

HEPBURN STREET RESERVE and THE SANCTUARY

Vision

“Away from the bustle of Laura Douglas is a place of calm and connection. Hepburn Street Reserve invites visitors to slow down, meander, and explore with the senses. The Sanctuary provides refuge for important plant and animal species, with views over rolling terrain and connection to earth and sky.

Hepburn Street Reserve and Sanctuary is a Neighbourhood scale reserve and home to the Dallas Tennis Hall offering opportunities for nature, walking, kick-about and and picnic connections.

This area has gaps in continuous trail connection that are a priority to address.



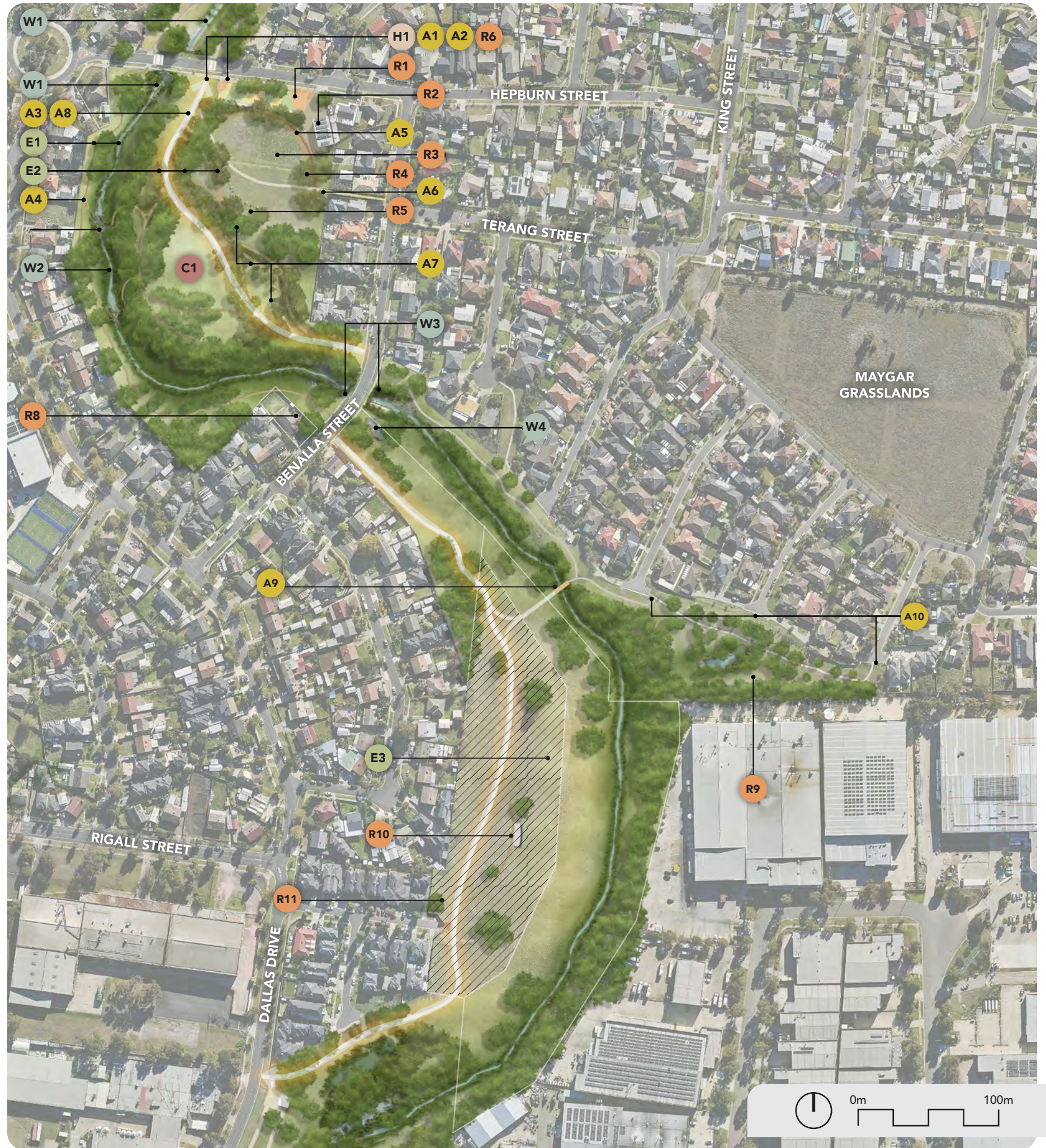
Paths that allow you to move like the river: quick and direct, or slow and meandering.



Large sunny spaces open to the sky; smaller shady spaces to explore and connect.



Precinct Plan N



ACTION ITEMS

ACTION	KEY STRATEGY
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WURUNDJERI WOI-WURRUNG CULTURAL VALUES

C1	Findings and recommendations from the Cultural Values Assessment will be integrated into the Final Masterplan.	1.1
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ECOLOGICAL VALUES

E1	Install riparian vegetation and trees along both banks of Merlynston Creek. Retain 3m wide turfed zone behind property fencelines for maintenance access and clear viewlines.	2.3; 6.2
E2	Undertake native tree planting for habitat and shade. Curving sweeps of trees and planting meander across the flatter land, increasing the sense of being part of a riparian plain connected to the creek	2.2
E3	Implement edge treatment and planting, and maintenance regimes that direct cyclists and walkers away from sensitive ecological areas	2.3

COMMUNITY RECREATION VALUES

R1	Investigate, and where feasible implement ‘light touch’ upgrades to enable multiple use opportunities for carpark e.g. painting and hoop at one end to allow use as a basketball half court; or patterns and colours that reflect local groups using the community building.	5.2; 5.3
R2	Investigate, and where feasible implement building upgrades that better connect the hall with the parkland e.g. windows, verandah, or forecourt.	5.2; 5.3
R3	Investigate, and if self-managed by an active community group, implement a small community garden subject to site having limited impact on public use of reserve and self-organisation by the community	5.2
R4	Install seating, sun loungers and picnic settings to support smaller gatherings and quiet relaxation.	5.2; 5.3
R5	Maximise parkland interface improvements in any development applications on adjacent land.	5.1; 5.3
R6	Investigate for additional parkland area near the Benalla Street entrance to improve path connections, viewlines and visibility.	5.1; 5.2
R7	Implement ‘discovery loops’ - informal paths to enable slower movement, discovery and walking. Create sensory garden with informal paths weaving between drifts of planting. Extend creekside tree and groundcover planting to connect and increase the sense of being part of the creek corridor. Integrate existing olive grove into planting clusters. Integrate pockets of planting chosen for their textural and sensory qualities.	5.2
R8	Continue to maintain DFFH land at 12-16 Benalla Street that is zoned PPRZ for parkland purposes.	5.3; 6.1
R9	Rezone existing Council parkland at 6-20 Military Road, 16 Stamford Street and 20 Cornell Close from General Residential to PPRZ. Improve parkland interface in any adjacent development.	5.3
R10	Investigate viewing area looking over creek and Golden Sun Moth / Large-flower crane’s bill habitat.	5.2
R11	Seek to acquire grassy plains parcel at 13 Merlynston Close, Broadmeadows, to fill the most critical parkland and trail gap in the Merlynston Creek Parklands. Rezone from General Residential to PPRZ. Improve parkland interface in any adjacent development.	5.2; 5.3

WATERWAY VALUES

W1	Investigate, and where feasible, implement ‘light touch’ naturalisation of Merlynston Creek including introduction of riparian vegetation, and saw-cutting concrete to allow low density sedge planting.	3.2
W2	Investigate, and where feasible, seek partnership funding to implement naturalisation of Merlynston Creek including concrete removal, meandering low flow channel, benched floodplain, and riparian vegetation	3.1; 3.2
W3	Increase planting to screen fencing on top of the culvert wing walls. Extend the planting area outside the fence to ease ongoing maintenance.	3.3
W4	Investigate, and if feasible, implement sediment basin and bioretention basin to improve water quality in Merlynston Creek.	3.1

HERITAGE VALUES

H1	Retain existing bluestone retaining wall and integrate into park entry.	4.2
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ACCESS AND CONNECTION VALUES

A1	Improve walking and cycling entry from Hepburn Street by adapting the bluestone walk for all abilities access.	6.1
A2	Improve information and wayfinding signage at key park entrances to increase awareness of Merlynston Creek and its visitor features.	6.3
A3	Implement an inclusive, Shared Use Path along the length of Merlynston Creek Parklands, on at least one side of the creek, for people who walk and cycle. Investigate lighting on higher use paths for early morning and early evening use. Lighting design is to minimise wildlife impacts.	6.1; 6.2
A4	Implement secondary trails along the length of Merlynston Creek Parklands, on the side opposite the shared use trail. All trails located to direct walkers and cyclists away from ecological and culturally sensitive areas.	6.1; 6.2
A5	Where feasible, implement a secondary path that enables a walking loop around the open lawn area with easy connection to the shared use path, the Terang Street entry, and the hall. Provide shade trees and seating.	6.1; 5.3
A6	Improve path connection into parklands from Terang Street to make it feel safer to walk through.	6.1
A7	Implement meandering and informal paths that weave between trees and planting beds and encourage different journeys and discoveries.	6.1; 2.3
A8	Investigate, and where feasible, seek additional parkland area near the Benalla Street and Hepburn Street entrance to improve path connections, viewlines and visibility.	6.1; 6.2; 6.3
A9	Investigate, and if feasible, construct a creek crossing to improve east-west connectivity.	6.2; 6.3
A10	Improve wayfinding and information signage to support links to nearby Maygar Grasslands.	6.1