

WEST SIDE of Darebin Creek:

Section J

- Very weedy; this section will not have much scope for any understorey plants.
- Exception: the zone where there's a couple of boulders /rocky outcrops; might be suited some of the Saltbushes and Pigfaces, surrounded by dry-site shrubs, e.g., Correa → Sheoak.
- **Herbicidal preparation around rocky outcrop & seat required.**
- Seat (behind 34 Medora Avenue); might not want to get too many of the tall middle-storey shrubs in front of it. Just a row of Manna Gums, with their neat tree-trunks, and lower plants, keeping the views open.
- Whilst outside the scope of riparian zone revegetation, I recommend a few Drooping Sheoak and a Red Box be planted behind (NW of) this seat, for summer shade/cooling.
- Section J overall is very soggy; it will not be suited for any of the dryland species, apart from the rocky outcrops & the mound near the seat.
- Eucalypts: just Manna Gums, and a few River Red Gums, given there is no River Red Gum regeneration in this area.
- Section J comes up north to the dead Backwoods.

Section I

- Section I is a section for more than augmentation; it's spraying out & creating a new wide revegetation zone. It currently has some young Blackwoods; supplementing the Blackwoods with additional tree/shrub plantings. (There's also a Lightwood at the North End of Section I).
- Section I has a very wide mowing area. We would want to reduce that mowing area through tree planting. I cannot see any scope for anything much more than trees. Whilst it is a damp soggy zone, we might give it a bit of a Lightwood and She-oak planting edge, on the upper-slope planting boundary (in line with sewer pit).
- The sewer pit is just north of Section I, just outside the large clump of trees and shrubs (that are visible in the aerial photomap).
- it might be good to get a few more trees in that line, to suck it dry; meeting up with the start of the Lomandra patch from prior plantings. No need for River Red Gums here. There are a few Lightwood & Bursaria here already, doing well, and some Backwoods in that clump.
- **Additional herbicidal spraying-out** is needed, from the Lomandra patch out to the sewer pit/line.
- It is very soggy and will always be prone to tractor-bogging. It's so wet that our planting line might be too wet in places for Drooping Sheoak, but Black Sheoak with Lightwoods could form the upper planting boundary (near the sewer line).

Section G

- A little open area between two existing densely planted clumps of trees.
- No need for River Red Gums here; Red Gums will self-regenerate here.
- Let us get some of the "big drinkers" in here, and let's focus on some on some of the riparian-edge plantings.
- The site is on the damp side, for dry-site species. Just a few She-oaks, with a hard line of Lightwoods on the upslope edge.

Section D

City of Whittlesea Darebin Creek Reach 4 Greenhills Rd footbridge - McLeans Rd 2023 Indigenous Plantings
as proposed by George Paras of TANGIBLE ECOLOGY

- The south end of Section D has one of the seats (visible in the photomap). We would not want to screen out the vista in front of the seat too much, with dense middle-storey plantings.
- There is an old, senesced Willow at the south end in front of the seat. Section D extends north to the other Willow.
- We can go dense with plantings at the north end, right up to the path boundary.
- Wet zone species here, grading up to dry-slope species closer to the path, including She-oaks, Lightwoods, a couple of Yellow Box, etc.
- Directly in front of the seat, we will just stick to Manna Gums, and not too much thick middle-storey, to not obscure the panoramic views to the Creek.

Section C

- An interesting very narrow strip between the path & the Creek, with the Willow at the north end
- We can extend the planting area to right along the edge of the path here.
- She-oaks & Lightwoods right along the upper boundary.
- A steep drop-off to the narrow riparian zone, so the number of plants that can be included in this zone will not be too many.
- Good successful Blackberry control here; **needs to be flattened/brush-cut** for revegetation access.
- Given the steepness of the riparian edge, plants along the Creek edge might need to be put in by professional staff, for safety.
- Section C extends north to the three large Willows.
- Room for some Manna Gums & some of the riparian species of shrubs & trees
- Up near the edge of the path, we can go heavy on the She-oaks, and a couple of Red Box & Yellow Box, maybe a Stringybark or two, or Ironbarks.
- Some of the best spots for a few of the dry-site plants are on the west-side upslope from the path; not one of the areas shaded in the plans. These could be included in this stage.

Section A

- North of the Willows to the footbridge.
- Go hard with the Manna Gums, right along the river's edge right up to the Willow.
- Suggesting quite dense plantings here, to create a dense multi-layered bird/wildlife habitat haven, allowing visible experience of the canopy from the footbridge.
- The steep rise past both path to Greenhill Rd West allows us to get real plant/tree diversity here. The steep areas near the tracks are ideal for some of the dryland Eucalypts, a couple of Yellow Box & Red Box, etc. ... see if we can maybe plant a couple of Melbourne Yellow Gums up near the footbridge & triangle between the two bicycle paths, and even up near the houses & Cactus and other weeds, maybe we interplant with a few Melbourne Yellow Gums & local Ironbark, away from riparian zone.
- Plenty of spots suited to diverse understorey plantings near path/street/footbridge junctions. An opportunity to make this a "showcase" site.

EAST SIDE of Darebin Creek:

Section B

- A "blank palette"; let's just fill it with Manna Gums.

City of Whittlesea Darebin Creek Reach 4 Greenhills Rd footbridge - McLeans Rd 2023 Indigenous Plantings
as proposed by George Paras of TANGIBLE ECOLOGY

- Interestingly, length void of River Red Gums, from which to get natural regeneration & recruitment, so plant a few RRGs to assist.
- Note: banks have collapsed in the recent flood, so riparian plants are going to be essential for future bank stability. Particularly some Swamp Paperbark, River Bottlebrush, Silver Wattle, and such...
- In steep & undercut zones, plants will need to be put in by professional staff, from a safety POV.

Section E

- Has a good compliment of Blackwood, River Bottlebrush, and plenty of River Red Gums
- Section E is missing, or can do with more, Silver Wattles, Prickly Moses, River Bottlebrush, Swamp Paperbark, Manna Gums, to supplement what the River Red Gum stock is already providing.
- More Tree Violet needed here, and all other Sections.

Section H

- Already has some good cover of Woolly Tea-tree and River Bottlebrush, in parts, but then there's large areas that are bare.
- Section H includes the constructed stormwater drain inlet infrastructure & pits, which need to be kept accessible. Thorough weed control around it, and plant around it with *Carex tereticaulis* & *Juncus spp.*
- Section H has few trees/Eucalypts, apart from a few River Red Gums at one end. It is a case for Manna Gum planting. No need for River Red Gum planting, because there is a whole grove of Red Gums across on the west side of the Creek, and I expect there will be ample recruitment of RRGs without having to put any more in.

Section K

- Basically, a bare palate.
- Quite a woody weed issue; Desert Ash and quite a few Acers, requiring removal.
- Some of this Section has some good shallow gradients to the creek-bank, instead of a steep drop-off, so a lot more sophisticated riparian restoration could be undertaken here over the longer term, coupled with some stabilising vegetation, like Swamp Paperbark as the pioneer binder.

Note: the west side is seriously “oozing” water. Caused by housing, hard surfaces, and trenched infrastructure.