

REIMAGINING BENDIGO

CREEK

COMMUNITY BULLETIN
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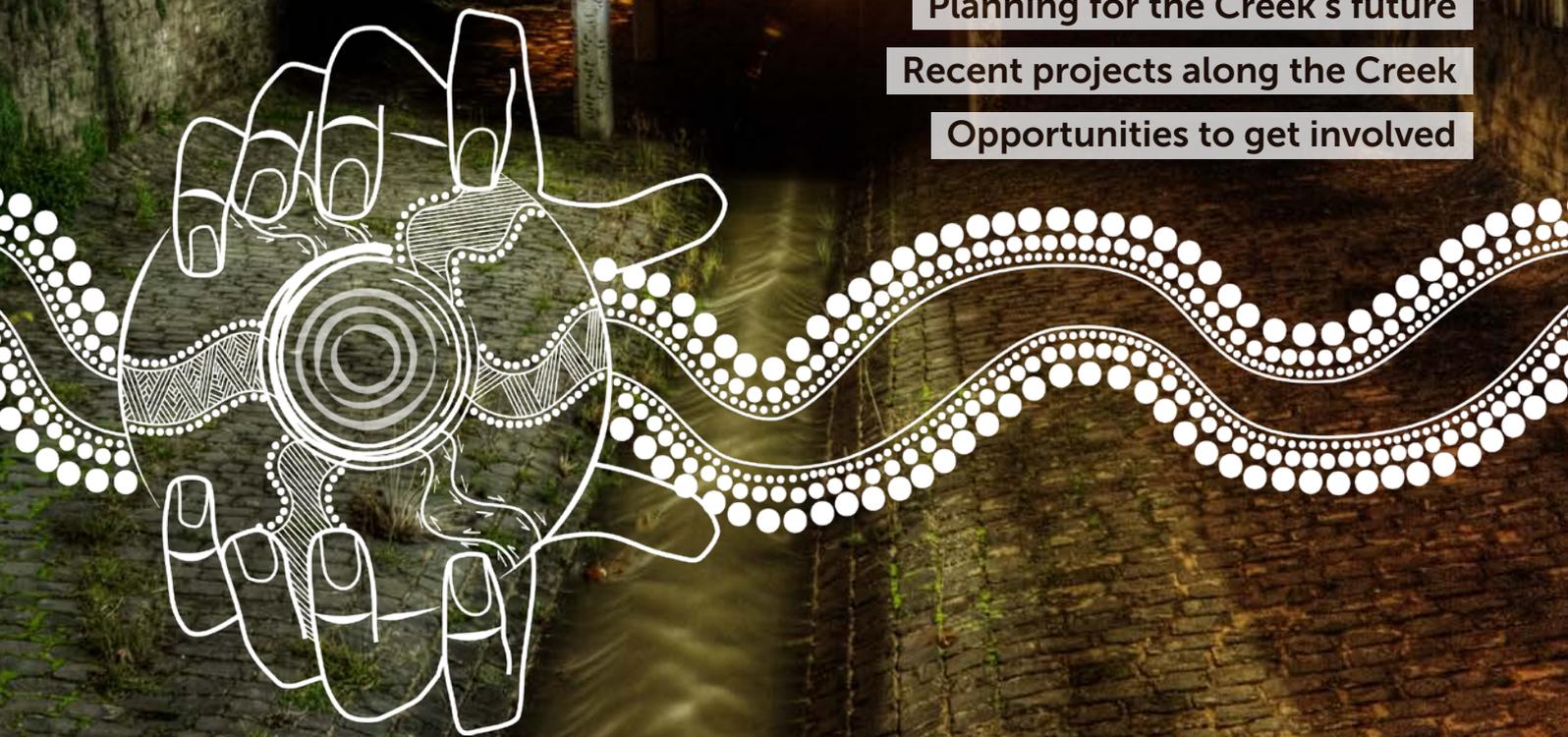
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This is a collaborative project between the City of Greater Bendigo, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Coliban Water, Department of Health and Human Services, Goulburn Murray Water, Parks Victoria, and the local community.

A sacred place upturned

Bendigo Creek is one of the most significant waterways in the northern Victorian landscape and within our contemporary Greater Bendigo municipality. For thousands of years, the creek was valued and cared for by the Dja Dja Wurrung Ancestors as a place to visit and live, providing not only sustenance but also social and spiritual significance. The oral traditions, knowledge and memory of Aboriginal people tell us that the Creek then was a very different place; consisting of a connected and meandering chain of clear ponds and where wildlife was abundant.

With the discovery of gold by Europeans in 1851, and the incredible gold rush that followed, the Creek's natural environment and ecology was devastated in the pursuit of wealth. The landscape was literally reshaped and repurposed. The legacy of this upheaval is a degraded waterway with poor quality water that functions primarily as a drain. The Creek has also come to mould the settlement pattern of Bendigo's urban landscape with the Creek as its central, connecting spine.

The Creek today

In contemporary Greater Bendigo, the Creek is still a place of tremendous importance and significance. Perhaps more than any other place in the city, it remains integral to why we are all here, only for different reasons. This diversity of association is reflected in the broad range of views, interests, responsibilities, projects and initiatives we find connected with the Creek.

Over recent decades there have been many examples of joint effort and action, but never before a co-developed long-term strategic plan. Such a plan carries the powerful potential to not only draw together past thinking and initiatives with the numerous strands of present-day activity, but also to express a future vision for Bendigo Creek in the context of a growing and increasingly complex regional city.

Planning for the Creek's future

The Creek is in need not only of significant investment, but also of a significant shift in thinking about our connection to it. The Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan Project will see the development of a guiding conceptual vision, strategic plan, and implementation framework, which together aim to realise the significant opportunities that a restored and revitalised urban waterway presents to the Greater Bendigo community.

The Project will canvas various aspects linked to the Creek: water and ecology, active transport and recreation, urban design, greening and landscape improvements, land use and place integration, protection of built and cultural heritage, economic development and tourism opportunities, as well as coordination of governance and management.

The Project is being facilitated by the City as a partnership with the Dja Dja Wurrung who maintain a strong and living connection to the Creek, as well as other government agencies that have an integral role in its management:

- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning;
- North Central Catchment Management Authority;
- Parks Victoria;
- Coliban Water;
- Goulburn Murray Water;
- Department of Health and Human Services; and
- The local community.

Front cover photograph: *Old Versus New*, Shayne T Wright, 2015.



Recent projects along the Creek

Bendigo Creek Shared Path Feasibility Study 2018

A study to look at the feasibility of developing a 4.5km shared, off road walking and cycling trail in the Bendigo Creek reserve between Maple Street and Lake Weeroona.

North Bendigo Landcare Group projects

Revegetation, weed/pest control, nestbox installation and associated community education/involvement activities on different areas of the Creek between Epsom and Huntly.

Wanyarram Dhelk 'Good Waterhole'

Creek restoration project based on Aboriginal values and land management practice to enhance the ecological health of the waterway and improve public amenity.

Various community facilities along the Creek

Recent projects: Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre, redeveloped tennis centre, implementation of the Botanic Gardens Master Plan, Dai Gum San precinct and Golden Square Recreation Reserve Master Plan.

Epsom Ascot Huntly Floodplain Management Study

Implications for levees along the Creek in these areas.

North Central Water Watch and Citizen Science Program

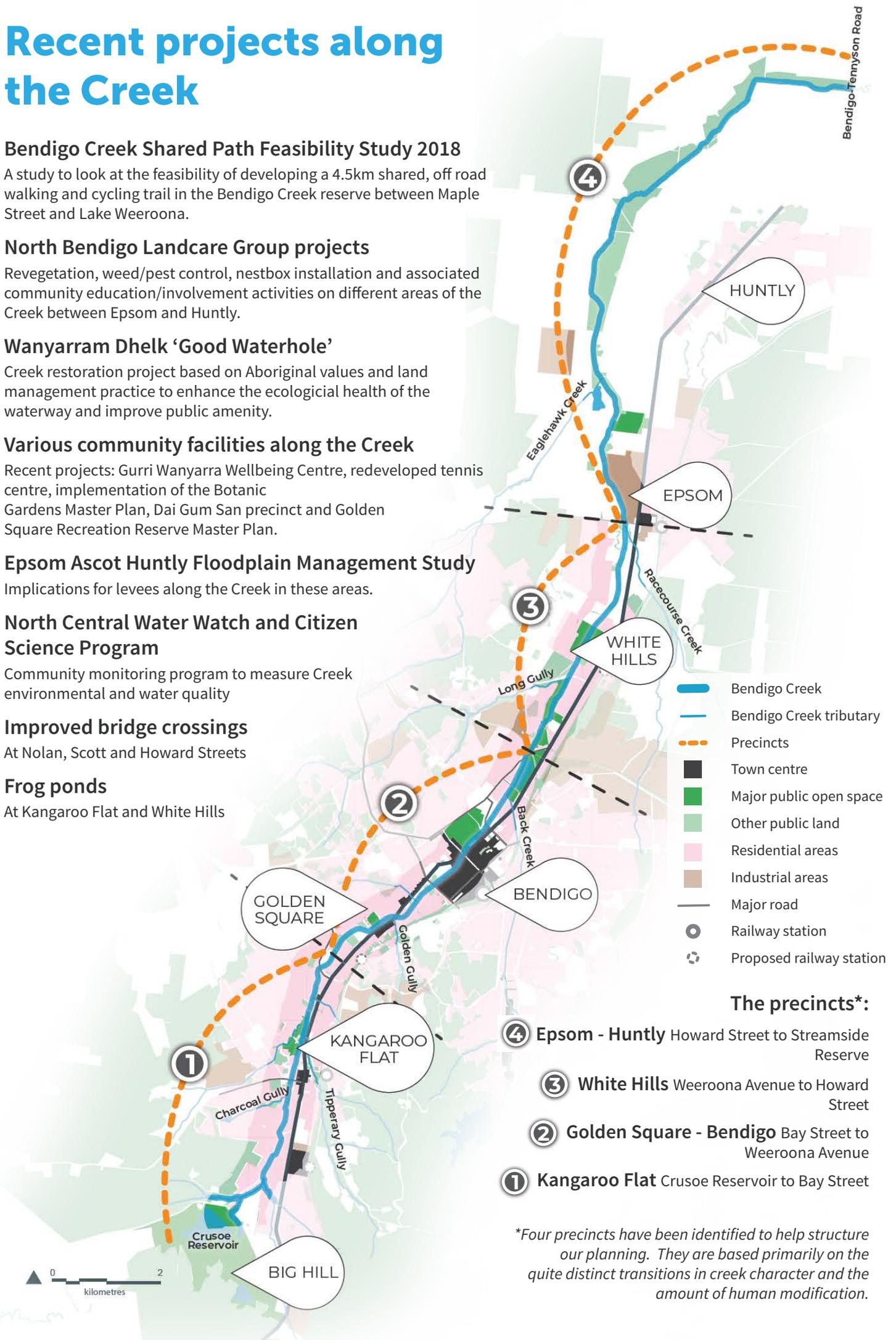
Community monitoring program to measure Creek environmental and water quality

Improved bridge crossings

At Nolan, Scott and Howard Streets

Frog ponds

At Kangaroo Flat and White Hills





Opportunities to get involved

Have you ever imagined what the Bendigo Creek could be for future generations?

There will be a variety of opportunities for community participation throughout the project. During mid-February to mid-March 2019 you can:

Delve into an online interactive map

Highlight the places along the Creek that are most important to you and explore the places that matter most to others. Describe the issues and opportunities that you see for the Creek's future. A link to the map will be added and promoted later in February. A survey will also be available in local venues as an alternative to the online map.

Find the map online at:

bendigo.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/bendigocreek

Drop in at a listening post

- Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre (foyer), Tuesday February 19, 10am-1pm
- Huntly main street (near Huntly Post Office), Saturday February 23, 10am-1pm
- Lake Weeroona (near playground), Thursday February 28, 9am-1pm
- Bendigo Botanic Gardens (near Scott Street car park), Sunday March 3, 10-1pm
- Rosalind Park (opposite Farmer's Market), Saturday March 9, 9-1pm

A peek at the Creek

Get down to the Creek and unleash your photographic eye. Use the power of an image to highlight:

- The most special place on the Creek to you
- The most pressing issue you see that we need to fix
- An example of what we should be doing more of in the future

We will use your credited images in project publications.

This is an opportunity to win one of three \$200 Bendigo Visitor Centre Vouchers.

Email entries to rsdenquiries@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Entries will close on Friday 15 March, 2019.

Contact us

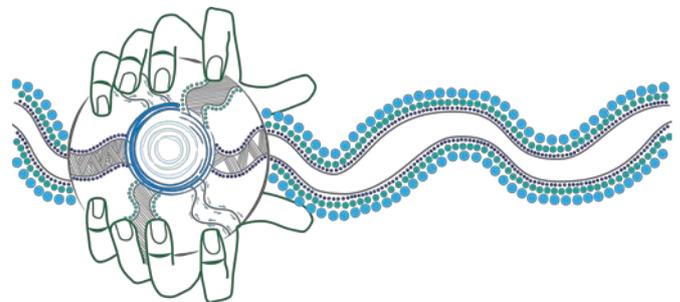
Regional Sustainable Development Unit

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Symbolism of the Reimagining Bendigo Creek logo (created by Nyauwi Art and Design)

The Bendigo creek has been subject to destruction and toxicity from settlement and the goldrush. Here it is pictured as what we would imagine it to be. Many paths coming together as one, nurtured and cared for by all as a people; the open-ended hands signify that this is a journey that will continue long after we are here, as Djandak will start to heal itself as it used to.



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