





# Whittlesea Park Master Plan

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# Introduction



# CONTEXT

## Overview

Whittlesea Park is a 25 hectare reserve, classified as a Municipal Open Space in the City of Whittlesea. It's located in the north of the municipality in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, 60km north of Melbourne's CBD.

Surrounded by established residential areas and business, retail and education areas, the reserve is cited in the City of Whittlesea's Open Space Strategy to be upgraded to improve connectivity to and between open spaces to facilitate walking and cycling links between the residential area and town centres.

Situated within the catchment and tributaries of the Plenty River and influenced by three watercourses, Whittlesea Park has a high potential to provide both recreational and biodiversity values to the local communities.

## Purpose

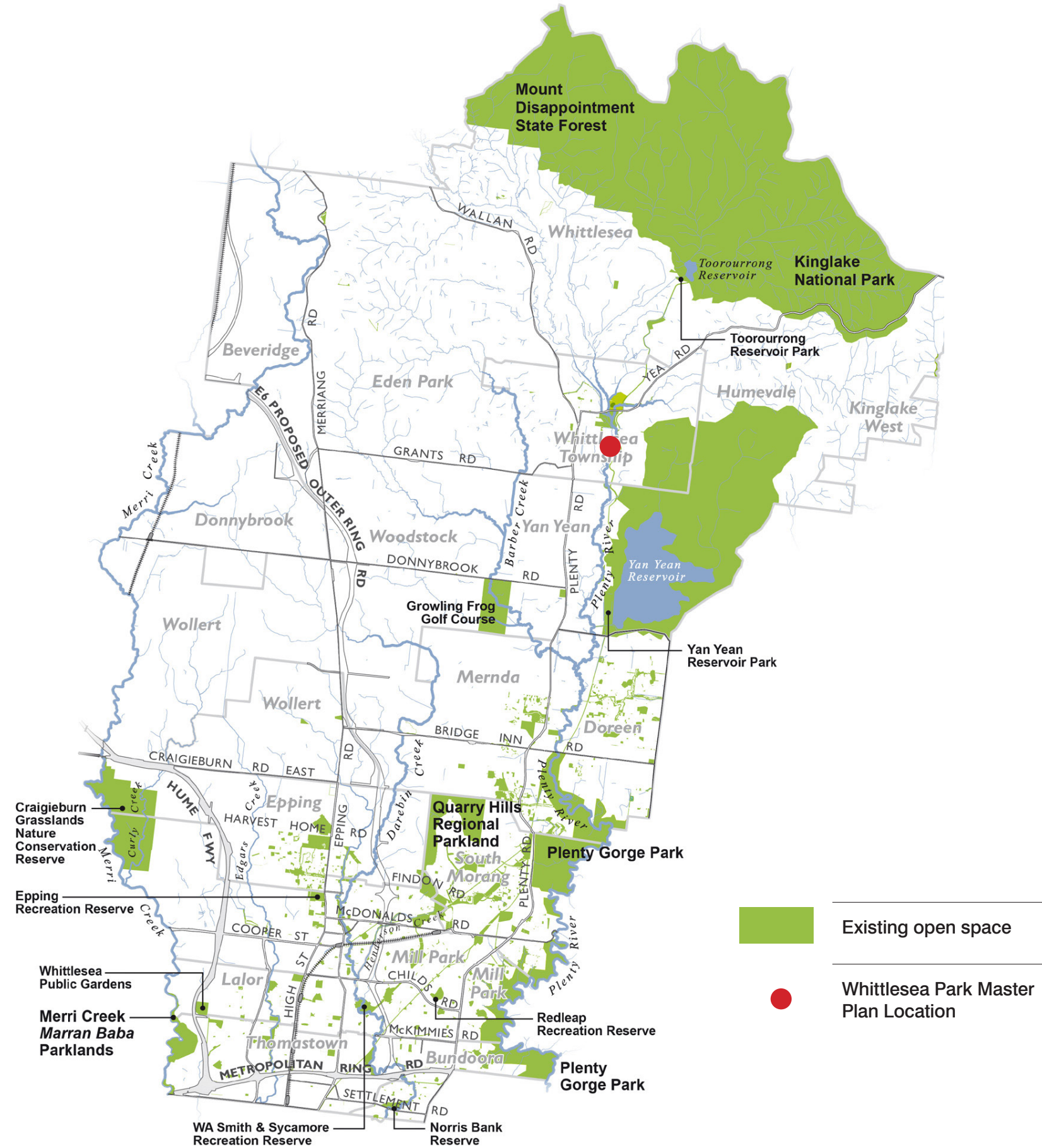
The Master Plan has been developed with the Whittlesea Showgrounds & Recreation Reserves Committee of Management. It aims to guide the implementation of staged development of structural facility provision and unstructured recreational use of the open space, as well as to review the existing management and maintenance agreements and provide direction for future arrangements. The Landscape Master Plan comprises of AF Walker Reserve, Lions Club Park, C. McDonald Reserve, J.T. Towt Park, Whittlesea Skate Park, River Street Reserve, and Little River Street Reserve.



Bruces Creek Wetland



Avenue of pine trees



- Existing open space
- Whittlesea Park Master Plan Location

Existing Open Space in the City of Whittlesea  
Source: City of Whittlesea Open Space Strategy







# Document Register and Review



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION REVIEW

The following documents inform and provide the strategic framework for the Whittlesea Park Master Plan. A review and summary of each including comments and opportunities relevant to the Master Plan is included in the Appendices for further information. The documents reviewed are as follows:

### POLICY & STRATEGY DOCUMENTS

- *Active Whittlesea Strategy 2019-2028*
- *Whittlesea Township Plan 2021*
- *Community Plan 2021-2025*
- *Greening Whittlesea City Forest Strategy 2020-2040*
- *Street Tree Management Plan 2019-2029*
- *Natural & Built Shade Policy*
- *Park Lighting Strategy*
- *Whittlesea Showgrounds & Recreation Reserves Strategic Plan 2019/2020 to 2021/2022 & Action Plan 2019/2020*
- *Whittlesea Showgrounds & Recreation Reserves Strategic Plan 2019/2020 to 2021/2022 & Action Plan 2019/2020*
- *Whittlesea Netball & Basketball Plan 2019-2041*
- *Whittlesea 2040 A Place for All*
- *Whittlesea 2040 Community Engagement Summary*
- *Northern Regional Trails Strategy 2016*
- *Whittlesea Bicycle Plan 2016-2020*
- *Whittlesea Cycle Sports & Skate Strategy 2016-2025*
- *City of Whittlesea Open Space Strategy -Technical Report, Aug 2016*
- *City of Whittlesea Open Space Strategy, Aug 2016*
- *Whittlesea Disability Action Plan 2017-2021*

### DRAWINGS & PLANS

- *Whittlesea Park Master Plan Area*
- *Whittlesea Park Land Management*
- *Standard Details for Parks and Open Space*
- *Planning Property Report - Whittlesea Park*
- *VPP Clause 44.03*

### OTHER

- *Whittlesea Skatepark Redevelopment Plans 2022*
- *Church St Streetscape Redevelopment*
- *Whittlesea Precinct MP CoM Meeting Minutes*
- *Bruces Creek Active Recreation Plan*
- *Bruces Creek Active Future Directions Plan*
- *Key Stakeholder Minutes Workshop 1, 2022*
- *Project Working Group (PWG) Minutes, 2022*

The documents opposite prescribe a number of actions relating to the future planning and management of Whittlesea Park, in summary:

- Improved access, particularly with a view of enhancing safety and creating more connected trail networks including sealed (all-weather) paths, shared-use paths as well as improving road crossings. Better connection of Whittlesea Park to the town centre and key existing community facilities is also a key directive within the strategic documents.
- A number of the documents outline broad directives to enhance and protect the natural environment and the ecological systems of the Park as well as increasing tree canopy cover, protecting existing trees and in turn providing better shade amenity.
- Lighting of the Park is referenced in the context of ensuring specific programmed lighting for particular uses. Safety is considered exclusive of broader illumination of the Park owing to the context.
- Ensuring the evaluation and targeted upgrade and appropriate maintenance of existing facilities and infrastructure (as well as opportunities for new facilities) is a directive in a number of strategies relating to sports, recreation and parkland amenities.
- The retention of a rural character and natural features of the open space is a targeted action and the Park is not identified as being appropriate for major change in the context of its location and the scale and nature of the township.





# Site Analysis

# CONTEXT PLAN

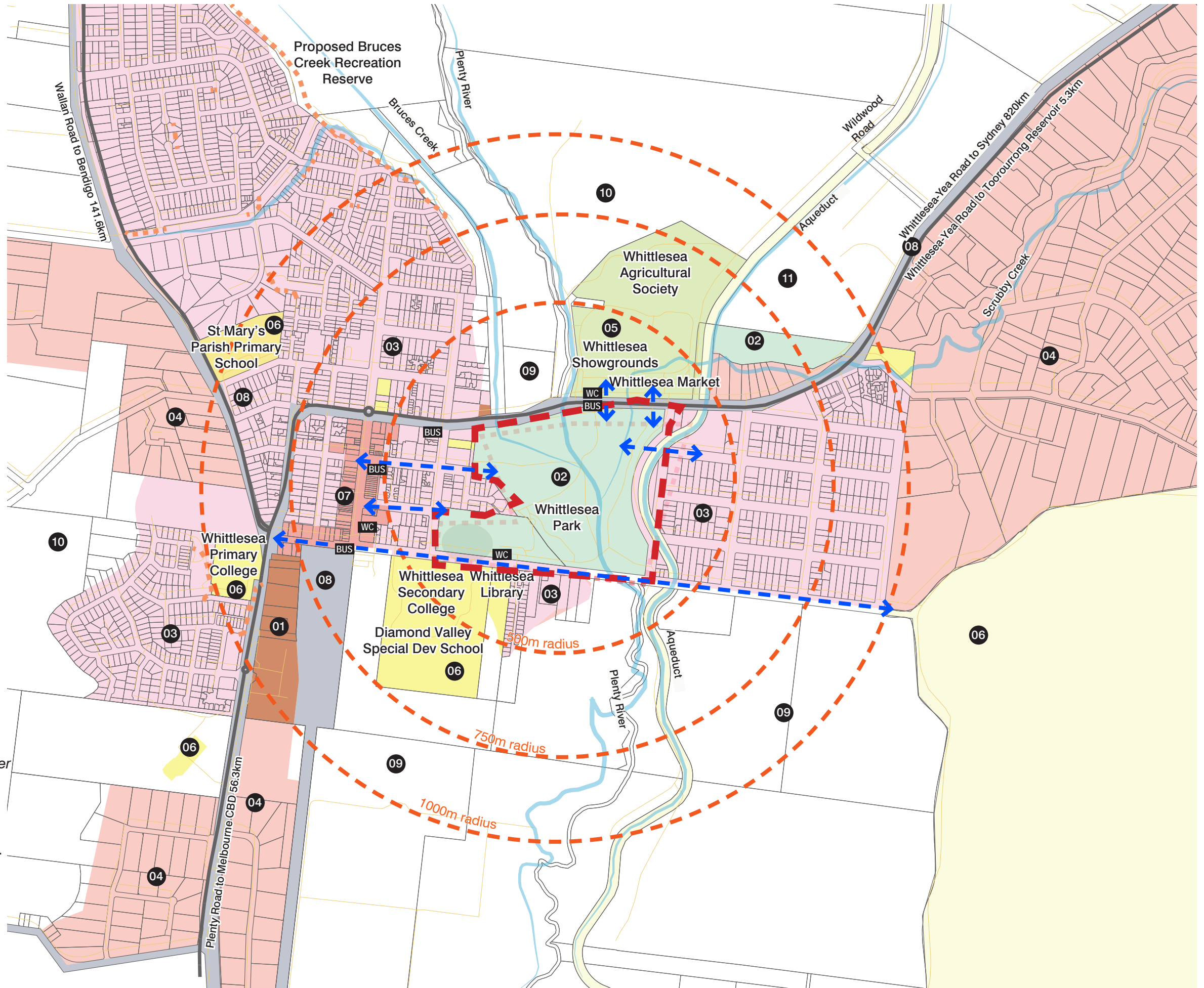
- Key**
- Master Plan Area
  - 01 IN3Z Industrial Use
  - 02 PPRZ Public Park & Recreation
  - 03 GRZ1 General Residential
  - 04 LDRZ Low Density Residential
  - 05 SUZ1 Special Use
  - 06 PUZ Public Use
  - 07 C1Z Commercial
  - 08 TRZ Transport Zone
  - 09 RCZ1 Rural Conservation
  - 10 GWZ Green Wedge
  - 11 GWAZ Green Wedge A
  - ↔ Improve Pedestrian Links

The Whittlesea Township within which the Whittlesea Park sits, is located in the rural area of the City of Whittlesea.

“... implications for forecast change on the provision of open space includes:

Increased urban densities resulting in greater reliance on public open space to meet a broader range of needs, particularly social and informal uses.”

- City of Whittlesea Open Space Strategy - Technical Report p86





# WHITTLESEA TOWNSHIP CONTEXT PLAN



## Legend

- Extent of Works

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- BUS Bus Stops

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- WC Public Toilets

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- Town Centre

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- Improve Pedestrian Links

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- PPRZ Public Park & Recreation Zone

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- SUZ1 Special Use Zone



# SITE PLAN

## Existing Conditions

Key

 Master Plan Area

## EXISTING OVERLAYS



**Rural Flood Overlay**  
 Ensure that any development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwater, minimises flood damage and is compatible with flood hazard, local drainage conditions and the minimisation of soil erosion, sedimentation and silting. Refer to Topographical Features for overlay on larger plan


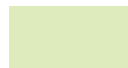









**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity**  
 If a significant land use change is proposed, a cultural heritage management plan may be triggered.





# TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES & DRAINAGE

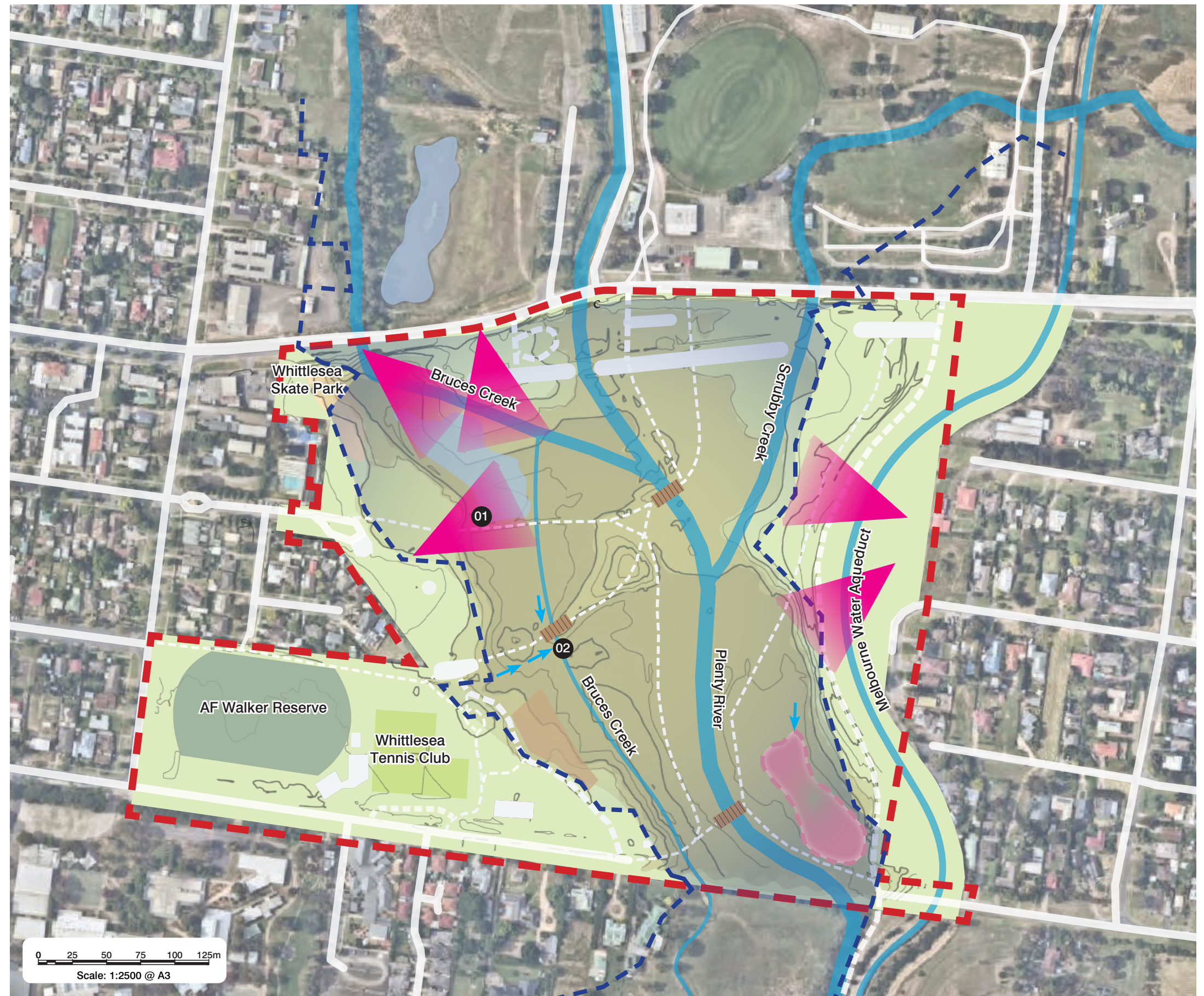
- Key**
-  Master Plan Area
  -  Ground outside of the Flood Plain Topography
  -  Higher ground Topography
  -  Lower ground Topography
  -  Low-lying marsh Topography
  -  Rural Floodway Overlay Drainage
  -  Drainage & Swale Drainage
  -  Creeks, Rivers & Aqueducts Drainage
  -  Vantage point for views



01  
Bruces Creek Wetland



02  
Bruces Creek



The site is heavily influenced by flood plain. Proposed development needs to be away from the temporary storage of floodwater in order to minimise flood damage.



## ACCESS & SAFETY

### Existing Conditions Analysis

Whittlesea Township sits approximately 10km north of the Mernda at which the train service terminates. Bus access to the site is available. Primarily visitors arrive by car, or locally on foot or bicycle.

Visitors to the site have several entry points, with parking provided informally along the adjacent streets, and some with formal parking that is associated with the sporting and swim facilities. The parking largely comprises of unsealed surfaces.

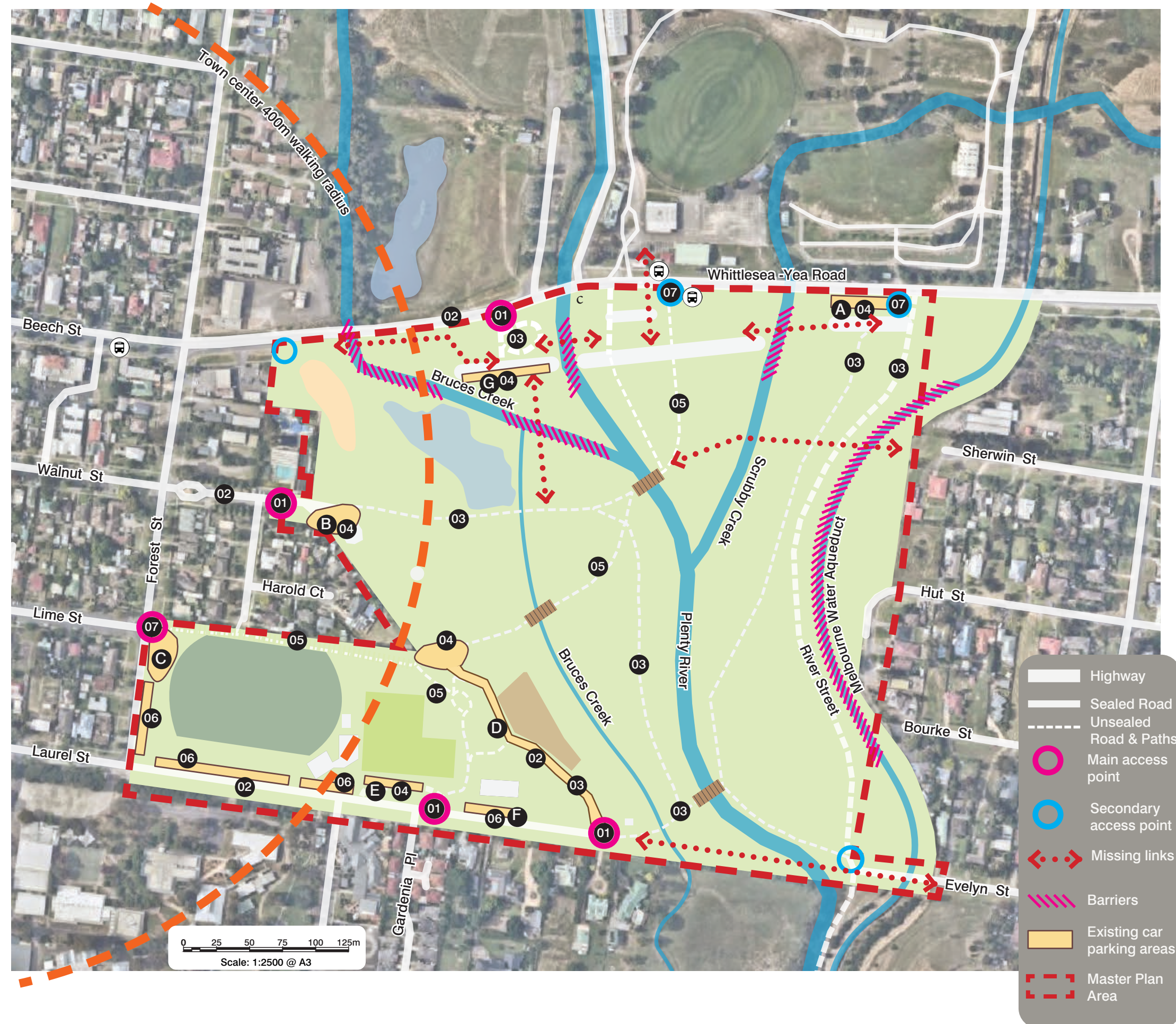
Access with the site is abundant but has some missing links and there are areas of the site disconnected due to the waterways passing through the site.

Bridges that cross the waterways are in various forms, quality, and levels of compliance. There is opportunity for most of these to be assessed and upgraded, and should be from a standard material and style palette.

#### Key

- 01 Primary road arrival points
- 02 Sealed roads
- 03 Unsealed roads/maintenance vehicular access
- 04 Unsealed/informal parking within the site
- 05 Unsealed paths
- 06 Informal car parking outside the site (road reserve)
- 07 Gated entry with limited access
- Bus Stop

Car park area	Unrestricted	Disabled	No Stopping 6am-6pm Mon-Fri
A	50		
B	45	2	2
C	NA		
D	50		
E	30		
F	17	1	
G	28		
On-street	203	4	
Total	423	7	2

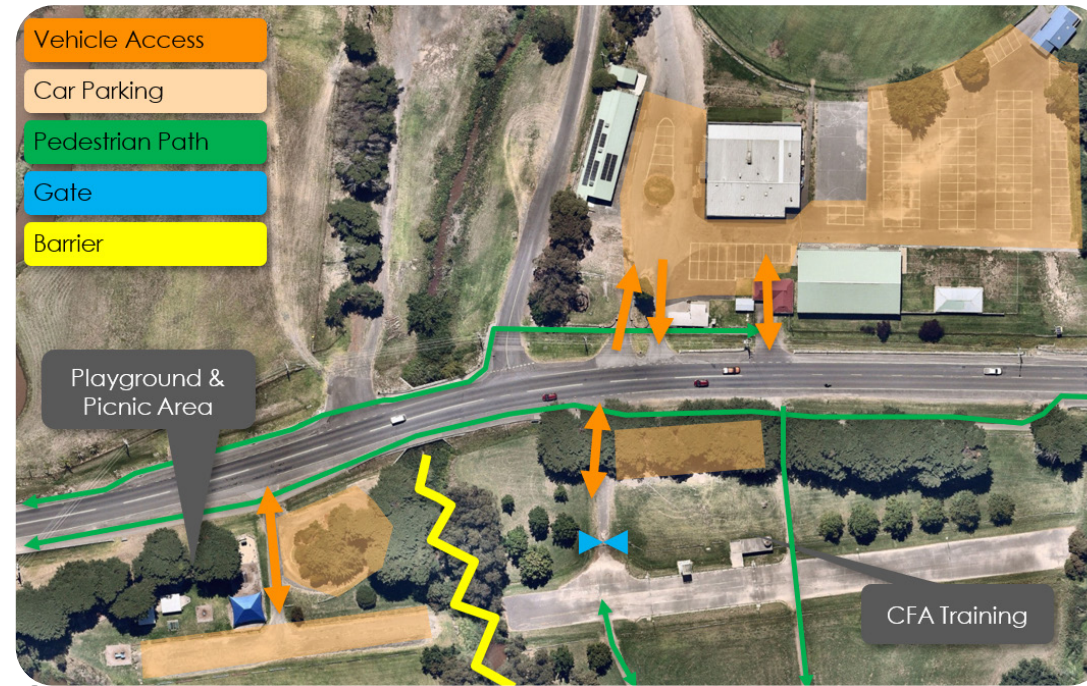




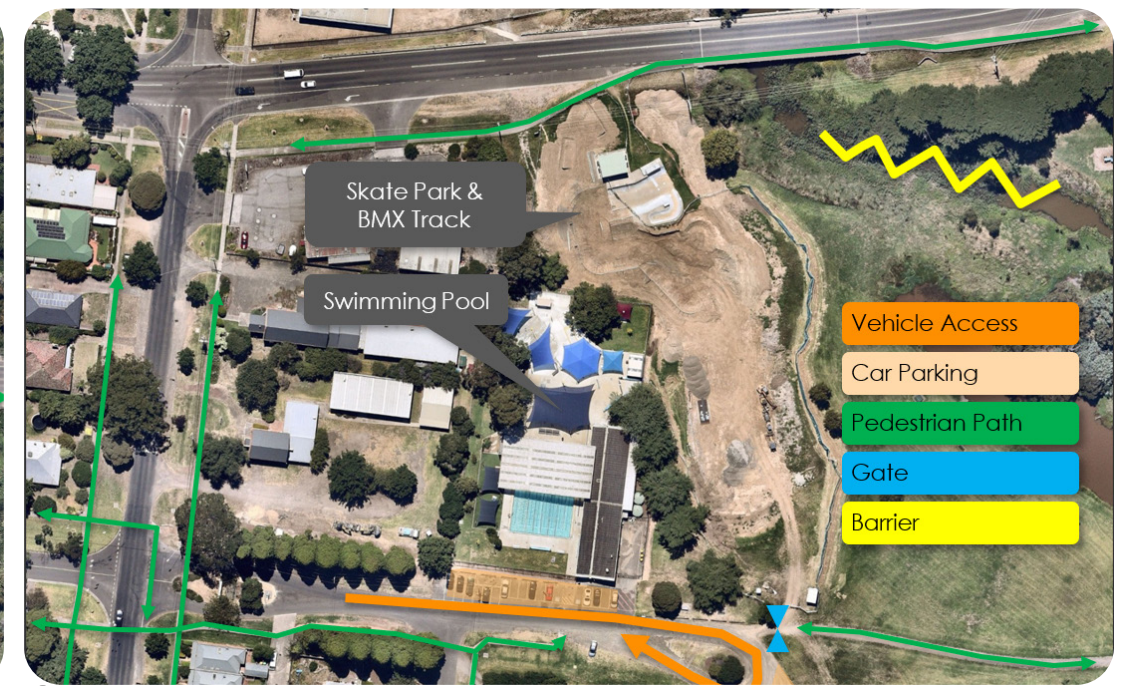
# ACCESS & SAFETY Traffic Engineering Analysis



Key Plan



A Access & Parking Arrangements - North (Fig.16 in report)



B Access & Parking Arrangements - Northwest (Fig.18 in report)



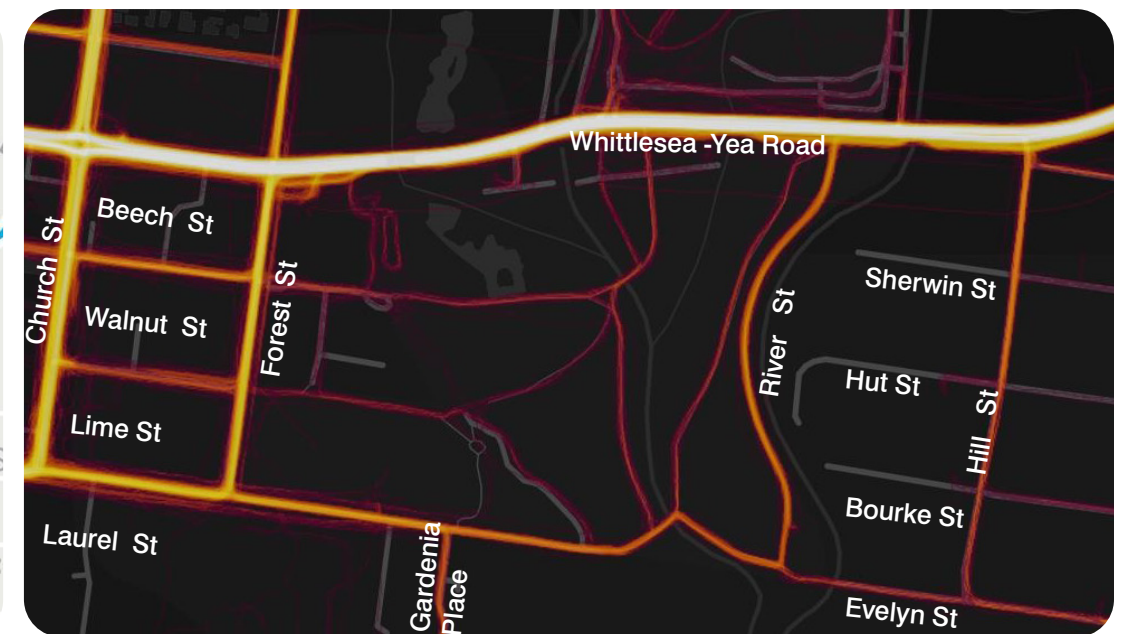
C Access & Parking Arrangements - Northeast (Fig.17 in report)



D Access & Parking Arrangements - Southwest (Fig.19 in report)



Public Transport Provision (Fig.14 in report)



Strava Cycling Heatmap (Fig.15 in report)

These diagrams show the existing access into the site and within the site. There are multiple arrival points however they are largely informal.

The natural water features within the site are strong assets however form barriers to access between the different areas.

Refer to the full report by One Mile Grid in the appendices



**ACCESS & SAFETY**  
Existing Conditions Analysis



01 Beech St/Whittlesea-Yea Rd - Example of unprotected pedestrian access between the Whittlesea Park and the Showgrounds precinct.



02 Laurel Street - Semi-formalised parking outside of the AF Walker Reserve Pavilion



03 Example of poorly defined access and connections that lack legibility



04 Example of gravel areas at Lions Club Park that could be formalised or revegetated



05 Example of vehicle exclusion barriers throughout the site



06 Example of limited wayfinding signage at Evelyn Street



Key Plan

These images identify some of the areas within the site that are underutilised, due for renewal, to improve the experience and safety of the park users



07 Example of path connections to town centre (Laurel Street & Lime Street extension) that could be strengthened by upgrading the path surface and width, and improving the experience such as increasing shade amenity, removal of barriers (as appropriate) and provision of seating opportunities





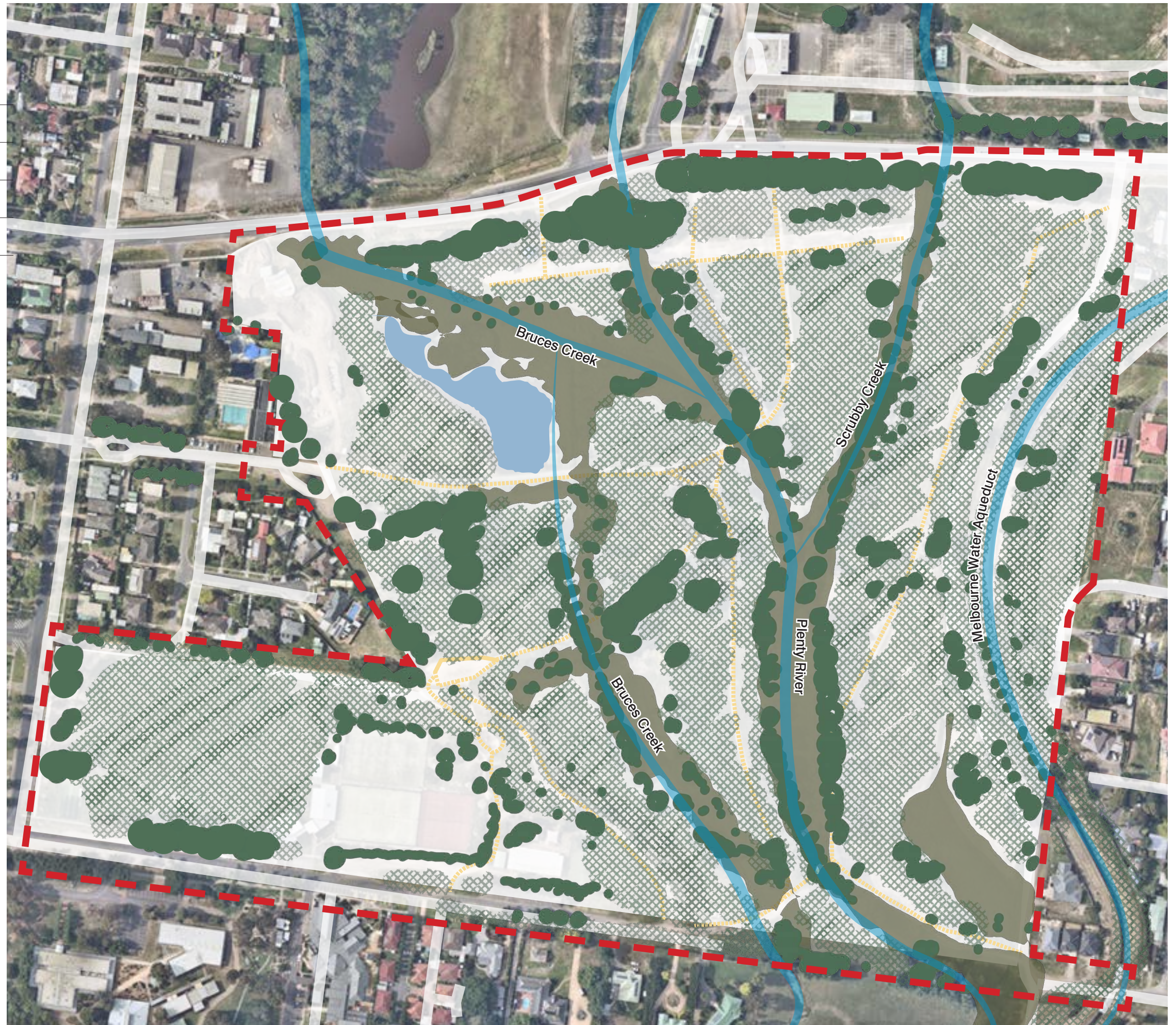
## ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE Existing Conditions Analysis

### Key

- Existing tree cover
- Existing vegetated areas
- Existing grassed areas
- Master plan areas

### CONSIDERATIONS

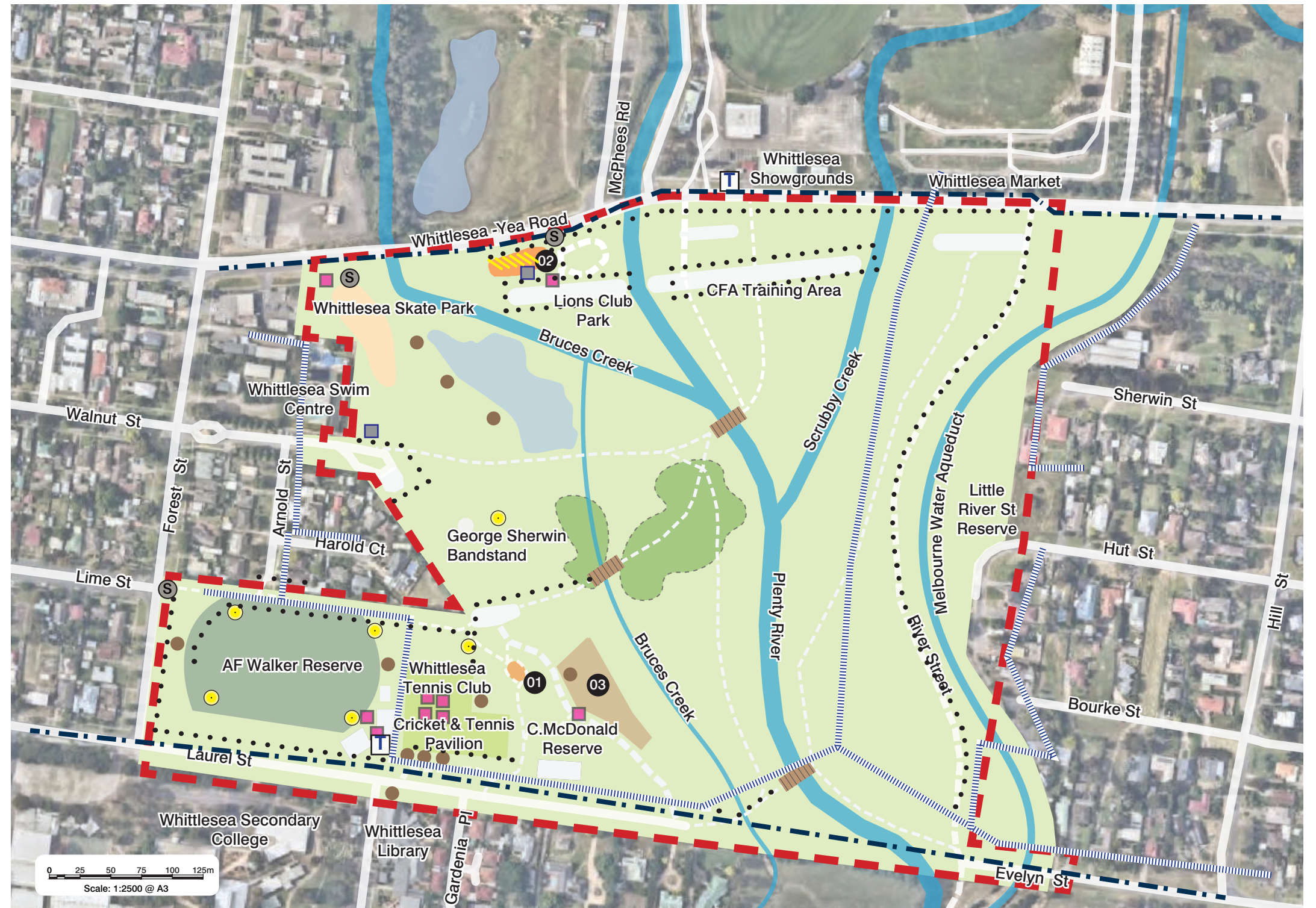
- Existing cypress avenue in decline with recent removals for safety. Consider aborist to audit as an avenue and succession plan across the park
- Limited tree cover to paths. Consider increasing provision of shade to improve path amenity, and to strengthen path networks, including the town centre connection. Reference Whittlesea Natural and Built Shade Policy and Greening Whittlesea City Forest Strategy
- Some of the existing tree cover, particularly around waterways are suckering or self-seeding non-native species. Consider management plan with Water Authorities
- Consider deciduous trees (without weediness tendencies) for seasonal interest around new facilities. Generally locate away from the waterways
- Limited garden bed planting. Consider increasing planting around new facilities to improve visual interest, habitat and biodiversity
- Weeds around waterways. Consider development of a weed management and revegetation plan together with water authorities and relevant stakeholders
- Maintain open character of grassed areas for active and passive recreation and use for overflow carparking during event days
- Consider new tree planting for any new car parking areas, including street trees for on-street parking





# INFRASTRUCTURE & AMENITIES Existing Conditions Analysis

Key	
	Master Plan Area
	Sports Field
	Playspace
	Tennis Courts
	Water Body
	Existing Seating
	Existing Drinking Fountain
	Existing BBQ
	Existing Shade Structure
	Public Toilet
	Watercourse
	Cypress Tree Groups
	Bridge
	Overhead Power Lines
	Sewer
	Entry Signage
	Lighting
	Vehicle exclusion bollards and fencing (various types)
	C.McDonald Reserve Playground
	Lions Club Park Playground
	Off-leash Dog Park



## CONSIDERATIONS

- Limited bicycle parking, consider increasing provision in association with new amenities to encourage bicycle use. Reference Whittlesea Bicycle Plan
- The sports field is a non-standard and could be upgraded to a standard shape and size
- Tennis courts appear to be in an acceptable condition
- Playgrounds are small for the size of the Park and in older condition. Both should be considered for upgrades to provide greater play opportunities
- Vehicle exclusion fencing is of various styles around the site. Consider excluding vehicular access into site from Laurel Street to make better use of the space and increase pedestrian safety, which would also make much of the fencing redundant
- Existing below ground services (water, power, etc) generally sit to the perimeter of the Park following existing street networks. The existing sewer locations are important in assessing the feasibility and location of potential new toilet facilities and drinking fountains
- Bins are generally provided close to picnic tables and BBQ facilities and the dog park. These can be increased to supplement new picnic facilities and include recycling bins
- Drinking fountains are provided to existing sports facilities, the dog park, and Lions Club Park, and should be increased to supplement new facilities
- Lighting within the Park is limited to the sports facilities and the Bandstand. This limits after dark broader use of the Park, and access from Laurel to Evelyn Street which could be reconsidered with new amenities. Improvement of through connections. Reference Whittlesea Park Lighting Strategy
- Entry signage is inconsistent around the site as a whole; a consistent sign would assist in unifying the site
- Wayfinding signage is limited and should be assessed holistically, and link to the Town Centre and nearby amenities such as the Library, Swim Centre, Showgrounds and Market



**INFRASTRUCTURE & AMENITY**  
Existing Conditions



01 Walnut Street arrival point, with informal parking area, vehicle exclusion barriers and BBQ picnic area (not DDA compliant)



02 Existing bridges - in poor condition and not DDA compliant



04 Example of underutilised areas around Rotary Club and Tennis Club



06 Example of outdated structures remaining alongside new bridges, assess for historic value and remove or protect



07 Example of dilapidated timber fencing at Evelyn Street



08 Lions Club Park with playspace, shade, picnic tables and barbecue facilities



Key Plan

These images identify some of the areas within the site that are underutilised, due for upgrading, or can be upgraded to improve the experience and safety of the park users



09 Whittlesea Park playspace with aging infrastructure and elements in poor condition and located adjacent to carparking



10 Example of existing furniture inconsistent as furniture palette, limited provision of DDA compliant furniture and access to amenities





## OPPORTUNITIES

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### TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES AND DRAINAGE

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- Maximise the usable, functional spaces within the Park, particularly those above flood overlays for active recreation and potential for new amenities and infrastructure.
  - Investigate the hydrological systems and performance associated with the Park's waterways and look for opportunities where improved water quality, better flood mitigation and habitat may be developed.
  - Look for opportunities to take advantage of natural corridors and vantage points for viewing locations both from a user experience and safety, passive surveillance perspective.
  - Add value to existing drainage lines and swales with designed outcomes that improve aesthetic qualities and may reduce maintenance requirements.
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### ACCESS AND SAFETY

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- Access compliance and safety could be enhanced by retaining existing paths / trails but upgrading with sealed finishes (asphalt/concrete) and improved gradients and widths.
  - Consider new links or sections of pathways that could create continuous 'loop' walking, running and cycling circuits through and around the Park to increase opportunities for exercise and improved safety.
  - Look for options to extend, modify or upgrade existing bridge crossings over the waterways to create wider and safer access. Liaise with water and VicRoads authorities as required.
  - Upgrade existing informal parking areas to marked bays with sealed finishes to increase functionality, capacity and safety.
  - Opportunity to provide safer (formal) pedestrian crossing over Beech Street between the Showgrounds and the Park, noting the pedestrian movements that occur particularly for overflow parking during events. (Liaison with VicRoads required).
  - Advocate to PTV for improved public transport facilities, including bus stops located on Beech Street which are sub-standard and not DDA accessible.
  - Investigate removal of public vehicular access and informal parking within the Park area, excepting controlled maintenance access.
  - Review opportunities for improved cyclist access to the site, including a continuous, high-quality shared path link on Laurel Street, to provide connectivity to the town centre and existing network on Plenty Road.
  - The future Whittlesea Rail Trail and/or Plenty River Trail extension may terminate in the vicinity of site. Review opportunities for integration of end-of-trip facilities or trail parking.
  - Review opportunities for improved pedestrian linkages to Whittlesea Town Centre, including pedestrian crossings on Forest Street
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### ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE

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- Consider opportunities for increased natural shade through new tree plantings. Locations could be targeted to higher use areas and along existing paths and edges.
  - Build upon the existing specimen tree plantings within the Park to develop a mixed botanical character and themed or grouped species collections.
  - Undertake a comprehensive assessment and management plan for existing mature trees including safety audits and long-term plans for progressive replacement and supplementary plantings.
  - Investigate opportunities for new ephemeral and aquatic plantings in the vicinity of waterways that can add ecological value by providing an improved water quality function such as nutrient removal and support for biodiversity and native habitat.
  - Evaluate open grass areas and consider opportunities for defining specific uses and maintenance requirements such as formal, manicured areas or meadows.
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### INFRASTRUCTURE & AMENITIES

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- Evaluate the condition and functionality of all existing park structures and furniture (such as seating, shade, play, picnic, bridges etc.) Look for opportunities to renew, upgrade or supplement.
  - Car parking for the various uses is provided in separate and fragmented parking areas, which are not easily navigable to those unfamiliar with the precinct. New facilities will likely attract additional parking demands. Investigate opportunities for new, consolidated parking locations to service parking needs.
  - Investigate spatial opportunities for new and upgraded play facilities within the park including the feasibility of a regional play space.
  - Installation of a regional playground and improvements to existing facilities is likely to increase the volume of drivers attracted to the precinct, primarily via the Forest Street / Beech Street intersection. Investigate opportunities for safety or capacity upgrades at this intersection.
  - Consider opportunities for both way-finding and interpretive signage which could improve the navigability and safety of the park as well as highlighting stories of the natural features and cultural heritage of the site.
  - Assess the provision and condition of existing sports facilities and consider opportunities for upgrades and additions. Specifically, look for spatial opportunities to provide an additional netball court, where existing facilities lack capacity.
  - Consider the spatial arrangements and location of any new infrastructure and facilities with existing requirements – including maximising the capacity for the park to accommodate periodic overflow parking for events.
-



# Consultation Summary



## CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Community Consultation was held from 20 September to 31 October 2022 to exhibit the draft Master Plan to the community and to receive feedback on the 13 key recommendations. Feedback has been used to finalise the Master Plan and develop an Implementation Strategy

Overall, the community provided a large amount of support for the master plan and key recommendations. This was demonstrated through the survey and voting poll.

Refer to the Appendices for the full report.



Image of the Concept Master Plan exhibited for consultation

### METHODOLOGY

- Direct mail out of flyers
- Advisory boards placed at entrances to Whittlesea Park
- Social media promotion
- Local Papers and media outlets
- Online engagement page
- On-site pop-up sessions
- Phone and email



Images of Flyer



### SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

- Open spaces and nature including trees and creeks are the items most valued to the community in a public open space.
- Whittlesea Park is valued for having large open spaces with nature. The community would like to retain the open space, replace old trees and clean up the creek corridors.
- The most popular key recommendations are the Circuit path, playground and public toilets.
- Majority of participants would like the future public toilets located at Walnut Street, but ensuring that it is accessible to the playground.
- The community would like to ensure that the park is safe to all users. Lighting should be included in the master plan along with CCTV in high-risk areas e.g. the skate park, better fences and improved access across Beech Street.
- Participants would like the future playground to include equipment which caters to teens and people with disabilities, plenty of shelter, bins, and park furniture. Participants would also like to see improved access to the public toilets from the playground.
- Participants would like the master plan to further consider making the site RV friendly.
- Further acknowledge the history of the site.

### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

With review of the consultation findings, the follow items are recommended to be include in the final master plan

- Provide a priority rating based on the feedback, with the circuit path, playground upgrade and new public toilets as the highest priority.
- Update master plan to show the future public toilets at Walnut Street
- Further consider pathway lighting along main path links
- Develop the playground concept to include equipment which cater to teens and people with disabilities
- Provide improved access from the playground to the public toilets on Walnut street
- Explore the option for RV friendly facilities on the site
- Further acknowledge the history of the site including the place names.



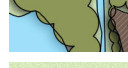
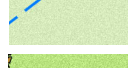














# Master Plan Concept Designs



# MASTER PLAN CONCEPT DESIGN



- ### Legend
-  Extent of Works
  -  Existing Trees and Vegetation
  -  Existing Water Course/Bodies
  -  Existing Grassed Area
  -  Proposed Formal Lawn Area
  -  Proposed Specimen Trees
  -  Proposed Avenue Tree
  -  Proposed 3m Nature Circuit with associated trees planting
  -  Proposed Sealed Paths 2m & 3m width for main connections
  -  Unsealed Paths 2m & 3m width for maintenance access
  -  Proposed Bridge
  -  Existing Bridge to Upgrade
  -  Existing Bridge to Retain
  -  Proposed Formalised Carparks
  -  Proposed Playspace
  -  Fitness Stations
  -  Rural Floodway Overlay
  -  Open Vegetated Swale
  -  Picnic Shelters and/or Picnic Setting
  -  Entry Node with wayfinding signage
  -  Interpretative Signage
  -  Improved Pedestrian Links



# MASTER PLAN CONCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS

## MASTER PLAN GOALS

- Create a strong **identity** for Whittlesea Park as a highly-valued and recognisable place
- Maintain and improve the provision of the Park **facilities and amenities**
- Protect and enhance the Park **environment**
- Enhance and develop a strong sense of **community** associated with the park
- Provide a well- defined, safe and **accessible** connections within the Park and the Whittlesea Township

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. UPGRADE ENTRANCES

Improve the access into the reserve and connection to surrounding facilities

### 2. PLAYGROUND

Upgrade the playground to provide a greater diversity in play, suitable for varied age groups. Provide picnic areas with BBQ facilities.

### 3. CIRCUIT PATH

Create a 3m wide circuit path, with bridge crossings, nature walk and fitness stations

### 4. BRIDGE ACCESS

Upgrade and provide new bridge crossings across Scrubby Creek, Plenty River and Bruces Creek. Investigate a bridge crossing to provide access from Sherwin Street

### 5. TREE STRATEGY

Develop a Tree Strategy that includes and audit of existing trees, proposed tree species list and plans to replace trees at the end of their useful life

### 6. CAR PARKING

Formalise car parking facilities including the street parking along Laurel and Forest Street and upgrade the car parking facilities off Walnut street to increase the amount of parking spaces. Provide an additional car park off Beech Street.

### 7. BEECH STREET

Improve the Beech Street frontage and provide a safe access to the Whittlesea Showgrounds

### 8. DOG OFF-LEASH PARK

Upgrade the Dog Off-leash Park with an improved surface treatment, additional trees and a quiet dog zone.

### 9. ACTIVE RECREATION

Upgrade the AF Walker sportfield to create a consistent shape and provide a ball catching fence. Enhance the active recreation zone with the construction of a basketball court.

### 10. PUBLIC TOILETS

Provide a public toilet facility at the Walnut Street entrance to service the Skate Park and playground and investigate the option for future public toilet facilities at Laurel Street

### 11. MULTI-USE AREA

Retain the CFA training area and upgrade to include multi- use facilities including a Learn-to-ride, exercise track and netball courts

### 12. IMPROVE CREEK CORRIDORS

Collaborate with Melbourne Water to improve the quality of waterway vegetation

### 13. INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Develop an interpretive signage plan that provides education on the cultural history of the areas



Example of picnic shelters



Example of path with avenue trees



Example of arboretum signage



Example of carpark raingarden



Example of dry creekbed natureplay



Example of playspace



Example of shared Loop Path



Example of toilet facilities



Example of unstructured natureplay



Example of timber natureplay maze



Example of planted drainage swale



Example of timber bridge



Example of fitness station



Example of fitness station



Example of wetland boardwalk



Example of interpretive signage



# AF WALKER RESERVE, LAUREL STREET & LIME STREET

## LIME STREET ENTRANCE AND AF WALKER RESERVE

- 01 Upgrade pedestrian entry to establish a clear and welcoming forecourt and strengthen connection to town centre
- 02 Provide upgrades to sportsfield to create a consistent shape
- 03 Provide a ball-catching fence to oval
- 04 Opportunity for an electronic scoreboard, delivered under Club contributions
- 05 Formalise on street parking on Forest Street (41 spaces) and include opportunities for WSUD





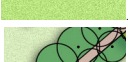

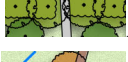











## LAUREL STREET ENTRANCE

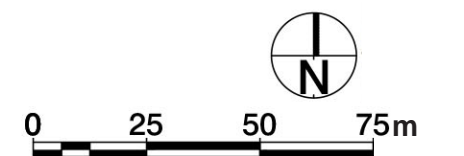
- 06 Establish a clear and welcoming forecourt with wayfinding signage
- 07 Remove existing vehicle track and parking, urbanise Laurel Street with formal parking (197 spaces) and include opportunities for WSUD
- 08 Provision of 4 disabled parking bays located close to amenities
- 09 Upgrade Dog Off-leash Park with improved surface treatment, additional trees, seating, shelter, and a quiet dog zone
- 10 Upgrade footpath as a shared-use path to provide connection from the Whittlesea Park's circuit path
- 11 Provide vehicle exclusion fencing

## PROPOSED PLAYSACE - REFER TO DETAILED PLAN

- 12 Upgrade playspace with equipment to suit varying ages, including unstructured natural play and social gathering spaces. Refer to detailed plan of the playspace for more information
- 13 Shelters and hardstand active recreation opportunities provided to link playspace to AF Walker Reserve

## Legend

-  Existing Trees and Vegetation
-  Existing Water Course/Bodies
-  Existing Grassed Area
-  Proposed Formal Lawn Area
-  Proposed Specimen Trees
-  Proposed Avenue Tree
-  Proposed 3m Nature Circuit with associated trees planting
-  Proposed Sealed Paths 2m & 3m width for main connections
-  Unsealed Paths 2m & 3m width for maintenance access
-  Proposed Bridge
-  Existing Bridge to Upgrade
-  Existing Bridge to Retain
-  Proposed Formalised Carparks
-  Proposed Playspace
-  Fitness Stations
-  Rural Floodway Overlay
-  Open vegetated swale
-  Vehicle exclusion fence & bollards





# WALNUT STREET

## UPGRADE WALNUT STREET ENTRANCE

- 01 Establish a clear and welcoming entrance forecourt with wayfinding signage
- 02 Formalise car parking (67 spaces off-street + 16 spaces on-street + 2 disabled spaces) and include opportunities for WSUD.
- 03 Assess the Walnut Street car park's viability as an RV friendly site
- 04 Provide public toilet amenities
- 05 Provide lighting to Nature Circuit between Whittlesea Skate Park and Laurel Street

## BANDSTAND

- 06 Retain bandstand with repairs as required
- 07 Build upon the character of this area to celebrate the history of the site, including interpretive signage, and garden bed planting
- 08 Retain and protect existing trees which form the backdrop to the bandstand, and review as part of the future Tree Strategy
- 09 Supplement the trees with additional specimen tree planting to provide succession of trees to replace the existing trees as they reach their end of life
- 10 Provide shelters and social gathering spaces

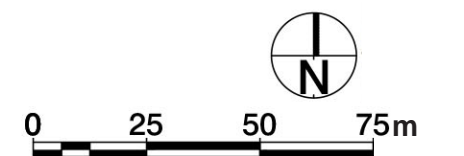
## WHITTLESEA SKATE PARK

- 11 Establish formal lawn for passive recreation activities
- 12 Construct stage 2 of the skate park construction including a basketball half court and asphalt pump track
- 13 Create a youth space with social gathering facilities



## Legend

- Existing Trees and Vegetation
- Existing Water Course/Bodies
- Existing Grassed Area
- Proposed Formal Lawn Area
- Proposed Specimen Trees
- Proposed Avenue Tree
- Proposed 3m Nature Circuit with associated trees planting
- Proposed Sealed Paths 2m & 3m width for main connections
- Unsealed Paths 2m & 3m width for maintenance access
- Proposed Bridge
- Existing Bridge to Upgrade
- Existing Bridge to Retain
- Proposed Formalised Carparks
- Proposed Playspace
- Fitness Stations
- Rural Floodway Overlay
- Open vegetated swale





# BEECH STREET INTERFACE AND NATURAL BUSH ZONE

## BEECH STREET & WHITTLESEA-YEA ROAD

- 01 Provide bridges as part of the Nature Walk circuit path to connect the skate park, Lions Club Park, Multi-use Area, and River Street Reserve
- 02 Replace the existing trees on Beech Street with new species as they reach their end of life in line with future Tree Strategy
- 03 Provide a wide landscape buffer of low native planting, with the potential to integrate WSUD principles
- 04 Install Fitness Stations along the circuit path

## LIONS CLUB PARK

- 05 Assist the Lions Club in installing additional elements and replacing equipment at the end of its useful life
- 06 Retain and formalise Lions Park car park for access to playspace and amenities (32 spaces)

## MULTI-USE AREA

- 07 Provide social gathering facilities and upgrade of the CFA training area with activities such as learn to ride, halfcourt, and 100m running track
- 08 Safe crossing to the showgrounds site
- 09 Install feature trees to provide natural shade
- 10 Retain memorials

## RIVER STREET ENTRANCE & LITTLE RIVER STREET RESERVE



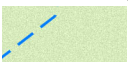
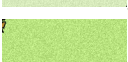


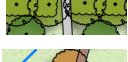





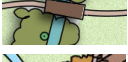




- 11 Provide entry forecourt as an arrival point with wayfinding signage
- 12 Formalise parking at River Street for parking to cater to the Whittlesea Market, 26 spaces to be retained. Include opportunities for WSUD. Access for overflow parking on event days
- 13 Assess the River Street car park's viability as an RV friendly site
- 14 Connect Little River Street Reserve with Whittlesea Park by a path and bridging crossing (subject to water authority approval)

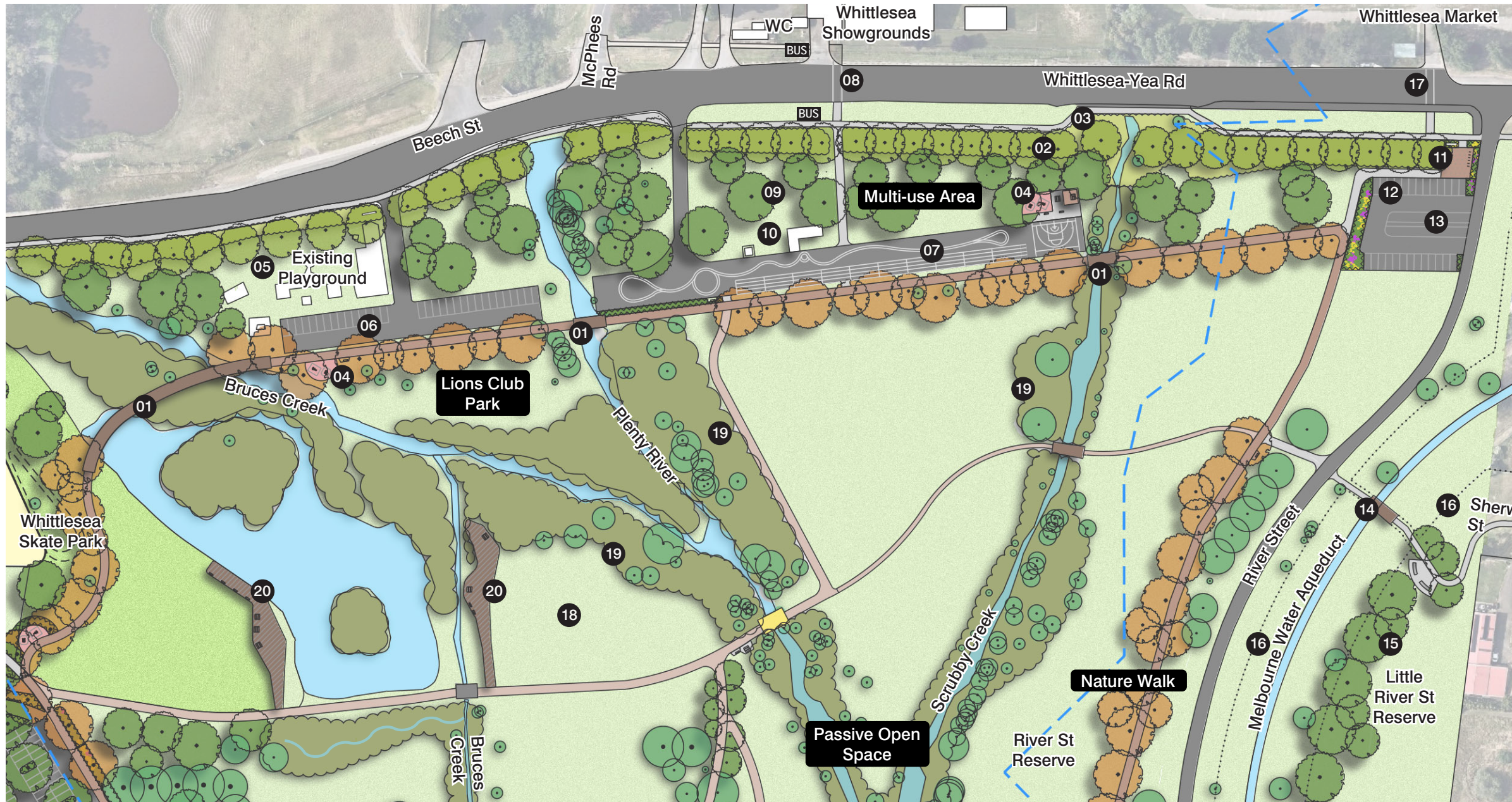
- 15 Increase the tree planting to the perimeter of the Little River Street Reserve to improve shade amenity
- 16 Liaise with the water authority to remove the existing cyclone fencing and replace with a higher quality and less visually intrusive fence style
- 17 Safe crossing to the Whittlesea Market

## PASSIVE OPEN SPACE

- 18 Retain the area east of Bruces Creek as a passive open space, and maintain connection with nature valued by the community
- 19 To improve the quality of the existing waterway vegetation, review with the relevant authorities and stakeholders, to evaluate and program revegetation and weed management actions
- 20 Create two boardwalks with interpretive signage at Bruces Creek Pond

## Legend

-  Existing Trees and Vegetation
-  Existing Water Course/Bodies
-  Existing Grassed Area
-  Proposed Formal Lawn Area
-  Proposed Specimen Trees
-  Proposed Avenue Tree
-  Proposed 3m Nature Circuit with associated trees planting
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# EVELYN STREET ENTRANCE AND WETLAND







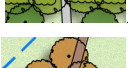











## EVELYN STREET ENTRANCE

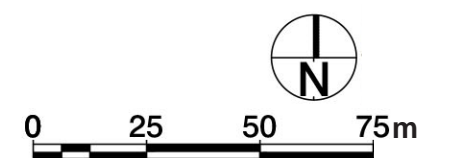
- 01 Improve entrance into the park from Evelyn Street with wayfinding signage
- 02 Strengthen connection between Evelyn Street to the amenities on the east of Laurel Street and town centre
- 03 Provide 3m wide sealed path for all-weather access, with an upgraded bridge and solar lighting

## WETLAND

- 04 Upgrade marshland into a formal wetland
- 05 Provide a boardwalk with furniture and interpretive signage
- 06 Revegetate the area around the wetland to increase biodiversity and tree cover
- 07 Provide rest stops with furniture along the Nature Walk circuit path and internal paths

## Legend:

-  Existing Trees and Vegetation
-  Existing Water Course/Bodies
-  Existing Grassed Area
-  Proposed Formal Lawn Area
-  Proposed Specimen Trees
-  Proposed Avenue Tree
-  Proposed 3m Nature Circuit with associated trees planting
-  Proposed Sealed Paths 2m & 3m width for main connections
-  Unsealed Paths 2m & 3m width for maintenance access
-  Proposed Bridge
-  Existing Bridge to Upgrade
-  Existing Bridge to Retain
-  Proposed Formalised Carparks
-  Proposed Playspace
-  Fitness Stations
-  Rural Floodway Overlay
-  Open vegetated swale
-  Vehicle exclusion fence & bollards





# PLAYSPACE CONCEPT DESIGN

## ACCESS AND AMENITIES

The proposed playspace is located between Lime Street and Laurel Street with upgraded car parking facilities. The playspace is placed between the existing public toilets at AF Walker Reserve and the future public toilets facilities at the Walnut Street entrance. A combination of natural and built shade is provided

- 01 Provide a picnic area with multiple shelters and picnic settings, BBQ facilities, drinking fountain, bicycle parking and bins

## PLAY

- 02 Provide a dedicated junior play space with the provision of junior play units and an accessible sandpit
- 03 Senior play with challenging climbing opportunities. Provide a climbing and sliding play complex with a ropes play course
- 04 Nature-based play opportunities. Build upon the existing trees and vegetation as well as new plantings to develop an unstructured nature play area with timber logs, steppers, boulders and sensory planting to maximise the natural-based play experience while encouraging children's physical and mental development
- 05 Play equipment for all ages and abilities includes in-ground trampolines for wheelchair access, basket swings and seat options for all ages and abilities, as well as an accessible spinner. Other items such as musical instruments, sand pits with sand-play tables can also be considered
- 06 Create a grass mound with a rock scramble and an embankment slide to provide challenging landform and enhance play experience. The landform also raises the levels, to reduce the risk of inundation as it straddles the Rural Flood Overlay
- 07 Provide both formal and informal seating opportunities within the playspace, including a shelter

## ACTIVE PLAY OPPORTUNITIES:

- 08 Provide fitness equipment stations for all ages next to the multi-court and along Nature Circuit including senior's fitness equipment

## BUILT SHADE

- 09 Shade Sails over play equipment
- 10 Shelter over seating



Example of swings with inclusive basket swing



Example of nature play



Example of nature play



Example of senior play equipment



Example of senior play equipment



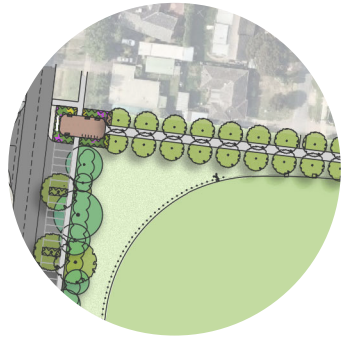
Example of junior nature play



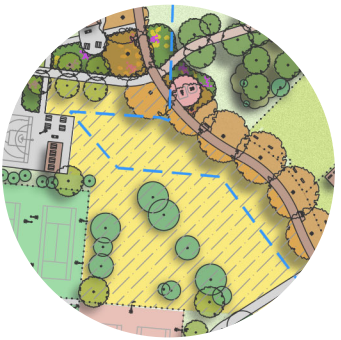
Example of accessible play equipment



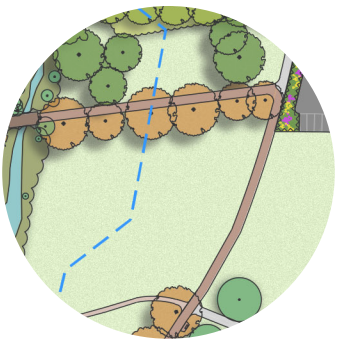
## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY



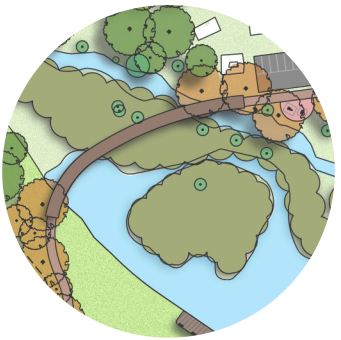
1.1 Upgraded entrance at Lime Street



2. New Playground



3. Nature Circuit



4.1 Boardwalk proposed over Bruces Creek

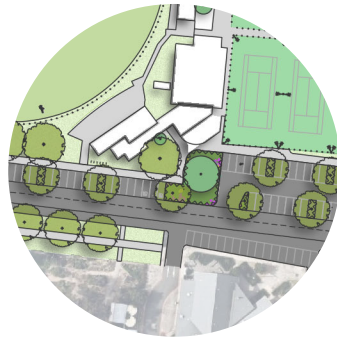
1. Upgrade entrances			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	Priority
Improve the access into the reserve and connection to surrounding facilities	1.1	Upgrade Lime Street pedestrian entry into AF Walker Reserve to establish a clear and welcoming forecourt and strengthen connection to Town Centre	High
	1.2	Provide a clear and welcoming forecourt to Laurel Street	High
	1.3	Provide a clear and welcoming forecourt to Walnut Street with a public toilet	High
	1.4	Provide a clear and welcoming forecourt to River Street	Medium
	1.5	Improve entrance into the park from Evelyn Street with wayfinding signage	Medium
Strengthen connection between Evelyn Street to the amenities on the east of Laurel Street and town centre	1.6	Provide 3m wide sealed path for all-weather access, with an upgraded bridge and solar lighting	High
2. Playground			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	Priority
Upgrade the existing playground	2.1	Provide new municipal-scale playground with greater diversity in play, that is suitable for varied age groups and abilities	High
	2.2	Provide picnic areas with BBQ facilities and supporting furniture	High
3. Circuit paths			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	Priority
Create a system of paths, including upgraded existing paths	3.1	Create a main Circuit path with a 3 metre wide and sealed surface, including 2 new bridges and a boardwalk over Bruces Creek to connect the Skate Park, Lions Club Park, Multi-use Area, and River Street Reserve	High
	3.2	Provide 6 fitness stations distributed along the Circuit path	Medium
	3.3	Provide lighting along main path links	Medium
	3.4	Create a secondary system of unsealed paths, including upgrade of existing paths	Medium
	3.5	Provide seating and shelters distributed along the path systems	Medium
4. Bridge access			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	Priority
Upgrade and provide new bridge crossings	4.1	Upgrade 3 bridges across Plenty River and Bruces Creek (in line with Walnut St and Laurel Street)	High
	4.2	Investigate a bridge crossing to provide access from Sherwin Street	Medium
	4.3	<i>(Bridges integral to the Nature Circuit path list under #3)</i>	



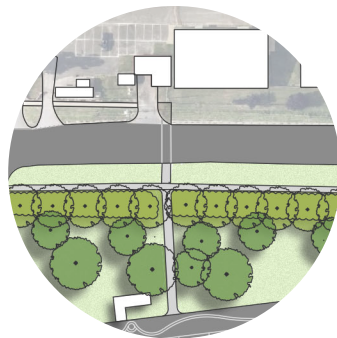
## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY



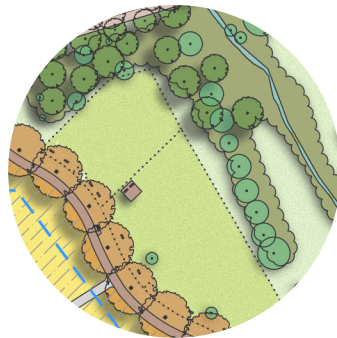
5.3 Tree Strategy for new plantings



6.1 Formalise car parking



7. Improve Beech St frontage



8. Upgrade dog park

5. Tree Strategy			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	Priority
Develop a Tree Strategy	5.1	Audit of existing trees	High
	5.2	Develop a list of proposed tree species appropriate to the site and conditions	High
	5.3	Develop a park-wide Tree Strategy to install feature trees to provide natural shade, and replace trees at the end of their useful life, including those forming backdrop to the Bandstand and Beech Street frontage	High
	5.4	Increase the tree planting to the perimeter of the Little River Street Reserve to improve shade amenity	Medium
6. Car parking			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	Priority
Formalise existing informal car parking facilities to improve and increase the amount of parking spaces	6.1	Upgrade Laurel Street by removing existing track and urbanising the street with footpaths, shared-use path to north, linemarked road and formalised parking (197 + 4 disabled bays). Include turnaround court at east end and vehicular exclusion fence to restrict access into the park	High
	6.2	Formalise existing street parking along Forest Street including drainage (41 spaces)	Medium
	6.3	Upgrade the car parking facilities at Walnut Street (67 bays off-street + 16 bays on-street + 2 disabled bays)	High
	6.4	Formalise car park on River Street, off Beech St, opposite Whittlesea Market (26 bays and oversize vehicle bays). Maintain access for overflow parking on event days	Low
	6.5	Formalise car park at Lions Club Park (32 bays)	Medium
Provide RV parking	6.6	Assess the Walnut Street car park site's viability as an RV friendly site	Medium
	6.7	Further review the River Street car park site's viability as an RV friendly site	Medium
7. Beech Street			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	Priority
Improve the Beech Street frontage	7.1	Address drainage issues and provide a wide landscape buffer of low native planting, with the potential to integrate WSUD principles	High
	7.2	Assist the Lions Club in installing additional elements and replacing equipment at the end of its useful life	Low
Improve pedestrian safety	7.3	Provide a safer crossing across Beech Street to the Whittlesea Market	High
	7.4	Provide a safer crossing to the Whittlesea Showgrounds and bus stops	High
8. Dog Off-leash Park			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	8. Dog Off-leash Park
Upgrade the existing Dog Off-leash Park	8.1	Provide a quiet dog zone	High
	8.2	Improve surface treatment and furniture	Medium
	8.3	Provide natural shade by planting additional trees	Medium
	8.4	Provide built shade by installing shelter to main dog park	High



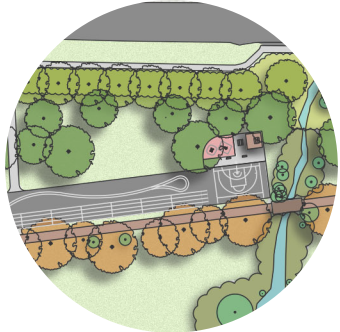
## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY



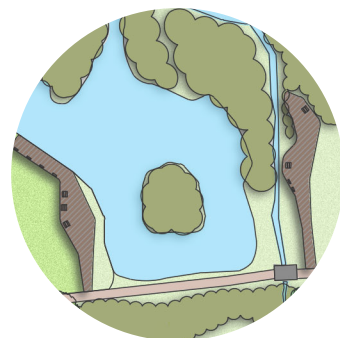
9. Upgrade AF Walker Reserve



10. Provide new toilets



11. Multi-use upgrades to CFA training area



12.3 Boardwalks with interpretive signage at Bruces Creek Pond

9. Active Recreation			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	Priority
Upgrade and enhance the AF Walker Recreation Reserve sportfield	9.1	Upgrade the oval to a consistent shape (155x110m)	Low
	9.2	Provide a ball catching fence to the north edge interfacing with residential neighbours	High
	9.3	Provide an electronic score board, delivered under Club contributions	Low
	9.4	Provide a multi-use court	Medium
	9.5	Provide teen equipment with a fitness & agility course	High
Enhance the active recreation zone at Whittlesea Skate Park	9.6	Establish a formal lawn between the Skate Park and the Bruces Creek pond	Low
	9.7	Construct Stage 2 of the Skate Park including a basketball halfcourt and asphalt pump track	Medium
	9.8	Create a youth space with social gathering facilities	Medium
10. Public Toilets			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	Priority
Provide toilets to to service the skate park and playground	10.1	Provide a public toilet facility at the Walnut Street entrance, including signage at the playground and skatepark	High
11. Multi-use area			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	Priority
Provide a multi-use area at the retained CFA training area	11.1	Upgrade area to include multi-use facilities including a learn-to-ride, exercise track, and multi-use half court, in a way that does not impact its use as a CFA training area. Retain memorials	Medium
12. Improve creek corridors			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	Priority
Collaborate with Melbourne Water and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to improve the quality of the creek corridors	12.1	Improve onsite vegetation with planting	Medium
	12.2	Undertake weed management	High
Provide opportunities for education and engagement with the creek corridors	12.3	Create 2 boardwalks with interpretive signage at Bruces Creek Pond	Low
	12.4	Upgrade marshland into a formal wetland at Evelyn St. Revegetate and create a boardwalk with interpretive signage and furniture	Low
Improve appearance of Melbourne Water Aqueduct	12.5	Liaise with the Water Authority to remove the existing cyclone fencing and replace with a higher quality and less visually intrusive fence style	Low
13. Interpretive signage			
Our Recommendation	Action #	Action/Strategy	Priority
Provide way-finding and education on the cultural history of the areas	13.1	Provide consistent way-finding signage throughout the Park and at each entry. Acknowledge the history of the site by retaining the place names	Medium
	13.2	Develop an interpretive signage plan	Medium



# OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

Date March 2023 v5

Indicative costs based on Concept Master Plan dated 08 March 2023

Item	Item Description	Unit	Qty	Rate	Total
<b>1.00 Softscape</b>					
1.01	Supply & install 45L trees	Item	460	\$300.00	\$138,000.00
1.02	Preparation of garden beds, installation of topsoil, 140mm pot stock @6/sqm, and 75mm organic mulch	sqm	4,000	\$150.00	\$600,000.00
1.03	Supply & installation of instant turf (Formal lawn)	sqm	7,500	\$15.00	\$112,500.00
1.04	New wetland (at River and Evelyn Street)	Item	1	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
1.05	Landscape buffer/swale to Beech St interface, including addressing of drainage/flooding issues	sqm	4,500	\$250.00	\$1,125,000.00
1.06	Allowance for general weed eradication, infill planting and upgrade to 50% of existing creek corridor (excludes establishment/maintenance)	sqm	17,150	\$50.00	\$857,500.00
1.07	Revegetation/woodland around new wetland	sqm	6,000	\$100.00	\$600,000.00
1.08	Tree audit	Item	1	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
1.09	Development of a Tree Strategy	Item	1	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
1.10	Remedial tree works	Item	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
<b>Softscape Subtotal</b>					<b>\$3,918,000.00</b>
<b>2.00 Hardscape</b>					
2.01	Formalise street parking & alignment on Walnut Street including footpath upgrades, kerbing, drainage, and sealed parking surfaces	Item	1	\$840,000.00	\$840,000.00
2.02	Formalise street parking & alignment on Laurel Street including footpath upgrades, kerbing, drainage, turnaround, and sealed parking surfaces	Item	1	\$1,225,000.00	\$1,225,000.00
2.03	Formalise street parking & alignment on Forest Street (Laurel to Lime St) including footpath upgrades, kerbing, drainage, and sealed parking surfaces	Item	1	\$335,000.00	\$335,000.00
2.04	Formalise carparking at Lions Club Park including sealed parking surfaces, and linemarking	Item	1	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
2.05	Formalise carparking at River Street carpark including sealed parking surfaces, and linemarking	Item	1	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
2.06	Pedestrian-crossings over Beech Street	Item	2	\$150,000.00	\$300,000.00
2.07	Entry forecourts including feature paving, feature wall (low), furniture, garden beds. Excludes lighting, toilet, parking				
2.08	- Walnut Street	Item	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
2.09	- Lime Street	Item	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
2.10	- Laurel Street	Item	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
2.11	- Beech Street (River Street)	Item	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
2.12	- Beech Street (CFA training area)	Item	1	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
2.13	- Beech Street (Skatepark)	Item	1	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
2.14	- Evelyn Street	Item	1	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
2.15	Boardwalks to existing water body (Walnut St)	sqm	730	\$1,000.00	\$730,000.00
2.16	Boardwalk to new wetland (River St Reserve)	sqm	460	\$1,000.00	\$460,000.00
2.17	Bridges over waterways	Each	3	\$50,000.00	\$150,000.00
2.18	Bridge between Lions Park & Skate park	Each	1	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
2.19	Bridge over existing aqueduct	Each	1	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
2.20	Upgrade existing bridges over waterways	Each	4	\$30,000.00	\$120,000.00
2.21	Paths - sealed vehicular rated (3m shared path circuit and main connections, \$200/sqm)	m	2,065	\$600.00	\$1,239,000.00
2.22	Paths - sealed (2m path, \$150/sqm)	m	270	\$300.00	\$81,000.00
2.23	Paths - unsealed vehicular rated (3m, \$120/sqm)	m	890	\$360.00	\$320,400.00
2.24	Paths - unsealed (1.5m, \$80/sqm)	m	160	\$120.00	\$19,200.00
2.25	Fitness stations (rubber softfall on concrete slab, excl equipment)	Each	6	\$20,000.00	\$120,000.00
2.26	Multipurpose sports court (AF Walker)	Item	1	\$180,000.00	\$180,000.00
2.27	Teen fitness circuit (AF Walker) rubber softfall surface with impact attenuation on concrete slab	sqm	220	\$250.00	\$55,000.00
2.28	Upgrade to CFA training paving (safety improvements, linemarking and basketball/netball ring)	Item	1	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00
<b>Hardscape Subtotal</b>					<b>\$7,824,600.00</b>

Item	Item Description	Unit	Qty	Rate	Total
<b>3.00 Structures, Furniture &amp; Fixtures (includes supply &amp; install)</b>					
3.01	Proprietary bench seat	Each	25	\$3,500.00	\$87,500.00
3.02	Proprietary picnic settings	Each	15	\$5,000.00	\$75,000.00
3.03	Proprietary drinking fountains incl. water connection	Each	3	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00
3.04	Proprietary bin systems (waste+recycling)	Set	5	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00
3.05	Proprietary equipment for fitness stations (2 per 6 stations)	Each	12	\$6,000.00	\$72,000.00
3.06	Proprietary equipment for teen fitness circuit	Item	1	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
3.07	Proprietary shelters (small)	Each	6	\$20,000.00	\$120,000.00
3.08	Proprietary shelters (large)	Each	1	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
3.09	Toilet Facility incl sewer and water connection	Each	1	\$350,000.00	\$350,000.00
3.10	Ball fence to oval	Item	1	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
3.11	Upgrade to dog park surface	Item	1	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
3.12	Fence to dog park, to match existing	m	110	\$150.00	\$16,500.00
3.13	Gates to dog park, to match existing	Each	2	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
3.13	Solar lighting poles to Laurel & Evelyn link (approx 15m spacing)	Each	15	\$5,000.00	\$75,000.00
3.14	Solar lighting poles to Nature Circuit between Skatepark and Laurel St (approx 15m spacing)	Each	30	\$5,000.00	\$150,000.00
3.15	Wayfinding signage allowance	Each	15	\$7,500.00	\$112,500.00
3.16	Interpretive signage allowance	Each	5	\$10,000.00	\$50,000.00
<b>Structures, Furniture &amp; Fixtures Subtotal</b>					<b>\$1,350,500.00</b>
<b>4.00 Playspaces</b>					
4.01	Municipal-level playspace including landscape, surface finishes, proprietary and custom equipment, natureplay	Item	1	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00
4.02	Local-level playspace (Lions Park) including landscape, surface finishes, proprietary equipment	Item	1	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
<b>Playspaces Subtotal</b>					<b>\$1,800,000.00</b>
<b>Items 1.00-4.00 Subtotal</b>					<b>\$14,893,100.00</b>
<b>5.00 Contingencies &amp; Allowances</b>					
5.01	Construction preliminaries based on 10% of construction cost			10%	\$1,489,310.00
5.02	Allowance for Establishment & Maintenance Period of 12 months			5%	\$744,655.00
5.03	Allowance for general contingency			10%	\$0.00
5.04	Allowance for design fees (varies between projects)			15%	\$2,233,965.00
<b>Contingency Subtotal</b>					<b>\$4,467,930.00</b>
<b>Total including Item 5.00</b>					<b>\$19,361,030.00</b>

Exclusions	
Specialist consultant fees including but not limited to integrated water engineers (wetlands), cultural heritage, arborists, playground auditor, DDA, ecologists	
Authorities fees, including for permits	
Contingency for latent site conditions	
Escalation due to market /economy conditions	
Irrigation. Allow \$20,000 for services/system connections plus \$35/sqm for area irrigated	
Notes	
Costs are subject to the size of individual areas and projects delivered	
Demolition including tree removal, stockpiling of site topsoil, protection of existing services, are generally included in lump item costs but not included in Rates	
Drainage incl agi-drains to garden beds, drinking fountains and toilets are generally included in lump item costs but not included in Rates	
Water supply to drinking fountains, toilets are generally included in lump item costs	



# Land Management & Maintenance Plans



# CURRENT LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN



## Legend:

- Council Management
- CoM Management

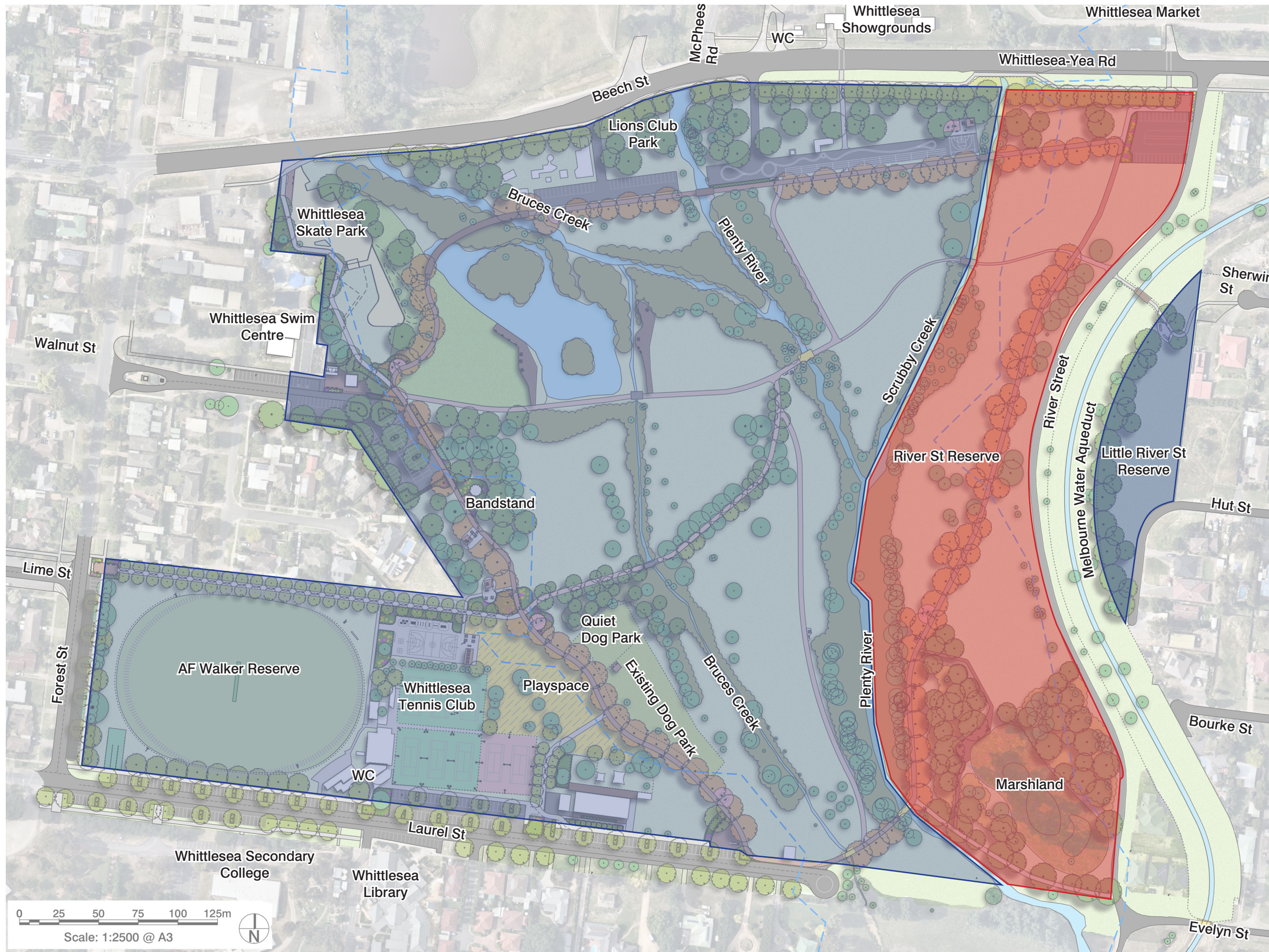
Existing facilities and sections of the land are under various management and maintenance arrangements by the City of Whittlesea and the Whittlesea Showground and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (the CoM).



# CURRENT LAND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

## Legend:

- Council Maintenance (no trees)
- CoM Maintenance





# NEW LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Legend:

- Council Management
- CoM Management

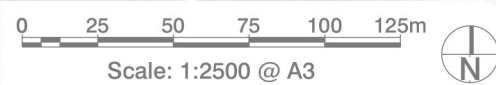
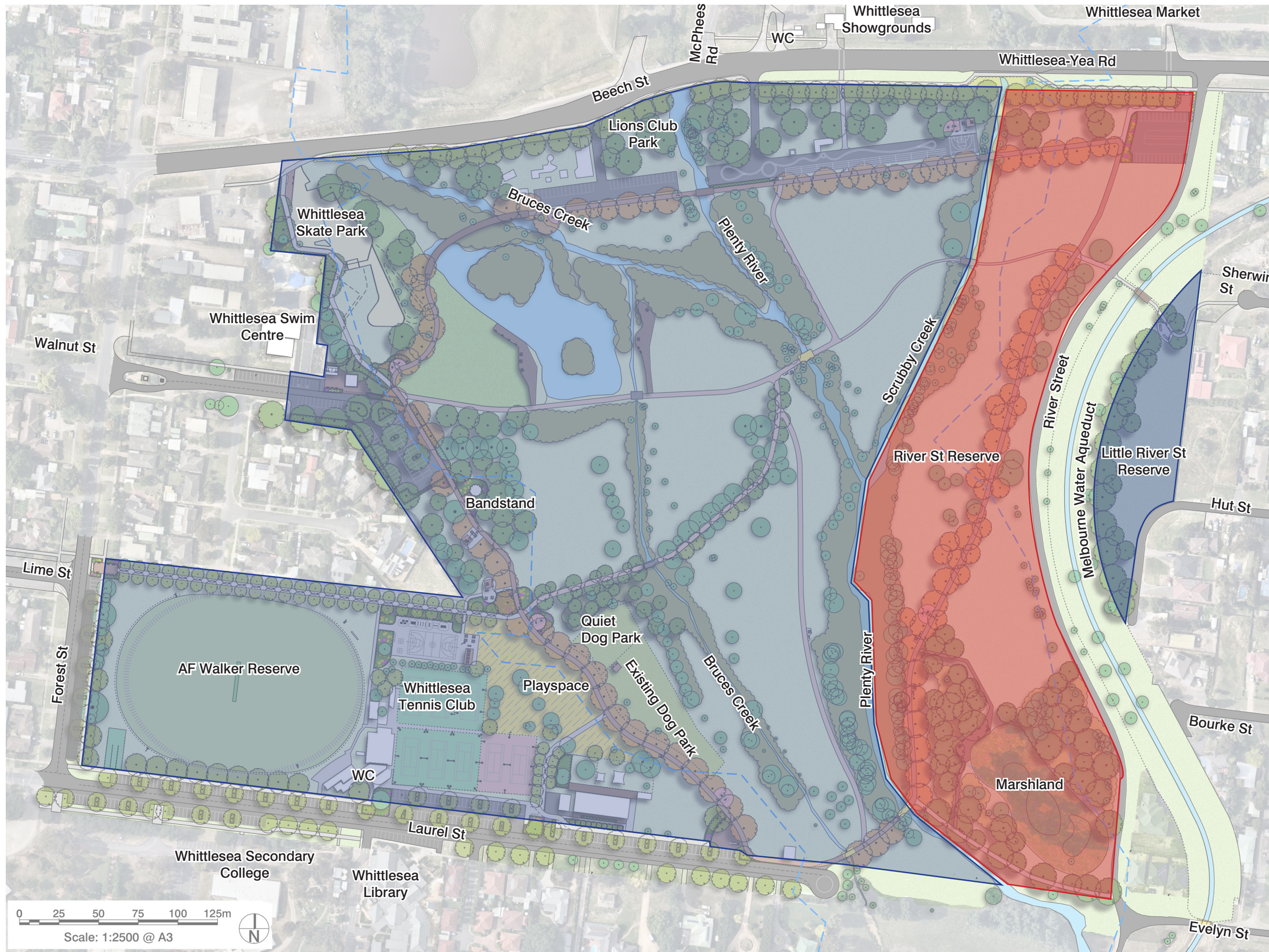




# NEW LAND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

## Legend:

- Council Maintenance including tree maintenance within these zones
- CoM Maintenance





# Appendices

## Appendix A

Document Register & Review



## DOCUMENT REGISTER & REVIEW

### POLICY & STRATEGY DOCUMENTS

Document Name	version/date	By	Notes	Master Plan Response/Opportunities
Active Whittlesea Strategy 2019-2028	March 2019 V1.0	Whittlesea	Travel networks, infrastructure, safety, amenities	Provide sealed (all-weather) network of paths (pedestrian, and SUP width)
Whittlesea Township Plan 2021		Whittlesea	Future directions, of which this project is Action 6 (p45 short term capital delivery)	
Community Plan 2021-2025		Whittlesea	Community engagement, connected community, lievable neighbourhoods, natural enviroment	
Greening Whittlesea City Forest Strategy 2020-2040		Whittlesea	Increasing canopy cover, protecting existing trees,	Propose locations for increase canopy cover, succession on new trees in senescing tree groups, new avenues (ie connection)
Natural & Built Shade Policy	17/08/2016 v1	Whittlesea	Provision of shade as a priority, particularly where communities gather	
Park Lighting Strategy	June 2006 draft	Whittlesea	Lighting for District Level parks to increase period of usage, Local/Neighbourhood Parks are generally not lit, unless they are a high use thoroughfare Consider use of solar panel lighting (reduced operating cost, services install, higher item cost/maintenance cost) Consider light pollution affecting fauna at night Programmed lighting for specific uses ie BBQ	Propose lighting associated the specific uses, and potentially lighting to a main path from Church St. Depending on location, propose solar lighting, and include baffles
Whittlesea Showgrounds & Recreation Reserves Strategic Plan 2019/2020 to 2021/2022 & Action Plan 2019/2020			p6 Priority Goals - incl Tree Safety, Master Plan	
Signage Management Plan	09 Aug 2019 revK		Refer as required for Gateways, directional, etc	Consolidated gateway signage, with heirarchy associated with the playground and main entrances
Whittlesea Netball & Basketball Plan 2019-2041		Whittlesea	p33 Whittlesea Showgrounds (2 courts) Priority 1, Short term 0-5 years	
Whittlesea 2040 A Place for All				
Whittlesea 2040 Community Engagement Summary		Whittlesea	General desires	Retention of rural character (reflect in materials palette), amenities that encourage activities outdoors, well maintained parks, natural environment (keep hard landscape to a minimum)
Northern Regional Trails Strategy 2016		Arup for Multiple councils	p80 Clause 6.6.5 Whittlesea Rail Trail (W24) - 'Priority Trail' South Morang to Laurel Street, Whittlesea, (between Church and James St) on land predominantly owned by victrack 'Proposed Trail' follows Plenty River	Show future connections in context and park plan
Whittlesea Bicycle Plan 2016-2020			Improving road crossings, infrastructure, maintenance, missing links, recreational trails, associated lighting for significant paths, signage, investment (our site not listed in top 29 ranked projects)	Improve on-road conditions for Whittlesea-Yea Road Bike parking at each arrival point Signage to destinations
Whittlesea Draft Cycle Sports & Skate			Shows the new Skatepark in our site	
City of Whittlesea Open Space Strategy -Technical Report	Aug 2016		p17 B2.2.2 Plenty River p47 B2.6.6 The benefit and value of natural features in open space p58 Whittlesea Township "township's distance from the public transport network means it is not identified as being appropriate for major change" p71 "Increased urban densities resulting in greater reliance on public open space to meet a broader range of needs, particularly social and informal uses." p244 Summary of reasons to visit/Suggested improvements p286 D5.10 Whittlesea summary p291 Summary of Open Space Survey Outcomes for Whittlesea p293 Implications of community characteristics on future open space planning in Whittlesea p295 D5.10.7 Recommendations for Whittlesea p299 D6 Design and management guidelines	Address cultural heritage, particularly with the Plenty River which is accessibly at the park by the public. Opportunity for education/interpretive signage Retain and value the natural features (water/veg) Propose weed management plan for the site Propose Fitness equipment (other items suggested in pg85 already provided in site, except for informal sports fields) Maximise passive surveillance opportunities, esp as there are fenced properties backing onto park, coordinate with lighting strategy
City of Whittlesea Open Space Strategy -Guide to Provision of Facilities	Aug 2016		Table of facilities to be provided for Municipal level parks (our site)	
Whittlesea Disability Action Plan 2017-2021	Dec2017	Whittlesea	p17 Action 4.3 for playground communication signage at parks and gardens for use by people	DDA Parking at each arrival point



## DOCUMENT REGISTER & REVIEW

<b>DRAWINGS &amp; PLANS</b>				
<b>Document Name</b>	<b>version/date</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Notes</b>	
Appendix 1 Whittlesea Park Master Plan Area	14/10/2021		Shows Crown Land Delegated Management Reserve, and Master Plan EOW	
Appendix 2 Whittlesea Park Land Management	14/10/2021		Delineation of Management areas	
Standard Details for Parks and Open Space	Feb 2013		Landscape construction details	
Planning Property Report - Whittlesea Park			RFO Rural Flood Overlay - over most of project site (excludes sports/swim facilities)	
VPP Clause 44.03			RFO Victoria Planning Provisions, incl permit requirements for all buildings and works within	
			Refer as required	
			Awaiting water authority contact from council for input on works installed within	
			Refer as required	
<b>OTHER</b>				
<b>Document Name</b>	<b>version/date</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Master Plan Response/Opportunities</b>
Whittlesea Skatepark Plans	C02		Pedestrian connection from Beech Street to Walnut Street	Show new path on plans
Church St Streetscape Redevelopment	Jan 2015 C1	ACLA	Furniture, Fixings, Finishes & Materials	Refer as required (requested by council)
Whittlesea Precinct MP CoM Meeting Minutes	06 Dec 2021	Whittlesea	<p>Opportunities in the MP and items to improve on/avoid</p> <p>MP aligns with the CoM Strategic Plan and Action Plan 2019 CoM vision</p> <p>-An area of passive parkland to enhance wellbeing of people and the environment and which encourages community connection, social interaction, a sense of place enhancing rural character, heritage and natural beauty.</p> <p>-To further enhance the amenity of Whittlesea Park through the creation of an arboretum for the benefit of the public and our community.</p> <p>-Expand the number and variety of exotic trees for their shade, amenity and aesthetic values.</p> <p>-Support use of native and indigenous plantings to defined areas to take into consideration risks related to limb drop of large Eucalypts and maintenance (ie access with larger machinery – tractors, slashers).</p> <p>- Extend network of walking paths/trails (refer pg23 for list)</p> <p>- Other landscape improvements ie wetland areas, education, cultural elements, signage</p> <p>- Maintenance approaches</p>	<p>Propose location of Arboretum and associated garden beds with exotic species</p> <p>Propose strategy for distribution of exotic/native trees &amp; planting, generally going from exotic/native structured scheme at the west, and transitioning towards native/indigenous natural scheme before the waterways and further to the east. Little River Reserve can be considered for exotic or exotic/native scheme as it is segregated by the aqueduct.</p> <p>Propose range of maintenance level (ie high, medium, low)</p> <p>Trails/circuits to be themed ie bushy walk, potentially boardwalks over marshy areas (approval from water authorities)</p> <p>Propose locations for education with interpretive signage (ie at wetland) along a themed circuit</p>
Whittlesea Precinct MP CoM Meeting Minutes	02 March 2022	Whittlesea		
Bruces Creek Active Recreation Plan	revP4 09.12.2014	ACLA		
Bruces Creek Active Future Directions Plan	revP4 09.12.2014	ACLA		
Key Stakeholder Minutes Wkshop1	28 Feb 2022	Whittlesea	sporting groups, men's shed, agri, Lions, Rotary, Schools	
Kelynack Recreation Reserve, Mill Park Master Plan	v5 Sept 2020	ACLA		
Project Working Group (PWG) Minutes	09 March 2022	Whittlesea		



# Appendix B

Participation and Engagement Findings Report





## Table of Contents

### Executive Summary

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# Whittlesea Park

## Participation and Engagement Findings Report

Prepared by Alex Desmond  
Version 1- January 2023



## Executive Summary

In 2022, the City of Whittlesea, in partnership with the Whittlesea Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (CoM) developed a draft Master Plan for Whittlesea Park which creates a shared vision between Council, the CoM and the Community.

The purpose of the community engagement was to seek feedback on the draft Master Plan, including the 13 key recommendations.

A range of methods were undertaken to engage with and gain feedback from the community, including:

- Online survey
- Pop-up sessions located around Whittlesea Township
- Feedback via phone
- Feedback via email

Through the consultation, a wide range of people were consulted including children, young people and adults. A total of 399 formal responses were received.

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Project Overview

The Whittlesea Township Plan adopted by Council on the 1st June 2021 features an action plan which seeks the creation of a Master Plan for the development of Whittlesea Park, with a clear prioritisation of actions and recommendations. This will provide the Whittlesea Township with increased access to the 25 hectare open space and aid in Council's future capital investment, grant applications, maintenance and management of the reserve.

The City of Whittlesea partnered with the Whittlesea Showgrounds and Reserves Committee of Management (CoM) to co-develop a draft Master Plan with local sports clubs and other key stakeholder groups.

This Master Plan provides the City of Whittlesea, the CoM and the Whittlesea community with a vision, direction and prioritisation of future improvements over the next 5 to 10 years. The vision of the Draft Master Plan is to:

- Create a strong identity for Whittlesea Park as a highly valued and recognisable place;

- Maintain and improve the provision of the park facilities and amenities;
- Protect and enhance the park environment;
- Enhance and develop a strong sense of community associated with the park; and
- Provide well-defined, safe and accessible connections within the park and the Whittlesea Township.

The draft Master Plan has a focus on a series of key action items to deliver the vision of the Master Plan. The key recommendations are as follows:

1. Upgrade entrances: Improve the access into the reserve and connection to surrounding facilities
2. Playground: Upgrade the playground to provide greater diversity in play, suitable for varied age groups and abilities. Provide picnic areas with BBQ facilities and supporting public furniture.
3. Circuit path: Create a 3 metre wide circuit path, with bridge crossings, nature walk and fitness stations.
4. Bridge access: Upgrade and provide new bridge crossings across Scrubby Creek, Plenty River and Bruces Creek. Investigate a bridge crossing to provide access from Sherwin Street.
5. Tree Strategy: Develop a Tree Strategy that includes an audit of existing trees, proposed tree species list and plans to replace trees at the end of their useful life.
6. Car parking: Formalise car parking facilities including the street parking along Laurel Street and Forest Street and upgrade the car parking facilities off Walnut Street to increase the amount of parking spaces. Provide an additional car park off Beech Street.
7. Beech Street: Improve the Beech Street frontage and provide safe access to the Whittlesea Showgrounds.
8. Dog Off-leash Park: Upgrade the existing Dog Off-leash Park with an improved surface treatment, additional trees and a quiet dog zone.
9. Active Recreation: Upgrade the AF Walker Recreation Reserve sportfield to create a consistent shape and provide perimeter fencing and ball catching fence. Enhance the active recreation zone with the construction of a basketball court.
10. Public Toilets: Provide a public toilet facility at the Walnut Street entrance to service the skate park and playground and investigate the option for future public toilet facilities at Laurel Street.
11. Multi-use area: Retain the Fire Rescue Victoria (CFA) training area and upgrade to include multi-use facilities including a learn-to-ride, exercise track and netball courts.
12. Improve creek corridors: Collaborate with Melbourne Water and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to improve the quality of waterway and onsite vegetation.



13. Interpretive signage: Develop an interpretive signage plan that provides way finding and education on the cultural history of the areas.

## 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the engagement was to confirm that the draft Master Plan caters to the needs of the community. Consultation findings will be presented to the CoM for discussion and the feedback will be used to refine the Master Plan and assign a priority listing to the key action items.

Aim:

- Inform the local community of the project and encourage them to share their feedback.
- Understand how the broader community uses the reserve and how they would like to see the reserve used in the future.
- Receive feedback on the draft Master Plan, confirming whether it caters to the ongoing and future needs of the community.

The community feedback on the draft park design will be used to inform the final design.

## 1.3 Scope of Engagement

LIST STAKEHOLDERS	LIST COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Inform:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct mail out to 1200 households within a 700m radius of the Park.</li> <li>• Park signage</li> <li>• Social media updates</li> <li>• Council's <i>Hive</i> page</li> <li>• Publications in the local paper and local school newsletters</li> </ul>
<p><b>Consult:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current and future Parkland users</li> <li>• Council Staff with subject matter expertise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online survey</li> <li>• Pop-up sessions</li> <li>• Feedback via Facebook page</li> <li>• Direct email</li> <li>• Direct phone</li> </ul>

## 2. Methodology

### Direct mail out

A flyer was directly distributed to 1200 household within walking distance of Whittlesea Park.

The flyer included information on the 13 key recommendations along with information on how to provide feedback.



Image 1: Flyer which was distributed to 1200 households in September 2022

### Advisory Boards

Advisory boards were placed at entrances to Whittlesea Park to advise existing users of the Parkland of the consultation.

The advisory boards included information on the 13 key recommendations, direction on how to view the plans, along with information on how to provide feedback.





**Have your say!**

As the largest public open space reserve in the Whittlesea township, the Whittlesea Park Draft Master Plan seeks to improve accessibility, playground and picnic facilities, sports infrastructure, walking paths, creek corridors, trees and more, and we would love to hear your feedback.

View the full draft master plan by scanning the QR code, or visit one of our channels below:

- [engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/whittleseapark](https://engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/whittleseapark)
- 9217 2006
- [Parks@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:Parks@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

**Come see us in person**

**Whittlesea Monday Market**  
Whittlesea Showgrounds, Whittlesea  
Monday 26 September, 8am to 1pm

**Whittlesea Cruise Night**  
Church Street, Whittlesea  
Friday 7 October, 6pm onwards

**C. McDonald Reserve Playground**  
Whittlesea Park, Laurel St, Whittlesea  
Saturday 15 October, 10am to 1pm



Image 2: Advisory Board installed at entrances to Whittlesea Park in September 2022

**Social media Promotion**

A significant amount of communications occurred through promotion on social media. A total of 17,095 people saw the content of the engagement over a series of 10 Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter posts. Of this 14,519 people were reached and 1091 engaged.

**Local papers and media outlets**

An article were published in the Whittlesea Review advising the community of the consultation.



Image 3: Whittlesea Park Consultation on the Front Page of the Whittlesea Review, featuring Council Officers and members of the CoM.



### Online Engagement Page

HIVE was the platform used for the online engagement page. This allowed participants to explore the draft Master Plan. Participants were also able to complete an online survey to provide their feedback.

Link to HIVE page:

[Whittlesea Park Master plan | Engage City of Whittlesea](#)

### Onsite pop-up sessions

Three Pop-up sessions were planned on the following days:

- Monday 26 September, 8am-1pm- Whittlesea Monday Market
- Friday 7 October, 6am-9pm- Whittlesea Cruise Night
- Saturday 15 October, 10am-1pm- C. McDonald Reserve playground, Whittlesea Park

Due to flood within Whittlesea Reserve, the final pop-up session was rescheduled:

- Friday 28 October, 9am-12pm- Lady Sevin Café, Church Street, Whittlesea

The following engagement activities were held at each pop-up session:

- Survey
- Kids drawings activities
- Voting poll
- Q&A with Council Officers



Image 4: Pop-up session held at the Whittlesea Monday Market



Image 5: Pop-up session held at the Whittlesea Cruise Night

### Phone and Email

Community members were also able to contact Council by phone or email to provide their direct and feedback.

## 3. Findings

### Summary:

Participation	
Number of visitors to the HIVE page	8,644
Number of surveys completed	107
Number of participants who voted on the poll engagement board	271
Number of people who engaged through social media	1091
Number of people who provided feedback through direct email	3

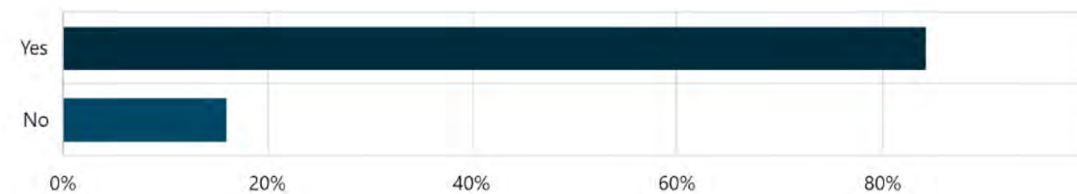


**Survey Results:**

This section provides results from the online and in-person surveys completed by 186 community members.

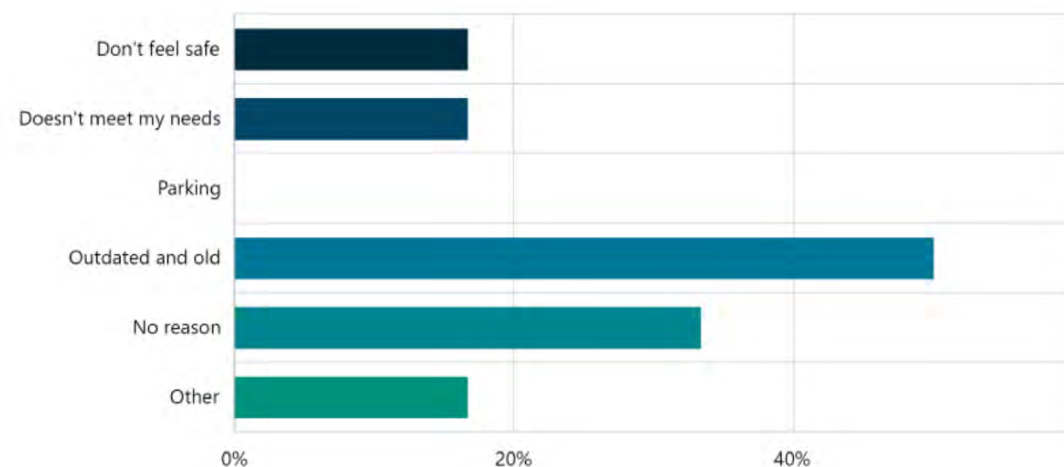
**Question 1: Do you currently use Whittlesea Park?**

84.11% of participants had used the park before while 18.89% participants had not.



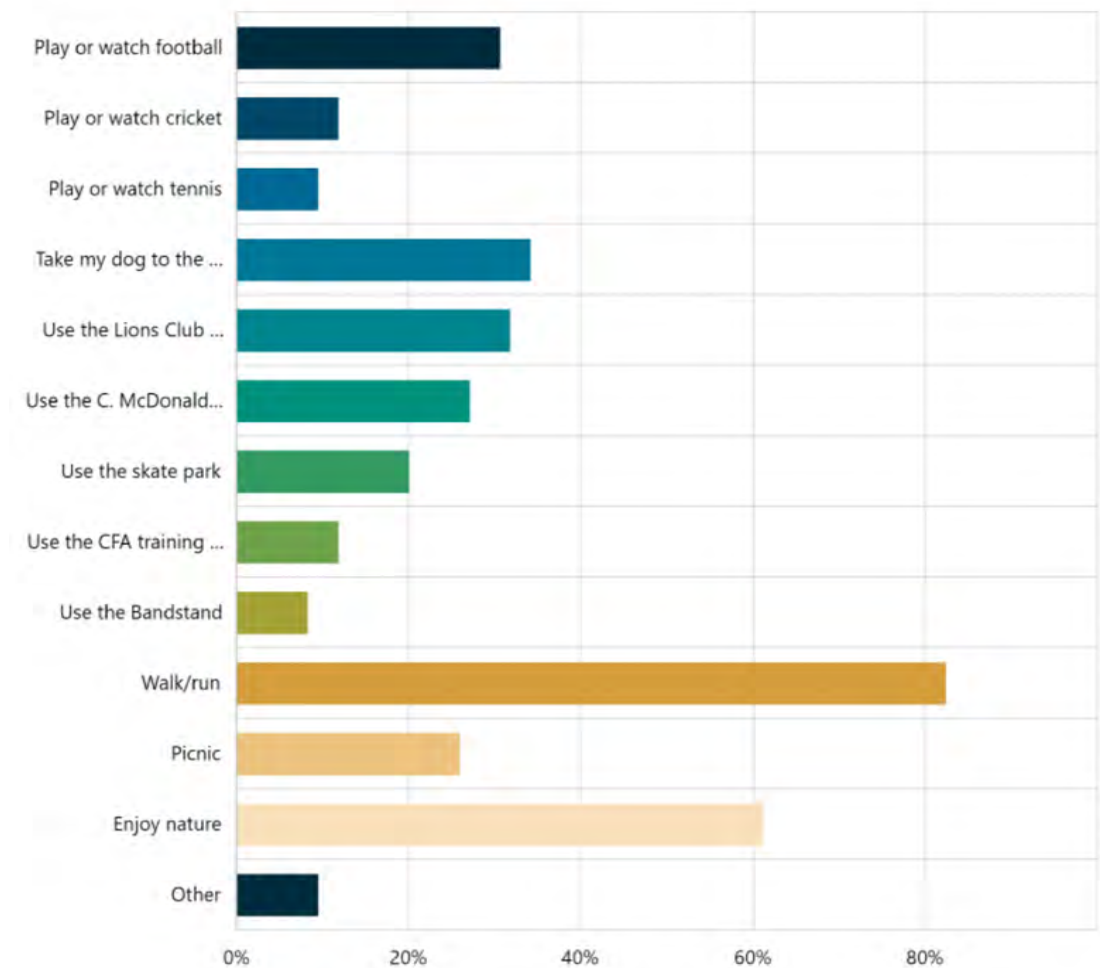
**Question 2: Is there a reason you do not use Whittlesea Park?**

Of the 5.6% of participants who have not used Whittlesea Park before, majority thought it was outdated and old, while others did not have a reason. Some people did not feel safe and others thought it did not meet their needs.



**Question 3: What do you do when you are visiting Whittlesea Park? (select up to 3)**

Majority of participants go to the park to walk/run (82.35%), enjoy nature (61.18%) or use the Dog Off-leash Park (34.12%). Few people use the bandstand (8.24%), play or watch tennis (9.41%) or use the CFA training area (11.76%).



**Other responses:**

- Ride/ use the bike path
- Walk dog on lead
- Take mobility scooter to enjoy the open space
- Teach children how to ride
- Use the rotary shed

**Question 4: What do you love or value about Whittlesea park? (Short Answer)**

By far the most valued aspect of the Park is the large open space (35 responses). The community also value that the park is close to the town and contains natural scenery, trees, creeks and green areas. The community see it as a quiet and peaceful space which offers seclusion. Some participants noted that they enjoy assets such as the play equipment, dog park, bandstand and skate park.



*"Its open space, special non-native trees and unconstrained feel."*

*"Not many places have such a big usable space for the community."*

*"Easy access by foot and car, especially easy for old folk like me who can't walk far to go to the dog park or take the grandkids to play. I like that it is not too formal and sanitized. Suits the country feel of Whittlesea."*

*"I love the serenity, I love the little lake, and the nature, I've loved the Cypress walkway since I was a little girl, my children also loved the walkway and one of my now grown up Grandchildren always wanted to go walking there she named it The Magical Forest when she was only three years old. I hope that isn't going to go"*

*"Ability to get away from the main road and feel that the kids are safe on bikes/walking without risk crossing the bridges on the main road.  
Exploring nature, enjoying the waterways, the freedom of space, the current limited kids' areas ( loving the skatepark improvements)."*

*"Nothing - it's not maintained well enough to use for picnics etc. It floods too often resulting in water and rubbish pooling that goes stagnant and smells terrible. It is an eyesaw and embarrassing."*

**Key themes from the short answer questions:**

- Open space (35 responses)
- Accessibility/ proximity to town (13 responses)
- Nature/ green areas/ natural scenery (11 responses)
- The trees (10 responses)
- Peace & quite (6 responses)
- The creek corridor (6 responses)
- Walks around and between the park (4 responses)
- Seclusion (3 responses)
- Play equipment (3 responses)
- The rotunda/ bandstand (2 responses)
- The dog park (2 responses)
- Community (2 responses)

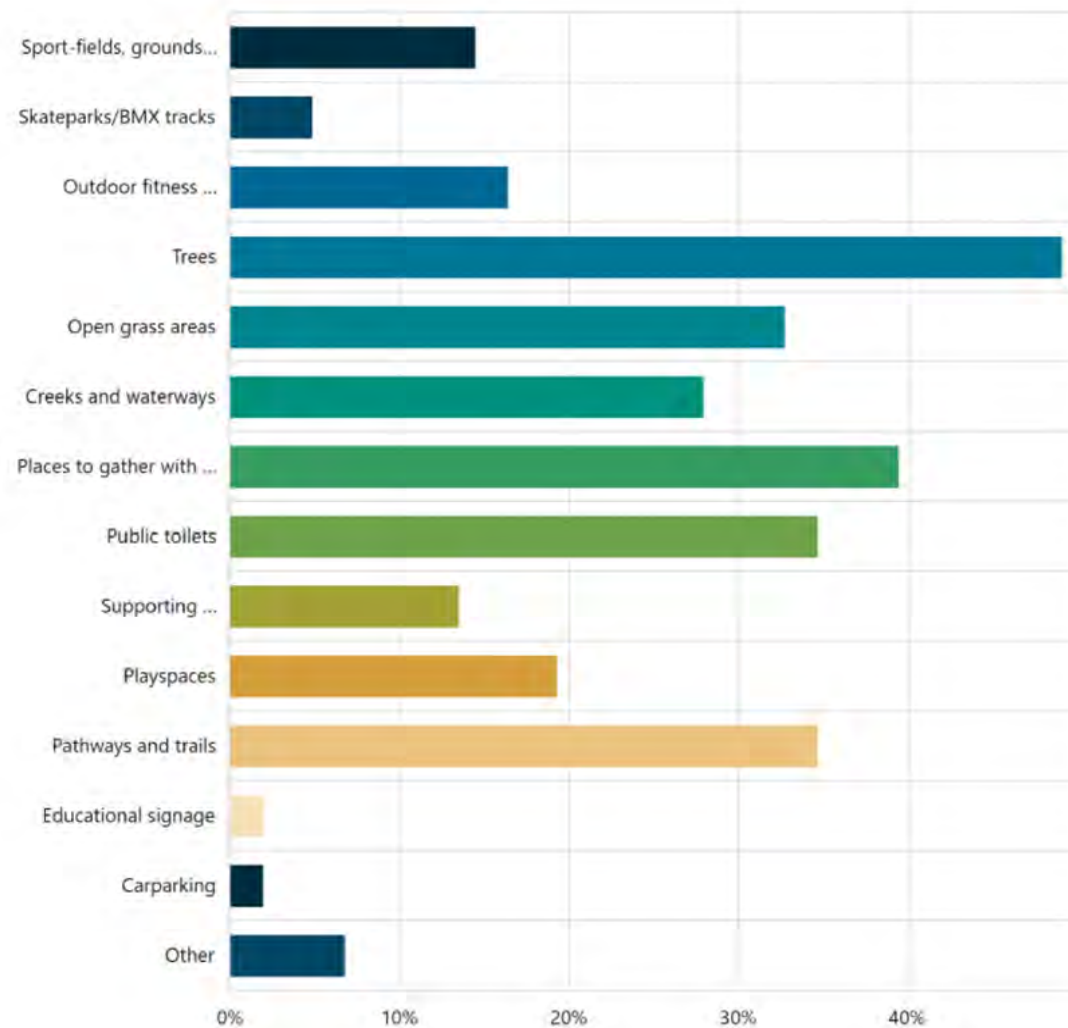
- Upgraded skate park (2 responses)
- Safety (2 responses)
- The size
- Multi-use recreation activities
- It is in the character of the township
- The amenity
- The CFA training area
- Clean
- Nothing

Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of feedback

**Question 5: Thinking more broadly than Whittlesea Park, what are the 3 most important features in a park or reserve?**

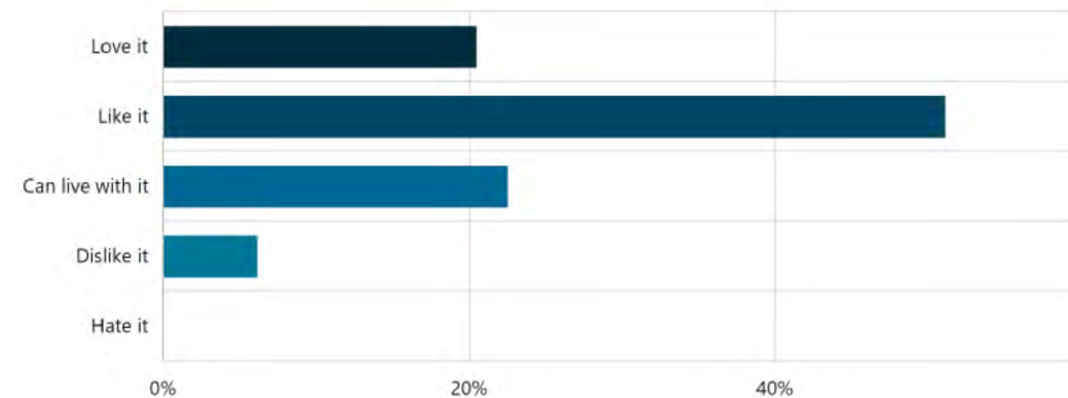
49% of participants thought that trees were the most important feature in a park or reserve, followed by places to gather (43.42%), public toilets (34.62%) and pathways and trails (34.62%). Items that participants did not think were as important was Educational signage and carparking (1.92%). Other items which were suggested were Dog parks, Swimming pools and fencing.





**Question 6: Overall, how happy you with the draft landscape Master Plan?**

Overall, majority of participants like the draft Master Plan (51.02%), 22.45% can live with it and 20.41% love it. Only 6.12% dislike the plan and 0% hate it.



**Question 7: Do you have any ideas for improving the Whittlesea Park draft Master Plan? (short answer)**

The short answer responses to this question varied, without main themes or trends. Ideas included items such as providing more varied play equipment, including RV facilities and providing lighting. Many of the ideas suggested have already been included within the master plan, outside of the 13 key recommendations.

*“Better use of the river park - seems silly that we have this amazing public space that is funded by the public to maintain but it is only used 2 days a year for the Show parking? Not a great use of public funds?”*

*“Not enough options for children with disabilities- would love to see trampolines, water play with troughs, etc - the all abilities park in mill park is fantastic for this and the have swing seats for children with disabilities”*

*“Clean up creeks with seating along pathways that follow the creeks.  
They are lovely creeks and could be made beautiful areas if they were cleaned up and grass was kept mowed.”*

*“Perhaps we should look at Whittlesea being an RV friendly town a dump point at Showgrounds.  
2 night show ground stays for travellers in self contained vehicles”*

**Summary of ideas to improve the Master Plan:**

- Include outdoor fitness equipment
- Provided picnic area to sit near the playground
- Ensure a better use of River Street Park
- Incorporate the historical names of the reserve e.g. A.F Walker, George Sherwin, J.W Towt Reserve, etc.
- Need more play equipment including options for kids with disabilities
- Retain the treed avenues
- Involve community groups in the creation (e.g. Garden club, Men’s shed, secondary students,
- Provide vehicle barriers along the main road
- Provide parking for food trucks
- Include video surveillance to the skate park
- Provided lighting throughout the park, particularly along pathways
- Complete upgrade to the dog park including shade and quiet dog zone
- Include a water/ splash park
- Provide more seats and tables throughout the park
- Remove weeds, particularly in the creek corridors



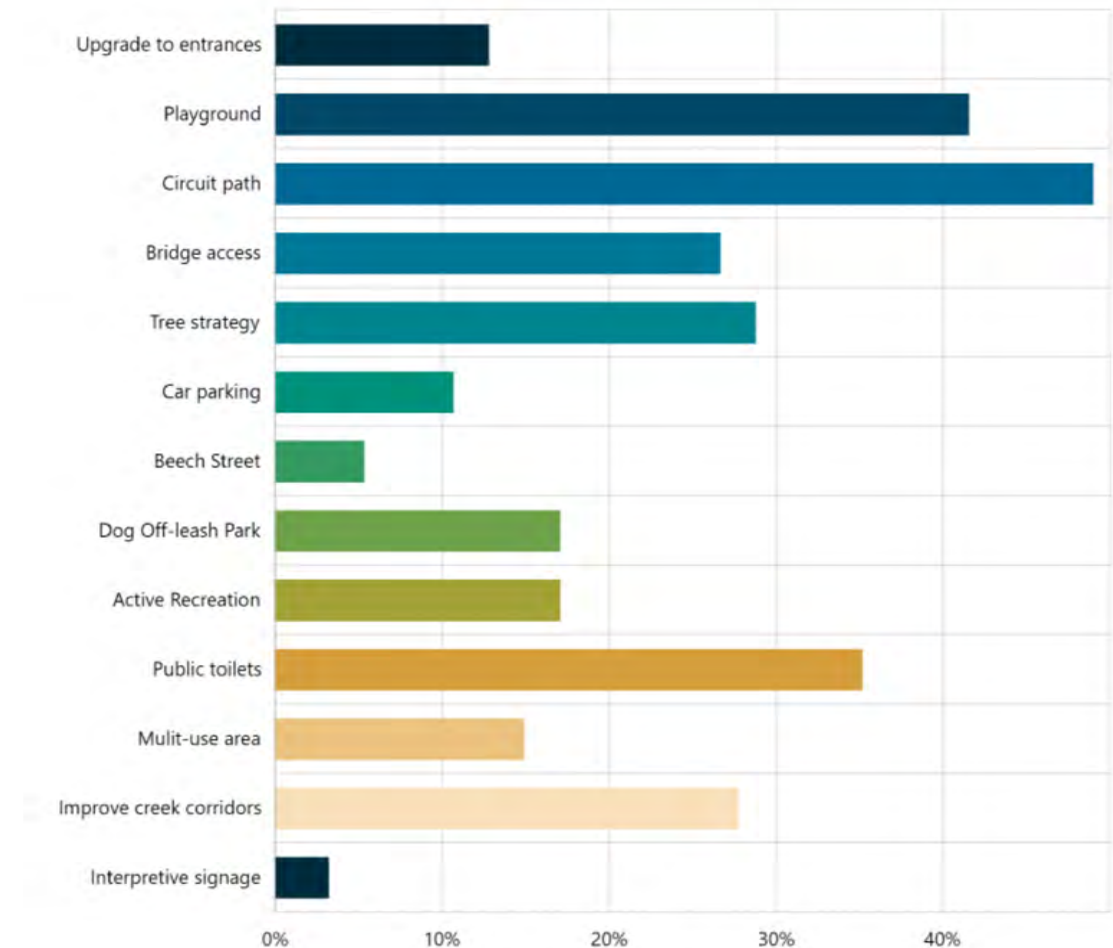
- Repair the bandstand and provide seating
- Make RV friendly
- Need better maintenance
- Revegetation to the creek corridors
- Improve access across beach street and link to Tambo circuit track
- Do not put a learn to ride in the CFA area
- Remove the pine trees and plant natives
- Build higher boundary fences
- Build an indoor sporting complex for a netball and basketball court
- Provide Play equipment for older kids which is more adventurous
- Include shelter and public toilet next to the playground
- Provide an elevated board through flood corridors
- Include a botanic gardens, conservation and nursery facilities
- Put in place measures in place to stop balls from damaging houses to the north of the cricket oval
- Place a fence around AF Walker oval
- Remove the option for toilets along Laurel Street
- Keep the rural feel
- Public toilets near the Lions club playgrounds

Refer to Appendix 2 for the full list of ideas and feedback

**Question 8: Which if the key recommendation do you think are the most important?**

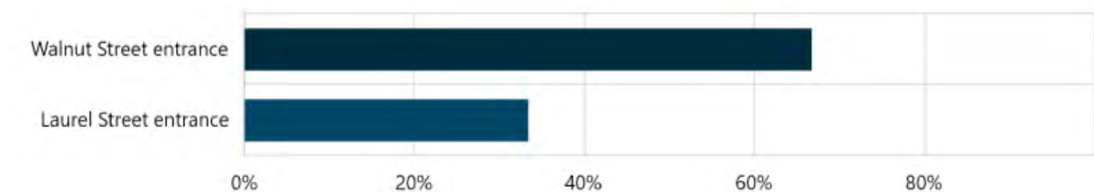
Of the 13 key recommendations, the participants thought the most important was the circuit path (48.94%), the playground (41.49%) and the public toilets (35.11%). These responses differ slightly from previous feedback where the natural and open space were the most important aspects of the reserve.

The recommendations which received least support were the Interpretive signage (3.19%), upgrades to Beech Street (5.32%) and car parking (10.64%).



**Question 9: If new public toilet facilities are installed in Whittlesea Park, where do you think is the best location?**

Majority of participants wanted the proposed toilet facilities to be located at the Walnut Street entrance (66.67%) with only 33.33% requesting that they are located at the laurel Street entrance.



**Question 10: Do you have anything else you would like to share on the draft Master Plan? (short answer)**

Responses to this question mainly reiterated the ideas and feedback already provided within the survey. Participants provided additional feedback on public toilets, including the suggestions that only one new public toilet was required and that the existing public toilets



needed to be upgraded. Participants also provided suggestions for improved facilities and assets and to improve access and safety.

*“Fences around playground to help single parents feel comfortable that their children are safe in the playground. Public toilets to access for all children (in particular) are currently not adequate. Lights around the paths because at night its extremely dark for those walking home through the park.”*

*“there are already public toilets at Laurel St on the side of the pavillion, they just need cleaning up”*

*“It’s great to see the collaboration between the Council & the Reserves Management Committee to better manage and develop Whittlesea Park, let’s make it a destination of choice.”*

**Summary of the final responses:**

- Do not require two new public toilets in the park (5 related responses)
- Provide public toilet near the playground (3 related responses)
- Provide lighting on paths (3 related responses)
- Increase the size of the pool, upgrade or make an all seasons pool (3)
- Include new BBQs (2 related responses)
- Upgrade the existing public toilets (2 related responses)
- Provide better sporting facilities
- Create Better connection to beech street
- Include a flying fox
- Concerns for the Walnut Street car park after hours
- Fence around the playground
- Include more historical events
- Concerns on the bandstand
- Improve the dog park
- Include bridges outside of flood plain
- Include shelter for picnic areas
- Provide more exotic tree species
- Provide better maintenance
- Assess the tree health
- Make more for children with disabilities
- Provide access to eastern hill
- Include more bins
- Make gender safe

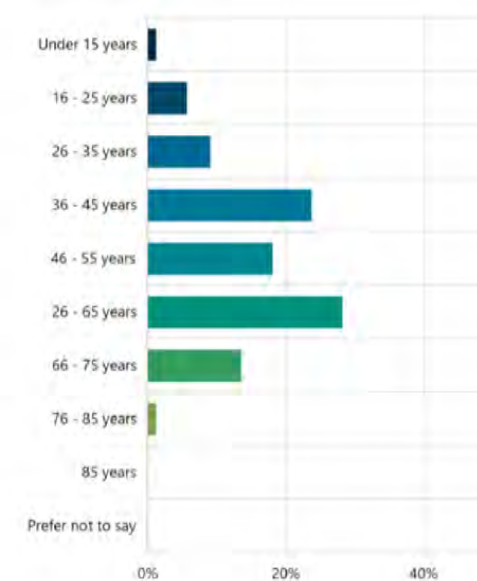
- Cameras for safety
- Make RV friendly
- Do not change the CFA area as it will then be unusable
- Community garden
- Include more equipment for adolescence
- Reduce the number of car spaces on Laurel street
- Make public toilets in the Lions Park Club park Playground

Refer to Appendix 3 for full list of feedback.

**Demographic Data:**

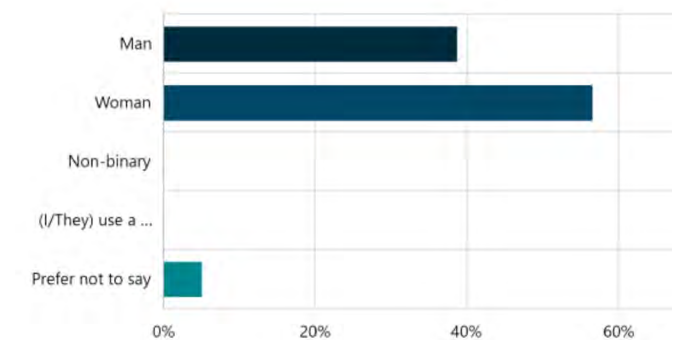
**Question 12: What is your age?**

Majority of participants were between the ages of 55-65 (28.09%) followed by 36-45 years old (23.60%) and then 46-55 year (17.98%). There were low participation rates from people under the age of 35.



**Question 13: How do you describe your gender?**

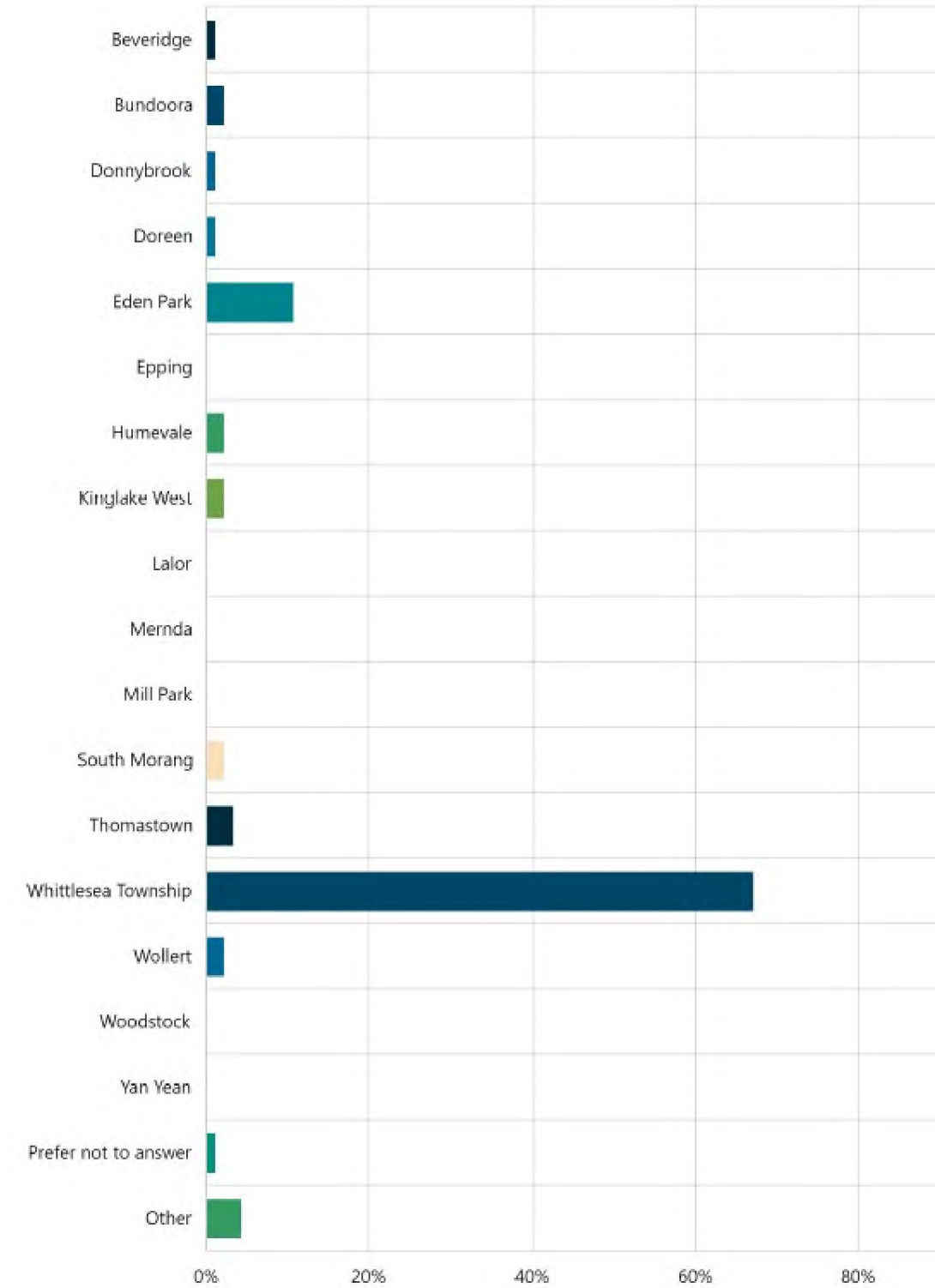
Majority of participants identify as female (56.44%) followed by male (38.61%)





**Question 20. Which suburb do you live in?**

Majority of participants live in Whittlesea Township (67%), followed by Eden Park (10.6%). There was low participation rates from the rest of the municipality.





### In-person voting poll

Participants were able to vote for their three favourite recommendations. Of the 382 participants, 243 were adults and 28 were children. The most popular recommendation was the Upgraded playground (19.1%), followed by public toilets (16.6%), circuit path (11%) and then the upgraded dog off leash park (10%).

While these results differ from the online survey, it still demonstrates the important of the Circuit path, playground and public toilets as the three most important items to the community



Image 6: in- person voting board

### Kids drawings sheets

At the pop-up sessions children were given the opportunity to provide their feedback through a drawing activity. In this activity they were asked what they wanted to see included in Whittlesea Park. Some of the feedback included:

- Flying fox
- Slides
- Rock climbing wall
- A lookout
- Soccer pitch



## 4. Limitations

The following limitations were experienced through the consultation process:

- **Lack of interest from the community in participation:**  
While direct mail advising of the consultation was directly distributed to 1200, only 399 formal responses were received. This may be due to consultation fatigue.

## 5. Summary Results and Evaluation

Overall, the community provided a large amount of support for the master plan and key recommendations. This was demonstrated through the survey and voting poll. Much of the additional feedback provided was for other items already included in the draft master plan, but not as part of the 13 key recommendations.

Responses differed when participants were asked what the most important items in any public open space was, to what they thought were the most important items in the draft master plan.



**Summary of results:**

- Open spaces and nature including trees and creeks are the items most valued to the community in a public open space
- Whittlesea Park is valued for having large open spaces with nature. The community would like to retain the open space, replace old trees and clean up the creek corridors.
- The most popular key recommendations are the Circuit path, playground and public toilets
- Majority of participants would like the future public toilets located at Walnut Street, but ensuring that it is accessible to the playground
- The community would like to ensure that the park is safe to all users. Lighting should be included in the master plan along with CCTV in high-risk areas e.g. the skate park, better fences and improved access across Beech Street.
- Participants would like the future playground to include equipment which caters to teens and people with disabilities, plenty of shelter, bins, and park furniture. Participants would also like to see improved access to the public toilets from the playground
- Participants would like the master plan to further considers making the site RV friendly
- Further acknowledge the history of the site

## 6. Key recommendations

With review of the consultation findings, the follow items are recommended to be include din the final master plan:

- Provide a priority rating based on the feedback, with the circuit path, playground upgrade and new public toilets as the highest priority.
- Update master plan to show the future public toilets at Walnut Street
- Further consider pathway lighting along main path links
- Develop the playground concept to include equipment which cater to teens and people with disabilities
- Provide improved access from the playground to the public toilets on Walnut street
- Explore the option for RV friendly facilities on the site
- Further acknowledge the history of the site including the place names.
- Undertake further consultation with the CFA on the proposal for a learn to ride in the training area

## 7. Appendix

**Appendix 1- Question 4 short answer responses:**

What do you love or value about Whittlesea Park?

<i>That there is a park</i>
<i>Enjoy the open spaces. Can we have a all seasons swimming pool?</i>
<i>The walks between parks</i>
<i>Peaceful</i>
<i>Open, big, walking, community</i>
<i>The shade of the beautiful trees on a warm summers day.</i>
<i>Multi-use recreation area close to town.</i>
<i>I enjoy the beauty of it.</i>
<i>Usually to use the swings.</i>
<i>Cannot access the bridge when flooded and the swing a hazard - everyday.</i>
<i>The convenience of a local park that can over look the scenery (photography)</i>
<i>Open natural space</i>
<i>Open space nature reserve.</i>
<i>The rotunda</i>
<i>The safe open space. The beauty of the area.</i>
<i>The dog park - although inadequate.</i>
<i>Ease of access</i>
<i>Fantastic nature space</i>
<i>Its open space, special non-native trees and unconstrained feel.</i>
<i>Great open area.</i>
<i>It is just nice to have open areas.</i>
<i>Open Space</i>
<i>Regularly go there for walks with Cub Scout group - nature walks, clean up Aus Day, informal play/activities in the open spaces (egdisc golf / frisbee activities)</i>
<i>Showgrounds Parking</i>
<i>Native</i>
<i>Close Township</i>
<i>Not many places have such a big usable space for the community</i>
<i>Great open space with lots of opportunities for improvement</i>
<i>Easy access by foot and car, especially easy for old folk like me who can't walk far to go to the dog park or take the grandkids to play. I like that it is not too formal and sanitized. Suits the country feel of Whittlesea.</i>
<i>The location and space</i>
<i>The space</i>
<i>I love the serenity, I love the little lake, and the nature, I've loved the Cypress walkway since I was a little girl, my children also loved the walkway and one of my now grown up Grandchildren always wanted to go walking there she named it The Magical Forest when</i>



<i>she was only three years old. I hope that isn't going to go the playground</i>
<i>Ability to get away from the main road and feel that the kids are safe on bikes/walking without risk crossing the bridges on the main road. Exploring nature, enjoying the waterways, the freedom of space, the current limited kids' areas (oving the skatepark improvements).</i>
<i>Nice and open</i>
<i>Great amenity</i>
<i>The accessibility to walking trails, the creek and open paddocks, nothing overdeveloped</i>
<i>Open spaces Location</i>
<i>Excited to see the upgrades. Value the peace and quiet, more accessible seating along the creek would be nice. Perhaps a water fountain used for humans and animals</i>
<i>Lovely green, open space in the centre of a thriving community. During the day, it feels very safe</i>
<i>Open spaces Big old trees Creeks Walking tracks</i>
<i>The space</i>
<i>Such a wonderful green space asset so close to the township.</i>
<i>Central location to the township and has ability to deliver a great vibe to the future development of the area (Central Park)</i>
<i>The access and training facility while in need of upgrade is one of the most resourceful areas that I have seen for CFA volunteers to be able to access. Having access to ground water (via the tank) and having access to the creek to practice drafting allows for our members to be able to train in a safe environment while practicing critical skills for the summer fire season.</i>
<i>The relatively large space close to the centre of town.</i>
<i>I love the space</i>
<i>Open space close to the township, valued the playgrounds when we had younger children</i>
<i>It's a fabulous open space for everyone to enjoy.</i>
<i>A place to take kids and pets, a nice walk into town</i>
<i>Nothing - it's not maintained well enough to use for picnics etc. It floods too often resulting in water and rubbish pooling that goes stagnant and smells terrible. It is an eyesaw and embarrassing.</i>
<i>Near town, open space, has potential to attract native wildlife.</i>
<i>Open space, greenery, nature, creeks</i>
<i>The open grassland and waterways the old trees</i>
<i>The feeling of being away from civilisation even though being surrounded by it</i>
<i>Lots of green grass and the big shady trees</i>
<i>open space</i>

<i>Great space. Just needs tidying up with structure as per your plan. The oval needs a fence boundary to protect the players and provide a safe area for all to participate and watch.</i>
<i>The open quiet space for walking</i>
<i>Safe and clean</i>
<i>I love taking my dog for regularly walks in the park I like the birds and wildlife and generally nature When it's warmer having a picnic in the park</i>
<i>The open space, the trees, the tranquility</i>
<i>The lovely trees, quietness of the surroundings, just enjoy nature</i>
<i>It's openness, it's great walking through nature instead of footpaths.</i>
<i>The wide open spaces, trees. Upgraded skate park</i>
<i>Open spaces Deciduous trees Creeks</i>
<i>It is a large open green space near town. It has potential to attract native wildlife (although some work would be required first).</i>
<i>The openness</i>
<i>The open space and old bandstand</i>
<i>The open free space, the oak trees</i>

**Appendix 2- Question 7 short answer responses:**

Do you have any ideas for improving the Whittlesea Park draft master plan?

<i>Better use of the river park - seems silly that we have this amazing public space that is funded by the public to maintain but it is only used 2 days a year for the Show parking? Not a great use of public funds?</i>
<i>The current historical names associated with parts of the larger 'Whittlesea Park' need to be incorporated and enhanced as to the individuals history with the area.</i>
<i>Example: J.W. Towt reserve was named after ex-whittlesea shir councillor Jack William Towt who as a councillor, advocated for the creation of a wetlands and incorporated parkland in Whittlesea. AF Walker reserve was named after 'Frank Walker' who held positions of secretary of the Committee of Management (CoM) for many many years. George Sherwin Bandstand is named after the early settlers to the area.</i>
<i>Better dog parks, usable open grass areas that dont have 3 foot long grass</i>
<i>No love it</i>
<i>The proposal to include a learn-to-ride component on the existing CFA training track would render it unusable by the fire brigade, and as such would not be agreed to by the local brigade. There is substantial space to the south of the current track where such facilities could be installed. It is also noted that the website currently references this area as a 'Fire Rescue Victoria' training area. This is incorrect. The Whittlesea Park is within the Country Fire Authority fire district and the current site is operated by the CFA and is in no way connected with Fire Rescue Victoria. It is respectfully requested that you rectify this oversight.</i>



<i>I'm not clear about where the parking is but I know that many elderly people use the area and need to be able to park close to the dog park and playground.</i>
<i>Turn some off the fire area into a football oval for whittlesea Eagles</i>
<i>I'm happy enough with it so long as The Magical Forest ( The Cypress Avenue) is left as it is</i>
<i>Not enough options for children with disabilities- would love to see trampolines, water play with troughs, etc - the all abilities park in mill Park is fantastic for this and the have swing seats for children with disabilities</i>
<i>add more playground equipment</i>
<i>Involve community groups with the creation - Garden Club - designated (non flooding area) for feature gardens which will attract a broader range of ages to enjoy the park and admire garden areas - ie flowering garden. I know this is out of the scope of returning to indigenous gardens, however beautiful gardens give joy to a variety of people, from children, elderly and those with disabilities. Mens Club - creation of bench seats or park signs/features. Secondary Students - assisting with planting days, or woodwork students creating park features? Acknowledgement and educational signs relating to Indigenous Australians. MUST install barriers on the main road bridge crossings regardless of the parks new circular track (thumbs up) . With the increase of traffic to the skatepark, markets and considering events held there - it is vital that this be a safe pedestrian path. My heart stops every time my kids ride this path with logging trucks, wide load pre-fab houses and general car traffic passing. I implore anyone who questions whether this is required to take their dog or young child or just to walk this section in peak traffic times and consider how safe one feels. Parking facilities for permitted food vans/coffee vans to attract more people to the park and perhaps an option for local cafes to take this opportunity to expand their business? Lighting options throughout. Video surveillance at the skatepark - maybe already installed? Already witnessed fights, which is really disappointing - however with the completion of the pump track I am hopefully with more parents present and young families, it will discourage kids from violent/bullying behavior. Whittlesea lacks running track/ athletic facilities, if areas such as Donnybrook or like do not have this incorporated into the development- perhaps this could be incorporated into the walker reserve area? A central location for areas such as Kinglake, Doreen, Donnybrook, Whittlesea, Wallan, - encouraging fitness and giving more sporting/social options to the broader community and local schools. Overall, very excited to see this area develop into a beautiful space for locals and for tourists. Whilst funfields is amazing for the local community and career opportunities - the township does not benefit from traffic which comes and goes without going through the town - a beautiful park and point of interest should see an increase in business to local traders. Thank you and well done.</i>
<i>Please ensure adequate lighting for all pathways and walking trails - particularly to ensure usage over winter months. Also a facility to have a coffee van or small cafe would really encourage usage. Would just need some services like power and water and some seating.</i>
<i>It would be fantastic to have a water/splash park area included in the playground plan</i>

<i>The dog off leash area needs lighting and should have accessible public toilets nearby Better council oversight of cleanliness and maintenance of the area, including the area surrounding the offleash space Scheduled and regular clean up of waterways and park areas to remove rubbish and broken glass Lighting at playgrounds</i>
<i>- complete overhaul of the off leash area, it's a disgrace. When compared with Mernda it doesn't come close. Perhaps look at the off leash area developed by Banyule Council at Price Park in Viewbank. A beautifully thought through space. It is well maintained and free of dog waste. - Regular maintenance of the dog park and surrounding area. Lighting to enable safety at twilight/ early evening. - Street lighting toward the end of Laurel Street - Clean up the walking trails and paths along the water, there is dog waste and rubbish regularly visible throughout. There is also broken glass strewn across the walking paths and around trees at either end of the trails, another disgrace in a beautiful area</i>
<i>Perhaps we should look at Whittlesea being an RV friendly town a dump point at Showgrounds. 2 night show ground stays for travellers in self contained vehicles</i>
<i>The Bandstand is not mentioned in your plan. It urgently needs repair. it is the only place of shelter in the park during hot weather , (apart from the Lions Club Park which is only accessible from Beech St), and it would be very helpful to have seats placed around the inside perimeter. Musicians playing there need to bring in chairs, and passers-by wanting shelter from the heat, have nowhere to sit. The off-lead dog park has a seat, and it would be good to have a shade over it during hot weather. Could we have notices there about the need to pick up doggie poo. I have been going there for a few years now and very rarely see others picking up after their dogs. The water-lilies in the lake look lovely, but are always against a backdrop of blackberries . The blackberries are now spreading into the rest of the park. Perhaps they could all be removed. It is important that the mowing is kept up regularly because of the risk of snakes which are attracted to the creek areas. There could be more seats and tables throughout the park.</i>
<i>Maybe in the natural garden beds play area we include some water play as this is a huge hit at our parks and allows for big families to enjoy. Splash pad kind of idea.</i>
<i>Also with the walking trail,can we add a round about/traffic circles and road signs like a traffic park to support the importance of road safety and learning to ride bikes. A traffic park would be used by schools and daycares in the area</i>
<i>Traffic park idea</i>
<i>Access across beach street and link to join up with the proposed walking track heading north along Bruce's creek linking Tambo circuit walking track, preferably under the bridge</i>
<i>Revegetation &amp; am increased focus on native / indigenous plantings. Care and love of the waterways</i>



<p><i>Picnic areas for families</i></p> <p><i>Toilet facilities that are maintained</i></p>
<p><i>Its important to note that the modifications to the CFA training track needs a through assessment on what existing track used for. I have concerns that the "learn to ride" shown in the picture would make the track unusable for what its actually designed for, CFA competition.</i></p>
<p><i>Important to clarify that the County Fire Authority training track is not a Fire Rescue Victoria facility and has incorrectly been detailed as such in the engage.whittlesea website and associate printed material. CFA and FRV are two separate organisations. This error shows a real lack of understanding of one of the key stakeholders.</i></p>
<p><i>For your reference please see how CFA and FRV are two separate statutory organisations: Country Fire Authority <a href="https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/country-fire-authority-act-1958/156">https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/country-fire-authority-act-1958/156</a> Fire Rescue Victoria <a href="https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/fire-rescue-victoria-act-1958/127">https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/fire-rescue-victoria-act-1958/127</a></i></p>
<p><i>Retain the CFA fire area for use. Do not put a learn to ride area right through it. It means we won't be able to use it.</i></p>
<p><i>a bigger kids park, more of an adventure playground would be amazing. also a walking/bike trial would be fantastic too</i></p>
<p><i>Dog park needs to be much larger and needs to have an area for smaller timid dogs, so structures so dogs can walk up onto would be goods</i></p>
<p><i>The fencing along River street at the Evelyn street end all needs to be replaced and in some sections repaired.</i></p> <p><i>Weed management along that side also in desperate need, blackberry plants everywhere.</i></p>
<p><i>Shelter(s) and public bathroom / change facilities adjacent to or readily accessible from major play facilities makes for a more family friendly experience</i></p>
<p><i>An elevated boardwalk through flood corridors allows for egress from park even as Bruce's Ck and Plenty river have burst their banks and are flowing into adjacent farmland</i></p>
<p><i>Remove the pine trees. Plant all Australian trees, stubs and bushes.</i></p> <p><i>Build very high fences on the private property land that backs onto the park in various places, especially by the bandstand</i></p>
<p><i>Ensure that the park is always cleaned every morning, before people come to enjoy it, especially by the swimming pool.</i></p> <p><i>Have roaming police in the area after dark and when groups of people make it unfriendly and unwelcoming.</i></p>

<p><i>I know this will fall on deaf ears but I'm saying it anyway</i></p> <p><i>I've lived in whittlesea township all my life</i></p> <p><i>When I was playing netball the wnba had to fundraise to pay half the cost of the stadium at the secondary college ..the courts there are not the standard size and the whittlesea netball and basketball association have always had to construct their fixtures around the college activities</i></p> <p><i>I think it's about time we had an indoor sporting complex to accomodate.. 2 full size courts for netball and basketball..indoor swim centre with a gym and kiosk</i></p> <p><i>Seems all the money for sporting complexes go to every town in the city of whittlesea except the township of whittlesea ..</i></p>
<p><i>Please look at Kimlore's park and Warrandyte for inspiration - they are beautiful! They have public amenities (bbqs, covered areas, toilets, bins, bubblers etc) that are well looked after, kids play areas, a well maintained creek, lovely educationally signed walking areas. People travel to these areas to visit the areas specifically!!!!</i></p>
<p><i>Whittlesea needs something similarly beautiful to Warrandyte and Kilmore. It would be nice to have bbqs under covered areas with seats so they can be used in all weather conditions, a nice mini botanic garde (not just wetlands- Whittlesea already has ample wetlands), nice wide footpaths that can be used by cyclists, a path that joins up to the wetlands area along oakbank drive, lighting along the foot paths, clean/clear creek banks so water can flow but people/dogs might be able to swim/wade in summer (like at Warrandyte), a few bins would be good with doggy bags (to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog), toilest near the skate park, a bigger indoor pool (50m) that can be used all year round (the local pool is not big enough nor accessible enough as it's only open for 4 months a year), a soccer field/hockey field/netball court (not basketball courts - these are already a across the road at the school), removal of the early years centre (it doesn't get used, is run down and not maintained), signs to key things in town (bowls club, info centre, royal hotel, IGA etc).</i></p> <p><i>The entry and fencing of the show grounds also needs to be re done as part of the beautification - its terrible and an eyesaw as is the fencing around the Melbourne waterway.</i></p> <p><i>It would be beneficial to bring in a small native/indigenous nursery (like that at La Trobe university Bundoora).</i></p>
<p><i>Whittlesea needs a park that people who live in Whittlesea (those aged 40 and under with/planning to have kids are your target audiance here) would be proud to talk about, take their families and friends too and that will bring people out to visit. It is currently an eyesaw and is part of the reason I regret buying a house in Whittlesea.</i></p>
<p><i>Plant more trees. Clean up the water ways. Keep open grasslands. Add more bridges to cross the creeks to have more options to avoid people walking dogs off lead when you have a reactive dog walking on a lead there is limited escape paths to remove your dog from unwanted off lead dog incounters. Replant trees on the way into town on Plenty Rd. Make the entry to town more attractive and bring back the small country town feel. Stop big trucks and buses parking in lime St maybe make parking for large vehicles at the old train station land at the end of Church St</i></p>



What health and safety measures are being put in place to stop cricket balls from damaging houses in Arnold St which abuts AF Walker reserve?
Electric BBQ facilities. A conservation/nursery facility setup similar to Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary
Play space - older children section. Make it more challenging (higher/taller/larger slide, parcor equipment which is like challenging obstacles). Basketball half court
Walking paths from the park need to connect across and past the Showgrounds to the walking path along Tambo Circuit. It's crazy not to be able to walk from that side of the Showgrounds across to the park.
Having a 3 metre wide two way path for walking/biking/skating/running would be very useful for residents in eastern hill to quickly get to Main Street
Get rid of the magpies
Very general information at this stage but you have a lot of good elements
No need for extra toilets on Laurel St
Just a fence around Walkers Reserve oval.
Removing the optional toilet block on Laurel street
Keep the rural feel, improve footpaths
I think you need to be mindful of not changing too much as it will loss the lovely country feel you have while walking thru the park at the moment
Boardwalk over wetlands areas with info signs?
public toilets in the Lions Club Park Playground
Clean up creeks with seating along pathways that follow the creeks.
They are lovely creeks and could be made beautiful areas if they were cleaned up and grass was kept mowed.
Electric BBQs. Commit to a publicised maintenance plan - ie mowing frequency, creek clearing frequency etc. - as currently the area has the appearance of being treated as an after thought where in it is only mown once it has become overgrown. Invite conservation groups (i.e. Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary) in to set up bird nest boxes etc.
I definitely think the second set of public toilets are required at Laurel St as they will be much closer to the playspace and much easier for young children who need to go in a hurry and I feel with such a large space and one set of toilets will not be enough especially as the new plans will bring alot more people to the park and I don't think set of toilets will suffice

### Appendix 3- Question 7 short answer response

Do you have anything else you would like to share on the draft master plan?

Better sporting facilities
All seasons swimming pool!
Better access paths in doggy areas. More options to connect to Beech St.

BBQ's
BBQ's Flying Fox
Concerned about Walnut St carpark after hours. Organise to see them at Saturday pop up.
Fences around playground to help single parents feel comfortable that their children are safe in the playground. Public toilets to access for all children (in particular) are currently not adequate. Lights around the paths because at night its extremely dark for those walking home through the park.
More free historial events. Replicas of the outlaws.
Concerts at the bandstand.
Increase the size of the pool.
Plenty on the dog park - that's my priority. Shelter - winter & summer Concrete area withing actual car space BBQ Grass too long now (and often) Bin far away from seating.
Bridge flooding foot
Great that there is some energy being put into the actual township of Whittlesea.
More cover for picnics, sitting to enjoy the area.
Would love to see more species of trees (as in a botanical garden). Skip the eucalyptus - boring and dangerous. A wonderful opportunity to make this area a special and different from every other park in the City of Whittlesea.
Ensure its maintained properly.
No but should include upgrade to swimming pool to all weather.
Ok
Walnut St toilets are a good idea as they service the skate park and middle of the parkland. There are already external toilets available on Laurel Street opposite the library on the pavilion.
It would also be great to see some investment in assessing the health of many established trees full of dead wood and hanging branches. Many of these trees in Sherwin Reserve have important historical context that should be invested in.
Have a few public toilets already. ??
Doesn't need public toilets - 3 in the town.
the toilets would be better placed nearer to the playground and dog park. There are already toilets in Laurel St near the tennis courts and Walnut street entrance is too far to take little kids in a hurry or for old folks to walk to.
Please consider more for children with a disability. The local school in Whittlesea - Diamond Valley Special School is situated at Whittlesea Secondary School so many of those children enrolled would be able to access it both when at school and outside of school
no



<i>Eastern hill access</i>
<i>A stronger focus on safety to make it a gender safe space, particularly for females who might want to use it as a running/walking track. Please include plenty of bins as well to reduce the potential for littering</i>
<i>As I have said above</i>
<i>As above</i>
<i>Please do this it'd be great for the town!!!</i>
<i>The skate park has already had problems with children being beaten up so maybe some cameras may have to be installed or police presence during busy times such as school holidays.</i>
<i>It's such a great little place to go and it would be a shame if people didn't feel safe</i>
<i>It's great to see the collaboration between the Council &amp; the Reserves Management Committee to better manage and develop Whittlesea Park, let's make it a destination of choice.</i>
<i>Push the RV investigation as will bring extra boost of tourism availability to the area</i>
<i>I have real concerns about the proposed modifications to the CFA (not FRV) training track. The track is a CFA facility, with the custodians being the local Whittlesea Fire Brigade, not Fire Rescue Victoria.</i>
<i>Please read above.</i>
<i>looks good</i>
<i>there are already public toilets at Laurel St on the side of the pavillion, they just need cleaning up</i>
<i>I do not want to see anything new in the park's proposal that could encourage people entertaining the wrong kind of behaviour after hours.</i>
<i>It would be really nice if there was also the opportunity for community garden plots to teach the next generation about how we get our food and how we can coexist with nature.</i>
<i>There are already public toilets at the Cricket/tennis centre.</i>
<i>Your target audience for improvement in the Whittlesea township are those under the age of 40. Please start asking for feedback from those aged 5 - 40 because these people will be the key to Whittlesea township surviving.</i>
<i>We need a park/recreational area similar to Warrandyte and Kilmore (which I travel to regularly in preference to using the Whittlesea park that I could walk to as it's and embarrassing mess) and more sporting fields to give children in the area greater access to sport - one cricket oval and 2 AFL fields discriminates against those whom do not follow/play the sports. Hockey field/soccer field/netball courts are highly desirable.</i>
<i>Toilets close as possible new playground</i>
<i>Scooter park needs to have a smaller kids/amateur section (I know it's being worked I currently but no plans shared that I have seen)</i>
<i>Kids playground needs an adolescence area that has adventure/ obstacles is a must</i>
<i>Good lighting and other safety features must be built into the plan so people can feel and be safe while using the park. Esp along walking trails and around public toilet &amp; picnic areas.</i>
<i>I really love the idea of the circuit path and outdoor fitness areas</i>

<i>Basketball /netball court</i>
<i>Rotundas and more seating</i>
<i>Big play ground</i>
<i>Walkways</i>
<i>Reduce the number of car parking spaces on Laurel street by 50.</i>
<i>Hoping the toilet will be kept cleaner than the ones we presently have and near the childrens playground</i>
<i>I would like to know if there is planned community engagement of the peoples who's property's back on to the park will be given scope of works and will have discussion with them as they are directly affected.</i>
<i>If there isn't can it be arranged as my neighbours and I back on to this park and we already have a lot of issues with rubbish , vandalism, hoons in the carport and feel this should be taken into consideration</i>
<i>public toilets in the Lions Club Park Playground</i>
<i>I would have liked to be able to select more than 3 options on the key recommendations as I think parking is extremely important to be safe for all using the facilities along with the very important environmental aspects of improving creek corridors and tree strategy</i>



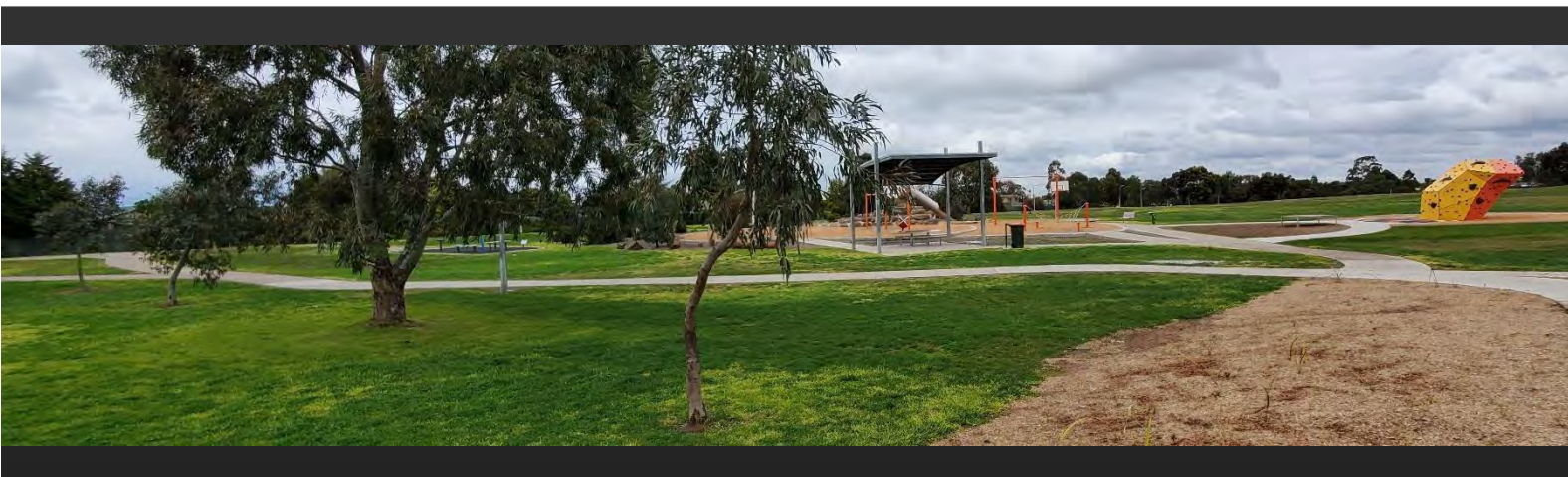
# Appendix C

Transport Site Analysis



# Whittlesea Park Master Plan

## Transport Site Analysis





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# 1 INTRODUCTION

onemilegrid has been requested by Outlines Landscape Architecture to assist with master planning for Whittlesea Park, located on Whittlesea-Yea Road, in Whittlesea.

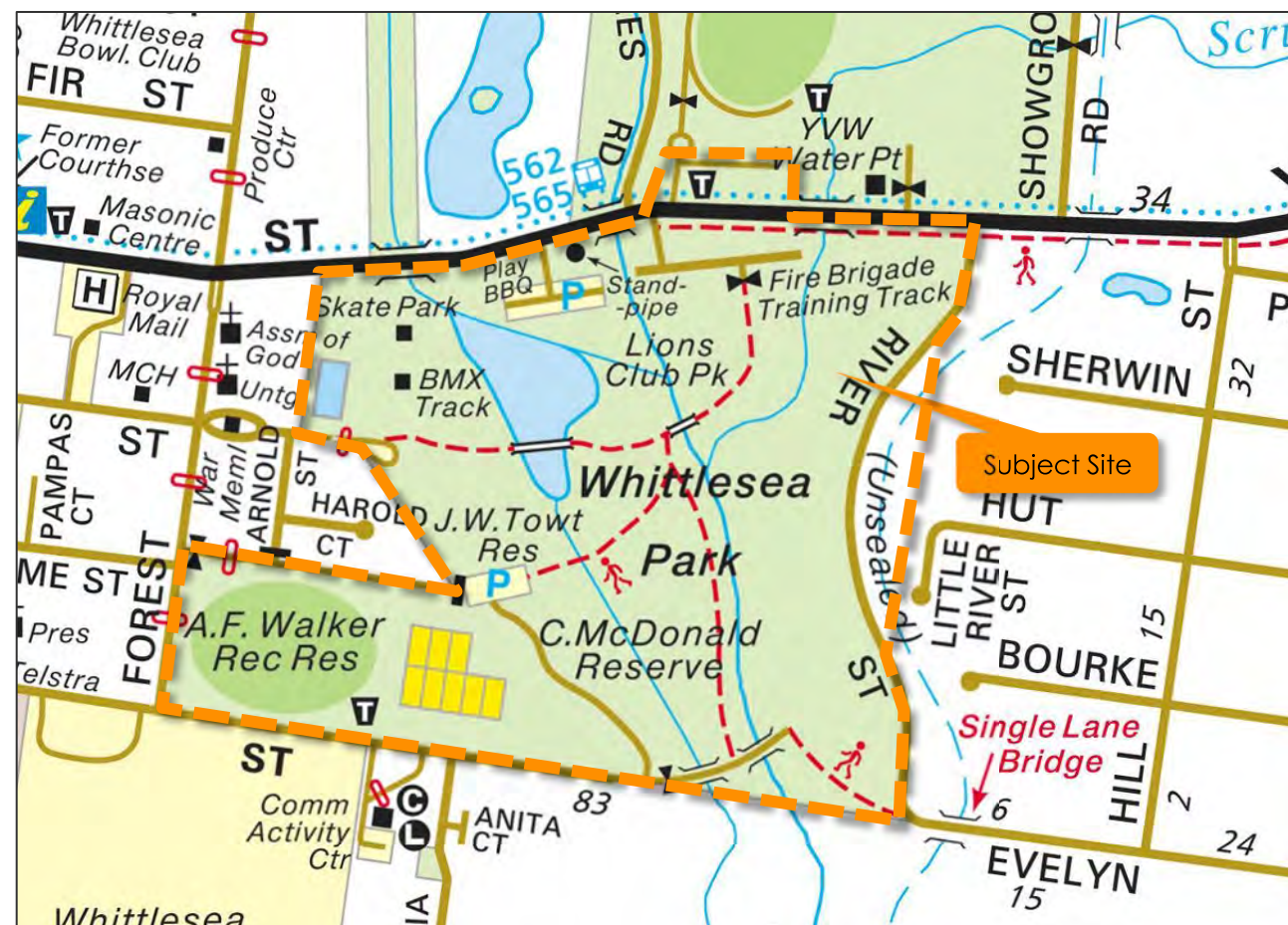
As part of this assessment the subject site has been inspected with due consideration of the development proposal, traffic and parking data has been sourced and relevant background reports have been reviewed.

# 2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

## 2.1 Site Location

The subject site is located east of the Whittlesea Town Centre and is generally bounded by River Street to the east, Forest Street to the west, Laurel Street to the south, and Beech Street (Whittlesea-Yea Road) to the north as shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 Site Location



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The site accommodates a range of recreation and community uses, including:

- AF Walker Reserve
- Whittlesea Park
- Whittlesea Swimming Pool
- River Street Reserve

- Whittlesea Lions Park
- Whittlesea Showgrounds Netball Court and Car Park

Land use in the immediate vicinity of the site is varied, and includes Whittlesea Secondary College and Whittlesea Library to the south, largely residential uses to the east and west, and the Whittlesea Showgrounds and Monday Market to the north. The Plenty River runs north-south, centrally through the site.

An aerial view of the subject site is provided in Figure 2.

Figure 2 Site Context (19<sup>th</sup> February 2022)



Copyright Nearmap

## 2.2 Planning Zones and Overlays

The site is comprised of a number of separate land parcels including 30 Yea Road, 35C Beech Street, and 2 Forest Street and is zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) and Special Use Zone (SUZ1).

Whittlesea-yea road is designated Transport Zone (TZ2); Principal Road Network, under the control and management of Department of Transport (DoT).

An aqueduct runs north-south immediately east of River Street, which is designated a Public Use Zone (PUZ1).



## 2.3 Road Network

### 2.3.1 Beech Street (Whittlesea-Yea Road)

Beech Street (Whittlesea-Yea Road) is an arterial road extending generally north-east from central Whittlesea through to the Yea township.

At the frontage of the site it comprises a single traffic lane in either direction, with sealed shoulders. Footpath facilities are provided along the southern side, and intermittently along the northern side. A 60km/h speed limit applies to Beech Street (Whittlesea-Yea Road) in the vicinity of the site.

### 2.3.2 River Street

River Street is a local road aligned generally north-south between Beech Street and Evelyn Street.

It accommodates two-way traffic within an unsealed carriageway of approximately 5 metres width.

The default 50km/h speed limit applies to River Street in the vicinity of the site.

### 2.3.3 Walnut Street

Walnut Street is a local street extending east from Wallan Road, terminating at the subject site in a roundabout.

At its interface with the subject site it accommodates two-way traffic, with marked 90 degree parking within the northern verge, and informal parking provided along the southern side.

The default 50km/h speed limit applies to Walnut Street in the vicinity of the site.

### 2.3.4 Laurel Street

Laurel Street is a local street extending east from the Wallan Road / Plenty Road intersection, terminating at the subject site.

At its interface with the subject site it accommodates two-way traffic within a relatively narrow carriageway, accommodating informal 90 degree verge parking towards the western side, and formalised verge parking further east.

A 40km/h speed limit applies to Laurel Street in the vicinity of the site.

## 2.4 Traffic Volumes

### 2.4.1 Surveys

To understand existing traffic conditions in the site's vicinity, traffic volume surveys were undertaken at the following intersections on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 from 9:00AM-2:00PM and on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 from 7:00AM-10:00AM and 2:30PM-6:00PM.

- Beech Street / Digger Hall Reserve Access / Football Ground Access;
- Beech Street / Playground Access; and
- Beech Street / Forest Street.

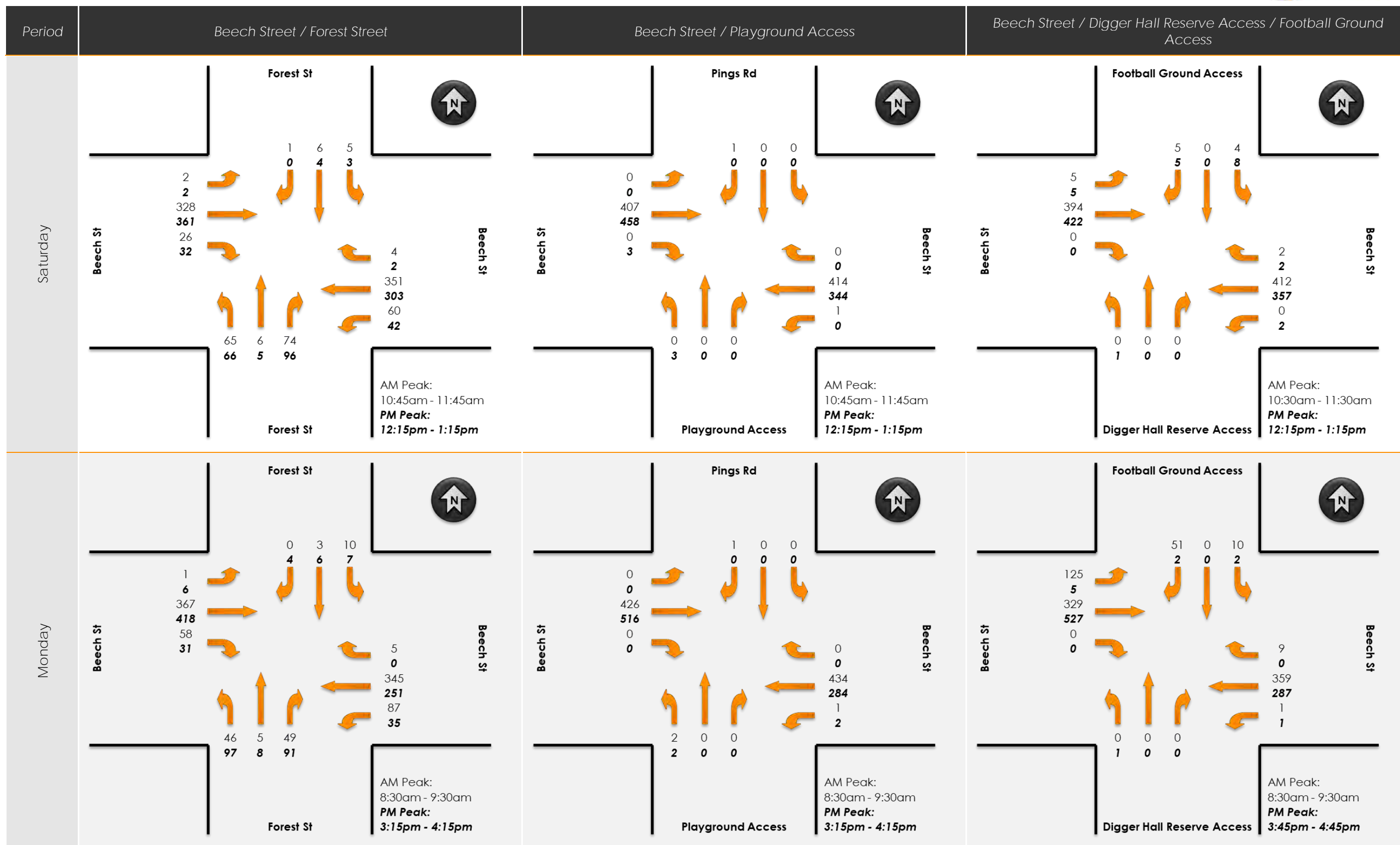
The peak hour results of the surveys are shown overleaf.

Turning movements to each of the site accesses from Beech Street (playground and Diggers Hall Reserve) are relatively modest during all peak periods, with only limited movements in and out of the site.

On the Saturday, turning movements into the football ground and showgrounds were considerably higher, which may have been attributable to set up activity for the rodeo being held Saturday evening. We understand that there were no games of football or netball scheduled during the survey.

Turning movements at the Forest Street intersection are considerable, with Forest Street operating as one of the primary access routes to Whittlesea Secondary College and the adjacent uses.







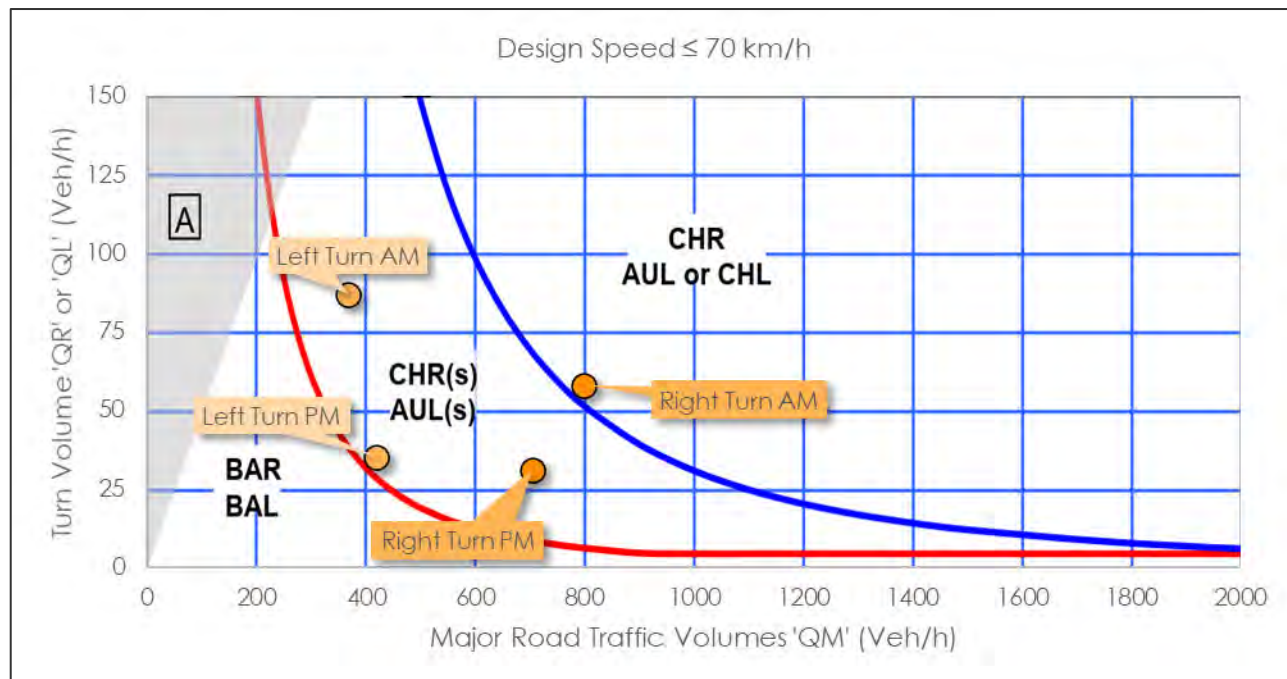
### 2.4.2 Turn Lane Warrants

The existing peak hour volumes at the Beech Street / Forest Street intersection have been assessed against the turn lane treatment warrants specified in the *Austrroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 6: Intersections, Interchanges and Crossings*.

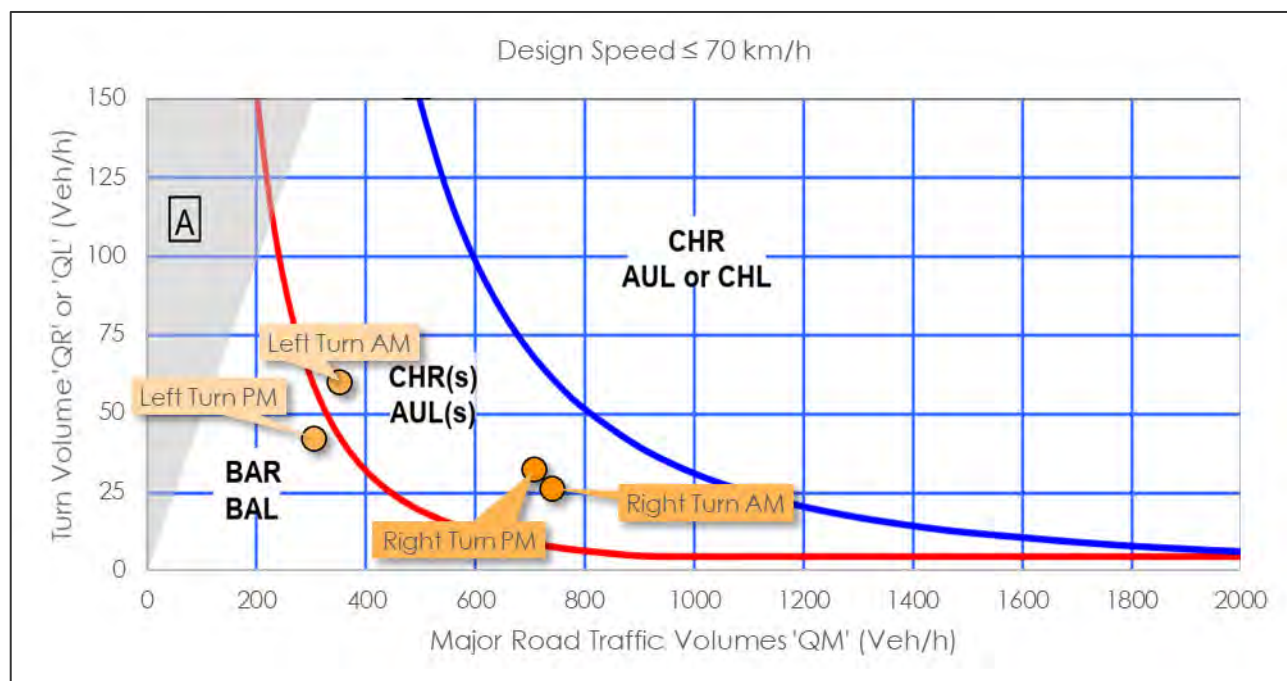
These warrants identify the need for dedicated right or left-turn lanes to service an intersection, effectively balancing the additional construction cost of higher-order treatments against the reduction in estimated crash costs.

A warrants assessment for movements at Forest Street are illustrated in Figure 3 and Figure 4 below.

**Figure 3 Turn Lane Warrants - Saturday**



**Figure 4 Turn Lane Warrants - Monday**



The above figures suggest the intersection would benefit from provision of a channelised right-turn treatment, and that the left-turn deceleration lane provided is appropriate.

Traffic volumes growth brought by the new play space and completion of the skate park is likely to

### 2.5 Car Parking

In order to establish existing car parking demands in the vicinity of the site, onemilegrid commissioned car parking occupancy surveys within and around the site during the following periods:

- Saturday 26/02/2022: 30.9 degrees maximum temperature, 0 rainfall
- Monday 28/02/2022: 26.1 degree maximum temperature, 0 rainfall

It is noted that A F Walker Reserve hosted a cricket match on the Saturday, and the Whittlesea Showgrounds hosted a rodeo from 3PM.

The survey area is identified in Figure 5 below.

**Figure 5 Car Parking Survey Locations**



#### 2.5.1 Saturday

##### 2.5.1.1 Total

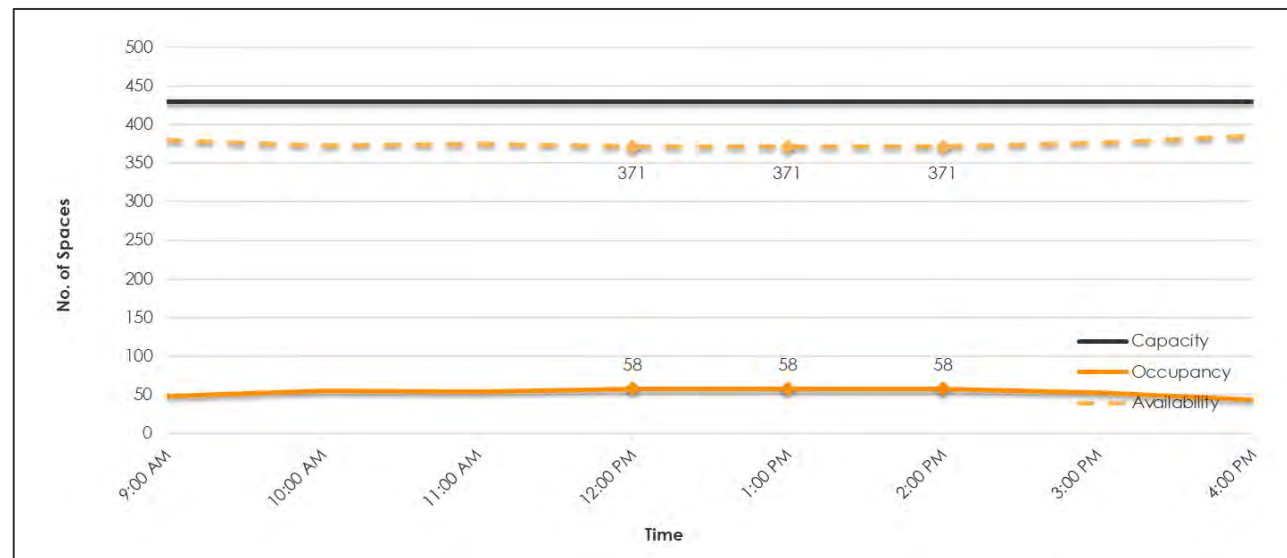
On the Saturday, the surveys identified a constant supply of 429 parking spaces throughout the survey period. Peak occupancy occurred between 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM when 58 spaces were



occupied, leaving no fewer than 371 spaces available for use. Parking utilisation varied between 14% and 10% of capacity.

A view of the parking occupancy profile is provided in Figure 6 below.

**Figure 6 Parking Occupancy Profile – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – All Parking**



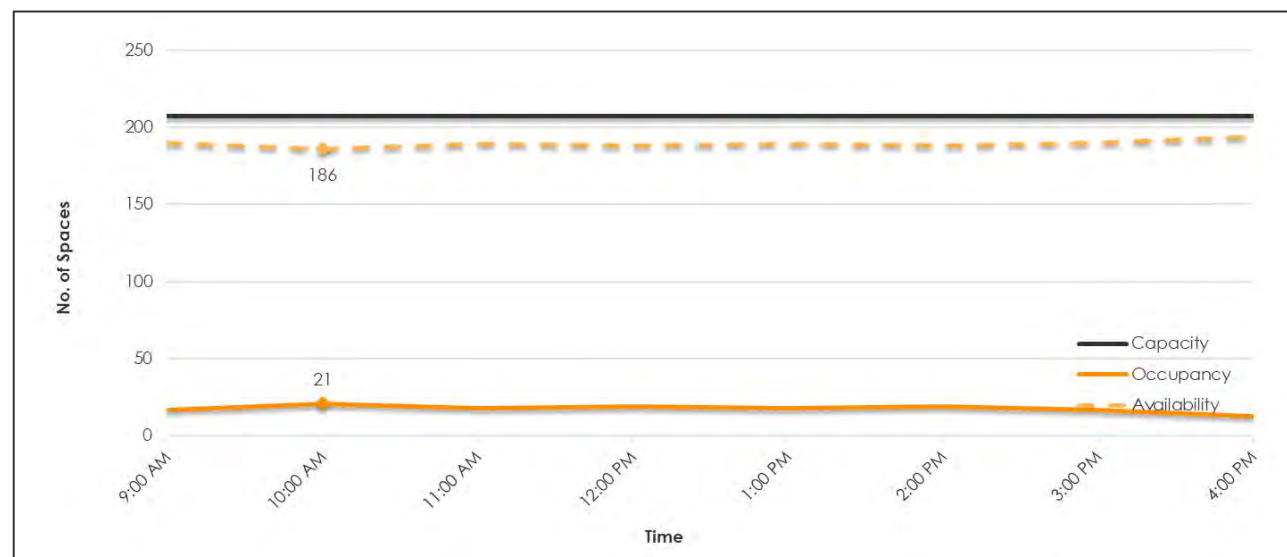
2.5.1.2 On-Street

Limiting the survey data to on-street parking only, there was a supply of 207 parking spaces available for use. Peak occupancy occurred at 10:00 AM when 21 spaces were occupied, leaving no fewer than 186 spaces available for use. Parking utilisation varied between 10% and 6% of capacity.

A modest amount of parking demand was observed along the southern side of Laurel Street, but parking demands were broadly low throughout the precinct.

A view of the parking occupancy profile is provided in Figure 7 below.

**Figure 7 Parking Occupancy Profile – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – On-Street Parking**



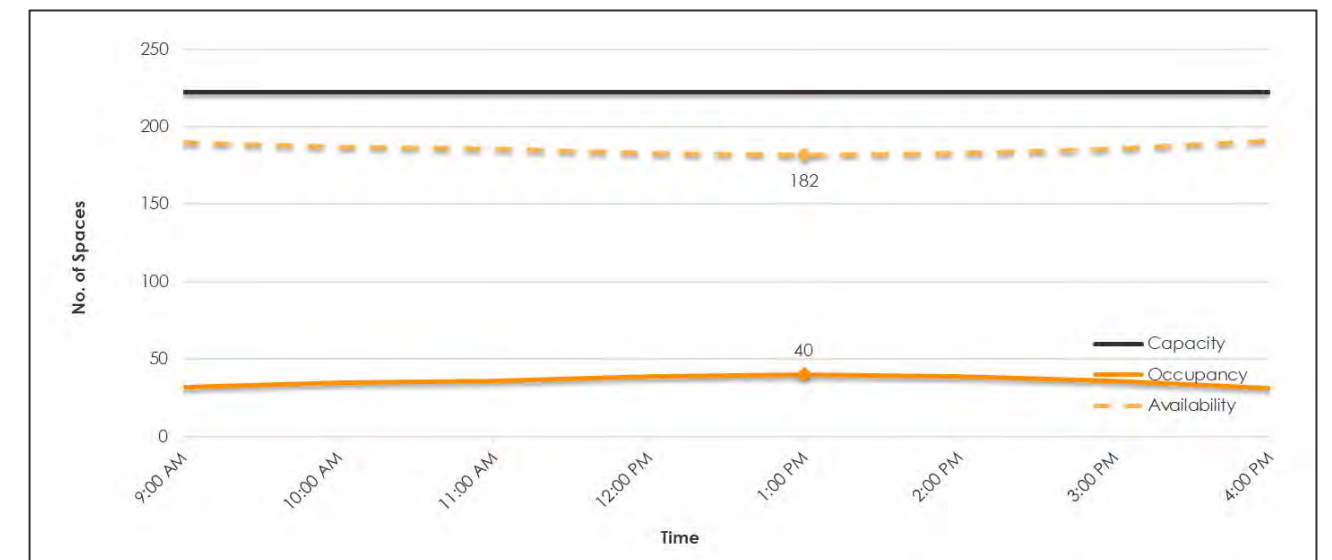
2.5.1.3 Off-Street

Reviewing off-street parking only there was a supply of 222 parking spaces available for use. Peak occupancy occurred at 1:00 PM when 40 spaces were occupied, leaving no fewer than 182 spaces available for use. Parking utilisation varied between 18% and 14% of capacity.

The bulk of parking demands occurred within “Car Park B” at the end of Walnut Street adjacent to the swimming pool. This was approximately 50% full, with 22 spaces occupied at peak. Similarly, “Car Park E” adjacent to the tennis club was approximately 50% occupied (16 of 30 spaces) at peak.

A view of the parking occupancy profile is provided in Figure 8 below.

**Figure 8 Parking Occupancy Profile – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Off-Street Parking**



2.5.2 Monday

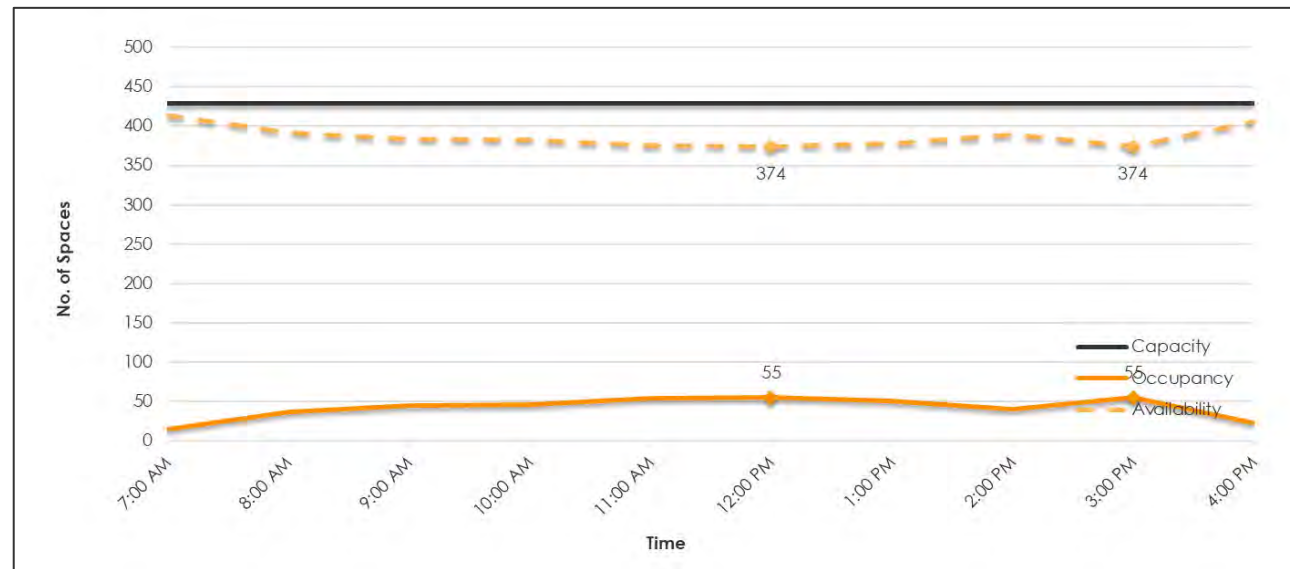
2.5.2.1 Total

On the Monday, the surveys identified a constant supply of 429 parking spaces throughout the survey period. Peak occupancy occurred at 12:00 PM when 55 spaces were occupied, leaving no fewer than 374 spaces available for use. Parking utilisation varied between 13% and 3% of capacity.

A view of the parking occupancy profile is provided in Figure 6 below.



**Figure 9 Parking Occupancy Profile – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – All Parking**



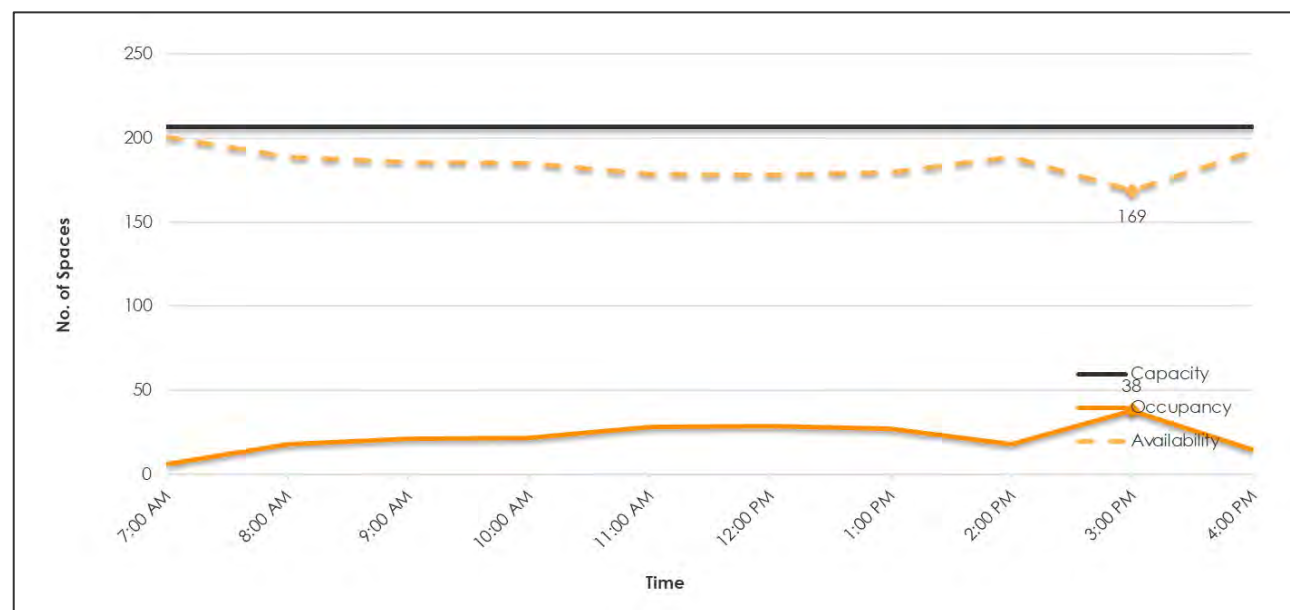
2.5.2.2 On-Street

Limiting the survey data to on-street parking only, there was a supply of 207 parking spaces throughout the survey period. Peak occupancy occurred at 3:00 PM when 38 spaces were occupied, leaving no fewer than 169 spaces available for use. Parking utilisation varied between 18% and 3% of capacity.

The bulk of parking demands occurred along Laurel Street adjacent to the school, with 21 of the 100 spaces occupied in this area throughout the day, increasing during the school pick up period.

A view of the parking occupancy profile is provided in Figure 7 below.

**Figure 10 Parking Occupancy Profile – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – On-Street Parking**



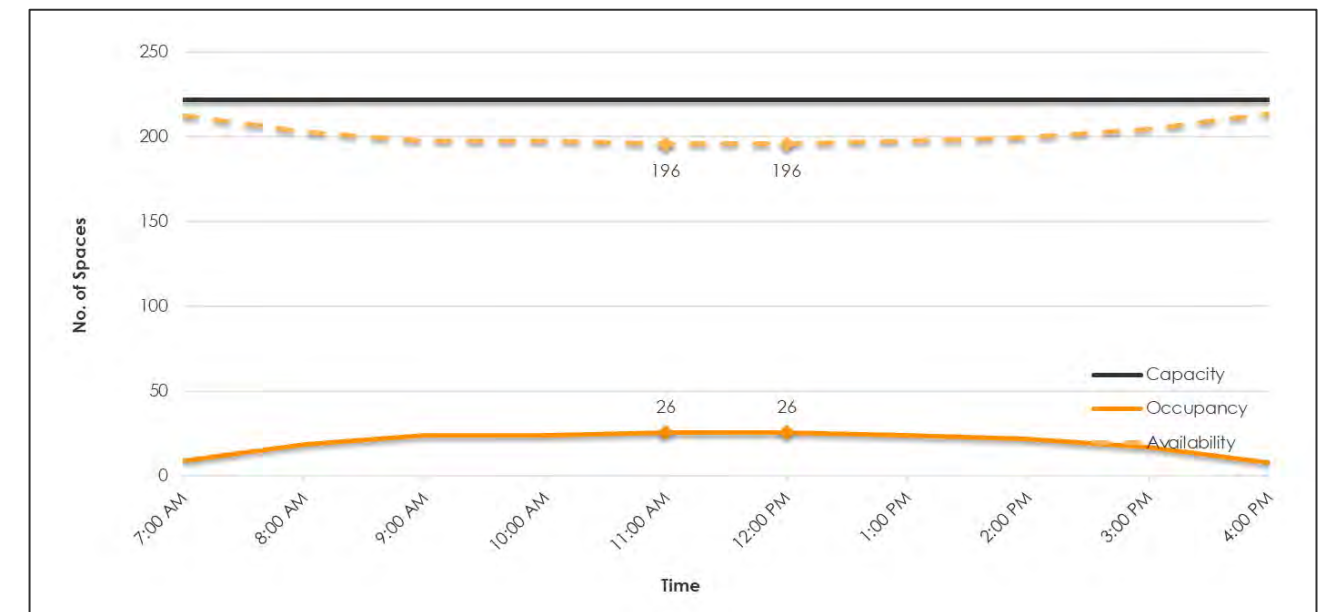
2.5.2.3 Off-Street

Reviewing off-street parking only there was a supply of 222 parking spaces throughout the survey period. Peak occupancy occurred at 11:00 AM when 26 spaces were occupied, leaving no fewer than 196 spaces available for use. Parking utilisation varied between 12% and 4% of capacity.

Consistent with the Saturday survey, the bulk of parking demands occurred within “Car Park B”, with a modest amount of parking also within “Car Park E”. It is noted that there was no observed parking overflow associated with the Monday Whittlesea Market.

A view of the parking occupancy profile is provided in Figure 8 Figure 7below.

**Figure 11 Parking Occupancy Profile – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Off-Street Parking**





## 2.6 Crash History

Crash history information was obtained through the Department of Transport (VicRoads) CrashStats (the Victorian accident statistics and mapping program) for the latest available 5-year period in the vicinity of the site.

Three crashes were recorded in the vicinity of the site, shown in Figure 12 and summarised in Table 1.

Figure 12 Crash Locations

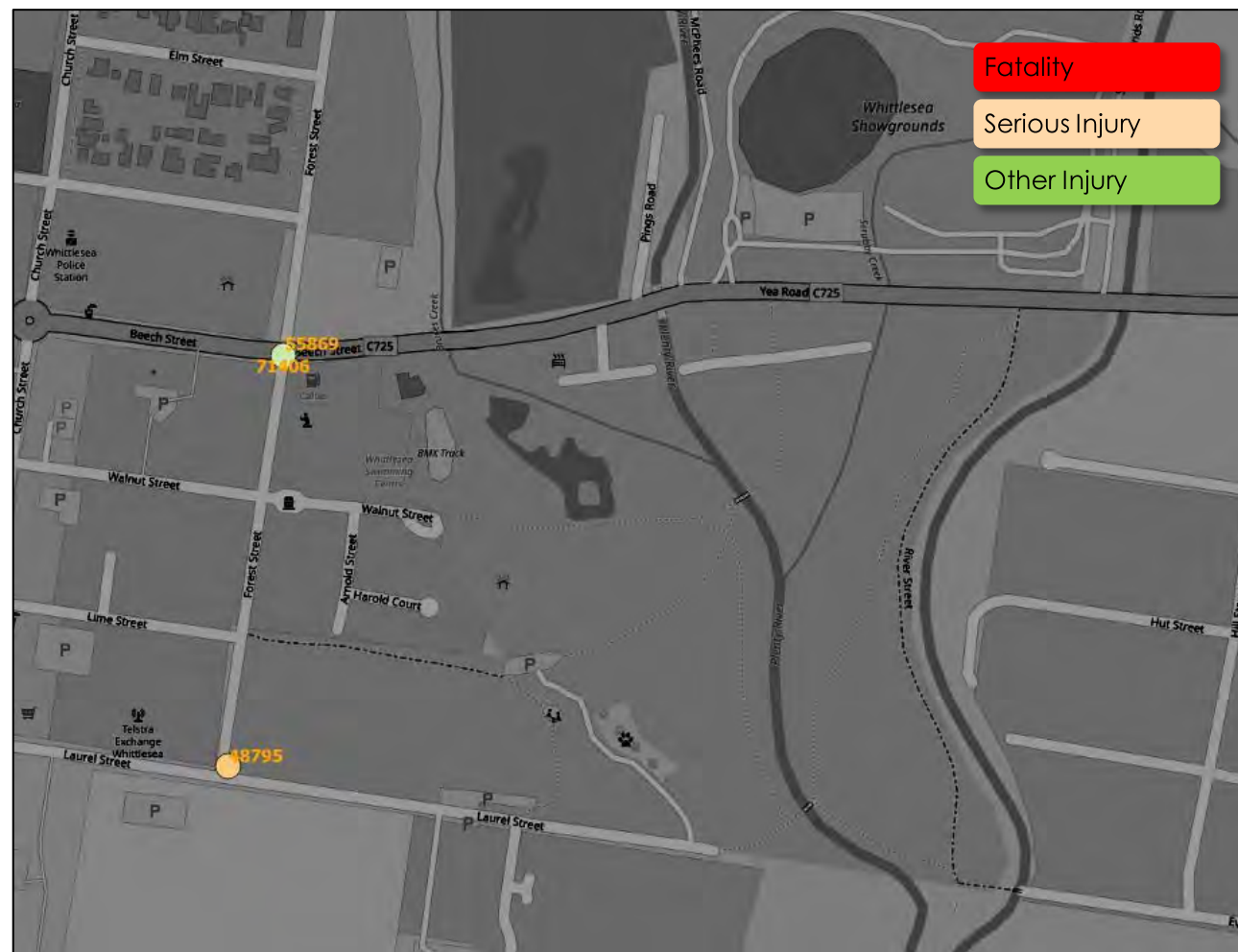


Table 1 Crash Data

ID	Location	Severity	DCA Code	Cyclists	Pedestrians	Year
74106	Forrest St /	Other	Collision with a vehicle – Right Rear	0	0	2016
55869	Beech S	Serious	Struck pedestrian – Ped hit by vehicle from left	0	1	2017
48795	Forrest St / Laurel St	Other	Collision with a vehicle – Cross Traffic	0	0	2018

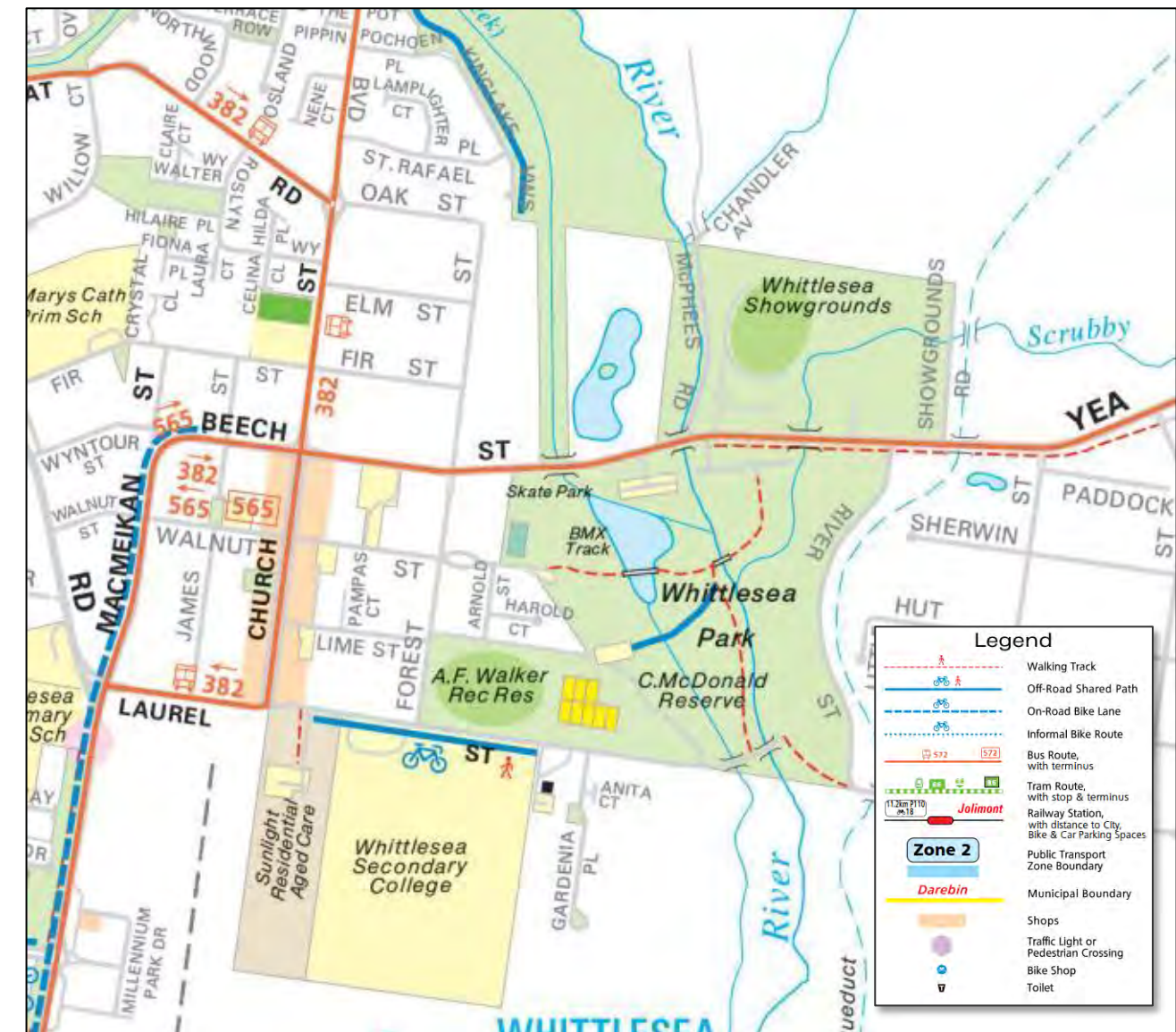
The above data does not suggest any critical road safety concerns, though the presence of two crashes at the Forrest Street / Beech Street intersection warrants consideration for any future interventions at this location.

## 2.7 Sustainable Transport

### 2.7.1 General

An extract of the TravelSmart Map for the City of Whittlesea is shown in Figure 13, highlighting the public transport, bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the area.

Figure 13 TravelSmart Map



The map identifies walking paths along Beech Street and through the subject site running both east-west and north-south. An off-road cycling path is identified along the frontage of Whittlesea Secondary College.



## 2.7.2 Public Transport

The full public transport provision in the vicinity of the site is shown in Figure 14 and detailed in Table 2.

Figure 14 Public Transport Provision

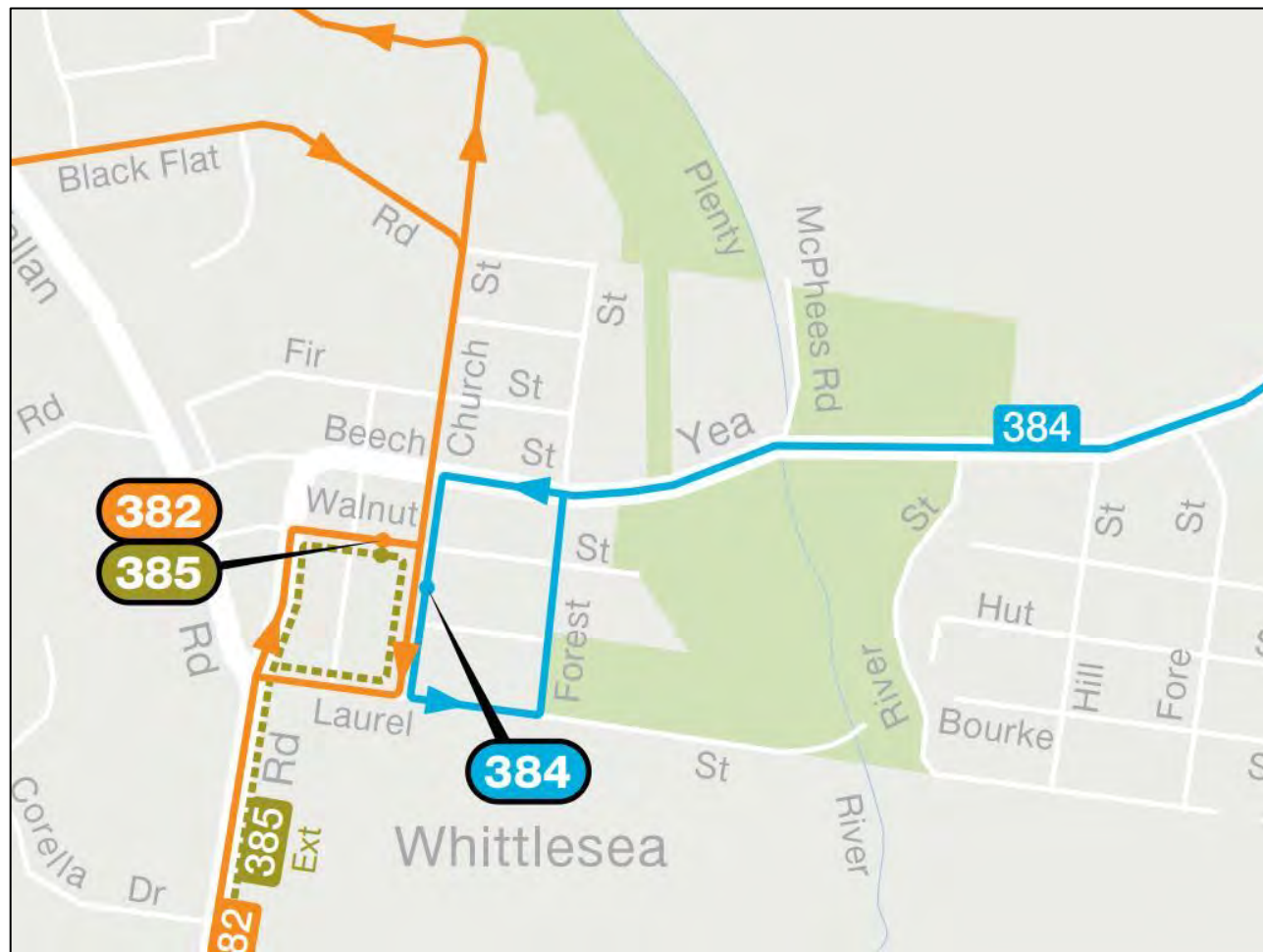


Table 2 Public Transport Provision

Mode	Route No.	Route Description	Nearest Stop	Peak Frequency	Off-Peak Frequency
Bus	382	Whittlesea - Northland SC via South Morang Station (From 31-10-2021)	Church Street	10 min	30 min
	384	Kinglake - Whittlesea via Humevale	Beech Street	30 min	40 min
	385	Whittlesea-Mernda Station - Greensborough (From 31-10-2021)	Church Street	30 min	40 min

## 2.7.3 Bicycle Facilities

### 2.7.3.1 Strategic Cycling Corridors

Strategic Cycling Corridors are important routes for cycling for transport and link up important destinations including the Central City, National Employment and Innovations Clusters, Metropolitan Activity Centres and other destinations of metropolitan and regional significance.

Strategic Cycling Corridors (SCC) are considered to be the arterials for bicycles, and have been designed to provide connected, low stress and safe routes, intended primarily for the use of cyclists for transport (rather than recreation).

Plenty Road is identified as a SCC south of Laurel Street, and is provided dedicated on-road facilities up to the intersection of Plenty Road / Beech Street and James Street.

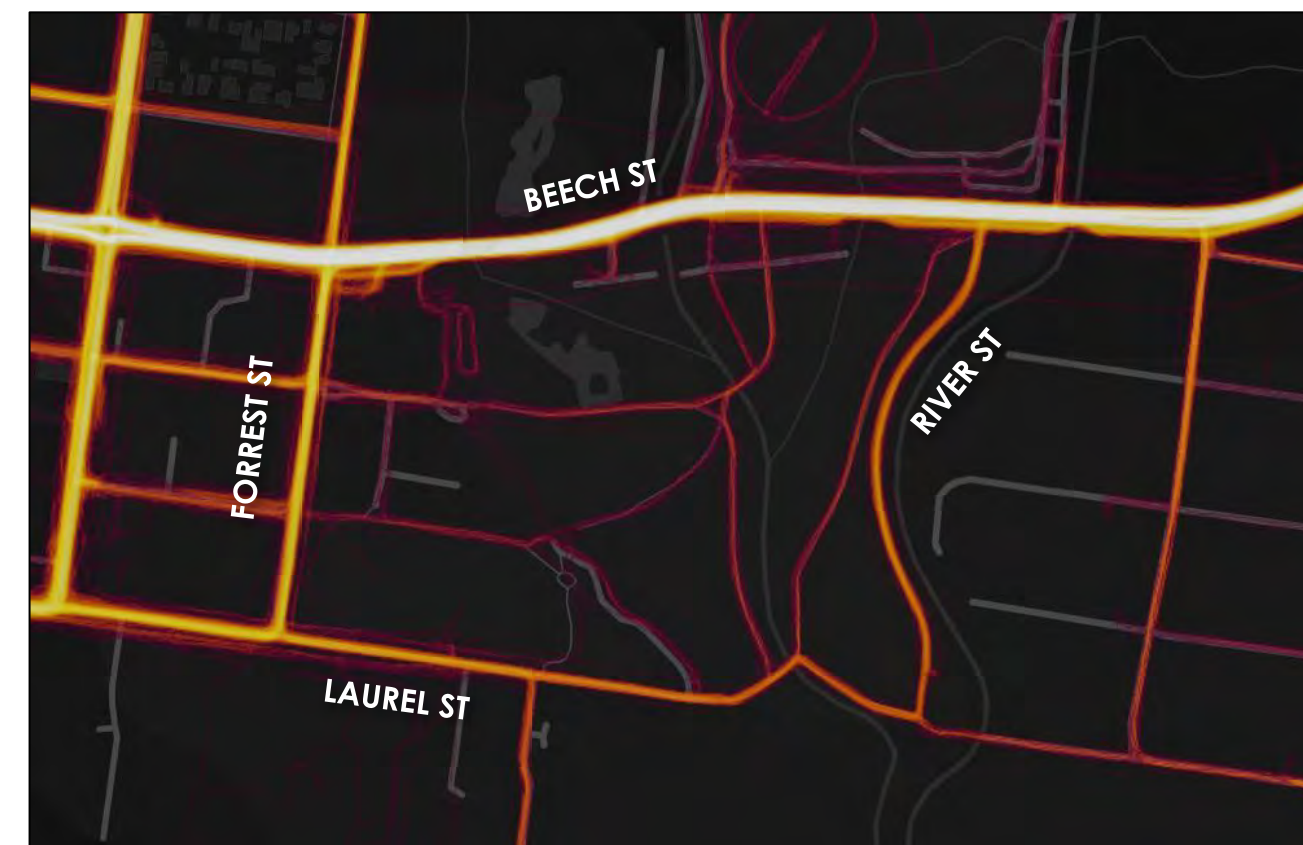
There are no other formal cycling facilities in the vicinity of the site.

### 2.7.3.2 Strava Heatmap

Strava is a social network and training tool for cyclists, runners and swimmers. Users record their physical activity using a dedicated GPS device or utilise the mobile app, and upload the file to their profile. Strava anonymises this information and makes it available through their "Global Heatmap" tool, showing aggregated all public activities over the last two years across the world.

A view of the cycling heatmap in proximity to the study area is provided below in Figure 15. Routes of higher usage are brighter in colour.

Figure 15 Strava Cycling Heatmap



Beech Street is the primary cycling route in the vicinity of the site, providing a key connection for sports cyclists training in the vicinity of the Kinglake Range. Each of Laurel Street, Forrest Street and River Street are regularly utilised, in addition to the path network through the site.



It is noted that this information includes all cycling activities recorded on the platform, inclusive of weekend trips, and all trips throughout the day. Additionally, the data is skewed towards sports cyclists, given that the bulk of commuter and recreational cyclists will not be tracking their rides.

### 3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 3.1 Northern Regional Trails Strategy

Planning work undertaken by Arup on behalf of multiple northern metropolitan Councils identified a number of priority trail projects within Whittlesea Council. Of relevance to the subject site, this includes the Whittlesea Rail Trail.

This trail would extend from McDonalds Road in South Morang to Laurel Street in Whittlesea. Once completed, this trail would potentially funnel a high volume of recreational and touring cyclists into Whittlesea town centre, with opportunity to integrate facilities within Whittlesea Park including end-of-trip facilities, and trail parking.

While not specifically references within the document, plans illustrate a potential extension of the Plenty River Trail, through to Whittlesea and the subject site. If completed, this would offer the same opportunities.

### 4 ACCESS & MOVEMENT

The site is afforded a number of distinct vehicular accesses and car parking areas, as detailed in the figures below.

Figure 16 Access & Parking Arrangements – North

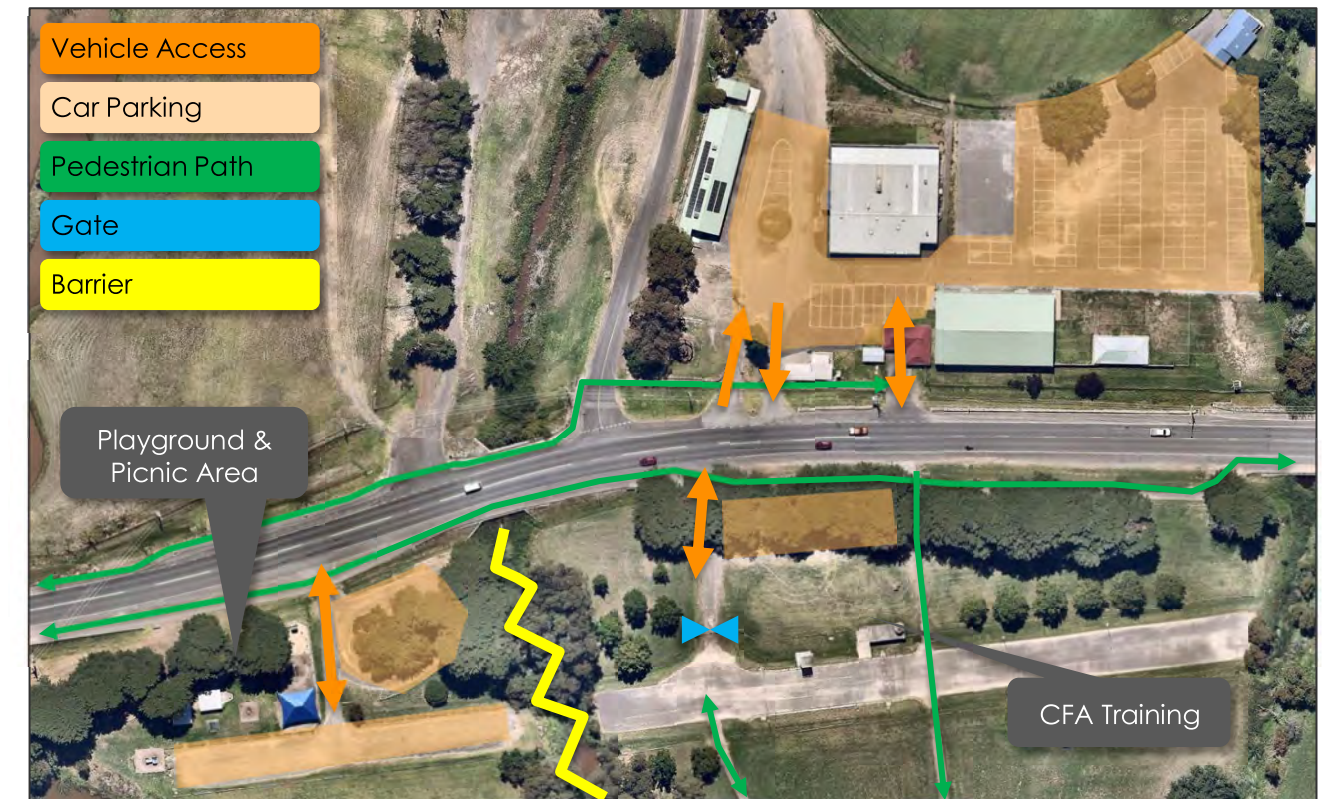


Figure 17 Access & Parking Arrangements – North-east





Figure 18 Access & Parking Arrangements – North-west

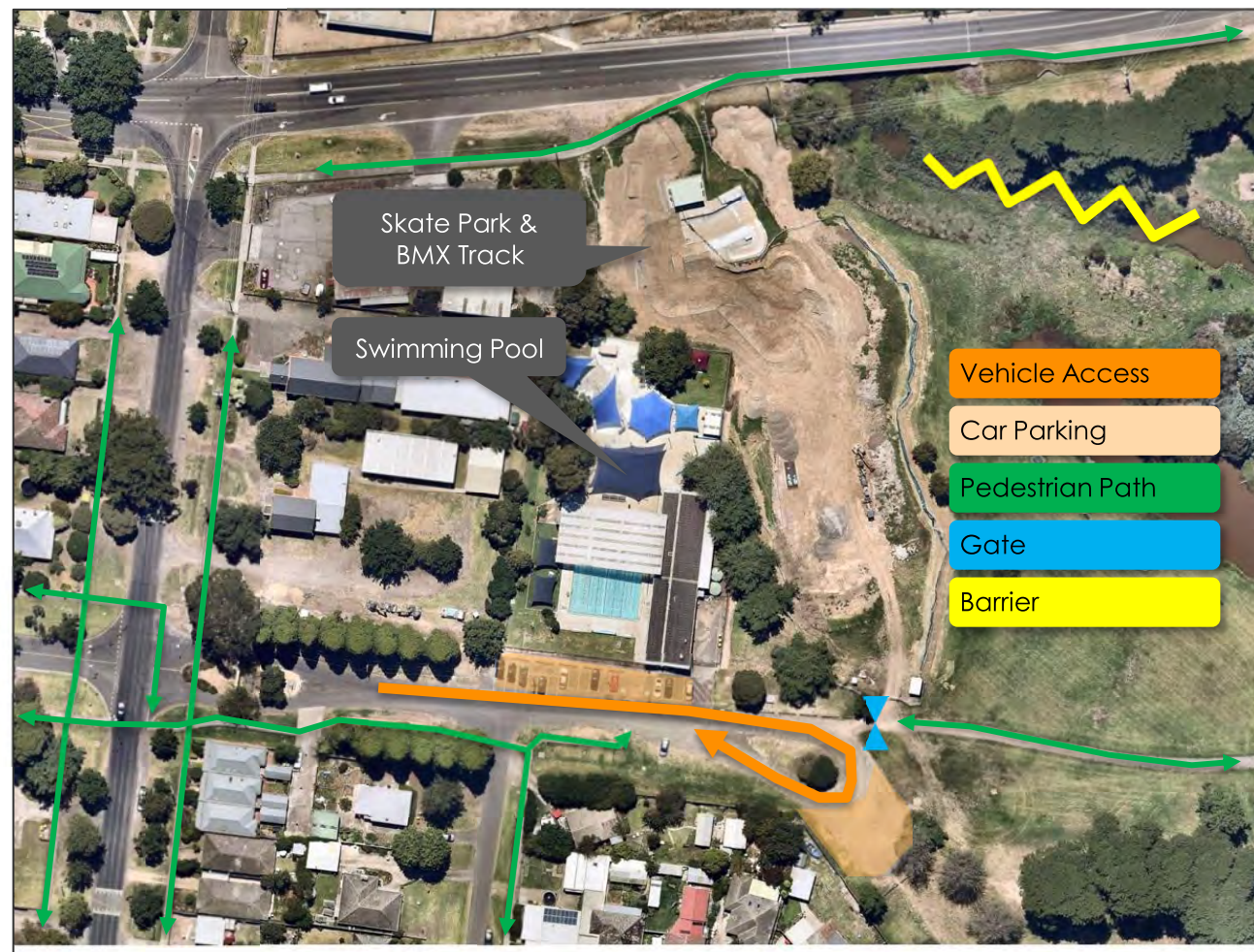


Figure 19 Access & Parking Arrangements – South-west



## 5 ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

No.	Issue / Opportunity	Recommendation
1.	Car parking within the areas south of Beech Street are likely utilised for overflow parking during events at the Football Ground, netball courts and showgrounds during larger events. There are no pedestrian crossing facilities in the vicinity to assist with pedestrian movements across Beech Street.	Review opportunities for establishing a north-south pedestrian link.
2.	Bus stops located on Beech Street are sub-standard, and not DDA accessible.	Advocate to PTV for improved public transport facilities.
3.	The Lions Club playground and picnic area is effectively isolated from the remainder of the site due to the creek alignment, and accessible only from Beech Street.	Investigate opportunities for providing improved pedestrian links to the broader site, or consider relocating facilities to a more accessible location.
4.	The site has limited formalised access for cyclists, restricted only to an informal off-road path provided along Laurel Street adjacent to the school.	Review opportunities for improved cyclist access to the site, including a continuous, high-quality shared path link on Laurel Street, to provide connectivity to the town centre and existing network on Plenty Road.
5.	The future Whittlesea Rail Trail and/or Plenty River Trail extension may terminate in the vicinity of site.	Review opportunities for integration of end-of-trip facilities or trail parking.
6.	Existing paths through the site are extensive and well-connected, however no link is provided from Laurel Street north up to Beech Street, and along the northern boundary.	Expand path network to provide continuous connections throughout the site where practical. This may offer a looped trail that may be utilised for walking/running. Ensure path network is of suitable width and surface treatment for shared use by cyclists
7.	Pedestrian connections between the site and Whittlesea Town centre are discontinuous and fragmented.	Review opportunities for improved pedestrian linkages to Whittlesea Town Centre, including pedestrian crossings on Forrest Street
8.	Car parking for the various uses is provided in separate and fragmented parking areas, which are not easily navigable to those unfamiliar with the precinct. New facilities will likely attract additional parking demands.	Investigate opportunities for new, consolidated parking locations to service parking needs.
9.	Informal car parking along Laurel Street occurs within the verge.	Investigate opportunities to upgrade and formalise car parking. Existing low occupancy suggests car spaces can be lost to account for streetscape improvements.



10. Installation of a regional playground and improvements to existing facilities is likely to increase the volume of drivers attracted to the precinct, primarily via the Forrest Street / Beech Street intersection. Existing traffic volumes through this intersection already warrant a right-turn treatment.
- Investigate opportunities for safety or capacity upgrades at this intersection.
-



Figure 20 Issues & Opportunities

