

Appendix 1 - Whittlesea GWMP 2011-2021 Implementation Progress Table

Action		2020 Status
Ref	Description (as adopted)	
B01	Determine the most cost and time effective means of collating and managing flora and fauna data for Council. Ensure that data exchange agreements are maintained between the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Council.	Ongoing
B02	Investigate the relationship between significant ecosystems and type of land ownership (e.g. parkland, reserve or private landholding). Assess best methods of protection for areas of high conservation significance.	In Progress
B03	Continue to advocate for, and contribute to, discussions regarding the creation of a 1,200 hectare Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Reserve within Whittlesea's Green Wedge.	Ongoing
B04	Distribute educational material to landholders primarily through Council publications and local media regarding the following biodiversity topics: Ecological burns - develop community understanding of the necessity of fire to maintain ecosystem health; Significant ecosystems - highlight the variety and uniqueness of ecological communities, flora and fauna throughout the rural areas. Clearly define Commonwealth and State legislation that prohibits the removal or destruction of significant habitats; Fencing and grazing management - increase knowledge of the environmental and economic benefits of fencing remnant trees, creating shelter belts and leaving ungrazed areas for habitat purposes on rural properties; Pest plants - develop landholder knowledge of what constitutes pest plants. Offer a range of options and methods for removal; Pest Animals - Develop landholder knowledge regarding the management of pest animals.	Completed
B05	In partnership with fire agencies and relevant State Government departments, continue to distribute educational material on ecological burns via local media and direct mail outs to landholders.	Ongoing
B06	Continue to contribute to discussions with key stakeholders including the State Government and local wildlife groups about habitat corridors, particularly in an urban-rural interface context. This should also be considered at the framework planning stage for future urban land.	Ongoing
B07	Develop a local planning policy that provides guidance on the benefits of planning for habitat corridors particularly within areas being developed for urban purposes.	Completed
B08	Continue to work with State Government and all relevant agencies to use forward strategic planning to reduce conflict and balance the ecological needs of the kangaroo population with the social, environmental and ecological needs of local residents, particularly the working agricultural community.	Ongoing

B09	Strengthen planning provisions targeted at the identification, protection and enhancement of biodiversity and environmental values of the Whittlesea Green Wedge as follows: Protect all vegetation communities of national, state, regional and local significance with appropriate planning provisions; Support strengthening planning controls for areas of remnant native vegetation and fauna habitat, in particular, support the inclusion of sites of biodiversity significance, strategic habitat links and buffer areas through the application of the Environmental Significance Overlay; and Consider applying the Road Closure Overlay to disused rural roads to provide habitat linkages between rural landholdings.	In Progress
B10	Develop local planning policy to provide guidance and direction on native vegetation retention and net gain offsets.	Completed
B11	Identify preferred strategic locations for native vegetation offsets within the municipality taking into account ecological significance, land ownership, adjoining land uses, potential for creating habitat corridors and property size.	Completed
B12	Increase opportunities for community interaction with significant ecosystems such as revegetation activities and value-added activities such as 'breakfast with the birds' or 'frogs on wheels' and seed collection/plant propagation.	Ongoing
B13	Foster coordination between Local and State Government with regard to the development and implementation of state wide management plans and priorities for pest plant and animal control on public private land. Advocate for increased funding to implement strategic priorities relevant to the Whittlesea area.	Ongoing
B14	Expand existing programs that promote the value and significance of ecosystems on Council-owned land through education and interpretive signage.	In Progress
L01	Continue to provide business support and advice to keep farmers on the land. This includes continued networking, promotion and business development opportunities for owners and managers of our agricultural enterprises.	Ongoing
L02	Employ an Agribusiness Officer, who would demonstrate Council leadership and best practice through the provision of sound business advice (subject to funding).	Completed
L03	Advocate on behalf of the farming community and maintain input into agricultural research and strategies that seek to support farming ventures, including highlighting the true cost of maintaining a rural property.	Ongoing
L04	Explore options for financial support and partnerships to develop a publicity campaign aimed at demonstrating the value of farming communities to the social, economic and environmental health of the municipality and Melbourne as a whole.	Completed
L05	Investigate further options to alter Council's farm rate to better support agribusiness on the urban fringe.	Ongoing

L06	Continue to advocate through the Interface Councils Working Group for reforms to the way rural land is rated within interface areas.	Ongoing
L07	Set up a pilot program to support the production of local food and consideration of food links through innovative sustainable land use practices, to increase food security within the municipality.	In Progress
L08	Investigate any economic development linkages between the relocation of the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market to Epping and the usage of agricultural land in the municipality.	In Progress
L09	Update land capability information in support of both new/innovative and traditional rural enterprises.	Completed
L10	Establish a local marketing program to promote successful alternative agribusiness operating in the rural areas of the municipality such as olive groves, organic farming, farmhouse cheese, berry farming and Chinese herbs for the complementary herbal medicine market.	Completed
L11	Monitor the State Government initiatives in better supporting farming and review local planning provisions, to support agribusiness and the right to farm in rural areas as required.	In Progress
L12	Further develop existing rural education programs to encourage the diversification of sustainable farming methods.	Completed
L13	Work in partnership with government departments and agencies to promote and facilitate the uptake of environmental market mechanisms, such as ecoMarkets, to rural residents.	Ongoing
L14	Review current sustainable land management programs to better support small rural properties, promote land stewardship practices including the management of pest plants and support property owners required to prepare a Land Management Plan in accordance with the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.	Completed
L15	Commit to permanent funding for an Environmental Protection Officer to ensure ongoing compliance with: The Whittlesea Planning Scheme; Whittlesea's Pest plant Local Law; Planning permit conditions; Land management plan directives	Completed
L16	Develop guidelines on the Land Management Plan process as it relates to planning assessment processes.	Completed
L17	Further develop a monitoring system that flags Land Management Plans associated with planning permits issued for rural properties. Showcase success stories and follow-up non-complying properties with the offer of assistance and expertise as required.	Completed
L18	Further develop community knowledge and perception of rural land stewardship through encouragement and support for neighbourhood teams that share knowledge between new and existing landholders.	Completed
L19	Continue to offer a holistic service that facilitates a coordinated response across Council departments to land use planning applications for the rural areas.	Ongoing

L20	Develop further mechanisms to discourage and regulate soil dumping, filling of land and native vegetation removal through education, policy development and enforcement and compliance processes.	Completed
L21	Develop a quarterly rural newsletter that focuses on good rural land stewardship practices and showcases success stories.	Completed
L22	Amend planning provisions to address environmental hazards within the City of Whittlesea as follows: - Application of a new overlay, the Salinity Management Overlay, to areas of dryland salinity. - Application of a new overlay, the Erosion Management Overlay, to areas of stream, gully and sheet erosion; and - provide input into the State Government review of the boundaries of the Bush Management Overlay in response to the Governments implementation of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.	In Progress
L23	Further develop community appreciation of the rural landscape through a variety of landscape exploration events.	Ongoing
L24	Investigate partnership arrangements with key groups for the sponsorship of two new annual events: -Best Environmental Sustainable Rural Design for the promotion architectural excellence in a rural setting; and -Best Rural Management for the promotion of best whole farm design and management.	In Progress
L25	Further develop community appreciation of the rural landscape through the creation of a 'Celebrate the Landscape' event aimed at showcasing and promoting 'ownership' of a range of green wedge values.	Completed
L26	Amend planning provisions targeted at protection of significant landscapes and significant vistas as follows: Ensure the Significant Landscape Overlay is correctly applied to all visually sensitive areas within the Whittlesea Green Wedge; Develop local policies as part of the Planning Scheme review process to guide development adjacent to visually sensitive hilltops; As part of the Planning Scheme review process develop a road setback policy for visually significant roadside corridors and include in the Local Planning Policy Framework; and Implement changes to the LPPF to insure that the design, siting and form of new dwellings and other buildings within green wedge areas are appropriately and sensitively integrated within rural and natural environments.	In Progress
L27	Investigate innovative land use options which support sustainable land use and management, particularly at the urban rural interface.	Ongoing
L28	Based on research undertaken on the interfaceland uses, pilot and evaluate alternate land treatments at the peri-urban interface.	In Progress
L29	Undertake a review of the Whittlesea Township Local Structure Plan with an emphasis on defining the township boundary and interface issues between urban and rural areas.	In Progress
L30	Protect significant habitat areas adjoining any Urban Growth Boundary by encouraging and facilitating conservation trusts/covenants, market-based instruments such as ecoMarkets, carbon and/or native	In Progress

	vegetation offsets through focussing on programs that provide income for 'farming nature'.	
L31	Review and report on the status of all current extractive industry operations	Completed
L32	Strengthen communication between interactive industry operators and Council, Government Departments and local stakeholders in order to create an environment that allows the open discussion of issues and opportunities such as land management, buffers and threat mitigation.	Ongoing
L33	Advocate to the State Government to review the Extractive Industry Interest Area (EIIA) as it relates to the City Of Whittlesea having regard to recent Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) changes and defined Green Wedge values including native vegetation.	Ongoing
L34	Assess the practicalities of leaving disused quarries unfilled at the expiry of their licence in order to create a wetland environment.	Completed
P01	Build upon the role of existing local committees and community groups to champion the cause of the Whittlesea Green Wedge. Establish an education program targeted at local committees and community groups.	Completed
P02	Build upon the role of existing local committees and community groups such as MCMC, DCMC, Land Care and the Victorian Farmers' Federation as they champion the cause of the Whittlesea Green Wedge. Establish an education program targeted at local committees and community groups.	Ongoing
P03	Create networking opportunities that raise awareness of the issues faced by both rural and urban residents, to promote the value of farmers and farming practices.	In Progress
P04	Continue to distribute information on community organisations and services to encourage networking and increase community capacity, particularly within the rural community.	Ongoing
P05	Develop 'Rural Information Packs' that can be distributed to potential property purchasers that includes pre-purchase information such as planning checklists, siting and design guidelines, environmental values and land management tips.	Completed
P06	Disseminate information to the community on a timely basis regarding Local and State Government plans for the Whittlesea Green Wedge, and create opportunities for community input.	Ongoing
P07	Provide diverse housing opportunities, including aged care housing, in areas of existing residential land in the Whittlesea Township, where services and facilities are located.	Ongoing
P08	Ensure Whittlesea Township can continue to accommodate local enterprises, businesses and other facilities which support the Whittlesea Green Wedge.	In Progress

P09	Continue to advocate on behalf of the community to the Victorian Government for funding to support those services and facilities deemed most necessary in the rural areas and in particular Whittlesea Township.	Ongoing
P10	Develop guidelines for the design and construction of infrastructure that is appropriate for rural areas, such as street lighting and road construction.	Completed
P11	Ensure appropriate planning provisions are applied to reflect the best land use outcome for Green Wedge land as follows: -Investigate the best zoning for rural communities such as Eden Park to better reflect current land patterns; -Rezone any isolated parcels of Green Wedge land to reflect the zoning of surrounding land.	Completed
P12	Update Council's Tourism Strategy to highlight tourism and recreation opportunities in the green wedge.	Completed
P13	Develop a 'Welcome to Whittlesea Pack' that highlights tourism opportunities such as boutique agribusinesses, emerging and established tourist destinations.	Completed
P14	Research opportunities for geotourism or 'whole of place' tourism. Focusing on local character rather than generic aspects, this form of tourism incorporates historic structures, living and traditional cultures, landscape, cuisine and arts, as well as local flora and fauna.	Completed
P15	In partnership with land owners/managers, (P15.1) investigate partnership opportunities that extend our network of multiuse trails, (P15.2) including opportunities for heritage interpretation. Linking People and Places – Government Strategy for Trail Networks in the Metropolitan Area and The Victorian Trail Strategy will inform the potential location of multi-use trails. Attention should be paid to the disused Mernda-Whittlesea rail track as it provides linkages between rural and urban areas.	Completed
P16	Continue to develop Council's Whittlesea Recreational Strategy in consultation with the community and implement proposed actions.	Ongoing
P17	Develop a trail network strategy for the Green Wedge area to cater for walkers, bike and horse riders, linking to key destinations including the Whittlesea Township.	Completed
P18	Research community perceptions of local parks and user needs in order to prioritise funding opportunities for facilities, including signage.	In Progress
P19	Advocate on behalf of the community to Parks Victoria regarding increased funding for state managed parks and the potential for creation of new parklands (such as Quarry Hills and around the Merri Creek).	Ongoing
P20	Investigate the provision of alternative transportation options for attendees of showcase events, such as the Whittlesea Agricultural Show and the Whittlesea Country Music Festival.	In Progress
P21	Explore options to promote Council's full range of cultural heritage opportunities at festivals and events.	Ongoing

P22	Enhance community perception of heritage places and cultures through continued promotion of Council's Cultural Heritage Program.	Ongoing
P23	Explore options for developing interpretive signage at significant heritage places and areas of cultural significance within the municipality.	Completed
P24	Increase networking links with the local Aboriginal community to ensure understanding and respect for sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity within the municipality	Ongoing
P25	(25.1) Explore opportunities to employ a Heritage Officer in order to (25.2) develop a Heritage Strategy for the holistic management of heritage across Council	Completed
P26	Following the heritage study undertaken during 2009/10, implement findings and apply a Heritage Overlay to all significant places not protected. Any proposed amendment to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme will provide additional opportunity for public submission.	Completed
P27	Demonstrate Council leadership and best practice by investigating the feasibility of developing a Management Plan for all heritage places on Council-owned land.	Completed
P28	Advocate on behalf of heritage management to the Victorian Government regarding treatment of cultural heritage on Crown land. Support Heritage Victoria in its role of caring for our public heritage places.	Ongoing
W01	Ensure local provisions are consistent with State legislation through the Planning Scheme Review project.	Completed
W02	Reinforce consistency between State and Local Government legislation.	Completed
W03	Research current signage at waterways and investigate funding opportunities to install identification signage for all waterways, particularly at the intersection of major roadways and paths. At a minimum, catchment signage should also be installed alongside the Plenty River, Merri Creek and Darebin Creek in prominent positions.	In Progress
W04	Build upon existing community involvement in waterway health through promotion and support for programs such as WaterWatch and riparian revegetation activities.	Ongoing
W05	Strengthen planning provisions targeted at the protection and improvement of the environmental health of waterways as follows: Add new schedules to the Environmental Significance Overlay to protect all major waterbodies; Revise the extent of the mapping associated with the existing Environmental Significance Overlay schedule 3 to include unprotected waterways; and Investigate the rezoning of the municipality's two water storage catchments from Public Use Zone to Public Conservation and Resource Zone.	In Progress
W06	Conduct a feasibility study on a 'Top of the Catchment' event that focuses on the municipality's waterways and catchments.	Completed

W07	Continue to encourage good water sensitive urban design from new developments abutting reserves and waterways, in order to protect aquatic and biodiversity values.	Ongoing
W08	Investigate opportunities to contribute to catchment projects and support partnerships that research the effects of surface and sub-surface water use, particularly due to increased numbers and declining water quality and quantity of local farm dams and bores.	In Progress

Appendix 2 - Plan Melbourne 2017–2050 Desired planning outcomes for green wedge and peri-urban areas

Environmental and biodiversity assets

Protect and enhance environmental and biodiversity assets, such as coastal areas, wetlands, rivers and creeks, forests and grasslands. Key features of international and national significance include Ramsar-listed wetlands (Westernport, Edithvale-Seaford wetlands, Port Phillip Bay [Western Shoreline] and Bellarine Peninsula), the Western Grassland Reserve, the UNESCO Mornington Peninsula and Westernport Biosphere Reserve, and a range of national and state parks.

Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.

Landscape and open space

Protect significant views, maintain non-urban breaks between urban areas, and conserve the cultural significance, tourism appeal and character of scenic rural landscapes. Recognised high-value landscape features include open farmed landscapes, sites of geological significance, ranges, hills and ridges and open coastal spaces. Iconic landscapes, such as the Great Ocean Road, Bellarine Peninsula, Macedon Ranges, Western Port, Phillip Island, Mornington Peninsula, the Yarra Valley and the Dandenong Ranges, attract high numbers of local and overseas visitors each year.

Water supply catchments

Manage and protect catchments (including Special Water Supply Catchments), groundwater, water infrastructure and storages, and waterways to improve water quality, protect the environment and provide a reliable and secure water supply.

Minimise any negative impacts from sedimentation or water pollution on the Port Phillip and Western Port coastal ecosystems.

Natural hazards

Avoid development in areas that are subject to high risk from bushfire or flooding and inundation so as to minimise potential risk to life, property and the environment.

Recognise, understand and prepare for the projected impacts of climate change and rising sea levels.

Avoid significant land disturbance, reduce the occurrence and impact of soil erosion and salinity and manage potentially contaminated land.

Agricultural land

Protect agricultural land from incompatible uses, maintain farm size, promote the continuation of farming and provide a secure long-term future for productive and sustainable agriculture. Key agricultural areas include the Mornington Peninsula, the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges, Werribee South, Keilor, Western Port and the Macedon Ranges.

Recreation

Provide land for a range of open space functions to meet community needs for active and passive recreation and for protection of the environment. State and metropolitan parks provide a focus for a range of recreation opportunities and include the Yarra River, Warrandyte, Lysterfield and Dandenong Police Paddocks Reserve, and Churchill and Bunyip national parks.

Tourism

Facilitate sustainable year-round tourism, and new tourism development (including diverse attractions, accommodation and eating establishments) that maintains the integrity of the natural environment, provides social benefits for communities and visitors and contributes to local economies.

Cultural heritage

Provide for the protection and management of sites of Aboriginal and post-European settlement cultural heritage to ensure that links with the past are preserved for present and future generations to appreciate. A wide range of cultural-heritage assets are found in buildings, structures, scattered relics, trees and gardens, landscapes and geological formations, archaeological and fossil sites and areas associated with historical events.

State-significant infrastructure

Protect regionally significant assets such as metropolitan landfills (for example, Clayton South and Wollert), wastewater management facilities (for example, Eastern and Western Treatment Plants), industrial areas and related odour and safety buffers (for example, Dandenong South), airports and flightpaths (Melbourne, Avalon and Moorabbin), and ports (Port of Hastings). Provide opportunities for renewable energy generation.

Mineral, stone and sand resources

Protect designated mineral resource areas such as the coal reserves in central and western Gippsland. Protect sand and stone resources for future extraction to ensure a continuous supply of construction material.

Economy

Maintain a strong, dynamic economy and employment base by building on the comparative advantages in agriculture, timber, transport, tourism, education, manufacturing, the service industry and commerce.

Population, settlements and local infrastructure

Plan and manage sustainable urban growth that is concentrated in and around major towns within Melbourne's peri-urban area so as to provide employment, infrastructure, services and community facilities to new and established urban areas in an equitable manner.

Manage the growth and sustainable development of green wedge townships and settlements, having regard for their distinct character and environmental and servicing constraints.

Create socially sustainable communities and support an active community working towards reducing greenhouse gases and responding to climate change.

Protect and enhance the existing character, presentation and form of towns, including their main road entrances.

Rural living

Manage rural living to prevent negative impacts on agriculture, biodiversity and landscape values.

Transport and accessibility

Provide a high-quality road and rail transport network with a range of sustainable, efficient, accessible and affordable transport options that readily connect neighbourhoods, workplaces, community facilities, services and enable people to participate in community life.

Facilitate improvements to transport networks and facilities that support tourism, such as airports.

Planning and governance

Facilitate integrated and balanced forward planning, involving all agencies, and having regard to the needs and aspirations of current and future generations.

Source: Green Wedge Management Plans, Localised Planning Statements and Council Municipal Planning Statements

Appendix 3 - Shaping the future of your Green Wedge: Summary of Potential Opportunities & Strategies

Whittlesea 2040 Goal 1 - Connected Community

Opportunity 1.1 - Support a rural community of diverse needs

- Investigating the reasons behind the outward immigration trend occurring in the Green Wedge, in order to meet the needs of our residents.
- Investigating ways to provide local education and training opportunities for the 10-24 age cohort.
- Exploring opportunities to support home business or other flexible employment opportunities that are compatible with Green Wedge values.

Opportunity 1.2 - Empower community on community-led initiatives

- Supporting partnership among community groups and residents.
- Better informing and preparing the local rural residents on various aspects of rural living. (E.g. rural character/amenity, rural land capability, planning controls regarding vegetation removal, planning controls for agricultural use in Rural Conservation Zone, sustainable land management, regenerative principles, pest and weed management.)
- Exploring opportunities for Council to involve community members as local experts on land use and sustainable land management topics.

Opportunity 1.3 - Connect the Green Wedge with urban neighbours

- Enhancing the community's understanding about the diverse roles our Green Wedge plays in supporting climate resilience, health and well-being and food security.
- Developing/implementing actions to better acknowledge and celebrate heritage, in particular Aboriginal cultural heritage in our Green Wedge.
- Foster a stronger connection between the Green Wedge and the rest of municipality. Some of the sub-strategies could involve:
 - o Leveraging the enthusiasm from volunteers, working with schools and other youth groups in both urban and non-urban areas to rejuvenate the Green Wedge interest groups.
 - o Contributing to the open space network that provides opportunities for people to connect with each other and with the natural environment.
 - o Connecting urban residents with the Green Wedge and rural community via events.

Whittlesea 2040 Goal 2 - Liveable Neighbourhoods

Opportunity 2.1 - Protect and enhance landscape amenity and rural character

- Further analysing and then articulating the components of the existing landscape amenity in local planning policies,
- Developing design guidelines for rural developments and using design as a tool to mitigate land-use conflicts
- Working with the State government to better define appropriate uses in the Green Wedge and setting up clear expectations regarding the design and scale/intensity of those uses. More will be discussed in the next section of the paper.

Opportunity 2.2 - Provide for safer settlement

- Discouraging the further subdivision of rural land for residential purposes, especially those in areas prone to environmental hazards such as flooding, erosion and bushfire.
- Encouraging land consolidation to rectify historically inappropriate subdivision.
- Better partnering with local community and other parties in managing environmental hazards/risks such as bushfire and erosion. For instance, stronger engagement regarding the requirement of landowners to reduce bush fire risk.

- Encouraging better management of both public and private open space, especially those located at the urban rural interface. (i.e. encourage land regeneration will not only mitigate fire and flood risk but also prevent land from future degrading, increase the region's resilience and liveability).

Opportunity 2.3 - Manage sodic and dispersive soils

- Advocating to the State government and relevant agencies (e.g. Melbourne Water) on the importance of soil management for collaboration.
- Investigating funding mechanisms to establish detailed understanding of the distribution and severity of the sodic and dispersive soil in our Green Wedge (e.g. soil mapping).
- Improving community understanding of sodic and dispersive soil distribution and its implications.
- Support public and private landowners on soil conservation and the benefits of regeneration practices where the land has already showing the implications (e.g. reduced clearing of vegetation, topsoil removal and other disturbances to land).
- Exploring ways to better reflect and manage soil conditions via the planning scheme (e.g. suitable overlays to protect lands with fragile soil condition, advocate to DELWP on reviewing general earth works permit trigger / require Sodic and Dispersive soil management plan etc.)

Opportunity 2.4 - Improve management of urban & rural interface including discouragement of land speculation

- Advocate for permanent and stronger protection of Green Wedge from urban encroachment.
- Better recognise and protect respective Green Wedge values and assets by appropriately applying local controls such as overlays, and better articulate the preferred land uses and developments via local planning policies or rural guidelines.
- Discourage further subdivision of large properties close to the UGB boundary that are more susceptible to land banking
- Facilitate consolidation of fragmented lots for agricultural or conservation purposes.
- Apply preferred transitional use at the urban – rural interface (whether it is via lot size requirement or a permanent buffer in the form of Public Open Space such as the Quarry Hills Regional Parkland)
- Advocate for the establishment of the Grassy Eucalypt Woodland regional reserve (Refer to Page 40 Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Conservation for more information)

Opportunity 2.5 - Finalise and start implementation of the new Whittlesea Township Strategy

- Establishing a clear township boundary to maintain existing township character and to ensure the protection of identified environmental/landscape values and agricultural land within the Whittlesea Green Wedge.
- Directing growth towards designated township area, including the provision of diverse and affordable housing, as well as other key community infrastructure in the defined township area
- Investigating additional planning controls to ensure development respects the existing character of the residential areas
- Further support the township's role in being the social and economic centre of rural communities

Whittlesea 2040 Goal 3 - Strong local Economy

Opportunity 3.1 - Support a stronger local food economy for local jobs and healthier community.

Infrastructure provision:

- Advocating for aligning road planning with relevant agricultural land strategies.
- Advocating for targeted planning and funding for rural roads, railway infrastructure, and increased access to affordable alternative water sources.
- Prioritising the maintenance of rural roads in Council budget to support agriculture, tourism and other related industries.

Skills and capacity building:

- Fostering community awareness on the importance of peri urban agriculture

- Supporting education and extension programs for farmers
- Support and encourage more farm trials, investing in research and new technologies.
- Investigating innovative farming practices that are suitable for small-scale agriculture
- Facilitating opportunities for increased access to land for people wanting to farm. i.e. encourage lease/share farming/farmer incubator.
- Exploring opportunities for tourism in the rural areas from agriculture to recreational activities

Business Support, Collaboration & Branding

- Investigate ways to promote local produce and attract agricultural investment. (i.e. farmers market, agricultural production expo; Explore ways to incentivise local buyers)
- Explore a network approach to collaborate with different sub-sectors of the food system, other organisations who shared similar vision in establishing local food economy.
- Investigate ways to support existing food industry.
- Review and improve efficacy of existing incentives such as Council rate rebate.
- Incentivising regenerative practices through more targeted land rebates and/or another schemes.
- Investigate ways to support and promote the tourism opportunities

Opportunity 3.2 - Plan for sustainable, diverse and innovative farming practices

- Investigating and implementing local planning tools that support farming at diverse scales.
- Protecting larger agricultural lots which are increasingly are becoming rare resources in our Green Wedge. A situation would restrict our future generations' potential to have a more diverse range of agricultural activities.
- Facilitating the consolidation of agricultural lots
- Safeguard access to alternative waters
 - o Advocating to State government to better manage farm dams by reviewing permit requirement. There is a need to strengthen the schedule to the zones so that earthworks for dams are specifically mentioned. Currently there is no specific control relating to dams and it can be open to interpretation.
 - o Working with water agencies who manage the ground water licence to ensure all groundwater use is necessary and used efficiently.
 - o Explore the use of planning tools, i.e. Special Use Overlay to identify and protect land with access to alternative water
 - o Supporting farmers to build alternative water systems that are different to dams.
- Investigating ways to support co-farming/share farming. (i.e. match farmers with landowners to achieve agriculture activities at either bigger or smaller scale without changing land ownership either via consolidation or subdivision.)
- Investigating and implementing local planning tools that support income diversification that is compatible with Green Wedge values.
 - o Advocating for updated definitions in the VPP to recognise appropriate value adding activities on agricultural land. (For instance, Landowner host other people who live and farms on the land. Should this be considered in zoning as ancillary to primary uses and permissible)
 - o Advocating for flexibility of the planning system to enable primary producers to add components to their business for greater viability
 - o Providing clearer guidance in local planning policy in respect to urban land uses (tourism, education, etc) to be encouraged and those to be restricted/prohibited
 - o Investigating and advocating for provision of more diverse housing/accommodation opportunities within the rural area that support agribusiness and/or housing affordability (e.g. community living – groups of households live on one lot, accommodations for seasonal farm workers, farm stay etc)
 - o Support proposals that align food and fibre production with the use of recycled waste (urban and on-farm) and wastewater (urban).

Opportunity 3.3 - Support Agritourism in the Green Wedge

- Developing an Agri-tourism action plan to identify opportunities and activities.
- Reviewing of the current Economic Development Strategy to develop a Destination Plan will aim to provide further guidance as to how to capitalise on our natural resources and encourage diverse investment.
- Developing a new Investment Attraction Strategy which will outline Council's approach to encourage tourism across the whole municipality
- Investigating and implementing local planning tools that support Agri-tourism

Opportunity 3.4 - Protect and manage existing extractive industry and landfill in the Green Wedge

- Protecting and managing those current working authority areas via appropriate planning tools.
- Encourage and support extractive industry operators to manage the land in a way that achieve optimal Green Wedge outcomes.
- Investigate unknown effects of quarry operations on local water system (i.e. changes to ground water quality and supply as accessed by bores on adjoining farming enterprises)
- Continue to advocate to State Government and Melbourne Water on the feasibility of utilising disused quarries for innovative uses. i.e. to create open space for active recreation or passive green space/habitat such as wetland environment, where opportunities arise.

Whittlesea 2040 Goal 4 - Sustainable Environment

Opportunity 4.1 Improve the management and protection of biodiversity

- Mapping biodiversity in the Green Wedge to identify and protect the remaining conservation values of the Green Wedge
- Strengthening the planning scheme to achieve better biodiversity outcomes (including review of existing planning policy and overlay controls and/or introduction of new controls)
- Better enforcement of environmental legislation e.g. illegal native vegetation removal, requirements to manage pest plant and animal invasions.
- Identifying opportunities for greater 'greening' planting of vegetation – especially in treeless agricultural landscapes.
- Continue to advocate to the State Government to secure land identified for future Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Conservation reserves
- Continue to work with rural landowners to encourage the protection and enhancement of biodiversity assets on private land.

Opportunity 4.2 Support local agriculture and improve water management

- Engage with rural landowners to improve flows to rural waterways and improve their management of natural floodplains
- Provide water focused community education and upskilling programs e.g. communities monitoring the health of our creeks and rivers
- Improve our public places along key waterways together, for example redesign and revitalise the concrete drain sections along Darebin and Edgars Creeks, and connect walking and cycling pathways from Yan Yean Reservoir to Plenty Gorge
- Support the extension of recycled water use for agriculture
- Develop recycled water use in agricultural and industry practices through the Whittlesea Community Farm Collective partnership project. The Farm will showcase the use of recycled water; provide volunteering, education and employment opportunities; and grow and provide fresh food to the local food relief network.
- Enhance riparian vegetation and green corridors for rural waterways.

Opportunity 4.3 Our residents and our environment benefit from a diverse, colourful, and healthy City Forest

- Work with landowners to revegetate rural areas, especially along waterways
- Protect existing trees and green cover from building and subdivision activity
- Apply incentive programs to encourage the retention and protection of green cover on private land.
- Plan and manage our city forest using up to date data and industry best practice.
- Understand community behaviours, perceptions, and barriers regarding green cover retention and protection on private land.

- Develop a communications plan aimed at increasing awareness and support for trees and greening, and to explain the benefit of greening to community well-being, environmental resilience, and economic health.
- Consult with Traditional Owners on opportunities to communicate connection to Country
- Continue to actively expand opportunities for community engagement with trees and vegetation as part of Council's new works projects, existing community programs and events, citizen science projects and public art programs, inviting and encouraging culturally diverse community and business involvement in planning and implementation of planting programs.
- Work with major non-Council landowners (private and public) to develop a portfolio of greening projects.

Appendix 4 - City of Whittlesea Biodiversity Strategy 2019 - 2029: Opportunities to improve our biodiversity

Improving data collection and management

It is vital for the protection of biodiversity that we have baseline data on what already exists so that we understand what we are trying to protect and how to best protect it into the future. The more that is understood about current conditions, the better we can navigate and manage changes to local biodiversity. The last comprehensive data collection effort in the region was for the North East Regional Organisation of Councils (NEROC) which was completed in 1997.

Objective 1: Improve our local knowledge and understanding of local biodiversity

How will we get there? (*Priority Actions*)

- a) Collate existing biodiversity datasets.
- b) Update the NEROC study - surveying and mapping - to provide comprehensive baseline data.
- c) Undertake a habitat connectivity study to identify current and planned limitations to connectivity, and identify where landscape connectivity could be retained or improved.
- d) Update the existing biodiversity values map and validate the data to provide an accurate baseline of existing remnant vegetation in the municipality.
- e) Identify the impact that climate change is likely to have on keystone species in the municipality, and management actions required to best improve the outlook for these species.

What threats does this address?

Data gaps, Climate change, weeds, pests and pathogens

What is the outcome?

Management decisions are made with up to date, accurate knowledge of local biodiversity values

Strengthening the Planning Scheme

As the responsible authority for the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, Council has a degree of influence over how biodiversity is protected at both a landscape scale and at a lot level. Well thought-out strategic and land use planning will enable local species to move throughout the landscape and mitigate the impacts associated with urbanisation, land use change and climate change.

Objective 2: Strengthen the Planning Scheme to achieve better biodiversity outcomes

How will we get there? (*Priority Actions*)

- a) Assess the adequacy of current planning overlays and zones in areas of biodiversity value and identify the appropriate planning controls to inform a planning scheme amendment.
- b) Proactively monitor compliance with permit conditions relating to environmental outcomes and investigate breaches of the Planning and Environment Act relating to biodiversity e.g. Removal of native vegetation.
- c) Conduct education campaigns to inform the community about planning restrictions in Green Wedge areas.

What threats does this address?

Urban development and land use change, habitat fragmentation, weeds, pest animals and pathogens, inappropriate land management

What is the outcome?

An accurate reflection of biodiversity values in the Planning Scheme and adequate planning protections on them

Working with rural landowners

A large portion of the City of Whittlesea is contained in privately owned rural property. This means that there are considerable biodiversity assets on private land in rural areas. The protection and management of remnant vegetation, as well as the potential for improving links and stepping stones across the landscape make working with rural landowners a key opportunity.

Objective 3: Support rural landowners to protect and improve biodiversity on private land

How will we get there? (Priority Actions)

- a) Review current incentive programs to ensure they are the most effective way to encourage for rural landholders to undertake environmental works on private land. Establish a five-year cycle for a review of incentives.
- b) Provide rural landowners support to protect and improve biodiversity on private land.
- c) Investigate the option of creating sub-catchment management plans/objectives that can better integrate environmental works across several properties.
- d) Develop a pilot program of 'Sustainable Native Forestry for Firewood' focused on establishing a fast growth native patch that can be partially harvested for firewood while providing ongoing sustainable habitat.

What threats does this address?

Habitat fragmentation, weeds, pest animals and pathogens, inappropriate land management, lack of community stewardship

What is the outcome?

Landowners are incentivised to undertake works that protect or enhance biodiversity on their land.

Involving community in urban environments

Raising awareness and building community capacity to get involved in biodiversity enhancement is an important part of improving liveability in urban areas. There are numerous co-benefits to a biodiversity rich urban environment including improved waterway health, improved health and wellbeing outcomes for people, and (with increased tree canopy cover) a reduction in the urban heat island effect.

Objective 4: Encourage awareness and participation in urban biodiversity and improvement

How will we get there? (Priority Actions)

- a) Develop and deliver an urban based biodiversity campaign that coordinates programming and educational efforts across Council around a central theme(s).
- b) Investigate urban incentive schemes that encourage residents and schools to plant indigenous gardens.
- c) Continue to provide support for community groups with a focus on environmental sustainability and/or undertaking biodiversity programming.

What threats does this address?

Habitat fragmentation, weeds, pest plants, and pathogens, lack of community stewardship

What is the outcome?

A larger portion of the community who understands and respects the natural environment and actively participate in protecting or improving local biodiversity

Managing Councils conservation reserves

Currently Council manages 521 hectares of conservation area in dedicated reserves. These reserves provide vital habitat and food resources for native wildlife and important opportunities for residents to observe and appreciate the natural environment. Council should continue to find ways to improve current management practices and to increase the involvement of the community.

Objective 5: Manage Council land to reduce threats and improve habitat quality

How will we get there? (Priority Actions)

- a) Identify and prioritise Council reserves containing the highest biodiversity values that are not permanently protected through the Planning Scheme and work to increase their protections.
- b) Apply adaptive and innovative management practices to Council's conservation reserves to ensure continuous improvement.
- c) Prioritise resources for weed control in moderate and high value roadside reserves, and those adjacent to properties containing high biodiversity values.
- d) Ensure that other Council strategies and plans prioritise improving biodiversity.

What threats does this address?

Urban development and land use change, weeds, pest animals and pathogens, altered fire regimes, data gaps

What is the outcome?

Council conservation reserves are protected for future generations, and management of Council land is efficient and effective.

Working with other agencies

Several other agencies are responsible for managing significant sites of biodiversity value both within and adjacent to the City of Whittlesea. For example, Kinglake National Park and Plenty Gorge Parklands (Parks Victoria) and the Yan Yean and Toorourong reservoirs (Melbourne Water). Working with other agencies and neighbouring Councils is an important way of circulating new ideas and approaches and maximising the benefit of individual

efforts. Kangaroo management is a key concern that came through in the community consultation, both the impact of development restricting kangaroo movement as well as kangaroos on roads. Kangaroo management is a complex issue that crosses different jurisdictions and there is an opportunity to strategically manage kangaroos across a landscape.

Objective 6: Collaborate with other land management agencies

How will we get there? (Priority Actions)

- a) Collaborate with Land Management agencies on pest plant and animal management programs.
- b) Advocate for State support to collaboratively develop a region wide kangaroo management plan (or similar) to address the issue of kangaroo movement in developing areas.
- c) Establish a regional network for standardised biodiversity data.
- d) Continue to support and advocate for the establishment of the proposed Grassy Eucalypt Woodland conservation reserve located within Whittlesea's Green Wedge as described in the Melbourne Strategic Assessment.

What threats does this address?

Habitat fragmentation, weeds, pest plants, and pathogens, lack of community stewardship, Data gaps

What is the outcome?

Increased number of regional projects that include the City of Whittlesea, and a standardised system of collecting and sharing data

Appendix 5 - Whittlesea Water for all Our Water Strategy 2020-2030: Vision & Priorities for Action

Our vision for the future

Our goal

By 2030, the City of Whittlesea will be leaders in the planning, use and management of water for the benefit of all.

Outcome	Outcome indicators	Measures of success (10 year targets)
Cleaner Our local waterways are healthy and clean	Improve the water quality of our local waterways	By 2030, Council will pro-actively maintain and budget for renewal and maintenance of all of its water assets to ensure they meet environmental standards, and are fit for the community's enjoyment and use.
Greener Our priority urban and rural landscapes are green and healthy	Increase the proportion of public open space supported by alternative water sources	By 2030, at least 25 per cent of public open space will be supported by an alternative water source.
Smarter Our community uses potable water for drinking and alternative water is available for all other purposes	Decrease in community potable water use Decrease in community potable water use	Community potable water use will be at least 5 per cent below the Victorian Government Target for per capita consumption. By 2030, Council potable water consumption will reduce by a further 20 per cent (on a kilolitre per capita basis).
Prepared Our city is prepared for droughts and floods	Decrease local flooding impacts	Less than 2 per cent residential properties at risk of flooding in a 1 in 5-year rainfall event. Less than 10 per cent commercial and industrial properties at risk of flooding in a 1 in 10-year rainfall event.
United Our community and partners value water and work together to improve water planning, use and management	Increase in community stewardship of water resources	By 2030, the Plenty River, Merri, Darebin and Edgars Creek will have vibrant and effective community stewardship ¹ programs

Our priorities for action in your neighbourhood

The City of Whittlesea is a large and diverse municipality, broadly made up of three distinct geographical areas, established, growth and rural, each with its own characteristics. We have specific priorities for action in each of these areas.

Established areas e.g. Bundoora, Lalor, Mill Park, Thomastown, Epping and South Morang

¹ Stewardship activities including enhancement plantings, litter and weed removal, citizen science, community co-design for revitalisation projects and the celebration of cultural identity and place.

These are older urban areas with well-used but aging infrastructure and facilities, low tree canopy cover, and less open space (compared with planned growth areas). Established areas are still experiencing growth and change as properties are sub-divided or redeveloped.

In the established areas **we will look after and expand our existing stormwater treatment systems**, and deliver showcase projects, such as the revitalisation of a priority section of a waterway, and divert local stormwater to support our significant trees.

Growth areas e.g. Doreen, Mernda, Wollert, Beveridge, Donnybrook and designated growth areas

These are recently developed and future development areas. New facilities, infrastructure and open spaces have been planned into these developments, and often recycled water supplies and stormwater treatment systems have been included.

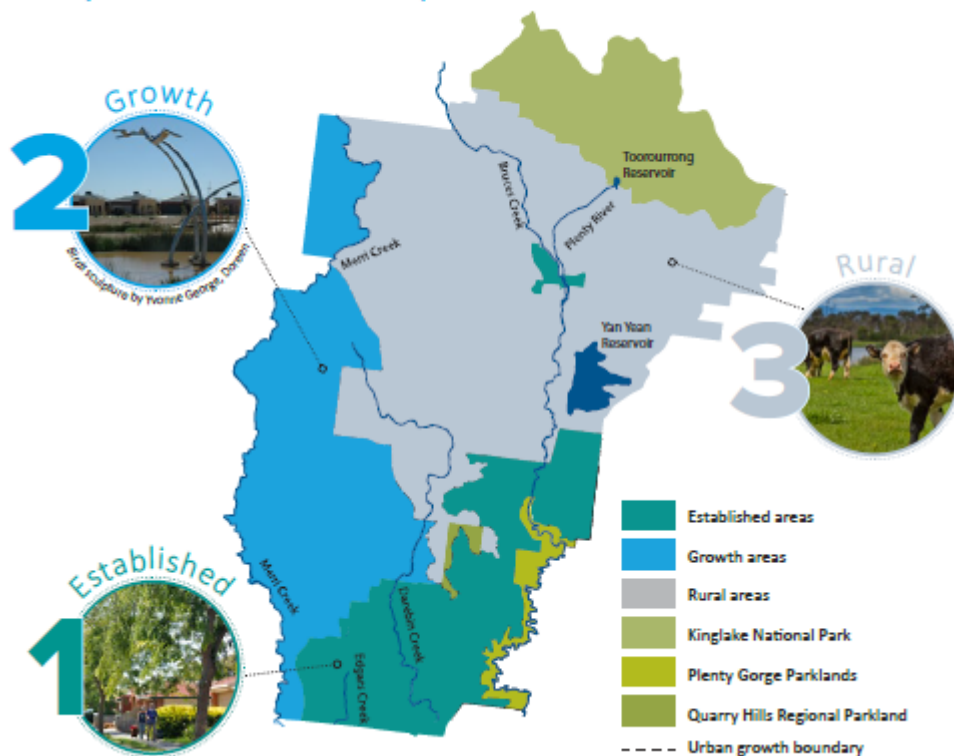
In the growth areas **we will plan better outcomes from the start and create new solutions**, for example we will work with homebuilders, developers and the Victorian Planning Authority to support better water outcomes in new developments.

Rural areas e.g. Eden Park, Humevale, Kinglake West, Woodstock and Yan Yean

These are rural areas that fall outside of the designated growth areas, with large areas of land used for agriculture and conservation. Rural landowners often play an active role in managing water on their properties.

In the rural areas **we will support local agriculture and improve water management**, for example we will support the extension of recycled water use for agriculture, and work with rural landowners to soak more rain into the ground by improving vegetation and soils, and improve flows to rural waterways.

City of Whittlesea map



Appendix 6 - Greening Whittlesea City Forest Strategy – Vision and priorities for action

Our vision for the future

Our goal

Our residents and our environment benefit from a diverse, colourful, and healthy City Forest that connects people to people, people to nature, and people to place.

Our strategic outcomes

The GWS will deliver the following outcomes:

Outcome 1 - Protected. “Our city forest is protected from building and subdivision activity”. The indicator for outcome 1 is the improved retention of trees and green cover. The following measures apply to this outcome:

- By 2030 at least 80% of trees and green cover on building and subdivision sites will be retained.
- At least 80% of River Red Gums on building and subdivision sites will be retained.

Outcome 2 - Managed. “Our city forest is planned and managed using up to date data and industry best practice”. The indicator for outcome 2 is the improved health and lifespan of Council trees and green cover. The following measures apply to this outcome:

- By 2025 at least 90% of Council trees and green cover will be rated as ‘healthy’.
- By 2040 at least 90% of Council trees and green cover will achieve their useful life.

Outcome 3 - Enhanced. “Our city forest grows and thrives year on year”. The indicators for outcome 3 are increased tree canopy cover, and increased green cover. The following measures apply to this outcome:

- By 2040 tree canopy cover will increase by a minimum of 20% across the City.
- By 2040 total green cover will increase by a minimum of 20% across the City.

The focal area increases below will contribute to our total tree canopy target.

- Established urban suburbs: 57.45% increase in tree canopy cover (which includes 37.5% on non-council land).
- Growth suburbs: 39.86% increase in tree canopy cover (which includes 30% on non-council land).
- Rural: 3.09% increase in tree canopy cover (which includes 1.5% on non-council land).

Outcome 4 - Engaged. “Our community and partners value trees and green cover, and work together to improve our city forest.”. The indicator for outcome 4 is an increased community stewardship of trees and green cover. The following measure applies to this outcome:

- Effective participation in existing and emerging greening groups, with new community groups established by 2030.

Our priorities for action across the city

Delivery of the Greening Whittlesea City Forest Strategy will be guided by a detailed implementation plan outlining the actions required to realise our strategic goals and targets over the life of the strategy.

Council will prioritise making people's lives better by improving liveability within connected communities across our city.

The hierarchy of principles below will be applied.

Our first priority is to provide benefit at the local level.

Our second priority is to provide benefit at the suburb level.

Our third priority is to provide benefit at the regional level.

Multiple factors will influence the design, prioritisation, and delivery of our greening efforts.

Our planting priorities will be influenced by:

- Resident demographics e.g. vulnerability and age.
- Heat profile.
- Development e.g. infrastructure and population growth.
- Plantable space.
- Strategic canopy targets.

Implementation of our planting priorities will be influenced by:

- Financial support.
- Community engagement.
- Partnerships.
- Opportunity.

Focal area priorities

The high level priorities for each focal area are:

- Growth suburbs - protect existing trees and green cover; and work with developers to achieve best possible liveability and environmental outcomes
- Rural suburbs - work with land owners to revegetate rural areas, especially along waterways; and protect existing trees and green cover.
- Established urban suburbs - targeted greening to deliver liveability improvements, especially heat mitigation; and protect existing trees and green cover

Outcome priority actions - Protected

“Our city forest is protected from building and subdivision activity”

Community and partnership

- Understand community behaviours, perceptions, and barriers regarding green cover retention and protection on private land.
- Apply incentive programs to encourage the retention and protection of green cover on private land.

Legislation, Design, and Assessment

- Review existing planning controls to identify where tree and green cover protection measures can be strengthened at all development stages. Where appropriate, develop an evidence-base to seek changes to local policy or provisions as part of the preparation and review of strategic land use plans for development areas.
- Enhance supporting guidelines to ensure planning applicants understand the decision criteria that will be applied when considering Landscape Plan Approvals. Seek to establish a trigger or incentive for applying these guidelines to projects where planning approval is not needed.
- Develop organisational processes and systems that promote green cover retention.
- Develop and implement a mechanism to ensure road-widening proposals are subject to detailed analysis of tree protection opportunities to prevent removal and damage wherever possible.
- Identify and implement appropriate controls to protect existing vegetation in waterway corridors.
- Ensure local laws and enforcement are effectively used to provide green cover protection at all development stages.

Asset Management

- Incorporate decision-making criteria into work processes to ensure existing mature trees are not removed until all possible solutions to protect the trees are exhausted.
- Establish an easy to use tracking system for Planners to log tree removal and tree planting numbers contained in development applications.

Program Planning and Delivery

- Investigate if income from vegetation related bonds, fines, and fees (including tree removal fees) can be allocated solely to greening programs. Develop processes for the transparent collection, tracking, and transfer of income as relevant.

Outcome priority actions - Managed

“Our city forest is planned and managed using up to date data and industry best practice.”

Community and partnership

- Engage with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and relevant fire ecology experts to advise on landscape and fire management practices.
- Invite the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to self-determine their involvement in Whittlesea’s ongoing greening program. Explore opportunities for Traditional Owner advice on tree significance, ceremony, and culture.
- Increase pathways and opportunities for indigenous employment.

Legislation, Design, and Assessment

- Develop best practice guidelines with supporting technical documents to protect existing vegetation, facilitate healthy vegetation growth, enhance biodiversity outcomes including habitat connectivity, and consider sustainable water use options in all built form and infrastructure works.

Asset Management

- Record data for all existing and future trees on Council land in Council’s asset management system, including species, size, canopy spread, and health/condition.
- Establish workflows for tree maintenance through Council’s asset management system in collaboration with Council’s contractors.
- Develop routines and responsibilities for the tracking of tree canopy and green cover progress.

- Develop an interactive mapping platform with both internal and public-facing interfaces that incorporates relevant environmental data to support integrated evaluation and decision making, communications, and education.

For more information on how Council manages street trees visit:

<https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/waste-environment/trees-and-plants/street-tree-management-plan/>

Program Planning and Delivery

- Develop a City Landscape Masterplan to guide planting programs across the City.
- Develop an open space planting program guided by the City Landscape Masterplan and incorporating plantable opportunities analysis, increased park plantings, habitat connectivity, urban heat amelioration, better use of transmission easements, and greater planting around and within sporting facilities, wetlands, waterways, and reserves.
- Develop a comprehensive ten-year Street Tree Planting Program which increases annual tree planting through main road and residential street programs. The program should prioritise urban heat amelioration and be aligned with the Road Rehabilitation program (road renewals) where appropriate.
- Develop routines and responsibilities for the tracking of urban heat data and establish new processes to ensure hot spots and heat islands are prioritised for increased greening to improve social and health equity.
- Undertake an Equity-Focused Health Impact Assessment on the Strategy to ensure benefits reach vulnerable groups / priority locations in the community.

Outcome priority actions - Enhanced

“Our city forest grows and thrives year on year.”

Community and partnership

- Understand community behaviours, perceptions, and barriers regarding green cover planting on private land.
- Apply incentive programs to encourage the planting of green cover on private land.

Legislation, Design, and Assessment

- Work with developers to achieve better-than legislated outcomes where practical, through the provision of additional information and guidance as part of the assessment approval process that helps identify additional opportunities for tree and vegetation planting.
- Include increased greening (with emphasis on tree retention and planting) in all Urban Design Frameworks, Integrated Community Facilities Planning, Public Space Planning and New Works Public Space projects.
- Advocate for an evidence-based review of setback requirements of service providers that limit canopy and vegetation planting (for example, Ausnet Services).
- Review existing planning controls to identify opportunities for increased tree and green cover planting at all development stages. Where appropriate, develop an evidence-base to seek changes to strategic land use plans and policy via planning scheme amendments.
- Investigate opportunities for requiring/prioritising offset planting associated with vegetation removal to be met within the City of Whittlesea.
- Assess all development and capital works projects against the Sustainable Subdivision Framework.

Program Planning and Delivery

- Work with developers to achieve better-than legislated outcomes where practical by developing showcase projects with progressive developers to maximise tree planting and biodiversity sensitive design solutions.
- Advocate for the adoption of green roofs, walls, and facades [natural greening incorporated into building design].
- Implement planting in line with the City Landscape Masterplan, and the Open Space and ten-year Street Tree Planting Programs.

Outcome priority actions - Engaged

“Our community and partners value trees and green cover, and work together to improve our city forest.”

Community and Partnership

- Develop a communications plan aimed at increasing awareness and support for trees and greening, and to explain the benefit of greening to community well-being, environmental resilience, and economic health.
- Consult with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation on opportunities to communicate connection to Country.
- Continue to actively expand opportunities for community engagement with trees and vegetation as part of Council’s new works projects, existing community programs and events, citizen science projects and public art programs, inviting and encouraging culturally diverse community and business involvement in planning and implementation of planting programs.
- Develop an Advocacy Prospectus inclusive of a targeted Partnership Engagement Plan to guide focused advocacy, and the pursuit of grant and partnership opportunities with Government, business, and philanthropic organisations.
- Work with major non-Council landowners (private and public) to develop a portfolio of greening projects.
- Identify and target current and emerging offset programs to support mass planting opportunities within the City.
- Participate in local and regional initiatives to deliver greening outcomes.

Program Planning and Delivery

- Develop ‘shovel-ready’ concepts and supporting business cases to anticipate grant opportunities

<https://engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/greening-strategy>.