# Living corridors in Richmond

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| Residential developments in Tasman have historically been based around low density dwellings in a grid or cul-de-sac road layout. These developments are car centric and only meet the bare minimum for the communal or recreational spaces, usually in rectangular blocks. The development of an area west of Richmond presented Tasman District Council (TDC) with an opportunity to do something different, based around green corridors that not only provide stormwater, but connect communities, provide place to relax and play as well, encourage biodiversity and enhance the waterways. TDC reinforced the communal nature of these corridors by requiring fences bordering the corridors are visually unobtrusive and encouraged medium density dwellings on the boundaries.  Where the corridors intersect with major roads, Council are creating transport nodes with bus stops, shelters, and covered bike racks. Council are working towards connecting the corridor network into Central Richmond to make cycling or walking the most convenient way to travel.  The corridors have had strong community support, with a high degree of public ownership of the spaces. Residents and visitors alike are utilising the network of pathways well before they are completed with multiple requests to access the corridors for their residents’ use. Establishment of the paths have triggered accompanying infrastructure such as a bike shop, a bowling club and a primary school.  Given the positives from this type of development, Council will utilise the same concepts in new development areas throughout the district. |