

Agenda

Youth Council Meeting
Monday 5 August 2024 at 6pm

You are advised that a Youth Council Meeting will be held on Monday 5 August 2024 at 6pm for the transaction of the following business.

This meeting will be held in the Conference Room 2 at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

Youth Councillors

Zachary Melvaine

Youth Mayor

Kaynat Virk

Deputy Youth Mayor

Angelica Banquil

Dean Connelly-Carpenter

Bavleen Kaur

Mustafa Khraim

Angela Rolevska

Esha Serai

Tanya Sharma

Sandy Tran

Emily Tricarico

Elly Watson

Sophie Winter

Officers

Jacinta Stevens

Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Ilker Destan

Acting Unit Manager Governance

Order of Business

1 Opening	4
1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions.....	4
1.2 Apologies	4
1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement	4
1.4 Youth Council Charter	4
1.5 Acknowledgements	4
2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest.....	4
3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s	4
4 Officers' Reports	5
4.1 Draft Mill Park Place Framework	5
4.2 Doreen Dirt Jumps	55
4.3 Asset Plan.....	137
4.4 Aboriginal Communities / Aboriginal Action Plan.....	138
4.5 Amendments to the Youth Council Terms of Reference	158
5 Notices of Motion	172
6 General / Urgent Business	172
7 Closure	172

1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Youth Mayor will open the meeting and welcome everyone in attendance.

1.2 Apologies

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Youth Mayor will read the following statement:

“On behalf of Council, I recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

I would also like to personally acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.”

1.4 Youth Council Charter

The Youth Mayor will read the following statement:

“We the members of the City of Whittlesea Youth Council, commit to advocating for and being the voice of the youth within our municipality. We ensure a safe space for all, to engage in constructive collaboration on matters affecting young people. We aim to empower and foster community connectedness in our youth so they feel valued and supported to achieve their aspirations.”

1.5 Acknowledgements

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

Recommendation

THAT the following Minutes of the preceding Youth Council Meetings as circulated, be confirmed:

- Youth Council Meeting held on 3 June 2024.
- Youth Council Meeting held on 1 July 2024.

4 Officers' Reports

4.1 Draft Mill Park Place Framework

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Acting Unit Manager Urban Design and Placemaking

In Attendance: Acting Manager Urban Design & Transport
Acting Unit Manager Urban Design and Placemaking
Urban Designer

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide Youth Council with an overview of the draft Mill Park Place Framework (Framework) in Attachment 1.
- Inform Youth Council of officers' intention to undertake community consultation between the period from 22 July 2024 to 25 August 2024.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

- 1. In collaboration with all Youth Councillors, provide feedback to the Councillor Support Officer, no later than 12 August 2024.**
- 2. Note the feedback will be tabled at the 2 September 2024 Youth Council meeting for noting.**

Background / Key Information

Place Framework overview

The draft Mill Park Place Framework (the draft Framework) outlines a vision, themes, key focus areas and place projects to locally translate Whittlesea 2040's goals to Mill Park. This will guide and support future priority projects, activities, and drive change.

The key drivers for the draft Framework are to:

- translate the Whittlesea 2040 vision to Mill Park by identifying local challenges and opportunities;
- establish a local, place responsive vision that connects to community aspirations;
- fill the gap in strategic direction for the established area and aging infrastructure and articulate a clear Council direction for priority projects; and
- ensure Council planning and delivery considers the unique qualities of Mill Park and enhances this over time.

Place Projects

There are four themes and (eleven) key place-shaping projects within the draft Framework for various Council departments, teams, and units to collaborate and deliver the final vision of the document. The community will be asked to prioritise these opportunities. A summary is presented below that demonstrates alignment to Council's Goals.

Short and medium term place project ideas:

1. Safer streets to walk or ride to school.
2. Improvement to community hubs.
3. Revitalise Key Destinations.
4. Re-imagining transmission line easements.
5. Upgrading parks and improving residential interfaces.
6. Improving walkability through future development.

Long term projects and advocacy ideas:

1. McKimmies Road improvements.
2. Advocacy for Childs Road improvements.
3. Advocacy for Plenty Road Upgrades.
4. Darebin creek and Plenty River corridor.
5. Town centre activation and upgrades, including improvements to shopfronts and planning controls to improve quality of development around town centres.

Please note, final outcomes may vary due to other factors, such as existing projects, availability for funding, investigations required, budgets, etc.

Implementation Strategy

Communication

The draft Framework has been endorsed by Council and was released publicly on 22 July 2024. The draft Framework will help guide Council's future actions, budgets and priorities. See Attachment 1.

Critical Dates

- Council caretaker period from 17 September 2024 to 26 October 2024.
- Finalise the Mill Park Place Framework for Council endorsement by end of June 2025.

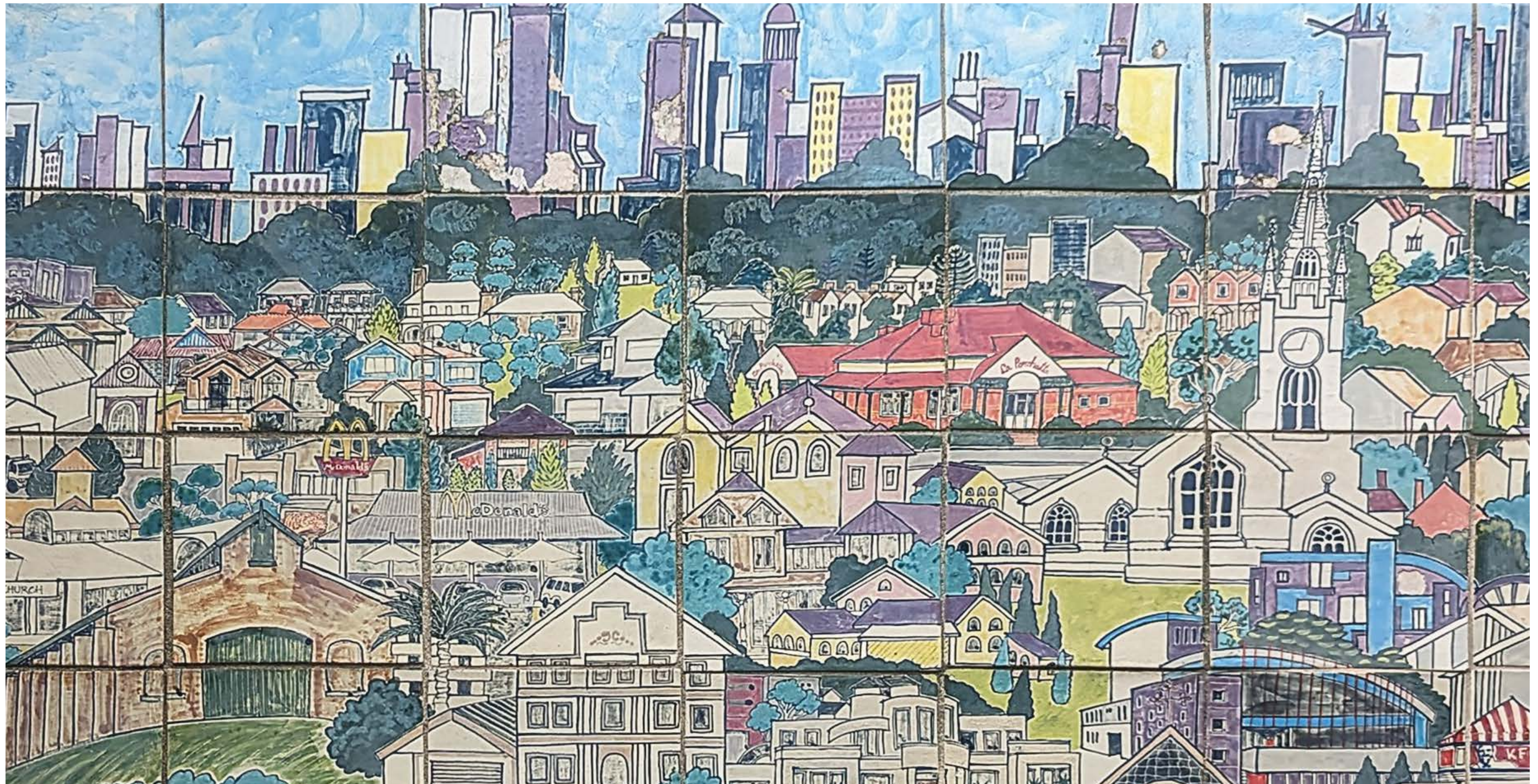
Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers providing advice to Council are required to disclose any conflict of interest they have in a matter and explain the nature of the conflict.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Attachments

1. Draft Mill Park Place Framework [4.1.1 - 47 pages]



Draft Mill Park Place Framework

June 2024



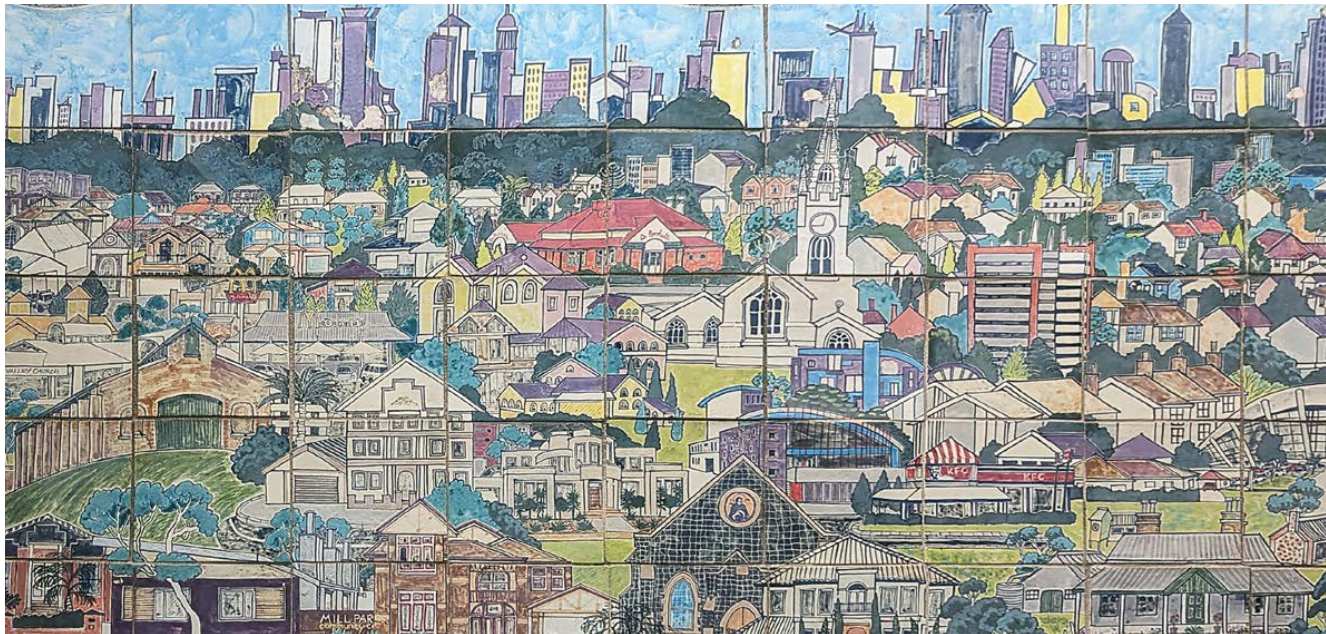
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Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea

Contents

Executive summary	3	Challenges and Opportunities	11
Introduction	4	Greener spaces	12
Study area	5	Connected places	14
Brief history	6	Thriving community and culture	16
The Place Framework	7	Land use and built form	18
Policy context	8	Key drivers	20
How we engaged...	9	Summary	21
Emerging themes and insights	10	Place projects and implementation	22
		Summary of projects	23
		Short term place projects	26
		Long term place project ideas	33
		Appendix	34



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Executive summary

The Mill Park Place Framework outlines a comprehensive strategy for the development and management of Mill Park, a prime urban area slated for redevelopment. This framework has been crafted to serve as a blueprint for stakeholders to collaborate effectively in revitalising the Mill Park area. Stakeholders include government entities, developers, community organisations, and residents.

Neighbourhood Vision

- 01 A network of open spaces and streets that help minimise the negative impacts of climate change.
- 02 Walkable and legible neighbourhoods that promote movement through a range of transport options.
- 03 An equitable and thriving community with places to gather and socialise.
- 04 Vibrant and attractive neighbourhood centres with distinct and diverse built environment.



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Chapter 01

Introduction

The Mill Park Place Framework will help identify community's aspirations and ideas for their suburb.

The Mill Park Opportunities and Challenges report provides an overview of Mill Park and identifies existing challenges and opportunities for improvement.

The report is prepared by mapping various data sets across the suburb and consulting with a number of stakeholders. This includes internal consultation with Council officers who work in the area and external consultation with a Community Reference Group, comprising of diverse community members that work, live or play in Mill Park.

This report will influence the next stage of developing a draft framework by identifying potential areas of collaboration and intervention to make Mill Park a great place to live.

Key Stats

38% over the age of 50

10.8% Mill Park population has needs for assistance

2ND Household Neighbourhood Safety survey

AVERAGE SEIFA (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas) performance for municipality

Urban context

Situated 18 kilometres northeast of Melbourne’s Central Business District, Mill Park has experienced significant transformation from farmland in the 1980s into the suburban area we see today.

Mill Park’s public transport system relies on an extensive bus network. South Morang train station is to the north and Tram 86 line terminates at University Hill, to the south.

The Metropolitan Ring Road, situated to the south accessible via Plenty Road, further integrates Mill Park into the broader metropolitan landscape.

Within its boundaries, the Plenty Valley Major Activity Centre is located to the north, anchoring Mill Park as a significant hub. There are other Neighbourhood Activity Centres such as the historic Mill Park Stables nestled along Childs Road and Rivergum Village on Plenty Road and Development Boulevard.

Why now?

In this evolving context, the lack of clear strategy coupled with ageing infrastructure in Mill Park requires urgent attention. The potential increase in housing demand from Victoria’s Housing Statement 2023, proposed tram line extensions, and the E6 corridors highlight the need for a comprehensive place framework.

This framework will guide the suburb’s development, address community needs, and ensure sustainable blueprint for future development. Addressing these challenges and opportunities is crucial for effective strategic planning and collaboration to shape Mill Park’s future.

Notwithstanding, there are several projects currently underway in Mill Park. Please refer to appendix 1 for a comprehensive list.

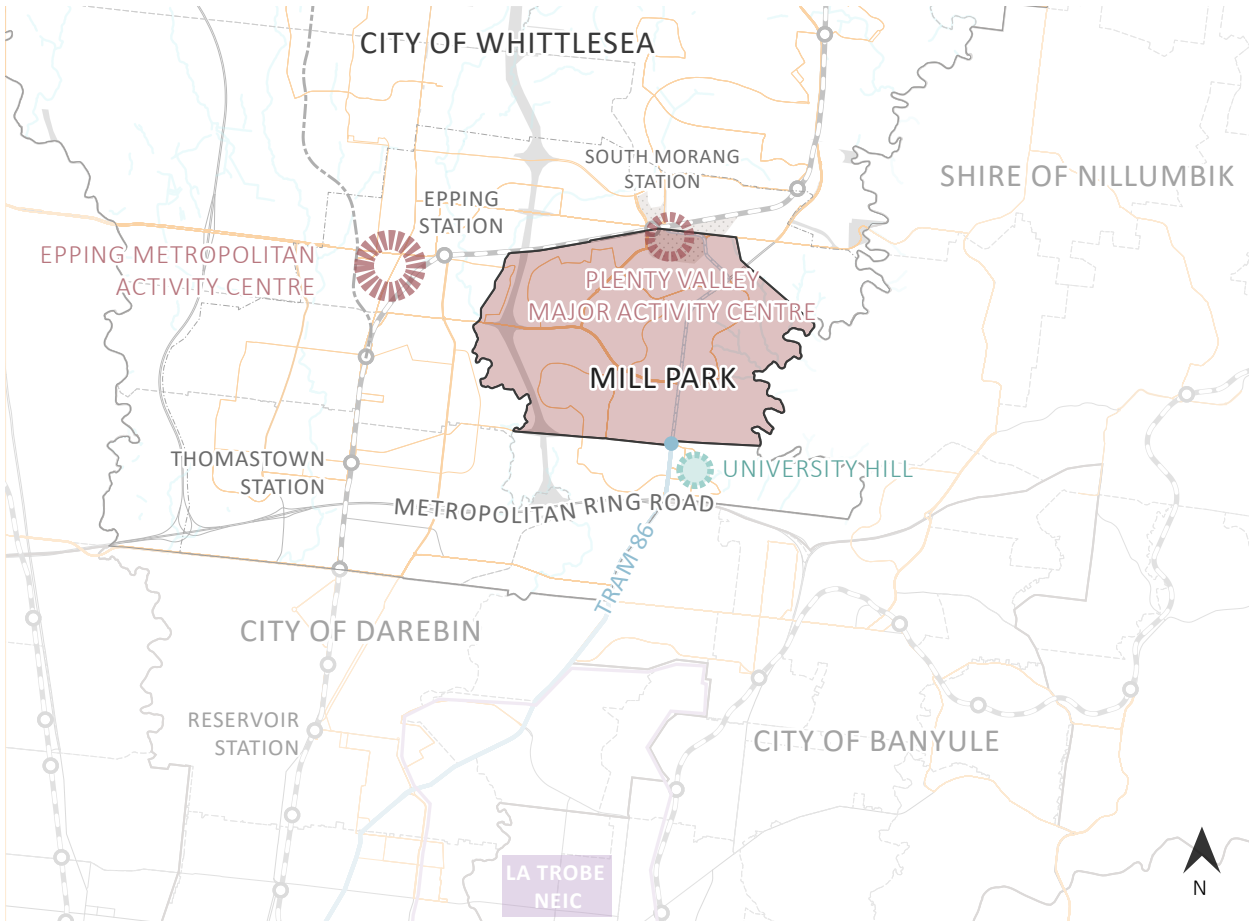


Figure 1 Strategic context map of Mill Park.

	Study Area		Bus Routes
	Metropolitan Activity Centre		Tram route 86
	Major Activity Centre		Tram route 86 terminal
	Specialist Activity Centre		Proposed Tram 86 extension
	Plenty Valley Structure Plan		Proposed E6
	La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC)		Council Boundary
	Proposed Rail Line		Locality Boundary
	Mernda Rail Line		

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Study area

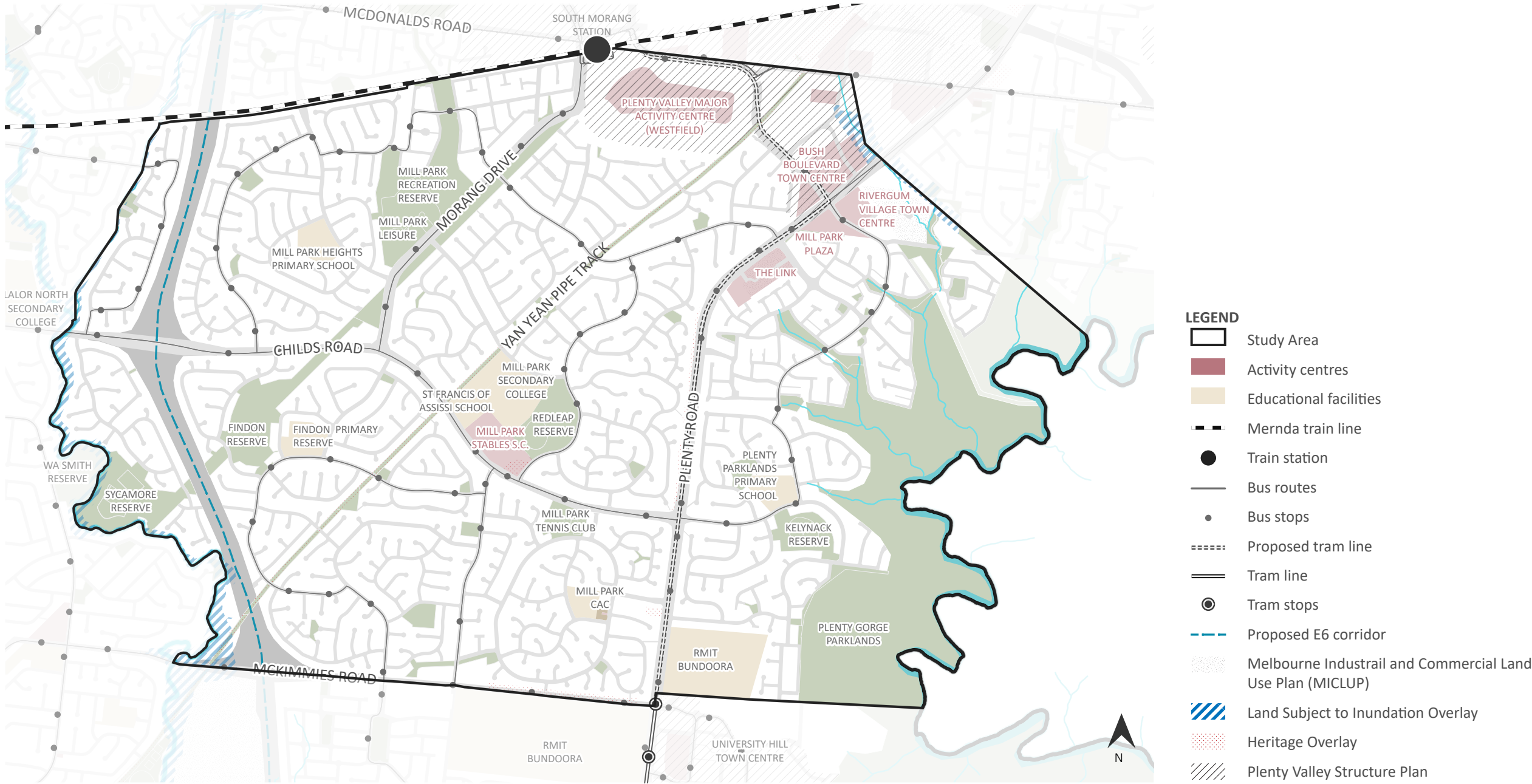


Figure 2 Study area - Mill Park suburb.

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Brief history



Figure 3 Mill on Plenty River



Figure 4 Mill Park Stables (1947)



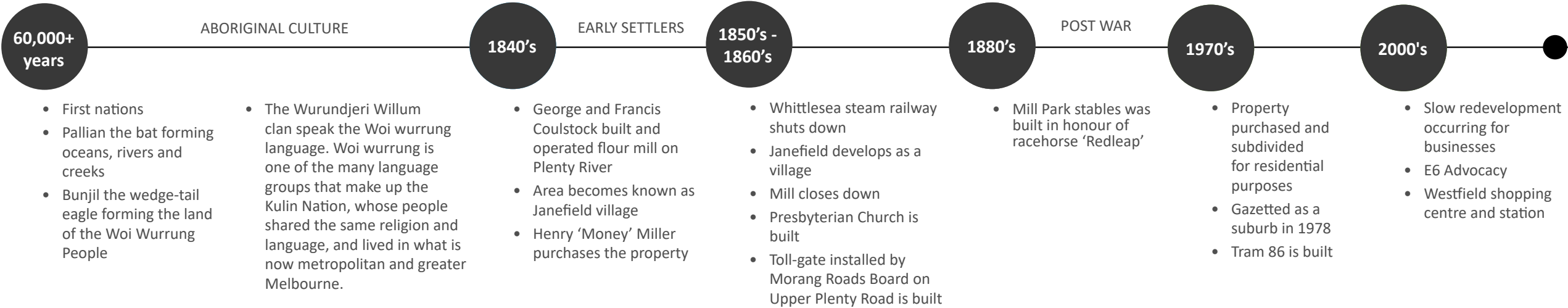
Figure 5 Mill Park Stables (2023)



Figure 6 Mill Park Drive (1947)



Figure 7 Mill Park Drive (2023)



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The Place Framework

What is a Place Framework?

The Place Framework embodies a collective vision between the community and the Council to steer the future development of Mill Park. This framework strives to recognise priority opportunities identified by the community, shaping local spaces and establishing connections to implement a series of improvements gradually over time.

The project is an ongoing collaborative approach to improve streets, public spaces, community precincts, infrastructure and built form over time.

The implementation of the framework will be subject to further detailed design, availability of funding, consultation with stakeholders and the community.

The Place Framework is designed to support and deliver concepts and strategic directions from the following:

- Whittlesea's 2040 Vision: A Place for All
- Plan Melbourne
- Urban Design and Placemaking related research
- Other relevant State and local policies.

Objectives

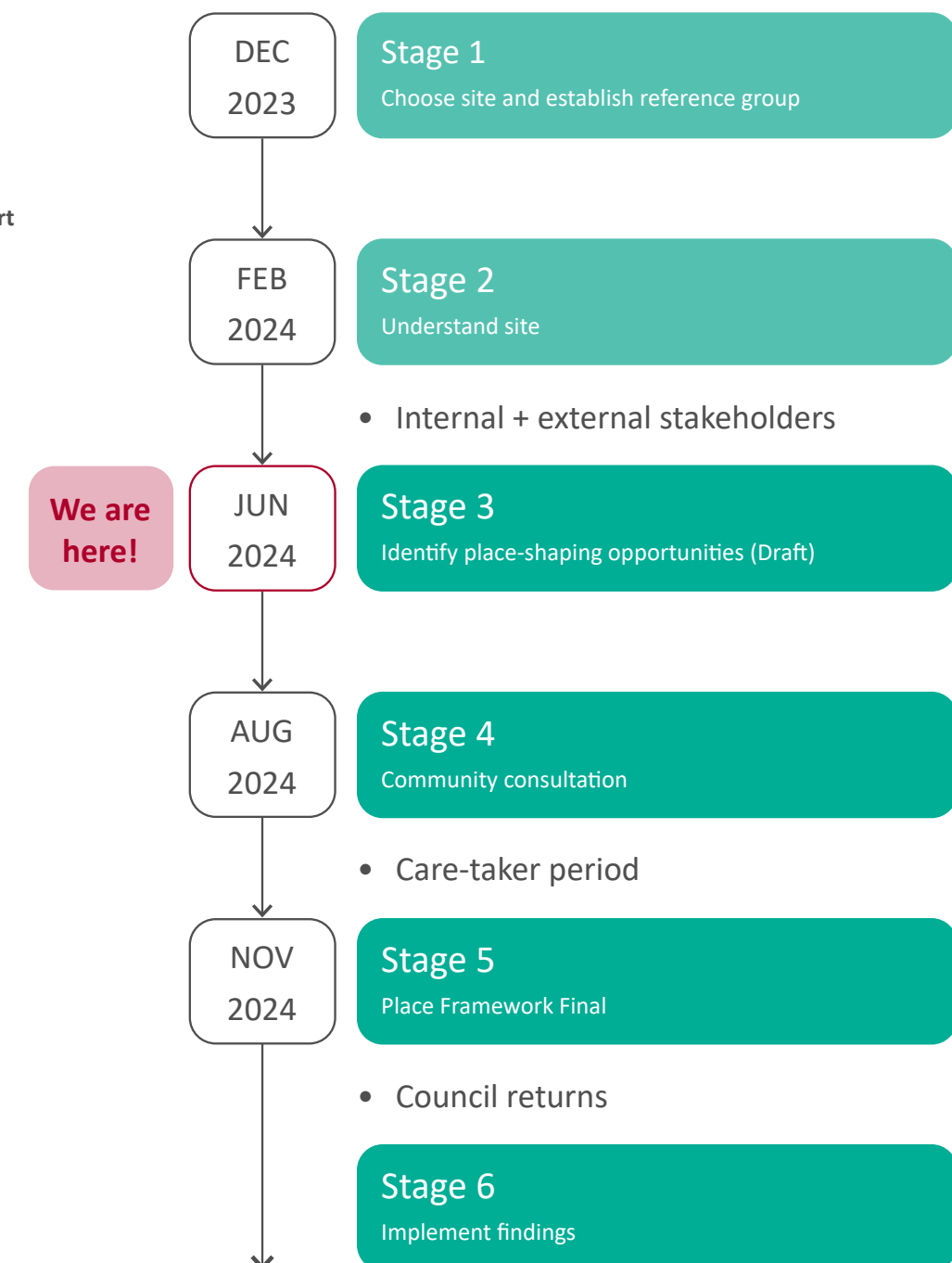
- Develop a clear and strategic Council led vision supported by Mill Park community
- Identify opportunities, key action areas and important relationships
- Guide future decision making
- Develop planning and design tools that are responsive to local needs
- Translate the vision for Mill Park's future into objectives and actions to guide the development of the area in the short, medium, and long term
- Visualise key design concepts
- Recommend improvements to infrastructure
- Prepare a detailed Implementation Plan.

A plan for the area or place that responds to local needs and insights

Efficiently combining multiple ideas, streamlining projects and consolidating expert advice



Our Timeline



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Policy context

Plan Melbourne

Plan Melbourne is the Victorian Government's long-term plan to ensure Melbourne grows more sustainable, productive and liveable.

The plan includes:

- 9 principles to guide policies and actions
- 7 outcomes to strive for in creating a competitive, liveable and sustainable city
- 32 directions outlining how these outcomes will be achieved
- 90 policies detailing how these directions will be turned into action.

Plan Melbourne aims to create diverse, healthy, and inclusive communities. It focuses on safe and walkable neighborhoods with access to daily necessities. The outcomes include providing housing diversity (Outcome 2.5), improving local travel options for 20-minute neighborhoods (Outcome 3.3), strengthening community participation in city planning (Outcome 4.6), and transitioning to a low-carbon city to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (Outcome 6.1).



Figure 8 Plan Melbourne 2017-2050

Whittlesea 2040: A Place for All

The Place Framework translates Whittlesea’s 2040 Vision: A Place for All to Mill Park considering the five key goals – Connected community, Liveable neighbourhoods, Strong local economy, Sustainable environment, and High performing organisation to deliver local outcomes.

Over time, the framework will assist to develop local actions to deliver the seven strategies outlined in Council’s Integrated Planning Framework.



Figure 9 City Of Whittlesea 2040 Goals. Source City Of Whittlesea.

Whittlesea Planning Scheme

The Victorian Government and City of Whittlesea’s policies and strategies call for quality urban environments. Good urban design is not optional, it is a requirement, in order to:

- Create urban environments that are safe, healthy, functional and enjoyable and that contribute to a sense of place and cultural identity (Clause 15.01-1S Urban Design’s objective, Whittlesea Planning Scheme)
- Create a distinctive and liveable city with quality design and amenity (Clause 15.01-1R Urban Design’s objective, Whittlesea Planning Scheme)
- Create more great public places across Melbourne (Direction 4.1, Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)



Figure 10 City Of Whittlesea documents.

Plenty Valley Structure Plan

The recently amended (2021) Plenty Valley Structure Plan is a comprehensive document that guides development and investment in the Plenty Valley Town Centre over the next two decades. Recently consulted upon, it specifically focuses on the northern area, outlining strategies and actions to achieve an appealing, accessible, and lively Town Centre.

The framework will be informed by previous work to ensure consistency across projects.



Figure 11 Plenty Valley Structure Plan. Source City of Whittlesea

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How we engaged...

Between December 2023 and February 2024, the Council conducted comprehensive feedback collection and desktop analysis involving both the community and Council officers. This involved multiple activities, including an online survey, social mapping, meetings with a community reference group, and workshops with Council officers that work in the area, also known as the Internal Local Area Team (East). Through these engagements, stakeholders were presented with data and information about Mill Park, enabling them to provide detailed and tailored responses.

The insights gathered, stemming from both internal and external sources, have been captured online. They are organised based on their relevance to the specific location and categorised into appropriate themes for clarity and ease of reference.

Internal stakeholder engagement

Council internal stakeholders and staff provided various expertise, experiences and insights for Mill Park. A workshop was held with officers working in the eastern suburbs. This was designed to help officers understand Mill Park and its surrounding areas, and provide their issues and opportunities.

Through this engagement there were over 200 internal staff contributions provided for the Mill Park.

The Mill Park Framework Plan and online portal was shared more broadly within the organisation for comment also. This received 208 contributions.

External stakeholder engagement Community Reference Group

The Community Reference Group consists of members of the local community who either work, study, live or play in the suburb of Mill Park.

The group has members from different parts of the community to ensure diverse groups have representation.

The group provides input about Mill Park through their lived experiences in the area. This allows a more nuanced approach to place.

There were approximately 100 contributions made from this group through a workshop and also online.

Internal vs. external consultation comparison

Comments were diverse across a broad range of topics, but ultimately converged on key opportunities and issues. This led to the identification of key areas and corridors. See below for emerging areas and corridors based on provided feedback.

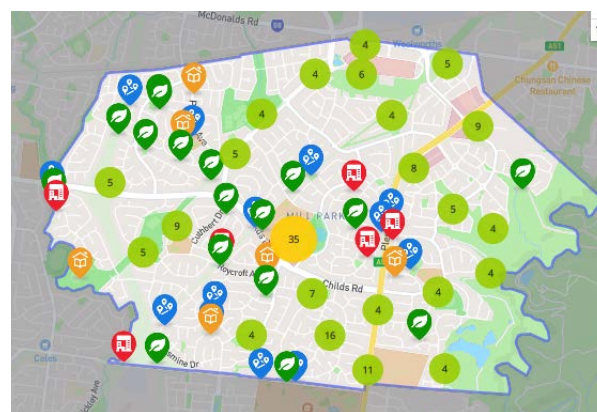


Figure 12 The online social pins maps provided a platform to provide comments, either positive or negative to place.



Figure 13 Photo of Local Area Team (east) Mill Park Opportunities and Challenges presentation and workshop 1.



Figure 14 Photo of the Community Reference Group Opportunities and Challenges presentation and workshop 1.

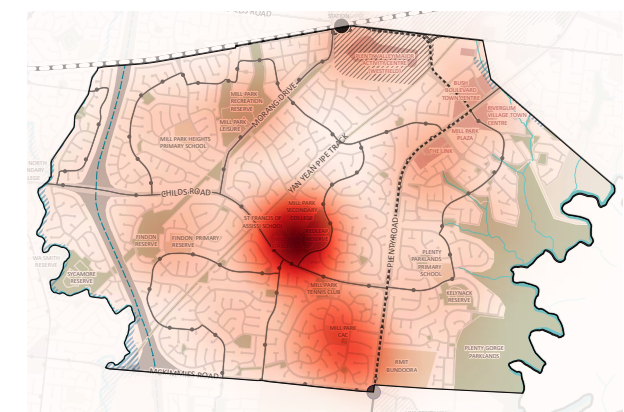


Figure 15 Heat Map of comments provided by community members and internal stakeholders.

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Emerging themes and insights

Themes identified

Greener spaces

Greener spaces means open space, active travel, green infrastructure, trees, vegetation, biodiversity, green links, connection to nature and community.

Connected places

Connected spaces means transport, connectivity, people and paths, public transport, safe crossings, direct or indirect routes, cycling, easy and direct routes, streets as a whole (cars, trees and parking).

Thriving community hubs

Thriving community and culture means places to meet up, learn and to belong, these places to focus on being local, be interesting drawing many people to use the space, they should be interesting and focus on individuals and groups.

Land use and built form

Land-use and built form means architecture, location of buildings and space, building entries, building quality, the balance of commercial, residential, open spaces, retail and perception of safety.

The above themes are further explored in the following chapter.

Overview

Following the conclusion of the engagement, there were overall emerging insights, and themes that provide a better understanding of place.

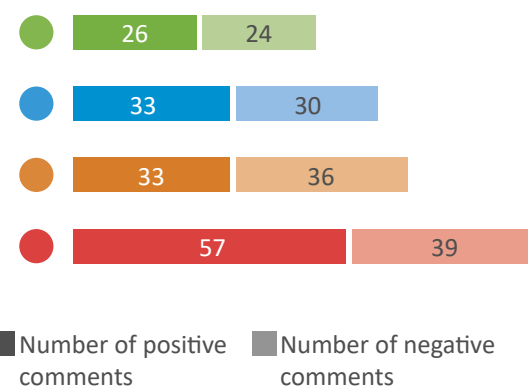


Figure 16 Number of comments based on themes.

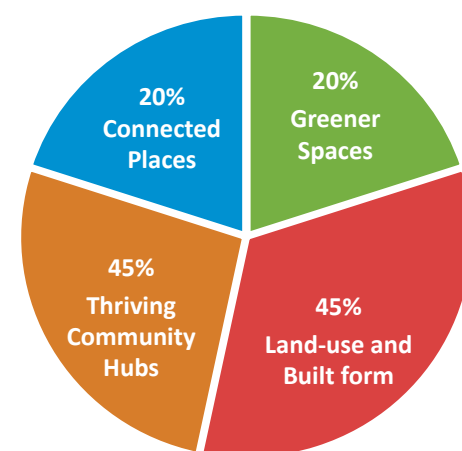
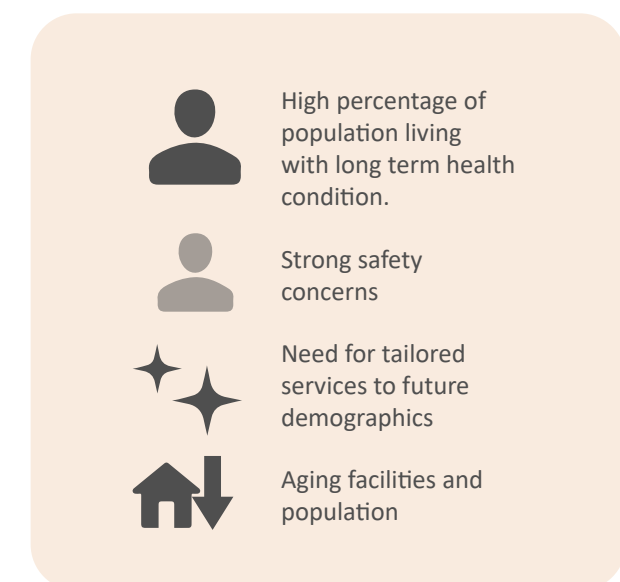


Figure 17 Percentage of comments based on focus areas.



Figure 18 Feedback from community and internal stakeholders.





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Chapter 02

Challenges and opportunities

Overview

The following chapter identifies opportunities and challenges based on the four themes, incorporating feedback received through internal and external stakeholder workshops,.

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Theme 01: Greener spaces

The Sustainable Environment Strategy ensures we are creating a liveable and sustainable environment for our residents for generations to come.

Our role

City of Whittlesea plays a pivotal role in providing the community with recreational spaces that offer a multitude of activities including exercise, sports, exploration, play, socialisation, relaxation, and unwinding.

It is also tasked with the protection of unique ecological values, such as remnant River Red Gums, native grasslands, and waterways.

Additionally, council is responsible for protecting and promoting the cultural heritage and contemporary cultural values of the community.

- Key policies and documents**
- The document has been informed by policies and strategies from the Victorian Government and the City of Whittlesea, including but not limited to:
- Whittlesea Planning Scheme
 - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050
 - Sustainable Environment Strategy 2022-2032
 - Draft Open Space Plan 2025-2035
 - Greening Whittlesea City Forest Stratgey 2020-2040
 - Biodiversity Strategy 2019-2029
 - Climate Change Plan 2022-2032

Context

Mill Park is surrounded by various recreational areas like Mill Park Recreation Reserve, Findon Reserve, and Redleap Reserve, offering a diversity of activities for residents.

Plenty River lies to the east and Darebin Creek lies along the western boundary.

Yan Yean Pipe Track and Transmission line cut across, offering opportunities for active transport.

Facilities like the Mill Park All Abilities Play Space and Mill Park Leisure Centre act as a focal point for the community.

Challenges include lack of tree cover and vulnerability to heat, flood risks and a lack of accessible paths to open spaces. Signage to Plenty River needs improvement and smaller parks aren't fully utilised.

“Greenery and feeling of country attracted us to the area”
Community Member

"Trees, greenery of suburban streets. Sense of community"
Community Member



Figure 19 Kelynnack Recreation Reserve.



Figure 20 The Plenty River is a beautiful and biodiverse trail, which could be celebrated more.



Figure 21 Sensitive treatment to waterways that connect people to nature.



Figure 22 The All Abilities Playground is heavily utilised and loved by the community.

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Opportunities

- 1 Creating green corridors and increasing canopy cover. (e.g. Yan Yean pipe track, transmission easement)
- 2 Improve connections and signage to Plenty Gorge parklands and Darebin creek.
- 3 Preserve and enhance biodiversity corridors.
- 4 Programming and minor improvements to smaller parks to increase their patronage.
- 5 Promote and support active lifestyles within the community.
- 6 Address open space gaps through new connections or new parks.

Challenges

- 7 Limited access to parks and green spaces, especially in the west.
- 8 Lack of dedicated, protected paths through trails.
- 9 Poor interfaces to open spaces.
- 10 Ensuring ongoing maintance around trees.
- 11 People tend to drive places than walk.

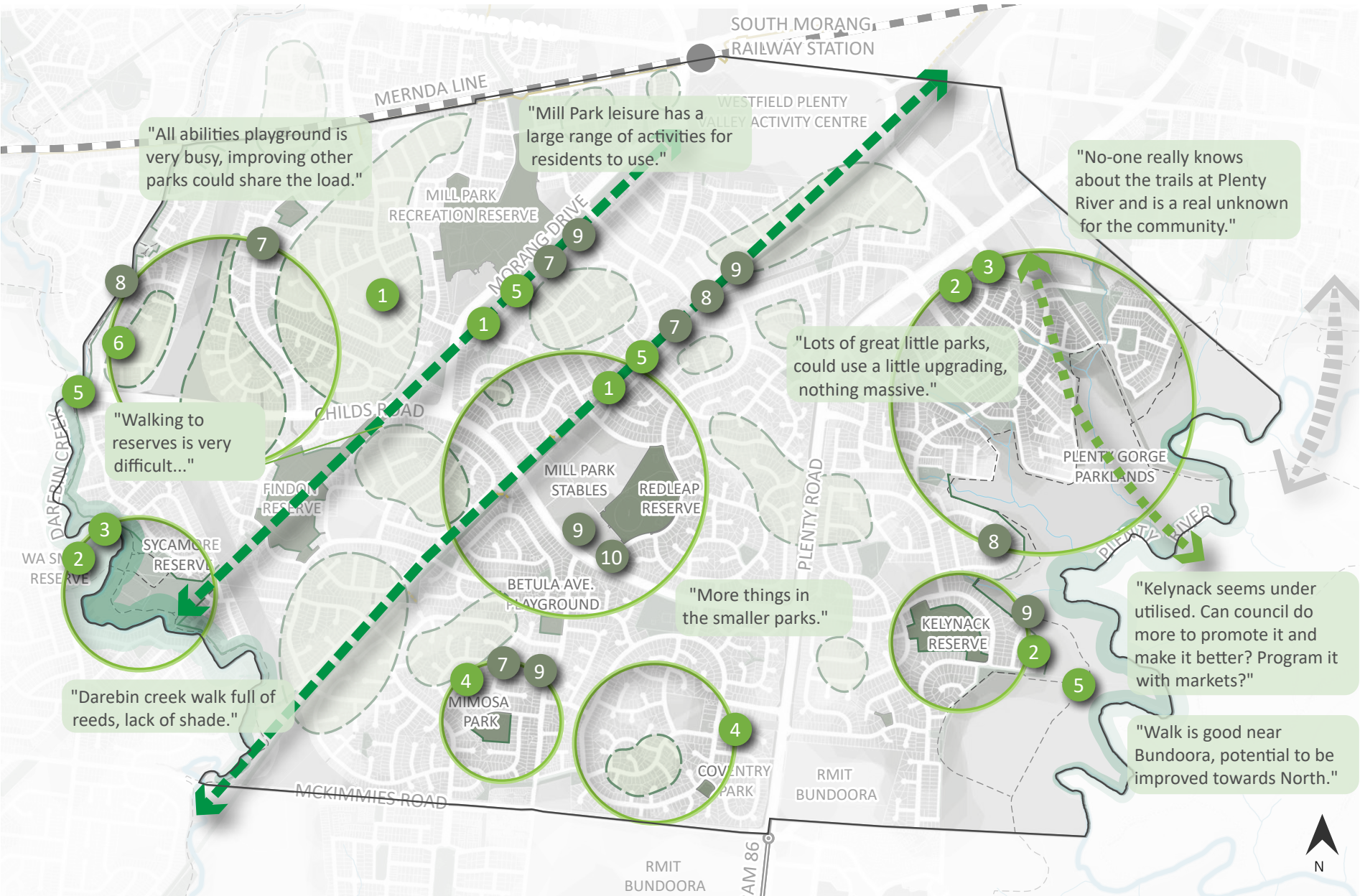


Figure 23 Greener spaces summary map. Refer appendix for more information.

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Theme 02: Connected places

The ability for people to get where they need to go by a range of well-connected transport options is key to liveability, sustainability, health and wellbeing.

Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy 2023-2033

Our role

City of Whittlesea is tasked with ensuring equitable access for all community members by developing and maintaining a comprehensive network that includes public transport, roads, walking paths, and bike pathways.

Additionally, council advocates to the State Government for the development of transport infrastructure and services. This advocacy aims to connect localities with essential services, infrastructure, local activities, places of employment, and the broader metropolitan Melbourne.

Furthermore, council works to enhance sustainable transport options in established areas and champions community transport services to address local transport needs.

- Key policies and documents**
- The document has been informed by policies and strategies from the Victorian Government and the City of Whittlesea, including but not limited to:
- Whittlesea Planning Scheme
 - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050
 - Draft Open Space Plan 2025-2035
 - Northern Regional Trails Strategy 2016
 - Walking and Cycling Plan 2022-2027
 - Place and Movement Plan 2023

Context

Mill Park has a court bowl road network resulting in quiet residential streets, but the network poses a challenge to walkability.

Public transport includes Tram 86 and buses, but there are concerns about safety, reliability, and access.

Plenty Road provides North-South connectivity and Childs Road connects Mill Park to the east.

There is ongoing advocacy for Tram 86 extension and future E6 freeway.

There are recreational trails along Darebin Creek and there are proposed trails along Plenty Gorge Parklands.

State Government's Movement and Place Framework aims to make streets and public spaces safer and more accessible.

"A lot more people are cycling now"

Community Member

"Tram needs to happen! Why hasn't it already?"

Community Member



Figure 24 Illustrative example from Global Street Guide of a transport corridor balancing the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, public transport and cars.



Figure 25 Unsafe crosssigns along Child's Road



Figure 26 Linear park playground under elevated rail corridor between Bell and Preston station



Figure 27 Traffic conflicts at Mill Park Stables during peak hours and school drop-off.

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Opportunities

- 1 Improve walking and cycling paths and connections.
- 2 Improving wayfinding and signage to important destinations.
- 3 Advocate to State Government on road safety issues on Childs Road and Plenty Road.
- 4 Advocacy for Tram 86 to be extended to South Morang Station.
- 5 Upgrade streetscapes in town centre environments.
- 6 Improve permeability and short-term activation across the proposed E6 corridor.

Challenges

- 7 Poor bus connectivity (east-west), timing and reliability issues.
- 8 Lack of options for public transport.
- 9 Safety concerns on roads, including unsafe crossings and traffic issues.
- 10 Poor passive surveillance in public realm, lack of people walking around.
- 11 Cul-de-sacs and winding roads make navigation and walking to destinations difficult.

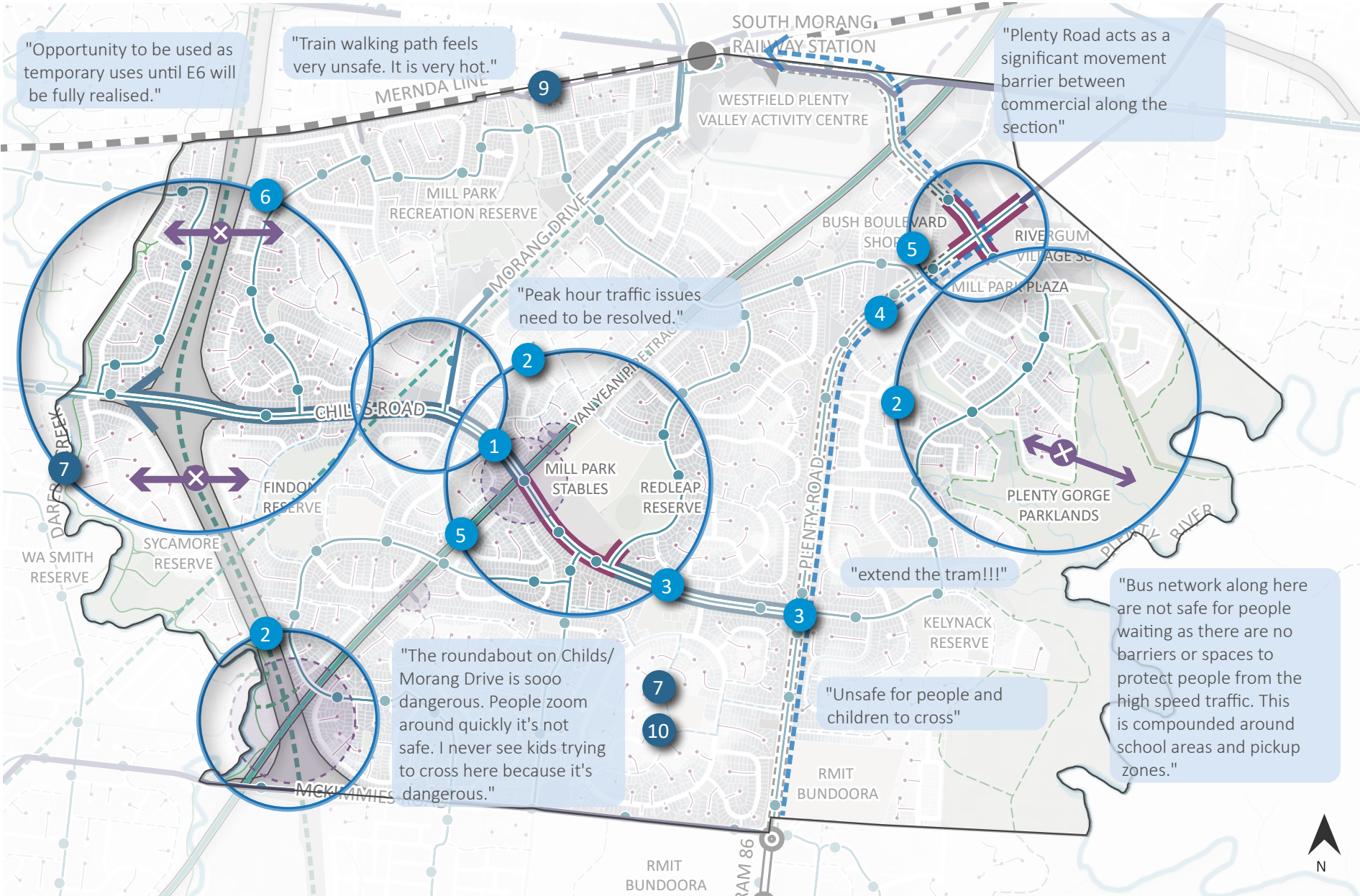
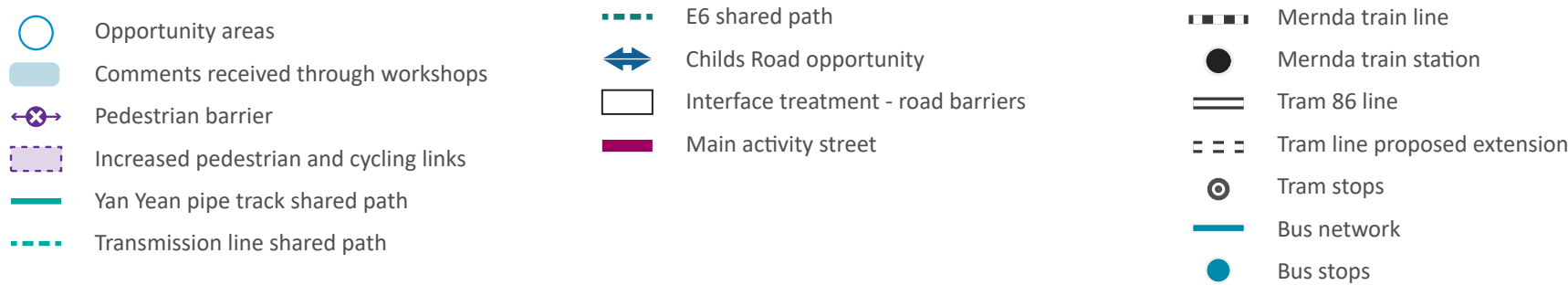


Figure 28 Connected places summary map. Refer appendix for more information.



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Theme 03: Thriving community and culture

"...facilitate equal opportunities for community members to participate and engage within their local areas, fostering strong social connections and building resilience within our communities."

Connected Community Strategy 2023-2033

Our role

City of Whittlesea is mandated under the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 to plan for the community's health and wellbeing needs, encompassing social, physical, economic, and environmental domains.

Through places, spaces, and events, council facilitates socialisation and access to services. These are instrumental in building community and fostering an appreciation for our diversity.

Community hubs, parks, and recreational facilities are central to council's strategy to enhance wellbeing and unity among the city's diverse communities. These spaces offer venues for gatherings, events, and celebrations, fostering a sense of heritage and togetherness.

Key policies and documents

The document has been informed by policies and strategies from the Victorian Government and the City of Whittlesea, including but not limited to:

- Whittlesea Planning Scheme
- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050
- Community Plan 2021-2025
- Connected Community Strategy 2023-2033

Context

The Stables, located centrally, offers various facilities and services for the community, but its popularity has declined, including the once vibrant market scene.

The Miller Centre on Mill Park Drive is frequently visited by members of the community but lacks pedestrian and public transport access and is difficult for people to locate.

The Mill Park Leisure Centre also provides a range of services. The All Abilities Play Space has added to the popularity of the centre.

The Mill Park Library is popular but primarily accessible by car. Public transport access to the library is very poor when travelling from the eastern suburbs.

Older areas lack access to community facilities, and many services are not conveniently located together.

"Mill Park library uses green spaces well, has a variety of activities, creates a safe and productive environment."

Community Member

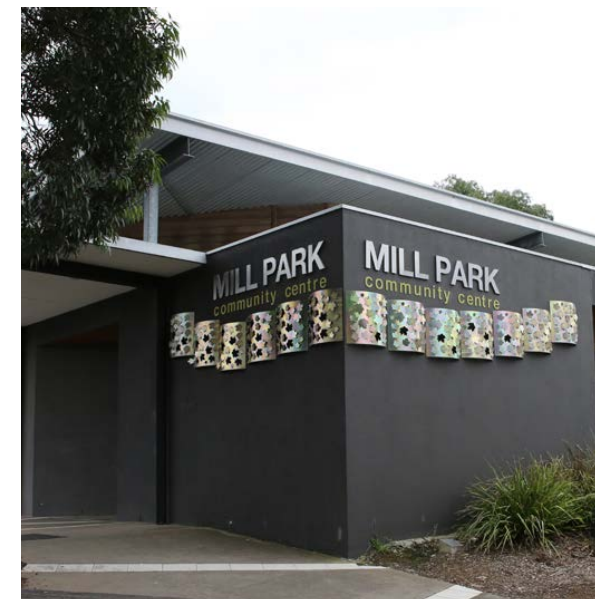


Figure 29 Improving awareness, wayfinding and signage for community centres.

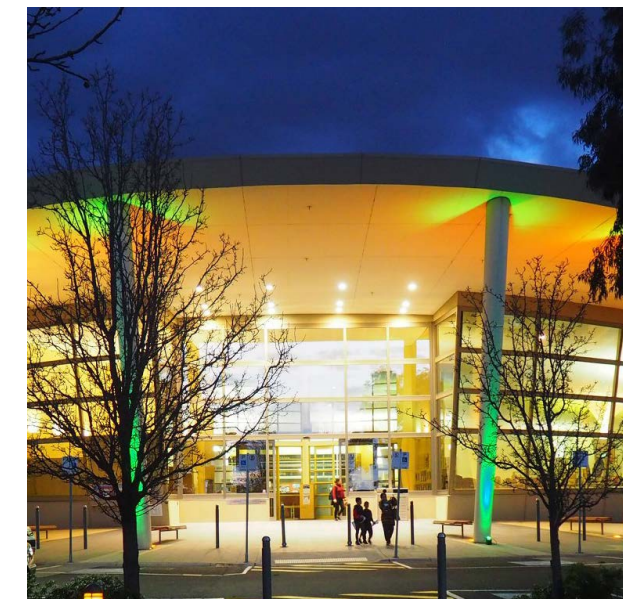


Figure 30 Mill Park Library is a great place with diverse programs.

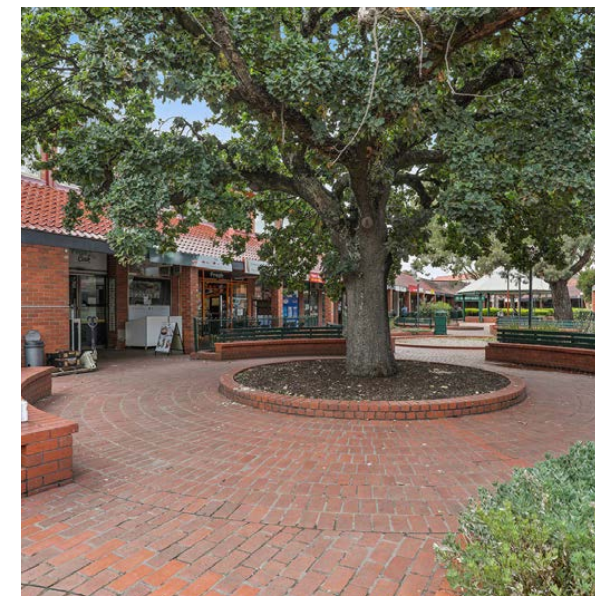


Figure 31 Mill Park Stables courtyard used to hold events, markets and live music in the past.

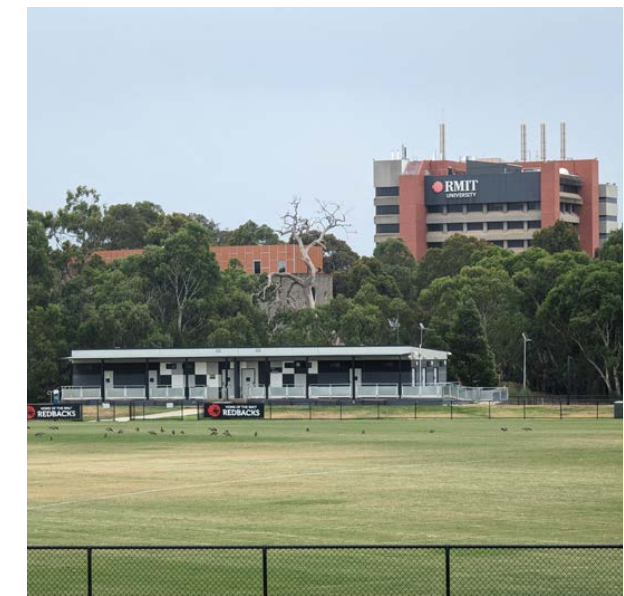


Figure 32 Opportunity to explore partnerships with universities to improve services for the community.

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Opportunities

- 1 Exploring opportunities to upgrade Stables shopping centre by collaborating with the owners.
- 2 Mill Park library as a focal point for the community.
- 3 Potential to improve ageing infrastructure and facilities, co-locate services (childcare, MCH etc)
- 4 Tapping into the potential of the young people, services provided and RMIT.
- 5 Encourage programming of spaces with events, markets or support social enterprise to draw people and re-activate these hubs.

Challenges

- 6 Lack of walkability, parking spaces and management of traffic conflict around schools and community areas.
- 7 Lack of spaces for young people.
- 8 Insufficient Wi-Fi access at key community locations.
- 9 Lack of gathering spaces for functions.
- 10 Limited public transport and pedestrian access to services.
- 11 Gaps in services and amenities south of Childs Road.

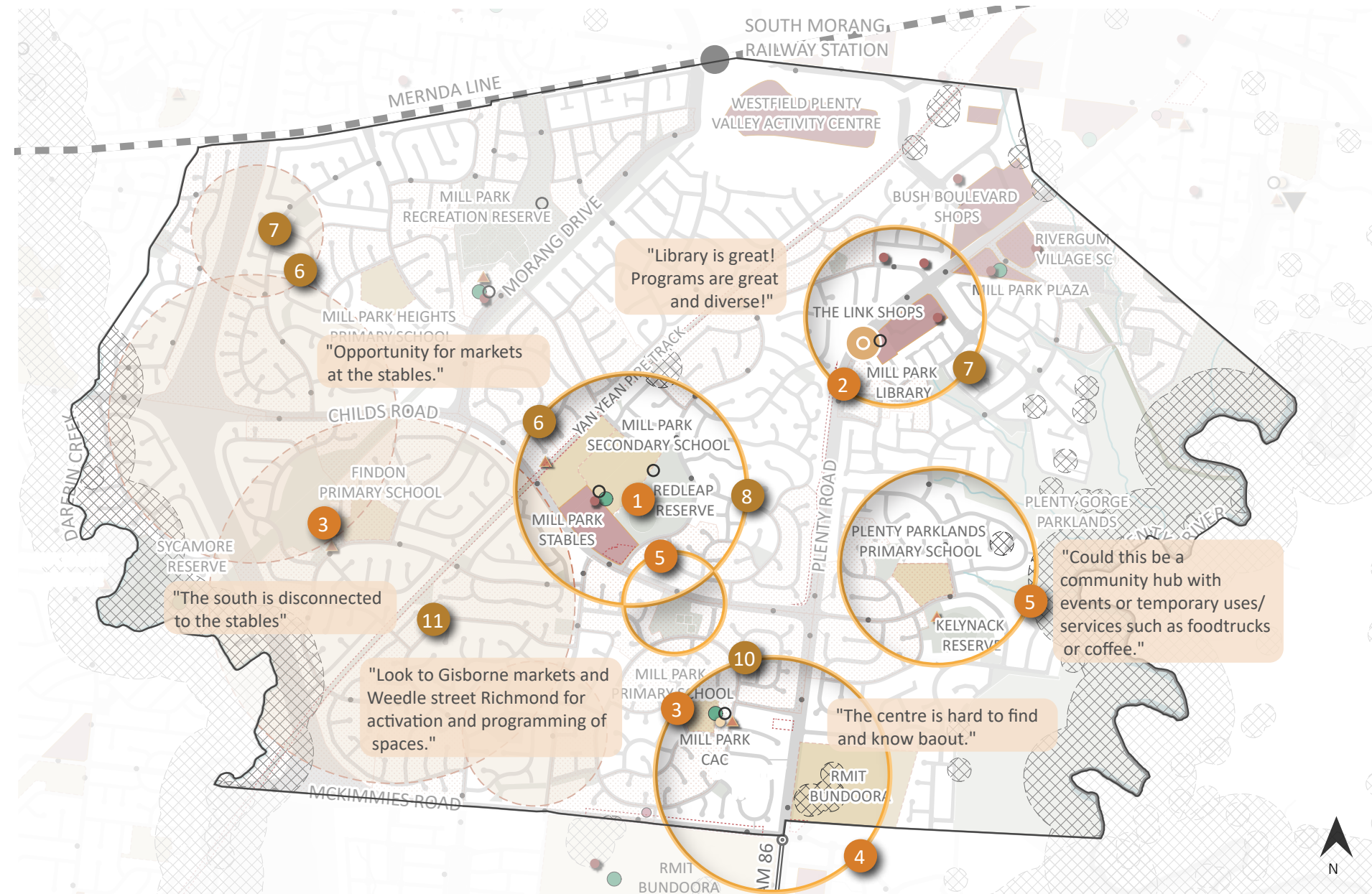
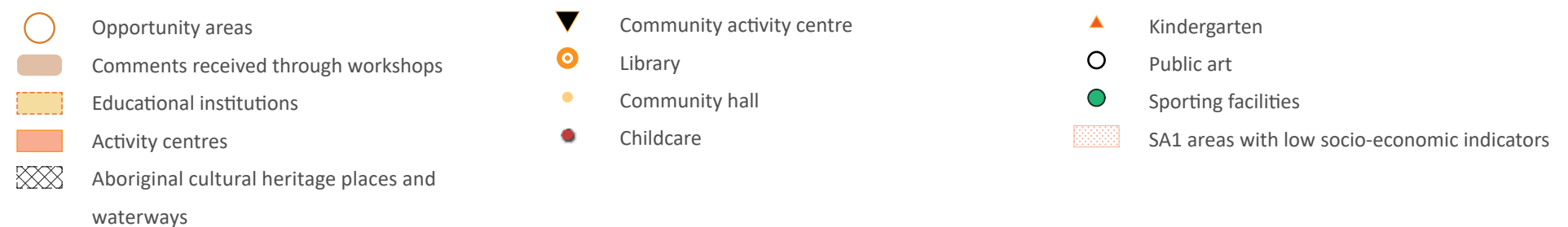


Figure 33 Thriving community and culture summary map. Refer appendix for more information.



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Theme 04: Land use and built form

"...change should be managed carefully to ensure the diverse needs of our residents are met, while our suburbs continue to be vibrant, attractive places to live."

Housing Diversity Strategy 2013 - 2033

Our role

Local governments have many roles and legislated responsibilities that influence the provision of affordable housing. For example, through land-use planning, social and physical infrastructure planning, economic planning and development, community engagement and advocacy.

Council is instrumental in adopting a role of partnership, brokerage, and facilitation, essential for uniting various stakeholders on targeted projects.

A collaborative approach is necessary, involving landowners, schools, and public transport authorities like PTV, to thoroughly redevelop areas such as Mill Park. This collaboration aims to draw economic investment for enhancements and to tackle safety issues. Additionally, it focuses on improving various aspects such as safety measures, the layout of buildings, access routes, and pickup areas.

Key policies and documents

The document has been informed by policies and strategies from the Victorian Government and the City of Whittlesea, including but not limited to:

- Whittlesea Planning Scheme
- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050
- Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy 2023-2033
- Strong Local Economy Strategy 2022-2026
- Housing Diversity Strategy 2013-2033

Context

Mill Park has a mix of old and new buildings, with some areas undergoing ad-hoc renewal. There is an opportunity to strategically increase appropriate density along Plenty Road and around town centres.

The Stables and Plenty Valley are the key town centres, but the Stables has been experiencing fewer visitors and vacant shops. Other town centres like Bush Boulevard and Rivergum also need improvements.

Improved lighting and active frontages to open spaces are crucial to fostering a sense of security and community well-being.

Overall, the ongoing transformation of Mill Park underscores the importance of balancing affordability, appropriate development, and community revitalisation efforts to create a vibrant and inclusive urban environment.

"...affordability and diversity is really important, but it needs to stay green and natural"

Community Member



Figure 34 Example of Future Homes Initiative and building typology by the Victorian Government



Figure 35 Gentle density that supports affordable housing, enhances greenery and considers history.



Figure 36 Greening the Greyfields concept by Maroondah Council and Swinburne University



Figure 37 Safety issues due to reduced passive surveillance to open spaces.

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Opportunities

- 1 Investigate planning controls to improve appropriate density and mixed uses along Plenty Road corridor and near town centres.
- 2 Investigate gentle density or 'Greening the Greyfields' approach around key cul-de-sacs to improve walkability.
- 3 Place activation measures (e.g. mobile libraries) around community facilities to make people and parents stay there longer.
- 4 Need for strategic direction for Mill Park Stables, to reduce conflicts, public transport access, trees, and draw investment.
- 5 Celebration of Aboriginal and local culture through the built environment.
- 6 Plenty Valley is one of only areas to go to at night time, this could be an opportunity for other centres also.

Challenges

- 7 Cul-de-sacs are the dominant pattern in established areas, with limited subdivision opportunities.
- 8 Lack of perceived identity and appeal for non-residents visiting Mill Park.
- 9 Resistance to upgrade, hindering building, investment and community development.
- 10 Addressing the issue of disconnected spaces and safety in Mill Park, a lot of back fences facing roads and reserves.
- 11 Aging facades and streetscapes within town centres.

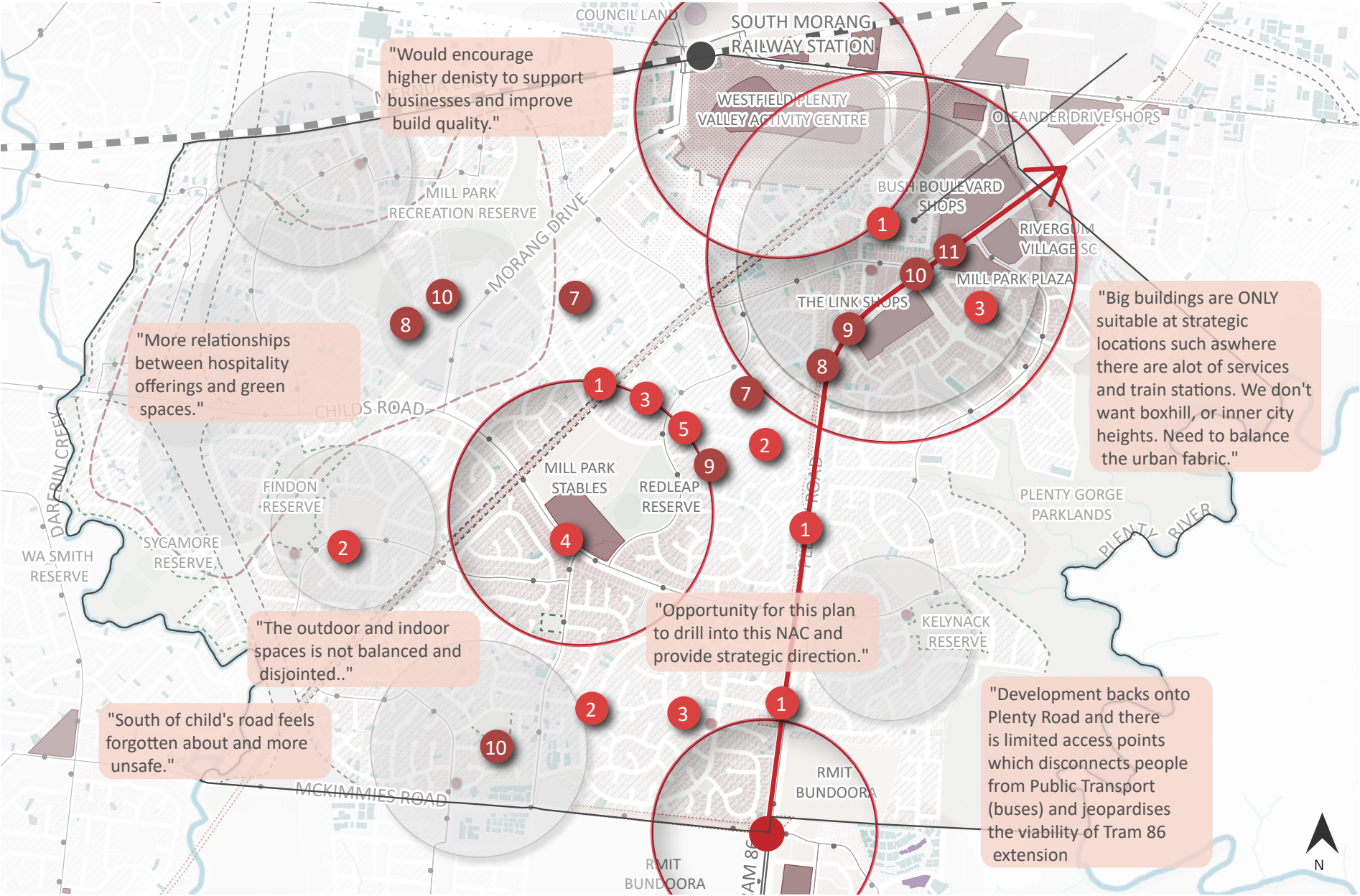


Figure 38 Land use and built form summary map. Refer appendix for more information.

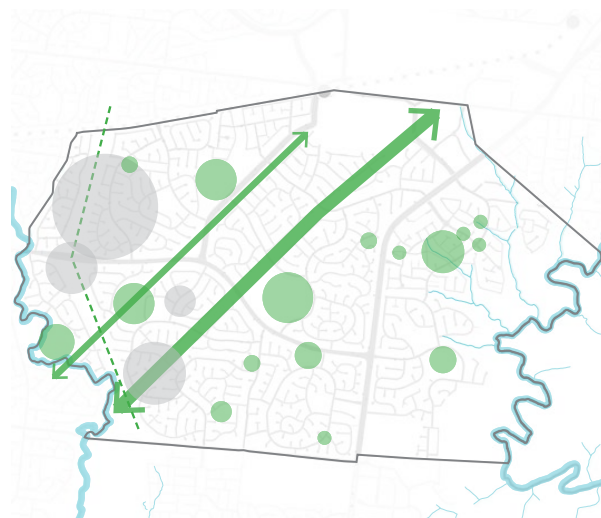
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Key drivers

Greener spaces

Focus areas

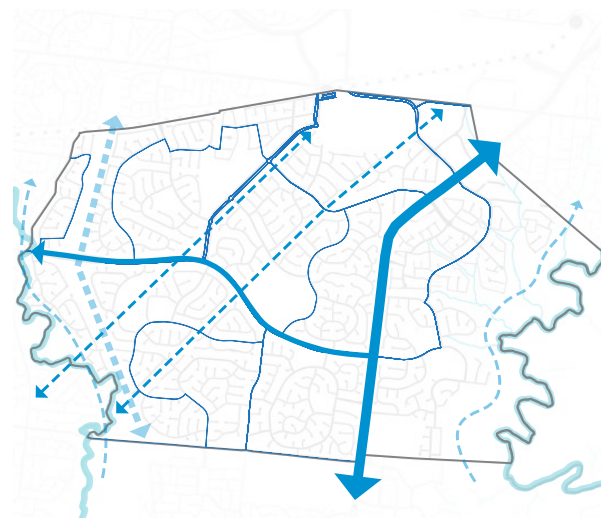
1. Maximise tree plantation and vegetation
2. Develop and improve recreational spaces for community use
3. Promote biodiversity and habitat preservation in green corridors and local reserves
4. Reducing adverse impacts on climate change and urban heat on vulnerable communities
5. Address flooding and drainage issues



Connected places

Focus areas

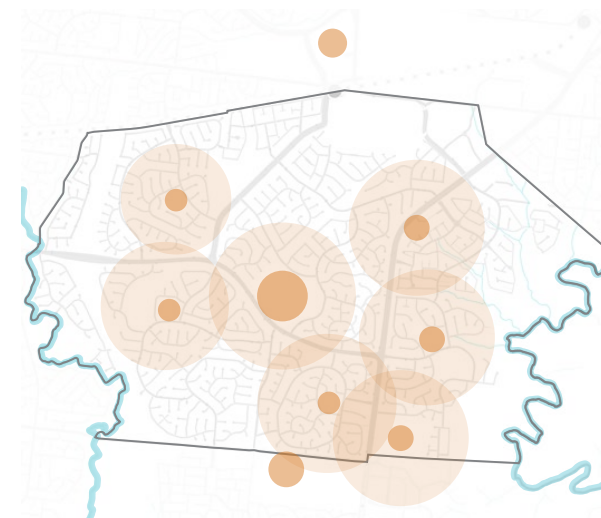
1. Providing bike paths and trails to increase participation in active modes of transport
2. Enhancing east west connections
3. Increasing walkability in cul-de-sac areas
4. Creating convenient and accessible public transport networks
5. Help people find their way around the area by improving signage and wayfinding



Thriving community hubs

Focus areas

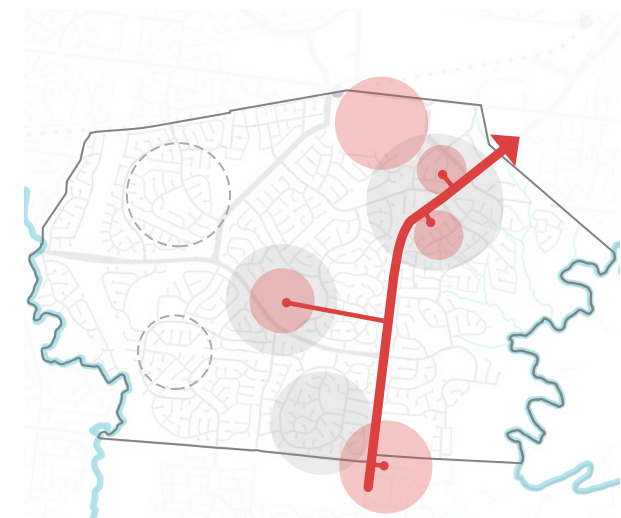
1. Create gathering spaces around community facilities
2. Develop measures for a unique community identity (Tap into heritage walks, diversity as an opportunity)
3. Tap into the potential of the youth population for community development
4. Foster community engagement through libraries and youth programs
5. Investigate improvements to existing community buildings



Land use and built form

Focus areas

1. Explore opportunities, including planning tools, for improving the urban structure
2. Encourage appropriate density around town centres and major transport corridors
3. Upgrade commercial areas to enhance appeal
4. Encourage diverse businesses and land uses for a vibrant community



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Summary

The challenges and opportunity chapter has gathered insights from community, council subject matter experts and desktop analysis. Key opportunities have started to emerge focussing on place to develop future projects. These opportunities will be developed further in the next phase of this project.

Key areas include:

- 1 **Corridors improvements** which may cover various themes and address multiple issues. Such as Plenty River, Plenty Road, Yan Yean Pipe Track, Childs Road, E6, Transmission easement, etc.
- 2 **Town Centre and their walkable catchment** review their performance and initiatives especially around Mill Park Stables.
- 3 **Centralising and co-locating Services** Enhancement to support community access and community convenience.
- 4 **Place making** initiatives to draw people and investment to Mill Park and support the community needs
- 5 **Improving walkability and navigation**
- 6 **Council Strategic Direction** for complicated sites and general advocacy



Figure 39 Mill Park Opportunities Map

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Green Corridors | | Town Centres |
| | Waterway Corridors | | Centralising and Co-locating services |
| | Movement Corridors | | Place making opportunity |
| | Council Strategic Direction | | |



Chapter 03

Place projects and implementation

Overview

The following chapter summarises the key project ideas that have been identified through the development of this Draft Framework. These project ideas are called Place Projects.

Place Projects are larger projects that have a number of smaller sub-actions within them to deliver upon the overall objective. These are projects that Council can take a lead role in developing, facilitating, delivering or advocating for. Place Projects are categorised into:

Short Term - projects that Council plays a key role to act on in the next 5-10 years.

Long Term - projects that Council can advocate for or requires partnerships with authorities or other sectors to deliver and may take longer than 5-10 years.

As noted in the beginning of this report, projects identified are not all going to happen quickly or at once. They are still dependent on future budget, resourcing and Council priorities across the City of Whittlesea.

Next steps

Following this report, Council aims to address the challenges and issues presented in the Draft Mill Park Place Framework.

Further collaboration, authorities feedback, community feedback will be incorporated through various communication activities such as workshops, pop-ups, presentations, online engage page and more.

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Summary of place projects

PLACE PROJECT IDEAS		THEMES				
SHORT & MEDIUM TERM	①	Safer streets to walk or ride to school	1	2	3	4
	②	Improvements to community hubs	1	2	3	4
	③	Revitalise key destinations	1	2	3	4
	④	Re-imagining transmission easements and green corridors	1	2	3	4
	⑤	Upgrading parks and improving residential interfaces	1	2	3	4
	⑥	Identify ways to improve walkability through future development	1	2	3	4
LONG TERM	⑦	Improve McKimmies Road	1	2	3	4
	⑧	Advocate for Child’s Road improvements	1	2	3	4
	⑨	Advocate for Plenty Road upgrades	1	2	3	4
	⑩	Darebin Creek and Plenty River corridors	1	2	3	4
	⑪	Encourage town centre activation and upgrades	1	2	3	4
THEMES						
1	Greener spaces					
2	Connected places					
3	Thriving community and culture					
4	Land use and built form					

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Little Manevski enjoys a relaxed breakfast with his family before school.....

because his family know he can safely get himself to school on the new safer streets.



Little Manevski meets up with his friend Divya on the new bikepath... They talk about how much fun it is to ride to school.



His Dad makes sure his helmet is on tight and and kisses him good bye.



Manevski and Divya arrive at school, happy and energised after a fun ride. They greet their teachers, friends and members of the community....

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After school Manevski and Divya go around the corner to the local milkbar. They enjoy a milk shake and hang out with their friends..

excited about the new playground and street improvements at the community hubs.



They take her to the basketball tournament at the local park, which has been organised by Manevski's big brother.

The tournament is part of a larger community event which also includes an arts and craft market run by Divya's aunt.



Divya and Manevski meet Divya's grandmother at the new climbing sculpture at the Stables.

they could make their own way safely across Childs Road thanks to the new safety improvements.

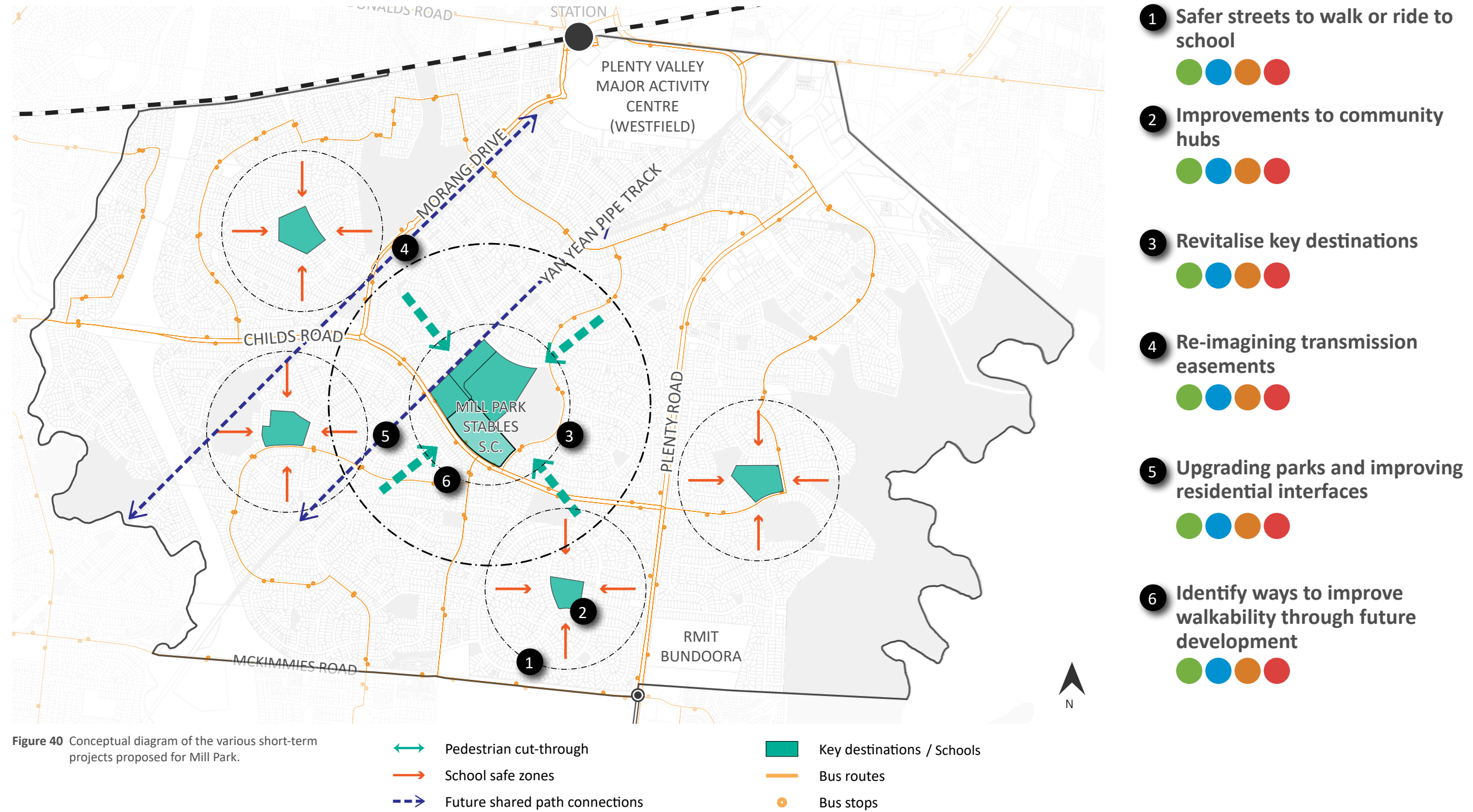


At the end of the day Manevski and Divya make their way back home along one of the redeveloped transmission easements.

they feel happy and satisfied thanks to the programs initiated across their suburb to allow them feel safer and more connected.

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Short term place projects



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1. Safer streets to walk or ride to school

School traffic significantly contributes to morning congestion, affecting the overall flow of transportation. Encouraging children to walk or ride to school not only alleviates traffic but also enhances their concentration and spatial awareness. There are well-known benefits for social, health and environmental outcomes also. The community strongly supported initiatives for safer access to schools, emphasizing the importance of creating a safe environment for their children. Some ideas for Council to consider are identified below.

Safer active streets

- Planning active streets around schools by identifying paths taken to schools and creating a safe passage for children to walk and ride
- Identifying challenges and potential hazards that would hinder walking and cycling
- Identifying areas where additional supervision temporary road closures and other measures might be required
- Consider the concept of play streets around schools
- Improving the combination of bus transit and walking to school, making this faster and more convenient.

Public transport advocacy - Bus

- Advocate for greater bus frequency and direct routes for key destinations in Mill Park such as Mill Park CAC and Mill Park Library
- Ensure bus stops are accessible through pedestrian crossings and are safe spaces for people to wait
- Advocate for real time indicators at bus stops and bus connection and bus stop information
- Advocate for improved bus services connecting east-west across the suburb.

THEMES

- 1 Greener spaces
- 2 Connected places
- 3 Thriving community and culture
- 4 Land use and built form

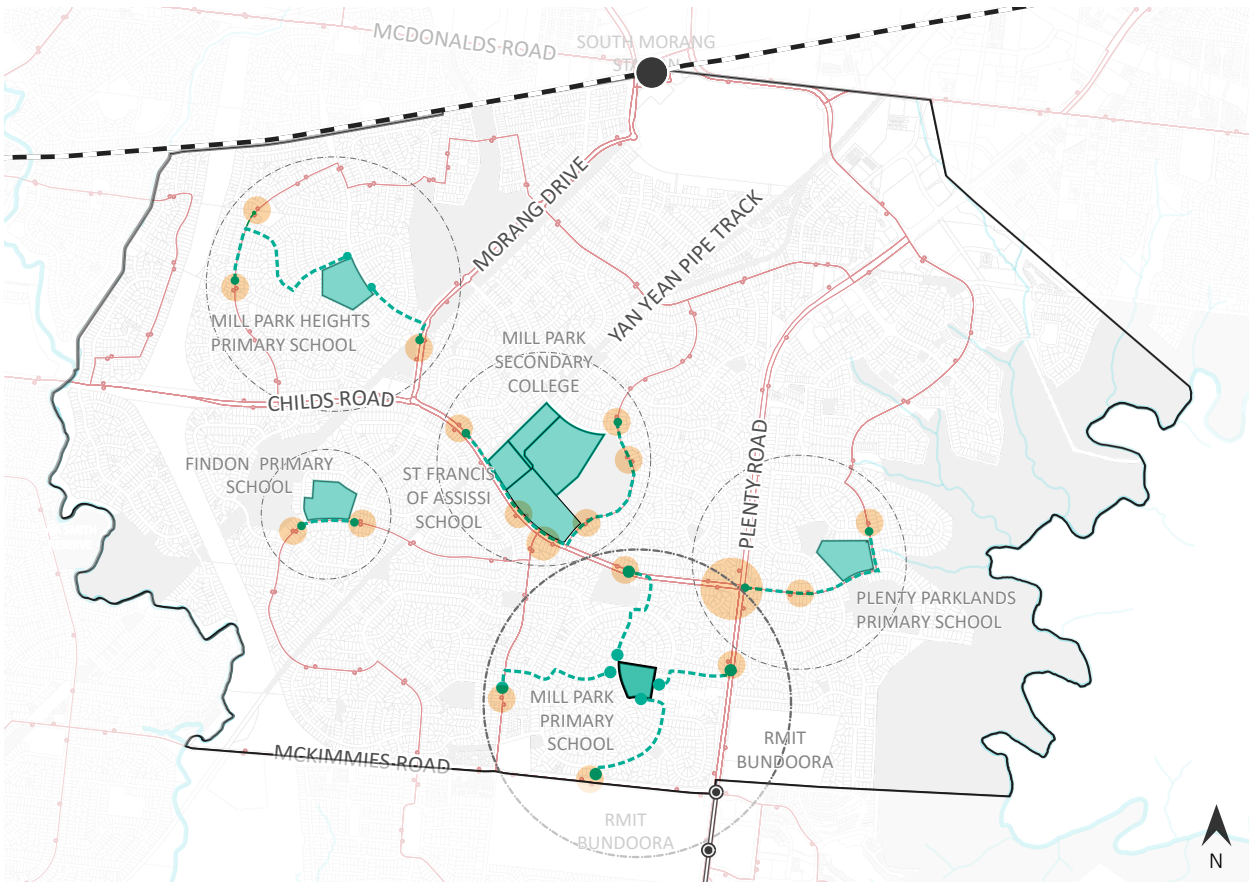


Figure 41 Figure shows indicative connections to schools, with Mill Park Primary School as the pilot.

- Safe paths to school
- Intersections and bus stops
- Mill Park Primary School - Pilot
- Schools in Mill Park
- Bus routes
- Bus stops

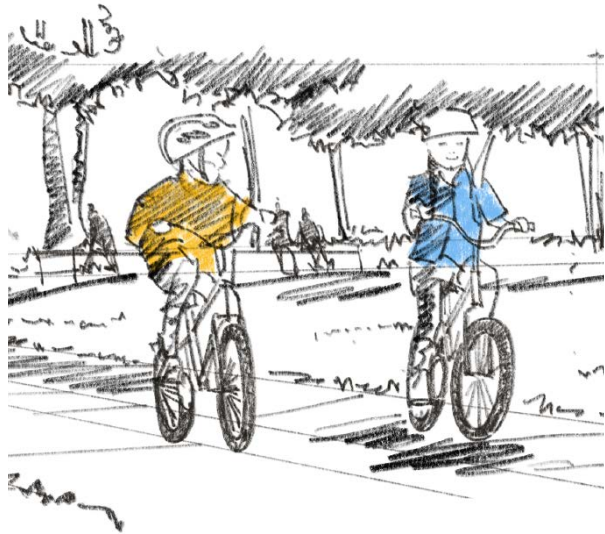


Figure 42 Artist impression of children riding to school

Active Paths Program

Maribyrnong Council, in partnership with local primary schools and the Department of Transport and Planning (formerly known as VicRoads), have introduced the Active Paths Program.

The Active Paths Program has been designed for parents of primary school students who want to ride, walk, scoot or skate their way to school. Not only is this a fun way for children to start their school day, it also provides daily physical activity.

Similar initiatives with some variations were introduced in Seddon and Yarraville, traffic studies have shown 60 percent fewer crashes where people have been injured. This means all road users are safer, whether they walk, cycle or drive.

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2. Improvements to community hubs

Mill Park's community centres were identified as important spaces, but sometimes unknown or poorly accessible. The community can benefit from the following measures, in addition to the ongoing efforts. Below are some ideas for Council to consider developing further.

- Ensure community hubs have the facilities and services to provide a range of social infrastructure to meet the unique needs of the local community
 - Provide community support by encouraging and recognising emerging community leaders
 - Increase outreach to the community
 - Improve the interface to community hubs to draw people in with street appeal and increase community participation by exploring more open fencing and landscaping treatments
- Improve the resilience of precincts by undertaking precinct masterplans that aim to renovate aging infrastructure and buildings to support adaptability, mixed use and multifunctionality into the future
 - Upgrade Mill Park Drive precinct as a pedestrian friendly and mixed use community hub
- Enhance the sense of arrival to key precincts with landscaping, signage, and street furniture.

Community building programs

- Community-led temporary road closures for short-term activation of streets for events such as street parties, play streets, and other community events
- Continue supporting outdoor dining on private land and pursue opportunities to maintain successful outdoor dining in key public spaces
- Investigate opportunity for Council to lease out shops at the Stables to increase available spaces for community to gather.

THEMES

- 1 Greener spaces
- 2 Connected places
- 3 Thriving community and culture
- 4 Land use and built form

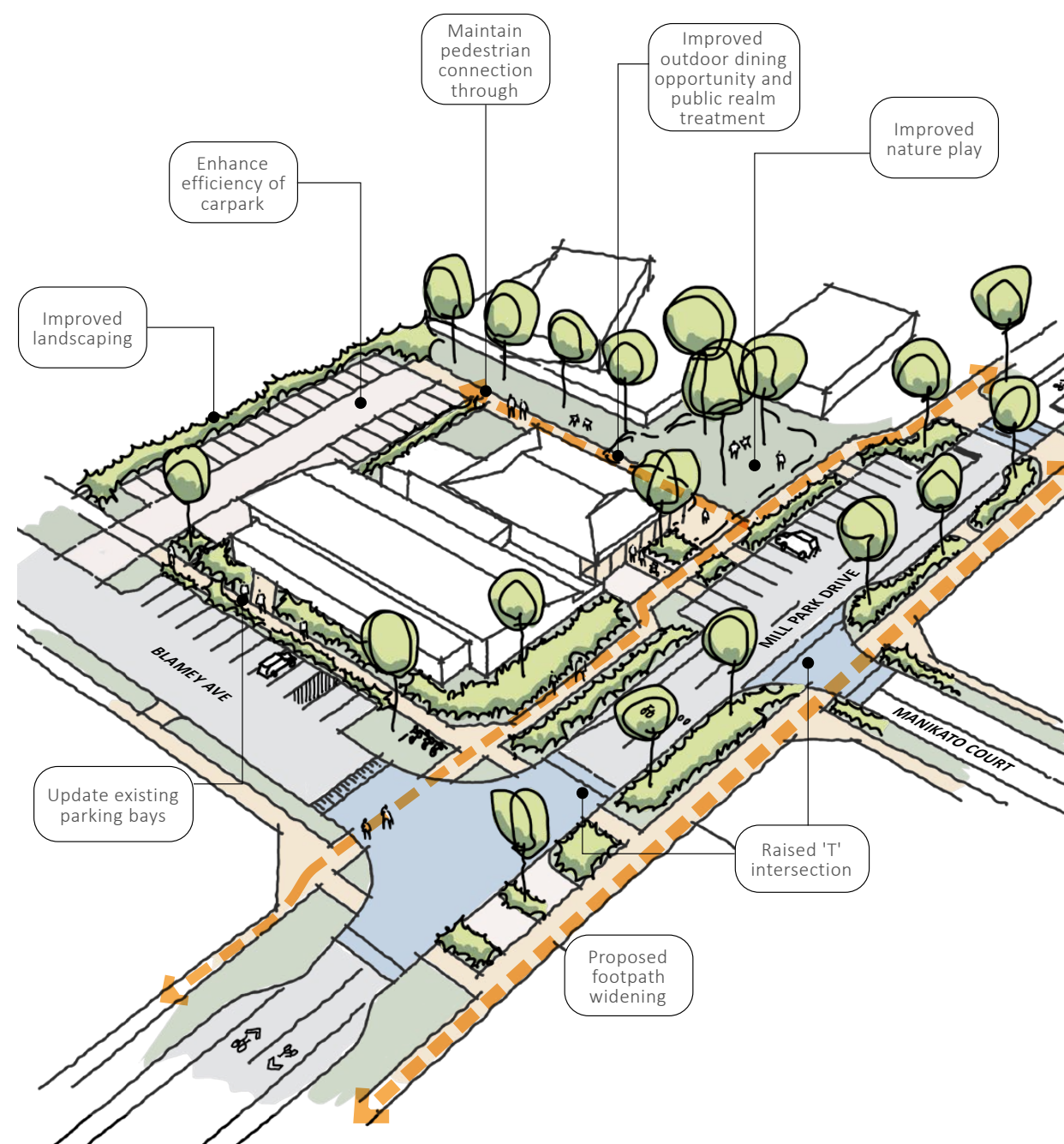


Figure 43 Miller Community Center as hub for the community to gather and socialise.



Figure 44 Conceptual idea to upgrade Mill Park Drive precinct.

Mill Park Drive Precinct upgrade idea

Mill Park Drive hosts the Miller Community Centre, Maternal and Child Health centre, Mill Park Pre-school and two shops.

This hub has the potential to be upgraded with traffic calming measures, landscaping treatments and a nature play space. This additional amenity leads to the creation of a pedestrian and child-friendly community space that is welcoming and engaging.

A concept design can be formally developed for the precinct to improve on the above and consider the future of existing Council buildings also.



Figure 45 Artist Impression- conceptual upgrade Mill Park Drive precinct.

DRAFT

3. Revitalise key destinations

Key destinations include shops, parks, community or leisure centres and schools. Events, activities, public art and better planning came up as consistent themes to help these places. Community enjoyed events being held in and around the Stables, however, majority of these have now moved to South Morang's Civic Precinct. Events hosted by Council are already nearing capacity but there is opportunity to identify more event locations and support activities that local shops, community and other groups can host themselves to attract and engage the Mill Park community.

Short term activation ideas

- Identify sites across Mill Park that can be utilised for events, activations and festivals
 - Ensure sites identified have necessary facilities like access to water, 3 phase electricity, etc
- Encourage outdoor dining, trading, busking and street activations
- Create new public art and events based on local culture, community and history at key locations
- Identify ways to encourage and support walking and cycling to events and key destinations instead of driving, to alleviate traffic congestion
- Improve wayfinding to shops and services
- Provide short-term support to new, creative businesses and attract visitors through art and cultural displays.

Long term planning improvements

- Identify key improvements required to planning and infrastructure around key destinations
- Investigate holistic redevelopment of existing town centres as vibrant mixed-use centres
- Work with key stakeholders to overcome barriers to securing quality tenants, events and activities.

THEMES

- 1 Greener spaces
- 2 Connected places
- 3 Thriving community and culture
- 4 Land use and built form

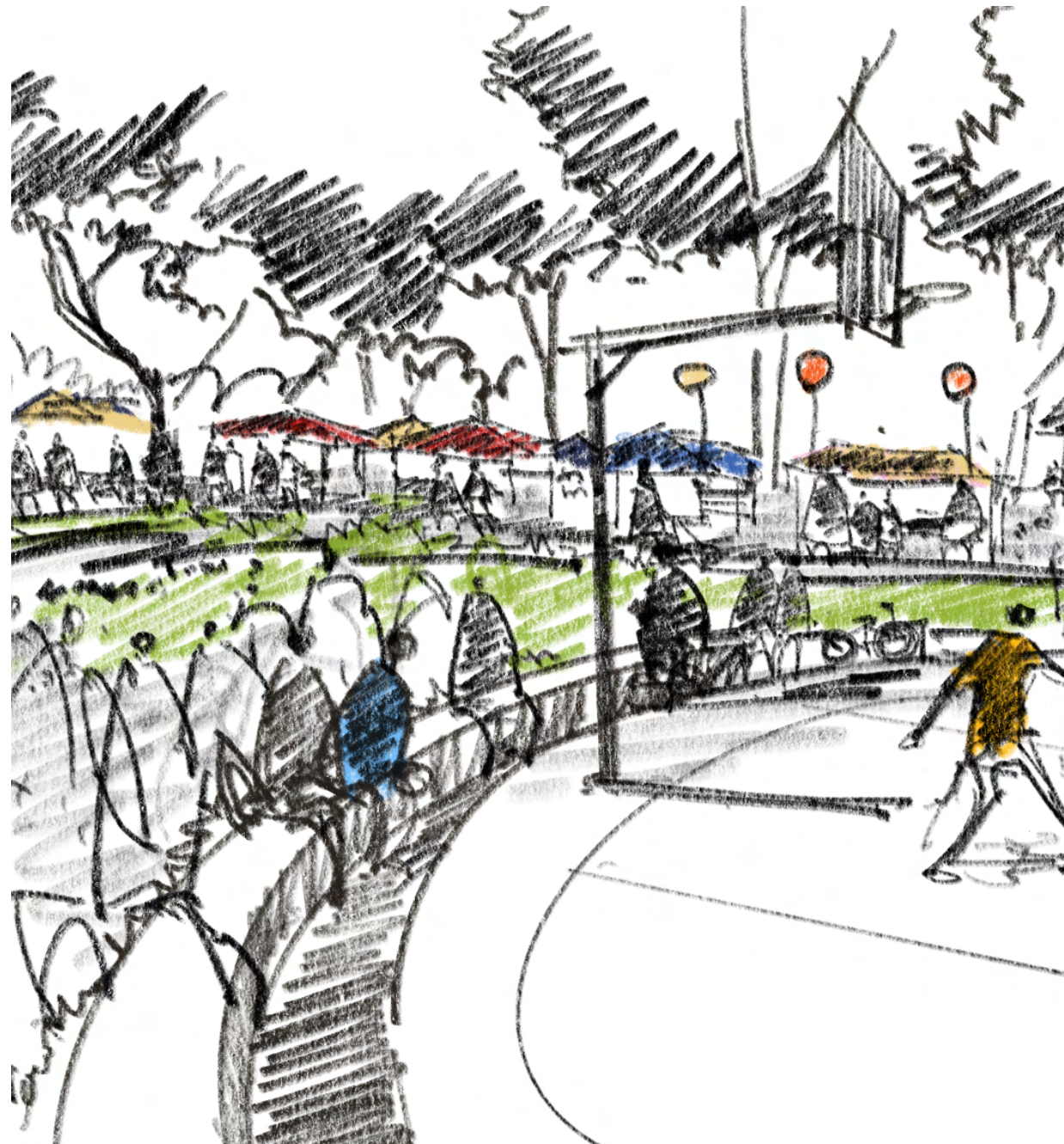


Figure 46 Artist impression of temporary activation events held in Redleap reserve car park.

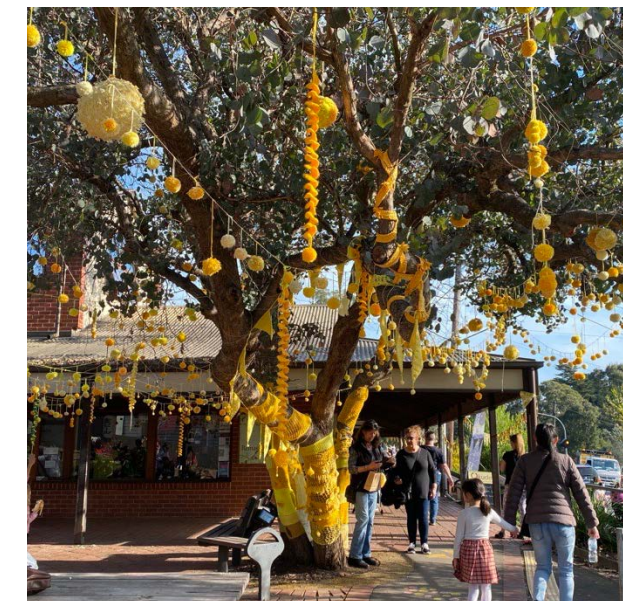


Figure 47 Image from the Hurstbridge Wattle Festival.

Hurstbridge Wattle Festival

Hurstbridge Wattle Festival celebrates Melbourne's green wedge in the Diamond Valley. This annual event began in 2004 and has grown year by year.

In 2022 the festival returned to the streets of Hurstbridge with record breaking numbers estimated to be over 15,000 people.

COMMUNITY AND TRADER ACTION OPPORTUNITY

Events and activities are something that you can organise within your own community or shops.

Did you know Council has community grants and staff that can support your event ideas?

Visit the Council website for more information.

DRAFT

4. Re-imagining transmission easements and green corridors

Mill Park's corridors and easements, currently seen as having poor visual amenity, can be re-imagined as attractive, community-friendly spaces and movement corridors for cyclists and pedestrians. Transmission easements and green corridors such as Yan Yean Pipe Track, E6 corridor, Darebin Creek and Plenty River have the potential to be upgraded. Council could consider the following initiatives.

Collaborative approach to improve, manage and maintain these linear open spaces

- Explore pilot projects and partnership opportunities with educational institutions, community groups, not-for-profits and other groups to develop initiatives to activate easements
- Involve Aboriginal communities and groups to integrate cultural practices in designing, activating and maintaining the land
- Promote appropriate uses along corridors and easements
 - New activities such as park runs, sculpture trails or other activations
 - Identify appropriate ways to support urban agriculture or other sustainable initiatives that activate and make these corridors feel safer
 - Consider leasing arrangements which can support both for-profit and non-profit initiatives.

Place project 4 and place project 5 should be incorporated together.

THEMES

- 1 Greener spaces
- 2 Connected places
- 3 Thriving community and culture
- 4 Land use and built form



Figure 48 Re-imagining transmission line easement as a bio-diversity corridor.



Figure 49 Diamond Creek Park Run

Park Run

Parkrun is a free, community event where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate. parkrun is 5k and takes place every Saturday morning. junior parkrun is 2k, dedicated to 4-14 year olds and their families, every Sunday morning.

Woody Meadow Planting

Woody Meadows are diverse shrub plantings maintained by coppicing (hard pruning to 10-20 cm) to promote flowering and create dense canopies to exclude weeds.

COMMUNITY ACTION OPPORTUNITY

This is something that you can organise within your own community.

Did you know Council has community grants and staff that can support your idea?

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5. Upgrading parks and improving residential interfaces

Open spaces such as parks, reserves and corridors have lots backing onto them with high rear or side fences. This provides very limited opportunities for passive surveillance and makes these spaces feel unsafe to use. For women in particular, this was a key concern. Additionally, some smaller parks and open spaces are in need of upgrades and re-programming.

- Work with stakeholders, adjacent landowners, and authorities that back or side onto open space to improve passive surveillance and feeling of safety
- Develop guidelines or interface controls to ensure passive surveillance and access to Yan Yean Pipe Track, transmission line easements and open spaces for long-term activation
- Encourage newer developments to provide through pedestrian access to open space where suitable.
- Increase open space pockets in western and southern areas of Mill Park
- Increase the provision of seating, lighting, and planting along open spaces and corridors. Appropriate lighting improvements would highlight these spaces and improve the perception of safety
- Increase tree canopy cover and maximise planting opportunities to enhance greening
- Improve ease of movement by prioritising pedestrian crossings along Creek corridors
- Identify key crossing points along corridors to promote pedestrian and cycling connectivity within and outside the suburb
- Explore opportunities for temporary activation of the E6 corridor
- Support the Yan Yean Pipe Track shared path and Plenty River improvements.

THEMES

- 1 Greener spaces
- 2 Connected places
- 3 Thriving community and culture
- 4 Land use and built form

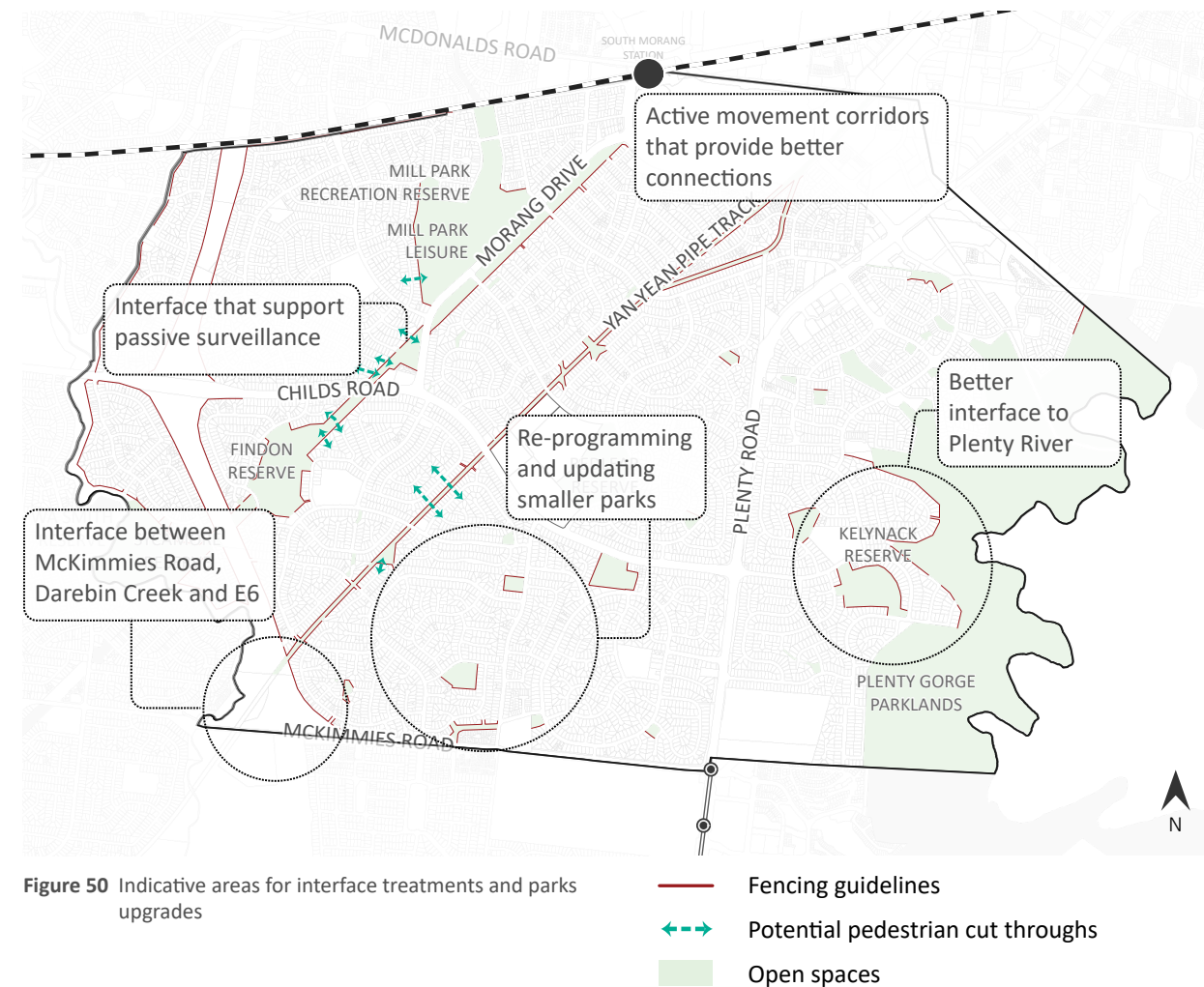


Figure 50 Indicative areas for interface treatments and parks upgrades

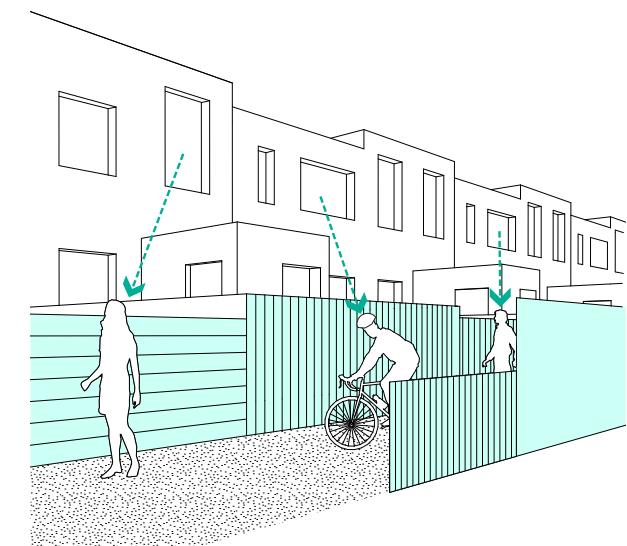


Figure 51 Providing low fencing or designing buildings to overlook onto public spaces improves passive surveillance and feeling safe. Image source - Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria



Figure 52 Image of easements passing through Mill Park with 1.8m rear or side fencing

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6. Identify ways to improve walkability through future development

Two of the biggest issues raised by community and internal staff alike was the poor walkability of Mill Park and traffic congestion. This is due to Mill Park's urban structure which is dominated by winding roads and cul-de-sacs and courts. This form can be difficult to navigate and makes walking inconvenient as it takes longer to walk to destinations than more direct routes. The positives of this structure is that it can provide respite from through-traffic and increase the perception of safety in courts and cul-de-sacs.

The idea of adding more pedestrian cut-throughs in strategic locations (i.e. to local shops, schools, parks or public transport) was identified as it can make walking more convenient than driving across the neighbourhood. Improving health and traffic issues at the same time.

To implement such improvements effectively, a comprehensive approach to future development in Mill Park is essential. Council can investigate this further with community, developers and experts to identify equitable and appropriate ways in which this can happen. The City of Maroondah Council has developed a Greening The Greyfields approach (see Appendix item XX) which may offer some ideas not just for Mill Park, but other established suburbs also.

Some potential ideas on this approach are listed below

Increasing housing diversity

- Ensure development applications meet the needs of the existing community and the vision for the area. (Generally, in areas with potential for urban renewal)
- Identify dwelling typologies that deliver the appropriate density for Mill Park's residential areas and existing planning zones

Tools for improving the urban structure

- Investigate appropriate planning controls, mechanisms and guidelines
- Investigate ways to support and encourage alternative housing development models that focus on improving community, environmental and precinct outcomes such as cohousing or cooperative approaches

Pedestrian cut-throughs

- Improve the layout of the neighbourhood by providing more pedestrian access to key destinations (schools, shops, parks, public transport)
- Improve the interfaces of existing cut-throughs to feel safer and more open through future development

Signage and wayfinding

- Improve mapping, signage and wayfinding to key destinations and pedestrian cut-throughs

Strengthening the movement network

- Identify opportunities to enhance visual and physical links between green corridors, pedestrian paths, and destinations
- Improve walking, cycling and micromobility infrastructure to help alleviate vehicular traffic and congestion. This also has social, safety (more people around) and environmental benefits
- Support the delivery of shared path connections
- Improve the bus network to key destinations.



Figure 53 Comparison of walking distance to school versus distance as the crow flies.

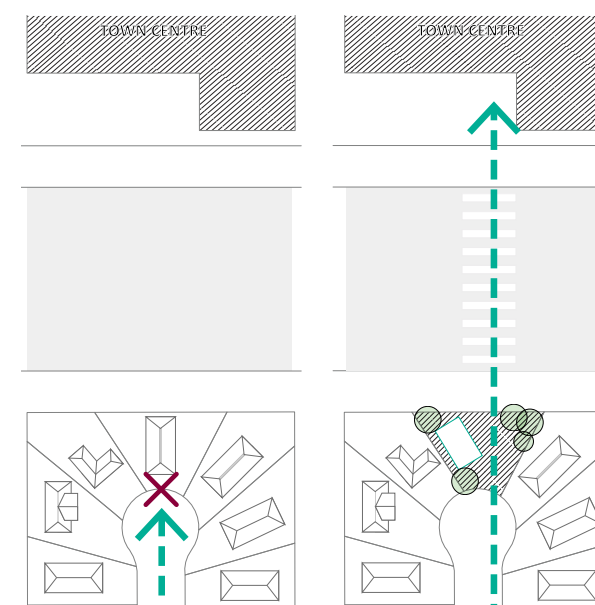


Figure 55 Example of cul-de-sac with no pedestrian access vs. with access



Figure 54 Existing examples of pedestrian pathway connections in more recently developed areas of Mill Park

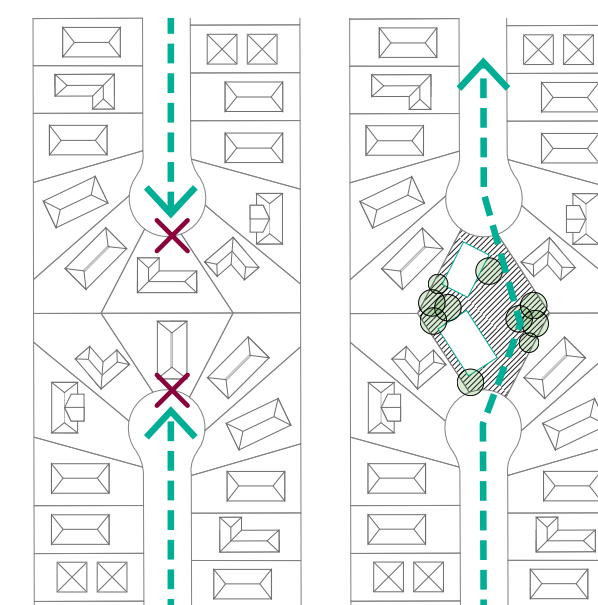


Figure 56 Example of two cul-de-sacs with no pedestrian access vs. with access

THEMES

- 1 Greener spaces
- 2 Connected places
- 3 Thriving community and culture
- 4 Land use and built form

Long term project ideas

1 Improve McKimmies Road

- Improve safety with anti-speeding measures and reworked roundabouts
- Improve walking, cycling and lighting
- Improve interfaces and accessibility

2 Advocate for Child's Road improvements:

- Advocate for off-road shared path or cycling
- Advocate for redesign of Child's Road and Morang Drive roundabout
- Advocate for peak hour traffic solution around the Stables
- Advocate for quality design, maximising greening and walking and cycling safety

3 Advocate for Plenty Road upgrades

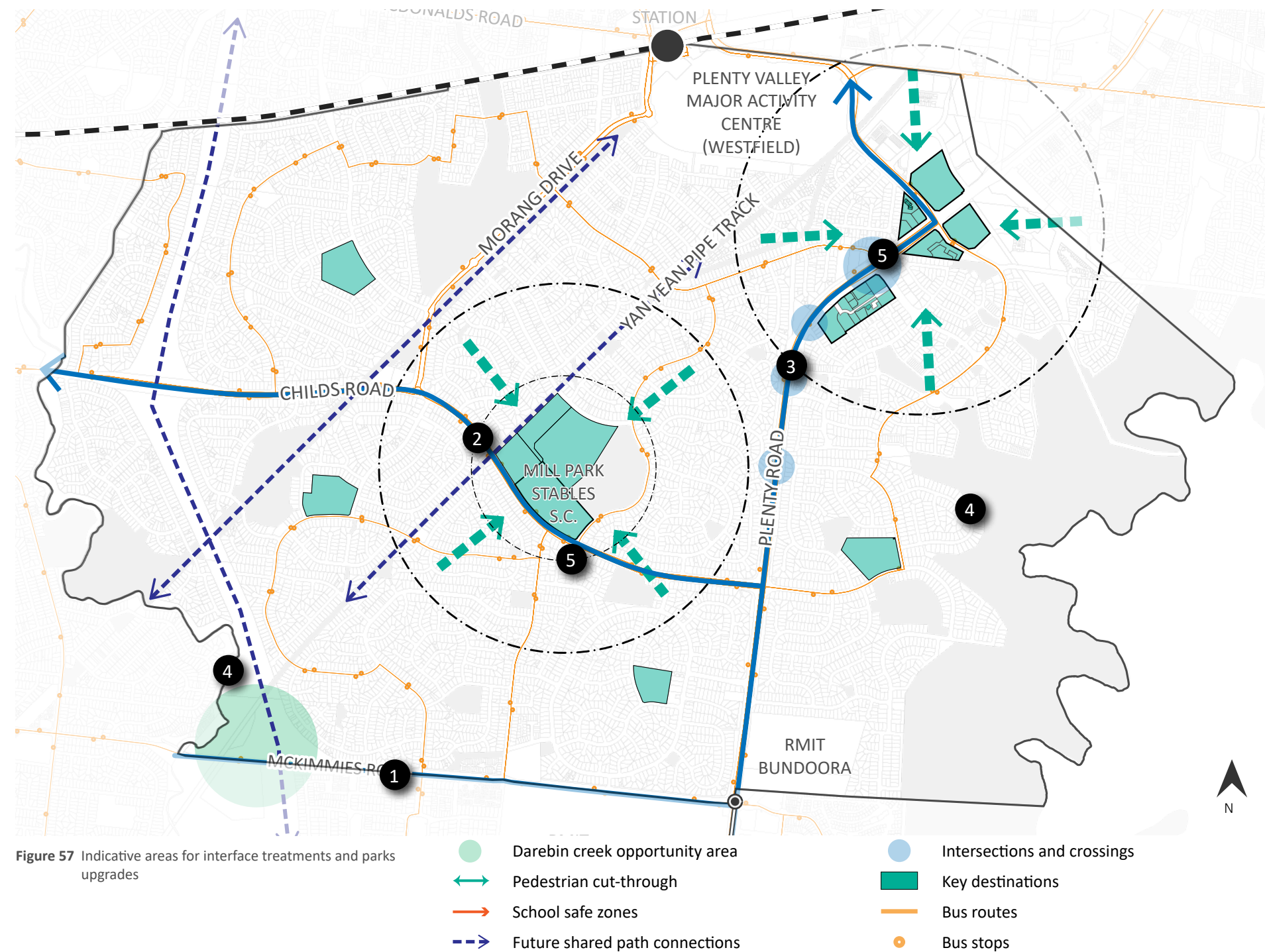
- Coordinate with local and state agencies for Tram 86 advocacy
- Advocate for off-road shared paths with lighting, seating, and shade
- Council to investigate potential growth with new Tram stops

4 Darebin Creek and Plenty River corridor

- Support delivery of missing trail sections
- Identify additional east-west connections along and connecting to waterway trails
- Enhance and preserve biodiversity while making corridors enjoyable for users.

5 Better support for town centres

- Encourage local employment opportunities.
- Increase accessibility to shops within an 800m radius
- Improve wayfinding to key destinations
- Work with landowners and businesses to improve facades and future planning
- Identify areas that can accommodate appropriate densities to support local economy.





Appendix

1. Current projects in Mill Park

The below list is a brief snapshot of existing projects already being undertaken within Mill Park. This is not a complete list of all active projects and there may be others. Including regular maintenance and other activities by Council or other authorities.

- 1 Mill Park Library wayfinding plan
- 2 Plenty River Trail landscape works
- 3 Yan Yean Pipe track shared path stage 3 (Childs Road to Moorhead Drive)
- 4 Peter Hopper Lake revitalisation
- 5 The Stables Kindergarten redevelopment

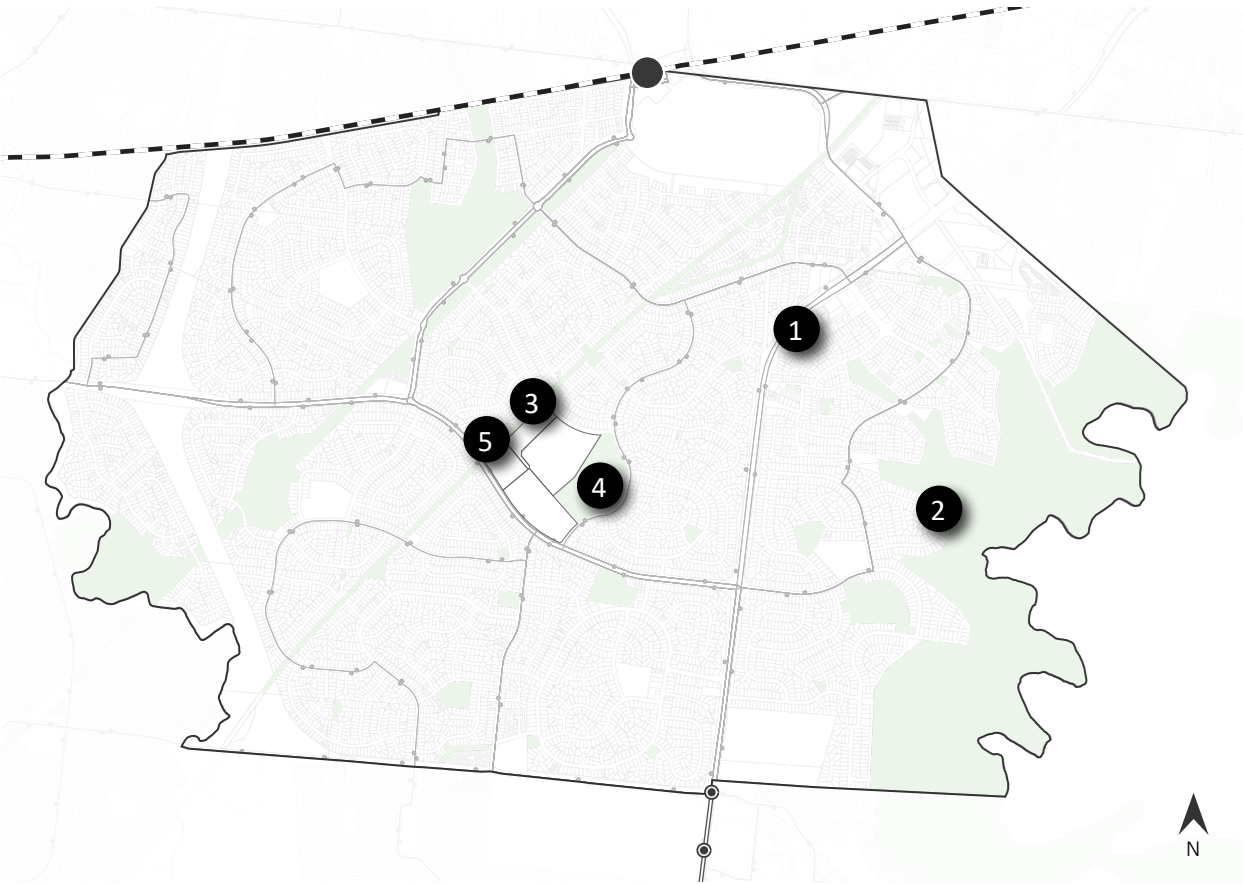


Figure 58 Projects being undertaken by Council and other authorities in Mill Park

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2. Opportunities, themes and place projects matrix

PLACE PROJECT IDEAS		OPPORTUNITIES										THEMES															
		GREENER SPACES					CONNECTED SPACES															THRIVING COMMUNITY AND CULTURE					LAND USE AND BUILT FORM
		Creating green corridors and increasing canopy cover. (E.G. Yan Yean pipe track, transmission easement)	Improve connections and signage to Plenty gorge parklands and darebin creek.	Preserve and enhance biodiversity corridors.	Programming and minor improvements to smaller parks to increase their patronage.	Promote and support active lifestyles within the community.	Address open space gaps through new connections or new parks.	Improve walking and cycling paths and connections.	Improving wayfinding and signage to important destinations.	Advocate to State Government on road safety issues along Childs Road and Plenty Road.	Advocacy for Tram 86 to be extended to South Morang Station.	Upgrade streetscapes in town centre environments.	Improve permeability and short-term activation across the proposed E6 corridor.	Exploring opportunities to upgrade Stables shopping centre to enhance community facilities and participation.	Mill Park library as a focal point for the community.	Potential to revamp outdated CAC facilities, co-locate services (childcare, MCH etc)	Tapping into the potential of the young people, services provided and RMIT.	Encourage programming of spaces with events, markets or support social enterprise to draw people and re-activate these hubs.	Investigate planning controls to improve appropriate density and mixed uses along Plenty Road corridor and near town centres.	Investigate gentle density or 'Greening the Greyfields' approach around key cul-de-sacs to improve walkability.	Place activation measures (e.g. mobile libraries) around community facilities to make people and parents stay there longer.	Need for strategic direction for Mill Park Stables, to reduce conflicts, PTV access, trees, and draw investment.	Celebration of Aboriginal and local culture through the built environment.	Plenty Valley is one of only areas to go to at night time, this could be an opportunity for other centres also.			
①	Safer streets to walk or ride to school				●		●								●			●						1	2	3	4
②	Improvements to community hubs				●			●							●	●					●	●		1	2	3	4
③	Revitalise key destinations				●			●			●		●	●		●	●			●	●	●	●	1	2	3	4
④	Re-imagining transmission easements and green corridors	●		●	●		●					●									●			1	2	3	4
⑤	Upgrading parks and improving residential interfaces				●		●	●													●			1	2	3	4
⑥	Identify ways to improve walkability through future development				●	●												●						1	2	3	4
⑦	Improve McKimmies Road				●		●																	1	2	3	4
⑧	Advocate for Child's Road improvements				●		●		●															1	2	3	4
⑨	Advocate for Plenty Road upgrades				●				●	●								●						1	2	3	4
⑩	Darebin Creek and Plenty River corridors		●																		●			1	2	3	4
⑪	Encourage town centre activation and upgrades				●	●					●		●					●			●	●	●	1	2	3	4
THEMES																											
1		Greener spaces																									
2		Connected places																									
3		Thriving community and culture																									
4		Land use and built form																									

Common Themes

Greener spaces

- Greening and vegetation
- Connections to waterways and open spaces
- Smaller parks as ther own destinations
- Wayfinding to to key destinations

Connected places

- Tram extension
- Traffic and pedestrian safety
- Pedestrian connections

Thriving community hubs

- Temporary activations at community hubs
- Events at Mill Park Stables
- Co-locating uses in community places such as Mill Park library

Land use and built form

- Perception of safety
- More housing and affordability
- Shop and streetscape upgrades

KEY ITEMS AS A GROUP IDENTIFIED IN THE PLACE FRAMEWORK	THEME ALIGNMENT
Refresh and upgrade	Landuse and built form
Safety @ stables	Landuse and built form
Smaller shop improvements	Landuse and built form
Tailor opportunities to future demographics	Thriving community hubs
RMIT students review (where to they go)	Thriving community hubs
Lots of transport options but not connected	Connected places
Old facilities needing revamp	Landuse and built form
Plenty gorge wayfinding and access to be improved	Greener spaces
Poor connections to Mcdonalds road and Westfield’s	Connected places
Kangaroo management	Greener spaces
Eastern side neglected more than west-side	Thriving community hubs
Co-locate new uses and connectivity	Thriving community hubs
Understand community voice! Especially business owners	Landuse and built form
Large chain and shops have impacted other shops	Landuse and built form
No train or trams - bus only	Connected places
Cycling - lack of safe paths	Connected places
Subdivision layout is bad	Landuse and built form
Better streetscapes	Greener spaces
Shops and park upgrades needed	Landuse and built form
Community services is a strength	Greener spaces
Large community presence	Thriving community hubs
More trees and more species needed	Greener spaces
More places as reasons to go.	Thriving community hubs
Safety with vehicles. Especially around schools	Thriving community hubs
Housing reform	Landuse and built form
Walking and cycling to shops and parks and schools can be improved	Connected places
East-west connectivity is poor. More than 1.5hours!	Connected places
Childcare and schools needed	Landuse and built form
Young people not feeling welcomed	Thriving community hubs
More housing/affordability	Landuse and built form

Takeways from Internal Engagement.

KEY ITEMS AS A GROUP IDENTIFIED IN THE PLACE FRAMEWORK	THEME ALIGNMENT
Community hub with events or temporary uses/ services	Thriving community hubs
Peak hour traffic and safety concerns	Connected places
Farmers market in Mill Park	Thriving community hubs
Make each park a destination in its own way	Greener spaces
Opportunity to make the Mill Park Library a HUB	Thriving community hubs
Stables need more greenery -such an amazing space that is underutilised	Greener spaces
Tram extension	Connected places
All roundabout paths are far away from actual crossing points	Connected places
Affordability and diversity is really important, but it needs to stay green and natural	Landuse and built form
Lack of lighting, safety	Landuse and built form

Takeways from External Engagement

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4. Background information

Mill Park character profile

Most of the precinct was developed during the 1970's and 1980's after the land was subdivided for residential development.

1970s development in south-east was consistently characterised by Mission Brown single-storey detached often accompanied by low or non-existent front fences.

1980s development in Western and Central Areas reflects a variety of architectural influences from the 1980s, showcasing diversity in design within the precinct.

In recent years, single lots are being subdivided for the development of multi-unit residences.

There are apartment dwellings and higher density around the Plenty Valley Town Centre in the northern part of Mill Park.

However, the urban pattern with curvilinear and court bowl networks proves a challenge to increase permeability. It also poses a challenge for larger developments in lot consolidation.



Figure 59 No front fences



Figure 61 Low, single storey



Figure 63 Gaps between buildings



Figure 60 Garden canopy trees



Figure 62 Subdued earth tones



Figure 64 5-9 m front setbacks

DRAFT

APPENDIX

Residential capacity areas

Walkability and access to amenities

The walkable catchment maps for the open spaces, access to public transport stops and town centres were overlaid to create a heat map.

The map shows areas that are in proximity to these amenities and public transport stops. Darker or reddish areas indicate the good walkable access whereas lighter or yellow coloured areas indicate poor access.

Data from other Council documents

Areas around Mill Park Stables, McKimmies Road, Plenty Road around University Hill and Bush Boulevard Town Centre indicate greater opportunity for increased dwelling densities.

There is also need to increase greenlinks and pedestrian cut throughs in the inner parts of the suburb to increase walkability.



LEGEND

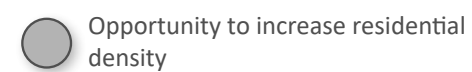
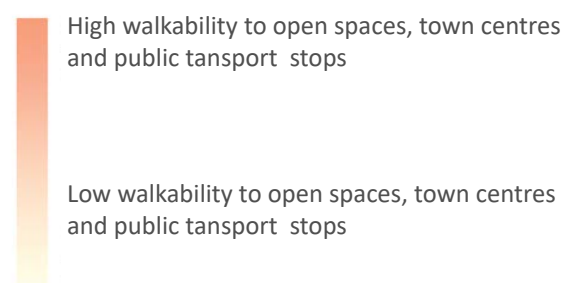


Figure 65 Base map shows combined heat map of walkability to open spaces, PTV and town centres and opportunities to increase density.

DRAFT

Greener Spaces



Figure 66 Canopy cover (above 3m in height)

- LEGEND**
- Mill Park Boundary
 - Tree locations above 3m
 - Areas with greater canopy cover



Figure 67 Flood extents for 20, 50, and 100 year using Council's flood data.

- LEGEND**
- Mill Park Boundary
 - Flood Prone areas
 - Areas with higher potential flooding issues

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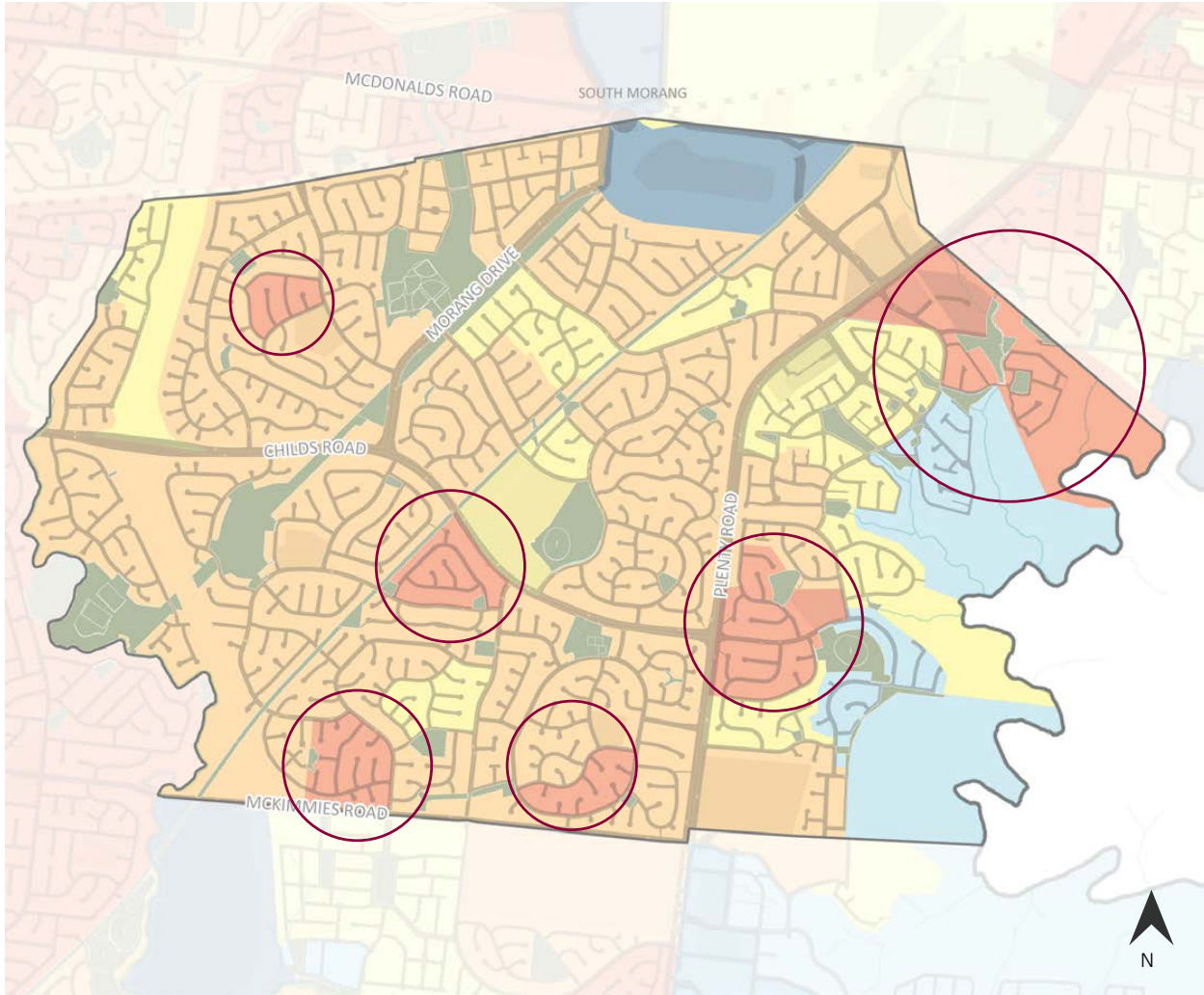


Figure 68 Heat Vulnerability Index (SA1)

- LEGEND**
- Mill Park Boundary
 - Heat vulnerability Index (0-5)
 - SA1 areas vulnerable to heat

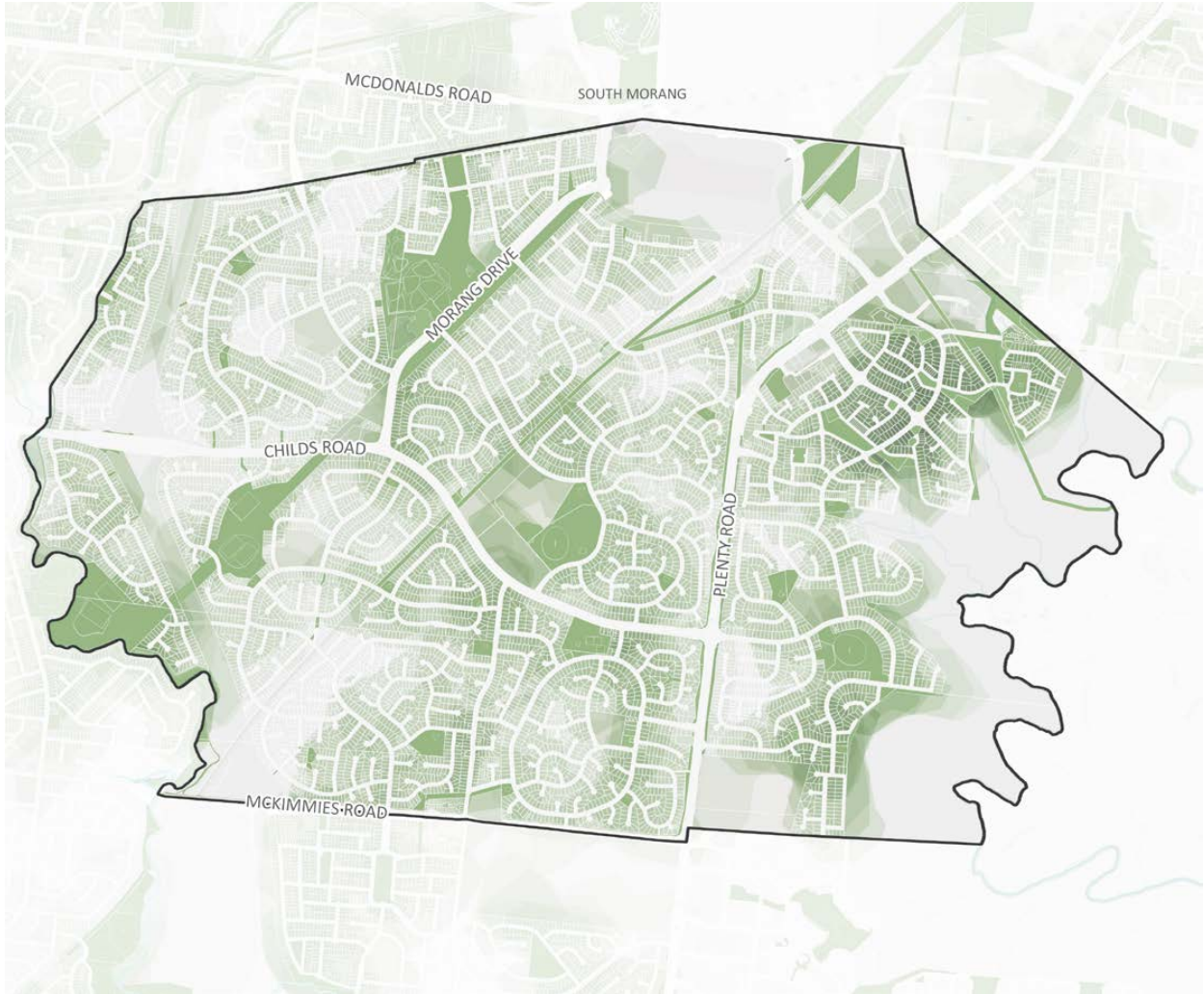


Figure 69 Walkable catchment from sporting facilities and reserves (200m, 400m, 800m) and parks (200m, 400m)

- LEGEND**
- Mill Park Boundary
 - Walkable catchments from open Space
 - Walkbale catchment gaps

DRAFT

Connected places



Figure 71 Major Advocacy projects

- LEGEND**
- Mill Park Boundary
 - - - Advocacy projects

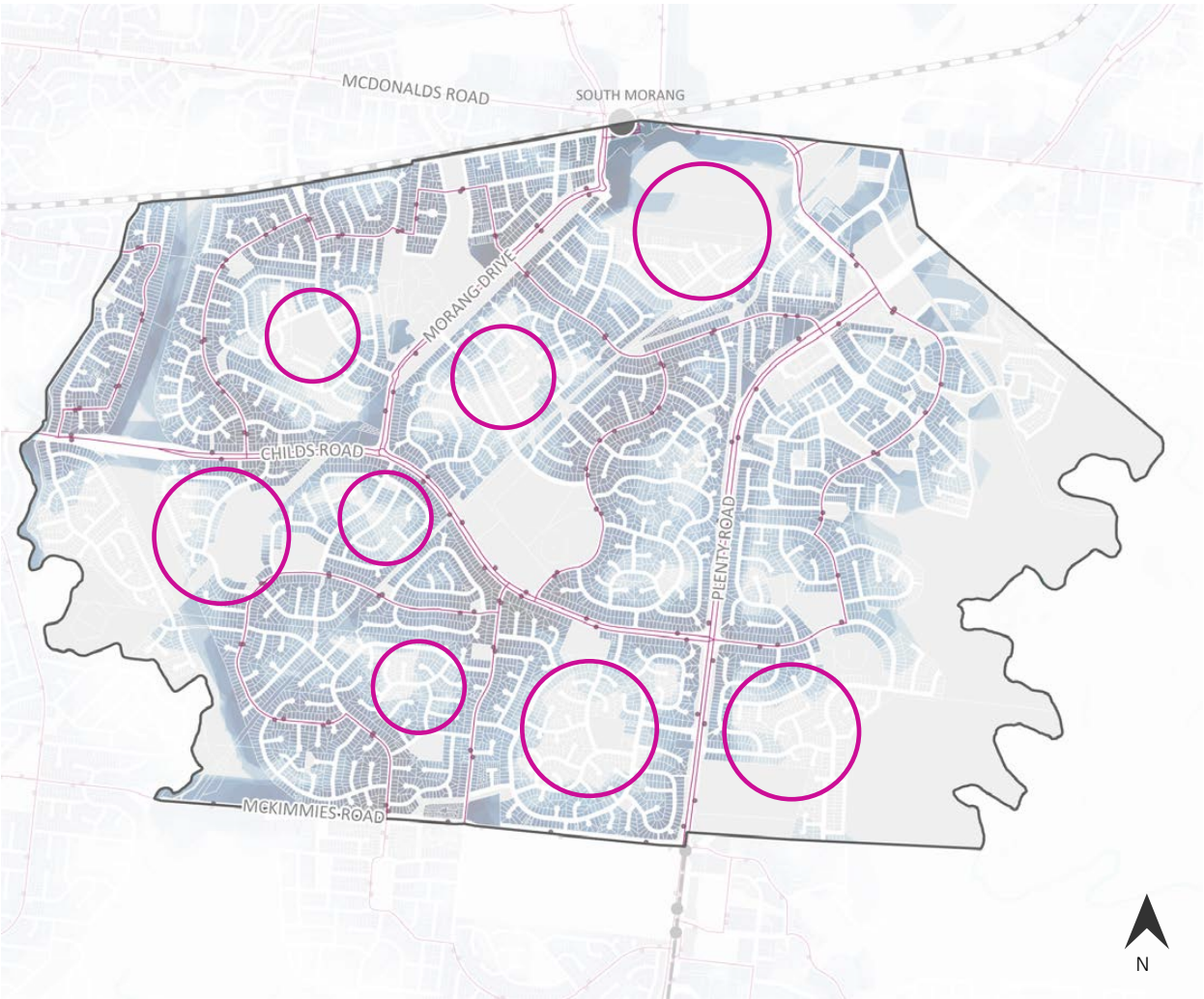


Figure 70 Walkable catchment from railway stations (200m, 400m, 800m) Bus and tram stops (200m, 400m).

- LEGEND**
- Mill Park Boundary
 - Walkable catchments from schools
 - Walkable catchment gaps
 - Bus route

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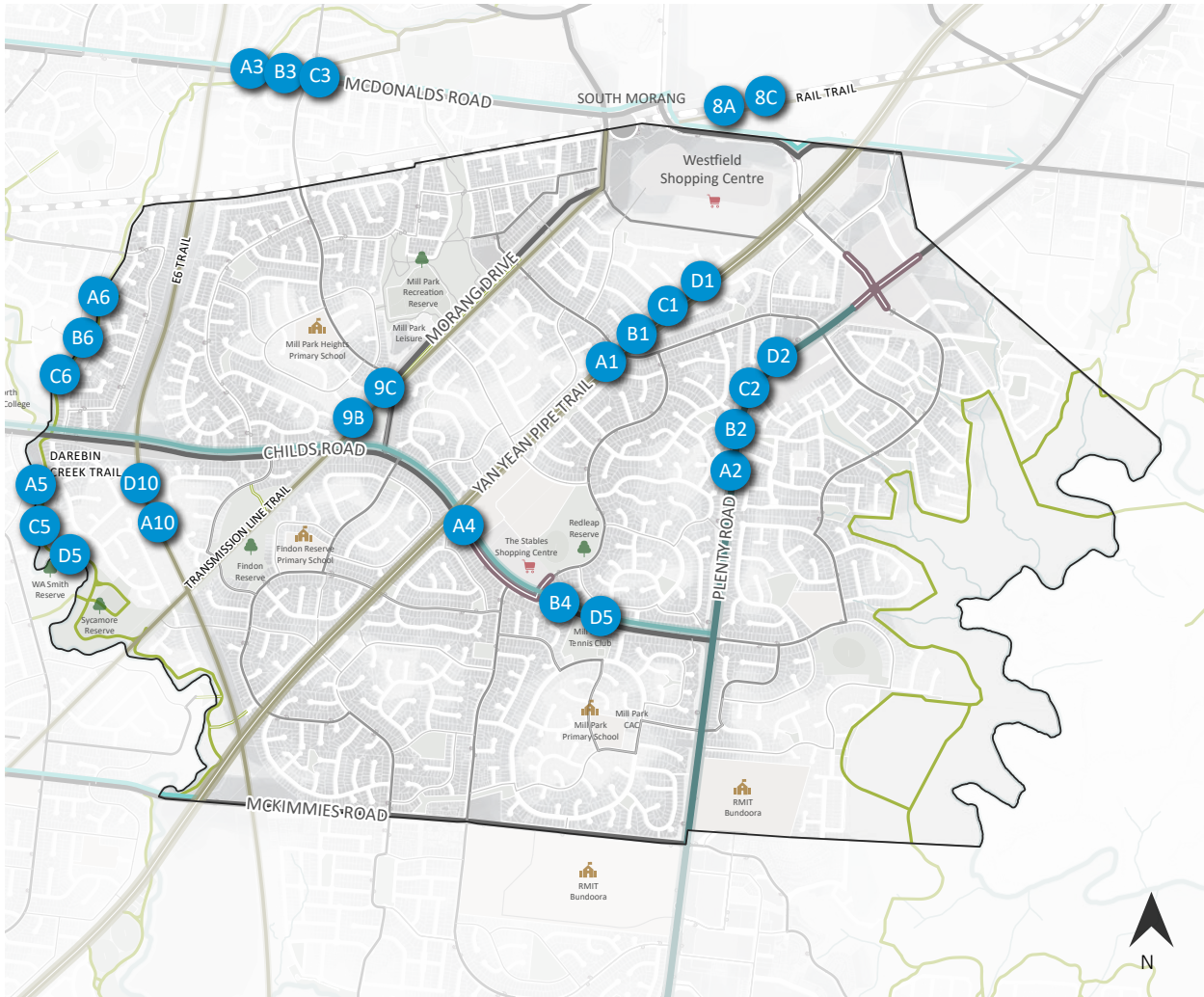


Figure 73 Transport priorities summary map

- LEGEND**

 - 1 Yan Yean pipe track
 - 2 Plenty road
 - 3 McDonalds road
 - 4 Childs road
 - 4 Darebin creek trail
 - 5 Hendersons road drain trail
 - 6 Dalton road
 - 7 South Morang rail trail
 - 8 Transmission line
 - 9 E6
 - A Place and Movement Plan
 - B Walking and Cycling Plan
 - C Norhtern Regional Trail Strategy
 - D Integrated Transport Strategy

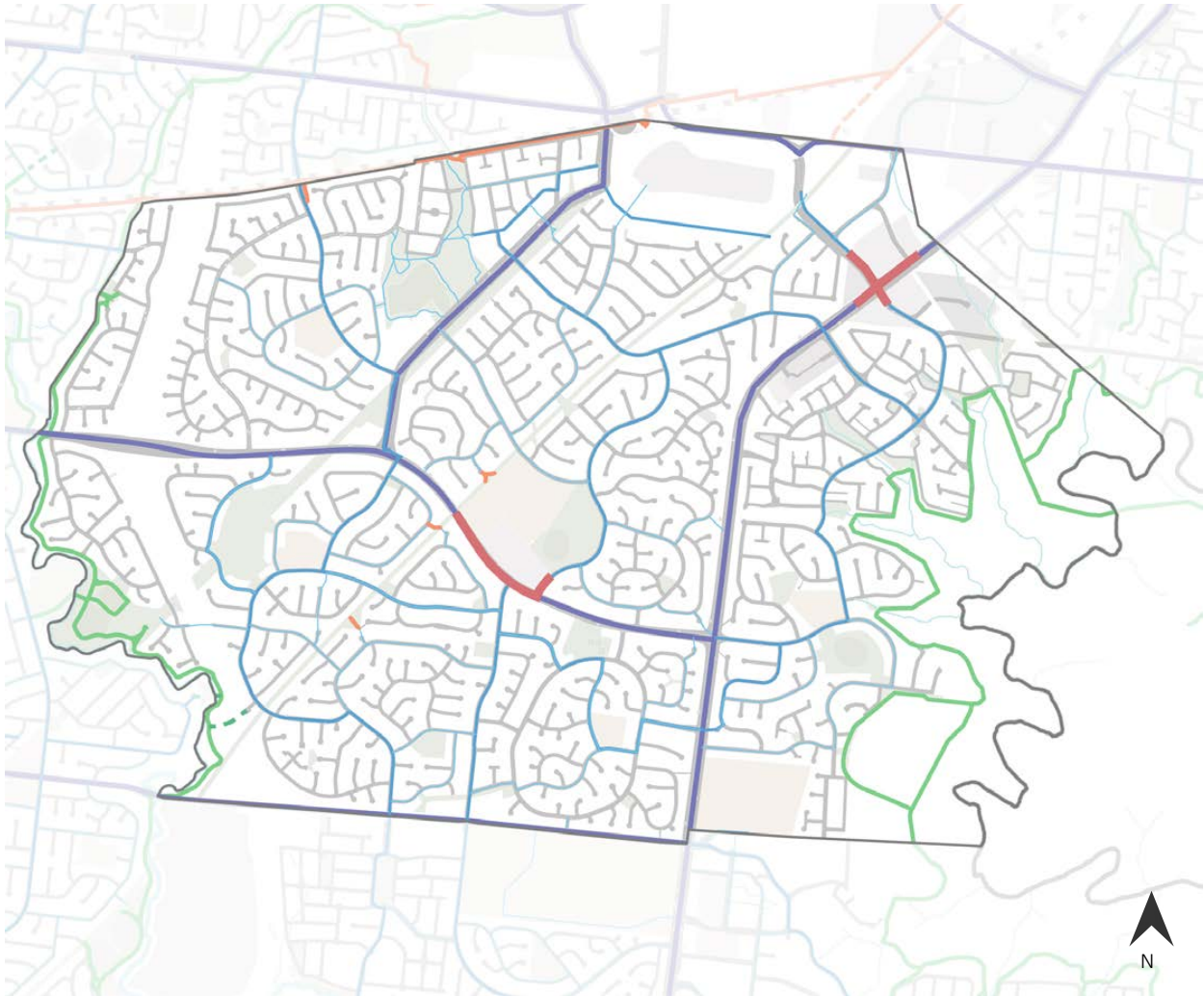


Figure 72 Place and Movement Plan summary map

- LEGEND**

 - Main activity street
 - Recreational trail
 - Missing recreational trail
 - Primary commuter trail
 - Missing primary commuter trail
 - Streets for people
 - Local links

DRAFT

Thriving community hubs

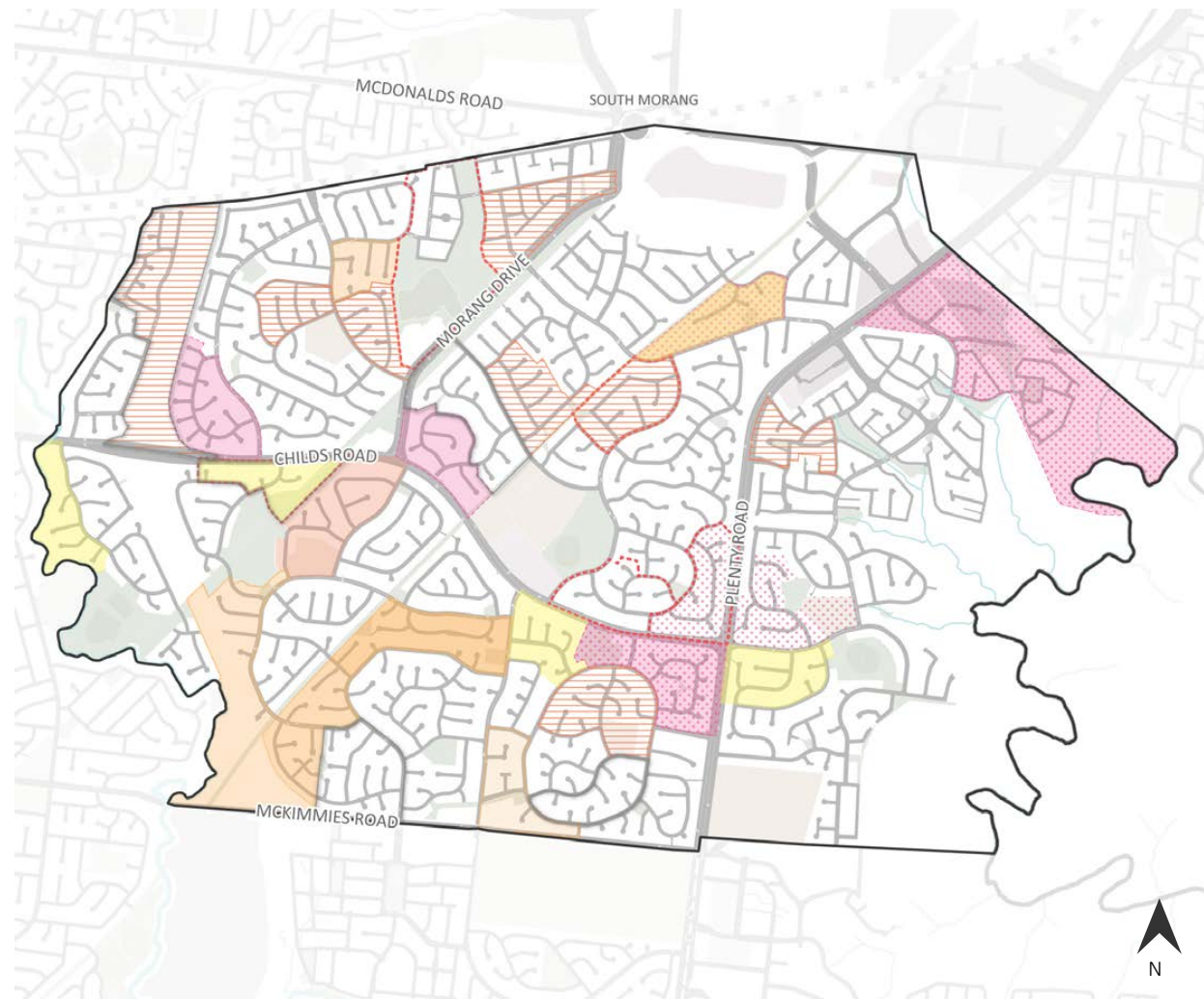


Figure 74 Lowest performing areas in Mill Park based on various factors. Data from ABS (SA1)

LEGEND

- Mill Park boundary
- Lower SEIFA ranking
- Higher % of people over 65 years of age
- Higher % travel by car
- Higher mortgage stress
- Higher rental stress
- Higher unemployment rate
- Higher long term health conditions

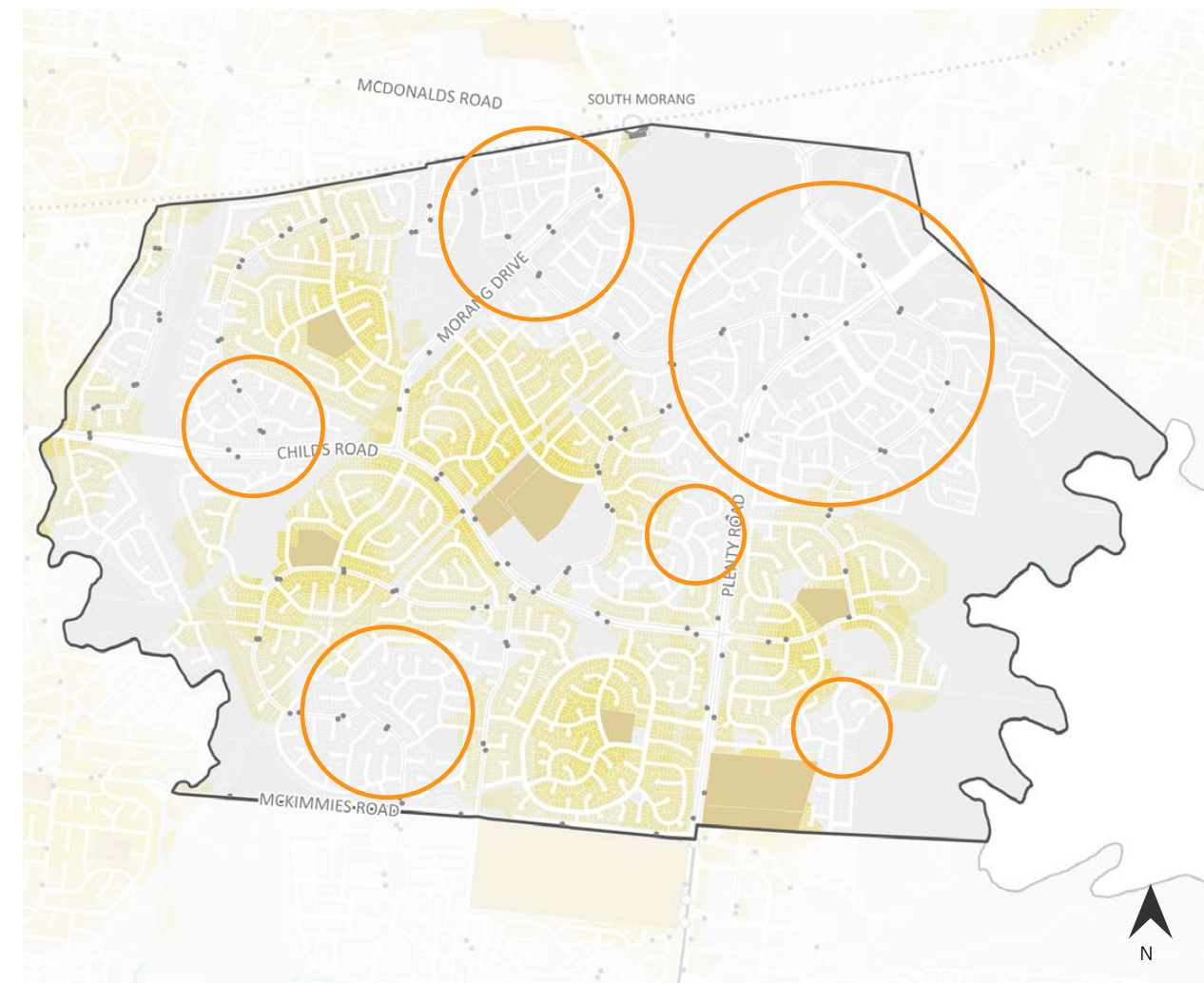


Figure 75 Walkable catchments from schools (200m, 400m and 800m)

LEGEND

- Mill Park Boundary
- Community Hubs
- Walkable catchments from schools
- Walkable catchment gaps

DRAFT

Land use and built form

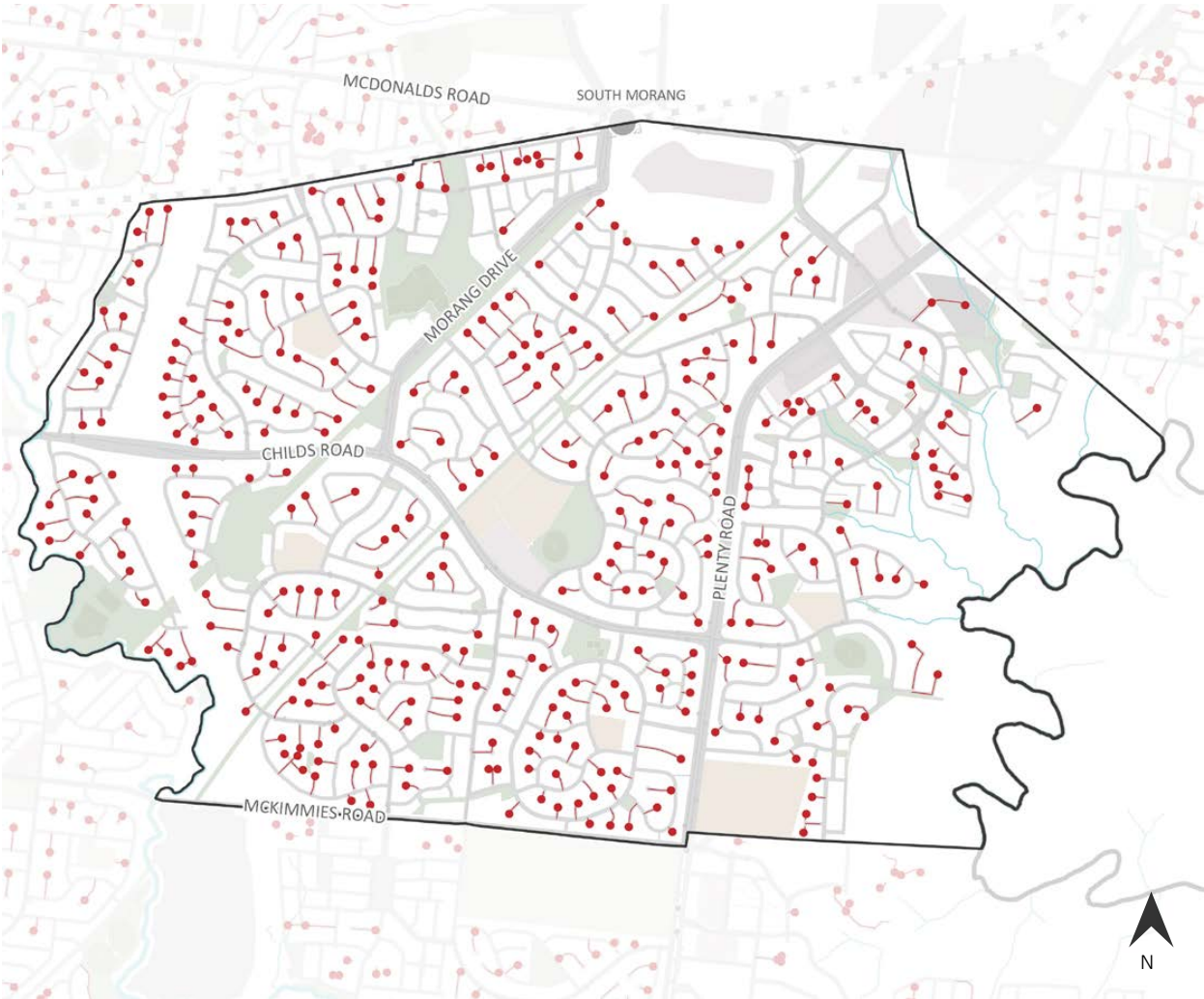


Figure 76 Location of cul-de-sacs or deadend streets in Mill Park

- Mill Park Boundary
- Deadend roads



Figure 77 Walkable catchments from town centres and shops. Base map shows walkable catchment from town centres at 200m, 400m, 800m.

- Mill Park Boundary
- Town centres
- Walkable catchments from town centres
- Walkable catchment gaps

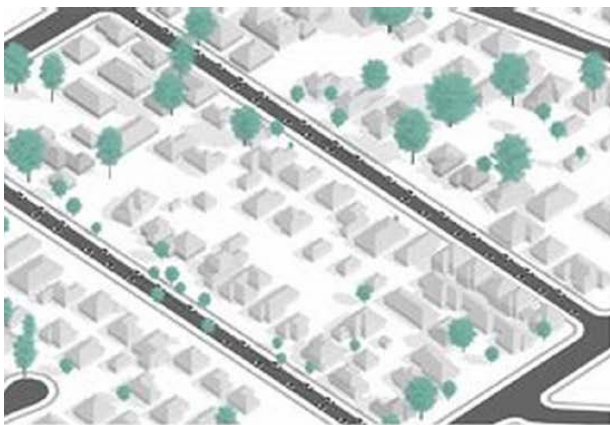


Greening the Greyfield

City of Maroondah has collaborated with the community and Swinburne University to develop a groundbreaking precinct aimed at addressing local issues through better design.

The Greening the Greyfields pilot project involves extensive research and land analysis to identify areas for beneficial development.


By working with property owners, developers, and the community, the program explores land amalgamation, transforming individual lots into larger precincts. This approach offers financial benefits and aims to create vibrant, active, and healthy neighborhoods.

Greening the Greyfields has been gazetted into Maroondah's Planning Scheme and offers some great learnings for other Councils to consider.

	<p><u>Original Greenfield Division</u></p> <p>Single lots</p> <p>Detached housing</p> <p>Low density</p> <p>Car dependent</p> <p>Now middle suburban</p> <p>Ageing housing</p> <p>Value now resides in land</p> <p>Reveloping</p>
	<p><u>Business-as-usual Greyfield Redevelopment</u></p> <p>Knock-down-rebuild</p> <p>Small lot subdivision</p> <p>Minimal increase in housing</p> <p>Suboptimal design</p> <p>Greenspace and tree loss</p> <p>Increased hard surfaces</p> <p>Increased stormwater run-off</p> <p>Increased urban heat</p> <p>Increase in private cars</p> <p>No new services, amenity</p>
	<p><u>Greyfield Precinct Regeneration</u></p> <p>Lot amalgamation</p> <p>Design innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- zero carbon housing- water sensitive design- higher dwelling yields- medium density- mixed dwelling types, sizes- maintain greenspace- redesign streetscape- improved non-car mobility <p>Community additionality/benefit</p>



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Free telephone interpreter service
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4.2 Doreen Dirt Jumps

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Coordinator Open Space Projects

In Attendance: Unit Manager Parks Development
Parks Project Manager

Executive Summary

The Mernda/Doreen corridor faced a shortage of BMX facilities, leading to the community building unsanctioned dirt jumps in public spaces. These unauthorised jumps caused damage and safety risks, especially during the COVID-19 lockdowns when jumps became more elaborate.

The City of Whittlesea's efforts to remove these structures led to backlash from the community at the time. In response, a petition from Doreen residents, with nearly 2,000 signatures, resulted in Council commissioning a feasibility study for a permanent dirt jump facility.

The feasibility study assessed potential sites, costs, and maintenance, leading to the selection of a suitable location.

Council is now in the process of developing a 12-month pilot program which will monitor the facility's maintenance and management and include substantial community engagement. "Learn to Dig" days will be organised during construction to educate users on maintenance, and a riders group will meet quarterly to discuss improvements and issues.

Monthly auditing by the Maintenance & Operations Department aims to ensure the facility's success and community involvement.

Construction initially set for completion in July 2024 has seen delays due to wet weather issues.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

- 1. Provide feedback on the process for developing the Doreen Dirt Jump Pilot Program.**
- 2. Support the Doreen Dirt Jumps pilot program.**

Background / Key Information

The Mernda/Doreen corridor had a significant shortage of BMX facilities. This lack of infrastructure led to the local community building their own unsanctioned dirt jumps within public spaces. These unauthorised constructions not only cause damage to reserve assets but also posed safety risks to users. The issue of illegal dirt jump construction was exacerbated during the COVID-19 lockdowns, with community members building more extensive and complex jumps.

In response, the City of Whittlesea continued to remove these unauthorised structures, leading to significant community backlash, and leaving the adjacent reserves in poor condition. This prompted the Doreen residents to create a petition for a permanent dirt jump facility, which gathered just under 2,000 signatures and attracted media attention. Consequently, the Council commissioned a 'Doreen Dirt Jumps' Feasibility Study to explore potential site locations, case studies, concept options, and costings.

A feasibility study was conducted to assess the practicality and viability of constructing and maintaining such a facility. A suitable site was also selected based on the outcomes of the feasibility study. A maintenance manual is currently being developed in collaboration with the contractor and Council's Maintenance & Operations Department. As this facility is the first of its kind in the City of Whittlesea, it has been implemented as a pilot program to allow Council to monitor the use and maintenance of the track over a 12-month period.

Implementation Strategy

Communication

The implementation of the Doreen dirt jumps project has involved substantial community engagement and feedback to understand the community's needs and preferences.

This has included workshops with the initial Advocacy Group, school workshops with Hazel Glen College, community pop-in sessions and an online engagement.

Further consultation will be undertaken through the construction period with "Learn to Dig" days, to educate community members on correct maintenance techniques, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. This will also be an opportunity for Council to develop a Community Management Committee consisting of local BMX enthusiasts.

Once the facility opens to the public, Council will monitor its management through the 12-month pilot program. This will include quarterly meet-ups at the jumps for the community management group. These meetings are intended to discuss maintenance, improvements and any issues that arise, ensuring continuous community engagement and oversight. Construction and maintenance efforts are collaborative, with community members and experts working together to build safe and sustainable jumps.

Critical Dates

Construction was scheduled to be completed in July 2024, though we have had delays due to wet weather conditions that impacted the timeline. It is currently anticipated that work will commence in late July 2024 and be completed in August / September 2024.

The "Learn to Dig" days have been postponed to align with the new construction program. The 12-month pilot program will commence once the facility opens to the public with meetings with the Community Management Committee to be held on a quarterly basis.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers providing advice to Council are required to disclose any conflict of interest they have in a matter and explain the nature of the conflict.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Attachments

1. DOREE N 11- Jumptrack Plan [**4.2.1** - 1 page]
2. Appendix 3 - Doreen Dirt Jumps Feasibility [**4.2.2** - 76 pages]
3. Image 7 006 [**4.2.3** - 1 page]
4. Articles BMX kids to ride high [**4.2.4** - 1 page]

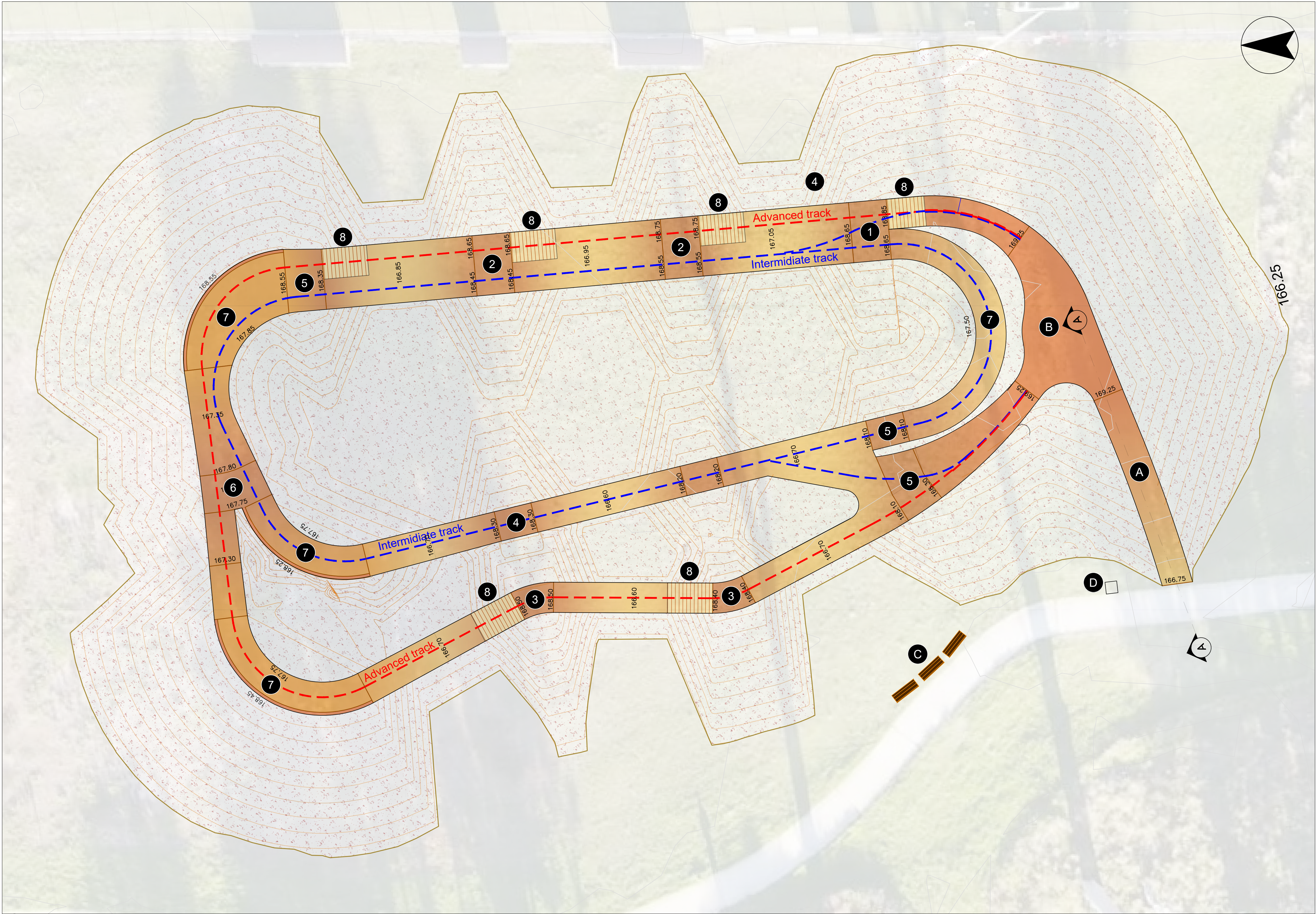
Jump track Width: 2-4m
Advanced track length: 135m
Intermediate track length: 120m

Legend:

- Compact Soil
- Mulch
- Timber feature

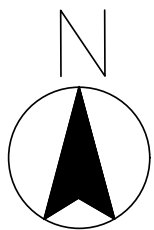
- A Ramp Entrance
- B Start/Rest area
- C Spectator seating
- D Water fountain and tap

- 1 Step Down Jump
- 2 Side by side Jumps with two riding Levels: 1.80 High Jump and 1.60 High Jump
- 3 1.80 High Jump
- 4 1.60 High Jump
- 5 Step up Jump
- 6 Double Roller
- 7 Berm
- 8 Timber Ramp



1 Jumptrack Plan
A Scale 1:125

Notes:



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stage: Design Concept
client: City of Whittlesea
project: Project Name
Doreen Dirt Jumps

drawn by: I.S.
file: Jumptrack plan
revision: -
date: 06.03.2024
scale: 1:125@A1

sheet: A



DOREEN DIRT JUMPS FEASIBILITY STUDY

November 26th 2020



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT //

Enlocus acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum and pay respect to their Elders - past, present and emerging - and recognise their long and continuing connection to their Country.

The Enlocus project team wish to thank City of Whittlesea for their contribution and comments.

PREPARED BY //



IN ASSOCIATION WITH //



THANK YOU TO ALL
CONTRIBUTORS //

00 CONTENTS //

00 CONTENTS //

01 PROJECT INTRODUCTION //

INTRODUCTION
STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

02 CASE STUDIES //

CITY DIRT, SA
ANGLESEA BIKE PARK, VIC
“CASE OF SPADES”, VIC
BLACK HILL TRAILS, VIC
HAWTHORNSDENE JUMPS, SA
DIAMOND CREEK TRAILS, VIC
KENSINGTON BMX PARK, VIC
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

03 SITE SELECTION //

KEY PLAN
DOREEN CATCHMENT AND AMENITY PLAN
SITE OPTION ANALYSIS
01A. ORCHARD RD
01B. ORCHARD RD
02A. FITZWILLIAMS DRIVE (WEST OF DOREEN DOG PARK)
02B. FITZWILLIAMS DRIVE (WEST OF DOREEN DOG PARK)
03A. 20W ELATION BOULAVARD
03B. 20W ELATION BOULAVARD
04. PAINTED HILLS RESERVE (WEST OF SOCCER), EMINENCE BOULEVARD
05. LAURIMAR CREEK RESERVE, PAINTED HILLS ROAD
06. LAURIES FIELD, BROOKWOOD AVENUE
07. HILL TOP PARK LANDANO WAY
08. WOMBAT CORNER, HURREY AVENUE
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

2 04 SITE EVALUATION MATRIX //

EVALUATION INTRODUCTION
3 SITE EVALUATIONS
3 EVALUATION RESULTS
4

6 05 DIRT JUMPS OPTIONS //

8 DIRT JUMPS OPTIONS
20 SITE ARRANGEMENT FEASIBILITY
28 PRELIMINARY COSTINGS
30
32
34
36
38

40

41
43
44
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
53
54
55
56

58

59
60
64

66

67
71
74

01 PROJECT INTRODUCTION //

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

The City of Whittlesea has a growing number of BMX, mountain bike (MTB) and dirt jumping riders living in the municipality. To meet this population demand, there have been several facilities built in the municipality (e.g. Whittlesea BMX track, Sycamore Reserve BMX track), however there is an absence along the Mernda/Doreen corridor.

Currently, local riders fill this gap with unregulated dirt jumps which may pose numerous safety risks to riders and others using these public spaces. This presents a problem for Council, but also indicates a strong enthusiasm amongst the riding community for helping to develop and maintain their own riding facilities.

In line with key objectives identified in Whittlesea Cycle and Skate Strategy, the City of Whittlesea is seeking to expand its provision of riding infrastructure in key growth areas.

In August of 2020, Enlocus were engaged to undertake a preliminary feasibility investigation. This report presents a series of case studies to evaluate the strengths and opportunities presented by some of the region and the country's best-loved dirt jumps. A set of 11 sites are detailed and evaluated, with preferred site options nominated and three preliminary concept designs proposed for illustration and indicative costings.



Young riders of Doreen chat with Council



Informal dirt jumps are constructed throughout City of Whittlesea by local community

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

WHITTLESEA CYCLE AND SKATE STRATEGY 2015-2025

The Whittlesea Cycle and Skate Strategy outlines the municipality's needs for a hierarchy of facilities, in order to assist with the planning and development of wheeled sports facilities.

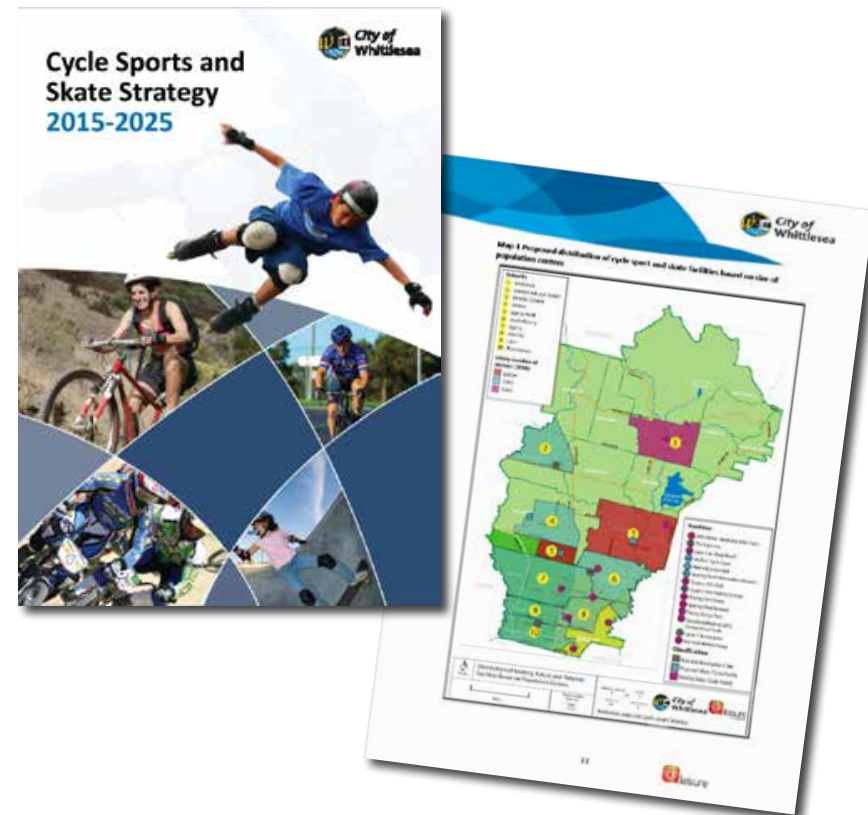
In order to meet current and predicted future demands, the Strategy makes key recommendations:

There are four key directions that should underpin the proposed planning and provision of cycle sports, skate and scooter facilities:

1. Equitably distributed, central and easy to get to facilities
2. Facilities designed, constructed and managed so they are fit-for-purpose
3. Programs, events and competitions at suitable venues
4. One or more sustainable cycle clubs

** page 7. Whittlesea Cycle and Skate Strategy 2015-2025*

These directions mandate that proper site selection of any future bike sports infrastructure, including dirt jumps, should consider the distribution and connection to communities not yet catered for.



THRIVING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES STRATEGY

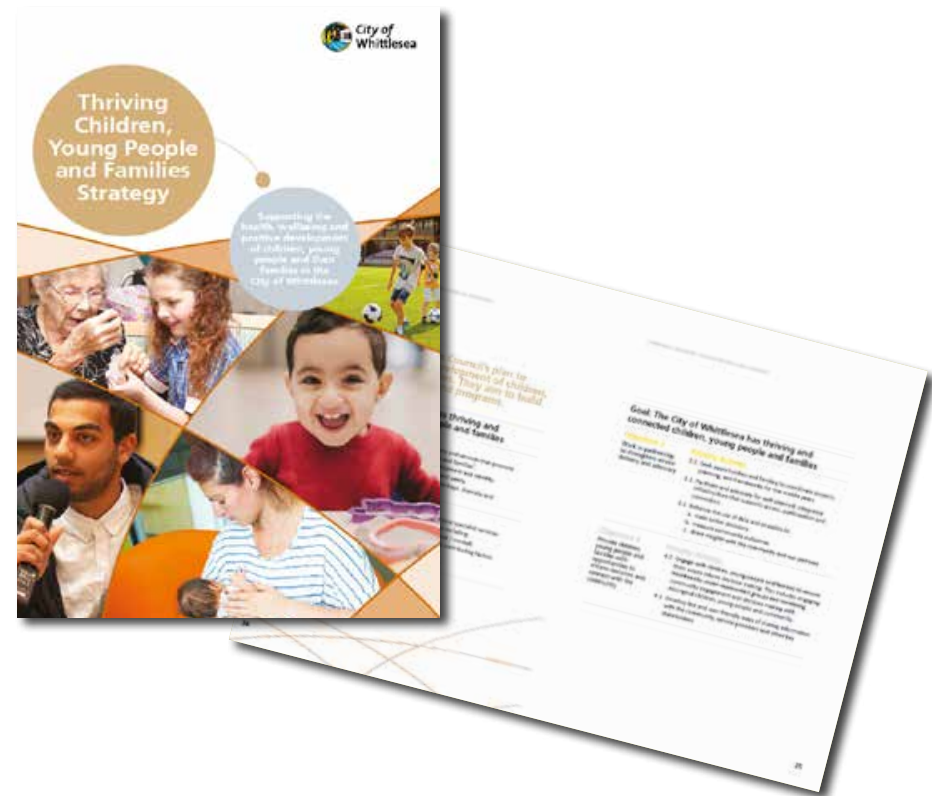
This strategy helps Whittlesea to support the development and wellbeing of its young people.

Supporting young people to be involved in the procurement of facilities they will use is in line with one of the Strategy's key goals.

Objective 4: Provide children, young people and families with opportunities to inform decisions and connect with the community.
Priority Actions

4.0 Engage with children, young people and families to ensure their voices inform decision making. This includes engaging traditionally under-represented groups and increasing community engagement and decision making with Aboriginal children, young people and community.
4.1. Develop fast and user-friendly ways of sharing information with the community, service providers and other key stakeholders.

* page 25. Thriving Children, Young People and Families Strategy



02 CASE STUDIES //

KEY DIRT JUMPS AROUND AUSTRALIA

- A. CITY DIRT, ADELAIDE, SA
- B. ANGLESEA BIKE PARK, ANGLESEA, VIC
- C. CASE OF SPADES, PLENTY GORGE, VIC
- D. BLACK HILL JUMPS, BALLARAT, VIC
- E. HAWTHORNSDENE BIKE PARK, HAWTHORNSDENE, SA
- F. DIAMOND CREEK JUMPS, DIAMOND CREEK, VIC
- G. KENSINGTON BMX PARK, KENSINGTON SOUTH, VIC



THE STATE OF THE DIRT

Some of Australia's most used dirt jumps began as community initiatives, with trails dug into municipal parks, reserves, Crown land, state forests and other public land. Unfortunately, many DIY community-run trails contravene local laws and are removed by Councils.

However, over time some trails prove so popular with the community, or are so well organised that they have either become legitimate as Council-operated infrastructure, or via committees of management (e.g. Anglesea Bike Park and City Dirt). These successes are due mostly to the diligence of a dedicated base of riders who commit time and energy to developing and maintaining the space.

Some of the parks outlined in this section contravene local laws but remain popular (e.g. Case of Spades). These trails offer a valuable place for young people to ride together and express themselves without oversight. However these parks don't provide the level of access and supervision required to make them safe in case of accident or misuse.

Finally, several of these parks are planned with local government from the outset and have strong consideration of public amenity, access and safety (e.g. Black Hill Jumps, Kensington BMX Park).

KEY TAKE AWAYS FROM CASE STUDIES

1. The riding community are passionate and with proper communication, can be relied on to maintain and manage their riding facilities to a professional standard.
2. For a jumps track to remain relevant, riders want a place where they can develop their skills in-situ
3. Trails should have increased social capacity by providing a number of social areas, both formal and informal
4. Community-run facilities should have safe storage for maintenance equipment that can be centrally managed. This is also helpful for planning events.
5. Access is crucial to planning a safe and compliant park

CASE STUDY A:

CITY DIRT

LOCATION: Blue Gum Park / Kurangga (Park 20), Adelaide, SA
 AREA: 9000m² approx

CITY DIRT CREW

The City Dirt Crew are an incorporated organisation that manages the maintenance of City Dirt at Kurangga. They began the City Dirt trails in the mid 2000s, working with local riders to build and protect the trails. eventually they formed an incorporated organisation through which Council conducts the business of site management, maintenance and design.

City Dirt Crew rely on the Adelaide riding community for upkeep at the trails. The crew host regular site working bees, and have set up several lockable storage facilities onsite to keep tools and machinery at the ready. Over time, the crew has negotiated use of Council's park services and now has a source of water onsite to prevent jumps from drying out.



City Dirt Crew volunteer maintenance



City Dirt Crew constructing berm, with drainage visible at base

Still from City Dirt Crew kickstarter video, see <http://www.citydirtcrew.com/history>

CITY DIRT MASTER PLAN**June 2019**

City of Adelaide and Oxygen

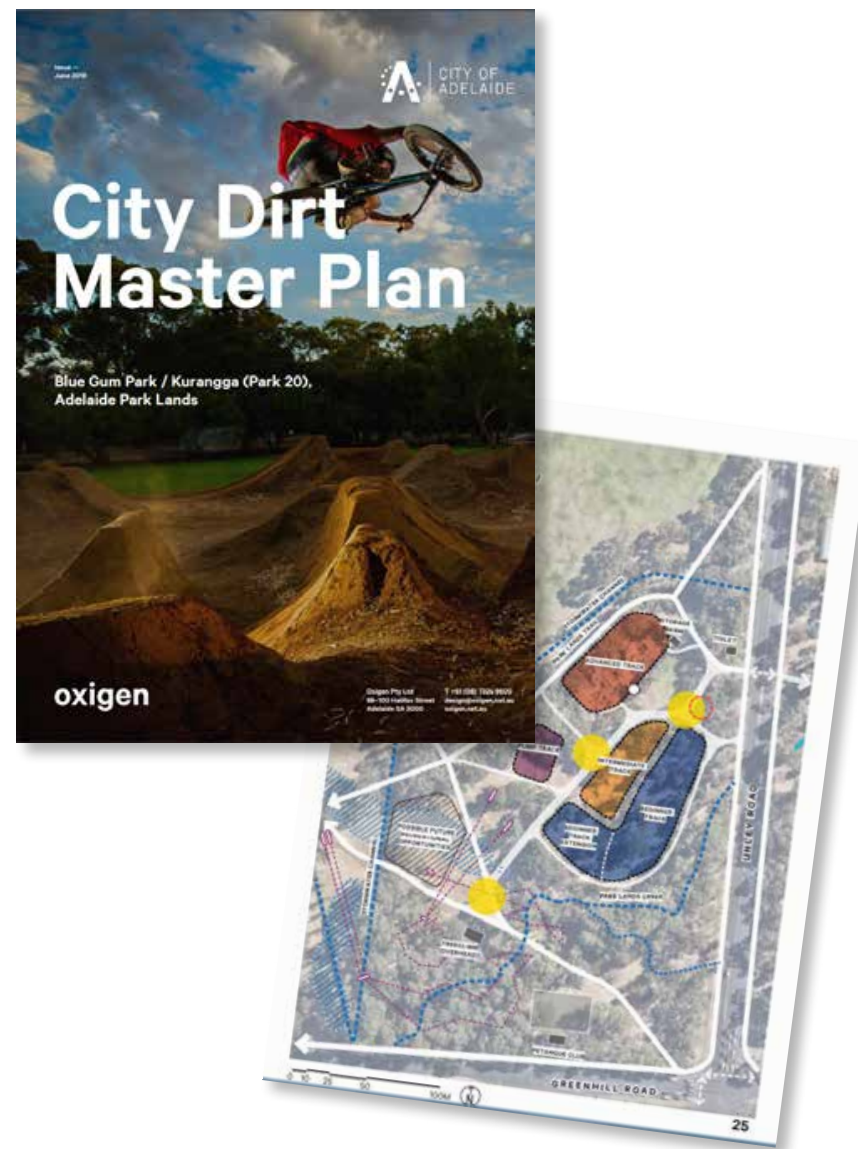
The City Dirt Master Plan responds to prior works that changed the long-running community established dirt jumps in Adelaide's park lands. It focuses strongly on the efforts by community to manage the dirt jumps, and makes many allowances for their continued leadership over design, maintenance and stewardship.

Volunteers have provided construction and maintenance services for the BMX facilities over the past 8-10 years with a focus on the development of the Advanced Track. **The volunteer group are well organised and have formalised their status as an incorporated organisation called the City Dirt Crew.** Supported by a strong community of riders the volunteers collaborate with Council regarding maintenance, resources and proposed changes.

1,180 volunteer hours between January 2018 and December 2018

City of Adelaide Council recognises the important contribution provided by the volunteer group and provides ongoing support and assistance with maintenance activities.

** page 11. City Dirt Master Plan, 2019*







- Approx 1800m²
- Large starting mound with staircase and balustrade
- Jumps up to 2.5m high with gaps
- Variety of main jumps, rollers, set ups, tabletops and step-ups.
- Multiple runs flowing through one another



- Approx 1400m²
- Focus on skills development and appropriate challenge
- Some opportunities for air
- Some jump elements to prepare for use of advanced track
- Intermediate track is the source of many complaints about unbalanced difficulty



- Approx 2500m²
- Very low level mounds
- Focus on bicycle handling and control on uneven surfaces
- Friendly for very young users



- Approx 500m²
- Low rollers and berms
- Focus on pumping to build and maintain speed
- Strong consideration of rhythm, distance, heights

DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY

KEY TAKE AWAYS



WORKING WELL...

- Variety of trail types caters for both BMX and MTB
- Different heights accommodate different skillsets, allowing riders to develop skills adjacent to the next generation
- Strong oversight from experienced riders means elements are revised and maintained when needed



HOWEVER...

- Finding the balance of accessibility vs. skill advancement in beginner and intermediate tracks is controversial
- Some styles miss out, such as Mountain Cross.

DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY





- No standing zones and vehicle crossovers allow 24 hour access for maintenance crews entering via Unley Rd



- Shared pathways throughout the park allow visitors and passers-by to ride right up to the destination

KEY TAKE AWAYS



WORKING WELL...

- Well serviced by central downtown location
- 2hr parking abuts park edge
- Close riding distance to schools
- Within short distance of local supermarkets



HOWEVER...

- Contested use of park paths





- Accessible toilets placed to consider passive on-street surveillance



- Lockable storage shed dugout beneath the starting mound allows regular visitors to maintain the facility and protect it from weather with tarpaulins, hoses, and protective equipment.

KEY TAKE AWAYS



WORKING WELL...

- The provision of lockable storage is crucial for the City Dirt Crew's site maintenance
- 3 phase power outlet facilitates food trucks, AV requirements for public events



HOWEVER...

- No shade sails or shelters provided at present

MAINTENANCE Q&A with CITY DIRT CREW

En = Enlocus, CDC = City Dirt Crew

En: You mentioned your good relationship with council. What kind of autonomy do you have here? (ie. freedom to maintain jumps, but not build new ones without approval?)

CDC: "We have the freedom to maintain and make slight modifications to the track with out council involvement. For example resurfacing a lip or changing the shape of a roller. If we want to make a larger modification to the track like change a roller into a jump then we need to get the ok from the council. We do this by emailing the council a change request. The email states things like what the change is going to be, where it is located, how major this change is to the track, how long the change will take,when the change will take place and what resources will be required to make the change."

En: What do you need from council in terms of maintenance? Do council come and inspect? Regularly?

CDC: "The main things we need to maintain the facility are water access points (taps), tools which include shovels,picks,rakes,hoses, ppe etc and a storage unit to put the tools in. The council provides a limited budget for tools annually.

The council also provides their usual services around the facility. For example rubbish removal, cleaning of BBQ's, mowing of lawns etc.

The council's inspection of the site is adhoc but I would suggest they would visit the site every couple of months for one reason or another. Be it talking through a major change to the site or a on site volunteer induction."

En = Enlocus, CDC = City Dirt Crew

En: How often do you do maintenance? Who makes these decisions?

CDC: "We maintain our jumps daily. I would say our facility is high maintenance. This is for two reason. Our facility is large and used by many people, many who often do not understand trail etiquette. And because of the style of jumps we have chosen to build. We are into "trails" which are require more maintenance then dirt jumps, bmx race tracks or slopestyle jumps.

As riders and volunteers we can see when features require maintenance and make the decision to conduct the maintenance."

En: Is your surface all pretty uniform? Where do you source it from?

"We do our best to keep the surface of the trails uniform. The challenge to this comes from the user group. Kids climb and run on the jumps, people ride on the jumps when they are very wet and people do not water the jumps before riding when dry (otherwise know as dry riding). All of these things and more lead to the breaking down of the trail surface. We try and counter this through community education, physical prevention like use of tarps and we also use soil stabaliser on some areas of the track.

At City Dirt we have lots of different types of dirt. Originally the council donated clean fill as this was free. But clean fill can often be contaminated with rocks, rubbish and weeds so I would not advise this. If you are going to purchase dirt it can be done through a sand and gravel supplier. I would suggest a dirt that is roughly 70% clay based soil and 30% sand based soil."

Thanks to Nigel from City Dirt Crew

MAINTENANCE Q&A with CITY OF ADELAIDE

En = Enlocus, COA = City of Adelaide

En: What is relationship between Council and City Dirt Crew? What level of freedom do they have in managing the site on Council property?

COA: "The facility as a whole is managed by Council as a Council facility but City Dirt's role is evolving. City Dirt until recently was primarily established to maintain/inform the advanced section only. This has certainly evolved in recent years as evidenced by the work they did and continue to do on the pump track and intermediate track. We have a really good relationship, they cover most of the maintenance of the advanced track and more recently the pump and intermediate tracks with support from us. They are certainly our eyes on the ground though and keep us updated on usage trends, or any areas of concern.

Any of the volunteers register and are supported through Council's volunteer program, they are all fully inducted and made aware of SOPs and we have a process for them to track their volunteer hours each month.

If they want to make any major changes or adjustments to the tracks, they have seek permission first. We then provide approval before they go ahead. We can support them through our grants program if needed but they usually fundraise pretty well. We seek their feedback on any changes we need to make and included them in the recent master planning of the facility."

En: What do you give in terms of maintenance? Do Council come and inspect regularly?

COA: "There is a small budget annually to provide any PPE and additional equipment such as spades etc, they work directly with our public realm team for this. I don't think there is a specific Council inspection but they are in regular contact with our horticulture team and our public realm team are on site probably weekly for maintenance of areas outside of the track. There are conditions of use signage etc at the facility that guide the general public."

En: Under Vic law there is a possibility of running a special management committee which can operate a public asset on behalf of Council (but via a committee not elected to Council), does City Dirt run similarly?

COA: "No they are a volunteer run not for profit, Council are not part of their committee."

Thanks to Thomas Beales from City of Adelaide

CASE STUDY B:

ANGLESEA BIKE PARK

LOCATION: Anglesea, VIC

AREA: 1ha

4X TRACK LENGTH: 400m

JUMP TRACK LENGTH: 120m

ANGLESEA BIKE PARK COMMUNITY

Anglesea Bike Park was constructed in 2006 after intense community support and lobbying. The design was conducted by trail builder Glen Jacobs of World Trail, and was a partnership between the Anglesea community, Surf Coast Shire and Alcoa.

The park offers a wide downhill trail specifically designed for Mountain Cross (also known as four cross or 4X), which accommodates racing. This is coupled with a downhill jumps track and a skills park at the base of the hill.

MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Anglesea Bike Park is managed by Anglesea Bike Park Committee of Management, a community organisation with members from Anglesea, riding groups and also with representation from the Surf Coast Shire and Alcoa.

Under section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989, community asset committees may be formed to directly manage daily operational activities at recreational reserves on behalf of Council.

Anglesea Bike Park hosts four meetings per year, with an AGM in October. Meetings are open to public. Minutes go to Council to approve any changes to the land and management thereof.



Trails follow hill topography



First professionally designed and constructed Mountain Cross course in Victoria



Focus on high speed riding

Q&A WITH ANGLESEA BIKE PARK (ABP):

En: What kind of relationship do you have with Council? What level of autonomy do you have here?

ABP: "The Anglesea Bike Park (ABP) is a Surf Coast Shire Council facility (like a skate park or playground) and is managed by a voluntary committee of management. The ABP has full autonomy over the maintenance, improvement and development of the ABP"

En: Do council come and inspect? Regularly?

ABP: "The ABP committee of management is responsible to make council aware of any issues affecting the safe operation of the facility. Rectification work of a minor scale is undertaken by the committee and volunteers with major works carried out by council or contractors."

En: How often do you do maintenance?

ABP: "Regular maintenance is ideally carried out by the committee and volunteers through quarterly working bees"

En: Who makes these decisions? Are community involved?

ABP: "The ABP committee of management is the main decision making body for the ABP. The committee whilst made up of members from the local community also seeks input from the broad range of riders that use the facility."

En: Is your surface all pretty uniform?

ABP: "The ABP is constructed from local soils which are present on site."

En: Where do you source it from?

ABP: "When sourcing materials council must be involved to ensure the material complies with their OH&S policies and safety standards. Most likely your council will want to engage a professional trail building company to provide an overall design and build."



Anglesea Bike Park volunteer maintenance



Community fighting to save the park



Some parts of the trails are appropriate for beginner riders

Thanks to Ari from Anglesea Bike Park





DIRT JUMPS TRACK

- Jumps, rollers and tabletops between 200mm and 1800mm high cater for different skill levels
- Access to water connections allows track to be wet down daily



MOUNTAIN CROSS TRACK

- Approx 400m long
- Switchbacks, berms and straights, with jump sections in between
- Caters for Mountain Cross (four-cross or 4X) riders and suitable width for racing
- Incorporates significant slope on site



SKILLS AREA

- Log rides, boulders, trenches, drop-offs make up this trials area
- Recycled construction debris and found material makes construction economical

DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY

KEY TAKE AWAYS



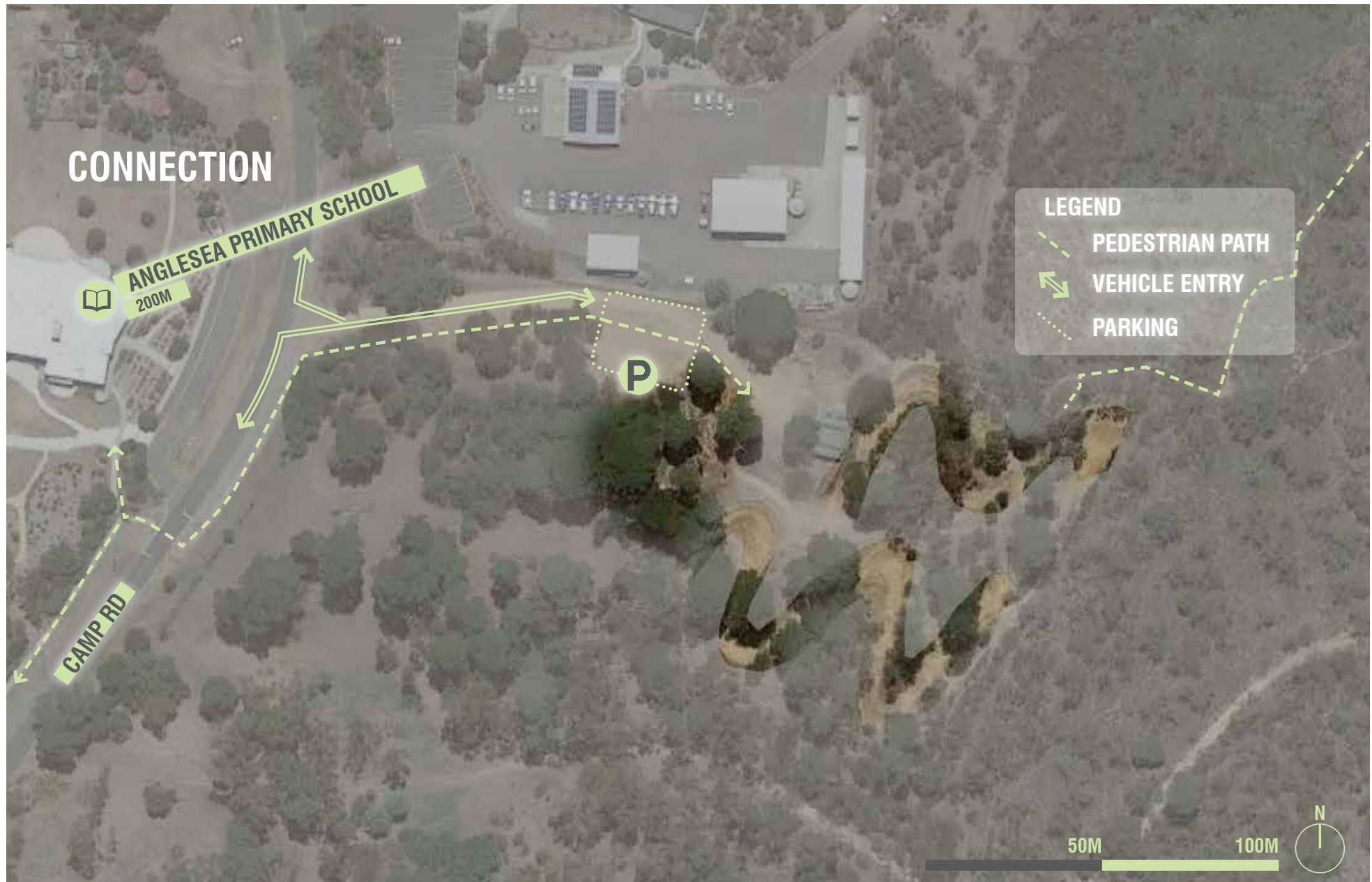
WORKING WELL...

- Trails well regarded in the surf coast community
- High quality track
- Community organisation controls maintenance
- Three distinct track types offers good variety in style



HOWEVER...

- No beginners track
- Skill level is set high





Entry is not apparent from road



1km to nearest food shopping

DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY

KEY TAKE AWAYS



WORKING WELL...

- Dedicated parking
- Very close walking distance to Anglesea Primary School and local holiday camps
- Good emergency access



HOWEVER...

- Over 1km to shops or public transport
- Few adjacent recreation opportunities
- Offset makes incidental social visits unlikely





Central shelter, toilets and benches

DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY

KEY TAKE AWAYS



WORKING WELL...

- Dedicated shelter
- Bathrooms
- Public BBQ for events, allowing users to extend their visits



HOWEVER...

- Lack of cohesion between adjacent properties leads to only monofunctional use

CASE STUDY C:

“CASE OF SPADES”

LOCATION: Plenty Gorge, VIC

AREA: 1ha

Case of Spades is an informal downhill MTB trail in the Plenty Gorge parklands.

It is a recently constructed DIY trail with steep hills and large airs. One gap is reported to be 12m long and another features a sunken trail beneath a large jump.

**WORKING WELL...**

- Challenging, high level jumps
- Use of natural features
- Attracts riders from across the state

**HOWEVER...**

- DIY trail with no safety regulations
- Cuts through riparian bushland
- Limited access to trails
- No vehicle access
- No toilets within 1km



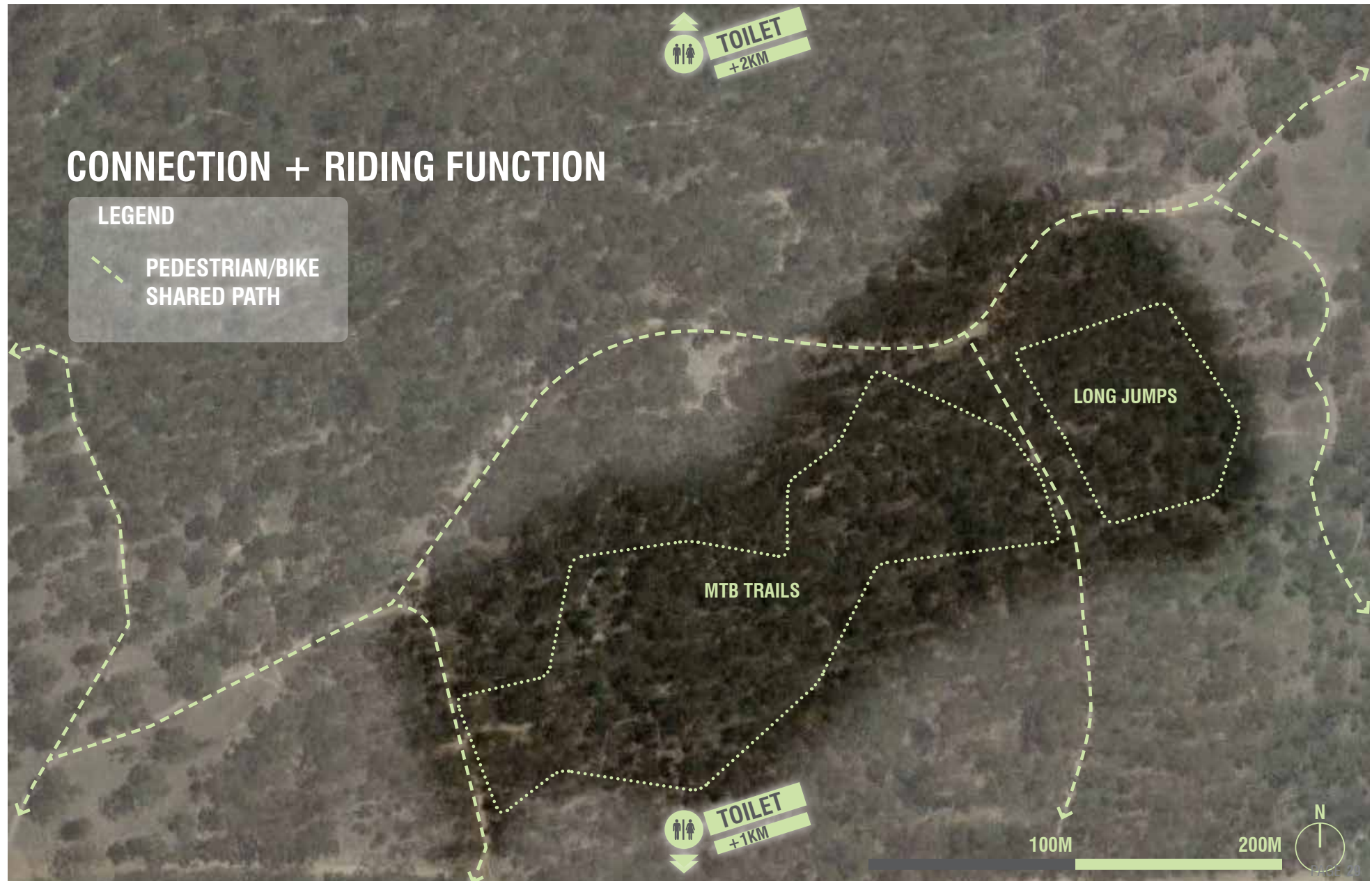
12m long jump at base of downhill



Kicker jump over trench



Kicker jump out of trench



DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY

CASE STUDY D:

BLACK HILL JUMPS

LOCATION: Ballarat, VIC

AREA: 12ha

TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH: 14km

Black Hill Jumps is a densely packed series of trails designed and constructed by Dirt Art just 1km north of Ballarat CBD. The park offers three loops, as well as four one way, downhill jumps trails for MTB.

Events are organised regularly by Club MUD Ballarat. Club MUD have a close working relationship with Ballarat Council, and they have developed an agreement to perform regular maintenance on the trails, as well as work to develop new elements.



WORKING WELL...

- Huge offering of trails for MTB riders
- Well designed jumps
- Use of natural features
- Attracts riders from across the state
- Central site location for Ballarat riders



HOWEVER...

- No central social space
- No provision for riding styles other than MTB



Well maintained lips on main jump



Wayfinding signage and skill level information



Jumps track around existing vegetation



CASE STUDY E:

HAWTHORNSDENE BIKE PARK

LOCATION: Hawthorndene, SA

AREA: 1200m²

Hawthorndene Bike Park is situated 11km south of Adelaide CBD. It is a compact site bordered by a creek and parklands to the west, and residential properties to the east. The park is comprised of an intermediate and advanced jumps section with main jumps, tabletops and large berms. The lower pump track is suitable for less experienced riders.

**WORKING WELL...**

- Well constructed and maintained jumps
- Great offering for a small neighbourhood park
- Lots of natural shade
- Dedicated parking
- Shade shelter with benches
- Passive surveillance from walking trail, road and facing residential area

**HOWEVER...**

- Significant jump in skill-level between pump track and advanced jumps
- No toilets



Advanced area main jump. Photo by Trail Collective.



Compact pump track adjacent to advanced course



Use of existing trees for shade over track



CASE STUDY F:

DIAMOND CREEK TRAILS

LOCATION: Diamond Creek, VIC

AREA: 7,500m²

Diamond Creek Trails are located 25kms northeast of Melbourne CBD in an elbow of Diamond Creek. It is a large, vintage DIY park from the 1990s. The jumps are all built by riders and were well maintained well into the 2010s. Currently footage shows there are signs of neglect.

Features numerous high jumps, tabletops, mono pads, a large DIY timber roll-in as well as shelters.

**WORKING WELL...**

- Well-loved challenging jumps track
- Several large DIY shelters
- Good offering for MTB and BMX riders

**HOWEVER...**

- Maintenance has been long neglected
- Site access requires crossing train line
- No official management crew
- No emergency access



Diamond Creek Trails and shelters. Photo by Paul Camelino



Advanced course that offers little to beginners. Photo by Paul Camelino



Rider video showing site access via train line



CASE STUDY G:

KENSINGTON BMX PARK

LOCATION: Kensington, VIC

AREA: 2,500m²

PUMP TRACK LENGTH: 150m

JUMPS TRACK LENGTH: 100m

JJ Holland park in Kensington is the nearest dirt jump facility to Melbourne CBD at just 3kms west. It features a large pump track (approx 30 second laps) and a jumps loop developed in 2014. The park is upkept by Council and YMCA, who also conduct competitions, workshops and events. Council's management plan states: "if any authorised riders wish to undertake rectifications to the tracks, they should refer to Council's parks services for consent."

**WORKING WELL...**

- Well-connected to public transport
- Good amenities
- Joins existing skatepark and sports precinct
- Nearby public housing towers, benefits young people without back yards
- Intermediate jump size makes this a good park to gain confidence
- Management responsibility is divided between City of Melbourne and YMCA

**HOWEVER...**

- No shelters
- Limited seating at edge of site
- Lacks challenge for advanced riders



Large pump track with space for multiple riders at once

Rider: Shane Jenkins
Bike: Supercross BOLT LT
Shane Jenkins on the tabletop in the jumps track. Image: www.bmxultra.com

City of Melbourne's management plan for Kensington BMX park



CASE STUDIES

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

RIDING FUNCTION

SPACE TO PROGRESS IN PLACE

As seen at City Dirt in Adelaide, it is crucial to accommodate riders who will be improving their skills and to do so within view of one another. Ideally a jumps park would be sufficiently sized at above 2000m² to allow room for various skill levels and riding typologies, but a phased build with an initial track not below 600m² is recommended.

Strong sightlines between accessible beginner runs and higher intermediate jumps courses creates an environment conducive to retaining users and ultimately strengthening the local riding community.

BALANCE SKILLS APPROPRIATELY

Parks that fail to set the skill-bar appropriately lose riders.

It is important not to lower the jumps so much that intermediate riders have nothing left to challenge them. Likewise, by adding a large jump over a gap in the mix of a pump track, it may prevent new riders getting confident.

It is recommended to offer a range of elements of different heights, radii and gap distances.

KEEP THE FLOW

Great trails make riders feel like they can just keep going and going. Hawthorndene, Kensington and City Dirt all have a strong focus on flow lines and trails that return to the starting hill to keep riders moving. Using the space efficiently should allow speedy downhill trails to tie in back at the beginning.

It is recommended to tie trails back in, wherever feasible.

CONNECTION

VEHICLE ACCESS

Ensure gated vehicle access which can be opened for maintenance and allows 24 hour access for emergency vehicles.

FOOD AND WATER

Site the jumps within easy riding distance of takeaway food or a supermarket. Ensure the journey between the two is able to be safely made on foot or on bike.

IN AND OUT

Train station proximity is to be prioritised over connection to bus stops, as bikes cannot be taken on most buses in Victoria. Kensington BMX Track is within sight of Kensington Railway Station, while informal jumps trails like “Case of Spades” and Diamond Creek Trails have no public transport or even **road connections**, making them unsafe for visitors and regulars alike. By offering **dedicated parking**, parks like Hawthorndene ensure visitors from outside the local area can bring supplies and are able to spend longer at the park.

AMENITY

SIGNAGE

Signage onsite is a helpful way to maintain order and inform riders of their rights and responsibilities to keep the tracks safe and functional.

City Dirt Crew have seen positive behaviour from riders after signs were installed that indicated when and how to water tracks and keep people from using them in damaging ways.

It is recommended that signage is placed at key entrances to outline responsibilities and safety measures.

MAINTENANCE

LOCAL TEAM

Dependence on responsible local riders can ensure the day-to-day maintenance of the trails to a high standard. Granting volunteers some independence as well as responsibility will ensure that the park runs smoothly and economically.

It is recommended that a maintenance plan is drafted during concept design phase, outlining responsibilities and maintenance budgets. This will allocate resources and provide lifespan information for elements.

TOILETS

BMX and bike sports are dominated by male riders. Nearby toilets that are accessible and private are critical to welcoming women and riders of different backgrounds and abilities.

WATER / POWER

With access to water connections and hoses, the park can be maintained daily by riders to ensure the dirt does not dry out and become hazardous.

Onsite power can allow events to take place, or simply for playing music.

SUPPORT

Adequate personal protective equipment, water connections and basic tools are required to keep the track safe. There is regular dialogue between City Dirt Crew and City of Adelaide, and the two organisations determine any need for working bees, upgrades or extra support

LOCKABLE STORAGE

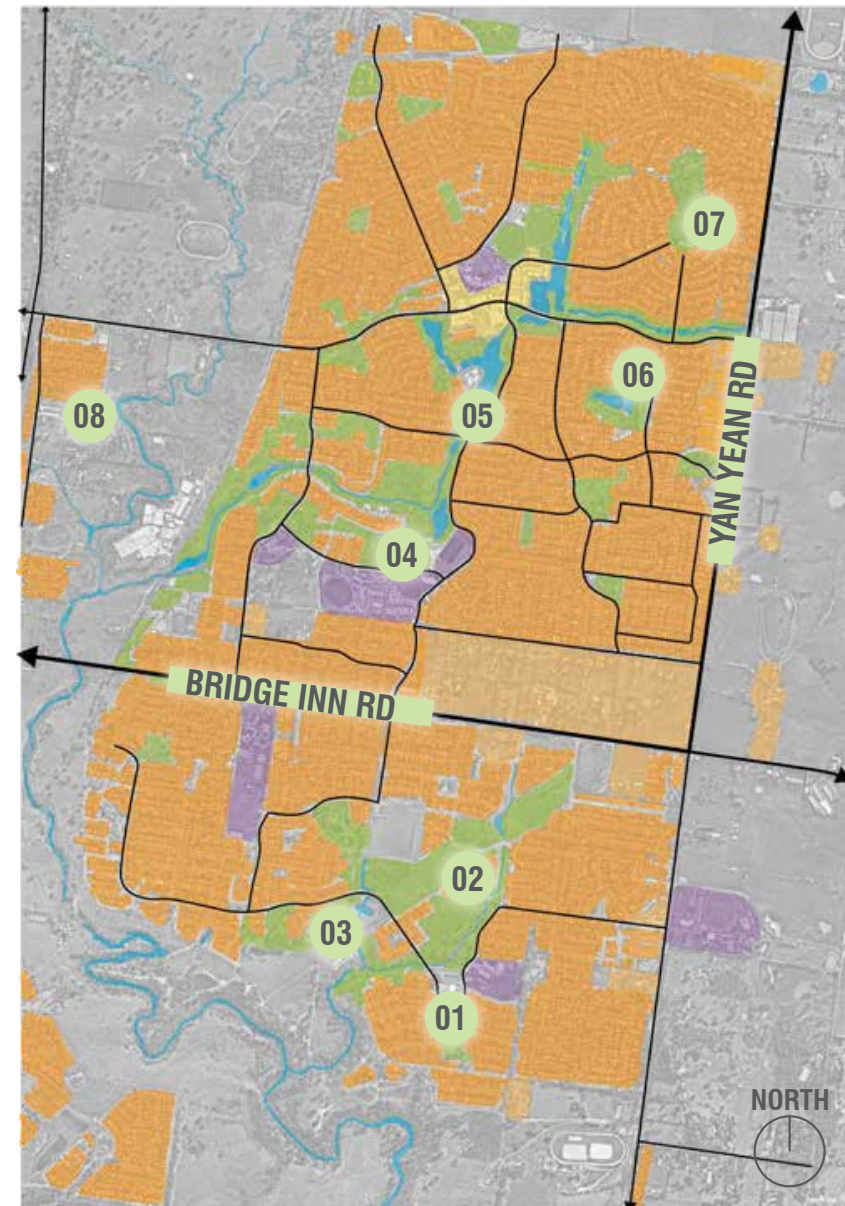
Dirt jumps require maintenance such as constant watering, digging, sweeping. A lockable storage shed that can accommodate tools, hoses, etc. is invaluable and will cut down on maintenance costs.

03 SITE SELECTION //

KEYPLAN	41
DOREEN CATCHMENT AND AMENITY PLAN	43
SITE OPTION ANALYSIS	44
01A. ORCHARD RD	46
01B. ORCHARD RD	47
02A. FITZWILLIAMS DRIVE (WEST OF DOREEN DOG PARK)	48
02B. FITZWILLIAMS DRIVE (WEST OF DOREEN DOG PARK)	49
03A. 20W ELATION BOULAVARD	50
03B. 20W ELATION BOULAVARD	51
04. PAINTED HILLS RESERVE (WEST OF SOCCER), EMINENCE BOULEVARD	52
05. LAURIMAR CREEK RESERVE, PAINTED HILLS ROAD	53
06. LAURIES FIELD, BROOKWOOD AVENUE	54
07. HILL TOP PARK LANDANO WAY	55
08. WOMBAT CORNER, HURREY AVENUE	56

KEY PLAN OF POSSIBLE SITES:

- 01** ORCHARD RD
- 02** FITZWILLIAMS DRIVE (WEST OF DOREEN DOG PARK)
- 03** 20W ELATION BOULAVARD
- 04** PAINTED HILLS RESERVE (WEST OF SOCCER), EMINENCE BOULEVARD
- 05** LAURIMAR CREEK RESERVE, PAINTED HILLS ROAD
- 06** LAURIES FIELD, BROOKWOOD AVENUE
- 07** HILL TOP PARK, LANDANO WAY
- 08** WOMBAT CORNER, HURREY AVENUE







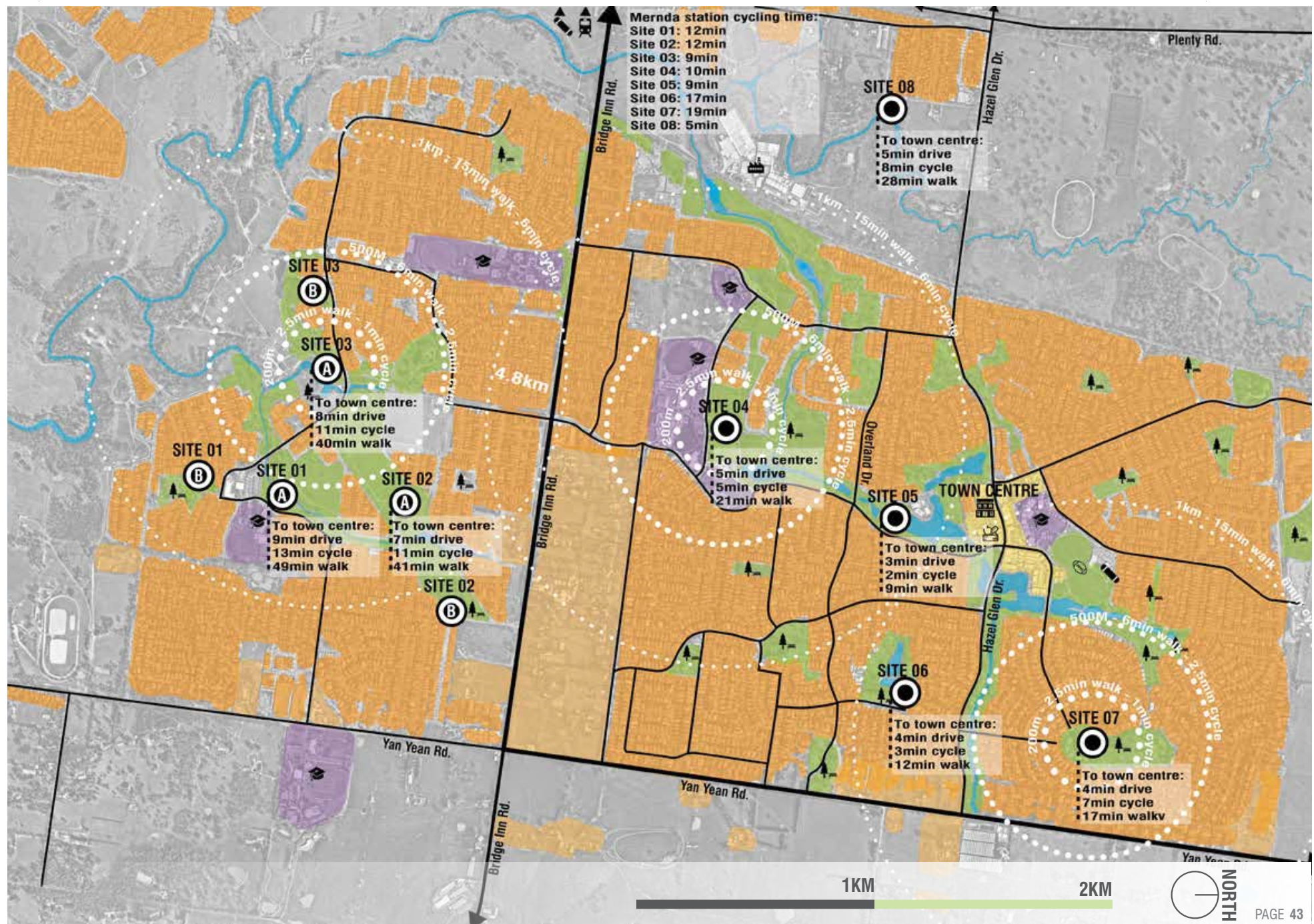
DOREEN CATCHMENT AND AMENITY

This plan indicates the nominated sites and highlights some key distances and travel times to transport links, supermarkets and the Laurimar town centre precinct.

The best site will be well situated to provide access to food, passive surveillance, public transport, parking and potentially is positioned near schools and other well-visited public places, allowing the site to remain activated and monitored throughout the week.

LEGEND

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Med Residential |  Train station |
|  Low Residential |  Food retail |
|  Public Greenspace |  Sportsground |
|  Education |  Industrial |
|  Watercourse |  Town centre |
|  Commercial |  Skatepark |
|  Distance from site |  Major road |
|  Potential site |  Minor road |



SITE OPTION ANALYSIS

The following section outlines the potential sites around Doreen selected by City of Whittlesea and studied for their viability as a riding destination. General comments about the strengths and drawbacks of each site are included.

The subsequent evaluation section takes these qualitative analyses and makes direct comparison between each site.

Selected comments have been included from City of Whittlesea's community consultation which took place in September and October 2020 over the Social Pinpoint web app.

DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY



DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY



WORKING WELL...

- Located near food/retail
- Located nearby schools



HOWEVER...

- Very close to neighbouring properties
- Safety of young children from nearby primary school and early learning centre must be considered.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...

- "This area is used to access Primary school and early learning centre by young children and their families. Not safe for young children to use this area if there are bike jumps here."
- "Too far from most of Doreen"



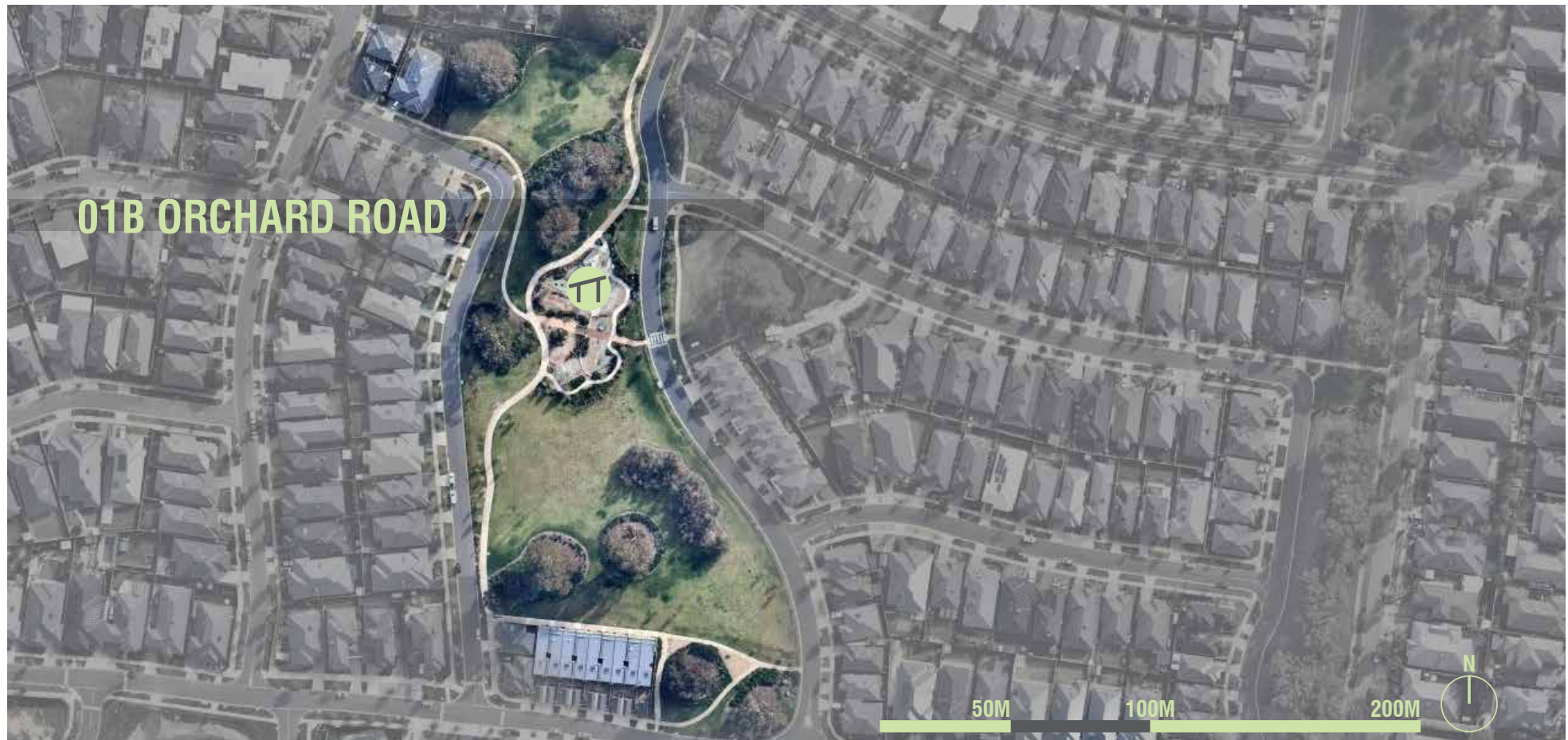
POLL
LIKE THIS
LOCATION

3



16 DON'T
THINK THIS
LOCATION
WORKS

RESULTS AS
OF 4/11/20



WORKING WELL...

- Located near takeaway food and shops
- Located nearby schools
- Park well visited due to playground



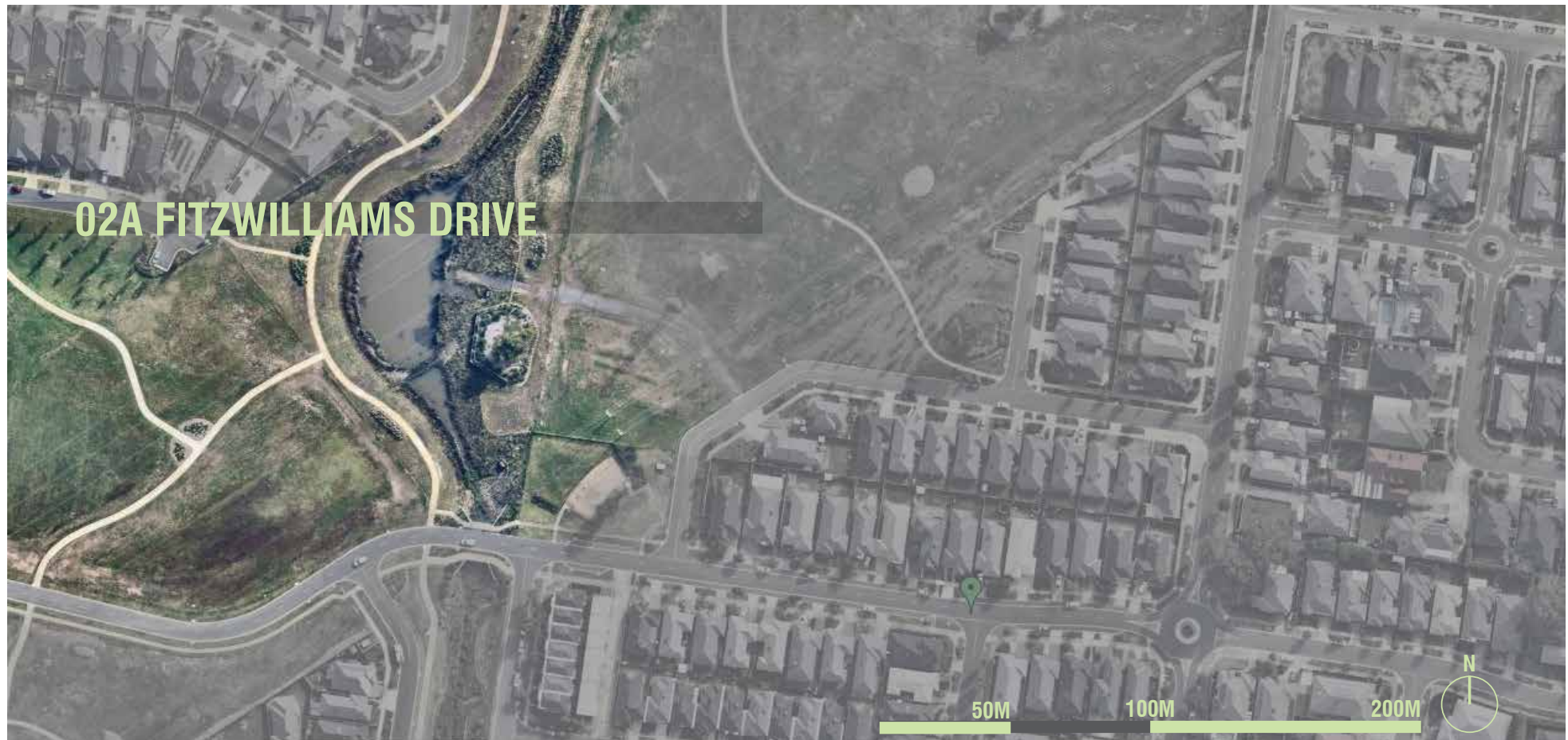
HOWEVER...

- Very close to neighbouring properties
- Limited passive green space within existing park layout

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...

- N/A

DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY



WORKING WELL...

- Ample open space
- Decent passive surveillance from homes
- Nearby outdoor fitness equipment



HOWEVER...

- Over 1km to nearest food
- Not in central location within Doreen

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...

- "Plenty of space"



WORKING WELL...

- Ample open space
- Decent passive surveillance from homes
- Enough open space to create distance from home



HOWEVER...

- Over 1km to nearest food
- Not in central location within Doreen

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...

- N/A



WORKING WELL...

- Good visual distance from properties
- Mixed use park. Small kids' playground nearby.
- Walking distance to toilets at Fortress Park



HOWEVER...

- Kangaroos populate the park
- Proximity to young kids' playground is a safety consideration



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...

- "Good area, away from houses, near park open space that can't be used as it's near power lines"
- "Great location close to existing parks and bike paths"
- "Kangaroo highway . This is a kangaroo thorough fare in the linear reserve. It would restrict movement and access to feed and water by creating obstacles."



POLL
21 LIKE THIS
LOCATION



14 DON'T
THINK THIS
LOCATION
WORKS

RESULTS AS
OF 4/11/20



WORKING WELL...

- Walking distance to Fortress Park amenities



HOWEVER...

- Kangaroos populate the park
- Close proximity to homes
- Existing significant trees

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...

- N/A

DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY



WORKING WELL...

- Excellent existing park amenities
- Central location
- Closest option to Mernda train station
- Nearby sports facilities to create a recreation hub



HOWEVER...

- Very close to Hazel Glen College. Dirt jumps can be easily damaged by improper use.
- Flood risk will need to be assessed



POLL
LIKE THIS
LOCATION



11



DON'T
THINK THIS
LOCATION
WORKS

3

RESULTS AS
OF 4/11/20

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...

- "Central location - parking for people who wish to attend. Close to sporting precinct - making it a local sporting hub"
- "Too close to school where kids will destroy the jumps"
- "I feel this area is prone to flooding"



WORKING WELL...

- Central location
- Nearby central shopping district



HOWEVER...

- Limited suitable space
- Potential flood risk

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...

- N/A

DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY



WORKING WELL...

- Located near main commercial precinct
- Sloping topography could be used in jumps



HOWEVER...

- Additional earthworks may be required due to sloping site



POLL
4 LIKE THIS LOCATION

5 DON'T THINK THIS LOCATION WORKS

RESULTS AS OF 4/11/20

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...

- "I like that this area is open and kids can enjoy the space in safety. It is central and I know local kids already enjoy this space for bike riding."
- "Good natural terrain on a sloping hill. Central to the wider community and easily accessible."
- "Not much space for actual jumps compared to the other locations"



WORKING WELL...

- Located near main commercial precinct
- Sloping topography could be used in jumps
- Large open spaces around park can be utilised



HOWEVER...

- Residents have concerns due to previous DIY jumps damaging the park
- Additional earthworks may be required due to sloping site
- Local residents consider park to have a "passive recreation" character and fragile habitat



POLL
LIKE THIS
LOCATION

43



51

DON'T
THINK THIS
LOCATION
WORKS

RESULTS AS
OF 4/11/20

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...

- "This section of the park is the only passive area for walker's and parents with prams"
- "Great spot for all ages with the playground, BBQ facilities, toilets and now dirt bike track what a wonderful family area it will be!!!!"
- "This is already a popular area for young children to play, it would become dangerous with bikes riding around"

PAGE 55



WORKING WELL...

- Suitable flat area



HOWEVER...

- Isolated position
- Passive surveillance difficult
- Lack of amenities/food

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...

- N/A



DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY



PAGE 57

04 SITE EVALUATION MATRIX //

INTRODUCTION

The following Site Evaluation Matrix is a key assessment tool when determining the most suitable location for the future provision of a dirt jumps track in Doreen. Each criteria has been developed by Enlocus from experience in the field of wheeled sport facilities, including BMX, skate and youth spaces, along with reference to supporting industry documents.

This matrix will evaluate the 11 sites identified by City of Whittlesea. The sites are then ranked in order of suitability. Each criteria considers not only the existing condition but future planning as some of the sites are currently being developed. The following is a brief description of each category.

Availability, Scale & Function evaluates the site's potential to accommodate the jumps track footprint, whether it is compatible with existing planning and zoning requirements, and if the surrounding context can facilitate potential future expansion (either further tracks or supporting amenities). This is the first critical step in evaluation, and ensures the proposed facility has the potential to expand and adapt to future needs.

The **Technical** criteria evaluates the existing civil infrastructure, its proximity to the proposed facility, constraints and implications on existing drainage and earthworks. This is especially important when considering inundation and subsidence of land.

Access, Context & Amenities consider a broader evaluation of the site. Reviewing potential catchment, riding distance to trains and any cycling routes leading to the track. These categories also evaluate the site's relationship to commercial and youth related facilities, to ensure the proposed site is in a desirable and social location where young people want to be, increasing inherent value through co-location.

Safety & Observation initially evaluates the site's perceived sense of safety through passive surveillance opportunities created by a prominent, activated location. It also evaluates safety in terms of emergency accessibility, proximity, safe egress, and the opportunity for prospect and refuge. This category is critical in displacing the traditional 'back of house' locations many skate and youth spaces have previously been subject to and instead places importance on providing young people with open, safe and welcoming sites for all ages, as well as instilling and encouraging a level of confidence and independence.

It's also important that accessibility by **Maintenance** teams is considered to ensure a clean and cost effective maintenance program which can be regularly managed by Council and the riding Community. Maintaining the track is critical in improving safety but also communicating the value of a place and can instil a sense of worth amongst the majority of users. Good maintenance can go some ways to fighting the perception that bike sports attract antisocial behaviour.

Impact & Proximity evaluates the proposed site's potential environmental and land use implications, as well as assessing possible noise and light spill issues that can occur with these facilities. It is critical that the proposed facility has the opportunity to gain community support, through an environmentally aware development that also considers its neighbours.

DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY

EVALUATION SCALE:

1 ||||| 2 ||||| 3 ||||| 4 ||||| 5
 NOT APPARENT STRONG SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

01 AVAILABILITY //

IS THE SITE CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING STRATEGIES, ZONING AND OWNERSHIP.

WILL THE REMAINING AREAS OF THE SITE BE PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE ONCE THE FACILITY IS DEVELOPED.

02 SCALE & FUNCTION //

CAN THE PROPOSED SITE CONTAIN THE REQUIRED AREA FOR A DIRT JUMPS TRACK
 [2500M² + GUIDE ONLY]

IF DEVELOPED, COULD THE SITE ACCOMMODATE FUTURE FACILITY EXPANSION [+ 2500M² ADDITIONAL]

IS THE PROPOSED SITE CAPABLE OF CATERING FOR THE VARIOUS RIDING STYLES AND DIVERSITY OF ELEMENTS [I.E. USING EXISTING SLOPES, RAMPS, WIDE BERMS, PUMP TRACKS]

CAN THE PROPOSED SITE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR 'LEGITIMATE PERIPHERAL PARTICIPATION' [PHYSICAL & VISUAL CONNECTION TO REFUGE AREAS, SEATING, AND PLAY SPACES]

DOES THE SITE HAVE THE ABILITY TO HOST LARGER CROWDS DURING PROGRAMMED EVENTS, COMPETITIONS AND PEAK PERIODS [I.E. SERVICE REQUIREMENTS & ASSOCIATED TEMPORARY INFRASTRUCTURE LIKE FOOD TRUCKS, LIVE MUSIC/ DJ, TOILETS AND MARQUIS ETC]

IS THE PROPOSED SITE FREE FROM EXISTING CONSTRAINTS OF LAND USE, RIGHT OF WAY, COVENANTS, EASEMENTS, SERVICE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS [SUBTERRANEAN OR OVERHEAD CABLING, OPTICS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, POWER, WATER, SEWAGE & GAS]

03 TECHNICAL //

DOES THE PROPOSED SITE SUGGEST MINIMAL DRAINAGE IMPLICATIONS [LOCATION OF LPD, PIT INVERT LEVELS, CROSSFALL AND EXISTING SITE CATCHMENT]

	SITE 01A // ORCHARD RD	SITE 01B // ORCHARD RD	SITE 02A // FITZ WILLIAMS DRIVE	SITE 02B // FITZ WILLIAMS DRIVE	SITE 03A // 20 W ELATION BVD	SITE 03B // 20 W ELATION BVD	SITE 04 // PAINTED HILLS RESERVE	SITE 05 // LAURIMAR CREEK RESERVE	SITE 06 // LAURIES FIELD	SITE 07 // HILLTOP PARK	SITE 08 // WOMBAT CORNER
4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
4	4	4	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	5	5
4	3	5	5	4	4	5	4	5	3	5	5
4	3	5	5	4	3	5	3	4	2	4	4
3	3	4	4	3	3	4	3	4	5	3	3
3	4	2	2	4	3	4	3	3	4	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	4	3	3
4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	2	2	4	4	3	2	2	3	3	3

EVALUATION SCALE:



04 ACCESS //

IS THE SITE BEST LOCATED FOR CATCHMENT OF POTENTIAL USERS.

IS THE PROPOSED SITE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT [ACCEPTABLE RIDEABLE DISTANCE 2.5KM]

ARE THERE ACCESSIBLE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND THE PROPOSED SITE [PATHWAYS, RAMPS]

IS THE PROPOSED SITE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO PRINCIPAL BIKE ROUTES AND PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS THAT CONNECT WITH THE BROADER COMMUNITY.

DOES THE SITE HAVE ADEQUATE PARKING FOR THE PROPOSED FACILITY

DOES THE SITE HAVE A CLEARLY DEFINED DROP OFF AREA [A TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STUDY MAY BE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE PARKING AND CIRCULATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED FACILITY]

05 CONTEXT & AMENITIES //

ARE THERE ASSOCIATED AMENITIES SUCH AS PUBLIC TELEPHONES, TOILETS, DRINKABLE WATER, ALL WEATHER STRUCTURES, WIFI.

IS THE SITE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO COMMERCIAL FACILITIES & PRECINCTS [FOOD & BEVERAGE].

IS THE SITE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO LOCAL YOUTH BUILDINGS / SERVICES AND RELATED PROGRAMS

DOES THE SITE HAVE AN EXISTING RITUAL OF YOUTH SOCIAL INTERACTION, AND IS IT A SPACE WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE WANT TO BE.

	SITE 01A // ORCHARD RD	SITE 01B // ORCHARD RD	SITE 02A // FITZ WILLIAMS DRIVE	SITE 02B // FITZ WILLIAMS DRIVE	SITE 03A // 20 W ELATION BVD	SITE 03B // 20 W ELATION BVD	SITE 04 // PAINTED HILLS RESERVE	SITE 05 // LAURIMAR CREEK RESERVE	SITE 06 // LAURIES FIELD	SITE 07 // HILLTOP PARK	SITE 08 // WOMBAT CORNER
DOES THE EXISTING SITE TYPOGRAPHY AND TERRAIN REQUIRE MINIMAL EARTHWORKS AND STRUCTURAL RETENTION IMPLICATIONS.	4	5	2	2	4	4	3	3	2	3	4
DOES THE PROPOSED SITE HAVE EASY ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY, DRINKING WATER, SEWAGE, DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS [INTERNET].	2	4	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	3	2
IS THE SITE BEST LOCATED FOR CATCHMENT OF POTENTIAL USERS.	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	4	4	2
IS THE PROPOSED SITE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT [ACCEPTABLE RIDEABLE DISTANCE 2.5KM]	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
ARE THERE ACCESSIBLE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND THE PROPOSED SITE [PATHWAYS, RAMPS]	2	2	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
IS THE PROPOSED SITE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO PRINCIPAL BIKE ROUTES AND PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS THAT CONNECT WITH THE BROADER COMMUNITY.	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
DOES THE SITE HAVE ADEQUATE PARKING FOR THE PROPOSED FACILITY	2	2	3	3	3	3	5	3	2	5	3
DOES THE SITE HAVE A CLEARLY DEFINED DROP OFF AREA [A TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STUDY MAY BE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE PARKING AND CIRCULATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED FACILITY]	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	5	2
ARE THERE ASSOCIATED AMENITIES SUCH AS PUBLIC TELEPHONES, TOILETS, DRINKABLE WATER, ALL WEATHER STRUCTURES, WIFI.	2	4	2	2	2	2	4	2	3	4	2
IS THE SITE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO COMMERCIAL FACILITIES & PRECINCTS [FOOD & BEVERAGE].	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	3
IS THE SITE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO LOCAL YOUTH BUILDINGS / SERVICES AND RELATED PROGRAMS	3	3	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	2	2
DOES THE SITE HAVE AN EXISTING RITUAL OF YOUTH SOCIAL INTERACTION, AND IS IT A SPACE WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE WANT TO BE.	3	3	2	2	3	2	4	2	3	2	2

DOREEN DIRT JUMPS // FEASIBILITY STUDY

EVALUATION SCALE:

1 ||||| 2 ||||| 3 ||||| 4 ||||| 5
 NOT APPARENT STRONG SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

DOES THE PROPOSED SITE HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP TO ADJACENT COMMUNITY FOCAL POINTS (COMMUNITY CENTRE, MENS SHED, LIBRARY, SCHOOLS AND OTHER SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES)

06 SAFETY & OBSERVATION //

IS THE PROPOSED SITE PROMINENT (LOCATED ON AN ACTIVATED FRONTAGE) AND DOES IT MAXIMISE THE POTENTIAL FOR NATURAL SURVEILLANCE (IMPROVING PERCEIVED SAFETY)

CAN THE PROPOSED SITE ADEQUATELY FACILITATE EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS (FIRE AND AMBULANCE)

IS THE PROPOSED SITE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO POLICE SERVICES OR SCHEDULED POLICE AND SECURITY SURVEILLANCE ROUTES.

DOES THE PROPOSED SITE ALLOW FOR SAFE PASSAGE, AND AVOID USERS NEGOTIATING BUSY INTERSECTIONS AND ROADS TO GAIN ACCESS.

IS THE PROPOSED SITE AND SURROUNDING ACCESS ILLUMINATED.

CAN THE PROPOSED SITE FACILITATE MULTIPLE POINTS OF ENTRY (SAFE EGRESS)

"PROSPECT AND REFUGE" DOES THE PROPOSED SITE PROVIDE PEOPLE WITH THE CAPACITY TO OBSERVE (PROSPECT) WITHOUT BEING SEEN (REFUGE) [IS THE SITE LOCATED WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL FEEL COMFORTABLE AND SAFE]

07 MAINTENANCE

DOES THE SITE HAVE EASY ACCESS FOR REGULAR MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION.

08 IMPACT //

CAN THE PROPOSED FACILITY CAUSE MINIMAL DISPLACEMENT OF EXISTING LAND USE.

WILL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED FACILITY CAUSE MINIMAL ENVIRONMENTAL & ECOSYSTEM IMPACT (GRASSLANDS, SHRUBLANDS, WOODLANDS, FORESTS AND WETLANDS)

SITE 01A // ORCHARD RD	SITE 01B // ORCHARD RD	SITE 02A // FITZ WILLIAMS DRIVE	SITE 02B // FITZ WILLIAMS DRIVE	SITE 03A // 20 W ELATION BVD	SITE 03B // 20 W ELATION BVD	SITE 04 // PAINTED HILLS RESERVE	SITE 05 // LAURIMAR CREEK RESERVE	SITE 06 // LAURIES FIELD	SITE 07 // HILLTOP PARK	SITE 08 // WOMBAT CORNER
4	3	3	3	3	2	4	2	3	2	2
2	4	3	3	5	4	4	3	3	4	2
3	5	3	3	5	5	5	4	4	3	3
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2
4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	2
3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	2
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	3	3	4
4	4	3	3	3	2	4	2	3	4	4

EVALUATION SCALE:

1 ||||| 2 ||||| 3 ||||| 4 ||||| 5
 NOT APPARENT STRONG SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

CAN THE PROPOSED FACILITY REQUIRE NO REMOVAL OF SIGNIFICANT TREES.

WILL THE PROPOSED FACILITY CAUSE MINIMAL INTERFERENCE TO EXISTING VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS / DESIRE LINES.

CAN THE PROPOSED FACILITY INCUR NO IMPACT ON HERITAGE, CULTURAL OR INDIGENOUS SIGNIFICANCE AT THE PROPOSED SITE.

09 PROXIMITY //

WILL THE PROPOSED SITE MINIMISE LIGHT AND NOISE INTRUSIONS TO THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD [50M MIN ADEQUATE DISTANCE]

ARE THERE EXISTING BARRIERS TO NEGATE VEHICLE ILLUMINATION AFTER HOURS.

DOES THE SITE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO PROVIDE NATURAL NOISE ATTENUATION [MOUNDING & VEGETATION]

	SITE 01A // ORCHARD RD	SITE 01B // ORCHARD RD	SITE 02A // FITZ WILLIAMS DRIVE	SITE 02B // FITZ WILLIAMS DRIVE	SITE 03A // 20 W ELATION BVD	SITE 03B // 20 W ELATION BVD	SITE 04 // PAINTED HILLS RESERVE	SITE 05 // LAURIMAR CREEK RESERVE	SITE 06 // LAURIES FIELD	SITE 07 // HILLTOP PARK	SITE 08 // WOMBAT CORNER
CAN THE PROPOSED FACILITY REQUIRE NO REMOVAL OF SIGNIFICANT TREES.	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	4	2	4	4
WILL THE PROPOSED FACILITY CAUSE MINIMAL INTERFERENCE TO EXISTING VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS / DESIRE LINES.	5	4	5	5	5	5	3	5	4	4	4
CAN THE PROPOSED FACILITY INCUR NO IMPACT ON HERITAGE, CULTURAL OR INDIGENOUS SIGNIFICANCE AT THE PROPOSED SITE.	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	4
09 PROXIMITY //											
WILL THE PROPOSED SITE MINIMISE LIGHT AND NOISE INTRUSIONS TO THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD [50M MIN ADEQUATE DISTANCE]	4	2	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
ARE THERE EXISTING BARRIERS TO NEGATE VEHICLE ILLUMINATION AFTER HOURS.	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
DOES THE SITE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO PROVIDE NATURAL NOISE ATTENUATION [MOUNDING & VEGETATION]	4	2	5	5	3	2	2	3	4	4	2
TOTAL SCORE 130		TOTAL SCORE 131	TOTAL SCORE 125	TOTAL SCORE 125	TOTAL SCORE 134	TOTAL SCORE 123	TOTAL SCORE 148	TOTAL SCORE 128	TOTAL SCORE 132	TOTAL SCORE 133	TOTAL SCORE 114

EVALUATION RESULT

Top three possible sites

FIRST CHOICE:

SITE 04 //
PAINTED HILLS RESERVE

TOTAL SCORE 148

Painted Hills Reserve scores highly across many categories. Its strength is its central position within Doreen. The reserve is within easy riding distance of shops, schools and trains. The park itself is newly activated with sports grounds, pavillions and is the home of the Doreen United Soccer Club.

The reserve can be passive surveilled from homes on Salerno cr, at the west boundary, though it is not as closely surrounded as a number of the other proposed sites.

There are key questions to resolve going forward:

The possibility of inundation is a consideration that will require review. Is the west end of the park at risk of flooding?

Likewise, the concerns of local riders that the park may be misused by school children from Hazel Glen College over Eminence Blvd. Can instructive signage and the proximity of the school prevent this misuse?

SECOND CHOICE:

SITE 03A //
20 W ELATION BVD

TOTAL SCORE 134

Elation Blvd Park scores well due to its proximity to bike paths and its flat, open spaces. The overhead transmission lines mean that the space is quite appealing as a recreation zone for the municipality. It could suitably fit a larger jumps track than many of the proposed sites.

The park is activated with a playspace and walking/ cycling trails, so a jumps track would be well supervised.

Local residents have noted via the Social Pinpoint consultation that a mob of kangaroos calls this park home, so a track may be disruptive to the kangaroos and possibly dangerous to the riders.

The position of the park within Doreen is somewhat distant from shops, schools and public transport.

THIRD CHOICE:

SITE 07 //
HILLTOP PARK

TOTAL SCORE 133

Hilltop Park is a contested choice. The online consultation on Social Pinpoint in September and October 2020 revealed strong opinions against a jumps track in the park. Riders supported the position due to its sloping topography and convenient location for food, parking and amenity.

Concerns have been raised over potential habitat damage for native wildlife, and a change in the character of a park used for quiet passive recreation.

Despite this, the park scores well with its access and amenities.



Painted Hills Reserve

05 DIRT JUMP OPTIONS //

The following options have been designed to prioritise the skills-development of young riders. They represent three typologies of dirt jumps trails ranging from a pump track with tabletops and rollers, to a twin looping track with more advanced gaps, to a larger trail with the skill-level set higher but more room for development.

These concepts are configured to offer variety, progression and choice for local riders. They are proposed as a starting point for valuable community consultation and feedback.

Note: Material selection, material volume and all associated costs are indicative only and are subject to large changes based on scope, site, maintenance, underground services, contamination, amenities and other factors.



OPTION 01

TOTAL FACILITY LANDSCAPED AREA: 650m²
TRACK AREA: 157m²
TRACK LENGTH: 105 LINEAL METRES



OPTION 02

TOTAL FACILITY LANDSCAPED AREA: 720m²
TRACK AREA: 177m²
TRACK LENGTH: 118 LINEAL METRES



OPTION 03

TOTAL FACILITY LANDSCAPED AREA: 950m²
TRACK AREA: 210m²
TRACK LENGTH: 140 LINEAL METRES

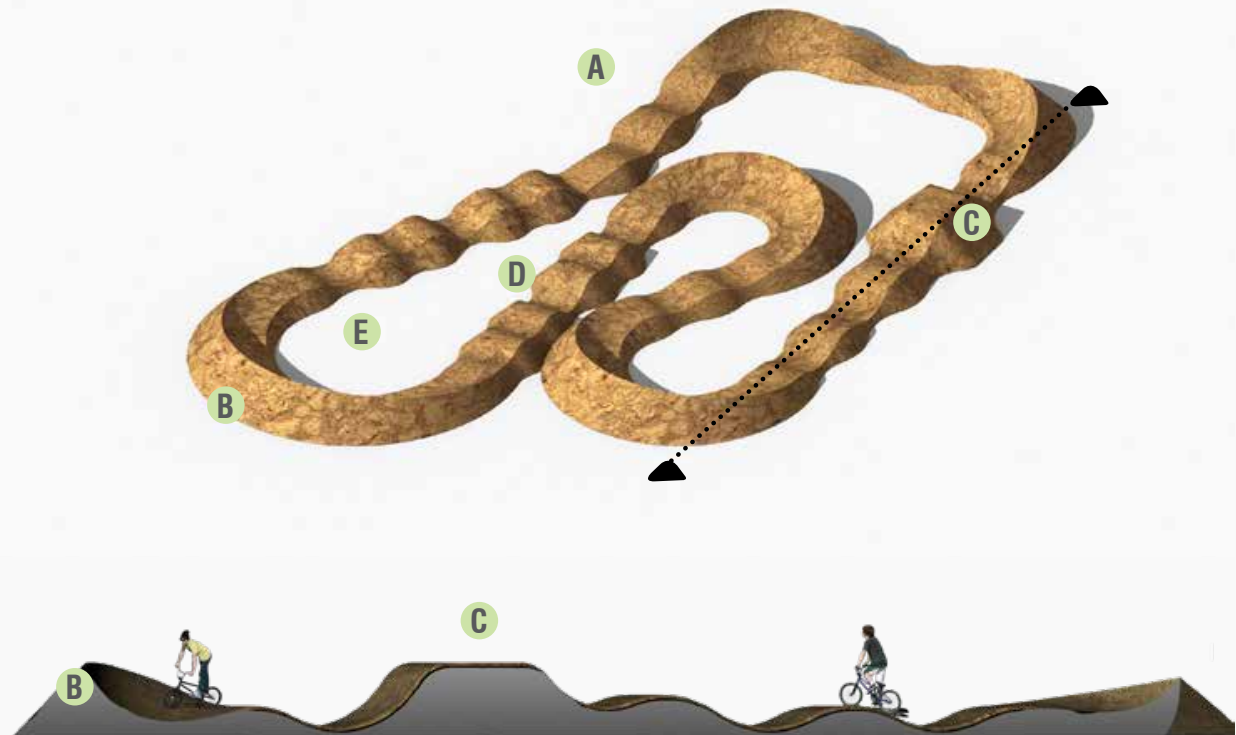
OPTION 01

Long looping track with focus on young riders transitioning from pumps to jumps. Wide berms, a variety of doubles and tabletops but no long gaps.



FEATURES

- A** Long loop (600m² area) with small to medium rollers and jumps
- B** Large berms allow riders to develop speed and cornering technique
- C** 1500 high tabletop adds opportunity for flair
- D** Rhythm section and doubles for building to medium-high speeds
- E** Centralised drainage pits with concrete pits, headwalls and swales as needed



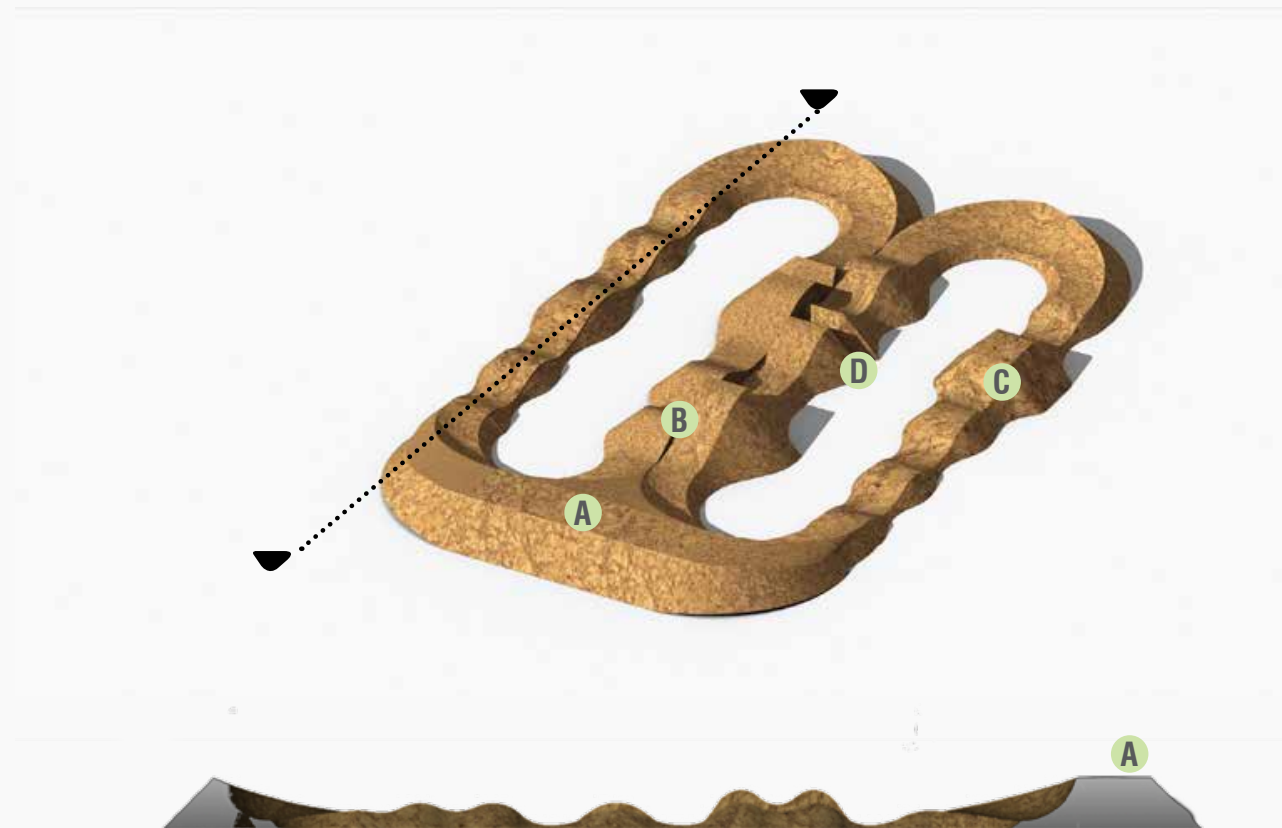
OPTION 02

Twin looping tracks with adjacent intermediate and advanced sections.



FEATURES

- A** Wide platform entry to safely roll-in or spectate
- B** Two loops with parallel track along the centre to share runs
- C** 1800 high tabletop with step up rollers.
- D** 2000 long kicker gap



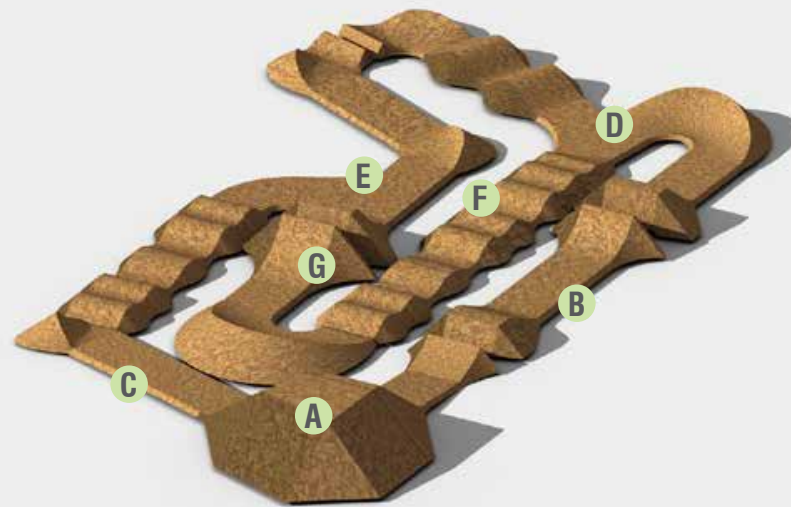
OPTION 03

High starting mound leads down two branching trails to either doubles and rollers or larger kickers. Both trails tie into a central loop of rollers, gaps and a pump section.



FEATURES

- A** Starting hill with 2500 high roll-in
- B** First run with kickers 1200 - 2000 high
- C** Second run with rollers and tabletops
- D** First run ties into central loop
- E** Second run ties into central loop
- F** Low pump section
- G** 2000 high gap



ALIGNMENTS JUMPS OPTION 01 SITE 04A: PAINTED HILLS RESERVE, EMINENCE BOULEVARD



ALIGNMENTS JUMPS OPTION 02 AT SITE 04A: PAINTED HILLS RESERVE, EMINENCE BOULEVARD



ALIGNMENTS JUMPS OPTION 03 AT SITE 04A: PAINTED HILLS RESERVE, EMINENCE BOULEVARD



PRELIMINARY COSTING



OPTION 01

TRACK AREA:	157m²
INDICATIVE BUDGET ALLOWANCE:	\$60,000



OPTION 02

TRACK AREA:	177m²
INDICATIVE BUDGET ALLOWANCE:	\$65,000



OPTION 03

TRACK AREA:	210m²
INDICATIVE BUDGET ALLOWANCE:	\$82,000

Note: These estimates are based on currently available industry prices.
Trail construction is a specialised trade and costs are prone to fluctuation.

BUDGET ESTIMATES

Note: These estimates are indicative figures only. They are based on currently available industry prices and quotes. Trail construction is a specialised trade and costs are prone to fluctuation. Considerable variation will be expected when considering site conditions, drainage, amenity, maintenance and other factors.

Item	Rate	Option 01	Option 02	Option 03
Track length (m)		105	125	140
Total volume (m3)		150.76	121.09	246.09
Total compacted soil (m3)		331.672	266.398	541.398
Total weight compacted (tonne)		597.0096	479.5164	974.5164
MATERIAL				
Clean Fill (\$)	\$25 / m3 (90% of total volume)	\$7,462.62	\$5,993.96	\$12,181.46
Crushed rock 7mm (\$)	\$90 / tonne (10% of total volume)	\$5,373.09	\$4,315.65	\$8,770.65
Water	\$ / m3			
Total material cost:	\$	\$12,835.71	\$10,309.60	\$20,952.10
LABOUR				
Total Labour Hours	2.5 hrs per lin metre	262.5	312.5	350
Manager (\$150/hr)	\$150 per hour	\$19,687.50	\$23,437.50	\$26,250.00
Labourer (\$95/hr)	\$95 per hour	\$12,468.75	\$14,843.75	\$16,625.00
Total Labour cost:	\$	\$32,156.25	\$38,281.25	\$42,875.00
PLANT				
Water cart (20hrs)	Quoted	\$695.00	\$695.00	\$695.00
Mini Excavator (20hrs)	Quoted	\$672.00	\$672.00	\$672.00
Plate Compactor (80hrs)		\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Bobcat (80 hrs)		\$2,000	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
1.5T Roller (40hrs)	Quoted	\$1,892.00	\$1,892.00	\$1,892.00
10T Truck (hrs)		\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
Total Plant Hire:	\$	\$6,459.00	\$6,459.00	\$6,459.00
Add 15%		\$7,717.64	\$8,257.48	\$10,542.92
Total projected costs		\$59,168.60	\$63,307.33	\$80,829.02

PREPARED BY //



IN ASSOCIATION WITH //



THANK YOU TO ALL
CONTRIBUTORS //





BMX kids to ride high

August 11, 2020



[BMX kids to ride high - The North Central Review \(ncreview.com.au\)](https://ncreview.com.au)

4.3 Asset Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Unit Manager Asset Management

In Attendance: Michael Johnston, Unit Manager Asset Management
Kirsten Richmond, Unit Manager Community Engagement

Executive Summary

Council is developing a new Asset Plan 2025-35 which will be informed by the community, for the community. We are seeking the input of the Youth Council as part of a deliberative engagement process to ensure their voice is considered. This will verify that the Asset Plan is in line with the community's values and priorities.

The feedback from the session will guide the decisions in the Asset Plan toward the community level of service and the establishment of asset management guiding principles.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council provide feedback from the workshop session to assist in guiding decisions in the Asset Plan.

Attachments

Nil

4.4 Aboriginal Communities / Aboriginal Action Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Unit Manager Aboriginal Communities

In Attendance: Manager Community Strengthening
Unit Manager Aboriginal Communities

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on Aboriginal Communities Unit and the Aboriginal Action Plan 2024-2029 (AAP).

Please note, the final graphic designed copy is still being finalised for external distribution/communication.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

1. **Note the update on Aboriginal Communities Unit.**
2. **Note the Aboriginal Action Plan 2024-2029 at Attachment 1.**

Background / Key Information

Aboriginal Communities Unit

The Aboriginal Communities Unit (Unit) combines program delivery, planning and partnership to progress reconciliation – to improve social justice, health and wellbeing outcomes for First Peoples.

The Unit provides a focus on collaboration across strategic partnership initiatives, which celebrate and protect cultural values, including culturally significant sites and improve the spiritual, environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes for First Peoples living, working and studying within the municipality.

The Unit comprises of the following positions:

Manager Community Strengthening
Unit Manager Aboriginal Communities
Coordinator Aboriginal Partnerships and Programs
Coordinator Aboriginal Strategy
Aboriginal Programs and Partnerships Officer
Aboriginal Strategy Officer

There are also four additional positions that are currently being recruited.

Aboriginal Action Plan 2024 –2029

The AAP provides over-arching direction to guide Council's strategic reconciliation priorities and actions. It will build on the progress Council has already made towards reconciliation in and has been framed within the context of the Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021-2026 and other relevant State and Council frameworks, plans and strategies. It has been developed through close engagement and consultation with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The AAP aims to recognise and enable Aboriginal self-determination by:

- Prioritising culture;
- Addressing trauma and supporting healing;
- Addressing racism and promoting cultural safety; and
- Prioritising decision-making power in areas that impact their communities.

To do this, the AAP outlines 19 key deliverables with 37 actions, within seven strategic action areas - or pillars - set out in the Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021 – 2026 (VALGS):

- Culture, Respect and Trust;
- Awareness and Engagement;
- Accountability and Direction;

- Governance and Participation;
- Economic Participation;
- Health and wellbeing; and
- Resourcing and Funding.

In order to ensure effective monitoring, reporting and accountability, each identified deliverable includes:

- Required action/s;
- Stages of Success (Understand, Embrace & Embed);
- Council's (Facilitator, Provider or Advocate);
- Timeline; and
- Identification of 'lead' and 'support' Departments within Council for action.

The AAP will be a key part of Council's Integrated Planning Framework (IPF), complementing actions and outcomes outlined within other Integrated Framework Strategies.

Community Consultation and Engagement

Engagement on the Draft AAP

Community consultation was undertaken over a four-week period, from 11 June to 04 July 2024. Consultation activities included:

- **Online** – The draft AAP was available for consideration through the Engage Whittlesea platform, inviting feedback to be provided via online survey and/or submission of general comments. During the consultation period there were 353 views of the page. A total of 10 surveys were completed as well as 3 general comment submissions.
- **Email** – Individual emails were sent to 64 identified stakeholders including:
 - 30 Government Organisations
 - 12 Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)
 - 8 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs)
 - 10 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)
 - Whittlesea Reconciliation Group (WRG)
 - All were followed up twice to ensure receipt and to offer an opportunity for further discussion.
- **Targeted stakeholder consultations** –
 - Two Traditional Owner Groups (Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Taungurung Land & Waters Council)
 - Two Local Government Areas (LGAs)
 - Banyule
 - Darebin
 - Additional external stakeholders in response to individual emails and phone calls.

Response to Community Feedback

Valuable feedback was received from the community and stakeholders. The participants in the consultation process represented a diverse cross-section of the community.

Overall feedback was positive highlighting the draft AAP was:

- Well-written and articulate;
- Actions were realistic and achievable;
- Demonstrated a clear Council commitment to Aboriginal community;
- Responded to community needs; and
- Is both general and specific where it needs to be.

Feedback also included key priorities/focus areas that were reviewed by Council, and incorporated where relevant.

Implementation Strategy

Communication

The AAP will be published on Council's website and broadly shared with the City of Whittlesea community across Council's communication channels. All individuals and groups who participated in the consultation will receive a copy.

Critical Dates

Action	Date
ELT endorsement of final AAP	17 July 2024
Annual Review	17 July 2025

Monitoring and accountability will be supported through Council's governance, risk and compliance platform. This will include monthly internal reporting, as well as reporting to the wider community Q2 and Q4.

The AAP will also be reviewed annually, as committed to within the document (page 13).

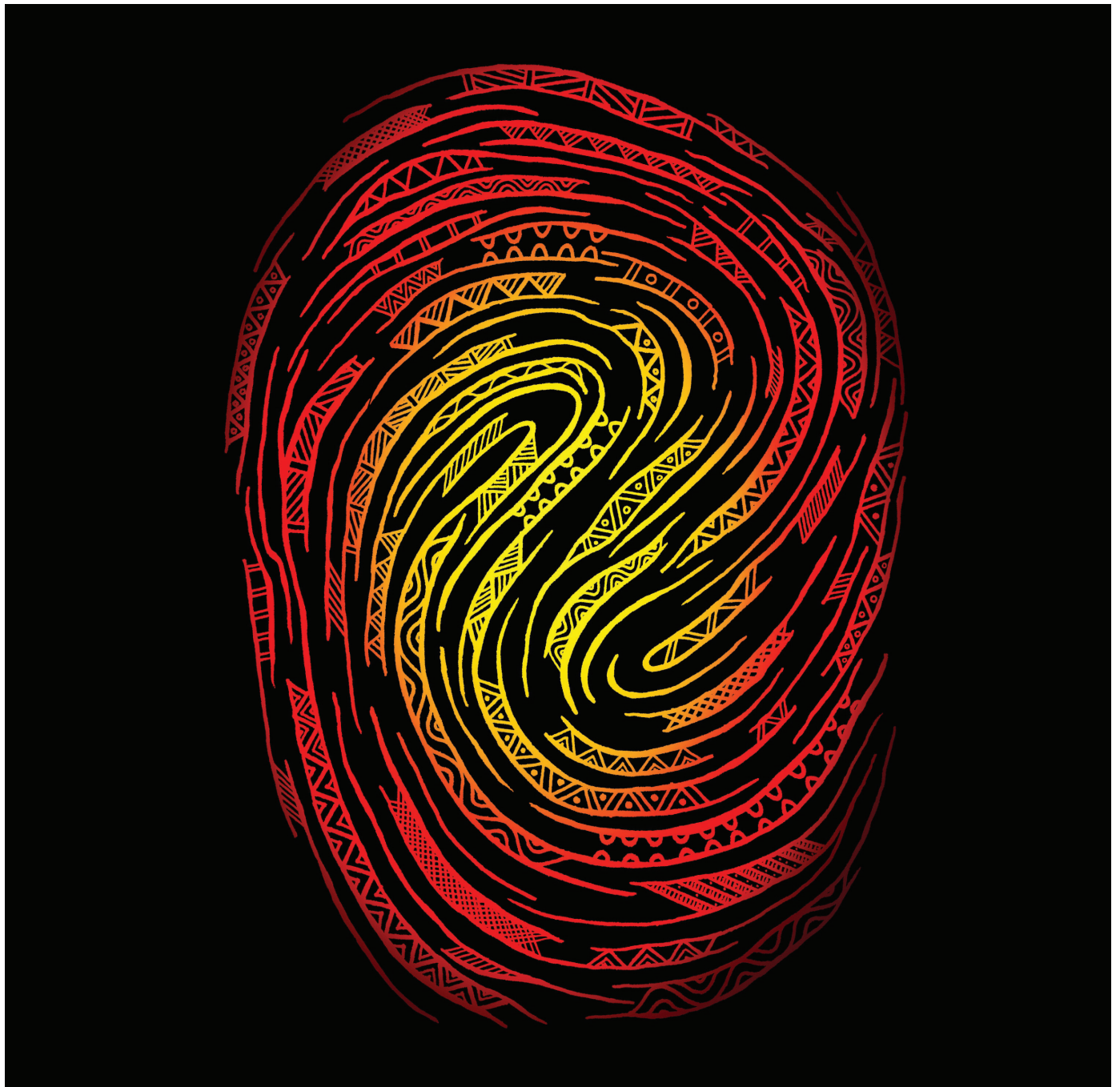
Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers providing advice to Council are required to disclose any conflict of interest they have in a matter and explain the nature of the conflict.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Attachments

1. Aboriginal Action Plan - Youth Council [4.4.1 - 15 pages]



CONSULTATION DRAFT

Aboriginal Action Plan 2024-2029



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

Contents

Message from the CEO	2
Executive summary	3
The Aboriginal Community in Whittlesea	4
The Whittlesea Reconciliation Group	5
Our reconciliation journey	6
Next steps – an Aboriginal action plan	8
Listening and learning	10
Self-determination	11
Our Aboriginal Action Plan	12
Theme 1: Culture, respect and trust	14
Theme 2: Awareness and engagement	16
Theme 3: Accountability and direction	18
Theme 4: Governance and participation	19
Theme 5: Economic participation	20
Theme 6: Health and wellbeing	22
Theme 7: Resourcing and funding	23
References	24

The artwork featured on the cover design and used throughout this document was created by Mandy Nicholson, Wurundjeri artist. It contains traditional Wurundjeri motifs and represents how we are connected to the earth, just like our fingerprints.

Where the term ‘Aboriginal’ is used it refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I am proud to present the City of Whittlesea’s *Aboriginal Action Plan 2024-2029*.

The *Aboriginal Action Plan* marks a new era in Council’s commitment to reconciliation and self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

With the second largest Aboriginal population in metropolitan Melbourne, Council understands the important role it can, and should, play in leading change across our community.

Developed in consultation with the local Aboriginal Community, including the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group, the plan will guide Council’s reconciliation efforts for the next five years.

Building on the progress made through Council’s first *Reconciliation Action Plan* and subsequent *Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan*, this plan contains 34 key actions.

These actions focus specifically on the needs, aspirations and priorities of the Aboriginal Community within the City of Whittlesea to improve cultural, health, education and employment outcomes.

Importantly, the *Aboriginal Action Plan* forms part of Council’s *Integrated Planning Framework*, which ensures it is at the heart of decision making across the organisation.

The *Aboriginal Action Plan*, together with initiatives such as the Aboriginal Gathering Place at Quarry Hills Parkland, will help drive meaningful, long-lasting change.

I look forward to Council working with the Community on these important next steps in our reconciliation journey.

Craig Lloyd
Chief Executive Officer
City of Whittlesea

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Aboriginal Action Plan 2024-2029* is a key strategy in Council’s *Integrated Planning Framework*.

It was developed through close collaboration with our local Aboriginal community and reflects their expert knowledge.

It aims to recognise and enable Aboriginal self-determination by:

- prioritising culture
- addressing trauma and supporting healing
- addressing racism and promoting cultural safety
- prioritising decision-making power in areas that impact their communities.

It also aims to support:

- the *Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021-2026 (VALGS 2021-2026)*
- the *Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023*
- the Treaty process including Yoorrook Justice Commission recommendations
- the *Victorian Closing the Gap Implementation Plan 2021-2023*.

To do so, it addresses seven action areas set out in the VALGS 2021-2026. These action areas align with our *Integrated Planning Framework* and accurately reflect the City’s journey toward reconciliation.

The plan will be achieved in partnership with the City of Whittlesea’s Aboriginal Community and Council’s Reconciliation Group.



THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY IN WHITTLESEA

The City of Whittlesea is located on the Country of the Wurundjeri and Taungurung Peoples.

Approximately 20 kilometres north of Melbourne, this Country has many culturally significant sites and the Wurundjeri Willum clan and Taungurung People are the Traditional Owners of the land that now forms our Green Wedge.

This Green Wedge protects and promotes Aboriginal heritage on over 60 per cent of the City of Whittlesea’s land area.

Today, more than 2,250 Aboriginal people call the City of Whittlesea home. This is more than three per cent of the City’s population and means this community is the second largest Aboriginal Community in metropolitan Melbourne.¹

The Community has grown by almost 40 per cent since 2016, especially in Doreen and Mernda where it has grown by more than 50 per cent. Many members are under 18.

One of the avenues Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community members are represented at Council is through the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group.

THE WHITTLESEA RECONCILIATION GROUP

Council’s formal pathway to reconciliation began in 2001 with the formation of the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group.

This community-based committee is comprised of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members, as well as council representatives including an Administrator and post the Council election, the City of Whittlesea mayor and a councillor.

It also has three non-voting members from Council to support its work.

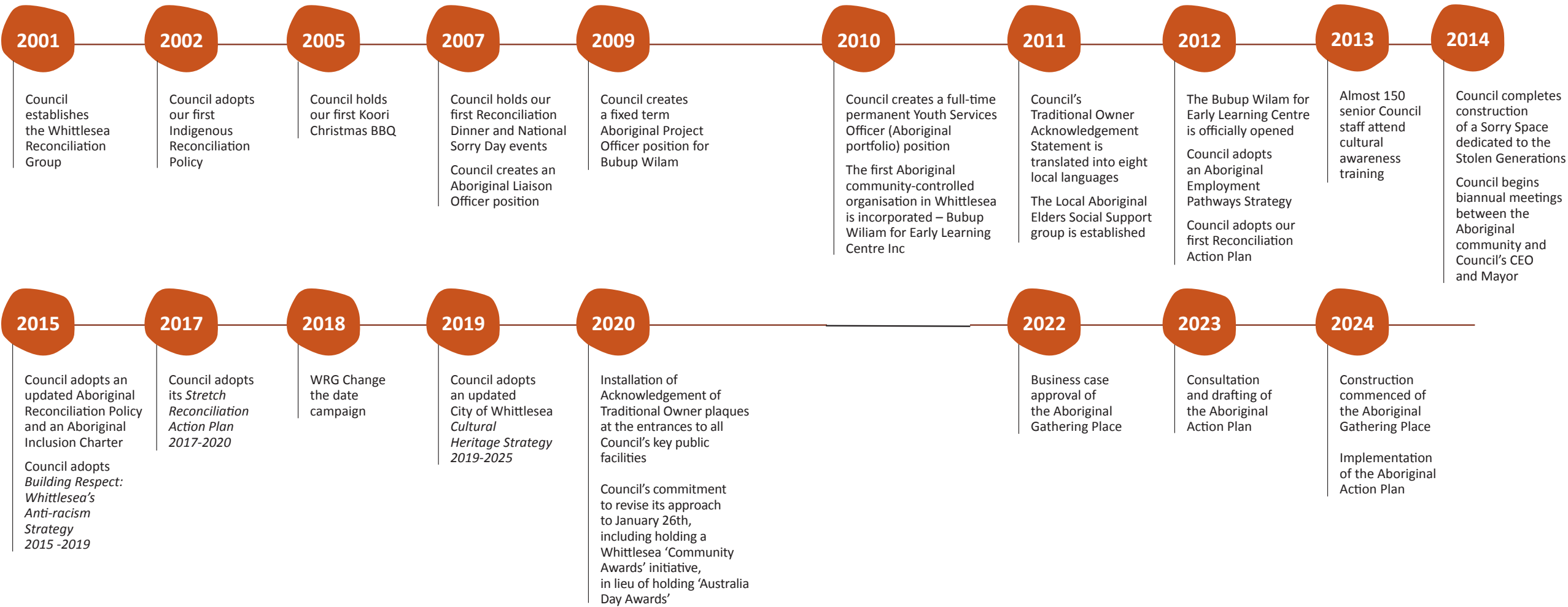
The Whittlesea Reconciliation Group meets regularly to discuss issues, opportunities, policies and programs that impact on Aboriginal Peoples living in the City and is an important reference group to Council.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2021. *2021 Census*.
[2021 Whittlesea, Census Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#).



OUR RECONCILIATION JOURNEY

Since 2001, the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group has inspired and supported Council in a range of initiatives to progress our reconciliation journey. These include the following steps:



NEXT STEPS –
AN ABORIGINAL ACTION PLAN

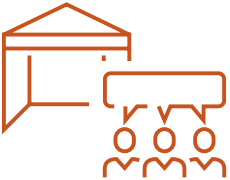
In October 2023, Council’s Aboriginal Communities Department began consulting with local Aboriginal Communities and other local governments to work out what the next steps in our reconciliation journey should be.

Through these consultations, it became clear that our next plan should be an Aboriginal action plan.

This plan will be a key part of the set of plans and strategies that guides Council’s actions on behalf of the local community.

- This set already includes the following strategies:
- 1. *Connected Community Strategy 2023-2033*
 - 2. *Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy 2024-2026*
 - 3. *Strong Local Economy Strategy 2022-2026*
 - 4. *Sustainable Environment Strategy 2022-2032*
 - 5. *High Performing Organisation Strategy 2023-2028*
 - 6. *Long-term Community Infrastructure Plan 2024-2033.*

Each of these plans and strategies has clear actions and outcomes to help Council achieve our vision: *Whittlesea 2040, a place for all.* All were developed in collaboration with the local community. For example:



More than 4,000 community members made submissions or participated in workshops, forums, and online and in-person events and activities to inform our *Whittlesea 2040* vision.



1,300 people across 40 events informed our *Community Plan* through our ‘Let’s talk’ program.

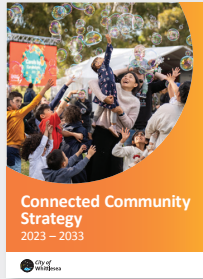


Focus groups with community members informed the priorities in our *Connected Community* and *Liveable Neighbourhoods* strategies and our *Community Infrastructure Plan*.

Many of the actions and outcomes in these plans support reconciliation and have a direct and measurable impact on the local Aboriginal Community.

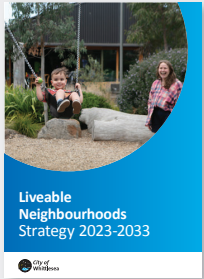
The *Aboriginal Action Plan* details other specific actions that Council will take to advance our reconciliation journey.

Reconciliation actions in other
Council plans and strategies



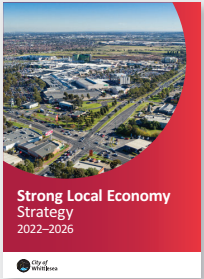
Connected Community Strategy 2023-2033

- Recognise and acknowledge Traditional Owners
- Undertake cultural awareness programs with our community



Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy 2023-2033

- Acknowledge and celebrate the Aboriginal cultural heritage of our municipality
- Protect and celebrate sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance



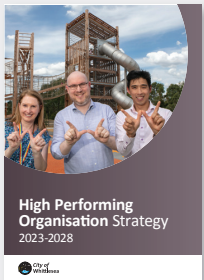
Strong Local Economy Strategy 2022-2026

- Create effective Aboriginal employment and development pathways



Sustainable Environment Strategy 2022-2032

- Integrate Traditional Owner custodianship into the management of Country through collaboration and partnerships
- Recognise the rights of Traditional Owners and their deep connection and knowledge of Country
- Increase awareness of traditional land custodianship and cultural practice



High Performing Organisation Strategy 2023-2028

- Collaborate and partner with Traditional Owners to inform Council decisions
- Embed reconciliation within our people and our organisational culture
- Always consider cultural heritage and raise internal awareness of traditional cultural practice



Long-term Community Infrastructure Plan 2024-2033

- Deliver an Aboriginal Gathering Place that supports self-determination, inclusion and participation
- Enhance cultural safety in built spaces for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities



LISTENING AND LEARNING

To develop and implement this *Aboriginal Action Plan*, Council is listening and learning from the local Aboriginal community, our wider community and other local governments.

Consultation to date has included but is not limited to:

- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
- Taungurung Land and Waters Council
- Whittlesea Reconciliation Group
- Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group
- Neighbouring local governments
- Aboriginal Community-controlled and private organisations
- Other Council Community/Advisory Groups.

Council commits to ongoing consultation with the local Aboriginal Community, wider community and other local governments and organisations.

By listening and learning in this way, we aim to strengthen the foundations we have in place and build other foundations to facilitate self-determination and make sure we achieve long term change.

We know that meaningful collaboration with Traditional Owners and throughout the wider community is critical to this plan’s success. It is also essential for self-determination.

SELF-DETERMINATION

Council understands that reconciliation is a journey that builds and requires mutual respect, trust, and courageous conversations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

As we continue this journey, we are working to:

- deepen our understanding of our shared history
- recognise the challenges to self-determination
- take actions that facilitate self-determination
- ensure Aboriginal Community members have control over the decisions that affect their lives.

To do this, Council and our staff will do the following:

- 1. We will acknowledge and respect Aboriginal rights by:**
 - acknowledging Aboriginal self-determination is a human right as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and working with the Aboriginal community and other levels of government towards a future of equality and justice
 - supporting truth-telling to ensure Council and the community we serve learn more about the history and impact of colonisation, dispossession, assimilation and oppression on Aboriginal Peoples and communities.
- 2. We will listen to and support Aboriginal voices by:**
 - listening to and learning from the diverse and valuable voices of Aboriginal Peoples in our local community and more broadly – this includes Elders, community leaders, community organisations, artists and young people
 - engaging with Aboriginal Peoples and organisations in meaningful ways and involving them through consultation, collaboration, partnership and co-design
 - actively encouraging and supporting Aboriginal Peoples and local Aboriginal Communities to participate in Council decision-making processes.

3. We will celebrate and support Aboriginal culture by:

- honouring the cultural heritage of Aboriginal Peoples, promoting their cultural expression and protecting their cultural integrity
- participating and collaborating in cultural events and significant dates that are organised by or open to Aboriginal Peoples.

4. We will empower and resource our Aboriginal Communities by:

- enabling Aboriginal Communities to determine their own priorities, goals and solutions
- providing infrastructure and services as well as access to funding and grants opportunities
- enabling all parties to be accountable for the outcomes of their actions and inform policies that affect Aboriginal Communities.

5. We will recognise the rich history of environmental protection and custodianship of Traditional Owners by:

- acknowledging and respecting Traditional Owners recognition and celebration of Country
- acknowledging the recently released Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy and the integrated approach to empower Traditional Owners to lead planning and activate cultural knowledge and practices to manage Country
- acknowledging that supporting Traditional Owners to manage Country as a cultural landscape benefits communities and Country.

OUR ABORIGINAL ACTION PLAN

This draft *Aboriginal Action plan* has been developed through engagement with the local Aboriginal Community. We will continue listening and learning to this Community as we finalise, implement, review and revise this plan.

Aim

Our Aboriginal Action Plan aims to recognise and enable Aboriginal self-determination by:

- prioritising culture
- addressing trauma and supporting healing
- addressing racism and promoting cultural safety
- prioritising decision-making power in areas that impact their communities.

It also aims to support the *Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021-2026 (VALGS 2021-2026)*; the *Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023*; the *Treaty process*; and the *Victorian Closing the Gap Implementation Plan 2021-2023*.

VALGS 2023-2026 action areas

To do so, the plan addresses seven action areas set out in the VALGS 2021-2026. These action areas were developed by the Victorian Government in consultation with local governments and the broader Aboriginal Community. They also align with Council’s *Integrated Planning Framework* and accurately reflect our journey toward reconciliation.



Culture, respect and trust
Foster trust and respect through genuine partnerships that understand, embed and celebrate Aboriginal cultural heritage



Awareness and engagement
Continue ongoing, meaningful dialogue to identify, create and deliver regular communication and engagement opportunities



Accountability and direction
Provide clarity, ownership and accountability to progress self-determination that recognises the critical role between Aboriginal Peoples and Council



Governance and participation
Create vibrant local communities by embedding Aboriginal cultures, voices, values, rights and perspectives along with participation in local council



Economic participation
Enable Aboriginal people to participate in the local economy through employment and business opportunities



Health and wellbeing
Preserve Aboriginal culture by supporting Aboriginal people to continue their culture through empowering proud, strong and thriving communities



Resourcing and funding
Establish effective and sustainable resourcing and funding models that support and encourage collaborating, prioritising and resource sharing between Aboriginal people and Council

VALGS 2023-2026 success stages

For each action, the plan identifies which stage Council is at on the Pathway to Stronger Partnerships set out in the VALGS 2021-2026. These stages are:



Stage 1: Understand
Form relationships, understand each other’s aspirations and agree on ways to work together



Stage 2: Embrace
Work together to deliver priorities and mutual outcomes



Stage 3: Embed
Hold each other to account on outcomes to create a new ‘business as usual’ model

Council’s role

For each action, the plan identifies which of the following three roles we will play as we continue our journey:

- 1. **Provider:** We will deliver services and implement projects and programs to promote inclusion and safety
- 2. **Facilitator:** We will establish partnerships and collaborate with stakeholders to create community building opportunities
- 3. **Advocate:** We will support investment and increased service delivery in the municipality by promoting and influencing decision making.

Making it happen

All actions in the *Aboriginal Action Plan 2024-2029* will be subject to Council’s budgeting processes.

Council will review the plan annually by:

- taking an organisational, holistic approach to accountability and reporting
- considering changing community needs
- considering changing state and federal government policies and priorities.

Monitoring and accountability will be supported through Council's governance, risk and compliance platform.

ACTION PLAN



Theme 1
Culture, respect and trust

Goal: Connected community
Key direction: A social, cohesive community
Outcome: Our community understands, values and recognises Aboriginal cultures, histories, knowledge and rights

Deliverable/Actions	Stage of success	Council's role	Timeline	Responsibility in Council
Continue to build cultural competence across all Council Staff				
Develop and deliver an ongoing cultural learning program for all Council staff and Councillors, tailored to different roles and functions.	Embed	Facilitator	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: People & Culture
Acknowledge and promote culturally significant dates and events				
Collaborate with stakeholders to host and promote culturally significant events such as NAIDOC Week, Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week.	Embed	Facilitator	Sept 2024 Ongoing calendar annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Various depts, depending on project/event
Remove barriers and promote staff attendance at culturally significant events.	Embed	Facilitator	Sept 2024 Ongoing calendar annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Various depts, depending on project/event
Provide support and advice to community groups and organisations who seek to acknowledge culturally significant dates and/or host or attend events.	Embed	Facilitator	Sept 2024 Ongoing calendar annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Various depts, depending on project/event

ACTION PLAN



Theme 1
Culture, respect and trust

Goal: Connected community
Key direction: A social, cohesive community
Outcome: Our community understands, values and recognises Aboriginal cultures, histories, knowledge and rights

Deliverable/Actions	Stage of success	Council's role	Timeline	Responsibility in Council
Promote and support self-determination				
Complete construction of the Aboriginal Gathering Place in Bunjil Nganga Parkland.	Embed	Provider	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Capital Delivery Support: Aboriginal Communities
Continue working with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community towards the Aboriginal Gathering Place becoming incorporated and standing independently.	Understand	Advocate	2025 Ongoing annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Governance
Respond and implement actions from the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework and Self-Determination Reform Framework in Council's sphere of influence.	Understand/ Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider/ Advocate	Ongoing annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Various departments, depending on action
Embed Traditional Owner languages, culture and people in the naming of Council's places and spaces				
Review and update Council's Signage Management Plan and relevant signage in consultation with Traditional Owners.	Embrace	Facilitator/ Provider	June 2025 Ongoing	Lead: Comms and Engagement Support: Aboriginal Communities
Collaborate with Traditional Owners - and Council's Place Naming Committee - to develop place naming protocols for Council's assets in accordance with Council's Naming Policy for Features.	Embed	Facilitator/ Provider	June 2025 Ongoing	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Communications and Engagement/ Capital Delivery/ Various depts, depending on project

ACTION PLAN



Theme 2
Awareness and engagement

Goal: High performing organisation
Key direction: Driving better community outcomes
Outcome: Our community is informed and engaged about Council’s services, programs and activities

Deliverable/Actions	Stage of success	Council’s role	Timeline	Responsibility in Council
Embed strong collaborative relationships between Council and Traditional Owners				
Continue ongoing, regular engagement with the Traditional Owners (Wurundjeri/ Taungurung).	Understand/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider/ Advocate	Sept 2025 Ongoing calendar annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Communications and Engagement
Engage with and support Traditional Owners (Wurundjeri/Taungurung) to share climate resilience and Care for Country practices, as well as provide input on the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage				
Partnering with Traditional Owners (Wurundjeri/Taungurung), to collaborate on the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage, environmental management and the sharing of Care of Country practice, in alignment with Council’s Sustainable Environment Action Plan 2022-2024 relevant action items and future planning.	Understand/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider/ Advocate	Dec 2024 Ongoing calendar annual review	Lead: Sustainable Environment & Strategic Futures Support: Aboriginal Communities
Integrate knowledge gained from the cultural landscapes approach across Council land use policies, plans and operations, including strategic planning, statutory approvals, open space, urban design, assessments, sustainable environment, land use planning and communications.	Understand/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider/ Advocate	Dec 2025 Ongoing calendar annual review	Lead: Building & Planning & Strategic Futures Support: Aboriginal Communities

ACTION PLAN



Theme 2
Awareness and engagement

Goal: High performing organisation
Key direction: Driving better community outcomes
Outcome: Our community is informed and engaged about Council’s services, programs and activities

Deliverable/Actions	Stage of success	Council’s role	Timeline	Responsibility in Council
Enhance Council’s public communication for all campaigns to reinforce ongoing commitment towards reconciliation and self-determination				
Review Council’s existing communication and engagement processes, to better respond towards Aboriginal self-determination and reconciliation.	Understand/ Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Communications and Engagement Support: Aboriginal Communities
Ensure Aboriginal community stakeholders are provided regular opportunities to discuss key matters of importance with Councillors and Council staff, including partnership opportunities, barriers and advocacy priorities				
Explore opportunities where Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Organisations can provide feedback to enhance service delivery and increase participation.	Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider	Dec 2025 Ongoing calendar annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Office of Council & CEO
Establish regular opportunities for Aboriginal Community members, working and advisory groups to connect and meet with Council, including Council, Youth Council and Council Officers.	Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider/ Advocate	Dec 2025 Ongoing calendar annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Office of Council & CEO

ACTION PLAN



Theme 3
Accountability and direction

Goal: High performing organisation
Key direction: More informed Council decisions
Outcome: Our decisions are informed and made in the best interest of community now and for future generations

Deliverable/Actions	Stage of success	Council's role	Timeline	Responsibility in Council
Embed existing Victorian Aboriginal Frameworks to enhance internal policies or decision-making processes				
Explore opportunities to align self-determination enablers and principles with Council business and activities, as well as prioritising culture, empowerment, increasing opportunities and resources to the community.	Embed	Provider	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Office of Council & CEO/ People & Culture Support: Aboriginal Communities
Embed internal reporting mechanism to monitor, evaluate and report against deliverables outlined throughout the Aboriginal Action Plan (AAP)				
Establish an internal AAP Governance arrangement to monitor and evaluate implementation of the AAP.	Embed	Provider	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: ePMO & Change Support: Aboriginal Communities
Monitor and evaluate Aboriginal programs delivered through Council				
Monitor and evaluate all Aboriginal programs delivered through Council - including at the Aboriginal Gathering Place - to review improvements and ensure community needs are being addressed including Treaty process and Yoorrook Commission outcomes	Embed	Provider	Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Various departments, depending on project

ACTION PLAN



Theme 4
Governance and participation

Goal: Connected community
Key direction: A participating community
Outcome: Our community is empowered and enabled to participate in decision-making

Deliverable/Actions	Stage of success	Council's role	Timeline	Responsibility in Council
Involve Aboriginal community in decisions that affect them				
Continue collaborating and seeking formal advice on decisions affecting Aboriginal community members from the local community through dedicated advisory groups.	Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider/ Advocate	Ongoing annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Office of Council & CEO
Identify opportunities to embed Aboriginal voices in Council's advisory groups and committees.	Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider/ Advocate	Ongoing annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Office of Council & CEO
Sponsor support and promote leadership opportunities within the community, such as participation in Council's Community Leadership Program.	Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider/ Advocate	Ongoing annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Office of Council & CEO

ACTION PLAN



Theme 5
Economic participation

Goal: Strong local economy
Key direction: Increased local employment
Outcome: Our economy is inclusive and accessible for all

Deliverable/Actions	Stage of success	Council's role	Timeline	Responsibility in Council
Strengthen support networks for growth and success in education and employment				
Work in partnership with Aboriginal employment providers to identify and to create training and upskilling opportunities to support Aboriginal people to enter or re-enter the workforce in alignment with Council's Strong Local Economy Strategy 2022 – 2026.	Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider	Sept 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Economic Development
Work in partnership with local providers to increase opportunities and confidence in job seeking.	Understand/ Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider	Sept 2025 Ongoing calendar annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Economic Development
Actively engage and support Traditional Owners, Aboriginal organisations, businesses and individuals to increase economic opportunities				
Develop and participate in Aboriginal business events and conferences to strengthen commercial relationships with Aboriginal businesses.	Understand/ Embrace	Facilitator/ Provider	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Economic Development
Create and publish a database of local Aboriginal enterprises.	Understand/ Embed	Provider	Sept 2024 Ongoing calendar annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Economic Development
Promote tendering opportunities to local Aboriginal businesses.	Understand	Understand	Ongoing annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Economic Development
Support community groups and organisations to upskill in grant writing and navigating funding pathway.	Understand/ Embrace	Advocate	Ongoing annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: ePMO & Change

ACTION PLAN



Theme 5
Economic participation

Goal: Strong local economy
Key direction: Increased local employment
Outcome: Our economy is inclusive and accessible for all

Deliverable/Actions	Stage of success	Council's role	Timeline	Responsibility in Council
Make City of Whittlesea an employer of choice for Aboriginal Peoples				
Create an inclusive and supportive work environment by community engagement, diversity and inclusion policies, work life balance and recognition and rewards.	Understand/ Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: People & Culture
Identify more pathways for Aboriginal Peoples to work at Council, including work experience, mentoring and traineeships.	Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider/ Advocate	June 2025 Ongoing calendar annual review	Lead: People & Culture Support: Aboriginal Communities
Provide assistance, training opportunities and individual support to increase career development opportunities to expand their Council career progression.	Understand/ Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: People & Culture
Advertise job vacancies to effectively reach Aboriginal Peoples and stakeholders.	Embed	Advocate	Dec 2024 Ongoing annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: People & Culture

ACTION PLAN



Theme 6
Health and wellbeing

Goal: Connected community
Key direction: A healthy and safe community
Outcome: Our community is healthy, well and physically active

Deliverable/Actions	Stage of success	Council's role	Timeline	Responsibility in Council
Establish the Aboriginal Gathering Place as a central hub for community, connection and culture				
Work with the local Aboriginal community to co-design programs and activities for the Aboriginal Gathering Place that address social, physical, cultural, emotional and wellbeing needs.	Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Capital Delivery/ Various depts, depending on project
Develop, partner and promote community activities that create positive health and wellbeing, throughout the Council.	Understand/ Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Various depts, depending on project
Establish a network of Council Aboriginal resource hubs				
Utilising community hubs and online resources – including the Aboriginal Gathering Place – to promote and boost Aboriginal businesses, programs, events, activities, grants and other funding opportunities.	Understand/ Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider/ Advocate	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Communication & Engagement/ Various depts, depending on project
Foster partnerships with industry professionals				
Create and develop strong relationships with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and other Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations that deliver and promote healthy social and emotional wellbeing programs.	Understand/ Embrace	Facilitator/ Advocate	Dec 2025 Ongoing calendar annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Various depts, depending on project

ACTION PLAN



Theme 7
Resourcing and funding

Goal: High performing organisation
Key direction: More cost-effective investment and an engaged workforce
Outcome: Our community is confident that City of Whittlesea can fund community needs into the future

Deliverable/Actions	Stage of success	Council's role	Timeline	Responsibility in Council
Honour, respect and value Aboriginal Peoples' experience, expertise and knowledge by supporting First Nations resourcing and opportunities				
Support sustainable and effective grant and funding models to assist on-going Traditional Owners', Aboriginal Organisations' and Peoples' engagement, activities and initiatives.	Understand/ Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider/ Advocate	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: Financial Development and Accountability/ ePMO & Change
Engage with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Organisations to establish future program and grant funding guidelines				
Support sustainable and effective grant and funding models to assist on-going Traditional Owners, Aboriginal Organisations and Peoples engagement, activities and initiatives.	Understand/ Embrace/ Embed	Facilitator/ Provider/ Advocate	June 2025 Ongoing financial annual review	Lead: Aboriginal Communities Support: ePMO & Change



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Available at <https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/victorian-closing-gap-implementation-plan>

Treaty for Victoria
Available at <https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/treaty> and <https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/>

Yoorrook Justice Commission
Available at <https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/>

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination
Available at <https://vpssc.vic.gov.au/workforce-programs/aboriginal-cultural-capability-toolkit/aboriginal-self-determination/>
<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-justice/self-determination-and-indigenous>
<https://deadlystory.com/page/culture/articles/self-determination-and-treaty>

City of Whittlesea Council Plans and Strategies:
Connected Community Strategy 2023-2033
Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy 2023-2033
Strong Local Economy Strategy 2022-2026
Sustainable Environment Strategy 2022-2032
High Performing Organisation Strategy 2023-2028
Long-term Community Infrastructure Plan 2024-2033



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Connect with us in your
preferred language:

Free telephone interpreter service



131 450

4.5 Amendments to the Youth Council Terms of Reference

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing
Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Youth Development Coordinator

In Attendance: Unit Manager Youth Development

Executive Summary

The Youth Council Terms of Reference define the purpose, objective, structure, resourcing and management of the City of Whittlesea Youth Council. The Youth Council Terms of Reference was published in October 2023 prior to the recruitment of the 2024-25 Youth Council.

The Terms of Reference defines that a member of the Youth Council cannot re-apply for membership following the completion of a term of membership (24 months). This has been identified as a disadvantage for Youth Council members who are aged under 16 years old during their term of membership as they do not have the opportunity to nominate for Youth Mayor or Deputy Youth Mayor.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

- 1. Resolve to accept the proposed amendments to Sections 4(d), 4(e) and 7(e) at Attachment 1.**
- 2. Note the amended Youth Council Terms of Reference come into effect from 6 August and will be circulated to relevant officers, Council staff and Youth Council members.**

Background / Key Information

The current Youth Council Terms of Reference defines that a member of the Youth Council cannot re-apply for membership following the completion of a term of membership (24 months). This has been identified as a disadvantage for Youth Councillors who are aged under 16 years old during their term of membership as they do not have the opportunity to nominate for Youth Mayor or Deputy Youth Mayor.

The proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference addresses this disadvantage by removing the requirement that a Youth Council can only complete one term of membership. The proposed amendments allow for a Youth Councillor aged 16 years and under during the duration of their term of membership to re-apply following a break period of a minimum one 24-month term. This amendment provides opportunity for a Youth Councillor to nominate for Youth Mayor or Deputy Youth Mayor in their second term of membership, should they be successful in their application for a second term.

Implementation Strategy

Communication

This report includes an attached proposed amended Youth Council Terms of Reference.

Critical Dates

As outlined in Section 14 of the Youth Council Terms of Reference, the Terms of Reference may be reviewed after 12 months in consultation with Youth Council membership. Council will work with Youth Council through a codesign process to explore opportunities to evolve the Terms of Reference.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers providing advice to Council are required to disclose any conflict of interest they have in a matter and explain the nature of the conflict.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Attachments

1. Youth Council Terms of Reference July 2024 [4.5.1 - 12 pages]



Youth Council Terms of Reference

July 2024

A place for all



Terms of Reference

1. Purpose of the Youth Council	3
2. Objectives	3
3. Youth Council Membership and Recruitment	3
4. Term of Membership.....	4
5. Responsibilities of Members	5
6. Induction, Planning and Training.....	5
7. Management of the Youth Council	5
8. Attendance of Non-Members	8
9. Relationship with Council	9
10. Providing Advice to Council.....	9
11. Code of Conduct	9
12. Grievance Resolution Process	9
13. Public Statements.....	10
14. Review of Terms of Reference	10
15. Appendix 1: Whittlesea Youth Advisory Committee New Membership Recruitment Process Flow Chart	11
16. Appendix 2: City of Whittlesea Recruitment for Youth Council Vacant Member Position.....	12



1. Purpose of the Youth Council

The City of Whittlesea Youth Council is a peak advisory and advocacy group whose role is to represent the voice of young people aged 12 – 22 who live, work, study or have strong connections to the City of Whittlesea. The Whittlesea Youth Council provides a formal means for representation and information exchange between Council and young people and provides opportunities for young people to raise local youth issues.

The Whittlesea Youth Council is one of multiple mechanisms for Council to engage and consult with young people and involve them in decision-making processes. It is a crucial stakeholder in achieving, developing, and reviewing the City's Community vision Whittlesea 2040: A Place for All. The Youth Council is also an important avenue for the youth community to connect with and raise issues with Council, and for Council to refer matters to the Youth Council for their feedback.

2. Objectives

Act as representatives to:

- a) Provide a platform for young people to raise issues and advocate on priorities that are important to young people in the City of Whittlesea.
- b) Provide advice to Council on specific issues impacting young people in the City of Whittlesea as relevant.
- c) Offer advice and advocate to Council on current issues and emerging trends for young people and implications for the service sector in the municipality
- d) Enhance the opportunities for participation in the areas of citizenship, leadership, and civic participation for young people.
- e) Provide advice on Council programs and on the development of spaces used by young people.

3. Youth Council Membership and Recruitment

The Whittlesea Youth Council membership will consist of:

- a) a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 13 young people aged between 12 to 22 who either live, study, work, access services or have a significant connection to the City of Whittlesea.
- b) Where possible Youth Council members will be drawn from across the City of Whittlesea geographic area.



- c) Young people selected to be members of the Youth Council should represent the diverse and varied needs of the youth community in City of Whittlesea including but not limited to living in rural Whittlesea, LGBTIQA+, gender diverse, First Nations, people with a disability, chronic illness and/or mental illness, carers, people experiencing or have experienced financial insecurity and culturally and linguistically diverse young people.
- d) Candidates for Youth Council membership will be sought through a publicly advertised expression of interest outlined in Appendix 1.
- e) Youth Council member applications will be assessed by a panel comprising young people and Council representatives and will follow the process outlined in Appendix 1. The Panel will be a majority membership of young people and preferably chaired by a young person.
- f) Members who are 18 years or over at any point during their term of office are required to apply for and hold a valid Working with Children Check – (Volunteer level minimum)
- g) If a young person turns 23 years before the end of their term, the member will be required to vacate their position.

4. Term of Membership

- a) Term of membership is a 24-month term.
- b) In general, applications for membership will be open to young people aged between 12 – 21 years, this will allow young people to complete a 2-year term before turning 23 years.
- c) Council will be advised of the Youth Council membership.
- d) In general, once a term of membership is completed, Youth Council members aged 16 years and over cannot re-apply for membership.
- e) If a young person is aged 12-16 years during their term of membership, they can re-apply for membership following a break of 24 months. This allows for a young person aged 12-16 years during their initial term of membership the opportunity to pursue a Youth Mayor or Deputy Youth Mayor position.



5. Responsibilities of Members

In order to fulfill the requirements of the Youth Council, members are required to:

- a) Bring their own experiences of being a young person in Whittlesea.
- b) Represent local young people.
- c) Keep informed of current issues and emerging themes in relation to young people.
- d) Be aware of the activities, interests and concerns relating to the youth sector and the lives of young people in the municipality.
- e) Prepare for and participate in regular Youth Council meetings and portfolio group meetings.
- f) Engage with and seek feedback from other young people in the municipality in relation to the topics discussed at Youth Council meetings.

6. Induction, Planning and Training

- a) **Induction and Planning:** Youth Council members will meet for a compulsory induction and planning program prior to the first scheduled Youth Council meeting. The Induction and Planning program will provide members with training on meeting and Council processes. During the induction and planning program, the Youth Council will learn how to hold meetings using Council's Governance Rules.
- b) **Training:** Youth Council members will engage in ongoing training relevant to their role as Youth Council members. Some extraordinary training opportunities may be offered outside of meeting schedule times, these opportunities are voluntary for Youth Council members.

7. Management of the Youth Council

- a) **Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor:** The Youth Council will receive nominations for and vote on a Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor from the membership at the second meeting of the term. Elections will be held in accordance with Council's Governance Rules with nominations submitted via an Expression of Interest form prior to the first meeting. Youth Council meetings are chaired by the Youth Mayor with the support of the Office of Council & CEO providing meeting procedure advice in line with Council's Governance Rules. In the event that the Youth Mayor is unable to perform their role, the Deputy Youth Mayor will take over chairing responsibilities. The Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor are required to be 16 years old or above.



- b) **Meetings:** Meetings will be held monthly according to the Youth Council meeting schedule, with the exception of October 2024, no meeting will be held due to Council being in Election Period (Caretaker) mode.
- c) **Quorum:** At least 50%+1 members of the total number of Youth Council members need to be present at meetings in order for the meeting to proceed. In the event that a quorum is not achieved within thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled commencement time of the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned until the following month.
- d) **Standing Agenda Items:** Each Youth Council meeting will have a standing agenda item of:
 - Meeting Opening and Introductions
 - Acknowledgement of Country
 - Diversity and Good Governance Statement
 - Apologies
 - Declaration of Conflict of Interest
 - Confirmation of Previous meeting Minutes
 - Reports and matters for consideration
- e) **Minimum level of attendance:** Members who are absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without notice **by 5pm on the day of the meeting** will be removed from the Youth Council membership, notice of this will be provided in writing by the Office of the CEO. Prior to removal, Council officers will conduct a check-in with the Youth Council member who has been absent to address any barriers to participation. This will identify next steps including greater support for attendance or leave of absence or removal or resignation.
- f) **Extended leave of absence:** Youth Council members can request to take an extended leave of absence from the Youth Council. Requests for extended absence must be submitted in writing to the Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO. The Office of the CEO will notify the Youth Council of extended leave of absence of members in writing, to be minuted at the next scheduled monthly meeting.
- g) **Resignation from Youth Council:** Youth Council members wishing to resign from their position on the Whittlesea Youth Council must advise the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor in writing and the letter tabled at the next scheduled Youth Council meeting. This letter is to be forwarded to the Executive Manager Office Council & CEO.
- h) **Voting:** Will be by show of hand and each eligible member is entitled to one vote. A motion is deemed to have been carried if it receives 50%+1 votes of the Youth Council members present at the meeting. In situations where there is a tied vote the Youth Mayor has the casting vote.



- i) **Youth Council Support and Resourcing:** The Youth Council will be resourced by the Office of Council & CEO who will be responsible for secretarial support including, in consultation with the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor, preparing and circulating meeting agendas, taking minutes of meetings, assisting in the preparation of reports and other administrative functions. Governance, Communications and Community Engagement support will be provided by the Executive Services directorate.
- j) **Honorarium Payment:** The commitment made to the Youth Council is considerable with young people making a significant time commitment to ongoing work throughout the year which may impact their ability to undertake other paid employment. In acknowledgement of the significant time commitment involved in Youth Council membership, members will be paid an annual Honorarium fee to compensate for costs associated with their participation. There will be one rate for non-executive Youth Council members and two higher rates for Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor in recognition of the greater commitment required by these two roles. The Honorarium fee will be paid monthly.

Youth Council Honorarium	
Position	Honorarium (Annually)
Youth Mayor	\$3,000
Deputy Youth Mayor	\$2,000
Non-execute Member	\$1,200

All Youth Councillors are eligible for additional payments to assist in their attendance of Youth Council meetings. These payments can include but are not limited to; travel costs including Taxis or Rideshare (Uber), parking costs when required to attend events, childcare costs if Youth Councillor requires to place their child/children in a care facility in order to attend Youth Council meeting and the associated costs of obtaining a police check.

Additional costs also may be incurred if a Youth Councillor requires access to an interpreter.

- k) Council will publish the Terms of Reference, list of Youth Council members, meeting agendas and the minutes of meetings on Council's website.



8. Attendance of Non-Members

- a) The Youth Council may invite relevant Council Officers, other guests, experts and/or young people to attend meetings in an advisory capacity, for a specified purpose and for a specified period of time. The Office of Council & CEO, in consultation with the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor, set meeting agendas and confirm non-member attendees. The Youth Council members reserve the right to limit non-Youth Council attendees at meetings. All meeting visitors are required to adhere to the Youth Council Charter. Youth Council meetings are not open for public viewing.
- b) Council Officers and external groups and parties wishing to consult with the Youth Council must submit a request form outlining the purpose of the request a minimum of one month prior to the Youth Council meeting they wish to attend. The Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor, with the support of Office of Council & CEO, will determine whether the request fits with the priorities and purpose of the Youth Council. The request form is to be publicly available on the Youth Council page of the City of Whittlesea website. The request form will be developed by the Youth Council during the planning and Induction process so that it outlines the Youth Council's priorities for the term.
- c) The Whittlesea Youth Council is accessible and welcomes the active participation of young people with disabilities. To ensure that active Youth Council membership is accessible, the City of Whittlesea Youth Services staff will support members to develop an individual access and support plan with young people who may require additional support to participate. Youth Council members who require additional support are welcome to bring support people to meetings. Youth Council members are to raise this with the Office of Council & CEO staff during the induction and planning process or prior to the next Youth Council meeting so that the Youth Mayor can be notified of non- members in attendance in a support capacity. Support people are to attend Youth Council meetings in strictly an access and support capacity and are not permitted to engage in meeting business.



9. Relationship with Council

- a) The Youth Council will report to and meet with Council twice yearly informing Council of identified issues or priorities of the Youth Council, projects and portfolio work undertaken by Youth Council members and enter into dialogue with Council leaders around issues of importance or consequence for young people.
- b) A suitable forum for these twice-yearly meetings will be determined once the Youth Council is established and may include presentations/discussion at Council Briefings.
- c) The mode of report will be chosen by Youth Council members. Reports to Council could incorporate but not limited to; video or infographic reports; verbal Council presentations; written updates (memos, letters or submissions).

10. Providing Advice to Council

The Youth Council may invite Council Officers to Youth Council meetings for the purpose of gaining information and consulting on relevant Council strategies and policies. The Youth Council may also engage with Council Officers at Youth Council meetings for the purpose of providing expert advice to Council on topics and issues relevant to young people.

11. Code of Conduct

Youth Council members will be required to sign an undertaking to adhere to the City of Whittlesea's Code of Conduct at the commencement of each term. The Code of Conduct sets out the behavioural expectations of all staff, contractors and volunteers representing the City of Whittlesea. During the Induction and Planning phase of program, training will be provided to Youth Council members on understanding and following the Code of Conduct.

12. Grievance Resolution Process

In the event that a conflict occurs between Youth Council members, the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor will work with the Executive Manager, Office of Council & CEO to resolve it. If Youth Council members have a grievance or concern, it should be raised according to the following:

- a) If the grievance is about a fellow Youth Council member, the issue should be raised with the Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor and Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO.
- b) If the grievance is about the Youth Mayor or Deputy Youth Mayor, the issue should be raised with the Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO



- c) If the grievance is with the Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO it should be raised with the CEO.
- d) All conflicts will be addressed and resolved in accordance with the code of conduct and the principles of natural justice.
- e) Youth Development staff support.

13. Public Statements

Ordinary members of the Youth Council cannot make public statements on behalf of Council as an independent group without prior approval of the Chief Executive Officer or nominee.

14. Review of Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference (ToR) may be reviewed after 12 months in consultation with Youth Council membership. Council will work with Youth Council through a codesign process to explore opportunities to evolve the ToR.



15. Appendix 1: Whittlesea Youth Advisory Committee New Membership Recruitment Process Flow Chart

September - October

Public Expression of Interest Process Open

Flyers and information will be distributed to primary and secondary schools, TAFES, universities, community spaces including CAC's and community services that work with or support young people who live, work, study or connected to the City of Whittlesea. A social media campaign will take place, displaying flyers and information on all of Councils social media platforms.

An Information Session will be held, this session will be recorded and uploaded online.

Youth Services staff will provide support to enable young people to apply in a manner that meets their needs.

October - November

Expressions of Interest Received

Applications for membership are open to young people aged between 12 – 21 years, this will allow for young people to complete a 2 year term before turning 23 years.

An Expression of Interest process will be open during October/November. Where necessary, applications will be submitted in a manner that supports young people's needs.

Submissions will be sent to Youth Services Team and will be reviewed and shortlisted by a panel of Council representatives and young people.

November - December

Interviews

Shortlisted applications for membership will be interviewed by a panel comprising of Council representatives and young people. Young people selected to be the members of the committee should, when possible, comprise a diverse mix of young people with respect to age, gender and sexual identity, cultural background, lived experience and location within the municipality.

Successful applicants will undergo a referee check and will be notified of their membership at the end of November/early December.

January

Induction & Planning

Successful applicants will be required to attend the induction and planning program.

Members will meet for a compulsory induction and planning program at the commencement of their term prior to the first scheduled Youth Council meeting. The Induction and planning program will provide members with training on meeting and Council processes and review and orientation to Youth Council Terms of Reference. During the induction and planning program, the Youth Council will determine the focus and scope of three portfolio sub-groups for the term.

February

Firth Youth Council Meeting

The first meeting for each term will take place in February. Election of leadership roles including Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor and Portfolio leaders will be undertaken at the first meeting along with the confirmation of a Committee Charter.



16. Appendix 2: City of Whittlesea Recruitment for Youth Council Vacant Member Position

The following document outlines the process for filling vacant positions on the Whittlesea Youth Council in the event a member vacates their position. Where this occurs, Council may:

- a) Refer to the original EOI Applicants shortlist if the vacancy is within the first 12 months of the term (ie. membership will be filled through shortlisted applicants who were interviewed but unsuccessful due to capacity limits during the previous Youth Council application period).
- b) If the vacancy occurs within the last six months of the Term, the vacant position will not be filled unless a Youth Council quorum is unable to be maintained.
- c) The Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor along with Council representatives will make up the panel for recruiting new members.
- d) An induction process will occur for newly appointed members filling vacant positions outside of the annual recruitment process.

5 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

6 General / Urgent Business

No Urgent Business

7 Closure