



WURUNDJERI WALK DRAFT MASTER PLAN

DRAFT VERSION | REVISION I | OCTOBER 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.



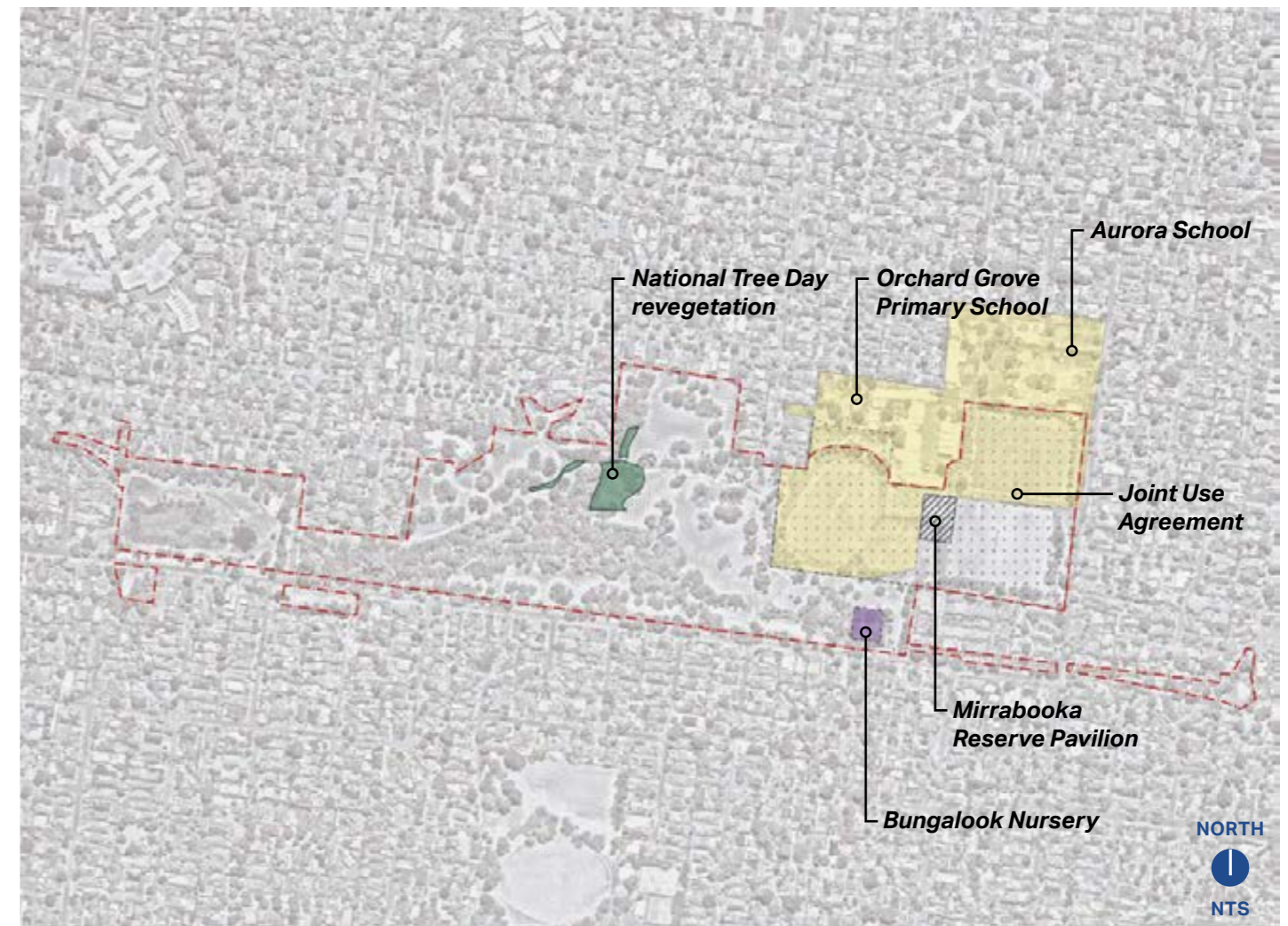
Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion Plan

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.



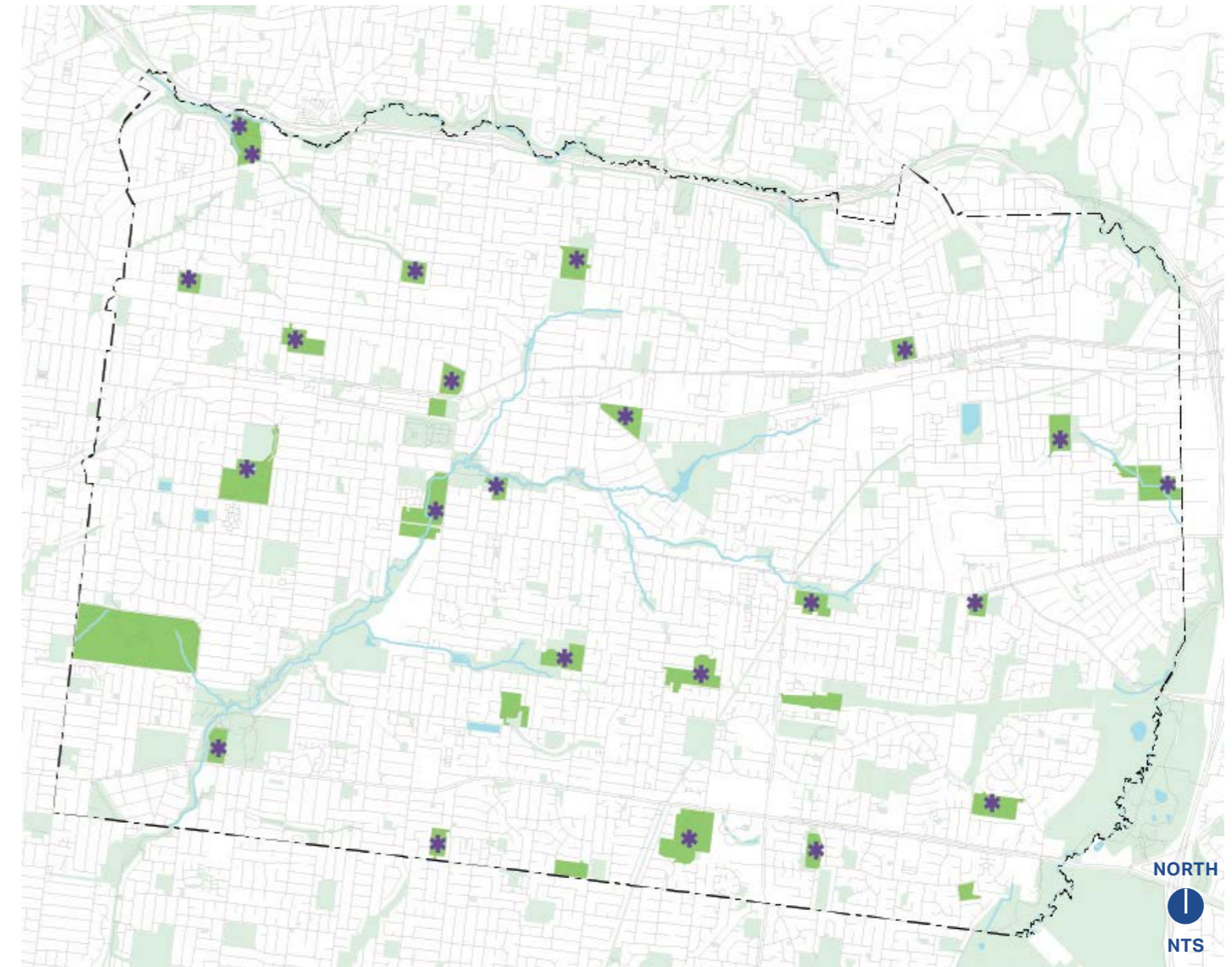
Blackburn New Hope Football Club - junior players



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	13	Aurora School car park
2	Wurundjeri Wetlands	8	Orchard Grove Primary School playground	14	Bunglook Nursery
3	Indra Road playground	9	Mirrabooka Reserve car park	15	Hurter-Finch Reserve
4	Fulton Road Reserve East	10	Orchard Grove Primary School car park	16	Hurter-Finch Reserve playground
5	Orchard Grove Reserve	11	Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion		
6	Orchard Grove Reserve playground	12	Mirrabooka Reserve		

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:

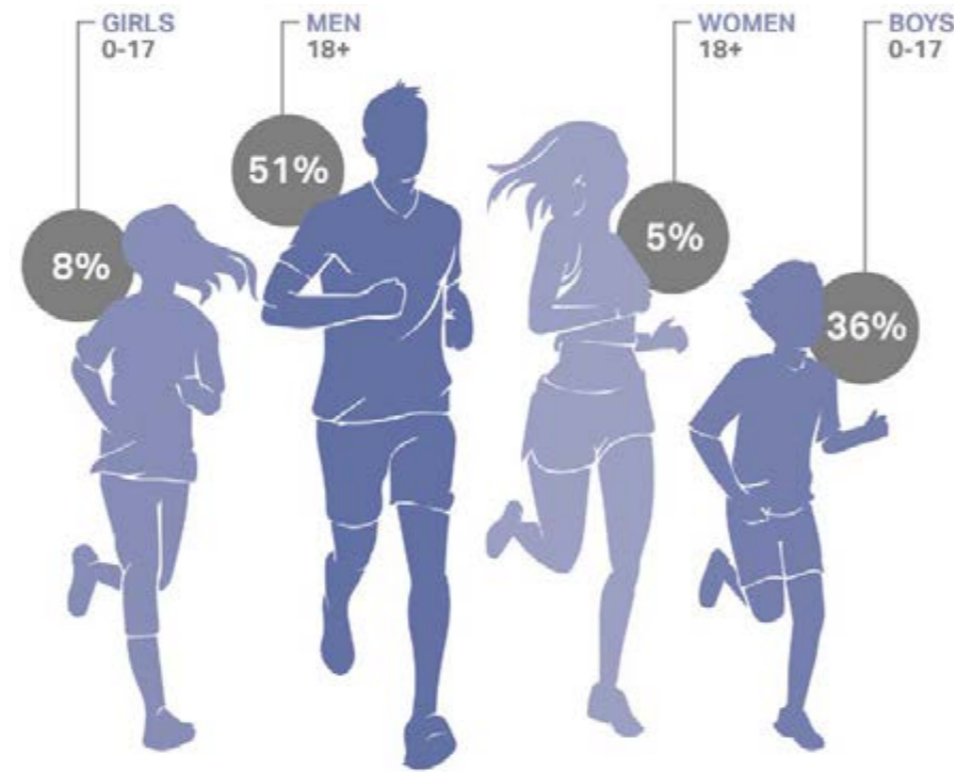
- Blackburn New Hope Football Club (winter)
- Blackburn South Cricket Club (summer).

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.

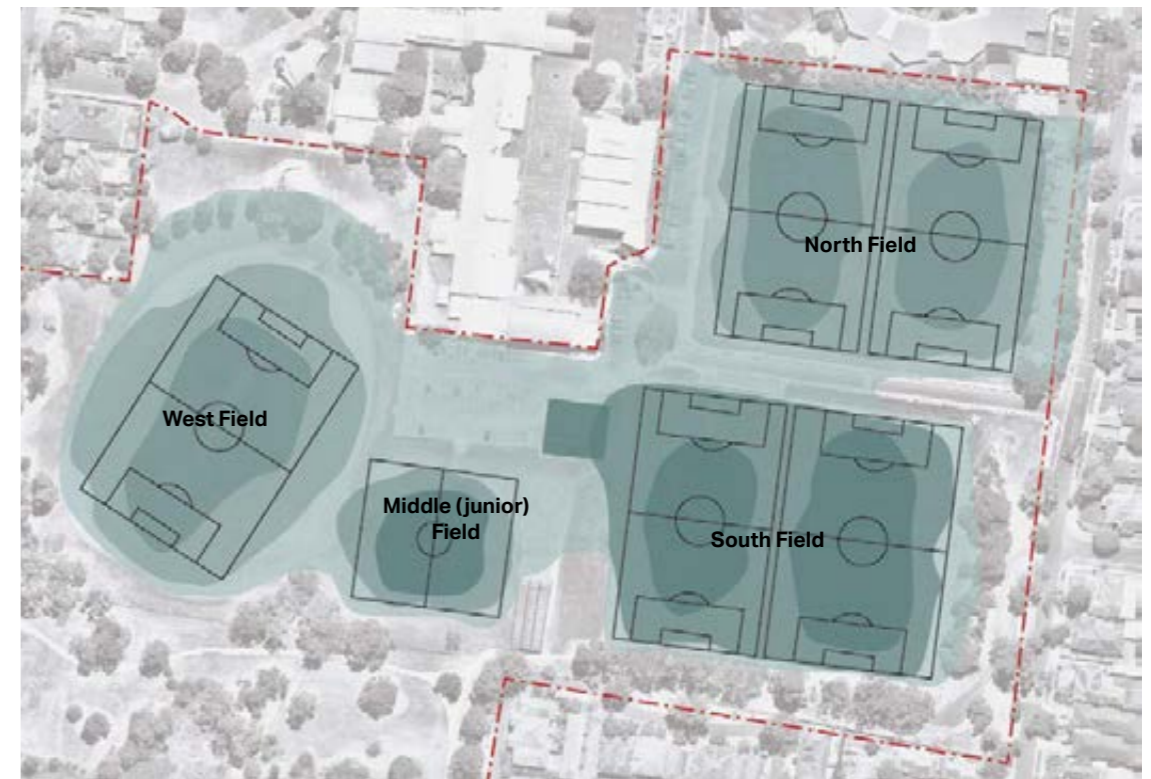
A total of 46 teams use the Reserve, with the South Field seeing the highest demand due to its floodlights and recent drainage upgrades. The field plays a crucial role as a key venue for both competitive and recreational sports in Whitehorse. Council is currently receiving a record number of allocation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



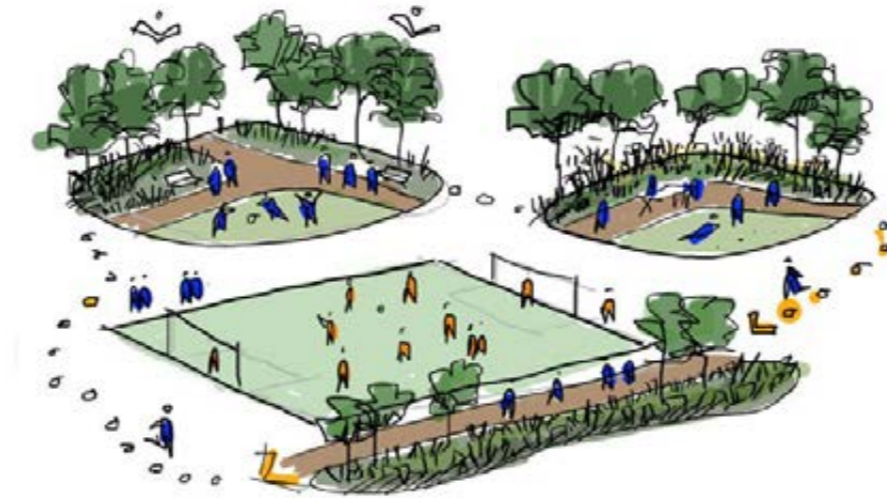
"To create a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient public open space that enhances the natural environment, celebrate its cultural heritage whilst providing a diverse range of recreational and social opportunities."

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

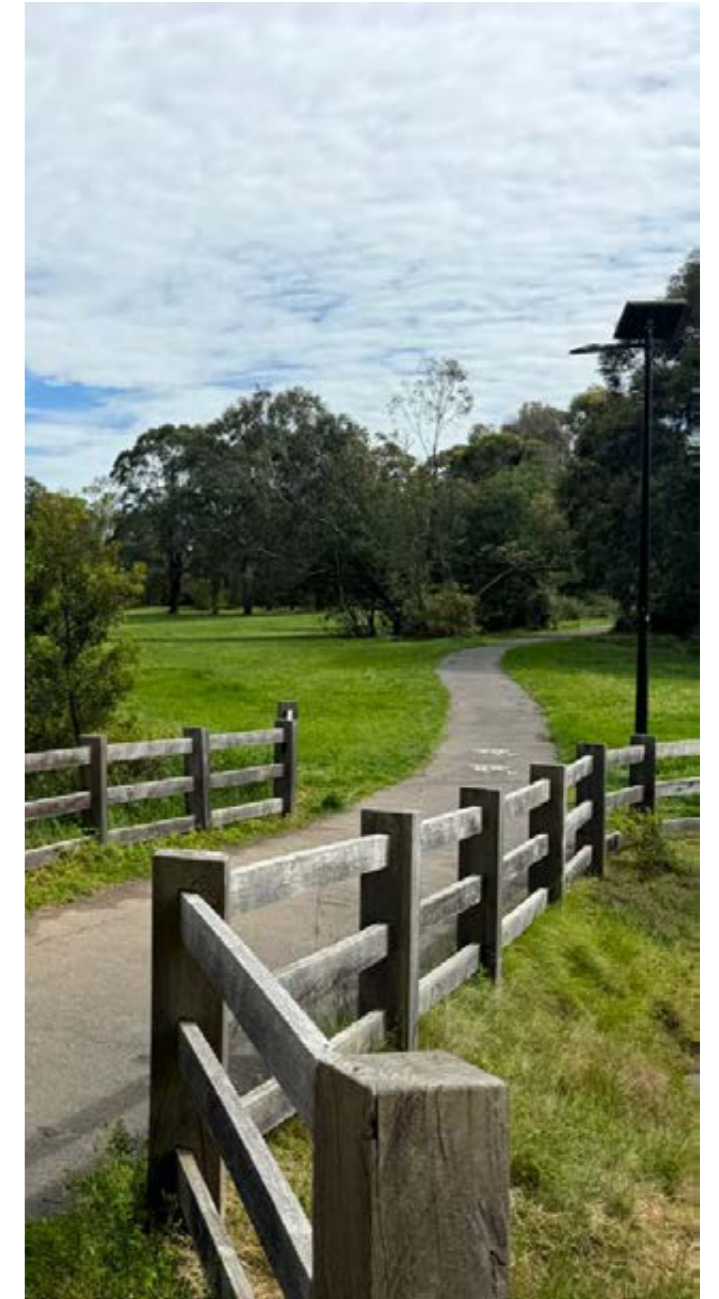
2.4 Access and movement

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 wayfinding 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

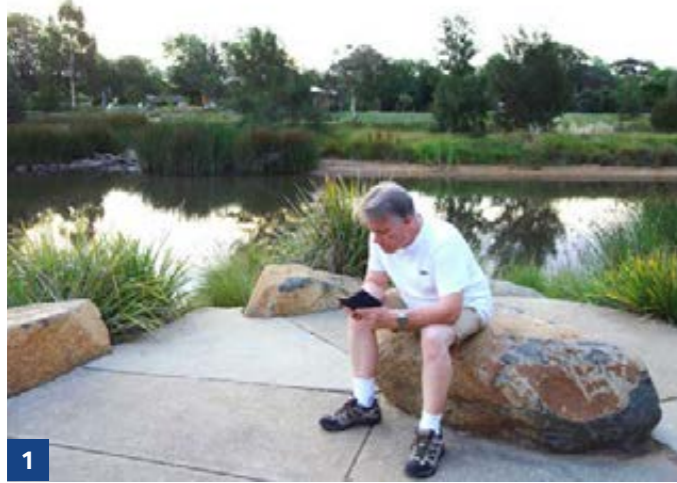
- 3.1 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan
- 3.2 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan Opportunities
- 3.3 Master Plan Detail Area - 1
- 3.4 Master Plan Detail Area - 2

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3.1 Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan



Key									
	Wurundjeri Walk master plan boundary		Gravel path		Water sensitive urban design initiatives		New feature planting		New fence alignment
	Fulton Road Drain alignment		Concrete path		Proposed informal bolder seats		Proposed public toilet		Upgraded cricket nets
	New canopy trees		Asphalt access road and parking		New understorey planting		Proposed new shelter		Proposed wayfinding signage location



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. *To be delivered with A2, A3, and M3.*
- A.2** Introduce new universal play elements to existing Indra Road playground that are accessible and engaging for children of all abilities. *To be delivered with A1, A3, and M3.*
- 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. *To be delivered with A1, A2, and M3.*
- 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.
- A.6** Install new park benches, to encourage visitation and improve accessibility to the reserves south of Fulton Road.

Movement and access

- M.1** Install 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. *To be delivered with A1, A2, and A3.*
- 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 the ecological 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. *To be delivered with A10 and M9.*
- 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. Work in collaboration with Positive Ageing team to identify opportunities for activation.
- A.10** Create an informal community gathering point for groups and events at the central social space. *To be delivered with A8 and M9.*

Movement and access

- M.5** Develop a new path connection south of Canora Street properties to provide a secondary route and strengthen connections with the wider Wurundjeri Walk.
- 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.8** Provide concrete pads under key landscape furniture to enable accessibility. These include under picnic settings, drinking fountains and bench seats.
- M.9** 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 A8 and A10.*

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 understorey planting around existing canopy trees in Orchard Grove Reserve to enhance habitat and provide a visual buffer, while maintaining clear sightlines into the park.

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 A10.*
- P.2** Install indigenous 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.
- P.4** 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.



Continues on page 20

Continues on page 22

Amenity

- A.11** 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.12** Expand cricket nets by adding a fourth lane to the east and installing lighting to support extended use.
- A.13** 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 works.
- A.14** 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.15** 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.16** Provide a new public toilet near the Orchard Grove playground and car park to improve amenity, supporting longer stays and increased community use of the space.

Movement and access

- M.10** 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.11** 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.12** Create a central path from the Mirrabooka car park and pavilion to provide a defined access corridor into Wurundjeri Walk.
- M.13** 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.14** Introduce new parallel parking along Holland Road, accompanied by a new path and verge planting to preserve existing canopy trees.

Environment

- 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.10** Integrate native planting, including canopy trees, along the periphery of sports fields to promote biodiversity and increasing shade for football spectators.

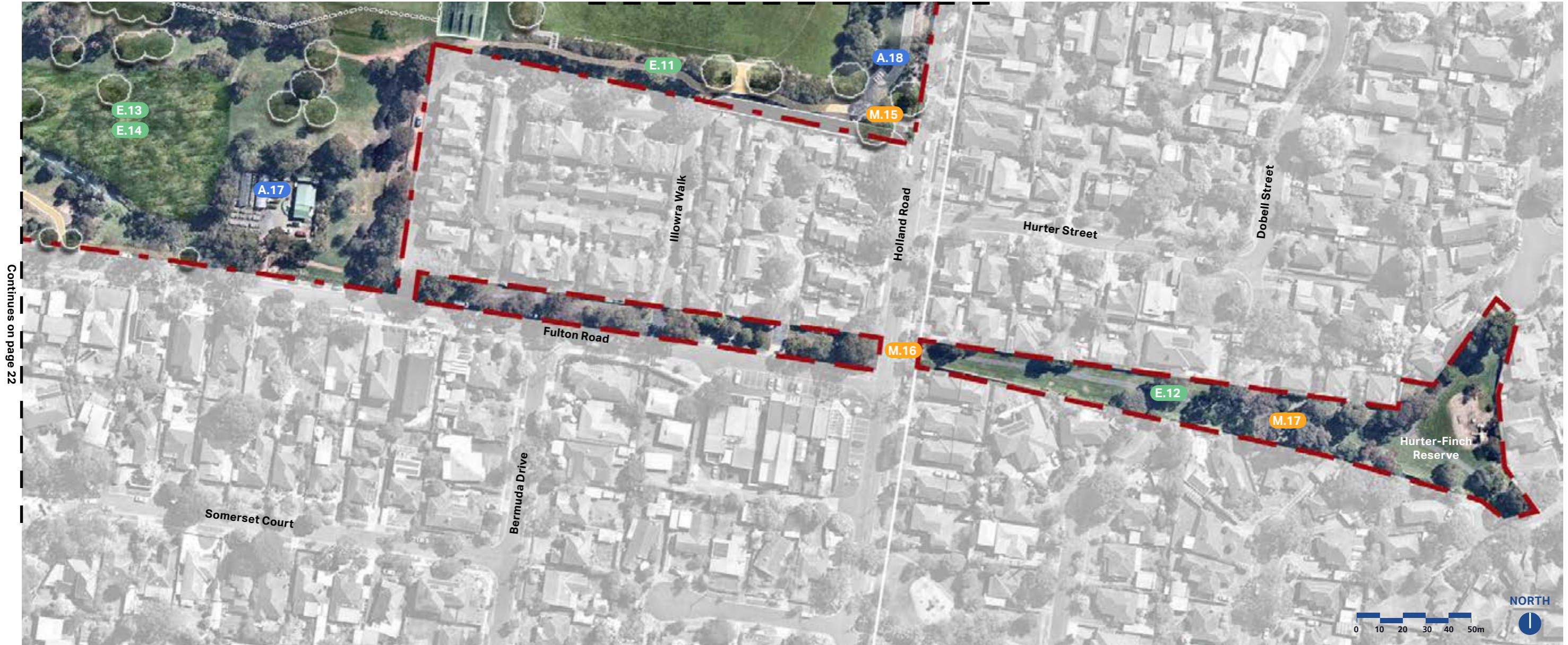
People and culture

- P.5** Monitor Joint User Agreement progress and reporting.



Hurter-Finch Reserve

Continues on page 22



Continues on page 22

Amenity

- A.17** Upgrade Bungalook Nursery to improve the operational capacity, enhance workflow, working conditions and upgrade the site assets.
- A.18** Create a visually prominent gateway entry and public address to Wurundjeri Walk, encouraging park users to access the site south of the sports fields.

Movement and access

- M.15** 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.17** Improve wayfinding to provide a legible path of travel between Hurter-Finch Reserve, Wurundjeri Walk, and Mirrabooka Reserve.
- M.18** 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 pavilion 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 pavilion's users.

Stemming from the pavilion'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 pavilion'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

Embarkment canopy trees - Mirrabooka Reserve
Source: AECOM, 2024



4

Proposed Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion render
Source: CohenLeigh Architects, 2024



5

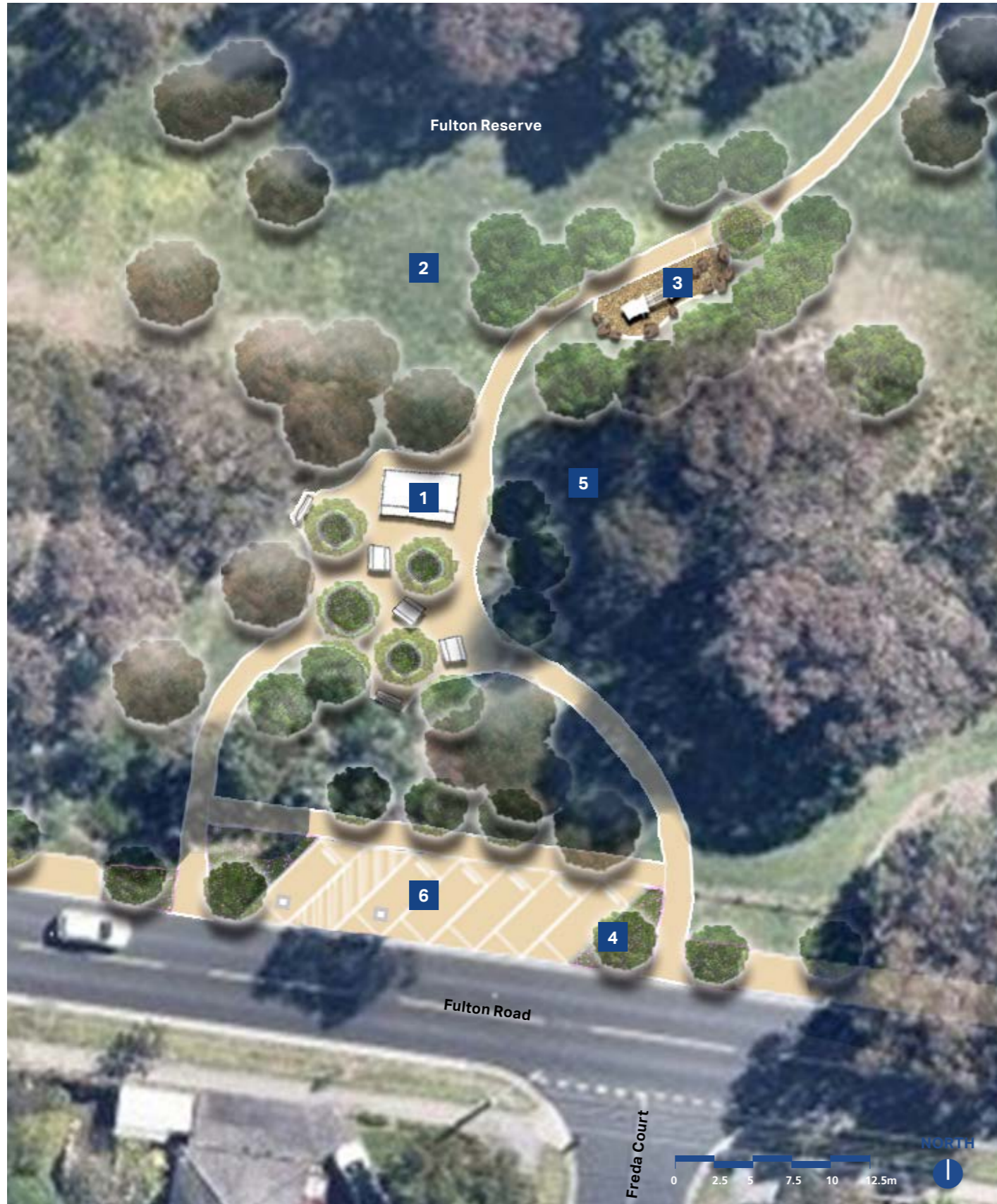
Forecourt and pavilion - Templestowe Road, Bulleen
Source: Development Victoria, 2023



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
	Compacted gravel car parking
	Asphalt access road
	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

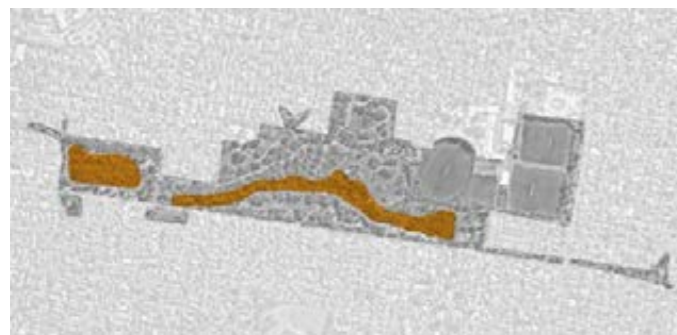
Creek Restoration

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

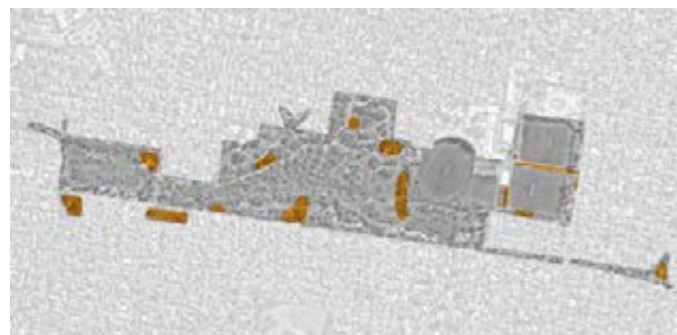
Feature amenity planting will introduce visual interest, seasonal change, and biodiversity into prominent areas such as entrances, pathways, and seating zones.

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



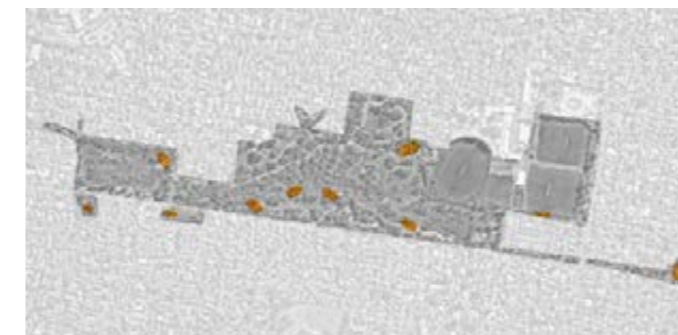
Sensory and interactive planting

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

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.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	Expand cricket nets by adding a fourth lane to the east and installing lighting to support extended use.
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	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.15	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.17	Upgrade Bungalook Nursery to improve the operational capacity, enhance workflow, working conditions and upgrade the site assets.
A.18	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.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 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 A10.</i>
A.10	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 A10.</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. Work in collaboration with Positive Ageing team to identify opportunities for activation.
A.16	Provide a new public toilet near the Orchard Grove playground and car park to improve amenity, supporting longer stays and increased community use of the space.

Movement and access

High priority

M.1	Install 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 a secondary route and strengthen connections with the wider Wurundjeri Walk.
M.7	Install wayfinding and legislative signage at key access points and park features to improve navigation and provide important information for visitors.
M.12	Create a central path from the Mirrabooka car park and pavilion to provide a defined access corridor into Wurundjeri Walk.
M.13	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.10	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.15	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.17	Improve wayfinding to provide a legible path of travel between Hurter-Finch Reserve, Wurundjeri Walk, and Mirrabooka Reserve.

Medium priority

- M.3** Create clear and accessible paths that better define the Indra Road playground, ensuring universal access. *To be delivered with A1 and A2.*
- M.6** Concrete paving to be provided for select pathways subject to high levels of use to minimise long-term maintenance requirements.
- M.8** Provide concrete pads under key landscape furniture to enable accessibility. These include under picnic settings, drinking fountains and bench seats.
- M.9** 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 A10.*
- M.11** 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.14** Introduce new parallel parking along Holland Road, accompanied by a new path and verge planting to preserve existing canopy trees.
- M.18** 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 understorey planting around existing canopy trees in Orchard Grove Reserve to enhance habitat and provide a visual buffer, while maintaining clear sightlines into the park.
- 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 promote 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 indigenous tree plantings accompanied by small scale signage to provide visitors opportunities to learn about the site's cultural heritage, ecological, and local historical values.

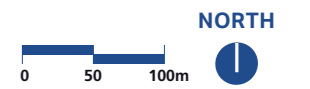
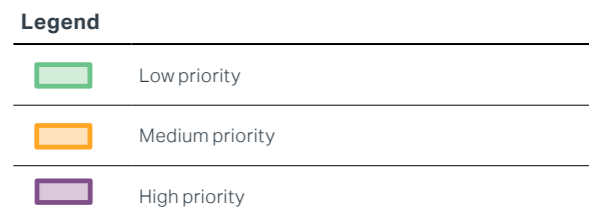
Medium priority

- P.1** Introduce a designated space for storytelling and celebration, allowing the community to share and honour significant cultural heritage and traditions. *To be delivered with A8 and A10.*
- P.4** 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.5** Monitor Joint User Agreement progress and reporting.

4.2 Staging plan



5.0

Appendices

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

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



WURUNDJERI WALK BACKGROUND STUDY REPORT

FINAL VERSION REVISION C NOVEMBER 2024
PREPARED FOR 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 Wurundjeri Walk, which abides by open space restrictions.

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Quality Information

Document Name	Rev	Prepared for	Prepared by	Date	Reviewed by
Background Study Report	A	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	11 October 2024	RR
Background Study Report	B	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	1 November 2024	RR
Background Study Report	C	Whitehorse City Council	AECOM Australia	27 November 2024	RR

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1.0

Site Context

- 1.1 Geographic Context
- 1.2 Local Context
- 1.3 Demographics

1.1 Geographic Context

Wurundjeri Walk is located in Blackburn South, within the Whitehorse City Council (WCC), approximately 16km east of Melbourne’s Central Business District (CBD). The site is made up of four different Reserves: Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove, Fulton, and Hurter-Finch. Together these form Wurundjeri Walk, a 25 hectare linear park.

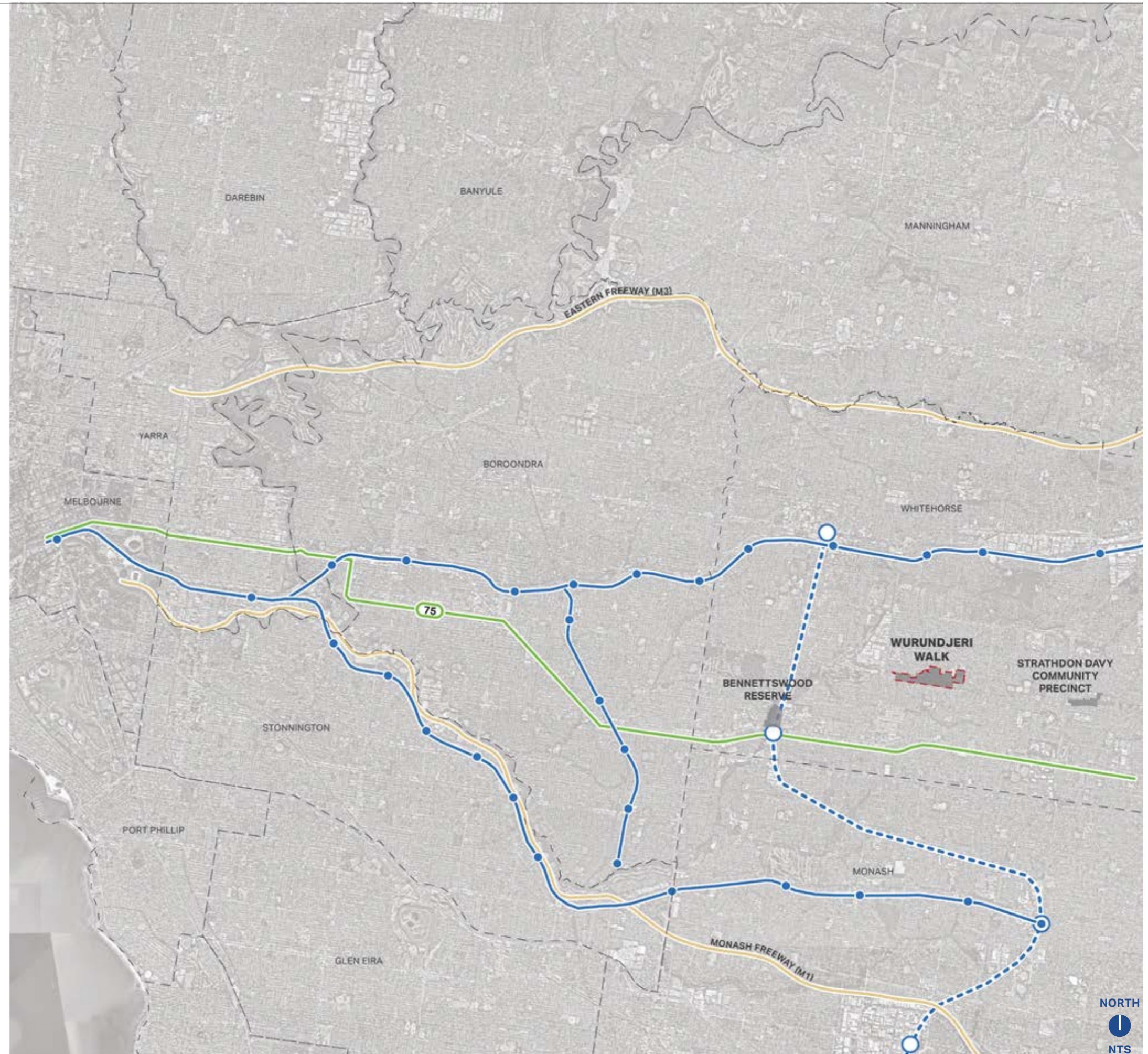
The Reserve is accessed via the local road network with key access points along Fulton Road. Middleborough Road connects to Fulton Road to the east providing a key north-south connection. The site does not have a direct public transport route to the CBD, requiring a bus transfer for nearby railway lines:

- Lilydale and Belgrave rail lines to the north
- Glen Waverley line to the south

Additionally, the planned Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) will provide a future station in Burwood west of the reserve, providing a connection to Box Hill and Cheltenham.

The Reserve is also connected to the Eastern Freeway (M3) to the north via Middleborough Road, linking Burwood with Melbourne’s eastern suburbs and the CBD. To the south via Blackburn Road, the Monash Freeway (M1) provides a major route towards the south-eastern suburbs and beyond.

Wurundjeri Walk is one of nine sites that the WCC is currently producing a Master Plan for in the 2024-25 financial year. It is located towards the centre of the Local Government Area (LGA), the other two sites with Master Plans to be delivered in the same package are referred to as Bennettswood Reserve and Strathdon Davy Community Precinct which are located west and east of Wurundjeri Walk respectively.



Key	
	Project boundary
	Reserves Undergoing Master Plan Process
	LGA boundary
	Freeway
	Tram line
	Train line and stations
	Future SRL line and stations

1.2 Local Context

The Reserve is made up of Municipal (Mirrabooka and Orchard Grove), Neighbourhood (Fulton Reserve) and Local (Hurter-Finch Reserve) Open Spaces as identified in the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2024. It is situated adjacent to Orchard Grove Primary School and Aurora School. Blackburn English Language School is located approximately 500m south of the Reserve.

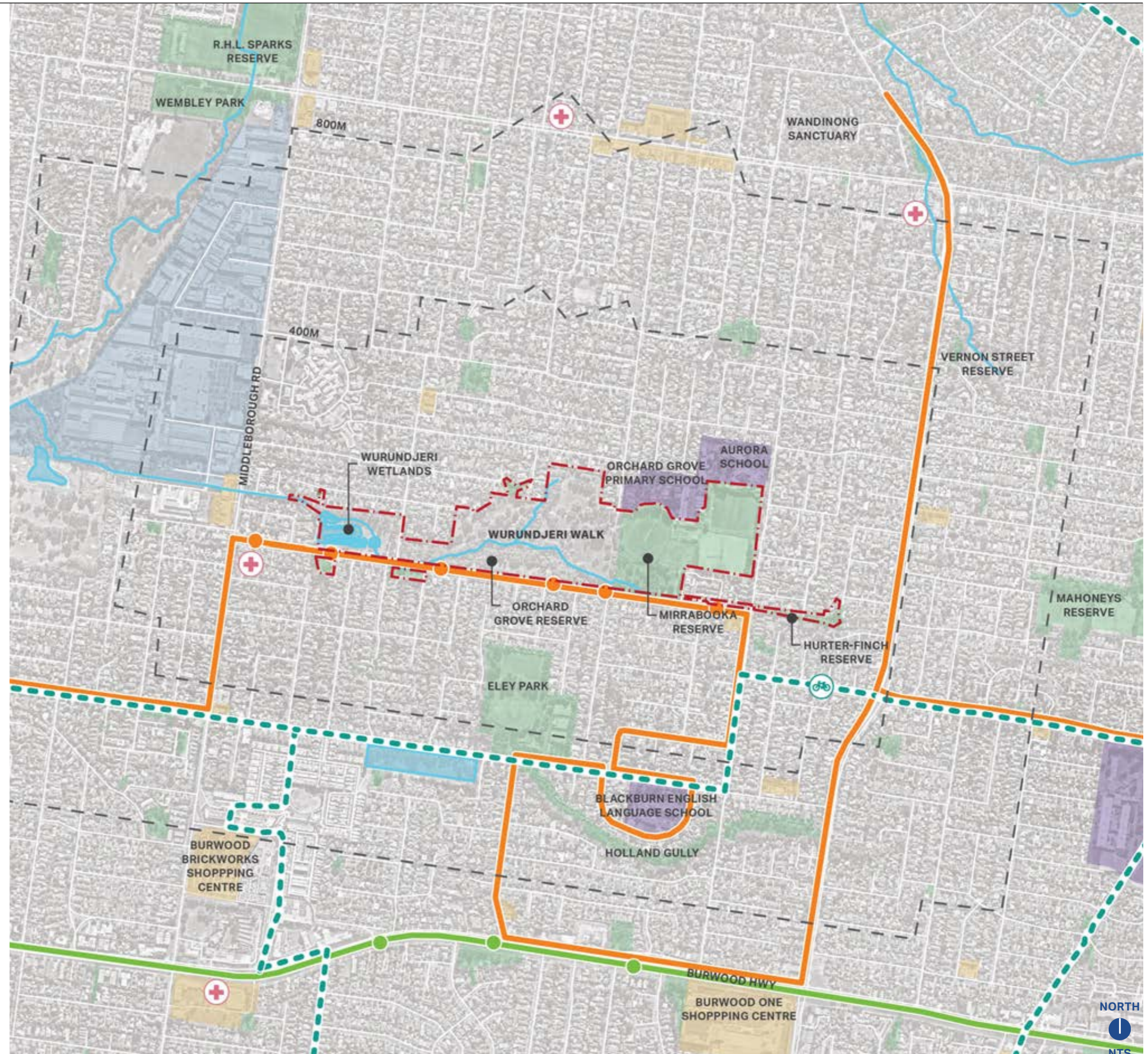
The Fulton Road Drain runs through the site along the southern boundary. The drain flows east to west connecting into the Wurundjeri Wetlands to the west of the site, before continuing to Gardiners Creek further west.

The Strategic Cycling Corridor (SCC) is located 500m south of the site along Eley Road, providing a key cycling route east - west through the Municipality. Nearby parks and open spaces include Eley park, Holland Gully, Vernon Street Reserve, and Mahoneys Reserve. Wurundjeri Walk is the largest open space in Blackburn South.

Public transport is well-served in the area: the 735 Box Hill to Nunawading bus service stops on the southern side of the Reserve along Fulton Road. Other bus services nearby include:

- 733 to Box Hill and Oakleigh, east via Middleborough Road
- 703 to Middle Brighton and Blackburn, east via Blackburn Road
- 765 to Box Hill and Forest Hill, north via Canterbury Road.

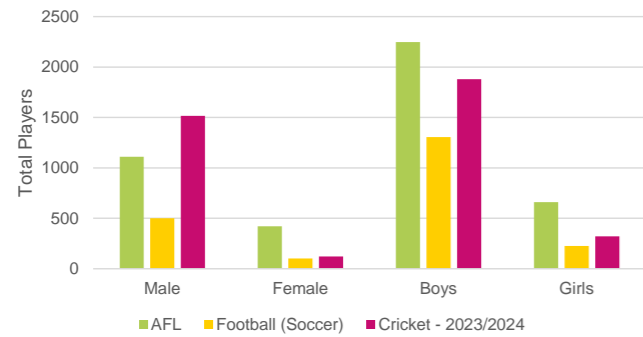
The closest local stops are along Middleborough Road,



Key	
	Project Boundary
	400m Offset
	Public Open Space
	Water Bodies and Course
	Industrial
	Education
	Commercial
	Hospital and Healthcare
	Strategic Cycling Corridor (SCC)
	Bus Stop
	Tram Stop

1.3 Sport Participation

Participation in sports in Whitehorse has seen a remarkable surge over the past decade, reflecting a broader trend of increased engagement in athletic activities. While traditionally dominated by male participation, there has been a notable rise in female sports and youth involvement. This growth indicates a positive shift towards inclusivity, as more girls and young athletes are embracing sports, contributing to a diverse sporting landscape.



Gender distribution of participation in Whitehorse sport

Despite this progress, the existing sports reserves and facilities in Whitehorse are struggling to keep up with the heightened demand. With usage at capacity, many of the grounds are experiencing overuse, leading to a deterioration in the quality of surfaces and limiting the availability for both training and competition. This situation is significantly impacting local sports clubs, which find it increasingly challenging to provide adequate programs and facilities for their athletes.

The 2023/2024 summer season highlighted these challenges, as six senior teams were forced to seek alternative locations in neighboring municipalities due to the unavailability of grounds on Saturday afternoons. This not only disrupts team cohesion and local engagement but also places additional logistical burdens on clubs and athletes. Similarly, the demand for grounds on Friday evenings is also approaching full capacity, further complicating scheduling and access for all teams. Demand for floodlit sports fields in winter is high also, with community usage estimated at up to 112.2% of turf industry recommended levels for natural grass surfaces. Team and player numbers increased in 2024 across all sports, particularly football (soccer).

To ensure the continued growth and development of sports in Whitehorse, especially in promoting female and youth participation, there is a need for enhanced investment in sports facilities and infrastructure. Addressing these capacity issues will not only support current athletes but will also lay the foundation for future generations to engage in sports, fostering a healthier, more active community.

Total players 2024



AFL
4,436



Football (Soccer)
2,130



Cricket
3,834



1.4 Demographics

Demographic overview

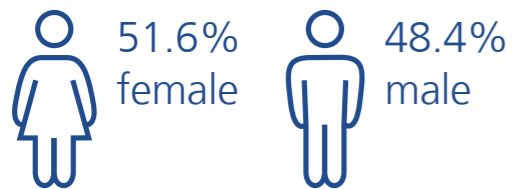
Bennettswood Reserve is located within the WCC LGA. The LGA encompasses an area of 65km² in Melbourne's middle-eastern suburbs. The Reserve is approximately 14km from Melbourne's CBD. Suburbs within the WCC are Mount Albert, Mount Albert North, Box Hill, Box Hill North, Box Hill South, Blackburn, Blackburn North, Blackburn South, Nunawading, Mitcham, Vermont, Vermont South, Forest Hill, Burwood and Burwood East.

Population

The WCC had an estimated resident population of 178,639 in 2023. The average household size is 2.53 with 62% of the population living in separate house dwellings and 27.7% living in medium density dwellings. The largest growth in dwellings types has been high density with a growth of 3,966. An additional 2,320 residents are forecast to be living in Burwood by 2036, an 18% increase and an additional 935 residents in Blackburn South, an 8.5% increase.



The population of Whitehorse comprised of 51.6% females and 48.4% males in the 2021 Census. 521 individuals identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.



Age

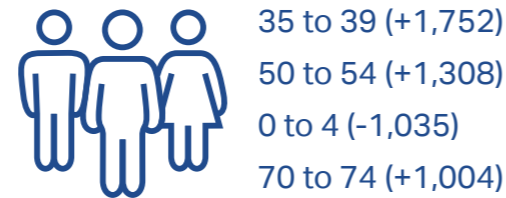
In 2021, the WCC had a lower proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 years or older than Greater Melbourne. The median age was 39 years old.

Overall, 29.3% of the population were aged between 0 and 24, 46.9% were aged between 25 and 59, and 23.8% were aged 60 years and over.

Cultural diversity

Emerging Age Groups

The largest changes in age structure in the LGA between 2016 and 2011 were in the age groups:



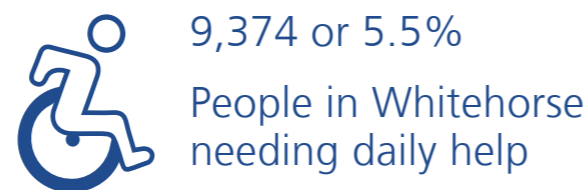
41.5% of the population were born overseas and 13% (21,962) had a birthplace of China. 40.5% of people use a non-english language at home. The top language used at home was Mandarin (16.2%), followed by Cantonese, Greek, Vietnamese, Hindi, Sinhalese and Italian. In comparison to Greater Melbourne, the WCC population speaking Mandarin at home was greater by 11.9%.

The largest changes in reported ancestries of the population in the LGA between 2011 and 2016 were:

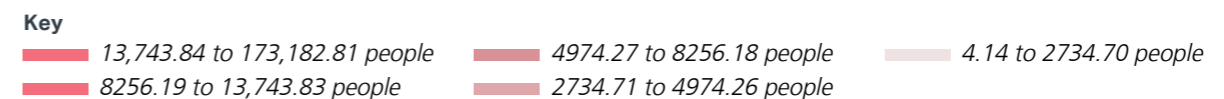
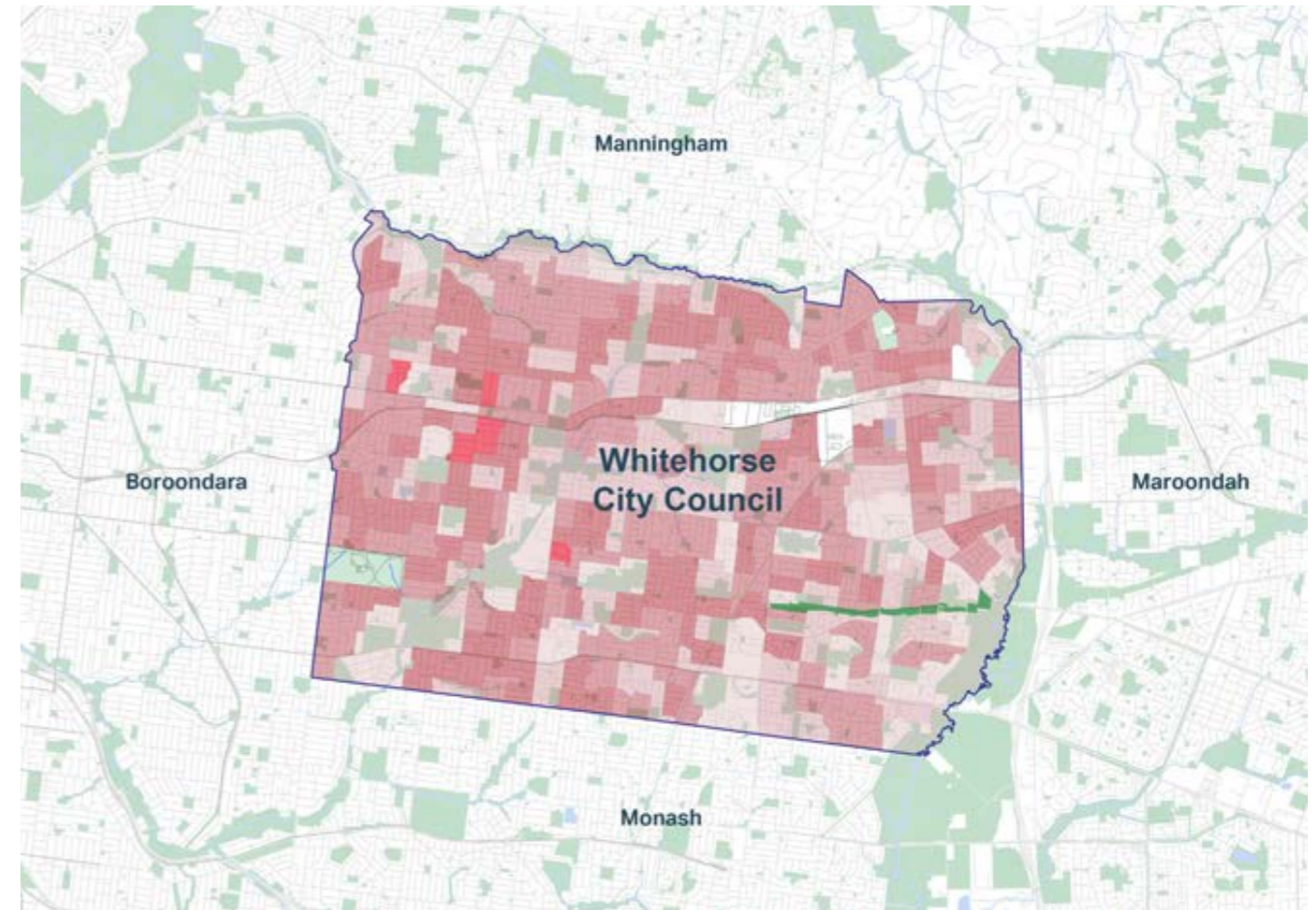
- Chinese (+11,987)
- Australian (-3,685)
- Indian (+1,949)
- Irish (+1,047)

Health and wellbeing

In 2021, 9,374 (5.5%) people in the WCC reported needing help in their daily lives due to disability. 29.7% of the population has a long-term health condition.



**All data obtained from Profile.ID and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census Data.*



Demographics

As of 2021, Blackburn South has a population of 11,022, an increase of 401 residents (about 4%) since the 2007 Strategy. The area has a higher proportion of primary school-aged children and residents aged 50 to 69 compared to the WCC, but fewer babies, young adults, and seniors aged 70 to 84. The population is projected to grow to 11,957 by 2036, representing an 8.5% increase.



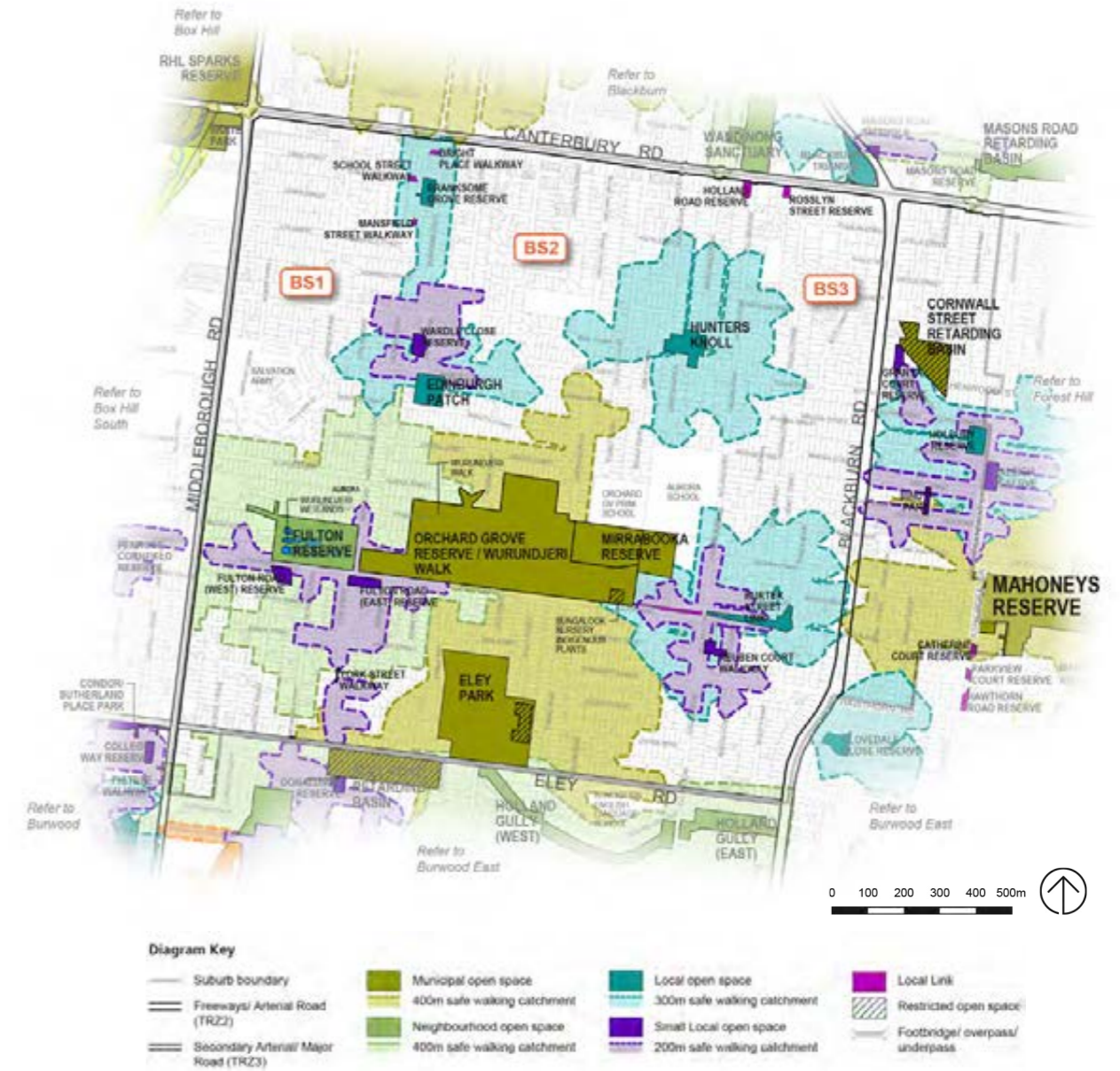
11,957

Blackburn South
2036 Population

Since 2006, there has been a shift toward medium and high-density housing. In 2006, 76% of residents lived in separate houses; by 2021, this dropped to 62%, while 28% lived in medium-density and 10% in high-density housing.

This demographic shift, with fewer children under 17 and a rising number of adults aged 18 to 84, is expected to increase demand for open spaces. As urban density increases and private outdoor areas decrease, the need for accessible public spaces becomes more critical.

Designing future open spaces should prioritise accessibility and facilities that cater to a wider age range, particularly for the older population. Research highlights the importance of physical fitness for all ages, especially the elderly, suggesting the inclusion of outdoor fitness equipment. There is potential for such facilities near existing aged care facilities in Blackburn South, addressing the needs of the older community effectively.



Whitehorse Open Space Strategy Blackburn South Gap Analysis

2.0

Planning Context

- 2.1 Strategic Planning Policy and Strategic Context
- 2.2 Planning Control Zones
- 2.3 Planning Overlays

2.1 Strategic Planning Policy and Strategic Context

The Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan will be developed to align with the local policies of the Melbourne Planning Scheme, and high level strategic planning documents. Key information from these documents will be considered in the development of the Master Plan to ensure alignment with Council strategies and policies.

Whitehorse Arts and Culture Strategy

- Whitehorse has a rich history of arts and culture, stemming from the Australian Impressionist arts movement and its multi-cultural community.
- Focus on creating an environment where arts and culture can be supported, flourish and continue to evolve.
- The provision of infrastructure, services, and programs is important to support and enable participation in arts and culture. 19% of residents have participated in programs and classes at Council's neighbourhood or community centres.
- Community festivals and events have the highest attendance/participation rates in Whitehorse.
- Whitehorse has a shortfall for spaces that facilitate programs, classes, and meetings.
- Accessibility issues such as paths and lack of drop off facilities prevented people with disabilities or over 60s age groups participating in programs.
- Aim to continue to build links that support indigenous and multicultural heritage, and further development of interpretation and signage around the municipality.
- Resident feedback supports the continuing commission and installation of public and community artworks to improve and provide interest in public and open spaces.

Whitehorse Planning Scheme - Public Open Space Contribution

- Identifies the need for new developments to contribute to the provision of public open space.
- Public open space contributions from developers are a potential resource for the acquisition of land for public open space and the improvement of existing facilities.
- The western part of the municipality has more areas where some residents have to walk further to access local open space.
- Blackburn South has been identified as an area where developers are required to provide additional open space to meet population needs.

Contributions are to be imposed at the subdivision stage, where land can be transferred to or vested in Council.

Whitehorse Climate Response Plan 2023-2030

- Impacts from climate change are being felt across the Whitehorse community and are forecast to increase. Key impacts include:
 - Increased stormwater runoff and flash flooding,
 - Increased damage to buildings and infrastructure, leading to higher maintenance costs,
 - More heat-related deaths, particularly among the elderly and other vulnerable members of the community,
 - Loss of biodiversity due to decreased habitat quality and availability, and
 - Interruptions to supply chains and food production.
- Council declared a climate emergency on 12 September 2022, highlighting the urgent need for adaptation, mitigation, and systemic actions. These include:
 - Encourage supply chain to reduce emissions, giving preference to procurement of carbon neutral products and services.
 - Ensure infrastructure is resilient to climate change impacts and will be able to service its community during extreme weather and other emergency events.
 - Reduce energy use, and aim for zero carbon electricity.
 - Walk, cycle, rideshare or take public transport instead of driving.

Whitehorse Disability Action Plan 2022-2025

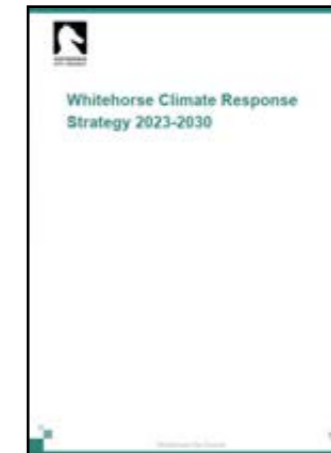
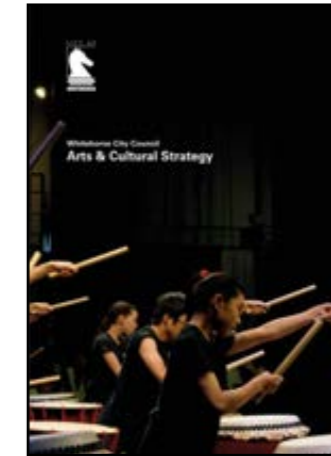
- People with disability continue to face multiple barriers to being included in all aspects of community life.
- A priority area for the Plan is to improve access to the built environment including footpaths, buildings, open spaces and play spaces. Actions under this priority include:
 - Increase the number of accessible car parks available in the municipality.
 - Increase accessibility of paths within parks and open spaces.
 - Increase the range of accessible equipment available in parks and play spaces.

- Advocate for increased availability of Changing Places facilities and accessible toilets in the municipality.

- The Plan focuses on fostering the inclusion and participation of people with disability in the community by removing barriers experienced by people with disability.
- Follow Universal Design Principles to provide equitable use, flexibility in use, simple and intuitive, perceptible information, tolerance for error, low physical effort, size and space appropriate or use, and cultural appropriateness.

Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2024

- The Strategy provides an overall framework for the future provision, planning, design and management of the public open space network for the next 15 years.
- Identifies where there is adequate provision of open space to meet existing residents needs and where there is not. Highlighting where population will drive demand for new open space or upgrades of existing Reserves.
- Orchard Grove and Mirrabooka Reserves are listed as Municipal Open Spaces. The role of this space is to provide facilities that the Whitehorse community will travel to including organised sport and recreation activities.
- Fulton Road is listed as a Neighbourhood Open Space, with the role to provide a diverse range of informal recreation facilities that appeal to the suburb.
- The strategy provides direction to improve the quality and diversity of facilities in open spaces that are within a safe and easy walk of everyone. It strives to protect and strengthen biodiversity values and to assist to mitigate urban heat island effect.
- A key priority is to prepare a Master Plan to guide the future upgrades to Wurundjeri Walk.
 - Integration of unstructured recreational use and access that complements structured sport including a circuit path that can be lit and connect into the broader path network through Wurundjeri Walk.
 - Upgrades to improve the picnic/BBQ/public toilet facilities adjacent to the playground and other works including ongoing revegetation of the waterway through the Reserve.
- Continue to maintain Fulton Reserve.



Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

- Identifies the work council will do to improve the health and well-being of people in Whitehorse. This is shaped by social justice, inclusivity, and sustainability.
- Top 5 priorities for action by 2025:
 - Mental wellbeing,
 - Physical activity,
 - Social and neighbourhood connection,
 - Social inclusion, and
 - Climate change mitigation.
- Strategies to promote health and well-being include:
 - Creating built environments and programs that enable the community to be active.
 - Ensure public spaces, recreation and play spaces are safe and accessible to all.
 - Promote participation in structured and unstructured physical activity.
 - Encourage physical activity and social interactions in the community including walking a dog, cycling, running and walking.
 - Ensure the urban realm and open spaces are conducive to the needs of the local community and businesses.
 - Support and promote intergenerational, intercultural and interfaith activities.
 - Embed the stories of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, new migrants, asylum seekers and international students within the narrative of Whitehorse.
 - Facilitate opportunities for people to socialise/ meet with others in their neighbourhood.
 - Open up and diversify use of Council spaces and facilities for multi-use.

Whitehorse Sporting Facilities Guide

- Sporting trends have reshaped the landscape.
- There are limited opportunities to develop new facilities across Whitehorse, requiring a collaborative approach with the sporting fraternity to manage growth and participation.
- Opportunities include:
 - Upgrade sports fields to optimise their use,
 - Increase floodlit training venues,
 - Retrofit pavilions,
 - Consider temporary facilities as required,

- Support shared use of facilities,
- Review programming opportunities including night competition, and
- Identify opportunities to gain access to school facilities.

Whitehorse Gender Equality Action Plan 2022-2026

- Whitehorse is actively promoting gender equality in the broader Whitehorse community. Whitehorse values all genders and takes steps to reduce all forms of gender discrimination.

Whitehorse Cycling Strategy 2016

- Cycling for transport, sport or recreation plays an important role in supporting a healthy, vibrant, inclusive and diverse community.
- Whitehorse is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for all.
- The Strategy aims to increase participation in cycling across the municipality.
 - Creating a connected network of attractive, safe and inviting low stress streets and paths.
 - Accessible to all.
 - Respects the needs of all users.
- An existing on-road cycle route runs along Blackburn Road, east of the Reserve.
- Wurundjeri Walk is identified as a low stress island, however, it is poorly connected and surrounded by high stress barriers of Middleborough Road and Blackburn Road.
 - A guiding principle of the Strategy is to link low stress islands with appropriate measures such as signalised crossing facilities.
 - Provide Easy Ride routes with appropriate treatments and wayfinding signage.

Whitehorse Integrated Transport Strategy 2011

- Whitehorse is committed to ensuring that its community, and those who travel through the municipality, have access to transport options that are sustainable, convenient, accessible, safe and enhance the liveability of the city.
- Key strategy goals for Whitehorse are to:
 - Improve the links between transport modes for the efficient and convenient movement of people and goods.
 - Increase the use of sustainable transport modes that promote healthy lifestyles, such as walking and cycling.

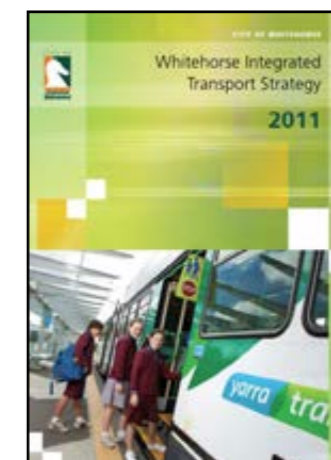
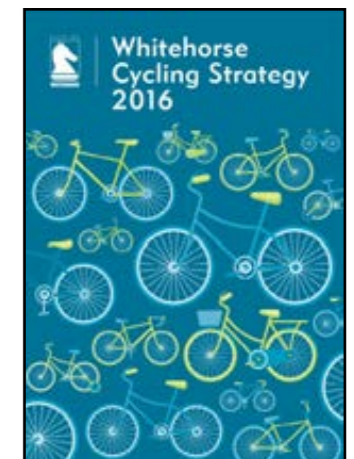
- Increase the safety of residents and commuters who travel within and through the municipality.
- Promote economic development and social connectedness within the community.

Whitehorse Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy 2022-2042

- Whitehorse is a resilient and thriving city, where water is valued as a precious resource and managed to support a healthy environment and prosperous communities.
- Acknowledgement that keeping some water in the landscape better supports green space, decreasing pollution resources.
 - Need to make the most of water sources like rainwater, stormwater and wastewater.
 - Need to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater and wastewater discharges on receiving waterways and bays.
- KooyongKoot (Gardiners Creek) is the largest catchment in Whitehorse. Seventy percent of the catchment is impervious generating significant stormwater flow.
- IWM opportunities include:
 - Water Sensitive Urban Design.
 - Large-scale stormwater harvesting systems for parks, sports fields and Reserves.
 - Targeted large-scale assets to improve waterway health and amenity.
 - Gross Pollutant Traps (GTPs) to reduce discharge of litter to waterways.
 - Point-source pollution investigation.

Whitehorse Biodiversity Strategy

- Undertaking strategic vegetation management works that conserve and enhance biodiversity assets and urban habitat across community open space will provide the greatest single benefit to biodiversity within Whitehorse.
- Water management has been identified as of prime importance to biodiversity management. Riparian corridors provide opportunities for linkages across the municipality.
- Focus for management will be primarily on vegetation due to limited options available for fauna management in an urban context.
 - Underlying principle to not only improve vegetation, but to assist in habitat management an provision for fauna species.



- Missing habitat components within much of suburbia include: large old trees, hollow bearing trees, forests and woodland with a grassy understorey and clumps of shrubs, coarse woody debris, riparian corridors shading streams and aquatic habitats, wetlands, and large patches and connecting corridors.

Whitehorse Urban Forest Municipal Wide Tree Study

- There is an urgency to put appropriate controls into place to protect natural features to avoid further loss of the City's environmental assets.
- Whitehorse is renowned for its lush gardens, bushy character and tree-dominated vistas.
- Trees are an integral aspect of character within Whitehorse and are highly valued.

Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy Action Plan 2021-2031

- Trees and vegetation make the municipality a vibrant place to live, work and visit.
- The urban forest is an essential element across private and public land.
- The strategy aims to protect, enhance and connect Whitehorse's natural assets, including trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, soil and water.
- Council has targets to:
 - Increase canopy cover to 27% by 2031, and 30% by 2050.
 - Improve connectivity for both biodiversity and active modes of transport.
 - Plant a range of indigenous species including trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers to improve habitat and connectivity within public open space.
- Opportunity to provide a connection between Wurundjeri Walk, Gardiners Creek Trail, and Mahoneys Reserve.

Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision

- Whitehorse is a resilient community where everyone belongs.
- The city is made up of active citizens who value their natural environment, history and diversity, embrace sustainability and innovation, are dynamic, and learn, grow and thrive.
- A key priority of the community is for focus on understanding and celebrating First Nations Peoples, and removing barriers for access.

- Facilitate opportunities for the community to interact and immerse with natural and built environments.

Whitehorse Play Space Strategy 2011

- Play is vital for a child's social, emotional and physical development. These spaces provide not only play opportunities but are important social meeting places which contribute more broadly to community wellbeing.
- The Strategy considers the international trend away from a dependence on modular play equipment towards spaces which incorporate play in a more natural environment.
- The Whitehorse community highly value its environment and where there are significant areas of bushland and linear parks that enhance play opportunities.
- The Strategy identifies opportunities to improve the Whitehorse play space network:
 - A need for play spaces and associated facilities to be designed and maintained to encourage use by children of all abilities.
 - Co-location of junior and senior play spaces to facilitate improved supervision.
 - Opportunities for children to experience stimulating, fun and, where appropriate, risk-taking challenges.
 - Opportunities to encourage interaction with the natural environment.

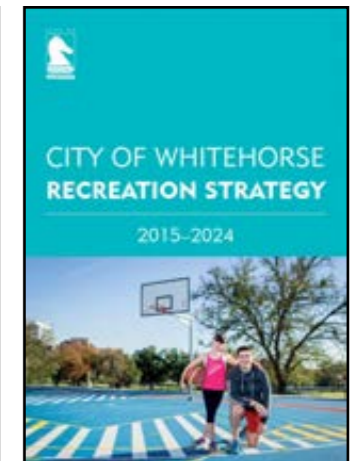
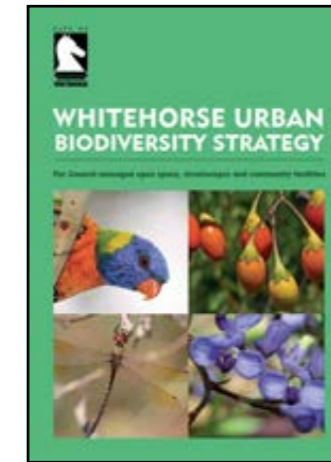
Whitehorse Recreation Strategy 2015-2024

- Council is committed to the long-term planning for recreation and sport. This will ensure that facilities and services are provided in consideration of current needs, as well as emerging trends.
- Four themes emerged: active communities, effective information and communication, flexible community facilities, and deliverable partnerships.
- Council assets include more than 335 parks and Reserves, over 50 sports fields, over 150 community centres and buildings, 1300km of footpaths and trails, 170 play spaces and over 50 schools.
- Footpaths, roads and sport facilities play an important role in encouraging people to be active.
- There is also a requirement to support physical activities that do not require membership of a sporting club or have the constraints associated with playing team sport.

- Support unstructured physical activities that assist residents to lead a healthy lifestyle through physical activity.
- Eight key principles to guide planning of recreation services and facilities:
 - Different needs
 - A range of opportunities
 - Addressing recreation and sport priorities
 - Integration and design of urban infrastructure
 - Universal design
 - Partnerships
 - Facilities
 - The natural environment

Wildlife habitat connectivity across the WCC

- Lists species recorded in Whitehorse in taxonomic groups: amphibians, arachnids, birds, fungi, insects, mammals, other invertebrates, plants, and reptiles.
- Wurundjeri Walk had a medium total species richness of 1-150 species (calculated across three 500m x 500m cells).
- Wurundjeri Walk is identified as a main habitat connectivity corridor in Whitehorse, council have ambitions to enhance habitat for native species.
 - Assist small birds living in Whitehorse that use native tree canopies for foraging.
 - Increase the density of trees on open green spaces and restore riparian vegetation to improve habitat connectivity for the Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus*).
 - Plant Eucalyptus trees to improve habitat connectivity for the Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*).
 - Restore habitat for the Eastern Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*) and Sugar Glider (*Petaurus breviceps*).
 - Reduce night time lights and habitat restoration for the Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*), as the site is a buffer.
 - Maintain wetland and drainage lines to support the Eastern Long-necked Turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*) and Pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*).
 - Plant indigenous host plants to improve habitat connectivity for the Blue-banded Bees (*Amegilla asserta*) and (*Amegilla chlorocyanea*).
 - Plant *Acacia* sp. to support the Common Imperial Blue (*Jalmenus evagoras*).



2.2 Planning Control Zones

Wurundjeri Walk is located within three zones under the Melbourne Planning Scheme. The Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ), Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ), and Public Use Zone (PUZ2).

The PPRZ is designated for public parks and recreational areas. It aims to recognise, protect, and conserve areas intended for public open space and recreation. The PPRZ also allows for certain commercial uses where appropriate.

The PCRZ has the purpose of protecting and conserving the natural environment and natural processes for their historic, scientific, landscape, habitat or cultural values.

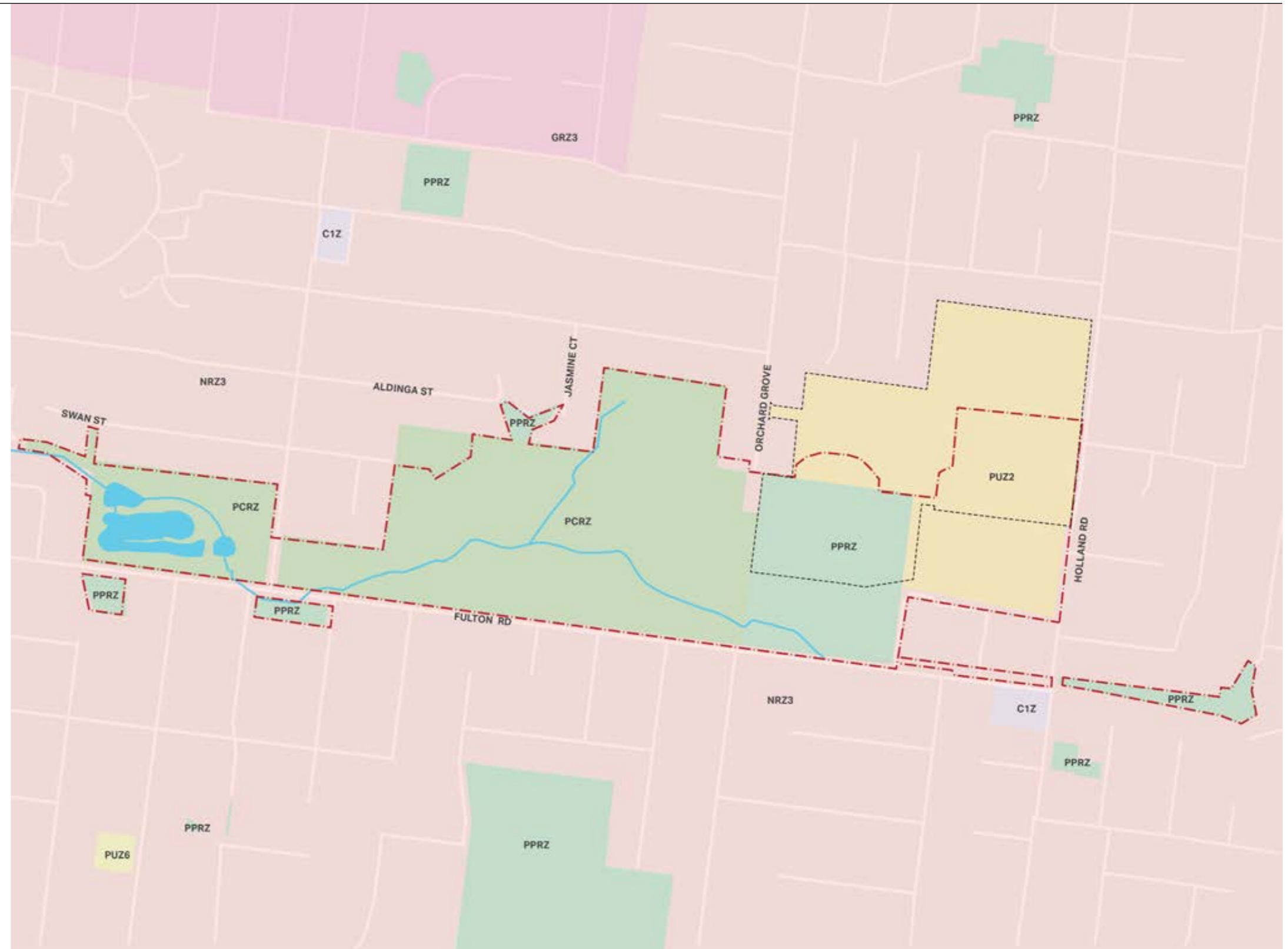
The PUZ2 applies to land used for education faculties and services, it applies to the portion of the Reserve that is managed by the Department of Education.

Surrounding Zones








The land surrounding Wurundjeri Walk contains a diverse range of zones, such as:

- Public Use Zone (PUZ2 & 6): Areas designated for public infrastructure and services.
- General Residential Zone 1 (GRZ3): Areas planned for residential development with a focus on maintaining local garden suburban character.
- Neighbourhood Residential Zone 3 (NRZ3): Zones designated to protect and enhance the character of low-density residential areas.
- Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ).
- Commercial Zone 1 (CRZ1): Encourages a mix of predominantly commercial land uses that contribute to a diverse and active character.

These zoning classifications reflect the varies land uses and planning objectives in the vicinity of Wurundjeri Walk, balancing public open space, residential development, and education facilities.



Key

	Project Boundary
	Department of Education Ownership Boundary
	Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ)
	Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)
	Neighbourhood Residential Zone - Schedule 3 (NRZ3)
	Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z)
	Public Use Zone (PUZ2 & 6)

2.3 Planning Overlays

Wurundjeri Walk is subject to the following overlays under the Melbourne Planning Scheme:

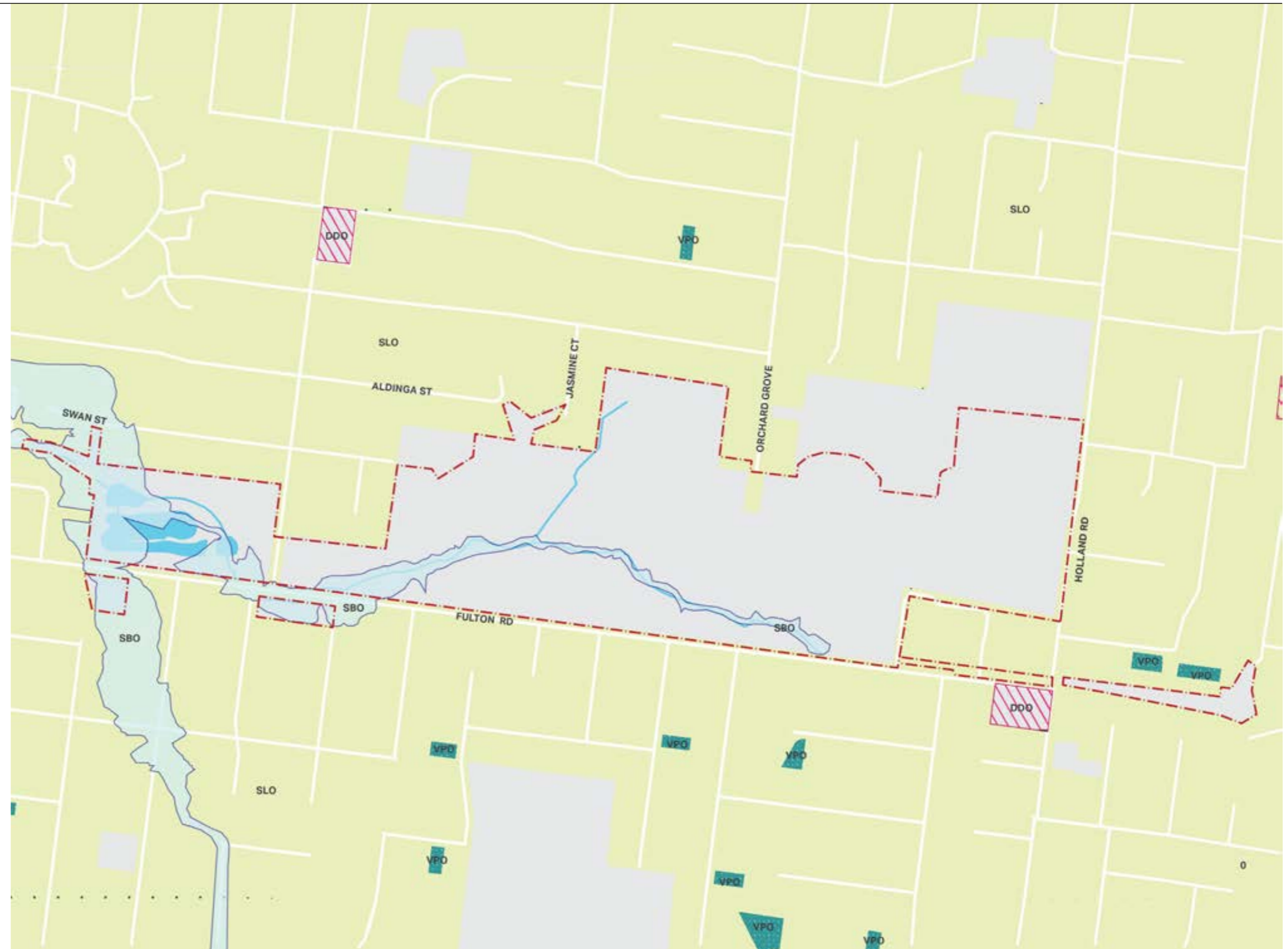
- Special Building Overlay (SBO): this identifies land liable to inundation by overland flows from the urban drainage system. The overlay ensures that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, is compatible with the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.
- Development Contributions Plan Overlay (DCPO): requires a levy payment from developers to fund local infrastructure that services the needs of a changing population and local economy.

Surrounding overlays






Additional overlays which interface with Wurundjeri Walk include:

- Design and Development Overlay (DDO) : provides guidelines for the design and development of land to ensure that new developments are compatible with the surrounding area.
- Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO): aims to protect and enhance landscapes, including important visual and environmental features. It regulates development to ensure that it does not detract from the visual amenity or ecological value of the landscape.
- Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO): protects areas of significant vegetation, preserves existing trees and vegetation, and seeks to minimise loss of vegetation. It recognises vegetation that is of special significance, natural beauty, interest and importance.

These overlays collectively aim to manage environmental impacts, guide development, and protect cultural heritage and significant landscapes in and around Wurundjeri Walk.



Key

	Project boundary
	Vegetation Protection Overlay - VPO
	Overlay - DDO
	Special Building Overlay - SBO
	Significant Landscape Overlay - SLO
	Development Contributions Plan Overlay - DCPO

3.0

Heritage

3.1 Story Telling Timeline

3.2 Non-Indigenous Heritage

3.1 Story Telling and Timeline

Wurundjeri Walk and the adjacent waterways connecting into Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) are integral parts of a significant cultural landscape, located on Wurundjeri Country. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people's relationship with the land extends back thousands of years. The landscape and waterways are central to indigenous land management and cultural practices.

Following European settlement, in the late 1830s farms were established along Koonung Creek and Gardiners Creek. Following the discovery of gold in Warrandyte, land division and ownership grew in the Nunawading area. Many groups and individuals have played roles in the stewardship and development of Wurundjeri Walk. Recognising these contributions provides a fuller contextual understanding of the place.

The following timeline highlights a number of events that have influenced and shaped the region, activities of significance for First Nations People and milestones related to the Wurundjeri Walk.

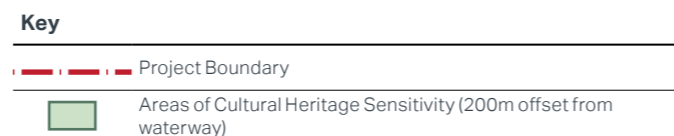
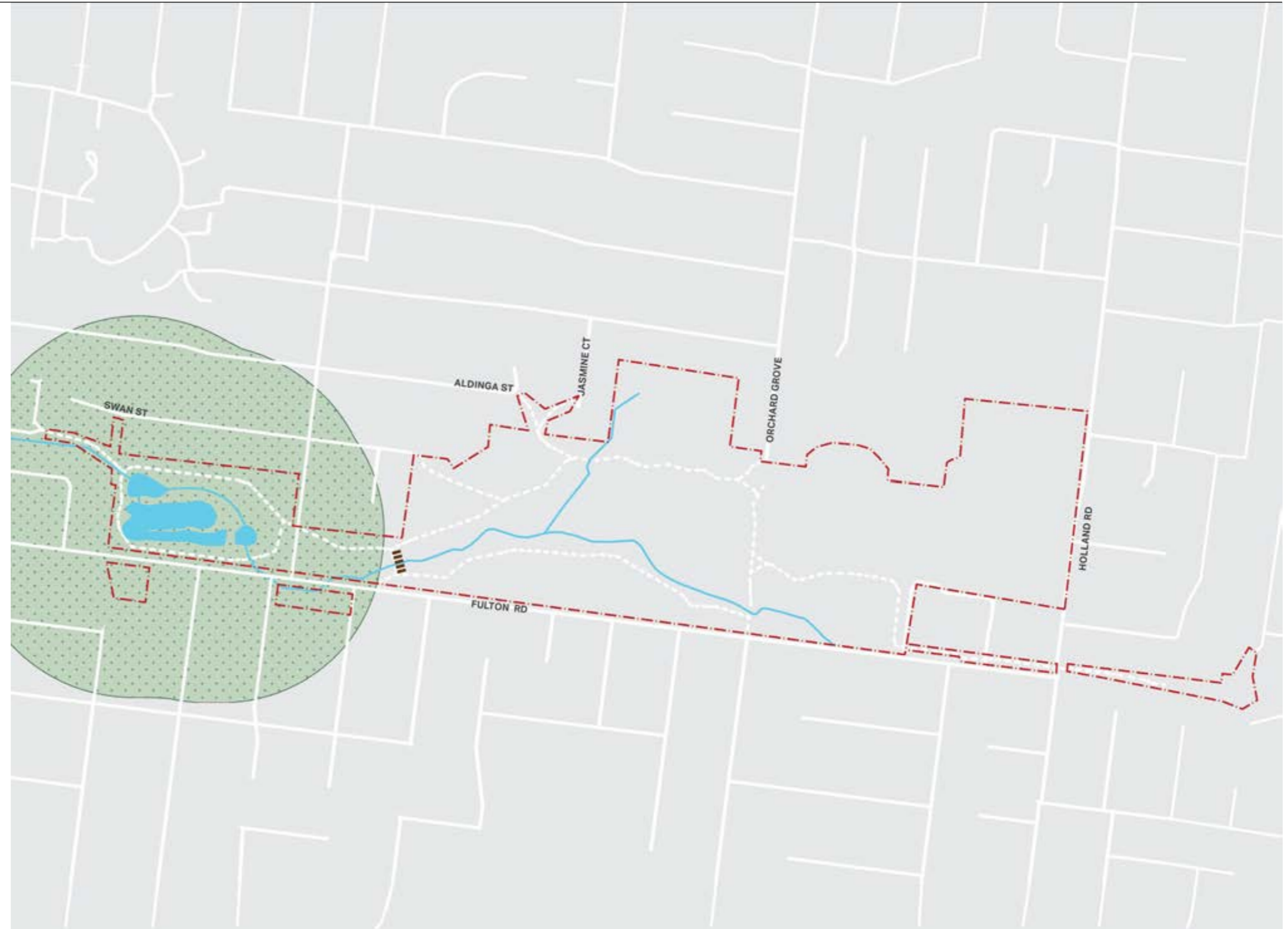
65,000 BCE	<p>The earliest proposed human habitation of continental Australia.</p> <p>For time immemorial the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people have cared for this Country. Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) was a significant waterway for First Nations people of the Kulin Nation. The area is integrated into their cultural landscape, with significant spiritual and practical connections to the waterways and surrounding environment.</p>	1890s	<p>The Blackburn area began to see more residential development. By this time, it was becoming increasingly recognised as a desirable location for suburban living and described as a 'rising township'.</p>	2001	<p>Completion of Wurundjeri Wetlands, enhancing recreational values and habitat for water birds.</p>
1835	<p>The first European settlers arrive in the Melbourne region.</p>	1969	<p>The reservation for Healesville Freeway was incorporated into the Metropolitan Transport Plan extending from Riversdale Road to Healesville. Also referred to as the 'F9' or the 'F9 East', at the time it would have become Melbourne's longest freeway at 18km in length.</p>	2008	<p>Raingarden wetland feature added near the corner of Fulton Road and Samuel Road to treat local storm water with wetland plants.</p>
1840s	<p>European colonists establish grazing and agricultural activities in the area, leading to changes in land use and disruption of Indigenous practices.</p> <p>Orchard Road was named after a lemon orchard, there were many other fruit orchards in the area.</p>	1984	<p>Victoria State Government removes the Healesville Freeway road reservation through Blackburn South and Forest Hill.</p>	2014-23	<p>Improvements to Fulton Road Drain and tributaries including stabilisation and planting, a new footbridge at Samuel Road, and new play space at Orchard Grove.</p>
1851	<p>Gold discovery in Victoria led to rapid growth in Melbourne spurring development of many manufacturing industries and the establishment of more farms to grow produce to feed the population.</p>	1986	<p>Development Advisory Committee set up to aid in planning the 20-hectare park. Local community groups advocate for retention of the land as a linear park with objective to improve the natural environment in an area of the city devoid of public open space.</p>	2024	<p>Pavilion redevelopment underway to modernise the facility, improve amenities, and enhance its functionality for community use, including sports and recreational activities.</p> <p>Master Plan for Wurundjeri Walk under development to guide future improvements to enhance green spaces, provide additional recreational facilities, and improve accessibility and environmental sustainability. Community and stakeholder consultation carried out to ensure the plan reflects the needs and preferences of users.</p>
1860s	<p>The area that is now Blackburn South began to be settled as part of the broader expansion of Melbourne's eastern suburbs. Fruit orchards and surrounding paddocks were replaced by family houses.</p>	1988	<p>The first major community planting activity occurred with local residents planting more than 1000 trees and shrubs on Fulton Reserve.</p>		
1882	<p>Camberwell to Lilydale railway line extension stimulated a wave of subdivision which characterised much of the municipality.</p>	1990	<p>Nunawading Council made a firm commitment to purchase the land for parkland and open space.</p>		
		1992	<p>Site was officially named Wurundjeri Walk.</p>		
		1994	<p>The WCC was proclaimed following the amalgamation of the former cities of Box Hill and Nunawading.</p>		

3.2 Indigenous Heritage

Wurundjeri Walk holds cultural significance as part of the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, who have maintained a connection to this area for thousands of years. The Reserve’s natural features, including the drainage corridor, are deeply embedded in the cultural practices and stories of the Wurundjeri people.

The wetland and surrounding landscape is part of a broader cultural heritage sensitivity overlay, recognising the site for the role it played in traditional practices and stories. These areas are often associated with important Indigenous practices such as fishing, ceremonial activities, and travel routes. The Cultural Heritage Sensitivity Overlay ensures that any development or activity within these sensitive zones respects and preserves the heritage values, integrating traditional knowledge into land management practices. This overlay aims to protect these culturally significant landscapes from adverse impacts while fostering greater awareness and respect for the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung’s enduring connection to their ancestral lands.

Protecting this heritage involves recognising and respecting the spiritual and historical importance of these lands. Efforts to incorporate Indigenous perspectives into the Reserve’s management and planning ensure that the cultural values and traditional knowledge of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung are honoured and preserved.



3.3 Non-Indigenous Heritage

Wurundjeri Walk is a significant natural area that reflects the rich history and cultural heritage of the region. Established in the late 1980s as an open space the site provides an educational pathway, with Wurundjeri Walk paying homage to the Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians of the land. With strong community and activation during the 1990s, the reserve has been transformed to a vital recreational space.

With the establishment of schools and increased residential development, sport fields were established in the eastern precinct. The area has developed into a hub for local sports groups, including soccer and cricket clubs, providing facilities such as playing fields and a pavilion.

Throughout the 2000s, additional amenities such as playgrounds and picnic areas have been included, serving as gathering spot for families and community events. Enhancements to the Reserve include interpretive signage that highlights their cultural heritage, flora, and fauna. It serves to raise awareness of Indigenous history and promotes the importance of preserving natural environments. A wetland was constructed in 2001 with the aim of improving storm water quality.

In recent years the Reserve has continued to evolve with the redevelopment of the pavilion planned to occur in 2025. This will improve facilities to better support the needs of local sports teams, including the cricket and soccer club, and enhanced overall user experience.



1987 Aerial of Reserve



1992 Opening of Wurundjeri Walk



1997 BMX Track at Fulton Reserve



1980s open space of Freeway Reserve



1993 Orchard Grove Reserve South



1998 Fulton Reserve



1988 First community planting day



1995 Infill Orchard Planting by Primary School students



2001 Wetland Construction

4.0

Site Analysis

- 4.1 Existing Conditions
- 4.2 Topography and Geology
- 4.3 Ecology
- 4.4 Access and Circulation
- 4.5 Edge Conditions
- 4.6 Existing Landscape Features
- 4.7 Materiality

4.1 Existing Conditions

Wurundjeri Walk is a well-established open space located in Blackburn South, providing a range of recreational facilities and green spaces for the local community. The site encompasses four reserves to form a significant linear park of 25 hectares. To the east of the site, Mirrabooka Reserve includes four sports fields. The South Oval provides two soccer pitches and a cricket oval, and is the only field with flood lights. West of this are three lanes of cricket nets and a junior size soccer pitch, and further west is an oval with AFL and cricket amenities located on Department of Education Land. The Department also manages the North Oval, which provides a cricket pitch and two soccer pitches. A pavilion is located in the centre of Mirrabooka Reserve, it is currently under redevelopment, with the new facility to provide a community space that will look out across the South Oval. Mirrabooka Reserve is served by three car parks: a public car park to the west of the pavilion, the Orchard Grove Primary School car park to the north, and the Aurora School car park along Holland Road. Both school car parks have boom gates that restrict public access during school hours.

Central to the site, Orchard Grove Reserve serves as an important event space for local Council events. It features extensive open areas and a naturalistic creek environment to the south, providing ample space for casual recreation and relaxation. Walking paths along the Fulton Road Drain and across the Reserve offer connectivity and promote active lifestyles.

The Wurundjeri Wetlands to the west treat water from Fulton Road Drain before it enters Gardiners Creek further west. The constructed wetlands also provide habitat for native species.

A Council owned and volunteer operated Nursery operates in the south-east corner of the site providing local native plants to the community. There are two playgrounds within the site and two located north of Mirrabooka Reserve at Orchard Grove Primary School.



Key

--- Project boundary

 Tree Canopy

 Dense Tree Canopy

 Paths

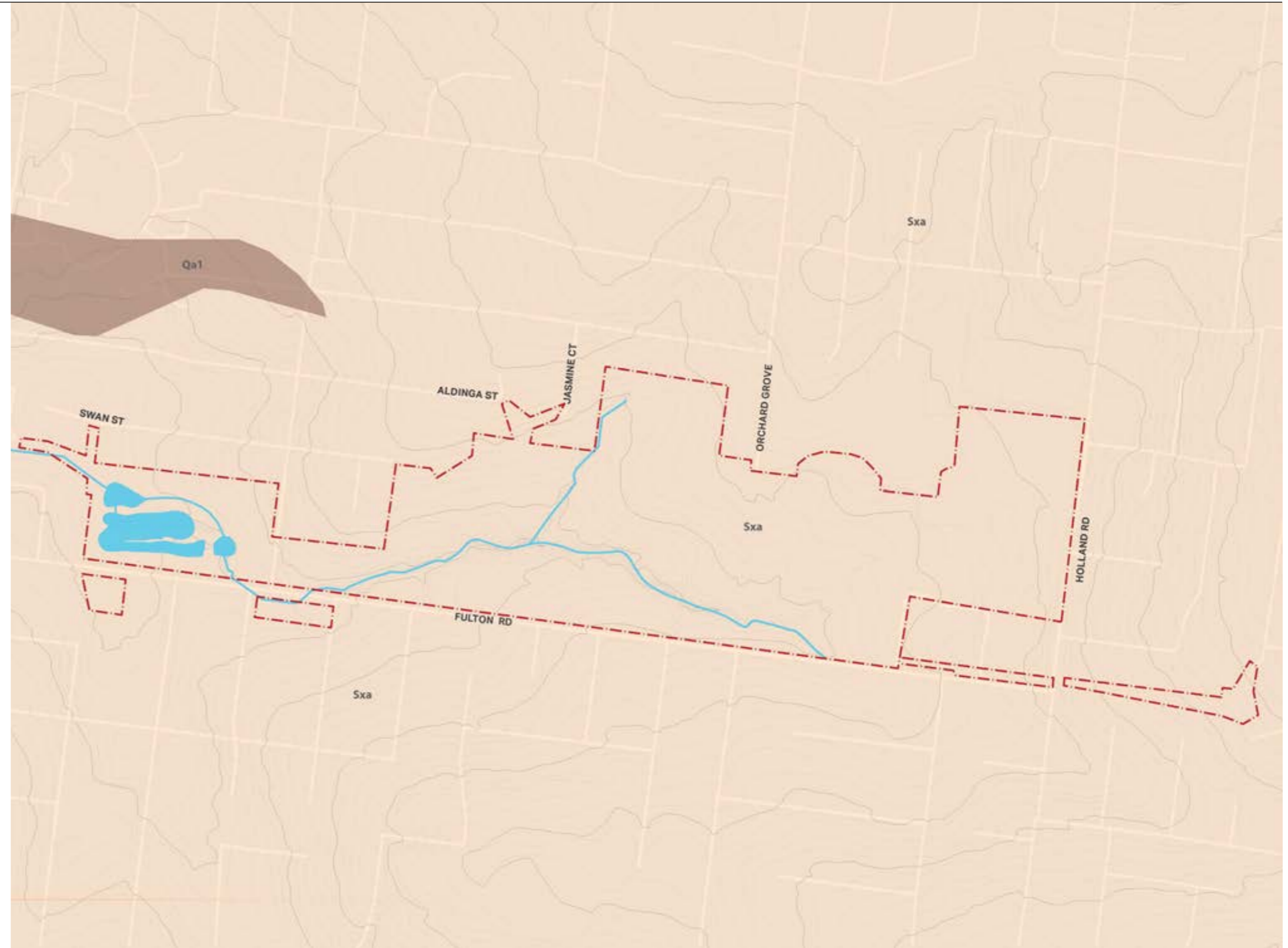
 Carpark

4.2 Topography and Geology





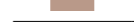
The Reserve features a diverse topography characterised by gently undulating land, with elevations gradually rising toward the northeast. The landscape is primarily flat, making it accessible for recreational activities, but it includes slight variations that create interest in the terrain, particularly along the Fulton Road Drain.

The underlying geology of the Reserve is predominantly composed of Quaternary sediments, which consist of clay, silt, and sandy soils. These sediments are a result of historical riverine and alluvial processes, contributing to the area's fertility and supporting diverse vegetation.

The site is also influenced by quaternary alluvium, which runs across the Reserve. Alluvial sediments are located further north west of the reserve. Quaternary alluvium is indicative of the area's drainage patterns and contributes to the hydrology of the region, affecting soil moisture levels and vegetation types. Meanwhile, Alluvial sediments represent a distinct geological formation that may include different soil types and drainage characteristics, influencing local ecosystems and habitat diversity.



Key

-  Project boundary
-  Contour Major
-  Contour
-  Qa1 (quaternary alluvium)
-  Sxa (alluvial sediments)

4.3 Ecology

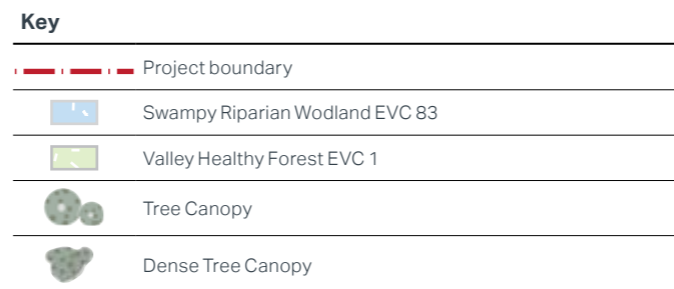
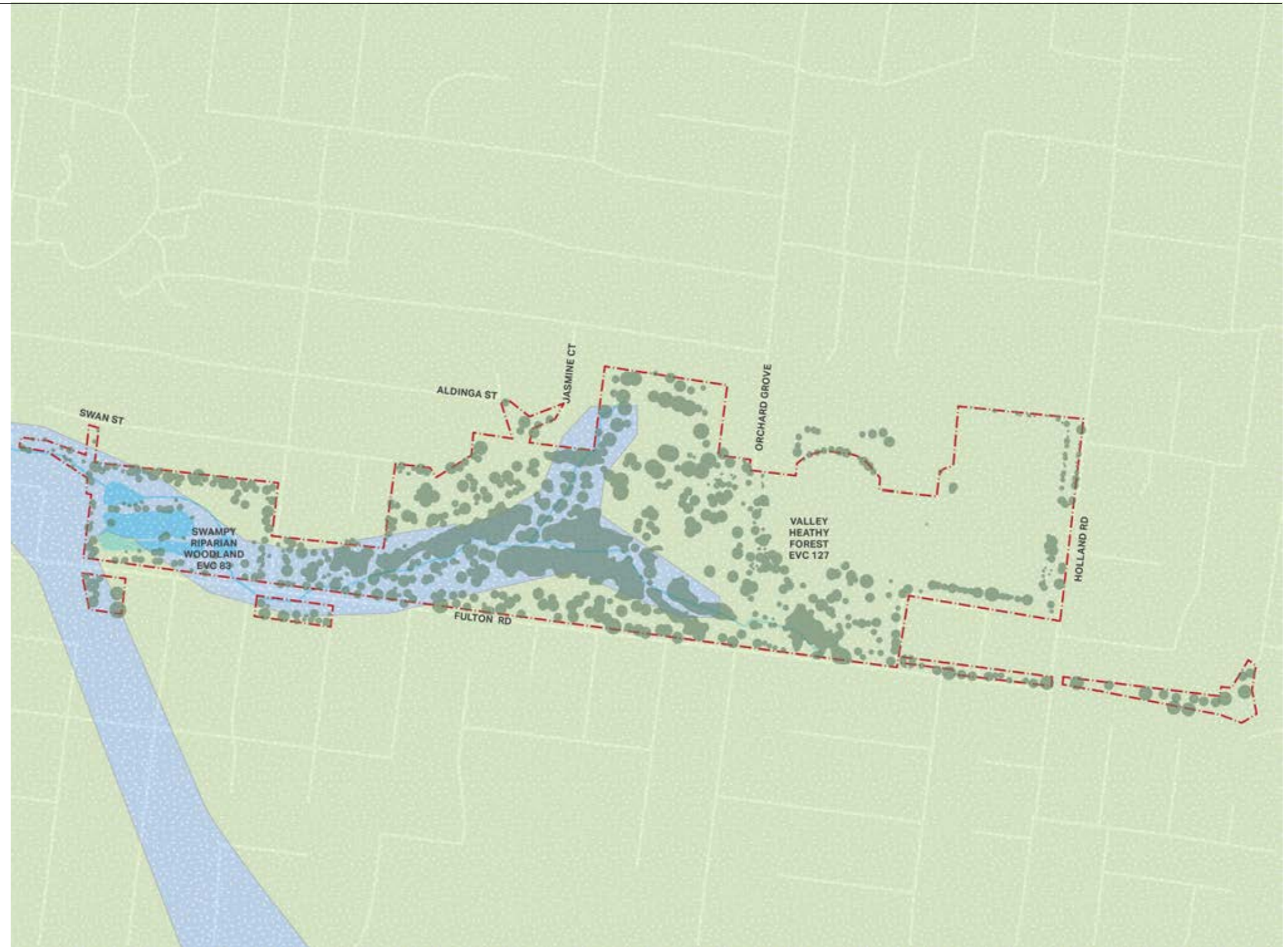
Wurundjeri Walk features a range of vegetation that supports its varied recreational and natural areas. The eastern open spaces are turf, designed to accommodate active recreational uses. West of these areas native and indigenous plants, such as eucalypts and wattles, are prominent, reflecting the region's natural flora and providing habitat for local wildlife.

Wurundjeri Walk encompasses two former Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs):

- EVC 83 – 'Swampy Riparian Woodland': This vegetation community is typically found near water sources, featuring a mix of tall trees and a dense understorey of shrubs and grasses. Swampy riparian woodlands provide essential habitat for a variety of wildlife, including birds, amphibians, and insects. The presence of this EVC helps stabilise soil along waterways, regulate water temperature, and filter pollutants, contributing to the overall health of the aquatic ecosystem.
- EVC 127 – 'Valley Heathy Forest': Characterised by a mix of eucalyptus trees and a diverse understorey of heathland plants, Valley Heathy Forest thrives in the well-drained soils of the reserve. This community supports a range of flora and fauna, providing habitat for numerous bird species, small mammals, and pollinators. The understorey often includes native shrubs and wildflowers, enhancing the ecological richness of the area.

The mid and understorey vegetation is relatively sparse in most areas, allowing clear views through the greenery. However, in areas along Fulton Road Drain, there is a greater density of mid and understorey vegetation, reflecting the richer riparian environment. All existing and new plantings are composed of locally indigenous species, reinforcing the ecological integrity of the site.

To support habitat creation, felled branches and trunks are left on-site, providing crucial resources for local wildlife, while organic mulch is spread throughout planting islands to promote soil health and plant growth.










4.4 Access and Circulation

Wurundjeri Walk can be accessed by pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. Vehicle access is along Fulton Road, with parking along the northern verge. An off-street carpark is located within the Reserve between Orchard Grove Primary School and the sports fields. A concrete path provides access from Holland Road to the sports fields and pavilion. A network of gravel footpaths and trails run through the Reserve, providing pedestrian and cyclist access, particularly east to west, with a wooden footbridge providing access over Fulton Road Drain north of Harrow Street. These paths align with the Reserve's park-like character, and are well-maintained to support safe and enjoyable walking experiences. The sports fields are not well connected to the wider Reserve, requiring users to cross grass that can experience water logging.

A number of pedestrian access points are located around the Reserve that enhance connectivity and make it easier for people to enjoy the area.



Key

	Project boundary
	Vehicle access
	Pedestrian access
	Pedestrian bridge
	Gravel path
	Concrete path
	Bitumen path

4.5 Edge Conditions



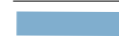

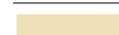
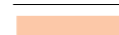
In certain sections of the Reserve, particularly where it is bordered by residential properties, the edges are more enclosed, predominantly featuring wooden fences. This design choice provides privacy for the adjacent homes while maintaining a defined boundary for the Reserve.

Conversely, other sections of the Reserve boast open edges with more expansive views. These areas are typically found along road interfaces, where the vistas extend to open landscapes. This openness not only enhances the aesthetic appeal but also improves passive surveillance, contributing to a safer environment. A low chain mesh fence along Holland Road provides open views into the reserve, while providing a safety barrier to prevent school children and sports groups entering the road.

The juxtaposition of these edge conditions creates a harmonious balance between the Reserve's ecological functions and its recreational uses. The enclosed sections support habitat conservation by providing undisturbed areas for wildlife, while the open sections encourage community engagement by offering inviting spaces for visitors to enjoy the natural scenery.



Key

	Project boundary
	Open - Road Interface
	Closed - End of road interface
	Open - Fence interface
	Closed - Residential fence interface
	Closed - Building interface

4.6 Existing Landscape Features

The landscape across the Reserve changes from a constructed wetland, to a naturalistic creek line, through to open grass space with facilities for organised sport.



Key

--- Project boundary

1 View point



1 View north east across Wurundjeri Wetlands



4 Looking west towards Wurundjeri Wetlands



7 Indra Road Playground



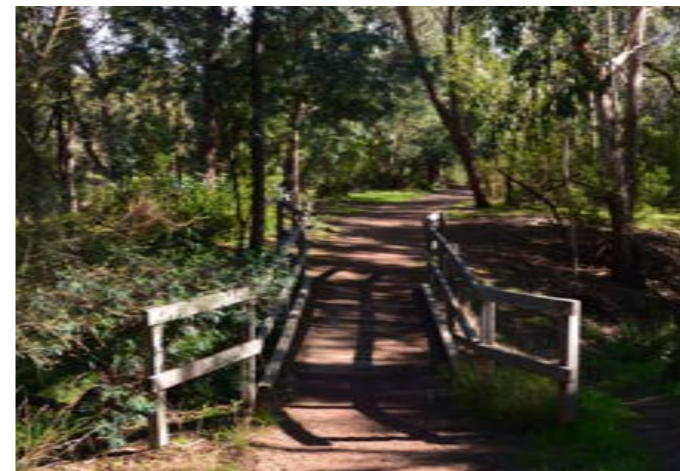
10 Gravel path adjacent to Fulton Road



2 Orchard Grove Reserve Playground



5 Fulton Road Drain



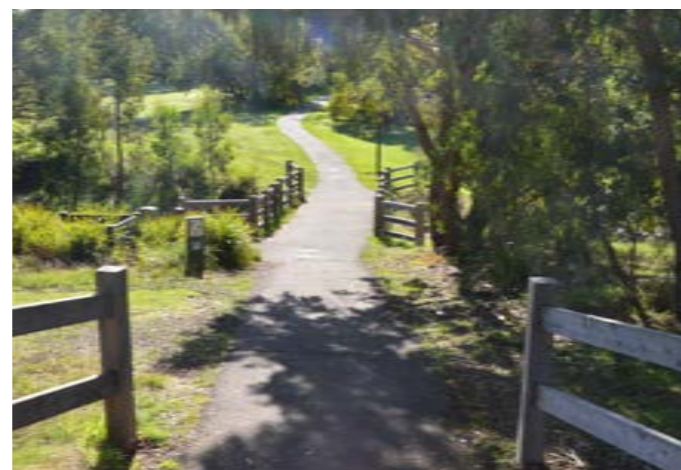
8 Bridge over Fulton Road Drain



11 Looking east across Wurundjeri Wetlands



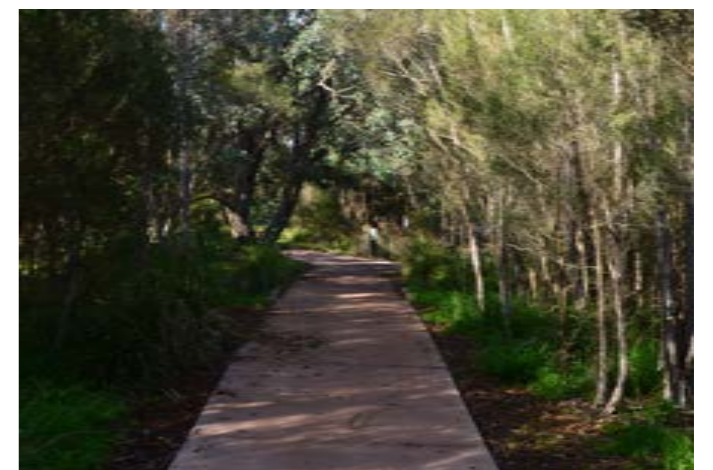
3 Looking east towards sports field and cricket nets



6 Orchard Grove north-south path



9 Looking west towards Orchard Grove Reserve



12 Path with dense tree and mid-storey planting

4.7 Materiality

The Reserve features a mix of materials that are recessive and respond to the natural environment. The elements create a familiar identity across the site with materials around the pavilion and sports oval reflecting the local site conditions and character.



Galvanised Stainless Steel Stormwater Fence and Gates



Timber Community Noticeboard



Wayfinding signage



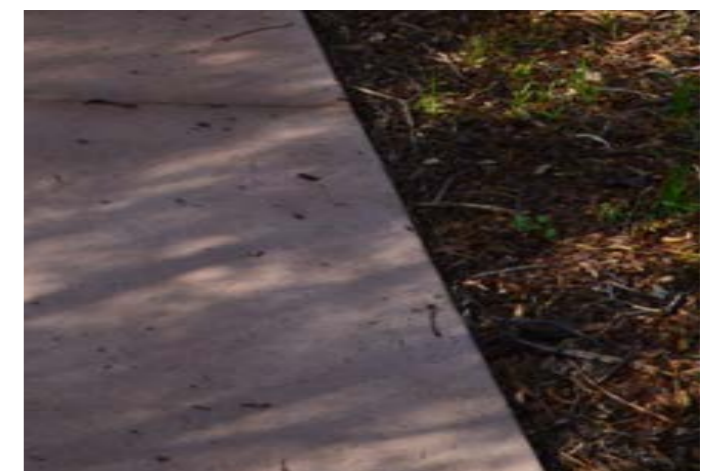
Timber Park Bench with no backrests



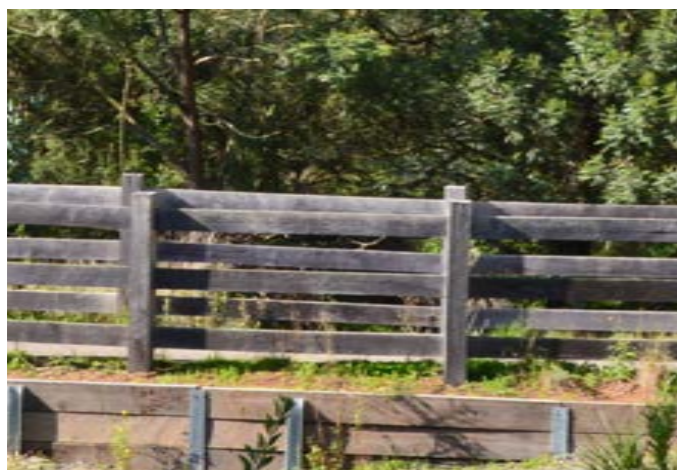
Timber Park Bench



Gravel footpath



Concrete path



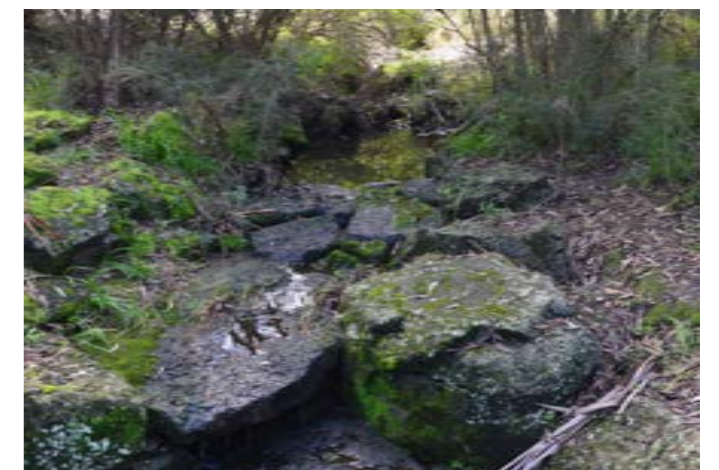
Timber fence



Timber bollard fence



Indra Road Playground equipment



Bluestone rocks in Fulton Road Drain

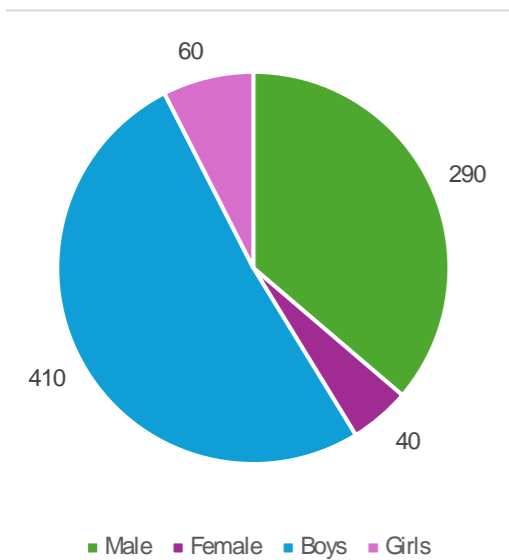
4.8 Site User Profile

In 2024, the Reserve was used by four different clubs for organised sport throughout the year. These include:

- Blackburn New Hope Football Club
- Blackburn South Cricket Club
- Mont Albert Cricket Club
- Laburnum Cricket Club

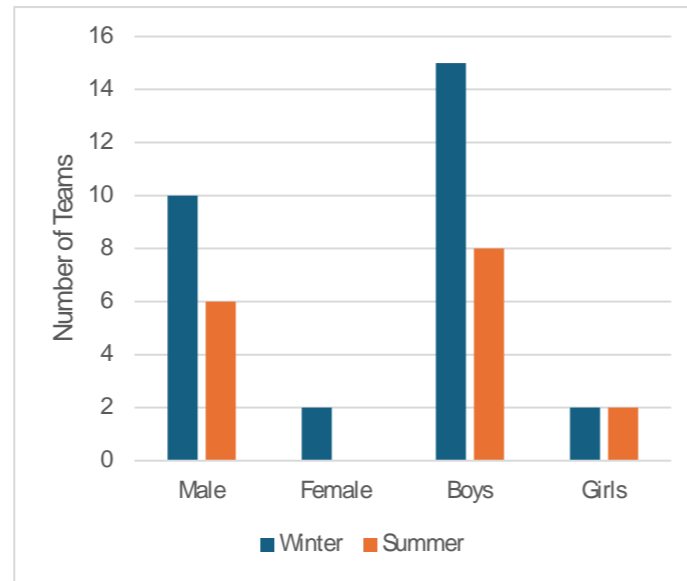
These clubs all use the South Field for a mix of training sessions and competition matches. Football activities are predominantly scheduled over winter months, while cricket takes centre stage over summer.

Across all participating clubs, there are approximately 800 players actively using the Reserve for organised sport. Approximately 12.5% of these players are female or girls, reflecting the growing participation of women in sports and the commitment of local clubs to promote inclusivity and build their female participation.



Gender proportion of players at Mirrabooka Reserve

There are a total of 46 teams that use the Reserve, which underscores the role that the South Field plays in providing a crucial venue for both competitive and recreational sports in Whitehorse.



Gender proportion of sport teams at Mirrabooka Reserve



Blackburn New Hope Football Club



Blackburn New Hope Football Club



Blackburn South Cricket Club

An aerial photograph of a dense forest with a mix of green and brownish trees. A large, bright green grassy clearing is visible in the lower-left and bottom-center. In the upper-right, a body of water is visible, reflecting the sky. The overall scene is a natural, wooded landscape.

5.0

Consultation

5.1 Community Consultation

5.2 Stakeholder Consultation

5.1 Community Consultation Background Information

The 1st round of engagement occurred between March 2024 and May 2024. There were two online surveys, one asked the community about the redevelopment of the Mirrabooka Pavilion, and the other focused on the Master Plan for the whole Wurundjeri Walk site. A community pop-up session was held at the Mirrabooka Reserve on the 20th of April.



Description



Description

5.2 Respondent Profile

Respondent key findings

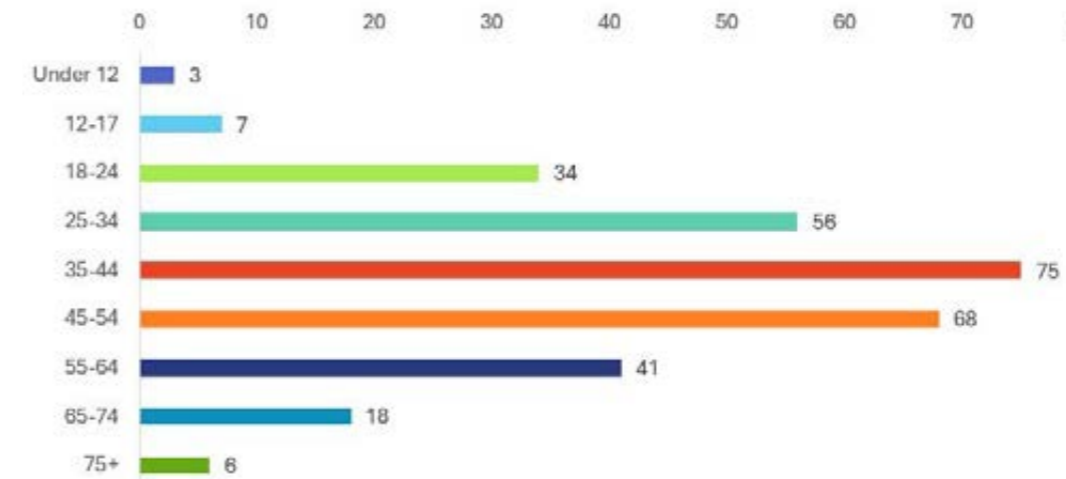
- Respondents between 35-44 made up a large proportion of responses (75 respondents). Only a small proportion of responses were from those between 65-74 (18 respondents) and 75+ (6 respondents).
- An almost even spread of responses were from females (155 respondents) and males (149). 3 respondents identified as non-binary and 7 preferred not to state their gender.
- 51 suburbs were reported in the catchment of respondents. Majority of respondents lived in Blackburn South (147 respondents), followed by Blackburn (23 respondents) and Burwood East (18 respondents).
- 281 respondents were from an English speaking background. The highest number of respondents speaking languages other than English at home were Mandarin (9 respondents) or Cantonese (3 respondents).
- The Reserve users represent a diverse range of backgrounds, 232 being in born in Australia, 9 in China, India and the United Kingdom, 7 in the USA and 5 in Hong Kong as well as various other places.
- Of the 311 respondents, 17 described themselves as a person with a disability or impairment and 5 as being an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. 34 respondents described themselves as a person with a non-English speaking background.

Catchments of travel key findings

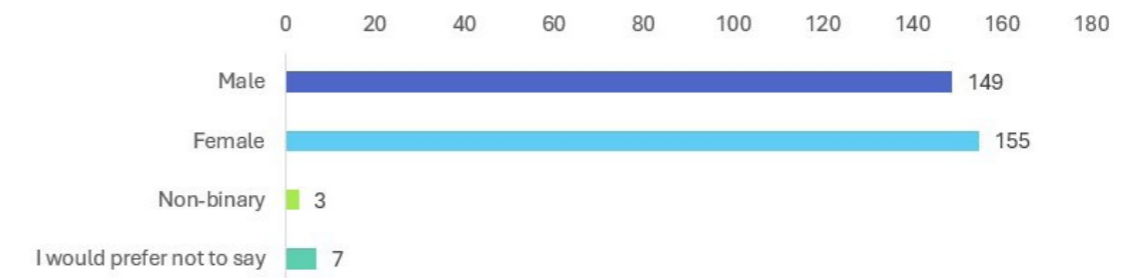
- Driving and walking to the Reserve were the top catchments of travel, 153 people drove, 128 people walked. Only 3 people caught public transport to the reserve. 13 respondents specified cycling as their mode of travel.
- 49% of respondents who drive to the park travelled less than 5km. 42% drove between 5-15km and 9% more than 15km.
- Of those who walked to the Reserve, 50% walked up to 5 minutes (or up to 400m)
- Jog/running had 17 respondents specifying that catchment of travel to the Reserve, 41% jogged/ran up to 5 minutes (or up to 800m).

49% of respondents drove to the Reserve, 41% walked

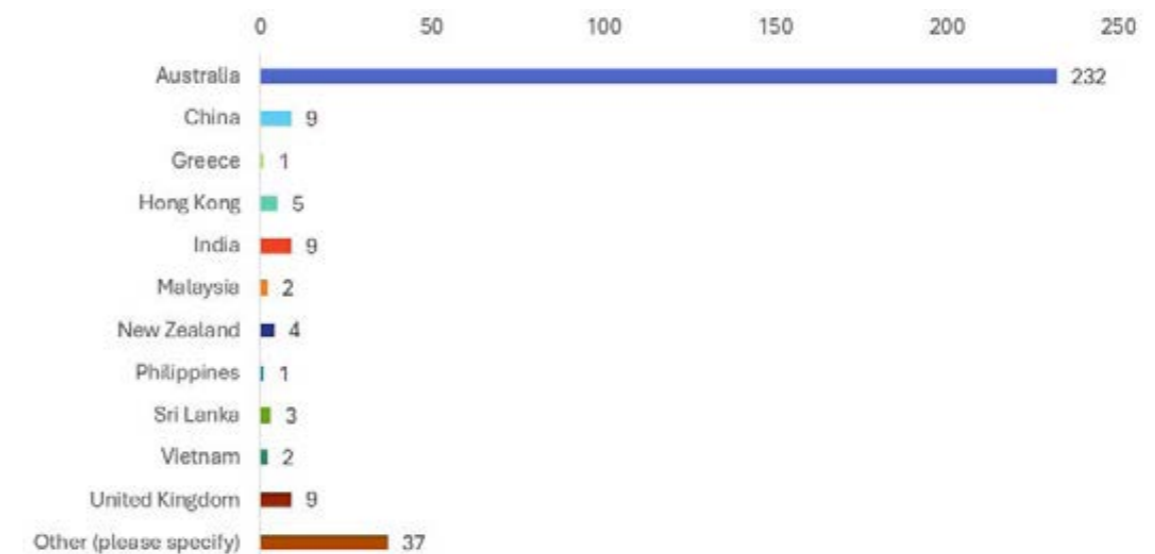
Age



Gender



Place of birth



5.3 Current Use

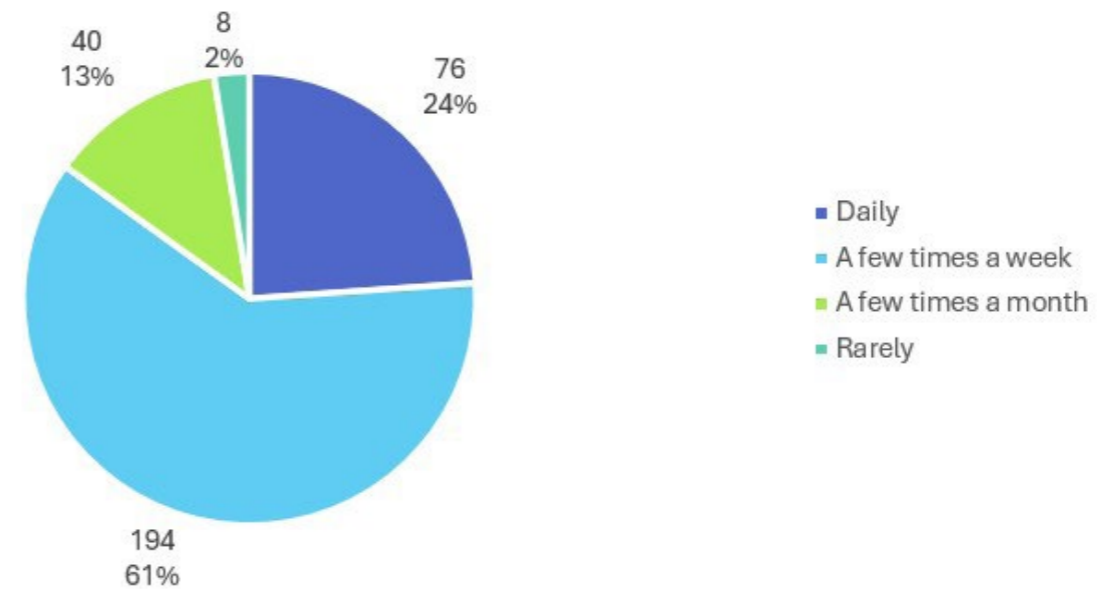
Current use key findings

- A large proportion of respondents (61%) specified that they use the Reserve a few times a week and 24% use the Reserve daily.
- Walking (197 responses) had the highest number of responses for the current park uses followed by sport (176 responses) and enjoying nature and green space (169 responses). Other top responses included play, meeting with friends and families and visiting wetlands.
- 187 respondents reported spending an hour or two at the Reserve during a typical visit and 86 respondents specified to stay more than two hours. 41 respondents stayed at the Reserve for less than 30 minutes.
- Weekend daytime was the most popular period of time the Reserve is visited (261 responses), followed by weekday evenings (205 responses).

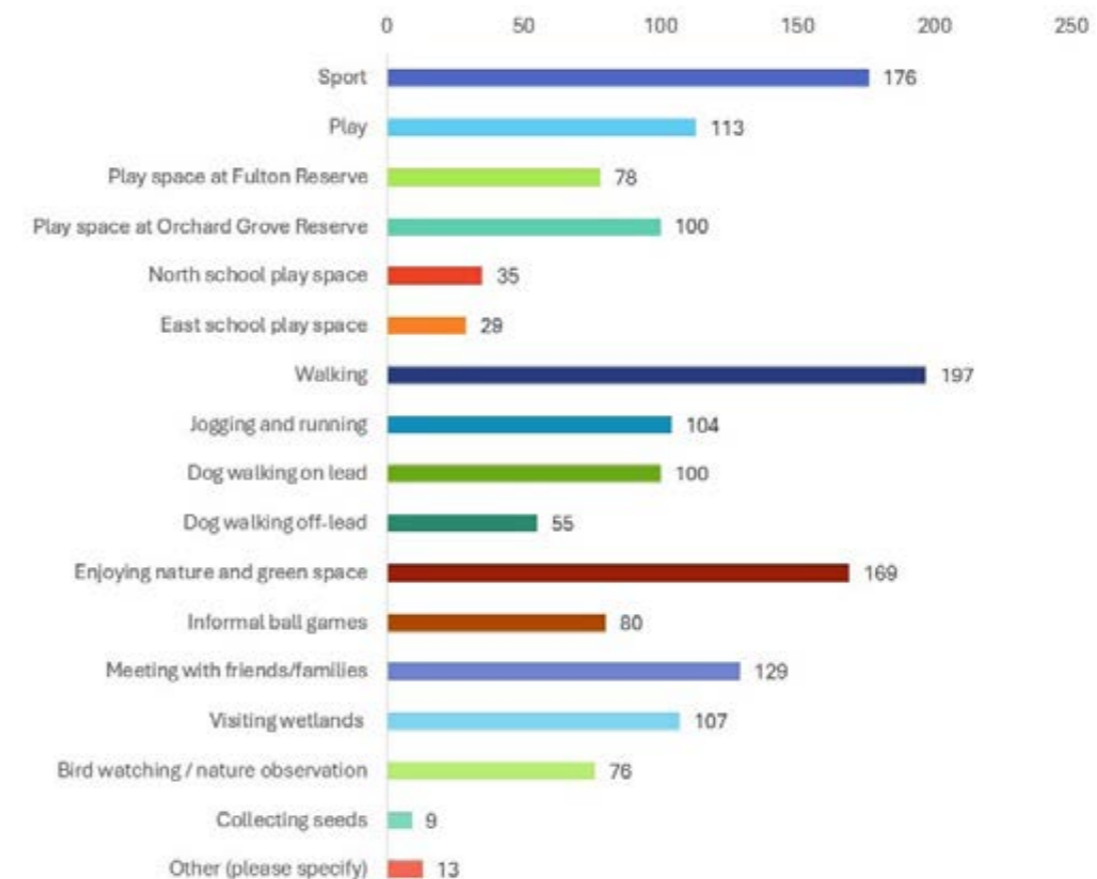
Top three current Reserve uses include walking, enjoying nature and green spaces and sport

A large proportion of users visited the Reserve multiple times per week

How often do you visit the Reserve?



How do you use the Reserve?



5.4 Future Use

Other comments

- Dog off-leash area: Requests for a designated space for an off-lead dog area (16 respondents). Some concern for safety around the dog off-lead area (3 respondents).
- Sporting grounds and facilities: Calls for sporting surfaces to be upgraded and maintained (19 respondents) and additional lighting (17 respondents).
- Play and fitness space: Many responses requested an increased amount of play space and types of activities for different age groups. (5 respondents)
- Increased biodiversity, planting and wildlife consideration: Concern for trees being removed when new developments arise. (6 respondents)
- Access, amenity and equity: Calls for improved and increased accessibility for parking, playgrounds and overall reserve (3 respondents). Request for an increased number of seating, shelter and BBQ facilities (8 respondents).

Q: What improvements would encourage you to visit the Reserve more often? (other)

"Varied play equipment for kids such as water play or a flying fox would be good. Outdoor fitness equipment/ sport facilities e.g. basketball hoop/half court, bouldering wall, calisthenics/bodyweight gym equipment like pull up bars etc."

"Bouldering wall would be superb for the older kids. Most of the play equipment is for younger kids."

"Better quality soccer pitch and facilities"

"Better quality of sports areas for winter sports, such as even playing surfaces and winter grass. "

"Orchard grove needs play equipment for younger children. It's mostly too advanced for toddlers."

"Dedicated, large off lead area for dogs. It doesn't have to be enclosed necessarily, but we are part of a community who get together occasionally to let our dogs play and we face a fair amount of discrimination from others due to there not being rules around it. We are probably some of the biggest users of the space and take a lot of pride and enjoyment in being able to be in the parks with our dogs and families. Additional lighting in the area for post-work winter dog walking would be amazing and maybe some

seating as well."

Park safety key findings

- 224 respondents said they felt safe in the Reserve, 85 felt somewhat safe and 4 did not feel safe.
- Majority of responses to improve safety within the Reserve were to provide more lighting (55 respondents). Other suggestions for improving safety were to increase passive surveillance (11 respondents). Management of Dogs off-lead (6 respondents) and fixing of uneven surfaces to reduce injuries (6 respondents) were some other suggestions.

Q: Do you have any suggestions to improve the sense of safety in the Reserve?

"Needs more lighting around the path especially during winter when it's darker earlier in the evening and later in the morning. These lights should be on timers to go off at 10pm and on at 6am."

"Additional lighting would be great - there are often events of vandalism or antisocial behaviour at night"

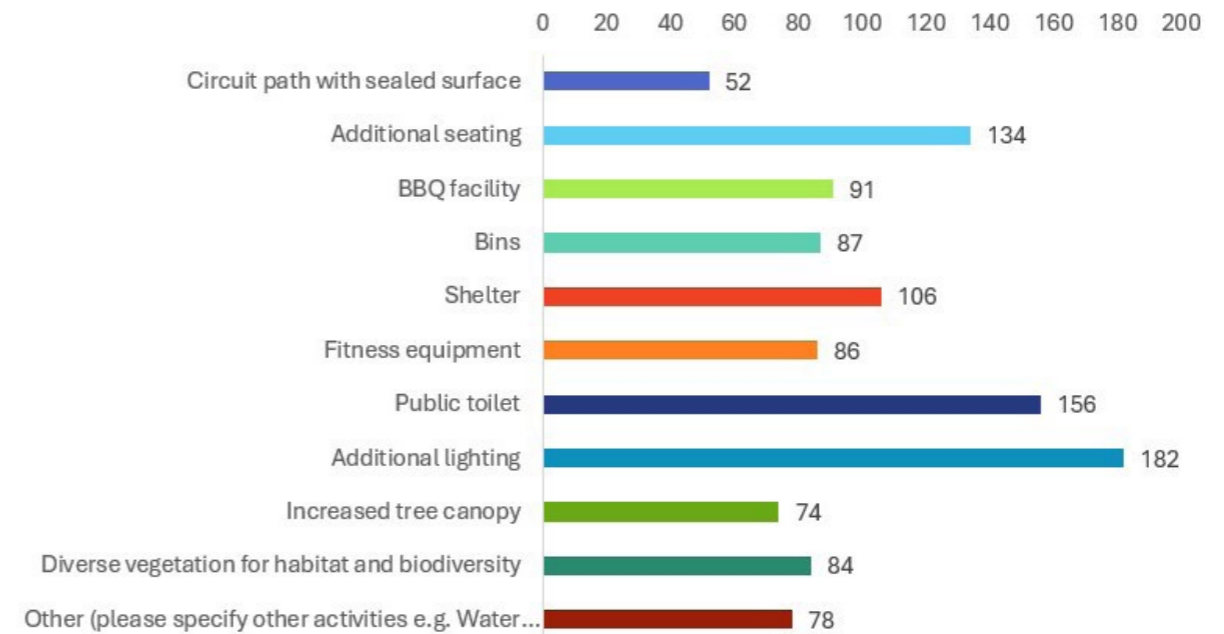
"Path lighting throughout Orchard Grove reserve would make a huge impact to individuals and families feeling safe. Especially coming into winter months. "

"Additional lighting on paths for walkers. More policing of off lead dogs."

"Additional lighting for the soccer grounds. Ground surface to be improved to prevent injuries."

"Enforce on leash zone. Many owners allow dogs off and the are usually poorly controlled. It's why we don't come to the park very often."

What improvements would encourage you to visit the Reserve more often?



5.5 Stakeholder Consultation

Engagement sessions were held with key stakeholders in August and September 2024. The following groups were invited to participate:

- Peak Sporting Bodies
 - AFL Victoria
 - Football Victoria
 - Cricket Victoria
 - Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association
- Local Sports Clubs
 - Blackburn Cricket Club
 - Blackburn New Hope Football Club
 - Laburnum Cricket Club
- Community Groups
 - Friends of Wurundjeri Walk
 - Bungalook Nursery
 - Aurora School
 - Orchard Grove Primary School
- Traditional Owners
 - Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

A summary of findings is provided in the following table.

Issues	Opportunities	Future Aspirations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 2 playable sports grounds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The South Field has an extremely high ground allocation, as the only ground with lights, suffers from hosting a large portion of training and main game day competition. - Southern Oval can't handle capacity becomes a sand/dirt pit. - North and West oval are government and education land; no maintenance to fields. - Challenge to fit players on allocated grounds. - There is a lot of holes across field - potentially from dogs. - Oval is used as unofficial dog park and dogs are not being picked up after. • Intermittent parking issues, inevitable for large sporting area (300 people into a space with 100 carparking spots). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No available parking when sport on fields and basketball at school, or when church activities occur on Sunday. - Carparks along south access road cut into cricket oval, cars can be hit by balls. • No public drinking fountains, have to use toilet basins, no public rubbish bins. • General park maintenance and upkeep. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paths need constant maintenance to reduce/fix erosion. - Need more weed management. - Erosion occurring around creek banks. - Native trees falling over in storms • Conflict between school and public. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Negative interactions asking users to leave during school hours. - Public should use playgrounds out of school boundaries during school hours. - Rubbish left from cricket supporters north of oval, requiring clean up every Monday morning. - Safety issues at back of the school where it became the local hangout. • Swooping birds in spring (common minors) lead to people from the road running into school building to escape. • Path along car park entry should be on the southern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurfacing of north and west ovals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lighting upgrades to all 3 ovals. - Drainage improvements to spread usage across grounds. - Provide a formal walkway between pavilion and ovals. • Synthetic pitch for multi-use; soccer, netball, etc that wouldn't need maintenance. • Improve surface of gravel path to remove rivets from rain, option to seal. • Dogs in separated areas to minimise impact to playing surfaces. • South east corner, vestigial carpark from 30-40 years ago has old bitumen with no purpose. Could be used for overflow carpark or converted back into the park. • Implementing noise reduction strategies around the park. • More canopy cover to contribute to the city's Urban Forest targets. Shade should be provided to pathways. • Improved wayfinding, more signs and more noticeboards for the community to put up notices. • Transform large amounts of open grass space with vegetation to support biodiversity. • Barrier between residential properties and soccer fields needed to prevent balls hitting fence directly. • Making the path of traverse to include natural elements • Look into path alignment to schools to encourage users to walk to school. • Improve wayfinding between Holland Road and Orchard Grove. • Accessible park for children with mobility issues. • Reduce parking to one side of the street near school. • Ability for staff to get out in nature and de-stress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reserve with only native and indigenous plant species. • Bottom of south oval is an unused road: making the opening of a path away from cars - lovely walkway in that is currently not used. Access is blocked off for cars. • Synthetic surface on small junior soccer area to take off the load. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use September as a fallow to let ground recover for start of cricket season. • Carpark at front of the reserve, during day - boom gate for staff usage, open to the community afterhours. • Northern fields ideally to fit 2 soccer fields. Very tight. Any development to maximise space • Orchard Grove Primary School would like to put fences down the side of the West Field to minimise risk in response to increased public use of the school grounds during school hours • The addition of a community centre could perform as a meeting place and give groups a proper address. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New pavilion could perform as a means to meet. - A larger storage space could be collocated with lockers.

6.0

Issues and Opportunities

6.1 Issues

6.2 Opportunities

6.1 Issues



Amenity

- 1 Lack of adequate lighting, DDA compliance, passive surveillance.
- 2 Poor legibility at street key entrances and wayfinding across the site.
- 3 Lack of park amenities including drinking fountains and rubbish bins.
- 4 No permanent infrastructure to support events.
- 5 No fencing to sports fields reduces safety of park users.
- 6 Multiple playgrounds in close proximity.

Access and Movement

- 6 Conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists, sport users, and car parks.
- 7 No available parking when simultaneous events occur in the reserve.
- 8 Path along carpark entry should be relocated to south of the drive to separate from the school entrance.
- 9 Lack of connection to wider Reserve.
- 10 Lack of accessible footpath to north of Fulton Road.

Environment

- 11 Uneven sport field surfaces and overuse limit use.
- 12 Poor subsurface of North and West ovals impacts maintenance.
- 13 General maintenance is needed to address erosion and weeds.
- 14 Remove sediment build up in wetland.

People and Culture

- 15 Conflicts between school and public use during school hours.
- 16 Rubbish left by cricket supporters requires clean up every Monday morning.
- 17 Safety issues at the back of the school, becoming a local hangout.
- 18 Swooping birds in spring cause people to run into school buildings.
- 19 Reserves will face increasing pressure from the community as passive and active recreation space.



6.2 Opportunities



Amenity

- 1 Enhance access to high quality sports facilities for students and the community including surface, drainage, and lighting upgrades.
- 2 Investigate alternative surface treatments to maximise use of sports fields and ability to use by different sport and community groups.
- 3 Convert former car park area south of the sports fields into a small parking node, parkland, or formal access way and corridor connection to Wurundjeri Walk.
- 4 Improve signage and wayfinding throughout the Reserve.
- 5 Investigate provision of a community centre that can provide a meeting place and storage facilities for local community groups.

Access and Movement

- 6 Improve connectivity between pavilion, sports fields, and wider Reserve by providing a formal walkway.
- 7 Rationalise car parking to provide safe and convenient access for users.
- 8 Improve connectivity between open space amenity.

Environment

- 9 Protect and enhance the site's ecological qualities through habitat conservation, protection, and augmentation.
- 10 Investigate opportunities for Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) initiatives.
- 11 Increase canopy cover across the park, particularly along pathways to provide a comfortable pedestrian environment.
- 12 Negotiate with Melbourne Water to improve wetland function and biodiversity.

People and Culture

- 13 Further celebrate of First Nations' cultural values of the site through consultation of design opportunities.
- 14 Improved connectivity and interpretative art throughout Wurundjeri Walk.

NORTH







Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan

Stakeholder Engagement Report

August 2025



Aerial image of Wurundjeri Walk looking east towards Mirrabooka Reserve

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1 Project overview

Whitehorse City Council (WCC) commissioned the Wurundjeri Walk Master Plan in 2024 as part of a broader strategic commitment during the 2023/24 Financial year to enhance its open space management by preparing 10 open space Master Plans.

AECOM was appointed in June 2024 to undertake the Master Plan study.

The Master Plan will set the vision and direction for the site to meet the needs of Whitehorse's changing and growing community. Wurundjeri Walk will play a key role in providing vital active and passive open space benefits as the area experiences continued population growth.

Wurundjeri Walk is a municipal open space that is maintained by WCC, with a portion of land owned by the Victorian Government. The site runs along Fulton Road and includes Wurundjeri Wetlands, Orchard Grove Reserve, Mirrabooka Reserve, and Hurter-Finch Reserve.

This Stakeholder Engagement Report collates data collected during the study from meetings, discussions, and workshops conducted with reserve user groups, residents, the broader Whitehorse community, council staff, and key stakeholders. Engagement has been undertaken during two different phases of the project, Round 1 during the background and concept development stage, and Round 2 following the completion of the draft Master Plan.

Stakeholder engagement activities and subsequent inputs are summarised in the table below:

Engagement Activity	Engagement Inputs
Round 1 community engagement	Information gathering, assessment of the existing conditions, understanding of project requirements.
Round 1 stakeholder engagement	Key stakeholder requirements, input, and feedback.
Round 2 community engagement	Feedback on draft Master Plan including location of design interventions and identified opportunities.
Round 2 stakeholder engagement	Confirmation that the draft Master Plan meets stakeholder requirements.

This report consolidates information gathered during Round 1 of engagement, held between April and October 2024. Insights from the community and stakeholders during this phase informed the development of the draft Master Plan for Wurundjeri Walk. Round 2 of engagement, conducted between June and August 2025, sought feedback on the draft Master Plan. This feedback will be incorporated in the final Master Plan report.

1.1 Round 1 engagement

1.1.1 Community



Photos from the Community pop-up session at Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion

Community engagement

- Online community survey via WCC's 'Your Say' page on Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion redevelopment (163 responses)
(18 March 2024 – 6 May 2024)
- Online community survey via WCC's 'Your Say' page on the Master Plan (318 responses)
(18 March 2024 – 6 May 2024)
- Community Pop-up Session 1 (Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion)
(20 April 2024)

1.1.2 Key stakeholders

Stakeholder engagement participants

Peaks sports body

- Football Victoria
- Cricket Victoria
- Australian Football League Victoria
- Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association

Traditional Owner group

- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

Existing sports clubs

- Blackburn South Cricket Club
- Blackburn New Hope Football Club

Existing community groups

- Friends of Wurundjeri Walk
- Aurora School
- Orchard Grove Primary School

Landowners and authorities

- Whitehorse City Council Disability and Reconciliation
- Melbourne Water

1.2 Round 2 engagement

1.2.1 Community



Photos from the Community pop-up session at Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion

Community engagement

- Online community survey via WCC's 'Your Say' page on Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove and Fulton Reserve Draft Master Plan
(321 responses)
(11 June 2025 – 15 July 2025)
- Community pop-up session at Mirrabooka Reserve on Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove and Fulton Reserve Draft Master Plan
(28 June 2025)

1.2.2 Key stakeholders

Stakeholder engagement participants

Traditional Owner group

- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

Existing sports clubs

- Blackburn South Cricket Club
- Blackburn New Hope Football Club

Existing community groups

- Orchard Grove Primary School
- Students from Whitehorse Primary Schools involved in Council's Voicenater Meeting

Landowners and authorities

- Whitehorse City Council Disability Advisory Committee

2 Summary of key findings

2.1 Round 1 engagement

2.1.1 Community

- Of all the parts within the reserves, Mirrabooka Reserve is selected as the most used by respondents (253 responses), followed by Orchard Grove Reserve (217), pathways (192), sporting grounds and facilities (175), Fulton Reserve (169), wetlands (143), pavilion (125) and outdoor reserve (122).
- The current top uses of the reserve are:
 - Walking (197 responses),
 - Sport (176 responses), and
 - Enjoying nature and green space (169 responses).
- The top three responses to improve play and social recreation and encourage users to visit the park more often were:
 - Additional lighting (182 responses),
 - Public toilet (156 responses), and
 - Additional seating (134 responses).

2.1.2 Key stakeholders

- Participation in sport is high with a need for improved facilities (drainage and lighting) to West, Middle, and North Fields to allow training and matches to be spread across all fields and reduce overuse of South Field.

Key issues identified:

- No available parking when Mirrabooka Reserve is hosting sport activities, which is exacerbated when events coincide with the church group or school.
- Conflicts between dogs off-leash with school and sports groups.
- Lack of wayfinding and key missing connections to facilities.
- Park requires regular maintenance to address path erosion and weed management.
- Strong desire to preserve and enhance natural spaces and habitat.
- The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWWCHAC) emphasise the importance of integrating cultural heritage into local reserves by enhancing signage for cultural education fostering connections to Country and local Indigenous language.

Key opportunities identified:

- Opportunity to upgrade sports fields in collaboration with peak sport bodies to distribute and maximise use.
- Improve wayfinding and connectivity between open spaces by providing signage and legible routes to direct users (particularly away from school facilities).
- Support educational initiatives to promote awareness of local flora and fauna.
- Rationalise the car park arrangements at Mirrabooka Reserve to improve safety.
- Provide a meeting place for community groups.

2.2 Round 2 engagement

2.2.1 Community

The following summary highlights key feedback from Round 2 community engagement, outlining both support and concerns raised by participants regarding the Draft Master Plan.

Key areas of support:

- Strong support for upgrades to sporting grounds and amenities, including improved drainage, lighting, parking, and drinking water fountains.
- Emphasis on functionality and user-focused upgrades that foster social interaction and community events over purely aesthetic improvements.
- Support for a variety of sport fields catering to different age groups.
- Seating and shelters valued by many for hosting families and group gatherings.
- Support for dog-friendly spaces and integration of off-leash areas.
- Paths improving accessibility, with a mix of concrete for primary circuits and gravel for secondary loops suggested for year-round usability.
- Suggestions for additional connections, such as linking to the Gardiners Creek Trail, and providing more seating to enhance accessibility.
- Support for improved connectivity between Bungalook Nursery and Wurundjeri Walk.
- Calls for low-impact, well-placed signage to guide visitors without visual clutter.
- Broad support for tree and shrub planting across the reserve to enhance park character, biodiversity, and cultural recognition.
- Support for Indigenous planting over exotic fruit trees, and for celebrating Indigenous culture through sculptures, interpretive signage, and educational storyboards.

Key concerns identified:

- Concerns about path placement near residential fence lines, including increased noise and litter, potential anti-social behaviour, intrusion into private spaces, and insufficient separation from fences.
- Mixed views on parking upgrades, with some concerned that increasing parking could attract unwanted visitors or contribute to anti-social behaviour.
- Need to balance lighting for safety with ecological sensitivity.
- Residents concerned that planting near fences could obstruct sunlight, create dense vegetation encouraging anti-social behaviour, or block views into the reserve.
- Opposition to unnecessary concrete paths and tree removals; preference for low-impact, minimal-intervention approaches.
- Some questioned the placement or necessity of Indigenous signage.
- Concerns about long-term maintenance of cultural features, and transparency/funding of shared-use agreements between schools and clubs.

2.2.2 Stakeholder engagement

The following summary highlights key feedback from Round 2 stakeholder engagement, outlining both support and concerns raised by participants regarding the Draft Master Plan.

Key areas of support:

- Potential to install a pedestrian light crossing on Fulton Road with audible signals to improve safety.
- Support for compacted, water-permeable gravel paths.
- Upgrades to sports fields and pavilion use to increase female participation and allow community hire outside school hours.
- Enhance Wurundjeri cultural recognition through interpretive signage, educational content, and artwork by a Wurundjeri artist.
- Playground upgrades to reference Australian wildlife and Woi-wurrung language; wetlands theme for Indira Park playground.
- Naming creek in Wurundjeri language (if unnamed) and installing a Yarning Circle at southern entrance.

- Active involvement of students (Junior Voicenators and Orchard Grove Primary Year 5) providing supportive feedback on Master Plan proposals.
- Local sports clubs supportive of sports field upgrades, resurfacing, improved drainage, and lighting.

Key concerns identified:

- Fulton Road crossing requires VicRoads approval due to existing bus route; traffic study recommended. Increased traffic expected during school drop-off/pick-up and early evening sports.
- Wurundjeri Wetlands subject to flooding; Orchard Grove precinct has undulations from previous orchard use, requiring careful replanting.
- Ongoing upkeep of cultural features, playgrounds, and sports facilities, as well as transparency in shared-use agreements with schools and clubs, noted as concerns.

3 Round 1 engagement

3.1 Community

The community engagement comprised of two processes:

1. Online community survey.
2. Community pop-up session on site.

Table 1 shows the timeline and components of the community engagement.

Table 1 Schedule of Community Engagement

Date	Engagement Type
18 March 2024 – 06 May 2024	Online community survey - Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion redevelopment (163 responses)
18 March 2024 – 06 May 2024	Online community survey – Master Plan (318 responses)
20 April 2024	Community pop-up session at Mirrabooka Pavilion

The survey was available on WCC's 'Your Say' website. Community awareness of the survey and the pop-up session was achieved through a combination of the following:

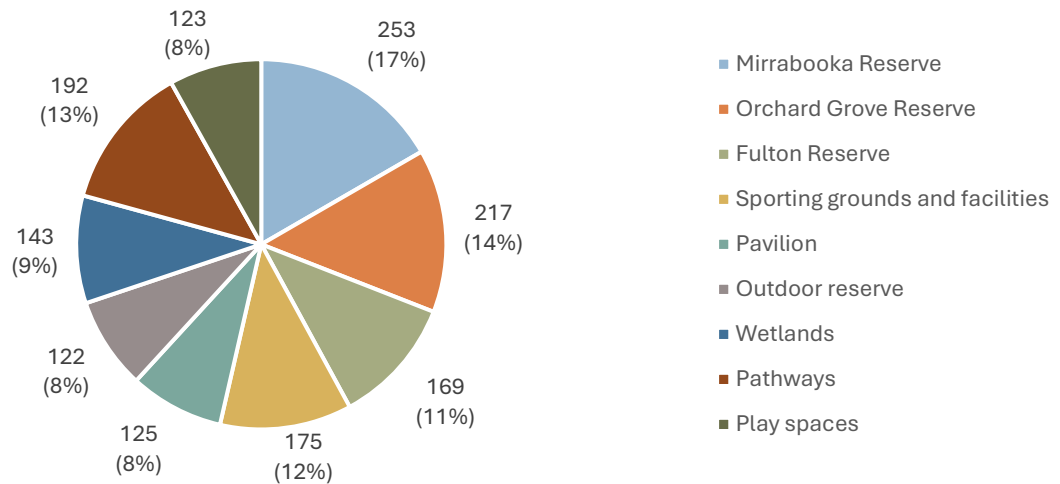
- Letterbox drops to residents.
- Signage installed at the reserve.
- Social media posts during the survey period.

3.1.1 Online community survey results

3.1.1.1 Master Plan for Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove and Fulton Reserves

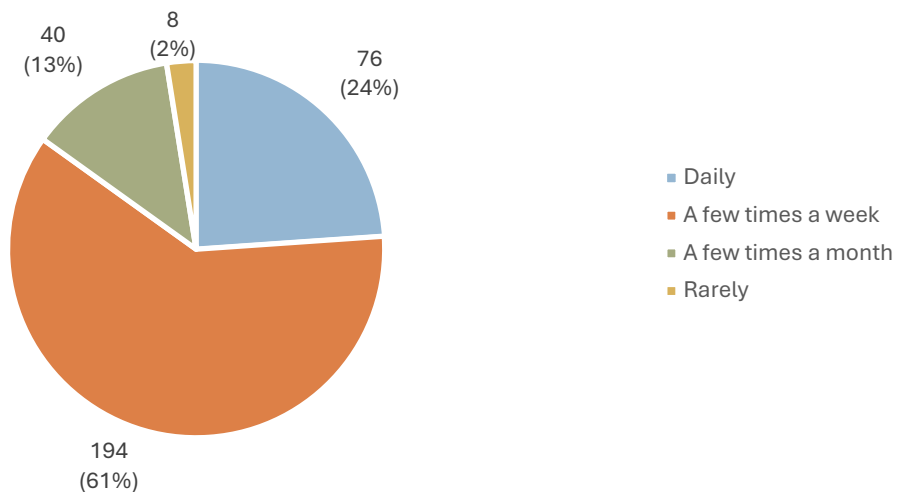
Q1. What part of the three reserves do you use?

Of all the parts within the reserves, Mirrabooka Reserve is selected as the most used by respondents (253 responses), followed by Orchard Grove Reserve (217), pathways (192), sporting grounds and facilities (175), Fulton Reserve (169), wetlands (143), pavilion (125) and outdoor reserve (122).



Q2. How often do you visit the reserves?

Most of the respondents visit the reserves a few times a week (61%), followed by those who visit daily (24%), and a few times a month (13%).

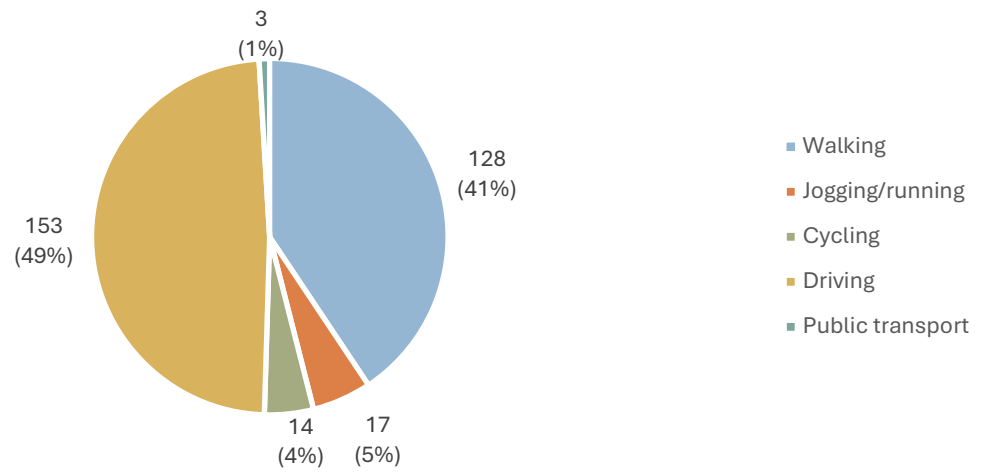


Q3. Are there reasons you don't use the reserves?

No responses.

Q4. What is the main method of travel you use to get to the reserves?

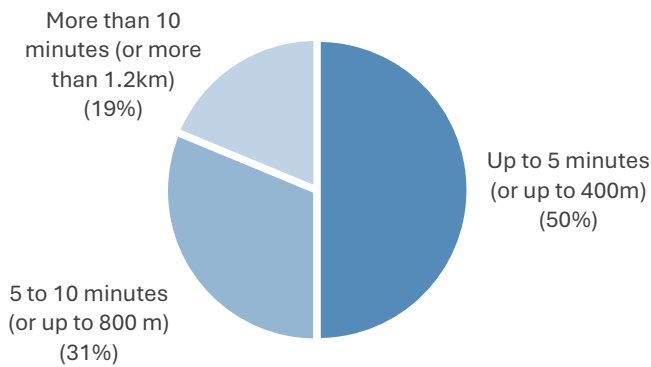
Most respondents drive to the reserves (49%) or walk (41%).



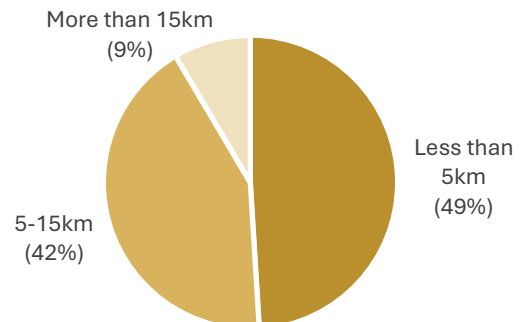
Q5. Catchments of Travel

The below graphs show the travel catchment of visitors to the reserves by mode of travel.

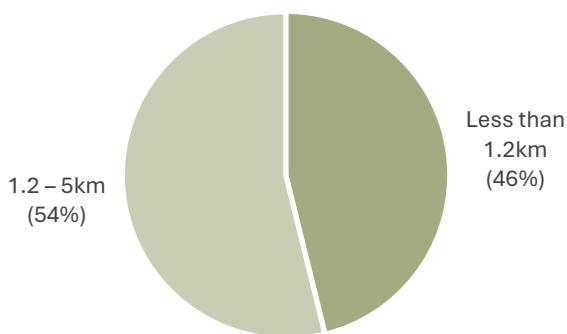
Walk (128 responses)



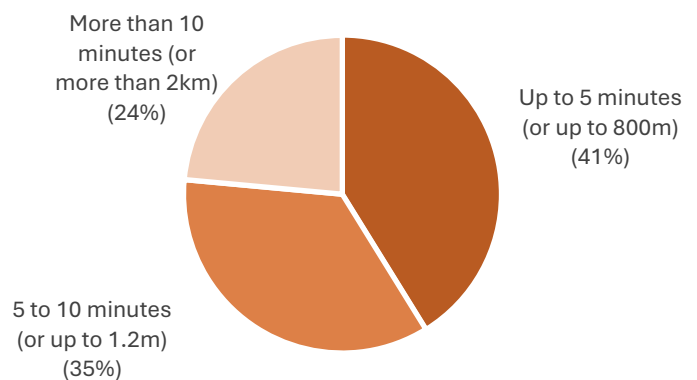
Drive (153 responses)



Cycle (13 responses)

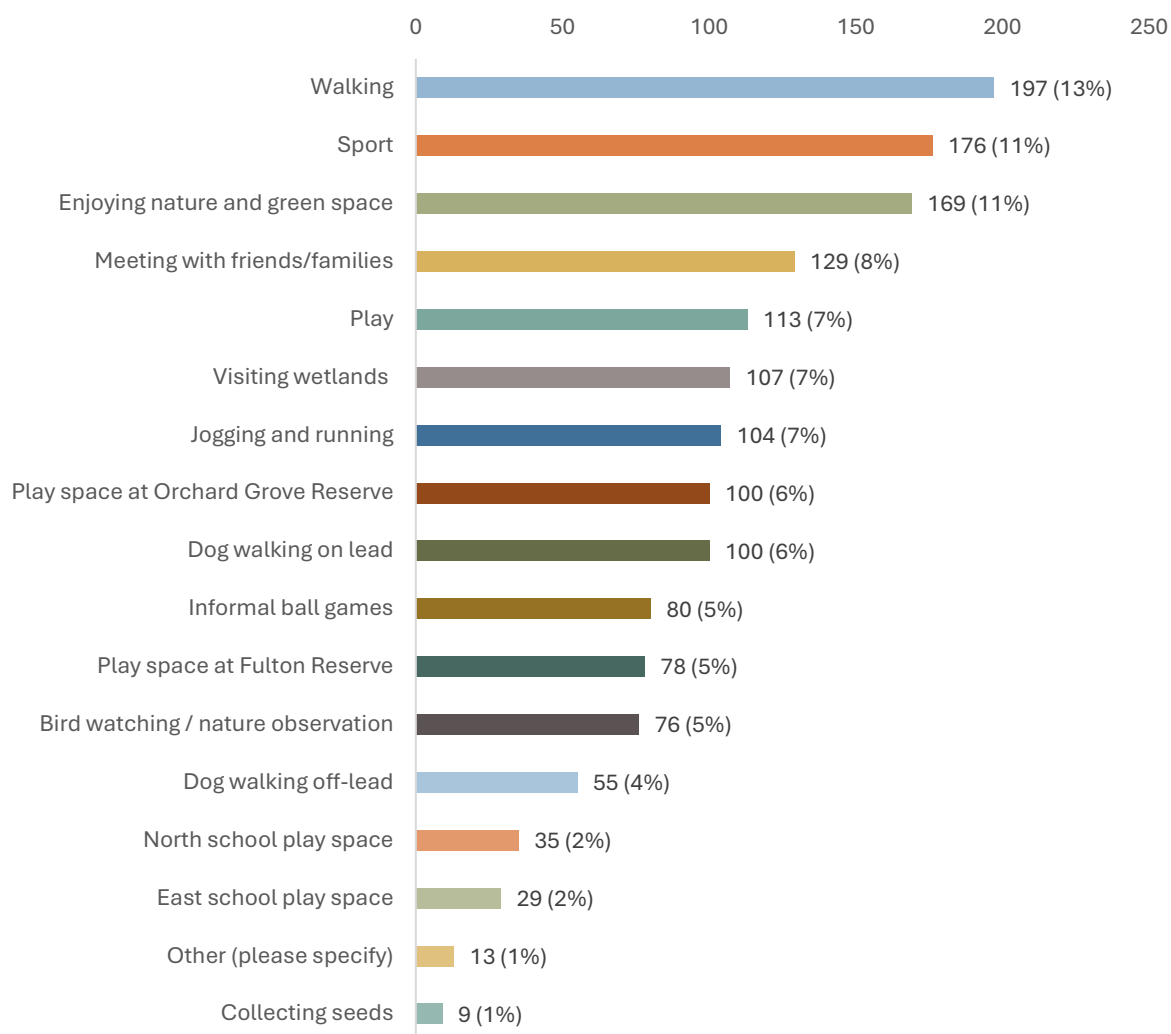


Jog/Run (17 responses)



Q6. How do you use the reserves?

Current uses of the reserves were well spread across options, walking (197 responses), sport (176 responses) and enjoying nature and green space (169) are the top three uses of the reserves. Uses relating to play made up a large proportion of overall responses, which included play (113 responses), play space at Orchard Grove Reserve (100 responses), play space at Fulton Reserve (78 responses), north school play space (35 responses) and east school play space (29 responses). Meeting with friends/families (129 responses) and dog related uses of walking on lead (100 responses) and walking off-lead (55 responses) were also among top responses.

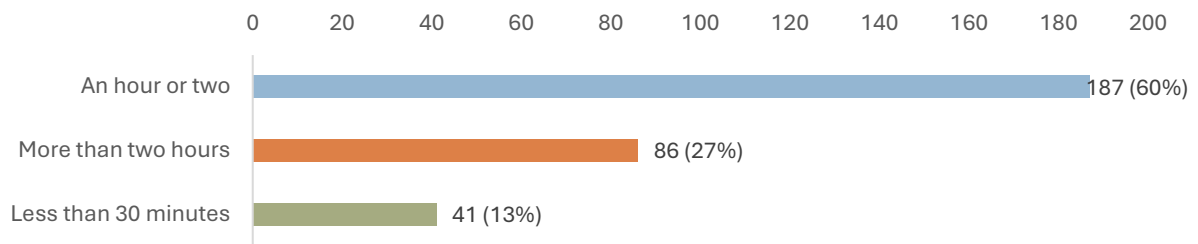


'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
5	Cycling
4	Community maintenance events (Clean up Australia day, weeding events)
1	A pass through to Bungalook Nursery
1	Passive recreation (boomerang throwing, kite flying)
2	Soccer Cricket
1	Line marking

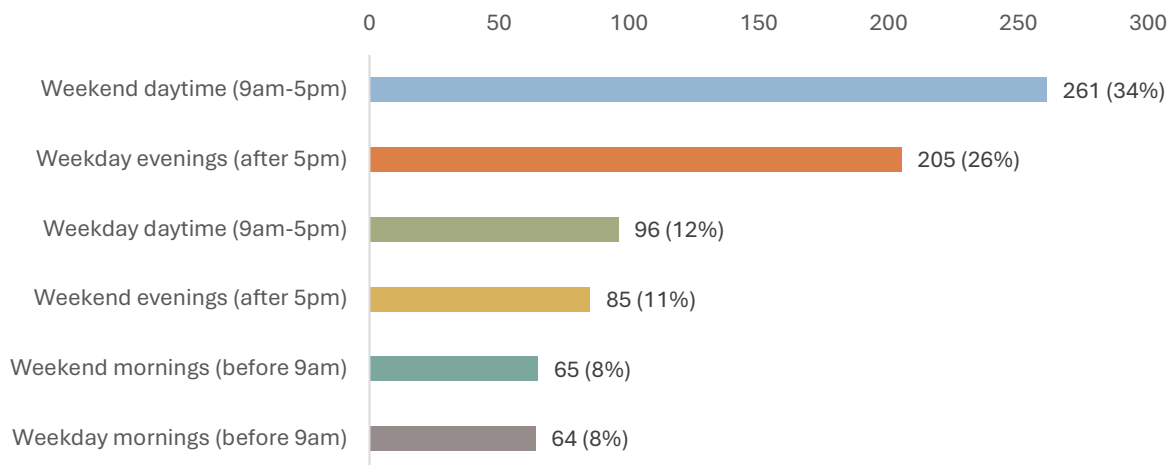
Q7. How long do you typically stay?

Majority of the respondents typically stay in the reserves for 'an hour or two', followed by 'more than two hours' and 'less than 30 minutes'.



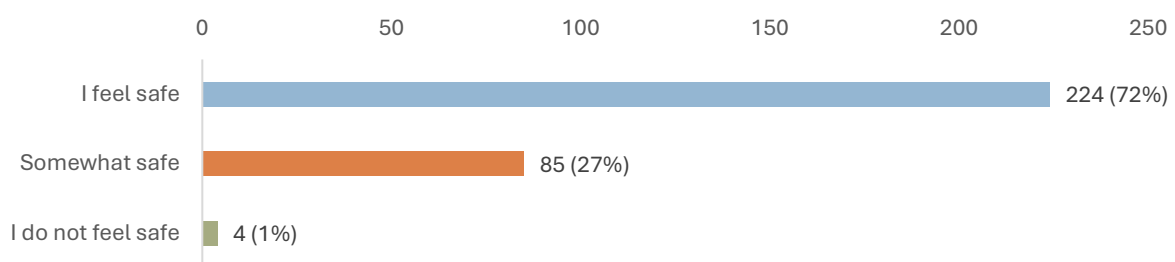
Q8. When do you typically visit the reserves?

Peak periods for visitors accessing the reserves were on weekends during 9am-5pm, followed by weekday evenings after 5pm and weekend daytime between 9am-5pm.



Q9. Do you feel safe in the reserves?

Majority of respondents indicated they felt safe in the reserves (224 respondents), followed by somewhat safe (85 respondents) and I do not feel safe (4 respondents).



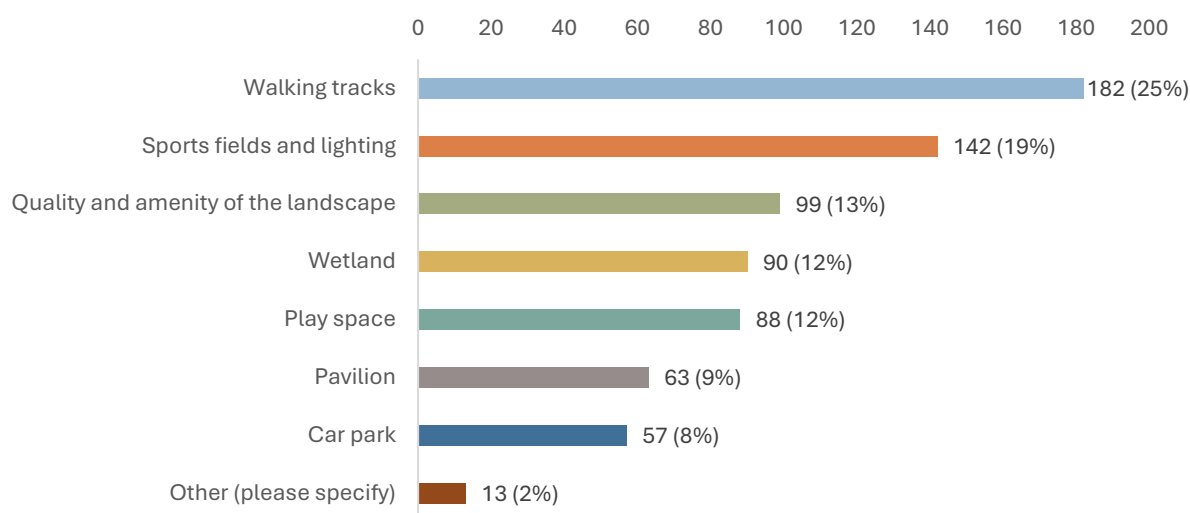
Q10. Do you have any suggestions to improve the sense of safety in the reserve?

An example of passive surveillance and additional lighting was provided to prompt responses.

No. responses	Comments
55	Lighting
6	Improved management of dogs off-lead
1	Vegetation clearances around walkways and rest spots
8	Surveillance, security cameras
11	Passive surveillance
2	Solar lighting
1	Deter bike track making
1	Path isn't accessible in wet periods
6	Pot holes / surface uneven
1	Fences

Q11. Which of the current facilities/features in the reserves do you like the most?

The most liked feature of the reserves is the walking tracks (182 responses), followed by sports fields and lighting (142 responses).

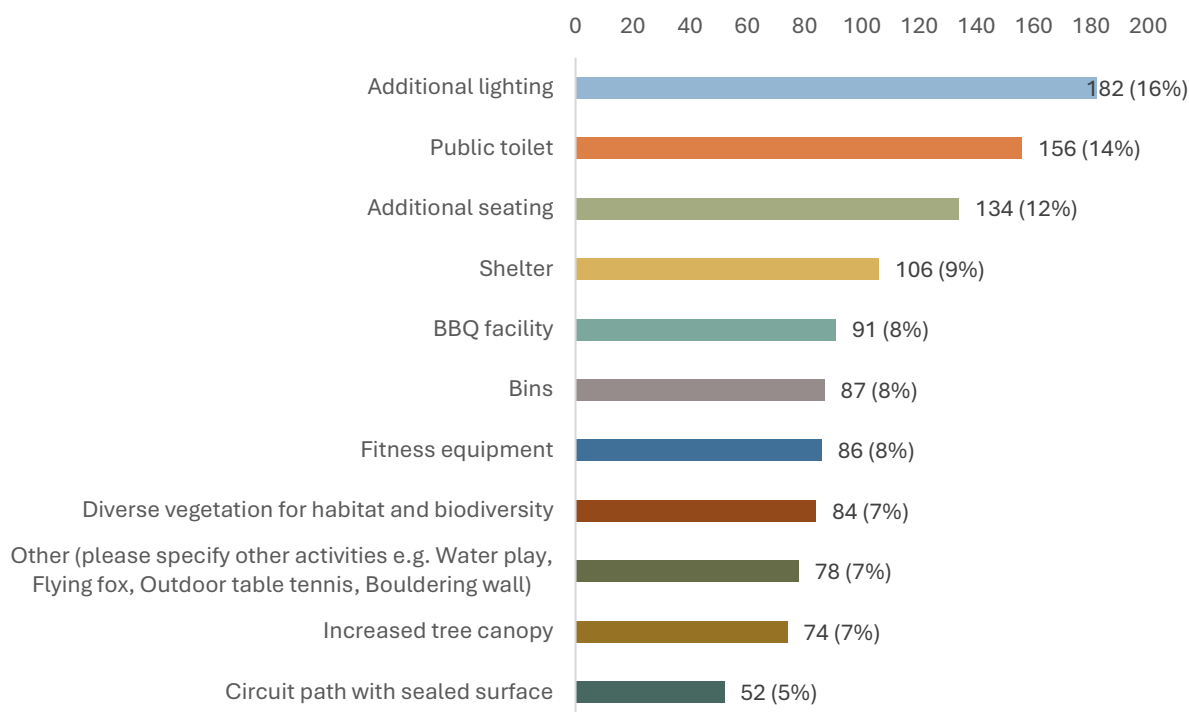


'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
1	Birds in the area
1	Open green spaces
1	Bushland atmosphere
2	Use for sporting purposes but need upgrading
1	Planting at Orchard Grove Reserve
1	The visibility of ovals from carpark
1	Rain garden behind Bungalook Nursery
1	The recently renovated pitches
1	Trees and understorey plants
1	Cycling
1	Abundance of nature and birds

Q12. What improvements in play and social recreation would encourage you to visit the Park more often? Please choose your top five.

The top three responses were additional lighting (182 responses), public toilet (156 responses) and additional seating (134 responses).



'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
15	Water play / nature play
13	Off-lead dog area
12	Sporting courts and equipment (basketball court, tennis court, table tennis, rebound wall, disk golf)
8	Play equipment (Flying fox, bouldering wall, ninja style playground)
8	Soccer pitch and Oval surface improvements
6	More playground equipment for younger children (ie. swings with harnesses)
6	Exercise equipment
6	Pump track / riding area
5	Improved lighting
3	Picnic tables with views to playing fields and play areas
3	Outdoor tables and seating
3	Similar set up to Box Hill Gardens
2	Maintenance of erosion on paths and along creek
2	Play opportunities for older kids
2	Athletics track around oval, running track
2	Skate Park
2	Increased playground and area
2	Additional bridge between existing bridges

No. responses	Comments
2	Pavilion upgrades and expansion
2	Car parking improvement
1	Weeding
1	Arboretum labelling Victorian native trees and shrubs
1	Reducing off-lead dogs
1	Exercise equipment for the elderly
1	Nature maze
1	Upgrade of existing sports fields
1	Drinking fountain
1	Swimming Pool
1	Improved drainage
1	Improved grass
1	Improved soccer facilities
1	Synthetic pitch
1	Track or path along north side of creek
1	Path connection to nursery from Fulton Rd
1	Bin maintenance
1	Clubrooms

Q13. Do you have any other comments?

Number of comments	General comment description
	Sporting Capacity and Facilities
	Support:
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting surface maintenance and upgrades
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more space for local sporting clubs
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional lighting to sporting grounds
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional shelters for second soccer pitch on roadside
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved fencing and gates
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis court
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved soccer facilities
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball ring installation
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More pitches
	Dog off-leash area
	Support:
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old horse paddock area could be used as dog off-lead area
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog off-lead area / dog off-lead times
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated dog off-lead area
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog amenity (dog bags and disposal)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fenced dog off-lead area
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School oval used for off-lead use in non-school hours
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog playground
	Objection:
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-lead dog concerns for safety
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to dog off-lead area, if one is proposed suggestion to place it in vacant rea behind playground that is currently not used
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs causing damage to sporting fields, suggest restriction off-lead use to non-playing surfaces
	Playscape, fitness areas, and equipment
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current equipment and play space do not cater for all ages
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play for young children
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased types of activities and events being able to be held in the park
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor swimming pool
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased / improved play area
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness equipment
	Retain reserves in current natural state / leave as is
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The untouched nature of area is appealing, concern for the new developments
	Paths
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase pathways in Orchard Grove northern section
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased pathways and circuits
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current unsealed path - support
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian crossing on Indira Road to connect paths
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of concrete paths
	Amenity – toilets, bins, seats
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Toilet
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of bins

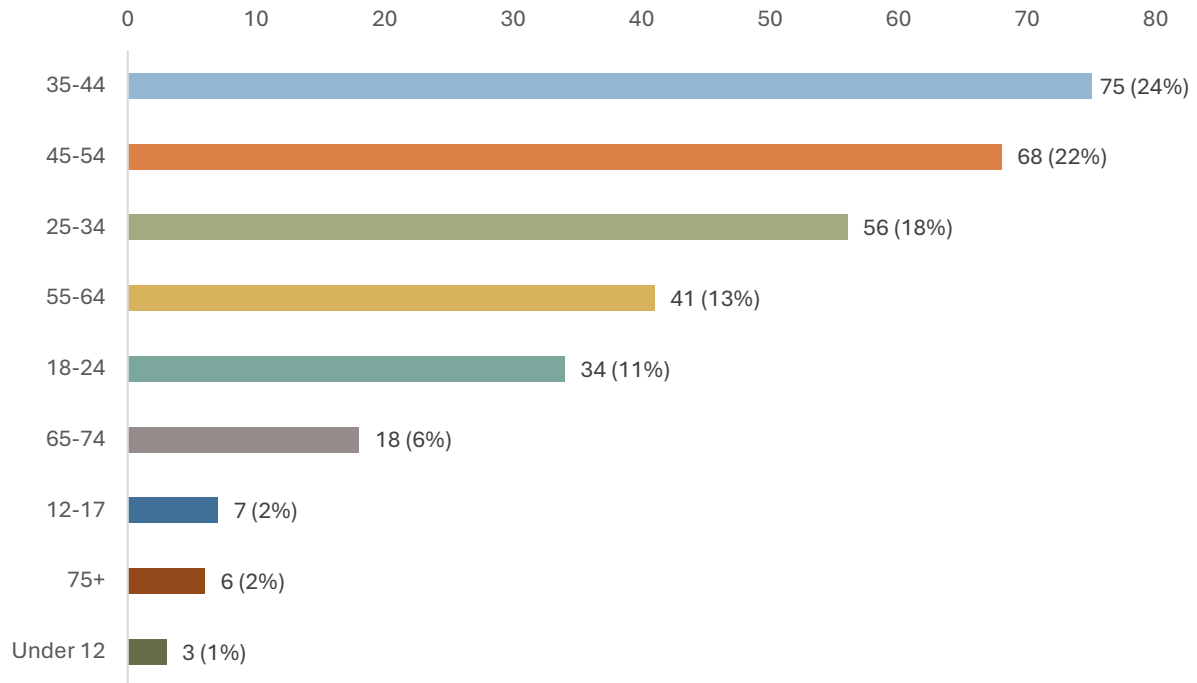
Number of comments	General comment description
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase lighting
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bin maintenance
1	<p>Objection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not wanting public toilets
Pavilion	
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade size of sporting pavilion
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavilion upgraded facilities for particularly for females, and amenity for all
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for space to host social events for club events
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavilion upgrade
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current pavilion upgrades don't include enough storage and social area
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink taps near pavilion
Increased biodiversity, planting, wildlife consideration	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird watching facilities (rotunda with access bridge across wetlands)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for area becoming too busy/overdevelopment and disturbing birdlife
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased areas of bushland
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for removal of trees and vegetation for new developments
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased vegetation (site wide, understorey and tree canopy)
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve vegetation
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep paths gravel, concerns for pavement taking away from green space
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for impacts on wildlife of new developments
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy current wildlife in reserves
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve bush habitat and concern for dogs being in vegetation
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacing large lawn/grass areas with native grasses and other vegetation
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain dam and frog habitat
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix erosion around creek
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community vegetable garden and fruit tree
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of weeds and non-indigenous planting
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views east and south should be utilised
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery integrated into the masterplan
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current open nature space
Seating, BBQ facilities and Shelter	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBQ facilities
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter increase
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase seating for elderly
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic tables and seating
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for BBQ facilities increasing rodents in the area alongside maintenance and cleanliness of amenities
Carparking	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealed parking along Fulton Road
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for carparking to cater for sporting facility users
Bike activities	
2	

Number of comments	General comment description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of BMX/pump track to prevent children building their own tracks
1	<p>Signage, Wayfinding, Installations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain naming of Wurundjeri Walk and Wetlands
1 1 1	<p>Accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve is not accessible for all • Play areas need to be accessible for those with physical disabilities • Accessible parking
1 1 1	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space for markets • Nighttime activities • Space for retail
1	<p>Traffic Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noisy vehicles along Holland Road and issues of parking

Respondent Profile

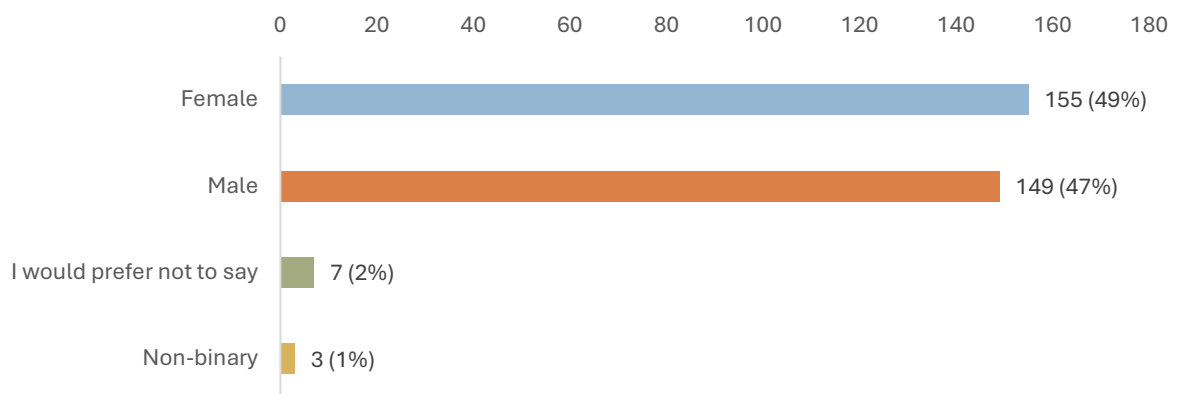
Age

Most respondents were between the ages of 35-44 (75 responses) and 45-54 (68 responses).



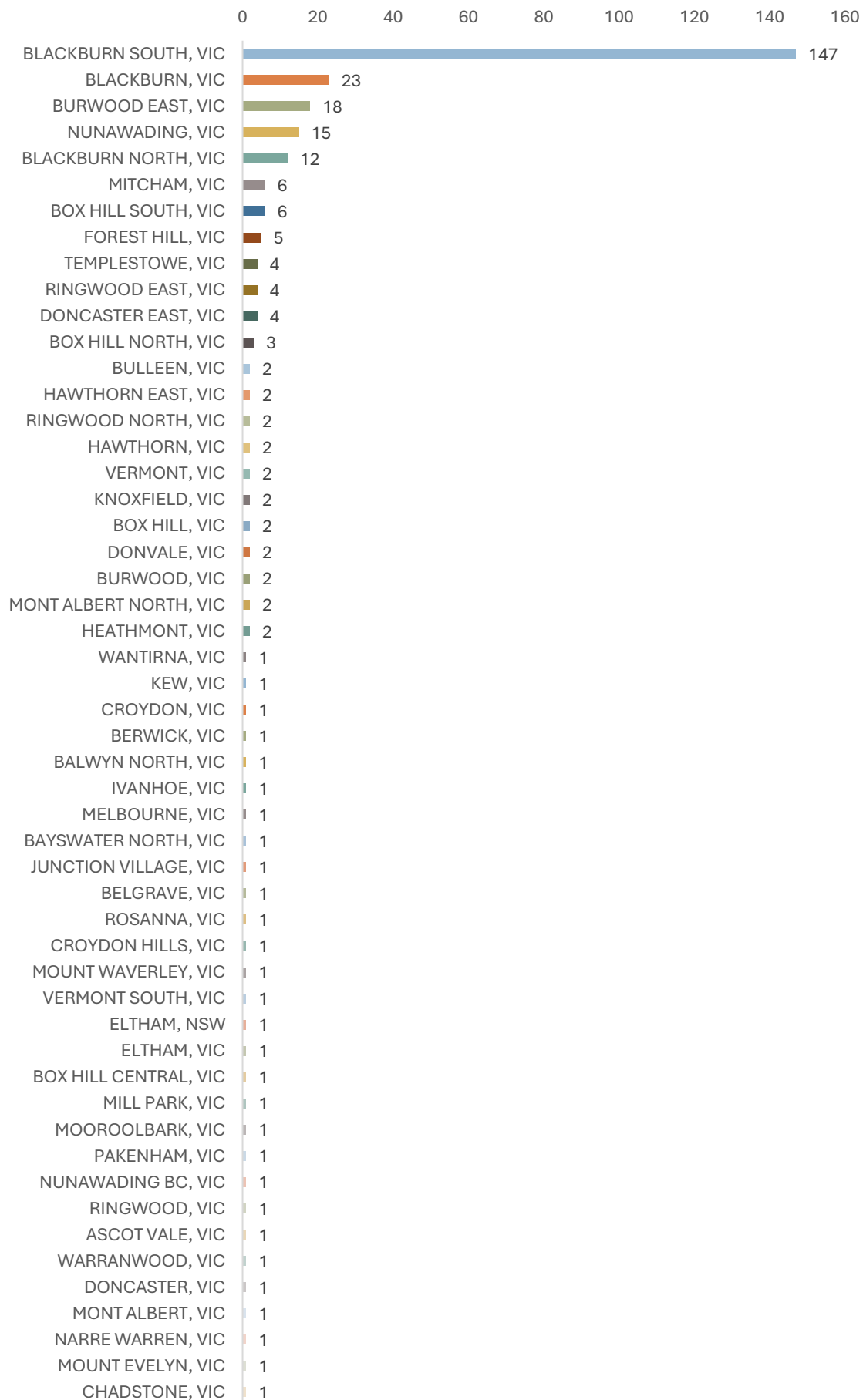
Gender

There was a balanced ratio of females (155 responses) and males (149 responses). 3 people responded as non-binary and 7 preferred not to say.

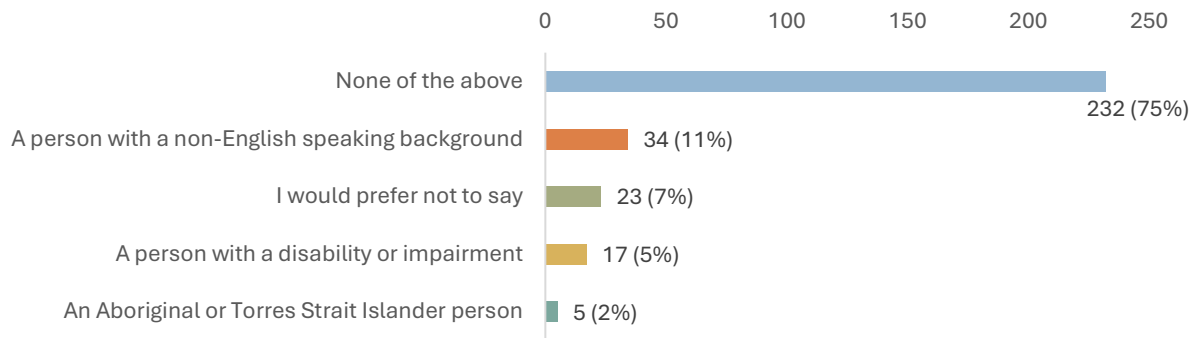


Suburb of Residence

51 suburbs were part of the responses. Majority respondents lived in Blackburn South (147), 23 respondents were from Blackburn and 18 from Burwood East.

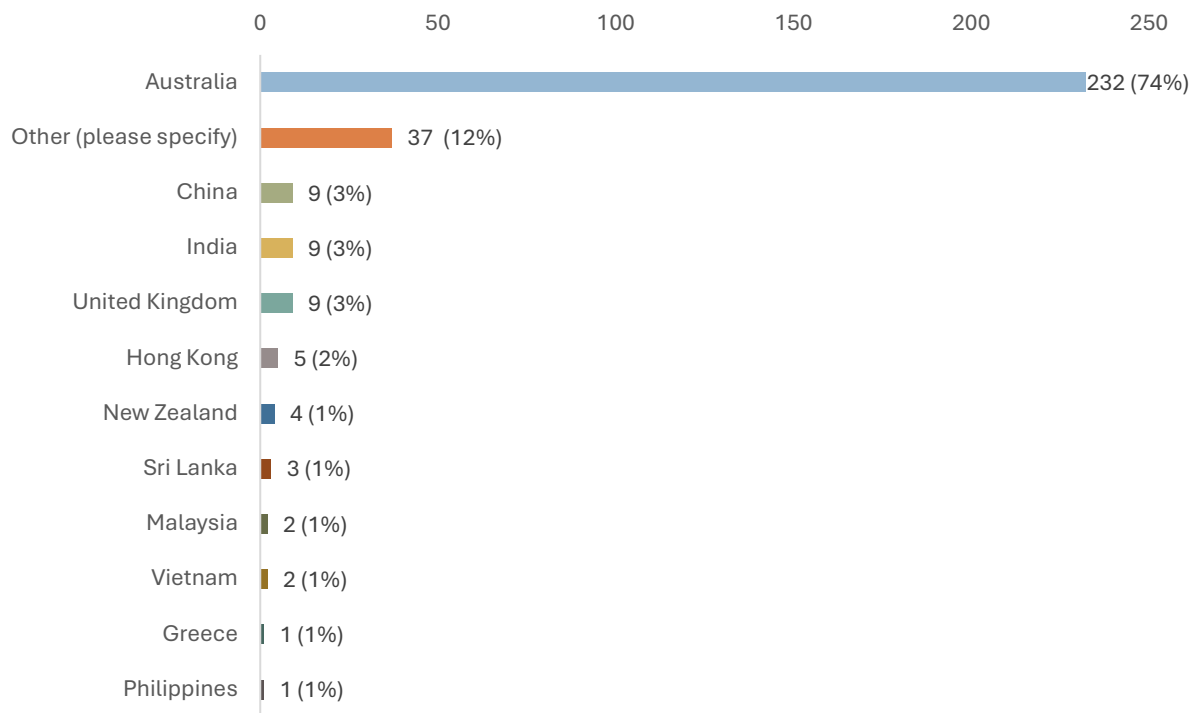


What describes you?



What is your place of birth?

Majority of respondents were born in Australia (232 responses), a wide variety of responses were present for those born in places outside Australia.



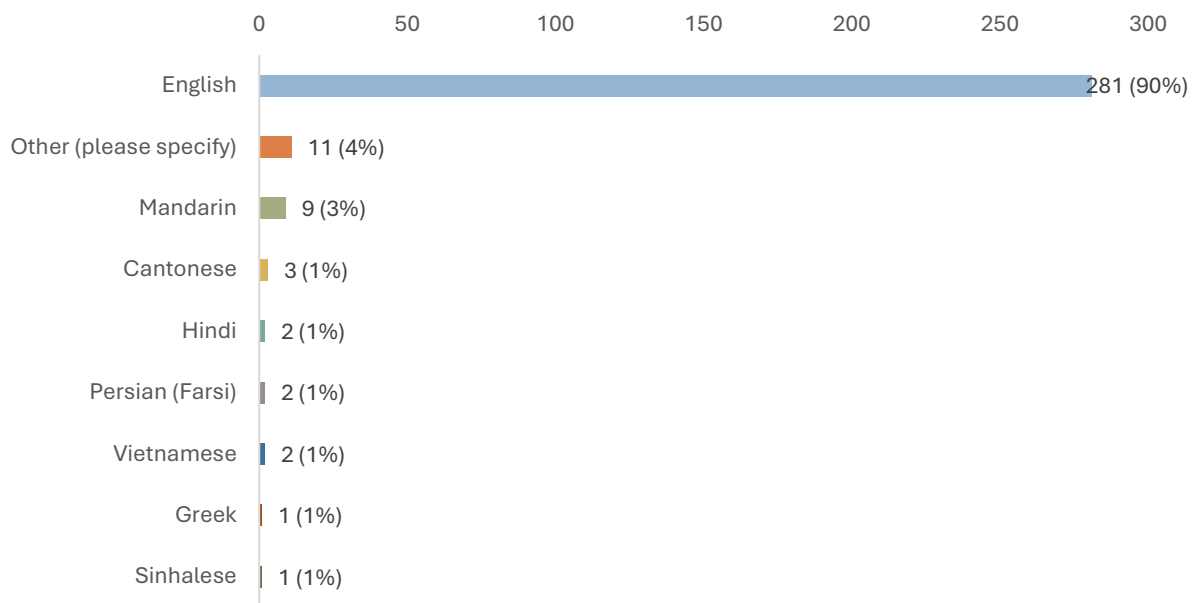
'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
3	Ireland
1	Kenya
3	South Africa
1	Colombia
1	Gibraltar
1	Europe
1	Iran
1	United Arab Emirates
7	USA
1	Russia

No. responses	Comments
3	Cambodia
1	Zambia
2	Indonesia
1	Singapore
1	Germany
1	Chile
1	Thailand
1	Mauritius
1	Egypt
1	El Salvador
4	Prefer not to say

What is the main language you speak at home?

English is the most widely spoken language at home from respondents (281 responses), Mandarin followed (9 responses), then Cantonese (3 responses).



'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
1	Assyrian
1	Spanish
1	Marathi
1	Farsi
1	Arabic
1	Russian
3	Tamil
2	I would prefer not to say

3.1.1.2 *Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion redevelopment*

Summary of responses to 'What other things could be included as part of the pavilion redevelopment to help make it a great space?'

Comments outside of the redevelopment for the pavilion relate to:

- Need for public toilets (9)
- Undercover meeting spots/ viewing areas, seating and picnic areas (9)
- BBQ facilities (2)
- Landscaping around pavilion (1)
- Skatepark (1)
- Drink taps (6)
- Bicycle racks (1)
- Surface improvements to pitches and ovals (19)
- Additional lighting (34)
- Increased car parking (5)
- Indoor futsal arena (1)
- Raise fences behind goal posts (2)
- More pitches (1)
- Additional bins (1)

Summary of additional comments from the Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion Redevelopment Survey

Many comments outside of those relating to the redevelopment of the pavilion were in relation to elements outside of the pavilion such as the lack of maintenance for the surrounding pitches, specifically in relation to the surfaces (8). A need for lighting to support evening training and potentially twilight games (7) was also identified.

Other responses were:

- Additional parking is required for the busy times where many players and are present during these times (1).
- Introduction of a designated dog off-leash area (1)
- Inclusion of more trees and native planting around the space (1)

3.1.2 *Community pop-up sessions*

To supplement the online community survey, a community pop-up session was held at Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion. The aim of the session was to provide information on the Master Plan process, discuss opportunities to improve the reserve, and to encourage residents to complete the Online Community Survey via Your Say.

3.2 Key stakeholders

The second phase of Round 1 engagement comprised of a series of meetings with key stakeholders. A set presentation was established for the site to cover:

- Project background
- Engagement process
- Master plan scope
- Stakeholder feedback: an open discussion to understand relationship with the site, issues and opportunities, and future aspirations
- Next steps

Table 2 below shows the type of engagement and participants.

Table 2 Schedule of Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement type	Participants
Peak sport bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football Victoria • Cricket Victoria • Australian Football League • Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association (league)
Traditional Owner engagement and co-design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
Sports clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackburn South Cricket Club • Blackburn New Hope Football Club • Laburnham Cricket Club*
General stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Wurundjeri Walk • Aurora School • Orchard Grove Primary School • Bangalook Community Nursery*
Landowner and authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitehorse City Council Disability and Reconciliation • Melbourne Water

*Invitations to participate in an engagement session was extended to all groups listed in Table 2. Asterix indicates that engagement has not occurred with the stakeholder group.

3.2.1 Peak sport bodies

The purpose of the sessions with peak sport bodies was to understand the requirements for each sport, future aspirations, and identify any competing interests. The sessions covered three sites that WCC are preparing master plans for: Bennettswood Reserve, Strathdon Davy Community Precinct, and Wurundjeri Walk.

A total of four sessions were held, one for each stakeholder group. Findings from these sessions are provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Peak Sport Body Feedback

Stakeholder Group	Notes
Football Victoria 22 nd August 2024 Attendees: Leandro Mercaldi	<u>Sport Overview</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over previous 10 years participation in football has doubled. Growth experienced across all age groups with pressure on clubs to expand. Currently undertaking an audit of grounds to generate data for Football Australia (Ballyshannassy, RHS Sparks, Mahoneys and Wembley Park). <u>Issues</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns for female participation: quality of changerooms, inadequate lighting and parking especially for night training. Poor drainage impacts play. <u>Opportunities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage synthetic or hybrid surface to prevent weather impacting play and increase lifespan of pitches. Inclusion of smaller and potential indoor pitches to provide for different age and ability groups. Provision of multipurpose courts that can be used for futsal/other sports. Grants for sport facilities available through Football Victoria. <u>Future Aspirations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding and child safety need to be a priority. Provision of 2 changerooms per field, minimum age group requiring a changeroom is U14s. Football Victoria encourages Councils to have at least two synthetic/hybrid pitches within their municipality to accommodate participation rates. Master Plans need to help contribute to retention within sport. <u>Strategic Objectives</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal to reach equity in female participation. Achieve 50:50 gender participation by 2027. Each LGA to have 2 synthetic or hybrid pitches.
Cricket Victoria 30 th August 2024 Attendees: Clinton Kennon (Customer experience), Sharon Lynas (Cricket)	<u>Sport Overview</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some suburbs in Whitehorse have participation over state average of 4.9%; Box Hill – 6.9%, Nunawading 5.8%. Municipality participation is projected to grow to 5.7% over the next 5-7 years. Fair Access Roadmap will have an impact of facilities and requirements.

Manager for NO's Metro), Callum Dean

- School Sport Victoria events currently held at Mirrabooka Reserve.

Issues

- Whitehorse facilities are at capacity across all age groups.
- Not enough sporting facilities currently available (toilets, changerooms), particularly for grounds where 3rds, 4ths and juniors play.
- Local clubs are forced to play far from their club bases (Laburnum, Vermont and Vermont South).
- Playgrounds and active spaces need the correct buffer zones/nets for protection.

Opportunities

- Partnership with council to support funding facilities, looking to fund projects that align with objectives. Cricket Victoria offers infrastructure grants for minor – pitches and nets and major – ground and pavilion upgrades.
- Work with dog owners to understand when use of areas is prioritised for sport and when appropriate for dog walking. Mont Albert Cricket Club as a precedent where club has built a positive relationship with the community.

Future Aspirations

- Open to smaller sizes, junior participation is needed.

Strategic Objectives

- Grow women's game and juniors 5-12 age groups.
- Design factors to allow participation across junior and female, facilities fall short at secondary grounds – change rooms, parking, and lighting.

AFL Victoria
11th September 2024

Attendees:
Shane Joules, Beau
Tran

Sport Overview

- Aspirational approach to have 1 million members by 2033.
- Breaking New Ground initiative available to partner with AFL to support the provision of football amenities.
- Looking at targeting schools to provide afterhours use to take pressure of ovals over weekends.
- High demand in area for AFL.

Issues

- Whitehorse clubs are held back due to capacity of sites.
- Community push back in providing floodlit regraded sport fields.

Opportunities

- Storage facilities for Auskick's unfixed equipment.
- The transition of children from school to sport is important for Mirrabooka. Opportunity for AFL to help fund Department of Education in providing AFL facilities.
- Access points, paths, ability to circulate to each oval would support grassroots developments. Shelters, benches and gathering points to share experience.

Future Aspirations

- Programs targeting younger audiences such as Auskick and juniors (5-17 years).

- Facilities that attract and retain users to hit the AFL 2033 target.
- For a multipurpose flexible perspective, changeroom and storeroom spaces are crucial.
- Gain AFL access to ovals for 15-20 hours per week to achieve the base target to supply their plan's participation.

Strategic Objectives

- AFL facilities are fit for purpose and welcoming for anyone to participate. Sites need to feel safe, be well lit, and accessible.

**Box Hill Reporter
District Cricket
Association (BHRDCA)**
12th September 2024

Attendees:
Steve Flemming (*Admin
Manager*), Peter
Rosenthal (*President*),
Lachlan Harty (*District
Manager BHRDCA*)

Sport Overview

- BHRDCA has 28 participating clubs, 16 are based in Whitehorse.
- All clubs have similar guiding principles in growing their game and making their club viable.
- Clubs are spread across all age groups; female participation has plateaued with introductions predominately at young ages.
- Increase expected in under 7s and 9s, that use non-competitive fields (up to 4 teams playing on one oval at a time).
- Critical need to have overflow grounds in the municipality.

Issues

- Grounds at capacity on Friday night and Saturday afternoon.
- Mirrabooka main oval does not comply with size requirements for senior participation.
- Grounds need to provide for women's participation, new policies prioritising clubs with participation across all groups.
- Landlocked sites, need to provide infrastructure for increased residential growth.
- Dog users will continue to use ovals even if separate facilities are provided.
- Cricket nets are not up to standard.
- Lack of lighting limit's ability to introduce T20 as a midweek twilight tournament.
- Unaware of wider Reserve past sport facilities, lack of connectivity.

Opportunities

- Fair Access Policy will bring pavilion upgrades for all user groups to address participation hindrance.
- Electronic scoreboards - future proof for amenities without impacting any other infrastructure.
- Provide spaces to accommodate growth outside just infrastructure.
- Provide an additional ground at Mirrabooka in large open space.

Future Aspirations

- Sports facilities to all have flexibility for use by other codes and school groups.

3.2.2 Traditional Owner and codesign opportunities

The purpose of engagement with Traditional Owners was to identify themes and design opportunities that can be integrated into the Master Plans for deeper cultural engagement and relevance.

One session was held with feedback provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4 Traditional Owner and Codesign Opportunities Feedback

Stakeholder Group	Notes
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWWCHAC) 17 th October 2024 Attendees: Aunty Gail, Aunty Julianne, Anthony Huber Maureen D'Arcy (WCC Disability and Reconciliation)	<u>All Reserves</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to engage with a local Wurundjeri artist to provide sculptural elements. Example: Lewis Wandin. <u>Bennettswood Reserve</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate signage to identify site specific cultural heritage. Understand if there are specific cultural connections to KooyongKoot through the Whitehorse municipality. <u>Mirrabooka Reserve</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the renaming of 'Mirrabooka' to a Wurundjeri word. Or provide signage that gives context to the name from noongar language in Western Australia. Understand where names came from, are there significant connections to culture? Highlight that Victoria was the most impacted state in terms of loss of language from colonisation. <u>Davy Lane Reserve</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on connection to Country. Potential use of Wurundjeri language to name sports fields/areas of the site.

3.2.3 Existing sports clubs

The purpose of engagement with sports clubs was to understand how existing sports groups and clubs are using the sites, key challenges that they face, and opportunities or future aspirations that they have for the site.

One session was held with participation from two sports clubs, feedback is provided in Table 5 below.

Table 5 Sports Club Feedback

Stakeholder Group	Notes
Blackburn New Hope Football Club (BNHFC), Blackburn South Cricket Club (BSCC) 3 rd September 2024 Stuart (BNHFC), Drew Sinclair (President BSCC), Peter (Vic	<u>Membership</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximate players: 600 football and 200 cricket across juniors and seniors. Women's teams are growing. <u>Facility Use</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised soccer and training with occasional general recreation Cricket during summer with senior and junior games and training.

President BSCC), Chiara
(Vice President BNHFC)

Issues

- No parking on Sunday's when church and sport activities occur, hard to resolve without eating into parkland.
- No public drinking fountains at sports fields, must use basins in the toilets.
- No public rubbish bins result in dog waste left on ovals that needs to be picked up each weekend before matches.
- Second largest facility in Whitehorse with only two playable grounds as referees/leagues won't allow play on other fields due to safety concerns.
- Southern field can't handle the capacity, after 6 weeks of soccer it turns into a sand pit.
- Minimal maintenance and general upkeep due to classification of fields.
- Many holes in grounds needing to be filled with sand reducing the quality of the ground, likely from dogs.
- Short-term issue of only having one changeroom while pavilion is being redeveloped.
- Philosophy that everyone is welcome, challenging to fit into surface space available.
- Parents often have children with them, sometimes preventing participating if there aren't playgrounds/shelters within eyesight and easy access of the pitch.
- Carparks along south access road cut into cricket oval and result in cars being hit by balls.
- No formal path between pavilion car park and fields, area becomes very muddy and hard to wheel bins down.
- Stormwater flows out onto grass south of the pavilion and makes the pitch a mud bath.

Opportunities

- Upgrade drainage/surface of West and North fields and provide lighting to spread usage.
- Use September as a fallow month to allow the grounds to recover before the start of the cricket season.
- Separation of dogs to improve ground surface and safety of players.
- Provide public bins to prevent rubbish build up that attracts foxes and rats.
- Improve surface of gravel paths that have many rivets following rain, explore possibility of sealing sections.
- Repurpose native trees that fall over in storms, manage trees to ensure safety.
- Explore having a synthetic pitch on the junior field to provide multiuse: soccer, netball etc that wouldn't need maintenance.
- Repurpose unused bitumen space in southeast corner as overflow parking or back into the park.
- Extend stormwater south of the pavilion to the drainage system.
- Look if there can be any development to the North field to maximise space to fit two soccer fields.

Future Aspirations

- No changes that impact biodiversity.

- Strategic goal to continue to build girls and women’s teams and have a junior team participating at all age groups.

3.2.4 Existing community groups

The purpose of this engagement was to understand how community groups are using the sites, key challenges that they face, and opportunities or future aspirations that they have for the site.

Two sessions were held, one with the Friends group and a second with the schools, feedback is provided in Table 6 below.

Table 6 Existing community group feedback

Stakeholder Group	Notes
Friends of Wurundjeri Walk 9 th September 2024 Sebastian (<i>Convenor and co-founder of FoWW</i>)	<u>Membership</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New group with five committee members. • Have held two working days – weeding, mulching, replant garden beds. • Will start guided tours with Tony Slater (previous WCC employee) so people can observe flora and fauna. <u>Issues</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenagers playing near the creek impacting the banks and potential to increase erosion. • Path maintenance needs to be constant and designed in a way to reduce erosion. • Lots of panic veldt weed that needs to be removed. • Bins fill up too quickly, need more bins, specifically near the playground. <u>Opportunities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise reduction strategies around the park. • Only plant native or indigenous species. • Better wayfinding, more signs and more noticeboards. • Provide a community centre to perform as a meeting place and a larger locker facility than existing behind Bungalook Nursery. • Increase vegetation in open spaces for biodiversity. • Understand the meaning behind the name Mirrabooka. • Restrict unauthorised vehicles from open space area next to Fulton Road, no driving through reserve. <u>Future Aspirations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No capital works within the park.
Aurora School, Orchard Grove Primary School 17 th September 2024 Vicki Main (<i>Principal Aurora School</i>), Michelle Ogilvie (<i>Principal Orchard Grove Primary School</i>)	<u>Issues</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Field is part of Aurora School but not an area that is used, the school is small and has enough space in the existing area. • Issues with rubbish in car park along Holland Road, has boom gates for staff use during school hours. • Negotiation of Joint Use Agreement has been in the making for 20 years. • Field is used as an unofficial dog park with owners regularly not picking after their dogs.

- Post covid experience negative interactions with public after being asked to leave school grounds during school hours.
- Parking along Holland Road is bad at pickup times.
- Students and visitors from the deaf community walk through the Holland Road car park, public may not be aware of their presence.
- Children with mobility issues require an accessible park.
- Swooping birds in spring result in public running into school buildings to escape them.
- Back of Orchard Grove Primary School has become a local hangout spot that raises safety issues, access should be removed to prevent damage from wider community use.

Opportunities

- Improve connectivity to school to facilitate staff using the reserve for walking meetings and during breaks.
- Support school using the reserve to support education, particularly around STEM subjects.
- Investigate restricting parking to one side of Holland Road.
- Look into path alignment to schools to encourage users to walk to school.
- Make a legible pathway from Holland Road to Orchard Grove with wayfinding to direct people off the school fields.
- Move access path to reserve to southern side of road to separate from school entrance.
- Repurpose area south of the ovals to a walkway to the reserve, block off car access.
- Install a barrier between residential properties and school fields to prevent balls directly hitting fences.
- Provide public rubbish bins to reduce waste left over weekend.

Future Aspirations

- Orchard Grove Primary School would like to put fences down the side of the West Field to minimise risk in response to increased public use of the school grounds during school hours. Gates would be opened after hours for public use.

Other Comments

- Section above West Field is school land and not part of council management.
- School facilities are heavily used by the community – basketball, netball, performing arts, and church groups.
- There are two playgrounds in the school area, one is becoming non-compliant and will be lost with the new build. Currently used by public during the day who should be using public facilities.

3.2.5 Landowners and authorities

The purpose of engagement with landowners and authorities was to understand how the sites are being used, key challenges that they face, and opportunities or future aspirations that they have for the site.

Two sessions were held, feedback is provided in Table 7.

Table 7 Sports Club Feedback

Stakeholder Group	Notes
<p>WCC Disability and Reconciliation 30th August 2024</p> <p>Attendees: Maureen D'Arcy</p>	<p><u>Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to protect Gardiners Creek corridor due to existing relationship with Wurundjeri. • Need for pathways to be accessible, flat/hard surfaces to achieve DDA compliance (2.5m to facilitate circulation). • Understand how the Mirrabooka precinct connects with pathways through whole site. <p><u>Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to further enhance paths through Mirrabooka. • Passive amenities to be provided at a distance from shared use path. • Connection between elements is important. • Consider how grounds can be used by people with a disability, e.g. blind cricket.
<p>Melbourne Water 18th October 2024</p> <p>Attendees: Rebecca Penrose (<i>Waterways and Land Officer, Lower Birrarung Team</i>), Dan Green (<i>Senior Asset Planner</i>)</p>	<p><u>Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Healthy Water Ways Strategy, opportunities to secure funding through Melbourne Water initiatives. • Water harvesting opportunities, including infiltration and irrigation to stop flow into waterways and key risks of flooding/climate change. • Collaborate with Melbourne Water to integrate strategies into oval development and sitewide initiatives. • Pathway planning, consider peoples connection to waterways and placement of paths. Set back of DDA paths/hard surfaces from waterway. • Allow waterway to meander across the channel. • Greenlinks (DEECA funded project) to support future revegetation works, encouraging planting diversity (canopy, mid-storey and understorey for fauna). • Integrated water management opportunities e.g. harvesting, flow stress initiatives. • Increase biodiversity and revegetation along waterways, reduce flood pressures and loading on embankments. • Consider 'Health for the Catchment' to integrate water management.

4 Round 2 engagement

4.1 Community

The community engagement comprised of two processes:

1. Online community survey.
2. Community pop-up session on site.

Table 8 below shows the timeline and components of the community engagement.

Table 8 Schedule of Round 2 Community Engagement

Date	Engagement Type
11 June 2025 – 15 July 2025	Online community survey – Master Plan for Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove and Fulton Reserves (321 responses)
28 June 2025	Community pop-up session at Mirrabooka Pavilion

The survey was available on WCC's 'Your Say' website. Community awareness of the survey and the pop-up session was achieved through a combination of the following:

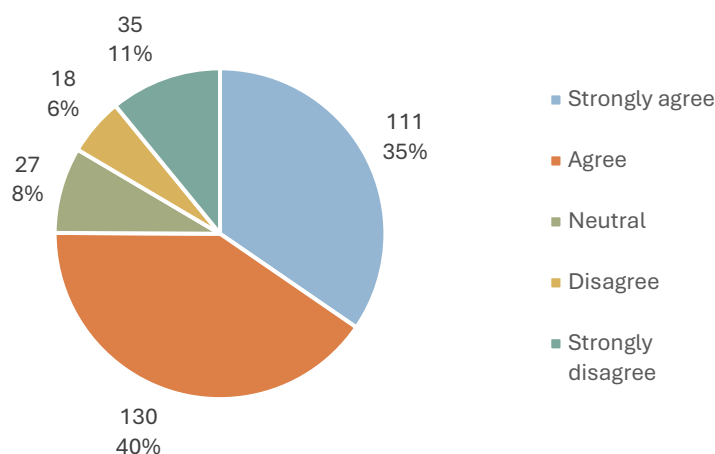
- Signage installed at the reserve.
- Social media posts during the survey period.

4.1.1 Online community survey results

4.1.1.1 Master Plan for Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove and Fulton Reserves

Q1. Do you agree with the Draft Master Plan - Amenity?

Most respondents agreed with the Draft Master Plan in relation to the level of amenity shown, 35% strongly agree (111 responses) and 40% agree (130 responses). 17% responded that they disagree with the amenity, either strongly disagree (35) or disagree (18).



Q2. Do you have any additional comments about the Draft Master Plan - Amenity?

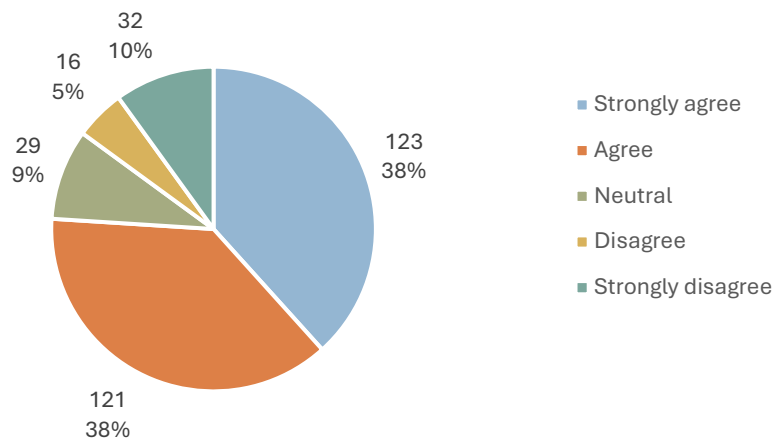
Overall, respondents expressed strong support for upgrades to sporting grounds and amenities, with calls for improved drainage, lighting, parking, and drinking water fountains. Many emphasised that functionality and user-focused upgrades that foster social interaction and community events are more important than purely aesthetic enhancements.

There was support for including a variety of sport fields catering to different age groups. Views on seating and shelters were mixed, some participants raised concerns about potential littering and misuse, while others saw them as valuable for welcoming families and hosting group gatherings. Suggestions were also made to ensure play spaces and amenities cater to all ages.

Dog owners strongly supported the inclusion of dog-friendly spaces and the integration of off-leash areas, though some expressed frustration at the perceived lack of consultation with dog owners for these spaces.

Q3. Do you agree with the Draft Master Plan - Access and Movement?

76% of respondents supported the Access and Movement opportunities with 123 responses strongly agreeing and 121 responses agreeing. 10% (32 responses) of respondents strongly disagreed.



Q4. Do you have any additional comments about the Draft Master Plan - Access and Movement?

Feedback showed a mix of support and objections regarding the use of concrete paths. Objections centred on concerns about drainage impacts, preserving the park's natural character, and maintaining the informal pathways that currently exist. Supporters valued concrete paths for improving accessibility, particularly for users with a range of mobility needs. Many suggested a combination of gravel and concrete surfaces, using concrete for primary circuits and gravel for secondary loops, to ensure year-round usability while retaining some of the park's informal feel.

Concerns about path placement near residential fence lines focused on safety, privacy, and amenity, including:

- Increased noise and litter along rear boundaries.
- Potential for anti-social behaviour.
- Intrusion into private spaces.
- Insufficient separation between paths and fences.

Additional path-related suggestions included:

- Providing a link to the Gardiners Creek Trail.
- Adding more seating to improve accessibility for all users.

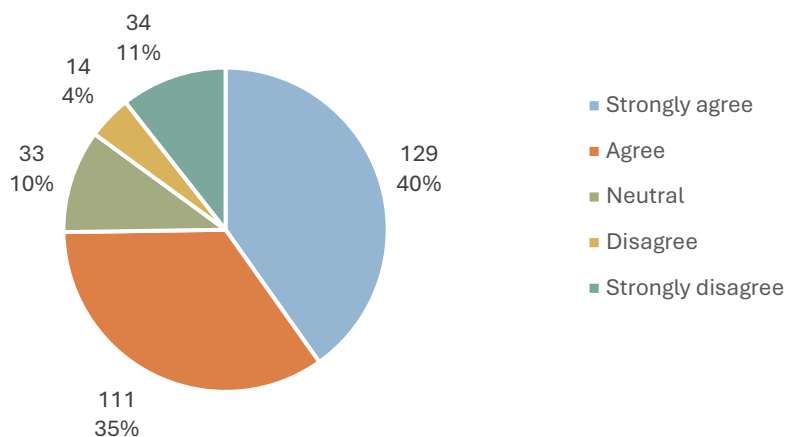
Comments on parking needs were mixed. Some supported upgrades to parking areas, particularly improving drainage and surfacing, to support use of sports fields and the Bungalook Nursery. Others were concerned that increasing parking capacity could attract unwanted visitors and contribute to anti-social behaviour.

Lighting was also a key theme, with feedback highlighting the need to balance safety and ecological sensitivity. Many advocated for appropriate, targeted lighting to help deter anti-social behaviour while minimising environmental impacts.

There was strong support for improving connectivity between Bungalook Nursery and Wurundjeri Walk, along with calls for low-impact, well-placed signage at entry points and key junctions to guide visitors without creating visual clutter.

Q5. Do you agree with the Draft Master Plan - Environment?

Majority of respondents supported the Environment opportunities with 75% either agreeing (111 responses) or strongly agreeing (129 responses). 11% of respondents (34 responses) strongly disagreed with the Environment opportunities.



Q6. Do you have any additional comments about the Draft Master Plan - Environment?

Residents with fences backing onto the reserve expressed strong concerns about proposed planting, particularly where it may:

- Obstruct sunlight into backyards.
- Create dense vegetation that could encourage anti-social behaviour.
- Block views into the reserve.

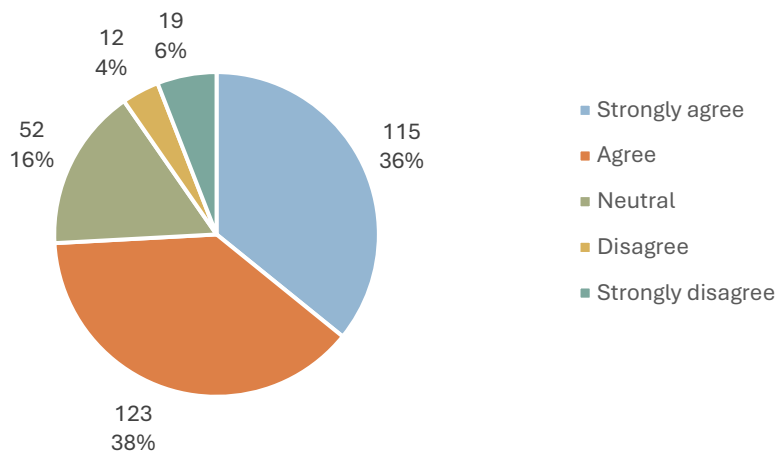
Many suggested that planting along or near fence lines should be limited to low shrubs and groundcovers to preserve visibility and sunlight. There was broad support for tree and shrub planting elsewhere in the reserve, provided it enhances the park’s character and user experience.

Respondents supported the use of only indigenous plant species to improve biodiversity across the reserve. Some emphasised the importance of maintaining the park’s openness and avoiding excessive shading from vegetation.

There was opposition to unnecessary concrete paths and tree removals, with a preference for low-impact, minimal-intervention approaches.

Q7. Do you agree with the Draft Master Plan – People and Culture?

Majority of respondents agreed with the People and Culture opportunities, 115 responses strongly agreeing and 123 responses agreeing. 10% of respondents (31 responses) either disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Q8. Do you have any additional comments about the Draft Master Plan – People and Culture?

Feedback generally supported celebrating and incorporating Indigenous culture into the reserve, with suggestions including sculptures, interpretive signage, and educational storyboards. While many welcomed these initiatives, some questioned the placement and necessity of Indigenous signage.

There was strong preference for Indigenous planting over exotic fruit trees, aligning with broader support for biodiversity and cultural recognition.

A few concerns were raised regarding the long-term maintenance of cultural features, as well as the funding and transparency of agreements between schools and clubs for the use of shared spaces.

Q9. Any other comments about the Draft Master Plan for Mirrabooka, Orchard Grove and Fulton Reserves (Wurundjeri Walk)?

General comment description
<p>Sporting Capacity and Facilities Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade pitches. • Upgrade lighting. • Inclusive clubrooms and facilities. • Improve drainage. • Increased maintenance of and around sporting grounds.
<p>Dog off-leash area and amenity Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for fenced off-leash dog park. • Inclusion of dog amenity such as bins, water fountains. • Inclusion of flexible off-leash hours. • Frustration over current lack of dog-friendly amenity.
<p>Playscape, fitness areas, and equipment Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for all ages playscape and equipment. <p>Objection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for placement attracting anti-social behaviour.
<p>Amenity Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests for BBQs and sheltered seating.
<p>Paths Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of permeable path surfaces. • Need for accessible paths and consideration of those with mobility needs. • Support of looped trails and circuits. <p>Objection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns for paths close to fences of homes for privacy, safety and anti-social behaviour • Paths disrupting the natural feel of reserves.
<p>Community Engagement and Transparency Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions to involve volunteers in works to the Reserves. <p>Objection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests of more transparency in the plans for Reserves. • Requests for better communication and more inclusive consultation.
<p>Increased biodiversity, planting, wildlife consideration Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference indigenous planting over exotic species. • Support for wetland restoration, biodiversity and wildlife corridor inclusion. <p>Objection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposing fruit trees, concerns for maintenance and pests.

Privacy, Safety and Views

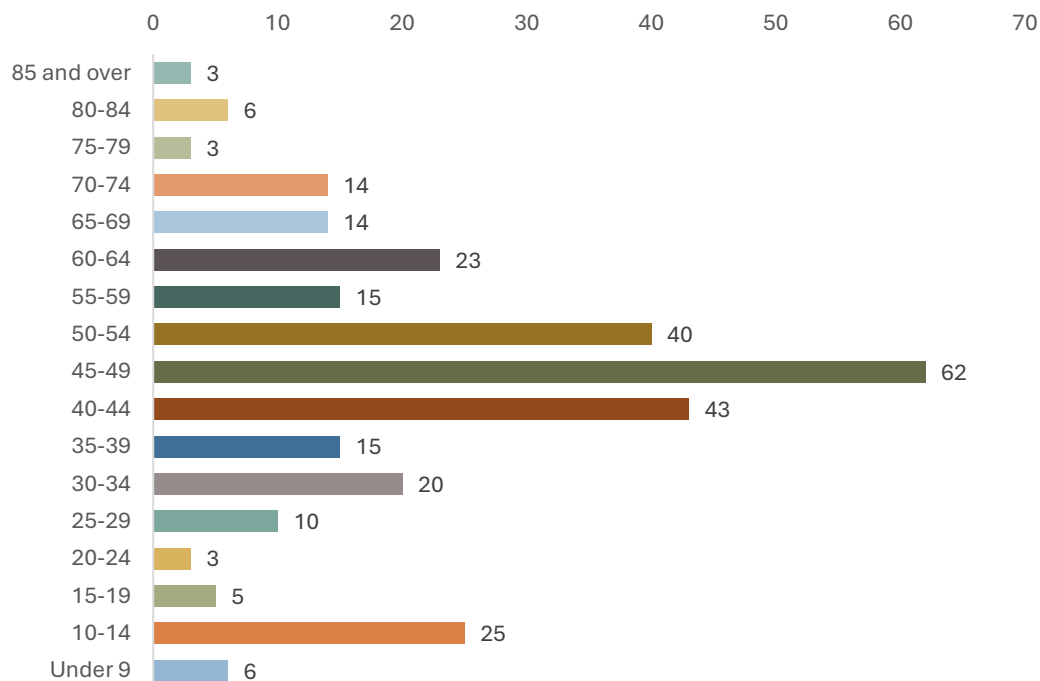
Objection

- Concern for anti-social behaviour with paths, planting and amenity near house fence lines.
- Planting near property fence lines blocking sunlight and views of homeowners.
- Suggestion to move paths away from fence lines.

Respondent Profile

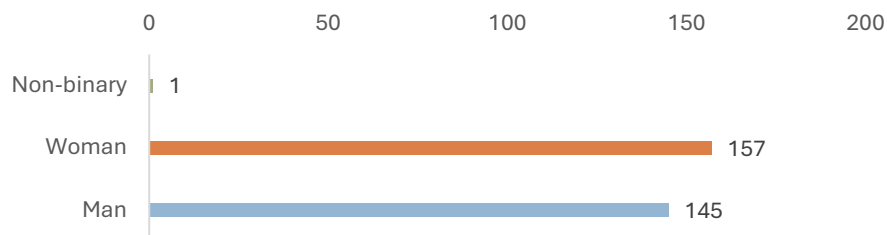
Age

A varied range of ages from under 9 to 85 years and older made up the responses, most respondents were between the ages of 45-49 (62 responses) and 40-44 (43 responses).

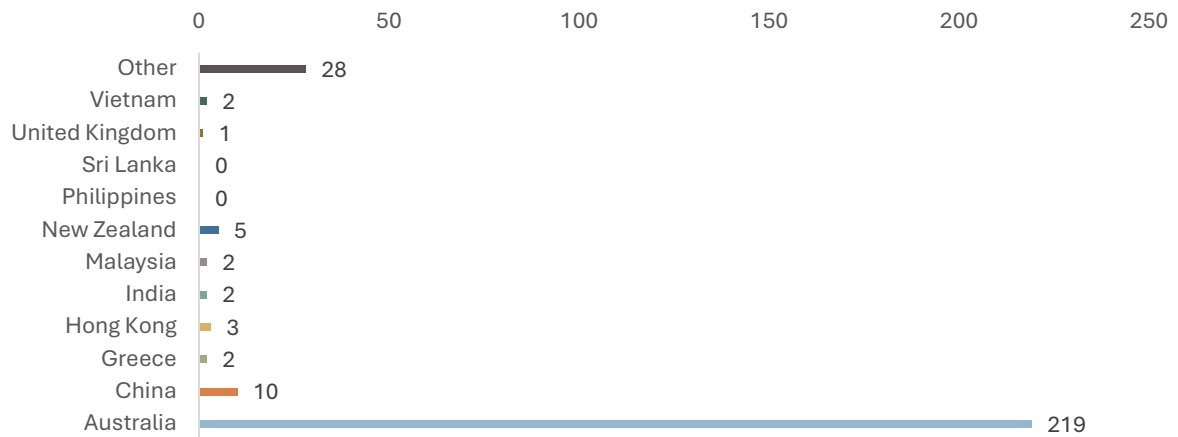


Gender

There was a balanced ratio of women (157 responses) and men (145 responses). 1 person responded as non-binary and 3 people responded that they use a different term.



Place of birth



'Other' Responses

No. responses	Comments
1	Chile
1	United Arab Emirates
1	Lao
2	Indonesia
2	Germany
3	United States of America
1	South Africa
1	Iran
1	United Kingdom
1	Netherlands
2	Egypt
1	Zimbabwe
1	Thailand
2	Ireland
1	Brazil
1	Seychelles
1	Other
1	Singapore
1	Italy
2	Argentina
1	Nepal

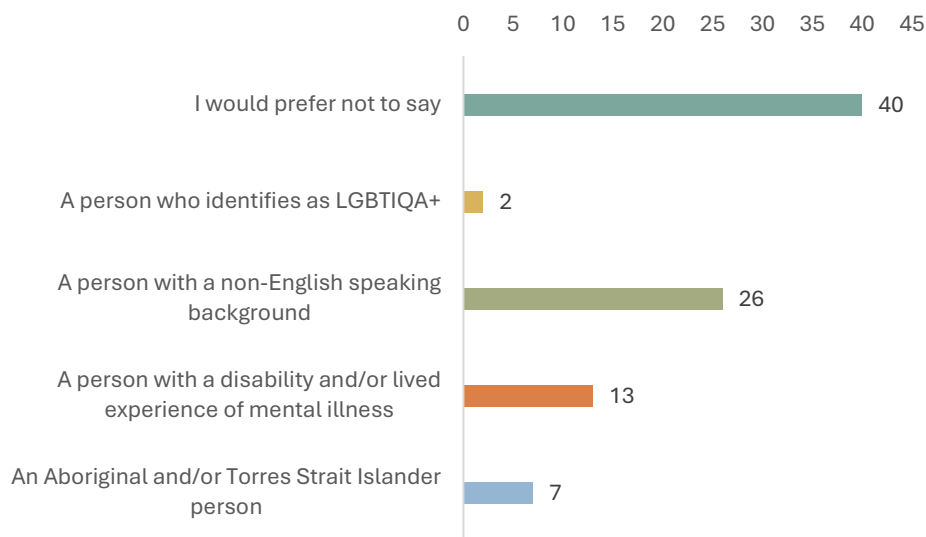
Language Spoken at Home



'Other' Responses

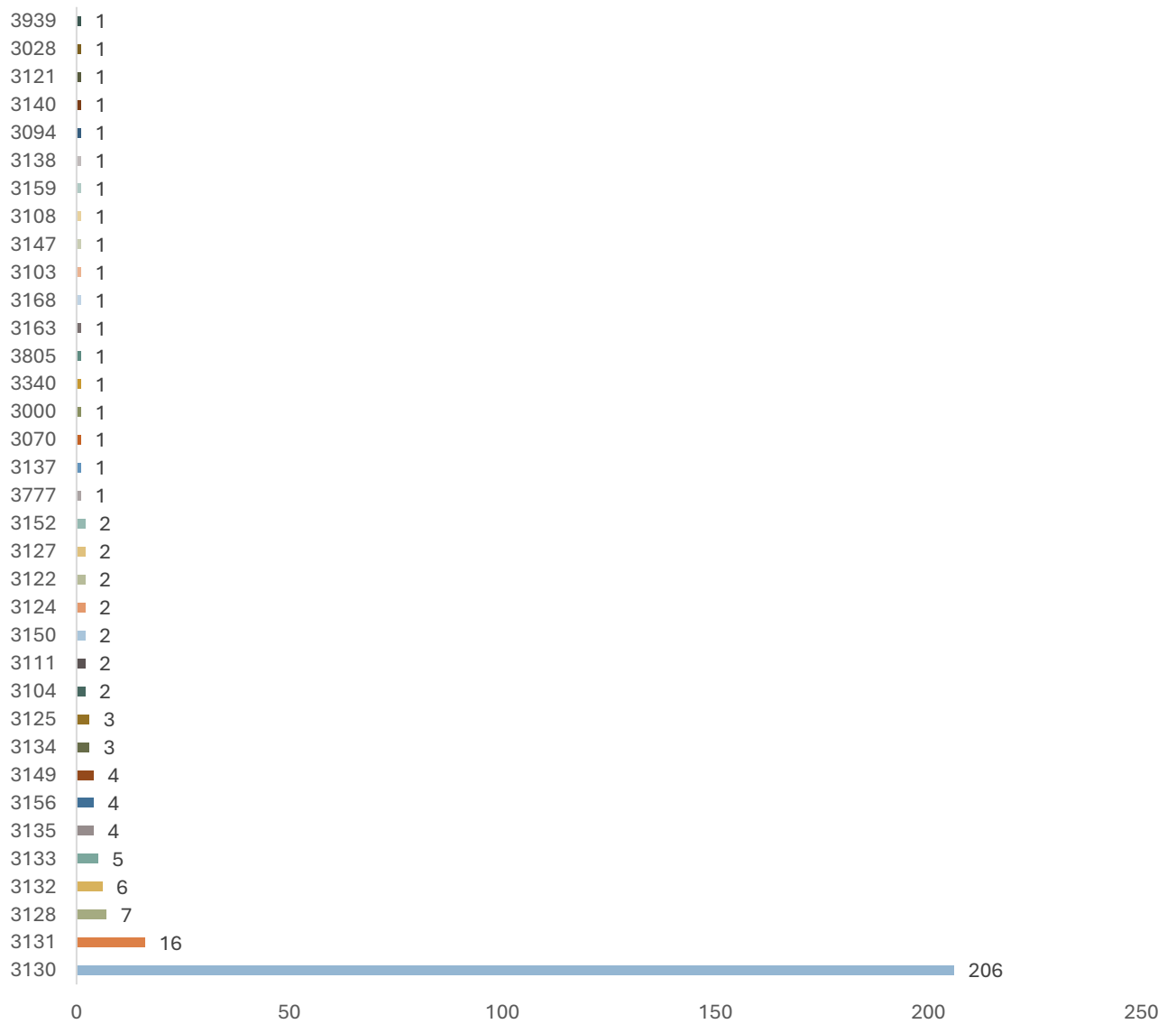
No. responses	Comments
1	Afrikaans
1	Portuguese
2	Spanish
1	Nepali

What best describes you?



Postcode

35 postcodes were part of the responses. Majority respondents lived in 3130 (206), 16 respondents were from 3131 and 7 respondents from 3128.



4.1.2 Key stakeholders

The Round 2 stakeholder engagement comprised of a series of meetings with key stakeholders. The purpose of these sessions was to present the draft Master Plan for review, gather feedback, and confirm that the proposed directions aligned with the priorities, issues, and opportunities identified during Round 1 engagement. This process also ensured that the draft plan addressed stakeholder requirements, reflected community values, and supported the long-term vision for Wurundjeri Walk.

Table 9 below shows the type of engagement and participants.

Table 9 Schedule of Round 2 Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement type	Participants
Sports clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Blackburn New Hope Football Club.Blackburn South Cricket Club.
Traditional Owner engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.
General stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none">20 Orchard Grove Primary School year 5 students32 students from 13 Whitehorse Primary Schools involved in Council's Voicenater Meeting.
Landowners and authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Whitehorse City Council Disability Advisory Committee.

4.1.2.1 Stakeholder feedback

For each stakeholder group, a dedicated session was held. A summary of feedback from the Traditional Owner engagement and Whitehorse City Council Disability Advisory Committee sessions is provided in Table 10. Other engagement activities included:

- 18 June** – Council's project team presented to Council's *Junior Voicenator* meeting, comprising 32 students from 13 primary schools across Whitehorse, introducing the Master Plan and inviting youth perspectives.
- 25 June** – Presentation to Blackburn NewHope Football Club (soccer) and Blackburn South Cricket Club. Both clubs expressed strong support for the proposed sportsfield upgrades, particularly the planned resurfacing, improved drainage, and lighting.
- 1 July** – Council's project team and Engagement Team visited Orchard Grove Primary School, meeting with 20 Year 5 students. The session raised awareness of the Master Plan, with feedback entered into *YourSay*. Students were generally supportive of the proposals.

Table 10 Round 2 Stakeholder feedback

Stakeholder Group	Notes
<p>Whitehorse Disability Advisory Committee</p> <p>4th June 2025</p> <p>Attendees: Cr Daniel Griffiths, Cr Kirsten Langford, Zoe Quinn, Ann-Marie Baker Rosemary Brown, Diane Casbolt, Jane Matthews- Bede, Kate de Josselin, Michael Janes, Mark Stockden, and Maureen D’Arcy</p>	<p><u>Fulton Road Pedestrian Crossing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pedestrian light crossing on Fulton Road could improve safety in the area, particularly if fitted with audible signals. • As the location is on an existing bus route, approval from VicRoads would be required. • A traffic study may demonstrate the need for lights. • School drop-off and pick-up would increase traffic as well as sports in early evenings. <p><u>Gravel Paths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravel paths described as compacted gravel paths that are water permeable.
<p>Traditional Owners</p> <p>10th July 2025</p> <p>Attendees: Aunty Gail Smith, Aunty Julianne Axford and Charley Woolmore.</p>	<p><u>Stormwater and flooding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wurundjeri Wetlands stormwater managed by Yarra Valley Water has significant catchment is subject to flooding. • Orchard Grove precinct has remaining undulations from use as an orchard. Replanting to include native species and edibles. <p><u>Sport grounds and facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorandum of understanding between Council and the Department of Education to ensure capital works projects addressing the sporting fields can be undertaken and sporting clubs and public can access these outside of school hours. • Upgrades would enable increased female participation in soccer and cricket. • Community would be able to hire the pavilion in the future. <p><u>Signage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase signage and references to Wurundjeri, particularly around the wetlands to provide educational information on plants, animals and Wurundjeri use of the waterways. • Inclusion of two major signs with artwork included and five smaller signs within the area. Artwork to be done by a Wurundjeri artist. <p><u>Playgrounds</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades to playgrounds to reference Australian wildlife and include Woi-wurrung word references. • Consider using a wetlands theme for the Indira Park playground with use of Wurundjeri language. <p><u>Naming</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check whether the creek feeding into the waterways is named, if not, consider using Wurundjeri language. <p><u>Gathering areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the installation of a Yarning Circle in the informal gathering area at southern entrance.