

(INNER CIRCLE) LINEAR PARKLANDS

MASTERPLAN

November 2025



Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country

(Inner Circle) Linear Parklands



Bunurong Boon Wurrung Country



Acknowledgment of Country

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations – and to their Elders past, present and future.

The (Inner Circle) Linear Parklands is located on Wurundjeri Country. It lies between the Merri Merri Yaluk and Moonee Moonee Yaluk. The (Inner Circle) Linear Parklands Masterplan is made in partnership with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Traditional Owners.



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Project Name: Inner Circle Linear Parklands Masterplan
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Site photo: Thomas Kidney Reserve

The (Inner Circle) Linear Parklands Story

A confluence of past, present and future

The (Inner Circle) Linear Parklands is the busiest active transport corridor in Victoria, with thousands of commuters and visitors travelling through the parklands each day, and functioning as a backyard for locals with moments of rest, reprieve and gathering. Over thousands of years the land has changed, but the continuing thread has always been journey and songlines.

For 40,000+ years, the Wurundjeri people travelled across the parklands, following songlines to neighbouring Wadawurrung peoples and Dja Dja Wurrung peoples, trading knowledge, possum skin cloaks and other valuable goods. Wurundjeri people camped on Country between the great waterways of the Merri Merri Creek and Moonee Moonee Creek, holding deep knowledge of the land and its resources, creating, and caring for Country.

Following colonisation, the Inner Circle Rail line was opened in 1888, traveling the east-west parklands corridor we still see today. Almost 100 years later, the rail was de-commissioned, and the impassioned activism of the local community prevented the development of industrial land and ultimately transformed the corridor into the parklands we know today. The activism showed valuable foresight to the importance of open space for the continually urbanising, and densifying Melbourne.

Today, the footsteps of a diverse multi-cultural community inhabiting contemporary Naarm-Melbourne trace the well-worn rail corridor and ancient pathways and songlines of the Wurundjeri people.

The (Inner Circle) Linear Parklands journey becomes a bridge, linking history to the present, as footsteps become a symbol of continuity reminding us that Country can be a source of unity for people.

This confluence of diverse histories and contemporary life are informing future decisions at the parklands, guiding a culturally sensitive approach to community stewardship and development, acknowledging our shared responsibility in caring for Country and building a better future.

As we look forward, we recognise the need to adapt and create a contemporary parkland that embraces, celebrates and caters to our diverse, multicultural, intergenerational community.



Site photo: Under the Peppercorn Trees

*1.***Introduction**

Introduction

This masterplan presents a strategic vision for the (Inner Circle) Linear Parklands (also known as ‘Inner Circle Railway Linear Parklands’ and referred to as ‘Linear Parklands’ in this document) over the next 20 years, focusing on enhancing this essential green space through facility improvement and vegetation management. Classified as City-wide open space within the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020, the Linear Parklands straddle the northern boundary of Yarra City Council and the southern boundary of Merri-Bek City Council. This provides a significant opportunity for collaboration between councils. By aligning our resources and expertise, we can implement sustainable practices that benefit both communities, enhance ecological health, improve recreational amenities, and strengthen connections to the natural environment.

Why is this masterplan happening?

As a city that is ever changing, under the pressures of climate change and with increasing demand on all public space (including transport) from residents and visitors, Yarra City Council and Merri-Bek City Council are ensuring that the Linear Parklands continues to be attractive, vibrant and supportive to all members of the diverse community.

McGregor Coxall has been engaged alongside Capire Consulting to undertake a 20-year vision masterplan for the Linear Parklands, which includes its parklands, Capital City Trail Shared User Path (Shared User Path) and community precincts.

The individual reserves that form Linear Parklands are important local open spaces that facilitate a range of community uses such as transport, play, picnicking, informal sports, passive relaxation, recreational walking and cycling and community gardening. The corridor includes remnant rail tracks and structures that reflect the area’s rail history.

The parklands also provide a habitat corridor between Royal Park and the Merri Merri Creek for insects, birds and small mammals; contributing to biodiversity, urban cooling, and improved air quality, via large canopy trees and native plantings.

The City of Yarra’s Yana Ngargna Plan outlines Council’s intent to acknowledge the area’s rich First Nations history and increasing the opportunities to recognise Yarra’s First Peoples. Yarra City Council is committed to increasing the visibility of Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culture, issues and achievements. The masterplan presents a unique opportunity to be a project of reconciliation and ensure all future projects are underpinned by the principles outlined in the Yana Ngargna Plan.

This masterplan presents an opportunity to truly make the Linear Parklands a much-loved community open space asset, balancing the needs of the diverse community and creating a culturally, environmentally, socially rich parklands that showcases its rail history and Wurundjeri culture.

Yarra’s Council Plan 2025-29 sets the priorities for the Linear Parklands Masterplan process providing opportunities and benefits for the community. It outlines strategies and initiatives to achieve the Community Vision for Yarra, and incorporates Council’s Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Four strategic objectives describe Council’s strategic direction;

- Living in the City
- Building the City
- Working and Playing in the City
- Running the City

Where is this happening?

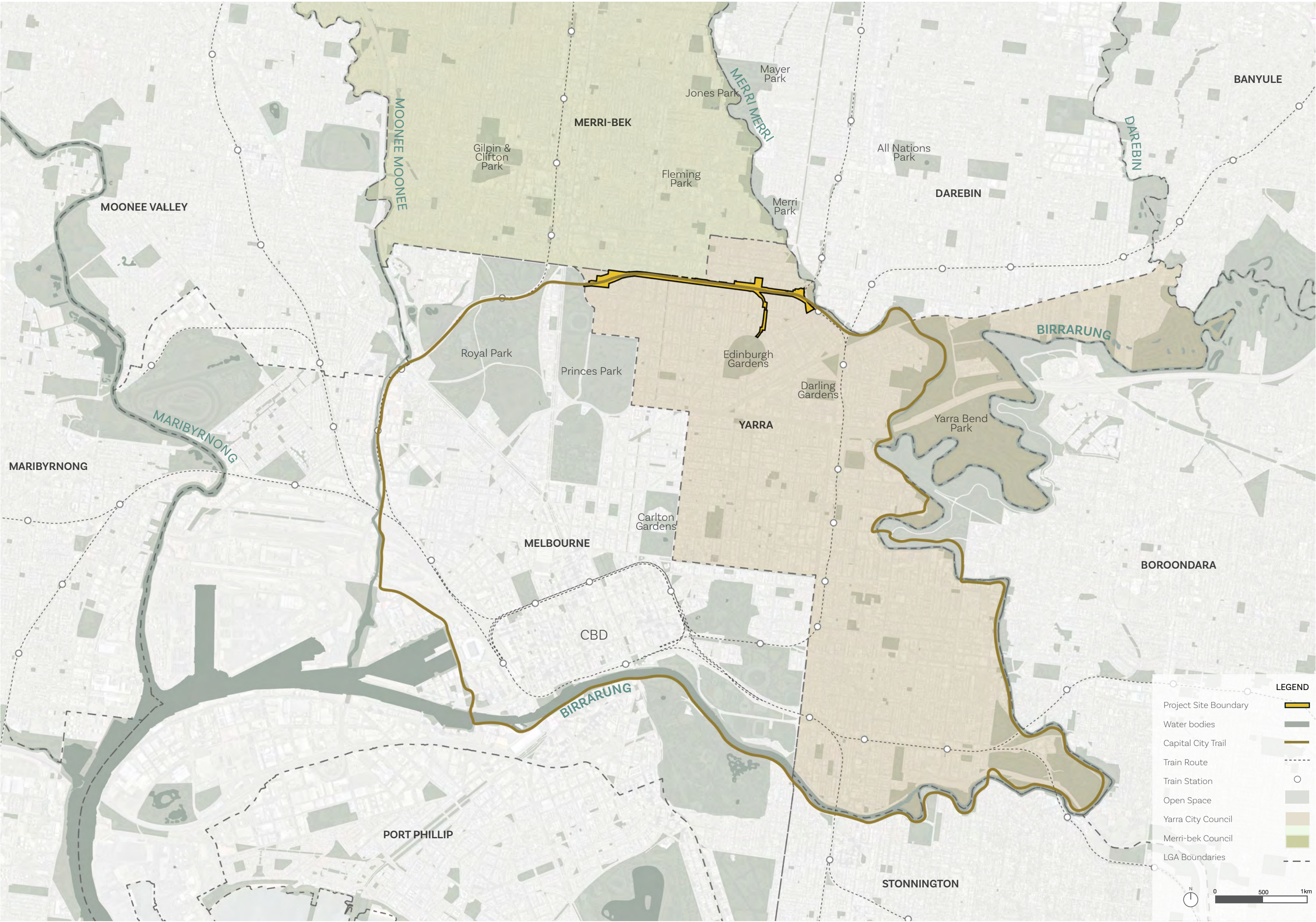
The Linear Parklands Masterplan focuses on the green corridor within the Yarra City Council and Merri-bek City Council, spanning the suburbs of Carlton North, Princes Hill, Brunswick East and Fitzroy North. It also considers the adjacent road space along Park Street, Solly Avenue and Holtom Street West. The site is located on Wurundjeri Country within an urban green corridor that functions as a multifaceted environment providing the local community with large areas of passive open space, varying ecologies, and landscape characters. It is an important transport corridor connecting people across the surrounding suburbs.

The Linear Parklands is a chain of open space reserves that form an important east-west link between Princes Park in Princes Hill, and Rushall Station in Fitzroy North, and also connects southward to Edinburgh Gardens. From a regional positioning, the Capital City Trail running through the park is a Shared User Path which circles the city centre and some inner eastern and northern suburbs. It is 29km in length and is collection of independent trails such as the Merri Creek Trail, Main Yarra Trail, Moonee Ponds Creek Trail and Inner Circle Rail Trail. It is also a designated Strategic Cycling Corridor and links to several other important off and on-road bicycle routes.

The project process

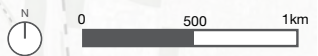
To create a holistic, cohesive plan, this masterplan incorporates information from the Yarra City Council and Merri-Bek City Council documents, stakeholder information, community feedback, Wurundjeri Traditional Owner engagement, local authorities and government authorities.

There is power in design and co-authoring projects closely with community and stakeholders, this will ensure the project can explore new and exciting opportunities. As the project progresses over the next 20 years, continual engagement with community and stakeholders will be vital. As projects are taken forward, these will include more in-depth design work and consultation with local community and stakeholders to shape the extent of changes within the corridor.



LEGEND

- Project Site Boundary
- Water bodies
- Capital City Trail
- Train Route
- Train Station
- Open Space
- Yarra City Council
- Merri-bek Council
- LGA Boundaries



Prior community engagement

Community engagement was undertaken by Council and Chatterbox Projects in 2022 to understand the community’s priorities and needs for the corridor. Activities where people could provide feedback included:

- Survey (available in hard copy and online via Yarra engagement platform)
- Online mapping tool
- Place-based pop-ups x 3
- Written submissions
- Online key stakeholder workshop x 1
- Student workshop x 1

Four key themes emerged following the analysis of the community feedback:

- Green open spaces, trees and the natural environment
- Facilities and spaces for the community to enjoy, come together and connect
- The shared path, its linkages and connectivity and the need to increase safety for all users
- The history of the area including railway heritage, Indigenous and cultural history

Feedback from this consultation process has informed the content of the draft masterplan. A second round of consultation was carried in June 2025 to seek feedback on the draft masterplan. Changes have been made to the masterplan document in response to the feedback received.

Stage 1: Analysis

- This stage included the review of existing consultation documentation, Council and government strategies, site inspections, and the establishment of the Issues, Opportunities and Vision.

Stage 2: Consultation on issues, opportunities and vision

- Engagement with internal and external stakeholders.
- Engagement with Wurundjeri Traditional Owners.

Stage 3: Draft Linear Parklands Masterplan

- Development of Parkland Requirements and Area Plans to bring the vision to life.
- Engagement with Wurundjeri Traditional Owners.

Stage 4: Consultation on draft Masterplan

- Engagement with internal and external stakeholders.
- Engagement with community.

Stage 5: Final Linear Parklands Masterplan

- Finalisation of masterplan incorporating feedback.
- Updates to Wurundjeri Traditional Owners, community and stakeholders.

What is the history of the parklands?

Before European colonisation, the area that we now call Victoria was home to an estimated population of 60,000 or more people. The Naarm (Melbourne) area served as a central location for social and ceremonial gatherings, trade, and the exchange of traditional knowledge.

The northern suburbs of Melbourne were originally inhabited by the Wurundjeri-willam, a clan composed of several extended families. Their name derives from the Aboriginal term wurrun, meaning ‘white gum tree’.

The Wurundjeri-willam lived on Country and gathered food and resources from their surroundings. To do this, they needed to have a deep knowledge of the land and its resources, including plants and animals. They hunted, fished and gathered bush foods in season, but were careful to not take more than the land could provide. They understood the connection between the health of the land and their own well-being.

Today, Linear Parklands is now 3.5 kilometres of passive open space, amenities and a Shared User Path established on the former railway corridor of the Inner Circle Line and the Fitzroy Branch Line. The corridor began at the Coburg Line (now Upfield) in Royal Park and passed under Royal Parade in a cutting, surfacing in Princes Park and then crossing Bowen Crescent into North Carlton. It then ran north-east and east through stations at North Carlton and Fitzroy North, to connect to the Whittlesea Line (now Mernda) where it crossed the Merri Creek. At St Georges Road, a branch line swung south through the Edinburgh Gardens to terminate at a short-lived station just north of Queens Parade, where a goods yard would continue to operate until 1981.

Today, much of the corridor has been retained as public open space, with the Capital City Trail, a major off-street cycling route and Shared User Path, following the corridor. Some parts of the corridor were repurposed for other uses while remaining in public ownership. The physical evidence of the former railway corridor is often fragmentary. In the development of the parklands, the original rails, ties and ballast were removed, but rails were retained at most of the road crossings where they extended outside of the boundaries of the park development project.

The rail sidings at the former storage silos east of Brunswick Street North were left in place, and a series of original stanchions and vertical supporting piers for the overhead lines were retained throughout much of the corridor and reused as stanchions carrying an active power connection between the current Upfield and Mernda lines. Other fragments of railway features exist in the corridor, including concrete footings, remnant timber palisade fences and gates at former pedestrian crossings.

Other buildings and open spaces also reflect the former shape and history of the Inner Circle Railway, such as the former Metropolitan Fire Brigade building at St Georges Road and parts of the Janet Millman Reserve and an undeveloped Director of Housing property east of Brunswick Street North.

Sustainable passenger numbers were never realised along the line, and all passenger services to Fitzroy were withdrawn in May 1892 with the line continuing only as a goods line.

In the 1960s, the railway lands became a battleground between Victorian Railways, developers and residents opposed to new private construction.

There were significant community activism efforts led by the Carlton Association in Carlton North, and later in Fitzroy North, led by Janet and Geoff Millman to preserve open spaces along this former railway corridor. The campaign began in response to proposed industrial development near the former North Carlton Station. Their activism involved lobbying councillors and parliamentarians and even led to physical conflict with developers, resulting in arrests. The movement was one of the earliest instances of open space activism in Melbourne.

In 1970, the Railway Land Action Group formed to lobby councillors and parliamentarians to prevent renewed industrial use of a public reserve. In 1984, the Central Area Access Study and Melbourne Bike Plan identified the railway lands as an off-street path alignment to link other bicycle paths and routes. In 1995, the Inner Circle parklands were gazetted as a reserve for public recreation purposes, and the shared use path received formal designation as part of the Capital City Trail.

In Carlton North, the community campaign led to creation of the Hardy Gallagher Reserve. In Fitzroy North, Janet Millman’s passing led to creation of a Janet Millman Reserve in her honour. The Conservation Management Plan (2022) developed by Lovell Chen and Yarra City Council outlines the broader ongoing community efforts to preserve green spaces and oppose further development in this region of Melbourne.



'Ceremony' (1898) William Barak. NGV Online Collection



Historical Site Image: Grain bins of Fergie Street, North Fitzroy, c. 1970s
Source: Public Records Office Victoria



Site Image: Decommissioned Fitzroy North Station, 1969



Historical Painting - Charles Troedel, Charles Troedel, Merri Creek (Plenty Ranges), 1864



Historical Site Image: 1970s working party of North Carlton residents cleaning up the parklands.
Source: courtesy Jeff Atkinson

Current Parklands Character



1 Hardy Gallagher Reserve



2 North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House



3 Linear Park Reserve - Park Street crossing



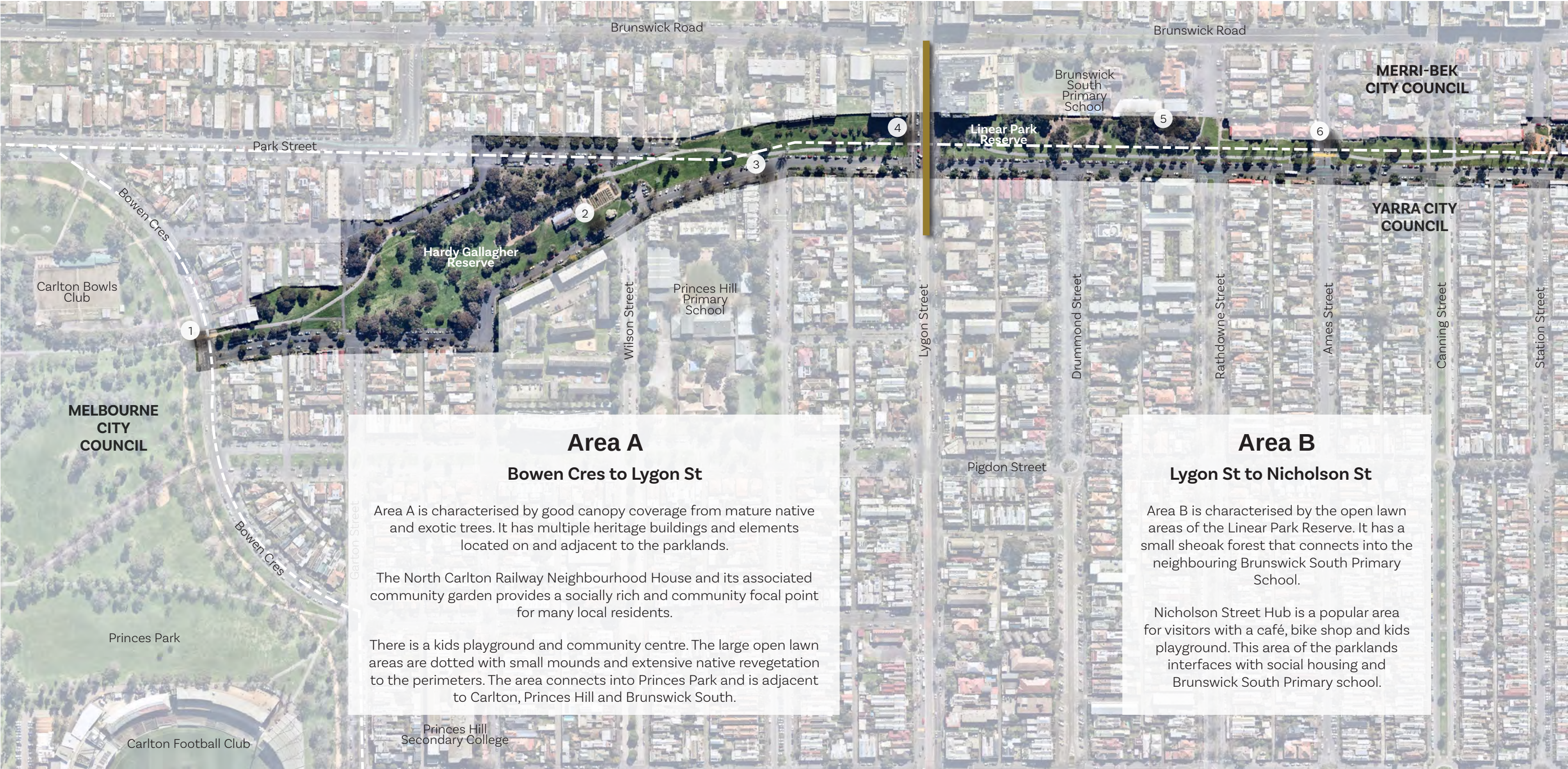
4 Linear Park Reserve - Lygon Street crossing



5 Linear Park Reserve sheoak forest



6 Amess Street crossing





7 Nicholson Street / Park Street hub



8 Remnant platform of Fitzroy North Station



9 Small gathering area outside Ronald McDonald House



10 Janet Millman / Holden Byrne Reserve planting



11 Park Street Reserve basketball court



12 Thomas Kidney Reserve vegetation and mound



Key Project Drivers

Wurundjeri Country

The Linear Parklands are on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri People. The Linear Parklands Masterplan represents an important opportunity to embed Traditional Owner Values and stories within its design and delivery, enabling visitors to strengthen their relationship and be connected to Country. The parklands have a rich history and an important future in facilitating awareness, education and cultural engagement within a diverse community.

We must work with Wurundjeri in an ongoing capacity to enable cultural expression and ensure cultural safety within the parklands, using this project as another opportunity to reconcile and move toward equity through the acknowledgement of our collective history in the landscape. This can be achieved through promoting Wurundjeri stories and interpretation, allowing the landscape to act as a pedagogical experience, and promoting exploration by the user to gain a greater understanding of a living culture.

The realised climate and biodiversity emergency has embodied the demand on natural systems and green space within the dense urban context. It is critical to provide accessible, natural, and green space within the urban framework to protect and nurture biodiversity, ecology, as well as physical and mental health.

The 8 key hallmarks being developed to manage the Birrarung and its parklands as a ‘living and integrated natural entity’ under the Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017 should be adopted to enable co-management with traditional custodians of lands of Birrarung tributaries, including habitat corridors connecting across management boundaries. i.e. Merri Merri Linear Parklands. Hallmarks include:

1. The Birrarung and its lands (tributaries and connecting habitat corridors) are managed as a connected natural system, working beyond and across boundaries.
2. Collaborative governance and management prioritises resourcing and early engagement of Traditional Custodians.
3. The health and healing of the Birrarung, its tributaries and lands of are at the centre of decision-making.
4. Traditional Owners knowledge and values are embedded in planning and management decisions.
5. Each water and land custodian can clearly articulate their relationship with the Birrarung, its tributaries and land and their responsibility to its care.

6. Bring communities on the journey – so that they understand their connection to the Birrarung, its tributaries and lands and have the opportunity to contribute to its care.
7. Place-based needs are assessed against whole-of-river outcomes.
8. The ‘rights’ of the Birrarung, its tributaries and lands (as a living entity) are recognised.

An equitable public realm for a diverse community

The community of users of the parklands is highly diverse, representing a range of cultures, ages, abilities, and preferences. The parklands must contribute to the richness and diversity of this place and any future landscape and recreation upgrades need to create safe, welcoming and flexible spaces for all. The design will forefront uses for those who are often not catered to, including teen women and the elderly, whilst continuing to support the development of children and promote engagement between different user groups.

The Yarra City Council is that of a strong diverse community. With an estimated population of 91,543 inhabitants, ancestry is spread with the highest ancestry groups being English: 33.9% Italian: 6.6% Chinese: 6.1% German 4.2% Greek: 3.8% and Vietnamese: 3.4%. There are 50,057 dwellings across the Yarra City Council LGA with 85.5% of those being privately owned. This data has been sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census.

Safety in public space is a major concern for women and gender-diverse people across this continent, with big impacts on health and wellbeing. According to The Australia Institute, 87% of women have experienced at least one form of verbal or physical street harassment. Exercising in public space can lead to stress and anxiety, which can prevent many from developing social connections and a sense of belonging. The masterplan is focused on how issues of safety and belonging can be addressed in the linear parklands so it is an inclusive space.

Conversations with multicultural groups, community consultation and research such as the YourGround Victoria report (a report focusing on Women and gender-diverse people in public space) have been considered in developing this masterplan.

Transport and movement

Transport is the primary historical and current function of the Linear Parklands. The Conservation Management Plan (2022) developed by Lovell Chen and Yarra City Council outlines the history of the parklands as a rail corridor and the importance in preserving its transportation heritage.

Well connected to its surrounds and a key commuter link, the Linear Parklands is a strategic transport corridor and services a wide catchment, with thousands of users passing through the site per week.

Key user groups are pedestrians, cyclists, and increasingly those on micromobility devices. The major commuter and recreational Capital City Trail Shared User Path connect Princes Park, Merri Creek, Edinburgh Gardens with multiple connection points. There is significant pressure of the trail for different user groups and feelings of safety. The comfort and safety of the trail is critical to ensure it continues to support all users.

To create an equitable public realm for a diverse community, it’s important to prioritise inclusivity and accessibility. This means designing spaces that are safe and welcoming for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. It also means taking into account the various uses of the trail, and ensuring that the overall design outcome is safe, comfortable and accessible. By doing so, we can create a public realm that truly serves the needs of the entire community.

Furthermore, it’s important to consider the various uses of the space and who they cater to. For example, Yarra City Council have highlighted the need to consider how different people use the trail and the park, such as dog walkers with long leads or multiple dogs, or young children who move in a non-linear way across the trail. By understanding the needs and preferences of these different groups, we can design a public realm that accommodates everyone’s needs and promotes equitable access.

To achieve this, we may need to explicitly provide for prioritised groups, such as those with mobility impairments or visual or hearing impairments, by creating places and infrastructure that can be used by people of all ages and abilities, for example safe bike lanes. By doing so, we can create a public realm that is truly equitable and provides equal opportunities for all members of the community to access and enjoy it.

90,114

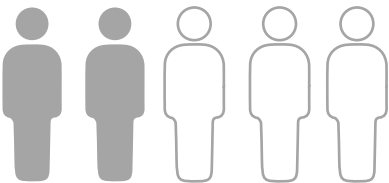
Usual Resident Population in City of Yarra

91,521
Estimated Resident Population

89,061
Enumerated Population

Average household size

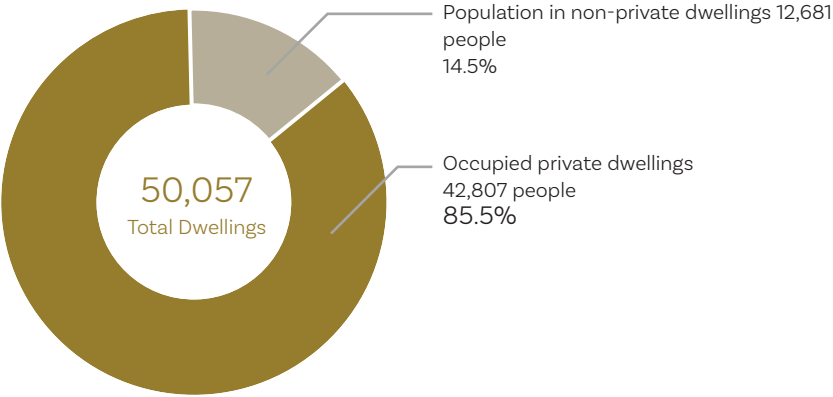
City of Yarra



2 Persons per dwelling in the average household

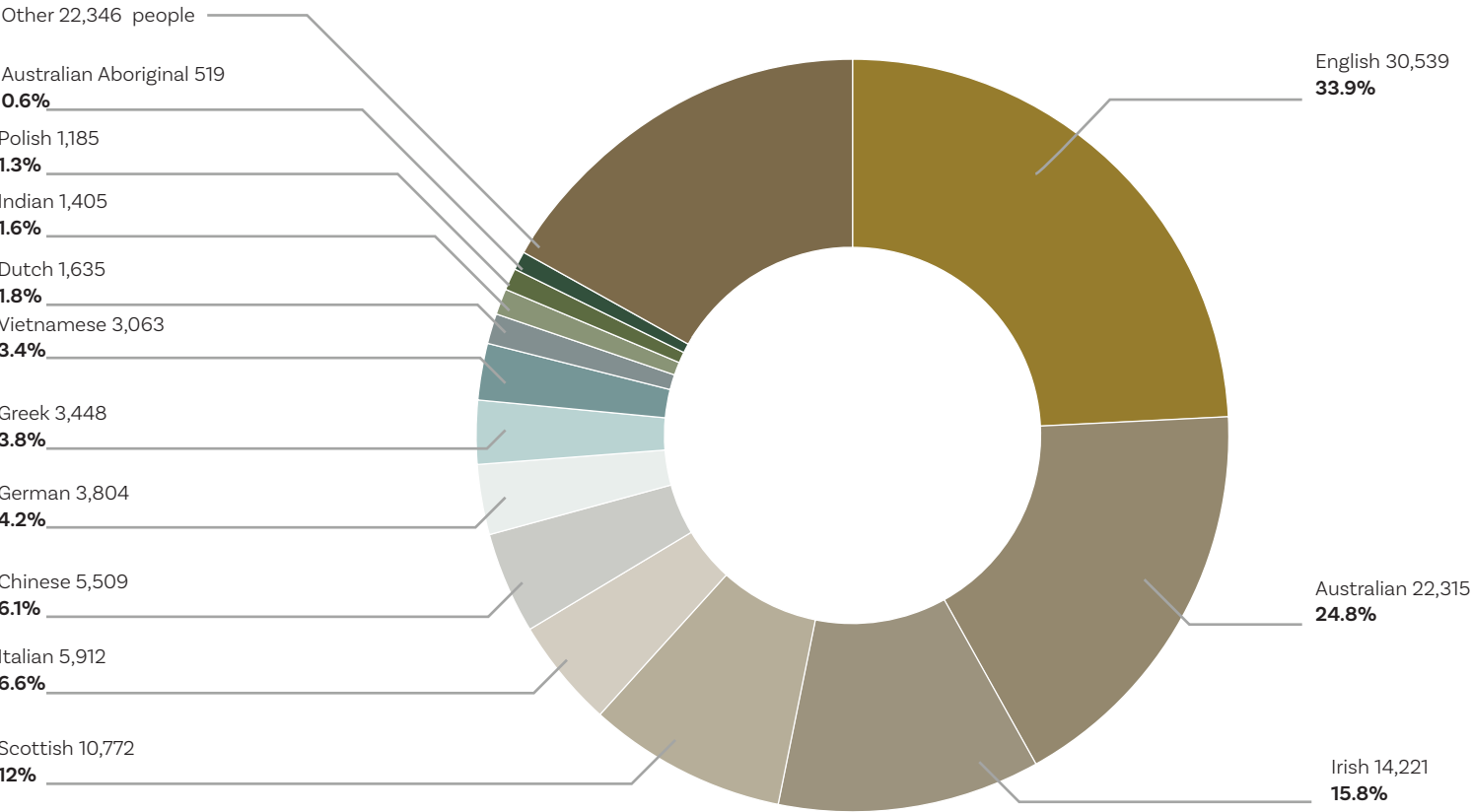
Household type

City of Yarra



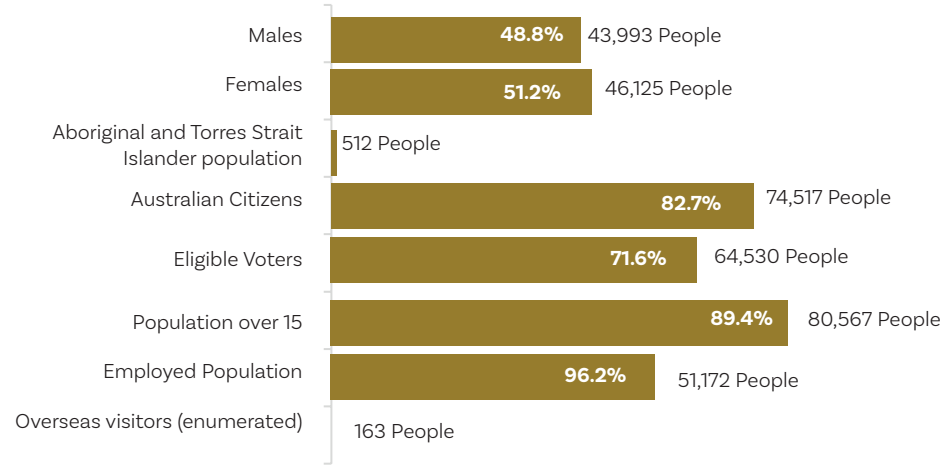
Ancestry

City of Yarra



Population group

City of Yarra



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census



Site photo: Remnant Railway Heritage in Jane Millman Park

2.Observations, Issues and Opportunities

Overview

How to read this chapter

The following chapter will identify and locate key issues and site observations whilst, communicating what we heard from the early community engagement and council. These will be mapped across the parklands in the following themes:

- 

Wurundjeri Country
- 

Access, Active Transport, Safety, and Inclusion
- 

Open Space, Passive and Active Recreation
- 

Culture, Art, Education, and Interpretation
- 

Climate Resilience, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity Health

Each theme will contain the following:

- What we heard from community**

This section identifies and lists key comments from the Yarra City Council Stage 1 Engagement Report. Careful and thoughtful consideration has been given to what we have heard from community so far.

As part of a Stage 2 consultation, the community provided feedback on the draft masterplan, and changes have been made to the document to incorporate this feedback.

The Stage 1 and 2 Engagement Reports are available on Council’s Your Say Yarra webpage for this project.

Yarra City Council’s aspiration

Yarra City Council have key policy documents that the masterplan seeks to align with and meet the objectives of each where possible.

Observations

Observations are based on analysis by the design team. They are a general statement of the way things are. Observations will need to be considered when taking forward any of the opportunities listed in the masterplan.

Issues

An issue in this context can be seen as a current problem or site condition that is identified by the community, council or the design team. Some issues may need priority attention in the masterplan process to achieve a solution or opportunity that will seek to mitigate or solve the issue.

Opportunities

Opportunities have been identified which respond to the identified issues and observations, community and stakeholder feedback and Council requirements.

Observation maps

The maps locate and identify key observations and issues spatially across the parklands to assist in communicating future key opportunities.

Observations, Issues and Opportunities



Site Image: Mark Street Reserve



Site Image: Janet Millman Reserve Seating Area



Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country

What we heard from Wurundjeri Elders

- Important for Wurundjeri culture to be visible across the parklands.
- Create yarning circles throughout the parklands and educate people on the power of having a yarn.
- Utilise locally sourced natural materials in built form and landscape.
- Incorporate signage with educational Wurundjeri history.
- Utilise artwork to bring joy and tell stories.
- Explore opportunities to share stories of Wurundjeri people travelling across Country between Merri Merri, Moonee Ponds and the Birrarung waterways. The interaction with the land and history of camps.
- Incorporate Woi Wurrung language across parklands.
- Bring native plants into the parklands. The Manna Gum and Golden Wattle are important.
- Important to make the parklands comfortable for all abilities, with moments to rest under trees.
- Good to showcase traditional games such as Marngrook that kids can engage with.

What we heard from community

- Acknowledgement and understanding of the Indigenous/Wurundjeri history.
- Planning that recognises the Indigenous heritage.
- More Aboriginal place making, signage or plaques about Aboriginal history, and First Nations cultural and environmental references.

Yarra City Council aspirations

Key aspirations outlined in the brief

- Protect, enhance, and interpret the natural and cultural history of the site and incorporate these elements in visible and meaningful ways.
- Yarra City Council have identified the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation as a key stakeholder and potential co-author of the Linear Parklands Masterplan.

Yarra City Council Yana Ngargna* Plan 2020–2023

*Yana Ngargna means ‘continuing connection’ in Woi Wurrung language.

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung are the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways now known as the Yarra City Council, and their connection to country extends back more than 60,000 years to the dreaming when their creator spirit Bunjil created the land, the people and all living things.

Yarra City Council’s relationships with local Aboriginal organisations and services are an important part of their future story. Yarra’s Aboriginal Advisory Group was established 21 years ago, and the Yana Ngargna Plan was renamed in 2019, the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

Council’s work with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community will be guided by four high-level priority areas:

- Relationships
- Visible culture
- Community health and wellbeing
- Organisational development.

These priority areas are underpinned by commitments and actions, which will be written into annual action plans. All priorities, commitments, contexts and actions are cognisant of the community consultation conducted from mid-late 2018, community feedback received during the public display period in 2019, and ongoing Council projects, commitments and relationships with the community.

The Linear Parklands Masterplan will embed the commitments of these priority areas into opportunities for the parklands.

Observations

- Aboriginal flag artwork on wall at Mark Street.
- Significant areas of native planting across parklands.
- Traditional foods such as pig face and quandong are present in areas of native planting.
- Merri Merri Creek is registered and identified as a significant First Nations waterway.

Issues

- Lack of Wurundjeri or First Nations representation across parklands.

Opportunities

- Co-develop contemporary Wurundjeri Storyline across parklands that communicates and connects users to the notion of journeying across Country throughout the seasons change.
- Make Wurundjeri history, stories, culture visible in parklands landscape and built form.
- Build opportunities for procurement of Wurundjeri services into the masterplan

Observations, Issues and Opportunities



Site Photo - Aboriginal Flag painted on an adjacent wall at Mark Street



Image: Wurundjeri Welcome to Country



Image: Featuring local basalt boulders - Sunshine Skills Hub, McGregor Coxall



Precedent: New Quay Central Park



Precedent: Birrarung Wilam (Common Ground) by Couzens, Vicki; Darroch Lee; Hamm Treahna.



Precedent Image: Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk. 'Maya' Fish Trap Sculpture by Uncle Ken Murray, Darren Wighton and Andom Rendell.



Access, Active Transport and Inclusion

What we heard

The Capital City Trail is the busiest cycling route in Victoria. The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) identifies the trail as a Strategic Cycling Corridor, and it is on the Yarra City Council's New Deal for Cycling Network.

The Capital City Trail (known as the Shared User Path in this masterplan) provides a valuable east-west off-road connection through the north of the inner city, stitches together numerous north-south cycling corridors, and connects schools, parks, train stations, shops and other destinations.

The Shared User Path is well loved and very popular, and individuals and groups to run, walk and ride for commuting, exercise, recreation and a diverse variety of other trip purposes. The path is busy because it provides both a high-quality transport connection with few nearby alternatives, and an amenable recreational trail through open space where people walk dogs, meet, relax and play. Over time the path will continue to get busier, owing to the lack of alternative corridors, Melbourne's growing population, increasing high density development in the area, the growing popularity of e-scooters and e-bikes, and increases in traffic, petrol prices and demand for scarce parking.

While the Shared User Path is well loved and well utilised, there is room for improvement, and the community raised a number of issues during the early consultation process.

Safety

- Safe bike/walking path connections, crossings, and signals: Connections to other paths beyond the Linear Parklands and more cyclist/pedestrian right of way signals at busy intersections.
- The need for better, safer, directional wayfinding and signage.
- Increased safety through lighting and surveillance.

Accessibility

- Greater access to public toilets, drinking fountains and water.
- Make the parklands more accessible to students at nearby schools and their siblings. Collaborate with Brunswick South Primary School (BSPS), they have developed a masterplan.
- Make green space nearby or adjacent to Brunswick South Primary School available during school hours and for school activities.

Yarra City Council aspirations

Key aspirations outlined in the brief

- Improving the functionality, accessibility, and safety of the Shared User Path (possibly including changes to the function or design of adjacent streets and/or crossing points at intersecting streets, where this would benefit park users).
- Delivering a low stress cycling environment for all ages consistent with the Capital City Trail's status as a Strategic Cycling Corridor and the infrastructure design guidance provided by the Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28.
- Achieving a very low stress cycling environment consistent with the corridor' status as part of the Yarra City Council's New Deal for Cycling Network.

Yarra City Council Transport Strategy 2022-2023

- Policy 1: Prioritise walking, cycling and using public transport over car use.
 - All project and policy decisions are to be based on the Yarra City Council's transport mode hierarchy, which elevates the priority of active modes (walking, cycling, scooters). There are actions outlined in the policy document which will be drawn upon in the masterplan.
 - "Mode shift away from cars is required. More space needs to be provided for people travelling by active transport modes".
- Policy 4: Implement a New Deal for Cycling – make the network usable for bike riders and scooter users of all ages and abilities.
 - The New Deal for Cycling is a key commitment to provide appropriate bicycle infrastructure on Yarra's street and path network. It commits to providing safe and comfortable places to ride on key routes, by delivering infrastructure tailored to the volume and speed of traffic present.

Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28

- Aims to increase the number, frequency and diversity of Victorians cycling for transport by:
 - Investing in a safer, lower-stress, better-connected network, prioritising strategic cycling corridors
 - Making cycling a more inclusive experience

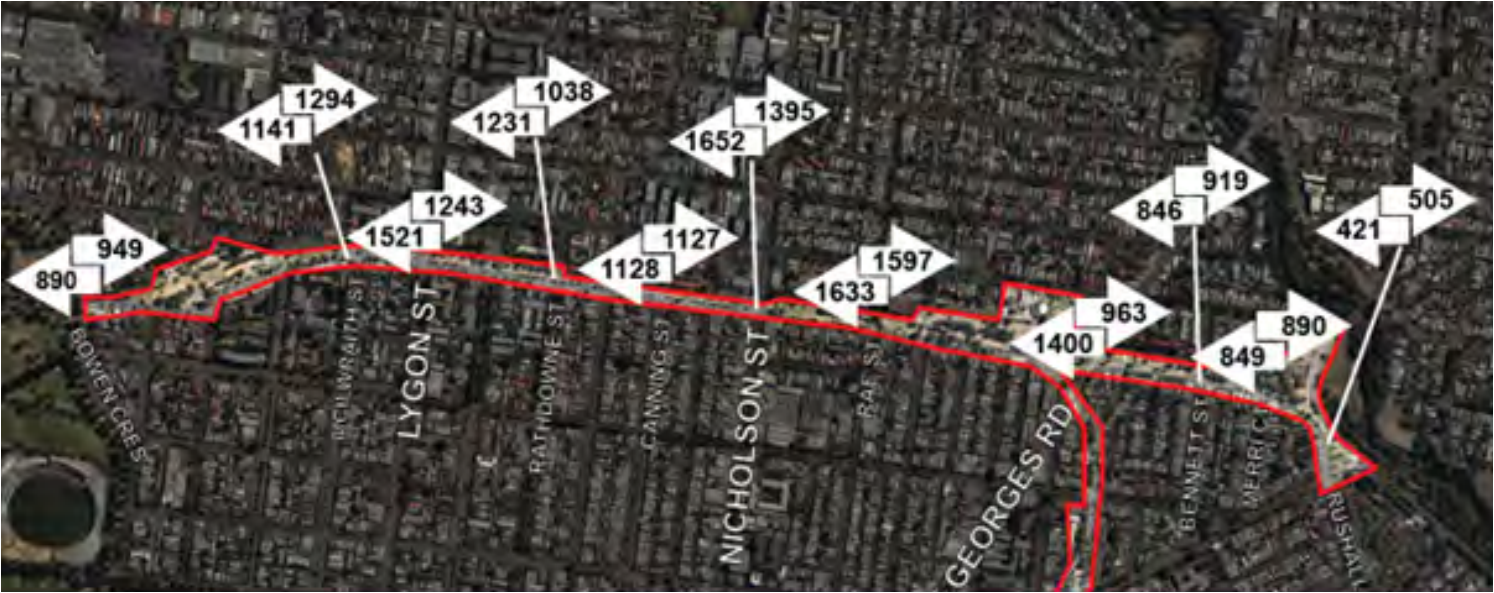
Observations

- The Shared User Path in its current form, particularly during peak travel times, is not suitable to keep pedestrians comfortable and safe while using the path. Due to its popularity and access to other key cycling routes, the Shared User Path caters to more cyclists than pedestrians. For example, on 10 March 2022, 3,047 cyclists crossed Nicholson Street using the shared path compared to 1,222 pedestrians.
- The Shared User Path carries vast amounts of cyclists from the northern suburbs of Melbourne and distributes these cyclists down the main cycling trunk routes into Melbourne CBD.
- Key connections from the adjacent municipalities of Merri-bek and Darebin include St Georges Road, John Street, Heidelberg Road and the Upfield bike path.
- Key corridors through the Yarra City Council towards the Melbourne CBD include Canning Street, Rathdowne Street, Royal Parade, Drummond Street, Napier Street and Wellington Street (via Falconer Street and Delbridge Street).
- The Shared User Path connects all of the key cycling corridors and generates high volumes of bike traffic across its entire length, particularly between Rathdowne Street and St Georges Road.
- Historical data from Bicycle Network's Super Tuesday counts indicate that bicycle traffic on the corridor is consistently growing. At the junction of Canning Street and the Shared User Path, peak period cyclists volumes have increased from 1363 to 1811 between 2017 and 2020 (refer to infographic on the next page).
- Even with bike lanes along the streets that run parallel to the Shared User Path, including Park Street, many cyclists still prefer to use the Shared User Path, particularly for the crossing safety it provides over St Georges Road, Nicholson and Lygon Streets. This is consistent with the Yarra City Council's Transport Strategy that recognises the very high levels of comfort associated with cycling on off-street paths.
- Brunswick South Primary School has also been identified as a contributor to congestion and conflict on the Shared User Path at school pick-up and drop-off times.
- Volumes vary significantly along the length of the corridor and many riders are on the Shared User Path for a short period of time to get between other routes. There is a lack of any other safe/direct connections between the connecting routes.

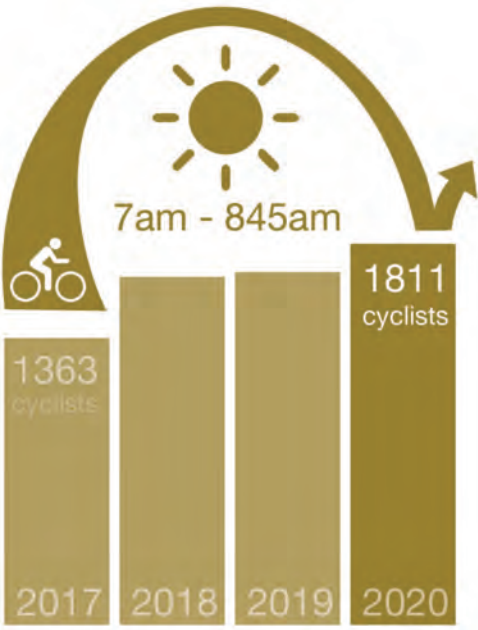
Observations, Issues and Opportunities



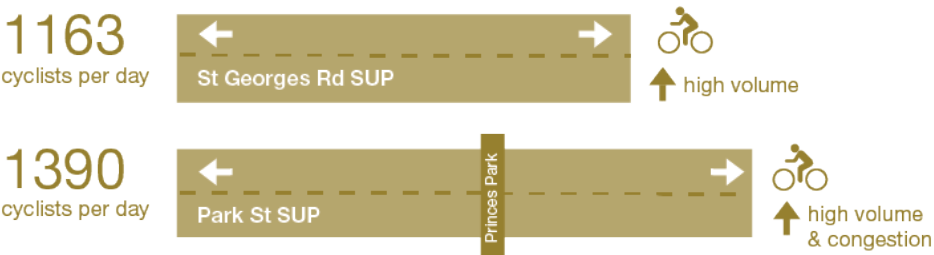
Map - Strategic Cycling Corridor and other key cycling corridors



Map: Linear Park - weekday bicycle volume flow - Artificial Intelligence Road Surveys (AIRS) Bicycle Network



Infographic - Bicycle Network's Super Tuesday counts



Infographic - Bicycle Counters (2024) - Department of Transport and Planning



Access, Active Transport, Safety and Inclusion

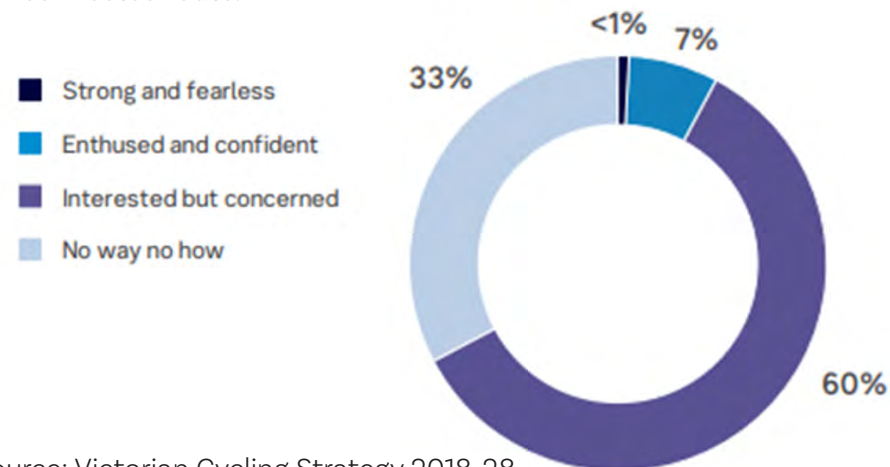
Shared User Path design standards

Best practice documents

- Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28
- Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6A
- Victorian Traffic Engineering Manual Volume 3 – Design Guidance for Strategically Important Cycling Corridors
- NSW’s Cycleway Design Toolbox
- WA’s Shared and Separated Paths guidelines
- Yarra City Council Transport Strategy

Designing for the ‘interested but concerned’

- Enticing people to ride largely depends on the level of comfort and safety provided by cycling infrastructure.
- The Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28 identifies that the ‘interested but concerned’ cohort is the largest segment of the community, and would choose to ride if they had access to a safe, comfortable and connected route.



Source: Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28

- The Victorian Cycling Strategy recognises that off-street paths, like the Shared User Path impart the least traffic stress on riders – less than buffered on-street bike lanes on low-speed streets.
- High levels of bike and pedestrian interactions are however a stressor to both pedestrians and riders.

Guidance on path widths for Shared User Paths

There are various guidance and best practice documents that influence the best design approach for paths.

For Shared User Paths:

- As a minimum, the Victorian Traffic Engineering Manual Volume 3 – Design Guidance for Strategically Important Cycling Corridors recommends a minimum width of 3.5m for busy recreational paths.

Table 4: Shared path widths

	Path Width (m)		
	Local Access path	Commuter path	Recreational path
Desirable width (minimum)	2.5	3.0	3.5
Minimum width – typical maximum	2.5 ⁽¹⁾ -3.0 ⁽²⁾	2.5 ⁽¹⁾ -4.5 ⁽²⁾	3.0 ⁽¹⁾ -4.0 ⁽²⁾

Source: Vic Roads Traffic Engineering Manual Vol. 3, 2016

- Best practice guidelines recommend wider Shared User Paths in recognition of the need to provide comfortable spaces to walk and ride.
- Both NSW’s Cycleway Design Toolbox and WA’s Shared and Separated Paths guidelines suggest minimum shared path widths of 4.0m for major routes.

Operating width of cyclists

- The typical operating width for cyclists is 1m, however, with newer mobility devices like cargo bikes and wheelchair friendly tricycles becoming more widespread, wider operating widths should be considered.
- Shared path width should consider adequate clearance to obstructions and plantings.

Recommended approach for paths within Linear Parklands

To support the function of Linear Parklands, Council’s aspiration is to create a low-stress and enjoyable environment for all users. In determining the appropriate type of path and width, the following needs to be considered:

- Parkland setting which includes a chain of open space reserves for passive and active recreation.
- Adjacent uses such as the playgrounds, the neighbourhood house, the school, and commercial properties, which create regular points where people join and cross over the Shared User Path.
- Regular informal and signalised crossings.
- Current use of the space and any issues.

- Range of users who travel through the parklands, including pedestrians, cyclists, families and groups and dog walkers.
- Current and expected future demand for all users.
- Existing features and constraints (e.g. trees and services).
- Designs that encourage users to consider others, and manage issues such as speed.

With this in mind, a Shared User Path is generally considered to be more appropriate given the open space setting where users need to navigate and slow down at regular intervals where there are intersecting paths/roads and adjacent recreation, play, community and commercial uses.

The desired minimum width of a Shared User Path would be 4.0m, allowing for safe overtaking and pedestrian interactions. Where feasible, wider Shared User Paths should be considered in environments where there are higher numbers of pedestrians and cyclists, increased cross movements, limited sightlines and additional congestion issues. It is however recognised that there are various constraints along the corridor that may limit how wide the Shared User Path can be.

If additional pedestrian paths are required, a minimum 1.5m width is required although a wider path of 2.0m min would be recommended given the amount of pedestrian traffic.

Observations, Issues and Opportunities

Shared User Path case studies

St Georges Road

Upgraded sections of St Georges Road shared path are 4.5m wide.



Ismay Reserve, Homebush

Ismay Reserve, Homebush NSW, is an example of a shared path with 4.0m width that travels through a linear type park similar to Linear Parklands. It provides a connection for people underneath the freeway and links up to transport nodes at Homebush and North Strathfield along with providing links to other active transport corridors.



Mernda bike path (Bell Station)

Mernda bike path uses a 3.0m wide bike path alongside a 1.8m pedestrian path along sections such as around Bell Station, and Shared User Path for the rest of the length.





Access, Active Transport, Safety and Inclusion

Issues

User conflict

- Path is crowded and congested, particularly at peak hour. There are multiple users; pedestrians, bikes and scooters (including e-bikes/ scooters) and mobility scooters generate conflict and a feeling that it is unsafe.
- The current path is already experiencing issues relating to its capacity to safely cater to existing usage, and the number of people walking and riding on the Shared User Path will continue to increase and exacerbate these existing crowding issues.
- The constrained path environment causes pedestrians and cyclists to pass in very close proximity, and the speed and weight differential between people walking and riding (which is exacerbated by the growing usage of e-bike and e-scooters) is intimidating and uncomfortable for all users, but particularly those with mobility issues, low vision, young children and older people.
- Confusion around right of way, some intersections and road crossings are inconsistent, and this creates a hazard for shared cycling/ pedestrian path users .
- Narrow path makes negotiation of space for passing difficult for people wheeling prams or mobility devices, as well as larger recumbent bikes, cargo bikes and tricycles.
- Conflict between cyclists and pedestrians sharing the same path.
- Conflict between high-speed and slow-speed users.
- The crossing of Nicholson Street is of particular concern for safety and the western approach to this crossing has extremely poor visibility.
- Significant queuing of path users at traffic signals results in difficulty crossing major roads.
- Off-street parking reduces usable open space for the parkland and constrains alternative path alignments at road crossings.

Path design

- Path is not designed to accommodate users in a safe/comfortable manner at peak times.
- Inconsistent path quality, path width, and finishes.
- Key constrictions occur at the crossing points over major roads such as St Georges Road, Nicholson and Lygon Streets.
- Landscaping and street clutter reduces effective width of path further in some locations.
- Compounding this safety issue is the splitting and re-joining of separated pedestrian and cycling crossings.

Feelings of safety

- Inconsistent path lighting coverage across Capital City Trail and Park Street generally.
- Sections of the path are very dark, and lighting is needed, particularly at night and early morning.

Opportunities

Safety and comfort

- Widening the Shared User Path to improve safety and comfort.
- Providing additional connections for pedestrians and cyclists to reduce pressure on the Shared User Path by providing a secondary gravel pedestrian path that meanders through the parklands where needed and feasible.
- Increasing the safety and legibility of the Shared User Path for cyclists and pedestrians at signalised and non-signalised road crossings.
- Adding appropriate lighting to problem areas to improve safety
- Improving cyclist, pedestrian, family, and dog walking interaction along the Shared User Path.
- Improving the alignment of the path to reduce conflicts at intersections and queuing areas.
- Realigning the Shared User Path where needed to provide better view lines for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Creating a consistent approach to road crossing in terms of right of way and line marking to increase clarity and reduce confusion.
- Improving crossings and queuing spaces at signalised intersections (e.g. Nicholson Street).

- Providing safe and direct on-road bicycle facilities on the New Deal for Cycling Network for people on bikes to use if they choose to do so as alternatives to the Shared User Path.
- Adding path safety features such as tactile treatments, that tie into the surrounding landscape and slow down bikes and scooters.

Connectivity and accessibility

- Improving connections to the adjacent major cycling routes and better signage and visual cues to reduce conflict points and improve the safety, comfort and legibility of the Shared User Path.
- Increasing ease and legibility of connections to adjacent community uses and public transport.
- Engaging with nearby trip generators (e.g. schools, local businesses) to improve active transport access and choice from the Shared User Path / parklands.
- Improving connections between the Shared User Path and Merri Creek at Rushall Station, particularly the constrained underpass beneath the rail line.

Usage and engagement

- The trail is popular and well utilised and further improvements have the ability to encourage more people to walk and ride for daily transport needs, as well as recreation.
- Supporting increased usage across the day can improve casual surveillance, natural observation and community cohesion.
- Providing rest points and bicycle facilities along paths to encourage wider use.

Design and infrastructure

- Installing bike repair stations.
- Providing alternative pedestrian paths though the corridor to reduce the pressure on the Shared User Path and connect to surrounding neighborhoods and community uses.
- Reducing or repurposing off street car parking in the park land to create more open space to offset widening of the Shared User Path.

Observations, Issues and Opportunities



Site Image - Hardy Gallagher Reserve



Site Image - Lygon Street



Site Image - Amess Street crossing



Site Image - Nicholson Hub blind spot

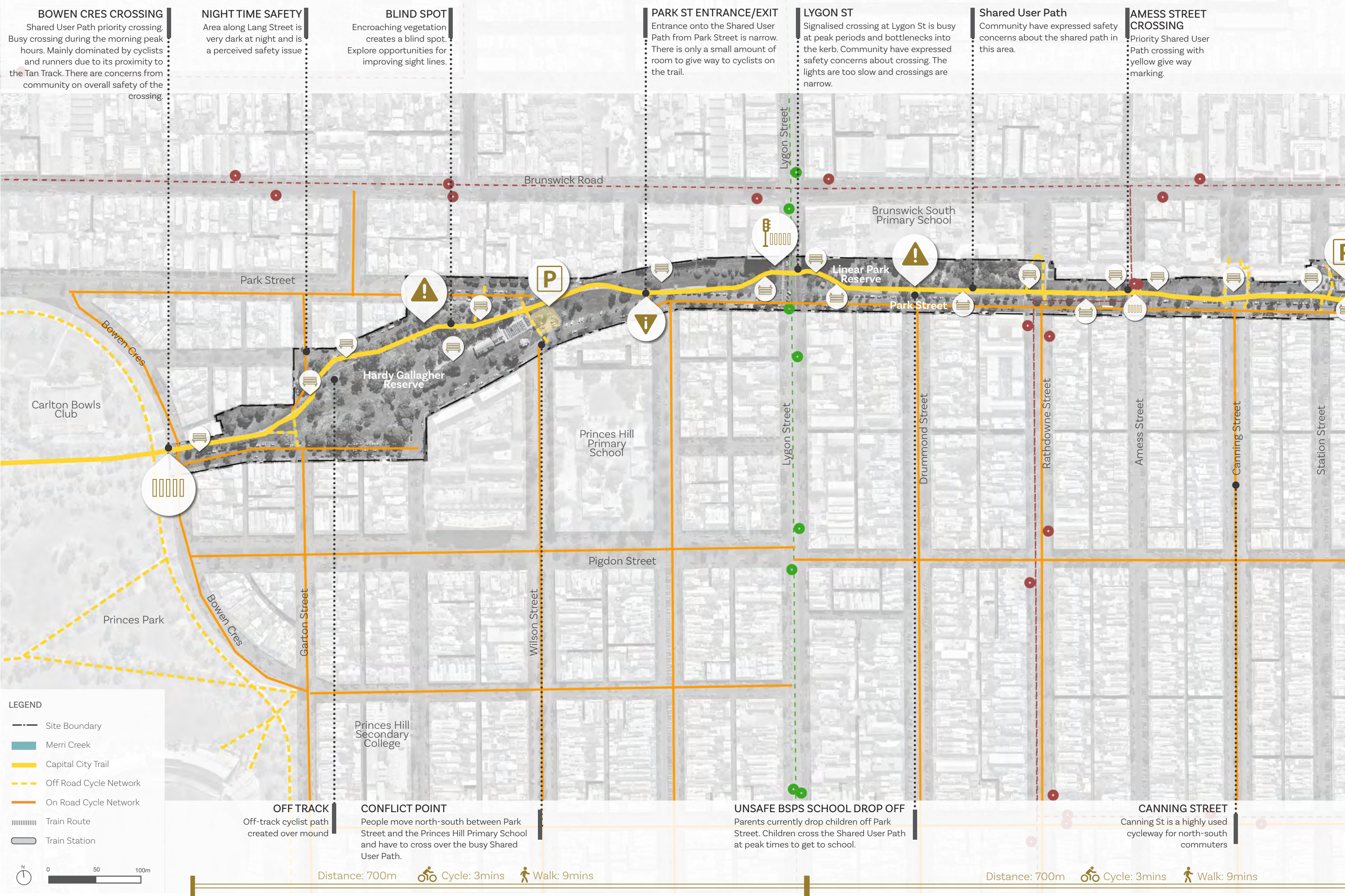


Image: Capital City Trail Royal Park safety lighting



Image: Shaded comfortable Shared User Path

Access, Active Transport and Inclusion Observations, Issues and Opportunities Map



NICHOLSON HUB

Major pedestrian/cycle point of conflict. Shop entrance is in close proximity to Shared User Path creating a blind spot. Linemarking is confusing.

BRUNSWICK STREET NORTH CROSSING

Brunswick Street North crossing has a right of way for Shared User Path. This crossing is busy and does not prioritise pedestrians and cyclists. There is a general lack of consistency in who has right away.

NIGHT SAFETY

Areas around trees between Birkenhead and Best Street are dark and feel unsafe at night.

ST GEORGES ROAD CROSSING

Recent fatality/serious injury crashes in this location and recent part-time 40km/h speed limit reduction. Safety issues caused by vehicles on St Georges Road

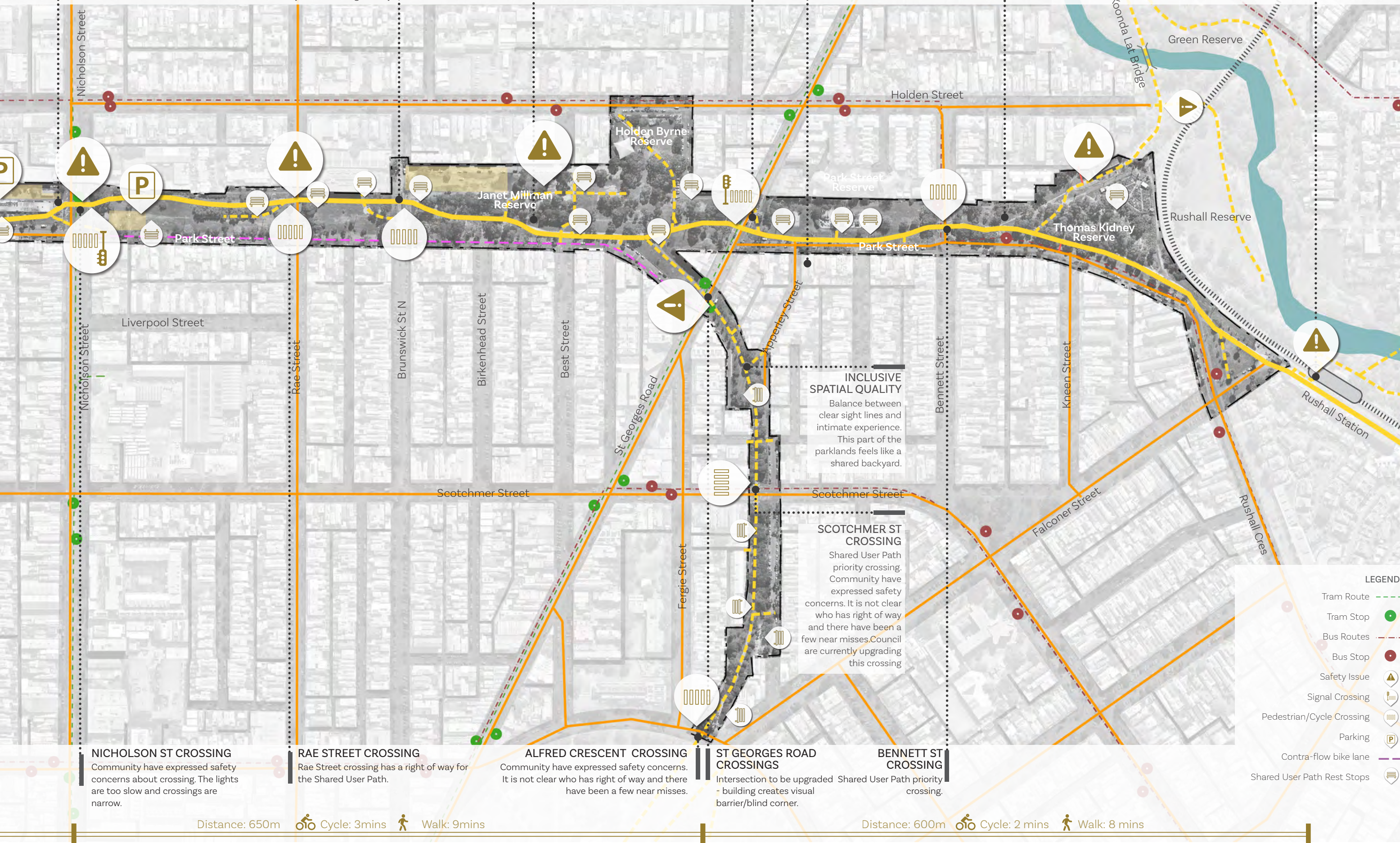
APPERLEY STREET STRATEGIC CYCLING CORRIDOR

SHARED USER PATH CONNECTIONS

Shared User Path connections to Merri Creek are not loved by community. Cyclists move very fast down hill to Koondalat Bridge. There is also poor visibility between Holden Street and Shared User Path.

RUSHALL STATION TUNNEL

Paths are narrow around station and are hazardous to pedestrians. Cyclists are expected to dismount.



INCLUSIVE SPATIAL QUALITY

Balance between clear sight lines and intimate experience. This part of the parklands feels like a shared backyard.

SCOTCHMER ST CROSSING

Shared User Path priority crossing. Community have expressed safety concerns. It is not clear who has right of way and there have been a few near misses. Council are currently upgrading this crossing

NICHOLSON ST CROSSING

Community have expressed safety concerns about crossing. The lights are too slow and crossings are narrow.

RAE STREET CROSSING

Rae Street crossing has a right of way for the Shared User Path.

ALFRED CRESCENT CROSSING

Community have expressed safety concerns. It is not clear who has right of way and there have been a few near misses.

ST GEORGES ROAD CROSSINGS

Intersection to be upgraded Shared User Path priority - building creates visual barrier/blind corner.

BENNETT ST CROSSING

Shared User Path priority crossing.

LEGEND

- Tram Route
- Tram Stop
- Bus Routes
- Bus Stop
- Safety Issue
- Signal Crossing
- Pedestrian/Cycle Crossing
- Parking
- Contra-flow bike lane
- Shared User Path Rest Stops



Open Space, Passive and Active Recreation

What we heard from community in 2022-23

Shade, amenity and maintenance

- New and improved facilities and spaces was by far the most popular response. This included the facilities that people thought needed improving including public toilets, drinking fountains and seating.
- More BBQ facilities, additional seating, and shaded areas to create more of a picnic feel.
- More seating such as recliner seats to relax on and read and bench seats for resting, particularly for older persons.
- Water play, dog facilities, bike repair stations, lighting and historical information and display.
- A community garden and opportunities for community members to grow and consume (lemons, olives, and herbs).
- A community kitchen garden in collaboration with Brunswick South Primary School to complement the busy Rushall Community Garden
- Open and/or green space: Green, lush, grassed areas for picnics and more low-lying garden beds with softer landscaping to provide attractive spaces for all to enjoy.
- More space and amenities for dogs and dog owners.
- More regular maintenance of open space areas.
- More shade from shelters and trees.

Sports and recreation facilities

- New sport facilities such as outdoor gym equipment, ping pong tables.
- Exercise and recreational facilities: Gyms, courses, courts, adult obstacle course or outdoor gym equipment that is safe and accessible to community members of all abilities and fitness levels.
- Play options for older kids such as a half basketball court, volleyball court, soccer nets or a climbing course and disk-golf amenities as an inclusive option for intergenerational play.
- Tracks and/or trails: More recreational bike and jogging paths, surrounded by green plants and trees for those who seek respite and a connection with nature. Consider a pump track.

Play

- Nature-based play: Designated nature obstacles and play areas for children. Activate the space in natural ways such as by leaving large logs from nearby trees for seating and play.
- Playgrounds and child-friendly spaces: Playgrounds, child-friendly spaces, and options. Spaces which include elements such as water features or a water park, cubby house, and in-ground trampoline.
- More play areas.

Yarra City Council's aspiration

Key aspirations outlined in the brief:

- Proposing cost-effective upgrades to existing park facilities and the addition of new facilities and furniture to improve user experience.
- Optimizing the location, size and variety of passive and active recreation nodes including playgrounds, picnic areas and small-scale sport facilities (boccie, basketball, etc.) across the parklands.

Yarra City Council's Open Space Strategy 2020 declares the importance of open space offering providing benefits in:

- Physical health
- Fitness and wellbeing
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Social connectedness
- Urban heat island effect
- Biodiversity Events and arts
- Mitigation
- Cultural heritage and character

Overall directions from the policy are:

- Improve the quality of existing open spaces
- Provide open space within easy walking distance of everyone
- Assist to mitigate urban heat island effect
- Improve community health and wellbeing
- Increase urban greening

There are also directions to upgrade playground and picnic facilities in the eastern portion of the parklands.

Observations

- Playgrounds are dated and need repairs and upgrades.
- Generally, the open space offering is quite open and exposed to the both the Shared User Path and Park Street.
- There is a lack in variety of sport facilities across the parklands.

Issues

- There is not enough access to public toilets. There is a need for more public toilets that are accessible, well-maintained, and open extended hours. Toilets at the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House are locked out of hours. Suggested locations for new public toilets: near all playgrounds, North Carlton Neighbourhood House, and Lygon Street, Nicholson Street and St Georges Road.
- There is a lack of seating, gathering/picnic areas and rest stops across the parklands.
- There is not enough shade across the parklands..
- There is a lack of public amenity and facilities.
- It isn't clear where the off-leash zones are. Safety is a concern for parents with dogs around their children.
- Competing demands on open space. There is limited space to provide the full range of facilities and infrastructure that would realise the suggestions from all stakeholders in the community.

Observations, Issues and Opportunities



Site Photo - Heritage birch trees and open lawn



Site Photo - Existing amenity, BBQS and picnic tables



Image - Edinburgh Gardens



Site Photo - Park Street Reserve playground



Image - Activated edge as an invitation, Pimelea Park, McGregor Coxall



Image - Informal timber seats



Open Space, Passive and Active Recreation

Opportunities

Amenities and facilities

- Increase quantity and quality of amenity and facilities, shelters, BBQs, shared areas, water and nature play, toilets, cycling amenities.
- Cluster amenities to provide clear destinations for different scales of groups, including individuals, and different needs.
- Identify demand for any other additional amenities.
- Diversify the offering of sports facilities such as outdoor fitness stations.
- Identify opportunities to upgrade park facilities to increase their recreational offering.
- Investigate the co-location of amenity with adjacencies such as local primary schools.

Vegetation and landscaping

- Increase understory vegetation throughout open space offering to delineate spaces and provide a visual buffer between the Shared User Path and Park Street.
- Increase tree canopy cover.
- Assess the current garden spaces and improve their size and accessibility.
- Enhance the aesthetics of the garden spaces to make them more appealing to the community.
- Improve the visual appeal of bushland spaces through better garden design.
- Add more horticultural aspects to the parklands, not just bushland garden bed.
- Adopt the ‘Bring Nature Back’ (BNB) (rather than re-wilding) program.
- Restoring and enhancing ecological function of the endangered Plains Grassy Woodland Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).
- Creating local indigenous seed orchards to provide opportunities for collection of seed of known provenance to facilitate future BNB projects in Yarra and across boundaries.
- Conserve locally rare or threatened flora through investment in flora seed conservation through seed orchards plantings.
- Increase habitat connectivity by creating stepping-stone links between larger vegetated areas to enable fauna movement, particularly small woodland birds (Merri Merri to Royal Park).

- Restoring ecosystems will help to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Planting of Victorian evergreen trees e.g. Yellow Box, Yellow Gum and Red Ironbark can assist in mitigating urban heat island effect as well as climate adaptive species.

Dog-friendly spaces

- Provide enclosed and secluded spaces and facilities for dogs to address community concerns.
- Consider the preferences of community members who are uncomfortable with dogs when designating areas for dogs off-leash.

Sustainability

- Apply circular economy principles and sustainable procurement practices in the construction and maintenance of the parklands.
- Ensure that the community sees themselves reflected in the parklands through their design and environmental sustainability.
- Explore the possibility of incorporating underground water storage in the parklands to improve water conservation and management.
- Communal food plots for locals to enjoy.
- Planting of edible native foods (note all food species to be grown above ground due to lead content in ground).

Accessibility

- Identify areas for public toilets to ensure appropriate walking distances for users.
- Improve access to the Rushall Community Garden to increase engagement with it.
- Make the Rushall Community Garden more visible to encourage community participation.
- Create congregation points or shelters throughout the parklands to break up the space and provide areas for people to gather.
- Ensure that these spaces are flexible and varied in architectural design, not just limited to BBQ shelters.

Observations, Issues and Opportunities



Image - Nature play elements and furniture_Lizard Log, McGregor Coxall



Image - Nature play elements and furniture_Lizard Log, McGregor Coxall



Image - Shelter w/ BBQ facilities_Lizard Log, McGregor Coxall



Image - Community infrastructure, Camperdown Commons Pavilion

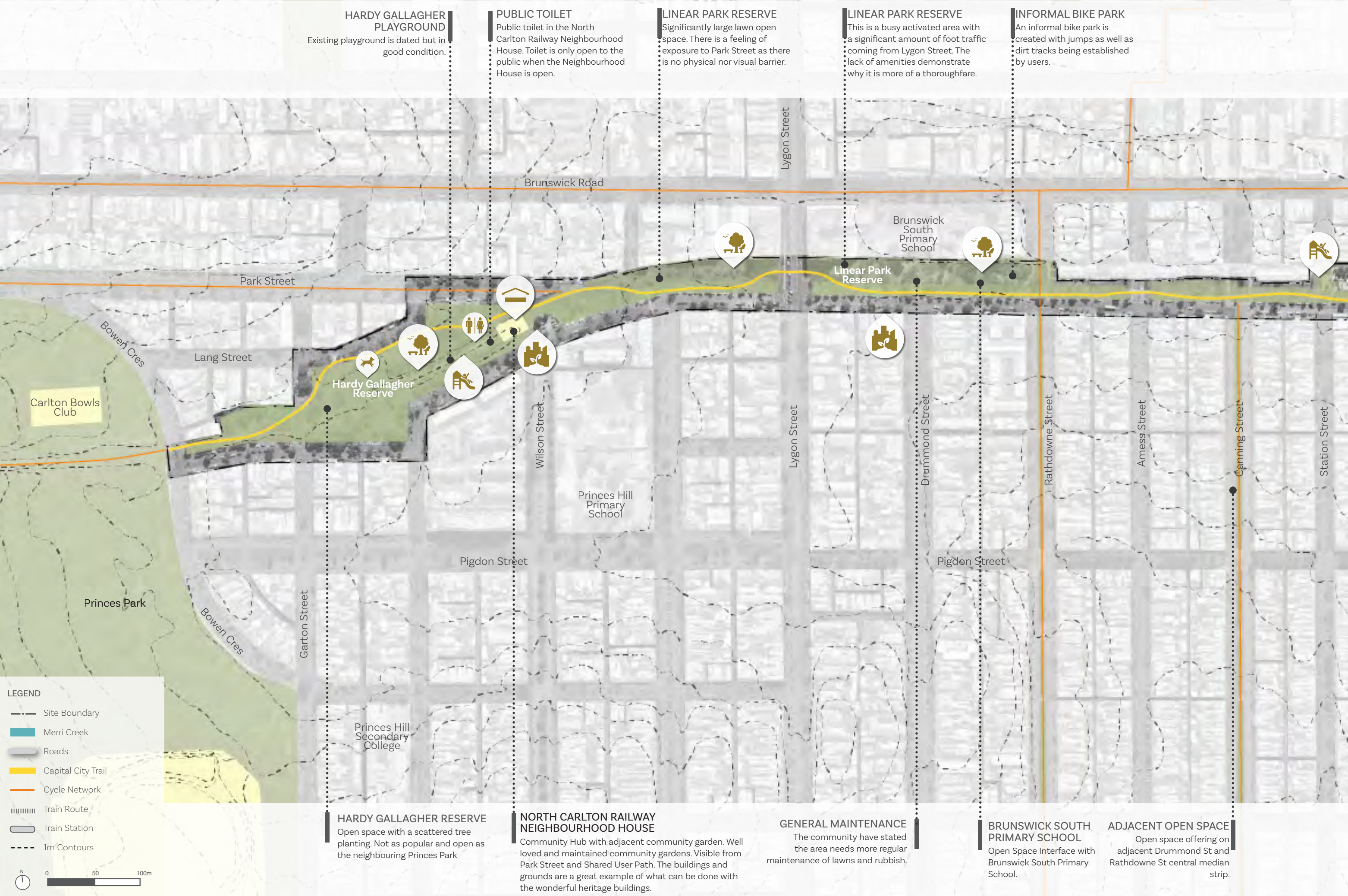


Image - Trail infrastructure Laurence S Rockefeller Preserve



Image - Kwinana Outdoor Youth Space, Perth

Open Space, Passive and Active Recreation Observations, Issues and Opportunities Map



NICHOLSON HUB

The hub offers cafe seating as well as a playground. There is dated equipment within the playground but still proves to be extremely popular.

JANET MILLMAN RESERVE

Centralised dog off-leash with dense mixed native panting with a variation of grasses and trees. No fencing offered but still has a successful barrier.

HOLDEN BYRNE RESERVE

Offers a large playground, picnic facilities and a pavilion for shelter. The playground proves popular due to it being easily accessible.

PARK STREET RESERVE

This area affords two large playgrounds as well as a sandpit, basketball court and centralised pavilion. There is lack of shade over playgrounds.

THOMAS KIDNEY RESERVE

Reserve offers small trails, exploration and shade.

MERRI CREEK

Significantly important for the Wurundjeri First Nations People.



FITZROY NORTH STATION

Large open space with picnic facilities including benches and barbecues. All facilities are not accessible friendly.

MARK ST RESERVE

Small pockets of open space line along the bike path down Mark Street. The reserve feels more like a thoroughfare rather than a reserve.

RUSHALL GARDEN

Rushall Garden is part of the North Fitzroy Community Gardens Group. It is a garden with both individual allotments and space for communal gardening projects.

LEGEND

- Parks and Gardens
- Nat/Semi Natural Open Space
- Toilet
- Playground
- Meeting Area w/ Seating
- Cafe
- Community Hub
- Larger dog off-leash areas
- Urban Agriculture



Climate Resilience, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity Health

What we heard

- Increase in native vegetation and wildlife.
- Prioritise native trees, shrubs, and plants to provide shelter and habitat for wildlife.
- Creating a native corridor with a focus on native species and vegetation, with a focus on bee-friendly flowers, a bee apiary, bare soil for native stingless bees to burrow and bee-hive classes and a composting hub or worm farm.
- Continue to develop the parklands as a nature corridor and heatwave buffer in a time of climate change. Suggested location: Space linking Royal Park to the creek, and towards Yarra Bend.

Yarra City Council's aspiration

The parklands are an important open space asset for a range of reasons including:

- Providing a habitat corridor between Royal Park and the Merri Creek for insects, birds and small mammals;
- Contributing to biodiversity, urban cooling, and improved air quality, via large canopy trees and native plantings.

Yarra Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2024

Yarra City Council recognizes the climate emergency as an unprecedented challenge. It requires large-scale action across all levels of government, businesses and the community to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to living on a hotter planet. This transition needs to occur in a fair and socially equitable way, with the most vulnerable people having the least capacity to respond. The objectives within this plan include the following:

- Achieve zero-net emissions across the entire Yarra community by 2030, and accelerate the removal of excess carbon emissions.
- Enable our community to take effective climate action pushing for urgent change and changing the way we live and work.
- Ensure our community is safe, healthy and resilient – especially those most vulnerable to severe climate impacts.
- Create a city that continues to adapt to a changing climate and is ecologically healthy for all species.
- Collaborate and advocate with others in the climate emergency movement to increase our impact.

Yarra City Council Nature Strategy 2020-2024

The vision for this strategy is as follows:

“The land within the Yarra City Council supports a natural environment that is diverse, connected and resilient. Its custodians, the Wurundjeri/Woi wurrung people, continue to care for Country as is their traditional lore. Yarra’s residents and visitors appreciate and enhance the natural and cultural values of the land and water, contributing to benefits for all.”

The goals within the strategy include:

- Goal 1: A more diverse, connected and resilient natural environment.
- Goal 2: People appreciate and seek to enhance the natural values of the Yarra landscape.
- Goal 3: Nature is considered core council business.
- Goal 4: Innovation, communication and collaboration are the cornerstones of nature-focused programs.

The landscape of Yarra has been shaped by its geology. It sits at the junction of two distinctly different geological regions that in this case also geographically align with two bioregions. These bioregions are generally separated by the Yarra River:

- The Victorian Volcanic Plain, characterised by its basaltic rock and clay soils, formed by volcanic eruptions to the west of Melbourne covering the majority of the municipality; and
- The Gippsland Plain Bioregion: associated with sedimentary, layered geology of Silurian silt stones, Tertiary aged sandstones and Quaternary aged basalt. Each of these layers is much older than the western plains basalt and is derived from times when Victoria sat within a deep ocean basin.

Observations

- Site mostly grades from west to east, with a low point observed between Rae Street and Brunswick Street North.
- Grated pit observed adjacent to Park Street, assumed to be a stormwater pit to collect stormwater flows.
- Landscape appears to be mostly turfed with interspersed trees.
- Linear Parklands traverses a broader catchment and appears to only receive stormwater flows from its local catchment.

Issues

- Low biodiversity value in parts of the parklands.
- There is areas prone to flooding across the parklands. A flood modelling analysis will drive locations of WSUD and flood mitigation opportunities.
- Throughout the reserve there are several poorly positioned tree planting adjacent to HV power-lines that present little value due to the intensive pruning needed to maintain safe distances.

Observations, Issues and Opportunities



Site Photo - Sheoak forest



Site Photo - Native vegetation and canopy cover



Site Photo - Grasslands



Precedent Image - Pimelia Parklands, McGregor Coxall



Image - The local galah



Image - Eastern Banjo Frog



Climate Resilience, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity Health

Opportunities

Climate resilient infrastructure and Integrated Water Management

- Water harvesting and treatment scheme – Pump water from Merri Creek through a constructed urban wetland in the eastern corner of the Linear Parklands. This system would operate as a recirculation system, harvesting from Merri Creek can be treated and stored for irrigation of the parklands, eventually returning to Merri Creek as cleaner water.
- Ambitious proposal: creating a constructed water feature through the Linear Parklands. This could be an ephemeral waterway or constant flow stream of water harvested from Merri Creek.
- Passively irrigated street trees along Solly Ave and Park Street. These systems can be retrofitted immediately upstream of existing stormwater gully pits or using kerb cut-outs.
- Incorporating Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) along the Linear Parklands. Such interventions could include swales, bioswales, passively watered trees and bioretention pods.
- Passively irrigated street trees in parking lots along Park Street and at the termination of no through roads along the Linear Parklands.
- Maximising porous surfaces. If the intention is to increase the hardscape, we recommend include porous surfaces (pavers, concrete, gravels, etc.) to ensure the window to groundwater and soil moisture recharge is not broken.
- The opportunity to leverage off existing infrastructure to collect and harvest rainwater, generate power through solar power opportunities and cool the landscape through shade structures.
- Solar powered new infrastructure.
- Flood detention zones in areas of low recreational and biodiversity value.
- Cool the landscape with shaded trees. This will not only make a significant difference now but with future heat events predicted as well as managing flood events, it will mitigate the damage caused.
- Community composting.
- Edible produce/communal garden schemes.

Biodiversity health

- Include habitat features: Nesting boxes, scrub, shrubs and groundcovers, and boulders and rocky outcrops, insect hotels.
- Maximising native / endemic planting (trees, shrubs and groundcovers). Native species would be well adapted to the existing climatic conditions and soils.
- Ecological connection. Connecting patches of native vegetation along the corridor towards Merri Creek. The objective is to extend the ecological corridor into the Linear Parklands. It is critical to ensure that we provide complex habitats of vegetation with varying heights. We aim to provide small animals area for refuge to hide from cats, dogs and humans.
- Create animal connection across roads – potential to include animal ladders / bridges spanning across the road. This would allow possums and other arboreal animals to navigate along the corridor safely.
- Inclusion of ephemeral waterways and water bodies within the parklands.

EVC (Ecological Vegetation Class) plantings

EVC plantings involve the restoration or creation of specific plant communities that are representative of particular ecological conditions and landscapes. This practice aims to re-establish native flora and enhance habitat quality for local wildlife, thereby improving biodiversity and ecological health. EVC plantings are guided by ecological mapping and classifications, ensuring that the selected species are well-suited to the local environment, including soil types, hydrology, and climate conditions. These plantings play a crucial role in conservation efforts and are used in land management practices to restore degraded areas and enhance ecosystem services.

- Include a palette of historic endemic EVC planting to the area. These plantings will be of the Plains Grassy Woodland EVC:55 as pre 1750 habitat suggests.

Climate adaptive planting

Climate adaptive planting refers to the strategic selection and placement of plant species that are resilient to changing climate conditions, such as temperature fluctuations, altered precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events.

This approach focuses on enhancing ecosystem resilience and ensuring sustainable horticultural practices by choosing plants that can thrive under anticipated future climates. It often involves utilising native species or genetically diverse cultivars that are better suited to withstand stressors, thus promoting biodiversity, soil health, and carbon sequestration while mitigating the impacts of climate change.

- Include biodiverse and climate adaptive plantings with a provenance combination approach. Seed for a local species is sourced from varying climates to build resilience by using 70% local seed, 20% from hotter and drier climates (preferably 10% from a 2050 analogue location and 10% from a 2070/90 analogue location), and 10% from a wetter, cooler climate.
- Increase the visual amenity of the space utilising climate adaptive (including non-endemic) herbaceous perennial plantings to diversify plant stock and create a more visually spectacular landscape.

Observations, Issues and Opportunities



Image - Community composting



Image - Fruit Trees



Image - Grey-headed flying fox



Precedent Image - Formalised water treatment pond, MONASH Peninsula Campus



Image - Wetland for water treatment and detention



Image - Harvesting roof water for reuse

Climate Resilience & Biodiversity Health Observations, Issues and Opportunities Map



NICHOLSON HUB

Small to medium size exotic and native tree species with small amounts of isolated understorey planting in poor quality. Minimal planting around cafés and shops.

HOLDEN ST RESERVE

Healthy and established native tree planting within the reserve. Significant amount of bird life.

PARK STREET RESERVE

Scattered plantings of native trees and isolated understorey planting. Area provides some shade for playground amenities but has no biodiversity significance.

THOMAS KIDNEY RESERVE

Established native trees with under storey planting found in this area on mounded topography. Under storey planting is sparse in areas. A significant amount of bird life is also found in the area. There is a small dry river creek bed. It is connected to a thriving community garden.

MERRI CREEK

Significantly important waterway for the Wurundjeri First Nations People



AREA OF LOW BIODIVERSITY

JANET MILLMAN RESERVE

Dense healthy native vegetation with good canopy cover and diverse understorey. There is a visual barrier between the Shared User Path and Park Street.

MARK ST RESERVE

Mixed plantings at Mark Street Reserve with well established native trees lining the cycle trail.

WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN

LEGEND

- 1m Contours
- Tree Canopy
- Parks and Gardens
- Nat/Semi Natural Open Space
- Re-vegetation Projects
- WSUD
- Biodiversity Hotspots



Culture, Public Art, Education and Interpretation

What we heard

Railway history

- Recognition of the railway history: Signage, information, plaques, or artwork referencing the railway history, railway tracks, inner circle, linear trains, tram and station.
- Ensuring that future upgrades along the parklands carefully considers and integrates with the remnant railway tracks and other structures.

Signage and wayfinding

- Recognition of the cultural and natural history: Signage, plaques or artwork referencing significant history, industrial, post settlement and European heritage.
- Information and signage about heritage buildings and significant trees and plants.

Cultural offering

- Outdoor cinema and pop-up events: Re-establish or continue the open-air movie nights in the summer evenings. More pop-up events run by locals for the benefit of the broader community.
- Markets and stalls: Opportunities for local community groups to have stalls and buy/sell fresh produce, crafts, vintage clothes, and books. This would create a fun community vibe and would generate revenue or exposure for local participating businesses.
- Music and festivals: Create a dedicated space (such as an amphitheatre) to host music events. Regular performance opportunities for local musicians and artists.
- Food vans, pop-up cafés and bars: Re-establish or continue the food vans in Summer and warm weather for a fun and temporary way to activate the space on weekends or evenings. Encourage some small ‘pop’ up cafés to attract more people.

Yarra City Council’s aspiration

Key aspirations outlined in the brief:

- Interpret the natural and cultural history of the site and incorporate these elements in visible and meaningful ways.
- Explore opportunities to implement the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan within broader parkland upgrades.

Observations

- Cluttered and non-coordinated use of materials, furniture, signage across the different municipalities, create disconnected experience of corridor and lack of identity.

Issues

- Lack of cultural representation of the diverse communities surrounding the parklands.
- Lack of interpretation, engagement and education opportunities.
- Lack of public art.
- Lack of signage and wayfinding.
- Heritage elements that need to be preserved and potentially compromise safety or become visual clutter in the landscape are not read as significant heritage items.

Opportunities

Community engagement and education

- Ensure community see themselves in the built form and program of the parklands.
- Increasing community awareness through educational programs.
- Establish environmental and cultural educational programs for the broader community and school groups.
- Provide ways for the community to better engage with and learn about the history of the parklands and its neighbouring communities.

Heritage and art

- Utilise walls as opportunity for art.
- Celebrate and frame specific heritage items that are otherwise lost or forgotten in the parklands.
- Make stories of the Merri Merri Creek legible and accessible.

Flexible community spaces and ownership

Investigate the need for community garden space or other types of edible garden programs to engage a broader range of community.

- Create flexible spaces that can accommodate different user groups.
- Further enhance community ownership of the parklands, creek and its active transport corridor.

Signage and wayfinding

- Improve signage and wayfinding through cohesive holistic strategy.

Observations, Issues and Opportunities



Site Photo - Rushall Garden



Site Photo - North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House



Site Photo - Remnant of heritage train station



Image - Revegetation and community engagement

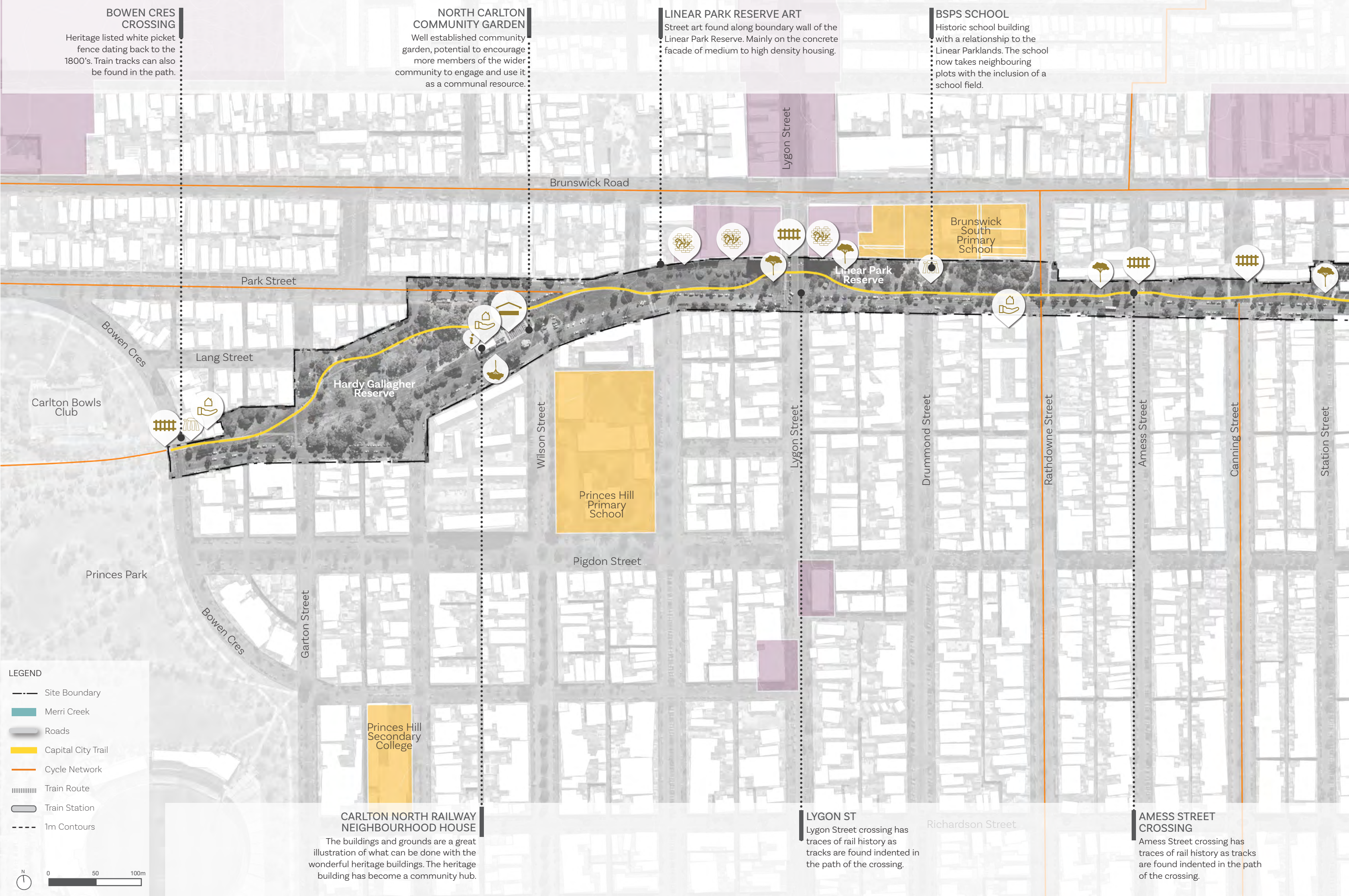


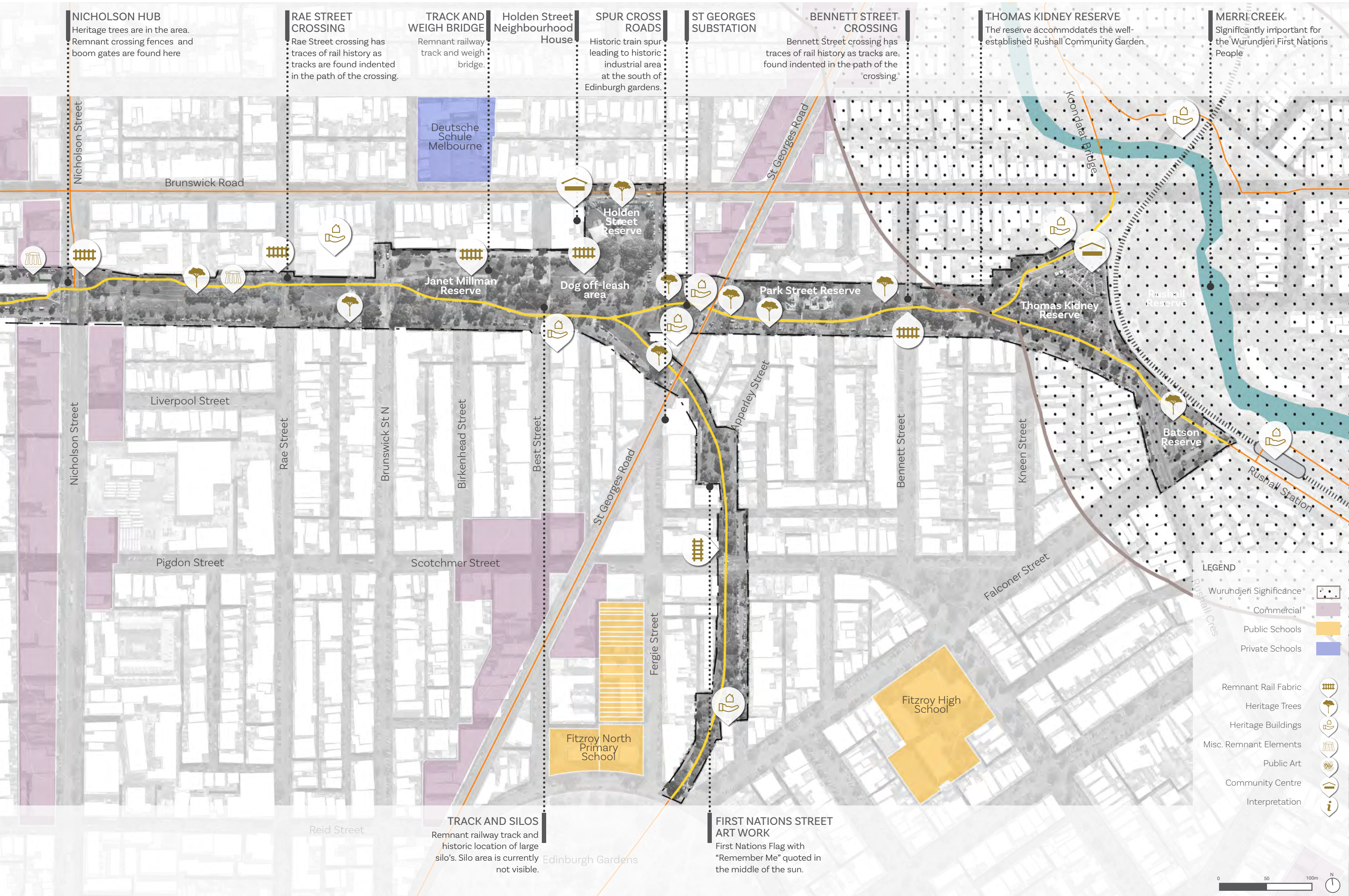
Image - Pedagogical signage and art (Birrarung Marr)



Image - Wurundjeri tree scarring, Koroong Project

Culture, Public Art, Education and Interpretation Supporting Map





NICHOLSON HUB
Heritage trees are in the area.
Remnant crossing fences and boom gates are found here

RAE STREET CROSSING
Rae Street crossing has traces of rail history as tracks are found indented in the path of the crossing.

TRACK AND WEIGH BRIDGE
Remnant railway track and weigh bridge.

Holden Street Neighbourhood House

SPUR CROSS ROADS
Historic train spur leading to historic industrial area at the south of Edinburgh gardens.

ST GEORGES SUBSTATION

BENNETT STREET CROSSING
Bennett Street crossing has traces of rail history as tracks are found indented in the path of the crossing.

THOMAS KIDNEY RESERVE
The reserve accommodates the well-established Rushall Community Garden.

MERRI CREEK
Significantly important for the Wurundjeri First Nations People

Deutsche Schule Melbourne

Holden Street Reserve

Janet Millman Reserve

Dog off-leash area

Park Street Reserve

Thomas Kidney Reserve

Rushall Reserve

Batson Reserve

Rushall Station

Fitzroy High School

Fitzroy North Primary School

TRACK AND SILOS
Remnant railway track and historic location of large silo's. Silo area is currently not visible.

FIRST NATIONS STREET ART WORK
First Nations Flag with "Remember Me" quoted in the middle of the sun.

- LEGEND**
- Wurundjeri Significance
 - Commercial
 - Public Schools
 - Private Schools
 - Remnant Rail Fabric
 - Heritage Trees
 - Heritage Buildings
 - Misc. Remnant Elements
 - Public Art
 - Community Centre
 - Interpretation





Site photo: Remnant railway heritage in Jane Millman Reserve

3. Vision and Design Requirements

Overview

How to read this chapter:

The following chapter outlines a vision for the parklands and five key principles which respond to community feedback, Council aspirations, observations and identified issues and opportunities. The vision and principles are supported by a series of objectives and key moves to guide future decision making. These are outlined under the following themes:

 **Wurundjeri Country**

 **Access, Active Transport, Safety, and Inclusion**

 **Open Space, Passive and Active Recreation**

 **Culture, Art, Education, and Interpretation**

 **Climate Resilience, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity Health**

Vision and Principles

Vision

The Inner Circle Linear Parklands will be a safe and equitable parklands for people to relax, play and move through, and will support the health and sense of belonging for its diverse community. The open space corridor on Wurundjeri Country will offer a variety of experiences through a meaningful engagement with its animals, plants, culture, histories and people.

Principles

- An inclusive, safe, equitable parkland for a diverse community
- Enhance the safety and comfort the Capital City Trail for all users
- Reconcile, and strengthen relationships with Wurundjeri Country
- Celebrate the parklands railway history and community activism
- Enhance this open space and biodiversity corridor by conserving green space, restoring natural systems and strengthening ecological and habitat connections.



3D Visualisation - Amenity node with Wurundjeri interpretation



Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country

Objective 1: Establish ongoing relationship of reciprocity with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Key Move 1.1

Collaborate with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and other First Nations stakeholders to co-develop future projects and opportunities, as set out by Yarra City Council's Yana Ngargna Plan.

- Co-develop an interpretation strategy for the parklands.
- Understand where Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung have existing training, educational programs, workshops or tours and explore how they could be supported through the parklands future programming.
- Explore employment opportunities for local First Peoples that may arise from the management and maintenance of the Reserve and activities within it.

Key Move 1.2

Build opportunities for procurement of materials and services from local First Nations businesses and artists, facilitating and strengthening economic development.

- Actively seek out local Aboriginal businesses and artists for partnerships in the procurement of construction materials, landscaping supplies, and contractor services.
- Include criteria in project procurement processes that prioritises local First Nations businesses and artists.

Key Move 1.3

Ensure all future projects are guided the by the Australian Indigenous Design Charter and are culturally appropriate and timeless.

- Embed Australian Indigenous Design charter criteria into future project briefs.

Objective 2: Create cultural visibility and recognition in the identity of the parklands.

Key Move 2.1

Develop cohesive interpretation and wayfinding strategy that is co-developed with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung

- Install bilingual signage that includes Woi Wurrung translations alongside English and other languages, providing information about features of interest and cultural markers.
- Incorporate Woi Wurrung language across the parklands through signage, artwork, and educational materials, promoting language continuation and education.

Key Move 2.2

Make Wurundjeri history, stories, and culture visible in parklands landscape and built form.

- Commission and install sculptures or artwork that depict significant elements of the areas Wurundjeri history, stories, and culture throughout the parklands. This could include ephemeral art, history, future narratives and planting themes.
- Incorporate Wurundjeri cultural motifs and symbols in the design of park structures, such as shelters, seating areas, and signage.
- Integrate overall narrative elements across the parklands, landforms, architecture, audio recordings, landforms, plantings and features to engage visitors and share the cultural significance of Wurundjeri people traveling across Country between Merri Merri, Moonee Ponds, and the Birrarung waterways.

Objective 3: Strengthen community engagement and education.

Key Move 3.1

Identify appropriate areas to create yarning circles providing spaces for community members to gather and share stories, fostering cultural exchange and understanding.

- Designate appropriate and specific areas for yarning circles, featuring seating arrangements that facilitate conversations and storytelling.
- Ensure yarning circles are contemporary and utilise natural locally sourced materials.
- Develop outdoor 'bush' classrooms for all ages and cultures to share knowledge of Country, environment, history, aboriginal dreaming, spirituality, and botany.
- Showcasing native food production and Wurundjeri cultural practices where possible.

Parklands Design Requirements



Precedent - Curtin University Yarning Circle



Precedent - Bolin Bolin Billabong



Site Photo - Aboriginal Flag painted on an adjacent wall at Mark Street



Precedent - Birrarung Wilam (Common Ground) by Couzens, Vicki; Darroch Lee; Hamm Treahna.



Image - Scar Tree Birrarung Marr
Birrarung Wilam (Common Ground) by Couzens, Vicki; Darroch Lee; Hamm Treahna.



Access, Active Transport, Safety and Inclusion

Objective 1: Reduce pressure on the Shared User Path to provide an active transport corridor that caters for all abilities, is accessible, safe and is well-connected.

Key Move 1.1

Upgrade and widen the existing Shared User Path to improve its comfort for all users.

- Widen the Shared User Path to 4.0m where possible.
- Consider the path alignment and measures to encourage slower cyclist speeds.

Key Move 1.2

Enable the provision for a meandering alternative pedestrian path that provides a relaxed form of travel through the Linear Parklands.

- A meandering pedestrian only path can decrease the pressure on the Shared User Path and provide further levels of safety and comfort for all users.
- The design should deter cyclists from using the path with an indirect route and path surface not suitable for riding.

Objective 2: Provide an active transport corridor that is integrated appropriately with the parklands.

Key Move 2.1

Retain existing vegetation where possible that provides shading opportunities for existing path and increase shading opportunities along the Shared User Path.

Key Move 2.2

Provide visual and tactile cues and include distinctive design elements at intersections and high pedestrian activity zones.

Key Move 2.3

Provide high levels of CPTED that create a safe environment for all who use the Shared User Path and surrounding park, creating well-lit areas that make the parklands safe at all times of day.

Key Move 2.4

Prioritise DDA accessible parking in close proximity to activity nodes and destinations, and provide bicycle parking at destinations along the corridor.

Objective 3: Ensure safety and clarity for active transport users at intersections and activity nodes.

Key Move 3.1

Upgrade all existing non-signalised crossings to yellow priority crossings. Provide consistent and clear crossing points that ensure pedestrian and cyclist right of way wherever the Shared User Path crosses any streets at non-signalised crossings.

Key Move 3.2

Upgrade all existing signalised crossings. Identify and establish signalised intersection improvement projects to improve active transport efficiency, safety, and clarity when crossing busy roads.

Key Move 3.3

Improve minor intersections to/from other active transport routes.

Key Move 3.4

Ensure adequate sight lines, signage, and pavement treatments to highlight approaching crossings, intersections, and activity nodes/destinations along the Shared User Path.

Key Move 3.5

Undertake a detailed study of all connections from Park Street and North-South Connections onto the Shared User Path to determine requirements for upgrades in detailed design. Considerations should include: scale, sight lines, legibility and materiality when addressing the issue of pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Objective 4: Ensure accessibility and inclusivity in DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant furniture, walkways, and car parks for individuals with diverse abilities.

Key Move 3.1

Integrate universal design principles into the planning and implementation process, ensuring that infrastructure enhancements cater to the widest range of abilities possible, thus promoting inclusivity without the need for separate accommodations.

Key Move 3.2

Engage stakeholders, community and DDA consultants where possible to provide informed decision making and ensure future designs meet standards.

Key Move 3.3

Develop or utilise existing educational initiatives targeted at the community, businesses, and relevant stakeholders to foster a culture of accessibility, increase understanding of the importance of DDA compliance, and encourage proactive participation in creating accessible environments.

Parklands Design Requirements



Image - Enabling and encouraging active transport



Image - Bike repair station, Saris Bike Stand, Auckland



Precedent - Shared Path, St Georges Road, Thornbury

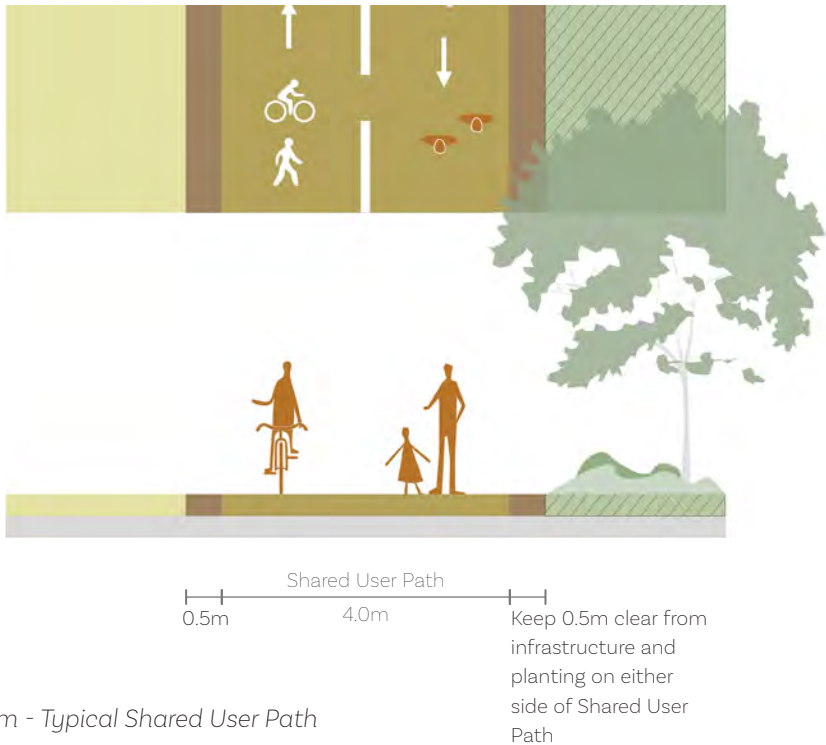


Diagram - Typical Shared User Path



Image - Typical Pedestrian Only Path



Precedent - Sowerby Sports Village, UK



Lighting Guidelines

General lighting

A lighting strategy should be developed along the corridor's length to maintain a consistent approach, addressing both Council and community requirements. The lighting design should draw inspiration from and align with the Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria, as outlined in the Inner Circle Linear Park Shared Path CPTED Report prepared by Urban Initiatives.

Environmental considerations should always underpin lighting decisions. A darkness strategy ought to be implemented through most of the corridor, minimising light pollution for the benefit of the environment, ecology, and the overall user experience.

Within the corridor, a range of energy-efficient LED lights, organised in a hierarchical fashion, should be selectively placed. This stratification of lighting serves to enhance community engagement in open spaces, bolster safety, ensure accessibility, and contribute to the corridor's unique character, all while mitigating potential impacts on biodiversity.

Shared User Path (Capital City Trail)

The Shared User Path should feature pole-mounted LED lights, guiding users along the path and emphasising its status as the primary trail within the corridor. Lighting should also be strategically placed at path intersections and main crossroads to ensure user visibility. The development of lighting solutions should encompass the entire corridor, with collaboration between adjacent councils to maintain a consistent design language as users move between council areas along the trail.

Alternative lighting options such as motion sensors and in-ground lighting should be considered in determining the best approach for lighting the Shared User Path.

Precincts and key moments

At designated destination points along the corridor, where evening activities are encouraged, sufficient lighting should be provided to ensure the safe use of these spaces. In cases where car parks are located near precincts or key moments, lighting should be applied as needed to enhance safety and visibility.

Feature lighting

Feature lighting should be incorporated, aimed at showcasing art and interpretation, such as the Janet Millman Ecological Park.



Precedent - Ian Strange Intersections II



Image - In-ground path lighting, JoBe Lighting

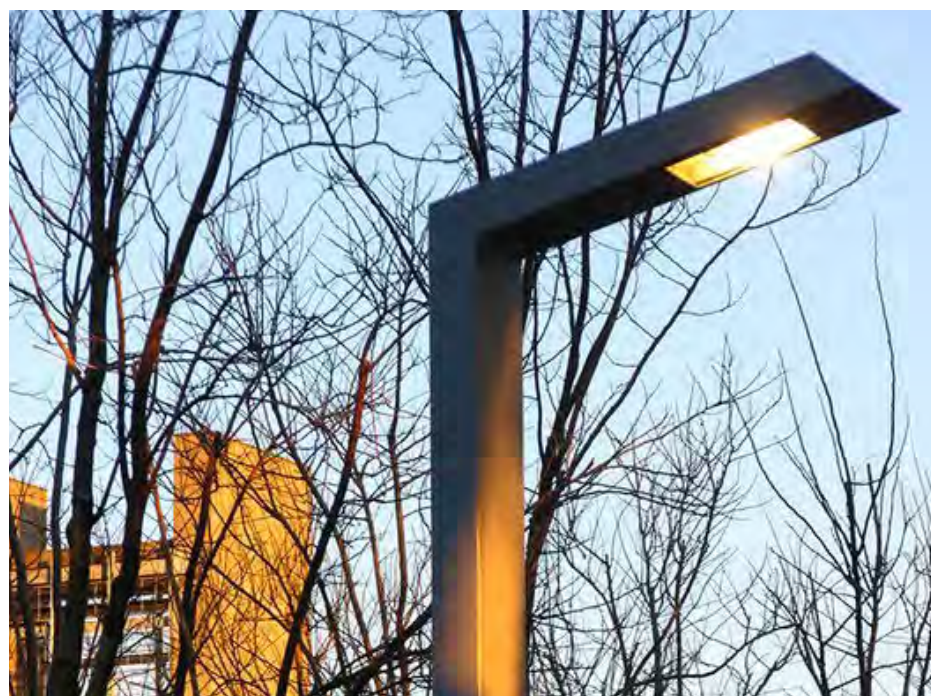


Image - Led Light Street pole, UK, Urbidermis santa and Cole



Precedent - Amenity Lighting, EWO

Parklands Design Requirements



3D Visualisation - Typical amenity node with rail heritage interpretation and improved lighting



Open Space, Passive and Active Recreation

Objective 1: Establish the parklands as a safe, comfortable and accessible destination for all users.

Key Move 1.1

Establish and cluster designated areas for passive and active recreation nodes and ensure areas provide flexibility in use.

- Designate specific areas within the parklands for playgrounds, picnic spots, and small-scale sport facilities, co-locating facilities for user comfort.
- Provide toilet facilities with amenity at approximately 500m intervals.
- Retain informal grassed areas for kick about space, picnics and other recreation.

Key Move 1.2

Increase the frequency, quality, and accessibility of facilities.

- Install additional seating throughout the parklands. Seating every 60m minimum with space for wheelchairs, prams, bicycles etc.
- Install communal BBQ facilities, water taps, picnic tables and shade structures.
- Repair and upgrade existing facilities, playground equipment, picnic areas, and sport facilities. Determine if existing facilities are in the right locations.
- Aim to provide toilet facilities at approximately 500m intervals.

Key Move 1.3

Incorporate sustainable practices in management of urban heat island mitigation.

- Increase tree canopy cover to improve shade and create a healthier environment for visitors in all seasons.
- Plant a diverse range of tree species to increase tree canopy cover across open space offering.
- Create shade associated with seating, picnic areas and paths.
- Establish new ornamental plantings in front of the former stations, substations and other key public landmarks. Planting to be consistent with the character of historical specimens but addressing contemporary needs and expectations, outlined in the Conservation Management Plan (2022) prepared by Lovell Chen and Yarra City Council.

Key Move 1.4

Recognise dog owners and their needs in the parklands.

- Designate specific areas within the parklands as dog-friendly spaces.
- Implement guidelines and informative signage for dog owners to ensure safety and comfort for all park visitors.
- Further coordinate on-leash and off-leash spaces between Yarra and Merri-bek along the corridor.
- Provide clear signage to show boundaries of dog off-leash and on-leash areas as permitted under Council Order / Local Laws.

Key Move 1.5

Develop a smart, effective and cohesive lighting strategy that address' key issues identified by community and stakeholders.

Key Move 1.6

Ensure all future projects are guided by CPTED principles.

Key Move 1.7

Where there is significant community interest, investigate opportunities for additional greening along the corridor, such as through kerb extensions and greening on adjacent roads.

Objective 2: Diversify passive sporting facilities and play spaces across the linear parklands for varying interests, ages, genders, and abilities.

Key Move 2.1

Install and upgrade suitable equipment to cater to various age groups, genders, abilities and recreational preferences.

- Deliver small-scale sporting facilities for casual use by individuals and small groups such as boccie, table tennis, chess, half basketball/volleyball courts, bouldering walls.
- Co-locate most existing sports facility nodes to consolidate built facilities to minimise the unnecessary duplication of assets and facilities.
- Install fitness stations or exercise equipment along the paths.
- Improve accessibility of playgrounds and recreation spaces wherever possible.
- Consider play opportunities for under represented groups through upgrades to playgrounds and recreation spaces.

Key Move 2.2

Designate nature-based play areas with engaging obstacles and natural elements, incorporating large logs as seating and play structures.

- Identify suitable areas within the parklands to create nature-based play zones to promote imaginative and engaging play.
- Incorporate engaging objects and natural elements and materials into the play areas.
- Use large logs as seating and play structures.
- Incorporate water play and engagement with environmental systems.

Objective 3: Strengthen opportunities to engage with landscape and environmental systems.

Key Move 3.1

Create tracks and trails that offer moments of respite and connection with the environment and encourage physical activity.

- Develop and construct appropriate walking trails and meandering paths that offer respite from the busy Shared User Path.
- Continue to develop and embed communal food growing spaces and education on sustainable practices and growing your own food.
- Increase access to existing community gardens and provide safe community composting initiatives.

Key Move 3.2

Investigate integration of open space interfaces with adjacent properties such as Brunswick South Primary School and the Ronald McDonald House.

- Replace fences with softer boundaries such as vegetation, hedges, trees, or boulders to reduce their visual impact and deter graffiti.
- Improve open space offering next to key adjacent properties and schools.
- Improve open space offering next to “The Front Yards”.

Key Move 3.3

Create features of interest and increase understory vegetation to delineate spaces, provide visual buffers between the Shared User Path and open space, and enhance the aesthetics.

- Plant native shrubs, grasses, and low growing ground cover vegetation to create natural boundaries and visual buffers.
- Incorporate features of interest such as sculptures, art installations, or water features.

Parklands Design Requirements

- Create ecologically based plant communities in areas with no tree canopy that create rich and climate resilient plantings.

Key Move 3.4

Enhance the natural open space character and amenity of the parklands through any upgrades to the corridor.

- Where built structures and hard surfaces are being contemplated, consider if there is an alternative solution that minimises impacts on the parkland (e.g. natural and permeable materials). Reduce clutter wherever possible.
- Incorporate appropriate plantings to soften appearance of any necessary structures and hard surfaces.
- Consider cumulative impacts of any hard surfaces and structures along the corridor and reduce clutter where possible.



Image - Parklands Bench



Precedent - Shelter w/ BBQ facilities, Lizard Log, McGregor Coxall



Precedent - Shared sports facilities at Box Hill Gardens



Precedent - Lizard Log Nature Playground, McGregor Coxall



Materials, Structures and Furniture Guidelines

Material

Select a refined range of sustainable materials in earthy tones that compliment with the surrounding environment rather than compete with it. Prioritise durable, local, reusable materials.

Structures and furniture

Develop a collection of furniture and structures throughout the parklands. These should exemplify high-quality, versatile infrastructure that seamlessly integrates physical, natural, and cultural elements into a cohesive whole.

Guidelines

- Aim for sustainability outcomes and sustainable building methodologies that surpass industry standards.
- Whenever feasible, use recycled materials, especially those found on-site. Materials such as rock and felled trees for furniture, play elements and habitat.
- Consider building materials life cycle and embodied energy, with a focus on natural, recyclable, eco-friendly materials.
- Follow the Yarra City Council design standards as a reference, and incorporate items such as bins and drinking fountains from their standard furniture selection when possible.
- Collaborate with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung community to safeguard and ensure respect towards cultural values and protocols, interpreting and celebrating them appropriately.
- Where suitable, design for inclusivity to accommodate individuals of all abilities.
- Take into account the long-term maintenance, repair, and replacement costs of assets within the context of the Yarra City Council.
- Ensure that all buildings and associated structures meet the highest environmental standards as outlined by the Green Star Rating system.
- Design infrastructure to harmonise with the landscape and cultural surroundings.
- Consider materials that minimise impacts on urban heat.



Image - Gan Eden, Hillside Memorial Park



Precedent - Ballast Point Shelter, Ballast Point Park, McGregor Coxall



Image - Timber bench, Activity Landscape Kastrup



Precedent - Ballast Point Park. McGregor Coxall



Precedent - Pimelea Park, McGregor Coxall



Image - Crushed stone aggregate



3D Visualisation - Typical amenity node with bicycle repair station and universally designed inclusive seating



Climate Resilience, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity Health

Objective 1: Enhance ecological health of the corridor.

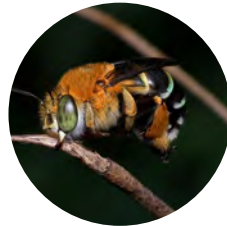
The ‘Wildlife habitat connectivity across the City of Merri-bek’ by Hahs and Mata (2024) identifies the Linear Parkland as an important ecological corridor by providing habitats for several focal species, which are strong fliers (black-shouldered kite) ; or insect pollinators (blue-banded bee and Australian painted lady).



Australian painted lady



Black-shouldered kite



Blue-banded bee

Key Move 1.1

Support Integrated Water Management (IWM) interventions into open spaces to make water features visible and enjoyable, which creates opportunities to inform and educate communities about IWM benefits and their responsibilities to maintain a sustainable landscape.

Key Move 1.2

Provide passive cooling effect with IWM interventions through increasing tree canopy to create improved micro-climates through evaporation and evapotranspiration.

Key Move 1.3

Connect patches of native vegetation along the reserve towards Merri Creek through maximising native/endemic planting to extend the ecological corridor into the Linear Parklands.

Key Move 1.4

Provide complex habitats of vegetation with varying heights including refuge for small animals from cats, dogs, and humans.

Key Move 1.4

Utilise succession planting strategy for new tree planting to ensure staggered end-of-life.

Key Move 1.6

Enhance habitat features – potential to increase the native planting species including a palette of historic endemic EVC planting to the area, especially areas with low biodiversity. These plantings will be of the Plains Grassy Woodland EVC:55 as pre 1750 habitat suggests; include boulders, logs, nesting boxes, insect hotels, animal ladders, which would allow a diversity of native animal species using and navigating the habitat, like VBA species of grey-headed flying foxes, possums, and other arboreal animals.

Key move 1.7

Increase the visual amenity of the space utilising climate resilient (including non-endemic) herbaceous perennial plantings, (including pollinating species) to diversify plant stock and create a more visually spectacular landscape and seasonal change.

Key Move 1.8

Include biodiverse and climate adaptive plantings with a provenance combination approach. Seed for a local species is sourced from varying climates to build resilience by using 70% local seed, 20% from hotter and drier climates (preferably 10% from a 2050 analogue location and 10% from a 2070/90 analogue location), and 10% from a wetter, cooler climate.

Objective 2: Utilise locally sourced materials and adopt sustainable design principles.

Key Move 2.1

Utilise locally sourced natural materials in built form and landscape, such as timber, stone, and plants from local supplier.

Key Move 2.2

Incorporate these locally sourced materials in the design and construction of park structures, pathways, and seating areas.

Key Move 2.3

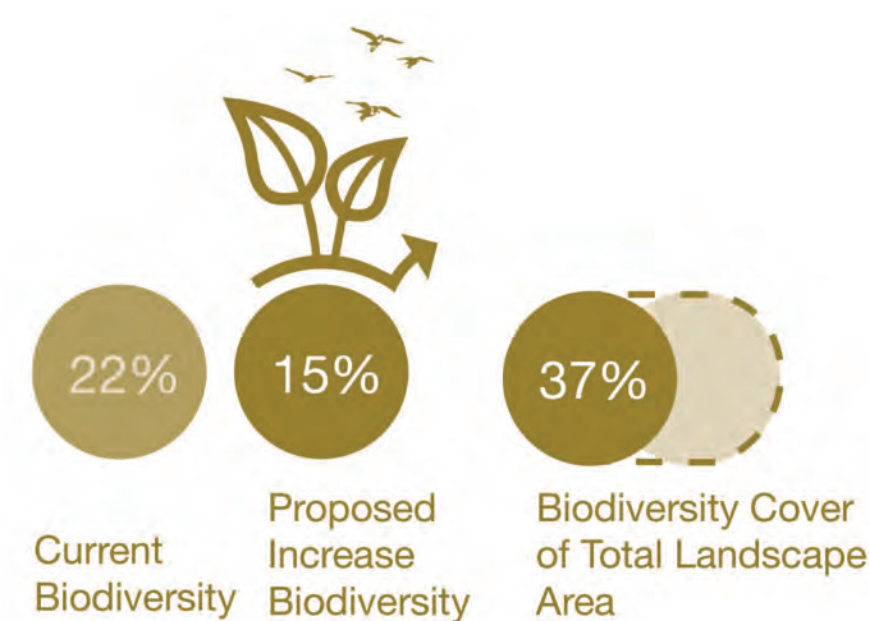
Introduce solar panels to help power sustainable systems within the parklands, helping run everything from water pumps to lighting.

Key Move 2.4

Consider circular economy principles in the design of site and structures to reduce impacts on the climate change and ecological environment, such as eliminating construction waste and pollution, promote utilising low embodied energy, recycled and recyclable materials, and create a closed loop system for water reuse and power generation.

Key Move 2.5

Apply the recommendations from the Conservation Management Plan (2022) into the design of the parklands landscape areas and amenity. Incorporate rail infrastructure into the design of the parklands future character.



Parklands Design Requirements



Image - Raingarden, Sacramento State Campus Library



Precedent - Little creek, Harleston Park



Site Photo - Trail



Image - Animal Ladder



Precedent - Elsternwick Nature Reserve, McGregor Coxall



Precedent - Insect Hotel. Vallmora Park. Spain



Climate Resilience, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity Health

Objective 3: Water quantity: Reduce localised flooding through IWM interventions.

Key Move 3.1

Design and implement raingardens at the localised flooding hotspots across the parklands to reduce runoff and release stress of stormwater pits and pipes during major events.

Key Move 3.2

Design and implement rainwater tanks with suitable volumes to harvest runoff from the existing building rooftops for irrigation and toilet flushing.

Key Move 3.3

Design and implement passive irrigated tree pits in the existing parking lots and plaza to reduce runoff from concrete hardscape and provide a cooling environment.

Key Move 3.4

Incorporate design features (e.g. permeable paving) to slow and reduce runoff into the landscape where appropriate.

Objective 4: Water quality: Improve waterway health of Merri Creek.

Key Move 4.1

Harvest and treat stormwater to improve the quality of water-flows through the IWM interventions of rain gardens, vegetated swales, and tree pits before discharging into Merri Creek .

Objective 5: Water reuse: Reduce potable water consumption.

Key Move 5.1

Harvest stormwater from rooftop rainwater harvesting tanks to be reused for toilet flushing and communal garden irrigation.

Key Move 5.2

Maximize harvesting surface stormwater runoff with underground storage tanks and underground drainage to reuse for landscape irrigation across the parkland.

Parklands Design Requirements

Toolkit of WSUD options within the parklands

VEGETATED SWALES	RAINGARDENS	RAINWATER TANKS	PASSIVELY IRRIGATED TREES	COMPOSTING TOILETS
				
Swales aim to convey surface water flows across the site. These systems are important for ensuring the site remains well drained. Vegetated swales contribute to stormwater treatment by trapping coarse sediments, debris and litter. Vegetated swales are proposed along part of Linear Parklands to reorganise the stormwater flows across the parklands on surface and function as the complementary drainage to the existing underground one. They are a simple but effective way to retain water in the landscape and convey stormwater entering the creek corridor.	Raingardens are used as filtration systems through filter media, hydraulic loading and biological uptake to treat stormwater. The filter media is specifically designed to meet stormwater quality objectives. Taking a decentralised approach, raingarden minimises the required treatment area of the catchment, and allows stormwater treatment to be well integrated into the landscape. Each system is designed with extended detention, providing some flood detention capacity throughout the site. Treated flows are either discharged into the receiving environment or harvested for subsequent reuse. Raingardens are proposed at the localised flooding hotspots across the parklands to reduce runoff and release stress of stormwater pits and pipes during minor and frequent storm events. Runoff from heavy storms should bypass the raingarden into the drainage system.	Rainwater tanks harvest stormwater runoff from impermeable surfaces like roofs, reducing the amount that enters waterways. They can help minimise the potable water usage when reusing the captured runoff for toilet, laundry or garden. For parklands, rainwater tanks with suitable volumes are proposed to harvest runoff from the existing building rooftops which aim to supplement non-potable water reuse, such as toilet flushing, communal gardens and park irrigation.	Passively irrigated tree systems aim to promote vibrant growth through the provision of healthy soil volumes and water. These systems provide an array of benefits including passive cooling through evapotranspiration and shading, stormwater treatment and habitat creation. Passive irrigated trees are proposed in the existing parking lots and plaza within the parklands to reduce runoff from concrete hardscape and provide cooling environment. Bioretention pods and swales may be vegetated with these trees, when they are designed with suitable drainage and soil volumes.	A worm composting toilet is an “ecosystem in a tank” which mimics nature and treats the wastewater without needing costly large mechanical aerators to run, repair or replace. It is essentially an advanced trickling filter process with worms added to enhance the reduction of solids in the filter. It treats waste water to a level that is suitable for land disposal via irrigation of gardens, lawns and bush. One system could provide 100m2 to 200m2 of sustainable irrigation from treated waste water.



Culture, Public Art, Education and Interpretation

Objective 1 – Preserve, connect, and celebrate the railway history and cultural heritage of the parklands.

Key Move 1.1

Create an interpretation strategy of the railway history. Significant research and recommendations for railway history is outlined in the Conservation Management Plan(2022) prepared by Lovell Chen and Yarra City Council. This should be co-developed with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung interpretation strategy to ensure a cohesive strategy that unifies the stories of the parklands.

- Install informative signage or plaques near heritage buildings and landmarks, remnant railway tracks or stations, significant trees, and plants, providing historical context and preservation efforts , and considering key people involved in this history.

Key Move 1.2

Enhance and celebrate railway heritage items through supporting landscape and/or architectural form.

- Path alignment to consider and protect the existing location of remnant railway tracks and structures so that people can view them whilst avoiding conflicts (e.g. bikes slipping on tracks).
- Repair existing heritage features (e.g. damaged fencing) where appropriate.

Objective 2 - Enhance the cultural offering and social opportunities within the parklands.

Key Move 2.1

Designate specific areas within the parklands for local community groups to host regular markets and stalls, featuring fresh produce, crafts, vintage clothes, and books.

Key Move 2.2

Designate an events space to enable regular events such as outdoor cinema, local musicians and artistic performance.

- Potential for an amphitheatre, stage, three-phase power, toilets, and seating.

Key Move 2.3

Designate cultural nodes for cafés pop-up cafés, and bars.

Key Move 2.4

Develop educational programs that offer guided tours for school groups and the broader community, covering both the environmental and cultural aspects of the parklands.

Key Move 2.5

Install interactive installations and sculptures that tell the stories of the Merri Merri Creek, engaging visitors and making the history accessible and meaningful.

Objective 3 - Improve signage, wayfinding, and interpretation to create a cohesive and engaging experience for visitors ensuring integration with active transport signage.

Key Move 3.1

Develop a signage, interpretation and wayfinding strategy for the parklands, this should be integrated with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung strategies.

- Enhance interpretive signage with detailed narratives and images, providing historical and cultural information about heritage sites, public art, and amenities.
- Transform walls and strategic locations into opportunities for art installations, incorporating cultural and historical themes, making the parklands visually engaging and culturally significant.
- Incorporate diverse cultural elements into the parklands’ architecture and design, such as sculptures, murals, or architectural motifs, representing the surrounding communities.
- Signage and wayfinding is co-developed with both Yarra City Council and Merri-bek City Council to ensure consistent language.

Parklands Design Requirements



Precedent - Storm King Sculpture Park



Precedent - Chemin des Carrières (Railway interpretation)



Image -Storm King sculpture park



Precedent - Sub Base Platypus historical interpretation into play



Image - Events - Cinema night

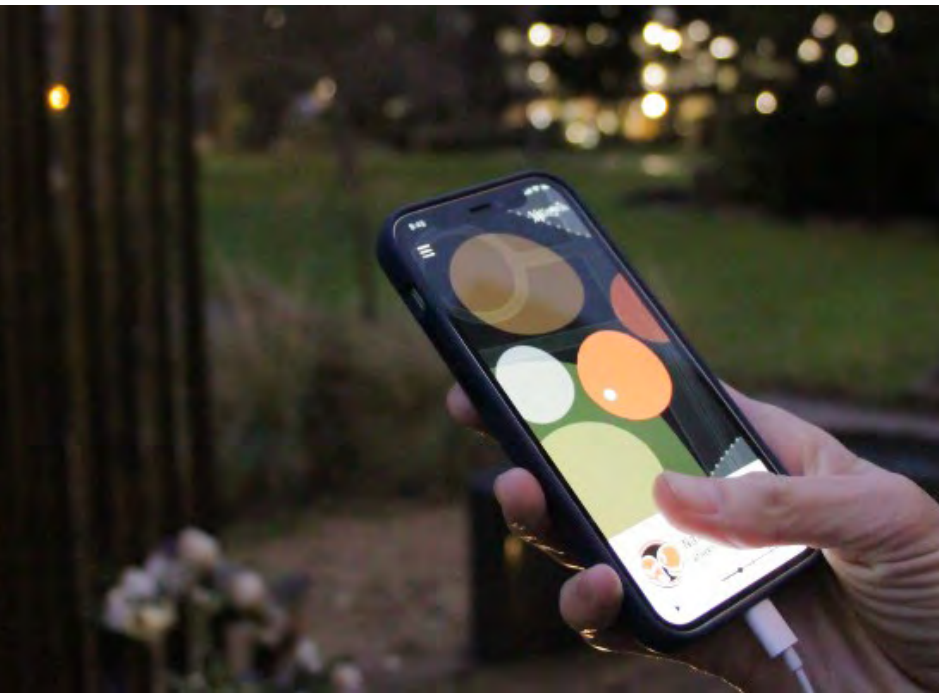


Image - Digital wayfinding, Yalinguth First Nations Augmented Reality App,



Wayfinding and Interpretation Guidelines

Wayfinding and signage

Wayfinding, art and interpretation signage should be developed and deployed across the parklands corridor, signifying entries, routes, destinations within the corridor and key surrounding destinations outside of the corridor, including the Capital City Trail. The wayfinding will also help to define a sense of place and identity for the park, drawing from the rich history & stories. Wayfinding and directional signage should be kept at a minimum and consolidated where possible to ensure minimal clutter in the corridor.

The interpretation approach will need to be co-developed with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Corporation to ensure the story and history of the parklands on Wurundjeri Country is told in meaningful and respectful ways. There is a unique opportunity for a contemporary Wurundjeri songline to be developed and integrated across the length of the parklands between the Merri Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks.

The interpretation approach will also need to engage with the values and recommendations outlined in the Conservation Management Plan (2022) prepared by Lovell Chen and Yarra City Council. This significant body of work documents the rich railway history and community activism of the parklands and provides detailed recommendations on how to engage the public creatively with its past.

Interpretation should be more than just signs and integrated more holistically into the story, design and documentation of each precinct and key moment.

Wayfinding and signage should be considered throughout the whole corridor, working with adjacent councils to ensure a consistent design language is used when moving between council areas. Below are two signage categories.

General parkland wayfinding signage

Wayfinding signage assists users in navigating through the parklands. Consideration in the strategy will need to be given to the following;

- Gateway entrance – Showing that people are entering or leaving the Inner Circle Linear Parklands.
- Park identification – Located at park entries, which includes maps.
- Map directional signage – Located at key nodes and decision making points. Map signage could also provide information such as suggested walking itineraries, route notes, distances and average walking times between key destinations. Utilise simple walking icon with time and bike icon with time to destinations.

- Trail directional signage – Located at intersection of paths.
- Trail markings – To distinguish different trail typologies.
- Destination directional signage – Located where necessary to direct to key nodes and destinations such as pavilions and train stations.
- Wayfinding for high-speed users needs to be legible for users when:
 - Travelling at high speeds
 - Viewing from a distance
 - Needing to make quick directional decisions

Interpretation strategy and signage

Interpretationsignage assists in telling the stories of the site, including Wurundjeri stories, history, cultural and natural values:

- Large Interpretation signage – Located at attractions. Interpretive signage can be used as tools for education, and should appeal to a wide range of ages and interests.
- Small Interpretation signage – Located along paths providing information on the not-so-obvious attractions of the corridor.

Interpretation integrated within built form, as creative elements within the landscape.

Parklands Design Requirements



Precedent - Granite Island Causeway



Precedent - Crystal Valley Wayfinding, Brazil



Precedent - Ballast Point, NSW, McGregor Coxall



Image - Signage for North Malecón for the city of Babahoy, Ecuador



Image - Parc Riu Llobregat, Barcelona



Precedent - Fish interpretation in brick



Site photo: The Hill

4.Area Plans

Overview

How to read this chapter:

This chapter is divided into 5 area plans which collectively make up Linear Parklands. Precincts and secondary key moments have been identified within the areas, establishing focal points along the length of the Linear Parklands that respond to their existing character and adjacencies.

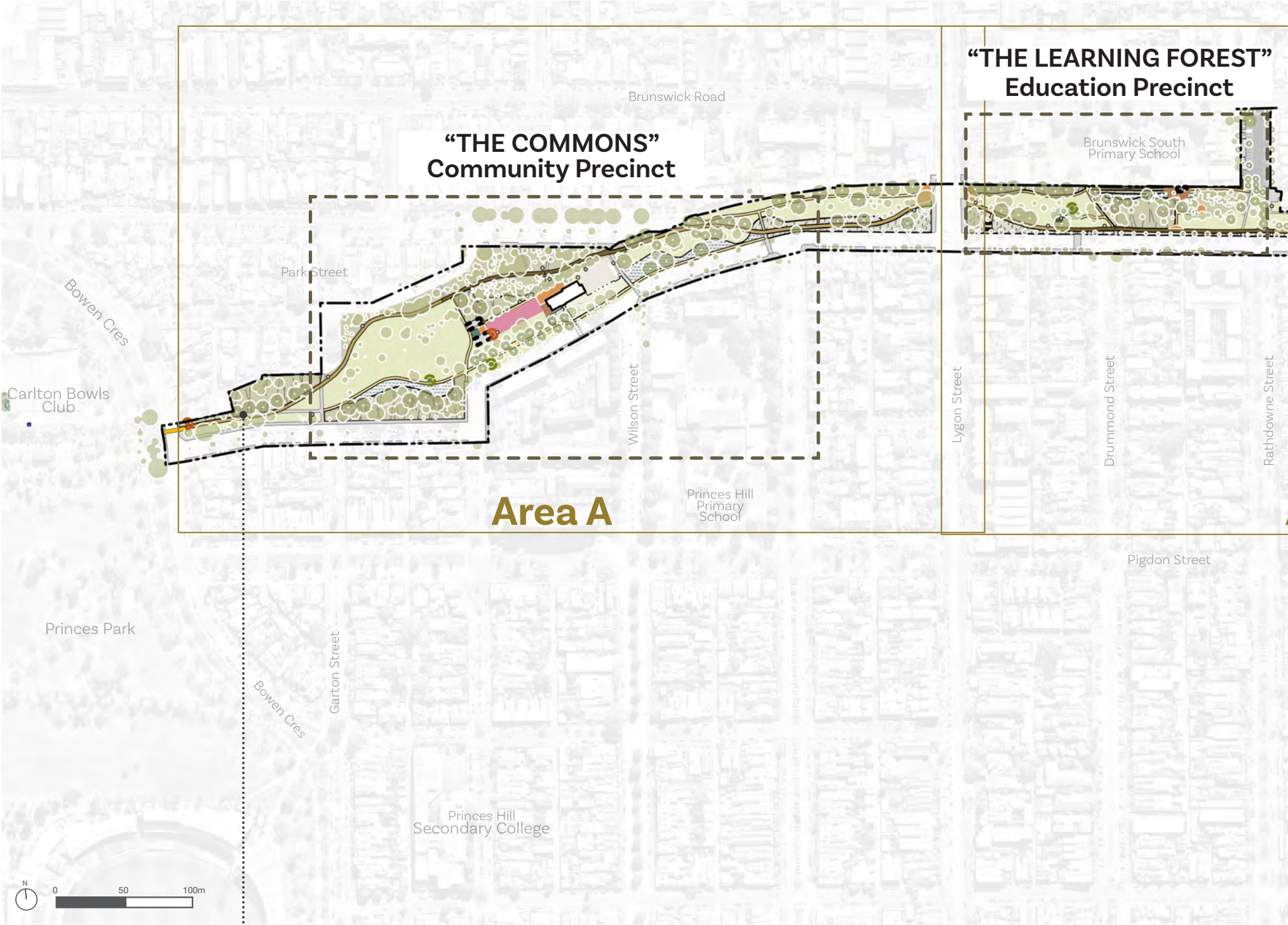
The decision-making process for identifying precincts in this chapter was comprehensive, involving various factors and inputs. It involved considering and balancing:

- Community engagement and feedback
- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation engagement
- Stakeholder engagement
- Inner Circle Linear Parklands background reports
- Parklands design requirements
- Aligning with Yarra City Council’s objectives and strategic documents
- Analysing observations from the design team and council project working groups
- Addressing identified issues
- Important interfaces and connections

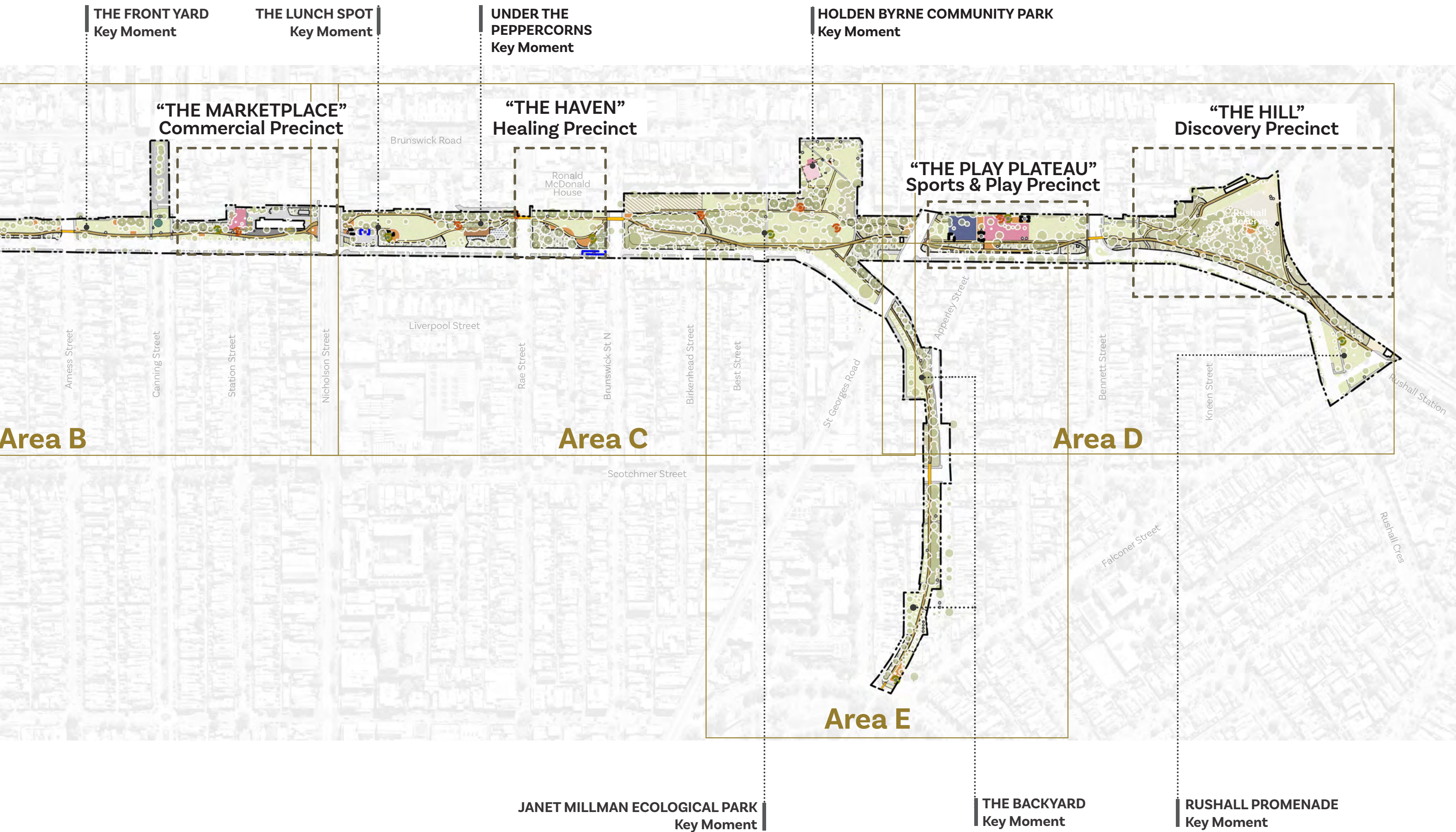
The project team has listened to the feedback received from the community and key stakeholders. Their voices and perspectives were heard and incorporated into the following identification of precincts and secondary key moments.

Precincts are concentrations of amenity and infrastructure investment that leverage off the existing character and strengths of the parklands destinations. By leveraging off the precincts’ existing qualities, the masterplan will aim to enhance the offerings through an editing of the conditions and incorporating amenities/programs that respond to the key themes co-developed with the community and stakeholders.

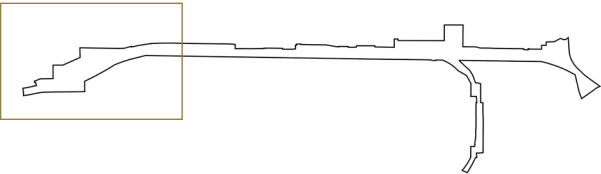
The spaces in between are quieter experiences where biodiversity, movement, and pause points are prioritised for individuals and small groups. By preserving its unique character and involving the community in the future development process, the parklands can cater to people of all ages and abilities.



BEYOND THE PICKET FENCE Key Moment



Area A - (Bowen Crescent to Lygon Street)



The area’s future

Precincts

- “The Commons” Community Precinct

Key Moments

- “Beyond the picket fence”

“The Commons” Community Precinct

Place character and user experience

Nestled amidst native vegetation and centred around the historic North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House, “The Commons” Community Precinct is a popular spot for locals. It has a strong inclusive atmosphere and is a popular destination for workshops, events, and social gatherings.

Here the community experience and notion of the commons is enhanced through the celebration of Wurundjeri culture, the Railway history and additional Neighbourhood House landscape offerings including expanded communal produce, highlighting local bush foods, and programme initiatives such as communal composting that bring locals to this destination on a regular basis.

Adjacent to the Neighbourhood House, greater connectivity to an enhanced playground extends the precinct, and amenity, shade and seating cater to diverse community needs and ensure everyone can fully enjoy the local precinct’s offerings.

Amenities and program



Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung

- Native foods productive garden.
- Interpretation and education elements celebrating Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung culture.



Open Space, Passive and Active Recreation

- Public toilet facility with solar panels.
- Lawn for picnicking and passive recreation
- Expanded community garden to the east.
- Community composting initiatives.
- Upgraded playground to include elements of nature play, railway history, and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung culture.
- Orchard with fruit-bearing trees.
- Picnic shelters with solar panels.
- Additional gathering areas in front of the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House amidst the native vegetation.



Culture, Public Art, Education and Interpretation

- Railway interpretation elements throughout the precinct.
- A small amphitheatre space for community events.
- Space for community art programs.
- Education programs on productive foods.



Active Transport, Safety and Inclusion

- Pavement material changes when approaching “The Commons” to enhance cycling and pedestrian awareness.
- Meandering pedestrian-only path from the orchards in the east, running south below the Neighbourhood House and connecting to Princes Park.
- Disabled parking bays are in close proximity to precinct.
- Bicycle parking.



Climate Resilience, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity Health

- Climate adaptive plantings and low bushland conservations zones across the entire precinct, connecting it to the education precinct and Princes Park.
- Water harvesting tree pit depressions to improve water management.
- Above-ground water tank at the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House. Investigate the potential for use in toilet flushing of existing toilets in the Neighbourhood House.
- Swales for improved water drainage.
- Solar panels on the roof of the Neighbourhood House.

“Beyond the picket fence”

The entrance to Linear Parklands from Princes Park offers an opportunity for a welcoming change of experience. There is opportunity to celebrate Wurundjeri Country and the significant rail history presented in the white picket fence. This could be an opportunity for an artist to create a work that communicates the Linear Parklands story!

Parklands Masterplan



Site Photo - North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House



Site Image: North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House



Precedent - Ceres Community Environment Park



Image - Urban Orchards

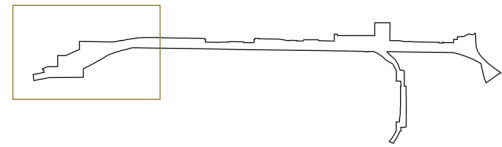


Image - Toilet Ballast Point Park, McGregor Coxall, Chrofi



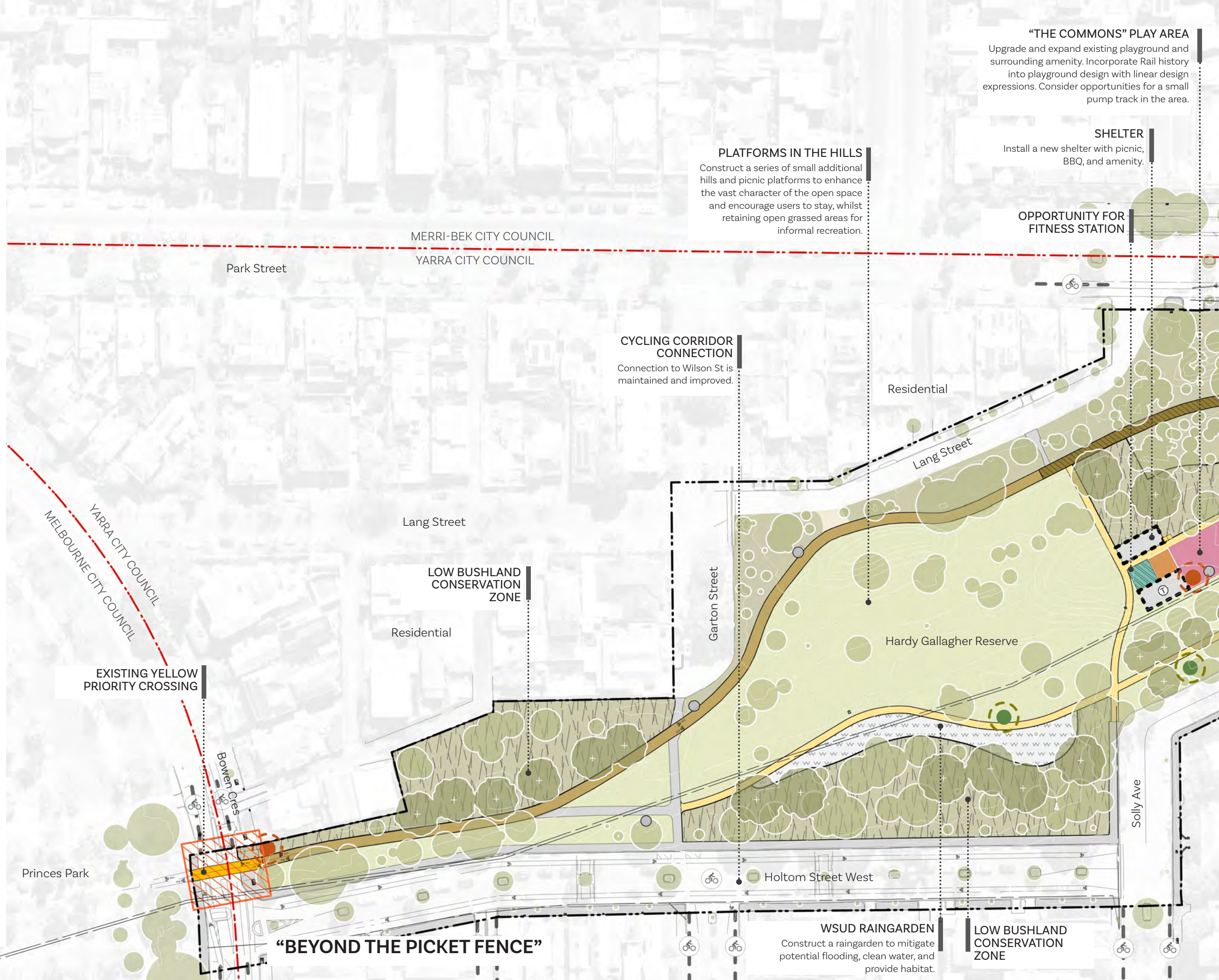
Precedent - DelAire Park, Fruit Park

Area A - (Bowen Crescent to Lygon Street)



- LEGEND**
- General**
- (Inner Circle) Linear Parklands Site Boundary
 - Local Government Area Boundary
 - Existing Contour (1m)
 - Overhead Powerlines
- Pavements**
- Existing Concrete Path
 - Existing Compacted Aggregate
 - Existing Primary Shared User Path
 - Proposed Secondary Pedestrian Only Path
 - Proposed Traffic Intersection Upgrade
 - Improve Pedestrian and Cycling Crossing Points
 - Proposed Cycle Connection Upgrade
 - Proposed DDA Car Space
- Landscape Areas**
- Proposed/Upgraded Playground Area
 - Proposed Active Sports Area
 - Proposed Platform Area
 - Proposed Seating and Amenity Node
 - Proposed Fitness Station
- Architecture and Site Structures**
- Existing Building
 - Proposed Shelter
 - Proposed Toilet
- Water Elements**
- Proposed Raingarden
- Furniture + Fittings**
- Retain Existing Seating
 - Retain Existing Bins
 - Retain Existing Drinking Fountains
 - Retain Existing Bicycle Rack
 - Proposed Heritage/Rail Interpretation Location
 - Proposed Seating Location
 - Proposed Underground Water Storage Tank
 - Proposed Above Ground Rainwater Tank
 - Proposed Wurundjeri Interpretation Location
 - Proposed Wayfinding Point
 - Proposed Composting and Sustainability Centre
- Planting**
- Existing Open Lawn
 - Existing Biodiverse Understorey Planting
 - Existing Communal Garden
 - Proposed Bushland Conservation Zones
 - Proposed Climate Adaptive Plantings
 - Proposed Orchard
- Trees**
- Proposed Native Tree
 - Existing Tree to be retained

NOTE: Location of proposed features (e.g. path alignment, amenity nodes) are indicative and subject to further design and feasibility work.



LOW BUSHLAND
CONSERVATION
ZONE

**NORTH CARLTON RAILWAY
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE**
Improve access to North Carlton
Railway Neighbourhood House.
Upgrade existing amenity and
construct platform interfacing
with playground and open
space to the west. Consider
opportunities for a bike repair
station near the Neighbourhood
House, with convenient access
from the Shared User Path.

**PARK STREET
IMPROVEMENTS**
Opportunity to improve
greening, pedestrian and
cycle connections and
local flooding conditions
along Park Street (north of
the parklands).

LOW BUSHLAND
CONSERVATION
ZONE

**CYCLING CORRIDOR
CONNECTION**
Connection to Park St is
maintained and improved.

**MAINTAIN EXISTING
OPEN LAWN**

**CLIMATE
ADAPTIVE
PLANTING**

Commercial

Dog off-leash
area

Park Street

Residential

Residential

**LYGON ST
INTERSECTION
UPGRADE**
Engage with Yarra Trams
and the Department of
Transport and Planning to
create a super tram stop.
Ensure safe, practical and
integrated solution to all
arterial road crossings at
Lygon St, Nicholson St and
Brunswick Road.

AMENITY NODE
Containing seats,
drinking fountain,
wayfinding and
bicycle repair station.

PARK STREET CYCLING CORRIDOR
Improve cycling infrastructure along Park
Street as a complementary cycling corridor
to the Shared User Path.

**CYCLING CORRIDOR
CONNECTION**
Connection to Park Street and
McIlwraith St is maintained
and improved.

WSUD RAINGARDEN
Construct a raingarden to mitigate potential
flooding, clean water, and provide habitat.

**PARK ST
CONNECTIVITY**
Facilitate safe and accessible
cycling connection from
Park St to Park St across the
parkland.

DDA PARKING
Provide accessible
car parking

WSUD RAINGARDEN
Construct a raingarden to mitigate
potential flooding, clean water, and
provide habitat. Opportunity for
existing car park to be removed to
provide a larger raingarden area.

Princes Hill
Primary
School

**CONNECTION TO
SCHOOL**
Support a safe connection
through the parklands
towards Princes Hill
Primary School.

ORCHARD
Orchard to be an extension
of the existing communal
garden with climate
adaptive plantings to front
of building.

**PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN
CROSSING**

Wilson Street

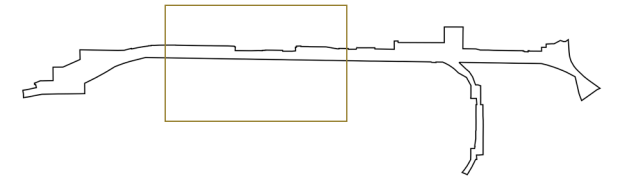
**CYCLING CORRIDOR
CONNECTION**
Connection to Wilson St is
maintained and improved.

McIlwraith Street

Keeley Lane

Lygon Street

**“THE COMMONS”
COMMUNITY PRECINCT**



Area B - (Lygon Street to Nicholson Street)

The area's future

Precincts

- “The Learning Forest” Education Precinct
- “The Marketplace” Commercial Precinct

Key Moments

- “The Front Yard”

“The Learning Forest” Education Precinct

Place character and user experience

The “Learning Forest” education precinct is focused on providing education to young and old with a strong connection to Brunswick South Primary School.

The parklands feel like an extension of the school yard. The nature-play focus, community meeting point, pre and post school waiting space will be enhanced with further amenity to cater to student and carer needs.

Planting and landscape will be driven by existing features such as the Sheoak forest, native vegetation and swale.

Amenities and program



Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung

- Outdoor Country-focused classrooms for community education.
- Pedagogical cultural trails.
- Interpretation and education elements celebrating Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung culture.



Open Space, Passive and Active Recreation

- A shared treatment and landscape with the southern school boundary and entrance to the school.
- Focused lawn areas frequently maintained for passive recreation such as Frisbee.
- Informal pump track.
- Nature play
- Small sports elements such as table tennis tables/ hopscotch and chess tables
- Amenities such as picnic seating, toilets, drinking fountains.



Culture, Public Art, Education and Interpretation

- Interactive education elements.
- Small spill out events space for school markets initiatives to spill out into parklands.
- Highlight heritage railway items.



Active Transport, Safety and Inclusion

- Designated gathering areas for school drop off and pick up with material changes to mitigate safety issues from Shared User Path.
- Meandering pedestrian path.
- Implement school zone pavement material changes when approaching “The Learning Grove” to enhance cycling and pedestrian awareness.
- Upgraded active transport links and facilities into and for the school to encourage active travel of students, parents and staff.
- Ensure Disabled parking bays are in close proximity to precinct.



Climate Resilience, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity Health

- Educational sustainability and circular economy initiatives.
- Climate adaptive plantings connecting east and west and into school.
- Expand swale into rain-garden collection point
- WSUD raingardens
- Enhance the Sheoak grove.



Precedent - Oakland Park Wetlands



Image - Weaving vegetation



Precedent - Moubray Street Community Park, Port Phillip



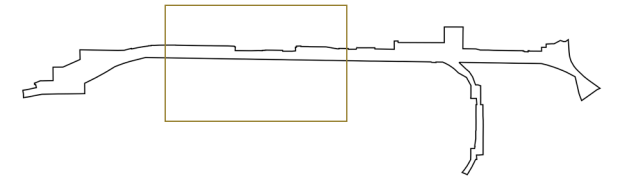
Precedent - Jells Park, Australia



Image - Nature School Primary



Precedent - Sturt Street Children's Centre Vic



Area B - (Lygon Street to Nicholson Street)

“The Marketplace” Commercial Precinct

Place character and user experience

The “Linear Marketplace” commercial precinct is an open and welcoming extension of the Nicholson Street shops into the parklands. It is an active, bustling precinct focused on providing visitors with a place to have breakfast with friends or grab a quick coffee on their commute or visit the bike shop for a repair.

It feels like a small social plaza with appropriate all weather paved areas and adequate amenity, such as shelters and a toilet in close proximity. There is a nature playground next to the shops for parents and kids. The heritage listed exotic birch trees assist in the framing of the kids play area and plaza.

Amenities and program

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung

- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Interpretation elements.
- Indigenous foods in the biodiverse planting areas.

Open Space, Passive and Active Recreation

- Focused areas of lawn in low pedestrian traffic areas.
- Permanent and temporary seating options.
- Public toilet (YCC Toilet Strategy).
- Adequate bicycle amenity.
- Consolidation of car park on eastern side of Nicholson Street for improved community use - prioritise DDA Spaces.

Culture, Public Art, Education and Interpretation

- Interactive signage elements for heritage trees.
- Enhance feeling of plaza through designated hardscape zones.
- Designated areas for temporary markets, events and pop up bars/cafés.

Active Transport, Safety and Inclusion

- Pavement material changes when approaching “The Linear Marketplace” to enhance cycling and pedestrian awareness.
- Remove blind spot corner next to shops.
- Ensure disabled parking bays are in close proximity to precinct.

Climate Resilience, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity Health

- Introduce climate adaptive plantings.
- Incorporate biodiverse planting into nature play area.
- Native tree WSUD depressions.

“The Front Yard” Key Moment

Open lawn, heritage trees and a welcoming community is present at “The Front Yard”. The front yards of adjacent properties open onto the parklands creating an experience of a collective front yard. To enhance the character of this place, upgraded amenity and additional trees to the outer boundaries of the lawn areas will increase shade whilst allowing people to still kick the footy and fly a kite in between the canopies.



Image - Heide Makers Market



Image - Park Gathering at Mt Buffalo, Vic



Precedent - Maitland Levee

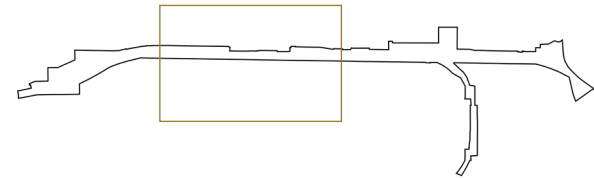


Site photo - Park Street Cafe



Precedent - Toilet Block, Beare Park

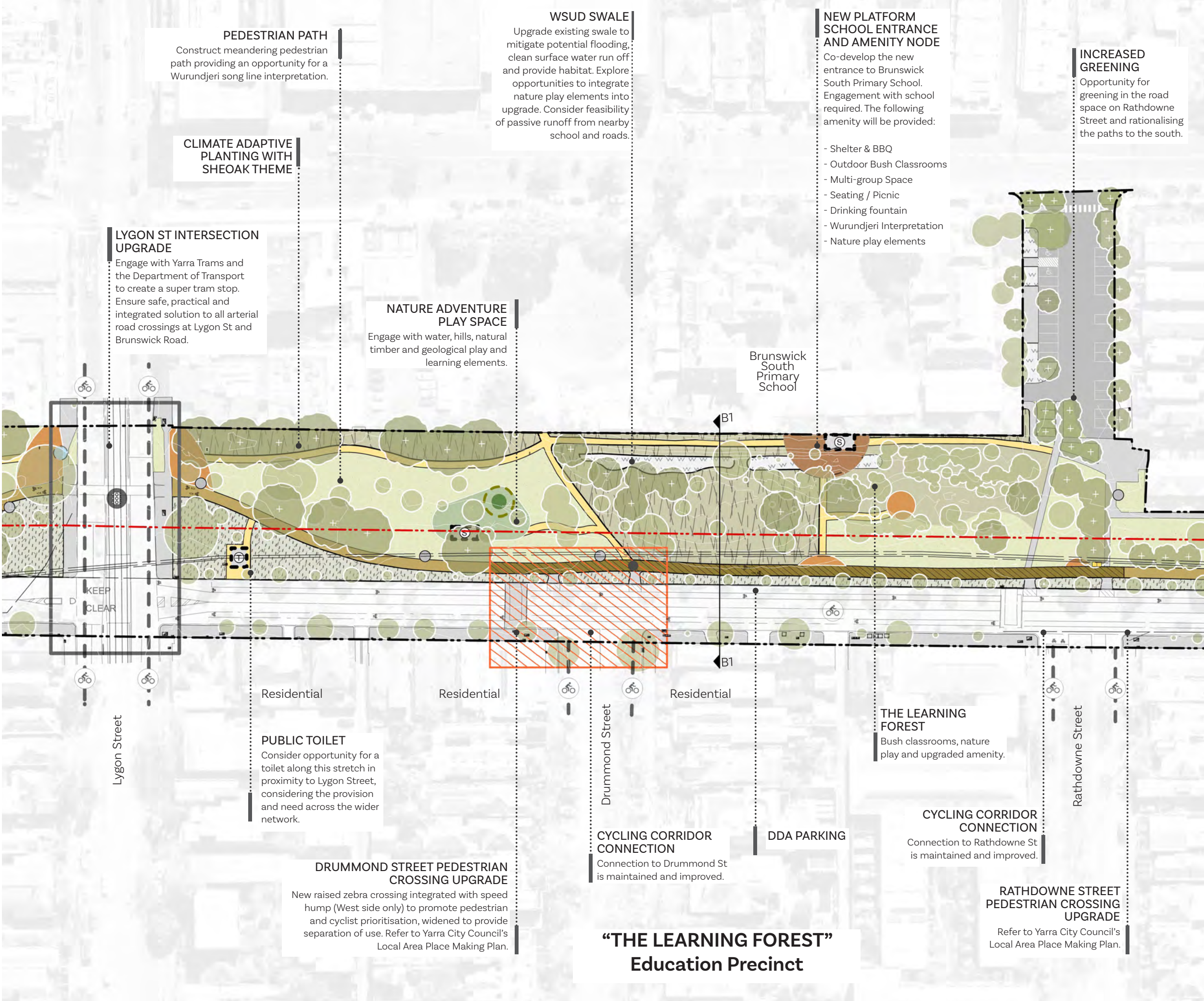
Area B - (Lygon Street to Nicholson Street)

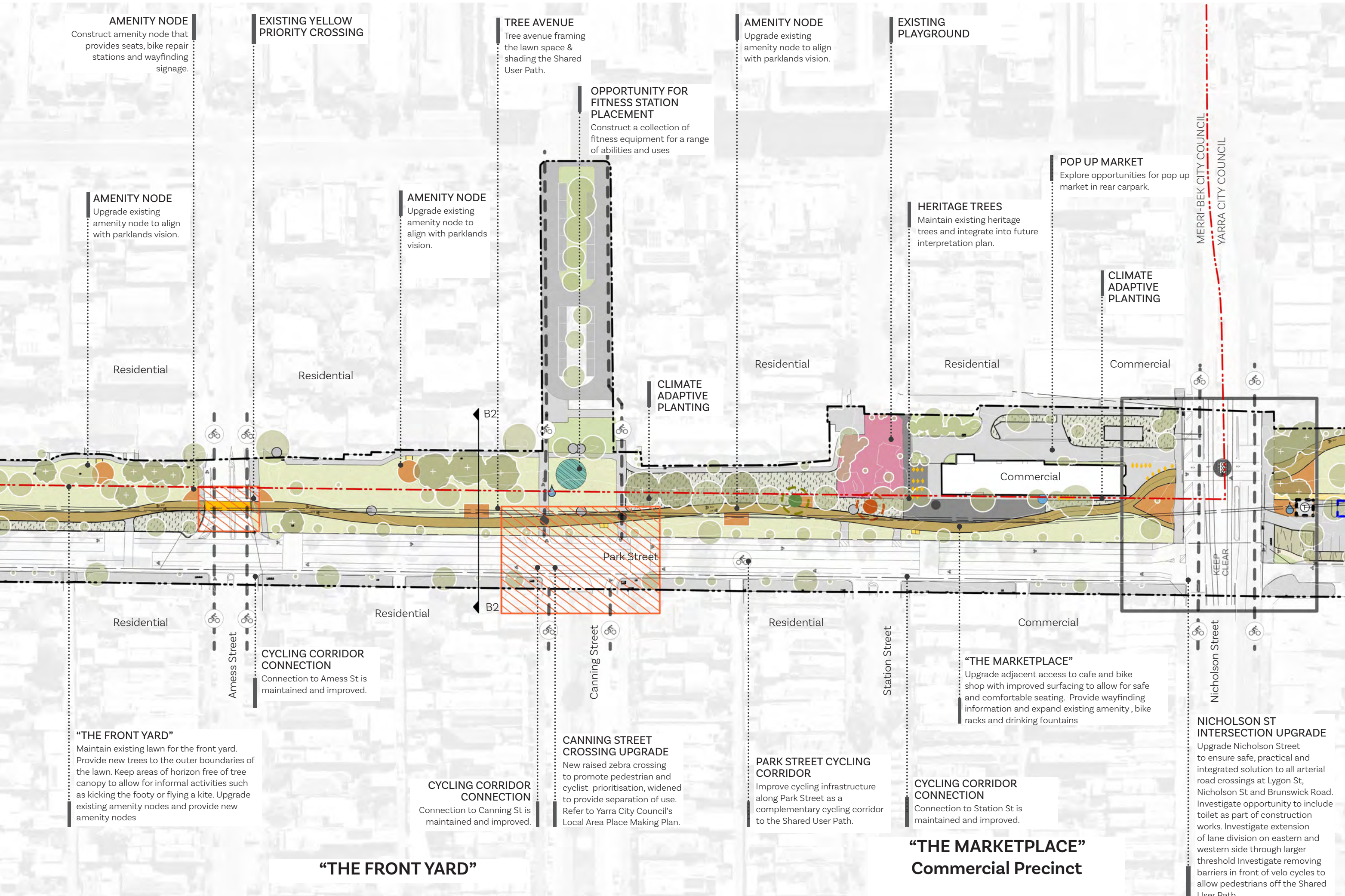


LEGEND

- General**
- (Inner Circle) Linear Parklands Site Boundary
 - Local Government Area Boundary
 - Existing Contour (1m)
 - Overhead Powerlines
- Pavements**
- Existing Concrete Path
 - Existing Compacted Aggregate
 - Existing Primary Shared User Path
 - Proposed Primary Shared User Path School Zone
 - Proposed Secondary Pedestrian Only Path
 - Proposed Traffic Intersection Upgrade
 - Improve Pedestrian and Cycling Crossing Points
 - Proposed Cycle Connection Upgrade
 - Proposed DDA Car Space
- Landscape Areas**
- Improved Surface Treatment
 - Proposed/Upgraded Playground Area
 - Proposed Seating and Amenity Node
 - Proposed BMX Zone
 - Proposed Fitness Station
- Architecture and Site Structures**
- Existing Building
 - Proposed Shelter
 - Proposed Toilet
- Water Elements**
- Proposed Raingarden
- Furniture + Fittings**
- Retain Existing Seating
 - Retain Existing Bins
 - Retain Existing Drinking Fountains
 - Retain Existing Bicycle Rack
 - Proposed Heritage/Rail Interpretation Location
 - Proposed Underground Water Storage Tank
 - Proposed Wurundjeri Interpretation Location
 - Proposed Wayfinding Point
- Planting**
- Existing Open Lawn
 - Existing Biodiverse Understorey Planting
 - Proposed Bushland Conservation Zones
 - Proposed Climate Adaptive Plantings
- Trees**
- Proposed Native Tree
 - Existing Tree to be retained

NOTE: Location of proposed features (e.g. path alignment, amenity nodes) are indicative and subject to further design and feasibility work.





AMENITY NODE

Construct amenity node that provides seats, bike repair stations and wayfinding signage.

EXISTING YELLOW PRIORITY CROSSING

AMENITY NODE

Upgrade existing amenity node to align with parklands vision.

AMENITY NODE

Upgrade existing amenity node to align with parklands vision.

TREE AVENUE

Tree avenue framing the lawn space & shading the Shared User Path.

OPPORTUNITY FOR FITNESS STATION PLACEMENT

Construct a collection of fitness equipment for a range of abilities and uses

AMENITY NODE

Upgrade existing amenity node to align with parklands vision.

EXISTING PLAYGROUND

HERITAGE TREES

Maintain existing heritage trees and integrate into future interpretation plan.

POP UP MARKET

Explore opportunities for pop up market in rear carpark.

CLIMATE ADAPTIVE PLANTING

CLIMATE ADAPTIVE PLANTING

“THE MARKETPLACE”

Upgrade adjacent access to cafe and bike shop with improved surfacing to allow for safe and comfortable seating. Provide wayfinding information and expand existing amenity, bike racks and drinking fountains

NICHOLSON ST INTERSECTION UPGRADE

Upgrade Nicholson Street to ensure safe, practical and integrated solution to all arterial road crossings at Lygon St, Nicholson St and Brunswick Road. Investigate opportunity to include toilet as part of construction works. Investigate extension of lane division on eastern and western side through larger threshold Investigate removing barriers in front of velo cycles to allow pedestrians off the Shared User Path.

“THE FRONT YARD”

Maintain existing lawn for the front yard. Provide new trees to the outer boundaries of the lawn. Keep areas of horizon free of tree canopy to allow for informal activities such as kicking the footy or flying a kite. Upgrade existing amenity nodes and provide new amenity nodes

CYCLING CORRIDOR CONNECTION

Connection to Canning St is maintained and improved.

CANNING STREET CROSSING UPGRADE

New raised zebra crossing to promote pedestrian and cyclist prioritisation, widened to provide separation of use. Refer to Yarra City Council's Local Area Place Making Plan.

PARK STREET CYCLING CORRIDOR

Improve cycling infrastructure along Park Street as a complementary cycling corridor to the Shared User Path.

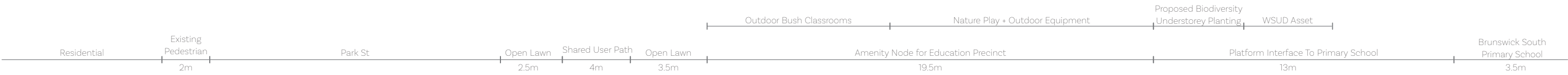
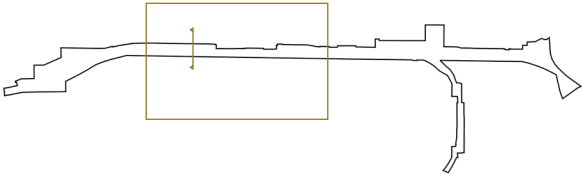
CYCLING CORRIDOR CONNECTION

Connection to Station St is maintained and improved.

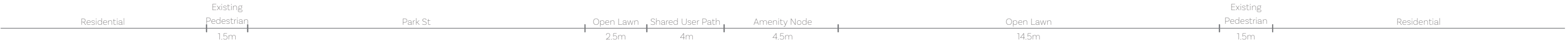
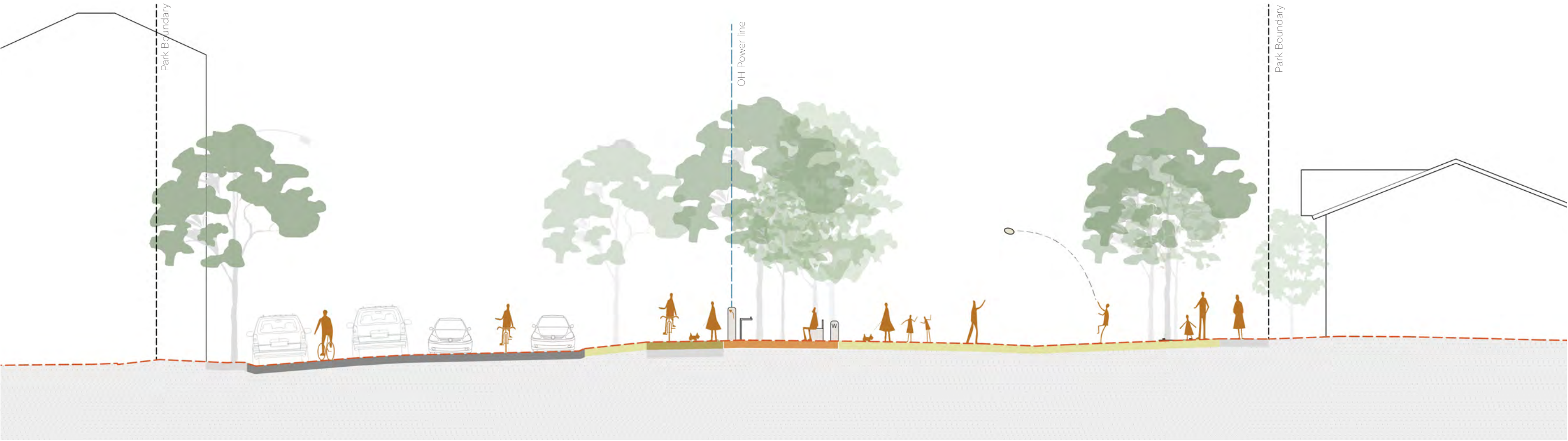
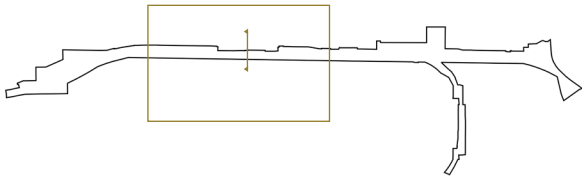
**“THE MARKETPLACE”
Commercial Precinct**

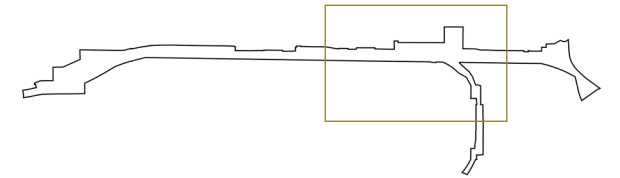
“THE FRONT YARD”

Section B1 “The Learning Forest”



Section B2 “The Front Yard”





Area C - (Nicholson Street to St Georges Road)

The area’s future

Precincts

- “The Haven” Healing Precinct

Key Moments

- “The Lunch Spot”
- “Under the Peppercorns”
- Janet Millman Ecological Park
- Holden Byrne Community Park

“The Haven” Healing Precinct

Place character and user experience

“The Haven,” is a serene Health and Wellbeing precinct focused on healing, reflection and renewal. Located in front of the historic North Fitzroy electric railway substation building, now the Ronald McDonald House, it provides a comforting space for unwell children and their families and the local community alike. With an upgraded circular gathering area, shelter and mature trees, it offers a peaceful sanctuary for reflection and healing.

This precinct provides a focused connection to Country. Distinguished areas of healing gardens and open space create a picturesque views and experiences for quiet time and reflection. There is a subtle water feature and moments of discovery through animal footprints in the ground and through the garden.

“The Haven” invites visitors to embrace its simplicity and find renewal in its serene surroundings.

Amenities and program



Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung

- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung healing garden.
- Ensure proposed gathering areas draw on design principles associated with yarning and social cohesion.
- Interpretation elements in the ground for discovery.



Open Space, Passive and Active Recreation

- Upgraded connectivity to Ronald McDonald House.
- Define gathering areas with different zones for multiple families to spend time together at the same time.
- Define areas of focused lawn for passive recreation, picnics and BBQ’s.
- Distinct landscape forms that facilitate private gathering areas.
- Provide seating.
- Provide BBQ’s.
- Provide shelter over gathering area.
- Ephemeral/natural water feature.



Culture, Public Art, Education and Interpretation

- Art installations and community events.
- Enhance connection and interpretation of existing rail tracks.
- Improve signage and way-finding.



Active Transport, Safety and Inclusion

- Implement pavement material changes when approaching “The Haven” to enhance cycling and pedestrian awareness and mitigate safety issues.



Climate Resilience, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity Health

- Native tree WSUD depressions.
- Climate adaptive plantings and expanded bush conservation zones.
- Introduce biodiverse planting and linkages.
- Raingarden.

“The Lunch Spot” Key Moment

In close proximity to the Nicholson Street shops and Marketplace precinct. The lunch spot offers an multifunctional lawn area that locals and workers can have lunch in the parklands. It can also host events such as cinema nights, concerts and markets. A public toilet and DDA car parks make this place accessible and easy to hang around it, encouraging people to spend more time here.

“Under the Peppercorns” Key Moment

The significant heritage peppercorn trees and remnant train station platform are complimented by a subtle raised community platform referencing the rail history. The platform is equipped with existing and upgraded amenity. There are exciting interpretative elements that showcase Wurundjeri history and the rail heritage. The platform overlooks a small wetland affording visitors an engagement with animals, plants and water.

“Janet Millman Ecological Park” Key Moment

A living monument to Janet Millman and others who advocated for open space and social housing. The Janet Millman Ecological Park is a haven for animals, plants and people. Maintaining the much loved open lawn areas defined by the healthy biodiverse planting, there is a meandering land art trail for visitors to engage with projects that celebrate the parks unique Wurundjeri history, its railway history and community activism.

“Holden Byrne Community Park” Key Moment

Holden Byrne Reserve is connected to the Linear Parklands. It is a great destination for gatherings because of its expansive and shaded lawns, playground, BBQ/picnic area and right next to the Holden Street Neighbourhood House. The Holden Byrne Reserve has upgrade amenity and access including DDA car spaces within close proximity. There is an opportunity to expand on the existing food growing spaces into Porter Street Reserve.



Precedent - Banks of Rochetaillée



Image - Sensory flowers



Precedent - Heide Museum, Vic



Precedent - Heide Museum Healing garden, Vic

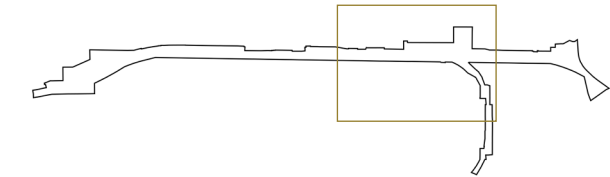


Precedent - Limelight Park, UK



Precedent - Disappearing Walkway, Norway

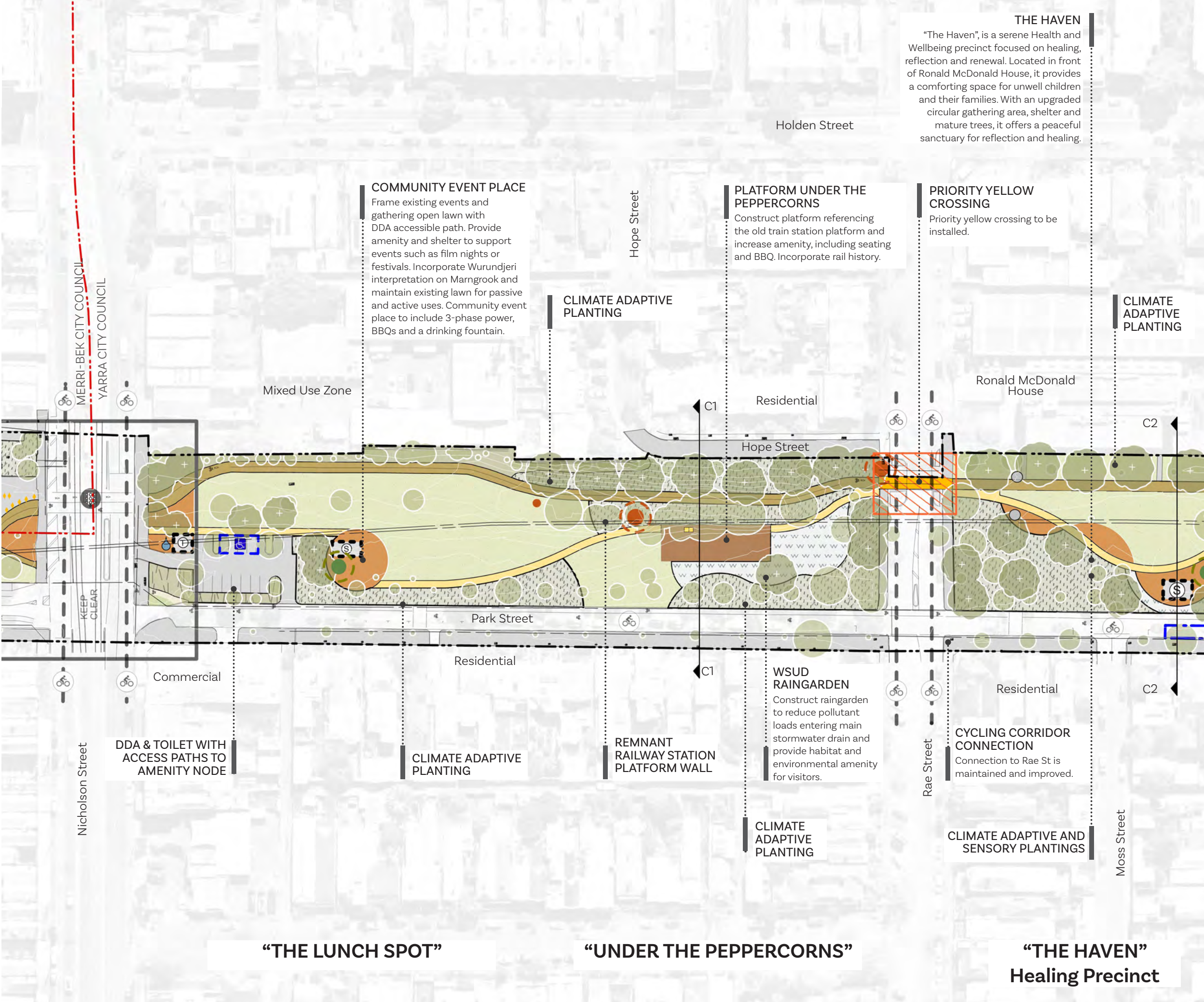
Area C - (Nicholson Street to St Georges Road)



LEGEND

- General**
- (Inner Circle) Linear Parklands Site Boundary
 - Local Government Area Boundary
 - Existing Contour (1m)
 - Overhead Powerlines
- Pavements**
- Existing Concrete Path
 - Existing Compacted Aggregate
 - Existing Primary Shared User Path
 - Proposed Primary Shared User Path School Zone
 - Proposed Secondary Pedestrian Only Path
 - Proposed Traffic Intersection Upgrade
 - Improve Pedestrian and Cycling Crossing Points
 - Proposed Cycle Connection Upgrade
 - Proposed DDA Car Space
- Landscape Areas**
- Improved Surface Treatment
 - Proposed/Upgraded Playground Area
 - Proposed Active Sports Area
 - Proposed Platform Area
 - Proposed Seating and Amenity Node
- Architecture and Site Structures**
- Existing Shelter
 - Existing Building
 - Proposed Shelter
 - Proposed Toilet
- Water Elements**
- Proposed Raingarden
- Furniture + Fittings**
- Retain Existing Seating
 - Retain Existing Bins
 - Retain Existing Drinking Fountains
 - Retain Existing Picnic Tables and Seats
 - Retain Existing BBQ
 - Retain Existing Heritage Element
 - Retain Existing Bicycle Rack
 - Proposed Heritage/Rail Interpretation Location
 - Proposed Land Art Location
 - Proposed Underground Water Storage Tank
 - Proposed Above Ground Rainwater Tank
 - Proposed Wurundjeri Interpretation Location
 - Proposed Wayfinding Point
- Planting**
- Existing Open Lawn
 - Existing Biodiverse Understorey Planting
 - Proposed Bushland Conservation Zones
 - Proposed Climate Adaptive Plantings
- Trees**
- Proposed Native Tree
 - Existing Tree to be retained

NOTE: Location of proposed features (e.g. path alignment, amenity nodes) are indicative and subject to further design and feasibility work.



THE HAVEN

"The Haven", is a serene Health and Wellbeing precinct focused on healing, reflection and renewal. Located in front of Ronald McDonald House, it provides a comforting space for unwell children and their families. With an upgraded circular gathering area, shelter and mature trees, it offers a peaceful sanctuary for reflection and healing.

COMMUNITY EVENT PLACE

Frame existing events and gathering open lawn with DDA accessible path. Provide amenity and shelter to support events such as film nights or festivals. Incorporate Wurundjeri interpretation on Marngrook and maintain existing lawn for passive and active uses. Community event place to include 3-phase power, BBQs and a drinking fountain.

PLATFORM UNDER THE PEPPERCORNS

Construct platform referencing the old train station platform and increase amenity, including seating and BBQ. Incorporate rail history.

PRIORITY YELLOW CROSSING

Priority yellow crossing to be installed.

CLIMATE ADAPTIVE PLANTING

CLIMATE ADAPTIVE PLANTING

WSUD RAINGARDEN

Construct raingarden to reduce pollutant loads entering main stormwater drain and provide habitat and environmental amenity for visitors.

CYCLING CORRIDOR CONNECTION

Connection to Rae St is maintained and improved.

CLIMATE ADAPTIVE AND SENSORY PLANTINGS

REMNANT RAILWAY STATION PLATFORM WALL

CLIMATE ADAPTIVE PLANTING

DDA & TOILET WITH ACCESS PATHS TO AMENITY NODE

"THE LUNCH SPOT"

"UNDER THE PEPPERCORNS"

"THE HAVEN"
Healing Precinct

Construct wetland to reduce pollutant loads entering main stormwater drain and provide habitat and environmental amenity for visitors.

Investigate opportunity to build social/affordable homes that are integrated with the values of the parklands vision and story. Explore interim opportunities for a fenced dog off leash activity park.

Opportunity for to expand on Holden St Neighbourhood House food growing space into a communal garden in Porter Street Reserve

UPGRADED ACCESS INTO PARKLANDS

... ..

...

Ensure safe, practical and integrated solution to all intersections.

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 284: 2689-2695.

- Railway interpretation of remnant rails and weigh bridge, and additional amenity with seating.

Reserve

Park entry amenity
node with seating :

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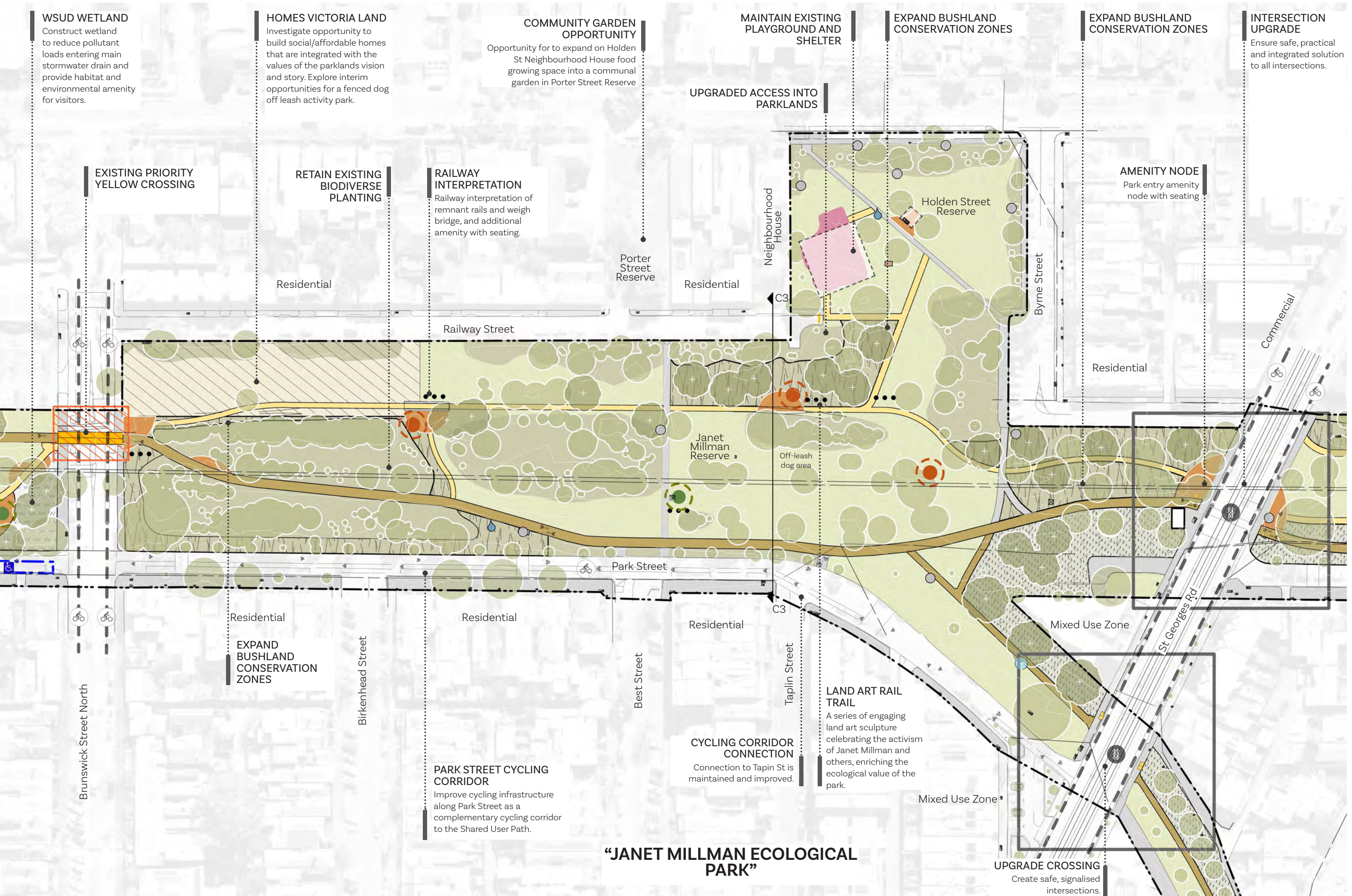
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A series of engaging land art sculpture celebrating the activism of Janet Millman and others, enriching the ecological value of the park.

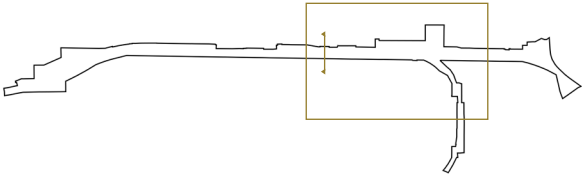
Connection to Tapin St is maintained and improved.

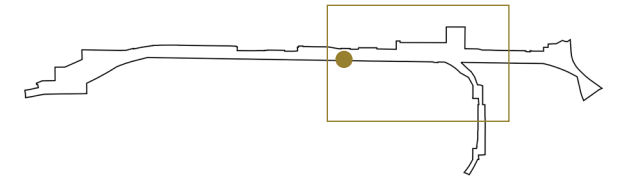
Improve cycling infrastructure along Park Street as a complementary cycling corridor to the Shared User Path.

Create safe, signalised intersections.

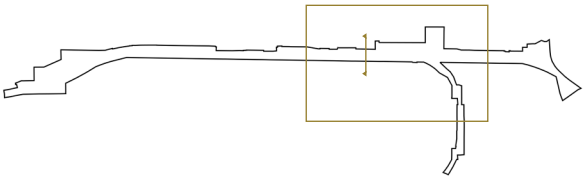


Section C1 “Under the Peppercorns”

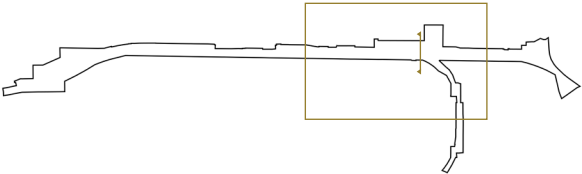


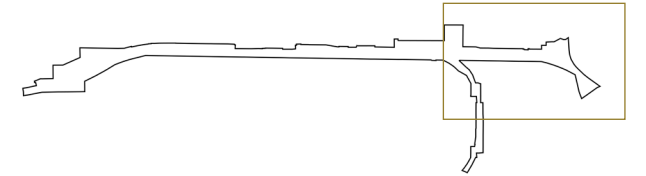


Section C2 “The Haven” Healing Precinct



Section C3 “Janet Millman Ecological Park”





Area D - (Between St Georges Road and Rushall Station)

The area's future

Precincts

- “The Play Plateau” Sports and Play Precinct
- “The Hill “Discovery Precinct”

Key Moments

- Rushall Promenade

“The Play Plateau” Sports and Play Precinct

Place character and user experience

The “Play Plateau” is a large vast revitalised space that harmoniously combines nature, culture, play and recreation. A renowned local artist has creatively re purposed existing materials, breathing new life into the play elements.

Beyond the playground is vast open spaces and focused lawns for activity.

Community can engage in active sports on upgraded basketball and multi-use courts. There is also more passive activity options such as table tennis and chess tables, or they can enjoy a game of bocce. For the adventurous, a bouldering sculpture awaits.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung elements are seamlessly integrated into the play area, fostering an appreciation and respect for Country.

Biodiverse plantings and raingardens create pockets of ecological diversity, supporting local wildlife.

The “Play Plateau” starts with Country to converge nature, culture, play, and recreation and offer a vibrant and inclusive space for all.

Amenities and program

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung

- Incorporate Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung into children's play elements.
- Increase awareness of nearby Merri Merri Creek.
- Incorporate Traditional games such as Margrook into the design of the supergraphic on the court.

Open Space, Passive and Active Recreation

- Toilet and amenities.
- Upgrade existing play facilities with nature and water play themes, perhaps the existing playground can be redesigned by an artist to reuse the existing materials found on site.
- All abilities play elements.
- Enhance the active sports offering with upgrades to existing half basketbal court and consider additional recreational provision such as table tennis tables, chess tables, boccie, bouldering sculpture and pump track.

- Picnic shelters.
- Various seating options.

Culture, Public Art, Education and Interpretation

- Grassed amphitheatre or events space for outdoor cinema and family oriented music events.

Active Transport, Safety and Inclusion

- Implement pavement material changes when approaching “The Play Plateau” to enhance cycling and pedestrian awareness and mitigate safety issues.

Climate Resilience, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity Health

- Raingardens.
- Integrate water and nature play.
- Native tree WSUD depressions.
- Climate adaptive plantings and low bushland conservations zones.
- More trees for shade.
- Use of materials to consider heat island effect.



Precedent - Adelaide Zoo Play Space Nature



Precedent - Re-purposed timber, Champoeg State Park Nature Play



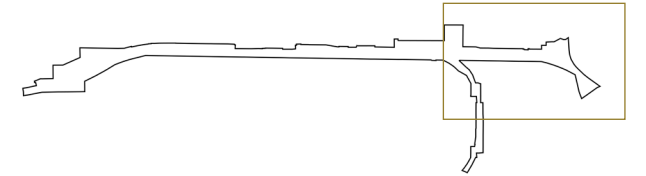
Image - People playing Kubb in park



Precedent - Lizard Log Park, NSW, McGregor Coxall



Precedent - Rock on Wheels, Southbank



Area D - (Between St Georges Road and Rushall Station)

“The Hill” Discovery Precinct

Place character and user experience

“The Hill” is the immersive discovery precinct that invites visitors on a journey. It provides visitors a dense biodiverse bushland with meandering paths and views of the Merri Merri creek. It engages users in conservation education and expresses the importance of biodiversity within our urban environments.

Visitors will experience a sense of adventure and discovery and engagement with plants and animals. Sweeping native grasslands and boulder features in the Thomas Kidney Reserve will guide visitors to the tucked-away Rushall Community Garden.

Amenities and program

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung

- Sharing history of the area and Merri Merri Creek.
- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung interpretation and signage.
- Enhance visitor connection to Merri Merri Creek and Birrarung.

Open Space, Passive and Active Recreation

- Adventure and discovery trails.
- Seats for rest and reflection.
- Shelter and general amenity at the bottom and top of the hill.

Active Transport, Safety and Inclusion

- Meandering gravel paths, bridges and crossings connecting amenity nodes and activity areas.
- Seek opportunities to increase accessibility to community garden.
- Formalise adjacent railway path connection to Rushall Station.

Culture, Public Art, Education and Interpretation

- Improve access to rushall community garden.
- Art and Sculpture.



Climate Resilience, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity Health

- Constructed Wetland with adjacent recreational amenity and creek within precinct to clean Water from Merri Merri Creek.
- Low bushland conservations zones.
- Communal compositing initiatives.

“Rushall Promenade” - Key Moment

The Rushall Promenade is a welcoming open lawn lined with heritage listed Canary Island Date Palms. This entrance to Linear Parklands is equipped with upgraded amenity, visible signage, interpretation and wayfinding.



Precedent - Arnold's Creek Community Hub, Vic



Precedent - Para Wirra Nature Play-scape, SA



Image - Wetland



Image - Tawny frog Mouth Owl

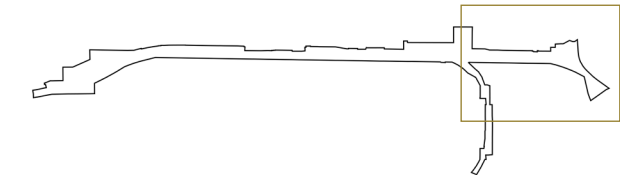


Image - Park Bench, Mount Beerwah, NSW



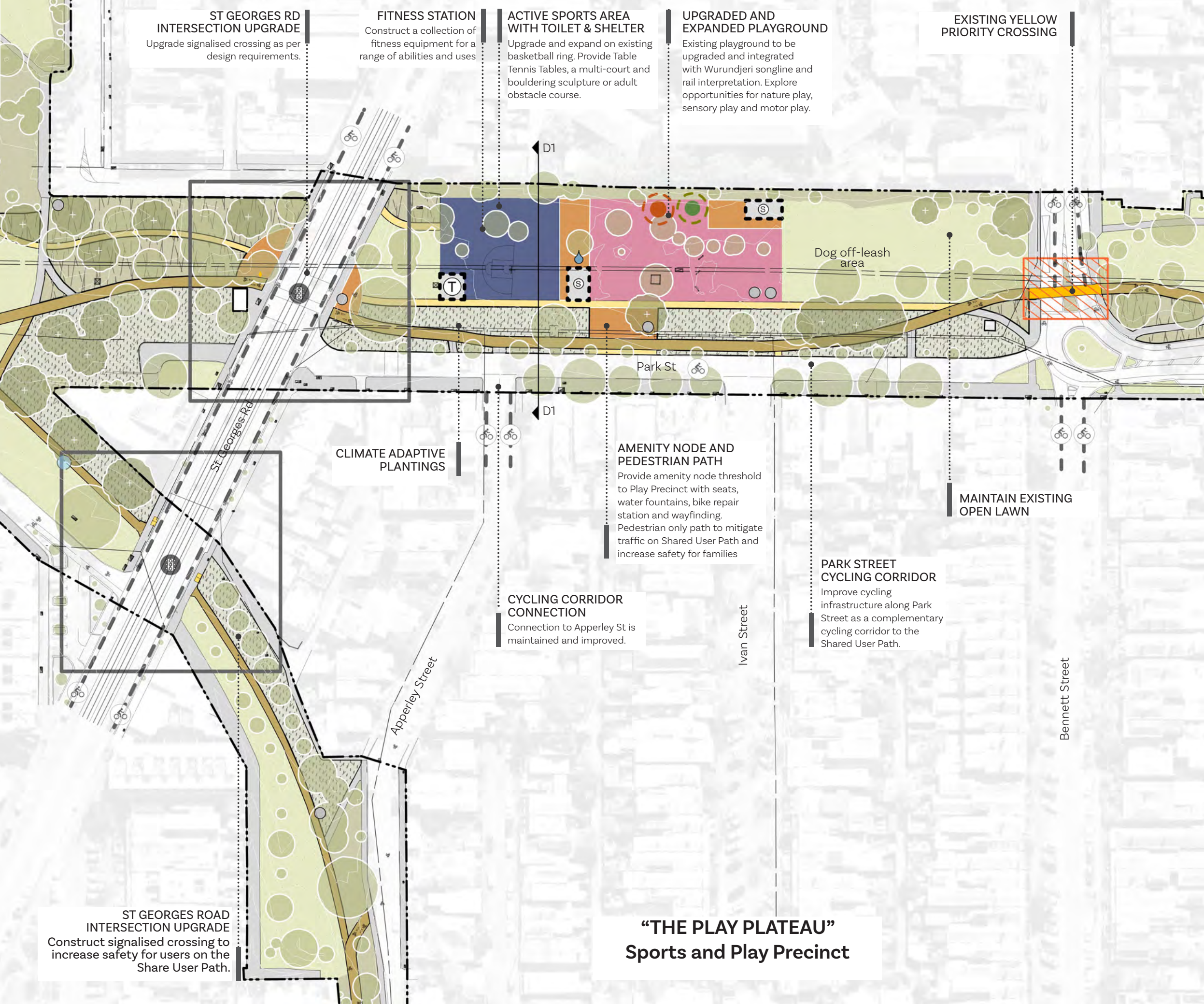
Image - Grassy trail

Area D - (Between St Georges Road and Rushall Station)



LEGEND

- General**
- (Inner Circle) Linear Parklands Site Boundary
 - Local Government Area Boundary
 - Existing Contour (1m)
 - Overhead Powerlines
- Pavements**
- Existing Concrete Path
 - Existing Compacted Aggregate
 - Existing Pedestrian Bridge
 - Existing Primary Shared User Path
 - Proposed Primary Shared User Path School Zone
 - Proposed Secondary Pedestrian Only Path
 - Proposed Traffic Intersection Upgrade
 - Improve Pedestrian and Cycling Crossing Points
 - Proposed Cycle Connection Upgrade
 - Proposed DDA Car Space
- Landscape Areas**
- Improved Surface Treatment
 - Proposed/Upgraded Playground Area
 - Proposed Active Sports Area
 - Proposed Seating and Amenity Node
- Architecture and Site Structures**
- Existing Building
 - Proposed Shelter
 - Proposed Toilet
- Furniture + Fittings**
- Retain Existing Seating
 - Retain Existing Bins
 - Retain Existing Drinking Fountains
 - Retain Existing Bicycle Rack
 - Proposed Heritage/Rail Interpretation Location
 - Proposed Underground Water Storage Tank
 - Proposed Wurundjeri Interpretation Location
 - Proposed Wayfinding Point
- Planting**
- Existing Open Lawn
 - Existing Biodiverse Understorey Planting
 - Existing Communal Garden
 - Proposed Bushland Conservation Zones
 - Proposed Climate Adaptive Plantings
- Trees**
- Proposed Native Tree
 - Existing Tree to be retained
- NOTE: Location of proposed features (e.g. path alignment, amenity nodes) are indicative and subject to further design and feasibility work.





MAINTAIN EXISTING
OPEN LAWN

RETAIN EXISTING
BIODIVERSE PLANTING

**COMMUNITY GARDEN
EXPANSION**

Seek opportunities to
expand the community
gardens to accommodate
additional plots.

Rushall
Community
Garden

Rushall Reserve

PEDESTRIAN PATH

Formalise rushall station
connection to community
gardenwayfinding

Thomas Kidney
Reserve

Rushall Crescent

LOW BUSHLAND
CONSERVATION
ZONES

PEDESTRIAN PATH

Additional pedestrian path to
mitigate traffic and safety issues for
pedestrians. Alignment of path in this
section to consider topography and
desire lines.

**WURUNDJERI (MERRI MERRI
CREEK) INTERPRETATION**

Key location to introduce Wurundjeri
Songline of the Merri Merri Yaluck to
visitors. Expand and upgrade existing
amenity to create a destination for
visitors to learn and reflect.

Kneen Street

REFLECTION BENCH

Provide a series of singular
benches for visitors to have
moments of reflection and
reprieve in the discovery
precinct.

EXPAND BUSHLAND
CONSERVATION ZONES

**CYCLING CORRIDOR
CONNECTION**

Connection to Falconer St is
maintained and improved.

AMENITY NODE

Provide amenity node with
seats, drinking fountain, bike
repair station and wayfinding.

Batson Reserve

Falconer Street

**CONNECTION TO
OTHER ROUTES**

Provide wayfinding
to other routes and
coordinate design with
any future potential
improvements around
Rushall Station.

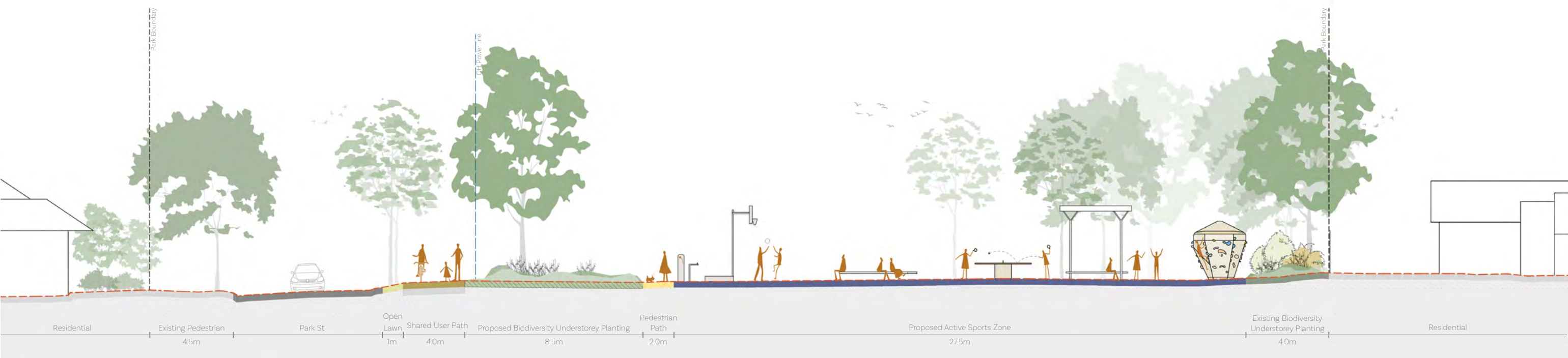
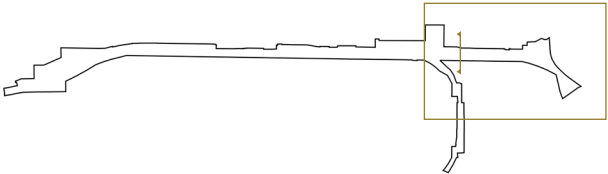
Rushall Station

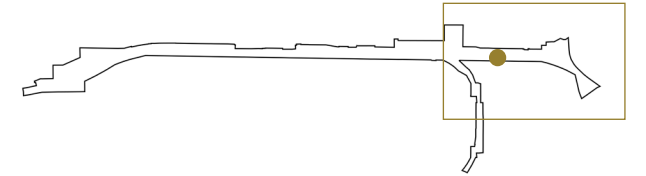
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL
YARRA CITY COUNCIL

**“THE HILL”
Discovery Precinct**

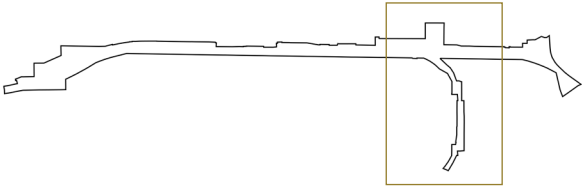
RUSHALL PROMENADE

Section D1 “The Play Plateau” Play and Sports Precinct





Area E - (Between St Georges Road and Edinburgh Gardens)



The area’s future

Key Moments

“The Backyard”

“The Backyard”Key Moment

An intimate and welcoming place, “The Backyard”offers a collection of small lawn spaces for locals to have picnics and dinner parties. Amidst healthy biodiverse planting , an upgraded amenity node with Wurundjeri and Railway history interpretation sits adjacent to the vast Edinburgh Gardens. Additional communal garden plots are available for the local community in the north, contributing to the experience of a collective backyard.



Site Image - Mark Street Reserve



Site Image - Scotchmer Street Pedestrian Crossing



Image - Community Gardens Beds, CERES



Site Image - Residents' 'Backyard'

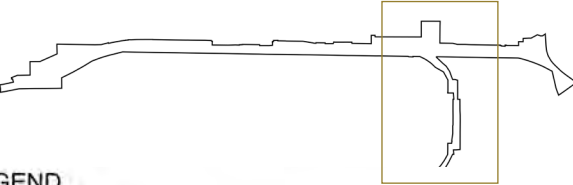


Site Image - Existing Communal Garden



Image - Community Garden, Port Phillip Eco Centre

Area E - (Between St Georges Road and Edinburgh Gardens)



LEGEND

General

- (Inner Circle) Linear Parklands Site Boundary
- Local Government Area Boundary
- Existing Contour (1m)
- Overhead Powerlines

Pavements

- Existing Concrete Path
- Existing Compacted Aggregate
- Existing Primary Shared User Path
- Proposed Primary Shared User Path School Zone
- Proposed Secondary Pedestrian Only Path
- Proposed Traffic Intersection Upgrade
- Improve Pedestrian and Cycling Crossing Points
- Proposed Cycle Connection Upgrade
- Proposed DDA Car Space

Landscape Areas

- Improved Surface Treatment
- Proposed/Upgraded Playground Area
- Proposed Active Sports Area
- Proposed Platform Area
- Proposed Seating and Amenity Node

Architecture and Site Structures

- Existing Shelter
- Existing Building
- Proposed Shelter
- Proposed Toilet

Water Elements

- Proposed Raingarden

Furniture + Fittings

- Retain Existing Seating
- Retain Existing Bins
- Retain Existing Drinking Fountains
- Retain Existing Picnic Tables and Seats
- Retain Existing BBQ
- Retain Existing Heritage Element
- Retain Existing Bicycle Rack
- Proposed Heritage/Rail Interpretation Location
- Proposed Land Art Location
- Proposed Underground Water Storage Tank
- Proposed Above Ground Rainwater Tank
- Proposed Wurundjeri Interpretation Location
- Proposed Wayfinding Point

Planting

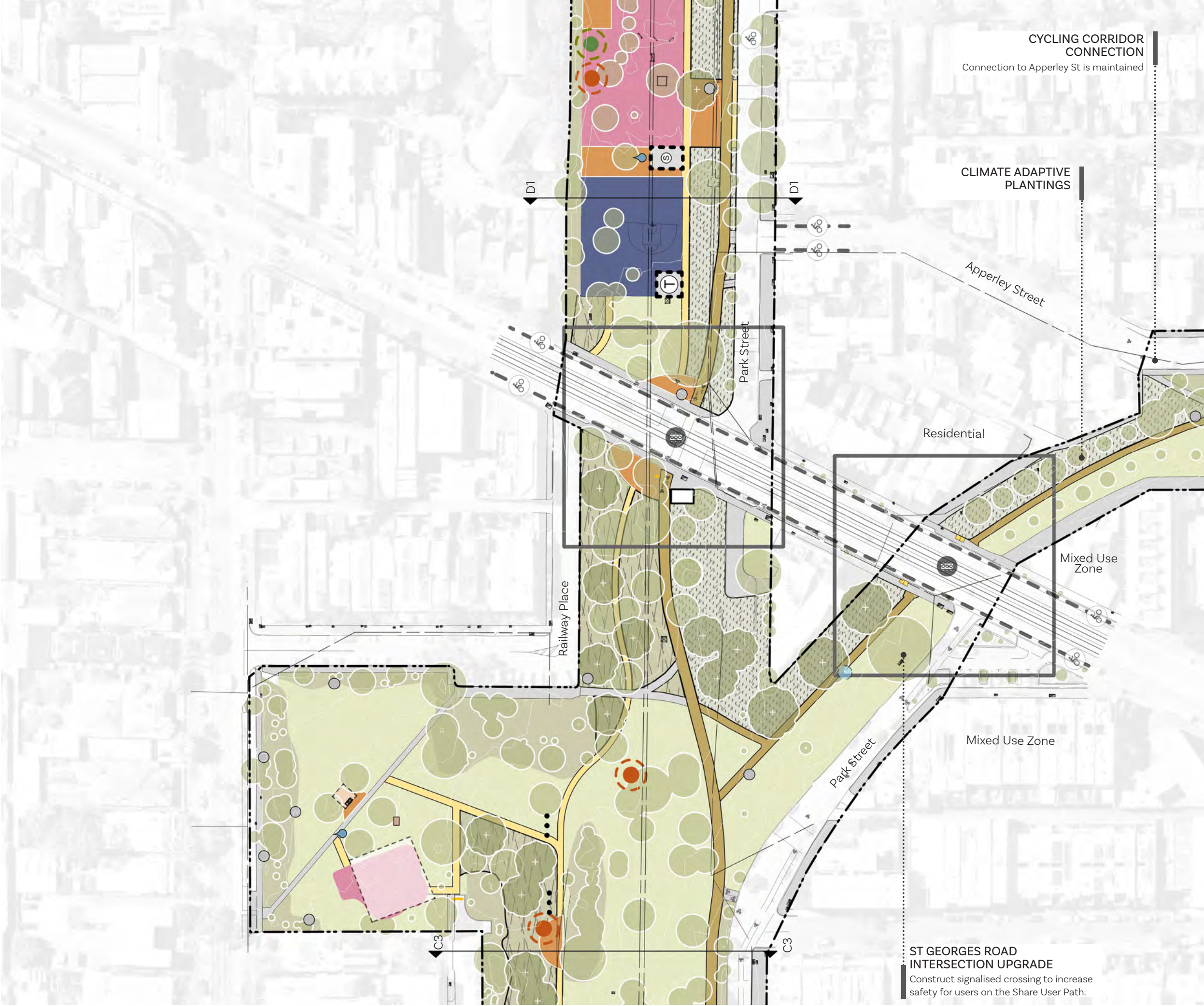
- Existing Open Lawn
- Existing Biodiverse Understorey Planting
- Proposed Bushland Conservation Zones
- Proposed Climate Adaptive Plantings

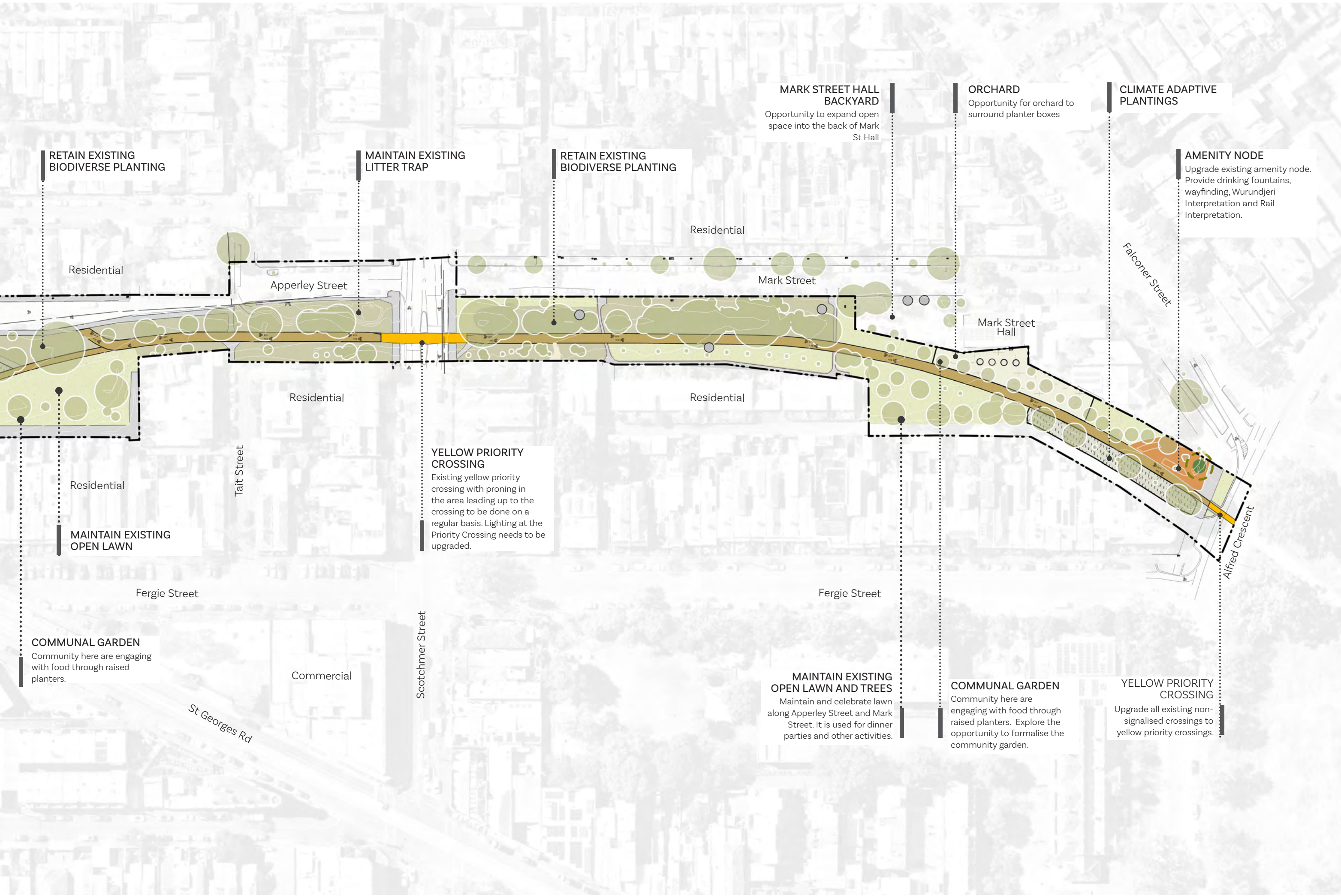
Trees

- Proposed Native Tree
- Existing Tree to be retained

NOTE: Location of proposed features (e.g. path alignment, amenity nodes) are indicative and subject to further design and feasibility work.







RETAIN EXISTING BIODIVERSE PLANTING

MAINTAIN EXISTING LITTER TRAP

RETAIN EXISTING BIODIVERSE PLANTING

MARK STREET HALL BACKYARD
Opportunity to expand open space into the back of Mark St Hall

ORCHARD
Opportunity for orchard to surround planter boxes

CLIMATE ADAPTIVE PLANTINGS

AMENITY NODE
Upgrade existing amenity node. Provide drinking fountains, wayfinding, Wurundjeri Interpretation and Rail Interpretation.

YELLOW PRIORITY CROSSING
Existing yellow priority crossing with pruning in the area leading up to the crossing to be done on a regular basis. Lighting at the Priority Crossing needs to be upgraded.

MAINTAIN EXISTING OPEN LAWN AND TREES
Maintain and celebrate lawn along Apperley Street and Mark Street. It is used for dinner parties and other activities.

COMMUNAL GARDEN
Community here are engaging with food through raised planters. Explore the opportunity to formalise the community garden.

YELLOW PRIORITY CROSSING
Upgrade all existing non-signalised crossings to yellow priority crossings.

COMMUNAL GARDEN
Community here are engaging with food through raised planters.

MAINTAIN EXISTING OPEN LAWN

