CENTRAL CITY

# URBAN FOREST PRECINCT PLAN 2025–35

CITY OF MELBOURNE

## Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we govern, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection they have maintained to this unique place for more than 2000 generations.

We accept the invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to walking together to build a better future.

## Council Plan 2021-25

The Council Plan 2021-25 sets out our strategic direction and commitment to the community for the next four years. Based on six strategic objectives for our city, this is our detailed plan for our city's revitalisation and considers the needs of all people who access and experience the City of Melbourne municipality. For more information visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/council-plan


### Climate and biodiversity emergency

Melbourne is a city setting the standard on climate action. Prioritising our environment and taking urgent action to reduce emissions and waste is key to protecting public health, strengthening the economy and creating a city that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

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30 December 2024

Cover: Illustration by the artist Lilian Darmono




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# FOREWORD FROM THE LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE AND COUNCILLOR

Melbourne's trees are justly famous for the character and the environmental benefits they bring to our city. More than 80,000 trees in our municipality are so important in cooling the streets and parks and providing habitat for birds and animals. We're very proud that all the trees we plant are thoughtfully planned through our Urban Forest Precinct plans.

The plans grew out of an Urban Forest Strategy that has embedded healthy city principles in our thinking. The social, environmental and health benefits of urban forests have become more clear with every year. From parks to wetlands, river embankments, balconies and roof gardens, Melbourne's urban forest creates an enjoyable and healthy place for people to work and live. Now we have an opportunity to renew our urban forest planning for the next decade.

The past ten years in Melbourne have seen innovative urban forest management across ten precincts. We celebrate and embrace the distinctive quality of each. A key part of our approach is planting trees appropriate to each neighbourhood, in consultation with the community. Building on these discussions, ten new Urban Forest Precinct Plans have been developed that will enhance each neighbourhood's character.

Why renew the plans? The beauty of Melbourne's trees and gardens has always enchanted residents, workers and visitors, and our urban forest planning must evolve to protect and expand this natural asset. Looking ahead, it's important to focus on climate change. This is crucial.

We recognise Melbourne's vulnerability to extreme heat, and we know that trees play a key role in reducing the impact of heat on people and wildlife. The great value of urban forest planning lies in increasing canopy cover, improving amenity and consulting with the community to maximise the benefits of trees for everyone in our city.

Creating healthy ecosystems, protecting biodiversity, becoming a water-sensitive city, reducing the urban heat island effect – all these aims help position Melbourne as a leader in urban forestry. These plans recognise and strengthen the deep connection our community has to the natural environment. In the next decade let's continue to create a legacy with an urban forest of which Melbourne can be proud.

Nicholas Reece.

**Lord Mayor**
Nicholas Reece

**Councillor Davydd Griffiths**
Environment Portfolio Lead

# THE URBAN FOREST

## What is an Urban Forest?

The urban forest is made up of all of the trees and other vegetation – and the soil and water that supports it – within our municipality. It includes vegetation in streets, parks, gardens, plazas, campuses, river and creek embankments, wetlands, railway corridors, community gardens, green walls, balconies and roofs.

The land on which the City of Melbourne sits has been managed for thousands of generations by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin. The *urban* forest that we experience today is a result of our environmental, economic, social, political and cultural history.

## What are the Urban Forest Precinct Plans?

We have divided our municipality into 10 urban forest precincts (Map 1). The Urban Forest Precinct Plans guide tree planting in streets over a 10-year period. The precinct plans complement our 2012 Urban Forest Strategy and form a key component of the strategy's implementation.

The precinct plans direct tree planting to achieve the Urban Forest Strategy objectives, protect and enhance neighbourhood character, and to prioritise works and budgets. The plans build on many decades of urban forest management and respect the legacy of thousands of generations of management of this Country.

Each Urban Forest Precinct Plan has been developed together with the community. They are based on science urban design principles. The first round of precinct planning occurred between 2013 and 2015. Those documents were designed with the local community to determine shared vision for the urban forest.

Map 1. shows the targets outlined in the original Urban Forest Precinct Plan's and the current canopy cover in each of the precincts. Since 2012 our trees numbers have risen to over 80,000 in the municipality with 1304 trees planted in the Central City including 32 major street tree planting projects completed.

**Map 1. Trees planted in the municipality**

**The City of Melbourne 25.22% canopy**
Over 80,000 trees in the municipality 234 streetscapes completed

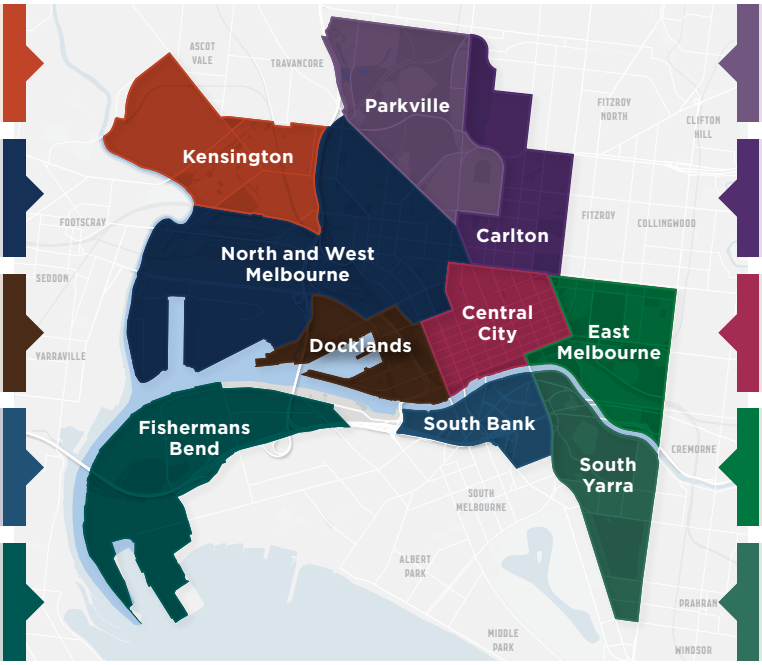
**Kensington 24.1% canopy**
4195 trees planted
since 2012
21 streetscapes completed

**NW Melbourne 18.1% canopy**
8797 trees planted
since 2012
74 streetscapes completed

**Docklands 9.3% canopy**
5240 trees planted
since 2012
7 streetscapes completed

**Southbank 16.8% canopy**
1397 trees planted
since 2012
9 streetscapes completed

**Fishermans 9.8% canopy**
1646 trees planted
since 2012
8 streetscapes completed




**Parkville 29.2% canopy**
15692 trees planted
since 2012
13 streetscapes completed

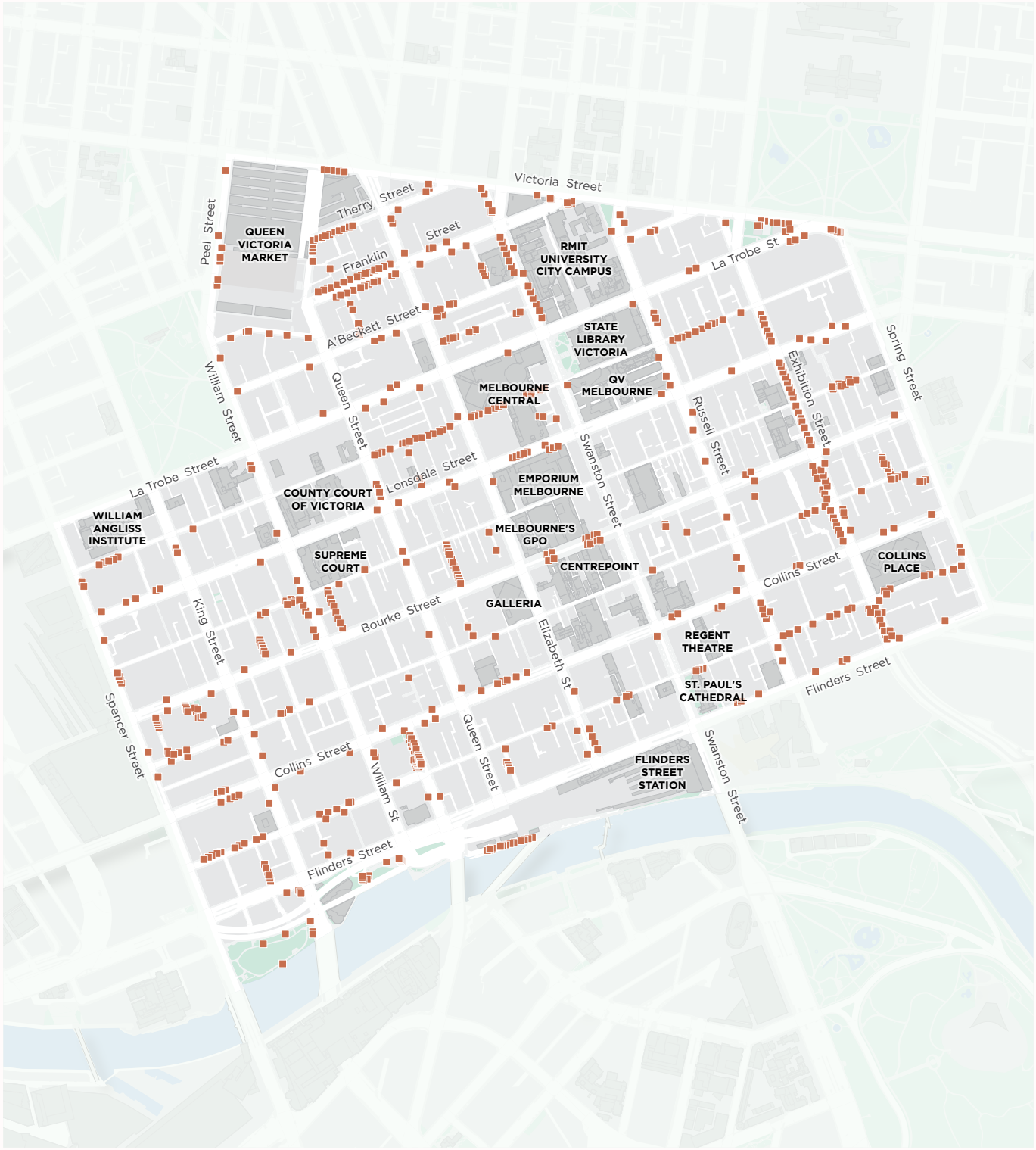
**Carlton 25.5% canopy**
3500 trees planted
since 2012
35 streetscapes completed

**Central City 18.8% canopy**
1304 trees planted
since 2012
32 streetscapes completed

**East Melbourne 31% canopy**
3522 trees planted
since 2012
15 streetscapes completed

**South Yarra 34.1% canopy**
1855 trees planted
since 2012
15 streetscapes completed

**Map 2. Trees planted over the last ten years in the Central City**




**Key**

Trees planted since 2012

Parks / green spaces

N

0 100 200 300 Meters

## Why is the urban forest important?

Our Urban Forest Strategy (2012) was one of the first in the world. Since its introduction, many other strategies and policy documents around the world have been introduced that support a similar approach to supporting and building healthy cities through urban forestry.

Urban forests provide many environmental, economic and social benefits that make cities enjoyable places for people to live and work. Trees are appreciated for their beauty, but they also provide many other benefits.

Early urban forest management focused on how trees looked, but research in the 1990s began to quantify the other benefits of urban trees with cooling and slowing of stormwater recognised as particularly important. More recently, urban trees have been identified as integral to ecology in cities – urban trees support a wide variety of wildlife, are a key tool to help keep cities healthy, adapt to climate change and mitigate the urban heat island effect (whereby urban areas are several degrees hotter than surrounding rural areas).

Urban forests support human health and wellbeing in many ways:

- Cooling the city
- Supporting health, wellbeing and happiness of people
- Improving social connection
- Cleaning air and water
- Attracting people to live, work and visit the city
- Providing habitat for native birds and animals
- Stimulating economic activity in retail and dining precincts
- Creating a unique sense of character to an area
- Supporting cultural practices of First Nation people

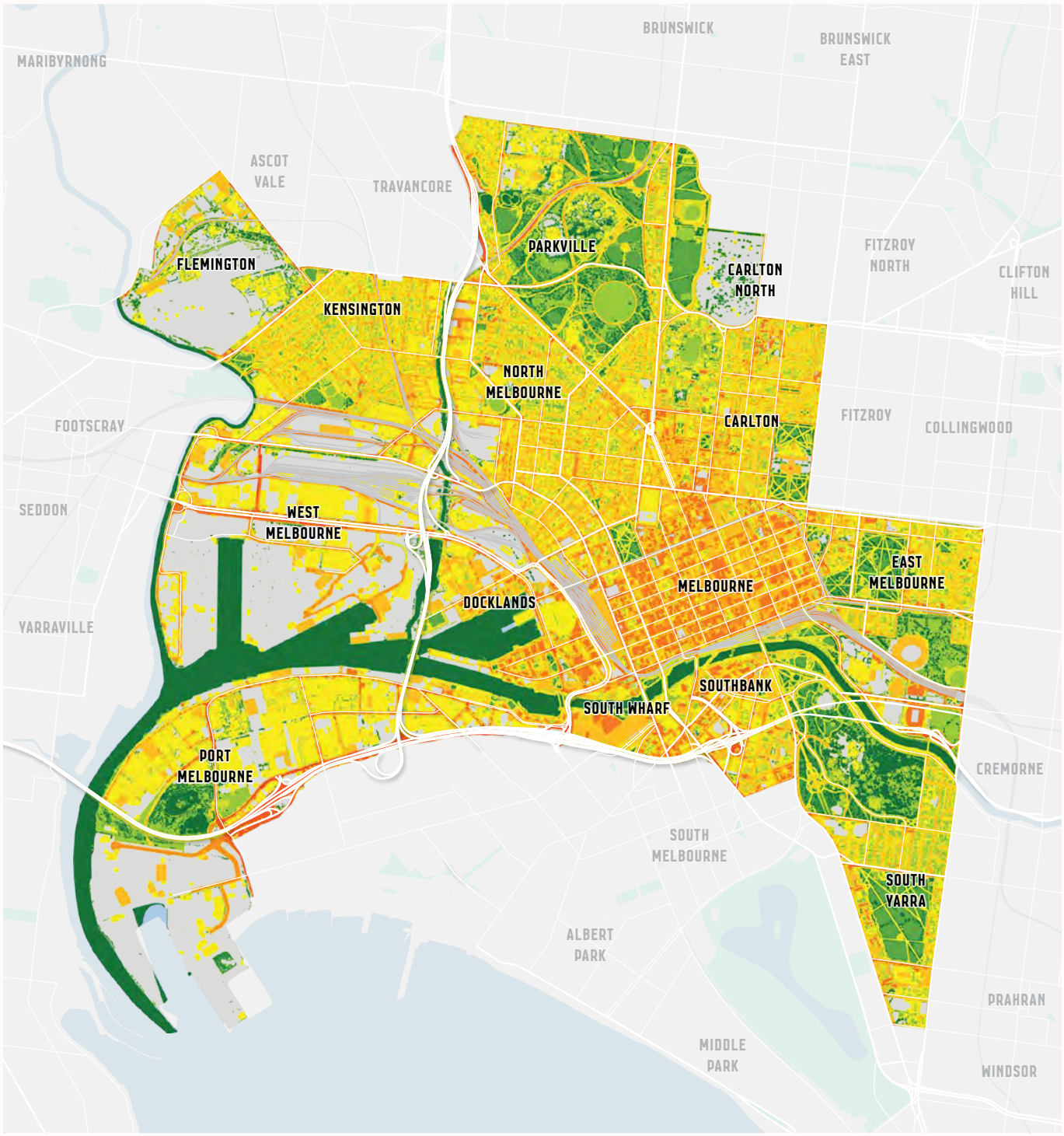
The urban forest has been identified as one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce the impacts of climate change and heat on our city. The Urban Forest Strategy has established principles and targets that will help us to maximise the benefits of the urban forest for people and wildlife.

## How does the urban forest help with climate change?

Climate change impacts to human health and wellbeing are a significant concern for our municipality. Climate change science tells us that Melbourne is likely to experience an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as heat waves, drought and flooding. Heat waves kill more people in Australia (and the world) each year than any other natural disaster (Coates et al 2014; 2022). When the global average temperature rises above pre-industrialisation levels by 1.5C it will likely cause major and irreversible damage to global ecosystems, putting liveability everywhere at risk. This critical 1.5C threshold is expected to be reached within the next ten years regardless of global emission reductions (World Meteorological Organization Report 1338, 2023).

The urban heat island compounds the effects of climate change. This means that central Melbourne will reach temperatures associated with heat related illness in vulnerable populations more often and for longer than surrounding suburban and rural areas. The urban heat island is a result of hard surfaces that absorb heat, human activity that generates heat and low vegetation cover that does not provide enough shade and natural cooling.

Map 3. A human thermal comfort model across the municipality, green represents the greatest human thermal comfort, whereas orange represents areas with the lowest human thermal comfort ranges.




**Key**

Cooler warmer

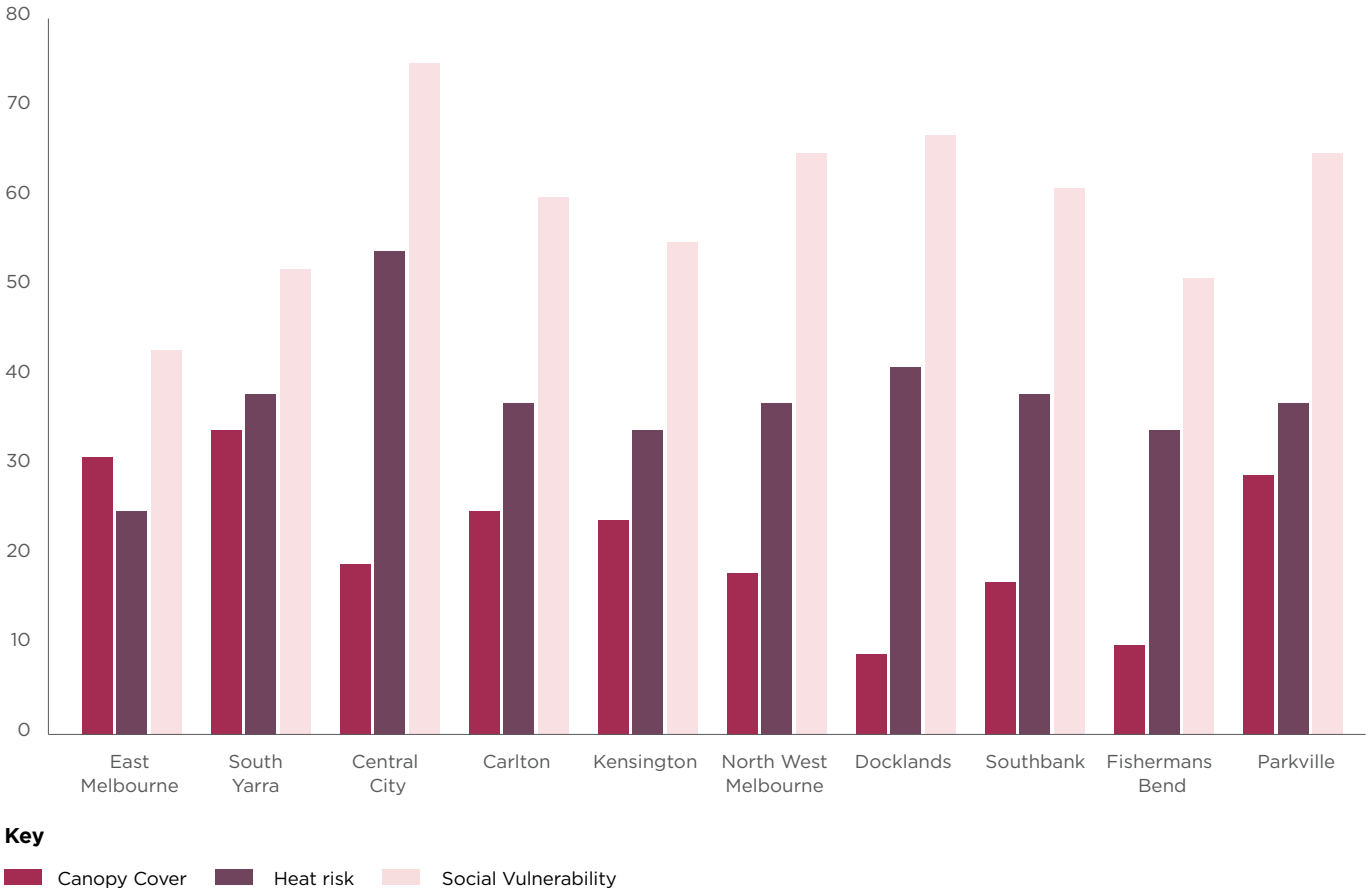
N

0 400 800 1,200 Meters

## The City of Melbourne's heat vulnerability

We monitor heat vulnerability in the municipality by considering many factors. It is not only about where the hottest places are, but also about the level vulnerability of that local community to heat. Figure 1. shows social vulnerability, heat risk and canopy cover across the urban forest precincts. Social vulnerability is a measurement that considers information such as the numbers of very old or young people, people who need assistance, people renting, people below the poverty line and other potentially isolated groups. The heat risk is a metric which combines exposure to heat, the number of heat hazard days and the social vulnerability. While the City of Melbourne is recognised as a liveable city, there are areas of high social vulnerability within each of our neighbourhoods and this increases our heat risks. Locations with high heat risk are often areas with low canopy cover as well. Planting trees can help to provide comfortable and cool places in areas of high heat risk.
The Central City has the highest social vulnerability score within the municipality, it also has the highest heat risk and some of the lowest canopy. Planting trees is one of the most effective ways to cool down urban areas, and it is important to invest planting trees in places with high heat risk and social vulnerabilities.

**Figure 1. Social vulnerability, heat risk and canopy cover across the urban forest precincts**



The Urban Forest Strategy (2012 – 2032) sets out high level principles to guide management of Melbourne's urban forest:

- **Mitigate and adapt to climate change**
- **Reduce the urban heat island effect**
- **Design for health and wellbeing**
- **Create healthier ecosystems**
- **Design for liveability and cultural integrity**
- **Become a water sensitive city**
- **Position Melbourne as a leader in urban forestry**

These principals are supported by targets to help us achieve a healthy urban forest:

- **Increase canopy cover;** achieve 40% by 2040
- **Increase urban forest diversity;** no more than 5% of one species, 10% of one genus and 20% of one family
- **Improve vegetation health;** 90% of our tree population will be healthy by 2040
- **Improve soil moisture and water quality**
- **Improve urban ecology;** protect and enhance urban ecology and biodiversity
- **Inform and consult with the community;** increase community understanding and connection to our urban forest

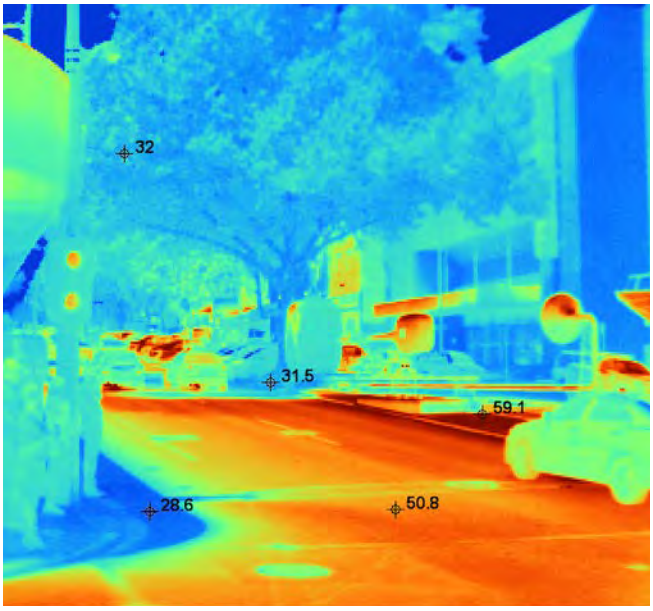



Image. Thermal image of Russel Street, Melbourne

Image. Trees are important for healthy streetscapes

## History of land management in Melbourne

We recognise that Aboriginal peoples are the First Nations people of this land and that they have strived to retain their cultures and identity through colonisation for more than two centuries.

The urban forest today is a mixture of plant types from all around the world, but it hasn't always been this way. Before buildings and roads came to dominate the landscape, this place was a more ecologically diverse environment. There were many different plant communities which indicated different soil types, as well as major landscape features such as rivers and swamps.

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people are the Traditional Owners of the area known today as the Central City. Colonisation had profound and irreversible impacts on the land, plants, animals and people. Prior to colonisation, the landscape was mainly grassy woodlands, grassy creeklines and reed and swamp scrub. This land was actively managed for thousands of generations by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.

Trees were an important part of Country prior to colonisation and continue to have cultural significance for First Nations people today. We believe that we can do better at respecting First Nations people values and priorities in the urban forest. The precinct plans present an opportunity to collaborate with Traditional Owners to ensure that the urban forest is managed in a way that protects and enhances its cultural importance. Through this plan, we aspire to:

- Respect Aboriginal values and priorities through the planning of the urban forest
- Maintain regular meetings with Traditional Owners to discuss management of our urban forest
- Identify culturally significant trees and collaborate with Traditional Owners on programs to protect and celebrate them
- Ensure that pre-colonial tree species and other vegetation are visible in the urban forest and throughout the city

These are not all of our aspirations and ongoing collaboration with Traditional Owners may lead to further opportunities.

The Manna Gum *(Eucalyptus viminalis)* is a culturally important tree for Traditional Owners, and the health and wellbeing of the Manna Gum in the municipality is of prime importance to continue our commitment to reconciliation. Currently, there are over 450 Manna Gums in the city, mostly located around Royal Park. Prior to colonisation, Manna Gums would have been found closer to waterways. The City of Melbourne is working with Traditional Owners on long-term programs to protect and celebrate Manna Gums throughout the city.

**Images: Artistic representation of pre-colonial vegetation in the area now known as The City of Melbourne. All images created by ASPECT Studios and TCL Studios.**

## Early Treeless Melbourne

The colonisation of Melbourne had profound impacts on this land. The open woodlands, brackish swamps and herb-rich plains were quickly changed to a bare, compacted and dry landscape. Early paintings clearly show the widespread land clearing.

This changed landscape was then ‘re-built’ to form the city we know today. The process of urbanisation changed the environment of the city, such as industrialisation polluting our soil and water and the compaction of our clay soils. After the initial colonisation of Melbourne, when indigenous bushland was cleared to make way for a township, trees were given little priority. In the early days trees were seen as a resource to be used and little thought was given to the way the town looked. Between 1850 and 1870 the desire was to create shelter from wind and as quickly as possible. By the 1870s the city fully recognised the benefits of street tree plantings and in 1888 a planned program of street planting started. By the early twentieth century, planes, elms, oaks, poplars, lagunarias, chestnuts and palms were planted along the boulevards, streets and parks of Melbourne. For the drier areas north of Melbourne, kurrajongs, silky oaks, Moreton Bay figs, she-oaks and golden wattles were planted. This period shows a diverse range of trees planted and highlights that thought was given to trees environmental benefits and tolerances.

**Images: Historic images of early Melbourne streets, and a 1854 painting (Nathanial Whittock)**

# CENTRAL CITY'S URBAN FOREST

## Historical tree planting

The first significant street tree plantings in central Melbourne occurred around 1875, when elms were planted in Collins Street near the Town Hall and towards the east end of the city. Plane trees were planted in a number of streets in the following decades. However, many streets remained treeless throughout this time, with the attention on planting in parks. Other tree species were planted in the twentieth century: ash trees were planted along much of Collins Street and next to St Pauls Cathedral in the 1940s, and paperbarks were planted along La Trobe Street in the 1970s. Despite these diverse plantings in the past, the existing street tree population in the Central City is now almost all London plane trees. These trees grow very well in the harsh city growing environment, but the result is a monoculture in the Central City. Transforming from monoculture into a more diverse urban forest is an important challenge for future planting.

## Central City Character

The Central City is largely contained within the Hoddle grid, dominated by densely peopled streets with large buildings, trams and the Birrarung (Yarra River) along its southern edge. The Central City's streets are laid out in a uniform grid of wide (30m) main streets, subdivided by narrower (10m) east-west 'little' streets and a number of laneways. Expansive parklands and the Yarra River corridor adjoin the Central City but there is little parkland within it; streets are the main public open spaces that people use and enjoy.

Our Future Streets Framework aims to bring a cohesive design element to the Hoddle Grid streets and to maximise future design opportunities in the Central City. Large scale projects such as Greenline will also have a big impact in shaping the liveability of the Central City into the future. Private realm greening using innovative green infrastructure such as green walls and rooftops provide green spaces in a dense Central City urban fabric.

## Tree Diversity in Central City

Commercial and mixed-use streets often have well established street trees, historically dominated by plane trees but more recent plantings include diverse species. The other dominant species comprising at least 5% of the urban forest is weeping lilly-pilly, often found in smaller laneways through the central city. The Central City currently has a high proportion of exotic trees and lowest proportion of indigenous trees in the municipality.

Image. Collins Street 1900–1925

## Central City Community Vision

Community perspectives are central to our urban forest planning. A range of different community engagement approaches were used to capture diverse community perspectives. This plan reflects the many community ideas, priorities and values shared during this process.

**"The Central City's streets and buildings will be filled with diverse plants reflecting the community's cultural backgrounds, Indigenous culture, and emphasizing sustainability, integrating biophilic design and green roofs and walls, interactive art installations, and engaging residents in urban forest management".**

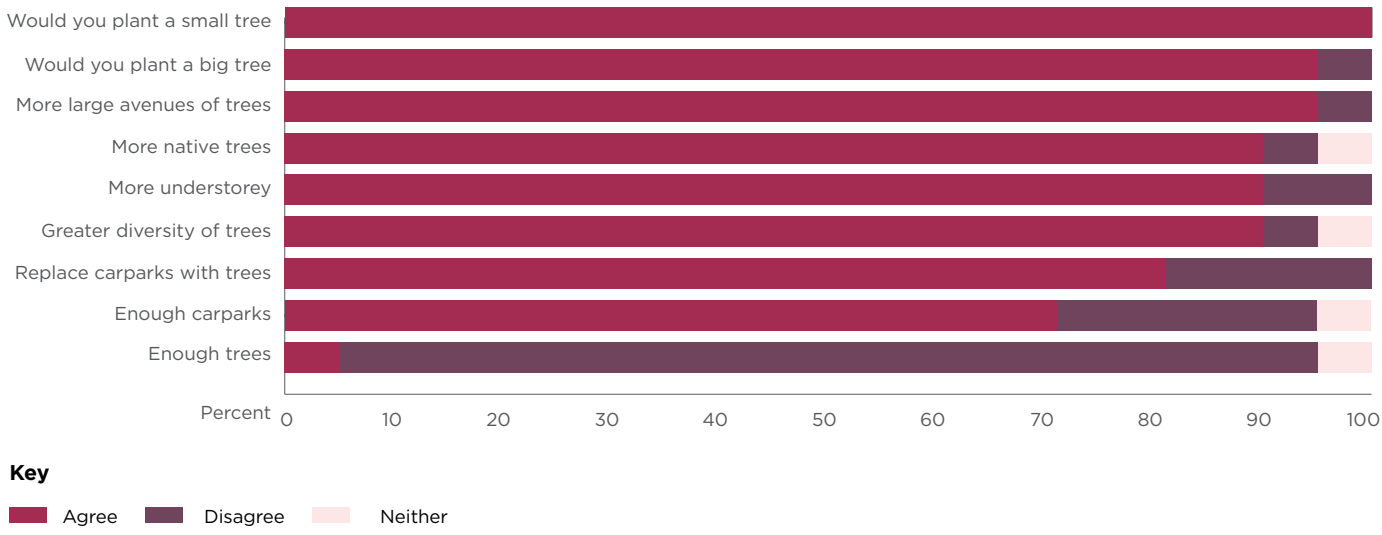
### Your urban forest, community recommendations

A diverse range of views were expressed by the community, but some consistent themes can be used to guide future planting:

- There is strong support from the community to support diverse plantings in the Central City.
- The dominance of plane trees is a risk from pests and diseases and possibly from climate. Alternative species should be used where possible in new plantings to reduce risk.
- There was some support for increased use of native species, although species identity was not important to many participants.
- There was consensus that street upgrades that increase diversity, particularly using understorey plantings were very acceptable. Species identity was not particularly important and both native and exotic species would likely be supported.
- The community are very supportive of innovation in the urban forest – particularly around food and biophilic design, and social dimensions such as education and community.
- Strategies to continue the global recognition of our urban forest should continue.

Map 4. shows the community priority places for greening from the community engagement in the Central City. The community valued the urban forest for many different reasons and sometimes there were conflicting opinions. The major themes from our engagement are illustrated with representative quotes. These values are reflected in the vision statement.

**Figure 2. Community attitudes towards trees and competing demands in Central City**



**Images: Central City community workshop in March 2023**


**Map 4. Areas highlighted for improvement based on community workshops. The comment icons indicate all the locations of in-depth comments posted by the community, with major themes and illustrative quotes from our engagement are also presented.**


**Key**

Area of improvement identified by community

Community input

Parks / green spaces

N 0 100 200 300 Meters


Image. Comics by artist Sofia Sabbagh


Image. Comics by artist Sofia Sabbagh

# MANAGING THE URBAN FOREST

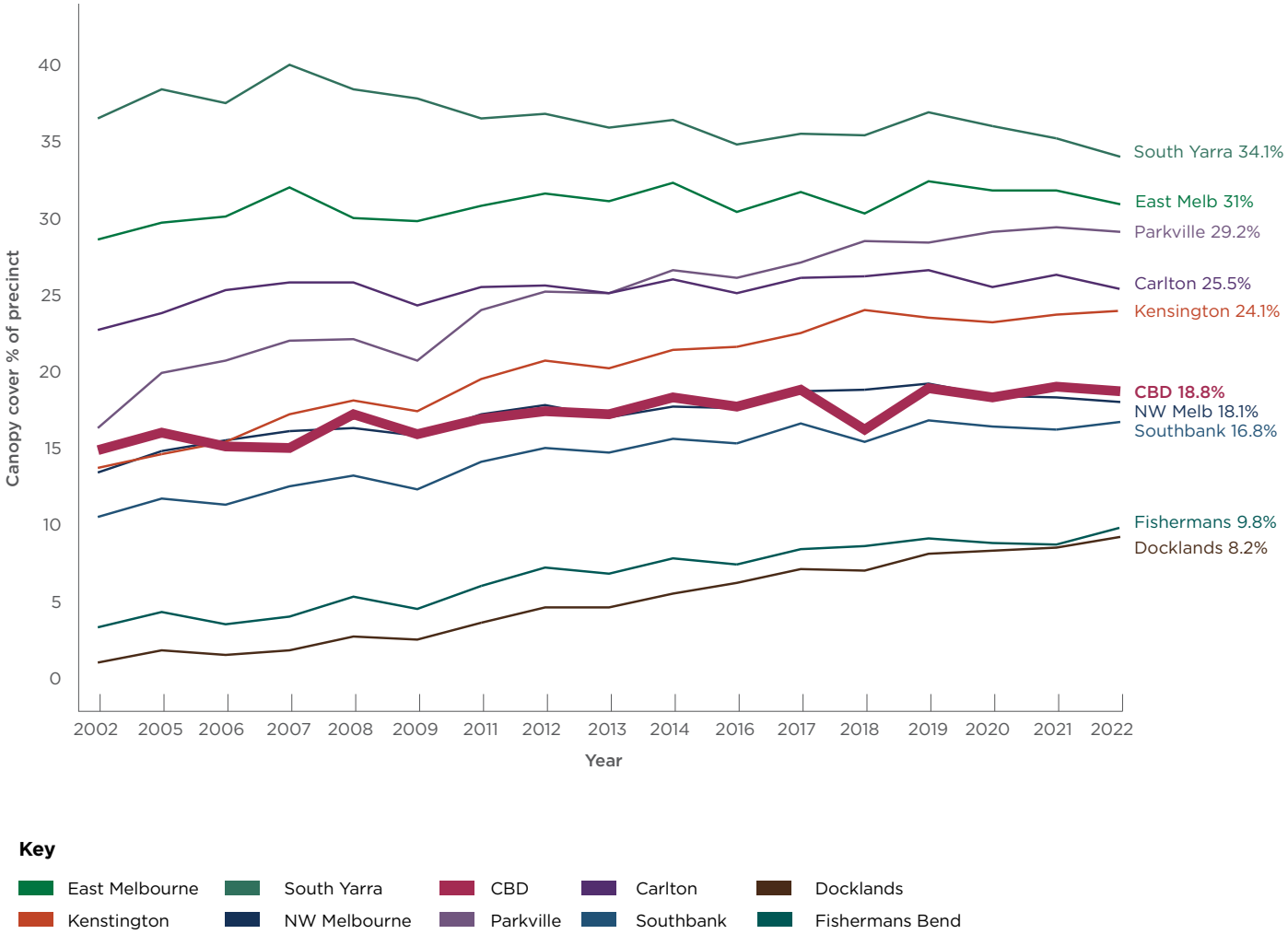
## Canopy cover

Trees take time to grow, sometimes up to 20 years before they provide significant canopy cover. When mature trees are removed it takes a long time to replace the canopy cover. Although more than 3000 new trees are planted across the city each year, slow growth and tree removals mean that it can take a long time for canopy cover to increase.

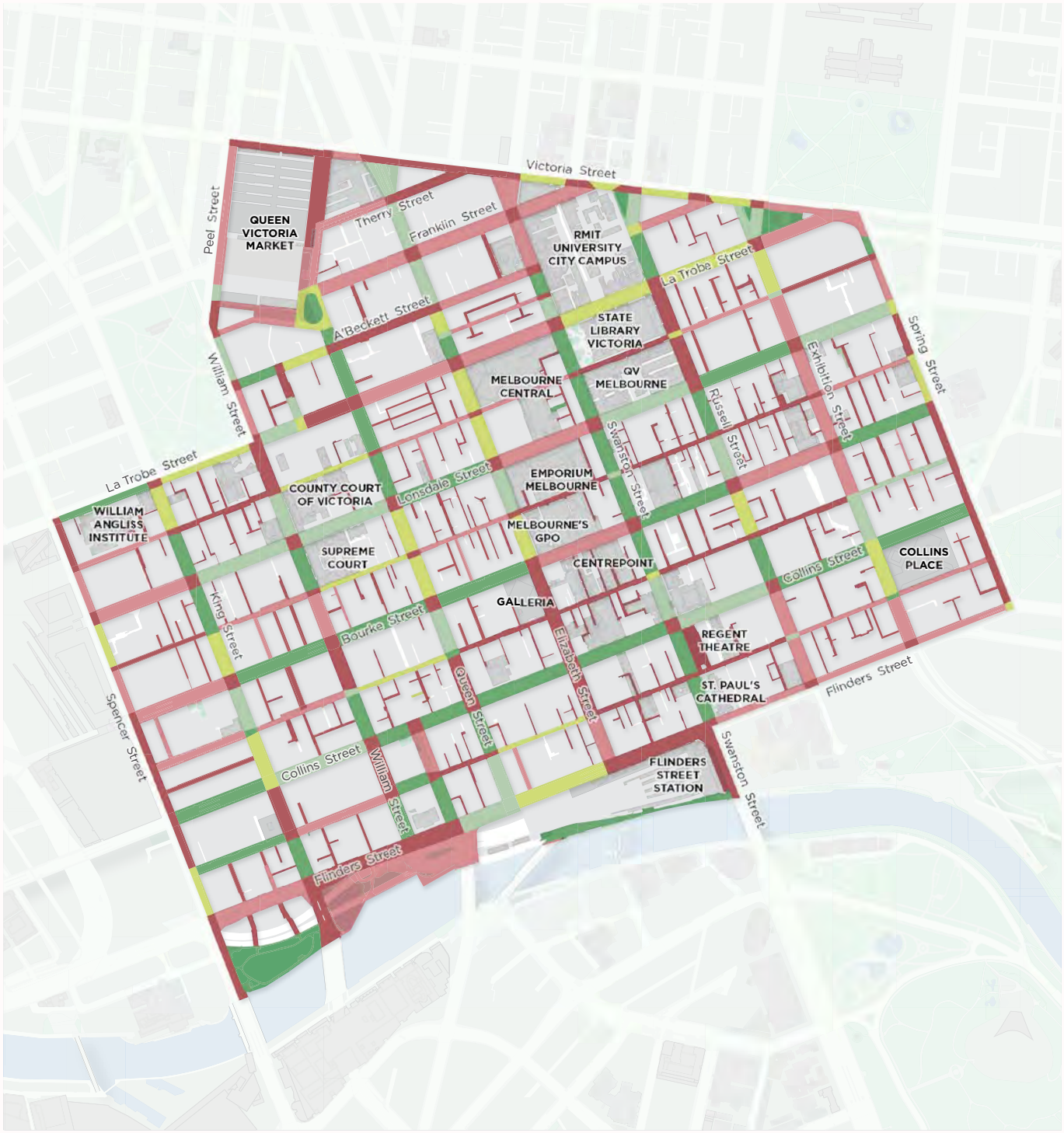
### Central City's canopy cover

Map 5. shows canopy cover of streets in Central City. In 2023 some streetscapes have low canopy but because of recent new plantings: canopy cover is expected to increase in these streets over the coming decades. Streetscapes with low canopy and no recent tree planting are prioritised for planting in the next ten years. We expect low canopy streets to become high canopy streets over time.

**Figure 3. Canopy cover for each precinct over the past 20 years**



**Map 5. Canopy cover per street segment in Central City**




**Key - Canopy cover (%)**

- Established canopy (>40%)
- Growing canopy (20-30%)
- Poor canopy (<20%)
- Established canopy (31-39%)
- Growing canopy (<=30%) with new trees
- Parks / green spaces

N

0 100 200 300 Meters

## Species selection

Urban forests can help create a sense of place and unique local identity. The community engagement within each precinct helps us understand what the community loves about its local urban forest, and what the community hopes it will look and feel like in the future. This helps us to manage a diverse urban forest by supporting different local characters.

### Maintaining urban forest character through species selection

Achieving urban forest diversity goals does not mean that the urban forest character needs to change, we can achieve the same look and feel with a range of different species. Major types of trees with different characters include:

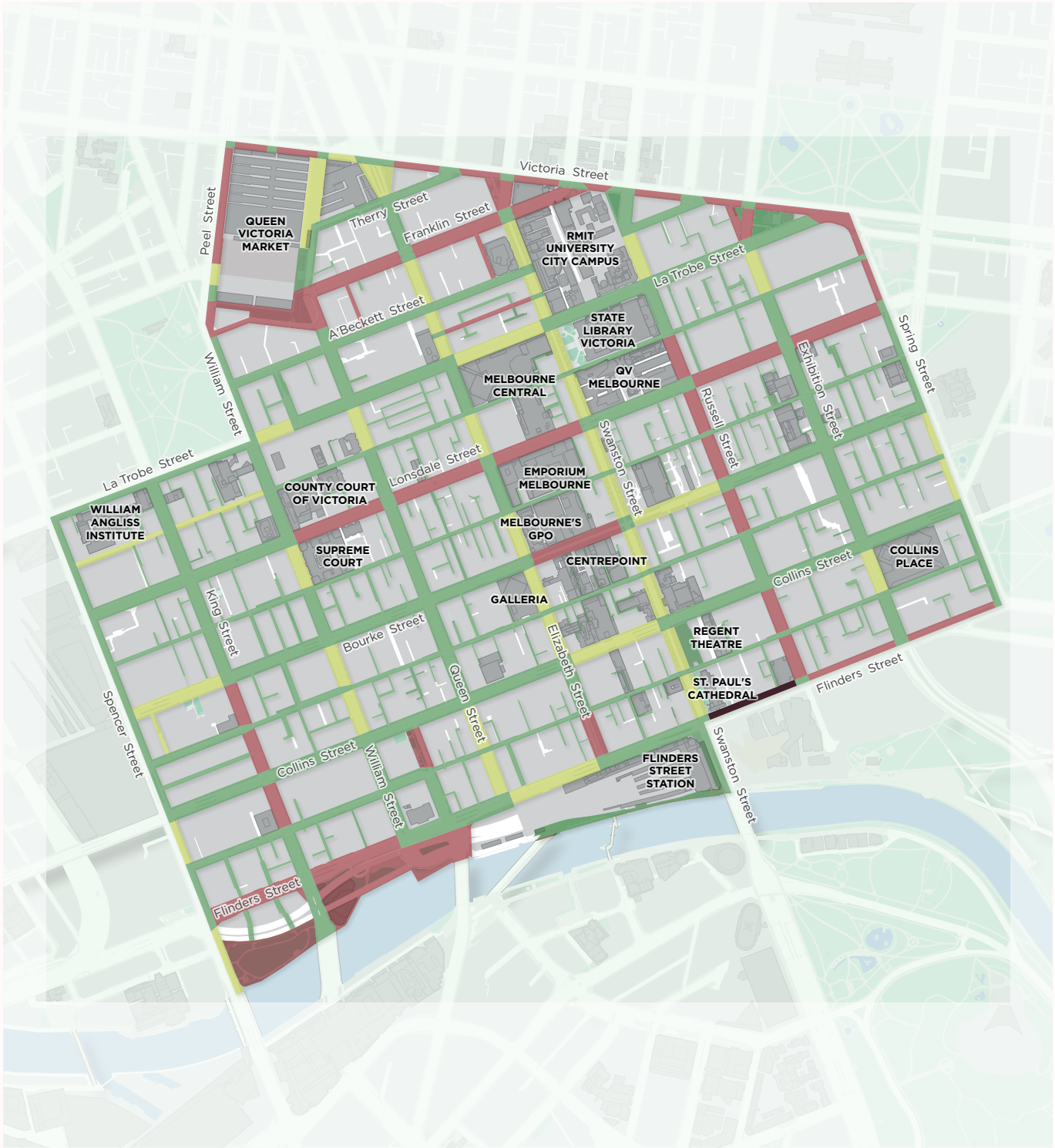
- Deciduous trees that lose all of their leaves for parts of the year. This character typically allows shade in summer and sunlight during winter, as well as autumn colours. Deciduous species that could be well suited in Melbourne's future climate could include species from North America and Asia that have warmer distributions than European species.
- Evergreen trees that retain green leaves throughout the year. This character typically provides an all-year greening opportunity and are typically better adapted to handling extreme climatic conditions (very hot or dry or cold).
- Monocultures refer to only one species of tree being planted on a street.
- Mixed species streets refer to a mix of different types of trees. These can be a mix of different deciduous trees, or a mix of both deciduous and evergreen species.

The Central City has bespoke tree species replacement plans to specifically reduce the numbers of Plane trees within the Hoddle Grid. These plans retain plane trees on Bourke Street, Swanston Street, Elizabeth Street and Collins Street and introduce different character species for other streets. The replacement plans generally seek to establish evergreen trees in the centre medians to provide year-round wind mitigation and deciduous trees in the footpath to allow solar access to buildings in winter.

Map 6. shows the current street planting types in the Central City. There are few parks within the Central City, so all the green space benefits need to be incorporated into the streets. The community vision embraces diversity, which allows for innovative and progressive planting strategies. Future planting will reinforce this neighbourhood character and support the community vision by:

- Increasing the diversity of monoculture streets within the Hoddle Grid.
- Accentuating the character of mixed plantings of both deciduous and evergreen plants in streets where this is a feature.
- Creating feature understorey plantings or sometimes large feature trees at local landmark sites (such as roundabouts, raised crossings, extended kerb spaces).
- Enhancing connections with the river by maximising canopy cover and planting tree species or understory vegetation that supports biodiversity.
- Supporting innovative green infrastructure, such as vertical greening.

**Map 6. Current street tree planting types in Central City**




**Key - Species type**

- Deciduous mixed
- Mixed planting
- Deciduous monoculture
- Evergreen monoculture
- Parks / green spaces

N

0 100 200 300 Meters

## Diversity

Around 36 per cent of the urban forest in the municipality is made up of eucalypt, plane and elm trees. The Central City is also dominated by London Plane trees. Other species in the neighbourhood include gum and oak trees. The community vision states clearly that the community would like to see a more diverse central city planting palette.

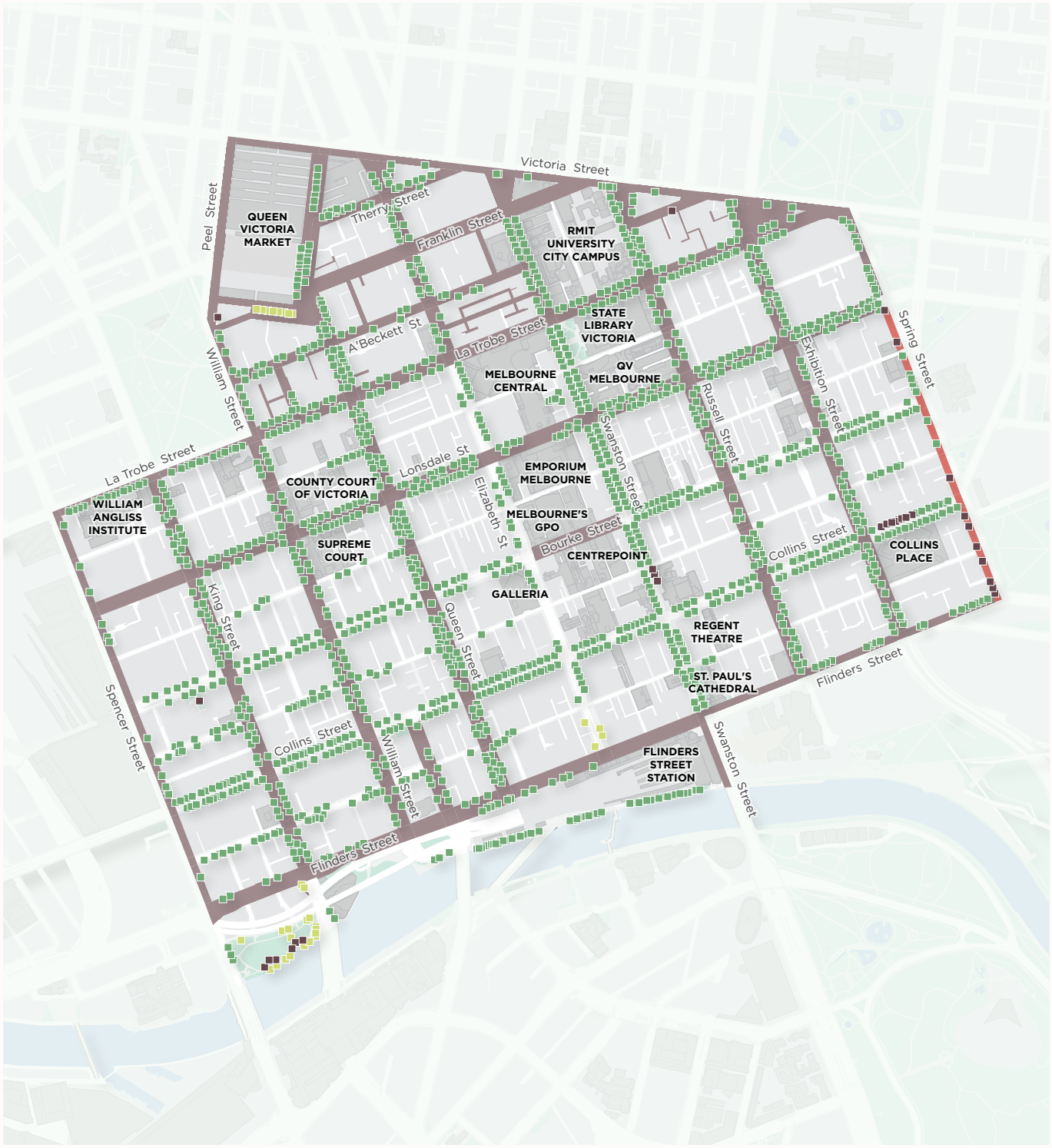
Urban forest diversity is important for a healthy forest. Diversity in tree species helps protect the biodiversity of the city but also and importantly reduces the risk of large areas of tree loss in the face of pests and pathogens. Whilst maintaining the character of each precinct is important, there is also a need to protect existing trees from increasing pest and pathogen pressure, exacerbated by climate change.

Numbers-based diversity targets have largely been achieved for the broader city since the start of the Urban Forest Strategy, so our focus in the next decade is targeted plantings to create diversity in specific locations to reduce the potential impact of pests and diseases. To achieve this, we will seek to:

- Create breaks between high-risk species throughout the municipality using different tree species.
- Protect trees of significance under the Victorian Heritage Register by creating species breaks in surrounding areas.
- Continue tree trial programs to test new species, including research into disease resistant cultivars of significant tree species.
- Learn from urban forest management in other parts of Australia or globally facing similar pest and disease problems.
- Develop programs to use citizen science for urban forest surveillance of high-risk pests and pathogens.

The dominance of London plane trees poses a high risk for the Central City urban forest. Planting different tree species (whilst maintaining local character) will reduce this pest and pathogen risk. It is also important to establish isolated groups of elm and plane trees, so that different populations of these species can be protected if a large-scale pest or pathogen outbreak were to occur. Map 7. shows locations where diverse species will be planted in order to establish protected groups of high-risk trees in the Central City.

**Map 7. Locations of elms, planes and eucalypt species in Central City, with areas for species breaks indicated**




**Key**

- Elm tree break zone
- Elm trees
- Plane tree break zone
- Plane trees
- Gum trees
- Parks / green spaces

N

0 100 200 300 Meters

## How we will plant, grow and care for our trees

Tree planting has been prioritised in different streets based on where trees are needed most. The timing may change due to other projects or developments that affect tree planting or survival. New opportunities for streetscape improvement may also provide planting opportunities that are not shown in this plan.

Map 8. summarise the actions we will take in each street over the next 10 years. These actions are described as plant, grow or care for.

### Plant

The future priority streets to plant in the next ten years are streetscapes with low canopy cover that have not had any new trees planted recently (in the past 10 years). These have been scheduled across a 10-year period based on their complexity.

Replacement of individual trees is an on-going process. Replacement trees are planted the following season where possible. New trees undergo three years of maintenance after planting to give them the best start. It is best practice to plant young trees so they can grow and adapt safely to the site conditions, rather than mature specimens which typically find it harder to adjust to the urban ecosystem when transplanted. All trees are geo-located, maintained through their lives and routinely assessed for health and risk.

### Grow

Older, under-performing streetscapes will also be prioritised for review towards the end of the 10-year period and are labelled under ‘observation for intervention’. Streets planted in the last 10 years will also be monitored to ensure maximum healthy growth rates.

Biodiversity in the municipality will be supported through targeted biodiversity plantings on streetscapes. Habitat connectivity mapping for the whole city identified the top 10 streets to prioritise habitat planting for birds and insect pollinators to strengthen the connected habitat for these animals across the city. The Central City currently has a low cover of quality habitat, the focus of the next decade should be quality habitat creation before providing biodiversity corridors. In the future, we want to connect patches of quality habitat with biodiversity corridors. Major projects, such as Greenline adjacent to the river within the Central City will increase habitat for biodiversity.

### Care for

We are fortunate to have avenues of significantly aged trees throughout the municipality. Many of these are elm trees planted after 1888, when planned programs of street planting commenced in the municipality. Significant avenues of old trees will need increasing amounts of care, and pro-active planning into the future, particularly considering the compounding effects of climate change. These areas are labelled under ‘significantly aged avenues’.

This strategy provides the long-term direction for planting in the precinct. Tree species are selected for each street be considering the layout, constraints in the streets, desired neighbourhood character, appropriate size and climate suitability. By 2032, all streetscapes within Central City will have been assessed for tree planting potential.

**Map 8. Planting plan over the next 10 years in Central City**


**Key**

**Pollinators**

- Insect pollinators
- Parks / green spaces

**Plant**

- Years 1 - 4
- Years 5 - 7
- Years 8 - 10

**Grow**

- Observe for intervention
- Monitor new tree growth

**Care for**

- Significantly aged avenues

N

0 100 200 300 Meters

## Site specific tree planting considerations

When we come to implementing site specific tree planting, there are many additional factors we consider. We have precinct-specific datasets which inform us about:

- Opportunities for integrated water management
- Ecological connectivity of habitat and priority locations for biodiversity plantings
- Existing habitat for different animal groups
- Street constraints (footpath widths, powerlines)
- Underlying soil types
- Pre-colonisation plant communities
- Heritage overlays
- Topography and water movement
- Public and private land use
- Major capital works plans and urban renewal areas

Ecological vegetation class

Street location types

Integrated water management catchments

Victoria heritage register

Soil

Biosecurity

Topography

Heritage overlay

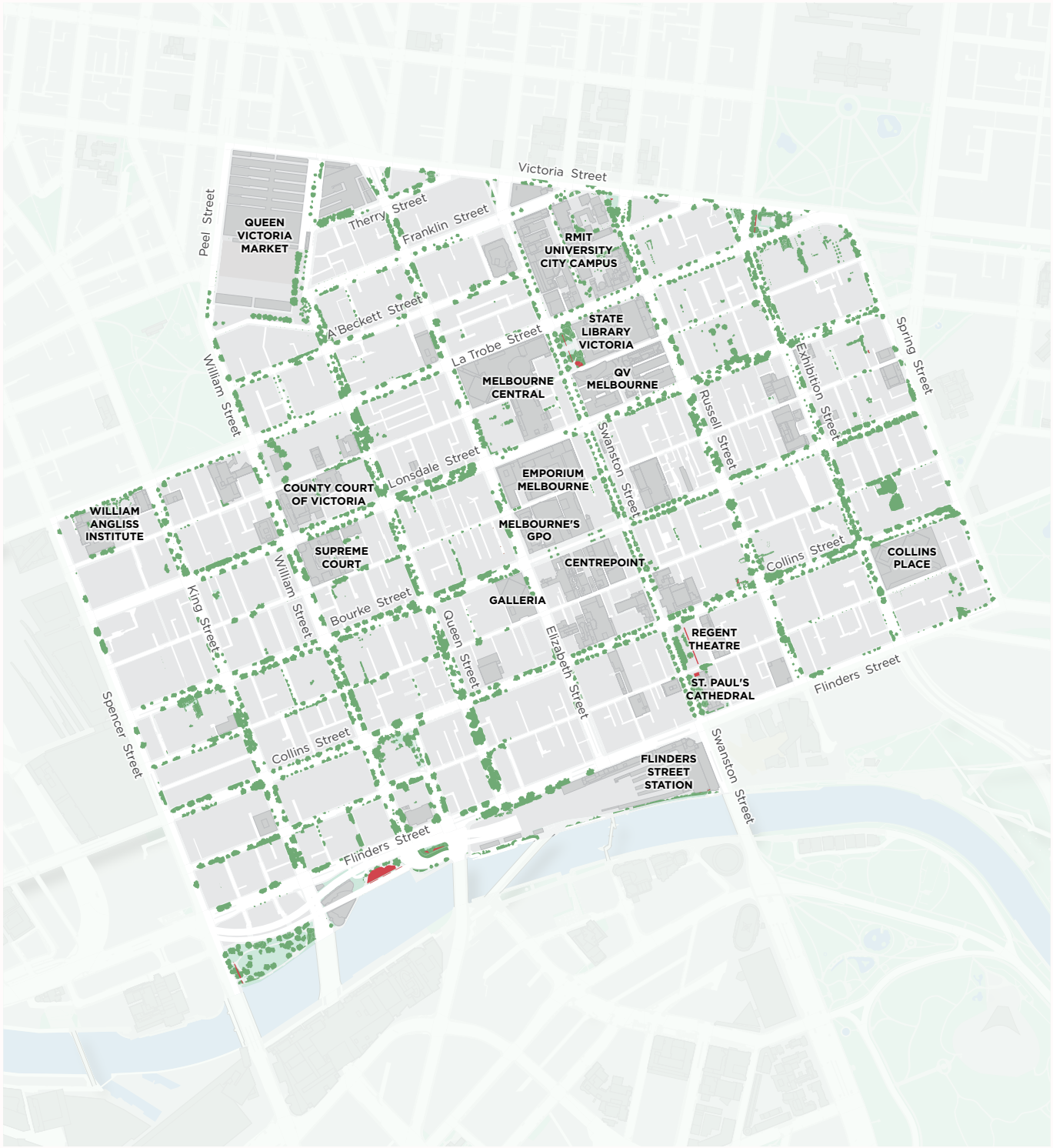
## How can you be involved in your local urban forest?

A key priority of the Urban Forest Strategy is to position Melbourne as a leader in urban forestry. Informing, involving the community and increasing the public profile of the urban forest are key actions to help us achieve this. There are a range of ways you can be involved with urban forest management:

- Biodiversity and sustainable gardening guides available online
- Citizen Forester Program
- Gardens for Wildlife Program
- Keep an eye out online for more resources, events and engagement

If you are a resident of the Central City you can support a healthy urban forest by planting vegetation on your private property. Additionally, you can consider how other plants in your garden or on your balcony can support local biodiversity. Map 9. shows the habitat for biodiversity in the Central City with existing habitat for pollinating insects, woodland birds and frogs in the Central City.


**Map 9. Habitat in Central City**




**Key - Habitats**

Frog
Woodland bird
Parks / green spaces

N
0 100 200 300 Meters


Image. Comics by artist Sofia Sabbagh


Image. Comics by artist Sofia Sabbagh

## How to contact us

**Online:**
melbourne.vic.gov.au

**In person:**
Melbourne Town Hall - Administration Building
120 Swanston Street, Melbourne
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**In writing:**
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GPO Box 1603
Melbourne VIC 3001
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