

# Lauries Field

MASTER PLAN REPORT

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# Acknowledgment 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.

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Version	Date	Issue
V1	10/06/2025	Draft master plan report for Council Meeting
V2	24/07/2025	Draft master plan report public exhibition
V3	30/10/2025	Draft master plan report for Council Meeting
V4	21/11/2025	Revised draft master plan report public exhibition
V5	19/05/2026	Master plan report for Council Meeting

# Introduction.

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Lauries Field is a municipal reserve in Doreen, a relatively new suburb developed from farm and grazing land. It was developed in the 2000s and is an informal and passive recreation park, located on the south west corner of Lake land Drive and Brookwood Avenue in Doreen. It has an extensive connected path system, open grassed areas, conservation areas, lake, and play facilities occupying an area of 5.07 hectares. The playground equipment was upgraded in 2010.

This Master Plan has been developed as a long-term strategic document to guide the future development of Lauries Field. Implementation of the proposed actions will be subject to Council's holistic capital works prioritisation and budgeting processes.

# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

Lauries Field Park is situated in Doreen which extends from Plenty River in the west to Yan Yean Road in the east (within the City of Whittlesea). Doreen borders Mernda to the west and South Morang and Yan Yean to the south and north respectively. Yan Yean Road and Bridge Inn Road, present barriers to safe walking access to open space within the suburb.

The forecast residential population change in Doreen is a 3 percent increase of approximately 860 people by 2041 (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics census data (ABS) 2021).

Doreen is a fast-growing suburb in Melbourne's northern growth corridor, with a predominantly young, family-oriented population. The area has a higher proportion of children and fewer older adults compared to Greater Melbourne, suggesting a strong demand for family-friendly open space and recreational facilities. Most households are couples with children, while a smaller proportion are older couples without children.

Doreen is also culturally diverse, with many residents speaking a language other than English at home and a significant number born overseas, including recent arrivals. These demographic characteristics highlight the need for inclusive, accessible, and multi-functional open spaces that meet the needs of a diverse and growing community.

## 1.2 Doreen statistics



### POPULATION

**28,604 residents in 2023**

**1,979 population density persons per square km**

**11.6 % of population are 60+ years of age**

**38.7% of population are less than 25 years of age**

*"Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics census data (ABS, 2021)"*



### CULTURAL DIVERSITY

**20% were born overseas**

**18.7 % speak a language other than English at home**

*"Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics census data (ABS, 2021)"*



### URBAN HEAT

**10-15°C hotter above the non-urban baseline**

*"Source: Cooling and greening Melbourne, Urban Heat Data 2018"*



### FAMILIES

**48% of households are couples with children**

**20.4% of households are couples without children**

**13.5% are one parent family**

*"Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics census data (ABS, 2021)"*



### OPEN SPACE AND TREES

**43 square metres provision of unencumbered open space per resident**

*"Source: Open Space Plan 2016"*

**Recommended minimum open space provision is 20-25 sqm per resident**

**12.8 % canopy cover**

*"Source: Greening Whittlesea City Forest Strategy 2020-2040"*

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## LAURIES FIELD

Lauries Field Park is a 5.07ha informal municipal park in Doreen. Developed in the 2000s and located on the south west corner of Lakeland Drive and Brookwood Avenue in Doreen. The park has an extensive connected path system, open grass areas, lake, conservation area, and play facilities.

As Doreen is a newly developed suburb, it was not included in the Open Space Strategy 2016, and consequently Lauries Field was not captured. However, the Open Space Framework is used to guide the planning of new open space, identifying Lauries Field as a municipal-level park that provides the community with open space facilities within an 800-metre walking distance.

### HISTORY OF LAURIES FIELD

Lauries Field was developed in the 2000s as part of efforts to enhance local green spaces and provide areas for outdoor recreation in response to urban growth.

The body in Lauries Field is "a heritage lake" which was converted from an old piggery farm dam to a semi-functional lake in the mid-2000's. The park was inherited by council through the development of the Laurimar estate. The lake currently experiences seasonally recurring azolla blooms and also had a major fish death event in 2021" (Lauries Field Sediment Surveys Summary Report, 2024).

## 1.3 Purpose of master plan

The purpose of this Landscape master plan is to guide the future development and management of Lauries Field and to deliver upon the vision of Lauries Field being "a nature integrated park, that champions accessibility, environmental care, and community well-being". This vision will see a rejuvenated community park featuring a redesigned healthy lake that is a key ecological feature of the park.

The master plan endeavours to:

- ▶ Create a safe and inclusive, highly accessible reserve that supports and encourages use by people of all ages and abilities;
- ▶ Promote environmental sustainability through ecological conservation and improvement, increased tree canopy cover, water body enhancement, and water-sensitive urban design;
- ▶ Enhance community safety by designing a functional and thoughtful layout, applying Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, and considering gender-sensitive approaches;
- ▶ Inform future capital works, as stand-alone projects, or staged with a logically cumulative sequencing;
- ▶ Recommend necessary improvements to the site to achieve a high-quality landscape setting while protecting and enhancing its existing character.

**The Australian Urban Observatory (AUO, 2024) provided the following information on liveability criteria for Doreen:**

Interpreting this data informs the Master Plan by guiding decisions on the location, type, and quality of open space and recreational facilities, ensuring that future investment in Lauries Field effectively meets community needs and supports the growth and liveability of the suburb.



**LIVEABILITY 97.9**

The liveability index is a composite indicator that was calculated based on 13 domains: community centres, culture and leisure, early years, education, health and social services, sport and recreation, food, convenience, walkability, public transport, public open space, housing affordability, and local employment.

(100 is average)



**HOUSING AFFORDABILITY STRESS 39.3**

The liveability index is a composite indicator was calculated percentage of households in the bottom 40% of incomes spending more than 30% of income on housing costs.

(%)



**REGULAR PUBLIC ACCESS 59.5**

Percentage of dwellings within 400m of public transport with regular 30 minute weekday service (7am-7pm).

(%)



**SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE 3.6**

Social infrastructure refers to community and individual support services and resources such as health, education, early childhood, community support, community development, culture, sport and recreation, parks and emergency services.

(Out of 16)



**LARGE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE WITHIN 400M 70.9**

Percentage of dwellings within 400m of public open space larger than 1.5 hectares.

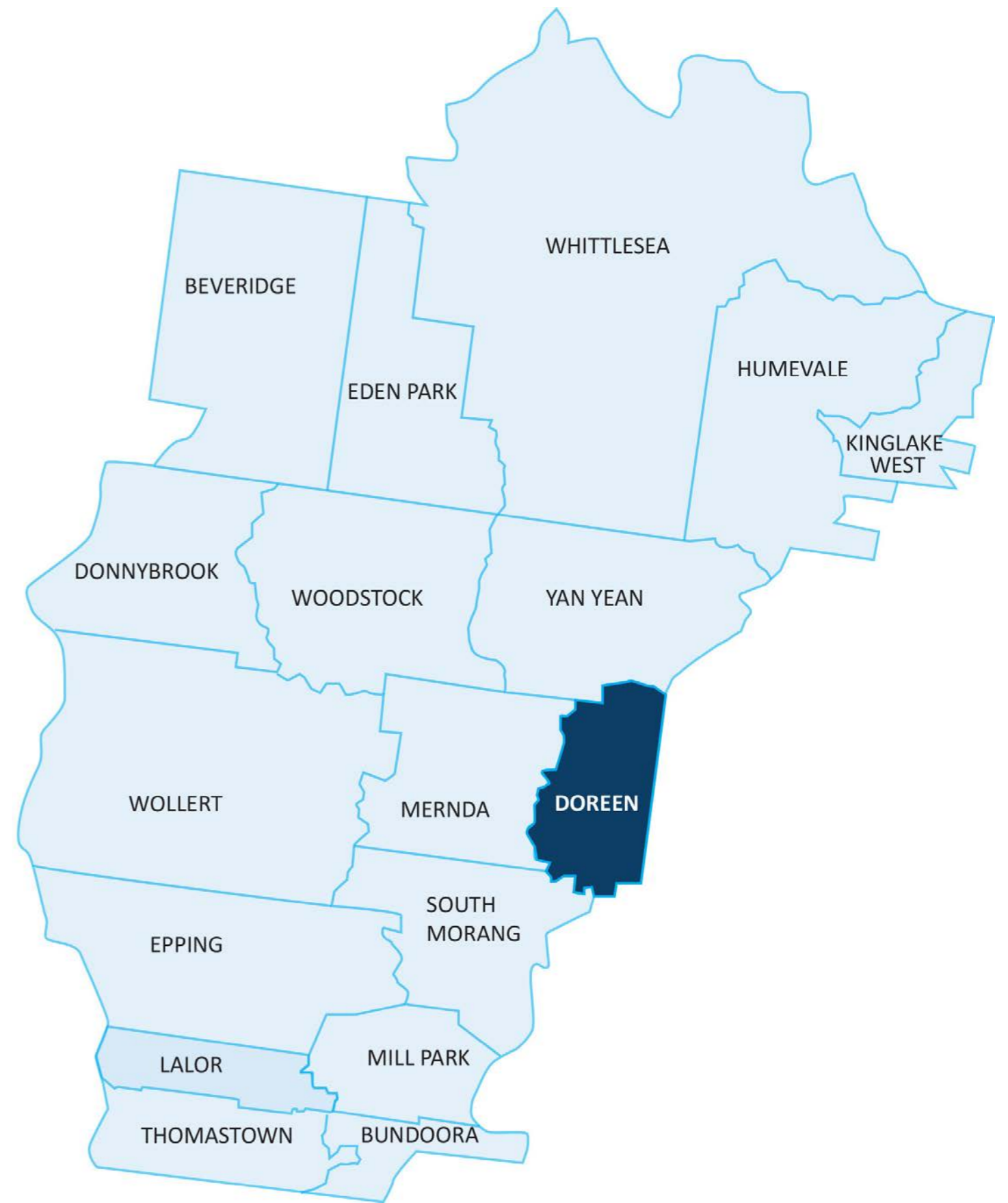
(%)



**WALKABILITY -1**

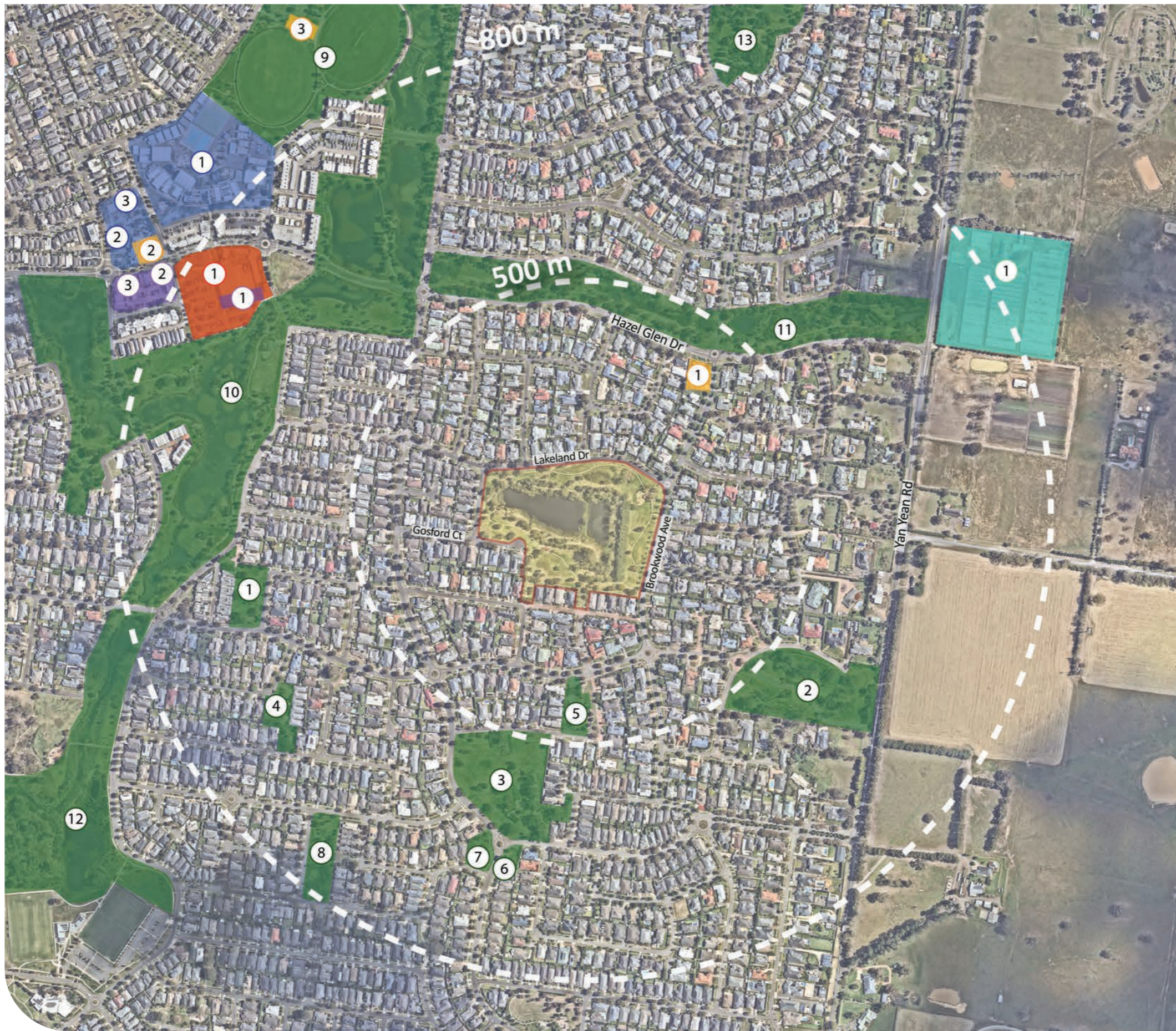
Walkability for transport is calculated based on three factors: land use mix and services of daily living (something to walk to); street connectivity (a way to get there); and dwelling density (higher population densities are associated with increased populations needed to supply services and different land uses).

(0 is average)



Source: The Australian Urban observatory (AUO), 2021

**01. Site location**



**LEGEND**

**CONTEXT PLAN**

- Site boundary
- Open space (recreation)

- ① Red Angus Park
- ② Mitchells Run Park
- ③ Timbertop Park
- ④ Midland Park
- ⑤ Rangeview Park
- ⑥ Timbertop Tree Reserve
- ⑦ Sugargum Tree Reserve
- ⑧ Shorthorn Red Gum Reserve
- ⑨ Laurimar Recreation Reserve
- ⑩ Laurimar Wetland
- ⑪ Laurimar Drainage Reserve
- ⑫ Laurimar Creek Reserve
- ⑬ Hill Top Park

- Education
- ① Laurimar Primary School
- ② Laurimar Kindergarten
- ③ Laurimar Township Childcare & Kindergarten

- Health
- ① Laurimar Medical
- ② Medical Clinic
- ③ Maple Leaf Psychology & Allied Health

- Community facilities
- ① Brookwood Community Centre
- ② Laurimar Community Activity Centre
- ③ Laurimar Community Pavilion

- Agriculture
- ① Balashi Flowers & Nursery

- Commercial facilities
- ① Laurimar Town Centre Shopping Mall

N

02. Context plan



- LEGEND**
- OPEN SPACE HIERARCHY**
- Site boundary
- Open Space Hierarchy**
- Municipal
    - ① Laurimar Recreation Reserve
    - ② Laurimar Wetland
    - ③ Laurimar Drainage Reserve
    - ④ Laurimar Creek Reserve
    - ⑤ Hill Top Park
  - Neighbourhood
    - ⑥ Timbertop Park
    - ⑦ Mitchells Run Park
  - Local
    - ⑧ Red Angus Park
    - ⑨ Midland Park
    - ⑩ Rangeview Park
    - ⑪ Shorthorn Red Gum Reserve
  - Small Local
    - ⑫ Timbertop Tree Reserve
    - ⑬ Sugargum Tree Reserve





## 1.4 Project method

The development of the master plan has involved a comprehensive review of background documents as well as extensive engagement with the community and consultation with external and internal stakeholders. Informed by consultation and site understanding, recommendations were developed for the overall site.

In preparing this report, council initially conducted background research and reviews of existing documents, as summarised below, as well as analysis of the study area, to build our understanding of the context. Our analysis focused on the study area's existing conditions, current issues and challenges and opportunities to improve the site.

Our background analysis and site understanding were expanded by a visit to the study area. The project process then focused on the stakeholder and community engagement process, which sought inputs from nearby residents, general users of the site and internal stakeholders.

The purpose of these engagement activities was to gain greater knowledge about the issues, opportunities and priorities for Lauries Field. To form a more detailed project brief for the planning work and to develop the Vision for Lauries Field. The Stakeholder Engagement Findings Report can be found in Appendix 2.

In the next stage, the project process focuses on the development of the concept plan for the park which is followed by a second and third phase of community engagement on the draft master plan.

### BACKGROUND REVIEW AND SITE ANALYSIS

- Background review of relevant plans, policies and strategies and how they influence the master plan

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (INFORMATION GATHERING)

- Meetings with key internal and external stakeholders
- Online survey through the project engage page
- On site pop up consultation

### SITE ANALYSIS

- Detailed site analysis of physical conditions to identify issues, opportunities, challenges and constraints

### DRAFT MASTER PLAN

- Vision and objectives
- Master plan recommendations
- Workshop concept design with PWG, PCG and key stakeholders
- Concept design

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (MASTER PLAN EXHIBITION)

- On site public exhibition
  - Online exhibition
  - Distribution to key stakeholders (internal and external)
- Note: Due to high community interest and feedback, the consultation to finalise the Master Plan was undertaken twice

### FINAL MASTER PLAN

- Final update to master plan to reflect community feedback

### COUNCIL ADOPTION OF PLAN

## 1.5 Planning controls

Lauries Field consists of four parcels Figure 04, and the master plan explores combining these parcels to establish a unified allotment. The parcels are as follows:

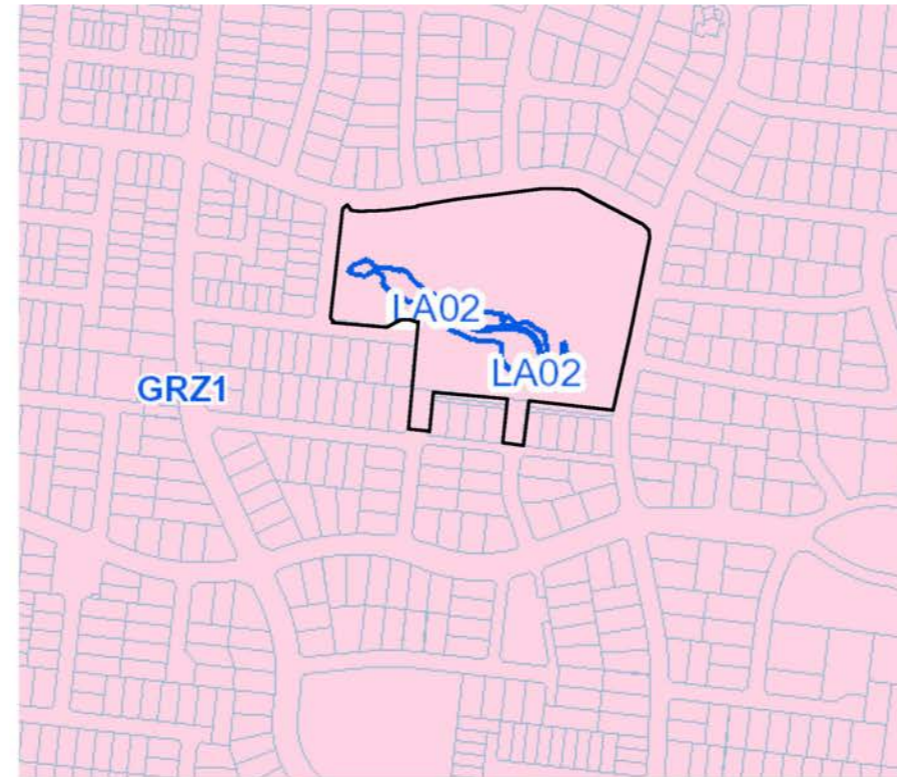
Property address	Property type	Planning zone	Property owner
1W Gosford Court Doreen	WRS Reserve	GRZ1	Whittlesea City Council
14W Aquitane Walk Doreen	WRS Reserve	GRZ1	Whittlesea City Council
7W Lake Front Mews Doreen	WPK Car Park	GRZ1	Whittlesea City Council
7W Brookwood Avenue Doreen	WRS Reserve	GRZ1	Whittlesea City Council



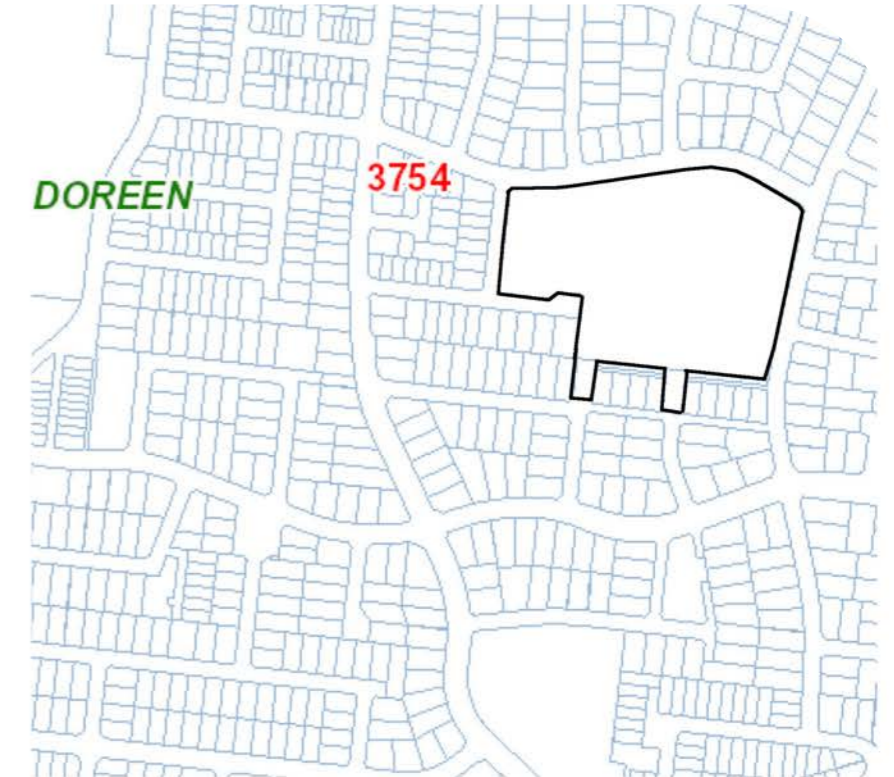
04. Property address details

Lauries Field is located within the General Residential Zone Schedule 1 (GRZ1), Figure 05. The site includes a conservation offset area featuring river red gums (shown in blue). Refer to Offset Plan Laurimar Park and The Maples, Doreen, 2008 in Appendix 1 for further detail.

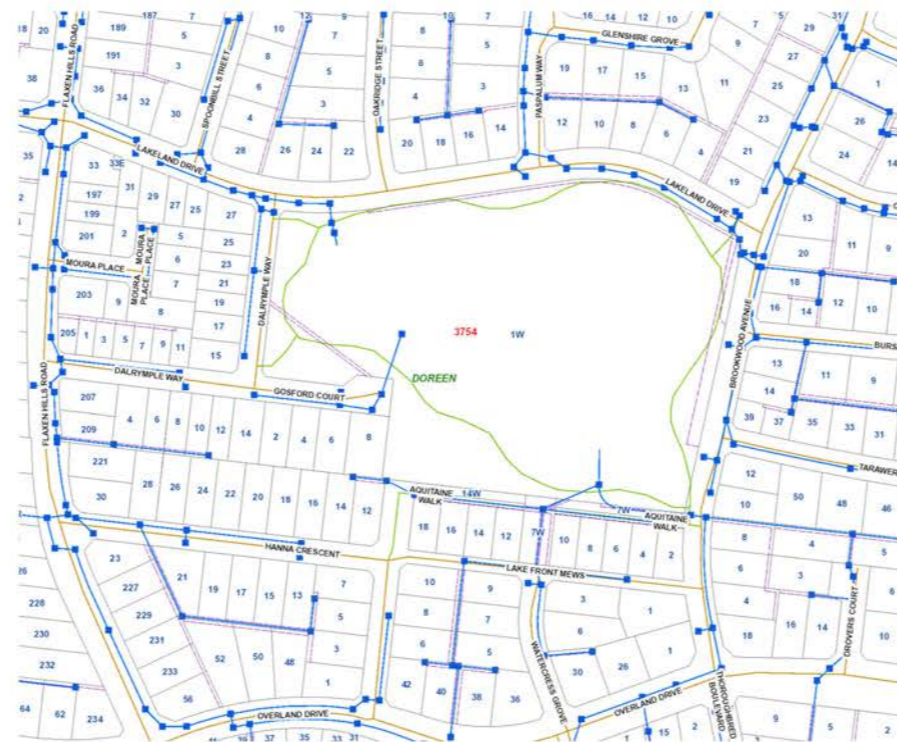
According to the flood modelling, this area is not within a floodplain zone, Figure 06. As indicated in Figure 07, an easement passes through 1W Gosford Court, Doreen, from the north, east, and west sides. Additionally, the drainage passes through 7W Lake Front Mews, Doreen, dividing the parcel into two sections. Council-owned lands are illustrated in Figure 08. Regarding the planning overlay, the site includes the vegetation protection overlay (VPO).



05. Planning zone



06. Flood modelling



07. Drainage and easement



08. Landownership

# Background.

## ***Whittlesea 2040 - A Place For All***

To be ready for the challenges and opportunities that the future will bring, ensuring that the City of Whittlesea is a great place to live now and in the future.

## ***Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy***

More than ever, our public spaces and infrastructure need to perform even more roles to meet the needs of all of our community. For example, our local parks need to cater to all ages and abilities.

## ***Connected Community Strategy***

Improve safety and perceptions of safety for our community through activating public spaces and places, supporting community vibrancy, and helping people to feel safe and supported.

## ***Open Space Strategy, 2016***

Master plans are recommended to be prepared when major works are required for state, regional and neighbourhood open spaces which have a broader catchment of users and frequently a range of community stakeholder groups such as community organisations and sporting clubs.

## 2.0 Council strategies and plans

Existing strategic planning documents, policies and strategies have influenced the Lauries Field Master Plan. A review and summary of each including directions relevant to the study site is included in Appendix 1 for further information.

The documents reviewed are as follows:

- ▶ Whittlesea 2040 – A place for all
- ▶ Community Plan 2025-2029
- ▶ Sustainable Environment Strategy 2022-2032
- ▶ Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy 2023-2033
- ▶ Connected Community Strategy 2023-2033
- ▶ Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan
- ▶ Whittlesea Open Space Strategy 2016
- ▶ Greening Whittlesea City Forest Strategy 2020-2040
- ▶ Neighbourhood Design Manual
- ▶ Active Whittlesea Strategy 2019-2028
- ▶ Integrated Water Management 2021-2024
- ▶ Integrated Transport Plan 2024-2034
- ▶ Landscape Design Guideline
- ▶ Play Space Planning Framework and Policy 2013-2016
- ▶ Walking and Cycling Plan 2022-2027
- ▶ Equal and Safe Strategy 2019
- ▶ Doreen Place Snapshot
- ▶ Place and Movement Plan for Whittlesea 2023
- ▶ Laurimar Master plan 2007
- ▶ Offset Plan Laurimar Park and The Maples, 2008
- ▶ Lauries Field Sediment Surveys Summary Report, 2024
- ▶ Sport and Leisure Infrastructure Plan 2021-2041 (Draft)
- ▶ Thriving Children, Young People and Families Strategy
- ▶ Spaces 8 to 12+: Creating Engaging Places for Young People 2013-2018
- ▶ Your Ground Project 2021
- ▶ Signage Management Plan
- ▶ Disability Action Plan 2017-2021
- ▶ Natural and Built Shade Policy 2016
- ▶ Park Lighting Strategy 2006
- ▶ Public Open spaces Lighting Guidelines, City of Whittlesea, Arup 2025



# Site Analysis.

# 3.0 Site existing conditions and analysis

## 3.1 Site conditions

This section of the plan provides a summarised of existing conditions categorised into the following themes:

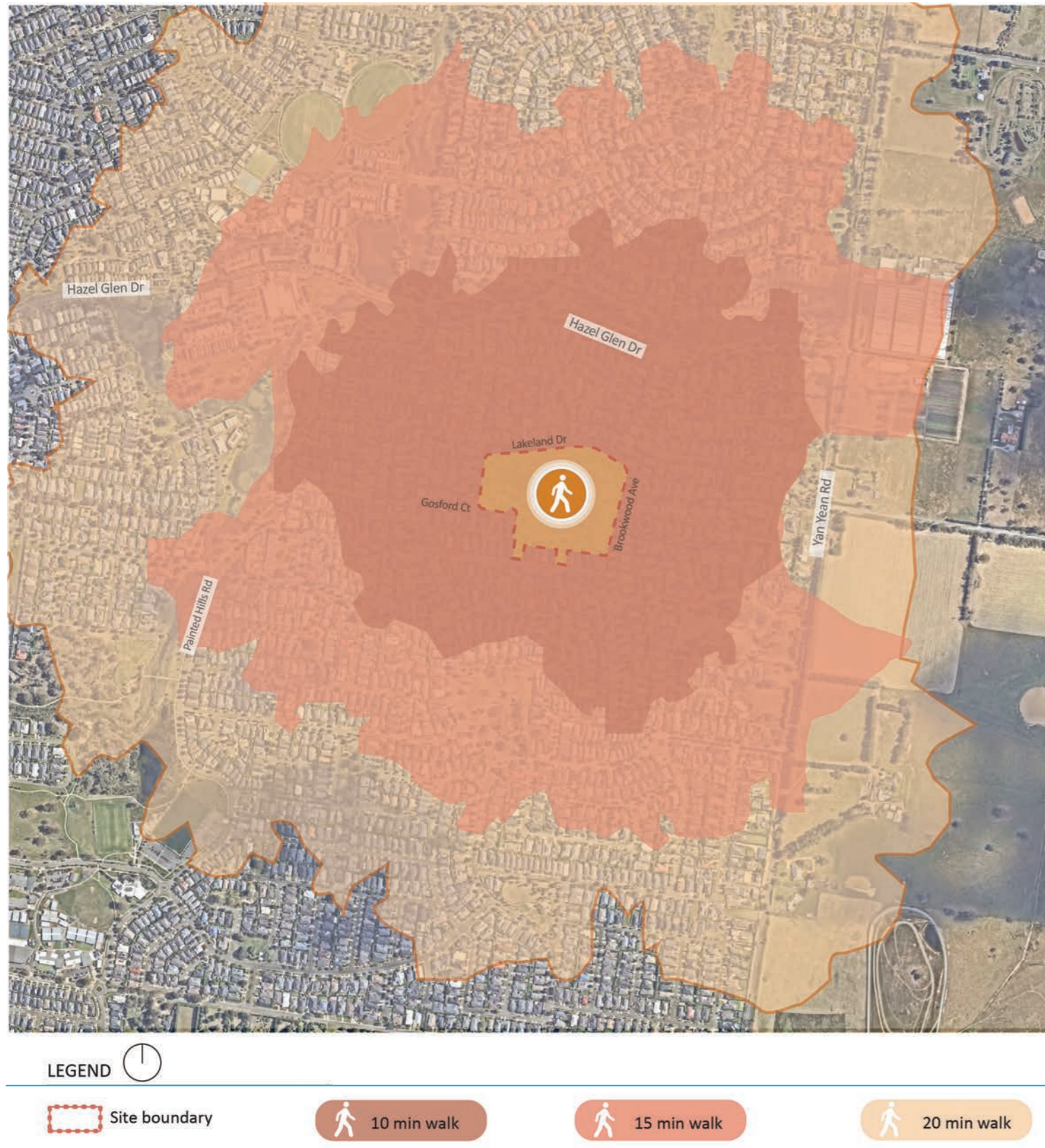
- ▶ Movement and access
- ▶ Recreation and park infrastructure
- ▶ Environment and landscape

Lauries Field according to its size, is a municipal reserve with a 800m walking catchment in Doreen, however, this catchment is limited by Hazel Glen Drive and Overland Drive as collector streets on the north and south side of the site. Refer to Figure 09.

The site has an area of approx. 5.37 hectares which is generally characterised by an open grassed area and a water body surrounded by garden beds and mature trees offset from the site boundaries. The site exhibits varied topography, particularly noticeable on the eastern and northern sides, with an approximate elevation difference of 1.75-2 metres between the existing circuit footpath and the path on the north side of the water body.



09. Walking catchment



10. Ease of access and walkability

### 3.1.1 Movement and access

The study site is easily accessible, offering the community a variety of convenient transport options. Public transport plays a key role, with two bus stops located on Brookwood Avenue providing regular and well-connected services. Mernda Train Station, which runs along the Mernda rail line, is approximately a 20-minute bike ride from the reserve, supporting both public and active travel options. For those walking or cycling, there are shared paths along Painted Hills Road and Hazel Glen Drive. These paths connect to the reserve via footpaths on Lakeland Drive, Brookwood Avenue, and Dalrymple Way, making it easier for the community to access the site without using a car. Vehicle access to the car park is available from Lake Front Mews. There are 13 properties facing Lake Front Mews, each with direct garage access from the street.

#### PATH NETWORK

The study area offers generally good walking conditions, with footpaths along the surrounding streets. Within the reserve, there is a mix of formal and informal footpaths that together provide a mostly continuous walking loop around the lake. However, several gaps in pedestrian connectivity have been identified. In particular, there are no clear or safe footpath links between the entrance and the nearby bus stop on Brookwood Avenue, or between the existing playspace and the loop path around the lake. These missing connections reflect common pedestrian desire lines and highlight opportunities to improve

walkability across the site.

#### BIKE LANES

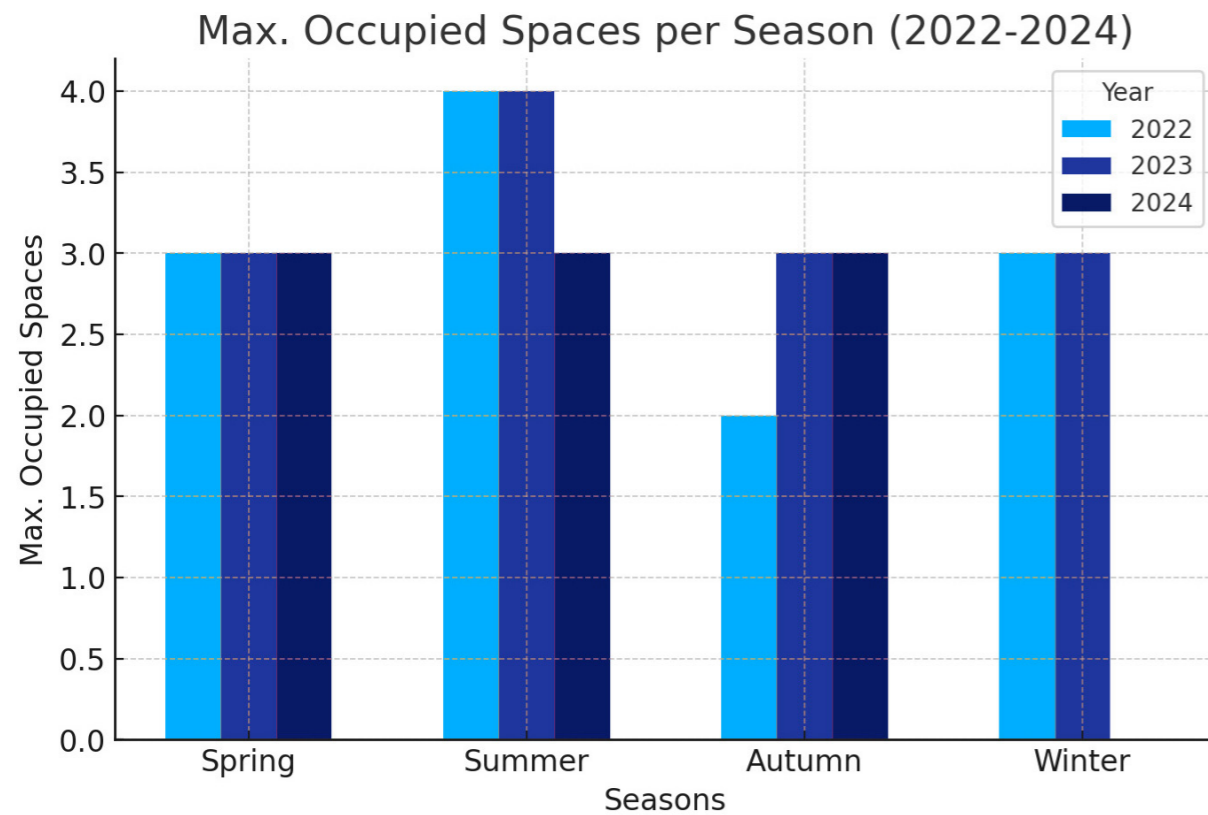
There are shared paths on Painted Hills Road and Hazel Glen Drive. A bike lane is also proposed on Yan Yean Road, according to the Walking and Cycling Plan 2022–2027.

#### CAR PARKING

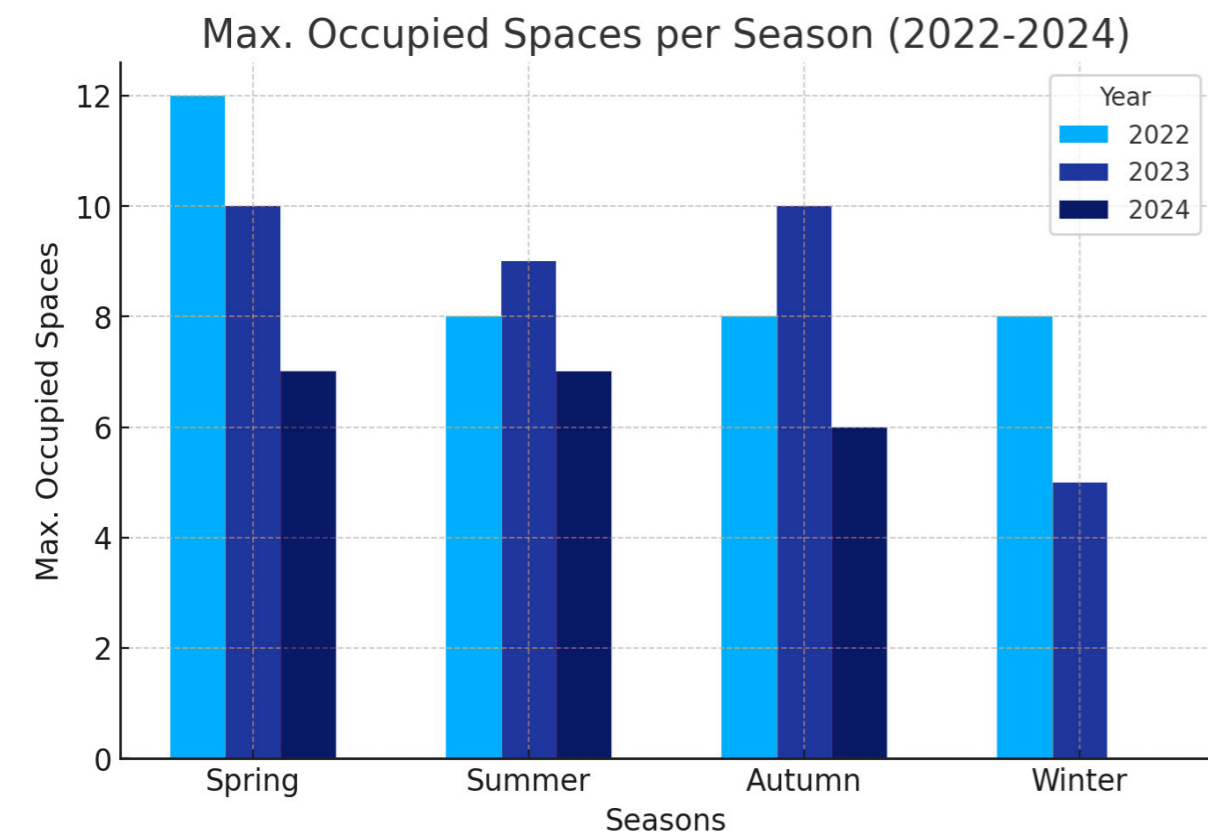
There is no dedicated off-street car parking for Lauries Field. Car parking is permitted on all the streets surround the site, and in the surrounding streets. In addition, 12 indented and unrestricted parking bays are provided along the north side of Lakeland Drive, and there are no parking restrictions on the south side of Lakeland Drive, along Brookwood Avenue, Dalrymple Way, and Gosford Crescent. There is an off-street car park located south of Lauries Field at 7W Lake Front Mews. It was originally intended to serve medium-density townhouses that were never built. The car park has 18 bays, but since 2016, only 6 have been available due to Council installed bollards blocking access to the remaining 12.



11. Car parking



12. Off-street car park - Lakeland Drive, Dalrymplae Way, Gosford Ct, Brookwodd Ave, Doreen



13. On-street car park – Lakeland Drive, Dalrymplae Way, Gosford Ct, Brookwodd Ave, Doreen

observed using the parking bays over the two-year period, sampled across 20 different days: a boat for 20 days, a trailer for 15 days, and a small tipper truck for 9 days.

Based on the investigations the maximum car park occupancy in Lake Front Mews off-street parking is 4 (66% occupied) and it is mainly occupied by caravans and boats of adjacent residents.

Based on the above-mentioned analysis, two options for the off-street car park were investigated through the master plan and in consultation with the urban design, traffic and transport, and strategic planning teams:

► **Option one:**

Retain the six car park bays and convert the remaining area into open space, complemented by a new footpath passing through the car park. This will enhance connectivity between Lake Front Mews and Lauries Field.

► **Option two:**

Provide a footpath and allocate the rest of the parcel for a residential lot (330 m<sup>2</sup> (approx. 9.7m wide), with the opportunity to sell the parcel and use the proceeds for park improvements. The lot includes Aquitaine Walk, (a paper walk, noting on planning overlays only) which would require subdivision to avoid bisecting it

Option 2 was found not to be in accordance with the Development Plan for the area, making the subdivision of the lot unfeasible.

**LIGHTING**

There is currently no formal lighting within the park. Existing lighting is predominately provided through spillover lighting from surrounding streets.

Additional lighting is required throughout the park, particularly along primary access and thoroughfare paths, to improve safety and useability.

**PARK ENTRANCES**

The site has six interfaces due to its shape. Three

sides are bordered by streets, one side adjoins residential properties with side fences facing the reserve, and another side borders a paper road. There are ten pedestrian entrances, including five entrances from the streets surrounding the site and two minor entrances from the car park and the council-owned land from the south side of the site.



### 3.1.2 Informal recreation and park infrastructure

The site currently contains the following facilities:

- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Picnic facilities with two BBQ sets
- ▶ Two shelters
- ▶ Waterbody (lake) including a sediment pond, wetland and existing lake
- ▶ Walking tracks
- ▶ Two boardwalk platforms

Lauries Field currently includes a range of community infrastructure and social amenities that are generally well used. However, these facilities would benefit from rationalisation and upgrades where appropriate. In terms of park furniture, there is a need for additional social seating and drinking fountains with dog bowls.

#### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The park is the main area of open space serving the neighbourhood. Designated for conservation and informal recreation, it includes a lake and two boardwalk platforms, with seating provided on the western platform.

Hotspot intensity around Lauries Field, as shown in Figures 14 and 15, is light to moderate across both weekdays and weekends. This indicates regular but not high levels of activity, with people moving through or spending time in the area. Laurie's Field experiences steady local use, most likely from nearby residents accessing adjoining footpaths and open spaces. While it is not a major destination, it is consistently used within the local context.

The playspace includes a slide, climbing ropes, a swing, and spring riders. The playground equipment was upgraded in 2010 and is currently scheduled for renewal in the 2030–31 financial year.

#### PUBLIC TOILET

There is no public toilet within the study with the closest public toilet at Brookwood Community Centre, approximately a 235m walk from the playground. Additional public toilets are available at Laurimar Town Centre and Hill Top Park.

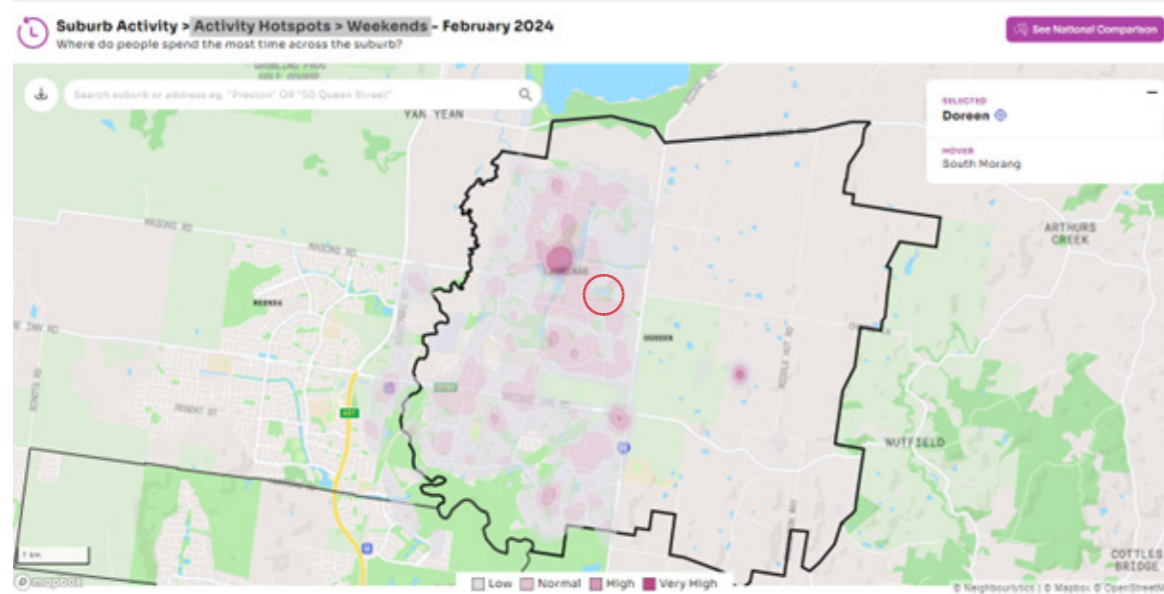
### 3.1.3 Environment and landscape

The park is generally characterised by a lake, conservation and open grass areas surrounded by garden beds and mature trees.

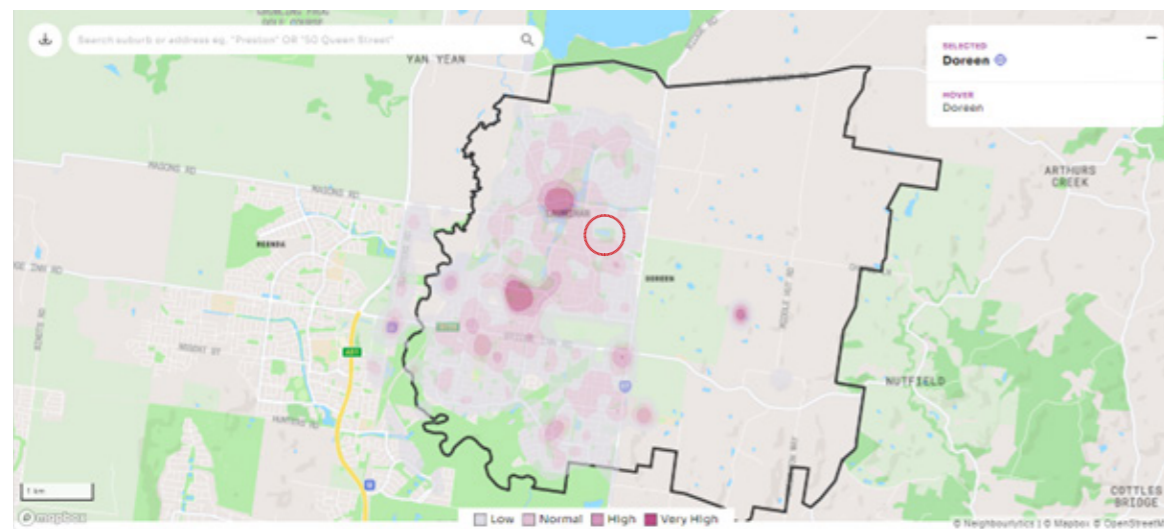
Lauries Field falls under Vegetation Protection Overlay – Schedule 1 (VPO1). The subject site is greater than 4,000 m<sup>2</sup>, therefore vegetation removal is subject to assessment against Clause 52.17 Native Vegetation (Preliminary Tree Assessment Report, 2024). There are over 337 individual trees within Lauries Field and two remnant patches of uniform Eucalyptus camaldulensis (River Red Gums) located in the conservation area on the southern side of the site.

The tree composition includes 1 planted Australian tree, 172 Victorian, 117 indigenous and 47 exotic trees. Among these, seventy (70) River Red Gums and seven (7) trees at the end of their useful life expectancy were observed (Preliminary Tree Assessment Report, 2024).

The canopy cover of trees with more than 3m height at Lauries Field is 15,754 sqm which is approx 28% canopy cover of the study area.



14. Activity hotspots > weekends  
(source: neighbourlytics, 2024)



15. Activity hotspots > weekdays  
(source: neighbourlytics, 2024)



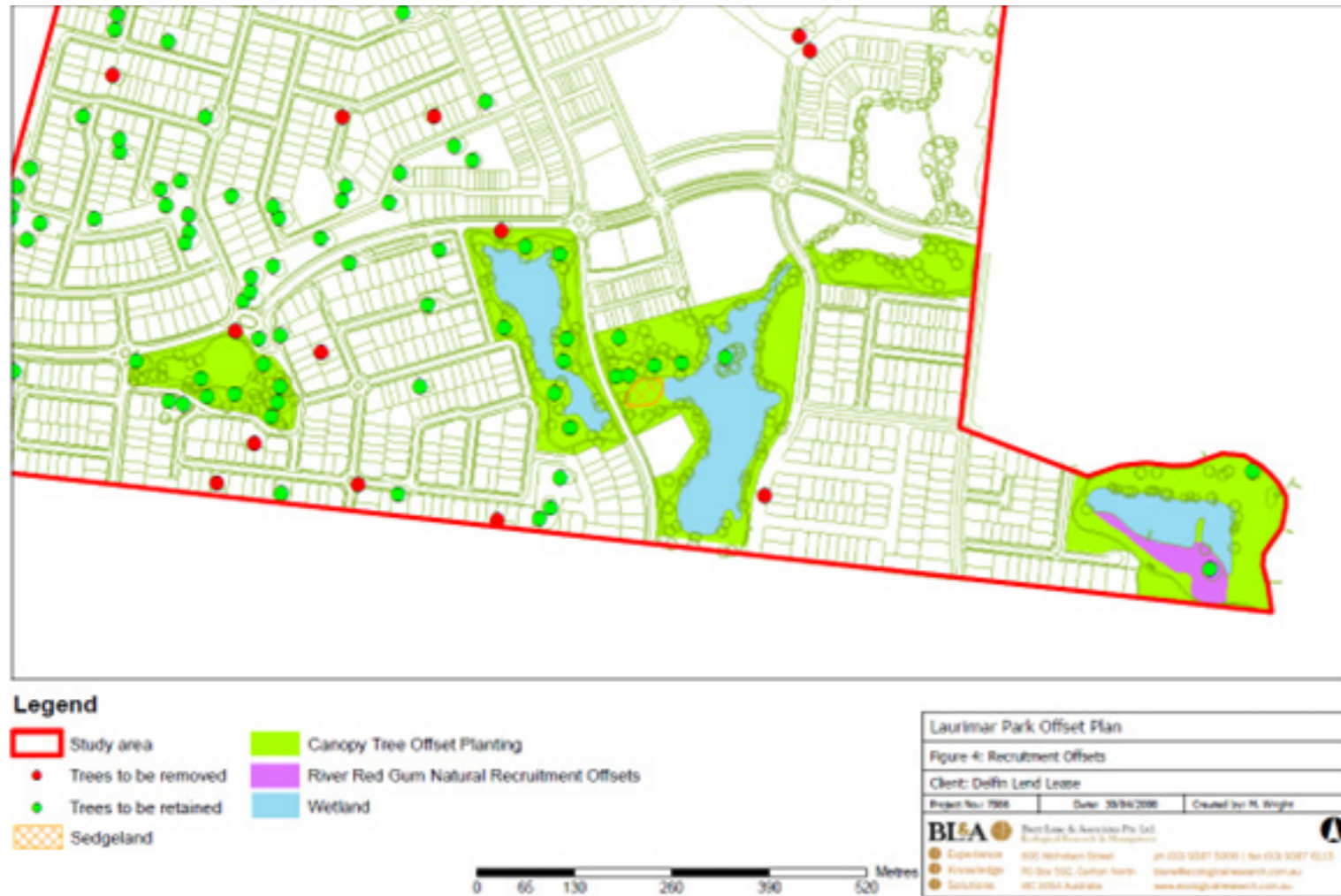
## LEGEND

### Canopy cover

Site Boundary

Canopy cover (>3m height)

### 16. Canopy cover



17. Laurimar park offset plan, recruitment offsets



18. Conservation area



## CONSERVATION AREA

The Laurimar Park and The Maples, Doreen, Offset Plan 2008 identifies offset associated with the removal of trees for the development of the Laurimar Park residential.

It is proposed that the offset for natural regeneration take the form of understory plantings beneath and around the retained and regenerated River Red Gums, in a designated offset zone adjacent to the wetland. This is intended to replace the indigenous understory vegetation that was removed due to past grazing on the site.

At least 402 shrubs and understory plants characteristic of Plain Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) to be planted in the Lauries Field site to assist the natural recruitment of River Red Gums from seed at this location, brought about by the lowering of the pre-existing water levels associated with a constructed dam (lake).

The plan also outlines the ongoing protection of these plantings, and natural regeneration will be encouraged by managing pedestrian access through low, unobtrusive fencing and 'barrier' planting. The area of Plains Grassy Woodland revegetation and natural regeneration will be demarcated with low, unobtrusive log fencing and signed appropriately to emphasise that the area is designated for conservation, not recreational purposes.

The subject site features one of the largest hollow-bearing River Red Gums in the municipality, providing significant habitat for local fauna. Council proposes to incorporate protection measures and education around the environmental values through the site including exclusion fencing and interpretive signage.

## WATERBODY

The waterbody (lake) at Lauries Field, comprises (Lauries Field Sediment Surveys Summary Report, 2024):

- ▶ A small sediment pond in the southeast corner of the site, which flows into
- ▶ A constructed wetland, which ultimately discharges into
- ▶ A storage dam

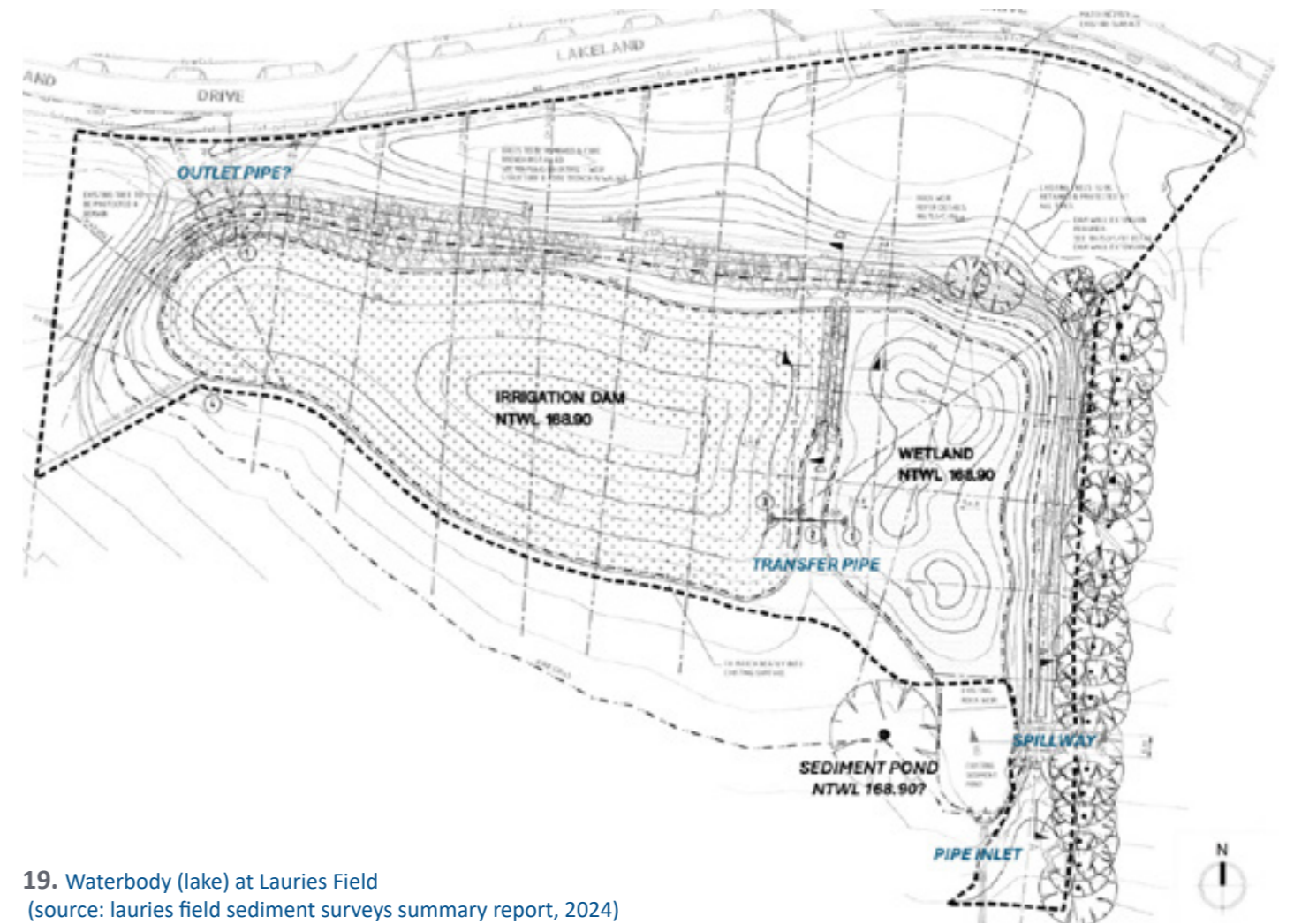
Recent sediment clean-out works have been carried out in the small sediment pond located in the southeast corner of the site. According to the Lauries Field Sediment Survey Report (2024), sediment levels in the main waterbody (lake) are low. This suggests that recent Azolla blooms are unlikely to be caused by nutrient-leaching sediments and are more likely linked to the quality of incoming stormwater. There is an opportunity to improve the performance of the wetland cell by increasing vegetation cover to help absorb excess nutrients. As highlighted in the recent audit, significant weed removal is also recommended.

Lauries Field has experienced recent fish deaths due to low oxygen levels in the water. These events are linked to high nutrient levels in stormwater, which promote the rapid growth of Azolla. When the Azolla dies and decays, it consumes oxygen from the water, leading to poor aquatic conditions. Through the development of the Lauries Field Master Plan, the Open Space Planning Team has worked in close collaboration with Council’s Stormwater Management Specialists to explore options for improving lake health.

## WATER QUALITY UPDATE (AUGUST 2025)

Recent monitoring at Lauries Field recorded elevated nutrient levels (Nitrogen: 1.2 mg/L, Phosphorus: 0.11 mg/L), exceeding discharge guidelines for the Yarra River. These conditions indicate eutrophic status, increasing the risk of algal and Azolla blooms. Blue-Green Algae (BGA) was detected at 2.85 mm<sup>3</sup>/L, with low levels of potentially toxic species. The site is under Amber Alert, requiring monthly sampling. The nutrient enrichment is primarily due to sediment and silt accumulation and stormwater inflows. Council will maintain Amber Alert monitoring, implement safety measures, and engage consultants to:

- ▶ Develop a modernised system design to improve water quality
- ▶ Assess existing asset condition and performance
- ▶ Recommend desilting strategies, which may proceed alongside or independently of the design update



19. Waterbody (lake) at Lauries Field  
(source: lauries field sediment surveys summary report, 2024)



20. Storage dam



21. Constructed wetland



**LEGEND**

**Site Features**

- (A) Sediment Pond
- (B) Wetland
- (C) Existing Lake
- (D) Playspace
- (E) Picnic Area with Shelter
- (F) Board Walk Platform
- (G) Conservation Area

- Gravel Path
- Concrete Path
- Pedestrian Entry
- Trees/Vegetation
- Fence
- Drinking Fountain
- Bus Stop
- Litter Bin
- Bench/Seat
- Shelter & Picnic Table
- Barbecue
- Conservation Area
- Pedestrian Desire Line
- Off-street car park
- Light



Note: There are no cycle lanes on the adjacent streets to Lauries Field; however, there are shared-user paths on Painted Hills Road and Hazel Glen Drive, which are within a 2-minute bike ride from Lauries Field. Additionally, a cycle lane is proposed for Yan Yean Road.



**A** Sediment pond



**L** Southern interface



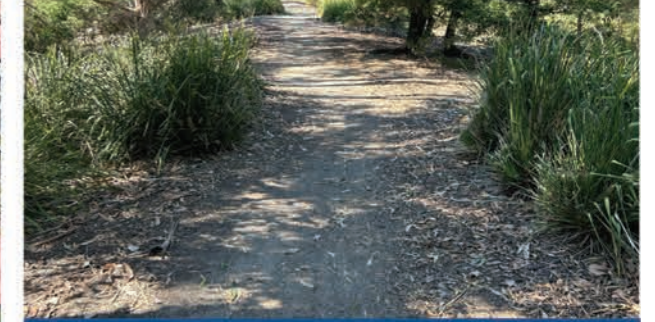
**K** Entrance from south side



**J** Conservation area



**B** Wetland



**I** Circuit path around the waterbody



**C** Irrigation dam



**H** Boardwalk viewing platform



**D** Shelter, playspace and BBQ facilities



**E** Shelter and BBQ facilities in south



**F** Wooden stairs to the boardwalk



**G** Parking next to the site

23. Existing facilities

## 3.2 Site analysis

This section of the plan provides a summarised analysis of existing conditions. The purpose of the analysis is to provide commentary on issues and deficiencies identified by the project team ensuring recommendations to mitigate the issues can be constructed logically.

The analysis covers findings categorised into the following themes:

- ▶ Movement and access
- ▶ Recreation and park infrastructure
- ▶ Environment and landscape

### 3.2.1 Movement and access

#### ISSUES

##### PATH

- ▶ Poor circuit path with varying widths around the water body. These informal footpaths meet minimum accessibility requirements; however, can be increasingly expensive to maintain and do not meet the needs of people with limited mobility
- ▶ No accessible path to the lake from the play space and picnic area on the north side of the lake
- ▶ Lack of suitable connection between the concrete path and the gravel path around the lake
- ▶ The existing timber and gravel stairs accessing the viewing platform do not have handrails and require regular refurbishment

##### CAR PARKING

- ▶ No designated parking is available near the playground. However, on-street parking is available on the streets surrounding the site, and off-street parking can be accessed from Lake Front Mews
- ▶ No accessible car parking for park users

##### ENTRANCE

- ▶ Poor pedestrian entry and access from Lake Front Mews and the off-street car park to the site
- ▶ Poor entrance from Hanna Cres to the site from the council-owned parcel
- ▶ Lack of wayfinding and entrance signage at site entrances
- ▶ Lack of pedestrian safe crossing facilities from streets surrounding Lauries Field creates safety concerns for pedestrians and residents









#### OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Investigate realigning and upgrading the existing circuit path while maintaining its natural character, to provide inclusive access and minimise maintenance costs
- ▶ Investigate providing an accessible path to ensure accessible access to the lake for people with disabilities
- ▶ Investigate establishing a footpath connecting the playspace and main entrance on Lakeland Drive to the lake, to enhance connectivity and accessibility across the site

- ▶ Investigate improving connections between the outer circuit path and the path around the lake
- ▶ Upgrade the stairs accessing the boardwalk and repair or replace the boardwalk itself to ensure safety and usability
- ▶ Investigate alternative path connecting the premier path to the lake
- ▶ Investigate traffic calming initiatives at surrounding intersections, particularly those closest to the playground and picnic area
- ▶ Investigate options for disused off-street car parking at 7W Lake Front Mews, Doreen, including:
  - Reconfiguring the car park to incorporate a footpath connecting Lake Front Mews to the site, with the remaining area converted back to open space, while retaining six car park bays
  - Exploring the alternative use of land parcel
- ▶ Investigate providing more welcoming entrances
- ▶ Investigate accessible parking on street or in 7w Lake Front Mews
- ▶ Investigate amalgamation of lots to create one address; 4 parcels as follows:
  - 1W Gosford Court Doreen
  - 14W Aquitaine Walk Doreen
  - 7W Lake Front Mews Doreen
  - 7W Brookwood Ave Doreen
- ▶ Establish wayfinding signage to support pedestrian navigation across the site



LEGEND 

-  No DDA compliant & high maintenance gravel path
-  Poor entrances
-  No DDA compliant and poor access to the wetland
-  Lack of way finding signage
-  Lack of footpath
-  381 bus route and bus stops
-  Narrow circuit path with a few connection to the premier path
-  Lack of pedestrian crossing facilities



**A** Poor circuit path with varying widths around the lake



**B** Poor pedestrian entry and access from Lake Front Mews and the off-street car park to the site



**C** The stairs and viewing platform are in poor condition and need improvement



**D** Lack of pedestrian crossing facilities



**E** Unauthorised activities such as mountain bike jumps in the conservation area



### 3.2.2 Informal recreation and park infrastructure

#### ISSUES

##### PLAYSPACE

- ▶ Lack of play facilities for older kids and teenagers
- ▶ Lack of nature play area
- ▶ Aged playspace
- ▶ Lack of shade along pathways and within the play space, limiting longer stays during sunny days

##### INFORMAL RECREATION FACILITIES

- ▶ There is no public toilets within the site; however, facilities are available at Brookwood Community Centre, located within 250m from Lauries Field
- ▶ No designated/flexible spaces for events such as regular markets, multicultural events and structured events during school holidays
- ▶ No dog off-lead area within Lauries Field, however, two off-lead parks are available nearby in Doreen — Katandra Rise Dog Park on Downey Drive (4-minute drive) and Fitzwilliam Drive Dog Park on Fitzwilliam Drive (5-minute drive) from Lauries Field. Additionally, a new dog off-lead area is proposed at Blackwood Park on Flaxen Hills Drive, approximately a 20-minute walk from Lauries Field (Council Dog Off-Lead Area Policy and Management Plan, 2016).
- ▶ Lack of informal sport and exercise equipment

##### PARK SUPPORT FACILITIES

- ▶ Lack of suitable seating with back and arm rests to assist those requiring more support including, those who have a disability, are aging and pregnant or nursing mothers.
- ▶ Drinking fountains lack dog bowls
- ▶ Lack of grouped seating arrangements which foster face to face interaction and gathering
- ▶ Inadequate seating available along the path around the lake
- ▶ Lack of educational signage regarding the lake and conservation area









#### OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Examine the accessibility of public toilets within walking distance of the site and evaluate the need for a public toilet facility on-site with the municipal wide public toilet and amenity plan
- ▶ Install signs next to the main facilities in the reserve to direct people to the toilet at Brookwood Community Centre
- ▶ Investigate development of flexible spaces for community events, workshops, and performances to encourage social interactions, foster a sense of belonging, and strengthen community ties
- ▶ Investigate providing an outdoor exercise equipment
- ▶ Investigate the potential for informal sports activities, such as a basketball/netball court, skate features, table tennis, bouldering wall and game tables to address lack of facilities for older kids and to activate this area
- ▶ Consider diversity in play comprising nature play elements and play equipment for different age groups
- ▶ Investigate providing additional playspace next to the second picnic area on the southwest of the site
- ▶ Renew the outdated playspace to meet current safety standards and better cater to the needs and preferences of children and families, as per Council playground renewal program
- ▶ Increase canopy cover around the play space and walking track where possible
- ▶ Install benches with backrests and armrests across the park
- ▶ Add dog bowls to drinking fountains for pet-friendly water access
- ▶ Provide outdoor gathering opportunities and install grouped seating arrangements
- ▶ Install educational signage around the lake

# ISSUES



## LEGEND

-  No designated/flexible spaces for events
-  Lack of shade within the playspace, along paths and benches
-  Lack of grouped seating arrangements
-  Lack of seating next to the path along the waterbody
-  Drinking fountains lack dog bowls
-  Lack of public toilet
-  Lack of educational signage regarding the waterbody and conservation area
-  Aged playspace
-  Lack of informal sport and exercise equipment



**A** Lack of play facilities for older kids/teenagers



**B** Lack of shade along pathways and within the play space, limiting longer stays during sunny days



**C** Drinking fountains lack dog bowls



**D** No designated/flexible spaces for events such as regular markets and multicultural events



**E** Lack of educational signage regarding the lake and conservation area

### 25. Issues- informal recreation and park infrastructure



### 3.2.3 Environment and landscape

#### ISSUES

##### LANDSCAPE AND VEGETATION

- ▶ Seven trees at the end of their useful life expectancy (ULE)
- ▶ Bushy area near the boardwalk stairs needs maintenance
- ▶ Some sections of the site along Lakeland Drive and pathways lack any planting
- ▶ Poorly defined maintenance areas resulting in some areas of overgrown grass

##### CONSERVATION AREA

- ▶ Unauthorised use of conservation areas for mountain bike etc. Threatening ecological integrity and biodiversity
- ▶ Intentional damage and vandalism to one of the large significant red gums

##### LAKE

- ▶ Poor functioning lake resulting in low oxygen levels and major fish deaths.
- ▶ Need for weed removal in wetland cell
- ▶ Presence of blackberry plants along the lake shore as an invasive plants

##### LOOK AND FEEL










- ▶ Hidden areas and visual barriers are formed around the lake
- ▶ No pathway lighting in the reserve, including along the paper road to the southern edge. Evening activity is reliant on streetlight spill

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Remove trees at the end of their useful life expectancy
- ▶ Clear fallen branches throughout the site to improve cleanliness and accessibility
- ▶ Potential additional planting along the existing paths and next to the play space
- ▶ Trim overgrown vegetation near the boardwalk stairs for a neater appearance and clear passage
- ▶ Engage with local biking and dirt jump bike community promote awareness of natural habitat preservation and encourage responsible riding practices
- ▶ Investigate the use of fencing and barrier planting to protect the conservation area, in accordance with the Laurimar Conservation Management Plan
- ▶ Conduct a thorough assessment of the lake to identify the causes of its poor health and determine best options to restore health
- ▶ Investigate the best option for addressing the insufficient turnover rate of the lake
- ▶ Investigate the use of the lake's water by pumping it from the existing lake to the north to support stormwater harvesting at Laurimar Recreation Reserve
- ▶ Improve visibility to the lake by thinning out overgrown understory planting or replacing with more suitable vegetation
- ▶ Develop more defined areas and conduct regular maintenance to increase visibility along circuit path.
- ▶ Investigate additional lighting in the reserve along thoroughfare main access paths



LEGEND 

-  Hidden areas and visual barriers
-  Lack of shade trees
-  Ecological threat to conservation area due to mountain bike jumps
-  Insufficient lighting
-  Tree vandalism
-  Unhealthy waterbody
-  Presence of blackberry plants along the waterbody
-  Low retention tree
-  Topography and steepness



**A** Hidden areas and visual barriers are formed around the lake path by shrubs and bushes



**B** Unhealthy lake due to insufficient turnover rate of the lake



**C** Mountain bike jumps in the conservation area threatening ecological integrity and biodiversity



**D** Topography and steepness



**E** Lack of shade trees along the paths

# Consultation Summary.



## Quotes from our community



Playground needs a serious update; the playground and infrastructure need attention and renewal.



Improve and clean up the water coming into the lake from the street and reinvigorate the irrigation.



The path around the lake is not clean and safe to use.

# 4.0 Consultation summary

## This section provides a summary of consultation activities.

The purpose of the community consultation was to understand how the community currently uses the reserve and how they would like to use it in the future. Three phases of consultation were undertaken, and the findings from each phase directly informed the key directions of the Master Plan.

## METHODOLOGY

The community were consulted on the Lauries Field Master Plan in three phases:

### Phase 1

Capturing challenges and opportunities of the site, June and July 2024.

A range of methods and tools were used to engage with the community and stakeholders. These included the following:

- ▶ Meeting with council internal stakeholders
- ▶ Meeting with external stakeholders
- ▶ Onsite interviews with the community
- ▶ Direct mail-outs
- ▶ Surveys
- ▶ On-site pop-up sessions

## INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

Several stakeholder meetings were held with council staff from a range of departments and with various subject matter expertise.

## EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

Meetings were held with representatives from various external stakeholders including the following:

- ▶ Visitors to Lauries Field
- ▶ Residents within 400 metres of the reserve
- ▶ Doreen senior group
- ▶ Schools

## 4.1 Consultation phase 1

The purpose of this engagement was to assist council to identify issues, challenges and opportunities of the site and discover the ideas for the park improvement. Refer to Appendix 1 for the full report.

## OUTCOME

Feedback was received from 144 participants including visitors to Lauries Field, Doreen senior group, and residents of the surrounding neighbourhoods. Overall, we heard that the top two reasons visitors use the site are to 'walk and sit around the lake' (59%) and exercise their dogs (46%). Others enjoy taking their young ones to the park, using it to walk/run or catching up with family and friends.

According to the total responses, the top five priorities for improvement are as follows:

- ▶ Playspace upgrade
- ▶ Public toilet provision
- ▶ Additional amenities
- ▶ Walking track/circuit path around the lake
- ▶ Lake upgrade

Our community engagement highlighted the main issues as follows:

- ▶ Lack of play equipment for older children and teenagers
- ▶ Deteriorating playground
- ▶ Safety concerns
- ▶ Unhealthy lake
- ▶ Lack of regular maintenance
- ▶ Lack of informal recreational facilities
- ▶ Lack of off lead dog area and dog bins

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on feedback received from stakeholders and the community, the following recommendations are made for inclusion in the Draft Master Plan:

- ▶ Investigate options for off-street car parking at 7W Lake Front Mews, Doreen
- ▶ Establish way-finding signage to support pedestrian navigation across the reserve
- ▶ Investigate traffic calming initiatives at surrounding intersections, particularly those closest to the playground and picnic area

- ▶ Examine the accessibility of public toilets within walking distance of the site and evaluate the need for a public toilet facility on-site
- ▶ Investigate the development of flexible spaces for community events, workshops, and performances to encourage social interactions, foster a sense of belonging, and strengthen community ties
- ▶ Investigate providing a outdoor exercise equipment
- ▶ Investigate the potential for informal sports activities, such as a basketball/netball court, skate features, table tennis, bouldering wall and game tables
- ▶ Consider diversity in play comprising nature play elements and play equipment for different age groups
- ▶ Investigate providing additional lighting in the reserve along main access and thoroughfare paths
- ▶ Conduct a thorough assessment of the lake to identify the causes of its poor health
- ▶ Improve visibility to the lake by thinning out overgrown understory planting or replacing with more suitable greenery
- ▶ Conduct regular maintenance to clear hidden areas along the circuit path, ensuring safety and visibility for use



“  
**I really like all the proposed upgrades to the playground and amenities. I'm concerned about the proposed changes to the lake.**

“  
 The pine trees that you want to remove are beautiful to walk through. Keep the pines.

“  
**The wetlands are perfect the way they are, with beautiful bird life such as swans, ducks, water hens**

“  
 Planting more trees is fantastic, but please think about leaving an open space near the playground for kicking the footy.

“  
**I LOVE the proposed Ephemeral Wetlands. Globally, more wetland is lost annually, than rainforest. I encourage Council to decide according to environmental best-practice**

## 4.2 Consultation Phase 2

The purpose of this engagement was to receive community feedback on the Draft Lauries Field Master plan to ensure that the future of the site reflects our community's needs. Results from the first phase of consultation were used to create a design for the draft Master Plan. This plan was then exhibited to the community for feedback between 14 July to 7 September 2025. (Appendix 1 for the full engagement summary report)

### OUTCOME

A total of 515 community members participated in Phase 2 consultation. Participants were given the opportunity to contribute in two ways:

- ▶ 47 community members attended in-person at community-based pop-up sessions
- ▶ 449 community members contributed online via an online survey on the Engage Whittlesea platform

Additionally, the Community Information Session was held on 21 August, at Brookwood Community Centre. A total of 97 residents registered to attend the session. At the session, attendees were invited to view the draft master plan and speak with Council staff to share their feedback and/or discuss any concerns about the proposed draft plan.

Of those who participated in the survey, 127 people indicated they supported the draft master plan, while 369 did not support the plan.

Feedback indicated clear majority support for the lake to remain in its current form, rather than being converted to an ephemeral wetland. There was also strong support for renewing the playground and maintaining the site's natural aesthetic.

The community identified the top three priorities from the proposed recommendations for improvement, which include:

- ▶ Protect and enhance the conservation areas
- ▶ Enhance the native vegetation and trees
- ▶ Improve path network, entrances, and lighting

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on feedback received from key stakeholders and the community, the following recommendations are proposed for inclusion in the master plan:

- ▶ Retain the existing lake in its current form, reflecting strong community sentiment
- ▶ Recognise and protect the lake’s ecological, aesthetic, and emotional significance
- ▶ Preserve and enhance Lauries Field’s natural areas, reflecting strong community support Investigate the potential for providing physical barriers around the playspace due to nearby street
- ▶ Enhance native vegetation and trees, and develop succession plan for the pine trees that contribute to the park’s character and walking experience
- ▶ Provide a range of play experiences for different age groups as part of the proposed playspace
- ▶ Provide practical amenities to support everyday use, including bins, drink fountains, and seating
- ▶ Investigate options for the future of the car park at 7W Lake Front Mews, balancing accessibility and convenience with concerns about park character and potential for antisocial behaviour
- ▶ Improve safety and accessibility by investigating lighting to car parking and main path
- ▶ Investigate the potential for installing exercise equipment as part of the proposed plan

(Appendix 1 for the full engagement summary report)





“  
**So pleased the lake will stay in its current format. So much wildlife is on the area & the pelicans have just recently returned**”

“  
 Love the proposed enhancement works for the Conservation Area which should be the priority including interpretive signage and lots of extra native grasses and wildflowers”

“  
**The playground and amenity's need to be upgraded**”

“  
 Add basketball hoops, play areas, cricket nets”

“  
 The six carpark spaces at 7W Lake Front Mews should remain as they currently are. This means to remain them in a North/South orientation as this provides the best and safest way to enter and exit the car parking area”

### 4.3 Consultation Phase 3

Following extensive community consultation across phase one and phase two, we shared the revised 10-year master plan for Laurie's Field with the community. The updated plan was exhibited for public feedback from 21 November to 19 December 2025.

#### OUTCOME

A total of 65 community members participated in Phase three consultation:

- ▶ 20 attended in-person drop-in sessions
- ▶ 45 provided feedback online via the Engage Whittlesea platform

In-person engagement

During phase three, Council held three community-based drop-in sessions below:

- Tuesday 2 December, 2.30pm–5pm onsite at Lauries Field in Doreen
- Thursday 4 December, 9.30am – 11.30am at Brookwood Community Centre
- Thursday 4 December, 5pm–7pm at Brookwood Community Centre

In-person participants had an opportunity to view the draft master plan and complete a dot board activity where they were asked if they support the revised draft master plan and were encouraged to share any further comments. The in-person engagement mirrored the online engagement activity.

#### PARTICIPATION

A total of 65 people responded to the question

“Do you support the proposed design for Lauries Field?”

Of these, 60 people (92%) said they supported the plan, while the remaining 5 (8%) indicated they did not support the draft plan.

What has been revised in the draft master plan?

- ▶ The lake will be retained with no changes to its size or shape. Council will explore opportunities to improve water quality through filtration, stormwater harvesting and vegetation management.
- ▶ The conservation area will be enhanced with new interpretive signage, fencing and additional native plantings.
- ▶ The Monterey Cypress trees will be monitored for health and safety. They will remain in place unless assessed as unsafe.
- ▶ Future planting opportunities will be investigated, including the introduction of more native tree species to complement the reserve and support local wildlife habitat.
- ▶ Six parking bays will remain on Lake Front Mews, while the remaining bays will be converted into open parkland featuring a path and lighting.

This revised master plan reflects community priorities and sets a vision to make Laurie’s Field safer, more welcoming and more enjoyable for everyone, while preserving its natural and environmental values. All proposed works are subject to future funding.



# Master Plan.

## 5.0 Master plan

The site analysis and consultation work undertaken has resulted in a vision that will redesign and revitalise the park and lake to create an ecologically healthy, accessible and inviting park for the community.

### 5.1 Vision and objectives

#### VISION

Lauries Field is a revitalised, nature-integrated park that champions accessibility, environmental care, and community well-being.

Featuring restored wetlands, protected vegetation, and inclusive facilities, it offers a safe and welcoming destination for people of all ages to connect, play, and relax in nature. With accessible pathways, a viewing platform, diverse play spaces, and areas for informal sport and exercise, Lauries Field invites both residents and visitors to enjoy the landscape and engage with the local environment.

#### OBJECTIVES:

- ▶ Improve accessibility and connectivity
- ▶ Upgrade recreational facilities
- ▶ Enhancement of play experience
- ▶ Enhance environmental stewardship:
  - Restore the health of the lake
  - Protect the conservation area

## OBJECTIVES



**Upgrade recreational facilities**



**Enhance environmental stewardship**



**Improve accessibility and connectivity**



**Enhancement of play experience**



**Restore the health of the lake**



## 5.2 Recommendations

The Lauries Field master plan sets out recommendations which are articulated through the themes of movement and access, informal recreation and park infrastructure, and environment and landscape.

## MOVEMENT AND ACCESS

### PATH

- ▶ Expand the existing path wherever feasible, taking into account environmental considerations
- ▶ Proposed 1.5-2m wide accessible path to the wetland
- ▶ Realign the path and update the surface material to improve accessibility
- ▶ Refurbish viewing decks
- ▶ Upgrade the stairs accessing the boardwalk for better accessibility

### CAR PARKING

- ▶ Reconfigure the car park with a 2-2.5m footpath connecting Lake Front Mews to the site, turning the rest into open space, while retaining six car park bays

### ENTRANCE

- ▶ Improve entry nodes with way finding signage and feature landscaping
- ▶ Proposed raised crossings at Terrawera Road and Brookwood Avenue and pedestrian-safe crossings at the Lakeland Drive roundabout to enhance safety and accessibility

## INFORMAL RECREATION AND PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

### INFORMAL RECREATION FACILITIES

- ▶ Proposed wayfinding signage includes directions to the Brookwood Community Centre's toilet block
- ▶ Proposed fitness and exercise station with equipment arranged in groups to allow for socialising
- ▶ Proposed sports court including a half basketball court, hopscotch, game tables, and a hit-up wall
- ▶ Proposed hit-up walls featuring areas for throwing, a basketball hoop, and climbing activities

### PLAYSPACE

- ▶ Upgrade and expand the playspace including range of play experiences
- ▶ Proposed nature play area
- ▶ Proposed sand play
- ▶ Establish regulatory signage including 'No Smoking' and 'No Dogs Allowed' around the playground area as per Council's Signage

### Management Plan

- ▶ Proposed shelter with a drinking fountain and seats next to the expanded playspace and proposed sport court

### PARK SUPPORT FACILITIES

- ▶ Proposed additional park furniture including drinking fountains, bins and benches
- ▶ Proposed social seating and gathering area adjacent to the sports court and bus stop, featuring picnic tables integrated with game tables
- ▶ Upgrade the picnic area to include durable picnic tables and a drinking fountain equipped with a dog bowl

## ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE

### LANDSCAPE AND VEGETATION

- ▶ Plant additional trees along Lakeland Drive within the park, matching the species with those on the north side, such as Eucalyptus scoparia and Eucalyptus sideroxylon, to enhance visual impact
- ▶ Plant threatened species and indigenous wild-flowers in the fenced-off protected Conservation Area and the surrounding landscaped areas to support biodiversity.
- ▶ Remove understory planting and overgrown vegetation to open sight-line

### LOOK AND FEEL

- ▶ Reduce and selectively remove the existing thick vegetation to improve sight-lines and passive surveillance throughout the reserve
- ▶ Maintain the existing pine trees and assess regularly for risks to park users
- ▶ Develop succession plan for the pine trees, investigating more appropriate native species in the long term to improve the ecosystem, enhance aesthetic value, and open pedestrian sight-lines
- ▶ Proposed lighting along sections of the circuit path used as thoroughfares, as well as bollard lighting along Aquitaine Walk

## CONSERVATION AREA AND LAKE

- ▶ Enclose the conservation area with a 1.2m-high tree protection standard fence
- ▶ Proposed a path and gate from Gosford Court for maintenance vehicle access to facilities associated with the lake upgrade such as the clarifier
- ▶ Proposed maintenance vehicle access path to the sedimentation pond
- ▶ Investigate the feasibility and functionality of the existing irrigation system to use excess water from the lake for irrigating the conservation area and trees
- ▶ Educational signage to provide information about the lake and conservation area, promoting awareness and engagement
- ▶ Investigate measures to improve water quality for the existing lake through filtration, stormwater harvesting, and enhanced vegetation management, and investigate the provision of a maintenance-vehicle access path to the sedimentation pond as part of the future lake improvement plan, taking into account the existing high-retention-value tree

## 5.3 Master plan

The Lauries Field master plan guides and provides direction for future upgrades and improvements to Lauries Field. The master plan responds to the need for improved connectivity and accessibility, community spaces, and recreational opportunities. It also addresses environmental concerns, including the health of the lake and the conservation of significant vegetation. Refer to Figure 27.

- 1 Improve the existing path wherever feasible, considering environmental considerations
- 2 Proposed accessible path to the lake and viewing platform
- 3 Proposed viewing area
- 4 Upgrade the stairs accessing the boardwalk
- 5 Realign the path and upgrade the surface material to improve all weather access
- 6 Upgrade and expand the play space including range of play experiences
- 7 Hoop barrier in gardenbed
- 8 Proposed nature play area
- 9 Proposed sand play
- 10 Upgrade the picnic area
- 11 Proposed social seating and gathering area adjacent to the sports court and bus stop, featuring picnic tables integrated with game tables
- 12 Proposed wayfinding signage includes direction to the Brookwood Community Centre and Public Toilet
- 13 Proposed sports court including a half basketball court, hopscotch, game tables, and a hit-up wall
- 14 Proposed hit-up wall featuring areas for ball games, public art, and climbing or bouldering
- 15 Proposed shelter with a picnic setting
- 16 Improve park entrances with wayfinding signage and feature landscaping
- 17 Establish regulatory signage including 'No Smoking' and 'No Dogs Allowed' around the playground area as per council's Signage Management Plan
- 18 Increase natural shade with more canopy trees around the play space and paths where possible
- 19 Proposed raised pedestrian crossing (subject to traffic studies)
- 20 Remove understory planting and overgrown vegetation to open sightline
- 21 Proposed fitness and exercise station
- 22 Proposed maintenance vehicle access path and gate
- 23 Install bins at key park entry points
- 24 Reconfigure the car park with a 1.5m footpath connecting Lake Front Mews to the site, turning the rest into open space
- 25 Proposed educational signage around the lake and conservation area
- 26 Enclose the conservation area with a 1.2m high fencing
- 27 Specify appropriate plant species for re-vegetation around the lake
- 28 Proposed lighting around sections of the circuit path used as thoroughfares, as well as bollard lighting along Aquitaine Walk, to be timer- or sensor-controlled
- 29 Plant additional trees along Lakeland Drive within the park, matching the species with those on the north side
- 30 Plant threatened species and indigenous wildflowers in the fenced-off protected Conservation Area and the surrounding landscaped areas to support biodiversity
- 31 Replace the existing pine trees with more appropriate species in the long term to improve the ecosystem, enhance aesthetic value, and open pedestrian sightlines
- 32 Investigate options to improve water quality—such as filtration, stormwater harvesting and vegetation management—and assess a possible maintenance-vehicle access path to the sedimentation pond, considering the high-retention-value tree
- 33 Investigate the provision of a maintenance vehicle access path to the sedimentation pond as part of the future water body improvement plan, taking into account the existing high-retention-value tree

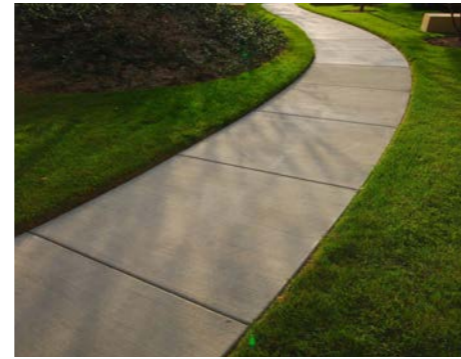




27. Master plan



## ACCESS AND CIRCULATION



CONCRETE PATH



ALL ABILITIES ACCESS PATH



GRAVEL PATH



RAISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS



## RECREATION



MULTI-AGE PLAY EQUIPMENT



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT



NATURE PLAY



SAND PLAY



## FACILITIES



SHELTER AND SEATING



SOLAR AND ELECTRIC PEDESTRIAN LIGHT



BIKE HOOPS AND VEHICLE EXCLUSION FENCE



PARK FURNITURE

The s illustrated are only examples and the recommendations provided may vary in their actual result.

## SPORT COURT



HALF BASKETBALL COURT



HOPSCOTCH



TABLE TENNIS



BOULDERING WALL



## VEGETATION AND SIGNAGE



INDIGENOUS WILDFLOWER



WETLAND



WAYFINDING SIGNAGE



EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE



## FITNESS AND SOCIAL SPACE



SOCIAL SEATING



PICNIC AREA



FITNESS AND EXERCISE STATION



FITNESS AND EXERCISE STATION



The images illustrated are only examples and the recommendations provided may vary in their actual result.

# Master Plan Implementation.

## 6.0 Master plan implementation

The implementation of the master plan will be mostly procured through Council funding, however, some additional funding through State Government Grants will contribute to certain proposed initiatives within the overall master plan.

A summary of the project packages, actions and time frames for each precinct are outlined below.

Priorities of projects and actions from this master plan are a guide and are subject to holistic Council Capital Works project prioritisation.

Reference/ Area	Project package	Priority
<b>A</b>	General landscape improvement	Short term
<b>B</b>	Conservation area and fencing	Short term
<b>C</b>	Playspace and picnic area	Short term
<b>D</b>	Sport court and social seating	Short term
<b>E</b>	The lake	Medium term
<b>F</b>	Access paths and boardwalk	Medium term
<b>G</b>	Lighting, park furniture and improve entrances	Medium term
<b>H</b>	Car parking and prepare safe crossing	Long term
<b>I</b>	Fitness station	Long term
<b>J</b>	Tree planting	Short to long term

SHORT TERM (1-3 years)  
 MEDIUM TERM (4-7 years)  
 LONG TERM (8-10 years)

## Project package master plan



## Area A : General landscape improvement



Key plan

Reference / Area	Project package	Timeframe	Council renewal programs	Potential grant opportunity
A1	Remove understory planting and open sightlines ( general plant reduction by one third in garden beds)	Short term		
A2	Maintain the existing pine trees and assess regularly for risks to park users	Short to long term		N/A

## Area B : Conservation area and fencing



Key plan

Reference / Area	Project package	Timeframe	Council renewal programs	Potential grant opportunity
B1	Remove invasive species and replant indigenous foliage to restore ecological health	Short term	Greening Whittlesea park planting	N/A
B2	Install protective fencing and signage to manage access and safeguard sensitive areas	Short term		N/A
B3	Establish educational signage around the conservation area	Short term		N/A

## Area C : Playspace and picnic area



Key plan



Reference / Area	Project package	Timeframe	Council renewal programs	Potential grant opportunity
C1	Remove the existing play space and investigate if the play equipment could be used for the new play space	Short term		
C2	Creation of playground extension with seating and play equipment including range of play experience	Short term	Playground renewal program	
C3	Upgrade the playground surface by using organic mulch in some areas and rubber on others	Short term		
C4	Creation of a nature play area utilising the existing trees and proposed plants, timber logs, and mud rock	Short term	Playground renewal program	
C5	Creation of a sand play area	Short term	Playground renewal program	
C6	Expand the picnic and social area with picnic setting, drinking fountain, and bins	Short term		
C7	Retain the existing shelter structures, undertaking repair as required	Short term		
C8	Establish a wayfinding signage includes direction to the Brookwood community Centre's toilet block and hoop barrier in gardenbed	Short term		
C9	Proposed shelter with a drinking fountain and seats	Short term		
C10	Establish regulatory signage including 'No Smoking' and 'No Dogs Allowed' around the playground area as per Council's Signage Management Plan	Short term		
C11	Additional tree planting around the playground to provide shade	Short term		

## Area D : Sport court and social seating



Key plan

Reference / Area	Project package	Timeframe	Council renewal programs	Potential grant opportunity
D1	Creation of a sport court including a half basketball court and game tables with drinking fountain	Short term		
D2	Creation of a bouldering wall	Short term		
D3	New gathering area including social seatings	Short term		

Area E : The lake



Key plan

Reference / Area	Project package	Timeframe	Council renewal programs	Potential grant opportunity
E1	Desilt and improve function of the sedimentation pond	Medium term		
E2	Desilt wetland, modify water levels (to be shallower), and revegetate	Medium term		
E3	Desilt lake and revegetate lake edges	Medium term		
E4	Investigate the provision of a maintenance vehicle access path to the sedimentation pond as part of the future water body improvements, taking into account the existing high-retention-value tree	Medium term		

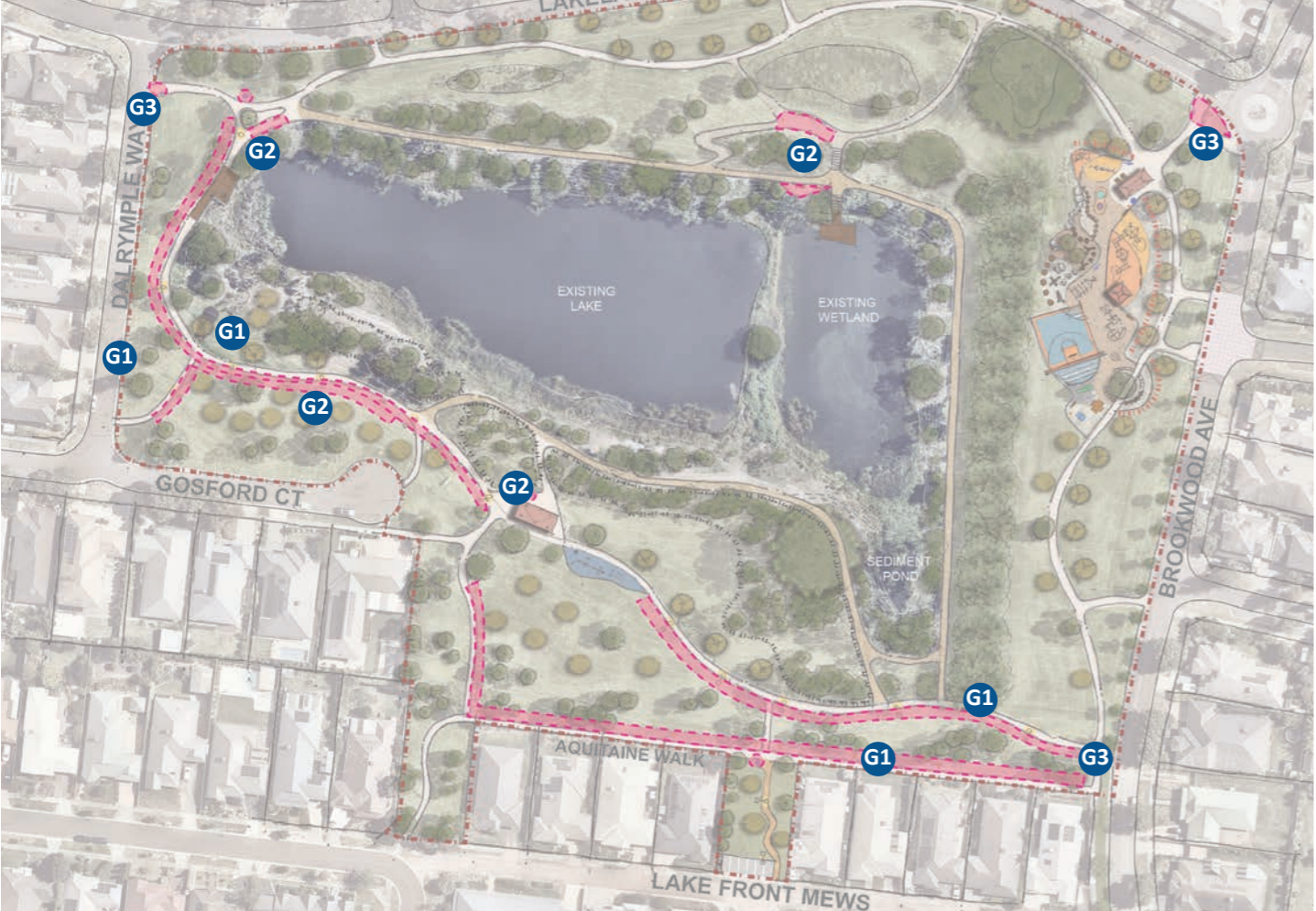
## Area F : Access paths and boardwalk



Key plan

Reference / Area	Project package	Timeframe	Council renewal programs	Potential grant opportunity
F1	Upgrade the existing gravel path	Medium term		
F2	Upgrade the existing path and creation of an accessible path to the wetland (permeable paving)	Medium term		
F3	Upgrade the existing stairs and install a handrail for safety	Medium term		
F4	Upgrade and expand the existing boardwalk	Medium term		
F5	Creation of a maintenance vehicle access path and gate for accessing the wetland sediment pond	Medium term		

**Area G : Lighting, park furniture and improve entrances**



Key plan

Reference / Area	Project package	Timeframe	Council renewal programs	Potential grant opportunity
G1	Solar and bollard lighting (to be timer- or sensor-controlled) along primary access and thoroughfare paths	Medium term	Open space public lighting program	
G2	Creation of additional park furniture such as seating and drinking fountains, and bins	Medium term		
G3	Improve entrance areas as main entrances with entry signage, bike rack, and bin	Medium term		

**Area H : Car parking and prepare safe crossing**



Key plan

Reference / Area	Project package	Timeframe	Council renewal programs	Potential grant opportunity
H1	Remove the existing car park, garden bed, bollards, kerbs, and draining channels to prepare the site for new work.	Long term		
H2	Upgrade the car park include 6 parking spaces	Long term	Car park renewal program	
H3	Construction of a new 1.5 m wide pedestrian pathway, including integrated solar lighting	Long term		
H4	Establish new garden beds and plant appropriate vegetation	Long term		
H5	Prepare raised pedestrian crossing	Long term		

## Area I : Fitness station



Key plan

Reference / Area	Project package	Timeframe	Council renewal programs	Potential grant opportunity
11	Creation of an outdoor exercise/fitness area with exercise equipment for different age groups including clear instructional signage and QR codes to show people how to use the equipment	Long term		

## Area J : Tree planting



Key plan

Reference / Area	Project package	Timeframe	Council renewal programs	Potential grant opportunity
J1	Additional tree removing and planting along pathways and adjacent to the play area	Long term		Greening Whittlesea park planting
J2	Monitor the existing pine trees and replace them with more suitable native species in the long term, if required.	Short to long term		Greening Whittlesea park planting



# Appendix 1. Review of Plans, Policies and Strategies



# Appendix 2. Community Engagement



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