



# Public Open Space Plan

## 2026-2036 DRAFT

### Appendix

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# Actions

## Overview

The purpose of this Appendix is to locate the key open space initiatives at both a municipal and suburb scale. Actions have been identified across the municipality and within each of the City of Whittlesea suburbs, ranging from the master planning of specific open spaces to the repairing of riparian creek corridors. Where spatially relevant these actions have been designated on the map with their associated coloured tags. Opportunities and issues have also been highlighted to support these actions.

### Typical legend

The following elements apply to the action plan maps hereafter:

| Action Plan Elements                          | Description                                                                                                                                                              | Symbol                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Action</b>                                 | Actions are outlined individually and translated onto the suburb map where spatially relevant. Their colours are associated with their relevant focus area.              | <div><div>1</div>Open space provision</div> <div><div>2</div>Community health and well-being</div> <div><div>3</div>Biodiversity</div> <div><div>4</div>Climate change resilience</div> <div><div>5</div>Economic and social benefits</div> |
| <b>Enhancing green interfaces</b>             | The engagement of open space edges and integration with surrounding land uses to support greater access and permeability.                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Potential identification as open space</b> | Explore shared tenure/management agreements or temporary leases to activate private, semi-private or under utilised open space.                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Protect and enhance waterways</b>          | Support revegetation and revitalisation projects that protect and enhance riparian corridors and biodiverse habitats along waterways.                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Required links</b>                         | Through the identification of current barriers to active transport and open space connections, linkages are recommended to ensure safe and legible pedestrian crossings. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Barriers to movement</b>                   | Identifies landscape or infrastructure that inhibits safe pedestrian movement.                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Open space and habitat links</b>           | Seeking opportunities to support movement between open spaces to encourage a symbiotic relationship between conservation, biodiversity, habitats and sustainability.     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

# Municipal wide action plan

At the municipal and strategic scale there are actions that will influence all 17 of the suburbs within City of Whittlesea. They encompass Council’s overarching goals for open space delivery and what the network as a whole can achieve in the future. Some of the following municipal wide actions may also appear in the Suburb Action Plan in greater detail. In the case where a municipal action is spatial and can be identified on the map overleaf, it has been integrated. Some actions cannot be identified spatially and exist at a strategic level.

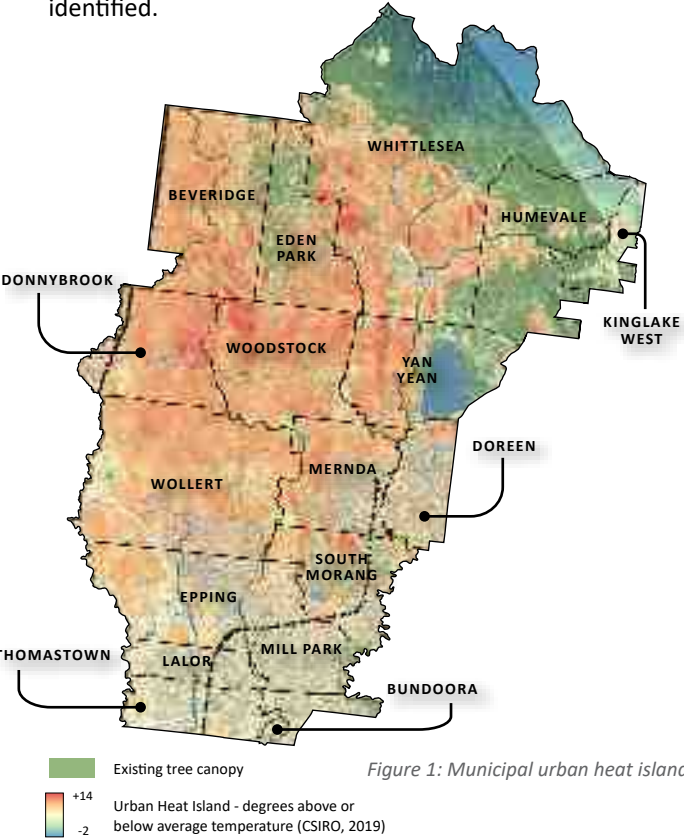
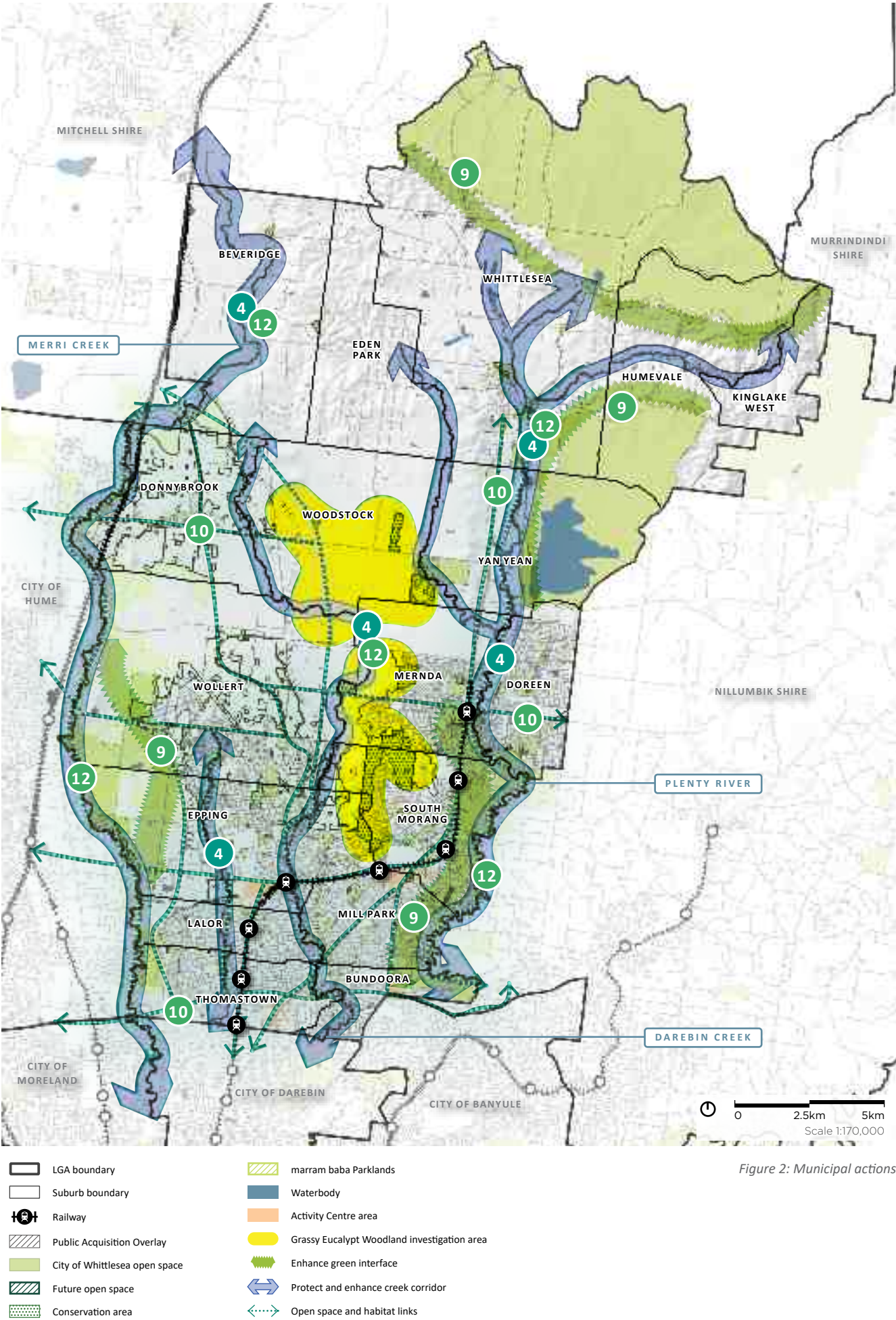
Actions for the integrated municipal wide open space network are as follows:

- 1 Develop a strategic master plan for the utilisation of open space for small, medium and large scale events - including an in depth audit of open spaces that could support events with minimal upgrades to existing infrastructure.
- 2 Explore opportunities for shared tenure/management of open space not owned by Council, i.e. private crown land, farm land, state government land, cemeteries.
- 3 Develop a strategy to support temporary leases or activations of private, semi-private or underutilised open space to deliver intermediate open space provision for local communities.
- 4 Support the revegetation and revitalisation of the municipality’s many creek corridors, through strategic open space delivery that provides habitat and conservation along and adjacent to the creek corridors.
- 5 Prioritise open space delivery within industrial areas of the municipality, primarily catered toward local workers.
- 6 Develop a public lighting strategy that integrates CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles for all open spaces.
- 7 Future open space identified in existing Precinct Structure Plans should continue to be reviewed as populations across the municipality grow. Demands and development may shift the types of open space required by the community, as well as how much is required.
- 8 Future open space should seek opportunities to deliver the appropriate infrastructure and linkages to support shared user paths and the active travel network where possible.
- 9 Increase connectivity and permeability into Regional open space destinations to support accessibility and encourage use.
- 10 Support the existing and evolving Northern Regional Trails network through protected and legible crossings, enhanced Strategic Cycling Corridors and safe shared user paths. Work with neighbouring councils to ensure continuity in trail design and legibility.
- 11 Develop an accessible wayfinding strategy to be deployed across the active travel and open space network.

- 12 Creek corridors should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors, supporting riparian corridor protections and enhancement.
- 13 Incorporate additional open space which responds to community needs as part of future structure planning and planning for strategic development sites.
- 14 Deliver Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands Reserve and support current investigation area.

The following actions respond directly to the combined urban heat island and tree canopy coverage mapping below:

- 15 Identify areas of heat vulnerability (refer to the map below) and in these areas provide an increased focus on environmental resource interventions.
- 16 Develop a strategy for priority tree planting in street and reserves where low tree canopy cover has been identified.



# Suburb by suburb action plan

## Overview

The City of Whittlesea comprises 17 suburbs, spanning urban, growth and rural areas, each with distinct characteristics. As part of this spatial mapping and gap analysis study, the open space network across all suburbs was assessed, including gaps in provision, urban heat island effects, community facilities, and the condition of the active travel network for pedestrians and cyclists. The suburb-level mapping explores key factors influencing open space contributions, including urban heat, transport connections, community infrastructure, open space distribution and pedestrian catchments that from the **Open Space Gap Analysis (OSGA)**. This multi-layered approach provides a sound basis for identifying gaps and developing informed recommendations.

The overarching suburb analysis captures open space classifications, supporting infrastructure, conservation zones, and planned future contributions. Data was supplied by the City of Whittlesea. Some open spaces may appear in mapping but not in suburb listings due to missing or unidentifiable data.

It is worth noting that some suburbs straddle multiple municipalities. However, their areas of study only pertain to the portion that lands in the City of Whittlesea municipal area.

The suburbs that make up the City of Whittlesea are as follows:

- Bundoora (shared with the City of Darebin and City of Banyule)
- Doreen (shared with Shire of Nillumbik)
- Epping
- Lalor
- Mernda
- Mill Park
- South Morang
- Thomastown
- Whittlesea (and Whittlesea Township)
- Beveridge (shared with Shire of Mitchell)
- Donnybrook
- Wollert
- Woodstock
- Eden Park (shared with Shire of Mitchell)
- Humevale
- Kinglake West
- Yan Yean (shared with Shire of Nillumbik)

NOTE:  
Beveridge and Yan Yean do not have dedicated suburb population data available, and instead are included in the “Rural North” population group that combines Beveridge, Eden Park, Humevale, Kinglake West, Woodstock and Yan Yean.  
Eden Park, Humevale, Kinglake West and Woodstock each have dedicated population data that has been included in their suburb snapshot. Beveridge and Yan Yean utilise the “Rural North” data for their respective suburb snapshot. Due to the figures being combined, a square metres of open space per person is not calculated for Beveridge and Yan Yean. Across all suburbs, statistics and population figures are current and forecast as at August 2025.



Figure 3: The 17 suburbs of the City of Whittlesea.



Views towards Melbourne CBS from bunjil nganga Parklands

## Established Areas

Our established suburbs are primarily in the southern end of the municipality. The suburbs of Woodstock and Mernda have well established sections as well as areas which are experiencing significant growth. The majority of established areas are to the South of the municipality. These suburbs are experiencing pressures from infill development where it is difficult to access new open space.

Open space in these suburbs will require improvements to increase the useability of existing open space for more intense use. This priority here is to renew and retrofit existing parks so the community feel safe and welcome.

Epping North and Whittlesea Township are not considered suburbs in their own right and are covered by the Epping and Whittlesea suburb action plans respectively.

Suburbs included in the Established Areas are:

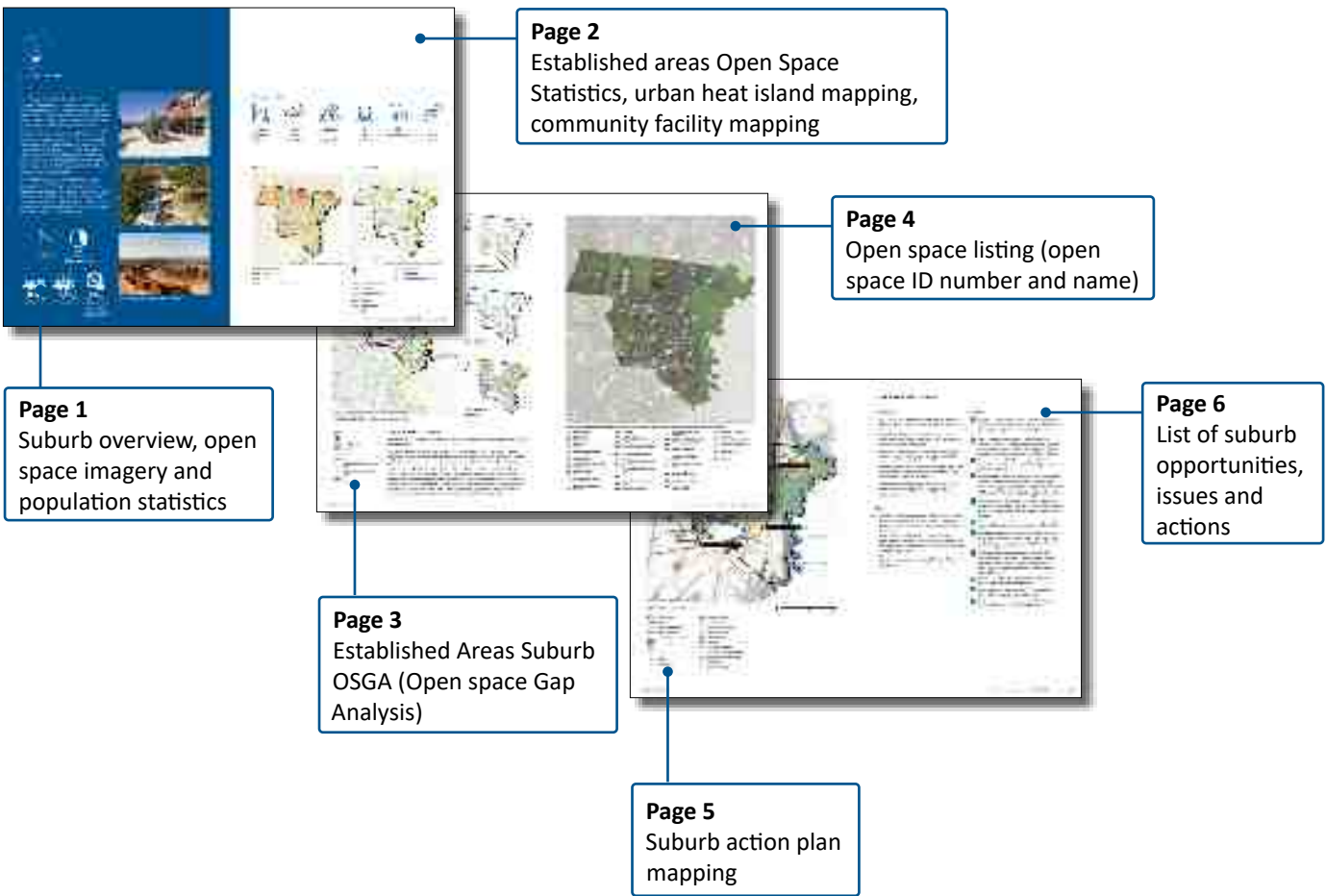
- Bundoora (shared with the City of Darebin and City of Banyule)
- Doreen (shared with Shire of Nillumbik)
- Epping (and Epping North)
- Lalor
- Mernda
- Mill Park
- South Morang
- Thomastown
- Whittlesea (and Whittlesea Township)



# How to read the established areas suburb plans

The suburb action plans provide a snapshot of the open space network, amenities, statistics and key actions for each of City of Whittlesea’s 17 suburbs.

Each suburb action plan is comprised of the following:



## How to read the OSGA

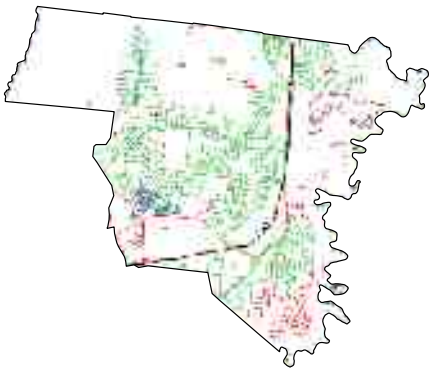
An Open Space Gap Analysis (OSGA) has been conducted within the established suburbs as outlined in the following methodology. The catchments generated are based on Council’s objectives for open space access. This analysis has been done across the wider road network, therefore catchments consider open space access extending into neighbouring suburbs.

This analysis has looked at open space hierarchy using **size** as the primary understanding of open space access and availability. Pocket open spaces have not been included in this open space analysis but where there are gaps in open space provision, may be considered in future analysis. The next stage of analysis to be undertaken, will involve determining how open space meets the criteria around infrastructure and amenity for each hierarchy. This will incorporate the impact of population growth on open space demand.

Council aims for it’s community to be within **400 metres** of a **Local or Neighbourhood** open space, **800 metres** of a **Municipal** open space and **1 kilometre** of a **Regional** open space.

Using South Morang as an example, the Open Space Gap Analysis can be read as follows:

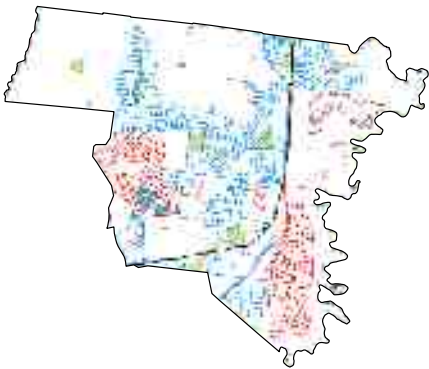
Figure 4: South Morang local and neighbourhood pedestrian catchment



### Local and Neighbourhood Open Space Catchment

City of Whittlesea’s target catchment for Local and Neighbourhood open space is 400 metres. With only Local and Neighbourhood open spaces showing, the 400 metre catchment is shown in green. Any properties or places along this green line are therefore within a 400 metre walk. Areas that are beyond this 400 metre catchment are shown in red and are considered a gap.

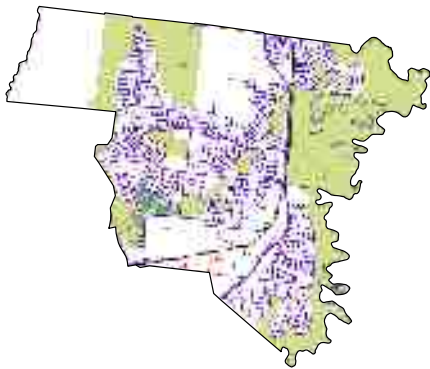
Figure 5: South Morang municipal pedestrian catchment



### Municipal Open Space Catchment

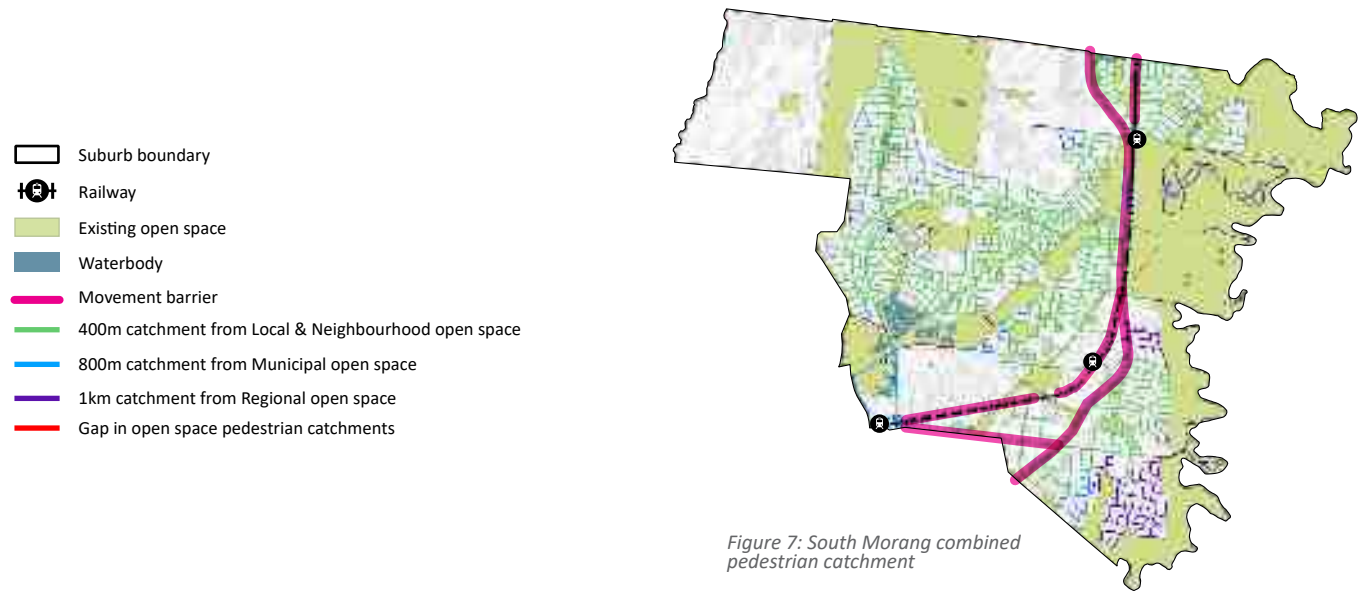
City of Whittlesea’s target catchment for Municipal open space is 800 metres. With only Municipal open spaces showing, the 800 metre catchment is shown in blue. Any properties or places along this blue line are therefore within a 800 metre walk. Areas that are beyond this 800 metre catchment are shown in red and are considered a gap.

Figure 6: South Morang regional pedestrian catchment



### Regional Open Space Catchment

City of Whittlesea’s target catchment for Regional open space is 1 kilometre. With only Regional open spaces showing, the 1 kilometre catchment is shown in purple. Any properties or places along this purple line are therefore within a 1 kilometre walk. Areas that are beyond this 1 kilometre catchment are shown in red and are considered a gap.



### Combined Open Space Catchment

The combined pedestrian catchment map shows the Local and Neighbourhood, Municipal and Regional pedestrian catchments combined. The Local and Neighbourhood catchment is the top layer in green, Municipal the middle layer in blue and Regional the bottom layer in purple. All of the Local, Neighbourhood, Municipal and Regional open spaces are showing in this map. As a result of all the catchments showing at once, the gaps that are left in red show the consistent gap in open space pedestrian catchment for the suburb. There is the added annotation of movement barriers, which highlight roads or rail corridors that may sever the suburbs pedestrian network if there are irregular or no pedestrian crossings.



BUNDOORA

Overview

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.

RMIT and La Trobe have campuses located in this suburb, with associated open spaces, student housing and bushlands. RMIT Bundoora owns significant open spaces that support passive and active recreation.

The 86 tram travels from Bundoora RMIT Campus to Waterfront City in the Docklands. Rich in open space, Bundoora is anchored to the west by the Plenty Gorge Parklands and its extensive tree canopy. This end of Plenty Gorge Parklands offers bushland trails and river habitats.

To the east, Darebin Creek forms the central spine of Regional open space, Norris Bank Parklands. This Regional open space is known for its large playground and sports facilities. Despite a high percentage of open space and a high canopy coverage for the urban south of City of Whittlesea, Bundoora has a lack of conservation reserves.



Norris Bank Parklands (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Norris Bank Parklands (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Norris Bank Parklands (Source: City of Whittlesea).

**732ha**  
suburb size

**29%**  
of total suburb  
area is open space

**21%**  
canopy  
coverage

**15,240**  
estimated 2026  
population

**17,868**  
projected 2036  
population

**9m<sup>2</sup>**  
of accessible  
public open space  
per person  
*(based on estimated  
2026 population)*

Urban Heat Island Map

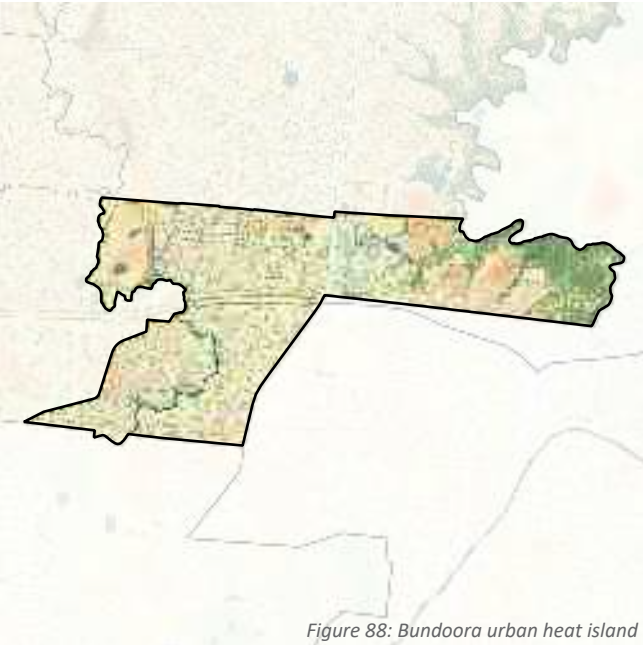


Figure 88: Bundoora urban heat island

- Existing tree canopy
- Waterbody
- Urban Heat Island - degrees above or below average temperature (CSIRO, 2019)

Community Facilities

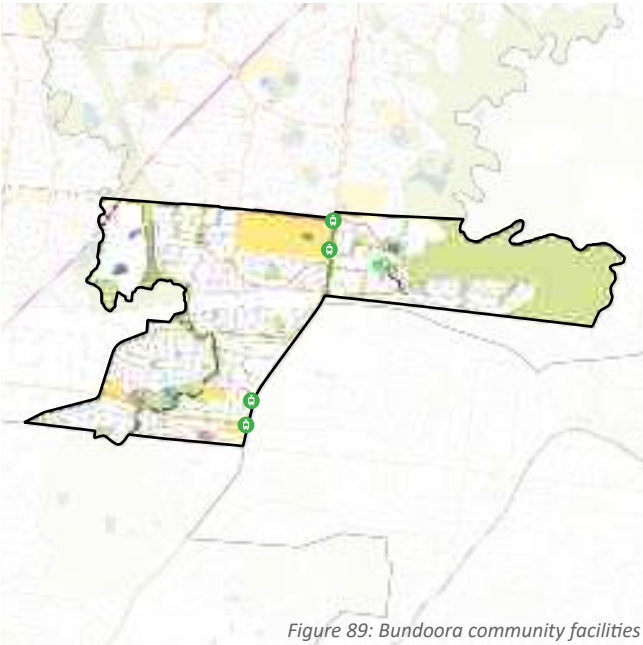


Figure 89: Bundoora community facilities

- Railway
- Tram route
- Bus route
- Public Acquisition Overlay
- Heritage Overlay
- Existing City of Whittlesea open space
- Waterbody
- Future open space
- School
- Community centre
- Childcare facility
- Community sports facility

Bundoora OSGA

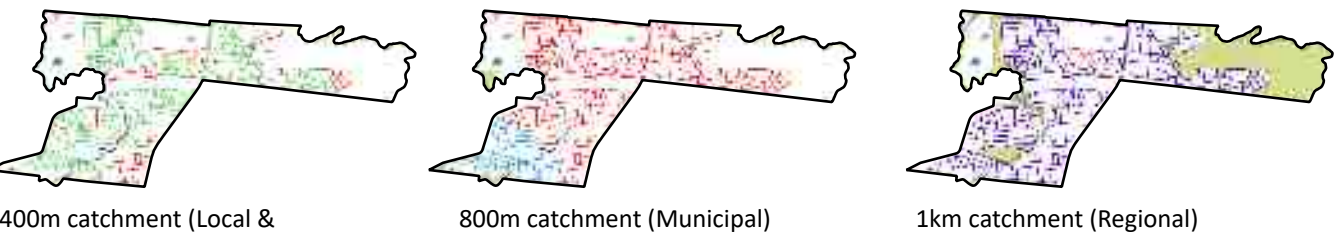
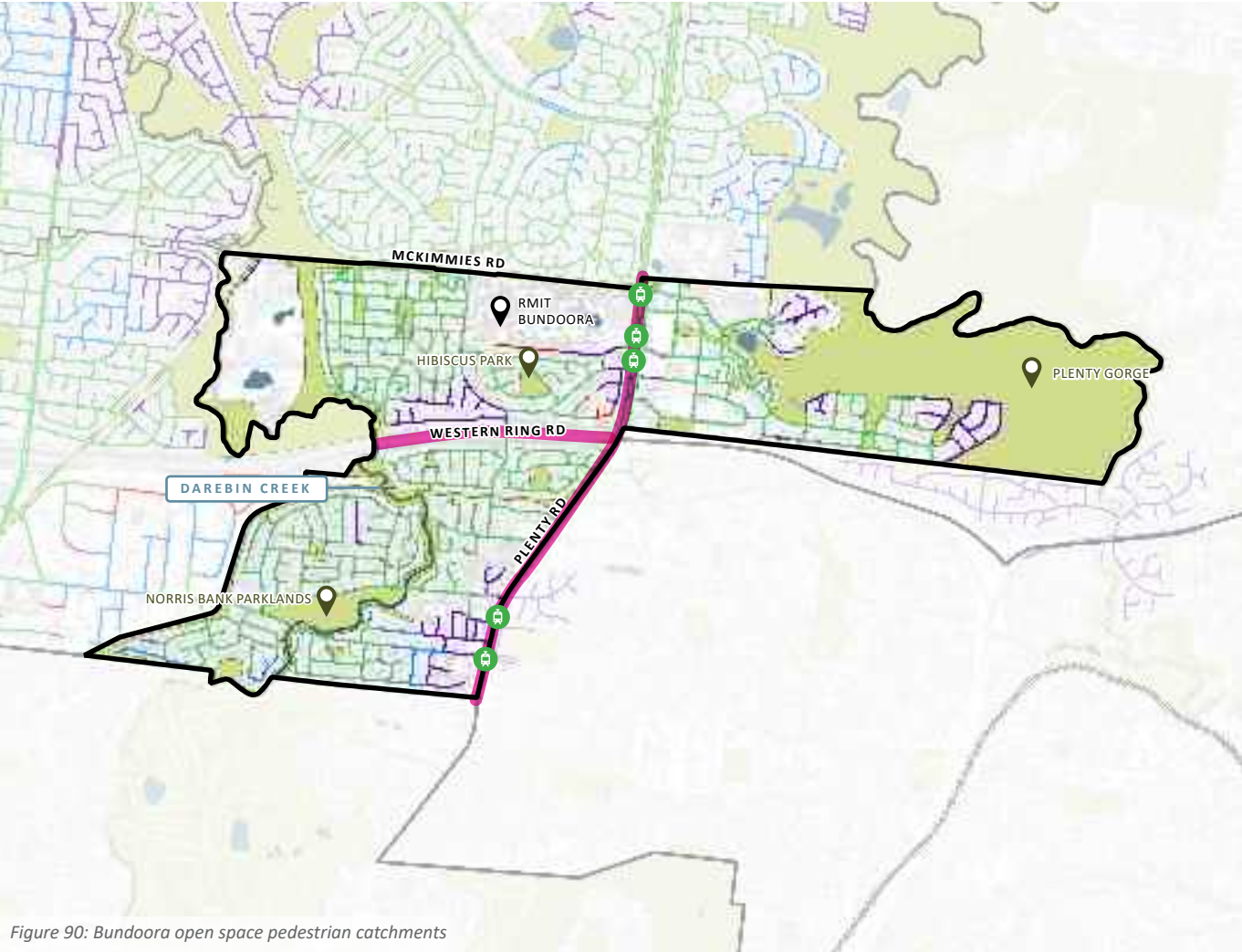


Figure 90: Bundoora open space pedestrian catchments

NTS

- Suburb boundary
- Railway
- Existing open space
- Waterbody
- Movement barrier
- 400m catchment from Local & Neighbourhood open space
- 800m catchment from Municipal open space
- 1km catchment from Regional open space
- Gap in open space pedestrian catchments

Bundoora’s pedestrian catchment analysis shows gaps across the combined open space network.

Large Regional open spaces to the eastern and western edges of Bundoora produce an interconnected Regional open space pedestrian catchment with only a small gap adjacent to RMIT Bundoora campus. The gap that runs along its southern edge is an opportunity for potential shared use tenures in the future. This could also contribute to the lack of open spaces with formal sporting provision in Bundoora, the current count at only one, within Norris Bank Parklands. In comparison to Regional and Local/Neighbourhood pedestrian catchments, Municipal open spaces are less common in Bundoora. Shared user paths are extensive in the east, connecting into Plenty Gorge Parklands. However this active travel network does not extend across Plenty Road. Despite the barrier created by the Western Ring Road, Darebin Creek Trail and its linear parklands passes beneath the major road and maintains connection to the south.



Figure 91: Bundoora open space identification

Bundoora Open Space Listing (Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open spaces are labelled with their ObjectID)

|      |                                      |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 24   | Aqueduct Reserve                     |
| 104  | Holt Park                            |
| 153  | Botanica Park                        |
| 312  | Fairway Park                         |
| 377  | Hibiscus Park                        |
| 474  | Samuel Park                          |
| 582  | Norris Bank Parklands                |
| 691  | Taunton Park                         |
| 816  | Southern Redgum Conservation Reserve |
| 1459 | Plenty Gorge Park (South)            |
| 1492 | No name listed                       |
| 1544 | 167 Plenty Road Bundoora 3083        |

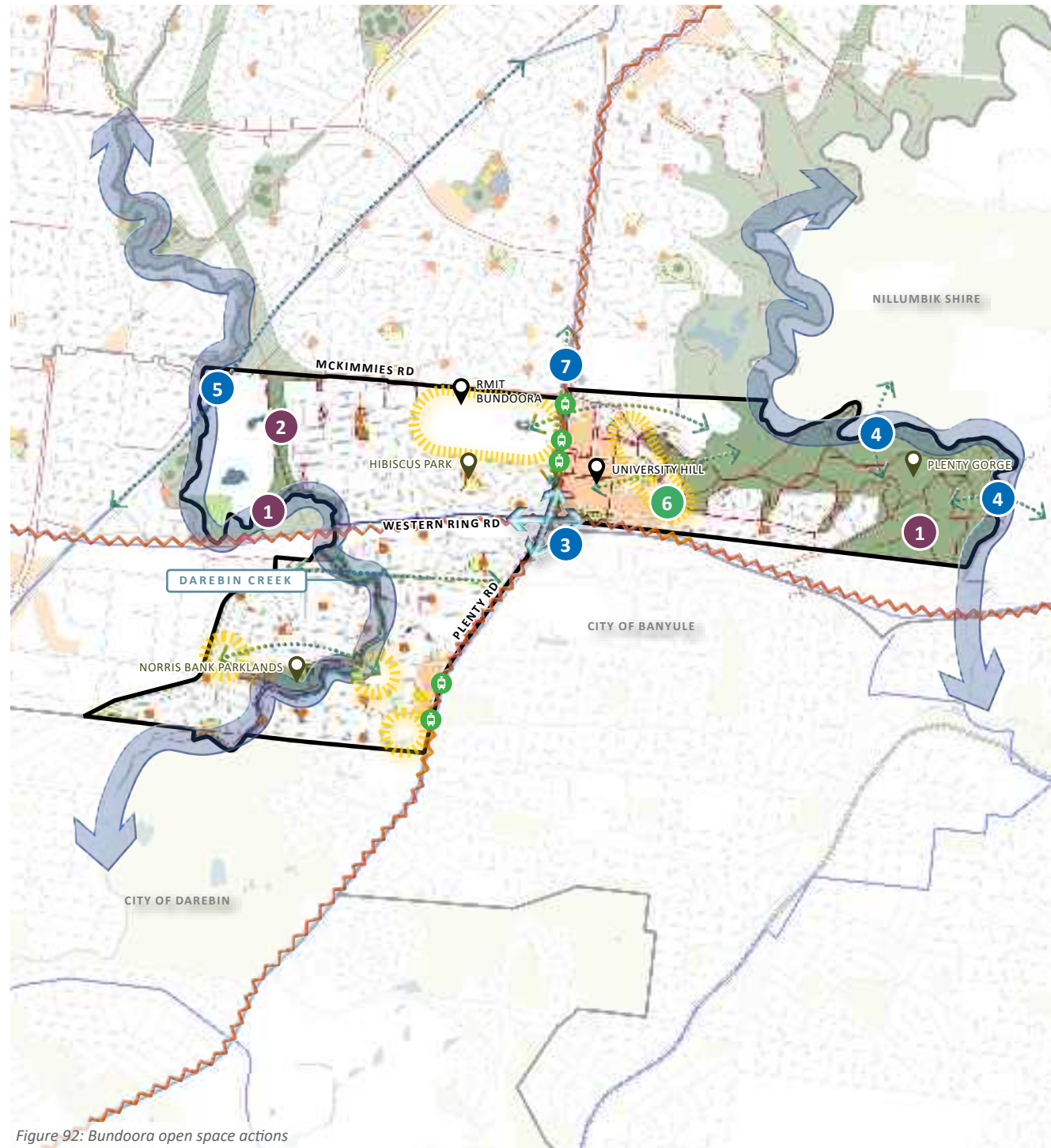
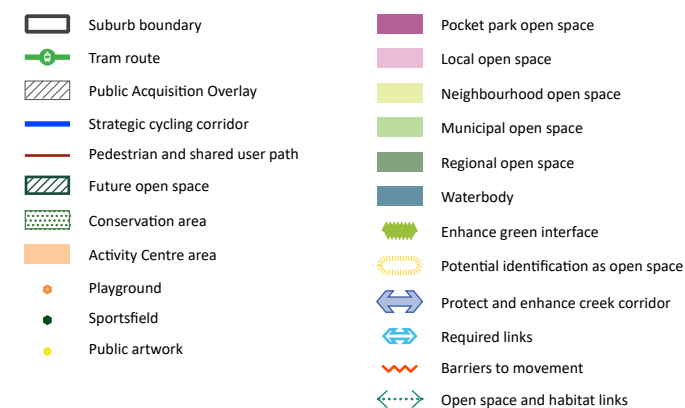


Figure 92: Bundoora open space actions

#### Potential Open Space Network



## Bundoora Action Plan

### Opportunities

- Stretches of the linear parklands covered by the Public Acquisition Overlay are underutilised and largely informal, they could deliver more to their community through master planning and temporary asset contributions.
- Explore shared tenure/management agreements or temporary leases for open space facilities within RMIT Bundoora and government schools to deliver public or semi-public open space.
- The facilities and open space amenity associated with Bundoora RMIT could feed into the Local open space network.
- Collaborate with RMIT to deliver Plenty Road/McKimmies Road shared user path.
- Explore open space solutions that prioritise plaza and civic spaces to offer flexibility of programming and could support festivals or events.

### Issues

- Increasing issues around safety and lighting in the urban south of the municipality and a need for greater understanding of how lighting in public open space impacts dwell times and encourages activation.
- There is a gap in provision of bridge crossings of the Plenty River corridor, impeding open space network accessibility.
- The Regional open space within the Public Acquisition Overlay, between McKimmies Road and the Western Ring Road is encumbered and does not allow for planting.
- The existing Public Acquisition Overlays in place for future road networks and other infrastructure may create significant barriers to movement and open space connectivity.

### Actions

- 1 Integrated public lighting, safety and CPTED strategy for open spaces, in particular along creek corridors.
- 2 Deliver activation plan for linear open space covered by Public Acquisition Overlay between McKimmies Road to the north and the Darebin Creek corridor.
- 3 Support safe and legible crossings at the Western Ring Road and Plenty Road intersection, connecting open spaces and protecting the active transport network.
- 4 Provide safe and legible crossings of the Plenty River corridor to increase access across the open space network into neighbouring Nillumbik Shire.
- 5 Deliver shared user path and adjacent open space amenity for Yan Yean Pipe Track passing through the western edge of Bundoora.
- 6 Deliver urban plaza or civic open space between the University Hill activity centre and the edge of Plenty Gorge Parklands. This provision could include youth focused spaces to fill existing gap.
- 7 Plan and investigate the shared user path connection along Plenty Road and McKimmies Road interfacing with RMIT Bundoora.
- 8 Prepare the Bundoora Place Framework to create a clear shared vision for Bundoora supported by the community.



# DOREEN

## Overview

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.

Despite a relatively low canopy coverage across the suburb, the Urban Heat Island index in Doreen is uniformly average. The linear open spaces that cut across Doreen produce an extremely accessible open space network with little to no gaps. They are guided by the creek corridors that dominate the suburb,

Plenty River shapes the western edge of the suburb area, and to the south anchors the largest swathe of open space in Doreen, Plenty Gorge Park. Laurimar Wetlands is the central spine of open space through Doreen that links community infrastructure and smaller open spaces. Community infrastructure and schools are largely co-located in open space in Doreen, including community sports facilities, community centres and a childcare facility.

Pedestrian and shared-user paths connect the linear open space network of Doreen, passing through residential areas, Regional open spaces and along road corridors. Doreen has a diversity of open space classifications, offering all sizes and programs across Pocket, Local, Neighbourhood, Municipal and Regional.



Timbertop Park, Doreen (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Doreen Dirt Jumps, Doreen.



Laurimar Creek Reserve, Doreen.



1,446ha  
suburb size



23%  
of total suburb  
area is open space



13%  
canopy  
coverage



27,927  
estimated 2026  
population



27,740  
projected 2036  
population



51.1m<sup>2</sup>  
of accessible  
public open space  
per person  
(based on estimated  
2026 population)

## Urban Heat Island Map

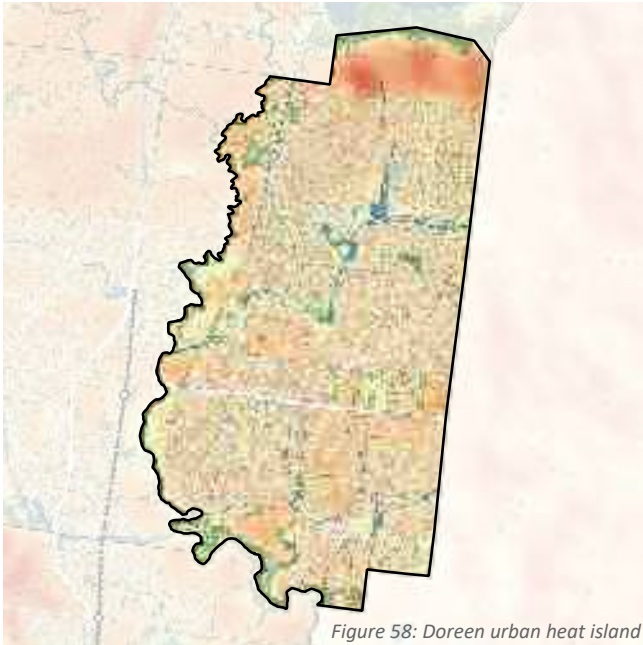
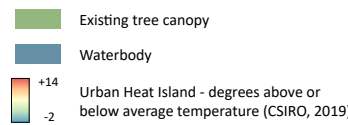


Figure 58: Doreen urban heat island



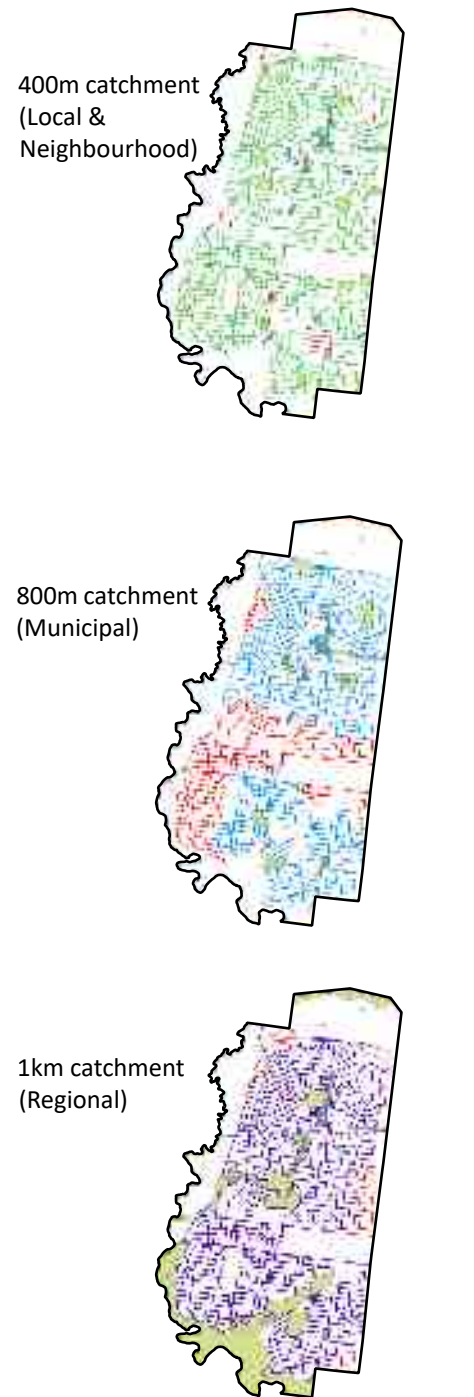
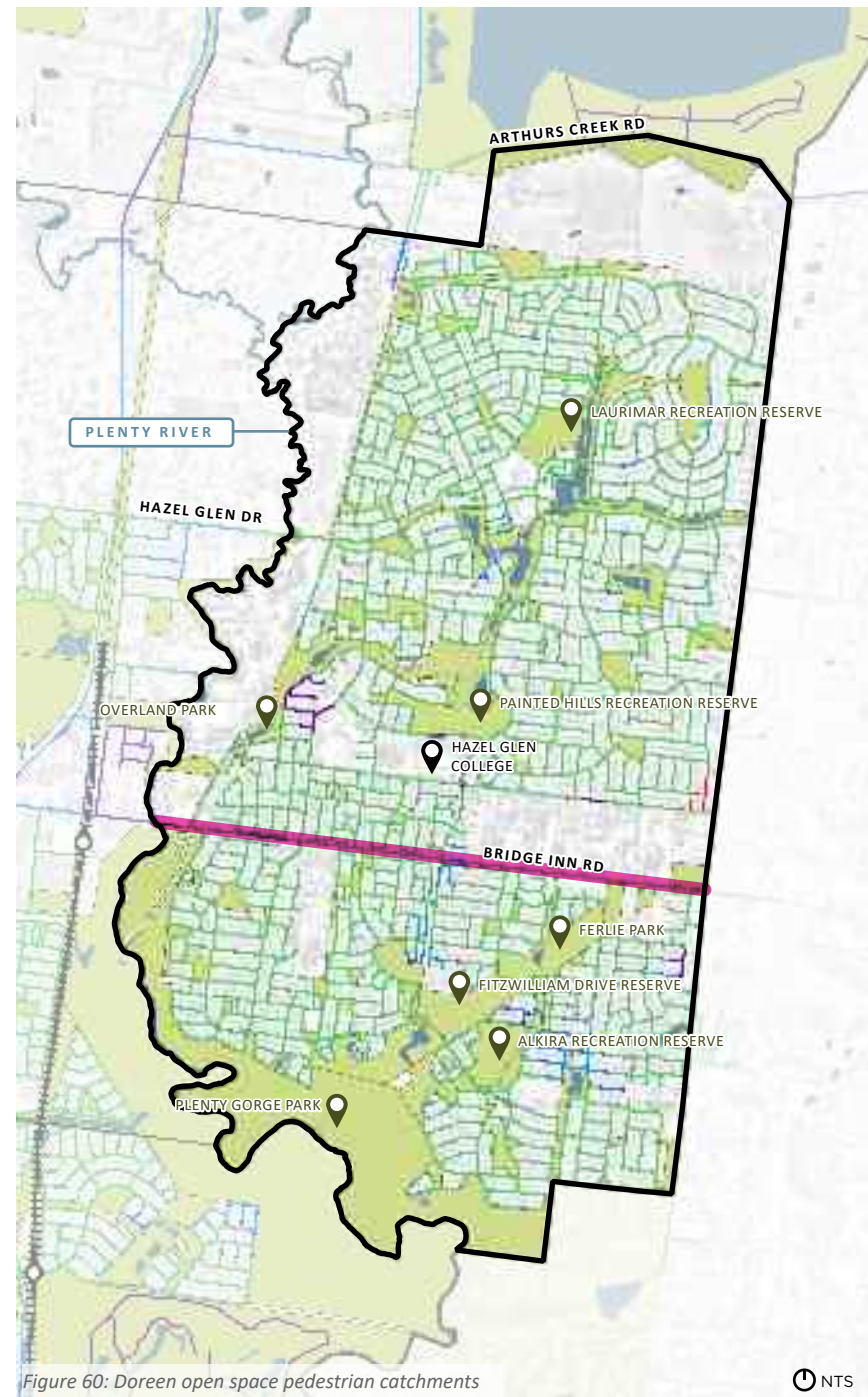
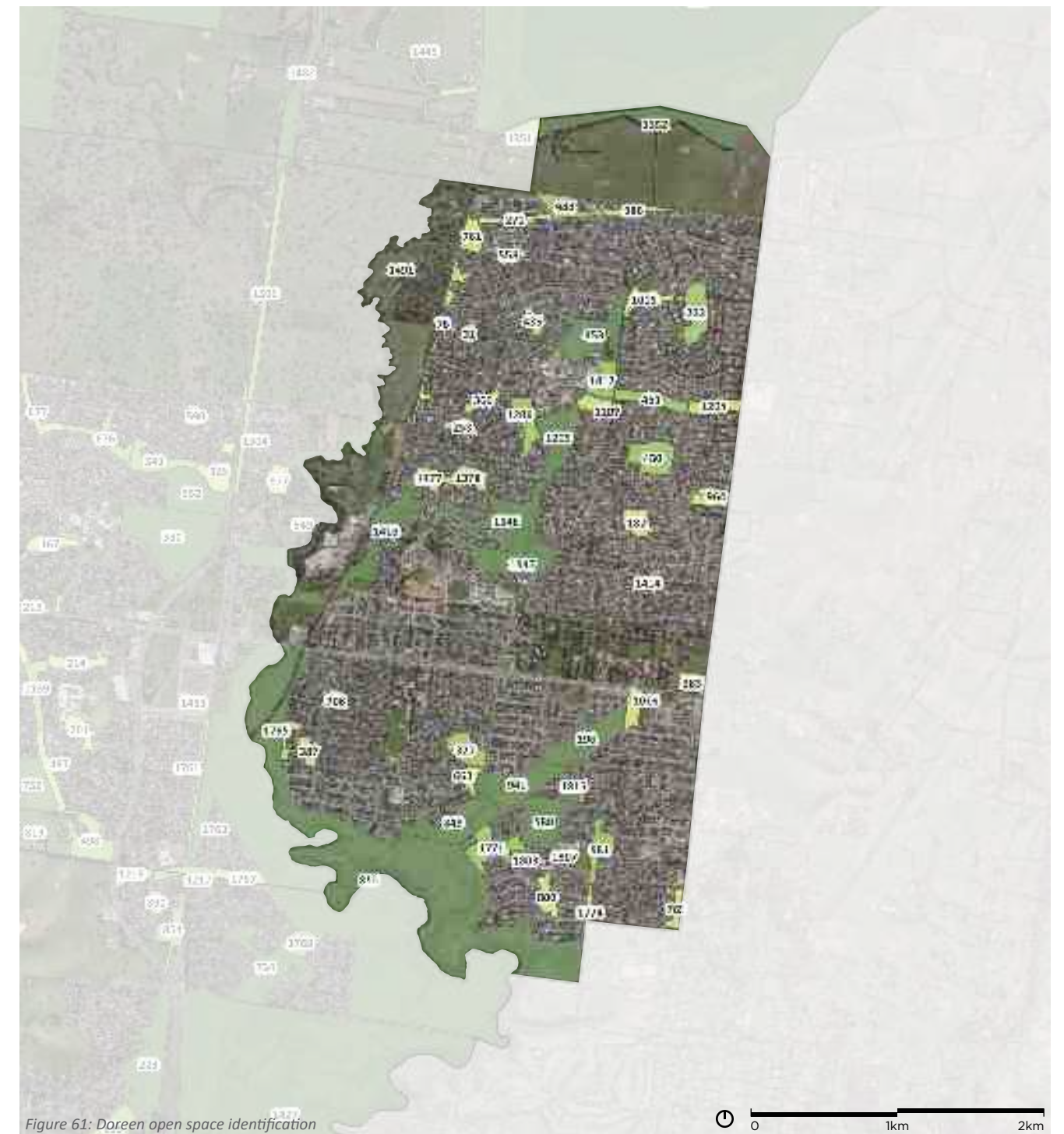
## Community Facilities



Figure 59: Doreen community facilities



**Doreen OSGA**



**Doreen Open Space Listing** (Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open spaces are labelled with their ObjectID)

|            |                             |             |                           |             |                                  |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>31</b>  | Chadwick Park               | <b>663</b>  | Starboard Park            | <b>1352</b> | 40 Recreation Road Yan Yean 3755 |
| <b>76</b>  | Mollison Median And Verges  | <b>708</b>  | Towerhill Park            | <b>1377</b> | Overland Park                    |
| <b>182</b> | Timbertop Park              | <b>761</b>  | Yangoora Wells Wetland    | <b>1378</b> | Overland Park                    |
| <b>198</b> | Ferlie Park                 | <b>769</b>  | Werther Park              | <b>1414</b> | Pinnacle Park                    |
| <b>222</b> | Hill Top Park               | <b>800</b>  | Elation Park South        | <b>1417</b> | Laurimar Wetlands                |
| <b>253</b> | Collingrove Park            | <b>849</b>  | Elation Reserve           | <b>1418</b> | Overland Park                    |
| <b>271</b> | Culverden Park              | <b>941</b>  | Fitzwilliam Drive Reserve | <b>1546</b> | Laurimar Creek Reserve           |
| <b>283</b> | Doreen Recreation Reserve   | <b>944</b>  | Katandra Rise Park        | <b>1547</b> | Painted Hills Recreation Reserve |
| <b>327</b> | Fortress Park               | <b>964</b>  | Mitchells Run Park        | <b>1765</b> | Horsley Tree Reserve             |
| <b>366</b> | Hazel Glen Park             | <b>981</b>  | Serle Wetland Park        | <b>1771</b> | Composites Conservation Reserve  |
| <b>387</b> | Horsley Park                | <b>986</b>  | Coombell Park             | <b>1774</b> | Landing Park                     |
| <b>435</b> | Laggar Park                 | <b>1015</b> | Blackwood Park            | <b>1807</b> | Orchard West Tree Reserve        |
| <b>450</b> | Lauries Field               | <b>1016</b> | Yan Yean Park             | <b>1808</b> | Orchard West Tree Reserve        |
| <b>451</b> | Laurimar Drainage Reserve   | <b>1204</b> | Laurimar Drainage Reserve | <b>1809</b> | Orchard West Tree Reserve        |
| <b>453</b> | Laurimar Recreation Reserve | <b>1205</b> | Laurimar Wetlands         | <b>1815</b> | Orchard West Tree Reserve        |
| <b>553</b> | Merredin Park               | <b>1206</b> | Laurimar Wetlands         |             |                                  |
| <b>588</b> | Alkira Recreation Reserve   | <b>1207</b> | Laurimar Wetlands         |             |                                  |

Doreen's pedestrian catchment analysis shows gaps across the combined open space network.

Doreen's open space network is among the most well connected and diverse of all the City of Whittlesea suburbs. Obvious gaps include areas undergoing transformation and development such as the area to the north of Bridge Inn Road. The vision to capitalise on linear parkland to the east, next to this gap, will ensure shared paths and connections are maintained. The Laurimar Creek Reserve is at the core of Doreen open space network and has potential to carry through its associated linear parkland to connect into the Yan Yean Reservoir Park. A tree reserve along Cookes Road could offer a potential boulevard, in particular along the section running parallel to the new development area gap. This would create an east west green link and valuable active travel connection.

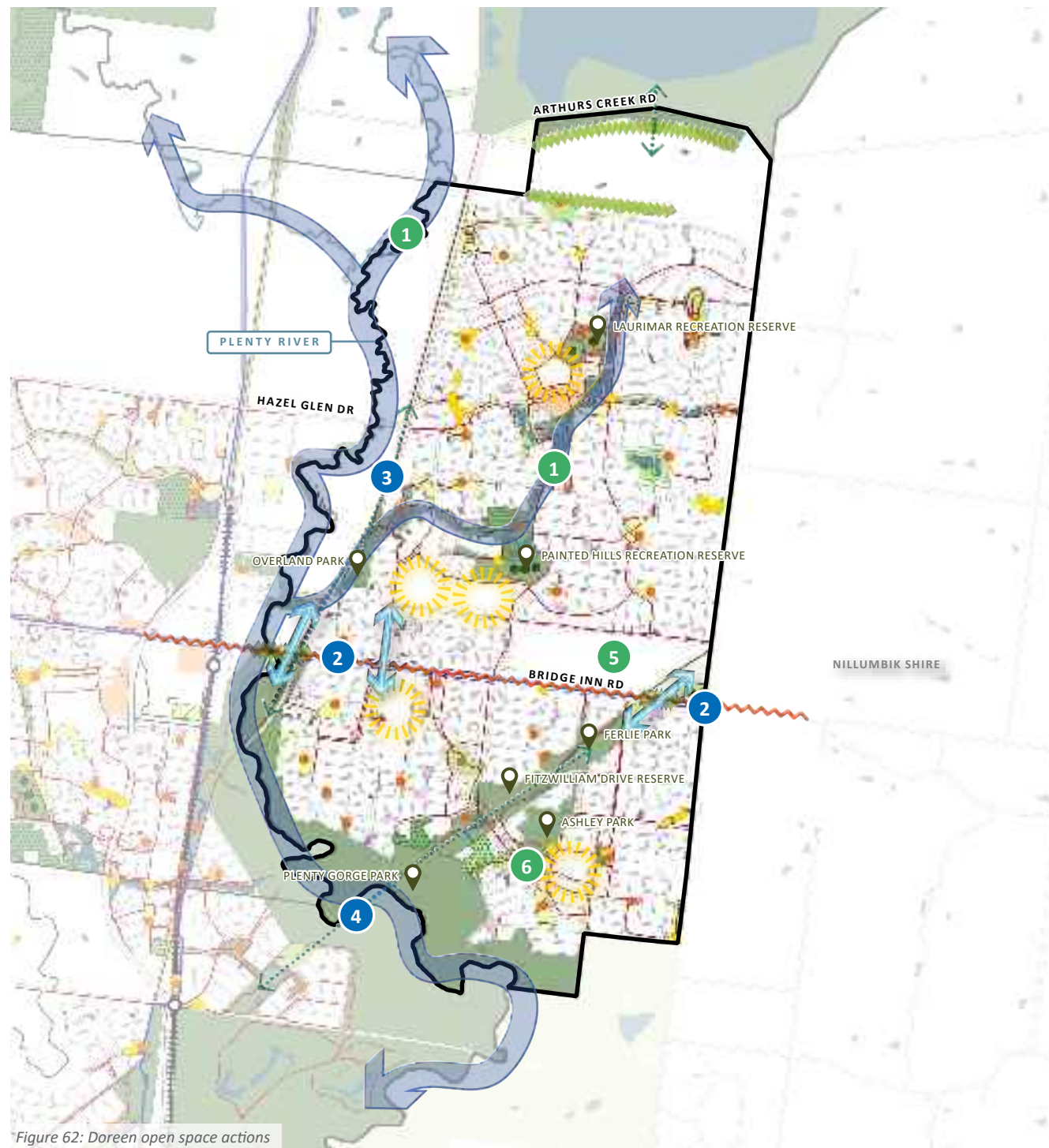
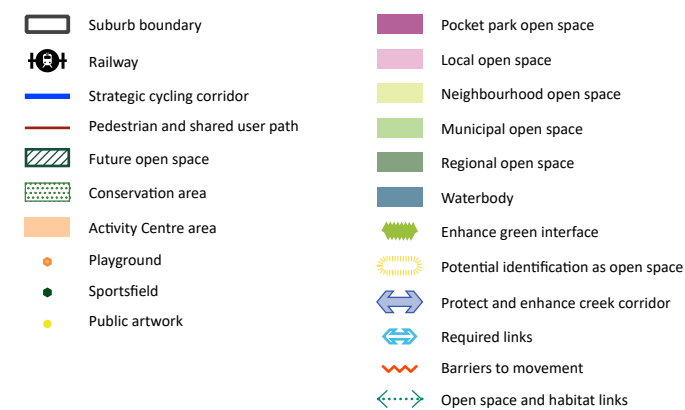
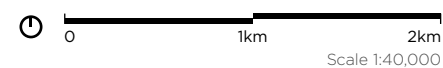


Figure 62: Doreen open space actions

### Potential Open Space Network



## Doreen Action Plan

### Opportunities

- Both active and passive recreation can be delivered by open space associated with local government schools.
- The existing open space network is connected by linear green corridors creating accessibility across the open spaces, shared path network and the suburb more broadly.
- Advocacy opportunities for road duplications along active transport corridors, in particular those that support the Strategic Cycling Corridors.
- Explore open space solutions that prioritise plaza and civic spaces to offer flexibility of programming and could support festivals or events.
- Shared tenure/management opportunities with government schools to deliver public or semi-public open space.

### Issues

- Connections from the north of Doreen into Yan Yean and Yan Yean Reservoir Park are limited.
- There is a gap in provision of bridge crossings of the Plenty River corridor, impeding open space network accessibility.

### Actions

- 1 The Plenty River corridor and Laurimar Wetlands should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors and support riparian corridor protections and enhancement.
- 2 Support safe and legible crossings of Bridge Inn Road, protecting the active transport network.
- 3 Deliver shared user path and adjacent open space amenity for Yan Yean Pipe Track passing through the west of Doreen, from Hazel Glen Drive to Bridge Inn Road.
- 4 Provide safe and legible crossings of the Plenty River corridor to increase access across the open space network, in particular along the south easement around Plenty Gorge Park.
- 5 Prepare a master plan to guide development of Doreen Recreation Reserve.
- 6 Prepare a master plan to guide development of Ashley Park Sporting Reserve.



# EPHING

## Overview

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.

To the east of the suburb is the edge of bunjil nganga Parkland, with a network of shared user paths connecting into the surrounding residential area. A significant area of future open space is identified adjacent to bunjil nganga Parkland. The central spine of Edgars Creek runs through the core of the Epping suburban area, a 13km natural waterway stretching through Epping, Wollert, Thomastown and beyond. The creek corridor offers informal trails, native vegetation and wildlife habitats, and is undergoing a Landscape Improvement Plan to enhance biodiversity, walking/cycling access, community space, and ecological restoration along its banks.

This broad range of assets of sports reserves, creek-side trails, Pocket parks, conservation areas and the restored Edgars Creek corridor come together to form a rich and interconnected open space network.



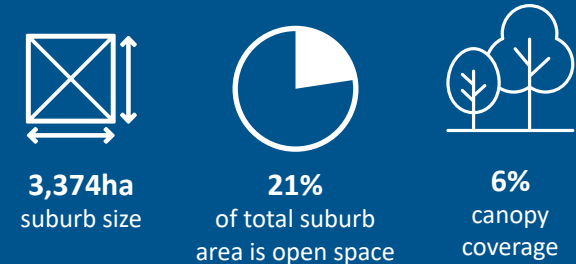
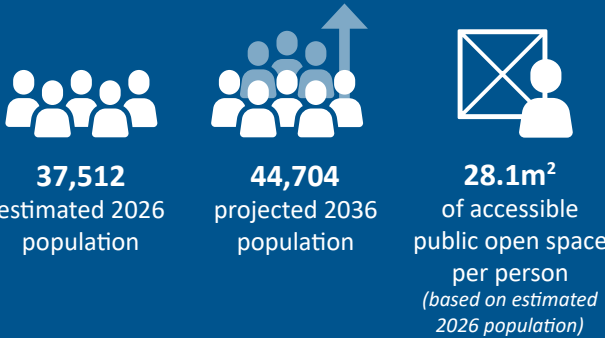
Harvest Home Recreation Reserve (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Epping Soccer Stadium (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Lowalde Recreation Reserve (Source: City of Whittlesea).



## Urban Heat Island Map

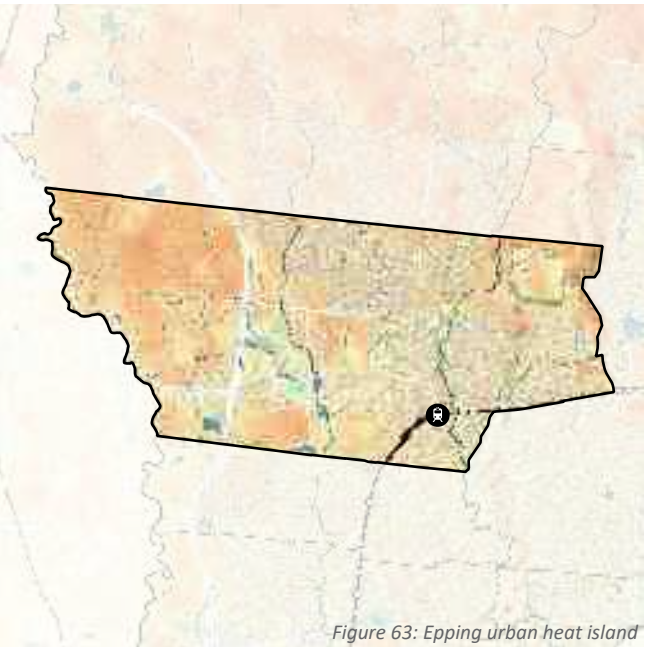
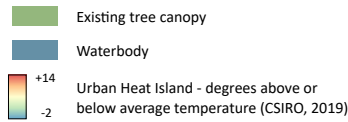


Figure 63: Epping urban heat island



## Community Facilities

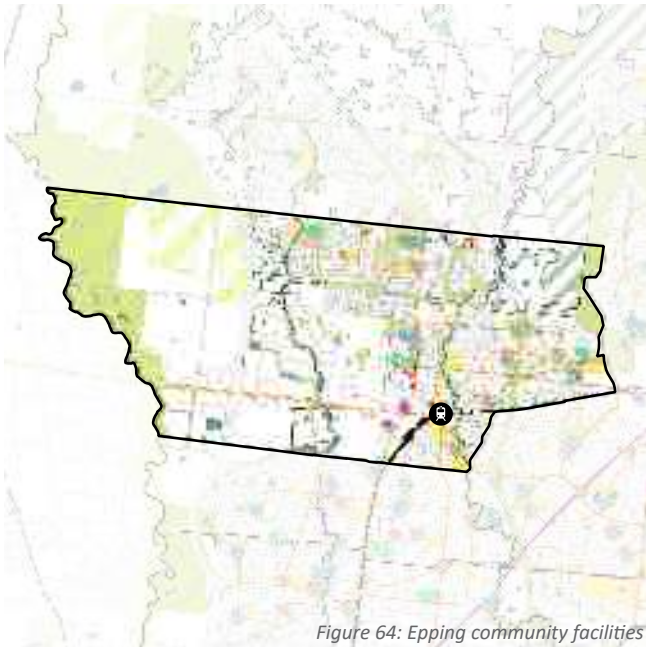
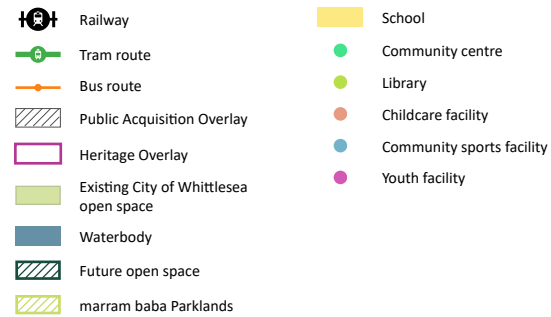


Figure 64: Epping community facilities



Epping OSGA

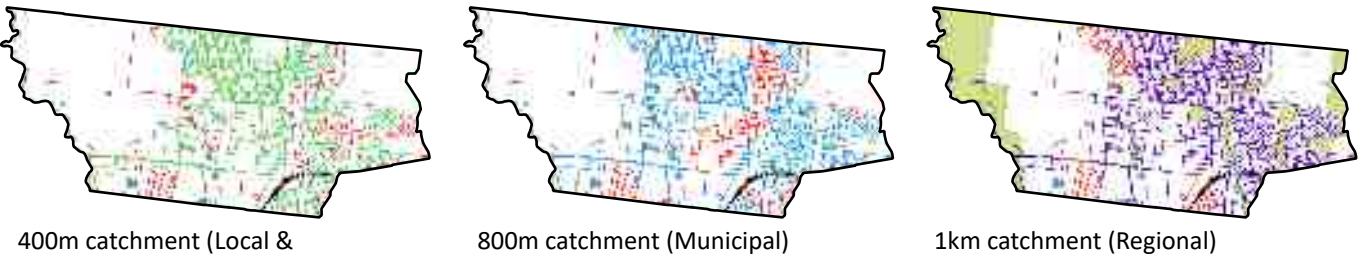
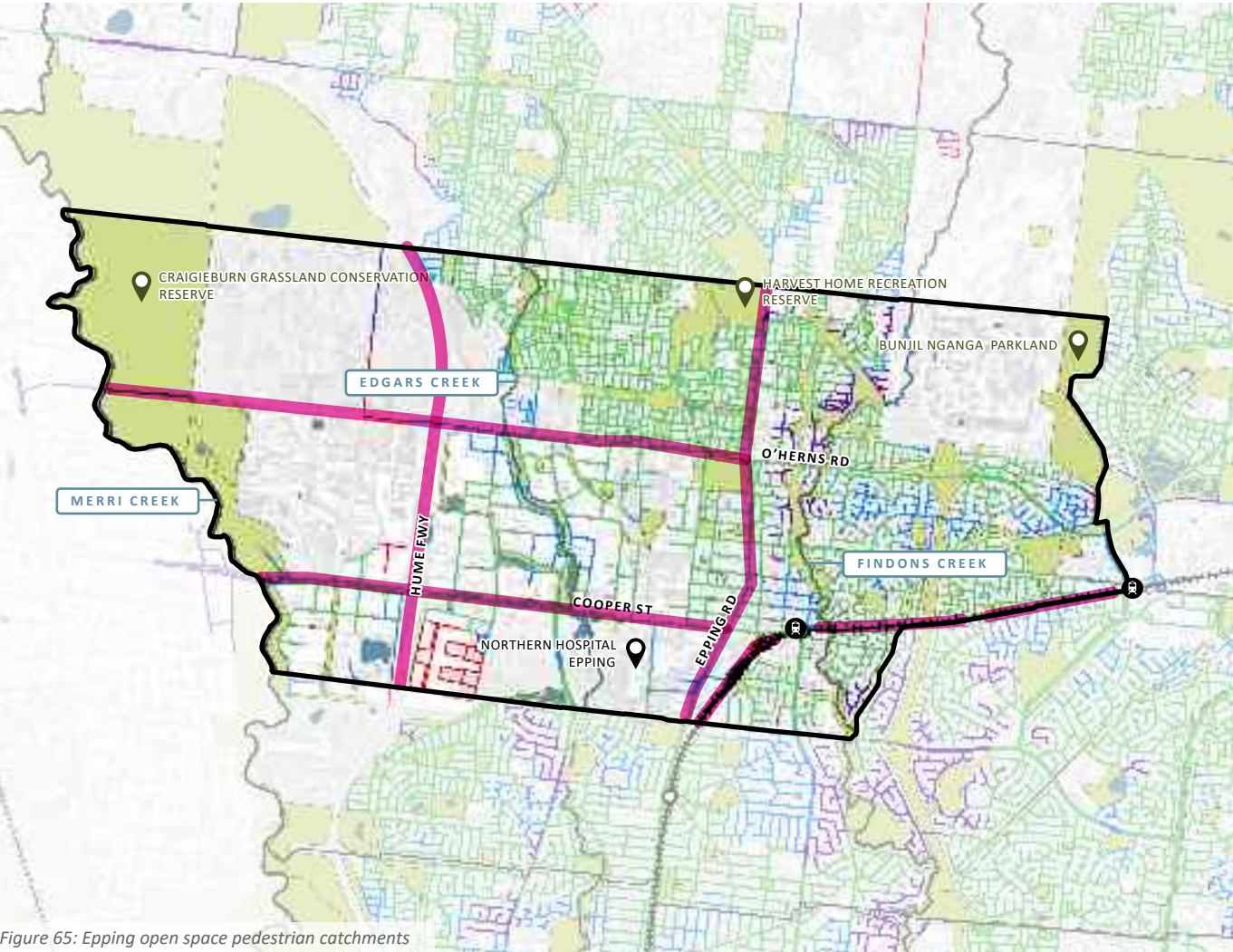


Figure 65: Epping open space pedestrian catchments

NTS

- Suburb boundary
- Railway
- Existing open space
- Waterbody
- Movement barrier
- 400m catchment from Local & Neighbourhood open space
- 800m catchment from Municipal open space
- 1km catchment from Regional open space
- Gap in open space pedestrian catchments

Epping's pedestrian catchment analysis shows gaps across the combined open space network.

The major gap in Epping's pedestrian catchment analysis is to the south in industrial land use zones. The most distinct gap runs the extent of road network surrounding Melbourne Market. This gap abuts the Hume Freeway which severs Epping's industrial area from the Northern Quarries site to the west. Identified future open space aims to extend the east west linear Lyndarum Wetlands which will help to connect into the evolving Edgars Creek Corridor. The associated parklands of Epping's major creek corridors, Merri Creek, Edgars Creek and Findons Creek, produce a well connected pedestrian catchment across Local, Neighbourhood, Municipal and Regional open space.

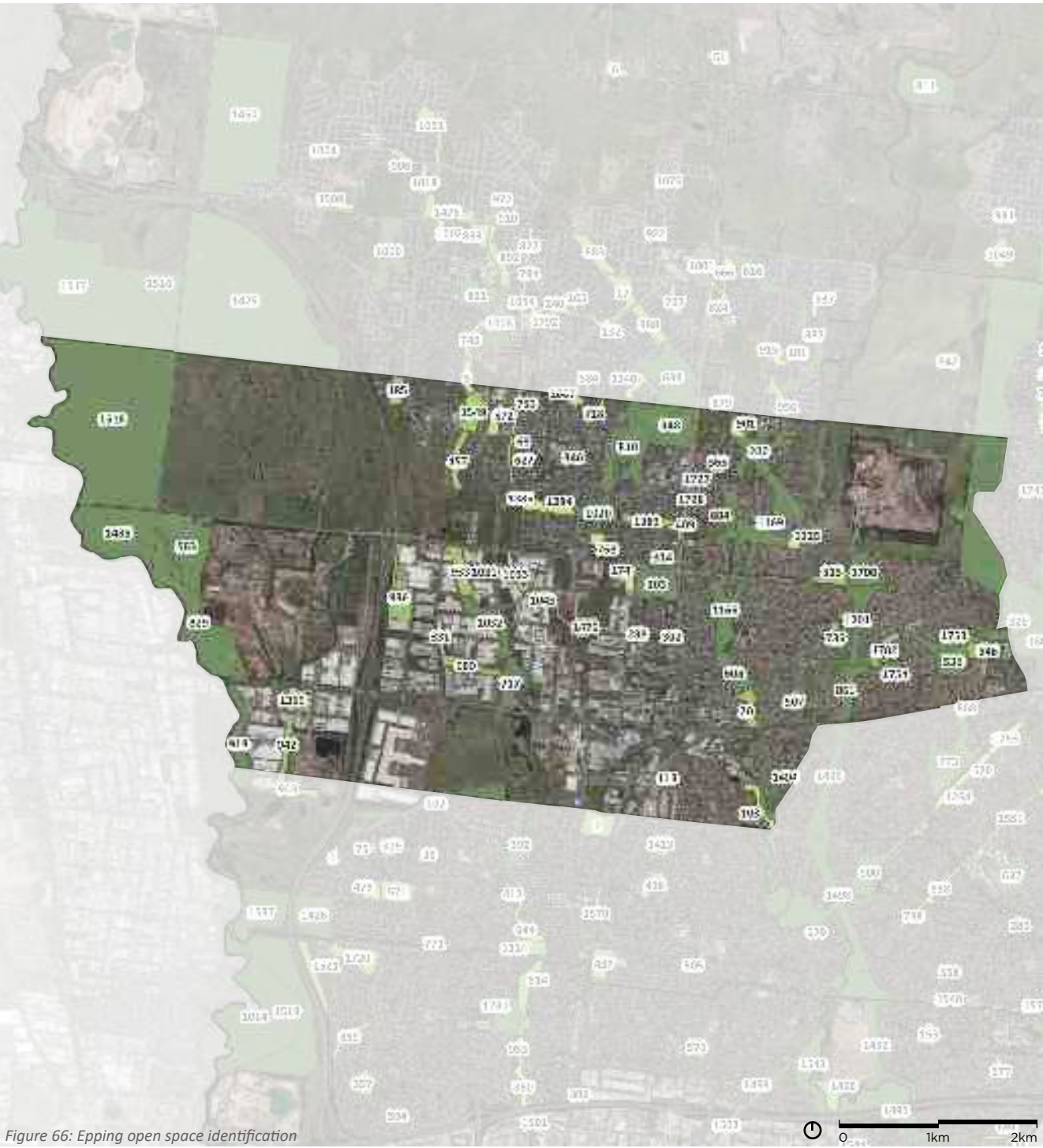


Figure 66: Epping open space identification

0 1km 2km

Epping Open Space Listing (Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open spaces are labelled with their ObjectID)

|     |                                           |     |                                                                   |      |                                   |      |                                        |
|-----|-------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------|
| 20  | Apex Park                                 | 507 | Lowalde Recreation Reserve                                        | 861  | 26 Baystone Road Epping 3076      | 1359 | 445m Cooper Street Epping 3076         |
| 68  | Dappleshade Park                          | 536 | Meadow Glen Athletics Centre Reserve                              | 868  | 389 Mcdonalds Road Epping 3076    | 1383 | Lyndarum Wetland                       |
| 103 | Holroyd Drive Park                        |     |                                                                   | 901  | Findon Creek Linear Park North    | 1384 | Lyndarum Wetland                       |
| 113 | Supply Park                               | 546 | Mill Park Secondary College Community Sporting Facility Surrounds | 919  | Cooper South Conservation Reserve | 1385 | Lyndarum Wetland                       |
| 174 | Casa D'abruzzo Community Soccer Surrounds | 572 | Mossfield Park                                                    | 933  | Legacy Reserve                    | 1475 | No name listed                         |
| 185 | Cerriidwen Park                           | 583 | Northern Landfill                                                 | 936  | Scanlon Water Reserve             | 1485 | No name listed                         |
| 200 | Findon Creek Linear Park                  | 604 | Paul Crescent Park                                                | 942  | 445m Cooper Street Epping 3076    | 1494 | No name listed                         |
| 288 | Duffy Street Recreation Reserve           | 608 | Peppercorn Park                                                   | 948  | Harvest Home Recreation Reserve   | 1518 | No name listed                         |
| 302 | Epping Memorial Hall                      | 627 | Prism Park                                                        | 1007 | Stoneyfield Park                  | 1549 | No name listed                         |
| 303 | Epping Recreation Reserve                 | 689 | Taryn Drive Wetland                                               | 1020 | Lyndarum Wetland                  | 1700 | No name listed                         |
| 314 | Fendi Park                                | 717 | Viewbank Wetland                                                  | 1031 | Nexus Park                        | 1701 | No name listed                         |
| 315 | Findon Road Median And Verges             | 718 | Viewgrand Wetland                                                 | 1032 | Legacy Conservation Reserve South | 1702 | Darebin Ck/Henderson's Ck Shared Paths |
| 331 | Gateway Bvd Drainage Reserve              | 736 | Winchester Park                                                   | 1033 | Trafalgar Park                    | 1727 | Fletcher Tree Reserve                  |
| 346 | Greenfields Park                          | 756 | Whitelight Park                                                   | 1045 | Longford Park Conservation Area   | 1728 | Fletcher Tree Reserve                  |
| 365 | Hayston Park                              | 768 | Godefroy Park                                                     | 1166 | Findon Creek Park                 | 1753 | Meadow Glen Athletics Centre Reserve   |
| 409 | Jordi Park Reserve                        | 810 | Epping North Conservation Reserve                                 | 1169 | Findon Road Median And Verges     | 1754 | Darebin Ck/Henderson's Ck Shared Paths |
| 457 | Lehmann's Farm Park                       | 829 | Northern Landfill Merri Creek Conservation Area                   | 1325 | Lancia Park                       |      |                                        |

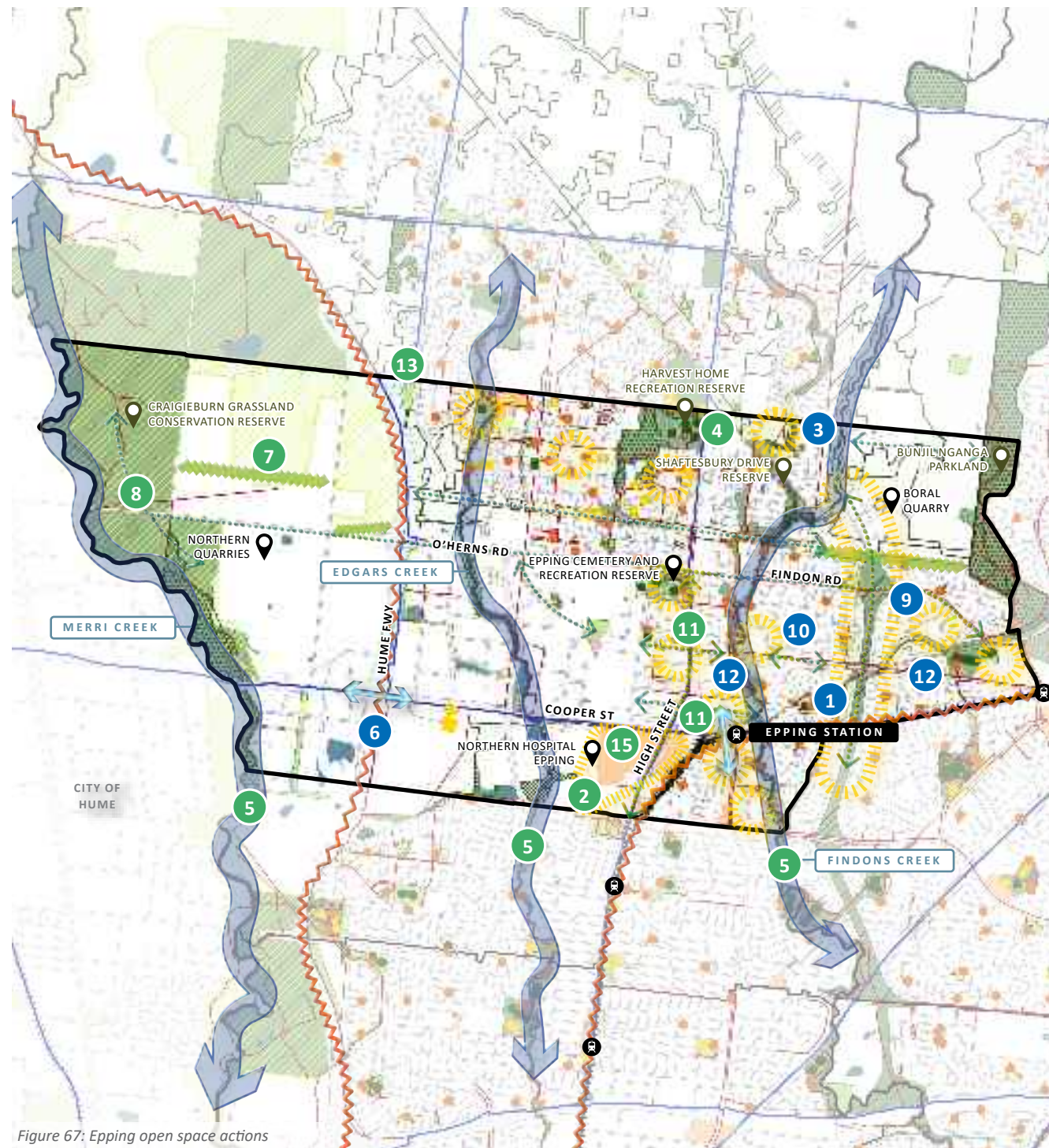
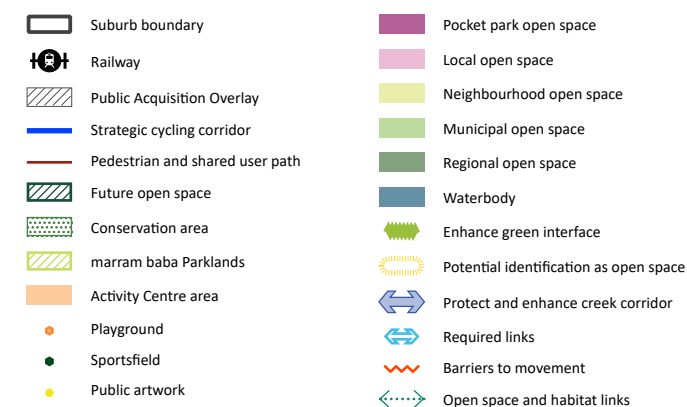
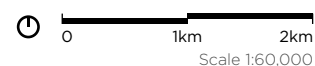


Figure 67: Epping open space actions

### Potential Open Space Network



## Epping Action Plan

### Opportunities

- Future open space planned between bunjil nganga Parkland and Findons Creek corridor will contribute meaningfully to biodiversity and can form a symbiotic relationship that actively revegetates open spaces.
- marram baba Parkland is identified as an area of major transformation and has the ability to support conservation objectives. It is delivering open space in a major gap adjacent to Craigieburn Grassland Conservation Reserve, north of O'Herns Road.
- Explore open space opportunities as part of the ongoing advocacy for the outer metropolitan ring/E6 transport corridor.
- Shared tenure/management agreements for linear open space covered by Public Acquisition Overlay, Epping Cemetery, within powerline easements and government schools to deliver public or semi-public open space.

### Issues

- There are sensitivities surrounding open spaces within powerline easements.
- Reduced permeability to the south of Cooper Street from a more disparate road network, industrial land uses and the Northern Hospital Epping, ultimately impacting accessibility throughout this area.
- Industrial land uses and sensitive site interfaces, such as the Northern Quarries site to the west and Boral Quarry to the east, are prevalent in Epping. They impact accessibility and open space connection.
- Severance created by the Hume Freeway major road corridor, limiting accessibility from residential areas to the Merri Creek and Craigieburn Grassland Conservation Reserve.
- The Regional open space within the Public Acquisition Overlay, between Boral Quarry and the rail corridor is encumbered and does not allow for planting.
- The existing Public Acquisition Overlays in place for future road networks and other infrastructure may create significant barriers to movement and open space connectivity.

### Actions

- 1 Deliver shared user path between Epping Station and Greenbrook Drive as part of the Darebin Creek Trail.
- 2 Master planning for open space delivery surrounding the future Central Epping public and private developments.

- 3 Connect adjacent residential area into bunjil nganga Parkland, across currently planned future open space.
- 4 Planned linear open space corridors enhance connections between existing and future open spaces and contribute to the active transport network.
- 5 The Merri, Edgars and Findons creek corridors and marram baba Parklands should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors and support riparian corridor protections and enhancement. Ensure support of Merri Creek Management Committee in this delivery.
- 6 Support safe and legible crossings of Hume Freeway along Cooper Street, protecting the active transport network.
- 7 Master plan for marram baba Parkland will deliver open space and tree reserves in previously industrial area for local workers. Prioritise open space delivery in close proximity to marram baba boundary to enhance and support the parkland.
- 8 Provide open space link through shared user path along O'Herns Road. Connect Epping industrial and residential area east of Hume Freeway into marram baba Parklands. This will extend the marram baba trail south, from Cooper Street to Galada Tombore.
- 9 Advocate to duplicate section of Findon Road between Plenty Road and Epping Road to deliver upgrades to the active transport infrastructure supporting shared user paths and the Strategic Cycling Corridor.
- 10 Deliver shared user path on McDonalds Road between Darebin Creek Trail and Civic Drive.
- 11 Prepare urban design master plans for Coulstock Street, High Street and Memorial Avenue Shops Town Centre Precinct Revitalisation projects. Including High Street shared user path between Childs Road and Memorial Avenue.
- 12 Deliver a shared user path along McDonalds Road between Darebin Creek Trail and Civic Drive.
- 13 Prepare master plan to guide development of Cerridwen/Koukoura Sporting Reserve.
- 14 Review the open space plan in the Epping Structure Plan to consider the outcomes of the State Governments activity centre program and increases to housing density proposed for the centre.
- 15 Deliver a new urban plaza or civic open space as a focal point for the Epping Activity Centre.



LALOR

Overview

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.

Lalor Recreation Reserve includes sporting ovals, tennis courts, bowling greens, a playground, BBQ shelters, toilets, and car parking. It has become a hub for local sport as well as social gatherings. Whittlesea Public Gardens down the road is one of the major open space destinations of the City of Whittlesea. It has been recently revitalised with new playground spaces, skate plaza, gym equipment, picnic shelters and lakeside walking paths.

Smaller parks including Lorne Park, Sarissa Park, and Partridge Street Reserve offer playgrounds, courts and green space. The Darebin Creek Trail and the northern tip of the Craigieburn Bypass Trail enhance the connectivity and access to active transport routes through this suburb.

Edgars creek is an important natural feature in Lalor, the corridor connecting into the wider municipality. Upgrades to walking and cycling paths, native re-vegetation, biodiversity improvements, pedestrian bridges and community spaces will transform the creek corridor. The overall plan will form a cohesive and ecological linear open space.



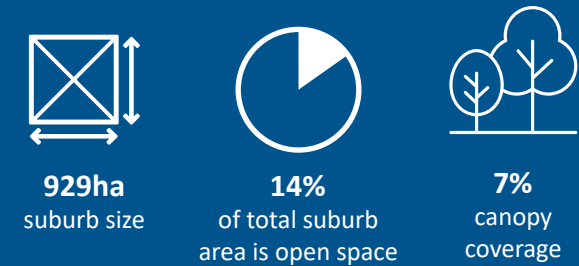
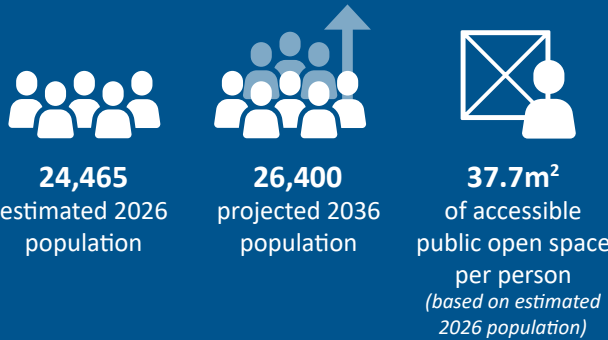
Whittlesea Public Gardens, Lalor (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Whittlesea Public Gardens, Lalor (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden, Lalor (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Urban Heat Island Map

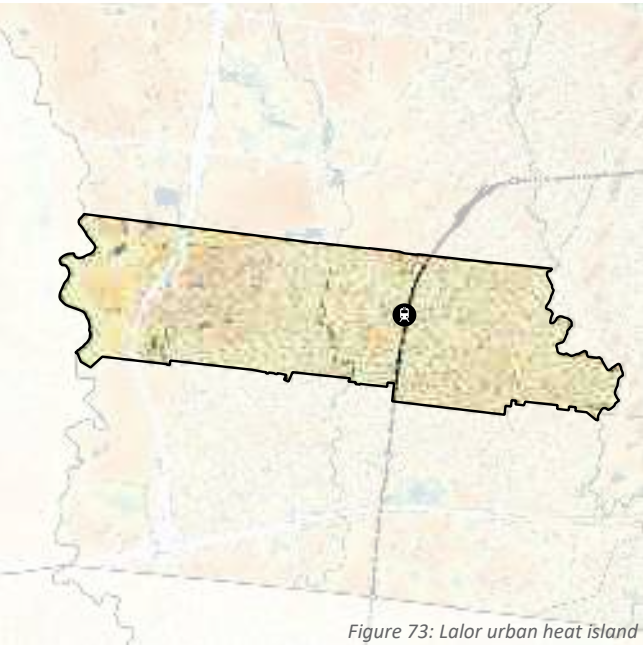
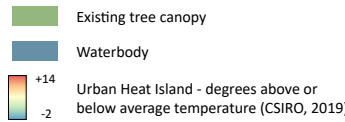


Figure 73: Lalor urban heat island



Community Facilities

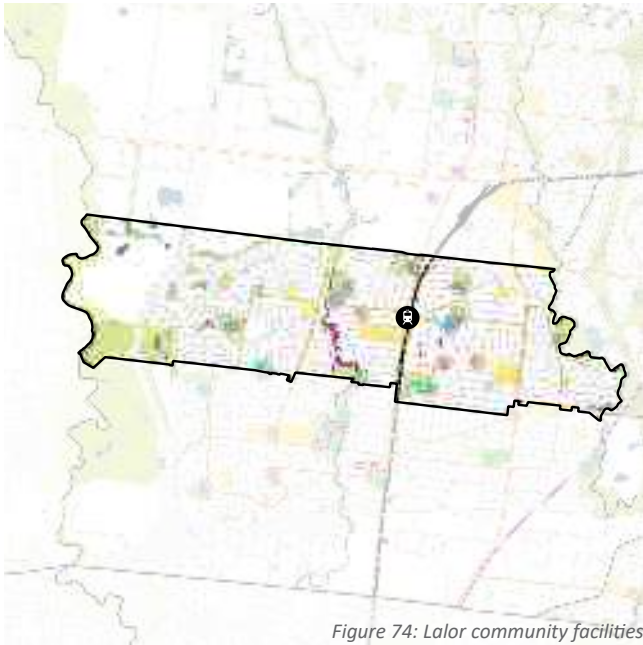
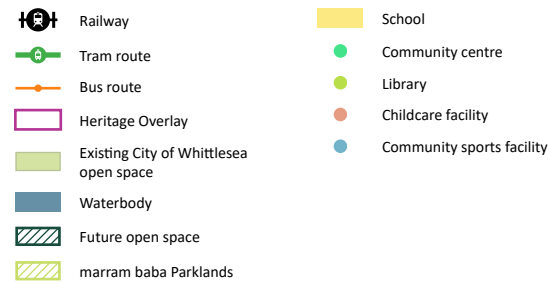
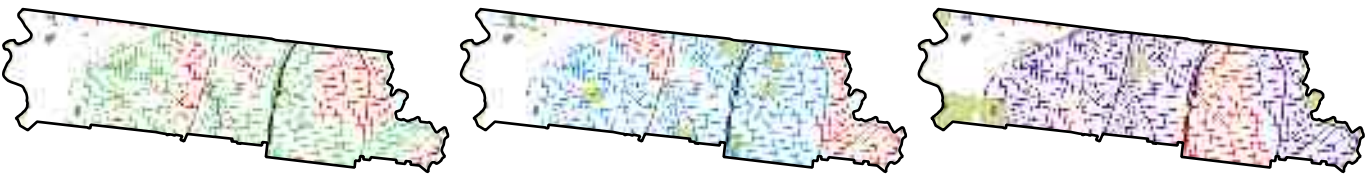


Figure 74: Lalor community facilities





400m catchment (Local & Neighbourhood)      800m catchment (Municipal)      1km catchment (Regional)

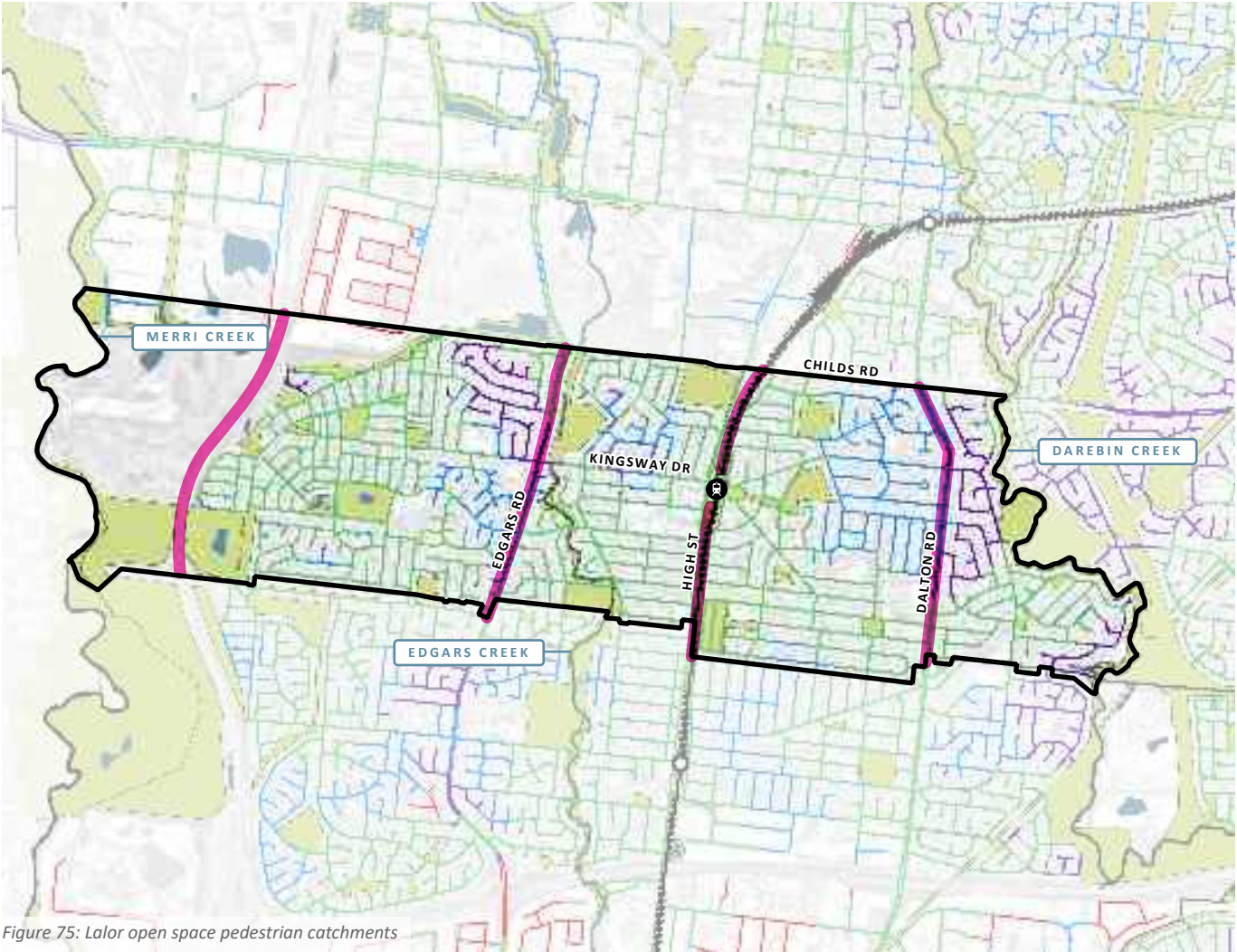


Figure 75: Lalor open space pedestrian catchments

NTS

- Suburb boundary
- Railway
- Existing open space
- Waterbody
- Movement barrier
- 400m catchment from Local & Neighbourhood open space
- 800m catchment from Municipal open space
- 1km catchment from Regional open space
- Gap in open space pedestrian catchments

Lalor’s pedestrian catchment analysis shows no gaps across the combined open space network.

Hume Freeway is a major barrier in the accessibility of Lalor’s open space, severing the Whittlesea Public Gardens from marram baba Parklands to the east. Lalor is however, home to the only pedestrian bridge that links these two open spaces. The marram baba Parklands have been identified as an area of major transformation and so improved pedestrian access and shared user paths could alleviate these gaps.



Figure 76: Lalor open space identification

Lalor Open Space Listing (Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open spaces are labelled with their ObjectID)

|     |                              |      |                                 |
|-----|------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|
| 1   | Moffat Wetlands              | 943  | 445m Cooper Street Epping 3076  |
| 2   | V.R. Michael Reserve         | 1413 | Partridge Recreation Reserve    |
| 35  | Gillwell Park                | 1426 | Whittlesea Public Gardens       |
| 75  | Moffat Park                  | 1537 | No name listed                  |
| 102 | Hollyford Park               | 1570 | Kingsway Park Median And Verges |
| 319 | Flanagan Park                |      |                                 |
| 392 | Huskisson Recreation Reserve |      |                                 |
| 412 | Kalara Close Park            |      |                                 |
| 436 | Lalor Recreation Reserve     |      |                                 |
| 437 | Lalor Shopping Precinct      |      |                                 |
| 479 | Sarissa Park                 |      |                                 |
| 505 | Lorne Park                   |      |                                 |
| 571 | Mosaic Recreation Reserve    |      |                                 |
| 644 | Robert Park                  |      |                                 |
| 771 | Barry Road Park              |      |                                 |

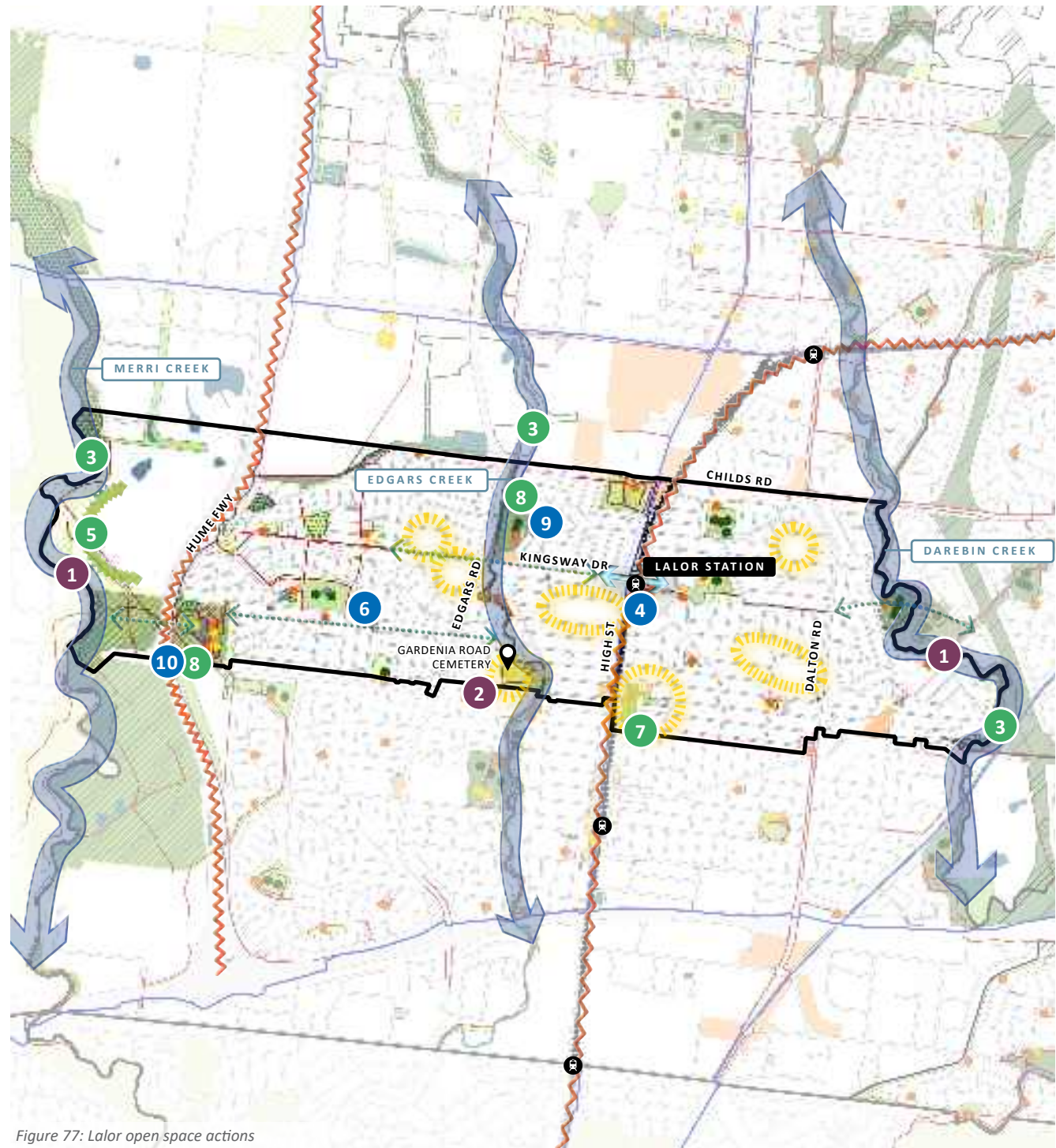
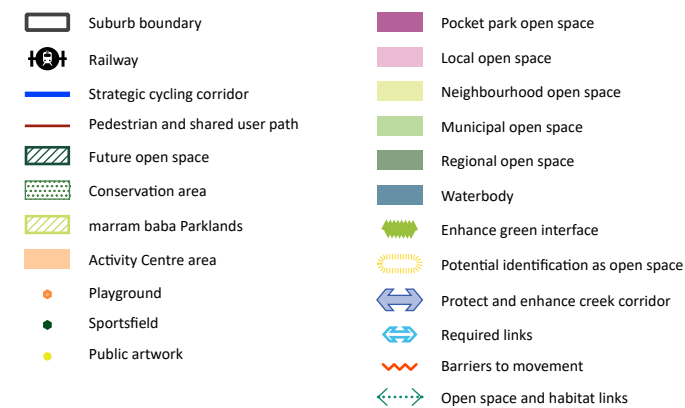
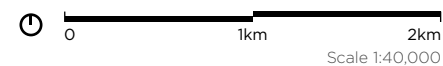


Figure 77: Lalor open space actions

#### Potential Open Space Network



## Lalor Action Plan

### Opportunities

- Opportunity for activation in and around Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden, forming connection to the nearby Edgars Creek corridor.
- Gardenia Road Cemetery already contributes to the open space network, but greater access outside of regular hours could be explored.
- Shared tenure/management agreements to activate open space within Gardenia Road Cemetery and government schools to deliver public or semi-public open space.
- marram baba Parkland is identified as an area of major transformation and has the ability to support conservation objectives.
- Explore open space solutions that prioritise plaza and civic spaces to offer flexibility of programming and could support festivals or events.

### Issues

- Increasing issues around safety and lighting in the urban south of the municipality and a need for greater understanding of how lighting in public open space impacts dwell times and encourages activation.
- Severance created by the Hume Freeway major road corridor, with one pedestrian bridge crossing, limiting accessibility from residential areas to the marram baba Merri Creek Parklands.
- Poor east-west connectivity across the suburb due to barriers such as creek corridors, major roads and a lack of public transport infrastructure.

### Actions

- 1 Integrated public lighting, safety and CPTED strategy for open spaces, in particular along creek corridors.
- 2 Activation and event plan for Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden and Lutheran Church Land, harnessing this unique heritage asset.
- 3 The Merri, Edgars and Darebin creek corridors and marram baba Parklands should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors and support riparian corridor protections and enhancement. Ensure support of Merri Creek Management Committee in this delivery.
- 4 Support safe and legible crossings of the rail corridor at Lalor Station, connecting open spaces and protecting the active transport network.
- 5 Master plan for marram baba Parkland and the Northern Trails shared user paths it supports. Integrate Parkland edges into existing and future adjacent land uses, prioritising open space delivery in close proximity to marram baba boundary to enhance and support the parkland.
- 6 Deliver a shared user path that connects Whittlesea Public Gardens to Edgars Road and Edgars Creek.
- 7 Prepare a precinct master plan to guide development and improved public realm outcomes for May Road Precinct.
- 8 Deliver upgrades to V.R. Michael Reserve, Huskisson Reserve and Whittlesea Public Gardens.
- 9 Explore opportunity for residential development within Huskisson Reserve through potential rezoning.
- 10 Subdivide land adjacent to Whittlesea Public Gardens as part of the Downs Road development.



MERENDA

Overview

Mernda has been a fast-growing suburb for many years, with evolving infrastructure and new estates. This has increased with the arrival of a new metro train station in 2018. This new connection is supported by a dynamic open space network, with a strong emphasis on conservation alongside its active recreation spaces. To the south, the edge of bunjil nganga Parkland forms part of Mernda’s conservation area.

Mernda Recreation Reserve offers sports ovals, netball courts, pavilion and change rooms as well as playground, toilets and car parking for formal sport goers as well as the general public. Mernda Adventure park provides imaginative playground structures, water play, natural landscapes all in proximity to incredible wetlands.

Numerous Pocket open spaces serve remnant red-gum vegetation and are linked by existing and future trails. Woodland Waters Conservation Reserve is a natural area preserved amongst suburban development, restoring native vegetation, in particular River Red Gums and plains grassy woodland. These regeneration efforts aim to enhance pre-settlement ecosystems. Mernda Creek Linear Park strengthens the ecological fabric as it weaves through the suburb along shared user paths and wetlands. Riparian vegetation is maintained and supports wildlife connectivity parallel to walking trails.



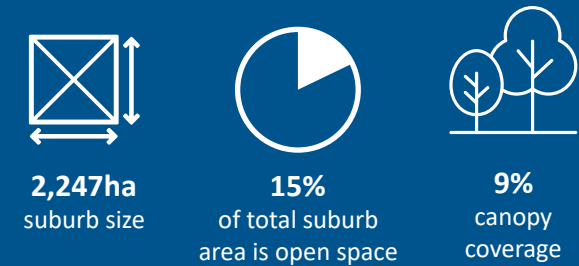
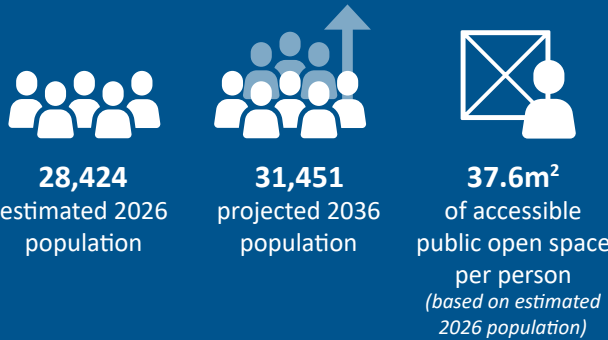
Mernda Villages Wetland Playground, Mernda.



Mernda Adventure Playground, Mernda.



Mernda Adventure Playground, Mernda.



Urban Heat Island Map

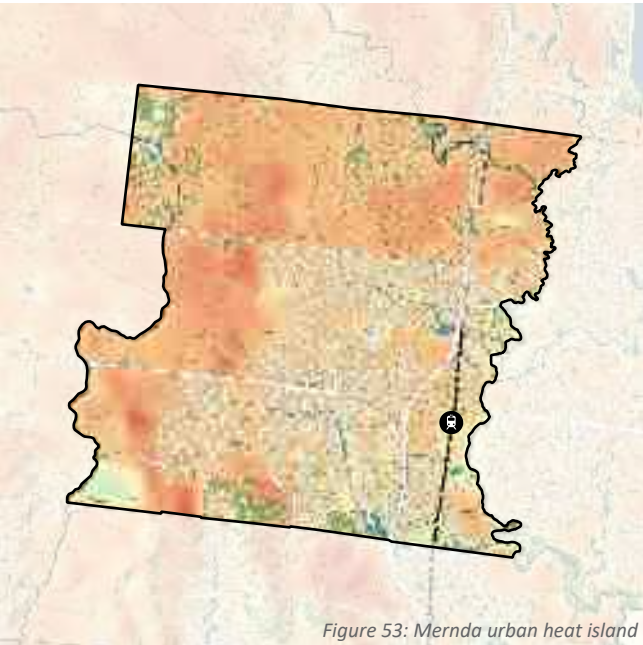
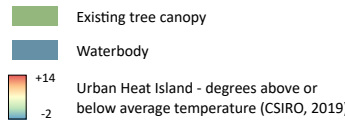


Figure 53: Mernda urban heat island



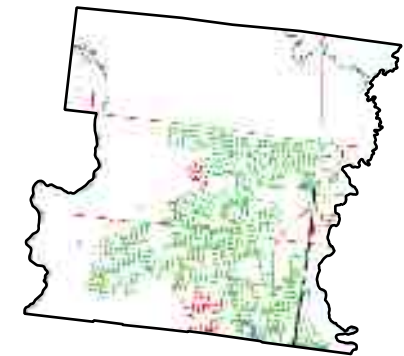
Community Facilities



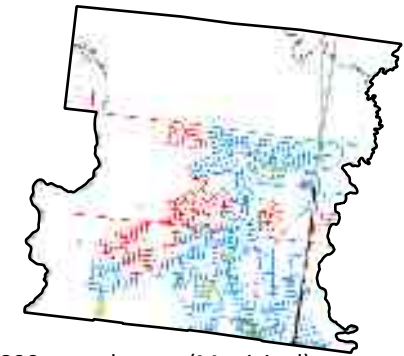
Figure 54: Mernda community facilities



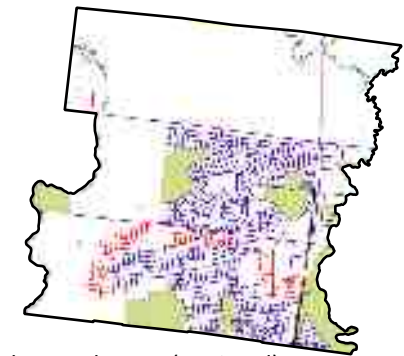
Mernda OSGA



400m catchment  
(Local & Neighbourhood)



800m catchment (Municipal)



1km catchment (Regional)

- Suburb boundary
- Railway
- Existing open space
- Waterbody
- Movement barrier
- 400m catchment from Local & Neighbourhood open space
- 800m catchment from Municipal open space
- 1km catchment from Regional open space
- Gap in open space pedestrian catchments

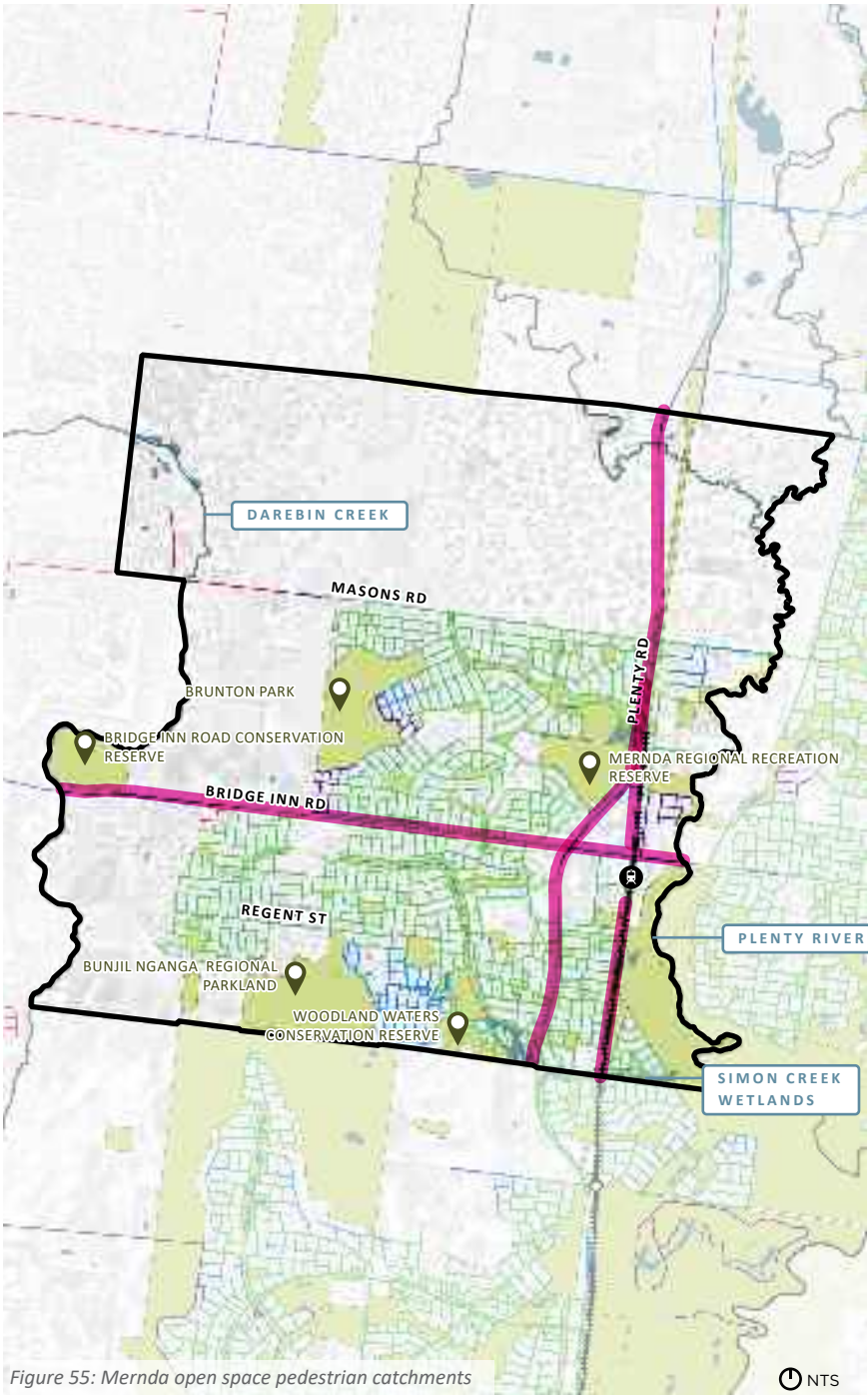


Figure 55: Mernda open space pedestrian catchments

Mernda’s pedestrian catchment analysis shows gaps across the combined open space network.

Identified future open space in Mernda reflects a desire to connect and enhance the Regional open spaces to the suburbs west. This includes Bridge Inn Road Conservation Reserve, Brunton Park and bunjil nganga Parkland. This will fill the extensive gap along Mernda’s Darebin Creek edge and contribute to urban cooling measures through this area. Many of Mernda’s community facilities are co-located with open spaces and there is opportunity to expand this. Potential shared tenures with schools or other private land owners along the Simons Creek Corridor could strengthen the linear connection through the east-west section.



Figure 56: Mernda open space identification

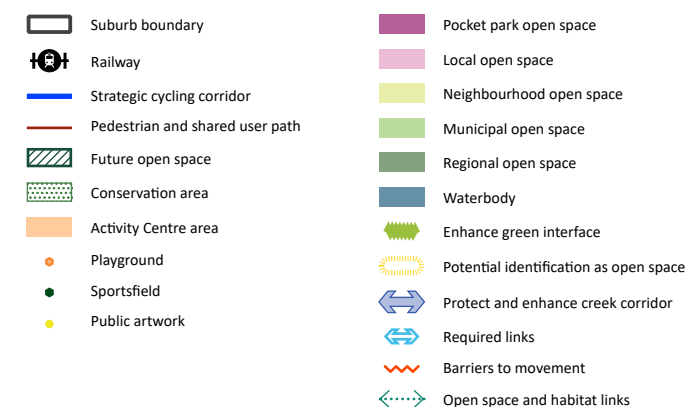
Mernda Open Space Listing (Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open spaces are labelled with their ObjectID)

|     |                                    |      |                                      |      |                              |
|-----|------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|------------------------------|
| 41  | Neptune Park                       | 590  | Oval Park                            | 1491 | Plenty River                 |
| 125 | Beale Street Park                  | 676  | Sumner Park                          | 1504 | No name listed               |
| 167 | Buttercross Park                   | 677  | Sumner Park West                     | 1506 | No name listed               |
| 179 | Hollaway Wetland                   | 752  | Waterview Recreation Reserve         | 1761 | Mernda Railway Shared Path   |
| 201 | Francesca Park                     | 801  | Sir John Terrace Park                | 1763 | Berry Lane Conservation Area |
| 214 | Pomaderris Linear Park             | 811  | Bridge Inn Road Conservation Reserve | 1767 | Simon Creek Linear Park      |
| 219 | Riordan Reserve                    |      |                                      |      |                              |
| 330 | Galloway Wetland                   | 819  | Woodland Waters Conservation Reserve |      |                              |
| 460 | Leonardo Park                      | 877  | 17-19 Johnsons Road Mernda 3754      |      |                              |
| 497 | Simon Creek Linear Park North      | 931  | Underhill Park                       |      |                              |
| 498 | Simon Creek Wetland                | 959  | Brunton Park                         |      |                              |
| 543 | Mernda Creek Linear Park           | 1049 | Partytree Slashing Area              |      |                              |
| 549 | Mernda Recreation Reserve          | 1139 | Pomaderris Linear Park               |      |                              |
| 550 | Mernda Regional Recreation Reserve | 1219 | Simon Creek Linear Park North        |      |                              |
| 552 | Mernda Villages Wetland            | 1453 | No name listed                       |      |                              |



Figure 57: Mernda open space actions

#### Potential Open Space Network



## Mernda Action Plan

### Opportunities

- Both active and passive recreation can be delivered by open space associated with local government schools.
- A significant area of future open space has been identified to the west of Mernda, between Darebin Creek and Brunton Park and bunjil nganga Parkland.
- Mernda as a growth area open space provision has an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the greater open space network and conservation corridors, not only delivering formal Local and Neighbourhood open spaces.
- The existing open space network is connected by linear green corridors creating accessibility across the open spaces, shared path network and the suburb more broadly.
- Advocate for the Bridge Inn Road upgrade to include improved shared user path capacity to support Strategic Cycling Corridors.
- Explore open space solutions that prioritise plaza and civic spaces to offer flexibility of programming and could support festivals or events.
- Shared tenure/management opportunities with government schools to deliver public or semi-public open space.

### Issues

- Greater demand for public open space in growth areas such as Mernda, as the housing typologies that are being built are delivering less private open space.
- Future open space outlined by the Precinct Structure Plans can become outdated quickly as communities grow and demands change.
- Convergence of Plenty Road corridor and railway corridor impedes access around central Mernda, Mernda Station and the local activity centres.
- As a growth area, increasing populations in Mernda will shift demographics and demand significantly in the immediate future.
- There is a gap in provision of bridge crossings of the Plenty River corridor, impeding open space network accessibility.

### Actions

- 1 Prepare a master plan for continuous area of future open space delivery to Mernda's west that supports safe crossings of Bridge Inn Road.
- 2 Support accessibility to open space with a permeable open space interface transitioning into surrounding residential land use.
- 3 Connect gaps in shared user paths throughout evolving Simons Creek corridor.
- 4 Form an integrated approach to the web of linear parklands, shared user paths and strategic cycling corridors and offer safe and legible connections between them.
- 5 Support safe and legible crossings of Bridge Inn Road, protecting the active transport network.
- 6 The Darebin Creek, Simons Creek, Barbers Creek and Plenty River corridors should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors and support riparian corridor protections and enhancement.
- 7 Prepare a master plan for the pocket of land in between Plenty Road corridor and the railway corridor and connect into local active travel and open space network.
- 8 Progress planning and delivery of shared user path and adjacent open space amenity for Yan Yean Pipe Track passing through the south of Mernda, crossing the Plenty River and between Bridge Inn Road and Hazel Glen Road.
- 9 Provide safe and legible crossings of the Plenty River corridor to increase access across the open space network.
- 10 Progress planning and investigations for the proposed Whittlesea Shared Trail to connect with Mernda Station and Whittlesea Township.
- 11 Advocate to duplicate the section of Bridge Inn Road between Plenty Road and Wellington Street to deliver upgrades to the active transport infrastructure supporting shared user paths and the Strategic Cycling Corridor.
- 12 Provide gateway treatment at entrance to Brunton Park, entering from residential area.
- 13 Strengthen Simons Creek corridor, in particular the connection from Simons Creek Wetlands across Plenty Road and the rail corridor, into Plenty Gorge Park.
- 14 Prepare a master plan to guide development of Mernda Recreation Reserve.
- 15 Prepare the Mernda Place Framework to create a clear shared vision for Mernda supported by the community.



# MILL PARK

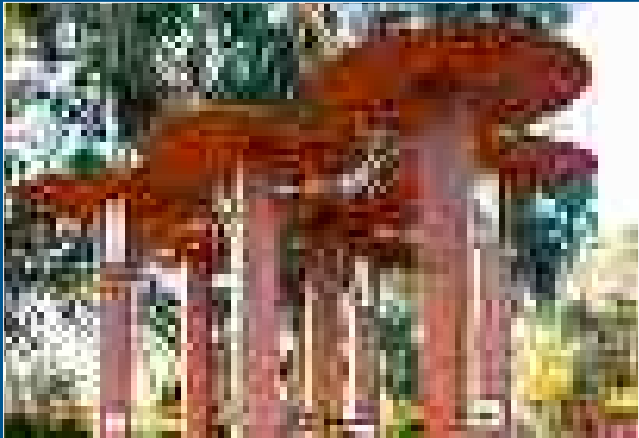
## Overview

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.

Powerline easements in this area of the municipality make for interesting linear contributions to the open space network. They connect into Mill Park’s larger recreation reserves and natural corridors.

At the suburbs heart is 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.

Plenty Gorge Park is home to wetlands, kangaroos, picnic shelters, playgrounds and extensive bushwalking in a volcanic gorge environment. Smaller Local open spaces within residential areas offer playgrounds, shelters and ball courts.



Red Leap Recreation Reserve (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Mill Park Recreation Reserve.



Mill Park Powerline Easement.



1,283ha  
suburb size



25%  
of total suburb  
area is open space



16%  
canopy  
coverage



29,192  
estimated 2026  
population



30,030  
projected 2036  
population



23.2m<sup>2</sup>  
of accessible  
public open space  
per person  
(based on estimated  
2026 population)

## Urban Heat Island Map

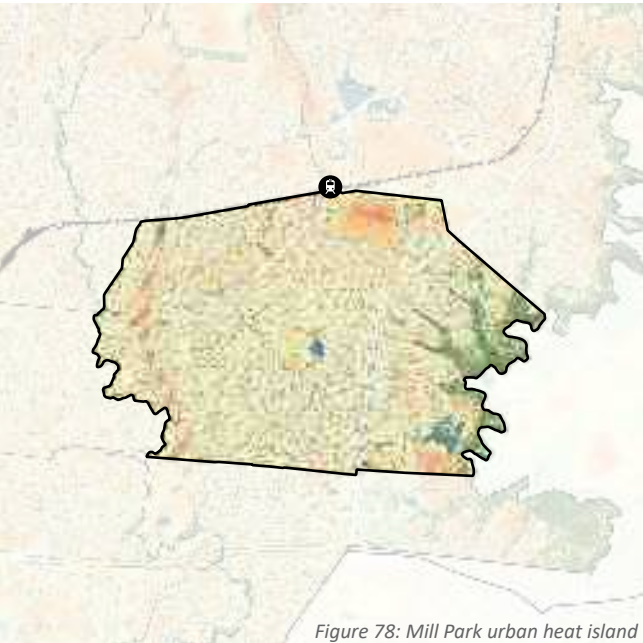


Figure 78: Mill Park urban heat island

## Community Facilities



Figure 79: Mill Park community facilities

Mill Park OSGA



400m catchment (Local & Neighbourhood)



800m catchment (Municipal)



1km catchment (Regional)

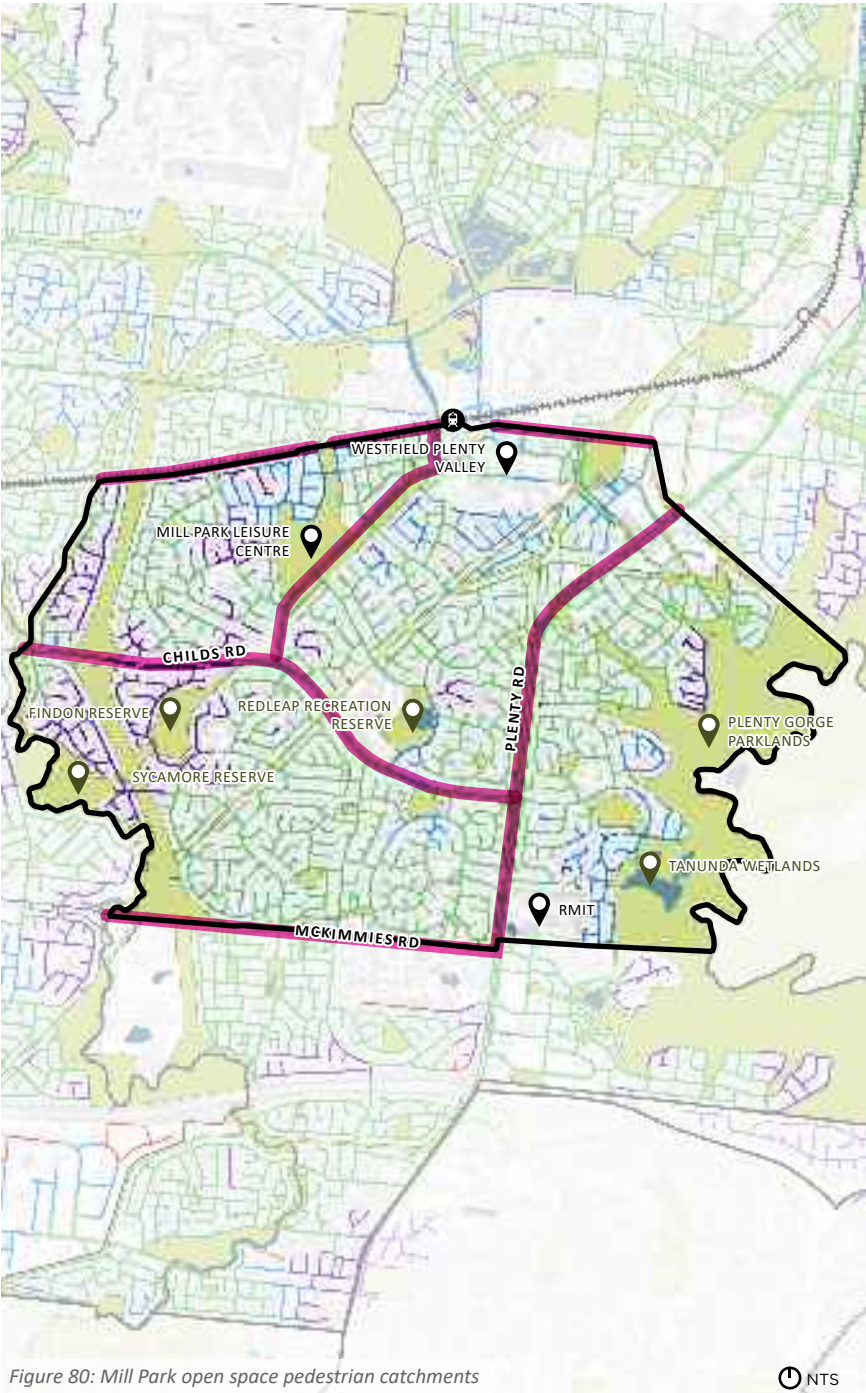


Figure 80: Mill Park open space pedestrian catchments

Mill Park’s pedestrian catchment analysis shows no gaps across the combined open space network.

This is supported by a connected network of linear reserves that link larger open spaces across the suburb. Aside from a density of trees within the Plenty River Parklands, Mill Park has a relatively low tree canopy coverage despite having the strong open space network to support it. Even without the tree coverage, the open space is providing a sufficient level of urban cooling as Mill Park has a fairly uniform average temperature.



Figure 81: Mill Park open space identification

Mill Park Open Space Listing (Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open spaces are labelled with their ObjectID)

|     |                                    |      |                                        |
|-----|------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------|
| 233 | Watery Gully Park                  | 998  | Taree Park                             |
| 285 | Dr Harry Jenkins Park              | 1253 | Morang Drive Median And Verges         |
| 417 | Kelynack Recreation Reserve        | 1254 | Morang Drive Median And Verges         |
| 558 | Mimosa Park                        | 1341 | Near 68 Centenary Drive Mill Park 3082 |
| 570 | Morang Drive Median And Verges     | 1458 | Plenty Gorge Park (South)              |
| 637 | Redleap Recreation Reserve         | 1463 | No name listed                         |
| 679 | Sycamore Recreation Reserve        | 1498 | No name listed                         |
| 694 | Telopea Park                       | 1499 | No name listed                         |
| 738 | Winter Court Walkway               | 1540 | Jacaranda Park                         |
| 773 | Mill Park Recreation Reserve       | 1551 | No name listed                         |
| 781 | Mill Park Library Complex          | 1574 | Mckimmies Road Verges                  |
| 838 | 9 Leslie Street Thomastown 3074    | 1698 | Plenty Rd Median & Verges              |
| 856 | 377 Plenty Road Mill Park 3082     |      |                                        |
| 900 | Findon Recreation Reserve          |      |                                        |
| 960 | Plenty Valley Conservation Reserve |      |                                        |

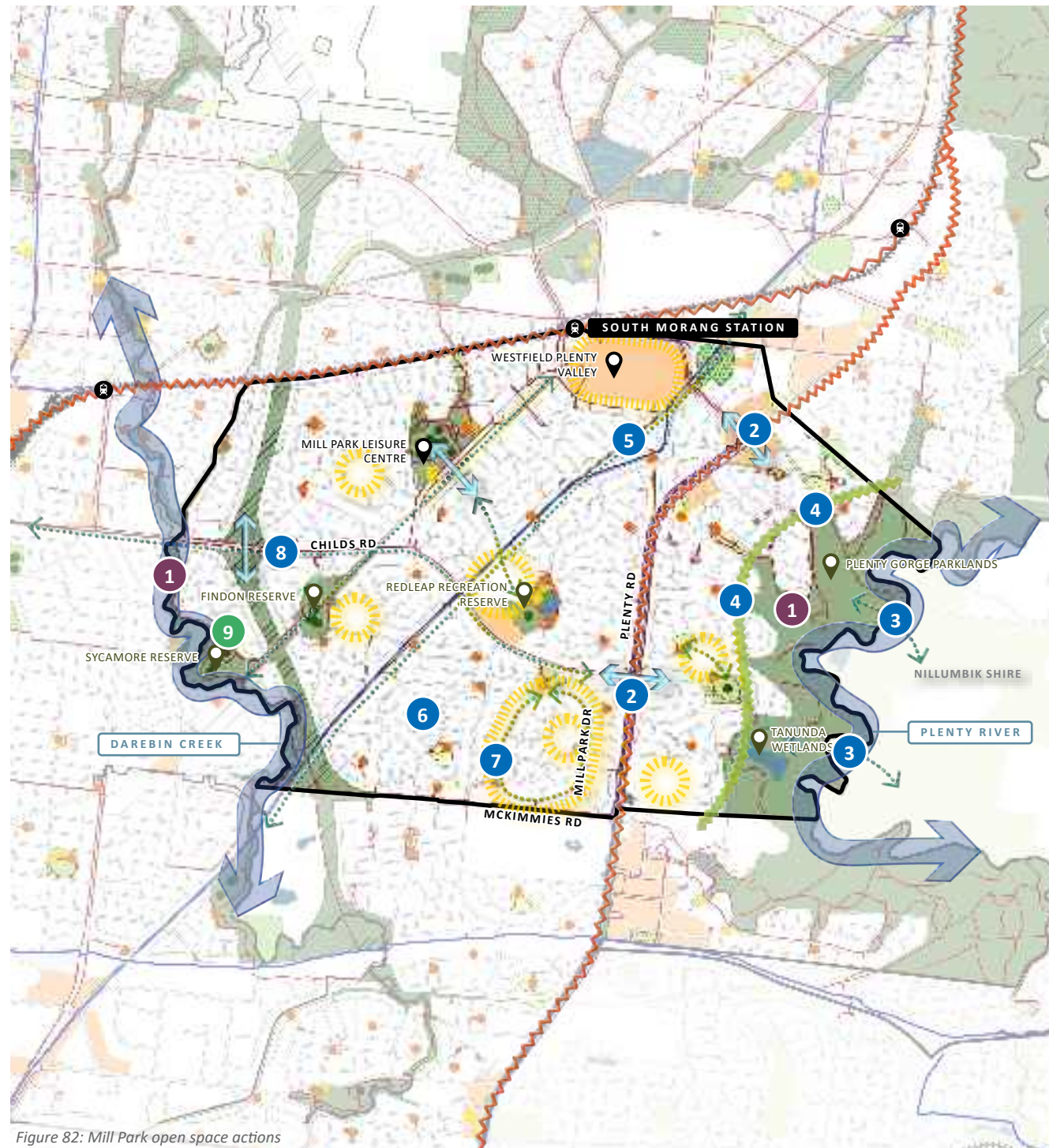
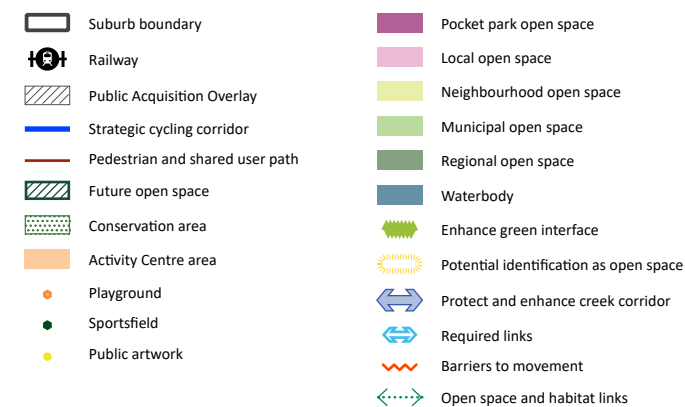


Figure 82: Mill Park open space actions

#### Potential Open Space Network



## Mill Park Action Plan

### Opportunities

- Stretches of the linear parklands covered by the Public Acquisition Overlay to Mill Park's west are underutilised and largely informal, they could deliver more to their community through master planning and temporary asset contributions.
- Both active and passive recreation can be delivered by open space associated with local government schools.
- The Yan Yean Pipe Track provides a central spine of active transport that can access the wider open space network.
- Mill Park Drive has been identified as a high priority for Town Centre Precinct Revitalisation.
- Explore open space solutions that prioritise plaza and civic spaces to offer flexibility of programming and could support festivals or events.
- Shared tenure/management agreements or temporary leases to activate open space within existing Public Acquisition Overlays, government schools or powerline easements to deliver public or semi-public open space.

### Issues

- Increasing issues around safety and lighting in the urban south of the municipality and a need for greater understanding of how lighting in public open space impacts dwell times and encourages activation.
- There are sensitivities surrounding open spaces within powerline easements, such as Findon Reserve - active recreation is limited through these land uses.
- There is a gap in provision of bridge crossings of the Plenty River corridor, impeding open space network accessibility.
- The Regional open space within the Public Acquisition Overlay, between the rail corridor and McKimmies Road is encumbered and does not allow for planting.
- Mill Park has a high density of cul-de-sacs across its road network which limits accessibility to open spaces.
- The existing Public Acquisition Overlays in place for future road networks and other infrastructure may create significant barriers to movement and open space connectivity.
- There is an identified gap in Mill Park of youth focused spaces.
- Poor east-west connectivity across the suburb due to barriers such as creek corridors, major roads and a lack of public transport infrastructure.

### Actions

- 1 Integrated public lighting, safety and CPTED strategy for open spaces, in particular along creek corridors.
- 2 Support safe and legible crossings of Plenty Road and Childs Road between linear reserves, connecting open spaces and protecting the active transport network.
- 3 Provide safe and legible crossings of the Plenty River corridor to increase access across the open space network into neighbouring Nillumbik Shire.
- 4 Reduce barriers to access along Plenty Gorge Parklands edge. Develop permeable interfaces for adjacent residential area.
- 5 Deliver shared user path and adjacent open space amenity for Yan Yean Pipe Track passing through central Mill Park.
- 6 Open space delivery should address accessibility between cul-de-sac streets by providing through block links.
- 7 Provide open space and active transport links within Mill Park Drive Town Centre Precinct Revitalisation project.
- 8 Deliver shared user path along Childs Road between High Street and Darebin Creek Trail.
- 9 Prepare a master plan to guide development of W.A. Smith and Sycamore Reserve.



# SOUTH MORANG

## Overview

Formerly a semi-rural suburb, South Morang is now well established, with three train stations serving its population. South Morang is formed to its western edge by the Plenty River and it's adjacent parklands. This open space supports a density of canopy coverage, however the Urban Heat Island map shows some major pockets of heat across South Morang to the north and north-east.

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

Plenty Gorge Park is home to kangaroos and native bird life across its walking trails and wetlands. The South Morang Rail Trail is one of the major shared use paths in the area, connecting into Henderson's Creek. The Darebin Creek Trail runs through town and links to the broader metropolitan networks. Pocket open spaces like Hillcroft Reserve, Pipe Track Park and Connolly Park provides locals with playgrounds and woodland scenery.



Gorge Road Streetscape (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Riverside Reserve (Source: City of Whittlesea).



bunjil nganga Parkland (Source: City of Whittlesea).



**2,106ha**  
suburb size



**39%**  
of total suburb  
area is open space



**15%**  
canopy  
coverage



**25,629**  
estimated 2026  
population



**27,710**  
projected 2036  
population



**15.8m²**  
of accessible  
public open space  
per person  
(based on estimated  
2026 population)

## Precinct Structure Plans

The Quarry Hills Structure Plan falls across multiple suburbs, including Mernda and Epping. However, a vast majority falls within the South Morang suburb area.

The Quarry Hills PSP covers a total land area of approximately 285 hectares. The PSP allocates approximately 5 hectares of land for local parks, which will be distributed across 5 spaces, and also identifies one sports reserve totalling nearly 5 hectares. An additional 62 hectares is set aside for other types of open space, such as conservation reserves and utility easements, which can support informal recreation activities. The precinct also includes plans for one village town centre and one location for a potential local convenience centre.

## Urban Heat Island Map



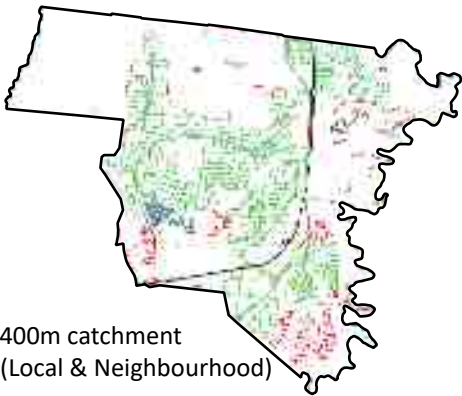
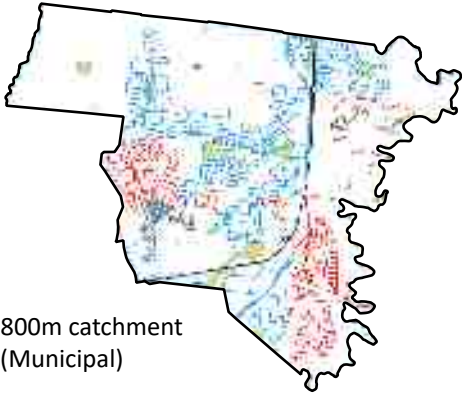
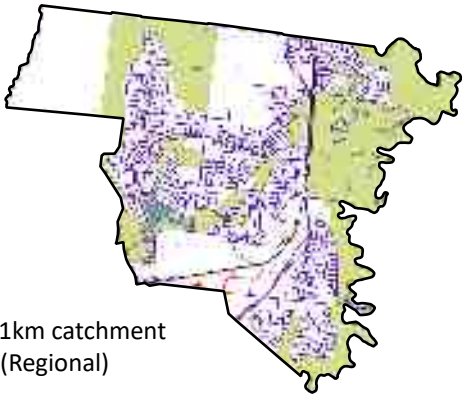
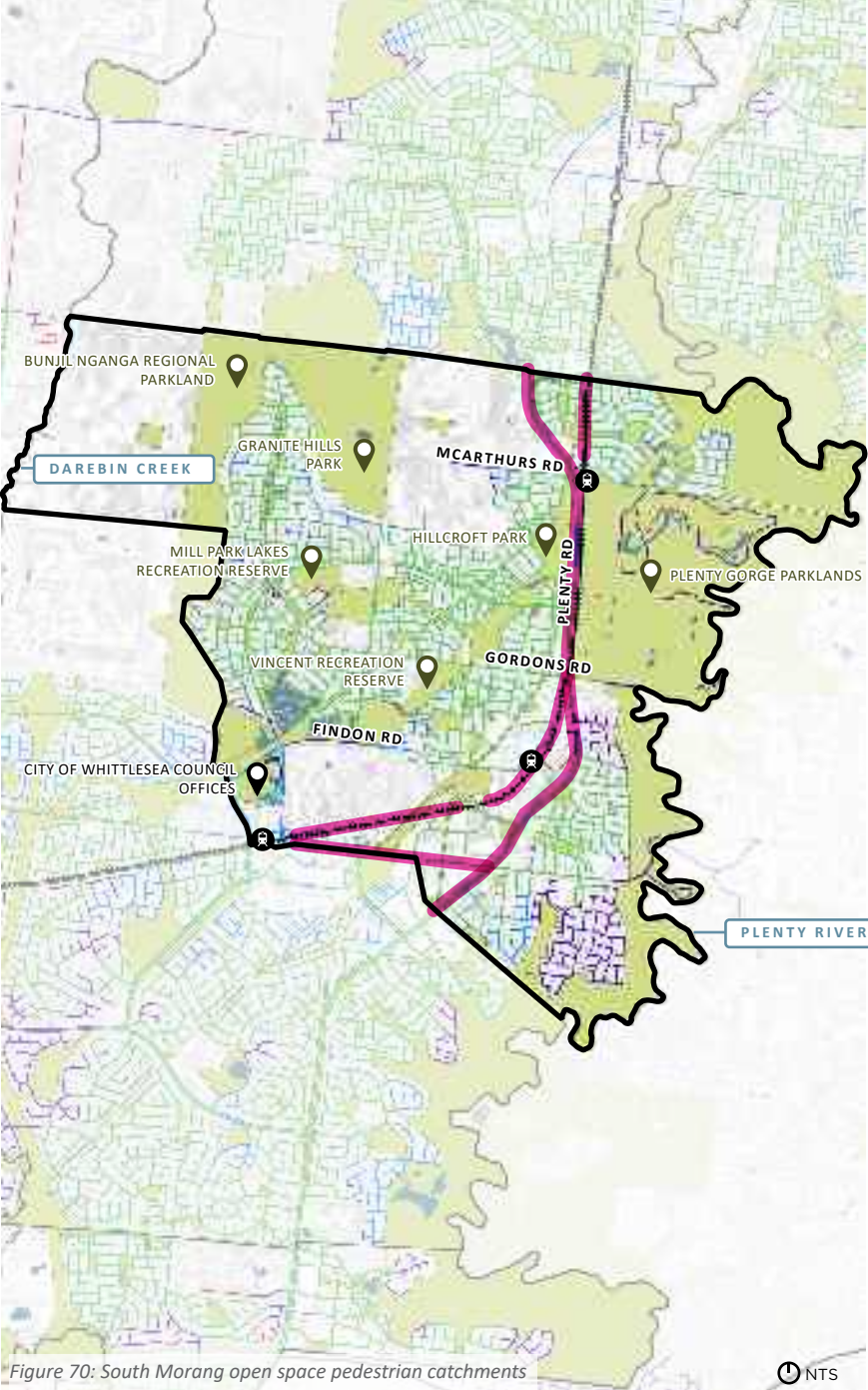
Figure 68: South Morang urban heat island

## Community Facilities



Figure 69: South Morang community facilities

South Morang OSGA



South Morang’s pedestrian catchment analysis shows no gaps across the combined open space network.

The dominance of Regional open spaces in South Morang, particularly Plenty Gorge Parklands and bunjil nganga Parkland, creates an accessible Regional catchment suburb-wide. The severance created by the rail corridor through South Morang is significant. The southern portion of the corridor is buffered by industrial land uses and a disparate grain of road network. The linear open space corridors form important connections across the suburb. The future open space identified at the end of McArthur Road, expanding Granite Hills Park and across beyond bunjil nganga Parkland, will support the conservation zones of this area. It could also aid in alleviating urban heat temperatures occurring here. The gap to the south east in Municipal open spaces is extensive and translates into the lack of sports reserves in this pocket of South Morang.



**South Morang Open Space Listing** (Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open spaces are labelled with their ObjectID)

|     |                                       |     |                                       |      |                                             |      |                                    |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| 11  | 50w Gordons Road                      | 764 | Zieria Park                           | 967  | 370w Mcdonalds Road South Morang 3752       | 1736 | Plenty Gorge Park (South)          |
| 133 | Bellevue Park                         | 770 | Riverside Reserve                     |      |                                             | 1738 | Wilton Park                        |
| 180 | Civic Surrounds                       | 814 | Danthonia Park Conservation Reserve   | 1063 | South Morang Recreation Reserve             | 1745 | Hendersons Creek Linear Park       |
| 223 | Hillcroft Park                        | 815 | Nicola Davis Conservation Reserve*    | 1190 | Hendersons Creek Linear Park (Northern Arm) | 1747 | Nicola Davis Conservation Reserve* |
| 326 | Foothills Park                        | 818 | Plenty Gorge Park                     | 1217 | Simon Creek Linear Park                     | 1749 | Tiara Park                         |
| 382 | Hillsview Recreation Reserve          | 842 | 90y Bindts Road Wollert 3750          | 1218 | Simon Creek Linear Park                     | 1769 | Hawkestone Park                    |
| 390 | Huntingfield Park                     | 844 | Serenity Reserve                      | 1316 | Waterstone Hill Estate Body Corporate       | 1788 | Development Blvd Reserve           |
| 517 | Allamanda Reserve                     | 854 | 670 Bridge Inn Road South Morang 3752 | 1347 | 65 Gordons Road South Morang 3752           | 1789 | Cheviot Park                       |
| 545 | Mill Park Lakes Recreation Reserve    | 862 | 522 Mcdonalds Road South Morang 3752  |      |                                             |      |                                    |
| 560 | Mirrabucca Park                       | 865 | 522 Mcdonalds Road South Morang 3752  | 1354 | Quarry Hills Regional Parkland              |      |                                    |
| 632 | Red Gum Grove Park                    | 875 | 670 Bridge Inn Road South Morang 3752 | 1427 | Plenty Gorge Park (North)                   |      |                                    |
| 635 | Red Oaks Park                         | 899 | Hendersons Creek Wetland              | 1434 | Plenty Gorge Park (Centre)                  |      |                                    |
| 720 | Vincent Recreation Reserve            |     |                                       | 1457 | Plenty Gorge Park (South)                   |      |                                    |
| 734 | Wilton Vale Wetland                   |     |                                       | 1718 | McArthur Road Offset Conservation Area      |      |                                    |
| 751 | Waterstone Hill Estate Body Corporate |     |                                       |      |                                             |      |                                    |

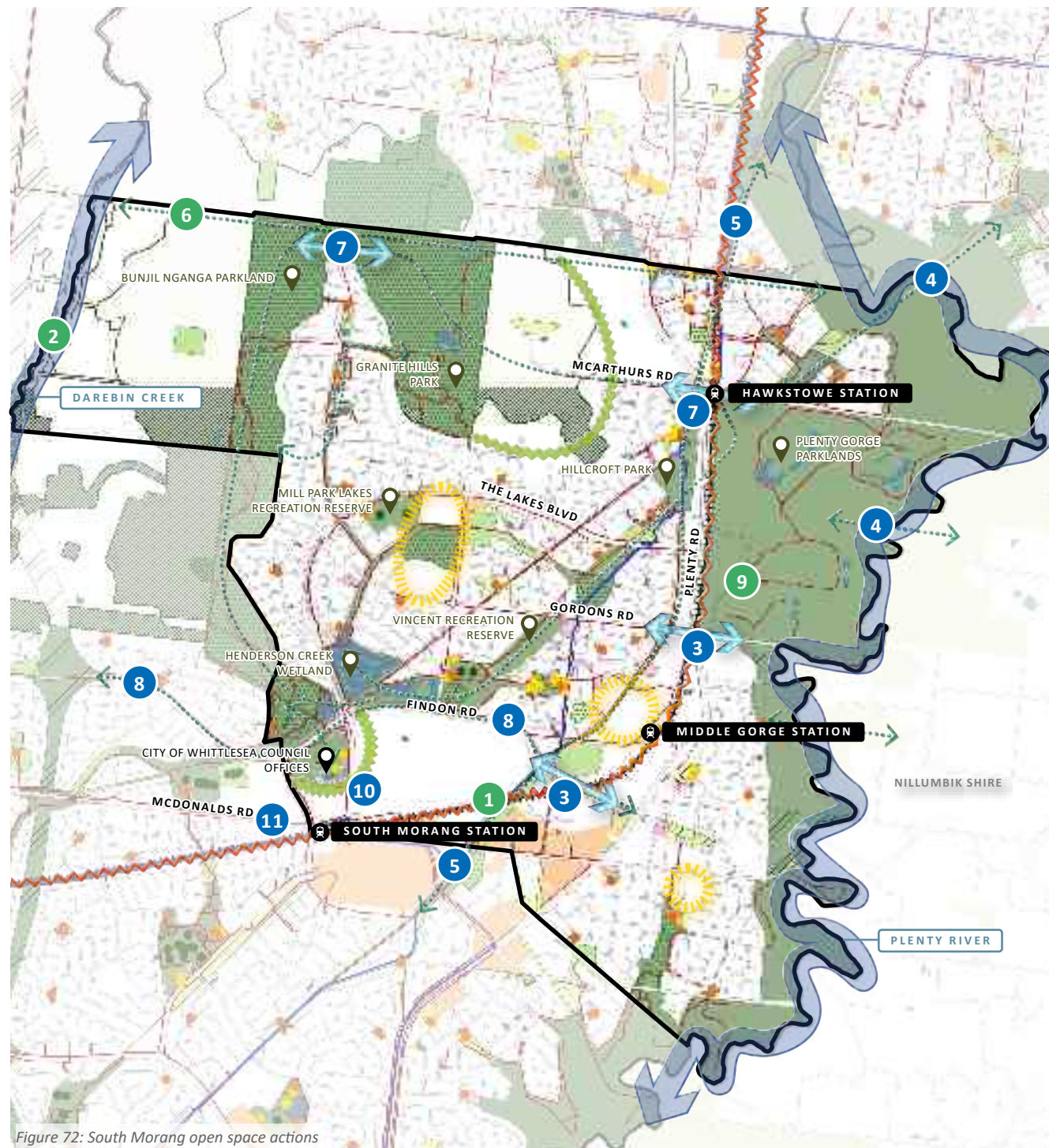
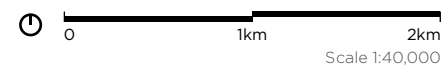


Figure 72: South Morang open space actions

### Potential Open Space Network



## South Morang Action Plan

### Opportunities

- Both active and passive recreation can be delivered by open space associated with local government schools.
- Opportunity to form a cohesive loop that connects bunjil nganga Parklands to Plenty Gorge through the network of linear open spaces.
- Advocacy opportunities for road duplications along active transport corridors, in particular those that support the Strategic Cycling Corridors.
- Explore open space solutions that prioritise plaza and civic spaces to offer flexibility of programming and could support festivals or events.
- Shared tenure/management agreements for linear open space within powerline easements and government schools to deliver public or semi-public open space.

### Issues

- There are sensitivities surrounding open spaces within powerline easements, such as Vincent Recreation Reserve - active recreation is limited through these land uses.
- Reduced permeability to the south and east of Findon Road from a more disparate road network and industrial land uses, ultimately impacting accessibility throughout this area.
- There is a gap in provision of bridge crossings of the Plenty River corridor, impeding open space network accessibility.

### Actions

- 1 Prepare a master plan for South Morang Industrial Precinct to deliver public open space for workers, in particular surrounding South Morang and Middle Gorge Railway Stations.
- 2 The Darebin Creek corridor is identified as the location of future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning and riparian corridor protections and enhancement in this area.
- 3 Support safe and legible crossings of Plenty Road, connecting open spaces and protecting the active transport network.
- 4 Provide safe and legible crossings of the Plenty River corridor to increase access across the open space network, in particular along the easement linking into neighbouring Doreen to the north. Also to provide access to the east into neighbouring Nillumbik Shire.
- 5 Deliver shared user path and adjacent open space amenity for Yan Yean Pipe Track passing through the west of South Morang, predominantly along the rail corridor.
- 6 Provide open space link to connect through bunjil nganga Parkland, from Darebin Creek to Plenty River.
- 7 Update trail network within bunjil nganga Parkland and explore opportunities to develop a connected loop of shared user path, extending beyond into the surrounding residential area.
- 8 Advocate to duplicate section of Findon Road between Plenty Road and Epping Road to deliver upgrades to the active transport infrastructure supporting shared user paths and the Strategic Cycling Corridor.
- 9 Prepare a master plan to guide development and future use of Hawkestone Reserve.
- 10 Deliver a shared user path along Ferres Boulevard from McDonalds Road to Findon Road.
- 11 Deliver a shared user path along McDonalds Road between Darebin Creek trail and Civic Drive.



# THOMASTOWN

## Overview

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.

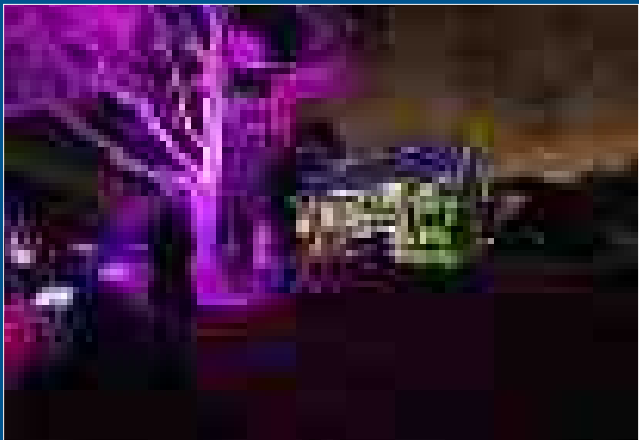
The open space network includes several key reserves for the community such as Nick Ascenzo Reserve, which is undergoing an upgrade. Main Street Recreation Reserve offers multi-use ovals and modern play areas. Thomastown East Recreation Reserve provides nature-inspired playgrounds. At the smaller Local park scale, Leilani, Lincoln, and Roma reserves provide passive green space for local residents.

The suburb is also connected by the Edgars Creek Trail, an evolving green corridor offering shared walking and cycling paths. The extensive industrial zoning to the south of Thomastown's suburban area is a major gap in the open space network.

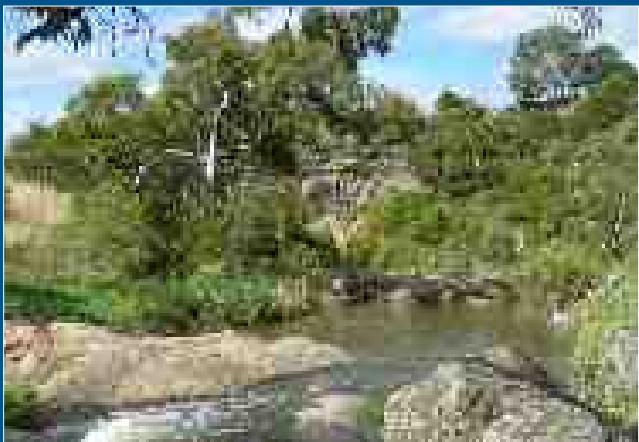
While Thomastown boasts several quality open spaces, strategic planning identifies a need for additional Local parks and improved trail connectivity to better meet community needs and enhance recreational access.



Main Street Recreation Reserve (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Walking Thomastown Event (Source: City of Whittlesea).



marram baba Merri Creek Parklands (Source: Merri Creek Management Committee).



1,472ha  
suburb size



14%  
of total suburb  
area is open space



6%  
canopy  
coverage



22,660  
estimated 2026  
population



26,502  
projected 2036  
population



17.9m<sup>2</sup>  
of accessible  
public open space  
per person  
(based on estimated  
2026 population)

## Urban Heat Island Map

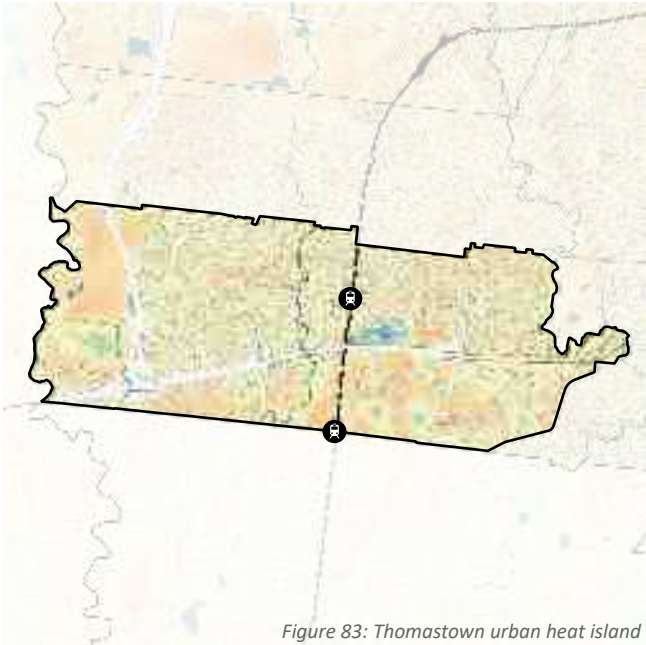


Figure 83: Thomastown urban heat island

- Existing tree canopy
- Waterbody
- +14
- 2
- Urban Heat Island - degrees above or below average temperature (CSIRO, 2019)

## Community Facilities

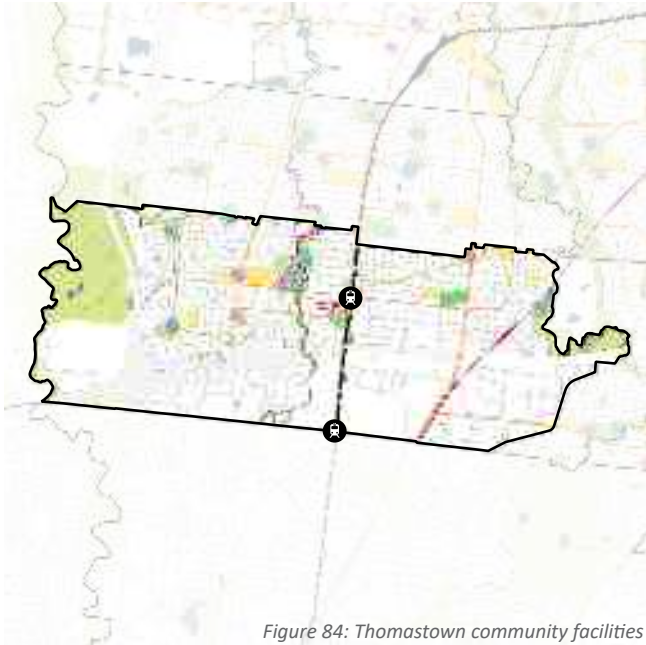
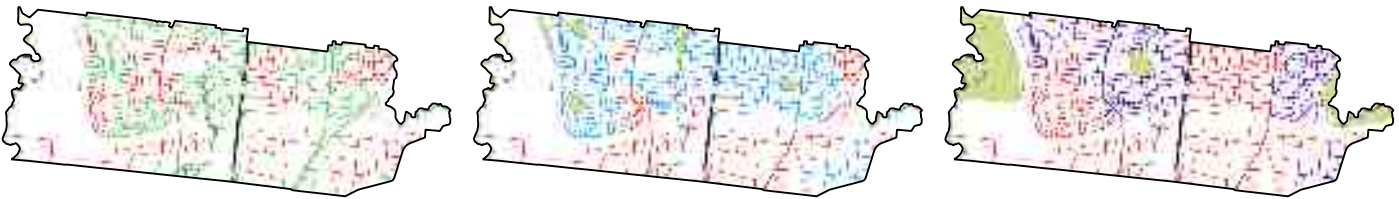


Figure 84: Thomastown community facilities

- Railway
- Tram route
- Bus route
- Public Acquisition Overlay
- Heritage Overlay
- Existing City of Whittlesea open space
- Waterbody
- Future open space
- marram baba Parklands
- School
- Community centre
- Library
- Leisure centre
- Childcare facility
- Community sports facility

Thomastown OSGA



400m catchment (Local & Neighbourhood)      800m catchment (Municipal)      1km catchment (Regional)

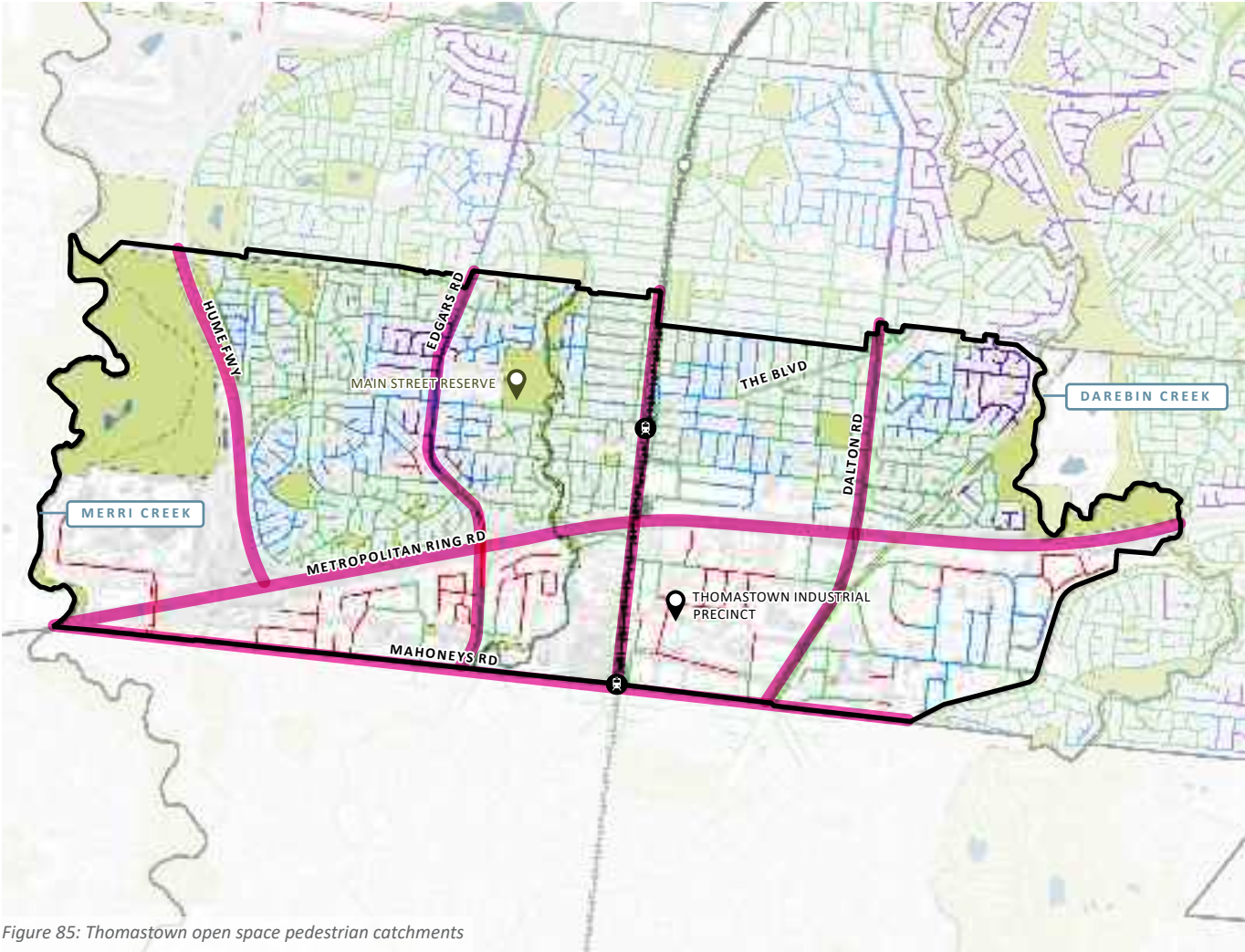


Figure 85: Thomastown open space pedestrian catchments

NTS

- Suburb boundary
- Railway
- Existing open space
- Waterbody
- Movement barrier
- 400m catchment from Local & Neighbourhood open space
- 800m catchment from Municipal open space
- 1km catchment from Regional open space
- Gap in open space pedestrian catchments

Thomastown’s pedestrian catchment analysis shows gaps across the combined open space network.

The Thomastown industrial area is a major gap in the open space network and gap in pedestrian accessibility. This is combined with a shift in road and street granularity that ultimately inhibits pedestrian catchment areas. Open space planning has an opportunity to consider provision for working populations across this land use zone. Bigger land parcels in these areas could offer choice in the kind of amenities and assets designed into new open spaces. The severance between Whittlesea Public Gardens and marram baba Parklands created by the Hume Freeway is a major gap in Thomastown’s open space accessibility. Hume Pedestrian Bridge is the only safe crossing along this interface. The dominance of major freeways in Thomastown forms major barriers in the suburbs major open spaces, such as the Edgars Creek Corridor and Darebin Creek Linear Reserve.



Figure 86: Thomastown open space identification

0 1km 2km

Thomastown Open Space Listing (Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open spaces are labelled with their ObjectID)

|      |                                            |      |                                    |
|------|--------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| 306  | Equator Reserve                            | 1496 | No name listed                     |
| 357  | H.R. Uren Recreation Reserve               | 1497 | No name listed                     |
| 514  | Main Street Recreation Reserve             | 1501 | No name listed                     |
| 576  | Nick Ascenzo Park                          | 1502 | No name listed                     |
| 594  | Pandora Park                               | 1519 | No name listed                     |
| 859  | 195a Main Street Thomastown 3074           | 1521 | No name listed                     |
| 860  | 58 Lincoln Drive Thomastown 3074           | 1542 | Thomastown East Recreation Reserve |
| 869  | 78b Mahoneys Road Thomastown 3074          | 1720 | R.G.C. Cook Recreation Reserve     |
| 955  | 47 Main Street Thomastown 3074             | 1781 | Main Street Recreation Reserve     |
| 1014 | 211-229 Barry Road Thomastown 3074         |      |                                    |
| 1324 | Ziebell's Farmhouse & Lutheran Church Land |      |                                    |
| 1493 | No name listed                             |      |                                    |
| 1495 | No name listed                             |      |                                    |

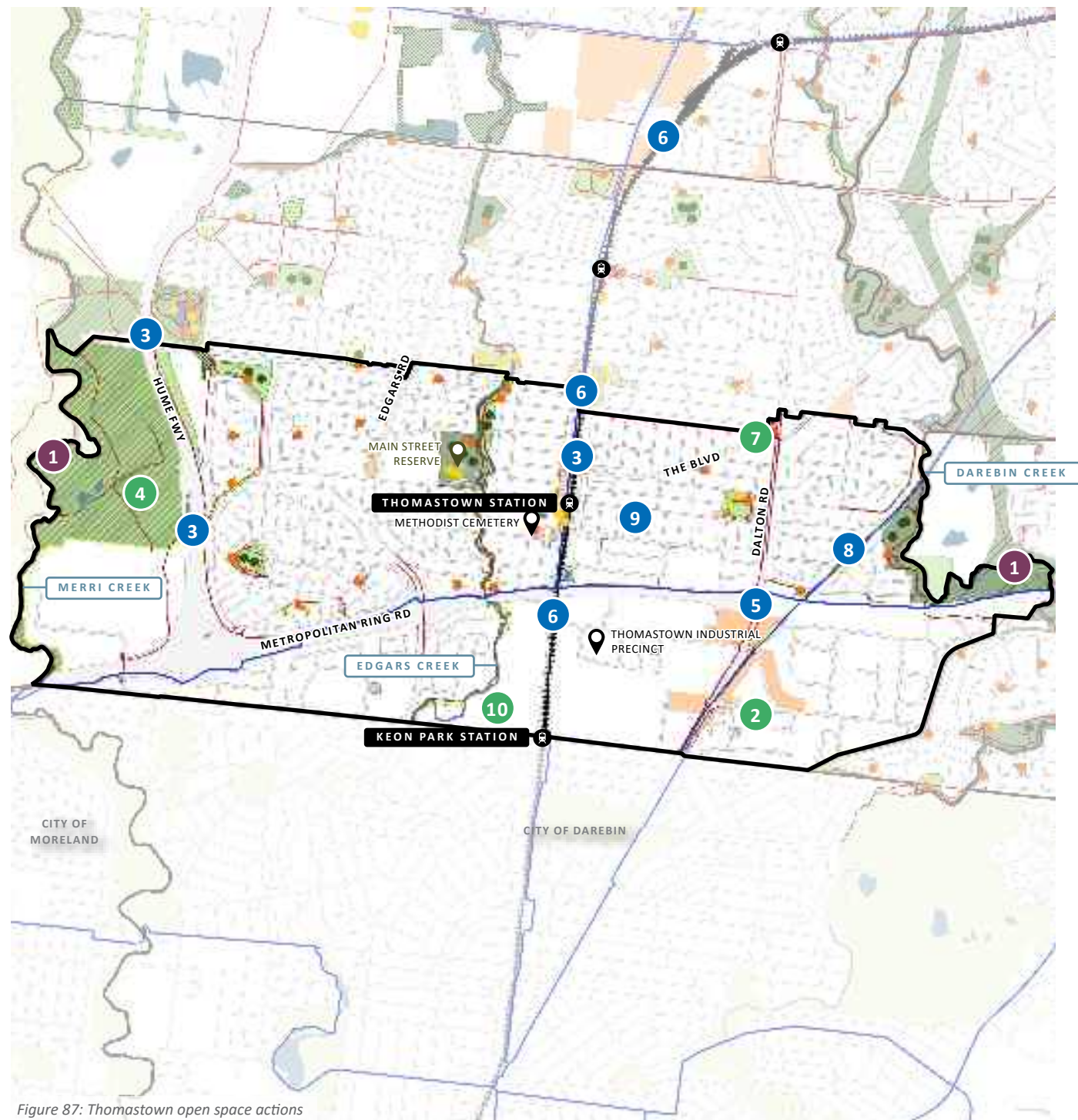
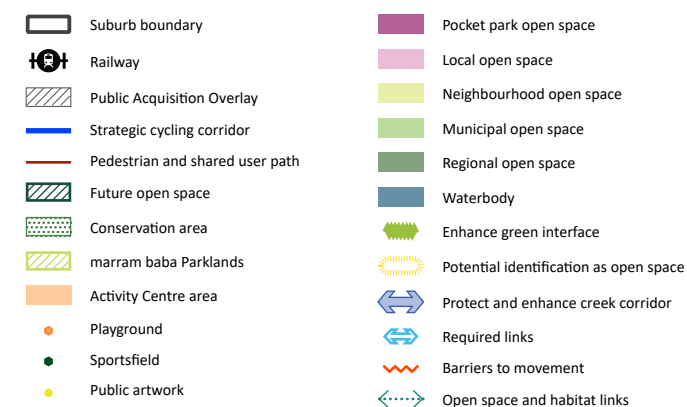
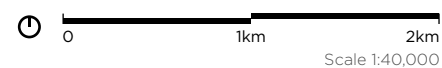


Figure 87: Thomastown open space actions

### Potential Open Space Network



## Thomastown Action Plan

### Opportunities

- The activity centre planning within Thomastown Industrial Precinct and its associated Plan offers an opportunity to focus some open space delivery in this area for workers.
- Methodist Cemetery already contributes to the open space network, but greater access outside of regular hours could be explored.
- Shared tenure/management agreements to activate open space within Methodist Cemetery and government schools to deliver public or semi-public open space.
- marram baba Parkland is identified as an area of major transformation and has the ability to support conservation objectives.
- Capital delivery works are in progress along The Boulevard connecting into Thomastown Station and the surrounding activity centre.
- There is existing council priorities around delivering connections between stations and into the wider shared user path and active travel network.
- Explore open space solutions that prioritise plaza and civic spaces to offer flexibility of programming and could support festivals or events.

### Issues

- Increasing issues around safety and lighting in the urban south of the municipality and a need for greater understanding of how lighting in public open space impacts dwell times and encourages activation.
- Reduced permeability within Thomastown Industrial Precinct from a more disparate road network, ultimately impacting accessibility throughout this area.
- Severance created by the Hume Freeway major road corridor, with one shared user path crossing, limiting accessibility from residential areas to the marram baba Merri Creek Parklands.
- Severance of Edgars Creek corridor by the Metropolitan Ring Road.
- The existing Public Acquisition Overlays in place for future road networks and other infrastructure may create significant barriers to movement and open space connectivity.
- Poor east-west connectivity across the suburb due to barriers such as creek corridors, major roads and a lack of public transport infrastructure.

### Actions

- Integrated public lighting, safety and CPTED strategy for open spaces, in particular along creek corridors.
- Prepare master plan for Thomastown Industrial Precinct to deliver public open space for workers.
- Support safe and legible crossings of the rail corridor and Hume Freeway, connecting open spaces and protecting the active transport network.
- Prepare master plan for marram baba Parkland and the Northern Trails shared user paths it supports. Integrate Parkland edges into existing and future adjacent land uses, prioritising open space delivery in close proximity to marram baba boundary to enhance and support the parkland. Ensure support of Merri Creek Management Committee in this delivery.
- Deliver shared user path along Dalton Road between Wood Street and Parklands Drive.
- Plan and investigate the proposed shared user path along the railway corridor connecting Keon Park Station to Thomastown Station, with infrastructure in place to support an extension onto Lalor Station and beyond to Epping Station. Explore opportunities along the corridor for adjacent open space provision within VicTrack land.
- Seek opportunities for open space provision along The Boulevard as part of the tranche of capital work projects happening in this area.
- Plan for the proposed shared user path and adjacent open space amenity for Yan Yean Pipe Track passing through the east of Thomastown and connecting into proposed shared user path along Dalton Road.
- Plan for the proposed shared user path, improved cycling infrastructure and adjacent open space amenity for Alexander Avenue, connecting Thomastown Station to Dalton Road.
- Deliver open space along creek corridor nearby the existing Thomastown Power Transmission Site and Keon Park Station.



# WHITTLESEA

## Overview

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.

As notable in the Urban Heat Island map, Whittlesea includes the forested area of Kinglake National Park, Toorourrong Reservoir Park and Mount Disappointment. The locality is host to the Whittlesea Showgrounds, one of the identified open spaces for large scale events and activation. It provides facilities and open grassland ideal for community events of all kinds.

Despite a density of tree canopy to the north, there are areas of Whittlesea that reach the hottest end of the Urban Heat Island scale (+14 degrees). The areas that are the hottest across the suburb coincide with the areas noted as a gap in walking catchment from existing public open space in the Pedestrian Catchment Gap Analysis mapping. Community living outside of the urban growth boundary generally live on larger properties and are more likely to drive to access open space.



Whittlesea Township (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Whittlesea Township Aerial View (Source: Nearmap).



A.F. Walker Recreation Reserve (Source: City of Whittlesea).



10,649ha  
suburb size



51%  
of total suburb  
area is open space



36%  
canopy  
coverage



5,697  
estimated 2026  
population  
(Whittlesea Township)



6,129  
projected 2036  
population  
(Whittlesea Township)

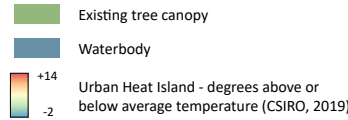


31.5m<sup>2</sup>  
of accessible  
public open space  
per person  
(based on estimated  
2026 population)

## Urban Heat Island Map



Figure 28: Whittlesea urban heat island

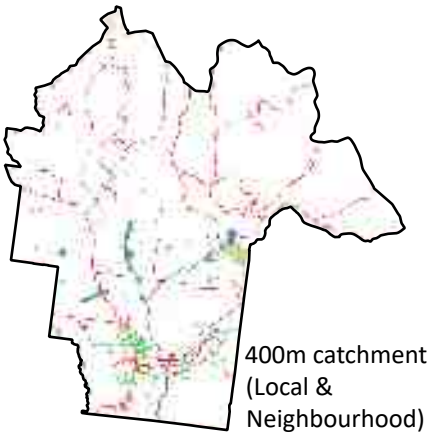
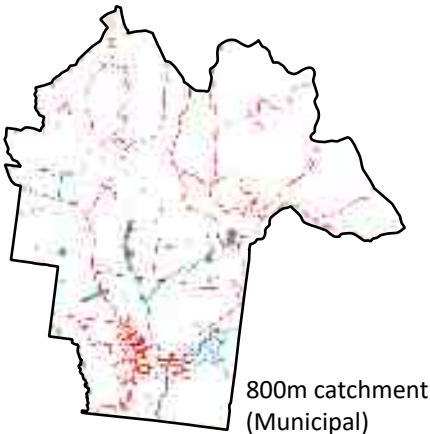
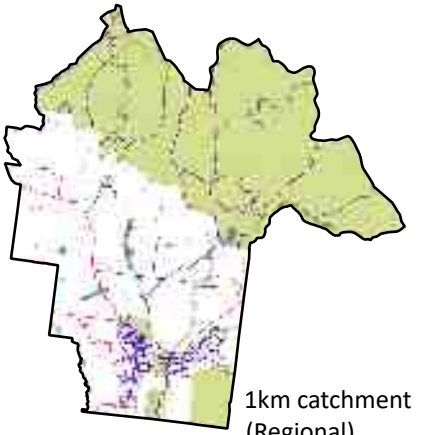


## Community Facilities

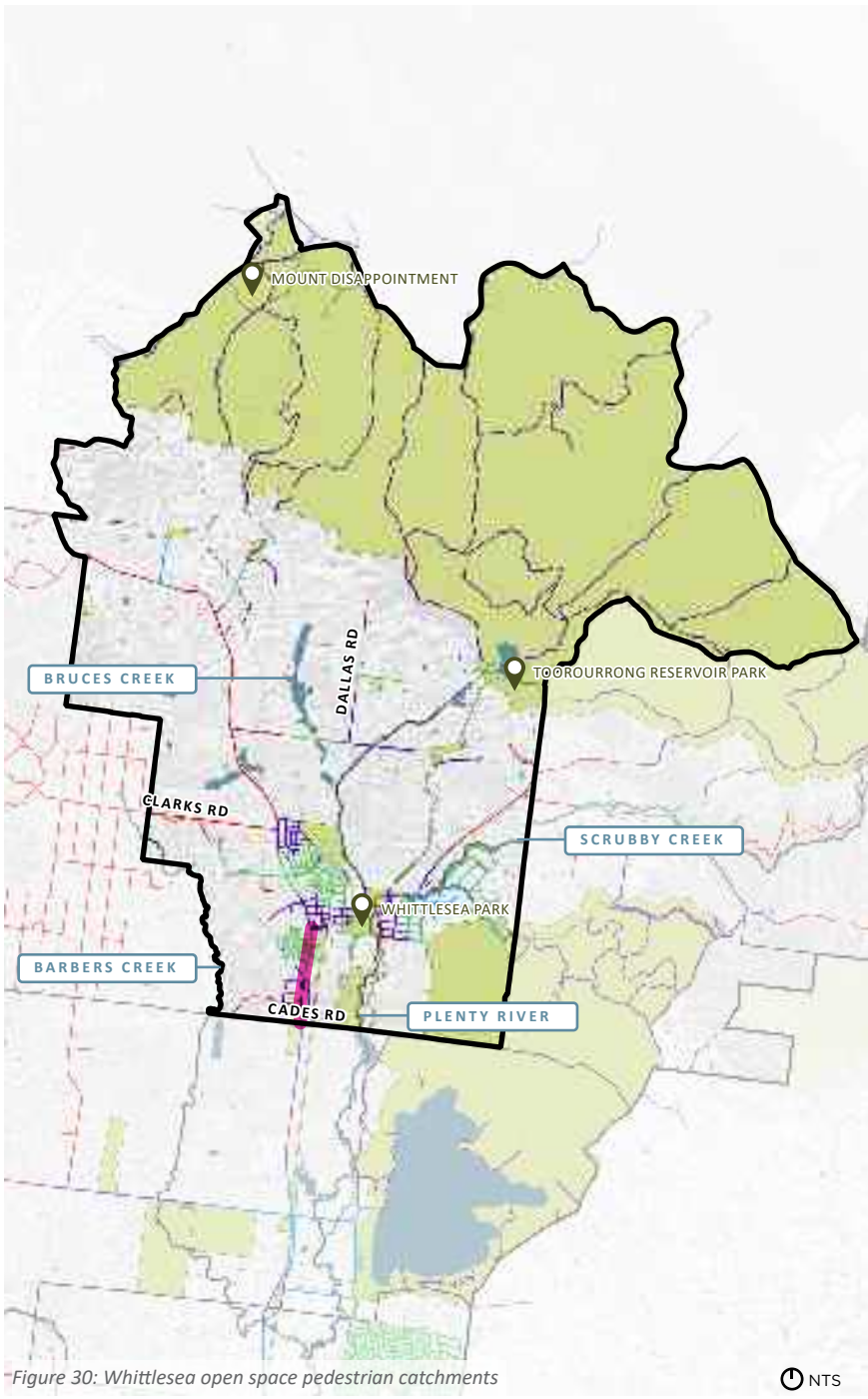


Figure 29: Whittlesea community facilities



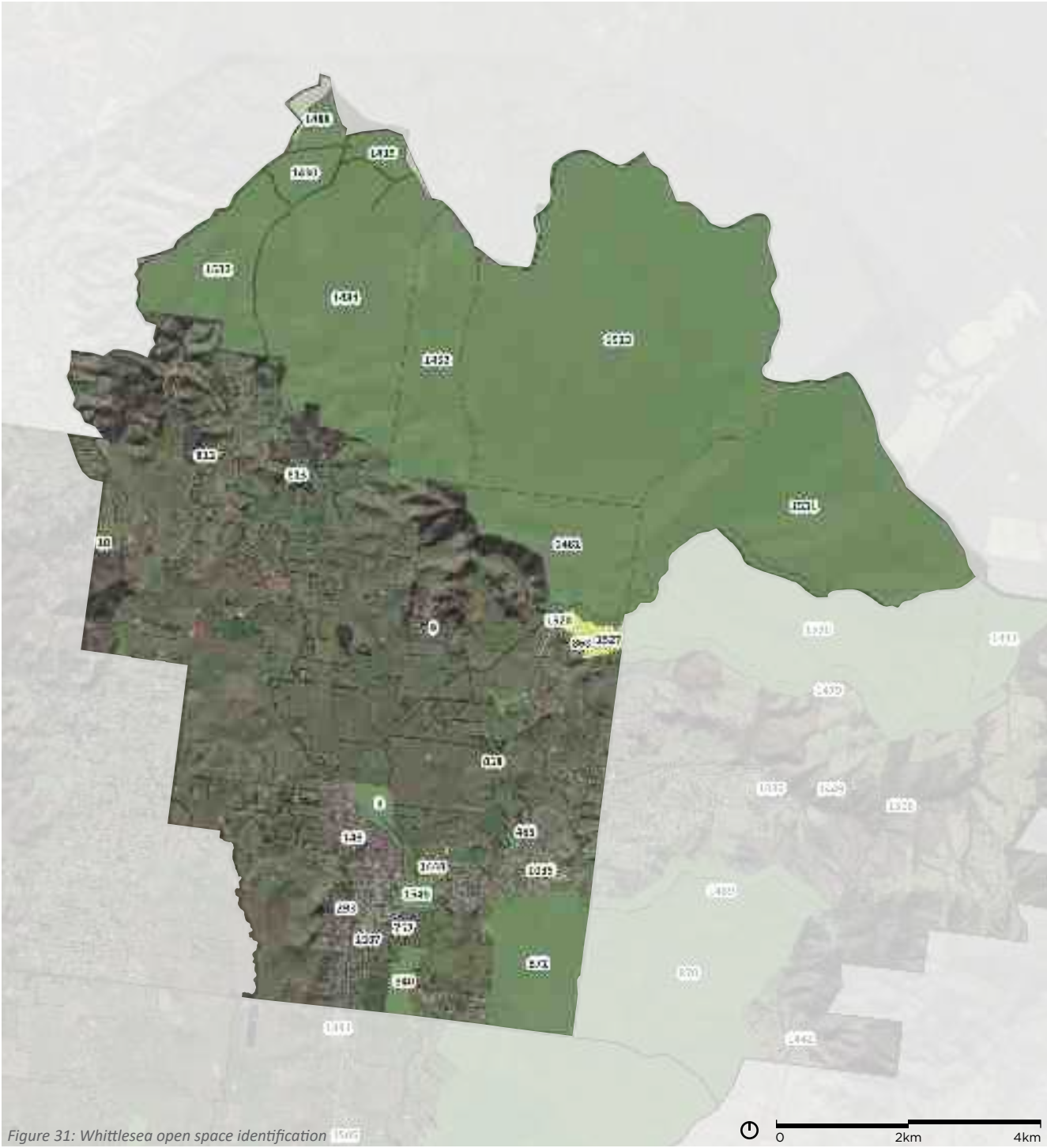


- Suburb boundary
- Railway
- Existing open space
- Waterbody
- Movement barrier
- 400m catchment from Local & Neighbourhood open space
- 800m catchment from Municipal open space
- 1km catchment from Regional open space
- Gap in open space pedestrian catchments



Whittlesea’s pedestrian catchment analysis shows gaps across the combined open space network, as a rural suburb with privately owned open space.

There is an opportunity to support and connect Whittlesea’s open space along the Plenty River and Bruces Creek corridors. This could contribute to conservation and the rewilding of adjacent farmland. The combined pedestrian gap analysis for Whittlesea shows that Whittlesea Township is well connected and serviced by open space, particularly for Regional, Local and Neighbourhood open space.



Whittlesea Open Space Listing (Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open spaces are labelled with their ObjectID)

|      |                                        |      |                 |
|------|----------------------------------------|------|-----------------|
| 3    | Bruces Creek Recreation Reserve        | 1452 | No name listed  |
| 9    | 30 St Georges Rd                       | 1481 | No name listed  |
| 10   | Towts Conservation Reserve             | 1484 | No name listed  |
| 148  | Black Flat Reserve                     | 1488 | No name listed  |
| 293  | Eagles Nest Park                       | 1507 | No name listed  |
| 485  | Scrubby Creek Reserve                  | 1513 | No name listed  |
| 757  | Whittlesea CAC (undeveloped)           | 1528 | No name listed  |
| 812  | Bruces Creek Road Conservation Reserve | 1531 | No name listed  |
| 813  | Capstone Conservation Reserve          | 1532 | No name listed  |
| 840  | 53-87 Cades Road Whittlesea 3757       | 1548 | Whittlesea Park |
| 858  | 225 Yea Road Whittlesea 3757           |      |                 |
| 872  | 40 Recreation Road Yan Yean 3755       |      |                 |
| 1035 | Quail Linear Park                      |      |                 |
| 1430 | Mt Disappointment                      |      |                 |
| 1435 | No name listed                         |      |                 |
| 1444 | Whittlesea Showgrounds                 |      |                 |

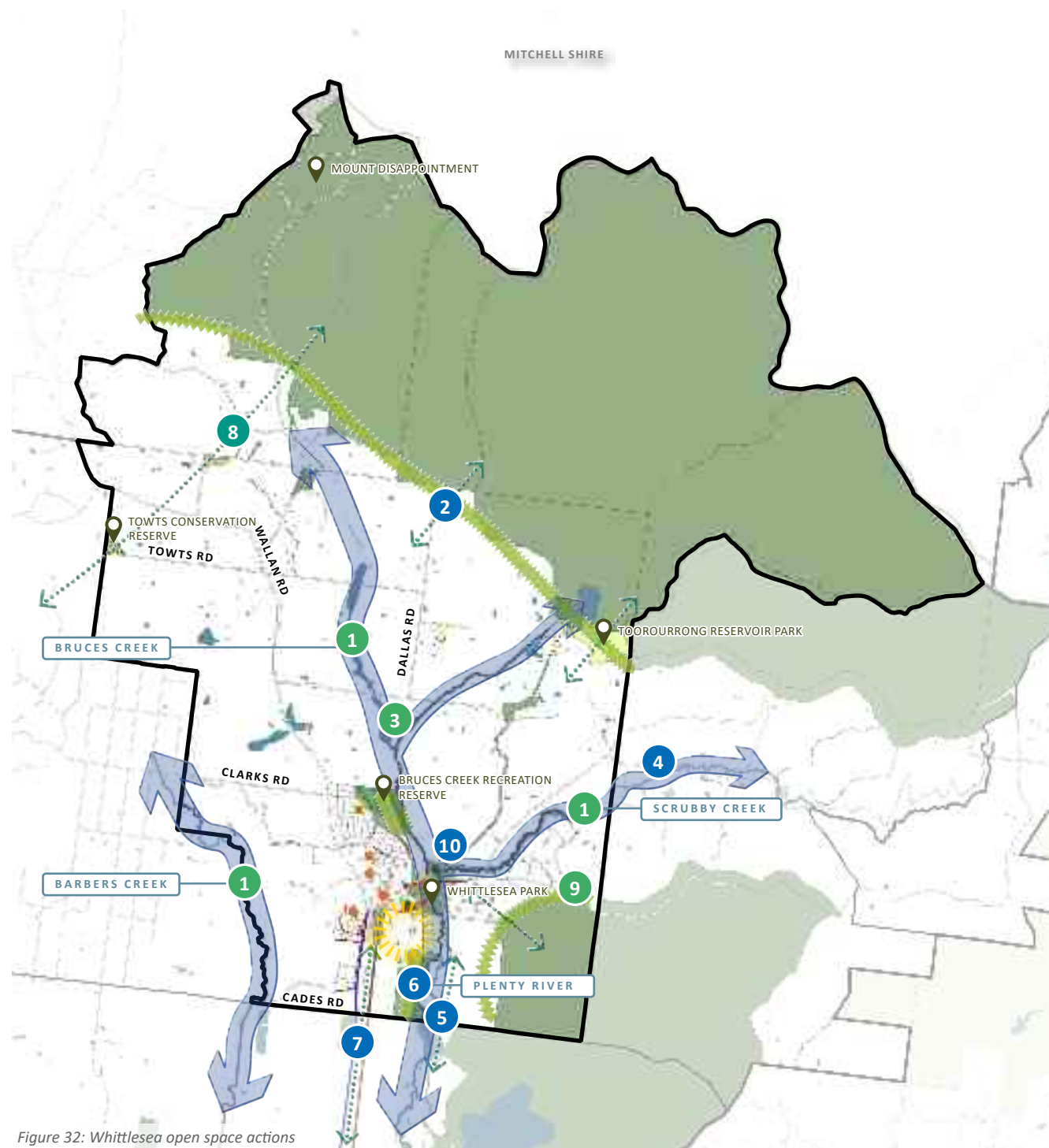
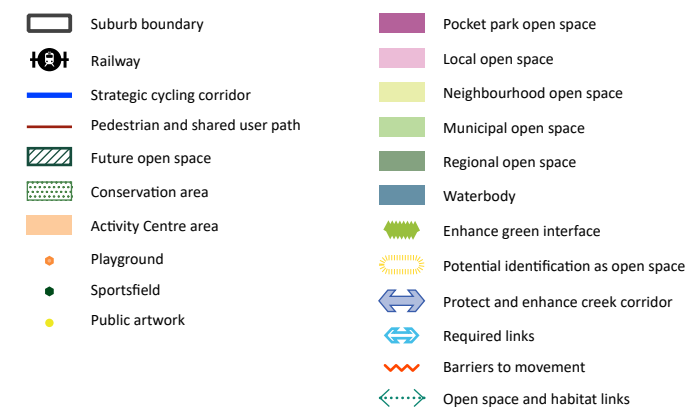
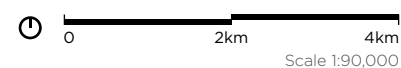


Figure 32: Whittlesea open space actions

### Potential Open Space Network



## Whittlesea Action Plan

### Opportunities

- Shared tenure/management agreements or temporary leases to activate open space within government schools to deliver public or semi-public open space.
- There is a major Regional park interface to the north of the suburb, with Mount Disappointment and Toorourrong Reservoir Park, access to which can be enhanced.
- The Bruces Creek corridor forms the central spine of the suburb and can form the anchoring framework for open space in Whittlesea, creating linear connections between open spaces and supporting the active transport network.
- There is an opportunity to better connect into neighbouring Humevale along the Scrubby Creek corridor.
- Explore open space solutions that prioritise plaza and civic spaces to offer flexibility of programming and could support festivals or events.

### Issues

- Whittlesea Township is isolated by the surrounding road network.
- Connections into Regional open space surrounding Mount Disappointment and Toorourrong Reservoir Park is limited.
- There is a gap in provision of bridge crossings of the Plenty River corridor, impeding open space network accessibility.
- Long distances to Regional open spaces with a high provision of facilities.

### Actions

- 1 Deliver linear open space along the Barbers Creek, Bruces Creek, Scrubby Creek and Plenty River corridor to support connections to amenities and the shared path and active transport network.
- 2 Engage Mount Disappointment and Toorourrong Reservoir Park open space edge with surrounding area.
- 3 The Barbers Creek, Bruces Creek, Scrubby Creek and Plenty River corridors should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors, supporting riparian corridor protections and enhancement.
- 4 Explore opportunities to connect Whittlesea Township into surrounding linear corridors and shared path and active travel networks.
- 5 Support the existing and evolving Northern Regional Trails network to the south of the suburb area along Plenty Road and Plenty River. Prioritising protected and legible crossings, enhanced Strategic Cycling Corridors and safe shared user paths.
- 6 Provide safe and legible crossings of the Plenty River corridor to increase access across the open space network.
- 7 Progress planning and investigations for the proposed Whittlesea Shared Trail connecting Mernda Station to Whittlesea Township.
- 8 Support habitat connection between Eden Park Hills and Mount Disappointment and deliver public open space within this corridor where possible.
- 9 Elevate Whittlesea Park to Regional Park Status and implement Masterplan actions.
- 10 Continue support of Whittlesea Showgrounds and Recreation Reserves Committee of Management.

# Growth North

Victoria’s Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines underpin planning for metropolitan urban growth areas. They provide a framework for precinct structure plans, which are prepared in consultation with the City of Whittlesea.

The Public Open Space Plan guides the future design and management of open space in our growth areas. It also guides the provision of open space where it has not been confirmed by the precinct structure plans.

This process has helped Council to achieve a high standard of design and to preserve drystone walls and river red gums.

Suburbs included in the Growth North area are:

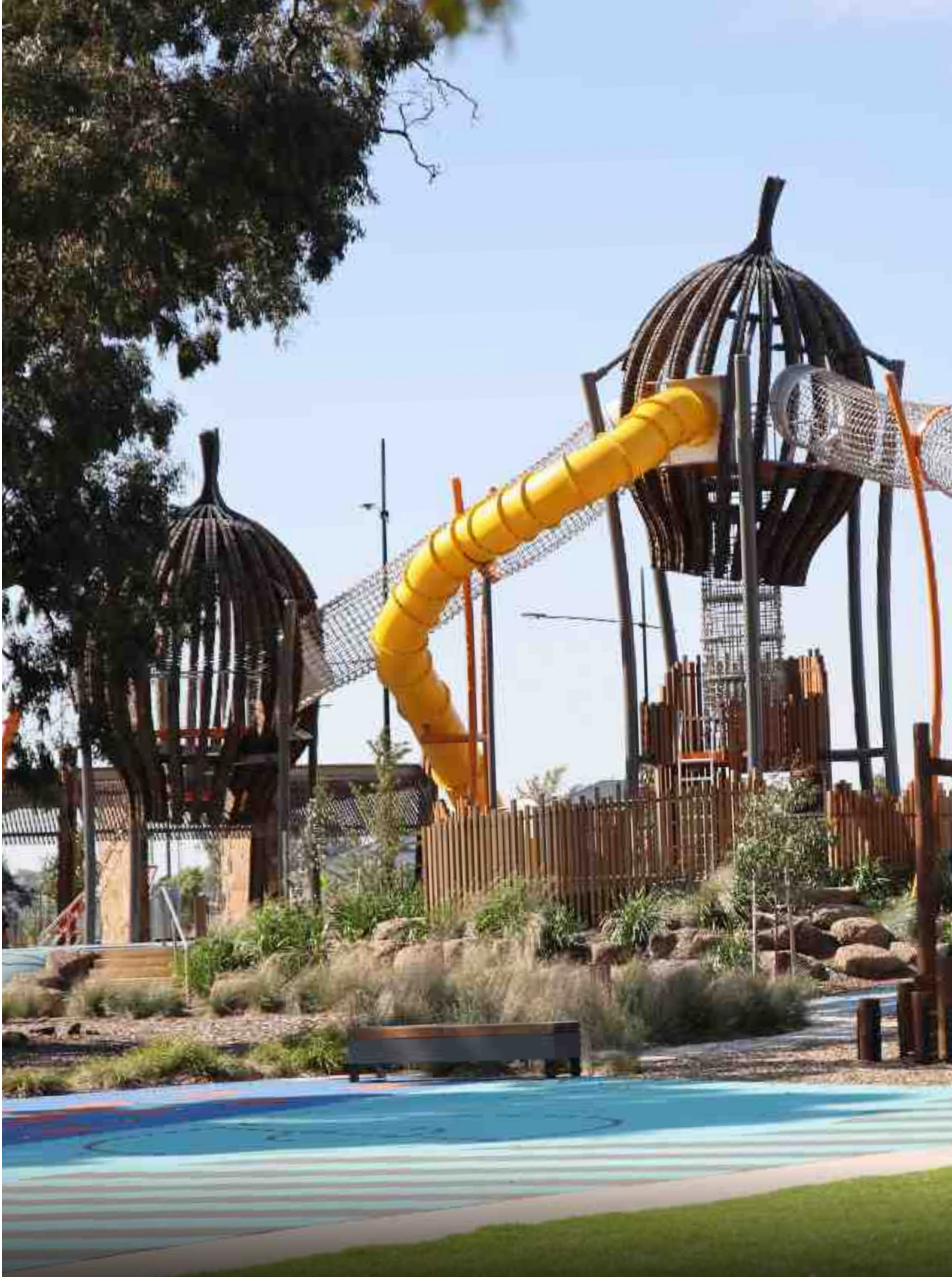
- Beveridge (shared with Shire of Mitchell)
- Donnybrook
- Wollert
- Woodstock



## Precinct Structure Plans in the Growth North

Public open space is planned for in the Growth North through Precinct Structure Plans (PSP). PSP’s are long-term plans for urban development. They describe how the land is expected to be developed and how and where services and infrastructure are planned to support the development of new communities.

PSP’s can be prepared for any development area, including within established suburbs but are predominately used in the City of Whittlesea in the Growth North. Planning at a precinct scale will ensure that essential services and facilities can be delivered holistically and in line with development and community needs, and that essential infrastructure delivery is coordinated with development such as local parks, roads, and drainage assets.





# BEVERIDGE

## Overview

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.

The Merri Creek corridor cuts through the suburb’s centre and there is a noticeable distinction between the west side of the creek and the east side of the creek. The west side of the creek has an absence of open space and little to no canopy coverage. The east side has a scattering of small water bodies and two conservation reserves. The Wallan Wallan regional park, which will extend from the south to the north of the precinct along the Merri Creek, is proposed as future public open space. As per the Woodstock Precinct Structure Plan, it is identified as a conservation area. The rural nature of Beveridge results in some extensive walking catchment gaps and limited accessibility along the road networks on the eastern side of the suburb. Community living outside of the urban growth boundary generally live on larger properties and are more likely to drive to access open space.

*Beveridge’s population stats are considered as part of the greater rural north population, combining Beveridge, Donnybrook, Eden Park, Humevale, Kinglake West, Woodstock and Yan Yean.*



**3,829ha**  
suburb size



**1.5%**  
of total suburb  
area is open space



**12%**  
canopy  
coverage



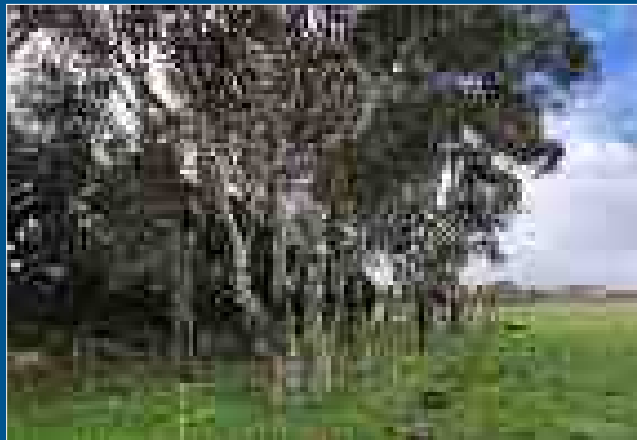
**3,120**  
estimated 2026  
population



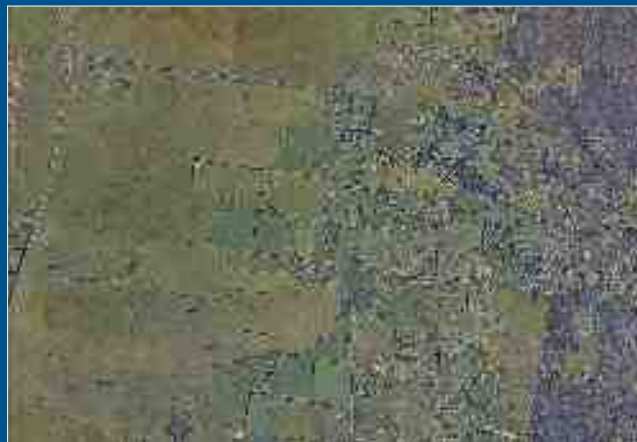
**3,111**  
projected 2036  
population



*Beveridge open space (Source: Ecology & Heritage Partners).*



*Beveridge open space (Source: Ecology & Heritage Partners).*



*Beveridge Aerial View (Source: Nearmap).*

## Precinct Structure Plans

The Victoria Planning Authority and Department Transport and Planning are currently in the early stages of Precinct Structure Planning for the Northern Freight Precinct and Beveridge North East and information is not available at this time.

## Urban Heat Island Map

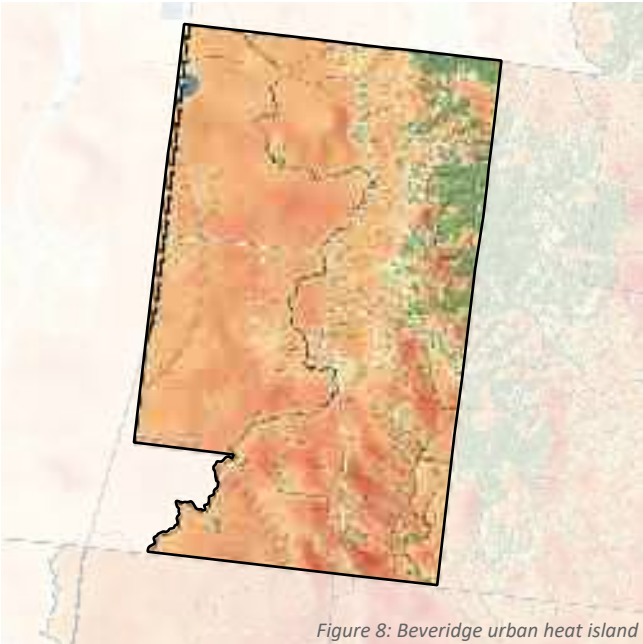


*Figure 8: Beveridge urban heat island*

- Existing tree canopy
- Waterbody
- +14  
-2  
Urban Heat Island - degrees above or below average temperature (CSIRO, 2019)

## Community Facilities



*Figure 9: Beveridge community facilities*

- Public Acquisition Overlay
- Heritage Overlay
- Existing City of Whittlesea open space
- Waterbody
- Future open space
- marram baba Parklands

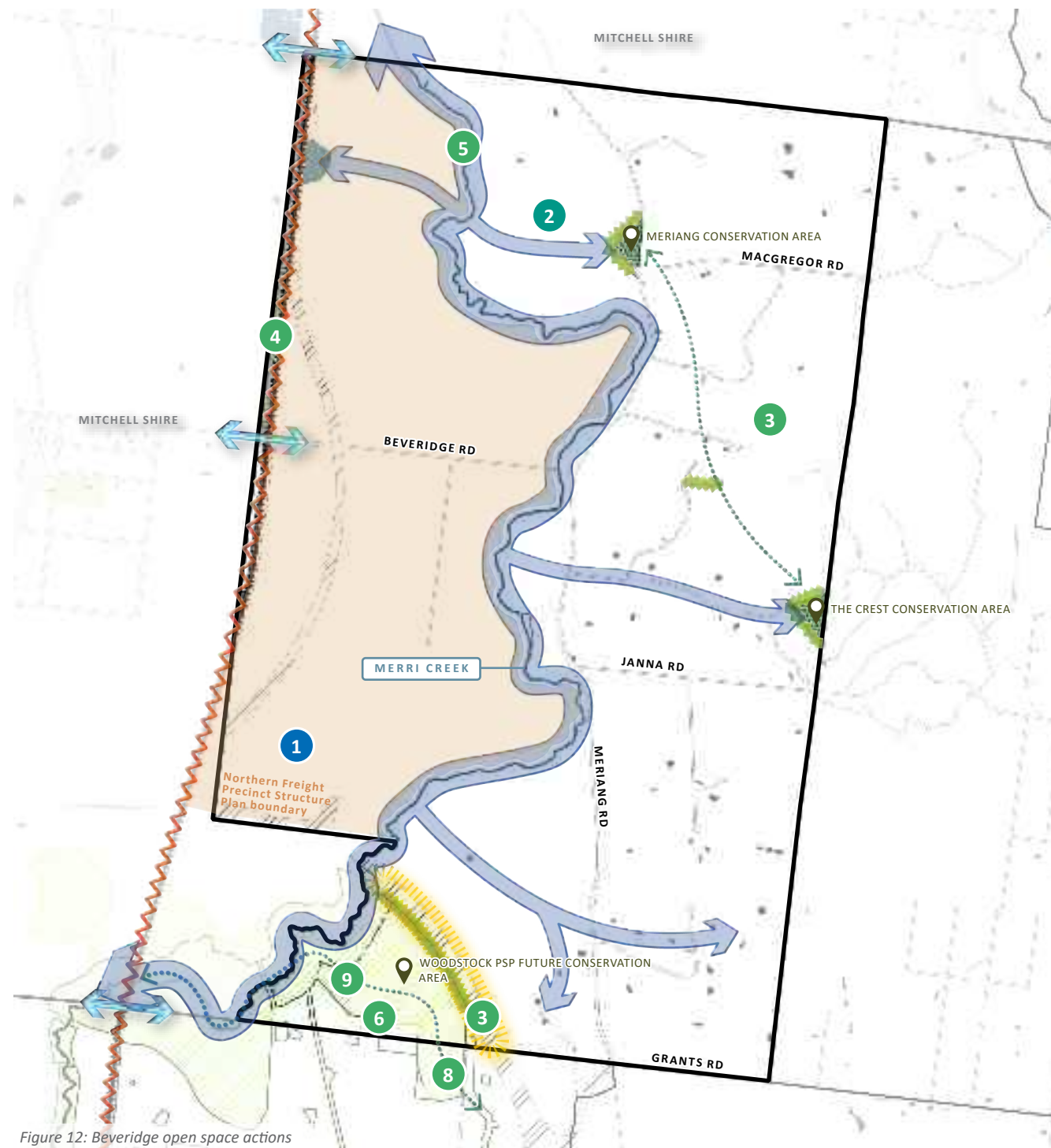


Figure 12: Beveridge open space actions

### Potential Open Space Network



## Beveridge Action Plan

### Opportunities

- Supporting conservation areas through re-vegetation of riparian Merri Creek corridor.
- Scattering of small waterbodies could support biodiversity networks.
- Existing conservation areas can be strengthened by connections to Merri Creek corridor through the procurement of adjacent land, offering useable unencumbered open space.
- Explore open space delivery along railway corridor linear open space to Beveridge's west, including land currently owned or under the easement of Yarra Valley Water.
- Support open space accessibility for neighbouring residents of Mitchell Shire.
- Advocacy for public ownership of Merri Creek, marram baba Parklands and environs. Ongoing advocacy for additional public open space adjoining the corridor.
- Shared tenure/management opportunities with private land owners or activate open space within existing Public Acquisition Overlays, to deliver public or semi-public open space to the community.
- The Beveridge Precinct Structure Plan provides opportunities for increased open space with new subdivisions.

### Issues

- The existing Public Acquisition Overlays cuts paths for potential road reserves causing severance in ecological corridors, particularly along the Merri Creek.
- Impact of future Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal on the landscape across Beveridge.
- The existing Public Acquisition Overlays in place for future road networks and other infrastructure may create significant barriers to movement and open space connectivity.

### Actions

- Integrate a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment for the future Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal, understanding the impacts of its interfaces with existing and future open space.
- Public open space delivery within the Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal precinct, for workers and the general public. This includes the delivery of conservation areas, particularly around water bodies within and adjacent to the project area. Embed sentinel planting into this open space delivery.
- The Merri Creek corridor and marram baba Parklands should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors, supporting riparian corridor protection and enhancement. Ensure support of Merri Creek Management Committee in this delivery.
- Extend linear open space corridor along railway corridor.
- Deliver linear open space along the Merri Creek corridor within marram baba Parklands to support connections to amenities and the shared path and active transport network. Ensure support of Merri Creek Management Committee in this delivery.
- Support and enhance the marram baba Parklands area by prioritising open space delivery in close proximity to the marram baba boundary.
- Undertake feasibility study for future shared trail network to guide future planning and connections across existing and future subdivisions.
- Support east-west connection from Merri Creek towards Darebin Creek.
- Deliver open space as part of marram baba Parklands and the Wallan Wallan Regional Park.



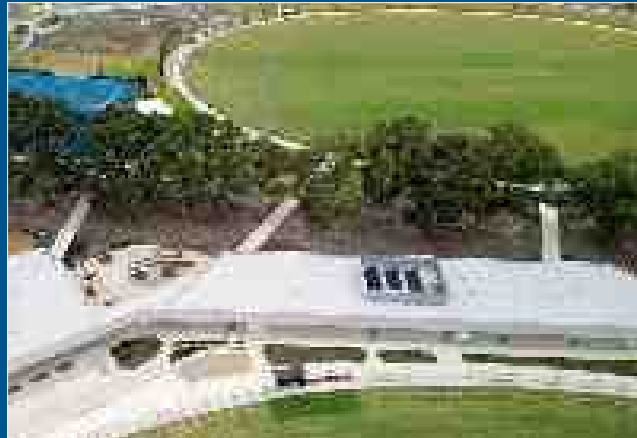
## DONNYBROOK

### Overview

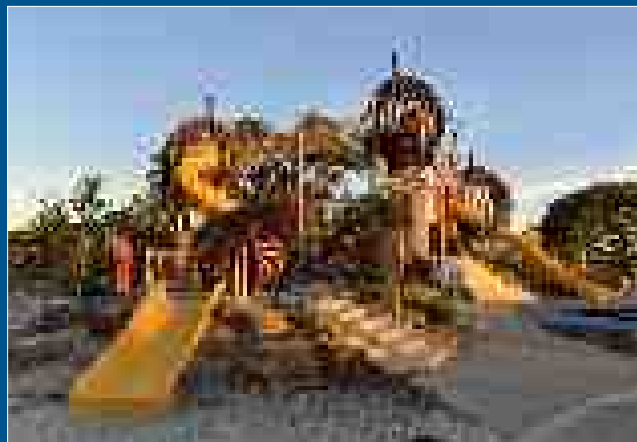
Donnybrook is a designated urban growth area with major housing, transport and industrial projects currently under construction and in the pipeline. As a semi-rural suburb, Donnybrook is rapidly transitioning from pastoral land to a vibrant community that is expected to experience significant population growth over the coming years. The open space network is anchored by the Olivine Active Open Space with sporting ovals and community pavilion.

Gumnut Park and Adventure Playground is a destination playground that is made up of giant gumnut structures, wetland areas, playground equipment, flying foxes, skate ramp and a cafe. The suburb is bordered by significant conservation zones throughout the Merri Creek interface. This includes John Laffan Reserve at the intersection of Merri and Kalkallo Creeks, with riparian habitats and passive recreation.

The heritage site at Donnybrook Mineral Springs is protected within this green network. Open space supports the expanding Murnong Community Centre, offering kindergarten rooms, maternal health services, library lounge and hall. Murnong Community Centre will open its doors in early 2026.



Olivine Recreation Reserve (Source: City of Whittlesea).



Gumnut Park (Source: Melbourne Playgrounds).



Donnybrook Aerial View (Source: Nearmap).



**2,454ha**  
suburb size



**2%**  
of total suburb  
area is open space



**2%**  
canopy  
coverage



**11,298**  
estimated 2026  
population



**36,547**  
projected 2036  
population



**18.8m<sup>2</sup>**  
of accessible  
public open space  
per person  
(based on estimated  
2026 population)

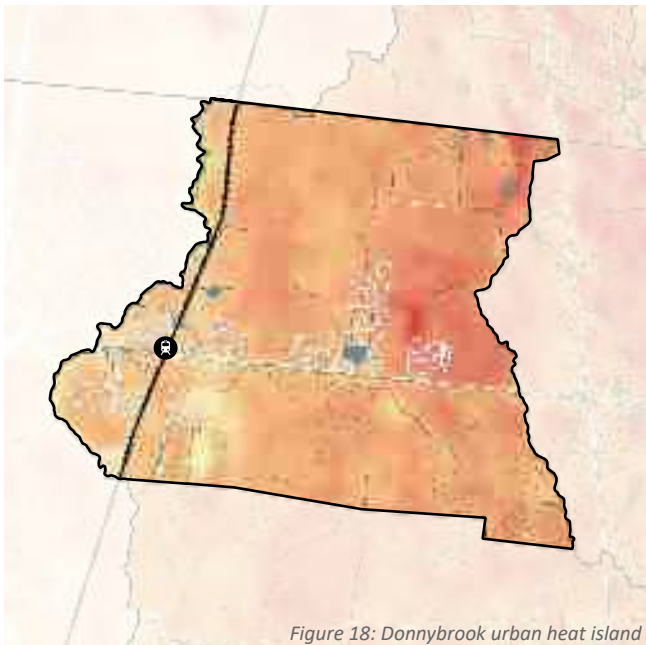
### Precinct Structure Plans

The Lockerbie PSP spans across the the City of Whittlesea, City of Hume and Shire of Mitchell. The PSP covers a total land area of approximately 1122 hectares. The PSP allocates approximately 57 hectares of land for passive and active open space, which will be distributed across 18 spaces. An additional 219 hectares is set aside for other types of open space, such as conservation reserves and utility easements, which can support informal recreation activities. The precinct also includes plans for a Principal Town Centre, two local town centres and another three local convenience centres.

The Lockerbie North PSP spans across the the City of Whittlesea, City of Hume and Shire of Mitchell. The PSP covers a total land area of approximately 515 hectares. The PSP allocates approximately 27 hectares for passive and active open space, which will be distributed across 10 spaces. An additional 43 hectares is set aside for other types of open space, such as conservation reserves and utility easements, which can support informal recreation activities. The precinct also includes plans for two local town centres.

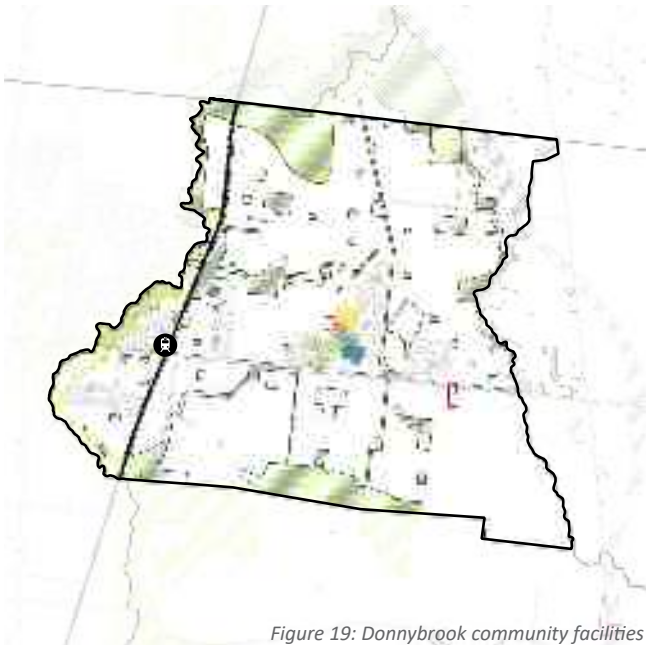
The English Street PSP covers a total land area of approximately 143 hectares. The PSP allocates approximately 3 hectares of land for local parks, which will be distributed across 5 spaces, and also identifies one sports reserve totalling over 7 hectares. An additional 41 hectares is set aside for other types of open space, such as conservation reserves and utility easements, which can support informal recreation activities. The precinct also includes plans for a local convenience centre situated within a broader commercial precinct.

### Urban Heat Island Map



Existing tree canopy  
Waterbody  
Urban Heat Island - degrees above or below average temperature (CSIRO, 2019)

### Community Facilities



Railway  
Tram route  
Bus route  
Public Acquisition Overlay  
Heritage Overlay  
Existing City of Whittlesea open space  
Waterbody  
Future open space  
marram baba Parklands  
School  
Childcare facility  
Community sports facility

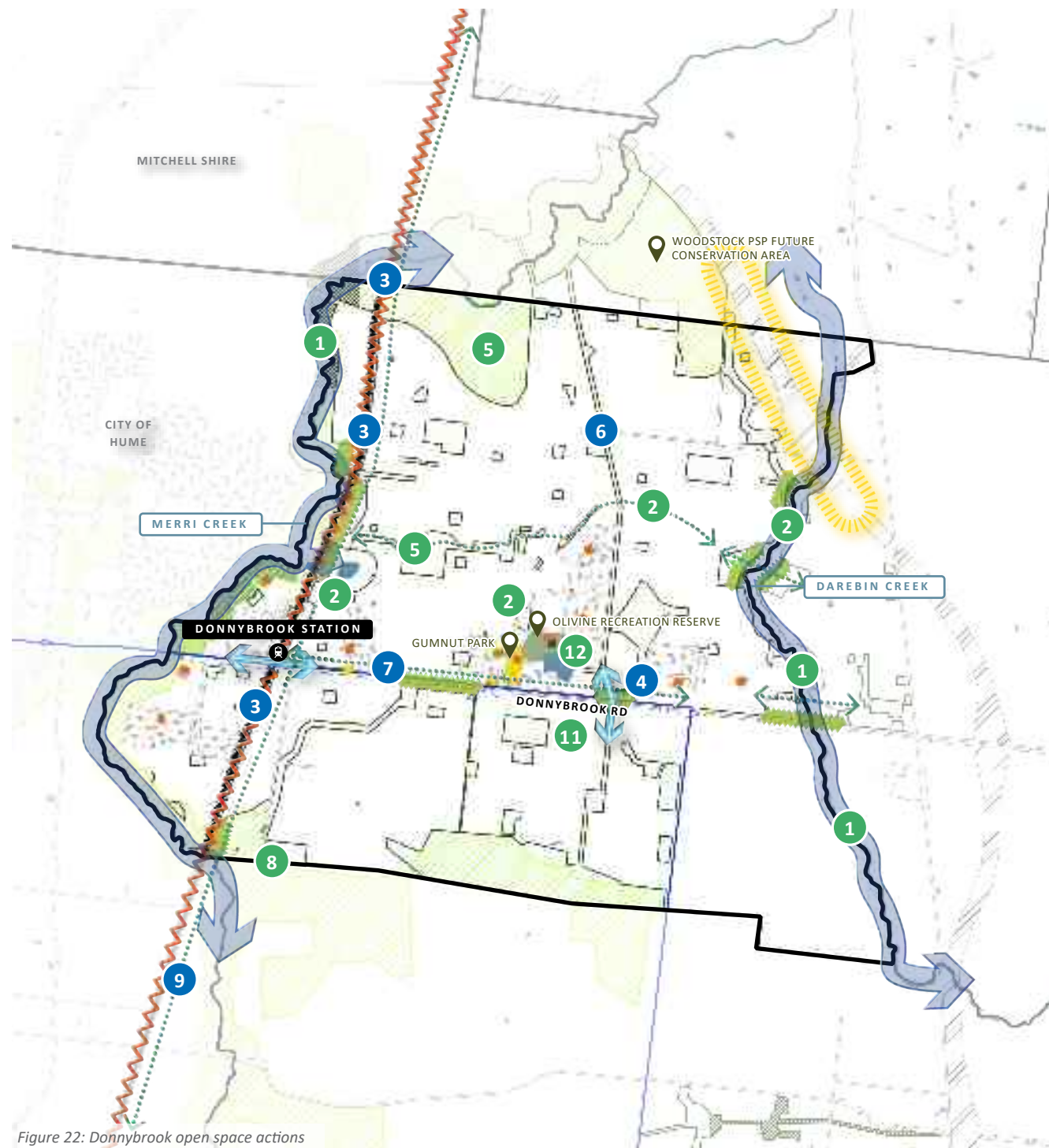
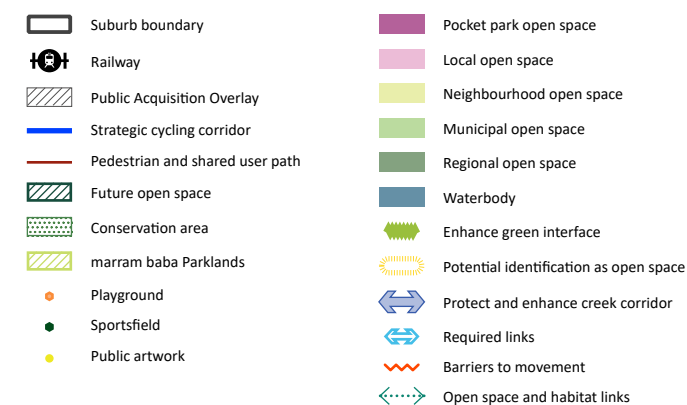


Figure 22: Donnybrook open space actions

#### Potential Open Space Network



## Donnybrook Action Plan

### Opportunities

- The provision of new open spaces within the Donnybrook-Woodstock Precinct Structure Plan provides the opportunity to deliver significant conservation outcomes and pro-actively connect the open space network, alongside the delivery of Local and Neighbourhood open spaces. There are opportunities to achieve this by enhancing open space adjacent to the Merri and Darebin Creek corridors.
- There is swathe of future open space planned across Donnybrook, with many connecting linear corridors, supporting movement between open spaces.
- Donnybrook has a unique suburb boundary bordered by two of the municipality's major creek corridors, there is the opportunity for an integrated approach to open space and waterways throughout the suburb.
- Shared tenure/management agreements or temporary leases to activate open space within existing Public Acquisition Overlays or government schools to deliver public or semi-public open space.
- marram baba Parkland is identified as an area of major transformation and has the ability to support conservation objectives.
- Explore open space solutions that prioritise plaza and civic spaces to offer flexibility of programming and could support festivals or events.
- Future open space identified adjacent to the Public Acquisition overlay can deliver a linear open space along the future highway offering a green link for this transport project.

### Issues

- Greater demand for public open space in growth areas such as Donnybrook, as new housing typologies and lot sizes provide less private open space.
- Future open spaces outlined in the Precinct Structure Plans can become outdated quickly as communities grow and demands change.
- Urban growth is concentrated towards Donnybrook Road and the road network is limited.
- The rapid change experienced in the growth area will significantly and rapidly impact demand on open spaces.
- The existing Public Acquisition Overlays in place for future road networks and other infrastructure may create significant barriers to movement and open space connectivity.
- There is a lack of a town centre to accommodate the growing community of this developing suburb.
- The Public Acquisition Overlay that forms the road corridor for the future highway will be built to support the Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal.

### Actions

- The Merri Creek, marram baba Parklands and Darebin Creek corridor should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors, supporting riparian corridor protection and enhancement. Ensure support of Merri Creek Management Committee in this delivery.
- Deliver linear open space along the Merri Creek and Darebin Creek corridors to support connections to amenities and the shared path and active transport network. Seek an east-west connection to link the two creek corridors.
- Provide safe and legible rail corridor crossings and reduce severance of open space and conservation areas.
- Support connections south of Donnybrook Road and provide safe and legible crossings, including for local fauna, where future open space continues across the road corridor.
- Ongoing action plan for future open space provision within the Precinct Structure Plans, allow for flexibility and shifting open space demands. Advocate for the staging of developer delivered public open space.
- Linear future open space connects into the active transport and shared user path network.
- Advocate for upgrades to shared user path and Strategic Cycling Corridor along the northern side of Donnybrook Road, between the railway corridor and Hillview Drive.
- Prepare a master plan for marram baba Parkland in conjunction with the Northern Trails shared user paths. Integrate Parkland edges with adjacent land uses and prioritise open space delivery along marram baba boundary to support the parkland.
- Explore opportunities to provide shared user path and active travel links running parallel with rail corridor.
- Prepare master plan for the development of Shenstone Park Sporting Precinct including sporting infrastructure and pavilion.



# WOLLERT

## Overview

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.

The evolving state of Wollert produces a mix of new suburb parks, natural corridors and some planned future open space. Lyndarum North Community Park and Bellavista Park feature modern playgrounds, picnic areas and basketball facilities. Natural wetland areas like Pine Park Wetland support habitat zones and are integrated with walking paths. Smaller Neighbourhood parks such as Thyme Park or Treetops Park provide convenient green pockets through new developments.

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.

The Wollert Precinct Structure Plan ensures an integrated network of parks, conservation reserves, sports grounds, red-gum preservation areas and creek buffers.



Craigieburn Grassland Conservation Reserve (Source: Grassy Plains Network).



Craigieburn Recreation Reserve, Wollert.



Wollert Aerial View (Source: Nearmap).



5,435ha  
suburb size



12%  
of total suburb  
area is open space



3%  
canopy  
coverage



32,739  
estimated 2026  
population



53,272  
projected 2036  
population



33.9m<sup>2</sup>  
of accessible  
public open space  
per person  
(based on estimated  
2026 population)

## Precinct Structure Plans

The Wollert PSP covers a total land area of approximately 1434 hectares. The PSP allocates nearly 43 hectares of land for local parks, which will be distributed across 33 spaces, and also identifies six sports reserves totalling 50 hectares. An additional 237 hectares is set aside for other types of open space, such as conservation reserves and utility easements, which can support informal recreation activities. The precinct also includes plans for three local town centres and two additional local convenience centres.

Shenstone Park Precinct falls within the suburb area of Wollert. The Shenstone Park PSP covers a total land area of approximately 628 hectares. The PSP allocates nearly 15 hectares of land for local parks, which will be distributed across 9 spaces, and also identifies one sports reserve totalling 8 hectares. An additional 131 hectares is set aside for other types of open space, such as conservation reserves and utility easements, which can support informal recreation activities. The precinct also includes plans for one local town centre and one local convenience centre.

## Urban Heat Island Map

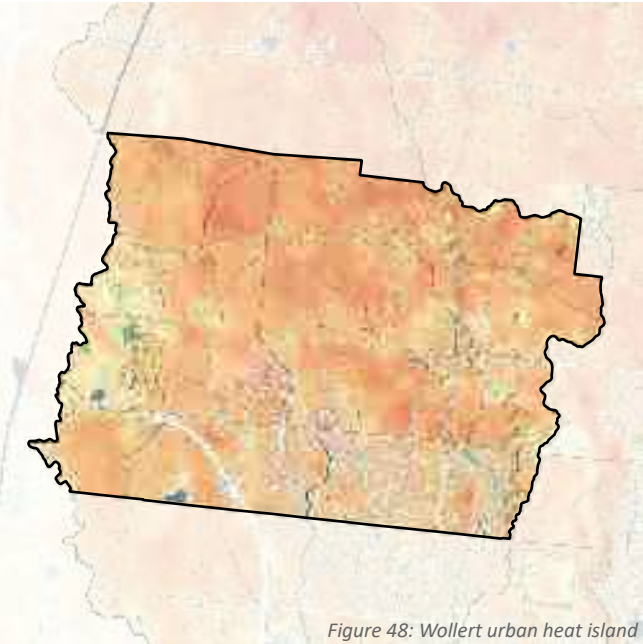
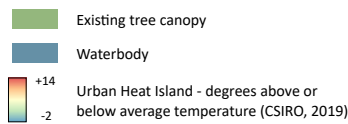


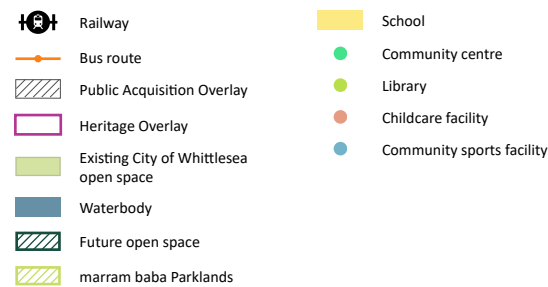
Figure 48: Wollert urban heat island



## Community Facilities



Figure 49: Wollert community facilities



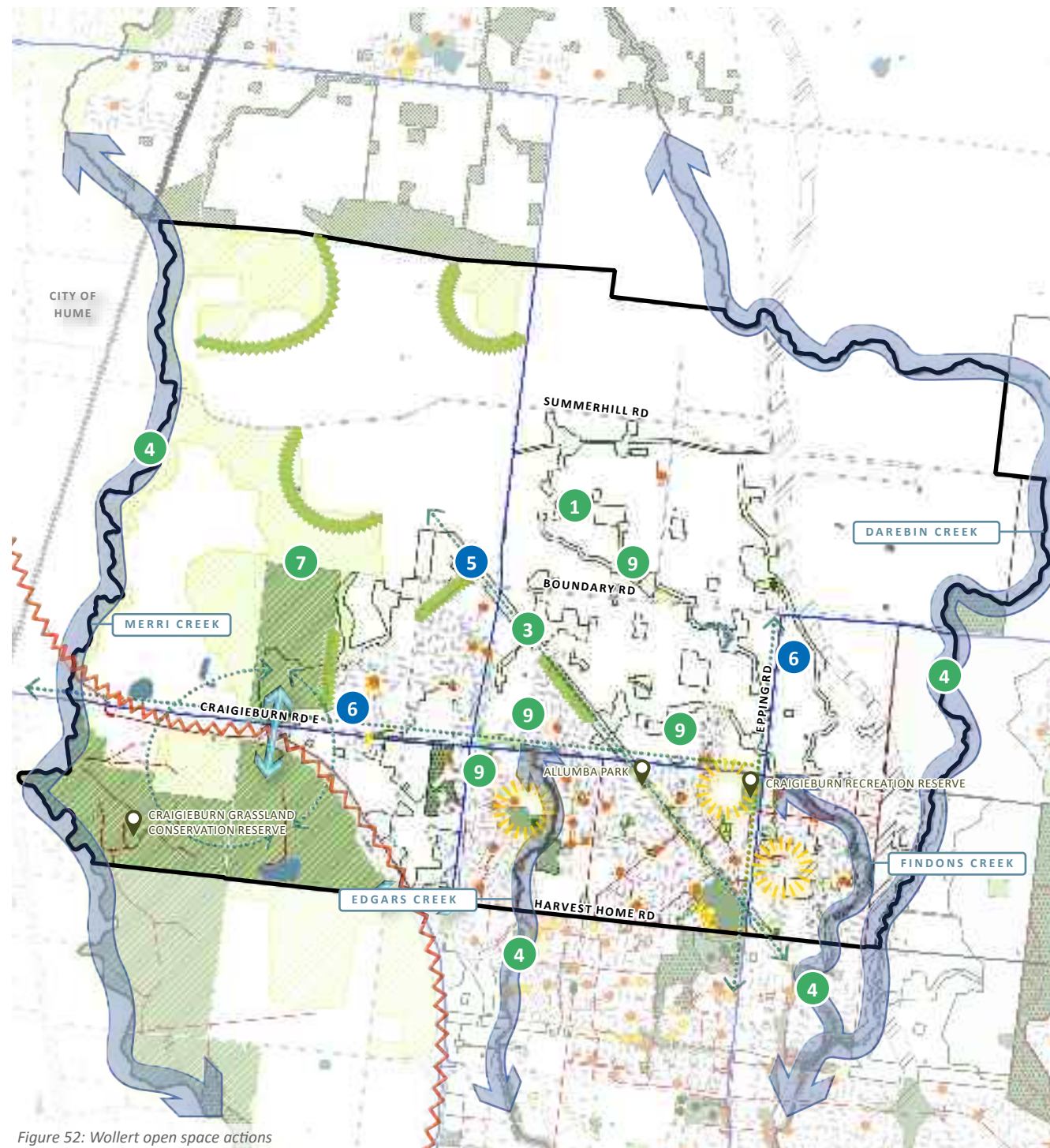
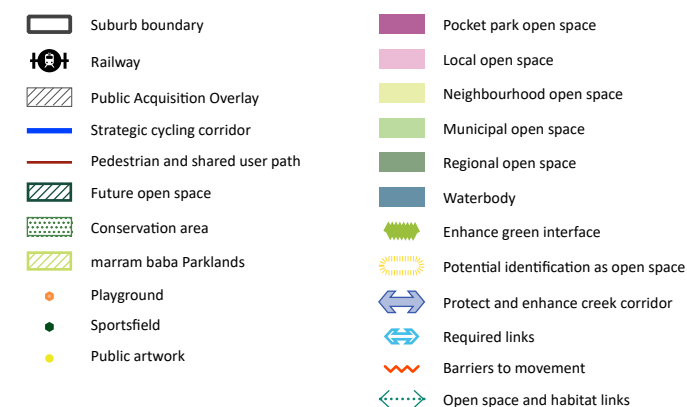


Figure 52: Wollert open space actions

#### Potential Open Space Network



## Wollert Action Plan

### Opportunities

- The prevalence of significant creek corridors across the southern half of Wollert (Merri, Edgars, Findons and Darebin Creek) is unique and is an opportunity to seek out linear connections and support biodiversity.
- Both active and passive recreation can be delivered by open space associated with local government schools.
- Wollert as a growth area open space provision has an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the greater open space network and conservation corridors, not only delivering formal Local and Neighbourhood open spaces.
- Shared tenure/management agreements or temporary leases to activate open space within existing Public Acquisition Overlays, government schools or powerline easements to deliver public or semi-public open space.
- marram baba Parkland is identified as an area of major transformation and has the ability to support conservation objectives.
- Explore open space solutions that prioritise plaza and civic spaces to offer flexibility of programming and could support festivals or events.
- The Wollert community is seeking open space infrastructure that can support a diversity of events.
- Precinct Structure Plan provides opportunities for increased open space with new subdivisions.

### Issues

- Greater demand for public open space in growth areas such as Wollert, as the housing typologies that are being built are delivering less private open space.
- Future open space outlined by the Precinct Structure Plans can become outdated quickly as communities grow and demands change.
- There are sensitivities surrounding open spaces within powerline easements, such as Allumba Park - active recreation is limited through these land uses.
- As a growth area, increasing populations in Wollert will shift demographics and demand significantly in the immediate future.
- A proposed Wollert rail corridor will require a Public Acquisition Overlay in the near future.
- The existing Public Acquisition Overlays in place for future road networks and other infrastructure may create significant barriers to movement and open space connectivity.

### Actions

- Ongoing action plan for future open space provision within the Precinct Structure Plans, allow for flexibility and shifting open space demands. Advocate for the staging of developer delivered public open space.
- Prepare a master plan for existing and future multi-use open spaces, prioritising co-location of community facilities.
- Planned linear open space corridors enhance connections between existing and future open spaces and contribute to the active transport network.
- The Merri, Edgars, Findons and Darebin creek corridors and marram baba Parklands should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors and support riparian corridor protections and enhancement. Ensure support of Merri Creek Management Committee in this delivery.
- Connect Strategic Cycling Corridor through linear proposed open space between Allumba Park and Boundary Road.
- Advocate for upgrades to shared user paths and Strategic Cycling Corridors along Epping Road and Craigieburn Road E.
- Prepare a master plan for marram baba Parkland and the Northern Trails shared user paths it supports. Integrate Parkland edges into existing and future adjacent land uses, prioritising open space delivery in close proximity to marram baba boundary to enhance and support the parkland.
- Develop open space or make upgrades to existing open space that can support major community events.
- Continue to plan for and deliver open space development for Akira Boulevard Sports Reserve, Edgars Creek Secondary College Oval, Edgars Creek Sports Reserve, North Wollert Sports Reserve and Baltrum Drive Sports Reserve.



# WOODSTOCK

## Overview

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 Urban Heat Island mapping shows Woodstock largely sitting at the hottest end of the temperature index and fairly extensive gaps in walking catchment from existing public open space. Due to the rural nature of the suburb, there are no community facilities present in Woodstock.

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, supporting this conservation area and cooling the heat index through here.

The surrounding area is comprised of private rural blocks with scattered ridge and creek line vegetation that contributes to the Green Wedge Zone and habitat value. Large areas of farmland produce a disparate road network through Woodstock, limiting accessibility. The open space network is dominated by the two Regional open spaces, with no other open space classifications or facilities present. The Woodstock 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.



3,125ha  
suburb size



4%  
of total suburb  
area is open space



7%  
canopy  
coverage



167  
estimated 2026  
population



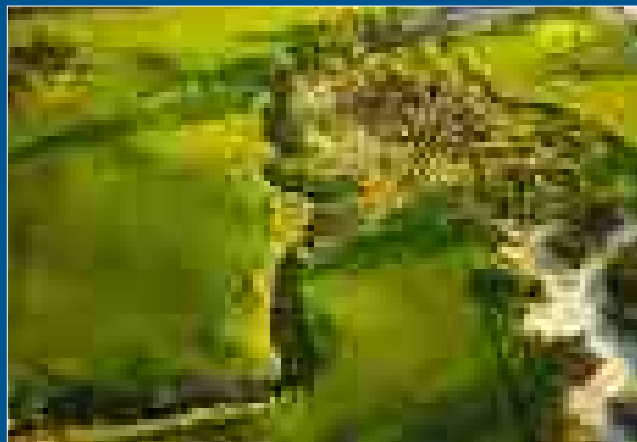
167  
projected 2036  
population



0m<sup>2</sup>  
of accessible  
public open space  
per person  
(based on estimated  
2026 population)



Woodstock Aerial View (Source: Nearmap).



Growling Frog Golf Course (Source: Golf Australia Magazine).



Growling Frog Golf Course (Source: Golf Australia Magazine).

## Precinct Structure Plans

The Donnybrook Woodstock PSP covers a total land area of nearly 1786 hectares. The PSP allocates approximately 47 hectares of land for local parks, which will be distributed across 52 spaces, and also identifies seven sports reserves totalling nearly 55 hectares. An additional 479 hectares is set aside for other types of open space, such as conservation reserves and utility easements, which can support informal recreation activities. The precinct also includes plans for five local town centres and another five local convenience centres.

## Urban Heat Island Map

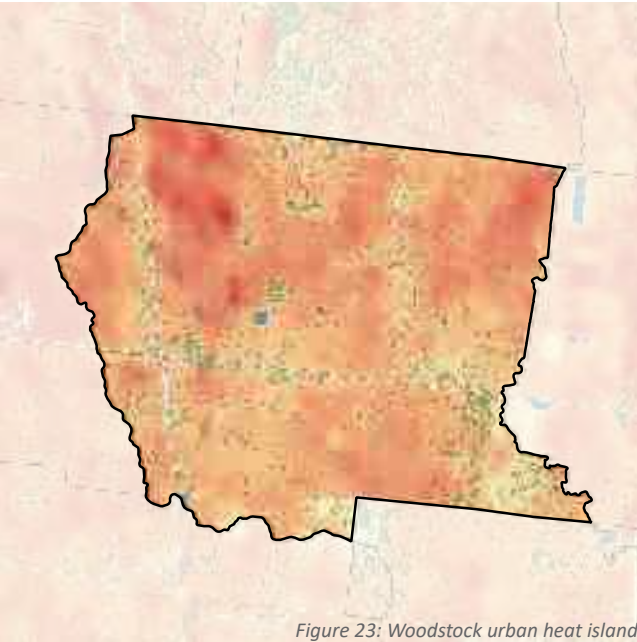


Figure 23: Woodstock urban heat island

## Community Facilities



Figure 24: Woodstock community facilities

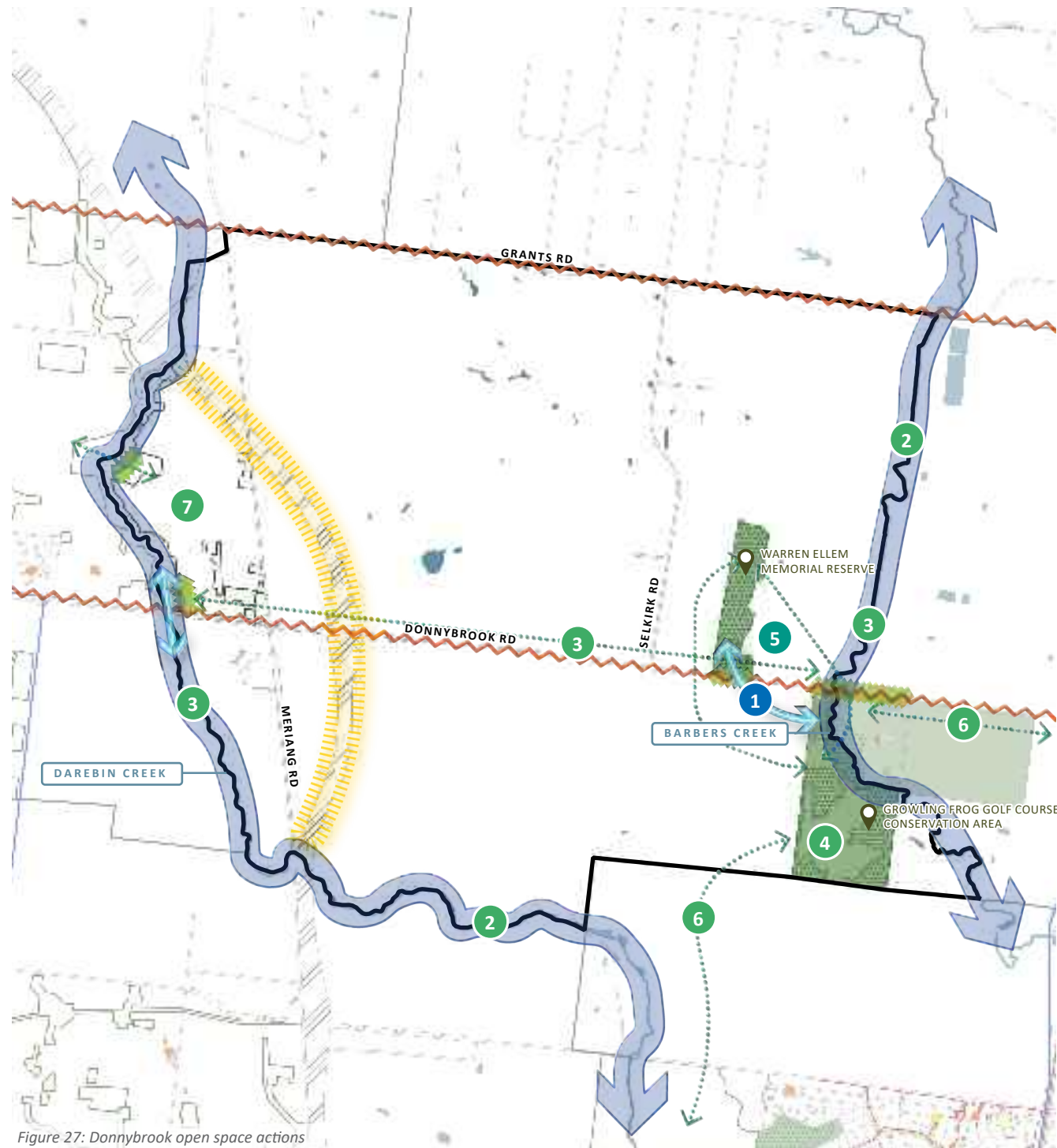
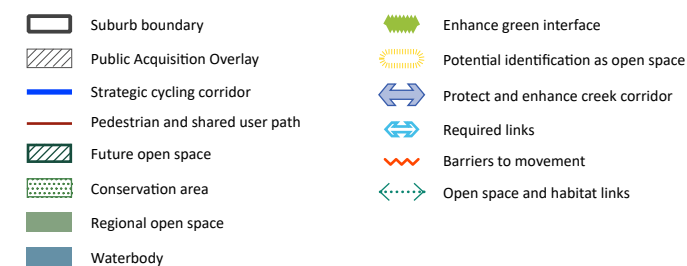


Figure 27: Donnybrook open space actions

#### Potential Open Space Network



## Woodstock Action Plan

### Opportunities

- The conservation areas within Woodstock are in close proximity to one another and have the opportunity to form a meaningful open space connection that could enhance their conservation performance.
- The conservation area within and adjacent to Warren Ellem Memorial Reserve and Growling Frog Golf Course Conservation Area has been identified as a key site for the delivery of greater Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands habitat.
- The Barbers Creek and Darebin Creek corridors that flank the east and west edge of Woodstock can support existing conservation areas within Warren Ellem Memorial Reserve and Growling Frog Golf Course Conservation Area. Simultaneously there is the opportunity for an integrated approach to open space and waterways throughout the suburb.
- Future open space planned along the Darebin Creek corridor is linear and will be able to support movement between open spaces.
- Shared tenure/management opportunities with private land owners or activate open space within existing Public Acquisition Overlays, to deliver public or semi-public open space to the community.
- Precinct Structure Plans provide opportunities for increased open space within new subdivisions.
- There is a prevalence of private open space due to the rural nature of Woodstock and the larger subdivisions of the area.

### Issues

- The existing Public Acquisition Overlays in place for future road networks and other infrastructure may create significant barriers to movement and open space connectivity.
- Currently, Merriang Road is the boundary for the planned future open space and future contributions do not extend beyond this road corridor.
- The existing road network in Woodstock is limited, as future open space is delivered to the suburbs west the road network will need to support greater accessibility to the Darebin Creek corridor.

### Actions

- Enhance the connection between Warren Ellem Memorial Reserve and Growling Frog Golf Course Conservation Area and support safe and legible crossings across Donnybrook Road between the conservation areas.
- The Barbers Creek and Darebin Creek corridors should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors, supporting riparian corridor protections and enhancement.
- Deliver linear open space along the Barbers Creek and Darebin Creek corridor to support connections to amenities and the shared path and active transport network. Seek an east-west connection to link the two creek corridors.
- Prepare an integrated master plan for Growling Frog Golf Course and its associated conservation area.
- Expand Woodstock's conservation areas by delivering protected Grassy Eucalypt Woodland habitat across the identified area within and adjacent to Warren Ellem Memorial Reserve and Growling Frog Golf Course Conservation Area.
- Deliver open space and shared user path connections that link Woodstock conservation areas to Whittlesea Township, Whittlesea hills, bunjil nganga Parklands.
- Prepare master plan for the development of Darebin Creek Sports Reserve including sporting infrastructure and pavilion.

## Rural North

Open space in Whittlesea Township caters to the rural community living and working in the rural north. The needs of the rural community are different from those living in the urban area of the Whittlesea Township.

We will need to consider forecast for housing density and demographics when planning open space. To meet changing needs, Council has upgraded Whittlesea Park, introducing a new community park facility.

The rural north community has easy access to the large open spaces of Kinglake National Park and the Yan Yean and Toorourrong reservoirs.

Suburbs included in the Growth North area are:

- Eden Park (shared with Shire of Mitchell)
- Humevale
- Kinglake West
- Yan Yean (shared with Shire of Nillumbik)





EDEN PARK

Overview

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. In particular risks around bushfire and subsequent soil erosion. There is a network of informal trails for hiking and nature based recreation amidst native vegetation. Despite a lack of formal open space assets such as playgrounds or sports facilities, Eden Park shows how it fits into the wider open space network through the pedestrian gap analysis where it connects into neighbouring suburbs.

The Eden Park 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.



Eden Park farmland (Source: Wikipedia).



Eden Park farmland (Source: Wikipedia).



Eden Park Aerial View (Source: Nearmap).

**2,416ha**  
suburb size

**0%**  
of total suburb  
area is open space

**32%**  
canopy  
coverage

**1,896**  
estimated 2026  
population

**1,927**  
projected 2036  
population

**0m<sup>2</sup>**  
of accessible  
public open space  
per person  
*(based on estimated  
2026 population)*

Urban Heat Island Map

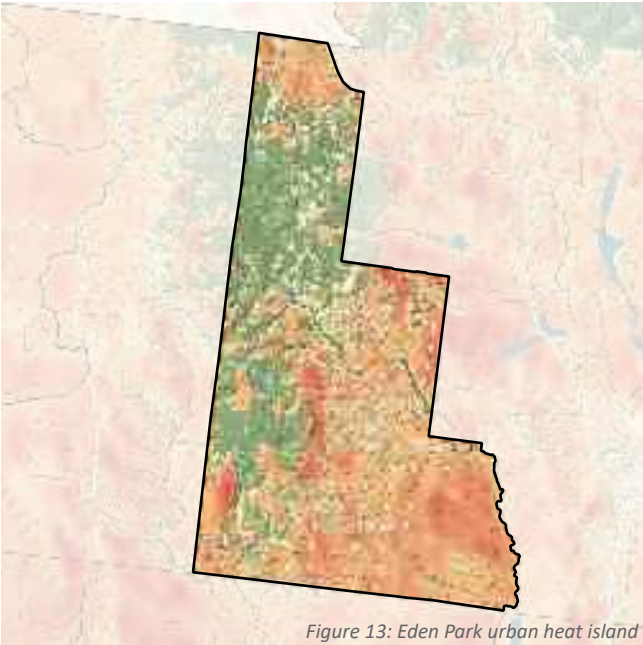


Figure 13: Eden Park urban heat island

- Existing tree canopy
- Waterbody
- Urban Heat Island - degrees above or below average temperature (CSIRO, 2019)

Community Facilities

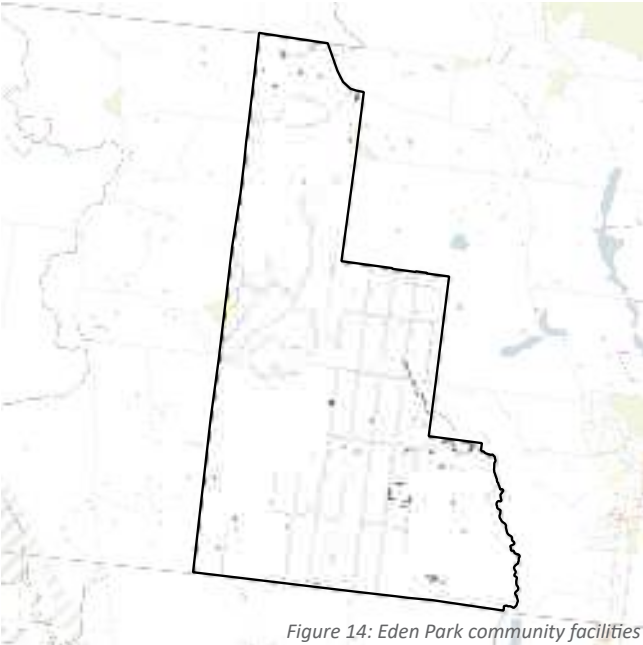
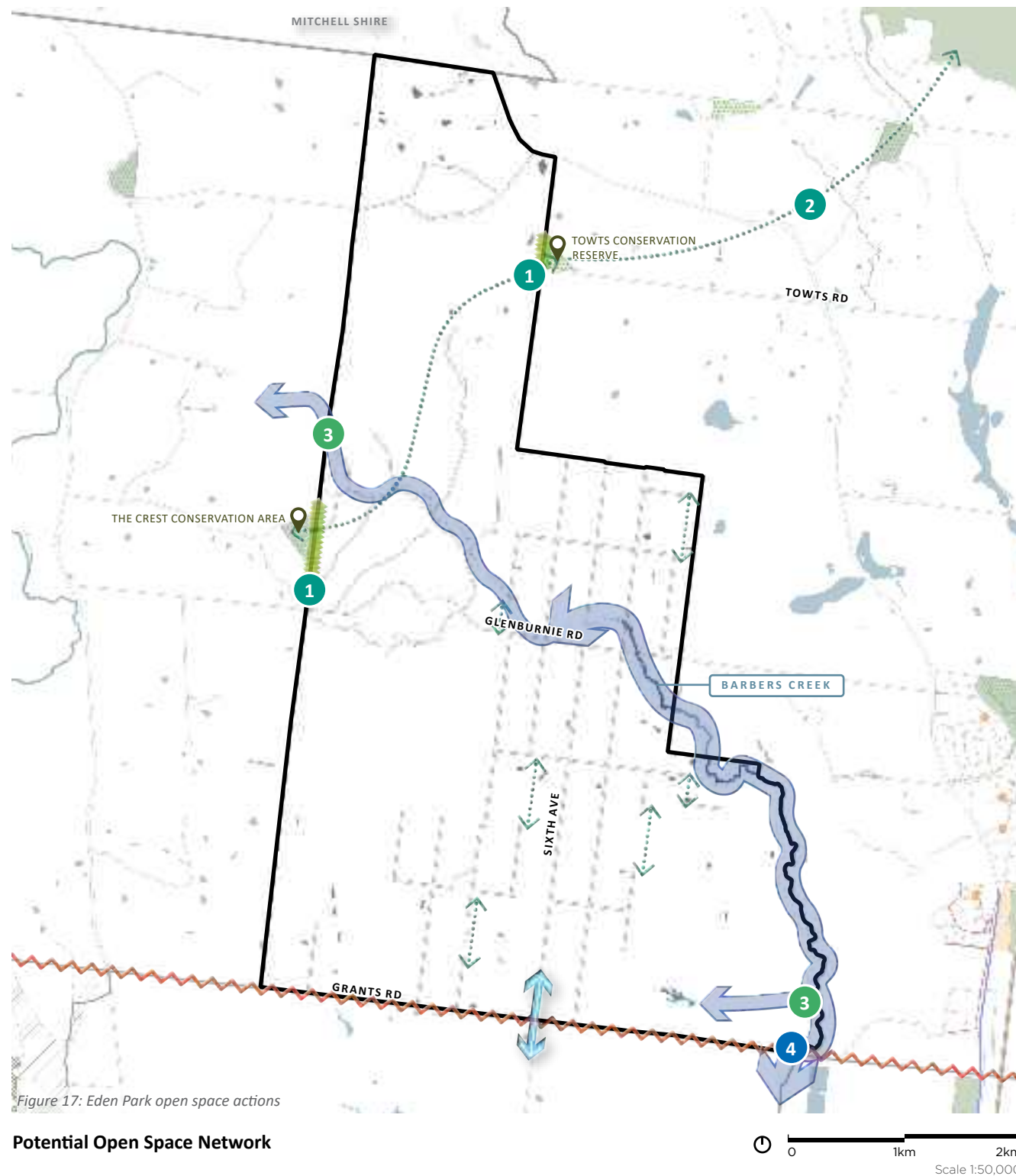


Figure 14: Eden Park community facilities

- Heritage Overlay
- Existing City of Whittlesea open space
- Waterbody
- Future open space



## Eden Park Action Plan

### Opportunities

- Expansion of bordering open spaces (Towts Conservation Reserve and The Crest Conservation Area) in Beveridge and Whittlesea into Eden Park, through bequests or vesting of adjacent land, offering useable unencumbered open space.
- Supporting conservation areas through re-vegetation of riparian Barbers Creek corridor.
- Shared tenure/management opportunities with private land owners to deliver public or semi-public open space to the community.

### Issues

- Grants Road creates a barrier at the southern edge of Eden Park with only one intersection providing links into Woodstock.
- Eden Park residents rely on the town centre of Whittlesea Township, travelling for these amenities.

### Actions

- 1 Build open space network through advocacy and strategic acquisition to connect into adjacent conservation reserves - Towts Conservation Reserve, The Crest Conservation Area.
- 2 Support habitat connection between Eden Park Hills and Mount Disappointment and deliver public open space within this corridor where possible.
- 3 The Barbers Creek corridor should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors, supporting riparian corridor protections and enhancement. Harness planning overlay changes to support these protections.
- 4 Create connections across Grants Road with safe and accessible road crossings, in particular where Barbers Creek crosses the road corridor to the south.



# HUMEVALE

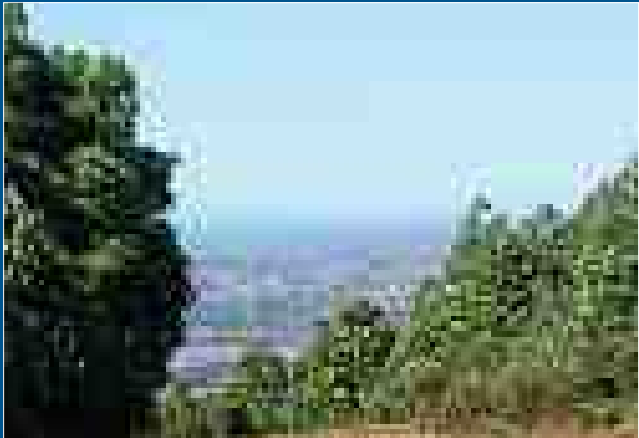
## Overview

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. Topography through this suburb is important to consider in regards to access and in the reading of the pedestrian catchment analysis. Humevale Road is the main thoroughfare through the suburb and supports access to some the smaller Local open spaces of the rural community.

Notable reserve, Sherwins Range Reserve is known locally for its bike-friendly trails through eucalyptus ridge lines. The majority of Humevale’s land is private rural acreage with native bush and scattered creek lines, contributing to its green-wedge landscape with views toward Whittlesea Valley and Mount Disappointment.

The natural corridors and reserves support passive recreation, mountain biking, bird watching and serve as important ecological habitat.

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.



Mount Disappointment (Source: On Walkabout).



Humevale Road (Source: The Climbing Cyclist).



Humevale Aerial View (Source: Nearmap).



3,602ha  
suburb size



51%  
of total suburb  
area is open space



60%  
canopy  
coverage



410  
estimated 2026  
population



455  
projected 2036  
population



0m<sup>2</sup>  
of accessible  
public open space  
per person  
(based on estimated  
2026 population)

## Urban Heat Island Map

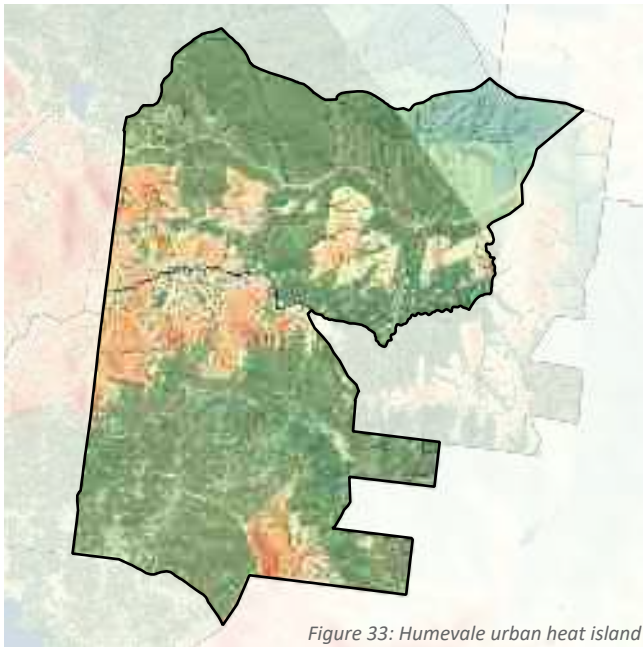
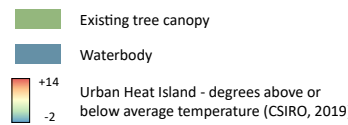


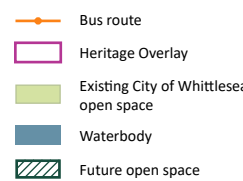
Figure 33: Humevale urban heat island



## Community Facilities



Figure 34: Humevale community facilities



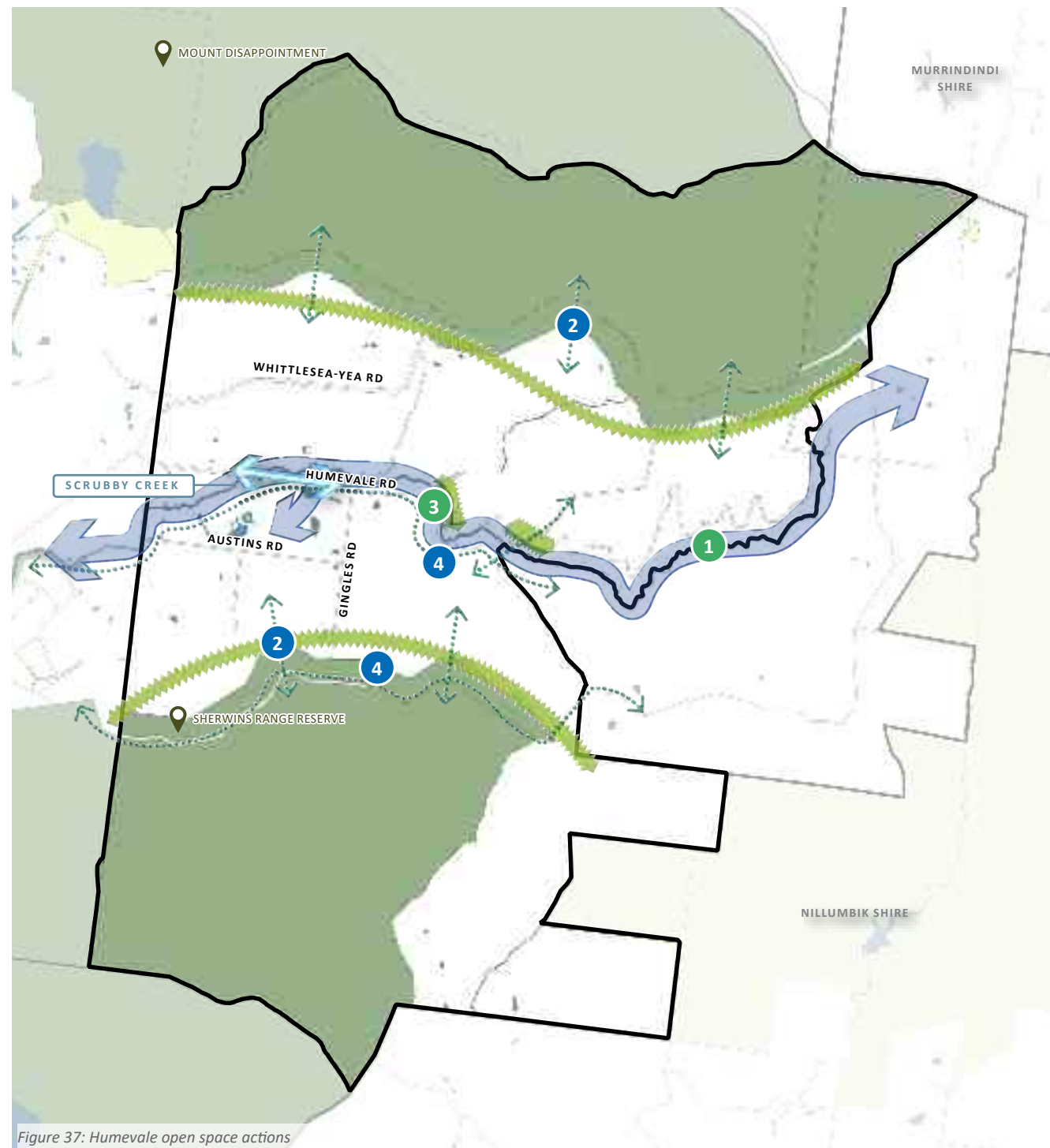
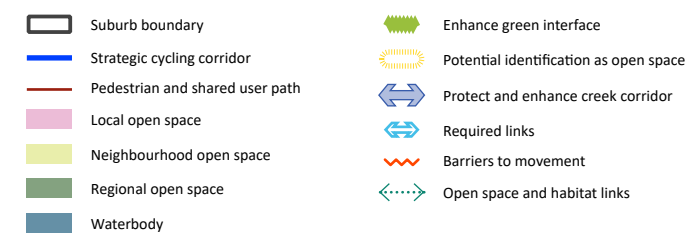
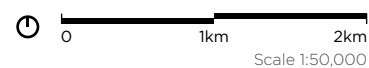


Figure 37: Humevale open space actions

#### Potential Open Space Network



## Humevale Action Plan

### Opportunities

- There are major Regional park interfaces flanking the north and south of the suburb, with Mount Disappointment and Sherwins Range Reserve, access to which can be enhanced.
- The Scrubby Creek corridor forms the central spine of the suburb and can form the anchoring framework for open space in Humevale, creating linear connections between open spaces and supporting the active transport network.
- There is an opportunity to better connect into neighbouring Whittlesea and Kinglake West along the Scrubby Creek corridor.

### Issues

- Humevale is isolated by the surrounding Regional open spaces
- Connections into Regional open space surrounding Mount Disappointment and Toorourrong Reservoir Park is limited.
- Limited connections into neighbouring Whittlesea Township.

### Actions

- 1 Deliver linear open space along the Scrubby Creek corridor to support connections to amenities and the shared path and active transport network.
- 2 Engage Mount Disappointment and Sherwins Range Reserve open space edge with surrounding area.
- 3 The Scrubby Creek corridor should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors, supporting riparian corridor protections and enhancement.
- 4 Develop master plan for connecting open spaces between Kinglake West, through Humevale to Whittlesea Township. Including the provision of a shared user path that connects Humevale to Whittlesea Township.



KINGLAKE WEST

Overview

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.

Within the suburb boundary, Kinglake West has one neighbourhood open space. However, Kinglake West has considerable open space provision as it is situated between large national parks, flanking the suburbs eastern and western edge.

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.

This dense forest can be seen in the canopy coverage mapping. The effects of this density of canopy cover is clear in the Urban Heat Island mapping and the cooling that occurs across the suburb.

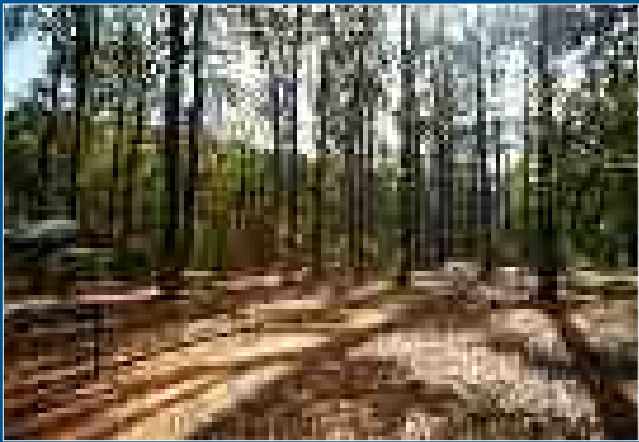
The Kinglake West suburb area has no identified community facilities. Community living outside of the urban growth boundary generally live on larger properties and are more likely to drive to access open space.



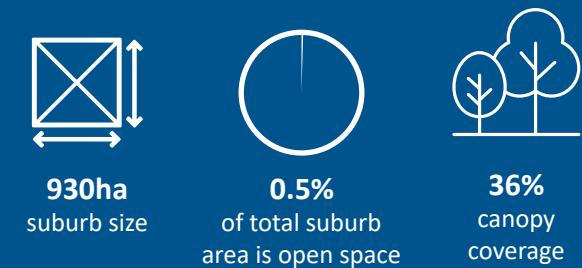
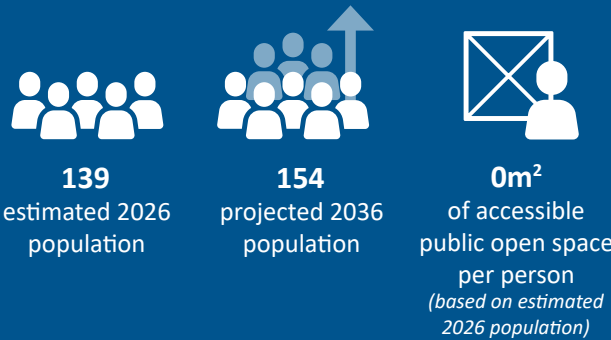
Kinglake West Aerial View (Source: Nearmap).



Kinglake National Park (Source: Parks Victoria).



Kinglake National Park (Source: One Hour Out).



Urban Heat Island Map

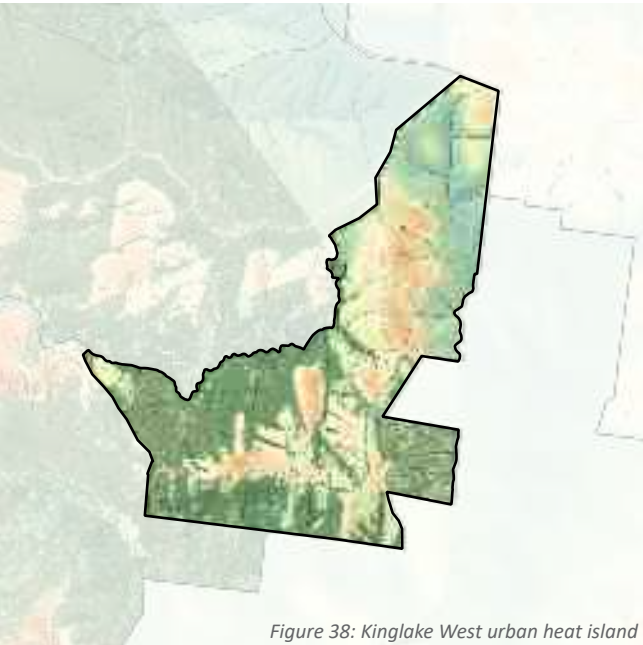
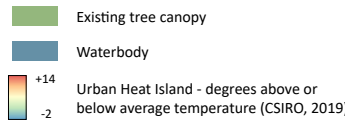


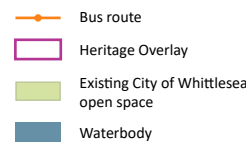
Figure 38: Kinglake West urban heat island



Community Facilities



Figure 39: Kinglake West community facilities



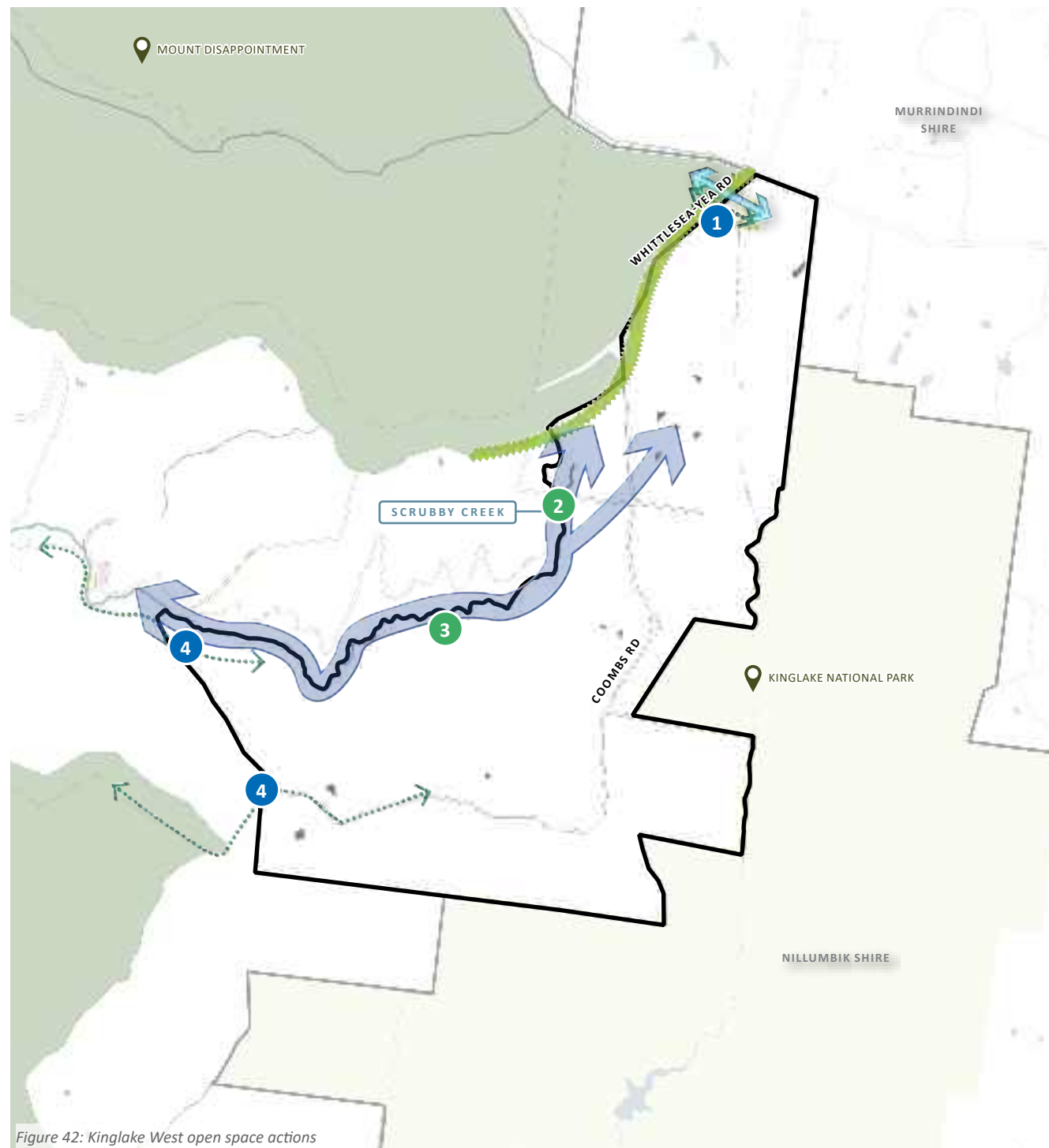
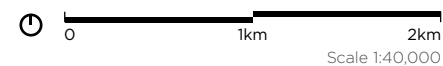


Figure 42: Kinglake West open space actions

#### Potential Open Space Network

- Suburb boundary
- Neighbourhood open space
- Waterbody
- Enhance green interface
- Potential identification as open space
- Protect and enhance creek corridor
- Required links
- Barriers to movement
- Open space and habitat links



## Kinglake West Action Plan

### Opportunities

- There are major Regional parks beyond the suburb boundary, crossing Whittlesea-Yea Road, access to which can be enhanced.
- The Scrubby Creek corridor forms the western edge of the suburb and can form the anchoring framework for open space in Kinglake West, creating linear connections between open spaces and supporting the active transport network.
- There is an opportunity to better connect into neighbouring Humevale along the Scrubby Creek corridor.

### Issues

- Kinglake West is isolated by the surrounding Regional open spaces.
- Connections into Regional open space surrounding Mount Disappointment is limited.
- Limited connections into nearby Whittlesea Township.

### Actions

- Enhance connection from Kinglake West Neighbourhood open space #1525 into adjacent Humevale Regional open space with safe and legible crossing of Whittlesea-Yea Road.
- The Scrubby Creek corridor should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors, supporting riparian corridor protections and enhancement.
- Deliver linear open space along the Scrubby Creek corridor to support connections to amenities and the shared path and active transport network.
- Develop master plan for connecting open spaces between Kinglake West, through Humevale to Whittlesea Township. Including the provision of a shared user path that connects Kinglake West to Whittlesea Township.



# YAN YEAN

## Overview

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. A high density of tree canopy coverage surrounding the reservoir cools this eastern half of the suburb.

The reservoir parkland is Parks Victoria managed open space and offers extensive picnic grounds, BBQs, a playground, toilets, car parking and accessible walking trails.

The associated wetlands support diverse wildlife, in particular bird species. Some heritage features like the Caretaker's Cottage, Valve House and remnant water channels create destinations across the park. The farmland to the west produces a high temperature on the Urban Heat Island index, but is far less concentrated than other rural suburbs. This is likely due to proximity to the reservoir and the Plenty River corridor that snakes through the centre of the suburb parallel to Plenty Road.

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.

*Beveridge's population stats are considered as part of the greater rural north population, combining Beveridge, Donnybrook, Eden Park, Humevale, Kinglake West, Woodstock and Yan Yean.*



**2,947ha**  
suburb size



**55%**  
of total suburb  
area is open space



**21%**  
canopy  
coverage



**3,120**  
estimated 2026  
population



**3,111**  
projected 2036  
population



Yan Yean Reservoir Park (Source: Parks Victoria).

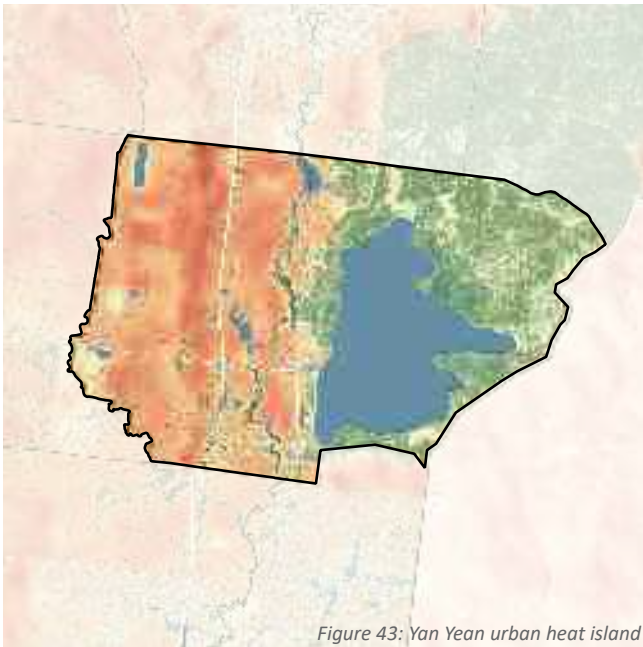
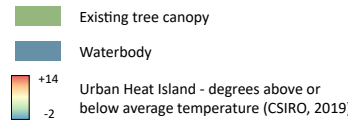


Yan Yean Reservoir Park (Source: Parks Victoria).



Yan Yean Reservoir Park (Source: Explore Whittlesea).

## Urban Heat Island Map



## Community Facilities

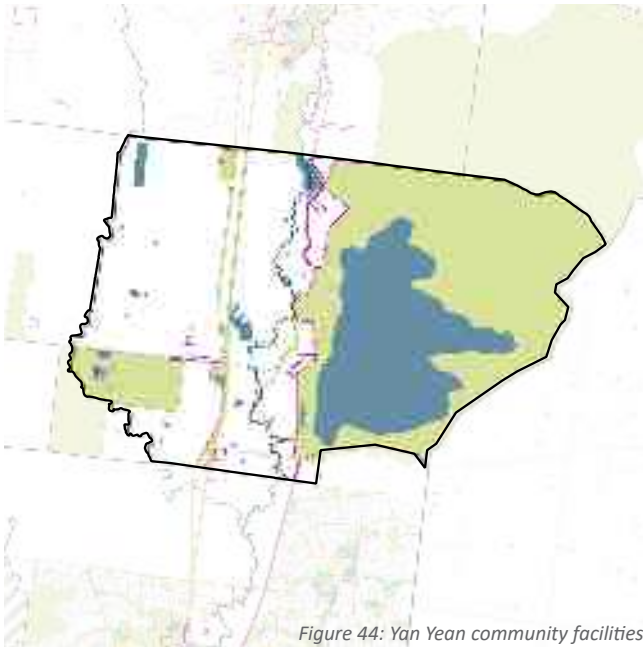
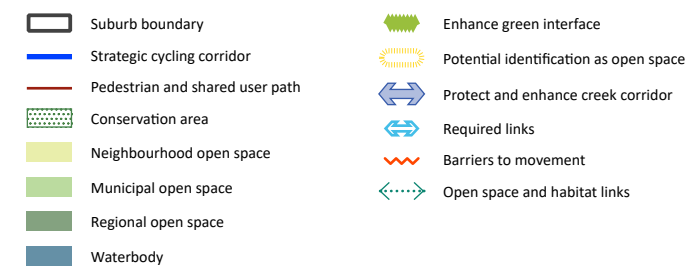




Figure 47: Yan Yean open space actions

#### Potential Open Space Network



## Yan Yean Action Plan

### Opportunities

- Council to contribute to the preparation of the Yan Yean Reservoir Park Visitor Experience Future Directions Plan, to provide additional recreational opportunities.
- The existing open space network is connected by linear green corridors creating accessibility across the open spaces, shared path network and the suburb more broadly.
- The Plenty River corridor forms the central spine of the suburb and has the proximity to connect with a majority of Yan Yean's open spaces and beyond into Doreen to the south and Whittlesea to the north.
- Sections of the Northern Trails Strategy are being delivered across Yan Yean, across Yan Yean Pipe Track to connect to Yan Yean Reservoir.
- Growling Frog Golf Course and associated conservation area and its wider contributions, opportunity to provide greater linkages through future planning.

### Issues

- Plenty Road is a major road corridor that impedes access travelling east to west of the suburb.
- Significant open spaces within Yan Yean have limited access to the public, including Growling Frog Golf Course, Plenty Valley Cemetery and Yan Yean Cemetery.
- Access travelling east across Yan Yean Reservoir Park is limited to Arthurs Creek Road, as Cades Road terminates before entering the Regional park. Only private tracks cross Yan Yean Reservoir Park.
- There is a gap in provision of bridge crossings of the Plenty River corridor, impeding open space network accessibility.

### Actions

- 1 Create permeable edges to the south of Yan Yean Reservoir Park to connect into Doreen.
- 2 Form an integrated approach to the web of linear parklands, shared user paths and strategic cycling corridors and offer safe and legible connections between them.
- 3 Support safe and legible crossings of Plenty Road, protecting the active transport network.
- 4 The Barbers Creek and Plenty River corridors should be utilised as the framework for future open space planning and provision. Prioritise open space master planning along and adjacent to these creek corridors, supporting riparian corridor protections and enhancement.
- 5 Prepare an integrated masterplan for the transition from Yan Yean Pipe Track into Yan Yean Reservoir Park.
- 6 Plan for the prospective expansion of the Yan Yean Pipe Track to connect to Yan Yean Reservoir.
- 7 Provide safe and legible crossings of the Plenty River corridor to increase access across the open space network.
- 8 Obtain Public Acquisition Overlay to protect rail corridor.
- 9 Prepare an integrated master plan for Growling Frog Golf Course and its associated conservation area.
- 10 Advocate to Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria to deliver Yan Yean Reservoir Reserve Future Directions Plan.

# References

## Victorian State Government documents

- *Open Space for Everyone — Metropolitan Open Space Strategy 2021*
- *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023–2027*
- *Healthy Parks, Healthy People 2020*
- *Heathy Waterways Strategy 2018–2028*
- *Inclusive Victoria: State Disability Plan 2022–2026*
- *Integrated Place Management Framework and Report*
- *20 Minute Neighbourhood Policy*
- *Pathway to stronger partnerships – Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021–2026*
- *Plan Melbourne 2017–2050*
- *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines 2021*
- *Melbourne Strategic Assessment (section 146) of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Water for Victoria 2016*
- *Inclusive Victoria State Disability Plan 2022–2026*
- *Biodiversity Strategy for Melbourne’s Growth Corridors 2013*
- *Victoria’s Climate Change Framework*
- *Victorian Government joint use agreements*
- *Victoria Infrastructure Strategy 2021–2051*
- *Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy*

## Regional documents

- *Living Melbourne: Our Urban Metropolitan Forest 2019*
- *Darebin Creek Management Plan 2017*
- *marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands, Future Directions Plan 2023*
- *Merri Creek and Environs Strategy 2009–2014*
- *Northern Regional Trails Strategy 2022*
- *Northern Growth Corridor Plan 2012 and precinct structure plans*
- *Burbndap birrarung burndap umarkoo - Yarra River Strategic Plan 2022-2032*



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