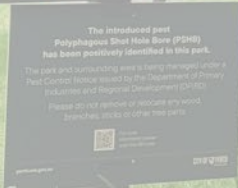


# Totterdell Park Enhancement Place Plan

APRIL 2026



**CITY OF  
PERTH**  
City of Light





## Acknowledgment of Country

The City of Perth acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land that we are situated on, the Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar nation and Aboriginal people from other lands. We celebrate the continuing traditions, living culture, and the spiritual connection to Boorloo and the Derbarl Yerrigan. We offer our respects to Elders past and present.

### Nyoongar Translation

The City of Perth kadij kalyakool moondang-ak kaaradj midi boodjar-ak ngala nyinny, Whadjuk Noongar yoongar wer bandany Aboriginal yoongar yooarme boodjar-ool. Ngalangwoola Boorloo wer Derbal Yerrigan kalyakoort, wongin kadadjiny wer, wirn-yoodan. Ngalang kaditj Birdiya koora wer yeyi moondang-ak kaaradjiny.



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# Introduction

## Strategic context

Totterdell Park was identified within the City's Open Space Plan as due for enhancement in response to recent community feedback and aging infrastructure.

### Urban Greening Strategy

The Urban Greening Strategy sets out a range of initiatives aimed at integrating the City's approach to land use planning and the design of our existing streets, open spaces and other city infrastructure to maximise greening outcomes as well as environmental and social benefits. A key outcome of the Urban Greening Strategy is the enhancement of the City's existing parks.



Publication: Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2036

## What is a place plan?

This Place Plan summarises the current conditions, character and values of the park and identifies key issues and opportunities for improvement.

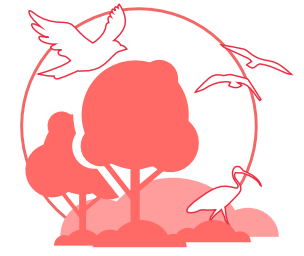
This plan proposes some high level ideas to invite community feedback and inform the development of a future Concept Design; aiming to enhance Totterdell Park into a contemporary city park to meet the current and future needs of our growing community.



## Key priorities of open space enhancement:



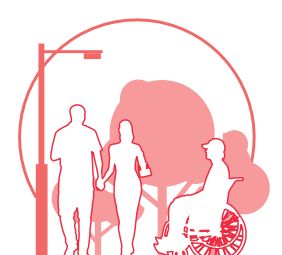
Meets the contemporary recreational needs of a growing population



Improved habitat and biodiversity



Ensures the city remains resilient in facing climate change



Creates an inclusive, safe and welcoming space to all



Improved infrastructure to support diversification of use

# Totterdell Park Today

## Neighbourhood context














Totterdell Park is located in West Perth, bounded by Arthur Street, Thomas Street and Prowse Street. It forms part of the local open space network, in proximity to Harold Boas Gardens and City West Station.

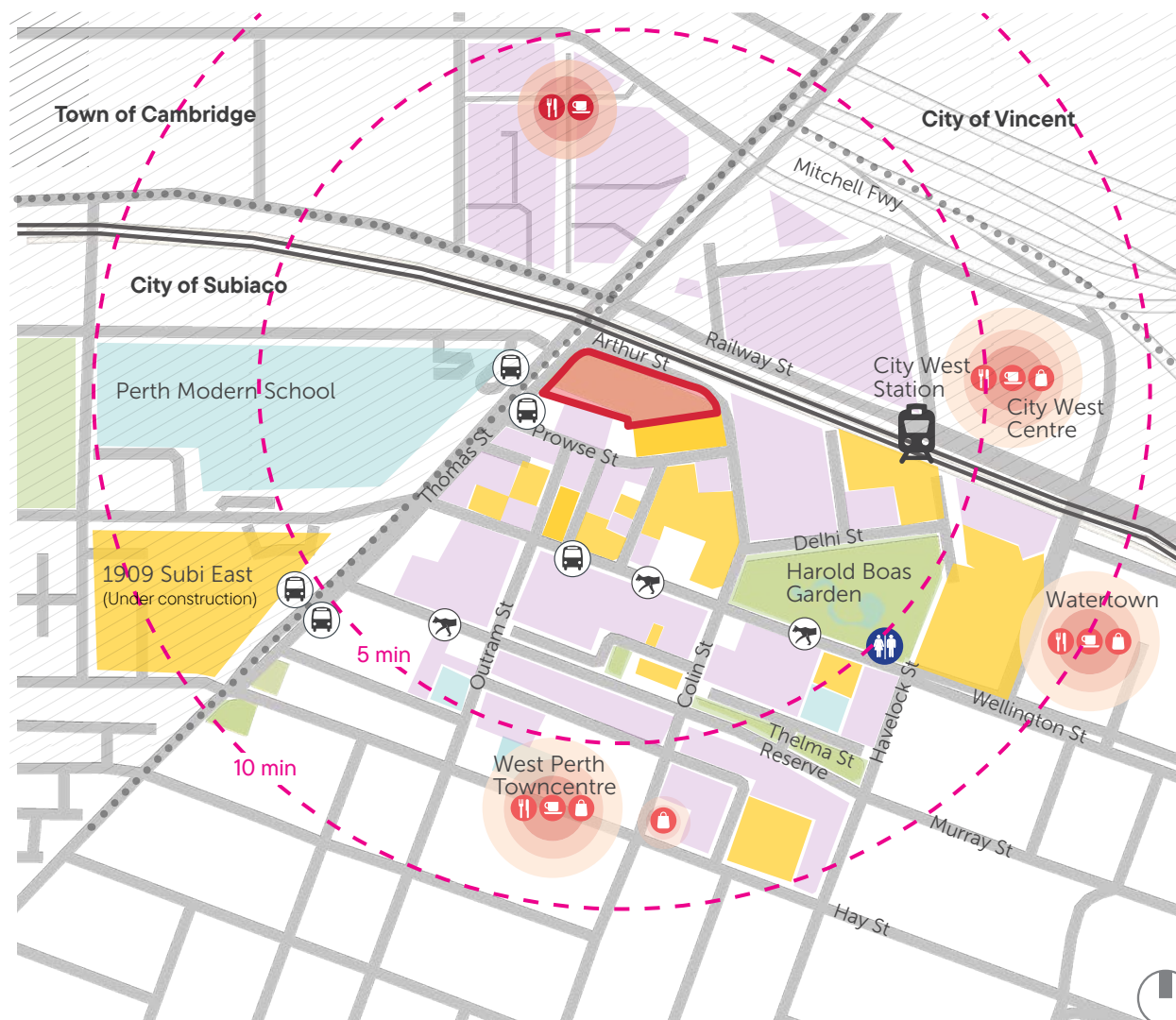
The site was previously occupied by industrial buildings until Perth began to develop a comprehensive system of parks after the goldrushes of the 1890's. The park was named after former Lord Mayor Sir Joseph Totterdell in 1938.

Surrounding land uses are characterised by a mix of offices, medium to high-density residential apartments, and institutional uses. This mixed-use context supports strong weekday use by workers, alongside ongoing use by local residents outside business hours.

Due to its location adjacent to the busy Thomas Street and the railway corridor, Totterdell Park primarily serves a local catchment, including nearby residents and office workers.

### LEGEND

-  Site
-  Neighbourhood boundary
-  Walking radius
-  Bus stop
-  Train station
-  CAT bus stop
-  Public toilet
-  Secondary catchment area
-  Residential use
-  Offices and workshops
-  Educational use
-  Green space and parks
-  Local activity centre

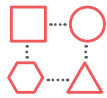


# West Perth neighbourhood profile



**6**

Public Open Spaces



**3/6**

Diversity of Space



**0.6%**

of City's Open Space



Adequate current provision (residents)



Adequate current provision (workers)



**237%**

Predicted population growth (residents)

Excerpt from City of Perth Open Space Plan



**108**

Children living in West Perth



**2**

Playgrounds in West Perth



**2**

Public park event spaces in West Perth

Data from City of Perth Local Planning Strategy, 2024

## Scale Study - Open Spaces

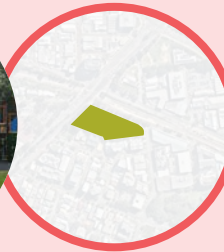


### Frank Baden Powell Park

625m<sup>2</sup>

Micro Park

Green pocket for relief and respite



### Totterdell Park

8800m<sup>2</sup>

Neighbourhood Park

Recreation and social opportunities for community enjoyment



### Harold Boas Gardens

21500m<sup>2</sup>

Neighbourhood Park

Recreation and social opportunities for community enjoyment

Small

**Micro Parks** serve a small catchment area and include limited use and amenities.

## West Perth has...

**4** Micro Parks

**2** Neighbourhood Parks

**Neighbourhood Parks** serve a larger catchment and require a greater diversity of uses and amenity

Large

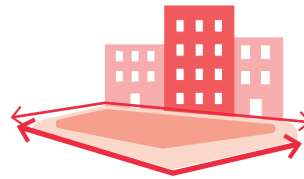
## Park character

Totterdell Park is a small local park that provides a valuable green refuge for nearby residents and workers. It features mature trees, landscaped gardens, and open lawn areas, and is valued for recreation as well as a lunchtime retreat. The park functions as both a local destination and a thoroughfare for people moving through the area.

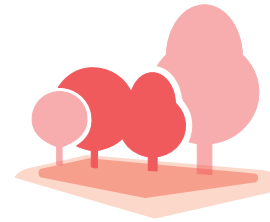
Totterdell Park complements nearby destination spaces, such as Harold Boas Gardens, by offering a more casual, everyday green space integrated within the urban environment.

The study identified several key considerations for upgrading the park, including poor sightlines, limited connections to the adjacent shared path along the railway line, accessibility challenges, and the need to upgrade ageing infrastructure and amenities.

### Current Snapshot



Open lawn with perimeter planting



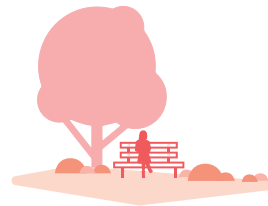
Large perimeter trees



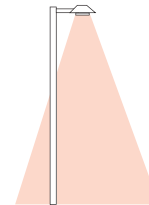
Off leash dog area



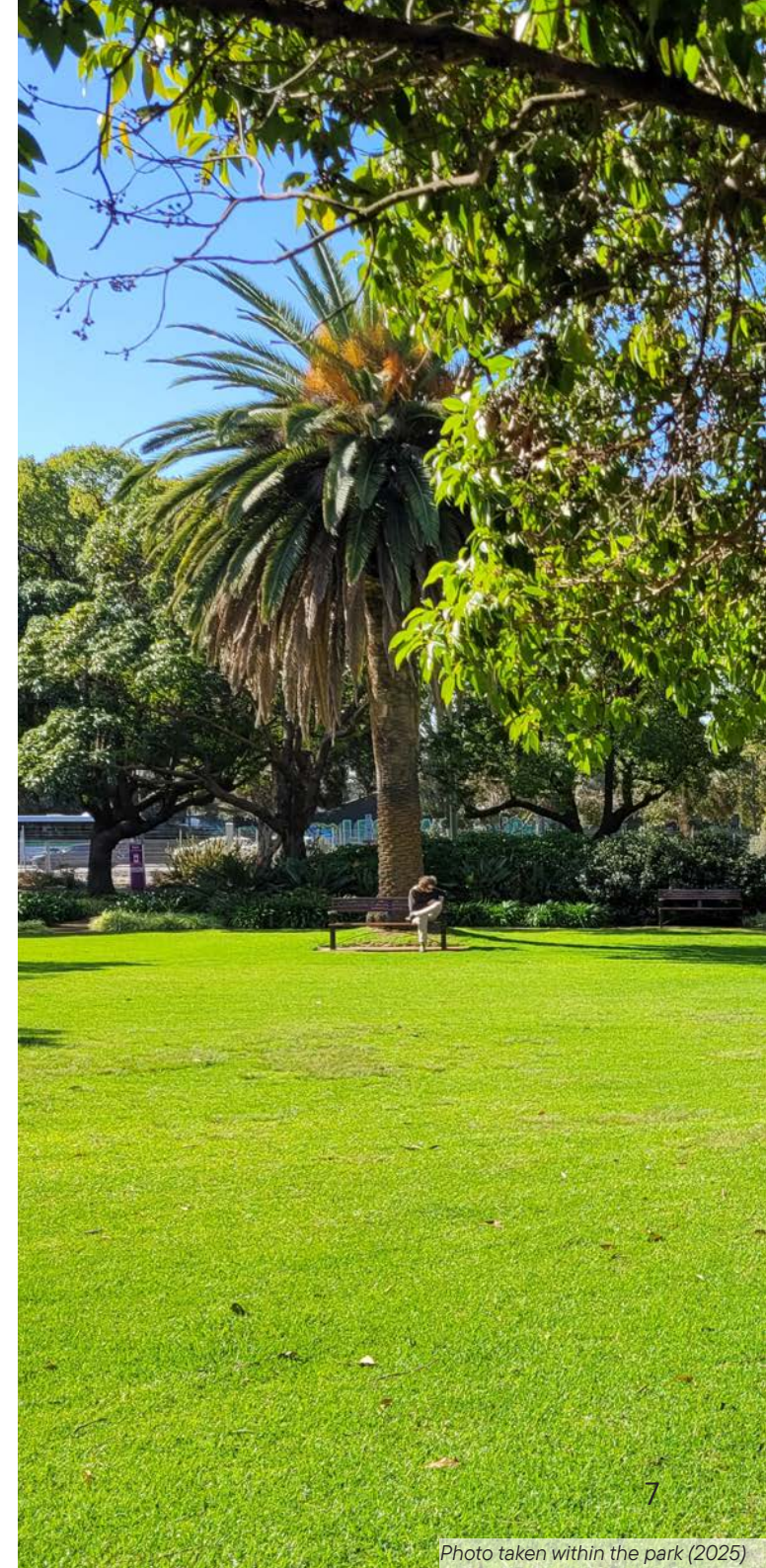
Playspace for kids



Tranquil and cool



New lighting along footpaths



## Public life study

The City conducted a public life study to observe use of the park on weekdays and weekends in May and October 2024 between the hours of 8am to 6pm. The public life study observes and records how people use a public space. It notes the number of people walking, exercising, relaxing and any other activities observed in the park.

The following key findings have been identified:

- The park experiences **low visitation** compared to other City of Perth parks of a similar scale, largely due to a lack of amenities which discourages people from lingering for long periods.
- Weekend activity is noticeably lower than on weekdays.
- **Sense of Safety:** Despite a five-month crime monitoring period revealing no significant issues, the park suffers from a perceived lack of safety. Dense planting obstructs visibility and creates a sense of separation, while buildings overlooking the path lack visible activity, offering minimal passive surveillance.
- **Park Use:** The park is primarily used as a thoroughfare, though the seating and playground are popular with local residents and nearby office workers. Seating is in high demand, with benches quickly occupied, but the limited variety means they tend to cater to individuals or couples rather than groups.

### Usage of park

Passing by / through

Weekday **88%**

Weekend **94%**

Dwelling

Weekday **12%**

Weekend **6%**

Those who dwell, do not dwell for very long

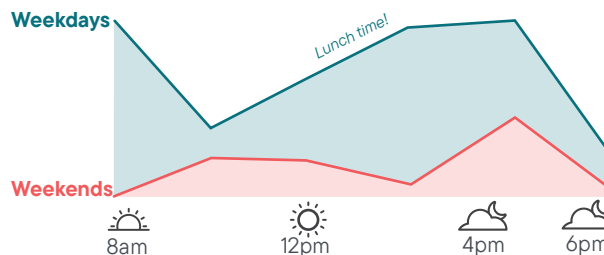
### Visitors demographics



Most of the children who visited were under five years old.



### Visitation throughout the day



NO visitation observed in the park after sunset

Overall Totterdell Park is mostly utilised for passive recreation and short-stay use, supporting everyday activities for nearby residents and workers.

### Popular activities in the park



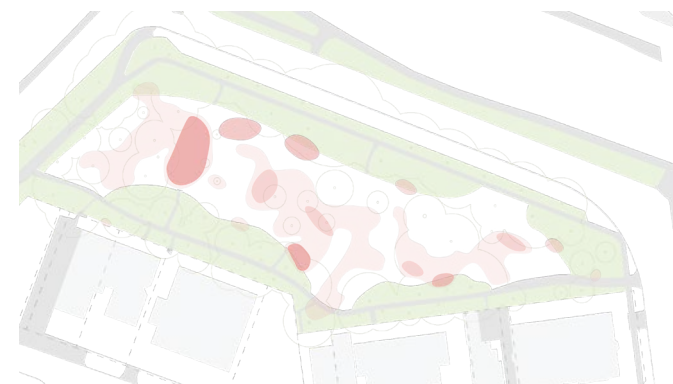
Sitting



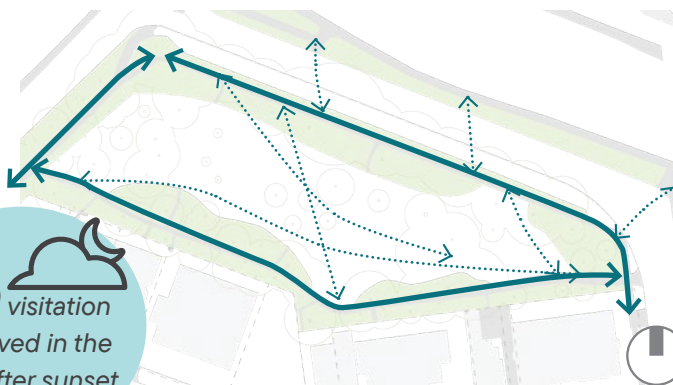
Dog walking



Playing before dinner



Activity hot spots



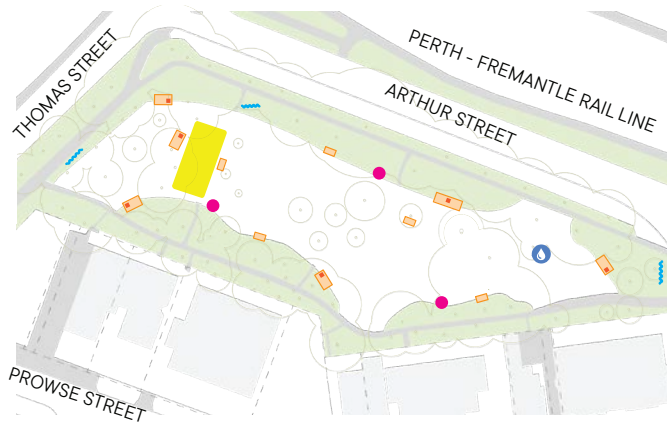
Pedestrian movement

## Existing conditions

The park features perimeter paths, a playground, seating, and landscaped garden areas. The playground features generic equipment limited in size and lacks facilities for diverse age groups. Dense hedges and tall shrubs within garden beds along the park and property boundaries restrict visibility across the park.

As a registered event space managed by the City, the park hosts mostly small-scale events such as children's parties or corporate gatherings, reinforcing its primary role as a neighbourhood park.

In 2025, lighting along the perimeter paths was upgraded, and electrical power infrastructure was installed to better support community events.



### Existing amenities

- Existing playground
- Existing bin
- ▭ Seats
- Drink fountain
- ~ Signage
- Event power bollard



### Lighting upgrade - completed 2025

- Bollard lighting
- Pole mounted lighting
- Lighting from residential buildings



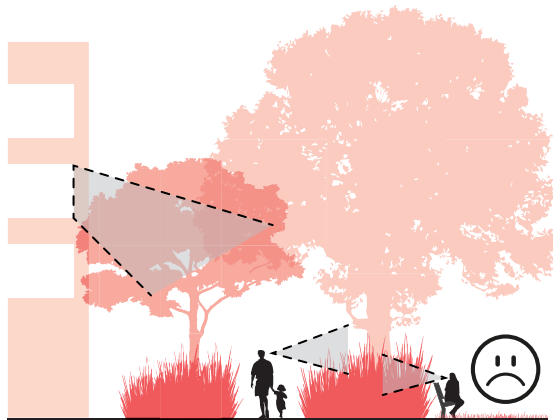
Poor visual connection in the park



Limited amenities for social gathering



Ageing playground and signage



### Poor sense of safety

Dense planting creates poor sight lines into the park, a lack of passive surveillance from adjacent buildings further limits visibility and perceived safety within the park.


## Access and movement

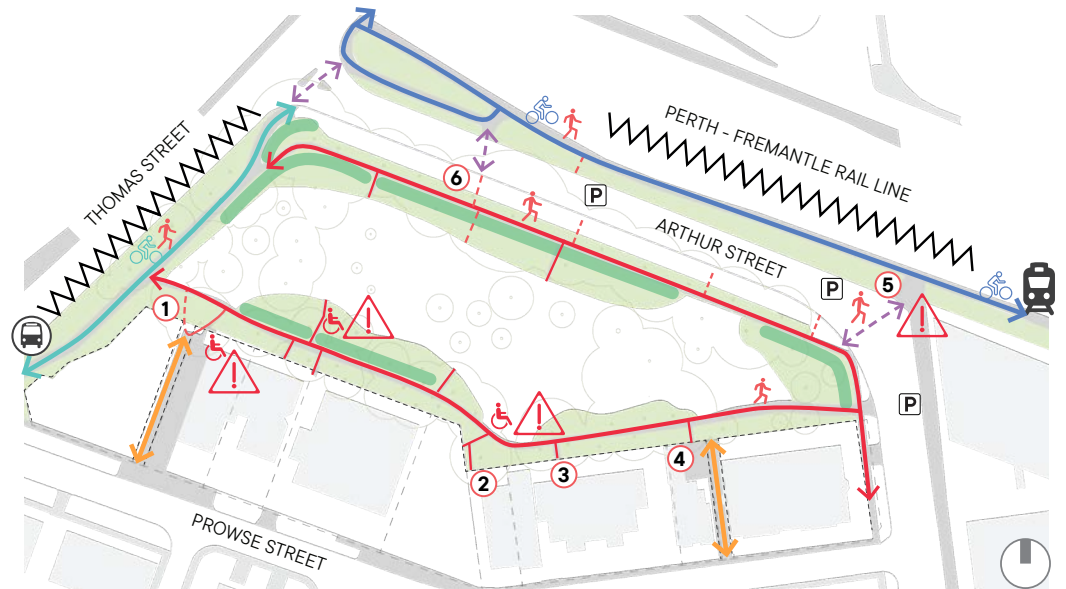
The tree-lined perimeter pathway around Totterdell Park provides connections to surrounding neighbourhood streets, City West Train Station, and the Main Roads shared path network. However, the train line and Thomas Street provide significant barriers to movement from the north and west. Crossings and connections to the shared path and City West Train Station should be upgraded to improve accessibility and safety.

Some narrow paths within the park providing residents access to the rear of the buildings do not meet accessibility requirements. Neighborhood connections are often difficult to navigate, poorly lit, and lack clear signage.

The City of Perth owned public access ways (PAWs) from Prowse Street provide important links to the park. A strong desire line from the western PAW is evident by informal paths created by people walking to and from the park. Improvements are needed to enhance safety, accessibility, and usability.

### LEGEND

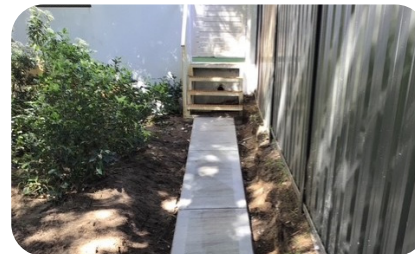
-  Primary pedestrian path
-  Secondary pedestrian path
-  Public access ways (PAWs)
-  Main Road shared path
-  Shared path (CoP owned)
-  Poor accessibility
-  Desire line / goat track
-  Bus stop
-  Train station
-  Street parking
-  Informal pedestrian crossing
-  Visual barriers
-  Private property boundary
-  Neighbourhood barrier



Access and Movement Analysis



1 Informal connection to PAW



2 Access to private property



3 Redundant path



4 Non-compliant connection to PAW



5 Connection to train station



6 Desire line through garden bed

## Urban forest

The park boasts many mature trees, creating a healthy canopy that offers shade, cooling, habitat, and various health benefits to the community. These trees will be preserved and protected in any future enhancement project.

The park also features large garden beds with a diverse range of plantings. However, the City's Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity study has identified opportunities to enhance biodiversity by introducing native, nectar-rich shrubs to attract more fauna. Bee activity is commonly observed across public open spaces in the city, including within Totterdell Park.

In certain areas, existing tall shrubs and hedging obstruct sight lines and limit light penetration, which impacts both the park's safety perceptions and its activation. A review and improvement of the planting in these areas is recommended. Certain planting could also create a gentle buffer in areas with higher bee activity, helping to guide park users' movement and comfort while still supporting biodiversity and the park's natural environment.

### PSHB

There are a number of confirmed detections of Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) in Totterdell Park. The borer poses a significant threat to the trees in the park which will continue to be monitored. Several species preferred by the beetle exist in the park.



### Existing mature trees



*Lophostemon confertus*  
Queensland Box



*Cinnamomum camphora*  
Camphor laurel



*Agonis flexuosa*  
WA Weeping Peppermint



*Ficus rubiginosa*  
Port Jackson Fig

### Key tree information

114 existing trees

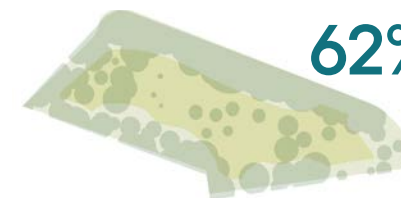


65% mature trees

70%  
Australian  
native



62% canopy cover



88% in good health

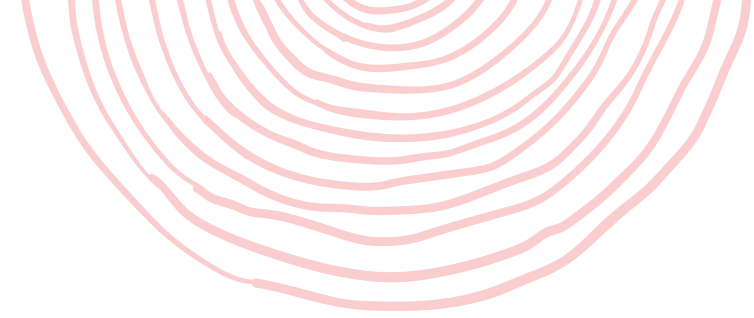


25  
different  
species in total



# What Could It Be?

## What makes a great park?



### Safety and security

- Allow for passive surveillance
- Overlapping functions day and night
- Well lit/lighting to human scale
- Well maintained
- CCTV



### Opportunities to walk and ride

- Room for walking
- Dog walking
- Good surfaces
- Accessibility for everyone



### Opportunities to sit, stand and stay

- Attractive and functional edges
- Pleasant views, people watching
- Good mix of seating
- Resting opportunities



### Dimensioned at human scale

- Dimensions of structures and spaces at human scale (in relation to senses, movement, size and behaviour)



### Landscape biodiversity

- Water sensitive urban design
- Tree canopy
- Beauty and activation every season
- Hydrozoning to promote efficient use of water



### Positive sensory experience

- Good design and detailing
- Quality materials
- Fine views/vistas
- Rich sensory experiences: trees, plants, water



### Protection against unpleasant sensory experiences

- Dust, noise, glare
- Climate
- Traffic



### Opportunities to see

- Reasonable viewing distances
- Unhindered views
- Interesting views
- Lighting at night



### Opportunities to talk and listen

- Low noise levels
- Public seating arrangements conducive to communicating



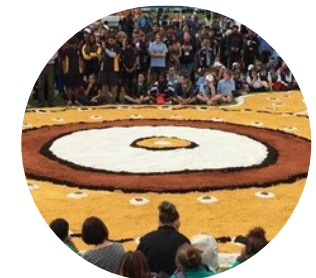
### Opportunities for play and exercise

- Allow for physical activity
- Temporary activities (markets, festivals, exhibitions etc)
- By day and night
- In summer and winter



### Opportunities to enjoy the positive aspects of climate

- Sun/shade
- Heat/coolness
- Shelter from wind/breeze



### Identity and sense of place

- Acknowledge history of the place
- Embrace and integrate key characteristics of the landscape

# Key moves

New + improved play space



Improve neighbourhood connections + accessibility



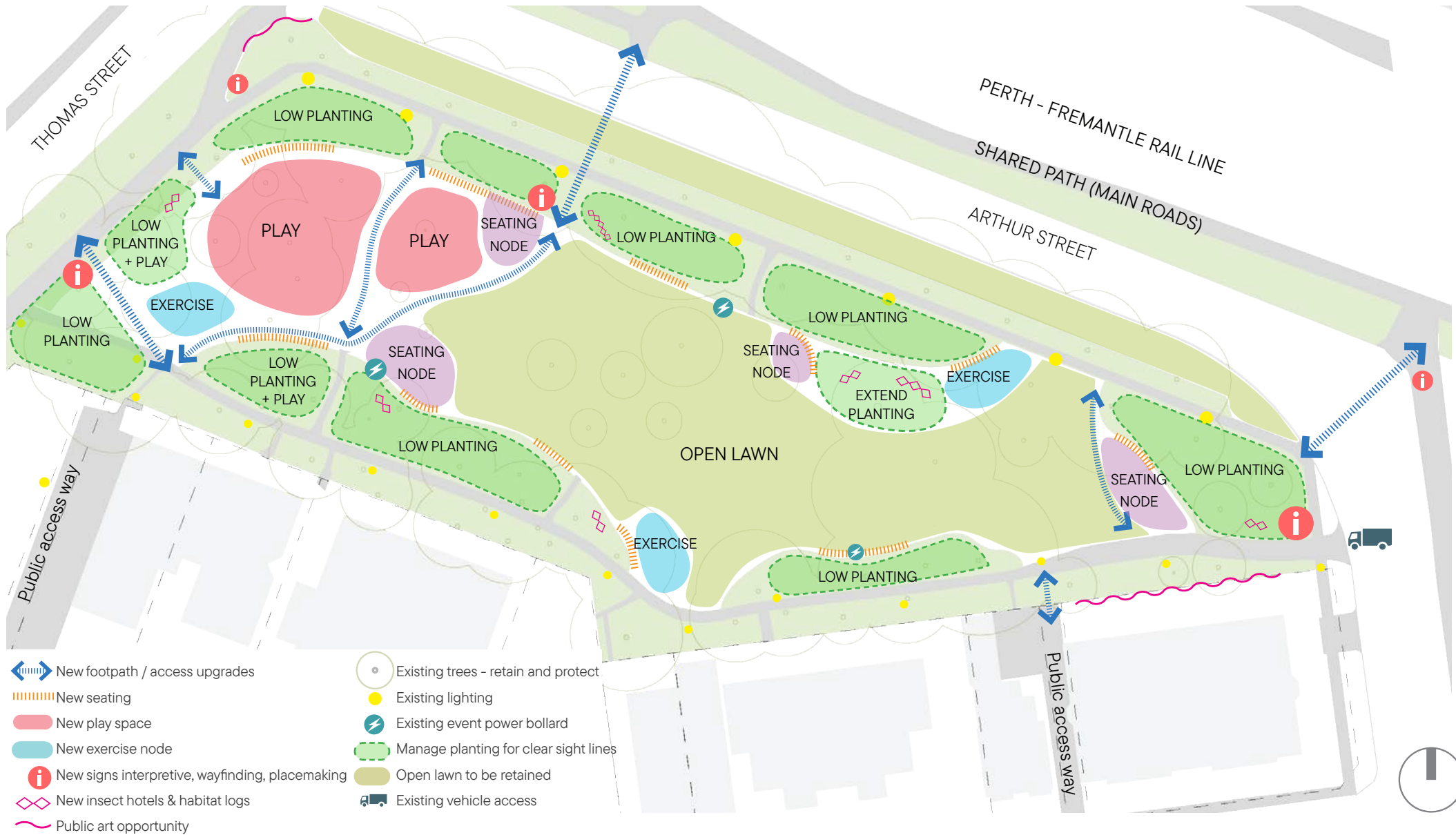
Improve visibility and safety



New amenities - BBQ, shelter, seating, exercise equipment



# Place plan



# Outcomes



## SOCIAL SPACE

- ✓ *New gathering opportunities*
- ✓ *Different seating typologies*
- ✓ *Recreation infrastructure*



## ART AND PLAY

- ✓ *Play space for all ages*
- ✓ *Sculptural play equipment*
- ✓ *New signage*



## PLANTING

- ✓ *New low shrubs and ground covers*
- ✓ *Improve visibility into the park*
- ✓ *Biodiversity improvement*



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