



PRAHRAN SKATEPARK

DRAFT CONCEPT DESIGN REPORT

CITY OF STONNINGTON

04 MARCH 2021

CONVIC

BACKGROUND

The City of Stonnington are proposing a new district to regional scale skate space within the development of the Princes Gardens Master Plan. This will build on and develop the much loved existing Prahran skatepark for the existing and growing youth population and the wider Melbourne community.

The facility shall compliment the existing uses and future recreational facilities proposed as part of the Princes Gardens Master Plan and Prahran Aquatic Centre. By utilising a holistic approach the design of the Princes Gardens skatepark will result in an activated central community hub that offers recreational and social experiences for all members of the community within a dynamic urban setting.

The Prahran skatepark aims to be a district to regional level facility catering to the needs of young people of Stonnington, and be part of the broader network of skateparks/informal youth recreation facilities available in the wider Melbourne region.

The following report explains the approach and principles utilised to create a comprehensive design response. It outlines the development of the design process and how it responds to council and community feedback.

The design explores opportunities and possibilities for the holistic integration of an urban skate space with landscape amenity, increased youth activation, supporting infrastructure, circulation and access.



VISION | To create a state of the art inner City skate plaza that pays homage to the much loved heritage of the Prahran skatepark. A vibrant urban sanctuary for the youth, reflected through materiality and cultural interpretation.

SURROUNDING SKATE PARK CONTEXT

Reviewing existing skate park facilities in the surrounding region helps develop the typology of style and obstacles that should be provided in the proposed facility. This review not only identifies possible gaps in provision within the local skatepark network, it also highlights what provision is already available. It is important to minimise the doubling up of available infrastructure which will create a facility unique to the region.

There are many existing skatepark facilities within and surrounding the City of Stonnington municipality however, a number of them are of poor condition and functionality. The following map highlights the key facilities within the region of relevance and as such have been considered within the surrounding skate park context analysis study.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SURROUNDING SKATE PARK CONTEXT

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The existing skate park analysis showed that there are a variety of new and old parks within the region. Many of the older parks have been left with little maintenance allowing them to weather and deteriorate in quality. There are a number of facilities that have been built in the last 5 years that are of high quality and meet current skate park trends for functionality.

The skate parks included within this contextual analysis provide a variety of use for different riders and different skill levels. There are a mixture of larger and smaller facilities with transition and street style layouts. The majority are traditional style early 2000's skateparks, with a concrete finish and a focus on skate and little integration of surroundings or materiality.

With this in mind the proposed Prahran Skatepark should look to integrate and celebrate its urban setting with a unique street plaza full of materiality and contemporary features unlike the surrounding facilities. It will be designed to integrate into the surrounding skate park network and contribute to filling in the identified gaps in the active recreation provision. Responding to the findings of this analysis will enable the facility to become a destination for the end users within the broader region while still catering to the local skatepark users.

1. ST KILDA SKATEPARK
(DISTRICT LEVEL FACILITY)



2. DONCASTER SKATEPARK
(LOCAL LEVEL FACILITY)



3. RIVERSLIDE SKATEPARK
(DISTRICT FACILITY)



4. ELWOOD SKATEPARK
(DISTRICT LEVEL FACILITY)



5. BOXHILL SKATEPARK
(REGIONAL LEVEL FACILITY)



6. CLIFTON HILL SKATEPARK
(LOCAL LEVEL FACILITY)



7. KENNSINGTON SKATEPARK
(DISTRICT LEVEL FACILITY)



8. FITZROY BOWL
(LOCAL LEVEL FACILITY)



9. GRAHAM STREET SKATEPARK
(LOCAL LEVEL FACILITY)



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CONCEPT DESIGN

CONCEPTUAL THEMING

Theming for the facility takes inspiration from the rich mix of food, art, culture, retail and commerce that makes Prahran so diverse. The interesting mix of heritage listed old buildings combined with an influx of contemporary architecture styles forms an fascinating clash and creates a new look within inner City suburbs.

The design of the new Princes Garden skate plaza looks to evolve the traditional idea of skatepark and form a fresh new facility with clean dynamic lines. It is safe and open for all to see in and out of and take in the action or hang out and relax in a green plaza pocket.



PAYING HOMAGE TO THE EXISTING SKATEPARK

EXISTING SKATEPARK OBSTACLES REPLICAS

The Princes Gardens Skatepark is a high profile inner city facility and provides major connections into the skate culture of Melbourne. This has been generated through a high number of end users utilizing this space throughout their years of skateboarding and development, the historic competitions and jams that have been held at the facility and its deep rooted presence in the cultural through well known photo shoots and visitation from high profile skaters.

As such, a key objective for the proposed design is to replicate a number of the much loved features within the existing park with new and reinterpreted obstacles that will enhance the park and create a more contemporary facility.

The following image comparison study demonstrates how Convic have addressed this objective, identifies the existing features within the current facility and what they will be replaced with in the proposed design.

FLAT BANK HIP



QUARTER PIPE



PAYING HOMAGE TO THE EXISTING SKATEPARK

HAND RAIL



OUT LEDGE



LONG LEDGE



LEGEND

SKATE WORKS

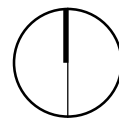
- 1 Quarter pipe replica
- 2 400H Bluestone kicker to kicker
- 3 Flat bank island with raised pad
- 4 Bank to ledge
- 5 350H Flat bar
- 6 350H Bluestone ledge
- 7 Wallie block
- 8 Bluestone euro gap
- 9 Handrail replica
- 10 600H Flat bank
- 11 450H Hubba
- 12 600H Gap
- 13 350H Out ledge
- 14 Out Ledge replica
- 15 450 Round handrail
- 16 Flat bank hip replica
- 17 600H Volcano
- 18 Long ledge replica
- 19 850H Stair gap with handrails
- 20 380H Curved rail
- 21 250H Manual pad
- 22 750H China bank
- 23 Jersey barrier
- 24 New vert ramp

LANDSCAPE WORKS

- 1 Seating
- 2 New trees
- 3 Planting
- 4 Regulation basketball court
- 5 Drinking fountain
- 6 Rubbish bins

PROVISIONAL WORKS

- 1 Shade shelter
- 2 Basketball court lighting



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CHAPEL
OFF CHAPEL

3D OVERVIEW 1



3D OVERVIEW 2



3D OVERVIEW 3



3D OVERVIEW 4



PHAHRAN
AQUATIC
CENTRE

ESSEX
STREET

05

PLAZA PALETTE

PLAZA MATERIALITY

Skateparks are continuously evolving from the early 90's back of house grey concrete jungle to contemporary urban spaces with real paving, seating areas and shaded green space to form dynamic hangout spaces where youth want to be.

Convic have adopted a number of landscape architectural principles within the design of this space to create a skatepark that has the look and feel of an urban plaza. This forms a new typology of skatepark that is integrated within the public realm and creates a sensation that the skate community has a purpose built and designed high end space within the urban realm



MATERIALS PALETTE

PLAZA MATERIALITY

Street style skateparks reflect real urban areas with many of the obstacles mimicking that of the city scape. The Prahran Skatepark will introduce similar landscape architectural design responses to the urban realm.

1. Bluestone paving
2. Exposed aggregate (Footpaths)
3. Timber seating
4. Skateable tree grates
5. Bluestone ledges



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NEXT STEPS

MOVING FORWARD

The current design will be consulted on with the broader community enabling interested parties to review and make comment on the design proposal. Feedback from council, stakeholders and community members will be adopted throughout the final concept design phase.

As well as creating a truly relevant design, the community's review will ensure the design reflects community needs, user requirements and the overall project vision. This continued involvement connects the community with the design process and ultimately creates a vested interest in the final outcome. This engenders community pride and ownership in both the process and the public facility, creating a strong sense of stewardship of the community's public spaces.

Once the design has been finalised Council will go out on a public tender for the documentation and construction of the Prahran Skatepark.



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