

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The ancestors and descendents of the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung are the Traditional Owners of this Country.

The City of Greater Bendigo acknowledges that they have been custodians for many

centuries and continue to perform age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal.

We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region.

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY

We are so fortunate in Greater Bendigo to have access to an abundance of public open space. From beautifully manicured ovals to regional and national parks that form a ring around our urban area, we can easily find somewhere to run, kick the footy, ride our bikes, walk the dog or bushwalk.

For me, the jewel in our public open space crown is Rosalind Park. It has been transformed over many years from a dark and uninviting place, into something that is truly magnificent.

When the Maternal and Child Health centre, crèche and old tourism kiosk were removed from the piazza and along the creek, Rosalind Park was opened up and it became a beautiful, light-filled city centre oasis. When you look around, our parks and gardens are so green and lush.

As Mayor, the comment I hear most often from residents and visitors is how beautiful Greater Bendigo looks. Our city centre street trees survived years of drought thanks to the installation of a recycled water pipeline and today these trees continue to enhance our wide streets and boulevards, making them attractive and inviting.

When you look to our rural areas, there is greater freedom to interact with open space and with the added bonus of having to share it with fewer people.

Our city in a forest is indeed unique. I hope you treasure the opportunity to live amongst our great natural assets.

Cr Margaret O'Rourke, Mayor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Greater Bendigo would like to thank: The **Public Space Plan Steering Group** for their high level direction and support.

The **Public Space Plan Community Reference Group** for the local knowledge and insights of members as well as a positive, supportive and progressive outlook in the interest of the our community's future.

Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan

Prepared by Regional Sustainable Development Unit, City of Greater Bendigo Adopted by the City of Greater Bendigo Council on July 18, 2018.

Readopted by the City of Greater Bendigo Council on 19 June 2019.

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC SPACE PLAN?

The public space of Greater Bendigo encompasses parks, gardens, creek corridors, bushland and sporting reserves as well as its streets and road reserves, urban spaces such as squares, malls and plazas, and rail corridors and easements. It also includes extensive areas of public land, which are often managed by organisations other than the City of Greater Bendigo.

Our public spaces reflect our image, identity, community values and quality of life. They are an integral part of what connects us to the city, community and environment.

The Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan has been developed as a long-term strategy to serve our current generation and those to come.

HOW TO READ THE PLAN

Strategies and actions are at the heart of the Public Space Plan. Together they explain the intent of the Plan and the things we mean to do.

Parts 2 and 3 of the document each have corresponding actions and strategies. There is a difference between the two and they are shown differently in the document, as explained below:

STRATEGIES

Are the high level statements of policy position and the principles and guidelines that are to be applied in public space planning and decision making.

Strategies are shown with an orange square

ACTIONS

Are specific initiatives to be undertaken to progress and/or implement certain strategies of the Plan (more detail will be provided in the implementation framework to be developed).

Actions are shown in green boxes

CONTENTS AND STRUCTURE OF THE PUBLIC SPACE PLAN

The Public Space Plan is set out in five parts and each part has a different purpose, as explained below.

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INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

The context for public space planning in Greater Bendigo including a summary of the major issues we are facing and community expectations. This part also includes a snapshot of the overall plan

- An introduction to the Public Space Plan
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- The strategic planning and policy context
- Public space influences, issues and expectations
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APPENDIX 2 Criteria-based standards for the provision of new public open space

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PUBLIC SPACE PLAN

A city defined by its public space

All cities have a unique public space footprint, character and identity. Amongst the world's small cities, few are easily comparable with Greater Bendigo.

Thanks largely to the past, the starting point for planning our city's public space future is very positive and full of potential. Numerous attributes come together to form a unique overall impression and several aspects in particular seem to stand out:

Our natural landscape setting. Hundreds of years ago, open forests and woodlands were dominant and provided the traditional lands and life source for indigenous inhabitants. The arrival of Europeans and advent of widespread mining in the mid-to-late 19th century transformed this landscape and generated the wealth which gave rise to the city. A century on, the forests are regenerating and are protected within extensive reserves – National Parks, Regional Parks and State Forests – around urban Bendigo which create a backdrop for many of the rural areas and are integral to them.

Our creeks and gullies. A complex and extensive network of creeks and gullies creates wide, open and vegetated corridors around which the built-up areas have been shaped.

Our historic and contemporary public spaces. We have an impressive historic legacy of grand, Victorian-era public space, including Charing Cross, Pall Mall, Rosalind Park, Lake Weeroona, Canterbury Gardens, the Bendigo Botanic Gardens, as well as various boulevards and wide residential streets which help define the character of many older parts of Bendigo and our rural towns. More recent additions have also been important and influential – the Hargreaves Mall and the Harcourt Dog Park, as well as large public areas associated with water storages including Lake Eppalock, Crusoe and No.7 Reservoirs, and Kennington Reservoir.

The small, less obvious attributes, as well as the large and prominent, are significant too. Most notable of these is the overall abundance of space which strongly influences a city landscape and character, punctuated with pockets vegetation and a feeling of openness.

These attributes and more create an enviable foundation for the future. But this does not mean we are without considerable challenges connected with our public space – improving community health, supporting biodiversity, and respecting and preserving public space heritage to mention just a few.

The Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan endeavours to draw upon this unique combination of public space attributes and associated conditions and issues as the basis for a comprehensive and locally-responsive strategy.

The importance of taking a long view

The timeframe for the Plan is purposefully long - around 50 years or two generations - taking us well into the 2060s. This far in the future seems unimaginable, let alone predictable.

On one hand, there, in half a century's time, we should expect our conception of public space to have changed radically in some ways. On the other, it is equally likely that the kinds of public space values we see as important today will continue to be important in 50 years' time: We will more than likely want public space to be accessible, connected, inclusive and diverse. We will want public space to be purposeful in our lives and offer great experiences – whether that is to sit and contemplate life amidst the forest, to walk to work, to take part in a favourite sport, or to enjoy a public festival. And public space will continue to be an integral and enduring part of the city's image, identity and appeal.

The main benefit of taking a long term view with our public space planning is that it allows us to take aspects that we value now and develop strategies for how they can be protected, strengthened or created into the future, with a mind toward the interests of not just our immediate community but also future generations.

A longer timeframe creates the space and opportunity for bigger picture, complex and sometimes transformative strategic concepts to evolve. The Plan contains a number of strategies that can only be achieved over a timescale measured in decades, and with the necessary commitment over that time.

An integrated and shared plan

The process to develop the Plan has been inclusive and consultative, with the aim to both reflect the broad range of interests and issues that affect public space in our city, and to respond with a high-level, targeted and integrated strategy.

Leadership, collaboration and coordination will be essential to progressively deliver the Plan as most of its strategies reflect interests and responsibilities across the City of Greater Bendigo (the City), State Government departments and agencies, and various groups and individuals.

A detailed Implementation Framework is being developed over the remainder of 2018 to support the delivery of the Plan*.

Scope of the Plan

Public space is a large and complex topic. A plan for public space could be potentially enormous in scope. However to be influential and effective, the Plan aims to address selected, defined aspects, and at a strategic and high level.

It is in essence a 'big picture' strategy; a guiding and working document to which the City, other organisations and the wider community commit to implementing collaboratively over time.

In broad terms, the Plan aims to do three things:

- Set out a conceptual vision for public space in Greater Bendigo
- Provide strategic guidance for planning and provision, uses and management, funding and investment, major policy issues and implementation priorities*
- Establish a framework of standards for access, quality, maintenance and design

Several aspects were determined to be outside the scope of the Plan, specifically:

- A recreation needs assessment / strategies for sports facilities/surfaces provision (Recreation Strategy)
- Play space assessment of play value, equipment inventory, design standards

The process to build the Plan

The Plan is the culmination of a four-stage process which began in November 2015. Stage one sought to provide a comprehensive understanding of the major strategic public space issues of our city, and did so through a process of wide-ranging consultation, research, analysis and documentation. The *Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan - Strategic Context and Issues Report* was the product of this stage.

Stage two of the project had a very different goal – the creation of a conceptual vision for public space in Greater Bendigo, looking ahead 50 years. In October 2016, the community and agencies were invited to contribute to the development of the conceptual vision via a 2.5-day workshop and online survey. The draft conceptual vision which emerged was developed further then released for public comment in January-February 2017. The *Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan – A Conceptual 50-year Vision* was endorsed by Council in April 2017.

Stage three focussed on the development of a draft version of the Plan itself and in Stage four, this draft Plan was the subject of a six-week public display period and engagement program.

A Steering Group made up of representatives of the City of Greater Bendigo (three Councillors and four Directors) and of several key government and other organisations has provided oversight for the development of the Plan.

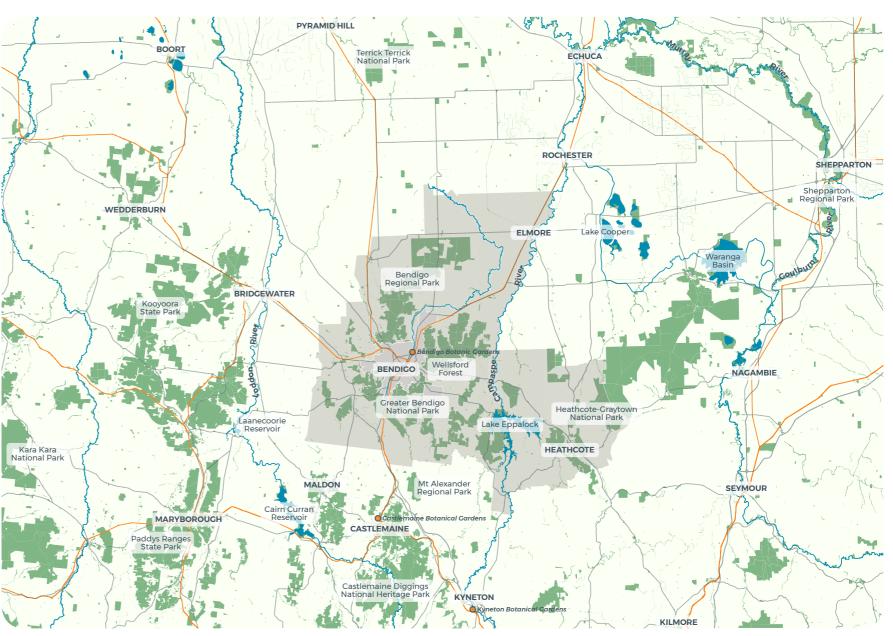
Community-based advisory has been provided by a Reference Group of residents from various parts of the municipality with wide-ranging interests in public space.

Specialist peer advice to the project is being provided by the Victorian Design Review Panel of the Office of the Victorian Government Architect.





GREATER BENDIGO'S REGIONAL PUBLIC SPACE CONTEXT



Part of a wider region

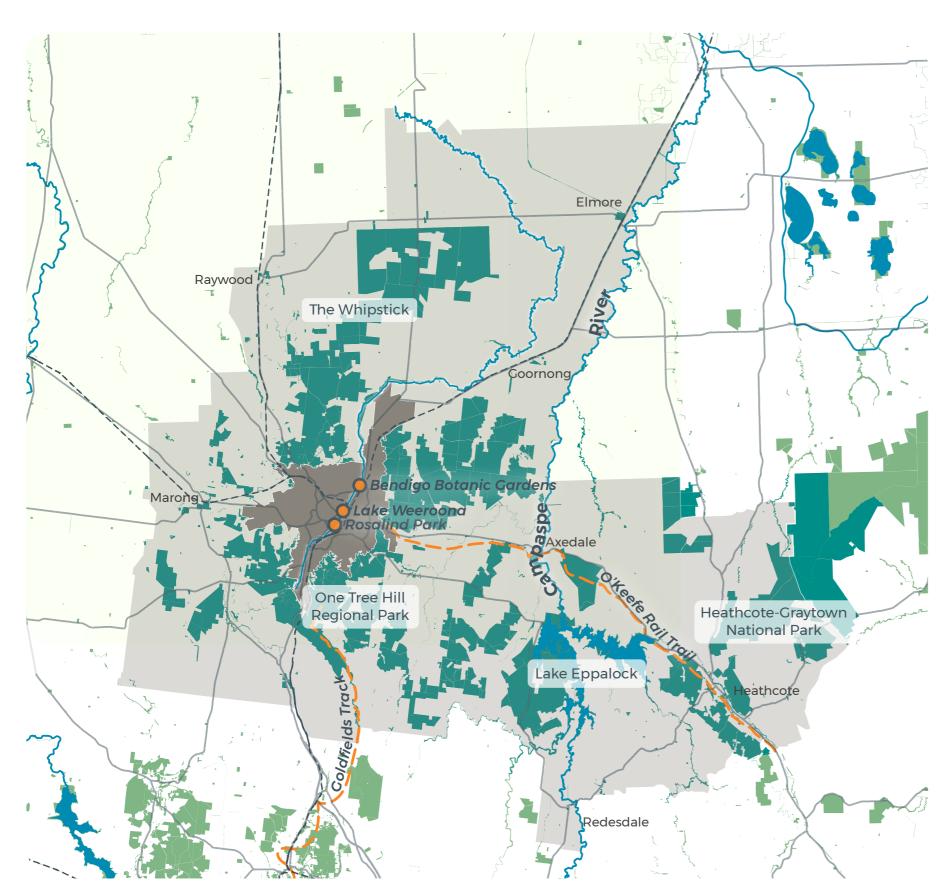
Greater Bendigo forms part of a larger, more complex and incredibly diverse public space network across central and northern Victoria. The public space features and characteristics of the region are a significant aspect of its appeal for residents and visitors alike.

The city has an important role in providing regional public space assets to a large surrounding regional population. This includes several notable larger towns such as Castlemaine, Echuca, Maryborough and Rochester, as well as numerous smaller towns and settlements.

The overall reach of the city in terms of its public space attractions is much wider still.

The regional public space landscape includes National Parks, Regional Parks, State Forests, several rivers and smaller waterways, major waterbodies and several regional trails which connect the public landscape.





A municipality of public space abundance, diversity and opportunity

The Greater Bendigo community is well-served by public space, not only in terms of the amount of public space available (covering almost a quarter of the municipality) but also the range of public space environments, assets and experiences that are available to residents.

Opportunities to access and enjoy public space are different across the municipality, changing with the nature of the landscape and the size of settlements and population. All places have their own strengths and weaknesses.

Life in small towns and rural areas often comes with access to expansive areas of public land, in particular bushland, waterways and, in some places, recreation reserves with various local amenities. Whilst not usually within easy reach, the freedom to enjoy relatively unspoilt areas and share them with less people is a particular benefit of rural public space.

The urban area has a diverse array of public spaces, including some of the city's most iconic parklands. There are more public spaces to enjoy, however there are also more people wanting to enjoy them. The built up area is bordered largely by areas of National and Regional Park, providing close proximity to an experience of a more natural environment.

The extensive areas of public space and the way that they are spread across the municipality create important opportunities to connect places and communities, both urban and rural, and within the urban area itself.

Across the municipality, both in the urban area and the small towns, there are opportunities to strengthen particular local public space attributes of each area and community.



STRATEGIC PLANNING AND POLICY CONTEXT

Many strategic linkages and influences

The strategic planning and policy environment for a plan such as this is large and complex, but also a rich resource to inform and influence the strategic vision and direction for Greater Bendigo's public space future (see opposite).

There are numerous state-wide and regional strategies of the various departments of the State Government. A selection of those most strategically-relevant to public space planning in Greater Bendigo are highlighted here. They include, for example, the land use, water and biodiversity strategies of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The high level strategic perspective of other non-government specific organisations are also of importance, such as the *Dhelkunya Dja* (Country Plan) of the Dja Dja Wurrung and the *Urban Water Plan* of Coliban Water.

At the municipal level, the City continues to develop and evolve a strategic framework of planning and policy to proactively address an increasingly large and complex range of issues that impact communities, place and environment, both locally and regionally.

Achieving integration and consistency across all strategies continues to be an important aim and a major challenge.

This Plan is a further, significant addition to the suite of municipal strategies addressing a major strategic planning and policy area.

It aims to align its highest level goals with the 'big picture' of the State, region and Council, and also to ensure it is locally relevant and responsive.

The Plan is one of five major strategies of the City and intends to work together with other supporting strategies, as well as place-based plans.

The Plan also replaces two existing strategies, the *Open Space Strategy 2005* and the *Play Space Strategy 2009-2014*.



GREATER BENDIGO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK







Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

Major Strategies











Supporting Strategies



Place-based Planning

Community Plans
Structure Plans
Urban Design Frameworks
Master Plans
Conservation Management Plans
Reserve Management Plans

STATE AND REGIONAL STRATEGY

Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan 2014 Protecting Victoria's Environment Biodiversity 2037

Victoria's Climate Change Framework Parks Victoria -Shaping Our Future 2013

Water for Victoria Water Plan

Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014-2034 Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019

Urban Water Strategy 2017 (Coliban Water) Victorian Waterway Management Strategy 2013

Victorian Trails Strategy 2014-2024

* Strategy under development



PUBLIC SPACE INFLUENCES, ISSUES AND EXPECTATIONS

Public space is complex and encompasses a broad range of issues and challenges. There are a number of biggerpicture influences that will affect Greater Bendigo's public spaces as much as they will affect other aspects of our For the municipality's public spaces, there are various locally-specific major issues to acknowledge and contend with. In addition to this, the community of Greater Bendigo has voiced some consistent and clear expectations for their public spaces.

Bigger picture influences

Population growth



The number of people living in Greater Bendigo will grow by about 80% to reach an overall city size of around 200,000 by around 2050. This is equivalent to the current population of Geelong.

Implications for public space planning

- » Increased demand for use of public space overall.
- » Potential expectations of an overall higher standard of public spaces due to the size and profile of the city.
- » Continued need to sustain a diversity of public spaces to support a larger and more diverse population.
- » Additional space requirements in some areas.

Continued urbanisation



Most of the city's population – around 85% or more – will live in the urban area. Different parts of this area will grow more than others. The rest will live in the surrounding rural areas and towns, some of which will grow more than others.

- There will be more pressure on public spaces within the urban area and in particular on spaces that have a key role in supporting more intensive or large-scale activities such as organised sport and events.
- There may also be more demand to access and use public spaces outside the urban area, such as the National and Regional Parks, as the city gets busier and more built up.
- The different growth characteristics of rural townships will require a mix of public space consolidation and quality improvements.

More compact living



Our city's population will live within an urban area not significantly larger than today, requiring more compact living arrangements (less private land area per person) and an overall increased population density. The contained footprint for growth is largely determined by geographical and environmental factors and associated risks (e.g. forested areas, fire, flood).

» Increased dependence on public spaces due to declining access to private outdoor space.



Implications for public space planning

More diverse mobility and transportation options



A local rail network - the Bendigo Metro Rail - is to be progressively put into place. Autonomous vehicles and associated transportation systems and networks are likely to become prevalent, perhaps commonplace. The share of cycling and walking as the means to get around will continue to increase, perhaps markedly if environments to support this become more widespread.

- » Rail stations will regain some of their original importance as high profile public places that must not only be highly functional but viable as civic and communal spaces.
- Some areas of space previously dedicated to cars, such as car parks and wide roads, will become available for other uses, including as public space.
- The largest benefit will be in the improved amenity and safety of the public realm of our city and town centres.

A warming climate



The climate of our region is becoming progressively hotter. Less autumn, winter and spring rainfall is projected with an overall reduction in natural rainfall. Extreme weather events including storms and high-intensity rainfall, are becoming more common with significant impacts such as flash flooding and erosion.

- Increasing imperative for creative water harvesting, strategic allocation of water, optimal use of high-water demand public spaces, and creating water-efficient public space environments.
- » Need for extensive shade so that public spaces are appealing, useable and sun-safe.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity



Urbanisation increases pressures on biodiversity by removing and fragmenting areas of natural habitat and displacing wildlife. The spatial planning of public space needs to ensure that sufficiently large areas are allocated to protect biodiverse and sensitive areas.

Increasing prevalence of preventable diseases



People's lives are increasingly more stressful, sedentary and characterised by poor diet and limited physical exercise. There is strong research-based evidence linking access to public space and the quality of public space with health outcomes, including physical fitness and mental wellbeing.

» Greater imperative for public spaces to be accessible, attractive and functional, particularly for all kinds of informal active recreation, but also as a place of retreat from life pressures and urbanisation.

Public space issues

The quantity of public space versus its quality





We have lots of open space in Greater Bendigo. When measured against even the most generous international standard, all areas of the city, both urban and rural townships, meet or exceed this. But from a quality perspective we are not faring as well. Whilst there are many public spaces of very high quality, more often we see spaces of a lower standard and sometimes without any improvements at all.

Implications for public space planning

» Resolve how to address the competing quantity and quality pressures. Consideration of whether some spaces will be more crucial than others to supporting the needs of local communities.

Connections and integration



Despite having a strong foundation for connectivity, our public spaces are not always as well joined up as they could be. There are considerable gaps in the shared paths network at a city and community scale. At a more local level the street networks in some parts of the city are not as easy to navigate and get around due to disjointed street patterns or insufficient street amenities such as footpaths and shade trees.

» Identify strategies for strengthening connections between public spaces and better connecting places and communities.

Sustainable design



There are various dimensions of public space sustainability in Greater Bendigo. Two of the most important relate to water and biodiversity. From a water perspective, we have the challenge of an already semi-arid climate becoming hotter and dryer, impacting on both water availability and demands to sustain greenery and water elements in public spaces. In terms of biodiversity, public spaces are integral to protecting biodiversity values, particularly in the context of urbanised or developing areas. Public spaces also provide essential opportunities to connect with nature.

- » A need for strategic guidance on how available water supply can be optimally and sustainably used in public spaces for community and environmental benefit.
- Recognition of the need to incorporate sustainable design into public spaces, including Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), locally-adaptable plantings and the use of recycled content and/or low energy materials and products.

Underutilisation of streets



A large amount of public space is contained within the streets of our urban area and rural townships. There is great variability in the type and standard of streets; more often than not they are set up best to support the movement and parking of cars.

- » Recognition of the overall importance of streets as part of the city's public space.
- » Identify how street environments can be improved to be safer and more attractive for community use.
- » Recognise the special public space functions of some streets, such as their role in a town centre or as a main boulevard.

Allocation of public space resources



Some aspects of public spaces are receiving a higher level of resourcing than others. For example, organised sports spaces compared to passive open spaces or walking and cycling infrastructure compared to car-based infrastructure. Imbalances also extend to individual communities, with some communities receiving more support and investment than others.

» Recognition of the differences in resourcing that are occurring and implementation of measures to ensure that a more equitable distribution of resources is maintained.

Working across teams and agencies to one plan



A range of teams within the City of Greater Bendigo, together with various government agencies including the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Parks Victoria and Coliban Water have a role and interest in some aspects of public space management.

» Development of a strategic plan that reflects common and agreed goals, as well as an ongoing commitment to strategy implementation by relevant organisations.

Community expectations

Stronger connections to and between public spaces



Dedicated and safe environments for walking and cycling



Opportunities for community gathering and social interaction



Keep the existing amount of public space and improve its quality



Retain the feeling of open-ness



Efficient use of water and increased drought-tolerant plantings



Preserve space for natural areas and wildlife



Continue the present mix of green/native character



More trees and shade



Increase opportunities for play



Basic amenities like seating, drinking water and toilets





SNAPSHOT OF THE PLAN

The Plan contains a wide range of strategic initiatives for different aspects of our city's public spaces. The diagram opposite provides an 'at a glance' overview of some of the Plan's 'headline' strategies to provide an overall sense of its scope, ambition and direction.

The numbers shown in circles are section references for this document.



SIX MAJOR PARKLANDS



Protect and enhance the city's main public space jewels



SHADE AND FILTERED LIGHT



Widespread use of trees, verandahs, awnings and other structures to shade public areas and filter light



BOULEVARDS AND GATEWAYS



Strengthen the grand scale and symmetry of Bendigo's boulevards and highlight its natural gateways



POCKETS OF BUSHLAND



Retain the numerous pockets, including former mining land, which add to the character of urban bushland and openness



CITY IN A FOREST



Strengthen the presence of the forest landscape, transform the forest-urban area interface and connect people with the bush



CITY AND TOWN CENTRES FOR PEOPLE



Improve and remodel our centres as places for people



WALKABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS



Refit existing neighbourhood streets and design new ones as walking and cycling-friendly environments



PUBLIC SPACE CORRIDORS NETWORK



Join up the city, public spaces, daily destinations and communities with a network of corridors





Integrate the creek environs within Bendigo's urban landscape as a new focus for public life

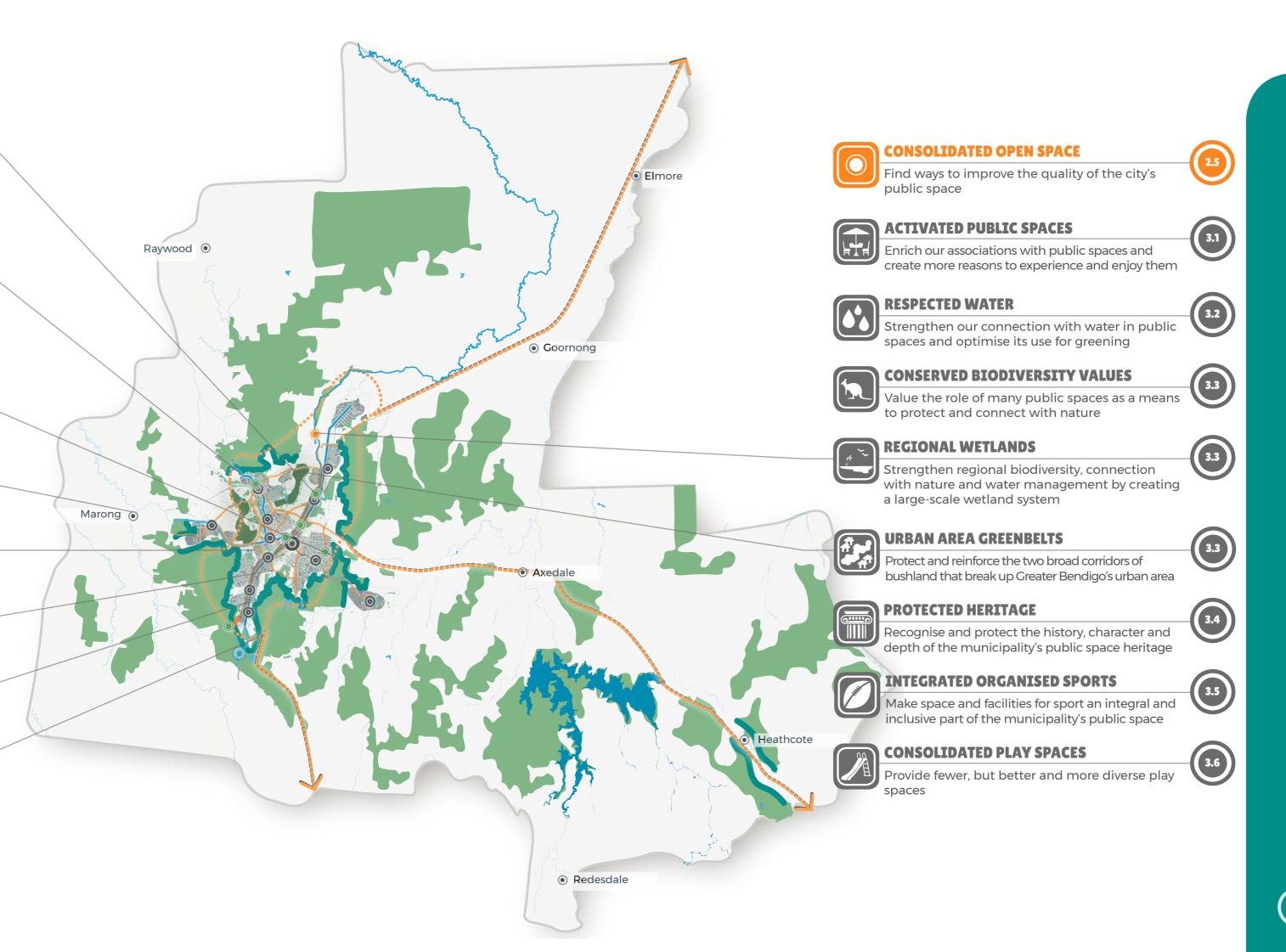


BUSHLAND TRAIL AND REGIONAL LINKS



Connect urban Bendigo with its forest setting, rural landscape and wider region with major trails





Overall goals for public space in Greater Bendigo

An expression of what we are aiming to achieve with and for public space in Greater Bendigo is not easily made due to the complexity of the subject, diversity of interests and range of opportunities open to us.

The following goals provide as a succinct statement of what we consider to be most important.

They reflect all that we understand from looking closely - both locally and outside, all that we have heard from people across the city and from all kinds of backgrounds, and all that we value and aspire to be.

The goals represent the high level principles that should inform the numerous decisions to be made about public space, large and small.



INTEGRATED AND CONNECTED

public space

- Connect Greater
 Bendigo and its
 communities with a
 network of major public
 space corridors
- Connect individual communities - suburbs and townships - with a joined-up local public space network
- Plan and design key public spaces to support a mix of different functions and to enable sharing of space and infrastructure



DIVERSE public space

- Preserve and enhance the mix of public space environments and experiences already available across the city
- Deliver a range of public space environments which can cater for regional, municipal and local needs
- Support the availability of public spaces of different types, scales and functions



FAIR AND INCLUSIVE

public space

- Proactively rebalance the level of public space investment across communities
- Design and manage public spaces for open community access and use
- Plan the public space network so that most residents of the urban area and rural townships are within close to reasonable walking distance (400-800m) of key public spaces
- Achieve consistent public space amenity and presentation standards across the city



ENGAGED AND COLLABORATIVE

public space

- Plan, develop and manage public spaces to positively influence community health and wellbeing, social interaction, and the local and regional economy
- Advocate for a shared responsibility approach to public space which combines and optimises the collective resources of government, community and private sector
- Develop public spaces that are presentable and feel safe



CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT

public space

- Elevate the role and presence of the public realm within the city's landscape and in people's daily lives
- Recognise and respect indigenous connections with public space landscapes
- Retain and strengthen the Bendigo-style public space identity defined by the mix of European and indigenous character and the mix of historic and contemporary places
- Acknowledge and enhance the different public space character of our communities



SUSTAINABLE public space

- Strategically consolidate public space in order to achieve a higher quality network and overall experience
- Support and protect healthy ecosystems and biological diversity within public space
- Plan and design public spaces to mitigate climate change impacts, in particular hotter weather and reduced rainfall
- Encourage and support the active and sustainable use of public spaces
- Design, build and manage public spaces in ways that are ecologically responsible



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Preserve the sense of a city in forest

Greater Bendigo's vast landscape constrasts extensive areas of public forest with an emerging city and wide open pastoral plains. This is perhaps the city's most distinctive, unique and valued quality (see section 2.2).



Bendigo's forest setting is unmistakeable when seen from above

Build on our network of rivers, creeks and gullies

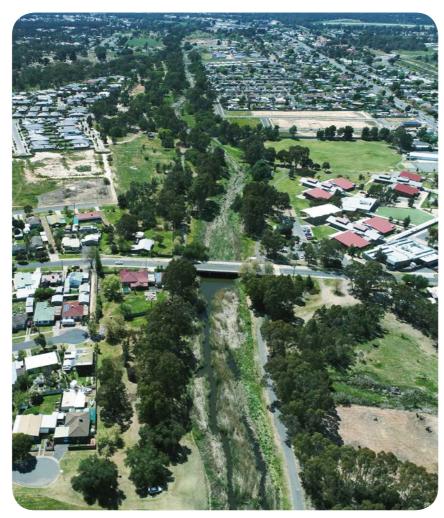
Although Greater Bendigo is a place not renowned for waterways, its landscape has a surprisingly intricate network of rivers, creeks and gullies. Most are without water for much of the year but still remain visibly prominent as continuous, interconnected corridors – partly open and partly vegetated – through the landscape.

Numerous creeks and gullies stretch across much of Bendigo's urban area in particular. The differences among them are notable. Some have been better integrated with the urban environment than others. Some have been improved with amenities, vegetation and infrastructure, such as part of the Bendigo Creek and Spring Gully Creek. The Bendigo Creek is the most prominent waterway of the city, linking the northern and southern reaches of the urban area to one another and to central Bendigo.

Within some rural townships too, waterways are of particular importance, perhaps most notably the Campaspe River which is an intrinsic part of life in Axedale and Elmore, and perhaps to a lesser degree, Goornong. The McIvor Creek in Heathcote is another example of a waterway that effectively forms part of the township itself and is one of its most defining places and assets.

The values and opportunities of the creeks and gullies are important individually, but perhaps most significant when considered as one.

- Recognise the importance of the creeks and gullies as public spaces that support various functions and values, ranging from biodiversity and managing water quality to enabling active recreation and transport.
- Incorporate selected creeks and gullies as the primary foundation for the establishment of public space corridors within the Bendigo urban area and some rural townships (See section 2.4 and Part 4).











• Refer to sections 2.4, 3.2 and 3.3



Protect and enhance our major historic and contemporary parklands

Six major parklands are among the well-established or emerging public open space landmarks of Greater Bendigo. Individually significant and distinctive, they are collectively the public space jewels of the city.

Rosalind Park is our pre-eminent, central city parkland, combining rich history with an equally rich diversity of uses and attractions at the heart of the city centre.

Lake Weeroona is one of the city's most popular parklands set around a large body of water, creating an attractive, vibrant and active lakeside setting.

Bendigo Botanic Gardens White Hills is in the process of a modern-day evolution and expansion to become a regionally-significant historic park with a focus on the future through learning and connection with nature.

Canterbury Gardens, Lake Neangar and Lake Tom Thumb together create a setting combining historic gardens with waterside parkland and a range of sports facilities in the heart of Eaglehawk.

Strathdale Park with Kennington Reservoir combine to create a major corridor of open space with strong natural qualities and an informal family parkland setting.

Crusoe Reservoir and No.7 Reservoir have been transformed from city water supply resources into a water-based recreation and bushland conservation park.

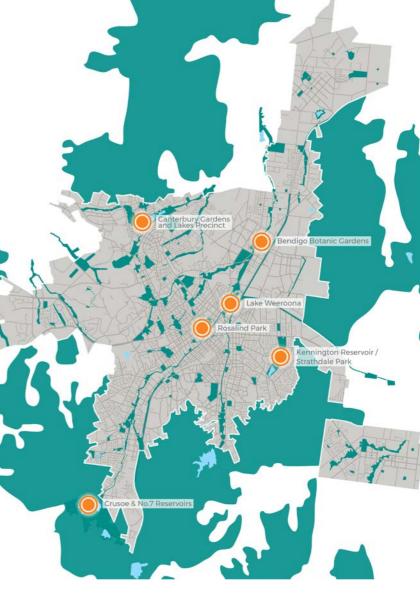
- Recognise the special past and future significance, status and legacy of the city's six major urban area parklands.
- Progressively improve these parklands as key public space resources for a growing city by:
 - » Being true to their purpose, values and functions and reinforcing their individual strengths
 - » Optimising their physical footprint and use of available space
 - » Prioritising accessible and pedestrian-friendly environments
 - » Creating strategic, city-wide links to these major parklands with the public space corridors network.
 - » Maintaining the highest standard of facilities and amenities appropriate to the space
 - » Preventing incursions by inappropriate uses or structures
 - » Maintaining a strong public profile and awareness
 - » Having up-to-date master plans and management plans, funding for capital works and operational maintenance in place







Rosalind Park, Lake Weeroona and Crusoe and No.7 Reservoirs



Bendigo's six major urban parklands

Actions

 Ensure that future reviews of existing master plans and management plans for the major parklands reflect the high-level directions of the Public Space Plan

Highlight and respect major city boulevards and gateways

Bendigo is a grand historic city. This is reflected not only by the opulence of its architecture, but also the scale and prominence of its streets. The major public boulevards are of particular significance, both to the form of the city and to its image in the minds of residents and visitors alike. In this light, the civic role and presence of our boulevards must be recognised and treated respectfully.

As the city has grown, many of the boulevards have become busy arterial roads dominated by traffic and governed by standards to ensure safety and efficiency for vehicles as a priority. This creates complications and limitations for civic functions and design. Whilst the road transportation role of boulevards is integral and essential, in some situations, such as within town centres, the arterial road and public space/civic functions become at least equally important. Therefore, a place-based design philosophy and approach to the planning and design of our main boulevards is essential.

At certain locations along the boulevards there are points of interest and transition in the local setting called gateways. They may mark the point of entering the city itself or a transition from one area to another. In Greater Bendigo, the impact of the gateway effect is most remarkable at Big Hill where the sharp rise of the elevated ridgeline gives way to dense Ironbark forest enveloping the Calder Highway. Charing Cross is an equally powerful gateway, but in a very different way and context, marking the arrival to the heart of Bendigo's city centre. There are various other examples across the municipality. The public realm significance of our gateways must be understood, protected and enhanced.

- Recognise the public realm significance and civic function importance of the city's major boulevards.
- Develop a strategic, place-based and design-led approach to the planning and design of the city's boulevards and gateways, building upon the Bendigo Highway Entrances and Boulevards Study 1994.
- Ensure that a holistic consideration of public realm, infrastructure and land use aspects is given in boulevard planning, ranging from the street crosssectional design through to civic amenities.





Top: The bush landscape setting along Prouses Road creates a gateway into White Hills. Below: High Street leads a 10km long arrival experience into Bendigo which culminates at Charing Cross and Pall Mall



Some of urban Bendigo's main boulevards and major gateways

Actions

• Develop a prioritised planning and design framework for the city's gateways and boulevards

Preserve historic and distinctive streetscapes

Distinctive and memorable streets and street networks can be found in the urban area and rural townships alike. Sometimes this is related to the street patterns of a town or neighbourhood. Bendigo's City Centre is one of the most prominent examples of a distinctive colonial grid-based street pattern, reinforced by lines of buildings and rows of street trees. This is also a distinguishing feature of several of the rural townships - Axedale, Elmore, Goornong, Heathcote and Raywood are all good examples of townships with a quite formal grid of broad streets.

The positioning and alignment of streets can also be important. For example in Elmore the streets create a direct link from the main street to the Campaspe River. By contrast, some older parts of today's urban area have twisting, drifting street patterns which evolved from the tracks of informal mining settlements along and around the numerous ridges and gullies.

Some individual streets can also stand out. They may be unusual in their design, such as Mackenzie Street in Bendigo or Boat Street in Kennington. They may retain original features - bluestone kerbs and culverts, timber crossovers, original street trees - that are largely unchanged in time and so provide a glimpse into our past, such as Wilson Street in Long Gully. Or, they may simply be treed and shady thanks to historic plantings such as at Bridge Street in Bendigo or Marks Street in Quarry Hill.

- Recognise the historic and spatial significance of prominent street patterns in the city's urban structure
- Protect and expand the established street forms and patterns of the rural townships.
- Use appropriate urban design and landscape treatments to reinforce the variety of street. environments, to connect them with their past and to help preserve their sense of place.
- Design future street networks to respond to their setting and unique characteristics.

Actions

- Develop policy guidance to ensure appropriate design responses are applied to historic and distinctive streetscapes
- Identify and protect historic and significant streetscapes with appropriate planning controls













Historic and unusual streetscapes (clockwise from top left): Wilson Street, Long Gully. Marks Street, Quarry Hill. Mackenzie Street, Bendigo

Create a city of shade and filtered light

Bendigo exists within a harsh landscape of dry forest, ephemeral waterways and a history of intensive and widespread mining. The climate can be extreme, with bright sunlight and intense heat for almost half the year.

Colonial settlement of the city introduced a widespread use of deciduous European street trees and of broad verandahs and awnings to make these conditions more bearable. This provided the deep, cooling shade and filtered light which has come to be an important visual and tangible characteristic of the city's public realm today.

With the continuing advance of significant change to our climate, the concept of a city of shade and filtered light will become imperative to its very livability.

- Recognise the importance of shade and filtered light to the enduring image of the city, as well as to its liveability in the face of a more challenging climate.
- Progressively increase the abundance of shade across the public realm by:
 - Expanding the urban forest, especially broad canopy trees in our town centres, public open spaces and streets, with initial priority given to low canopy cover areas in disadvantaged communities
 - » Supporting the reinstatement and upkeep of shop front verandahs and awnings
 - Incorporating prominent, shade-giving structures into all City-owned and/or managed buildings and associated spaces, especially where these interface with public areas
 - » Requiring shade-giving elements trees and structures - to be included in private developments with particular focus on interfaces with public areas
 - » Providing shade for community gathering places, play spaces and the perimeter of sports fields

Actions

• Develop a policy and design framework to guide creation of a city-wide built environment characterised by shade and filtered light











The dark side and the light (clockwise from top left): Bendigo Creek in Rosalind Park. Bendigo Art Gallery and View Street. Chancery Lane. Bendigo library awning. Hargreaves Mall

Retain former mining land as part of the city's public realm

The landscape of the city's urban area, as well as of several rural townships, features scatterings of former mining land which mark the legacy of Bendigo's gold rush.

The complexities and constraints inherent to these sites, including widespread contamination, large-scale mullock heaps and weed infestation, have caused them to remain largely unchanged over time and also to become a de facto form of public open space.

Most sites are informally used, mainly for walking, providing local area connections. They are also beneficial to wildlife. Considering the substantial overall scale of the mining areas, they are very much under-utilised, including from a public space perspective.

The influence of the past mining landscape on the city's character and identity is significant and virtually unique to Bendigo. The highly disturbed terrain and particular vegetation of despoiled mining land is distinctive and instantly recognisable to locals, though perhaps widely regarded as aesthetically unattractive. They also create pockets of openness and undulating ground in the urban area that would not otherwise exist.

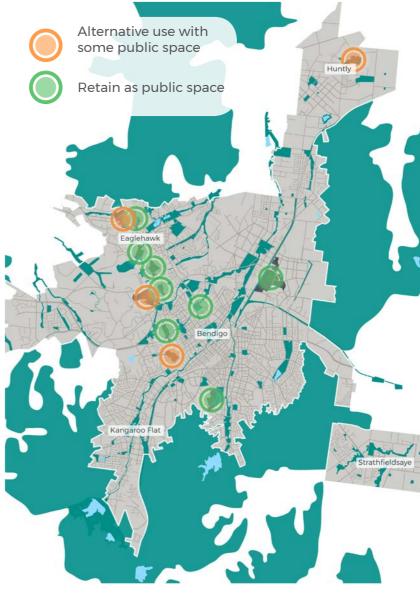
- Recognise the significance of former mining land to the public realm character and identity of Greater Bendigo, in particular the feeling of openness in built-up areas, by strategically retaining elements of this landscape.
- Formalise public access on a significance and safety assessment basis, targeting areas that are or can be well-connected, are or can fully rehabilitated and/or have appropriate cautions.
- Retain areas of public space within mining sites that have been identified for future residential housing development (Murchison, Chum and Dai Gum San).
- Adopt a balanced approach to the treatment and management of former mining land. This should combine elements of natural landscape restoration in line with the goal of indigenous peoples to restore 'Upside Down Country', as well as mining legacy preservation.
- □ Incorporate appropriate explanatory/interpretive information and/or installations which connect visitors with indigenous and European settler perspectives on the Bendigo's mining history, and efforts to both restore/reclaim and preserve mining landscapes.







Examples of mining land and heritage (from top): Victoria Hill, Ironbark. Chum Street, Golden Square. Victoria Mine, Eaglehawk



The public space role of significant mining sites of urban Bendigo

Actions

• Develop a program for the progressive rehabilitation of former mining sites according to the ground conditions and viability of individual sites

Integrate pockets of vegetation and other small public spaces

Small pockets of public space are an understated but important aspect of Greater Bendigo, particularly some residential areas. They include pockets of vegetation that have been preserved amongst housing development and incidental spaces created at street intersections due to unusual street layouts or road closures. These are often unimproved by amenities. Additionally, there are numerous small-scale neighbourhood open spaces, often just the size of a house block or so, that have vegetation and a basic of level of infrastructure such as seating or a playground.

These spaces are highly variable in nature and may variously contribute social, recreational or biodiversity values. They sometimes function as neighbourhood pedestrian links. They are often important to the character and amenity of the urban environment and also add to the valued feeling of openness in developed areas of the city.

Looking ahead, the presence of these small spaces will take on an increasing importance as our population grows and the city becomes more built up.

- Recognise the significance of small spaces in the urban area and rural townships.
- Recognise that variability in the nature of these spaces and their context means that different responses will be required regarding appropriate future use and improvements.
- Retain and enhance targeted pockets of vegetation within urbanised areas to contribute to local amenity and character, and in particular those pockets located in more built up or densely developed housing.
- Identify unimproved public space pockets across the urban area and in rural townships and ensure design integration of these areas as part of wider streetscape improvements over time.
- Actively encourage community participation in and custodianship of these areas.
- Encourage the design of land subdivision and local street networks in developing parts of the city to incorporate small, incidental spaces which add to local amenity and character.



Pockets of vegetation within housing development at Epsom

Actions

 Create an inventory of all vegetated and unimproved public space pockets and corresponding recommendations for their longer term role as public space and for any associated improvements



Pockets of vegetation and footpath link within a space created by a street closure at Don Street, Bendigo

Maintain a mix of exotic and native tree plantings

A distinctive characteristic of Greater Bendigo's landscape is the visual contrast created between the rich and deeper greens of introduced, mostly-European, trees and the subdued tones of native plantings and bushland. The tens of thousands of trees in public spaces - streets and parklands especially - play a very influential role in this character. Exotic trees were first introduced to beautify a landscape scarred by mining and to remind early settlers of their homeland. The mix of European and native plantings that this created has since come to be highly valued by the community.

There are important local area differences within the broader concept of a city-wide mixed vegetation character. For example, Maiden Gully sits within large areas of native bushland and considers itself to be a bush community. A predominance of native plantings is more appropriate here. In Eaglehawk, whilst some European plantings are present in the older areas, native trees have been used much more widely. So a mix, leaning more toward natives is suitable here. A clearer understanding of local vegetation character differences is needed, which can then be recognised and applied through local area plans. The City's *Greening Greater Bendigo* strategy (in development) provides the ideal framework to achieve this.

An important influence on the perception of vegetation character is the extent of tree cover. There are notable differences within and between communities - some places simply have fewer trees in public areas than others. Less planting tends more often to coincide with communities of higher socio-economic disadvantage. Also of increasing influence is the changing climate. Different, more resilient and most crucially, sustainable, tree species will have to be planted to replace others which are currently prominent in the city's image.

- Formalise the concept of a city-wide mix of European and native plantings as part of the city's aesthetic image and character
- Apply the concept at a local level in response to differences in local conditions and characteristics
- Ensure that all plantings are sustainable for the longer term in response to our changing climate, but suited to preserving the contrast of exotic and native vegetation

Actions

• Develop and apply the concept of a city-wide mix of European and native tree plantings in the *Greening Greater Bendigo* strategy











Clockwise from top-left: Formal European street canopy in Bridge Street. Mixed exotic and native street trees at Marong. Mixed exotic and native trees on Rowan Street, View Street and into Rosalind Park. Mixed plantings around Lake Weeroona and remnant native street vegetation on Rathbones Lane, Maiden Gully



Complete the forest edge

- Investigate options to close large gaps in the forest which surrounds and defines the edge of the Bendigo urban area; most notably between Epsom and Huntly, within the band of floodprone land, and north-west of Maiden Gully on the edge of an area that has been identified for future urban development (see Figure 1),
- Consider a range of options to achieve a forest edge in these locations, including:
 - » Creative forms of land development the use of natural landscape features (e.g. creek lines, vegetation pockets and vegetated road reserves), in combination with new public open spaces, areas to create a public, forested landscape.
 - » Reforestation initiatives the potential use of native vegetation offsets generated by vegetation removals in land development across Greater Bendigo and/or community/volunteer-based revegetation programs.
- Ensure that risks associated with bushfire are mitigated by a combination of best-practice urban design and land management in these locations.
- Recognise that completing the forested edge can have a number of important benefits, including defining the extent and limit of urban development, restoring the natural landscape and our connection to it, increasing access to nature and recreation, and creating pathways for the movement of wildlife.



Figure 1. The influence of the forest at the urban edge

^{*}Note: the Greater Bendigo National Park, Bendigo Regional Park and various State Forests are governed principally by legislation including the National Parks Act 1975, Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 and Forest Act 1958, and are managed according to relevant management plans and policies.

Improve and transform the forest interface

Develop a flexible and adaptable suite of measures to locally manage, improve and modify conditions at the interface of the urban area and surrounding forest, in particular the Regional and National Parks which make up the majority of the interface (see Figure 1).

This should have the long term objective - achieved progressively over decades of incremental change - of a more ecologically sustainable, mutually-respectful and safer coexistence of people and housing with the forest landscape.

A broad range of options should be considered to achieve this overall objective, including:

- » Better management/control of public and private access points to the forest management
- » Modified vegetation to reduce fire risk (e.g. selectively located and sustainable planned burns, introduction of lower risk vegetation)
- » Community education in relation to aspects such as forest sensitivities and values,
- The application of planning controls (in addition to the Bushfire Management Overlay, such as the Design and Development Overlay)
- Urban design arrangements to improve the relationship of homes to the forest, namely a mandatory street interface for new urban development, and for appropriate established areas, retrofitting of housing infill and street interface on either the urban or forest side

The type and degree of intervention and change appropriate to any given location and situation will depend on local conditions and characteristics (see Figure 2). This may include the physical terrain, the relative strength of local biodiversity and indigenous values, the nature of the built environment, the expectations, concerns and values of the local community and the relative risk of fire.





Figure 2. Contrasting examples of the urban area-forest interface at Kangaroo Flat (above) and Kennington (below)

- Continue to apply the requirements of the City's Development at the Urban-Forest Interface Policy and introduce policy modifications to reflect more specifically the intent to:
 - » Achieve an active residential housing address with street separation to the forest edge wherever possible
 - » Provide continuous street access along the interface and multiple access/egress options for vehicles (including emergency and maintenance vehicles) and pedestrians
- Ensure that the planning, development and management of areas that interface with the National and Regional Parks is undertaken in close coordination with Parks Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Corporation.

Connect people with the forest

- Create prominent physical connections between residential areas and the forests with the public space corridors network (see Figure 1).
- Identify and highlight a series of main entry points to the National and Regional Parks surrounding the urban area that are tied into the public space corridors network (see Figure 1 and section 2.4). Explore associated options to reflect the connection of Traditional Owners to this Country and also to reflect more recent historic activity and use.
- Restore the Bendigo Bushland Trail as means to experience the forest landscape surrounding urban Bendigo (see section 2.4).
- Continue to promote the forests, their values and their connection with the identity and image of Greater Bendigo.

Proactively manage impacts on the forest fringe

Develop a coordinated, joint management response to a range of major urban area-forest interface issues impacting on the sustainability of the forest landscape. These include the large number of private access points to the National and Regional Parks and other forested public land, the privatisation of public forest by encroachment, rubbish dumping and weed infestation. This should be reflected in management plans and an encroachment management policy.



There are over 55 kilometres of housing/forest interface around urban Bendigo

Mitigate fire risk associated with vegetated public space

□ In appropriate locations and in conjunction with relevant authorities, assess the potential fire risks associated with expansions of vegetated public space, identify appropriate mitigation strategies (e.g. fuelmanaged breaks, modified vegetation) and balance the implementation of these measures against other objectives related to the space/s.

Acknowledge and reinforce the city's forested backdrop

- Recognise the importance of retaining a forested backdrop to built-up areas most notably the perimeter of the urban area and in the Heathcote township as an aesthetic characteristic, and as a means of connecting these areas with their wider landscape setting.
- Use naturally-occurring high points to reinforce the forested backdrop by retaining existing on-site vegetation and with additional revegetation.
- Plan and design existing and new streets to direct and frame views to the forest edges of the city and to other areas of bushland within the urban area (see Figure 3).

Increase the sense of a forest-like tree canopy across the urban area

- Combine a range of strategic opportunities to further strengthen the presence and prominence of an immersive urban area tree canopy, including:
 - » Major parklands
 - The urban street network
 - The network of public space corridors, in particular the creeks and gullies
 - » Areas of former mining land identified for restoration
 - » Select pockets of underutilised open space

Develop the framework and details for this through preparation of the *Greening Greater Bendigo* strategy.



The forested backdrop is a common and distinctive feature of Bendigo's urban landscape



Figure 3. Create viewlines to the forest/bushland

Actions

- Identify options for creating a forested edge and buffer as part of a future structure plan for the Maiden Gully North growth area
- Undertake a review of the urban area forest interface to identify the type and degree of change conditions that are beneficial and feasible in different locations
- Implement identified changes to the *Development* at the *Urban-Forest Interface Policy*
- Design and develop forest entry points that are strategically coordinated with the public space corridors network, Bendigo Bushland Trail and regional trails
- Prepare a framework for extending the forest-like tree canopy cover within the Bendigo urban areas in the *Greening Greater Bendigo* strategy
- Prepare guidelines for the management of private access points to the forest as part of an encroachment management policy



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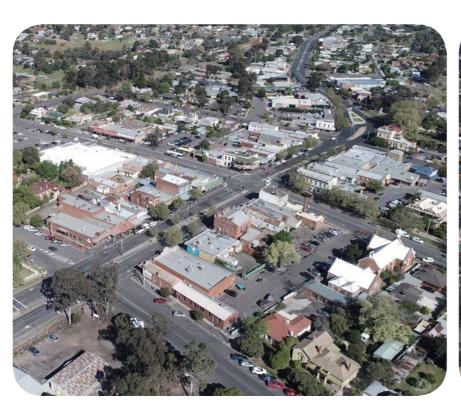
Create centres for people

Our main centres of shopping, business and social life - the city and town centres - are among its most important public places. The needs of both people and vehicles in these environments must be considered, but the experience of other cities has shown that where we place our priorities has a profound effect on the appeal, experience and success of a place.

Centres designed with people as a priority are safer, more comfortable and enjoyable. This translates into positive interactions and more of them; with the place, with businesses and with each other. The products of this are happier, more connected people and increased economic activity. A strong case has been made for the economic benefits of making places better for walking by several local and international studies. These investigations have consistently demonstrated that retailers have a tendency to overrate the importance of car-based customers (and therefore the availability of close, street-based car parking), and conversely, that spending by pedestrians is often significantly greater. Therefore, city and town centre environments that support and invite high levels of pedestrian activity make good sense for business.

In Greater Bendigo, we have a mix of centres, not only location-wise – the Bendigo city centre, several suburban town centres and a number of rural town centres – but also in the range of environments they offer. Some are simply more people-friendly than others. So the kinds of challenges vary across the different centres. Examples include the presence of and relationship with busy arterial roads (e.g. Maiden Gully), disconnection between parts of the same centre (e.g. Strathdale), limited walking access to and of a walkable street network within the centre (e.g. Epsom), dominance by large areas of surface car parking (usually the more modern centres), unclear definition of the centre (e.g. Heathcote), and limited pedestrian amenities.

Some of these challenges are more complex to resolve than others, but all can be progressively addressed with vision, agreed aims across government, private interests and the public, appropriate policy and sufficient investment. A crucial starting point however is for clear initial position and commitment to be stated about the fundamental priorities for town centre environments.



Eaglehawk Town Centre



Strathdale Town Centre

People-friendly centres

Car-focussed centres

- Recognise that all centres within the municipality are amongst our most important public places and that their success depends on prioritising the movement, safety and enjoyment of people walking or cycling, before the needs of vehicles and motorists.
- Recognise that the structure, design, character and quality of the public realm are critical and essential elements of the appeal and social and economic success of all centres.
- Complete planning and design for all centres at a level appropriate to their size and characteristics.
- Identify the extent/edge of all centres as a guide to planning of public space initiatives and works, and to help coordinate land use planning.
- Support the creation of people-focussed centres with a mix of uses and activities.
- Establish a clear, connected and complete street network for each centre to underpin its long term structure and function.
- Reallocate and redesign public space within centres to reflect pedestrian and cycle priority by:
 - Incorporating broad pedestrian footpaths from building line to kerb
 - » Incorporating pedestrian-only zones in suitable areas
 - » Reducing vehicle traffic speeds to levels that minimise risks to pedestrian safety
 - » Optimising the public space function and presence of major street corners with appropriate building and public space design
 - » Reducing the radius of kerbs at street corners to create shorter and safer crossing points for pedestrians
 - » Providing convenient, visually prominent and safe crossing points, in particular at street intersections and mid-block locations
 - » Integrating public transport routes and stops in accessible, high profile locations
 - Integrating car parking in space-efficient ways that do not dominate the town centre environment or restrict public realm walkability and amenity (e.g. adding breaks in strips of on-street parking, minimising large areas of surface parking, consolidating parking provision in multi-deck structures, optimising the provision of parking associated with new in-centre development).

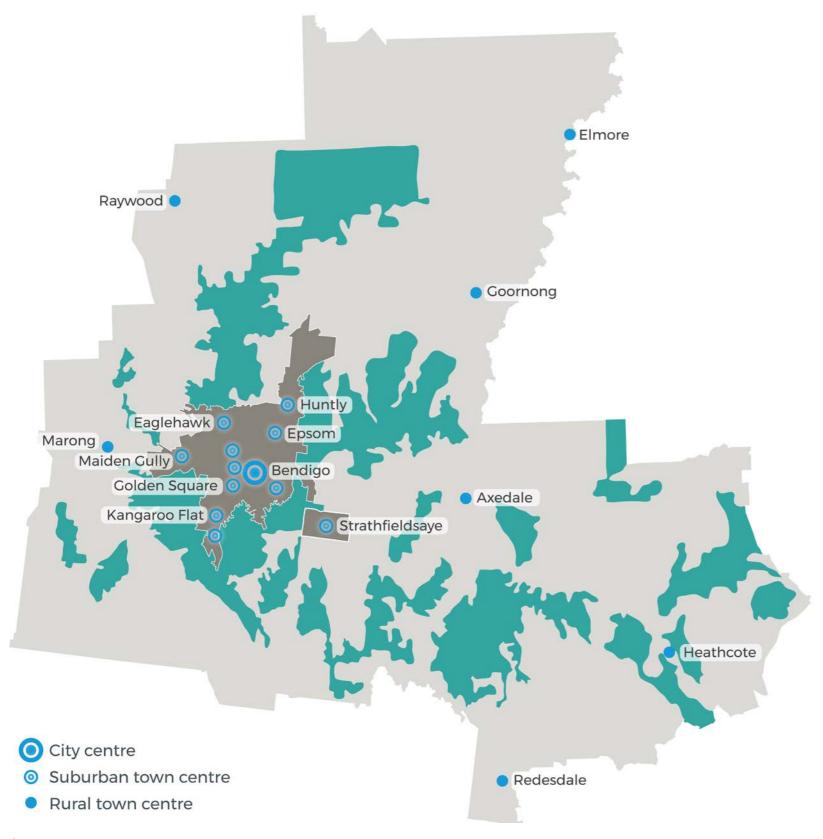


Figure 4. Centres across Greater Bendigo

- ☐ Improve the public realm amenity of all centres by:
 - » Providing continuous shade and weather protection on all streets using a combination of verandahs, awnings, canopies and street trees
 - » Increasing the presence of vegetation and permeable surfaces
 - » Using consistent and high quality materials, furniture and infrastructure

rubbish bins and lighting

» Providing essential amenities such as seating,

- Address relevant strategies of this section of the Public Space Plan as part of the CBD (City Centre) Plan review
- Prepare town centre urban design frameworks (UDFs) that respond to relevant strategies of the Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan*
- Progressively undertake on-ground works to deliver the city centre, suburb centre and town centre public realm concept plans
- Develop a public information and education campaign to promote town centre walkability in the interest of public life, public safety and economic development



^{*} The need for UDFs has been identified for several centres by the Commercial Land and Activity Centre Strategy 2015

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Build walkable neighbourhoods

Many factors influence people's mobility choices and options. For walking and cycling, one of the most influential is the conditions of the public realm. This includes whether public spaces, in particular the street networks, are organised and designed to make getting around on foot or bike attractive, easy and safe. The relative availability of basic amenities like walking paths, trees for shade and beauty, seating to relax or rest, and sufficient street lighting to create a safe environment is highly influential. The presence of wide or busy major roads to cross that are difficult or unsafe to cross can be decisive.

Street-based walkability across Greater Bendigo is very mixed. Some neighbourhoods, or parts of neighbourhoods, seem to have more limitations than others and in different ways. For example, a substantial number of older streets in Eaglehawk lack footpaths altogether and the levels of street tree planting are very mixed. In Maiden Gully, the low density housing areas are also without footpaths and street trees. In Strathdale, footpaths are usually provided on both sides of the street, but right at the kerb edge and with few public street trees. Figure 6 illustrates the different levels of walkability across the city's residential streets using a selection of local examples.

In 2015, the City's Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy introduced the concept of 10-minute neighbourhoods; a planning concept which aims to put people's daily local needs – getting to school, shopping, accessing public transport, visiting a park – within a 10-minute walking distance (around 800m-1km) or bike ride (several kilometres). Realising this concept depends almost solely on the design, infrastructure and amenities of the city's collective public spaces, and in particular our numerous residential streets which are part of every suburb and town of the city.

- Design the city's residential street network to:
 - » Provide a connected and permeable overall structure based on walkable block sizes and which offers multiple alternatives for people to access essential day-to-day destinations
 - Encourage and be functional for active transport (walking and cycling) as well as for cars
 - » Be of sufficient width to accommodate car access/ parking, walking and cycling paths, tree canopies, lighting, drainage and other service infrastructure with minimal conflict
 - » Reflect environmental sustainability principles
 - » Uplift overall residential amenity and character

These aims can be achieved through local variations to the *Infrastructure Design Manual* which sets the infrastructure design and development standards for regional municipalities including the City of Greater Bendigo.

- Support the creation of walkable 10-minute neighbourhoods by progressively improving the planning, design and retrofitting of residential streets to include the following elements as appropriate (several examples of the kinds of design treatments described are shown in Figure 5):
 - » Continuous, constructed and sufficiently-wide footpaths on at least one side of a street and preferably on both sides of a street in built-up areas
 - » Pram ramps located at all intersections and other locations along the streets where required (e.g. bus stops, schools)
 - » Narrowed road pavement width, pedestrian refuges, and/or raised (wombat) crossings at street crossings
 - Local traffic calming (speed humps, chicanes, reduced speed limits) to encourage lower vehicle speeds
 - Reduced areas of excessive road pavement width sufficient to accommodate no more than two traffic lanes and on-street parking either side
 - » Additional shade tree planting on widened verges or in median strips, road pavement cut-outs and along roadside swales
 - » Kerb build-outs to accommodate larger-sized street tree plantings (without heavy pruning) in locations with overhead powerlines
 - » High-albedo materials and finishes to reduce heat build-up
 - » Seating in accessible, high profile and shaded locations
 - » An appropriate level of street lighting for all users beneath the tree canopy

» End-of-trip facilities in public places to support active transport such as secure bike parking

Special design will be needed in narrower streets (i.e. in growth areas and infill locations) and in road reserves occupied by private gardens (e.g. Strathdale), as well as in locations with informal streetscapes.

- Develop a targeted program of infrastructure provision and upgrades at major physical barriers in the overall walking and cycling network (e.g. arterial roads, large roundabouts) focussing on the public space corridor connections (see also section 2.4).
- Support safe walking access to schools by progressively modifying and improving the public space design of streets around education sites (primary and secondary schools, and the University) to create environments which prioritise people safety and amenity, including integration of public transport and car-based pick-up / drop-off.

- Develop Greater Bendigo standards for the design of the city's residential streets to improve walkability
- Develop a program of prioritised infrastructure upgrades to overcome major barriers to walkability







More walkable Less walkable

Figure 5. Spectrum of walkability in residential streets based on a selection of local examples (from left: Mundy Street in Bendigo, Magpie Street in North Bendigo, Butcher Street in Strathdale and Fry Street in Eaglehawk)



Wide street with treed median and verges at Story Street, Parkville

Figure 6. Examples of design modifications for residential

streets that improve amenity and walkability

Street narrowing with wombat crossing at Eyre Street, Ballarat





Pedestrian refuge / splitter island at Brisbane Street, Berwick



Connect communities with a network of public space corridors

- Evolve the planning and design of the paths and trails network into a holistic, integrated and place-based, 'public space corridors' approach (see Figure 7).
- Strategically combine different kinds of public space to create the corridors network (see Figures 8 & 9).
- Apply the following principles to guide the planning and design of the public space corridors network:
 - » Join up the city's communities and key destinations (schools, shops, etc) throughout them
 - » Make the corridors multi-functional (e.g. getting around, recreation and exercise, biodiversity, sense of place)
 - » Improve the equity of public space access across communities
 - » Connect people with each other and with nature
 - » Provide the best, easiest and safest option for getting around (active travel)
 - » Prioritise pedestrians and people through design
 - » Provide a level of service above conventional standards
 - » Create visually prominent corridors through the urban landscape that are instinctive to navigate
 - » Provide a strategic focus for public space infrastructure and amenity investments
 - » Recognise that the design of public spaces making up the network, in particular that of streets will need to be different to the norm and in some situations transformative (see Figure 10 & Appendix 1)
- Design road crossings which form part of the network to incorporate pedestrian and cycle access. An appropriate level of priority and separation should be applied depending on the type of road (see Figure 11 & Appendix 1).
- Focus interest and activity along the public space corridors, in particular the waterways and gullies, by incorporating pockets of public open space for passive and active use. The Bendigo Creek corridor is our most historic example of this principle, which can also be applied to other corridors across the city.

Actions

• Progress the public space corridor network, including its structure and the conceptual design of individual sections of the network, through a process of field investigations, community consultation and internal review, as part of the Walking and Cycling Strategy.

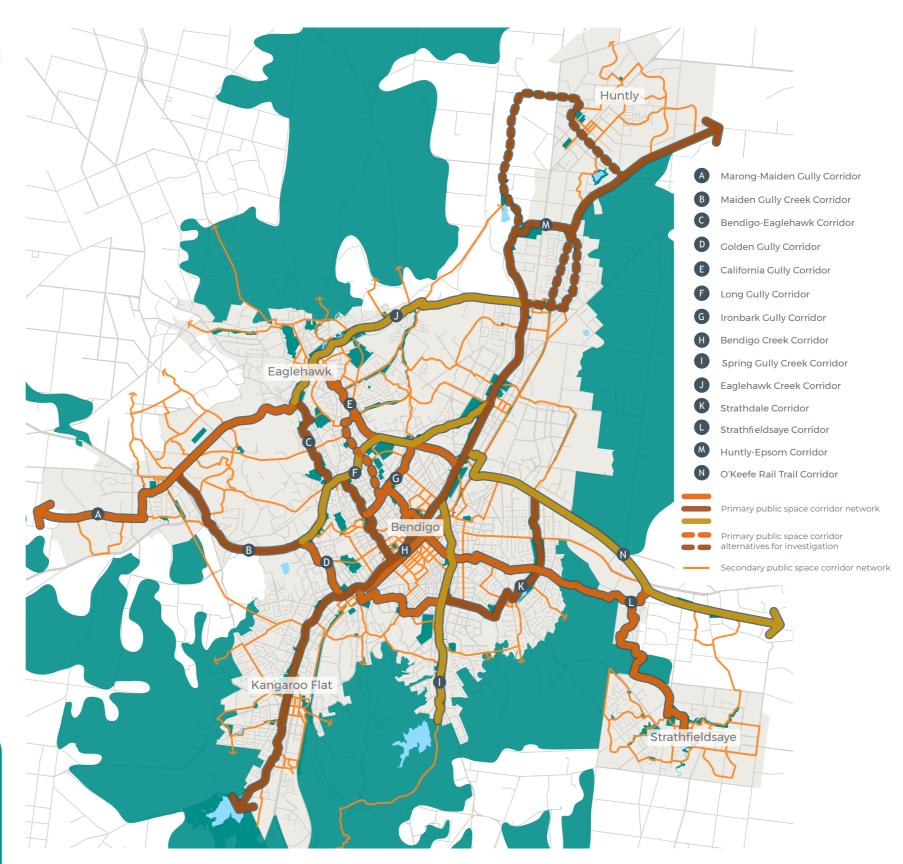


Figure 7. The network of primary and secondary public space corridors across Bendigo's urban area

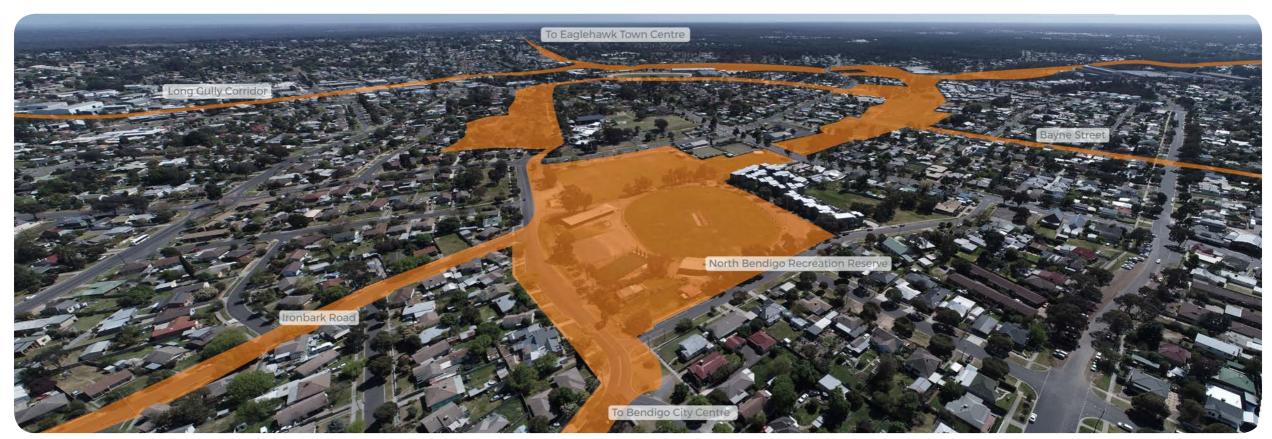


Figure 8. Example of part of the public space corridors network in North Bendigo, including the Ironbark Gully corridor (foreground)



Figure 9. Plan view of the same section of corridor illustrating how different types of public space are combined



Figure 10. Spectrum of potential street-based public space corridor design change

Modest change Transformative change

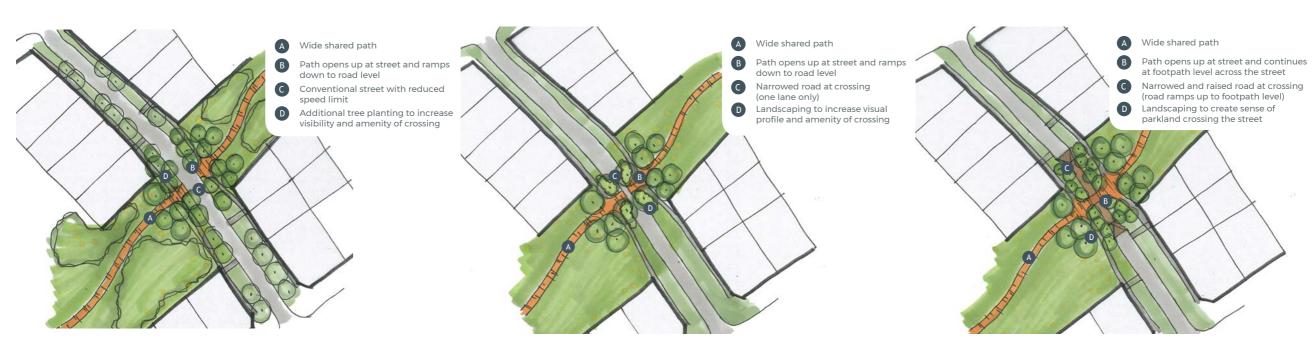


Figure 11. Spectrum of potential road crossing design treatments within a public space corridor

Develop the Bendigo Creek as the city's primary public space spine

Bendigo Creek's more traditional role as an urbanised waterway and storm water drain is shifting as its larger potential as part of a growing regional city is realised. The *Greater Bendigo Environment Strategy 2016-2021* recommends restoring the creek as a natural waterway and community asset as one of several flagship projects. With thoughtful direction, the creek corridor can become one of the city's most iconic and unique public spaces.

Amongst its many qualities, two are of particular significance. The first is the creek's geographic position and influence. By connecting the urban area from north to south over a distance of more than 18 kilometres, the creek falls within the reach of a large catchment covering at least one third of the city's urban population.

The second is the diversity of interests, purpose and meaning attached to the creek. It is different things to different people: a connection to the natural landscape of the past and the associated indigenous significance of the creek as gathering place; a marker of Bendigo's gold rush era, a haven for nature, a place of retreat and relaxation, a means of getting from one place to another, a space for recreation and much more. All of these aspects can and should influence our thinking about the future of the creek environs.

From a public space planning perspective, the Bendigo Creek is envisaged as the 'main spine' of the urban public space corridors network, and within this there are three key areas of focus.

Strengthen creek connections

The simple notion of connection is perhaps the Bendigo Creek's greatest inherent strength, though one that is only beginning to be fully recognised (see Figure 12). The first aim must be to complete a continuous pedestrian and cycling connection as part of the Bendigo Creek corridor between Kangaroo Flat and Epsom. This will involve using a combination of creekside pathways and promenades, as well as in-creek pathways for limited sections. There are two important 'missing links' to complete the overall creek connection. The most crucial is the 3.5 kilometre channelised stretch between Golden Square and North Bendigo. The second occurs north of Howard Street, Epsom toward the Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve. At this point, the corridor is proposed to 'break off' from Bendigo Creek, heading eastward and then northward along the railway, as the preferred main connection into Huntly. A continuation of the pathway should still be carried further along Bendigo Creek as far as the proposed regional wetlands (see section 3.3 and Huntly Precinct Plan).

Pedestrian priority is an important principle for the overall connection. This can be achieved through a combination of underpasses at major roads and safe, high-profile priority crossings of other intersecting streets.

As the main central spine of the proposed public space corridors network, Bendigo Creek ties into a substantial number of primary and secondary corridors. This includes almost a dozen creek tributaries, such as Back Creek, and various street-based and railway-based corridor connections. These are important opportunities to strengthen strategically significant links to and from surrounding communities and to reinforce the creek as the spine. There are also opportunities to increase transport and access options by integrating public transport stops (tram or bus) in close proximity.

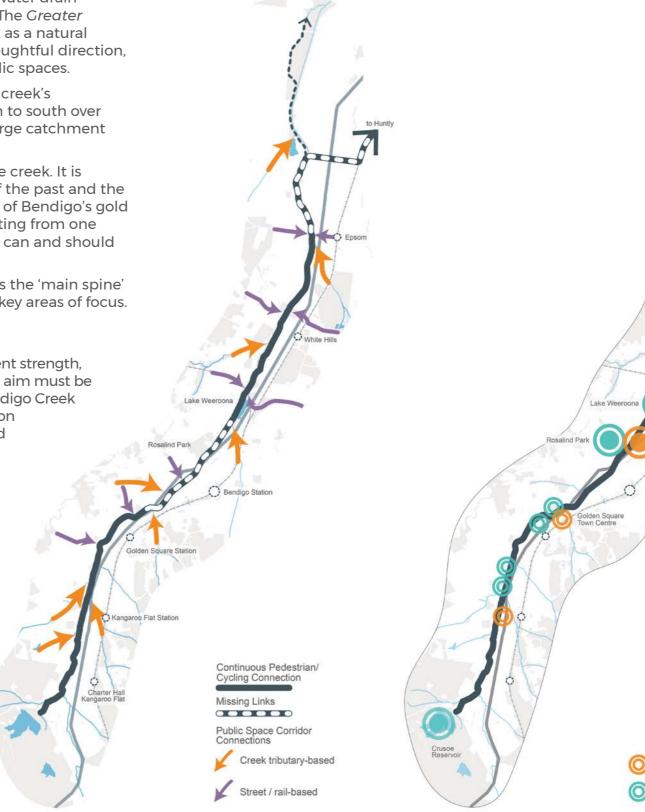


Figure 12. Places along the Bendigo Creek

Figure 13. Connections to/from the Bendigo Creek

City centre / suburban

town centre setting

Parkland setting

Integrate settings and place

Along its length, the creek corridor transitions through a range of different settings; among them, four of the city's six major parklands, two suburban town centres and the Bendigo City Centre itself. There are also several cultural attractions and numerous schools. These should be regarded not only as markers of a journey but also as significant opportunities to integrate places wherever possible (see Figure 13).

The Bendigo Botanic Gardens is possibly the most outstanding example of what can be accomplished. Elsewhere, such as at Rosalind Park and Lake Weeroona, the creek passes through these spaces but can feel somewhat detached from them. In other locations still, there is little to no relationship with the creek, though great potential exists to create one; for example, the Central Deborah Gold Mine, Londonderry Reserve, the Golden Square Oval and Swimming Pool, and the Kangaroo Flat Town Centre. In all of these situations and elsewhere, there are opportunities to strengthen the physical and functional relationship, and the sense of place, through public space design.

The sections of creekline in-between these major public settings should also not be overlooked. They are made up mostly of residential housing areas which are usually turned away from the creek. Although there are access-related constraints, gradual redevelopment occurring in these areas over many decades should be planned to ensure that new homes and businesses are oriented to create a creek-facing appearance.

Reinforce changes in character

The character of the creek landscape itself is a shifting and contrasting one, reflecting environmental and societal change over a long period of time (see Figure 14). There are stretches of relatively informal creekline that appear naturalistic but have been substantially modified, heavily modified stretches of concrete channelling, the historically significant bluestone and sandstone-lined channel through the centre of Bendigo and even the dark, enclosed tunnel space beneath Charing Cross. The changing character of the creek is a strength; one which should be appropriately revealed and reinforced. At the same time, consideration must also be given to factors which may alter aspects of that character, but bring more significant benefits. An example of this would be the naturalisation of heavily engineered stretches of the creek to improve water flows, biodiversity and the overall landscape setting and experience, as well as to protect adjoining properties from flooding. Additionally, there are significant European and indigenous heritage values at different points along the creek which must be respected, protected and highlighted.

Actions

 Implement Flagship project 4: A shared vision for restoring Bendigo Creek of the Greater Bendigo Environment Strategy 2016-21

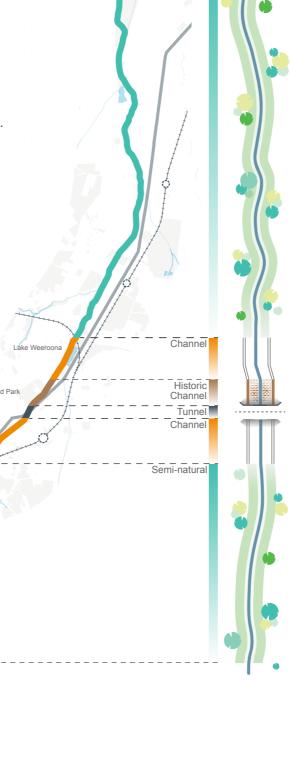


Figure 14. Character transitions along the Bendigo Creek



Semi-natural (partly modified) creekline at North Bendigo



Concrete channel alongside Lake Weeroona



Historic sandstone and bluestone channel within Rosalind Park

Expand our regional trail connections

- Support and increase the range of cross-municipality and regional trail connections to encourage local recreation, tourism and environmental exploration and enjoyment.
- Strategically link regional trails with the public space corridors network.
- Ensure that trails are designed to optimise their usefulness and sustainability and to minimise local impacts on the landscape and biodivrsity.

Reinstate the Bendigo Bushland Trail

- Reinstate and complete a connected recreation trail taking in areas of public land, especially the forests, surrounding the urban area to provide a unique opportunity to access, explore and experience Greater Bendigo's bushland setting. Investigate potential extensions and re-routing of the trail to avoid current and future built-up areas and preserve the experience of largely undeveloped, natural settings.
- Develop trail infrastructure that is suitablyscaled and designed for a natural bush setting.
- Develop trailheads that are prominently connected at strategic convergence points with the regional trails and elected public space corridors of the Bendigo urban area.
- Recognise the importance of continuing to collaborate in the planning for, and invest in, regional trails as a regional recreational resource and attraction (see Figure 15).





Extend the O'Keefe Rail Trail

■ Expand on the success of the O'Keefe Rail Trail as a regional trail connection between Bendigo's urban area and eastern rural communities by pursuing its further extension beyond the municipality from Heathcote to Kilmore, via Tooborac. The Mitchell Shire and State Government will be essential partners in this initiative.

Maintain the Bendigo Goldfields Track

Continue to maintain and promote the Bendigo Goldfields Track as an important regional recreation trail for exploring the landscape and history of the Goldfields region, and coordinate with other regional municipalities in its broader management and improvement.

Progress the Goldfields to Murray Trail

■ Work with Shire of Campaspe and the State Government to progress previous investigations to create a northern regional trail from Huntly through to Goornong and Elmore, and ultimately to Echuca, via Rochester*.







Clockwise from top left: The O'Keefe Rail Trail near Heathcote. Potential location for part of a new northern trail through Goornong.. The Goldfields Track.

- Support the extension of the O'Keefe Rail Trail from Heathcote to Kilmore
- Progressively improve the standard of the Goldfields Track
- Investigate options to create a new northern trail from Huntly to Echuca
- Pursue recognition of the O'Keefe Rail Trail and proposed northern trail in the State Government's Victoria's Trails Strategy
- Continue to promote the regional trails

^{*}A 2009 study identified that the trail was not feasible at the time, however that development of a long-distance trail is feasible as a combination of local area loops.



Adopt a quality-focussed planning approach to the provision of public open space

- Acknowledge that the quantity of public open spaces, both city-wide and within individual communities or precincts, currently exceeds all accepted local and international standards*, with the exception of the city's growth areas where local area planning (Structure Plans) is in place to guide the addition of new public open spaces.
- Recognise that the large overall quantity of public open spaces available means that:
 - » All spaces cannot be treated equally in terms of investment in planning, design, infrastructure and amenities provision and maintenance.
 - » Some spaces will have a greater importance and benefit in the present and/or future than others.
 - » A more targeted and strategic approach to investment to achieve the intended focus on quality.
- Target and prioritise public space investment to identified 'key public open spaces' (see Figure 16 and Part 4 Precinct Plans). The key public open spaces:
 - » Are linked to the major strategies of the Public Space Plan
 - » Include proposed public open space to be created in the future.
 - Work together to form a joined-up, diverse, sustainable and quality public open space system, city-wide and within each precinct,
 - » Aim to collectively maximise community access to quality public space.
 - » Are usually Suburb/Township level or above within the public open space hierarchy (see Figure 17).
 - » May in some cases warrant further review, including community input.
- Recognise that 'other public open spaces' (those not identified as key public open spaces) remain important and have a current or longer term role or purpose as public open space. However, they are generally not to be prioritised for significant additional investment.

Optimise public open space quality with planning and design standards

Apply criteria-based standards for new public open spaces (see Appendix 2).

Create new public spaces to increase overall public space diversity

- □ Integrate public squares/urban plazas into the city's various suburban town centres.
- Recognise the importance of existing and proposed railway stations associated with the Bendigo Metro Rail as civic facilities and public places, and incorporate dedicated pedestrian access and a prominent, pedestrian-focussed public plaza/meeting spaces in association with station buildings.

Figure 16. Map highlighting key public open spaces in the urban area

Key public open space Other public open space Urban area

^{*} The most generous international standard for open space provision identified is 4.05 Hectares per 1000 people (National Recreation and Parks Association, USA)

Use the public open space hierarchy as a guiding strategic planning framework

- Apply a public open space hierarchy as a broad guide for strategic planning and for site planning, design and management (see Figure 17).
- Apply the hierarchy to public open spaces only due to limitations in its application to other forms of public space.
- Improve the consistency of strategic planning and decision-making by adapting the public open space hierarchy to:
 - The hierarchy for organised sports space planning (see section 3.5)
 - The hierarchy for play space planning (see section 3.6)

Preserve and reinforce the functions and values of individual public open spaces.

- Ensure proposed uses or development within a public open space is compatible with identified key functions and values (see Part 4 Precinct Plans Precinct strategy details).
- Avoid or otherwise minimise impacts on significant public land values on Crown land that have been identified and/or protected.

Strategically and consistently provide public space amenities, facilities and infrastructure

- Use the public space hierarchy as a guide to determine the kinds of amenities, facilities and infrastructure to be provided within individual public spaces (see Appendix 3. Amenities, Facilities and Infrastructure Framework).
- Recognise that the structured nature of the hierarchy, together with the highly diverse and variable nature of our public spaces will create the need for exceptions in certain situations.

Strategically and consistently maintain public spaces

■ Use the public space hierarchy to inform the City's standards and policy for public space maintenance.

Actions

 Review the City's current standards of service to recognise and appropriately align with the public open space hierarchy



Description

These spaces attract broadbased visitation from a catchment that ranges from across the state to interstate, including City of Greater Bendigo residents.

They are usually of high uniqueness or significance connected variously with sports and recreation, cultural heritage, conservation, landscape or other special values.

Catchment indicator

Potentially Australia-wide.

Examples

- » Greater Bendigo National Park (shown below)
- » White Hills Chinese Diggings Historic Reserve
- » Bendigo Tennis Centre



Figure 17. Public open space hierarchy



Description

These spaces attract broad-based visitation from across a wide region around Bendigo itself, as well as from City of Greater Bendigo residents.

They tend to have a significance connected with sports and recreation, cultural heritage, tourism, conservation, landscape or other special values.

Most regional public spaces occupy strategically important and highly accessible locations.

Catchment indicator

Regional travel by car of approximately 2-3 hours.

Examples

- » Rosalind Park
- » Bendigo Creek corridor
- » Chinese Precinct
- » Pall Mall / Charing Cross
- » Lake Eppalock (shown below)
- Heathcote-Graytown National Park
- » Bendigo Botanic Gardens





Description

These spaces attract visitation primarily from residents across the City of Greater Bendigo.

These spaces tend to occupy strategically important and highly accessible locations, and are more often found within or close to the Bendigo urban area. They are unique in the experience and service that they offer within Greater Bendigo.

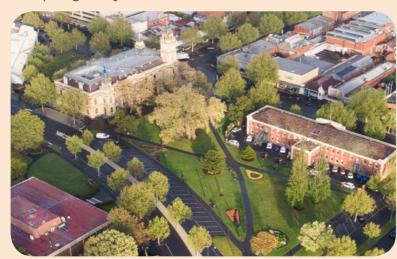
Catchment indicator

Up to a 10km travel distance (around 15-minutes average driving time) for residents of urban Bendigo. For residents of rural areas, travel distances will be significantly larger.

Access to Regional-ranked public spaces must also be accounted for in assessing access to Municipal spaces.

Examples

- » Civic Gardens / Library Gardens (shown below)
- » Canterbury Park
- » Harcourt Dog Park
- » Gateway Park / Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre
- Kennington Reservoir / Strathdale Park
- Spring Gully Creek Reserve





These spaces support the open space needs of whole communities, whether a suburb of urban Bendigo or a rural township. They are likely also be used by residents of surrounding areas (i.e. a wider district).

Catchment indicator

Up to a 2km travel distance (around a 25-minutes average walking time) for residents within a particular suburb or township.

Examples

- » Barrack Reserve. Heathcote
- » Campaspe Run, Elmore
- » Kangaroo Flat Botanical Gardens
- » Malone Park, Marong (shown below)
- » Morshead Park, Raywood
- Redesdale Public Hall and Recreation Reserve





NEIGHBOURHOOD

Description

Spaces which are intended primarily for local area use by residents within close walking distance. Within the urban area, they often occur as smaller-scale open spaces and as local links.

Catchment indicator

Up to a 500m travel distance (around 6-minutes average walking time) for residents of urban Bendigo and residents of rural townships.

Access to Suburb- or Township-ranked spaces must also be accounted for in assessing access to Neighbourhood spaces.

Examples

- » Magellan Crescent, Kangaroo Flat (shown below)
- Oasis Gardens Reserve, Spring Gully
- » Manning Reserve, Junortoun
- Brentwood Boulevard Reserve, Strathfieldsaye
- » Manchester Arms Corner, Long Gully
- Doc Smith Swamp, Huntly
- Holly Street Reserve, Golden Square









Promote public spaces as part of the identity and experience of Greater Bendigo

☐ Continue to promote the strengths of the city's various higher profile (generally State, Regional and Municipal level) public spaces, the diversity of public space experiences available to visitors and the overall unique character and identity of the collective public realm. This promotion has various dimensions, including local awareness, tourist-based visitation and attracting new residents and businesses to the city, all of which contribute to more active and vibrant public spaces.

Apply a placemaking philosophy and approach

- Adopt an approach to placemaking which recognises the importance of connecting people with public spaces and creating meaningful places.
- Continue to support delivery of place management functions within the City's organisational structure.

Encourage community involvement in public space

■ Support appropriate, targeted, purposeful and well-managed community-based public space initiatives (e.g. community gardens, small-scale public space upgrades, tree planting and landscaping, maintenance and clean-up days) to improve neighbourhoods and strengthen community connection. These community-led initiatives should be viewed as a complement to traditional public space by the City and other government agencies.

Support major events in the right public spaces

- Recognise that Municipal and Regional level public spaces are generally the most appropriate locations for the staging of major events.
- Recognise that smaller, local events can potentially be held in Suburb or Township level public spaces, and that larger organised sports spaces in particular are suited to this purpose if appropriately planned and equipped.
- Achieve a more balanced spread of events support capability and increase the local and visitor profile of other spaces by:
 - » Formalising the identification of public spaces across the municipality to support major events.
 - » Planning and carrying out essential infrastructure and amenity improvements as required.
 - » Promoting the suitability of these spaces.

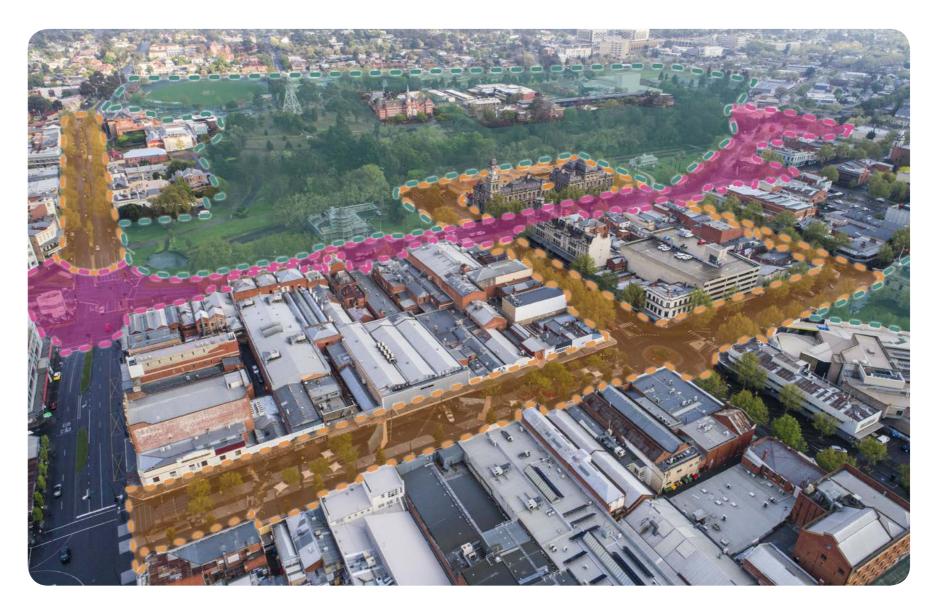


Figure 18. Proposed events enabled zone incorporating various city centre public spaces

Investigate the setting up of an events-enabled precinct or zone within the City Centre, in recognition of its primary role and attraction for events (see Figure 18). The precinct should incorporate a series of central, connected spaces, potentially including Rosalind Park, Charing Cross, View Street, Pall Mall, Bull Street, and the Civic/Library Gardens. A holistic planning approach is required which addresses not only infrastructure and space requirements to support events but also the everyday function and presentation of these spaces.



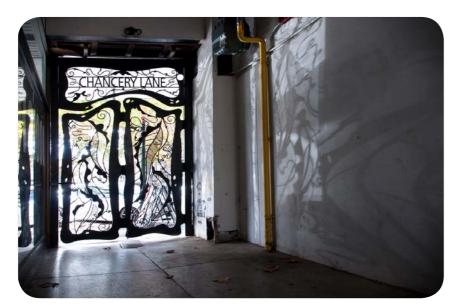
Potential civic, ceremonial and major events corridor



Supporting events-enabled grid of streets



Events-enabled open space



Ornate gateway artwork at Chancery Lane, Bendigo



- Support the continued use of our public spaces as the primary platform to use public art to create interest, meaning and connection with these spaces.
- Develop and maintain a strategic approach to the siting of permanent, commissioned art installations. This should be focussed primarily on public spaces:
 - Within the City Centre, as the most central, accessible and active area of the municipality
 - In targeted urban and rural locations where the space is a high profile, active location that is frequently used, and/or where the space is closely connected with the identity and image of a community
- □ Increase capacity for public art delivery with a dedicated capital works funding program or an allowance for the commissioning of associated, public art attached to major public space and civic projects undertaken by the City
- Support developer-funded art installations associated with residential and commercial land developments subject to meeting agreed requirements. Develop policy guidelines for determining the suitability of such installations and for the assessment process.
- Advocate for and support the commissioning of public art in association with our National and Regional Parks, recognising their natural values and indigenous connections. Installations could potentially mark the several proposed entry points to the parks (see section 2.2).



Community garden at Lochiel Park, Campbelltown, South Australia

Provide support for community-based urban agriculture

- Recognise the importance of opening opportunities for community-based food production in public spaces as a means to improve community health, wellbeing and local food security, as well as to encourage community custodianship of the public space.
- Support the establishment of resident- and/or community-managed street verge gardens as a means of food production and amenity improvements to residential streetscapes.
- Develop, promote and apply a streamlined and clear pathway through City approvals for community-based urban agriculture initiatives.
- Continue to incorporate food production into the permanent design and management of selected, higher profile public spaces such as the Bendigo Botanic Gardens, as demonstration and leadership projects to promote food production in the public landscape.



A simple, colourful pop-up park at Garema Place, Canberra

Use the 'Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper' concept

- Encourage simple, temporary, low cost initiatives to promote community interest and engagement with public spaces, and add life to these spaces, especially within the City and town centres.
- Develop coordinated programs of temporary interventions in high profile, targeted public spaces that would benefit from structured activation (e.g. Hargreaves Mall).



On-street activity on View Street, Bendigo

Commercial activation of public space

- Encourage private businesses to contribute to activating appropriate areas of public space, especially major parklands and the streets of the city and town centres. This includes:
 - » Engaging commercial presentation and shopfront displays
 - » On-street presence and activity
 - » Retail kiosks
 - » Operation of commercial businesses from relocatable vehicles or trailers and temporary 'pop-ups'
- Ensure that commercial activity within public open spaces is context-sensitive, compatible with the functions of the space. and in line with the City's community health and wellbeing goals. In spaces of particular significance or sensitivity, commercial activity may be inappropriate (e.g. National and Regional Parks)

Activate public space edges

Ensure that all forms of development around a public space are designed to overlook and engage with that space in a way that is appropriate to the setting and situation.

Co-locate activities

Approach the planning and design of public spaces – especially those within or in close proximity to the city centre and other centres – in a way that brings together multiple, different but related, functions to encourage activity and interaction and reasons to come back.



Essential amenities well-provided for at the Library Gardens in Bendigo

Create inclusive public space environments that can be enjoyed by all

Adopt universal access principles for the planning and design of our public spaces by consistently applying the Australian Government's Accessibility Design Guide.

Provide essential amenities to invite community use

- Incorporate seating, shade and walking paths into public spaces in a way that is appropriate to the setting and as a means of uplifting the overall level of public space quality, attraction and use.
- Improve access to public toilets by implementing the recommendations of the City's Public Toilet Strategy 2017.

- Identify priority public spaces for activation and develop and progressively implement a plan of supporting infrastructure improvements
- Develop and promote a policy for communitybased public space initiatives
- Prepare urban agriculture guidelines to support community-based food production in public spaces
- Develop a policy for the operation of commercial businesses from re-locatable vehicles or trailers within public space.



Recognise the value of 'blue and green' in public spaces

- Continue to support the sustainable use of water in public spaces - for irrigation and for water bodies and features

 in recognition of the important community health and recreation benefits that this investment provides.
- Aspire to realising Greater Bendigo as a 'greened City' through locally-responsive, sustainable and leading practise water strategy and water use practices.

Ensure integrated water management and planning

■ Ensure that public space water management issues are addressed as an integral dimension of wider strategic water management taking place across all levels of government, in particular Greater Bendigo's present endeavours to transition to a more water sensitive city. Some key areas of consideration include the priorities of the Water for Victoria strategy, the Regional Integrated Water Management Forum, Coliban Water, North Central Catchment Management Authority and the outcomes from the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities Bendigo Project.

Prioritise targeted public space water access and use

- □ Incorporate the following public space elements into the *Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan* to be developed under the *Environment Strategy 2016-2021*:
 - » Identification of priority public spaces for irrigation water supply based on agreed criteria (which may include being a key public space as identified in the Public Space Plan, a hierarchy ranking of State/ National, Regional or Municipal, co-location with the public space corridors network, supporting a high water-need function such as organised sport)
 - » Identification of priority public spaces for maintaining and providing water features or bodies (see Figure 19 which provides a starting point for reviewing this).
- Increase the number of splash parks across the city as a water-efficient and cost-effective alternative to swimming pools which also support community recreation and connection.
- In spaces without water elements, consider incorporating design elements which suggest the presence of water, such as swales, oasis-style shady plantings, reflective or translucent finishes, and the use of cool colours.

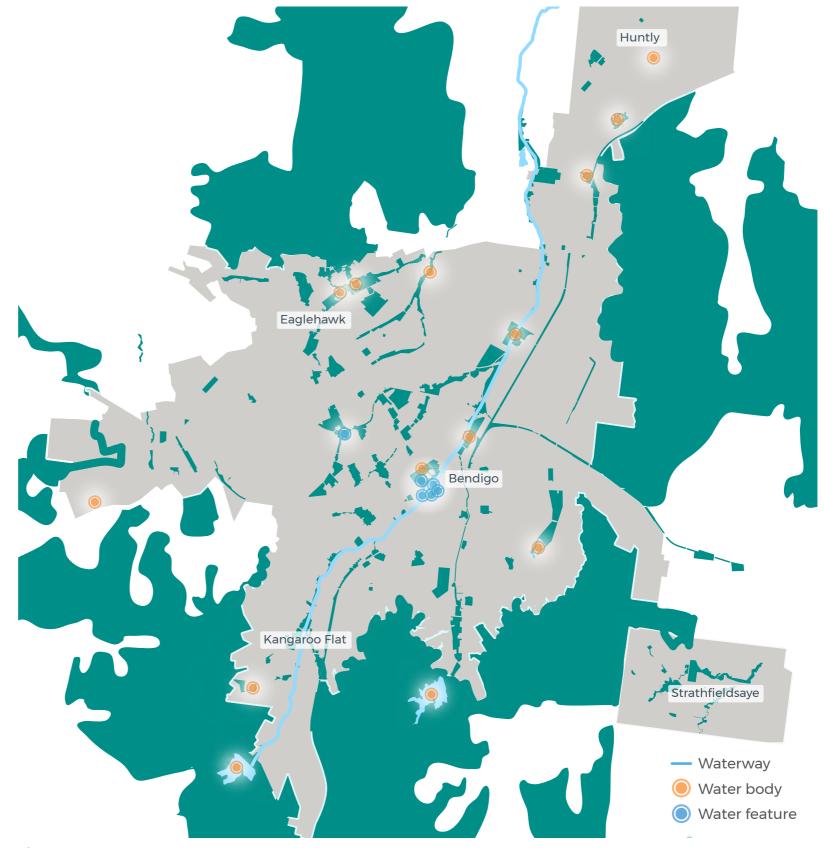


Figure 19. Existing and proposed waterways, waterbodies and water features

Further increase our use of non-potable water resources

- Progressively work toward a condition of using diverse, fit-for-purpose water resources to irrigate public spaces with an irrigation requirement. Sources of water may include groundwater, storm water, raw water and recycled water.
- Coordinate the planning and delivery of the recycled water network by Coliban Water with public space locations strategically identified for irrigation water supply.
- Investigate options for new and retrofitted storm water system design to support localised irrigation of public spaces. Identify pilot project opportunities to trial and progress the initiative.

Adopt and promote efficient water use

- Incorporate water sensitive urban design (WSUD) initiatives into major, high-profile public spaces

 parklands and streetscapes as leadership and awareness initiatives.
- ☐ Continue to expand use of drought-tolerant and low wateruse plantings and grasses for lawns and playing surfaces.

Integrate drainage design with public spaces

- Undertake strategic planning to optimise the number and size of retarding basins within developing residential areas and coordinate with the site planning of public spaces.
- Ensure that all substantial retarding basins are integrated as part of a larger, useable public space and are enhanced with habitat and biofiltration.
- Design overland flow paths/drainage reserves to support local area walkability and safety by including wide easements, shade trees and a walking path where a connection is needed.

Make passive street tree watering standard practice

- Support the growth of the urban forest by designing new and retrofitted public streets to incorporate passive storm water irrigation of street trees.
- Develop a local passive tree watering standard, based on proven practice, to be consistently applied by the City in its civil design, and required to be followed by private developers. This may include a combination of permeable pavement design, raingardens and modified storm water entry pits.



High quality and integrated stormwater treatment design at Epsom



Passive tree watering design at Docklands, Melbourne

Create a green oasis in every suburb and town

■ Provide at least one substantial public space, or area within a larger public space, in each community (suburb or town), which provides a cool, green place of retreat year-round. The preferred locations should be agreed through community involvement and field investigations, including confirmation of reliable and affordable water supply.

Secure the creek and gully (waterway) corridors

■ Ensure that buffers each side of the waterway line are allocated and sufficiently wide to accommodate projected flooding, sustain the riparian zone, incorporate remnant vegetation, maintain buffers to development and protect cultural heritage. The established but informal guideline of a minimum 30 metre buffer each side of a waterway should be formalised as a policy and subject to reduction only by mutual agreement of the Crown land owner/manager and the North Central Catchment Management Authority. The buffer width should be increased as required.

Improve our rural waterways and waterbodies

Continue to support the improvement of waterways that are vital to the identity, economy and local ecology of rural townships, including the Campaspe River, Axe Creek, Lake Eppalock, McIvor Creek and Bullock Creek.

Value-add to irrigated organised sports spaces

Optimise the community benefit of irrigated sports fields by maintaining general public access and by the targeted extension of irrigation to improve the appeal of adjacent passive spaces.

Increase access to drinking water in public spaces

Introduce drinking water fountains/water bottle refill stations in targeted public spaces, guided by the public space hierarchy, user demand and water supply options.



Greater Bendigo's main rural waterway - the Campaspe River (shown here at Elmore)

- Develop the Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan under the *Greater Bendigo Environment* Strategy 2016-21
- Develop a strategic plan for splash park facilities as part of the Greater Bendigo Aquatic Facilities Strategy 2010 review
- Prepare a local standard for passive street tree irrigation
- Prepare a local policy for drinking water fountains/ water bottle refill stations in public spaces



Retain public spaces that are dedicated to biodiversity

- Continue to recognise and strengthen the contribution of natural reserves to a city-wide and regional conservation effort.
- Recognise that some of the municipality's public spaces exist primarily for the purpose of conserving biodiversity and that other functions and values are secondary to this purpose. These spaces, which occur as part of both the urban and rural landscapes of the municipality, should be clearly identified to ensure appropriate planning and management (including of interfacing areas and uses) to protect and enhance biodiversity values (see Figure 20 which provides a potential starting point for this).
- Continue to recognise, protect and promote the biodiversity and heritage values associated with the city's National and Regional Parks.

Secure sustainable conservation spaces

- Ensure that remnant vegetation within areas identified for future growth of housing and population is identified and suitably integrated and protected in order to sustainably support biodiversity values.
- Advocate for the retention by State Government of parcels of surplus Crown land with high biodiversity values and if required consider acquisition as part of the City's system of natural reserves.

Protect and enhance areas of remnant vegetation

- Retain, enhance and manage existing pockets of remnant vegetation within built-up areas to help ensure the City achieves a gain (no net loss) of native vegetation in a climate of continuing losses.
- In growth areas, consider the potential to group pockets of remnant vegetation into a single site which can be further revegetated and managed to achieve higher biodiversity values.
- Acknowledge the biodiversity limitations of existing small pockets of remnant vegetation within the urban area. Management of these sites should focus on their amenity and character function.

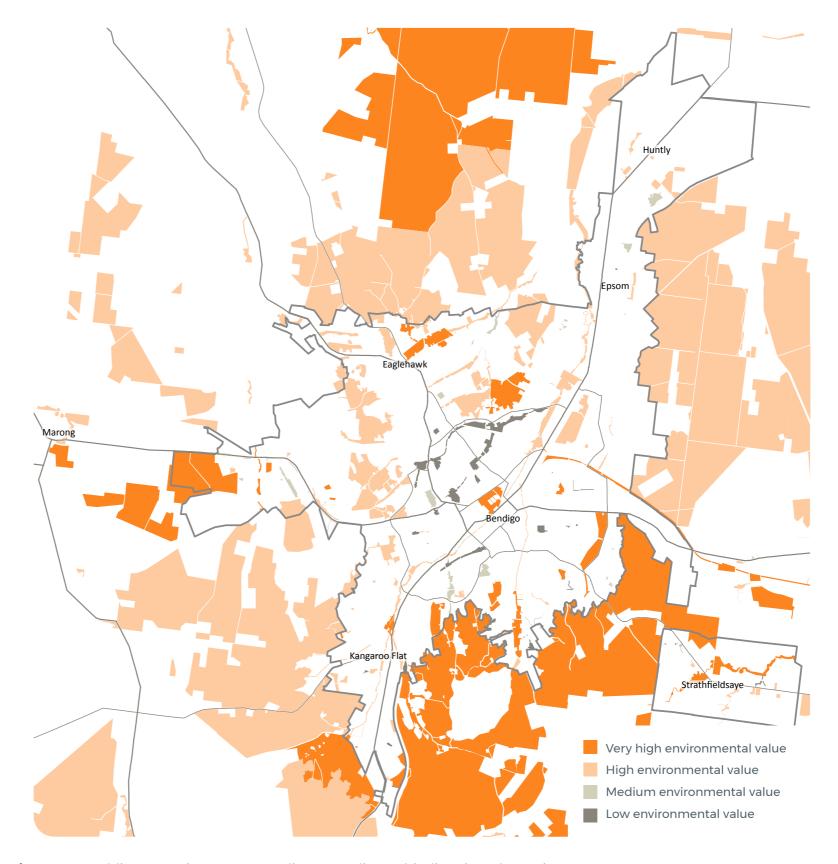


Figure 20. Public Spaces in Greater Bendigo according to biodiversity value rating

Take an urban ecology approach

- Recognise that all biodiversity plays a role in sustaining healthy and resilient ecosystems and that expanding conventional approaches to urban biodiversity into the concept of urban ecology (the study of the relationship of all living organisms with each other and their surroundings) is necessary in our increasingly urbanised living environment.
- Maintain a focus on local native plants and animals in local biodiversity programs and initiatives. Invest also in opportunities to enhance urban biodiversity outcomes through a better understanding of Greater Bendigo's urban ecology, including the role all plants and animals play, regardless of whether their introduction was deliberate or accidental (the arrival of a colony of Greyheaded Flying-fox, breeding of Red-rumped Parrot in hollows of introduced elm trees, leafy green exotic and native trees that shade us or the value we place on growing our own food, are just a few examples of this complex interplay).

Enhance biolinks across the city

- Secure the two major corridors of vegetated public land within the urban area for the purpose of establishing substantial connected space for biodiversity amongst the suburbs, and to maintain a prominent physical urban break between built up areas of the city (see Figure 21). These corridors include areas of public and private land and so will require, in the first instance, application of appropriate zoning and other planning controls to ensure land development compatible with the biolink and urban break functions. The potential for elevated fire risks and management requirements must also be considered.
- Adapt the public space corridors network in appropriate locations and conditions to support biolinks (see section 24).
- Strategically plan streets around, and between, substantial conservation spaces to support and strengthen biodiversity values. This may include incorporating wider reserves which can support more and larger trees, informal-style plantings and the addition of an understorey, using appropriate native and indigenous plantings.

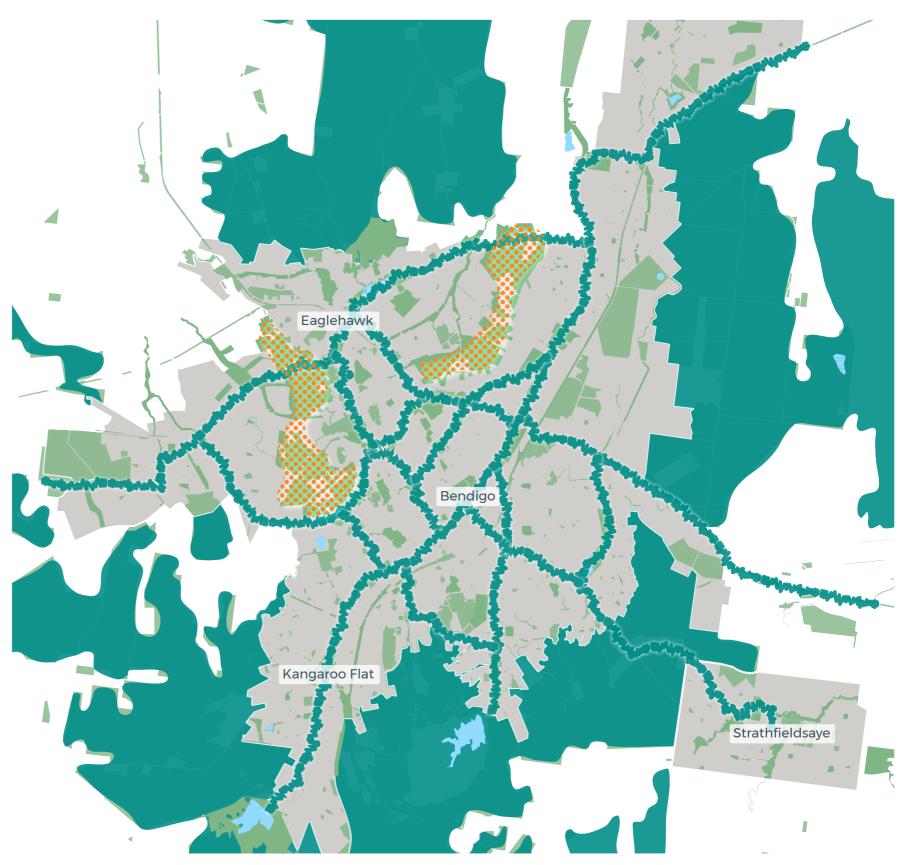


Figure 21. Supporting urban area biodiversity by combining the potential of major urban breaks and the public space corridors network

■ Protect remnant vegetation within undeveloped road reserves as biodiversity corridors. Consider consolidating appropriate adjoining areas with these reserves to strengthen biodiversity values. Carry out site specific assessments to determine the suitability of removing the road reservation and rezoning to protect vegetation. Designate an alternative road reserve where road access is still required.

Strengthen public space biodiversity values

- Enhance the overall contribution of the city's public spaces to conserving biodiversity by developing a sliding scale for incorporating biodiversity values in individual spaces that is formalised within operational policy.
- Investigate the suitability of retaining 'wild' areas in selected public spaces to support biodiversity and reduce maintenance needs. This should be considered as part of a biodiversity management policy.
- Introduce areas of understorey planting into appropriate public spaces with consideration of potential impacts on visibility and safety.



Example of an unmade road reserve with intact vegetation to be protected as a local biodiversity corridor at Landry Lane, Marong



Example of constructed wetlands

Progressively naturalise our urban waterways and gullies

Develop a strategic program of works for the restoration of urban area creeks and gullies, including naturalising creek banks (removal of concrete channels) where possible, revegetation, water quality improvement measures and weed and rubbish control.

Create a regional wetland

■ Investigate the creation a large new public space focussed on supporting biodiversity and improving local water quality, as well as providing the opportunity to experience a significant and unique natural place in Bendigo. A provisional location has been identified in the vicinity of the Bendigo Creek, north of Coliban Water Treatment Plant, between Epsom and Huntly.

Encourage community valuing of biodiversity

Continue to use the city's public spaces as an environmental education classroom and as a means to connect people and communities to nature.

- Develop a biodiversity management policy that sets the principles, standards and conditions for the creation and management of conservation spaces, biolinks and for retaining and encouraging biodiversity in public spaces.
- Develop a strategic program of works for the restoration of urban area creeks and gullies
- Secure the two major corridors of vegetation within the city's urban area with appropriate zoning
- Investigate options to create a regional wetland



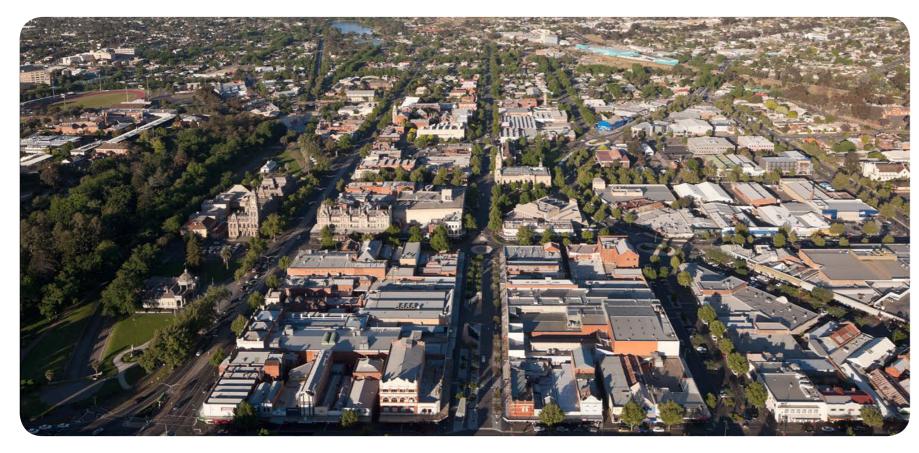
Recognise and preserve the heritage fabric of the public realm

- Ensure that significant historic public spaces are identified and protected by the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme, including:
 - » The street grid of the Bendigo City Centre
 - » The 'stadium'-shaped street patterns of White Hills and Axedale
- Identify, document and appropriately protect and manage other historic physical public space features across the city, for example:
 - » Established avenues of street trees
 - » Individually significant trees in public spaces
 - » Avenues of honour
 - » Bluestone street drains and kerbs
- Include the public realm within the scope of assessments for area-based heritage studies to ensure that relevant places and features are identified and considered for protection.

- Recognise, understand and respect the particular planning and design principles or concepts that often underlie our historic public spaces.
- Acknowledge the importance of retaining and restoring heritage elements within public space, not only for the purpose of historic preservation but as an essential dimension of placemaking and public space activation.
- Increase the use of Conservation Management Plans for historic public spaces to document important values and how they are to be managed.
- Undertake research of the past management of historic public spaces to inform our present day practices and better understand the opportunities and constraints of a site.
- Support public events, celebrations and activities within associated/connected public spaces that contribute to preserving the cultural heritage of the Greater Bendigo community (e.g. smoking ceremonies, the Bendigo Easter Festival, ANZAC day memorials).

Use public space design to enhance the city's building heritage

- Preserve and respectfully enhance the public space setting of historic buildings where such a setting already exists, and create a suitable context-sensitive public space setting in cases where this is absent.
- Concurrently plan and design new public buildings with a related and integrated public space setting.
- Preserve and enhance view lines to historic and landmark buildings (e.g. the St. Andrews Church and Avenue).
- Continue to advocate for the improvement and restoration of existing privately owned historic buildings in high profile locations such as major streets within town centres or addressing a key parkland. This may include elements such as the restoration of verandahs and improvements to facades (e.g. Treloars on Charing Cross).



Bendigo's historic city centre grid



The well -designed public space setting for the Eaglehawk Town Hall and ancillary buildings

Recognise the significance of indigenous and nonindigenous public space heritage

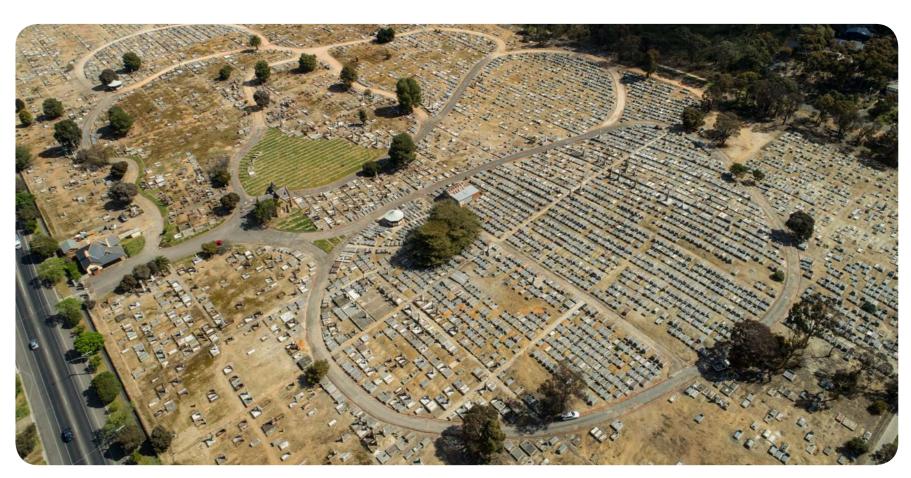
- Identify ways to recognise both indigenous and nonindigenous (European) heritage values within the public spaces of the city, in particular those areas on or close to waterways. The potential to create a unified and connected approach to this recognition which should be explored and developed (for example the adaptation of trails to connect and reveal the story of indigenous peoples and their association with particular places on Country).
- Assist Registered Aboriginal Parties to identify, document and appropriately protect public spaces with Aboriginal significance and values.
- □ Identify public spaces with indigenous cultural heritage sensitivity to ensure that any works involving ground disturbance have a Cultural Heritage Management Plan prepared and approved by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the approved Registered Aboriginal Party under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and 2016 Amendment.
- Consistently collaborate with Registered Aboriginal Parties and heritage specialists in major public space planning and design projects to enable the design response to appropriately incorporate or reflect indigenous and/or non-indigenous knowledge, history and values, as appropriate to the place.

Support community awareness and use of heritage public spaces

- Develop and promote the city's cemetery grounds, in particular the Bendigo (Quarry Hill), Eaglehawk and White Hills Cemeteries, which are strategically-located within their local communities, as public spaces for general community use, exploration and enjoyment.
- Develop the surroundings of historic public buildings as usable, inviting spaces which encourage casual community use.
- Enrich the experience of heritage public spaces with creatively-integrated interpretive information which tells the story of the place and its significance.

Support authentic placemaking within public space using heritage and history

Continue to use public space as a means to preserve, protect and cultivate the heritage of the city, its environment and its people.



Bendigo Cemetery at Quarry Hill

- Recognise that both tangible, material heritage elements and the intangible elements of heritage are each of significance and importance to authentic placemaking in public spaces, and that a diversity of techniques should be used to recognise and celebrate these aspects.
- Avoid the introduction of imported heritage elements into public space which lack a genuine and meaningful connection or association with the place.

Create a future public space heritage

Creatively and thoughtfully plan and design new areas of the public realm to create the potential for a strong and defining legacy for future generations of the city. For example, the careful and prominent placement of iconic public spaces and buildings, the use of special street patterns or types, the structured planting of trees, or the protection of remnant vegetation and significant landscapes.

- Complete a review to ensure that significant heritage public spaces are identified and protected under the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme
- Develop guidelines for the interpretation of heritage aspects of the City's public spaces
- Create and maintain a GIS-based record of all public spaces that are likely to have indigenous or non-indigenous cultural heritage significance
- Work with Traditional Owners to capture indigenous meaning and stories related to public spaces
- Work with Remembrance Parks Central Victoria to develop and promote the city's cemetery grounds as public spaces

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Recognise the significance of organised sport

- Continue to recognise and support the crucial role of organised sport in community development and of sport spaces as an integral part of the fabric of the city's public space network.
- Respect that organised sport is the primary function of some existing public spaces and that in some situations this primacy may limit or constrain other functions.

Develop and utilise the multi-purpose capacity of organised sport spaces

- Recognise and proactively develop the capacity of most organised sports spaces to support and integrate with other public space functions.
- Recognise and reinforce the importance of recreation reserves, particularly in the rural townships, as community hubs (i.e. more than just venues for local sport).
- Plan and design public spaces that are to have a large organised sport component to incorporate flexible, multi-purpose exterior space, facilities and infrastructure that can support local activities and events.
- Continue to maintain a policy of open general public access to sports fields and to reflect this policy through appropriate design and management.
- Continue to encourage and coordinate the booking of sports surfaces and facilities for casual community use.
- □ Plan new spaces for organised sport to incorporate other public space functions (e.g. passive use, biodiversity, connection) and to be integrated with the wider public space network. New stand-alone and selfcontained organised sports spaces – small or large in scale – should be avoided, noting that exceptions may be required for specialised sport facilities.

Adopt an aligned organised sport hierarchy

Revise the hierarchy for organised sport facilities to reflect and be consistent with the public open space hierarchy (see section 2.5).

Practice high quality, integrated site planning

- Continue to apply good site selection and planning principles to new spaces incorporating organised sport, including:
 - » Allocating sufficient land area to accommodate all planned organised sport components, as well as ample space for passive use and other functions
 - » Co-location with a planned public space corridor (see section 2.4)
 - » Flat topography
 - » Appropriate ground, soil and drainage conditions
 - » Access to water for irrigation
 - » Separation from adjoining land uses (e.g. residential) with streets or other types of public space to minimise conflict (e.g. from flood lighting, noise)
- Plan the location of public space incorporating organised sport adjacent to new schools to enable joint use arrangements with a higher level of control by the City.

Improve informal access to and through organised sport spaces

- Provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians and cyclists around and through organised sport spaces by incorporating visible, shaded walkways and/or designing vehicle access roads as streets with appropriate space and amenities for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Formalise policy and practices for the perimeter fencing of organised sports facilities which include:
 - » Optimising pedestrian and cyclist access
 - Controlling inappropriate vehicle access.
 - » Recognition of the need for access to some sports events to be controlled/managed, and for permanent fencing to be a solution of last resort
 - » Removal of existing fences wherever possible
 - » Partial landscape screening of existing fences or replacement fencing with a fence of high aesthetic quality
 - Incorporation of prominent, broad public gateways located to allow convenient through-access
- » A policy of no new fences for future organised sport spaces
- » Minimising or removing advertising placards on fencing to reduce impacts on visual amenity and sight lines

- Ensuring that public gateways remain open, accessible and unlocked
- Locate and design sports-related buildings and structures (pavilions, clubrooms, car parks, etc) in a way that is responsive to the surrounding public space context and the intent to support other use of organised sport space. This includes creating a positive interface to playing areas and internal and perimeter streets, incorporating adjacent passive gathering spaces and not unnecessarily obstructing pedestrian access and view lines.

Actions

• Develop a policy framework for the strategic planning and provision of recreation reserves and facilities



Co-ordinate play spaces with the public space network

Strategically tie-in the locations of play spaces with the identified key public spaces and public space corridors of each community, wherever practical, to maximise community access to play opportunities and to create a more integrated public space network.

Optimise the distribution and quality of play spaces across the network

- □ A more balanced and fairer distribution of play space opportunities across the municipality overall, as well as within individual communities, is needed to ensure that all residents have reasonable access to play opportunities. A combination of different actions will be necessary to realise this (see Figures 22 and 23 for site-specific recommendations), including:
 - » Provision of new play spaces in unserviced parts of growth areas and in established areas with significant service gaps
 - » Downgrading of play spaces with a surplus standard of equipment relative to their public space situation and role
 - » Upgrading of play spaces with an under-provision of equipment relative to their public space situation and role
 - » Removal of play spaces in cases of play space underuse, over-provision (more than one space covering a similar catchment) or poor site characteristics (limited access or visibility, limited overlooking to provide public safety), conditional on the availability of reasonable alternative play space options*
 - » Relocation of some existing play spaces (between sites, or within a site) to improve local distribution, access, and coordination with the public space network* Review selected public open spaces to determine long term suitability

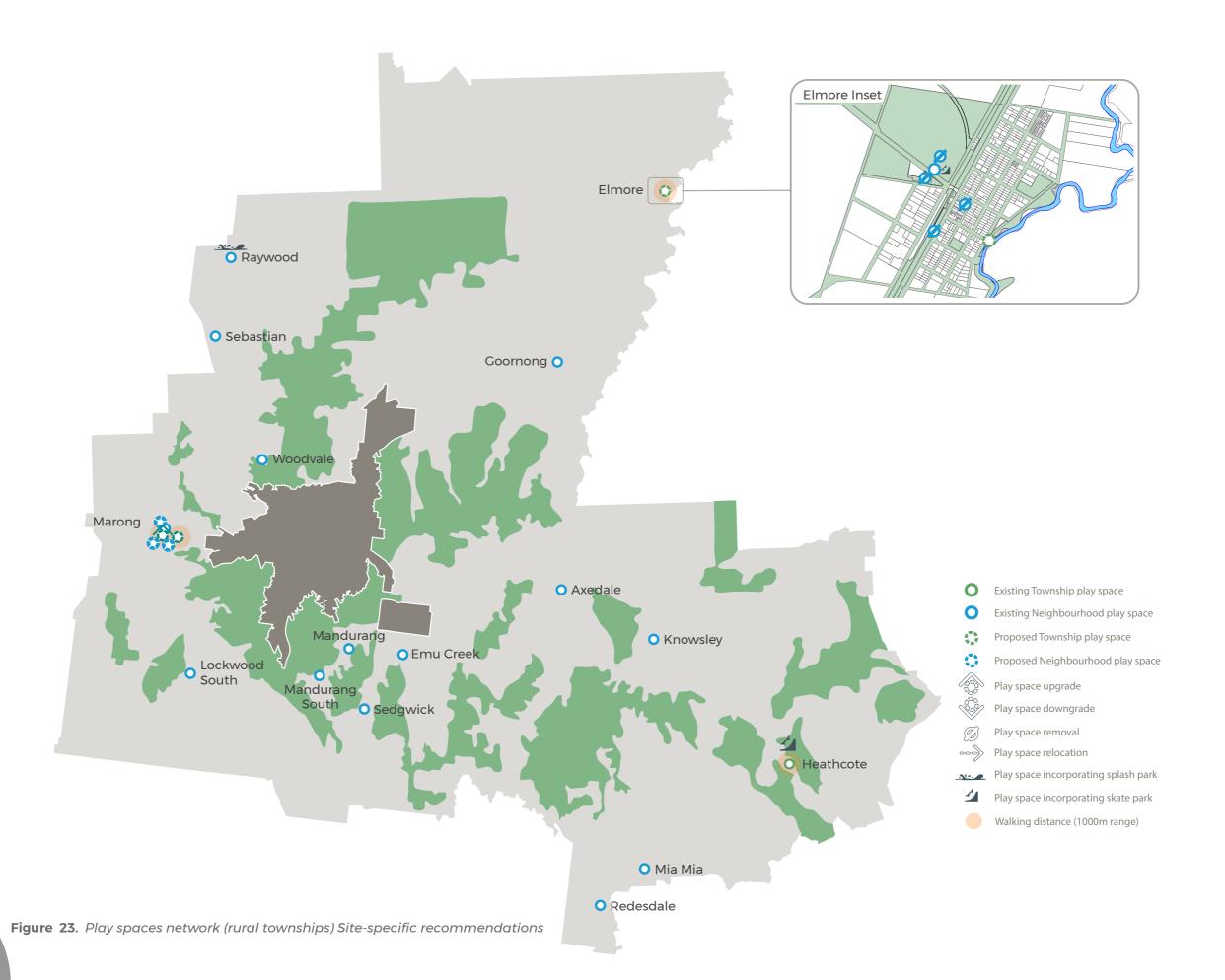
Play space removal

Figure 22. Play spaces network (urban area): Site-specific recommendations

Existing Municipal play space

Existing Suburb play space Play space relocation Diversity play space opportunities 0 Existing Neighbourhood play space Play space incorporating splash park Proposed Municipal play space Proposed Suburb play space Play space incorporating skate park Proposed Neighbourhood play space Play space investigation area Walking distance (500m range) Play space upgrade Walking distance (1000m range) Play space downgrade

^{*} Refer also to section 3.8 Review selected public open spaces to determine long term suitability.



Adopt a tailored play space hierarchy

- A combination of different standards and types play space are to be provided across the municipality and within individual communities. A hierarchy of play spaces is proposed to provide the framework to guide this (see Figure 24). The hierarchy is derived from that of the previous Play Space Strategy 2009-2014, with modifications to align with the Public Space Hierarchy (see Figure 25).
- Walkable access to play spaces is a key aspect of their planning and ultimately their use. A balance needs to be struck between the quality of play experience provided and the distance to be walked to enjoy this:
- For Neighbourhood play spaces, a walking distance catchment of 500 metres (around 5-6 minutes) has been applied*.
- For Suburb and Township play spaces, a walking distance catchment of 1 kilometre (around 10-15 minutes) has been applied*, noting that some users will travel further to use these spaces, usually by car.
- Slightly different approaches are required in each community, depending on existing conditions (i.e. the type, number and location of play spaces, and the structure and capacity of the local public space network).

HIERARCHY	CHARACTERISTICS					
	Size/scale	Visitor catch- ment	Diversity of play experience	Visitor catch- ment	Design	
Municipal *	Large	Regional and Mu- nicipal	Complex	Several hours	Customised	
Suburb**	Medium	Suburb / across suburbs	Moderate	An hour or two	Part custom and off-the- shelf	
Township**	Medium	Township	Moderate	An hour or two	Part custom and off-the shelf	
Neighbour- hood***	Small	Neighbourhood	Basic	Up to an hour	Off-the-shelf	
*previously Regiono		slv undefined				
***previously Local st	-	,				

Figure 24. Play Space Hierarchy

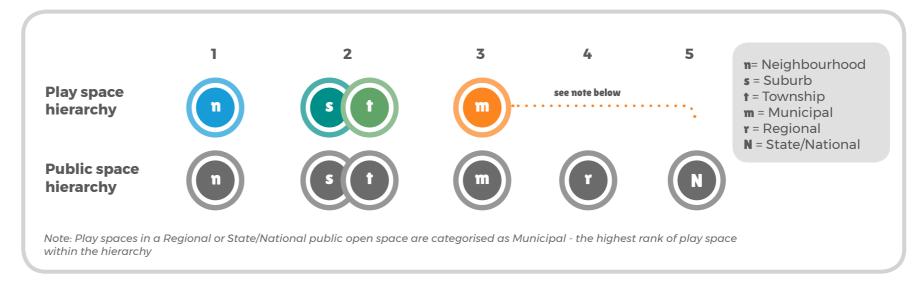
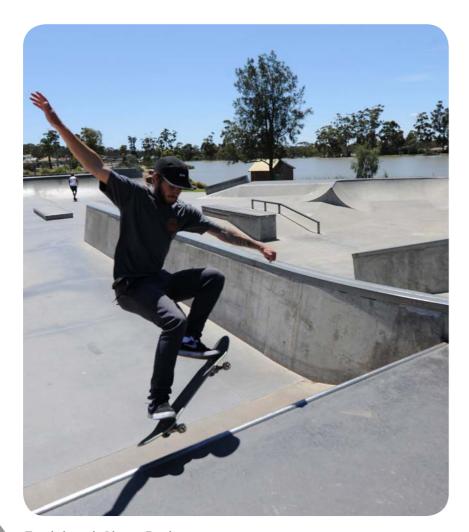


Figure 25. Alignment of the Play Space Hierarchy with the Public Space Hierarchy

^{*} To account for the indirect nature of walking access due to local street patterns, the walking distance catchment shown on the corresponding plans is equal to 80% of the catchment (i.e. 400 metres for Neighbourhood play spaces and 800 metres for Suburb/Township play spaces).

Diversify the range of play opportunities

- Continue to expand the range of play space opportunities that are to be provided across the municipality and within individual communities, including:
 - » Natural play spaces / elements
 - » Skate parks
 - » BMX tracks
 - » Splash parks
 - » Dog parks
- Diversify play opportunities and encourage children to ride and develop a strong sense of road safety by investigating options to incorporate learn-to-ride play space elements



Eaglehawk Skate Park



Example of a 'learn to ride' park (Canberra)



Harcourt Dog Park, Strathdale



BMX track in Heathcote

Apply principles of good play space planning and design*

- » Inclusive and accessible: Can be used and enjoyed by people of all ages and all abilities and utilise universal design principles
- » Safe environments: Meets Australian Safety Standards, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and other relevant industry standards concerning safety
- » Inviting, welcoming and stimulating: Attractive and engaging to both children and adults through creative design
- Whole of park approach: The play space is integrated with and as part of the setting, sited to be visible and to benefit from any views, and designed with elements such as shade, landscaping, seats, paths
- » Connected and co-located: Situated on well-located public space sites, close to and overlooked by homes, and connected to walking / cycling tracks, public transport, streets and other areas of public space such as recreation reserves
- » Diversity and choice: Provide a range of different and complementary opportunities that meet the cognitive, social and physical / active play needs of residents
- » Creative and imaginative play: Immersive environments that inspire ideas, wonder and selfmade experiences
- » Interaction with the natural environment: Encourage people to interact with, appreciate and enjoy the natural environment
- » Appreciation of heritage and culture: Heritage and cultural aspects of the site are respected, protected, suitably-integrated and promoted (e.g. natural features such as historic trees, or human-made features such as poppet heads, historic buildings or indigenous sites of significance)

- » Sustainable: Built with materials sourced locally where possible and designed to minimise the impact on the environment. Relatively easy to maintain
- » Community participation: Involve local residents in their design; provide opportunities for spaces to reflect the local identify of an area through different materials, landscaping and art; and encourage maximum use by all people within the community

Actions

- Progress recommendations for playspace removals, downgrades and relocations with a combined process of review and community consultation for both the play space and associated public space components
- Progress the implementation of recommendations for all other play spaces
- Develop strategic planning for specialised play space types including splash parks, BMX tracks and skate facilities



A play space at the White Hills Botanic Gardens

^{*} These principles are adapted from the Play Space Strategy 2009-2014 which established a strong set of principles for play space planning.



Identify and monitor capital cost commitments

- ☐ Generate a high level understanding of capital costs related to identified public space strategies to inform future planning, budget allocations and recommendations related to potential differential public open space contributions (see Figure 26).
- Track major public space expenditure to assist future budget planning and allocations, including:
 - » Current public space project budget allocations, including 'one-off' allocations (e.g. a park upgrade) and recurring allocations (e.g. street tree planting)
 - » Cost estimates associated with current master plans, recreation plans, and concept plans
 - Costs estimates to be developed for major strategies of the Public Space Plan, including strategic land purchases (see above)
- Use specific category breakdowns of budget allocations for public space projects to allow investment in particular aspects of public space to be tracked.

Provide consistent and appropriate public space resourcing

- Continue to combine a range of funding sources to resource the delivery of public space sites and improvements, including:
 - » General rates collected by the City
 - » State and Federal Government grants
 - » Co-funding (with government agencies or private developers)
 - » Public open space contributions collected in association with private land development under the provisions of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme
 - » Proceeds from the sale of public space owned by the City that is confirmed as surplus to needs
 - » Private developer investment in public space capital improvements as part of their site development
- □ Consider establishing a dedicated fund maintained by the City for public space capital works, potentially as a proportion of the overall capital works budget*, and supplemented by the open space contributions reserve (see later this section) to provide a consistent stream of revenue to deliver major public space strategies over extended timeframes.
- Reinvest all proceeds from the sale of surplus public space into public space improvement projects in the same community/precinct as a matter of principle.
- Advance the completion of conceptual planning for major public space projects to maximise opportunities to leverage funding contributions from various sources, in particular government grants.
- Develop a policy to ensure that the increasing demands and complexity associated with the planning, design, management and maintenance of the City's public spaces are appropriately resourced in terms of staffing levels, skills and experience and available equipment.

Achieve a fairer balance of public space funding allocation

- Acknowledge that the historic distribution of funds has led to significant differences in three key areas:
 - » Higher investment in road infrastructure relative to walking and cycling infrastructure (reflecting the cultural dominance of car-based travel and the high costs of associated infrastructure)
 - » Higher investment in organised sports spaces relative to passive public spaces (reflecting higher costs of infrastructure and cultural influences)
 - » Higher overall public space investment in some communities relative to others (reflecting differences in the relative wealth and priorities across different local government areas in the past, as well as differences in community influence and empowerment)
- Monitor funding allocations by categories and location to enable public space investment to be allocated on a more informed and balanced basis.,

Strategically manage public open space contributions

- Apply public open space contributions to private land development in accordance with the rates recommended in Figure 26.
- As a general rule, require land-based public open space contributions to be:
 - » Predominantly unencumbered by limitations on public recreational use such as easements, utilities, waterways or flooding, drainage paths/lines and basins, environmental conservation (potential vegetation offset area) or heritage conservation, and intended use for community facilities.
 - » Consistent with specified public open space provision criteria (see Appendix 2).
- Adopt a flexible approach to the potential crediting of partially encumbered land as part of a public open space contribution in circumstances where a net community benefit can be demonstrated and agreed.
- Retain a centralised record of land-based open space contributions which identifies the details of the contributions also distinguishes between agreed unencumbered and encumbered areas.
- Ensure that public open space cash contributions are:
 - » Retained in a consolidated fund of cash-in-lieu open space contributions - the 'public open space contributions reserve' - for community transparency and auditing purposes.
 - » Recorded in a centralised and up-to-date record.
 - » Appropriately used for allocating new areas of public space and for capital improvements to existing public spaces.
 - » Not inappropriately used for recurrent cost purposes such as maintenance of public space areas or associated assets.
- Prioritise the use of funds in the public open space contributions reserve* for the purchase of strategically important public space.

- Ensure that funds obtained from the sale of areas of public space no longer required for a public space purpose are:
 - » Placed into a funding reserve that is separate to the public open space contributions reserve.
 - Allocated solely for the strategic purchase of other areas of public space, or otherwise reinvested locally (i.e. into the same precinct) to carry out improvements to other existing public spaces.

Actions

- Develop a centralised and categorised register of projected public space capital costs
- Develop a coordinated approach to the funding of public space capital works that leverages a range of funding sources
- Formalise and apply recommended open space contributions rates
- Develop a policy for the operation and management of the public open space contributions reserv
- Allocate funds in the public open space contributions reserve for priority public space purchases
- Complete a review of public space fees and charges



Context/location	Public open space demand	Contribution*	Rationale
ESTABLISHED URBAN AREAS	Primarily improvements to existing spaces	5% flat rate	 No shortage of public open space in all established urban areas and rural townships The rate applied to these areas reflects, on balance, variability in the likelihood of lower or higher costs related to open space provision and improvements, depending on the location and context
GROWTH AREAS	Primarily allocation of land to create new spaces		
Epsom		5% flat rate	 This precinct has a projected public open space provision of less than 4 Ha per 1000 people** Most of the precinct has been built out and opportunities to create new public open spaces are limited Application of a higher contribution rate to the remaining development areas would be inequitable
Jackass Flat		5% flat rate	 This precinct has a projected public open space provision of less than 4 Ha per 1000 people** Existing structure planning has been completed on the basis of a 5% contribution rate
Maiden Gully (New Development Area only)		8% flat rate	 This precinct has adequate provision of projected public open space (current provision is 4 Ha per 1000 people for projected population) and will exceed 8.5 Ha per 1000 people following development** Existing structure planning (Maiden Gully Precinct Structure Plan 2013) completed on basis of 8% contribution Contributions to be levied by a Development Contributions Plan for the Maiden Gully New Development Area (under development)
Maiden Gully North (identified future growth area)		See note	» A Structure Plan and Developer Contributions Plan to be prepared for this area will inform the recommended contribution rate
Strathfieldsaye		5% flat rate	 This precinct has adequate provision of projected public open space (current provision is 8.3 Ha per 1000 people for projected population**) Existing structure planning (Strathfieldsaye Township Plan 2009) completed on basis of 5% contribution
RURAL TOWNSHIPS	Primarily improvements to existing spaces	2% flat rate	 The provision of public open space in the rural townships is suitable for existing and projected populations There is a need for modest improvements to support the passive use of some existing spaces, as well as instances of relatively significant improvements associated with organised sport facilities in recreation reserves A lower contribution rate, relative to urban areas, will help to reduce barriers to investment and development in rural townships
MIXED USE	Primarily improvements to existing spaces		
Bridge Street development area (Commercial 1 Zone, Residential Growth Zone)		5% flat rate	 Contribution toward upgrade of the adjacent Rosalind Park Recreation Reserve Precinct which will provide the primary public space resource for new residents Areas identified in the Hospital Precinct Structure Plan 2014
Other areas (Mixed Use Zone, Commercial 1 Zone, Industrial 1 Zone)		2% flat rate	 These areas tend to generate only modest requirements for new or improved public open space due to the nature of the use and development A lower contribution rate will help to reduce barriers to investment and development, in particular within the city centre and suburban town centres where the City's strategic objective is to increase the in-centre residential population

Figure 26. Proposed public open space contributions framework

^{*} Contribution rate measured as a percentage of the land area being developed, or of the undeveloped site value, or a combination of both

^{**4} Ha per 1000 people is the most generous standard, internationally, for the provision of open space in urban environments (National Recreation and Parks Association, USA)



Strengthen intra-organisational and cross-agency public space coordination

- Recognise that the provision and management of public spaces is and must remain a responsibility that is appropriately shared across government agencies, including the City of Greater Bendigo and various State Government departments, and supported by relevant service providers.
- Continue to work with government agencies to optimise public space outcomes generally, and in relation to specific public space issues:

Adjoining Municipalities

Coordination of the planning, management and funding of existing and proposed regional trails.

Coliban Water

Planning a diverse and sustainable water network to provide water supply for public space irrigation and water body recharging in designated public spaces.

Coordinating the use of decommissioned water races as part of the public space network where these have been identified.

Working towards maximising the public benefit of publiclyowned assets through cooperative long-term planning that includes consideration of alternative uses of traditional water assets such as reservoirs and decommissioned channels, as well as optimisation of the system.

Country Fire Authority

Planning and design of public spaces, and of areas interfacing with public space, to reduce and manage potential fire risks.

Department of Education and Training

Coordinating the location of new public and private schools with public spaces to create opportunities for joint use.

Developing joint use agreements.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Assessments of Crown land sites identified for future public space.

Assessments of Crown land sites identified for further investigation in terms of continued use for public space.

Coordination of planning related to forest interface areas.

Resolution of ongoing management responsibility for Crown land sites associated with major strategies of this Plan (e.g. sites forming part of the public space corridors network)

North Central Catchment Management Authority

Coordinating the planning of new development along waterway corridors and public space works within these corridors.

Parks Victoria

Coordination of planning and management related to forest interface areas and to the Greater Bendigo National Park.

Coordinating the locations, planning and design of entry points to the Bendigo Regional Park and Bendigo National Park.

Powercor

Coordination to mitigate the constraints of underground power infrastructure planning and design on the establishment of urban street trees

Coordination to minimise the public realm impacts of works associated with maintaining powerline clearances, especially upon street trees

Transport for Victoria

Developing and upgrading railway stations with appropriate public space provision, design and integration.

Coordinating the planning, design and management of segments of railway line easement identified as part of the public space corridors network, including regional links.

Planning and design of the City Centre, suburban town centres and rural town centres to achieve better design integration of arterial road environments.

Planning and design of boulevards and gateways to coordinate the civic and road design functions.

Planning for strategically placed infrastructure options to enable safe pedestrian and cycle access across major roads.

VicTrack

Coordinating the planning, design and management of segments of railway line easement identified as part of the public space corridors network, including regional links.

Complete a city-wide review of public space land ownership and/or management responsibility to identify locations and situations where changes are required to improve operational efficiency. A number of changes will be required to reflect proposed public spaces on Crown Land and identified proposed land swaps. ■ Investigate options for the establishment of a public space advisory committee with a broad remit to provide oversight for the implementation of public space-related planning, design and management, and to provide recommendations to the City of Greater Bendigo Council. Representatives of various agencies, the community and Council should form the core of the committee. An adaptation of the highly successful City of Melbourne's Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee model should be considered. Such a committee should preferably absorb existing space-specific committees such as the Rosalind Park Advisory Committee.

Foster community participation in public space development and management

- Recognise that the limited resources of the City and other agencies available for public space management can be effectively complemented and expanded by the knowledge and resources of the community.
- Support the community-based development and management of public space where there is a welldemonstrated capacity to do so.
- Ensure a local community-based perspective is brought to the preparation of master plans and other planning and design work for public space by including community representatives on steering groups and continuing to provide a range of wider community participation opportunities.
- Utilise simple, accessible web-based technology, to enable proactive community-based reporting of public space (and other) maintenance issues and targeted management response.

Coordinate with private developers

- Ensure that developers are advised early in the subdivision and development application process of requirements to achieve relevant public space outcomes as set out in this Public Space Plan. Particular emphasis should be placed upon:
 - » Providing a high standard of design integration, especially for development within town centres, adjacent to key public spaces and along public space corridors.
 - Confirmation of open space contribution requirements, especially the provision of land according to specified criteria (see Appendix 2).

Proactively secure strategically important public open space outcomes

- Recognise that in order to maximise the function and long term community benefits of our existing public open spaces, strategic land purchases may be appropriate for particular situations. A number of public open spaces have been provisionally identified based on a combination of existing Master plans and strategic planning for the Public Space Plan (see Figure 27).
- Develop a more complete and detailed understanding of the nuances of each public open space location to both qualify the strategic intent and to inform an assessment of relative strategic importance and priority.
- Ensure that a comprehensive, adaptable and appropriately-resourced process in is place to progress strategic land purchases.
- Ensure that strategic planning documents, including high level plans (The Public Space Plan and Structure Plans), as well as site-specific master plans, identify and provide the rationale for proposed purchases of public open space.

Review selected public open spaces to determine long term suitability

- □ Commit to appropriately investigate, publicly consult on and resolve the long term future of public open spaces identified in the Public Space Plan as requiring review (see Figure 28 and Precinct Plans - 'Public open space to be reviewed'). The identification of these spaces has occurred through a combination of past and more recent processes including a review of play space provision and preliminary recommendations to remove or relocate selected play spaces (see section 3.6).
- Develop and consistently apply an approved process for the further assessment of existing public open spaces (see Appendix 4 which provides a preliminary outline of factors that could be considered in the assessment). This process should be consistent with, and operate in conjunction with, the City's Assets and Surplus Land Disposal Policy.

Location	Strategic intent
Albert Roy Reserve, Eaglehawk	 Create a continuous open reserve frontage to Crowther Street and Upper California Gully Road Increase flexibility for locating reserve facilities and infrastructure
Canterbury Park, Eaglehawk	 Create a wider frontage to Sailors Gully Road Improve the visibility of the park entrance Strengthen the connection with Brassey Square and the Town Hall
California Gully Town Centre	» Complete the public space corridor connection from California Gully to the town centre
Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve, Huntly	 Create a continuous reserve frontage to the Midland Highway Complete vehicle access to and within the reserve Increase flexibility for locating reserve facilities and infrastructure
Gateway Park	 Secure the heart of the parkland and link the Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre and grounds Create a continuous open park frontage to High Street
Lake Tom Thumb, Eaglehawk	 Create a continuous open park frontage to Simpsons Road and Napier Street Remove fragmentation of the park edges
North Bendigo Recreation Reserve, North Bendigo	 Create a continuous open reserve frontage Increase flexibility for locating reserve facilities and infrastructure
Strathdale Park, Strathdale	» Create a continuous open park frontage to McIvor Highway
Sheepwash Creek, Strathfieldsaye	 Complete the public space corridor connection along Strathfieldsaye Road to Sheepwash Creek Create a continuous park frontage to Strathfieldsaye Road Connect and prevent isolation of the historic Shire Hall

Figure 27. Identified areas of public open space for investigation

Secure the future of public spaces with appropriate planning controls

- Review the zoning of all public spaces to ensure that an appropriate zone is applied. A substantial number of sites have been identified (see Figure 28) however this is not exhaustive. In most cases, the application the Public Park and Recreation Zone is required. Completion of some rezonings is complex and will be subject to:
 - » In the case of Crown land parcels to be added to the City's public space reserve - joint field investigations and negotiations with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and/or Parks Victoria, followed by land purchase/transfer.
 - » In the case of proposed public spaces within growth areas - completion of a structure plan, subsequent subdivision permits and land titles issue.
 - » In the case of existing public spaces that may be discontinued and made available for an alternative land use - case by case site assessments, community consultation and internal review.
- Apply the Heritage Overlay to appropriate public spaces subject to completion of heritage studies.
- Consider applying the Design and Development Overlay to sites immediately abutting and/or encroaching into areas of key public space to manage aspects of development proposals that may impact the space, including building setbacks, height and massing, as well as to encourage a positive interface and address.
- Complete a Planning Scheme Amendment to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme which:
 - Modifies the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) to reflect the strategic directions of the Public Space Plan
 - Introduces the rezoning of identified land for existing or proposed public space
 - » Applies proposed overlays
 - » Modifies Clause 52.01 to reflect the recommended open space contributions framework
 - » Includes the Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan as a reference document

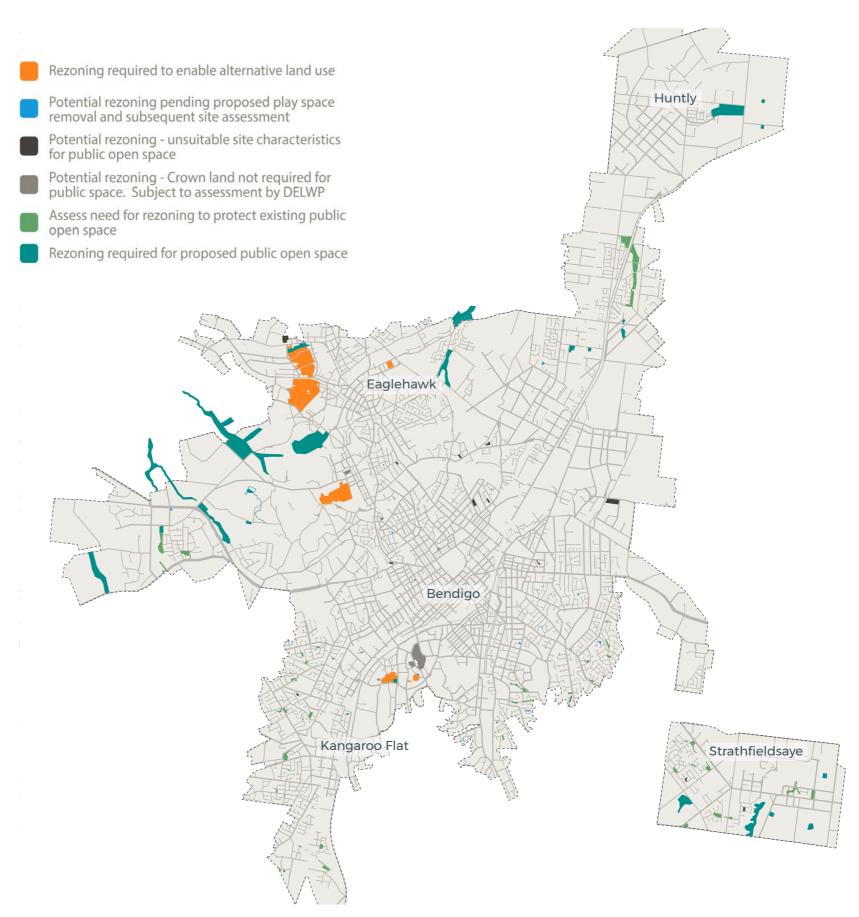


Figure 28. Potential rezonings of public space within the urban area

Develop and implement appropriate site-based planning, design and management documents

- Progressively complete actions identified within current Master Plans, with prioritisation given to short term and/or high priority actions:
 - » Epsom Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2006
 - » Wolstencroft Reserve Master Plan Bendigo Botanic Gardens Master Plan 2008 (to be updated)
 - » Lake Weeroona Master Plan 2011
 - » Gateway Park Master Plan 2012
 - » Spring Gully and Surrounds Recreation Plan 2014
 - » Rosalind Park Recreation Reserve Precinct Master Plan 2014
 - » Dower Park Master Plan 2016
- Establish a policy to guide the application and use of public space planning, design and management documents to assist decision-making, operations and community awareness. This should include guidance on:
 - » The range of document types used and their purpose (e.g. master plans, conservation management plans, reserve management plans, recreation plans, concept plans)
 - Which document type is used where (i.e. for which space)
 - » Document progress, monitoring and reporting, and life cycles (i.e. review intervals, conditions for being superseded)
- Formalise and apply a 'whole-of-space' approach to master plans to ensure that all aspects are considered and coordinated, especially in cases of complex or special functions such as organised sports or heritage, and to incorporate a response to the design of intersecting public space, in particular surrounding streets.
- Complete a review process to determine current and future public spaces which require a form of sitebased planning, design and/or management, and recommend priorities for completing this work.
- Standardise a requirement and method for preparing capital cost estimates attached to master plans, recreation plans and concept plans.
- Optimise the skills and capacity of the City's staff resources to prepare public space planning and design documents in-house, and to reserve outsourcing for specialised tasks.

Develop and apply public realm guidelines

- Guide the delivery and maintenance of a well-planned, well-designed and aesthetically coordinated public realm by preparing public design guidelines. This should include:
 - » Finalisation of the public realm guidelines for the City Centre.
 - Development of a city-wide public realm design framework to guide spatial design, treatments, fixtures and materials. The framework should establish the design basis for achieving broadly consistent 'Greater Bendigo' standards and any appropriate precinct-based or public space typebased variations. It should be informed by a combination of technical inputs and community participation.

Minimise the impact of service infrastructure on public space use and amenity

Coordinate with service authorities to identify methods for improving the design integration and consolidation of service infrastructure (e.g. overhead and underground services, cabinets, sub-stations, service pits, etc) in the interest of both higher quality public spaces and protected, functional infrastructure.

Proactively manage public space encroachments

- Identify, categorise and map all encroachments onto City-owned and/or managed public space.
- Develop a policy for managing encroachments which identifies options and triggers for their case-by case handling, including negotiation, formalisation of occupancies through leases or licences, land ownership changes/reinstatement of boundaries and prosecution.

Manage public space use with targeted policy

Continue to apply existing City policies related to specific aspects of public space management for consistency and to inform community expectations, including:

- » Assets and Surplus Land Disposal Policy
- » Commercial Fitness Operator Policy
- » Heritage Restoration Loan Policy
- Outdoor Dining and Street Trading Code of Practice
- Municipal Facilities Signage Policy
- » Nature Strip Policy
- » Plaques, Memorials and Monuments Policy
- » Permanent Public Art Policy and Procedure
- » Temporary Public Art Policy and Procedure
- » Urban Tree Management Policy

Protect and optimise the public space function of road reserves

- Ensure that constructed and unmade road reserves are assessed with respect to wider public space planning strategies to determine whether all or part of a reserve:
 - » Is needed to support a particular public space purpose, other than or additional to a road (e.g. expansion or joining of public spaces, creating part of a public space corridor, protection of in situ native vegetation).
 - Should be discontinued in order to remove the risk or impact associated with potential future road construction.
 - » Should be recognised and protected with an appropriate alternative zone such as the Public Park and Recreation Zone.

Manage the shared/joint use of public space

Prepare a joint use agreement policy which sets the conditions and parameters for the development and use of facilities established by the City in partnership with a third party agency organisation (usually the education sector). This should include requirements related to public spaces and associated buildings and facilities.

Monitor and record activity in public space

- Help inform the management, programming and infrastructure investment in public spaces by:
 - » Conducting community surveys, including in association with major events
 - » Expanding the use of visitor counters in targeted public spaces
 - Continuing to use pedestrian counters in the City Centre and other town centres and pedestrian / cycle counters on public space corridors (including shared paths)

Manage risks associated with public spaces

- □ Continue to appropriately review risk management procedures and preventative measures for public spaces.
- Continue to conduct regular inspections of public spaces to record and report potential hazards.
- □ Investigate options to promote and enable community-based reporting of potential public space hazards.
- Ensure that fire management strategies for public spaces are responsive to their identified values, in particular biodiversity and heritage values.
- Plan and design public spaces new spaces and improvements to existing ones - to contribute to an overall reduction in fire risk.

Actions

- Review public open space land ownership and management responsibility to identify appropriate changes
- Investigate options for a public space advisory committee
- Develop policy and processes to enable communitybased reporting of public space maintenance issues
- Confirm strategic site purchase needs and priorities, and resource their implementation
- Develop and progressively apply a process to assess public open spaces identified for review
- Prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme that implements the relevant planning policy, zoning and overlay recommendations of the Public Space Plan

- Develop a policy to guide the review public space planning, design and/or management document needs
- Complete the City Centre public realm design quidelines
- Develop a framework of standards to guide and coordinate public space design in Greater Bendigo
- Develop design guidelines to assist service authorities in the design integration and management of service infrastructure within public spaces
- Review public space encroachments and develop a management policy
- Review unmade road reservations
- Prepare a joint use agreement policy for public space development and use