



JACKSONS CREEK biik wurrdha

REGIONAL PARKLANDS PLAN 2022



PARKLANDS PARTNERS



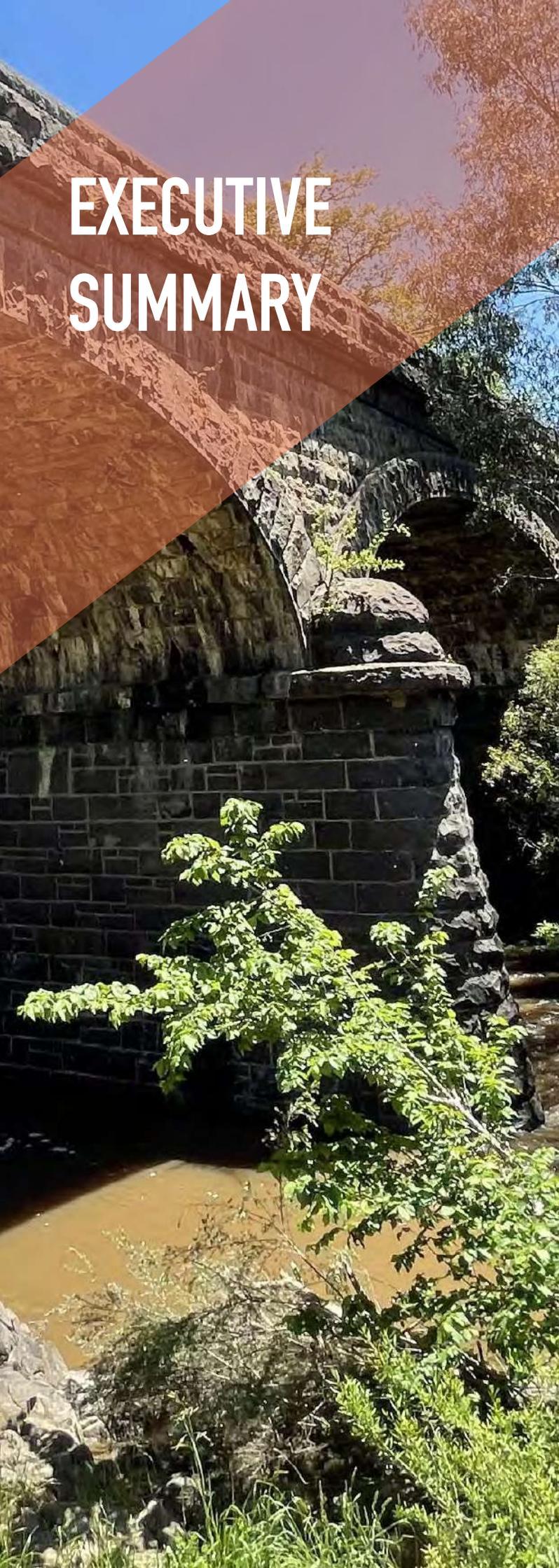
**Wurundjeri
Woi-wurrung**

Cultural Heritage
Aboriginal Corporation



The Partners acknowledge that the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung are the Traditional Owners of the land known as Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung's connection to the biik wurrdha Cultural Landscape and recognise that it is valued in its entirety for the spiritual, archaeological, historical, ecological and living connections that it provides to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands

Sunbury will be home to new regional parklands spanning over 1000 hectares and 26 kilometres of spectacular Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha valley.

The Parklands includes and links much loved existing parks including Emu Bottom Wetlands, The Nook, Skyline Drive Reserve, Apex Park, Jacksons Hill Reserve, Holden Flora Reserve and the former Sunbury Music Festival site.

Traditional Owners

Jacksons Creek flows across Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung land and is known as 'biik wurrdha' meaning 'land of many' in Woi-wurrung language.

The Woi-wurrung people have been the owners and custodians of the land for thousands of years. The Elders seek the protection of this culturally significant landscape for future generations.

Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Parklands Plan 2022

The Jacksons Creek Regional Parklands Plan 2022 sets out a vision, principles and directions for progressive parklands establishment, expansion, and management to be achieved by 2040.

These parklands are being created alongside the urban expansion of Sunbury and the Parkland Plan responds to the critical need to protect and enhance biodiversity and cultural heritage, mitigate climate change, and contribute to improved community health and wellbeing.

The vision is:

***Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands
will be an inspiring natural and cultural landscape
valued for the ecological, spiritual, historical and living connections
it provides to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community
and visitors from Sunbury and beyond.***

The Parklands Plan recognises and embeds the rights and values of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, in the planning and management of the Parklands.

The Parkland Plan is centred around the following themes and objectives:

- *culture, heritage and identity*
- *biodiversity*
- *climate resilience*
- *visitor experience & healthy communities*
- *land management*

Culture, Heritage and Identity

The biik wurrdha (Jacksons Creek) Cultural Landscape is valued in its entirety for the spiritual, archaeological, historical, ecological and living connections that it provides to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community.

The biik wurrdha parklands will be a space for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to care for the Sunbury Earth Rings, to practice ecological cultural land management works, undertake archaeological knowledge recording, walk Country, practice culture and ceremony, and share stories relating to the journey of their ancestors within the landscape.

European settlers arrived in 1835 with pastoral interests and Redstone Hill is the most likely location of the signing of the Batman 'Treaty'. The parklands area has been the home of previous volunteer military encampments and the renowned Sunbury Music Festival. It is adjacent to the historic Rupertswood Mansion, Emu Bottom Homestead and popular Sunbury wineries.

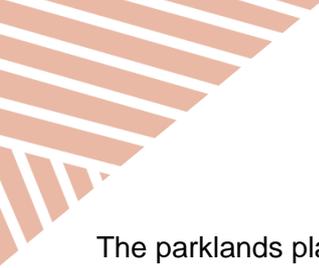
The Parklands Plan sets out these key actions:

- Protect biik wurrdha cultural landscape and seek funding to celebrate and share woi-wurrung culture. Initiatives include signage, artwork, potential cultural centre, archaeological surveys, and planning controls
- Protect and strengthen the connection to heritage sites within and adjoining the Parklands through the provision of paths, signage and landscaping to enhance visitor experience

Biodiversity

A key driver for biodiversity protection within the parklands are the planned conservation areas (for Nature Conservation and Growling Grass Frog). These are a requirement under the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) to offset the impacts to biodiversity from the surrounding urban development.

Much of the parklands is currently, or has historically been, used for agricultural purposes. Native vegetation has been largely replaced by weeds however some high value remnants still exist including at Holden Flora Reserve and escarpment areas. The riparian vegetation along Jacksons Creek is largely continuous and will be enhanced.



The parklands play an important role as a wildlife corridor. This will become increasingly important as surrounding areas are developed and habitat area is reduced. The corridor role along the creek supports diverse species such as fish, frogs, platypus, birds and kangaroos.

The Parklands Plan sets out these key actions:

- Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity values in line with regularly reviewed conservation management plans and strategies
- Coordinate pest plant and animal management to ensure a holistic approach to improve biodiversity values

Climate Change

The parklands will be managed to respond to climate change impacts and extreme weather events including storms, bushfires and intense heat waves.

In 2021, canopy covered 32% of the parkland area. New canopy plantings will provide shade along paths and visitor areas. Canopy planting will be limited to avoid priority grassland and growling grass frog areas due to different ecological habitat requirements. Vegetation will be managed to minimise fire risk.

The Parklands Plan sets out these key actions:

- Implement adaptive management strategies for species and ecosystems to help respond to impacts of climate change and extreme events
- Provide canopy trees at visitor nodes and along trails wherever appropriate to provide shade and comfort for visitors
- Implement opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions during the establishment and ongoing maintenance of the parklands

Visitor Experience and Healthy Communities

The spectacular and diverse landscapes of the parklands provide a wide range of opportunities for visitors to enjoy. The scenic qualities of the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha valley are framed by the topography and significant underlying geology such as rapids and rocky outcrops formed by lava flows.

Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands hold great significance to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and are home to the Sunbury Earth Rings where traditional cultural ecological land management is applied. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung welcome further opportunities to practice and share their culture within the parklands.

The parklands provide access to high quality local experiences for passive recreation and leisure activities such as walking and picnicking. Existing park areas, especially The Nook and Emu Bottom Wetlands, are much loved and frequented by the local community.

Local residents and park visitors have indicated strong support for expansion of the parklands along Jacksons Creek and Harpers Creek with a preference for more opportunities to enjoy and appreciate nature. This includes regional trail connections and quiet walking loops designed to appreciate and protect the landscape.



The Parklands Plan sets out these key actions:

- Implement connected parklands trails and viewing platforms to support visitor enjoyment, protection of natural and cultural values, and safe movement
- Continue to maintain and promote existing parkland activity nodes and support the establishment of the Redstone Hill regional park node and the Harpers Creek linear park corridor
- Provide activation activities to engage local residents and attract diverse visitors to the parklands. Activities may include planting days, walking tours, park runs, Junior Rangers, and guided talks

Land Management

Approximately 30 percent of the parklands area is currently managed by the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands Partnership Group.

The Partners include Traditional Owners and ongoing public land managers: Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Hume City Council, Greater Western Water, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

The remaining 70 percent of the parklands is currently privately owned and will become parklands as part of the development approval process. Some parcels will be transferred within 3-5 years and some will take 10-20 years. Some land may remain in private ownership for longer where the use is consistent with Precinct Structure Plans and the Parklands Plan including provision for publicly accessible trails, scenic views and connections.

The Salesian College will continue to manage some land to support their educational studies while maintaining cultural and biodiversity values of the parklands.

The Partnership Group supports Traditional Owner self-determination and as such supports the goal of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people for future management of the parklands.

The Parklands Plan sets out these key actions:

- Establish the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Parklands Partnership Group as an ongoing collaboration to be reviewed every three years.
- Progressively secure the transfer of private land within the parklands boundary to public ownership including land within the Biodiversity Conservation Area
- Investigate options, and where possible implement, land management by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to deliver natural resource management outcomes

The Parkland Partners will work together to develop the parklands collaboratively in line with the vision, principles and management zones set out in the Parkland Plan.

Bluestone Bridge, Skyline and The Nook Walk

Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands hosts one of western Melbourne's most scenic urban walking routes.

From Apex Park, visitors can follow the creek under Sunbury Road by the historic bluestone bridge, along the edge of Goonawarra winery before stretching up to Skyline Reserve to look over the escarpments at the valley and historic Rupertswood Mansion.

After returning from the walk, you can relax at the picnic and toilet facilities at The Nook while watching the birdlife and enjoying the creek edge.



CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Investing in parklands	1
1.2 Role of the Parklands Plan	2
1.3 Objectives	3
2. CONTEXT	4
2.1 Woi-wurrung Country	4
2.2 History and heritage	7
2.3 Strategic context	10
2.4 Planning context	13
2.5 Land management	16
2.6 Biodiversity values	17
2.7 Visitor experience	20
2.8 Geology and topography	23
3. CONSULTATION	24
3.1 Consultation summary	24
4. THE PARKLANDS PLAN	25
4.1 The vision	25
4.2 The Parklands Plan	25
4.3 Culture, heritage and identity	25
4.4 Biodiversity	27
4.5 Climate resilience	29
4.6 Visitor experience and healthy communities	31
5. MANAGEMENT OF THE PARKLANDS	34
5.1 Parklands management	34
5.2 Land managers	35
APPENDICES	37
A. Strategic document review	38
B. Consultation summary	40
C. Parkland planning methodology	43

1. INTRODUCTION



1.1 INVESTING IN PARKLANDS

Jacksons Creek flows across Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung land and is known as 'biik wurrdha' meaning 'land of many' in Woi-wurrung language.

The Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands will consist of over 1,000 hectares of open space stretching approximately 26 kilometres along the creek in Sunbury.

Providing a treasured open space corridor that protects and enhances significant cultural, natural and heritage values, the parklands will be especially important as Sunbury's population of 42,494 is expected to grow to approximately 85,000 by 2041 and to over 100,000 in the longer term.

The Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands are home to stunning views and natural beauty helping to draw more people outdoors to connect to nature. The health and wellbeing benefits for visitors will be enhanced through the inclusion of trails for exercising, spaces to rest and relax and areas to appreciate the natural and cultural heritage of the parklands.

The Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands will help to deliver Victoria's vision of a quality open space network as set out in the Open Space for Everyone Strategy 2021.

1.2 ROLE OF THE PARKLANDS PLAN

The Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands Plan (the Plan) guides the future creation of parklands along the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha corridor, ensuring the protection and enhancement of its cultural, heritage, landscape, biodiversity and social values, whilst enabling public access and inspiring community enjoyment.

The Plan sets out principles and direction for progressive parkland establishment, management and expansion, to be achieved by 2040.

The term ‘parklands’ reflects the linking of multiple open space reserves managed by different land managers.

The Plan has been developed by the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Partnership Group. This comprises Traditional Owners and ongoing public land managers responsible for implementing the Parklands Plan.

These partners are:

- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
- Parks Victoria
- Hume City Council
- Melbourne Water
- Greater Western Water
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

The Plan is a high level strategic plan. The Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) remain the key plan guiding future land use, subdivision and development. This includes stormwater assets, bridges, trails and interface with development. Final designs will be based on site specific analysis and be generally in accordance with the Lancefield Road PSP, Sunbury South PSP and future Sunbury North PSP.



Figure 1.1: Parklands Plan area

1.3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Parklands Plan are:

- **Cultural**
 - Protect and enhance the significant ancient, historical and ongoing cultural values of the parklands
 - Promote and explain the cultural, environmental and heritage features of the parklands
 - Support Traditional Owners to continue their connections to their traditional lands
- **Environmental**
 - Protect and enhance the biodiversity and connected landscape values of the parklands
 - Protect the geology, escarpments and scenic landscapes
 - Protect waterways and minimise impacts of urban stormwater runoff
 - Increase climate change resilience
- **Enjoyment and Access**
 - Create opportunities for immersion in nature, social connection and physical activity to enhance the health and wellbeing of the community and visitors
 - Create a network of trails which provide opportunities for community connection and appreciation of the parklands
 - Provide opportunities for nature and cultural based learning, volunteering and tourism
 - Facilitate visitor access to parklands via public transport, cycling, walking and driving
 - Manage the visitor activities within the parklands to ensure risks to cultural and environmental values and to visitor safety are minimised
- **Management**
 - Establish a partnership structure for the shared future management of the parklands
 - Provide a leading example of cooperatively managed metropolitan open space by Traditional Owners and public land managers

2. CONTEXT

2.1 WURUNDJERI WOI-WURRUNG COUNTRY

The following extracts from the Towards Cultural and Environmental Renewal of Jacksons Creek: biik wurrdha Regional Parklands Cultural Values Study 2021 sets out the Woi-wurrung connection to the parklands area:

“The Woi-wurrung people have been the owners and custodians of the land known as Sunbury and Jacksons Creek for at least 35,000 years. For the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community, significance is sustained through the renewal of customary practices and ensuring the generational conferral of knowledge. This is achieved in many ways, including caring for Country, undertaking archaeological assessments, walking Country, knowledge sharing and on-Country cultural activities.”

“Traditionally, water flowing through Woi-wurrung Country was essential to sustain living areas and the ecology reliant upon for diet and resources. Travelling pathways following watercourses connected communities and families by which the Maribyrnong River connected northwestern Woi-wurrung clans with their southeastern neighbours, and the Werribee River connected Woi-wurrung clans with their Wadawurrung neighbours.”

“The year 1835 marked the encroachment of people with pastoral interests into Woi-wurrung Country, formalised by the Port Phillip Association’s limits of settlement. This immediately diminished Indigenous people’s access to their Country and resources. The year 1863 marks the movement of Woi-wurrung people onto the Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve.”

“The biik wurrdha Cultural Landscape is valued in its entirety for the spiritual, archaeological, historical, ecological and living connections that it provides to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community.”

“It is important to get out on Country as much as we can. We need to see Country and talk about it how we want to. Walking across the landscape and sharing knowledge with everyone is absolutely amazing. Being on Country at biik wurrdha is a privileged and special moment. We are visiting our ancestors’ home. It is important that the public knows this. They should be aware of the history and how significant biik wurrdha is to us, and why we do these cultural walks. It is very important to preserve and look after these areas.”

The Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Study identified a high number of significant Aboriginal cultural places and objects including the Sunbury Earth Rings.

“A wide array of Aboriginal place types is present within the study area. Most of these places are located on the western side of Jacksons Creek, where a greater amount of development and archaeological investigation has occurred. Aboriginal places have been documented most commonly on the Jacksons Creek valley/hill slopes, followed by the lower floodplain.”

“Most Aboriginal places were identified on the ground surface only... It is likely that further substantial traces of Aboriginal cultural heritage are located within subsurface deposits in the study area.”

Today, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community continue their traditions through the use of customary practices ensuring generational knowledge sharing. This includes carrying out on-ground works, participating in archaeological assessments and identification of cultural heritage material, walking Country for knowledge recording, sharing stories and relating to the journey of their ancestors within a landscape, ceremonies, and dance revival.

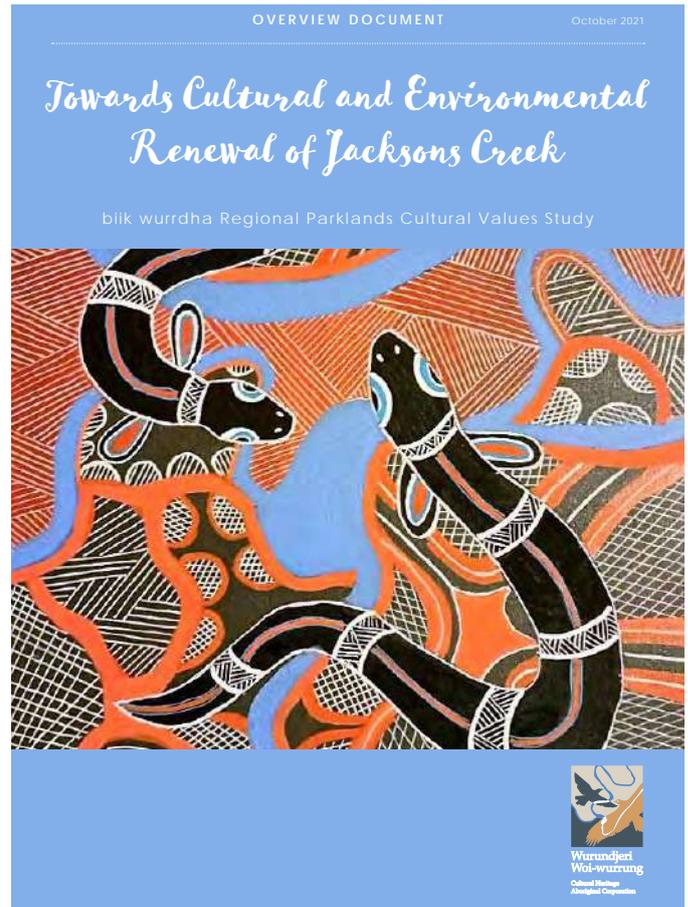


Figure 2.1: The biik wurrdha Cultural Values Study 2021 set out the parkland priorities of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community. The cover artwork has been produced by Ash Firebrace and is set as the image for biik wurrdha

The Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Study sets out Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung priorities and provides direction for the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands Plan and future implementation planning. The Study outlines the following recommendations:

1. Cultural Heritage Management and Protection

The biik wurrdha Regional Parklands area has been determined as a significant Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung landscape. The biik wurrdha Cultural Landscape holds an extensive presence of archaeological artefacts and a surface archaeological survey of all areas in the parklands is essential.

2. Sunbury Earth Rings

The Sunbury Earth Rings evidence Woi-wurrung occupation, cultural life and traditional land use. They are an integral feature of the biik wurrdha Cultural Landscape and a shared commitment to their protection is a priority.

3. Protect Aesthetic and Natural Attributes within biik wurrdha Regional Parklands

The biik wurrdha Regional Parklands area is significant to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, including the diverse landscape features of the creek valley, floodplains and flats, volcanic peaks of Redstone Hill and Jacksons Hill, and the elevated plateaus above the escarpments. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders would like the public to enjoy the parklands however need to work with land managers to ensure that walking paths, lookouts and other visitor attractions support, and do not damage, the significant aesthetic and natural attributes of their ancestral place.

4. Caring for Country

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people are the custodians of the biik wurrdha Cultural Landscape and hold the generationally conferred responsibility of caring for this place to ensure seasonal maintenance of the right ecology, habitats for totemic and creation ancestors and restoration of the landscape traditionally managed by the Woi-wurrung people. Land management works within the parklands are to be returned to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people to protect, manage and restore Country.

5. Planning Controls to Conserve the biik wurrdha Cultural Landscape

The biik wurrdha Cultural Landscape is valued in its entirety for the spiritual, archaeological, historical, ecological and living connections that it provides to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community. Implementation of planning controls are needed to protect biik wurrdha in its entirety.



Figure 2.2: Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders Dave Wandin and Julieanne Axford talking with archaeologist whilst overlooking biik wurrdha valley (left) and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders Alice Kolasa and Sean Hunter at Jacksons Falls (right)

6. Supporting Cultural Practice in the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands

For the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community, significance is sustained through the renewal of customary practices and ensuring the generational conferral of knowledge. This is achieved in many ways including caring for Country, undertaking archaeological assessments, walking Country, knowledge sharing and on-Country cultural activities. A Woi-wurrung name, biik wurrdha – meaning ‘land of many’ is to be returned to the Creek. This will help reflect that the Woi-wurrung people have been the custodians of this land for at least 35,000 years.

7. Growling Grass Frog Wetland Locations

The flowing water and waterholes of biik wurrdha were an essential element of healthy Country and Woi-wurrung living areas. The archaeological record and cultural heritage sensitivity mapping confirm that biik wurrdha, and all waterways in Woi-wurrung Country, were central living areas for Woi-wurrung clan estates. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung support the growling grass frog corridor however require a greater role in ensuring future pond locations are sited well to best consider the cultural and ecological impacts.

8. Involvement in Legislative Decision Making

Recognition and protection of the biik wurrdha Cultural Landscape must be integrated into relevant policies, legislation and regulations to ensure adequate protection and cultural respect for the biik wurrdha Regional Parklands area.

9. Interpretation

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community place importance on renewing their connections and interpretation of places, customs and landscapes. Sharing some Woi-wurrung knowledge is important to help others learn of Woi-wurrung land and heritage. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung seek consistent signage, artwork and the option to create a cultural centre in the parklands to support understanding of the biik wurrdha cultural landscape.

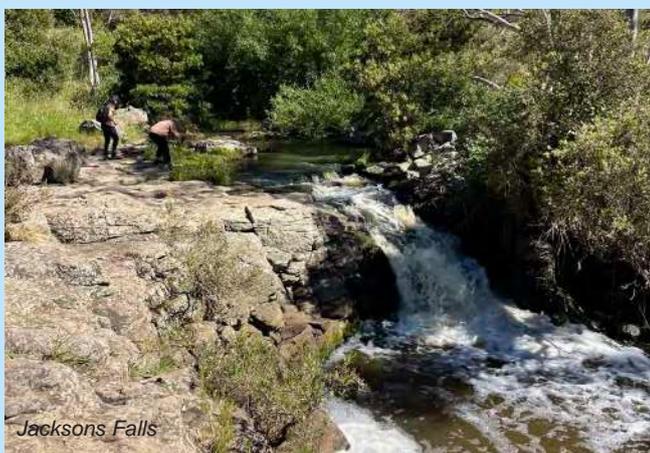
10. Further Research

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung designed and led research is important to underpin advocacy for the protection of cultural values within future land uses.

2.2 HISTORY AND HERITAGE

The parklands area has a rich post-settlement history which includes physical references to the past as well as social history such as the Ashes and the Sunbury Music Festival. Parts of the parklands area have also contributed to the broader grazing and agriculture landscape character of Sunbury including open paddocks and vineyards. Figure 2.3 provides a chronology of the history and heritage.

See Section 4.3 for Culture, Heritage and Identity guiding principles and actions for the parklands.



Jacksons Falls

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people have inhabited traditional Woi-wurrung Country for at least 35,000 years. Waterways, including biik wurrdha (Jacksons Creek), were a central living area within the marin balluk and wurundjeri willam estates. It is likely that Jacksons Creek marked the boundary between the two estates.

1835 – 1863 Encroachment of settlers on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country

The year 1835 marked the encroachment of people with pastoral interests into Woi-wurrung Country, formalised by the Port Phillip Association's limits of settlement. This immediately diminished Indigenous people's access to their Country and resources. After 28 years of active colonial resistance on Country, the year 1863 marks the removal of the remaining Woi-wurrung people onto the Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve in Healesville.

1836, Emu Bottom Homestead

"Emu Bottom Homestead is located on a property settled by George Evans in 1836. Evans was in the party which first settled at Batmans Hill (later to become Melbourne) and was, later, a prominent figure in early Melbourne and the first settler at Sunbury. The run was established in the earliest days of settlement in Victoria and is one of if not the oldest surviving homesteads in Victoria" (*Victorian Heritage Register Number H0274*)



Emu Bottom Homestead c. 1860
Source: State Library of Victoria

1861, Jacksons Creek rail bridge

Melbourne to Bendigo railway reached Sunbury in 1859. Jacksons Creek viaduct was on the second stage of the line, opened in July 1861.

1864 - 1877, Volunteer Military Encampments

From 1864 to 1877, military units consisting of almost 2,500 volunteer military personnel would gather at Rupertswood to conduct their annual Easter encampment. The volunteers would conduct drill exercises, horsemanship displays and demonstrations of weapons in front of crowds of up to 15,000 spectators.



Volunteer Military Encampments , painting
by Nicholas Chevalier, c. 1864
Source: State Library of Victoria

1860's, Sunbury wineries

Eighnane, Goonawarra, Craiglee and Springvale wineries established along the creek.

1865, Caloola (former Sunbury Mental Hospital)

Caloola, Sunbury consists of buildings set in extensive grounds with plantings of mature trees and remnant farmland. Caloola commenced in 1864 as an Industrial School and was redeveloped in 1879 as a Lunatic Asylum, substantially enlarged in the period 1891 to 1914 and was maintained in use as a psychiatric hospital (1879-1968) and later a training centre for the intellectually disabled (1962-1992). Part of the site became a Victoria University campus from 1994 to 2011 and the remainder is in use by the Department of Education. Caloola is of historical, architectural, aesthetic, archaeological and social significance to the State of Victoria. (*Victorian Heritage Register Number H0937*)



Rupertswood c. 1928- 1930
Source: State Library of Victoria



Jacksons Creek Road Bridge, 1892
Source: State Library of Victoria

1870, Jacksons Creek Road Bridge, Macedon Street, Sunbury

The Bluestone Road Bridge over Jacksons Creek is of architectural significance as an exemplary example of a Victorian Stone bridge. The bridge is representative of bridges constructed during the 1860's and 1870's however the combination of narrowing piers, the rounded tops to the piers and the elliptical arches, results in a particularly elegant stone construction. (Victorian Heritage Register Number H1426)

1874, Rupertswood Mansion

Rupertswood built for Sir William Clarke at Sunbury in 1874-76 was one of the largest houses built in Victoria in the 19th Century. The mansion is of architectural significance as an extraordinary example of a mansion built to reflect the wealth and prominence of the Clarke family and designed by George Brown in an eclectic design. Rupertswood is of aesthetic significance for the garden and parkland designed in the picturesque style by William Sangster in 1874. (Victorian Heritage Register Number H0275)



Rupertswood Mansion, 2022
Source: Salesian College

1882, The Ashes

On Christmas eve, the touring English cricket team defeated a local team in a social game of cricket at Rupertswood. One of the burnt bails was placed in a small urn and was presented to the English captain.

1927 - today, Salesian College

The Salesian College has been located at the Rupertswood Mansion since it was established by the Salesian Society in 1927. The college originally included surrounding agricultural land to support agricultural studies and was home to its own Rupertswood Railway Station from 1962-2004. It continues to run its agricultural program within the parklands.

The Eucharist Festival, a demonstration of belief in the Roman Catholic Church, was held by the Salesian congregation at Rupertswood. The festival, attended by 30,000 people, was held annually for 50 years between 1931 and 1981.



Sunbury Music Festival, Renni Ellis 1974
Source: Age Archives

1972 - 1975, Sunbury Music Festival

"...the word 'Sunbury' became associated with a rock music festival on a farm out of the Sunbury township. Today suburbia lurks so close to the Sunbury Pop Festival site if you turned up Billy Thorpe's amp to its obligatory '11' you'd get complaints from the neighbours on the hill. But the site is still there, identified only by the rusted wire fence surrounding the area where the stage stood, and the foundations of the toilet block nearby, in front of Jackson's Creek. Behind the creek a steep incline, in front a gently rising hill, a natural amphitheatre."

(www.rockonviny1.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/various-artists-sunbury-73.html)

2.3 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Existing strategies, plans and policy commitments of Federal, State and Local Government inform the planning of the parklands.

These include documents from the Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Hume City Council, and Greater Western Water. A full list is provided in the Appendix A. Five key strategies are summarised below.

Open Space for Everyone: Open Space for Metropolitan Melbourne 2021

The vision for this open space strategy is for “Melbourne to be a city in nature with a flourishing and valued network of public open space that is shared and accessible by everyone”.

Open Space for Everyone provides a strategic framework to guide open space planning.

The development of new regional parks and trails in outer growth areas and the revitalisation of parks in established suburbs under the Suburban Parks Program is an outcome of this strategy.

The strategy contains key initiatives to provide “better access to the Jacksons Creek Parklands by funding park infrastructure to create better facilities, linkages and access connecting stretches of mostly existing public land”.

Biodiversity 2037

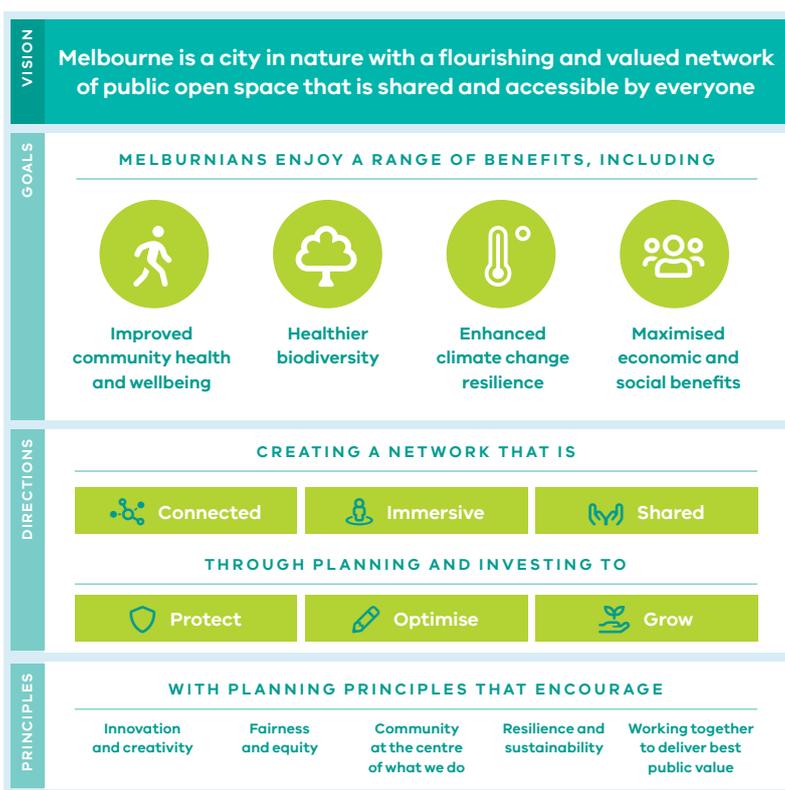


Figure 2.4: *Open Space for Everyone: Open Space for Metropolitan Melbourne (2021)*

Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037 presents a long term vision for Victoria's biodiversity, supported by two goals - *Victorians value nature* and *Victoria's natural environment is healthy*.

Contributing targets for pest and weed control, revegetation and new permanently protected areas are set out as critical for delivery of statewide biodiversity commitments.

A commitment to connecting people to nature is also recognised as a central contribution to the protection of biodiversity.

The Parklands Plan is shaped by these important Biodiversity 2037 goals.

Melbourne Strategic Assessment Program

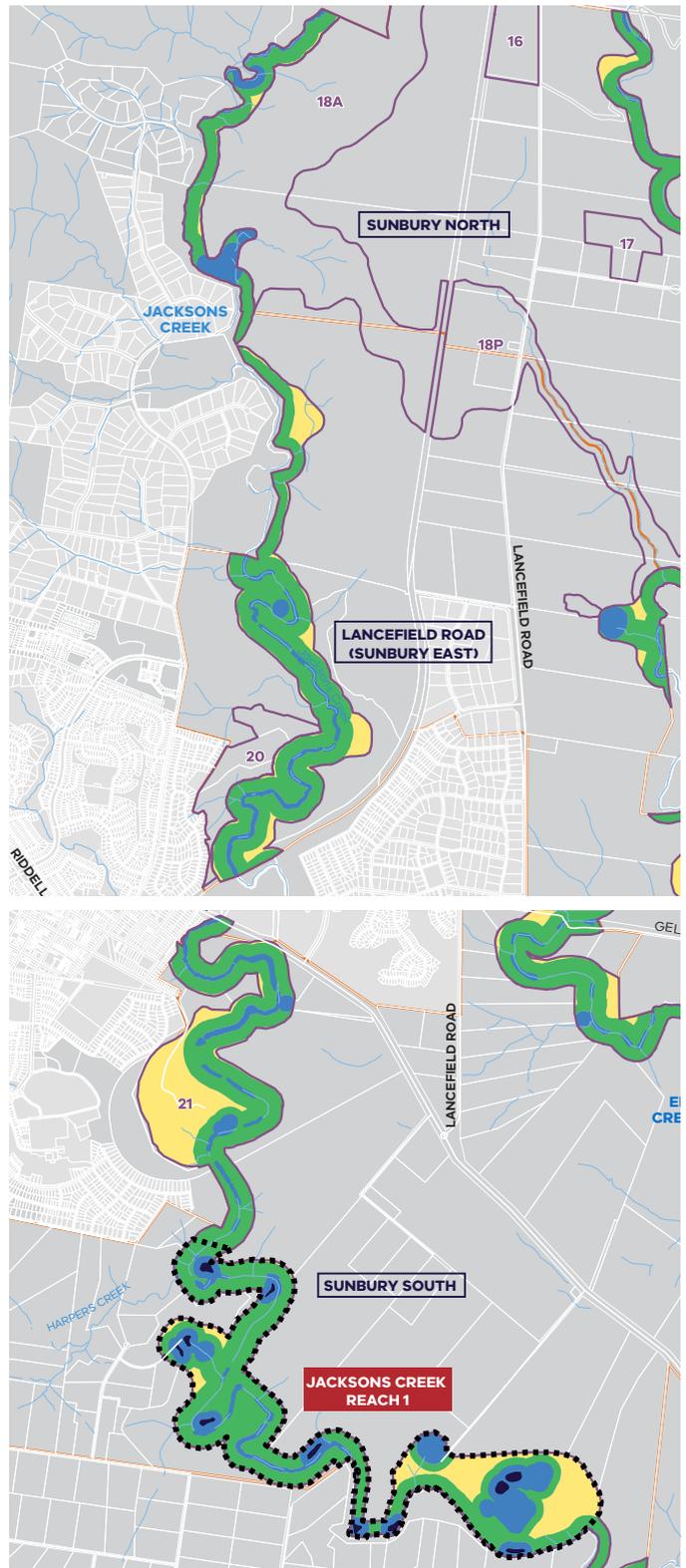
The Melbourne Strategic Assessment program implements the Victorian Government's commitments to protecting Matters of National Environmental Significance from the impacts of urban development in Melbourne's growth areas.

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridor 2013 outlines how conservation outcomes required under the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999 will be delivered. This includes Conservation Area 20 Nature Conservation, Conservation Area 18 Open Space, and Conservation Area 21 Growling Grass Frog within the biik wurrdha Jacksons Creek Regional Parklands boundary.

The conservation areas ensure the:

- retention and enhancement of Grassy Eucalypt Woodland and associated habitats
- protection, management and connection of Growling Grass Frog habitat. This is supported by sub-regional species strategies including the Growling Grass Frog Masterplan for Melbourne's Growth Corridors (2017) as shown in figure 2.5

The full list of biodiversity commitments are listed in Appendix A. Parklands planning has accounted for these biodiversity commitments.



	Area of Strategic Importance		Conservation area
	Terrestrial habitat buffer to ASI and waterway		High priority reach
	Other terrestrial habitat		Precinct boundary
	Indicative new wetland location		Precinct name

Figure 2.5: Areas of Strategic Importance in Conversation Area 21, Growling Grass Frog Masterplan for Melbourne's Growth Corridors, Melbourne Strategic Assessment, 2017

Healthy Waterways 2018

The Healthy Waterways Strategy addresses the current and future challenges to waterway health such as climate change, increasing urbanisation, pollution and rapid population growth.

The Healthy Waterways Strategy is delivering multiple goals for the Maribyrnong Catchment, of which Jacksons Creek is a part, including:

- Management is assisting species and habitats to change, adapt, move or be replaced as the catchment and climate change. The Maribyrnong River and its tributaries are important bio-links
- Waterways across the Maribyrnong are places that provide continuous, connected and accessible open spaces for public enjoyment and recreation
- Public authorities, community groups and individuals share their knowledge of the catchment and take action to help pursue this strategy's goals. Education programs are resourced and coordinated across many organisations
- Long-term monitoring supports adaptive management by tracking progress towards this strategy's goals
- Urban planning decisions make explicit reference to their potential impacts on waterway environments

Waterways of the West Action Plan 2021

The *Waterways of the West Action Plan 2021* emphasises the vital role waterways play in supporting the wellbeing of Melbourne's west, and takes steps to protect them for future generations. It includes immediate actions to improve the health, amenity and sustainability of the waterways of Melbourne's west.

The Action Plan seeks to restore the status of the regions waterways as living and integrated natural entities – the rivers, creeks and wetlands and the landscapes through which they flow – and the Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples as the Voice of these living entities.

There are nine key directions of the Plan. These have guided parklands planning, in particular:

- Embed Traditional Owners' values in planning and decisions for waterways
- Strengthen planning policy and controls for the waterways
- Improve waterway amenity to meet community expectations
- Increase community connection, education and participation



Figure 2.6: Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018)

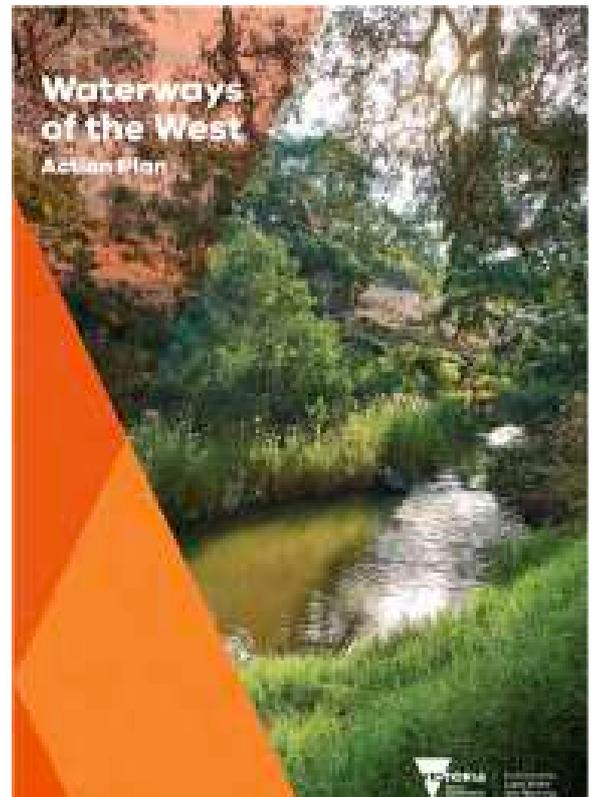


Figure 2.7: Waterways of the West Action Plan (2021)

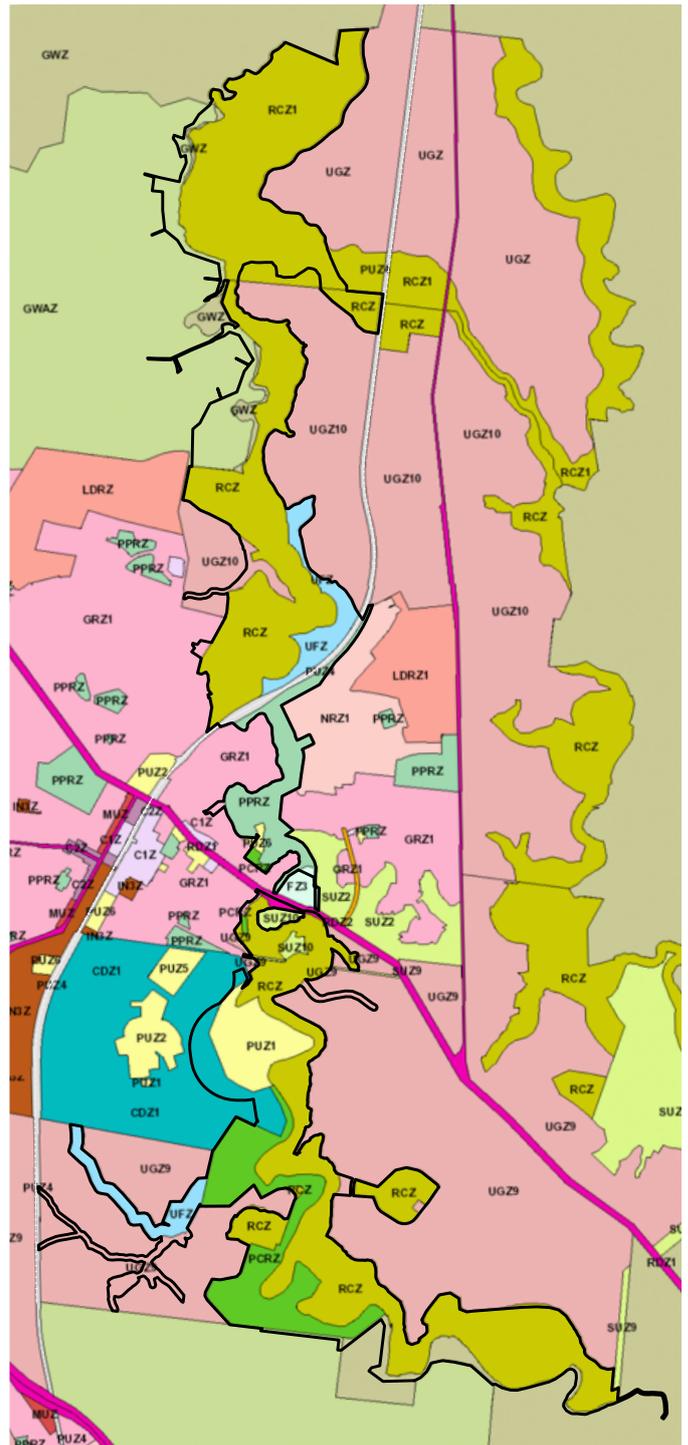
2.4 PLANNING CONTEXT

Open space and parkland values are recognised in planning scheme provisions. The Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ1) which covers land identified for future inclusion in the parklands, helps protect the escarpment, riparian area along the creek and significant biodiversity values.

The area near Sunbury township is zoned for Public Park and Recreation (PPRZ) and the Holden Flora Reserve zoned for Public Conservation and Resource (PCRZ).

The remainder of the parklands area is subject to a mix of zoning including:

- Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ) north of the rail line to the east of the creek
- Public Use Zone (PUZ) where the Greater Western Water treatment plant abuts the creek
- Urban Growth Zone (UGZ) in the south of the parklands along parts of Harpers Creek and small areas east of the Jacksons Creek



LEGEND

 GWZ	Green Wedge Zone	 PUZ6	Public Use Zone - Local Government
 NRZ	Neighbourhood Residential Zone	 RCZ	Rural Conservation Zone
 PCRZ	Public Conservation and Resource Zone	 RZ	Road Zone
 PPRZ	Public Park and Recreation Zone	 UFZ	Urban Floodway Zone
 PUZ1	Public Use Zone - Service and Utility	 UGZ	Urban Growth Zone
 PUZ4	Public Use Zone - Transport		

Figure 2.8: Planning Zones

Source: VicPlan www.mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan accessed 29.11.2021

Within the parklands area, there are a number of planning overlays.

The majority of the area is subject to an Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) ensuring development must be compatible with environmental values.

Several sites within and adjacent to the parklands are subject to a Heritage Overlay. This overlay ensures that development does not adversely affect the significance of heritage places and only allows uses that demonstrably assist with the conservation of the significance of the site. Examples of sites subject to a Heritage Overlay include:

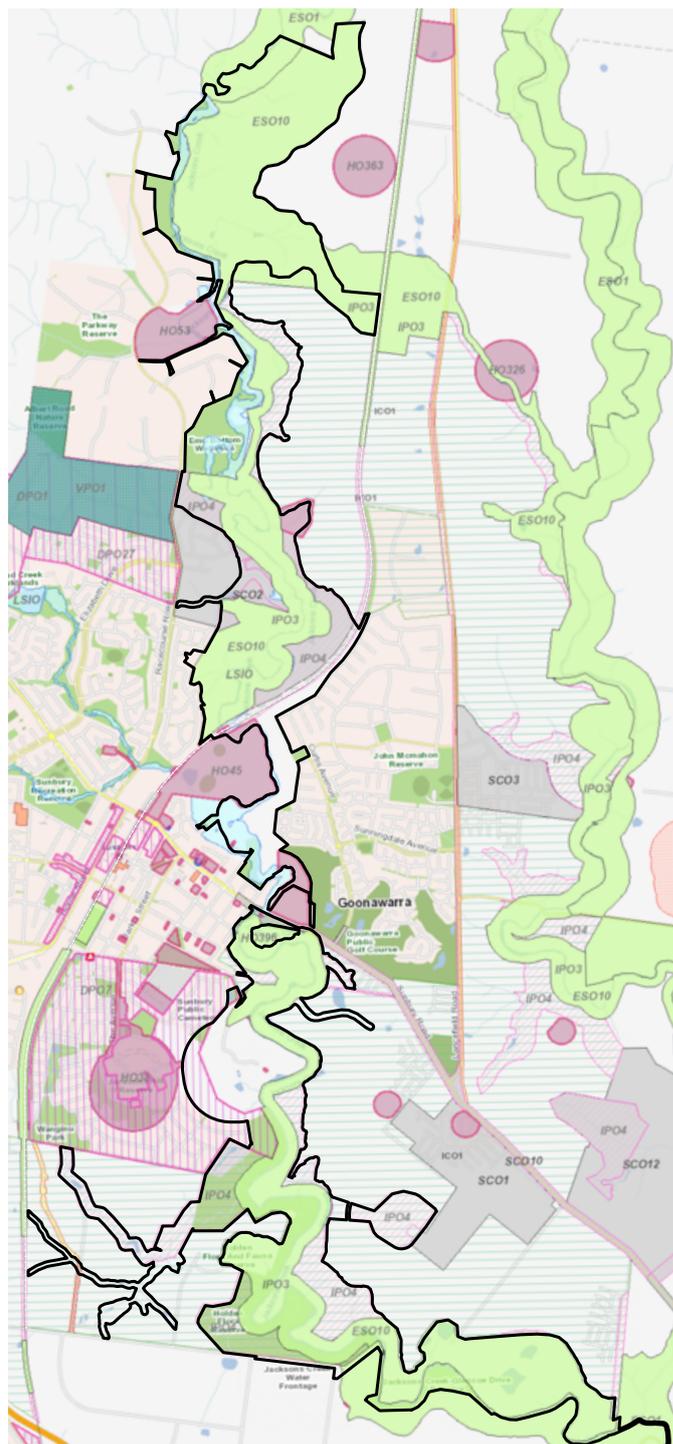
- The Sunbury Earth Rings - a significant site for the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and an integral feature of the biik wurrdha Cultural Landscape
- Rupertswood Mansion - home of the Ashes and now Salesian College
- The Mill - a historic former mill located on Greater Western Water managed land

Some sites have been identified as being subject to flooding and are covered under the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO). Key sites include Emu Bottom Wetlands and The Nook. This overlay identifies flood prone land to minimise safety risks and asset damage, while protecting waterway and floodplain health.

Some areas are subject to Incorporated Plan Overlay (IPO) requiring all permits and park planning to align with the commitments in the Lancefield Road or Sunbury South Precinct Structure Plans.

It is expected that as new parcels of land come into the proposed parklands they will be rezoned for public open space or public use, and where appropriate significant values will be supported with overlays to best match its ongoing use as a parklands committed to environmental, cultural and community outcomes.

As stated in the Waterways of the West Action Plan 2021, a planning pilot project will be delivered as a longer term action with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to embed cultural mapping values that inform future protection for the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands.



LEGEND

- ES01 Environmental Significance Overlay 1 Rural Waterways and Environs
- ES010 Environmental Significance Overlay 10 Rural Conservation Area
- HO Heritage Overlay
- LSIO Land Subject to Inundation Overlay
- IPO Incorporated Plan Overlay
- ICO Infrastructure Contributions Overlay
- SCO Specific Controls Overlay

Figure 2.9: Planning Overlays
Source: VicPlan www.mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan accessed 08.12.2021

Precinct Structure Plans

The Lancefield Road and Sunbury South Precinct Structure Plans (VPA, 2019) outline the long-term plan for urban development. These plans will facilitate:

- Development that sensitively responds to, improves community access to, and protects the fragile creek valley of Jacksons Creek
- The protection and recognition of the important and valued cultural significance of the area
- Protection of habitat for Matters of National Environmental Significance
- Protection of Growling Grass Frog populations
- Enhanced local mobility for existing communities including opportunities for active transport
- Urban development that responds appropriately to the undulating landform
- Development of a network of open space along the Jacksons Creek
- Delivery of essential infrastructure including road networks, creek crossings, services, and drainage

Where Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) have been incorporated into the Hume Planning Scheme, the PSPs are the key plan guiding future use, subdivision and development.

There is currently no Precinct Structure Plan in place for the northern section of the parkland. This will be addressed in future years by the Sunbury North Precinct Structure Plan including clarification of the parkland boundary.

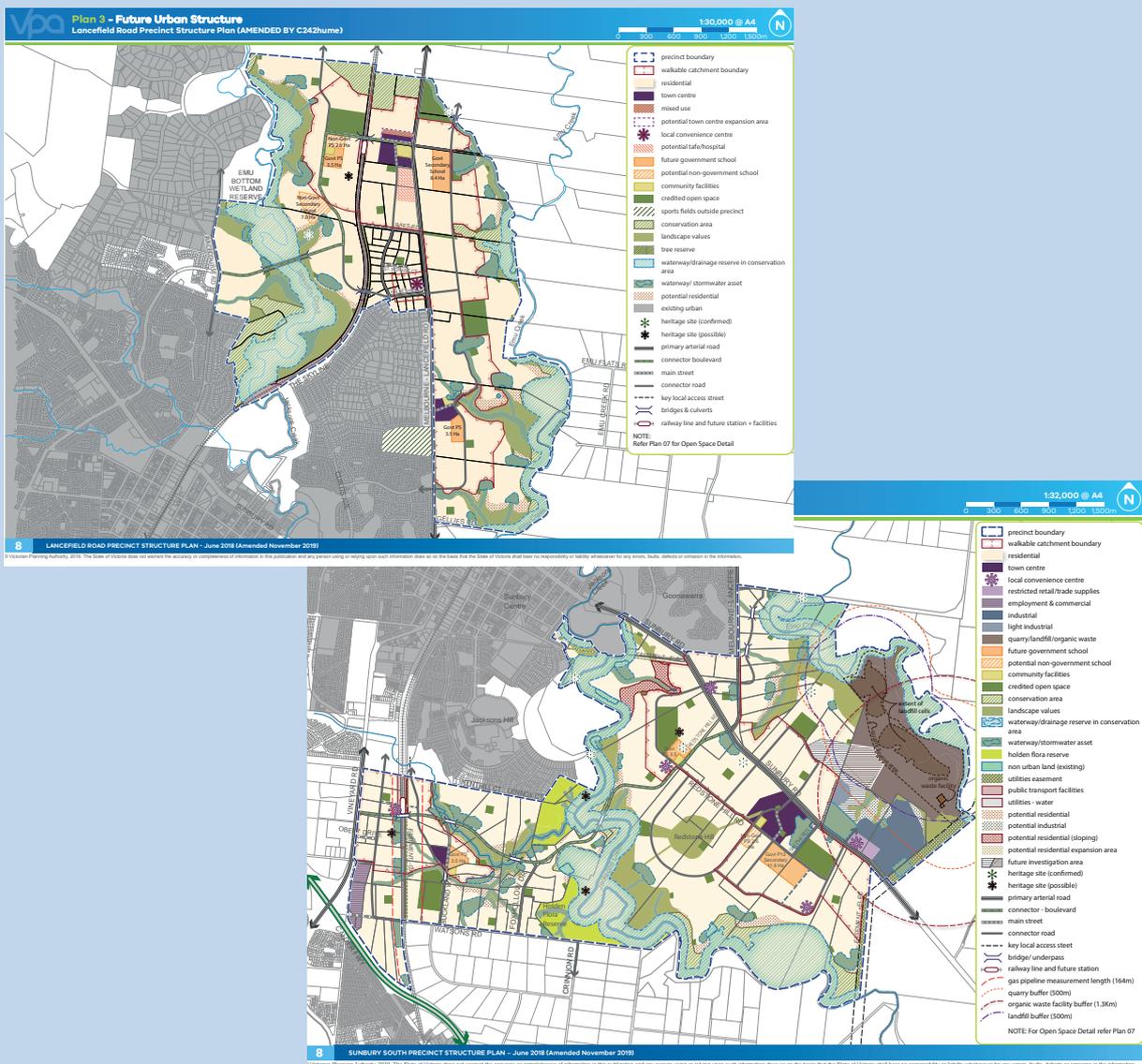


Figure 2.10: Lancefield Road Precinct Structure Plan, VPA 2019, and Sunbury South Precinct Structure Plan, VPA 2019

2.5 LAND MANAGEMENT

Approximately 30 percent of the parklands area is currently managed by parkland partners including:

- Hume City Council
- Parks Victoria
- Greater Western Water; and
- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

This land is known as public land even though some parts have restricted access to protect natural, cultural and built assets.

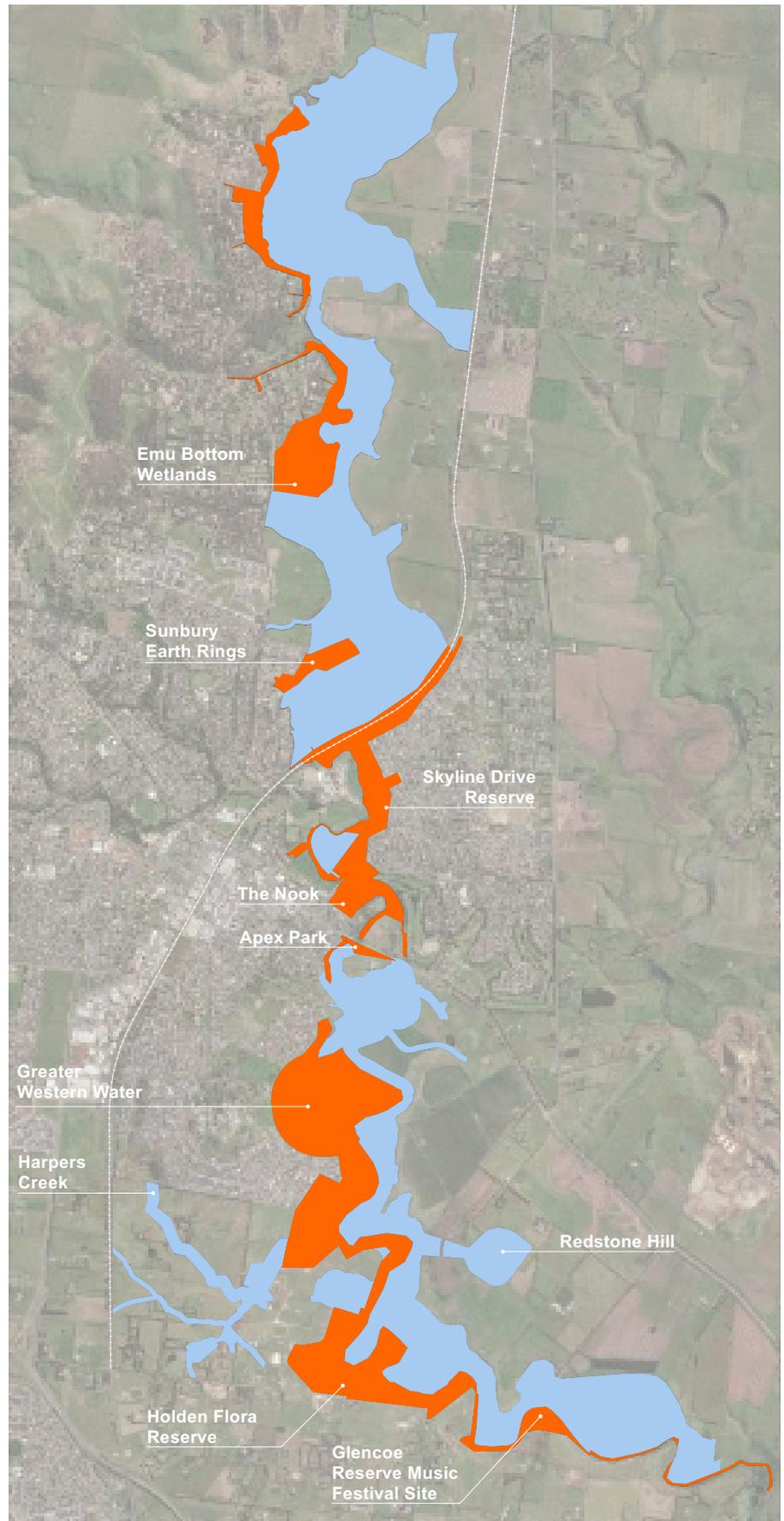
The remaining 70 percent of the parkland area is currently privately owned and will progressively enter the parklands as part of the development approvals process. Some parcels will be transferred within the next 3-5 years, and some are expected to be transferred in 10-20 years.

Some land may remain in private ownership for longer where the use and development of the land is consistent with the requirements of Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs), and the guiding principles of this Parkland Plan, including provision for publicly accessible trails and connections through the land.

The Parkland extent may vary in response to future detailed site specific analysis. Any parkland boundary change will only be supported if alternative boundary ensures biodiversity, cultural and visitor access values remain protected and is generally in accordance with Lancefield and Sunbury South PSPs. The pending Sunbury North PSP will consider the vision and objectives of this Plan (and the Plan may need to be updated following the PSP completion).

This Parklands Plan will inform the primary purpose of new area of parkland and the future land manager for the land as it transfers into public ownership.

See Section 5.2 for Land Management guiding principles and actions for the parklands.



LEGEND

- Land managed by Parklands Partners
- Land under private ownership

Figure 2.11: Current land ownership

2.6 BIODIVERSITY VALUES

A key driver for biodiversity protection within the parklands is the Nature Conservation and Growing Grass Frog commitments as required under the Commonwealth’s Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

The biodiversity and habitat values of the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands were assessed in 2021 by the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.

The assessment noted that much of the parklands is currently, or has historically been, used for agricultural purposes however remnants of native vegetation remain in isolated patches across the area.

The ecological survey assessed 65 patches of native vegetation to determine their quality. Similarly, over 17km of the riparian area of Jacksons Creek and 660m of Harpers Creek were assessed to determine the quality of the riparian zones. Harpers Creek is the tributary feeding into Jackson Creek biik wurrdha at Holden Flora Reserve.

Ecological Vegetation Classes	No. of patches	Total area (ha)
Escarpment Shrubland (ES)	15	20
Grassy Woodland (GW)	7	22
Plains Grassland (PG)	12	10
Plains Swampy Woodland (PSW)	2	7
Rocky Chenopod Woodland (RCW)	18	38
Riparian Woodland (RW)	14.2km	46
Stream Bank Shrubland (BS)	3.6km	8
Native vegetation, Areas that do not fit an EVC (NV)	19	17
Less than 25% native vegetation cover (<25% NV)	63	447
Land previously cropped (Cropped)	12	85
Not assessed (N/A)	16	357

Figure 2.12: Areas of Ecological Vegetation Classes

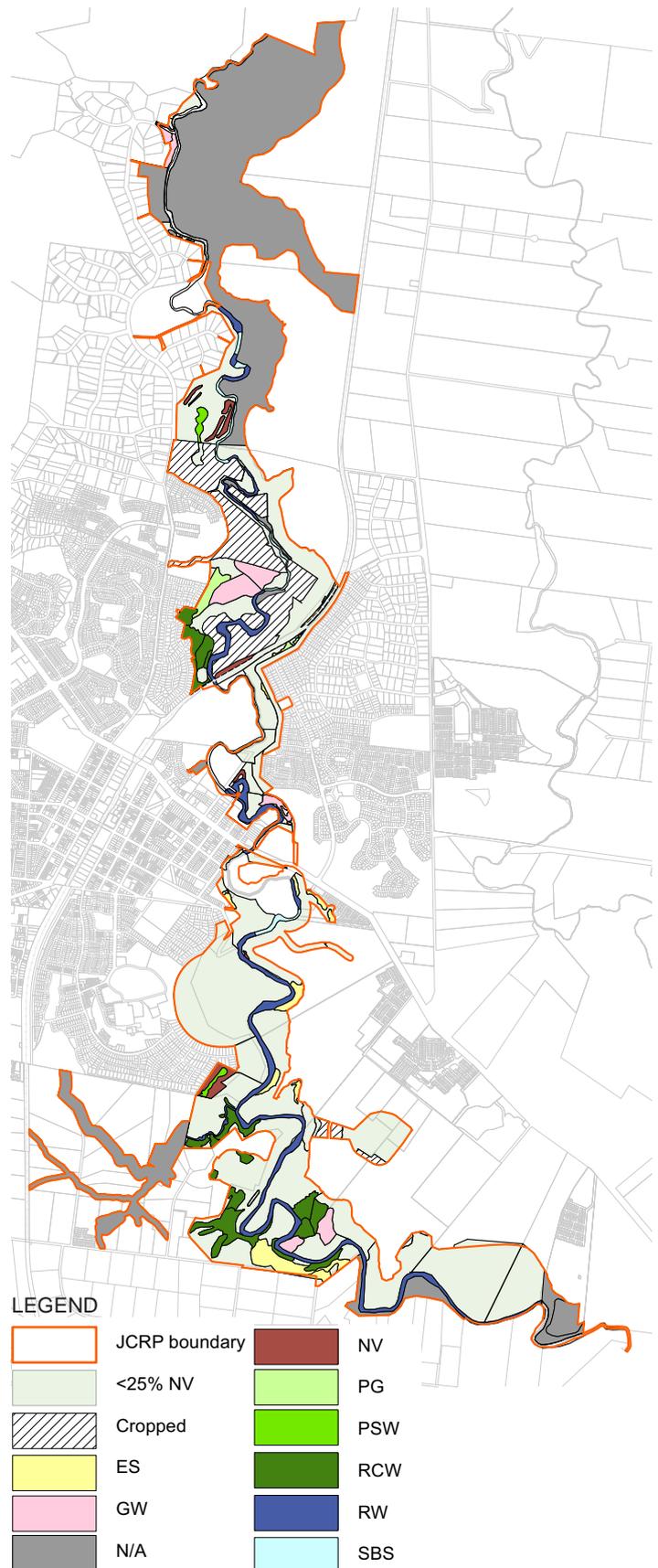


Figure 2.13: Ecological Vegetation Classes
Source: Jacksons Creek Regional Parklands Ecological Survey, Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, 2021

The survey identified that much of the vegetation within the proposed parklands is heavily modified, likely reflecting an accumulation of impacts resulting from agricultural practices and weed invasion. Rabbits, and other pests are also having a negative impact in the parklands.

Native vegetation has been largely replaced by weeds however some high value remnants still exist including at Holden Flora Reserve and escarpment areas.

The riparian vegetation along Jacksons Creek is largely continuous with some established weeds impacting the understorey vegetation and overstorey recruitment.

The parklands play an important role as a wildlife corridor. This will become increasingly important as surrounding areas are developed for housing and habitat area is reduced. The corridor role along Jacksons Creek supports diverse species such as fish, frogs, platypus, and kangaroos.

At a regional scale, there is an opportunity to support species movement to areas beyond the parklands. This can include a long term opportunity to support an extended corridor along the Creek from the Macedon Ranges to Organ Pipes and the Maribyrnong River. It can also include lateral corridor connections along Blind Creek, Kismet Creek, Harpers Creek and across to Emu Creek.

Habitat enhancement will be based on species needs. For example, grasslands and Growling Grass Frogs have specific requirements which may include limiting tree planting in some parts of the parklands.

See Section 4.4 for Biodiversity guiding principles and actions for the parklands.

Ecological Vegetation Classes	Score (0-100)		
	Min.	Max.	Mean
Escarpment Shrubland (ES)	18.6	66.9	41.4
Grassy Woodland (GW)	24.8	55.1	38.5
Plains Grassland (PG)	37.5	71.1	47.1
Rocky Chenopod Woodland	53.3	89.9	70.7

Figure 2.14: Vegetation Quality

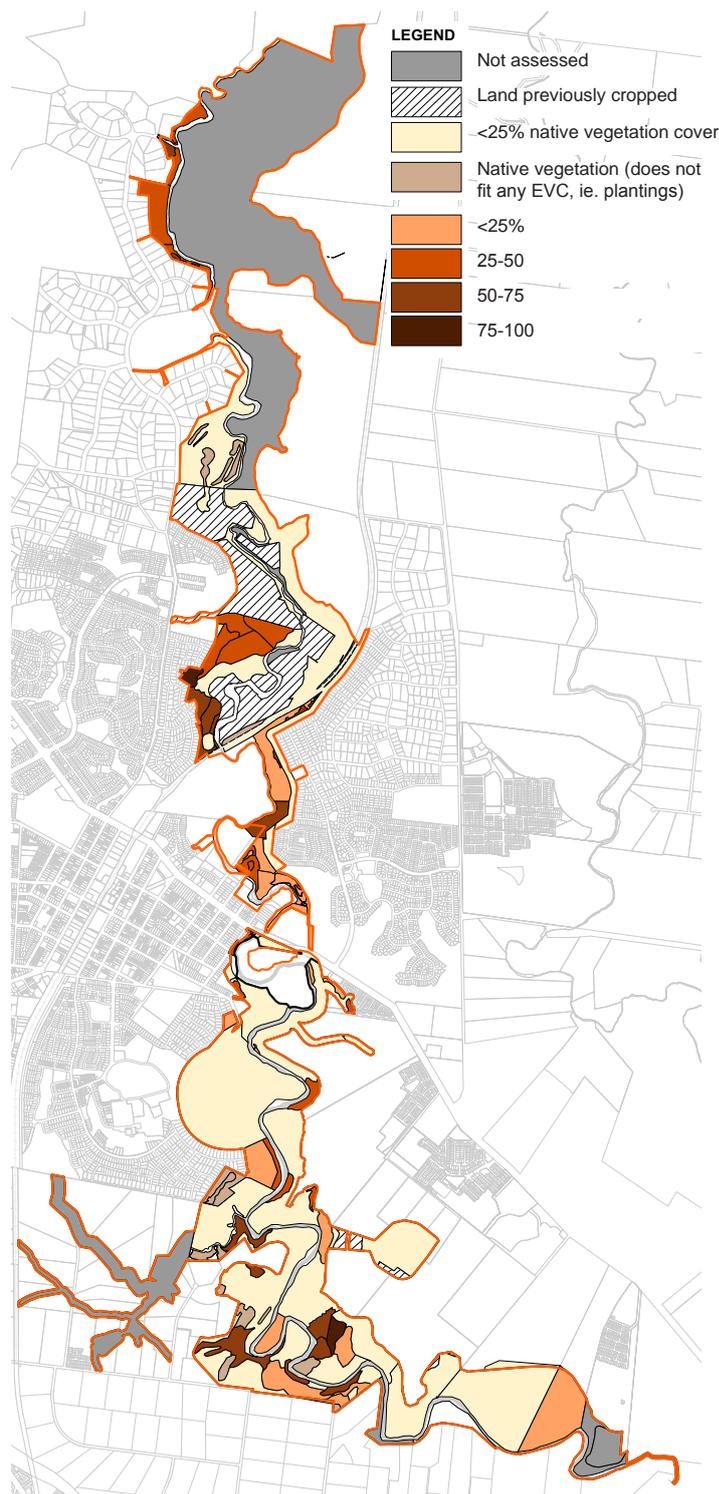


Figure 2.15: Vegetation Quality
Source: Jacksons Creek Regional Parklands Ecological Survey, Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, 2021

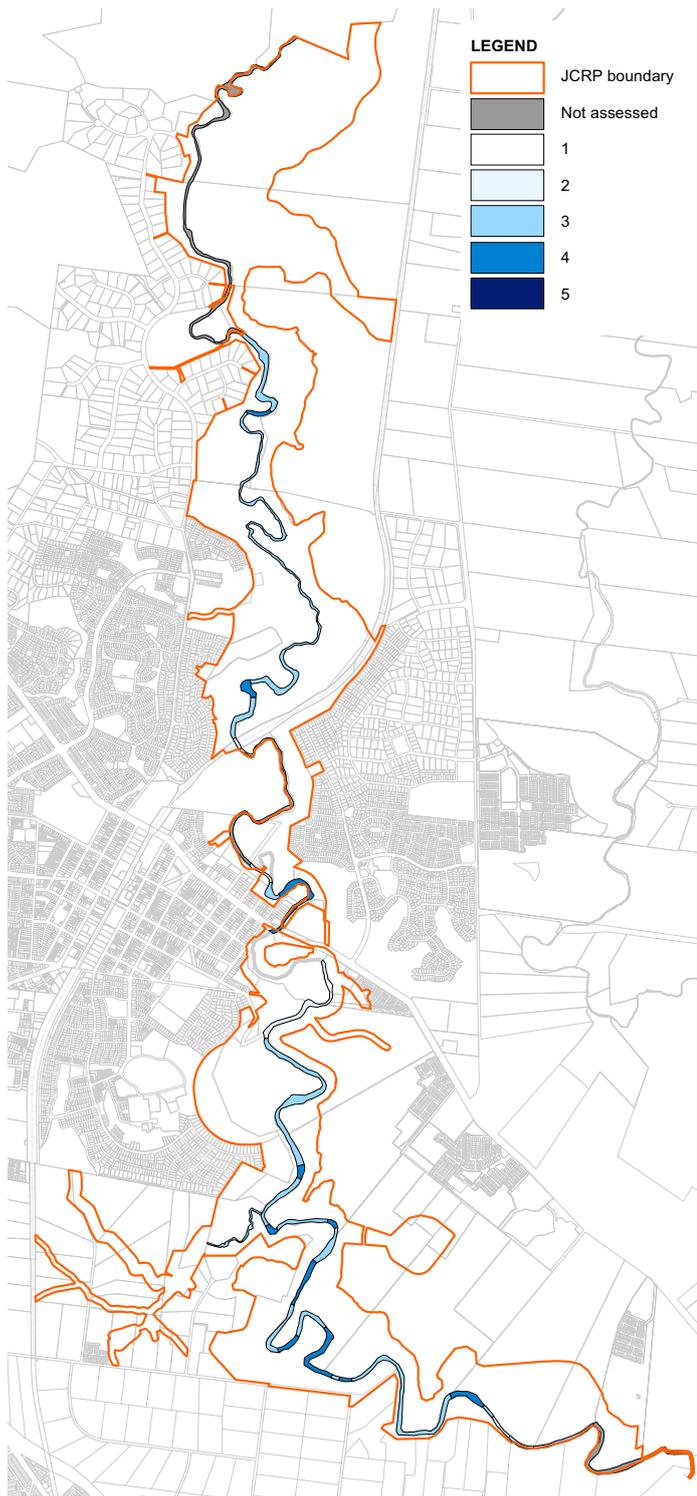


Figure 2.16: Riparian Zone Quality

Ecological Vegetation Classes	Score (1-5)		
	Min.	Max.	Mean
Riparian Woodland (RW)	2	4	3.1
Streambank Shrubland (SS)	2	3	2.9

Figure 2.17: Riparian Zone Quality

2.7 VISITOR EXPERIENCE

The spectacular and diverse landscapes of the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands provide a wide range of opportunities for visitors to enjoy. The highly scenic qualities of the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha valley are framed by the topography and significant underlying geology such as rapids and rocky outcrops formed by lava flows.

Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands hold great significance to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people who have been custodians of the land for thousands of years. The parklands are home to the Sunbury Earth Rings where traditional cultural ecological land management is applied. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung welcome further opportunities to practice and share their culture within the parklands.

The parklands provide access to high quality local experiences for passive recreation and leisure activities such as walking and picnicking. Existing park areas, especially The Nook and Emu Bottom Wetlands, are much loved and well visited by the local community. Locals have indicated strong support for expansion of the parklands along Jacksons Creek and Harpers Creek with a preference for more opportunities to enjoy and appreciate nature. This includes quiet walking loops designed to both appreciate and protect nature.

Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands already hosts a very scenic urban walking route stretching from Apex Park to follow the creek under Sunbury Road by the historic bluestone bridge, along the edge of Goonawarra winery before stretching up to Skyline Reserve to look over the escarpments at the valley and historic Rupertswood Mansion. Returning from the walk can incorporate picnic and toilet facilities at The Nook, watching the birdlife and enjoying the creek edge.

There are opportunities to expand trails and viewing platforms in other areas of the parklands. Over time the trail will connect providing a continuous trail for both walkers and cyclists.

The parklands have been, and continue to be, a location for social programs for events such as the Sunbury Music Festival held 50 years ago to today's community groups such as Friends of Emu Bottom and Friends of Holden Flora Reserve. These visitor experiences help the local community and visitors to form broader connections to the parklands and improve community health and cohesion.

The creation of the parklands will preserve existing landscape qualities and make these areas more accessible to the public so they can experience and appreciate the beauty of the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha valley.

To support the natural landscape values, all works within the parklands to support visitor experiences will be designed for minimal impact on biodiversity and cultural values. Works will be focused on trails and some pedestrian bridges, and some areas zoned for 'Conservation and Recreation' can include picnic facilities and cultural facilities. There is one major project scheduled within the parklands. This is the new east-west roadbridge crossing from Redstone Hill area to Harpers Creek area identified in the Sunbury South Precinct Structure Plan. Design of this roadbridge is to minimise the impact on the biodiversity, cultural and amenity value of these parklands.

See Section 4.6 for Visitor Experience and Healthy Communities guiding principles and actions for the parklands.

“The landscape is the Country of our ancestors. It is where they walked and we walk now. That is why it needs to be protected, preserved and kept healthy. We need these places to exist to keep their journey going.” - Elders of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Corporation



Figure 2.18: Photographs illustrating the current scenic landscape qualities



Emu Bottom Wetlands

Once part of the historic Emu Bottom Homestead, the Emu Bottom Wetlands Reserve is a 32 hectare park located in the north of the parklands. The reserve, which includes a popular dog off leash area, is well loved by locals and visitors. Over the past few decades, The Friends of Emu Bottom Wetland Reserve have been working with Hume City Council to enhance the natural environment and habitat of the reserve.



Skyline Drive Reserve

The Skyline Drive Reserve is one of the newer reserves in Sunbury and features an extensive shared user path, playgrounds and open lawn areas. Located along the upper edge of the escarpment, the Skyline Reserve offers scenic views across the valley to the Rupertswood Mansion and over the parklands.



The Nook

The Nook is a popular picnic spot located on the creek near the Sunbury town centre. Featuring shelters, trails, picnic facilities, visitor amenities and open lawn areas, The Nook is one of the few places within the parklands where visitors can access the water's edge.



Apex Park

Apex Park is a small reserve located on Sunbury Road amongst the vineyards. The park features a playground, a bocce court, visitor amenities and picnic facilities as well as access to walking trails to the historic Sunbury Road Bridge before going under Sunbury Road and linking walkers to The Nook and Skyline Drive Reserve.



Jacksons Hill Reserve

Located north of the Holden Flora Reserve, the Jacksons Hill Reserve is council managed park featuring a winding walking track to down the hill towards the Jacksons Creek and picnic facilities.



Holden Flora Reserve

The Holden Flora Reserve was created in 1989 to preserve the geology, flora and fauna of the Keilor plains. The Reserve, largely managed by Parks Victoria with assistance from The Friends of Holden Flora Reserve, encompasses 96 hectares of parkland including remnant native grasslands and grassy woodlands.



Harpers Creek

Harpers Creek is a tributary of the Jacksons Creek. The confluence of the two creeks at Holden Flora Reserve is a significant cultural site for the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung. The creek and its surrounds, currently under development, will provide an open space connection into the parklands in accordance with the Sunbury South Precinct Structure Plan.



Sunbury Music Festival 1975
Source: Age Archives

Glencoe Drive Reserve

Glencoe Drive Reserve is the site of the Sunbury Music Festival held annually from 1972 to 1975 on a private farm located on Jacksons Creek. Recent development in the area has removed direct public access to the former festival site but there is a publicly accessible memorial to Billy Thorpe accessed via Duncans Lane. The community has been active in helping to revegetate the site.

2.8 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The underlying geology of the area influences the flora found across the parklands, the suitable activities that can occur within the parklands and the location of infrastructure such as paths.

The Jacksons Creek Regional Parklands Ecological Survey (2021) states that: *“The dissected landscape of the JCRP [Jacksons Creek Regional Parklands], encompassing steep escarpment drop-offs combined with historical and ongoing agriculture, has resulted in a fragmented distribution of remnant native vegetation. The distribution of the predominant EVCs, Rocky Chenopod Woodland and Escarpment Shrubland, are largely delineated by the geology.”*

The steep escarpments present challenges relating to access and path locations, erosion and bushfire risks. Activities and works that contribute to erosion need to be avoided and bushfire prevention measures through fuel reduction and land management are needed to protect interface areas.

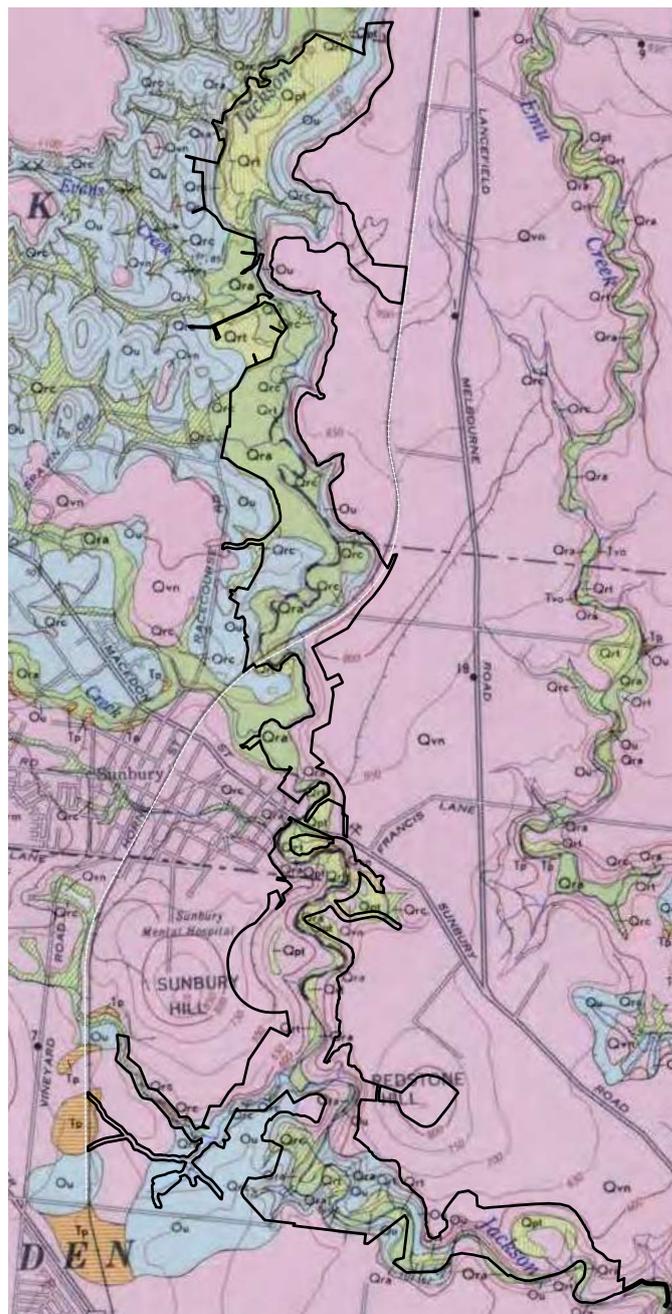
The escarpments and undulating topography across the parklands also create vantage points along the creek corridor allowing the visitors to take in the view and engage with the historic landscape.

The Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Study of the Jacksons Creek Parklands (2021) also reflects on the importance of the parklands’ geology, in particular the presence of ochre within the creek corridor:

“The [Redstone Hill] floodplain is flanked by rocky escarpment and ochre walls on the opposite escarpment. This area was considered to be significant to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung representatives due to the presence of artefacts, attributes consistent with a gathering or ceremonial area, and presence of ochre”

“Parallel to Redstone Hill on the eastern bank of Emu Creek is a quarried area ... It is understood to be an ochre quarry of Woi-wurrung origin.”

“This white clay is ochre, traditionally accessed for body decoration by Woi-wurrung people.”



LEGEND

Quaternary Age	Qrm	Sedimentary swamp deposits (silt and clay)
	Qrc	Sedimentary colluvial deposits (silt, sand and gravel)
	Qra	Sedimentary alluvium (sand, sandy silt, silt and gravel)
	Qrt	Sedimentary alluvial terrace deposits (sand, gravel, sandy silt and clay)
	Qpt	Sedimentary high-level terrace deposits (Silt, sand and gravel)
Tertiary Age	Qvn	Igneous olivine basalt, minor limburgite, trachy-andesite, scoria, thin interbedded sand, clay and tuff
	Tp	Sedimentary quartzite, gravel, sand silt and rare tuff
	Ou	Sedimentary interbedded shale and greywacke, and minor grit horizons

Figure 2.19: Geological Survey of Victoria, Sunbury, 1973
 Source: Earth Resources, Victoria State Government
 (www.earthresources.efirst.com.au/product.asp?pid=386&cid=33)
 accessed 26.22.2021

3. CONSULTATION

3.1 CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Community engagement for the Parkland Plan was undertaken via a two-stage process:

- Community input was invited in November 2021 prior to writing the Parklands Plan.
- Community feedback on the Draft Plan was invited in March and April 2022.

The community feedback and response is described in Appendix B.

Community feedback included preferences for:

- Walking and appreciating nature were identified as the two key activities the community would enjoy in the parklands
- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture to be expressed within the parklands and Sunbury Earth Rings to be protected
- Protection and enhancement of natural environment including flora and fauna species, habitat, waterway health, and need for weed, pest and fire management
- Protection of parkland hilltops and escarpments
- Mitigation of bushfire risk
- Continued support for The Nook, Emu Bottom Wetland, Jacksons Hill Reserve, Apex Park, the Sunbury Music Festival site, Skyline Drive Reserve and Holden Flora Reserve are highly valued by the community
- Cycling paths that connect to regional trails. Designed to avoid conflict with walkers
- New trail links including: Rail Trail linking key areas north of the township; link to Blind Creek; link from Maguire Street reserve to The Nook
- Wildlife passage within and beside the creek, and connecting with other habitat areas beyond the parklands
- Interest in educational activities and programming such as Scouts and Girl Guides, Friends Of groups and Junior Rangers, to promote stewardship and appreciation of the environment
- Consideration of signage to ensure the parklands are enjoyed and accessible for people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities

The feedback received from the community has been used to shape this Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands Plan.

4. THE PARKLANDS PLAN

4.1 THE VISION

The Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Parklands will be an inspiring natural and cultural landscape valued for the ecological, spiritual, historical and living connections it provides to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community and visitors from Sunbury and beyond.

The creation of the parklands will provide over 1000 hectares of scenic open space valued by visitors for its ancient and ongoing Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung connection and its protection of critical biodiversity values including significant flora and habitat for fauna such as the growling grass frog, platypus and eagles.

The parklands will protect and enhance the cultural, heritage, environmental and scenic values unique to the area as well as responding to the changing climate and providing access to nature to support a healthy, active community.

4.2 THE PARKLANDS PLAN

The Parklands Plan has been developed following the review and analysis of legislative requirements, strategic documents, plans and assessments, community consultation, stakeholder feedback and site analysis.

The following sections outline the guiding principles and proposed actions for the parklands.

4.3 CULTURE, HERITAGE AND IDENTITY

4.3.1 Culture, Heritage and Identity Guiding Principles

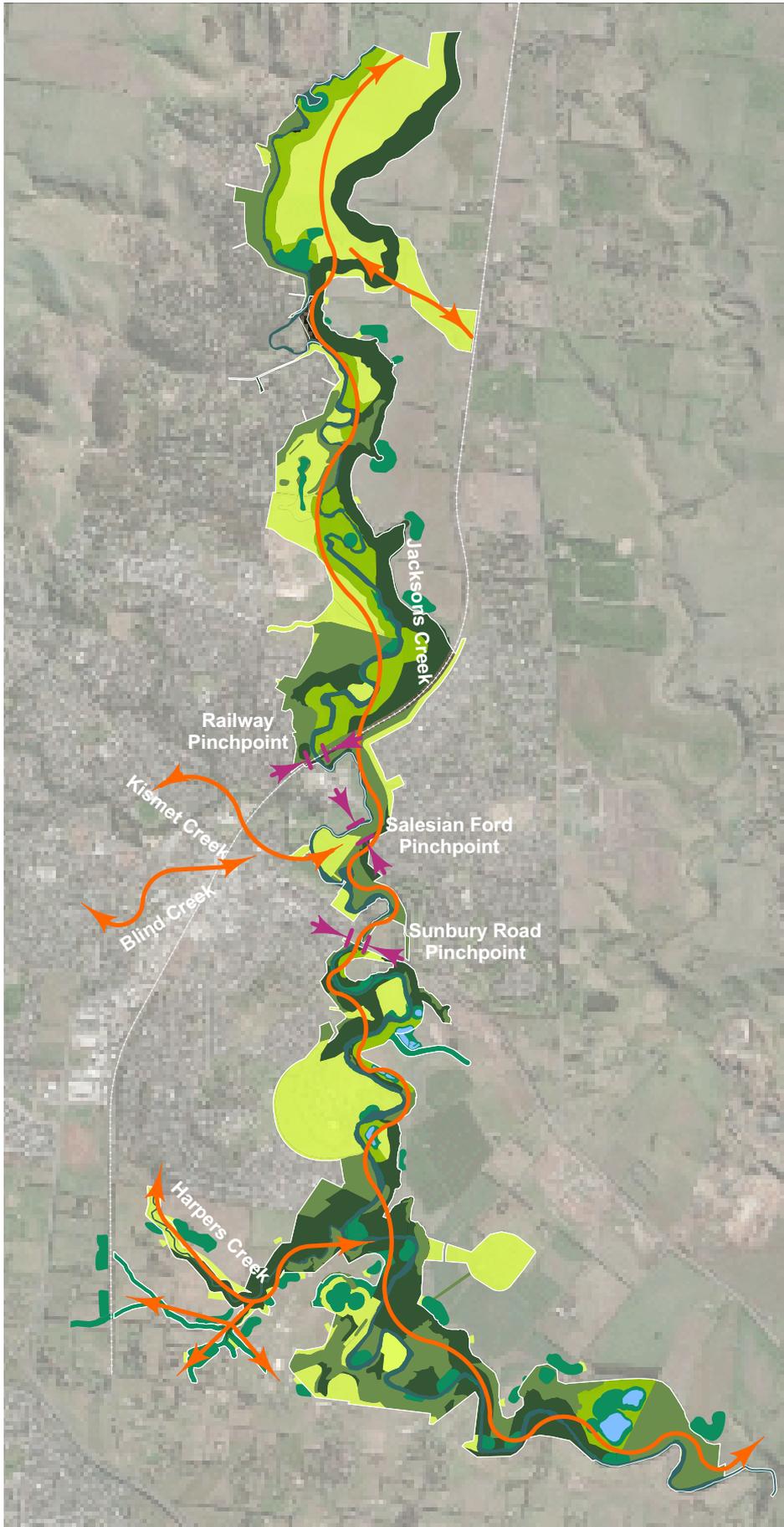
This plan and its future implementation supports:

- a. The biik wurrdha cultural landscape being valued in its entirety for the spiritual, archaeological, historical, ecological and living connections it provides to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community
- b. Use of the name biik wurrdha for Jacksons Creek to acknowledge Woi-wurrung custodianship and enhance public knowledge of the cultural importance of the parklands
- c. biik wurrdha as the boundary between marin balluk and wurundjeri willam estates, and Redstone Hill as where Batman's 'treaty' was signed
- d. The Sunbury Earth Rings, the Creek, Jacksons Falls, Redstone Hill floodplain area, and Harpers Creek confluence as places of special Woi-wurrung significance within a whole landscape of significance
- e. Wurundjeri aspirations for management of Country in collaboration with all park managers
- f. Cultural mapping values being embedded into the planning system for ongoing protection of the biik wurrdha cultural landscape. Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elder consideration of potential impacts of all future infrastructure within the parklands
- g. Opportunities for visitors to learn about Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture, history and landscape
- h. The protection of the visual amenity and continued celebration of the landscape through sensitive site-responsive design
- i. Connections to significant heritage values, events, stories and sites including agricultural land uses, military activities, hospitals, Rupertswood Mansion, the Ashes, Salesion College, Sunbury Music Festival, transport and urban expansion, and emerging multicultural connections will be retained with signage providing information to park visitors

4.3.2 Actions

- i. Protect biik wurrdha cultural landscape and seek funding to celebrate and share Woi-wurrung culture. Initiatives include signage, artwork, potential cultural centre, archaeological surveys, and planning controls
- ii. Protect and strengthen the connection to heritage sites within and adjoining the parklands through the provision of paths, signage and landscaping to enhance visitor experience

4.4 BIODIVERSITY



- LEGEND**
-  Parklands study area boundary
 -  Creek & Riverbeds
 -  Wetlands
 -  Escarpment
 -  Nature zones (cultural and ecological) *
 -  Mown grass for conservation management*
 -  Slashed grass for conservation management*
 -  Wildlife Corridor Opportunities
 -  Explore opportunities to enhance wildlife corridors

*Refer to images on the following page

Figure 4.1: Landscape types

4.4.1 Biodiversity Guiding Principles

This plan and its future implementation supports:

- a. Protection and enhancement of national and state significant flora and fauna species in line with legislation and supporting strategies including the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) for Melbourne's Growth Corridors.

Priority BCS conservation area outcomes are:

- Ensuring the protection and enhancement of Grassy Eucalypt Woodland
- Protecting, enhancing and connecting important habitat and population of Growling Grass Frog

- b. Healthy Waterways Strategy Targets for Key Values in the Jacksons Creek Sub Catchment, including platypus, macroinvertebrates and fish, by delivering performance objectives to improve and protect habitat. This includes establishing continuous riparian vegetation and protecting 'high' and 'very high' quality vegetation along priority waterway reaches.

- c. Protection of escarpments, soils and geological values

- d. Protection, enhancement and management of corridor wildlife movement. This includes along Jacksons Creek and linking to other corridors including Blind Creek, Kismet Creek, Harpers Creek and Emu Creek

- e. Celebration of species valued by the community such as eagles and platypus

- f. A coordinated long term approach to the ongoing challenge of pest plant and animal management

- g. Location and design of park amenities and infrastructure to limit detrimental visitor impacts on the natural and cultural environment

- h. Education and interpretation to foster community engagement with the natural environment and the management and protection of the parklands

4.4.2 Actions

- i. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity values in line with regularly reviewed conservation management plans and strategies
- ii. Coordinate pest plant and animal management to ensure a holistic approach to improve biodiversity values



Figure 4.2: Path through 'nature zone' - Wanginu Park, Sunbury



Figure 4.3: Path through 'slashed grass' - Jacksons Hill Reserve, Sunbury



Figure 4.4: Path through 'mown grass' - Emu Bottom Wetland, Sunbury

Figures 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 illustrate the landscape character which is proposed for different landscape zones within the parklands.

4.5 CLIMATE RESILIENCE

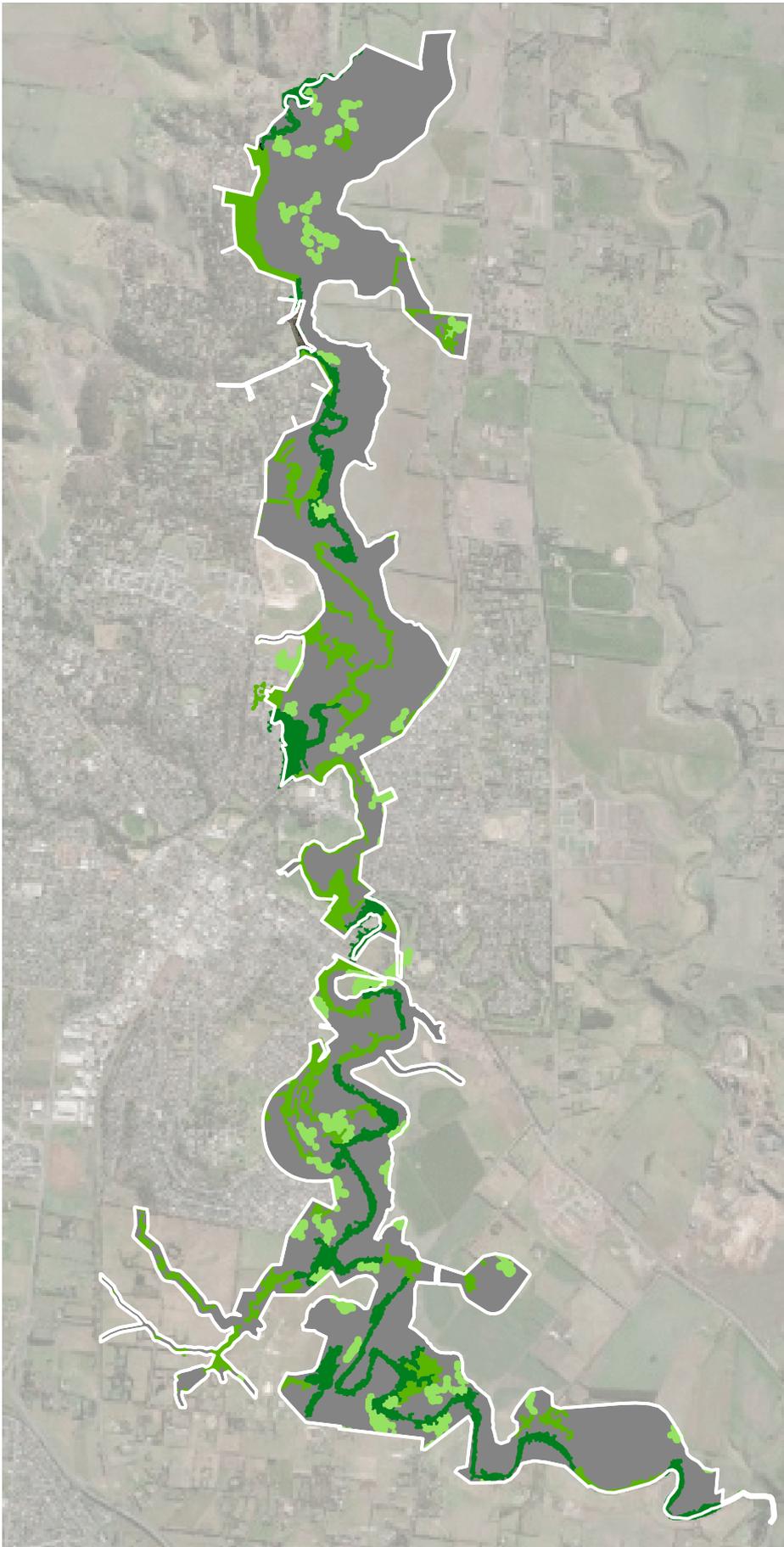


Figure 4.5: Canopy Cover

Canopy cover varies greatly across different areas of the parklands as shown in the adjacent map.

In 2021, the parklands were assessed as having 32% canopy coverage.

Greater tree canopy cover can be provided in activities nodes and along trails to encourage community use in hot weather. The shade canopy will not be applied in priority grassland and Growling Grass Frog areas due to different ecological habitat requirements.

Data is from the 2021 Vicmap Vegetation Tree Extent dataset and separated into three density classes, dense, medium, and sparse. Areas with no colour have no canopy cover.

LEGEND

-  Dense canopy
-  Medium canopy
-  Sparse canopy

4.5.1 Climate Resilience Guiding Principles

This plan and its future implementation supports:

- a. Good siting, design, creation and maintenance of landscapes and built infrastructure to enable resilience to climate change and extreme weather events
- b. Flora and fauna resilience to climate change through adapted flora species selection and siting
- c. Mitigation of bushfire risks through interface treatment including setbacks, planting, firebreaks, fuel reduction, water supply and emergency planning
- d. Stormwater management to reduce negative impacts on waterways whilst minimising the use of parklands space for new infrastructure
- e. Greater tree canopy cover where ecologically appropriate to shade paths and picnic areas to encourage community use in hot weather
- f. Reduced environmental impact through renewable energy sources, transport, materials, and carbon sink opportunities

4.5.2 Actions

- i. Implement adaptive management strategies for species and ecosystems to help respond to impacts of climate change and extreme events
- ii. Provide canopy trees at visitor nodes and along trails wherever appropriate to provide shade and comfort for visitors
- iii. Implement opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions during the establishment and ongoing maintenance of the parklands

4.6 VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

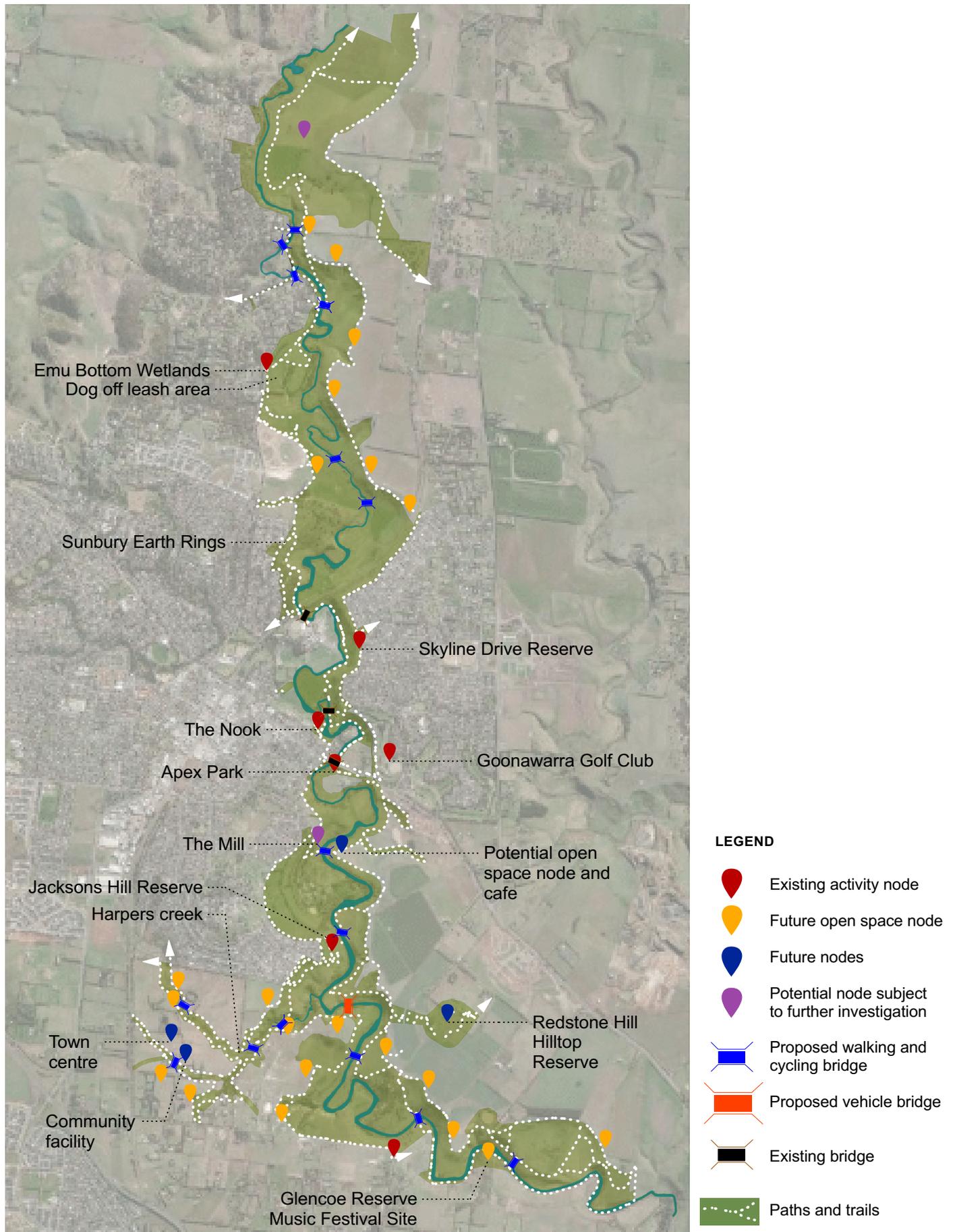
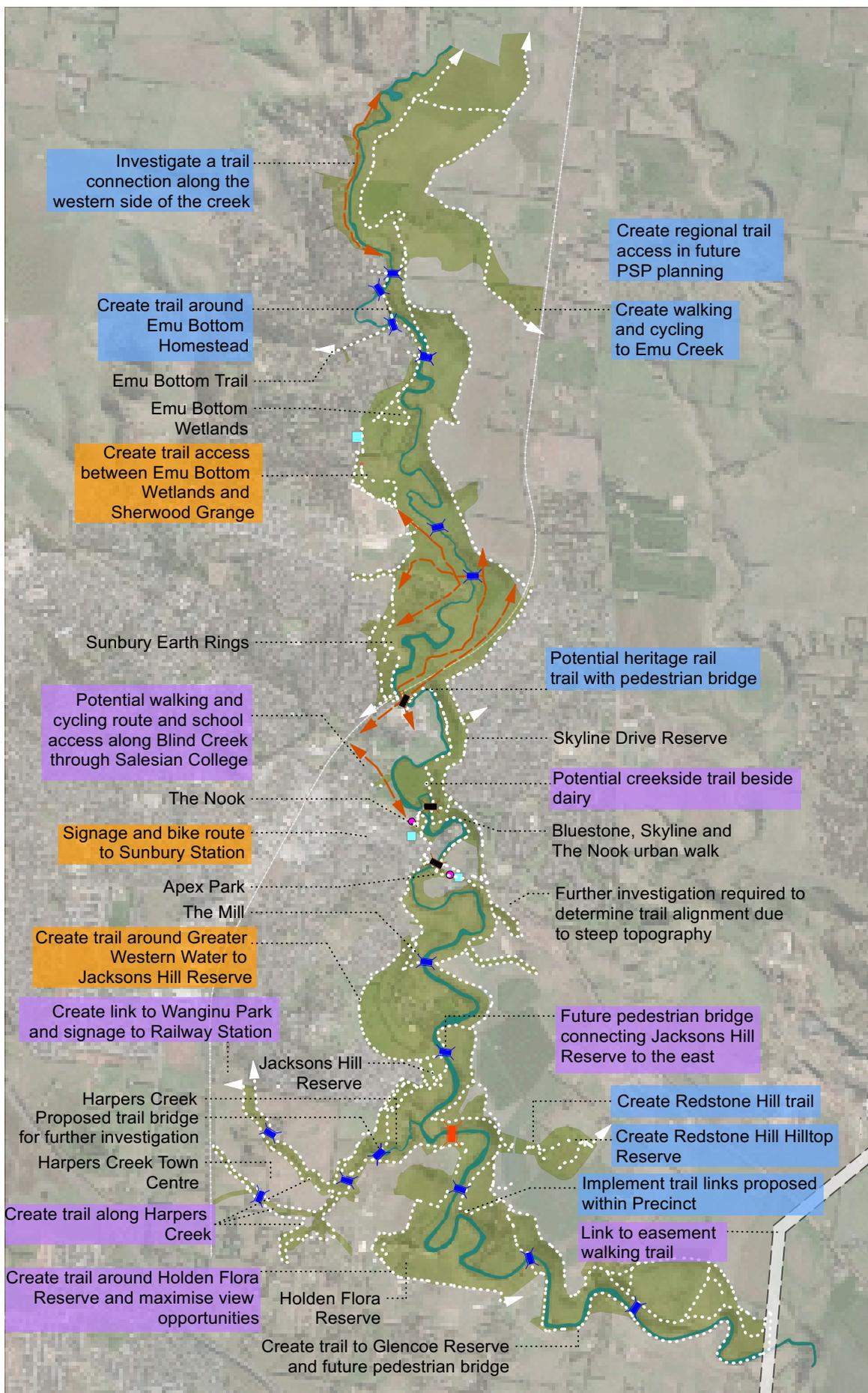


Figure 4.6: Trails and Nodes

4.6.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE - ACCESS



LEGEND

-  Primary trail network (Secondary trail network in other locations following detailed site analysis)
-  Existing public toilet facilities
-  Potential Trails for Further Investigation
-  Existing carparking
-  Short term 1-5 years
-  Medium term 5-10 years
-  Long term 10-20 years
-  Proposed walking and cycling bridge
-  Proposed vehicle bridge
-  Existing bridge

Note: seating to be provided every 400m in locations that take advantage of viewlines

Figure 4.6.1: Access

4.6.2 Visitor Experience and Healthy Communities Guiding Principles

This plan and its future implementation supports:

- a. Opportunities for the public to access and enjoy the parklands including:
 - Nature play outdoor learning, physical activity, and social connection
 - Quiet spaces for inspiration and contemplation, views and immersion in nature
 - Access to water and riparian views whilst protecting areas of high ecological and cultural significance
- b. Opportunities for visitors to learn about Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture, history and landscape
- c. Retaining existing valued activity nodes within the parklands and enhancing their complementary visitor experiences. This includes Emu Bottom Wetlands, The Nook, Apex Park, Skyline Reserve and Jacksons Hill Reserve
- d. Creation of a new visitor node within the parklands to be located at Redstone Hill. Visitor experiences will include expansive views, acknowledgement of Woi-wurrung history, and visitor amenities
- e. Minimise development within the parklands by locating visitor amenities close to, but outside, the parklands to support additional visitor needs and experience. Access by sustainable transport to be promoted and any car parking to be sensitively sited and designed. Design detail for the proposed Sunbury South roadbridge crossing east to west over the parklands must protect biodiversity and cultural values and minimise detrimental amenity impacts to the parklands
- f. Use of universal design principles for inclusive design to maximise visitor pedestrian experience, inclusion, safety and comfort
- g. Activities inclusive of linguistically diverse communities, low socio-economic communities, people with disabilities, the elderly and teenagers
- h. Opportunities for volunteers to support parklands and provide community stewardship. Support from land managers to be provided to maximise the effectiveness of volunteer efforts
- i. Provision of a network of trails that provide a range of scenic experiences and opportunities for immersion in nature and culture, and different levels of physical activity. Trails to have minimal impact on existing parkland values and include:
 - Primary trails along Jacksons Creek and Harpers Creek, that connect to the larger regional trail network; smaller loop trails for shorter experiences; dog on-leash options; and convenient rest areas
 - Wayfinding connections across and within the parklands to link the communities on both side of the creek and provide linkages to destinations such as schools, community facilities and shops
 - Access for maintenance and emergency purposes where appropriate

4.6.3 Actions

- i. Implement connected parklands trails and viewing platforms to support visitor enjoyment, protection of natural and cultural values, and safe movement
- ii. Continue to maintain and promote existing parkland activity nodes, and support the establishment of Redstone Hill regional park node and Harpers Creek linear park corridor
- iii. Provide activation activities to engage local residents and attract diverse visitors to the parklands. This may include planting days, walking tours, park runs, Junior Rangers, and guided talk

5. MANAGEMENT OF THE PARKLANDS



5.1 PARKLANDS MANAGEMENT

The proposed Parkland Management Zones for Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Parklands Plan, as shown in Figure 5.1 include:

- **Conservation Zone** - primarily for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of significant environmental and cultural values, while promoting the enjoyment of these areas to appreciate, learn from and experience nature.

Examples include nature conservation reserves such as Holden Flora Reserve.

- **Conservation and Recreation Zone** – balancing the protection, maintenance and enhancement of environmental and cultural values while enabling passive recreation.

Passive recreation includes activities such as picnicking, walking and cycling, scenic viewing, children's play.

Examples include existing visitor nodes such as Emu Bottom Wetland, The Nook and Apex Park.

- **Special Use Zone 1** – area of restricted access that supports the activities of Greater Western Water while maintaining cultural and biodiversity values of the parklands
- **Special Use Zone 2** – area of restricted access that supports the educational activities of Salesian College while maintaining cultural and biodiversity values of the parklands
- **Restricted Cultural Access Zone** – area of restricted access that protects cultural assets of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung

The management zones inform:

- the use and management of the land
- the best fit future public land manager
- the Crown land reservation purpose and supporting regulations

5.2 LAND MANAGERS

5.2.1 Parklands Management Guiding Principles

Management of the parklands is guided by the following principles:

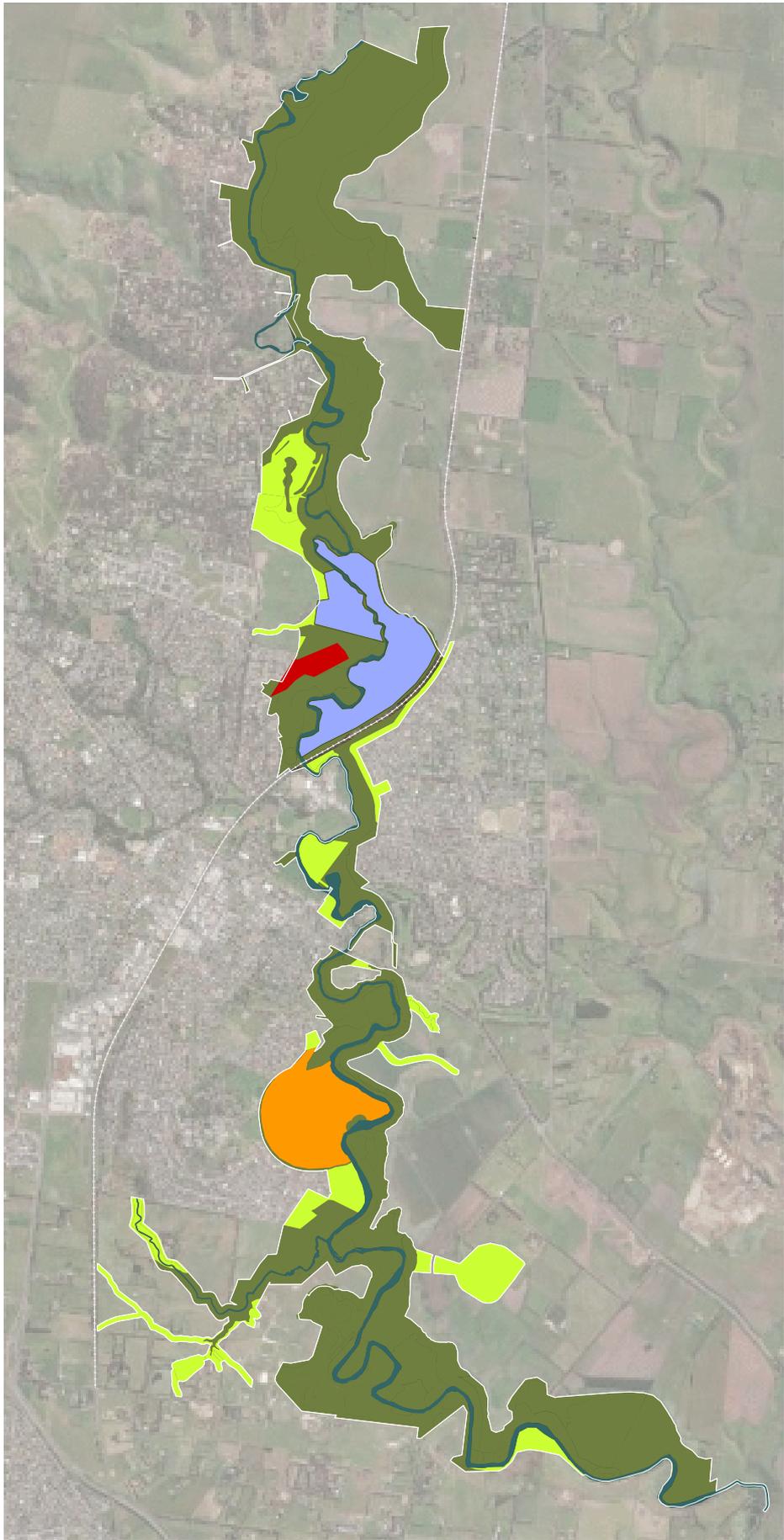
- a. The parkland management zones help to determine the future land manager of each parcel that enters public ownership. At an in-principle level:
 - Conservation Zones will be considered for management by Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water where it has a Growling Grass Frog reservation
 - Conservation and Recreation Zones will be considered for management by Hume City Council
- b. It is the expectation of the Traditional Owners, that Wurundjeri Country will be returned to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. This is set out in their statement below

“The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people have a cultural obligation and a cultural right to care for Country. Healthy Country is linked to healthy people and it is therefore necessary to return the management of Wurundjeri Country to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.

Recognising the increased and ongoing pressures on the environment in the past few hundred years, and particularly in more recent times, there is a need to facilitate and provide resources to Care for Country in an ongoing capacity. Providing ongoing funding and enabling the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people to Care of Country aligns with the self-determined objectives identified through multiple strategies and endorsed by Corporation Elders and members.”
- c. The Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Partnership Group supports Traditional Owner self-determination and as such supports goals of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people for future management of the parklands. As such, it is considered that any land managers (that are not the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation) are managing the land as a transitional measure until such time that the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Corporation has been provided the capacity and resources to take on the land manager role
- d. Ongoing land managers will manage and make decisions about their own land. This will be done in accordance with the shared commitments and principles of the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands Plan
 - Ongoing land managers are known as Parklands Partners and include Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Hume City Council, Greater Western Water and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
 - DELWP is also a Parkland Partner due to its role in coordinating progressive land inclusion for the parklands
- e. Parkland Partners will meet as a Parklands Partnership Group to determine shared issues including supporting delivery of Parklands Plan, supporting and monitoring parkland expansion, consistent guidance for adjacent development, supporting consistent parkland communication and connections

5.2.2 Actions

- i. Establish the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Parklands Partnership Group as an ongoing collaboration to be reviewed every three years.
- ii. Progressively secure the transfer of private land within the parklands boundary to public ownership including land within the Biodiversity Conservation Area
- iii. Investigate options, and where possible implement land management by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to deliver natural resource management outcomes

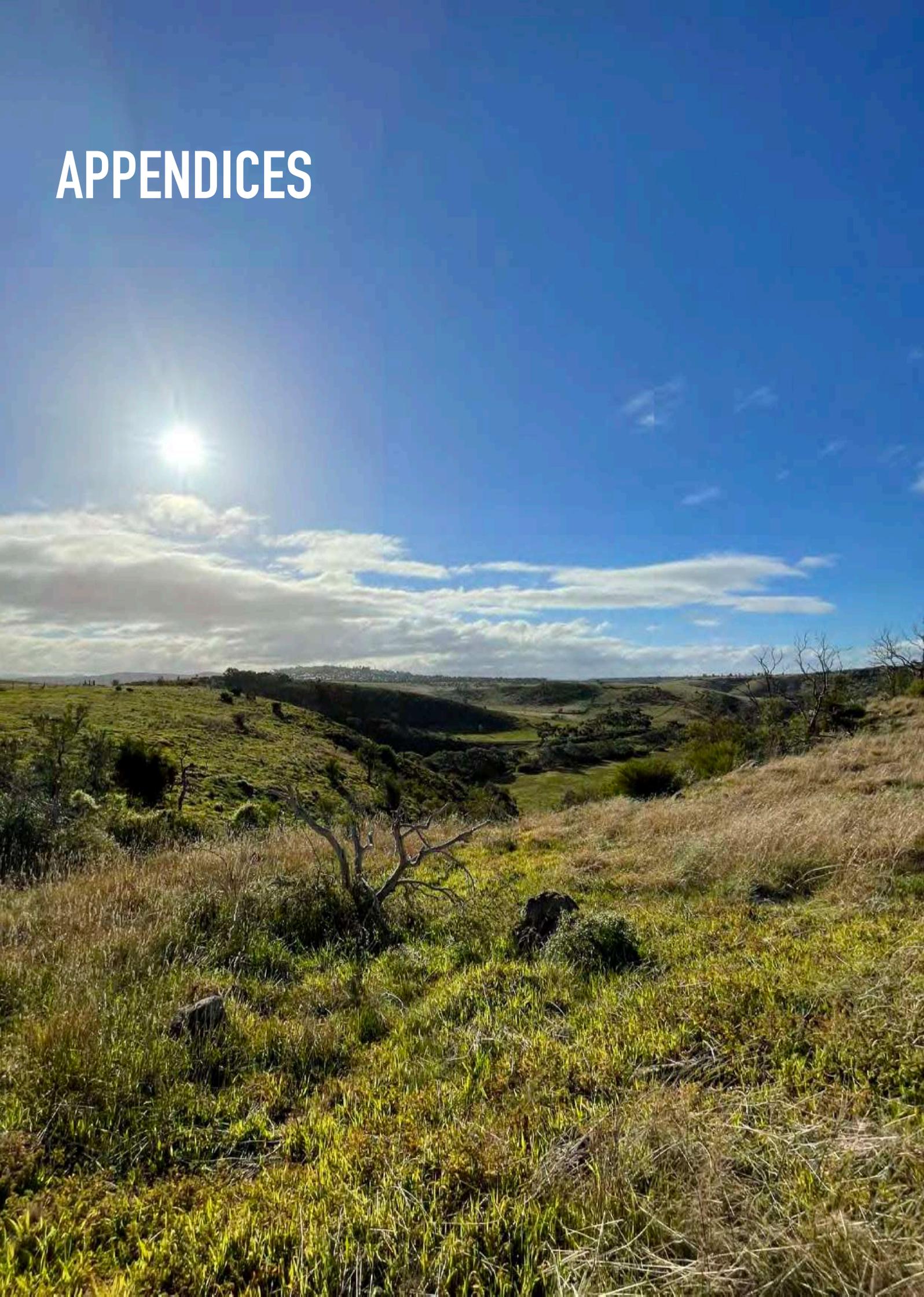


LEGEND

- Parklands study area boundary
- Conservation Zone
- Conservation & Recreation Zone
- Special Use Zone 1
Greater Western Water
- Special Use Zone 2
Salesian College
- Restricted Cultural Access Zone

Figure 5.1: Park Management Zones

APPENDICES



A. STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REVIEW

Existing strategies, plans and policy commitments of Federal, State and Local Government and parklands partners were reviewed to inform parklands planning. This included documents from the Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Hume City Council, Greater Western Water, and the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and others.

- ***Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Corporation***
 - Jacksons Creek Regional Parklands Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Study (2021)
- ***Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning***
 - Open Space for Everyone: Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne (2021)
 - Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037
 - Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors (2013)
 - Delivering Melbourne's Newest Sustainable Communities: Strategic Impact Assessment Report for the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (2009)
 - Land Protection Under the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy: Melbourne Strategic Assessment (2014) Growling Grass Frog Crossing Design Standards (2017)
 - Growling Grass Frog Habitat Design Standards (2017)
 - Growling Grass Frog Masterplan for Melbourne's Growth Corridors (2017)
 - Jacksons Creek Regional Parkland Ecological Survey (2021)
 - Climate Change Strategy (2021)
 - Waterways of the West Action Plan (2021)
- ***Melbourne Water***
 - Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018)
- ***Parks Victoria***
 - Healthy Parks Healthy People Framework (2020)
 - Nature Conservation Strategy for Parks and Reserves Managed by Parks Victoria (2021-2031)
 - Land Management Strategy DRAFT (2021)
 - Managing Country Together Framework (2019)
 - Cultural Diversity Strategic Plan (2018-2021)
 - Historic Places Strategic Framework and Action Plan (2019-2022)
 - Corporate Plan (2020-2024)
 - Volunteering in Parks: Vision for the Future
 - Disability Action Plan (2017-2020)
- ***Victorian Planning Authority***
 - Sunbury South Precinct Structure Plan (amended 2019)
 - Lancefield Road Precinct Structure Plan (amended 2019)
 - Sunbury HIGAP Delivery and Infrastructure Strategy (2012)
 - Sunbury HIGAP Spatial Strategy (2012)



- **Hume City Council**

- Hume City Council Plan 2021-2025
- Open Space Strategy (2010-2015)
- Walking and Cycling Strategy (2010-2015)
- DRAFT Rural Strategy (2020)
- Integrated Water Management Plan (2020-2025)
- Natural Heritage Interpretation Action Plan & Natural Heritage Interpretation Guidelines (2015-2019)

- **Greater Western Water**

- Sunbury's Water Future: Response to the Community Panel's recommendations (2019)
- Sunbury's Water Future: Community Panel Background Report (2019)

The review of existing strategies and policies highlights the strong alignment between the objectives of this study and broader strategic objectives of the management partners.

B. CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Community input was invited between 3-30 November 2021 to inform the drafting of the Parkland Plan. Surveys from 179 people and discussions with park users at online information sessions (during COVID restrictions) revealed priorities for

- protecting and expressing Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture
- protecting and enhancing the natural environment
- protection of parklands hilltops and escarpments
- more opportunities for walking and appreciating nature
- cycling paths along the waterway
- more educational and volunteering opportunities within the parklands
- continued support for the highly valued Emu Bottom Wetlands and The Nook

The following trail connections requested by park users will be investigated, and if feasible, implemented:

- A link to the popular walking and running trail along Blind Creek
- Potential new rail trail that will connect different parts of Sunbury whilst showcasing historic sites such as Woi-wurrung history, the Rupertswood Mansion, the 'Home of the Ashes', and the Jacksons Creek viaduct
- A link from Maguire Street reserve to The Nook

The above priorities were incorporated into the Draft Plan.

The Draft Jacksons Creek Regional Parklands Plan was released for feedback from 17 March to 26 April 2022. Surveys from 64 people and discussions with park users at information sessions revealed strong support for the Draft Plan with requests for additional consideration of:

- wildlife passages along the Creek and along lateral corridors
- more safe walking paths including links with other parks and Blind Creek
- more wayfinding signage, seating, carparking and amenities
- more weed management and parkland maintenance
- concern about the management of dogs and the provision of off-lead areas
- further detail about the implementation staging and delivery

Feedback has been accommodated in revised guiding principles, background information and mapping. It is noted that many requests will not be resolved by this high-level concept plan and will be addressed in more detailed site planning.

The following is a summary of the key issues that emerged during consultation:

Cultural Values

- Desire for signage that helps explain Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture and history including stories of area and local wildlife
- Use of Woi-wurrung language for places and artwork were identified by the community as ways they'd like to learn more about the Woi-wurrung Cultural values in the parklands
- Sunbury Earth Rings to be protected

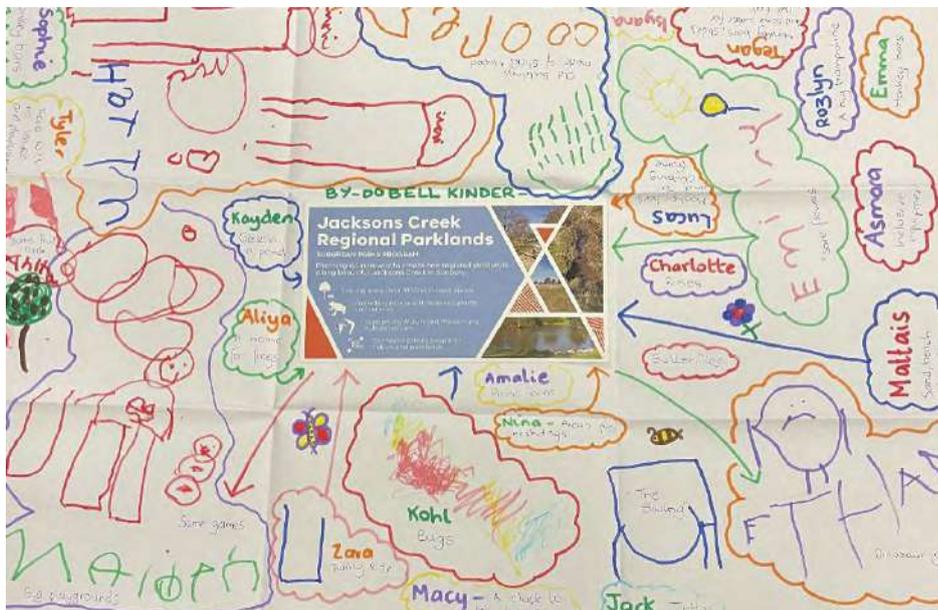


Figure 3.1: Submission received from Dobell Avenue Kindergarten during the consultation phase

Environmental

- Protection of wildlife was raised as a concern by the community Including:
 - Ensuring wildlife are protected and catered for when implementing new roads and infrastructure
 - The protection of platypus, echidna and eagle habitat
- Valuable grasslands within the parklands should be retained and protected
- Desire to see appropriate planting is used throughout the parklands
- Improvement of water quality of the Jacksons Creek. Including:
 - ensuring runoff from surrounding areas does not negatively impact water quality
- Ensure the parklands' hilltops and escarpments are protected
- Nature trails and wetlands/ water features were identified as the two most important elements to be considered in the parklands
- Consideration of connections with other habitat areas

Visitor Experience and Healthy Active Communities

- Large parks and open spaces along natural waterways are very important to the community.
 - The Nook, Emu Bottom Wetland, Jacksons Hill Reserve, Apex Park and the Skywalk Reserve and visited regularly by the community
 - Holden Flora Reserve is highly valued by the community
- Walking and appreciating nature were identified as the two key activities the community would enjoy in the parklands
 - Trails and all abilities paths were considered by the community as the top features that would make the park safe and accessible for all ages and abilities

- Desire for trails to connect beyond the parklands to surrounding areas, across the creek and to other destinations i.e. Organ Pipes
- Walks of varying distances should be considered including short walks as well as full day walks
- Concern about pedestrian safety on shared paths
- Desire for trails to be minimised and designed to reduce impact on environment
- Signs, including signs with maps, were identified as the key feature to assist in making the park more enjoyable and accessible for people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- The inclusion of park furniture, such as picnic tables, toilets, and chairs, as well as fitness equipment for all ages was suggested by some respondents
- The community did not express a desire for cafes or similar commercial enterprises within the park
- Desire for more carparking and provision for public transport
- Interest in educational activities and programming such as Girl Guides, Friends Of groups and Junior Rangers, to promote stewardship and appreciation of the environment
- Consider programming around cultural and ecological values, i.e. 'meet an elder/ ranger'
- Concern about the management of dogs and the provision of off-lead areas
- Public art to be considered across the parklands
- Desire for a stronger connection to the Sunbury Music Festival and the Billy Thorpe Memorial by the inclusion of paths and signage
- A desire for improvements to circulation with linkages throughout the park including extra cycling routes
- Consideration of connections with other open spaces
- Concerns about pedestrian safety on shared paths
- A desire for more carparking and provision for public toilets in the Parkland Plan
- Provision of wayfinding signage and interpretive signage relating to heritage, flora and fauna

Management and Maintenance

- Vehicle access, motorbikes and horse riding within the parklands to be restricted and enforced
- Desire for greater weed and pest management. Weeds from VicTrack land is problematic
- Enforcement required to reduce dumping and litter
- Improved enforcement around livestock accessing parklands to reduce erosion and degradation
- Ensure parklands are managed to reduce fire risk
- Consider rangers to assist with management and enforcement
- Desire for greater clarity of implementation of Parkland Plan by different land managers

The Parklands Plan also reflected community and stakeholder feedback from the closely related projects including Lancefield Road and Sunbury South Precincts Structure Plans, and the Sunbury Water Futures project.

C. PARKLAND PLANNING METHODOLOGY

Throughout the development of the Parklands Plan, a number of steps were taken to determine future directions of the parklands. This included community consultation, engagement with key stakeholders and project partners, site visits and analysis of key studies, assessments, surveys, plans and existing conditions.

Drafting, analysis and consultation for the Parklands Plan was undertaken by Fitzgerald Frisby Landscape Architects on behalf of Parklands Partners.

Community Consultation

Community engagement for the Parkland Plan was undertaken via a two stage process:

- Community input was invited in November 2021 prior to writing the Draft Plan
- Community feedback on the Draft Plan was invited in March and April 2022

The community feedback and response is described in Appendix B.

Stakeholder Engagement

Targeted stakeholder meetings and workshops with the parklands partners, community groups, developers and other interested parties were undertaken to determine the priorities and aspirations key stakeholders may have for the parklands. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Salesian Society, Villawood, Capitol Property Group, and Friends of Emu Bottom Wetland, were consulted during this process, the findings of which were considered in the parkland planning.

Meetings with directly affected private landowners and developers provided advice on when they expect to transfer their land to the parklands and provided valuable onground knowledge to assist high-level planning. Landowners provided support for the plan, subject to it being consistent with the Precinct Structure Planning requirements. Two landowners advised that they wish to retain part of their area of parkland in private ownership.

Literature Review

Over the last few years, a number of plans and strategic documents have been developed for Jacksons Creek, Sunbury, and the wider catchment area. These plans have assisted in informing the Plan, particularly in relation to aspirations for and locations of activity nodes and paths.

A list of the documents, plans and surveys analysed as part of the Strategic Document Review can be found in Appendix A. A number of other plans, Master Plans, and surveys were also reviewed. Key documents influencing the parkland planning process include the Jacksons Creek Regional Parklands Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Study (2021), Jacksons Creek Regional Parkland Ecological Survey (2021), the Melbourne Strategic Assessment and, Precinct Structure Plans and developer plans. These documents and their impact on the parklands are summarised below:

- **Cultural Values Study**

The Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Partnership Group supports Traditional Owner self-determination and as such the recommendations outlined in the Cultural Values Study by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Heritage Aboriginal Corporation were given priority throughout the parklands planning process. This included ensuring that paths, infrastructure, stormwater assets and activity nodes are proposed outside of areas of significant cultural value, such as the Sunbury Earth Rings, Jacksons Falls and the Redstone Hill floodplain area. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Heritage Aboriginal Corporation were also consulted as to whether there were any aspirations for other recommendations such as a cultural centre, viewing areas or programming. These proposals are included in the Parklands Plan.

Regarding management recommendations within the Plan, the Partnership Group supports the future management of the parklands by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people in line with the recommendations provided by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

- ***Ecological Assessment***

The findings from the ecological assessment highlighted the existing vegetation and riparian qualities within the parklands. Areas recognised in the study as having some quality vegetation were identified during the planning process to inform the location of any proposed infrastructure, such as paths and activity nodes. As such, no activity nodes are proposed within areas of quality vegetation and where possible, trails are located outside of these areas. It is important to note that a number of paths exist within the area due to existing uses (mainly agriculture). Where appropriate, proposed trails have been aligned with these existing paths in order to minimise further impacts on the environment. In some cases, these may exist within areas identified as having some quality vegetation.

- ***Melbourne Strategic Assessment***

The Melbourne Strategic Assessment (MSA) and the resultant Growling Grass Frog Masterplan for Melbourne's Growth Corridors (2017) outline the existing and proposed habitat for the Growling Grass Frog. The location of this habitat have informed the location of any proposed infrastructure, such as paths and activity nodes. No activity nodes are proposed within these areas and where possible, trails are located outside of these areas. In some cases, paths are required to be located within the areas, particularly where a creek crossing is proposed, however care has been taken to ensure that these are located away from the 'Areas of Strategic Importance'.

- ***Precinct Structure Plans and Developer Plans***

Precinct Structure Plans (PSP) for the middle and southern sections of the parklands have been completed by the Victorian Planning Authority. These plans have informed the locations of future roads, development interfaces and adjacent uses (such as future open space and town centres). In some cases, development has progressed adjacent to the parklands boundary and as such, more detailed information has been available. These developer plans have provided further information about adjacent uses including path locations and the types of activity nodes that may be constructed on or near the parklands boundary. This information has assisted in locating activity nodes within the park and inform the trail locations.

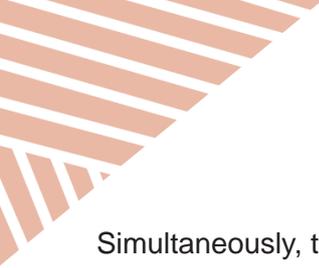
Existing conditions

The existing site conditions, particularly existing infrastructure, topography and geology have been examined during the planning process to assist in informing the Plan.

The topography of the site has been influential in shaping the potential use and access for the parklands. Several paths exist within the area due to existing uses. Where appropriate, proposed trails have been aligned with these existing paths in order to minimise further impacts on the environment. A key objective of the Plan is to provide accessible paths where possible and as such, paths have been carefully considered in relation to the site topography and escarpments.

The underlying geology and soils of the area have also informed the programming within the Parklands. Existing and previous land uses, as well as erosion have impacted the land and soils. This combined with the high ecological and cultural values of the area have ruled out some activities, such as new areas for horse riding or mountain biking, within the parklands.

All data and plans were analysed and prioritised through the planning process. In some cases, analysis indicated conflicting data, most likely due to the more detailed information now being available. When resolving these conflicts, the Cultural Values Study, Ecological Assessment, the MSA have taken priority.



Simultaneously, the existing conditions were considered. For example, some trail alignments outlined in previous Jacksons Creek planning documents (undertaken by Hume City Council) and the Maribyrnong River Shared Trail Feasibility Study (July 2013 SMEC Urban) were in conflict with each other, as well as the ecological values, Growling Grass Frog habitat and the existing paths and topography. Where this occurred, the proposed trail first attempted to ensure that the paths were located outside Growling Grass Frog habitat where possible, then avoided areas with where quality vegetation has been identified and thirdly aligned with existing paths where possible, ensuring an accessible grade was achievable (with further detailed investigations).

With regard to land management zones, the existing and potential site values, MSA and BCS requirements and the aspirations of the community and the Partnership Group were considered. As such, the parklands will be retained and enhanced as a conservation area. The habitat requirements of the Growling Grass Frog formed the basis of the land management zones following the cultural and ecological values. These three areas combined form the 'Conservation Zone'. Where parks and passive recreation areas (those areas currently managed by Hume City Council) exist or area proposed with the parklands have been classed as 'Conservation and Recreation Zone'. These 'zones' will inform the future management practices of the parklands.

It is important to note that this plan is a high level strategy and that the recommendations are subject to further site assessments. This plan will assist the Partnership Group in advocating for the parklands and informing any future PSPs (i.e. for Sunbury North), developer plans, Master Plans and detailed design.