

Yarra Valley Parklands



Management Plan November 2008

**YARRA VALLEY PARKLANDS
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Country: In their rich culture, Indigenous Australians are intrinsically connected to the continent — including the area now known as Victoria. Parks Victoria recognises that the parklands are part of *Country* of the Traditional Owners.

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The plan is also prepared without prejudice to any future negotiated outcomes between the Government/s and Victorian Aboriginal communities. It is acknowledged that such negotiated outcomes may necessitate amendment of this plan.

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Cover: Yarra Valley Parklands: paddling on the Yarra River, Birrarrung Park (Photos: Parks Victoria collection), View to Melbourne CBD from Tikilara Park (James Lauritz)

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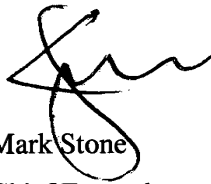
FOREWORD

Yarra Valley Parklands are one of the most significant expanses of public open space in metropolitan Melbourne. They are characterised by a diverse array of landscapes including bushland, open paddocks and floodplains, linked by the iconic Yarra River. The diverse landscapes provide for a wide range of recreational pursuits and contain significant natural and cultural values. The parklands are vital in contributing to the health and well-being of the community and the character of the local and regional landscape.

This Management Plan provides strategic management directions for the Yarra Valley Parklands for the next 10 to 15 years. Focus over time will be on ensuring ongoing protection and enhancement of the parkland's cultural, environmental and landscape values, further developing connections to the parklands, enhancing linkages within the parklands and the provision of recreation and leisure opportunities to meet the needs of the community.

Parks Victoria will implement the plan in partnership with local government, Melbourne Water, other land managers and land owners within and adjacent to the parklands, community groups and the wider community.

The valuable contribution of the key stakeholders and the community in developing this plan and advice provided by staff within Parks Victoria is recognised.



Mark Stone
Chief Executive
Parks Victoria

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Yarra Valley Parklands comprise a series of regionally significant parks and reserves that extend along the Yarra River for approximately 16 km from Ivanhoe to Warrandyte. The parklands are located approximately 15 km north east of Melbourne CBD and cover an area of over 1500 hectares.

The Yarra Valley Parklands have been progressively established since the 1970s. The main visitor site, Westerfolds, was opened in 1977. The parklands include land managed by Parks Victoria, local government, VicRoads, Melbourne Water and private land owners. Some key sites managed by Parks Victoria within the Parklands include Westerfolds Park, Banksia Park, Yarra Flats and Birrarung Park.

The role of this plan is to provide a 10 to 15 year strategic framework and clear direction for the management of the Yarra Valley Parklands. This plan builds on the outcomes of previous planning, including the existing Yarra Valley Park Management Plan.

The parklands are one of the most visited areas of regional open space in Melbourne, attracting over one million visits per year. The diverse range of landscapes provide for a wide variety of recreational pursuits.

The Main Yarra Trail traverses the parklands for 18 kilometres from Burke Road in Ivanhoe to the confluence of the Mullum Mullum Creek with the Yarra River in Templestowe. The Main Yarra Trail is an important component of the Metropolitan Trail Network and connects the parklands to surrounding areas of open space, schools, universities and the city. The extension of the Main Yarra Trail through to Warrandyte is identified as a long-term project within *Linking People and Spaces*.

Key Values

The key values of the Yarra Valley Parklands include:

- A variety of natural and modified landscapes, including bush, open pastoral land, rivers, billabongs and floodplains.
- The Yarra River which links these diverse landscapes and is an important wildlife corridor. The river is also one of the major sources of water for Melbourne's urban areas.
- The diverse vegetation in the parklands from sixteen ecological vegetation classes, of which eight are classified as endangered. The variety of vegetation is a result of the parklands straddling the boundary of two bioregions: the Central Highland Bioregion and the Gippsland Plains Bioregion.
- Significant environmental values including the presence of over 230 fauna species, including 11 of National significance. Over 600 flora species have also been recorded in the parklands, including four of National significance. The parklands also provide habitat for six species of migratory birds of international importance.
- Sites of indigenous cultural significance, such as the Bolin Bolin Billabong which was an important gathering place for the Kulin Nation. The parklands are within the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Woiwurrung language group.
- Pontville Homestead, Westerfolds Manor and Petty's Orchard that reflect the areas history and past land uses.
- The Heide Museum of Modern Art, which borders the parklands and is a significant artistic and cultural centre that attracts visitors from the State, interstate and overseas. The parklands include culturally significant landscapes painted by the 'Heidelberg School' artists.
- The bush and river landscapes of the park, that underpin the distinctive character of the surrounding suburbs, including Ivanhoe, Bulleen, Viewbank,

Templestowe, Heidelberg, Lower Plenty, Eltham and Warrandyte.

- The diverse range of recreation opportunities provided throughout the parklands. Popular activities include walking, jogging, dog walking, children's play, recreational and commuter cycling, heritage and nature appreciation, and picnicking.

Role of the Parklands

The vision of the Yarra Valley Parklands helps to articulate its role within the region and its value to the community.

During the life of this plan, Yarra Valley Parklands will be managed and recognised for its many social, environmental and economic benefits, the vital contribution to the quality of life for all Melburnians and its role in Victoria's system of parks.

The Yarra River is the prime focus of the Yarra Valley Parklands, forming a link to other outstanding areas of open space and landscapes from the city to beyond metropolitan Melbourne. The parklands offer an opportunity for surrounding communities and visitors to connect to the Yarra River.

The parklands provide access to quality experiences and inspire visitors to enjoy a range of activities, contributing to the general health and well-being of the community and people from diverse backgrounds, demographics and abilities. Innovative services and support are contributed by the community, business, and other institutions and agencies, in partnership, to achieve a common aim of connecting people with nature and parks.

The parklands continue to contribute substantially to biodiversity conservation within the Yarra River corridor, with progressive gains in the extent and condition of key vegetation communities and the protection of significant flora and fauna. The parklands are managed to ensure that they continue to provide a vital riparian environmental buffer that contributes to the health of the Yarra River and its tributaries, with resulting downstream benefits that support water quality and regional environmental values.

Sites, landscapes and places constituting the cultural heritage of the parklands are preserved. Their relevance to human endeavours and association with the land are interpreted to demonstrate the fundamental importance of place and shared heritage to our many different cultures that enjoy and value the parklands. The parkland's outstanding natural and cultural landscapes and vistas are protected.

Management Framework

The management of the parklands will be underpinned by a number of guiding principles, which link broadly to Melbourne's Open Space Strategy, *Linking People and Spaces*, and strategic directions that are specific to the Yarra Valley Parklands.

The parklands have been divided into seven management zones. These management zones reinforce the identity of particular areas within the Parklands, and provide a framework to direct decision making and to determine how Parks Victoria and other public agencies will manage the land as well as providing direction for the future management of private land under consideration for possible incorporation into the parklands.

While the park-wide and management zone actions provide guidance on issues that are current or have been anticipated through the planning process, the ongoing management of the parklands will occur within a changing social, political and economic environment. The plan will therefore also be used as a decision making framework to respond to proposals and issues that may arise in the future.

Implementation

Implementation of the actions within this plan will be dependent on visitor demand, funding and agreement with other agencies. The actions contained in the plan will guide and be progressively incorporated into the Parks Victoria Annual Works Program for the Yarra Valley Parklands. It is envisioned that other agencies will also use this plan to inform their various work plans.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Management Plan provides a 10 to 15 year strategic framework and directions for the management of Yarra Valley Parklands. The plan guides Parks Victoria's management of the land under its jurisdiction, in the context of the park as a whole, sections of which are managed by other agencies. It builds on the outcomes of previous planning, including the existing *Yarra Valley Park Management Plan* (Melbourne Water 1992).

Parks Victoria manages public land across Victoria to conserve, protect and enhance environmental and cultural assets, to provide settings that enable park visitors to enjoy high-quality, sustainable recreation and experiences, and to contribute to the health and well-being of Victorians. Parks Victoria is committed to working with all land managers and communities to ensure that visitor and recreation opportunities in the parklands are managed to protect significant environmental, landscape and cultural heritage values.

The social and health benefits to people who visit parkland is well supported through research (Deakin University and Parks Victoria 2002). The diversity of natural settings in regional open spaces such as the parklands enhances the well-being of park visitors and the surrounding communities.

The main visitor site in the parklands is Westerfolds, which opened in 1977. There are three other urban recreation parks in the parklands: Banksia Park, Birrarung Park and Yarra Flats. In addition, there are a large number of distinct areas with established local visitation. These include areas with environmental and cultural values such as Candlebark Park, Bolin Bolin Billabong (in Yarra Flats), Tikalara Park, Sweeneys Flat, Laughing Waters and Longridge Farm.

The parklands extend over 1500 hectares and include Crown Land managed as open space by Parks Victoria, as well as parks, reserves and sports fields and complexes managed by local government (Banyule, Boroondara,

Manningham and Nillumbik), land managed by public agencies (VicRoads and utilities, including 90 hectares managed by Melbourne Water), and private land designated for potential acquisition as future parkland.

The purpose of this plan is to facilitate the effective management of the parklands. It provides a strategic decision-making framework to ensure that decisions are consistent and contextually relevant. These decisions must reflect the core role of the parklands, which is to provide natural settings for recreational opportunities that cater for existing, emerging and future trends while protecting environmental, landscape and cultural heritage values.

A number of the strategies in the 1992 Management Plan (Melbourne Water 1992) have been implemented. Sections of privately owned land within the Yarra Valley Parklands have been progressively acquired and reverted to Crown land.

The number of visits to Yarra Valley Parklands has doubled since 1992, and the Main Yarra Trail has been extended along the Yarra River to the Mullum Mullum Creek Trail.

The Plenty River Trail from Greensborough was extended to connect to the Main Yarra River Trail in 2007.

The construction of a new bridge across the Yarra River between Candlebark Park and Lower Eltham Park in 2004 created pressures that were not considered within the 1992 plan.

These changes since the 1992 plan have altered the recreation settings and opportunities within the parklands. A strategic review of future directions for the parklands is now required.

The land management agencies at the State and local government level have also changed in the intervening 15 years since the 1992 plan. The current management arrangements are addressed in this Management Plan.

1.2 Location

The Yarra Valley Parklands extend north-east along the Yarra River for about 16 km from Burke Road in Ivanhoe to Glynns Road in Warrandyte (Map 1).

The parklands contain a variety of natural and built features, including bush, open pastoral land, rivers, billabongs and floodplains. The Yarra River is the key landscape feature, providing an important wildlife corridor that connects different sections of the parklands. The river and the parklands have significant environmental values. The parklands also contain a range of Indigenous and historic cultural elements which provide links to Wurundjeri occupation and Melbourne's early post-contact settlement.

1.3 Regional Context

The majority of the Yarra Valley Parklands are managed by Parks Victoria (Map 2) and form one of the most significant public open spaces in metropolitan Melbourne. They provide important recreational and open space opportunities in the north-eastern region of Melbourne. The parklands are surrounded by a mix of largely established land uses, including residential areas, light industrial and commercial developments, schools, parks, recreation facilities, bush and agricultural land.

Research undertaken by Parks Victoria indicates that 60% of metropolitan park visitors will travel up to 15 km to access a regional park. The Yarra Valley Parklands are in the centre of Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs, and over one million people live within 15 km of the park.

The suburbs surrounding the western end of the parklands are well established. *Melbourne 2030: Planning for Sustainable Growth* (DOI 2002) has identified a number of activity centres around the parklands that could support dense redevelopment for higher numbers of households. Population and household densities are expected to increase in these areas; this increase will result in an increased demand for recreational open space at the western end of the parklands. The eastern end of the parklands is less developed and more

rural in character. This will remain the case because of its higher environmental values and the greater fire risk east of Fitzsimons Lane.

The population within this catchment has a wide cultural diversity. Many householders in the three adjacent councils of Manningham, Nillumbik and Banyule speak a language other than English at home, ranging from 7.5% to 35% in localities near the parklands. Languages spoken include Greek, Italian, Macedonian and particularly Chinese languages in Manningham (11% of households).

Melbourne's Open Space Strategy, *Linking People+Spaces* (Parks Victoria 2002) designates the Yarra Valley Parklands as being in both the north and east regions, the Yarra River being the boundary between these two regions. These regions have substantial provision of accessible open space for their communities. The closest other metropolitan regional parklands are Yarra Bend Park, Warrandyte State Park, and Plenty Gorge Parklands.

Yarra Valley Parklands are part of a broader open-space network along the Yarra River that stretches from the river's source in the Yarra Ranges to Port Phillip Bay. Warrandyte State Park is immediately east of Yarra Valley Parklands upstream along the Yarra River, providing nearly 700 hectares of conservation reserves with nature-focused passive recreation in natural settings. Yarra Bend Park is 4 km west of Yarra Valley Parklands, downstream along the Yarra River. It provides 260 hectares of natural bushland, manicured lawns, picnic areas and active recreation areas. The Main Yarra Trail connects the parklands to Yarra Bend and the city.

There are other substantial public open spaces nearby at Ruffey Lake Park in Doncaster, Mullum Mullum Creek Linear Park in Doncaster East, Green Gully Linear Park, Currawong Bush Park in Warrandyte, Bundoora Park, the Diamond Creek parks in Eltham (Eltham Lower Park to Eltham North Park), Chelsworth Park in Ivanhoe, Koonung Creek Reserve in Balwyn North, Willsmere-Chandler Park and Hays Paddock in East Kew, the Darebin Parklands in Alphington, and the

Plenty Valley Parklands to Greensborough along the Plenty River.

Other large areas of open space in the Yarra Valley contribute to the sense of openness and expansiveness. Land adjacent to the parklands includes private golf courses, land used for agistment, agriculture and horticulture, and the Environment Living Zone in Nillumbik Shire along the Yarra River.

The recently refurbished Heide Museum of Modern Art, which borders the parklands, is a significant artistic and cultural centre for Melburnians. It also attracts visitors from regional Victoria, interstate and overseas.

The upper reaches of the Yarra River flow through forested mountain areas that have been reserved for water supply purposes for more than 100 years. The Yarra River is the major source of urban water supply and is the main drainage basin for eastern Melbourne.

1.4 Strategic Planning

The Melbourne Metropolitan Town Planning Commission identified the Chandler Flood basin, Plenty River Valley to Lower Plenty Road and Yarra Valley as far as Westerfolds as preferred future public open space parkland in the 1929 *Melbourne Plan of General Development* (Melbourne Metropolitan Town Planning Commission, 1929).

In November 1971, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW), acting as the responsible metropolitan planning agency, identified land in the Yarra Valley to be reserved for the provision of regional open space. A proposed suburban subdivision of Westerfolds in the early 1970s prompted the State Government to acquire the property to protect future recreational open space.

The Yarra Valley Parklands were the third metropolitan regional park created by the MMBW in the 1970s. The development of much of the infrastructure throughout the parklands was guided by the master plan and development report prepared for the parklands in the late 1970s (MMBW 1978, Scott and Furphy Engineers Pty Ltd 1979).

The ongoing management and development of the parklands is guided by several government strategies. Some government strategies have specific implications for the management of the parklands and its surrounds, such as the *Sustainable Recreation and Tourism on Victoria's Public Land Policy* (NRE 2002b), *Melbourne 2030 – Planning for Sustainable Growth* (DSE 2002), Parks Victoria's *Linking People+Spaces* (Parks Victoria 2002) and Melbourne Water's *Port Phillip and Westernport Regional River Health Strategy* (2006).

Melbourne 2030 designates a number of nearby urban centres as 'a focus for high-quality development, activity and living for the whole community'. The nearest principal activity centres of Doncaster and Greensborough are 3 km from the parklands boundary. Major activity centres are also located at Eltham, the Pines, Doncaster East and Heidelberg, immediately adjacent to Yarra Flats, Banksia Park and Warringal Parklands.

While existing forecasts of population by 2021 suggest a minimal net population change across the municipalities surrounding Yarra Valley Parklands, new household formation will be encouraged at higher densities in and near these activity centres. This may alter recreation demands on the parklands for local residents who have limited private open space.

Melbourne 2030 initiatives specifically relevant to the Yarra Valley Parklands complement actions from *Sustainable Recreation and Tourism on Victoria's Public Land* and *Linking People+Spaces* to provide planning protection for future open-space, to strengthen planning controls relating to the Yarra River, and enhance the recreational and tourism potential of the Yarra River corridor by completing links to the Main Yarra Trail.

Melbourne Water is the agency responsible for river health. Melbourne Water's *Port Phillip and Westernport Regional River Health Strategy* (Melbourne Water 2006) outlines a five-year program for river health and ten-year condition targets for waterways in the Port Phillip region, which includes the Yarra River. It also outlines activities undertaken to achieve targets for river health, such as the

development of a waterway management activity plan (WMAp) for the Middle Yarra River. A Middle Yarra River WMAp would identify key waterway issues and recommend river-reach and site-specific actions to prioritise Melbourne Water works for the next 10 to 15 years.

Melbourne Water is developing a Riparian Vegetation Management Plan for the Middle Yarra River. This is being undertaken in three parts, with the final segment from Plenty River to Dights Falls (incorporating the Yarra Valley Parklands frontage to the Yarra River) to be completed in 2008. The Riparian Vegetation Management Plan will provide critical background information and riparian management actions and will enable Melbourne Water to assess additional planning outputs for the Middle Yarra, including the possible preparation of a WMAp.

1.5 Planning Process

The process for developing this Management Plan has involved six stages:

- research and analysis, including review of previous reports and plans;
- landscape investigation of the Yarra Valley Parklands;
- preparation and distribution of a Discussion Paper to facilitate community consultation and input;
- definition of guiding principles and strategic directions;
- development of management zones and actions; and
- preparation and distribution of a draft Management Plan for public comment.

Consultation with local government, the Yarra Valley Parklands Advisory Committee, other land managers, stakeholders and the wider community has been an integral part of the planning process.

Prior to the development of the Management Plan a Discussion Paper was on public exhibition for six weeks. Seven groups and 43 individuals made submissions. Many of the submissions related to the protection of environmental and landscape values within the parklands and the communication of these

values to the public. Also of concern was the ongoing management of conflicting land uses and recreational activities, and inappropriate behaviour within the parklands. All issues raised were considered in the preparation of the draft Management Plan.

The draft Management Plan was released in March 2007 and was publicly exhibited for eight weeks. Twenty-seven submissions from individuals and groups were received.

The key themes and issues raised in the submissions to the draft plan included:

- recognising the potential threats to the parklands, in particular those arising from climate change;
- concern about inappropriate commercial development within the parklands;
- provision of appropriate areas for both on-lead and off-lead dog-walking;
- allocation of management zones;
- protection of environmental values throughout the parklands;
- involvement of community groups in future consultation processes concerning the ongoing development and management of the parklands;
- construction and maintenance of trails to improve safety and access, and provision of facilities for mountain biking; and
- improving the connection of the parklands to the Heide Museum of Modern Art.

Public submissions were considered, together with the policy frameworks and priorities of the relevant public agencies and State Government, and the draft plan was revised accordingly before Parks Victoria endorsed the final Management Plan.

This final Management Plan provides an important decision-making framework for determining appropriate use of the parklands for the next 10 to 15 years.

2 CURRENT STATUS OF THE PARKLANDS

2.1 Regional Open Space and Linkages

The scale and diversity of the parklands provide public access to open spaces and bushland within close proximity to many households in northern and eastern Melbourne. These parklands are a buffer to urban development, protecting the Yarra River Valley, which includes the culturally significant landscapes painted by the 'Heidelberg School' artists and areas of recorded Indigenous usage such as Bolin Bolin Billabong.

The Main Yarra Trail runs upstream for 18 km through the parklands from Burke Road in Ivanhoe to the confluence of Mullum Mullum Creek with the Yarra River in Templestowe. In the Yarra Valley Parklands, the Main Yarra Trail connects to the Mullum Mullum Creek Trail, the Green Gully Trail in Doncaster East, the Ruffey Creek Trail, the Plenty River Trail, the Diamond Creek Trail and the Koonung Creek Trail. *Linking People + Spaces* (Parks Victoria 2002) identifies the connection of the Main Yarra Trail through to Warrandyte as a long-term project. Parks Victoria with the City of Manningham is also investigating the completion of the Mullum Creek Trail from the Yarra Valley Grammar School in Ringwood through to Tikalara Park in Templestowe.

There are many entrances to different parts of the parklands, ranging from formal vehicle and pedestrian entrances to visitor facilities through to connections from local paths and adjacent roads in the surrounding suburbs (Map 4).

The parklands are crossed by two arterial roads that bridge the Yarra River: Banksia Street connects Heidelberg and Bulleen, and Fitzsimons Lane connects Templestowe and Eltham. Major non-vehicular bridges enable trails to cross the Yarra River at Finns Reserve at Westerfolds to connect Lower Plenty and Templestowe, and the Lower Eltham Park – Candlebark Park Bridge links trails in Eltham and Templestowe.

Minor shared-use trail bridges in the parklands cross the Plenty River in Lower Plenty, Little Yarra Billabong in Bulleen, Salt Creek in Heidelberg, Banyule Creek in Viewbank, Ruffey Creek in Templestowe and Mullum Mullum Creek in Templestowe, and bridge smaller tributaries and gullies in Westerfolds Park, Candlebark Park, Tikalara Park and Laughing Waters Park.

Existing public transport access to and from the parklands is poor and disconnected. Bus routes cross the park along the Yarra crossings of Banksia Street and Fitzsimons Lane, and run along the Burke Road and Templestowe Road boundaries of the parklands. The bus stop locations have little formal connection to park entrances and visitor destinations. Heidelberg railway station is close to the parklands, but the sense of connection and relationship between the parklands and Heidelberg Village is poor. The *Structure Plan for the Heidelberg Precinct* (Banyule City Council, 2007) proposes improvements in connections between Heidelberg and the parklands.

2.2 Visitor and Recreation Values

The parklands are among the most visited regional open spaces in Melbourne, attracting over a million visits per year. Its significant landscapes provide for a broad range of recreational pursuits.

Yarra Flats, Banksia Park, Birrarung Park and Westerfolds Park are the most popular areas, offering passive recreation opportunities in natural settings. The most recent visitor counts from 2001 indicated that close to 1.2 million people visited these four parks. Westerfolds alone had over 595,000 visitors.

Yarra Valley Parklands have established visitor facilities that provide a range of recreational and open space opportunities for visitors. Parks Victoria provides four major visitor sites that cater for large visitor numbers. Westerfolds is the most developed of these and has the greatest range of visitor settings and facilities. Local councils own and manage

large areas of open space within the parklands that are established as active and passive recreation areas. Additional minor visitor sites throughout the parklands cater for small groups and individuals, particularly in areas with environmental and cultural values.

Parks Victoria conducts visitor surveys at a number of parks through the State each year. Visitor surveys were last conducted at Westerfolds in 2004. Some of the key findings of that survey were:

- 67% of people participated in physical activity;
- 53% of people visited the park for a social activity; and
- 34% of people ate or drank at a BBQ or picnic, or at the café.

The average stay was 2.9 hours and the average group size was 12.9 people. 37% of visitors came with a group of more than 10 people. 94% of visitors were from metropolitan Melbourne and 81% were from the eastern and northern suburbs. The average number of visits per person per year was 30, suggesting that local people visited Westerfolds often.

Activities in the parklands include picnicking by small and large groups, walking, jogging, children's play (unstructured and in playgrounds), recreational cycling, commuter cycling, bushwalking, nature photography, nature appreciation, car touring, mountain biking, canoeing, heritage appreciation, horse riding in leased areas, orienteering, bird watching, rollerblading, urban camping (at Longridge camp ground), visiting the Westerfolds Manor or Heide Museum of Modern Art, grass skiing, dog walking in specified areas, appreciation of orchards (at Petty's Orchard) and art activities through the Artist in Residence Program.

The Main Yarra Trail connects different elements of the parklands and is a major recreational asset used by many visitors. Research related to the Main Yarra Trail shows that most visitors are satisfied with the experience provided.

Pedestrians access short and medium length walks, particularly loop circuits, often through

minor access points. Visitors enjoy the connections between trails that allow a variety of walks and rides to recreational facilities within and outside the parklands.

Walking dogs within the park is a highly popular community activity. Dog walking is currently permitted in most of the western end of the parklands, with dogs required to be on a lead. This includes the parks managed by Parks Victoria along the Main Yarra Trail from Westerfolds to Yarra Flats, and many parks and reserves within and adjacent to the parklands that are managed by local councils. The exception is where dogs are prohibited around some of the billabongs and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Dogs are also currently permitted in a number of different areas east of Fitzsimons Lane. Manningham City Council currently designates Fitzsimons Reserve as an on-lead dog area, and the Shire of Nillumbik provides on-lead and off-lead areas at Griffith Park. Several other council parks and reserves within and adjacent to the parklands have off-lead dog areas, including Finns Reserve in Templestowe, Lower Eltham Park in Eltham and Warringal Parklands in Heidelberg. Councils also manage other nearby open space and trails where dogs are allowed.

Cycling is a popular activity along the Main Yarra Trail, and other formed shared-use trails throughout the parklands. Mountain biking is not formally provided for at present, but a number of informal trails are used for this activity. The number of mountain bike riders in the parklands has been increasing since 1992. This has increased the use of many shared-use trails in the parklands, and the creation of informal trails has had some impact on riverside and streamside areas.

Horse riding is allowed in the areas leased to Riding for the Disabled and the North-East Pony Club at Viewbank, and horses are agisted at Yarra Flats. Horse riding facilities are also provided near the parklands at Buck Reserve and Pettys Reserve on Reynolds Rd, and at Lower Eltham Park.

Playgrounds are located at Westerfolds, Birrarrung Park, Banksia Park and Finns Reserve. The new all-abilities Playspace at

Finns Reserve is a regional-level facility that attracts many visitors to this section of the parklands.

2.3 Park Identity

Yarra Valley Parklands have a diverse range of landscapes and significant recreation, natural and cultural assets. The Yarra River is the common element linking the landscapes from the steep narrow valley gorge at Warrandyte, Glynns and Laughing Waters with tall trees and semi-remote bush, the open paddocks with a well-treed backdrop at Tikalara, remnant orchards at Pettys, to the wide billabong-rich floodplain between Plenty River and Burke Road.

The geomorphology of the parklands is among the most diverse and accessible in metropolitan Melbourne. Sandstone, siltstone and mudstone were laid down when the area was part of a vast seabed some 450 million years ago. Subsequent uplifting, warping, erosion, volcanic activity and human influences have shaped the landscape of the parklands and surrounds. The western end of the parklands incorporates a large portion of the Chandler flood basin; the flood basin was created 2 million years ago when lava flowing down the Darebin Creek partially blocked the Yarra River and caused the area to flood. The resulting sedimentation produced a large number of billabongs that were carved in the flood basin as the Yarra River created a new channel south of Ivanhoe.

As a result of their proximity to Melbourne, many floodplain wetlands have been cleared, filled-in for agricultural and urban development, or lost when their water source was diverted. The Yarra River still regularly floods into wetlands such as Bolin Bolin Billabong, Banyule Wetlands and the Annulus, but for much shorter periods of time.

These wetlands provide habitat for a diverse range of species and are important refuge areas during droughts. A number of artificial ephemeral wetlands at Birrarrung Park, Sweeneys Flat, and Bobs Wetlands at Glynns Road contribute to local biodiversity and help to improve stormwater quality.

Further upstream, east of the Plenty River confluence, there are uplifted areas that expose the underlying geology. In a number of places along this section of the river there are small islands, rapids and cliffs.

One of the most appreciated community values is the diversity of landscapes and the scale of the parklands. The Yarra Valley Parklands make a major contribution to the liveability of the surrounding suburbs by creating an undeveloped ‘visual break’ that separates the northern and eastern suburbs on the Doncaster and Eltham ridgelines. The bush and riverside parks also underpin the distinctive character of the adjacent suburbs, particularly Ivanhoe, Bulleen, Viewbank, Templestowe, Heidelberg, Lower Plenty, Eltham and Warrandyte.

Some well-used recreation sites in the parklands have distinct local identities, such as Warringal Parklands, Banyule Flats, Finns Reserve and Griffith Park. Several public and private golf courses are within or adjacent to the parklands, including the Freeway Golf Course north of the Eastern Freeway, Yarra Valley Country Club north of Heide Museum of Modern Art along the Yarra River, and Rosanna and Heidelberg Golf Clubs along the Plenty River.

2.4 Environmental Values

The Yarra Valley Parklands have been extensively modified by rural and urban activities since agriculture commenced there in the 1830s. Lineal strips and pockets of remnant vegetation communities have survived along the Yarra River and its tributaries and on steeper slopes, particularly in the eastern half of the parklands.

Extensive revegetation over the past two decades has connected remnant communities and increased both the biodiversity and recreation opportunities for visitors in natural settings. The parklands provide valuable opportunities for visitors to learn about the natural environment in a setting close to Melbourne.

The park staff and many different groups in the community, including the Riverlands Conservation Society, the Doncaster & Templestowe (Manningham) Conservation

Society and Friends of the Yarra Valley, have undertaken significant work in the last 30 years. This work has changed the landscape of the parklands from largely cleared land dominated by introduced species to an increasingly indigenous landscape with large areas of overstorey revegetation connecting and buffering remnant vegetation and biolink corridors.

Though revegetation has been successful in converting degraded cleared sites into more natural settings valued by the community for recreation, the density and location of some revegetation programs have reduced the visibility of some highly used facilities in the parklands. This has raised safety concerns among park visitors using these facilities. As a result some vegetation has been removed in certain areas such as Yarra Flats in order to discourage inappropriate activities.

The initial stage of restoring and enhancing vegetation and habitat focused on increasing the extent of vegetation communities to sustainable sizes and connecting them. The next stage of revegetation and vegetation management will focus on improving the quality of vegetation communities and habitat.

The catchment of the Yarra River has been heavily impacted by rural and urban development, and the Environment Protection Authority and Melbourne Water have identified a number of water quality issues. High levels of phosphorus, nitrogen and suspended solids enter the Yarra River from tributaries such as the Mullum Mullum and Koonung Creeks.

In the past 10 years phosphorus levels in the lower Yarra River have generally remained constant but nitrogen levels have increased significantly, most likely as a result of urban growth. The *Yarra River Action Plan* (DSE 2006) outlines projects that will meet the long-term challenge of managing water quality in the Yarra River. Melbourne Water is preparing a riparian vegetation management plan for the Middle Yarra River that will include the river frontage in the Yarra Valley Parklands.

The floodplains and billabongs contribute to natural filtration and improvement of water quality downstream, and control flood levels

along the Yarra River. The Chandler floodplain is a natural water storage area during major floods and reduces downstream flood levels.

Areas within the Yarra Valley Parklands are identified as being of very high environmental significance, at National, State and Regional level in terms of species and communities intactness, diversity and rarity. The environmental values have been progressively identified and mapped, enabling a focus on protecting specific areas with identified environmental values compared to earlier management plans.

Riverside and streamside vegetation provides major corridors for wildlife, facilitating the movement and dispersal of animals, helping to maintain or increase the genetic diversity of fauna and flora.

The parklands are within two Victorian bioregions, the boundary between the two bioregions being around Diamond Creek. The western end of the parklands (62% of the parklands area) is within the Gippsland Plains Bioregion, of which there is relatively little protected on public land. The eastern end (38% of the parklands) is within the Eastern Highlands — Southern Fall Bioregion. Candlebark Park contains the only substantial intact remnant of the overlap between these two bioregions.

A section of the Eastern Highlands — Southern Fall Bioregion is classified under the Interim Biogeographical Regions of Australia (IBRA) as Victorian Midlands (DEWHA, 2000). This includes the Eltham and North Warrandyte areas of the parklands, with drier rainshadow vegetation communities of similar character to the Broadford to Castlemaine region. This IBRA bioregion in the parklands contains many threatened and listed species of National and State significance.

Sixteen ecological vegetation classes (EVCs) have been mapped in the parklands, and eight of these are classified as endangered (NRE 2002a). The high number of EVCs results from the parklands extending across the boundaries of two bioregions, with a resulting diversity of species and communities. The EVC mapping is

being enhanced by a more detailed investigation of vegetation subcommunities.

Two EVCs that existed before 1750 — Swampy Riparian Woodland and Swampy Woodland/ Swamp Scrub — have disappeared from the parklands as a result of land clearance for agriculture and urban development.

The EVCs present in the parklands are described in Appendix 1. The scientific names of the plants referred to in the EVC descriptions and the remainder of this section are presented in Appendix 2.

The vegetation communities provide habitat for an extensive variety of reptile, fish, and amphibian and mammal species. Appendix 3 lists fauna species in the parklands that are of State and National significance.

At least 235 fauna species have been recorded in the parklands. Of these, 36 are classified as threatened in Victoria (DSE 2007), 25 are listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, and 11 are listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth) (DEWHA 2000). The parklands are particularly important in providing protected habitat for the 11 nationally significant species: Australian Grayling, Common Bent-wing Bat, Great Egret, Grey-headed Flying-fox, Macquarie Perch, Murray Cod, Painted Snipe, Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Trout Cod and Warty Bell Frog.

The parklands also provide habitat for migratory birds of which 6 are listed under the JAMBA/CAMBA treaties including Latham's Snipe.

Over 600 flora species have been found in the parklands. Thirty-one of these are classified as threatened in Victoria (DSE 2005), three are listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, and four (Rosella Spider-orchid, Wine-lip Spider-orchid, Matted Flax-lily, and Clover Glycine) are listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Appendix 4).

The number of flora species recorded in the parklands has increased significantly in number due to increased vegetation surveys

within the parklands since the publication of the 1992 Management Plan (Melbourne Water 1992) and the 2000 State of the Parks Report (Parks Victoria 2000). The variety and diversity of flora species in the parklands is currently being investigated further.

Weed and pest animal management is an ongoing task for all land managers. Extensive modification from grazing, agriculture and urban development surrounding the parklands has resulted in weed infestations, particularly in the western end of the parklands. Regular programs of rabbit control have been implemented, often in partnership with other managers within the parklands.

Weed control on the banks of the Yarra River and tributaries is continuing in partnership with Melbourne Water. All major weeds, including herbaceous and noxious woody weed species such as willows, Desert Ash and Blackberries, are a priority for removal and control on sites where there is vegetation of Regional, State or National significance.

Grassy Weeds such as Chilean Needle-grass, Panic Veldt Grass, Sweet Vernal-grass and Wandering Trad, challenge understorey communities throughout the parklands, especially orchid assemblages.

Woody Weeds such as Gorse, Hawthorn and African Boxthorn have impacted in specific locations in the parklands. Creepers and climbers such as Bridal Creeper, English Ivy and Japanese Honeysuckle challenge different vegetation communities in the parklands. Angled Onion, Soursob and Bulbil *Watsonia* are among the more prominent bulb weeds (Appendix 2).

Pest animals (Appendix 5) have also impacted on the environmental values of the parklands. Rabbit grazing threatens flora (including communities of State and National significance) in every section of the parklands, and rabbit burrows impact on soil stability along waterways. Particular problems occur in the Riparian Forest EVC along the Yarra River between Westerfolds Park and Tikalara Park and in Floodplain Riparian Woodland EVC along creek banks between Westerfolds Park and the Plenty River.

Predation by cats, dogs and foxes has significantly affected the native fauna within the parklands. Introduced fish such as European Carp and Mosquito Fish, and introduced birds such as Blackbirds, European Starlings, House Sparrows and Common Mynahs, compete with indigenous bird and fish species for resources and habitat (Appendix 5).

2.5 Cultural Heritage Values

Cultural heritage values in the Yarra Valley Parklands reflect the impact and significance of human activity throughout the parklands over thousands of years. Parks Victoria is responsible for protecting and managing these values under a range of State and Commonwealth Government legislative instruments. *The Indigenous Partnership Strategy & Action Plan* (Parks Victoria 2005) and *Heritage Management Strategy* (Parks Victoria 2003) guide the management of both Indigenous cultural heritage and post-contact heritage in the parklands.

There are sites of Indigenous cultural significance along the entire Yarra River corridor in the vicinity of the Yarra Valley Parklands. The parklands are within the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Woiwurrung language group. Abundant resources along the rivers and streams were used for thousands of years by the Wurundjeri people as they camped throughout the Yarra River valley. The parklands contain many areas of high cultural significance to contemporary Wurundjeri people.

The Yarra River and surrounds provided the Wurundjeri with an abundance of native flora and fauna that were used for food and the manufacture of many important cultural items. The Bolin Bolin Billabong in Bulleen was an important gathering place for the Kulin Nation and has considerable significance to the Wurundjeri people.

An Aboriginal Reserve was established at Pound Bend at Warrandyte in 1840, and was extended to include the Glynns section at the eastern end of the parklands in 1841. This reserve was resumed by the Crown in 1852, with many of the inhabitants relocated

elsewhere within and outside the lands of the Kulin nation. The Yarra Valley was one of the earliest areas to be subdivided and occupied by settlers. Settlement and exclusion of the Wurundjeri from their traditional lands led to severe disruption to their traditional way of life.

The Newman family at Pontville south of the Yarra River – Mullum Mullum Creek confluence, and the Sweeney family to the north of the confluence, were among the first Europeans to occupy land in this region in the 1830s. Post-contact heritage includes structures such as Pontville Homestead and Westerfolds Manor, pastoral landscapes at Pettys Orchard, and various sites with significant heritage vegetation and landscapes such as those at Viewbank, Warringal Park and Tikalara Park. Local government heritage overlays protect a number of significant trees.

Pontville Homestead is listed in the Victorian Heritage Register and the National Trust Register. Pontville was constructed in the 1840s on part of a large 1830s pastoral holding at the confluence of the Yarra River and the Mullum Mullum Creek.

Pontville now comprises a house constructed between about 1843 and 1850 and extended in the 1870s, along with remnant plantings, cottage foundations, outbuildings, bridge foundations, tracks, and a range of other features associated with farming. Pontville is architecturally important for elements surviving from the original homestead building.

Land around Heidelberg Township reserve was subdivided and sold in 1838. Large estates were developed, and tenant farmers intensively cultivated the Yarra River flats until devastating floods in the 1860s. Viewbank was one of the first of these estates to be developed. The site of the demolished Viewbank homestead was the subject of an archaeological investigation by Melbourne Parks & Waterways in 1994. Chinese market gardeners began cultivating the river flats as market gardens from the late 19th century, but this activity diminished after the 1934 flood.

Many of the parks' spectacular landscapes were the subject of paintings by members of

the influential ‘Heidelberg School’ of artists. Most areas of importance to the Heidelberg School are in the Yarra River valley downstream from the Plenty River confluence. The Heide Museum of Modern Art beside Banksia Park is culturally significant as one of the birthplaces of Australian modernism.

Melbourne Parks & Waterways and local councils created an artists trail through the Yarra Valley in the 1990s, including signs and interpretation of significant paintings. This enables visitors to view the landscape from the artist’s perspective from approximately where they created their paintings.

The Eltham district is renowned for mud brick housing, many created by artists living and working in the Yarra Valley. There are heritage-listed mud brick houses in the parklands on Laughing Waters Road. These houses are currently being restored to be managed as part of a Shire of Nillumbik artists-in-residence program that recognises the heritage value of the area as an artists precinct.

2.6 Land Management

The land within the Yarra Valley Parklands comprises a variety of public and private land (Map 2). The public land is managed by various agencies, including Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and Banyule, Boroondara, Manningham and Nillumbik Councils.

Parks Victoria manages a large proportion of public land in the parklands, on behalf of the Minister for Environment and Climate Change. The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works had acquired freehold land titles as a statutory authority during the creation of the Yarra Valley Parklands, and this was transferred to Melbourne Water and then Melbourne Parks and Waterways. In 2001 Melbourne Parks & Waterways land was resumed by the Crown.

Local councils also own and manage large areas of open space within the parklands. Most of this land is zoned as ‘Public Park and Recreation’ under the Banyule, Nillumbik, Boroondara and Manningham planning schemes, reflecting the role of the parklands for open space and recreation. Areas of the parklands managed by Parks Victoria are also

subject to the planning schemes. They are predominantly zoned as ‘Public Conservation and Resource’ and ‘Public Park and Recreation’, with a number of overlays and other provisions. Parkland managed by Parks Victoria is Crown land reserved under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 (Vic.)*.

Banyule, Nillumbik, and Manningham Councils are represented on the Yarra Valley Parklands Advisory Committee, which provides strategic advice upon request to the managers of Yarra Valley Parklands.

Private land within the parklands boundary is covered by public acquisition overlays in the Banyule, Nillumbik and Manningham planning schemes. These overlays indicate the intention to consider the possible future incorporation of this land into the parklands. Purchase is negotiated voluntarily once the landowners decide to sell. The Yarra Valley Park Management Plan of 1992 recognised that the development of the parklands would occur progressively over the following 50 years and beyond, so that it could be many years before these privately owned areas can be incorporated into the parklands.

The land around the east of the parklands is predominantly rural residential of various densities. This has resulted from statutory planning protection of areas with known environmental values, and from limitations on residential development because of topography, provision of services, risks from bushfires, and established rural uses. Similarly, low-density residential areas are predominant to the north of the Yarra River east of the Plenty River. Developed residential areas are the predominant use west of Fitzsimons Lane, although there are some light industrial areas adjacent to the parklands on Banksia Street, Bulleen Road and Templestowe Road.

The boundary of the parklands is 61 km long. It generally borders local government open space, road reserves, residential areas of various densities, some low-density residential in Lower Plenty, pastoral land in Warrandyte, and private golf courses.

A small number of land parcels are used by Melbourne Water for underground mains water pipelines running north-west across the

parklands through Candlebark Park to Fitzsimons Lane in Templestowe and in the Martins Lane road reserve in the northern section of Viewbank.

Melbourne Water is responsible for the waterway health of the Yarra River and manages flooding, regional drainage, stream form and stability, water quality improvement and streamside vegetation. Melbourne Water, in conjunction with the Environment Protection Authority, monitors the health and water quality of the Yarra River and waterways throughout the parklands.

Parks Victoria is responsible under the *Water Industries Act (1994)* (Vic.) for the care, protection, management, and use of the Yarra River for recreation, leisure and tourism through the parklands. Current water-based recreational activities in the parklands are typically canoeing, rafting, kayaking and swimming.

The Yarra River, with a catchment of over 4000 square kilometres, has a history of recurring floods. As a consequence, drainage management and flood mitigation is required to prevent damage to property. Melbourne Water is the Drainage Authority for the Port Phillip and Westernport region and the Floodplain Management Authority by delegation from the Minister responsible for the Water Act, managing drainage infrastructure, flood mitigation and stormwater quality improvement opportunities and assets.

SP Ausnet manages high-voltage transmission lines running through different sections of the parklands. Access to the transmission line easements is needed for maintenance and vegetation management. Substantial high-voltage lines run north from the Templestowe terminal station adjacent to Tikalara Park across the Yarra River to Eltham, and west through private property and Candlebark Park to Fitzsimons Reserve, where a transmission line branches off to follow the Yarra River through Westerfolds Park, Montpelier, Birrarrung Park, Banksia Park, Yarra Flats and Bulleen Park downstream to Burke Road in Balwyn North.

Suggestions have been made in the past to place these high voltage powerlines

underground, but at present this is impractical because of the considerable cost and archaeological impact.

VicRoads manages main arterial roads in the metropolitan area and has responsibility for the bridge crossings on Fitzsimons Lane and Banksia Street over the Yarra River. VicRoads also has responsibility for the on-road sections of the Principal Bicycle Network. New on-road bicycle routes are proposed for this region.

Parks Victoria manages fire protection for the parklands in accordance with its annually reviewed fire protection plan. Methods used include slashing and grazing (in areas that are not environmentally sensitive), and, where required, can include fuel-reduction burning. Fire risk is greatest in the eastern section of the parklands because of the form of vegetation and the area's steeper topography. Park Victoria works closely with other authorities to achieve a coordinated approach to fire management.

3 FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

3.1 Vision

During the life of this plan, Yarra Valley Parklands will be managed and recognised for its many social, environmental and economic benefits, the vital contribution to the quality of life for all Melburnians and its role in Victoria's system of parks.

The Yarra River is the prime focus of the Yarra Valley Parklands, forming a link to other outstanding areas of open space and landscapes from the city to beyond metropolitan Melbourne. The parklands offer an opportunity for surrounding communities and visitors to connect to the Yarra River.

The parklands provide access to quality experiences and inspire visitors to enjoy a range of activities, contributing to the general health and well-being of the community and people from diverse backgrounds, demographics and abilities. Innovative services and support are contributed by the community, business, and other institutions and agencies, in partnership, to achieve a common aim of connecting people with nature and parks.

The parklands continue to contribute substantially to biodiversity conservation within the Yarra River corridor, with progressive gains in the extent and condition of key vegetation communities and the protection of significant flora and fauna. The parklands are managed to ensure that they continue to provide a vital riparian environmental buffer that contributes to the health of the Yarra River and its tributaries, with resulting downstream benefits that support water quality and regional environmental values.

Sites, landscapes and places constituting the cultural heritage of the parklands are preserved. Their relevance to human endeavours and association with the land are interpreted to demonstrate the fundamental importance of place and shared heritage to our many different cultures that enjoy and value the parklands. The parkland's outstanding natural and cultural landscapes and vistas are protected.

3.2 The Role of the parklands

The diversity and rarity of environmental values in different parts of the Yarra Valley Parklands and the close proximity to Melbourne CBD means that this regional urban parkland has dual conservation and recreation roles.

The parklands provide opportunities for the enjoyment of the recreational, landscape, environmental, and cultural values in northern and eastern Melbourne. The parklands also protect areas of high conservation significance. A number of flora and fauna communities in the parklands are of National or State significance. The Yarra River and tributaries are important biolink corridors that connect terrestrial, avian and riparian habitats and species to sustain these environmental values.

The parklands provide appropriate recreational access to the Yarra River, open spaces and bushland areas for individuals and groups. There are different sorts of recreation experiences in varied settings along the river corridor. The diversity of settings and activities enables visitors the opportunity to enjoy both pastoral and Indigenous landscapes.

The Main Yarra Trail and linking trails of the Metropolitan Trail Network enhance visitor access to the parklands and enable visitors to safely explore the diverse natural settings of the Yarra corridor. The trails also provide opportunities for commuters who cycle to work. The extensive trail network within the parklands increases connections between communities in this region and enhances their shared identity.

The role of the parklands in providing natural settings promotes healthy and relaxing recreation activities such as walking, picnicking and socialising. Visitors participating in physical activities in the parklands also gain health benefits. These natural settings enhance the connection of parkland visitors to nature.

The different landscapes in the parklands range from manicured open spaces to bushy woodlands. Long vistas along the Yarra Valley give views west to Melbourne's city towers and east to the Yarra and Dandenong Ranges. The parklands enable visitors to enjoy the experience of nature and a sense of a remote natural setting, even though they are in metropolitan Melbourne.

The parklands act as a boundary to suburban development and have a role in protecting the recreation needs of current and future generations.

The scale of the parkland's 1490 hectares creates an 'urban break' that promotes the health and well-being of the surrounding communities. This visual break in the urban fabric will increase in importance for local community identity if the surrounding suburbs are more intensively developed.

The recreation settings in the parklands support tourist activities in the Yarra Valley. The Heide Museum of Modern Art, Pettys Orchard and other attractions in or adjacent to the parklands also contribute to the tourism offered in the Yarra Valley region.

Education about the parklands is a valuable resource to increase community understanding of the significant environmental and important Indigenous cultural heritage sites, places and values. Information and interpretation promotes appropriate visitor behaviours to respect these values.

3.3 Guiding Principles

Melbourne 2030: Planning for Sustainable Growth (DSE 2002) includes the 'Parkland Code: urban open space principles'. The code outlines guidelines for planning and managing open space, such as community involvement. The government is committed to these principles for urban open space managed by Parks Victoria, and encourages other land managers to adopt the principles.

The management of Yarra Valley Parklands is guided by principles set out in Melbourne's Open Space Strategy, *Linking People+Spaces* (Parks Victoria 2002). These principles relate to the entire metropolitan open space network

and, in conjunction with the strategic directions, provide the framework and rationale for the park-wide and specific management zone actions for the parklands.

The general principles of *Linking People+Spaces* are as follows.

Partnerships. The principle of effective and sustainable partnerships is fundamental to managing the Yarra Valley Parklands. Working with local councils, other public agencies, volunteer groups and the wider community facilitates complementary open space management for this 'whole of community' resource.

Diversity. Yarra Valley Parklands provides a range of recreational opportunities for its visitors in a variety of environments and landscapes. This includes both active recreation and passive recreation, managed to protect environmental and cultural heritage values. The parklands will be managed to maximise benefits to visitor health and well-being.

Equity. This principle will ensure that the parklands are widely accessible to the community and managed for inclusive use, now and for future generations. Encouraging community ownership, involvement, and multicultural access to the parklands will be encouraged.

Flexibility and responsiveness. Parkland management will respond to changing and emerging community needs and visitation trends where appropriate.

Sustainability. It is important for future generations that Yarra Valley Parklands be managed sustainably. This includes environmental, cultural, recreational and financial management.

The management of Crown land in Victoria is guided by the Department of Sustainability and Environment's *Sustainable Recreation and Tourism on Victoria's Public Land* (DSE 2002). The policy statements and directions in that document include the following:

- Provide equitable access to public land for a diverse range of appropriate recreation and tourism opportunities.

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- Plan, manage and monitor recreation and tourism use of public land to avoid any negative impact on natural and cultural values.
 - Provide and maintain appropriate recreation and tourism services and facilities on public land to foster visitor enjoyment and education and to ensure visitor safety.
 - Encourage, facilitate and promote opportunities for appropriate recreation and tourism use on public land through research, communication and stakeholder consultation.

4 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The main objectives of this plan are to provide strategic management directions and identify management zones and key actions to guide decision-making within the Yarra Valley Parklands for the next 10 to 15 years.

The plan is intended to be used as a decision-making framework to respond to proposals and issues that may arise in the future that are not specifically addressed within the plan.

The strategic directions for the Yarra Valley Parklands are as follows:

4.1 Regional Context and Linkages

- The parklands will be managed as a major regional metropolitan park within the metropolitan open space network, providing a diverse range of recreation opportunities in natural settings.
- The parklands will continue to be developed by acquiring land that is of high priority in accordance with *Linking People+Spaces* and *Melbourne 2030*.
- Trail connections and links to the parklands are to be maintained and developed to maximise recreational opportunities for visitors, by connecting to other recreation settings in surrounding communities.
- The parkland's recreation areas will complement the recreation opportunities provided by local government and other public agencies who manage open space within and adjacent to the Yarra Valley Parklands.
- Planning for biodiversity links and riparian environmental management will support the *Port Phillip and Westernport Regional Catchment Strategy* (PPWCMA 2005) and other government policies and strategies to improve habitat, fire management and ecological communities.

4.2 Park Visitors

- The parklands will offer a range of recreational and natural settings, facilities and services that contribute to the health

and well-being of the community and protect environmental and cultural values.

- New visitor facilities and services provided through commercial arrangements may be considered where a public benefit can be demonstrated and the proposal is consistent with the purpose of the Crown land reservation and the planning scheme and is compatible with the role of the parklands.
- Planning for new or upgraded park facilities, trails and services will assess the diversity of the community's needs, including changing community values, recreation and leisure needs, mobility issues and cultural requirements.
- Appropriate visitor behaviour and use of the parklands will be encouraged to avoid negative impacts on environmental and cultural values.
- Information will be provided to the community about appropriate settings for different activities.
- The diverse character of settings in the parklands will be promoted to increase community awareness of the variety of natural and modified settings available.
- Sustainable best practice principles will be applied to the location, design and construction or renewal of park trails or facilities.
- Proposed events in the parklands will be required to contribute to public health and well-being, diversify visitor opportunities, complement other visitor experiences and the management zones, and be within the management capacity of the parklands.
- Appropriate and sustainable community-based programs and partnerships in the parklands will be encouraged to increase a sense of community engagement, without providing extensive exclusive occupation by community organisations that minimise visitor opportunities.
- Tourism opportunities within the parklands will be promoted in partnership with

stakeholders, regional tourism bodies and local government.

- The parklands will provide opportunities and experiences that benefit visitors by connecting people to the land in a way that promotes an appreciation of natural and cultural heritage values.
- The experiences provided for visitors will consider opportunities to improve the health and well-being of individuals and the community.
- The safety of visitors in recreational settings requires the life cycles of trees and shrubs to be considered when revegetation programs are planted adjacent to popular areas such as trails and picnic areas.

4.3 Parklands Character

- The sense of large, continuous open spaces in the Parkland's vistas and views into and out from the parklands is an important value that will be protected.
- The *Yarra Valley Parklands Landscape Analysis* (Aspect Melbourne Pty Ltd 2005) will be used as a reference for changes to park settings and to guide appropriate revegetation.
- Revegetation programs will be sensitive and appropriate to the specific areas of the parklands. Planting location and form will consider landscape values and safety of parkland visitors.
- The diverse natural settings and the riparian corridor of the Yarra River are integral to the parklands and will be protected.
- The distinct identity of different settings within the parklands will be promoted to respect the diversity of visitor expectations and experiences.
- The landscapes will enable a range of land uses to contribute to visitor enjoyment and safe management of the parklands.

4.4 Natural Environment

- The environmental values, particularly those of National or State significance, will be protected through management zones and Parks Victoria (set-aside) regulations.

- Natural history and environmental values will be promoted to the community through information and interpretation to encourage appropriate behaviour and respect for parkland values.
- The biodiversity and range of natural features, including geomorphology and geology, will be maintained through environmental programs based on sound ecological principles.
- Riparian environments in the parklands will be managed to support Melbourne Water to fulfil their river health targets outlined in the *Port Philip and Westernport RRHS* (Melbourne Water 2006).
- The vegetation communities and habitat of threatened and significant flora and fauna species in the parklands will be protected.
- Revegetation in the parklands will focus on improving the quality of established vegetation communities and connections to other vegetation communities. This is required to maintain the environmental sustainability of significant flora and fauna.
- The billabongs will be managed to maintain natural floodplain processes. Management decisions will be supported by Melbourne Water's investigation of options to improve the water quality of the billabongs.
- In line with contemporary environmental knowledge, built wetland features will not be artificially supported in times of reduced rainfall by transferring water from other water sources.
- Future management will aim to build the resilience of native species and ecosystems within the parklands to the effects of climate change. This includes:
 - improving the quality and connectivity of areas of habitat along the Yarra River to allow species to migrate in response to changes in their habitat as a result of climate change;
 - reducing current threats to native flora and fauna, including habitat fragmentation, fire and introduced plants and animals; and

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- ensuring management of the parklands is able to respond to new challenges as a result of climate change.

4.5 Cultural Heritage

Indigenous Cultural Heritage

- Indigenous cultural heritage sites, places and values must be protected in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic.) and Parks Victoria's *Indigenous Partnership Strategy and Action Plan* (Parks Victoria 2005b).
- Consultation for the ongoing management, interpretation and conservation of Indigenous cultural heritage sites, places and values will be done in accordance with Wurundjeri cultural expectations.
- Community awareness about the importance of Indigenous post-contact heritage will be achieved through visitor interpretation and information, where culturally appropriate and in accordance with Wurundjeri cultural expectations.

Post-contact Cultural Heritage

- Post-contact heritage sites will incorporate interpretation material where appropriate to explain the importance of the heritage setting.
- Culturally sensitive landscapes will be managed where appropriate to protect and enhance the features that contribute to the cultural significance of landscape settings.
- The parklands connection with art and architecture, as established from past use by Heidelberg School artists and notable mudbrick pioneers in the Eltham area, will be recognised.
- Wherever possible, heritage buildings will be used creatively with compatible contemporary activities to increase recreational and educational opportunities.

4.6 Management Partnerships

- The parklands will be managed as a resource for the whole community, in accordance with the principles set out in the *Parklands Code* (Section 5.6, *Melbourne 2030*) and this Management Plan.

- Cooperative partnerships with other government agencies, adjoining land managers, community and user groups and recreation providers will be encouraged to achieve park management objectives.
- Partnerships for agistment and grazing will be used as a temporary tool to enable complementary community use of altered landscapes, pending future development of the parklands.
- Community participation in parkland activities and management will be encouraged to increase connection to and awareness of the range of settings and diverse recreational opportunities provided in the parklands.
- Commercial partnerships will be managed to be consistent with the role of the parklands.
- Commercial and community partnerships will be encouraged where a public benefit can be demonstrated, the partnerships are consistent with the purpose of the reservation and the planning scheme, and they are compatible with the role of the parklands.
- Partnerships should respond to changing community requirements and values. The provision of services will be encouraged to achieve park objectives.
- Partnership proposals should consider opportunities to implement the objectives of Parks Victoria's *Indigenous Partnership Strategy and Action Plan*.
- State and local government planning mechanisms will be utilised to protect landscape and park values from adverse impacts arising from land uses adjacent to the parklands.
- Partnerships with other authorities for increasing community access to quality public open space will be encouraged.

5 PARK-WIDE ACTIONS

These park-wide actions apply either to the parklands as a whole or to specific management zones within the parklands. Specific management zones and zone actions are outlined in Chapter 6.

While actions provide guidance on directions or issues that are current or have been anticipated through the planning process, it is acknowledged that ongoing management of the parklands occurs within a changing social, political and economic environment.

5.1 Regional Open Space and Linkages

- Work with local councils to facilitate the completion of connections between the Metropolitan Trail Network and other local shared-use trails, and the consistency of trail signage.
- Prioritise the upgrading of trail surfaces to appropriate standards in areas of high use and conflict between users, in partnership with local councils.
- Support proposals by local councils for pedestrian bridges across the Yarra River that improve access to local government open space and facilities and enhance local access to the Main Yarra Trail.
- Work with local councils, and Melbourne Water to identify future routes for the Main Yarra Trail to Warrandyte that avoid adverse impacts on the environmental and cultural values of the parklands.
- Investigate access arrangements for proposed trails prior to the acquisition of private land within a public acquisition overlay.
- Investigate connecting main trails sections along the southern bank of the Yarra River.
- Support upgrading the standard of shared-use trails and trailside facilities in the parklands.
- Promote the Main Yarra Trail as a recreational and commuter shared-use trail, connecting different areas within and outside the parklands.

- Liaise with local councils and VicRoads to improve major parkland entrances for safety and to increase the profile and visibility of the parklands along adjacent arterial roads as they are upgraded.
- Provide input to proposed upgrades along major public transport routes adjacent to the parklands to encourage visitor use of public transport and seek to connect bus stops with popular sites and park trails in the parklands.
- Identify areas within the parklands that could provide mountain biking experiences without adversely affecting areas of significant environmental and cultural values.
- Work with local councils and the Department of Sustainability and Environment to identify unused road reserves and fire management tracks that could be used as trails, in order to minimise environmental impacts.

5.2 Park Visitors

- Use Parks Victoria's Levels of Service Framework to develop priorities for the parklands relating to:
 - providing sustainable facilities and services;
 - providing a range of existing and evolving visitor opportunities; and
 - maintaining the diversity of recreational experiences.
- Promote improved public access to recreation areas that have a capacity for increased use, to protect areas of significant environmental values.
- Ensure that any new facilities or services are consistent with the purpose of the land reservation, complement the role of the parklands, provide a public benefit and facilitate visitor enjoyment of the parklands environment.
- Support the provision of active recreation and community events in local council open space within and adjacent to the parklands.

-
- Promote the Main Yarra Trail’s primary purpose as a recreational shared-use trail that connects different areas within the parklands.
 - Improve management of dog-walking along the Main Yarra Trail and in dog on-lead areas in the parklands managed by Parks Victoria, using set-asides in accordance with the Crown Land (Reserves) Act and Regulations, based on this plan.
 - Continue to work with local councils to provide complementary management and promote community awareness of where dogs can be walked within the parklands.
 - Allow walking of dogs on-lead on main trails in the Conservation and Recreation Zone in the parklands that are managed and maintained by Parks Victoria (Map 3).
 - Allow dogs on-lead in the Recreation Zone, Sports and Community Events Zone, and in the Landscape Zone, where identified in set-asides.
 - Prohibit dogs from the Conservation Zone and the Longridge camp ground.
 - Support the promotion of the designated areas for dogs off-lead in public open space.
 - Investigate shared-use trails in the parklands to identify improvements for the safety of park users, considering sight lines, maintenance, trail buffers, vegetation management and signage.
 - Promote the safety of users on the off-road shared-use recreational trails in the parklands.
 - Improve the management of cyclists on shared-use trails by identifying and communicating alternative cycling routes for commuters, in conjunction with local councils and VicRoads, to improve the safety of other users.
 - Review the parkland’s existing Information Interpretation and Education Strategy to improve communication of:
 - Indigenous and post-contact cultural heritage;
 - location of visitor facilities;
 - environmental information;
 - benefits for health and well-being of recreation in natural settings; and
 - visitor safety information.
 - Promote public knowledge of the range and diversity of visitor facilities and recreational opportunities within the larger parklands.
 - Promote the well-being of visitors by identifying and providing short and accessible walks for groups, with consideration for mobility limitations.
 - Investigate the feasibility of allowing adventure and intensive recreation activities in appropriate management zones in the parklands, to avoid adverse impacts on areas of significant environmental and cultural values.
- ### 5.3 Character of the Parklands
- Maintain the diversity of landscapes when developing or rehabilitating visitor facilities and implementing revegetation programs.
 - Use the *Yarra Valley Parklands Landscape Analysis* (Aspect Melbourne Pty Ltd 2005) to identify landscape values when considering revegetation, removal of vegetation or the development of facilities.
 - Use the *Yarra Valley Parklands Landscape Analysis* to assess applications for mobile phone towers and other commercial developments that could have an adverse impact on the landscape.
 - Consider proposals for new mobile phone installations only if they are co-located on existing electricity transmission towers or existing mobile phone infrastructure.
 - Utilise the *Yarra Valley Parklands Landscape Analysis* and local government planning schemes and overlays when responding to planning applications on adjacent land to challenge negative impact on the parklands character.
 - Maintain the rural and natural landscapes as an urban break for the health and well-being of visitors and nearby communities.
 - Liaise with community groups and local residents to enhance community understanding of the role and character of

the parklands and encourage a sense of community ownership.

- Maintain the Pettys Orchard site as a representation of the orchards which characterised the region through the 20th century.

5.4 Natural Environment

- Manage the parklands in accordance with the identified natural values and conservation objectives for each management zone.
- Utilise Parks Victoria's Conservation Objectives and Environmental Management Framework to guide and prioritise maintenance and enhancement of environmental values.
- Utilise Parks Victoria's Conservation Objectives to develop priorities for the parklands relating to:
 - targeting the management of significant flora and fauna species and vegetation communities, including research and ongoing monitoring;
 - mapping the extent and quality of vegetation communities and habitat condition;
 - mapping the extent of pest plants and animals;
 - controlling pest plants and animals; and
 - monitoring flora and fauna, particularly species which are threatened, regionally significant or listed under international treaties.
- Maintain and enhance the biodiversity and ecological processes of remnant vegetation communities and associated ecosystems.
- Protect and maintain core habitat areas containing high-quality remnant vegetation and endangered EVCs, populations of rare or threatened species, and significant natural landforms such as billabongs as an ongoing priority, in conjunction with local councils and Melbourne Water.
- Maintain areas along the Yarra River and tributaries as a biolink between flora and fauna communities, ensuring that any revegetation is sensitive to landscapes and visitor use.
- Prioritise pest plant and animal control programs to maximise environmental benefits to threatened species and communities.
- Coordinate the control of pest plants and animals through partnerships with local councils and Melbourne Water.
- Continue to work with adjacent landowners and community groups in environmental management programs within the parklands to control rabbits and other threats.
- Continue to work with community groups to support the identification and enhancement of areas that have high environmental value.
- Liaise with local councils, Melbourne Water, the community and stakeholder groups to manage access to the Yarra River and identify sustainable access to the water in order to minimise erosion and environmental damage caused by informal river access.
- Utilise sustainable fire management to enhance biodiversity outcomes.
- Continue to work with Melbourne Water and local councils to ensure that stormwater is treated in accordance with best-practice guidelines (VSC 1999; Sinclair Knight Merz 2005), and support the implementation of actions in stormwater management plans for the parklands.
- Work with local councils and Melbourne Water to identify opportunities for harvesting water (including stormwater) for protecting the parklands from the effects of drought.

5.5 Cultural Heritage

Indigenous Cultural Heritage

- Ensure that management actions are undertaken in accordance with Parks Victoria's *Indigenous Partnership Strategy and Action Plan* and relevant legislation.
- Continue to consult with the Wurundjeri when planning to undertake strategic Aboriginal heritage assessments and ensure that all development works are carried out in accordance with the

provisions of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007*.

- Work with the Wurundjeri to develop culturally appropriate interpretative information and to recognise and protect culturally sensitive areas.

Post-contact Cultural Heritage

- Protect significant heritage sites with appropriate site-specific measures in accordance with Parks Victoria's Heritage Management Strategy.
- Protect Heidelberg School landscapes by maintaining the vistas identified in the *Yarra Valley Parklands Landscape Analysis* and through sensitive revegetation.
- Retain remnant exotics associated with gardens in heritage sites and landscapes, with appropriate controls to prevent their spread.

5.6 Management Partnerships

- Liaise with Melbourne Water to protect water quality in the Yarra River and tributaries and coordinate flood management through riparian vegetation protection and rehabilitation programs.
- Provide input to activities and planning undertaken by Melbourne Water, particularly in regard to recreation on, and public access to, the Yarra River in the parklands.
- Continue to work with SP Ausnet and other utilities to ensure that maintenance of powerlines and other easements has minimal impact on the environmental and heritage values of the parklands.
- Continue to work with relevant stakeholders to develop appropriate fire management practices in the parklands through the annual Fire Management Plan.
- Maintain appropriate emergency response procedures in conjunction with relevant public agencies. These procedures should incorporate fire management, flood management and evacuation procedures.
- Liaise with local government and adjacent landowners to maximise complementary

open space management and integrate pest plant and animal management programs in the parklands.

- Support local council artists-in-residence programs in heritage properties in the parklands.
- Continue to seek strategic advice from The Yarra Valley Parklands Advisory Committee on request.
- Encourage and provide opportunities for community involvement to extend conservation and recreation opportunities.
- Continue to encourage community involvement in the protection, enhancement and interpretation of the parklands.
- Liaise with cycling groups, Bicycle Victoria and VicRoads to improve connections and the consistency of signage between parklands trails and on-road sections of the Principal Bicycle Network.
- Liaise with VicRoads to minimise the impact of alterations to arterial roads on park boundaries and the safety of vehicular and pedestrian entrances to the parklands.
- Work with local councils and DSE to manage existing unused road reserves within the parklands to achieve consistent land tenure and management responsibility.
- Maintain partnerships with neighbouring land owners and managers to achieve coordinated pest plant and animal control programs.

6 MANAGEMENT ZONES AND ACTIONS

Management Zones have been defined to reflect the primary purpose and values of each area. The land within the Yarra Valley Parklands' boundary has been divided into seven Management Zones:

- Recreation
- Sport and Community Events
- Landscape
- Conservation and Recreation
- Conservation
- Special Use Zone A (Utilities)
- Special Use Zone B (Multiple Use).

Management Zones provide a framework for directing decision-making and have been applied to all land within the parklands, including private land under public acquisition overlays. These overlays are intended to show management purposes that would come into effect if the land were acquired.

The zones are based on the significance of environmental and heritage values, the range of recreational values and opportunities, landscape values, and future opportunities that have yet to be identified.

Special Use Zones have been applied in cases where the current or future use of land does not fit within the purpose of the general parklands management zones.

Map 3 shows the location of these Management Zones. Appendix 6 specifies the possible recreational opportunities within each zone.

6.1 Recreation

Purpose

Provide a wide range of recreation opportunities catering for a large number of visitors in a pleasant semi-natural or developed setting.

Description

The Recreation Zone includes large areas with well-developed facilities catering for large

numbers of visitors. It includes parts of Westerfolds Park, Birrarung Park, Yarra Flats and Banksia Park. The western end of the parklands is closer to established residential communities and has been developed to cater for higher levels of recreation activity.

Westerfolds Park is the primary visitor site in the parklands. The parklands in the Recreation Zone are accessible by main roads, public transport and trails.

The types of recreation activities that may be appropriate for this zone include picnicking and BBQs, group socialising, bird watching, occasional events, playing, informal games, walking, jogging and cycling.

Roles

- Provide attractive park settings and appropriate amenities to enable visitors to enjoy the outdoors and engage in passive recreation activities.
- Provide open areas and well serviced visitor nodes catering for large groups and high visitation.
- Provide opportunities and settings for social interaction and to improve mental and physical well-being in semi-natural or landscaped environment.
- Provide information to maximise an appreciation of the parklands and the opportunities it provides.

Actions

- Maintain the existing picnic areas to ensure quality facilities for large numbers of visitors and to facilitate opportunities for group socialising.
- Maintain visitor services, facilities and provision of information at Westerfolds Park consistent with its focus as the main Parks Victoria visitor node within the parklands.
- Consider proposals for commercial and community partnerships to enhance visitor experiences that are compatible with the recreation zone role and the relevant planning scheme.

- Recognise the value of Westerfolds Manor as a visitor focus for the range of experiences connecting people to the parklands.
- Investigate innovative ways to improve the visitor experience at Yarra Flats by improving visibility and appropriate recreational activities to reflect the changed population dynamics of the adjacent activity centre at Heidelberg.
- Retain introduced species of specimen trees that do not invade adjacent land as weeds.
- Work with local councils to improve access between Banksia Park, Heide Museum of Modern Art, the Main Yarra Trail, the Warringal Parklands and the Heidelberg Activity Centre.
- Continue to liaise with the Heide Museum of Modern Art to manage the shared vehicular exit through Banksia Park, and provide input to any proposals to upgrade Templestowe Road.

6.2 Sports and Community Events

Purpose

Provide space and existing or potential facilities to cater for local recreation, group recreational activities, organised sports and community events.

Description

The Sports and Community Events Zone is mostly owned or managed by local councils and includes Warringal Parklands, Banyule Flats Reserve, Bulleen Park, the Freeway Golf Course, Finns Reserve, Fitzsimmons Reserve, Griffith Reserve, part of Lower Eltham Park and part of Tikalara Park.

These areas provide space and facilities for a number of activities, including playgrounds, socialising, BBQs, picnicking, walking dogs, golf, skateboarding, model planes, archery, netball, football, cricket, and other active recreation.

Heide Museum of Modern Art is a heritage property and art gallery in Bulleen adjacent to Banksia Park. Heide is regionally significant and a major community facility displaying and

fostering the art heritage of the Yarra Valley. The types of recreation activities that are appropriate for this zone are determined mainly by local councils and may include community events, art appreciation, organised sport, using the trails, picnicking and playing.

Roles

- Provide settings and facilities for community use and events that diversify recreational opportunities and experiences for parkland visitors.
- Provide facilities for recreation and organised sport for the local and regional community.

Actions

- Maintain the zone as the focus for community events and active recreation including organised sport where appropriate within the parklands.
- Work with local councils and sports ground managers to protect the environmental and cultural heritage values along the Yarra River and other waterways and waterbodies by undertaking complementary measures such as fencing, revegetation and weed control.
- Consider proposals for commercial and community partnerships to enhance visitor experiences that are compatible with the purpose of the Sports and Community Zone and the relevant planning scheme.
- Liaise with Heide Museum of Modern Art and other relevant public agencies to maximise connectivity between Banksia Park, Heide and other future access points to the Art precinct.
- Parks Victoria will continue to work cooperatively with Heide Museum of Modern Art while ensuring that the values of the parklands continue to be protected.
- Work with Heide Museum of Modern Art and the relevant local government authorities to develop appropriate art themes in Banksia Park and other adjacent parklands, which reflect the rich arts heritage of the area.
- Continue to work with Manningham City Council for the future use, development and management of Tikalara Park as part

of the implementation of the Tikalara Park and Mullum Mullum Creek Linear Park Stage 5 Development Plan prepared by the Manningham City Council

6.3 Conservation and Recreation

Purpose

Protect, maintain and enhance areas with environmental values while providing suitable passive recreation opportunities.

Description

The Conservation and Recreation Zone includes land along many waterways and wetlands comprising of the riparian corridors along the Yarra River and tributaries west of the Mullum Mullum Creek confluence. The zone also encompasses some areas containing significant habitat values and remnant indigenous vegetation, and modified areas that have been or are planned to be sensitively revegetated to provide key vegetation links between areas of environmental significance.

The non-indigenous species to be retained in this zone are some non-invasive introduced tree species at Banksia Park and Yarra Flats.

The zone also includes privately owned land used as residential, commercial and rural properties. This land is covered by public acquisition overlays in the Manningham, Banyule and Nillumbik planning schemes, to allow for consideration for future incorporation into the parklands.

The types of recreation activities that may be appropriate for this zone include walking, jogging, cycling, appreciating nature, canoeing, walking dogs on-lead on main trails, mountain biking and small group picnics.

Roles

- Protect and manage important environmental values while providing opportunities for visitors to enjoy the natural setting, enhance their understanding of the local natural environment, and experience views across the open landscape.

- Manage and enhance remnant vegetation communities and fauna habitats along the Yarra River and tributary corridors.
- Enhance connectivity between areas of remnant vegetation to improve habitat links, particularly strengthening east-west connections along the Yarra River.
- Facilitate existing and future pedestrian and cycle access without conflicting with environmental values and flood management.
- Provide recreational opportunities in vegetated natural settings without impacting on areas of high environmental significance.

Actions

- Create a qualitative focus for revegetation and vegetation management programs that progressively build on the initial revegetation across the parklands.
- Consider proposals for commercial and community partnerships to enhance visitor experiences that are compatible with the Conservation and Recreation Zone and the relevant planning scheme.
- Promote and support community partnerships for revegetation and vegetation management programs.
- Ensure that vegetation management and revegetation programs adjacent to trails and visitor nodes will consider selection of appropriate species to maximise long-term public safety and park management sustainability.
- Investigate utilising natural settings with low conservation value that sustainably allow for emerging nature-based recreation activities.
- Identify and protect sites, places and values of cultural significance to the Wurundjeri.
- Focus revegetation planting for EVC restoration and buffer protection of significant vegetation communities while recognising the achievement of many revegetation milestones.
- As resources become available, prepare a detailed plan and implement the required works to make the Pontville Homestead

site a static interpretation area and destination located off the Main Yarra Trail.

- Maintain the canoe launch ramp facility at Westerfolds Park.
- Allow on-lead dog-walking only on the main shared-use trails throughout the parklands to connect surrounding communities to recreational areas and to improve management of the impact on significant flora and fauna communities.
- Work with mountain bike groups to identify alternative areas and alignments where mountain biking experiences will not damage values in the parklands.

6.4 Landscape

Purpose

Protect, maintain and enhance areas with significant natural, rural or cultural landscape values, views, vistas and geographic features, while providing low-key passive recreation opportunities. Landscape Zones can be used to maintain a low fuel load area to support fire management objectives.

Description

The Landscape Zone includes many different areas within the Parkland. The predominant character of the land in this zone is of areas that have been substantially altered for agricultural purposes.

This zone includes large areas of river flats and undulating paddocks rising from the Yarra River to ridges immediately adjacent to the Yarra River. Land within this zone is mostly open grassy grassland, reflecting the agricultural and rural history of the area.

The types of recreation activities that may be appropriate for this zone include walking, jogging, cycling, walking dogs on-lead, mountain biking, informal ball games, small group picnics, kite flying, bird watching, heritage appreciation and viewing of the landscape.

Roles

- Maintain examples of past rural and agricultural land uses, cultural landscape and character of the region.
- Enable visitors to experience the extensive open space and long distance views, and appreciate the diverse landscape.
- Consider proposals for commercial and community partnerships to enhance visitor experiences that are compatible with the Landscape Zone role and the relevant planning scheme.
- Maintain areas to provide the opportunity for visitors to experience large open spaces with its attendant mental health and spiritual benefits.
- Protect open space for use by future generations.
- Provide opportunities for visitors to experience areas of large open space and undertake compatible recreation activities.
- Contribute to urban amenity and liveability by providing a visual break in the urban environment.

Actions

- Work with local government as the responsible authority to support maintenance of views in and out of the parklands.
- Consider the use of horse and cattle grazing in lower conservation areas within the parklands to manage grass paddocks and maintain the rural character.
- Consider land in the zone that could be appropriately revegetated for net gain or carbon sequestration that will also enhance recreation opportunities in the parklands.
- Continue to undertake pest plant and pest animal management to minimise their invasion into areas of environmental value.
- Protect and enhance areas of remnant indigenous vegetation, including isolated River Red Gums.
- Maintain existing introduced specimen trees that contribute to landscape and cultural values, provided they are not invasive in surrounding vegetation.

- Liaise with Melbourne Water to investigate potential stormwater quality treatments such as wetlands that provide complementary open space benefits within the parklands.
- Ensure that lease and license arrangements are developed and managed in line with the park management role and vision.

6.5 Conservation

Purpose

Protect, maintain and enhance natural bushland with significant habitat and environmental values.

Description

The Conservation Zone applies to areas of indigenous vegetation with significant environmental values (such as Morrissions) and remnant geomorphological features. The zone encompasses the Yarra River riparian corridor east of the Mullum Mullum Creek confluence and significant billabongs in the Chandler Floodplain.

The biodiversity values and integrity of vegetated areas within the Conservation Zone varies from relatively undisturbed nationally significant remnant areas at Morrissions on Laughing Waters Road and Bolin Bolin Billabong to areas with extensive weeds that have been identified for prioritised enhancement and protection.

The types of nature-based recreation activities that may be appropriate for this zone include walking, viewing of the landscape, bird watching and nature and heritage appreciation.

Roles

- Conserve remaining areas of indigenous vegetation that contribute to regional biodiversity, and protect the natural landscape for current and future generations.
- Protect and manage the significant vegetation communities and fauna habitats along the Yarra River east of Mullum Mullum Creek.
- Protect and manage significant billabongs and their environmental value in the Yarra

floodplain, while recognising ongoing natural processes.

- Protect and manage threatened flora and fauna populations within the parklands.
- Promote sustainable enjoyment of the indigenous vegetation by providing opportunities for visitors to appreciate nature and learn about natural values and processes.
- Recognise and protect sites, places and values of cultural significance to the Wurundjeri.

Actions

- Enhance habitat connectivity and maintain self-sustaining viable communities and populations of flora and fauna.
- Ensure that recreation activities in this zone will have minimal impact on existing environmental values and provide inspiration through experiences of tranquillity and solitude.
- Continue the partnership with Nillumbik Shire Council in maintaining the integrity of the Eltham mud brick houses and their use for the artists-in-residence program.
- Minimise the impact of dogs, cats and other introduced animals to protect flora and fauna values.

6.6 Special Use Zone A (Utilities)

Purpose

Provide (easements) for main supply water, gas mains and electricity transmission that pass through the parklands.

Description

The water easement runs west through the parklands from Templestowe to Lower Plenty. The mains electricity transmission easement runs from the Templestowe substation to Lower Plenty, with a branch line running parallel to the Yarra River to Burke Road. A high-pressure gas pipeline runs from Templestowe to Eltham.

The types of recreation activities that may be appropriate for this zone include walking, dog walking, jogging and cycling.

Roles

- Provide a utility easement for the provision of mains supply of water, mains supply of gas, transmission of electricity and associated maintenance.
- Provide trail access where appropriate.

Actions

- Continue to liaise with the utility companies in regard to agreed installations and park management activities, including vegetation management, tree planting and maintenance access.
- Ensure that proposals for further utility installations avoid negative impacts on the parkland's visual, environmental, cultural and amenity values.
- Where a new proposal for new utility infrastructure is made, investigate opportunities to enhance visitor access and recreation experiences in the parklands.
- Consider proposals for new mobile phone installations only if they are co-located on existing electricity transmission towers or existing mobile phone infrastructure.

6.7 Special Use Zone B (Multiple Use)

Purpose

Acknowledge existing land uses located within the parklands on privately owned land that are not compatible with the general parkland management zones, and recognise the existing park management buildings, offices and depot.

Description

This Special Use Zone comprises small areas of land in private ownership within the parklands boundary and the Westerfolds Park office and depot.

The zone includes parts of private land covered by a Public Acquisition Overlay (for consideration of future incorporation into the parklands) under the Manningham and Banyule planning schemes.

Roles

- Recognise pre-existing uses of land in private ownership for commercial purposes, such as golf driving ranges and nurseries.
- Provide space for administration and depots for undertaking activities that support park management and operations, volunteers, and education and partnership activities.

Actions

- Maintain the park office and depot areas as the focus for park management, recreation, education, and support for community involvement within the parklands.
- Work in conjunction with private landowners, other public agencies, and community and user groups to compatibly manage the parklands and adjacent land.
- Liaise with the City of Banyule, City of Manningham and private landowners to ensure that current land uses are managed to avoid negative impacts upon the values of the parklands.
- Investigate opportunities to provide a range of compatible land uses that extend the recreational and leisure opportunities in addition to the experiences already available within the parklands.
- Assess proposals for future commercial and community activities or facilities and provide input to ensure that they provide a public benefit consistent with the values, role and strategic directions of the parklands.

7 IMPLEMENTATION

This final Management Plan provides the framework for the management of Yarra Valley Parklands over the next 10 to 15 years. The implementation of the actions in this plan will depend on the timing of non-compulsory land acquisition, visitor demand, funding and agreement with other agencies.

7.1 Priorities and Staging

The park-wide and specific management zone actions contained in this plan will guide and be progressively incorporated into Parks Victoria's annual works programs for Yarra Valley Parklands.

Parks Victoria staff report internally against 'on time and within budget' delivery of work programs and regional programs and whether completed programs have achieved their objective. Parks Victoria reports annually to the government on the overall delivery of regional and divisional programs. This broader reporting on management performance is included in Parks Victoria's annual reports.

During the implementation of the plan, Parks Victoria will work in partnership with the Traditional Owners. Ongoing collaborative activities with interested members of Indigenous communities, the wider community, scientists and agencies in realising the vision and management directions for the parkland will be especially important, as outlined in previous sections of the plan.

The implementation of the plan will be consistent with Parks Victoria's commitment to sustainable practices, which involves the delivery of operations, services and facilities in an ecologically and socially responsible manner with minimal use of expendable resources and minimal generation of waste.

In implementing the plan, management will respond to monitoring and research information as it emerges. Parks Victoria's environmental management framework makes this possible. Based on the International Standard for Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001), the framework ensures

that the future condition of values is considered in identifying threats and developing actions to ameliorate them. Over time, the success of actions is reviewed against set objectives to ensure ongoing learning and refinement of management. The selection of actions and treatments of threats are guided by the precautionary principle. Management options are evaluated on the basis of least impact on the environment. Treatment of threats with a potential for serious damage that is not addressed in this plan will not be postponed for lack of information.

Parks Victoria will use a variety of means to report to the community about the progress and implementation of the plan. Future State of the Parks reports, which will be available on the Parks Victoria's website, will include information on management performance in relation to the parkland.

The results of monitoring and research work will continue to be available to the community as technical reports available on Parks Victoria's website (www.parkweb.vic.gov.au).

Parks Victoria will also report on the evaluation of the plan at the start of any new or revised plan, through community liaison and consultation in the subsequent draft plan.

7.2 Management Resources

The complexity of the current status of land ownership and management of Yarra Valley Parklands means that it requires cooperative management by a number of land managers. The resourcing and implementation of actions in this plan therefore requires collaboration between all management agencies as well as adjoining landowners and community and user groups. Sources of funding or assistance to achieve the actions within this plan may include:

- individual management agency funding;
- State and Federal Government grants;
- environmental and community grant programs;
- Sport and Recreation Victoria funding;

- volunteer and community involvement such as Friends and special interest groups; and
- partnerships with, or contributions from, interested organisations and providers.

7.3 Plan Amendment

During the 10-15 year life of the plan, amendments to the plan may only be made by following an authorised process which includes community consultation, as appropriate.

Circumstances that might lead to amendment of the plan include:

- the results of monitoring or research, management experience or new information (such as greater understanding of new threatening processes) which indicate the need for a change in management direction;
- significant changes in visitation or use;
- a change in policy that calls into question plan objectives and actions; and
- new legislation or regulations (such as significant boundary changes).

The plan may also be amended if an activity, development or use which conflicts with the provisions of the plan is approved by government.

7.4 Evaluation and Review

Periodically through the life of this plan, Parks Victoria will assess overall progress towards implementing the strategies in the plan and will also assess progress towards achieving the plan vision and directions. These evaluations will inform a decision about whether a new or revised plan is required. The achievements of the plan will be assessed by considering performance areas such as the following.

Protecting natural values

- Overall progress towards achieving environmental conservation objectives.
- Protecting and enhancing vegetation communities, particularly for nationally significant species.

- Restoring the structure and floristic diversity of endangered EVCs.
- Preserving the open structure of the grassy woodlands in the parklands.
- Riparian stream-bed and bank stability.
- Water quality data.
- Meeting community expectations as a good environmental manager.
- Timely management intervention to minimise threats to the natural values of the parklands from pest plants and animals e.g. foxes, rabbits, riparian, grassy and woody weeds.
- Minimising environmental impact of visitor activities.
- Ensuring compliance with park regulations.

Protecting cultural values

- Progress towards working with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party in managing the parkland and in protecting and interpreting Indigenous cultural heritage.
- Overall progress towards achieving directions for Aboriginal places and objects in partnership with Traditional Owners.
- Timely management intervention to avoid damaging activities and threats.
- Conserving the significant Pontville homestead site by protecting the site from avoidable damage.
- Protecting the significant Heidelberg School landscapes along the Yarra River in the parklands.
- Meeting community expectations as a good manager of heritage values.
- Integrating complementary management outcomes from any future cultural heritage management plans for different land managers within the parklands.

Managing recreation and visitor use

- Maintaining the levels of information and interpretation.
- Meeting and maintaining the levels of service for facilities.

- Ensuring all facilities meet public safety standards, and the majority of facilities have a life expectancy of more than five years.
- Maintaining all visitor access roads in at least fair to good condition.
- Managing costs of asset maintenance.
- Minimising environmental impact from visitors, including individuals and school and tour groups.
- Maintaining visitor use levels.
- Maintaining visitor satisfaction with the adequacy of recreational opportunities.
- Meeting general community expectations in relation to Parks Victoria's management of the parklands.
- Improving community and visitor awareness.

Providing for research and promoting understanding

- Progress towards reflecting Indigenous views and aspirations of the parklands.
- Improving understanding of the key threats from pest plants and animals to habitat and vegetation communities.
- Investigating the needs and impacts of emerging recreational activities.
- Ongoing Indigenous and broader community participation.

Methods for evaluating the benefits of the plan are likely to be refined over time. Parks Victoria has introduced a range of structured monitoring practices to collect standardised and scientifically robust information. In particular, these will improve understanding of the outcomes of management on natural values; and allow improved reporting and assessment of performance. Parks Victoria also partners external research agencies to enhance knowledge and understanding of the values and features of the parklands and inform management decisions particularly in relation to pest and fire management. By using sound monitoring and assessment methods this monitoring and research work will strengthen the basis for comparing management performance over time.

It is envisioned that other agencies will also use this Management Plan to inform their various work plans and further improve complementary management between the different land managers in the Yarra Valley Parklands.

The plan provides the basis for input into internal and external funding sources, but it does not represent the system by which Parks Victoria allocates State-wide capital funding priorities.

The following objectives will guide Parks Victoria in prioritising the implementation of actions:

- Ongoing monitoring and review of this plan is required to ensure that strategic directions and actions remain relevant, and meet the management objectives of the parklands and its visitors.
- To ensure the continuing relevance of this Management Plan and associated works, plans, programs, periodical assessment of outcomes against resourcing, work priorities and actions will be required.
- Evolving leisure and recreational needs, community expectations and emerging management issues will necessitate regular review of this Management Plan, including a full review of the plan within 10-15 years.

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9 GLOSSARY

Biodiversity – the natural diversity of all life: the sum of all our native species of flora and fauna, the genetic variation within them, their habitats and the ecosystems of which they are an integral part.

Bioregion – an area with unique underlying environmental and ecological features.

China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) – an agreement between China and Australia providing for the protection of migratory birds.

Catchment – the area of land that drains to a watercourse or estuary.

Country – all of nature, culture and spirituality relating to an area.

Crown land – land belonging to the State.

Customs – observances and practices of people (includes land management and resource use) in accordance with tradition.

Ecological values – the importance of natural assets in maintaining natural ecosystems and ecological processes, of which it is a part.

Ecologically sustainable use – the use of a species or ecosystem at a level that enables it to recover naturally.

Ecosystem – a dynamic complex of interacting organisms and their associated non-living environment.

Freehold land – land held in private ownership.

Heritage – a place, activity, cultural way of life, structure or group of structures that has aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for the past, present or future generations.

Indigenous cultural heritage – all aspects of contemporary and traditional culture, and places and objects of significance to Indigenous people in accordance with tradition.

Indigenous people – people who are descendants of Aboriginal Australians.

Infrastructure – physical structures that facilitate the human use of an area (e.g. roads, paths, toilet blocks).

Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA) – an agreement between Japan and Australia providing for the protection of migratory birds.

Levels of Service Framework – a strategic framework for visitor services and asset management that is used to support resource allocation decision-making to best provide appropriate recreational infrastructure in a consistent manner.

Monitoring – the process of systematic observation of one or more elements of the environment over time.

Nature-based tourism – tourism that provides a range of experiences that rely on attractions directly related to the natural environment.

Pest – an organism (plant, animal or pathogen) that, if introduced outside its natural or previous distribution, can cause significant changes to habitats, food chains, ecosystems or human health by feeding on or competing with native species.

Relevant Indigenous communities – includes the Traditional Owners and the registered Aboriginal party for the area including the parklands.

Registered Aboriginal party – a body registered under part 10 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* by the Aboriginal Heritage Council.

Sediment – insoluble material suspended in water, consisting mainly of particles derived from rock, soil and organic material.

Set-aside – A specified area where particular activities may take place in accordance with certain conditions.

Stakeholders – people and organisations who may affect, be affected by, or perceive themselves to be affected by, a decision or activity.

Stormwater – run-off from land during and following rain. Stormwater removes accumulated material including litter, soil, nutrients, pathogens, chemicals, pesticides, oils and grease.

Threatening processes – a source of potential harm or a situation with a potential to cause loss.

Tradition – the body of knowledge, belief and customs that is passed from generation to generation.

Traditional Owner – person with traditional or familial links, an Aboriginal person with particular knowledge about traditions, observances, customs or beliefs associated with the area, and the person has responsibility under Aboriginal tradition for significant Aboriginal places located in, or significant Aboriginal objects originating from, the area; or is a member of a family or clan group that is recognized as having responsibility under Aboriginal tradition for significant Aboriginal places located in or significant Aboriginal objects originating from, the area.

Values – natural and cultural assets (e.g. historic artefacts, features, landscapes, flora and fauna species, flora communities) that have been given worth or are considered to be desirable.

Acronyms

AAV – Aboriginal Affairs Victoria

CMA – Catchment Management Authority

DSE – Department of Sustainability and Environment

EPA – Environment Protection Authority (Victoria)

EVC – ecological vegetation classes

IBRA – Interim Biogeographical Regions of Australia

JAMBA/CAMBA – Japan–Australia and China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreements

MMBW – former Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works

NRE – former Department of Natural Resources and Environment

WMAP – Water Management Activity Plan

APPENDIX 1 ECOLOGICAL VEGETATION CLASSES RECORDED IN THE YARRA VALLEY PARKLANDS

Box Woodland occurs on hill-crests and spurs of the Plenty River, Mullum Mullum Creek and Yarra River. Yellow Box, Red Stringybark and a rich understorey of goldfields wattles and grassland species are present. Box Woodland is classified as endangered in the Gippsland Plains Bioregion.

Creekline Grassy Woodland is found along Kestrel Creek and gullies in Westerfolds Park. River Red Gums are scattered along creeks on the Yarra floodplain above a midstorey of Swamp Paperbark. Creekline Grassy Woodland is classified as endangered in the Gippsland Plains Bioregion.

Creekline Herb-rich Woodland is located along creeks entering the northern bank of the Yarra River upstream from Diamond Creek. Prominent species include an overstorey of Manna Gum, Swamp Gum, and an understorey of ferns and sedges. Creekline Herb-rich Woodland is classified as vulnerable in the Eastern Highland Southern Falls Bioregion.

Riparian Shrubland is located on small islands among the rapids of the Yarra River upstream from Plenty River. Muttonwoods dominate among Swamp Paperbark. Riparian Shrubland is vulnerable in the Eastern Highland Southern Falls Bioregion and is threatened by the colonisation of the islands by willows. A fine example of this EVC can be seen from the Yarra River viewing platform at Westerfolds Park.

Gully Woodland is found along ephemeral gullies on the northern bank of the Yarra River upstream from Mullum Mullum Creek. Manna Gums are scattered through a midstorey of Swamp Paperbarks. Gully Woodland is classified as vulnerable in the Eastern Highland Southern Falls Bioregion.

Riparian Forest is found along the Yarra River upstream from Mullum Mullum Creek to the boundary of Warrandyte Park. The overstorey is characterised by Manna Gums and there is a midstorey of Silver Wattles. Riparian Forest is classified as vulnerable in the Eastern Highland Southern Falls Bioregion.

Floodplain Riparian Woodland is found along the Plenty River in the vicinity of Martins Lane and along the Yarra River downstream from the confluence of Kestrel Creek in Westerfolds Park. River Red Gums and Manna Gums are characteristic species of this EVC. Floodplain Riparian Woodland is classified as endangered in the Gippsland Plains Bioregion.

Aquatic Herbland (Floodplain Wetland) occurs in wetlands, billabongs and swamps, including Bolin Bolin Billabong and Banyule Swamp. Knotweed and Water-milfoil are characteristic plants of these wetlands. Aquatic Herbland (Floodplain Wetland) is classified as vulnerable in the Eastern Highland Southern Falls Bioregion and the Gippsland Plains Bioregion.

Wetland Formation is found at the artificial wetlands built since the 1970s at Bobs Wetlands at Glynn's Road, Birrarung Park and Westerfolds Park. These areas support the diversity of riparian communities and species along the Yarra River floodplain and are characterised by Common Reed, Cumbungi and Tall Spike-sedge.

Herb-rich Foothill Forest is found in the Laughing Waters area north of the Yarra River. Messmate and Narrow-leaved Peppermint occur in this EVC.

Valley Grassy Forest is located on valleys and terraces along the Yarra River upstream from Westerfolds Park. Yellow Box stands are characteristically in swathes of Kangaroo Grass. Valley Grassy Forest is classified as vulnerable in the Eastern Highland Southern Falls Bioregion.

Grassy Dry Forest is found on slopes of the Yarra valley upstream from Mullum Mullum Creek. The rich variety of flora in the goldfields orchid assemblage includes species of National significance. The Grassy Dry Forest supports several endangered vegetation communities in the Yarra Valley Parklands, including Box–Stringybark Woodland.

APPENDIX 1 continued

Grassy Woodland is found in a small linear parcel of alluvial sands along the Yarra River between Westerfolds Park and Finns Reserve.

Plains Grassy Woodland is found at Westerfolds and the Viewbank escarpment along the Plenty River. River Red Gums and Swamp Gums are prominent in these vegetation communities. Plains Grassy Woodland is endangered in the Gippsland Plains Bioregion. It is characterized by an upper-storey of Manna Gums and Sheoaks. Grassy Woodland is endangered in the Gippsland Plains Bioregion.

Plains Grassy Wetland is found in ephemeral wetlands and floodplains north of the Yarra between Ruffey Creek and Banyule Creek. Club Sedges and Swamp Wallaby Grasses are found in these wetlands. Banyule Swamp is one of the finest representations of this community in the region. Plains Grassy Wetland is endangered in the Gippsland Plains Bioregion.

Riverine Escarpment Scrub occurs on cliffs of the Yarra River upstream from Bonds Road, Lower Plenty. The middle storey has super-abundant Yarra Burgan, Golden Wattle and Sweet Bursaria and the ground-storey supports a number of rare ferns adapted to rock faces. Riverine Escarpment Scrub is depleted in the Eastern Highland Southern Falls Bioregion.

APPENDIX 2 SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF OTHER PLANT SPECIES REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT

Common Name	Scientific Name
*African Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>
*Angled Onion	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>
*Blackberries	<i>Rubus</i> spp.
*Bridal Creeper	<i>Myrsiphyllum asparagoides</i>
Bulbil Watsonia	<i>Watsonia meriana</i> var. <i>bulbillifera</i>
*Chilean Needle-grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Cumbungi	<i>Typha</i> spp.
Club Sedges	<i>Bolboschoenus</i> spp.
*Desert Ash	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>
*English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Golden Wattle	<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
*Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>
Knotweed	<i>Persicaria</i> spp.
Manna Gum	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>
Messmate	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>
Muttonwood	<i>Rapanea howittiana</i>
Narrow-leaved Peppermint	<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>
*Panic Veldt Grass	<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>
Red Stringybark	<i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i>
River Red Gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>
Sheoak	<i>Casuarina</i> spp.
Silver Wattle	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>
*Soursob	<i>Oxalis pescaprae</i>
Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>
Swamp Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>
Swamp Wallaby Grass	<i>Amphibromus</i> spp.
Sweet Bursaria	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>
*Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Tall Spike-sedge	<i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i>
*Wandering Trad	<i>Tradescantia albiflora</i>
Water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum</i> spp.
*Willow	<i>Salix</i> spp.
Yarra Burgan	<i>Kunzea leptospermoides</i>
Yellow Box	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>

* Introduced species

APPENDIX 3 THREATENED FAUNA SPECIES (DSE 2007)

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Status	Conservation Status	
			Australia	Victoria
BIRDS				
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Grey Goshawk	L		Vul
<i>Alcedo azurea</i>	Azure Kingfisher			NT
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret	L	V	Vul
<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	Intermediate Egret	L		CEnd
<i>Aythya australis</i>	Hardhead			Vul
<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Musk Duck			Vul
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	L		End
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		M (J, C)	
<i>Chrysococcyx osculans</i>	Black-eared Cuckoo			NT
<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	Speckled Warbler	L		Vul
<i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>	Brown Quail			NT
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe		M (J, C)	NT
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail		M (C)	
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	L		End
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	L	E	End
<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin	L		NT
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl	L		End
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	L		Vul
<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	Nankeen Night Heron			NT
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck	L		End
<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Baillon's Crake	L		Vul
<i>Rallus pectoralis</i>	Lewin's Rail	L	M (J)	Vul
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Painted Snipe	L	V M (C)	CEn
<i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	L	E M (J)	CEn
MAMMALS				
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	Common Bent-wing Bat	L	CD	End #
<i>Myotis macropus</i>	Southern Myotis			NT
<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>	Brush-tailed Phascogale	L		Vul
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	L	V	Vul
<i>Sminthopsis murina</i>	Common Dunnart			Vul
FROG & REPTILES				
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Warty Bell Frog	L	V	End
<i>Macrochelodina expansa</i>	Broad-shelled Tortoise	L		End *
<i>Pseudemoia rawlinsoni</i>	Glossy Grass Skink			NT

APPENDIX 3 continued

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Status	Conservation Status	
			Australia	Victoria
FISH				
<i>Maccullochella macquariensis</i>	Trout Cod	L	E	CEn *
<i>Maccullochella peelii</i>	Murray Cod	L	V	End *
<i>Macquaria ambigua</i>	Golden Perch	I		Vul *
<i>Macquaria australasica</i>	Macquarie Perch	L	E	End *
<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>	Australian Grayling	L	V	Vul
<i>Tandanus tandanus</i>	Freshwater Catfish	L		End *

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG):

L listed
I nominated for listing but deemed invalid or ineligible

Conservation status in Australia:
Environment Protection and Biodiversity
Conservation Act (EPBC) status:

V vulnerable
E endangered
CD conservation dependent
M migratory species listed under JAMBA (J)
and CAMBA(C) agreements

Conservation status in Victoria:

NT near threatened
Vul vulnerable
End endangered
CEn critically endangered
colonial nesting species
* introduced to the parklands

APPENDIX 4 THREATENED FLORA SPECIES (DSE 2005)

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Status	Conservation Status	
			Australia	Victoria
<i>Acacia leprosa</i> (Dandenong Range variant)	Dandenong Range Cinnamon Wattle			R
<i>Austrostipa rudis</i> ssp. <i>australis</i>	Veined Spear-grass			R
<i>Billardiera scandens</i> var. <i>brachyantha</i>	Velvet Apple-berry			R
<i>Bolboschoenus fluviatilis</i>	Tall Club-sedge			K
<i>Caladenia oenochila</i>	Wine-lip Spider-orchid		V	Vul
<i>Caladenia rosella</i>	Rosella Spider-orchid	L	E	End
<i>Callitriche brachycarpa</i>	Short Water-starwort	L		Vul
<i>Cardamine papillata</i>	Forest Bitter-cress			Vul
<i>Carex chlorantha</i>	Green-top Sedge			K
<i>Correa reflexa</i> var. <i>lobata</i>	Powelltown Correa			R
<i>Corybas fimbriatus</i>	Fringed Helmet-orchid			R
<i>Desmodium varians</i>	Slender Tick-trefoil			K
<i>Dianella amoena</i>	Matted Flax-lily		E	End
<i>Dianella</i> sp. aff. <i>longifolia</i> (Banambra)	Arching Flax-lily			Vul
<i>Eucalyptus</i> X <i>studleyensis</i>	Studley Park Gum			End
<i>Eucalyptus yarraensis</i>	Yarra Gum	I		R
<i>Fimbristylis velata</i>	Veiled Fringe-sedge			R
<i>Geranium solanderi</i> var. <i>solanderi</i>	Austral Cranesbill			Vul
<i>Geranium</i> sp. 3	Pale-flower Cranesbill			R
<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	Clover Glycine	L	V	Vul
<i>Helichrysum</i> aff. <i>rutidolepis</i> (Lowland Swamps)	Pale Swamp Everlasting (Foothill Form)			Vul
<i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i> var. 2	Wetland Blown-grass			K
<i>Lepidium pseudohyssopifolium</i>	Native Pepper-cress			K
<i>Levenhookia sonderi</i>	Slender Stylewort			R
<i>Olearia ramulosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i>	Twiggy Daisy-bush			K
<i>Pomaderris vacciniifolia</i>	Round-leaf Pomaderris			Vul
<i>Pterostylis aciculiformis</i>	Slender Ruddyhood			K
<i>Pterostylis smaragdina</i>	Emerald-lip Greenhood			R
<i>Pterostylis</i> sp. aff. <i>plumosa</i> (woodland)	Woodland Plume-orchid			R
<i>Pterostylis</i> sp. aff. <i>striata</i>	Silurian Striped Greenhood			End
<i>Senecio campylocarpus</i>	Floodplain Fireweed			K

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG):

L listed
I nominated for listing but deemed invalid or ineligible

Conservation status in Australia:
Environment Protection and Biodiversity
Conservation Act (EPBC) status:

V vulnerable
E endangered

Conservation status in Victoria:

K poorly known
R rare
Vul vulnerable
End endangered
CEn critically endangered

**APPENDIX 5 INTRODUCED FAUNA SPECIES RECORDED IN THE YARRA VALLEY
PARKLANDS**

Common Name	Scientific Name
BIRDS	
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Common Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Domestic Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
European Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Spotted Turtle-dove	<i>Streptopella chinensis</i>
MAMMALS	
Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>
Domestic Dog	<i>Canis familiaris</i>
Domestic Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>
Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>
FROG	
Little Tree Frog	<i>Litoria phallax</i>
FISH	
Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
European Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
Goldfish	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
Mosquito Fish	<i>Gambusia holbrooki</i>
Redfin	<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>
Roach	<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>
Weather Loach	<i>Misgurnus anguillicaudatus</i>

APPENDIX 6 INDICATIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

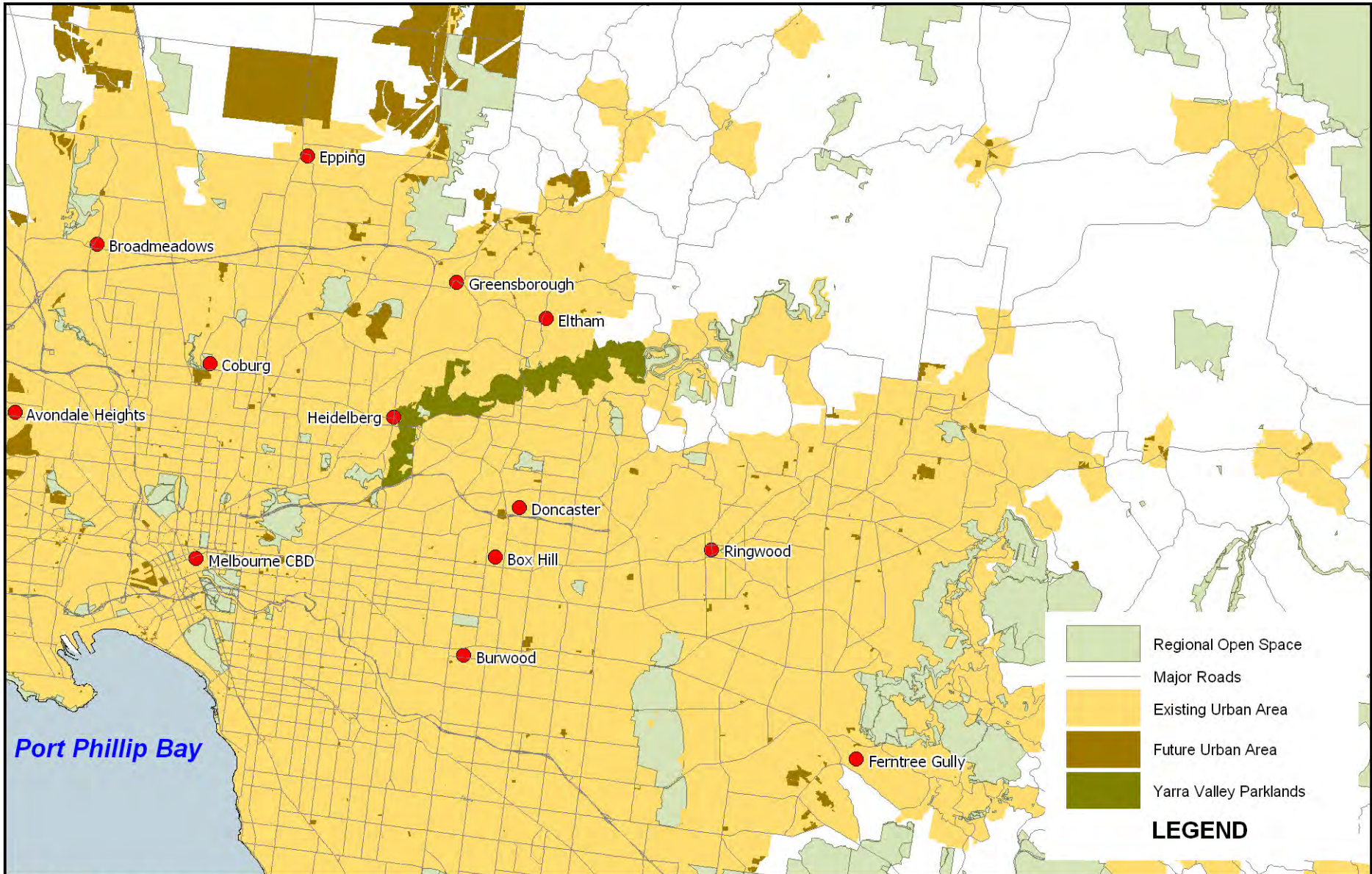
This Table provides an indicative list of the type of recreation activities that may be appropriate in Yarra Valley Parklands to support such activities are not currently available. Activities will only be permitted after assessment against parkland management zones in conjunction with the description, purpose and role of individual Management Zones. For the exact locations signage, information brochures, council regulations and parklands staff.

LEGEND

- ✓ Activity allowed within management zone
- Activity possible within management zone – Dog Walking on-lead in the Conservation and Recreation zone is allowed only in the Management Zone
- ✗ Activity not appropriate

ACTIVITY	Recreation					CONSERVATION	SP (U)
	RECREATION	SPORT & COMMUNITY EVENTS	CONSERVATION & RECREATION	LANDSCAPE	CONSERVATION		
	5.6% of parklands	12.5% of parklands	41.9% of parklands	27.1% of parklands	11.8% of parklands	1.5 (0)	
Walking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dog Walking (on lead)	✓	✓	-	✓	✗	✓	
Dog Walking (off lead)	-	-	✗	✗	✗	✗	
Jogging	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	
Bicycle riding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	
Rollerblading	✓	✓	✓	-	✗	✓	
Skate boarding	✓	✓	✓	-	✗	✓	
Picnicking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	
Barbecuing	✓	✓	-	-	✗	✗	
Playing (playground)	✓	✓	-	-	✗	✗	
Playing (ball games)	✓	✓	-	✓	✗	✗	
Horse Trail Riding	✗	-	✓	✓	✗	✗	
Equestrian eventing	✗	-	✗	✗	✗	✗	
Motocross	✗	-	✗	✗	✗	✗	
Tennis	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	
Cricket (fields)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	
Baseball	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	
Netball	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	
Softball	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	
Golf	✗	✓	✗	-	✗	✗	
Fishing	✓	✓	-	-	✗	✗	
Scenic Viewing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bird watching	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nature Study	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	
Heritage Study	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	

- Note: Some areas within the Parklands are private land and not accessible to the public (refer to Map 2 – Land Status).



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Map 1 - Location

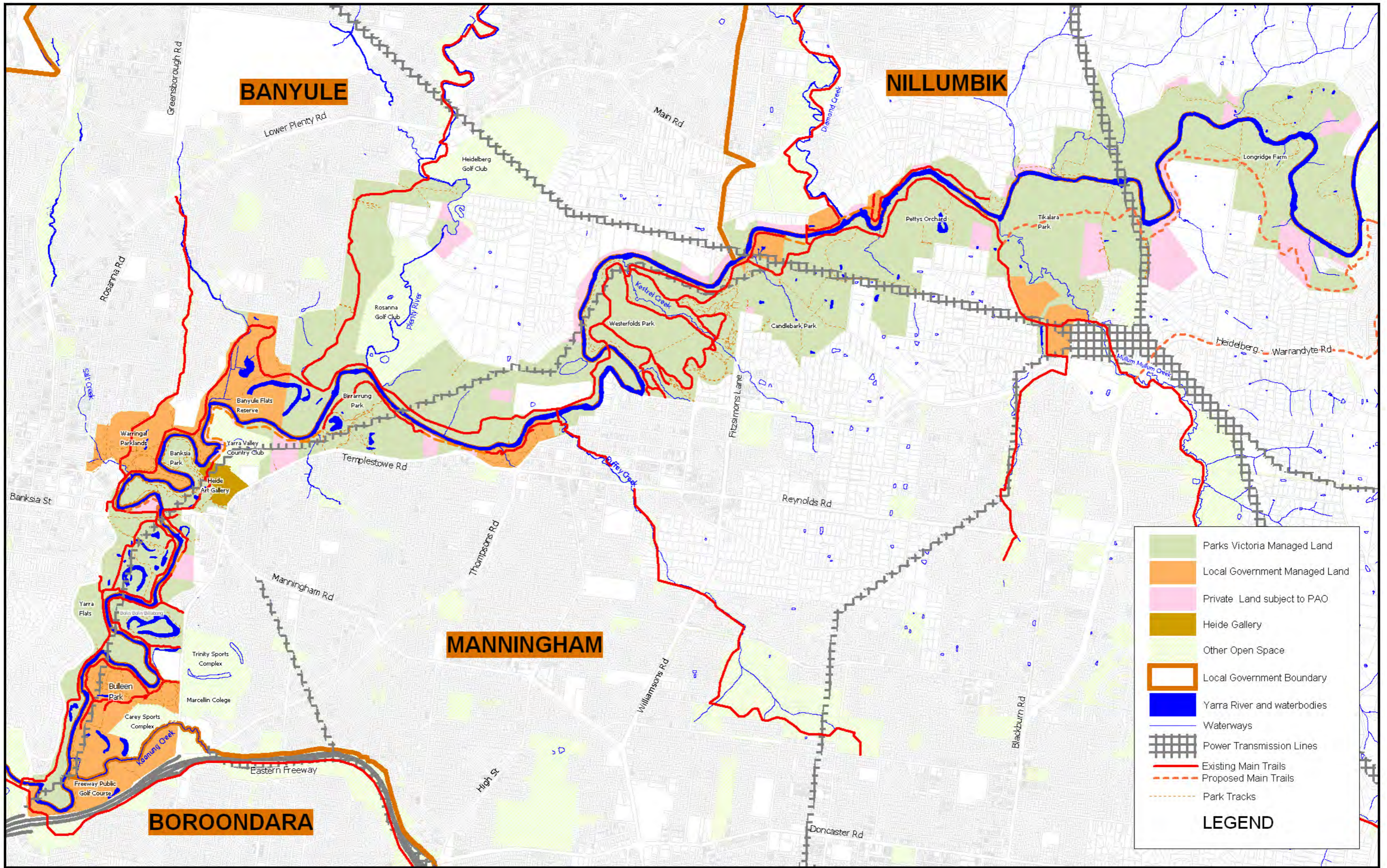
Yarra Valley Parklands Management Plan

Map 1 of 4



Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA94). Map produced by Parks Victoria.
 This map supersedes all previous editions. Data source acknowledgements:
 State Digital MapBase, Victorian Flora Site Database & Atlas of Victorian Wildlife
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 The contribution of the Royal Botanical Gardens Melbourne to the database is acknowledged
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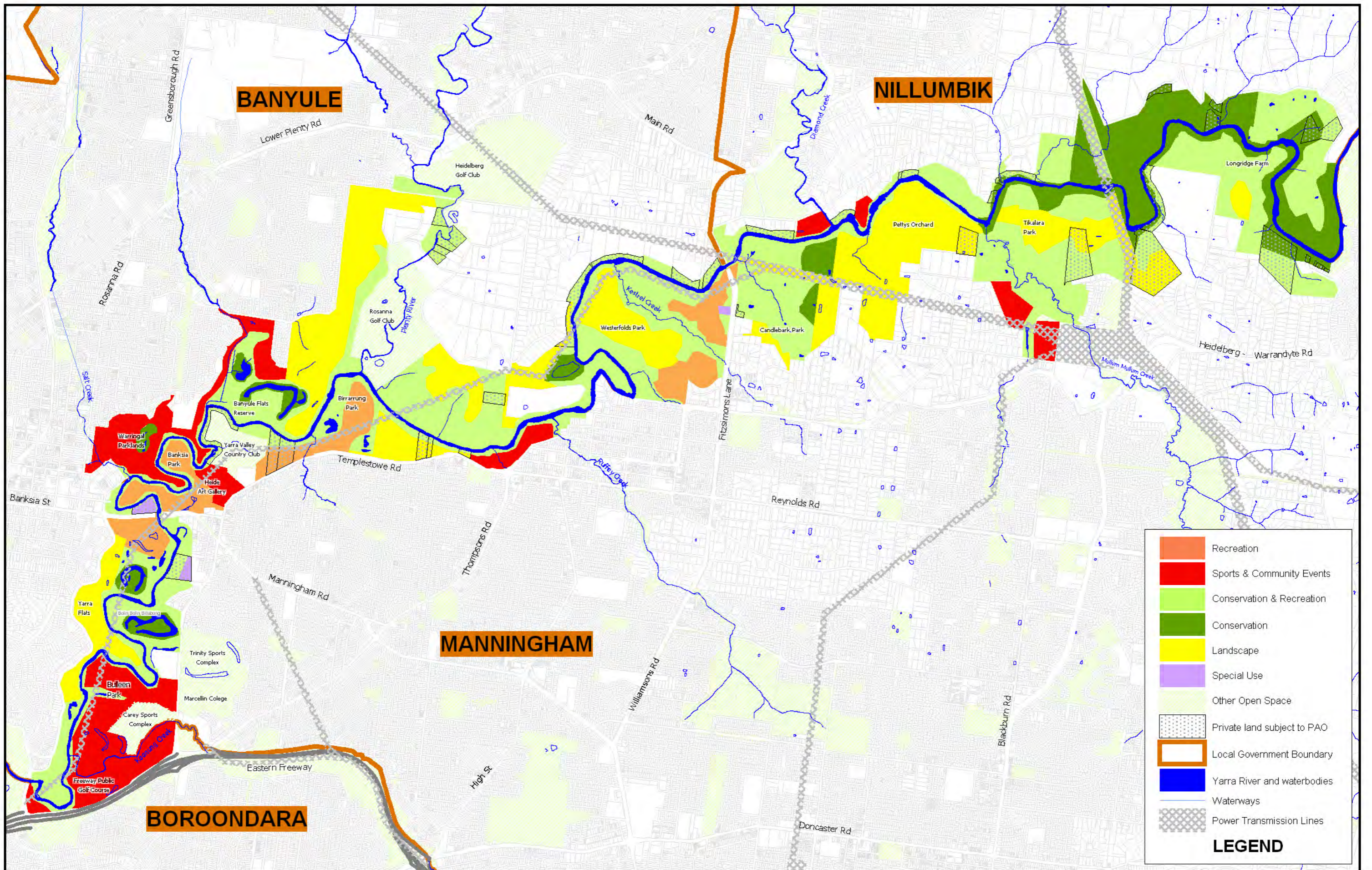
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Map 2 - Land Status
Yarra Valley Parklands
Management Plan
 Map 2 of 4





	Recreation
	Sports & Community Events
	Conservation & Recreation
	Conservation
	Landscape
	Special Use
	Other Open Space
	Private land subject to PAO
	Local Government Boundary
	Yarra River and waterbodies
	Waterways
	Power Transmission Lines

LEGEND

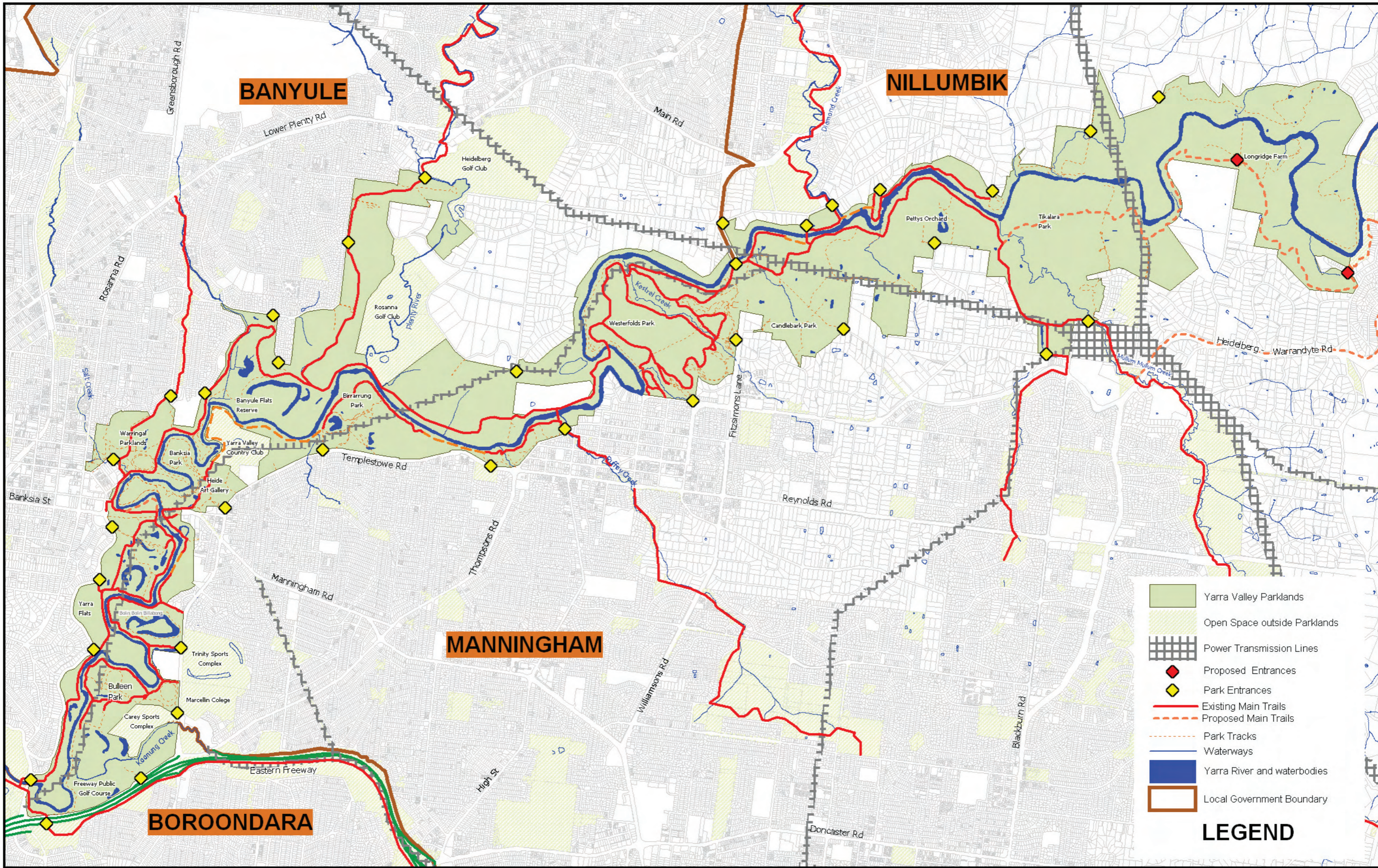
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 The map depicts all possible errors

Map 3 - Management Zones
Yarra Valley Parklands
Management Plan





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BANYULE

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BOROONDARA

- Yarra Valley Parklands
- Open Space outside Parklands
- Power Transmission Lines
- Proposed Entrances
- Park Entrances
- Existing Main Trails
- Proposed Main Trails
- Park Tracks
- Waterways
- Yarra River and waterbodies
- Local Government Boundary

LEGEND



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Map 4 - Links and Access

**Yarra Valley Parklands
 Management Plan**

Map 4 of 4



