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# **Darebin Open Space Strategy**

## **2007 – 2017**

**July 2008**

# Executive Summary

The City of Darebin plays an important role in planning and managing a diverse open space system. A range of parklands, linear parks, sporting reserves, historic parks, conservation areas, urban spaces and streetscapes are highly valued by the community. These spaces can be used for active organised sport, casual and unstructured recreation activities or preserved for their environmental qualities. This open space system offers a range of settings and opportunities to meet community needs.

The 2007 Darebin Open Space Strategy is a review of the previous strategy (adopted in 2000) and the following are some of the key emerging issues that have been considered:

- Implications of the State Government planning framework: Melbourne 2030 and provision of open space in areas of increasing residential density. In particular the identified Activity Centres of Preston, Northcote and Reservoir anticipate an increase in residents in established areas where backyard sizes are decreasing as a result of subdivision and demands for open space within these communities is increasing.
- Climate change and the potential impacts of reduced rainfall in conjunction with higher temperatures.
- Development of criteria to assess open space provision and consider future acquisition and disposal of open space.

The City of Darebin is primarily a well established municipality stretching from Melbourne's inner suburbs of Fairfield and Northcote out to Bundoora and Reservoir. Within these mostly established areas are pockets of new developments ranging from residential infill to new subdivisions in outer areas. As a result, Council has the challenge of providing sufficient open space within established suburbs where additional land for parks is not easy to find as well as new open space in emerging communities.

Darebin has a steadily increasing population of currently 128,067 (2006 census) and a growth rate of 3.4% since 2001. Characterised by diverse cultural backgrounds, an ageing community and high proportion of people with a disability, the challenge for the City of Darebin is to offer an accessible and flexible open space system to people of diverse ages and abilities. While it is not realistic to provide access to all spaces for all people, Council endeavours to maximise access across the open space system.

The open space system consists of John Cain Memorial Park and the Darebin International Sports Centre as a State Park, Bundoora Park as a regional park providing for all Darebin residents, six district parks that each provide for communities within at least a two kilometre radius, four creek corridors that provide linkages and a range of conservation values and over 150 neighbourhood parks that offer local parkland, sporting, play and casual recreation opportunities throughout the municipality. 47.5% of the open space is conservation reserve ranging from wetlands to protected bushland, grasslands, creek corridors and a historic sugar gum avenue of honour.

Significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of the 2000 Open Space Strategy and highlights have been listed in a recently published document (Darebin Open Space Achievements – Ten Years 1997-2007).

The Vision for the next ten years for open space in the City of Darebin is:

**A well connected network of accessible open spaces that meets the diverse needs of the community and provides a range of social and environmental benefits.**

The Vision is to be achieved through the following key principles:

- The enhancement of the open space network will achieve a range of social, environmental and community aspirations.
- Distribution of parks will ensure that residents have access within their local neighbourhood.
- Across the open space system, accessibility for a range of abilities and disabilities will be achieved
- A diverse range of open spaces throughout the City of Darebin will offer outdoor recreation opportunities for all sectors of the community.
- The community values open space that is appropriately maintained in accordance with its category and its associated uses.
- It is important that open space meets the changing needs of communities as population grows and trends change.
- Linkages and linear parks enhance the open space network and provide valuable connections.
- Management and maintenance practices for open space will respond to the issues arising from climate change and the need for alternate water sources.
- High level of public awareness and involvement will maximise use and engagement by the community in the open space network.
- Restoration and rehabilitation of the creek corridors will ensure that environmental values are preserved for future generations.
- Council is committed to high standards of master planning, landscape outcomes, conservation of natural and cultural heritage and presentation of open space.
- Affordable and achievable maintenance will ensure that the provision of open space is sustainable into the future.

The City of Darebin is divided into eight precincts based on Council's planning framework. These precincts have been used for analysis of open space provision and the discussion of opportunities to improve the open space in each of the communities within Darebin. The criteria used to assess open space are: quantity of open space, distribution throughout the municipality and precinct, size and quality of open space. From the initial analysis, opportunities for acquisition and disposal as well as improvements are identified.

A summary of the open space analysis within Darebin is shown below

Precinct	Quantity	Distribution	Size	Quality	Community Needs
City of Darebin	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Reservoir West	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
Reservoir East	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
Kingsbury / Bundoora	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
Preston West	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Preston East	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
Thornbury	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Northcote	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓
Fairfield / Alphington	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓

✓✓✓=meets or exceeds criteria

✓✓=generally meets criteria and could be improved

✓=improvements required to meet criteria

The strategic directions for open space for the next ten years are summarised as follows:

#### **Partnerships in the Provision of Open Space:**

- Future partnership opportunities with VicTrack will be sought where rail corridor land is identified as valuable open space and mutual benefits can be identified.
- Council will seek further partnership opportunities with schools in the city where open space deficiencies have been clearly shown and where school land is identified as valuable to meet community needs.
- Discussions will continue with Melbourne Water with regard to joint management arrangements for waterways and pipetracks in the municipality.
- Council will continue to support community based partnerships, friends groups and committees where volunteers are engaged in the enhancement and preservation of open space throughout Darebin.
- It is important to ensure that all agreements for partnership initiatives are prepared with full consideration of the financial and social implications and long term responsibilities.

#### **Open Space Contributions and Planning Provisions**

- Council will continue to use the provisions of its planning scheme to acquire open space and/or cash-in-lieu as contributions to improving the open space system to meet the changing needs of a growing population.
- The Open Space Strategy will assist Council in its review of the strategic and statutory planning provisions to define future requirements for open space contributions and provision.
- As relevant issues arise Council's planning department will rectify the planning zones for land that should be zoned for open space use and also land that is zoned for open space but not used for that purpose.

#### **Acquisition and Disposal of Open Space**

- Council will pursue opportunities to enhance the open space system with particular attention to:
  - Acquisition of additional open space in areas identified as deficient
  - Improvement of linkages and connections where possible
- Council supports a position of no net loss of open space, preferring not to construct buildings on open space wherever possible
- Council adopts a clear assessment process for any proposal to dispose of open space and the proceeds of any sale of open space land will be considered for improvements to the existing open space system and acquisition of new open space where required.

#### **Quality of Open Space**

- Council will continue to improve the open space system in accordance with the agreed development standards for the various types of open space.
- Master plans and site development plans will continue to be prepared with recognition of values, in accordance with standards for open space definitions and in consultation with key stakeholders.

## **Community Engagement in Open Space**

- Council will ensure effective engagement of the community in the planning for open space and implementation of master plans, development priorities and works program
- It is important to engage the community in the celebration of open space projects, community partnerships and events that recognise cultural and heritage significance

## **Play Spaces**

- Council will continue to implement the priorities of the 1999 Playground Review
- The following guidelines are applied to the planning, improvements and upgrades of play spaces:
  - Development standards for play for the relevant open space category guide the design of play spaces and level of development. Eg. A neighbourhood parkland play space will be developed differently to a district parkland play space
  - All Abilities Play Spaces will be provided at a district level
  - Play spaces with accessible paths of travel will be provided at a neighbourhood level
  - Wherever possible, play spaces will be integrated into the park setting with minimum barriers (landscaping and partial fencing may be used to improve safety if required)
  - Natural shade will be provided in all parks and in particular in the vicinity of play spaces.
  - A diversity of play experiences will be provided within play spaces for people of a range of ages, abilities and interests
- Council will review the Playground Review and develop a new Play Strategy in 2009

## **Use and Utilisation of Open Space**

- Council will encourage diversity of use of all types of open space
- Conflicts regarding the use of open space will be managed as they emerge so as to maximise access and benefits for all in the community
- Council will promote increased accessibility to open space by removing barriers wherever possible.

## **Conservation and Environment**

- It is important to recognise the importance and function of the natural environment
- Promotion and development of green corridors throughout the City of Darebin will be important in preserving these areas
- Council will work with the community to increase vegetation and support enhancement of indigenous vegetation in public and private land
- Environmental Significance Overlays will continue to be incorporated into the Planning Scheme to protect significant remnant and restored vegetation sites
- Council will continue to promote responsible environmental practices, protection of fauna and ecological sustainability in all aspects of open space management
- Council supports the continued and expanded removal of environmental weeds and an emphasis to avoid the use of environmental weeds / garden escapees.

## **Climate Change and Sustainability**

- Management techniques in open space such as careful plant selection and mulching will continue so that Darebin's open space system reflects changed climatic conditions
- Council will continue to identify opportunities for environmental education and leadership through use of interpretive material and signage in open space
- The impacts of lighting in open space will be minimised through appropriate lighting levels (best practice lumination) and less use of ornamental lighting, preferencing grid connected solar lighting where possible
- Council will give priority to environmentally preferred, recycled and low embodied energy materials in all open space development works
- Shared use trails and connectivity throughout Darebin will be prioritised to assist with reduced greenhouse emissions
- Council will continue to plan and design for minimal water usage and will continue to investigate design methods to implement water sensitive urban design principles
- Council will encourage development of wetlands as an appropriate treatment for stormwater management

## **Waterways and Linkages**

- Council will continue to support the Merri Creek Management Committee and the Darebin Creek Management Committee
- Council will continue to interact with Melbourne Water, the Environment Protection Authority and other state government agencies to promote the protection of creek corridors
- Council will support continued planning and implementation of creek master plans for the Darebin, Merri, Edgars and Central Creeks
- Continued improvements to linkages for cycling and walking and connections to the broader open space network and community destinations – this will involve a focus of off-road shared pathways along creek corridors
- Increasing creek frontages and widths of the corridor in response to strategic directions and priorities as opportunities arise
- Council will seek financial contributions from State government and other funding agencies in recognition of the significant role waterways play in the metropolitan open space network

## **Maintenance of Open Space**

- Council will manage community expectations and participation in open space maintenance
- An Asset Management Plan will be prepared for Darebin's open space system
- Council will establish and maintain an effective database for maintenance requirements, asset renewal and monitoring / auditing
- Appropriate work programs will be implemented as identified through data base preparation
- Council will review agreed standards of maintenance that preserve the quality and presentation of the Open Space System

A works program, detailing more specific initiatives and priorities, is included in the Open Space Strategy to guide Council in its capital works program for the next ten years.

In summary, the Darebin open space system generally has good quantity and quality, represented by diverse character and is well distributed throughout the municipality. It is however acknowledged that further improvements need to be made and Council in partnership with key agencies and the community will continue to work on enhancements of the whole open space system.

Key recommendations emerging from the Open Space Strategy and Works Program include:

- Development and implementation of Master Plans, Site Development Plans and Management Plans for key open space sites
- Acquisition of private land in strategic locations to improve access to and provision of open space
- Establishment of improved open space opportunities in partnership with relevant state government agencies
- Upgrade of play spaces throughout the City of Darebin
- Seeking partnership opportunities to improve the open space system
- Disposal of identified land that is surplus to the needs of a quality open space system
- Upgrades to traffic treatments that improve safe crossings and access to open space within neighbourhoods

# Darebin Open Space Strategy

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The Open Space Strategy 2007 has been prepared as two documents. This first document – The Open Space Strategy contains the key analysis and directions for open space provision. The second document is the Background Paper containing research, information, consultation results and discussion which forms the basis for the outcomes in the Strategy.

## Background Paper

1. Introduction and Methodology
2. Achievements - 2000 Open Space Strategy (published document)
3. Literature and Research Review
4. Open Space Provision
5. Precinct Profile
6. Consultation Outcomes
7. Discussion Papers

**Prepared by City Of Darebin, Sykes Humphreys Consulting & EDAW**

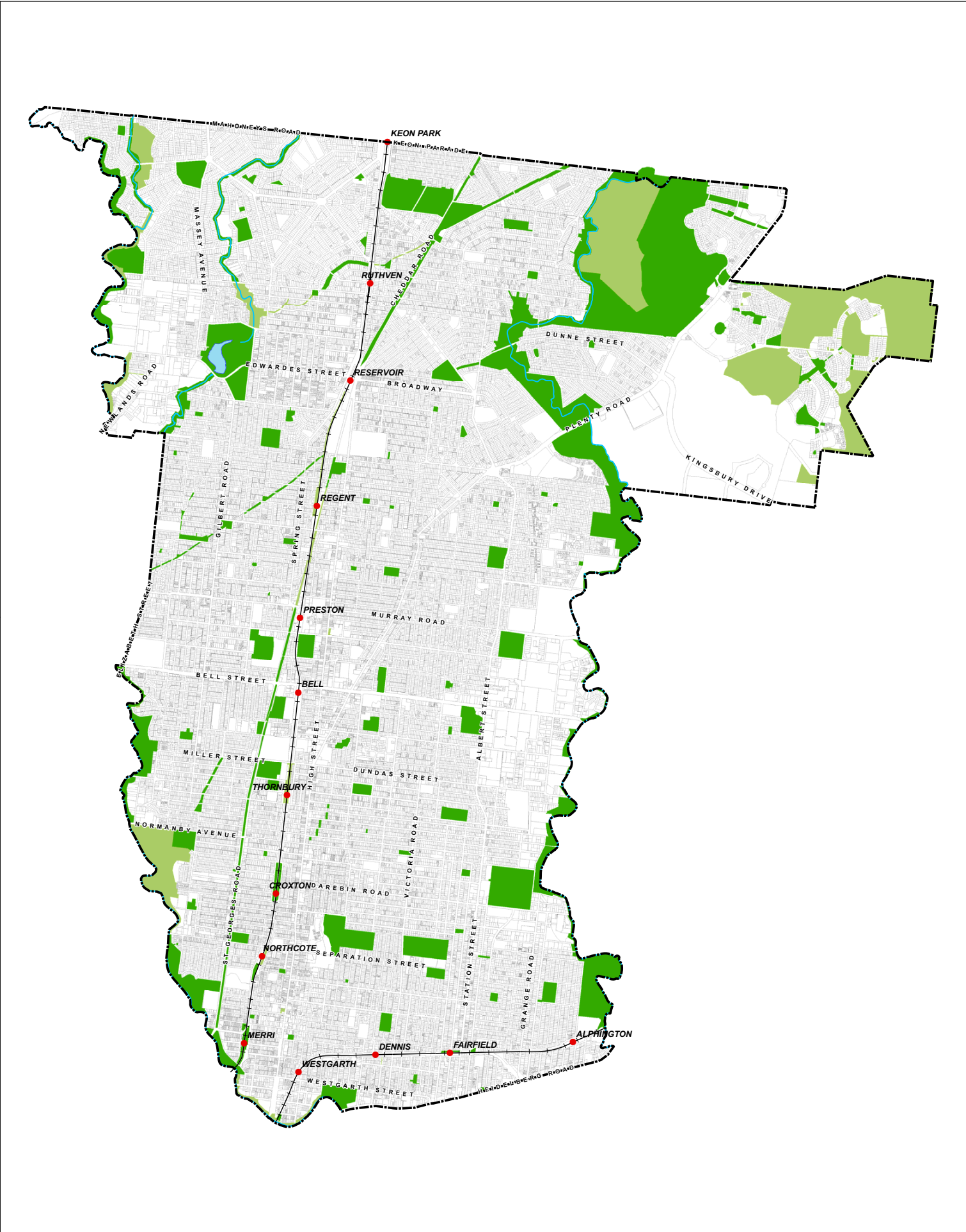
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**[The Darebin Open Space Strategy was adopted by Council in xxxxxxxxxx.]**



# Darebin Open Space System

# Darebin Open Space Strategy

- Recreation Open Space
- Other Open Space
- Darebin Boundary

Open Space owned & managed by City of Darebin and other Land Managers  
 \*Recreation Open Space is land suitable for various recreation activities and does not include Conservation Bushland or unsuitable non-council owned land

# Volume 1

## Introduction

Open space is a valuable asset in any community and the City of Darebin is fortunate to have an impressive network of community, formal and sporting parkland along with creek corridors and bushland sites. The community places a high value on open space and a broad range of spaces are important in meeting diverse community needs.

This Open Space Strategy is a review and update of the 2000 Darebin Open Space Strategy. This review has occurred for the following reasons:

- to examine the impact of changing populations on the communities of the City of Darebin and the associated impacts on open space;
- to analyse the effects of Melbourne 2030 and the implications on residential communities with regard to open space;
- to incorporate the open space issues that might emerge from the development of Retail Activity Centres;
- to test the relevance of the current open space principles and definitions;
- to incorporate the playground strategy within the Open Space Strategy;
- to analyse and re-define development and maintenance standards against community and council expectations; and
- to engage the community in the decision making that will determine open space provision and priorities for the next ten years.

Open space is defined as the range of public spaces that provide landscape and/or urban design features and are for rest, relaxation and recreation and/or for the preservation of environment. Open space also provides visual amenity and includes the natural landscape / bushland areas and vegetation corridors.

Streetscapes are a significant feature in the open space network and make up a large percentage of open space in the form of retail activity centres, residential streets, amenity spaces and railway buffer zones. Although categorised and acknowledged in the Open Space Strategy, these spaces are specifically included in other strategies including the Green Streets and the Retail Activity Centres Strategies and are not addressed in this document.

## *Preparation of the Strategy*

In addition to research and review of existing strategies and plans, an extensive consultation process has been undertaken to prepare this draft strategy. Community consultation has included:

- Six Listening Posts throughout the municipality, involving consultation with over 300 people
- Feedback Sheets completed by 169 people throughout the Listening Post sessions
- 34 submissions received in response to the distribution of an Issues Paper
- 199 survey responses asking about Parks and Open Spaces in Darebin as part of the 2007 Annual Community Survey – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (June 2007)
- Several meetings with Council staff regarding specific open space issues
- Eight interviews with key agencies and community stakeholders
- Extensive consultation with Council staff including seven presentations
- 310 community surveys seeking responses to Strategy principles
- 17 submissions received in response to first draft

- 4 submissions received in response to the second draft
- Mailing list with 185 interested people
- Dedicated web page

## State Planning Context

### Melbourne 2030

Produced by the Department of Sustainability and Environment in 2002, Melbourne 2030 outlines growth and development planning for Melbourne over the next 30 years. A number of key directions in this document have implications for the City of Darebin in its current and future provision of open space:

- A more compact city – resulting in an increase in population density in key urban areas including Preston Central and Northcote. This is likely to have an impact on demands for additional open space
- A great place to be – more open space should be provided where it is lacking and parks should be distributed more equitably

### Linking People and Spaces:

Parks Victoria completed Linking People and Spaces in 2002 as a strategic direction for Victoria's regional network of open space – it does however endorse the importance of open space and the need for linkages to connect communities, parks and other destinations.

### VicHealth Strategic Directions:

VicHealth has a major program of facilitating physical activity which is enhanced by the provision of an extensive open space network.

## Local Planning Context

The following key local plans and strategies are relevant for the development and implementation of the Open Space Strategy.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ▪ Council Plan  | ▪ Municipal Strategic Statement                          |
| ▪ Darebin Open Space Strategy (2000)                                      | ▪ “DAREBIN <i>health</i> ” Darebin Municipal Health Plan |
| ▪ Environmental Management Strategy                                       | ▪ Young People in Open Space Research Project            |
| ▪ Darebin Weed Management Strategy Draft (2007)                           | ▪ Darebin Playground Strategy (1998)                     |
| ▪ Darebin Streetscape Strategy “Green Streets”                            | ▪ Park Master Plans and Management Plans                 |
| ▪ Sport in the North  | ▪ Draft Park Asset Management Plan                       |
| ▪ Public Art Strategy   | ▪ Creek Management Strategies                            |
| ▪ Retail Activity Centres Strategy 2003 (planning)                        | ▪ Open Space and Cultural Diversity (2002)               |
| ▪ Retail Activity Centres Strategic Framework (design and implementation) | ▪ Disability Access and Inclusion Plan: 2006-2009        |
| ▪ Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2009                                    | ▪ Lighting Strategy                                      |
| ▪ Darebin Sustainable Water Strategy 2007                                 | ▪ Darebin Public Toilet Policy                           |



## Demographic Profile

The resident population of Darebin is 128,067; this represents a growth rate of 3.4% since the previous census in 2001. According to Department of Sustainability and Environment, Darebin's population is projected to increase to 132,649 by 2016 and 136,142 by 2031.

### Population Age Profile

The following table provides an overview of the changes in the population and age profile of Darebin over the past 10 years and includes a comparison to the Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD) population profile.

Age Group	2006*		2001**		1996**		MSD 2006
	Persons	% Darebin population	Persons	% Darebin population	Persons	% Darebin population	% MSD population
0-4 years	8,103	6.39%	7,509	6.06%	7,763	6.37%	6.25%
5-14 years	12,755	9.94%	12,803	10.34%	12,445	10.22%	12.59%
15-19 years	6,925	5.26%	7,132	5.76%	7,192	5.91%	6.70%
20-24 years	10,299	7.75%	9,632	7.78%	10,636	8.73%	7.41%
25-34 years	22,144	17.30%	23,133	18.68%	23,292	19.12%	14.87%
35-44 years	21,204	16.66%	19,491	15.74%	17,810	14.62%	15.46%
45-54 years	15,475	12.10%	13,857	11.19%	12,494	10.26%	13.52%
55-64 years	11,215	8.71%	10,889	8.79%	11,654	9.57%	10.34%
65-74 years	9,891	7.78%	10,386	8.39%	10,819	8.88%	6.55%
75-84 years	7,650	6.13%	6,847	5.53%	5,988	4.92%	4.68%
85 years +	2,471	1.98%	2,169	1.75%	1,701	1.40%	1.62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,068</b>		<b>123,848</b>		<b>121,794</b>		

\* 2006 Population count is based on place of usual residence

\*\* 1996 and 2001 Population count is based on place of enumeration.

Darebin's population profile has had some notable changes over the past five years, these include:

An increase in the number of:

- 35 – 44 year olds living in the municipality;
- 45 – 54 years olds living in the municipality; and
- 75 – 84 years olds living in the municipality.

Decreases have been experienced in the following cohorts;

- 65 – 74 year olds; and
- 20 – 24 year olds.

The median age of persons in Darebin was 36 years; an increase from 35 years in 2001 and 34 years in 1996.

## Cultural Background and Language

Darebin is home to a culturally diverse population. Almost one third of Darebin's residents were born in a non-English speaking country, and approximately 46% of the population speak a language other than English at home.

Of Darebin's population almost 60% were born in Australia, 6.3% were born in Italy, 4.4% in Greece, 2.4% in China and 2.2% in the United Kingdom.

The city's larger ethnic communities are Italian, Greek, Chinese, Arabic, Macedonian, and Vietnamese.

## Family Characteristics

Family Type	Darebin	MSD
Couple families with children	43.7%	48.4%
Couple families without children	35.7%	34.1%
One parent families	17.6%	15.4%
Other families	3.0%	2.1%

Couples with children are the predominant family type in Darebin, this is consistent with the MSD however Darebin has a lower percentage. Couple families without children are more common in Darebin than in the MSD, likewise one parent families.

## Dwelling Characteristics

The table below provides a summary of dwelling characteristics in Darebin and a comparison to the Melbourne Statistical Division. It covers type of dwelling and type of household.

Characteristics	Darebin	MSD
Total private dwellings	55,269	1,471,155
Separate House	65.3%	71.9%
Semi-detached	13.8%	11.4%
Flat, unit, apartment	20.4%	16.1%
Other dwelling	0.6%	0.6%
Family Household	61.0%	68.1%
Lone person household	27.2%	22.6%
Group household	6.2%	4.2%

Key differences between Darebin and the MSD in dwelling characteristics include:

- Darebin has a lower percentage (65.3%) of separate houses than the MSD (71.9%).
- There are a greater percentage of flats/unit/apartments in Darebin (20.4%) than the MSD (16.1%).
- Darebin has a greater percentage of lone person households (27.2%) compared to the MSD (22.6%) and lower percentage of family households (61.0%) than the MSD (68.1%).

## Disability

The City of Darebin recognises that people with disabilities, their carers and associates comprise a significant and important part of the Darebin community. Therefore, the City of Darebin is advocating for best practice in all aspects of design and development within open space.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has developed a 'Core Activity Need for Assistance' variable that measures the number of persons with a profound or severe disability. These people are defined as needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activities of self-care, mobility and communication because of a disability, long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), or old age.

This table provides a summary of Persons in Need of Assistance.

Category	Darebin	% of Total	MSD	% of Total
Need for assistance	7,145	5.6%	144,129	4.0%
No need for assistance	111,069	86.7%	3,222,592	89.7%
Need not stated	9,854	7.7%	225,869	6.3%
Total	128,068		3,592,590	

A higher proportion (5.6%) of Darebin residents need assistance in one of the three core activities described above. This is higher than the MSD proportion of 4.0%.

It should be noted that the list above does not cover all disabilities, rather disabilities which affect a person's ability in one or more of the three core activities of self-care, mobility and communication.

Darebin City Council, Household Survey 1999 – 2005 indicates that the proportion of residents with a disability has increased since 1999. 15.9% of Darebin residents have a disability according to the results of this survey.

## Demographic implications for Open Space

The demographic profile of the City of Darebin has a number of implications for the provision of open space. These include:

- Open Space needs to be planned and provided for in consideration of the needs of disabled people. Consideration needs to be given to the range of disabilities and associated requirements for access.
- There is a need to provide a diverse range of open space areas across a variety of settings which considers and celebrates the cultural diversity of the city.
- Family recreation areas in open space are important to encourage interaction and participation across a range of age groups.
- There is a need to provide a range of organised sporting facilities (i.e. playing fields, sports courts) and unstructured open space facilities (i.e. skate parks, half courts, bocce facilities) to cater for all residents and cultural groups.
- Open spaces should be accessible to residents across the city, particularly the high proportion of people living in flats, units and apartments.
- The preservation of amenity and environmental values along the creeks and waterways will promote continued use by pedestrian and cyclists.

This demographic profile has been developed using data from:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census of Population and Housing.
- City of Darebin Small Area Population Projections 2006 – 2031 – August 2006
- Department of Sustainability and Environment – Victoria in Future 2004.
- Darebin City Council – Household Survey 1999 – 2005

## The Darebin Open Space System

The City of Darebin stretches from Melbourne's inner north suburbs of Northcote and Fairfield to the middle ring suburbs of Reservoir and Bundoora. It encompasses 53 square kilometres and is among the most diverse municipalities in Victoria.

Darebin is highly urbanised with pockets of remnant natural areas. It is bounded on two sides by the Darebin and Merri Creeks, which provide wildlife corridors and a focus for local parks, cycling and walking tracks.

The City of Darebin consists of two very different types of built communities: the long term established areas and the new developing areas where subdivisions have been recently created. The challenge for open space planning is to maintain and provide open space in both established and developing suburbs.

Open Space has been identified across the City of Darebin in two different ways: by **hierarchy**, describing the access that the community has to different levels of open space and by **category**, which describes the diversity of open space that provide opportunities for various types of uses and activities.

Hierarchy is divided into:

- State
- Regional
- District
- Neighbourhood

Category is defined as:

- Parkland
- Formal Parkland
- Conservation Parkland
- Conservation Bushland
- Linkage
- Sporting
- Landscape Amenity / Streetscape
- Urban Space
- Wetlands

Further details about hierarchy and category are outlined in Chapter 5.

## Open Space Inventory

The following is an overview of the open space in the City of Darebin in order of hierarchy and noting the category that has been identified for each one. This listing is inclusive of all open space owned by Darebin City Council and other agencies such as State Government, VicTrack and Melbourne Water. Note that in some cases a second category was also applicable to a particular site, so the definition of category is shown as primary and secondary in recognition of multiple uses and values of open space. (Open Space is shown in alphabetical order within each hierarchy.)

Hierarchy	Name of Open Space	Precinct	Primary Category	Secondary Category
<b>State</b>	John Cain Memorial Park (DISC)	Thornbury	Sporting	Parkland
<b>Regional</b>	Bundoora Park	Reservoir East Kingsbury / Bundoora	Conservation Parkland	Conservation Bushland / Parkland.
<b>District</b> (proposed)	All Nations Park	Northcote	Parkland	
	C.H. Sullivan Memorial Park	Reservoir East Preston East	Sporting	Parkland
	C.T. Barling Reserve	Reservoir East	Sporting	Parkland
	Darebin Parklands	Fairfield / Alphington	Conservation Parkland	Conservation Bushland
	Edwardes Lake Park	Reservoir West	Parkland	Sporting
	H.P. Zwar Reserve	Preston West	Sporting	Parkland
	Merri Park	Northcote	Conservation Parkland	Sporting
<b>Neighbourhood</b>	A.G. Davis Park	Preston East	Parkland	
	A.H. Capp Reserve	Preston West	Sporting	Parkland
	Adams Reserve	Preston East	Parkland	
	Allan Bird Reserve	Thornbury	Parkland	
	Allan Reserve	Reservoir West	Conservation Parkland	
	Allan Sheppard Reserve	Thornbury	Parkland	
	Andrew Boyd Reserve	Thornbury	Parkland	
	Arch Gibson Reserve	Kingsbury - Bundoora	Sporting	Parkland
	Asling Reserve	Preston West	Parkland	
	B.T. Connor Reserve	Reservoir West	Sporting	
	Baden Morgan Reserve	Northcote	Parkland	
	Barlow Rise Reserve	Kingsbury - Bundoora	Parkland	
	Batman Park	Northcote	Formal Parkland	
	Beenak McMahon Reserve	Reservoir East	Conservation Parkland	
	Bracken Reserve	Thornbury	Linkage	
	Breavington Reserve	Fairfield / Alphington	Parkland	
	Broomfield Reserve	Fairfield / Alphington	Parkland	
	Bundoora Park Oval	Kingsbury - Bundoora	Sporting	
	Bundoora Park Public Golf Course	Kingsbury - Bundoora	Sporting	
	C.W. Kirkwood Reserve	Kingsbury - Bundoora	Sporting	
	Caddeyes Corner	Northcote	Parkland	

Hierarchy	Name of Open Space	Precinct	Primary Category	Secondary Category
	Cascade Park	Kingsbury - Bundoora	Parkland	
	Cascade Walk	Kingsbury - Bundoora	Parkland	
	Central Creek Corridor	Reservoir West	Conservation Parkland	Conservation Bushland
	Clyde Jones Reserve	Thornbury	Parkland	
	Crispe Park	Reservoir West	Sporting	Parkland
	Cheddar Road Reserve	Reservoir East	Linkage	
	Clements Reserve	Reservoir East Kingsbury - Bundoora	Parkland	
	D.R. Atkinson Reserve	Reservoir East	Sporting	Parkland
	Dalglen Street Reserve	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	Darebin Creek Corridor	Reservoir East Preston East Thornbury Fairfield / Alphington Kingsbury - Bundoora	Conservation Parkland	Conservation Bushland
	Derby Reserve	Northcote	Parkland	
	Doug Hannan Reserve	Reservoir West	Parkland	
	Edgars Creek Corridor	Reservoir West	Conservation Parkland	
	F.G. Pike Reserve	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	Fairfield Station Reserve	Fairfield / Alphington	Parkland	Urban Space
	Foch Reserve	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	Frank AA Dunstan Reserve	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	Fyfe Reserve	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	G.E. Robinson Park	Reservoir West	Parkland	Sporting
	G.H. Mott Reserve	Preston East	Sporting	Parkland
	Gellibrand Cres Reserve	Reservoir West	Parkland	
	Gonella Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Parkland	
	Green Memorial Reserve	Northcote	Parkland	
	Greenbelt Reserve	Preston East	Parkland	
	Gresswell – Cherry Reserve Habitat Link	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Conservation Parkland	Linkage
	Gresswell Grange Lakes	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Conservation Parkland	
	Gresswell Grange Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Parkland	
	Gresswell Hill – Link to Cascade Walk	Kingsbury - Bundoora	Conservation Parkland	Conservation Bushland
	Grovesland Reserve	Northcote	Conservation Parkland	
	H.L.T Oulten Reserve	Preston East	Sporting	Parkland
	H.W. Swain Reserve	Preston West	Parkland	
	Harry Reserve	Thornbury	Parkland	Linkage
	Hayes Park	Thornbury	Sporting	Parkland
	Helen St Reserve	Northcote	Parkland	
	Henderson Park	Thornbury	Parkland	
	High St to Elizabeth St Reserve	Reservoir West Preston West	Linkage	
	High St to Lemington Wetlands Reserve	Reservoir West	Linkage	

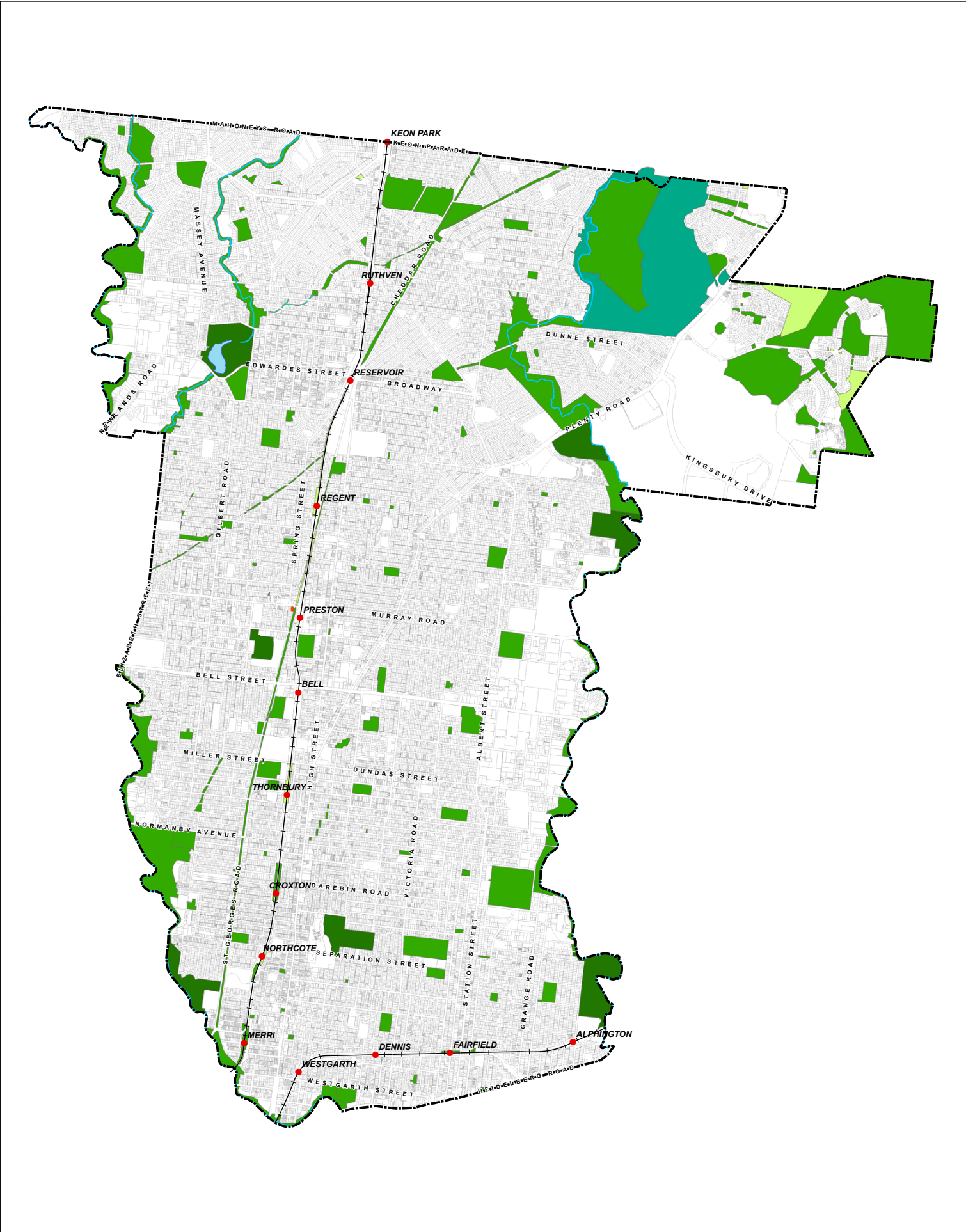
Hierarchy	Name of Open Space	Precinct	Primary Category	Secondary Category
	Hillcroft Reserve	Reservoir West	Parkland	
	Horton Reserve	Reservoir West	Parkland	
	Howard Mendip Reserve	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	I.W. Dole Reserve	Reservoir East	Sporting	
	J.C. Donath Reserve	Reservoir East	Sporting	Parkland
	J.E. Moore Park	Reservoir West	Sporting	Parkland
	J.S. Grey Reserve	Preston West	Parkland	
	John Hall Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora Reservoir East	Sporting	
	Johnson Park	Northcote	Formal Parkland	
	Jones Reserve	Thornbury	Linkage	
	Judith Scott Memorial Park	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Sporting	Conservation Parkland
	K.P. Hardiman Reserve	Reservoir East Kingsbury – Bundoora	Sporting	Conservation Parkland
	L.E. Cotchin Reserve	Reservoir West	Sporting	Parkland
	L.W. Williams Reserve	Preston West	Parkland	
	Lahinch Reserve	Preston East	Parkland	
	Lancaster Gate Oval	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Parkland	
	Lancaster Gate Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Parkland	Streetscape
	Leslie Reserve	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	Link Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Parkland	
	Ludeman Reserve	Reservoir West	Parkland	
	McAdam Reserve	Northcote	Parkland	
	McComas Reserve	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	McDonald Reserve	Thornbury	Linkage	
	McDonnell Reserve	Northcote	Sporting	Parkland
	McGregor St Reserve	Fairfield / Alphington	Linkage	
	McNamara-Symons Pedestrian Link	Preston West	Linkage	
	Mayer Park	Thornbury	Sporting	Parkland
	Merri Common	Northcote	Parkland	
	Merri Creek Corridor (Bell St / Goodwin St)	Preston West	Conservation Parkland	Conservation Bushland
	Merri Creek Corridor (Broadhurst St / Lakeside Secondary College)	Reservoir West	Conservation Parkland	Conservation Bushland
	Merri Creek Corridor (Fyffe St / Normanby Ave)	Thornbury	Conservation Parkland	Conservation Bushland
	Merri Creek Corridor (Hamersley Court / Central Creek)	Reservoir West	Conservation Parkland	Conservation Bushland
	Merri Creek Reserve	Northcote	Conservation Parkland	
	Merrilands Community Centre	Reservoir West	Parkland	
	Mount Cooper Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Parkland	
	Newman Reserve	Preston West	Parkland	
	Nisbett Reserve	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	Northcote Community	Northcote	Parkland	

Hierarchy	Name of Open Space	Precinct	Primary Category	Secondary Category
	Gardens Reserve			
	Northcote Park (Bill Lawry Oval)	Northcote	Sporting	
	Northcote Public Golf Course	Thornbury Northcote	Sporting	
	Oldis Gardens	Northcote	Formal Parkland	
	Olver Reserve	Thornbury	Linkage	Parkland
	Parkhaven Estate Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Parkland	
	Paywit Reserve	Preston West	Parkland	
	Pearl Reserve	Thornbury	Parkland	
	Peters Reserve	Northcote	Parkland	
	Penders Park	Thornbury	Formal Parkland	
	Pitcher Park	Fairfield / Alphington	Sporting	Parkland
	Preston City Oval	Preston West	Sporting	Parkland
	Progress Park	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	Ray Bramham Gardens	Preston West	Parkland	Formal Parkland
	Roberts Reserve	Thornbury	Linkage	Parkland
	Red Gum Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Conservation Parkland	
	Rubie Thompson Reserve	Northcote	Parkland	
	Ruthven Primary School	Reservoir West	Sporting	Parkland
	Scott Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Conservation Parkland	
	Shand Reserve	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	Sir Douglas Nicholls Reserve	Thornbury	Sporting	
	Spencer Reserve	Thornbury	Parkland	
	Springthorpe Village Common	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Parkland	
	St Georges Rd Reserve	Preston West Thornbury Northcote	Parkland	
	Spencer Reserve	Northcote	Parkland	
	Storey Reserve	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	Stott Reserve	Thornbury Northcote	Parkland	
	Strettle Reserve	Thornbury	Conservation Parkland	Conservation Bushland
	Sugargum Dve Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Parkland	
	Summerhill Rise Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Parkland	
	Susan Walsh Reserve	Fairfield / Alphington	Parkland	
	T.A. Cochrane Reserve	Preston East	Parkland	
	T.W. Blake Reserve	Preston East	Sporting	
	T.W. Andrews Reserve	Reservoir East	Parkland	
	Tracey Reserve	Reservoir West	Parkland	
	Tunaley Pde – Cheddar Rd Reserve	Reservoir East	Linkage	
	Turner Reserve	Thornbury	Parkland	
	Union Reserve	Preston West	Linkage	
	Vale Reserve	Reservoir West	Linkage	



Hierarchy	Name of Open Space	Precinct	Primary Category	Secondary Category
	W.H. Robinson Reserve	Preston West	Sporting	Parkland
	W.K. Larkins Reserve	Preston West	Parkland	
	W.R. Ruthven V.C. Reserve	Preston East	Sporting	Parkland
	Walsh Reserve	Preston East	Parkland	
	Walter Reserve	Preston East	Parkland	
	Whitby Reserve	Reservoir West	Parkland	
	Wilson Boulevard Park	Reservoir West	Parkland	
	Wingrove Reserve	Fairfield / Alphington	Parkland	
	Wright Reserve	Reservoir West	Parkland	
	Woodland Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Parkland	
	Woolhouse Reserve	Northcote	Parkland	
	Zoe Reserve	Northcote	Parkland	
	Strathallan Golf Course	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Sporting	
	Warramunga Reserve	Kingsbury – Bundoora	Wetlands	
	Jacka Reserve	Preston West		
	Bridge Park	Northcote	Parkland	

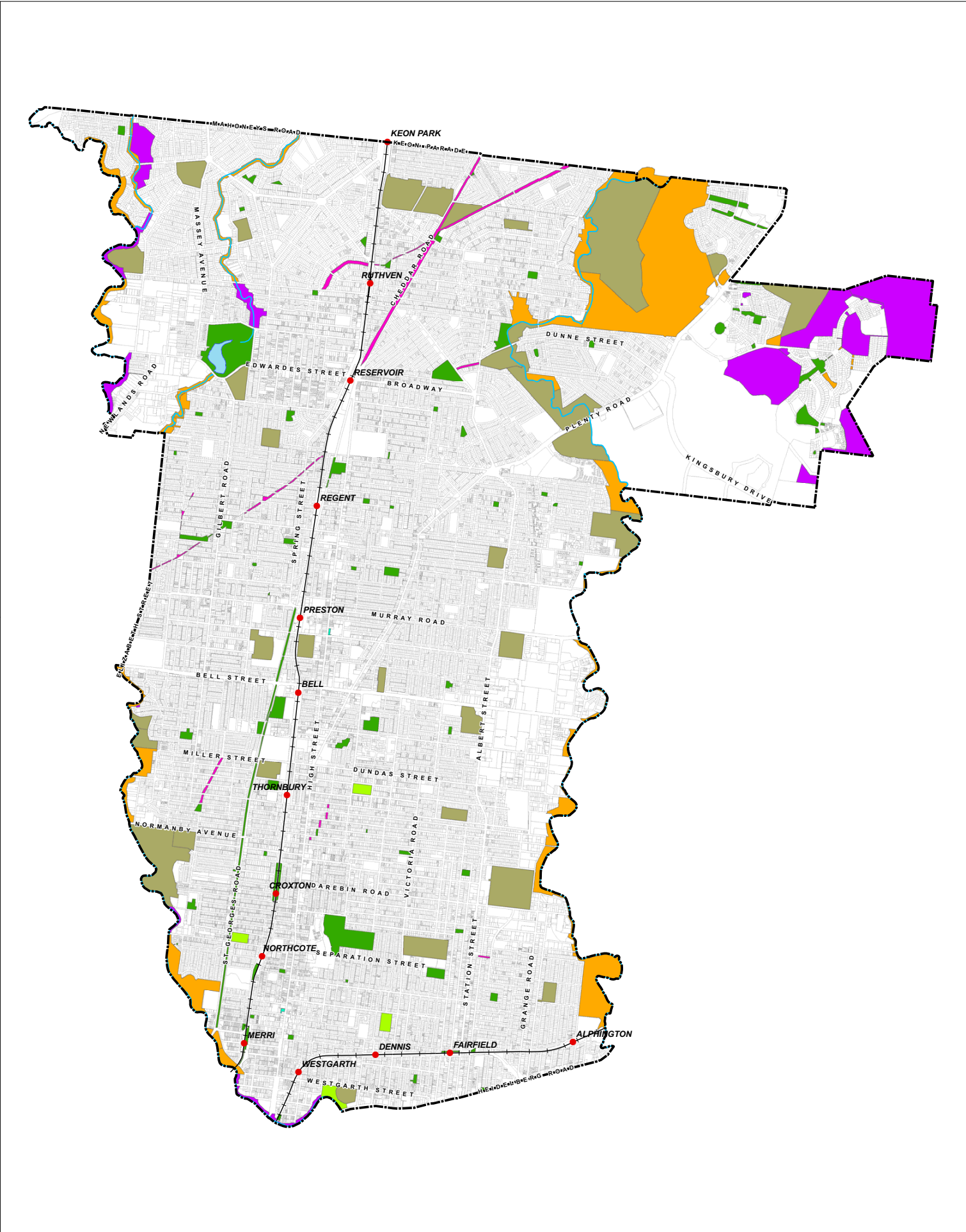
The following maps show open space throughout Darebin by hierarchy and by category. These maps show all open space owned and managed by the City of Darebin and other land management agencies.



Darebin Open Space Hierarchy

Darebin Open Space Strategy

- Regional Park
- Non-Council owned
- District Park
- Other Linkages
- Neighbourhood Park
- Other Open Space and Streetscape



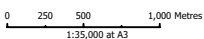
# Darebin Open Space Category Primary

Darebin Open Space Strategy

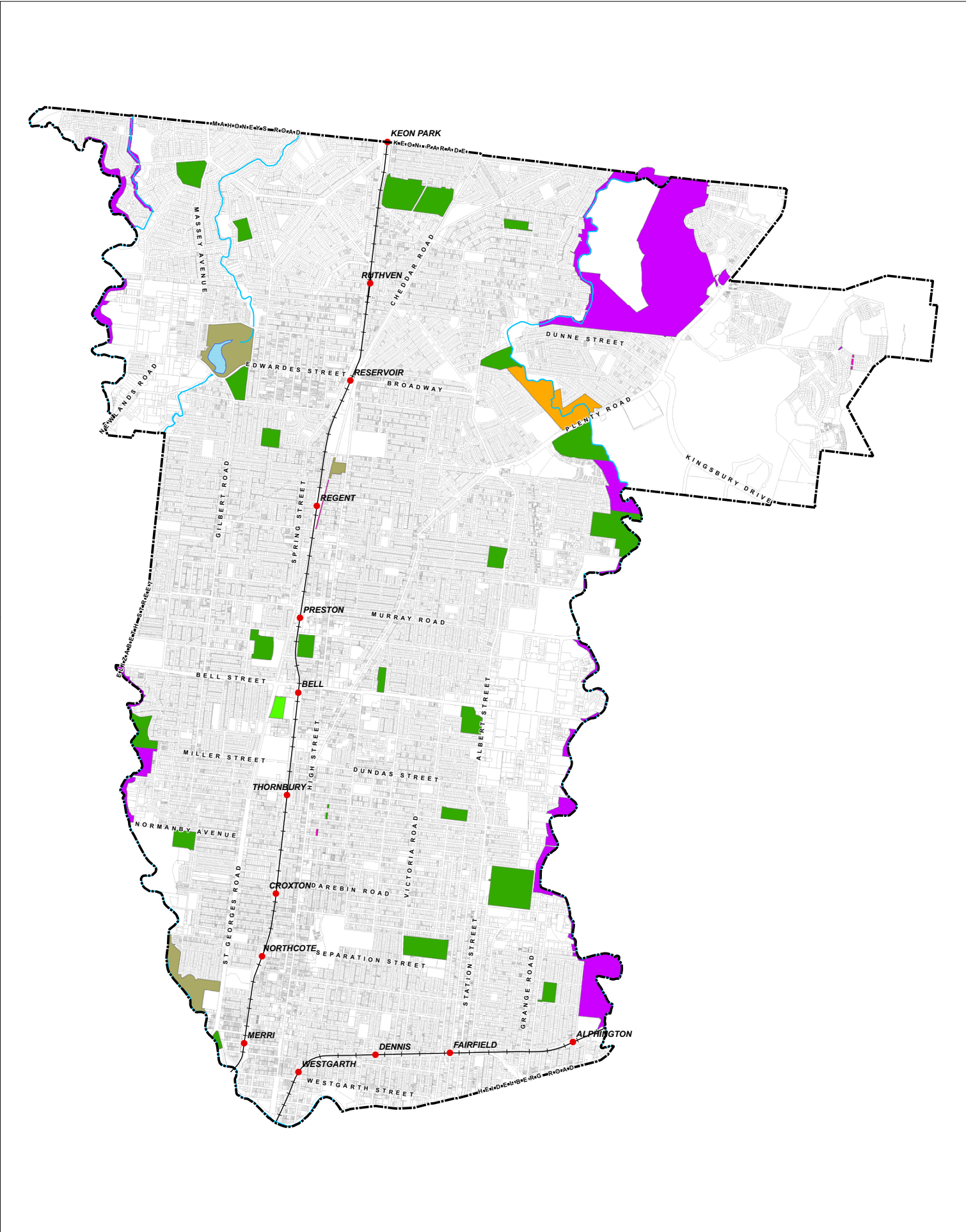
- Conservation Bushland
- Conservation Parkland
- Formal Parkland
- Parkland
- Sporting
- Linkage
- Urban Space

Open Space owned & managed by City of Darebin and other Land Managers

Darebin Boundary







Darebin Open Space Secondary Category

Darebin Open Space Strategy

## ***Achievements of the Darebin Open Space Strategy 2000***

The implementation of the Open Space Strategy adopted by Council in 2000 has been progressing well and has been reported in a published document "Darebin Open Space Achievements – Ten Years 1997-2007". The key achievements include:

Continued refinement of an effective park planning process including:

- Concept Plan
- Master Plan
- Site Development Plan
- Management Plan

Successful development and completion of:

- All Nations Park, opened in 2002
- Baden Morgan Reserve, redeveloped in 2002
- Wilson Boulevard Reserve, developed in 2005
- Bicycle Strategy, adopted in 2005
- Darebin Creek Signage Strategy
- A research project: "Young People in Parks", completed in 2006
- Maps for Merri Creek and Darebin Parklands
- Maps for use of walking/cycling networks
- Public education information about bushland and indigenous plants
- Summer events in open space are run each year from January to March
- A new strategy for the management of animals in public open space including designation of off-leash areas
- The establishment of walking and bicycle groups
- Incorporation of Environmental Significance Overlay in Darebin Planning Scheme
- Corporate signage strategy for parks and reserves
- Parks Access Audit undertaken 2005/06

The Development of Master Plans that are either completed or underway for:

- H.P. Zwar Reserve
- Edwardes Lake Park
- Donath Reserve
- John Cain Park
- Darebin Parklands
- Merri Park
- L.W. Williams Reserve
- L.E. Cotchin Reserve

Management Plans completed for a number of significant gardens and reserves:

- Batman Park
- Penders Park
- Johnson Park
- Cherry Street Reserve
- Larundel Reserve
- Forensic Dve Reserve
- Springthorpe Dianella Buffer Zones

Preliminary planning works underway for:

- Development of Darebin Creek open space corridor
- The protection of remnant vegetation sites through planning controls
- Review of open space that needs to be rezoned or disposed of
- Joint use agreement with Northcote High School for use of Merri Park
- Consolidation of titles and introduction of planning controls for the Central Creek grassland
- Creek Acquisition Study and the identification of key linkages

Significant (or complete) implementation of Strategies, Master Plans and Management Plans including:

- Council's Playground Strategy with at least 35 parks upgraded since 1998
- Council's Bicycle Strategy
- Darebin Creek Signage Strategy
- Design and development of recommended 'undeveloped' sites
- Edwardes Lake Master Plan, including the resetting of the lake
- Donath Reserve Master Plan
- D.I.S.C. development and State Soccer Centre (John Cain Memorial Park)
- Merri Park Master Plan
- Batman Park Management Plan
- Johnson Park Management Plan
- Penders Park Management Plan
- L.W. Williams Reserve Master Plan
- Improvement of access, entry and amenity to Ray Bramham Gardens
- Installation of new signage, as master plans and playground works are completed
- Improvements to parks and events to cater for young people in Darebin
- Cherry Street Reserve Management Plan
- Larundel Reserve Management Plan
- Forensic Dve Reserve Management Plan
- Springthorpe Dianella Buffer Zones Management Plan
- Completion of missing links in the Darebin Creek Trail

Implementation of Vegetation Management Plans / Management Strategies for:

- Merri Creek (95% complete)
- Darebin Creek (95% complete)
- Remnant Grasslands and Grass Woodlands for the Lower Darebin Creek Catchment (ongoing)

Informal open space has been improved at some sporting reserves:

- Ruthven Reserve
- L.E. Cotchin Reserve
- Mayer Park
- B.T. Connor Reserve

## Key Issues and Community Needs

The following provides a summary of the Open Space priorities that have been addressed through the development of the Strategy.

### Definition and Provision of Open Space:

- A redefining of open space and the role that all open space areas eg. urban spaces and streetscapes play in providing for the community's needs and aspirations
- Re-assessment and defining of the type and levels of provision across all categories of open space eg. parks
- A review of all open space categories by applying reviewed definitions
- Acknowledgment that neighbourhood and district parks are valued by the community
- Playgrounds – need for modern equipment, increased safety and variety of play experience (eg. adventure)
- Trails – continuity and standards are the key issues
- Parks – quality local and district provision, appropriate provision for dog off-leash areas

### Standards for Open Space:

- A review of standards to determine development levels for the various categories of open space eg. trails, playgrounds, parks, environmental areas
- Consistent design standards for both Council and other providers eg. Developers
- Provision standards relating to environmental amenity, facilities, equipment, safety, greening, linkages, lighting etc.
- Maintenance standards relating to upgrading/replacement, litter and graffiti management
- Master Planning for open space areas and implementation frameworks
- Equity of provision of open space across the City of Darebin
- Diversity and need to plan to effectively accommodate multiple uses in open space
- Preservation, enhancement and protection of sensitive environments

### Planning for Climate Change:

- Response to decreasing water availability and the need to acknowledge alternative water sources
- Identification of changes to practices through water sensitive urban design (WSUD), landscape design, plant species selection and management of open space that can respond to changing environmental conditions

### Impacts of Melbourne 2030:

- Provision of open space in activity centres that have more concentrated development, increased population and higher demands for a range of community infrastructure
- Provision for open space needs in developing urban areas where population density is increasing and backyards are getting smaller
- Effective systems to minimise environmental impacts and promote better management of energy use, air quality, water use and biodiversity

### Partnerships:

- Negotiations with authorities such as Victrack and Melbourne Water regarding the management of public open space
- Support and resourcing of community based organisations that assist with the management and maintenance of significant open space areas

## Analysis of Open Space

### Description of Open Space

Open Space in Darebin is described in two ways, firstly as part of an overall hierarchy of open space and secondly according to its category and use. Please refer to the inventory in page 20 for a list of open space areas within each hierarchy and category.

### Hierarchy

Hierarchy	Size and Description	Comments
<b>Neighbourhood</b>  500m from each household	Parks typically between 0.25 ha and two ha <sup>2</sup> in size reflecting the character of the neighbourhood. The parks value is often enhanced when linked to the wider open space system. Often integral to the design of a residential neighbourhood where the park provides for safe play for all ages as well as social interaction.	A park which provides a number of informal recreation opportunities catering for a range of age groups (e.g. playground, kick about space, quiet relaxation).  These parks should protect any local natural and cultural values and include planting to provide landscape amenity. The parks will cater mainly for frequent, short duration visits by residents from the surrounding neighbourhood.
<b>District</b>  2km indicative catchment around district parks. Also provides for users at the neighbourhood level, i.e., 500m	Site specific and related to the specific category of open space as well as existing natural, cultural or environmental values, but generally in the range of 3 to 10 ha. District Sporting Open Space recommended as 6 – 8 ha.	A park which protects values and provides a wide range of recreation opportunities, catering for diverse sections of the community as well as sports and events. District parks will generally cater for longer stays by users due to the range of opportunities and the distance travelled to arrive at the park.
<b>Regional</b>  Municipal catchment or greater. Also provides for users at the neighbourhood level, i.e., 500m and district level, i.e., 2km.	Site specific, related to existing facility or environmental values and proposed uses.	Significant areas that have a primary focus of recreation, sport, major events, cultural heritage, conservation values or landscape settings and attract visitation from across or beyond the municipal area. Regional parks will usually cater for longer stays by users due to the range of opportunities and the distance travelled to arrive at the park.
<b>State</b> Catchment will be intra and inter state	Site specific, related to existing facility or natural, cultural or environmental values.	Highly significant areas that have a primary focus of elite level sport and attract visitation from within and outside of the state.



All levels of the hierarchy of open space are considered part of the open space system and will generally play a role in providing community open space for surrounding local areas in addition to any specific purpose the open space was developed for.

## Categories

The following categories are identified in open space based on their function. They are defined as generally usable for a range of recreation activities by most people in the community and are counted as part of the open space network (as Recreation Open Space):

<b>Parkland</b>	Open space that provides for a range of informal recreation experiences / uses (i.e. playgrounds, open space areas for informal play, walking, picnic and bbq facilities, relaxation). It also includes the open space around the perimeter of sporting fields.
<b>Formal Parkland</b>	<p>Parks managed to conserve the value of significant plantings (often exotic) structures (often historic) and landscape features. Often formally designed and of a high standard usually with mown and irrigated lawns or grass, paving, sculpture, shrub or flower beds. Often subject to intensive use and may host special events. An ornamental open space area will primarily be managed to protect the normally fragile plantings and, as a result, some recreation activities may be restricted.</p> <p>Parks that preserve environmental components that have aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural or social significance for the present community and for future generations.</p>
<b>Conservation Parkland</b>	<p>Areas of open space comprised of previously disturbed land which has been developed to provide a bushland – like setting with some habitat values for wildlife and to help maintain biological diversity. Because of their disturbed character, they can cater for a range of low – key recreational activities, which may include pathways, rest areas and interpretive signage.</p> <p>Often located as a buffer zone between areas of Conservation Bushland and Parkland.</p>
<b>Linkage</b>	Long, relatively narrow, interconnected open space areas which can serve a variety of purposes including drainage / flood ways, visual buffers, and movement corridors (for pedestrians, cyclists etc where appropriate). Generally, the most significant corridors will be located along waterways, but also include many drainage reserves.
<b>Sporting</b>	Open Space primarily developed and managed for the playing of organised sports in an outdoor setting. Facilities within the reserve would generally include grassed and / or synthetic playing fields and courts, car parking, pavilions and toilets. Perimeter areas would generally be developed as parkland with playgrounds, picnic areas and walking paths to provide informal recreation opportunities.

**Other Open Space:** The following categories of open space are highly valuable in the overall open space system and have been shown on the mapping of municipal and precinct open space. These types of open space are not generally as useable for recreation activities by the community as parks or neighbourhood open space for casual use and as such have not been included in the total amount of open space for the purpose of analysis of provision. The values of these types of open space include visual amenity, refuge, rest and escape in the urban realm, preservation of environmental values and special uses that specific groups in the community might be involved in.

<b>Conservation Bushland</b>	Areas of often remnant vegetation that have generally been complemented by revegetation / restoration works. The area is conserved and protected based on its significant biological values. Recreation activities are therefore limited to highly controlled interpretation trails and low key nature based facilities such as bird hides. Community groups such as Landcare or park “Friends” groups may actively assist to regenerate these areas.
<b>Landscape Amenity / Streetscape</b>	Small spaces with a primary function of visual amenity. Can comprise landscaped footpaths / road verges, central median strips, tree reserves and entrance statements containing planted trees, shrubs and grasses.
<b>Urban Space</b>	Important open spaces in urban areas often designed to incorporate people and activities and frequently include large paved areas adjacent to or in retail centres.
<b>Wetlands</b>	Open space with naturally occurring wetlands or a constructed wetland in a natural depression with a creek or drainage line. Includes areas developed for stormwater treatment in new residential subdivisions. There is usually a function to improve water quality provide native habitat and enhance visual amenity.

## Criteria

A number of criteria have been used to assess the provision and quality of open space across Darebin. The five criteria listed below are considered together to provide a quantitative as well as qualitative analysis of open space.

## Quantity

- The amount of open space that is provided across the City of Darebin and within each of the precinct areas
- The standard that is being used for Darebin is two to four ha per 1000 people. This range is similar to average provision levels that would be found in other municipal areas and includes all recreation open space such as neighbourhood parks, linkages/trails, sporting reserves and larger parks. This will provide the City of Darebin with a useful tool to analyse the quantity of open space as a guide to overall provision, but leaves the assessment open to the other criteria of distribution, size, quality, opportunities and activities that will provide a more comprehensive analysis.

## Distribution

- Open space being provided within 500m of every residence in the municipality, giving consideration to barriers that prevent access to open space
- This standard distance of 500m is widely accepted as a ‘walkable’ distance for most residents from their home to a local park. This is reinforced in a number of studies of best practice that analyse walking distance and access to local destinations within communities.
- Further, it is noted that the United Nations set an Environmental Accord in relation to Green Cites that included for Urban Nature: “Ensure that there is an accessible public park or recreational open space within 500m of every city resident by 2015”

### Size of Open Space

- This criteria covers primarily the area and dimensions of open spaces that will depend on the open space type (eg. Neighbourhood vs district, parkland vs linkage). Minimum areas and widths as well as typical sizes are defined in the open space development standards to ensure that open space can meet the range of community needs (for example, the recommended minimum size of a neighbourhood park is 0.25ha).

### Quality of Open Space

- This analysis includes consideration of the quality of presentation of open space, including the infrastructure that has been provided within each park.
- An assessment of how well any open space matches the agreed development standards is a factor in determining the level of quality.

### Opportunities / Community Needs

- This criteria considers the opportunities and activities provided for in open space. In some cases there may be a consideration of the capacity of an open space to accommodate specific uses and/or intensities of use.
- Responsiveness of open space to cater for current and future community needs is also considered. E.g. flexibility in design to provide for a wide range of users.

### Acquisition and/or disposal of Open Space

- As part of the review of the open space system, recommendations may include the need to acquire open space or sell open space that doesn't meet designated criteria and is not meeting community needs. (Further information about the process of rationalisation of open space can be found in Section 7 – Strategic Directions).