



Junortoun Community Action Group Inc.

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Public Open Space issues of importance to the community of Junortoun 2018-19

The following locations and issues are presented as a list that reflects the public space needs of the community of Junortoun.

This list has been produced as a response, having learned that the needs of the Junortoun community were overlooked in the production of the Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan (2018). No priority has been assigned to the following list. Priorities will be discussed with Mark Stubbs and the City of Greater Bendigo during 2019..

For further discussion of this list please contact:

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The Junortoun Community Action Group acknowledges and thanks the City of Greater Bendigo for its commitment to remedy the oversight of Junortoun-specific actions that occurred when the Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan was approved by Council in July 2018.

We look forward to working with the City in the implementation of the Plan.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin de Vries
JCAG Secretary.

Public Open Space sites of significance in Junortoun

Reflecting “the most notable existing characteristics of public space within Junortoun”.¹

These must be shown on the precinct map to ensure they are recognised now and into the future.

- Bendigo Bushland Trail
- Catherine McAuley College – in particular the playing fields
- Cycling and walking track: Mclvor Forest Estate Junortoun to Junortoun Road
- Cycling and walking track: Trotting Terrace Junortoun to Cousins Street Strathdale
- Greater Bendigo National Park
- Honeyeater Reserve (former gravel quarry between Binks Road and Somerset Park Road)
- Junortoun Nature Reserve (former sidings on O’Keefe Rail Trail)
- Knul-doorong Woodland
- Manning Reserve
- Mclvor Forest Estate linear path
- Mclvor Forest Estate play space (Inverness Drive)
- O’Keefe Rail Trail
- Site of former Junortoun Primary School (cnr Manning Reserve and Mclvor Highway)
- Splitters Creek
- Strathfieldsaye Bushland Reserve
- Wellsford State Forest

Open Space sites for which the Junortoun Community has identified strategic objectives

Presented in no specific order of priority

Honeyeater Reserve

The site of former gravel pits adjacent to Honeyeater Lane, Binks Road, and Somerset Park Road. Is valuable native bushland which the community wishes to preserve and protect. This site could become Junortoun’s “green oasis”.²

Objectives of the Junortoun community for Honeyeater Reserve:

- Preserve the land as public open space for the community of Junortoun, and for the plants and animals that live there.
- Achieve Committee of Management status for this land
- Develop a plan to preserve, protect and reinstate the Reserve.

¹ Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan - Parts 4-5 (July 2018) –Page 6

² Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan - Parts 1-3 (July 2018) – Page 65.

- Implement actions including: fencing, entrance points, replanting, weed control, nest boxes, walking paths, seats, and directional and interpretive signage.
- Obtain sources of funds that will allow these actions to occur.

Knul-doorong Woodland

The following actions would need to be developed in close consultation with the Dja Dja Wurrung community. These are initial ideas from JCAG, and are subject to agreement and endorsement by the traditional owners of the land.

- Expand Knul-doorong Woodland by purchasing the adjacent block and preserving it for the community forever.
- Undertake weed and litter control actions
- Plant additional trees, shrubs and grasses to reinstate the native flora of the woodland.
- Provide interpretive signs that recognise the enduring relationship between the Aboriginal people and the land.
- Erect fences or bollards to protect the Woodland from vehicle entry.
- Create appropriate entranceways to the Woodland.
- Install walking paths
- Create a sculpture park featuring Aboriginal sculptures and public space artwork.
- Consider development of an Aboriginal community led site for ecology education.

The presence of Knul-doorong Woodland and its indigenous significance should be mentioned in the introduction to the Strathfieldsaye-Junortoun precinct.

Strathfieldsaye Bushland Reserve (Strathfieldsaye Flora Reserve)

The significance of the land which adjoins Honeyeater Reserve, known as Strathfieldsaye Flora Reserve, should also be noted. Together these three parcels of land (Knul-doorong Woodland, Honeyeater Reserve, and Strathfieldsaye Flora Reserve) represent a significant and almost contiguous area of public open space which provides space for passive recreation for people, homes for mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, plants and aquatic life. They provide a wildlife corridor that connects to the O'Keefe Rail Trail. This series of connected properties are an important component of our "city in a forest" (Bendigo) and "Our Home in the Bush" (Junortoun).

JCAG believes preservation of this connection is vital to meet the community expectation of "preserving space for natural areas and wildlife".³

³ Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan – Parts 1-3 (July 2018) – Page 15.

O’Keefe Rail Trail – including Junortoun sidings (Junortoun Nature Reserve)

Objectives of the Junortoun community for the O’Keefe Rail Trail:

- Make drinking water available from key sites along the length of the O’Keefe Rail Trail. Potential locations include: Mclvor Highway Crossing Junortoun; Longlea Lane Axedale.
- Continue actions to revegetate the rail trail and provide nesting boxes for mammals and birds along the trail.
- Ensure road crossing points along the Trail are made as safe as possible for Trail users.

Manning Reserve

This is on the only council-managed reserve on the northern side of Mclvor Highway in Junortoun. This land was donated to the community by a venerable member of the Junortoun community and our community wishes to see the site recognised and protected.

Public reserve opposite Manning Reserve (corner of Atlas Road and Mclvor Highway)

Adjacent to Manning Reserve is the site of former Junortoun Primary School. This site remains zoned for education. It should be preserved for this purpose – so that land is available for a government school if this is required in the future. However, at present the land is lightly forested and the trees and the shrubs contained on the land should be recognised and preserved.

Other sites along the Mclvor Highway (Splitters Creek flood plain)

There are other sites in Junortoun which are undeveloped Crown land, for example adjacent to Wilkie Road Junortoun.

These sites are not suitable for housing, nor for maintaining as public reserves, however they are valuable sources of water for the animals or our community. The presence of intermittent or persistent water at these sites supports a unique range of plants, amphibians and insect life. The environmental importance of these sites should not be overlooked.

Field Naturalists Reserve (Trust for Nature Reserve), Bennetts Road Longlea

This piece of land immediately abuts Junortoun and is located on the O’Keefe Rail Trail, and adjoins Bennetts Rd. and Hodges Lane. The significance of the plant life of this reserve should be noted and preserved over the 50-year lifespan of the Plan.

Actions to enhance Public Open Space in Junortoun and connections between Junortoun and adjoining localities

Create a public space corridor between Homebush Estate Junortoun and Strathfieldsaye (Relevant to item 2.4 of the Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan)

This initiative will connect Junortoun residents to schools, shops, sporting facilities and services located in Strathfieldsaye. It can be achieved by:

- Extending the existing Strathfieldsaye bicycle network along Sheepwash Creek
- Constructing a connection (via Binks Road, Somerset Park Road or Strathfieldsaye Bushland Reserve) to Somerset Park Road or Caleana Road
- Making use of the connections to the O'Keefe Rail Trail that already exist at Callistemon Close, Jacaranda Court and Cootamundra Place.
- Making use of the Connection to Homebush Estate from the O'Keefe Rail Trail via Cassowary Way.

Install an underpass of O'Keefe Rail Trail at Mclvor Highway Junortoun (Relevant to item 2.4 of the plan)

The need to cross Mclvor Highway at grade is a major safety barrier which prevents expanded use of the O'Keefe Rail Trail for leisure, recreation, school access and as a commuter route.

- An underpass should be installed at Mclvor Highway Junortoun to allow cyclists, walkers, joggers and other trail users to pass under the highway safely.
- The Junortoun Community Action Group strongly urges the City of Greater Bendigo to support this action when discussions are held with Regional Roads Victoria about the future development of Mclvor Highway.

Integrate developments at Catherine McAuley College into the Plan (Relevant to item 3.5 of the plan)

Catherine McAuley College has proposed extensive developments at its Junortoun campus. The investment at this site has been variously estimated at \$30-40million. It involves significant upgrades to the sports fields and facilities at the site, potentially involving Cricket Australia and making use of the sports fields available to the public. Initial building works have already commenced.

Given that Junortoun has no existing public sports facilities, except the trotting and greyhound tracks, it is disappointing that the current development at Catherine McAuley College is not recognised in the Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan.

Complete missing links in the Strathfieldsaye-Junortoun bicycle network (Relevant to item 2.4 of the plan)

There are several gaps in the network of off-road and shared cycling paths that should be addressed. These missing links will help to develop Junortoun "secondary public space corridor network".

- A link between Homebush Estate and Strathfieldsaye (mentioned above)
- A 220 metre section of shared path along Trotting Terrace to connect Mclvor Forest Drive and La Valla Court.
- A shared walking and cycling path along Mclvor Highway (southern side) between Wildflower Drive and the O'Keefe Rail Trail. This trail substantially exists, but requires upgrade and signage. It would connect and serve the Bendigo Bushland Trail, Bendigo Domain Village, Lord's Raceway, Catherine McAuley College, Junortoun Post Office and General Store and the O'Keefe Rail Trail.
- The Bendigo Bushland Trail (discussed further below).

Reinstate the Bendigo Bushland Trail (Relevant to item 2.4 of the plan)

It is noted that this initiative is discussed at item 2.4 of the plan, however it is missing from the Strathfieldsaye and Junortoun Precinct Plan and should be shown on the precinct map.

- An upgrade of the trail between Mclvor Highway and Strathfieldsaye Road (along the irrigation channel) should be a priority. This would assist many users of the National Park, but importantly would allow young people of Junortoun to ride their bicycles to and from Victory Christian College.
- The upgrade of the trail should including adequate signage for wayfinding and public safety purposes.
- Installation of drinking fountains along the Bendigo Bushland Trail is strongly recommended.
- The safety of the Bendigo Bushland Trail crossing at Mclvor Highway should be considered in order to provide a safe experience for users of all ages and abilities, and to maximise the use of the Trail.

Install signage along existing trails for wayfinding and for public safety.

Use of public space could be substantially increased by investment in public signage. Effective signage provides confidence for users, assists in public safety, encourages people to explore new trails and destinations, and promotes use of trails for commuting and leisure.

Show existing shared cycling and walking paths on the Strathfieldsaye and Junortoun precinct map

(Relevant to item 2.4 of the plan)

- The existing path through Greater Bendigo National Park between Trotting Terrace Junortoun and Cousins Street Strathdale should be shown on the precinct map as part of the Primary Public Space corridor network.
- Wildflower Drive, which passes through Greater Bendigo National Park, should be shown on the precinct map as part of the Primary Public Space corridor network.
- The newly constructed cycling and walking path from Mclvor Forest Estate Junortoun, via Watson Drive, to Junortoun Road should be shown on the precinct map as part of the Secondary Public Space corridor network.
- The connection between Ridge Road and Lorikeet Drive in Junortoun shown on the precinct map as part of the Secondary Public Space corridor network.
- Connections from the O’Keefe Rail Trail to adjacent streets should be shown on the precinct map as part of the Secondary Public Space corridor network. In particular: Cassowary Way, Callistemon Close, Jacaranda Court Cootamundra Place, Kalinda Drive.

Where possible these connections should also be shown on other maps in the Plan, for example figure 7.⁴

Create a people-friendly public space adjacent to the Junortoun Post Office and General Store

(Relevant to item 2.3 of the plan)

The Junortoun Post Office and General Store is located on Mclvor Highway, adjacent to St Vincents Road. This location is an extremely hostile environment for pedestrians. There is no safe crossing point of Mclvor Highway, and no sealed footpaths along Mclvor Highway leading to/from the store.

Actions should be taken to make this location more pedestrian-friendly. An opportunity is presented by the current study (January-February 2019) by Regional Roads Victoria into development needs of Mclvor Highway.

⁴ Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan – Parts 1-3 (July 2018) – Page 45.