

Landscaping to create a safe, vibrant and active environment

Through its environmentally sustainable design, the Kelvin Grove Urban Village is a safe, friendly, accessible and walkable community with a clear identity. Its distinctive character comes out through elements such as the parks, arbours, open lawns, barbecue areas, public art, native plant species and feature lighting on mature trees.

The landscaping master plan is underpinned by themed planting in leafy parks and streetscapes, creative recreational opportunities, environmental sustainability and the protection of cultural heritage.

Specific landscaping initiatives include the following:

Protecting and creating parks

A variety of parks and open spaces have been developed based on the natural, historical and Indigenous qualities of the site.

A key feature is the tree-lined Kulgun Park, created as a green spine through the centre of the Village. Kulgun Park links McCaskie Park and Victoria Park Golf Course, and provides an attractive outlook for the adjacent residential and commercial areas.

All parks have been developed to a high standard through the use of quality materials, park architecture, park furniture, public art and mature trees. Extensive hard landscaping (e.g. arbours, retaining walls and seating) and formal planting emphasises the natural landscape and encourages recreational activity including sports, performances and other entertainment.

Preserving existing vegetation

The Village's natural attributes have been maximised through the retention of a mix of native species, including stands of grey gums and tallowwoods which date back to pre-European settlement in the area.

These trees are complemented by new plantings of native grasses and shrubs, as well as mature fig trees which have been re-located from Kelvin Grove Road in recent years.

Street planting includes leopard trees, chosen for their high canopies to ensure heritage buildings remain visible at street level. Four large fig trees are located in the Town Square, synonymous with similar leafy, public settings throughout Brisbane. Tall hoop pines, common to nearby coastal areas, have been planted along the length of Musk Avenue to create a distinctive setting.

Enhancing environmental sustainability

The Village's streetscape and design guidelines enhance storm water management, energy conservation and built form.

Natural rainfall run-off percolates from roads into the soil, reducing storm water and in turn watering plants. In addition, pavements have been built with a rock structure which includes soil washed through the rocks to nurture trees planted within these areas, allowing trees to grow to full maturity.

Recycled timber from old buildings on the site has been used in outdoor furniture such as park benches. Material from some trees which have been removed or pruned has been chipped for mulch.

Large rubbish bins have been provided for general and recycled waste. These reduce noise and inconvenience to residents, businesses and visitors and minimise the number of Council pick-up points.

Reflecting historical origins

Interpretative landscaping elements reflect the military history of the site, which was formerly home to the Gona Army Barracks. A bold urban space, new building sites and an avenue of Royal Palms make the former parade ground a distinctive area within the Urban Village. The parade ground quadrangles serve as urban plazas.

The Turrbal people, as traditional owners of the land, had input into landscaping features such as public art.

Capturing the Village with public art

The public art commissioned for the Kelvin Grove Urban Village maintains past connections and uses of the site, creates a strong identity for the area, and creates a sense of place for particular locations within the Village.

An artist has created patterns in paving areas within the parade ground and on the main street to represent symbols reminiscent of the area's history, including the Victoria Cross and the tallowwood blossom.

A landform sculpture in Kulgun Park is made up of two metre-high boulders which have been split in half, with the faces of each boulder polished as if by running water. Another artist has researched the area's history to prepare plaques detailing interesting information about the educational, military, Indigenous and residential history of the Village. These plaques have been physically incorporated into pavements throughout the Village.