STRATHDON DAVY COMMUNITY PRECINCT DRAFT MASTER PLAN

DRAFT VERSION REVISION G APRIL 2026
PREPARED FOR CITY OF WHITEHORSE

WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

AECOM

Acknowledgement of Country

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. Wurundjeri connection to this land dates back more than 40,000 years, and evidence of this connection still exists today.

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All drone photography captured in elevation within Strathdon Davy Community Precinct, which abides by open space restrictions.

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Executive summary

On behalf of Whitehorse City Council (WCC), AECOM Australia Pty Ltd (AECOM) has developed a draft Master Plan for Strathdon Davy Community Precinct.

The draft Master Plan identifies the vision, key design principles, and objectives for the precinct. The plan has been developed through extensive consultation and collaboration with a range of stakeholders including community groups, sport clubs, and government agencies.

Project context

The draft Master Plan offers an overview of the key features of Strathdon Davy Community Precinct. Detailed background information on the site's geographical, planning, heritage, and environmental context can be found within the Appendices, along with the Engagement Report.

Strathdon Davy Community Precinct is situated on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. Located in Forest Hill, to the east of Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD), within the City of Whitehorse. It encompasses several important spaces, including Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct, Davy Lane Reserve, and Jolimont Reserve.

There is one interfacing project that has been considered in the creation of the draft Master Plan. This is the delivery of ngarrak nakorang wilam park by Parks Victoria (formerly Healesville Freeway Reserve).

As participation in sport continues to grow within the City of Whitehorse, there is an increasing demand for modern, accessible, and well-equipped facilities to support both passive and active recreation activities. Many existing sports venues and amenities are reaching capacity, or no longer meet the needs of a diverse and expanding community. Upgrades and new facilities are essential to accommodate a wider range of sports, ensure accessibility for all user groups, and support women's and junior sports.

Strathdon Davy Community Precinct draft Master Plan

The Master Plan's key design principles include:

- Amenity
- Access and movement
- Environment
- People and culture

Key objectives and opportunities of the Master Plan have been identified through the guidance of these principles and have been informed by inputs from multiple professional disciplines, from WCC, key stakeholders, and the community.

The Master Plan provides conceptual illustrations of a number of the identified opportunities. These opportunities present possible ways in which the Master Plan's key design principles and objectives may be delivered, subject to future design development and approval.

Master Plan implementation

The Strathdon Davy Community Precinct draft Master Plan opportunities have been categorised into low, medium, and high priority opportunities. The viability of each opportunity is dependent upon adequate future funding. For some opportunities, funding may require future detailed design development and detailed costings.



Davy Lane Reserve aerial image towards Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct

1.0
Introduction

1.1 Master Plan project overview

1.2 Current interfacing projects

1.3 Sport in Whitehorse

1.4 Strathdon Davy Community Precinct features

Davy Lane Reserve

1.1 Master Plan project overview

Whitehorse City Council (WCC) has developed a draft Master Plan for Strathdon Davy Community Precinct which has been informed by comprehensive background research, analysis, and feedback gathered from community and stakeholder engagement (refer to Appendices for supporting documents). These inputs have shaped Strathdon Davy Community Precinct's Master Plan's vision, key principles, and objectives. The plan then identifies specific opportunities for enhancements and new infrastructure, with the goal of providing a diverse range of recreational experiences for both the local and broader community.

Further community and stakeholder engagement, and subsequent feedback will help to refine the final version of the Master Plan.

Purpose of the Master Plan

The draft Master Plan serves as a strategic framework for the long-term development and improvement of Strathdon Davy Community Precinct. It aims to guide decision making processes and support the day-to-day operations of the site. The Plan recognises that the needs and expectations of users will evolve over time, and provides a flexible approach to implementation that adapts to these changes.

Some initiatives and projects proposed in the draft Master Plan may require further investigation and feasibility studies, depending on their scope, potential impact, and cost estimates. As an aspirational document, the draft Master Plan will rely on securing funding from various sources for its successful implementation.



Strathdon Davy Community Precinct Master Plan sketch

1.2 Current interfacing projects

The Master Plan aims to align with ongoing and upcoming projects in and around Strathdon Davy Community Precinct including the concurrent ngarrak nakorang wilam park project.

ngarrak nakorang wilam park

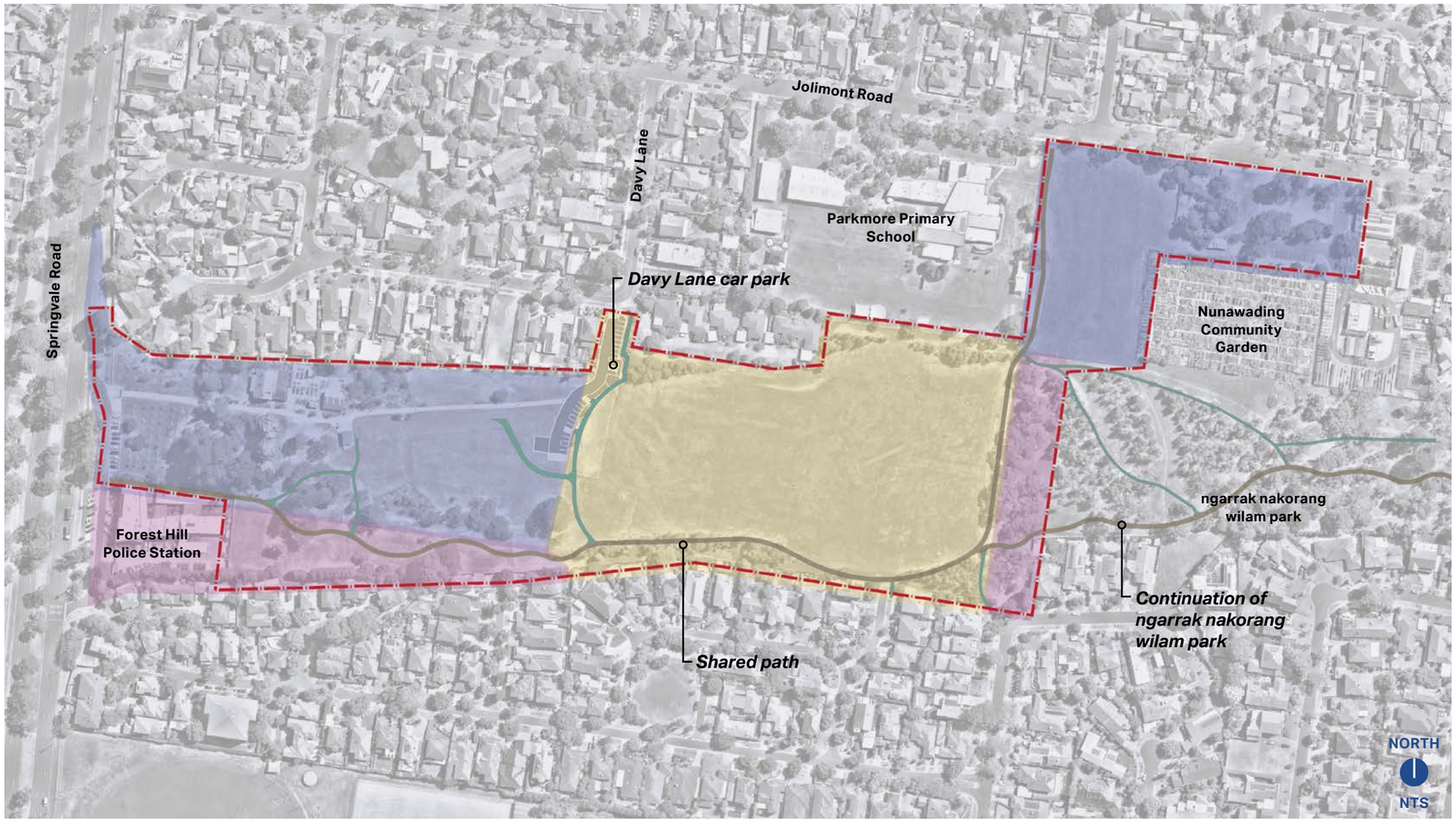
Parks Victoria is delivering ngarrak nakorang wilam park (formerly Healesville Freeway Reserve), located between Springvale Road and Boronia Road. The project includes the construction of a 3.5 km shared-use path that will run the entire length of the park. The shared use path in Whitehorse City Council managed land between Springvale Road and ngarrak nakorang wilam park is proposed to be 3-metres wide, reducing to 2.5m through the Parks Victoria land to the east. Designed with environmental sustainability in mind, the path will feature compacted gravel, with sections reinforced by concrete to reduce erosion. In addition, the Davy Lane car park is proposed to be expanded to accommodate approximately 20 new parking spaces, complete with a fresh asphalt surface and water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) planting to manage stormwater and enhance local biodiversity. A new public Exeloo toilet facility is also proposed at the car park to improve visitor amenities.

Further east in the park, additional park facilities are proposed including play areas, picnic tables, shelters, BBQs, and another public toilet at Boronia Road. A major vegetation strategy accompanies the plan to support the area's biodiversity. Gang-gang Cockatoos, Kookaburras and Echidnas are some of the wildlife that will benefit from new plantings. Weed removal programs and habitat support, such as nesting boxes, will further boost the area's environmental values.

Construction works commenced in 2025. The shared use path will be prioritised, while the Davy Lane car park and public toilet are not currently funded.

Land ownership

While the overall site of the master plan is under management by the Council, the land at Davy Lane and to the south of Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct is owned by the Victorian and Commonwealth Government. The Council has been appointed as the Committee of Management for this site. This designation means that the Council is responsible for the planning, management, and ongoing maintenance of the land to ensure it remains accessible and beneficial to the community.



Interfacing project proposed scope and land ownership

1.3 Sport in Whitehorse

Facilities

Sporting facilities in Whitehorse are facing increasing pressure as usage demand continues to grow. The city offers a well-distributed network of sports fields, reserves, and pavilions that support a range of activities, from team sports like football, soccer and cricket to informal activities such as running or ball kicking practice. However, the heavy usage of these facilities is exceeding their capacity, creating challenges in maintaining safe and high-quality surfaces for play.

Many fields are showing signs of wear and tear, impacting both their condition and player safety. Additionally, some existing facilities do not fully support inclusivity and universality, with limited gender-neutral spaces, insufficient access for people with disabilities, and a lack of diverse options to meet the needs of emerging groups, such as women's and youth sports. This underscores the need for strategic planning and investment to upgrade and expand facilities to ensure they can accommodate the growing demand and provide safe, accessible spaces for all.

Participation

Sport participation in Whitehorse has been steadily increasing, particularly among youth and women, reflecting broader trends of greater inclusivity and community engagement in physical activity. The 2023/2024 summer season demonstrated the challenges posed by this growing demand, as six senior teams were forced to seek alternative locations in neighbouring municipalities due to the unavailability of grounds on Saturday afternoons. This not only disrupted team cohesion and local engagement but also added logistical burdens for clubs and athletes.

Additionally, the demand for grounds on Friday evenings is nearing full capacity, making scheduling and access increasingly difficult for all teams. The need for floodlit sports fields during the winter months is also high, with community usage estimated to exceed 112.2% of the turf industry's recommended levels for natural grass surfaces.

Team and player numbers have continued to rise in 2024 across all sports, further highlighting the strain on existing facilities. As more people get involved in sports, it is crucial that the city's infrastructure evolves to support this growing participation and ensure access for everyone.



Vermont South Cricket Club at Davy Lane Reserve
Source: VSCC, 2020

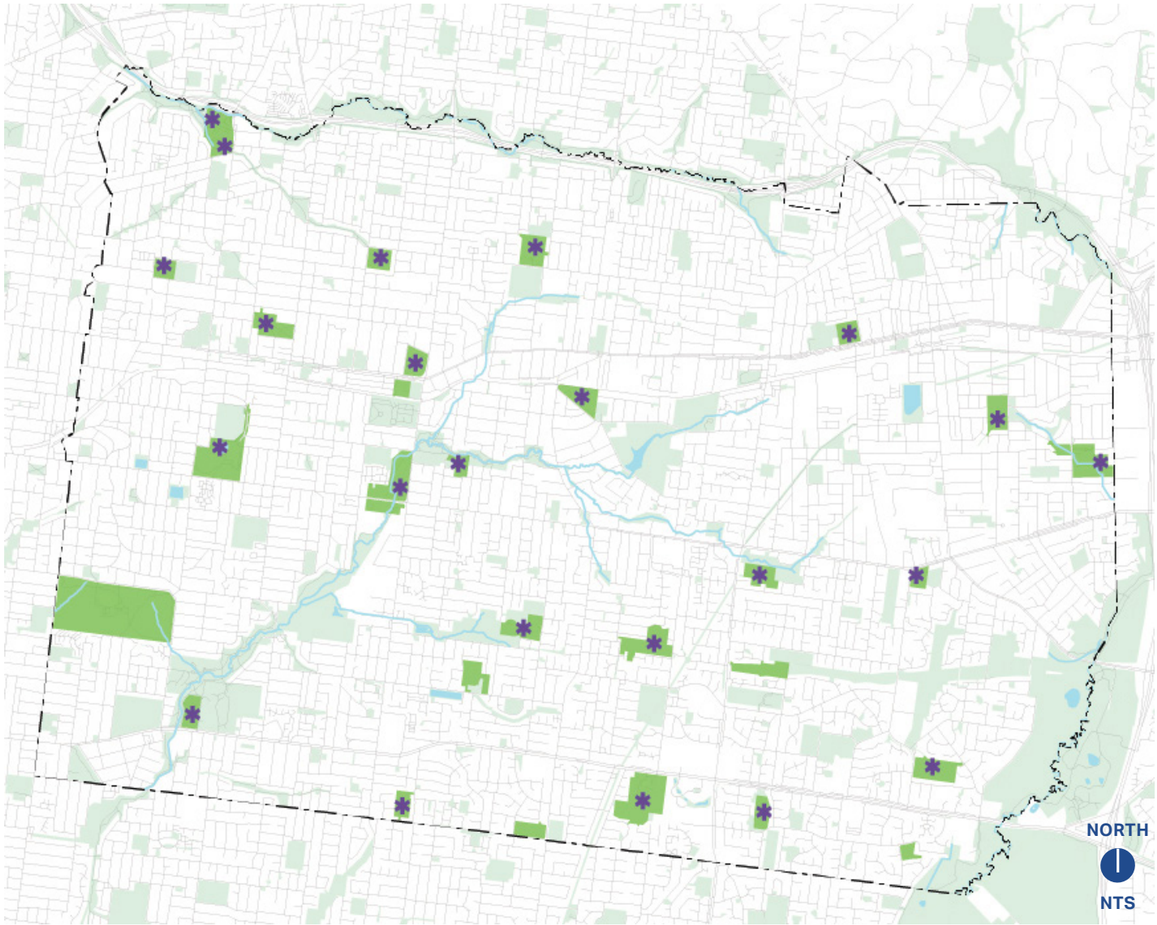


Cricket at Davy Lane Reserve
Source: Derek W, 2015

Cricket
3,834 players

Australian Rules Football (AFL)
4,436 players

2024 Whitehorse sport player numbers



Whitehorse City Council Sport Fields, Reserves, and Pavilions

Key	
	Whitehorse municipality boundary
	Sports field or reserve
*	Pavilion
	Open space
	Watercourse or water body

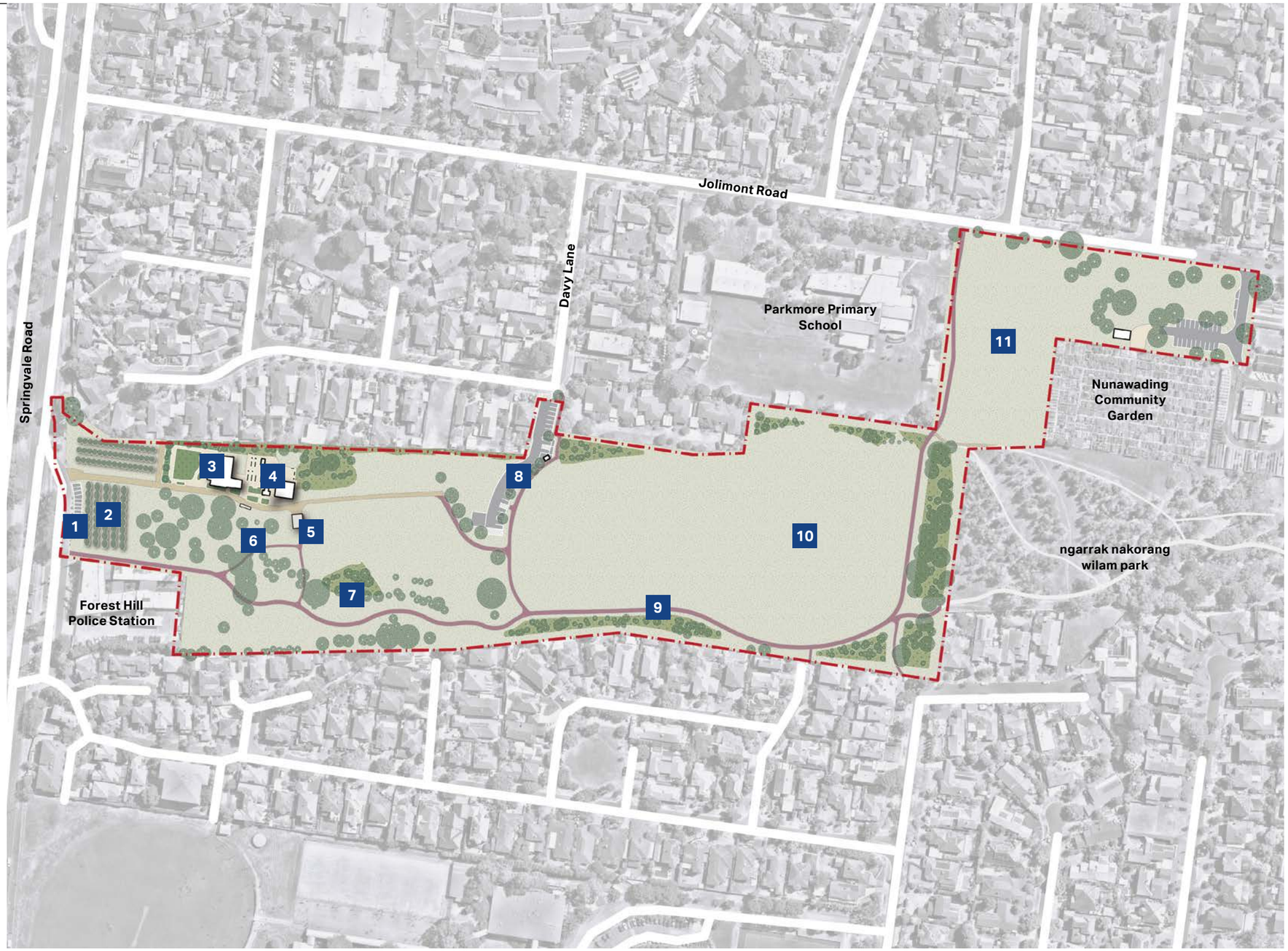
1.4 Strathdon Davy Community Precinct features

The Strathdon Davy Community Precinct is designated as a Municipal Open Space in the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy (2025). The precinct offers a variety of recreational facilities and green spaces, serving as a vital resource for the local community.

The site consists of three key areas: the Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct, Davy Lane Reserve, and Jolimont Reserve. Strathdon House and its surrounding orchard are important historical and cultural assets for WCC. The precinct currently features a diverse range of amenities: Strathdon House in the west offers community educational programs, gardening, and picnicking opportunities. Davy Lane in the centre hosts informal community sports, passive recreation and off-lead dog walking. Jolimont Reserve in the east is home to the Jolimont Community Garden run by the Nunawading Community Gardens Inc. The site currently has a single gravel pathway between Springvale Road and the Davy Lane car park.

Davy Lane Reserve has been hosting informal community sports since 1975. However, the quality of the grass for organised sports and other activities is below standard. When not in use for sporting events or community activities, the reserve serves as an off-leash dog walking area.

The precinct features a diverse range of vegetation, with orchard-style planting to the west transitioning to native and indigenous planting in the east aimed at restoring the natural environment and enhancing local biodiversity.



0 50 100 150 200 250m

NORTH

Key

	Strathdon Davy Community Reserve Master Plan boundary
	Existing tree canopy
	Existing paths
	Proposed paths by Parks Victoria
	Car park

Key features of Strathdon Davy Community Precinct

1	Springvale Road car park	5	BBQ, shelter, and picnic bench	9	Proposed path by Parks Victoria
2	Orchard Precinct	6	Nature play amenity	10	Davy Lane Reserve existing sports fields/ off-leash dog walking area
3	Strathdon House	7	Rain garden	11	Jolimont Reserve
4	Potting shed and community garden amenities	8	Proposed car park and toilet by Parks Victoria		

2.0

Master Plan vision, principles and objectives

2.1 Master Plan vision

2.2 Master Plan principles

2.2.1 Amenity

2.2.2 Access and movement

2.2.3 Environment

2.2.4 People and culture

Strathdon House

2.1 Master Plan vision

The vision statement of the Strathdon Davy Community Precinct Master Plan aims to:

‘Create an inclusive, accessible, and sustainable community hub that integrates the site’s rich history, natural environment, and recreational needs.’

Alongside outlining the overarching vision, the Master Plan for Strathdon Davy Community Precinct will:

- Provide an enriching and accessible visitor experience by offering well-designed spaces that cater to a variety of recreational, social, and cultural needs, fostering a sense of belonging and connection to the Strathdon Davy Precinct.
- Enhance and restore the natural environment by implementing sustainable practices that support ecological resilience, biodiversity, and the restoration of indigenous flora and fauna across the site.
- Cultivate a sense of environmental stewardship by encouraging community engagement and participation in the ongoing care and protection of the precinct’s natural and cultural resources.
- Honour and celebrate the diverse heritage of the Strathdon Davy Precinct, respecting the deep cultural connection of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people to Country, while also preserving the significant European heritage of Strathdon House and the surrounding landscape.

“To create an inclusive, accessible, and sustainable community hub that integrates the site’s rich history, natural environment, and recreational needs.”



Open space between Strathdon House and Davy Lane Reserve

2.2 Master Plan principles

Four key design principles that underpin the Strathdon Davy Community Precinct draft Master Plan have been identified to guide the future management and decision making for the site. These principles demand that any future changes to the park are to bring positive benefits and are consistent with the motivation and intent of the Master Plan.

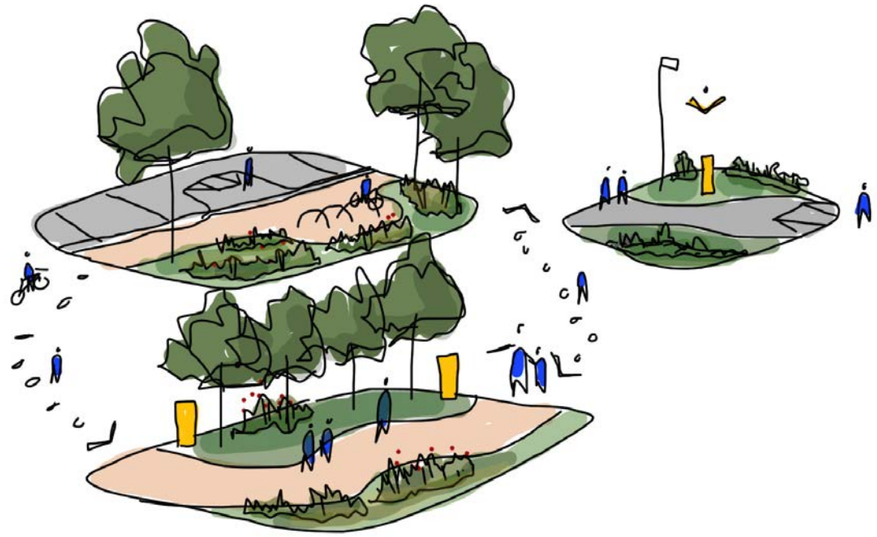
These principles include:

- Amenity
- Access and movement
- Environment
- People and culture.



Amenity

Promote community health and well-being by offering a diverse range of recreational spaces, ensuring accessibility for all ages and abilities.



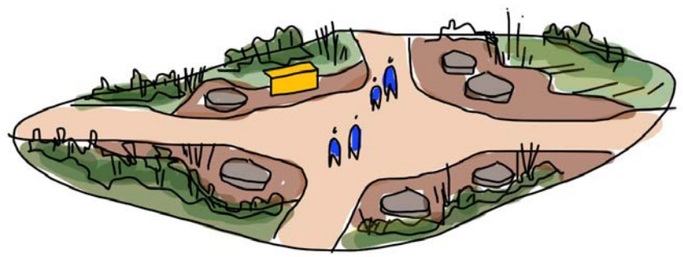
Access and movement

Enhance connectivity and access to essential park amenities, promoting safe, efficient, and inclusive movement for all users.



Environment

Restore and enhance the natural environment to create a resilient landscape that supports biodiversity and promotes sustainable ecological practices.



People and culture

Provide a variety of experiences that engage all community members, while honouring the heritage and history of the site.

2.2.1 Amenity

Master Plan principle:

Promote community health and well-being by offering a diverse range of recreational spaces, ensuring accessibility for all ages and abilities.

Key objectives to enhance amenity:

- To provide the necessary facilities and amenities to support strong community and social connections with the opportunity for facilities that support broad community use.
- Promote a community that participate in structured sport as well as non structured recreation to develop strong social bonds, and support mental and physical health.
- Incorporate well-placed seating, shaded areas, and gathering spots throughout the precinct to promote relaxation, socialisation, and community interaction.
- Design spaces and programs that foster physical activity across all age groups, enabling families, seniors, and young people to participate in sports and social activities together.



Strathdon House community gardens

2.2.2 Access and movement

Master Plan principle:

Enhance connectivity and access to essential park amenities, promoting safe, efficient, and inclusive movement for all users.

Key objectives to enhance access and movement:

- Establish a clear open space gateway and address that identifies the precinct, providing a welcoming and recognisable access point for all visitors.
- Improve the layout and provision of parking spaces, ensuring that they are conveniently located and well-connected to key park amenities.
- Implement design features that prioritise safety, including lighting, visible sight lines, and clearly defined pathways, to ensure a secure environment for all users.
- Integrate signage and wayfinding systems to guide users to key amenities and destinations within the park.



Path between Davy Lane car park and Strathdon House

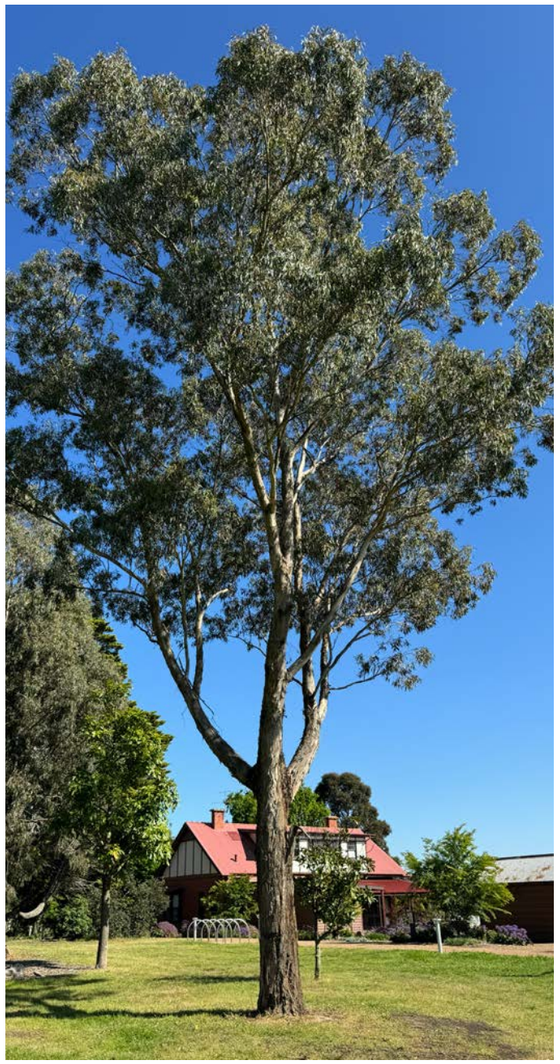
2.2.3 Environment

Master Plan principle:

Restore and enhance the natural environment to create a resilient landscape that supports biodiversity and promotes sustainable ecological practices.

Key objectives to enhance environment:

- Protect and enhance the existing tree canopy, as a vital resource for providing shade protection and contributing to urban cooling.
- Foster a resilient and ecologically balanced landscape, incorporating a variety of vegetation to attract and support local wildlife.
- Develop green corridors to facilitate wildlife movement and contribute to the overall ecological health of the area.
- Implement sustainable landscape practices such as water sensitive urban design techniques to improve the visual and environmental quality of the precinct.
- Increase ecological resilience through effective vegetation management.



Eucalyptus melliodora (Yellow Box)

2.2.4 People and culture

Master Plan principle:

Provide a variety of experiences that engage all community members, while honouring the heritage and history of the site.

Key objectives to enhance people and culture:

- Create opportunities for the community to learn about the site's key values, fostering a sense of pride and connection.
- Develop spaces for community events and gatherings that celebrate the diverse heritage of the region.
- Encourage community involvement in vegetation management and environmental activities to foster a sense of collective responsibility and care for the site.
- Provide platforms for cultural activities, performances, and artistic expressions, encouraging creativity and cultural exchange within the precinct.



Cricket game at Davy Lane Reserve

3.0

Strathdon Davy Community Precinct draft Master Plan

3.1 Strathdon Davy Community Precinct draft Master Plan

3.2 Strathdon Davy Community Precinct draft Master Plan Opportunities

3.3 Master Plan Detail Area - 1

3.4 Master Plan Detail Area - 2

Path from Strathdon House to Davy Lane car park

3.1 Strathdon Davy Community Precinct Master Plan



Key

Strathdon Davy Community Precinct Master Plan boundary	Existing shelter	Open grass area	Proposed orchard planting	1	Orchard planting with clear trunks / sight lines to Youth space	5	Community sheds to provide a maker's space
New canopy trees	Proposed new shelter or building	Proposed Adventure Playspace	Proposed dog agility equipment with compact gravel surface	2	Permeable fence between police station and car park	6	Sport oval retaining wall
Gravel path	Future expansion of community building	Proposed gathering space	Junior (108 x 86m) and senior (133 x 117m) sport ovals	3	Nature based playground	7	Satellite pavilion
Concrete path	New understorey planting	Proposed playground		4	Formed bioswale to capture overflows from former invert	8*	Dog park
Asphalt access road and parking	New feature planting	Proposed all ages fitness equipment					

Note: *The inclusion of the dog park remains subject to Council's Technical Dog Park Report and site assessment considerations.



1 Established orchard planting - Bethlem Royal Hospital
Source: NHS Forest, 2022



2 Permeable boundary fence to car park - New Zealand
Source: Fencerite, 2024



3 Nature based play equipment - Pimelea Western Sydney Parklands
Source: McGregor Coxall, 2023



4 Water sensitive urban design - Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct
Source: AECOM, 2024



5 Community facility - Glen Eira Community Shed
Source: Glen Eira City Council, 2020



6 Sports ground retaining wall - Precita Park
Source: San Francisco Parks Alliance, 2022



7 Modular Sport Pavilion - Carlson Reserve
Source: Shape Australia, 2025



8* Dog Park - Thomas Oval Dog Park
Source: Hansen Partnership, 2025

Note: *The inclusion of the dog park remains subject to Council's Technical Dog Park Report and site assessment considerations.

3.2 Master Plan opportunities

The principles and objectives have guided the development of the Strathdon Davy Community Precinct Master Plan and its specific opportunities. Opportunities are captured under one of the four principles and can be identified on the Master Plan by coloured key tag coding.

Amenity	
A.1	Create a prominent and legible gateway to clearly mark the park's entrance and welcome visitors, while enhancing the park's visibility.
A.2	Integrate all age social and recreational equipment, such as low-impact exercise stations and sensory planting, to ensure the park supports users of all age groups and abilities.
A.3	Provide a dynamic Adventure Play space with informal gathering areas, offering teenagers and young adults a dedicated space for physical activity and socialising.
A.4	Develop a municipal play space with play structures that include accessible equipment, providing an inclusive and enriching environment for children of all abilities and catering to wider age groups.
A.5	Design a flexible multi-purpose community building that can accommodate workshops and gatherings, with the potential for future expansion as needs grow.
A.6	Extend the community gardens to include diverse planting beds, promoting sustainable practices, local food production, and social interaction.
A.7	Create an adaptable open event space with essential utilities such as water and power to support a variety of community events.
A.8	Provide a shelter that offers comfort and protection from the weather, while supporting community gatherings with picnic settings and accessible barbeque facilities.
A.9	Establish a social enterprise cafe at Strathdon House that provides economic benefits and improves the visitor experience.
Movement and access	
M.1	Collabortate with Parks Victoria to investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing at Springvale Road, to ensure safe and easy access to the Principal Bicycle Network and Strategic Cycling Corridor for cyclists and pedestrians, encouraging active transportation.
M.2	Extend the existing Springvale Road car park to accommodate more vehicles, ensuring convenient access to key amenities without disrupting the natural flow of the park.
M.3	Develop accessible and well-lit paths that connect key amenities, ensuring inclusive access for people with disabilities, seniors, and families with prams. Renew existing path surfaces and install additional lighting.
Environment	
E.1	Develop a tree replacement plan to gradually replace ageing pine trees with more sustainable, drought-resistant species, ensuring the park's long-term ecological and aesthetic integrity.
E.2	Expand orchard planting across the site incorporating soil amelioration to improve substrate drainage. Provide a diverse range of fruit trees to generate a seasonal landscape and opportunity to celebrate historical values.
E.3	Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles to manage stormwater effectively, improve sustainability, and enhance the environmental quality of the site.
People and culture	
P.1	Create a flexible community gathering space, fostering a sense of community and cultural expression.
P.2	Evolve amenities to enable Strathdon House to host workshops and educational programs on sustainability, ecology, gardening, and local history.

Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct



Amenity

A.10	Install a secondary shelter to provide shade and protection for spectators at the secondary oval, enhancing the experience for spectators.
A.11	Formalise open space to create a junior and senior oval, accommodating organised sports and providing dedicated areas for different age groups, with adequate drainage and irrigation to support levels of use.
A.12	Install floodlights around the sports ovals to ensure adequate lighting for evening sports activities, enhancing safety and allowing for extended use of the facilities for winter sport use at twilight hours.
A.13	Provide a community sporting satellite pavilion which can be used to support sport and provide for local groups.
A.14	Investigate working with the Department of Education to upgrade bordering facilities such as netball and basketball courts to support training and social recreation.

Movement and access

M.4	Implement wayfinding signage to guide visitors to key park amenities, ensuring ease of navigation throughout the site.
M.5	Upgrade Davy Lane car park to accommodate both sports and reserve users, maintaining easy access to park amenities. *To be delivered with E4 by Parks Victoria as part of ngarrak nakorang wilam park.*
M.6	Develop a new path connection along the northern boundary to link Davy Lane car park, Parkmore Primary School, Jolimont Reserve, and ngarrak nakorang wilam park, improving accessibility and connectivity and encouraging walking via a path loop system.
M.7	Provide a covered circulation and viewing area between the pavilion and the oval, offering spectators shelter from the elements while enhancing the overall experience of attending sports events and activities.

Environment

E.4	Implement WSUD strategies as part of the new car park development to address existing waterlogging issues, manage stormwater sustainability, and enhance the site's environmental resilience. *To be delivered with M5 and M9.*
E.5	Plant canopy trees throughout the park to provide shade and create a habitat and wildlife corridor, while incorporating understorey planting to enhance biodiversity.
E.6	Use planting to soften the appearance of infrastructure and create visual barriers that improve the park's aesthetic and provide separation for different park zones.
E.7	Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) such as water harvesting and detention below the playing field surface. Inclusion of sports oval infrastructure to manage stormwater effectively, promote sustainability, and enhance the park's ecological value.

People and culture

P.3	Install customised interpretive signage throughout the park to allow visitors to learn about the park's heritage, ecology, and cultural significance in an interactive way.
P.4	Install signage to restrict dogs from entering the ovals during sports activities, ensuring safety and preventing disruptions during events.
P.5	Ensure the ongoing maintenance and management of park assets including paths, car parks, vegetation, and amenities by fostering ongoing strong partnerships with recreation and sport groups, Friends groups, volunteers, and other stakeholders to promote stewardship.



Amenity

A.15*	Create a fenced dog park with separate areas for off-leash dogs with zones for differing social abilities, size and temperament, featuring open grass spaces and agility equipment on compacted gravel to enhance recreation for pet owners and their dogs.
A.16*	Provide shelter and seating around the dog park to offer comfort for users, allowing them to relax while their dogs play.
A.17*	Create a clear and welcoming entry point to the dog park with a transition zone that gently guides users and their dogs into the space, incorporating signage, landscaping, and fencing to enhance safety and accessibility while maintaining a seamless flow from the surrounding park areas.
A.18	Replace the existing Nunawading Community Garden shed with a new nursery shed that includes an outdoor work area with power connection, and larger water tank.
A.19	Install concrete sleeper storage bays for loose materials and provide a 1.8m high chain mesh fence along the garden boundary for security and delineation.

Movement and access

M.8	Provide a well-defined and easily navigable footpath into the reserve from Jolimont Road, ensuring it is clear, legible, and accessible for all users, with appropriate signage and wayfinding to direct visitors to key amenities and park areas.
M.9	Establish a carpark and driveway at Jolimont Reserve to facilitate safe connections to reserve amenities, with consideration for Parkmore Primary School to use during the day. *To be delivered with E4.*
M.10	Expand the car park into the adjacent council-owned property as demand increases, to accommodate both reserve users and visitors to the Nunawading Community Garden, enhancing accessibility.

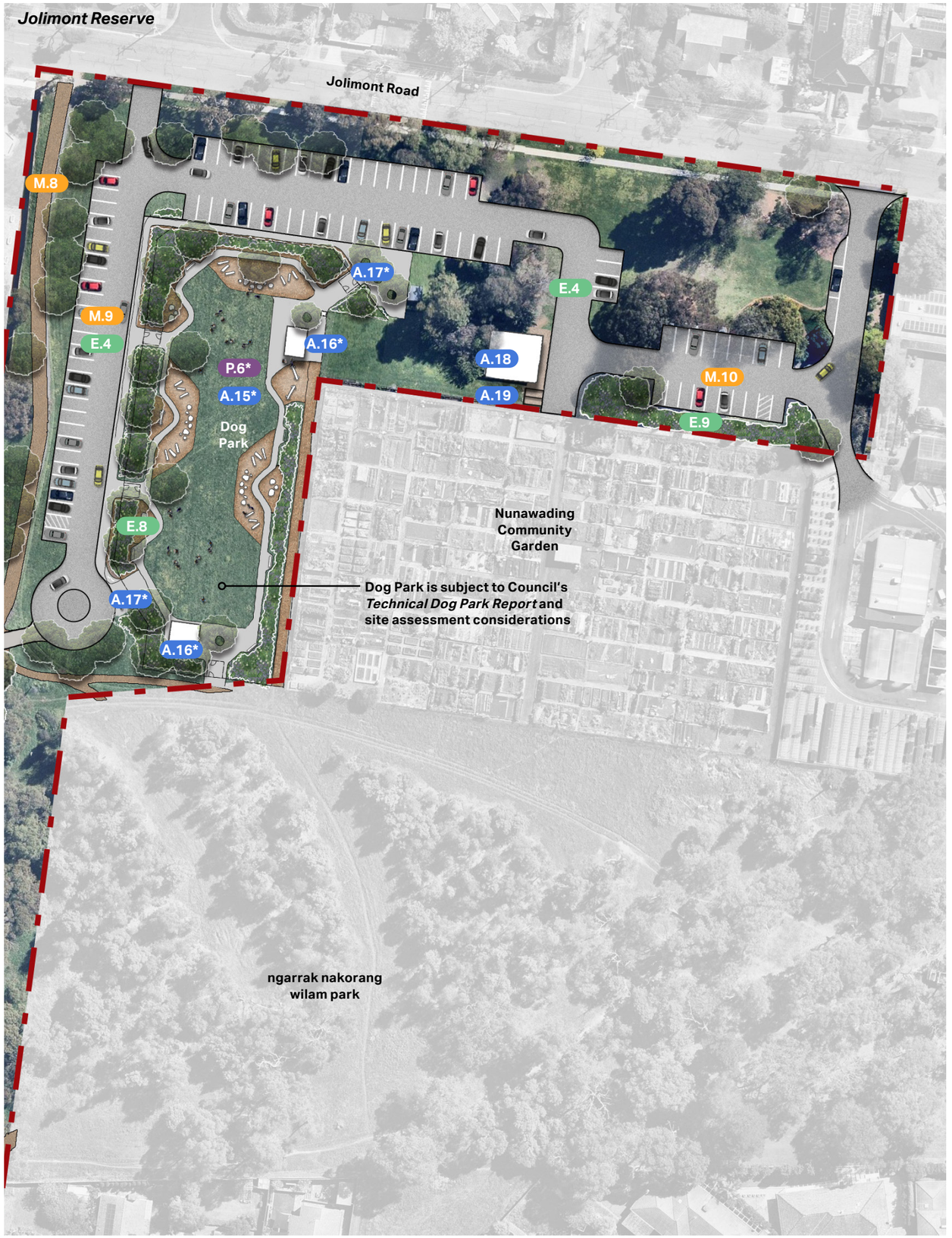
Environment

E.8	Incorporate a tree structure to provide a natural transition to ngarrak nakorang wilam park, offering both visual and physical connections, as well as additional shade for park visitors.
E.9	Increase canopy tree and understorey pollinator friendly planting, collaborating with Nunawading Community Gardens to increase biodiversity and habitat for native species.

People and culture

P.6*	Designate a specific area for off-leash dog walking, ensuring a safe and controlled space for dogs and owners to enjoy the park.

Note: *The inclusion of the dog park remains subject to Council's Technical Dog Park Report and site assessment considerations.



0 10 20 30 40 50m

NORTH

3.2.1 Traffic Assessment

A Traffic Impact Assessment was undertaken to understand how the proposed changes in the Strathdon Davy Community Precinct Master Plan may affect local traffic, parking, and access. The assessment looked at how the area is currently used, how traffic and parking needs may change in the future, and whether the existing road network can support the expected activity. Key intersections at Springvale Road with Jolimont Road and Saxonwood Drive were reviewed. No major upgrades to the road network are required to support the proposed improvements in the precinct.

The Master Plan includes a total of 168 off-street car parking spaces spread across three car park areas. This is expected to be sufficient to meet demand across all uses, including the Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct, sporting ovals, Nunawading Community Garden and dog park. Parking demand is expected to be spread out across different times of the day and week, reducing the chance of high demand at any one time. Clear signage and wayfinding will help visitors find available parking and move safely through the precinct. Overall, the assessment confirms the road and parking network will support the future use of the site as outlined in the Master Plan.



0 50 100 150 200 250m

NORTH

Key

- Strathdon Davy Community Precinct Master Plan boundary
- Asphalt car park
- Entry point
- One way access

3.2.2 Vegetation Impact

The delivery of the Davy Lane Master Plan will result in some vegetation impacts across the site, carefully managed to balance safety, amenity, and biodiversity outcomes. This includes the removal of ageing pine trees that have reached the end of their life, reducing potential safety risks while allowing for the extension of the car park to enhance accessibility and delivery of a Municipal Playground. Replacement planting will focus on native species to support biodiversity and provide long-term shade for play areas and gathering spaces.

Existing Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) offset planting and garden beds will be retained, with the reorientation of the ovals carefully designed to avoid impacts on established vegetation. Minor vegetation removals will be required to accommodate the new pavilion, however, a comprehensive replanting strategy will ensure new trees are established along key paths and destinations across the reserve, delivering shade, habitat, and a more sustainable landscape character.

All vegetation impacts will be further assessed through detailed design and minimised wherever possible. Where vegetation removal is unavoidable, appropriate offsets will be provided to ensure no net loss, supporting habitat values, biodiversity, and long-term landscape character.



0 50 100 150 200 250m

NORTH

Key

- Strathdon Davy Community Precinct Master Plan boundary
- Proposed new tree planting
- Proposed new vegetation planting
- Approximate area of potential impact to existing vegetation
- Offset planting areas

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3.3 Detail Area - Strathdon Precinct Activity Space



Legend

- Strathdon Davy Community Reserve Master Plan boundary
- New canopy trees
- Gravel path
- Concrete path
- Asphalt access road and parking
- New understorey planting
- New feature planting
- Existing Shelter
- Proposed new shelter
- Proposed Adventure Playspace
- Proposed nature based playground
- Proposed gathering space
- Proposed all ages fitness equipment
- Proposed orchard planting
- 1 Community gathering space
- 2 Municipal playground
- 3 Orchard planting with clear trunks / sight lines to Adventure Playspace
- 4 WSUD planting
- 5 Toddler Playspace
- 6 All ages fitness / social equipment
- 7 BBQ and picnic shelter
- 8 Adventure Playspace

0 5 10 15 20 25m

NORTH

Strathdon Precinct Activity Space

The Strathdon Precinct Activity Space aims to seamlessly integrate new open space amenities into the existing Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct, the proposed Davy Lane Reserve's active recreational facilities, and the proposed ngarrak nakorang wilam shared path, planting and parking proposals.

The Activity Space composition is structured by a circulatory path network which acknowledges the formal geometric arrangements of the Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct, where landscape 'plots' are defined by the particular facilities they feature. These 'plots' include all age social and recreational equipment and toddler playspace co-located adjacent to the existing shelter and picnic facilities to maximise passive and active surveillance and to appear as an attractive, visual feature when observed from Springvale Road.

A municipal playground is situated between the community gathering space and the grassed, open event space, where a level surface transition is provided by the relocation of the existing raingarden. East of the playground is an area dedicated to all age social and recreational equipment. To the south of this space, passive and active opportunities are provided with adventure play equipment. Complimented by adjacent picnic settings, bench seating and a park shelter, the youth space aims to activate the precinct's south-western corner. The youth space placement beside the shared path proposed by the ngarrak nakorang wilam project and the Master Plan's new access car park enable strong public passive surveillance. Transparent fencing to the Forest Hill Police Station's northern and eastern boundaries is also proposed pending further discussions with Victoria Police.

Additional parking is proposed throughout, with direct vehicle access to Strathdon House provided by a vehicle capable gravel path that runs north-south to allow access for maintenance and delivery vehicles. A gathering space and native garden are proposed beside Strathdon House to express the site's strong Cultural Heritage alongside its Historical Heritage. New, formal orchard plantings are proposed via the extension of the existing western orchard, as well as a new plot to the east of the site, which aims to introduce the Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct to users approaching from the east.



1

Gathering space - Curtin University Yarning Circle
Source: UDLA, 2020



Playground - Wattle Park
Source: Robyn Oliver



3

Orchard planting - Dunkeld and Birnam Community Orchard
Source: Ivy Cottage Industries, 2015



4

WSUD planting - Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct
Source: AECOM, 2025



5

Toddler based playground - Wyndham Park
Source: AECOM, 2021



6

All age fitness equipment - Hausjarvi Finland
Source: Lappset, 2024



7

BBQ and picnic area -Wattle Park, Melbourne
Source: Robyn Oliver, 2023



8

Adventure play - Kuldiga
Source: Lappset Group, 2016

3.4 Detail Area - Off-leash dog park



Note:

*The inclusion of the dog park remains subject to Council's Technical Dog Park Report and site assessment considerations.

Legend

	Strathdon Davy Community Precinct Master Plan boundary
	New canopy trees
	Gravel path
	Concrete path
	Asphalt access road and parking
	New feature planting
	Proposed new shelter
	Proposed dog agility equipment with compact gravel surface
	Open grass area
1	Car park WSUD planting
2	Understorey planting
3	Northern entry point to dog park
4	Open grass area in dog park
5	Formal dog agility equipment
6	Nature based dog agility equipment
7	Southern entry to dog park and vehicle maintenance access
8	Park shelter and seating

0 5 10 15 20 25m

NORTH

Off-leash dog park

The proposed design for the Davy Lane Off-Leash dog park is centered around creating a dynamic and welcoming space that fosters both community connection and the well-being of dogs.

Four entry points to the fenced dog park provide easy access from all directions. Two gathering nodes are located at either end of the park with shelters and seating to serve as social hubs where dog owners can meet and relax while their dogs interact and play. The site will accommodate both large and small dogs, providing spaces for different breeds to enjoy the park comfortably. A large, open grassed area will form the heart of the park, providing ample room for dogs to run around and play fetch.

The park will also include a network of circulatory paths that wind through the space with intermittent nature play based dog obstacles strategically placed to offer challenges and skill building opportunities such as jumps, balance, and tunnels. Throughout the park, benches will be positioned at regular intervals, providing resting spots for dog owners to relax, watch their dogs, and socialise with others. Shade trees and hedge planting will be provided around the park, offering relief from the sun and creating a cooler, more comfortable environment during warmer months. Maintenance access to the park is provided from the southwest.



1
Car park edge planting - West Ryde, NSW
Source: DesignInc, 2023



2
Indigenous feature planting - Curtin University
Source: UDLA, 2021



3
Entry point to dog park - PA Burns Reserve
Source: The Yap Pack, 2024



4
Fenced open grass area - West Torrens Dog Park
Source: City of West Torrens, 2023



5
Formal agility equipment - Tirhatuan Park Dog Park
Source: City of Greater Dandenong, 2021



6
Nature based dog agility - Eastfield Dog Park
Source: City of Maroondah, 2024



7
Transition space - Carlson Reserve forecourt
Source: City of Monash, 2022



8
Shelter and seating - Conygnham Street Dog Park, South Australia
Source: Terrain Group, 2021

3.5 Detail Area - Nunawading Community Gardens



Legend

	Strathdon Davy Community Precinct Master Plan boundary
	New canopy trees
	Gravel path
	Asphalt access road and parking
	New feature planting
	Proposed storage shed
	Loose material bays
1	Car park connection to Jolimont Reserve
2	Covered outdoor patio space
3	Storage shed with power, outdoor patio, and larger water tank
4	Loose material bays
5	WSUD planting within car park
6	Understory pollinator planting
7	1.8m high chain mesh fencing

0 5 10 15 20 25m

NORTH

Nunawading Community Garden

The proposed design for the Nunawading Community Garden includes a range of upgrades to improve the space for community use. A new shared shed is planned, featuring two separate access points to allow different user groups to store tools and equipment securely. The shed will include power, an internal area for storage, and an undercover outdoor space for activities such as gardening and workshops. A new water tank will be connected to the existing underground pipe system to support sustainable water use. The design also includes two new bays for storing loose materials like mulch or soil.

To improve access and manage stormwater, the car park will be upgraded with permeable paving. The existing fence along Jolimont Reserve will be removed and replaced with a new chain mesh fence, enhancing both security and the garden's interface with the surrounding reserve.



1
Native feature planting - Princess Park, Glen Eira
Source: Google Street View, 2024



2
Timber pergola - Cultivable House
Source: Makoto Yoshida, 2018



3
Nursery shed
Source: Life Home Builders, 2023



4
Loose material bays - Concrete Sleeper
Source:Playford Pavers



5
Car park edge planting - West Ryde, NSW
Source: DesignInc, 2023



6
Indigenous feature planting - Curtin University
Source: UDLA, 2021



7
Chain mesh fencing, Nunawading community gardens
Source: AECOM, 2024



8
Canopy trees to shade car park - LSU campus
Source: Heather Kirk-Ballard, 2019

3.6 Pavilion

A satellite pavilion located east of the senior oval will serve as the primary facility for both the junior and senior ovals. It will provide essential infrastructure including changerooms, storage, public amenities, and a shaded viewing area with external canteen servery, designed to accommodate the needs of players, officials and spectators across multiple user groups. Positioned to the east of the precinct, it will enable efficient access to the Jolimont Road car park and ovals, supporting flexible scheduling and promoting equitable use across age groups, genders and sporting codes.

The design of the pavilion will prioritise inclusivity, accessibility and functionality to meet contemporary community sport standards. The facility will provide a welcoming hub for training and match days, with connections to accessible pathways and the car park enhancing ease of movement throughout the site. By consolidating infrastructure into a high-quality multipurpose facility the pavilion will enhance long-term operational efficiency, elevate user experience, and encourage greater community participation. With the potential for modular construction, the project could benefit from reduced construction time and improved cost efficiency. This approach also allows for greater flexibility in design and future adaptability.



Legend

- Master Plan Boundary
- New canopy trees
- Store and changeroom
- Amenities room
- Pavilion canopy extent
- Water tank
- Fence
- Gravel path
- Concrete path

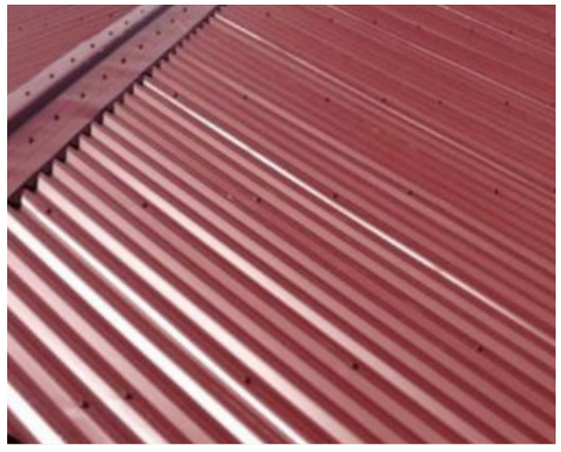
3.7 Pavilion Material Palette



Pavilion exterior
Source: Sam Crawford Architects



Changerooms
Source: DesignInc



Corrugated Iron Roof Sheeting
Source: Steeline



Open space between pavilion and oval
Source: DesignInc



Concourse
Source: Sam Crawford Architects



Changeroom shower partitions
Source: Group GSA



Change room bench seating and lockers
Source: Five at Heart, 2025



Open space between pavilion and oval, including seating
Source: DesignInc

3.8 Material Palette

The material palette for Strathdon Davy Lane Reserve has been thoughtfully selected to reflect a natural and understated character that responds to the reserve's open grassland and bushland edges. The design emphasises a strong connection to the landscape, using materials that are ecologically appropriate and support a welcoming user experience. Crushed rock and gravel paths are used extensively to maintain a natural, low-impact aesthetic, while concrete is introduced selectively to ensure universal access to key facilities such as the pavilion. At the pavilion, a concrete spectator viewing area creates a practical edge to the building, encouraging community use and informal gathering, and reinforcing the reserve's overall natural identity.



Gravel path
Source: AECOM



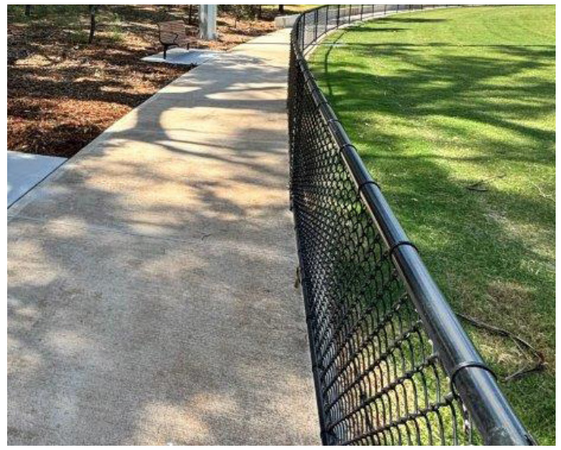
Concrete pavement



Exposed aggregate concrete
Source: WB Concreting



Earth toned rubber soft fall
Source: Robyn Oliver, 2023



Chain mesh fencing to concrete
Source: Perfection Landscape Services, 2023



Asphalt DDA Parking Space
Source: Access Central

3.9 Furniture Palette



Table setting
Source: Draffin



Seat with back
Source: Draffin



Bench
Source: Draffin



Access barbecue
Source: Furphy Foundry



Curved stainless steel bike hoop
Source: Draffin



Solar powered path lighting, ngarrak nakorang wilam park
Source: AECOM



Accesible drinking fountain
Source: Botton + Gardiner



Bin enclosure
Source: Street Furniture Australia

3.10 Planting Palette

General site wide vegetation

A general plant list for revegetation will be applied across the site to provide a consistent visual language. The mix aims to enhance species habitat and restore native plant species across the corridor.

Scientific name	Common name
Trees	
Eucalyptus melliodora	Yellow Box
Eucalyptus obliqua	Messmate
Shrubs	
Acacia mearnsii	Black Wattle
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood
Correa reflexa	Common Correa
Goodenia ovata	Hop Goodenia
Indigofera australis	Austral Indigo
Spyridium parvifolium	Dusty Miller
Groundcovers and grasses	
Dianella longifolia	Smooth Flax-lily
Juncus gregiflorus	Green Rush
Juncus pallidus	Pale Rush
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
Microseria lanceolata	Yam Daisy
Poa labillardierei	Common Tussock-grass
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass

Key Plan





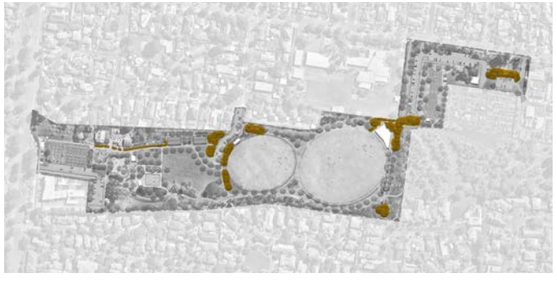


Feature planting

Feature planting will be provided at key entrances and points within the reserve. The colourful plant mix will provide visual interest when entering the park or pausing at picnic areas and seats.
The selected plants provide a range of characteristics including different scents, textures, forms, colours and structure.

Scientific name	Common name
Trees	
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle
Eucalyptus ovata	Swamp Gum
Shrubs	
Acacia paradoxa	Hedge Wattle
Banksia marginata	Silver Banskia
Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaria
Hakea decurrens	Bushy Needlewood
Viminaria juncea	Native Broom
Groundcovers and grasses	
Billardiera scandens	Common Apple-berry
Bulbine bulbosa	Bulbine Lily
Dianella revoluta	Blue Flax-lily
Lomandra confertifolia	Mat Rush
Veronica perfoliata	Digger's Speedwell
Wahlenbergia stricta	Tall Bluebell

Key Plan







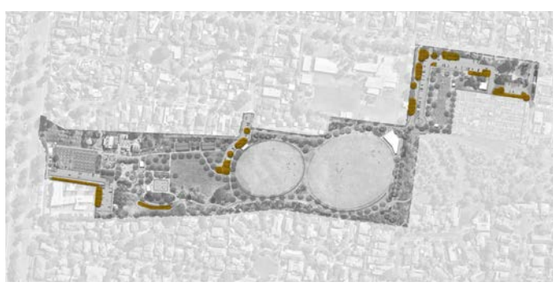
Swale planting

The swale planting palette will applied to areas of the site that have poor drainage. Small channels that convey water will be planted with grasses and native vegetation to help reduce overland flows and prevent flooding.

Scientific name	Common name
Trees	
Allocasuarina littorialis	Black Sheoak
Eucalyptus ovata	Swamp Gum
Melaleuca ericifolia	Swamp Paperbark
Shrubs	
Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaria
Leptospermum continentale	Prickly Teatree
Groundcovers and grasses	
Carex appressa	Tall Sedge
Cyperus lucidus	Leafy Flat-sedge
Dianella revoluta	Blue Flax-lily
Dianella tasmanica	Tasman Flax-lily
Dichondra repens	Kidney Weed
Gahnia radula	Thatch Saw-sedge
Juncus procerus	Tall Rush
Lomandra filiformis	Wattle Mat-rush



Key Plan



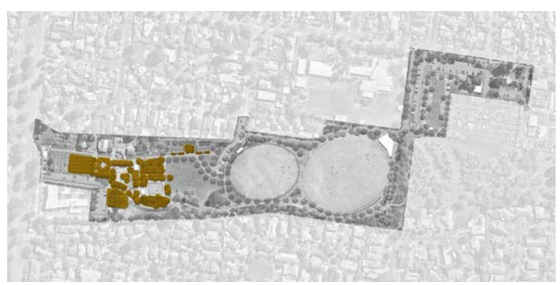
Strathdon Precinct Activity Space planting

The planting palette aims to complement each play area by providing a variety of sensory opportunities. The selected plants provide a range of characteristics including different scents, textures, forms, colours and structure.

Scientific name	Common name
Trees	
Acacia implexa	Lightwood
Allocasuarina verticillata	Drooping She-oak
Eucalyptus leucoxylon	Dwarf Yellow Gum
Shrubs	
Cassinia arculeata	Common Cassinia
Cassinia arcuata	Dooping Cassinia
Groundcovers and grasses	
Acacia cognata	River Wattle
Arthropodium milleforum	Pale Vanilla-lily
Coronidium scoproides	Button Everlasting
Dichelachne crinita	Longhair Plume Grass
Myoporum parvifolium	Creeping Boobialla
Poa labillardierei	Common Tussock Grass
Pycnosorus glauca	Common Billy Buttons
Stylidium graminifolium	Grass Trigger Plant



Key Plan



4.0
Implementation strategy

4.1 Implementation strategy

Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct

4.1 Implementation strategy

The Strathdon Davy Community Precinct Master Plan's opportunities have been categorised into high, medium, and low priority. The viability and time frame of each opportunity is dependent upon adequate future funding. This funding may be subject to further design development and detailed costings of elements.

Note: *The inclusion of the dog park remains subject to Council's Technical Dog Park Report and site assessment considerations.

Amenity

High priority

A.1	Create a prominent and legible gateway to clearly mark the park's entrance and welcome visitors, while enhancing the park's visibility.
A.11	Formalise open space to create a junior and senior oval, accommodating organised sports and providing dedicated areas for different age groups, with adequate drainage and irrigation to support levels of use.
A.12	Install floodlights around the sports ovals to ensure adequate lighting for evening sports activities, enhancing safety and allowing for extended use of the facilities for winter sport use at twilight hours.
A.13	Provide a community sporting satellite pavilion which can be used to support sport and accommodate a community event space, fostering a multifunctional space for local groups.
A.15*	Create a fenced dog park with separate areas for off-leash dogs with zones for differing social abilities, size and temperament, featuring open grass spaces and agility equipment on compacted gravel to enhance recreation for pet owners and their dogs.
A.17*	Create a clear and welcoming entry point to the dog park with a transition zone that gently guides users and their dogs into the space, incorporating signage, landscaping, and fencing to enhance safety and accessibility while maintaining a seamless flow from the surrounding park areas.

Medium priority

A.2	Integrate all age social and recreational equipment, such as low-impact exercise stations and sensory planting, to ensure the park supports users of all age groups and abilities.
A.3	Provide a dynamic Adventure Play space with informal gathering areas, offering teenagers and young adults a dedicated space for physical activity and socialising.
A.4	Develop a municipal play space with play structures and accessible equipment, providing an inclusive and enriching environment for children of all abilities and catering to wider age groups.
A.7	Create an adaptable open event space with essential utilities such as water and power to support a variety of community events.
A.8	Provide a shelter that offers comfort and protection from the weather, while supporting community gatherings with picnic settings and accessible barbeque facilities.
A.16*	Provide shelter and seating around the dog park to offer comfort for users, allowing them to relax while their dogs play.
A.18	Replace the existing Nunawading Community Garden shed with a new nursery shed that includes an outdoor work area with power connection, and larger water tank.
A.19	Install concrete sleeper storage bays for loose materials and provide a 1.8m high chain mesh fence along the garden boundary for security and delineation.

Low priority

A.5	Design a flexible multi-purpose community building that can accommodate workshops and gatherings, with the potential for future expansion as needs grow.
A.6	Extend the community gardens to include diverse planting beds, promoting sustainable practices, local food production, and social interaction.
A.9	Establish a social enterprise cafe at Strathdon House that provides economic benefits and improves the visitor experience.
A.10	Install a secondary shelter to provide shade and protection for spectators at the secondary oval, enhancing the experience for fans and families.
A.14	Investigate working with the Department of Education to upgrade bordering facilities such as netball and basketball to support training and social recreation.

Movement and access

High priority

M.3	Develop accessible and well-lit paths that connect key amenities, ensuring inclusive access for people with disabilities, seniors, and families with prams. Renew existing path surfaces and install additional lighting.
M.5	Upgrade Davy Lane car park to accommodate both sports and reserve users, maintaining easy access to park amenities. *To be delivered with E4.*
M.6	Develop a new path connection along the northern boundary to link Davy Lane car park, Parkmore Primary School, Jolimont Reserve, and ngarrak nakorang wilam park, improving accessibility and connectivity and encouraging walking via a path loop system.
M.7	Provide a covered circulation and viewing area between the pavilion and the oval, offering spectators shelter from the elements while enhancing the overall experience of attending sports events and activities.
M.8	Provide a well-defined and easily navigable footpath into the reserve from Jolimont Road, ensuring it is clear, legible, and accessible for all users, with appropriate signage and wayfinding to direct visitors to key amenities and park areas.
M.9	Establish a carpark and driveway at Jolimont Reserve to facilitate safe connections to reserve amenities, with consideration for Parkmore Primary School to use during the day. *To be delivered with E4.*

Medium priority

M.2	Extend the existing Springvale Road car park to accommodate more vehicles, ensuring convenient access to key amenities without disrupting the natural flow of the park.
M.4	Implement wayfinding signage to guide visitors to key park amenities, ensuring ease of navigation throughout the site.

Low priority

M.1	Collaborate with Parks Victoria to investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing at Springvale Road, to ensure safe and easy access to the Principal Bicycle Network and Strategic Cycling Corridor for cyclists and pedestrians, encouraging active transportation.
M.10	Expand the car park into the adjacent council-owned property as demand increases, to accommodate both reserve users and visitors to the Nunawading Community Garden, enhancing accessibility.

Environment

High priority

E.4	Implement WSUD strategies as part of the new car park development to address existing waterlogging issues, manage stormwater sustainability, and enhance the site's environmental resilience. *To be delivered with M5 and M9.*
E.6	Use planting to soften the appearance of infrastructure and create visual barriers that improve the park's aesthetic and provide separation for different park zones.
E.7	Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) such as water harvesting and detention below the playing field surface. Inclusion of sports oval infrastructure to manage stormwater effectively, promote sustainability, and enhance the park's ecological value.
E.8	Incorporate a tree structure to provide a natural transition to ngarrak nakorang wilam park, offering both visual and physical connections, as well as additional shade for park visitors.

Medium priority

E.1	Develop a tree replacement plan to gradually replace ageing pine trees with more sustainable, drought-resistant species, ensuring the park's long-term ecological and aesthetic integrity.
E.3	Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles to manage stormwater effectively, improve sustainability, and enhance the environmental quality of the site.
E.5	Plant canopy trees throughout the park to provide shade and create a habitat and wildlife corridor, while incorporating understorey planting to enhance biodiversity.
E.9	Increase canopy tree and understorey pollinator friendly planting, collaborating with Nunawading Community Gardens to increase biodiversity and habitat for native species.

Low priority

E.2	Expand orchard planting across the site incorporating soil amelioration to improve substrate drainage. Provide a diverse range of fruit trees to generate a seasonal landscape and opportunity to celebrate historical values.

People and culture

High priority	
P.3	Install customised interpretive signage throughout the park to allow visitors to learn about the park's heritage, ecology, and cultural significance in an interactive way.
P.4	Install signage to restrict dogs from entering the ovals during sports activities, ensuring safety and preventing disruptions during events.
P.6	Designate a specific area for off-leash dog walking, ensuring a safe and controlled space for dogs and owners to enjoy the park.

Low priority	
P.1	Create a flexible community gathering space, fostering a sense of community and cultural expression.
P.2	Evolve amenities to enable Strathdon House to host workshops and educational programs on sustainability, ecology, gardening, and local history.

Ongoing	
P.5	Ensure the ongoing maintenance and management of park assets including paths, car parks, vegetation, and amenities by fostering ongoing strong partnerships with recreation and sport groups, Friends groups, volunteers, and other stakeholders to promote stewardship.

4.2 Staging plan



Legend

- Low priority
- Medium priority
- High priority

Note: *The inclusion of the dog park remains subject to Council's Technical Dog Park Report and site assessment considerations.