

Newells Paddock | Joseph Rd Precinct | Footscray River Edge Hopkins St - Footscray Rd | Footscray River Edge Footscray Rd - Lyons St

**Footscray is the historical heart of Melbourne's inner west. Founded on the banks of the Maribyrnong River in the 1850's, the municipality grew with the rise of trade and industry that lined its waterfront. The river was central to Footscray's industry, its civic identity and its public life. Residential housing, hotels, a swimming club, rowing races and sailing dinghies could all be found at the water's edge.**

**In recent decades the industries that flourished and brought activity to the river have one by one closed or relocated elsewhere. What was once a vibrant working waterfront has become quiet and disconnected from its city. The active waterfront of Footscray has become a thing of the past, and in its place is a quiet rivers edge.**

**The masterplan outlines the proposed key moves for reconnecting the community of the inner west with the river. It identities opportunities to create a vibrant river edge that attracts and engages with the community of the inner west.**

**The drivers for the project define its key principles:**

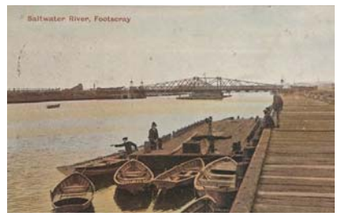
- **People – To create a waterfront that reconnects people with the river's edge in a range of different ways.**
- **Activation – To create a series of spaces and public facilities that can accommodate a broad range of activities that appeal to the broader community.**
- **Civic Pride - To create a waterfront that inspires civic pride in the local community.**
- **Ecology - To improve the ecological health of the river environment.**
- **Historic Character - To retain and build upon the historic elements that remain on the site and to reference its past history in its future incarnation.**

**The waterfront's four key areas—Newells Paddock, the Joseph Road Precinct, the river's edge between Hopkins Street to Footscray Road and the stretch between Footscray Road and Lyons Street—each possess different qualities and opportunities which contribute to the masterplan vision.**

MAINTAINING HISTORICAL CHARACTER








RE-PURPOSING HISTORICAL ELEMENTS









## DRIVERS



PEOPLE



ACTIVATION



CIVIC PRIDE



ECOLOGY

## KEY ELEMENTS

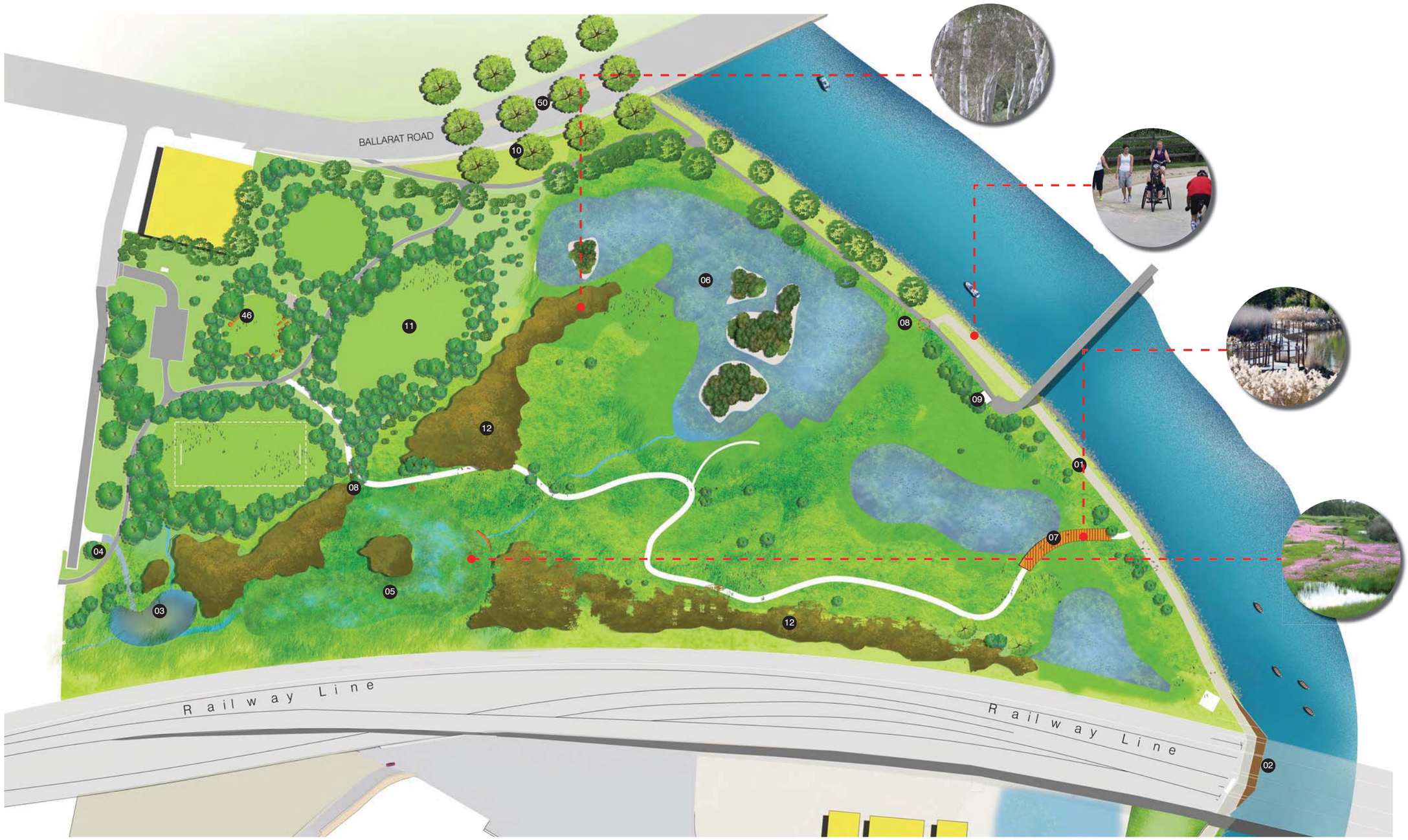
1. **Widen shared path**
   Widen river-edge path to provide more generous accommodation for walking and cycling. Provide additional bench seats at intervals along the path.
2. **Widened path below rail bridge**
   Re-align path on southern approach to rail bridge to improve sight-lines, and construct a decked widening of the path below the bridge to provide space for fishing etc. clear of cycle traffic.
3. **Sedimentation pond**
   Develop an expanded wetland system to achieve a best-practice standard of treatment for stormwater draining from the area west of Newell's Paddock.
4. **Maintenance access drive**
5. **Enhance existing ephemeral wetland**
6. **Saline wetlands**
   Existing areas of wetland with vegetation tolerant of saline conditions.
7. **New boardwalk**
   Construct walking path and boardwalk through the nature reserve, connecting from the stock bridge to existing paths in the recreation area to the west.
8. **Gate with interpretive signage**
   Construct new gates to the path through the nature reserve, with associated interpretive signage. These could also be used an opportunity for integrated artwork. Repair the existing fence around the nature reserve as required.
9. **Bird watching hide**
   Reconstruct or repair existing bird watching hide near the stock bridge.
10. **City gateway planting**
    Plant additional Moreton Bay Figs flanking Ballarat Road and in central median, to complement east side of the river.
    Plant additional Araucarias flanking Hopkins Street.
11. **Recreation reserve planting**
    Provide ongoing tree replacement within the recreation area as required, maintaining the existing balance of open and wooded areas.
12. **Indigenous woodland plantings**
    Plant additional indigenous riparian woodland trees. Undertake ongoing weed management and replanting as required, and prune off lower tree limbs in areas near the shared path to improve visibility and personal security.
13. **Open view-line to temple**
    Maintain views through open spaces along key axes to the temple and statue, but without imposing a strong geometrical pattern into the riverside landscape.
14. **Low level river edge vegetation**
    Plant indigenous ground cover species along the river edge to soften the bank treatment.
15. **Stormwater treatment bioswales**
    Create a linear bioswale to treat stormwater now draining through the open brick channel.
16. **Existing "Bulum Bulum Fish Earthwork" art to be retained**
17. **Warde Street plaza and pier**
    Create stairs and access ramps from Warde Street Plaza in N2 Hopkins Street development, extending to a new pier.
18. **Paths and native planting on former railway land**
    Construct paths along future building frontage of the No. 2 Hopkins Street development site, along the former rail line and linking to the river edge and to Joseph Road, and develop ornamental planting on embankments.
19. **Wharf and railway promenade**
    Construct new wharf along river edge with timber fendering and mooring facilities for small boats. Construct promenade flush with and extending to remnant rail line.
    Construct planter between promenade and wharf level with seat-height edge facing river and formal avenue of signature trees.
20. **Pontoon wharf (public moorings)**
    New floating wharf
21. **Skate park and Bouldering Wall**
    Develop a new youth skateboarding facility within, and extending south of, the Dynon Road bridge undercroft. Ensure open sight-lines to the north and south.
22. **Riverside tea house and Blackbird mooring**
    Riverside tea house as per approved permits
23. **Re-purpose railway cars**
    Place train cars at intervals to contain activation facilities such as kiosks.
24. **Lawn with garden edge**
25. **Arts Centre events lawn**
    Rationalise paths and create flat lawn surface flush with rail line for events.
26. **Floating swimming pool**
    Construct floating swimming pool on river.
27. **Playground**
    Construct new children's playground
28. **Council Incubator Project**
29. **Car park**
30. **Bunbury St gateway artwork**
    Create new 'gateway' artwork at pedestrian crossing over portal to Bunbury Street rail tunnel, maintaining views along rail line towards city.
31. **Grimes Reserve events lawns (remove artwork)**
    Maintain open lawns for community events and gatherings.
32. **Grimes Reserve bioswales**
    Narrow roadway between Napier and Bunbury Streets, and construct wetland to achieve a best-practice standard of treatment for stormwater draining from the areas to the west, crossed at regular intervals by pedestrian bridges.
33. **Napier Street bioswales**
    Construct wetlands to achieve a best-practice standard of treatment for stormwater draining from the areas to the west.
34. **New street tree plantings**
    Plant new street trees between parking bays.
35. **Raised pedestrian crossings**
    Provide traffic calming in Maribyrnong Street at Shepherd Bridge and Parker Street with raised pedestrian crossings flush with footpath level and narrowed carriageways.
36. **Pedestrian Gateway**
37. **Realigned bike path**
    Narrow Maribyrnong Street south of Parker Street to allow continuation of bike path and crossing over Billy Button Creek along west side of remnant rail line.
38. **Lyons Street**
    Formalise Lyons Street with kerb and footpath adjacent to buildings, and tree planting between parking bays.
39. **Billy Button Creek path**
    Undertake ongoing weed management and replanting as required, and prune off lower tree limbs in areas near the shared path to improve visibility and personal security.
40. **Footscray Wharf (private)**
    Negotiate with Melbourne Port Authority to open up existing wharf to public use and activity.
41. **Proposed artwork 'Anchor'**
42. **FCAC**
43. **Henderson House**
44. **Proposed Community Use (cafe)**
45. **Proposed Jetty for boats and kayaks (public)**
46. **Picnic table, BBQ and small playground**
47. **Private LandV**
48. **Public Toilet**
49. **Reconciliation Arch**
50 **Gateway Public Art**

# Footscray River Edge Master Plan

River Edge activation, Newells Paddock, Joseph Rd precinct

1st August 2014
M1403

T.C.L | JONES & WHITEHEAD Pty Ltd | Maribyrnong CITY COUNCIL




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**Newells Paddock**

Newells Paddock is a currently a wetland nature reserve that accommodates informal sport and recreation fields. The site’s wetlands were refurbished in the late 1980’s by the then Metropolitan Board of Works and they remain today as a series of functional wetland bodies fed by stormwater runoff from adjacent residential areas. The masterplan intent is to build upon the site’s dual role as a performative ecosystem and public space by improving both.

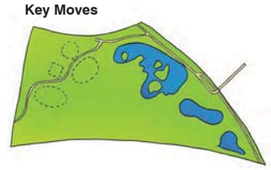
The masterplan proposal for this area aims to expand the site’s wetlands and their capacity to improve the water quality and overall health of the site’s associated ecosystem. As the function of the wetlands is improved, there is intent to better connect the city with the site and its ecology through the introduction of new trails.

Improvments to the informal park space involve additional seating, picnic tables, barbecue facilities and a playground, which will draw people to Newells Paddock and give the site more diverse use.

The site’s connection to Footscray’s broader urban fabric and River Edge is reinforced by the shared bike trail that runs between the reserve and the river. It is proposed that this path be widened from the reserve to Dynon Road, where it will connect with the new Footscray River Edge.

Finally, Newells Paddock presents an opportunity to celebrate the gateway to the City of Maribyrnong via the refurbishment of the historic Lynch’s Bridge and a gateway planting of trees on Ballarat Road.

**Key Moves**



1. Newell’s Paddock - Existing site conditions



2. Introduce new wetlands



3. Upgrade and expand existing circulation system

# Footscray River Edge Master Plan

## SK01 - Newells Paddock

1st August 2014
M1403
Scale 1:1000 @ A1

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**Joseph Rd Precinct**

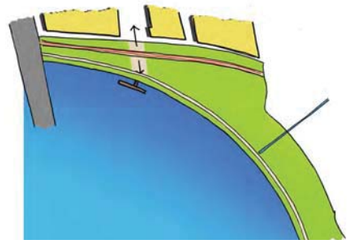
The Joseph Road Precinct is best known for the iconic Heavenly Queen Temple. The precinct is the transition area between the urban waterfront and the ecology setting. Its key location has led to it undergoing urban renewal. The masterplan proposal for the precinct builds upon the existing rail lines of the site, which become an armature for the remaining key moves.

The existing rail lines are retained and transformed into a pedestrian spine and shared bicycle path, which connects all the site's public spaces from Joseph Road to Lyons Street, links the site to the broader Footscray River Edge and links to the Dynon Road Bridge. As historical remnants, the rail lines are a reminder of the site's industrial past.

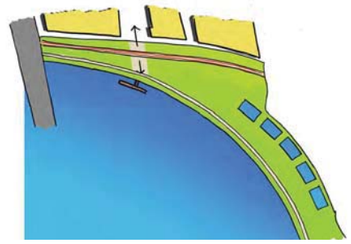
Landscape improvements to the river edge's public spaces include benches along the length of the share path, new jetties and pontoons that allow for boats to moor and for the launching of canoes and kayaks, and a new plaza, which connects new housing to the river's edge and the proposed public pier at the end of Warde Street.

A series of wetlands treats stormwater runoff before it enters the river, better tying the site with the river's ecology, and further revegetation with native species along the share path and at the river's edge reinforces the river edge's pedestrian spine while adding amenity to the site's public spaces. Finally, the proposed refurbishment of the iconic "Bulum Bulum Fish Earthwork" artwork will contribute to improving the conditions in the area.

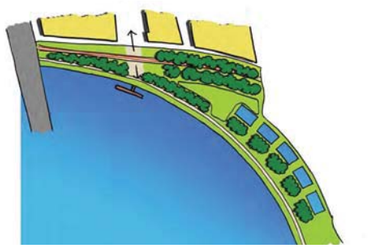
**Key Moves**



1. Reinforce rail line as connection to urban waterfront, extend Warde Street to river edge, introduce jetty



2. Introduce new wetlands



3. Create open lawn for casual use, create new landscape that connects parkland to the north with urban waterfront to the south




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# Footscray River Edge Master Plan

## SK02 - Joseph Rd Precinct

1st August 2014
M1403
Scale 1:1000 @ A1

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**Hopkins St - Footscray Rd**

Dynon Road Bridge demarcates the shift from a more natural river edge environment upstream to an urban river edge space connected to Footscray CBD and Arts Precinct. It is an area with a rich indigenous and post settlement history.

As with the Joseph Road Precinct, the existing rail lines that run the length of the River Edge become an armature for the key masterplan strategies. Transformed into a civic promenade, the rail connects the city with the river, which ultimately connects the waterfront to its history as well as links the site with the broader waterfront and subsequently forms a series of new public spaces.

The rail lines are retained and transformed into a linear pedestrian spine. This civic promenade links with the widened shared path that runs the length of the entire river edge and connects the site to its adjacent spaces.

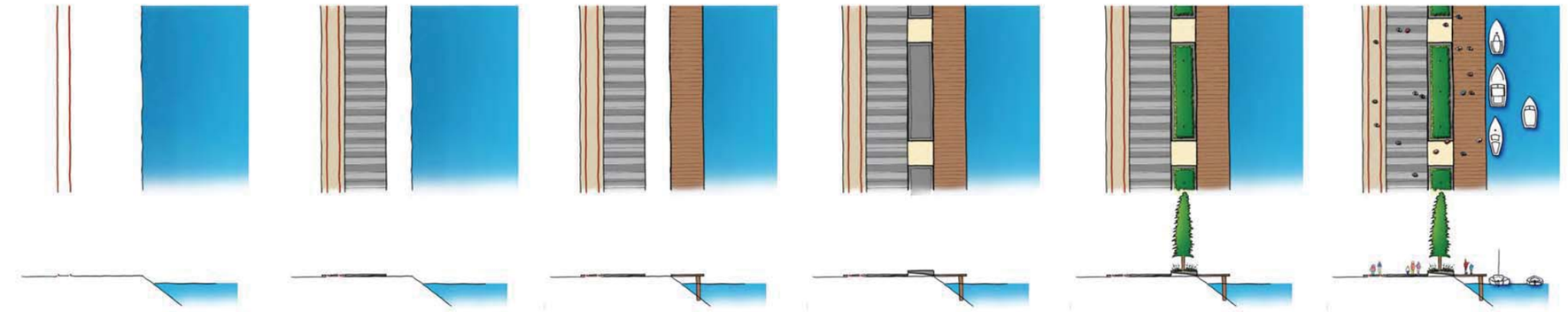
The River Edge wharf along the river's edge becomes a public facility that enables people to connect with the water—to launch a canoe, to moor a boat or yacht or to just sit and dangle one's feet in the water. The wharf provides a seating edge to the waterfront, and a series of linear gardens and rows of iconic trees reinforce the boulevard and the waterfront as a public space.

Activation of the river edge is encouraged by a range of site improvements and elements, which reference the site's history. A floating lap pool in the river is a reminder of Footscray's historic swimming club and old railway carriages, repurposed as food outlets, cafes, play/climbing structures for children and art installations, further build upon the site's history.

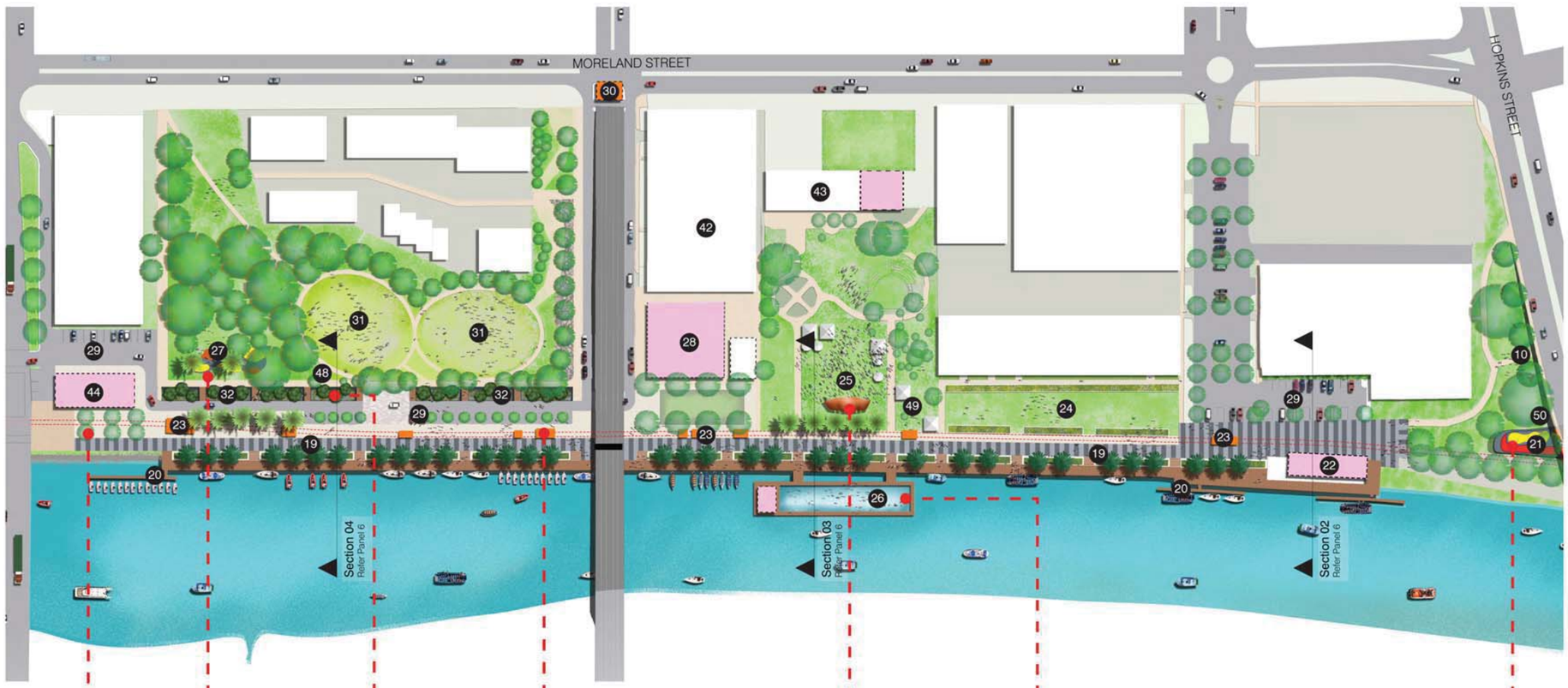
The public spaces adjacent to the river each present opportunities to draw people to the waterfront and engage with the site's history:

- Grimes Reserve is a particularly significant historical site, as Charles Grimes' landing point in 1803 and an important gathering point where indigenous people collected and cooked food from the Maribyrnong River. The masterplan proposal for the Reserve creates two open spaces of lawn defined by linking paths. This structure is meant to represent the connections between cultures and to retain the use of this site as a meeting place.
- The area under Dynon Bridge has been identified as a suitable location for a skate park and bouldering wall. Additionally, a vertical element could transform the bridge into gateway to Footscray.

**Key Moves**



1. Retain the existing rail parallel to river
2. Create a civic promenade that reinforces the linear rail line
3. Create a wharf to connect people with the river's edge
4. Provide a seating edge
5. Create a pedestrian boulevard
6. Connect Footscray to its waterfront by activating the river's edge






KEY

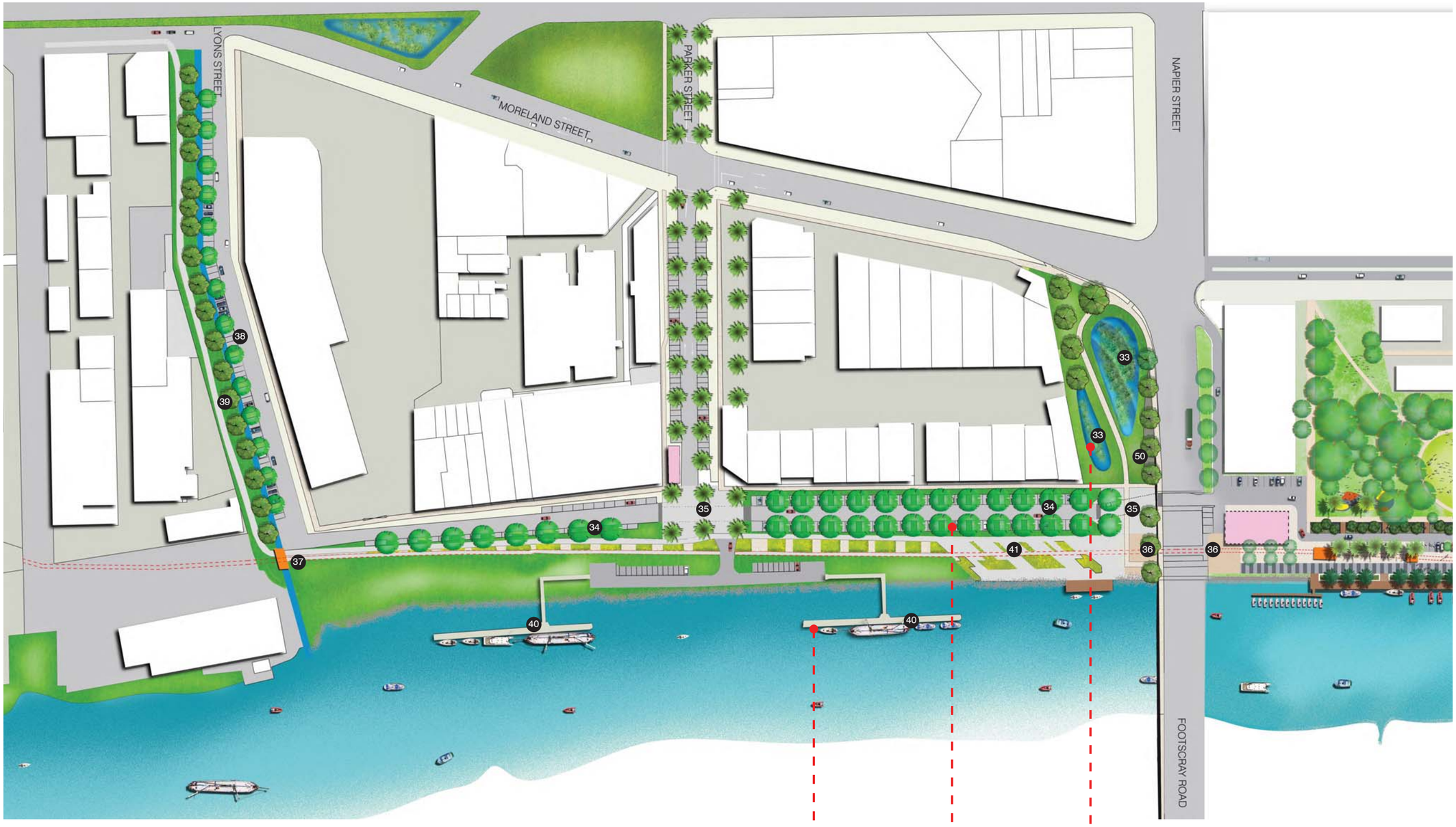
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# Footscray River Edge Master Plan

## SK03 - River Edge activation (Hopkins St - Footscray Rd)

1st August 2014
M1403
Scale 1:1000 @ A1

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**Footscray Rd - Lyons St**

The river edge south of Footscray Road is a commercial and light industrial area with private moorings under the control of the Port of Melbourne. The masterplan proposal for this area aims to improve the streetscapes and public environment.

Key moves involve:

- The creation of an iconic and pedestrian friendly connection under Footscray Road that also serves as a gateway to the City of Maribyrnong.
- Improvements to Lyons Street, near Button Creek, with landscape improvements to the shared path environment that follows the Creek.
- New street tree plantings will improve and soften the street.







## KEY

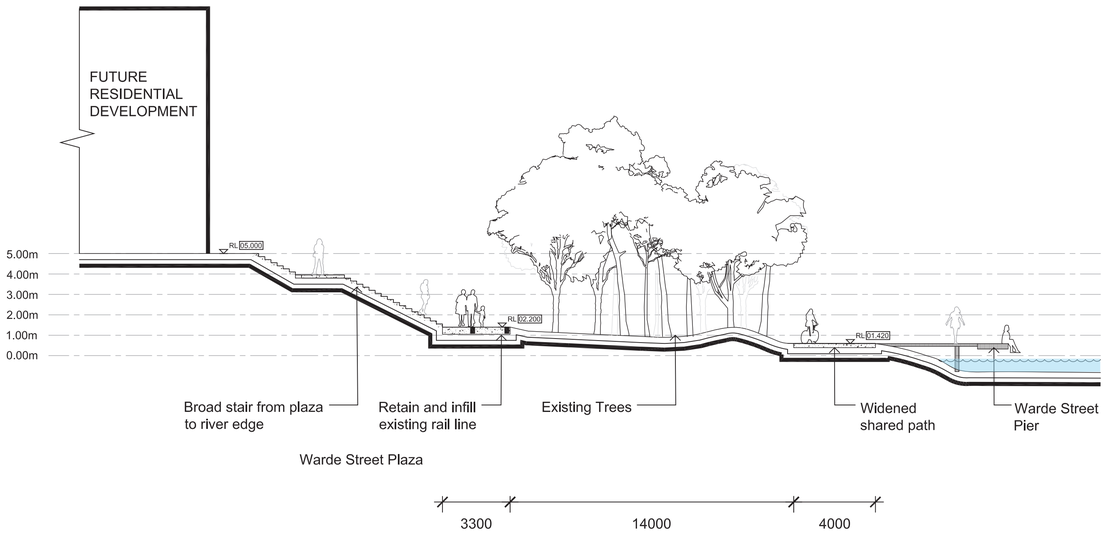
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# Footscray River Edge Master Plan

SK04 - River Edge activation ( Footscray Rd - Lyons St)

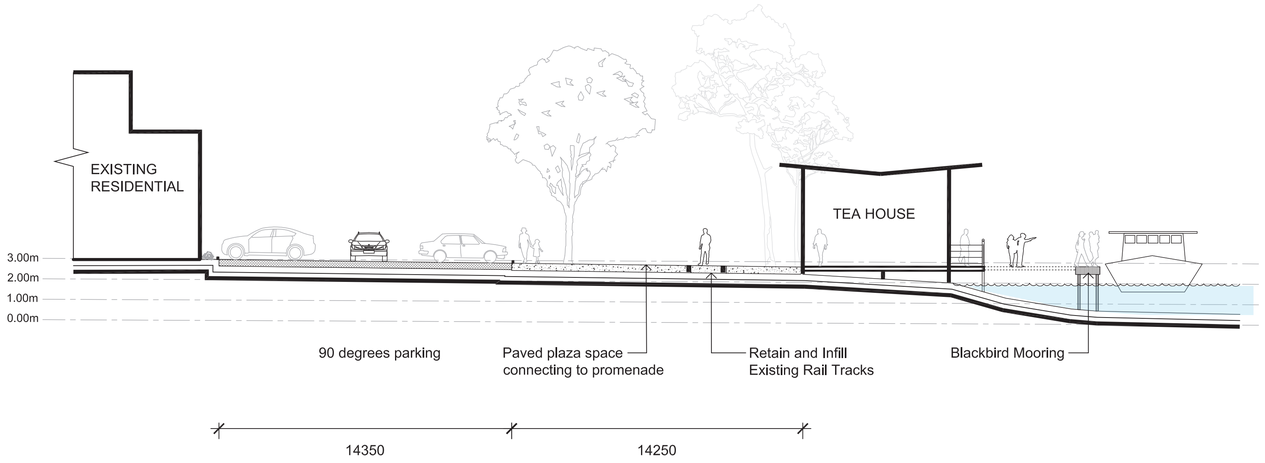
1st August 2014
M1403
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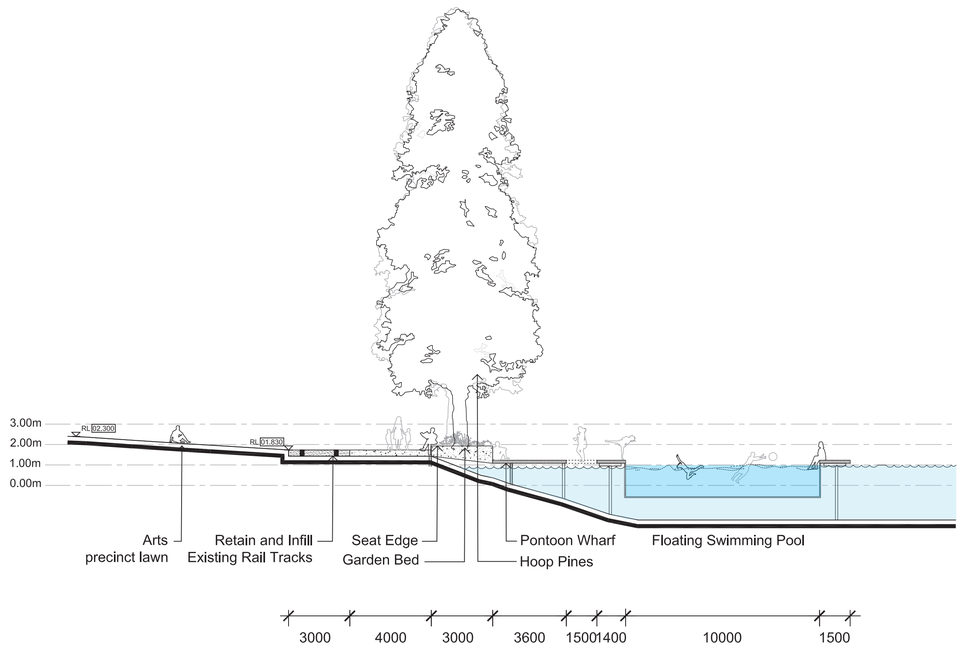

## 1. JOSEPH RD PRECINCT
Typical Section

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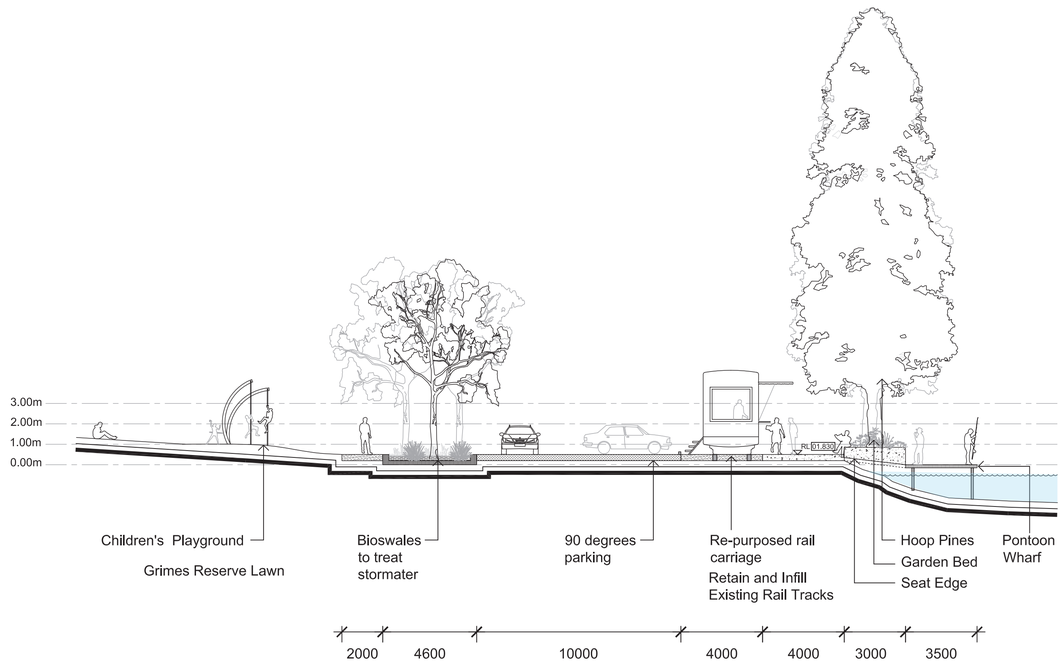

## 2. TEA HOUSE
Typical Section

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## 3. ARTS PRECINCT
Typical Section

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## 4. GRIMES RESERVE
Typical Section

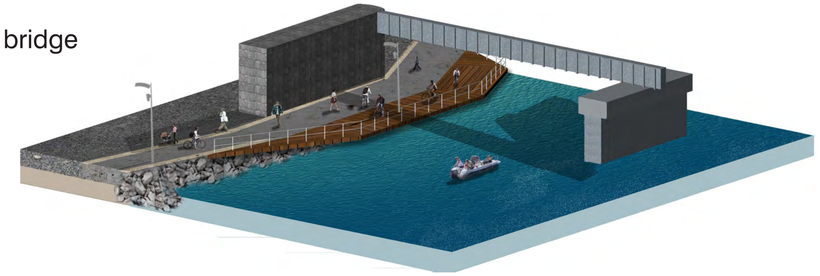
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# Footscray River Edge Master Plan
Typical Sections

1st August 2014
M1403
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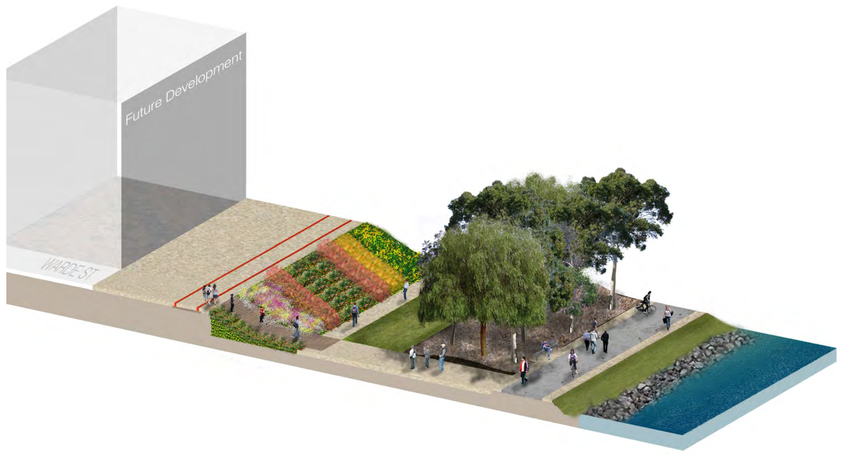
**1.** Below rail bridge



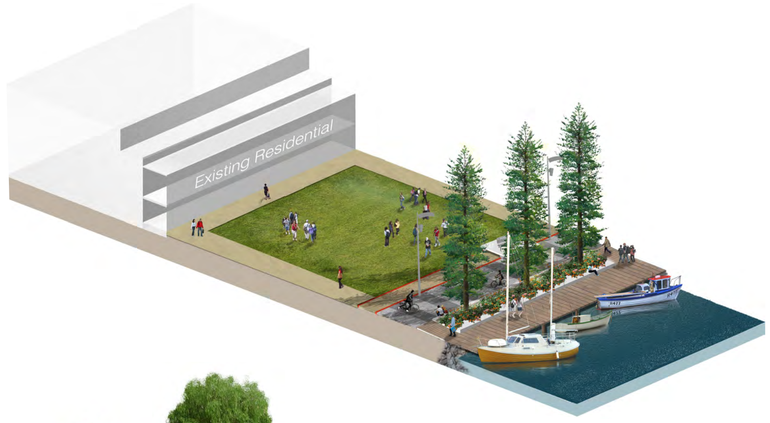
**2.** River edge near the Temple



**3.** Joseph Rd Precinct




**4.** Residential Interface



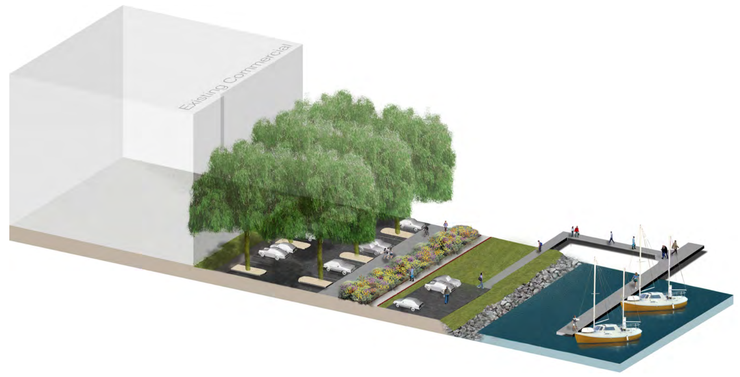

**5.** Arts Precinct



**6.** Grimes Reserve




**7.** Footscray Wharf




# Footscray River Edge Master Plan

## Typical Views

1st August 2014
M1403

T.C.L | JONES & WHITEHEAD Pty Ltd | Maribyrnong CITY COUNCIL