The new park is West End’s only chance to create a truly public square big enough to support the life of the main street. The square vacant site on the corner of Thomas and Vulture Streets was acquired by Brisbane City Council as part of its local neighbourhood planning processes. A workshop run by Councillor Helen Abrahams in August 2015, with a number of local residents, generated a range of emerging ideas for the park including: an events space; a safe childrens grassy play area; a loop walk and a street fronting herb and vine arbor entrance.

During the West End Festival in November 2015, the community contributed over one thousand ideas through a week of intensive consultation at the community kiosk in People’s Park.

A vibrant space with rich detail and many uses is desired by the community. Locals have waited twenty years for a new urban park and it needs to reflect this with a high quality urban space. Funding to reflect the urban park’s importance should be set aside to allow construction within a year.

People want a soft, shaded green space for many different activities and events. This village green is the heart of the space. People would also like a town square that embraces Vulture Street and its lively streetscapes.

The park thus needs to have a town square fronting Vulture Street and a village green in its centre. This space needs to be designed and built with community collaboration, and should feature local artists and creative people.
The community based concept for the park, developed by five local landscape architects collaborating with locals, will include the following key elements derived from residents needs:

- A large central multi purpose lawn with big canopy trees.
- A landmark vine covered stage structure in the rear corner for events and gatherings, with access from the lane.
- Meandering and sittable terraces that embrace the space and create niches for gathering, productive gardens and quiet spaces. These terraces can then be used for viewing events and performances.
- An all access toilet with shower/baby changing uses tucked into the edge of the park. Funds from the Boundary Street toilet, which only requires refurbishment, would fund this important facility for the park.
- A curving vine covered arbour to the Vulture Street footpath, providing the square with shade, productive gardens and a beautiful gathering space.
- A meandering perimeter path and a series of grass mounds within the park which provide safe play for small children and create visual interest.
During the 2015 West End Festival, WECA ran thirty hours of community consultation with 10 volunteers and local designers at the People’s Park. 330 people gave one to one input on ideas for our only new urban park in West End in the last twenty years.

A GREAT PLAN WILL EMERGE FROM THESE IDEAS!

1000 community ideas for our new park on Thomas Street!
Thomas Street Urban Park

Residents and visitors contributed many ideas over a period of one week. The following recurring ideas reflect the key community needs:

The Main Elements and activities:

- A large lawn for multiple uses.
- A shady natural space with native plants, edible plants including fruit trees and herbs. Provision of another community garden space with food for all. A place for all to be involved in the planting, especially children and the local school.
- A park serviced by toilets.
- A social place for young and old, where you can swap ideas, children can play, people can eat lunch in the shade and have some sanctuary in the main centre.
- An event and small stage structure and amphitheatre lawn that is used to provide shade and shelter for a variety of uses, including music and performances, talking circles, demonstrations and community events.
- A safe and well lit place. Provide creative lighting.
- Multi-purpose seating and creative long benches that provide the opportunity to adapt the space. Seats under the shade that create outdoor rooms. Seats that can be moved depending on the use of the space. Use of rocks and grass mounds to keep it natural to sit and play in.
- An amphitheatre for performances with a large area to seat many people.
- A variety of play spaces for children, teenagers, and adults.

Good Ideas and elements to include:

- A large and shaded central open space.
- Edible plants and productive kitchen gardens.
- Large shady native trees, both in the park and on the street edges.
- Play areas: table tennis, games court, parkour, a place to kick a ball, exercise equipment, small children's hard and soft play areas, all abilities playground and swings.
- Large seating areas you can lounge in.
- Maintain the graffiti art wall (and its ceremonial significance to the community).
- Occasional special event pop up activities, night markets, outdoor cinema and productive garden events.
- Spaces to allow for relaxation and meditation.
- A variety of quiet spaces that provide for differing groups.
- Public art and craft elements that reflect local culture, stories and personalities.
- Aboriginal songlines – reflect into the design of the space local indigenous stories.
- A bandstand/stage that also has a sound, light and power system for community use.
- Water elements and features to cool the space and attract people.
Some Reasons Why Council's Plan Doesn't Work:

This access is not needed and destroys the mural which celebrates 3 young people who died.

Wrong Places, What Process Used to Develop Ideas for Art? Who Has Been Consulted?

This Looks and Feels Like a Minor Suburban Park: It's a Town Square a Village Green & Deserves More!

Complaints:

- Shelter Clogs Up the Centre of the Park.
- Pergola Required to Provide Shade on the Footpath & Create Green Town Square.
- Community Wants Are Big Multifunctional Green Not 9 Pathways!
- Bike Racks Are Tamarisk
- A Toilet Facility Needed for This Urban Square.