

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

Worcester Park Bushfire Regeneration

93w Linacre Drive, Bundoora 3083

The Growing Suburbs Fund will assist Whittlesea City Council in undertaking the Worcester Park Bushfire Regeneration Project.

Worcester Park is a 1.85 hectare parcel of conservation area open space bounded by residential housing to all sides, except for the north which is a gateway to the Plenty River and Plenty Gorge Park in Bundoora. The project will restore the conservation reserve infrastructure, mature trees and animal habitats following a bushfire in December 2019.

The project will deliver:

- the revegetation of over 300 trees and 10,000 shrubs and understory tube stock
- the construction and placement of felled trees
- the construction of 150m unsealed path network, construction of 140m concrete path network and timber vehicle exclusion fencing
- the design and construct educational and interpretative signage throughout the park
- the removal of invasive weeds and the supply and spread of over 10,000m² of timber mulch
- the construction of terrace form rock filled gabion walls to create a functional and sustainable stormwater retention basin.

Expected date of commencement: April 2023

Expected date of completion: May 2024

Total Project Cost: \$550,000

Growing Suburbs Fund: \$275,000

Other contributions:

Whittlesea City Council: \$275,000

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)
- South Morang Precinct Improvements (\$425,000)
- Patterson Drive Community Centre (\$2,000,000)
- Huskisson Reserve Pedestrian and Cycling Access (\$325,000)
- Community Energy Transition Program (\$250,000)



Figure 1: Site aerial

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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