

Bennettswood Reserve Draft Master Plan

Opportunities

Amenity

- A.1** Regrade and improve the drainage of North Field to provide a high-quality playing surface suitable for a range of sports and passive recreation. Provide new floodlights to North Field, cricket nets and activity nodes to maximise usage throughout playing seasons. *To be delivered with E4.*
- A.2** Extend the pavilion to include two additional change rooms and spectator spaces, supporting the needs of the North Field.
- A.3** Install a fence along the southern boundary of the existing car park to create a barrier between the parking area and Holland Avenue, enhancing safety and privacy.
- A.4** Reorient the cricket nets to a north-south alignment and upgrade it to a six-lane configuration compliant with Cricket Australia standards. Incorporate retractable netting so the area can function as a flexible football and futsal training and warm-up space, while still accommodating seasonal cricket use.
- A.5** Develop two new multi-purpose courts with a canopy to provide a sheltered space for a variety of recreational activities.
- A.6** Designate an activity space incorporating interactive elements such as table tennis tables, picnic settings and seating to encourage informal recreation and social connection.
- A.7** Install golf practice nets to create a safe, contained area for skill development without risk to others.
- A.8** Reprogram South Oval sports lights for on-demand use to activate the open space when not occupied by active recreation and encourage broader community use. Upgrade existing floodlight when deemed necessary for renewal.
- A.9** Create a new community gathering space with picnic tables and an open grass area to support social connection and provide opportunities for active play when the ovals are in use for organised sport.
- A.10** Introduce formal and informal seating options, including a stage, benches, logs and boulders, to accommodate large group gatherings.
- A.11** Install solar lighting to enhance safety and enable the use of the picnic area for activities like Park Run during early morning hours in winter.
- A.12** Provide infrastructure to support active recreation, including stretching stations and drinking fountains.
- A.13** Develop new social and exercise facilities that cater for a wide range of ages, with a focus on the anticipated increase in adult users.

Movement and access

- M.1** Designate a gravel shared use path along the east side of Gardiners Creek to clearly identify the Gardiners Creek trail while providing improved active transport access to Reserve amenities and Deakin University. Shared use path to be illuminated from Burwood Highway to Gienarr Avenue car park utilising wildlife sensitive luminaries.
- M.2** Create a new accessible gravel pathway connecting Gardiners Creek Trail to the sports amenities, improving overall site connectivity.
- M.3** Create a continuous gravel path from Burwood Highway to the Bennettswood Reserve pavilion to provide clear and accessible access to amenities.
- M.4** Provide a new entrance point at Fletchers Parade North.
- M.5** Consolidate the Holland Avenue car park and provide a single access point to improve safety, circulation, and legibility. *To be delivered with E7.*
- M.6** Construct a new gravel path connection east of the Gardiners Creek Reserve playground to link with the main Gardiners Creek Trail.
- M.7** Upgrade the laneway connection from Cadorna Street to the playground entry to a concrete path. Concrete path to prevent erosion, and transit to gravel path within the Reserve.

Environment

- E.1** Investigate the establishment of a conservation zone within the precinct to protect and restore local ecosystems and provide wildlife habitat.
- E.2** Enhance biodiversity by increasing understorey planting with native species to provide habitat and improve ecosystem health.
- E.3** Integrate landscaping to soften and blend infrastructure with the surrounding environment, improving aesthetics and creating more inviting spaces.
- E.4** Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles alongside the formalisation of the North Field to create a sustainable, multi-functional space that manages stormwater and reduces environmental impact. *To be delivered with A1.*
- E.5** Expand the tree canopy by planting native tree species in open spaces to enhance biodiversity, provide shade, and improve the local environment.
- E.6** Incorporate a raised open grass area to provide space for tree planting above the capping layer, enhancing green cover and supporting biodiversity.
- E.7** Implement WSUD principles in the car park area by incorporating permeable surfaces and bioswales to manage stormwater runoff while enhancing the overall sustainability of the precinct. *To be delivered with M5.*
- E.8** Continue monitoring the feasibility and assessing potential WSUD infrastructure solutions.

People and culture

- P.1** Create a park node with landscape furniture to support and encourage passive recreation and to foster social connections.
- P.2** Improve wayfinding through intuitive, consistent signage to enhance navigation and accessibility, ensuring users can easily identify key destinations and pathways across the site. Suggested locations include park entry from Burwood Highway, Fletcher Parade and the proposed new Activity Space.
- P.3** Incorporate Traditional Owner artwork such as interpretive sculpture, particularly along Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot), to highlight and share its significance, enriching the site's connection to its history. *To be delivered with P4.*
- P.4** Install interpretive signage throughout the Reserve to provide interactive opportunities to learn about the site's heritage, ecology, and cultural significance. Suggested locations include northern and southern park entries from Gardiner's Creek Trail. *To be delivered with P3.*
- P.5** Install clear signage to restrict dogs from entering the South Oval and North Field during sports activities, ensuring safety and minimising disruptions during organised events.
- P.6** Ensure the ongoing maintenance and management of park assets in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and community groups.
- P.7** Explore partnerships with educational institutions, government authorities, and peak sport organisations. Monitor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Deakin University.
- P.8** Incorporate public artwork into the space by collaborating with Deakin to find opportunities to display them.

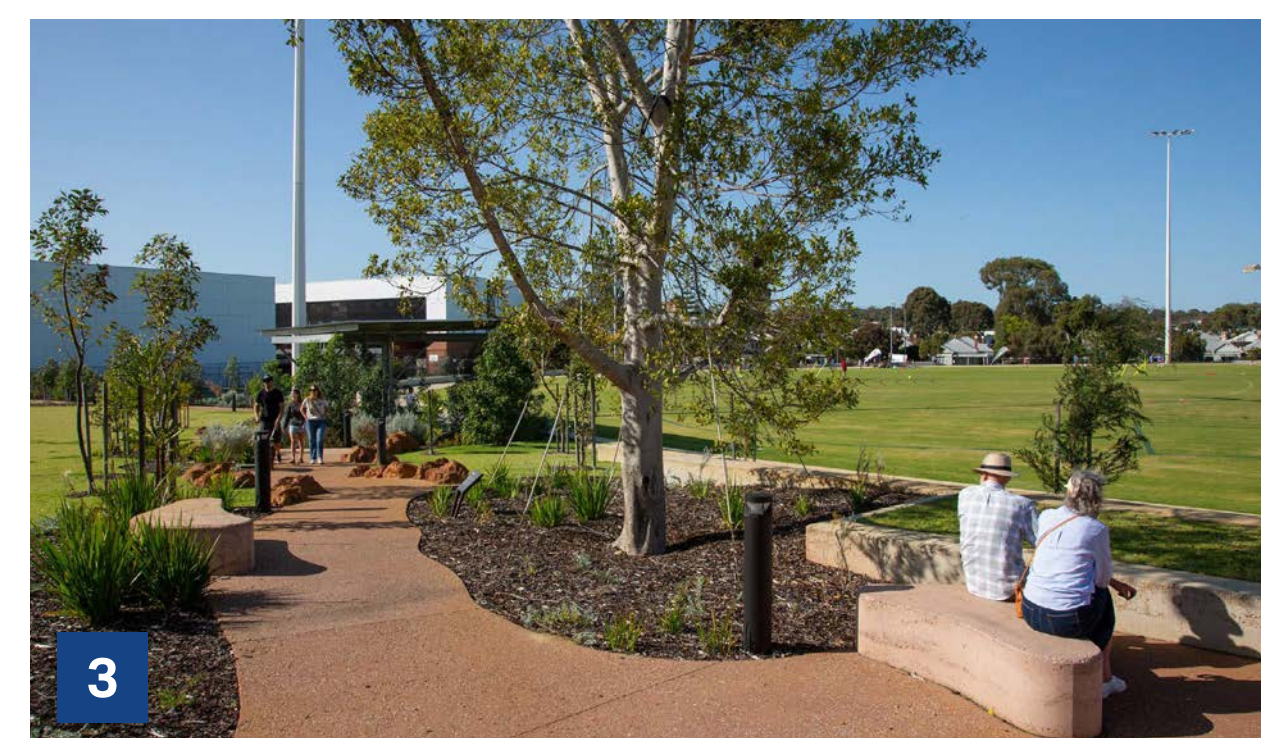
Indicative Imagery



Multi-purpose covered outdoor court - Deakin University
Source: Deakin Active, 2024



Gravel path with native vegetation - Blackburn Lake
Source: Feral Walker Blogspot, 2020



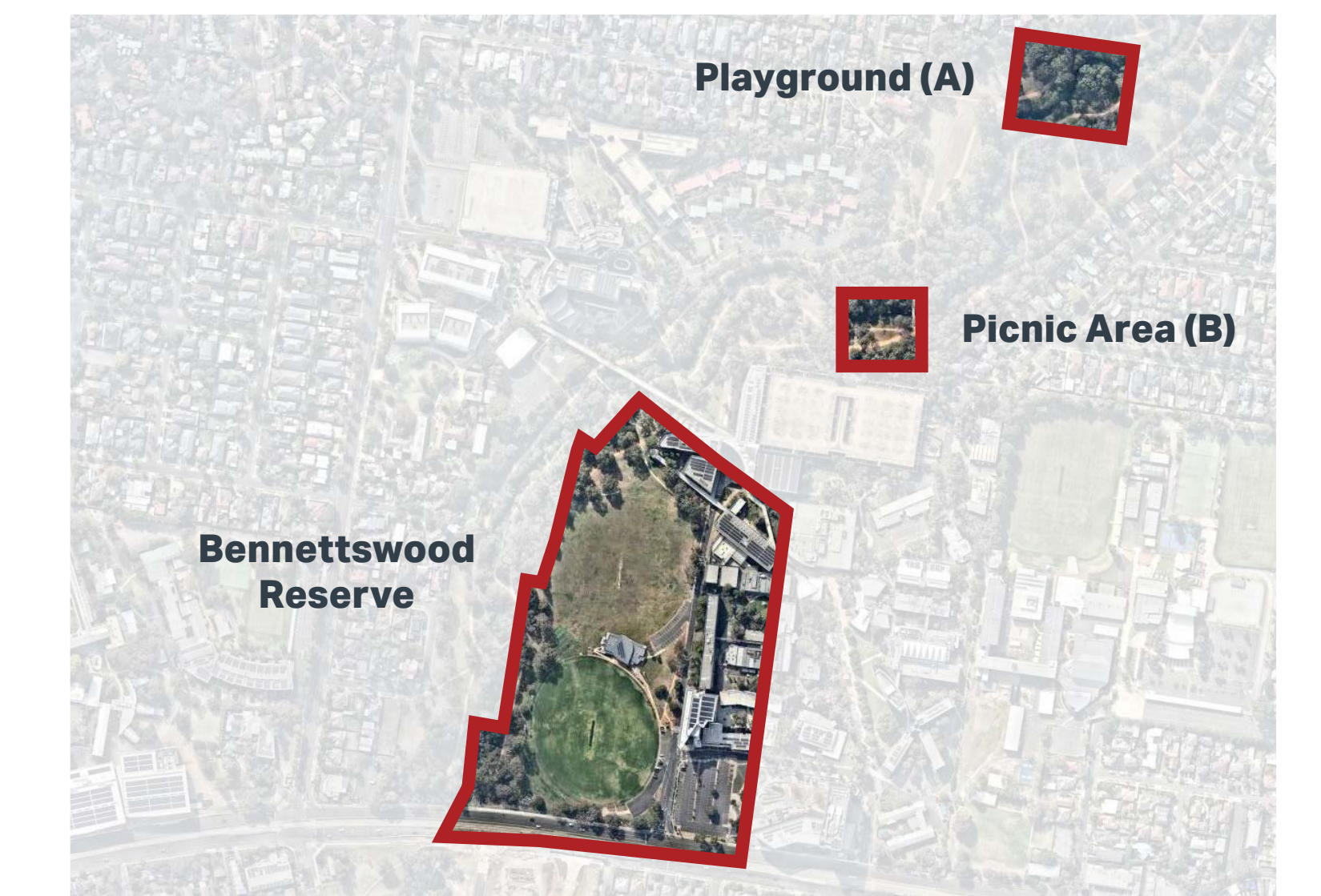
Path and planting along sports field boundary - Subiaco East Oval
Source: UDLA, 2024



Outdoor activity space with integrated seating - UTS Alumni Green
Source: Aspect Studios, 2016



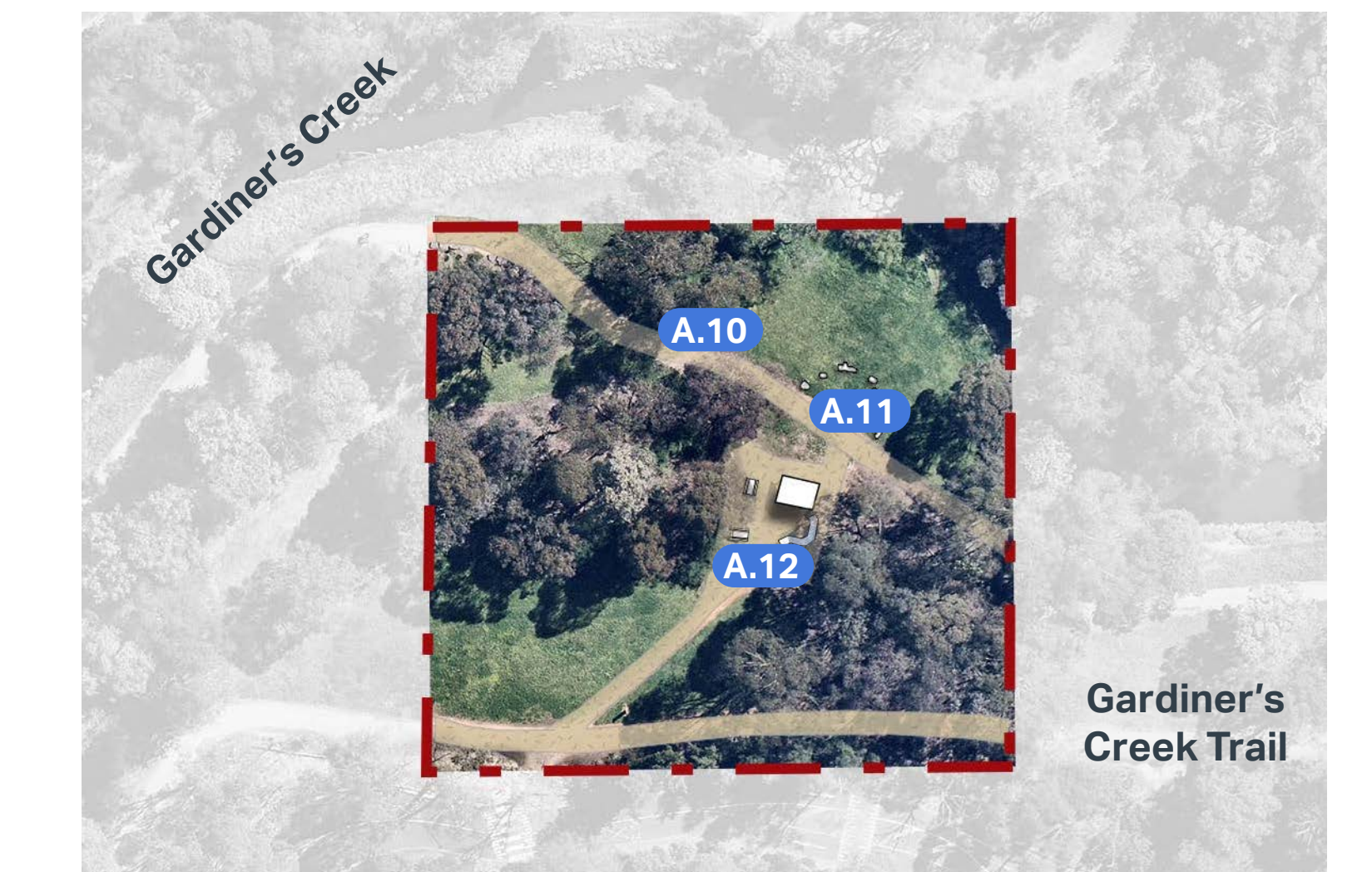
Key Map



Gardiner's Creek Reserve Playground (A)



Gardiner's Creek Picnic Area (B)



Legend

- Bennettswood Reserve Master Plan boundary
- Land ownership boundaries
- New canopy trees
- Gravel path
- Concrete path
- Asphalt / car park
- Turf oval playing surface
- New understorey planting
- New feature planting
- Proposed new satellite pavilion
- Proposed multi-purpose courts with canopy
- Proposed activity space with table tennis and picnic tables
- Proposed community gathering area
- Proposed golf practice nets
- Proposed park node and social space
- Proposed cricket nets with space for futsal
- Potential pedestrian and cyclist crossing (by SRL)
- Interpretive signage location
- Wayfinding signage location