

Growing Suburbs Fund 2021-22

The Growing Suburbs Fund is a contribution towards meeting critical local infrastructure needs for communities in Melbourne's diverse and fast-growing outer suburbs. It is positioned to quickly respond to the pressures being experienced by interface and peri-urban communities by bringing forward local infrastructure projects that will make a big difference in the day-to-day lives of outer suburban families.

Whittlesea City Council



Whittlesea City Council is located about 20 km north of the Melbourne Central Business District. The southern parts of the city are established urban areas and current residential developments are extending towards the north of the municipality. Whittlesea City Council is home to an ethnically diverse community, with more than half of the residents from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Whittlesea City Council is part of the interface council area and recorded a growth rate of 2.7% in 2019-20.¹ The population is projected to grow from 236,539 in 2020 to about 364,453 or 54.1% per cent by 2036.²

Victoria's population has witnessed a considerable slow-down in growth due to COVID and a pause in overseas migration. This is mostly felt in the inner/middle suburbs of Melbourne but is still evident in outer suburbs.

¹ ABS Regional Population Growth, March 2022

² Victoria in Future, 2019

Huskisson Reserve Pedestrian and Cycling Access

25a Huskisson Avenue, Lalor 3075

The Growing Suburbs Fund will assist Whittlesea City Council in delivering the Huskisson Reserve Pedestrian Cycle Access Project.

Community access into Huskisson Reserve from Edgars Road is restricted as the Edgars Creek acts as a physical barrier. The construction of an accessible bridge over Edgars Creek will open up access to the reserve improving usability, accessibility and connectivity of Huskisson Reserve for the Lalor community.

The project will deliver:

- a 60m long steel frame pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Edgar Creek linking Edgars Road and Huskisson Recreation Reserve
- approximately 80m of cycle and pedestrian shared paths designed and constructed to maintain safe and all-weather access to the bridge
- landscape improvement works to the Edgars Creek neighbourhood park located off Edgars Road, including the installation of large canopy trees to provide future shade and vegetated garden beds and
- landscaping works on the escarpment of Edgars Creek to rejuvenate the natural vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Expected date of commencement: February 2023

Expected date of completion: May 2023

Total Project Cost: \$650,000

Growing Suburbs Fund: \$325,000

Other contributions:

Whittlesea City Council: \$325,000

The other projects in Whittlesea City Council to receive funding from the Growing Suburbs Fund 2021-22 are:

- Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre Customer Experience Upgrade (\$225,000)
- Worchester Park Bushfire Regeneration (\$275,000)
- Patterson Drive Community Centre (\$2,000,000)
- South Morang Precinct Improvements (\$425,000)
- Community Energy Transition Program (\$250,000)



Figure 1: Project location

You can find out about other Growing Suburbs Fund projects at <https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/grants/growing-suburbs-fund>

For more information regarding these projects contact the GSF team at gsf@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Authorised by the Hon Shaun Leane MP, Minister for Local Government and Suburban Development

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