

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a park. It features large, mature trees with thick, gnarled trunks and dense green foliage. Sunlight filters through the leaves on the left side, creating a bright, hazy effect. In the middle ground, a grassy area with some fallen leaves is visible, along with a picnic table and more trees in the distance.

Ocean Grove Park Master Plan

Acknowledgment of Country

Urbis acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands we operate on.

We recognise that First Nations sovereignty was never ceded and respect First Nations peoples continuing connection to these lands, waterways and ecosystems for over 60,000 years.

We pay our respects to First Nations Elders, past and present.

Urbis is committed to incorporating our respect for First Nations cultures, peoples and storytelling in our work across the Country. We are proud to have partnered with Darug Nation artist, **Hayley Pigram**, and to profile her artwork – **Sacred River Dreaming**.



The river is the symbol of the Dreaming and the journey of life. The circles and lines represent people meeting and connections across time and space. When we are working in different places, we can still be connected and work towards the same goal.

All information supplied to Urbis in order to conduct this research has been treated in the strictest confidence. It shall only be used in this context and shall not be made available to third parties without client authorisation. Confidential information has been stored securely and data provided by respondents, as well as their identity, has been treated in the strictest confidence and all assurance given to respondents have been and shall be fulfilled.

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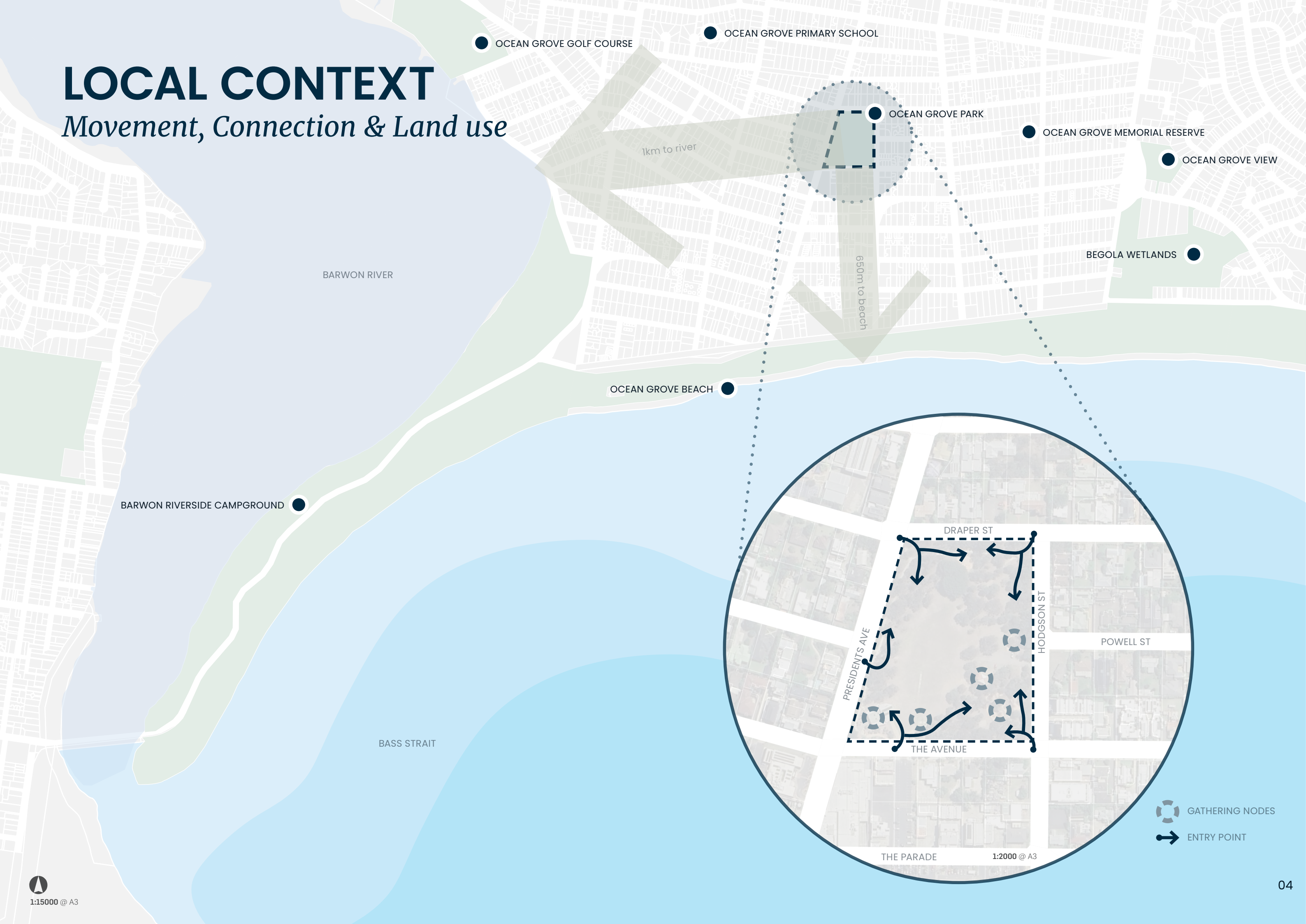
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Revision	Date	Prepared	Reviewed
A	17.10.2025	AF	CF / CA
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-

LOCAL CONTEXT

Movement, Connection & Land use



LOCAL CONTEXT

Existing Site



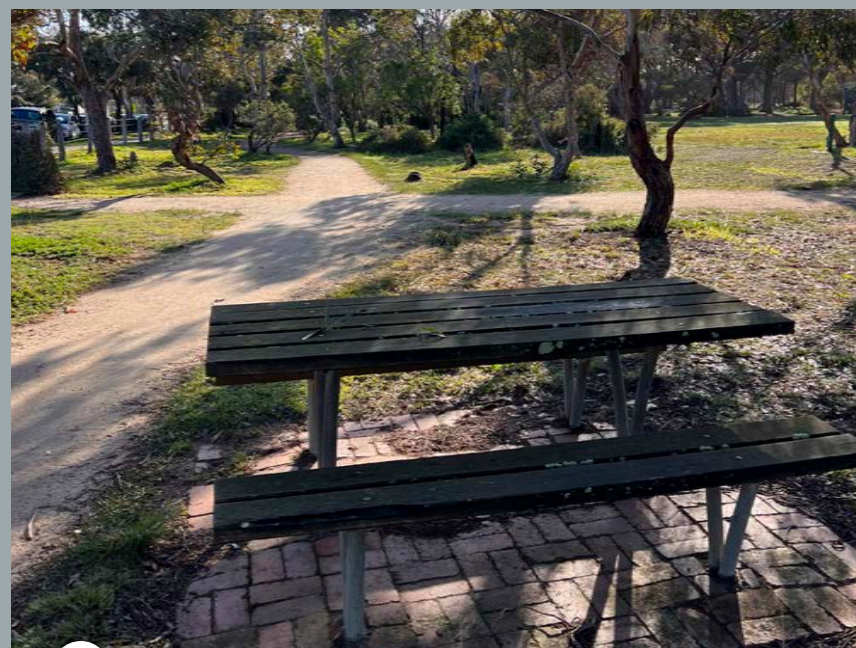
1 Park entrance and wayfinding signage



2 Winding gravel paths and coastal plant palette



3 Playspace



4 Seating and picnic areas



5 Park entrance and open kickabout space



6 New public events pavillion - park focal point



7 Inclusive access to public events pavillion

HISTORICAL AERIALS & TIMELINE

“a reserve for Sunday school picnics and other community gatherings”

c.1889

The Ocean Grove Improvement Association had been formed, advocating for upgrades to the road into town as well as the fencing and planting of the reserve



c.1939

Erection of sheds to the southeastern corner. Clustering and alignment of some early plantings along fence boundary.



c.1975

Evidence of the Cypress tree alignment.

c.1995

The Ocean Grove Park Association was established and entered into an agreement with the Minister of Planning to maintain the park

c.1927

A formal request was made to install fencing around the reserve, with the work scheduled for completion in May the following year

The Progress Association of Darwon Heads to co-operate in that direction. The report of Messrs Watson and Fagg on the suggested tree-planting on the reserve was accepted, and it was decided to hold a working bee on Saturday, May 13th, to erect the fence and wire netting. The secretary was directed to write

c.1951

Further introduced plantings around the northeastern corner. Internal fencing removed.



c.1984

Clearing of some existing trees and the introduction of buildings to the Southeastern corner.



c.2000

Park master plan produced with strategy of infrastructure implementation

WHAT WE HEARD

Common themes for upgrading & futureproofing the park

1 Multi-age Amenities

The park is multi-generational and used by all age groups for various fitness and social activities.

The northern portion can offer opportunities for nature-based play or adventure trails, supporting ecology and education initiatives. Nearby playgroups and kindergartens would use the space for 'bush kinder'. Support with educational signage highlighting site and local biodiversity initiatives.

The current playground offers a wide range of standard play equipment for ages 2-12. Future upgrades should consider teenage interactions (e.g., basketball court upgrade) and all-ability play equipment like accessible spinners, sensory panels, and in-ground trampolines. There is also an opportunity for the playground to blend beyond the timber edge into the surrounding vegetation for additional nature play benefits.

2 Existing Facilities

The work shed needs to be expanded. Consider alternative locations or options for external cladding to help it blend into the park better.

Surrounding perimeter fencing is heritage-listed in certain areas and supported by the community as a unique element distinguishing the park from council facilities.

Existing fitness equipment offers a good range of activities and is well-used. Consider how to maintain and blend it better into the surroundings.

3 Resilient Landscapes

Retain all existing trees and native vegetation.

Increase understory planting to support habitat creation and discourage invasive species (e.g., Noisy Miners).

Consider upgrading the functionality of existing grass swales and drainage systems.

Explore opportunities to use existing pavilion solar energy for lighting or stormwater runoff capture for park reuse.

Consider installing an electric charging station in the car park to support sustainable initiatives.

4 Community Focussed

The central open oval space successfully hosts small to mid-scale events like markets, fairs, and food trucks, with no current need to expand the area or power/water facilities.

Grass in front of the pavilion requires regular upkeep.

Current seating and picnic table facilities are adequate but not universally designed or accessible (e.g., wheelchair space, armrests, and pathway connections).

Local artists and community members are keen to contribute meaningfully to the park.

Access across surrounding roads and into the site is sometimes unsafe and obstructed.

The park has many elements of community significance that should be preserved, such as playground seating, the community book library, and cypress trees.

5 Circulation + Access

The gravel loop around the park is well-used for daily exercise and social interactions.

There are opportunities to create secondary routes or rest areas in the northern section that weave between existing trees and vegetation.

Walking on the surrounding council footpath at night can feel unsafe for some community members.

Key entrances are visually and sometimes physically cluttered. Seek opportunities to upgrade with new signage, planting, and fencing arrangements. Design should be sympathetic to local character rather than ornamental or formal.



DESIGN OBJECTIVES

Key Principles & Design Moves

Three suggested design principles and subsequent strategies to reflect the aspirations of the committee and the surrounding community. These principles aim to provide clear roles and objectives in realising the future vision and master plan of Ocean Grove Park.



1 WELCOMING + GATHERING

- i A focused community heart: Advocate for and support the park as the core heart of Ocean Grove by nurturing the existing connections, recreation, and conservation that the community currently loves.
- ii A place to nurture community involvement: Engage all generations through the renewal journey to strengthen knowledge and understanding of ecological values, fostering lasting ownership and pride.
- iii A flexible site for all scales of interaction: Offer a range of varied spaces that cater to a diverse local community, from large gatherings, to places for adventure, or secluded areas for reflection.



2 RECREATION + WELLNESS

- i A connected and accessible park: Provide a safe and accessible park for everyone, thoughtfully connected within and to surrounding landscapes.
- ii A sustained connection to nature: Create a green refuge for the community and future generations, promoting health and well-being through immersive experiences with nature.
- iii Provide well-connected recreation amenity for the community, accessible to all ages and abilities.



3 ECOLOGY + RESTORATION

- i Protect, enhance, and celebrate nature: Celebrate and nurture existing trees and vegetation, and implement strategies to sustain them into the future.
- ii Improve biodiversity and habitat connections: Boost ecological resilience and diversity through improved planting and vegetation.
- iii Foster a collaborative approach in future restoration activities that involve the whole community.



1 WELCOMING + GATHERING

Ocean Grove park is currently a well-loved space in the centre of the township, and the following key strategies will assist in advocating for its on-going community benefit and nurture future ownership and pride.

Community Focus:

- Retain open, flexible spaces for mid to large-scale events like markets, fairs, and food trucks. Implement a turf strategy to maintain grass year-round.
- Create a unique material and furniture palette that reflects local history and character, aiding site identity and way finding.
- Offer opportunities for local artists, collectives, or schools to contribute creatively with artwork, signage, and furniture.
- Preserve and maintain elements of community significance, like playground seating, the community book library, and cypress trees.

Safety and Way finding

- Advocate for increased pedestrian access and safety surrounding and into the site, such as a raised pedestrian crossing at the main entrance on The Avenue.
- Develop a lighting strategy that increases safety in and around the park.
- Upgrade key entrance points to be more welcoming and legible, using materials and planting that reflect local character. Focus on new signage, planting, ease of access, and reducing visual clutter.

Existing Facilities:

- Expand the work shed with options for external cladding or landscaping to blend it into the park.
- Continue heritage fencing around the park for a cohesive look



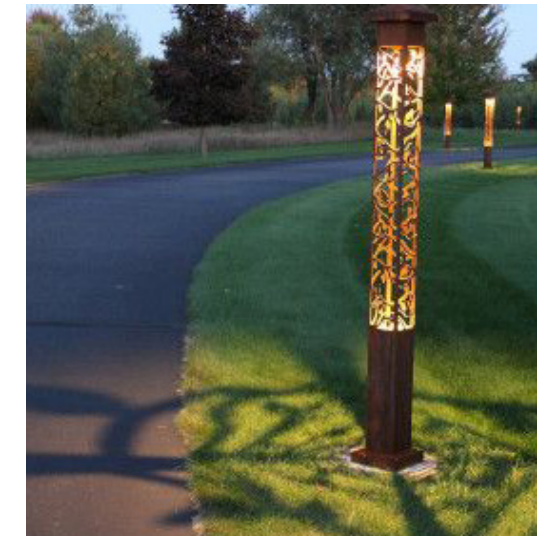
Integrating art and history into the site



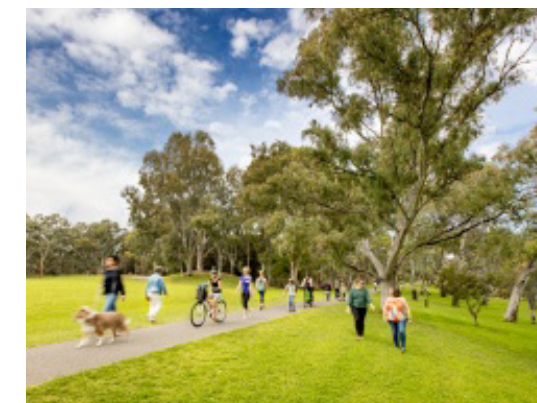
Unique material and furniture palette to reflect the park and local character



Improve key entrances and signage



Consider perimeter or early evening lighting to help with safety.



Maintain and support year-round grassing to enable flexible use



Retain and support mid-large scale community events



2 RECREATION + WELLNESS

As a central green refuge for the community, Ocean Grove Park is the ideal place to promote health and well-being. Facilitated community activities, everyday exercise, and social interactions for all age groups can thrive here.

Circulation and Access:

- Retain the well-used existing 'exercise' loop around the park. Consider the future maintenance regime of the gravel path material to ensure it is well-maintained and accessible through-out the year.
- Offer alternative slower routes or rest areas on the northern portion that integrate into the existing trees and vegetation.

Multi-age Amenities:

- Focus on universal design elements that ensure equal and accessible access in and around the park. Consider connecting pathways and access routes, comfortable furniture designs, and increased rest opportunities.
- Introduce additional play opportunities around formal equipment and throughout the site, with a focus on nature-based and sensory learning.
- Plan for future playground expansion and upgrades, including all-ability play equipment like accessible spinners, sensory panels, and in-ground trampolines. Offer quiet, sensory, and solitary play areas nearby.

Existing facilities

- Integrate fitness and play areas with natural elements like understory planting, rocks, logs, and steppers.
- Maintain fitness equipment to ensure it remains in good condition and relevant.



Maintain existing 'exercise' loop to support daily exercise



Offer areas for sitting and rest



Keep open green spaces for informal exercise and ball games



Future playground upgrade that includes all-ability opportunities and equipment.



Include opportunities for nature based play



Offer quiet, sensory, and solitary areas.



3 ECOLOGY + RESTORATION

Ocean Grove Park is uniquely positioned to use its existing environment to engage all generations in a restoration journey, strengthening understanding of ecological values and promoting respectful interaction

Resilient Landscapes:

- Retain and support existing canopy coverage and natural shade for future generations.
- Increase understory planting and local vegetation to boost biodiversity and education.
- Implement water retention features like planted and grass swales to manage runoff.
- Develop a robust planting palette and maintenance plan for ongoing landscaping.
- Investigate opportunities to utilise or expand existing pavilion solar systems for use within the park.
- Capture stormwater run-off from the pavilion for reuse in the landscape.
- Install educational signage highlighting site and local biodiversity initiatives.



Support and celebrate mature trees and natural canopy shade



Use local, native planting palette



Increase understory planting



Install educational signage and learning spaces for local children and teens.



Plant existing grass swales



Integrate play and environmental initiatives.

MASTER PLAN

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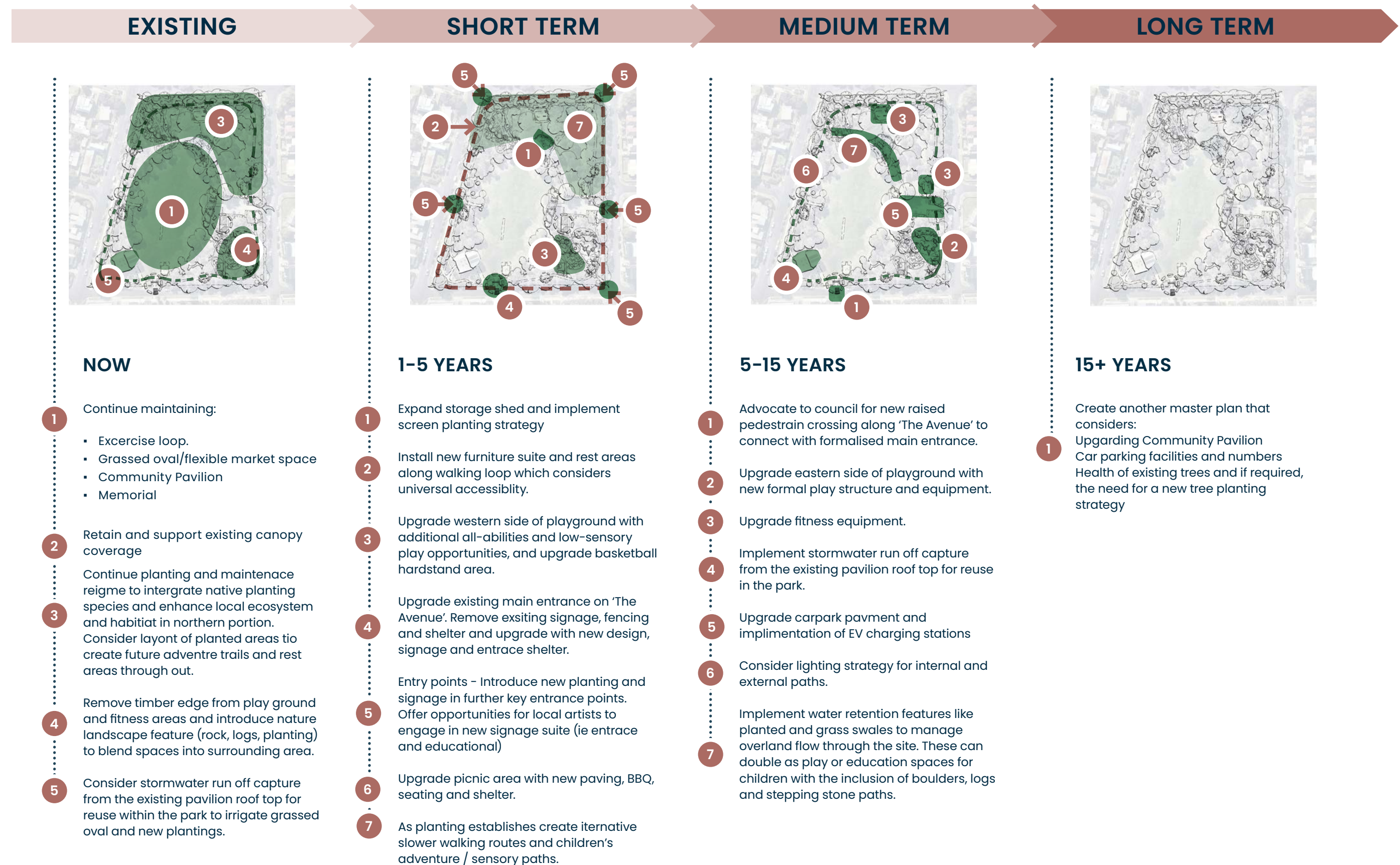


- ### PROPOSED ELEMENTS
- 1 Robust Planting Palette**
Create a robust planting palette that is sympathetic to local ecosystems and aids in weed mitigation.
 - 2 Interpretive Trails**
Create adventure or educational trails between existing trees and additional planting to support education and environmental stewardship.
 - 3 Lighting Strategy**
Some safety concerns have been raised about the lack of lighting around the perimeter of the park late at night. Consider a lighting strategy that increases visibility.
 - 4 Perimetre Cicalution**
The existing gravel loop is highly used for daily exercise and social interactions. Ensure it continues to be maintained.
 - 5 Open & Flexible Centre**
The central open oval space successfully hosts small to mid-scale events such as markets, fairs, and food trucks. Maintain grass health in high-traffic areas.
 - 6 Solar & Water Re-Use Opportunities**
Opportunity for rooftop solar and stormwater runoff capture from the existing pavilion for reuse within the park.
 - 7 Key Entrance Upgrades**
Upgrade the existing key entrances to reduce clutter, provide wayfinding signals and park information, and advocate for a raised pedestrian crossing for the main plaza entrance.
 - 8 Fitness & Activity Nodes**
Improve fitness areas with natural edging, planting, seating and additional access points.
 - 9 Additional Circulation**
Additional paths for improved circulation between key areas of the park
 - 10 Maintenance Amenity Upgrades**
The current location of the shed is ideal for expansion and safety. Consider cladding and surrounding planting to help it blend in.
 - 11 Naturalised Swale**
Naturalise existing grass swale to help with water reuse education and play opportunities
 - 12 Carparking**
Car parking on-site is currently adequate, but consider adding an electric charging point to champion sustainable thinking.
 - 13 Playspace Upgrade**
Upgrade playground to include all-abilities equipment and nature-based/sensory play
 - 14 Hardstand Sports Amenity Upgrade**
Upgrade basketball and hardstand sports area to cater for older children
 - 15 Breakout Rest Zones**
Providing seating opportunities away from the busier parts of the park, set within low planting offering a restful and quiet zone

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Short, Medium & Long Term Goals

An indicative staging could be as follows:



LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN

Planting Palette

TREES



SHRUBS + TUFTING



GROUNDCOVERS



OTWAY PLAIN BIOREGION

EVC 175: GRASSY WOODLAND

EVC 858: COASTAL ALKALINE SCRUB

KEY	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE AT MATURITY (HxW)	POT SIZE
TREES				
ACA imp	<i>Acacia implexa</i> †	Lightwood	5–15m x 4–7m	45L
ALL ver	<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> *†	Drooping Sheoak	4–11m x 3–6m	45L
BUR spi	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> *	Sweet Bursaria	3–4m x 2–3m	45L
MEL lan	<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i> †	Moonah	1–8m x 3–6m	45L
SHRUBS + TUFTING				
CAS acu	<i>Cassinia aculeata</i> *†	Common Cassinia	1–3m x 1–2m	
COR ref	<i>Correa reflexa</i> †	Common Correa	0.3m x 1–2m	
DIA rev	<i>Dianella revoluta</i> * †	Black-anther Flax-lily	0.5m x 0.5m	
EPA imp	<i>Epacris impressa</i> *	Common Heath	0.5m x 0.5m	
GER pot	<i>Geranium potentilloides</i> *	Cinquefoil Cranesbill	0.5m x 0.5m	
GOO ova	<i>Goodenia ovata</i> †	Hop Goodenia	1.5m x 1–3m	
LEU par	<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i> *†	Coast Beard-heath	1–4m x 2–3m	
LOM fil	<i>Lomandra filiformis</i> *	Wattle Mat-rush	1m x 1m	
MYO ins	<i>Myoporum insulare</i> †	Common Boobialla	1m x 1.5–2m	
OLE ram	<i>Olearia ramulosa</i> †	Twiggy Daisy-bush	1–2m x 1m	
PIM hum	<i>Pimelea humilis</i> *	Common Rice-flower	0.5m x 0.5m	
POA sie	<i>Poa sieberiana</i> *	Grey Tussock-grass	1m x 1m	
GROUNDCOVERS + CLIMBERS				
ATR sem	<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i> †	Berry Saltbush	0.3m x 1–3m	
BIL sca	<i>Billardiera scandens</i> *	Apple Berry	0.5m x 2m	
CLE mic	<i>Clematis microphylla</i> *	Small-leaved Clematis	0.5m x 2m	
TET imp	<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i> †	Bower Spinach	0.3m x 2m	

* denotes species indigenous to local EVC 175/EVC 858

NEXT STEPS

To working together



Vision & principles report

This document provides a summary of the primary themes and concerns identified during our initial briefing discussions and desktop review. This summary is intended for the committee’s review and consideration, offering a foundation for broad discussion and decision-making to guide the project towards successful outcomes



Urbis facilitated workshop

Let’s gather to thoroughly review the insights and perspectives from committee discussions regarding the key themes and concerns outlined in the report. Additionally, we should take this opportunity to brainstorm and consider various ideas for achieving the desired outcomes. This collaborative effort will help ensure that we are aligned and moving forward with a clear and unified vision



Align consolidated ideas and priorities

Trough consultation with committee members, establish a clear and focused direction for the master plan. By incorporating diverse perspectives and expertise, we can ensure that the master plan is comprehensive, well-aligned with our collective vision, and effectively addresses the needs and aspirations of the broader community



Master plan development

With all this great information in hand, we’re excited and ready to kick off the development of the master plan. Your feedback and ideas will provide us with a solid foundation to move forward confidently and make sure we’re delivering the best outcomes for the Ocean Grove community.

We are here

