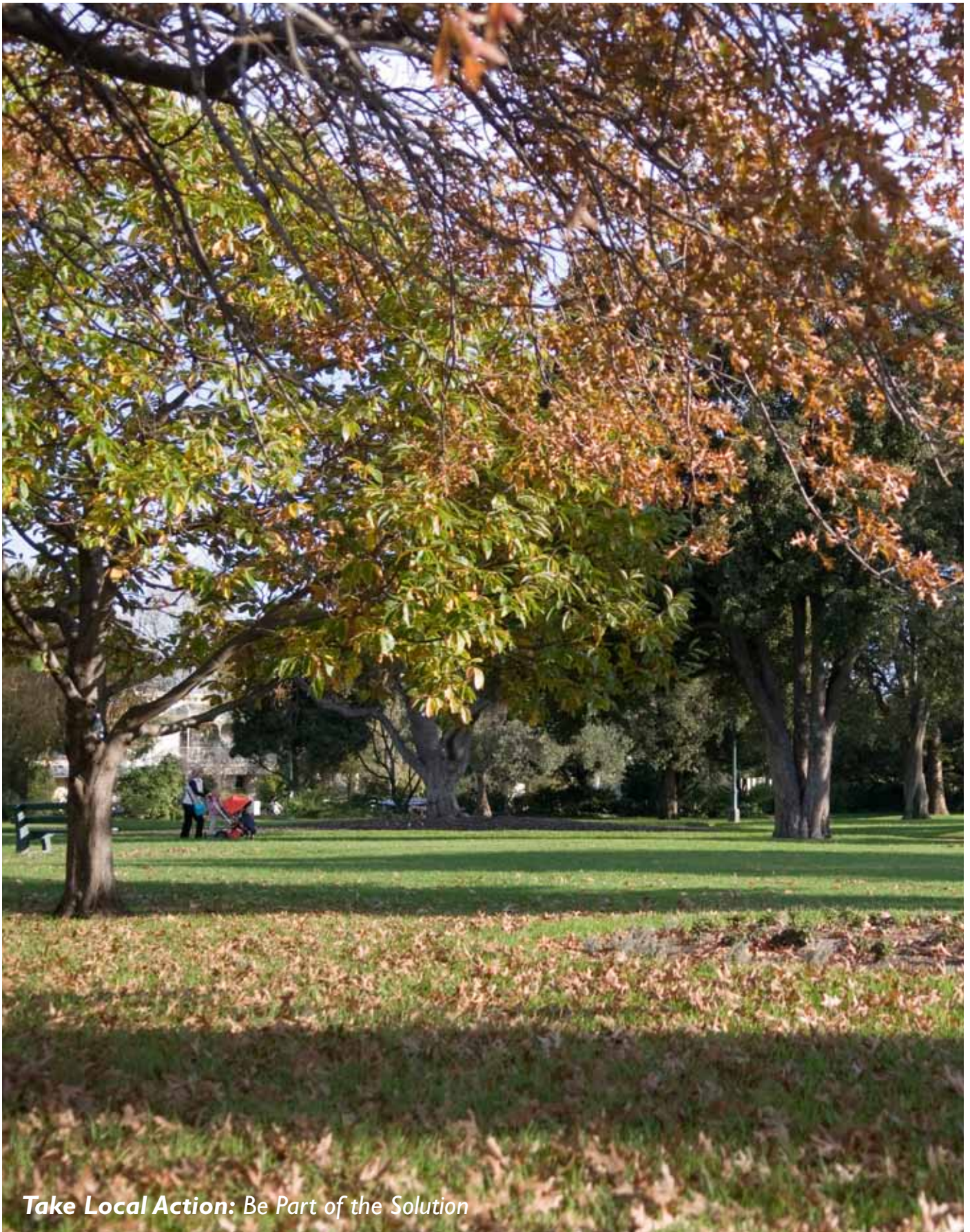


DRAFT OPEN SPACE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN TOWARD A WATER SENSITIVE CITY



Take Local Action: Be Part of the Solution

Sustained drought, increasing temperatures and water restrictions are impacting the health of our trees, plants and open spaces. Council is determined to manage these impacts to ensure the protection of trees and parks in our city.

We have created an Open Space Water Management Plan. The plan will help council better manage existing water sources, find and use alternative water sources, and adapt our open spaces to a drier and hotter climate.



Our Open Space Water Management Plan

Our main objectives are to:

- maintain and improve the health of trees
- maintain and improve the health and liveability of our parks and open spaces, now and into the future
- find and use alternative water sources, and increase water efficiency
- use innovative water sensitive urban design and other adaptation measures to adapt to a drier and hotter climate.



Council's vision for public open space

A city where public open spaces define the city's character and respond to its people's need for places to rest, recreate and be inspired.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND LIVEABILITY
OF OUR OPEN SPACES, NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE.





Climate change is impacting our city and council is taking action to protect our way of life. We will adapt where we need to adapt, and we will be innovative in finding new and better ways to manage water in our city.

What is council's responsibility?

Council is responsible for managing 176 HA of open space (15 sports grounds, 39 parks and reserves, and approximately 55,000 trees).

Trees are an important and significant feature of our city.

A tree's water requirement is affected by its age, species and location. Sustainable water management methods such as drip irrigations, mulching and water sensitive urban design will continue to be implemented to protect our trees.

Sport encourages community activity and is a major factor in health and wellbeing.

Without an optimal watering regime and climate adaptation measures in place, sports fields may become unusable. Accessing alternative water sources to keep sports grounds in good condition is a key goal of the Open Space Water Management Plan.

A diverse and attractive network of parks and open space is available in our city. Having access to open spaces is important for the health and wellbeing of the community.

Open spaces will face continuing pressure with increasing population and use. Ensuring that we maintain the health of our open spaces into the future is critical. The Open Space Water Management Plan recognises this.

Our current water use

In 2005/06, council's water use was 251 ML for all open space. By 2008/09, and as a result of state government water restrictions, we reduced our open space water use to just 93 ML.

Council's 70% reduction of potable water use has impacted the health of our trees and open spaces. Our Open Space Water Management Plan seeks to improve this situation, and establishes actions to increase water efficiency and the use of alternative water sources to improve and protect our open space.

Melbourne has been at stage 3a water restrictions since 2007. To find out more about current water restrictions visit www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/water_restrictions.htm

OUR WATER REQUIREMENTS

The City of Port Phillip needs 155 ML per annum for optimal watering of our open spaces.

A number of factors were considered when determining this figure: rainfall; turf; soil profile and vegetation type; number and type of trees; reduced irrigation over winter months; local parks where no irrigated open space is located within 400m of people's residences; level of use; and site significance e.g. heritage gardens of botanical importance.

These factors also help determine watering priority and requirements for specific sites.

Open space with a high water requirement including heritage sites and sports fields of regional significance

Watering Rate
15 mm/m²/week

Open space with a medium water requirement including sites with high visitation, community use and sports fields of local significance

Watering Rate
10 mm/m²/week

Open space with a low water requirement including local parks and low use sports fields

Watering Rate
5 mm/m²/week

Open space with no water requirement including sites which have not previously been irrigated and have low impact usage

Watering Rate
0 mm/m²/week





CREATING A WATER SENSITIVE CITY

What will the plan achieve?

- continued reduction in the use of potable water in open space, with an aim to achieve 50% of irrigation from non potable water sources by 2020
- open space across the city will be in good condition, and fit for purpose
- healthy, well maintained trees and gardens
- irrigation systems that operate to a minimum of 75% efficiency
- increase in the application of water sensitive urban design including passive irrigation and other water sensitive urban design systems
- increase in the use of alternative water sources.

How will this be achieved?

- improving and upgrading existing irrigation systems
- improving turf management practices
- sourcing alternative water sources
- installing water sensitive urban design in council projects
- increasing mulching in garden beds and around trees
- watering new trees for the first two years, twice a week, throughout spring and summer
- reviewing and monitoring key open space areas to limit excessive use
- monitoring the impact that events have on our parks and open spaces and establishing event management processes that limit the impact of events.



WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE

Raingardens

We have already started to install raingardens in the City of Port Phillip. You can see examples of raingardens in Coventry Street, South Melbourne; Elwood Foreshore; and Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. The raingardens improve water quality by removing suspended solids, nitrogens and phosphates, whilst providing a source of water for the trees.

Water sensitive urban design trees on Coventry Street, South Melbourne



Drought tolerant planting

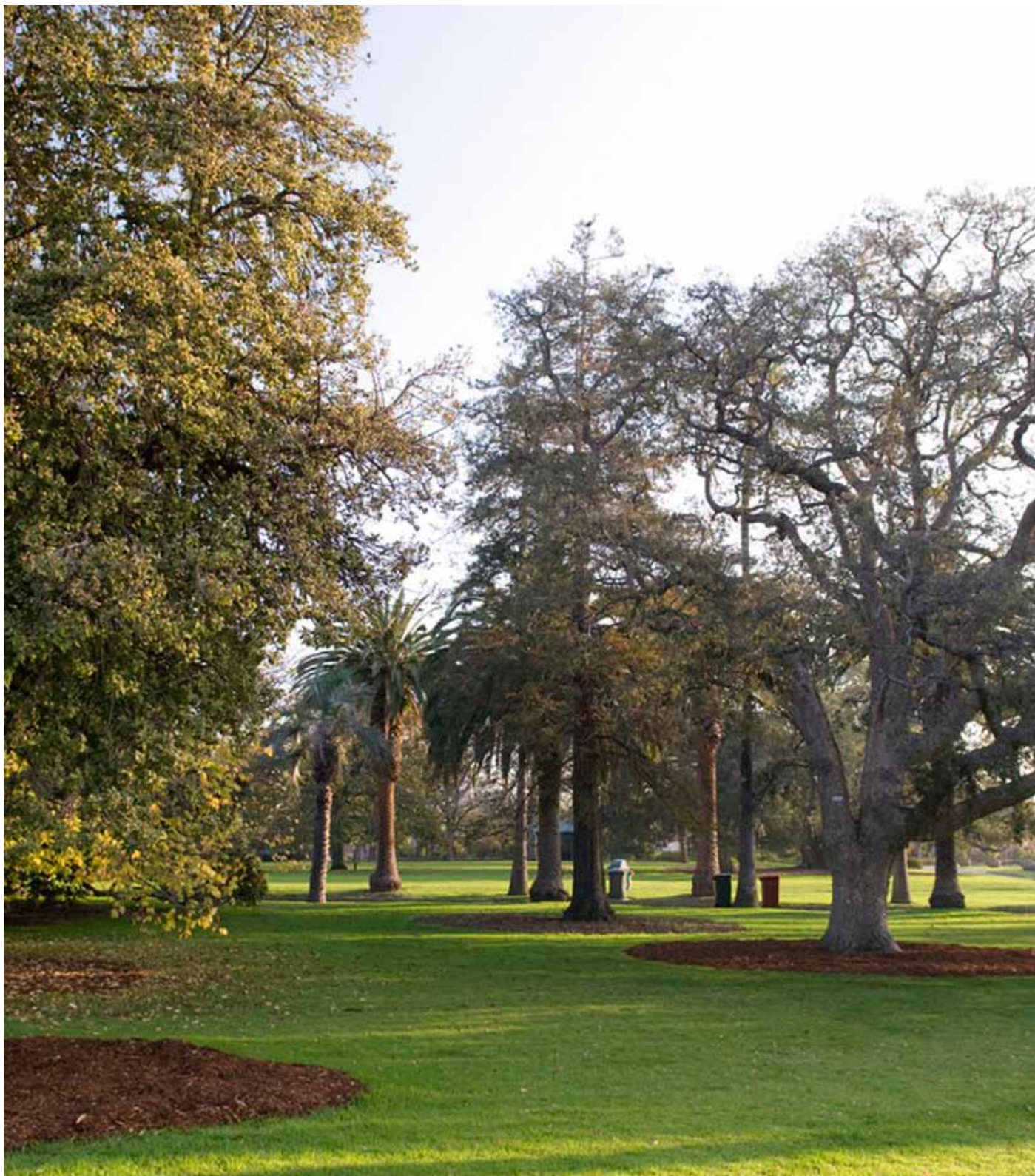
Changing our sports field from cool season grass to warm season grass - which is drought tolerant - has helped to reduce water usage and has improved the condition of our sporting grounds, despite the drought. This has occurred at Port Melbourne Soccer Ground, Peanut Farm Reserve, Lagoon Reserve, Alma Park Oval and the Esplanade Oval.



Stormwater harvesting

Another example of water sensitive urban design has been the installation of passive stormwater harvesting pits. These pits divert stormwater from the gutters into agricultural pipes that water surrounding trees. Pits have been installed at Clarke Street Reserve and the Broadway, Elwood; Howe and Walter Reserve, Port Melbourne; and Graham Street, Albert Park.





More information

To view the draft Open Space Water Management Plan go to www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/climateconversations or for more information contact ASSIST on 9209 6777.

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