

WURUNDJERI WALK DRAFT MASTER PLAN

DRAFT VERSION | REVISION G | MAY 2025
PREPARED FOR CITY OF WHITEHORSE



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 Wurundjeri Walk, 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 Wurundjeri Walk.

The draft Master Plan identifies the vision, key design principles, and objectives for the Wurundjeri Walk. 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 Wurundjeri Walk. Detailed background information on the site's geographical, planning, heritage, and environmental context can be found within the Appendices, along with the engagement report.

Wurundjeri Walk is situated on the traditional land of the Wurrundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. Located in Blackburn South, to the east of Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD), within the City of Whitehorse. It encompasses several important natural open spaces, including Wurundjeri Wetlands, Orchard Grove Reserve, Mirrabooka Reserve, Hurter-Finch and Finch Place Reserves.

There are two interfacing projects that have been considered in the creation of the draft Master Plan. The redevelopment of Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion and upgrades to Orchard Grove Primary School amenities.

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 recreational and competitive activities. Many existing sports venues and amenities are reaching capacity, or no longer meet the needs of a diverse and expanding community. Upgrades to these facilities are essential to accommodate a wider range of sports, ensure accessibility for all user groups, and support the growing interest in women's and junior sports.

Wurundjeri Walk 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.

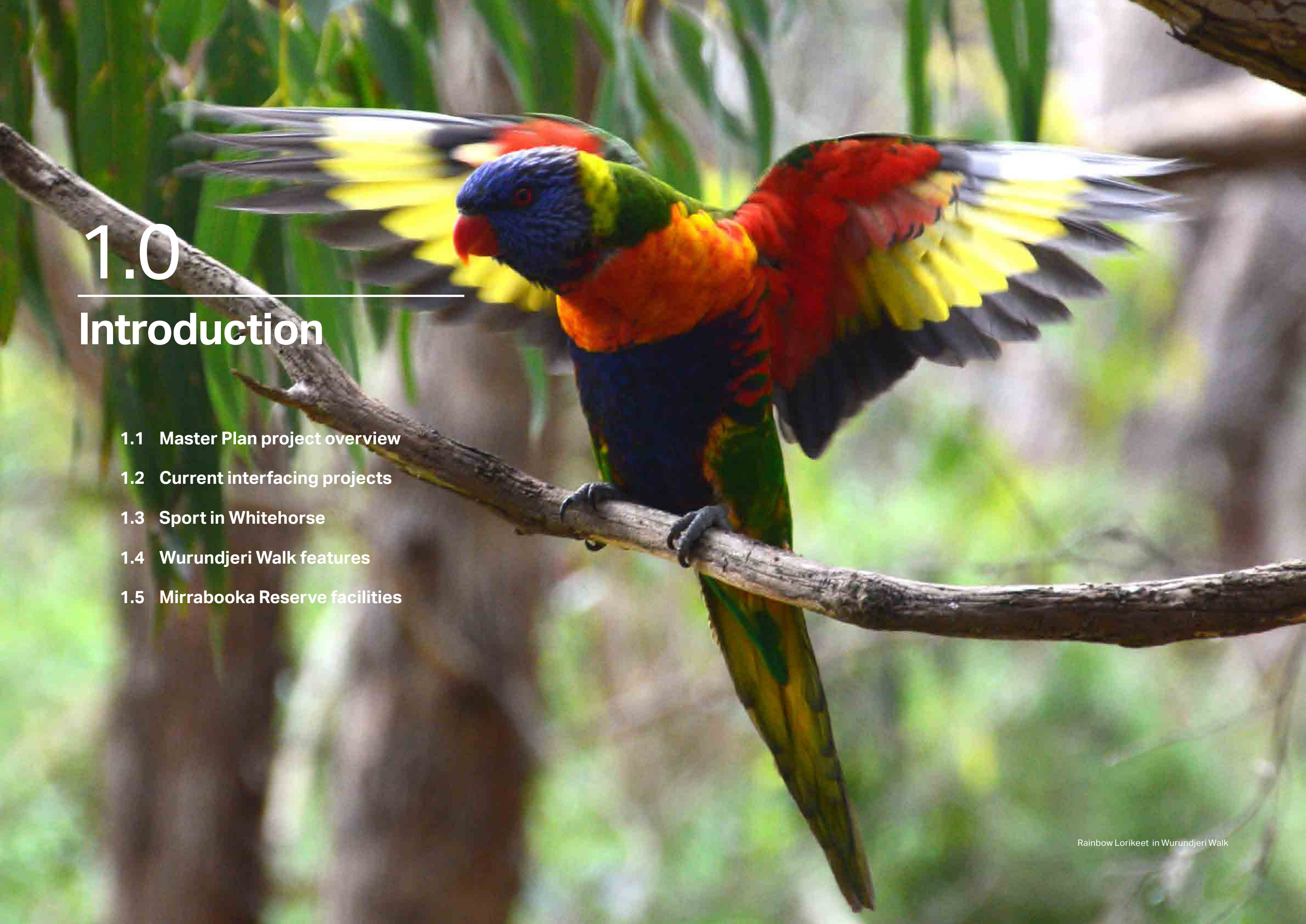
The Master Plan provides conceptual illustrations of a number of the identified opportunities. These opportunities present possible ways in which the Master Plan's key design principles and objectives may be delivered, subject to future design development and approval.

Master Plan implementation

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



Wurundjeri Walk and Mirrabooka Reserve Aerial



1.0

Introduction

- 1.1 Master Plan project overview
- 1.2 Current interfacing projects
- 1.3 Sport in Whitehorse
- 1.4 Wurundjeri Walk features
- 1.5 Mirrabooka Reserve facilities

1.1 Master Plan project overview

Whitehorse City Council (WCC) has developed a draft Master Plan for Wurundjeri Walk 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 Wurundjeri Walk'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 of Wurundjeri Walk. It aims to guide decision making processes and support the strategic planning and operations of the site. The plan recognises that the needs and expectations of visitors 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 delivery.



Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan sketch (NTS)

1.2 Current interfacing projects

The Master Plan aims to align with ongoing and upcoming projects in and around Wurundjeri Walk. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion redevelopment
- Orchard Grove Primary School and Aurora School Capital Works
- Joint Use Agreement
- Bungalook Nursery Capital Works

Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion

The Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion is undergoing a significant redevelopment to enhance its facilities, supporting increased sporting and community use. This upgrade will also promote greater participation in women’s sport by addressing the current inadequacy of change room facilities. The redevelopment will include a new multi-purpose room suitable for events such as community gatherings, club functions, and group meetings.

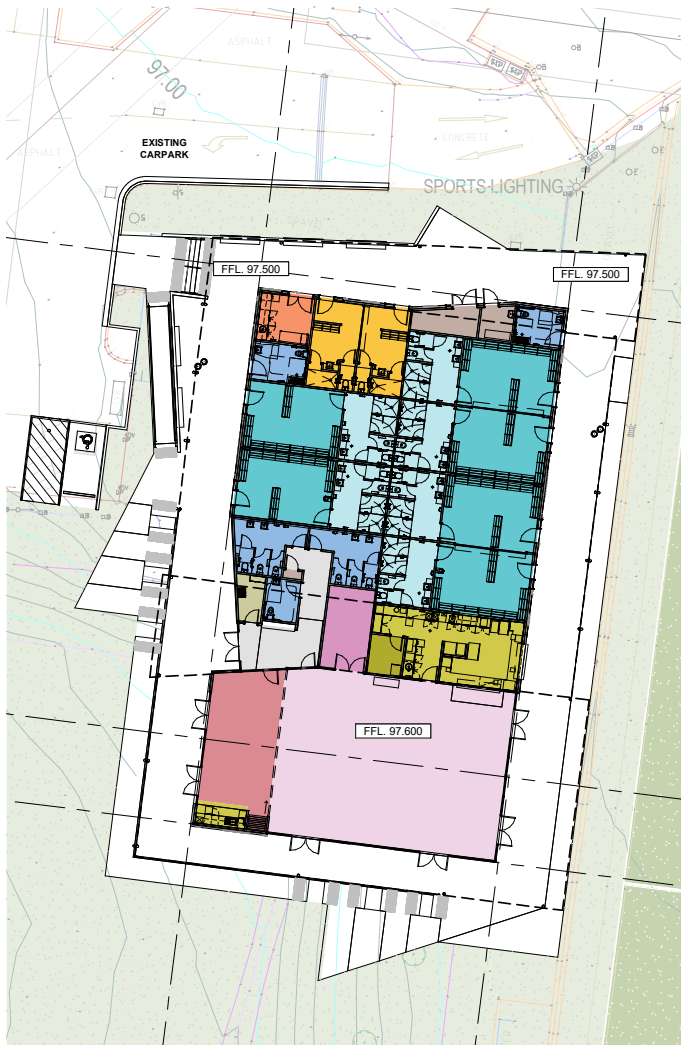
Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2025 and complete by the end of 2026, with a temporary facility provided for sporting clubs during the construction period. The Master Plan considers the ongoing open space interface with the proposed redevelopment of the pavilion.

Orchard Grove Primary School and Aurora School Capital Works

Orchard Grove Primary School is planning a modernisation of its facilities, which involves the construction of a new student amenities block funded as part of the 2023-24 State Budget’s Minor Capital Works program. This project will impact one of the existing playgrounds located to the north of the West Field on school property.

As part of this initiative, Orchard Grove Primary School is aiming to delineate the school grounds by installing fencing around the West Field to enhance safety by restricting public access during school hours.

The Master Plan considers the school’s direct interface with Wurundjeri Walk by proposing design opportunities to mitigate the impact of the school upgrades on play amenities. These opportunities aim to offset any loss of recreational space, ensuring that both the school community and broader public continue to have access to quality outdoor play and leisure opportunities.



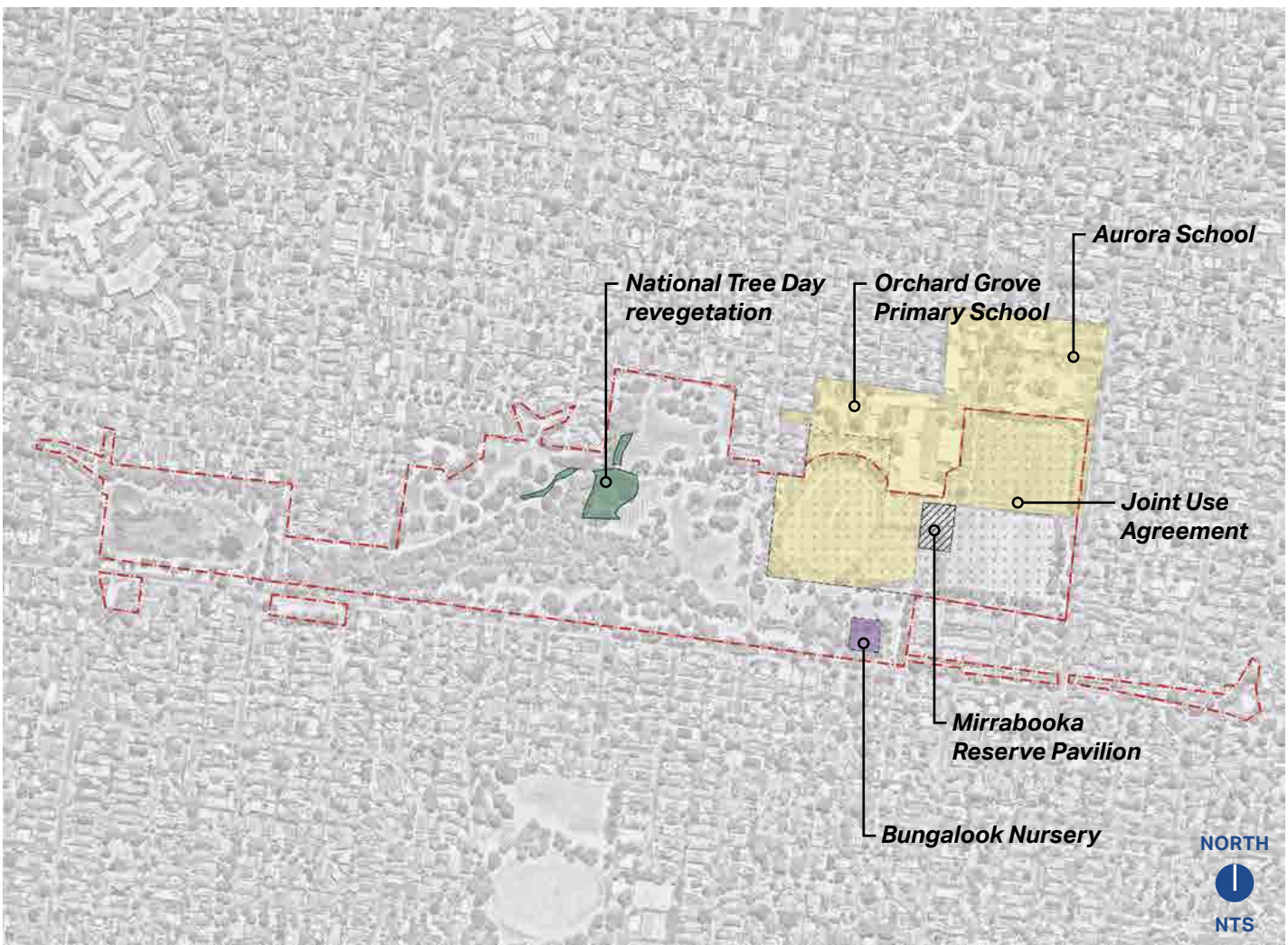
Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion Plan

Joint Use Agreement (JUA)

The Department of Education and WCC are in the process of negotiating a JUA for Mirrabooka Reserve, which includes the West and North Fields. This long-term agreement will facilitate the development of facilities in collaboration with local government and community organisations, benefiting both the Orchard Grove Primary School and Aurora School, as well as the wider local community.

Bungalook Nursery Capital Works

Bungalook Nursery has proposed works to improve the operational capacity and upgrade site assets. sales, storage, maintenance/equipment, and social spaces.



Interfacing project locations

New assets include more irrigated plant production benches, a polyhouse for propagation, and shade for plants.

National Tree Day revegetation

As part of the 2025 National Tree Day WCC have selected an area of Wurundjeri Walk to plant over 3,500 indigenous plants. The project aims to enhance available habitat by focusing on the creek and tributary corridors.

Key	
	Wurundjeri Walk master plan boundary
	Orchard Grove Primary School and Aurora School boundary
	Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion
	Area under negotiation for Joint Use Agreement
	Bungalook Nursery Capital Works
	National Tree Day revegetation

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.

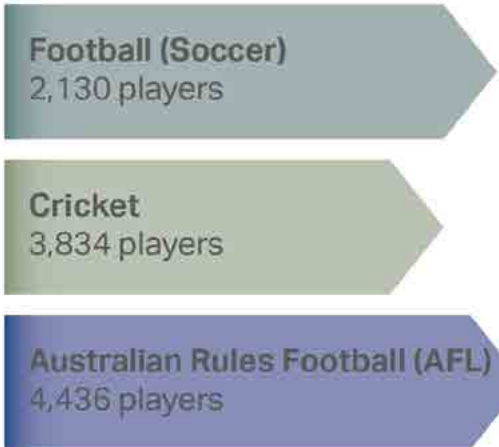
Team and player numbers have continued to rise in 2024 across all sports, particularly football (soccer), further highlighting the strain on existing facilities. As more people get involved in sports, it is crucial that the city’s infrastructure evolves to support this growing participation and ensure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



Blackburn New Hope Football Club - junior players



Blackburn South Cricket Club - training at Mirrabooka cricket nets



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 Wurundjeri Walk features

In the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy (WOSS) (2007), Mirrabooka and Orchard Grove Reserve are classified as Municipal open space, and Fulton Reserve is a Neighbourhood open space. Municipal Open Space caters primarily to residents of Whitehorse but also can be used by residents from other municipalities.

In the draft WOSS 2024 currently in development, the site is identified as a very high priority for preparing and implementing a landscape master plan for structured and unstructured recreation facilities, including consideration of a circuit path network that links to the Wurundjeri Walk. The scale of the site is significant, enabling it to support a variety of activities and/or ensuring the adequate preservation of biodiversity values.

The park is well-established and offers a range of amenities, including walking paths, sports fields, playgrounds, and picnic areas, making it a popular destination for both active and passive recreation. The diverse landscapes within the park include a wetland, naturalised creek ecosystem, open grass spaces, tree-lined pathways, playgrounds, limited signage and sport field infrastructure.



Key	
	Wurundjeri Walk master plan boundary
	Tree Canopy
	Dense Tree Canopy
	Paths
	Carpark

Key features of Wurundjeri Walk			
1	Fulton Road Reserve West	7	Orchard Grove car park
2	Wurundjeri Wetlands	8	Orchard Grove Primary School playground
3	Indra Road playground	9	Mirrabooka Reserve car park
4	Fulton Road Reserve East	10	Orchard Grove Primary School car park
5	Orchard Grove Reserve	11	Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion
6	Orchard Grove Reserve playground	12	Mirrabooka Reserve
		13	Aurora School car park
		14	Bungalook Nursery
		15	Hurter-Finch Reserve
		16	Hurter-Finch Reserve playground

1.5 Mirrabooka Reserve facilities

Mirrabooka Reserve is located to the east of Wurundjeri Walk between Orchard Grove and Holland Road. It offers a number of facilities for sport and the community, including:

- West Field
- North Soccer Field
- Middle (Junior) Field
- South Field
- Cricket training nets (three bays)
- Pavilion
- 58 car spaces with one disabled space
- Open space and natural vegetation.

The four sports fields are configured into six soccer pitches during winter.

Reserve Sporting User Groups

The reserve is currently home to two sports clubs:

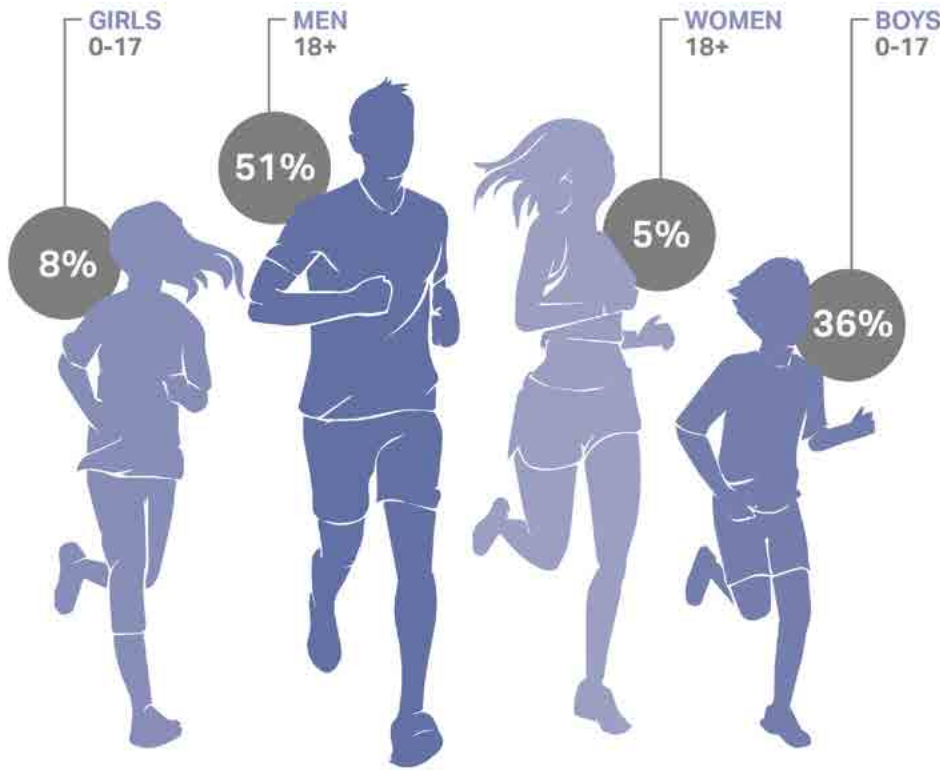
- Blackburn New Hope Football Club (winter)
- Blackburn South Cricket Club (summer).

Two clubs use the facilities as a secondary overflow ground:

- Mont Albert Cricket Club
- Laburnum Cricket Club.

Across all participating clubs, approximately 800 players are actively using the Reserve for organised sports, with 12.5% of them being female or girls. Football (soccer) participation in Whitehorse has grown steadily in recent years, driven in part by the success of the Australian women’s national team, and this trend is expected to continue.

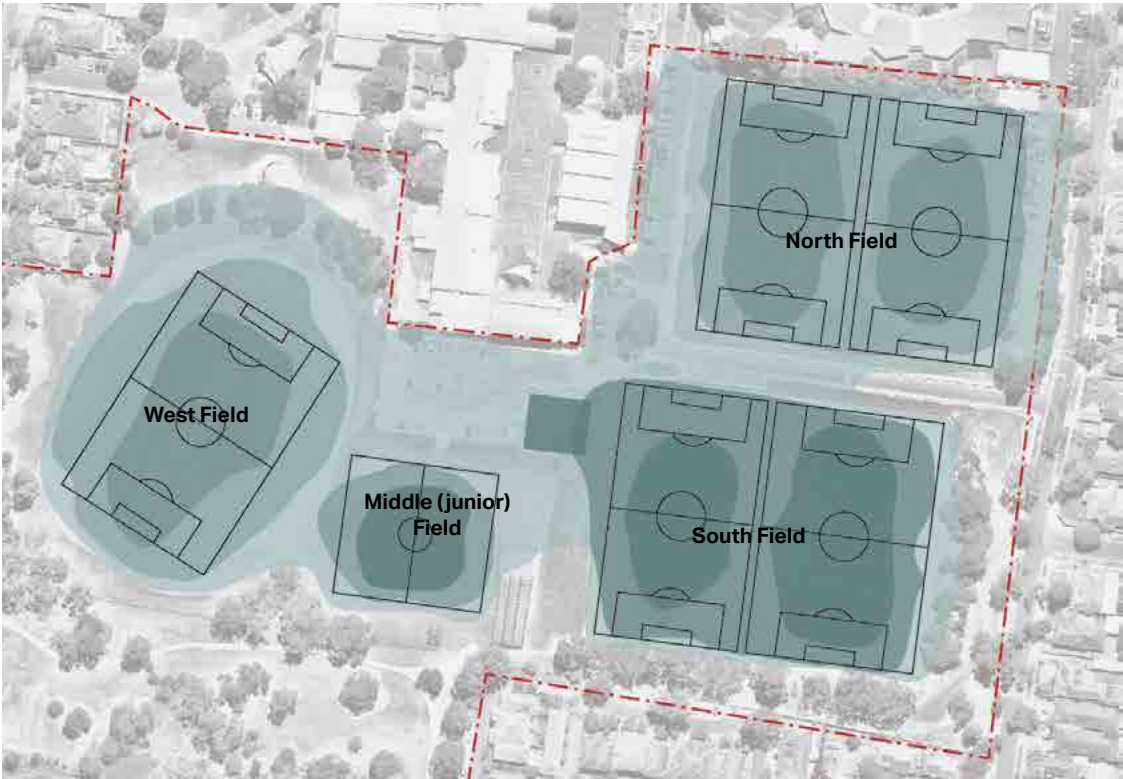
A total of 46 teams use the Reserve, with the South Field seeing the highest demand due to its floodlights and recent drainage upgrades. The field plays a crucial role as a key venue for both competitive and recreational sports in Whitehorse. Council is currently receiving a record number of allocation requests from soccer clubs for the upcoming winter season, with demand exceeding availability.



Gender proportion of players at Mirrabooka Reserve



Mirrabooka Reserve cricket distribution over summer



Mirrabooka Reserve football (soccer) distribution over winter

2.0

Master Plan vision, principles and objectives

- 3.1 Master Plan vision
- 3.2 Master Plan principles
- 3.3 Amenity
- 3.4 Access and movement
- 3.5 Environment
- 3.6 People and culture

2.1 Master Plan vision

The vision statement of the Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan aims to:

'Create a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient public open space that enhances the natural environment, celebrates its cultural heritage whilst providing a diverse range of recreational and social opportunities.'

Alongside outlining the overarching vision, the Master Plan for Wurundjeri Walk will:

- Respect and honour the cultural heritage of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, fostering the sharing and celebration of their connection to Country.
- Enhance visitor experiences by offering accessible, engaging, and well-maintained spaces that cater to a variety of recreational and social needs.
- Celebrate the diverse landscape character of the site, while promoting environmental principles such as resilience, sustainability, and efficiency in park design and management.
- Foster partnerships with local and sporting communities, cultural groups, and organisations to enhance the experiences offered to visitors and ensure the park meets the needs of all users.



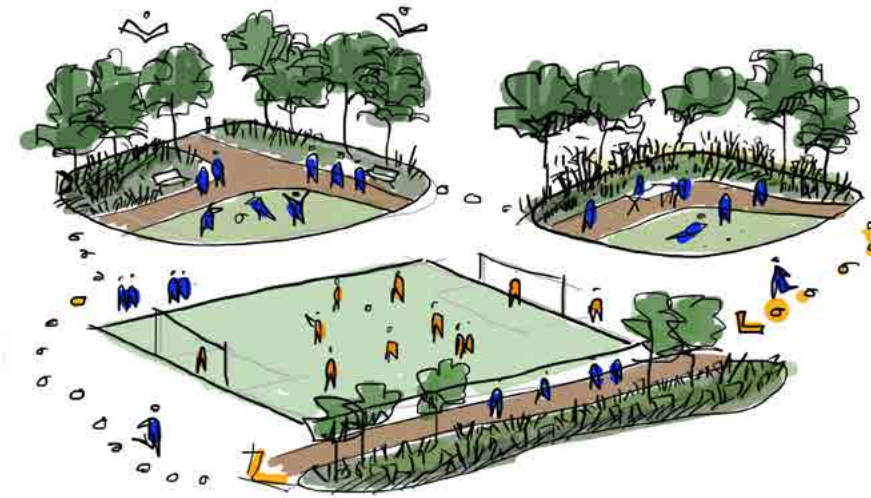
"To create a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient public open space that enhances the natural environment, celebrate its cultural heritage whilst providing a diverse range of recreational and social opportunities."

2.2 Master Plan principles

Four key design principles that underpin the Wurundjeri Walk 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.



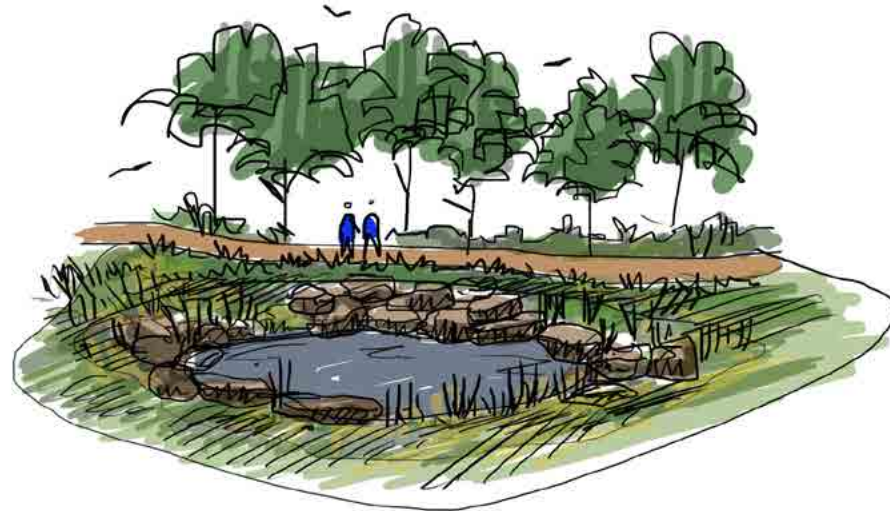
Amenity

Improve community health and well-being by providing passive and active recreation opportunities for users of all ages and abilities.



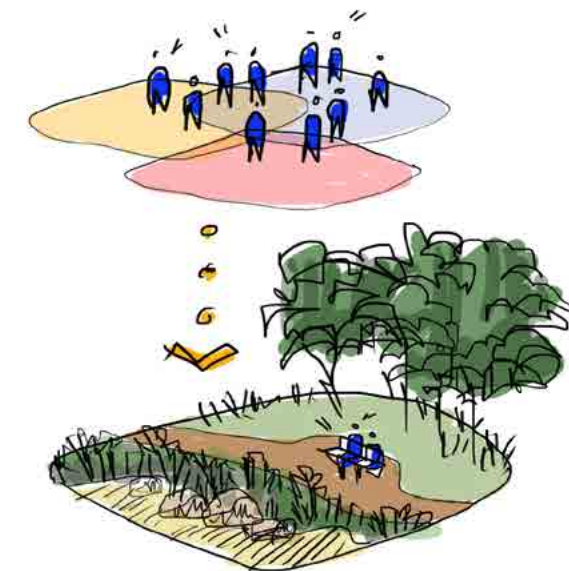
Access and movement

Improve connectivity and access to key park amenities, ensuring safe, efficient, and equitable movement for all users.



Environment

Protect and enhance the natural bushland environment of Wurundjeri Walk, to support biodiversity and ecological systems.



People and culture

Offer diverse visitor experiences that cater to all community members, while celebrating and reflecting the cultural heritage of the area.

2.3 Amenity

Master Plan principle:

Improve community health and well-being by providing passive and active recreation opportunities for users of all ages and abilities.

Key objectives to enhance amenity:

- 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.
- To provide the necessary facilities and amenities to support strong community and social connection with the opportunity for broad community use facilities.
- Foster intergenerational use, encouraging physical activity across all age groups and supporting community-wide participation.
- Create comfortable, accessible resting and gathering areas throughout the park, utilising the shade provided by mature trees.
- Design spaces that promote social interaction, connection, enjoyment, reflection and personal challenge.



Mirrabooka Reserve sports fields and pavilion

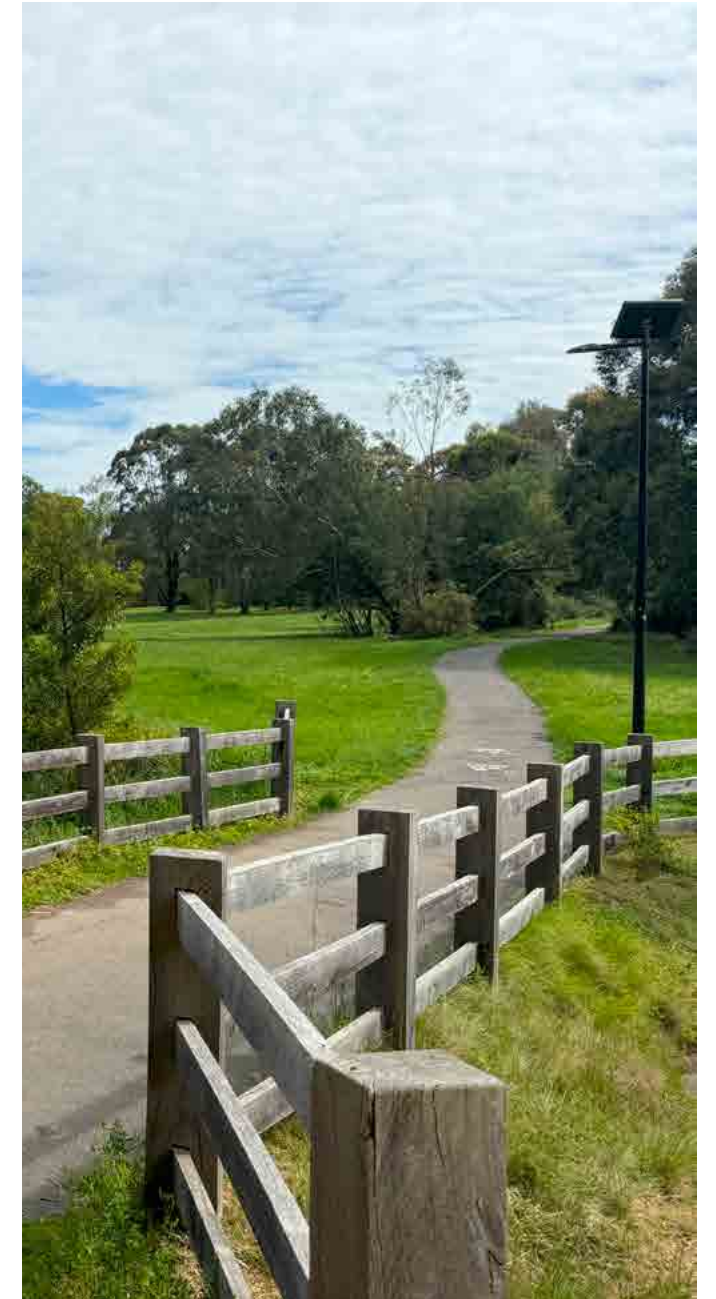
2.4 Access and movement

Master Plan principle:

Improve connectivity and access to key park amenities, ensuring safe, efficient, and equitable movement for all users.

Key objectives to enhance amenity:

- Upgrade park entrances and pathways to ensure ease of access and improved accessibility where feasible.
- Enhance pedestrian circulation throughout the park, facilitating smooth and safe movement for all visitors.
- Create clearly defined pathways that improve safety and navigation.
- Integrate signage and wayfining systems to guide users to key amenities and destinations within the park.
- Provide multiple access points to the park, ensuring convenient entry from surrounding areas for diverse user groups.



Wurundjeri Walk asphalt shared path

2.5 Environment

Master Plan principle:

Protect and enhance the natural bushland environment of Wurundjeri Walk, to support biodiversity and ecological systems.

Key objectives to enhance amenity:

- Increase environmental resilience through effective vegetation management, conservation, and augmentation.
- Protect and enhance the existing tree canopy, increasing canopy cover from approximately 42% to 57%, as a key device for shade protection and urban cooling.
- Recognise Wurundjeri Walk as part of a broader environmental corridor that contributes to local urban biodiversity and conservation efforts.
- Actively manage and control weeds while increasing the distribution of indigenous vegetation across the site.
- Promote sustainable land management practices that support the long-term health of the bushland environment.
- Foster community awareness and involvement in conservation efforts to strengthen the park’s ecological integrity.



Rainbow Lorikeets along Wurundjeri Walk

2.6 People and culture

Master Plan principle:

Offer diverse visitor experiences that cater to all community members, while celebrating and reflecting the cultural heritage of the area.

Key objectives to enhance amenity:

- Foster engagement and collaboration with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to deepen understanding of cultural connections to the site.
- Create opportunities for the community to learn about the site’s key values, particularly cultural heritage and environmental conservation.
- Develop spaces for community events and gatherings that celebrate the diverse heritage of the region.
- Encourage and support local volunteer groups to support park initiatives and foster community involvement in park stewardship.



Mirrabooka Reserve football spectators

3.0

Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan

- 3.1 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan
- 3.2 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Opportunities
- 3.3 Master Plan Detail Area - 1
- 3.4 Master Plan Detail Area - 2

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3.1 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan



Key					
	Wurundjeri Walk master plan boundary		Gravel path		Dog park - permeable surface
	Fulton Road Drain alignment		Concrete path		New understorey planting
	New canopy trees		Asphalt access road and parking		New feature planting
			Proposed informal bolder seats		Proposed public toilet
					Upgraded cricket nets
					Proposed wayfinding signage location
					New fence alignment



1 Informal lookout seating - Dickson Wetlands, Canberra
Source: Flickr, 2024



2 Accessible path and equipment - Wattle Park, Melbourne
Source: Robyn Oliver, 2023



3 Small seating node with open grass and benches - Horscroft Place
Source: City of Kingston, 2022



4 Gravel circuit path with indigenous planting - Jells Park, Melbourne
Source: World Traveller Junior, 2012



5 Street outkerb WSUD and tree planting - Lansdown Terrace
Source: Walkerville Council, 2012



6 Water sensitive urban design - Fritsch Holzer Park, Hawthorn
Source: TripAdvisor, 2022



7 Small timber pedestrian bridge - Bellbird Dell Reserve
Source: Neil Follett, 2021



8 Native linear planting - Elster Creek Trail
Source: Glen Eira Council, 2024

3.2 Master Plan opportunities

The principles and objectives have guided the development of the Wurundjeri Walk 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	Upgrade playground infrastructure at Indra Road to create inviting spaces for families, incorporating sheltered areas, picnic settings and benches for comfort.
A.2	Introduce new universal play elements to existing Indra Road playground that are accessible and engaging for children of all abilities.
A.3	Introduce new social and exercise facilities catering to a wide range of ages, with a focus on accommodating the projected higher proportion of adults.
A.4	Explore opportunities to increase access to water features, creating spaces for recreation and education.
A.5	Design a gravel lookout area with informal seating, offering panoramic views of the wetlands to encourage users to spend time in and enjoy the natural surroundings. <i>To be delivered with A20.</i>
A.6	Install new park amenities including benches, to encourage visitation and improve accessibility to the reserves south of Fulton Road.

Movement and access	
M.1	Install two accessible pram ramps and zebra pedestrian crossings at Indra Road, Fulton Road West and East to enable safe connections across streets, prioritising pedestrian movement within Wurundjeri Walk.
M.2	Resurface path to improve connection to Wurundjeri Wetland and the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access for visitors with diverse mobility needs.
M.3	Create clear and accessible paths that better define the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access.
M.4	Provide compliant accessible parking spaces at Wurundjeri Wetlands with a gravel surface and adequate circulation space.

Environment	
E.1	Introduce new canopy tree planting along paths to enhance open space amenity, providing shade and creating new ecological habitats for local wildlife.
E.2	Investigate a tree replacement program to secure long-term open space shade amenity, ensuring continued comfort and environmental benefits.
E.3	Implement new understorey planting to provide visual interest while improving habitat connectivity.
E.4	Regenerate indigenous understorey planting at key entrances and decision points, enriching ecological the value and user experience by creating a cohesive, native plant palette that ties the site together.



Continues on page 21

WURUNDJERI WALK DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Amenity

- A.7

Introduce new park amenities in the centre of Wurundjeri Walk, including picnic tables and benches, to encourage people to spend more time in the reserve and enhance use comfort.
- A.8

Create a central social space with a shelter, bench seating and a small nature-based playspace to serve as a community gathering point for groups and events.
- A.9

Explore expanding the Orchard Grove playground to include BBQ, accessible benches, social and recreational facilities to broaden the range of equipment and accommodate the anticipated increase in the adult population.
- A.19

Construct exercise circuit elements along new path connection south of Canora Street properties (refer M5) to promote access and physical activity.
- A.20

Create an informal community gathering point for groups and events at the central social space.
To be delivered with A8.

Movement and access

- M.5

Develop a new path connection south of Canora Street properties to provide an alternative route and activate unprogrammed open space, encouraging greater movement and engagement with the site.
- M.6

Concrete paving to be provided for select pathways subject to high levels of use to minimise long-term maintenance requirements.
- M.7

Install wayfinding and legislative signage at key access points and park features to improve navigation and provide important information for visitors.
- M.16

Provide concrete pads under key landscape furniture to enable accessibility. These include under picnic settings, drinking fountains and bench seats.
- M.19

Introduce new angled parking along Fulton Road at the central social space to provide accessible car parks and kerb out stands to increase canopy trees.
To be delivered with A20.

Environment

- E.5

Investigate new planting with key stakeholders and management strategies throughout Wurundjeri Walk to enhance biodiversity and visual amenity, with scheduled maintenance activities prioritising effective weed management.
- E.6

Explore strategies to protect the creek bed and manage erosion, ensuring long-term health and stability of the waterway.
- E.7

Incorporate water sensitive urban design techniques in collaboration with Melbourne Water to improve water quality before it enters Fulton Road Drain and Gardiners Creek, contributing to healthier local ecosystems.
- E.8

Increase planting along Canora Street, Jasmine Court, Swan Street, and Christine Street property boundaries to increase habitat and provide a visual buffer to residential fences.

People and culture

- P.1

Introduce a designated space for storytelling and celebration, allowing the community to share and honour significant cultural heritage and traditions.
To be delivered with A8 and A20.
- P.2

Install both indigenous and exotic fruit tree plantings accompanied by small scale signage to provide visitors opportunities to learn about the site's cultural heritage, ecological, and local historical values.
- P.3

Continue to support management of park assets including paths, car parks, vegetation, and amenities by fostering strong partnerships with recreation and sports groups, Friends groups, volunteers, and other stakeholders to promote stewardship.



Amenity

- As a part of the Joint User Agreement with the Department of Education, consider the Department’s potential direction to install a 1.8m high palisade fence around the southern portion of the West Field to define school land and operations during school hours, creating a defined path of travel around the school for the public.
- A.10
- Investigate oval resurfacing improvements and potential for new floodlight to optimise the West and North Field for sport programming, potentially through a partnership with Peak Sporting Bodies, Department of Education, and other external funding opportunities.
- A.11
- Upgrade, expand and realign cricket nets further east into embankment to facilitate maximising the size of the Middle (Junior) Field. Nets to increase to four lanes.
- A.12
- Incorporate terrace seating to reduce batter steepness, provide informal spectator seating towards the Middle Field and cricket nets, and improve floodlighting to enhancing the viewing experience for visitors.
To be delivered as part of Pavilion Work
- A.13
- Investigate oval resurfacing improvements and potential new floodlights to optimise the Middle (junior) Field for sport programming, potentially through a partnership with Peak Sporting Bodies, Department of Education, and other external funding opportunities.
- A.17

Movement and access

- Consider providing a clear path of travel for emergency access to the pavilion, with adequate turning space in the Mirrabooka Reserve car park, ensuring safety and accessibility during emergencies.
- M.8
- Reconfigure school car park and driveway to enhance wayfinding, add more pick-up drop-off spaces, and improve user safety by prioritising pedestrian movement.
- M.9
- Create a central path from the Mirrabooka car park and pavilion to provide a defined access corridor into Wurundjeri Walk.
- M.10
- Reconfigure car parks to provide parallel parking along the access road, incorporating a pedestrian path along the southern verge, a landscape buffer, a refurbished fence to prevent stray balls from entering the roadway.
- M.11
- Introduce new parallel parking along Holland Road, accompanied by a new path and verge planting to preserve existing canopy trees.
- M.12
- Improve compliance with dog walking during organised sports events by implementing clear signage that promotes responsible pet ownership, encourages dog owners to attend to their pets, and is supported by the provision of convenient bin infrastructure for waste disposal.
- M.17

Environment

- Increase tree planting along Illowra Walk residential boundaries and between South and Middle Fields to provide a landscape buffer and shade for spectators.
- E.9
- Integrate native planting, including canopy trees, along the periphery of sports fields to promote biodiversity and increasing shade for football spectators.
- E.10

People and culture

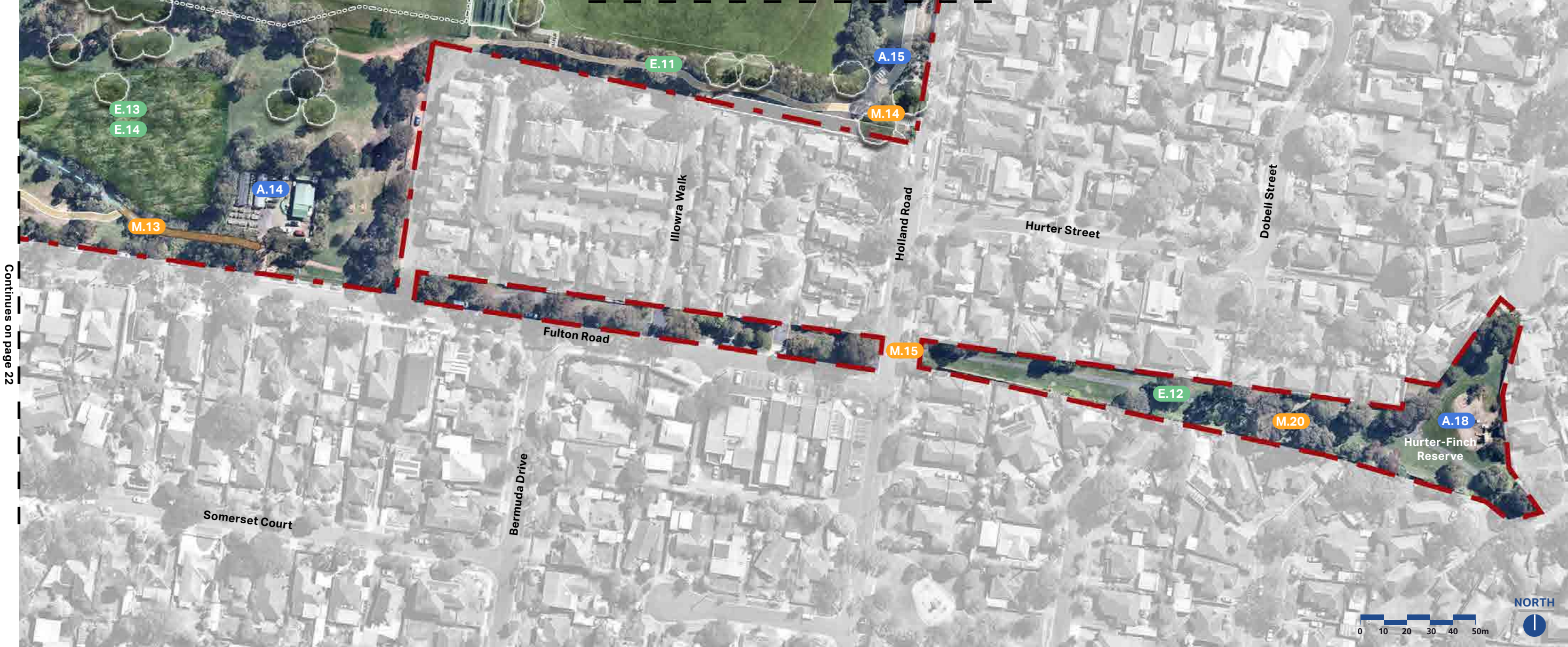
- P.4 Monitor Joint User Agreement progress and reporting.

Continues on page 20



Hurter-Finch Reserve

Continues on page 22



Amenity

- A.14** Upgrade Bungalook Nursery to improve the operational capacity, enhance workflow, working conditions and upgrade the site assets.
- A.15** Create a visually prominent gateway entry and public address to Wurundjeri Walk, encouraging park users to access the site south of the sports fields.
- A.16** Provide benches and additional planting at Hurter-Finch Reserve to provide a passive space that enhances user experience.
- A.18** Retain existing Hurter-Finch playground equipment. Once equipment is due for renewal, consider upgrading the playground to cater for all ages.

Movement and access

- M.13** Construct a new gravel path and small timber pedestrian bridge to connect Bungalook Nursery to Wurundjeri Walk north of Samuel Road, providing a safe and separated route for pedestrians, away from car parking areas.
- M.14** Create a new stair connection and defined access corridor from Holland Road to provide an accessible route to Wurundjeri Walk, providing maintenance access to the South Field..
- M.15** Improve wayfinding to provide a legible path of travel between Hurter-Finch Reserve, Wurundjeri Walk, and Mirrabooka Reserve.
- M.20** Introduce grid-free solar lighting along the Hurter-Finch Reserve footpath to improve safety, ensuring minimal light spill to neighbouring properties.

Environment

- E.11** Introduce new understorey and tree planting as a buffer between the South Field and Illowra Walk residential properties, to provide a visual buffer and mitigate light spill.
- E.12** Enhance low-lying understorey planting and expand tree canopy using a native plant palette to create a visual link to Wurundjeri Walk and strengthen habitat corridors.
- E.13** Investigate renewal of the Orchard Grove Reserve wetland near Bungalook Nursery as part of the Parks and Natural Environment Teams Asset Renewal Project.
- E.14** Continue monitoring the feasibility and assessing potential WSUD infrastructure solutions.

3.3 Detail Area - Mirrabooka Sports Precinct



Mirrabooka Sports Precinct

Situated at the heart of the Mirrabooka Sports Precinct (Wurundjeri Walk East), the proposed new pavillion facility is complimented by appropriate surrounding landscape treatments that elevate the visual prominence of the new structure. These treatments are to include special landscape paving, tree planting and landscape furniture to cater for the pavillion’s users.

Stemming from the pavillion’s external access stairs are seating steps to serve as viewing amphitheatres to the Middle Field and cricket nets. New north/south pathways link the precinct to Wurundjeri Walk and Fulton Road to the south.

The carparking to the north of the South Field have been reconfigured to allow for more carparking spaces, buffer planting and a new verge path connection linking the precinct to the Holland Road entry. A protective fence to stop ball egress from the field is proposed within the buffer planting to protect parked cars.

The new east/west pathway also connects users to the new pavillion’s northern entry via the reconfiguration of the entry driveway and school car park. The proposed changes result in a formalised pedestrian crossing, buffer planting and vehicle protection barriers, thus enhancing user safety and wayfinding by clearly defining the surrounding public realm.

Legend	
	Wurundjeri Walk master plan boundary
	New canopy trees
	Gravel path
	Concrete path
	Asphalt access road and parking
	New understorey planting
	New feature planting
	Relocated football coaches boxes
	New fence alignment
	Upgraded cricket nets
	Proposed terrace seats



1

Terrace seating - St Joseph's College, Ferntree Gully
Source: Concretum, 2024



2

Cricket Victoria compliant nets - Springfield Park, Box Hill
Source: Adam Calaitzis, 2018



3

Embankment canopy trees - Mirrabooka Reserve
Source: AECOM, 2024



4

Proposed Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion render
Source: CohenLeigh Architects, 2024



5

Forecourt and pavilion - Templestowe Road, Bulleen
Source: Development Victoria, 2023



6

Water sensitive urban design car park planting - West Ryde, NSW
Source: DesignInc, 2023

3.4 Detail Area - Southern picnic area



Southern picnic area

The proposed southern picnic area, located centrally within Wurundjeri Walk and adjacent to Fulton Road, is designed to provide a relaxed and inclusive space for informal social gatherings and to serve as a meeting place for community groups such as the local Friends Group for working bees.

Nestled beneath existing tree canopies, the area will feature a BBQ, shelter, picnic settings, and bench seating, encouraging group gatherings, passive recreation, and community activities. New tree planting within paved areas will enhance natural shade and thermal comfort, fostering an inviting space for social interaction.

Along Fulton Road, angled parking spaces will be incorporated to provide DDA parking, using permeable paving to improve water infiltration and reduce runoff. The design of out kerbs along the parking areas will support the establishment of a broader tree canopy, providing additional shade and aesthetic value. These features will enhance the overall environment, increase urban greening, and improve the park's sustainability.

The design prioritises accessibility, with generous circulation paths connecting to Wurundjeri Walk and Fulton Road, supporting movement through the space and improving passive surveillance. Informal seating opportunities throughout the area will offer quiet moments for individuals and small groups, while also accommodating the needs of community groups during events.

Landscape materials and furnishings will utilise natural tones and textures to visually integrate with the surrounding environment and reinforce the park's existing character.

Legend

	Wurundjeri Walk master plan boundary
	New canopy trees
	Gravel path
	Concrete path
	Asphalt access road and parking
	New understorey planting
	New feature planting
	Mulch
	Proposed new shelter
	Proposed picnic settings and bench seats



1
BBQ and picnic area - Wattle Park, Melbourne
Source: Robyn Oliver, 2023



2
Open space for gathering - Pimelea Parklands, Western Sydney
Source: McGregor Coxall, 2017



3
Informal furniture and meeting place - Leichardt Street
Source: AECOM, 2011



4
Indigenous feature planting - Curtin University
Source: UDLA, 2021



5
Barongarook Creek Repatriation - Colac
Source: UDLA, 2021



6
Permeable paving car parks - Curtin University
Source: UDLA, 2021

3.5 Material Palette

The material palette for Wurundjeri Walk has been carefully selected to complement the natural character of the landscape and provide a cohesive, low-impact experience throughout the park. Gravel paths will form the primary circulation network, offering a natural aesthetic that blends seamlessly with the surrounding vegetation while supporting permeability and minimal environmental disturbance. A timber boardwalk will be introduced at a key crossing point, enhancing the visitor experience while minimising impact on sensitive ground conditions.

Around built elements such as the pavilion, durable concrete paving will be used to accommodate high foot traffic, ensure long-term resilience, and provide accessible, DDA-compliant access for all users. This balanced approach reinforces the park’s identity as a nature-connected community space.



Gravel path
Source: AECOM



Concrete pavement
Source: Colorado Hardscapes



Lightly exposed aggregate concrete
Source: AECOM



Timber boardwalk
Source: Weekend Notes - Bellbird Dell Reserve



Concrete terrace seating
Source: Concretum



Permeable paving car parks - Curtin University
Source: UDLA

3.6 Furniture Palette



Table setting
Source: Draffin



Bench seat with back and arm rests
Source: Draffin



Bench seat with arm rests
Source: Draffin



Accessible barbecue
Source: AECOM



Curved stainless steel bike hoop
Source: Draffin



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



Accessible drinking fountain
Source: Botton + Gardiner



Bin enclosure
Source: Street Furniture Australia

3.7 Planting Palette

Creek Restoration

The creek restoration zone will focus on stabilising the banks of the waterway, enhancing biodiversity, and improving water quality through the use of locally indigenous, water-sensitive plant species. This planting will incorporate a layered structure of native trees, understorey shrubs, and dense groundcovers such as sedges and rushes. These plantings will help provide habitat for local wildlife, support erosion control, and naturally filter stormwater, improving the overall health and function of the waterway.

Scientific name	Common name
Trees	
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood
<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Swamp Gum
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	Swamp Paperbark
Shrubs	
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia
<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Purple Coral Pea
Groundcovers and grasses	
<i>Carex fascicularis</i>	Tassel Sedge
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily
<i>Juncus usitatus</i>	Common Rush
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush

Key Plan



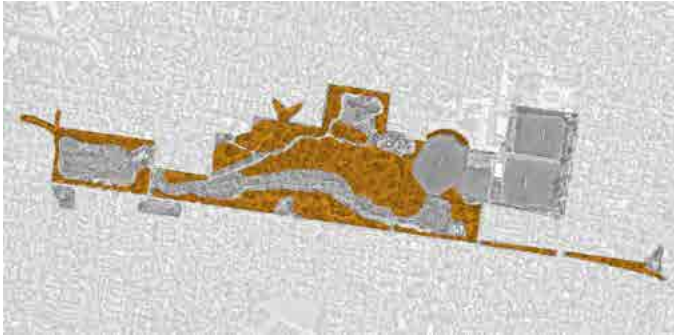
Site-wide Revegetation

General revegetation across Wurundjeri Walk aims to restore the site’s ecological character by re-establishing a resilient indigenous plant community. This approach includes a mix of native canopy trees, mid-storey shrubs, and a robust ground layer of grasses and herbaceous species.

The planting will support habitat creation, weed suppression, and long-term sustainability, contributing to the reserve’s role as an important ecological corridor.

Scientific name	Common name
Trees	
<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>	Red Box
<i>Eucalyptus goniocalyx</i>	Long-leaf Box
Shrubs	
<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Gold-dust Wattle
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Hop Bush
Groundcovers and grasses	
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	Nodding Saltbush
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle Mat-rush
<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Tussock Grass

Key Plan



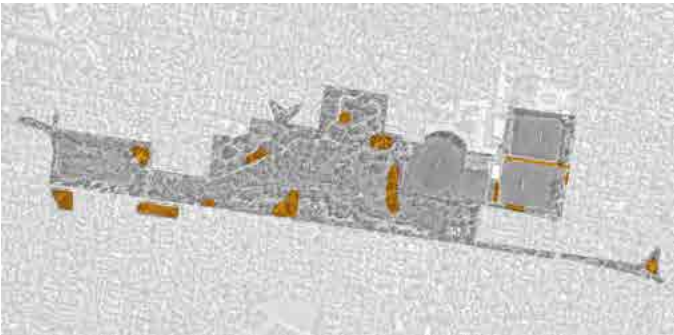
Feature amenity planting

Feature amenity planting will introduce visual interest, seasonal change, and biodiversity into prominent areas such as entrances, pathways, and seating zones.

The plant palette will focus on native species with appealing form, foliage, colour, and flowering characteristics to create attractive, low-maintenance landscapes. These areas will serve as key focal points within the reserve, enhancing user experience while remaining consistent with the natural theme of the broader site. Exotic flowering and fruit tree planting will be used in select newly activated open space areas to acknowledge the precinct’s orchard history.

Scientific name	Common name
Trees	
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum
<i>Malus floribunda</i>	Crab Apple
Shrubs	
<i>Banksia spinulosa</i>	Hairpin Banksia
<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>	River Bottlebrush
<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Common Correa
Groundcovers and grasses	
<i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i>	Clustered Everlasting
<i>Poa ensiformis</i>	Sword Tussock Grass
<i>Xerochrysum bracteatum</i>	Everlasting Daisy

Key Plan



Sensory and interactive planting

Sensory planting around playgrounds and gathering spaces will support mental well-being and children’s learning through interaction with nature. Indigenous species with soft textures, fragrant foliage, seasonal colour, and gentle movement will create calming, engaging environments.

Positioned at accessible heights and near social spaces, these plantings encourage exploration, mindfulness, and playful learning while enhancing the natural character of the reserve.

Scientific name	Common name
Trees	
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Hedge Wattle
<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	Narrow-leaved Peppermint
Shrubs	
<i>Correa alba</i>	White Correa
<i>Pimelea humilis</i>	Common Rice Flower
<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>	Native Raspberry
Groundcovers and grasses	
<i>Brachyscome multifida</i>	Cut Leaf Daisy
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	Tasman Flax-lily
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	Nodding Saltbush
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed mat-rush

Key Plan



4.0

Implementation strategy

4.1 Implementation strategy

4.2 Staging plan

Informal trail through native vegetation

4.1 Implementation strategy

The Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan’s opportunities have been categorised into low, medium, and high priority.

The viability of each opportunity is dependent upon adequate future funding. This funding may be subject to further design development and detailed costings of elements.

Amenity

High priority	
A.10	As a part of the Joint User Agreement with the Department of Education, consider the Department’s potential direction to install a 1.8m high palisade fence around the southern portion of the West Field to define school land and operations during school hours, creating a defined path of travel around the school for the public.
A.11	Investigate oval resurfacing and floodlighting improvements to optimise the West and North Field for sport programming, potentially through a partnership with Peak Sporting Bodies, Department of Education, and other external funding opportunities.
A.12	Upgrade, expand and realign cricket nets further east into embankment to facilitate maximising the size of the Middle (Junior) Field. Nets to increase to four lanes.
A.13	Incorporate terrace seating to reduce batter steepness and provide informal spectator seating towards the Middle Field and cricket nets, enhancing the viewing experience for visitors. <i>To be delivered as part of Pavilion Work</i>
A.14	Upgrade Bungalook Nursery to improve the operational capacity, enhance workflow, working conditions and upgrade the site assets.
A.15	Create a visually prominent gateway entry and public address to Wurundjeri Walk, encouraging park users to access the site south of the sports fields.
A.17	Investigate oval resurfacing improvements and potential new floodlights to optimise the Middle (junior) Field for sport programming, potentially through a partnership with Peak Sporting Bodies, Department of Education, and other external funding opportunities.
A.19	Construct a secondary path (gravel) exercise circuit along the perimeter of Canora Street properties to promote access and physical activity.
Medium priority	
A.6	Install new park amenities including benches, to encourage visitation and improve accessibility to the reserves south of Fulton Road.
A.7	Introduce new park amenities in the centre of Wurundjeri Walk, including picnic tables and benches, to encourage people to spend more time in the reserve and enhance use comfort.
A.8	Create a central social space with a shelter, bench seating and a small nature-based playspace to serve as a community gathering point for groups and events. <i>To be delivered with A20.</i>
A.20	Create an informal community gathering point for groups and events at the central social space. <i>To be delivered with A8.</i>

Low priority	
A.1	Upgrade playground infrastructure at Indra Road to create inviting spaces for families, incorporating sheltered areas, picnic settings and benches for comfort. <i>To be delivered with A2 and A3.</i>
A.2	Introduce new universal play elements to existing Indra Road playground that are accessible and engaging for children of all abilities.
A.3	Introduce new social and exercise facilities catering to a wide range of ages, with a focus on accommodating the projected higher proportion of adults.
A.4	Explore opportunities to increase access to water features, creating spaces for recreation and education.
A.5	Design a gravel lookout area with informal seating, offering panoramic views of the wetlands to encourage users to spend time in and enjoy the natural surroundings. <i>To be delivered with A20.</i>
A.9	Explore expanding the Orchard Grove playground to include BBQ, accessible benches, social and recreational facilities to broaden the range of equipment and accommodate the anticipated increase in the adult population.
A.16	Provide benches and additional planting at Hurter-Finch Reserve to provide a passive space that enhances user experience.
A.18	Retain existing Hurter-Finch playground equipment. Once equipment is due for renewal, consider upgrading the playground to cater for all ages.
A.19	Construct exercise circuit elements along new path connection south of Canora Street properties (refer M5) to promote access and physical activity.

Movement and access

High priority	
M.1	Install two accessible pram ramps and zebra pedestrian crossings at Indra Road, Fulton Road West and East to enable safe connections across streets, prioritising pedestrian movement within Wurundjeri Walk.
M.2	Resurface path to improve connection to Wurundjeri Wetland and the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access for visitors with diverse mobility needs.
M.5	Develop a new path connection south of Canora Street properties to provide an alternative route and activate unprogrammed open space, encouraging greater movement and engagement with the site.
M.7	Install wayfinding and legislative signage at key access points and park features to improve navigation and provide important information for visitors.
M.9	Reconfigure school car park and driveway to enhance wayfinding, add more pick-up drop-off spaces, and improve user safety by prioritising pedestrian movement.
M.10	Create a central path from the Mirrabooka car park and pavilion to provide a defined access corridor into Wurundjeri Walk.
M.11	Reconfigure car parks to provide parallel parking along the access road, incorporating a pedestrian path along the southern verge, a landscape buffer, a refurbished fence to prevent stray balls from entering the roadway.
M.13	Construct a new gravel path and small timber pedestrian bridge to connect Bungalook Nursery to Wurundjeri Walk north of Samuel Road, providing a safe and separated route for pedestrians, away from car parking areas.
M.14	Create a new stair connection and defined access corridor from Holland Road to provide an accessible route to Wurundjeri Walk, providing maintenance access to the South Field..
M.15	Improve wayfinding to provide a legible path of travel between Hurter-Finch Reserve, Wurundjeri Walk, and Mirrabooka Reserve.
M.17	Improve compliance with dog walking during organised sports events by implementing clear signage that promotes responsible pet ownership, encourages dog owners to attend to their pets, and is supported by the provision of convenient bin infrastructure for waste disposal.

Medium priority	
M.3	Create clear and accessible paths that better define the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access. <i>To be delivered with A1 and A2.</i>
M.6	Concrete paving to be provided for select pathways subject to high levels of use to minimise long-term maintenance requirements.
M.8	Consider providing a clear path of travel for emergency access to the pavilion, with adequate turning space in the Mirrabooka Reserve carpark, ensuring safety and accessibility during emergencies.
M.12	Introduce new parallel parking along Holland Road, accompanied by a new path and verge planting to preserve existing canopy trees.
M.16	Provide concrete pads under key landscape furniture to enable accessibility. These include under picnic settings, drinking fountains and bench seats.
M.19	Introduce new angled parking along Fulton Road at the central social space to provide accessible car parks and kerb out stands to increase canopy trees. <i>To be delivered with A20.</i>
M.20	Introduce grid-free solar lighting along the Hurter-Finch Reserve footpath to improve safety, ensuring minimal light spill to neighbouring properties.
Low priority	
M.2	Resurface path to improve connection to Wurundjeri Wetland and the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access for visitors with diverse mobility needs.
M.4	Provide compliant accessible parking spaces at Wurundjeri Wetlands with a gravel surface and adequate circulation space.

Environment

High priority	
E.1	Introduce new canopy tree planting along paths to enhance open space amenity, providing shade and creating new ecological habitats for local wildlife.
E.3	Implement new understorey planting to provide visual interest while improving habitat connectivity.
E.4	Regenerate indigenous understorey planting at key entrances and decision points, enriching ecological the value and user experience by creating a cohesive, native plant palette that ties the site together.
E.8	Increase planting along Canora Street, Jasmine Court, Swan Street, and Christine Street property boundaries to increase habitat and provide a visual buffer to residential fences.
E.9	Increase tree planting along Illowra Walk residential boundaries and between South and Middle Fields to provide a landscape buffer and shade for spectators.
E.12	Enhance low-lying understorey planting and expand tree canopy using a native plant palette to create a visual link to Wurundjeri Walk and strengthen habitat corridors.
E.13	Investigate renewal of the Orchard Grove Reserve wetland near Bungalook Nursery as part of the Parks and Natural Environment Teams Asset Renewal Project.
E.14	Continue monitoring the feasibility and assessing potential WSUD infrastructure solutions.
Medium priority	
E.5	Investigate new planting with key stakeholders and management strategies throughout Wurundjeri Walk to enhance biodiversity and visual amenity, with scheduled maintenance activities prioritising effective weed management.
E.6	Explore strategies to protect the creek bed and manage erosion, ensuring long-term health and stability of the waterway.
E.7	Incorporate water sensitive urban design techniques in collaboration with Melbourne Water to improve water quality before it enters Fulton Road Drain and Gardiners Creek, contributing to healthier local ecosystems.
E.10	Integrate native planting, including canopy trees, along the periphery of sports fields to blend the site's bushland character with the recreational areas, promoting biodiversity and increasing shade for football spectators.
E.11	Introduce new understorey and tree planting as a buffer between the South Field and Illowra Walk residential properties, to provide a visual buffer and mitigate light spill.
Ongoing priority	
E.2	Investigate a tree replacement program to maintain and secure long-term open space shade, ensuring continued comfort and environmental benefits.

People and culture

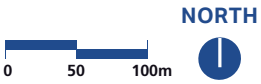
High priority	
P.2	Install both indigenous and exotic fruit tree plantings accompanied by small scale signage to provide visitors opportunities to learn about the site's cultural heritage, ecological, and local historical values.
Medium priority	
P.1	Introduce a designated space for storytelling and celebration, allowing the community to share and honour significant cultural heritage and traditions. <i>To be delivered with A8 and A20.</i>
P.5	Upgrade existing notice board with interpretive signage to provide visitors with opportunities to learn about and explore the cultural heritage, ecological, and local historical values of Wurundjeri Walk.
Ongoing priority	
P.3	Continue to support ongoing maintenance and management of park assets including paths, car parks, vegetation, and amenities by fostering strong partnerships with recreation and sports groups, Friends groups, volunteers, and other stakeholders to promote stewardship.
P.4	Monitor Joint User Agreement progress and reporting.

4.2 Staging plan



Legend

	Low priority
	Medium priority
	High priority





5.0

Appendices

The following documents have informed the Master Plan. These include:

1. Wurundjeri Walk Background Report
2. Wurundjeri Walk Engagement Report