

Community Plan Action Plan 2022-2023

This Community Plan Action Plan 2022-2023 (Action Plan) is the annual supplement to the Community Plan 2021-2025. It outlines the key actions we will focus on delivering throughout the second year of the Community Plan under our five goals: a connected community, liveable neighbourhoods, a strong local economy, a sustainable environment and a high-performing organisation.¹

Connected community



- Deliver the second phase of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Family Violence Project to normalise gender equality and reduce family violence
- Reduce abuse of elders through education, awareness and prevention initiatives as part of the Northern Metro Elder Abuse Prevention Network
- Deliver the Cat De-sexing Program to reduce the number of stray, abandoned and unwanted cats
- Hold an annual Pet Expo in partnership with neighbouring councils
- Increase community preparedness and resilience before, during and after emergencies
- Enhance community safety by improving how we monitor and audit building and pool compliance
- Work with partners to lead recovery from COVID-19 pandemic including vaccinations and COVID-19 safe health messaging
- Deliver the Infrastructure Accessibility Program to make it easier for people of all abilities to access and use council facilities
- Develop a Connected Community Strategy to guide how we create a socially cohesive, healthy, safe and engaged community
- Continue to build leadership capability and skills of residents through the delivery of a Community Leadership program
- Review the Maternal Child Health service to improve cultural safety for our Aboriginal community
- Deliver a place-based festival and events program including initiatives supporting arts, culture, heritage and community recovery efforts to reconnect and foster wellbeing
- Support the Whittlesea Agricultural Show as one of the municipality's largest events
- Progress delivery of an Aboriginal Gathering Place that will increase connections to culture, heritage, land and healing
- Advocate for funding to build an Aboriginal Gathering Place
- Pilot community programs to inform the Aboriginal Gathering Place
- Advocate for mental health services
- Deliver the Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing - Mental Health First Aid for Teens and Safe Minds jointly with the Department of Education
- Advocate for funding for a regional sports and aquatic centre in Mernda
- Undertake service planning which incorporates federal government reform anticipated over the next two years to ensure our older residents transition well to the national market-based aged care and disability system
- Commence delivering social support services and positive ageing activities at the Mernda Social Support facility
- Finalise the business case and complete design investigations for the regional sports and aquatic centre in Mernda
- Design utility services to support the regional sports and aquatic centre in Mernda
- Complete the redevelopment of Mill Park Basketball Stadium
- Complete the upgrade of the pavilion at HR Uren Reserve in Thomastown
- Construct a basketball court, shelter and social gathering spaces and upgrade paths at the western end of Norris Bank Reserve
- Design the redevelopment of the Norris Bank tennis courts
- Commence replacing the synthetic soccer pitch at Harvest Home Road in Epping North
- Commence designing the Patterson Drive Community Centre in Donnybrook
- Strengthen engagement activities with diverse communities
- Consult with the Youth Advisory Committee about a transition to a Whittlesea Youth Council
- Commence developing the new Whittlesea Reconciliation Action Plan

¹ Not all key initiatives will be actioned every year or over the full duration of the four-year Community Plan. Community needs and priorities change over the four-year period, and this will be reflected in the composition of each annual Community Plan Action Plan.



Liveable neighbourhoods



- Continue improvements to Whittlesea Public Gardens which will include a skate park, rock climbing wall, basketball courts, barbecue and shelter area and a car park
- Develop and commence construction of the playground at Redleap Reserve
- Commence construction of a new playground, shelters and a multi-purpose court at Kelynack Reserve
- Upgrade the dog off leash park at Delacombe Park in South Morang
- Rehabilitate the conservation reserve in the northern part of Worchester Park in Bundoora
- Construct the pedestrian bridge at Huskisson Reserve in Lalor
- Finalise new Public Toilet Amenity Plan and commence implementation
- Start construction of Granite Hills Major Community Park
- Commence Quarry Hills Regional Park trail network construction
- Deliver the missing path links program to improve connectivity across our path network and help increase levels of walking and cycling participation
- Commence upgrading the intersection at Findon Road and Williamsons Road
- Deliver local road resurfacing works
- Reconstruct local roads
- Undertake condition and performance audit of roads
- Advocate for funds for new or upgraded roads
- Improve disability access to public transport including providing appropriate shelter and seating
- Advocate for the construction of Wollert Rail
- Advocate for better public transport, including better rail, tram and bus infrastructure and services
- Renew playgrounds and general landscape improvements
- Improve road safety, paths, lighting, open space and overall liveability in the priority areas in Mill Park and Thomastown
- Undertake assessments to protect dry stone walls
- Continue the Aboriginal Heritage Study including field work and assessment of significant cultural heritage sites
- Draft neighbourhood design guidelines and principles for activity centres and medium-density housing to improve amenity and functionality
- Commence streetscape improvements at Gorge Road shopping precinct in South Morang
- Investigate and secure opportunities to facilitate social and affordable housing in Whittlesea through the Victorian Government Big Housing Build
- Advocate for more affordable housing and emergency accommodation, including for our Hope Street First Response Youth Service accommodation partnership
- Commence installing additional bins in parks
- Upgrade school crossings, speed zones and paths as part of the Safe Routes to Schools program
- Commence developing a Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy to drive Council's program of work to deliver desirable transport, planning, urban design, open space and housing outcomes



Strong local economy



- Strengthen the visitor and agri-tourism economies by implementing a new Destination Tourism Plan
- Develop an Agri-Food Action Plan to attract investment in the sector and support existing businesses
- As part of COVID-19 recovery, deliver a 'support local' campaign to support the community and local businesses
- Increase capacity building and training in the community to enhance employment opportunities for unemployed and underemployed residents
- Develop and commence delivering the Economic Participation Plan to make it easier for underrepresented and vulnerable community members to participate and thrive
- Streamline and digitise the business approvals process
- Commence the Investment Attraction Communications Framework to support local businesses to innovate and thrive
- Develop a Council incentives package for business attraction and support
- Commence implementing the Shopfront Improvement Program
- Finalise draft of the Epping Central structure plan for community consultation
- Work in partnership and advocate for the MFIX (Melbourne Food and Export Hub) and the BIFT (Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal)
- Progress planning and development of key activity centres and employment precincts including Cloverton Metropolitan Activity Centre and the Plenty Valley and Epping Central structure plans
- Finalise the development plan for Vearings Road employment precinct
- Plan for increased kindergarten demand to support our growing population
- Investigate co-working spaces with Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries to increase opportunities for residents to participate in the workforce
- Review the library service to inform transition to a new entity as required under the Local Government Act 2020
- Increase participation and access to library services through additional 'satellite' library programming at community centres
- Progress the Community Farm and Food Collective
- Support sustainable local agribusiness



Sustainable environment



- Implement the Rethinking Waste Plan to support our community to become a leader in sustainable living
- Introduce a rebate program for reusable nappies, reusable sanitary products and composting tools
- Implement a glass recycling bin service as a fourth kerbside collection bin for residents, to further decrease waste to landfill and improve resource recovery
- Renew and upgrade Peter Hopper Lake in Mill Park
- Construct Wilton Vale Wetland Boardwalk in South Morang
- Refurbish Janefield Wetlands Boardwalk in Bundoora
- Draft and consult with community on a new Green Wedge Management Plan
- Deliver the Residential Street Tree Renewal Planting Program
- Deliver the Parks Tree and Major Facilities Planting Program
- Deliver the Conservation Reserves Tree Planting Program
- Work with Traditional Owners to obtain Aboriginal cultural heritage permits for land management works in conservation reserves
- Better protect conservation reserves through rezoning
- Map our biodiversity assets to help protect and enhance them throughout the planning process
- Model habitat connectivity to better understand impacts of fragmentation and urban growth on our biodiversity, and to inform our incentive programs, land management and planning scheme for better biodiversity outcomes
- Support our business community to improve the sustainability of their facilities using Environmental Upgrade Agreements
- Partner with Traditional Owners to develop land management partnerships
- Help our community learn and connect with the environment through the Nature Stewards Program
- Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings and facilities including solar and lighting upgrades
- Continue to replace our street lights with energy efficient bulbs
- Advocate to protect the grassy eucalypt woodlands
- Continue to manage populations of Matted Flax-lily relocated from the Mernda Rail site

High-performing organisation



- Through the delivery of our Customer First project, continue to make it easier for residents to interact with Council
- Make it easier for our community to apply for local law permits online such as roadside and footpath trading
- Continue our digital transformation to improve our efficiency and customer service
- Advocate on behalf of our community leading up to the State election and work with new sitting State and Federal members post-election
- Implement the Workforce Plan to attract and retain skilled staff to deliver for our community
- Implement the Gender Equality Action Plan to ensure a safe and equal workplace and progress towards becoming an Employer of Choice
- Deliver the Emerging Leaders Program to strengthen leadership skills of staff
- Develop High-Performing Organisation Strategy to guide effective and efficient use of resources, and good governance at Council
- Commence implementation of our place-based service delivery model, including promotion of local services and identification of service gaps
- Deliver a place-based youth development program providing services to young people close to where they live, recreate, study and work
- Finalise the Thomastown and Lalor Urban Design Framework to enhance liveability and connection in the area
- Develop the 2024-2027 Budget
- Develop the 2024-2033 Financial Plan
- Publicly report on Council's good governance and delivery of the Community Plan
- Develop a long-term Community Infrastructure Plan to guide the development of community, arts and cultural facilities
- Develop and implement Council's Research and Analytics Plan to inform evidence-based decision-making
- Create a program of regular pop-up activities across the municipality to increase engagement opportunities for community to help shape our programs and decision-making
- Undertake communications-focused research to understand how we can best communicate with our diverse communities in a fast-changing digital landscape
- Develop the 2021-2022 Annual Report
- Progress the organisational outcomes and measurements framework to ensure all the work Council does benefits community
- Participate in tender and shared services opportunities prioritised by the Northern Councils Alliance
- Identify key initiatives that have a "direct and significant impact on community" for gender impact assessment under the Gender Equality Act 2020
- Review policy for our fees and charges to ensure a fair system that is sustainable financially
- Review children, family and ageing well service clinical governance model to better address an increasingly complex risk, compliance and legislative operating environment



**City of
Whittlesea**

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