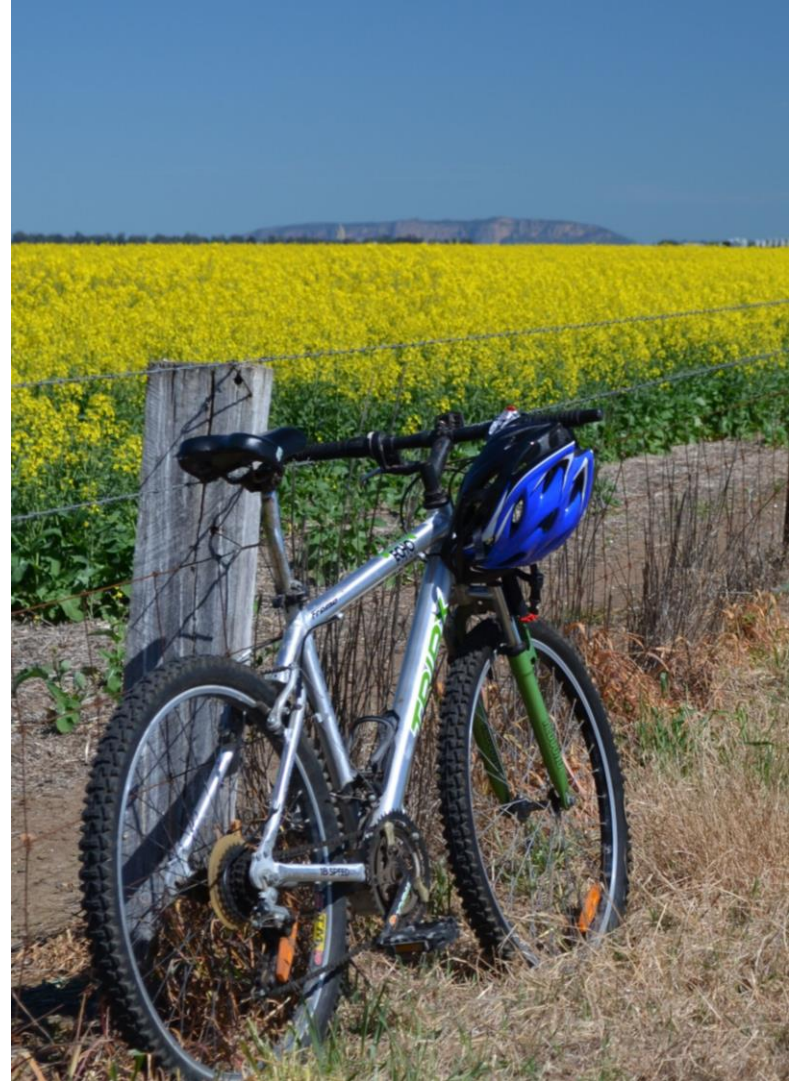




STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND RECOMMENDATIONS

“A leading regional community with an open space network that provides positive health and well-being outcomes for everybody.”



STRATEGIC PILLARS

The strategy identifies seven key strategic pillars to guide the planning, provision and development of open space across the municipality:



Increase connectivity - Improve connectivity to green/open spaces through the development of pedestrian and cycle networks, active transport linkages, traffic planning, and strategic land acquisition and disposal.



Redefine the Wimmera River - Activate the Wimmera River and its environs



Improve open space provision - Ensure equitable access to open space across the municipality



Enhance collaboration - Engage with other agencies (e.g. BGLC, Parks Vic, DELWP, WCMA) so that open space provision and management is a multi-agency initiative that achieves shared objectives



Invest and plan for our future - Develop clear and defensible planning decisions to ensure developers create the environment that both Council and the community want.



Colour and Green our City - Improve the provision of open space within the CAD and develop a number of multipurpose spaces for wider community use



Recognise and Celebrate our Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Arts - Protect and preserve areas of cultural significance to the Wotjobaluk Peoples' and increase access to a diverse range of arts and cultural experiences across the municipality and open space network.

The following timeframe has been used to guide the implementation of the actions and initiatives under each pillar:

Short term: 1-2 years

Medium term: 3-4 years

Longer term: 5 years or more

1. INCREASE CONNECTIVITY

#	Actions	Timeframe
1.1	Improve connectivity to green/open spaces through the development of pedestrian and cycle networks, active transport connections, traffic planning, and strategic land acquisition and disposal.	
1.1.1	Encourage linkages to the existing public open space network from Police Paddock.	Short
1.1.2	Investigate a Bike Hire pilot program (in collaboration with the Horsham Cyclery) to promote and encourage recreational cycling.	Short
1.1.3	Develop pedestrian and cycle links between the Kalkee Road Children's Hub, Police Paddock and Dudley Cornell.	Medium
1.1.4	Improve existing pedestrian/cycle connections across the railway to improve safety and accessibility.	Medium
1.1.5	Investigate the rail corridor that extends to the west of the locality towards Natimuk to develop a shared walking and cycling path with potential connection to the Big Sky Bicycle Trail at Natimuk.	Long
1.1.6	Develop improved cycling and walking trails in the Wartook area to provide a superior visitor experience and more recreational opportunities for residents.	Long
1.1.7	Support connections to the Grampians Peak Trail and Wartook to Zumsteins walking and cycling trail at an appropriate location.	Long
1.1.8	Formalise and improve the surface of the trail that connects Cameron Oval to the Laharum Hall and Primary School site.	Long
1.2	Establish the Wimmera River corridor as the main link in Horsham's off road pedestrian and cycle path network.	
1.2.1	Provide improved and continuous public access for people of all abilities within the wider river corridor, including along both banks of the river.	Short
1.2.2	Connect public open space to the surrounding pedestrian network. Pedestrian and cycle paths that connect the river to May Park and Police Paddock are needed to enhance connectivity and accessibility.	Short
1.2.3	Establish new pedestrian and vehicle linkages across the river to better connect North and South Horsham.	Medium
1.2.4	Investigate three additional river crossings to provide better connectivity and enhance safety and access between to the CAD and the rest of the township. The approximate location of these crossings are: the Eastern end of Baillie Street; the Eastern end of Hamilton Street; and the Southern end of Bennett Road.	Medium
1.2.5	Incorporate universal design principles in any proposed bridges or river crossings.	Medium
1.3	Ensure that open space areas located in the Wimmera River corridor are linked via off road walking and cycling paths.	
1.3.1	Create and formalise linkages between the CAD and river corridor as identified through the Horsham CAD revitalisation project.	Medium
1.3.2	Upgrade and extend the existing all-abilities shared path network in the north-eastern direction along the river corridor within the urban area.	Medium
1.3.3	Identify and develop all-abilities access locations to the corridor and the river, and upgrade access and pathway infrastructure to incorporate universal design principles.	Medium
1.3.4	Upgrade the access track to the Dooen Weir including provision of signage, public toilets and picnic area upgrades.	Medium
1.4	Ensure that land which fronts the Wimmera River in the urban area of Horsham, is in public ownership to allow for land management and public access.	
1.4.1	Identify and strategically acquire land along the river corridor required for provision of off road walking and cycling paths.	Medium

2. RE-DEFINE THE WIMMERA RIVER

#	Actions	Timeframe
2.1	Activate the Wimmera River and its environs	
2.1.1	Recognise and manage any potential detrimental outcomes from increased access and use of the river corridor.	Short
2.1.2	Enhance the river environs to provide for opportunities for increased biodiversity and habitat restoration.	Medium
2.2	Improve access and connectivity to and around the Wimmera River.	
2.2.1	Formalise and secure easy and continuous public access for people of all abilities within the wider river corridor, including along both banks of the river. This may require the strategic acquisition of land to ensure standards for a shared path.	Medium
2.2.2	Engage with the community, Wimmera CMA, and other key stakeholders to determine the location and design of access to the river.	Medium
2.2.3	Ensure all land that abuts the Wimmera River and Burnt Creek is in public ownership.	Long
2.2.4	Consider the long-term relocation of the Horsham Caravan Park to open up the riverfront to wider community access and usage. This recommendation is not about moving it away from the river, but finding a more suitable location to accommodate the future needs of the town and community.	Long
2.3	Promote the Wimmera River corridor as a key community recreational asset.	
2.3.1	Design an active living program which encourages the use of the river corridor.	Short
2.3.2	Develop more community amenities along Menadue Street and the river foreshore such as picnic tables and shaded seating areas.	Short
2.3.3	Provide opportunities for improved integration of community-based activities in the Horsham Central Activities District with the river corridor.	Short
2.3.4	Deliver public realm design outcomes along the riverfront to encourage and support increased recreational activity.	
2.3.5	Develop parklands with play areas on the south bank of the river to provide improved areas and facilities that will attract people to visit and take advantage of these prime river corridor destinations for a range of activities.	Medium
2.3.6	Develop a Master Plan that incorporates and opens up City Oval – and Sawyer Park – to leverage the river frontage to its maximum potential.	Medium
2.3.7	Investigate the development of family spaces, such as a splash park, paddle boat hire, night markets, fetes, arts or an outdoor cinema.	Medium
2.3.8	In conjunction with the Showgrounds Committee of Management and GRV, develop a 20 year strategy for the Showgrounds locality. The objective should be to open up this asset to the community, whilst ensuring the greyhound racing club activities are secured for dual benefit of the Club and safety of the public.	Long
2.4	Encourage uses within the Wimmera River corridor that contribute to Horsham's economy.	
2.4.1	Encourage and support events that celebrate the river corridor.	Short
2.4.2	Activate areas fronting the river to attract patronage and stimulate activity around the river corridor, such as the development of riverside catering/dining venues.	Medium
2.5	Ensure ongoing recognition of cultural significance of the Wimmera River corridor.	
2.5.1	Ensure all river access is sustainable and respectful of biodiversity, river health, Aboriginal and post-contact cultural heritage.	Short
2.5.2	Identify, protect and manage significant post contact cultural elements along the river corridor.	Short

3. IMPROVE OPEN SPACE PROVISION

#	Actions	Timeframe
3.1	Ensure equitable access to open space across the municipality.	
3.1.1	Address gaps in current open space provision, and work towards developing and funding an evaluation criteria that stages work into 1, 3, 5, or 10 year timeframes.	Short
3.1.2	Review and update the HRCC website to enhance community awareness of key council and community open space assets and their amenities.	Short
3.1.3	Incorporate CPTED principles in all future development of open space to create and sustain safe communities	Medium
3.1.4	Create a series of "Safe Places" where residents can meet, or wait for public transport, in a safe environment. These Safe Places should be carefully designed with CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles at key intersections and streets.	Medium
3.1.5	Incorporate the Victorian Urban Design Guidelines in the development of future and existing open space.	Medium
3.1.6	Identify and engage with two schools about a pilot program for community use of recreational assets i.e. ovals.	Medium
3.1.6	Investigate opportunities to redevelop the existing Horsham North Primary School site as a passive recreation space, including the existing North Gym, along with new walking trails, and passive open spaces.	Long
3.2	Establish, manage and improve a diverse and integrated network of public open space that meets the needs of the community.	
3.2.1	Develop a list of iconic assets and spaces that must be strongly enhanced – or partnered with for long-term reinvestment.	Short
3.2.2	Activate the original Master Plan for the Botanic Gardens to increase permeability and connectivity with its surrounds.	Short
3.2.3	Upgrade lighting at May Park to illuminate paths and areas for night-time use and improve the perceived after-dark safety.	Short
3.2.4	Provide lighting on the south side of river between pedestrian and vehicle bridges to address CPTED issues and increase evening use.	Short
3.2.5	Provide way-finding signage, more shaded seating, picnic tables, rubbish bins and formal parking at Police Paddock to enhance the amenity of the area.	Short
3.2.6	Activate existing open space at Languard's Park and Charisma Park with community amenities such as barbecues, picnic tables and public toilets.	Short
3.2.7	Use Dudley Cornell Park for broader lifestyle and recreational use by local residents, with athletics relocated to another site.	Medium
3.2.8	Secure a reliable water supply to the Jenkinson Estate to ensure open space is maintained in good condition.	Medium
3.2.9	Investigate a potential multi-purpose mountain bike track/pump track alongside the motocross track.	Medium
3.2.10	Investigate opportunities for the development of the Green Lake/Dock Lake recreational precinct. A walking and cycling track from Horsham to Green Lake should be considered, with the potential for it to circle around the lake and out to Natimuk, Mount Arapiles and the Big Sky Bicycle Trail.	Long
3.2.11	Re-develop the Railway Corridor into a key community asset that connects the city.	Long

4. ENHANCE COLLABORATION

#	Actions	Timeframe
4.1	Engage with other agencies (e.g. BGLC, Parks Vic, DELWP, WCMA) so that open space provision and management is a multi-agency initiative that achieves shared objectives.	
4.1.1	Conduct stakeholder mapping to profile every agency and prioritise stakeholders by engagement level.	Short
4.1.2	Develop objectives for partnerships with each agency, with clearly defined outcomes and benefits for all involved.	Short
4.1.3	Build a closer relationship with the Horsham Racing Club and Horsham Harness Racing Club to plan for the long-term future of the Racecourse Reserve. Consider future improvements to the 'in-field' for community sport teams, and enhance the current community footprint, in alignment with the Wimmera River and CAD Revitalisation Project.	Short
4.1.4	Engage with Parks Victoria to ensure Indigenous sacred sites are protected.	Short
4.1.5	Encourage better collaboration between sporting clubs to plan for the future and encourage shared facility use and co-location.	Short
4.1.6	Engage with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council to identify, protect and manage Wotjobaluk Peoples' cultural elements along the river corridor.	Short
4.1.7	Work with Barengi Gadjin Land Council to ensure every major asset and/or place has visual and written recognition of the traditional Indigenous landowners.	Medium
4.1.8	In conjunction with GWM Water and local tourism bodies, invest in a tourism strategy or campaign to raise the profile of the region's great water and fishing assets.	Medium
4.1.9	Work with VicTrack to strategically acquire the railway corridor land. This opportunity has great potential to change the dynamics of the township, and must be pursued to completion, assuming environmental issues can be overcome.	Long
4.1.10	Develop initiatives to help re-integrate the urban areas on each side of the railway to assist in changing the dynamic of Horsham North.	Long

5. INVEST AND PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE

#	Actions	Timeframe
5.1	Develop clear and defensible planning decisions to ensure developers create the environment that both Council and the community want.	
5.1.1	Establish and implement a Capital Investment Plan for open space that spans at least 10 years.	Short
5.1.2	Plan and develop a network of connected urban trails incorporating the river corridor. Any planned paths must be considered in future highway developments.	Short
5.1.3	Develop policies and procedures regarding management of activities on the river.	Short
5.1.4	Identify and protect areas containing significant indigenous flora and fauna, in particular the listed threatened and rare species that exist within the area.	Short
5.1.5	Increase Open Space Developer Contributions in HRCC to 7-10% to elevate the city as a leader in Victoria.	Short
5.1.6	Apply a suitable planning control to ensure all objects, structures and features associated with the river corridor are appropriately acknowledged for their cultural significance.	Short
5.1.7	Develop a set of criteria and/or a decision making framework to determine unusable and unsuitable open space (e.g. residential area west of the racecourse lacks amenity/provision).	Medium
5.1.8	Identify and invest in unique play space design for one or two key play spaces. The open space and play space development guidelines should be used to assist with future investment allocation decisions.	Medium
5.1.9	Ensure that universal design is incorporated in all play spaces and open space development.	Medium
5.1.10	Future development of the Haven Recreation Reserve should consider: incorporating regional standard tennis facilities, introducing walking and cycle linkages to the Horsham CAD, enhancing the natural areas and surrounds and creating safer entry and exit from the Henty Highway.	Medium
5.1.11	In alignment with the Jenkinson Estate Staging Plan, Freeman Street/Arthur Drive should be developed into a single loaded street so that an open space area can be created to adjoin the pre-existing rail corridor.	Medium
5.1.12	Strategically acquire the rail corridor land, as it has potential to add to the shared path network for the city, as well as play a role in adding to a regional network of off-road shared paths. Any future planning for shared paths should also consider connections with the Big Sky Bicycle Trail and Wimmera River.	Medium
5.1.13	In all future planning, consider open space areas for multiple uses, such as sports and recreation, active transport routes, wildlife corridors and flood storage basins.	Long
5.2	Provide leadership and direction in response to climate change.	
5.2.1	Consider the impact of climate change in our key planning and building decisions to minimise harmful impacts on the region through mitigation and adaptation.	Short
5.2.2	Prepare a Climate Change Strategy to assist future development in mitigating and adapting to climate change.	Medium

6. COLOUR AND GREEN OUR CITY

#	Actions	Timeframe
6.1	Improve the provision of open space within the CAD and develop a number of multipurpose spaces for wider community use.	
6.1.1	Identify and develop a series of green space pockets throughout the CAD for passive recreation.	Short
6.1.2	Enhance the streetscape through public art and sculptural pieces at road reserves in Roberts Avenue, Pynsent Street, Wilson Street, Hamilton Street, Darlot Street and Urquhart Street to enhance existing public open space.	Short
6.1.3	Develop an Urban Forest Plan that guides the selection, planting, and replacement of trees.	Short
6.1.4	Identify and develop a specific flora species list that is consistent and suitable to the local climate.	Short
6.1.5	Develop a network of green linkages between the existing open space network.	Short
6.1.6	Educate the community about open space and engage all community groups on the tree canopy issue.	Short
6.1.7	Develop a 10-15 year capital investment tree canopy plan, along with additional rest/relaxation places in the CAD.	Medium
6.1.8	Transform stormwater basins into purposeful spaces by selecting suitable vegetation species, Indigenous plantings and landscape elements that support the existing character or preferred future character of the area to enhance usage and beautification of these spaces.	Medium
6.1.9	Colour the city by adding more arts and sculptures, and by making the entrances more welcoming to improve the city's attractiveness and build its brand.	Medium

7. RECOGNISE AND CELEBRATE OUR INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARTS

#	Actions	Timeframe
7.1	Protect and preserve areas of cultural significance to the Wotjobaluk Peoples' and increase access to a diverse range of arts and cultural experiences across the municipality through the open space network.	
7.1.1	Identify the top four to five areas of Wotjobaluk cultural significance that need to be considered for investment in cultural interpretation (flora and storytelling). Initial projects may include: The Wimmera River – Barringgi Gadyin, Yanga Track, Wopet-Bungundilar, Police Paddock, Mount Arapiles – Dyurrite, The Racecourse – scarred trees, Waterholes – Dooen Swamp, Darlot Swamp, Dock Lake, Pine Lake, Taylor's Lake, Lake Natimuk, Scar trees, Longerenong Homestead.	Short
7.1.2	Ensure any future significant events, objects, structures or features associated with the river corridor are appropriately acknowledged for their cultural significance.	Short
7.1.3	Develop and implement appropriate education and interpretative materials along the river corridor.	Short
7.1.4	The Wotjobaluk story of the Dyurrite (Mount Arapiles) sacred sites needs to be enhanced. While this will raise some concern in the climbing community, the time has come to formally recognise the significance of this place.	Short
7.1.5	Ensure Wotjobaluk Peoples' Native Title rights and interests are respected.	Short
7.1.6	Break down negative perceptions of the Police Paddock area to encourage more visitation – a name change to something more inviting has been pushed by the broader township. A relevant Indigenous connection and name should be considered (or mandated).	Medium
7.1.7	Ensure that every major asset and/or place has visual and written recognition of the Wotjobaluk Peoples. A separate piece of work will be required to accelerate this around the HRCC Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).	Medium
7.1.8	Enhance indigenous spaces, land history and storytelling to link in with Grampians Peaks Trail.	Medium
7.1.9	Leverage the variety of natural environment and open space assets into a major tourism story.	Medium
7.1.10	Position Horsham and Natiumk as gateways to some of Victoria's greatest climbing areas, and develop a stronger link to the wider regional tourism strategy.	Medium
7.1.11	Investigate an entry/exit rejuvenation program including: signage, amenities, related assets as well as history and Indigenous recognition.	Long
7.1.12	Deliver the aims of the current Public Art Policy through a variety of forms including permanent public art, integrated art work (into seating, street furniture etc.), ephemeral art in temporary art spaces or platforms.	Long
7.1.13	Reactivate public art trails and spaces.	Long