

Why a park for Watsonia?

The Picture Watsonia project kicked off in early 2014 to create a vision for the centre of Watsonia. Since then hundreds of people have joined the conversation including traders, business operators, landowners, locals and visitors.

Of the scores of ideas generated and developed during this process, one of the most loved and supported ideas was to create a new public open space in the heart of Watsonia.

Council is currently exploring the possibility of creating a new pop-up park in Watsonia with the intention of making a permanent public space in the longer term.

Why pop-up?

Building a permanent park is a slow and relatively expensive process. Each decision needs to be carefully considered and reviewed by a multitude of consultants, stakeholders and community members for many weeks and months before anyone picks up a shovel.

A temporary park, on the other hand, can be created quickly and simply with paint, potted plants, umbrellas and a handful of plastic chairs. If people love the new park, then everyone can enjoy the pop-up version while more permanent designs are being developed. On the other hand, if people don't love it, we can learn from what works and what doesn't work to make a better design, choose a better location or simply revert to the way Watsonia was before.

Where will the pop-up park be located?

A number of sites for this new space were considered during the Picture Watsonia process. Issues like land ownership, overhead power lines, parking, access and underground utilities were taken into account.

The recommended location is the area at the southern end of Ibbottson Street between the Anglican church and the library. To create the park this part of the road would need to be temporarily closed to cars, with access from Nell Street and Crellin Crescent.

The pop-up park can deliver many of the aspirations for the centre that are captured in the Picture Watsonia vision.

The new pop-up park should:

- be full of colour
- tell the story of Watsonia
- celebrate the library
- bring energy and vibrancy to the main street, while still keeping the sense of country-town openness
- give people many different reasons to visit
- be leafy, green and beautiful



You can check out the rest of the ideas from Picture Watsonia here in the full document: <http://tinyurl.com/PictureWatsonia>

Strategic Planning | 9457 9830
strategic.planning@banyule.vic.gov.au

Cr Rick Garotti | 0402846845
rick.garotti@banyule.vic.gov.au



How can we create better public space in Watsonia?



A piece of Watsonia could be transformed



We are busy thinking up ways to create a space that is absolutely of Watsonia, that celebrates the local character and personality. To serve as inspiration we've collected some of the ideas we love from pop-up parks and other public spaces around the world as a place to start the conversation.



photo: ChrisIPK, Beyond My Ken



Food stalls, bikes and trucks

Sitting in the sun in a park is a lovely thing. A park with sunshine and lemon gelato is just perfect. Encourage local businesses to set up stalls to sell food and drinks. Food trucks or a cluster of stalls can cater for special events.



Baby Guerrilla, Be Free

Charming street art

Install a major piece of street art on the library wall by a well known Melbourne artist like Baby Guerrilla or Be Free to add life and colour, tell local stories and explore some layers of meaning of the place.



with a splash of colour



photo: Hoary

A free book exchange

Create lots of comfortable places to sit and read, explore possibilities for the library to spill out into the park.



photo: Katie.boytle113

Colour and activity at night

Use lighting to make the park a little bit magical at night and hold events to create activity after 5pm.



photo: POPP, Alan Stanton

Sociable games

Provide games, opportunities for active play and for little moments of playfulness and creativity. Many things are possible in even the smallest spaces.



photo: Stephen Ung, Jim Henderson

Sculptures that do other things too

Give many different reasons to visit and make items do double duty. Bike racks and play equipment can be sculptures, seats can be a spot for climbing and play.



or by rolling out the greenery



photo: 100 en 1 dia, Eric Sehr

Moments of humour and playfulness

Pop-up parks are a great opportunity for everyone and anyone to get involved in creating their great space. Vegetable patches, markets, street pianos, drop in centres and games can all be created and maintained by individuals and community groups.



photo: Jean-Christophe Benoist

Movable seating

This kind of seating sends a message to users that they are trusted and welcomed. Research indicates this often has the flow-on effect of lower levels of vandalism and theft. Often local traders will put the chairs out each morning and stow it away at night, this simple daily act becomes part of the rhythm and theatre of the place.