

# EDGARS CREEK

## DRAFT LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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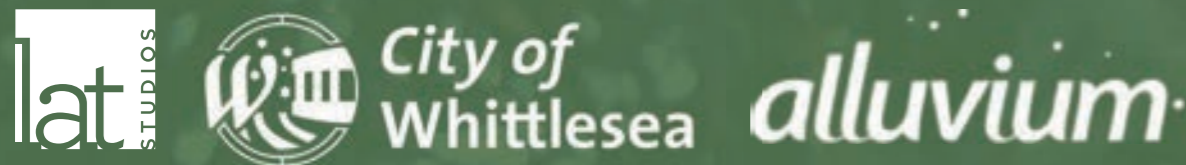
## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION . . . . .	3
SITE APPRECIATION . . . . .	4
WURUNDJERI WOI-WURRUNG CULTURAL LANDSCAPE . . . . .	6
CREEK CONTEXT . . . . .	8
PROJECT FRAMEWORK . . . . .	14
THE VISION . . . . .	16
PROJECT THEMES . . . . .	17
PROJECT OBJECTIVES . . . . .	17
PROJECT OBJECTIVES & CORRESPONDING STRATEGIES . . . . .	18
PRECINCT CHARACTER ANALYSIS . . . . .	24
PRECINCT OPPORTUNITIES & ACTIONS . . . . .	30
REFERENCES . . . . .	70

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

LatStudios acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands, waters and skies that this project is situated on, the Wurundjeri Willum people of the Kulin Nation. We pay deep respects to Elders past and present.

LatStudios commit to supporting the health and wellbeing of Country, by respecting, valuing and being guided by First Nations people.



Background Photo: Image taken of a Eucalyptus torquata along the creek line at Huskisson Recreation Reserve.

# 01 INTRODUCTION

## PROJECT SUMMARY

This Landscape Improvement Plan, prepared by LatStudios for the City of Whittlesea, identifies current and future challenges and opportunities for the Edgars Creek Corridor, which stretches from Wollert in the north to Thomastown in the south. The plan is underpinned by extensive background research, on-site analysis, and best-practice methodologies for the ecological and recreational master planning of creek corridors.

It establishes a clear vision for the Edgars Creek Corridor, addressing critical themes such as Traditional Owner connection to Country, connectivity and public access, safety and visibility, interfaces with adjacent properties, waterway protection and enhancement, and the integration of on-site facilities and amenities.

Aligned with existing City of Whittlesea policies and strategies, the plan emphasises improved access and increased community engagement. Furthermore, actions and initiatives derived from this process have been prioritised to support efficient project funding and implementation.



Figure 01: Regional Context Map



# 02

## SITE APPRECIATION

Edgars Creek is a vital waterway that runs through the City of Whittlesea, embedded with cultural values and ecological significance.

Edgars Creek's story intertwines with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, as evidenced by scarred trees and sacred sites. European settlement in the 1800s led to farmsteads and, later, post-war development in Thomastown and Lalor. Today, the creek winds through a changing landscape, from industrial pockets in Epping to new residential areas with shared paths and native plantings.

The following paragraphs explore the site of Edgars Creek through the lens of land, its Indigenous and post settlement history and analyses the creek as we know it today.

### THE LAND

The landscape of the City of Whittlesea features a gradual slope, descending from a high point in the north to a low point in the south, culminating in the hills of the Great Dividing Range within the Kinglake National Park at the municipality's northern edge. This terrain is created by the valleys of various waterways, including Merri Creek, Edgars Creek, Darebin Creek, and Plenty River.

Along with several unnamed tributaries, all generally flow in a north to south direction through the neighbourhoods of the City of Whittlesea and beyond. The predominant ecological vegetation classes (EVCs) shaping this landscape are Plains Grassland, Creekline Grassy Woodland, and Plains Grassy Woodland.

### HISTORY

As stated in 'Turning Back To Edgars Creek. A Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Waterway':

*"The waterway that is now called Edgars Creek is 16 kilometres long, it begins as puddles in Wollert grasslands, flows through Epping, Thomastown and Lalor, and joins Merri Creek in North Coburg. Merri Creek flows into the Yarra River, and then into Port Phillip Bay. Edgars creek flows through the Country of the Wurundjeri Willum clan of the Woi Wurrung language group, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, who are part of the East Kulin nation."*

The City of Whittlesea area is home to numerous protected and sacred scarred trees, as well as other sites of profound significance to the Wurundjeri People. Scarred trees, often used for crafting bark canoes or serving as boundary markers for distinct tribal groups, are a testament to Wurundjeri's rich cultural heritage and unbroken connection to this landscape. Additionally, majestic river red gums, which are scattered throughout the municipality, are a powerful living legacy of the City of Whittlesea's natural landscape identity.

### HISTORIC SETTLEMENT PERIOD

British, German, and Wendish farming families settled along Edgars Creek in the late 1840s and 1850s in the parish of Keelbundora, named after a Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung boy. The intact buildings of the

Westgarthtown Precinct, including a Lutheran Church, cemetery and five residential houses of the original Wendish settlers - all of which were located to take advantage of proximity to Edgars Creek, provide evidence of this German/Wendish influence.

Significant development occurred in Thomastown and Lalor in the post-war years, particularly during the 1950s and 1960s, when large numbers of migrants from Greece, Italy, Malta, and Macedonia moved into the area. The subdivision of farms along Edgars Creek began in the 1960s, resulting in houses being built with their backs to the creek, while children continued to play along its banks.

### EDGARS CREEK TODAY

Thomastown and Lalor serve as the southern gateway to the City of Whittlesea along High Street. Although the southern end of Thomastown - between Mahoneys Road and the Western Ring Road - is industrial, these two suburbs form the most populous and well-established residential area in the corridor. Thomastown and Lalor contain some of the oldest housing in the municipality and the State



Significant Thomastown Industrial Area. The future Suburban Rail Loop will connect to Reservoir, two stops south of the City of Whittlesea's southernmost train station, potentially expediting population growth.

North of Lalor, Edgars Creek runs through Epping; a suburb that is comprised of starkly industrial areas adjacent to new communities and recent suburban growth. Southern Epping is predominantly industrial, although projects like New Epping suggest a potential future increase in residential land uses. In northern Epping and Wollert, rapid residential growth, as forecasted by the Epping Central Structure Plan (2020) and Cooper Street Employment Area Development Plan (2018), is evident. The creek meanders through new communities, with new shared path trails and mass creekline plantings. While the City of Whittlesea extends north into a more rural setting - culminating in the Great Dividing Range - Edgars Creek ends just north of Craigieburn Road where it is diverted into a roadside swale.



Edgars Creek (Ernest Raetz)



2015 - Edgars Creek (Friends of Edgars Creek)



Figure 02: Local Context Map

# 03

## WURUNDJERI WOI-WURRUNG CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

### A WURUNDJERI WOI WURRUNG WATERWAY

Edgars Creek is a waterway embedded with a rich Indigenous history and ecological significance. This seasonal creek, which can dry up in summer and flood during heavy rains, is a vital waterway in the region. The creek is situated on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, part of the East Kulin Nation, who are recognised as the Traditional Owners of this area (Owens, 2021).

According to Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung tradition, Bunjil the wedge-tailed eagle formed the land of the Woi Wurrung people and is the creation ancestor of men. Pallian the bat formed the oceans, rivers, and creeks, and is the creation ancestor of women (Owens, 2021).

For thousands of years, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people have lived in harmony with the land surrounding Edgars Creek. Before European colonisation, they practiced sustainable resource management, gathering freshwater mussels and trapping eels (Northey, 2007). The Wurundjeri employed traditional fire practices to encourage the growth of important native plants, such as Murnong (Yam Daisy), which in turn supported local wildlife like emus and kangaroos (Owens, 2021). Remnants of this traditional stewardship can still be seen in the ancient Red Gums that are scattered along the creek, marking a landscape rich in spiritual and cultural significance.

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people historically travelled across the diverse landscapes—creeks, rivers, wetlands, and grasslands—maintaining a deep connection to these environments, which provided food, water, and shelter. Their relationship with the land is rooted in a cyclical understanding of seasonal changes, reflecting a worldview markedly different from European perspectives (Owens, 2021).

As European settlers arrived in the 1830s, the Wurundjeri faced displacement, violence, and disease, dramatically altering their way of life. The creek, originally named Dry Creek or Blind Creek by settlers, was later named Edgars Creek after what some believe to be a local farmer's son, Abel Thorpe. The settlers utilised the creek for agriculture, shaping the land significantly (Owens, 2021).

### THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE TODAY

Today, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people continue to advocate for their cultural heritage and environmental stewardship. Since the establishment of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation in the 1980s, they have worked towards self-determination and the recognition of their rights (WWCHAC, 2024). The City of Whittlesea, which encompasses their traditional land, has developed an Aboriginal Action Plan (AAP) for 2024-2029. The AAP aims to support the local Aboriginal community by prioritising culture, addressing trauma, and supporting healing, tackling racism, and promoting cultural safety. It emphasises the importance of prioritising decision-making power in areas that impact their communities (City of Whittlesea, 2024).

In partnership with local Aboriginal groups, the AAP reflects a commitment to reconciliation, honouring the rich history of the Wurundjeri people while addressing contemporary challenges. The journey to reconciliation includes acknowledging and respecting Aboriginal rights, listening to, and supporting Aboriginal voices, celebrating Aboriginal culture, and empowering local communities. Additionally, it recognises the significant role the Wurundjeri have played as custodians of the land for millennia (City of Whittlesea, 2024).

Currently, more than 2,250 Aboriginal people call the City of Whittlesea home, making this community the second largest Aboriginal community in metropolitan Melbourne, which is situated on the Country of the Wurundjeri and Taungurung Peoples (ABS, 2021). The community has grown significantly, underscoring the ongoing connection of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people to their land and heritage.

The City of Whittlesea will partner with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Traditional Owners to undertake a cultural values assessment that will inform the key themes and outcomes of the final Edgars Creek Landscape Improvement Plan. These will provide opportunities to deliver a future vision for Edgars Creek that reflects the values of all members of our community.





04

CREEK CONTEXT

*Background Photo: Image taken of a Corymbia citriodora along the creek line at Huskisson Recreation Reserve.*

## LAND USE

Edgars Creek traverses various zones of the City of Whittlesea planning scheme. In the northern section of the creek corridor, much of the area falls within growth or development zones. This includes urban growth zones, commercial development zones, and residential growth zones, highlighting the significant changes projected for this part of the catchment as the suburbs of Wollert and Epping develop.

In Epping, south of Cooper Street, the creek passes through a mix of industrial, special use, and mixed-use zones. This area is also adjacent to the activity centre zones of Epping Central, indicating a high level of commercial use and activity surrounding the creek here.

Further south, the creek runs through the established general residential zones of Lalor and Thomastown. These zones illustrate the more historic, developed suburban residential development that encompasses this area. This part of the creek corridor is likely to see less change, though some growth is anticipated around the Thomastown and Lalor train stations east of the creek. At the southern end of Thomastown, Edgars Creek enters another industrial zone.

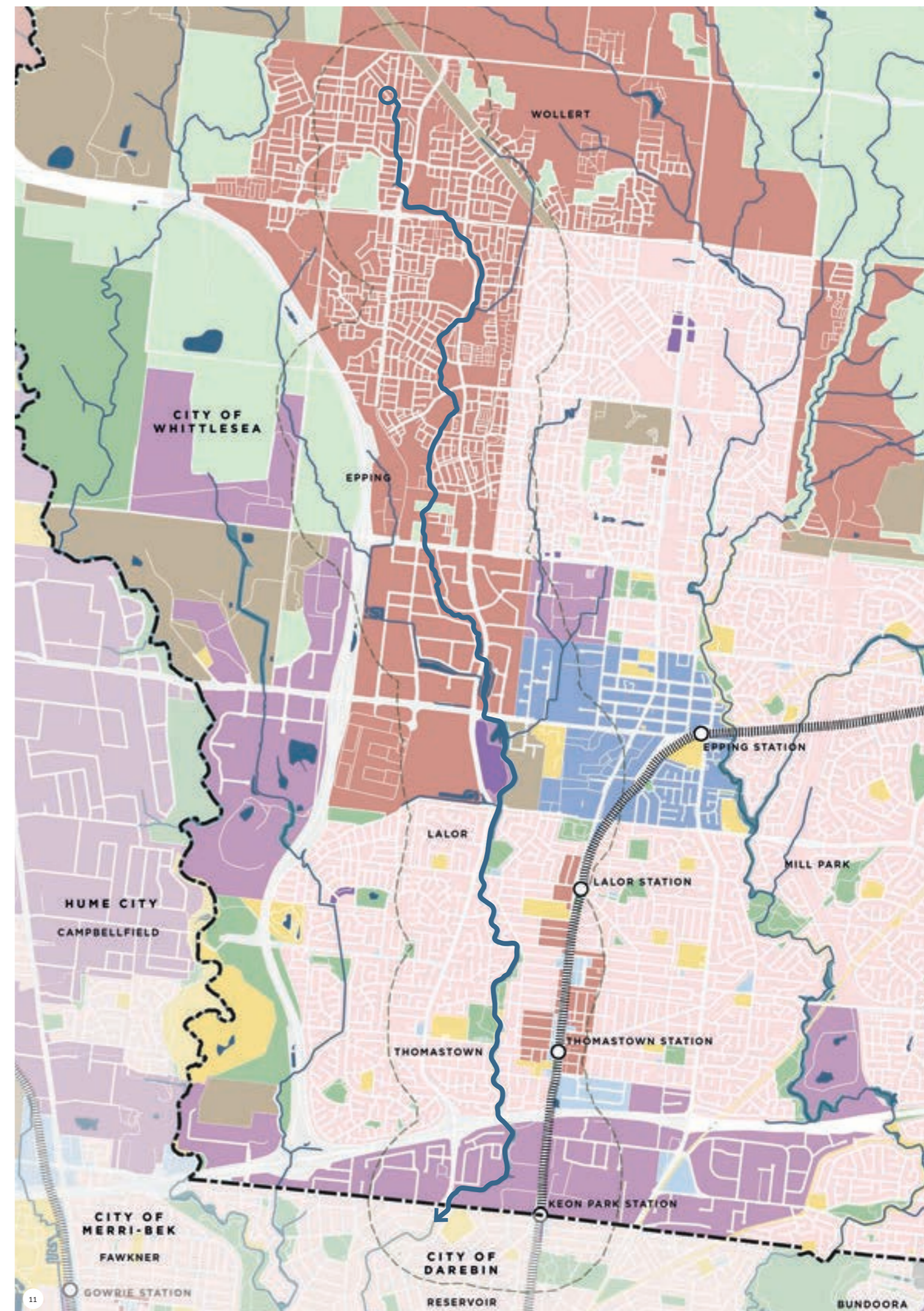
The Edgars Creek Landscape Improvement Plan will address the diverse land use contexts, including industrial areas, residential growth zones, established residential areas, and conservation areas, contributing to the creek's varied character.

### LEGEND

	Edgars Creek
	800m Creek Walking Catchment*
	City of Whittlesea Boundary
	Activity Centre
	Commercial Zones
	Commonwealth Land (not controlled by the planning scheme)
	Development / Growth Zones
	Farming / Rural Zones
	Residential Zones
	Industrial Zones
	Mixed Use Zones
	Open Space (Includes Open Space, Sport & Recreation, Environmental Management, Conservation, As Well As Identified Regional Ecosystems)
	Special Use Zones
	Public Use Zones
	Urban Floodway Zones

\*Based on Victoria's '20-minute Neighbourhoods' strategy, an 800-metre walking catchment boundary has been included to represent the area within a 20-minute walk to the creek and back.

Figure 03: Edgars Creek: Existing Land Use Map



## PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

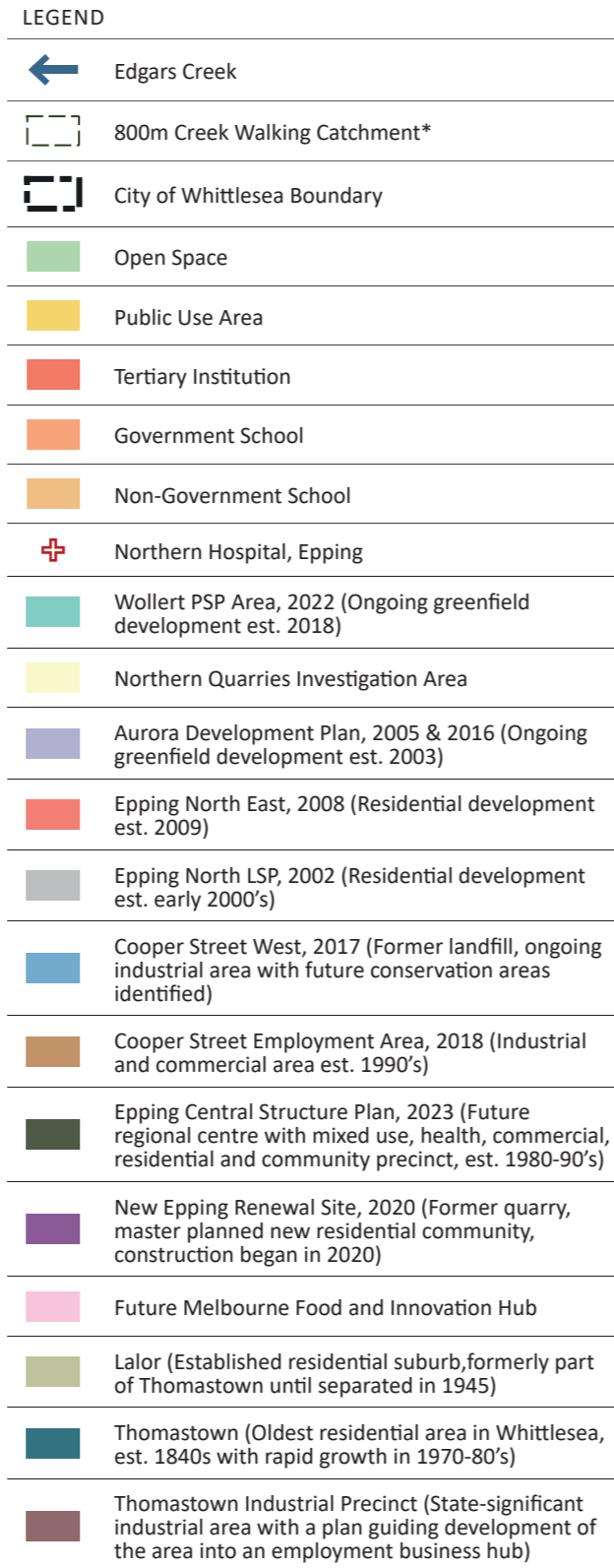
The City of Whittlesea is home to a diverse range of communities, with many residents speaking Arabic, Italian, Macedonian, Indian, and Vietnamese alongside English. The southern section of the Edgars Creek corridor is well established and unlikely to change rapidly. However, the northern suburbs of Epping and Wollert are expected to undergo significant growth in the coming decades. Several key precinct structure plans (PSP), local structure plans (LSP), and development plans cover different stretches of the creek corridor, providing insight into its future development.

North of O’Herns Road, the creek runs through new community development areas covered by the Wollert PSP and Aurora Development Plan. These areas were predominantly farmland until the early 2000s but are now rapidly growing residential communities. The Aurora Town Centre sits directly abutting the creek’s west bank at Harvest Home Road, with the Epping YMCA and Harvest Home Primary School forming a community hub on the opposite side of the creek in the same location. South of the Aurora Development area, the creek enters the Cooper Street Employment Area, a commercial and industrial hub expected to become a major employment area for the City of Whittlesea, characterised by commercial factories and shopping precincts.

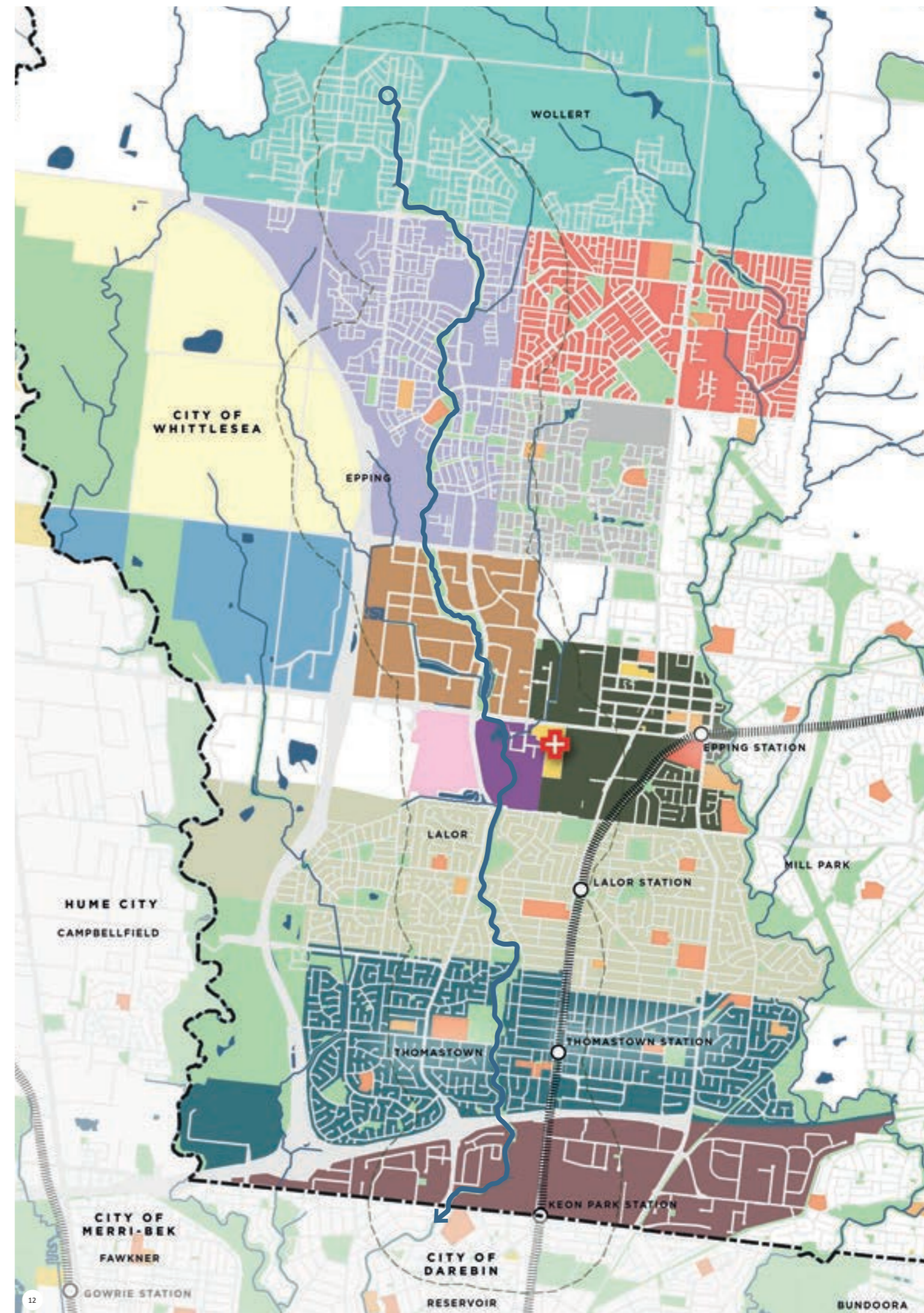
Further south, Edgars Creek enters the New Epping Master Plan area. The master plan for this yet-to-be-built residential community shows that the creek is intended to serve as a central, high-quality ecological open space corridor for the surrounding residential suburb. This site also sits adjacent to the Northern Hospital and Epping Central Activity Centre, highlighting the location’s potential for community growth.

South of Deveny Road, the creek flows through the more historically established residential communities of Lalor and Thomastown. Several community groups, such as the Friends of Edgars Creek, are active throughout the area and will be important in planning and implementing ways to increase stewardship over the creek.

Figure 04: Edgars Creek: People & Communities Map



\*Based on Victoria’s ‘20-minute Neighbourhoods’ strategy, an 800-metre walking catchment boundary has been included to represent the area within a 20-minute walk to the creek and back.



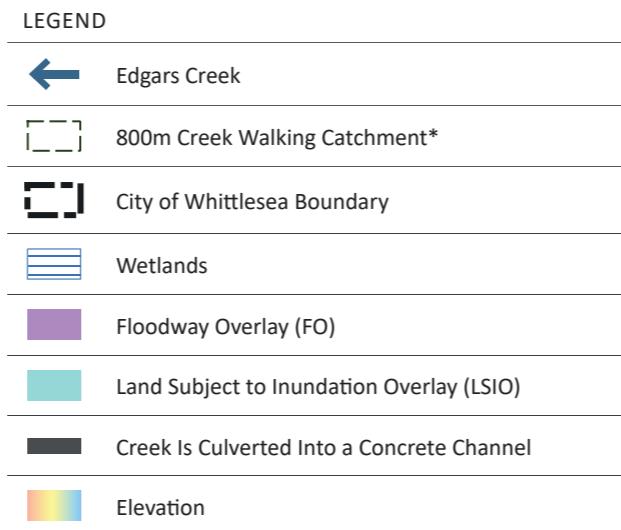
## HYDROLOGICAL CONTEXT

Edgars Creek is a heavily modified and urbanised waterway that changes significantly in form and function as it traverses a variety of natural and urban contexts.

In Wollert, the creek starts as an ephemeral catchment, gathering water from surrounding farmland and new residential areas. It is only visible through the remnant river red gums at Verdon Playground and a water management median strip along La Tour Boulevard. South of Jardin Boulevard, the creek becomes more defined, growing as it collects water from Epping's drainage channels. Initially in good condition with new riparian vegetation, the creek's state deteriorates south of Edgars Creek Oval and through the Aurora Development area.

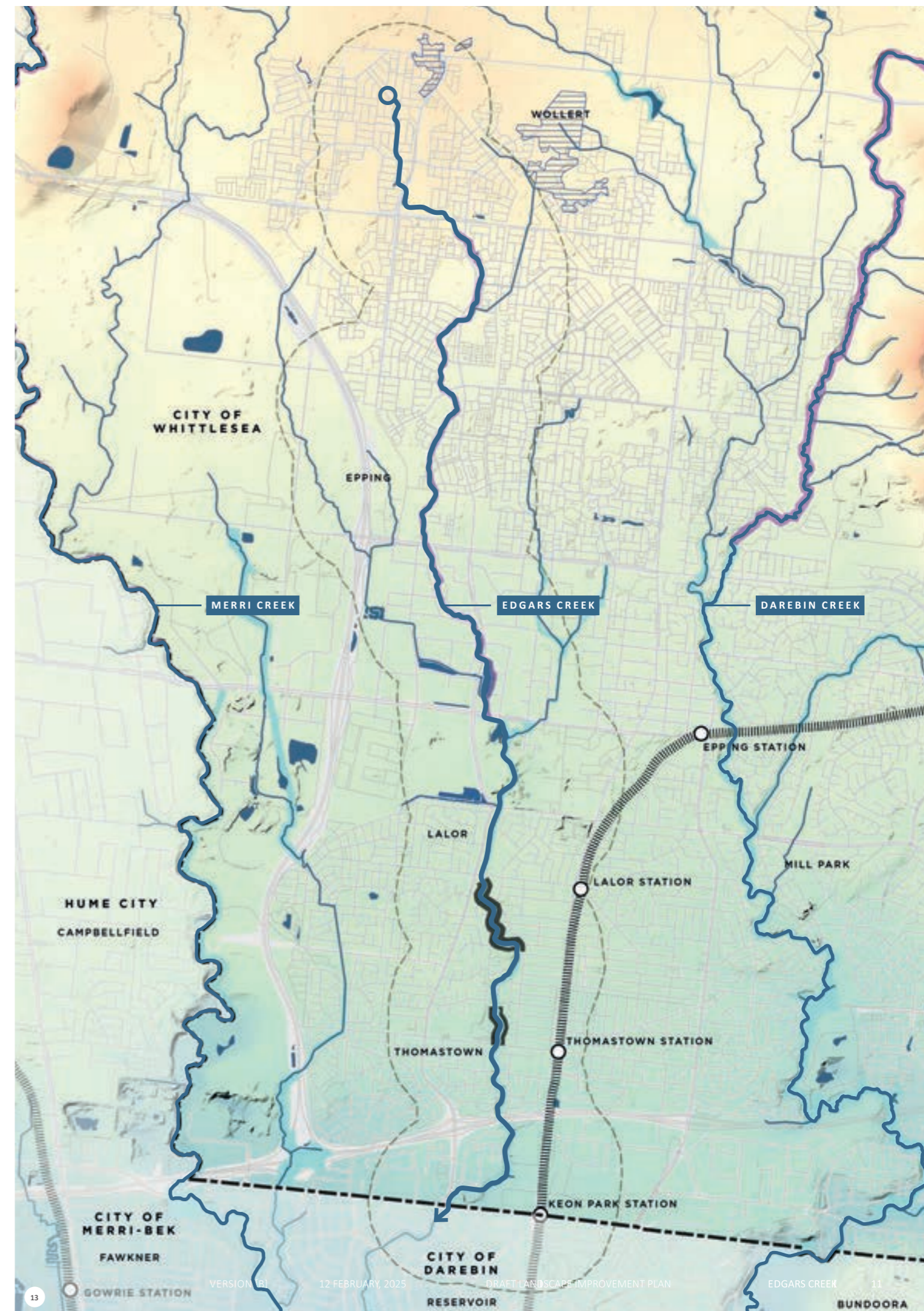
In southern Epping, Edgars Creek flows through industrial areas with large wetlands and retarding basins for water quality management present either side of Cooper Street. Grassland conservation areas along the creek's banks add to its environmental sensitivity in this area. South of Cooper Street, the creek and its surroundings are covered by a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO), while north of Cooper Street it is covered by a Floodway Overlay (FO), both of which have statutory implications for the Landscape Improvement Plan process and may influence proposed open space designs within the creek corridor.

Entering Lalor and Thomastown, the creek is diverted into steep-banked concrete drainage channels in some stretches. In areas where the creek is not channelised, it is enclosed by steep, weedy banks, making access difficult. The Landscape Improvement Plan aims to improve water quality through water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) initiatives such as wetland revegetation, ponds, rock pools, and riffles.



\*Based on Victoria's '20-minute Neighbourhoods' strategy, an 800-metre walking catchment boundary has been included to represent the area within a 20-minute walk to the creek and back.

Figure 05: Edgars Creek: Hydrological Context Map



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Prior to European settlement, the Edgars Creek corridor was defined by five predominant ecological vegetation classes (EVCs): plains grassland, plains grassy woodland, creekline grassy woodland, grey clay drainage-line aggregate, and escarpment shrubland. Plains grassland and plains grassy woodland dominated the area. However, since European arrival the extent of these EVCs has been drastically reduced by agriculture and urbanisation.

Today, conservation reserves offer glimpses into the pre-1788 landscape of the Edgars Creek catchment. Shown on the adjacent map, the conservation reserves near Edgars Creek are defined by three authorities: the City of Whittlesea, the Victorian Planning Authority, and the Melbourne Strategic Assessment (Victorian Government). There is a significant Melbourne Strategic Assessment-defined conservation area to the west of Edgars Creek, around the O’Herns Road Conservation Area and Craigieburn Road East and West Conservation Areas, with additional pockets of conservation area in north Epping and along Darebin Creek.

Two recognised conservation areas directly adjoin Edgars Creek, both of which are grasslands in Epping, one located just north of Harvest Home Road and the other just south of O’Herns Road. Transmission line easements, as well as waterways and future rail connections, illustrate potential ecological corridors that can connect various habitats to boost native biodiversity. Remnant river red gums, a major ecological symbol of the Edgars Creek corridor, are scattered throughout the area along with sightings of other endangered flora and fauna which further highlight the importance of Edgars Creek in its broader ecological context.

### LEGEND

	Edgars Creek
	800m Creek Walking Catchment*
	City of Whittlesea Boundary
	Existing Conservation Area (Combined conservations areas from the City of Whittlesea, VPA Open Space categories and the Melbourne Strategic Assessment)
	Ecological Corridor (indicative)
	Transmission Line Corridor
	Threatened Flora Observation (iNaturalist)
	Threatened Fauna Observation (iNaturalist)
	Plains Grassland (1750 EVC extent)
	Plains Grassy Woodland (1750 EVC extent)
	Creekline Grassy Woodland (1750 EVC extent)
	Grey Clay Drainage-Line Aggregate (1750 EVC extent)
	Escarpment Shrubland (1750 EVC extent)

\*Based on Victoria’s ‘20-minute Neighbourhoods’ strategy, an 800-metre walking catchment boundary has been included to represent the area within a 20-minute walk to the creek and back.

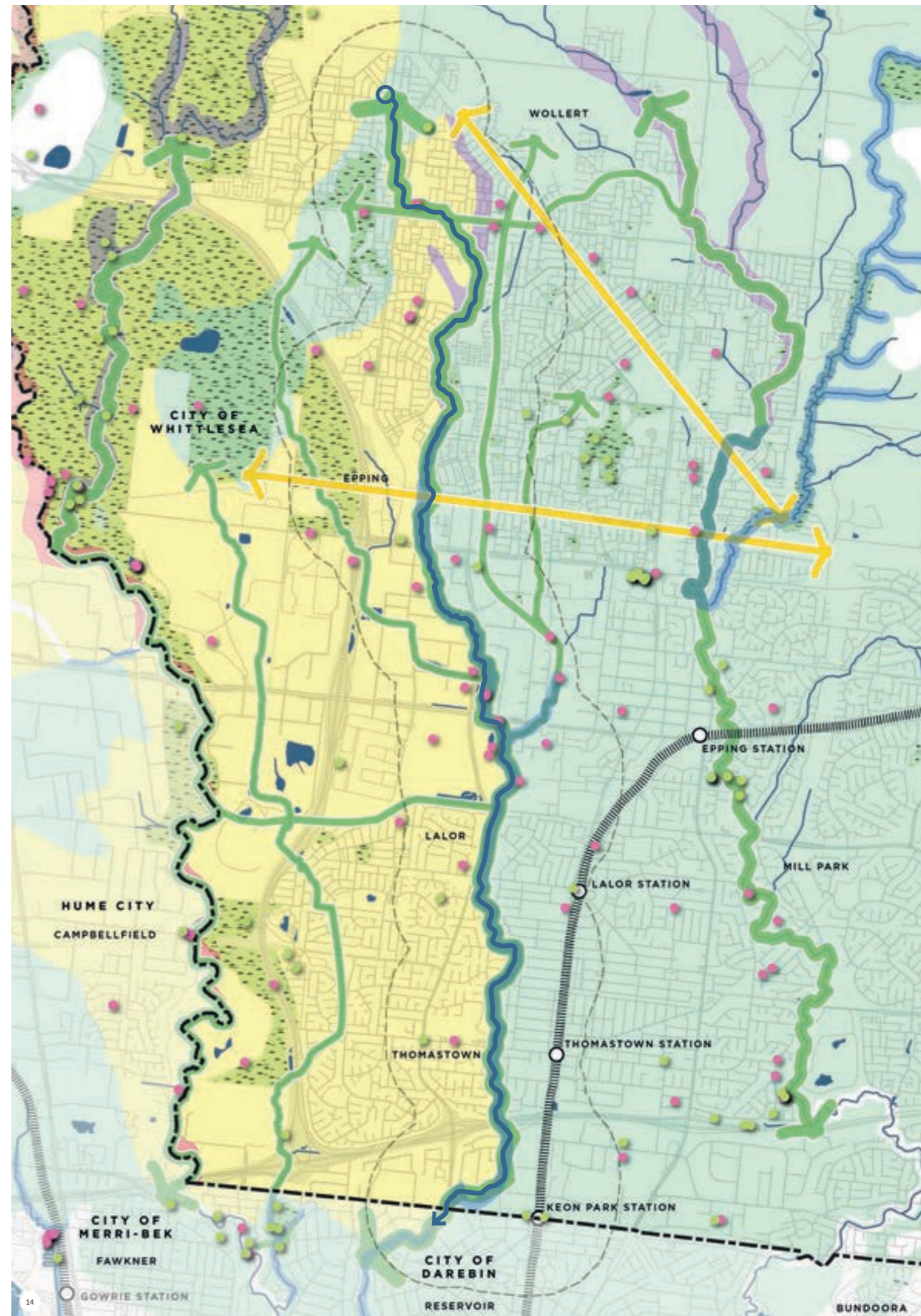


Figure 06: Edgars Creek: Environmental Context Map

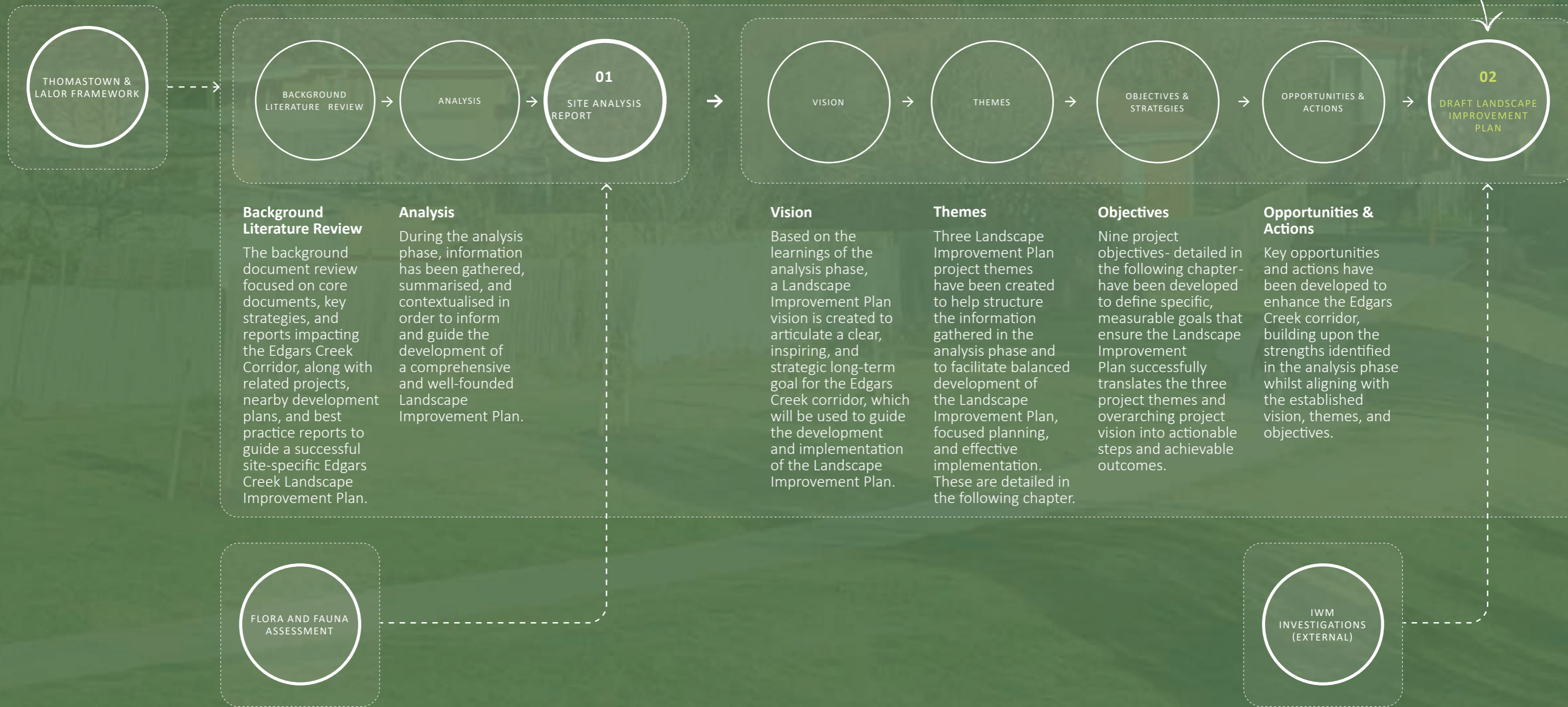




# 05 PROJECT FRAMEWORK

## LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROCESS

The Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan process is comprised of a multitude of phases, which are detailed below:



Background Photo: Image taken along a channelised section of the creek at Main Street Reserve in Thomastown.



**Community Consultation**

The community consultation phase is crucial to shaping the final landscape improvement plan. Feedback will be reviewed and incorporated into the refined concept in collaboration with Council, ensuring the Landscape Improvement Plan reflects community input.

**Project Prioritisation**

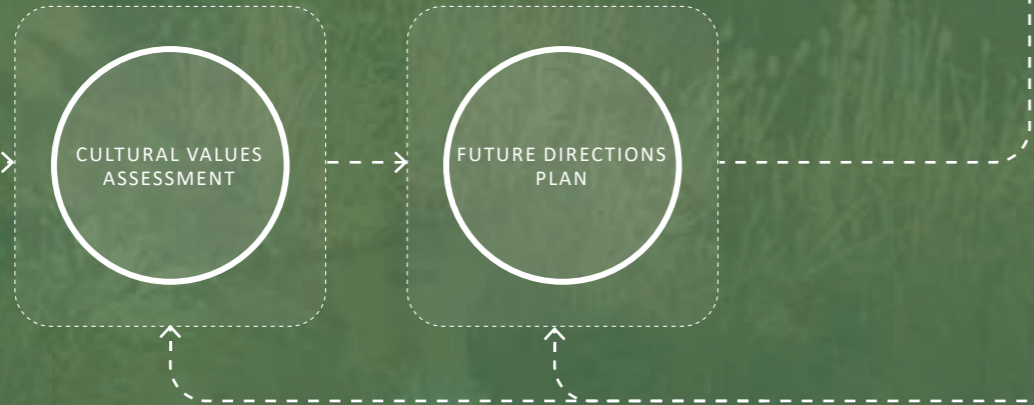
The finalised landscape improvement plan will include a prioritised action plan with estimated costs and designated responsibilities, developed in consultation with the Council Representative, to guide future implementation decisions.

**CULTURAL VALUES ASSESSMENT & FUTURE DIRECTIONS PLAN**

The City of Whittlesea is partnering with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to undertake a dedicated Cultural Values Assessment and Future Directions Plan process for the Edgars Creek Landscape Improvement Plan. This is a fundamental part of the process and will enable meaningful engagement with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and inform the development and planning of the Edgars Creek corridor within the City of Whittlesea and beyond.

The Cultural Values Assessment will be a foundational step in protecting and honouring the cultural significance of Edgars Creek and incorporating Traditional Owner knowledge and input for the future management of the entirety of the Creek corridor. This comprehensive assessment will be conducted as a collaborative effort involving the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, the City of Whittlesea, the City of Darebin, and Merri-bek City Council, with funding already secured from the City of Whittlesea.

Following this assessment, a Whole of Creek Future Directions Plan will be developed in authentic partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people. This Future Directions Plan, with Wurundjeri input, will act as a strategic guide for the development and long-term stewardship and enhancement of the Creek, ensuring cultural values, environmental health, and community connections are harmoniously integrated.



# 06

## THE VISION

### VISION STATEMENT

*The Edgars Creek Corridor will be a well-connected vibrant and inclusive green spine that celebrates the rich Aboriginal and recent history, culture, and communities of the City of Whittlesea. The creek corridor will be a place of thriving biodiversity, offering a harmonious blend of recreational, cultural, and social spaces that invite all community members to gather, explore, connect, and thrive.*

# 07

## PROJECT THEMES

Three overarching project themes have been identified through the Background Literature Review and the Site Analysis & Visioning Report process. These themes will be used as a framework to identify key objectives, actions and opportunities.

### 1. ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY

This theme relates to the ongoing ecological health of the creek system. These outcomes will be measured through the corresponding objectives.

The types of things that will be considered as part of this ecological understanding will be the presence and quality of remnant ecologies, the opportunities for habitat corridor connections, and understanding the hydrological function and health of water travelling through Edgars Creek.

### 2. RECREATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The second project theme focuses on enhancing the corridor's connectivity.

This includes improving landscape amenities, outdoor recreation and passive facilities, shared user path access, surrounding Edgars Creek Trail connections, lighting, public open space facilities, wayfinding, and signage. The Landscape Improvement Plan will prioritise uninterrupted active travel paths and create a network of inviting open spaces.

### 3. SOCIAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The third theme refers to the creek's ability to cater to the diverse human communities that interact with it.

This involves community initiatives — such as volunteer events, community gardening, and education — that foster a sense of stewardship. This also means making the corridor feel safe for all cultures, genders, ages, and abilities and advocating with stakeholders to sustain a shared vision for the creek's ongoing health.

# 08

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Each of the three project themes has a further three corresponding objectives. These project objectives will be used to both guide and measure the success of the actions and opportunities identified in the Landscape Improvement Plan.



1.1. Restore and enhance the native vegetation and ecologies of the Edgars Creek corridor.



1.2. Create a resilient Edgars Creek corridor that can withstand the impacts of climate change and urban development.



1.3. Enhance the corridor's overall water quality and hydrological function.



16



2.1. Improve and enhance the recreation infrastructure of the Edgars Creek corridor.



2.2. Develop a continuous Edgars Creek Trail that is well connected to adjacent neighbourhoods.



2.3. Establish an identifiable, navigable, and inviting Edgars Creek corridor.



17



3.1. Foster a deeper community connection to the Edgars Creek corridor.



3.2. Support and empower existing community groups through education, volunteer programs, and community events.



3.3. Advocate for adjacent landholders and government authorities to the Edgars Creek corridor.



18

# 09

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES & CORRESPONDING STRATEGIES

### ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY

This chapter outlines the strategies identified throughout the corridor to achieve the actions and opportunities developed in the Landscape Improvement Plan. These strategies are designed to directly address and ensure the fulfilment of each objective.



#### 1.1. RESTORE AND ENHANCE THE NATIVE VEGETATION AND ECOLOGIES OF THE EDGARS CREEK CORRIDOR.

- Implement widespread understorey and tree plantings along the Creek, prioritising Indigenous species and protecting existing mature trees.
- Establish and strengthen biodiversity corridors that intersect the Edgars Creek corridor, through strategic planting and connecting existing green infrastructure.
- Trial new biodiversity initiatives such as tiny forests, habitat logs and riparian plantings.



#### 1.2. CREATE A RESILIENT EDGARS CREEK CORRIDOR THAT CAN WITHSTAND THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

- Create a more resilient Growling Grass Frog population by introducing buffer planting and frog fencing where appropriate.
- Plant a diversity of climate resilient tree species along the Creek corridor.
- Implement low-impact and adaptive lighting solutions along the Edgars Creek corridor where appropriate, to support active transport, recreation and site biodiversity.



#### 1.3. ENHANCE THE CORRIDOR'S OVERALL WATER QUALITY AND HYDROLOGICAL FUNCTION

- Advocate for improvements to existing Melbourne Water stormwater infrastructure.
- Implement new blue-green infrastructure, such as hyporheic zones and wicking fields to improve aquatic plant health, water quality and improve habitat for aquatic organisms.
- Return channelised sections of the Edgars Creek corridor to a more naturalistic creek environment.



## RECREATION & ACCESSIBILITY

This chapter outlines the strategies identified throughout the corridor to achieve the actions and opportunities developed in the Landscape Improvement Plan. These strategies are designed to directly address and ensure the fulfilment of each objective.



### 2.1. IMPROVE AND ENHANCE THE RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE EDGARS CREEK CORRIDOR.

- Introduce additional open space infrastructure such as seating, shelters, and public toilets in areas that lack adequate amenity.
- Create a diversity of unique and identifiable recreation and open space infrastructure along the Creek, which stimulate community interest, interaction and exploration.
- Introduce recreation infrastructure which connects and compliments existing community and open space infrastructure.



22



### 2.2. DEVELOP A CONTINUOUS EDGARS CREEK TRAIL THAT IS WELL CONNECTED TO ADJACENT NEIGHBOURHOODS.

- Construct missing sections of shared user path along the Edgars Creek Trail.
- Introduce pedestrian and cyclist priority crossings where the Edgars Creek Trail intersects with roads, where possible.
- Enhance path legibility along the Edgars Creek Trail by introducing consistent line markings and directional signage.
- Improve surrounding active transport connections into the Edgars Creek Trail.



23



### 2.3. ESTABLISH AN IDENTIFIABLE, NAVIGABLE, AND INVITING EDGARS CREEK CORRIDOR.

- Implement a clear and consistent wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy along the length of the Edgars Creek corridor, to improve navigation and acknowledge the cultural, historical and ecological significance of the Creek.
- Improve pedestrian access to the Creek through the introduction of new paths, lighting, and creek crossings.
- Establish inviting entry points and arrival experiences that contribute to the Corridor's identity.
- Consider views to the Creek when undertaking new development to improve visual access to the Creek corridor.
- Implement inclusive, safe and interconnected infrastructure, which is thoughtfully designed to accommodate people of all abilities and genders, ensuring equitable access and usability for everyone.



24

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

This chapter outlines the strategies identified throughout the corridor to achieve the actions and opportunities developed in the Landscape Improvement Plan. These strategies are designed to directly address and ensure the fulfilment of each objective.



### 3.1 FOSTER A DEEPER COMMUNITY CONNECTION TO THE EDGARS CREEK CORRIDOR.

- Establish community gardens along the creek to promote activity within the corridor, fostering interaction and custodianship.
- Develop and promote water and nature-based activities that educate the community about the creek's ecology and heritage.
- Educate the surrounding residents and businesses about the ecological significance of the Edgars Creek Corridor.
- Cultivate a sense of community stewardship of the creek through targeted events, programs, and ongoing engagement.



### 3.2 SUPPORT AND EMPOWER EXISTING COMMUNITY GROUPS THROUGH EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS.

- Continue to support existing hands-on environmental education programs (e.g. Bush School).
- Consider community activities and events (e.g. markets and fun runs) when planning and introducing new open space infrastructure.
- Empower and support existing Edgars Creek volunteer groups to take active stewardship of the Creek corridor, fostering community engagement and long-term care.
- Collaborate with Traditional Owners, community groups, sports clubs, schools, and environmental organisations to identify shared needs, aspirations, and opportunities along the Creek corridor.



### 3.3 ADVOCATE FOR ADJACENT LANDHOLDERS AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES TO ENHANCE THE EDGARS CREEK CORRIDOR.

- Advocate for improvements to stormwater infrastructure and wetland management to reduce stormwater runoff and improve the ecological function of the Creek corridor.
- Work with Creek-adjacent businesses and landholders to improve interfaces with the Corridor (e.g. improving natural surveillance of the Creek from adjacent buildings).
- Advocate for revised planning controls that improve development outcomes and amenity along the Creek corridor (e.g. through a Design and Development Overlay).
- Establish and strengthen strategic partnerships with other management authorities and councils to support and advocate for the development, restoration, enhancement and activation of the Corridor.
- Where appropriate look for opportunities to purchase land to improve open space outcomes



## ACTIONS FROM THE ABORIGINAL ACTION PLAN, 2024-2029.

In late 2024, the City of Whittlesea released their Aboriginal Action Plan for 2024-2029. This report includes a number of actions that have been workshopped with the Aboriginal community of Whittlesea and are of relevance to the Edgars Creek Landscape Improvement Plan. These actions should be considered alongside this document, and they should both inform any resulting projects or future works.

As an overarching vision, the Aboriginal Action Plan aims to recognise and enable Aboriginal self-determination by:

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

Some of the key specific actions from the Aboriginal Action Plan are summarised in the adjacent list.

## PLANNING CONTROLS & PROTECTIONS

‘Areas of cultural heritage sensitivity’ relate to landforms and soil types where Aboriginal places are likely to be present- this includes land within 200 metres of named waterways. These areas are defined in the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018.

The entirety of the Edgar’s Creek corridor and the majority of open spaces that interface with the Creek is designated ‘areas of cultural heritage sensitivity’. Regulations dictate that if any ‘high impact activity’ is carried out resulting from the Edgar’s Creek Landscape Improvement Plan, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) must be prepared before any permits are issued or works commenced. These management plans are important for determining the significance of any cultural heritage places within the subject site.

### ACTIONS FROM THE CITY OF WHITTLESEA’S ABORIGINAL ACTION PLAN, 2024-2029.

1. Embed traditional owner languages, culture and people in the naming of council places and spaces.
2. Review and update council’s signage management plan and relevant signage in consultation with traditional owners.
3. Collaborate with traditional owners and place naming committee to develop place naming protocols for council’s assets in accordance with council’s naming policy for features.
4. Engage with and support traditional owners (wurundjeri/taungurung) to share climate resilience and care for country practices, as well as provide input on the protection of aboriginal cultural heritage
5. Partnering with traditional owners (wurundjeri/taungurung), to collaborate on the protection of aboriginal cultural heritage, environmental management and the sharing of care of country practice, in alignment with council’s sustainable environment action plan 2022-2024 relevant action items and future planning.
6. Integrate knowledge gained from the cultural landscapes approach across council land use policies, plans and operations, including strategic planning, statutory approvals, open space, urban design, assessments, sustainable environment, land use planning and communications.
7. Honour, respect and value aboriginal peoples experience, expertise and knowledge by supporting first nations resourcing and opportunities
8. Support sustainable and effective grant and funding models to assist on-going traditional owners, aboriginal organisations and peoples engagement, activities and initiatives.

## FURTHER STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Included in the Aboriginal Action Plan are actions that are taken from other strategic documents from the City of Whittlesea. These are outlined below:

### ACTIONS FROM THE CITY OF WHITTLESEA’S LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS STRATEGY 2023-2033.

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

### ACTIONS FROM THE CITY OF WHITTLESEA’S SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2022-2032.

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

### ACTIONS FROM THE CITY OF WHITTLESEA’S HIGH PERFORMING ORGANISATION STRATEGY 2023-2028.

- Collaborate and partner with Traditional Owners to inform Council decisions
- Always consider cultural heritage and raise internal awareness of traditional cultural practice

### ACTIONS FROM THE CITY OF WHITTLESEA’S CONNECTED COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2023-2033.

- Enhance cultural safety in built spaces for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

### ACTIONS FROM THE CITY OF WHITTLESEA’S LONG-TERM COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 2024-2033

- Enhance cultural safety in built spaces for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities



The City of Whittlesea’s Aboriginal Action Plan, 2024-2029.

## EMBEDDING GENDER SENSITIVE DESIGN IN THE EDGARS CREEK LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

### GENDER EQUITY AND GENDER-SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN

The Edgars Creek Landscape Improvement Plan (ECLIP) incorporates the principles of gender-sensitive urban design to ensure public spaces are inclusive, equitable, and welcoming to all. Gender-sensitive urban design acknowledges that public spaces are experienced differently by individuals based on gender and identity and seeks to address inequalities that arise from these gendered social structures.

The integration of gender-sensitive urban design within the ECLIP is crucial for several reasons:

- The ECLIP aims to create public spaces that are safe and accessible to all, particularly for women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals who experience public spaces differently due to safety concerns and social barriers.
- Ensuring that initiatives, such as new shared user paths, are designed with diverse needs in mind encourages greater community engagement and usage.
- By removing physical and social barriers in the built environment, the ECLIP helps create a more inclusive space where people of all genders and backgrounds can equally enjoy and benefit from the landscape improvements.
- The ECLIP aligns with broader legislative including the Gender Equality Act (2020) ensuring the project contributes to broader gender equity goals.

Several key documents have informed the development of the ECLIP, including:

- **Gender Sensitive Urban Design (GSUD) Implementation Toolkit (2023)** – Provides a structured approach to integrating gender considerations into urban design, ensuring that spaces are accessible and inclusive for all.
- **City of Whittlesea Gender Equity in Design Guidelines (2017)** – Establishes a framework for removing design barriers that limit participation in community facilities.
- **City of Whittlesea Gender Impact Assessment** – Offers insights into how gender influences experiences in context specific spaces and helps shape design strategies that promote inclusivity.

### DESIGN STRATEGIES AND ELEMENTS

The ECLIP embeds several key strategies from the GSUD Toolkit:

- **Safety and Visibility:** Clear sightlines, consistent lighting, and passive surveillance ensure that users feel safe. For instance, pathways are designed to avoid blind spots, with lighting installed along main routes to improve visibility after dark.
- **Accessibility:** Continuous, barrier-free paths to accommodate prams, wheelchairs, and bicycles, as well as wayfinding measures make navigation intuitive and inclusive.
- **Sociability and Inclusiveness:** The ECLIP emphasises flexible, welcoming spaces that encourage social interaction. Urban furniture, shaded seating areas, and recreational zones cater to diverse age groups and activities, promoting community connections.
- **Cultural Identity:** Collaboration with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung community ensures that spaces reflect and celebrate First Nations culture.
- **Comfort and Image:** Sensory qualities, such as shade, shelter, and natural elements like trees and greenery, are prioritised to enhance the overall experience of spaces and make them vibrant and inviting.
- **Co-Design:** Engaging directly with diverse community groups, including women, youth, and those with disabilities, ensures that the design process reflects lived experiences, identifies barriers and highlights opportunities.

### THE ROLE OF THE GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As part of the ECLIP, a Gender Impact Assessment was undertaken. This assessment informed both the community consultation process and the actions and initiatives that have been identified within ECLIP.

The GIA evaluated the gendered impacts of proposed actions, such as constructing shared user paths, implementing lighting and wayfinding and improving accessibility.

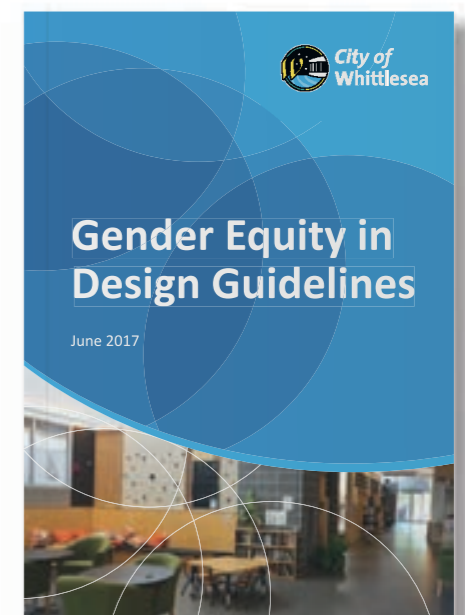
The GIA follows four stages:

- **Define the Issue:** Identified the specific challenges the ECLIP sought to address and considered how gender shaped these issues (e.g., safety, accessibility, equitable resource allocation). This stage informed community consultation by highlighting key concerns that needed validation and further input from affected groups
- **Understand the Context:** Analysed who was impacted by the project, their lived experiences, and how different groups may experience public spaces. Community consultation at this stage helped to capture diverse perspectives and ensure the assessment reflected real-world experiences.
- **Evaluate Options:** Assessed proposed actions, weighing gendered benefits, costs, and the overall impact of each design option. Community feedback was incorporated to test assumptions, refine solutions, and ensure interventions aligned with local needs.
- **Recommend Changes:** Identified adjustments to ensure the ECLIP promoted gender equity and mitigated potentially negative impacts. Consultation findings helped shape these recommendations by validating concerns and ensuring solutions were responsive to community priorities.

By embedding gender-sensitive design and adopting a collaborative approach, the Edgars Creek Landscape Improvement Plan will create a safer, more inclusive public environment that benefits all community members, regardless of their gender or identity.



ACT Government's Gender Sensitive Urban Design Implementation Toolkit 2023



The City of Whittlesea's Gender Equity in Design Guidelines 2017



# 10

## PRECINCT CHARACTER ANALYSIS

## PRECINCT BREAKDOWN

The Edgars Creek Corridor is comprised of six distinct precincts. Understanding the differences between these precincts and appreciating their unique characteristics is essential for identifying site-specific opportunities and actions along the creek corridor.

The precinct boundaries were determined through on-site inspections, reviews of existing documents, analysis of neighbouring development plans, and research into land use and other relevant elements.

The following section provides an overview of the six precincts, framing the opportunities and actions that have been mapped as the core component of this landscape improvement plan.

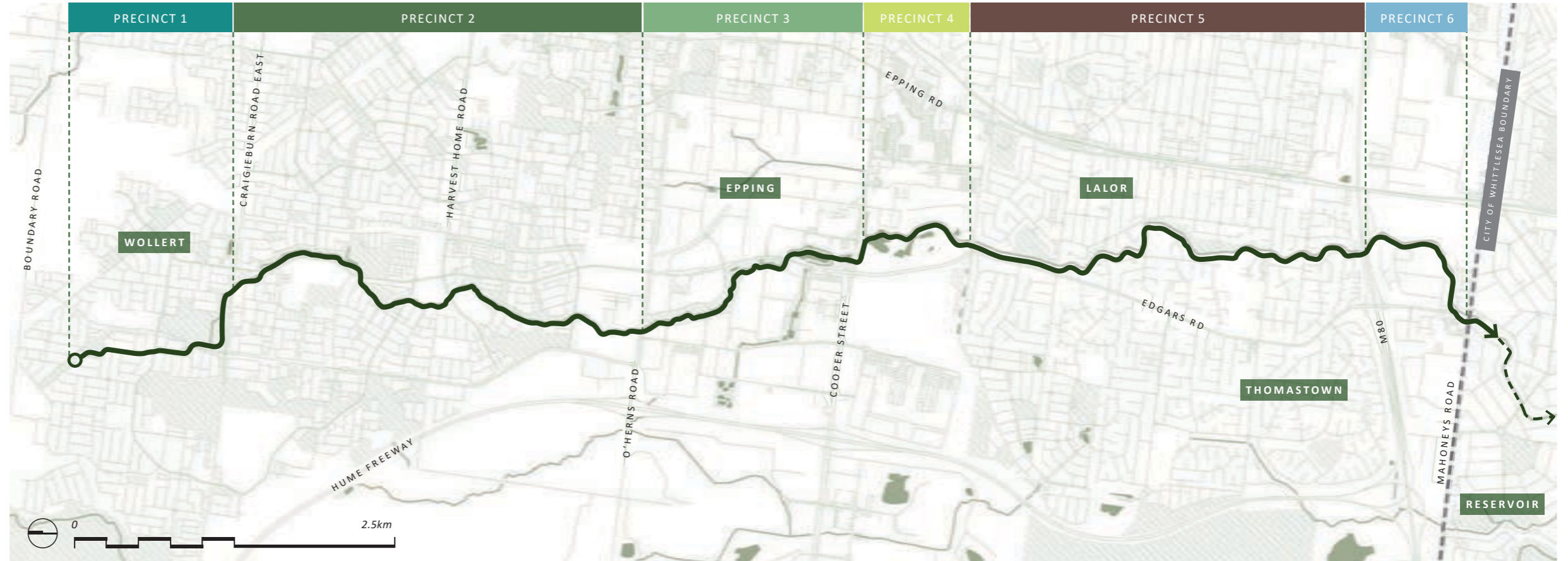


Figure 07: Precinct Breakdown

### PRECINCT 1 - WOLLERT

Precinct 1 stretches between Boundary Road and Craigieburn Road East. This precinct includes new and in-progress residential development, WSUD assets and a stormwater catchment south of the Arramont Development.



29

### PRECINCT 2 - AURORA DEVELOPMENT

Precinct 2 is characterised mostly by the new and in-progress residential and commercial development of the Aurora housing estate. This precinct stretches between Craigieburn Road East and O'Herns Road and includes several open spaces and integrated wetland systems.



30

### PRECINCT 3 - COOPER STREET EMPLOYMENT AREA

Precinct 3 continues on from O'Herns Road in the north to Cooper Street in the south. This precinct is characterised by the recently developed Cooper Street Employment Area and includes grassland conservation areas, large-scale Integrated Water Management (IWM) infrastructure and extensive, maintained lawn areas.



31

### PRECINCT 4 - NEW EPPING

Precinct 4 is currently characterised by wetland infrastructure, a large quarry lake and large areas of fenced landscape. This precinct sits between Cooper Street to the north and Deveny Road to the South.



32

### PRECINCT 5 - LALOR & THOMASTOWN

Precinct 5 consists of established low density residential areas of Thomastown and Lalor. Within the northern part of Precinct 5, stretches of the creek are channelised with steep embankments. This Precinct is bound by Deveny Road in the north and the M80 motorway to the south.



33

### PRECINCT 6 - THOMASTOWN INDUSTRIAL AREA













Precinct 6 primarily abuts industrial sites and a power line easement. The M80 motorway to the north and Mahoneys Road to the south frame this precinct which is mostly dominated by exotic grasses and weeds.

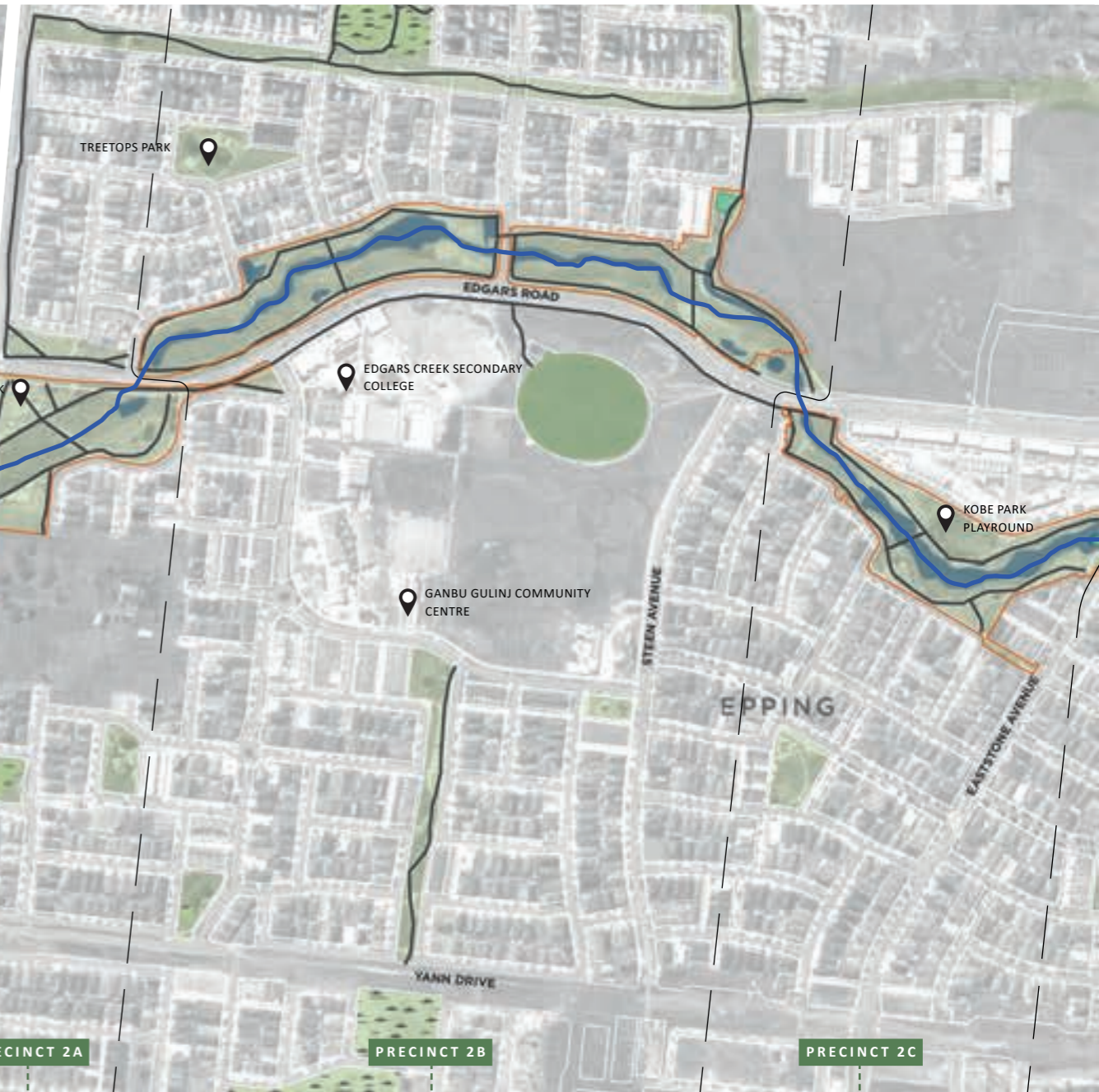


34

PRECINCT CHARACTER

LEGEND

-  Edgars Creek
-  Local Landmark
-  Existing Shared Path
-  Public Open Space
-  Private & Restricted Open Space
-  Conservation Area
-  Gas & Transmission Easement
-  Existing Growing Grass Frog Habitat
-  Wetlands
-  City of Whittlesea Owned Creek Site
-  Melbourne Water-Owned Creek Site
-  Yarra Valley-Owned Creek Site



**Precinct 1A - Verdon Playground and Park**

Precinct 1A centres around Verdon Street Park and Playground, where Edgars Creek first begins to take a visible form in Wollert. This park is defined by remnant river red gums in good condition and native plantings along its western edge, visually marking the commencement of the Edgars Creek corridor. Generous areas of mulch and native plantings are located along the former creek alignment, enhancing the natural character of the park. Additionally, the park features a playground and a large central green space.



**Precinct 1B - Verdon Drive to Jardin Road**

The creek is culverted underneath La Tour Boulevard, which is characterised by a central median strip comprised of a bio-retention swale, featuring predominantly native planting and a double row of eucalyptus trees. The central median is flanked on either side by a road, nature strip, footpath, and one- and two-storey suburban homes, which face the road and are set back by approximately 3 meters within the property.



**Precinct 1C - Jardin Road to Montbeliard Road - Arramont Waterway**

The creek forms a linear open space typically 35 meters wide, widening to 75 meters in the south. This part of Precinct 1 is significant as it marks the first point where any water flow is visible, it also includes the first section of shared path along the creek corridor. The landscape is characterised by a wide, flat creek banks with established, healthy riparian plant communities and native grasses along the water line. At the edge of the corridor is a green space/grassed area that includes rest stops, footpaths, and a shared path.



**Precinct 1D - Southern Wollert Stormwater Treatment Wetland**

The creek moves through a large, fenced-off and poorly-maintained wetland just north of Craigieburn Road East. The creek appears weedy, full of rubbish and lacks mature tree canopy. There is a lack of dedicated pedestrian access along the western and southern sides. This part of the creek interfaces with the busy Craigieburn Road East to the south which creates a barrier for access from the rest of the creek further south. The western edge borders local roads and residential homes, while the northern interface is earmarked for a future Council recreation reserve.



**Precinct 2A - Aurora Adventure Park (Craigieburn Road East to Timbarra Parkway)**

The creek passes underneath Craigieburn Road East and enters into Precinct 2, which is within the the Aurora Development. The creek has a naturalistic appearance with established native plantings and trees. It appears well-maintained and free of significant litter. The eastern side of the creek interfaces the Aurora Adventure Park, which features play equipment, a shelter, and a medium-sized kick-about space. To the west is a shelter and grassed area.



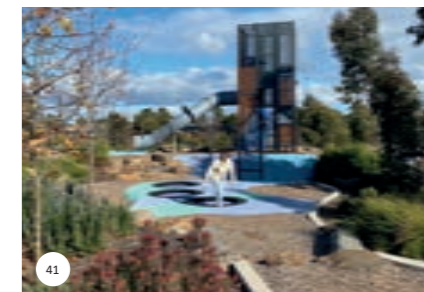
**Precinct 2B - Timbarra Parkway to Edgars Road**

The creek is flanked by the Edgars Creek Secondary School on the western side and the residential homes of the Aurora development on the eastern side. Both the school and the residential homes are separated from the creek by local roads. The southern portion of this stretch of the creek features small stormwater treatment ponds and intersects with a grassland conservation area, including a long boardwalk that overlooks the grassland. The creek appears well-maintained, and retains a naturalistic appearance with gentle banks, established native plants, and mature trees.



**Precinct 2C - Kobe Park Playground**

Through northern Epping, the eastern bank of the creek interfaces with Kobe Park Playground. This playground is defined by its close proximity to the creek, surrounded by trees and native plantings, as well as a diverse range of play equipment, including climbing structures, trampolines, nature play areas, and a play tower. This stretch of the creek also directly interfaces with the neighbouring Aurora development townhouses without a road separating the houses. Minimal weeds are present and vegetation appears healthy.





**Precinct 2D - Edgars & Harvest Home Rds**

The eastern side of this section interfaces with a large, open plot of land not yet developed as part of the Aurora project. The western side features a mix of new houses and townhouses. A unique feature of this section is the way that some townhouses directly front onto the corridor without being separated by a road. In this area the creek corridor is very flat and open. It has a cared-for, yet naturalistic appearance, with established native plantings and trees. Some riparian weeds are present.



The creek passes another school with a sports oval; Harvest Home Primary School. To the east, the creek borders Aurora Town Park Playground. This playground and park features a blend of formal exotic tree plantings, a large open grassed area, generous picnic facilities, and distinctive art sculptures. Its play area includes a small combination unit and some other play elements. Vegetation in this stretch of the creek becomes more weedy, particularly with invasive riparian grasses and reeds.



**Precinct 2F - Lehmann's Farm Park**

South of Gammage Boulevard, the creek passes Lehmann's Farm Park. This local landmark stands out along the Edgars Creek Corridor due to its historic bluestone farm buildings. The park features interpretive play, signage, and furniture, a mix of native and exotic trees, and small to medium open grassed areas. Whilst the trees here appear healthy, the creek is choked with invasive reeds and grasses that inhibit water flow and trap rubbish.



**Precinct 2G - Rockfield Street to O'Herns Road**

South of Rockfield Street, the corridor is bordered on both sides by undeveloped land of the Aurora development, with some newly constructed townhouses to the east. Just north of O'Herns Road, the creek flows between two established farmhouse dwellings. The creek has a flat, naturalistic meandering form. It has been filled with bluestone masonry blocks, presumably sourced from the removal of surrounding farming drystone walls. Trees are well-established, however the aquatic vegetation is mostly invasive, exotic species.



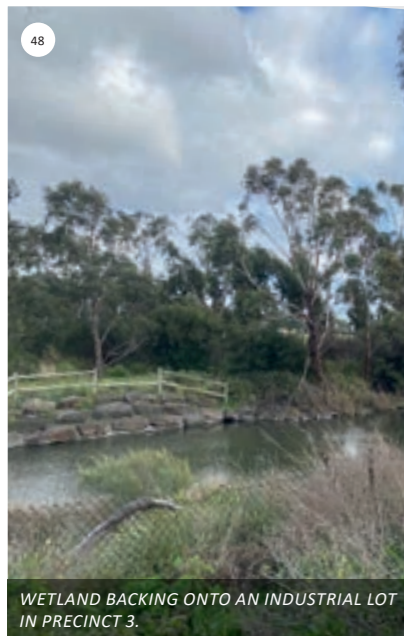
**Precinct 3A - O'Herns Rd to Edgars Road**

Precinct 3A, redeveloped under the Cooper Street Employment Area Development Plan, features wide footpaths along the eastern interface and Edgars Road, a large constructed wetland to the south, and a well-maintained native landscape with trees and mown grass. The Legacy Conservation Reserve here contains remnant grassland, though it lacks signage and proper edge conditions. This precinct features healthy looking grassland areas to the north, including Growling Grass Frog habitat around waterbodies and wetlands near Edgars Road. The grassland appears weedy and lacks proper edge conditions or maintenance.



IMAGE LOOKING SOUTH ALONG LEGACY ROAD ADJACENT AN EXISTING CONSERVATION AREA.

ADJOINS MAP ON NEXT PAGE



48  
WETLAND BACKING ONTO AN INDUSTRIAL LOT IN PRECINCT 3.

**Precinct 3B - Edgars Road to Cooper Street**  
 This stretch of Edgars Creek is currently being redeveloped based on the Cooper Street Employment Area Development Plan. The Edgars Creek shared path wraps around the eastern flank of the creek with another wide footpath following Edgars Road to the west. There is a large, relatively new wetland in this location - which includes Growling Grass Frog habitat - as well as high quality native landscaping with canopy trees, there are also large areas of mown grass. There are water weed species present, particularly at the water's edge. There is a significant amount of rubbish visible.



49

**Precinct 4A - Coopers Street - Deveny Road**  
 Edgars Creek passes through the New Epping Renewal Site, a location that is currently being redeveloped based on the Epping Central Precinct Structure Plan. The shared path will continue along the eastern flank of the creek with a connection to the south on Deveny Road. There is a large quarry lake abutting Cooper Street, which is the biggest body of water in the creek corridor with an existing area of native revegetation. Growling Grass Frog habitat will be improved as part of the development.



50

**Precinct 5A - Deveny Road to Kingsway Drive**  
 The creek interfaces with residential back fences to the north towards Deveny Road before it opens up to Huskisson Reserve to the east and Edgars Road Neighbourhood Park to the west, where there is a bridge connection across the creek. To the south, the creek interfaces with residential back fences to the west and a Tennis Club to the east. The creek corridor is dominated by exotic grasses, severely lacking in diverse, native understorey planting. The waterway itself is also full of weed species.



51

**Section 5B - Huskisson Recreation Reserve**  
 Huskisson Reserve is an important open space that abuts the creek in Lalor, featuring clusters of mature native trees, large open grassed areas, a senior AFL oval with a cricket pitch, cricket nets, and a playground. A new shared path with lights and seating nodes lines the eastern edge of the creek. There is an opportunity to better connect the creek and its amenities with Huskisson Reserve. There are many healthy, mature native trees - including river red gums - however there is a distinct lack of diverse mid and understorey planting.



52

**Precinct 5C - Kingsway Drive to German Lane**  
 The creek mostly interfaces with residential back fences apart from a large central interface with Kalara Close on the eastern bank. The creek corridor varies in width becoming very narrow in places. The edge condition is also very steep in some areas particularly towards Kingsway Drive and on the northern bank near German Lane. This portion of the creek is characterised by a fully channelised waterway - some portions within a concrete channel and some within a sloped turf channel - with few trees.

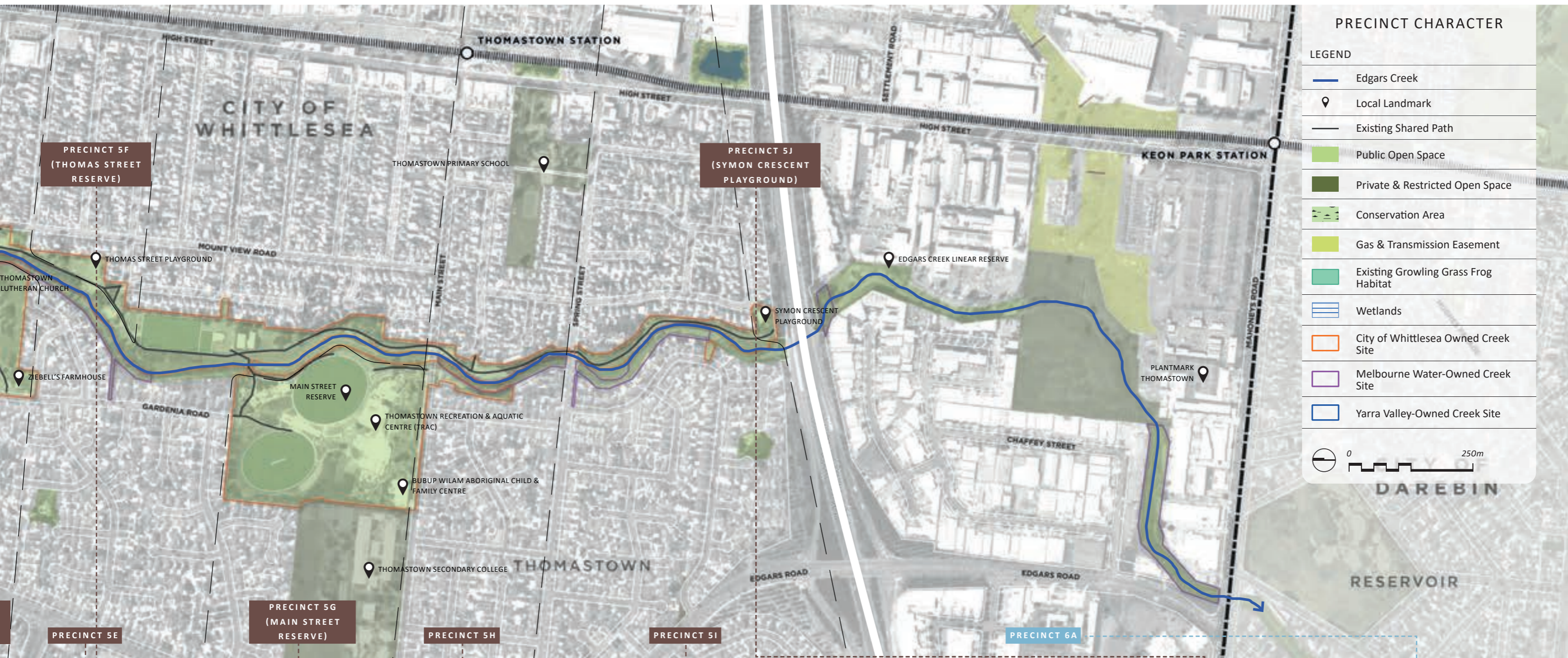


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The creek passes nearby significant local heritage landmarks; Ziebell's Farmhouse and the Thomastown Lutheran Church. These two icons of Thomastown history feature a heritage bluestone church, clusters of mature native and exotic trees extending into the creek corridor, and a drystone wall alongside the creek with a steep grassed embankment. This location is dominated by mown grass, lacking diverse mid and understorey planting.















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PRECINCT CHARACTER

LEGEND

-  Edgars Creek
-  Local Landmark
-  Existing Shared Path
-  Public Open Space
-  Private & Restricted Open Space
-  Conservation Area
-  Gas & Transmission Easement
-  Existing Growing Grass Frog Habitat
-  Wetlands
-  City of Whittlesea Owned Creek Site
-  Melbourne Water-Owned Creek Site
-  Yarra Valley-Owned Creek Site



The creek primarily interfaces with residential back fences to the west before it opens to Main Street Recreation Reserve. The creek is not celebrated and appears more as a drainage channel than a significant waterway. It has a riparian zone of mown grass as well as areas of weedy exotic vegetation and trees. The creek is channelised from Main Street Reserve. There is a shared user path running along the eastern side of the creek corridor.

**Precinct 5F - Thomas Street Recreation Reserve Playground**  
Thomas Street Recreation Reserve Playground features a playground, high-quality landscaping, an interface with the Edgars Creek shared path and Thomas Street, and a natural, unchannelised section of Edgars Creek. This stretch of the creek has less steep, channelised banks, but they are still dominated by invasive grass, lacking a native understorey. Weeds line the water's edge.

**Precinct 5G - Main Street Recreation Reserve**  
The creek flows east of Main Street Reserve and the Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre, forming part of a major community hub alongside the Bubup Wilam Aboriginal Child and Family Centre and Thomastown Secondary College. Main Street Recreation Reserve features clusters of mature native trees, large open grassed areas, a playground, and sports facilities. There is a bridge crossing and path connections to Gardenia Road and nearby sports facilities. The creek runs predominantly through a concrete channel in this stretch.

**Precinct 5H - Main Street to Spring Street**  
The creek interfaces with residential back fences apart from its eastern interface with Caroline Street. It feels forgotten and unloved. This portion of the creek has less steep embankments, but is characterised by a riparian zone of mown grass and weedy exotic vegetation and some landscaped areas with native grasses. There is a wide path running along the eastern side of the creek corridor. There are few trees and some invasive Willow species.

**Precinct 5I - Spring Street to M80**  
The creek interfaces with residential back fences on both sides before it opens up to Symon Crescent Playground to the south-east. This portion of the creek is channelised with a riparian zone of mown grass, rocks and rubble banks, and weedy shrubs. There are rows of mature eucalyptus trees. There is a wide footpath on the eastern side which connects to Symon Crescent and the M80 Trail. The footpath underneath the M80 feels unsafe.

**Precinct 5J - Symon Crescent Playground**  
The southernmost playground that abuts the creek before it passes underneath the M80 motorway is Symon Crescent Playground, on the eastern bank. Symon Crescent Playground features clusters of native plantings with canopy trees, complemented by high-quality native landscaping and a playground. Edgars Creek is not channelised in this area with a riparian area of mown grass and low quality aquatic vegetation.

**Precinct 6A - M80 to Mahoneys Road**  
In Precinct 6, the creek flows through the Thomastown Industrial Area, characterised by industrial buildings, open grassy areas, and a large lawn at the centre. These are significant open spaces that could house a diversity of flora and fauna. The creek is lined with intermittent plantings of medium to large trees and marks the termination point of the creek corridor within the City of Whittlesea, passing under Mahoneys Road into the City of Darebin.



# 11

## PRECINCT OPPORTUNITIES & ACTIONS



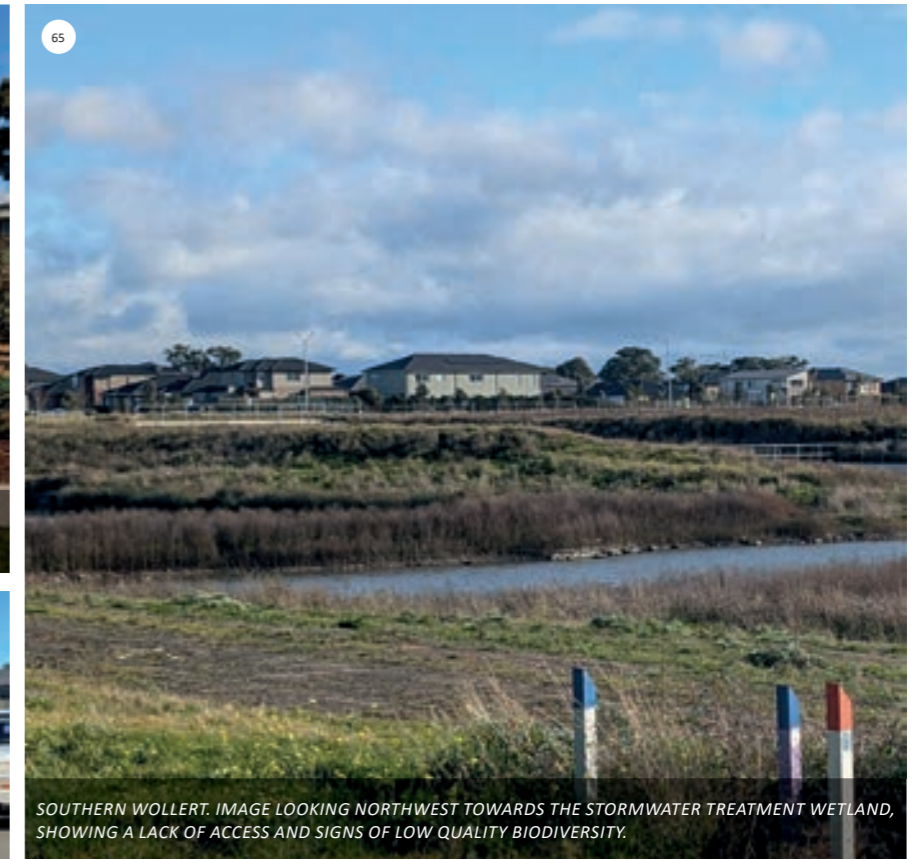
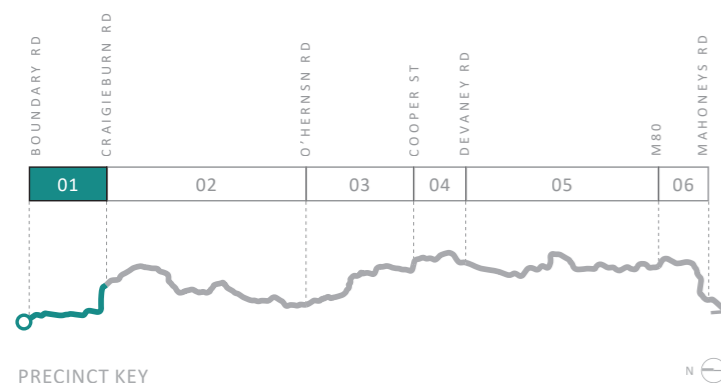
## 11.1 PRECINCT 1, WOLLERT

### ANALYSIS & OPPORTUNITIES

































Precinct 1 encompasses the northern stretch of Edgars Creek and lies entirely within the Wollert PSP area. It is characterised by recently developed subdivisions, with homes lining La Tour Boulevard and fronting Edgars Creek. The area is enriched by river red gums, extensive native plantings, and open parklands. Edgars Creek connects to important green corridors, including a transmission easement to the east, a conservation area to the west and public open space such as Verdon Street Park.

Significant sections within Precinct 1 include the Southern Wollert Stormwater Treatment Wetland, an expansive but fenced area showing signs of neglect, with limited access and bordered by busy roads. Meanwhile, the linear corridor from Jardin Road to Montbeliard Road forms an open green space, introducing water flow and providing shared paths, rest stops, and creek-adjacent native plantings.

To enhance the Creek's appearance, ecological health and community accessibility, several initiatives are recommended. These include establishing a connected movement network along the length of the Creek, enhancing connections to biodiversity corridors, and promoting community engagement with the Creek through signage and way-finding features.



PRECINCT 1, WOLLERT - OPPORTUNITIES INDEX

MAP ID	DESCRIPTION	PRECINCT ID	OPPORTUNITY	ACTION	OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED
01	Implement interpretive signage to enhance Verdon Playground as a gateway to Edgars Creek and foster community connection and exploration.	1A		A	 
02	Engage with surrounding residents to provide a sense of community, build awareness and imbue a sense of pride in the Creek.	1A	O		 
03	Explore understorey re-vegetation and restoration opportunities at Verdon Playground where there are remnant River Red Gums.	1A	O		 
04	Consider ways of calming traffic and promoting a shared zone along La Tour Boulevard to provide a direct active travel connection from Verdon Playground and Park to the Edgars Creek Trail at Arramont Waterway, south of Jardin Road.	1B		A	 
05	Plant diverse understorey planting and native street trees in the verges and median strip of Jardin Road. Further strengthen this route as a biodiversity corridor by engaging with residents to plant native species in their front gardens.	1B		A	   
06	Install interpretive signage at the beginning of the shared user path on Jardin Road to celebrate the Creek's cultural and ecological importance, discourage littering and engender a feeling of stewardship over the waterway.	1C	O		 
07	Acknowledge the Edgars Creek corridor when developing the future sports field through signage, way-finding and landscape initiatives.	1C	O		  
08	Activate the Creek's edge and linear park with picnic shelters and seating nodes to provide opportunities for respite.	1C		A	 
09	Introduce a signalised crossing at Montbeliard Road to complete a missing link in the movement network and provide uninterrupted access to the Creek corridor.	1C		A	 
10	Extend the existing shared user path from Montbeliard Road to Craigieburn Road, north of the Southern Wollert Stormwater Treatment Wetland, to bridge a critical gap in the shared user path network.	1D		A	 
11	Advocate for Melbourne Water to improve the interfaces, community access and ecological function of the Southern Wollert Stormwater Treatment Wetland.	1D	O		  
12	Establish a visual link between the Edgars Creek Corridor and either side of Craigieburn Road through tree planting.	1D	O		 
13	Develop a biodiverse understorey by creating a native grassland meadow using the seed-sowing method established by Katherine Horsfall's <i>Royal Park Direct Seeding Project</i> .	1A	O		 
14	Install signage and consider public artworks to inform people about the significant native grassland reserves in the area, including aiding navigation to the Legacy Conservation Reserve and Aurora Grassland Reserve along Edgars Creek, as well as the nearby Craigieburn Grassland Reserve.	1C		A	 

The adjacent table indexes the actions and opportunities that have been identified for Precinct 1. The table includes a description, classification (opportunity, action, or both), and identifies which project objectives have been addressed. A map ID is given for each item which corresponds to the map on the following page.

OBJECTIVES

-  1.1. Restore and enhance the native vegetation and ecologies of the Edgars Creek corridor.
-  Objective 1.2: Create a resilient Edgars Creek corridor that can withstand the impacts of climate change and urban development.
-  Objective 1.3: Enhance the corridor's overall water quality and hydrological function.
-  Objective 2.1: Improve and enhance the recreation infrastructure of the Edgars Creek corridor.
-  Objective 2.2: Develop a continuous Edgars Creek Trail that is well connected to adjacent neighbourhoods.
-  Objective 2.3: Establish an identifiable, navigable, and inviting Edgars Creek corridor.
-  Objective 3.1: Foster a deeper community connection to the Edgars Creek corridor.
-  Objective 3.2: Support and empower existing community groups through education, volunteer programs, and community events.
-  Objective 3.3: Advocate for adjacent landholders and government authorities to enhance the Edgars Creek corridor.

EXISTING	
	Edgars Creek
	Local Landmark
	Existing Shared Path
	Strategic Cycling Corridor
	Public Open Space
	Private & Restricted Open Space
	Conservation Area
	Gas & Transmission Easement
	Existing Growing Grass Frog Habitat
	Residential Area Directly Fronting Creek
	Residential Area Fronting Creek, Separated by a Road
	Back Fences Fronting Creek - No Visual or Physical Access
FUTURE PROPOSED WORK BY OTHERS	
	Future Open Space
	Future Conservation Area
	Future Shared Path
PROPOSED INITIATIVES	
	Proposed Major Biodiversity Connection
	New Active Travel Link (Shared User Path)
	New Active Travel Link (Sharrows)
	Planting Initiative
	Signalised Crossing
	Pedestrian Priority Crossing
	Information or Interpretive Signage
	Community Initiative
	Improve Visual Connection to the Creek
	Improve Streetscape & Park Amenity
	Native Grassland Initiative



PRECINCT 1, WOLLERT

PRECINCT 1A



PRECINCT 1B



PRECINCT 1C



PRECINCT 1D





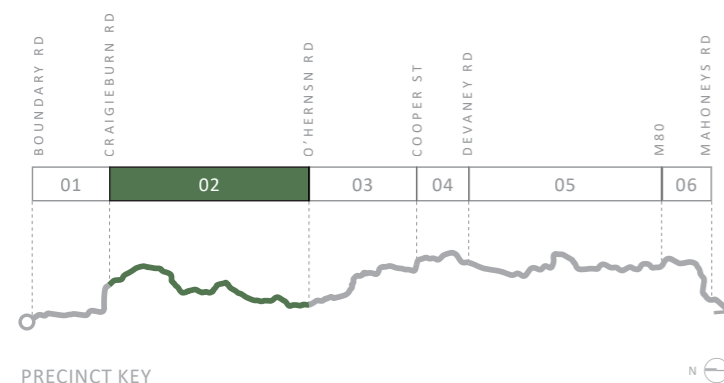
## 11.2 PRECINCT 2, AURORA DEVELOPMENT

### ANALYSIS & OPPORTUNITIES












































Precinct 2 is entirely within the Aurora PSP area, encompassing Wollert to the north and Epping to the south. This precinct is defined by its ongoing residential and commercial developments within the Aurora housing estate. The creek corridor features relatively new, high-quality native landscaping, shared pathways, and pockets of protected remnant vegetation. The area includes a blend of industrial and residential properties along the creek frontage.

Edgars Creek serves as a vital connection to key green corridors, including a transmission easement to the south near Rockfield Street. Significant sites within Precinct 2 include the Aurora Adventure Playground, federally protected grasslands south of Edgars Creek Oval, Kobe Park Playground, Aurora Town Park Playground, and Lehmann's Farm Park. The linear creek corridor along Timbarra Parkway and Edgars Road offer shared pathways, rest areas, exercise stations, and native plantings.

There are opportunities to enhance the creek's role as a wildlife movement corridor while fostering community engagement. Initiatives such as 'Bush Schools' at parks and reserves adjacent to the creek could strengthen these connections and encourage stewardship of the local environment.



PRECINCT 2, AURORA DEVELOPMENT - OPPORTUNITIES INDEX

MAP ID	DESCRIPTION	PRECINCT ID	OPPORTUNITY	ACTION	OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED
01	Plant supplementary planting and revegetation where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek.	2A		A	 
02	Complete the missing links in the existing shared user path along Craigeburn East Road to provide uninterrupted access along the Creek corridor.	2A		A	 
03	Implement wayfinding measures and interpretive signage at Aurora Adventure Park that aids navigation, fosters community connection and exploration of the Creek corridor.	2A		A	 
04	Launch engagement initiatives at Aurora Adventure Park such as 'Bush School', creation of a community garden and the establishment of a community events space to strengthen Council's connection to the community, and foster interaction and 'knowledgeable custodianship' of the Creek.	2A	O		 
05	Advocate for Melbourne Water to improve the ecological function of the treatment pond at Timbarra Parkway.	2B	O		  
06	Plant street trees and diverse understorey planting - as well as engaging with residents to plant natives on private properties - along Macedon Parade and Bendoc Street to develop a biodiversity corridor from the Creek to Treetops Park, the Future Wollert Railway Reserve and to Edgars Creek Primary School.	2B		A	   
07	Manage the dense stand of Tall Marsh, north of Contempo Boulevard, where Common Reed dominates, to increase the habitat value for Growling Grass Frog.	2B		A	 
08	Plant supplementary planting and revegetation where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek.	2B	O		 
09	Activate the shared user path with picnic shelters and seating nodes to provide opportunities for respite and quiet enjoyment of the natural surrounds.	2B	O		 
10	Install a pedestrian priority crossing - consider a raised wombat crossing, zebra crossing or similar - and implement wayfinding measures at Contempo Boulevard to complete a missing link in the shared user path network along the Creek corridor.	2B		A	 
11	Install a signalised crossing at Edgars Road/Contempo Boulevard intersection to support connections across the Creek corridor.	2B		A	 
12	Install a pedestrian priority crossing - consider a raised wombat crossing, zebra crossing or similar - and implement wayfinding measures at Edgars Road to complete a missing link in the shared user path network along the Creek corridor.	2B		A	 
13	Plant street trees and diverse understorey planting - as well as engaging with residents to plant natives on private properties - along Macedon Parade and Steen Avenue to develop a biodiversity corridor from the Creek to Macedon Parade Linear Reserve, through the future Aurora Conservation area and north to Bellavista Park and the transmission easement open space.	2B		A	   
14	Engage with Ganbu Gulinj Community Centre and Edgars Creek College students to support environmental education and build ecological awareness and pride in Edgars Creek.	2B	O		 
15	Ensure Kobe Park Playground is an accessible and responsive public space and implement interpretive signage and wayfinding measures to celebrate the Creek.	2C		A	  
16	Install a pedestrian priority crossing - consider a raised wombat crossing, zebra crossing or similar - at Eaststone Avenue to complete a missing link in the Edgars Creek Trail.	2C		A	 
17	Engage with residents living adjacent to Kobe Park Playground to better design the interface of their properties with public spaces to allow for passive surveillance and to create a sense of guardianship over the Creek.	2C	O		  
18	Deliver events, festivals and markets at Kobe Park Playground and start a community gardening program to improve activation of open space along the Creek corridor and encourage engagement and custodianship of the area.	2C	O		 

The adjacent table indexes the actions and opportunities that have been identified for Precinct 2. The table includes a description, classification (opportunity, action, or both), and identifies which project objectives have been addressed. A map ID is given for each item which corresponds to the map on the following page.

OBJECTIVES

-  1.1. Restore and enhance the native vegetation and ecologies of the Edgars Creek corridor.
-  Objective 1.2: Create a resilient Edgars Creek corridor that can withstand the impacts of climate change and urban development.
-  Objective 1.3: Enhance the corridor's overall water quality and hydrological function.
-  Objective 2.1: Improve and enhance the recreation infrastructure of the Edgars Creek corridor.
-  Objective 2.2: Develop a continuous Edgars Creek Trail that is well connected to adjacent neighbourhoods.
-  Objective 2.3: Establish an identifiable, navigable, and inviting Edgars Creek corridor.
-  Objective 3.1: Foster a deeper community connection to the Edgars Creek corridor.
-  Objective 3.2: Support and empower existing community groups through education, volunteer programs, and community events.
-  Objective 3.3: Advocate for adjacent landholders and government authorities to enhance the Edgars Creek corridor.

PRECINCT 2, AURORA DEVELOPMENT - OPPORTUNITIES INDEX (CONTINUED)

MAP ID	DESCRIPTION	PRECINCT ID	OPPORTUNITY	ACTION	OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED
19	Advocate for Melbourne Water to upgrade the Eaststone Avenue Frog Ponds to improve their ecological function and provide areas of habitat connecting the existing Growling Grass Frog habitats.	2D		A	
20	Increase vegetation where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek and improve the waterway health, including improved habitat for Growling Grass Frogs in the Eaststone Avenue Frog Ponds.	2D		A	
21	Increase vegetation where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek and improve the waterway health, including improved habitat for Growling Grass Frogs in the Eaststone Avenue Frog Ponds.	2E		A	
22	Deliver events, festivals and markets at Aurora Town Centre Park and start a community gardening program to improve activation of open space along the Creek corridor and encourage engagement and custodianship of the area. Explore ways to leverage the 'Park Run' community.	2E	O		
23	Engage with Harvest Home Primary School students to support environmental education and build awareness and pride.	2E	O		
24	Explore opportunities to create a new Growling Grass Frog wetland with buffer planting, adhering to best-practice habitat design guidelines.	2E		A	
25	Improve the legibility of the shared user path (i.e. line markings) to prioritise ease of use for pedestrians and enhance active travel and implement wayfinding elements to ease navigation through the corridor.	2F		A	
26	Launch engagement initiatives at Lehmann's Farm Park such as 'Bush School', creation of a community garden and the establishment of a community events space to strengthen Council's connection to the community, and foster interaction and 'knowledgeable custodianship' of the Creek.	2F	O		
27	Plant street trees and diverse understorey planting - as well as engaging with residents to plant natives on private properties - along Gammage Boulevard to develop a biodiversity corridor from the Creek to Harvest Home Primary School, Gammage park and the Future Railway Reserve Linear Park.	2F		A	
28	Establish a biodiversity corridor along Edgars Road through native street tree planting and diverse understorey vegetation.	2F		A	
29	Plant street trees and diverse understorey planting - as well as engaging with residents to plant natives on private properties - to connect open spaces as a biodiversity corridor from the Creek to the future conservation area, Zinnober Gardens, Legg Adventure Park and into the Future Railway Linear Reserve.	2F		A	
30	Establish a biodiversity corridor through the transmission easement - which is planned to become an open space as part of the Aurora Development - with native tree planting and diverse understorey vegetation as well as landscaping uplift around the future shared path.	2G		A	
31	Increase vegetation where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek and connect to the existing biodiversity corridor along the transmission easement adjacent to Rockfield Street.	2G		A	
32	Enhance and protect existing Growling Grass Frog habitat through buffer planting, addition of habitat features, or any other improvements necessary.	2G		A	
33	Construct a shared user path from Rockfield Street south to O'Hern's Road to complete major missing link in the movement network.	2G		A	
34	Install a signalised crossing at O'Hern's Road, adjacent to Gateway Boulevard to complete a missing link in the movement network.	2G		A	
35	Install a public toilet at Aurora Adventure Park to increase amenity and use of the area.	2A		A	

OBJECTIVES

- 1.1. Restore and enhance the native vegetation and ecologies of the Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 1.2: Create a resilient Edgars Creek corridor that can withstand the impacts of climate change and urban development.
- Objective 1.3: Enhance the corridor's overall water quality and hydrological function.
- Objective 2.1: Improve and enhance the recreation infrastructure of the Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 2.2: Develop a continuous Edgars Creek Trail that is well connected to adjacent neighbourhoods.
- Objective 2.3: Establish an identifiable, navigable, and inviting Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 3.1: Foster a deeper community connection to the Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 3.2: Support and empower existing community groups through education, volunteer programs, and community events.
- Objective 3.3: Advocate for adjacent landholders and government authorities to enhance the Edgars Creek corridor.

PRECINCT 2, AURORA DEVELOPMENT - OPPORTUNITIES INDEX (CONTINUED)

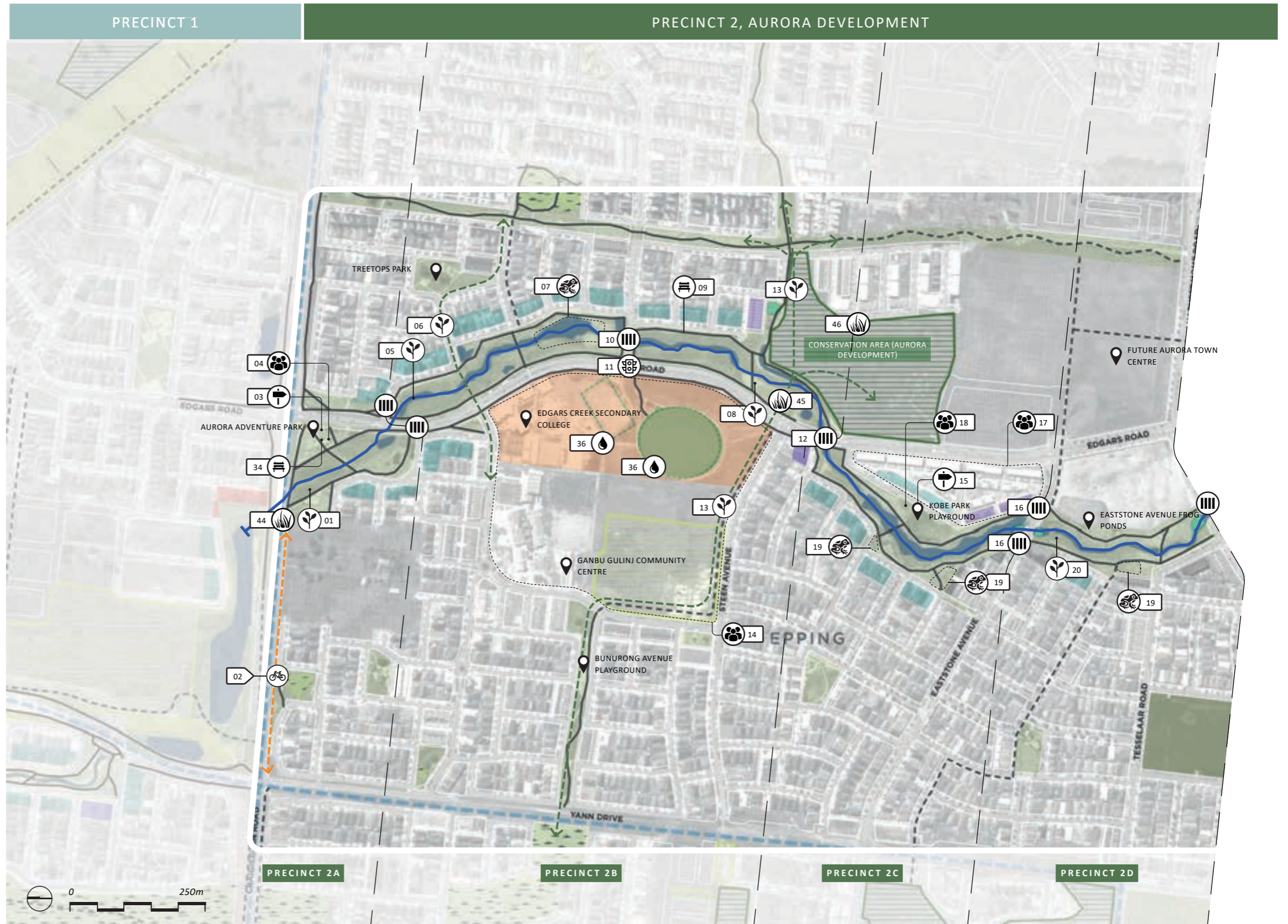
MAP ID	DESCRIPTION	PRECINCT ID	OPPORTUNITY	ACTION	OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED
36	Utilise stormwater harvesting sites to irrigate Edgars Creek Secondary College Sports/Playing Field.	2B	O		
37	Install Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT) to capture coarse sediments and gross pollutants from stormwater run off South of Harvest Home Rd.	2E	O		
38	Utilise stormwater harvesting sites to irrigate Harvest Home Primary Sports/Playing Field.	2E	O		
39	Naturalise sections of the Edgars Creek corridor to improve ecological function through channel and floodplain revegetation.	2E - 2G	O		
40	Introduce a series of Sponge Landscape Rehydration areas to assist in the process of infiltration, evaporation and soil moisture in dehydrated riparian areas north of Gammage Boulevard.	2E	O		
41	Disconnect underground drainage and stormwater pipes north of Gammage Boulevard to allow water to provide natural filtration systems that contribute to the restoration of a more natural water cycle and improve local soil moisture.	2E	O		
42	Provide amenity and shade along the shared user path network through the planting of channel and floodplain revegetation.	2F		A	
43	Introduce a Sponge Landscape Rehydration area to assist in the process of infiltration, evaporation and soil moisture in dehydrated riparian areas South of Rockfield Street.	2G	O		
44	Install signage and consider public artworks to inform people about the significant native grassland reserves in the area, including aiding navigation to the Legacy Conservation Reserve and Aurora Grassland Reserve along Edgars Creek, as well as the nearby Craigieburn Grassland Reserve.	2A		A	
45	Install signage and consider public artworks to inform people about the significant native grassland reserves in the area, including aiding navigation to the Legacy Conservation Reserve and Aurora Grassland Reserve along Edgars Creek, as well as the nearby Craigieburn Grassland Reserve.	2B		A	
46	Apply Adrian Marshall's edge condition design guidelines from <i>Start with the Grasslands: Design Guidelines to Support Native Grasslands in Urban Areas</i> around the grassland conservation area. Incorporate buffer planting, a mown strip with an attractive fence, and edge planting to promote appreciation of the reserve. Consider adding an open boardwalk through the grassland reserve.	2B - 2C		A	
47	Develop a biodiverse understorey by creating a native grassland meadow using the seed-sowing method established by Katherine Horsfall's <i>Royal Park Direct Seeding Project</i> .	2G		A	

OBJECTIVES

- 1.1. Restore and enhance the native vegetation and ecologies of the Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 1.2: Create a resilient Edgars Creek corridor that can withstand the impacts of climate change and urban development.
- Objective 1.3: Enhance the corridor's overall water quality and hydrological function.
- Objective 2.1: Improve and enhance the recreation infrastructure of the Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 2.2: Develop a continuous Edgars Creek Trail that is well connected to adjacent neighbourhoods.
- Objective 2.3: Establish an identifiable, navigable, and inviting Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 3.1: Foster a deeper community connection to the Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 3.2: Support and empower existing community groups through education, volunteer programs, and community events.
- Objective 3.3: Advocate for adjacent landholders and government authorities to enhance the Edgars Creek corridor.

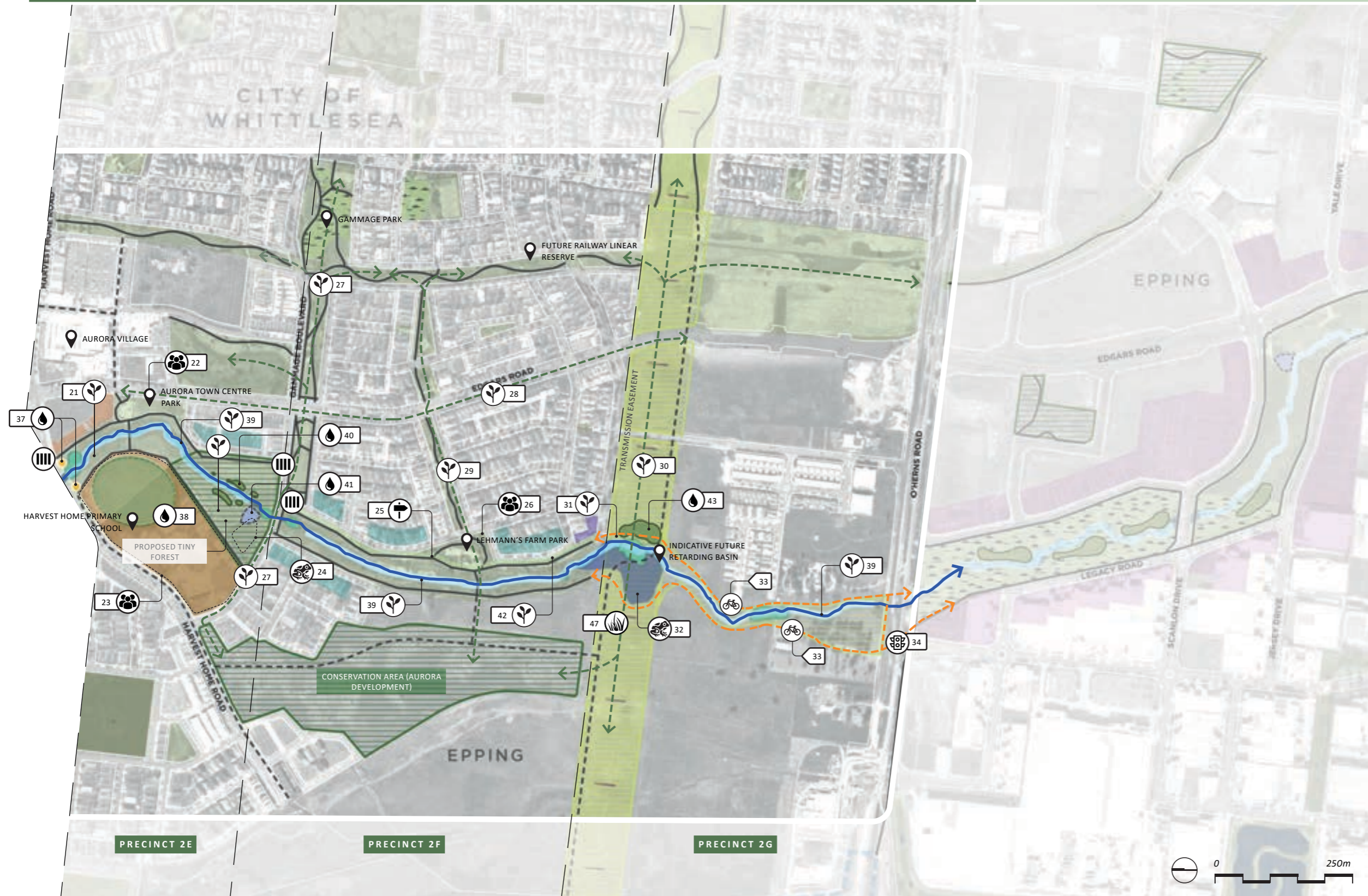


EXISTING	
	Edgars Creek
	Local Landmark
	Existing Shared Path
	Strategic Cycling Corridor
	Public Open Space
	Private & Restricted Open Space
	Gas & Transmission Easement
	Existing Growing Grass Frog Habitat
	Residential Area Directly Fronting Creek
	Residential Area Fronting Creek, Separated by a Road
	Community Facility Fronting Creek
FUTURE PROPOSED WORK BY OTHERS	
	Future Open Space
	Future Conservation Area
	Future Shared Path
PROPOSED INITIATIVES	
	Proposed Major Biodiversity Connection
	New Active Travel Link (Shared User Path)
	Planting Initiative
	Signalised Crossing
	Pedestrian Priority Crossing
	Information or Interpretive Signage
	Community Initiative
	Improve Streetscape & Park Amenity
	Growling Grass Frog Habitat
	Hydrological Initiative
	Native Grassland Initiative
	Naturalise Creek
	Improve Shared User Path Amenity



PRECINCT 2, AURORA DEVELOPMENT

PRECINCT 3



PRECINCT 2, AURORA DEVELOPMENT

PRECINCT 2A



PRECINCT 2B



PRECINCT 2C



PRECINCT 2, AURORA DEVELOPMENT

PRECINCT 2D



PRECINCT 2E



PRECINCT 2F



PRECINCT 2G



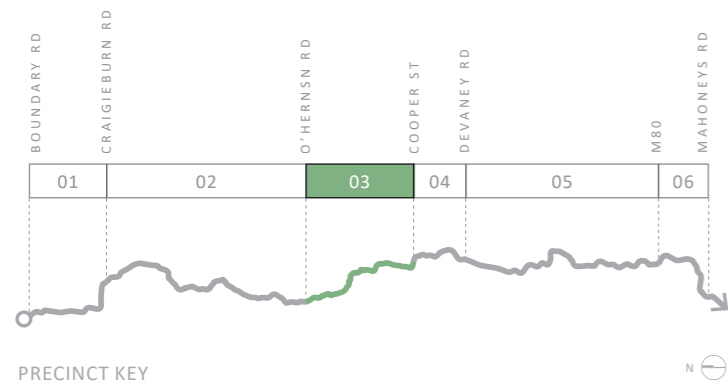
### 11.3 PRECINCT 3, COOPER STREET EMPLOYMENT AREA

#### ANALYSIS & OPPORTUNITIES



















Precinct 3 is an industrial section of the creek corridor in central Epping, bounded by O’Herns Road to the north and Cooper Street to the south. This precinct is covered by the Cooper Street Employment Area Development Plan (2018), which aims to establish the area for employment-generating uses, predominantly industrial and commercial activities. This poses a threat to the hydrological and ecological health of the creek in this precinct, as runoff and contamination are significant concerns.

Several wetlands and waterbodies in this section of the creek corridor provide opportunities to capture and treat potentially polluted water. Additionally, the Legacy Conservation Reserve, just south of O’Herns Road, contains significant native and remnant vegetation, as well as areas of existing and potential future frog habitat.

Edgars Road presents a major barrier for pedestrians and cyclists following the creek corridor, suggesting an opportunity to improve and connect the movement network. It will also be important to provide rest, shelter, and respite areas along the creek in Precinct 3, particularly at key features such as the local waterbodies, as the surrounding industrial and commercial land use creates an inhospitable environment for pedestrians and cyclists. There are also significant opportunities for revegetation projects to support the hydrological and ecological health of the creek and to strengthen existing conservation areas within this precinct.



PRECINCT 3, COOPER STREET EMPLOYMENT AREA - OPPORTUNITIES INDEX

MAP ID	DESCRIPTION	PRECINCT ID	OPPORTUNITY	ACTION	OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED
01	Advocate for Lendlease and other landowners to implement stormwater treatment initiatives to improve the ecological performance of the Creek.	3A	O		 
02	Increase tree canopy coverage along Legacy Road, Jersey Drive, Jutland Way, Scanlon Drive and Edgars Road to soften the interface between the adjacent industrial areas and Creek.	3A		A	  
03	Explore the opportunity to construct frog fences from O'Hern's Road south to Edgars Road to prevent Growling Grass Frogs from exposure to the risks presented by adjacent industrial sites.	3A		A	
04	Install a pedestrian priority crossing - consider a raised wombat crossing, zebra crossing or similar - at Scanlon Drive/Legacy Road to complete missing link in the shared user path network.	3A		A	 
05	Design future development to front onto Edgars Creek rather than rear storage areas and loading docks.	3A	O		  
06	Advocate for Melbourne Water to enhance the quality of existing wetlands through clean-up maintenance and revegetation efforts to improve the ability for these waterbodies to filter stormwater runoff from surrounding industrial sites.	3B	O		 
07	Enhance and protect existing Growling Grass Frog habitat through buffer planting, addition of habitat features, or any other improvement necessary.	3B		A	 
08	Revegetate areas where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek and to connect to and strengthen the biodiversity corridor to the west via Lake Huddo.	3B		A	 
09	Update signage to correctly show the route of the shared user path and aid navigation as well as providing educational and interpretive signage at the wetlands to explain the ecological, historical, cultural and hydrological function of the landscape.	3B		A	  
10	Explore ways to upgrade the existing shared user path and increase its legibility to encourage use, as well as providing seating and areas for sheltered respite.	3B	O		  
11	Engage with adjacent landowners to improve passive surveillance of pedestrians and cyclists on the Edgars Creek Trail.	3B	O		  
12	Introduce a series of Sponge Landscape Rehydration areas to assist in the process of infiltration, evaporation and soil moisture in dehydrated riparian areas between O'Herns Road and Jersey Drive.	3A	O		  
13	Where possible, naturalise the sections of Edgars Creek to improve ecological function, water quality and habitat diversity without disturbing or affecting the management of the EPBC conservation area.	3A	O		  
14	Daylight underground drainage and stormwater flows south of Scanlon Drive to allow water to provide natural filtration systems that contribute to the restoration of a more natural water cycle and improve local soil moisture.	3A	O		 
15	Apply Adrian Marshall's edge condition design guidelines from <i>Start with the Grasslands: Design Guidelines to Support Native Grasslands in Urban Areas</i> around the grassland conservation area. Incorporate buffer planting, a mown strip with an attractive fence, and edge planting to promote appreciation of the reserve. Consider adding an open boardwalk through the grassland reserve.	3A	O		  

The adjacent table indexes the actions and opportunities that have been identified for Precinct 3. The table includes a description, classification (opportunity, action, or both), and identifies which project objectives have been addressed. A map ID is given for each item which corresponds to the map on the following page.


OBJECTIVES

-  1.1. Restore and enhance the native vegetation and ecologies of the Edgars Creek corridor.

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-  Objective 1.2: Create a resilient Edgars Creek corridor that can withstand the impacts of climate change and urban development.


---

-  Objective 1.3: Enhance the corridor's overall water quality and hydrological function.


---

-  Objective 2.1: Improve and enhance the recreation infrastructure of the Edgars Creek corridor.

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-  Objective 2.2: Develop a continuous Edgars Creek Trail that is well connected to adjacent neighbourhoods.

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-  Objective 2.3: Establish an identifiable, navigable, and inviting Edgars Creek corridor.

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-  Objective 3.1: Foster a deeper community connection to the Edgars Creek corridor.

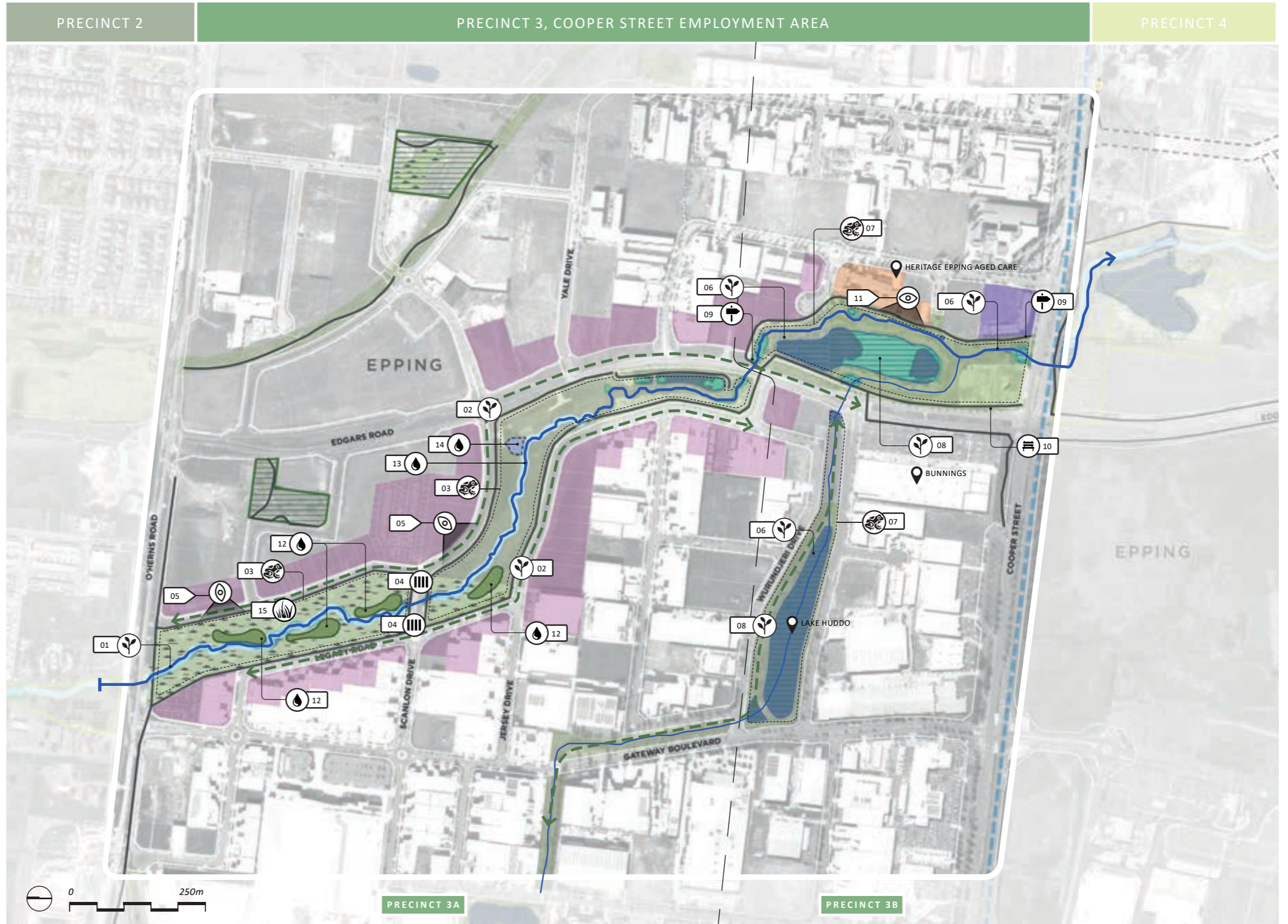
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-  Objective 3.2: Support and empower existing community groups through education, volunteer programs, and community events.

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-  Objective 3.3: Advocate for adjacent landholders and government authorities to enhance the Edgars Creek corridor.

EXISTING	
	Edgars Creek
	Local Landmark
	Existing Shared Path
	Strategic Cycling Corridor
	Public Open Space
	Private & Restricted Open Space
	Conservation Area
	Existing Growing Grass Frog Habitat
	Residential Area Directly Fronting Creek
	Industrial Area Fronting Creek
	Community Facility Fronting Creek
FUTURE PROPOSED WORK BY OTHERS	
	Future Open Space
	Future Conservation Area
	Future Shared Path
PROPOSED INITIATIVES	
	Proposed Major Biodiversity Connection
	Planting Initiative
	Pedestrian Priority Crossing
	Information or Interpretive Signage
	Improve Visual Connection to the Creek
	Growing Grass Frog Habitat
	Hydrological Initiative
	Native Grassland Initiative
	Naturalise Creek



PRECINCT 3, COOPER STREET EMPLOYMENT AREA

PRECINCT 3A



PRECINCT 3B



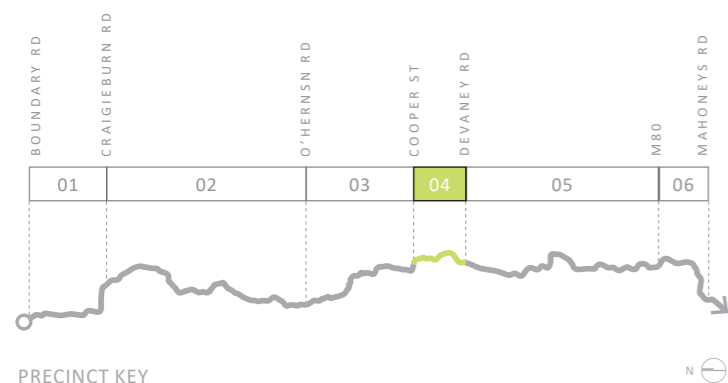
## 11.4 PRECINCT 4, NEW EPPING

### ANALYSIS & OPPORTUNITIES























Precinct 4, bounded by Cooper Street to the north and Deveny Road to the south, forms the section of the Edgars Creek corridor running through New Epping. Designated for renewal as a residential suburb under the Epping Central Structure Plan, New Epping is a key area for ecological and community-focused development. This section of the creek corridor is addressed by the New Epping Landscape Master Plan, which seeks to revitalise the creek and its surrounding open spaces, supporting the habitat of the Growling Grass Frog and generating opportunities for passive recreation.

In the northern part of Precinct 4, a former quarry is now a permanent, deep waterbody through which the creek flows. Surrounding this waterbody, the Landscape Landscape Improvement Plan proposes a series of smaller wetlands that extend further south along the creek. These wetlands are designed to provide critical habitat for the Growling Grass Frog while regulating water flow and improving water quality. The Landscape Landscape Improvement Plan also includes the creation of an interconnected active travel network, enabling safe and seamless movement for pedestrians and cyclists and linking this area with other parts of the Edgars Creek corridor.

There is an opportunity to successfully integrate the area covered by the New Epping Landscape Master Plan into its surroundings, including Precinct 3 to the north of Cooper Street, Precinct 5 to the south of Deveny Road, and the proposed Melbourne Food and Innovation Hub west of Edgars Road. Habitat connections and revegetation projects across Edgars Road, involving the Gillwell Conservation Reserve and Melbourne Market Wetland, are essential for strengthening ecological corridors and enhancing the overall landscape of the creek corridor.



PRECINCT 4, NEW EPPING - OPPORTUNITIES INDEX

MAP ID	DESCRIPTION	PRECINCT ID	OPPORTUNITY	ACTION	OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED
01	Enhance and protect existing Growling Grass Frog habitat through buffer planting and the addition of habitat features. Explore the opportunity to construct frog fences from Coopers Street to Deveny Road to prevent Growling Grass Frogs from exposure to the risks presented by the Epping Renewal Site.	4A		A	 
02	Support the development of a future shared user path network at the Epping Renewal Site - as set out by the New Epping Landscape Master Plan - to increase accessibility to Edgars Creek.	4A	O		 
03	Support the development of future open space, public realm works and seating nodes adjoining either side of Edgars Creek, as set out by the New Epping Landscape Master Plan.	4A	O		 
04	Advocate for private landowners to design active or semi-active frontages facing open space areas to improve interfaces.	4A	O		 
05	Advocate to private landowners to utilise water sensitive urban design elements and implement sustainable stormwater management practices - such as rain gardens and permeable surfaces - to reduce the impact of the Epping Renewal site's development on Edgars Creek.	4A	O		 
06	Enhance Edgars Road as a biodiversity corridor through native street tree planting and diverse understorey vegetation planting in the verges and median strip.	4A		A	 
07	Explore ways to connect the new Epping open spaces and Growling Grass Frog pond habitats to the Melbourne Market Wetland and Gillwell Conservation Reserve west of Edgars Road.	4A	O		 
08	Naturalise sections of Edgars Creek to improve ecological function, water quality and habitat diversity through channel and floodplain revegetation.	4A	O		  
09	Install Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT) to capture coarse sediments and gross pollutants from stormwater run off South of Cooper Street.	4A	O		 
10	Utilise stormwater harvesting sites at the Melbourne Market Wetlands and wetlands south of Cooper Street to irrigate surrounding open spaces and can also be diverted through a rising main as far south-east as the Thomastown Recreation Reserve.	4A	O		  

The adjacent table indexes the actions and opportunities that have been identified for Precinct 4. The table includes a description, classification (opportunity, action, or both), and identifies which project objectives have been addressed. A map ID is given for each item which corresponds to the map on the following page.

OBJECTIVES

-  1.1. Restore and enhance the native vegetation and ecologies of the Edgars Creek corridor.

---

-  Objective 1.2: Create a resilient Edgars Creek corridor that can withstand the impacts of climate change and urban development.

---

-  Objective 1.3: Enhance the corridor's overall water quality and hydrological function.

---

-  Objective 2.1: Improve and enhance the recreation infrastructure of the Edgars Creek corridor.

---

-  Objective 2.2: Develop a continuous Edgars Creek Trail that is well connected to adjacent neighbourhoods.

---

-  Objective 2.3: Establish an identifiable, navigable, and inviting Edgars Creek corridor.

---

-  Objective 3.1: Foster a deeper community connection to the Edgars Creek corridor.

---

-  Objective 3.2: Support and empower existing community groups through education, volunteer programs, and community events.

---

-  Objective 3.3: Advocate for adjacent landholders and government authorities to enhance the Edgars Creek corridor.

EXISTING	
	Edgars Creek
	Local Landmark
	Existing Shared Path
	Strategic Cycling Corridor
	Public Open Space
	Private & Restricted Open Space
	Conservation Area
	Gas & Transmission Easement
FUTURE PROPOSED WORK BY OTHERS	
	Future Open Space
	Future Conservation Area
	Future Shared Path
PROPOSED INITIATIVES	
	Proposed Major Biodiversity Connection
	New Active Travel Link (Shared User Path)
	Planting Initiative
	Improve Visual Connection to the Creek
	Improve Streetscape & Park Amenity
	Growling Grass Frog Habitat
	Hydrological Initiative
	Naturalise Creek



PRECINCT 4, NEW EPPING

PRECINCT 4A





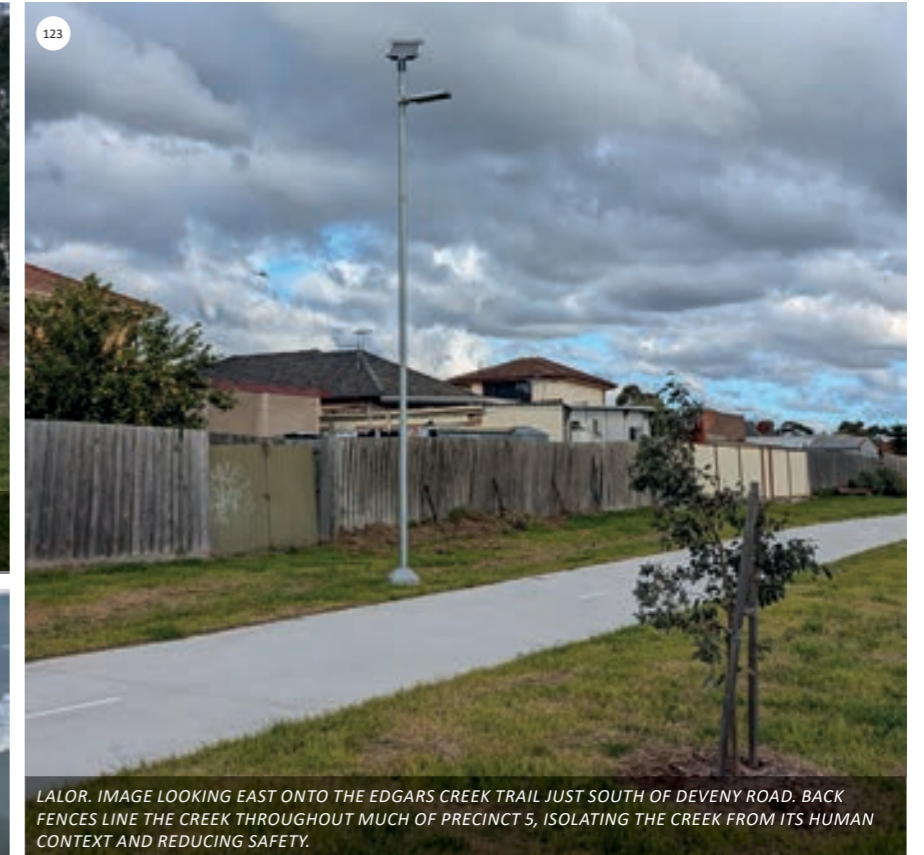
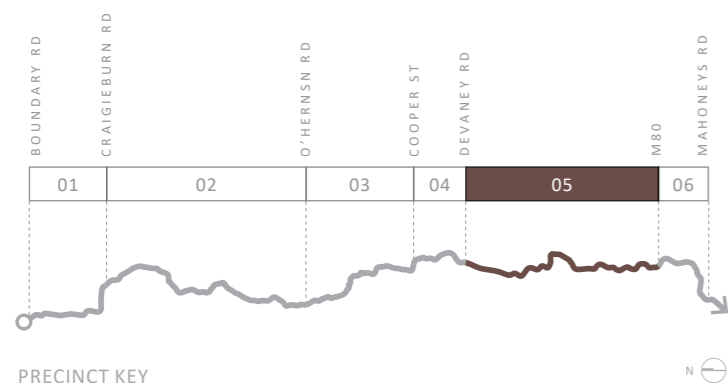
## 11.5 PRECINCT 5, LALOR & THOMASTOWN










































### ANALYSIS & OPPORTUNITIES

Precinct 5 encompasses the portion of the Edgars Creek corridor within Lalor and Thomastown, stretching from Deveny Road to the Metropolitan Ring Road (M80). These established residential suburbs feature some of the municipality's oldest buildings, including heritage bluestone houses, church structures, and historic drystone walls. The area is characterised by low-lying, single-storey homes that back onto the creek, with tall, impermeable fences lining the corridor. This layout isolates the waterway from the community, limiting connectivity and creating an environment with poor passive surveillance.

Precinct 5 features several key open spaces and playgrounds along the creek, including Huskisson Reserve, Kalara Close Playground, Thomas Street Reserve, Main Street Reserve, and Symon Playground. The Edgars Creek Trail runs through much of this precinct, though sections between Kingsway Drive and Kalara Close Playground, and from Pinetree Crescent to German Lane, remain incomplete due partly to the difficulty posed by the creek's steep embankments. These steep slopes, along with the channelised nature of the creek in many areas, also present challenges for undertaking naturalisation projects.

Precinct 5 offers significant opportunities to strengthen community connection by enhancing its use as a key space for passive recreation. This may involve completing the missing sections of the Edgars Creek Trail and addressing the sense of disconnection and lack of safety caused by the wall of back fences that line the creek. Efforts should be made to encourage community initiatives that open properties onto the creek and increase passive surveillance. Additionally, creek naturalisation and revegetation projects can improve waterway health and provide vital ecological habitats, particularly in the channelised sections of the creek.



MAP ID	DESCRIPTION	PRECINCT ID	OPPORTUNITY	ACTION	OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED
01	Plant avenue trees along Kingsway Drive and along the shared user path to increase the canopy cover, enhancing comfort for active travel and strengthening habitat connectivity across the Creek corridor.	5A		A	 
02	Construct a switchback path from Huskisson Reserve down to the existing shared user path to improve access to the Creek corridor.	5A		A	 
03	Construct community gardens along Huskisson Reserve to encourage informal interaction with the Creek corridor.	5A		A	 
04	Advocate for revised built form controls i.e. Design and Development Overlay, to improve the Creek interface.	5A	O		 
05	Advocate for private landowners to design active or semi-active frontages facing open space areas to improve interfaces.	5A	O		 
06	Plant supplementary planting and revegetation where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek.	5A		A	 
07	Introduce understorey planting on the periphery of Huskisson Recreation Reserve to provide crucial habitat for insects and small animals, as well as to soften the back fence line of surrounding houses.	5B		A	 
08	Ensure Huskisson Recreation Reserve is an accessible and responsive public space and implement interpretive signage and wayfinding measures to celebrate the Creek.	5B		A	  
09	Deliver events, festivals and markets at Huskisson Recreation Reserve and start a community gardening program to improve activation of open space along the Creek corridor and encourage engagement and custodianship of the area.	5B		A	  
10	Create clear sightlines from Huskisson Recreation Reserve to the Creek corridor to improve opportunities for passive surveillance.	5B		A	 
11	Support the existing 'Bush Kinder' program at Huskisson Recreation Reserve to strengthen Council's connection to the community, and foster 'knowledgeable custodianship' of the Creek.	5B	O		  
12	Naturalise the channelised sections of Edgars Creek Corridor to improve ecological function, water quality and habitat diversity. Preference Indigenous species consistent with the underlying Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).	5C		A	  
13	Implement interpretive signage and wayfinding at Kingsway Drive to aid navigation to Lalor Station.	5C		A	 
14	Install a pedestrian priority crossing - consider a raised wombat crossing, zebra crossing or similar - at Kingsway Drive to complete a missing link in the shared user path network.	5C		A	 
15	Support the development of a future shared user path network from Kingsway Drive to German Lane to increase accessibility to Edgars Creek and provide opportunities for passive surveillance.	5C		A	  
16	Advocate for revised built form controls i.e. Design and Development Overlay, to improve the Creek interface.	5C	O		 
17	Establish points of interest to increase visual connection along Edgars Creek to surrounding landmarks, including the key heritage site at 70 Robert Street.	5C		A	 
18	Explore opportunity to enhance endangered Stony Knoll Shrubland and revegetate stony knolls that are currently mown.	5D	O		 

The adjacent table indexes the actions and opportunities that have been identified for Precinct 5. The table includes a description, classification (opportunity, action, or both), and identifies which project objectives have been addressed. A map ID is given for each item which corresponds to the map on the following page.

**OBJECTIVES**

-  1.1. Restore and enhance the native vegetation and ecologies of the Edgars Creek corridor.
-  Objective 1.2: Create a resilient Edgars Creek corridor that can withstand the impacts of climate change and urban development.
-  Objective 1.3: Enhance the corridor's overall water quality and hydrological function.
-  Objective 2.1: Improve and enhance the recreation infrastructure of the Edgars Creek corridor.
-  Objective 2.2: Develop a continuous Edgars Creek Trail that is well connected to adjacent neighbourhoods.
-  Objective 2.3: Establish an identifiable, navigable, and inviting Edgars Creek corridor.
-  Objective 3.1: Foster a deeper community connection to the Edgars Creek corridor.
-  Objective 3.2: Support and empower existing community groups through education, volunteer programs, and community events.
-  Objective 3.3: Advocate for adjacent landholders and government authorities to enhance the Edgars Creek corridor.

MAP ID	DESCRIPTION	PRECINCT ID	OPPORTUNITY	ACTION	OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED
19	Create a cross-creek connection from Hurtle Street to the Lutheran Church to improve pedestrian accessibility across the Creek corridor.	5E		A	
20	Implement interpretive signage and wayfinding measures at Ziebells Farmhouse & Lutheran Church site to celebrate the site's cultural significance and showcase connections to the wider area (i.e. Whittlesea Gardens).	5D		A	
21	Improve visual link between Edgars Creek and German Lane to promote accessibility and use.	5D		A	
22	Advocate for Ziebells Farmhouse & Lutheran Church landowners to deliver events, festivals and markets to improve activation of open space along the Creek corridor and encourage engagement and custodianship of the area.	5D	O		
23	Embellish entry points to Westgarthtown Pioneer Precinct to mark it as a key heritage location.	5D		A	
24	Engage with Friends of Edgars Creek Thomastown to support a thriving ecosystem and community enjoyment of the Creek.	5D	O		
25	Revegetate areas where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek and strengthen the Creek as a biodiversity corridor. Preference Indigenous species consistent with the underlying Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).	5E		A	
26	Install a pedestrian priority crossing - consider a raised wombat crossing, zebra crossing or similar - at German Lane to complete a missing link in the shared user path network.	5E		A	
27	Engage with residents fronting the Creek corridor to improve opportunities for passive surveillance and create a sense of guardianship over the Creek.	5E	O		
28	Advocate for revised built form controls i.e. Design and Development Overlay, to improve the Creek interface.	5E	O		
29	Retain River Red Gums and Eucalypts present on site to strengthen the Creek as a biodiversity corridor.	5E		A	
30	Revegetate areas where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek and strengthen the Creek as a biodiversity corridor. Preference Indigenous species consistent with the underlying Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).	5F		A	
31	Ensure Thomas Street Recreation Reserve is an accessible and responsive public space and implement interpretive signage and wayfinding measures to celebrate the Creek.	5F		A	
32	Advocate for revised built form controls i.e. Design and Development Overlay, to improve the Creek interface.	5F	O		
33	Deliver events, festivals and markets at Thomas Street Recreation Reserve and start a community gardening program to improve activation of open space along the Creek corridor and encourage engagement and custodianship of the area.	5F	O		
34	Embellish entry points to 77 Mountview Road to mark it as a key heritage location. (Opportunity extracted from the <i>Thomastown &amp; Lalor Place Framework</i> )	5F		A	
35	Naturalise the channelised sections of Edgars Creek corridor to improve ecological function, water quality and habitat diversity. Revegetate areas where native vegetation is currently patchy, to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek and strengthen the Creek as a biodiversity corridor. Preference Indigenous species consistent with the underlying Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).	5G	O		
36	Ensure that Main Street Recreation Reserve is an accessible and responsive public space by implementing interpretive signage and wayfinding measures to celebrate the Creek and aid pedestrian navigation.	5G		A	





















OBJECTIVES

- 1.1. Restore and enhance the native vegetation and ecologies of the Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 1.2: Create a resilient Edgars Creek corridor that can withstand the impacts of climate change and urban development.
- Objective 1.3: Enhance the corridor's overall water quality and hydrological function.
- Objective 2.1: Improve and enhance the recreation infrastructure of the Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 2.2: Develop a continuous Edgars Creek Trail that is well connected to adjacent neighbourhoods.
- Objective 2.3: Establish an identifiable, navigable, and inviting Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 3.1: Foster a deeper community connection to the Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 3.2: Support and empower existing community groups through education, volunteer programs, and community events.
- Objective 3.3: Advocate for adjacent landholders and government authorities to enhance the Edgars Creek corridor.

MAP ID	DESCRIPTION	PRECINCT ID	OPPORTUNITY	ACTION	OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED
37	Launch engagement initiatives at Main Street Recreation Reserve such as 'Bush School' and the creation of a community garden to strengthen the Creek's connection to the community, and foster a local sense of 'knowledgeable custodianship' of the Creek.	5G		A	
38	Deliver events, festivals and markets at Thomas Street Recreation Reserve to improve activation of open space along the Creek corridor and encourage engagement.	5G		A	
39	Plant supplementary planting and revegetation where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek. Preference Indigenous species consistent with the underlying Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).	5H		A	
40	Implement interpretive signage and improved wayfinding and lighting along the existing shared user path network to aid navigation and increase accessibility and safety.	5H		A	
41	Upgrade the cross-creek connection at Main Street to improve pedestrian accessibility across the Creek corridor.	5H		A	
42	Advocate for revised built form controls i.e. Design and Development Overlay, to improve the Creek interface.	5H	O		
43	Engage with residents to improve opportunities for passive surveillance of pedestrians and cyclists on the Edgars Creek Trail, and create a sense of guardianship over the Creek.	5H	O		
44	Plant supplementary planting and revegetation where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek. Preference Indigenous species consistent with the underlying Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).	5I		A	
45	Engage with residents to improve opportunities for passive surveillance of pedestrians and cyclists on the Edgars Creek Trail, and create a sense of guardianship over the Creek.	5I	O		
46	Advocate for revised built form controls i.e. Design and Development Overlay, to improve the Creek interface	5I	O		
47	Plant supplementary planting and revegetation where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek. Preference Indigenous species consistent with the underlying Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).	5J		A	
48	Create a cross-creek connection from Symon Crescent to Earlwood Court to improve pedestrian accessibility across the Creek corridor.	5J		A	
49	Ensure Symon Crescent Playground is an accessible and responsive public space through implementation of interpretive signage and wayfinding measures to celebrate the Creek and aid navigation.	5J		A	
50	Start a community gardening program to improve activation of open space along the Creek corridor and encourage local engagement and custodianship of the Creek corridor.	5J		A	
51	Install a signalised pedestrian crossing at Edgars Road to cross into Edgars Road Neighbourhood Park Playground, facilitating access to the Creek corridor for people in the residential area to the west of Edgars Road which is lacking open space provision. (Opportunity extracted from the <b>Thomastown &amp; Lalor Place Framework</b> )	5A		A	
52	Improve wayfinding to Whittlesea Gardens and regional trails from German Lane. (Opportunity extracted from the <b>Thomastown &amp; Lalor Place Framework</b> )	5C		A	
53	Facilitate connections to and promote the Westgarthtown Walking Trail through improved signage. (Opportunity extracted from the <b>Thomastown &amp; Lalor Place Framework</b> )	5C		A	
54	Create a north-south shared user path connection between the Edgars Creek Trail and Lalor Station.	5A		A	

OBJECTIVES

- 1.1. Restore and enhance the native vegetation and ecologies of the Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 1.2: Create a resilient Edgars Creek corridor that can withstand the impacts of climate change and urban development.
- Objective 1.3: Enhance the corridor's overall water quality and hydrological function.
- Objective 2.1: Improve and enhance the recreation infrastructure of the Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 2.2: Develop a continuous Edgars Creek Trail that is well connected to adjacent neighbourhoods.
- Objective 2.3: Establish an identifiable, navigable, and inviting Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 3.1: Foster a deeper community connection to the Edgars Creek corridor.
- Objective 3.2: Support and empower existing community groups through education, volunteer programs, and community events.
- Objective 3.3: Advocate for adjacent landholders and government authorities to enhance the Edgars Creek corridor.

MAP ID	DESCRIPTION	PRECINCT ID	OPPORTUNITY	ACTION	OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED
55	Improve wayfinding to public amenity locations and rest stops along Edgars Creek Trail	5C		A	 
56	Daylight underground drainage and stormwater flows south of Huskisson Recreation Reserve to allow water to provide natural filtration systems that contribute to the restoration of a more natural water cycle and improve local soil moisture.	5A	O		 
57	Utilise the playing field at Huskisson Reserve should to apply trial passive wicking technologies to improve resilience and playability of the field year round.	5B	O		 
58	Naturalise sections of Edgars Creek to improve ecological function, water quality and habitat diversity through channel and floodplain revegetation. Channel diversity and a chain of ponds should be incorporated through further earthworks and revegetation.	5A - 5B	O		  
59	Install Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT) to capture coarse sediments and gross pollutants from stormwater run off South of Mount View Road.	5C 5E	O		 
60	Implement light-touch engineering to naturalise sections of Edgars Creek, enhancing ecological function, water quality, and habitat diversity. This approach will promote exfiltration, leading to improved groundwater recharge, natural sediment accumulation, and vegetation recruitment.	5C 5E 5H	O		  
61	Naturalise sections of Edgars Creek to improve ecological function, water quality and habitat diversity through channel and floodplain revegetation.	5E 5I	O		  
62	Provide amenity and shade along the shared user path network through the planting of channel and floodplain revegetation.	5E 5F 5I		A	 
63	Utilise stormwater harvesting sites at the Thomas Street Soccer Pitch and Main Street Sportfield 1 & 2 to irrigate surrounding open spaces.	5E 5G	O		

**OBJECTIVES**

-  1.1. Restore and enhance the native vegetation and ecologies of the Edgars Creek corridor.

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-  Objective 1.2: Create a resilient Edgars Creek corridor that can withstand the impacts of climate change and urban development.

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-  Objective 1.3: Enhance the corridor's overall water quality and hydrological function.

---

-  Objective 2.1: Improve and enhance the recreation infrastructure of the Edgars Creek corridor.

---

-  Objective 2.2: Develop a continuous Edgars Creek Trail that is well connected to adjacent neighbourhoods.

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-  Objective 2.3: Establish an identifiable, navigable, and inviting Edgars Creek corridor.

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-  Objective 3.1: Foster a deeper community connection to the Edgars Creek corridor.

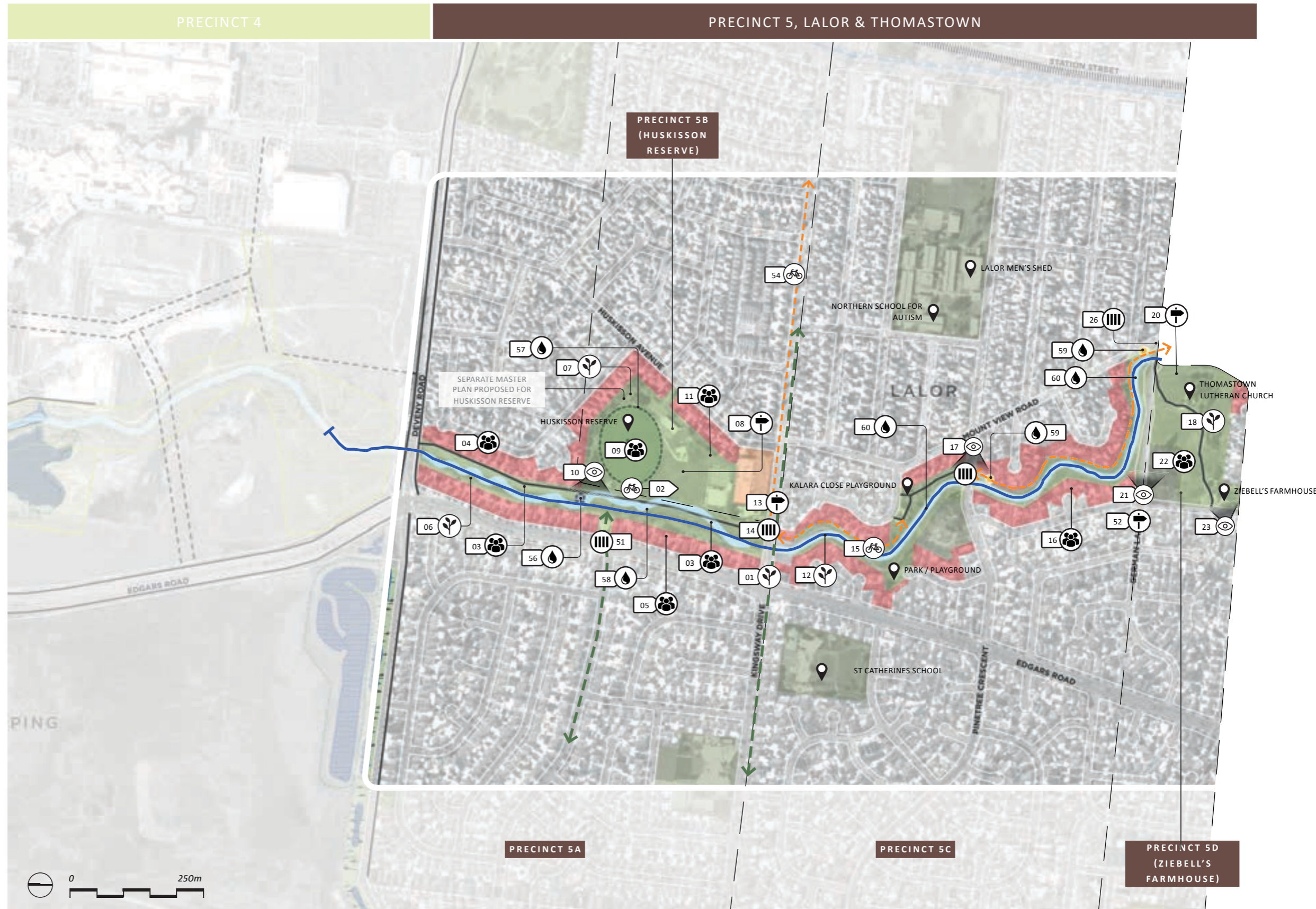
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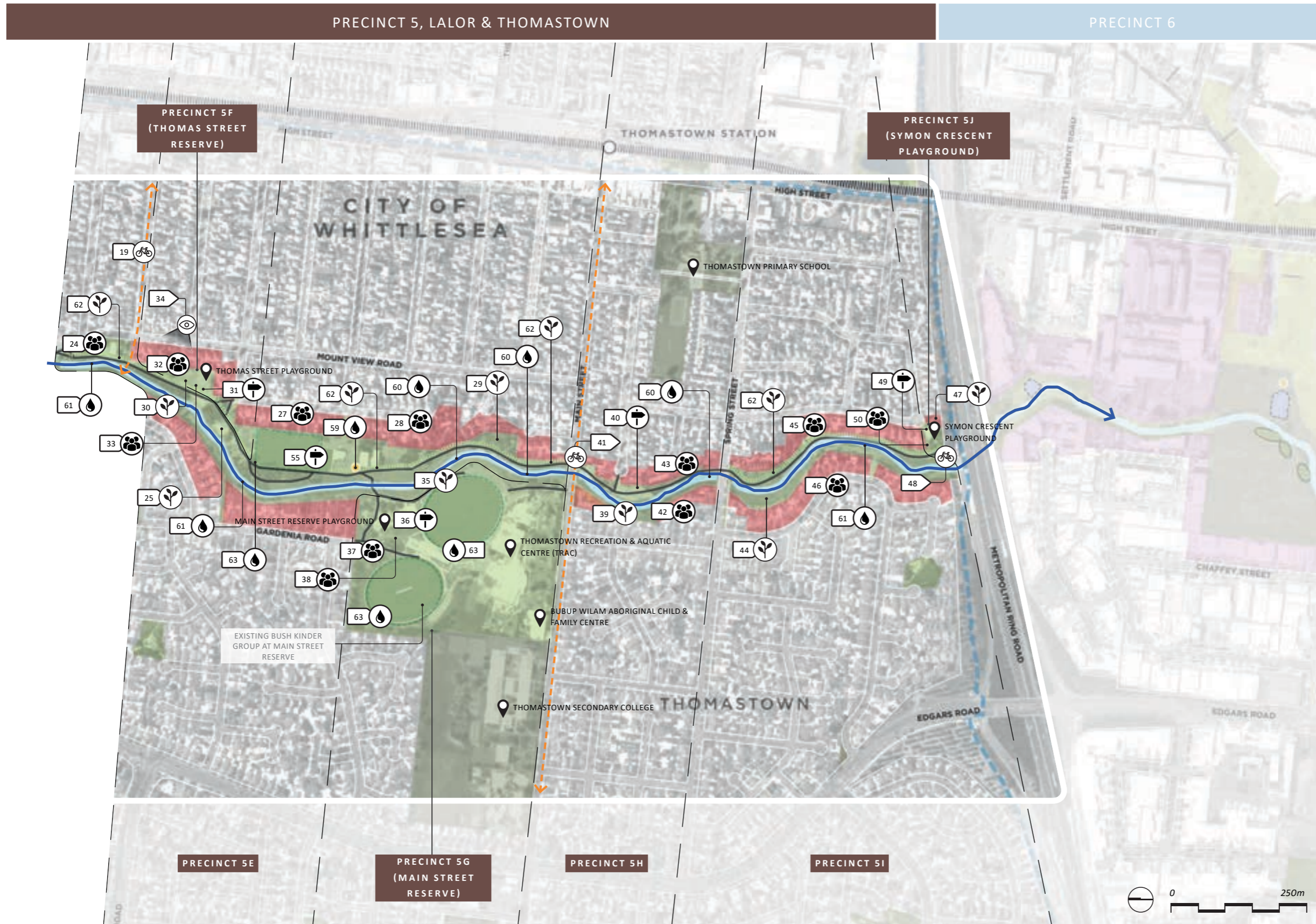
-  Objective 3.2: Support and empower existing community groups through education, volunteer programs, and community events.

---

-  Objective 3.3: Advocate for adjacent landholders and government authorities to enhance the Edgars Creek corridor.

EXISTING	
	Edgars Creek
	Local Landmark
	Existing Shared Path
	Strategic Cycling Corridor
	Public Open Space
	Private & Restricted Open Space
	Back Fences Fronting Creek - No Visual or Physical Access
	Community Facility Fronting Creek
FUTURE PROPOSED WORK BY OTHERS	
	Future Shared Path
PROPOSED INITIATIVES	
	Proposed Major Biodiversity Connection
	New Active Travel Link (Shared User Path)
	Planting Initiative
	Pedestrian Priority Crossing
	Information or Interpretive Signage
	Community Initiative
	Improve Visual Connection to the Creek
	Improve Streetscape & Park Amenity
	Hydrological Initiative
	Naturalise Creek
	Improve Shared User Path Amenity





PRECINCT 5, LALOR & THOMASTOWN

PRECINCT 5A



PRECINCT 5B



PRECINCT 5C



PRECINCT 5D

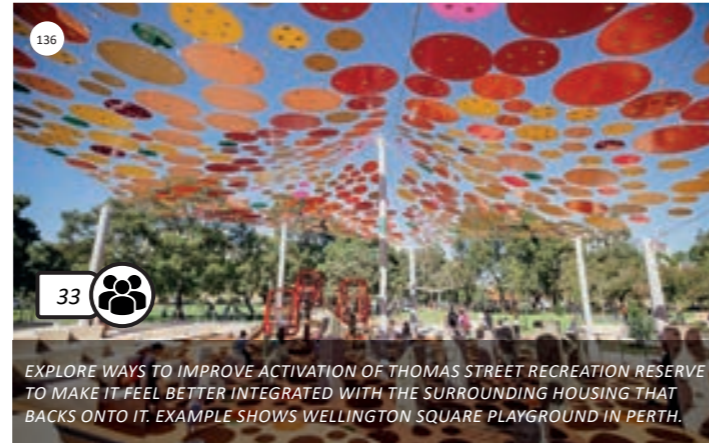


PRECINCT 5, LALOR & THOMASTOWN

PRECINCT 5E



PRECINCT 5F



PRECINCT 5G



PRECINCT 5H



PRECINCT 5, LALOR & THOMASTOWN

PRECINCT 5I



PRECINCT 5J





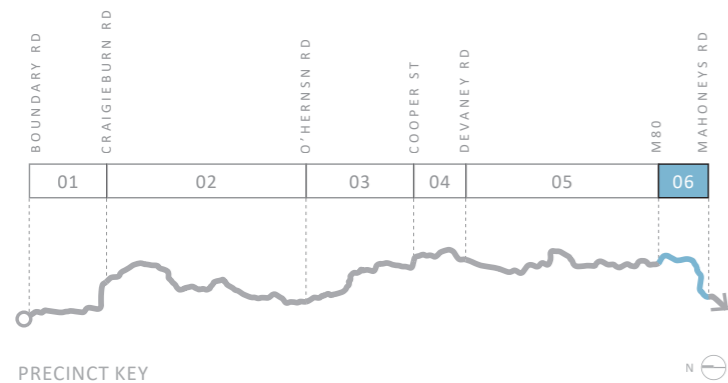
## 11.6 PRECINCT 6, THOMASTOWN INDUSTRIAL AREA

### ANALYSIS & OPPORTUNITIES

Precinct 6 encompasses the section of the Edgars Creek corridor running through the state-significant Thomastown Industrial Area, located south of the Metropolitan Ring Road (M80) and extending to Mahoneys Road, where the creek crosses into the City of Darebin. Although it is possible to follow the creek through a tunnel beneath the M80, this stretch of the creek feels inaccessible to the public.

The creek is bordered by large, windowless industrial factories and car parking lots, with an open expanse of weedy, mown lawn flanking either side of the creek in the centre of Precinct 6. The creek then continues towards the busy intersection of Edgars and Mahoneys Roads, before exiting the City of Whittlesea and flowing downstream into Reservoir to eventually meet the Merri Creek.

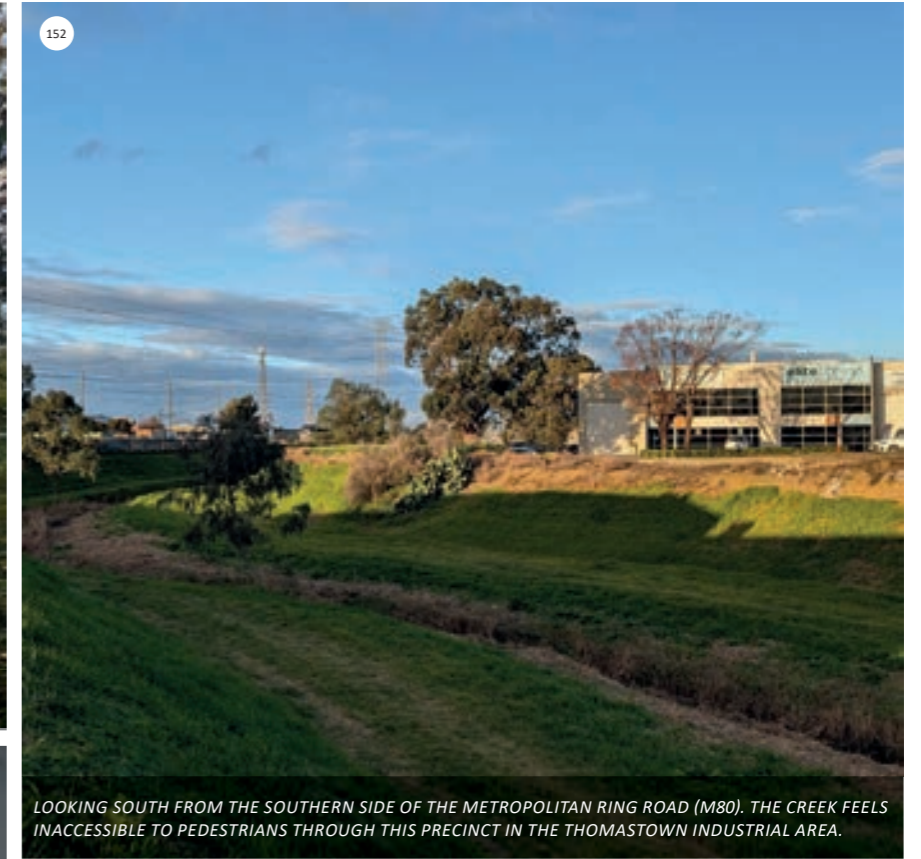
Precinct 6 is overrun with weeds and lacks active travel paths or connections to the broader corridor, giving it an industrial backwater feel. However, the large central open space that the creek runs through offers potential for creek naturalisation and revegetation, which could improve waterway health and reduce pollution risks from surrounding industry. Additionally, the southern portion of Precinct 6 could serve as an entry point to the City of Whittlesea, with a high-quality landscape or naturalisation project acting as a gateway marker.



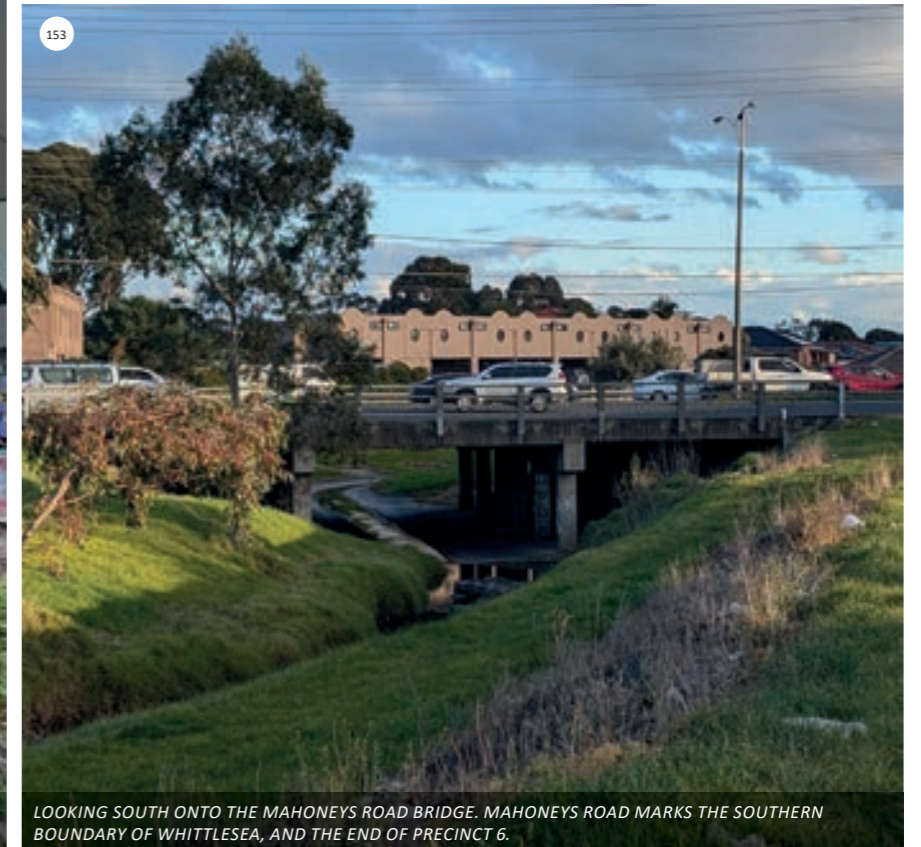
LOOKING NORTH FROM UNDERNEATH THE METROPOLITAN RING ROAD (M80). THE CREEK PASSES UNDERNEATH THE HIGHWAY WHERE IT ENTERS PRECINCT 6: THOMASTOWN INDUSTRIAL AREA.



LOOKING SOUTH INTO THE TUNNEL UNDERNEATH THE METROPOLITAN RING ROAD (M80). THE CREEK CAN BE FOLLOWED ON FOOT BUT FEELS UNSAFE.



LOOKING SOUTH FROM THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE METROPOLITAN RING ROAD (M80). THE CREEK FEELS INACCESSIBLE TO PEDESTRIANS THROUGH THIS PRECINCT IN THE THOMASTOWN INDUSTRIAL AREA.



LOOKING SOUTH ONTO THE MAHONEYS ROAD BRIDGE. MAHONEYS ROAD MARKS THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF WHITTLESEA, AND THE END OF PRECINCT 6.

PRECINCT 6, THOMASTOWN INDUSTRIAL AREA - OPPORTUNITIES INDEX

MAP ID	DESCRIPTION	PRECINCT ID	OPPORTUNITY	ACTION	OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED
01	Advocate for Melbourne Water to construct a sediment treatment wetland adjacent to the Thomastown Terminal Station.	6A	O		 
02	Plant supplementary planting and revegetation where native vegetation is currently patchy to enhance the existing riparian zone of Edgars Creek. Include Indigenous understorey species consistent with the underlying Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).	6A	O		 
03	Construct a new shared user path from Symon Crescent Playground to Mahoney's Road to complete a missing link in the movement network.	6A		A	 
04	Create a cross-creek connection from Austarc Avenue to Tuscan Court to improve pedestrian accessibility across the Creek corridor.	6A		A	 
05	Implement interpretive signage and wayfinding at Mahoney's Road to aid navigation to Keon Park Station.	6A		A	 
06	Develop new Municipal Open Space along the west side of Edgars Creek between the Metropolitan Ring Road and Mahoney's Road.	6A		A	  
07	Engage private landowners to design future development to front Edgars Creek rather than rear storage areas and loading docks, to increase passive surveillance.	6A	O		 
08	Construct screen fencing with native plantings to improve the Creek's interface with adjacent industrial sites.	6A		A	   
09	Extend the existing shared user path beyond the end of the Precinct 5, continuing underneath the M80 overpass and linking into the proposed shared user path network for Precinct 6.	6A		A	 
10	Provide an alternate connection to the Edgars Creek Trail along Austarc Avenue from High Street. (Opportunity extracted from the <i>Thomastown &amp; Lalor Place Framework</i> )	6A		A	 
11	Construct a new shared user path connecting High Street down to the shared user path network along Edgars Creek.	6A		A	 
12	Daylight underground drainage and stormwater flows west of Austarc Avenue and High Street to allow water to provide natural filtration systems that contribute to the restoration of a more natural water cycle and improve local soil moisture.	6A	O		 
13	Install Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT) to capture coarse sediments and gross pollutants from stormwater run off South of High Street.	6A	O		 
14	Naturalise sections of Edgars Creek to improve ecological function, water quality and habitat diversity through channel and floodplain revegetation. Channel diversity and a chain of ponds should be incorporated through further earthworks and revegetation.	6A	O		  
15	Introduce a series of Sponge Landscape Rehydration areas to assist in the process of infiltration, evaporation and soil moisture in dehydrated riparian areas between High Street and Chaffey Street.	6A	O		  

The adjacent table indexes the actions and opportunities that have been identified for Precinct 6. The table includes a description, classification (opportunity, action, or both), and identifies which project objectives have been addressed. A map ID is given for each item which corresponds to the map on the following page.

OBJECTIVES

-  1.1. Restore and enhance the native vegetation and ecologies of the Edgars Creek corridor.

---

-  Objective 1.2: Create a resilient Edgars Creek corridor that can withstand the impacts of climate change and urban development.

---

-  Objective 1.3: Enhance the corridor's overall water quality and hydrological function.

---

-  Objective 2.1: Improve and enhance the recreation infrastructure of the Edgars Creek corridor.

---

-  Objective 2.2: Develop a continuous Edgars Creek Trail that is well connected to adjacent neighbourhoods.

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-  Objective 2.3: Establish an identifiable, navigable, and inviting Edgars Creek corridor.

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










-  Objective 3.1: Foster a deeper community connection to the Edgars Creek corridor.

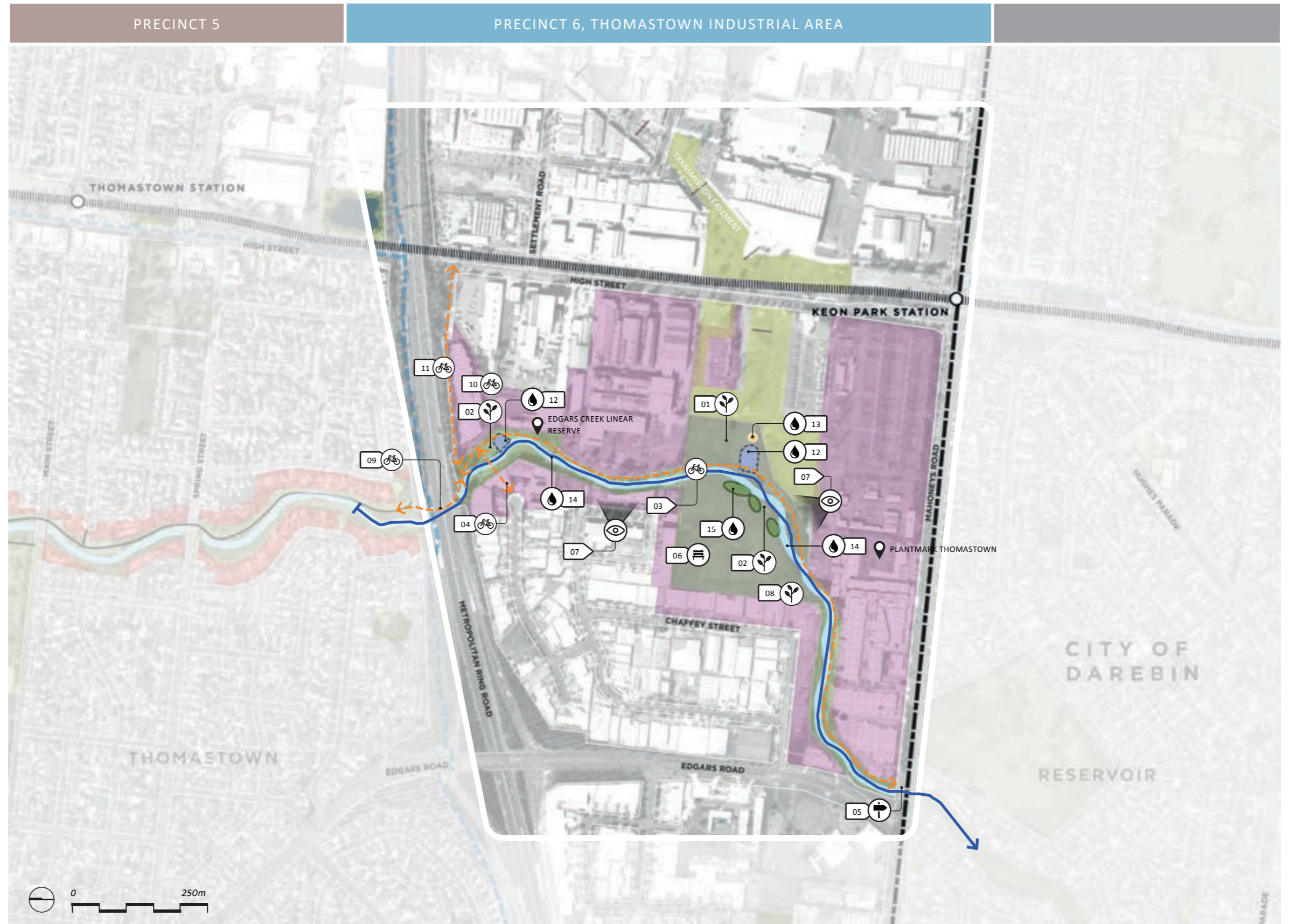
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-  Objective 3.2: Support and empower existing community groups through education, volunteer programs, and community events.

---

-  Objective 3.3: Advocate for adjacent landholders and government authorities to enhance the Edgars Creek corridor.

EXISTING	
	Edgars Creek
	Local Landmark
	Existing Shared Path
	Strategic Cycling Corridor
	Public Open Space
	Private & Restricted Open Space
	Gas & Transmission Easement
	Industrial Area Fronting Creek
FUTURE PROPOSED WORK BY OTHERS	
	Future Shared Path
PROPOSED INITIATIVES	
	New Active Travel Link (Shared User Path)
	Planting Initiative
	Information or Interpretive Signage
	Improve Visual Connection to the Creek
	Improve Streetscape & Park Amenity
	Hydrological Initiative



PRECINCT 6, THOMASTOWN INDUSTRIAL AREA

PRECINCT 6A



154

02

UNDERTAKE REVEGETATION EFFORTS WHERE NATIVE VEGETATION IS CURRENTLY PATCHY TO ENHANCE THE EXISTING RIPARIAN ZONE OF EDGARS CREEK. PHOTO SHOWING REVEGETATION WORK AT TARRELLA CREEK.

155

01

EXAMPLE OF A CONSRRICTED STORMWATER TREATMENT WETLAND NEAR A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT BY MELBOURNE WATER.

156

08

DEDICATED NATIVE TREE PLANTING AS BUFFER TO ADJACENT LAND USES/INDUSTRIAL SITES. EXAMPLE IMAGE TAKEN ALONG THE MARIBYRNONG, FOOTSCRAY, DEMONSTRATING INTEGRATED SHARED USER PATH, BUFFER PLANTING AND INDUSTRIAL INTERFACES.

157

04

IMPROVED CROSS CREEK CONNECTION AIDING IN THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE SHARED USER PATH NETWORK. IMAGE OF REALMSTUDIO'S 'RE-IMAGINING YOUR CREEK' PROJECT ALONG ARNOLDS CREEK, BLIND CREEK, AND STONY CREEK.

158

09

EXAMPLE IMAGE DEMONSTRATING SHARED USER PATH CONNECTION.

159

03

EXAMPLE IMAGE SHOWING A CONNECTED AND ACTIVATED SHARED USER PATH. CAPITAL CITY TRAIL, MELBOURNE.

160

06

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW OPEN SPACE, INCLUDING OPPORTUNITY FOR ACTIVE AND PASSIVE PLAY FOR THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY.

# 12

## REFERENCES

### FRONT COVER PAGE

Background image: *Edgars Creek, Local Context Map* (Google Maps and LatStudios edits, 2024)

PAGE 2

Background image: *Eucalyptus Torquata at Huskisson Recreation Reserve* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 3

Figure 01: *Regional Context Map, Greater Melbourne (QGIS and LatStudios edits, 2024)*

PAGE 4

Background image: *Thomastown Lutheran Church at Ziebell's Farmhouse* (LatStudios, 2024)

1. *Edgars Creek Waterfall* (Coburg Historical Society, 1950)

2. *Aerial photographs of Westgarthtown in 1946, 1958, 1978* (Turning Back to Edgars Creek, 2021)

3. *Edgars Creek and Lutheran Church 1956* (Pastor Ewald Steiniger in Turning Back to Edgars Creek, 2021)

PAGE 5

4. *Robert Wuchatsch at Edgars Creek 1985* (Ernest Raetz, courtesy of La Trobe University)

5. *Edgars Creek project site* (Edgars and Merri Creek Confluence) (Friends of Edgars Creek, 2015)

Figure 02: *Edgars Creek, Local Context Map (QGIS and LatStudios edits, 2024)*

PAGE 6

Background image: *Eucalyptus Torquata at Huskisson Recreation Reserve* (LatStudios, 2024)

6. *John Cotton, Aboriginal camp on the banks of the Yarra, c1845* (Pictures Collection, State Library Victoria)

7. *Merri Creek, Plenty Ranges* (Charles Troedel, 1864 courtesy of National Gallery of Victoria)

8. *Keelbundoora Scarred Trees and Heritage Trail* (walkingmaps.com.au)

9. *Aboriginal Gathering Place under construction* (City of Whittlesea, 2024)

PAGE 7

10. *Edgars Creek, Precinct 1* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 8

Background image: *Corymbia Citriodora at Huskisson Recreation Reserve* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 9

11. *Figure 03: Edgars Creek, Existing Land Use Map (QGIS and LatStudios edits, 2024)*

PAGE 10

12. *Figure 04: Edgars Creek, People and Communities Map (QGIS and LatStudios edits, 2024)*

PAGE 11

13. *Figure 05: Edgars Creek, Hydrological Context Map (QGIS and LatStudios edits, 2024)*

PAGE 12

14. *Figure 06: Edgars Creek, Environmental Context Map (QGIS and LatStudios edits, 2024)*

PAGE 13

15. *Robert Street Bridge, Lalor* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 14

Background image: *Main Street Reserve, Thomastown* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 15

Background image: *Main Street Reserve, Thomastown* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 16

Background image: *Main Street Reserve, Thomastown* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 17

16. *Stormwater treatment wetland near a residential development* (Melbourne Water, 2023)

17. *Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail* (Thomson Hay Landscape Architects, courtesy of Parks Victoria, 2022)

18. *Newport Lakes Bush Kids – Bush Survival & Navigation* (Eco Explorers, 2022)

PAGE 18

19. *Wildflower meadow* (Matthew Stanton & Katherine Horsfall, courtesy of Melbourne Meadows, 2023)

20. *Reimagining Your Creek by Realmstudios, Alluvium Consulting and E2DesignLab* (Rory Gardiner, 2021)

21. *Bluebell Street Park Wetland* (LatStudios, 2025)

PAGE 19

22. *Gabrugal Yana Walking Trail* (Greater Sydney Parklands & NSW Government, date unknown)

23. *Darebin Yarra Trail Link* by VicRoads Design Team (photo by Emma Cross, courtesy of Landscape Australia, 2018)

24. *Interpretive and way-finding sign, Marram Baba Merri Creek Parklands* (Victorian State Government and Merri Creek Management Committee, on behalf of the Marram Baba Parkland Partners, 2023)

PAGE 20

25. *Gresswell Forest School* (Eco Explorers, 2021)

26. *Aitken College's Sustainability Coordinator Dwayne Ganci engaging with students outdoors* (Sustainability Victoria, 2024)

PAGE 23

27. *Victoria Park, designed by Hassell* (photo by Max Creasy / Patrick Bingham-Hall, courtesy of Landezine, 2013)

PAGE 24

28. *Aurora Development treatment pond, Precinct 2* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 25

Background image: *Seed production area in Daylesford, Victoria* (Victoria Native Seed, 2011)

PAGE 25

29. *Precinct 1 – Wollert* (LatStudios, 2024)

30. *Precinct 2 – Aurora Development* (LatStudios, 2024)

31. *Precinct 3 – Cooper Street Employment Area* (LatStudios, 2024)

32. *Precinct 4 – New Epping* (LatStudios, 2024)

33. *Precinct 5 – Lalor & Thomastown* (LatStudios, 2024)

34. *Precinct 6 – Thomastown Industrial Area* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 26

35. *Precinct 1A – Verdon Playground and Park* (LatStudios, 2024)

36. *Precinct 1B – Verdon Drive to Jardin Road* (LatStudios, 2024)

37. *Precinct 1C – Jardon Road to Montbeliard Road – Arramont Waterway* (LatStudios, 2024)

38. *Precinct 1D – Southern Wollert Stormwater Treatment Wetland* (LatStudios, 2024)

39. *Precinct 2A – Aurora Adventure Park* (Craigieburn Road East to Timbarra Parkway) (LatStudios, 2024)

40. *Precinct 2B – Timbarra Parkway to Edgars Road* (LatStudios, 2024)

41. *Precinct 2C – Kobe Park Playground* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 27

42. *Precinct 2D – Edgars & Harvest Home Road* (LatStudios, 2024)

43. *Precinct 2E – Aurora Town Park Playground* (LatStudios, 2024)

44. *Precinct 2F – Lehmann's Farm Park* (LatStudios, 2024)

45. *Precinct 2G – Rockfield Street to O'Herns Road* (LatStudios, 2024)

46. *Precinct 3A – O'Hern's Road to Edgars Road* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 28

48. *Wetland in Precinct 3* (LatStudios, 2024)

49. *Precinct 3B – Edgars Road to Cooper Street* (LatStudios, 2024)

50. *Precinct 4A – Coopers Street – Deveny Road* (LatStudios, 2024)

51. *Precinct 5A – Deveny Road to Kingsway Drive* (LatStudios, 2024)

52. *Precinct 5B – Huskisson Recreation Reserve* (LatStudios, 2024)

53. *Precinct 5C – Kingsway Drive to German Lane* (LatStudios, 2024)

54. *Precinct 5D – Ziebell's Farmhouse & Lutheran Church Land* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 29

55. *Precinct 5E – German Lane to Main Street* (LatStudios, 2024)

56. *Precinct 5F – Thomas Street Recreation Reserve Playground* (LatStudios, 2024)

57. *Precinct 5G – Main Street Recreation Reserve* (LatStudios, 2024)

58. *Precinct 5H – Main Street to Spring Street* (LatStudios, 2024)

59. *Precinct 5I – Spring Street to M80* (LatStudios, 2024)

60. *Precinct 5J – Symon Crescent Playground* (LatStudios, 2024)

61. *Precinct 6A – M80 to Mahoneys Road* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 30

Background image: *Biodiversity Conservation Area, Wollert (Part 1)* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 31

Background image: *Biodiversity Conservation Area, Wollert (Part 2)* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 32

62. *Verdon Park and Playground, Wollert* (LatStudios, 2024)

63. *La Tour Boulevard, Wollert* (LatStudios, 2024)

64. *BSC Conservation Area, Wollert* (LatStudios, 2024)

65. *Stormwater Treatment Wetland, Wollert* (LatStudios, 2024)

66. *Craigieburn Road, Wollert* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 35

67. *Interpretive and way-finding sign, Marram Baba Merri Creek Parklands* (Victorian State Government and Merri Creek Management Committee, on behalf of the Marram Baba Parkland Partners, 2023)

68. *Friends of Merri Creek volunteers* (Friends of Merri Creek, 2020)

69. *Sharrows Otautahi, Christchurch* (Spokes Canterbury, 2024)

70. *Native verges* (photo by Michelle Donnelly, courtesy of APACE WA, 2020)

71. *Interpretive and way-finding sign, Marram Baba Merri Creek Parklands* (Victorian State Government and Merri Creek Management Committee, on behalf of the Marram Baba Parkland Partners, 2023)

72. *Curtain University Indigenous Learning Circle* (Yarning Circle) by UDLA (photo by Yvonne Doherty, courtesy of Dezeen Awards, 2022)

73. *Merri Creek Trail* (Sharon Tickle, 2013)

74. *Small Creek, Ipswich* (E2 Design Lab, date unknown)

75. *Merri Creek Trail* (Brook James, 2021)

PAGE 36

76. *Southern Wollert, looking north towards Craigieburn Road* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 37

77. *Kobe Park Playground* (LatStudios, 2024)

78. *Water Treatment Pond, Contempo Boulevard* (LatStudios, 2024)

79. *Lehmann's Farm Park* (LatStudios, 2024)

80. *Northern Epping Retarding Basin* (LatStudios, 2024)

81. *Aurora Adventure Playground* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 41

82. *Hydrological Infrastructure, Timbarra Parkway* (LatStudios, 2024)

PAGE 44

83. *Glenthorne National Park Nature Playspace* by Phillips Pilkington Architect and Climbing Tree Creations (T.C.L, 2023)

84. *Bush Kindy Macedon Ranges* (Eco Explorers, 2022)

85. *Lightsview Linear Park* (Aspect Studios, 2022)

86. Victoria Park/Barrambin Shelters and Furniture Suite (photo by Christopher Frederick Hones, courtesy of Urbis, 2023)

87. Michael Kirk, Gomeroi/Kamilaroi Cultural Officer for OzFish at Whittaker's Lagoon, Moree (OzFish, 2023)

88. Urban Greening and Grassland Restoration Project in the Central Business District and urban areas of Melbourne (Australian Plants Society NSW, 2023)

89. Gleniffer Reserves Interpretive Signage by Fisher Design + Architecture (Interpretation Australia, 2019)

90. The Sales Ring Playground, Newmarket Randwick (Arcadia, 2021)  
PAGE 45

91. Growling Grass Frog Habitat Wetland (photo by Nick Laurer, courtesy of Victoria State Government, date unknown)

92. Moomba Park Wetland (Merri-bek City Council, 2024)

93. Warrnambool Community Garden (Warrnambool City Council, date unknown)

94. Outdoor Community Event (stockcake.com, date unknown)

95. St Peters Street, South Australia by Landskap and City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters (photo by Duncan McKenzie, courtesy of InDaily, 2024)

96. Pioneer Park, Merredin (photo by Em Louise, courtesy of AILA Awards Platform, 2024)

97. Darebin Yarra Trail Link by VicRoads Design Team (photo by Emma Cross, courtesy of Landscape Australia, 2018)

98. Wildflower meadow (Matthew Stanton & Katherine Horsfall, courtesy of Melbourne Meadows, 2023)  
PAGE 46

99. Volcanic Rock Boulders and Remnant Drystone Walls in Precinct 3 (LatStudios, 2024)

100. Rubbish Dumping in Precinct 3 (LatStudios, 2024)

101. Waterbody in Precinct 3 (LatStudios, 2024)

102. Retarding Basin in Precinct 3 (LatStudios, 2024)

103. Legacy Conservation Reserve (LatStudios, 2024)  
PAGE 49

104. Water Sensitive Urban Design (City of Boroondara, date unknown)

105. Progress of Tubestock Planted During Phase 2, Wyndham (DEECA, 2023)

106. New Wombat Crossing at Collector Public School (Upper Lachlan Shire Council, 2023)

107. Moomba Park Wetland (Merri-bek City Council, 2024)

108. New Quay Central Park by Aspect Studios completed in 2018 (Landezine International Landscape Award, 2023)

109. Interpretive and way-finding sign, Marram Baba Merri Creek Parklands (Victorian State Government and Merri Creek Management Committee, on behalf of the Marram Baba Parkland Partners, 2023)  
PAGE 50

110. Former Quarry within New Epping Development

(LatStudios, 2024)

111. Greengate Way, New Epping Development (LatStudios, 2024)

112. Deveny Road, border of Lalor and Epping (LatStudios, 2024)

113. New Epping Development from Deveny Road (LatStudios, 2024)  
PAGE 53

114. Nature Strips (City of Greater Bendigo, 2024)

115. Go Edwards Park Landscape Upgrades (Town of Victoria Park, 2022)

116. Gordon Barnard Reserve Raingarden (E2 & City of Boroondara, 2020)

117. Johnstons Creek Naturalisation (Sydney Water Talk, 2015)

118. Darebin Yarra Trail Link by VicRoads Design Team (photo by Emma Cross, courtesy of Landscape Australia, 2018)  
PAGE 55

119. Edgars Creek Trail, Thomastown (LatStudios, 2024)  
PAGE 55

120. Edgars Creek Trail from Huskisson Reserve, Lalor (LatStudios, 2024)

121. Edgars Creek Trail, adjacent to Kalara Close Park and Playground, Lalor (LatStudios, 2024)

122. Main Street Recreation Reserve Playground, Thomastown (LatStudios, 2024)

123. Edgars Creek Trail South of Deveny Road, Lalor (LatStudios, 2024)

124. Thomastown Lutheran Church (LatStudios, 2024)  
PAGE 62

125. Glen Park Oaks Community Garden (Maroondah City Council, 2025)

126. North Lakes, Queensland (LatStudios, date unknown)

127. Vic Park Event Sponsorship Programme 2023-2024 (Town of Victoria Park, 2023)

128. Native Plantings (photo by Will Salter, courtesy of Native Plant Project, 2020)

129. Interpretive signage and wayfinding (author and date unknown)

130. Beenleigh Town Centre Streetscape (LatStudios, 2022)

131. Victoria Park (LatStudios, 2022)

132. Dry Stone Walls within ConnectNorth Business Park (McMullin, 2020)

133. Native Grassland on the Outskirts of Melbourne (Elizabeth Donoghue, 2006)  
PAGE 63

134. Walkabout Creek Visitor Centre Public Canoe Facility (LatStudios, 2014)

135. Lower Stony Creek Revegetation (Greening the West, date unknown)

136. Koolangka Koolangka Waabiny (Wellington Square,

Perth) by City of Perth, with Playce (photo by Jarrad Seng, courtesy of Landscape Australia, 2022)

137. St Andrews Community Market (Local Food Connect, date unknown)

138. Edgars Creek project site (Edgars and Merri Creek Confluence) (Friends of Edgars Creek, 2016)

139. Anglesea Bush Kinder (Surf Coast Shire Council, date unknown)

140. Walkabout Creek Visitor Centre Public Canoe Facility (LatStudios, 2014)

141. How to uplight a tree – expert methods for big trees, small trees, and shrubs (photo by Getty Images, courtesy of Homes & Gardens, Your Guide to Good Design, 2024)

142. Skeleton Creek Bridges Truganina, Melbourne (Landscape Architecture Projects, 2018)  
PAGE 64

143. Northshore Hamilton Business Park Precinct 8 (LatStudios, 2013)

144. Waterways of the West (LatStudios, 2021)

145. City Botanic Gardens - Hill's Avenue Boardwalk (Brisbane City Council, 2020)

146. Secret Garden, Richmond, New South Wales (Medibank, 2023)

147. Little Island NYC Signage and Wayfinding Project by C&G Partners (C&G Partners, 2022)

148. Chinchilla Botanical Parkland, Chinchilla, Queensland (LatStudios, date unknown)  
PAGE 65

149. Thomastown, looking south towards Main Street Reserve (LatStudios, 2024)  
PAGE 66

150. Edgars Creek, M80 Metropolitan Ring Road (LatStudios, 2024)

151. Edgars Creek, Tunnel Underneath M80 Metropolitan Ring Road (LatStudios, 2024)

152. Edgars Creek, Southern Side of M80 Metropolitan Ring Road (LatStudios, 2024)

153. Edgars Creek, Mahoney's Road Bridge (LatStudios, 2024)  
PAGE 69

154. Tarralla Creek, Croydon, Victoria, by GHDWoodhead, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Maroondah City Council (AILA, 2024)

155. Stormwater treatment wetland near a residential development (Melbourne Water, 2023)

156. Garden Path (author unknown, date unknown)

157. Reimagining Your Creek by Realmstudios, Alluvium Consulting and E2DesignLab (Rory Gardiner, 2021)

158. Norman Creek Master Plan 2026 site visit (Latstudios, 2011)

159. Capital City Trail, Princes Hill, Melbourne (City of Yarra, 2020)

160. Royal Park, Parkville, Melbourne by City of Melbourne City Design Studio and Lendlease (AILA, 2016)

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BACKGROUND PHOTO: IMAGE TAKEN OF A EUCALYPTUS TORQUATA ALONG THE CREEK LINE AT HUSKISSON RECREATION RESERVE.

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