



## BEDFORD STREET POCKET PARK

**Address:** 2 Bedford St, North Melbourne VIC 3051  
**Completed:** 2024

Bedford Street Pocket Park converted approximately 1,500m2 of paved area into new green space for the local North Melbourne community. The play space was inspired by an existing Hoop Pine tree, which comes from a long lineage of the *Araucariaceae* family dating back to the prehistoric era. The playground stimulates imagination - can you find the stepping stones with Australian dinosaur footprints? Or the dinosaur 'eggs'? Timber was salvaged from within the City of Melbourne and used to create seating and steps.

**Activities:**

- Can you find the **wombat**?
- Bring a ball and play **Four Square**
- How deep can you dig in the **sand pit**?
- Where does the water flow from the **hand pump**?



## HAWKE AND ADDERLEY STREET PARK

**Address:** 100 Hawke Street, West Melbourne VIC 3003  
**Completed:** 2018

The Hawke and Adderley Street Park provides much needed open space for the West Melbourne community. The corner play space responds to the site's sloping terrain through terraced rock, mounds and slides that encourage imagination and adventure across the steep incline. Spinning wheels, sand pits and diggers create a unique and explorative play experience that caters to toddlers and young children. The play space is complimented by several flexible lawn areas for gathering, play and relaxation within the established West Melbourne neighbourhood.

**Activities:**

- Create a fort in the large **sand pit**
- Feel the air under your feet on the **swings**
- Pick up speed on the large **spinning wheel**
- Make the most of your leisure time with the relaxed open lawn, BBQ facilities and drinking fountain



## NATURE PLAY AT ROYAL PARK

**Address:** 28 Gatehouse Street, Parkville VIC 3052  
**Completed:** 2015

Nature Play provides an inviting entry to the state-significant Royal Park, Melbourne's largest native parkland. The seven Wurundjeri seasons of Melbourne are central to this new landscape, informing the structure, planting and play experiences of the space. Voted Australia's Best Playground in 2016, the regional play space offers new opportunities for challenging and explorative play and encourages children of all ages and abilities to connect with nature and each other.

**Activities:**

- Forage for twigs and leaves to create a **nature cubby**
- Test your balance on the challenging rope obstacle course
- Bring your towels and cool down at the **water play plaza**
- Enjoy a BBQ and picnic on the open lawn areas
- Hike up the **grassy knoll** to look across at the city skyline, then roll back down... again and again!



## RON BARASSI SENIOR PARK

**Address:** 500 Docklands Drive, Docklands VIC 3008  
**Completed:** 2015

The Ron Barassi Senior Park is located in a unique intersection between Moonee Ponds Creek, Swanston Dock and the underside of the Bolte Bridge. The large soaring tower offers unique views across to the Melbourne skyline. The industrial and maritime character of the large and challenging play space is reflected in reconstructed salvaged bluestone water channels, concrete tunnels and sand bags. Native trees and vibrant flowering vegetation create an imaginative play experience. The park is named in recognition of Ronald James Barassi Senior, who played as a rover for the Melbourne Football Club from 1936 to 1940 and later became renowned as a coach and media personality.

**Activities:**

- Climb to the top of the tower and look across to the **city skyline**
- Bring your towels and create a river with the **water pumps**
- Test your balance on the **rope bridge** and **nets**
- Bring your favourite snacks to enjoy at the BBQ and picnic area



## SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD PLAY SPACE

**Address:** Southbank Boulevard, Southbank VIC 3031  
**Completed:** 2022  
**Design:** City of Melbourne and Mike Hewson (artist)

The Southbank Boulevard play space named 'Rocks on Wheels' provides a variety of play equipment seemingly teetering on wheels and construction material. The huge rocks are playfully placed on fixed trolleys and the seemingly hard bluestone paver base, is discovered to be soft and squishy when stepped on. The element of 'risk play' allows children to experience and carry out risk assessments in a safe environment, supporting resilience and cognitive abilities.

**Activities:**

- Look out for the **'runaway rocks'** as you walk along Southbank Boulevard
- Search for all of the gemstones, toy animals and plants hidden in nooks
- Clamber over and amongst the huge **bluestone boulders** sourced from Port Fairy



## LINCOLN SQUARE

**Address:** 138-142 Bouverie Street, Carlton VIC 3053  
**Completed:** 2021

Lincoln Square is the site of the oldest public playground in Victoria. The play space creates an imaginative 'treehouse' experience that celebrates the majestic Moreton Bay Fig tree canopies and the site's sloping terrain. Rope bridges, a rainforest floor walk and two elevated timber cabins allow children of all ages and abilities to experience the 150-year-old tree canopies up close. Salvaged City of Melbourne trees have been used to craft a variety of nature play features which are nestled among a host of ferns and rainforest planting.

**Activities:**

- Climb to the top of the towers and enjoy being up close to the **tree canopies**. Can you spot any possums?
- Climb across the **rope bridge** and slide back down to the ground
- Keep an eye out for the names of old street trees
- Bring your picnic and gather at the **shady picnic areas**

## SELF-GUIDED TOUR



# THE POCKET BOOK OF PLAY SPACES



With a choice of over 40 play spaces across the city, all ages and abilities are catered for.



**40+**

PLAY SPACES



**480**

HECTARES OF PARKS  
AND GARDENS



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PLAY SPACES  
BY SUBURB

- Carlton / Carlton North**  
1 Canning and Palmerston streets  
2 Carlton Gardens North  
3 **Lincoln Square**  
4 Princes Park North  
5 Princes Park South

- Docklands**  
6 Buluk Park  
7 Docklands Park  
8 Seafarers Rest Park  
9 Point Park  
10 **Ron Barassi Senior Park**  
11 Victoria Green  
12 Wharfs Landing

- East Melbourne**  
13 Fitzroy Gardens  
14 Powlett Reserve

- Kensington**  
15 Bayswater Road Reserve  
16 Bellair Street Reserve  
17 The Crescent Reserve  
18 JJ Holland Park Extreme Sports Precinct  
19 JJ Holland Park  
20 Kensington Adventure Playground (The Venny)  
21 Kensington Town Hall Reserve  
22 Liddy Street Reserve  
23 Mercantile Parade and Newman Street  
24 Mercantile Parade and Tankard Street  
25 Parsons Reserve  
26 Robertson Street Reserve  
27 Warun Biik Reserve

- Melbourne**  
28 ArtPlay  
29 Riverslide Skate Park

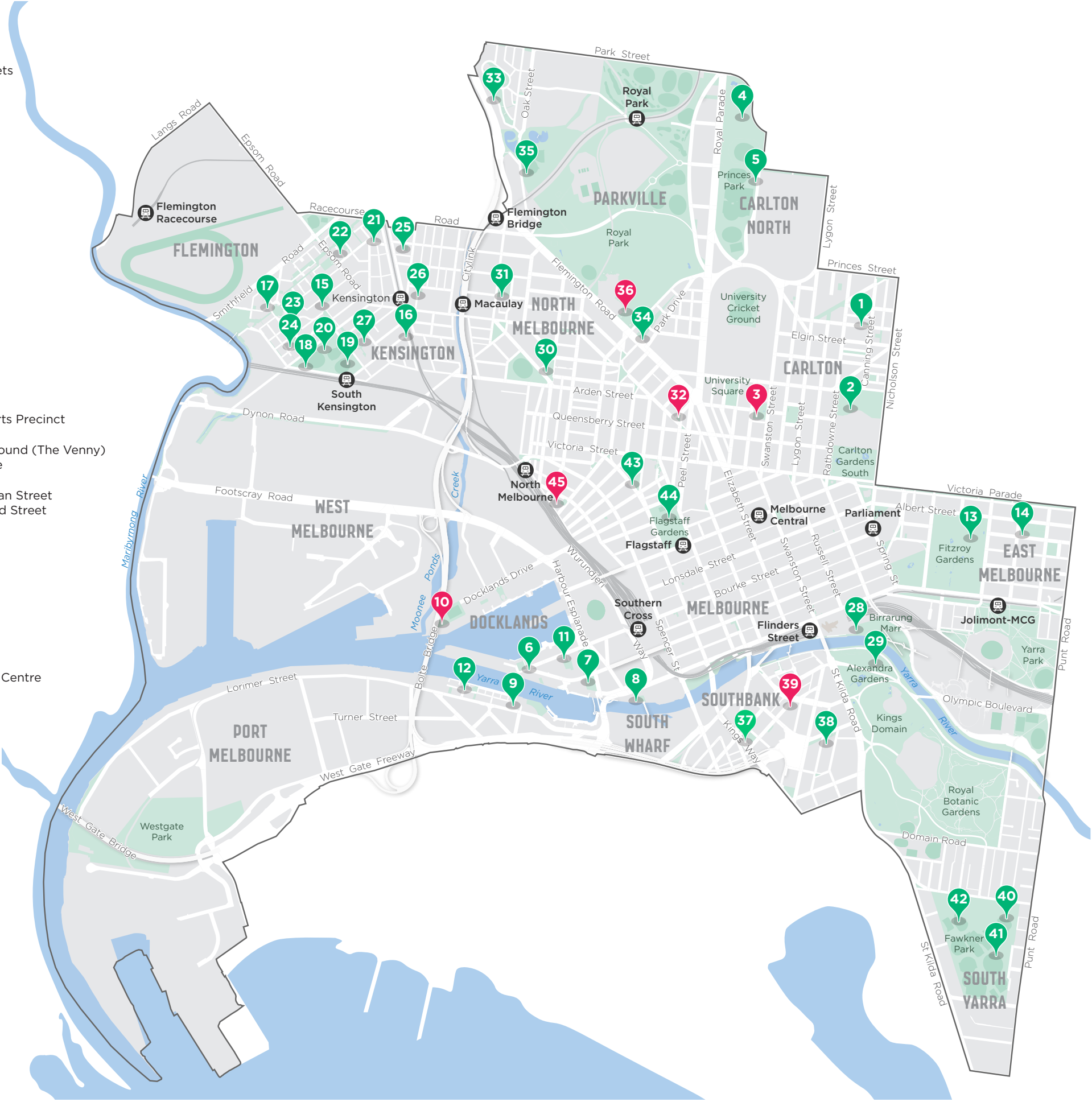
- North Melbourne**  
30 Gardiner Reserve  
31 North Melbourne Community Centre  
32 **Bedford Street Pocket Park**

- Parkville**  
33 Galada Avenue Reserve  
34 Ievers Reserve  
35 Manningham Street Reserve  
36 **Nature Play at Royal Park**

- Southbank**  
37 Boyd Park  
38 Grant Street Reserve  
39 **Southbank Boulevard**

- South Yarra**  
40 Fawcner Park North East  
41 Fawcner Park South East  
42 Fawcner Park Toddler

- West Melbourne**  
43 Eades Park  
44 Flagstaff Gardens  
45 **Hawke and Adderley Street**



THE POCKET BOOK OF  
PLAY SPACES

This pocket book is a handy guide for exploring the City of Melbourne's award-winning play spaces. It provides an overview of the more than 40 play spaces across the city and features six of our newest and much-loved spaces, each designed by our in-house design studio, City Design.

Set within some of Melbourne's best parks and reserves, each of our play spaces nurture a strong connection to their unique locations. Whether it be the industrial character of Ron Barassi Senior Park or the majestic Moreton Bay Fig tree canopies at Lincoln Square, children are invited to connect with nature in engaging and creative play environments that are bespoke to each site. This is enhanced by select planting and play equipment which create sensory, imaginative and social play experiences for children and carers alike.

At the City of Melbourne we recognise that play is important for developing a child's social skills, imagination, creativity and physical abilities. Mounds and climbing structures improve strength, balance and coordination, whilst sand play, water play and sensory planting develop problem solving, empathy and social skills. Regardless of their age and ability, we have a variety of different play offerings to challenge your outdoor adventurers!

Legend

- 1 Featured playgrounds
- 1 Additional playgrounds
- Train station

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.