



## Significance of Albert Park

During the first stage of consultation people gave a variety of answers to the question “What’s important to you about Albert Park?” The views expressed point to a range of levels of significance for different aspects of the park.

For some local residents, the park is significant as local open space where they can relax and perhaps walk the dog. It provides a daily dose of nature and peace. For local communities, the park is a place to be part of an amateur sports club or to get together with family and friends. The park helps define their suburb and their relationship with the city. A number of built structures within the park have local heritage significance, helping to tell the story of early St Kilda and South Melbourne.

In the context of Melbourne as a capital city of 5 million people, the park provides breathing space and green relief from the hard-edged urban environment. The circuit path around the lake is one of its most loved features, attracting residents and workers for a regular walk or run. With its plentiful settings for amateur sport, Albert Park has earned a reputation as “The People’s Playground”.

Many popular community events, like the RSPCA Million Paws Walk and the Melbourne Marathon, are celebrated at the park. Along with Domain Parklands, Royal Park, and Yarra Bend Park it is one of the significant open spaces contributing to Melbourne’s fame as “World’s Most Liveable City”.

At a state level, Albert Park hosts many sporting challenges and state championships. The Junction Oval is becoming the new home to Cricket Victoria. The Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, which sits within the park, is the state’s major swimming venue and Lakeside Stadium is the state’s premier athletics venue.

From a national perspective, the 2006 Commonwealth Games used many of the park’s venues and many national championships are undertaken at the park. The park is a popular attraction for interstate and international visitors. The distinctive shape of the lake, with the backdrop of the city skyline, has been taken to the world through the televising of the Formula One Grand Prix.

All of these perspectives are important and are reflected in the diagram here.

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