



# Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy



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Prepared for the City of Monash by



in association with:



Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd



Arboriculture Pty Ltd

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25.11.16	Draft V1	For internal Council Officer comment only
28.02.17	Draft V2	Incorporating Council Officer comment for final review prior to Councillor consultation
05.06.17	Draft V3	For consultation
17.12.18	Final	Incorporating consultation outcomes

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# Strategy Vision

## Monash 2021

The *Monash 2021 Strategy – a thriving community* was developed by the City of Monash in 2010 in consultation with the community. The purpose was to set out a long term vision and priorities of the City of Monash over the coming 10 years.

### **Monash 2021 Vision is:**

*A thriving community now and in the future*

The following diagram is taken from the Monash 2021 and illustrates the four areas of the primary focus being:

- *A fair and healthy community*
- *A planned and connected city*
- *An inclusive and safe community*
- *A green and naturally rich city*

## Monash Vision 2017

The Monash website accessed in February 2017 includes an updated Vision for Monash and Key Directions as follows:

### **Vision on the Monash City Council Website 2017:**

*An inviting city, diverse and alive with activity, designed for a bright future*

### **Key directions**

- *Ensuring our city has inviting places and spaces*
- *Achieving a healthy and active Monash*
- *Fostering confident connected communities*
- *Taking action for our future*

# Strategy Vision

The vision has been developed from reviewing the Monash 2021 document, particularly the sections titled 'What the community says it values', combined with the preferred landscape character types in this Draft Strategy.

Creek corridors, that are teeming with **birdlife** and native fauna amongst the **bushland** and **wetlands**, flow through the **leafy** treed suburbs. The **tree lined** streets and the **parks** are **vibrant** and alive with people walking, cycling, socialising and enjoying the ambience of the **green Garden City Character** with **fresh air** and plenty of **shade**. In the Monash National Employment and Innovation Cluster, the landscaped setbacks with **tall trees** are bustling with **people** walking and cycling to and from their **workplace** or **relaxing** and socialising during lunch in the **dappled shade** and after work in one of the adjoining cafes that spill out onto the green **landscaped** setbacks.





# Strategy Objectives/Aims

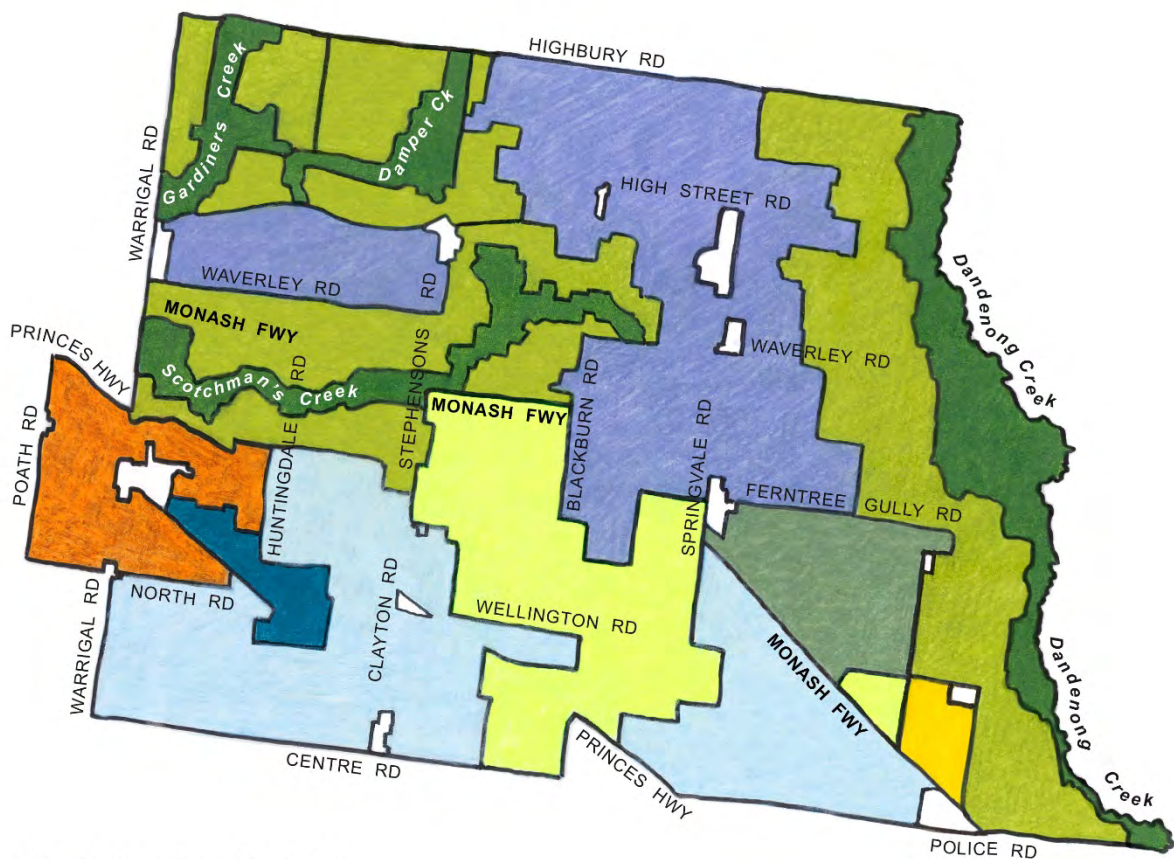


- Protect and enhance the green *Garden City Character* within the contemporary context of climate change and forecast urban growth and change.
- Increase urban greening to create a more resilient landscape that contributes to community health and wellbeing now and in the future.
- Increase canopy tree cover across public and private land from 22% to 30% by 2040 to create a more liveable, sustainable and resilient city.
- Strengthen the biodiversity values along the waterway corridors by increasing the presence of indigenous vegetation on both public and private land.
- Maximise the retention of existing healthy mature large canopy trees on public and private land to support liveability and cultural heritage values.
- Increase the presence of large canopy trees and greening in high density precincts including activity centres and the Monash National Employment and Innovation Cluster.
- Council to provide a leadership role with best practice tree planting and management on public land.
- Promote the health and wellbeing and environmental benefits of trees in the community particularly in the context of creating a more resilient and sustainable urban environment for future generations.
- Develop a cohesive vision for the landscape character across the public and private land and update the relevant regulatory controls and planning scheme to give effect to the vision.










# Preferred landscape character types

The overall design intent with the preferred character types is to:

- Strengthen the habitat corridors and indigenous landscape character along the waterways.
- Strengthen both the indigenous and native landscape character and values in the creek environs adjoining the waterway corridors.
- Strengthen and expand the leafy, green and treed character of the hilly and gently undulating established suburban areas away from the waterway corridors.
- Protect the early 1900s exotic garden style associated with the older established areas of Hughesdale and Oakleigh.
- Protect and expand the native garden commercial and industrial precincts and business parks to create a point of difference in the future Monash Employment and Innovation Cluster.
- Enhance urban greening in the older style urban industrial precincts in Oakleigh South.



## Landscape character types

 Creek habitat corridor	 Hilly native garden suburban	 Native garden commercial/industrial	 Urban greening commercial/industrial
 Creek valley environs	 Gently undulating leafy garden suburban	 Early 1900s exotic garden style	 Waverley Park exotic urban
 Undulating leafy garden suburban			

**Figure 1A** Preferred landscape character types for the City of Monash

As shown in Figure 1A there are nine different preferred landscape character types following across the municipality that are summarised below.

### Residential land use:

- **Creek habitat corridor**  
Strengthen the biodiversity values and indigenous landscape character in both the private and public land along the waterway corridors.
- **Creek valley environs**  
Strengthen the presence of emergent canopy trees with a preference for tall native trees in the creek valleys that overlook the creek corridors.
- **Undulating leafy garden suburban**  
Strengthen the liveability and protect the suburban character of our interwar residential areas with an emphasis on increasing the exotic canopy vegetation and greening to continue the suburban garden context as intensification of built form increases.
- **Gently undulating leafy garden suburban**  
Strengthen the liveability and protect the suburban character of the interwar and 1960s onward residential areas with an emphasis on increasing exotic canopy vegetation and greening to continue the suburban garden context as intensification of built form increases.
- **Hilly native garden suburban**  
Strengthen the liveability and protect the suburban native landscape character of the post 1965 curvilinear suburban areas with an emphasis on increasing presence of emergent native canopy trees as intensification of built form increases in the longer term.
- **Early 1900s exotic garden style**  
Strengthen the heritage exotic garden style by strengthening the presence of alternating evergreen and deciduous street tree avenues and increasing the presence of large exotic canopy trees and vegetation on private land.
- **Waverley Park exotic urban**  
Continue to maintain the exotic streetscape canopy vegetation and planting character and strengthen the presence of exotic canopy vegetation on private land.

### Commercial/industrial land use:

- **Native garden commercial/industrial**  
Create a distinctive native garden commercial/industrial landscape character in the Monash National Employment and Innovation Cluster by activating the landscape setbacks and strengthening the tall native tree cover and urban greening.
- **Urban greening commercial/industrial**  
Increase greening and evergreen canopy vegetation in the urban industrial precincts in the Oakleigh area to improve resilience and create a more comfortable and sustainable employment area.



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Project purpose

The main purpose of the Monash Urban Landscape Character and Canopy Vegetation Strategy (MULCVS) is to provide a clear direction to achieve the preferred future landscape character and tree canopy cover as the municipality develops to accommodate the forecast population growth and development. The Strategy covers both public and private land.

The key aim of the Strategy is to protect the *Garden City Character* of the City of Monash as described in the Municipal Strategic Statement, an extract of which is below:

*'..... a general feeling of “greenness” created by significant tree canopy cover contained within large, vegetated set backs and areas of open space.'*

The *Garden City Character* changes across the municipality from an exotic landscape character with a dominance of deciduous trees and lush green mown grass to the native bushland associated with the waterway corridors. The greenness is created by a combination of emergent tree canopy that breaks up the visual dominance of roof lines and built form on the skyline to medium and smaller trees, shrubs, garden beds and grass.

Interruptions to the *Garden City Character* occur when built form and paved surfaces are visually dominant and the greening forms an insignificant component of the setting.

The overall aim of the Strategy as described in the project brief is:

*To establish clear and achievable understanding and expectations for canopy tree and landscape quality into the future for development across the City of Monash. This landscape will contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of the garden character of Monash.*



*Example of native landscape character with tall Eucalypt style emergent tree canopy*



*Example of an exotic landscape character with large canopy deciduous street trees*

## 1.2 Project scope

Key outcomes of the Strategy are to:

- *Establish and articulate a clear understanding of the current landscape character of the City of Monash,*
- *Determine those elements of the landscape character that are valued by the community,*
- *In consultation with the community, develop and articulate a preferred landscape character for each of the different landscape character areas across the City of Monash, and*
- *Identify and describe a range of mechanisms to maintain and enhance the valued and/or preferred landscape character of Monash into the future.*

## 1.3 Strategic context

A range of state and local government policies and strategies inform and are relevant to this Strategy.

