

# SKATE MELBOURNE PLAN

2017–2027



CITY OF MELBOURNE



# A CITY FOR PEOPLE

A city for people welcomes all. It is accessible, affordable, inclusive, safe and engaging. It promotes health and wellbeing, participation and social justice.

## **Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners**

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) people of the Kulin Nation and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

For the Kulin Nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place for events of social, educational, sporting and cultural significance.

Today we are proud to say that Melbourne is a significant gathering place for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## **Skating is a popular activity in the City of Melbourne, with hundreds of local and visiting skaters using the city's skate parks and other public spaces each week.**

The City of Melbourne recognises that skating is a legitimate physical activity that provides health, social and other benefits for many people. Young people (those under 25 years of age) make up more than one third of the municipality's resident population and skating is an activity that is particularly popular in this demographic. Skating is also an accessible and inclusive activity with potential for active participants from a range of demographics and backgrounds.

Skating has many benefits to the individual, general community and the city including:

- Skating provides physical, mental and social benefits. It's a fun, unstructured activity that promotes being active, creative and outdoors.
- Skating injects vibrancy, economic benefits, performance and culture into the city.
- It can make spaces safer by increasing natural surveillance.
- Skate facilities can be less expensive to install and maintain than other recreational facilities and infrastructure (eg a sports oval or indoor facility), and they have high volumes of use in small footprints.
- Well-designed skate spaces and facilities attract high levels of use, activity, host major events and attract local, national and international visitors.
- It's a global industry and can be a legitimate career path for some, especially now that skating will become an Olympic sport in 2020.

Street-style skateboarding is the most popular style in the municipality but many types of skating occur. BMX, scooters, in-line and quad skates can also use the same infrastructure and designated skateable spaces as skateboarding.

The City of Melbourne currently has two dedicated skate parks which will require replacement in the next five years. Neither facility caters to street style skateboarding. Across inner Melbourne municipalities there is also a lack of diversity of skateable spaces in terms of size and the types of devices, styles and user groups that can use these spaces. There are currently no skateable spaces that can cater for large or international events.

Like many other urban activities, there are perceived and real challenges associated with skating such as noise, damage to infrastructure and amenity and disruptive behaviour. However many capital cities across the world have successfully integrated skate activity in a safe, inclusive and accessible way that has delivered positive benefits to the city, general community and individuals.

This Skate Melbourne Plan 2017-2027 (the Plan) sets out the vision for Melbourne to support a healthy and inclusive skate culture for all people.

The Plan aims to:

- encourage safe, inclusive and multi-use public spaces for all city users.
- promote and support a healthy and inclusive skate culture and community.
- plan for and provide adequate and accessible spaces for diverse skating styles.

Opportunities and challenges that skating presents for the municipality are identified and current skateable spaces and gaps are also assessed.

Four key actions have been identified to achieve the principles and aims of this Plan:

1. Identify spaces suitable and unsuitable for skate activity.
2. Increase the provision, designation and integration of skateable spaces.
3. Improve programming, communication, legislation and management.
4. Increase participation for girls and women.

# SKATE MELBOURNE PLAN

The Plan sets out the City of Melbourne's approach to the provision, location and management of skating and related activities across the Melbourne municipality from 2017-2027.

## Development of the Plan

The Plan builds on the City of Melbourne's original '*SKATESAFE*' *Skating Management Plan* (1998). It is based on research, surveys, observations, analysis and community engagement feedback.

This plan was developed in collaboration and with the assistance of the City of Melbourne's Skate Melbourne Advisory Group. This group was formed with a diverse range of people including skaters, residents, police and security among others to specifically develop this plan.

## About skating

Skating is a popular activity in the City of Melbourne, with hundreds of skaters and spectators visiting its skate parks and public spaces each week.

The City of Melbourne recognises skating as a legitimate recreational and sporting activity. It is accessible and easy to participate in and contributes to the liveliness of the city while promoting healthy, active lifestyles for all people.

## What is skating?

'Skate activity' or 'skating' refers to any activity that uses a small wheeled device (eg skateboard, scooter, in-line skates and more) to grind, slide or ride on different surfaces and elements and also includes BMX bikes.

It's important to recognise that each of these devices has their own spatial needs and cultures associated with them and 'skate' is a general term that encompasses all the above devices and is used for this plan's purposes only.

When using these devices, there are different styles of skating. The key four styles which are currently popular in Melbourne are street, park, transitional and longboarding (or cruising).

### Street

Street style skaters use public spaces such as plazas, forecourts, squares, streets and footpaths. They use typical urban street furniture such as kerbs, benches, rails and walls to ride, grind and slide on.

### Park

Park style skaters use dedicated skate parks and spaces designed for skating. Much like street skaters, these skaters use skate park obstacles such as fun-boxes, manual pads, banks to ride, grind and slide on.

### Transitional

Transitional style skaters (also known as bowl or vert skating) utilise dedicated skate parks with transitional and bowl elements.

### Longboarding

Longboarders utilise public spaces such as wide park paths, streets and footpaths. These skaters do not generally grind or slide on furniture.

Other styles include:

- Quad skating or rollerblading
- Freestyle skating
- Slalom and down hill skating
- BMX.



Credit: Alex Waldmeyer



Credit: Noel Forsyth



Credit: Noel Forsyth



Credit: Jesslyn Mooi and Rose Ng

## Who skates?

Melbourne has a high proportion of young people. People aged 15 to 29 years make up the largest proportion of the residential population in the municipality, at over 40 per cent (Melbourne For All People 2013). Skating attracts a large proportion of young people. A survey of 324 skaters conducted by the City of Melbourne and YMCA in September 2015 indicated that:

- 60 per cent of skaters were under the age of 18, and 85 per cent were under the age of 25.
- Skateboarding is currently a male dominated sport with 95 per cent surveyed being male.

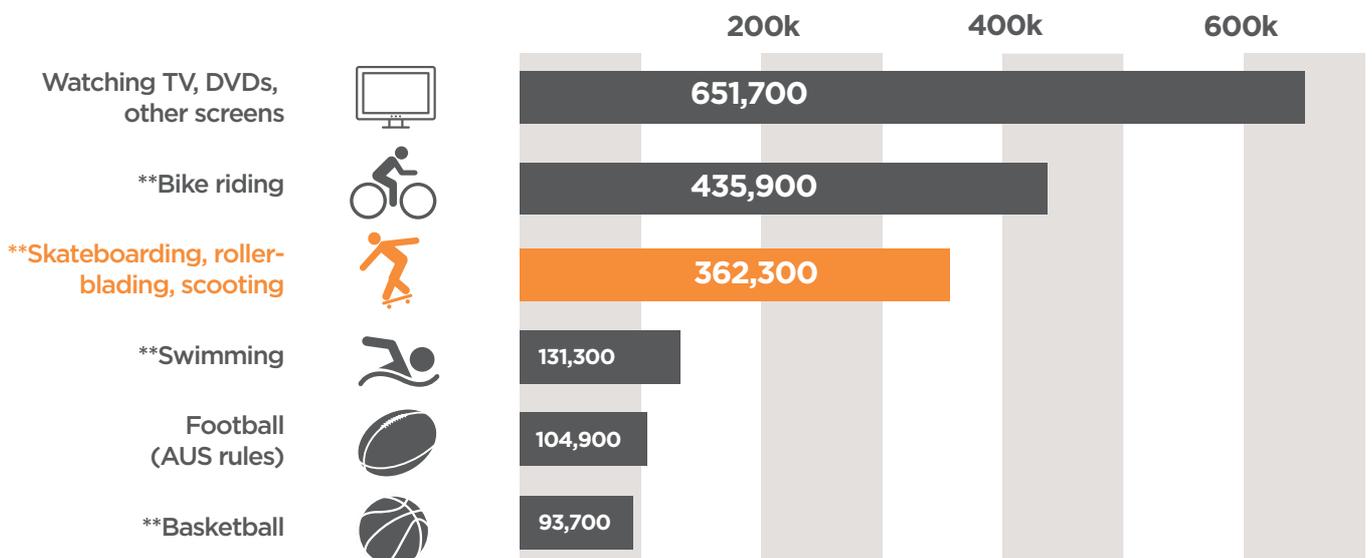
### A growing global community

Skating is no longer an underground subculture. It is now recognised as a legitimate sport and recreational activity by many governing bodies and will make its debut as an Olympic sport in 2020, with both street and park styles included.

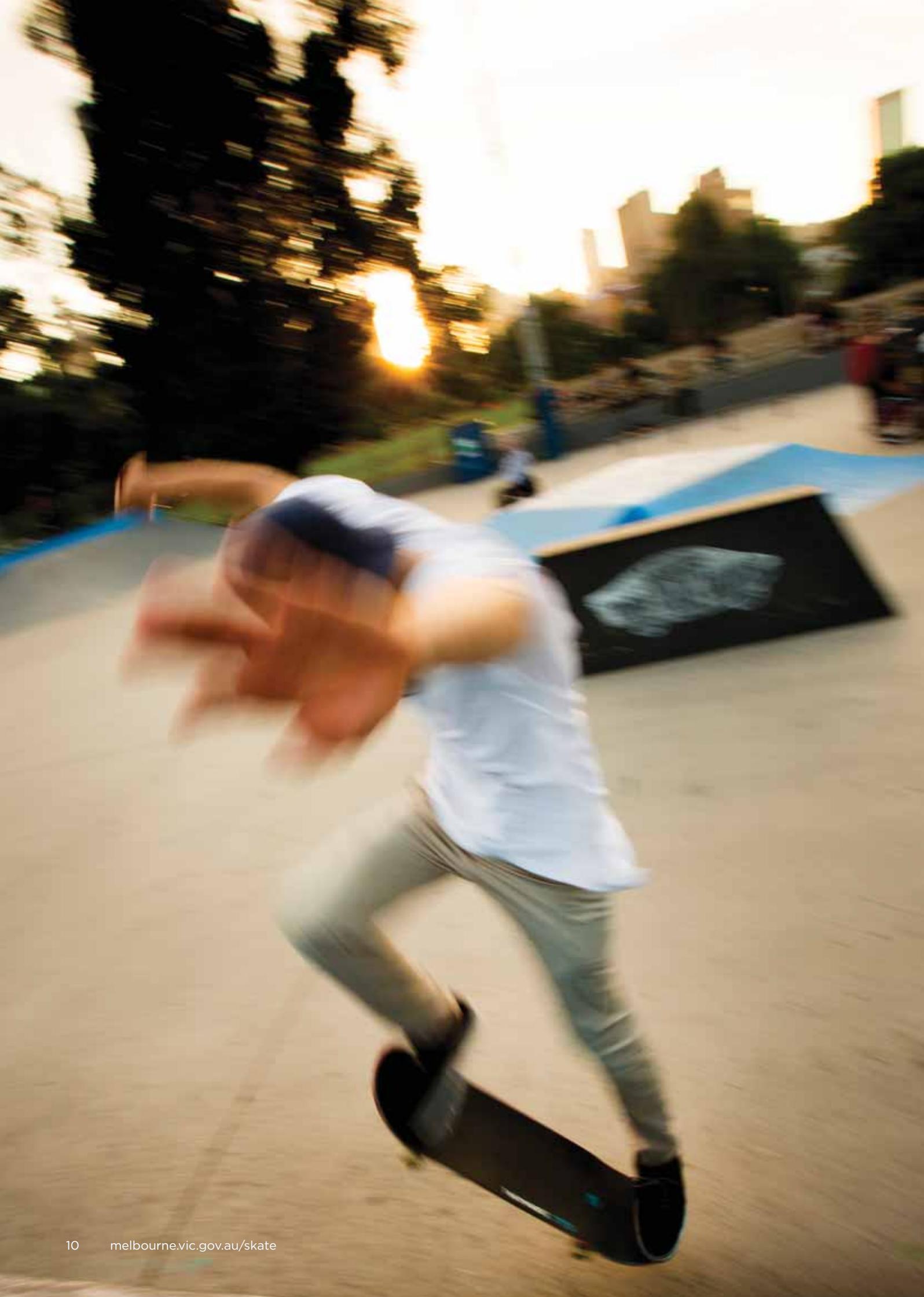
Participation in small-wheeled activities like skateboarding and scooter riding is now one of the most popular activities of Victorian children.



### Victorian children (aged 5-14) participation in recreational, cultural and leisure activities.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2012  
 \*\*These activities are Olympic sports



## The legality, risks and impacts of skating

### Skating is legal

Skating is seen by the Victorian Government as a legitimate recreational activity that should be supported for its positive benefits to individuals and municipalities (Sport and Recreation Victoria 2001). While legal, some commonwealth and state laws prohibit skating in public spaces and there are also specific road rules that skaters need to follow. For more information on these please visit [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

### Skating in public space

The City of Melbourne currently prohibits sessioning (skating in one place for a time at length) in four public spaces across the city through the 'Toy Vehicles' section of the Activities Local Law 2009 (Lincoln Square in Carlton, the State Library in Swanston Street, Burston Reserve in East Melbourne and Waterview Walk in Docklands). There are also policies that prohibit skating in particular parks and gardens across the city. However, these local laws in particular are difficult and resource intensive to enforce and not highly effective in discouraging skate activity in unsuitable locations. For more information on different management methods and their effectiveness of discouraging skate activity, please see the Skate Melbourne Background Paper. One of this Plan's actions proposes to review the local laws in 2019 to be less confusing and more inclusive and relevant.

Through increased provision of skate friendly infrastructure into the future, the City of Melbourne aims to encourage skating in suitable shared spaces.

### Risks

Skaters generally accept the obvious risks of the activity itself. The majority of risks can be controlled by the skater through protective clothing, using quality equipment, undertaking training or coaching, skating in a safe and responsible manner, attempting obstacles based on skill level and by skating with friends.

Risks to other city users from skating include personal safety such as the risk of collision with a skater or runaway board. The City of Melbourne seeks to minimise risks where it reasonably can (as occurs with other active modes of transport) by thoughtful design of public spaces, engaging with the community and promoting respectful skating.

### Damage to assets

Skaters use city assets and public spaces that are not designed for this purpose and can cause damage. With a lack of suitable and inclusive skate spaces, many skaters use public spaces for skating in their own way.

Skaters can add wax to surfaces, chip edging and leave coloured marks which can have physical and aesthetic impacts on city assets. Not all types of materials are suitable for skating. Where skating is anticipated and found to be suitable, infrastructure can be designed to withstand the physical and aesthetic impacts from skating. The City of Melbourne is currently developing and trialling several approaches to more skateable infrastructure, with positive results to date (eg Neill Street Reserve and Docklands Link).

### Disruption to other city users

Street skating in particular can be a noisy activity, when street skaters fail to land a trick, the board can land on the ground, creating a loud noise. It is also hard to predict when this noise will happen, due to the organic nature of skating. The noise produced from skating is generally between 54-71 decibels. This is no louder than other regular city activities such as heavy traffic which produces 85 decibels.

### Popularity of Melbourne for skating

Skating is popular in the City of Melbourne because of its central location and access to public transport, its vibrant street culture, people-oriented design and its smooth bluestone and concrete surfaces.



## Opportunities

A safe, vibrant, healthy and inclusive skate culture offers multiple benefits for individuals and for the City of Melbourne.

### Multi-use spaces

Skateable spaces can provide benefits to the community. For example, Riverslide Skate Park is also an event space, with a café, skate shop and public toilets.

More people in public spaces increases natural surveillance and makes these spaces safer. Skating is a popular spectator sport and activity and many city users enjoy watching skaters. They enliven the city, and in some cases skating is seen as street entertainment, similar to busking or street art.

Skating spaces can also cater to other recreational pursuits like free running/ parkour or breakdancing. In some countries, skate facilities provide other functions such as storm water management and increased tree cover and habitat.

## Economic benefits

Capital cities that support skating are highly popular amongst the worldwide skating community to share with their networks, visit and even move to. Popular street skating spaces (skateable public spaces) attract high levels of usage and interest. Skating events, like many other events, can bring the city significant economic and tourism benefits, depending on their scale. Quality large-scale skateable spaces attract events, a high amount of participants and spectators that can generate substantial economic benefits (Economic Impact of the 2010 X Games 16 on Los Angeles County, Roy Weinstein et al., 2010).



Above: Rabalder Parken is a skate park in Roskilde, Denmark. The 40,000 m<sup>2</sup> park is integrated with a water management system which can transport and hold up to 23,000 cubic metres of water.  
Credit: Rune Johansen

## Improve social, physical and mental health

Some of the community view the behaviour of individual members of the skate community as rude, offensive and unacceptable but this is an issue with behaviour, not the skating activity. It is important to separate these – poor behaviour happens in every sport and recreational activity. The skate community tends to be more visible in central public spaces and this tends to generate a higher focus of attention.

Besides the obvious physical benefits of skate activity and getting people outside and off screens, skating has proven itself as a great tool for engagement with disengaged and disenfranchised youth in particular. Skating promotes pro-social values of cooperation, self-expression, self-determination, communal spirit, freedom and creativity. It has also shown to improve mental health and social connectedness.

A local example of this is the skateboarding program run by St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre in North Melbourne. The program has been running since 2013 and takes groups to skate different spaces across Victoria. Since its inception, the program has exceeded its initial goal as an engagement tool and has transformed participants' lives, including some experiencing poverty, domestic abuse, substance abuse and mental health issues. The teachers leading this program highlighted that participating in this program has seen a significant drop in crime rates, drug use, depression and disengagement in participants. It is also having physical and mental health benefits and has increased participation at school, enabled self-determination and social and life skills. The teachers believe these changes have been heavily influenced by the pro-social values embedded in skateboarding culture and the activity itself.



Above: St. Joseph's Flexible Learning Skate Program on a site visit.

### **Supporting the skate industry and skaters**

The skate industry is diverse, resilient and lucrative with an estimated market value in Victoria of \$50 million per annum (The Skate Facility Guide, Sport and Recreation Victoria, 2001, p 12). For some, skating in itself can be a legitimate career path. Many professional skaters are sponsored and can earn a living, with some among the world's highest paid athletes. Other creative skills and industries such as photography, film, design and fashion are also often developed in skating as they are integrated and influenced by skate culture.

With both street and park style skateboarding set to make their debut in the 2020 Olympics, skate's popularity will continue to grow. Melbourne has a significant opportunity to support local skating talent by increasing the provision of spaces and programs for skaters to hone their skills and grow into professional athletes.

### **Innovative, efficient and effective use of council resources**

Skateable spaces do not require as much space as traditional facilities such as sports ovals. They can also attract higher rates of use in a smaller footprint.

Skateable spaces are unlike many other recreational facilities. Sports ovals and courts have well-established designs, footprints and line markings. Skating is much more diverse. Skate parks can vary in size, styles catered to and materials used. Skating also occurs in public spaces, such as plazas, forecourts and streets, with many skaters also using their skateboards as a mode of transport.

Skateable spaces, especially street-style spaces are comparatively cheap and easy to incorporate into existing and future public spaces. Simple council process changes and considered design can enable a more strategic, accessible and inclusive skating approach across the city.



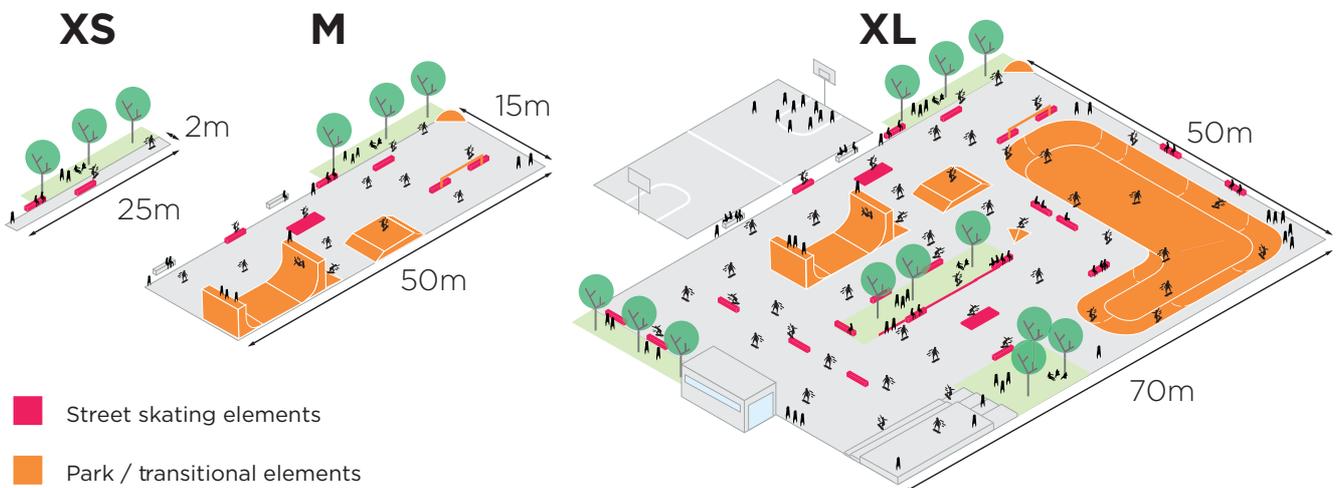


## Key opportunities

- Make the most of existing and proposed skate spaces to provide multiple uses.
- Add skate elements to existing projects in a low or cost neutral way.
- Design spaces to reduce conflict between skaters and other city users.
- Help the skate community, tourism and economy grow.
- Encourage people to be physically active and improving mental health.

## Size and use of skateable space

Extra small 50-250m<sup>2</sup>    Small 250-750m<sup>2</sup>    Medium 750-1500m<sup>2</sup>    Large 1500-3500m<sup>2</sup>    Extra large 3500m<sup>2</sup>+



## Challenges

There are challenges catering to the needs of the many competing users of the city, particularly as the population continues to grow and places more pressure on our public space to provide recreational and leisure activities.

Skaters consulted during the development of the Plan nominated key challenges for skating in the city as:

- A lack of quality skateable spaces, fit for the desired skate style and/or device.
- Negative public perception and harassment, some people thinking skating is a crime, an act of vandalism or a nuisance activity.
- A lack of public spaces where skaters are welcome to skate (especially open spaces and preferred routes).
- The over-use of skate deterrent methods on public infrastructure and exclusion of skaters from public spaces.
- A lack of sheltered and night-time skating options.
- A lack of opportunity to participate in different styles of skating within the municipality.

Challenges identified by non-skaters consulted during the development of this plan that live in or visit the city were:

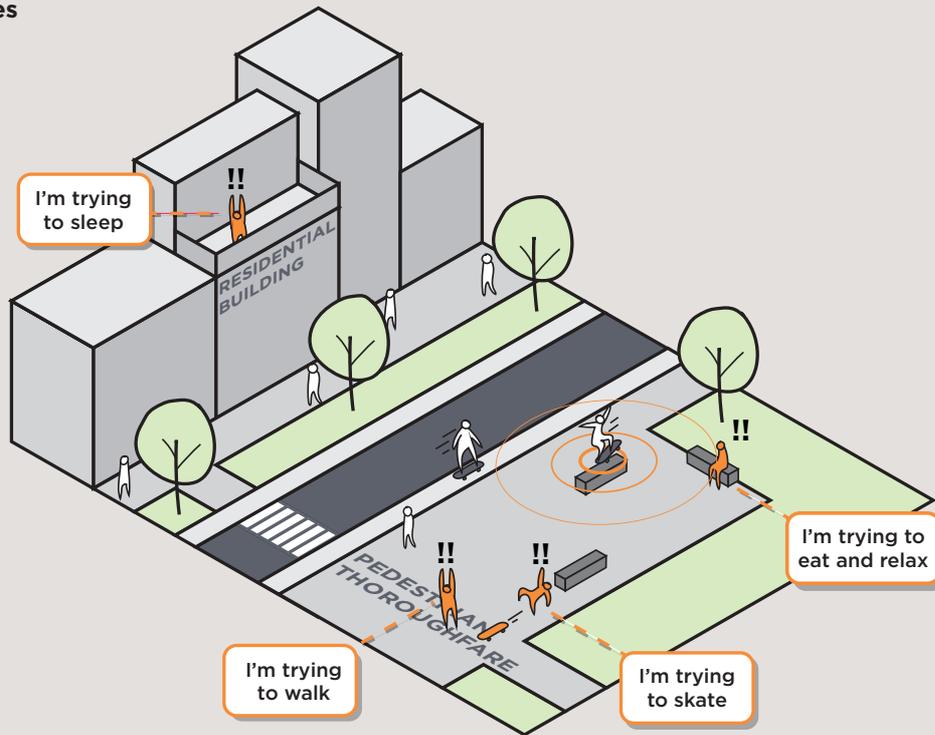
- Noise and disturbance, such as skating near residential areas late at night.
- Personal safety concerns, such as potential collisions and runaway boards.
- High levels of skating activity in public spaces and unpredictable movement of skaters in these spaces.
- Damage to private and public property and loss of amenity.
- Disrespect of culturally significant spaces such as memorials.
- Direct or indirect association with other general public space issues of poor behaviour, large congregations of people and consumption of alcohol in public.

## Key challenges

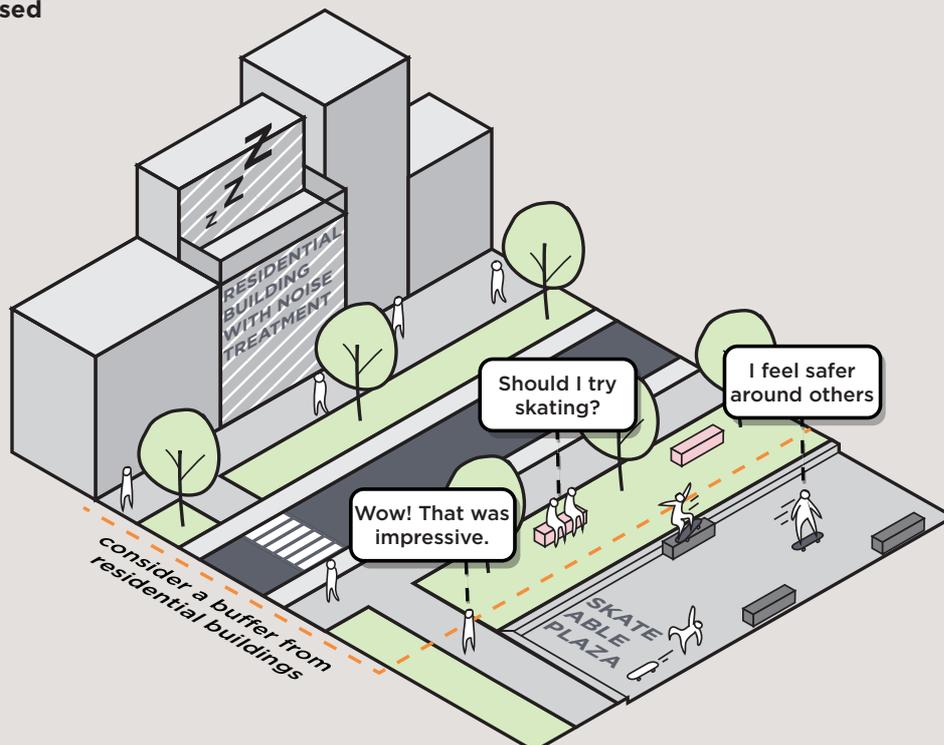
- **Communicate when and where skating is encouraged and discouraged.**
- **Discourage skate in unsuitable spaces.**
- **Damage to public infrastructure and amenity.**
- **The number of limited suitable locations for skate activity within the municipality.**
- **Grow population density with limited open space/ competing needs.**
- **Grow residential and youth and young people population in the City of Melbourne.**

## THE CHALLENGES OF SKATING AND POTENTIAL CHANGES TO ADDRESS THEM

### Common challenges



### Challenges addressed



## Skate audit and gap analysis

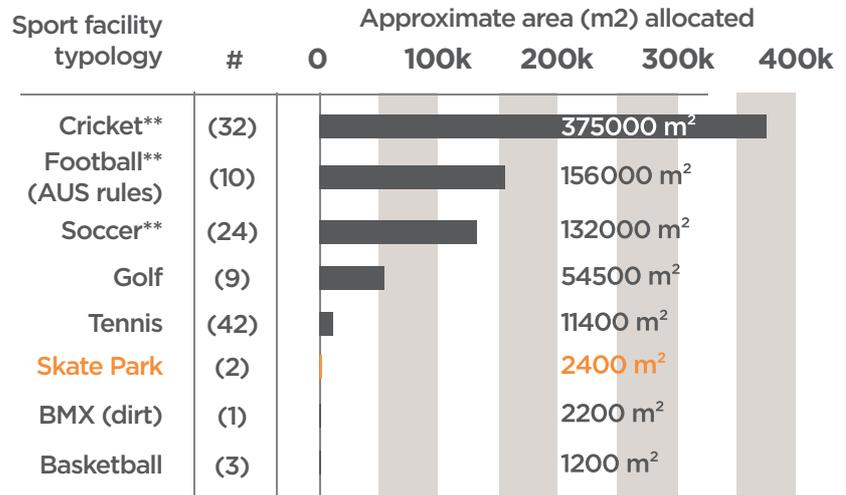
No standards exist for the appropriate quantity of skateable spaces or programs a municipality should provide to adequately cater for skating.

When compared with other metropolitan municipalities, as well as against other sports and recreational facilities, it is clear that the municipality has comparatively less formalised skateable spaces. While the City of Melbourne is recognised as a top street skating location and has higher participation rates than more traditional recreational activities, it lacks a large scale skateable space that can host international events and provision of other recognised skateable spaces in general.

There are two dedicated skate parks in the municipality: a skate park and BMX dirt track in JJ Holland Park in Kensington and Riverslide Skate Park in the central city's Alexandra Gardens. Both were constructed around 2000. These assets have recently been assessed to determine when they would need to be renewed and are considered to be in poor condition. It has been recommended that they be renewed or replaced within the next five years. They are scheduled for works from 2018-2020 subject to Council's budget approval process.

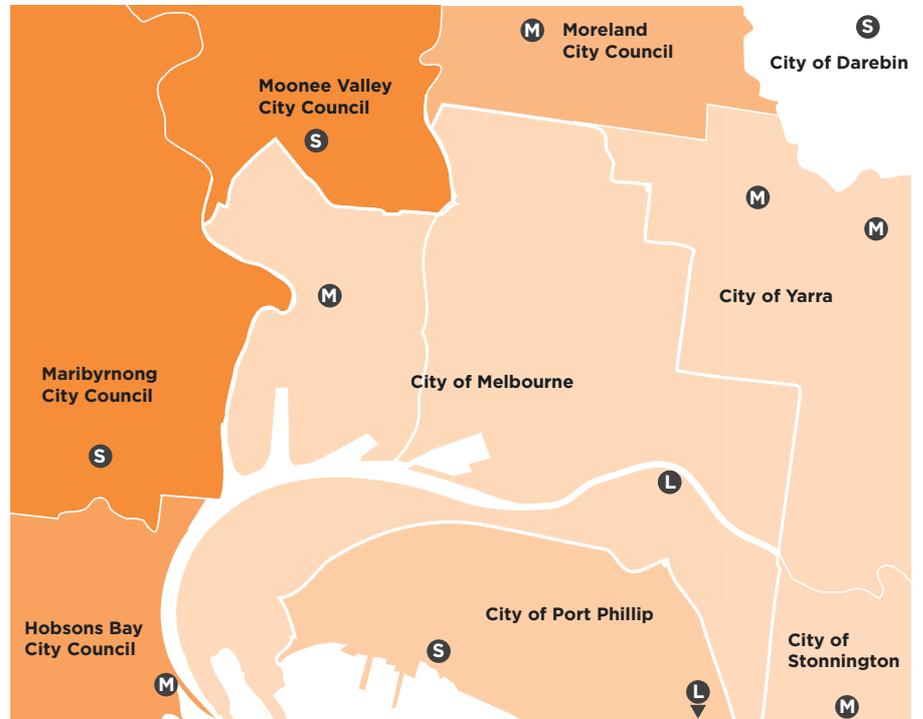
The municipality has no spaces that explicitly support street style skating, although some recent public spaces in the city have been designed to withstand the impacts of skate. (see example of Neill Street Reserve on page 31).

### City of Melbourne's designated recreational facilities

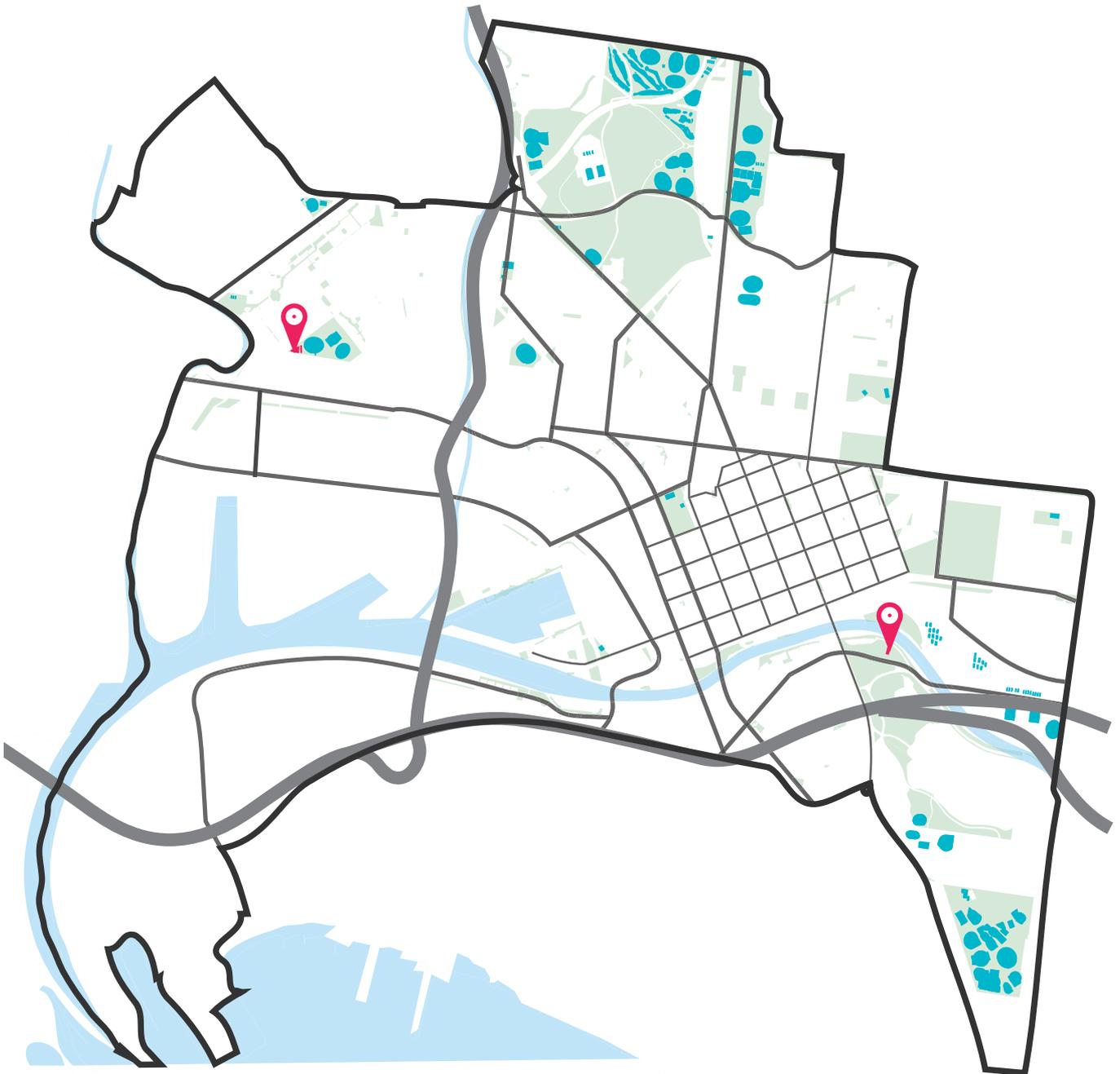


\*\*These facilities can share the same spatial footprint.  
Data source: City of Melbourne GIS Data

### Inner city provision map



## City of Melbourne's open and recreational spaces



- Open Space
- Designated recreational facilities
- Designated Skate Parks
- City of Melbourne Municipality

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The highlighted key challenges and opportunities have helped to develop the following guiding principles for improving the location, provision and management of skating in the city:

1. Ensure key skateable spaces are safe, inclusive and accessible spaces by day and night.<sup>1</sup>
2. Cater for and include diverse styles, devices, experience levels, ages, uses and genders.
3. Consider integrating skate during the strategic planning process for public infrastructure, especially in key priority areas.
4. Assess, review and amend current council processes and procedures relevant to skating to ensure effectiveness and value for money.
5. Seek opportunities to integrate into existing programs, events, policies and developments.

6. Incorporate sustainable design practices, methodologies and materials and apply sustainability principles to future skate programs and events.



Above: Ed Benedict Skate Plaza in Portland, Oregon USA is one of 19 skateable spaces to be rolled out for City of Portland's Skatepark System Plan developed in 2008. This skate plaza was designed collaboratively with local skaters and artists. Besides providing an aesthetically pleasing skateable space, the final design also enhanced biodiversity, ecology and storm water management in the area. Credit: Brooke Geery

7. Include the skate community in the design process to ensure final design is fit for the end user.
8. Consider and integrate important spatial characteristics into public spaces for skaters where appropriate.

9. Consider coupling skateable spaces with complementary activities and other active uses.

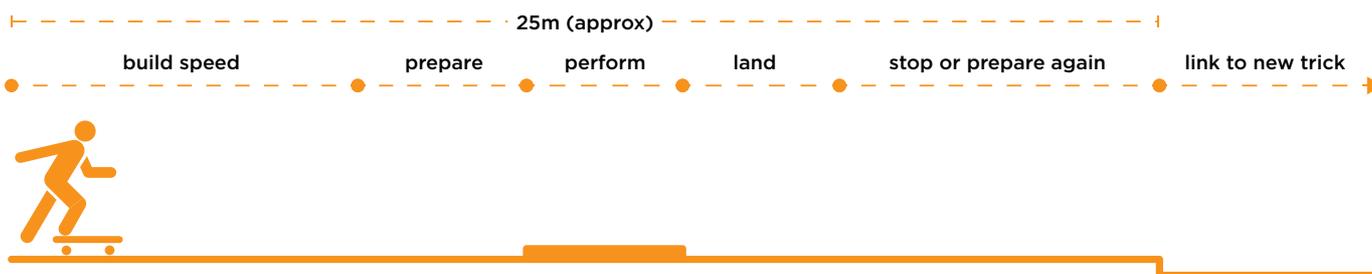


Some types of activities that can complement skate activity and spaces include:

- noisy activities such as basketball, breakdancing, volleyball and live music
  - performance-based activities such as dancing, music, theatre and busking
  - heavily physical-based activities such as free running (or parkour), rock climbing (or bouldering) and personal training
  - creative-based activities such as public art, street art, DIY or workshop spaces, creatively designed spaces such as interactive spaces, or lighting and projector installations.
10. Take influence from skate culture to be more innovative, creative and bold.

## Beginner to Intermediate

- need adequate flat space to prepare and land tricks (approx 25 metres from start to stop)
- require lower obstacles (10-30cm)



<sup>1</sup> For more information on how the City of Melbourne aims to make public spaces and the city in general safer, please see *Beyond the Safe City Strategy 2014-17* on the City of Melbourne website.



Options include:

- Be creative with the design of spaces, skate infrastructure, programmes and communication techniques.
- Take advantage of underutilised areas for skateable spaces, events and programming.
- Enable the community to build their own skate elements with other experienced building professionals. This can build ownership, professional development skills and relationships.
- Where integration and internal funding is not possible, consider alternative funding and community led opportunities like public/private partnerships, grants or crowd funding.

### Intermediate to Advanced

- able to utilise higher obstacles (40cm +) and more challenging spaces
- the highest ollie recorded is 115cm
- do not need as much preparation space



Diagram showing different design configurations based on user experience level.



# KEY ACTIONS

The City of Melbourne has identified four key actions for achieving the principles and aims of the Plan while also addressing the key challenges.

- 1 Identify spaces suitable and unsuitable for skate activity.**
- 2 Increase the provision, designation and integration of skateable spaces.**
- 3 Improve programming, communication, legislation and management.**
- 4 Increase participation for girls and women.**

# 1. Key action

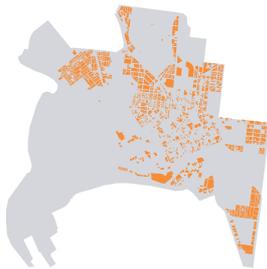
## Identify spaces suitable and unsuitable for skate activity

Locating suitable locations in a capital city with limited public space and increasing population and density is complex. In order to locate and assess suitable locations for skate activity, many councils and strategic planners develop an assessment criteria. This can help identify areas that are accessible, safe and inclusive whilst minimising potential conflict.

The Location Assessment Criteria in this Plan aims to promote better integration of skating and can also be used for locating other activities with similar characteristics and spatial needs (eg basketball). The full Location Assessment Criteria is located on City of Melbourne's website [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/skate](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/skate)

### LOCATION ASSESSMENT CRITERIA SUMMARY

#### Avoids close proximity to conflicting land use, materials or activities



■ Key residential and accommodation areas

- Residential buildings (75m buffer).
- Culturally significant sites (like memorials, burial sites).
- Direct interaction with glass facades.
- Direct interaction with key thoroughfares (pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle).

#### Land ownership, management, use and key stakeholders



■ Open space and recreation spaces managed by the City of Melbourne

- Land managers are tolerant/welcoming of skate activity.
- Land use does not conflict with skate activity.
- Key stakeholders are not significantly impacted by skate activity.

## LOCATION ASSESSMENT CRITERIA SUMMARY

### Site safety, inclusiveness and accessibility



■ Key transport links  
● Key activity areas

- Close proximity to public transport hubs.
- Ability to incorporate crime prevention through environmental design principles.
- Proximity to other activity areas.
- Highly visible with open lines of sight.
- Well-lit at all times of the day and night.
- Feels safe for all ages and genders, this includes safety when traveling to and from the proposed venue.

### Proximity to complementary activities, demographics and uses



■ Key young resident and user demographic areas

- Food and services.
- Other loud activities.
- Other active uses and recreational facilities.
- Other youth uses or key demographic areas.
- For temporary spaces in particular, using pre-existing smooth hard surfaced areas.

### Potential to provide a new opportunity in key priority areas



■ Key gap areas in youth and skate provision



■ Key growth and recreational areas

- Located in a provision gap area (based on existing skate and youth oriented spaces).
- Located in a growth, or future growth area.
- Connects to other skate, youth or recreational spaces.
- Provides a new use in an otherwise underutilised space.
- Increases overall accessibility to skateable spaces.

## Action

#	KEY ACTION	TIMEFRAME	IMPLEMENTATION MODEL
<b>1</b>	<b>identify spaces suitable for skate activity</b>		
1.1	Use Location Assessment Criteria in conjunction with City of Melbourne's strategic mapping systems to locate key opportunity and gap areas in the municipality.	Within 3 years	Business as usual.

## 2. Key action

### Increase the provision, designation and integration of skateable spaces

A site's suitability will first be measured using the Location Assessment Criteria. The diagram below indicates the decision making process to determine whether skating is appropriate in a space.

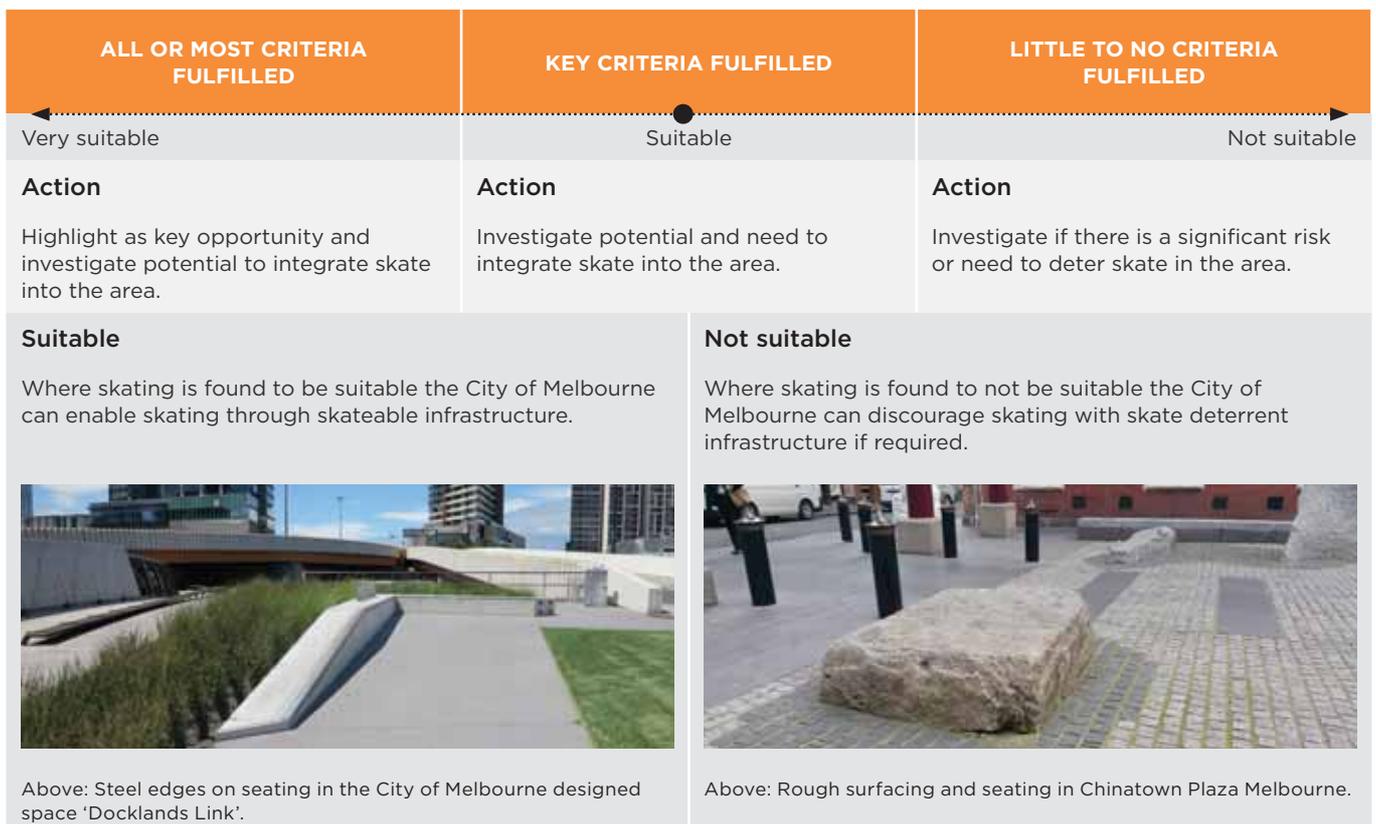
### Integrate skateable infrastructure into suitable public spaces

A cost effective (and sometimes cost-neutral) approach to cater for skating is to integrate skateable infrastructure into urban planning and design. Some existing examples are Neill Street Reserve in Carlton and Docklands Link. In these spaces concrete park benches with steel edging have been designed to be robust enough to withstand the impacts of skating.

The traditional approach to protecting assets from skating activity has been to install steel skate deterrents on assets or to make the ground surface rough to make skating less appealing. Applying the proposed Location Assessment Criteria will enable the City of Melbourne to identify spaces where skating is suitable for implementing more innovative and inclusive 'skateable' asset protection methods, or deterrent methods.

### Different types of skateable spaces

There are three major types of skateable spaces considered in this plan: dedicated, multi-use and shared. Shared spaces in central and accessible spaces are seen as more inclusive than dedicated facilities in less visible locations. The below diagram explains the three spaces and how they can be used.



# Skateable spaces

PROVISION TYPE	Shared public spaces	Multi-use recreational spaces / youth hubs or plazas	Dedicated skate parks / plazas
INCLUSION W/ NON-SKATERS	General Public ←	Other Active Users ●	Other Skaters →
PROVISION CHARACTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open public space, path or road.</li> <li>General public feel welcomed to utilise space.</li> <li>Skating is a welcomed activity.</li> <li>Designed to withstand skate activity that may happen.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be an open public space.</li> <li>May use fences to contain activity or mitigate potential risk.</li> <li>Designed with multiple uses in mind, including skate activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated facility for a diverse range of skate styles and devices.</li> <li>Fences typically used to contain activity or mitigate potential risk.</li> <li>Designed specifically with skate activity in mind.</li> </ul>
COMMON SKATEABLE ELEMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smooth flat surfaces.</li> <li>Ledges and benches.</li> <li>Kerbs and banks.</li> <li>Wide open paths.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can be a combination of robust skateable street furniture and more purpose built skate elements.</li> <li>Other complementary activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elements with a curve or transition to them (eg bowls or ramps).</li> <li>Purpose built skate elements (eg funboxes, flat bars, kicker ramps).</li> </ul>
PROVISION BENEFITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased social interaction and social skills development.</li> <li>Provides performance and vibrancy for other city users.</li> <li>Encourages increased skate participation and inclusion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth oriented spaces.</li> <li>Multiple activities available to engage in in one location.</li> <li>Hubs of activity and recreation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe spaces to learn to skate, hone skills and try diverse styles.</li> <li>Family oriented spaces.</li> <li>Large skate parks can hold international skate events.</li> </ul>
CORE END USERS CATERED TO <small>**This is highly dependent on the design of the space itself</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All city users and demographics.</li> <li>Street style skaters.</li> <li>Professional street style skaters, events and industries.</li> <li>Older skater demographics (aged 15 and above).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth and active lifestyle oriented demographics.</li> <li>Predominantly street and park style skaters (can be all).</li> <li>All skate style events, industries and professionals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Park and transitional style skaters, and most devices.</li> <li>All skate style events, industries and professionals.</li> <li>Spectators and families.</li> <li>Younger skater demographics (aged 15 and below).</li> </ul>
PROVISION PRECEDENT	<b>Melbourne Museum Plaza Carlton, Victoria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Govt. Land managed by Melbourne Museum.</li> <li>Museum Management are supportive of activity that activates the plaza, skate included.</li> <li>Skaters generally respect the area and provide vibrancy.</li> <li>Large open plaza provides safe space with clear sightlines.</li> </ul>	<b>Esplanade Youth Plaza Fremantle, Western Australia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-award winning project, regarded as highly successful by council and the community.</li> <li>\$1.8 million with 1600m<sup>2</sup> of hardscape and 2500m<sup>2</sup> of softscape.</li> <li>Caters for skateboarding, BMX, scooters, parkour, table tennis, slacklining, play, and more in a family friendly environment.</li> </ul>	<b>Noble Park Skate Park Noble Park, Victoria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internationally renowned skate park, regarded as a benchmark.</li> <li>Inclusion of skate community was integral to project's success.</li> <li>Multi-million dollar project with 3000m<sup>2</sup> of skateable space.</li> <li>Caters for all skate devices in a family friendly environment.</li> <li>Attracts high levels of use from diverse demographics.</li> </ul>

## Scale of skate spaces

When considering provision of skate spaces diversity of the size of the space is an important factor. Small to medium sized spaces generally cater for street style skating, and medium to large scale spaces can cater for a broad range of styles. Generally, street style elements are simpler (eg benches or ledges) and therefore cheaper to implement than those with transitional design features (eg concrete bowls and ramps). The table below provides a guide to size and costs associated with skate spaces.



SIZE	<b>XS</b> SINGLE ELEMENT 50 - 250m <sup>2</sup>	<b>S-M</b> LOCAL > PRECINCT 250 - 1500m <sup>2</sup>	<b>L</b> MUNICIPAL 1500 - 3500m <sup>2</sup>	<b>XL</b> STATE / NATIONAL 3500m <sup>2</sup> +
<b>COMMON TYPOLOGY</b>	Smooth hard surface with 1-2 elements	Skate spot or local skate park	Dedicated skate park or plaza, indoor facility, youth hub, multi-use recreational facility/space or public plaza	
<b>CATERS FOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All skating styles</li> <li>Local community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All skating styles</li> <li>Local precinct</li> <li>Medium events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All skating styles</li> <li>Municipality</li> <li>Large events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global skate community</li> <li>State and national</li> <li>International events</li> </ul>
<b>COST (approx.)</b>	<b>\$</b> eg \$1000-\$50,000	<b>\$\$</b> eg \$100,000-\$500,000	<b>\$\$\$+</b> eg one million +	<b>\$\$\$\$+</b> eg two million +
<b>ACTIVE USERS</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>2-15</b>	<b>8-30</b>	<b>30+</b>
<b>INACTIVE USERS</b>	<b>2-8</b>	<b>8-60</b>	<b>30-120</b>	<b>120+</b>

### Shared spaces

Shared spaces provide for street style skaters and long boarders and are more socially inclusive than traditional skate facilities which typically use fencing and are specifically designed exclusively for skating. Shared spaces are more attractive to skaters 15 years and older and encourage more social interaction with other city users and demographics. They are typically plazas, forecourts, squares and wide streets or paths and are not specifically designed for skating, which makes them more interesting and creative spaces for skaters. Shared spaces can be cost effective, as skateable infrastructure can be integrated into general public spaces within budgets of existing projects.

### Encourage more multi-use facilities

These spaces are influenced by contemporary skate parks and combine youth oriented and unstructured activities.



Above: Neill Street Reserve is a multi-use open space designed by the City of Melbourne. The space above has steel edging incorporated into the seating for the multi-purpose court in order to withstand and allow for skating. Credit: Luke Flanagan

## Reducing conflict in shared and multi-use spaces

The City of Melbourne supports skating activity in shared and multi-use spaces, but not when other users are put at risk in the space. Shared skate spaces can identify where skating is encouraged through the materials used, the design of the space itself and, where necessary, signage and/or mapping.

The following key tools and approaches will be used in shared skate spaces:

- Location Assessment Criteria to identify and educate skaters and non-skaters on suitable and non-suitable locations and spaces for skating.
- Strategic and considered design of public spaces that include skateable assets where suitable.
- Signage, materials and design will clearly identify where and when skating is allowed in a multi-use or shared space. It will promote and educate the general public that skate activity is a legitimate activity supported and encouraged by the City of Melbourne in suitable locations.
- Better access to information on skating locations via the City of Melbourne website, social media and other platforms.
- Planned and managed programs and events that encourage sharing and responsible skating in the City of Melbourne.



Credit: Richard Drdul

Portland's (USA) Skate Route signage highlights safe skate routes and that skate is a supported activity in the city.



City of Melbourne's surface insets provide an unobtrusive indication of the desired and legitimate uses in a space and enable on the ground conflict resolution.



Above: Skatepark Rennes, in Arsenal, designed by Constructo Skate Park Architecture. Concrete is coloured orange to highlight to pedestrians and skaters that pedestrians have priority in this area. Photo supplied by project architects Constructo Skatepark Architecture.

### Preferred times of use

Street skating can be a loud activity, so to reduce conflict and disturbance to other city users and residents this Plan recommends that preferred times of use are allocated to particular skating locations in the municipality. This will highlight to skaters when skating is welcomed in the area and open up more opportunities for skating in the city.

### Preferred routes and areas

The Skate Melbourne Advisory Group highlighted that placing skateable elements along less populated routes throughout the city could attract skaters to use less congested and safer routes throughout the city.

### Dedicated skate parks

Dedicated skate parks provide a safe space that meets the needs of diverse skate styles and skate devices. Dedicated spaces are important and more attractive for beginners and younger skaters (below 15 years of age) to learn in a safe environment and provide a location for major events. Many are family-oriented spaces and can provide key community services for the surrounding area, not just the skate park.

The sub actions for key action 2 outline the existing skate parks that require upgrades or replacement and identify a third skateable space is required in the future.

## Action

#	KEY ACTION	TIMEFRAME	IMPLEMENTATION MODEL
<b>2</b>	<b>increase the provision, designation and integration of suitable skate spaces</b>		
2.1	Ensure a diverse range of skate devices, styles and spaces are catered for across the municipality and that skate is adequately catered for in key priority areas.	Ongoing	Business as usual.
2.2	Continue the Street Skate Prototyping Project as an ongoing program and co-design process.	Over next 3 years	Subject to annual capital works budget process.
2.3	In suitable spaces, integrate skateable elements into urban design and planning, including in open spaces and networks between skateable spaces.	Over next 10 years	Subject to annual capital works budget process.
2.4	Suitably locate and designate a 24 hour skateable space and investigate potential for off-peak night skate spaces.	Within 3 years	Subject to annual capital works budget process.
2.5	Develop a map of preferred routes and areas and provide a series of skateable elements on these routes for skaters to use.	Within 3 years	Business as usual.
2.6	Upgrade existing skate parks in Alexandra Gardens (Riverslide) and JJ Holland Park.	Within 3 years	Subject to annual capital works budget process.
2.7	Locate and develop an additional extra-large skateable space.	Within 10 years	Subject to annual capital works budget process.
2.8	Ensure gender inclusive design is implemented for skateable spaces.	Ongoing	Business as usual.

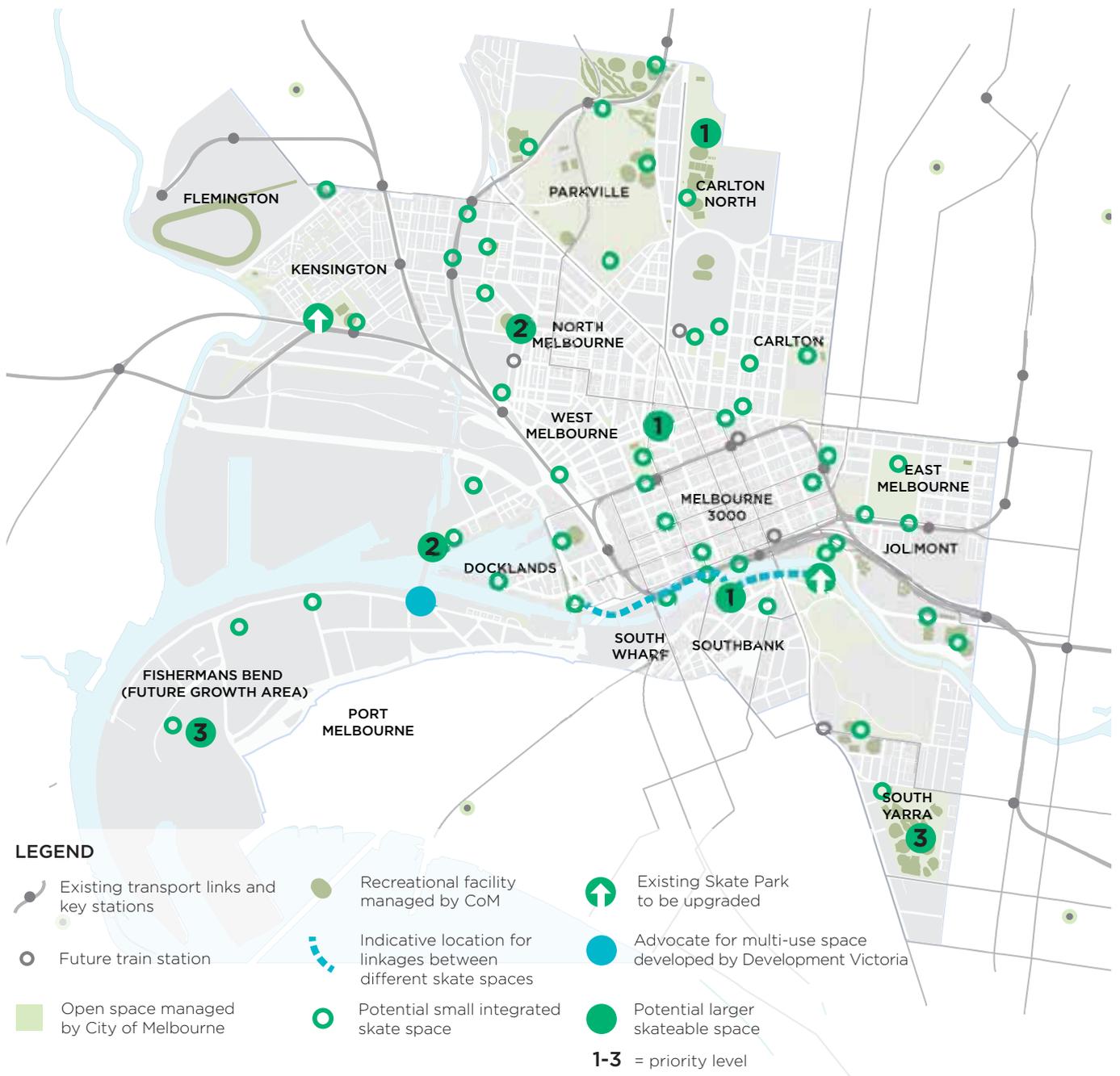
## Increase skate provision

While important for some skating styles, dedicated skate parks will not solve the needs of all skaters. Through community engagement it is clear there is demand for a range of skate infrastructure, and it's important to re-iterate that styles of skating are diverse and skaters themselves enjoy a diversity of experiences.

Provision of different types of spaces spread across the municipality to increase accessibility and provision of skateable spaces for all precincts is required. A number of potential spaces have been identified in the adjacent map. The City of Melbourne will aim to integrate these spaces into key priority areas in the municipality. For now, these types of spaces are not specific. Further investigation and community engagement on the feasibility of these spaces must be undertaken before any proposed permanent locations are identified. Key priority areas highlight potential for larger skateable spaces to be located; priority areas are based on existing or developing projects, master plans and growth areas.



## Opportunities to increase skate provision - indicative skateable spaces



Priority 1 locations refer to Princes Park, Queen Victoria Market and Kings Way Underpass (refer City Road Master Plan) which have been highlighted to have skate and youth potential by City of Melbourne. All other locations are indicative for the general area only. They have not been finalised and for now act as a guide. These sites will be investigated into further for skate potential.



### 3. Key action

#### Improve programming, communication, legislation and management

##### Programming

The provision of skateable spaces are important in order to support skating. Programming, events, community services, outreach and awareness campaigns are also key in ensuring that Melbourne’s skate culture continues to grow and foster positive benefits for the individual, the community and the city.

The City of Melbourne will promote and support the legitimacy of skating through improved information online, advocacy, events, and programs at its designated skateable spaces and public spaces in partnership with the skate community and industry.

We will do this through increased services, programs and initiatives, with partners where appropriate and with a key focus on education, awareness, community outreach and developing tolerance and respectful relationships between all city users.

Temporary skate spaces can be programmed to provide new opportunities for skaters. Temporary spaces for peak periods in skating during the year can help relieve popular skate spaces so they do not become overcrowded or problematic. Temporary spaces can be integrated into existing hard surfaced areas and include but are not limited to:

- event spaces.
- development and construction sites.
- road and path closures.
- privately managed land.

To support this work the City of Melbourne will investigate a program to partner with the skate industry to trial temporary skate spaces in events and underutilised public spaces, especially for peak periods in skate activity.

##### Communication and awareness

Communication around the legitimacy of skating in the city and where it is and isn’t encouraged is important for all city users and stakeholders to understand. Through community engagement it was highlighted that information on skating was hard to find and the general community do not understand the City of Melbourne’s position on skating.

The City of Malmö is a good example of communication around skating in the city. Their website called Skate Malmö highlights different skate spaces and parks where skating is encouraged, skate events and programs running in the city and it also promotes other attractions in the city (food venues, galleries, cafes).

##### Legislation

An action is proposed to amend legislation around skating to make it less confusing, more inclusive and relevant to the aims of the Skate Melbourne Plan. A review of City of Melbourne local laws and existing policy will help to modernise and refresh elements that relate to skating. The City of Melbourne will advocate for simpler road rules by making submissions to VicRoads during the revision period of the Victorian Road Rules in 2019.

## Action

#	KEY ACTION	TIMEFRAME	IMPLEMENTATION MODEL
<b>3</b>	<b>improve programming, communication and management</b>		
3.1	Local law, parks policy, strategic planning and Victorian road rules review and amendments.	Within 4 years	Business as usual.
3.2	Encourage and promote equity, inclusivity and acceptance of skating culture.	Ongoing	Business as usual.
3.3	Increase, enhance and better enable skate services, programs, events and initiatives internally and with partners.	Ongoing	Business as usual.
3.4	Strengthen web presence, communications, awareness and advocacy on skating within CoM, externally and with partners.	Within 3 years	Business as usual.
3.5	Develop and build relationships with the skate community, industry and other land managers. Facilitate proposals from these groups that help deliver on the Plan’s actions.	Ongoing	Business as usual.



## 4. Key action

### Increase participation for girls and women

As highlighted in the *Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy*, female participation rates in sport and recreation are lower than those of men. This trend begins at an early age and persists into adulthood.

Gendered barriers to participation include: fewer opportunities to participate, competing time demands, prohibitive costs, discomfort with uniform requirements, fewer career opportunities, discrimination, racism and the fear of being judged by others.

Women also lack access to appropriate facilities. Many sporting facilities do not have female change rooms, are not accessible to women and girls, or are only available at inconvenient times. Women are also under-represented in sports leadership positions, making up only 29 per cent of executive officers in state sporting associations.

Physical activity improves mental and physical health, confidence and self-esteem. The benefits of sport and recreation are particularly significant for women and girls, who are twice as likely as men to suffer from depression, and are more likely to suffer lower self-esteem and body image issues.



A key action in the *Safe and Strong Strategy* is to work with local government and state sporting associations to promote equitable treatment of men and women in the provision of and access to sporting infrastructure and facilities. Encouragement of girls and women to participate in skating, which is currently a predominately male activity, is one way we can begin to address this inequity.

City of Melbourne is working with local governments across the western region on a regional action plan to increase women and girl's participation in sport and recreation. The plan is due to be completed by 2018.

The design of new skate spaces will consider a variety of skating styles, experience and ages along with gender. Safety for all users, but in particular girls and women, both at the skate space and the journey to and from the location will also be incorporated in design.

## Action

#	KEY ACTION	TIMEFRAME	IMPLEMENTATION MODEL
<b>4</b>	<b>increase participation for girls and women</b>		
4.1	Identify and promote female skaters as mentors and leaders. Investigate this through the Skate Ambassadors Program.	Within 3 years	Business as usual.
4.2	Facilitate female only skate sessions in City of Melbourne skate venues.	Ongoing	Business as usual.
4.3	Encourage female participation in skate events and competitions through the Events Partnership Program and Skate Ambassadors Program	Ongoing	Business as usual.
4.4	Host or facilitate event/s that encourage and empower women to skate whilst addressing barriers to women's participation.	Within 3 years	Business as usual.

City of Melbourne is committed to provision of ongoing resources that will enable the plan's recommendations to be realised. Actions will be monitored and reported on regularly and the Plan will be reviewed at the halfway point to safeguard its continued relevance.

Without dedicated resources to facilitate and review the original 'SKATESAFE' *Skating Management Plan 1998*, many of the elements of this plan were not fully implemented.

To achieve the outlined actions the City of Melbourne will dedicate staff resources to managing the plan, continue the Skate Ambassador Program, build on its already existing community outreach programs and build industry capacity to facilitate more programs within central Melbourne's events and public spaces.

### Partnering on the actions

If you are interested in being involved in supporting actions or want to be kept up to date on the Plan please sign up through [skatemelbourne@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:skatemelbourne@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Visit [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/skate](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/skate) for further information.

## Action summary

#	KEY ACTION	TIMEFRAME	IMPLEMENTATION MODEL
<b>1</b>	<b>identify spaces suitable for skate activity</b>		
1.1	Use Location Assessment Criteria in conjunction with City of Melbourne's strategic mapping systems to locate key opportunity and gap areas in the municipality.	Within 3 years	Business as usual.
<b>2</b>	<b>increase the provision, designation and integration of suitable skate spaces</b>		
2.1	Ensure a diverse range of skate devices, styles and spaces are catered for across the municipality and that skate is adequately catered for in key priority areas.	Ongoing	Business as usual.
2.2	Continue the Street Skate Prototyping Project as an ongoing program and co-design process.	Over next 3 years	Subject to annual capital works budget process.
2.3	In suitable spaces, integrate skateable elements into urban design and planning, including in open spaces and networks between skateable spaces.	Over next 10 years	Subject to annual capital works budget process.
2.4	Suitably locate and designate a 24 hour skateable space and investigate potential for off-peak night skate spaces.	Within 3 years	Subject to annual capital works budget process.
2.5	Develop a map of preferred routes and areas and provide a series of skateable elements on these routes for skaters to use.	Within 3 years	Business as usual.
2.6	Upgrade existing skate parks in Alexandra Gardens (Riverslide) and JJ Holland Park.	Within 3 years	Subject to annual capital works budget process.
2.7	Locate and develop an additional extra-large skateable space.	Within 10 years	Subject to annual capital works budget process.
2.8	Ensure gender inclusive design is implemented for skateable spaces.	Ongoing	Business as usual.

#	KEY ACTION	TIMEFRAME	IMPLEMENTATION MODEL
<b>3</b>	<b>improve programming, communication and management</b>		
3.1	Local law, parks policy, strategic planning and Victorian road rules review and amendments.	Within 4 years	Business as usual.
3.2	Encourage and promote equity, inclusivity and acceptance of skating culture.	Ongoing	Business as usual.
3.3	Increase, enhance and better enable skate services, programs, events and initiatives internally and with partners.	Ongoing	Business as usual.
3.4	Strengthen web presence, communications, awareness and advocacy on skating within CoM, externally and with partners.	Within 3 years	Business as usual.
3.5	Develop and build relationships with the skate community, industry and other land managers. Facilitate proposals from these groups that help deliver on the Plan's actions.	Ongoing	Business as usual.
<b>4</b>	<b>increase participation for girls and women</b>		
4.1	Identify and promote female skaters as mentors and leaders. Investigate this through the Skate Ambassadors Program.	Within 3 years	Business as usual.
4.2	Facilitate female only skate sessions in City of Melbourne skate venues.	Ongoing	Business as usual.
4.3	Encourage female participation in skate events and competitions through the Events Partnership Program and Skate Ambassadors Program	Ongoing	Business as usual.
4.4	Host or facilitate event/s that encourage and empower women to skate whilst addressing barriers to women's participation.	Within 3 years	Business as usual.

These actions are not mutually exclusive and some may be done together for example an additional extra-large skate space (2.7) may also be suitable as a 24 hour skateable space (2.4).



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people have contributed to the development of this plan including the broader City of Melbourne community and the local skating community.

Special thanks goes to the Skate Melbourne Advisory Group members who enthusiastically gave their time to provide advice and ideas to the City of Melbourne.

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