

# Media Release

**Steve Dimopoulos MP**  
Minister for Environment  
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  
Minister for Outdoor Recreation



Friday, 21 March 2025

## REVAMPING UNUSED SPACES INTO VIBRANT PARKS

The Allan Labor Government is creating more outdoor spaces for families and friends to meet and play in the suburbs.

We've transformed twenty-nine former industrial lots and small streets into much needed recreational parks in the heart Melbourne's suburbs as part of the Labor Government's \$315 million Suburban Parks Program.

The Bedford Street Pocket Park in North Melbourne was the final park completed late December in collaboration with the City of Melbourne. The project replaced old paved areas with a new green space featuring lawns, garden beds, tree plantings, picnic areas, barbeque, table tennis table and play equipment.

Pocket Parks in Frankston, Dandenong and Moorabbin added more greenery to its areas, while communities in Melbourne's north such as Preston, Montomorency, and Brunswick are benefiting from the new spaces that have been designed to combat Melbourne's increasingly hot summers.

The pocket parks were delivered in partnership with local councils, who received up to \$1.3 million to support their development.

Pocket parks play a crucial role in addressing the challenge of some areas having limited open space, offering residents greater opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and connection with nature.

Over 100 new and upgraded open spaces, including pocket parks, park upgrades, trails and dog parks have been delivered through the Suburban Parks Program – with more on the way thanks to a further \$20.8 million investment to deliver even more Betters Parks and Playgrounds and New and Upgraded Dog Parks.

Once complete, the Suburban Parks Program will create up to 6,500 hectares of new parkland, walking trails, bike trails, pocket parks, and dog parks – the equivalent of more than 170 Royal Botanic Gardens.

For more information about the pocket parks, visit [exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au/investing-in-outdoors/suburban-parks-program/pocket-parks](https://exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au/investing-in-outdoors/suburban-parks-program/pocket-parks).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos

*"Melbourne's new pocket parks create more open public spaces for local to meet up, kickback or spend quality time with their families outdoors."*

*"The Bedford Street Pocket Park is a fantastic example of how we're transforming underutilised areas into vibrant, accessible spaces that benefits everyone."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Northern Metropolitan Sheena Watt

*"The new park in North Melbourne will be a fantastic addition to the community, providing a vibrant space for everyone to enjoy—whether you're catching up with friends, taking a break outdoors, or simply looking for a place to relax and unwind."*

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