







# Room for water







Re-established waterways, wetlands and waterholes will contribute to urban cooling, and provide cleansing, drainage and sitewide irrigation functions, as well as habitats for wildlife.

Council will enhance and reintroduce water as part of a broader approach to healing the land. We will use water sustainably to support a range of outcomes including recreation, irrigation, and providing wildlife habitats. This approach acknowledges the important role the park plays in flood management for the local area, including water storage during floods.

## Key spatial moves

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**Recreate centralised waterholes**  
 Establish a series of connected naturalised waterholes in the heart of the park, linking to its traditional function as a place of water. The waterholes play a key role in balancing water in the broader park and catchment, and offer tranquil water elements for visitors to enjoy in the park's quieter core.
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**Cleanse stormwater through wetlands**  
 Establish wetlands with densely vegetated native aquatic plants that will filter and cleanse stormwater, ensuring the water system's ongoing health.
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**Harvest stormwater for irrigation**  
 Filter and store stormwater as a sustainable alternative source for irrigation in the park. Expand storage by duplicating the existing 0.6 megalitre header tank near the Tree House and adding a one megalitre stormwater harvesting tank underground at the Gilchrist Avenue turnaround.
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**Enhance and protect York's Hollow**  
 Renew and naturalise York's Hollow, with vegetated edges to improve water quality and habitat value. An upstream sediment capture pond will protect York's Hollow and allow for efficient maintenance.
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**Refresh water during dry times**  
 Recirculate water that has been filtered and cleaned in the wetlands as a means of refreshing water quality during dry spells.
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**Incorporate passive irrigation**  
 Capture water run-off from hard surfaces such as roads and car parks, and reuse it for passive irrigation and park cooling. Landscape elements direct water to shade trees and vegetation to replenish soil moisture levels, and promote larger, healthier canopy trees or support lush landscapes and turf.

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**Preserve overland flow paths**  
 Maintain the existing overland flow paths to cater for large rain events and convey stormwater flows.
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**Explore effective passive turf irrigation**  
 Explore the use of passive irrigation to optimise drainage to key turfed areas.
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**Deliver a natural water play gully**  
 Naturalise the existing gully, creating a living waterway that mimics a natural creek with flowing water, aquatic plants, rocks and log habitat features. Pump water to ensure constant flow.
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**Reinstate water elements at Kelvin Grove\***  
 Intercept stormwater and divert it into a naturalised channel to improve water quality through native vegetation and infiltration.

## Other actions

- Manage flood levels for the local area**  
 Retain current flood storage volumes and detention functions. Provide flood resilience into the park by making room for water and retaining overland flow paths.
- Recycle water**  
 Investigate options to reuse water to provide a reliable alternative source to rainfall. Recycled water, roof water, run-off and harvested stormwater could provide water for toilet flushing and reduce pressure on the potable water supply.
- Showcase water systems**  
 Provide opportunities to teach visitors how water is sustainably used in the park. This includes the benefits of recycled water, how the wetlands reduce stormwater pollutants, and how stormwater is used as an alternative irrigation source.
- Reintroduce native aquatic habitat and fauna**  
 Expand the areas of diverse aquatic habitat to support natural ecosystems, attracting and allowing the reintroduction of various native fish and birds.
- Restore cultural values**  
 Enhance existing water systems within the park to reinstate culturally significant and relevant flora and fauna.

\* Subject to resolution of tenure with Department of Transport and Main Roads.



Figure 5 Room for water strategy – key spatial moves