



GARDINERS CREEK (KOOYONGKOOT) MASTER PLAN

2022–2032



DRAFT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The City of Boroondara acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and original custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



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Version	Version description	Date of revision
A	Draft for community consultation	23-05-22

To get in touch or to find out more about the Draft Gardiners Creek Master Plan, visit:



<https://engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/gardiners-creek-master-plan>



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2. Introduction

What is a master plan?

A master plan is a dynamic long-term strategic document that provides a conceptual layout to guide future planning, vision and development of place. This document provides confidence to the community about what change is expected in an area, and can respond to matters including but not limited to biodiversity and sustainability, Traditional Owner engagement, land use and development, heritage, character and open space.

This document is based on public input, surveys, planning initiatives, existing development, physical characteristics and constraints, and social and economic conditions.

Where is it happening?

The Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) Master Plan focuses on the green corridor surrounding Gardiners Creek and it’s catchment including the Back Creek catchment, spanning the suburbs of Hawthorn, Hawthorn East, Glen Iris, Ashburton, Camberwell and Canterbury.

Gardiners Creek is significant as it forms part of the City of Boroondara’s southern boundary and is on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. It’s also where John Gardiner became the first white settler and settled near the junction of the Yarra River and what was then known as Kooyongkoot Creek. The creek was later renamed after him.

The site is an urban green corridor which functions as a multifaceted urban environment, providing the local community with large areas of active and passive open space, varying ecologies and landscape characters, and important connections through the City of Boroondara, and to adjacent suburbs.

Why is this master plan happening?

The City of Boroondara has prioritised the development of this master plan as it is timely for Council to do this due to the emerging collaborative opportunities and recent activity by local and state government.¹

Increased intensity of urban development and construction of associated hard surfaces along the entirety of the catchment has drastically increased the rate of stormwater runoff (which travels through the stormwater system very rapidly). As such, the Gardiners Creek, catchment and sub-catchments are highly susceptible to flooding with heavy rainfall, with water flow in the river being enormously variable.

Gardiners Creek is one of the highest contributing sources of contaminants, such as metals (copper, lead and zinc), entering the Yarra River System. Urbanisation along the Gardiners Creek catchment through stormwater drainage has increased the concentration of pollutants¹.

Under high flow conditions, water is rapidly exchanged and oxygen levels remain high throughout the water column. Under prolonged conditions of low flow, bottom waters do not get regularly replenished with oxygenated water and anoxic (low oxygen) conditions can prevail. This can have an effect on the level of toxicants within the waterbody, which can have an adverse affect on the marine life².

Gardiners Creek is under increasing pressure from climate change and increasing demand on open space from residents and visitors. The City of Boroondara is ensuring it continues to be attractive, vibrant and accessible to all members of the community, while also caring for and better managing the environment well into the future.

Key principles for the catchment

The overarching principle behind this master plan is to create a more sustainable, cleaner and safer Gardiners Creek, catchment within the City of Boroondara, by:

- Improving creek health by enhancing and celebrating a rich and biodiverse catchment;*
- Improving Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) opportunities to the Gardiners Creek catchment;*

- Establishing opportunities for improving water quality and reducing pollutants;*
- Identifying and better managing high litter generating areas that are impacting the catchment;*
- Improving access and safety for all users including creating a connected corridor that enables everyone to move safely at their own pace; and*
- Improving signage and way-finding for all users.*

Our commitment to the catchment

Over the past decade we have committed to improving the Gardiners Creek catchment through a variety of different initiatives. We have upgraded the Gardiners Creek Trail by providing a wider path network to 3m wide. We have provided a continuous network of lighting associated with the Gardiners Creek Trail. As of 2021, all path and lighting upgrades have been installed to the complete length of Gardiners Creek Trail (within the municipality of Boroondara).

We have also committed to an annual program of revegetation for biodiversity sites as per our Urban Biodiversity Strategy and the recommendations listed under our Biodiversity Asset Management Plan.

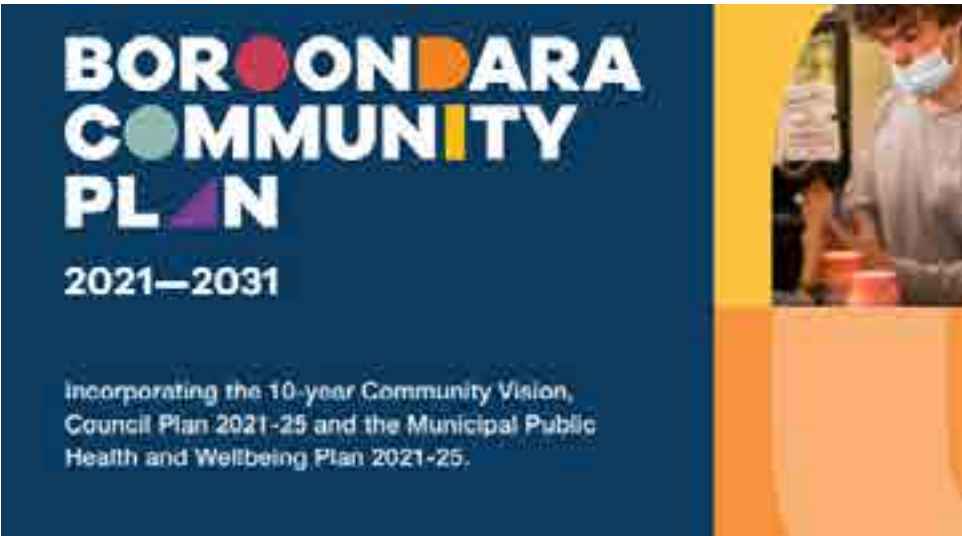
Our ongoing commitment to advocacy

Boroondara City Council and the City of Stonnington share the ‘tail-end’ of Gardiners Creek which terminates at the Yarra River confluence (with approximately 10km out of 30km within the two council areas).

Given that the quality is significantly impacted by contaminants entering at various points along the catchment, we have and will continue to advocate for improvements to issues beyond our reach, including objecting to up-stream activities that affect the quality of the catchment. We will continue to advocate and work collaboratively with other levels of government, relevant agencies and key stakeholders to improve the health of the catchment.

¹Refer Commitments by Others (page 7) for collaborative opportunities and recent activity associated with the Gardiners Creek catchment.
²EPA Victoria, 2013. The origin, fate and dispersion Scientific Report of toxicants in the lower sections of the Yarra River.

3. Our Commitment



Our commitment to the community

The Boroondara Community Plan 2021–31 (BCP) sets out the 10-year vision for the City of Boroondara based on the aspirations of our community and the priorities they told us were important.

The BCP balances the needs of our community today, while recognising the challenges, opportunities and changes to come over the next decade. Developed through a deliberative engagement process with our community, the Plan builds on what already makes Boroondara a great place to live, work, study and recreate. It paints a picture of what the community values most in the City of Boroondara and demonstrates practically how council will bring our community’s vision to life, for the benefit of all its members.

The Gardiners Creek Master Plan specifically relates to the following two key themes of the BCP and the strategies listed below:

Theme 2: Parks and Green Spaces

- 2.1 Our sustainable urban forest is preserved and increased through managing and renewing our open space trees and understorey growth.
- 2.4 Green spaces are maintained and increased through management practices and investigating opportunities to acquire or modify existing land.

Theme 3: The Environment

- 3.6 Our biodiversity is conserved and maintained through improving the way we manage our diverse plants, animals and natural spaces.



Our commitment to climate action

We have developed Boroondara’s Climate Action Plan to deliver what is important to our community and in recognition of the real and increasing threat to our environment, to our health and wellbeing, and to the quality of the lives of current and future generations as the result of our changing climate.

A successful response to climate change requires a holistic approach, new ways of thinking and shifts in how we live, work and play. It requires action by individuals, businesses and all levels of government. This Plan outlines how council will respond to this challenge and how we will work with our community and other levels of government to do the same.

The Climate Action Plan includes a range of commitments that are relevant to the Gardiners Creek Catchment with some of the most relevant including:

1. Develop a Litter and Pollution Reduction Plan for Boroondara.
2. Increase area managed for biodiversity by 10 hectares from the current 51 hectares.
3. Enhance habitat for biodiversity.
4. Deliver a program of habitat restoration and the installation of nest boxes.
5. Develop a prioritised plan to implement new IWM projects (stormwater treatment, harvesting and reuse, litter management).



Our commitment to reconciliation

Reconciliation is an ongoing journey, which aims to bring together and strengthen relationships built on trust and respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider Australian community. This Strategy acknowledges that to progress reconciliation, we need to work in collaboration with the Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations. It also recognises the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the distinct communities, cultures, histories and experiences present within Boroondara today and the importance of working in partnership with all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community to progress reconciliation locally.

The Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy 2022-26 was officially adopted by Council on 28 March 2022 - a significant milestone in our journey to progressing reconciliation here in Boroondara. The Strategy communicates our collective vision for reconciliation, which is ‘to create a welcoming community where the histories, cultures, knowledges, achievements and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are acknowledged, respected, considered and celebrated’.

It outlines a clear, four-year roadmap for implementing reconciliation initiatives and contains a number of actions that will be undertaken.

It is important to note the City of Boroondara is at the beginning of its formal reconciliation journey and it may take a number of years for Council to undertake the foundational work required before it can progress some initiatives.



Our commitment to the Gardiners Creek Trail

The draft Boroondara Bicycle Strategy sets a framework to advance bicycle infrastructure and mode share in the City of Boroondara over the next 10 years.

The 2022 Boroondara Bicycle Strategy will deliver an integrated bicycle network which is safe, connected, protected, efficient and appealing to users of all ages and abilities. The bicycle network will include off-road paths and on-road links providing access to a range of destinations and making bicycle riding a feasible and attractive option for all residents, workers and visitors.

Bicycle count surveys indicate that Gardiners Creek Trail, crossing the municipality in the south, is the most popular bicycle route in the City of Boroondara, with the top three counts recorded along this trail. The highest count was recorded near the Monash Freeway underpass in Hawthorn, with 798 bicycle riders counted within a 2-hour morning peak period in 2021.



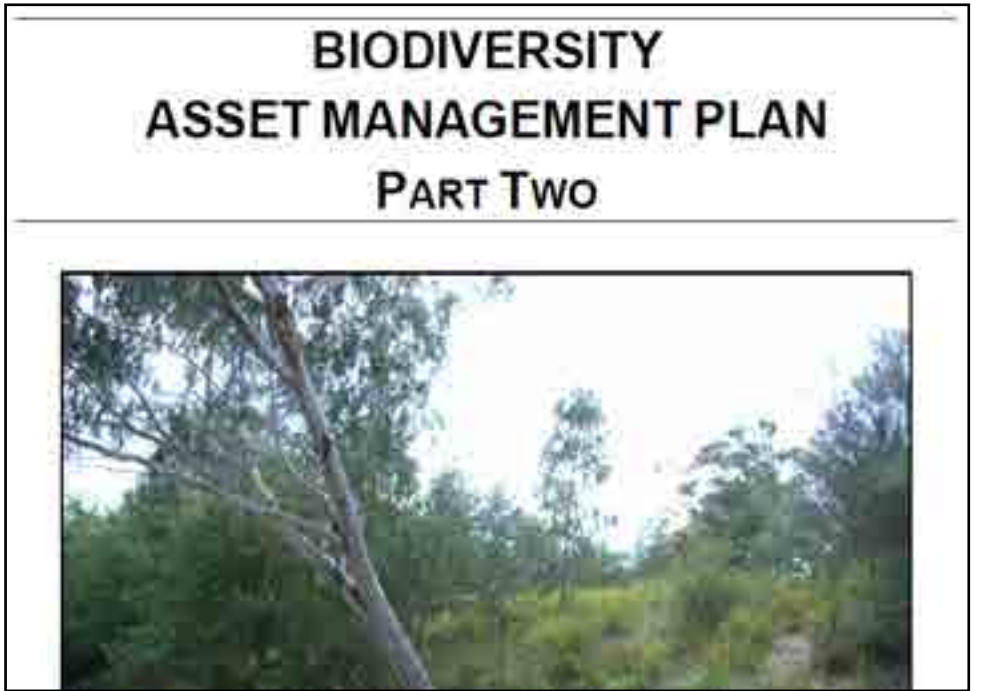
Our commitment to biodiversity

Since adoption of the City of Boroondara’s first biodiversity strategy in 2003, significant progress has been made in restoring, protecting and enhancing the city’s natural environment. Amongst other things, the original strategy led to development of The Inventory and Assessment of Indigenous Flora and Fauna in Boroondara by Dr Graeme Lorimer, and a Biodiversity Corridors Plan that outlines steps to improving habitat connectivity so as to establish a biodiversity corridors network across the municipality and beyond.

Progressive restoration and revegetation of biodiversity sites by the council and Friends Groups has resulted in the stunning restoration of many sites and the return of birds and other fauna.

The Urban Biodiversity Strategy for Boroondara (2013–2023) identifies four overarching objectives:

1. *To protect and enhance biodiversity in Boroondara on public land.*
2. *To reduce land use and development impacts on biodiversity.*
3. *To increase community support for biodiversity protection and enhancement.*
4. *To ensure policy decision-making and actions are based on sound knowledge and up-to-date evidence.*



Council has developed a Biodiversity Asset Management Plan (BAMP) that establishes a detailed baseline of the extent and condition of all the biodiversity sites (‘assets’) identified in the flora and fauna inventory and/or Biodiversity Corridors Plan and through research associated with preparation of the BAMP.

This document provides a long-term framework for a staged approach to improving the condition and connectivity of areas currently managed for biodiversity as well as a strategy for managing new zones at existing biodiversity sites and some new sites as well. The BAMP outlines the long-term potential, given adequate resourcing, for up to 65 hectares of council land to be managed for biodiversity outcomes.

Hollow supplementation for Boroondara (other initiatives)

The loss of habitat resources in urban spaces is an ongoing management issue for biodiversity managers. Supplementation of nesting hollows for Australian hollow-dependant bird species is currently being investigated within Boroondara as a way to increase the value of remaining green space for this group of birds in urban environments. With changing climatic conditions and increasing pressures from urban development, active habitat management is essential if these species are to be retained across the wider urban landscape. Several sites have been identified for hollow supplementation across several reserves associated with the Gardiners Creek catchment.

4. Commitments by Others

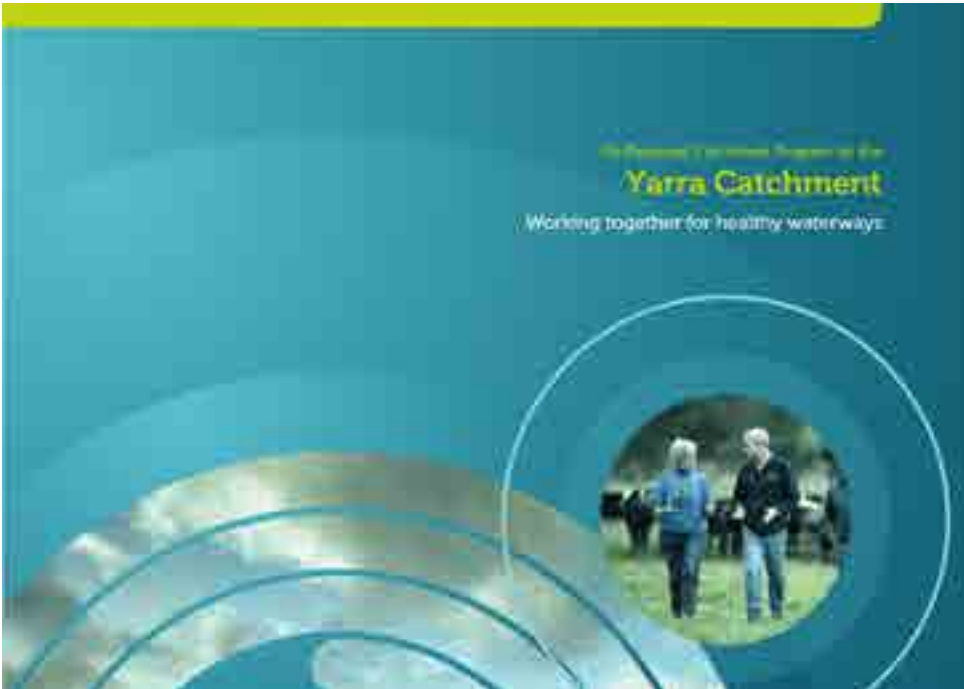


Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo, Yarra Strategic Plan 2022–2032

This document is the very first plan to protect and enhance the Yarra River and its parklands as one living and integrated natural entity, and the first plan for the Yarra River developed in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

The document identifies the confluence of Gardiners Creek with the Yarra River as a significant place in the inner city reach and suggests investigating the following options for improved environmental outcomes which includes implementing initiatives outlined in:

- 1. Stonnington City Council’s Gardiners Creek Masterplan 2020, which includes a revegetation strategy for the creek.
- 2. Boroondara City Council’s Urban Biodiversity Strategy 2013–2023, which nominates this area as a potential biodiversity hotspot.
- 3. Work with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to provide interpretive information and artwork communicating the cultural heritage and historic significance of this area, both contemporary and pre-colonisation.
- 4. Maintain and strengthen indigenous planting along the Yarra Boulevard and around the edge of Kevin Bartlett Reserve to improve habitat links.



Healthy Waterway Strategy (Yarra catchment) 2018–2028

This Healthy Waterways Strategy spans the Port Phillip and Westernport region, and considers conditions over the next 50 years. It provides strategic direction for the management of a diverse array of waterways including the Gardiners Creek catchment.

The following performance objectives were listed for the Gardiners Creek catchment:

- 1. (Water for Environment) Identify and implement opportunities to reduce the key threat of flow stress on waterways by addressing causal factors such as water for domestic and stock.
- 2. (Vegetation Extent) Establish a continuous riparian vegetated buffer (1 km, 5 ha) and maintain existing vegetation (less than 1 km, 1 ha) along priority reaches (using EVC benchmarks to at least a level 3 vegetation quality). In addition to improve social values increase vegetation cover in existing and planned urban areas by 1 km Increase access to and along waterways from 73% to 75% (about 1 km of path) by filling gaps and improving connections with existing path network.
- 3. (Access) Increase access to and along waterways from 73% to 75% (about 1 km of path) by filling gaps and improving connections with existing path network.
- 4. (Participation) Increase participation rates from low to high; support community groups and build capacity through citizen science and cultural engagement.

Strategic Cycling Corridor Network Overview

December 2020



Strategic Cycling Corridor Network–2020

The Strategic Cycling Corridor (SCC) network provides important continuous routes “to and through” for cycling for transport, linking up significant destinations, with the greatest activity or density of trips. These routes provide connections across suburbs and municipalities.

Gardiners Creek Trail is identified under this strategy as a ‘Primary Route’ (C1), and as such has associated high expectations on design speed, safety, security, directness, minimal delay, comfort and accessibility.

The five principles that underpin the SCC network have been developed by drawing on international cycling network principles, while considering the local context. These principles were used to review and identify the 2020 SCC network update. These principles are:

- 1. Destination focussed;
- 2. Safe;
- 3. Direct;
- 4. Connected; and
- 5. Integrated.



Gardiners Creek Masterplan by City of Stonnington

The Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Master Plan focuses on Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) and its surrounding green corridor within the City of Stonnington, spanning the suburbs of Toorak, Kooyong, Malvern, Glen Iris and Malvern East.

The City of Stonnington released the master plan in 2019 and are committed to delivering on the aspirations and strategies listed in their master plan over the next 10 years.

Boroondara City Council have worked collaboratively with the City of Stonnington in the development of Boroondara City Council Gardiners Creek Master Plan and have aligned on managing issues negatively affecting the river catchment, noting that management of the river should be an effort done in collaboration.

Regional collaboration project

Boroondara City Council has been involved in a joint project to explore a regional, shared vision for Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot), and the possibility of an ongoing regional collaboration. The Regional Collaboration Project provides a body of organisations along the catchment the ability to work collectively to identify, analyse and work towards addressing significant issues associated with the catchment.

This project originated with the Stonnington Gardiners Creek Master Plan, which identified that ongoing regional collaboration was essential to achieve its desired water, biodiversity, open space and active and passive recreation outcomes as well as beneficial outcomes for the catchment as a whole.

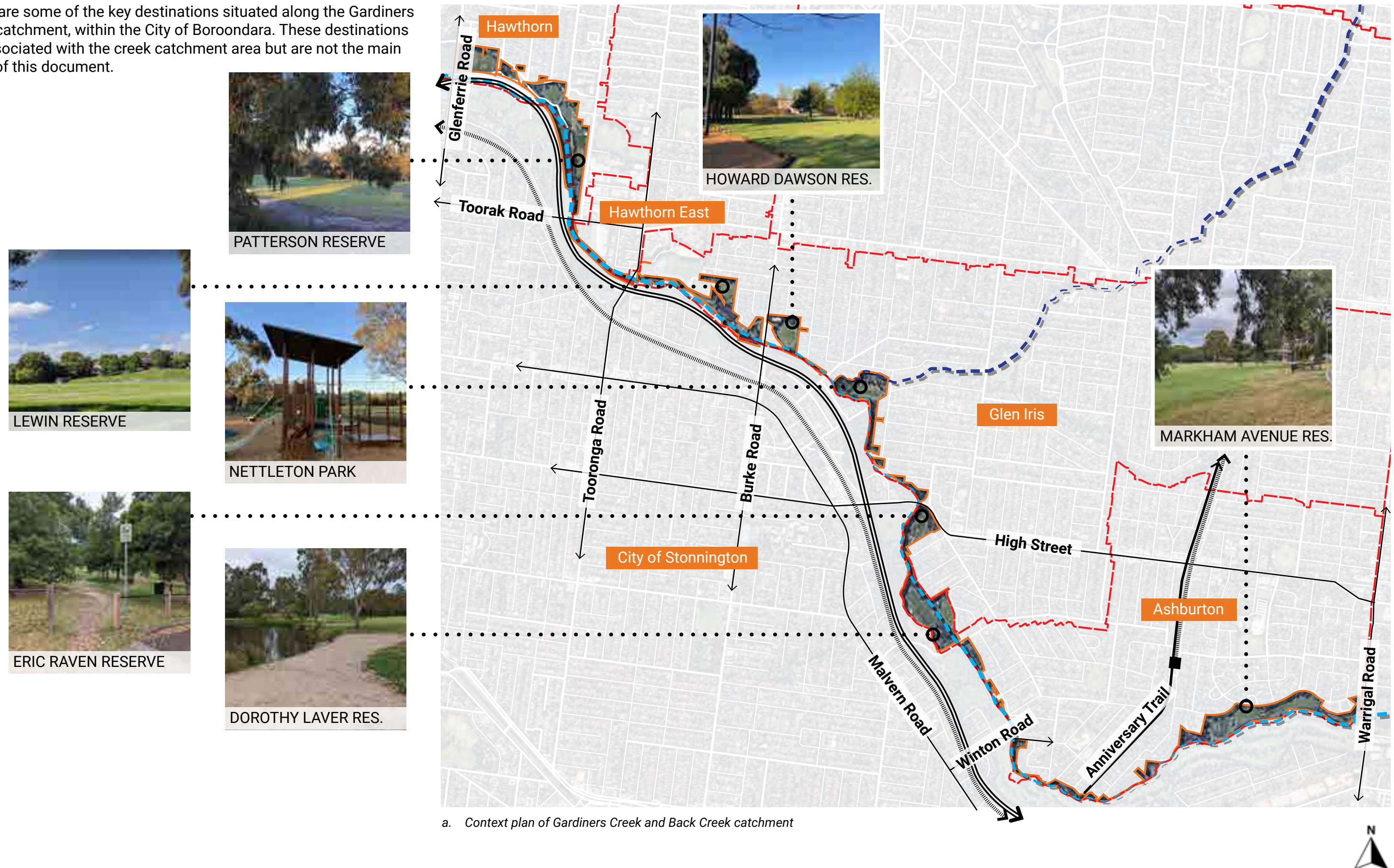
A series of forums were convened during late 2021 and early 2022 with a range of stakeholders to discuss these matters, including councils adjacent to Gardiners Creek, water, road and transport authorities, Traditional Owners, other State Government representatives and community groups.

Boroondara City Council support the regional collaboration project with active participation to date.



5. Destinations at the Gardiners Creek Catchment

These are some of the key destinations situated along the Gardiners Creek catchment, within the City of Boroondara. These destinations are associated with the creek catchment area but are not the main focus of this document.



Traditional Owners of Boroondara

The area now known as the City of Boroondara is on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. The City of Boroondara’s name is derived from the Woi-wurrung language meaning ‘where the ground is thickly shaded’. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community has a strong historical, cultural and spiritual connection to their traditional lands and waterways.

Gardiners Creek (kooyongkoot) forms part of the City of Boroondara’s southern boundary. The banks of kooyongkoot creek were a source of vegetation used for food, tools and medicine by the local Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. Their skills and adaption to their environment meant they were able to sustain their lifestyle for many thousands of years with minimal impact to the environment. The bark and wood from the trees provided material for fire sticks, boomerangs, digging sticks, music sticks, canoes, coolamons or tarnuks (water carriers), and stone implements such as axes and adzes. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people also used bark and wood in the production of weapons such as wommeras (spear throwers), shields, spears and clubs. Reeds and grasses were used to make mats, baskets, eel traps, fishing nets and string bags. Animals and plants provided food and materials for clothing such as possum skin cloaks and ornamentation such as belts, waist ornaments, emu feather skirts, kangaroo teeth and echidna quill necklaces, head bands and nose ornaments.¹

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC) is formally recognised through the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 as the Traditional Owners for the land and waterways in Boroondara. As the Registered Aboriginal Party, the WWCHAC has important legislated roles and functions in managing and protecting the Aboriginal cultural heritage of their recognised lands including evaluating Cultural Heritage Management Plans and assessing Cultural Heritage Permit applications. They also offer key services in the community including natural resource management services, cultural practices for events such as performing a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremonies, cultural consultations to provide feedback on projects being developed on their land, education and cultural awareness specific to their heritage and culture, and language and place naming protocols and advice.

¹Excerpt taken from Wurundjeri Trail, Chandler Reserve signage created in collaboration with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people continue to practise the responsibilities bestowed by their ancestors of protecting, preserving and managing the land and waterways in accordance with culture and traditions.



6. Findings from Consultation on Other Relevant Projects

To inform the development of the Gardiners Creek Master Plan, the council drew upon recent major consultation sources, such as the BCP 2021–31, and the Climate Action Plan. We also considered the findings from the City of Stonnington’s consultation process for their Gardiners Creek Masterplan. Outlined below is a brief overview of the key findings from each of these consultations with further detail provided in Appendix 1.

This master plan has also been selected as a pilot project for a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA), designed to support critical thinking about how actions, programs and services will meet the different needs of women, men and gender diverse people. The purpose of GIAs is to create better and fairer outcomes, and make sure all people have equal access to opportunities and resources.

BCP consultation findings¹

Between December 2020 and April 2021, council undertook community consultations to inform the review of our key strategic document, the BCP, to ensure the council was responding to emerging trends, demands and changes to community priorities. In total, 4,723 people took part in a survey which included three key questions.

To inform the development of the Gardiners Creek Master Plan, a word search was performed on the verbatim responses to two of the survey questions: “What is important to you in Boroondara?” and **“What aspects of your top priority theme do you think council should focus on in the next 10 years?”** to capture feedback associated with the Gardiners Creek and Back Creek catchments. These results were further narrowed by selecting only residents from the neighbouring area that generated 1,368 verbatim comments, which were then sorted by gender, non-English speaking background, age and suburb, and entered into a series of word clouds.

Overall, observed through a word cloud visualisation, the feedback indicates strong appreciation for Gardiners Creek with the community viewing it as a significant biodiversity corridor, a popular destination and a network for walking and cycling. However, the comments also suggest that council can better plan for the Gardiners Creek catchment through conservation, improving community accessibility and participation, improving issues associated with litter/cycling options, improving signage and safety and surveillance.

Using a gender focused approach to respect the needs of men and women, the responses to the questions were entered into separate word clouds. When the data was broken down, women generally noted community building, enhancing the sense of community, access to facilities and safety as important. For men, there was general support of new quality facilities, parks and programs.

Climate Action Plan consultation findings²

In August and September 2020, the City of Boroondara undertook social research to help understand community perceptions, behaviours and aspirations regarding climate action at the local level, along with how the community sees council’s role in relation to climate action and what actions they would like council to be engaged in moving forward.

The research was conducted using two distribution methods and achieved a total of 1,572 responses.

Open access (online):
1,070 responses through council’s internal surveying system. The link was distributed through a range of channels, including social media and community networks.

Representative (phone):
502 responses via landline and mobile phone via direct contact.

When asked to rate the importance of different aspects of environmental sustainability, “Sustainable Water Use and Healthy Waterways” was the highest rated for importance out of the selection.

Other relevant important areas of focus that were raised by the community included “preserving and planting more trees” (native species were preferred).

Boroondara specific findings from the City of Stonnington’s consultation findings¹

As part of the Gardiners Creek master planning process by City of Stonnington, extensive on-site surveying was undertaken in 2019 to understand user experiences, activities and destinations.

Given that users on the Gardiners Creek Trail typically navigate between the council areas of Boroondara and Stonnington (due to the weaving nature of the shared trails), we have reviewed the survey data received of 379 responses, and filtered this to only show responses from postcodes within the municipality of Boroondara (reducing the response number to 199). The aim of this was to limit the received feedback to specifically the Boroondara community who may have been intercepted by the surveying team on-site. We also investigated the differences in responses between genders to ensure we are supporting gender equity on our projects.

Based on the survey results, **women are more likely to visit the Gardiners Creek area on a regular basis**, with both men and women visiting for the same reasons.¹

Dog walking is the most popular recreational activity followed by personal exercise.¹

Women are more satisfied with the available space for active recreation. **Men are less satisfied with the available space, this may be due to their higher preferences in informal sporting recreation activities.**¹

Women have scored slightly higher regarding their satisfaction with the natural environment at Gardiners Creek.¹

Women are more dissatisfied with shared pathways and safe access to the area. This may be due to perceptions around safety in public space and issues associated with passive surveillance.¹

¹Refer to Appendix 1 for detailed consultation findings (breakdown).

²Findings based on Climate Action Plan Research Report (November 2020–September 2021), by ASDF Research for City of Boroondara.

7. Consultation Findings for this Project (Ongoing)

To support the development of the Gardiners Creek Master Plan and to get the most useful and supportive feedback for this important project, we have positioned the key consultation phase at the draft stage of this master plan. This is to provide as much information as possible to the community, at a stage where the document is still in early development and subject to positive change.

External stakeholder consultation findings¹

Through January 2022 a council officer engaged with 21 key external stakeholders associated with the Gardiners Creek and Back Creek catchment (within the municipality of Boroondra). These stakeholders ranged from sporting clubs, scout groups and ‘Friends of’ groups of the catchment.

The findings of this targeted stakeholders phase has typically indicated issues associated with poor water quality in the creek, concerns associated with biodiversity and acknowledgement of areas of poor vegetation diversity and health. There was a trend with suggested improvements, indicating a desire for reducing hard surfaces, enhancing planting through revegetation, separating walking paths for different users and re-naturalisation of the creek catchment in areas that contain concrete culverts.

These findings have contributed to assisting us in identifying key directions associated with this master plan.

Refer to appendix 1 for key quotes from various external stakeholders.

¹Refer to appendix 1 for detailed consultation findings (breakdown).

Community feedback on draft Master Plan

WE ARE HERE

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK
(MAY 2022)

This document will be subject to change, pending feedback received by the community during this primary consultation phase.

Community feedback will be documented within this report and made available when the final document is released.

8. Our Strategy

Project precincts

The following precinct plans are divided into the following precincts (as indicated on the right). These precincts are to provide context as to what extent is shown per page and to indicate how each page is connected in an order.

For context, the precincts contain the following public open spaces:

Precinct 1 contains the following:

- HA Smith Reserve
- Hawthorn Skate-park
- Hawthorn Velodrome
- Patterson Reserve
- Hawthorn Hockey Ground

Precinct 2 contains the following:

- Gardiners Creek Reserve
- Lewin Reserve
- Howard Dawson Reserve

Precinct 3 contains the following:

- Nettleton Park

Precinct 4 contains the following:

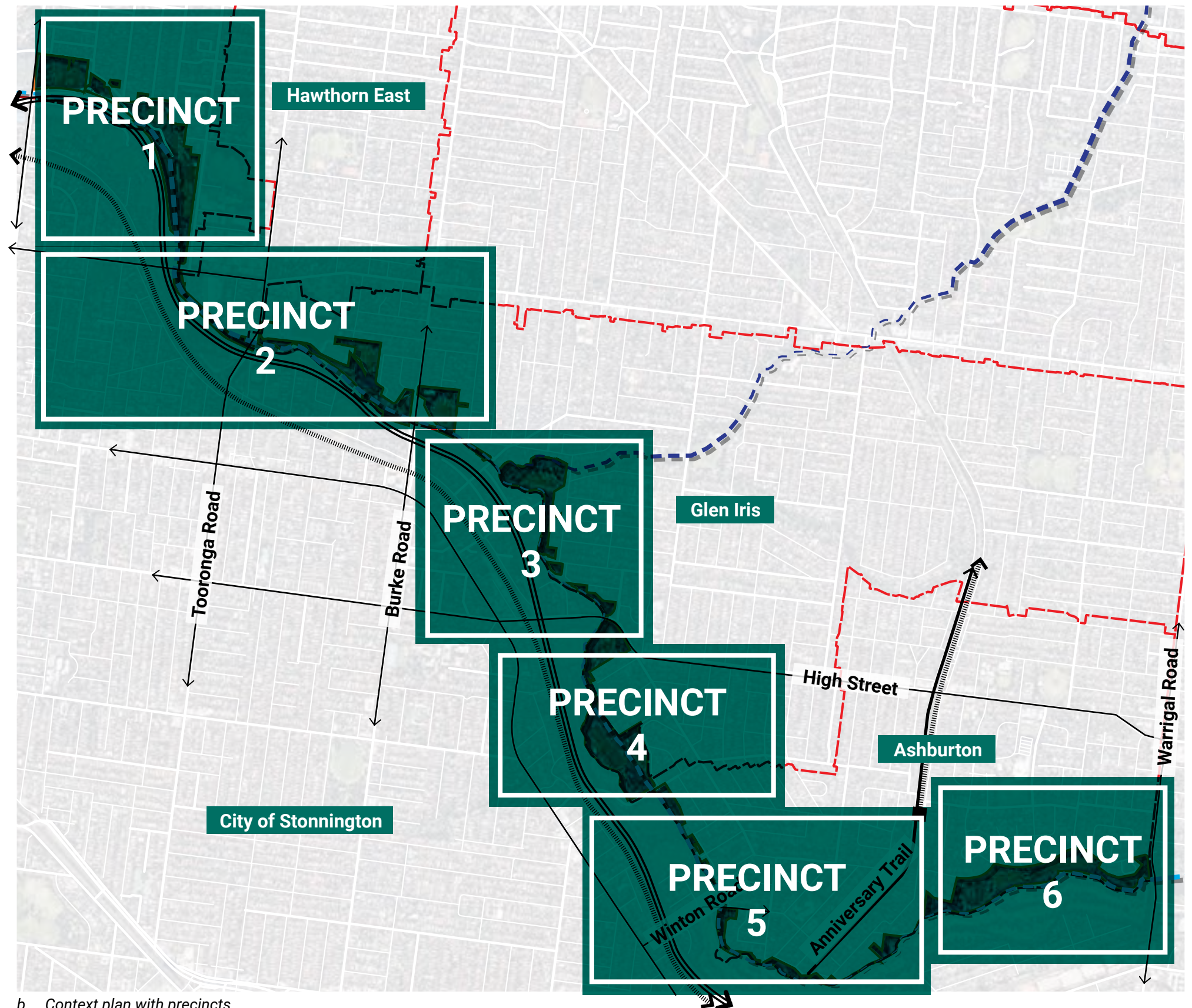
- Eric Raven Reserve
- Dorothy Laver Reserve West
- Dorothy Laver Reserve East

Precinct 5 contains the following:

- Winton Reserve

Precinct 6 contains the following:

- Markham Avenue Reserve



b. Context plan with precincts

Catchment-wide initiatives

The following catchment-wide initiatives apply to Gardiners Creek and the Back Creek sub-catchment.

Site specific catchment initiatives

The following site specific initiatives apply to the Gardiners Creek catchment. Refer section 9 (precinct plans) for locations of initiatives.

Landscape & environment

1. As part of the development of an Urban Greening Strategy (an action from the Boroondara Climate Action Plan), we are undertaking an updated assessment of our biodiversity corridors, which include Gardiners Creek and Back Creek. This assessment will provide us with the latest data on the health of our vegetation and support us with ongoing management which includes identifying opportunities for further planting.
2. We recognise that the Gardiners Creek and Back Creek corridors are important for our biodiversity, including providing a safe linkage across our urban environment. We will continue to commit to ongoing annual revegetation to biodiversity sites as per the Urban Biodiversity Strategy.
3. Continued contribution to revegetation programs, including establishing a continuous riparian vegetated buffer where possible, and maintain existing vegetation.
4. Develop a Pollution and Litter Reduction Plan to identify and better manage sources of pollution and litter impacting the Gardiners Creek catchment. Advocate and work collaboratively with other key stakeholders such as Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water, Environmental Protection Agency and local councils to better identify and manage sources of pollution and litter.
5. Continue to support community groups and build capacity through citizen science and cultural engagement. Actively continue to advocate and work collaboratively with other levels of government, relevant agencies and key stakeholders to improve the health of the catchment.
6. Investigate opportunities to irrigate sporting ovals with stormwater.
7. Deliver a program of habitat restoration and the installation of nest boxes.

Assets and land use

8. Develop a new land owner waterway information pack with support from Melbourne Water for land owners who are situated on the river catchment. The information pack will include a guide on how to better manage land adjacent to waterways.
9. Ensure all furniture on the Gardiners Creek Trail is accessible, with minimum a gravel access path connecting to the asset.
10. Promote consistency in furniture styles (in accordance Boroondara's latest furniture styles).



Permeability

Opportunity to reduce extent of hard surfaces to improve soil permeability. Where this symbol appears on the plan, triggers the following intervention.

1. Remove excess concrete/hard surfaces, revegetate with indigenous plants as per the relevant Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).



Water Sensitive Urban Design

Opportunity to introduce new Water Sensitive Urban Design initiatives. Where this symbol appears on the plan, triggers the following intervention.

1. Introduce increased indigenous planting, rain garden/swale systems etc.



Links & loops

Where this symbol appears on the plan, notes an opportunity for improved linkages to key points of interest such as public transport nodes or surrounding suburbs. The following intervention occurs at these locations.

1. Install new gravel trail for casual walkers.



Education

Where this symbol appears on the plan, notes an opportunity for education/informative signage. The following intervention occurs at these locations.

1. Fixed educational signage on key points of interest such as Gardiners Creek biodiversity, historical/cultural elements, community spaces/gardens, wetland systems etc.



Primary gateways

A primary gateway is identified as an entrance to the Gardiners Creek that can also accommodate maintenance vehicle access. Where this symbol appears on the plan, triggers some or all of the following interventions.

1. Improved signage including a large scale map of the Gardiners Creek Trail with associated parks and facilities noted.
2. Improved indigenous garden bed planting treatment.
3. New outdoor seat.
4. Litter and recycling bins.
5. Review Gardiners Creek Trail entrance and ensure vehicle access is restricted to service vehicles only (via gates, removable bollards etc.).



Secondary gateways

A secondary gateway is identified as a secondary pedestrian only entrance to the Gardiners Creek Trail. Where this symbol appears on the plan, triggers some or all of the following interventions.

1. Improved signage, noting the intersecting street or park name.
2. Improved indigenous garden bed planting treatment.
3. New outdoor seat (if suitable).



Pause points

Opportunity for rest and respite. Where this symbol appears on the plan, triggers the following intervention.

1. New outdoor seat, facing vista or view of river.

9. Precinct 1



- Proposed Legend**

 - Proposed new trail
 - Primary gateway (Refer pg15)
 - Secondary gateway (Refer pg15)
 - Enhance permeability where feasible. (Refer pg15)
 - Improve linkages to Auburn Road (Refer pg15)
 - Promote Auburn Road as an on-street 'fast' bicycle route.
- Existing Legend**

 - 1 Site photo locations
 - Gardiners Creek Trail
 - Secondary trail
 - Gardiners Creek
 - Suburb boundary
 - Seat
 - Litter bin
 - Recycling bin
 - Playground
 - Barbecue
 - Basketball court
 - Bike rack
 - Exercise equipment

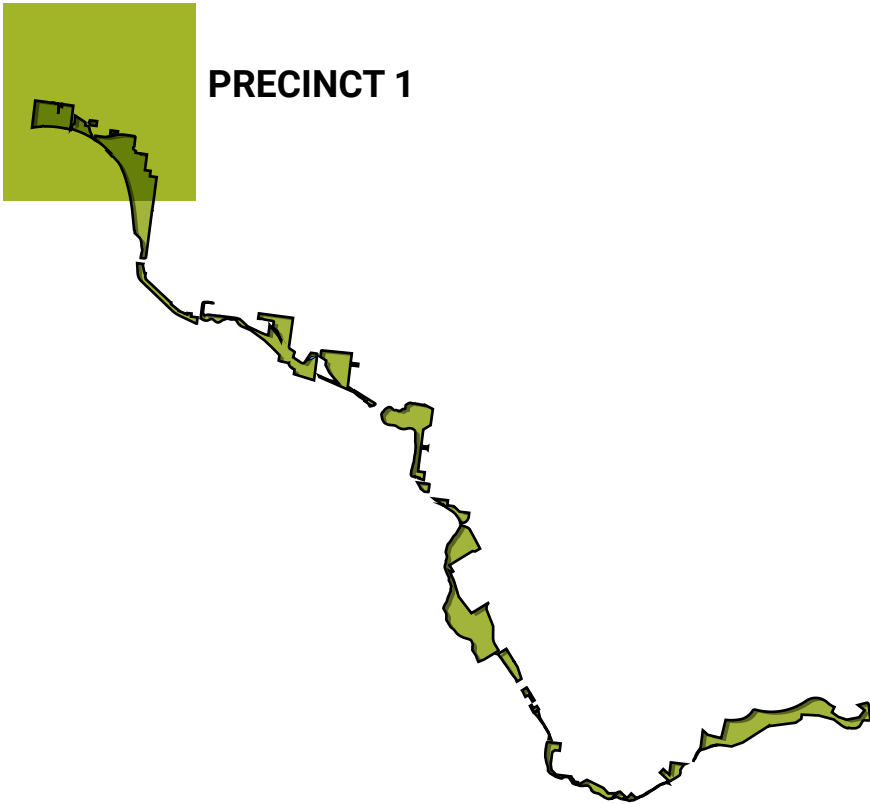


Existing condition:
This section of Gardiners Creek from Scotch College/the Gardiners Creek confluence through to Toorak Road contains an open landscape character due to adjacent public open spaces (HA Smith Reserve/Patterson Reserve). The Gardiners Creek through this section is partially a concrete culvert which extends adjacent to and below the Monash Freeway.

Issues & opportunities:
There are opportunities to improve gateway treatments, surface treatments, embankment revegetation and garden bed planting with ample opportunities for a separated pedestrian gravel trail.

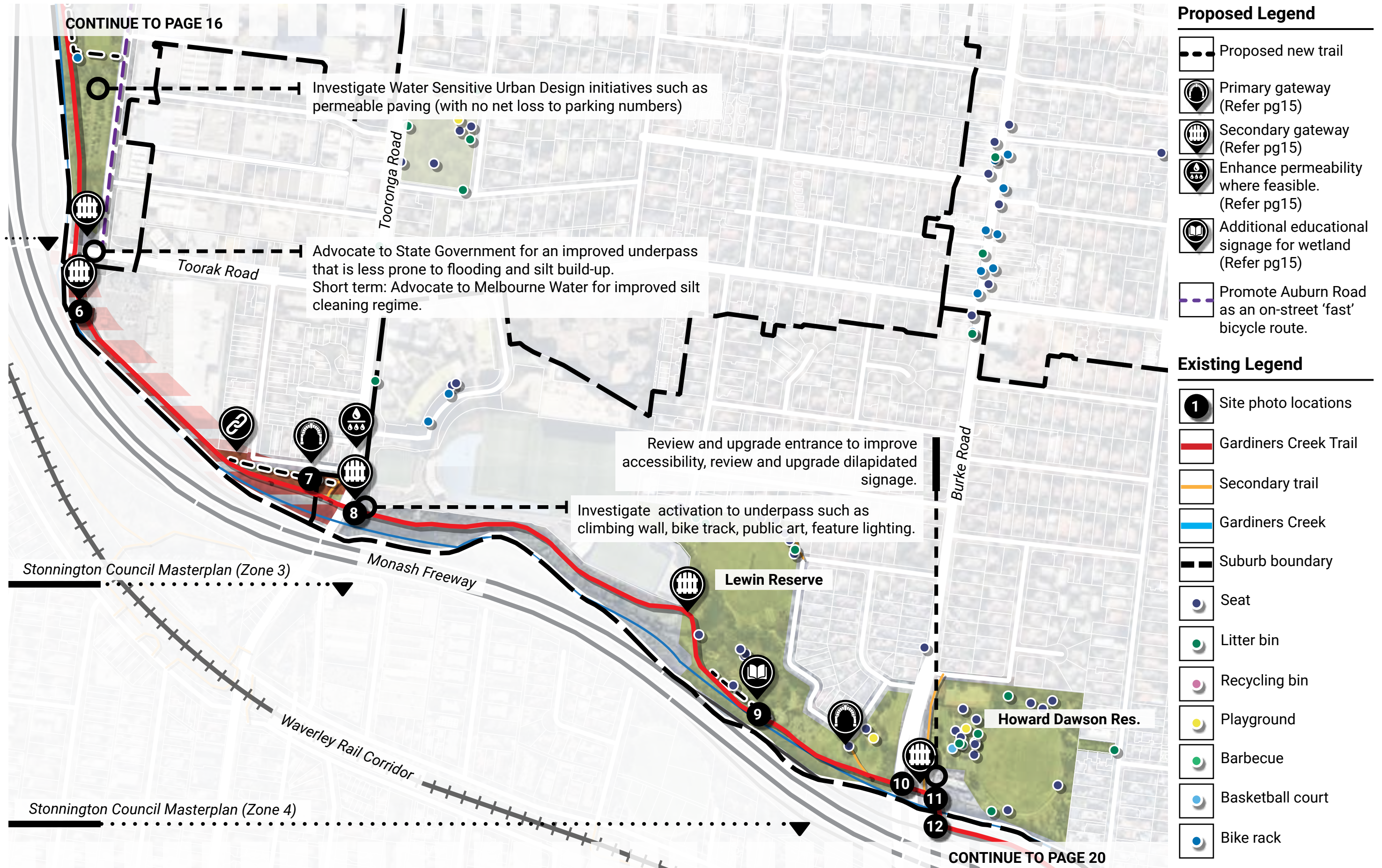
Refer to the adjacent plan for State Government advocacy initiatives.

Actions:
Refer page 29 for the detailed master plan actions schedule.



c. Context plan with precincts

10. Precinct 2





6 Opportunity to improve gateway treatment.



7 Opportunity for secondary accessible grade path.



8 Opportunity for underpass activation (Tooronga Road).



9 Opportunity for formalised separated gravel trail.



10 Opportunity for underpass activation (Burke Road).



11 Opportunity to improve gateway treatment and access.



12 Opportunity to improve signage visibility and access.

Existing condition:

This section of Gardiners Creek from Toorak Road through to Howard Dawson Reserve contains generally a narrow corridor due to adjacent landuses (e.g. Gardiners Creek and Woolworths site / St Kevins Sportsfield). There are two underpasses to this precinct, Tooronga Road underpass and the Burke Road underpass. The Gardiners Creek through this section is in a naturalised condition, with sporadic sections of dense embankment vegetation.

Issues & opportunities:

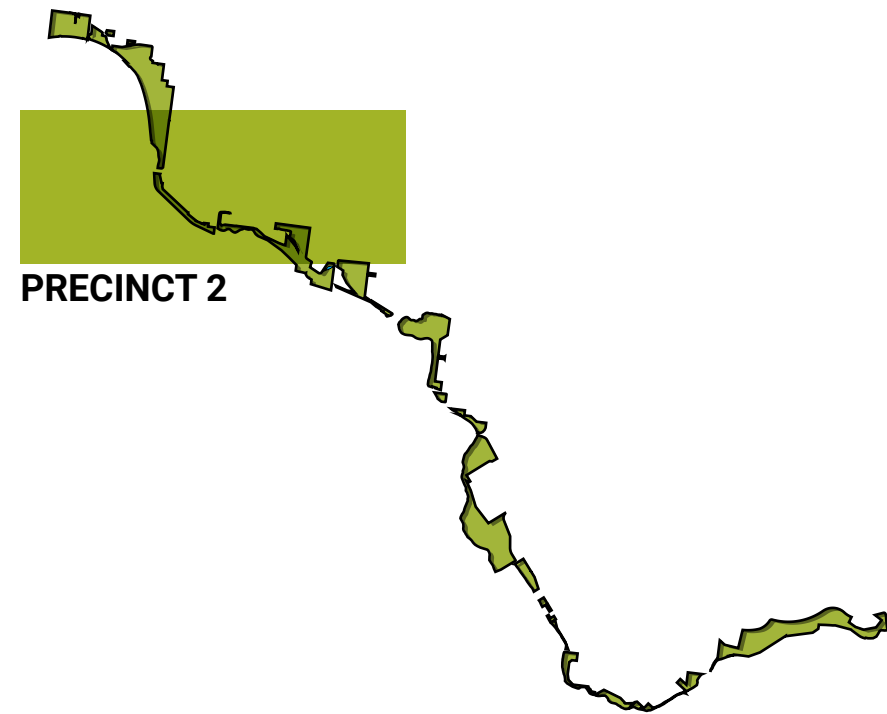
There are opportunities to improve gateway treatments, surface treatments, underpass treatments and opportunities for embankment revegetation and garden bed planting.

Due to adjacent land uses and the limited space available, there is limited capacity for any path widening or separated path treatments.

Refer to the adjacent plan for State Government advocacy initiatives.

Actions:

Refer page 29 for the detailed master plan actions schedule.



d. Key plan with precincts

11. Precinct 3



Proposed Legend

- Proposed new trail
- Primary gateway (Refer pg15)
- Secondary gateway (Refer pg15)

Existing Legend

- 1 Site photo locations
- Gardiners Creek Trail
- Secondary trail
- Gardiners Creek
- Suburb boundary
- Seat
- Litter bin
- Recycling bin
- Playground
- Barbecue
- Basketball court
- Bike rack



13 Opportunity to improve gateway treatment.



14 Opportunity to review signage locations and information.



15 Advocate to State/Federal Government for bridge upgrades.



16 Opportunity for formalised separated gravel trail.

Existing condition:
This section of Gardiners Creek from Nettleton Park through to Eric Raven Reserve contains generally a narrow corridor due to adjacent landuses (residential). Within this precinct, only a small portion of the trail falls within the City of Boroondara municipality.

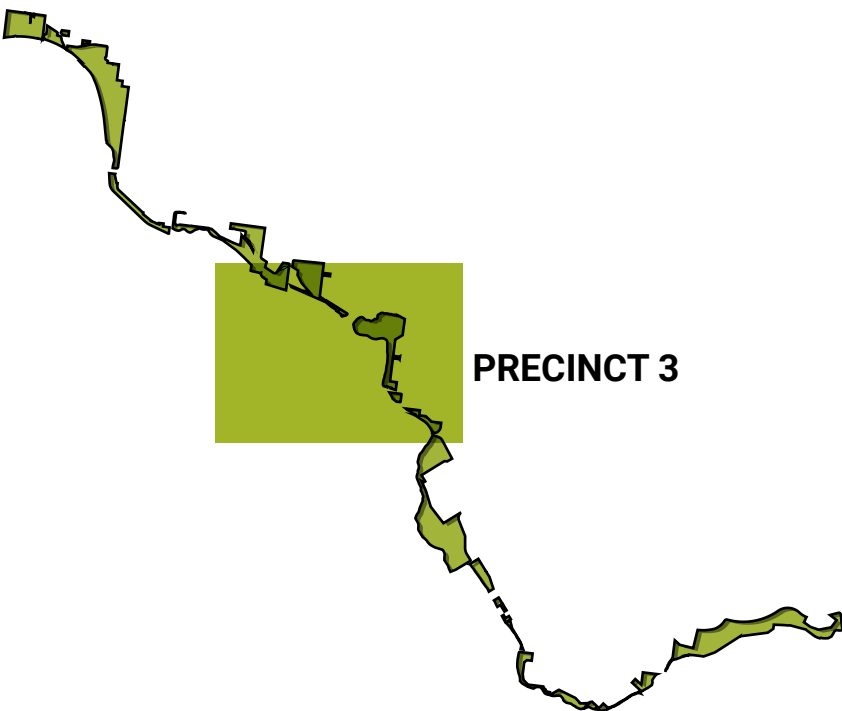
Gardiners Creek through this section is in a naturalised condition, with dense embankment vegetation to both sides of the creek.

Issues & opportunities:
There are opportunities to improve gateway treatments, embankment revegetation and opportunities for garden bed planting.

Due to adjacent land uses and the limited space available, there is limited capacity for any path widening or separated path treatments.

Refer to the adjacent plan for State Government advocacy initiatives.

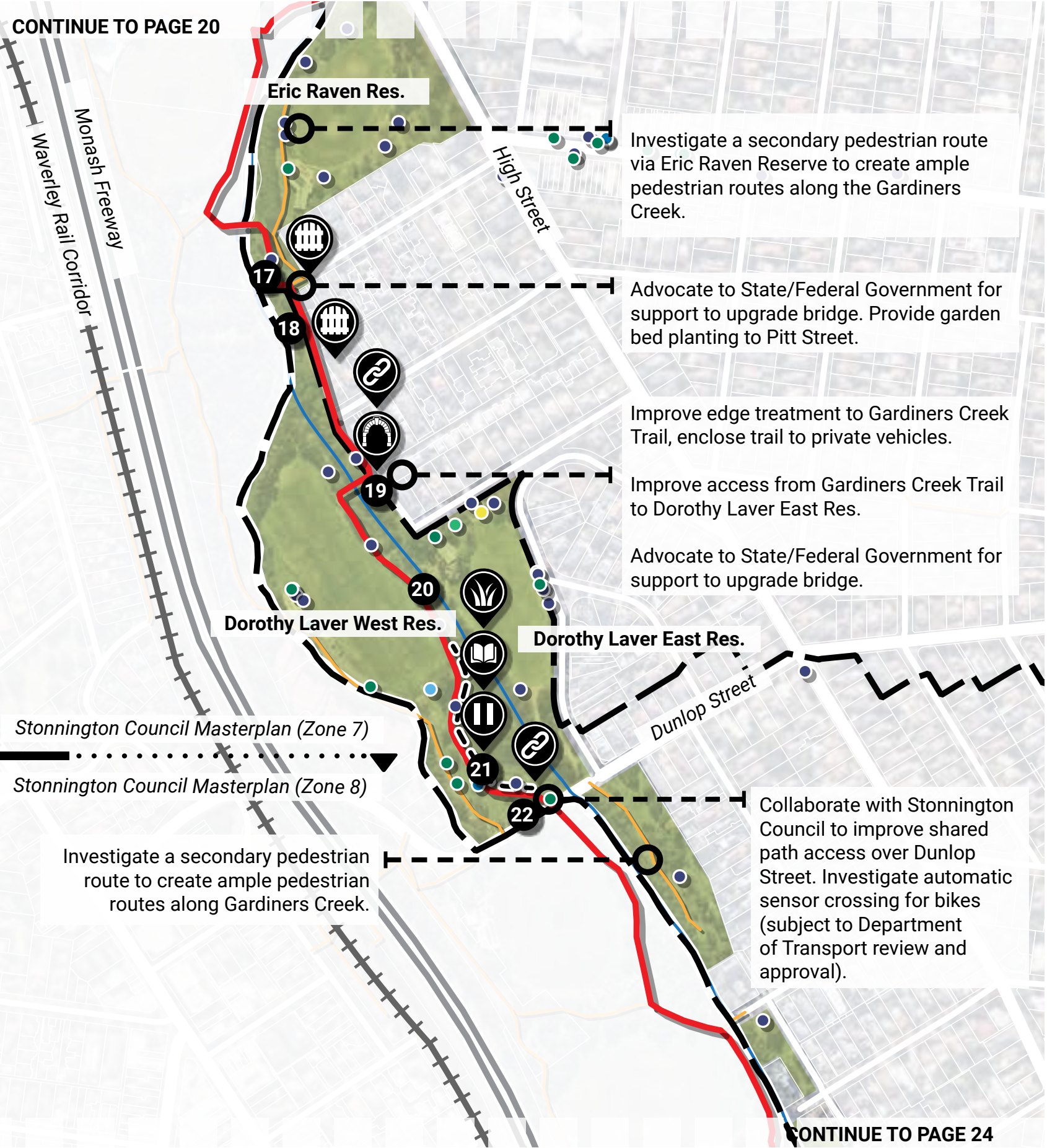
Actions:
Refer page 29 for the detailed master plan actions schedule.



e. Key plan with precincts

12. Precinct 4

CONTINUE TO PAGE 20



Proposed Legend

- Proposed new trail
- Primary gateway (Refer pg15)
- Secondary gateway (Refer pg15)
- Pause point (Refer pg15)
- Additional educational signage (Refer pg15)
- Improve linkages to Dorothy Laver East Res. (Refer pg15)
- Enhance planting and Water Sensitive Urban Design treatments (Refer pg15)

Existing Legend

- 1 Site photo locations
- Gardiners Creek Trail
- Secondary trail
- Gardiners Creek
- Suburb boundary
- Seat
- Litter bin
- Recycling bin
- Playground
- Barbecue
- Bike rack



17 Opportunity to improve access to seating.



18 Opportunity for formative pruning to improve lighting.



19 Opportunity to improve primary gateway treatment.



20 Opportunity for formalised separated gravel trail.



21 Opportunity for decking structure (pause point).



22 Opportunity to improve road crossing (auto-sensors).

Existing condition:

This section of Gardiners Creek from Eric Raven Reserve through to Dunlop Street, Glen Iris, contains an open landscape character due to adjacent public open spaces (Dorothy Laver Reserve West).

The Gardiners Creek through this section is in a naturalised condition, with sporadic embankment vegetation to both sides of the creek.

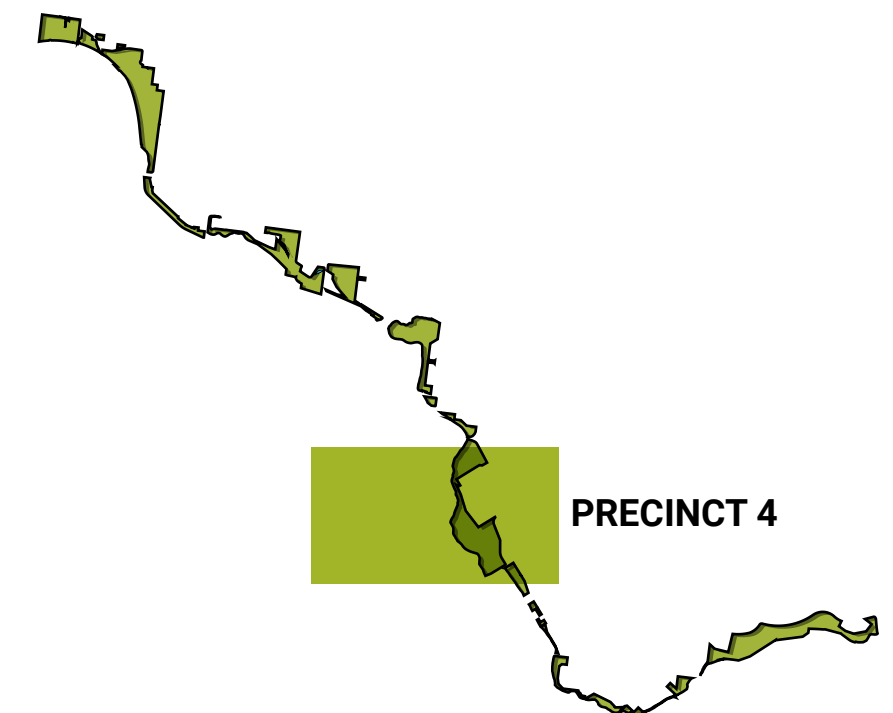
Issues & opportunities:

There are opportunities to improve gateway treatments, surface treatments, embankment revegetation, garden bed planting with ample opportunities for a separated pedestrian gravel trail. There is an opportunity for a timber platform pause point adjacent to Gardiners Creek (refer image 21).

Refer to the adjacent plan for State Government advocacy initiatives.

Actions:

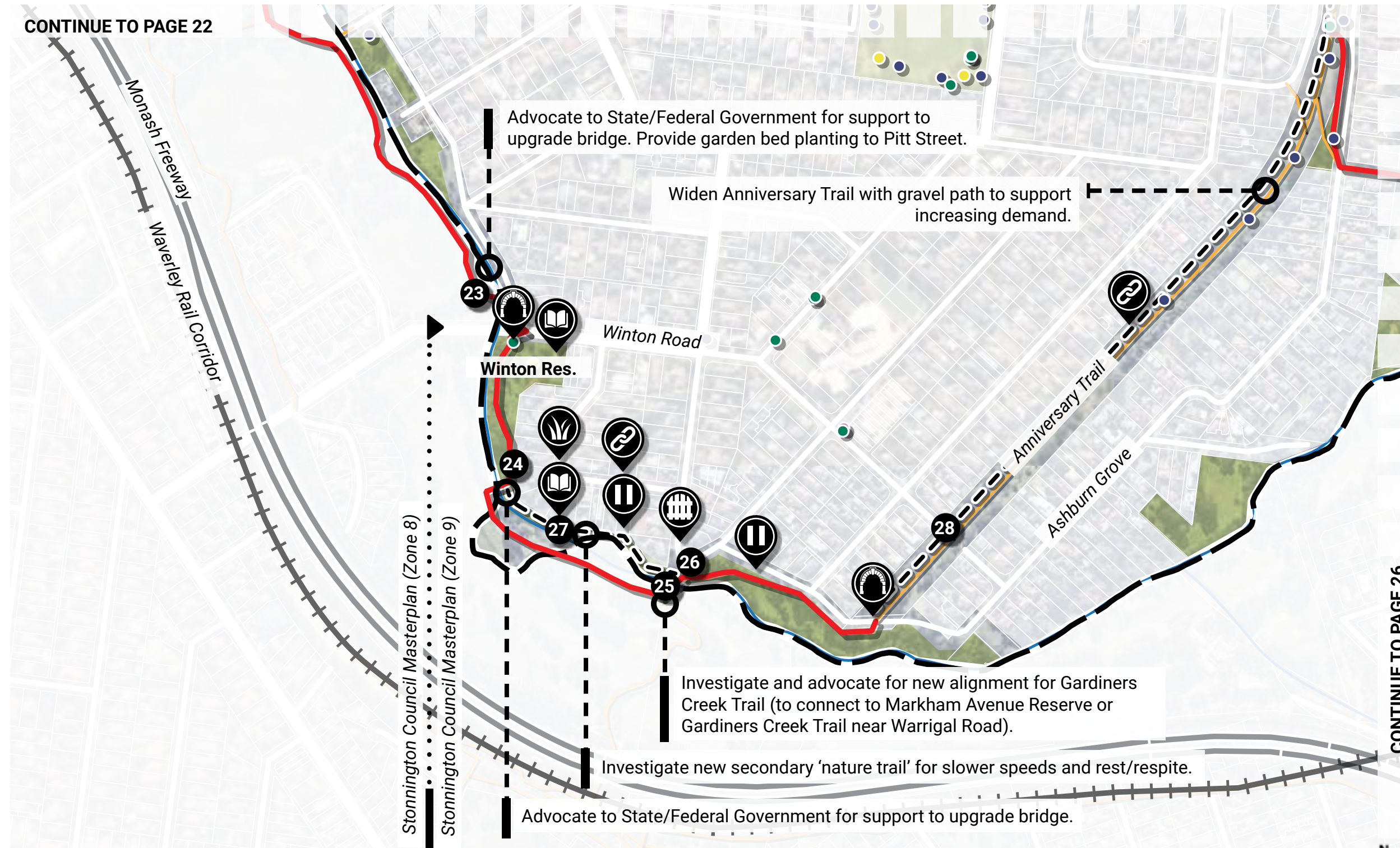
Refer page 29 for the detailed master plan actions schedule.



f. Key plan with precincts

13. Precinct 5

CONTINUE TO PAGE 22



Proposed Legend

- Proposed new trail
- Primary gateway (Refer pg15)
- Secondary gateway (Refer pg15)
- Pause point (Refer pg15)
- Additional educational signage (Refer pg15)
- Improve linkages to both sides of Gardiners Crk (Refer pg15)
- Enhance planting and Water Sensitive Urban Design treatments (Refer pg15)

Existing Legend

- 1 Site photo locations
- Gardiners Creek Trail
- Secondary trail
- Gardiners Creek
- Suburb boundary
- Seat
- Litter bin
- Recycling bin
- Playground
- Bike rack

CONTINUE TO PAGE 26



23 Opportunity to enhance garden bed planting.



24 Opportunity to improve access to new nature trail walk.



25 Opportunity for new alignment to Markham Avenue Reserve.



26 Opportunity to improve access to new nature trail walk.



27 Opportunity for formalised separated gravel trail.



28 Opportunity to widen Anniversary Trail.

Existing condition:

This section of Gardiners Creek from Winton Road, Ashburton, through to Anniversary Trail / Alamein station contains generally a narrow corridor due to adjacent landuses (residential, Malvern Valley Golf Course).

Gardiners Creek Trail in this precinct crosses between Stonnington Council and Boroondara Council areas.

Gardiners Creek through this section is in a naturalised condition, with sporadic embankment vegetation to both sides of the creek.

Issues & opportunities:

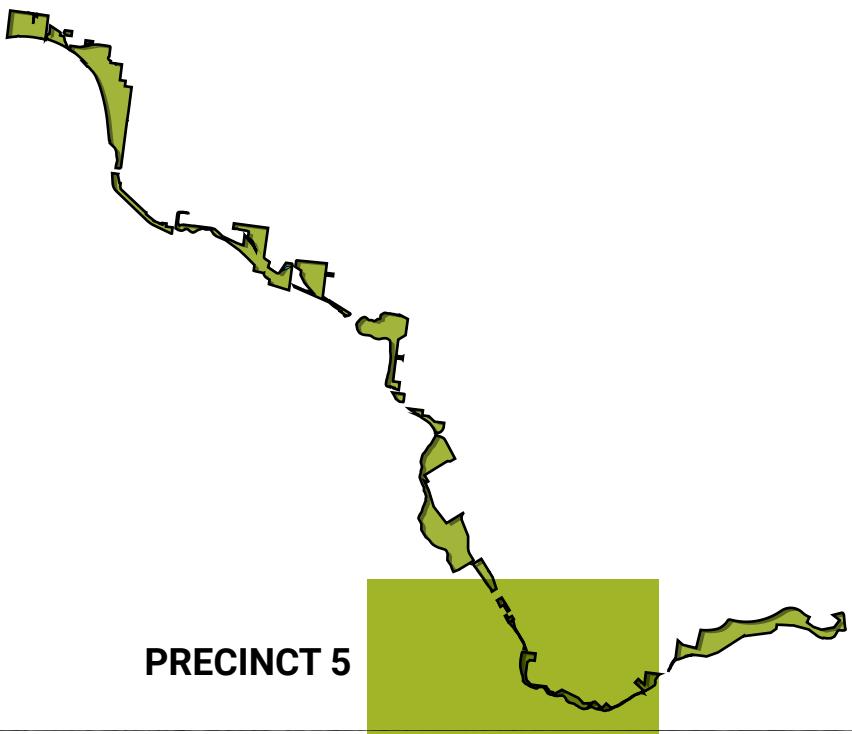
There are opportunities to improve gateway treatments, surface treatments, and opportunities for embankment revegetation and garden bed planting.

There is an opportunity to provide a secondary informal gravel 'nature walk' for reduced speed casual walkers, refer image 24. There are significant opportunities for revegetation through this section of the catchment. There is also an opportunity to widen the path at Anniversary Trail.

Refer to the adjacent plan for State Government advocacy initiatives.

Actions:

Refer page 29 for the detailed master plan actions schedule.



g. Key plan with precincts

14. Precinct 6



Proposed Legend

- Proposed new trail
- Primary gateway (Refer pg15)
- Pause point (Refer pg15)
- Improve connections and improve looping tracks (Refer pg15)
- Enhance planting and Water Sensitive Urban Design treatments (Refer pg15)

Existing Legend

- 1 Site photo locations
- Gardiners Creek Trail
- Secondary trail
- Gardiners Creek
- Suburb boundary
- Seat
- Litter bin
- Recycling bin
- Playground
- Bike rack



29 Opportunity to improve pathing treatment and planting.



30 Opportunity to provide shade and buffer planting.



31 Opportunity to provide pause points for rest and respite.

Existing condition:

This section of Gardiners Creek from Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, through to Warrigal Road contains an open landscape character due to adjacent public open space (Markham Avenue Reserve).

Gardiners Creek through this section is in a naturalised condition, with mostly dense embankment vegetation to both sides of the creek.

Issues & opportunities:

Markham Avenue Reserve is in a good condition with only few suggestions proposed.

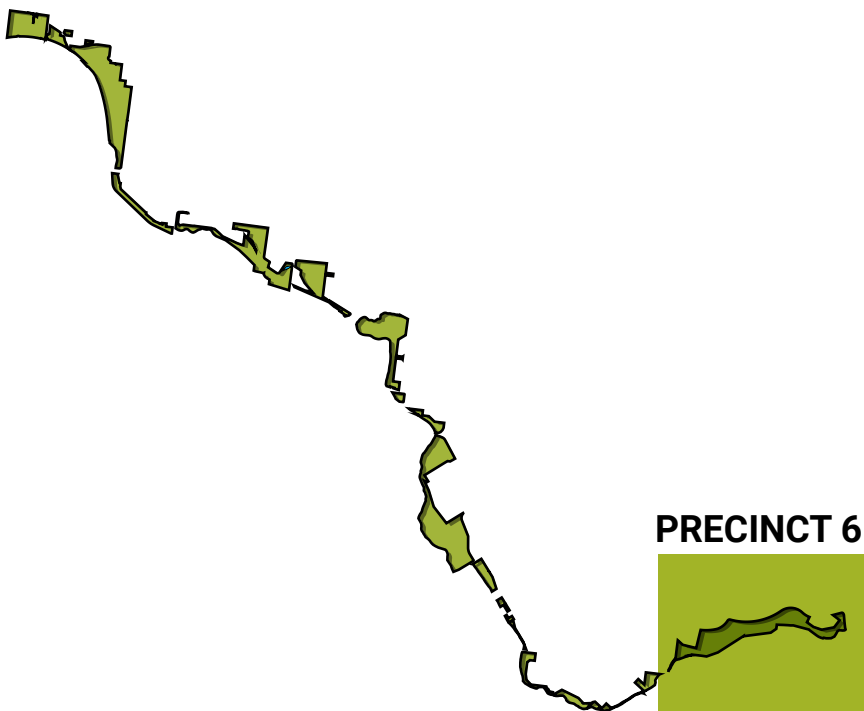
There are opportunities to improve gateway treatment at Warrigal Road, and opportunities for further widespread planting to the park.

There are opportunities to better connect visitors to the nature trail adjacent to Gardiners Creek (refer to image 31).

Refer to the adjacent plan for State Government advocacy initiatives.

Actions:

Refer page 29 for the detailed master plan actions schedule.



h. Key plan with precincts

15. Guiding Principles for Actions



Permeability

1. Ensure concrete is removed from site and disposed of ethically/appropriately.
2. Ensure soil is sufficiently remediated to restore its natural absorbing properties.
3. Ensure soil nutrient balance is restored prior to planting.
4. When planting indigenous garden beds, refer to the Biodiversity Asset Management Plan (Part Two) for the appropriate Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC). Ensure species is of local provenance.



Water Sensitive Urban Design

1. Water Sensitive Urban Design initiatives are typically in-ground raingardens and swales, in accordance with the latest Melbourne Water standards.
2. When planting indigenous garden beds, refer to the Biodiversity Asset Management Plan (Part Two) for the appropriate Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC). Ensure species is of local provenance.



Links & loops

1. Gravel trails should be constructed in accordance with Boroondara Council standard details and should include timber edging.
2. Implementation of gravel trails should not encroach or impact existing sensitive vegetation including tree protection zones.



Primary gateways

1. All signage that is worn/faded or damaged is to be updated in accordance with the latest Boroondara Signage Style Guide, ensuring maximum visibility to users of the Gardiners Creek Trail.
2. Any new signage to be implemented is required to be designed in accordance with the latest Boroondara Signage Style Guide, ensuring maximum visibility to users of the Gardiners Creek Trail.
3. Signage under this category should include a directional map at major entrances to the trail.
4. New outdoor furniture such as bins, bollards and seats should be installed in accordance with Boroondara Council standard details and Boroondara's latest style guides.
5. Minimum 8m² allocation to garden beds. When planting indigenous garden beds, refer to the Biodiversity Asset Management Plan (Part Two) for the appropriate Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC). Ensure species is of local provenance.



Education

1. New interpretive signage to be implemented to align with other interpretive signage in the area and should be in accordance with the latest Boroondara Signage Style Guide. All signage should be accessible via a pedestrian path.



Pause points

1. New outdoor furniture should be installed in accordance with Boroondara Council standard details and the Public Realm Asset Manual.



Secondary gateways

1. All signage that is worn/faded or damaged is to be updated in accordance with the latest Boroondara Signage Style Guide, ensuring maximum visibility to users of the Gardiners Creek Trail.
2. Any new signage to be implemented is required to be designed in accordance with the latest Boroondara Signage Style Guide, ensuring maximum visibility to users of the Gardiners Creek Trail.
3. Signage under this category should include small-scale direction street signage.
4. New outdoor furniture such as seats should be installed in accordance with Boroondara Council standard details and the Public Realm Asset Manual.
5. Minimum 4m² allocation to garden beds. When planting indigenous garden beds, refer to the Biodiversity Asset Management Plan (Part Two) for the appropriate Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC). Ensure species is of local provenance.



i. Interpretive signage example.

16. Master Plan Action Schedule

Major strategic and collaborative opportunities

Boroondara City Council is not directly responsible for funding the following 6 actions, these are collaborative opportunities only. These opportunities would require substantial funding from other levels of government and present an advocacy opportunity for the City of Boroondara.

Ref.	Identified action
-	Advocate to the Victorian Government to increase access and connectivity to the Gardiners Creek Trail by investigating potential new link to Scotch College.
-	Advocate to the Victorian Government, VicRoads and Transurban for vertical WSUD, treating water from the motorway before returning into the creek.
-	Advocate to the Victorian Government to upgrade the existing suspended shared user path to create separate pedestrian and cyclist paths with improved lighting for safety and break out/rest stops to increase usability and enhance cyclist and pedestrian safety.
-	Advocate to stakeholders including the Victorian Government for increased naturalisation of the concrete channel.
-	Develop opportunities and feasibility for the widening of the Gardiners Creek shared trail via a cantilevered structure subject to Melbourne Water review and approval.
-	Advocate to State/Federal Government for support to upgrade Gardiners Creek Trail bridges (x6 quantity).
-	Investigate and advocate for new alignment for Gardiners Creek Trail (to connect to Markham Avenue Reserve or Gardiners Creek Trail near Warrigal Road).

Catchment wide initiatives

As identified on page 15.

Ref.	Identified action
-	Identify opportunities for further planting across the catchment within the City of Boroondara.
-	Continue to commit to ongoing annual revegetation to biodiversity sites across the catchment within the City of Boroondara.
-	Continued contribution to revegetation programs, including establishing a continuous riparian vegetated buffer where possible, and maintain existing vegetation.
-	Develop a Pollution and Litter Reduction Plan to identify and better manage sources of pollution and litter impacting the Gardiners Creek catchment. Advocate and work collaboratively with other key stakeholders such as Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water, Environmental Protection Agency and local councils to better identify and manage sources of pollution and litter.
-	Continue to support community groups and build capacity through citizen science and cultural engagement. Actively continue to advocate and work collaboratively with other levels of government, relevant agencies and key stakeholders to improve the health of the catchment.
-	Investigate opportunities to irrigate sporting ovals with stormwater.
-	Deliver a program of habitat restoration and the installation of nest boxes.
-	Develop a new land owner waterway information pack with support from Melbourne Water for land owners who are situated on the river catchment. The information pack will include a guide on how to better manage land adjacent to waterways.
-	Ensure all furniture on the Gardiners Creek Trail is accessible, with minimum a gravel access path connecting to the asset.
-	Promote consistency in furniture styles (in accordance Boroondara's latest furniture styles).

Precinct 1 (Short-term priorities)

As identified on page 15 & page 28.

Ref.	Identified action
1A	Secondary gateway: 4m ² garden bed planting.
1B	Secondary gateway: Small-scale directional street signage.
1C	Permeability: Remove excess concrete (~30m ²).
1D	Permeability: 30m ² garden bed planting.
1E	Primary gateway: Install seat.
1F	Primary gateway: Install recycling bin.
1G	Primary gateway: Install directional map.
1H	Primary gateway: 8m ² garden bed planting.
1I	Links & loops: 450 lin. m gravel path.
1J	Install bollards to key entrances to close the Gardiners Creek Trail from private vehicles.

Precinct 2 (Short-term priorities)

As identified on page 15 & page 28.

Ref.	Identified action
2A	Secondary gateway: 4m ² garden bed planting.
2B	Secondary gateway: Small-scale directional street signage.
2C	Secondary gateway: 4m ² garden bed planting.
2D	Secondary gateway: Small-scale directional street signage.
2E	Primary gateway: Install seat.
2F	Primary gateway: Install litter and recycling bin.
2G	Primary gateway: Install directional map.
2H	Primary gateway: 8m ² garden bed planting.
2I	Secondary gateway: 4m ² garden bed planting.
2J	Secondary gateway: Small-scale directional street signage.
2K	Secondary gateway: 4m ² garden bed planting.
2L	Secondary gateway: Small-scale directional street signage.
2M	Secondary gateway: Install seat.
2N	Education: Install interpretive sign facing wetland.
2O	Links & loops: ~70 lin. m gravel path.
2P	Primary gateway: Install litter and recycling bin.
2Q	Primary gateway: Install directional map.
2R	Primary gateway: 8m ² garden bed planting.
2S	Secondary gateway: 4m ² garden bed planting.
2T	Secondary gateway: Small-scale directional street signage.

Ref.	Identified action
2U	Improve lighting and wall treatments to Tooronga Road, underpass.
2V	<i>Climbing wall, bike track, feature lighting under Toorak Road underpass.</i>
2W	Toorak Road, new underpass.

Precinct 3 (Short-term priorities)

As identified on page 15 & page 28.

Ref.	Identified action
3A	Secondary gateway: 4m ² garden bed planting.
3B	Secondary gateway: Install seat.
3C	Secondary gateway: Small-scale directional street signage.
3D	Secondary gateway: 4m ² garden bed planting.
3E	Secondary gateway: Install seat.
3F	Secondary gateway: Small-scale directional street signage.
3G	Links & loops: ~150 lin. m gravel path.
3H	Primary gateway: Install litter and recycling bin.
3I	Primary gateway: Install directional map.
3J	Primary gateway: 8m ² garden bed planting.

PRECINCT 4 (Short-term priorities)

As identified on page 15 & page 28.

Ref.	Identified action
4A	Secondary gateway: 4m ² garden bed planting.
4B	Secondary gateway: Small-scale directional street signage.
4C	Secondary gateway: 4m ² garden bed planting.
4D	Secondary gateway: Small-scale directional street signage.
4E	Primary gateway: Install litter and recycling bin.
4F	Primary gateway: Install directional map.
4G	Primary gateway: 8m ² garden bed planting.
4H	Pause point: Install seat.
4I	Education: Install interpretive sign facing creek.
4J	Water Sensitive Urban Design: Exact extent of treatment area to be confirmed on-site to ensure site suitability and successful establishment.
4K	New decking structure adjacent to creek (Dorothy Laver Res. West).

PRECINCT 5 (Short-term priorities)

As identified on page 15 & page 28.

Ref.	Identified action
5A	Primary gateway: 8m ² garden bed planting.
5B	Primary gateway: Install directional map.
5C	Primary gateway: Install recycling bin.
5D	Education: Install interpretive sign facing Winton Community Garden.
5E	Links & loops: ~210 lin. m gravel path.
5F	Education: Install interpretive sign facing Gardiners Creek.
5G	Pause point: Install seat.
5H	Water Sensitive Urban Design: Exact extent of treatment area to be confirmed on-site to ensure site suitability and successful establishment.
5I	Secondary gateway: 4m ² garden bed planting.
5J	Secondary gateway: Small-scale directional street signage.
5K	Pause point: Install seat.
5L	Primary gateway: 8m ² garden bed planting.
5M	Primary gateway: Install directional map.
5N	Primary gateway: Install litter & recycling bin.
5O	Primary gateway: Install seat.
5P	Links & loops: ~850 lin. m gravel path.

PRECINCT 6

As identified on page 15 & page 28.

Ref.	Identified Action
6A	Water Sensitive Urban Design: Exact extent of treatment area to be confirmed on-site to ensure site suitability and successful establishment.
6B	Education: Install interpretive sign facing community garden.
6C	Links & loops: ~150 lin. m gravel path.
6D	Pause point: Install seat.
6E	Links & loops: ~120 lin. m gravel path.
6F	Pause point: Install seat.
6G	Links & loops: ~130 lin. m gravel path.
6H	Water Sensitive Urban Design: Exact extent of treatment area to be confirmed on-site to ensure site suitability and successful establishment.
6I	Water Sensitive Urban Design: Exact extent of treatment area to be confirmed on-site to ensure site suitability and successful establishment.
6J	Primary gateway: 8m ² garden bed planting.
6K	Primary gateway: Install directional map.
6L	Primary gateway: Install litter & recycling bin.
6K	Primary gateway: Install seat.

17. Glossary and References

master plan: A long-term guide to the future development of a site and to ensure appropriate planning and allocation of resources. They are often a means of implementing the objectives, strategies and outcomes identified in a structure planning process. Master plans are also undertaken when there are issues or opportunities within a place that need to be resolved to meet the changing needs of the community. Master plans ensure that the short and long-term interests and needs of the community are appropriately addressed. Master plans do not represent a commitment to implement all components of the plan, which will be reviewed at regular intervals and may be subject to change. Implementation of master plan recommendations are considered annually as part of the council budget process, in conjunction with all Council Plan and Budget priorities.

catchment: A catchment is an area of land where water collects when it rains. As the water flows over the landscape it finds its way into streams and down into the soil, eventually feeding the river. Some of this water stays underground and continues to slowly feed the river in times of low rainfall.

corridor: A river corridor includes lands adjacent to and including the course of a river.

council: Indicates the City of Boroondara as a geographical area and also refers to the entity which has the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Boroondara community.

open space: ‘Open Space’ is defined as, but not limited to, gardens, parks, sports grounds, road reserves, bush reserves, major leisure facilities and crown land reserves owned or managed by council.

WSUD: Acronym for Water Sensitive Urban Design.

Water Sensitive Urban Design: The integration of urban planning with the management, protection and conservation of the urban water cycle that ensures urban water management is sensitive to natural hydrological and ecological cycles.



Appendix 1: Consultation Findings

Boroondara Community Plan (BCP)

Between December 2020 and April 2021, council undertook community consultations to inform the review of council’s key strategic document, the BCP, to ensure council was responding to emerging trends, demands and changes to community priorities. In total, 4,723 people took part in a survey which included three key questions:

	COMMUNITY SURVEY
1.	What’s important to you in Boroondara?
2.	Of these 7 priority themes, what do you think are 3 most important for Boroondara over the next 10 years?
3.	What aspects of your top priority theme do you think Council should focus on for the next 10 years?

Methodology:
To inform the development of the Gardiners Creek Master Plan, a word search was performed on the verbatim responses to two of the survey questions: **“What is important to you in Boroondara?”** and **“What aspects of your top priority theme do you think Council should focus on in the next 10 years?”**

To capture feedback associated with the Gardiners Creek and Back Creek catchments, these results were further narrowed by selecting only residents from the neighbouring area that generated 1,368 verbatim comments, which were then sorted by gender, non-English speaking background, age and suburb, and entered into a series of word clouds.

This master plan has also been selected as a pilot project for a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA), designed to support critical thinking about how actions, programs and services will meet the different needs of women, men and gender diverse people. The purpose of GIAs is to create better and fairer outcomes, and make sure all people have equal access to opportunities and resources. We investigated the differences in responses between genders to ensure we are supporting gender equity on our projects.¹

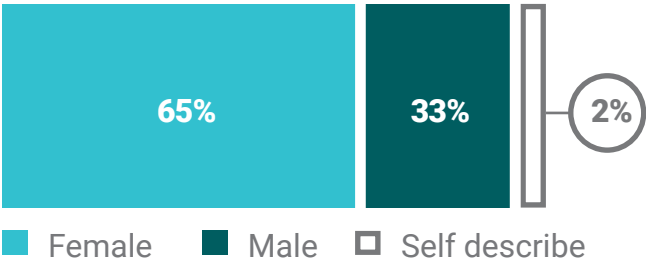
Based on this methodology, we found the following refined results:

¹The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included.

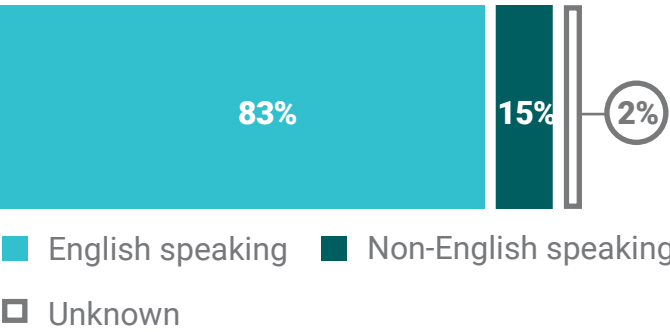
² Only responses from survey data that appears more than 15 times are shown on the Word Cloud, filtered based on key words listed in the methodology.

Who participated (based on methodology filter):

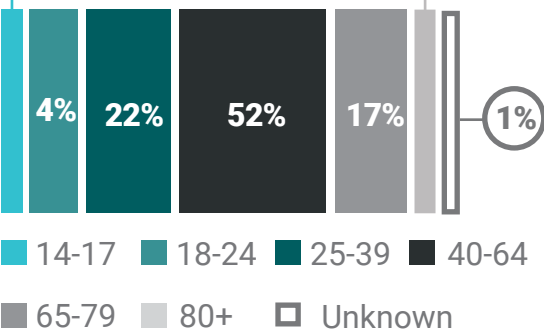
Gender



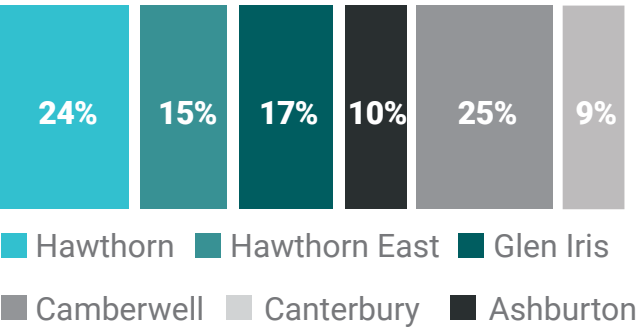
Non-English Speaking Background (NESB)



Age (years)



Suburb of residence (due to proximity of catchments)



A ‘word cloud’ is a tool which visualises the 1,368 survey responses and identifies when key words in sentences get used more frequently. The larger and more bold the word is, the more frequent the word has been used by the respondents.

The following word clouds have been used to visualise the responses to the question **“What is important to you in Boroondara?”** through the parameters of the methodology.

Responses from the community² (Female¹):



Responses from the community² (Male¹):



The following word clouds have been used to visualise the responses to the question **“What aspects of your top priority theme do you think Council should focus on in the next 10 years?”** through the parameters of the methodology.

Responses from the community² (female¹):



Responses from the community² (male¹):



What does this tell us?

In summary, there is a clear and strong appreciation for Gardiners Creek from the community, recognising it as both a **significant biodiversity corridor**, as well as a **popular destination** and network for **walking and bike riding**. The Gardiners Creek catchment is also loved for the **inter-connectivity** with various parks and open spaces, with associated sporting grounds.

The word clouds for the first question, **“What is important to you in Boroondara?”** indicated that women generally find community buildings/enhancing the sense of community, access to facilities and parks and gardens as important within Boroondara.

There were less words in the word cloud for men but the words appeared in greater frequency. Words such as “more” indicate a general desire for additional parks, open space and facilities.

The word clouds for the second question, **“What aspects should Council focus on?”** have similar responses between both genders. Responses from both men and women included, but were not limited to, planting, open space, trees, environment, facilities, accessibility etc.

The general feedback received (comments) indicated a desire to **better plan for the Gardiners Creek catchment** through the following:

Rehabilitate and conserve, improve community accessibility and participation, improve issues associated with litter, improve cycling options and signage, and improve safety and surveillance.

“Planting more trees along the creek (Gardiners Creek and the Yarra). These are beautiful areas so we need to be sure we look after them.”

-Community Feedback, Male, 65-79
English speaking country of birth

“Improved bike paths that are safe for me to commute on and my family to ride on

-Community Feedback, female, 40-64
English speaking country of birth

“Gardiners Trail to be well maintained and clean with clear signs for cyclists and pedestrians.”

-Community Feedback, female, 40-64
English speaking country of birth

“Action on climate change, reducing carbon emissions, rehabilitation & conservation of locally significant ecosystems and habitats such as Gardiners Creek.”

-Community Feedback, 25-39
English speaking country of birth

Boroondara specific findings from Stonnington Council’s consultation data (Gardiners Creek Masterplan)

Stonnington Council shared survey data acquired during the preparation of their Gardiners Creek Masterplan from 2019 with Boroondara City Council (given its relevance and usefulness to this project). The data shared was general in nature, with no personal or sensitive information shared.

Extensive on-site surveying was undertaken to understand user experiences, activities and destinations along the Gardiners Creek, and given that users on the Gardiners Creek Trail will navigate between the council areas of Boroondara and Stonnington (due to the weaving nature of the shared trails), we have reviewed the data through the following methodology.

Methodology:
we have reviewed the survey data received of 379 responses, and filtered this to only show responses from postcodes within the municipality of Boroondara (reducing the response number to 199). The aim of this was to limit the received feedback to specifically the Boroondara community who may have been intercepted by the surveying team on-site.

This master plan has also been selected as a pilot project for a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA), designed to support critical thinking about how actions, programs and services will meet the different needs of women, men and gender diverse people. The purpose of GIAs is to create better and fairer outcomes, and make sure all people have equal access to opportunities and resources. We investigated the differences in responses between genders to ensure we are supporting gender equity on our projects.²

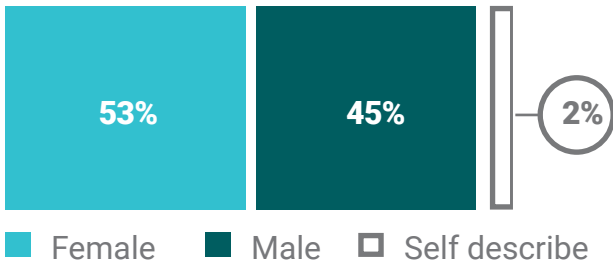
Based on this methodology, we found the following results:

¹The Glen Iris postcode (3146) partially extends beyond the municipality of Boroondara (into City of Stonnington). Given a large portion of the postcode area is within Boroondara, this data has not been excluded.

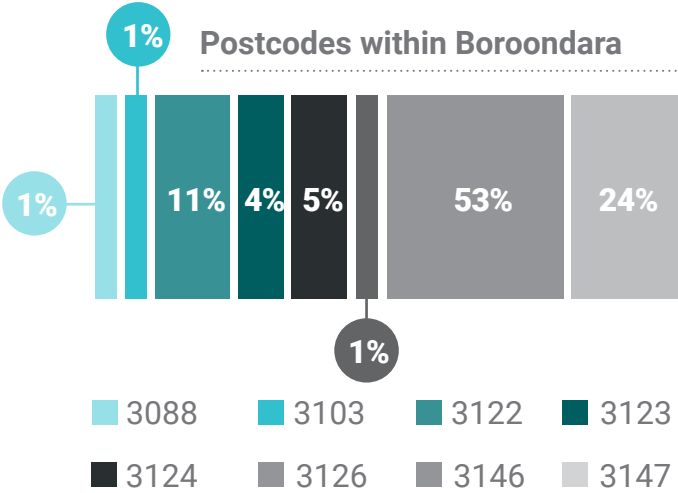
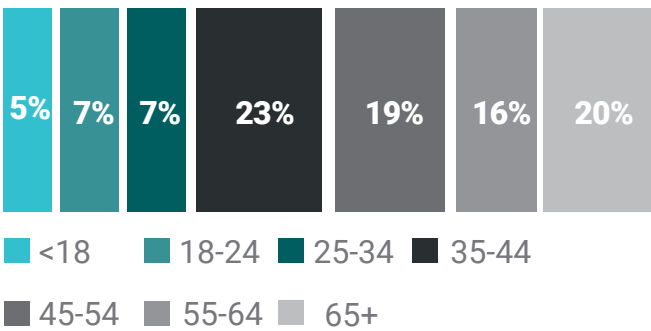
²The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included to limit issues with analysis interpretation.

Who participated¹:

Gender



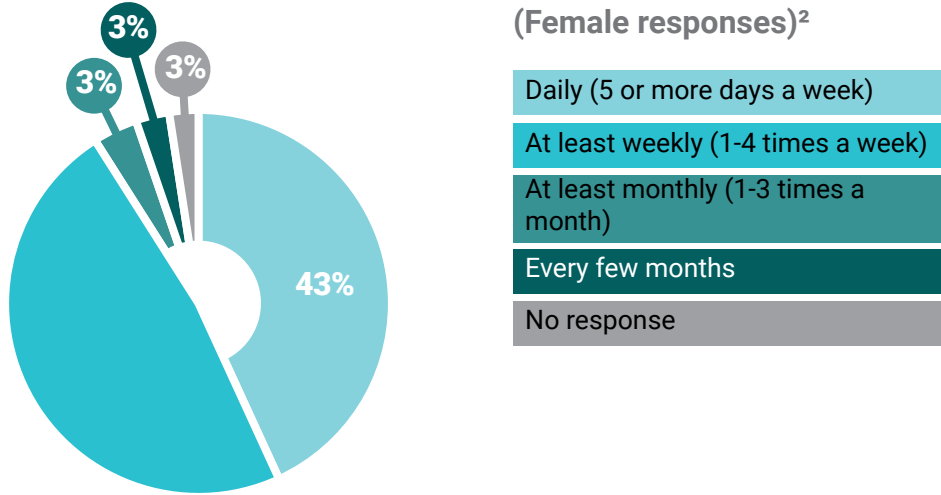
Age



Results:

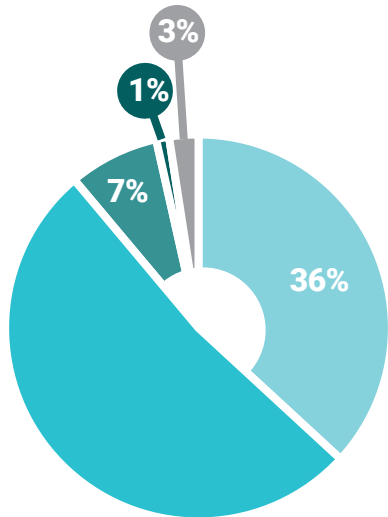
The following questions were asked during the on-site surveying.

Question 1: Approximately how often do you come to the Gardiners Creek area?



(Female responses)²

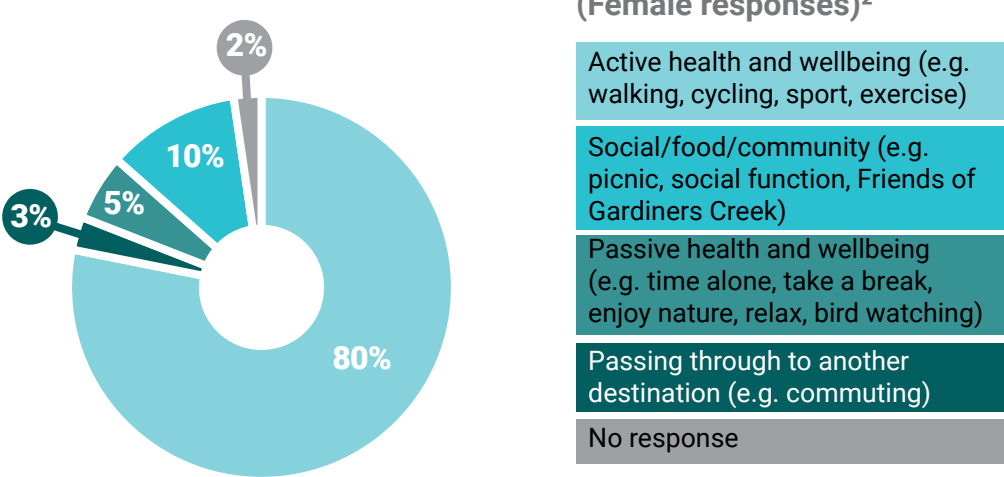
- Daily (5 or more days a week)
- At least weekly (1-4 times a week)
- At least monthly (1-3 times a month)
- Every few months
- No response



(Male responses)²

- Daily (5 or more days a week)
- At least weekly (1-4 times a week)
- At least monthly (1-3 times a month)
- Every few months
- No response

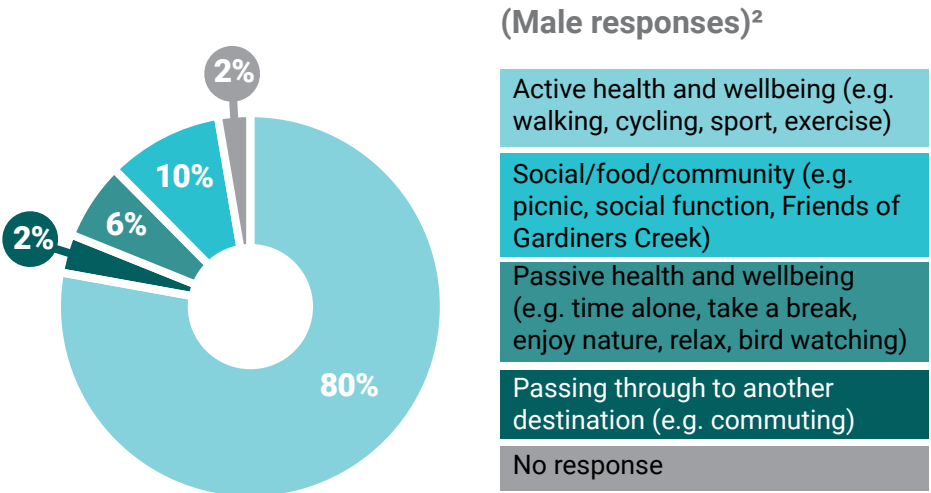
Question 2: What is the main reason you are here today?



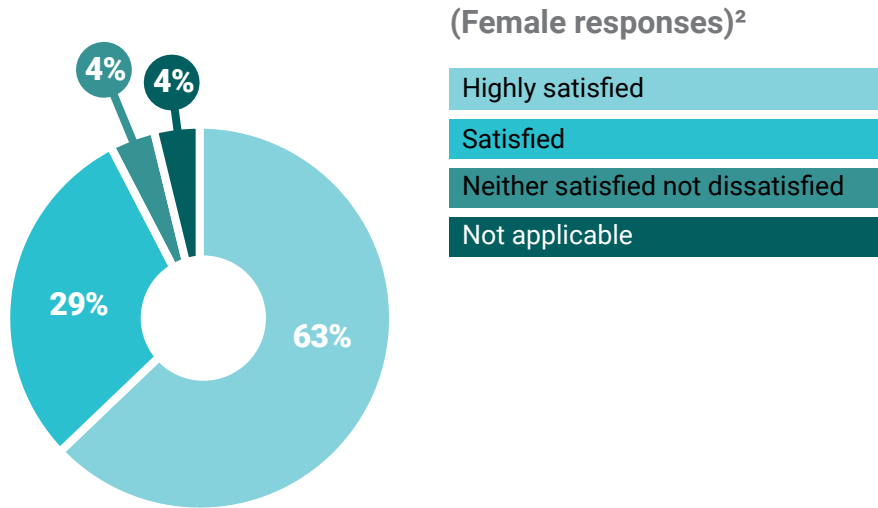
(Female responses)²

- Active health and wellbeing (e.g. walking, cycling, sport, exercise)
- Social/food/community (e.g. picnic, social function, Friends of Gardiners Creek)
- Passive health and wellbeing (e.g. time alone, take a break, enjoy nature, relax, bird watching)
- Passing through to another destination (e.g. commuting)
- No response

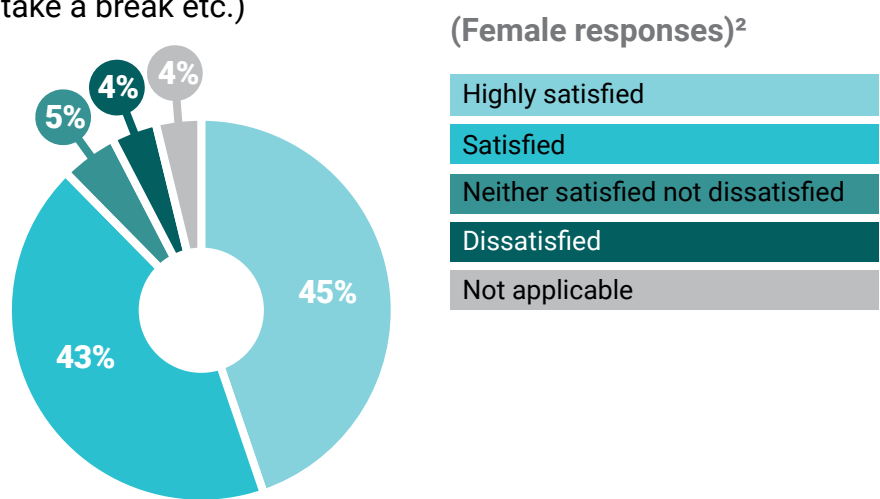
Question 2: What is the main reason you are here today? (cont.)



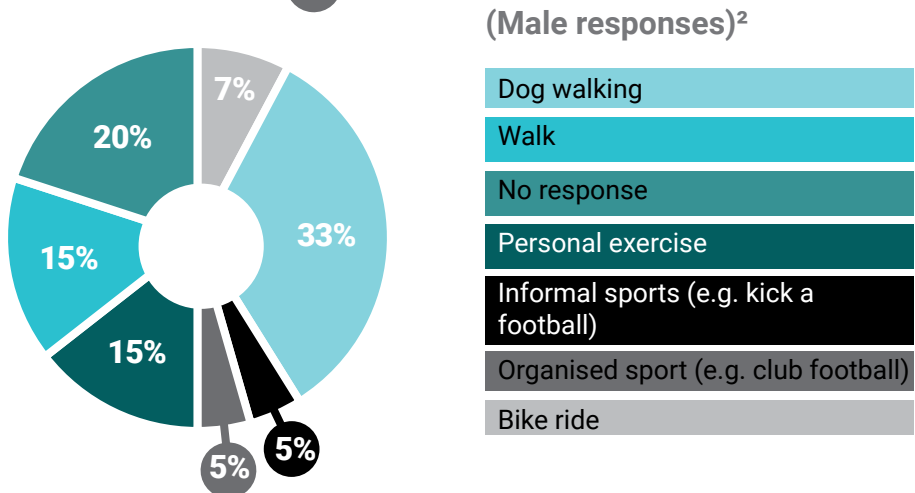
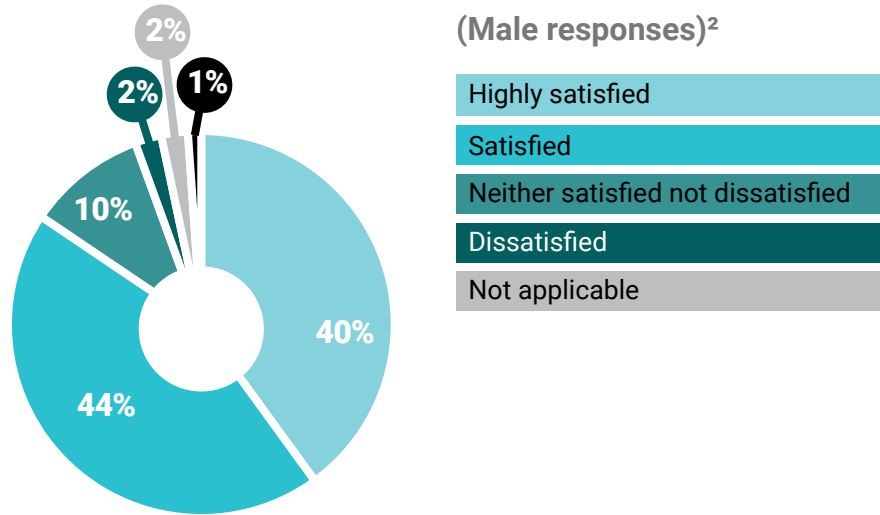
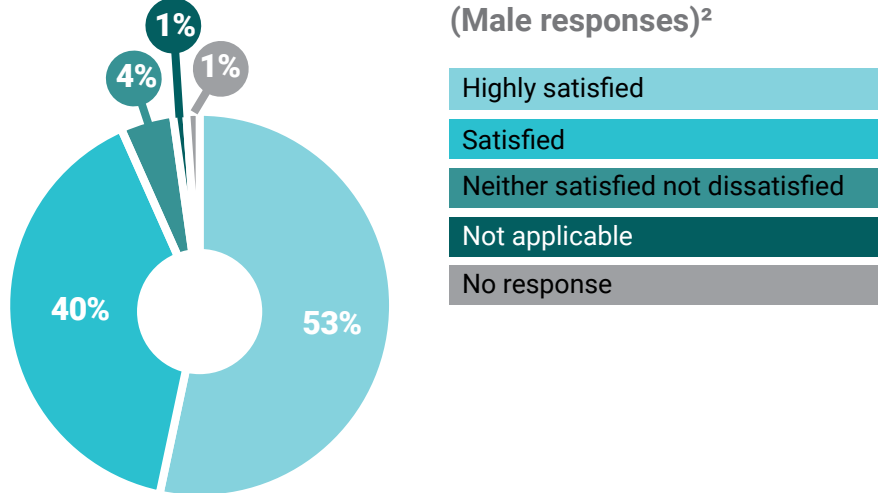
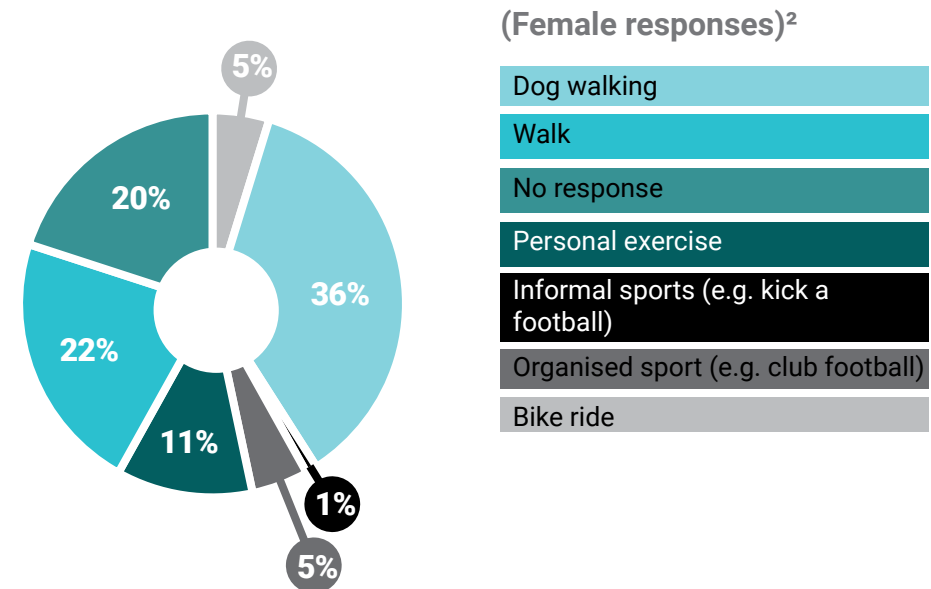
Question 4: How satisfied are you with the available spaces for active recreation? (sports, exercise etc.)



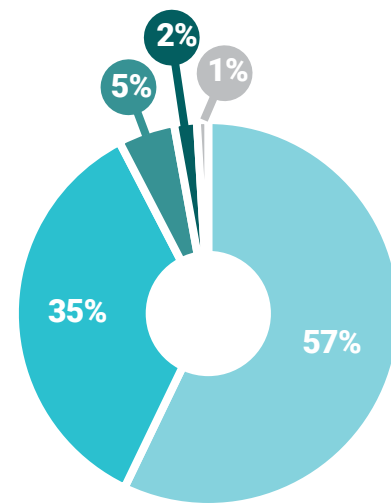
Question 5: How satisfied are you with the available spaces for passive recreation and relaxation? (spend time with nature, reflect, take a break etc.)



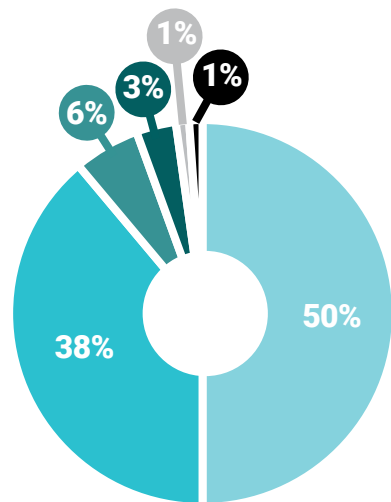
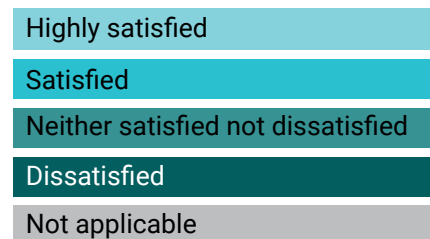
Question 3: What specific recreational activity?



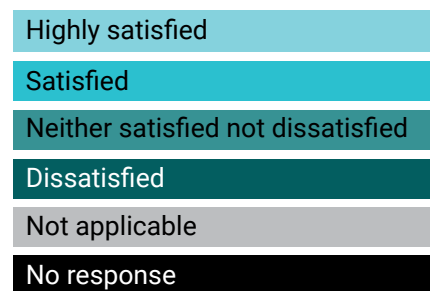
Question 6: How satisfied are you with the natural environment? (vegetation, plants, wildlife, weeds etc.).



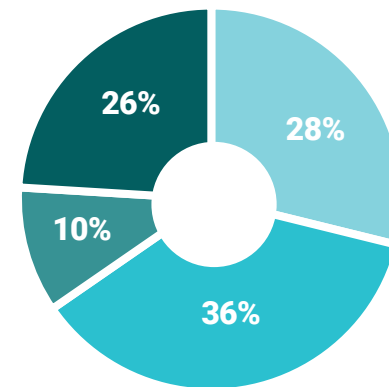
(Female responses)²



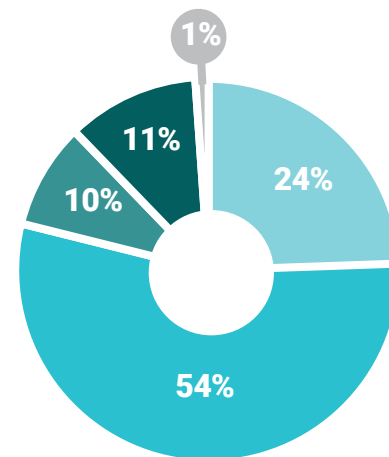
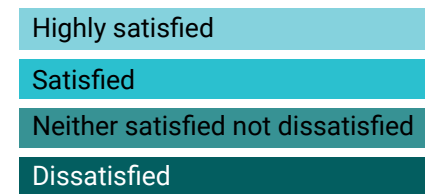
(Male responses)²



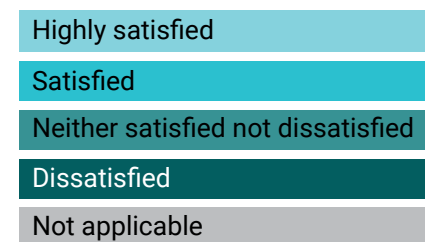
Question 7: How satisfied are you with the shared pathways and safe access to the area? (bike paths, walking paths, access to nearby locations etc.).



(Female responses)²



(Male responses)²



What does this tell us?

Based on the survey results, both **men and women come to the Gardiners Creek for the same main reasons**, for active health and wellbeing, picnics and social functions.

Women are more likely to visit the Gardiners Creek area on a regular basis, with both men and women visiting for the same reasons.

Dog walking is the most popular recreational activity followed by personal exercise.

Women are more satisfied with the available space for active recreation. **Men are less satisfied with the available space, this may be due to their higher preferences in informal sporting recreation activities** as indicated in the results of question 3.

Women have scored slightly higher regarding their satisfaction with the natural environment at Gardiners Creek.

Women are more dissatisfied with shared pathways and safe access to the area. This may be due to perceptions around safety in public space and issues associated with passive surveillance.

Consultation findings for this project (external stakeholders)

During January 2022 a council officer engaged with 21 out of 29 key external stakeholders associated with the Gardiners Creek and Back Creek catchment (within the municipality of Boroondara). These stakeholders included sporting clubs, scout groups and 'Friends of' groups of the catchment.¹

The following questions were asked via phone conversation:

Questions via phone conversations	
1.	Do you use Gardiners Creek and if yes, what for? E.g. walking the dog, bike riding etc?
2.	What extent of the corridor do you use? Where do you enter the corridor from typically?
3.	Do you visit Gardiners Creek regularly? What time of day do you visit?
4.	What do you like about Gardiners Creek? Are there any sections you like most and why?
5.	Do you have any thoughts on how the corridor could be improved? These can be specific issues or broad issues for the whole corridor.

The findings of this targeted stakeholders phase has typically indicated issues associated with poor water quality of the creek, concerns associated with biodiversity and acknowledgement of areas of poor vegetation diversity and health. There was a trend with suggested improvements, indicating a desire for reducing hard surfaces, enhancing planting through revegetation, separating walking paths for different users and re-naturalisation of the creek catchment in areas that contain concrete culverts.

These findings have contributed to assisting us in identifying key directions associated with this master plan.

Refer to the following pages on some of the valuable feedback received.

¹Voicemail messages were left to all contacted stakeholders that did not answer, not all stakeholders return called.

“ Avoid excess concrete or development, we should be making the sites more permeable. ”
-From a 'Friends of' group

“ Water quality needs improving though acknowledgement that this is a collaborative effort. ”
-From a 'Friends of' group

“ Nice spots for dog off leash areas, and natural green respite. Temperature drops near the water level. ”
-From a Sporting Club

“ People who ride on bikes very fast can crash into other trail users who are not aware. ”
-From a Fitness Club

“ Provide information on who to call if you see a pollution event.

-From a 'Friends of' group

”

“ Making it safe and usable. Ensuring quality of surface treatments and appropriate lighting.

-From a Sporting Club

”

“ Understory vegetation replaced with clearer forms and tree planting to allow easier retrieval of soccer balls near sporting ovals.

-From a Sporting Club

”

“ Improve signage consistency including species plaques.

-From a 'Friends of' group

”

“ Some areas should stay as biodiversity sites and should remain inaccessible to the public.

-From a 'Friends of' group

”

“ Road crossings are not formalised at Back Creek Reserve.

-From a 'Friends of' group

”

“ Concrete drainage removal should be considered and the river should be naturalised.

-From a Sporting Club

”

Consultation findings for this project (draft report)

**DRAFT REPORT FEEDBACK FROM
COMMUNITY TO BE INPUT HERE.**

AVAILABLE FROM FINAL ISSUE.

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COMMUNITY TO BE INPUT HERE.**

AVAILABLE FROM FINAL ISSUE.

To get in touch or to find out more about the
Draft Gardiners Creek Master Plan, visit:



<https://engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/gardiners-creek-master-plan>



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