Footscray is the historical heart of Melbourne’s inner west. Founded on the banks of the Maribyrnong River in the 1850’s, the municipality grew with the rise of trade and industry that lined its waterfront. The river was central to Footscray’s industry, its civic identity and its public life. Residential housing, hotels, a swimming club, rowing club and sailing dinghies could all be found at the water’s edge.

In recent decades the industries that flourished and brought activity to the river have one by one closed or relocated elsewhere. What was once a vibrant working waterfront has become quiet and disconnected from the city. The active waterfront of Footscray has become a thing of the past, and in its place a riverside park.

The masterplan outlines the proposed key moves for reconnecting the community of the inner west with the river. It identifies opportunities to create a vibrant river edge that attracts and engages with the community of the inner west.

The waterfont’s four key areas—Newells Paddock, the Joseph Road Precinct, the river’s edge between Hopkins Street to Footscray Road and the stretch between Hopkins Road and Lyons Street—each support different qualities and opportunities which contribute to the masterplan vision.

**Footscray River Edge Master Plan**

**River Edge activation, Newells Paddock, Joseph Rd Precinct**

**MAINTAINING HISTORICAL CHARACTER**

**MAINTAINING HISTORICAL CHARACTER**

**PEOPLE**

- 21. Skate park and Bouldering Wall
  Develop a new youth skateboarding facility within, and extending south of the Dynon Road bridge undercroft. Ensure open sight-lines to the north and south.

**DRIVERS**

- 20. Pontoon wharf (public moorings)
  Construct new wharf along river edge with timber fendering and mooring facilities for small boats. Construct new ‘Bulum Bulum Fish Earthwork’ art to be retained.

**ECOLOGY**

- 22. Skate park and Bouldering Wall
  Develop a new youth skateboarding facility within, and extending south of the Dynon Road bridge undercroft. Ensure open sight-lines to the north and south.

**CIVIC PRIDE**

- 23. Re-purpose railway cars
  Develop an expanded wetland system to achieve a best-practice standard of treatment for stormwater draining from the area west of the river and formal avenues and seat-height edge facing river.

**ACTIVATION**

- 24. Footscray Wharf (private)
  Negotiate with Melbourne Port Authority to open existing wharf to public use and activity.

**RE-PURPOSING HISTORICAL ELEMENTS**

- 25. Newell’s road house and Blackbird mooring
  Riverside tea house as per approved permits

**NEW ELEMENTS**

- 26. Floating swimming pool
  Construct new children’s playground

- 27. Path along future building frontage of the No. 2 Hopkins Street development site and linking to the river edge and onto Joseph Road, and develop ornamental planting on embankments.

- 28. New street tree plantings
  Provide traffic calming in Maribyrnong Street at Sandfords Bridge/Glover Place with native pedestrian crossing flush with kerb and footpath lines.

- 29. Car park
  Construct new ‘gateway’ artwork at pedestrian crossing over portal to Bunbury Street rail tunnel. Maintain open lawns for community events and gatherings.

- 30. Bunbury St gateway artwork
  Maintain views through open spaces along key axes to the temple and statue, but without imposing a strong geometrical pattern into the riverside landscape.

- 31. Lyons St
  Construct new wharf along river edge with timber fendering and mooring facilities for small boats. Construct new ‘Bulum Bulum Fish Earthwork’ art to be retained.

- 32. Lyons St
  Construct new wharf along river edge with timber fendering and mooring facilities for small boats. Construct new ‘Bulum Bulum Fish Earthwork’ art to be retained.

- 33. Napier Street bioswales
  Plant additional Moreton Bay Figs flanking Ballarat Road and in central median, to complement east

- 34. New street tree plantings
  Provide traffic calming in Maribyrnong Street at Sandfords Bridge/Glover Place with native pedestrian crossing flush with kerb and footpath lines.

- 35. Pedestrian overlawway
  Re-align bike path

- 36. Pedestrian overlawway
  Re-align bike path

- 37. Realigned bike path
  Re-align bike path

- 38. Lyons St
  Construct new road linking with river embankments.

- 39. Lyons St
  Construct new road linking with river embankments.

- 40. Footscray Wharf (private)
  Negotiate with Melbourne Port Authority to open existing wharf to public use and activity.

- 41. Proposed artwork ‘Anchor’
  Historic Character - To retain and build upon the historic elements that remain on the site and to reference its past history in its future incarnation.

- 42. FICA
  Proposed artwork ‘Anchor’

- 43. Henderson House
  Proposed Community Use (office)

- 44. Proposed Community Use (office)
  Propose artwork ‘Anchor’

- 45. Proposed Street trees adjacent to buildings, and tree planting between parking bays

- 46. Picnic table, BBQ and small playground
  Construct wetlands to achieve a best-practice standard of treatment for stormwater draining from the area west of the river and formal avenues and seat-height edge facing river.

- 47. Private Land
  Construct new children’s playground

- 48. Public Trail
  Construct new children’s playground

- 49. Reconciliation Arch
  Construct new children’s playground
Newells Paddock - Existing site conditions

Newells Paddock is a currently a wetland nature reserve that accommodates informal sport and recreation fields. The site's wetlands were refurbished in the late 1980’s by the then Metropolitan Board of Works and they remain today as a series of functional wetland bodies fed by stormwater runoff from adjacent residential areas. The masterplan intent is to build upon the site's dual role as a performative ecosystem and public space by improving both.

The masterplan proposal for this area aims to expand the site's wetlands and their capacity to improve water quality and overall health of the site's associated ecosystem. As the function of the wetlands is improved, there is intent to better connect the city with the site and its ecology through the introduction of new trails.

Key Moves

Improvements to the informal park space involve additional seating, picnic tables, barbeque facilities and a playground, which will draw people to Newells Paddock and give the site more diverse use.

Foottscray River Edge Master Plan

SK01 - Newells Paddock

Footscray River Edge Master Plan

JONES & WHITEHEAD Pty Ltd

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1st August 2014

Footscray River Edge Master Plan

SK01 - Newells Paddock

Newells Paddock

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The site's connection to Footscray's broader urban fabric and River Edge is reinforced by the shared bike trail that runs between the reserve and the river. It is proposed that this path be widened from the reserve to Dynon Road, where it will connect with the new Foottscray River Edge.

Finally, Newells Paddock presents an opportunity to celebrate the gateway to the City of Maribyrnong via the refurbishment of the historic Lynch's Bridge and a gateway planting of trees on Ballarat Road.
The Joseph Road Precinct is best known for the iconic Heavenly Queen Temple. The precinct is the transition area between the urban waterfront and the ecology setting. Its key moves for the precinct builds upon the existing rail lines of the site, which become an armature for the remaining key moves.

The existing rail lines are retained and transformed into a pedestrian spine and shared bicycle path, which connects all the site’s public spaces from Joseph Road to Lyons Street, links the site to the broader Footscray River Edge and links the site to the Dynon Road Bridge. As historical remnants, the rail lines are a reminder of the site’s industrial past.

Landscape improvements to the river edge’s public spaces include benches along the length of the shared path, new jetties and pontoons that allow for boats to moor and for the launching of canoes and kayaks, and a new plaza, which connects new housing to the river edge and the proposed public pier at the end of Warde Street. A series of wetlands treats stormwater runoff before it enters the river better linking the site with the river’s ecology, and further re-engagement with native species along the shared path and at the river edge re-memorizes the indigenous landscape’s role in providing nutrients to the river’s edge public spaces. Finally, the proposed refurbishment of the iconic “Bulum Bulum Fish Earthwork” artwork will contribute to improving the conditions in the area.

**Key Moves**

1. Reinforce rail line as connection to urban waterfront, around Warde Street to river edge, introduce missing.
2. Introduce new wetlands.
3. Create open lawn for social uses, create new landscape that connects parkland to the north with urban waterfront to the south.
4. Extend Warde Street to river edge, introduce jetty.
5. Introduce new wetlands.
6. Create open lawn for casual use, create new landscape that connects parkland to the north with urban waterfront to the south.