

# GREATER DANDENONG *walking* STRATEGY

2015-23



*“Walking is the first thing an infant wants to do  
and the last thing a person wants to give up.”*

- John Butcher  
Founder Walk21

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*"I like a walk that is busy, lots of people, good vibe."  
- Greater Dandenong Resident*



## Mayor's Foreword

The City of Greater Dandenong is a vibrant city of opportunity that encourages and supports people of all ages to live, work and play through healthy lifestyles and plans for future generations.

Through this Walking Strategy we aim to encourage and enable the community to walk more to improve health and wellbeing and social connections.

Ideas, needs and values of the community have informed the development of this Strategy to ensure it will be appropriate for our diverse community.

A walkable environment is safe, lively, attractive and easy to walk around. It includes all things from travel routes, destinations, paths and footpaths, to creating a culture of walking.

Greater Dandenong is well placed to improve the walkability of our community taking advantage of the many parks, shopping and business precincts and numerous destinations that we would like to motivate people to walk to and around.

I am confident this Strategy will encourage and enable more residents, workers and visitors to walk more, by activating spaces, places and people in our municipality.



Sean O'Reilly  
Greater Dandenong Mayor



# Walking in Greater Dandenong

## Setting the scene

Walking is the most popular form of recreation in both Victoria and Greater Dandenong. Connecting people with places, walking is an activity that nearly everyone is able to participate in.

All trips start and end with a walk, it is the most basic form of transport.

In Greater Dandenong 45% of people are overweight or obese and 34% of people do not meet physical activity guidelines (7% higher than for Victoria). Lack of 'incidental' physical activity such as walking for transport, is a contributing factor to high rates of obesity for both children and adults. Countries, states and suburbs with the highest levels of active transport tend to have the lowest rates of obesity.

Walking is great for socially connecting communities because it improves safety, reduces traffic and noise pollution, boosts local businesses and has positive health impacts. There are multiple ways to achieve significant health benefits from walking and to meet the health guidelines of 30 minutes of daily activity for adults. Walking can be built into everyday life, including:

- Recreational walking
- Walking to access jobs, shops or schools
- Walking to public transport

A walkable environment is safe, lively, attractive and easy to walk around. It includes all things from travel routes, destinations, paths and footpaths, to creating a culture of walking for both recreation and transport.

## Vision

Greater Dandenong is a safe, lively, attractive city that has a culture of walking for both recreation and transport purposes.

## Aim

Greater Dandenong will aim to increase the number of people walking by activating places, spaces and people through increased promotion, access and opportunity.

## Key themes

The Greater Dandenong Walking Strategy 2015-23 has been developed in the context of the Council Plan 2013-17 and the key themes of People, Place and Opportunity. These themes underpin the objectives and detailed action plan that have been developed to improve walking in Greater Dandenong by providing opportunities for people and activating places and spaces.

### People

- Culture and Behaviour
- Educate, Promote and Raise Profile

### Place

- Infrastructure
- Creating Places for People

### Opportunity

- Leadership
- Partnerships

## Guiding principles

To guide the direction of the strategy and determine where Council should focus its efforts, Greater Dandenong developed a set of guiding principles.

These principles directly respond to the Social Model of Health to understand the complex social, economic and physical conditions where people, live, learn, work and play. The model recognises that a number of factors contribute to creating a healthy environment including the broader determinants of health (social, economic and environmental factors), the involvement and empowerment of the community, the reduction of social inequalities and equitable access to health care.



*"I like a picturesque walk in a natural environment."  
- Greater Dandenong Resident*

Guiding Principles	
<b>Health &amp; Community Benefit</b>	Projects that improve the health and wellbeing of our community by supporting and encouraging walking and being physically active.
<b>Community Support</b>	Projects that attract support from the community and/or are identified by the community as a priority.
<b>Safety &amp; Attractiveness</b>	Projects that will make it safer for people to walk and that makes walking the more attractive option.
<b>Transport &amp; Networks</b>	Projects that strengthen pedestrian networks, create better links to public transport and that improve the connections between destinations within the municipality.
<b>Equitable &amp; Culturally appropriate</b>	Projects that are appropriate for all members of the community including age, gender, disability, culturally and linguistically diverse and vulnerable groups.
<b>Policy &amp; Sustainability</b>	Projects that link to local, state and federal policies and that improve both the economic and environmental sustainability of the municipality.

## Context

### Policy context

Walking is now perceived as popular again, after being somewhat forgotten during the 20<sup>th</sup> century to accommodate cars. Walking is now being encouraged for a range of health, environmental and economic reasons. There are numerous strategies and innovative projects being developed and implemented globally to get people active and enable people to walk more.

### Federal Government

*Walking Riding and Access to Public Transport 2013* is a Ministerial Statement that details how the Australian Government will work to increase the proportion of people walking and riding for short trips, and accessing public transport in our communities. *The National Road Safety Strategy 2011-20* outlines broad directions for the future of Australian road safety set out in four key areas including Safe Roads, Safe Speeds, Safe Vehicles and Safe People.

### Victorian State Government

The Victorian State Government released the *Pedestrian Access Strategy* (September 2010) aimed at increasing walking for transport by making it safer to walk, changing peoples' attitudes and behaviour, creating pedestrian-friendly environments and integrating walking with public transport. VicRoads has adopted a 'SmartRoads' approach which promotes 'Pedestrian Priority' areas that support people travelling on foot. Recent State transport policies and programs have acknowledged and provided funding for initiatives supporting pedestrians, including *The Victorian Transport Plan* (2008), the *TravelSmart Program* (2002), the *Local Area Access Program* (2005) and the *Creating Better Places Program*.

State Government policy is supported by not-for-profit organisations that encourage walking, such as Kinect Australia, Vic Health and *Victoria Walks*.

*Vic Health's Investment Plan 2014-18* includes walking as one of Vic Health's four key areas of their strategic approach to support a culture and environment that encourages active travel across Victoria.



*"I would like more signs, maps and directions, which tell people distances and where the paths connect to other walking tracks"*  
- Greater Dandenong Resident



## City of Greater Dandenong

### Community Plan 'Imagine 2030'

The Community Plan 'Imagine 2030' is a report that resulted from consultations held with the Greater Dandenong community on what kind of future they wanted to see for themselves and the City in 2030. This report includes the following community visions that will be supported by developing and implementing a Walking Strategy in Greater Dandenong:

#### People

- Pride – Best Place, Best People

#### Place

- Sense of Place – One city, many neighbourhoods
- Safety in Streets and Places – Feeling and being safe
- Appearance of Place – Places and Buildings
- Travel and Transport – Easy to get around

#### Opportunity

- Leadership by the Council – The Leading Council

### Council Plan 2013-2017

The Council Plan describes the kind of future the Council is working for and how Council will do this over four years. This report is consistent with the following goals:

#### People

- A healthy, active and safe community

#### Place

- A city planned for the future
- An environmentally sustainable city

#### Opportunity

- A proactive council that listens and leads

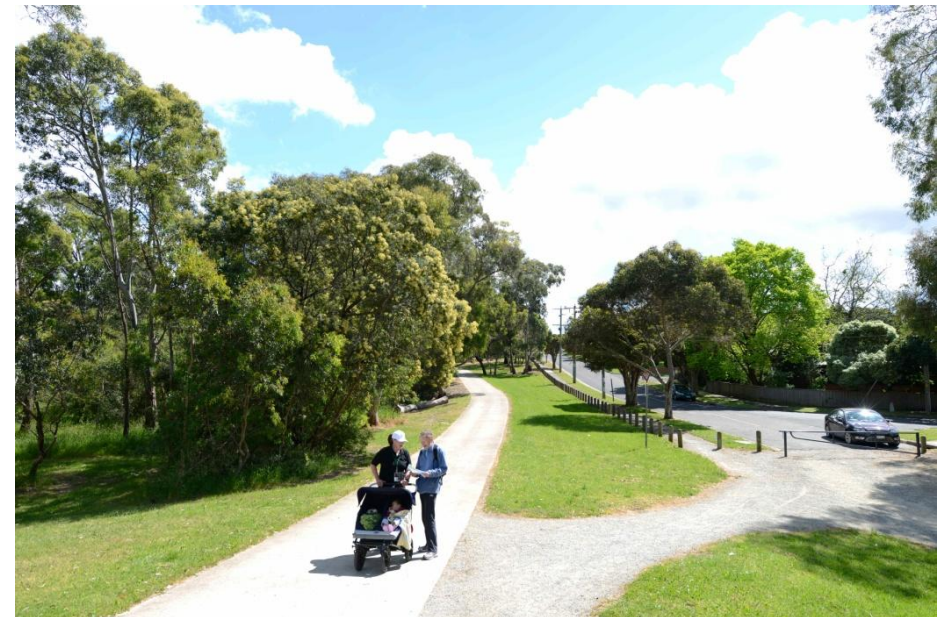
Strategic Objective 1 of the Council Plan is to ensure Greater Dandenong is a healthy, active and safe community.

#### ➤ Priority 1.2

Promote physical activity, leisure and recreation.

#### ➤ Priority 1.2.3

Greater Dandenong Walking Strategy delivered and adopted in 2015



*"I like to get the bus then walk, it's peaceful and quiet."  
- Greater Dandenong Resident*



## Community Wellbeing Plan 2013-17

The Community Wellbeing Plan has been developed in parallel with the Council Plan 2013-17, to ensure the alignment of principles and actions to promote a healthy, active and safe community. The Community Wellbeing Plan acknowledges the importance of physical activity, leisure and recreational opportunities in improving health and wellbeing, encouraging social interaction and creating healthier and a more inclusive community.

- Priority 7.1.2 - Physical Activity, Leisure and Recreation - To promote healthy, affordable opportunities for physical activity and leisure among residents of all abilities, backgrounds and interests, coupled with wider options for walking and cycling.
- Strategic Action 2.3.2 - Promote walking and cycling as forms of transport to increase physical activity.

## Activate - Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2014-19

Activate has been developed to guide Council in the provision of facilities, services and programs, designed to increase participation in sport and active recreation in the City of Greater Dandenong. Objective 4 of the Activate Strategy highlights the importance of providing informal recreation for all.

- Objective 4.1 Develop a Walking Strategy for the City of Greater Dandenong to identify opportunities and strategies that encourage and facilitate greater participation in walking.



### Role of Local Government

Greater Dandenong is well placed to influence a number of the factors that contribute to maintaining a healthy environment that enables walking for both transport and recreational purposes across the municipality.

To date, Greater Dandenong have already undertaken some great work with regard to both enabling and promoting walking within the municipality including, but not limited to the following:

- Engaging schools in the Walk to School Initiative
- Community walking groups
- Engaging local workplaces in the Global Walking Challenge
- The implementation and maintenance of footpaths
- Advocacy for road and pedestrian linkages
- Street lighting upgrades
- Improvements to Activity Centre streetscapes
- Walking cultural and food tours
- The implementation and maintenance of walking paths around parks and playgrounds

### Other relevant Policies, Strategies and Plans

Increasing walking across Greater Dandenong is a priority for Council and this is reflected in the many other relevant policies, strategies and plans as listed in this table. In particular Greater Dandenong's Green Wedge Management Plan 2015-35, Integrated Transport Strategy and Shared User Path Network Plan.

Other Relevant Strategic Documents	
Activity Centre Structure Plans	Integrated Transport Strategy
Ageing is About Living Strategy and Action Plan 2012-15	Maintenance Programs and Assets
Best Start Action Plan 2013-14	Municipal Strategic Statement
Child Friendly Cities	Open Space Strategy 2009
Children's Plan 2015-19	Park Masterplans
Community Building Plan 2014	Parking Strategy
Community Engagement Policy & Framework	Pedestrian Access Strategy 2010
Disability Policy & Action Plan 2010-14	Plan Melbourne 2014
Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme	Playground Strategy 2013-23
Green Wedge Management Plan 2015-35	Road Management Plan 2012
	Road Safety Strategy
	Shared User Path Network Plan

## Local context

### Context of walking in Greater Dandenong

Greater Dandenong is a community of vibrant cultural diversity and a major source of regional employment, which faces the challenges of low income levels, high unemployment, unfavourable educational outcomes and elevated crime rates.

Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse community in Victoria and the second most diverse in Australia, with residents from over 150 birthplaces. Well over half of the residents in Greater Dandenong, were born overseas and languages other than English are spoken in two-thirds of Greater Dandenong households.

Circumstances such as low levels of physical activity, low fruit and vegetable consumption, obesity and a relatively high prevalence of mental health conditions, are matters of concern for the health and wellbeing in Greater Dandenong.

Similarly, State and National walking participation levels in the 2015 Sport & Recreation Participation Study, identified walking as the most popular form of recreation in Greater Dandenong for those aged 15 years and over, with 61% of people undertaking this activity in the last 12 months.





The Sport and Active Recreation Participation Survey included a number of questions about walking, both for exercise and for transport.

Survey respondents were asked how many times in the previous week they walked for at least 10 minutes continuously for exercise and transport; in addition to the total time spent walking.

The results to these questions are summarised below.

#### Frequency and duration of walking for exercise

	Number of walks for exercise (per week)				
	None	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 6	7+
Male	20%	19%	22%	17%	22%
Female	15%	29%	26%	13%	18%
15 to 17 years	22%	12%	36%	14%	16%
18 to 24 years	18%	25%	21%	15%	21%
25 to 34 years	14%	43%	23%	6%	14%
35 to 44 years	12%	23%	34%	18%	14%
45 to 54 years	20%	31%	18%	11%	20%
55 to 64 years	20%	17%	18%	25%	20%
65+ years	16%	18%	24%	15%	26%
Disabled	17%	27%	26%	16%	14%
Born overseas	15%	27%	23%	14%	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>20%</b>

	Time spent walking for exercise (per week)			
	Less than 1.5 hours	1.5 to 2.5 hours	2.5 to 5 hours	5 hours +
Male	50%	19%	21%	11%
Female	48%	21%	17%	13%
15 to 17 years	55%	24%	14%	6%
18 to 24 years	56%	22%	15%	7%
25 to 34 years	53%	28%	13%	6%
35 to 44 years	42%	19%	27%	11%
45 to 54 years	50%	17%	16%	16%
55 to 64 years	43%	20%	16%	20%
65+ years	47%	16%	22%	15%
Disabled	58%	17%	13%	12%
Born overseas	55%	18%	17%	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>12%</b>

#### Key observations:

- Overall, 35% of survey respondents walked at least five times for exercise (for at least 10 minutes) in the previous week, with 31% spending more than 2.5 hours walking for exercise.
- Male respondents went for a higher number and longer duration of walks for exercise, compared to females.
- People aged 55 years and over went for the highest number of walks for exercise, with people aged 55 to 64 years spending the greatest amount of time walking for exercise, compared to all other age cohorts.
- People aged 25 to 34 years went for the lowest number and shortest duration of walks for exercise, followed by young people aged 15 to 17 years.
- People with a disability went for a lower number and shorter duration of walks (for exercise), than people without a disability. However an equal proportion of people with a disability spent 5 hours or more walking for exercise.
- Place of birth had no significance to the number of times people walked for exercise, however the amount of time spent walking in one week was lower for people born overseas.

## Frequency and duration of walking for transport

	Number of walks for transport (per week)				
	None	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 6	7+
Male	36%	19%	14%	17%	14%
Female	48%	19%	14%	9%	11%
15 to 17 years	10%	12%	22%	32%	24%
18 to 24 years	22%	26%	19%	13%	20%
25 to 34 years	40%	24%	12%	10%	13%
35 to 44 years	50%	14%	12%	16%	7%
45 to 54 years	53%	13%	12%	10%	11%
55 to 64 years	46%	24%	13%	13%	6%
65+ years	57%	18%	13%	3%	9%
Disabled	48%	18%	16%	8%	7%
Born overseas	37%	20%	17%	11%	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>

	Time spent walking for transport (per week)			
	Less than 1.5 hours	1.5 to 2.5 hours	2.5 to 5 hours	5 hours +
Male	71%	16%	7%	5%
Female	78%	11%	7%	4%
15 to 17 years	52%	28%	12%	8%
18 to 24 years	68%	13%	11%	8%
25 to 34 years	80%	13%	5%	3%
35 to 44 years	80%	11%	7%	2%
45 to 54 years	79%	12%	5%	3%
55 to 64 years	71%	13%	12%	4%
65+ years	84%	10%	2%	3%
Disabled	72%	19%	5%	4%
Born overseas	74%	15%	8%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>4%</b>

### Key observations:

- The majority of respondents do not walk for transport (43%). This is true for all age cohorts with the exception of young people aged 15 to 24 years of age.
- The majority of respondents spend less than 1.5 hours walking for transport (76%).
- Male respondents walked more often for transport and for longer periods compared to females.
- Young people walk more often for transport and for longer periods than any other age cohort. 56% of young people (aged 15 to 17 years) walk five or more times a week for transport.
- People aged 65 years and over and between 25 to 44 years, are the least likely to walk for transport.
- People born overseas were slightly more likely to walk for transport, than people born in Australia.
- People with a disability went for a lower number and shorter duration of walks for transport, than people with no disability.



Greater Dandenong encompasses an area of 129 square kilometres in Melbourne's south-east, approximately 24 kilometres from the central business district. With an estimated 147,000 people living in 2014, the number of residents in Greater Dandenong is forecast to rise by 16,000 by 2023.

In Greater Dandenong there are barriers such as, peak hour traffic, congested school drop-off and pick-up zones, main roads and busy intersections that limit and often deter people from walking.

Walk Score measures the walkability of an area by analysing walking routes to nearby amenities, including businesses and schools using Google map data. An area is then given a score from 0-100 (100 being a walker's paradise, where daily errands can be achieved without a car).

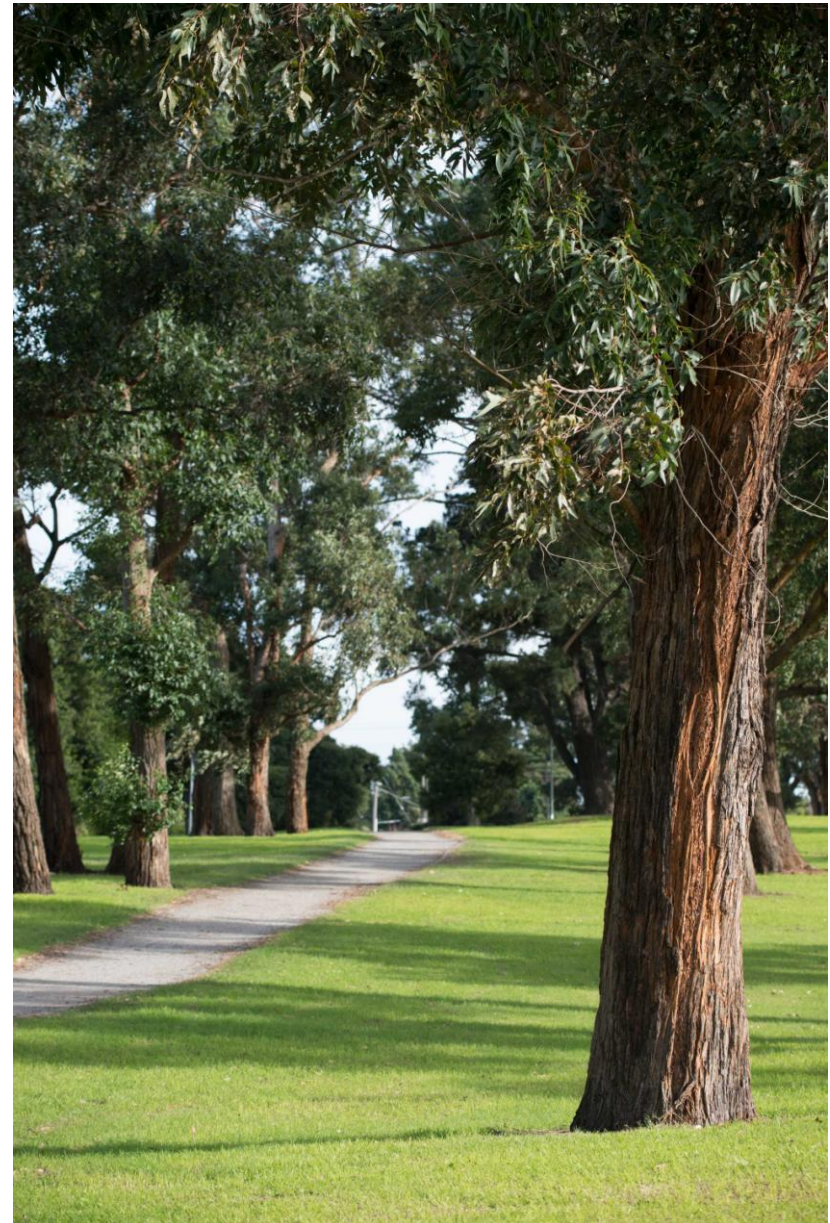
The following Walk Score (2015) in Greater Dandenong demonstrates that the walkability of areas in this municipality, could be improved if more errands could be achieved on foot.

- Dandenong (score of 64 - somewhat walkable)
- Springvale (score of 66 - somewhat walkable)
- Noble Park (score of 48 - car dependant)

Greater Dandenong is confident that we can encourage and enable more residents, workers and visitors to walk more, by activating spaces, places and people in our municipality.

There are many opportunities in Greater Dandenong with parks, lively shopping and business precincts and numerous destinations, that we can motivate people to walk to and around.

*"Walking is the exercise that does not need a gym."  
- John Butcher*





## Engagement of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Groups

Greater Dandenong, the most culturally diverse municipality in Victoria, is a vibrant city of opportunity that encourages and supports people of all ages to live, work and play through healthy lifestyles. The diversity of the community poses a challenge for Council to develop and design projects that are appropriate for the breadth of diversity that characterises our community. To ensure our transport and recreation walking projects are appropriate and will engage our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community, Greater Dandenong has developed the following principles of engagement.



### Engagement of CALD Groups

<b>Community &amp; culturally centric</b>	<p>Community and culturally centric programs have proven to achieve higher levels of longer term participation, because CALD groups will feel more comfortable.</p> <p>Incorporate CALD group's perspectives into the design and delivery of programs to consider relevancy, social patterns and peer-to-peer promotion.</p>
<b>Incorporate educational components</b>	<p>Build capacity among CALD groups through education benefits from walking, ensure information is relevant, easy to understand and readily accessible.</p> <p>Train program designers and leaders in the cultural and social aspects of different CALD groups and work with community partners.</p>
<b>Utilise local champions / community leaders</b>	<p>Use local champions to encourage others to walk and facilitate role-modelling of positive walking behaviours.</p> <p>Empower CALD participants to become leaders.</p>
<b>Identify and remove barriers to participation</b>	<p>Build, strengthen and maintain supportive relationships, including regular/ongoing activities, rather than the one-off events, which are more effective at retaining participation.</p> <p>Demonstrate the experience of walking in a safe, social and fun environment.</p> <p>Avoid programs that are excessively expensive for participants and involve self-reporting of walking habits.</p>

## Community Consultation

This strategy was developed in consultation with the Greater Dandenong Community. Crowd Spot, an innovative visual consultation tool, enabled the community to have their say online through sharing comments on an interactive map on specific geographic locations. This engagement tool was supported by undertaking traditional methods of best practice community consultation, including community conversations at events, public hubs and spaces, in addition to focus groups and paper based surveys.

Over 350 community members were engaged in the consultation, with 251 community members engaging with the Crowd Spot Map. Council employed innovative techniques and approaches to ensure the community had multiple opportunities to contribute in a way that was meaningful to them. The results of the consultation informed the development of this strategy and action plan.

### Crowd Spot Summary

#### Like Spots

- Attractive walking tracks
- Appropriate facilities for children
- Lots of people

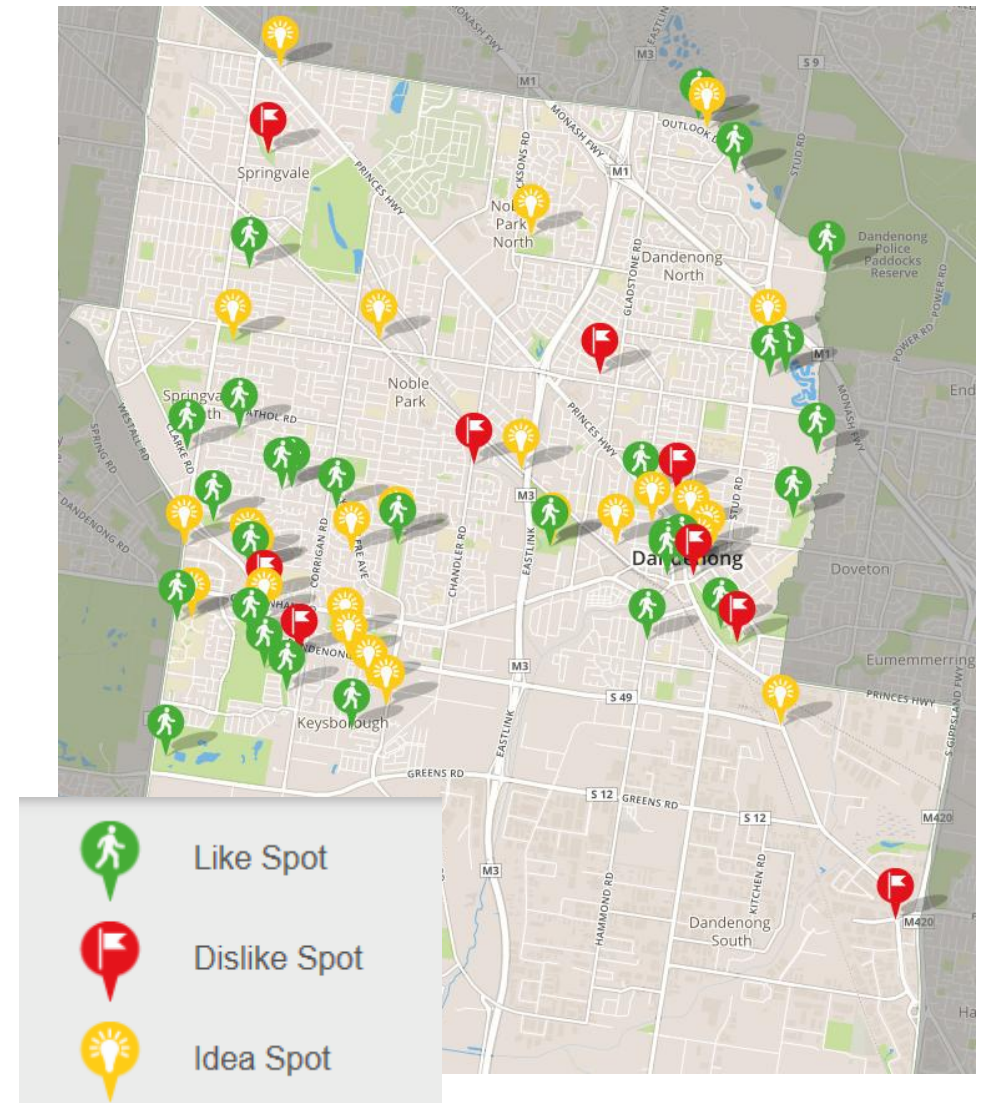
#### Dislike Spots

- Uneven footpaths
- Unattractive walking routes
- Safety concerns

#### Idea Spots

- Walking groups
- Wayfinding signage

## Greater Dandenong Crowd Spot Map



Themes and priorities identified during this consultation included:

- The benefits of promoting good walking spots for both recreation and transport, for everyone who makes up our diverse community
- The importance of creating places for people and activating places
- The need to continually improve infrastructure including paths, footpaths, trails, creeks and parks
- The value placed on having an aesthetically pleasing place to walk
- The need to both feel safe when walking and to have a physically safe environment in which to walk
- The value placed on having places to walk at all times during the day
- The importance of wayfinding signage when walking

The Greater Dandenong Walking Strategy has been developed in the context of the Council Plan 2013-17 and the key objectives People, Place and Opportunity.

Ideas, needs and values of the community consultation have been categorised under these themes. These objectives underpin the themes and detailed action plan that has been developed as part of this strategy to improve walking in Greater Dandenong.

An internal steering committee made up of Greater Dandenong Council departments came together to work in collaboration, to ensure the development of a comprehensive strategy that is both achievable and relevant for the local community. The steering committee developed the guiding themes, structure of the strategy and action plan priorities.

This strategy was developed in-line with Greater Dandenong's Community Engagement Policy, to ensure council listened to the views and responded to the needs of the broader community.



*"I would like a walking track with an activity loop for families."  
- Greater Dandenong Resident*



## Partnerships

To achieve the Walking Strategy aims and deliver the actions relative to the Walking Strategy, the City of Greater Dandenong will need to work with State Government Agencies, other local councils, community groups and other relevant stakeholders.

Working in partnership to reach these goals, will ensure adequate resources and funding are allocated to walking initiatives and projects, to increase the number of people walking in Greater Dandenong.



### Key external partners for collaboration:

- Victoria Walks
- State & Federal Government Agencies
- Other Local Governments
- Vic Health
- VicRoads
- Melways
- Schools
- Early Years Services
- Businesses
- Settlement Services
- ConnectEast
- Monash Health
- Community Organisations
- Retirement Villages

## Action Plan Implementation

For the eight year duration of the Walking Strategy 2015-23, Council will implement the following Action Plan with the aim of increasing the number of people walking by activating places, spaces and people through increased promotion, access and opportunity.

The Greater Dandenong Walking Strategy will be implemented through a collaborative and holistic approach across Council and with the local community.

The Actions within the strategy have a focus on maximizing existing assets, particularly natural assets and promoting these along with the benefits of walking to the local community. Actions will also include opportunities for future planning that includes improving the pedestrian environment with walking facilities, that provide access to activity centres and local key destinations for the community.

Actions will also prioritise connecting links within the shared path network to create routes and circuits (see shared walking and bicycle paths map Appendix 2).

Greater Dandenong acknowledges and recognises the actions within this Strategy, need to meet the individual needs of the vulnerable and diverse groups that make up this municipality and respond appropriately to encourage and increase the number of people walking.

The majority of the actions within this strategy can be implemented with existing resources in-line with Council's long term financial plan and Capital Works Program, however for significant progress to be made, additional funds are required. Grants and funds are available through Vic Roads, Vic Health and Department of Transport. The Walking Strategy will be adopted in principle and subject to annual budgets.

Council Plan 2013-17 – Theme	Walking Strategy - Sub Theme	Walking Strategy - Objective
People	Culture & Behaviour	Develop, promote and continue to support programs and events that enable more people to walk
	Educate, Promote and Raise Profile	Develop resources that make walking more attractive and accessible to the community
Place	Infrastructure	Develop policies, guidelines and standards that ensure an inclusive and accessible walking environment
	Creating Places for People	Create and maintain walking facilities and infrastructure in the community to enhance connectivity and the walkability of the environment
Opportunity	Leadership	Demonstrate leadership and develop partnerships with the community and other stakeholders to encourage and enable walking
	Partnerships	

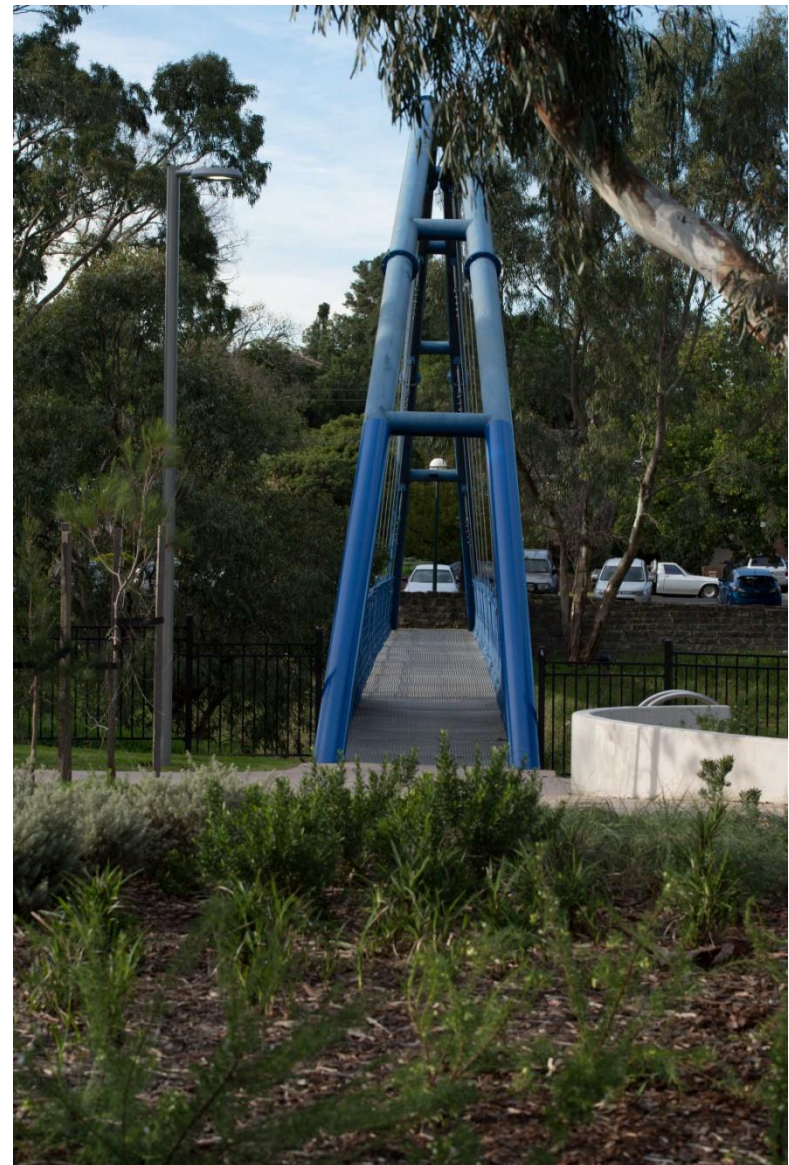
## Monitoring & Review

Sport & Recreation will oversee the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the actions of the Greater Dandenong Walking Strategy 2015-2023. An annual progress update on actions will be provided to Council. In addition, a mid-point review will be undertaken to ensure the Walking Strategy is meeting the needs of the Greater Dandenong community. Monitoring and review of the implementation plan will also include assessing the ongoing relevance of themes and actions within the Walking Strategy.

At the conclusion of the strategy's life cycle, Council will measure rates of walking for transport and recreation, through Greater Dandenong's Sports Participation Survey. Strategic directions for a future strategy will be considered as this stage.

Progress of the Walking Strategy will also be measured through walkability indicators, such as Walkscore.

*Greater Dandenong will aim to increase the number of people walking by activating places, spaces and people through increased promotion, access and opportunity.*





# Action Plan

## Structure of the Action Plan

**Theme** - The Action plan has been developed in the context of the Council Plan 2013-17 and the key themes of **People, Place** and **Opportunity**.

**Objective** - Each theme has a number of high-level **Objectives** that will support people to walk more in Greater Dandenong.

**Action** - Each **Action** outlines a process or initiative in response to an objective. Actions are linked to Council's existing and future strategies and plans.

### Timelines -

- Immediate actions: year 1
- Short-term actions: within years 1 and 2
- Medium-term actions: within years 3 to 5
- Long-term actions: from year 6
- Ongoing: is an ongoing activity

Implementation subject to available resources.

**Responsibility** - Each **Action** assigns responsibility to Council Departments and/or partner. Some may identify multiple responsible parties, lead responsibility lies with the parties with the bolded text.

**Indicator** - Provide targets and measures that indicate the Strategy has been implemented and the success of implementation.

## Theme 1 - People

### People - To improve the walking culture and behaviour in Greater Dandenong, Council will continue to educate, promote and raise the profile of walking

Reference	Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator
Council Plan Priority 1.2.3  Community Wellbeing Plan  Strategic Action 2.3.2	Objective 1 – Develop, promote and continue to support programs and events that enable more people to walk	1.1.1 Develop a social marketing campaign that aims to educate the community about road safety, the benefits of walking, positive role modelling, parks that could be visited and increase the rates of walking for recreation and/or transport for CALD, newly arrived, children, youth, families, elderly and those with a disability.	Short Term	<b>Sport &amp; Recreation</b>  Media & Communications, Community Wellbeing, Transport, Community Development, Community Care	Number of community members who engaged with campaign key messages
		1.1.2 Advocate and share place stories within the public realm of Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park Activity Centres, that encourages place attachment and promotes walking. (eg. Activity Centre interpretive signage).	Short Term	<b>Activity Centres Revitalisation</b>  Infrastructure Services, Community Development, Sport & Recreation, Media & Communications	Number of Stories shared in the three Major Activity Centres
		1.1.3 Investigate and undertake programs that engage with isolated elderly groups to participate in walking (eg. Retirement Village walking groups).	Short Term	<b>Community Care</b>  Sport & Recreation	Number of programs undertaken/Number of people walking
		1.1.4 Deliver walking activities and events that promote walking among children and young people (eg. After School Community Walks, Active Travel Initiatives).	Immediate	<b>Community Wellbeing</b>  Sport & Recreation	Number of activities held/ Number of children walking
		1.1.5 Create opportunities to expand recreation activities/ activities for children (eg. Sensory gardens, interactive art).	Short Term	<b>Community Wellbeing</b>  Infrastructure Services, Community Arts, Culture & Library Services	Number of opportunities created

Reference	Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator
Council Plan Priority 1.2.3  Community Wellbeing Plan Strategic Action 2.3.2	Objective 1 – Develop, promote and continue to support programs and events that enable more people to walk	1.1.6 Promote the role of crossing supervisors at schools and along main roads.	Short Term	<b>Residential Amenities</b>  Media & Communications	Number of promotions
		1.1.7 Investigate, undertake and promote opportunities for CALD and newly arrived residents to connect to walking groups and be more active through neighbourhood days.	Short Term	<b>Community Development</b>  Sport & Recreation, Media & Communications	Number of opportunities promoted
		1.1.8 Increase the number of events and opportunities for social interaction along existing walking paths and in recreation areas.	Ongoing	<b>Sport &amp; Recreation</b>  Community Arts, Culture & Library Services, Infrastructure Services, Community Development	Number of events
		1.1.9 Provide opportunities for those in the community with a disability to walk (eg. Walkfest).	Immediate	<b>Community Care</b>  Sport & Recreation, Community Wellbeing	Number of opportunities /Number of participants
		1.1.10 Promote responsible pet ownership for social and leisure walking.	Medium Term	<b>Residential Amenities</b>  Media & Communications	Number of promotions
		1.1.11 Undertake activities to promote walking among local businesses (eg. Global Corporate Challenge, Walk to Work).	Immediate	<b>Economic Development Unit</b>  Sport & Recreation, Organisational Development	Number of workplaces engaged
		1.1.12 Seek opportunities for local businesses to support walking activities and events as part of their corporate social responsibility activities (eg. sponsorship, volunteering).	Short Term	<b>Economic Development Unit</b>  Sport & Recreation	Number of sponsorships
		1.1.13 Undertake walking tours for locals and those visiting Greater Dandenong to explore key cultural precincts and food and retail outlets.	Immediate	<b>Economic Development Unit</b>  Sport & Recreation	Number of walking tours undertaken/Number of tour attendees

Reference	Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator
Council Plan Priority 1.2.3  Community Wellbeing Plan Strategic Action 2.3.2	Objective 1 – Develop, promote and continue to support programs and events that enable more people to walk	1.1.14 Promote and support existing and new walking groups that are based at key community destinations and leisure centres (e.g. Dandenong Plaza Pacers Walk, Redlegs Walking Group, Pram Walking Groups).	Short Term	<b>Sport &amp; Recreation</b>  Community Development, Community Wellbeing	Number of walking groups supported
		1.1.15 Undertake activities to encourage physical activity including walking in local parks.	Ongoing	<b>Sport &amp; Recreation</b>  Community Development, Community Wellbeing	Number of activities/ Number of participants
		1.1.16 Utilise existing Greater Dandenong Health Champions to promote physical activity including walking.	Immediate	<b>Community Development</b>  Sport & Recreation	Number of Health Champions engaged in walking activities

Reference	Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator
Council Plan Priority 1.2.3  Community Wellbeing Plan Strategic Action 2.3.2	Objective 2 – Develop resources that make walking more attractive and accessible to the community	1.2.1 Create and distribute a suite of walking maps that promotes historical and cultural trails, as well as walking for recreation and transport purposes.	Immediate	<b>Sport &amp; Recreation</b>  Media & Communications, Transport, Community Arts, Culture & Library Services	Number of maps produced/distributed
		1.2.2 Promote walking routes that have accessible facilities and amenities suitable for use by children, youth, elderly people, those with a disability and families whilst walking (eg. shade, toilets, playgrounds, recharge points for electronic scooters, free wifi spots).	Short Term	<b>Community Wellbeing</b>  Sport & Recreation, Community Care, Community Development, Media & Communications	Facilities promoted on walking maps
		1.2.3 Identify and highlight places that offer cultural significance and familiarity to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and promote Australian culture and history whilst walking.	Short Term	<b>Community Development</b>  Media & Communications, Sport & Recreation, Community Arts, Culture & Library Services	Number of places promoted



Reference	Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator
Council Plan Priority 1.2.3  Community Wellbeing Plan Strategic Action 2.3.2	Objective 2 – Develop resources that make walking more attractive and accessible to the community	1.2.4 Investigate the use of technology to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>map the routes of young people (eg. Crowd Spot interactive maps)</li> <li>create social spaces for young people through free wifi and charging spots.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	<b>Community Wellbeing</b>  Sport & Recreation, Information Technology, Media & Communications	Increase the number of walking opportunities and information online
		1.2.5 Promote walking through maps that are accessible online	Short Term	<b>Sport &amp; Recreation</b>  Community Wellbeing, Media & Communications	Walking maps promoted online
		1.2.6 Contribute to existing welcome-packs for new residents by incorporating information in regards to walking (eg. suite of walking maps, list of local walking groups).	Short Term	<b>Media &amp; Communications</b>  Community Development, Transport, Sport & Recreation	Welcome-pack developed and number of welcome packs distributed
		1.2.7 Distribute new and existing resources that promote walking.	Short Term	<b>Sport &amp; Recreation</b>  Community Development	Number of resources distributed

## Theme 2 - Place

### Place - To improve the walking environment in Greater Dandenong, Council will continue to create places for people by developing and maintaining the infrastructure

Reference	Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator
Council Plan Priority 1.2.3  Community Wellbeing Plan Strategic Action 2.3.2	Objective 1 – Develop policies, guidelines and standards that ensure an inclusive and accessible walking environment	2.1.1 Review standards for paths and surface treatments along walking routes that consider people of varying abilities.	Short Term	<b>Asset Planning</b>  Transport, Community Care	Standards reviewed
		2.1.2 Develop a Wayfinding Signage Strategy for Noble Park Activity Centre that is based on universal design principles.  The Strategy should take into consideration the existing Springvale and Central Dandenong Activity Centre Wayfinding Strategies.	Short Term	<b>Activity Centre's Revitalisation</b>  Planning & Design, Infrastructure Services, Community Development, Community Wellbeing, Sport & Recreation, Community Care, Asset Planning, Transport	Wayfinding Strategy developed
		2.1.3 Survey the Metro 3175 (located within the Dandenong Activity Centre) community to get a better understanding of how to support a prioritised pedestrian environment.	Short Term	<b>Activity Centre's Revitalisation</b>  Infrastructure Planning, Transport, Community Development	Undertake survey
		2.1.4 Analyse the success of existing pilot 'Shared Streets' projects and investigate opportunities to implement these principles in further pilot projects and streetscape designs.	Short Term	<b>Transport</b>  Planning & Design, City Improvement, Sport & Recreation, Activity Centre's Revitalisation	Potential opportunities investigated

Reference	Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator
Council Plan Priority 1.2.3  Community Wellbeing Plan Strategic Action 2.3.2	Objective 1 – Develop policies, guidelines and standards that ensure an inclusive and accessible walking environment	2.1.5 Upgrades and future district playground designs and amenities will promote walking in accordance with the adopted Playground Strategy to achieve family friendly facilities.	Short Term	<b>Planning &amp; Design</b>  City Improvement, Community Wellbeing, Asset Planning, Transport,	Number of new/ improved playground designs promoting walking
		2.1.6 Upgrades and future streetscape projects will be implemented using best practice principles and guidelines to promote active travel (eg. Healthy by Design, Child-friendly cities, Complete Streets, Road Diets).	Ongoing	<b>City Improvement</b>  Planning & Design, Sport & Recreation, Asset Planning, Transport, Infrastructure Services, Community Wellbeing, Community Arts, Culture & Library Services, Activity Centres Revitalisation	Number of new/ improved streetscape projects promoting active travel and recreation walking
		2.1.7 Identify key locations where safety/perceived security risk prevents residents from walking.	Ongoing	<b>Community Development</b>  Asset Planning, Infrastructure Services, Planning & Design, Activity Centres Revitalisation	Number of locations identified



Reference	Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator
Council Plan Priority 1.2.3  Community Wellbeing Plan Strategic Action 2.3.2	Objective 2 – Create and maintain walking facilities and infrastructure in the community to enhance connectivity and the walkability of the environment	2.2.1 Install new footpaths and shared user paths at identified gaps in the network in accordance with healthy design principles.	Medium - Long Term	<b>Asset Planning</b>  Transport, Infrastructure Services, City Improvement	Number of new paths installed
		2.2.2 Develop a Footpath Management Policy which provides a framework for installation of new paths and upgrades to paths to serve the whole City. This should include baseline standards for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing access to public transport</li> <li>• providing access to activity centres and local key destinations for the community</li> <li>• providing walking routes to schools</li> <li>• providing suitable walking routes for people with a disability/a pram/the elderly</li> <li>• providing access to both homes and workplaces.</li> </ul>	Short Term	<b>Asset Planning</b>  Transport, Infrastructure Services, Community Wellbeing, Sport & Recreation, Community Care	Policy developed
		2.2.3 Extend and upgrade Council's path network in accordance with Council's Footpath Management Policy. Investigate opportunities to take a regional approach working with neighboring Councils to improve connectivity.	Ongoing	<b>Asset Planning</b>  Transport, Infrastructure Services, City Improvement	Path network upgraded
		2.2.4 Continue to maintain paths in accordance with the intervention levels specified in Council's Road Management Plan.	Ongoing	<b>Infrastructure Services</b>  Asset Planning, Regulatory Services	Number of footpaths maintained for walkability
		2.2.5 Continue to provide, maintain and upgrade walking routes to be more aesthetically pleasing through planting trees and gardens that enhance the walking environment.	Ongoing	<b>Infrastructure Services</b>  City Improvement, Planning & Design, City Improvement, Asset Planning, Community Development	Trees/gardens planted along walking routes

Reference	Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator
Council Plan Priority 1.2.3  Community Wellbeing Plan Strategic Action 2.3.2	Objective 2 – Create and maintain walking facilities and infrastructure in the community to enhance connectivity and the walkability of the environment	2.2.6 Provide supporting facilities and infrastructure that enhance the walking environment, address safety/perceived safety risks and meet community demands.	Ongoing	<b>City Improvement</b>  Infrastructure Services, Planning & Design, City Improvement, Asset Planning, Community Development	Facilities installed
		2.2.7 Create more dog off-leash parks consistent with the Greater Dandenong Dog off-Leash Strategy.	Short Term	<b>Planning &amp; Design</b>  City Improvement, Infrastructure Services, Regulatory Services	Number of dog off-leash parks created
		2.2.8 Investigate the need for further roll-out of wayfinding signage and legibility/visual cues in activity centres to promote and improve the walking environment for the community.	Short Term	<b>Planning &amp; Design</b>  Sport & Recreation, Infrastructure Services, Transport, City Improvement, Activity Centres Revitalisation	Wayfinding system reviewed in accordance with standards. Improvements planned.
		2.2.9 Facilitate a safe walking environment by installing road safety treatments that prioritise pedestrian safety, including safe crossing points and measures to reduce vehicle speeds where appropriate.	Short Term	<b>Transport</b>  Infrastructure Services, Asset Planning	Road safety measures installed
		2.2.10 Ensure asset management plans, inclusive of service standards and maintenance programs, are in place for all paths and walking tracks.	Short Term	<b>Transport</b>  Infrastructure Services, Asset Planning	Plans in place and endorsed

## Theme 3 - Opportunity

Opportunity - To increase opportunities for walking in Greater Dandenong, Council will continue to demonstrate leadership and develop partnerships					
Reference	Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator
Council Plan Priority 1.2.3  Community Wellbeing Plan Strategic Action 2.3.2	Objective 1 - Demonstrate leadership and develop partnerships with the community and other stakeholders to encourage and enable walking	3.1.1 Engage with the local community to address key issues and opportunities related to walking within the municipality (addressing people with disabilities, recently arrived, elderly, workers, children, women, youth and CALD groups).	Short Term	<b>Community Development</b>  Sport & Recreation	Number of opportunities for community members to engage with Council
		3.1.2 Promote the economic value for local businesses to have potential customers walking, rather than driving past their trade or shop front and encourage trader support.	Short Term	<b>Economic Development Unit</b>	Engagement with local businesses
		3.1.3 Creation of working groups that involve multiple Council departments to input on all relevant healthy design and delivery decisions, in regards to walking in the municipality.	Short Term	<b>Sport &amp; Recreation</b>  All relevant departments	Establishment of working groups
		3.1.4 Foster and enable a culture of community ownership of public open space through activation (eg. events, clean-up days, tree planting).	Ongoing	<b>Infrastructure Services</b>  Community Development, Sport & Recreation	Number of community members engaged
		3.1.5 Council will conduct an employee travel survey to identify how staff are travelling to their workplace. Data collected will be used to feed into an update of the Green Travel Plan.	Short Term	<b>Organisational Development</b>	Employee Travel Survey Completed



Reference	Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator
Council Plan Priority 1.2.3  Community Wellbeing Plan Strategic Action 2.3.2	Objective 1 - Demonstrate leadership and develop partnerships with the community and other stakeholders to encourage and enable walking	3.1.6 Update and deliver the existing Greater Dandenong Green Travel Plan to encourage Council staff to walk more. Encourage other workplaces and organisations to develop a Green Travel Action Plan.	Medium Term	<b>Organisational Development</b>  Economic Development, Transport, Planning & Design	Green Travel plan developed and promoted
		3.1.7 Represent the public transport needs of the local community with the relevant stakeholders.	Short Term	<b>Transport</b>  Media and Communications	Community needs identified and presented to relevant stakeholders
		3.1.8 Improve the safety of pedestrians through the development, design and promotion of accessible infrastructure.	Ongoing	<b>Infrastructure Planning</b>  Community Development	Infrastructure actions implemented
		3.1.9 Improved walkability in major activity centres in accordance with the Place Making Framework.	Short Term	<b>Activity Centre's Revitalisation</b>  Planning & Design, Transport	Improved walkability score at key activity centres

*“Walking is as natural as breathing”*

- John Butcher  
Founder Walk21

# Appendix 1.

## Glossary of Terms

- Child Friendly Cities -** Child Friendly Cities enable all children and young people to be valued, respected and celebrated. Greater Dandenong is a Child Friendly City providing children and young people with the opportunity to grow, learn, develop and thrive in a safe and caring environment, which is a responsibility we all share across the community.
- Complete Streets -** Complete Streets are streets for everyone. They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops and cycle to work.
- Healthy by Design -** In Victoria, Healthy by Design engages municipal councils to increase environmental support and opportunities for people to be physically active in their daily lives, by highlighting the benefits of integrating health into planning. Councils incorporate the message through unique initiatives and programs that in a variety of ways, enable people to be active within their local community.
- Road Diets -** A road diet is anytime you take any lane out of a road. Road diets are good for pedestrians: They reduce speeding and make vehicle movement more predictable, while shortening crossing distances, usually through curb extensions or center median islands. They are good for cyclists: Many road diets shift space from car lanes to create bike lanes. They are good for drivers: Less speeding improves safety for motorists and passengers and providing left-turn pockets, allows through traffic to proceed without shifting lanes or waiting behind turning vehicles.
- Walk Score -** Walk Score measures the walkability of an area by analysing walking routes to nearby amenities, including businesses and schools using Google map data. An area is then given a score from 0-100 (100 being a walker's paradise, where daily errands can be achieved without a car).



## Appendix 2.

### Greater Dandenong Shared Walking and Bicycle Paths

The following map depicts the current shared walking and bicycle paths in Greater Dandenong.



## Appendix 3.

### Community Consultation - Engagement List

The following list demonstrates the organisations/community groups who were engaged during community consultation along with the engagement methods to the general public:

Primary Schools	Sports Clubs	Vision Australia
Disability Action Group South East	Libraries	Neighbourhood Houses
Monash Health	Victoria Walks	Website CGD
Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee	Children & Families Executive Committee	Walking Groups
CALD Groups	AMES	Medicare Local
Southern Migrant Resource Centre	Dandenong Market	Dandenong Palm Plaza
Sustainability Fest	Sports Fest	Twilight Run
Springers Leisure Centre	Oasis	NPAC
Healthy Children Working Group members	Walking Strategy Steering Committee members	Walking Strategy Workshop participants
Facebook CGD	Facebook Healthy Together	Healthy Children Enewsletter
Health Champions	School activity for classrooms	City of Greater Dandenong departments

## Appendix 4.

### Community Consultation - Crowd Spot Report

The following report details the key findings from the 251 community members who engaged with the Crowd Spot Map during community consultation.

### Report - CGD Walking

#### Engagement:

<b>Active</b> (posting a spot, liking or commenting):  53	<b>Passive</b> (site views)  251(unique)  281 (overall page views)
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#### Spots posted by gender:

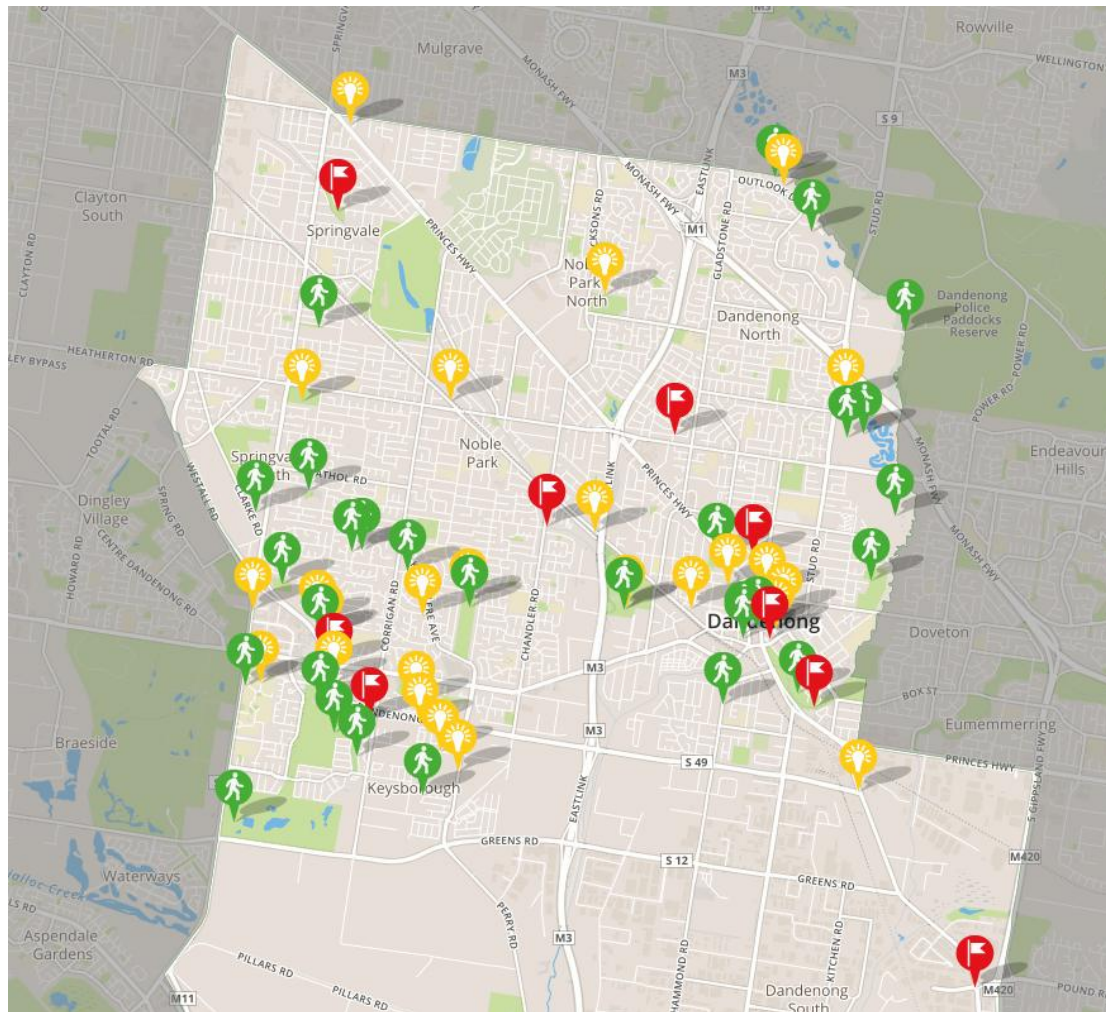
Male 13	Female 20	Not provided 2
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**Spots posted by age:**

	<b>MALE (13)</b>	<b>FEMALE (20)</b>	<b>TOTAL (32)</b>
20-24:	2		2
25-34:	2	7	9
35-44:	4	4	8
45-54:		4	4
55-64:		4	4
65-74:	2		2
Not provided	3	1	3



## Top 10 walking spots with comments



#	Spot	Reason
1	Fotheringham Reserve (5 votes)	Fotheringham Reserve has a very pretty walking track, with great parks for children to play in.
2	Dandenong Creek Trail (3 votes)	It is a very picturesque walk in a natural environment.  I like to get the bus to Brady Rd then walk to Dandenong along the creek trail. It's fairly peaceful and quite picturesque in places.
3	Stanley Rd (2 votes)	To create a walkover the Dandenong By-pass at Stanley Rd, giving easier access by walking to the footy reserve, the Elderly Citizens and the lawn bowls, bus stop along Cheltenham Rd, plus easier to reach Parkmore shopping centre.
4	Park around Dandenong Stadium (2)	Add signs or maps or directions which tell people distances e.g. 1km loop, 3km loop, path connects to other walking tracks etc make an activity loop for families while waiting for others using the stadium.
5	Watcher Reserve (2)	Add signs or maps or directions which tell people distances e.g. 1km loop, 3km loop, path connects to other walking tracks etc make an activity loop for families while waiting for others using the stadium.

6	Alex Wilkie Reserve (2)	Not provided.
7	Along Dandenong creek at police road (1)	Really nice area to walk.
8	Dandenong Market (1)	Busy, lots of people. Good vibe.
9	Park on Donninci Drive (1)	This park is great for toddlers who like to dash off. I wish there were more parks in the area fenced for this age group.
10	Dandenong Park	Pretty walking spot. Break from work.

#### Top times for walking

1	Morning	9
2	Evening	8
3	All	8

### Top reasons for walking

# People	Reasons
19	<p><u>Fitness</u></p> <p>Gender - Female 13; Male 5; Unknown 1)</p> <p>Time - Morning 7; Evening 6; all 2</p> <p>Frequency:</p> <p>Once/month 2;</p> <p>Few times/week 8;</p> <p>daily 1;</p> <p>Once/week 5</p>
12	Transport
4	Social
1	Fun
1	Break from work/relax
1	For children



## Opportunities

### **Safety:**

- Underpass to access Springers and the Playground from the bike trail without having to travel along busy Cheltenham Rd and at end of Snow Gum Ct.
- To create a walkover the Dandenong By-pass at Stanley Rd, giving easier access by walking to the footy reserve, the Elderly Citizens and the lawn bowls, bus stop along Cheltenham Rd, plus easier to reach Parkmore shopping centre.
- Liverpool Drive - Sealed walking track to Access Dandenong South Trail. Currently have to access the trail via the grassed areas/open stormwater drains. The only safe way to cross Cheltenham Rd with young kids to get to kinder, springers or bus stop is near the overpass at the pedestrian lights on the trail and proper access this trail would be fantastic.
- Villers Rd - Improved walking path to Springers Leisure Centre from new estates north of Church Road. There is a new footpath gap between the sound barrier (Cnr Chapel Rd & Dandenong Bypass) however no clear footpath to walk to Springers.
- Walking spots appropriate for conservative communities, what about indoor tracks and activities for ladies. Also proper marked outdoor and defined walking tracks make people feel safer.

### **Promotion:**

- Would be good to promote Dandenong Creek Trail spot and other areas with dog off leash areas.
- I have heard there are walking groups at the plaza. It would be great if these could be promoted and details available on council website so others could get involved. Signs could also be put up in plaza.

### **Incentives to walk:**

- Idea to Provide (and advertise) Free All Day Car Parking a short walk outside of central Dandenong to encourage people to walk to their workplaces or shops - also reduces parking and traffic congestion.

### **Signage:**

- Park around Dandenong Stadium - Add signs or maps or directions which tell people distances e.g. 1km loop, 3km loop, path connects to other walking tracks etc. Make an activity loop for families while waiting for others using the stadium.

### **Links with bike paths:**

- Perry Rd footpath - The footpath itself is fine but I feel an opportunity for a shared path (bikes and pedestrians) was wasted by putting in a narrow path. A shared path would have made a great link to all the other bike paths.
- I would like to see the Dandenong Bypass Trail connect to the shared trail near KM Reedy Reserve in Hampton Park.



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