

NORRIS BANK RESERVE BUNDOORA MASTER PLAN

OCTOBER 2017

The *Norris Bank Reserve Master Plan* has been prepared for Whittlesea City Council by ACLA Consultants in association with Chatterbox Projects.

Adopted by Council 10th October 2017



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Existing Native Vegetation at Norris Bank Reserve. Image: ACLA.

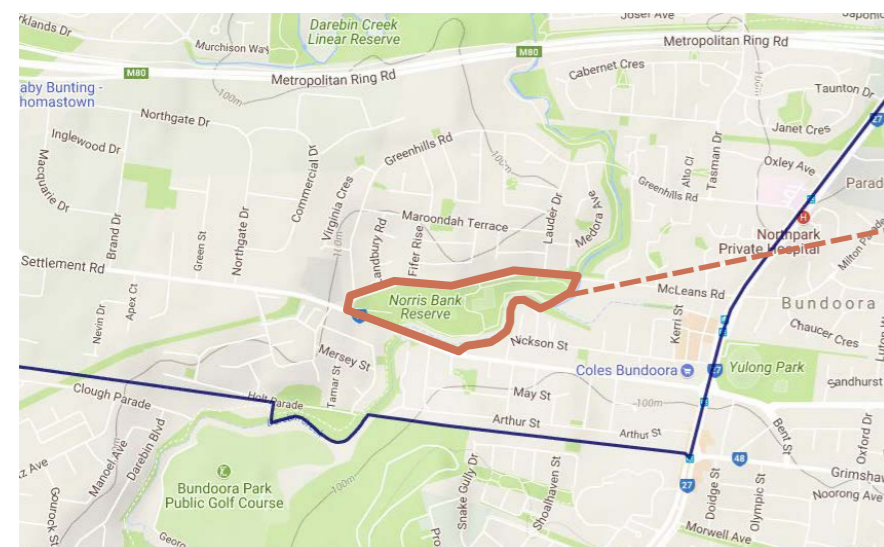
Chapter 1: Background

Overview

Norris Bank Reserve is one of the City of Whittlesea's major open space reserves in an established area of the municipality. It is visited by a diverse range of users and is highly valued by the community. The Open Space Strategy 2016 identifies the reserve as the most popular open space within walking distance of residents and workers in Bundoora and it is in the top three most popular within the whole Municipality. Some of the main uses include walking, play, dog walking, cycling, fitness and enjoying the peace and quiet.

Under the City of Whittlesea's Open Space Strategy 2016 Norris Bank Reserve was selected as one of four existing Regional and Municipal open spaces in the established urban areas to be further enhanced and developed as a Major Community Park, promoting and encouraging a wider use of open space.

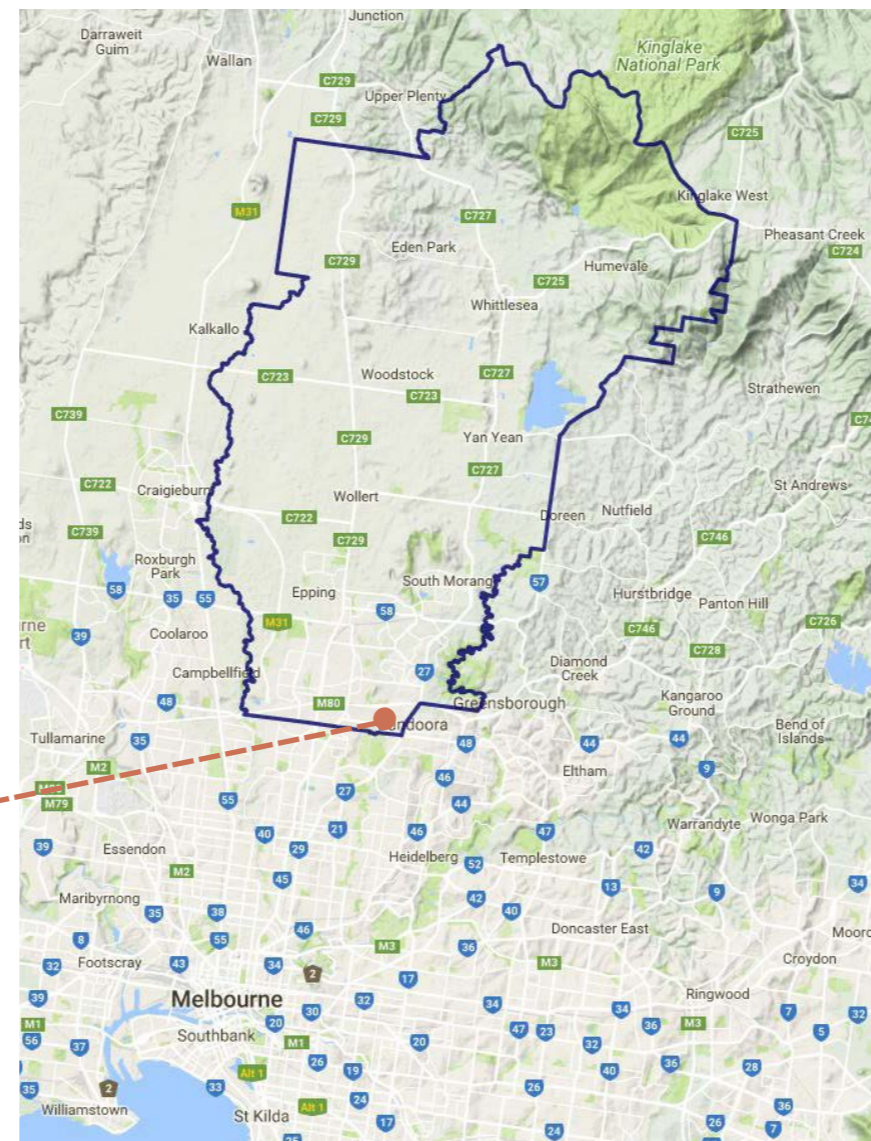
Selected due to its landscape character, existing facilities, accessibility and size, which can accommodate increased levels of use and visitation, Norris Bank Reserve will provide amenity in an area forecast for population change in the Housing Diversity Strategy 2013-2033. The Strategy recommends a major upgrade of the reserve with a focus on providing facilities to augment informal and unstructured open space recreation.



Site Location

Norris Bank Reserve is a 10.31ha major open space in the suburb of Bundoora on the north bank of the Darebin Creek, approximately 18km from Melbourne's CBD. It is located roughly 500m west of Plenty Road, within walking distance of the Bundoora shops.

Extensive native vegetation, mature trees and proximity to the Darebin Creek Corridor give the reserve a natural, wooded feel. The Darebin Creek shared path also runs through the site along the south edge of the reserve.

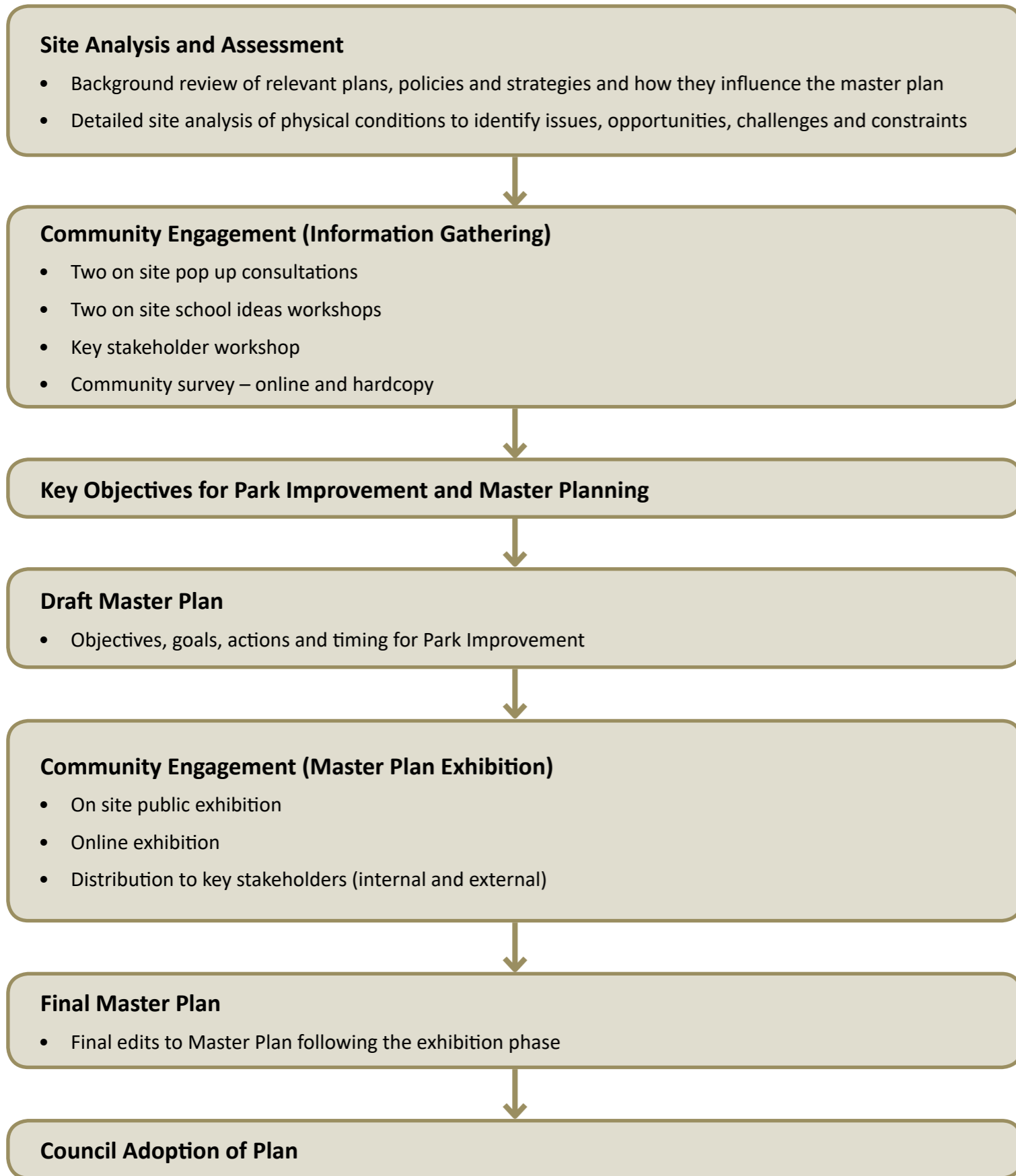


Master Plan Aims

In the absence of a holistic plan or strategy to provide direction there have been no major improvements to Norris Bank Reserve since the works implemented from its 1998 Master Plan. The aim of this master plan is to guide short and long term improvements to the reserve, to create a major destination park, while protecting the existing qualities that the community value.

The master plan should endeavour to:

- Create a major destination reserve with amenities to accommodate increased visitation numbers and public use.
- Create an inclusive, accessible reserve that supports and encourages use by people of all ages and abilities.
- Promote and provision for community events and celebrations that encourage all age groups to participate.
- Recommend necessary improvements to the reserve to achieve a high quality landscape setting while protecting and enhancing its distinct existing character.
- Promote environmental sustainability through ecological conservation and improvement.
- Protect the cultural heritage of the site.
- Inform future capital works, as staged or stand-alone projects, within achievable Council budget parameters or with State Government funding for regional facilities.
- Promote community safety by applying and adhering to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.



Council Strategies and Plans

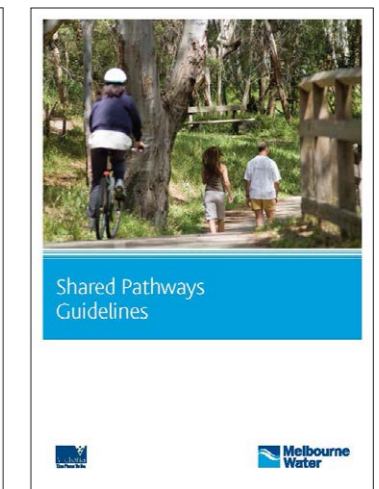
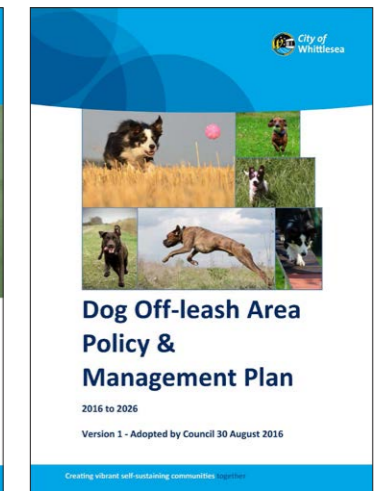
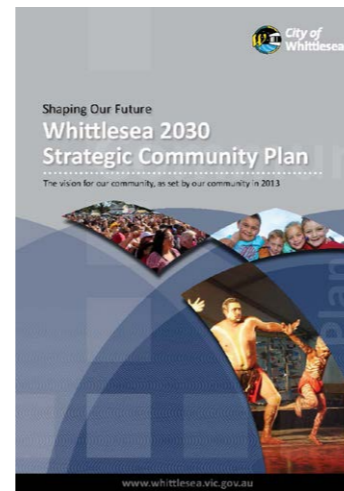
A number of existing strategic planning documents, policies and strategies have influenced the *Norris Bank Reserve Master Plan*. These have been reviewed and summaries, including key directions relevant to the reserve, are available in Appendix 1. The documents reviewed are as follows:

City of Whittlesea

- *Shaping Our Future Whittlesea 2030 Strategic Community Plan*
- *Recreation Strategy 2012-2017*
- *Open Space Strategy 2016*
- *Playspace Planning Framework and Policy 2013-16*
- *Spaces 8 to 12+: Creating Engaging Places for Young People*
- *Tennis Strategy 2013-2018*
- *Dog Off-Leash Area Policy and Management Plan 2016–2026*
- *Draft Multiple Sports Strategy 2017-2026*
- *Natural and Built Shade Policy*
- *Heatwave Plan*
- *River Red Gum Protection Policy*

Melbourne Water

- *Shared Pathway Guidelines*

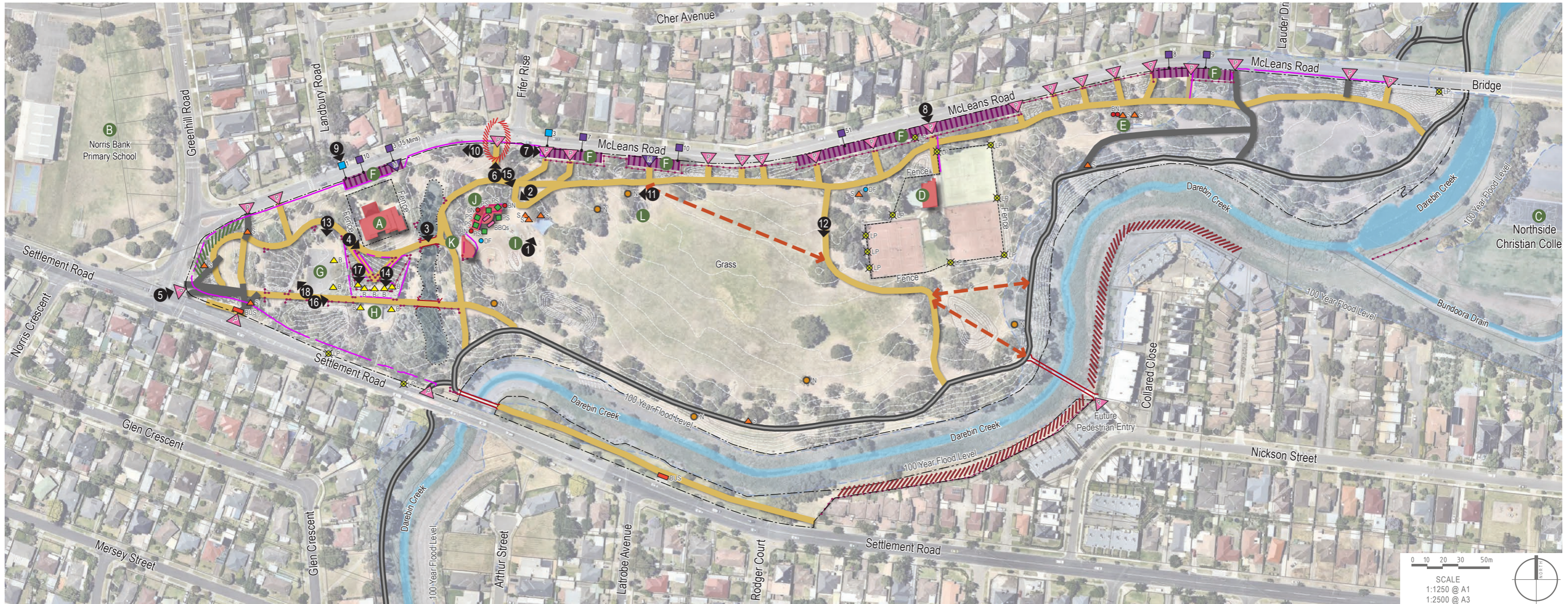




Dog Walking at Norris Bank Reserve. Image: ACLA.

Chapter 2: Site Analysis and Assessment

Overview



This section of the plan provides a summarised analysis of existing conditions. The purpose of the analysis is to provide relevant information on issues and deficiencies identified by the project team ensuring recommendations to mitigate these can be implemented and constructed logically.

The analysis covers a number of areas which include:

- Community infrastructure and social amenities;
- Access and safety;
- Car parking;
- Environment and landscape;
- Sporting infrastructure and facilities; and
- Park maintenance.

LEGEND

Photo View	Existing Timber Bollards	Existing Drink Fountain	Dense Vegetation/Lack of Sightlines and Safety
Project Boundary	Existing Timber Bollards and Cable	Existing Litter Bin	Harsh Visual Edge/Lack of Screening
Existing Sealed Path	Existing Accessible Parking	Existing Bench	Waterway
Existing Granitic Sand Path	Existing Car Parking	Existing Seat	Existing Dry Creek Bed
Darebin Creek Shared Path	Existing Pedestrian Entry	Existing Picnic Setting	
Pedestrian Desire Line	Existing Maintenance Entry	Existing Light Pole	
90° Car Parking (Unsealed)	Existing BBQ	Existing Nesting Box	
Dangerous pedestrian crossing point	Existing Bus Stop (Route 902)	Existing Pedestrian Bridge	

SITE FEATURES

McLeans Road Kindergarten	Basketball Court
Norris Bank Primary School	Hit Up Wall
Northside Christian College	Playspace
Norris Bank Tennis Club	Picnic Area with Shelter
Bocce Courts	Public Toilets
Car Park	Skate Half Pipe Ramp

Community Infrastructure and Social Amenities

Norris Bank Reserve currently includes a great deal of community infrastructure and social amenities, which are generally well used, however these facilities would benefit from rationalisation and upgrading where appropriate.

The playground has had additional equipment added over time and does not reflect the current playspace strategy or the Reserve's status in the open space hierarchy. The existing accessible liberty swing is particularly well used indicating the need for a more accessible playspace overall. The dry creek bed is located at the site's lowest point and though it was not originally envisioned as part of the play area there is an opportunity to integrate it more as it is a valuable natural play asset.

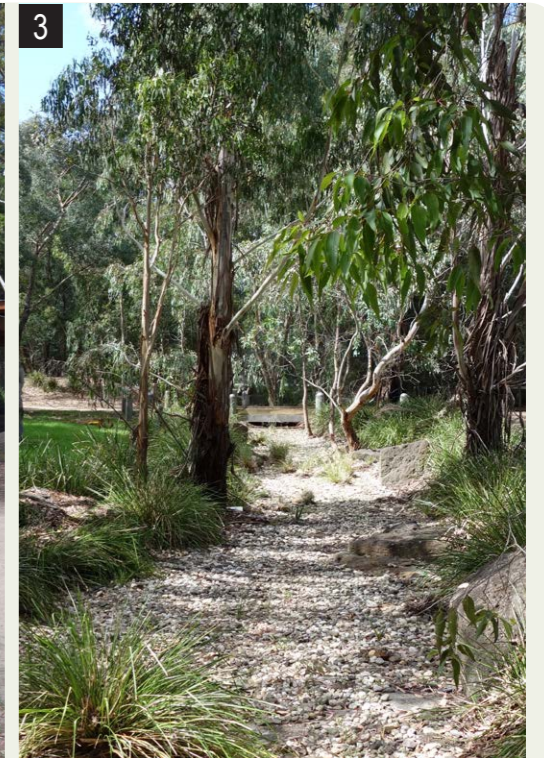
Use of the associated community area, including the public toilet, picnic shelter and BBQs, is in high demand though the toilet facility requires a complete upgrade or replacement to bring it up to today's standard. Though the Reserve does have this community area the current use and demand would suggest more might be required.



1 Playground equipment and accessible swing



2 Existing picnic area and public toilet



3 Existing dry creek bed

Access and Safety

The path network in the Reserve is one of its most well used features. In some sections, particularly steeper areas, the granitic sand surfaces require improvement or replacement due to erosion. The Darebin Creek Shared path runs along the south side of the Reserve which is used as part of the internal path network, as a recreational walking and cycling trail as well as by commuter cyclists. The path width is slightly insufficient to provide for both commuters and recreational walkers. There is also no sealed path from the Greenhills Road/Settlement Road entrance to the shared path which could benefit pedestrians, cyclists and people with mobility aids to meet DDA compliance. The main entrance at the Greenhills Road/Settlement Road intersection requires an upgrade to its physical features (i.e. paving/planting) as well as reconfiguring to improve sight lines and highlight the entry. The park entry crossing McLeans Road near Fifer Rise lacks kerb ramps and a refuge island for safe crossing. A new pedestrian bridge has been built across the Darebin Creek connecting to the residential area on the opposite bank. The timber vehicle exclusion bollards around the Reserve suit the general landscape character and are generally in good condition though they could use some maintenance (i.e. repainting). Wayfinding in the Reserve has been assessed separately to this Master Plan and will form part of the *Darebin Creek Wayfinding Signage Strategy* being implemented by Council.



4 Granitic sand path condition



5 Main entry Greenhills Rd x Settlement Rd



6 Disconnected and inaccessible entry point

Car Parking

Car parking for Norris Bank Reserve is provided on McLeans Road the majority of which consists of un-linemarked 90° angle parking spaces with granitic sand surfacing. This car parking typology, with timber bollard and cable exclusion fencing, is in keeping with the reserve's landscape character.

There are approximately 100 parking spaces provided along McLeans Road. The car parking in front of the kindergarten is the only sealed car park with asphalt surfacing and has fourteen spaces: 1 accessible (all day); 10 regular (all day); and 3 with fifteen minute parking restrictions. Maintenance access into the park is also provided near the kindergarten.

The stretch of parking near the Tennis Club has the highest potential capacity with up to 50 car parking spaces (all day). The balance of all other parking is located between the kindergarten and tennis club servicing the main picnic/playground area inclusive of three accessible parking bays opposite Fifer Rise. A secondary maintenance access point is also located centrally with good connections to the main circuit path as well as the central open grass area.



90° car parking with granitic sand surfacing



Entry to Tennis Club from car park



Accessible parking bay near Kindergarten

Environment and Landscape

Norris Bank Reserve's landscape character is fairly consistent throughout the reserve and is characterised by extensive and mature native vegetation as well as natural materials and finishes. There is ample shade provided by existing trees. Some exotic tree species (Pyrus, Fraxinus) highlight park entries and create a point of difference. While planting through the reserve is generally performing well and in good condition there are some gaps in garden bed planting below established trees and on steep embankments that should be revegetated. Additional vegetation should also be considered along the Darebin Creek to screen new properties and lessen their visual impact.

As the Reserve is adjacent to the Darebin Creek it contains two Environmental Vegetation Classes: Victorian Volcanic Plain - Plains Grassy Woodland and Victorian Volcanic Plain - Wet Verge Sedgeland. Recently Melbourne Water have performed revegetation works along the creek and are continuing weed control measures. A number of nesting boxes fixed to Eucalypts are evenly distributed through the Reserve. Also of particular environmental and cultural significance are the mature River Red Gums and scarred tree which should continue to be protected in line with Council's *River Red Gum Protection Policy*.



Opening in existing garden bed planting



Nesting boxes in gum trees



River Red Gum / Scarred Tree

Sporting Infrastructure and Facilities

The main sporting facility present at the reserve is the Norris Bank Tennis Club which has six courts. Other structured provisions for sport in the reserve include two bocce courts, a full size basketball court, hit up wall and skate half pipe ramp. Less formal provision includes the open grass area central to the reserve which currently has no goals and has an irregular mix of grass species. As well as this a number of distance marker posts are located along the granitic sand path delineating a walking/running loop though many posts are missing and the overall route is unclear.

- Basketball Court: In good condition and well used. Adjacent tiered timber seating is in poor condition and needs replacement.
- Hit Up Wall: The ground surface is degraded and the facility is underutilised.
- Bocce Courts: Well used though the edging is patchy and requires replacing. Existing seating around the courts are in poor condition.
- Half Pipe Ramp: In reasonable condition though often not used for its purpose but instead by middle years children for climbing and socialising.



Full size basketball court



Hit up wall and asphalt court



Distance marker Start/End post

Park Furniture and Maintenance

There are some deficits in existing park furniture and a number of physical elements that require maintenance throughout the reserve. Many garden beds have remnant timber posts and rails along their edge which were previously part of protective fencing to assist plant establishment 15-20 years ago. The posts create a slightly untidy look and should be removed as they are redundant. Erosion and plant loss is evident in steep garden beds. Timber edging to some of these garden beds is also extremely warped. Feature paving to the main entrance is in poor condition in some places. While part of it may need to be replaced some may only require restoring.

In terms of park furniture there is a need for more drink fountains, particularly one with a dog bowl. There is also a shortage of rubbish bins. Currently the bin next to the bocce courts gets overly full of dog faeces.

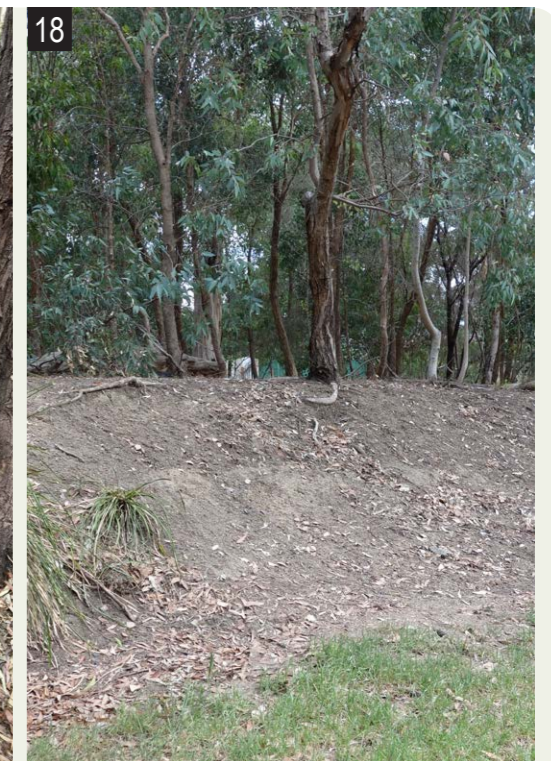
There is an undersupply of accessible seating along pathways and much of the current timber seating throughout the reserve requires refurbishing or replacing.



Remnant timber posts and rails



Timber edging, fence and bench



Garden bed erosion



On Site Pop Up Consultation. Image: ACLA

Chapter 3: Community Engagement Summary

Introduction

This section provides a summary of consultation activities undertaken and an overview of the key findings and priority areas identified to inform the future development of Norris Bank Reserve. These summaries are extracted from the Norris Bank Reserve Master Plan Community Engagement Report, December 2016. Refer to Appendix 2 for the full report.

The following consultation activities were designed and undertaken to collect information on the needs of current and future users of Norris Bank Reserve:

- Commencement meeting with the Project Manager
- Two on site pop up consultations
- Two on site school ideas workshops
- Key stakeholder workshop
- Community survey – online and hardcopy

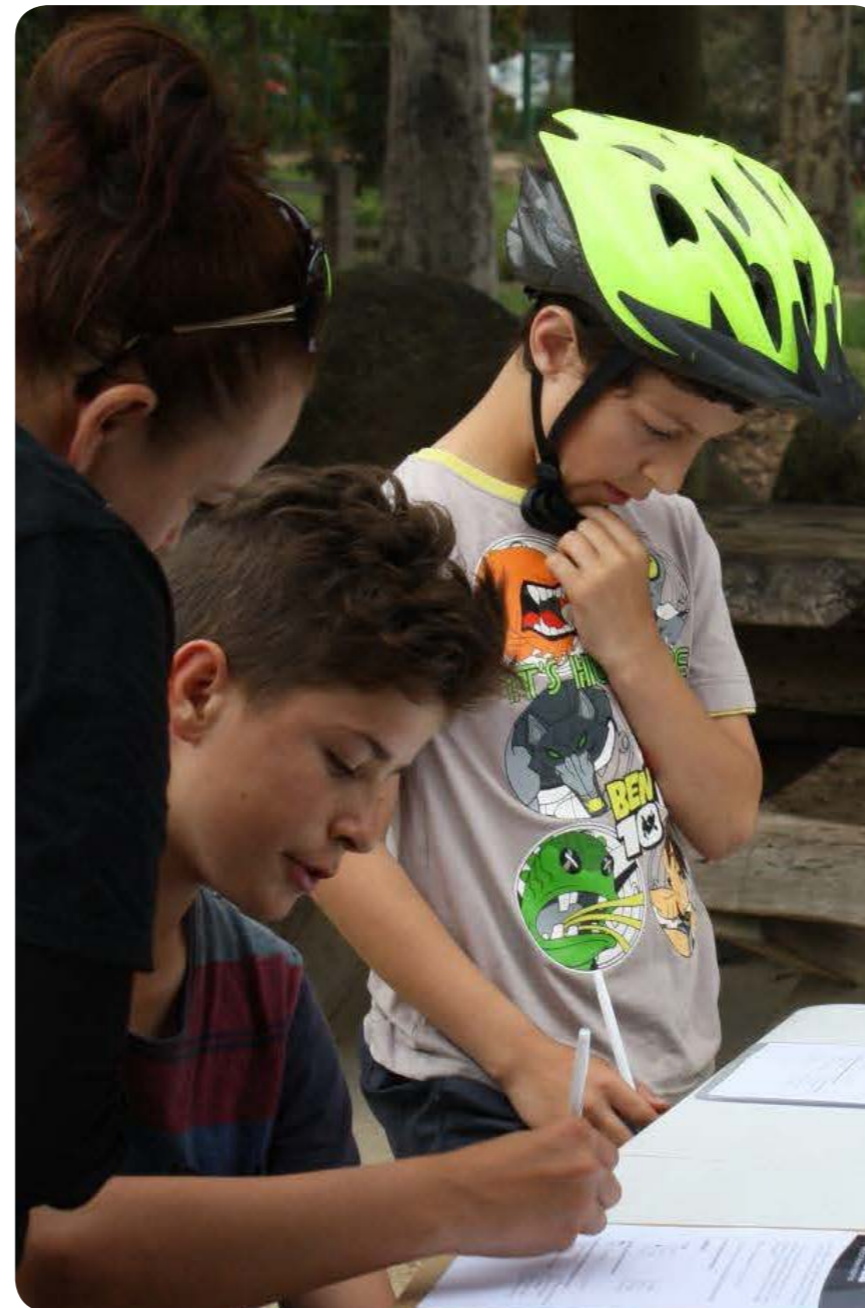
Pop Up Events

Two Pop Up consultations were held on site at Norris Bank Reserve. The first was on Thursday 1st December 2016 where the project team engaged with approximately 70 people and the second on Sunday 4th December 2016 where the project team engaged with approximately 60 people.

During the pop up consultations, many people indicated that they loved Norris Bank Reserve and used it often. Many weekday visitors to the park were from disability organisations who access the park on a regular basis. There were also many people of various ages walking for exercise, walking their dogs, riding bikes and using the basketball court. The park was clearly well used by many diverse groups and by people of all ages. Many parents with children talked about the need to upgrade the playspace and overall many people hoped for improved toilet facilities.

School Ideas Workshops

Two school workshops were held at Norris Bank Reserve. One with 32 grade 5 and 6 students from Norris Bank Primary School and one with 25 year 7 and 8 students from Northern Christian College. As part of the workshop sessions students were invited to provide their feedback by drawing their ideas.



Key Stakeholder Workshop

A key stakeholder meeting was held at the Norris Bank Tennis Club with representatives from internal council departments and external groups and organisations that use or are associated with Norris Bank Reserve.

Ten key stakeholders attended a key stakeholder workshop with another key stakeholder group engaged on site.

Departments or groups represented included:

- Norris Bank Tennis Club
- Mc Leans Road Kindergarten
- Darebin Creek Management Committee
- Norris Bank Reserve Bocce Group
- Whittlesea Council (Events Approval)
- Whittlesea Council (Parks and Open Space)
- Whittlesea Council (City Design and Transport)
- Whittlesea Council (Leisure and Community Facilities)

The key stakeholders were able to provide important information about who currently uses the park, some of the barriers to some community members using the park, what is great about the park and what its current challenges are.

Community Survey

A survey was developed to seek input from user groups and the local community on the development of a Master Plan for Norris Bank Reserve. A total of 180 responses were received: 33 were completed online; 90 at pop up events; and 57 at school workshops. The results from these surveys as well as Dotmocracy activities and children's drawn designs are detailed in the Norris Bank Reserve Master Plan Community Engagement Report (Appendix 2) and were used to generate recommendations for the master plan.

Current Use Summary

Approximately 200 people were engaged with directly as part of consultation activities. Responses indicated that a diverse range of users currently visit the reserve with current usage noted as follows:

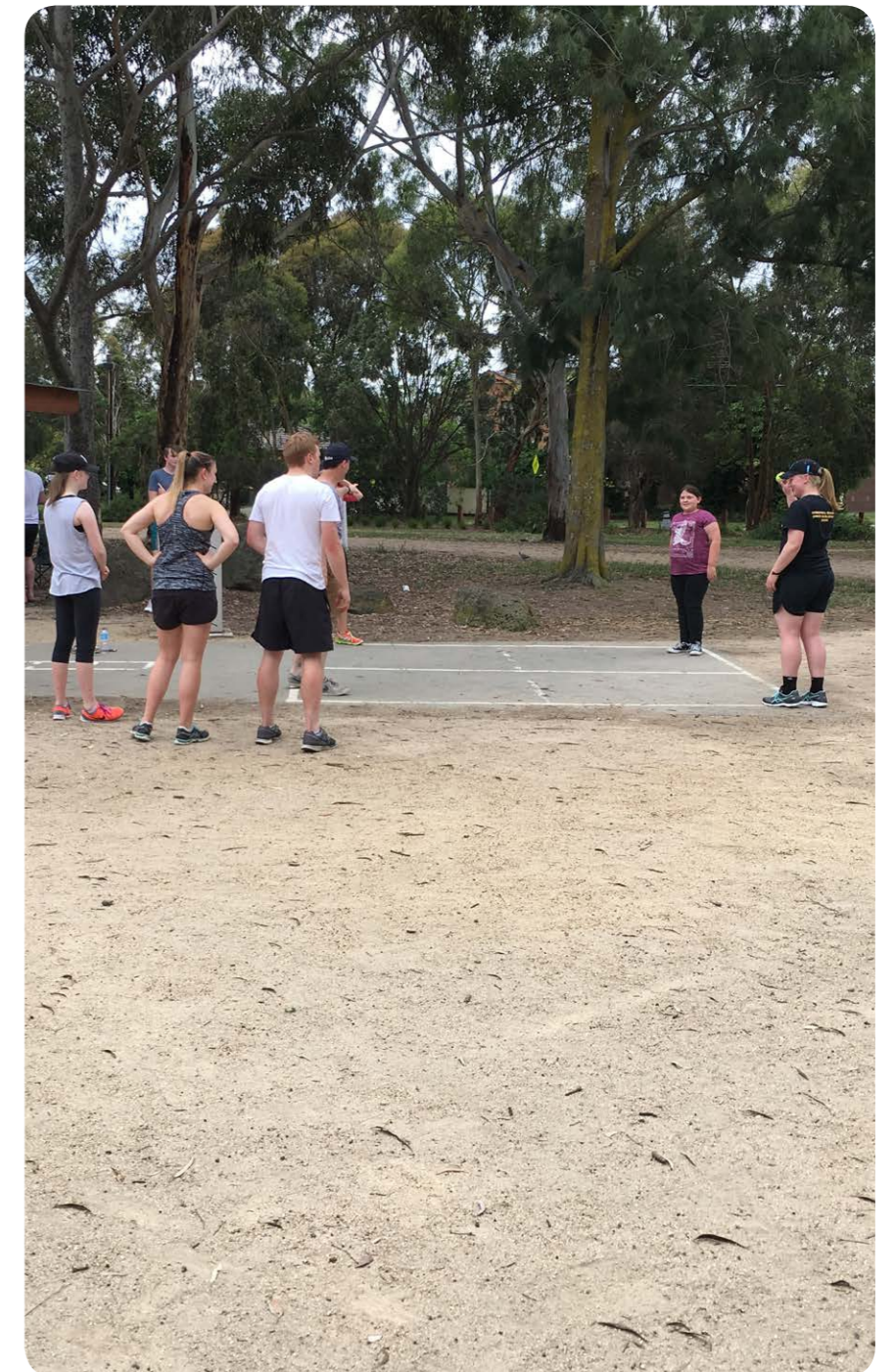
- Many people use the reserve for exercising (walking, jogging) mostly early evening and on weekends.
- The tennis club has approximately 300 members.
- The basketball court is busy during the early evenings and on weekends, however we saw a range of users during the week. The courts are also used a few days per week by personal trainers for boot camp type activities.
- The playground is very well used during the day, in the early evenings and on weekends.
- The picnic shelter and BBQs are also well used by large families and other groups on weekends (please note we consulted in early December so there were a range of Christmas parties being held) and during the week by a range of disability organisations.
- There are many dog walkers at all times of the day, both during the week and on weekends.
- The bocce players are there every Saturday and Sunday every weekend of the year.
- Many young people between 10-14 years are out in the reserve riding their bikes.
- Some local schools use the reserve for their annual cross country and Christmas picnics.
- Scouts use the reserve for outdoor activities.
- The skate bowl doesn't get much use for skateboarding, as intended, but it is used instead by young people to climb and play games.
- Even though the reserve is suitable for small to large scale community events, the reserve is not used for this type of event.

Recommendations

Results indicate that overall the community are very happy with Norris Bank Reserve. They love the diversity of the park and its many elements including the playspace, open grass areas, bird life, BBQ and picnic facilities, tennis courts, bocce lanes, basketball court, walking and cycling paths currently available. There were also a number of improvements and additions identified through the process.

Based on the information gathered the Norris Bank Reserve Master Plan Community Engagement Report recommends the following for inclusion in the master plan:

- A new playspace incorporating play elements for all ages. (Elements suggested include: flying fox, basket swing, swings and slide)
- Refurbishment/replacement of the existing toilets.
- Inclusion of a new skate/scooter/bike area (not ramp)
- More trees
- Installation of a toilet/s at the east end of the park.
- Small shelter near the bocce courts.
- Installation of more drink fountains around the park.
- Installation of more seating around the park.
- The installation of exercise equipment within the park.
- Inclusion of a second picnic area either to the east of the playground or at the east end of the park.
- Installation of soccer and football goals on the grassed area.
- Resurfacing of the area around the picnic, BBQ and playground area.
- Inclusion of a small stage/amphitheatre area for small to medium sized community events.



"It's a nice circuit and the BBQ area is very good. Also, the liberty swing is a hit with my disabled clients"

"Night activity eg. jazz night or market once a month during summer"

"Better water taps as there is really only one and it isn't clean"

"A toilet renovation would be nice, and so would some more sport areas"

"More seating along the paths. My daughter has a disability and needs to rest throughout our walk. Seating along the paths will greatly assist"

"Provide exercise activities along walking track e.g. every 100 meters have an exercise pit stop that includes includes steps up and down ect...other parks have them"





River Red Gum near the Norris Bank Tennis Club. Image: ACLA.

Chapter 4: Master Plan

The site analysis and consultation work undertaken has resulted in a vision to establish Norris Bank Reserve as a Major Community Park dependent upon the delivery of five key objectives:



Master Plan Overview Summary

Main Entry:

- Remove the existing vegetation mound at the main entrance to improve visual permeability into the park.
- Upgrade the main entrance to create a more conspicuous and open entry point.
- Improve pedestrian and cyclist access by upgrading the trail to a sealed pathway.

Access and Movement:

- Upgrade sections of the path network to sealed paths to create an accessible all-weather route through the park and to main facilities.
- Provide a new access path, kerb ramp and refuge island from the footpath on the north side of McLeans Road.

Fitness Circuit:

- Create a 1km walking/running route with distance markers every 100m.
- Provide fitness stations in a number of locations along the main path each including 3-4 pieces of equipment.
- Also provide seating at regular intervals to establish rest points.

East Park Precinct:

- Relocate Bocce Courts to a new location. Provide seating adjacent.
- Create a third informal picnic/gathering space with shelter(s) and picnic settings.
- Provide a small accessible unisex toilet facility area to enable more convenient use of the east precinct.

Dog Off Leash Area:

- Create a dedicated dog off leash area in line with Council's *Dog Off Leash Area Policy and Management Plan*.
- New fences between the off leash area and Darebin Creek Shared Path to be concealed in garden beds to lessen visual impact.
- Incorporate drink fountains with integrated dog drink bowls, litter bins and instructional signs.



- EXISTING**
- Bus Stop
 - Darebin Creek Shared Path
 - McLeans Road Kindergarten
 - Norris Bank Tennis Club
 - Basketball Court
- PROPOSED**
- Public Toilets
 - Changing Places Toilet
 - Accessible Public Toilet
 - Picnic Area
 - Free Wifi
 - Playspace
 - Youth Area - Skate/Scooter
 - Youth Area - Skate/Scooter
 - Walking Trail
 - Open/Events Space
 - Fitness Station
 - Bocce Courts
 - Dog Off Leash Area

West Park Precinct:

- Retain the basketball court as it is a popular activity within the park. Consider re-linemarking and re-surfacing the court. Introduce social/spectator seating on the east and west sides.
- Construct an informal walking trail among the trees in the vegetated area along Settlement Road.
- Upgrade the seating node to the top of the mound east of the basketball court.

Playspace, Youth Space and Picnic Areas:

- Construct a regional accessible playspace consistent with the characteristics described within Council's *Playspace Planning Framework and Policy*.
- Introduce a beginner's skate/scooter area.
- Remove the existing toilet and provide a 'Changing Places' public toilet with adult changing facilities.
- Expand/upgrade the primary picnic area and provide a secondary picnic area for increased use.
- Consider providing free wifi.

Open/Events Space:

- Retain the central open grass area for passive recreation and informal sporting. Perform improvement works to the grass to create a uniform field surface.
- Also retain the open space for contemporary community events and provide single and three phase power for this purpose in a number of suitable locations.
- Introduce a range of seasonal and special events/celebrations within the precinct for all age groups.

Landscape Character and Environment:

- Revegetate gaps in existing garden beds below established trees and on eroded embankments with low story planting to maintain the reserve's verdant quality.
- Increase overall tree canopy cover.
- Introduce buffer planting to the south bank of Darebin Creek to screen undesirable views to adjacent properties.
- Improve biodiversity by protecting existing native trees and vegetation and increasing and diversifying endemic planting.

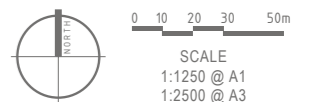
LEGEND

- Existing Trees
- Existing Concrete Path
- Existing Granitic Sand Path
- Darebin Creek Shared Path
- Existing Pedestrian Bridge
- Existing Dry Creek Bed
- Bus Stop
- Proposed Rest Point
- Proposed 1km Circuit and Distance Markers
- Proposed Concrete Path - 2.5m Wide
- Proposed Granitic Sand Path - 2.5m Wide
- Proposed Feature Paving
- Proposed Paving to Main Picnic Areas
- Proposed Fence to Nature Walk
- Proposed Fence to Dog Off Leash Area
- Proposed Pedestrian Gate Entry

Master Plan Goals/Actions



- EXISTING**
- Bus Stop
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 - Youth Area - Skate/Scooter
 - Walking Trail
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 - Fitness Station
 - Bocce Courts
 - Dog Off Leash Area



1.2 Example of a regional playspace



1.3 Example of a Changing Places toilet



1.4 Existing Toilet Facility - Roof to be retained



1.5 Example of a small accessible unisex toilet

- LEGEND**
- Existing Trees
 - Existing Concrete Path
 - Existing Granitic Sand Path
 - Darebin Creek Shared Path
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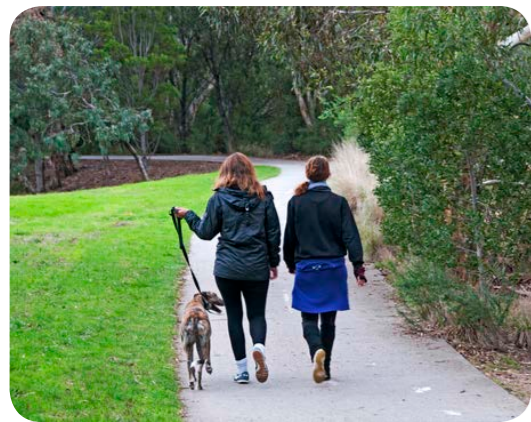
The five key objectives, identified through the site analysis and consultation phase of the project, have been elaborated on in the following tables detailing goals for each with actions and strategies that can be implemented to achieve them.

Objective 1: Create a regional open space for all ages and abilities			
Our Goal	Action No.	Action/Strategies	Priority
Create a new regional level accessible playspace	1.1	Consult with the community, local schools, disability groups and other relevant stakeholders to define a vision for the new playspace and create a sense of community ownership.	Medium
	1.2	Remove existing play equipment and under-surfacing and create a large signature playspace for the whole community with unique physical and natural qualities. The new playspace should be a regional level playspace with a focus on creating a space with a distinct identity and attractions for all age groups and abilities consistent with the characteristics described in Council’s <i>Playspace Planning Framework and Policy</i> . The playspace and reserve are required to include facilities that cater for stays of half to a full day. Site amongst existing trees for natural shade and utilise existing landforms such as mounds for additional play opportunities. The playspace will incorporate nature based explorative, creative and imaginative play as well as traditional forms of active play through the provision of unique play equipment and integrated art features.	Medium
Provide contemporary toilet facilities	1.3	Given the Reserve’s high use by disability groups, provide a ‘Changing Places’ public toilet with good visibility and passive surveillance complete with ambulant male and female cubicles including common hand wash facilities, centrally positioned between the two picnic areas.	High
	1.4	Demolish the existing toilet. Retain the existing timber posts and roof structure and convert to a picnic shelter with additional picnic facilities below.	High
	1.5	Provide a small accessible unisex toilet facility on the east side of the reserve near proposed bocce lanes, picnic settings and dog off leash area to enable more convenient use of the east precinct of the reserve, reducing dependence on the main picnic area facilities and increasing activation of the space.	Medium

Master Plan Goals/Actions



- EXISTING**
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 - Fitness Station
 - Bocce Courts
 - Dog Off Leash Area
- SCALE
1:1250 @ A1
1:2500 @ A3



1.6 Example of improved sealed path network



1.10 Example of custom rest point seating



1.12 Example of improved wayfinding



1.15 Example of drink fountain with dog bowl

- LEGEND**
- Existing Trees
 - Existing Concrete Path
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 - Proposed 1km Circuit and Distance Markers
 - Proposed Concrete Path - 2.5m Wide
 - Proposed Granitic Sand Path - 2.5m Wide
 - Proposed Feature Paving
 - Proposed Paving to Main Picnic Areas
 - Proposed Fence to Nature Walk
 - Proposed Fence to Dog Off Leash Area
 - Proposed Pedestrian Gate Entry

Objective 1: Create a regional open space for all ages and abilities			
Our Goal	Action No.	Action/Strategies	Priority
Improve accessibility to and within the reserve	1.6	Improve pedestrian and cyclist access into the reserve from the main entry at the corner of Greenhills Road and Settlement Road by upgrading the trail to a sealed pathway.	High
	1.7	Strengthen the central access spine by removing the rebound wall and timber tiered seat near the basketball court. Revegetate the area where the tiered seat is and reclaim the rebound wall area as an entry/gathering space to the proposed walking trail.	Medium
	1.8	Upgrade the path network to sealed paths in the west part of the reserve to create an accessible all-weather route through the park and to main facilities.	High
	1.9	Retain granitic sand paving to off street parking along McLeans Road.	Ongoing
	1.10	Provide rest areas along the main walking route at regular intervals to encourage users of all ability levels. Rest points should include a seat with a back and armrests and a paved area for wheelchairs/mobility scooters.	Medium
	1.11	Improve pedestrian access to the reserve by defining pedestrian entry points with clearer visual cues. Provide a new access path, kerb ramp and refuge island from the footpath on the north side of McLeans Road.	High
	1.12	Improve wayfinding signage within the reserve as well as to the reserve from the Darebin Creek Shared Path and the Bundoora Shops, highlighting Norris Banks' location within its immediate surrounds and improving navigation within the park. <i>Note: Wayfinding in the Reserve has been assessed separately to this Master Plan and will form part of the Darebin Creek Wayfinding Signage Strategy being implemented by Council.</i>	High
Create a custom suite of furniture for the reserve	1.13	As one of Council's four Major Community Parks introduce a custom furniture suite in the reserve to reinforce its distinct character and create a consistent appearance.	Medium
	1.14	Provide an even distribution of litter bins around the reserve, particularly at entry points and social gathering spaces. Ensure the placement of bins is undertaken in conjunction with rubbish collection contractors.	High
	1.15	Provide additional drink fountains around the reserve in suitable locations incorporating dog drinking bowls where appropriate.	High
Following the introduction of improved park amenities conduct a parking and traffic study	1.16	Once Norris Bank Reserve is established as a regional destination within the municipality conduct a parking and traffic study to determine if the supply of parking is sufficient, taking into consideration its location along the Darebin Creek Shared Path as well as proximity to on street parking in surrounding streets.	Low

Master Plan Goals/Actions



EXISTING

- Bus Stop
- Darebin Creek Shared Path
- McLeans Road Kindergarten
- Norris Bank Tennis Club
- Basketball Court

PROPOSED

- Public Toilets
- Changing Places Toilet
- Accessible Public Toilet
- Picnic Area
- Free Wifi
- Playspace
- Youth Area - Skate/Scooter
- Youth Area - Skate/Scooter
- Walking Trail
- Open/Events Space
- Fitness Station
- Bocce Courts
- Dog Off Leash Area

SCALE
1:1250 @ A1
1:2500 @ A3



2.1 Existing Picnic Shelter



2.1 2.2 Example of a banquet picnic table



2.4 Example of timber shelter and picnic setting



2.5 2.6 Community event space with provision for single and three phase power

LEGEND

- Existing Trees
- Existing Concrete Path
- Existing Granitic Sand Path
- Darebin Creek Shared Path
- Existing Pedestrian Bridge
- Existing Dry Creek Bed
- Bus Stop
- Proposed Rest Point
- Proposed 1km Circuit and Distance Markers
- Proposed Concrete Path - 2.5m Wide
- Proposed Granitic Sand Path - 2.5m Wide
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- Proposed Paving to Main Picnic Areas
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- Proposed Fence to Dog Off Leash Area
- Proposed Pedestrian Gate Entry

Objective 2: Promote and facilitate social community use and events			
Our Goal	Action No.	Action/Strategies	Priority
Upgrade and augment the reserve’s picnic facilities to promote social gathering and open space activation	2.1	Expand the primary picnic area and provide additional picnic facilities to cater for demand. This includes accessible table settings, BBQs, litter/ recycling bins, bike rails and drink fountains. Retain the existing shelter over the picnic area.	High
	2.2	Provide a secondary picnic area to include accessible table settings, litter/recycling bins, bike rails and drink fountains. New picnic shelter to coordinate with existing structure. Retain an open grass buffer space between picnic facilities and the playspace for spreading picnic blankets.	Medium
	2.3	Investigate the possibility of providing Wi Fi to the Picnic and Playspace zone.	Low
	2.4	Create a third informal picnic/gathering space, utilising natural shade, for the east precinct of the reserve with small shelter(s) and picnic settings.	Low
Facilitate use of the reserve for contemporary events and celebrations	2.5	Retain open space for contemporary community events and provide single and three phase power for this purpose in a number of suitable locations.	High
	2.6	Introduce a range of seasonal and community events / celebrations within the precinct for all age groups.	High
	2.7	Advertise park facilities at the Bundoora Shops as well as any special events/celebrations.	Ongoing

Master Plan Goals/Actions



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SCALE
1:1250 @ A1
1:2500 @ A3



3.1 Flexible grass area for informal recreation



3.2 Example of an informal walking trail



3.3 Example of seating retaining garden bed



3.4 Beginners level skate/scooter youth area

LEGEND

- Existing Trees
- Existing Concrete Path
- Existing Granitic Sand Path
- Darebin Creek Shared Path
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Objective 3: Encourage and support informal active recreation			
Our Goal	Action No.	Action/Strategies	Priority
Maintain and create areas for passive recreation	3.1	Retain the central open grass area for passive recreation and informal sporting use as well as events. Conduct an assessment of the condition of the grass and perform improvement works to create a uniform field surface.	Low
	3.2	Construct an informal walking trail among the trees in the vegetated area along Settlement Road. Increase the sense of openness by uplifting tree canopies to ensure sightlines while improving the landscape character by providing pockets of low indigenous planting. Create a defined route with fenced boundary, signage and distinct entry point. Remove the redundant rebound wall and incorporate the area as the new entry.	Medium
Provide youth spaces and recreational facilities for casual public use	3.3	Retain the basketball court as it is a popular activity within the park. Consider re-linemarking and re-surfacing the court with artificial sports turf for noise attenuation. Introduce seated spaces on the east and west sides of the court for informal gatherings and spectating which could also assist in retaining embankments and reducing garden bed batter slopes.	Medium
	3.4	Create a beginners level skate/scooter area with banks, ramps, fun boxes and rails, located to enable passive surveillance from the picnic areas while maintaining a sense of independent seclusion. Incorporate flexible seating formations in the proposed youth area as well as additional bike parking. Investigate reusing the existing half pipe otherwise relocate to another suitable park or reserve within the municipality.	Medium

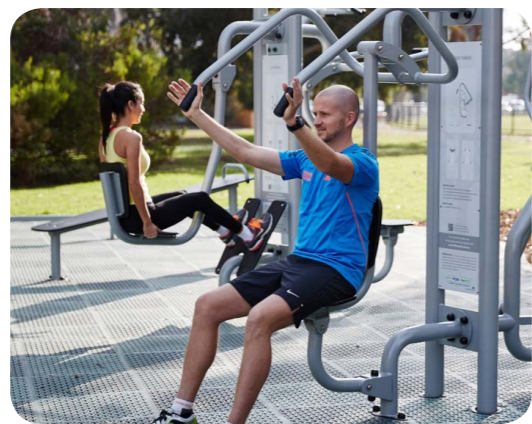
Master Plan Goals/Actions



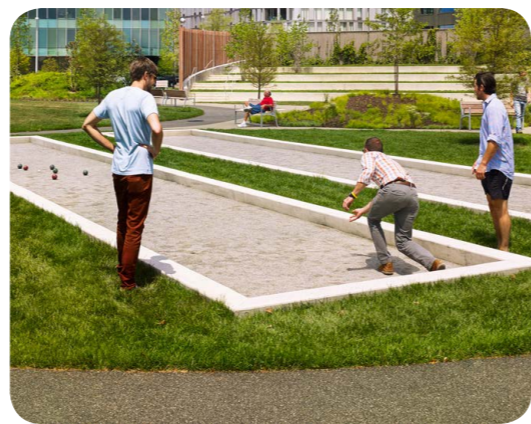
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- SCALE
1:1250 @ A1
1:2500 @ A3



3.5 Examples of Distance Markers



3.6 Example of a Fitness Station



3.8 Example of granitic sand Bocce Courts with improved edging



3.7 3.9 Example of a fenced Dog Off Leash area

- LEGEND**
- Existing Trees
 - Existing Concrete Path
 - Existing Granitic Sand Path
 - Darebin Creek Shared Path
 - Existing Pedestrian Bridge
 - Existing Dry Creek Bed
 - Bus Stop
 - Proposed Rest Point
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Objective 3: Encourage and support informal active recreation			
Our Goal	Action No.	Action/Strategies	Priority
Create a fitness circuit around the central area of the reserve	3.5	Create a 1km walking/running route with distance markers every 100m.	High
	3.6	Provide fitness stations in a number of locations along the main path each including 3-4 pieces of equipment.	Medium
Provide an enclosed dog off leash area	3.7	Remove superfluous paths to create a dedicated dog off leash area in the east precinct of the park as directed by Council's <i>Dog Off Leash Area Policy and Management Plan</i> . The new fence between the off leash area and Darebin Creek Shared Path shall be concealed within proposed garden beds to lessen its visual impact. Drink fountains with integrated dog drink bowls are to be incorporated into the space as well as litter bins and instructional signs.	Medium
Relocate bocce lanes to new location	3.8	Construct two new bocce courts with improved edging just west of the original courts. Provide seating nearby.	Medium
	3.9	Remove existing bocce courts, seats and outdated bins, once new courts are constructed, to create the new informal picnic area with small shelters as well as the dog off leash zone.	Medium
Continue to support the Norris Bank Tennis Club	3.10	Continue to support the Norris Bank Tennis Club on the site. Replace existing green chain wire fencing with less visually obtrusive black PVC coated chain wire fencing. Other club facilities to remain in their current form in the immediate future. Continue to assess future works to the Club as directed in Council's <i>Tennis Strategy</i> .	Medium

Master Plan Goals/Actions



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SCALE
1:1250 @ A1
1:2500 @ A3



4.5 Example of a rain garden



4.8 Community planting day



4.11 Existing nesting boxes at Norris Bank



4.13 Existing sacred 'scarred' river red gum

LEGEND

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- Existing Concrete Path
- Existing Granitic Sand Path
- Darebin Creek Shared Path
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Objective 4: Protect and enhance the ecological and cultural landscape			
Our Goal	Action No.	Action/Strategies	Priority
Maintain and further establish the reserve's characteristic landscape setting	4.1	Revegetate gaps in existing garden beds below established trees and on eroded embankments with low story planting to maintain the reserve's verdant quality.	High
	4.2	Introduce buffer planting to the south bank of Darebin Creek to screen undesirable views to adjacent properties and minimise the potential impacts from additional high-density urban development.	High
	4.3	As Bundoora is highlighted as having an extremely high heatwave vulnerability increase overall tree canopy cover within the reserve particularly along pathways and at social gathering spaces.	Ongoing
	4.4	Prioritise the use of natural materials and finishes within the reserve to reinforce its distinct character.	Ongoing
Incorporate water sensitive urban design initiatives	4.5	Investigate diverting local stormwater into functional raingardens or vegetation swales within the reserve to reduce nutrient loads and suspended solids before being discharged into the Darebin Creek.	Medium
	4.6	Collect rainwater from roof structures for toilet flushing purposes or to passively irrigate the landscape.	Medium
Protect and support native fauna and increase biodiversity	4.7	Improve biodiversity by protecting existing native trees and vegetation and increasing and diversifying endemic planting, particularly species from the nationally significant Plains Grassy Woodland Environmental Vegetation Class (EVC). Revegetation works along the Darebin Creek Corridor and adjoining open spaces will help improve connectivity along the waterway between fragmented habitats creating a wildlife corridor to allow for the movement of animals across the landscape.	Ongoing
	4.8	Incorporate revegetation works at Norris Bank into Council's annual Community Planting Program to facilitate a greater level of community participation as well as a sense of ownership and local pride in the management of the reserve.	Ongoing
	4.9	Encourage, support and facilitate the involvement of the Darebin Creek Management Committee and Friends of Darebin Creek in revegetation, habitat creation and water health improvement at Norris Bank Reserve.	Ongoing
	4.10	Develop and implement a site specific weed management plan for Norris Bank Reserve in conjunction with Melbourne Water to manage priority weed species in the area and increase the potential success of revegetation works.	Ongoing
	4.11	Support and encourage the installation of additional nesting boxes within the reserve.	Ongoing
Celebrate the history of the precinct	4.12	Consult with elders and representatives of the Wurundjeri Willum clan regarding the development of an aboriginal walking trail and/or interpretive signage within the reserve. Consider incorporation with the proposed bush walking trail near the main entry.	Medium
	4.13	Continue to protect the mature River Red Gum trees in line with Council's River Red Gum Protection Policy. Consider ways to emphasise the magnificent 'scarred' tree and convey its history.	Ongoing

Master Plan Goals/Actions



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- SCALE
1:1250 @ A1
1:2500 @ A3



5.6 Rocks and hardy planting to embankments



5.8 Existing timber posts and stays to be removed



5.9 Example of shared path signage

- LEGEND**
- Existing Trees
 - Existing Concrete Path
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Objective 5: Establish a safe and well maintained reserve			
Our Goal	Action No.	Action/Strategies	Priority
Increase passive surveillance into and throughout the park	5.1	Remove the existing vegetation mound at the main entrance to improve visual permeability into the park. Upgrade the main entrance to create a more conspicuous and open entry point.	High
	5.2	Upgrade the seating node to the top of the mound east of the basketball court. Replace existing seats with seating arrangements conducive to gatherings overlooking the skate/scooter area. Remove timber balustrade bordering the space and manage vegetation to open up sight lines and improve connections to adjacent areas.	Medium
	5.3	Improve visibility and safety by applying Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Principles throughout the reserve to establish clear sight lines using high canopy trees and low shrubs. Perform thinning/lopping works to lift the canopies of trees where necessary along park boundaries particularly McLeans Road, Greenhills Road and Settlement Road.	Ongoing
Perform necessary maintenance works	5.4	In the immediate future relocate the bin near the bocce court to another location. This is due to the number of dog excrement bags currently being placed in this bin and its proximity to the seating area.	High
	5.5	Temporarily top up sand in the current bocce courts to ensure an adequate playing surface until new lanes are constructed.	High
	5.6	Stabilise and supplement eroded embankments with additional indigenous ground story planting that performs well on slopes. Add rocks and/or small retaining structures to reduce batter grades where appropriate.	High
	5.7	Replace any warped timber edging along granitic sand paths being retained.	High
	5.8	Remove remnant timber posts and stays surrounding established garden beds to declutter the space.	High
Reduce conflict between different types of uses within the reserve	5.9	Introduce regulatory signage along the Darebin Creek Shared Trail emphasising safe co-use between pedestrians, recreational cyclists and commuters. Consider a granitic sand lateral path extension to widen the path for increased usage.	High
	5.10	Introduce signs at the shared path entry points indicating motorbikes are prohibited from the reserve.	High



Existing Norris Bank Playground. Image: ACLA.

Chapter 5: Appendices

Council Strategies and Plans

A number of the City of Whittlesea's existing strategic planning documents, policies and strategies have influenced the Norris Bank Reserve Master Plan. The following section contains summaries of the main background documents reviewed including any key directions relevant to the reserve.

Shaping Our Future Whittlesea 2030 Strategic Community Plan

The City of Whittlesea's *Shaping Our Future 2030 Strategic Community Plan* describes the community's vision for the future of the Municipality and details clear desired outcomes that will assist in guiding Council. The *Community Plan* outlines seven Future Directions for the community:

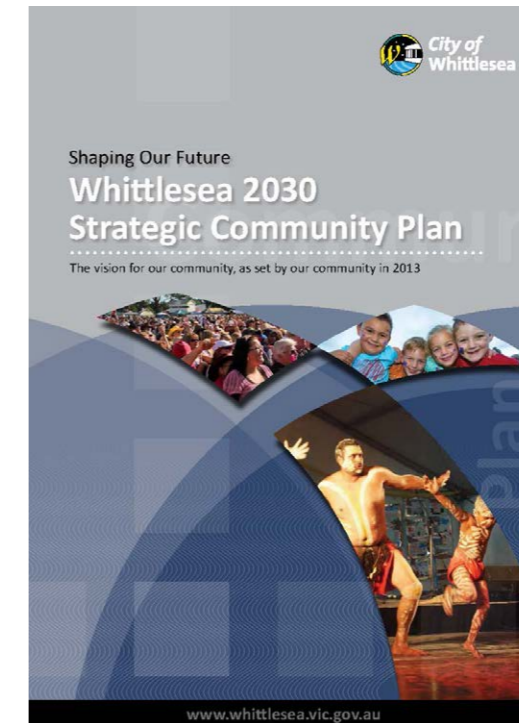
Future Directions

1. Inclusive and engaged community
2. Accessibility in, out and around our City
3. Growing our economy
4. Places and spaces to connect people
5. Health and wellbeing
6. Living sustainably
7. Good governance

The community consultation undertaken for the *Community Plan* identified twenty-two key themes which were then categorised under the seven Future Directions. Strategic outcomes were then listed against each of these themes.

The fourth Future Direction, places and spaces to connect people, has direct relation to the provision, maintenance and improvement of current and future open space. Listed below are the key themes related to this as well as their associated Strategic Objectives/Outcomes.

- *Open space - We have open spaces that are welcoming and safe for public gathering*
- *Community hubs - We have areas that bring people together around services and entertainment experiences*
- *Planning our space - Our urban design helps build connection to place and the community*
- *Leisure & recreation - Our recreation facilities and open spaces are accessible and respond to local need*



City of Whittlesea Recreation Strategy 2012-2017

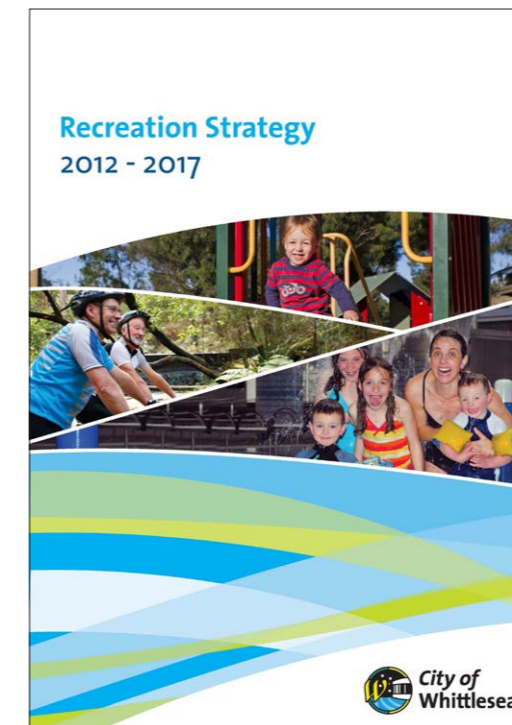
The City of Whittlesea's *Recreation Strategy 2012-2017* recognises and responds to the unique characteristics, individual settlements and challenges facing the City and provides Council and the community with a clear direction for creating and achieving an overall vision for leisure in the City of Whittlesea. The *Strategy* is intended to act as a framework for the delivery of recreation programs, facilities and services within the Municipality. It also acts as a strategic reference document to support higher order strategies and statutory planning documents, like the *Precinct Structure Plans* and the *Community Plan* as well as Council policies, plans and documents such as the *Open Space Strategy* and *Playspace Strategy*.

Under the existing facilities inventory of the *Recreation Strategy* Norris Bank Recreation Reserve is located within an established/existing area with 2 lanes bocce, skate ramp, liberty swing, basketball/netball court and six outdoor tennis courts.

The established/existing areas are projected to retain a relatively stable population and profile though a general aging of the demographic is expected. As such it is important to increase opportunities for participation in informal recreation. Improvements to related facilities and infrastructure should be considered, particularly those supporting participation of adults over 45 years. The *Strategy* recommends a review of existing recreation reserves to identify those opportunities to increase informal community use. This may include improvements/ increases to facilities such as picnic areas, dog walking areas, playspaces and walking paths/trails.

The gap analysis undertaken also identified, in the established/existing areas, a potential undersupply of community meeting spaces, Level 1 and 3 multi-purpose community centres, lawn bowl greens, outdoor netball courts and football/cricket ovals.

Another recommendation of the *Strategy* reinforced the importance of stakeholder involvement in facility planning and development as well as the ongoing engagement of the likely users, particularly in rural and established areas to help create a sense of community belonging and pride.



City of Whittlesea Open Space Strategy 2016

The recently endorsed City of Whittlesea *Open Space Strategy 2016* outlines the strategic direction for the future planning, provision design and management of open space in the Municipality until 2026. The City of Whittlesea's public open space network is expected to fulfil a number of key roles including provision for formal and unstructured recreation, passive outdoor enjoyment and play, ecological improvement and conservation, mitigation of the urban heat island effect and climate change as well as the protection and promotion of the community's cultural heritage values.

The open space survey undertaken for the *Strategy* identifies low levels of open space use in established urban areas which is attributed to a number of reasons including a lack of diversity in open space character, poor visibility of open space, lack of trees and shade, lack of path access to existing facilities and the poor condition of facilities. The *Strategy* therefore focuses on improving the quality of existing open space to improve and encourage usage by the existing and forecast community.

The *Strategy* identifies Norris Bank Reserve as a Regional open space reserve in an established urban area of the Municipality. Under the *Strategy* it was also selected as one of four Major Community Parks in the established urban areas to be further enhanced to promote and encourage wider use of open space. Norris Bank Reserve is the most popular open space within walking distance in Bundoora and is in the top three most popular within the whole Municipality. As Norris Bank Reserve is selected as a Major Community Park the *Strategy* recommends a major upgrade of the reserve with a focus on providing facilities to augment informal and unstructured open space recreation. This would involve improving the quality of the landscape setting, reinforcing its distinct character and facilities to broaden its appeal and encourage use by people of all ages and abilities. Essential to this will be applying the principles of universal access and design and providing spaces to host contemporary events and celebrations for all age groups.

As a Regional open space reserve the *Strategy* also recommends applying for State Government funding for new facilities and upgrades to existing. Other suggestions in the *Strategy* for possible improvement include: upgrading the eastern interface to improve visibility and safety; providing a dedicated dog off leash area; providing additional drink fountains, seating, rest areas and passive lighting; increasing passive surveillance; restricting motorbike use within the park; minimising potential impacts from adjacent high-density urban development; improving path connections and upgrading the playspace to a regional playspace in accord with the City of Whittlesea's *Playspace Planning Framework and Policy 2013-16*.

The *Strategy* also identifies the Darebin Creek Corridor as a strategic habitat link, an area of biological significance. The creek, and the Darebin Creek Trail, run along the south side of Norris Bank reserve and form a key spine of the Municipality's linear open space network. The *Strategy* recommends expanding the path network on the east side of the creek, adding a new small local link into the creek corridor from the adjoining urban area and improving the biodiversity along the waterway through appropriate levels of planting.



City of Whittlesea Playspace Planning Framework and Policy 2013-16

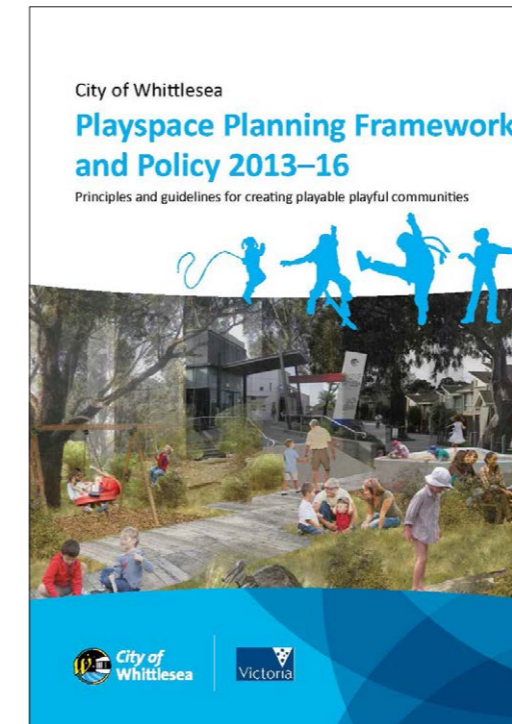
The City of Whittlesea's *Playspace Planning Framework and Policy 2013-16* is a comprehensive document aimed at informing Council officers and developers responsible for providing or maintaining playspaces within the Municipality with an understanding of the value and principles of play. The *Policy* reflects current research into the importance of play and nature play for children as well as adults and acknowledges that play happens everywhere while providing direction on how to design and provide best practice play environments in delineated municipal playspaces and playgrounds.

As Norris Bank Reserve is designated a Regional open space and Major Community Park under the *Open Space Strategy 2016* it is a recommendation in the *Strategy* that the reserve include a regional level playspace. The *Playspace Planning Framework and Policy* defines a regional playspace as a large signature playspace for the whole community with unique physical and natural qualities. A regional playspace is expected to attract visitors from a radius of ten kilometres or more, as well as from all parts of the metropolitan area, the playspace and reserve are required to include facilities that cater for stays of half to a full day.

Other characteristics of a regional playspace, as described in the *Policy*, are listed below:

- *Generally regional playspaces have a theme or features that makes the playspace unique, not just within the municipality but within the region.*
- *They provide a broad range of play opportunities through a diverse selection of activities catering for all ages and abilities, and often have an all-abilities focus.*
- *They are designed to cater for all of the four main play types: physical, social, creative and cognitive.*
- *There is a range of formal play equipment items, but regional playspaces often have a specific focus on natural and landscaped elements.*
- *Amenities such as integrated art features, seating, picnic shelters, bins, drink fountains, lighting, security, extensive off-street parking and accessible family toilets are usually provided.*
- *The whole facility including all amenities should be a minimum of three hectares.*
- *Regional playspaces can cost between \$1 million and \$4 million.*

With regard to provision of new playspaces or upgrades to existing the *Policy* clearly states the imperative need to engage with the community and also notes the community's own declared wish to be involved in the planning and design process of their playspaces.



Spaces 8 to 12+: Creating Engaging Places for Young People

The main purpose of the City of Whittlesea's Spaces 8 to 12+: Creating Engaging Places for Young People is to encourage public realm design to consider the needs of young people (ages 12-25) and older children in their middle years (ages 8-12). The report argues that they not only have the right to have access to age appropriate, engaging and challenging places but also to be actively involved and consulted regarding their provision.

Changes in the health of young people such as increasing obesity rates, decreased physical activity and increasing mental health concerns as well as decreased independent mobility owing to parental fears has highlighted the need for a shift in governance and the planning and design process to create more Child Friendly Cities and encourage a move back to safer pedestrianised and connected communities.

Spaces 8 to 12+ outlines five principles for designing places and spaces for young people. The views of young people and related research are detailed under each principle and linked to best practice responses and resources. The five principles identified are as follows:

1. Accessible: Creating the public realm that is accessible to all young people
2. Diverse: Diversity of uses for diverse young people
3. Inclusive: Making the public realm socially inclusive and connected for young people
4. Safe: The public realm must enable young people to feel safe and to be safe
5. Engaged: Young people are experts on things related to young people



City of Whittlesea Tennis Strategy 2013-2018

The City of Whittlesea's *Tennis Strategy 2013-2018* was created to guide provision and maintenance of tennis facilities and clubs to meet the community's current and projected needs. The *Strategy* identifies five strategic directions to address the issues facing tennis in the Municipality and direct the future provision and maintenance of facilities:

1. Undertaking a program of maintenance and capital works upgrades to ensure courts meet minimum standards.
2. Short and long term planning to address the current and future court provision gaps.
3. Review and amend lease agreements to ensure these facilitate the best outcomes for clubs, Council and the community.
4. Creating better partnerships and relationships between Council, tennis clubs, local associations, private facility operators, schools and Tennis Victoria to increase participation and improve use of tennis facilities.
5. Providing the necessary resources and services to clubs to allow them to remain sustainable and continue to deliver the sport to the community.

Norris Bank Recreation Reserve is currently the home ground for the Norris Bank Tennis Club, which is identified in the Tennis Strategy as a successful club that takes a lot of pride in their facility. The club have partnered with Council and contributed to a number of upgrade works to date:

- 2006/07: Provided additional storage and shade shelter; Courts 3&4 reconstructed with concrete base and Sand Filled Artificial Grass (SFAG) surface
- 2008/09: Pavilion refurbishment as a result of the 2007 Sports Pavilion Strategy's recommended priority listing
- 2009/10: Courts 5&6 reconstructed with concrete base and Sand Filled Artificial Grass (SFAG) surface with Victorian State Government Drought Relief Funding. Reconstructed as Classic Clay at the Club's request.
- 2013: New sports lights installed on courts 1-4 and the existing sports lights upgraded on courts 5&6. The club financially contributed towards this project.

The current facility has six courts, two Sand Filled Artificial Grass (SFAG), two Classic Clay and two en tout cas courts. Under the 2007 Pavilion Strategy the Norris Bank Tennis Club pavilion is classified as a District facility. The Tennis Strategy 2013-18 concludes there are no works required in the next five to ten years.



Draft Multiple Sports Strategy 2017-2026

The *Draft Multiple Sports Strategy 2017-2026: Broadening opportunities for participation in sport* provides information and direction on how Council can support less traditional or emerging sports to ensure residents have access to a range of sport and recreation opportunities. The Strategy investigates the needs and demands of 34 different sports and makes recommendations on future facility requirements and development opportunities to support the growth of these sports.

Each sport covered in this Strategy has been given a level of priority to help guide Council resources and investment into their future planning and development. Ten sports were given a high priority as these are seen to have the greatest demand at the local level.

The high priority sports have been identified as:

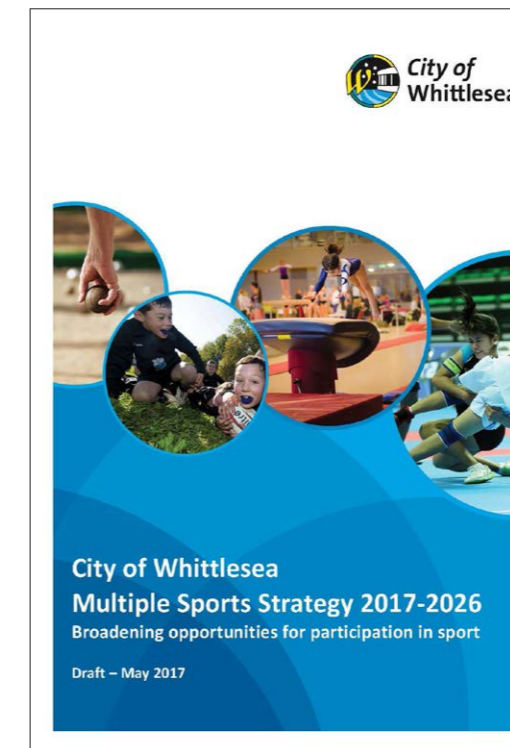
- Athletics
- Baseball
- Calisthenics
- Dance
- Softball
- Gymnastics
- Martial Art
- Touch Football
- Rugby League
- Rugby Union

Seven sports have been identified as second tier priority:

- Hockey
- Badminton
- Bocce
- Croquet
- Kabaddi
- Volleyball
- Table Tennis

In addition to the sports above, 17 sports were identified as requiring no action in the short term.

Norris Bank currently has two bocce courts which under the Strategy is listed as a second tier priority with cost for refurbishment/new facilities to be funded through internal Council resources. The inclusion of the sport indicates a need to retain the two Bocce courts at Norris Bank as there is a current demand for it.



City of Whittlesea Dog Off-Leash Area Policy and Management Plan 2016–2026

The City of Whittlesea’s Dog Off-Leash Area Policy and Management Plan 2016–2026 provides Council with clear direction for the provision, management and operation of Off-Leash Areas within the Municipality. The Plan’s mission is to provide residents and their dogs with safe and sustainable off-leash opportunities that can be accessed equitably, while considering the needs of all open space users.

There are three types of Off-Leash Areas considered under the Management Plan: Open Unstructured; Confined Unstructured and Confined Structured. Norris Bank Reserve is identified under the plan as a future Off-Leash Area and is designated as Open Unstructured. Open Unstructured Dog Off-Leash Areas do not include constructed barriers to create separation from other reserve users, the existing landscape and site features are expected to facilitate clear delineation of the Off-Leash Area.

The size of the area allocated to the Off-Leash Area in Norris Bank Reserve is 0.99 hectares (9900m²) within the 10 hectare site. The Plan recommends that the Off-Leash Area be incorporated into site master plan and suggests an indicative cost of \$6,000.

City of Whittlesea Heatwave Plan

The City of Whittlesea’s Heat Plan outlines Council’s proposed actions and responses in regard to extreme heat and heatwave events which have been identified as one of the most serious municipal risks. An assessment of the suburbs most affected by heat identifies Lalor, Thomastown and Bundoora as having extremely high heatwave vulnerability.

Council’s longer-term planning for heat uses a framework to examine four environmental components, with impacts and adaptations for extreme heat and heatwaves identified in each. Longer term efforts to mitigate the effects of heat on Council and the community should address each of these.

- *The Built/Physical environment, which includes all components of the human made landscape*
- *The Social environment, which includes all social and cultural interactions, including service delivery and support*
- *The Economic environment, which includes all components that contribute to economic activity, including human resources*
- *The Natural environment, which includes all natural environmental features*



River Red Gum Protection Policy

Within Whittlesea, open plains grassland including mature River Red Gum trees is acknowledged as the defining visual character of the local landscape as well as the most significant environmental feature with some trees estimated at between 200 to 800 years old.

The River Red Gum Protection Policy is aimed at ensuring the heritage and environmental value of River Red Gums is recognised and that all future development of urban areas considers their protection and enhancement. This includes proper assessment of trees near development, the retention of River Red Gum regeneration wherever feasible and adherence to appropriate tree protection zones.

City of Whittlesea Natural and Built Shade Policy

The City of Whittlesea's Natural and Built Shade Policy outlines Council's commitment to taking a preventative approach to protecting the community from over-exposure to ultra violet radiation (UVR) through the adequate provision of best practice public facilities and environments that provide shade and shelter, particularly in high risk areas such as early years facilities, playspaces and outdoor community gathering spaces. Another of the key policy principles includes the prioritisation of the provision of canopy trees and urban forest where possible, to provide shade as well as help reduce pollution, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and improve social and mental wellbeing.

Melbourne Water Shared Pathway Guidelines

Melbourne Water's Shared Pathway Guidelines were developed to inform the planning, design, construction, upgrade and maintenance of shared pathways associated with waterways particularly in relation to flooding considerations, the preservation of the waterway and protection of other related Melbourne Water assets. The guidelines also provide insight into the most effective way to liaise with Melbourne Water in relation to the shared path construction.