Malop Street
Green Spine
Part of the Malop to Myers revitalisation project
A plan for the first stages of the Green Spine in the commercial heart of the city has been prepared, for the area between Gheringhap and Yarra Street.

The plan is based on a vision for the street as a ‘Botanic Walk’, with a continuous canopy of trees and a series of different alfresco, seating and gathering spaces along the length of Malop Street, linked by a network of paths.

The plan includes a generous parkland on the south side of the street, creating more places for people to relax, meet friends, shop, eat, walk and play. The north side retains its wide footpaths, with more trees and plantings to complement the south side.

In addition to greening the street and making it more people friendly, the plan has been updated to reflect the preferred option of separated, one way bike lanes that run with the flow of traffic on either side of the road. This will provide cyclists with a more common bike configuration making it a safer outcome.

The Malop Street Green Spine has a clear point of difference from other regular tree-lined streets within Central Geelong, reflected in the plans. Located in the heart of the commercial area, Malop Street has an important social and economic role as the focus of activity, in addition to linking key parklands.

The importance of the project is recognised by both State and Local Government. The concept of the Green Spine was initially identified in Vision 2, as a key catalyst for the revitalisation of the city. The project is one of the top priorities for Council as part of the implementation of the Central Geelong Action Plan.

The plan for the initial stages of the Green Spine has been prepared as part of the Malop to Myers Street Revitalisation Project. Contributions totalling $8 million from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, the City of Greater Geelong, and Regional Development Victoria will enable delivery of the Green Spine within an entire city block, from Moorabool Street to Yarra Street, before the end of 2017.

This section is ideally suited to the planned alfresco areas catering to busy pedestrian traffic.

Funding for the next stage, from Gheringhap Street to Moorabool Street is currently being sought.

The Green Spine project will transform Malop Street into a vibrant street and linear park, connecting from Johnstone Park to Eastern Park.

The project will deliver more trees and green spaces to the heart of the city, transforming it into an attractive and inviting place: a City in a Park.
**A grand entry to Malop Street**

As you arrive in Malop Street from Gheringhap Street, big, wide green spaces on both sides of the street create a world class entry to the commercial area.

The old Dalgety’s building is now home to WorkSafe, with a glass tower overlooking the street.

The triangle park in the northside is a welcoming space, converted into a garden that provides a range of spaces to sit.

**Botanic Walk**

An 8 metre wide ‘Botanic Walk’ along the southern side of Malop Street creates the ultimate ‘city in park’ experience.

Meandering pathways along the length of the street create opportunities to explore, smell and touch the flora, encouraging people to walk through the space.

A range of seating and surfaces offer different ways to enjoy the space, including eating lunch in the garden or in new alfresco dining areas, taking a call or sitting, relaxing and people-watching.
The trees & plantings

The ‘Botanic Walk’ will create a strong horticultural connection between Johnstone Park and Eastern Park, including the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

A rich mix of native, indigenous and exotic plantings and a range of trees will be used create an interesting and educational botanical link, that changes in character along the journey between these two sites.

Pedestrians

The streetscape design, with its highly planted gardens, designated alfresco dining areas and alternate seating options will provide a useful and attractive environment for pedestrians.

In addition to meandering paths through the Botanic Walk, for those wanting to travel quickly from one site to another, a straight path of 3 metres along the edge of shopfronts will be maintained.

Shorter pedestrian crossings at intersections will also make it easier to cross the street.

Better bike facilities

Bikes will have a much higher level of priority under the plan, with one-way, separated bike lanes on both sides of the street. The west bound bike lane is located next to the Botanic Walk, so cyclists will also experience the attractiveness of this area.

Bike lanes will be separated from traffic with a raised, landscaped median strip. This will create a safer experience for people who wish to explore or travel to and around our city by bike.
North side upgrade

The northern side of the street will offer a different experience to the south side of the street. The width of the footpath will remain the same, but large trees will be planted between car spaces and more garden areas and seating installed. The improvements to the north side will ensure both sides of the street reflect the ‘Botanic Walk’ concept and create more opportunities for alfresco and street life.

Opportunities to connect

The plan incorporates a number of key gathering points within the street, particularly where there are connections to key destinations and movement paths:

- The ‘Botanic Walk’ opens out into a wider, open area at the pedestrian crossing between Westfield and Market Square, creating a central meeting spot.
- Around the Clare Street pedestrian crossing, the ‘Botanic Walk’ also opens into a key gathering space, including making provision for a future laneway breakthrough into the laneway precinct.
- A number of smaller gathering spaces are also designed into the length of the street - ensuring there are plenty of places for people to enjoy.

LEGEND

- evergreen tree
- deciduous / feature tree
- feature shrub
- garden bed
- planted buffer zone
- bicycle lane
- pedestrian grade footpath
- feature pavement type 1
- feature pavement type 2
- vehicle grade pavement
- a car parking bays
- cafe seating
- bench seat/public seating
- seating wall
- seating wall w/ timber slats
- timber deck
- rubbish bin unit
- footpath planter unit
- bicycle hoops
The Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan sets out the Victorian Government’s 10 year plan to drive change in Central Geelong. Led by the Minister for Planning, the City of Greater Geelong and the Victorian Government are working together to deliver the plan. Implementation of the Action Plan is overseen by the Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership Team.

The Malop Street Green Spine is one of several projects that are underway. For more information, please visit www.revitalisingcentralgeelong.vic.gov.au

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