

Public Open Space Plan survey

Public Open Space Plan

01. Do you support the draft Public Open Space Plan 2026-2036? **Required**

Select one answer only

☐ Yes

☐ No

02. What do you like about the draft plan? **Required**

03. What don't you like about the plan? **Required**

Open Space Vision

"A green city for people and wildlife. A city of connected open spaces, majestic river red gums, waterways and winding trails. A city of parks, town centres, cultural landscapes and streetscapes, that are welcoming, vibrant and well-designed for all."

04. Do you support the Vision statement for the Public Open Space Plan?
Required

Select one answer only

☐ Yes

☐ No

05. Why did you select no to supporting the vision statement? **Required**

Focus Areas

We have identified five focus areas.

- Open space provision
- Community health and wellbeing
- Biodiversity
- Climate change resilience
- Economic and social benefits

Each focus area has a set of actions. We want to know which actions are most important to you.

06. Select the focus areas you wish to provide feedback on. **Required**

Each focus area has a list of actions to choose from. Select which focus areas are important to you and you wish to provide more feedback on. You can select as many as you like.

Select all that apply
☐ Open space provision
☐ Community health and wellbeing
☐ Biodiversity
☐ Climate Change resilience
☐ Economic and social benefits
☐ I do not wish to feedback on focus areas

07. Choose your top 3 actions for open space provision. **Required**

Select between 1 and 3 answers
☐ Complete a city-wide service gap analysis

☐ Prepare a prioritised long-term capital works program
☐ Prepare a prioritised operational initiatives program
☐ Develop a public open space property plan
☐ Implement an integrated precinct planning approach
☐ Develop open space access and use partnerships
☐ Amend the Whittlesea Planning Scheme to give effect to the new Open Space Plan
☐ Investigate changes to open space contributions in established areas to facilitate the provision of new open space and the evidence base required to support any changes
☐ Develop an open space financial contributions plan
☐ Prepare guidelines and policy for public open space
☐ Financially value our natural assets
☐ Develop a measured outcomes framework

08. Choose you top 3 actions for community health and wellbeing. **Required**

Select between 1 and 3 answers
☐ Reduce barriers to open space use
☐ Develop equitable journey pathways for vulnerable communities
☐ Prepare a public open space activation plan
☐ Incorporate contemplative design into open space
☐ Cool open space walking and cycling environments
☐ Prioritise circuit and thoroughfare paths in open space
☐ Create age-friendly, integrated open spaces
☐ Foster stewardship and open space champions
☐ Reduce open space provision gaps in staged growth area development.

09. Choose your top 3 actions for Biodiversity. **Required**

Select between 1 and 3 answers
☐ Advocate to secure the 1,200-hectare Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Reserve
☐ Increase biodiversity across all public open space
☐ Develop dedicated educational gathering spaces

☐ Expand low maintenance management regimes which benefit biodiversity
☐ Identify opportunities for wildlife habitat corridors
☐ Undertake ecological assessments for major parks
☐ Prepare planting plans as an action of all master plans
☐ Incorporate biodiversity into use and development guidelines for encumbered land
☐ Increase local character planting
☐ Increase community resilience and partnerships

10. Choose your top 3 actions for climate change resilience. **Required**

Select between 1 and 3 answers
☐ Integrate sustainable planning in open space
☐ Increase resilience by connecting waterways and open space
☐ Work with partners to fund revegetation and canopy cover targets
☐ Prepare regional park management plans to embed resilience in open space planning
☐ Future proof care for river red gums
☐ Build a resilient tree portfolio
☐ Deliver and enforce sustainable infrastructure design
☐ Implement integrated water management across the public open space network.

11. Choose your top 3 actions for economic and social benefits. **Required**

Select between 1 and 3 answers
☐ Invest in Traditional Owner enterprise on Country
☐ Coordinate planning and investment for town centres and open space
☐ Coordinate a placemaking approach to stimulate local economy and support maintenance
☐ Plan for increased commercial enterprise suitable to the public open space network
☐ Improve visitor experience of waterways and water features
☐ Market our open space offer
☐ Create a holistic visitor experience for regional and major destination parks

☐	Research the user experience and effectiveness of open space provision
☐	Develop a cultural investment plan for bunjil nganga Parklands
☐	Prepare an open space wayfinding signage guide
☐	Review lease and payment for commercial enterprise
☐	Prepare a Social Return on Investment (SROI) evaluation of open space.

12. Do you wish to provide further feedback about the five Focus Areas?

Public Open Space in your suburb

Council have created an Appendix document to support the Public Open Space Plan document. The Appendix shows the actions, opportunities and issues at both a municipal and suburb level. Read the actions for your suburb here and let us know your thoughts.

13. Which suburb do you live in?

Select one answer only
☐ Beveridge
☐ Bundoora
☐ Donnybrook
☐ Doreen
☐ Eden Park
☐ Epping
☐ Humevale
☐ Kinglake West
☐ Lalor
☐ Mernda
☐ Mill Park
☐ South Morang

☐ Thomastown
☐ Whittlesea Township
☐ Wollert
☐ Woodstock
☐ Yan Yean
☐ Prefer not to answer
☐ Other (please specify)
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Bundoora

Bundoora is located in the far south east corner of the City of Whittlesea and is split across neighbouring municipalities, City of Darebin and City of Banyule.

29% of total suburb area is open space. Bundoora is home to Norris Bank Parklands which is a Regional open space. Despite having a high percentage of open space and tree canopy coverage, Bundoora has a lack of conservation reserves.

Read more information about open spaces in Bundoora [here](#).

Doreen

Doreen is located centrally within the City of Whittlesea, along the eastern edge and is split across neighbouring municipality, Shire of Nillumbik. It has a mix of new estates and older semi-rural properties.

23% of the suburb area is open space with 13% canopy coverage. Doreen has a diversity of open space classifications, offering all sizes and programs across Pocket, Local, Neighbourhood, Municipal and Regional.

Read more information about open spaces in Doreen [here](#).

Epping

Epping is a major commercial hub, home to Northern Hospital, Pacific Epping and new developments. The diverse open space network of Epping includes; the 9.3ha Epping Recreation Reserve offering sports ovals, tennis courts, playgrounds and picnic facilities, Darebin Creek Parklands provide scenic riverside trails, skate ramps and green pathways, and numerous Local parks such as Peppercorn and Pinney Park supporting family friendly recreation.

21% of total suburb area is open space and 6% canopy coverage.

Read more information the open spaces in Epping [here](#).

Lalor

Lalor is known for its strong post-war growth, with deeply rooted communities originating from Italy and Greece. The open space network offers a diversity of open spaces for its community.

14% of the the suburb is open space and 7% canopy coverage. Lalor has one of the Regional open spaces in Whittlesea Public Gardens. Lalor Recreation Reserve includes sporting ovals, tennis courts, bowling greens, a playground, BBQ shelters and more.

Read more information about the open spaces in Lalor [here](#).

Mernda

Mernda has been a fast-growing suburb for many years, with evolving infrastructure and new estates. Open spaces include Mernda Recreation Reserve with sporting ovals, netball court, pavilion and change rooms as well as a playground, toilets and car parking. Mernda Adventure park provides imaginative playground structures, water play, natural landscapes all in proximity to beautiful wetlands.

15% of the suburb is open space and 9% canopy coverage. This is made up of numerous Pocket open spaces, conservation reserves, walking trails and more. Read more information about the open spaces in Mernda [here](#).

Mill Park

Mill Park is a family-friendly suburb with a border to the Plenty Gorge Parklands in the east. There are many community facilities and schools across the suburb, often co-located with open space.

Mill Park is home to one of our larger Regional park areas in Mill Park Recreation Reserve, a major community hub centred around the leisure centre, with an all-abilities playground, splash park, basketball court, skate ramp, bike and walking tracks, softball fields, BBQs, accessible toilets and ample car parking. This offer supports inclusive play. Mill Park Reserve connects paved and unpaved trails through a wooded forest of native shrubs and trees.

25% of the suburb area is open space and 16% canopy coverage.

Read more information about the open spaces in Mill Park [here](#).

South Morang

South Morang is now a well established suburb. The suburb features a well-rounded open space network that blends active recreation, natural reserves and linear corridors. Major parks such as Mill park Lakes Recreation Reserve offers ports ovals, playgrounds, barbecues and a pavilion. Community hubs such as Riverside Reserve have been recently upgraded with inclusive playground equipment and green spaces.

South Morang is also home to the majority of bunjil nganga Parklands, including Granite Hills Park. Shared user paths link this Regional park into the surrounding residential area.

39% of the suburb area is open space and 15% canopy coverage.

Read more information about the open spaces in South Morang [here](#).

Thomastown

Thomastown sits to the more urban south of the municipality. It is a multi-cultural suburb with a density of retail, residential and industrial zones.

While the area boasts several quality open spaces, strategic planning identifies a need for additional Local parks and improved trail connectivity to better meet community needs and enhance recreational access.

14% of the suburb area is open space and 6% canopy coverage.

Read more information about the open spaces in Thomastown [here](#).

Whittlesea

The Whittlesea suburban area is anchored by the historic rural township with heritage buildings and local shops.

Whittlesea Park is the focal green hub, featuring playgrounds, picnic areas, off-leash dog zones and open grassed areas. Community reserves like A.F. Walker Recreation Reserve support active recreation with sports ovals, tennis courts, playgrounds and dog-friendly areas.

51% of total suburb area is open space and 26% canopy coverage. A large portion of this open space includes the forest area of Kinglake National Park, Toorouorong Reservoir Park and Mount Disappointment.

Read more information about the open spaces in Whittlesea [here](#).

Beveridge

Beveridge is located in the far north west corner of the City of Whittlesea and is split across the neighbouring municipality; Shire of Mitchell.

Beveridge is a primarily rural residential and agricultural suburb, made up of open landscapes, bushland and hobby farms. As a targeted growth area, Beveridge is due to transform considerably over the coming years. Large scale infrastructure that will contribute to this includes the future Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal.

1.5% of total suburb area is open space and 12% canopy coverage.

Read more information about the open spaces in Beveridge [here](#).

Donnybrook

Donnybrook is a designated urban growth area with major housing, transport and industrial projects currently under construction and in the pipeline. As a semi-rural suburb, Donnybrook is rapidly transitioning from pastoral land to a vibrant community that is expected to experience significant population growth over the coming years.

The open space network is anchored by the Olivine Active Open Space with sporting ovals and community pavilion.

2% of suburb area is open space and 2% canopy coverage.

Read more about the open spaces in Donnybrook [here](#).

Wollert

Wollert is currently undergoing a high level of transformation with some major housing development. These new residential areas are adjacent to some of the retained rural character of the suburb.

Wollert is another suburb that is traversed by the Edgars Creek corridor undergoing landscape improvement planning. This will deliver enhanced ecology, walking and cycling trails and community spaces.

12% of the total suburb area is open space and 3% canopy coverage.

Read more about the open spaces in Wollert [here](#).

Woodstock

Woodstock is a mixture of rural residential and agricultural land. It's open space character is defined by extensive natural landscapes as opposed to formal recreational parks.

The suburb is home to a large portion of the Growling Frog Golf Course and its associated conservation area, as well as Warren Ellem Memorial Reserve. Barbers Creek traverses the Growling Frog Golf Course.

4% of total suburb area is open space and 7% canopy coverage.

Read more about open spaces in Woodstock [here](#).

Eden Park

Eden Park is primarily rural residential and agricultural land made up of hobby farms and bushland.

Open space in the suburb comes in the form of farmland and creek corridors, characterised by rolling eucalyptus woodlands, scattered ridge lines and scenic views across the wider Plenty Valley and Mount Disappointment ranges.

Eden Park falls within City of Whittlesea's Green Wedge Zone and plays a crucial role in conserving biodiversity and managing environmental risks.

0% of total suburb area is open space and 32% canopy coverage.

Read more about the open spaces in Eden Park [here](#).

Humevale

Humevale is primarily rural residential and agricultural land made up of hobby farms and bushland. It is dominated to the north and south by Regional open spaces,

sitting beneath Mount Disappointment and offering one of the most extensive canopy coverages of the municipal area.

The Humevale suburb area has no identified community facilities. Community living outside of the urban growth boundary generally live on larger properties and are more likely to drive to access open space.

51% of total suburb area is open space and 60% canopy coverage.

Read more about open spaces in Humevale [here](#).

Kinglake West

Kinglake West is a forested community in the north- eastern corner of the municipality. It has been impacted by bushfires in the past with strong local recovery continuing to this day.

The Kinglake West suburb is shared across the City of Whittlesea and the Shire of Murrindindi. The area is dominated by Kinglake National Park, a sprawling expanse of forested foothills, waterfall walks, picnic areas, barbecues, accessible trails, lookout points and abundant wildlife.

0.5% of suburb area is open space and 36% canopy coverage.

Read more about open spaces in Kinglake West [here](#).

Yan Yean

Yan Yean is a primarily rural residential and agricultural suburb, dominated to the eastern edge by the Yan Yean Reservoir (Victoria's oldest reservoir) and its associated Yan Yean Reservoir Park.

The Yan Yean suburb area has no identified community facilities. Community living outside of the urban growth boundary generally live on larger properties and are more likely to drive to access open space.

55% of total suburb area is open space and 21% canopy coverage.

Read more about open spaces in Yan Yean [here](#).

14. Do you support the actions for your suburb? **Required**

Select one answer only
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure

15. Would you like to tell us about the Public Open Space in your suburb?

Share your thoughts on the action plan for your suburb or let us know what you like or don't like about open space in your area.

About you

16. What is your gender? **Required**

Select one answer only
☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Non-binary
☐ Prefer not to say
☐ I prefer to self-describe, please specify
<input type="text"/>

17. What is your age? **Required**

Select one answer only
☐ 0-14 years
☐ 15-17 years
☐ 18-24 years
☐ 25-34 years
☐ 35-44 years
☐ 45-54 years
☐ 55-64 years
☐ 65-74 years
☐ 75 years or over
☐ Prefer not to say

18. Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander? **Required**

Select one answer only
☐ Yes, Aboriginal
☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander
☐ Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
☐ No
☐ Prefer not to answer

19. Do you prefer to speak a language other than English at home? **Required**

Select one answer only
☐ Yes
☐ No

20. Which language do you primarily speak at home? **Required**

Select one answer only
☐ Arabic
☐ Macedonian
☐ Italian
☐ Punjabi
☐ Greek
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Mandarin
☐ Cantonese
☐ Hindi
☐ Urdu
☐ Turkish
☐ Malayalam
☐ Persian
☐ Prefer not to say
☐ Other
<input type="text"/>

21. Do you identify as LGBTIQA+ **Required**

Select one answer only
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Prefer not to say

22. Do you identify as any of the following? **Required**

Select all that apply

Select all that apply
☐ Person living with a disability
☐ Unpaid carer of a person living with a disability
☐ Unpaid carer of an older person
☐ None of the above
☐ Other
<input type="text"/>

23. What is your connection to the City of Whittlesea? **Required**

Select all that apply

Select all that apply
☐ Live here
☐ Work here
☐ Study here
☐ Visit friends or family
☐ Visit for recreational purposes
☐ Travel through area
☐ Other
<input type="text"/>