



Moreland City Council



Open Space

Strategy 2012-2022





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Executive summary

The Moreland Open Space Strategy sets Council a cohesive direction for the future provision, planning, design and management of publicly owned open space that is set aside for leisure, recreation and nature conservation purposes.

The main aim is to preserve and enhance its environmental values and provide for future community needs.

The Strategy recognises the value of open space not managed or owned by Council, including parks and reserves that abut Council's boundary in other municipalities, and other open space owned by other agencies.



Open space definition

For the purposes of this project, open space is defined as public land that has a leisure, sport, landscape value, habitat conservation, environmental or visual amenity function and / or is zoned or reserved for public parks or conservation purposes.

Open space may include sports fields, conservation areas, playgrounds, recreation trails, as well as public land that may be provided for drainage or utility purposes, that is used or valued for leisure and environmental purposes.

It is acknowledged that open space may not always be green; it may be paved, such as in a town square, mall or plaza.

The focus of this Strategy is on open space that is owned or managed by Council. Where possible this plan takes into account open space that is accessible to the community and provided by other agencies, including adjoining Councils' open space.

This Strategy does not address open space owned by schools, however acknowledges the possible use of school grounds (through shared use agreements) to provide access to open space where there is an identified need.

Structure of the Strategy

This Open Space Strategy sets out the key issues arising following an analysis of demand and open space supply. For each key issue a goal, objectives, strategies and actions have been identified. Seven key open space issues are identified in this strategy. These are:

1. Providing parks close to home
2. Having a mix of open space types and experiences
3. Making places for nature
4. A greener more liveable Moreland
5. Making the most of open space through effective management
6. Enhancing participation and use of open space
7. Development of a network of shared trails

The following maps are supplied that show current public open space in Moreland, and priority areas for additional provision.

- Map 1 Provision of Open Space
- Map 2 Public open space by primary function
- Map 3 Public open space by landscape type
- Map 4 Indigenous vegetation
- Map 5 Open space strategic priorities

An implementation plan is provided in *Chapter 9: Implementation of the Strategy* (page 86) that summarises the objectives, strategies and actions for each goal, as well as the timeframe and responsible department for each.

Existing funding of open space works

All capital projects delivered as a result of the previous strategy have been directly funded via Councils Public Reserve and Resort Fund (PRRF) and external State and Federal Government funding.

A public open space contribution requirement was introduced into the Moreland Planning Scheme (at Clause 52.01) in September 2010. It is this schedule of rates and subsequent financial contributions from developers that will define the future annual income and capacity of the PRRF.

The cost of implementing the Open Space Strategy

It is envisaged the bulk of capital projects will continue to be funded via the PRRF however, the need to also fund land acquisition for new public open space will reduce the annual open space development capital project capacity of the reserve fund periodically, unless supplemented through the rate base. The level of reserve funds and rate funds available for open space will also determine the length of time required to implement significant open space capital works.

The cost of maintaining and managing new public open space within activity centres and parks and recreation reserve renewal projects must be factored into the annual operational base budgets.



1. Introduction



Moreland has over 576 hectares of Council managed open space which makes up 177 reserves. This includes parks, natural areas along creeks, sporting grounds, playgrounds, grasslands, and reserves. Residents also use other spaces, such as the Fawcner Cemetery and rail reserves, as open space. Open space is used for picnics, gatherings of families/friends, enjoying nature, active and passive recreation and many other things.

What Moreland City Council is trying to achieve in the open space network:

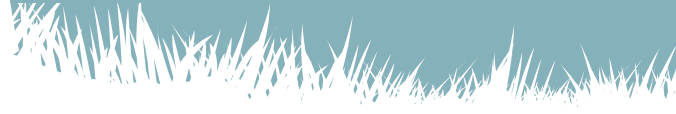
- Quality of open space
- A welcoming place, attractive and appealing
- Well-maintained and clean, safe and secure
- Accessible and connected spaces
- Sustainable management practices
- Conservation and heritage values protected, including being biodiverse, supporting ecological networks
- Community involvement
- Letting people know how and where they can use open space
- Improving our management of spaces
- Promote activity, health and well being for community benefits.

Previous plans

Council's first Open Space Strategy was adopted in 1996. Extensive community consultation was undertaken as part of the project. In 2004 this strategy was reviewed and the priorities and actions updated.

Since the last Open Space Strategy was reviewed in 2004, many improvements have been made to Moreland's parks following the Strategy's recommendations. These include:

- Harmony Park and skate facility development, Coburg
- ATC Cook Reserve upgrade, Glenroy
- Implementation of the Playground Strategy
- Developed shared use of the grounds of Box Forest Secondary College Glenroy & KODE College
- Review of the Landscape Development Guidelines
- Review of existing open space concept, master and management plans to check implementation status and direction to ensure that they are still relevant
- Continued organisation and / or support of community planting events
- Completion of the final stage of the Jones Park Master Plan
- Annual roll out of the Playground Development Plan
- Refurbishment of Temple Park, Brunswick
- Refurbishment of Anselm Grove Park, Glenroy
- Creation of a new park at Hadfield Theatre Site – now Bartlett Family Reserve



- Refurbishment plans for Gillon Oval, Brunswick Park and Raeburn Reserve, Brunswick and Coburg Lake Reserves in progress
- Public Open Space Contribution introduced to Clause 52.01 of the Moreland Planning Scheme

This Strategy builds on Council's 2004 Open Space Strategy which contained the following relevant purposes:

- Reinforce local identity, physical character and civic pride in Moreland, influencing new development that is distinctly Moreland
- Improve physical and social inclusion, including accessibility and connection between places for wildlife, recreation, walking and cycling
- Protect and enhance biodiversity and ecological habitats for Moreland's flora and fauna through developing open space that responds to this need
- Provide for a range of age groups in open space
- Aid urban regeneration
- Boost the economic potential of tourism, leisure and cultural activities
- Provide cultural, social, recreational, sporting and community facilities
- Protect and promote understanding of the historical and cultural value of places
- Contribute to the creation of healthy places, including quiet areas
- Provide popular outdoor educational facilities
- Improve opportunities to enjoy contact with the natural world

Development of 2012 Strategy

The preparation of this Open Space Strategy has involved a number of tasks, including:

- Review of the 2004 Open Space Strategy
- Demographic and demand analysis
- Consultation with Council staff, including the Joint Planners forum
- Community consultation including pertinent information from the Municipal Public Health Plan survey; review by the Sustainable Moreland Advisory Group; community survey on the draft MOSS and consultation with residents, Merri Creek Management Committee
- Mapping of all public open space in the municipality
- Development of a classification system and core service levels for public open space
- Analysis of the distribution of spaces by primary function and landscape setting



Purpose of the open space strategy

The Strategy provides Council with the priorities for public open space so that it can plan and develop its open space to preserve and enhance its environmental values and provide for community needs.

The strategy recognises the value of open space not managed or owned by Council, including parks and reserves that abut Council's boundary in other municipalities.

The Moreland Open Space Strategy is a multi-functional strategy that reflects a widely shared vision for Moreland. It is a strategy that is important across a number of Council departments, the community and other government stakeholders and businesses.

The central purposes of this Strategy are to:

- Understand supply and demand for open spaces;
- To identify deficiencies of open space / and access to open space;
- To secure appropriate additional open space where possible;
- To protect existing open space and its values; and
- To improve its quality through better planning and management.

The 2012 Open Space Strategy will be reviewed in 2022 with the implementation Plan being accessed and updated every 3 years.



The value of open space

“Open space is not only for recreation and conservation of environmental and cultural values; it is the foundation of urban liveability. It underpins many social, ecological, and economic benefits that are essential to the healthy functioning of the urban environment” (Parks Victoria 2002, Linking People and Spaces).

Open space makes a major contribution to the liveability of our cities and the health of people working, living and recreating in our City. More specifically, benefits include:

- Providing space for outdoor recreation including organised sport, walking, cycling, children’s play, and picnics
- Contributing to urban amenity, including stormwater drainage and protection from flooding
- Improving mental and physical health – places for relaxation, stress relief, exercise and socialising
- Protecting biodiversity and other environmental assets, including habitat for wildlife
- Providing a resource for education
- Contributing to civic pride and social cohesion, including improving the aesthetic appearance of the municipality and enhancing property values and providing a more liveable city

The importance of physical activity to people’s physical and mental health is well recognised and documented.

People who are active are more likely to live longer, have lower risk of heart disease and stroke, and are less likely to suffer stress, anxiety and depression. Open space that is accessible and attractive also encourages us to undertake various forms of exercise as part of our daily lives.

“Research evidence shows that close proximity to green spaces is clearly associated with reduced prevalence of depression, anxiety and other health problems. The relationship has been shown to be strongest for children and people with low incomes”¹

Parks and open spaces provide the main opportunities for viewing and experiencing nature in an urban area.

Trends towards more intensive development and increased work-related stress indicate a growing need for these green spaces.

From a financial perspective, the Council-owned public open spaces represent a substantial real estate asset for the municipality. Many millions of dollars have been invested in developing and maintaining these areas, and the value of these assets improves the overall real estate value of Moreland.

This Strategy seeks to build on this asset base, and continue to improve its social, environmental and economic values for the Moreland community.

1. Townsend and Weerasuriya, 2010.



Open space is not only for recreation and conservation of environmental and cultural values; it is the foundation of urban liveability. It underpins many social, ecological, and economic benefits that are essential to the healthy functioning of the urban environment.



2. Context



Physical context

Moreland is a municipality in the inner north of Melbourne. It has an area of 51 square kilometres and mostly lies between Moonee Ponds Creek to the west, and Merri Creek to the east, with Gowanbrae and Tullamarine to the north west of the Moonee Ponds Creek and Newlands to the east of Merri Creek. Park Street bounds the south of the municipality, and the Western Ring Road is the boundary to the north.

Moreland's waterways are the distinctive natural feature of the municipality, requiring consideration as to how these can be protected as an important natural resource, whilst providing important opportunities for community recreation.

Moreland is an established municipality, with little opportunity for greenfield development. There is little variance in the density of settlement in the municipality, although increased density and mixed use developments exist (or expected) in the activity centres of Brunswick, Coburg, and Glenroy.

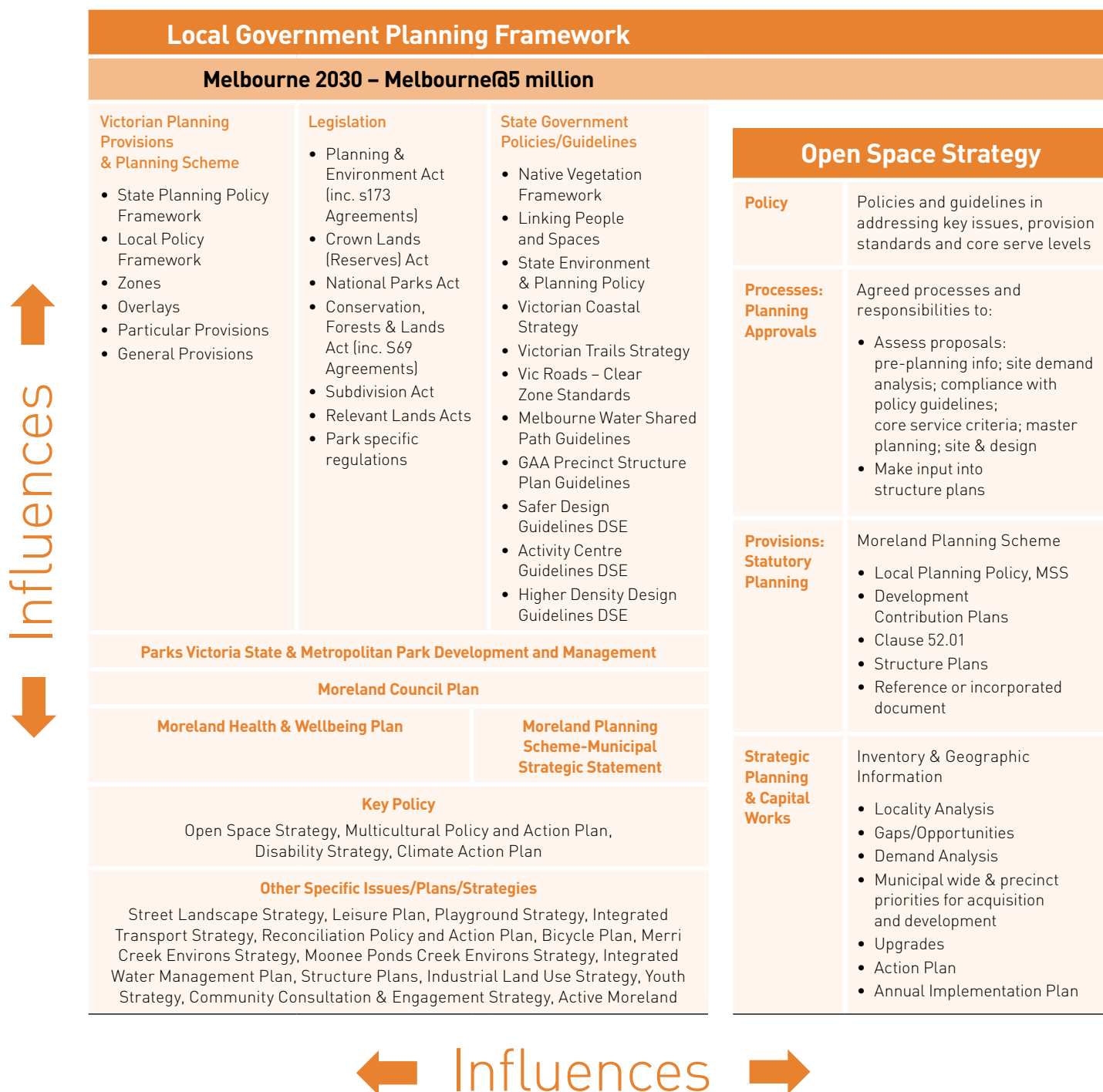
Opportunities to acquire land for public open space should be pursued when the opportunity arises, particularly through new development. As these opportunities may be limited, the challenge lies in enhancing the quality of and improving access to the open space network through upgrading what exists at present.


Planning and policy context

The Moreland Open Space Strategy sits within a broader policy framework that includes legislation and policies of the state government, as well as the local government policies of Moreland City Council.

Figure 1: Local Government Planning Framework shows the influence of the state and local planning policy on the Open Space Strategy. Further context on policies and strategy are provided in *Appendix 1: Planning and policy context* (page 106).

Figure 1. Local Government Planning Framework





In the City of Moreland there is an estimated 839ha of open space. This includes local and district level parks utilised for a range of functions, sports reserves, open space adjacent to the Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks, and large individual areas at Northern Golf Club, Fawkner Memorial Park, and Northern Memorial Park.

The background of the slide features a photograph of a tree with dense green foliage. A semi-transparent green overlay covers the entire image. In the lower half, there is a large, light pink, stylized flower graphic that serves as a backdrop for the section header.

3. Open space vision, goals and principles



Vision

Moreland City Council's open space vision is to create a:

Functionally diverse open space network that values Moreland's natural and cultural heritage, and enhances liveability for its residents.

Now and into the future:

The natural and cultural heritage of the municipality is celebrated, protected and restored in its open spaces. The extensive use of sustainable horticulture and the use of indigenous plants for habitat creation have reinvigorated all our parks, providing a diversity of experiences for our community and providing valuable habitats that have brought back many native birds and other wildlife. Our waterways and natural areas are protected and have been managed to increase their ecological values. The community understand and value these areas and enjoy the tranquil setting they provide for Moreland.

Our parks, civic spaces, and waterway corridors are well designed and maintained, and offer opportunities close to home for exercise, socialising, relaxing, learning, competitive sports, play, festivals, cultural events, picnics, and connecting with nature. The open space has improved Moreland's liveability and moderated the effects of changes in the climate. The open space network is managed for social, environmental and economic sustainability and Moreland's commitment to maintaining a thriving and valued open space network enhances the liveability of the municipality.

Key goals

For each of the key issues arising from the analysis underpinning the strategy, seven goals have been identified.

The open space goals are:

1. Providing parks close to home
2. Having a mix of open space types and experiences
3. Making places for nature
4. A greener more liveable Moreland
5. Making the most of open space through effective management
6. Enhancing participation and use of open space
7. Developing of a network of shared trails

Objectives, strategies, actions are established under each of these goals (*see Key Goals & Objectives page 44 for detail*).

Principles

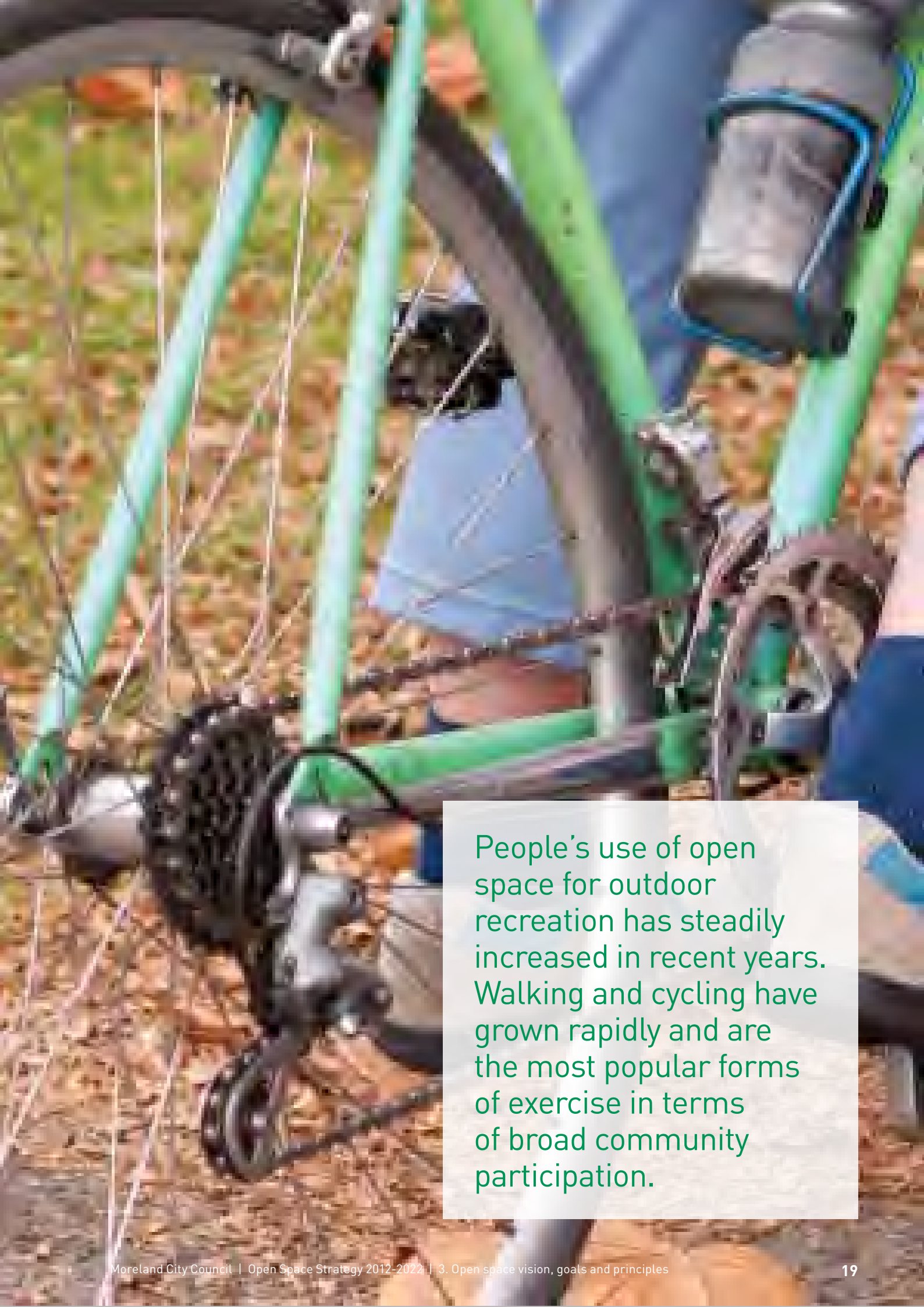
This plan endorses and assumes that the following principles will be upheld in the planning and development of all open spaces in Moreland:

Conservation and environmental sustainability

- Protection and active management of remnant indigenous vegetation sites as irreplaceable natural heritage assets
- Increasing biodiversity throughout the municipality, including the public realm, through more intensive and appropriate landscaping to create habitat corridors, where possible
- Conservation and interpretation of places of cultural and archaeological heritage
- Sustainable planting and landscape design reflecting site context, water sensitive urban design, landscape character, functional requirements, and / or specific design features
- The use of indigenous species as a priority unless there is an established park landscape character, a functional need or specific design feature that requires another species
- The utilisation of up-to-date, sustainable environmental design in open space management

Access and inclusion

- Consultation with park users and adjacent residents as part of the planning and design process for all substantial open space development and projects
- Inclusion of people with a wide range of ages, cultural backgrounds and abilities through open space design and development
- Maintain and improve movement between and through open spaces for walking, cycling, fauna, and surrounding municipality's open space networks
- Design and maintenance of open space that will provide a high degree of security for users
- Allocation of resources for equitable distribution, development and maintenance of open space, and for a range of uses
- Promotes sharing of open space rather than exclusive use by a user group or commercial activity
- Maintain and improve open space to manage the increasing demand for open space from population growth, increasing housing densities, building heights and the loss of private open space
- Redesignation of spaces to create open space, i.e. road closures
- Acquisition and disposal and alienation of open space
- Open space should be protected from overshadowing, encroachment by non-recreational and support infrastructure, including car parks and signs, and development that restricts public access or surveillance
- Acquisition of land for public open space may be required: in areas of identified need; for local parks; in activity centre areas; to create access to existing parks, or to consolidate or extend open space corridors
- Advocate for formalisation of surplus public utility land as designated public open space
- Prior to disposal of open space there will be a comprehensive assessment of existing and potential use and value of the space
- Proceeds from any sale of public open space will be used for open space development or acquisition



People's use of open space for outdoor recreation has steadily increased in recent years. Walking and cycling have grown rapidly and are the most popular forms of exercise in terms of broad community participation.



4. Emerging issues for open space



The following issues for Moreland's open space have been identified through research of relevant documents, including Council policies, other Councils' policies, and research publications, and through consultation. Many of the impacts created by the issue extend beyond one goal of the Strategy however they have been encapsulated within the seven goals to identify how they will be addressed in the future.

Issues

a) Higher rate of population growth than anticipated in Melbourne 2030 and increasing urban densities.

Potential impact: some areas of Moreland are expected to have increased housing density to accommodate a higher population. This will include increasing heights of buildings and an associated reduction in the size of private open space and less open space per capita (VEAC 2010). This may include:

- High building stock potential overshadowing of parks & street trees
- Changes in building interface with open space – more dominant building stock
- Houses built on backyards – loss of biodiversity, areas for productive gardens, relaxation/mental relief
- Increasing demand for rooftop gardens and green walls – how to maintain in harsh climates
- Increasing hard surface area likely to exacerbate the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect
- Increasing use of public open space. Where open space is of limited accessibility, or already under a lot of pressure

b) Increasing obesity and adverse health issues within the general populous linked to lack of exercise.

Potential impact: if nothing is done to improve accessibility to open space or informal active recreation opportunities this may contribute to the issue.

c) Increasing demand for space for team sports combined with pressures with maintaining sports grounds during harsh weather conditions.

Potential impact: continuation of existing sports with no consideration of how the future of sport should be planned for and managed would lead to an inadequate provision of sports. The multi use of sportsfields and a change of sports could assist in the management of the actual fields.

d) Loss of other government land including access to school sports grounds, other utilities open space areas i.e. Vic Track, and Vic Roads land.

Potential impact: loss of valuable green space that has been used by residents as open space, or remnant vegetation. Loss of potential for managing climate change impacts more effectively if large tracts of green space lost to development.

e) Loss of open space from private building/garden encroachment, particularly along creek corridors.

Potential impact: continual loss of open space to private gardens/buildings/industry with no benefit for the community. If not regulated will continue to occur and will likely exacerbate.



f) Likely impacts of climate change and the urban heat island effect, including improving planning controls, as well as general issues of lack of water, need to maintain greenery, and provide a refuge from heat

Potential impact: loss of green space and the very thing we need to protect/lessen the impact of climate change i.e. cooling effect of green space which cools the surrounding environment and provides refuge for habitat.

g) Shared use agreements with schools not being honoured.

Potential impact: money spent by council on providing infrastructure on non council land may be lost if process is not rigorous enough.

h) Various types of private land need to be considered in the way that they complement public space, including:

- **The amount of space available in backyards and implications of shrinking backyards, medium and high density housing for public open space provision**
- **The provision for certain sports by the private sector e.g. golf and tennis**
- **Publicly accessible land which are used as open space, i.e. Fawkner Cemetery, and is privately owned**
- **Increasing demand for community gardens and the issue of food security**

Potential impact: requests for community gardens are often directed towards Council public open space. Community gardens can be a valuable community resource however Council policy is required to guide the location and facilitate the development of sustainable community gardens. Public open space is not considered the preferred choice for community garden use given the already low provision of open space in the community and that it does not align with the designated function of open space.

Food security refers to the adequacy of the food supply in the community and the ability to access healthy food choices. The provision of community gardens is one strategy that can be considered to address this issue.

i) Requests are received to commemorate people or significant events by naming features to be situated in public spaces, especially in parks. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of these requests.

Potential impact: if not managed appropriately it can have a number of implications for parks including the

- impact of numerous memorials on the landscape
- appropriateness of the proposed memorials to specific sites
- design, construction and use of materials to minimise maintenance costs
- longevity of the memorials, and
- public safety associated with their design and location.

Climate Change & the Urban Heat Island effect – implications for open space

Climate change increases the need for an integrated approach to open space planning. It has amplified the need for and the accessibility of public open space for habitat, social and recreational opportunities. The full range of benefits and uses of open space should be considered across all Council planning to include interactions with transport, urban development, social planning, energy use and hydrology (DSE 2009).

According to most recent scientific research global warming is already influencing our climate (DSE 2009). As well as higher temperatures and reduced rainfall, there is expected to be an increasing frequency of extreme weather events, which we are already experiencing, leading to a higher risk of bushfire, inland flooding, and the frequency of very hot days. It is not clear that the recent drought conditions were a result of climate change, however it is possible to say that climate change has exacerbated the impacts of this low rainfall period.

How things are changing for open space

Melbourne has recently come out of a drought which saw rainfall drop by 11% over a 12 year period resulting in water restrictions with severe impacts for parks and sports grounds (Parks Victoria 2009).

Landscapes which were once under regular irrigation rapidly deteriorated. It also severely impacted on private open space. Sportsgrounds, generally a high water use surface, were greatly impacted on. They were under regular monitoring to ensure safe surfaces for play which included limiting use for training and changing of all ovals to warm-season turf to improve turf cover over summer.

There has also been a shift to using artificial turf to replace natural turf, particularly for high intensity sports and social spaces (including kindergartens). Although this provides a year round surface, it is a relatively expensive option for grass replacement. The value of artificial turf needs to be weighted up with issues of high temperatures emanating from the surface, maintenance costs, change in types of injuries, and the loss of the environmental benefits of the natural surface all need to be considered.

Another factor which is changing is the development of smaller/no residential backyards, as a result of greater housing intensification. It is occurring quicker than anticipated due to higher than expected population growth (Melb @5m). This has the potential to lead to an increasing use of open space due to the reduction in yard size.

There is also an increase in demand for large organised events in parks, such as Lake Reserve, Coburg, to improve social inclusion within the municipality. As there are limited open spaces with the capacity to hold such events, those where events occur are beginning to see the effects on vegetation from overuse, as well as impacting on passive enjoyment of parks.

Melbourne is currently experiencing milder conditions and in 2011 it was the wettest year across the water catchments in 3 decades (Melbourne Water 2012) seeing water levels increasing by 13%. Moreland has experienced significant heavy summer deluges which have seen the Creek systems at capacity causing minor localised flooding and damage to bridge infrastructure and vegetation as well as increased erosion.

There will be an increasing need to develop strategies to slow water, potentially through wetlands and plantings, and continue efforts to reduce water runoff from the built environment into the catchment.

All these issues will continue to place greater pressure on our landscapes.



Urban Heat Island effect (UHI)

The 'urban heat island' effect is a separate issue from global warming. Its effect is being magnified due to the increasing density of buildings and hard spaces, particularly in the urban environment, and loss of greenery particularly on private land.

Design of the urban fabric will need to be done in an increasingly innovative way to try and limit the increase of the UHI effect.

Further innovation and research is required in alternative landscapes, such as rooftop gardens and green walls, to meet the difficult climatic conditions in the urban environment. Currently rooftop gardens in Melbourne are a challenge to keep functioning in a cost effective way. Research by the University of Melbourne is currently underway into plant survival and the cooling benefits of rooftop gardens and the outcomes of this research will greatly benefit design outcomes for urban landscapes.

This type of landscape treatment should be seen as an important adjunct to more appropriate and cost effective means of landscaping i.e. adequate spaces for trees within sites and streetscapes to ameliorate the UHI effect.

Urban parks can help offset local heat effects of global warming. Research has shown that urban areas can be up to 12° C warmer than more rural surroundings due to the heat given off by buildings, roads and traffic, as well as reduced evaporative cooling, in what is commonly referred to as an urban heat island.

Climate modelling undertaken by the University of Manchester has indicated that an increase of 10% in the amount of green space in city centres could reduce urban surface temperatures by up to 4° C, enough to offset predicted temperature rises in those areas until the 2080s.

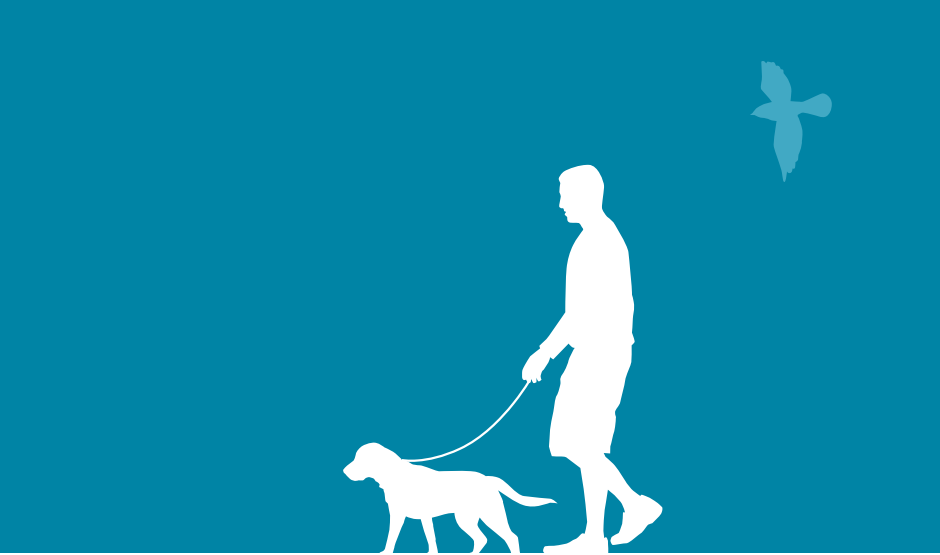
Associated with this is the capacity for green spaces to help ameliorate extreme weather events (heat waves, flash floods and high winds), events which are predicted to increase in frequency and severity as a result of global warming. This can be achieved through planting of trees to shade structures and high use areas; design and planting of areas along creeks to slow flood waters; and, planting of buffer areas to reduce wind speed, as well as reduce water evaporation of the landscape.

In a recent study by Monash University, they undertook a spatial vulnerability analysis of urban populations to extreme heat events across Melbourne. Moreland was identified as having large areas of the municipality susceptible to heat related illnesses and morbidity.

The vulnerability index was constructed using indicators of health, social and environmental risk factors. Five key indicators were identified; these are areas with large numbers of aged care facilities, areas with families speaking a language other than English at home, areas where elderly people live alone, suburban areas rather than high-density inner suburbs, and areas with a high proportion of elderly and very young citizens (who are identified as the most vulnerable).

It was identified that the impact of UHI could exacerbate the impacts of high temperatures. UHI can be amplified by poor building design and urban planning resulting in high density housing with limited green spaces.²

2. Loughnan, Nicholls and Tapper, 2009.



Value of trees

The benefits of vegetation on urban microclimates and infrastructure are finally being recognised according to Greg Moore (2007). They should not only be viewed as being valuable for shade, but also for wind protection and for their biodiversity and habitat role. The role of trees as filters for pollutants, improving the quality of air, reducing wind speed and influencing water infiltration and absorption are the subject of research. The presence of shady trees can also increase the useful life of asphalt pavement by 30% (Killicoat, Puzio and Stringer 2002) (in Moore 2007).

It is also important to note that there is a very strong relationship between vegetation and energy efficiency in buildings, so that trees will have a vital role in addressing issues related to energy balance. (Moore 2007)

The value of indigenous plants in the urban environment, particularly for habitat values, cannot be doubted however it should be noted that the temperature ameliorating effect of indigenous vegetation is less than that of exotic European vegetation, although the water requirements of indigenous vegetation are often substantially lower. There is only one native tree that is truly winter deciduous and drought tolerant (White Cedar, *Melia azederach*) however some native species provide dappled light. To gain the most benefit of winter sunlight having a native or exotic deciduous tree on the north and western faces of buildings provides the most effective solution.

In the longer term it is possible that urban trees will find additional roles in strategies to adapt to climate change, including the potential to provide for offsetting of carbon. Nevertheless, the current need to protect the liveability of Moreland will include ensuring our urban forest is increased and protected.

Biodiversity

Loss of biodiversity is a real threat in a changing climate. The effects of climate change on biodiversity will occur at many different levels – from individuals to ecosystems. Species may alter distribution, abundance, behaviour and the timing of events such as migration or breeding. The most susceptible species will be those with restricted or specialised habitat requirements, poor dispersal abilities or small populations.

Combined with the common issues in the urban environment such as increasing housing density, loss of backyards (which often provide good habitat linkages for fauna in particular), loss of open space to infrastructure to provide for community facilities, generally make it difficult to maintain biodiversity. It will become increasingly important to provide refuge and connectivity of habitat for biodiversity.

In some areas there may be scope for further combining habitat benefits with trail networks linking to other the larger open space areas. Waterways and railway lines are already significant corridors which fulfil these functions and to improve on this and to use other path networks as an opportunity to increase this function both laterally and longitudinally will become more important. Other opportunities such as street landscapes may also be designed to perform and/or support this function.

Climate change will also have indirect impacts on biodiversity. There may be increased pressure from competitors, predators, parasites, diseases and disturbances (such as bushfire or drought). It is likely to influence the composition of ecosystems and their distribution by altering water flows in rivers and wetlands and the occurrence of bushfires and floods.

Climate change is likely to amplify existing threats such as habitat loss and invasive species, making their impacts considerably worse.

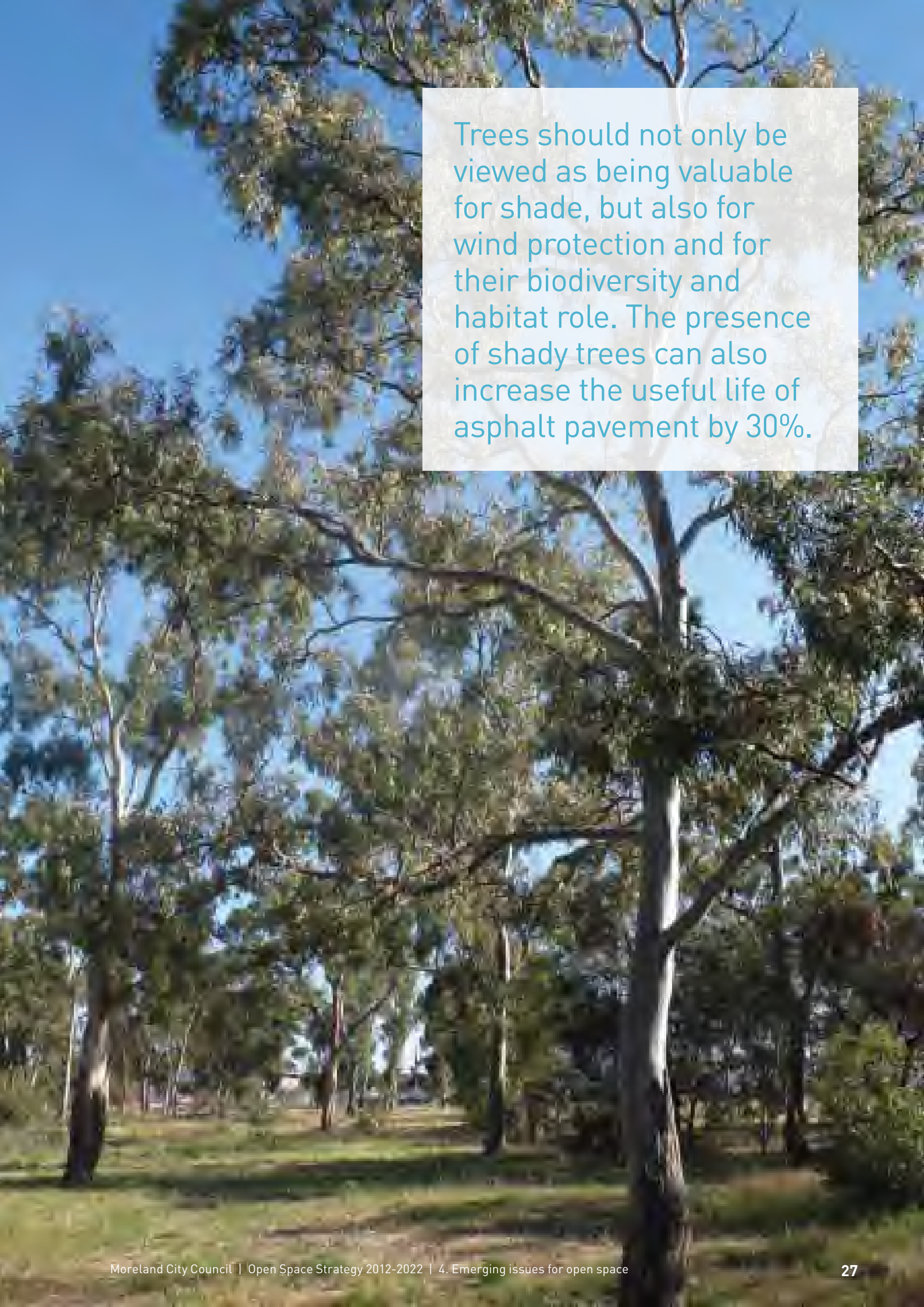
Water

Melbourne is likely to experience significant reductions in its water supply due to drought and the impact of climate change. (CSIRO 2009)

Over the past 50 years we have seen a reduction in rainfall in southern and eastern Australia, more frequent heatwaves, fewer frosts, an intensification of drought conditions, and a small rise in sea level. Many people are noticing the impact of these changes in their daily lives, through things such as water restrictions, higher prices for fresh food, flowers blooming out of season, and regular stories of extreme weather events in the news (CSIRO 2009).

The collective impact of increased water evaporation from plants and soil and the decrease in rainfall is also likely to diminish soil moisture. Combined with more extreme rainfall events it is also likely that this will lead to high levels of water runoff, limited infiltration of water through soil and an increased possibility of flooding events.

To manage these issues we will need to carefully consider how and when we use water. It is not a case of stopping using water, it is about how efficiently and effectively we use it to achieve the desired outcome.



Trees should not only be viewed as being valuable for shade, but also for wind protection and for their biodiversity and habitat role. The presence of shady trees can also increase the useful life of asphalt pavement by 30%.



Changing recreational activities

Changing lifestyles is resulting in changes to recreational activities, placing more pressure on existing land and resources. Key trends include:

- People's use of open space for outdoor recreation has steadily increased in recent years. Walking and cycling have grown rapidly and are the most popular forms of exercise in terms of broad community participation (Parks Victoria 2009).
- Participation rates in the most popular organised sports have increased significantly.
- There has been strong growth in soccer participation and junior participation outside school hours for team sports generally.
- Based on age profiles alone, the highest demand for adult participation in popular team sports would be expected over the next 25 years.

Other types of outdoor recreational activities have grown strongly in recent years, including dog exercising, organised outdoor groups/ personal training, community events and festivals and needs to be facilitated and managed in spaces provided by Council.

Use of other government land and role of the private sector

Most land set aside for outdoor recreation is either owned and managed by local councils, or owned by the Crown and managed by committees of management, (including Council or Department of Sustainability & Environment).

However, parcels of land owned by other government agencies and the private sector also play an important role in serving recreational needs, which include:

- flood-prone land, wetland conservation areas, and pipe-tracks owned by Melbourne Water, for example Jacana Wetlands
- private outdoor sporting clubs (e.g. Northern golf course, tennis clubs)
- school sports grounds (public and private)
- church sports clubs (e.g. tennis)
- railway land used for walking and cycling
- other surplus government agency land (e.g. Vic Roads) used as parkland

There is often little or no long-term security relating to the use of other categories of government or private sector land for outdoor recreation. Other government and private organisations do not have a core responsibility to provide land for public open space and recreation. Examples of land lost from outdoor recreational use, and/or barriers faced by local councils and communities in gaining access to this land, include:

- the complexity of legal agreements for joint use of school facilities and reliance on informal arrangements

- lack of suitable infrastructure for school sports grounds to be opened up to community use
- sale and/or loss of school sports grounds through redevelopment – both public and private – and subsequent reliance by schools on council grounds
- difficulties in negotiating access arrangements with government agencies (e.g. Melbourne Water, Vic Track) due to legal liability concerns and lack of agreement on funding for maintenance
- private and church sports clubs (e.g. bowls, croquet clubs) being lost to redevelopment
- The Victorian Environment Assessment Council (VEAC) investigated Crown and public authority land in the Melbourne metropolitan area. It has identified and assessed the uses, resources and conditions, values and management of this land. As well as assessing the values of specific parcels of land, the report has considered the contribution of Crown and public authority land to Melbourne's liveability. The final report by VEAC, named the Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation, was released by the State Government in August 2011.

The report has taken into consideration Council land and public land and one of the findings is that all vegetated public land contributes to Melbourne's liveability, including nature strips, pocket parks, strips beside roads and railway lines. It also noted the importance of treed areas of public land and water bodies for ameliorating the urban heat island effect is likely to increase in Melbourne as urban densification increases and the climate warms.

For Moreland, there is an uneven spread of open space and as with other established suburbs there is generally a lower provision of open space per capita. It is also noted that without the retention and creation of open space on both public and local council lands that public open space per capita will decrease over time, and again for Moreland this is likely to be exacerbated by population increases and the limited scope to create additional open space.³

3. Victorian Environmental Assessment Council, 2011.

Protection of open space against loss or alienation

The *Subdivision Act* 1988, 20 (4) states that public open space (acquired through the provisions of the Act), can only be used for municipal purposes in accordance with the planning scheme, or sold only if the Council has provided for replacement open space. There is the additional barrier to sale of public parks due to the need to rezone the land, so actual sale of public parkland is rare and normally only carried out after considerable public consultation and with a clear plan to replace the land with open space of greater benefit to the community as a whole.

An important issue for open space is the incremental 'loss' of open parkland to indoor sporting and other council community facilities and car parks. There is often pressure to find locations for new facilities and respond to residents' concerns about on-street parking and provision of community facilities. The current planning provisions currently allow for a wide range of permitted uses on open space. It is critical for council to commit to protecting open space and to seek alternate sites for infrastructure, particularly if they do not relate to open space activities.

'Poor quality or under use are not reasons for considering open spaces for other uses'
(Page 31, CABA Space 2009)



Inadequate asset management in open space

Generally most asset management in open space has been undertaken indiscriminately (usually when the asset fails) with the exception of the Play Equipment Inventory which documents the condition and replacement schedule for all play equipment in Moreland's open space over a five year period.

This ad hoc approach has led to an overall decline in many open space assets to a point where there are a great many poorly maintained assets requiring substantial refurbishment or complete replacement. Another aspect of this issue is that funds have not been put aside to adequately cover the depreciation of the assets for asset renewal in open space.

Council is currently developing an Open Space Asset Management Plan. The key issue for open space is to ensure that not only physical assets are captured, but to include all assets, such as trees, turf areas, garden beds, indigenous vegetation. This will give Council the ability to plan for the deterioration of all assets. It will also provide Council with an asset value for open space and if any works are to be undertaken/or damage done to assets in open space it will give a value of the asset for referral/prosecution purposes.



The current planning provisions currently allow for a wide range of permitted uses on open space. It is critical for council to commit to protecting open space and to seek alternate sites for infrastructure, particularly if they do not relate to open space activities.



5. The open space planning framework



Classification of open space

To assist with planning and the assessment of the distribution and quality of open space in Moreland, each open space is classified according to the following:

- Function (or purpose in the network, that reflects the core benefits to residents)
- Landscape setting (form)
- Catchment (sphere of influence), and
- Settlement type (the nature of residential settlement in which it is located)

These classifications provide a tool to analyse: whether a space is fit for purpose; distribution; diversity of experiences and opportunities; enhance equity in provision; and evaluate specific qualities of open space to compare with demand. Further context behind these classifications and definitions can be found in *Appendix 2: Classifications and core levels of service*.

Function type

Function type is the primary purpose of the open space within the network. Open space in Moreland is divided into eleven categories:

1. Accessway / shared trail
2. Social / family recreation (or play)
3. Sport
4. Civic gathering / forecourt
5. Conservation (flora and fauna)
6. Heritage
7. Memorial park / cemetery
8. Relaxation / contemplation / visual amenity
9. Utility / drainage, or floodway
10. Community horticulture
11. No identified function

(see Table 5: Definitions and Examples of Function Types in Moreland on page 119)

Each function of open space has specific characteristics, which reflect specific types benefits sought through open space.

Characteristics of each open space function type (such as size, location, quality and distribution) that ensure a space is fit for purpose, are set out as core service levels for each catchment level. These can be used for the analysis of existing spaces and the planning of future of open spaces in Moreland *(see Appendix 2: Classifications and core levels of service on page 118)*.

When these open space function types are mapped, it is possible to see if residents are likely to have access to open space that can provide each specific benefit, and whether areas are without access to different types of open space *(see Map 2: Provision of Open Space on page 42)*.



Landscape setting

Landscape settings reflect the predominant vegetation type and experiences that are created by an open space's particular form, rather than its intended function. Landscape setting is a significant determinant of the experience gained by the user. Ten categories of landscape setting type have been used:

1. Open grassy area
2. Treed parkland
3. Paved area
4. Waterbody / wetland
5. Lawn or managed turf
6. Specialised sports surface
7. Ornamental garden
8. Bushland / native grassland
9. Vegetable garden / farm, or
10. Rough natural area

(see page 120 for definitions)

By consciously acknowledging the nature of the landscape setting type, and analysing this across the network it is possible to strategically identify opportunities to modify sites to add interest, diversity or create specific experiences that may be missing from a local area *(see Map 3: Public Open Space Landscape Type on page 44 for existing landscape types of Moreland)*.

Catchment

Open spaces have their own sphere of influence due to a number of factors such as size, uniqueness, and the nature and scale of facilities provided.

Each open space has therefore been classified according to its catchment, how far people are likely to travel to it, and how long they are likely to stay. This determines what facilities are needed and at what standard, and how often the open space may need to be maintained.

The catchment of each open space is described in Moreland as local, district and regional. Local and district space is the predominant catchment in Moreland, however the Merri Creek Linear Reserve could be considered to have Regional park characteristics.

Local open space predominantly serves the immediate local catchment, district open space serves a group of suburbs, and regional open space describes areas that serve regional catchments, i.e. the whole of, or broader than, the municipality *(see Map 1: Provision of Open Space on page 42)*.

Settlement type

The nature of the surrounding settlement or context in which open space is provided determines the model of open space provision, based on: the amount of private open space residents are likely to have; housing density; recreation opportunities available; and landscape character. These affect how people use public space, and benefits they seek from it.



When additional residential development takes place Council should assess the surrounding nature of settlement before determining the nature of public open space that should be provided. The categories of settlement should reflect housing density, and the nature of the planning zone: i.e. mixed use, commercial and industrial where public open space may be required.

Residents in higher density development may:

- be exposed to higher levels of noise, and less privacy
- have access to smaller areas of private open space, especially that which is suitable for physical activity and pets
- be affected by not being able to see open space if small (or not available), or having access to minimal sunlight due to overshadowing buildings

Observations have shown residents of new medium or high density dwellings adjacent to open space tend to use public space as private or communal space. The size of parks and their design in these locations must ensure public users are not displaced and conflict between activities does not occur.

Medium and high density dwellings sited adjacent to parkland must respect the need for clear separation of private and public space, solar access, light, views and access for residents behind the higher dwellings that may abut a park. Generally a path or minor road should separate private development from open space with buildings orientated to overlook the park.

Where existing residential areas are being redeveloped for higher density housing the chances of obtaining public open space are more limited due to:

- The possibility that existing subdivision has already provided an open space contribution, and no further contribution is able to be levied
- The lack of perceived importance of open space as a land use, and its high value for housing
- The size of land parcels being developed are often small
- The cost of both land and challenging developers

In Moreland these residential settlement types have been identified as suburban, medium / higher density and activity centres. Suburban relates to the residential suburbs of Moreland, medium / higher density relates to areas of higher residential density located closer to commercial centres, and activity centres are areas with a concentration of commercial and other higher density land uses. However, Moreland is also experiencing higher densities in the residential hinterland as well and this will need to be monitored to assess the impact on open space provision in these areas.

Core levels of service

Core levels of service establish quantitative and qualitative criteria for each key open space function to ensure the space can be fit for purpose. These service levels focus on spaces needed close to residents: social / family recreation, sports, and shared trails, and the distinction between spaces of each function at the local, district, and regional catchment level (*see Appendix 2: Classifications and core levels of service on page 118*).

The background is a solid teal color. Overlaid on this are several large, light-colored silhouettes of flowers and leaves. In the center, there is a smaller, more detailed image of a plant with small, clustered flowers, possibly a type of grass or wildflower, in a lighter shade of teal.

6. Supply of open space in Moreland



Current provision of open space in Moreland

In the City of Moreland there is an estimated 839ha of open space. This includes local and district level parks utilised for a range of functions, sports reserves, open space adjacent to the Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks, and large individual areas at Northern Golf Club, Fawcner Memorial Park, and Northern Memorial Park (*see Map 1: Provision of Open Space in Moreland on page 42*).

Currently there is 6.2ha of open space per thousand residents in Moreland (4.2ha publicly accessible open space not including restricted access land such as the Northern Golf Course and the Fawcner Memorial Park).

Some 200.2ha of open space is provided specifically for sport and recreation. This equates to 1.5ha per thousand residents.

Significant open space exists in adjacent municipalities, including at Royal Park; Princes Park; and along Moonee Ponds and Merri Creeks, which provide valuable open space access to local residents and environmental benefits for Moreland. It is therefore important for Moreland to work with adjacent municipalities to protect and enhance these open spaces and maintain access.

Additional private open space is provided in school sites. The importance of these spaces, particularly for young people's use after hours, should not be overlooked and Council should work to develop Memoranda of Understanding with schools where there is a deficit of accessible open space.

Municipality overview

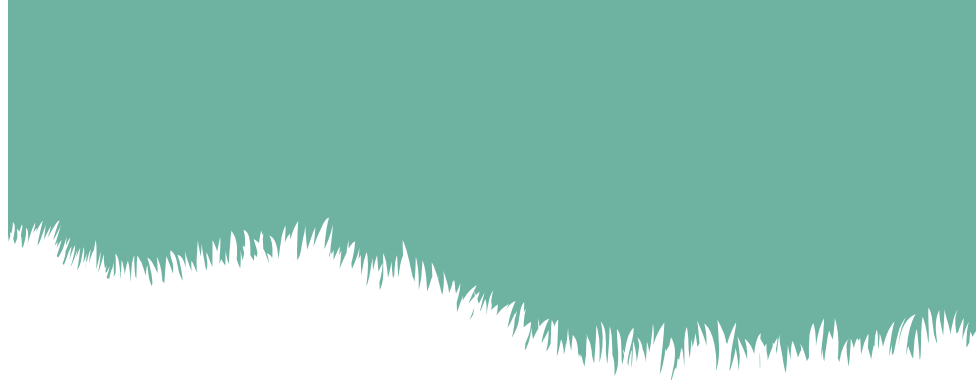
Distribution of open space

The primary function of spaces has been mapped as a tool to indicate a point in time distribution of open space benefits, and the diversity of opportunities.

As some spaces provide multiple values this analysis provides only a high level assessment.

The distribution of public open space by function across the municipality is shown in *Map 2: Moreland Public Open Space by Function Type (page 43)*.

For the key open space functions needed close to home, distance thresholds have been identified by function. These have been applied to each open space to determine the distribution of open space as an indicator of how far residents should be expected to travel to a space.



This strategy recommends that open space is provided within 500m of all residential properties, and 300m of all activity centres. Due to the specific requirement to provide some function types, shared trails within 800m; and sports reserves within 1km of all residential properties.

Areas of Moreland not adequately served by open space within the stated distance have been mapped (see *Map 5 Open Space Strategic Priorities* on page 46).

This provides the basis for seeking additional open spaces or improving existing open space and linkages to enhance accessibility to a diversity of open space benefits.

Map 5 Open Space Strategic Priorities provides an overall assessment of Moreland's open space, and priority areas for additional provision.

Whilst the distance thresholds are based on the primary function of the open space, any secondary function of existing uses should be considered before further provision or enhancements are made.

In addition, open space owned by other authorities, such as schools, or open space abutting Council boundaries should be considered when determining strategies to enhance provision. This includes significant areas of open space along the Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks, at Jack Roper Reserve (north of the Western Ring Road), and Royal Park.

Analysis shows that sports reserves in the municipality are generally well distributed within a 1km catchment of residences. The main exceptions to this are the Tullamarine and Gowanbrae suburbs. Further pockets where open space for sport is not well distributed include the far north and far south of the municipality (although access to other municipality's sports facilities is nearby), North Brunswick, and the eastern edge of Coburg. *Note: The distribution of open space for sport does not imply that there is adequate provision for specific sports.*

Few areas are well served by social / family recreation spaces, however some sporting reserves and schools provide this as a secondary function and these should be further investigated to determine priority areas for enhancing the quality and quantity of social / family recreation spaces.

The highest priority area for considering further social / family recreation space is Fawkner and Glenroy.

Areas not well served by shared trails were assessed. Whilst the Moonee Ponds Creek, Upfield Railway Line, and Merri Creek provide good trail access in a north-south direction, additional east-west shared trails are needed to provide a good distribution of off-road trails.



Given Melbourne's drought prone climate, having a policy on sustainable water use on open space is important. Sportsgrounds in particular require irrigation that ensures a playable surface all year round.

Diversity

The City has a relatively good distribution and range of types of open space. It has an unusually high quantity of land dedicated to memorial parks, as these are regional assets serving the whole of Melbourne's north. For an inner city Council, Moreland also has a good resource of land reserved for conservation of flora and fauna.

The area and number of open spaces serving social / family recreation are less generous and these are not well distributed.

The following table shows the number of open spaces by function in Moreland.

Table 1. The total area, and percentage of area of open space, by function type

Primary Function Type	Area (ha)	% of total area
Accessway / shared trail	26.4	2.5
Social / family recreation (including play)	74.4	8.9
Sport	200.2	23.9
Civic gathering / forecourt	0.4	<1.0
Conservation (flora and fauna)	190.1	22.7
Heritage	20	2.4
Memorial park / cemetery	204.5	24.4
Relaxation / contemplation or visual amenity	35.1	4.2
Utility / drainage floodway	64.6	7.7
Community horticulture ⁴	3.8	<1.0
No identified function	19.4	2.3

The City also has a relatively good range of spaces based on landscape setting type. There is a surprising quantity of treed parkland or bushland, considering the distance from the CBD. A large proportion of this area is the Fawkner Memorial Park, for which Council is not responsible.


There are no spaces with an exotic ornamental garden form (although the memorial parks are quite ornamental), and there are few paved open spaces.

The following table shows the number of spaces by landscape setting type in Moreland. Where there are no spaces for a landscape setting type, or a proliferation of others there is the opportunity for Council to identify other sites to diversify to these settings (see *Map 3: Moreland Public Open Space by Landscape Type* on page 44).

Table 2. The total area, and percentage of area of open space, by landscape setting types

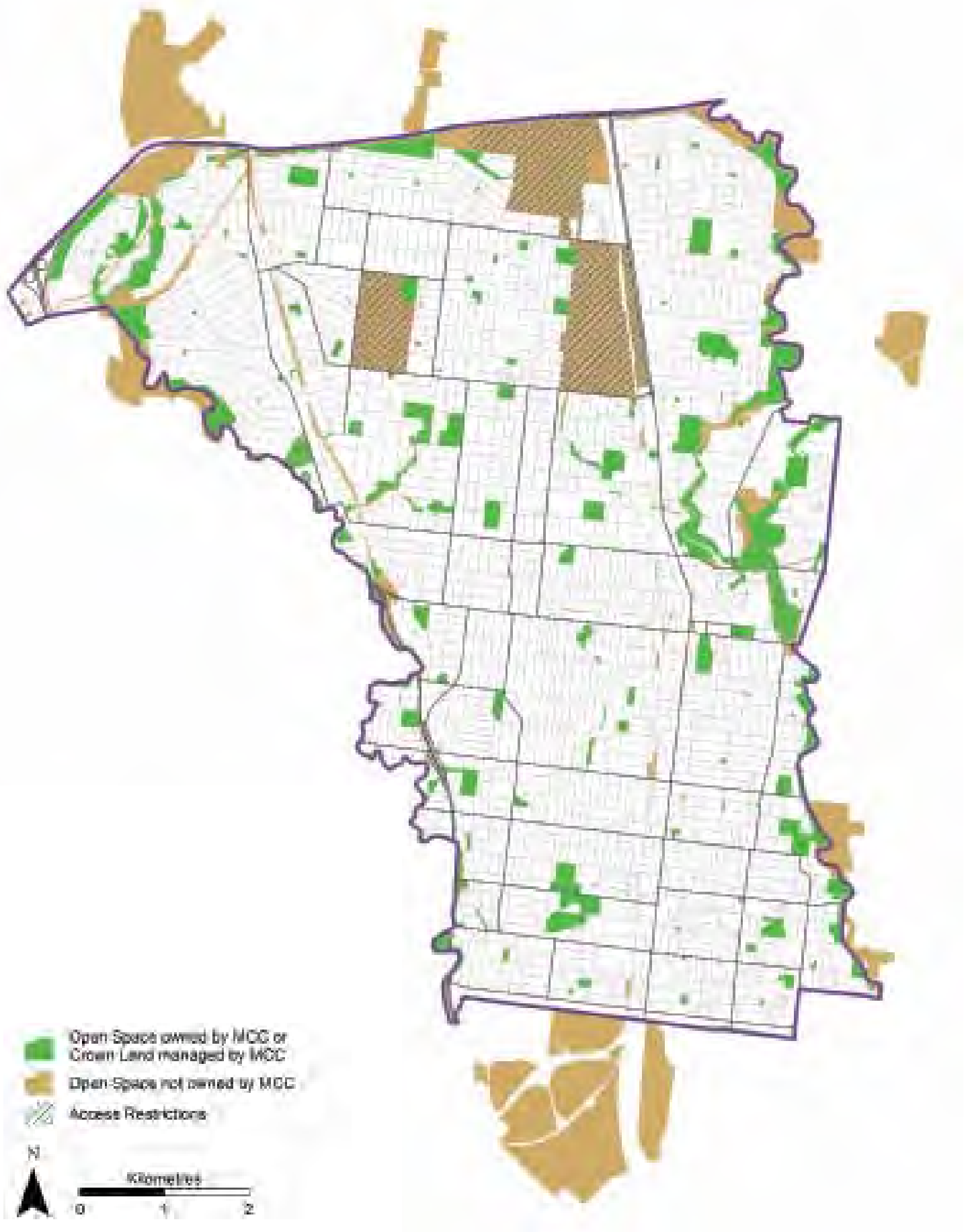
Landscape Setting Type	Area (ha)	% of total area
Open grassy area	113	13.5
Treed parkland	336.6	40.1
Paved area	0.1	<1.0
Waterbody / wetland	17.5	2.1
Lawn or managed turf	179.8	21.4
Specialised sport surface	13.7	1.6
Ornamental garden	NIL	NIL
Bushland / native grassland	174.3	20.8
Vegetable garden / farm ⁵	3.8	<1.0

The following maps illustrate the distribution of open spaces by function types, and setting type and the priority areas where distribution should be addressed.

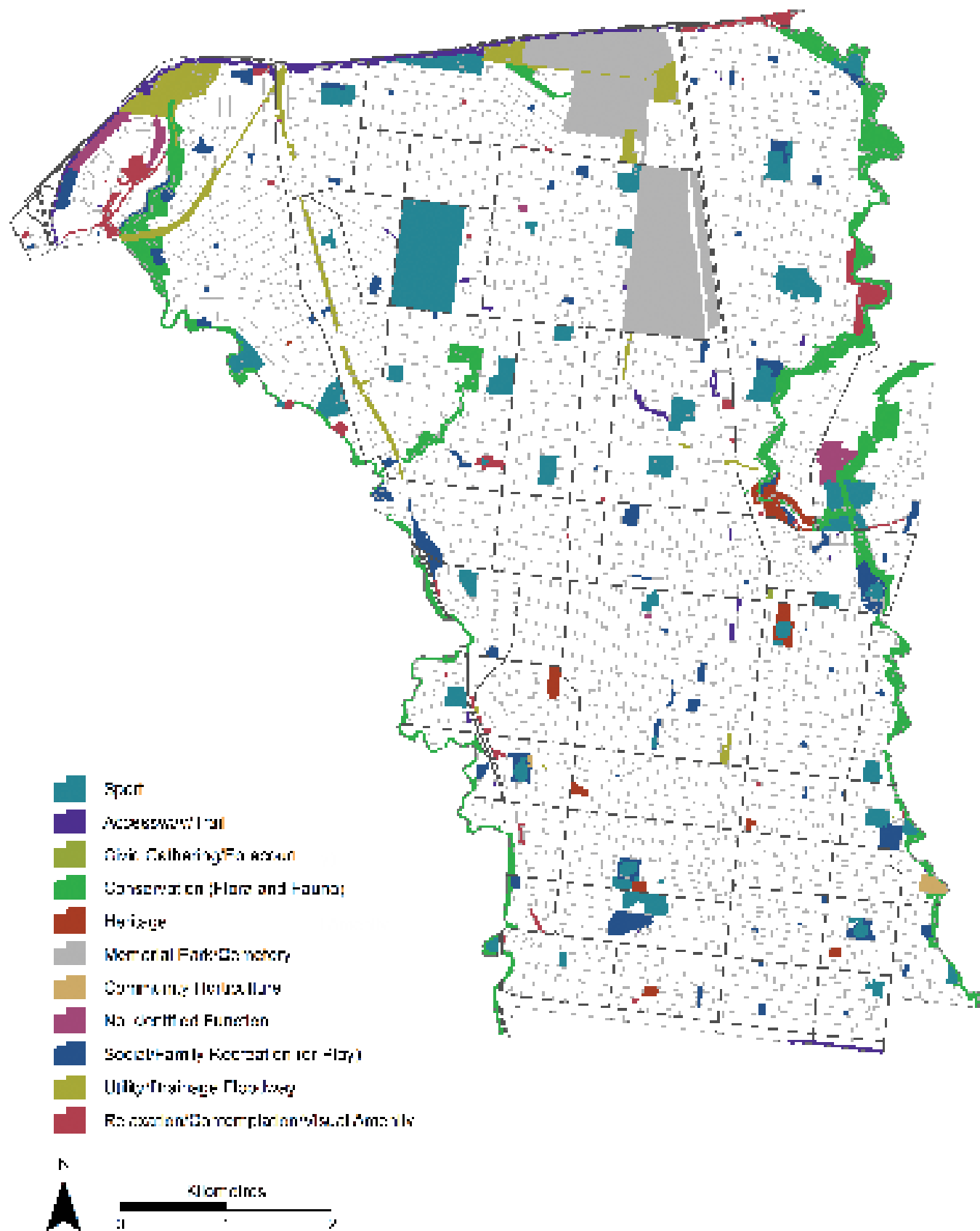
A close-up photograph of a grass seed head, likely a species of native grass, with a soft, out-of-focus background of similar vegetation. The seed head is in sharp focus, showing its intricate structure and golden-brown color. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

The extensive use of sustainable horticulture and the use of indigenous plants for habitat creation have reinvigorated all our parks, providing a diversity of experiences for our community and providing valuable habitats that have brought back many native birds and other wildlife.

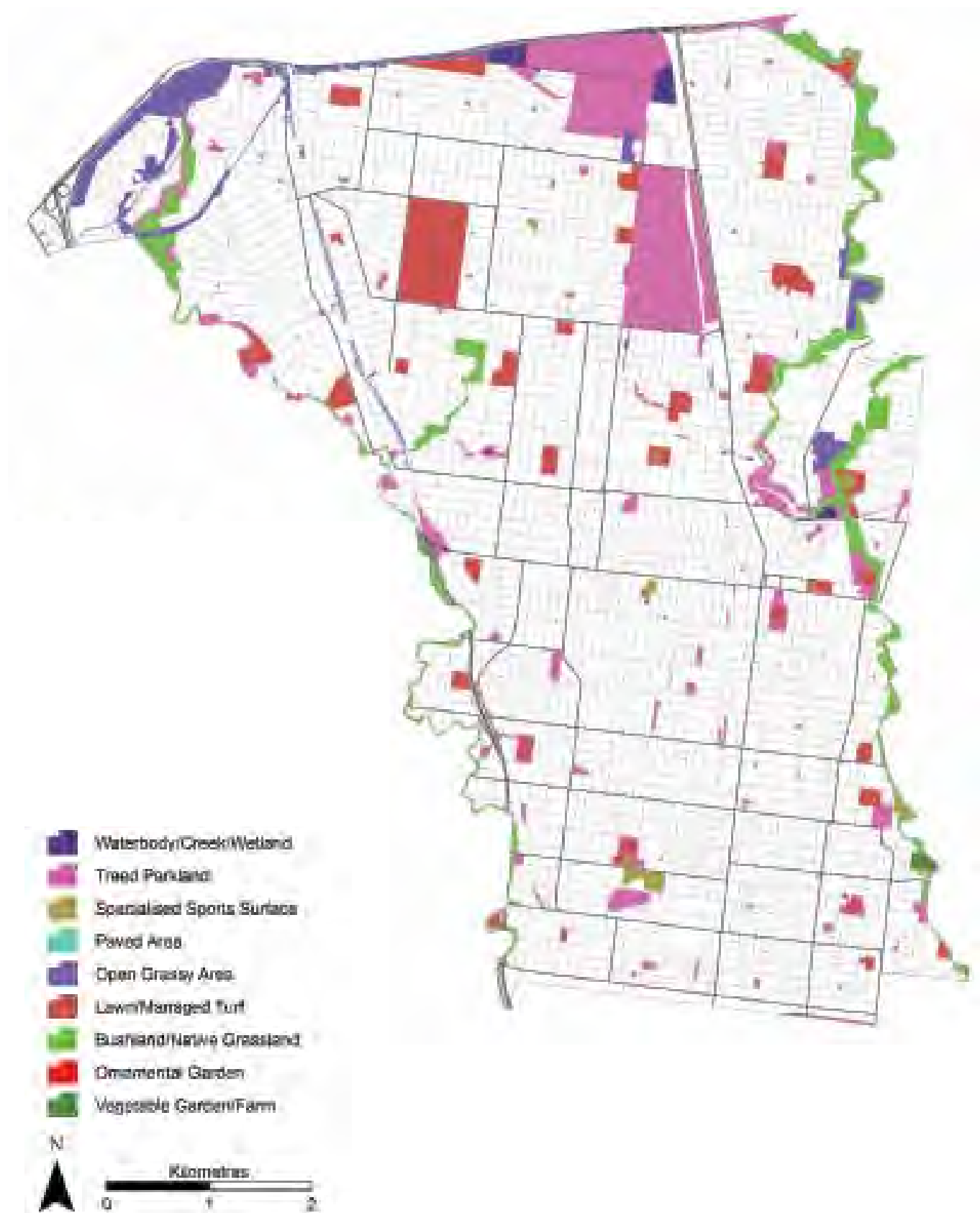
Map 1: Provision of Open Space



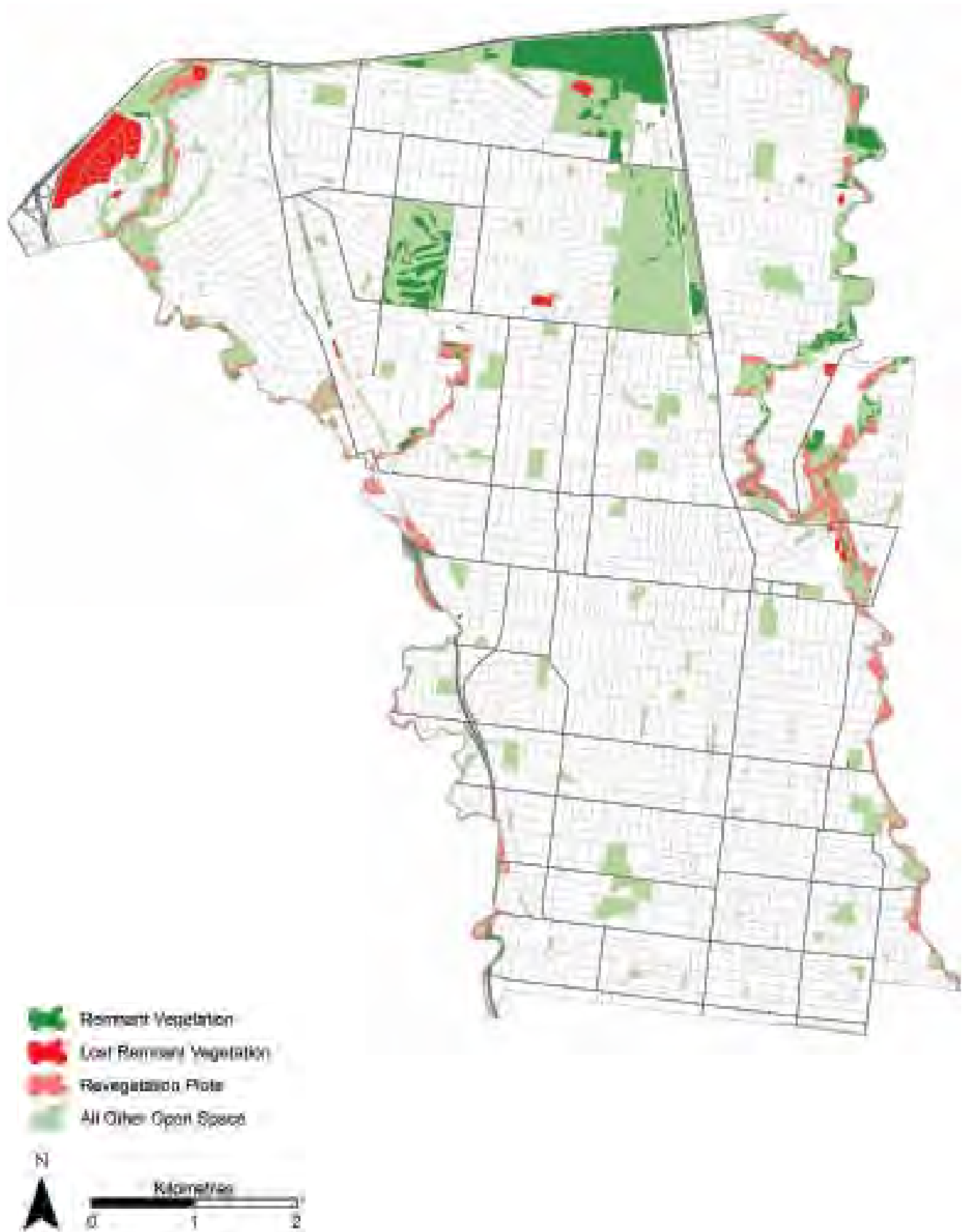
Map 2: Public Open Space Primary Function Type



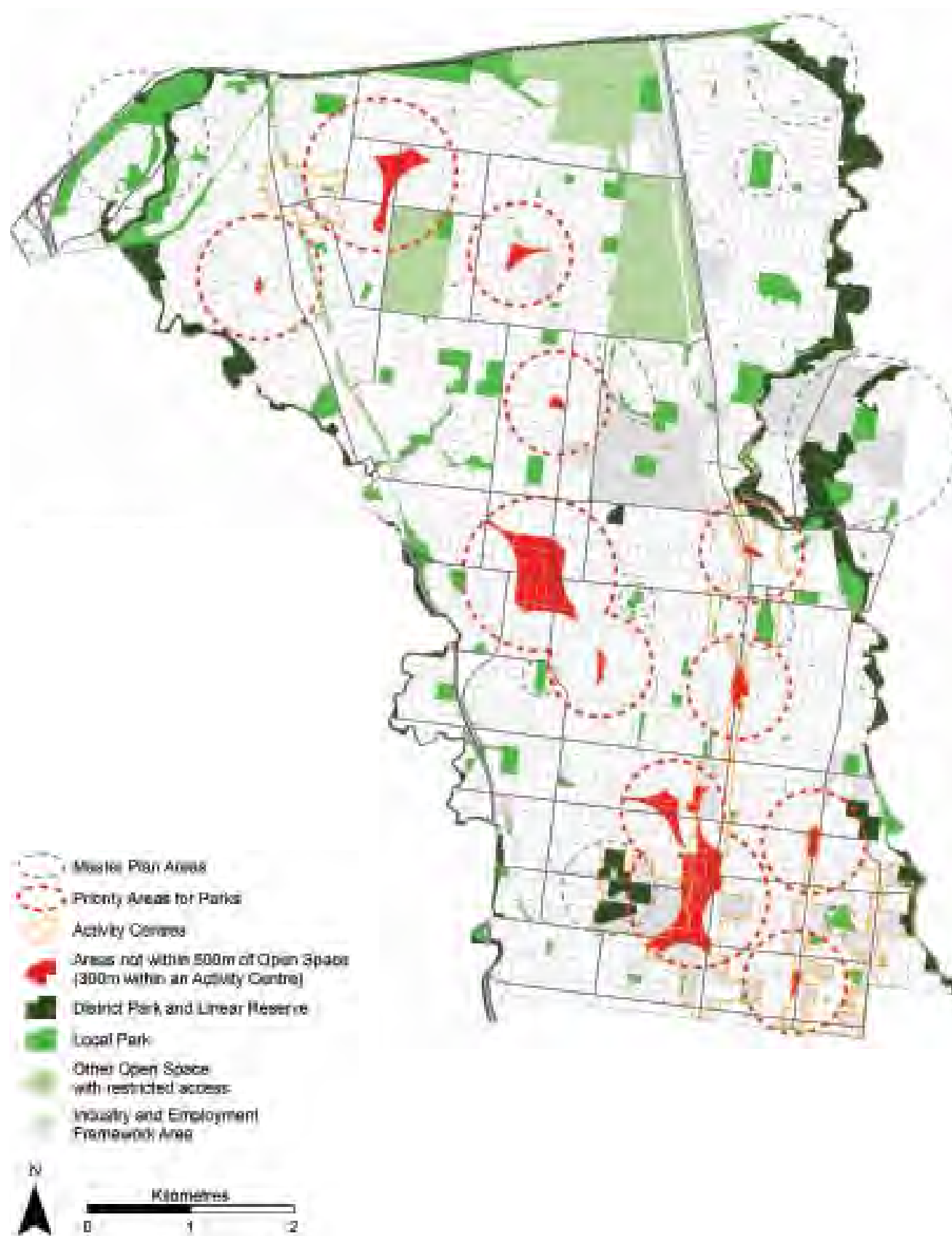
Map 3: Public Open Space Landscape Type



Map 4: Indigenous Vegetation



Map 5: Moreland Open Space Strategy Strategic Priorities





There will be an increasing need to develop strategies to slow water, potentially through wetlands and plantings, and continue efforts to reduce water runoff from the built environment into the catchment.



Analysis shows that sports reserves in the municipality are generally well distributed within a 1km catchment of residences.

Open space supply by suburb

Brunswick

Brunswick (including North Fitzroy) has 80.3ha of public open space, a significant proportion of which is the Merri Creek Linear Reserve.

The suburb has the highest provision in the municipality for social / family recreation open space, with major sites located at Gilpin Park, and Jones Reserve. CERES Community Environmental Park performs a community horticulture/ farm and as social family / recreation as a significant secondary function.

Sport is generally well distributed in Brunswick, except in the very south of the suburb; however Royal Park south of the municipality provides open space for sport.

A significant piece of open space for Brunswick is the Brunswick Central Parklands, made up of Gillon Oval, Raeburn Reserve, Brunswick Park, Clifton Park, and Gilpin Park. The area serves both the residential and industrial areas. It is a significant sporting precinct, with a desire to include a skate park, and Gilpin and Brunswick Park being key passive recreation sites. Linkages through, to and around the whole precinct are critical for the functioning of this key open space network.

Due to the increasing density of the population in Brunswick and the already limited amount of open space servicing the population it will be critical to maintain the liveability of the area. It will be vital to ensure that not only the amenity of the existing open space is protected, that sites are identified where land could be purchased for open space or improved linkages to open space.

Coburg

Coburg has 152.4ha of public open space. Two major social / family recreation spaces, Lake Reserve and Harmony Park, are located here. Edgars and Merri Creeks provide the major bushland open space in the suburb, with the Upfield Railway Line providing another valuable north-south oriented off road trail.

Only five parcels of social / family recreation open space are identified in the suburb, with Lake Reserve the most significant social / family recreation reserve in Moreland. There are a large number of smaller spaces with a play function, suggesting there is scope for embellishment of some of these spaces to cater for a wider range of age groups and activities.

Coburg is relatively well served by open space, however there are some small pockets with poor access to open space, and key barriers, such as Sydney Road, Bell Street and the Upfield Railway that make it difficult to access open space safely.

Fawkner

The 87.4ha of open space in Fawkner is comprises significant tracts of bushland and open grassy areas along Merri Creek parkland with several large sports reserves, including Moomba Park and CB Smith and Charles Mutton Reserves. It also includes Moreland's most diverse grassland reserve, Jukes Road Grassland (Bababi Djininang).

Fawkner is least well provided for by social / family recreation space (than all other suburbs), particularly in the far north of the suburb. Council could look at upgrading some of the larger open spaces, to provide a diversity of social and recreation opportunities.

There are many small reserves dotted throughout the suburb with very limited diversity and this could be improved, including some areas of ornamental style horticulture.



Glenroy

The 381.4ha of open space in Glenroy/Hadfield is dominated by the Fawkner Memorial Park site (202ha) and the privately owned Northern Golf Course (53ha). Whilst providing some relief from the built environment, the Fawkner Memorial Park has limitations as a recreational space. Both sites also contain a significant amount of Moreland's intact remnant vegetation sites.

Two significant areas within the suburb of Glenroy have poor access to open space. There is a large area particularly to the east of the Glenroy Structure Plan area which is close to the Northern Golf Course. This is a crucial area to provide for open space and the purchase of land should be considered to cater for a large social family recreation space.

The Northern Golf Course itself is a critical green space and Council should look to negotiate the development of a long perimeter shared trail around the course.

Open space for sport is adequately distributed, with Wallace Reserve providing the major open space for sporting playing fields.

Social / family recreation space is lacking in this suburb. The amount of smaller spaces with a play function, suggests there is scope for improvements to some of these spaces to cater for a wider range of age groups and activities.

The suburb lacks any east-west shared trails to link the main paths along Moonee Ponds Creek and the Upfield Line. The Broadmeadows railway line shared path should continue to be pursued to provide another north/south access route.

Gowanbrae

A significant amount of Gowanbrae's 45.2ha of open space has a visual amenity function, and all spaces have either treed parkland or open grassy area landscape setting, indicating little diversity of opportunities or experiences in the area.

Many of the areas set aside for open space are very steep and difficult to access, however the three major reserves, Elms Court, Community Centre and Riverside Walk should be further developed, with good shared access paths through the suburb to improve accessibility to the reserves and to the key shared trails of the Moonee Ponds Creek and the Western Ring Road. Pedestrian and bike access to Oak Park, particularly adjacent to Outlook Drive, should be pursued.

The Gowanbrae Retarding Basin accounts for over a third of Gowanbrae's open space, however as the site is primarily for drainage it provides limited recreational opportunities.

There are limited opportunities for sport (due to the steepness of most of the open space) and this is therefore a priority for provision for Gowanbrae, or at least providing easier access to the sports fields in Glenroy or adjacent City of Hume.



Oak Park

Oak Park has 29.3ha of open space with large tracts in Fran Street Reserve, Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve, and Oak Park Sports Centre. These provide sport and visual amenity functions. The area lacks any social / family recreation space, although the sports parks should be further developed to provide this function.

The Moonee Ponds Creek shared path provides a valuable off-road trail through the suburb. There is a need to improve access between Oak Park and Gowanbrae through bridges across the Moonee Ponds Creek and improved connectivity.

Pascoe Vale

Pascoe Vale has a relatively low provision of open space (62.7ha). There is very limited social / family recreation space, or space for shared trails. A large area of the population to the north and south of Bell Street has very poor access to open space, particularly with the barrier of Bell Street.

Council should look for opportunities to acquire open space in the suburb where possible, create safe linkages to open space and diversify existing open space experiences.

Tullamarine

Only a small residential area (0.4ha) in Tullamarine falls within the Moreland municipality. Only two parcels of open space, Leicester Square Reserve and Malvern Avenue Reserve, are found in the suburb which services the immediate residential properties.

As it is an isolated community and the open space amenity is poor, Council should look to develop one of the spaces as a social family recreation space and provide a different landscape setting for the other space to provide diversity. Improved linkages to both Gowanbrae and the Moonee Valley City Council are critical for this community.



7. Demand for open space in Moreland



Implications of demographic profile on open space

The City of Moreland had a population in excess of 147,000 people in 2011⁴, spread relatively evenly throughout the municipality. Over the next 20 years, this number is expected to increase by almost 20%, equating to nearly 30,000 additional residents.⁵

In 2011, Brunswick Statistical Local Areas' (includes Brunswick, Brunswick West and Brunswick East) population was 45,123. Coburg SLA's (includes Coburg, Coburg North, Pascoe Vale South and 80% of Pascoe Vale) population was 51,098. North SLA's (includes Glenroy, Gowanbrae, Oak Park, Hadfield, Fawkner and 20% of Pascoe Vale) population was 51,024.

Over three quarters (79%) of the municipality's population growth is expected to occur in the Brunswick and Coburg SLA's, with the North SLA only expected to account for 21% of population growth. The most significant growth is predicted to occur in Brunswick and Brunswick East, with the populations rising by 38.7% and 103.5% respectively. This will result in higher densities in the Brunswick and Coburg area. Opportunities to secure land through Activity Centre planning and further strategic work undertaken to gain open space in rezoned industrial use areas and redesignation of spaces to create open space, i.e. road closures, should be undertaken to ensure adequate open space provision.

As greenfield development opportunities is expected to be limited, Council may need to identify alternative forms of open space outside of the traditional green areas to address gaps in provision, such as piazzas or public common squares set aside for active recreation use as part of larger developments. However 'greening' opportunities should be maximised at all times, particularly the provision of in-situ trees in these more paved environments.

4. Census data for 2012 was used to update the demographic, age and housing profile (the remaining data was not available at time of adoption).

5. City of Moreland Population Forecasts, .id Consulting Pty Ltd, 2011.

Age profile

In 2011, the largest age group is that of 25-29 year olds, (more than 10% of the total population), with 42.8% of this age group residing in the Brunswick SLA. This is expected to be the largest age group up until 2021. Between 2006 and 2011, this age group showed the largest increase in population, constituting 23.4% of the total population increase during that period. To motivate this age group to use open space social sports opportunities such as hard courts and places to skate and socialize, as well as off road trails will be important. Teenagers needs in open space have not been well addressed in the past. They need spaces where they can meet friends, see and be seen. Council's oxygen Project should continue to feed into open space development to cater for youth needs.

The greatest rates of change in number of residents by 2031 are expected to be in the 55-59 year and 85+ age groups. Physical and outdoor recreation activity declines sharply after 65 years of age, therefore to encourage further recreation opportunities for this age group a good distribution of accessible spaces, safe places to walk and cycle, and appropriate amenities, such as seating and shade will be required. More horticultural based and ornamental spaces or environmental focused programs may also appeal to this age group.

The age of the additional population projected is expected to vary significantly across the three SLA's. For instance, Brunswick is projected to have a higher proportion of the population between 20-40 years than northern areas of the municipality. This is likely to result in continued demand for a range of dwelling types and open spaces across Moreland. Council should be considering these changes in age profiling in terms of the pressure applied to open space.

With a continued diversity in age groups the development of more intergenerational social / family recreation open space (which have the capacity to accommodate a range of age groups, activities and users), will be important, especially in higher density and retail areas.

Housing

There has been a significant increase in the number of houses in Moreland, rising from 59,291 dwellings in 2006 to 63,302 in 2011.

Households across Moreland have changed over the past decade with a marked increase in lone person households, particularly in the south of the municipality. The majority of households in the north of the municipality are still families and Council should continue to make spaces and activities convenient, provide social activities and outlets in open space and ensure information is available to promote the social and health benefits of use of the open space.

Income and education

Income is a significant indicator of leisure behaviour and likely to affect the use of open space. Families with higher disposable incomes are more likely to spend money on travel, membership fees and equipment to participate in sport and outdoor recreation activities. Lower income families may also have a lower perceived value of open space, particularly in the health benefits accrued from use, and be constrained by lack of transport and other barriers in using open space.

As expected, income is linked to levels of education, and recreation participation is significantly higher for higher income / education residents.

The majority of residents in Moreland fall into the bottom half of individual income groups, with almost 55% of the population being in the medium lowest (\$10,673 to \$24,976) to lowest income quartiles (\$0 to \$10,636)⁶. Glenroy, Fawkner, Hadfield and Coburg North have significant pockets of disadvantage. Average individual income decreases further north. Brunswick residents have an average individual income of \$47,713; northern residents have an average individual income of \$42,992.

Considerable interventions will be required to increase use and value of open space by people with low incomes who often also experience other forms of social disadvantage because they may be new arrivals or have a disability or language barrier for example.

6. City of Moreland Community Profile, i.d Consulting Pty Ltd, 2011.



Some 47.3% of Moreland's population has no formal qualifications. These figures however, are changing with a decline of 8.2% in those with no qualifications, and an increase of 5.4% in residents with bachelor or higher degrees since 2001.⁷

Council can address constraints to recreation use for lower income / education residents by providing more of an educational role and improving accessibility to facilities through its Active Moreland program.

Employment

Unemployment rates in Moreland generally increase the further one travels from the Melbourne CBD. In the March 2012 quarter, Brunswick's unemployment rate is 5.5%, Coburg's unemployment rate is 5.4%, and northern areas, such as Glenroy, have unemployment rates of 7.5%. There is also a correlation with age, with affect those aged under 25 years and over 55 years more likely to be over-represented in unemployment statistics than other age groups.

People who are unemployed may not have the same opportunities as others to participate in outdoor recreation activities away from home, or have the same social networking opportunities that lead to recreation participation.

Council can express the social and health benefits of involving the community in recreation, through marketing and promotion of activities that can be undertaken at low or minimal cost to users in local open space.

Ethnicity and language

Moreland is characterised by a culturally and linguistically diverse community with more than one third (33.8%) of Moreland residents born overseas⁸. This equates to some 49,750 people in 2011, and is projected to increase to some 59,422 in 2031.⁹

The main countries of birth of current residents in Moreland other than Australia are Italy, India, Greece, and the United Kingdom, however the main countries of birth of new arrivals to the area differ from these traditional groups. A high proportion of new arrivals to Moreland are born in China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Iraq.

Over half the Moreland population (59%) had both parents born overseas. The main languages other than English spoken at home are Italian, Greek, Arabic, Turkish and Chinese, with just over half of residents (54.8%) speaking English at home.¹⁰

Ethnicity has a strong influence on an individual's attitude to and participation in recreation activity. Some cultural groups have particular needs. For example, Muslims will not use barbeques that may have been used for the preparation of pork, and they are not likely to have a dog as a pet. The strong demand for sports such as soccer is an indication of cultural heritage. Considerable work is being done through Active Moreland to encourage people born overseas to participate in sport and recreation. A key focus will need to be on education and information on open space opportunities as well as addressing barriers such as cost and accessibility.

7. City of Moreland Community Profile, .id Consulting Pty Ltd, 2011.

8. City of Moreland Community Profile, .id Consulting Pty Ltd, 2011.

9. City of Moreland Population Forecasts, .id Consulting Pty Ltd, 2011.

10. City of Moreland Community Profile, .id Consulting Pty Ltd, 2011.



Community preferences and demand

Summary

Public consultation was undertaken through a householder telephone survey in 2010 within the Municipal Public Health Plan. A total of 613 Moreland residents between 18 and 54 were surveyed. Key findings from the survey are as follows:

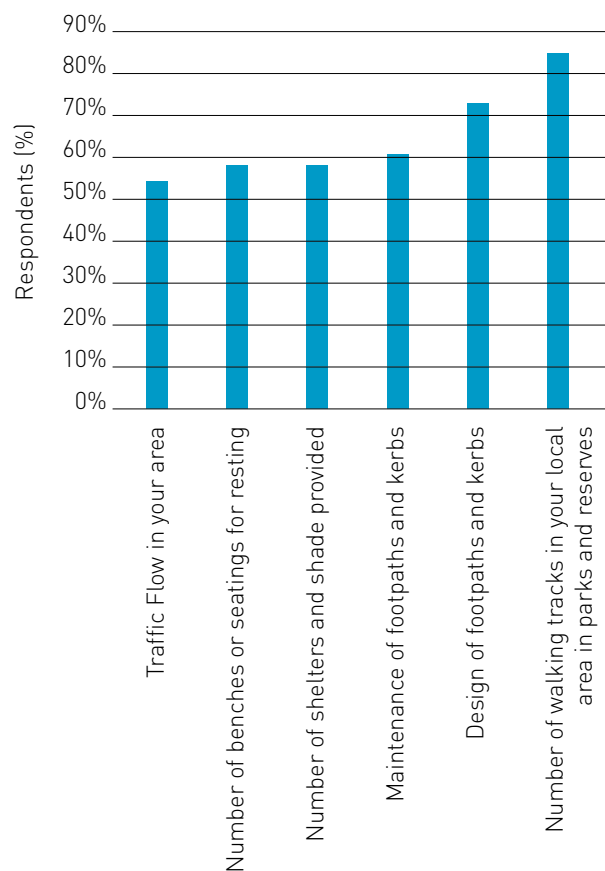
Amenity and facilities

Respondents were asked about their satisfaction with open spaces and the built environment.

Over half of respondents were satisfied with each of the aspects of open space and built environment given.

Over 80% of respondents were satisfied with the number of walking tracks in their local area (see Figure 2) however Council should note the lower satisfaction with the amenities provided.

Figure 2. Respondents levels of satisfaction with aspects of open spaces and the built environment





Usage of open space

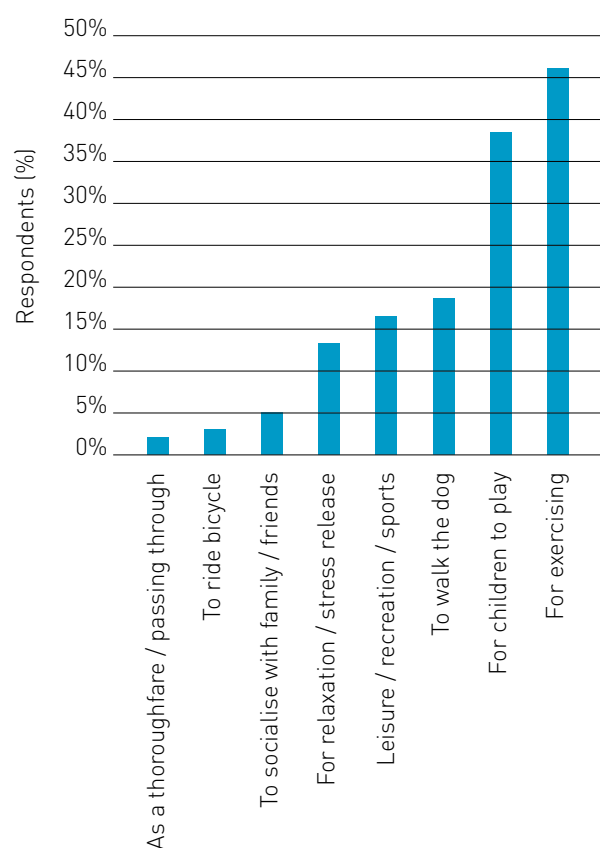
Respondents to the survey were asked how often they use green spaces such as parks and gardens in Moreland.

Usage of green space in Moreland was found to be relatively frequent. Fifteen percent reported that they use green spaces daily, 32% reported 2-3 times a week, and 25% reported once a week.

Only 4% reported that they never use green spaces in Moreland. These respondents were more likely to be male, particularly older (35 to 54 years) males and those who have obtained an education below Year 12.

Respondents were asked for what purpose they use green spaces in Moreland (see Figure 3). The most common reasons for usage was exercise, and for taking children along to play. Other reasons related to other forms of exercise such as walking the dog or general leisure, recreation or sports. This emphasises the range of function type and landscape settings required for high usage of the open space network. Around 1 in 10 reported they use green space for relaxation or *stress release purposes*.

Figure 3. Reasons respondents frequent green spaces



Respondents were also asked why they don't use green spaces in Moreland more often (see *Table 3 below*). The most common reasons related to being too busy or preferring to do other things with their time. A range of other reasons were cited by a small number of respondents such as parks not being well maintained, feeling unsafe, or a lack of park facilities.

Table 3. Reasons respondents do not frequent open space

Reason for Infrequent usage	Respondents (%)
Too busy / work commitments / no time	29
No particular reason	25
Prefer to do other things with my time on the weekend	20
Not convenient / close to home	13
Too late or dark after work	9
Don't know where they are	4
Not well maintained	4
Due to weather / cold / mud	3
Have own yard / no need for park	3
Go to other / nicer parks	3
Lack of facilities	2
Unsafe / don't feel safe	1
Medical / health reasons	1
No children's play equipment	1
No children / children older now	1
Don't go out much	1
Overcrowded	<1

These results indicate that infrequent usage is likely to be linked with personal preference and /or lack of desire to use green spaces followed by not convenient, not close to home. Council must respond to the time constraints placed on individuals through enhancing accessibility to open space if use is to increase.

Younger people aged 18-24 years were more likely to report that they do not use green spaces, because they do not know where they are, and this was particularly the case for younger females (21%).

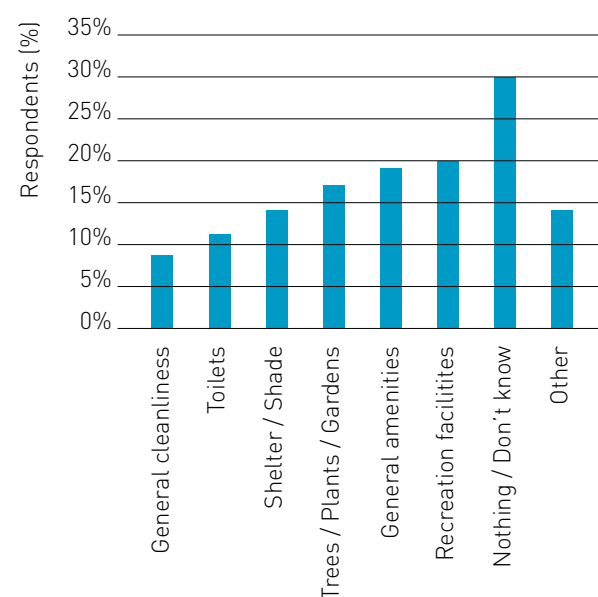
Those who speak a language other than English at home were less likely to use green spaces because they are too busy or have work commitments (35%) compared with those who speak English only at home (24%).

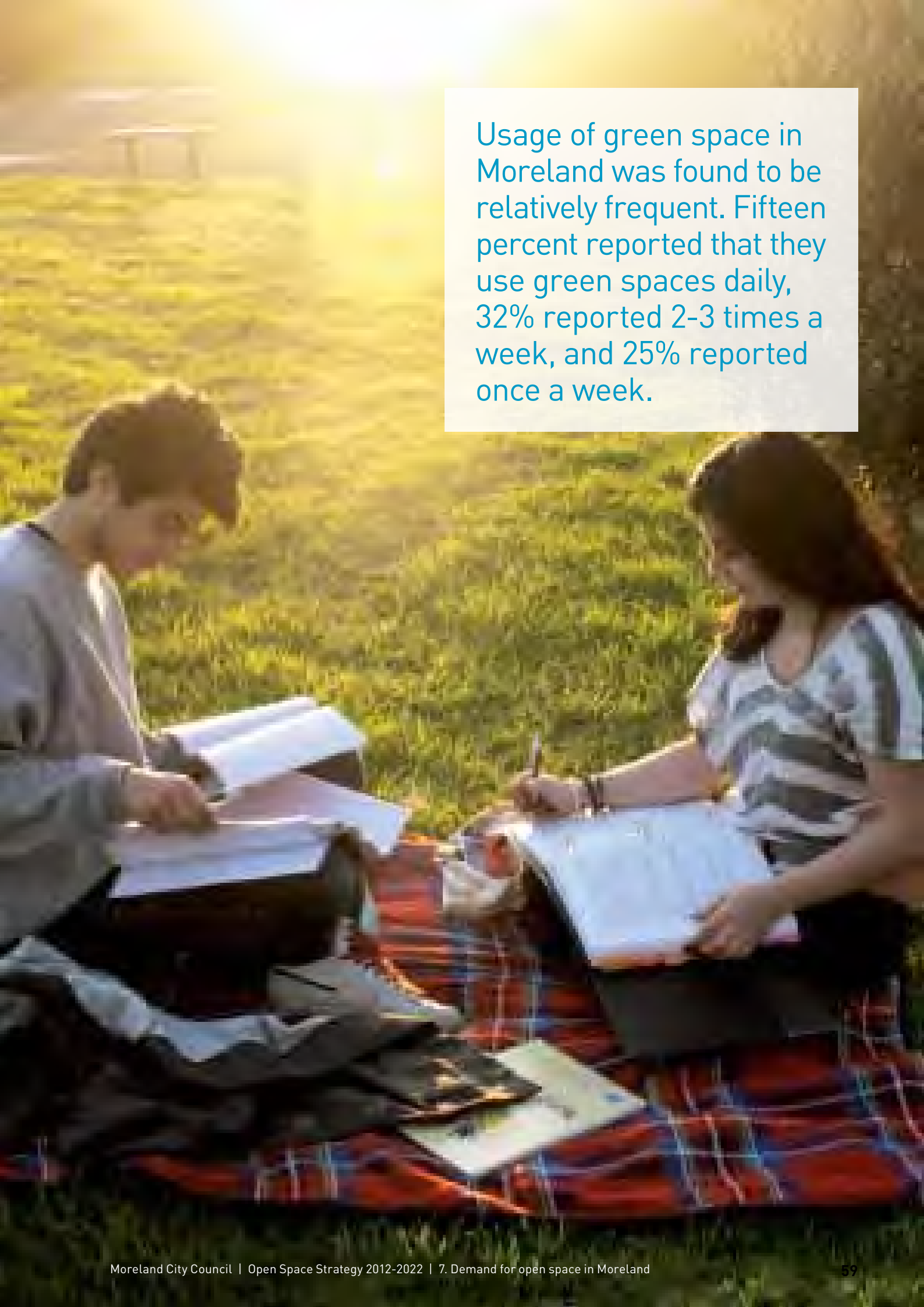
Whilst almost half of those who have obtained an education below Year 12 had no particular reason as to why they do not use green spaces, they were also among those who were more likely to give reasons such as they are too busy / have work commitments (36%) or they prefer to do other things with their time (26%).

Improvements to open space

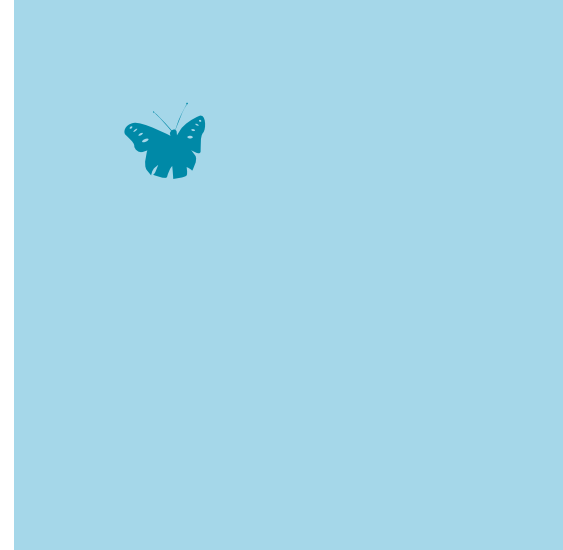
Respondents were asked what they would most like to see improved or added to public spaces or parks (see *Figure 4*). These responses have been grouped into themes to demonstrate whether they were more likely to relate to particular themes more than others.

Figure 4. Aspects of public spaces or parks that could be improved



A young man and woman are sitting on a red and blue plaid picnic blanket in a grassy field. The man, on the left, is wearing a grey jacket and is looking down at a stack of papers. The woman, on the right, is wearing a striped shirt and is also looking down at a paper, with a pen in her hand. They appear to be studying or working together. In the background, there is a grassy field and a wooden bench. A text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Usage of green space in Moreland was found to be relatively frequent. Fifteen percent reported that they use green spaces daily, 32% reported 2-3 times a week, and 25% reported once a week.



Of note was that 30% of respondents reported that there was nothing (or they did not know) what they would like to see improved. This indicates a lack of awareness of open space, something Council can address through greater marketing and promotion.

Comments about recreation facilities were most common; with 20% citing something should be improved or added. Closer analysis of this theme revealed these individuals were most likely to cite more playgrounds / play equipment / skate parks / or updated play equipment, followed by better maintained walking tracks. Further common themes included: improvements to general amenities; (specifically more seats); barbecues and drinking fountains; comments related to trees; plants and gardens (specifically in terms of more green spaces, parks and gardens); and better maintenance of parks and gardens; and more trees.

Females in particular would like to see improvements to the general amenities, shelter / shade and general cleanliness of public spaces and parks in Moreland.

General amenities was also more of a concern among younger residents aged 18-34 years whereas residents aged 45-54 years and those from non-English speaking households were more likely to suggest improvements related to trees, plants and gardens.

Improvements to recreation facilities and shelter / shade were more likely to be mentioned by young families (youngest child under 6 years).

Role of open space

Respondents note the most popular roles of open space related to wildlife habitat / nature, relaxation, and exercise / health / wellbeing.

There was an appreciation that open space can and should meet both human and nature conservation needs. Habitat links were regarded as of vital importance, with the use of indigenous species widely supported.

There was also a strong recognition of the creeks as part of both open space and water management systems, with an emphasis on water quality issues.

Adequacy of provision

Variation in the availability of open space throughout the municipality has been recognised as a key issue for residents. Generally there is a desire for more open space, and strong support for the principle of an equitable distribution throughout the municipality. Some areas have access to inadequate open space, and areas where increasing housing densities will mean an increased need for more open space.

It was suggested that many areas could support a higher level of use for a wider range of activities. Through better links between open space areas, and between open space and adjoining uses, open space could also be made more available to a wider range of people.



While there was a desire for more open space, most people saw this as unrealistic and therefore suggested ways of increasing the diversity, quality and accessibility of what already exists.

Many respondents questioned the relative allocations for different uses in open space, suggesting that there is a need for more informal recreation areas, more multi-use areas and fewer single-purpose sporting grounds.

Loss of areas used as open space but not reserved for this purpose was a concern throughout the municipality, as was the selling of government land.

A large regional park was also proposed. Co-operative planning across municipal boundaries and within the region was seen as a way of providing more open space opportunities without necessarily acquiring more open space.

New opportunities for open space provision were generally seen as being limited to the better use of other urban spaces such as shopping centres, railway lines, and streets as part of our open space network.

Quality and diversity of existing open space

The quality of open space throughout the municipality was regarded by respondents as; variable. Whilst some high-quality areas were identified, most were lacking in character and distinctive design.

Whilst seen as important, small local parks were most often seen by respondents as being of poor quality, offering a sameness of experience (i.e. grass and a couple of trees) to park users.

Some open space areas were seen as not adequately fulfilling their intended purpose due to poorly designed and located facilities, and the lack of basic amenity such as shade, shelter, trees, and seats; and the frequency / quality of maintenance.

Safety and feeling safe while using open space emerged as a major issue for many people, particularly, women and older people. The main problems highlighted were lack of lighting, lack of cleaning (broken glass, syringes), and lack of "supervision". Unmanaged dogs off the leash also rated highly.

An important theme to emerge was the need to provide the means and resources to directly involve local people and open space users in redesigning open space areas. This can have the effect of giving the community a sense of ownership of a space.



Unmet needs

The needs of older people are widely recognised as being under-catered for in Moreland's open space. Meeting basic needs such as seats with a view (perhaps near a play area), shade, well-maintained paths and providing a wider range of opportunities was seen as vital to cater for Moreland's ageing community.

Children's play areas were seen as varying in quality, with little diversity available across the municipality. Small play areas close to home, and spaces where informal ball games are allowed were important. Play areas for older children are perceived to be lacking. Social / family recreation open space should cater for a range of ages.

Playing in the street was once part of inner city life, and safer streets where children can play close to home was desired by many.

Local places, close to home and easy to access on foot were seen as important for older people and parents (generally women) with young children. Larger, extended families need larger clusters of facilities and an environment that is safe and accessible for the youngest through to the oldest person.

Creating more pleasant spaces along neighbourhood streets, near shopping centres and community venues was regarded as a good opportunity to make better use of small spaces for adults and children, create links between open spaces, and make safer, more pleasant neighbourhoods.

Youth Spaces

The *oxYgen Project* explores the possibilities of creating youth spaces and services in Moreland. The project is guided by a committee of young people aged 12-25 years old, and gives young people the opportunity to have a say and influence decision making in their own community.

Research has been undertaken as part of the *oxYgen Project* on the needs of youth issues relating to open space including:

- The need to feel welcome and included in the public realm (parks, shopping centres and community facilities) and in schools
- General disappointment in the state of Moreland's streets, buildings and parks (old, dirty, run down, unappealing, full of rubbish, poor lighting, landscaping and signage)
- Suggestions to improve youth issues in open space included:
- Improved maintenance and amenity of parks and open space (more trees, shade, seating, lighting, drink fountains, public art and play equipment for older children and teenagers, as well as more youth events and festivals)
- More, or better sports facilities: soccer fields; half basketball courts; BMX tracks and skate parks; and indoor sports centres
- Youth friendly spaces especially for sport and physical activity and formal organised programs as well as places to hang out and socialise
- A multi-purpose space that could be used for a range of different activities by a range of different groups that ensured the physical safety and inclusion of young people



- Several ideas emerged for open space facilities:
- An adventure park
- Wild natural areas
- Performance spaces
- Lakes and water features
- A major park providing for a range of informal recreation uses
- Places for quiet reflection
- Community allotment gardens
- Public art works
- Exercise and activity sites along trails
- Parkour

Information distribution

Survey respondents were asked to comment on how they currently see or hear about Council and community activities and how they would prefer to receive information.

The majority obtain information from the local newspaper (68%), which is relatively consistent with how they prefer to receive their information (53%). Other less common sources included brochures or newsletters in the mail, and there appears to be more of a preference for the latter than current behaviour suggests.

Electronic sources, specifically the internet and / or email also ranked relatively highly as preferred information sources although this was not specifically linked with the Council's website.

Better information about what is available was also seen as a key.

A photograph of a woman and a young child in a park. The woman, wearing a floral dress, stands behind the child who is sitting on the grass and playing with colorful toys. A large, stylized, light-colored leaf graphic is overlaid on the image. A semi-transparent white box containing the section header is positioned in the lower-left area.

8. Key Goals and objectives

In taking all the issues and opportunities raised in the body of the Open Space Strategy the following goals and objectives formulate the direction of the Strategy for the next 10 years and provide for the sustainable future of our open space network for the community and the environment.

Goal 1

Providing parks close to home

There are social, environmental and economic benefits of open space, especially when these are provided in close proximity to residential dwellings. In a heavily built environment like Moreland, planning for open space in higher densities, and an increasing population is important.

With increased densities, and the absence of open space sites from greenfield development, forms of open space, and considerable improvements will be required to meet future demand for open space benefits close to home.

The *Municipal Health Survey* revealed that after “no particular reason / doesn’t interest me”, “inconvenient or not close to home” was a major reason why survey respondents don’t use Moreland’s open space¹¹. It is therefore important for to ensure access to parks within 500m safe walking distance to encourage people to access open space.

Moreland’s residents must have a range of open spaces accessible to them, including sports reserves, social / family recreation parks, and shared trails.

The open space distribution analysis identified that much of the City does not have a social / family recreation space or shared trail close to home.

A broad range of open space function types should provide a range of experiences to encourage use, particularly as there is an incremental ‘loss’ of open parkland to development for indoor sporting and other community facilities and car parks.

There is often pressure to find locations for facilities and respond to residents’ concerns about on-street parking and provision of community facilities. The current planning provisions currently allow for a wide range of permitted uses on open space. It is critical for Council to commit to protecting open space, assess the benefits that will be eroded by developments and to seek alternate sites for infrastructure, particularly if they do not relate to open space activities.

Goal 1: Objectives

- *Incrementally acquire and develop open spaces (where possible) to increase the proximity of high quality parkland to residential dwellings*
- *Ensure every household has safe and convenient access to parkland for passive recreation, quiet contemplation, sport and access to nature*
- *Provide and protect quality open space that provides a range of experiences and accessible recreation opportunities, natural and cultural heritage features, and high quality park facilities and landscape settings*

11. Survey conducted for City of Moreland’s Municipal Health Plan





Goal 1: **Strategy 1**

Pursue opportunities to acquire local open space in areas undersupplied by open space, where densities and building heights are increasing, or where dwellings occur in mixed-use areas and activity centres

- Improve provision and access to functional open space, within designated principal, major neighbourhood and local activity centres, by providing high quality open space within 300m safe walking distance of the activity centre
- Seek opportunities through urban development to acquire open space in areas underserved, as a priority for social / family recreation parks, shared trails, and sports
- Prepare a land acquisition policy to guide Council's strategic acquisition of land for open space and open space improvements, including development contributions under the Subdivision Act
- Investigate the acquisition of the following sites / areas to address under provision of open space in the neighbourhood/suburb:
 - Glenroy Primary School land
 - Land in Glenroy abutting Belair Avenue Park
 - Land in Pascoe Vale South
 - Land in Pascoe Vale in the vicinity of Windsor Street and Derby Street (or develop a shared use agreement with Pascoe Vale North Primary School)
 - Land in Brunswick East
 - Land in Coburg around O'Hea Street
 - Land fronting 33 Stewart Street, Brunswick
- Land in West Glenroy
- Land in East Glenroy
- Land in Hadfield
- Lobby Vic Track to transfer land to Council as open space between Upfield train line and Cameron Street running from Moreland Road along the length of Cameron Street
- Lobby Vic Track to transfer land between Albert Street running along the Upfield bike path and supermarket car park, to Council as open space
- Lobby Jemena Power to transfer land at Gervase Street, Glenroy to Council
- Purchase land and develop a small local park in the vicinity of the corner of Reynard and Portland Streets, Coburg
- Purchase land and develop a small local park in the vicinity of Shirley Street Fawcner
- Investigate sites designated for residential redevelopment in rezoned industrial areas or increasing employment in Industrial areas and identify the need for open space to be provided in conjunction with redevelopment
- Council will advocate to the State Government to implement the recommendations of the VEAC report that when surplus public utility land has been identified as having environmental or social value, that the Council be given the first option on the land
- Incorporate key actions requiring advocacy into Corporate Advocacy Program

Goal 1: **Strategy 2**

Investigate the conversion of the following Council owned sites to open space

- a) Council owned car park on Stewart Street, Brunswick
- b) Council owned car park in Breese Street, Brunswick
- c) Council owned car park on Edwards Street, Brunswick

Goal 1: **Strategy 3**

Seek to ensure structure plans and strategic redevelopment sites provide adequate open space where building heights and densities will increase

- Develop and adopt a standard approach to determining what open space is required, for what, where, and how it should be provided
- Ensure the function and setting type of spaces are determined in the structure planning process
- Implement the open space recommendations of the Brunswick, Glenroy, and Coburg 2020 Structure Plans
- Develop implementation plans for open space to improve provision and access to local open space, including civic places, within designated principal, major, neighbourhood and local activity centres

Goal 1: **Strategy 4**

Prepare a policy to guide the assessment and disposal of any open space sites

- Adopt the Melbourne 2030 Parkland Code when assessing any surplus open space
- Ensure the proceeds of sale of any open space is used to fund priority improvements and the purchase of other open space in areas where there is a demonstrated need

Goal 1: **Strategy 5**

Protect the value and amenity of existing and new open space and street landscapes

- Ensure that any new developments, other structures and car parks are setback and provide no unreasonable overshadowing of open space and street landscapes or reduction in public access, maximise interaction and passive surveillance opportunities, and are responsive to the existing site context
- Continue to encourage appropriate development adjacent to open space that enhances public surveillance, incidental lighting, encourages use and enhances a sense of security for users in the space
- Prepare guidelines and protocols to ensure high quality and functional open space and street landscape outcomes are achieved in public parks and streetscapes established as part of private or council development projects, and that these complement existing provision
- Develop and implement a reference document to provide guidance for planning decisions regarding appropriate development, particularly for urban consolidation projects, that may impact on street landscapes and / or open space
- Implement Moreland's Lighting Strategy focusing on entrances, buildings and paths where they provide a thoroughfare through parks, on shared trails at intersecting paths (minimal safety lighting to protect habitat values), for sport (as appropriate) and lighting will be of best practice environmental efficiency
- Develop a Memorials and Monuments Policy for open space and the public realm

Goal 2

Having a mix of open space types and experiences

Providing a diversity of open spaces will serve to ensure that Moreland's diverse population will continue to have a range of recreation experience now and in the future.

By classifying open space by its function type and landscape setting, a greater diversity of spaces can be created and Council and developers can be clearer as to what open space is required to address deficiencies or gaps in provision.

Open spaces that provide for social / family recreation, sporting and shared trails is of particular importance close to where people live, to provide a range of accessible recreational activities and restorative qualities that enhance wellbeing. Further functions of open space enable different types of benefits and experiences to be generated.

The type of landscape setting or form of an open space takes into account the physical conditions and characteristics of the space. Providing a diversity of these through the open space network can enable different experiences and influence the mood of the participant.

Increasing residential densities will result in changes to the amount of private open space and incidental green space. Smaller households, which are an increasing feature of Moreland's dwelling types, will also influence the demand for open space. Council could encourage further social opportunities in open space to attract lone persons and seek to improve and diversify existing open spaces to respond to these changes. Council may not be able to acquire traditional forms of open space in areas of changing density; therefore the specific benefits of open space may need to be provided in alternative ways. This may include well designed urban spaces in the activity centres such as piazza style areas.

Council should consciously look for opportunities to diversify and provide choice that encourages use of open space, to draw users beyond their habitual activity space and enable people to experience things not naturally present in that context.

Goal 2: Objectives

- *To maintain and develop a network of open spaces that have a broad range of functions and landscape settings reflecting benefits sought by a diverse population*
- *Enhance the diversity of opportunities and experiences in open space by classifying their function and landscape setting consciously modifying these to create the best mix*
- *Enhance open space opportunities to respond to changing residential settlement types*

Goal 2: Strategy 1

Enhance the diversity of experiences in open space by determining preferred functions and landscape settings of all spaces

- Analyse the distribution of spaces by function and landscape setting to determine omissions, duplications and opportunities for varying experiences
- Undertake a comprehensive assessment of the existing and potential public value of poor quality, undeveloped spaces to identify opportunities to diversify open space uses, experiences and landscape settings in those, or future development or divestment actions
- Develop park management plans for each open space function type, which includes core service levels for sports reserves, social / family recreation reserves, and shared trails



Goal 2: **Strategy 2**

Provide a greater range of function types and landscape settings within Moreland's open space

- Selectively develop outdoor recreation facilities and enhance environmental amenity of open space, to create a greater diversity of experiences
- Endorse the range of open space functions and corresponding core service levels to ensure open space is fit for purpose, and used as a planning tool to aid planning, site selection and design and provide better guidance to developers
- Increase the recurrent capital expenditure program for playgrounds, including upgrades and new facilities to meet current safety standards, enhance accessibility and provide diversity in play opportunities
- Ensure that public open space is protected, and when existing public buildings / facilities on open space are to be removed, consider conversion of these areas back to parkland
- Develop an assessment tool to determine suitable use of Council land for the use of community gardens
- Work with Council's Social Policy Unit to develop a Council policy on support and resourcing community garden development in Moreland
- If, in the view of the Manager Urban Safety, significant conflict exists in a particular off-leash reserve, then a review of that reserve will take place and potential zoning of the space will be investigated

Goal 2: **Strategy 3**

Seek to provide social / family recreation open space

- Redesign Gilpin Park for social / family recreation (including dog walking) to enhance recreational use and landscape amenity and replace ageing infrastructure
- Rejuvenate Brunswick Park as a social / family recreation open space, including plantings, barbeque and shelter
- Review the Moomba Park Concept Plan and continue to develop Moomba Park in Fawkner, to provide a range of recreation opportunities of district park standard to meet the interests of sporting and other user groups, and improve the social / family recreation opportunities including access in and around the site
- Develop a Recreation Plan for CB Smith Reserve in Fawkner, to provide a mix and range of recreational opportunities to be accommodated in the whole precinct. Include the soccer precinct and youth space, and work towards improving open space for social / family recreation, building interfaces, playground provision and pedestrian and traffic movement within the precinct
- Upgrade Sewell Reserve, Glenroy as a sportsfield with social / family recreation space and general improvements to the amenity around the periphery of the open space
- Redevelop open space in Tullamarine precinct as social / family recreation space and provide pedestrian and cycle links to Gowanbrae



Providing a diversity of open spaces will serve to ensure that Moreland's diverse population will continue to have a range of recreation experience now and in the future.



Goal 2: **Strategy 4**

Improve the quality of existing open space

- Prepare and implement redevelopment plans for City Oval and Bridges Reserve, to include a review of facilities required, active recreation use, increased passive recreation opportunities, and planting
- Plan for the redevelopment for active and passive recreation at Bush Reserve including incorporating the council-owned house block to improve access into the park and provision of the passive space to the south of the block
- Develop a landscape redevelopment plan for Merlynston Creek easement, Boundary Road to Hosken Reserve, Coburg North, including pathways, habitat provision, and passive recreation opportunities
- Review and implement the Gowanbrae Landscape Master plan to provide active and passive recreation opportunities and provide links to Glenroy, Oak Park and Hume City Council
- Develop an active recreation plan for the Central Brunswick Parklands, to incorporate netball practice courts and expansion of tennis courts within Raeburn Reserve, and determine the best location for youth space / skate park within the Clifton / Gilpin precinct
- Ensure appropriate access to and use of sports parks
- Enhance the accessibility of the Coburg City Oval, from Sydney Road and through the site and to include seating, picnic facilities and drinking fountains
- Undertake and implement Fleming Park Development Plan to improve the open space, maintaining active recreation opportunities and review use of council buildings on site
- Continue to improve the quality of playing fields at Clifton Park, and to include refurbishment of existing landscape, improved seating and water fountains
- Redevelop Jackson Reserve including upgrading H Stephens Athletic Complex
- Evaluate Richards Reserve and prepare an open space redevelopment plan to attract residents for active recreation, and enhance amenity
- Prepare and implement a five-year Sportsfield Infrastructure Capital Works Plan to guide the annual sportsfield upgrade and asset renewal program throughout the City
- Review and implement the existing documented heritage development plans for Methven, Fleming and Warr Parks, including implementing the recommendations of the 2009 Connellan report
- Improve the quality of experience in Mott Reserve, Glenroy to attract residents for social /family recreation
- Develop district level parks to service the Glenroy, Gowanbrae and Pascoe Vale areas



Goal 3

Making places for nature

Moreland's waterways, most significantly the Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks, form an integral part of the municipality's open space not just as a waterbody, but in the range of open spaces provided along the creek boundaries. Their importance is recognised in *Linking People and Spaces (Parks Victoria 2002)* as requiring significant recreation and conservation work.

Historically, waterways were treated as drains and dumping grounds. Community and Council support for the creeks restoration is resulting in waterways being seen more as a natural and community asset.

Only very small remnants of local-occurring indigenous vegetation survive, as an irreplaceable record of the landscape prior to European settlement in Moreland.

The conservation and restoration of these water bodies and natural areas is of central importance in protecting habitats for flora and fauna. Council must manage these assets sustainably, and also sensitively consider their recreational value for the Moreland community.

In the conservation of the sensitive riparian corridors, additional buffers between the creek and adjacent residences and recreation facilities will be required in some parts to aid in the regeneration and manage recreation use.

Goal 3: Objectives

- *Seek to provide better buffers between urban development and waterways*
- *Enhance the sustainability and management of water corridors*
- *Seek to protect and improve the natural habitat and ecological values of waterways and natural areas complementing the demand for provision of a diversity of recreational settings and opportunities along these corridors*
- *Protect and enhance the ecological integrity and sustainability of Moreland's natural resources, particularly the creek corridors and remaining areas of remnant vegetation*
- *Work collaboratively with Merri Creek and Moonee Ponds Management Committees, Melbourne Water, Friends of Groups, and other authorities to ensure the protection, management and improvement of waterways and other important remnant vegetation areas*

Goal 3: Strategy 1

Undertake significant revegetation works along creek corridors throughout the municipality

- Develop a strategic works program for waterway revegetation for Edgars, Merlynston and Westbreen Creeks, in conjunction with the Creek Management Bodies, Friends Groups and Melbourne Water
- Implement the Merri Creek Environs Strategy (2010) as appropriate
- Implement the Moonee Ponds Creek Environs Strategy (2011) as appropriate

Goal 3: **Strategy 2**

Enhance access to select areas of waterway corridors to provide contiguous public access where possible, whilst protecting riparian habitat

- Develop a management plan for Westbreen Creek, Pascoe Vale in line with the Westbreen Creek Parklands Master Plan
- Prepare a conservation and development plan for Edgars Creek identifying appropriate recreational opportunities along its reaches and including the reclamation and revitalisation of natural areas along Edgars Creek. Investigate and provide opportunities to improve access for use and maintenance of the area, particularly on the eastern bank behind the industrial estate
- As opportunities arise, acquire land to create a vegetated buffer of a minimum 30 metres wide measured from the edge of the embankment on each side of the creek corridor along Merri Creek, Moonee Ponds Creek, and Edgars Creek (where possible). A minimum of 50 metres wide from the creek edge on each side should be sought to create a public open space corridor

Goal 4: **Strategy 3**

Protect and enhance remnant vegetation and habitats in Moreland

- Implement priority actions from the 'Moreland Indigenous Vegetation Assessment 2011'
- Continue an active protection, management and enhancement program for Moreland's remnant vegetation in the following sites:
- Jukes Road Grassland (Bababi Djininang), Fawkner
- Outlook Drive, Glenroy
- Union Street Escarpment, Brunswick West
- Review and update the management plan for the Jukes Road Grassland (Bababi Djininang)

- Prepare and implement a Biodiversity Strategy to identify priority measures for the protection, restoration and enhancement of native plant and animal communities
- Continue to review and assess usage and method of application of herbicides, fertiliser and other chemicals in open space with a view to minimizing impacts on non-target species and stormwater quality

Goal 3: **Strategy 4**

Work with neighbouring Councils and other authorities to enhance the value and health of waterways

- Participate in the planning and development of the 'chain of parks' along Merri Creek, as proposed in *Linking People and Spaces (Parks Victoria 2002)*, and the proposed major park north of the Ring Road. Encourage the development of a diversity of landscape settings for recreation along the creek
- Advocate to Melbourne Water to undertake bed and bank habitat restoration works along the waterways, including the removal and / or modification of concrete lining. Undertake complementary works on adjoining Council land where appropriate
- Support, participate in and resource coordination committees / networks, such as Merri Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek Management Committees, to undertake coordinated management of the creek corridors.
- Construct a wetland for storm water management and fauna and flora habitat as per investigation undertaken on Merri Creek (2009)
- Develop and implement fire management plan with appropriate authorities, particularly for the creek corridors

Goal 4

A greener more liveable Moreland

Green open space provides a relief from the built environment and restorative qualities important to the sense of well being. It also encourages users to engage in physical and recreation activity. Residential and commercial development puts increasing pressures on the provision and quality of the open space network, and participation in recreation. Council should identify methods of retaining and enhancing the 'green' environment during commercial, industrial and residential development.

Habitat corridors are vegetated corridors (planted with indigenous vegetation where possible) encouraging connectivity between exiting open space / creeks to provide space for species to function. Moreland's open space, more particularly its network of open space along the creek corridors should serve as habitat corridors. Links between the corridors and further beyond the municipality should be identified, as well as designing street landscapes to perform more of a habitat corridor function.

There are, however, opportunities to reintroduce local plant species and create wildlife habitats and increase tree canopies within open space, particularly in undeveloped areas and grassy reserves without an established horticultural character.

Indigenous plants can provide a range of benefits. These include providing habitats, enhanced ecological health and land productivity, distinctive local landscapes and sense of place, preservation of genetic resources, and minimise the need for water and fertiliser.

The close proximity of green spaces to where people live and the provision of trees are becoming increasingly important for restorative qualities and amenity value that enhance relaxation and a sense of well being. These in turn increase residents' sense of civic pride.

Goal 4: Objectives

- *Protect, restore, and expand interconnected open space corridors as habitat corridors*
- *Increase the tree canopy across Moreland, and the biodiversity and environmental quality of the public domain*
- *Enhance the sense of civic pride and wellbeing of residents by enhancing landscape quality and views of green space*

Goal 4: Strategy 1

Expand open space and streetscape corridors as habitat corridors

- Identify east / west habitat corridors and nominate appropriate streetscape species to provide habitat links between the existing creek and railway corridors
- Develop in partnership with the community a master plan for the Upfield rail corridor that will create a strong habitat link and linear park



Goal 4: **Strategy 2**


Increase tree canopy and improve tree health to create an urban forest

- Monitor and develop a program to increase the extent of tree canopy in Moreland
- Establish a Park Tree Management Program to conserve, enhance, manage and sustain the health and longevity of trees in parks and reserves. This should include an audit and assessment of works required, a works schedule and staged implementation
- Review, update and continue to implement Council's Street Landscape Strategy to ensure landscapes are linked throughout the municipality for amenity and environmental needs
- Nominate trial areas for open space horticultural improvements that assist in ameliorating intense weather conditions such as plantings for wind breaks, cooling, and disseminating high water levels

Goal 4: **Strategy 3**

Augment streetscape vegetation and enhance environmental quality in urban development to supplement public green space

- Where land development and increased residential density cannot deliver additional public or private green space, seek to provide restorative qualities, access to nature and greater residential amenity through planning controls and works that:
- Increase tree canopy
- Enhance streetscapes and landscape qualities within private and public infrastructure developments
- Protect views to existing open space
- Establish minimum provisions of private open space and permeable spaces for residential areas above the standards prescribed in ResCode and other higher densities guidelines

The background of the page is a blurred photograph of a park. Large, leafy trees dominate the upper half of the image. In the lower half, several people are walking along a path. One person in the foreground is wearing a dark jacket and is walking away from the camera. To the left, there are some colorful, abstract structures that look like art installations or playground equipment. The overall scene is bright and suggests a pleasant outdoor environment.

The close proximity of green spaces to where people live and the provision of trees are becoming increasingly important for restorative qualities and amenity value that enhance relaxation and a sense of well being.

Goal 5

Making the most of open space through effective management

The importance of Moreland's open space as a natural resource means that Council must ensure it is protected and managed for future generations.

Open space can be the setting for large organised public events such as circuses and festivals. Guidelines should be developed that ensure consistent management of events that are focused on retaining the environmental quality of the space post the event. Likewise, policy on commercial events is required, that also focuses on the same environmental outcomes.

The handing over of open space to Council post the development process can result in poor quality open space from the outset. Council should set in place a consistent procedure that includes a 12 month maintenance period for developers, and additional funding to ensure establishment of vegetation and facilities. All Council staff associated with the development process should be aware of the particular open space requirements involved in handing over the open space to Council.

Where Council is not in control of the ownership or management of open spaces, areas of open space owned or managed by other authorities can redress deficiencies in overall provision, and provide diversity in the landscape experiences offered.

In Moreland these areas include:

- Flood-prone land, wetland conservation areas, and pipe-tracks owned by Melbourne Water, for example Jacana Wetlands
- Private outdoor sporting clubs (e.g. Northern Golf Course, tennis clubs)
- School sports grounds (public and private)
- Church and Social Club sports clubs (e.g. tennis and soccer)
- Railway land used for walking and cycling
- Other surplus government agency land (e.g. Vic Roads) used as parkland

There is often little or no long-term security relating to the use of other categories of government or private sector land for outdoor recreation.

Other government and private organisations do not have a core responsibility to provide land for public open space and recreation, and therefore negotiating public access to sites can be problematic. Additionally, there can be legal liability concerns and lack of agreement on funding for maintenance.

In more community-centred examples such as schools, and community and sporting clubs, Council should foster relationships that utilise any additional open space where possible.

Zoning Council open space as Public Parks and Recreation Zones (PPRZ) will increase regulatory protection from disposal or adverse development.

Protection of water resources is an important issue in light of climate change. Open landscapes, such as sportsgrounds, which were once under regular irrigation have been greatly impacted on. Synthetic turf can be considered in some circumstances although should not be seen as the only alternative to dealing with difficult conditions. Other open space with enhanced visual amenity (i.e. garden beds and civic spaces) should also be maintained to a higher standard.

Water Sensitive Urban Design seeks to integrate the natural water cycle into urban planning and design. This is achieved through measures such as incorporating stormwater corridors into the landscape, and utilising recycled water to irrigate open space. Council should be guided by the principles of Water Sensitive Urban Design in its maintenance of open space.



Goal 5: **Objectives**

- *Protect public open space as an essential land use through appropriate planning controls*
- *Increase the management of open space to minimise conflicts in use*
- *Introduce more cost-effective, ecologically sustainable, and community responsive measures to managing public open space*

Goal 5: **Strategy 1**

Ensure appropriate zoning and designation of public open space

- Review the zoning of all public open space owned by Council and ensure that it is appropriately zoned in the Moreland Planning Scheme
- Review the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) for Moonee Ponds and Merri Creeks to ensure effective protection
- Negotiate with owners of other authority land that Council maintains as public open space, to ensure appropriate zoning and designation of land as public open space and/or transfer management to Council, for example:
- Land along Edgars Creek, Coburg North and Outlook Drive, Glenroy
- Land along the Upfield and Craigieburn Railway lines
- Shared trails
- Utility land in Gervase Street, Glenroy
- Seek to consolidate and share building infrastructure on open space, using other Council land to develop community facilities in preference to open space

- Ensure heritage parks are identified and protected by/retain a Heritage Overlay, including:
 - Bridges Reserve, Coburg
 - Brunswick Park, Brunswick
 - Lake Reserve, Coburg
 - Fleming Park, Brunswick
 - Jacobs Reserve, Brunswick
 - Methven Park, Brunswick
 - Shore Reserve, Coburg
 - Temple Park, Brunswick
 - Warr Park, Brunswick

Goal 5: **Strategy 2**

Ensure organised public use of open space is managed and does not compromise environmental quality

- Develop guidelines for community performance, festivals and large events in public open space. This should include management of specific sites, with times, permits, fee structure / bonds etc, and with all funds generated from its uses being returned to open space to reinstate affected open space
- Develop a policy on use of open space by commercial entities for activities such as markets, personal training, dog training and filming
- Investigate the feasibility of introducing park rangers to manage conflicts of use and enforce local laws including: dog management; encroachments; trail bike use; illegal dumping; and unintended use

Goal 5: **Strategy 3**

Ensure the effective hand over and resourcing of new public open space transferred during land development

- Develop a hand over procedure for open space / streetscapes being transferred from private landowners to Council. Ensure additional funding is provided with the handover of new open space sites to undertake appropriate ongoing maintenance
- Improve procedures for coordination between Council staff responsible for the taking over of open space from new development, to ensure that planting and works are designed and undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the desired function and setting type of the space and so it can be maintained cost effectively
- Ensure that open space taken over by Council includes a follow-up maintenance period of 12 months to ensure appropriate establishment of vegetation, and maintenance of infrastructure

Goal 5: **Strategy 4**

Ensure water resources are managed sustainably on public open space

- In line with Council's Drought Response Plan, improve water efficiency and encourage more sustainable planting and practices (with particular focus on key public open spaces, sports fields and heritage landscapes)
- Develop a policy on appropriate use of water on open space considering environmental and social needs for keeping active / passive spaces green, and sustainable landscape values
- Implement the principles of water sensitive urban design in planning, design and open space management

Goal 5: **Strategy 5**

Work with adjacent landowners and land management agencies to resolve occupancy, encroachment and manage shared use of open space

- Develop stronger relationships with schools regarding out of hours public access to grounds, and to resolve perceived liability / duty of care, and resourcing issues
- Review the process for developing memoranda of understanding for active and passive activities with schools regarding out of hours public access to grounds, liability / duty of care and what Council can contribute. Develop a policy on how and when memoranda of understanding should be used for open space
- Pursue the development of shared use agreements with Glenroy West Primary School and Glenroy College
- Redevelop and resecure the KODE School site as a shared use open space
- Identify all illegal encroachments onto public open space, and work with all authorities involved to address each through negotiation, reinstatement of boundaries and if necessary prosecution, or formalise acceptable occupancies through lease arrangements
- Resolve ownership, public access and lease arrangements with State agencies for open space along waterways, service easements and rail reserves, in order to consolidate and enhance the open space network
- Develop pedestrian/cycle link between Moonee Ponds Creek trail and Karin Court, Glenroy

Goal 6

Enhancing participation and use of open space

A large and varied open space network will result in higher recreation use, and participation in leisure activities.

Open space should provide for a wide cross-section of the community, and encourage use across all age groups.

Spaces should not for instance be provided solely for one age group (such as for a small play equipment area), but should accommodate facilities for a range of age groups, and encourage increased social and recreational interaction.

The value of increasing the number of older adults, children, and young people using open space, warrants further planning and assessment of the design of open space.

Similarly Moreland's culturally diverse population will require a range of amenities and infrastructure that respond to the needs of different groups, and facilitate increased rates of participation.

There is a need for a good balance of spaces to provide social and physical activity; settings that focus on quiet contemplative pastimes in areas of high environmental quality as well as those which are highly developed and encourage a wide range of sports and recreation activities; that are accessible and offer a high degree of support facilities.

Making people feel connected and involved in the protection, development and use of open space will provide ongoing community participation and environmental benefits.

Council should consider a range of promotional and marketing methods for raising awareness of the mental and physical health benefits of the use of open space. This may be achieved through a range of means, including ensuring signage is accurate, actively involving the community in initiatives such as planting days, and disseminating information through a range of media.

Goal 6: Objectives

- *Provide for a greater range of users in open space planning and design*
- *Encourage greater community involvement in open space development*
- *Market open space and the facilities, and environmental elements it offers*
- *Develop a greater public knowledge of the benefits of open space and physical and social opportunities it provides*

Goal 6: Strategy 1

Enhance the range of age groups catered for in open space

- Identify open spaces that could be used for a broader range of different activities and age groups
- In line with recommendations of Council's *oxYgen Project*, continue to consult with teenagers and young adults about the types of outdoor recreation settings and facilities they prefer, and pursue opportunities to create these
- Enlarge the recurrent capital expenditure program upgrading / renewal of play spaces / facilities to meet safety standards and enhance accessibility to all age groups
- Provide shade, seating, and ensure ease of movement through and around open spaces, where possible
- Designate playgrounds/parks throughout the municipality for additional shade structures and implement
- Plan, design and construct skate park facilities / youth spaces in Brunswick Central Parklands, and a site in Glenroy, and complete CB Smith skate facility
- Monitor exercise equipment in parks and increase provision of both static and moving exercise equipment in designated parks
- Encourage residents to visit and use different parks and reserves through regular and one-off activities and events in public open space (as part of Council recreation, school holiday and other community development programs)



Goal 6: **Strategy 2**

Increase capacity for the community to be involved in enhancing biodiversity in open space

- Review focus and intent of Community Planting Days to increase the benefits of the program, and include appropriate site preparation and follow-up maintenance, in line with Council's yearly Community planting program
- Develop and implement a support program for 'Friends of' groups
- Update and reprint 'Gardening with Indigenous Plants in Moreland', and include sections on sustainable gardening

Goal 6: **Strategy 3**

Review signage in public open space

- Review the design of all open space signage, including regulatory logos
- Further control the erection of permanent and temporary advertising signs in public open space
- Develop a park interpretive signage suite for environmental, cultural heritage, directional and educational purposes

Goal 6: **Strategy 4**

Reinforce "Active Moreland" messages in design, development, and marketing

- Continue to investigate barriers that different target groups perceive to using open space, and seek to overcome these through education, programming and marketing activities, and the design and management of open space

Goal 6: **Strategy 5**

Effectively disseminate information about the benefits of, and availability of, public open space

- Provide regular up to date information about parks and open space to residents, and what they can do there
- Develop a number of informational products in a variety of media to promote use, value and protection of open space and ways to be involved
- Develop a community information program to promote broader understanding and appreciation of the value of Moreland's local environment
- Promote opportunities for residents to have their say about open space issues and be involved in open space developments



Goal 7

Development of a network of shared trails

Trails are likely to provide for a greater proportion of the population than any other outdoor recreation facility.

The benefits of encouraging a healthy lifestyle through cycling, walking, running and other trail-based activity are well documented. In addition to improving health and general wellbeing, off road trails assist people to move around the neighbourhood, engage with the community, feel physically motivated, and promote environmental sustainability.

The built nature of Moreland's urban environment makes it crucial to secure and develop areas of open space that encourage movement through, and beyond, the municipality. Cyclists, for instance, can often feel intimidated using the road network. Off road trails provide for a wide range of groups, and an ideal environment for safe, relaxing physical activity.

Shared trails can be designed to take a number of forms, dependent on the local environment, to offer diversity for users. Trails that accommodate the needs of older adults and people with a disability should also be considered. Council trail networks should include:

- Circuits that offer exercise routes and trails that link key sites and points of interest. These can offer a good setting for regular walking, running, cycling and dog walking
- Park perimeter paths around larger open space, such as sports parks and social / family recreation open space

Corridor trails, through linear open space that also connects with lower order roads and connects families with schools and other community and leisure facilities and activity centres. These can provide connections with adjacent residential areas, and can be accommodated on the perimeter of drainage ways

Regional links that connect to trails in adjacent municipalities and beyond into Parks Victoria's Metropolitan Trail Network

Shared trail access can often be accommodated through non-residential land uses that assist employees gain recreational opportunities and commute to work.

Council has identified opportunities in it Bike Strategy (2011) through a range of land uses such as commercial, industrial, and residential areas that not only encourage off road access through the municipality, but also to provide variety of experiences for the user.

Whilst there are some excellent trails along creek corridors there are few trails that run east west. Council has recently developed an off-road trail along the verge in O'Hea Street in Coburg, which provides right of way to cyclists at road crossings. Further opportunities should be investigated to develop off road trails east west to connect with the creek corridors as well as through and around large open spaces.

A photograph of two people riding bicycles on a paved path in a park. The path is surrounded by trees with yellow and orange autumn leaves. In the background, there is a green lawn and a body of water. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down the path.

In addition to improving health and general wellbeing, off road trails assist people to move around the neighbourhood, engage with the community, feel physically motivated, and promote environmental sustainability.

Trails are likely to provide for a greater proportion of the population than any other outdoor recreation facility.



Goal 7: Objectives

- *Develop a network of shared trails to include: perimeter shared paths around large parks; trail circuits throughout each suburb connecting community facilities and parks; and access along key waterways and to regional trails*
- *Create greater opportunity for residents to use shared trails in Moreland*
- *Provide safe and convenient access between open spaces, with connections to residential areas, civic institutions, schools, activity centres and businesses*

Goal 7: Strategy 1

Create shared path perimeter circuits around major district and regional open space

- Create at least one shared trail circuit within each suburb
- Develop and / or enhance pedestrian links and circuits between and through parks (where appropriate), to encourage walking and cycling for exercise
- Formalise perimeter trails around the following open spaces:
 - Parker Reserve (Fawkner)
 - Cole Reserve (Pascoe Vale)
 - Oak Park (Oak Park)
 - Northern Golf Course (Glenroy) through negotiation

Goal 7: Strategy 2

Seek to create shared trails through residential, commercial and industrial zones

- Identify opportunities and implement (where possible) to create shared trails for walking, dog walking, cycling, and skating in new developments and in redevelopment areas, particularly in activity centres, through the re-design of existing streetscapes, and parks (where appropriate) and public land
- Create links to open space and trails from activity centres

Goal 7: Strategy 3

Utilise Moreland's creek and open space corridors as shared trail routes

- Maintain existing informal path networks along the creeks as an informal recreational experience
- Address gaps in access to main shared trails on the Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks
- Implement recommendations from the Merri Creek Shared Trail Review
- Address gaps in pedestrian access along the eastern side of Moonee Ponds Creek
- Investigate further means of improving the Upfield Railway Line shared path as a key trail for pedestrian and bicycle movement through the centre of the municipality
- Review the location of shared trail amenities on Merri Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek trails
- Seek to maintain a balance between the protection of riparian habitat and public access along the creek corridors, and vary the nature of trail access in accordance with environmental significance
- Investigate land ownership, and work with owners to establish a shared trail along the Merlynston Creek alignment, from John Street Glenroy to Merri Creek, Coburg North
- Identify additional areas where creeks can be traversed by shared trails

Goal 7: Strategy 4

Sign and promote trail networks

- Publish a guide to Moreland's shared trails, 'greenways' and interesting routes for walking and cycling around the City
- Enhance directional and informational signage along trails in the municipality, and provide directional signage to open space and trails from activity centres
- Work with neighbouring local authorities to provide consistent signage and trail information, particularly along creek corridors
- Include distance markers and expected time information on major trail routes
- Develop east / west routes to connect the Upfield Rail shared path, and identified habitat corridors to the trails along the Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks, and other waterways



9. Implementation of the Strategy



Funding

Council will need to continue to allocate and increase as appropriate, resources for open space management and improvements to Moreland's open space system.

An adequate recurrent budget for maintenance, remediation and management of the City's open spaces will ensure that the sites, constructed assets, and landscapes are in a safe, useable and attractive state and the vegetation is healthy. It will also ensure that open space is managed sustainably in a way that protects and enhances its ecology.

With some increases in the area of open space and the potential impacts of increasing demand for use and quality experience juxtaposed with changes in climate and other environmental factors, such as drought, the open space budget needs to be revised accordingly.

An asset management system, as is being currently developed, will address depreciation of the assets and improve the state of open space facilities.

Existing funding of open space

All capital projects delivered as a result of the previous Open Space Strategy (2004-2009) have been directly funded via Councils Public Reserve and Resort Fund (PRRF) and external State and Federal Government funding.

A Public Open Space Contribution was introduced to Clause 52.01 of the Moreland Planning Scheme in 2010. It is this schedule of rates and subsequent financial contributions from developers that will define the future annual income and capacity of the PRRF.

A significant body of work has been undertaken by the Open Space Design and Development Unit, on the projected costs of open space capital projects (for the life of the Open Space Strategy) as a result of the Open Space Contributions Plan (OSCP). A similar cost exercise has been undertaken to incorporate the open space development projects outlined within the Brunswick, Coburg and Glenroy Structure Plans. These combined project cost estimations determine the open space contribution percentage for each suburb within the City.

These estimated capital project costs are an important addendum to the Moreland Open Space Strategy.

The cost of implementing the new Open Space Strategy

It is envisaged the bulk of capital projects will continue to be funded via the PRRF however, the need to also fund land acquisition for new public open space will reduce the annual open space development capital project capacity of the reserve fund periodically, unless supplemented through the rate base.

The level of reserve funds and rate funds available for open space will also determine the length of time required to implement significant open space capital works projects.

In order to adequately maintain and provide a quality open space network with increasing pressures from use and climate issues, an increase in the recurrent open space maintenance budget is required. The cost of maintaining and managing new public open space within activity centres and parks and recreation reserve renewal projects must also be factored into the annual operational base budgets.

Strategic priorities

Over the next ten (10) years, the following strategic priorities for the management and improvement of Moreland's open space system are to:

- Provide quality, accessible open space within safe walking distance of all residents
- Continue resourcing the restoration of the waterways as regional linear open space
- Allocate adequate resources for maintenance and refurbishment of existing and additional open space
- Assess and prioritise open space needs in Moreland's designated Principal, Major, Neighbourhood and Local Activity Centres, particularly for higher density residential development
- Review and update Schedule 52.01 of Moreland's Planning Scheme to reflect future open space improvements in the Glenroy and Brunswick activity centre areas and to ensure that the rate sufficiently identifies and costs future projects

- Review rate base contribution to open space capital works projects and ongoing maintenance to ensure that it meets any funding gap
- Diversify recreation and open space opportunities, especially for children, youth and elderly
- Develop an annually resourced Parks Improvement Program
- Consolidate spaces along open space corridors, particularly State-owned properties
- Develop a biodiversity strategy to protect and restore habitat for native flora and fauna
- Provide more comprehensive community information about the diversity of Moreland's open space system
- Develop and utilise an open space database linked to the GIS to improve management of open space assets and resources
- Develop a Recreation Strategy to provide overarching guidance on the future provision of recreation in Moreland
- Develop further strategies to assist in ameliorating the affects of climate change
- Develop a sustainable water strategy for open space including priorities for social and environmental aspects of open space
- Develop a strategy to diversify park types to address community opportunities and environmental qualities

Monitoring, reporting and review

Community satisfaction with Moreland's parks and reserves will continue to be regularly monitored as part of Council's Customer Satisfaction Surveys.

Progress in implementation of this Strategy should be monitored and reported annually to Council, to the Sustainable Moreland Advisory Group and to the community via Council's Annual Report.

The Implementation Plan (page 74) in this Strategy should be reviewed every three years to ensure they reflect any social, environmental changes. A full review of the Strategy should be undertaken after 10 years.



Community satisfaction with Moreland's parks and reserves will continue to be regularly monitored as part of Council's Customer Satisfaction Surveys.



10. Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 1: Providing parks close to home	<i>Incrementally acquire and develop open spaces (where possible) to increase the proximity of high quality parkland to residential dwellings</i>	Pursue opportunities to acquire local open space in areas undersupplied by open space, where densities and building heights are increasing, or where dwellings occur in mixed-use areas and activity centres	Improve provision and access to functional open space, within designated principal, major neighbourhood and local activity centres, by providing high quality open space within 300m safe walking distance of the activity centre	Long	Place Design & Strategy
			Seek opportunities through urban development to acquire open space in areas underserved, as a priority for social / family recreation parks, shared trails, and sports	Ongoing	Property Services
			Prepare a land acquisition policy to guide Council's strategic acquisition of land for new open space and open space improvements, including development contributions under the Subdivision Act	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Investigate the acquisition of the following sites / areas to address the under provision of open space in the neighbourhood/suburb: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenroy Primary School land • Land in Glenroy abutting Belair Avenue Park • Land in Pascoe Vale South • Land in Pascoe Vale in the vicinity of Windsor Street and Derby Street, (or develop a shared use agreement with Pascoe Vale North Primary School) • Land in Brunswick East • Land in Coburg around O'Hea Street • Land fronting 33 Stewart Street, Brunswick • Lobby VicTrack to transfer land to Council as open space between Upfield train line and Cameron Street running from Moreland Road along the length of Cameron Street • Lobby VicTrack to transfer land between Albert Street running along the Upfield bike path and supermarket car park, to Council as open space • Lobby Jemena Power to transfer land at Gervase Street, Glenroy to Council • Purchase land and develop a small local park in the vicinity of the corner of Reynard and Portland Streets, Coburg • Purchase land and develop a small local park in the vicinity of Shirley Street Fawkner • Land in West Glenroy • Land in East Glenroy • Land in Hadfield 	Long	Property Services

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 1 (continued)			Investigate the sites designated for residential redevelopment in rezoned industrial areas or increasing employment in industrial areas and identify the need for open space to be provided in conjunction with redevelopment	Medium	Strategic Planning
			Council will advocate to the State Government to implement the recommendations of the VEAC report that when surplus public utility land has been identified as having environmental or social value, that the Council be given the first option on the land	Ongoing	Council
			Incorporate key actions requiring advocacy into Corporate Advocacy Program	Ongoing	Council
		Investigate the conversion of the following Council owned sites to open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car park in Stewart Street, Brunswick Car park in Breese Street, Brunswick Car park in Edwards Street, Brunswick 	Medium	Place Design & Strategy
		Seek to ensure structure plan and strategic redevelopment sites provide adequate open space where building heights and densities will increase	Develop and adopt a standard approach to determining what open space is required, for what, where, and how it should be provided	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Ensure the function and setting type of spaces are determined in the structure planning process	Ongoing	Place Design & Strategy
			Implement the open space recommendations of the Brunswick, Glenroy, and Coburg 2020 Structure Plans	Medium	Place Design & Strategy
			Develop implementation plans for open space to improve provision and access to local open space, including civic places, within designated principal, major, neighbourhood and local activity centres	Short	Place Design & Strategy
	<i>Ensure every household has safe and convenient access to parkland for passive recreation, quiet contemplation, sport and access to nature</i>	Prepare a policy to guide the assessment and disposal of any open space sites	Adopt the Melbourne 2030 Parkland Code when assessing any surplus open space	Ongoing	Property Services
			Ensure the proceeds of sale of any open space is used to fund priority improvements and the purchase of other open space in areas where there is a demonstrated need	Ongoing	Property Services
	<i>Provide and protect quality open space that provides a range of experiences and accessible recreation opportunities, natural and cultural heritage features, and high quality park facilities and landscape settings</i>	Protect the value and amenity of existing and new open space and street landscapes	Ensure that any new developments, other structures and car parks are setback and provide no unreasonable overshadowing of open space or street landscapes or reduction in public access, maximise interaction and passive surveillance opportunities, and are responsive to the existing site context	Ongoing	Strategic Planning

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 1 (continued)			Continue to encourage appropriate development adjacent to open space that enhances public surveillance, incidental lighting, encourages use and enhances a sense of security for users in the space	Ongoing	Urban Planning
			Prepare guidelines and protocols to ensure high quality and functional open space and street landscape outcomes are achieved in public parks and streetscapes established as part of private development or Council projects, and that these complement existing provision	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Develop and implement a reference document to provide guidance for planning decisions regarding appropriate development, particularly for urban consolidation projects, that may impact on street landscapes and / or open space	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Implement Moreland's Lighting Strategy focusing on entrances, buildings and paths where they provide a thoroughfare through parks, on shared trails at intersecting paths (minimal safety lighting to protect habitat values), for sport (as appropriate) and lighting will be of best practice environmental efficiency	Ongoing	ESD
			Develop a Memorials and Monuments Policy for open space and the public realm	Short	Governance, Open Space Design & Development

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 2: Having a mix of open space types and experiences	<i>To maintain and develop a network of open spaces that have a broad range of functions and landscape settings reflecting benefits sought by a diverse population</i>	Enhance the diversity of experiences in open space by determining preferred functions and landscape settings of all spaces	Analyse the distribution of spaces by function and landscape setting to determine omissions, duplications and opportunities for varying experiences	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Undertake a comprehensive assessment of the existing and potential public value of poor quality, undeveloped spaces to identify opportunities to diversify open space uses, experiences and landscape settings in those, or future development or divestment actions	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Develop park management plans for each open space function type, which includes core service levels for sports reserves, social / family recreation reserves, and shared trails	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
	<i>Enhance the diversity of opportunities and experiences in open space by classifying their function and landscape setting consciously modifying these to create the best mix</i>	Provide a greater range of function types and landscape settings within Moreland's open space	Selectively develop outdoor recreation facilities and enhance environmental amenity of open space, to create a greater diversity of experiences	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Endorse the range of open space functions and corresponding core service levels to ensure open space is fit for purpose, and use as a planning tool to aid planning, site selection and design and provide better guidance to developers	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Increase the recurrent capital expenditure program for playgrounds, including upgrades and new facilities to meet current safety standards, enhance accessibility and provide diversity in play opportunities	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Ensure that public open space is protected, and when existing public buildings / facilities on open space are to be removed, consider conversion of these areas back to parkland	Ongoing	Property Services
			Develop an assessment tool to determine suitable use of Council land including designated public open space for the use of community gardens	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Work with Council's Social Policy Unit to develop a Council policy on support and resourcing community garden development in Moreland	Short	Social Policy
			If, in the view of the Manager Urban Safety, significant conflict exists in a particular off-leash reserve, then a review of that reserve will take place and potential zoning of the space will be investigated	Ongoing	Urban Safety
	<i>Enhance open space opportunities to respond to changing residential settlement types</i>	Seek to provide social / family recreation open space	Redesign Gilpin Park for social / family recreation (including dog walking) to enhance recreational use and landscape amenity and replace ageing infrastructure	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Rejuvenate Brunswick Park as a social / family recreation open space, including plantings barbeque, and shelter	Short	Open Space Design & Development

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 2 (continued)			Review the Moomba Park Concept Plan and continue to develop Moomba Park in Fawkner, to provide a range of recreation opportunities of district park standard to meet the interests of sporting and other user groups, and improve the social/family recreation opportunities including access in and around the site	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Develop a Recreation Plan for CB Smith Reserve in Fawkner, to provide a mix and range of recreational opportunities to be accommodated in the whole precinct. Include the soccer precinct and youth space, and work towards improving open space for social/family recreation, building interfaces, playground provision and pedestrian and traffic movement within the precinct	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Upgrade Sewell Reserve, Glenroy as a sportsfield with social / family recreation space and general improvements to the amenity around the periphery of the open space	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Redevelop open space in Tullamarine precinct as social / family recreation space and provide pedestrian and cycle links to Gowanbrae	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
		Improve the quality of existing open space	Prepare and implement redevelopment plans for City Oval and Bridges Reserve, to include a review of facilities required, active recreation use, increased passive recreation opportunities, and planting	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Plan for the redevelopment for active and passive recreation at Bush Reserve including incorporating the council-owned house block to improve access into the park and provision of the passive space to the south of the block	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Develop a landscape redevelopment plan for Merlynston Creek easement, Boundary Road to Hosken Reserve, Coburg North, including pathways, habitat provision, and passive recreation opportunities	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Review and implement the Gowanbrae Landscape Master plan to provide for active and passive recreation opportunities and provide links to Glenroy, Oak Park and to Hume City Council	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Develop an active recreation plan for the Central Brunswick Parklands, to incorporate netball practice courts and expansion of tennis courts within Raeburn Reserve, and determine the best location for youth space / skate park within the Clifton / Gilpin precinct	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Ensure appropriate access to and use of sports parks	Ongoing	Recreation
			Enhance the accessibility of the Coburg City Oval, from Sydney Road and through the site and to include seating, picnic facilities and drinking fountains	Medium	Open Space Design & Development

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 2 (continued)			Undertake and implement Fleming Park Development Plan to improve the open space, maintaining active recreation opportunities and review use of council buildings on site	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Improve the quality of playing fields at Clifton Park, and to include refurbishment of existing landscape, improved seating and water fountains	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Redevelop Jackson Reserve including upgrading H Stephens Athletic Complex	Short	Recreation
			Evaluate Richards Reserve and prepare an open space redevelopment plan to attract residents for active recreation, and enhance amenity	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Prepare and implement a five-year Sportsfield Infrastructure Capital Works Plan to guide the annual sportsfield upgrade and asset renewal program throughout the City	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Review and implement the existing, documented heritage development plans for Methven, Fleming and Warr Parks, including implementing the recommendations of the 2009 Connellan report	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Improve the quality of experience in Mott Reserve, Glenroy to attract residents for social / family recreation	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Develop district level parks to service the Glenroy, Gowanbrae and Pascoe Vale areas	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
Goal 3: Making Places for nature	<i>Seek to provide better buffers between urban development and waterways</i>	Undertake significant revegetation works along creek corridors throughout the municipality	Develop a strategic works program for waterway revegetation for Merlynston and Westbreen Creeks, in conjunction with the Creek Management Bodies, Friends Groups and Melbourne Water	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Implement the Merri Creek Environs Strategy (2010) as appropriate	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Implement the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Plan (2011) as appropriate	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 3 (continued)	<i>Enhance the sustainability and management of water corridors</i>	Enhance access to select areas of waterway corridors to provide contiguous public access where possible, whilst protecting riparian habitat	Develop a management plan for Westbreen Creek, Pascoe Vale in line with the Westbreen Creek Parklands Master Plan	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Prepare a conservation and development plan for Edgars Creek identifying appropriate recreational opportunities along its reaches and including the reclamation and revitalisation of natural areas along Edgars Creek. Investigate and provide opportunities to improve access for use and maintenance of the area, particularly on the eastern bank behind the industrial estate	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			As opportunities arise, acquire land to create a vegetated buffer of a minimum 30 metres wide from the creek edge on each side of the creek corridor along Merri Creek, Moonee Ponds Creek, and Edgars Creek (where possible). A minimum of 50 metres wide from the creek edge on each side should be sought to create a public open space corridor	Long	Strategic Planning
	<i>Protect and enhance the ecological integrity and sustainability of Moreland's natural resources, particularly the creek corridors and remaining areas of remnant vegetation</i>	Protect and enhance remnant vegetation and habitats in Moreland	Implement priority actions from the 'Moreland Indigenous Vegetation Assessment 2011'	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Continue an active protection, management and enhancement program for Moreland's remnant vegetation in the following sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jukes Road Grassland (Bababi Djinyinang), Fawkner Outlook Drive, Glenroy Union Street Escarpment, Brunswick West 	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Review and update the management plan for the Jukes Road Grassland (Bababi Djinyinang)	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Prepare and implement a Biodiversity Strategy to identify priority measures for the protection, restoration and enhancement of native plant and animal communities	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Review and assess usage and method of application of herbicides, fertiliser and other chemicals in open space with a view to minimizing impacts on non-target species and stormwater quality	Ongoing	Open Space Maintenance

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 3 (continued)	<i>Seek to protect and improve the natural habitat and ecological values of waterways and natural areas complementing the demand for provision of a diversity of recreational settings and opportunities along these corridors</i>	Work with neighbouring Councils and other authorities to enhance the value and health of waterways	Participate in the planning and development of the 'chain of parks' along Merri Creek, as proposed in <i>Linking People and Spaces (Parks Victoria 2002)</i> , and the proposed major park north of the Ring Road.	Long	Open Space Design & Development
			Encourage the development of a diversity of landscape settings for recreation along the creek		
			Advocate to Melbourne Water to undertake bed and bank habitat restoration works along the waterways, including the removal and / or modification of concrete lining. Undertake complementary works on adjoining Council land where appropriate	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Support, participate in and resource coordination committees / networks, such as Merri Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek Management Committees, to undertake coordinated management of the creek corridors	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Construct a wetland for storm water management and fauna and flora habitat as per investigation undertaken on Merri Creek (2009)	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Develop and implement fire management plan with appropriate authorities, particularly for the creek corridors	Short	Urban Safety
Goal 4: A greener more liveable Moreland	<i>Protect, restore, and expand interconnected open space corridors as habitat corridors</i>	Expand open space and streetscape corridors as habitat corridors	Identify east / west habitat corridors and nominate appropriate streetscape species to provide habitat links between the existing creek and railway corridors	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Review the Upfield Line Habitat Landscape Plan (1998) to develop in partnership with the community the Upfield shared trail as a habitat corridor	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
	<i>Increase the tree canopy in Moreland, and the biodiversity and environmental quality of the public domain</i>	Increase tree canopy and improve tree health to create an urban forest	Monitor and develop a program to increase the extent of tree canopy in Moreland	Short	Open Space Maintenance
			Establish a Park Tree Management Program to conserve, enhance, manage and sustain the health and longevity of trees in parks and reserves. This should include an audit and assessment of works required, a works schedule and staged implementation	Short	Open Space Maintenance
			Review, update and continue to implement Council's Street Landscape Strategy to ensure landscapes are linked throughout the municipality for amenity and environmental needs	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Nominate trial areas for open space horticultural improvements that assist in ameliorating intense weather conditions such as plantings for wind breaks, cooling, and disseminating high water levels	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 4 (continued)	<i>Enhance the sense of civic pride and wellbeing of residents by enhancing landscape quality and views of green space</i>	Augment streetscape vegetation and enhance environmental quality in urban development to supplement public green space	Where land development and increased residential density cannot deliver additional public or private green space, seek to provide restorative qualities, access to nature and greater residential amenity through planning controls and works that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase tree canopy • Enhance streetscapes and landscape qualities within private and public infrastructure developments • Protect views to existing open space • Establish minimum provisions of private open space and permeable spaces for residential areas above the standards prescribed in ResCode and other higher density guidelines 	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
Goal 5: Making the most of open space through effective management	<i>Protect public open space as an essential land use through appropriate planning controls</i>	Ensure appropriate zoning and designation of public open space	Review the zoning of all public open space owned by Council and ensure that it is appropriately zoned in the Moreland Planning Scheme	Short	Strategic Planning
			Review the Environmental Significant Overlay (ESO) for Moonee Ponds and Merri Creeks to ensure effective protection and operation of the ESO	Medium	Strategic Planning
			Negotiate with owners of other authorities that Council maintains as public open space, to ensure appropriate zoning and designation of land as public open space and/or to transfer management to Council for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land along Edgars Creek, Coburg North and Outlook Drive, Glenroy • Land along the Upfield and Craigieburn Railway lines • Shared trails • Utility land in Gervase Street, Glenroy 	Medium	Strategic Planning
			Seek to consolidate and share building infrastructure on open space, using other Council land to develop community facilities in preference to using open space	Ongoing	Property Services
			Ensure heritage parks are identified and protected by a Heritage Overlay, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridges Reserve, Coburg • Brunswick Park, Brunswick • Fleming Park, Brunswick • Jacobs Reserve, Brunswick • Lake Reserve, Coburg • Methven Park, Brunswick • Shore Reserve, Coburg • Temple Park, Brunswick • Warr Park, Brunswick 	Short	Strategic Planning

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 5 (continued)	<i>Increase the management of open space to minimise conflicts in use</i>	Ensure organised public use of open space is managed and does not compromise environmental quality	Develop guidelines for community performance, festivals and large events in public open space. This should include management of specific sites, with times, permits, fee structure / bonds etc, and with all funds generated from its uses being returned to open space to reinstate affected open space	Short	Recreation / Arts & Culture
			Develop a policy on use of open space by commercial entities for activities such as markets, personal training, dog training and filming	Short	Recreation
			Investigate the feasibility of introducing park rangers to manage conflicts of use and enforce local laws including: dog management; encroachments; trail bike use; illegal dumping; and unintended use	Short	Urban Safety
		Ensure the effective hand over and resourcing of public open space transferred during land development	Develop a hand over procedure for open space / streetscapes being transferred from private landowners to Council. Ensure additional funding is provided with the handover of open space sites to undertake appropriate ongoing maintenance	Short	Open Space Maintenance
			Improve procedures for coordination between Council staff responsible for the taking over of open space from new development, to ensure that planting and works are designed and undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the desired function and setting type of the space and so it can be maintained cost effectively	Short	Open Space Maintenance
			Ensure that open space taken over by Council includes a follow-up maintenance period of 12 months to ensure appropriate establishment of vegetation, and maintenance of infrastructure	Ongoing	Open Space Maintenance
	<i>Introduce more cost-effective, ecologically sustainable, and community responsive measures to managing public open space</i>	Ensure water resources are managed sustainably on public open space	In line with Council's Drought Response Plan, improve water efficiency and encourage more sustainable planting and practices (with particular focus on key public open spaces, sportsfields and heritage landscapes)	Ongoing	Open Space Maintenance
			Develop a policy on appropriate use of water on open space considering environmental and social needs for keeping active / passive spaces green, and sustaining landscape values	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Implement the principles of water sensitive urban design in planning, design and open space management	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development / OS Maintenance

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 5 (continued)		Work with adjacent landowners and land management agencies to resolve occupancy, encroachment and manage shared use of open space	Develop stronger relationships with schools regarding out of hours public access to grounds, and to resolve perceived liability / duty of care, and resourcing issues	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Review the process for developing memoranda of understanding for active and passive activities with schools regarding out of hours public access to grounds, liability/duty of care and what Council can contribute. Develop a policy on how and when memoranda of understanding should be used for open space	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Pursue the development of shared use agreements with Glenroy West Primary School, Glenroy College	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Redevelop and resecure the KODE School site as a shared use open space	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Identify all illegal encroachments onto public open space, and address each through negotiation, reinstatement of boundaries and if necessary prosecution, or formalise acceptable occupancies through lease arrangements	Medium	Urban Safety
			Resolve ownership, public access and lease arrangements with State agencies for open space along waterways, service easements and rail reserves, in order to consolidate and enhance the open space network	Medium	Property Services
			Develop pedestrian/cycle link between Moonee Ponds Creek trail and Karin Court, Glenroy	Medium	Transport

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 6: Enhancing participation and use of open space	<i>Provide for a greater range of users in open space planning and design</i>	Enhance the range of age groups catered for in open space	Identify open spaces that could be used for a broader range of different activities and age groups	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			In line with recommendations of Council's oxYgen Project, continue to consult with teenagers and young adults about the types of outdoor recreation settings and facilities they prefer, and pursue opportunities to create these	Ongoing	Youth Services
			Enlarge the recurrent capital expenditure program upgrading / renewal of playgrounds/facilities to meet safety standards and enhance accessibility opportunities for all ages	Ongoing	Open Space Maintenance / Open Space Design & Development
			Provide shade, seating, and ensure ease of movement through and around open spaces, where possible	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Review Resting Places Strategy and implement	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Designate playgrounds/parks throughout the municipality for additional shade structures and implement	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Plan, design and construct skate park facilities / youth spaces in Brunswick Central Parklands, and a site in Glenroy, and complete CB Smith skate facility	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Monitor exercise equipment in parks and increase provision of both static and moving exercise equipment in designated parks	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Encourage residents to visit and use different parks and reserves through regular and one-off activities and events in public open space (as part of Council recreation, school holiday and other community development programs)	Ongoing	Youth & Leisure/Arts & Culture
	<i>Encourage greater community involvement in open space development</i>	Increase capacity for the community to be involved in enhancing biodiversity in open space	Review focus and intent of Community Planting Days to increase the benefits of the program, and include appropriate site preparation and follow-up maintenance, in line with Council's yearly Community planting program	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Develop and implement a support program for 'Friends of' groups	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Update and reprint 'Gardening with Indigenous Plants in Moreland', and include sections on sustainable gardening	Short	Open Space Design & Development
		Review signage in public open space	Review the design of all open space signage, including regulatory logos	Long	Open Space Design & Development
			Further control the erection of permanent and temporary advertising signs in public open space	Ongoing	Open Space Maintenance
			Develop a park interpretive signage suite for environmental, cultural heritage, directional and educational purposes	Short	Open Space Design & Development

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 6 (continued)	<i>Develop a greater public knowledge of the benefits of open space and physical and social opportunities it provides</i>	Reinforce "Active Moreland" messages in design, development, and marketing	Continue to investigate barriers that different target groups perceive, to using open space and seek to overcome these through education, programming and marketing activities, and the design and management of open space	Ongoing	Social Policy
		Effectively disseminate information about the benefits of, and availability of, public open space	Provide regular up to date information about parks and open space to residents, and what they can do there	Ongoing	Recreation
			Develop a number of informational products in a variety of media to promote use, value and protection of open space and ways to be involved	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Provide community information program to promote broader understanding and appreciation of the value of Moreland's local environment	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Promote opportunities for residents to have their say about open space issues and be involved in open space developments	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
Goal 7: Development of a network of shared trails	<i>Develop a network of shared trails to include: perimeter shared paths around large parks; trail circuits throughout each suburb connecting community facilities and parks; and access along key waterways and to regional trails</i>	Create shared path perimeter circuits around major district and regional open space	Create at least one shared trail circuit within each suburb	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Develop and / or enhance pedestrian links and circuits between and through parks (where appropriate), to encourage walking and cycling for exercise	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Formalise perimeter paths around the following open spaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parker Reserve (Fawkner) • Cole Reserve (Pascoe Vale) • Oak Park (Oak Park) • Northern Golf Course (Glenroy) through negotiation 	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
	<i>Create greater opportunity for residents to use shared trails in Moreland</i>	Seek to create shared trails through residential, commercial and industrial zones	Identify opportunities to create off road trails for walking, dog walking, cycling, and skating in new developments and in redevelopment areas, particularly in activity centres, through the re-design of existing streetscapes, and parks (where appropriate) and public land	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Create links to open space and trails from activity centres	Short	Place Design & Strategy

Implementation Plan

Short = 1-3, Medium = 3-7, Long = 7-10+

Goal	Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeframe	By Whom?
Goal 7 (continued)		Utilise Moreland's creek and open space corridors as shared trail routes	Maintain existing informal path networks along the creek as an informal recreational experience	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Address gaps in pedestrian and cycle access to main shared trails on the Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks	Short	Open Space Design & Development
			Implement recommendations from the Merri Creek Shared Trail Review	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Address gaps in pedestrian access along the eastern side of Moonee Ponds Creek	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Investigate further means of improving the Upfield Railway Line shared path as a key trail for pedestrian and bicycle movement through the centre of the municipality	Long	Transport
			Review the location of shared trail amenities on Merri Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek trails	Medium	Open Space Design & Development
			Seek to maintain a balance between the protection of riparian habitat and public access along the creek corridors, and vary the nature of trail access in accordance with environmental significance	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Investigate land ownership, and work with owners to establish a shared trail along the Merlynston Creek alignment, from John Street Glenroy to Merri Creek, North Coburg	Long	Property Services
			Identify additional areas where creeks can be traversed by shared trails	Long	Open Space Design & Development
	<i>Provide safe and convenient access between open spaces, with connections to residential areas, civic institutions and businesses</i>	Sign and promote trail networks	Publish a guide to Moreland's shared trails, 'greenways' and interesting routes for walking and cycling around the City	Short	Recreation
			Enhance directional and informational signage along trails in the municipality and provide directional signage to open space and trails from activity centres	Ongoing	Transport
			Work with neighbouring local authorities to provide consistent signage and trail information, particularly along creek corridors. Include distance markers and expected time information on major trail routes	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Include distance markers and expected time information on major trail routes	Ongoing	Open Space Design & Development
			Develop east / west routes to connect the Upfield Rail shared path and identified habitat corridors to the paths along the Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks, and other waterways	Long	Open Space Design & Development / Transport



11. Appendices

Appendix 1

Planning and policy context

State Government policy

Melbourne 2030: Planning for sustainable growth

Released in 2002, this is the current Victorian Government's strategy for metropolitan Melbourne. The main objective of the strategy is to continue to protect the liveability of the established areas and to increasingly concentrate major change in strategic redevelopment sites. Coburg is identified as a principal activity centre, and Glenroy and Brunswick are Major Activity Centres.

- Policy 5.6 is to “*improve the quality and distribution of local open space and ensure long-term protection of public open space*”. It notes that local public open space is a vital component of the urban fabric and makes places more liveable. Four initiatives are listed under this policy (as follows), as well as *The Parklands Code*. Managers of open space, including local government, are to give due consideration to the Code in the planning and management of open space
- 1. Review mechanisms for strategic open space planning in consultation with open space management agencies in light of the Parks Victoria strategy Linking People and Spaces
- 2. Apply the open space planning principles set out in the Parklands Code to guide decision-making on issues such as open space protection and management
- 3. Establish a planning framework and guidelines relating to open space and sporting facilities at local and district level
- 4. Help local government to improve the quality and distribution of local open space by:
 - Researching changing community attitudes and usage patterns
 - Providing advice on innovative park design

- Identifying opportunities to improve provision in areas identified as deficient
- Developing strategies to maximise the open space and conservation potential of neglected or under-used areas such as some railway land, cemeteries and schools
- Policy 5.7 is to “*rectify gaps in the network of metropolitan open space by creating new parks and ensure major open space corridors are protected and enhanced*”. The open space corridors along Moonee Ponds and Merri Creek are identified as being part of the regional public open space network. One of the initiatives under this policy is to create four continuous open space links and trails, including the Merri Creek Parklands within and beyond Moreland, extending to Craigieburn

Melbourne 2030 – Planning Update – Melbourne @5 Million

Melbourne @ 5 million is a complementary policy to the directions of Melbourne 2030 released in 2008 and both documents should be considered together. It is a refinement of some of the key directions of Melbourne 2030. The main principals are: to develop a more compact city; better manage growth; develop networks with regional sites; and, develop a greener city. This is proposed to be achieved through the linking of transport, job creation and appropriate land use planning.

Implications of Melbourne @5 Million for Moreland City Council are:

- One of the key employment corridors, part of which is Bell Street, has been earmarked as a priority for attention from the State Government. They propose to work with the business community and Local Government to determine areas and sites with redevelopment opportunities, produce plans for the corridor that sets out the desired development outcomes, public realm improvements required, and any infrastructure needs, and review and where necessary propose changes to planning controls to facilitate the desired outcomes
- It is projected that established suburbs over the next 20 years will accommodate higher numbers of households than originally anticipated in Melbourne 2030. To manage this growth and preserve liveability the focus will be on more intense housing development in and around activity centres, along tram routes and the orbital bus routes on the Principal Public Transport Network, and areas close to train stations and on large development sites. Moreland City Council is one of six councils involved in a Pilot project to help the Sub-region reach its full potential. This includes looking at freeing up surplus industrial land which is located in and around activity centres, exploring whether more housing can be accommodated along transport corridors, and improving public spaces to help stimulate private investment as well as improve the liveability of an area

Melbourne 2030 is being review and a new Metropolitan Strategy is expected to be adopted within twelve months (2013).

Parklands Code: Urban Open Space Principles

To sustain the benefits of open space into the future, and to support the broad strategies and actions contained in Linking People and Spaces, the following metropolitan-wide guidelines are proposed for the planning and management of open space. These objectives relate to the network of urban open space including regional parks, waterways, reserves that have conservation and cultural value, coasts, and shared-use trails.

The Government commits to these principles for urban open space that is controlled by the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Parks Victoria located in Melbourne. Other managers of open space such as local government will give due consideration to these principles for their parklands.

Involving the community

Open space belongs to the community. Individuals and community groups should therefore be encouraged to take an active role in decision making for the network's future. Open space managers should promote this participation through open consultation, especially when major changes to park management and use are proposed. Managers should also continue to support community involvement in planting, regeneration and conservation of natural and cultural values.

Transparent planning processes

To ensure clear understanding of the management objectives for parks, any major urban park of an area of more than 100 hectares should be covered by a management plan, whereby decision-making frameworks and strategies for appropriate uses and developments are identified. The aim of these plans should be to provide long-term strategic direction, and the plans should be reviewed within a planned time horizon. Either a management plan or an explicit statement of management objectives should be developed for other urban parks.

To maximise broad-community access to open space, any exclusive occupation of parkland by community organisations should be restricted to activities that are consistent with the park's management objectives. When proposals exist to use parkland in a way that is inconsistent with management plans or zoning, the outcome should be determined through proper processes under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, whereby adequate opportunities are provided for public objections to be heard.

Buildings and other infrastructure can be used to facilitate people's enjoyment and use of open space. It is nonetheless important to ensure that their provision is consistent with the management objectives of the park and subject to appropriate Planning Scheme processes.

Securing the future of open space

Appropriate zoning of open space is integral to its long-term security and Public Park and Recreation Zone or Public Conservation and Resource Zone are the most applicable zonings for parkland purposes.

The zoning should be consistent with relevant management plans and objectives for the land, whereby conservation zoning is applied in order to protect areas of high conservation value in which development of visitor facilities is limited.

Large regional parks and significant conservation areas should be protected under legislation, ideally by being permanently reserved under the *Crown Lands (Reserves) Act 1978*.

Existing public land that immediately adjoins waterways and coasts must remain in public ownership, and any developments through which public access along stream banks or foreshores is prevented will not be permitted. When additional land is identified as being critical to completion of open space links, through any proposed rezoning or subdivision of land planners will seek to ensure that the link is transferred to public ownership for open space purposes.

Changing land use

When proposals arise to change the land use of parkland, a decision should be made only once the proposal has been exposed to public scrutiny through processes under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. If a change in land use or in the nature of occupation is to occur that will result in a reduction of open space, the overall network of open space should be protected by way of addition of replacement parkland of equal or greater size and quality. Planners should also seek to ensure that areas that are at presently under-supplied with parkland are given priority when the new areas of parkland are being established.

Environmental and recreational value of surplus government land will be fully evaluated before any decision is made on a proposal to sell land held by the Crown, a government department or a statutory authority.

Diversity

Urban open space should be used to accommodate the needs and aspirations of people of all abilities, cultures and ages. As much as possible in parks, planners should provide for nature conservation, recreation and play, formal and informal sport, social interaction, and peace and solitude.

Urban open space should include community sports facilities in a way that is consistent with other park activities. Users should enjoy access to sports areas when sporting activities are not in progress.

Sites and features of high scientific, nature-conservation, biodiversity, heritage, geological or landscape value will be protected by way of establishing appropriate reservations under state-government legislation.

Victoria in Future 2008 (DPCD)

Victoria in Future 2008 is the current population and household projections of the Victorian State Government.

Projections cover the period 2006 to 2026 for the state of Victoria, metropolitan Melbourne and the whole of regional Victoria.

Moreland's statistics:

- Population growth in Moreland is expected to be moderate between 2006 and 2026
- Household growth is projected to continue at a slightly faster rate than population growth
- The ageing that will occur over the next 20 years will be mainly in the 40 to 64 age groups, and the over 85 years group
- Total population at 2006 was 142,325, estimated in 2026 to be 168,007 (net increase of 25,682)
- Recent research prepared for Council confirms this estimate (MacroPlan, 2010)
- Linking People and Spaces, Parks Victoria 2002 – under review (2010)
- Proposed actions for Moreland include:
- For new areas of open space, when possible, give priority to protection of areas of national and State ecological significance

- Protect open space that supports significant flora and fauna species, including Kinglake National Park, Plenty Gorge Parklands and the Merri Creek Native Grasslands
- Protect, enhance and where possible link the significant riparian vegetation of waterways such as the Yarra River, the Plenty River, the Moonee Ponds Creek, the Merri Creek and Watson's Creek in order to establish regional wildlife corridors
- Protect, restore and increase the cover of depleted vegetation communities, including Plains Grassy Woodland, Herb-Rich Woodland, Native Grassland and Box Ironbark Forest within the existing open space network
- Promote east west links, both habitat and trail, in order to complement and extend the north south links along the regions rivers and waterways
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas from increased visitor pressure due to growth in the residential population

Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority Regional Catchment Strategy – 2004

The Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) describes Port Phillip and Westernport's catchment assets and how they are interrelated. It indicates what needs to be done to manage and use the assets in a sustainable and integrated way, and outlines goals and priorities for the future. The CMA has coordinated the development of the RCS in cooperation with government agencies, councils, non-government organisations, agricultural and industry groups, indigenous organisations and volunteer community groups in the region.

The main implications for Council are on sustainable water use, including reducing impacts on waterways and wetlands, appropriate land use, protecting and enhancing ecosystems, and helping the community to value and understand the catchments' assets and to work together to protect them.

Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority Native Vegetation Plan – Updates 2008

The purposes of this plan are to:

- Set out a coordinated and strategic approach to managing the region's native vegetation, consistent with *Victoria's Native Vegetation Management: A Framework For Action*
- Establish regional priorities and targets for retaining, protecting, enhancing and restoring native vegetation
- Provide direction to authorities who consider permit applications to clear native vegetation
- Guide investments in native vegetation planning and management
- Increase community awareness of the need for a net gain in the region's native vegetation, and community involvement in managing the region's native vegetation
- Provide detailed information about the region's native vegetation, which can be used in other regional strategic plans and local landscape scale plans, such as integrated catchment plans, community group (such as Landcare) plans and Biodiversity Action Plans, and
- Identify gaps in knowledge about, and research requirements for, managing the region's native vegetation

Native Vegetation Framework – Department of Sustainability and Environment 2002

Victoria's Native Vegetation Management – a Framework for Action establishes the strategic direction for the protection, enhancement and revegetation of native vegetation across the State. It addresses native vegetation from a whole catchment perspective but with a necessary focus on private land where the critical issues from past clearing and fragmentation of native vegetation exist. The PP&WPCMA Native Vegetation Plan outlines the main actions for Council.

Victorian Cycling Strategy – Dept of Transport, 2009

The Victorian Cycling Strategy aims to increase cycling levels across Victoria and position cycling alongside cars, trains, trams and buses as a viable and attractive transport option.

The strategy proposes to deliver a better cycling network, promote a culture of cycling, reduce conflicts between cyclists and other road users, better integrate cycling with public transport and integrate cycling with land use planning.

Priority actions in the strategy include:

- Significantly improving the cycling network within 10km of the CBD
- Establishing a public bike hire scheme for Melbourne
- Installation of bike cages at 33 train stations by the end of 2009
- Completing cycling networks in central activities districts and regional centres
- Developing bicycle facilities as part of major transport projects
- Developing safe cycling programs in Victorian schools and launching a 'look out for cyclists' campaign to educate other road users about cyclist safety
- A review of cycling accident patterns to develop appropriate counter measures

Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

The primary objective of the Act is to recognise, protect and conserve Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria in ways that are based on respect for Aboriginal knowledge and cultural and traditional practices.

As a responsible authority under the Victoria Planning Provisions, Council must check if a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required prior to determination of applications for planning permits, amendments to planning permits and other statutory authorisations.

Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation Discussion Paper Victorian Environment Assessment Council 2010

Although not a State Government policy this document is an important snapshot of the state of metropolitan Melbourne's open space network and its importance in maintaining the liveability of Melbourne and protection of its environmental and social functions.

The purpose of the investigation was to:

- Systematically identify and assess the uses, resources, condition, values and management of Crown land, and public authority land in metro Melbourne
- Assess values of Crown land, and public authority land for areas not committed to a specific use, and report on appropriate future uses relevant to Melbourne's liveability and opportunities to enhance this contribution
- Report on the contribution of Crown land, and public authority land to Melbourne's liveability and opportunities to enhance this contribution

It provides the first detailed picture of the use and ownership of public land in Metropolitan Melbourne.

Liveability has been defined as reflecting the wellbeing of a community and comprises the many characteristics that make a location a place where people want to live now and in the future. It includes the social, economic and environmental conditions necessary for creating liveable communities.

The report notes that land owned by local councils makes significant contributions to the liveability of communities through community facilities and services and open space. This land often adjoins and is indistinguishable from public land, and is often considered by the community to be part of the public land estate, even though this may not be the case (VEAC 2010 p. 91). It also notes that where surplus public utility land has been identified that if it has environmental and/or community value that more effort is required to facilitate that land being made available to the community.

Moreland has been identified as one of the third lowest (of 29 municipalities) providers of open space per 1000 people in metropolitan Melbourne. This information is particularly critical. The projected population growth for Moreland over the next 15 years will reduce open space to 2.9ha per 1000 people.

This further reduces access to open space and negatively impacts on the liveability of Moreland. The report does not distinguish accessibility or the quality of the open space. It only looks at quantity. This means that some areas of Moreland's community who already have poor quality and/or poor access to open space are further disadvantaged.

Victorian Government Response to Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation – Final Report (DSE March 2012)

The Government notes the importance of public land and that VEAC's work will help inform development of a metropolitan planning strategy for Melbourne.

Some of the recommendations made by VEAC have been fully supported in the Government response. Others have been supported in principle as the Government further considers the implications of the recommendations in relation to current policies and work in progress.

Potential opportunities for funding open space development through the planning system

The Planning and Environment Act 1987 provides three mechanisms through which development contributions can be sought and collected through the planning system. They are:

- Voluntary agreements (Section 173 agreements),
- Conditions on planning permits, and
- Development contributions plans (DCP's)

Voluntary agreements

Voluntary agreements provide an alternative mechanism to a DCP for obtaining development contributions towards infrastructure provision.

Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 provides a mechanism for formalising a voluntary agreement between the responsible authority (usually Council), a landowner, and other parties. Section 173 agreements are enforceable through Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

Conditions on planning permits

Planning schemes regulate the use and development of land. One way this is achieved is by requiring certain types of use or development to be only carried out if a planning permit is granted. The proposed use or development must satisfy all the conditions on a planning permit and comply with the endorsed plans.

There is some value in revising Councils standard permit conditions to ensure they are consistent with the outcomes desired in open spaces.

Planning permit conditions can include requirements for:

- Infrastructure to be provided, or
- Payments to be made towards the provision of infrastructure
- More concerted maintenance periods for vegetation etc

Development contributions plan

A development contributions plan (DCP) is a mechanism used to levy new developments for contributions to planned infrastructure needed by the future community.

Council collects development contribution levies from new developments through an approved DCP. Moreland Council is currently in the process of developing a DCP.

A DCP identifies infrastructure to be provided. The infrastructure:

- Must serve a neighbourhood or larger area
- Must be used by a broad section of the community, and
- Will in most cases serve a wider catchment than an individual development

It is important to note that Council has adopted to not include projects that can be funded through the Open Space Contribution in the DCP. The DCP can and should be used to fund street landscape projects. The development of quality streetscapes not only provides linkages to open space, they provide critical environmental and social benefits for the community. Moreland City Council policies and strategies.

Council's broader strategy and policy framework around the Open Space Strategy is illustrated in Figure 1.

Council's City Plan – 2009-2013

As part of the overall objectives the main aims for open space are to:

- Collaborate with the community and respond actively to climate change
- Improve transport and mobility
- Effective use of our land use and development policies for outcomes appropriate to the long term needs of the communities
- Maintain and enhance appropriate infrastructure and open space
- Ensure that the community has access to a range of sporting and recreational opportunities to maximise their potential
- Two of the key strategic objectives are to:
- Maintain and enhance appropriate infrastructure and open space, including:
 - Community civic and recreational facilities as per Community infrastructure planning framework
 - Facilities planned and delivered in accordance with annual capital works program
 - Implement the Gowanbrae Community Centre & Children's Centre Project, the Open Space Strategy; commence Coburg Lake Reserve upgrade and Brunswick Central Parklands Master Plan
- Ensure that the community has access to a range of sporting and recreational opportunities to maximise their potential, including:
 - Number of people participating in organised sport or facilities – increase participation from 19,000 to 21,000 by 2012
 - Upgrades and improvements to sporting facilities
 - Implement the Aquatic Strategy, including Brunswick Baths redevelopment & Oak Park Pool upgrade and Active Women in Moreland Strategy

Municipal Strategic Statement

The Municipal Strategic Statement 2006 (MSS) forms part of the Moreland Planning Scheme. It applies the goals and key commitments of the Council Plan to the use and development of land in Moreland. Moreland's vision is expressed as follows:

"Moreland seeks to create an environmentally sustainable and liveable city, where people can shop, work and socialise locally. A city where a car and a high income are not necessary for a rich and rewarding quality of life. A city which will continue to provide a range of opportunities and choices for a diverse and prosperous community."

The document reiterates elements of the 2004 Strategy, including the Strategic Framework Plan and the target of developing as usable open space all the areas assessed as undeveloped. Clause 21.05-6 Open Space and Outdoor Recreation, presents a number of 'strategies' under six objectives:

- To create a network by linking different open space areas
- To protect and manage remnant vegetation communities and establish a network of habitat landscapes for native flora and fauna
- To protect the water quality, habitat potential and amenity of the waterway environs within Moreland
- To ensure that all areas have access to local parks and district parks
- To provide an appropriate range of open space types to reflect community expectations
- To celebrate the local, natural and historic environment and the cultural diversity of the City in open space development

A number of implementation actions are also listed in this clause.

In June 2010 Council adopted Moreland's Planning Scheme Review Report. The recommendations of this review will be undertaken in accordance with Council priorities. A key recommendation of the Review Report was to revise the MSS. The revision of the MSS commenced in 2010 and is scheduled to be updated in the Moreland Planning Scheme by 2012. Due consideration of recommendations in the Open Space Strategy will be required through this process.

Municipal Public Health Plan

The Moreland Health and Wellbeing Plan 2010-2014 (MHWP) is a major policy document that aims to improve the health, safety and wellbeing for the people who live, work and play in Moreland.

Key strategies include:

- Promote physical activity through participation in leisure and recreation activities
- Improve opportunities to access play and recreation spaces
- Improve the amenity of open spaces and streetscapes
- Build resilient communities to address climate change locally, including opportunities to address rising energy and water costs, peak oil, extreme weather events and food security
- Foster a resource efficient community through actions that improve reliability and quality of our air, soil and water

Transport, Planning & the Environment is included as one of four policy themes for Council. Council's vision for the City is to see it grow economically, have improved social conditions for its residents, and improve the built and natural environment.

Key points are:

- Council supports a planning system that encourages sustainable and appropriate development that links in with Moreland's Open Space Strategy and ensures adequate provision for all residents to access
- Protecting and improving Public Open Space – Council will treat our scarce parkland reserves as a precious community resource. Council will work to ensure that all residents have quality, accessible open space within safe walking distance (500m), with particular regard to higher density areas (300m)
- Council will protect sporting reserves and move to ensure that all public land and open space is utilised to its full potential
- Council supports the consolidation of open space corridors and the permanent rezoning of land with particular regard to State-owned properties.
- Council will continue its strong emphasis on improving and greening streetscapes and revegetation initiatives
- Continue to work on improving Moreland's waterways and native flora and fauna

Structure Plans

Coburg 2020 Structure Plan 2006

The Central Coburg 2020 Structure Plan provides a long-term framework for the regeneration of the Coburg Activity Centre over the next fifteen years.

Key features of the plan include:

- Provision for 3,000 new dwellings
- Provision for 65,000 square metres additional commercial/retail floor space
- 1,400 new jobs for Moreland residents with over 10,000 jobs over the construction phase over \$900,000,000 of investment in construction over the life of the project
- More residents in the core adding to the vitality of the public realm integration of community facilities and improved access to public transport development controlled along Sydney Road shopping strip to preserve and build upon its unique character
- Improved certainty for new development for both developer and residents
- Improved and additional public places allowing for meeting places for all
- Improved access to green open space.

Environmentally sustainable design is vital to the redevelopment of Coburg and improved pedestrian amenity. This includes a range of green links through the centre and to surrounding parkland. A series of public open spaces are proposed that will provide places for the community and provide environmental benefits.

A key focus of the structure plan is on creating an environment that is physically suitable and socially welcoming to all people.

The Central Coburg 2020 Structure Plan is a long-term plan. Its delivery will require the input of a range of partners including residents, traders, community groups, the State Government and private industry. Council will play a key role in facilitating this plan for the Moreland community.

Glenroy Structure Plan 2009

The Glenroy Structure Plan outlines a vision for the future Glenroy. The document provides a long-term framework for the regeneration of the Glenroy Activity Centre over the next 15 to 20 years.

The activity centre includes the Pascoe Vale Road and Wheatsheaf Road strip shopping centres, the industrial area to the east of the rail line, and land abutting these areas. New development will provide the opportunity to create a vibrant mixed-use centre with more services, facilities, activity and residential opportunities in a high-quality environment.

The structure plan is grouped into four themes including:

- *Getting around Glenroy*, which includes improved access in and around the centre, transport access, managing congestion and potential grade separation of railway line
- *Places to enjoy and do business*, which includes improvements to the public realm and private investment to create a visually appealing centre, an improved mix of shops and services, and greater employment opportunities including type and variety of jobs
- *Living in the centre*, including increasing the residential population to add vitality to the centre, and increasing the variety of dwelling types, sizes and tenures
- *Quality spaces for people*, including improving the public realm to ensure a safe, attractive, walkable and cyclable system of streets and public spaces, high-quality design incorporating ESD, enhanced landscaping to create a greener and leafier centre, and public and open spaces that are well designed

Brunswick Structure Plan 2010

The Brunswick Structure Plan outlines a vision for the future of Sydney Road, Lygon and Nicholson Streets precincts. The document provides a long-term framework for the regeneration of the Brunswick Activity Centre over the next 15 years. The most highly valued quality of Brunswick by the community is 'diversity'. The Structure Plan addresses the following key areas:

- Integration of transport, land use and the public realm
- Strengthening of activity nodes
- Matching land use zones with objectives for future activity
- Development of approximately 5,000 –10,000 additional dwellings
- Encourage the development of accessible and adaptable housing
- Defining the desired future character of the three key transport and activity corridors
- Resolution of poor interfaces between the Brunswick Central Parklands and the Brunswick Core Employment Precinct
- Improve the local open space and cater for future demands for open space and recreation opportunities, including the development of facilities for community activities, including passive and active recreation
- Development of three key community hubs /precincts
- Development of Council's Edward Street car park for a mixture of uses including affordable, accessible housing in partnership with a housing association
- Better distribution of convenience retailing
- Matching jobs to the skills of the local workforce
- Reducing car dependence (and its implications)

Moreland Industrial Land Use Strategy (MILUS) 2004

Finalised and adopted by Council in August 2004 and was included in the Municipal Strategic Statement and Local Planning Policy (Clause 22.03) of the Moreland Planning Scheme in November 2006.

The purpose of this study was to provide clear direction about the long term planning and zoning of industrial land throughout Moreland.

The Moreland Industrial Land Use Strategy demonstrates:

- An understanding of the pressures affecting industrial zoned land in the City of Moreland, notably a decline in manufacturing and other industry
- Insight into the future outlook for existing industries in Moreland as well as for possible new employment related issues, notably a need for office and service related uses
- Clear direction to Council and the community about the long term planning, zoning and redevelopment of land that is presently included in Industrial 1 and 3, Business 3 and 4
- MILUS Pilot Project (Gale St precinct, Brunswick) undertaken in conjunction with DPCD and Planisphere early 2010
- Anticipated increase of approx. 1600 new dwellings / 4000 square metres of new office space
- Planning Scheme Amendment to rezone precinct, and other precincts adjacent to Lygon Street, likely early/mid 2011
- 15 precincts remain in Brunswick for rezoning

Urban Villages

- 17 Urban Villages identified within the Moreland Planning Scheme
- The Urban Village concept aligns with the Neighbourhood Activity Centre concept outlined in Melbourne 2030
- Urban Village policy reviewed in 2004, where some were added and some were removed based on amenity criteria, e.g. distance to shops, transport, open space, etc
- Urban Village Local Planning Policy located at Clause 22.02 of the Moreland Planning Scheme
- The policy relies on the preparation of structure plans encouraging more intensive development and walkable communities based on a 400 metre radius from the centre of a transport node
- However, only two structure plans have been prepared to date: Merlynston Station and Anstey Station
- The urban village concept is now being reviewed through the MSS Review 2010/2011

Moreland Leisure Plan 2001-2006 Policy

This policy replaces the 1997-2002 Leisure Plan. It defines Council's role in ensuring the provision of relevant leisure opportunities. Seven principles underpin the policy: responsiveness to diversity; universal and equitable access; community involvement; health promotion; effective resource use; accountability; and strengthening social capital.

Recommendations that are directly relevant to strategic open space planning include:

- 1.9 Council ensures that the Youth and Recreation Branch is advised and consulted in the development of open space master planning projects on a regular basis
- 3.19 Council caters for a range of different age groups using parks and recreational reserves, by developing playgrounds for older children, basketball rebound walls, BBQ facilities, and objects/informal areas that young people can use as skate areas.

- 8.2 Council continues to prepare a Facility Development Strategy to provide a planned and consistent framework for the maintenance and development of leisure sports, recreation and infrastructure in the municipality
- 8.15 Prior to any approvals being granted, Council requires an assessment of all capital works improvements proposed by organisations allocated facilities to ensure improved access for women, people with disabilities, older adults and other groups in the community
- 8.19 Council increases shade structures/ areas in playgrounds and ensure play equipment complies with design standards
- 8.20 Council ensures that future developments in major parks is undertaken only after a master plan has been developed for the whole area (e.g. this will ensure that sporting areas are surrounded by open spaces designed to provide a range of recreation, play and aesthetic experiences)
- 8.21 Council develops maintenance standards for sports grounds, which are appropriate to the standard of sport being played (e.g. international standard turf wicket preparation is not required for social cricketers)
- 8.25 Council prepares guidelines for the development of social facilities on Council land, taking into consideration the need to maintain residential amenity and ensure that the design of facilities enables use by other groups during the current lease and at the end of the term of the lease

The Leisure Plan 2001-2006 refers to the Open Space Strategy and notes that overall, it "complements many of the priority areas identified in the 1997-2002 Moreland Leisure Plan and the Review. Complementary strategies include issues of improving access, communications and ensuring that all the needs of Moreland residents are met such as older adults, young people, women and ethnic groups" (p20)

A photograph of a park featuring several large, spherical sculptures in yellow and black, mounted on white poles. The sculptures are arranged along a paved path with a checkered pattern. In the background, there are trees and a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent white box with yellow text is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image.

Making people feel connected and involved in the protection, development and use of open space will provide ongoing community participation and environmental benefits.

Appendix 2

Classifications and core levels of service

Definitions of catchment classification

The catchment hierarchy has three tiers:

- Local open space
- District open space, and
- Regional open space

Local open space

This is defined as space that is predominantly provided to serve the immediate local catchment.

Local open space will be relatively small in size, service daily and weekly neighbourhood use and will generally be accessed by bicycle or foot from the surrounding catchment.

At this level, provision will include facilities for social / family recreation activity and social or foundation level sport, with a relatively low level of complexity.

District open space

This is defined as areas that generally serve a group of suburbs or a precinct.

The expectation is that residents would be prepared to drive to these places. They may have significance for the precinct as a whole or a substantial part of it, due to the size, function or diversity in the space. These spaces may also have local significance for conservation and cultural value, and / or serve large social gatherings.

These spaces will be generally larger and of a greater complexity than local open space. Typically, the standard of facilities serving the catchment will be higher than that at the local level, and some level of support facilities can be expected.

Regional open space

Describes areas that serve regional catchments or the whole of or broader than, the municipality. They may host significant sites or species of flora and fauna, or by virtue of their size, diversity of opportunities or level of development. They may attract high numbers of people including tourists. The expectation is that residents would not necessarily expect these types of spaces to be available for all primary functions and in every municipality

Definitions of settlement type classification

There are three distinct forms of settlement that may influence the amount and form of open space to be provided in Moreland. These are:

Suburban areas

This relates to the suburbs of Moreland.

Medium / higher density areas

This relates to areas of higher density, where lot sizes may be small and private open space may be limited.

Table 4: Moreland Settlement Types

Settlement type	Example
Suburban areas	Pascoe Vale
Medium / higher density areas	Brunswick commercial / retail area
Activity centres	Glenroy Activity Centre

Activity centres

These are areas with a concentration of commercial and other high density land uses. The specific requirement of open space will differ in this settlement type.

Definitions of primary function classification

Outlined below are the definitions for each of the eleven open space function types.

Table 5: Definitions and Examples of Function Types in Moreland

Function type	Definition	Example
Accessway / shared trail	Areas dedicated for, or dominated by a trail or pathway, a walkway between streets / neighbourhoods or along corridors of public open space	Western Ring Road Shared Trail
Social / family recreation (or play)	Areas that provide opportunities for a range of age groups typically catering for play, picnics, casual ball games, trail activities and environmental qualities.	Lake Reserve
Sport	Areas reserved for sporting pursuits for example baseball, soccer, cricket or football	Allard Park
Civic gathering / forecourt	Areas around or supporting indoor community facilities as well as those for festivals, concerts, celebrations for the community, or civic gatherings.	Bell St Reserve
Conservation (flora and fauna)	Areas protected and managed for the protection of flora (including carbon sinks) and fauna (or potential habitat corridor or biolink). These may include recreational opportunities and interpretative signage, paths, bird hides etc.	Merri Creek Linear Reserve
Heritage	Areas dedicated to the protection, or interpretation of European settlement or indigenous cultural heritage.	Methven Park
Memorial park / cemetery	Areas dedicated to the memory of people or events.	Fawkner Memorial Park
Relaxation / contemplation / visual amenity	Usually small areas of open space designed to provide visual relief from urban surroundings, and enhance amenity of streetscapes or civic pride. Open space, typically with high environmental qualities dedicated to relaxation, contemplation / escape, with no dedicated facilities other than seats, paths, viewing areas or interpretative signage	Plumridge Park
Utility / drainage floodway	Areas of open land provided because they accommodate electric supply lines, gas pipes or water supply infrastructure. Areas of open space designated for drainage / water quality treatment functions, floodway or retardation.	Box Forrest Drainage Easement
Community horticulture	Areas dedicated to horticultural or agricultural recreation activities.	CERES
No identified function	Areas with no identified function	Volga Street Reserve

Definitions of landscape setting type classification

Outlined below are the definitions of each of the ten open space landscape settings.

Table 6: Definitions and Examples of Landscape Setting Types in Moreland

Landscape setting type	Definition	Example
Open grassy area	Open areas of exotic grass that may not be specifically cultivated as turf for sports	Sumner Park
Treed parkland	Parkland with scattered trees throughout and possible around the boundaries, as well as open grassy areas in between	Gilpin Reserve
Paved area	A sealed or paved area such as a plaza, or square	Victoria Mall
Waterbody / wetland	A waterway and wetland, typically including a riparian zone and vegetation	MWC Retarding Basin
Lawn or managed turf	Areas of turf managed for sports, aesthetic purposes, picnics or ball games	ATC Cook Reserve
Specialised sports surface	Areas of synthetic turf or specialised playing surfaces used for sports such as tennis, bowling, athletics, hockey	Coburg Tennis Club
Ornamental garden	Planted area with flowering plants typically exotic, ornamental or specimen plantings	Forecourt of the Municipal Offices at Bell Street
Bushland / native grassland	Area of vegetation typical indigenous or native vegetation with generally two or more storeys including trees (except for grassland areas)	Jukes Road Grassland
Vegetable garden / farm	An area cultivated for food or wine such as pasture, crop, vegetable garden, or vineyard	CERES

Core levels of service – sport open space

Table 7: Sport open space core levels of service

	Catchment level		
	Local	District	Regional
Location Distribution Size Accessibility	Within 1km of all dwellings Possibly associated with primary schools to address deficiencies Adequate for junior sport / kick about area	Within 1km of all dwellings Possibly associated with primary schools to address deficiencies At least 8ha May fulfil the role of a local park for urban residents within 500m e.g. Social / family recreation	Prominent site served by public transport Possibly provided in associated with an indoor centre
Quality / Complexity	Only basic turf quality unless required by shared club use Ancillary space offering pleasant landscape setting, seating and shade Provide as kick-about / social or junior sports, or for training	Playing fields preferably at the same grade and unfenced for flexibility Sufficient land to accommodate a core range of competition sports in one major unencumbered sports reserve in addition to support buildings / pavilions, car parking, and ancillary space offering pleasant landscape setting for non-sporting, recreation opportunities, dog exercise, etc	May include a synthetic or specialised playing field such as hockey, / athletics, water sports, turf wickets, etc Higher quality support facilities (irrigated to highest level), playing surfaces able to be enclosed to take a gate fee, competition lights, pavilion, including club and social rooms where applicable
Standard of Infrastructure	May not include pavilions, and only basic support facilities such as toilets May or may not include lighting depending on the code and if used for training	Seating and shade, play and contact with nature, environmental qualities to be retained On site car park, training lights, shared pavilion, kiosk, publicly accessible toilets, shade, shelter, some spectator facilities, seating, signage, and rubbish collection system	On site sealed car park. Some spectator facilities possibly undercover, public toilets, shade, seating, signage, and rubbish collection system
Standard of Maintenance	Low level irrigation from recycled or harvested water (not outfields)	Irrigated and drained sports playing fields	

Core levels of service – social / family recreation open space

Table 8: Social / family recreation open space core levels of service

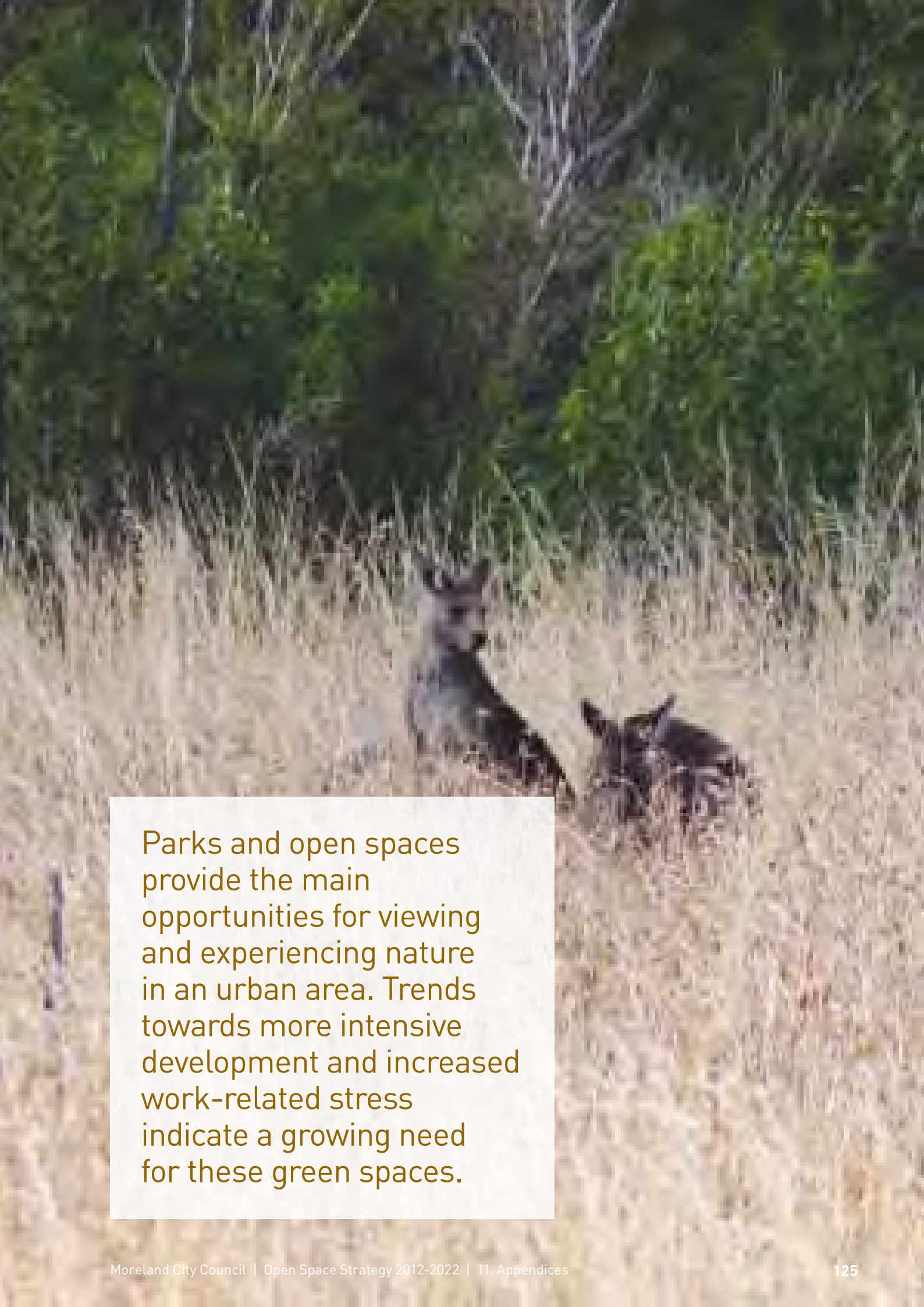
Catchment level			
	Local	District	Regional
Location Distribution Size Accessibility	<p>Not to be provided on encumbered land</p> <p>Within 500m of every household (without having to cross a major road / railway or other major physical barrier)</p> <p>Absolute minimum size of 1ha and minimum dimensions of 70m in any direction</p>	<p>As per local level provision</p> <p>Preferably minimum size of 2ha</p> <p>Serves all suburban houses within 500m catchment or several with different landscape setting types to create diversity</p>	<p>As per district provision</p> <p>Not on encumbered land</p> <p>Served by a shared path or trail</p> <p>Provided in each activity centre</p> <p>May be in the form of a plaza, regional accessible play space or ornamental garden</p>
Quality / Complexity	<p>Caters to a range of age groups.</p> <p>Shade to include mature trees and may include some structures, seating, paths</p>	<p>Meeting place with shade and shelter, seating, drinking water, all accessible to people with a disability, access to nature / loose materials</p> <p>At least two road frontages, and desirable not rear fences over looking from private yards</p> <p>Provision of a dog off-leash area</p>	<p>Significant shade and shelter, seating, BBQ, public toilets</p> <p>Fully accessible to people with a disability, formed paths</p>
Standard of Infrastructure	<p>Includes areas for co-operative play and games</p> <p>No BBQ or toilets</p>	<p>Some areas to have picnic / BBQ, toilets, additional facilities</p> <p>To include some hard ball courts</p> <p>May include skate facilities</p> <p>Provision of toilets</p> <p>May include areas of synthetic soft fall</p>	<p>Possibly access to refreshment and other commercial services</p> <p>May include facilities with synthetic surfaces</p> <p>Provision of lights for some night activities</p>
Standard of Maintenance	<p>Irrigation to a basic level</p>	<p>Some space with irrigated green lawns lights and rubbish collections</p>	<p>Considerable areas under irrigation</p>

Core levels of service – shared trails

Table 9: Shared trails core levels of service

	Catchment level		
	Local	District	Regional
Location	One circuit trail in every locality	As part of larger open spaces. Trail should not dominate space	Trails between suburbs, and along former easements and creeks
Distribution	In logical places that are well used	Within 800m of every dwelling in urban areas	Sealed trails to be a minimum width of 2.5m with direction signage at nodes. Connects to social / family recreation open space
Size	Within 500m of every dwelling	Away from sensitive riparian areas / river banks	
Accessibility	In localities that connect with destinations such as community facilities, in pleasant landscapes, streets and parks	Circuits around the perimeter of major parks in a consolidated gravel pavement	Where trail is the primary function corridor width shall be 10m wide
	Perimeter paths around large parks – with local links to district and regional trails	Minimum width 2.5m, and 3m for equestrian use	
	Trail 2.5m wide	Where trail is the primary function corridor width shall be 10m wide	
	Where trail is the primary function corridor width shall be 10m wide		

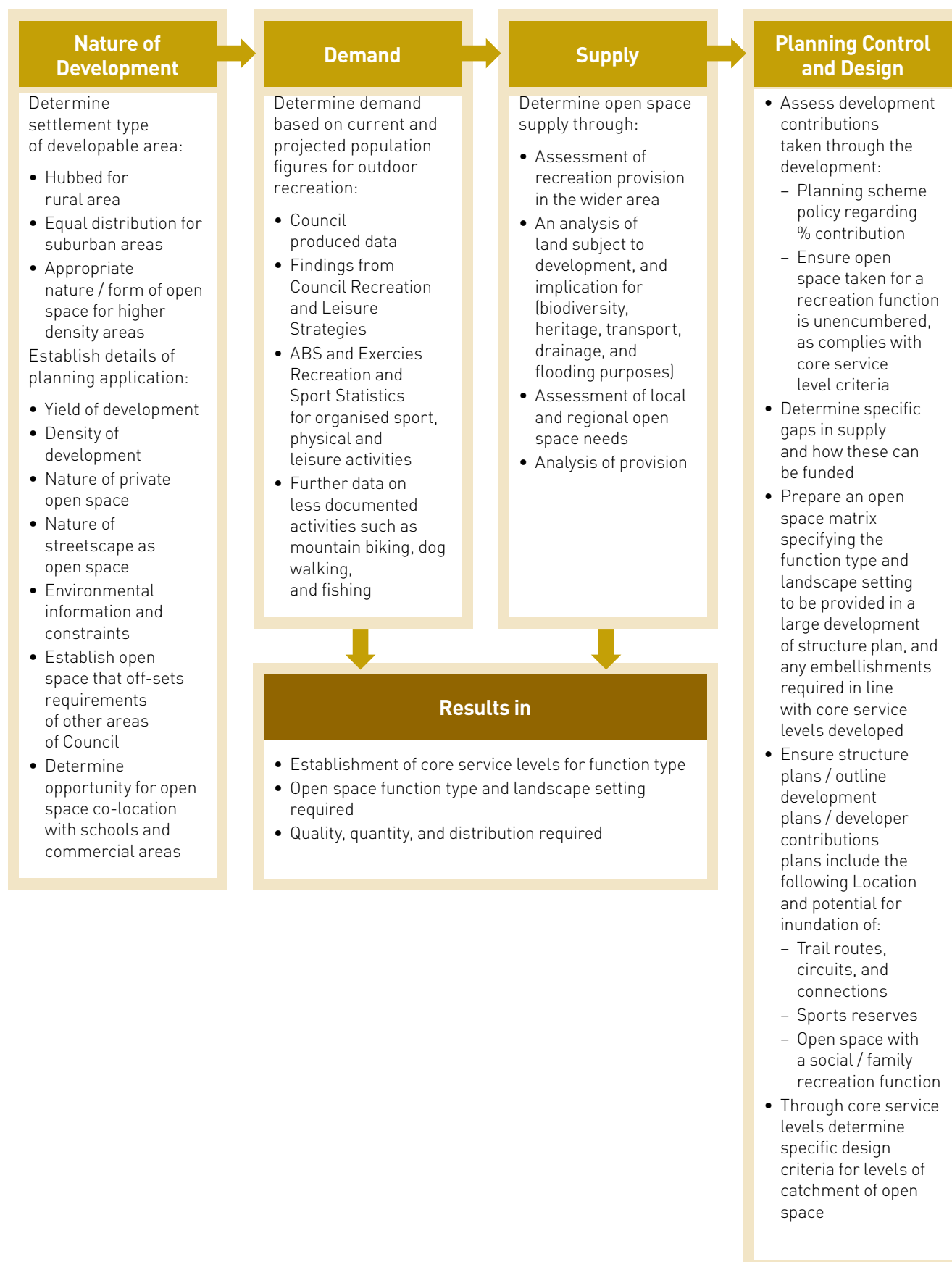
<p>Quality / Complexity</p>	<p>A hierarchy of paths in every new residential development, and shared footways (connecting onto) the river / creek trails etc</p> <p>Visually pleasant, linear or contiguous open space</p>	<p>Link between suburbs and / or provide a link to a regional trail. They are likely to include, unsealed shared trails for use by horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians, and sealed trails designed for cycling, skating</p> <p>Trails at a district level likely to include two levels or trails that serve district sports and recreation uses</p> <p>A range of setting types along the length of long trails to provide sunny and shaded areas, connections with views and environmental stimuli</p> <p>Instead of running a trail parallel along a significant waterway edge without a buffer and a single approach to the watercourse – so there is only a single impact point</p> <p>Formed paths including consolidated gravel pavement or granitic sand (not screenings or toppings) or asphalt, or concrete depending on key activities to be accommodated</p> <p>Protection zone on either side of the tread way to insulate the trail user from activities detrimental to the trail experience, and the environment of the trail as viewed</p>	
<p>Standard of Infrastructure</p>		<p>Break out spaces for rest and respite</p> <p>Access to seating and drinking water at nodes</p>	<p>Provide distance markers</p> <p>Provide trail head and activity hubs with a toilet, car and bike parking, picnic tables, and toilets at logical entry and exit nodes</p> <p>Networks to have directional, interpretive and information signage</p> <p>Ensure all path and entry points are accessible by wheelchair</p>

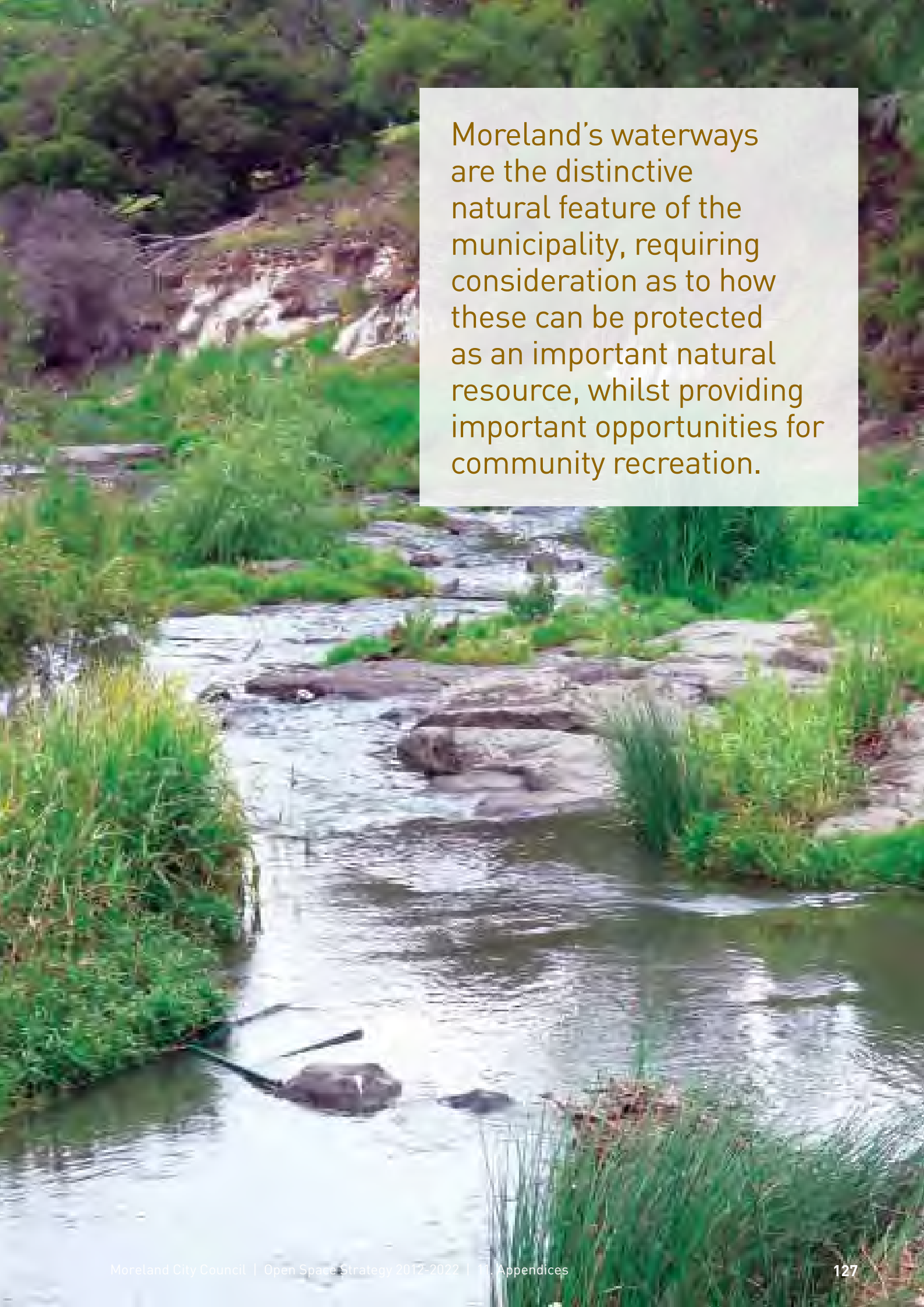


Parks and open spaces provide the main opportunities for viewing and experiencing nature in an urban area. Trends towards more intensive development and increased work-related stress indicate a growing need for these green spaces.

Appendix 3

Open space planning process for residential areas



A scenic view of a river flowing through a lush, green landscape. The river is surrounded by dense vegetation, including tall grasses and shrubs. The water is clear and flows over rocks, creating small rapids. The background shows a steep, rocky hillside covered in greenery.

Moreland's waterways are the distinctive natural feature of the municipality, requiring consideration as to how these can be protected as an important natural resource, whilst providing important opportunities for community recreation.

Appendix 4

Environmental weeds in Moreland

Common Name	Scientific Name	Invasiveness in Moreland	Priority for removal in Moreland	Notes
Cootamundra Wattle	<i>Acacia baileyana</i>	low	moderate	
Early Black Wattle	<i>Acacia decurrens</i>	low	moderate	
Bears Breach	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	moderate	moderate	
Box-elder Maple	<i>Acer negundo</i>	high	high	Seed carried in drainage water and by wind.
Sycamore Maple	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	very high	very high	
Agapanthus	<i>Agapanthus praecox ssp orientalis</i>	moderate	low; high along waterways	
Brown top bent grass	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	high	low; high adjacent to native grasslands	do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
Creeping bent grass	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	high	low; high adjacent to native grasslands	do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
White bladder flower/ Cruel vine/	<i>Arauja sericifera</i>	very high	very high	silky seeds dispersed by wind.
Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon rigidus</i>	low	high along waterways	
Saffron Thistle	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	high	high	
Mirror bush	<i>Coprosma repens</i>	high	high	
Pink Pampas Grass	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	high	high	recent introduction of new strains means that Pampas grass species can now set seed and spread many km in the wind.
Pampas Grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	high	high	wind dispersed seed
Cotoneaster species	<i>Cotoneaster spp</i>	very high	very high	seed dispersed widely by birds
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	high	high along waterways and in parks	spread by birds
Montbretia	<i>Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	high	high	
Artichoke Thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	high	High	
Couch Grass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	high	low; high in planting beds or adjacent to indigenous grassy understorey	
Tagasaste or Tree Lucerne	<i>Cytissus palmensis</i>	high	high	
English Broom	<i>Cytissus scoparius</i>	high	high	
Cape Ivy	<i>Delaira odorata</i>	high	high	
Patersons curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	very high	very high	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Invasiveness in Moreland	Priority for removal in Moreland	Notes
Tree Heath	<i>Erica arborea</i>	high	very high	not to be confused with the native heaths.
Spanish Heath	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	high	high	
Sugar Gum	<i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i>	low	low	
Spotted Gum	<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>	moderate	moderate in conservation areas	
Tall Fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	moderate-high	high in or near areas with grassy understorey	Do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	high	High	
Flowering Ash	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	potentially high	moderate	
Desert Ash	<i>Fraxinus oxycarpa or rotundifolia</i>	Very high	Very high	Can be replaced by sterile cultivars in heritage areas.
Flax-leaved Broom	<i>Genista linifolia</i>	very high	very high	
Montpellier Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	very high	Very high	
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	high	high; very high adjacent to conservation areas	
Two-leaf Cape Tulip	<i>Homeria miniata</i>	very high	very high	rare in Moreland
Yellow Water Iris	<i>Iris pseudoacorus</i>	high	high along waterways	Not known in Moreland yet
Shasta Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum maximum</i>	low	moderate along waterways	
Ox-eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	low	moderate along waterways	
Large-leaved Privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	very high	very high	seed dispersed widely by birds
Chinese privet	<i>Ligustrum sinensis</i>	high	high	seed dispersed widely by birds
European privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	moderate-high	moderate	seed dispersed widely by birds
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	moderate-high	high in or adjacent to indig grassy understorey	Do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	high	high; very high adjacent to conservation areas	
Himalayan Honeysuckle	<i>Lycesteria formosa</i>	high	high	
African Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	moderate	moderate	
Giant Honey Myrtle	<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i>	low	low	
Bridal Creeper	<i>Myrsiphyllum asparagoides</i>	high	very high	
Myrsiphyllum	<i>Myrsiphyllum scandens</i>	high	very high	
Chilean Needle-Grass	<i>Nasella neesiana</i>	very high	high; very high near native grasslands	Spread on mowing equipment

Common Name	Scientific Name	Invasiveness in Moreland	Priority for removal in Moreland	Notes
Serrated Tussock	<i>Nasella trichotoma</i>	very high	very high throughout the municipality	Spread on mowing equipment
Olive	<i>Olea europea</i>	moderate	low, except where spread is evident	
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	moderate	high	
Soursob	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	high	low	High priority were understorey plantings present or planned. Avoid spreading contaminated soils.
Cape Wattle	<i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i>	moderate-high	high in or near conservation areas	
Banana Passionfruit	<i>Passiflora mollissima</i>	high	high near conservation areas	
Swamp Foxtail Grass	<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	very high	high	Do not use in ornamental plantings
Kikuyu	<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	high	high near conservation areas	Spread in contaminated soil and by growth of runners; do not use near conservation areas.
African Feather Grass	<i>Pennisetum macrourum</i>	very high	high	Do not use in ornamental plantings
Canary Island Date Palm	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	high but usually less than 100m	high along waterways or adjacent to Conservation areas	Seed spread by birds
Monterey Pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	low	low except where spread evident	
Sweet Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	high	moderate; high near conservation areas	spread by birds
Plane Tree	<i>Platanus hybrida</i>	low	low	
Winter Grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	high	moderate in areas with grassy understorey	Do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
Myrtle-leaf milkwort	<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	high	high	not yet a problem in Moreland
White Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>	moderate along waterways	moderate	spreads by suckering from parent plant.
Lombardy Poplar	<i>Populus nigra var italica</i>	low	low; moderate in conservation areas	
Cherry-plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	very high	high	most modern plum cultivars are less likely to spread.
Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	very high	high along waterways	
Orange Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i>	moderate	moderate	spread by birds
Nepal Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha crenulata</i>	moderate	moderate	spread by birds
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	moderate	moderate; high along waterways	thought to be spread by water
Briar Rose	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	moderate	moderate-high	
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	moderate	moderate-high	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Invasiveness in Moreland	Priority for removal in Moreland	Notes
Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>	high along waterways	high along waterways	spread by stem fragments
Weeping Willow	<i>Salix babylonica</i>	moderate along waterways	low; moderate along waterways	
Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	high along waterways	high along waterways	spread by stem fragments
Basket Willow	<i>Salix fragillis</i>	high along waterways	high along waterways	spread by stem fragments and seed
Willow	<i>Salix X rubens</i>	high along waterways	high along waterways	spread by stem fragments
Pepper or Peppercorn tree	<i>Schinus molle</i>	low	low; moderate in conservation areas	
Madeira Winter Cherry	<i>Solanum pseudocapsicum</i>	high	high especially along waterways	
Spear grass	<i>Nassella hyalina</i>	very high	High	
Spear grass	<i>Nassella leucotricha</i>	very high	high	
Acnatherum	<i>Acnatherum caudtum</i>	high	high	
Tradescantia	<i>Tradescantia albiflora</i>	high	High; very high near waterways	
Strawberry Clover	<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	moderate	low; moderate along waterways	do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	moderate	low	do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
Other Clovers	<i>Trifolium spp</i>	low-high	low; high in or adjacent to indigenous grassy understorey	
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	moderate	high adjacent to waterways	
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	high	moderate-high	
Dutch Elm	<i>Ulmus X hollandica</i>	high along waterways	high along waterways	windblown and waterborne seed
Blue periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>	high	moderate; high along waterways	
Common violet	<i>Viola odorata</i>	high	low; high along waterways	
Bulbil Watsonia	<i>Watsonia meriana 'bulbilifera'</i>	very high	very high	
White Arum Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	low-moderate	low; moderate along waterways	



Progress in implementation of this Strategy should be monitored and reported annually to Council, to the Sustainable Moreland Advisory Group and to the community via Council's Annual Report.

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