

**Map 1:** Boroondara's biodiversity corridors, biogeographical zones and biologically significant sites



## The Yarra River Corridor

The Yarra River and Yarra Bend Park are of national biological significance. There are a further nine sites along the river that are biologically significant for Victoria.

### River fauna

The Yarra River and its remaining billabongs support a rich diversity of fish including the nationally vulnerable Australian Grayling and the nationally endangered Macquarie Perch. Nine native fish species including the Australian Grayling migrate between the Yarra River and the sea as a necessary part of their lifecycle.

Platypus are occasionally sighted in the lower reaches of the river. More common and sometimes mistaken for Platypus is Rakali – a golden bellied native water rat. This small mammal has a long white-tipped tail and looks something like an otter with its webbed feet and waterproof coat.

Microbats use the river corridor by night to catch insects on the wing. They nest during the day in tree hollows. Thousands of Grey-headed Flying Foxes live in trees at Bellbird Picnic Area in Kew. At dusk they noisily leave their camp and use the reflected moonlight to follow the river before setting off across the suburbs in search of fruit and flowers. The Grey-headed Flying Fox is listed nationally as vulnerable to extinction. The Flying Fox is an important seed disperser and pollinator of both native and exotic trees.

The river and its riparian habitat provide nesting sites and food for various ducks and other waterbirds. Azure Kingfishers and Nankeen Night Herons are relatively common along the river and feed on small fish, insects and crustaceans. Small terrestrial birds nest in foliage and locally endangered Spotted

Pardalotes nest in riverbank burrows. Several species of raptors have been recorded here too and their ongoing presence suggests a stable abundance of food.

Bluetongue Lizards, Gippsland Water Dragons and various snakes and skinks live amongst the reeds and vegetation along the river and are regularly spotted in gardens close by.

### Vegetation

There is an almost unbroken corridor of vegetation extending along the Yarra River from Yarra Bend Park to Freeway Golf Course and beyond. This vegetation includes many rare and endangered plant species and eight of 12 threatened habitat types or Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) found in Boroondara.

## Key sites of significance along the Yarra River Corridor

**Yarra Bend Park** is Boroondara's premier site for nature conservation (Lorimer 2006). Its large area (143 hectares) is managed by Parks Victoria and supports a rich array of vegetation types. It is home to threatened habitats, seventy species of plants considered rare or threatened in Melbourne (and Victoria) including a critically endangered species of eucalypt *Eucalyptus studleyensis*. In addition to all the native animals that live in and around the river, the woodlands and grasslands on surrounding slopes provide habitat for insects and birds such as honeyeaters and hollow-dependent parrots. Grassy woodlands are an overlooked ecosystem in the state and country and even smaller remnants (such as those in Boroondara) make an important contribution to larger biodiversity goals beyond the City.

### Key to significant sites

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| 1 Winfield Road Reserve, Balwyn North            | 19 Gardiners Creek Corridor                                  | 39 Kew Residential Services Redevelopment        |
| 2 Koonung Creek Reserve, Balwyn North            | 20 Burke Road South Reserve, Glen Iris                       | 40 Willsmere Estate, Kew                         |
| 3 Koonung Creek East of Bulleen Rd, Balwyn North | 21 Nettleton Park Reserve, Glen Iris                         | 41 River Red Gum at 83 Walpole St, Kew           |
| 4 Freeway Golf Course, Balwyn North & Bulleen    | 22 Eric Raven Reserve, Glen Iris                             | 42 River Red Gum at 10-12 Gellibrand St, Kew     |
| 5 Yarra Flats, Balwyn North                      | 23 Dorothy Laver Reserve, Glen Iris                          | 43 Xavier College, Kew                           |
| 6 Burke Road Billabong, Kew East                 | 24 Ryburne Avenue Reserve & Neighbouring Tree                | 44 Kellett Reserve, Kew                          |
| 7 Kew Golf Club                                  | 25 Clifford Close Reserve, Ashburton                         | 45 Hilda Crescent, Hawthorn                      |
| 8 Greenacres Golf Course, Kew East               | 26 Markham Reserve, Ashburton                                | 46 Grace Park's Yellow Gums, Hawthorn            |
| 9 Willsmere Park, Kew East                       | 27 South Surrey Park, Surrey Hills                           | 47 Lennox St Rail Reserve, Hawthorn              |
| 10 Chandler Park, Kew                            | 28 Back Creek – Riversdale Rd to Cornell St                  | 48 St James Park, Hawthorn                       |
| 11 Yarra Bend Park, Kew                          | 29 Back Creek – Toorak Rd to Denman Av, Camberwell           | 49 John Gardiner Reserve, Hawthorn East          |
| 12 River Retreat Reserve, Kew                    | 30 Rail Reserve – Burwood Station to Alamein Station         | 50 Cato Park, Hawthorn East                      |
| 13 Victoria Bridge Escarpment, Kew & Hawthorn    | 31 Outer Circle Railway Corridor                             | 51 Canterbury Gardens' River Red Gum, Canterbury |
| 14 Pridmore Park Riverbank, Hawthorn             | 32 Outer Circle Linear Park at Asquith Street, Kew           | 52 John August Reserve, Balwyn                   |
| 15 Yarra Bank Reserve, Hawthorn                  | 33 Stradbroke Park, Kew East                                 | 53 Beckett Park, Balwyn                          |
| 16 Riverbank, Fairview Park Area, Hawthorn       | 34 Kew High School Woodland                                  | 54 Maranoa Gardens, Balwyn                       |
| 17 Scotch College, Hawthorn                      | 35 Hays Paddock, Kew East                                    | 55 Belmont Park, Canterbury                      |
| 18 Yarra River, Hawthorn and Kew                 | 36 Kilby Park Stud, Kew East                                 | 56 Deepdene Park's River Red Gums, Balwyn        |
|  | 37 Victoria Park, Kew [72 River Red Gums some centuries old] | 57 Bundy Tree on Belmore Rd, Balwyn North        |
|  | 38 Boroondara General Cemetery, Kew                          | 58 Leigh Park, Balwyn North (no sig rating)      |