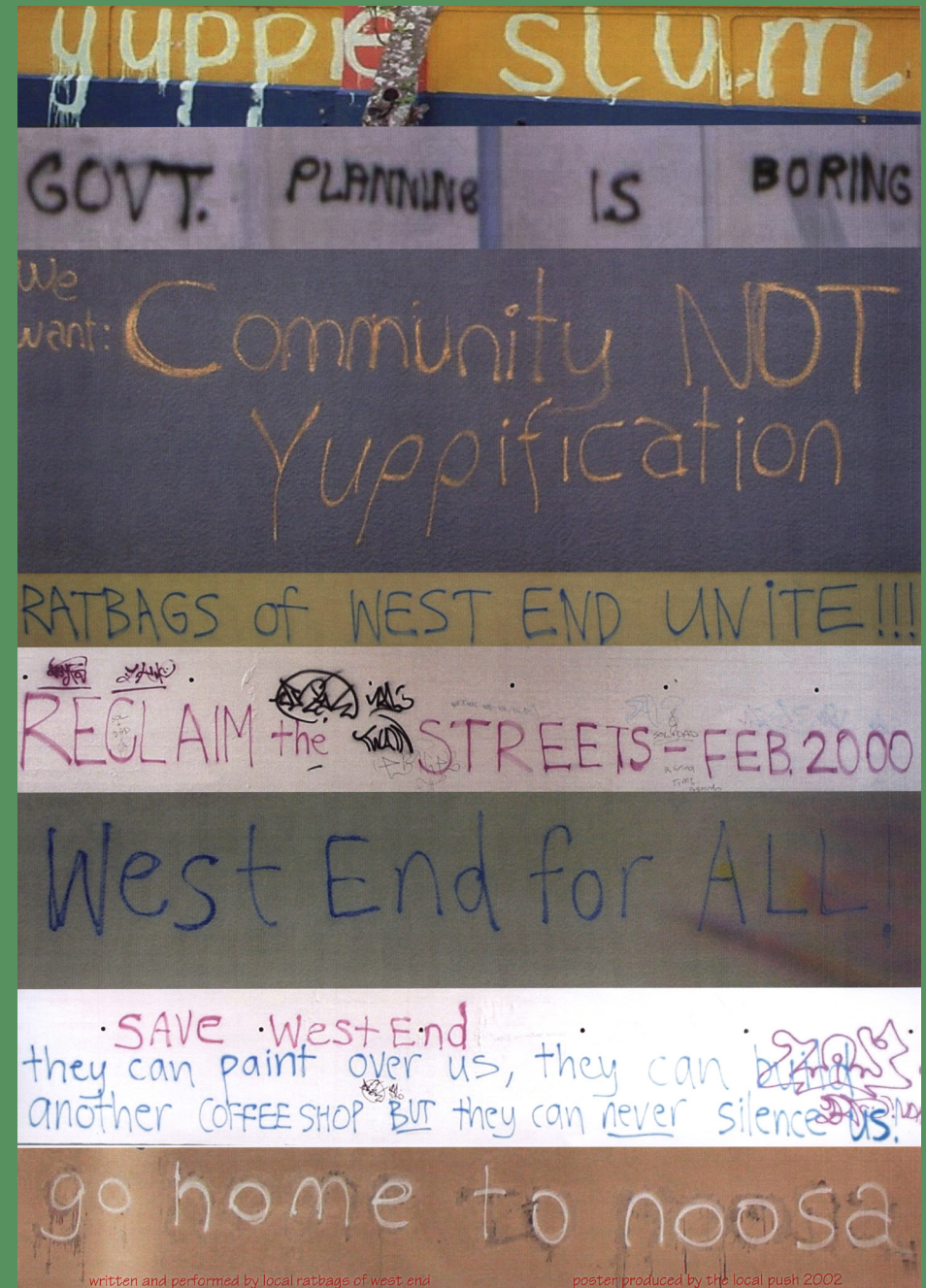
**1. Community Ideas Workshop #1:**  
The Roundabout and Absoe Site  
(1200 - 1500 apartments are planned  
for the area in a 500 metre radius of  
the Roundabout)  
Saturday 18 September 1pm - 5pm

**2. October Forum:**  
Tuesday 12 October 6.30 - 9.00 pm

**3. November Forum**  
Tuesday 16 November 6.30 - 9.00 pm

All events are at Souths Leagues Club, Davies Park.

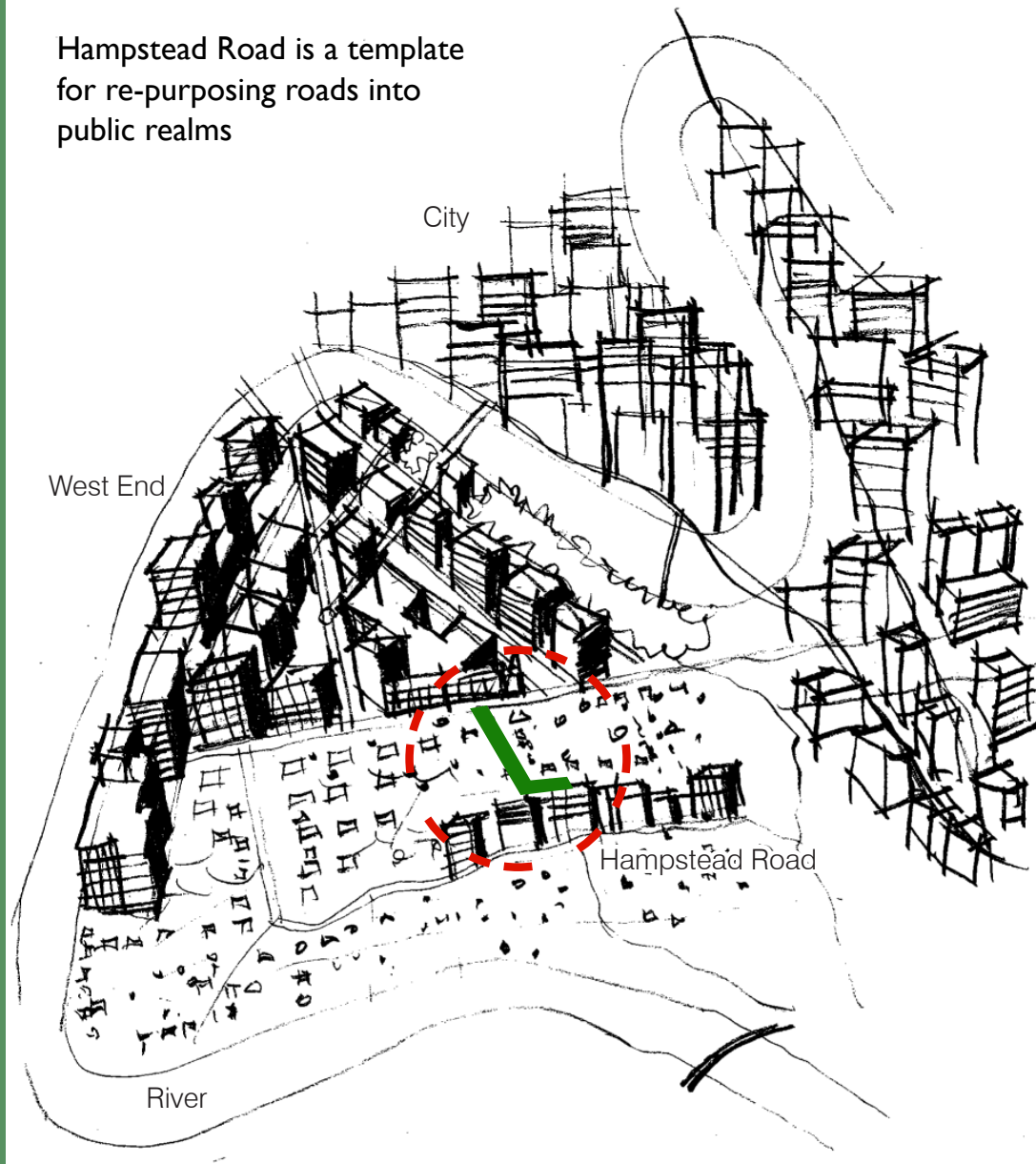
Interested in WECA? contact [judy@xyris.com.au](mailto:judy@xyris.com.au) to be placed on the community information list



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Hampstead Road is a template  
for re-purposing roads into  
public realms

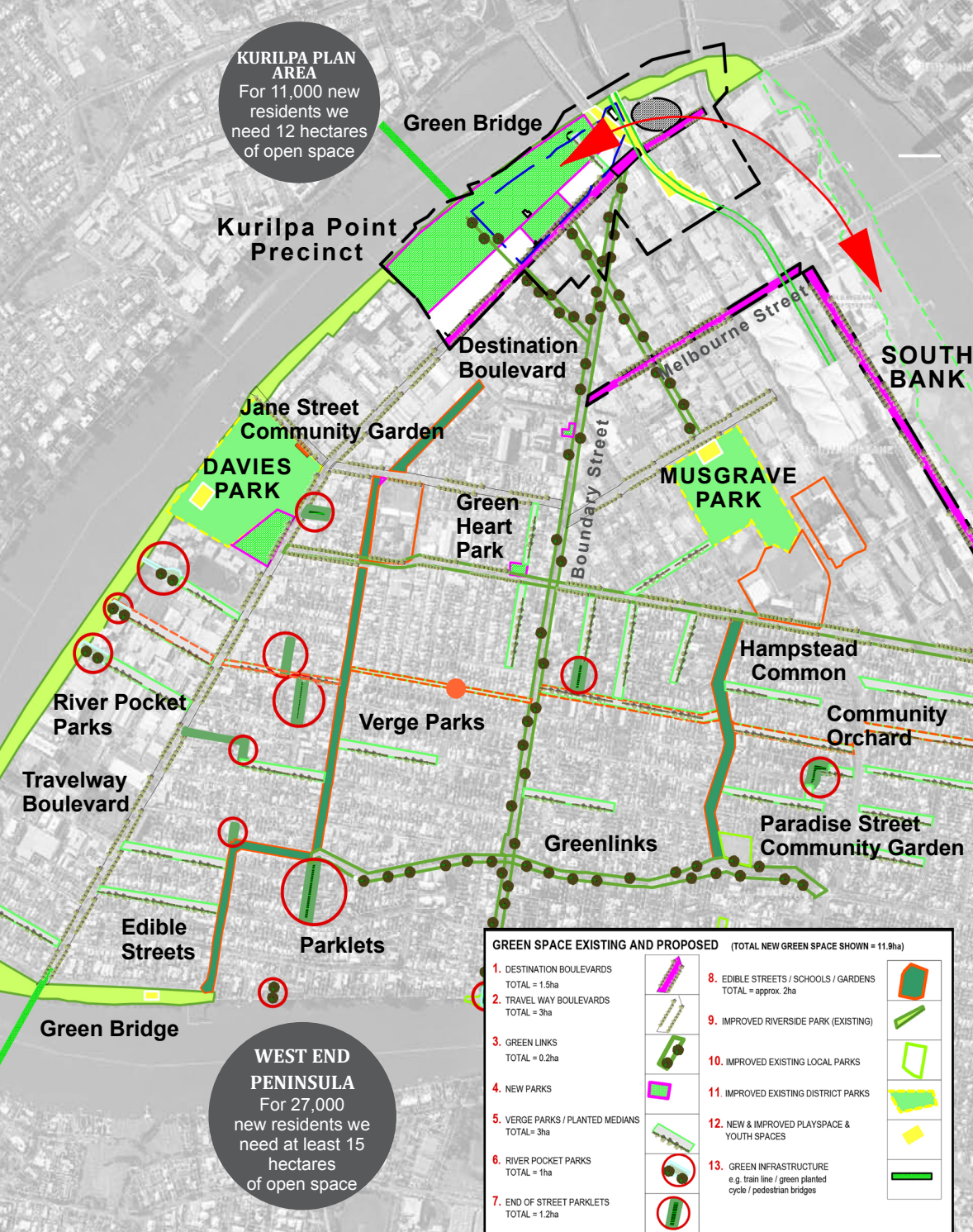


Highgate Hill and West End are likely to triple in population, with an extra 30,000 people in the next ten years. Council has yet to supply a new park or a strategy for the new open spaces required. We would need a park the size of Southbank to cater for this need. How can we create more green space to cater for these additional people?

What under-utilised urban streets and spaces can be refashioned to become parks and productive landscapes?

The community working through four groups and assisted by over ten local landscape architects have proposed positive solutions for the green spaces needed...





The signature space in West End is the goanna stage and square on Boundary Street which was re-purposed from asphalt fifteen years ago. The community have identified places to create similar pocket plazas and parks in over twenty locations without affecting property or access.

**THE GREEN SPACE STRATEGY**





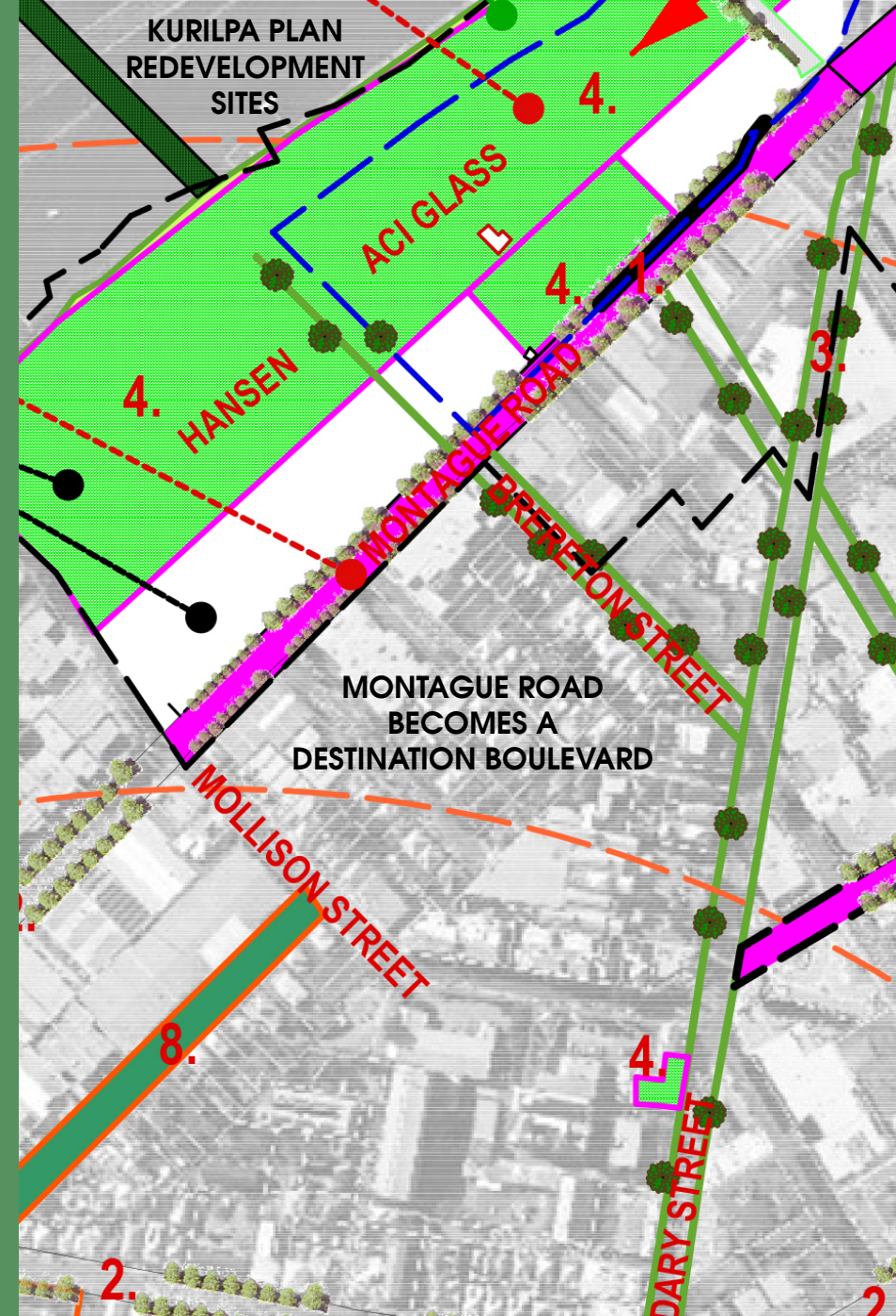
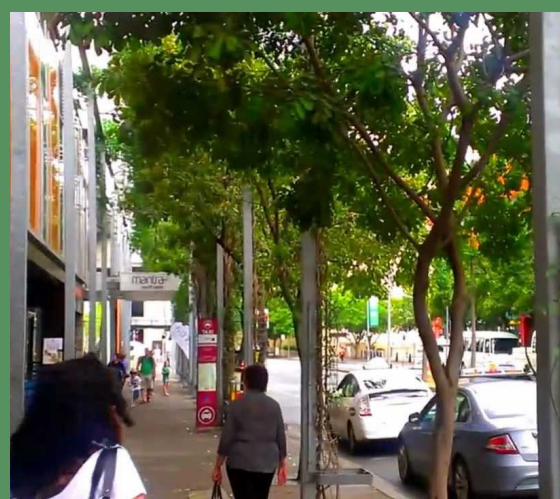
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One example is to convert Hamstead Road into Hamstead Common.

There are hectares of unused bitumen and crown land on the peninsula. These can be re purposed for open spaces... through a community design process...

Imagine if Hampstead Road meandered its way down the hill in a way which allowed parklands, trees and open spaces to also be created.







h a m p s t e a d   r o a d   n o w



h a m p s t e a d   c o m m o n

The Green Space Strategy re-purposes unused crown land and road reserves to create over eleven hectares of green space. These new public spaces are in the form of boulevards, green links, verge parks, parks, parklets and edible streets and gardens. Through their green space planning, West Enders have already re-purposed fringe park areas and created three community gardens funded and run by local people, providing places to grow food locally and to come together in green hubs.



## HAMPSTEAD COMMON



Hampstead Road could stay two-way, maintain parallel parking and driveway access and still take up less than 60% of its current footprint! We can create an extra 4,770m<sup>2</sup> of green space while maintaining the same level of service on the street. That's about 30 volleyball courts or 12 new backyards. Reducing pavements will cool the city and allow carbon capture through green space. Productive and water sensitive gardens can provide food and harvest water.



The community has started the process with a community orchard

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## The Hundred Trees Action

Hampstead Road will in the near future become Hampstead Common. Following on from the two successful communal permablitz actions in Kurilpa recently, the first stepping stone to achieving a new common will be The Hundred Trees....

### Street Orchards

Street orchards can be used to provide shade, fruit and flower. The only difference to most street tree plantings is the bearing of edible fruit. In Hampstead Road a corridor of orchard trees has already begun at its lowest end, planted by local residents. Hampstead Common proposes multiple rows of trees to make up open space orchards, built progressively as bitumen is taken over after civil works. In the short term, there are areas of street orchards that could be planted which would not need to be relocated by the changing roadworks and traffic planning in the big picture plan.

### Adopt A Fruit Tree

Residents can show council that they are able to plant, maintain and share the fruits of street orchards. A simple action is adopting a fruit tree. One hundred local residents each adopt a fruit tree for \$100. A street orchard planting day is organised. 100 trees are planted in a morning on premarked locations.

Each tree would have a cultivated, fertilised and composted hole, stakes and a protective barrier from whipper-snippers. Each tree can be named/tagged after the planter, eg. 'John M'. The cost would cover a 45 litre fruit tree, stakes, materials and organisation. The labour would be by residents. Every year an extra 100 trees can be planted. Fruit trees could include low maintenance, low risk species of citrus, olives and nut trees. A twice yearly group maintenance event of ½ a day would maintain them.

In suburban Village Homes, California, ([http://www.villagehomesdavis.org/public/about/commons\\_gardens](http://www.villagehomesdavis.org/public/about/commons_gardens)) residents have been planting and harvesting fruit trees in common areas for over thirty years. In the town of Todmorden in England, ([www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk](http://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk)) the main public areas are all productive gardens. West End can show Queensland the way toward food in the city!

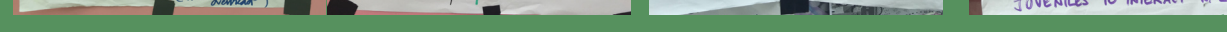


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During the 2015 West End Festival, the local community group WECA ran thirty hours of community consultation assisted by ten volunteers and five local landscape architects at the People's Park. This 'Street of Ideas' engagement gave over 300 people one to one input on the first new urban park in West End in the last twenty years.

# GREEN SPACE STRATEGY





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 childrens 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 over 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. Funding to reflect the urban park's importance should be set aside to allow construction within a year.

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 lively 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

CONTEXT + COMMUNITY VISION



Raised seating terraces will provide a commanding view across the space. The terraces also afford egress to Amy Street.

The terrace will function as a performance space where the audience can sit on the lawn or on the terraces behind.

Shaded seating wall with indentations for small groups and table settings.

Memorial mural wall to remain. New opportunities for artwork to seating walls and pavements.

Playspace set back from busy streets; incorporating swings and nature play elements developed with local artists.

Flexible seating platforms and raised planters provide opportunity to grow community and plants as well as being informal play elements.

The park will engage with the streetscape guiding people into the space and providing kitchen garden beds and seating along its fringes.

Circuit pathway provides a simple and legible circuit for walkers and children on scooters. Local stories stencilled into pavement.

Large feature shade trees will frame the park entry and provide essential shade to the mounded lawn and footpath seating under.

ENTRY CORNER will provide seating and a covered performance area for popup and staged events

## 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.

- A** 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.
- B** ENTRY CORNER will activate the streetscape through ample shaded seating areas and will double as a popup 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.
- C** PLAY is for all ages will be intertwined into the park fabric. Hammock poles, balance beams, platforms and swings will make for simple fun.
- D** 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.
- E** STORIES will be told through the existing memorial mural wall, artworks and new stencils on pavements and seating.
- F** 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.

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# CONTEXT + CONCEPT PLAN





# GREEN HEART - WEST END

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## CHARACTER IMAGERY





A community run permablitz built the Paradise Street Community Garden

Hundreds of West Enders have contributed to The Green Space Strategy. Twenty years of community planning spanning 1995 to 2015 led to the creation of four community groups who have been freely assisted by over ten landscape architects.

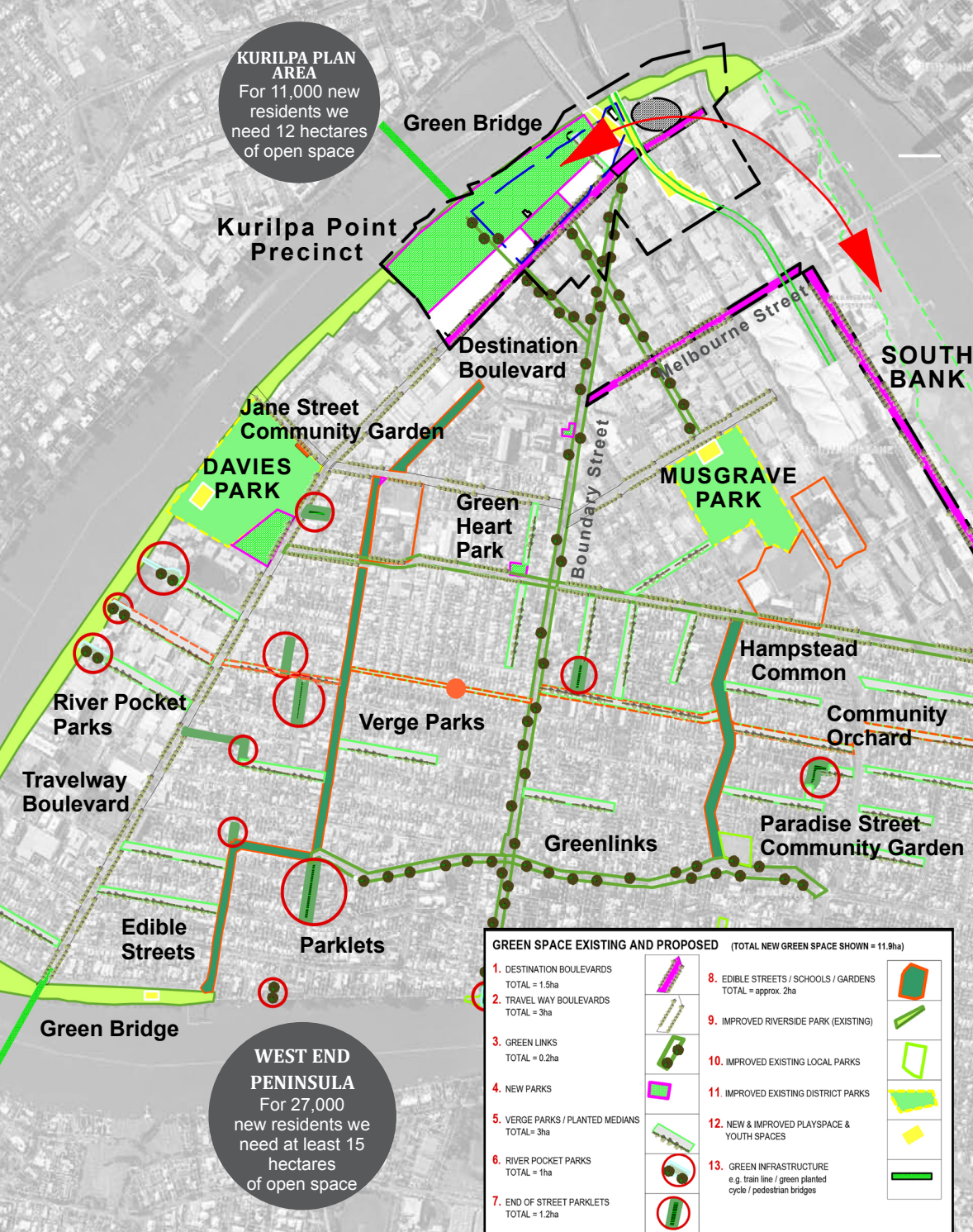
Key initiatives within The Green Space Strategy:

- Five co-design workshops with hundreds of residents
- Design of four community built edible gardens
- Community design plans for Thomas Street park, Davies Park and Jane Street Gardens



Voice of the People:  
Engagement on the  
street with 300 people





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