



HEIDELBERG PARK MASTERPLAN
BACKGROUND PAPER
Prepared by 3Acres LA
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Landscape Architecture



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Contents

Chapter 1. Strategic Context	4
1.1 Public Open Space Plan	4
1.2 Public Open Space Plan – Technical Report	8
1.3 HACMP Public Realm Strategy	11
1.4 Banyule Walking Strategy	16
1.5 Heidelberg Structure Plan 2010	19
1.6 VPA Latrobe NE&I Cluster	22
1.7 Arts & Culture Strategic Plan	23
1.8 Integrated Transport Plan	24
1.9 Recreation Plan	26
1.10 Northern Regional Trails Strategy	28
1.11 Urban Forest Strategic Plan	30
1.12 Public Toilet Plan	32
1.13 Biodiversity Plan	34
1.14 North East Link	36
1.15 Heidelberg School Artists Trail	37
1.16 Burndap Birrarung Burndap Umarkoo, Yarra Strategic Plan	38
1.17 Heidelberg Structure Plan 2021	42
1.18 Our Spaces - Banyule Youth Spaces Plan	46
 Chapter 2. Site Assessment	 48
2.1 Climate	48
2.2 Geology	49
2.3 Vegetation	50
2.4 Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	52

1.0 Strategic Context

1.1 Public Open Space Plan 2016 – 2031



Vision

A green City that provides high quality, sustainable, accessible and well maintained public open space within 5 minutes' walk for residents.

Objectives (Pillars)

The Guiding Principle and Vision are supported by six objectives. These objectives replicate the six pillars that form the basis for the draft Melbourne Metropolitan Public Open Space Strategy currently being finalised by the Metropolitan Planning Authority.

1. Quantity (Is there enough?)
2. Quality (How good is it?)
3. Access & Connectivity (Can I get there to use it?)
4. Equitable distribution (It is available throughout Banyule?)
5. Diversity (Will it provide different experiences?)
6. Sustainability (Will it affect the environment & will it last?)

HEIRARCHY

Heidelberg Park is described as a regional park, but it also has neighbourhood and local park characteristics.

Regional Park

The term regional park is applied to municipal owned parkland which has a catchment well beyond the suburb it is located in. It often draws users from other municipalities.

Regional parks generally have large, individually designed playgrounds servicing the whole municipality. They have a full range of supporting amenities provided, including toilets, drinking fountains, shelter, seating, bins, off street parking, tables and seats, and they cater for all abilities.

The expectation is that users would be prepared to drive for 15 minutes or more to these parks and/or play spaces and could potentially spend up to four hours there in any one visit.

Neighbourhood Park

Neighbourhood parks are defined as parks that are large enough to service the residents of a suburb or at least several large neighbourhoods within a suburb and that users would be prepared to spend between 5 and 15 minutes to get there and could potentially spend an hour or more once there.

Neighbourhood play spaces generally include medium to substantial sized playgrounds, catering for a range of age groups and abilities.

The expectation is that users would be prepared to travel for up to 15 minutes to these parks and/or play spaces and could potentially spend up to two hours there in any one visit.

Local Park

Local parks are small parks that local residents would generally be prepared to walk to, and on average are only likely spend up to 30 minutes there on any one visit.

Local park playgrounds are small and are designed to service resident's living within 400 metres with one or two items of play equipment for a limited number of age groups. Local playgrounds are usually only used by residents from nearby streets who normally get there by walking or cycling.

EXPERIENCE

Heidelberg Park combines a range of experiences in one park, including formal sporting, informal and passive recreation, environmental recreation and play.

Formal Sporting parks provide facilities for formal sporting competition and training, including sports playing surfaces, pavilions/clubrooms and sports field lighting.

Informal and Passive Recreation parks and gardens have facilities that encourage informal and passive recreation, including paths, seating, shelter, picnic tables, barbecues, drinking fountains and public toilets.

Environmental Recreation parks which have a distinctive bushland character. They may include wetlands and vegetated areas along the corridors of rivers and streams which enable users to experience nature, see and hear native birds and animals and to have the feeling they are away from suburbia.

Many parks and reserves have formal **Play** infrastructure. The open space strategy also recognises that there are informal play opportunities in every park and urban spaces, regardless of whether there is a traditional playground there.

BARRIERS TO ACCESS

The open space strategy identifies barriers to access, which is particularly relevant to Heidelberg Park. Barriers to access include:

Streets and Roads

According to specialist technical advice, streets and roads which meet certain criteria are deemed significant barriers to accessing public open space. Key criteria include:

- Traffic volume – any street or road which has a 7,000 or more daily traffic movements.
- Speed limit – any road or street with a speed limit above 50 kph. The vast majority of streets and roads in Banyule have a default speed limit of 50 kph.
- Size of vehicles – any roads with a substantial volume of large trucks using it should be considered a barrier.

Rivers and Streams

Rivers and streams are deemed to be barriers except where there is a pedestrian bridge which allows access to public open space.

Private Property

Private property is deemed to be a barrier where it prevents direct access to public open space.

ACCESS TO PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

There are many challenges to facilitating full access, however wherever possible and applicable access to public open space will be facilitated by:

- Universal Design Guidelines compliant continuous paths.
- Pram crossings.
- Directional and way finding signage in nearby streets.

ACCESS WITHIN PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Access within open space shall be facilitated by:

- Universal design compliant paths to allow access to key facilities within the reserve or park.
- Universal design compliant park furniture.
- Provision of some access friendly items of play equipment.
- Accessible toilets

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Prepare a local open space strategy for the Heidelberg Activity Centre in order to identify strategies to address the specific and complex public open space needs in this designated high growth area, including improving connectivity, potential agreements with other stakeholders and investment in appropriate open space related infrastructure. This has been undertaken as the Heidelberg Activity Centre and Medical Precinct Public Realm Strategy 2018.

Develop a masterplan for Heidelberg Park and Heidelberg Gardens, given their potential local and regional importance.

Continue to work with Manningham City Council and the State Government to establish pedestrian and cycling connectivity between the Warringal Parklands, the Main Yarra Trail on the western side of the Yarra River with Banksia Park and Heide Museum of Modern Art on the eastern side of the River.

RELEVANT SPECIFIC ACTIONS

11. Effective Strategic Design

- Prepare a 15-year program for the development of masterplans for key parks and reserves; e.g. Heidelberg Park, Macleod Park, Elder Street Reserve, etc.

14. Walkability

- Increase pedestrian and cycling connectivity to public open space from areas with, or earmarked to have, high density residential development by investing in appropriate infrastructure; e.g. Heidelberg Activity Centre, the Greensborough Principal Activity Centre, etc.

22. Environment Protection & Biodiversity

- Develop a 10-year program of additional tree planting in areas that will enhance Banyule's native habitat corridors and strengthen canopy connectivity with habitat corridors from the suburban street network, stand-alone parks and private land.
- Develop an on-going program for indigenous revegetation, habitat restoration and weed management programs along the main river and creek corridors.

23. Innovation & Initiative

- When preparing reserve masterplans, consider the latest industry trends in recreation and where possible, include new, different or innovative experiences.

24. Sharing of Resources and Strategic Partnerships

- Work with Manningham City Council and the State Government to establish pedestrian and cycling connectivity between the Warringal Parklands, the Main Yarra Trail on the western side of the Yarra River with Banksia Metropolitan Park and Heide Museum of Modern Art on the eastern side of the River.
- Negotiate with Parks Victoria, the State Government and the City of Manningham to construct a pedestrian bridge linking Yarra Flats Metropolitan Park and the Main Yarra Trail to community facilities on the eastern side of the Yarra River including Bulleen Park and the Principal designated bicycle lanes on Bulleen Road.

1.0 Strategic Context

1.2 Public Open Space Plan – Technical Report 2016-2031



CURRENT DEMOGRAPHICS AND TRENDS FOR GROWTH

The Mid Precinct centred around Heidelberg and Heidelberg Park is the most populous precinct within Banyule with a current population of approximately 21,000 people. According to ID Data projections, this population will increase by just over 6000 by 2031, a further 29%.

Over half of this growth is expected to occur in the suburb of Heidelberg. The Mid Precinct is already the precinct with the second highest population density of 23.4 persons per hectare.

However, these projections are relatively conservative when compared to those predicted by the MPA. It predicts that the main area targeted for greatest population growth in the Precinct, Heidelberg, will ultimately grow by up to 260%. To achieve this there will need to be considerably more medium and high-density development, which will mean that population density will also increase significantly.

The Open Space Plan argues that this will obviously have major implications in the demand for public open space, as much of this larger population, should it occur, will need to be accommodated in medium and high-density residential housing, with minimal, or no private open space. According to the Heidelberg Structure Plan, this could include apartments of up to eight to ten storeys within the core town centre. This will result in an increased reliance on public open space to provide for outdoor activities and contact with nature, which are critically important for public health and wellbeing.

ANALYSIS OF OPEN SPACE IN THE MID PRECINCT

The report identifies Heidelberg Activity Centre as the main area of concern in this precinct. Whilst there are considerable amounts of high quality public open space in the Heidelberg area, access is an issue that will need to be addressed in order to provide the easily walkable local public open space the large projected future population will need.

ANALYSIS BY SUBURB WITHIN PRECINCT - HEIDELBERG

Some of the highest quality public open space within the region is located in or adjacent to Heidelberg including Heidelberg Park, Warringal Parklands and Banksia Metropolitan Park. However, the open space, main residential and commercial areas are all separated by Rosanna Road.

Rosanna Road is the busiest road corridor in Banyule forming part of the main link between the Western Ring Road and the Eastern Freeway, carrying extremely large amounts of commuter traffic during the day and large numbers of heavy transport vehicles, including B Doubles, day and night. This situation is hardly conducive to encouraging local people to make regular use of these parklands.

CONCLUSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Mid Precinct has some of the best and most unique public open space in the metropolitan area, particularly the parklands along the Yarra River Corridor and the Rosanna Parklands. However, access to the parklands along the Yarra Corridor to use as local open space is problematic for the residents of Heidelberg who live to the west of Rosanna Road as this road acts as a major barrier.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The key recommendations identified in the Technical Report are:

2. Increase pedestrian and cycling connectivity between adjacent public open space and the Heidelberg Activity Centre by investing in appropriate infrastructure, including to assist with crossing Rosanna Rd.

7. Prepare a masterplan for Heidelberg Park, including the identification of:

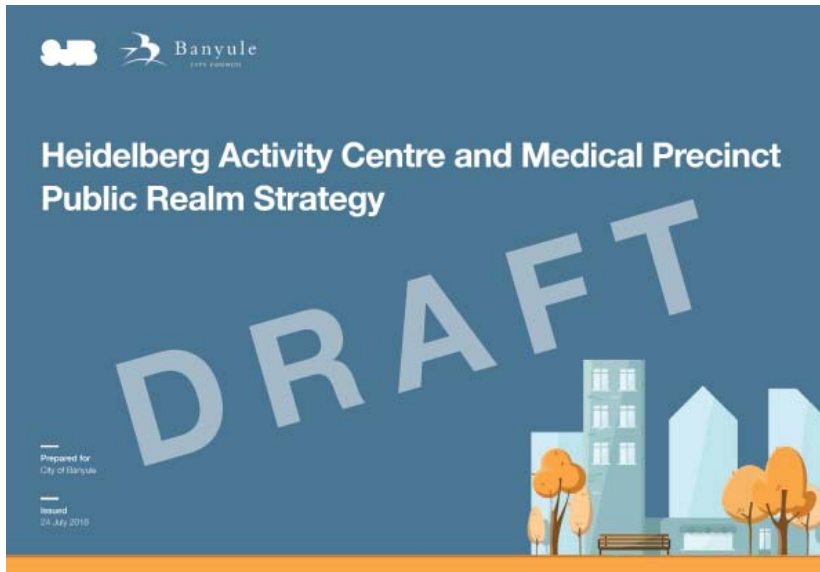
- A formalised path network to improve connectivity to and within the park
- Locations for the establishment of future family activity nodes, including along the ridgeline.
- The potential to formalise the Heidelberg Gardens as a horticulture show piece.

OPEN SPACE PROJECTS FOR HEIDELBERG PARK

No.	Project	Indicative Budget
1	Warm Seasons Grass conversion for oval; upgrade irrigation and drainage	\$ 100,000
2	Heritage works, including white picket fence	\$ 80,000
3	Significant garden renovations required, particularly given the heritage significance of the Heidelberg Gardens	\$ 100,000
4	Tree planting and tree works, garden bed renovations & irrigation	\$ 50,000
5	Sealed paths to be constructed to connect to Brown, Darebin & Hodgson Streets; paths in Heidelberg Gardens need upgrading	\$ 200,000
6	Addition of seats throughout the Park required	\$ 5,000
7	Addition of drinking fountains, particularly in Heidelberg Gardens; existing taps need upgrading	\$ 7,000
8	Additional picnic tables required, particularly in the Heidelberg Gardens and along ridgeline	\$ 15,000
9	Trees all the same age; succession plan and replacement	\$ 5,000
10	Toilets need upgrade	\$ 80,000
11	Additional BBQs on the ridgeline and in Heidelberg Gardens	\$ 20,000
12	Works required to pavilion to provide disability access	\$ 100,000
13	Pedestrian Bridge to link Heidelberg Park to the Heidelberg Activity Centre over Rosanna Road	\$ 1,000,000

1.0 Strategic Context

1.3 Heidelberg Activity Centre and Medical Precinct Public Realm Strategy 2018



Purpose

The purpose of the Heidelberg Public Realm Strategy is to create an enduring vision for the Heidelberg Activity Centre and Medical Precinct (HACMP), a significant area undergoing change within the suburb of Heidelberg and Heidelberg Heights in the City of Banyule. The project seeks to progress the work of the Banyule Public Open Space Plan and to provide direction to the review of the Heidelberg Structure Plan.

The HACMP is under considerable pressure to provide accessible public open space within a medical, residential, commercial and retail precinct. The Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) predicts that the area will see a 260% increase in population by 2030.

Vision

The Heidelberg Activity Centre and Medical Precinct offers a unique opportunity to support the sustainable growth of the Heidelberg community, delivering a state-of-the-art public open space network that encourages social interaction, recreation and healthy living and celebrates existing biodiversity and the diversity of the community.

Highly permeable networks of streets, paths and public spaces will prioritise the safe and convenient movement of people within and around the Precinct. Mixed-use development will contribute positively to the character and amenity of the site, while new and existing public spaces will provide a diverse range

Strategic Directions

The initiatives and actions relevant to Heidelberg Park are as follows:

Initiative 1.1

Strengthen connectivity within the Precinct and with surrounding areas by providing a legible, safe and convenient network of walking, cycling and recreational routes.

Action 1.1.1 - Implement walking routes to connect major activity hubs, destinations and open spaces, increasing the enjoyment of alternative modes of transport such as walking, cycling and jogging.

Action 1.1.2 - Capitalise on the existing topography by implementing recreational routes to link major open spaces such as Heidelberg Park, Service Reserve, Heidelberg Bowling Club, Powlett Street Reserve, James Reserve, Melbourne Water Reserve and Remembrance Park.

Action 1.1.3 - Enhance the connectivity and legibility of recreational trails, particularly in and around high-density precincts.

Action 1.1.4 - Enhance and protect existing green corridors, and where possible create new ones, to develop a network of walking trails, cycle paths and open spaces.

The report identifies Burgundy Street as a key walking route and Darebin Street as a key recreational route.

Initiative 1.2

Enhance Burgundy, Bell, Mount and Cape Streets and Upper Heidelberg Road as pedestrian activity corridors connecting all areas of the Precinct.

The report identifies Burgundy Street as the Highest Pedestrian Priority Route, with an Activity Centre/Village Character. It identifies Darebin Street as a Pedestrian Priority Route with a Civic/Education Character.

Initiative 1.3

Increase permeability in the high-density redevelopment area between the railway corridor and Rosanna Road.

The report identifies the area west of Rosanna Road and south of Darebin Street as a high-density area and proposes an improved laneway connection between Cape Street and Rosanna Road.

Initiative 1.4

Provide for safe, convenient and pleasurable pedestrian access in all streets and intersections.

Action 1.4.1 - Ensure any traffic management changes take a pedestrian-oriented approach, which considers a streetscape development plan that encourages walkability.

Action 1.4.3 - Undertake lighting audits and ensure appropriate lighting is considered for different environments when planning and designing streetscapes, parks, laneways and thoroughfares and public/private interface spaces.

Action 1.4.4 - Liaise with VicRoads and key stakeholders to prioritise pedestrian access and safety in public roads not managed by Council.

The report proposes improving the pedestrian crossings at Rosanna Road/Burgundy Street and Rosanna Road/Darebin Street, and proposes a new crossing at Rosanna Road/Brown Street.

Initiative 2.1

Strengthen the legibility, character and identity of the Precinct by protecting and enhancing key views and vistas to the broader landscape, local landmark features and gateways.

Action 2.1.4 – Reinforce Heidelberg Station, the railway bridge, Heidelberg Gardens and the intersection of Upper Heidelberg Road and Burgundy Street as primary gateways into the Precinct.

Action 2.1.5 – Reinforce existing natural, cultural and civic landscapes such as Burgundy Street, Heidelberg Park, Heidelberg Station precinct, St John's Parish and the Old England Hotel and ensure that they contribute to a distinctive sense of place.

Action 2.1.6 – Implement a clear wayfinding strategy, including easy to read signage at pedestrian eye level with a coordinated suite of materials.

Initiative 2.2

Reinforce and unify the local identity through the provision of public art and an integrated suite of materials and street furniture, as well as the application of consistent landscape features.

Action 2.2.2 – Incorporate public art, including fixed objects, events, performances and temporary installations, to contribute to the identity, activation and interest of key streets and open spaces.

Action 2.2.3 – Utilise public art as a wayfinding strategy.

The report proposes co-ordinated materials and furniture on Burgundy Street and Darebin Street, and public art/wayfinding at the end of Darebin Street (within Heidelberg Park), and the Rosanna Road/Burgundy Street intersection.

Initiative 2.4

Ensure that all development contributes positively to the spatial definition, architectural character and activation of the public realm.

Action 2.4.1 – Provide continuous active street interfaces along key pedestrian routes.

Action 2.4.2 – Provide weather protection to footpaths along key pedestrian routes.

Initiative 2.5

Maximise tree canopy cover and provide appropriate street tree planting in the design of streetscapes.

Initiative 2.6

Incorporate sound water sensitive urban design principles in the detailed design of streets and planting areas to support tree health and to improve rainwater infiltration.

Initiative 3.1

Facilitate social interaction, healthy living and reinforce community hubs by providing an attractive, safe and integrated network of public and open spaces.

Action 3.1.6 (Regional Hub) – Improve Heidelberg Park, Heidelberg Gardens and Yarra River frontage to include facilities that enhance its regional recreational hub and environmental roles.

Initiative 3.2

Increase the diversity of recreational opportunities and experiences by varying the purpose and character of spaces in the Precinct.

Initiative 4.3

Reassess bus routes and improve local bus stops to encourage and facilitate public transport access to public open spaces.

Initiative 4.4

Support, facilitate and enhance infrastructure and facilities for cyclists across Heidelberg.

The report identifies existing off-road bicycle paths within Heidelberg Park, and proposes on-street bicycle lanes on Rosanna Road, Brown Street, Darebin Street & Burgundy Street. End of trip facilities are located at Warringal Park.

Initiative 5.1

Protect and enhance Heidelberg's natural resources and biodiversity by improving the quality of watercourses, creating green habitat corridors and protecting endangered ecological areas.

Initiative 5.2

Enhance, conserve and promote the wealth of social, cultural, recreational and educational opportunities within Heidelberg's natural, cultural and heritage landscapes.

Initiative 6.2

Support the development of new and existing programs that enable voluntary community involvement in green initiatives including bush regeneration and community gardens.

Existing Open Spaces Assessment

Heidelberg Park has been identified as a Regional Open Space in the Public Realm Strategy Plan. The Strategy conducted an audit of open space within the precinct. It rated the category of “Access” at Heidelberg Park as poor, and remaining categories as good or excellent.. The assessment table is shown in Figure *.

Key Open Space Recommendations

Access:

- Significantly improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the area.
- Improve pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Burgundy Street and Rosanna Road to create a gateway to the park.
- Provide pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Brown Street and Rosanna Road.
- Relocate car park opposite to Darebin Street and create new arrival space instead.
- Provide pedestrian and bicycle access along Salt Creek.

Permeability:

- Improve cycle and foot paths west of the oval.

Aesthetics:

- Maintain and protect high-quality aesthetics.

Amenities/Facilities:

- Intensify use of space by improving existing sports and supporting facilities.
- Adapt sports facilities for sports tournaments.
- Provide alternative sports facilities.
- Provide alternative playgrounds (e.g. waterplay).
- Provide cycling end-of-trip facilities.

Ecology:

- Maintain and protect existing mature trees and bushland environment.

Maintenance:

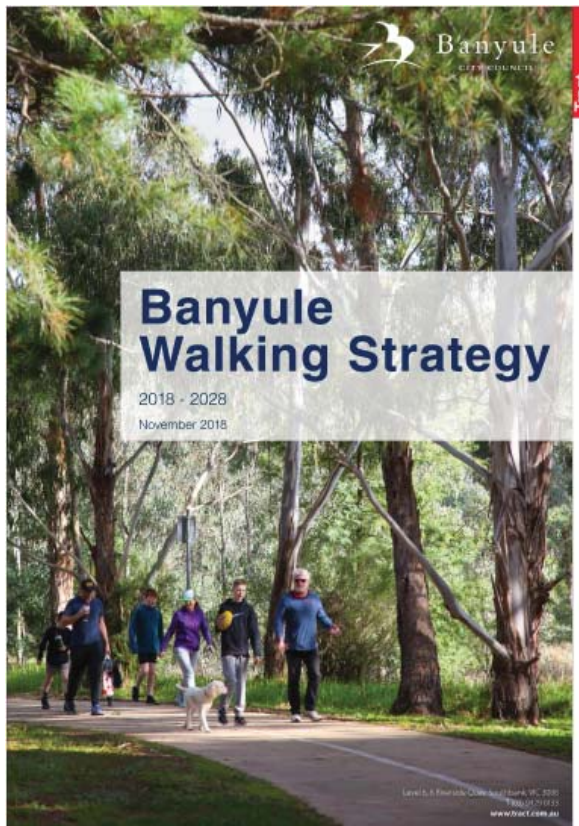
- Maintain high-quality conditions of open green spaces, cycling and walking paths.

Existing Open Spaces Assessment Table

	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
Access					
Permeability					
Aesthetics					
Amenities					
Ecology					
Maintenance					

1.0 Strategic Context

1.4 Banyule Walking Strategy 2018-2028



Purpose

The International Charter for Walking was signed by Banyule City Council in 2016. This Charter, and the Heart Foundations' Healthy by Design Principles have informed the three key objectives of this Strategy;

- Creating a Comprehensive Walking Network
- Making it Safer, Easier & More Comfortable to Walk throughout Banyule, and
- Supporting a Walking Culture in Banyule

Committing to, and delivering these objectives, will result in getting more residents and visitors to participate in walking activities by;

- Creating a high quality, integrated walking network that connects people to activity centres, parks, transport, and schools
- Providing safe routes to schools and improved pedestrian environments around rail and transport interchange stations
- Removing the barriers that prevent people from choosing walking as their preferred mode of transport for local trips
- Raising the public's awareness of local walking opportunities

Walking Concerns

- Safety is a major concern for residents. Some residents are prevented from walking due to the lack of safe crossing points on busy main roads, others are worried about potential conflicts with cyclists and dog walkers along shared paths, and mobility scooters on footpaths. Residents have raised concern about uneven path surfaces, and sections of missing footpaths.
- Lack of appropriate pedestrian crossing facilities, particularly across main roads and footpaths and lack of footpaths on both sides of the street.
- Poor quality footpaths (usually uneven footpath), often with missing tactile ground surface indicators.
- Inappropriate footpath surface (using concrete on longer trails can result in walkers suffering from soreness or injury).
- The narrowness of some footpaths create a potential pedestrian conflict with traffic, and in some cases, mobility scooters in shopping centre areas.
- Potential conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and dog walkers on shared paths and footpaths.
- Traffic light sequence resulting in lengthy pedestrian delays.
- Lack of clear, directional signage, particularly along the recreational trails.
- Inadequate street lighting and seating.
- Issues with pedestrian operated signals, evidence that some drivers are driving through red lights. This may be due to increased traffic and increased driver distraction.
- Accessibility at rail stations due to poor quality pedestrian bridges and steep gradients of access ramps.
- More bridges across Darebin Creek and the Yarra River to improve pedestrian connectivity.
- In areas of steep topography where the gradient of some footpaths is steep there is a need for stop and rest points with comfortable seating (the placement of seating along the length of the footpath is important), and,
- Consideration for the needs of everyone in the community and understanding the range of circumstances that may prevent some people from feeling comfortable walking alone.

Barriers to Walking in Banyule

Fixed barriers in Banyule include;

- Steep topography can be challenging for some walkers. Changes in grade affect walking conditions, pedestrian comfort and travel times. Steep hills can be particularly challenging for mobility impaired pedestrians, such as people in wheelchairs, people with prams, and walkers with young children. The map opposite shows areas of excessively steep topography above 15% grade.
- Natural barriers such as rivers, creeks and waterways restrict pedestrians to designated crossing points. Bridge crossings are costly to implement and as such are limited along Banyule's waterways.
- Railway lines and level crossings have been identified because they restrict where pedestrians can freely cross.
- Wide streets, and streets with high traffic volumes may deter people from walking due to concerns about safety. The Banyule Open Space Plan identified that any road with more than 7,000 daily traffic movements is perceived as a key pedestrian barrier.

Considerations

- Pedestrian accessibility in the Heidelberg, Ivanhoe & Greensborough Activity Centres - a higher level of service should be prioritised in the three main activity centres to encourage local trips to be undertaken on foot, with consideration of providing a better pedestrian environment for older adults, and for less mobile members of the community.

- Safety around school zones - parents need to feel confident their children can safely walk to school
- unsupervised.
- Safety when crossing busy main and arterial roads. Connectivity between the footpath and shared path (recreational) networks - currently there are recreational parks and reserves that pedestrians cannot reach safely or comfortably on foot. There are also some activity centres that could be better linked to recreational facilities.
- The North East Link - will potentially be a substantial pedestrian barrier through the centre of the municipality.
- Steep topography - there is a need to provide flatter recreational walking circuits in steep areas for people who prefer flatter walking conditions.
- Mitigating conflict on shared paths - some members of the community are concerned about the potential conflict between pedestrians and cyclists (and dog walkers) on shared paths.
- Identification and delivery of missing links in the shared path network and key strategic links within the Activity Centres, and
- Understanding the range of circumstances that may prevent people from feeling comfortable participating in walking activities.

KEY OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

Objective 1

- Walking for recreation & fitness using the recreational trails -
- Walking as active transport using the principal pedestrian routes are pedestrian paths that have been identified in the Principal Pedestrian Network.
- Walking to get to school along the identified safe route to school.

Action 1

Deliver the paths (located in Banyule) identified in the Northern Regional Trails Strategy. Prioritise the delivery of the recreational paths identified in the Northern Regional Trails Strategy, 2016. The priority paths include Main Yarra Trail Bridge.

Action 3

Create a series of walking circuits for walkers of all abilities

Identify a series of recreational walking circuits through attractive and pleasant surrounds, suitable for walkers of all abilities. These circuits should be comfortable for walkers of all abilities, and the circuit design should consider:

- Avoiding areas of steep topography,
- Being easily accessible via public transport (people should not have to drive to go for a walk),
- Being located in visually interesting surroundings, and clearly visible from nearby residential areas,
- Using low maintenance materials with high quality pedestrian facilities such as water fountains, toilets, lighting and weather protection and seating at rest stops,
- Clearly marked paths with directional signage at junctions.

Action 4

Identify key strategic links between the Activity Centres and the surrounding path network

Identify any missing pathways that provide a direct, safe and convenient connection between the recreational path network and surrounding Activity Centres, recreational parks and rail stations.

1.0 Strategic Context

1.5 Heidelberg Structure Plan



Vision

HEIDELBERG IS A “VIBRANT PLACE FOR PEOPLE”

The Structure Plan identifies Heidelberg Park as a key destination, and Burgundy Street and Darebin Street as key walking routes. Adjacent key destinations are Heidelberg Primary School, Warringal Shopping Centre, Court House & Police Station, and Warringal Parklands.

Key themes highlighted in the Heidelberg Structure Plan and relevant to Heidelberg Park include the following:

Theme 1: Access and Connections

The key strategic objectives relevant to Heidelberg Park are to:

1. Improve, promote and encourage safe pedestrian access to and within the precinct
2. Improve, promote and encourage safe cycling access to and within the precinct
3. Improve, promote and encourage public transport use to and within the precinct
4. Minimise the adverse impacts of through traffic on pedestrians, cyclists and public transport
7. Provide and manage an appropriate provision of car parking for all users of the precinct

Theme 2: Public Realm

The key strategic objectives relevant to Heidelberg Park are to:

1. Create attractive, safe and high amenity street, civic and open spaces that enhance and serve new levels of activity within a vibrant and interesting setting
3. Retain views across and along the Burgundy Street Valley
5. Manage flooding and stormwater impacts with State Government and Melbourne Water assistance.

Theme 3: Built Form

The Structure Plan encourages built form design to be sympathetic with adjacent parkland, such as Heidelberg Park.

The Plan identifies the following built form requirements near Heidelberg Park:

- Maximum height east of Rosanna Road & south of Beverley Street: 10 metres.
- Maximum height west of Rosanna Road (Burgundy Street): 25 metres.
- Gate way locations at Rosanna Road/Burgundy Street intersection.

The detailed design and treatment of facades for buildings visible from the parklands should be sympathetic with the parkland environment. Buildings should be designed to complement neighbouring parklands by:

- Having a clean architectural finish to the roofline to present an attractive silhouette to the park.
- Ensuring that the location and design of signage as well as the materials and colours used are sympathetic to the parkland.
- Displaying good building design and strong building articulation to add interest to the building when viewed from the parkland.
- Using complementary fence and landscaping treatments along boundaries with the parkland and active ground floor frontages for improved passive surveillance along built interfaces.
- Using roof-top gardens, terraces and other landscaping to soften the impact of the development on the parkland.

Buildings at key gateway locations are to be designed such that appropriate components of the building and/or landscape elements contribute to the identity and place making of the locality. This may be through the use of distinctive architectural forms and/or landscaping.

Theme 5: Identity

The key strategic objectives relevant to Heidelberg Park are to:

2. Capitalise on the environmental, artistic and cultural heritage of the area
3. Conserve the area's heritage buildings and landscape features, and ensure that new development is respectful and complements the heritage character of the area
4. Realise the potential of key intersections to read as gateways and roads as landscaped boulevards
5. Provide the area with a landscape identity, particularly one that fosters comfortable pedestrian movement
6. Enhance the environmental quality of stormwater drainage, ensuring the cleanliness of stormwater drainage prior to discharge into the Yarra River, with State Government and Melbourne Water assistance
7. Protect and enhance the wildlife corridor value of the Yarra River and its adjoining vegetation

Reinforcing interest in the 'Heidelberg School' art movement, through community and business events and streetscape improvements. Opportunities for an art facility should be investigated that would include an art gallery, performance areas and/or public meeting spaces.

ACTIVITY CENTRE DESIGN

Relevant aims for Activity Centre Design include:

3 - Improve Community Safety

Promote the natural surveillance of public space and street edge activity. This can be achieved by ensuring buildings address the street and contain active uses on the ground floor.

Clearly define public and private space.

5 - Improve Pedestrian and Cycling amenity

Encourage an increase in pedestrian and cycling traffic by maximising the convenience, safety and appeal of these modes of travel.

7 - Increase accessibility and integration

Ensure activity centres are a focus for the entire community, are accessible to all, and are physically integrated with the surrounding neighbourhood.

OPPORTUNITIES

Access and Circulation Opportunities

- Improved Rosanna Road intersection and crossings for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Improved signage for pedestrians.
- Improved pedestrian connections including comfortable sitting spaces.
- Enhanced walkability through reduced speed limits, pedestrian crossings, signage, amenities, public spaces and implementation of staged walkability works.
- Improved bicycle connections and facilities.

The report identifies Darebin Street and Burgundy Street as part of a proposed bicycle network that connects to the Main Yarra Trail.

Streetscape Opportunities:

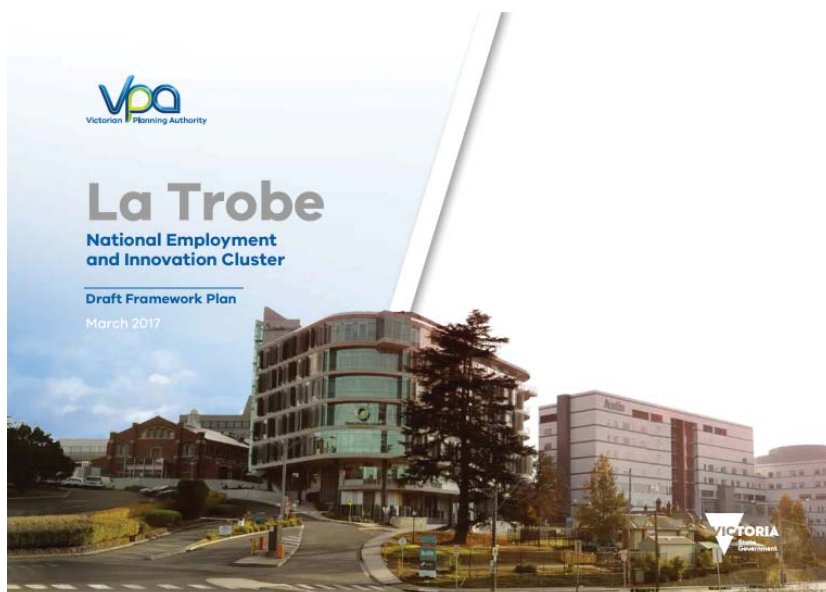
- Improved street level passive surveillance.
- Enhanced streetscape amenity.
- Improved required for footpaths, lighting and signage.
- New and improved public spaces.

Parkland Opportunities:

- Improved facilities at open space reserves to enhance their use. Topography will limit the ability to substantially improve utilisation.
- For steeper open space, planning should explore opportunities to improve accessibility, signage, sheltered pause places, viewing spaces, security aspects and landscape planning. Any planting shall consider drought tolerant species.

1.0 Strategic Context

1.6 VPA Latrobe National Employment & Innovation Cluster



Strategic Priority Outcomes

- Delivering a network of boulevard style arterial roads throughout the cluster
- Delivering a connected bicycle network.

Recommendations

- Investigate public transport improvements (capacity and frequency) on Burgundy Street and Rosanna Road.
- On road proposed bike path on Rosanna Road, Burgundy Road, Beverley Road and Jika Street.
- Take advantage of proximity to Heidelberg Schools.
- Undertake consistent tree planting along main arterial roads to reduce the heat island effect.
- Proposed boulevard treatment along Rosanna Road and Burgundy Street.

Heidelberg Activity Centre and Medical Precinct

- 6.2.2 Implementation of priority public realm improvements within the Heidelberg Structure Plan. Eg. pedestrian and cycling routes.

1.0 Strategic Context

1.7 Arts and Culture Strategic Plan 2017-2021

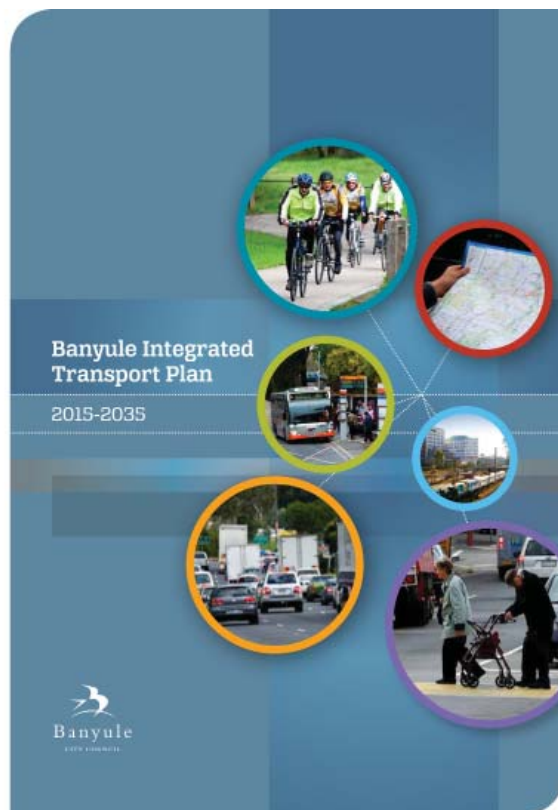


Key Recommendations

- Explore options for the future of the Heidelberg School Artists' Trail
- Explore opportunities for engaging with historical societies

1.0 Strategic Context

1.8 Integrated Transport Plan 2015-2035



KEY STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

SD1 Key destinations will be universally accessible.

SD2 Reliance on private cars will be reduced and there will be greater choice of accessible public and active transport.

SD4 New development will be located in accessible locations that offer greatest access to public transport and walking and cycling infrastructure.

SD5 Transport improvements will support businesses and the local economy

SD6 Development will support and encourage walking, cycling and public transport use.

SD8 Council will improve pedestrian connections and ease of navigation.

SD9 Council will encourage and support walking as a transport model

SD10 A consistent and strategic approach will be used to manage cycling.

SD11 The cycling network will cater for all ages and abilities.

SD12 Council will promote a cycling culture.

SD17 Streets and public spaces will incorporate environmentally sensitive design features.

SD18 Parking will be approached as a limited, shared resource.

KEY ACTIONS

A52 Use environmentally sensitive materials and apply best environmental practices when up-grading streetscapes and public spaces.

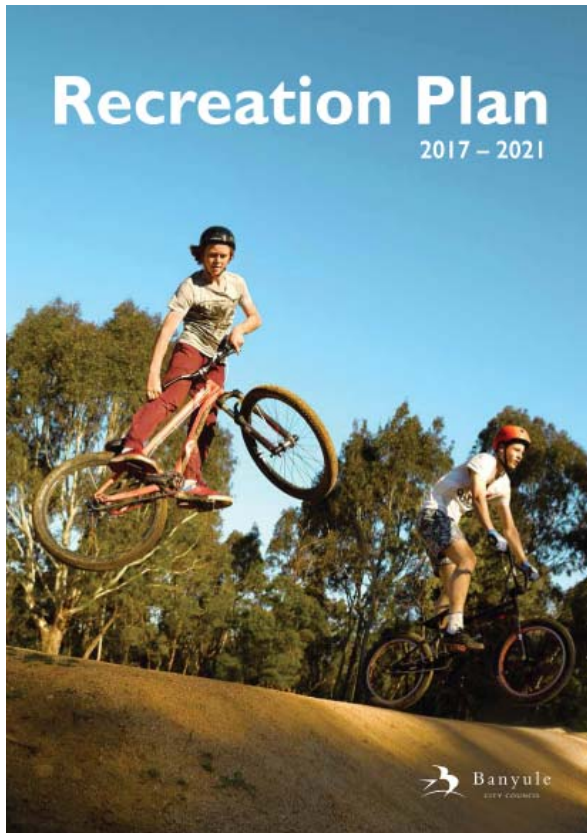
A53 Support the implementation of the Metropolitan Planning Authority's Boulevard Strategy to improve tree canopies and overall amenity along arterial roads.

A54 Develop and implement Parking Plans and Parking Overlays for the Heidelberg, Ivanhoe and Greensborough Activity Centres.

The plan shows a principle bicycle network on Beverley Road, Jika Street, Burgundy Street (east of Rosanna only) and Rosanna Road (south of Burgundy only). The plan shows a local bicycle network on Yarra Street (but not Burgundy Street or Rosanna Road). Off-road shared trails are shown along the Yarra corridor.

1.0 Strategic Context

1.9 Recreation Plan 2017



Goal 1: Facilities – Our community has equitable access to multipurpose, inclusive, accessible and sustainable facilities.

Specific Actions:

- Conduct community consultation prior to the playground renewal.
- Program to ensure playgrounds reflect community needs and views.
- Redevelop and open 7 playgrounds across Banyule following the ‘whole of park play’ concept as a fundamental principle.
- Assess sporting pavilions to determine their suitability for uses other than what they are currently used for.
- Prepare a detailed Open Space Plan for the Heidelberg Activity Centre.

Goal 3: Informal Opportunities – Our community can access and participate in diverse activities that enhance their wellbeing.

Specific Actions:

- Continue to plan for trail upgrades and expansion of the trail network.
- Implement the Northern Regional Trails Strategy.
- Investigate an allocation process for new and emerging sports and activities.

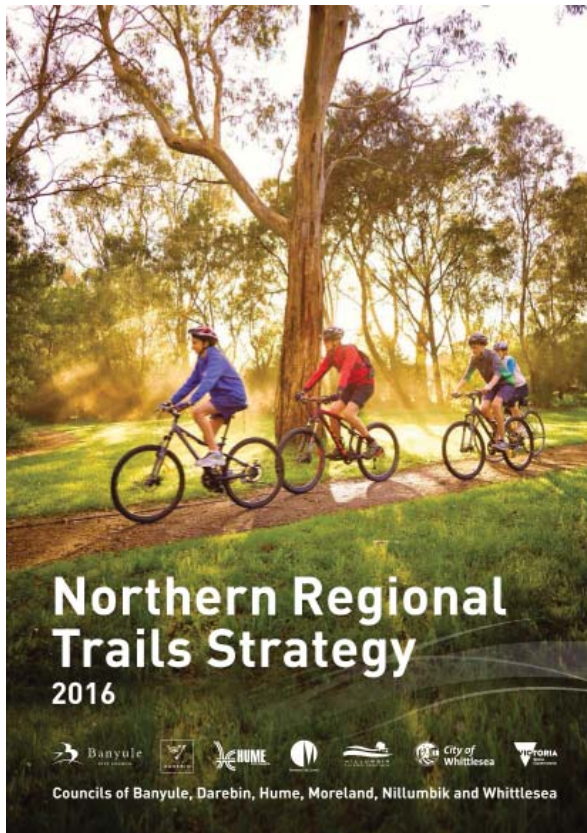
Goal 4: Participation and Partnerships – Our community is actively involved, has a strong and connected sense of belonging.

Specific Actions:

- Seek partnership opportunities for implementing recommendations from masterplans

1.0 Strategic Context

1.10 Northern Regional Trails Strategy 2016



A key part of this strategy is the proposal for a Main Yarra Trail bridge across the Yarra River at Banksia Park.

The Main Yarra Trail bridge project (B8) proposes a bridge crossing the Yarra River into Banksia Park to the south junction of the Main Banyule Trail and the Banyule Trail. The trail characteristics rank highly as the trail provides access to Yarra Valley Parklands. The bridge will also provide a connection between the Heidelberg School Artists Trail and the Heide Museum of Modern Art. It will make the Heidelberg Railway station more accessible to residents east of the Yarra. The bridge is favourable in terms of amenity and recreational value; and will provide access to the Heidelberg activity centre.

In regards to the policy context, some of the land is owned by Council and the trail has been identified in the Banyule and Manningham Cycle Strategies. Funding has not yet been secured for the development of this bridge and a feasibility study is required to identify the most appropriate crossing point. In addition, the riparian land on both sides of the river is either Crown Land managed (by councils or Parks Victoria) or is Council Freehold Land.

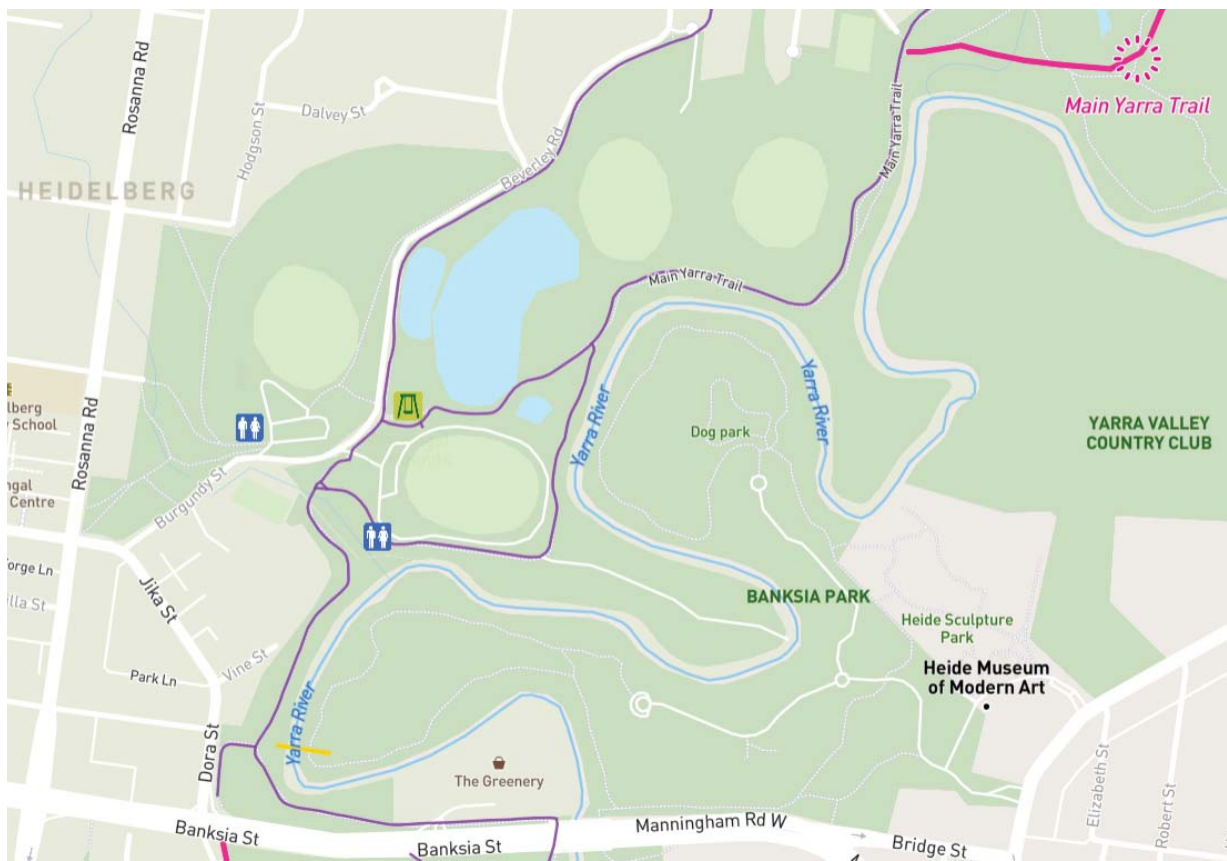


Figure - Northern Regional Trails Strategy - Online Plan

Key benefits:

- High tourism, amenity and recreational value;
- Access to regional parks and conservation areas, activity centres, and recreational water bodies;
- Services a large local population catchment;
- Tourism, featuring Heidelberg Gardens, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Banksia Park, Heidelberg School Artists Trail, Warringal Parklands and Yarra Flats.

1.0 Strategic Context

1.11 Urban Forest Strategic Plan



Goal: Increase environmental benefits of urban forest

Key Actions:

- Retain dead logs in bushland reserves and suitable parks as habitat.
- Retain dead trees in bushland reserves and suitable parks as habitat.
- Strategically select tree species that can achieve greater efficiency for targeted pollutant removal.

Goal: Improve biodiversity and increase habitat

Key Actions:

- Ensure correct species selection and provenance where applicable
- Remove major tree weed threats in sensitive environments according to risk prioritisation.
- Strategically improve species and age diversity in bushland reserves.
- Use local streetscapes to improve connectivity and buffering of bushland reserves.

Goal: Increase canopy cover in available open space

Key Actions

- Assess and locate all public managed trees.
- Conduct canopy cover assessments of all public and private spaces
- Identify all vacant and suitable planting locations on public land.
- Identify areas of low planting density on public land.
- Plant, and promote incorporation of large canopy tree species.
- Plant all identified vacant planting sites in public land with suitable tree species.

Goal: Improve health of urban forest

Key Actions

- Identify areas of poor tree health and short life expectancy
- Investigate and utilise water sensitive urban design to facilitate the integration of larger trees in streets and improve longevity.
- Systematically remove over-maturing trees to facilitate generation transition.
- Systematically remove underperforming trees in key locations

Goal: Maintain and improve urban character

Goal: Raise the profile of the urban forest within Council

Goal: Improve community engagement with the urban forest

Key Actions:

- Identify suitable sites for annual community planting day.
- Encourage private realm tree and garden plantings.
- Educate and promote communities of the benefits of the urban forest.
- Educate and promote communities of the importance of remnant vegetation.
- Educate the community of fire risk management guidelines

Goal: Improve establishment rate of new tree plantings

Goal: Improve species diversity

Key Actions

- Strategically improve species and age diversity in parks with additional plantings

Goal: Apply Best Practice

1.0 Strategic Context

1.12 Public Toilet Plan



BANYULE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC TOILET PLAN
Final Draft For Council Endorsement
December 2017



Summary

The report has found that there are several clusters of public toilets located within close proximity to one another within the City of Banyule. The Heidelberg Park/Possum Hollow/Warringal Park-land area is identified as one of those areas.

The report outlines the following actions specific to the Heidelberg Park area:

- Investigate opportunities to partner with Parks Victoria and other government agencies to improve the provision of public toilet facilities and/or wayfinding signage along the Main Yarra Trail and other Parks Victoria land.
- Provide improved wayfinding signage to assist members of the community to locate public toilets.
- Apply the principles of universal design to all toilet upgrades and new installations.
- Ensure accessible public toilets are included in pavilion and building upgrades.
- Upgrade toilets in key locations to include family friendly facilities.
- Consider altering existing co-located toilets in places such as pavilions, to allow for use outside of event hours. This should extend to upgrading existing pavilions and the provision of new pavilions.
- Incorporate CPTED principles into all decision and assessment processes.

The Heidelberg Park public toilet condition is identified as average. The nearby Possum Hollow public toilet is rated as very good.

Within the Capital Works 10 Year Action Plan, the Heidelberg Park public toilet is identified as a regional stand-alone facility that is due for an upgrade or renewal in 2025/2026.

Design & Siting Principles

For an upgrade or renewal, the following design & siting principles should be considered:

1. Locate toilets near central, multi-use community facilities that draw on existing walking catchments.
2. Site toilets in accessible locations that maximise visibility to the street/public space and orientate toilets toward well-lit areas and to allow for natural ventilation and daylight.
3. Integrate toilets seamlessly into the public realm by incorporating low-level landscaping and avoid obstructing toilets with dense landscaping, vegetation or impermeable barriers.
4. Ensure entrances/doorways have a direct line of sight to and from the public realm to allow for passive surveillance.
5. Design toilets to integrate into the public realm, reflect the local character and where appropriate, encourage artistic design expression for toilets in high usage locations.
6. Incorporate appropriate fixtures within toilets that are responsive to the local context and balance community expectations with maintenance practicalities.
7. Ensure compliance with AS1428 and DDA where practicable and other best practice accessibility guidelines.
8. Clearly sign toilets by providing directional signage where required to improve legibility and access. Provide signage on toilets which shows opening hours, contact details and gender availability.
9. Incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to ensure toilets are constructed with materials that are durable, sustainable and vandal resistant and reduce the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.
10. Incorporate materials, fixtures and fittings that promote environmental sustainability.

1.0 Strategic Context

1.13 Biodiversity Plan



Climate change action

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- To lessen the effects of extreme weather events
- To manage the risk of bushfires
- To reduce the impact of the heat island effect

Liaise with neighbouring land managers

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- To facilitate a catchment wide approach
- To increase the range and effectiveness of land management programs

Limit storm water damage

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- To manage and reuse stormwater
- To decrease the impact of severe storms
- To maintain habitat values of water bodies

Priority Bushland Management Plans

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- Control of invasive weed species
- Promotion of regrowth of indigenous species
- Record lists of flora and fauna
- Monitor ecosystem health

Control of pest plants and animals

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- Control environmental weeds on Council land to prevent their spread
- Control pest animals on Council land to prevent negative impacts on biodiversity

1.0 Strategic Context

1.14 North East Link

Summary

According to the North East Link Authority (reference design April 2020), North East Link planners and engineers are considering two options for a new Yarra River crossing for walkers and bike riders.

The draft option presented in their reference design supports Council's strategies to improve access between Heidelberg and Banksia Park. If approved, it would be delivered as a complementary project.

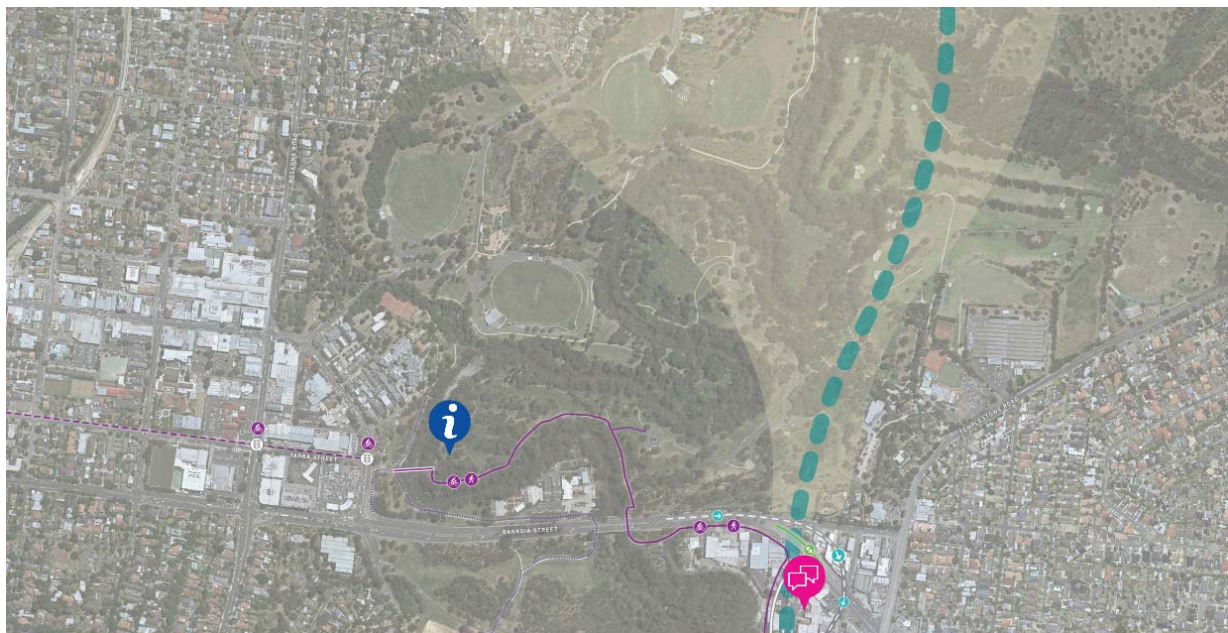
The reference design also shows a study area for a proposed tunnel (the shaded section), and an indicative route (the dashed line). The top north east corner of Heidelberg Park is within the study area. This area is presently an open grassy space and weedy escarpment. The final tunnel alignment will be developed by the builder appointed to construct the North East Link.

Positive implications for Heidelberg Park may include:

- New pedestrian connections across the Yarra River, including direct connections to Banksia Park and Heide.
- Reduced traffic on surrounding roads.

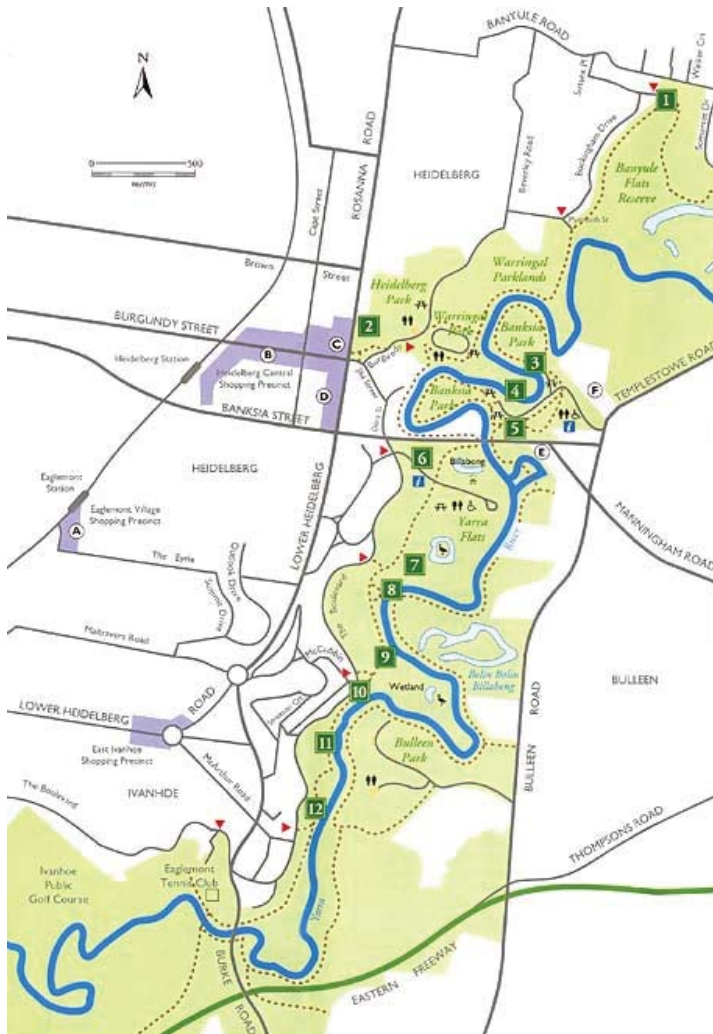
Other implications for Heidelberg Park may include:

- Construction disturbance.
- Changes to traffic conditions.
- Possible use of part of Heidelberg Park for construction activity (vehicle parking, spoil storage, etc).
- Tunnel related infrastructure (ventilation stacks, emergency exit points, etc).
- Additional planning controls to protect tunnel infrastructure.



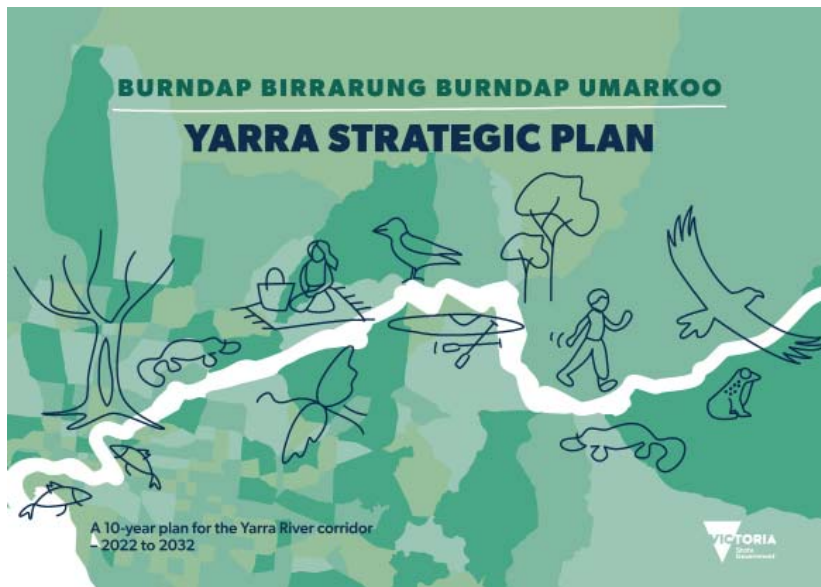
1.0 Strategic Context

1.15 Heidelberg School Artists Trail



1.0 Strategic Context

1.16 Burndap Birrarung Burndap Umarkoo - Yarra Strategic Plan 2022-2032



The Yarra Strategic Plan is a requirement of the Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murron) Act 2017 (the Act). It is the first plan to protect and enhance the Yarra River and its land as one living and integrated natural entity.

The Yarra Strategic Plan adopts a holistic ‘river without borders’ approach. It:

- integrates, coordinates and harmonises the plans, regulations and investment programs of authorities and organisations
- identifies key gaps in activities, and proposes a series of actions to address them over a ten-year period
- brings statutory planning and land and waterway management together for the first time setting out directions for future land use and development for the entire river corridor
- recognises the rights of Traditional Owners, as articulated in the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly to conserve and protect the environment of traditional lands.

This plan has two parts:

- Part 1 – Working together to achieve the community vision, and
- Part 2 – Land use framework.

The four performance objectives are:

- A healthy river and lands.
- A culturally diverse river corridor.
- Quality parklands for a growing population.
- Protecting the natural beauty of the Yarra River corridor.

The Yarra Strategic Plan area defines the boundaries of the plan. The area includes land of any kind located within 1 km of the banks of the Yarra River. Heidelberg Park is fully within this envelope.

Yarra River land is designated to allow for coordinated management of public land along the waterway. Yarra River land is the largest category of land protected by the Act. It includes the bed, soil and banks of the Yarra River, and Crown and state government-owned land parcels within 500 m of a bank of the river. Most of Heidelberg Park is within this land.

Greater Yarra Urban Parklands recognises the network of parklands along the Yarra River as one of Melbourne's greatest open space assets that enhances the city's economic prosperity, vitality and liveability. A large part of Heidelberg Park, but not all, is identified as Greater Yarra Urban Parkland.

According to the report map, the remainder of Heidelberg Park, including the Rosanna Road corner to the west, and the marching common to the north, is identified as Municipal Parkland.

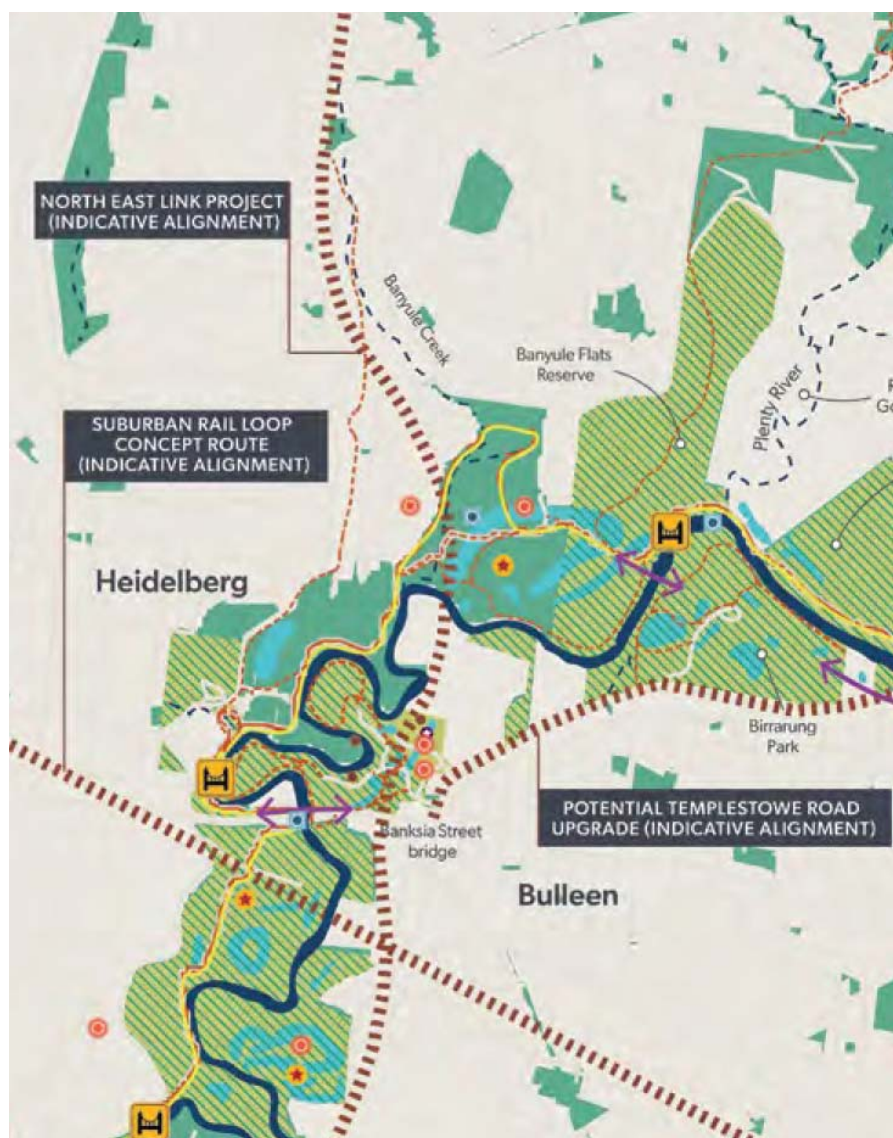


Figure - Heidelberg Park within the Greater Yarra Urban Parkland (Yarra River - Bulleen Precinct)

Key Actions (relevant to Heidelberg Park)

1. Develop a place-based pilot project (in an area where stormwater is threatening the Yarra's health and amenity) to explore innovative re-use of stormwater:

- use stormwater for urban greening, protecting and enhancing the environment;
- identify opportunities where potable water is being used for watering purposes, and can be substituted with suitably treated stormwater.

4. Develop the integrated water management plan (including bicultural approaches) for the Yarra catchment to optimise water cycle planning and reduce stormwater pollution into the river.

6. Investigate options to restore billabongs and wetlands on private and public land by using water for the environment to mimic natural water cycles and undertaking complementary land and water management works.

7. Work with partners, primarily Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and Parks Victoria, to implement a landscape scale approach to improving the condition of wetlands and billabongs for the Lower Yarra billabongs. This must include the prioritisation of wetlands for water regime management and delivery of environmental water and cultural flows.

20. Adopt a multi-agency collaboration and investment approach to management of invasive animals and plants in the Yarra corridor:

- quantify and measure numbers and impact of invasive animals and plants
- evaluate the effectiveness of existing control programs
- coordinate the delivery of new programs and projects to control and eradicate where possible invasive animals and plants in the Yarra corridor
- set targets for control programs over the next 10 years and monitor progress towards their achievement.

29. Plan, design, and manage the river parklands as one living and integrated natural entity, ensuring that all parklands are managed to a consistently high standard and celebrate the relationship between the river and its parklands.

30. Develop, with the Traditional Owners, a consistent conservation, cultural and visitation brand identity for the Yarra and its parklands to:

- embed in the community, recognition of the parklands and river as one living and integrated natural entity
- celebrate the nurturing relationship between the Yarra's parklands and the community
- encourage proactive behaviour to protect and nourish the Yarra and its parklands
- support national and international recognition of, and investment in, the Yarra's parklands.

35. Consider green infrastructure investment and solutions at the local and landscape scale within parklands. Examples include constructed wetlands for stormwater treatment and creating habitat, placement of trees to improve visual aesthetics and amenity, permeable surfaces to increase groundwater recharge, and rain gardens to manage run-off from hard surfaces.

Yarra River – Bulleen Precinct

Heidelberg Park is located within the The Yarra River – Bulleen Precinct of the Plan. It comprises the stretch of river through Lower Templestowe, Heidelberg and Bulleen, which is home to parklands and special places with distinct natural and cultural values, including the Bolin Bolin Billa-bong and the Heide Museum of Modern Art.

DELWP is currently preparing the Yarra River – Bulleen Precinct Land Use Framework Plan to guide future land uses and connections for the precinct. Informed by the protection principles in the Act and the Yarra 50 Year Community Vision, the plan will be complementary to the broader regional framework set out in the Yarra Strategic Plan. The framework plan will identify where future active sporting facilities can be located. It will also include consideration of development on private land adjacent to the river.

Decision-making framework

The Yarra Strategic Plan includes a decision-making framework that may be used by responsible public entities to facilitate transparent and coordinated decision-making, including with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Traditional Owners, for activities that affect Yarra River land or when performing a function or duty or exercising power that may affect Yarra River land on their Country.

The decision-making framework ensures activities and decision-making are consistent with the Act and aligned with delivery of the plan. It embeds the role of Traditional Owners as custodians of the Yarra River through partnership, representation and involvement in planning and decision making.

The framework also enables the development and prioritisation of projects that lead to positive and transformational change and the delivery of the Yarra River 50 year Community Vision, emphasising environmental net gain and aligning with Nhanbu narrun ba ngargunin twarn Birrarung (Ancient Spirit and Lore of the Yarra).

There are three levels of activities and projects for decision-making – routine business activities, local projects and transformative projects.

Transformative projects are those larger integrated projects with higher aspirations of delivering transformational change in the river corridor. These transformative projects will require higher levels of collaboration and resourcing to achieve the desired outcomes.

Local projects are projects identified in various strategies and plans that align with the Yarra Strategic Plan. Local projects will aim for innovation or incremental improvement in delivering (extent, quality or quantity) outcomes and will have local importance, as opposed to providing whole of corridor benefit.

Routine business activities are those activities authorities undertake as part of their normal business that impact Yarra River land, for example, maintenance works for parklands and reserves. Authorities will adopt a continuous improvement cycle in planning and delivering these routine business activities to allow incremental improvement and alignment with the Yarra Strategic Plan.

1.0 Strategic Context

1.17 Heidelberg Structure Plan 2021



The Heidelberg Structure Plan sets out a strategic place-based vision to guide the growth of Banyule's most prominent centre - the Heidelberg Major Activity Centre (MAC).

The purpose of the Structure Plan is to establish a simple strategic framework to guide the evolution of Heidelberg as a State Significant health precinct and major activity centre. It is a strategic basis for changes to the Banyule Planning Scheme including for the application of the Activity Centre Zone that will inform and guide planning.

The Structure Plan builds upon the previous Heidelberg Structure Plan (2010). It has been simplified and streamlined but continues to apply much of the same intent, key directions and objectives.

The Structure Plan is informed by five technical background reports including: community values, economics, public realm, built form and access and movement. All five background reports were presented to the community in the form of the Key Directions Paper (April 2021), which consolidated the findings and outlined the next steps and process for commencing the Structure Plan.

The Key Directions included:

- Good Design
- Enhanced Connectivity
- Strong, Prosperous Economy
- Vibrant and Active Places
- Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient

What does the Heidelberg community value?

- Walkable, cycle-able and convenient. Active transport connections from home to a vibrant and diverse local economy
- Surrounded by pristine nature. A neighbourhood which uses natural features as a point of difference and celebrates and protects nature and landscapes.

- Built to last A neighbourhood with well maintained, high quality open spaces that will stand the test of time.
- Safe for all. A neighbourhood where all can feel safe.

Key Strategies relevant to Heidelberg Park

Access and Connection

- Ensure high quality and intuitive pedestrian connections from Heidelberg station to key destinations, including Burgundy Street, the Health Precinct and Heidelberg Park.
- Install additional wombat (raised zebra) crossings to improve pedestrian priority and safety in Heidelberg.
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian path connections to the Main Yarra Trail, particularly from Burgundy Street and Yarra Street.

Places for People: Public Realm and Open Space

- Ensure that facilities within open spaces meet the needs of local residents, and that they provide a greater diversity of recreational opportunities.
- Enhance existing under-utilised open spaces with innovative landscape design and additional facilities that would encourage greater use.
- Integrate and improve walking and recreational routes that interlink the existing open spaces to the north of Burgundy and Bell Streets.
- Develop a connected linear park to improve wildlife habitats and pedestrian connectivity across the precinct and towards the Yarra River urban parklands.
- Improve connectivity between all open spaces across the Centre.
- Protect and improve the quality of watercourses.

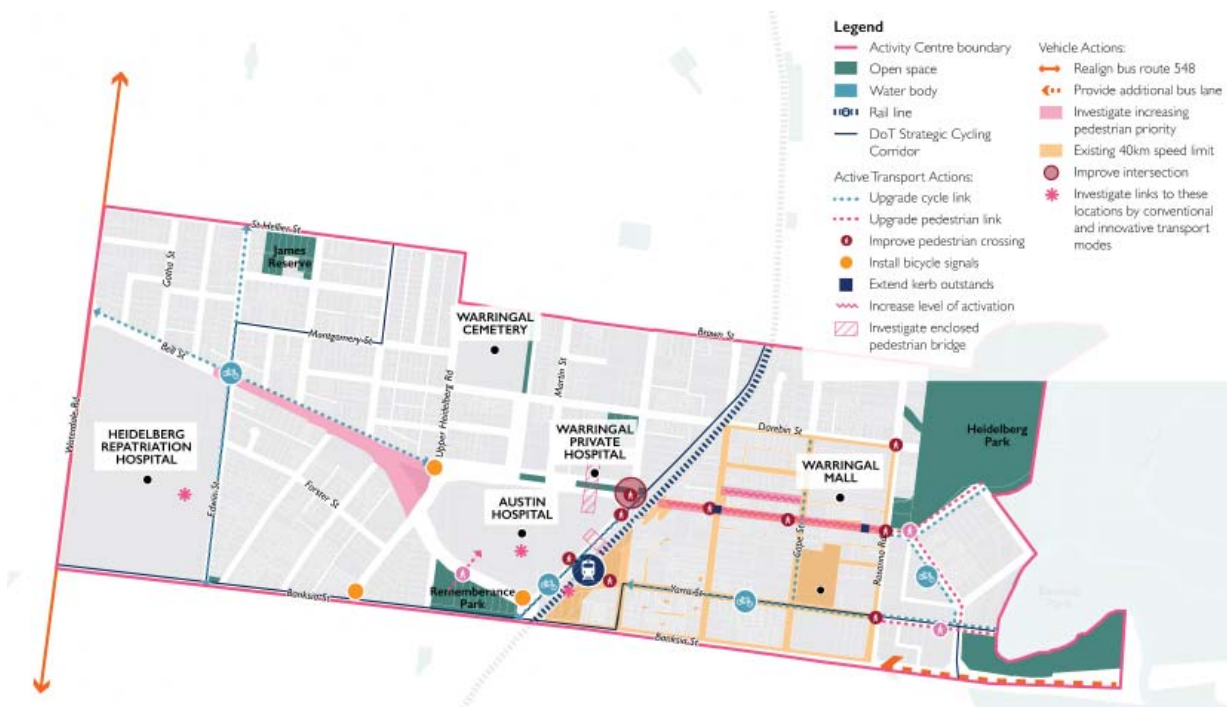


Figure - Heidelberg Park within the Greater Yarra Urban Parkland (Yarra River - Bulleen Precinct)

Precinct 1 – Yarra Valley Open Space Precinct

The plan outlines six precincts of the Heidelberg Activity Centre. Heidelberg Park is within Precinct 1 – Yarra Valley Open Space Precinct. This precinct is the gateway to the Greater Yarra Urban Parklands and ecological landscapes of the Yarra River (Birrarung). Heidelberg Park is part of this nationally significant cultural and recreational destination.

Precinct 1 Strategies

- Enhance visual connections into Heidelberg Park by utilising varied road surface treatments and materials at key locations.
- Enhance way-finding to improve access to Heidelberg Park through low level signage, and public art.
- Improve safety at key pedestrian crossings at Darebin and Burgundy Streets through material treatments, including paving and colour treatments.
- Plant small to medium canopy trees on both sides of Rosanna Road and Jika Street, within existing nature strips.
- Support the strategic directions of the Yarra Strategic Plan and the Bulleen Land Use Framework Plan.



Figure - Heidelberg Park within the Greater Yarra Urban Parkland (Yarra River - Bulleen Precinct)

Connecting to the Yarra Birrarung River Corridor

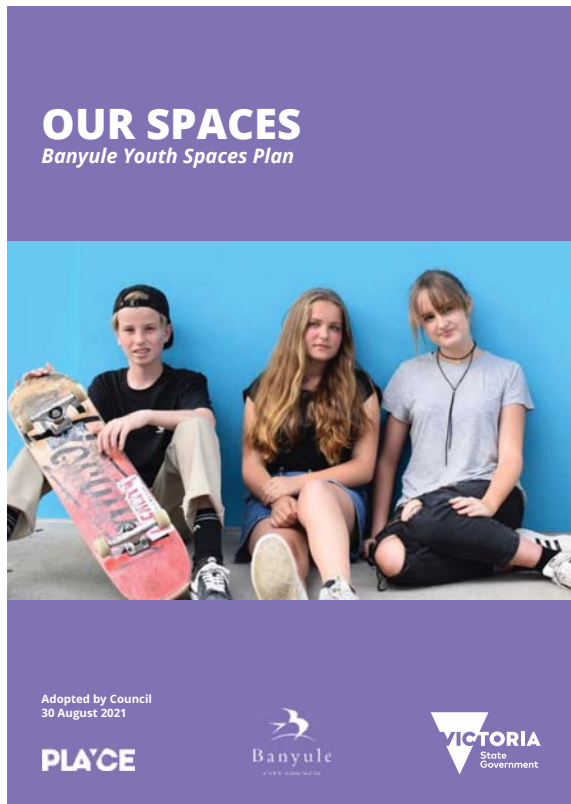
The Yarra Valley Open Space Precinct (Precinct 1) is within identified Yarra River Land and covered by the Wilip gin Birrarung murrn (Yarra River Protection) Act 2017. The Heidelberg Structure Plan must align with the higher level strategic direction, performance objectives and actions as set out in the Yarra Strategic Plan (YSP).

Banyule will collaborate with Melbourne Water and the Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung to achieve the YSP objectives of:

- A health river and lands
- A culturally diverse corridor
- Quality parklands for a growing population
- Protecting the natural beauty of the Yarra River Corridor

1.0 Strategic Context

1.18 Banyule Youth Spaces Plan



The purpose of the Banyule Youth Spaces Plan is to provide strategic direction for the future provision of outdoor recreation places and spaces for young people throughout Banyule.

The following key principles should be adopted when considering new youth spaces and places for young people.

- Central and accessible locations
- Diversity of opportunity
- Relevance to young people
- Communication & ownership
- Safe and inclusive

The report outlines site selection criteria that are applied when siting pre-teen/early teen and young adult recreations across Banyule. They are:

- Site condition and scale
- Location/access to transport
- Safety/security
- Amenities

According to the site selection criteria, Heidelberg Park is an unsuitable location for a district recreation space, or a local teen recreation space, as it does not fulfil the following criteria in different parts of the park:

Western section

- Ability to accommodate facility of minimum 2500 m².
- Ability to accommodate space for youth events.
- Ability to accommodate space for broader community events.
- Consideration of context and landscaping to integrate/complement surroundings.
- Good natural surveillance.
- Adequate car parking/drop-off.

Eastern section

- Consideration of context and landscaping to integrate/complement surroundings.
- Close proximity to commercial/community centre.
- Close proximity to public transport/access.
- Proximity to youth interest areas (shopping areas, schools, other recreation).

According to the criteria, there might be an opportunity for a local pre-teen/early teen recreation space in the western section of the park. Typically, these nodes should be integrated with other community focal points as local play spaces to encourage cross-generational interaction and ensuring a greater age range for play opportunities. Given there are no play spaces in Heidelberg Park, and there is a large play space and multiple half-courts directly opposite at Possum Hollow (on the other side of Beverley Road), the latter might be more suitable for additional youth facilities.

2.0 Site Assessment

2.1 Climate

The site shares Melbourne's temperate oceanic climate. Melbourne's climate is variable, with days of extreme heat in summer, and winters that are cool and damp.

The nearest station with recorded major climate statistics is Bundoora (Latrobe University), approximately 5km from Heidelberg Park. The mean annual rainfall at Bundoora is 672.5mm. The monthly mean rainfall and monthly mean maximum temperature statistics are outlined below.

In regards to climate trends, ACORN-SAT (Australian Climate Observations Reference Network - Surface Air Temperature) data show that Australia has warmed by approximately one degree since 1910. The warming has occurred mostly since 1950.

The frequency of daily temperature extremes has also changed since 1910. The number of weather stations recording very warm night-time temperatures, and the frequency with which these occur, has increased since the mid 1970s. The rate of very hot daytime temperatures has been increasing since the 1990s.

Considerations for the masterplan:

- Plant selection should allow for a mean annual rainfall of 600-700mm, as supplementary watering or irrigation may not be available for plants with greater water requirements.
- The masterplan should allow for climate adaptation, with the use of a range of plant species suitable for current conditions, and potentially warmer, drier or more extreme conditions in the future.

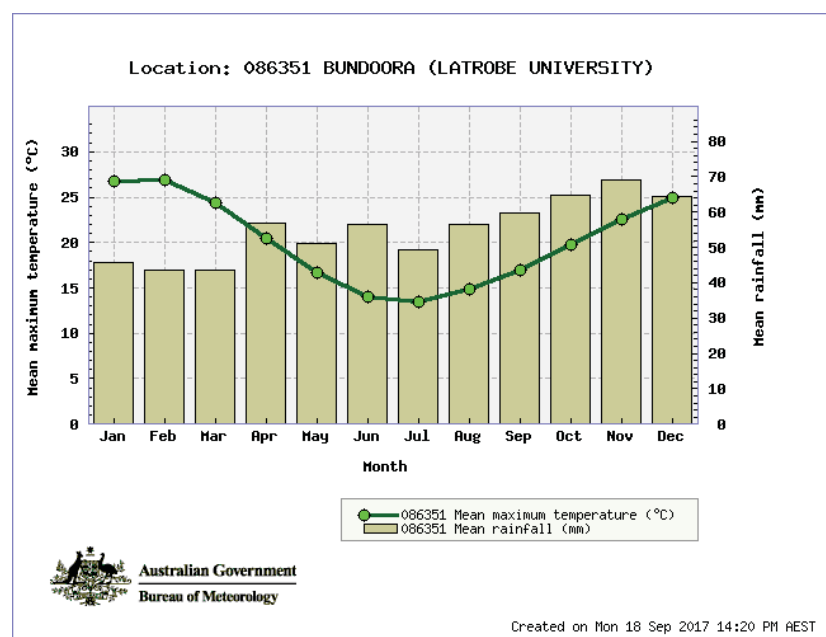


Figure - Mean Rainfall & Mean Maximum Temperature
Source: Bureau of Meteorology

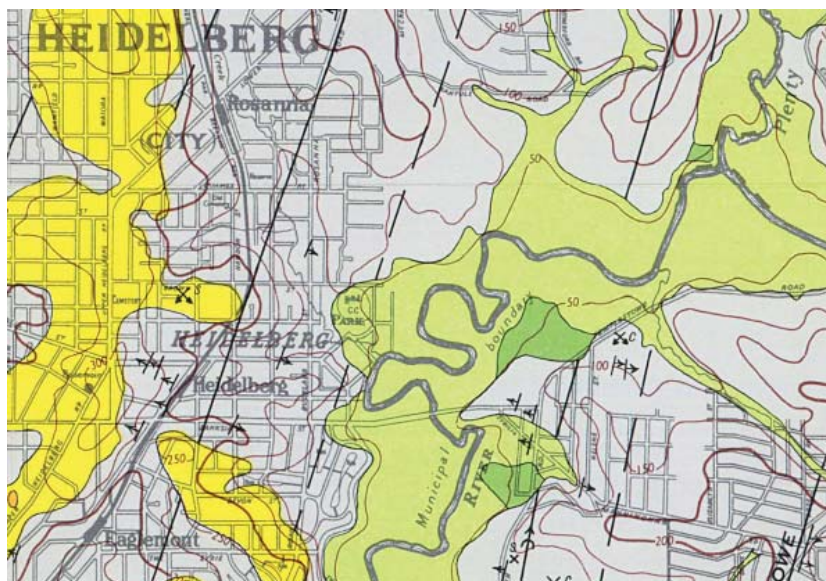
2.0 Site Assessment

2.2 Geology

Heidelberg Park's geology consists of a ridge of Silurian Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone, adjacent to the Quarternary Alluvial Flats of the Yarra River.

Silurian sandstones and mudstones underlay all of the site (They are known as the Andersons Creek and Dargile formations). Brighton Sands remain on higher ground where erosion, and lava flows were unable to reach. These areas have deep sandy soils.

The mid slopes usually have soils built on Silurian siltstone and sandstone, which tend to form thin poor soils. The lower areas are covered by alluvial sediments deposited in the valleys. The recent sediments formed the best soils, deep and well watered, and were suitable for market gardening or pasture..



- Quaternary Alluvial Flats
- Quaternary Alluvial Terraces
- Tertiary Marine and non Marine Sands, Clays and Gravels
- Silurian Mudstones, Siltstones and Sandstones

Figure - Geology

Source: Geoscience Australia

2.0 Site Assessment

2.3 Vegetation

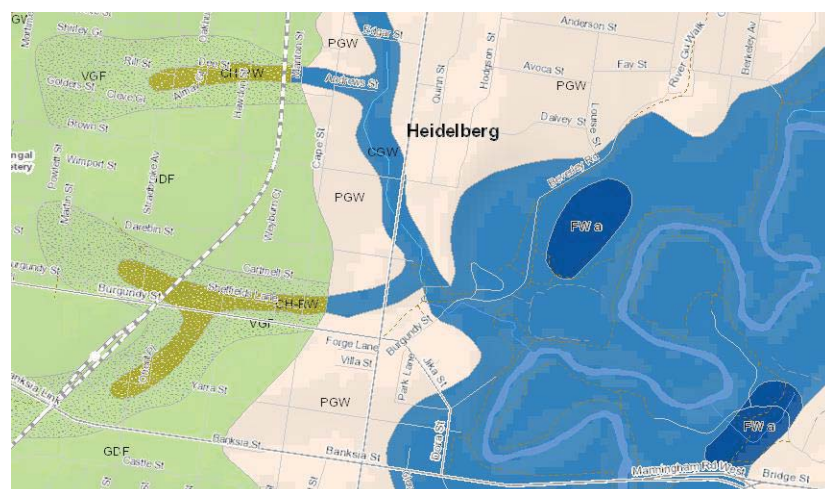
Bioregion and Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) benchmarks have been developed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) as a landscape-scale approach to classify the Victorian environment. They use a range of attributes, such as climate, geomorphology, geology, soils and vegetation to determine each classification.

The subject area is located in the Gippsland Plains bioregion. The subject site is located in an area that, prior to 1750, consisted of:

- Floodplain Riparian Woodland (EVC 56)
- Creekline Grassy Woodland (EVC 68)
- Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)

Floodplain Riparian Woodland (EVC 56)

Floodplain Riparian Woodland is generally characterized as open eucalypt woodland to 20 m tall over a medium to tall shrub layer with a ground layer consisting of amphibious and aquatic herbs and sedges. Occurs along the banks and floodplains of the larger meandering rivers and major creeks, often in conjunction with one or more floodplain wetland communities. Elevation and rainfall are relatively low and soils are fertile alluviums subject to periodic flooding and inundation.



- Plains Grassy Woodland
- Creekline Grassy Woodland/Floodplain Riparian Woodland
- Grassy Dry Forest/Valley Grassy Forest
- Creekline Herb-rich Woodland
- Floodplain Wetland Aggregate

Figure - Pre-1750 Ecological Vegetation Classes
Source: Online Biodiversity Interactive Map

Creekline Grassy Woodland (EVC 68)

Creekline Grassy Woodland is generally characterized as eucalypt-dominated woodland to 15 m tall with occasional scattered shrub layer over a mostly grassy/sedgy to herbaceous ground-layer. Occurs on low-gradient ephemeral to intermittent drainage lines, typically on fertile colluvial/alluvial soils, on a wide range of suitably fertile geological substrates. These minor drainage lines can include a range of graminoid and herbaceous species tolerant of waterlogged soils, and are presumed to have sometimes resembled a linear wetland or system of interconnected small ponds.

Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)

Plains Grassy Woodland is generally characterized as open, eucalypt woodland to 15 m tall occurring on a number of geologies and soil types. Occupies poorly drained, fertile soils on flat or gently undulating plains at low elevations. The understorey consists of a few sparse shrubs over a species-rich grassy and herbaceous ground layer.

Nearby Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) include:

- Grassy Dry Forest (EVC 22)
- Valley Grassy Forest (EVC 47)
- Creekline Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 164)
- Flooplain Wetland Aggregate (EVC 172)

Considerations for the masterplan:

- There is an opportunity to plant indigenous plants and restore the original vegetation and ecological communities of the area. Indigenous plant species will not only grow well, as they are well-adapted to the geology and micro-climate of the site, but they can also attract native fauna and improve biodiversity.
- A broader range of plant species can be planted with different microclimates, soil types and water regimes.

2.0 Site Assessment

2.4 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

2.4.1 Protected Matters Search Tool

Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) within a 1km buffer of the site was analysed on the 4th April 2020 using the Department of Environment and Energy (DoEE) Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) Protected Matters Search Tool. This tool lists those species, species habitat and vegetation communities that may occur, or are likely to occur within the 1km buffered area. For this site, this encompasses part of the Warrigal Parklands and Yarra River.

MNES identified as potentially occurring included:

2 Listed Threatened Ecological Communities:

- Natural Damp Grassland of the Victorian Coastal Plains
- White Box/Yellow Box/Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.

26 Listed Threatened Species:

- 9 Bird Species
- 3 Fish Species
- 1 Frog Species
- 2 Insect Species
- 4 Mammal Species
- 7 Plant Species

14 Listed Migratory Species

- 1 Migratory Marine Bird
- 5 Migratory Terrestrial Species
- 8 Migratory Wetland Species

2.4.2 Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA)

DELWP's Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) was reviewed to obtain records of fauna within 1km buffer of the study area (accessed 4th April 2020). The review included species listed under the EPBC Act and Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act).

The VBA dataset is collated from a wide range of contributors, including DELWP biodiversity staff, government agencies and partner organisations, non-government organisations such as Birdlife Australia, ecological consultancies, university students and community wildlife survey groups.

The majority of the data is from project based work where structured surveys were undertaken. Many areas are data deficient, particularly established urban areas. However, this area with its proximity to Warringal Parklands and the Yarra River has an unusually high amount of data. The first recorded count within the buffer area was in 1908.

17 Threatened Species have been recorded within 1km of the study area. They include:

- Australian Grayling (Vulnerable)
- Murray Cod (Vulnerable)
- Golden Perch (Near Threatened)
- Macquarie Perch (Endangered)
- Latham's Snipe (Near Threatened)
- Brolga (Vulnerable)
- Plumed Egret (Endangered)
- Nankeen Night Heron (Near Threatened)
- Magpie Goose (Near Threatened)
- Grey Goshawk (Vulnerable)
- Swift Parrot (Endangered)
- Azure Kingfisher (Near Threatened)
- Red-backed Kingfisher (Near Threatened)
- White-throated Needletail (Vulnerable)
- Grey-headed Flying Fox (Vulnerable)
- Pacific Gull (Near Threatened)
- Great Egret (Vulnerable)

Native species that have been planted but are not indigenous to the area are excluded, such as Large-fruit Yellow Gum and Giant Honey Myrtle.

The above are predominantly fauna associated with wetlands and waterways. An exception is the Swift Parrot, which could be attracted to the site with the planting of winter-flowering wattles and eucalypts.

A total of 168 Terrestrial Fauna Species have been recorded within or adjacent to the study area. They include:

- 132 Bird species
- 18 Fish species
- 7 Amphibian species
- 2 Reptile species
- 9 Mammal species