



Banyule City Council

Public Open Space Strategy

2007-2012



Banyule
CITY COUNCIL

BANYULE
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE STRATEGY
2007 - 2012

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The communities which together make up the municipality of Banyule, along with most other parts of the Melbourne Metropolitan area, are expected to experience a period of significant change over the next decade. Some of these changes will include a substantial ageing of the population, an increase in the number of new arrivals from third world and developing nations, many of whom will have language difficulties and significant cultural differences and a continued increase in population density due to on-going in fill housing development and concentrated development around key activity centres.

Importance of Public Open Space

World wide research has shown that public open space, particularly in urban areas, has an extremely important positive influence on community health and wellbeing. Accessible good quality public open space is important as it provides urban dwellers with contact with nature, which is fundamental to human health. It also provides opportunities for people to experience regular human to human contact, in a non threatening environment, which is another key health influence.

Public Open Space in Banyule

Council manages over 600 hectares of public open space and Parks Victoria manages a further 285 hectares of parklands within Banyule. This effectively means that Banyule is well endowed in terms of the amount of public open space it has. Banyule also has some of the best quality parklands in the metropolitan area, particularly those in the Yarra River and Plenty River corridors. However, despite this, Banyule still faces a range of issues to ensure its public open space is maintained and enhance sufficiently to meet the challenges of the coming decade.

Challenges

Some of the key challenges for Council in relation to the planning and management of its public open space for the coming decade include:

- Ensuring the quality of public open space is maintained and is further enhanced in order that it meets the community's changing needs into the future
- Striking an appropriate balance between protecting the environmental values of Council's public open space and providing suitable and appropriate community facilities and infrastructure
- Meeting the needs of a changing population which will age noticeably during the next decade and see an increased number of migrants from significantly different cultures and non-English speaking backgrounds
- Increasing population density due to continued infill housing development and the development of key activity centres
- The likely reduction in the availability of private open space to many residents and the consequent increased reliance on public open space
- The continued on-set of climate change and the need to find alternative ways to supply water to Council's parks and reserves

- Providing infrastructure such as shared trails that is suitable for both recreational and commuter purposes.
- Providing safe connections between linear parks and community facilities, such as schools in order to provide increased sustainable transport options.

About This Strategy

The intent of this document is to provide a strategic framework to help guide Council's decision making in relation to public open space for the next five to ten years.

This framework and the recommendations of the Strategy are based on a vision for public open space and a set of key principles, which relate to a wide range of relevant issues from environment protection and enhancement to the development of quality community facilities and infrastructure, from water efficiencies and recycling to dogs in parks, from linear linkages to regional planning and from equitable distribution of public open space to maximizing resources and the co-ordination of planning and management.

The Strategy also includes a precinct by precinct analysis of public open space in Banyule and related issues as well as a planners' guide.

Overall it is recognized that Banyule is in the privileged position of having an ample supply of public open space. However, in order for Banyule to maintain this position during the coming five to ten years, the significant challenges and issues identified in this document need to be addressed effectively. The Strategy is designed to assist Council to not only maintain but to improve its position in this regard.

1. Background

A Public Open Space Strategy was prepared by Jeavons & Jeavons and adopted by Council in December 1997. Many of the key recommendations of that Strategy have now been implemented, or are now out of date. A new up dated Public Open Space Strategy is now required. A summary of the key outcomes that have been achieved which are related to the 1997 Strategy is set out below:

- A number of actions from the Strategy were taken up by the Recreation Strategy and dealt with in further detail. These include those related to the development and maintenance of trails, master plans for reserves and playgrounds.
- Masterplans were prepared for a number of key reserves and in most cases at least partially implemented including, Olympic Reserve, Greensborough War Memorial Park, the Plenty River Corridor, Rosanna Parklands and Malahang Reserve.
- A specific program was developed to provide a package of youth opportunities in public open spaces, including such things as paved areas for ball sports and skating and areas for social interaction, seating and shelter. Further teenage issues raised in the Strategy were taken up by the Votes- project and a skate facility & BMX guidelines were produced.
- Partnerships were successfully pursued with neighbouring municipalities concerning the commissioning of sports fields to meet regional needs. As a result two hockey synthetic facilities have been built jointly with, the Shire of Nillumbik in one case and with the support of the Darebin City Council in the other case.
- A number high profile developments have occurred; eg the extension and upgrade of the Plenty River Trail, extension of the Darebin Creek Trail, development of skate facilities at Malahang Reserve and Kalparrin Gardens and the construction of all three stages of the Banyule Trail.
- Some marketing and promotion had been undertaken, such as the production of a map of Public Open Space and Bike trails in the City.
- The “Heidelberg School” Artists Trail was extended and the “Discover Banyule” series of guided walking tours has been developed. At this time four tours in the series have been fully documented and there is potential for others to be developed. These replaced the concept proposed in the Strategy of the interpretative trails such as the Burley Griffin Trail, Ellis Stones Trail, Olympic Memories Interpretive Trail.

- A number of park visitor and satisfaction surveys were conducted to assist Council staff in the planning and management of public open space.
- Staff training was completed for sections of Planning and City Works regarding protection and enhancement of significant vegetation.
- A considerable amount of work was done in the area of signage, including the location of substantial environmental interpretation signs in Banyule Flats, the Heidelberg School Artists Trail signs and behavioral signage for Banyule's shared trails although the issue of co-ordination and consolidation of signage has not been resolved yet.
- There have been some key open space acquisitions; including additional land for Anthony Beale Reserve, and for the Plenty River Trail extension, as well as for the creation of a new park in the area known as Banksia Island (west of Upper Heidelberg Rd, between Banksia Street and Bell Street).
- The Strategy recommended enhancing opportunities for sport in the northern precincts, and a second sports field and associated facilities were subsequently commissioned at Anthony Beale Reserve.
- The strategic relocation of some sporting clubs was investigated and acted on; e.g. Ivanhoe Harriers and the Diamond Valley Soccer Club.
- The Public Open Space Strategy was used as a basis to help assess the large residential developments and for identifying the public open space required in such subdivisions, such as College Views. One example of where the principles in the strategy were applied is in the Cascades residential development, Yallambie Road Yallambie, where the creek and associated land was protected and developed into a major open space feature.
- There have been environmental works undertaken and park systems developed using the Strategy, for example, a playgrounds replacement program, trails have been funded and service specifications for maintenance of grounds and park buildings developed.
- Council has been actively pursuing the strategy to seek partnerships with community groups and providing support for their involvement in community environmental programs.
- Indigenous vegetation is being progressively re-established in open space within wildlife corridors.

- A program of tree planting, recognising Australian Olympians involving the community and schools, was undertaken.
- A number of master plans have been prepared or are currently being prepared and adopted by Council, including for Olympic Village Reserve, Anthony Beale Reserve, Rosanna Parklands, Macleod Park, Partingtons Flat, Plenty River Corridor, Malahang Reserve and Greensborough War Memorial Reserve.
- Council successfully negotiated with The Office of Housing to acquire several parcels of land on Liberty Parade, West Heidelberg, for public open space and to create improved access to Olympic Reserve and the Darebin Creek Trail.
- Planning controls to minimize the removal of indigenous vegetation from private land have been introduced with Amendments C1 and C5 to the Banyule Planning Scheme.
- Banyule's significant trees and vegetation were identified in an extensive study by the Centre for Urban Ecology, Burnley College and are now protected under the Banyule Planning Scheme.
- Council's Wildlife Corridor Officer, the Waterwatch Coordinator and the Bush Land Crew introduced education programs and materials, and the "Indigenous Plants for your Garden" publication has also been revised and a map and report on the vegetation communities of the City were made available to the community.
- Strong support has been forthcoming for local open space initiatives though the provision of community grants to encourage community based environmental enhancement initiatives.
- The Strategy recommended the Darebin Creek Trail should be linked to the Main Yarra Trail. Council has and is continuing to work closely with Parks Victoria and the Darebin City Council on this. Parks Victoria has acquired some of the key parcels of land and the project has been given considerable resources to progress the link to Sparks Reserve. There is however still some private land to be acquired beyond this point.
- A study on the feasibility of constructing a pedestrian bridge between Warringal Parklands, Banksia Park and the Heide Museum of Modern Art has been completed and also referred to in the Heidelberg Structure Plan.
- A development plan for an arts and cultural precinct has been prepared.

- A series of community requests to purchase inappropriate parcels of land for use as public open space were assessed by using the criteria set out in the Public Open Space Strategy. These assessments have assisted Council in its deliberations on these matters.
- Fully operational flora and fauna databases were established.
- The Urban Design Framework for the Mall in Heidelberg West identifies opportunities for a town square integrated with surrounding land uses to enhance this Neighbourhood Activity Centre.
- The Structure Plan developed for Greensborough, to Guide the Green Edge Project to include a town square.
- The structure plan for Heidelberg refers to the importance of Warringal Parklands and the Yarra River to the Heidelberg community, as well as the importance of civic spaces worked into the fabric of the activity centre.

2. New Strategy

2.1 Strategic Context

The 2006-2010 Banyule City Plan has informed the development of this strategy. The City Plan is the key organizational document that establishes the organisation's vision and values. The City Plan 2006-2010 states Council's vision that:

“Banyule will be a community with a range of quality lifestyles in an urban setting embraced by the natural environment, and served by an effective committed Council.”

The City Plan 2006-2010 has five objectives:

- Community Development and Support
- Environment Management
- Local Amenity and Built Environment Management
- Economic Development
- Leadership and Management

Fundamentally the Public Open Space Strategy is the instrument for providing direction to Council in relation to the planning and enhancement of public open space. However it also has strong links to the objectives of a range of other key Council strategic documents, in particular:

- Environment Policy and Strategy
- State of the Environment Report
- Banyule Health Plan
- Recreation Strategy
- Cultural Strategy
- Playground Strategy
- Arts Precinct Development Plan
- Safer Banyule Action Plan
- Access and Inclusion Policy
- The Banyule Planning Scheme
- Votes (Voices of Teenagers Encouraged in Society)

2.2 Strategic Development Process

The original draft of this strategy was prepared by the consulting firm Jeavons and Jeavons. However following extensive consultation with a wide range of relevant Council officers, an examination of related Council policies and strategies and a review of other relevant literature, the document has been substantially re-written and expanded.

Prior to its adoption, the draft strategy was also made available for public comment and input.

2.3 Goal

The goal of this strategy is to provide Council with a practical tool to assist it to systematically implement its Public Open Space Policy.

2.4 Objective

To improve the quality and quantity of public open space within Banyule, in order to more effectively meet the needs of residents.

2.5 Role of Public Open Space

2.5.1 Social Interaction

In defining public open space, Council should consider the underlying reasons for providing it. Fundamentally public open space is provided to enhance community health and wellbeing. Therefore it is important for Council to embrace a broader definition of public open space to that of just traditional parks, gardens and reserves.

Research has shown that an important factor in determining the health and wellbeing of a given community, and of the individuals within it, is the level of contact and interaction that occurs between the people of that community. The provision of public spaces, which people enjoy gathering in and using can play an important role in promoting and fostering human contact and interaction. Whilst parks, gardens and reserves play a very significant role in this process, it is important to also recognize the critical role that appropriate, accessible, safe and appealing non-park spaces such as town squares, courts, malls and piazzas and footpaths can play.

In support of this notion the World Health Organization states in its publication "The Solid Facts" that "...Designing facilities to encourage meeting and social interaction in communities can improve mental health." It also indicates that "Social support and good social relations make an important contribution to health.....(and) supportive relationships also encourages healthier behavior patterns.....Social isolation and exclusion (on the other hand) are associated with increased rates of premature death and poorer chances of survival after heart attack"... and poorer health generally.

2.5.2 Contact with Nature

Research undertaken by Deakin University (Muller et al 2002) highlights the importance to human health and wellbeing of regular quality exposure to nature, or natural phenomena, such as trees, grass plants, birds and animals. This is particularly critical in urban and sub-urban societies, as these things often aren't always readily available to people unless provided in the form of public parks, gardens and reserves.

"Harvard biologist Edward Wilson states that human beings rely intellectually, emotionally, physically and spiritually on connections with nature and the environment. This view is supported by eco-psychologists and other health professionals, who assert that many psychological and physical afflictions are

due to withdrawal from contact with nature, and that exposure to nature can have positive rehabilitative benefits.

No matter what form this connection takes- viewing nature, being in the natural environment, connecting with nature through parks gardens and pets – there is evidence from a wide range of sources that these connections are beneficial. Viewing nature, for example, helps people recover from stress, improves concentration and productivity and improves our psychological state, particularly if we are in confined circumstances.....Wilderness and related studies clearly demonstrate that being in a natural environment is good for people’s mental health.

There are also multiple benefits from brief encounters with nature, or experiencing nature on a smaller scale, such as in parks or through gardening or pets. Parks have long been recognised as an important component of the urban environment.....

Other studies demonstrate that plants and nearby vegetation can have profound effects on individuals, small groups, or even entire neighbourhoods. Interacting with plants has been shown to help to heal those who are elderly and mentally disadvantaged: improve the mental capacity of office workers; improve job satisfaction; attract consumers and tourists to shopping and aid community cohesion and identity.”

Social connection is also an important ingredient in public health and well being and the provision of good quality public open space and public spaces can play an important role in fostering it.

Putnam (1999 p407) challenges...”urban and regional planners, developers and community organisers ... to ensure ... (that in future we design) ... more integrated and pedestrian friendly areas and that the design of our communities and the availability of public space, will encourage more casual socialising with friends and neighbours” (and others).

Informal connections are very important in sustaining social networks and in sustaining and building social capital; (i.e. relationships and empathy between people and groups). (Putnam 1999 p95)

Putnam (p411) also indicates that “to build bridging social capital; (i.e. creating social connection between diverse groups) requires that we transcend our social and political and professional identities to connect to people unlike ourselves. This is why team sports provide good venues for social capital building. “Equally, providing an appropriate mix of facilities that

appeal to a wide range of cultural groups in public open spaces will create opportunities for casual social contact and interaction between people and groups of differing cultural backgrounds, is important for creating bridging social capital.

This is supported by Muller et al 2002 (p1) who says that “it is likelythat human interaction with nature through parks may have significant capacity for building social capital.

Jan Geihl, speaking at the International Urban Planning Conference in Copenhagen in 2005 said that it is incumbent on urban planners to provide pleasant, inviting public spaces in busy community hubs. Provide such spaces and you will find people come to those spaces, to meet friends, to relax, or to simply observe others. Such spaces form a critical part of urban social infrastructure and contribute to the social health of our communities.

2.5.3 Protection of the Environment

Public open space also has an important role in providing places where native and indigenous vegetation can still thrive and provide habitat for native birds and animals. Linear open space can also function as viable wildlife corridors

2.5.4 Sustainable Transportation

Public open space, particularly linear open space, can also play an important role by encouraging walking and cycling as an alternative sustainable form of transport to motor vehicles. This will be encouraged if high quality trail surfaces can be provided, particularly trails that link to the Metropolitan Trails Network and key community destinations. This will not only provide a more sustainable transport option, but will also encourage greater amounts of physical activity, which can lead to community health benefits.

2.6 Definition of Public Open Space

For the purposes of the Banyule Public Open Strategy the definition of public open space includes:

- Council owned or managed land used as public parks and reserves and usually zoned “Public Park and Recreation Zone,” “Public Conservation and Resource Zone,” or “Public Use Zone.”
- Land owned or controlled by State Government authorities which is available to the general public for recreational purposes.
- Council owned or managed community spaces in and around shopping centre and community hubs

- Privately owned community spaces which are freely available to the community as informal gathering spaces and for community activities.

2.7 Changing demographics in Banyule¹

Banyule's resident population at the time of the 2001 Census was 118,662 people. It is expected to increase to around 121,500 by 2021, an increase of about 1.2% per annum.

Banyule is an area of high socio-economic advantage. The ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage scores Banyule with the ninth highest index score of the 31 municipalities situated in the Melbourne metropolitan area.

However there are some areas within the municipality that experience high levels of disadvantage. The Heidelberg West / Bellfield area is an area of significant socio-economic disadvantage with a SEIFA index that places it in the lowest 10% of scores in Australia.

18,318 (16%) of people spoke a language other than English at home in 2001, reflecting a broader trend of some maintenance of non-English languages into second and to a lesser degree third generation migrants in Australia.

The major non-English languages spoken at home are:

Italian	4,432
Greek	2,439
Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin)	1,129
Former Yugoslavia	1,983
Arabic	1,101

Over fifty different countries of birth feature in Banyule's diverse population. With even the largest overseas born groups each representing only a small proportion of the total population, the community is characterized by high ethnic diversity.

Banyule has a sizeable aboriginal population, which is increasing. There were 484 people who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the 2001 Census. However the experience of agencies working with the Aboriginal community in Banyule suggests that the actual population may exceed 1,000 people. While distributed throughout the municipality, the majority of aboriginal residents live in the postcode 3081 area.

¹ Information in this section is drawn from the ABS 2001 – Census of Population and Housing, and Victoria in Future (VIF) 2004 Population Projections

This group is important because of its relative size, significant experience of social and health disadvantage, and issues associated with providing access to mainstream support services.

There is no specific data available on the incidence of disability in Banyule.

However the incidence of disability in Australia is known to be age related, from as low as 4% for the 0-4 years age group, to 41% of 65-69 year olds and 92% of those aged 90 years and over.

Using the ABS average rate for Australia, it is estimated that about 23,000 people living in Banyule have some form of disability.

Physical disability is the most prevalent form of disability.

Localities

The information presented in this section is provided on the basis of the localities adopted by Council for the purposes of conducting its Community Wellbeing Survey. These are as follows:

Table 1 – Banyule Localities

Postcode area	Suburbs
3079	Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe North
3081	Heidelberg West, Heidelberg Heights, Bellfield
3083	Bundoora, Kingsbury
3084	Rosanna, Rosanna East, Heidelberg, View Bank, Eaglemont
3085	Macleod, Yallambie
3087	Watsonia, Watsonia Nth
3088	Greensborough, Briar Hill
East Group (3089, 3093, 3094, 3095)	Montmorency, Eltham Nth, Lower Plenty, St Helena

Population cohorts

0-4 year olds

The 0-4 year cohort represents the preschool population of Banyule.

There were 6,809 children aged 0-4 years at the time of the 2001 census, comprising 6.0% of the total population.

The highest numbers of preschool aged children can be found in postcodes 3088, 3084 and 3081 (Greensborough, Rosanna/Heidelberg and Heidelberg West/Heights/Bellfield areas).

The greatest proportions of children aged 0-4 years are in the postcode areas of 3081, 3085 and 3087 (Heidelberg West/Heights/Bellfield, Macleod and Watsonia/Watsonia Nth).

The least number and proportion of 0-4 year olds are in Bundoora/Kingsbury areas.

5-11 years

The 5-11 year cohort represents the primary school population of Banyule.

There were 10,220 children aged 5-11 years at the time of the 2001 census, comprising 9.0% of the total population.

The areas with the highest numbers of primary school aged children were postcodes 3088, 3084 3093 and 3094 (Greensborough, Rosanna/Heidelberg, Montmorency and Lower Plenty).

The areas with the highest proportions of children aged 5-11 years were postcodes 3093, 3094, 3088 and 3087 (Montmorency, Lower Plenty, Greensborough and Watsonia/Watsonia North).

The least number and proportions of children aged 5-11 years is in the Bundoora/Kingsbury area.

12-17 years

The 12-17 year cohort represents the secondary school (teenage) population of Banyule.

There were 9,196 teenagers aged 12-17 years at the time of the 2001 census, comprising 8.1% of the total population.

The areas with the greatest numbers of teenagers were postcodes 3088, 3084, 3093 and 3094 (Greensborough, Rosanna/Heidelberg, Montmorency and Lower Plenty).

The areas with the highest proportions of teenagers were postcodes 3088, 3093 and 3094 (Greensborough, Montmorency and Lower Plenty)

The least number and proportions of adolescents were in the Bundoora/Kingsbury area.

18-29 years

The 18-29 year cohort represents the population of young adults in Banyule.

There were 19,165 young adults aged 18-29 years at the time of the 2001 census, comprising 16.9% of the total population.

The areas with the greatest numbers of young adults were postcodes 3088, 3084, 3093 and 3094 (Greensborough, Rosanna/Heidelberg, Montmorency and Lower Plenty).

The areas with the highest proportions of young adults were postcodes 3083, 3085 and 3088 (Bundoora/Kingsbury, Macleod and Greensborough)

The smallest number of young adults were in the Postcode 3087 (Watsonia / Watsonia North) and the least proportion were in postcode 3084 (Rosanna / Heidelberg).

30-49 years

The 30-49 year cohort represents the potential child rearing population of Banyule.

There were 33,110 people aged 30-49 years at the time of the 2001 census, comprising 29.1% of the total population.

The areas with the greatest numbers of people aged 30-49 years were postcodes 3088, 3084, 3093 and 3094 (Greensborough, Rosanna/Heidelberg, Montmorency and Lower Plenty).

The areas with the highest proportions of people aged 30-49 years were postcodes 3093, 3094, 3079 and 3088 (Montmorency, Lower Plenty Ivanhoe and Greensborough)

The least number and proportions of people aged 30-49 years were in the Bundoora/Kingsbury area.

50-69 years

The 50-69 year cohort represents the older adult population of Banyule.

There were 23,078 people aged 50-69 years at the time of the 2001 census, comprising 20.3% of the total population.

The areas with the greatest numbers of people aged 50-69 years were postcodes 3084, 3088, 3093 and 3094 (Rosanna/Heidelberg, Greensborough, Montmorency and Lower Plenty).

The areas with the highest proportions of people aged 50-69 years were postcodes 3083, 3084, and 3087 (Bundoora/Kingsbury, Rosanna/ Heidelberg and Watsonia/Watsonia North)

The smallest number of people aged 50-69 years were in the Postcode 3087 (Watsonia/Watsonia North) and the least proportion were in postcode 3081 (Heidelberg West/Heights/Bellfield).

70 years and older

The 70 years and older cohort represents the aged population of Banyule.

There were 12,015 people aged 70 years and older at the time of the 2001 census, comprising 10.6% of the total population.

The areas with the greatest numbers of people aged 70 years and older were postcodes 3084, 3081, and 3079 (Rosanna/Heidelberg, Heidelberg West/Heights/Bellfield and Ivanhoe).

The areas with the highest proportions of people aged 70 years and older were postcodes 3084, 3081, and, 3079 (Rosanna/Heidelberg, Heidelberg West/Heights/Bellfield and Ivanhoe).

The smallest number of people aged 70 years and older were in the Postcode 3083 (Bundoora/Kingsbury) and the least proportion were in postcodes 3093 and 3094 (Montmorency and Lower Plenty).

Summary

The areas with high numbers or proportions of people in each age cohort are shaded in the Table below.

Postcode	Age cohorts						
	0-4	5-11	12-17	18-29	30-49	50-69	75+
3079							
3081							
3083							
3084							
3085							
3087							
3088							
East							

Projected population changes

While the size of Banyule's population is expected to increase only gradually to 2021, the age group mix will change dramatically. The size of the under 50 years age group will decrease, and the size of the over 50s age group will increase markedly.

Age cohort	2001 Actual	2021 Projected	% change
0-4 years	7,020	5,888	-16.1%
5-9 years	7,212	5,811	-19.4%
10-19 years	15,821	12,650	-20.0%
20-29 years	16,907	15,431	-8.7%
30-49 years	34,562	33,855	-2.0%
50-69 years	24,669	29,650	+19.8%

70 years and older	12,471	18,335	+47.0%
Total	118,662	121,530	+2.4%

These changes will produce a significant active older population with a range of leisure needs and interests and lots of discretionary spare time.

2.8 Key Influences on Banyule's Open Space

The factors identified that are likely to influence public open space in Banyule in the medium term are listed below.

Demographics

The principal implications of the demographics, outlined in the previous section are:

- The large young population in the north of the municipality will continue to demand increasing access to open space for sporting pursuits and play
- The increasing proportion of dwellings with smaller private areas of open space may increase demand for public open space close to home for activities such as walking, walking the dog, play and other exercise.
- The potential continued change of housing types is likely to mean a greater diversity of ages in the older areas; eg new residential development, and in fill developments are likely to introduce younger people into aging suburbs.
- The increasing number of people from non-English and non-European backgrounds, such as the Asian and African regions may have different preferences for activities and different perceptions and expectations of public open space. Should the increase in these populations continue, some review of their specific open space preferences would be warranted.

Private housing development

The nature of private housing development is likely to influence public open space planning and design in Banyule. Apart from larger scale residential developments, such as the College Views (Bundoora) and the Cascades (Yallambie) developments, most residential developments in Banyule during the next five years are likely to be infill and redevelopment that will increase housing density and reduce the amount of private open space.

Melbourne 2030 Strategy

The State Government's Melbourne Metropolitan Strategy, "Melbourne 2030," advocates for increase residential density around nominated activity centres.

The likely impact of this on Banyule is yet to be determined. However it will potentially be significant.

Due to the nature of this type of development, open space contributions are increasingly likely to be in the form of cash rather than land and therefore increasing the pressure on existing public open space.

Public Open Space may therefore need to be designed and planned to cater for increased residential density, particularly in areas which may be earmarked for higher density development. Planning for public open space needs to be a key element of any activity centre plans prepared as a result of Melbourne 2030.

Ageing population (in institutions & family homes)

The population of Banyule, as in other middle ring suburbs, is expected to age. Whilst this will be specific to certain suburbs, a larger proportion of older adults will mean different patterns of use and demand. The demand for traditional activities of older people such as walking, tennis, golf, lawn bowls is likely to be sustained, with greater demand for walking, group exercise, creative and contemplative pursuits in open space and less demand for contact team sports. However this trend may also be at least partly off-set by population mix changes due to in fill housing and increases in housing density in and around activity centres Melbourne 2030 is progressively implemented.

Access to public open space and accessible facilities within open space for older people, will be issues of increasing importance.

Increase in non English speaking population

With changes in migration and the turnover of public housing tenants, there are an increasing number of families from Africa and Asia coming to live in Banyule. In the last 5 years this has amounted to several hundred families. If the increase in these population groups continues, they are likely to impact on the types of activities undertaken in open space. For instance, there has been an increase in demand shown for soccer and basketball by these new populations.

Indoor recreation facility development

As many sports move indoors for competition, the pressure for additional indoor sports and aquatic facilities is likely to increase. As Council does not have additional land allocated for these purposes, open space could potentially be targeted.

There is generally an increasing demand for more and larger support facilities on open space in Melbourne. Sports clubs commonly seek larger social areas to increase revenue and request high standard car parks. The increasing demands by many sporting bodies for indoor sports facilities, synthetic sports surfaces, accessible toilet and change facilities and additional facilities for umpires and sports administration, means that the demand to use public open space for buildings and/or specialist sports facilities is increasing.

The demand for structures in open space areas for non-sporting activities is

also increasing, due to the growing public expectations for increasingly complex and expansive play equipment, skate facilities, shelters, public toilets and car parks, etc.

With this increasing demand for diversity and quality of facilities provided in parks, there is also an increasing need to create carefully thought out visions and masterplans for the municipality's key reserves and parks, in order to optimise the impact and value of these facilities to the community.

Increased public consciousness of health & environmental issues

Growing Community focus on the benefits of health and physical activity, and environmental appreciation is increasing public interest in open space.

Increasing environmental consciousness is likely to make the community more discerning in the types of development it will support in public open space.

With the strong potential for a continuing decrease in the amount of private open space available, and the expected resulting increased demands on public open space, conflict between conservation and development will almost certainly become an issue which will require increasing attention.

There will be continuing pressure to develop facilities on land used for passive and contemplative pastimes, such as walking the dog, environmental appreciation, bird watching and the like. This in part will be due to the increasing demands from certain sections of the community, such as sporting clubs, to develop facilities on public land.

Regional arts heritage /tourism projects

In the last five or so years there has been an increasing interest in capitalising on the area's association with the "Heidelberg School" artists, the Australian Modern Art Movement and arts heritage generally. This has resulted in some regional partnership initiatives driven by tourism, which could result in development, increases and changes in use and interpretation of some public open space in the future.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The public open space planning framework included in this document consists of some key elements:

- A **vision**
- A set of **principles**, consistent with the vision, to help guiding planning decisions about public open space
- The division of the municipality into **precincts**, and an analysis of the open spaces within each of those precincts
- A system for **classifying** each piece of public open space in Banyule
- Mapping of the distribution of public open spaces by classification
- A set of **assessment criteria** for evaluating existing open space and for planning new sites
- **Core standards** to assist in determining the quality of land which should be provided as public open space and the proportion that should be provided for each function, setting type, and catchments, and the standards at which park related facilities should be provided. These need to be developed by Council staff. Guidelines on issues raised to date are provided in Appendix 3).

Each element is discussed in turn, in this section.

3.1 Vision

The following vision is identified in the context of the key objectives of the City Plan in order to guide priorities for public open space actions.

Council will provide and maintain public open space throughout Banyule which:

- ***is of a consistently high quality***
- ***offers a diversity of leisure opportunities.***
- ***Recognizes the importance of protecting indigenous flora and fauna and habitat for native birds and animals***
- ***recognises and celebrates the area's heritage and character***

- ***is inclusive and easily accessible,***
- ***is safe and is perceived to be safe.***

This Vision has been developed in recognition of the critical role that public open space plays in the health and well being of the community and in living amenity.

3.2 Principles

In order to maintain and improve the quality and appropriateness of public open space within Banyule, Council will endeavour to apply the following principles to the planning, management and development of public open space:

Principle No 1. – Co-ordination

Effective, on-going co-ordination processes.

Principle No. 2 - Open Space Planning Policies

Clear and appropriate local planning policies and benchmarks for public open space.

Principle No 3. – Equitable Distribution

Equitable distribution of public open space within Banyule.

Principle No 4. – Maximizing Resources

Maximise the effectiveness of finite public open space resources in Banyule through appropriate practices and the development and maintenance of appropriate partnerships.

Principle No 5. – Performance

Continuous improvement in public open space service delivery.

Principle No 6. – Effective Management

Effectively manage all public open space under Council's control.

Principle No 7. – Regional Planning

Recognition that the regional context is an important consideration when planning public open space.

Principle No 8. - Protection of the Environment

Protection and enhancement of environmental quality.

Principle No. 9. - Diversity

Diversity in the range of opportunities offered in public open space.

Principle No 10. – Information

Appropriate information is provided about public open space to the community effectively in accessible forms.

Principle No 11. – Effective Design

Effective design of public open space and related facilities in accordance with appropriate standards, policies and practices

Principle No 12. – Consultation and Community Involvement

Effective use of external and internal consultation and community development techniques

Principle No 13. – Leisure and Recreation

The recognition of the fundamental importance of public open space in providing leisure and recreation opportunities for the community.

Principle No 14 – Linear Linkages

The value of public open space and its benefit to the community is greatly enhanced where it is directly linked to other public open spaces and/or to other community facilities such as shops, schools, sporting and leisure facilities, through the provision of pathways suitable for both walking and cycling.

Principle No 15 – Culture and Heritage

Local heritage and culture will be a consideration when planning and developing public open space.

Principle No 16 – Tourism

The enhancement of tourism opportunities within appropriate areas of public open space

Principle No 17 - Activity Centre Plans

The provision of adequate public open space will be a priority consideration, both in terms of quality and quantity, when Council is preparing activity centre plans and community structure plans.

Principle No 18 – Community Health and Wellbeing

The recognition of the importance of and the significant positive community health outcomes achieved through:

- (a) exposure and easy access to natural and semi natural areas and
- (b) the social interaction provided by well used community gathering places.

Principle No 19 – Efficient use of Water

The recognition that water is a highly valuable community resource which must be conserved and recycled where possible and that Council's reliance on mains water must be reduced.

3.3 Precincts

By dividing the City into precincts, the needs of local residents and any local character which is unique to a particular area, can be more readily taken into account when planning public open space.

The precincts are based on:

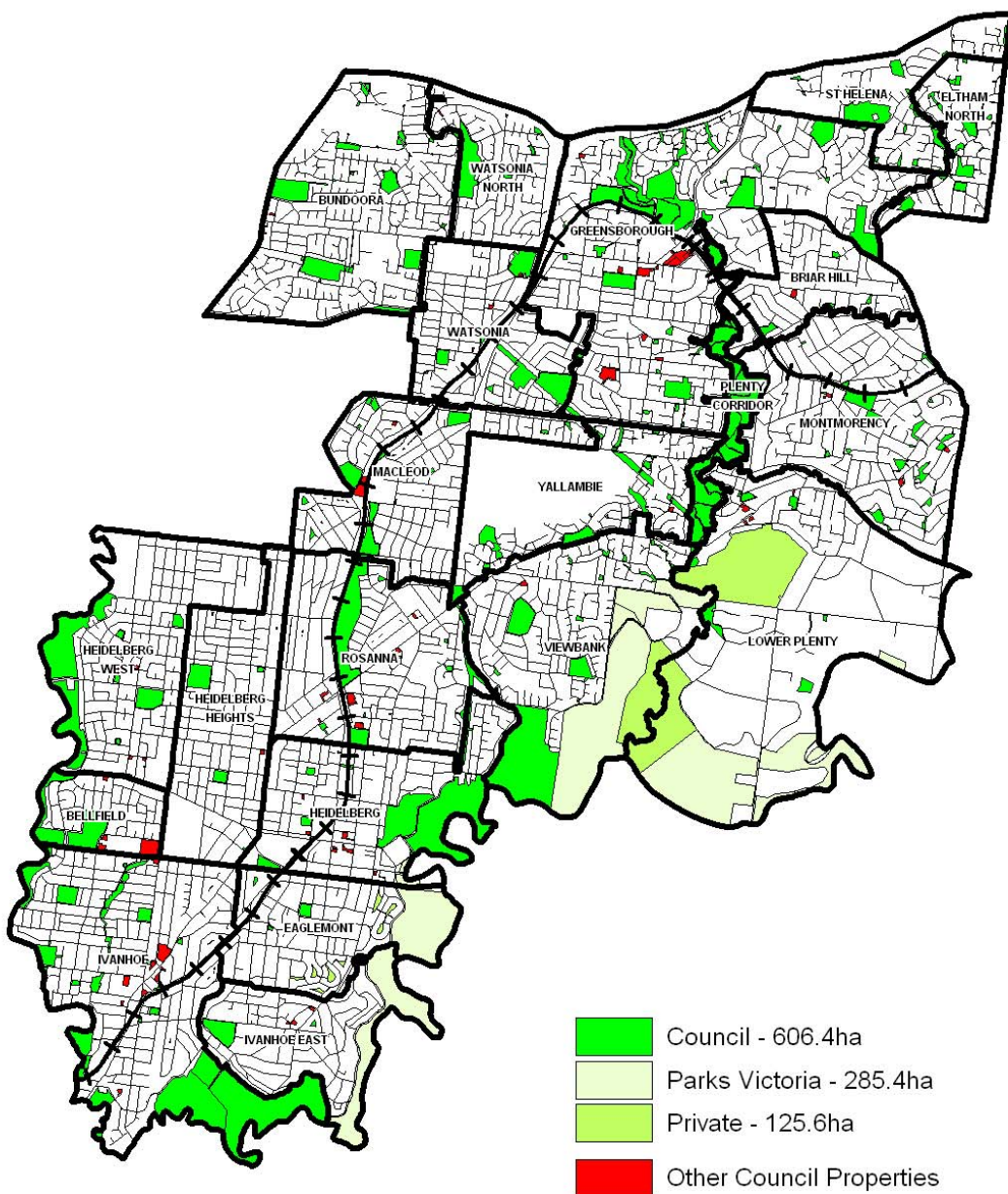
- Alignment with census collection districts
- The presence of the Plenty River, and the Yarra River and Darebin Creek corridors which extend beyond the municipality and are managed by other land and waterway agencies
- The presence of physical barriers which restrict pedestrian movement, such as major arterial roads, railway lines and major waterways, in particular the Plenty River.

Thematic planning for each precinct and the various parcels of public open space within them, should be based around the findings of the Banyule Heritage Study, the Banyule Neighbourhood Character Study, the Banyule Vegetation Community Map and the Arts Precinct Strategy. This will help to ensure that public open space reflects local heritage, neighbourhood character and indigenous vegetation. The following map shows the precincts, as well as all public open space in Banyule. An analysis of public open space in each precinct is set out in Appendix 1.

Recommendation:

Open Space Precincts - That the precinct analysis outlined in this document (refer Appendix 1) be used as a consideration for the planning and development of public open space.

Public Open Space in Banyule



3.4 Classification of Open Space

Having a classification system for public open space enhances the opportunity for adequate assessment in terms of distribution, diversity, and quality of public open space.

A four tiered classification system is proposed:

- A **contextual** classification, considering catchments
- A **functional** classification, considering the primary use of the open space
- A **landscape setting** classification considering the physical condition and characteristics of the area
- A **relationship** classification, considering the relationship with other open space

Looking at and applying these classifications to public open space can help to create diversity by providing Council officers with a tool that will assist them to look at each particular parcel of public open space in a broader context.

Once classifications are defined for specific reserves/parks it will assist Council to better direct the design and management functions, even where neither a masterplan, nor management plan is in place. It will also assist in providing a broader context upon which to base masterplans. Appendix 1 lists and identifies Banyule's public open space in accordance with the above categories.

Contextual Classification

The contextual hierarchy has four tiers:

- Local Open Space
- Municipal Open Space, and
- Regional Open Space
- Civic and Community Spaces

Local or Neighbourhood Open Space

This describes the small local parks that are predominantly provided in every precinct. Local open space will have an immediate local catchment, be relatively small in size, service daily and weekly neighbourhood use and will generally be easily accessed by bicycle or foot. It will include spaces for play, informal recreation and sport, at a relatively low level of complexity.

Municipal Open Space

This term is used to describe areas that generally serve either the whole municipality, or several suburbs within Banyule. The expectation is that residents would be prepared to drive to these places. They may have significance for the municipality as a whole or a substantial part of it due to size, function or diversity. Municipal level public open spaces may be significant for their conservation or cultural values. They can also often serve as a medium to longer term “stay” park, drawing their visitors from a catchment of several suburbs. Municipal level parks will generally be larger and of a greater complexity than local or neighbourhood public open spaces.

Regional Open Space

Regional open space generally serves regional catchments broader than one municipality. They may host significant sites or species of flora and fauna. By virtue of their size, diversity of opportunities or level of development, they may attract high numbers of people, including tourists in some cases. Residents will not necessarily expect these types of spaces to be available in every municipality.

Civic and Community Spaces

This category describes “non-park” community spaces, such as town squares, plazas, malls, etc which can serve important roles as informal meeting spaces in busy civic and commercial precincts, as well as venues for planned community events. Deficiencies in such community spaces can sometimes be addressed through street closures and/or widening of footpaths.

Functional Classification

The following eleven primary functions of open space have been developed to reflect the primary type of development and use:

CLASSIFICATION OF OPEN SPACES: <i>FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION</i>
Playground, including skate facilities
Social family / Recreation Area
Community Farm / Garden
Cemeteries / Memorial / Remembrance Garden
Ornamental Garden
Corridor Trail

Sport
Open Parkland - No facilities
Wildlife / Conservation / Wetland Area
Vacant land
Plantation
Other

NB. Many parks and reserves will have multiple functions.

A brief description of each primary function follows:

Playground

Areas that are primarily for play equipment and/or skate facilities and that have no other recreation facilities.

Social Family/ Recreation Area

Areas that provide opportunities for a range of age groups typically catering for play, picnics, casual ball games, trails and possibly environmental activities.

Community Farm /Garden

Areas dedicated to horticultural or agricultural recreation activities.

Cemeteries / Memorial / Remembrance / Garden

Areas dedicated to the memory of people or events.

Ornamental Garden

Areas dedicated specifically to horticultural features.

Corridor / Trail

Primarily a green space trail/ link or walkway between streets/ neighbourhoods and areas of public open space.

Sport

Areas reserved for sporting pursuits, for example baseball, soccer, cricket and football.

Open Parkland - No Facilities

Parklands dedicated to relaxation, contemplation and escape, or horticultural interests with no dedicated facilities, other than seats and paths.

Wildlife / Conservation / Wetland Area

Areas protected and managed for the significance of the flora and fauna. May include recreational opportunities associated with interpreting or experiencing these features.

Vacant Land

Vacant land or that which is not developed to accommodate any specific use.

Plantation Reserve

These reserves are to enhance the visual and recreation amenity of streetscapes, provide buffers between land uses and assist with the movement of fauna and meeting tree canopy goals.

Other

Anything else that doesn't fit any of the above categories

Landscape Setting Classification

It is recommended that Council introduce a landscape setting classification to assist with distinguishing between open space for planning, management and marketing purposes.

Recommended categories are listed below. These should be used where the landscape setting may not be evident from the functional classification.

- Bushland/ Woodland/ Forest
- Exotic, ornamental or specimen plantings
- Native Grassland
- Specialized Sports Surfaces (e.g. synthetic or enclosed)
- Lawn or Managed Turf (e.g. ovals or specific lawns for picnicking)
- Open Parkland
- Creek / River Corridor/ Lake

- Rough Natural Area
- Paved Areas
- Vegetable Garden / Pasture / Agriculture

Relationship Classification

This classification has been developed to help interpret the relationship each piece of public open space has with other open spaces. The following three relationship types are included:

- **Part of a larger parcel of open space**
- **Linked to other open space**
- **Stand alone open space**

Part of a larger parcel of open space

A piece of public open space which is one of a number of differently named or developed parcels of public open space that are connected or adjacent to each other.

Linked to other opens space

Refers to separate parcels of public open spaces that are connected to others by an off-road link, walkway, bridge, neighbourhood court etc.

Stand alone open space

Land not adjacent to or connected to any other open space.

The Application of the Classification System

Existing Sites

Each parcel of public open space should be classified using the above system.

Recommendation:

- **Landscape Setting Classification** - That the classifications of public open space in Council's parks inventory (refer Appendix 3) be inserted as a layer into Council's GIS system, in order to facilitate the analysis of public open space and relate it to population data.

3.5 Qualitative Criteria

The traditional planning standards such as quantity of land per head of population are not recommended as the sole basis for determining the need for open space.

In place of these traditional quantitative standards, it is now seen as more important that the population be provided with public open space in accordance with an agreed range of open space functions, attributes and qualities which meet the personal, social and environmental needs of the community. The following set of criteria has therefore been designed to compliment the traditional quantitative standards. Whilst there are some quantitative aspects of these criteria, generally they are more qualitative in nature.

Depending on the function of a parcel of public space and the catchment it serves, there are also practical and equity considerations such as accessibility to catchment and viability that may provide a basis for evaluation for the purchase, development and disposal of public open space. Therefore the following set of qualitative criteria has been developed to assist, not only with the acquisition and disposal of public open space, but also in helping guide the further appropriate development of existing public open space.

Some of the criteria do not apply to open space with a dedicated conservation function, as the location and use of such spaces is not dependent on their relationship to a residential population, unlike those with a primary recreational function. The sensitivity of such areas means that they will require careful management and may not accommodate diversity of use.

The recommended set of criteria to be used to plan for public open space in Banyule is:

1. Relationship to Catchment and other Public Open Space
2. Diversity
3. Viability
4. Quality
5. Design and Development
6. Opportunity

This Criteria is explained in detail in Appendix 2.

4. Key Issues

4.1 Accessibility

With a shift in community attitudes toward greater inclusiveness, an increasing proportion of people with a disability and greater legislative obligations, such as those under the DDA, there is a need to significantly improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of public open space and facilities in open space. However much of the parks infrastructure in Banyule is aging and continues to provide physical barriers to people with a disability.

Limited resources will mean that it may take some twenty years to turn over much of the inaccessible infrastructure in parks let alone provide specifically for the needs of users with disabilities.

Recommendation:

Improving Access - That Council include a schedule, in its annual New Works and Services program, to ensure that an on going program exists to improve the accessibility of parks and related facilities.

4.2 Strategic playground development

With increasing community expectations, the threat of litigation, cost of maintenance and the important play value of open space for an increasingly urban population, there is a need for playground developments to be more strategic.

There are 151 playgrounds located in Banyule parks and reserves. However the vast majority of these are relatively small in size and a substantial number are also located on relatively small reserves that are not conducive to medium or longer term visits. Banyule does not currently have a major “signature” playground which is capable of attracting families and retaining their interest for an extended visit; i.e. a half day or more. Council should therefore give consideration to planning for one or more of these more substantive playgrounds, along with the appropriate ancillary facilities necessary to cater for an entire family. Maintaining such a large number of small relatively ineffectual playgrounds is not necessarily the best use of Council resources. The annual cost of maintaining Banyule’s playgrounds is currently approximately \$280,000 and the cost of the annual playground replacement program (a rolling program of replacing items of playground equipment as they become outdated or wear out) is approximately \$240,000. An overall review of existing playgrounds for the purpose of determining which ones perform an effective community function and to identify sites where it is best to locate playgrounds of a more substantive nature would be desirable.

There is a need for greater attention to social inclusion, cognitive and creative opportunities and access to more loose materials, such as sand and water. There continues to be a specific need for playgrounds designed for the particular needs of teenagers.

Whilst Council has built two teenage skate facilities, there is still need for general teenage play facilities to cater for the many teenagers who may not be interested in skating activities.

Play equipment needs to be better integrated into open space areas and more attention given to landscape, amenity, shade and shelter.

Recommendation:

Strategic Playground Design - That:

- (a) new playgrounds be designed and existing playgrounds, where possible, be upgraded to improve safety for users and to provide a diversity of experiences for a range of age groups and abilities and
- (b) in particular a number of playgrounds specifically designed for teenagers, be provided at various locations throughout the City.
- (c) where appropriate, funding be sought from alternative sources such as philanthropic trusts for playground development

Recommendation:

Review of Existing Playgrounds - That Council undertake a review of existing playgrounds in order to identify:

- (a) The most appropriate location, size and type of playgrounds required to best serve each precinct in Banyule
- (b) Sites appropriate for the development of substantial multi-functional playgrounds
- (c) Any existing playgrounds which may serve the community more effectively if consolidated into larger playgrounds within the same precinct.

4.3 Planning open space and new developments

There is a need for a clear planning framework to underpin all open space planning, design and management. This should specify the functions, landscape setting types and catchment of each open space. This will also assist in identifying the deficiencies that exist in the range of functions and settings in each precinct.

In future, it may be advisable for Council to negotiate an increase in the percentage of land, or cash in lieu, taken for open space purposes in cases where residential density is increased and private open space is limited due to new developments. However Council should undertake some further research into this matter in order to help support such negotiations.

Open Space in Medium and High Density Developments - In cases of medium and high density development, including within designated activity centres, there maybe a case for Council to require a contribution of public open space, greater than the 5% prescribed by the Sub Divisions Act. Factors such as the high cost of acquiring land, minimal private open space and higher numbers of people living in smaller more confined areas, particularly in and around activity centres, are all factors which suggest there is a need to consider higher developer contributions to public open space. However there is a need for further work to be undertaken in order to assess this situation

The development of some additional principles relating to the taking of open space in new developments is seen as advisable. The Planners Guide (refer

Appendix 2) has been prepared to assist in this process. It would be desirable if this Planners Guide is used to assist planners when dealing with new residential developments.

Recommendation:

Developers' contributions – That Council undertake further research in order to establish what the most appropriate developer contribution levels are, in relation to public open space, particularly in areas of increasing residential density, such as designated activity centres.

Process – That the “Planners Guide” at Appendix 2 be adopted as a practical working guide for Council’s statutory planners

4.4 Enhancement of visual amenity

Design can make a significant contribution to the perception of a landscape and to the visual quality and the experiences of users. With the ongoing loss of mature trees through development and natural attrition and the increased urbanisation and housing densities in the City, visual quality and the amenity afforded by existing trees and open space will become increasingly important.

Recommendation:

Enhancement of Visual Amenity - That Council as a priority actively pursue planning and design of key public open spaces to enhance visual amenity and protect appropriate mature trees, including street trees.

4.5 Co-ordinated open space planning

To ensure quality open space planning is sustained, it is important that a clear set of planning policies, processes and benchmarks for public open space be established.

This Strategy, once adopted by Council, should be used for such purposes as informing the review of the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and with the drafting of a separate open space policy, should it be deemed that one is required to further support the MSS.

The master planning of specific key reserves is also an important element of effective public open space planning. It is required to ensure development is consistent with an agreed long-term vision for each reserve. The implication of not master planning key reserves is that development will tend to be incremental, reactive, ad-hoc and focused on the short term.

Masterplans should not just be design exercises, but should clearly articulate the function of the reserve in context with other reserves and broadly determine the range of appropriate activities for the community to be served.

There are also considerable benefits in taking a regional perspective on open space planning and management. Some of the most significant open space assets of the City lie on the municipal boundary and are of regional significance. Other substantial parcels of public open space which service the

residents of Banyule are owned and managed by other land management authorities, such as Parks Victoria and neighbouring municipalities. It is therefore important that a positive co-operative relationship is developed with these land management authorities, with each party having a clear understanding of the others' objectives.

When undertaking open space planning it is also extremely important that an across Council approach be taken and all relevant Council policies and strategies are considered. And further that all relevant staff are involved in the planning and are consulted.

Public open space is of fundamental importance in providing leisure and recreation opportunities for the community. Public open space can also be used to reflect local heritage and culture and where appropriate this should be a consideration in planning. In some instances this heritage and/or culture can be quite important and can therefore have significant tourism potential e.g. the nationally significant arts heritage associated with the Yarra Valley in the Heidelberg and Ivanhoe areas. One very effective way of reflecting local heritage in public open space is through public art.

The linking of key public open spaces with each other and with other community facilities should also be a consideration in the planning of public open space, as appropriate linkages, such as walking trails and shared pathways can provide greatly enhanced opportunities and experiences to members of the public. In order to encourage sustainable transport options major trails, such as those that follow creek and river corridors and link to the Metropolitan Trails Network, should wherever possible have sealed surfaces so that they are suitable for both recreational and commuter purposes.

A priority is to achieve a consistent high quality surface for the Main Yarra Trail within Banyule. At present large sections of it are unsealed and parts are sub-standard. As the Main Yarra Trail in Banyule is shared between Council and Parks Victoria, Council will need to work with Parks Victoria in order to improve the quality and consistency of the Trail's surface.

Experience has shown that, for recreational purposes, trails with loops in them are very popular with both walkers and cyclists.

To ensure that such trails function effectively it is also critical that a comprehensive shared trails signage strategy be developed and put in place.

The following actions are therefore recommended:

Recommendation:

Public Open Space Strategy:

That following the adoption of this Public Open Space Strategy:

- a) it be used to assist with the review of the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and
- b) should it is deemed necessary to also develop a separate public open space policy, it be used to inform the drafting of that policy and
- (c) it further be used, together with the MSS/Public Open Space Policy, to assist with the review of the Planners Guide (refer Appendix 2) in approximately 12 months time.

Recommendation:

Planning Policies – That Council develop a set of planning policies and processes for public open space and include them in the Banyule Planning Scheme where appropriate.

Recommendation:

Masterplanning - That Council continue to prepare masterplans for Banyule’s key parks and public open spaces to ensure that any future developments are carried out in accordance with a clear, shared vision

Recommendation:

Regional Open Space Planning - That Council, when planning large and/or significant public open space developments:

- a) take regional public open space issues into consideration and
- b) Work in partnership with other key public authorities and park managers

Recommendation:

Effective Planning and Design - That Council ensures that account is taken of the following when planning public open space and related facilities:

- Council’s “Access and Inclusion Policy” and relevant State and Federal legislation relating to access
- “The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidelines”
- Relevant Safety Standards
- Local neighbourhood character, heritage and environment
- “Banyule Health Plan”
- “Banyule Planning Scheme”
- The needs of the local community

Recommendation:

Internal and External Consultation - Ensure that the community is consulted and all relevant Council departments are involved, when planning and developing public open space.

Recommendation:

Diverse Leisure and Recreation Needs- Ensure that when public open space is being planned, the leisure and recreation needs of all sections of the community are considered, particularly those sections whose needs are not

presently well catered for; eg non sporting opportunities for teenagers, the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, (CALD) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, (ATSI) the actively ageing, etc.

Recommendation:

Linear Linkages – Ensure that where possible, public open space is linked to community facilities (including schools) and other public open spaces by providing a network of accessible pathways that encourage both walking and cycling.

Recommendation:

Trail Corridors – As a priority, ensure that substantial trails, such as those which follow the corridors of major water courses, are completed to shared trail standard with sealed surfaces for their entire length and where possible, are also linked to the Melbourne Metropolitan Shared Trails Network.

Recommendation:

Shared Trail Signage – That Council develop, adopt and implement a signage strategy of shared trails as a priority

Recommendation:

Recreational Loops – That where appropriate, Council create loops in its trail systems in order to facilitate and encourage recreational use.

Recommendation:

Consistency of Trail Surface – That Council work with Parks Victoria to improve the consistency and quality of the surface of the Main Yarra Trail within Banyule to the standard specified in AusRoads Part 14.

Recommendation:

Culture and Heritage - Ensure that where appropriate, significant local heritage and/or culture is reflected in the design of public open space and related facilities and where possible, appropriate interpretation of this occurs.

Recommendation:

Culture and Heritage - Work in conjunction with tourism and cultural agencies, the private sector and relevant state and local government authorities to enhance heritage related tourism opportunities within key strategic public open space.

Recommendation:

Public Art – Wherever practical, public art which reflects local culture and heritage and involves community participation, should be included in public open space projects.

Recommendation:

Naming – That the naming of parks and reserves and key facilities and

features within them, wherever possible, reflect local heritage.

4.6 Diversity in parks and recreation facilities

Diversity is one of the most sought after attributes of open space. Diversity of opportunities means that the needs of a greater range of groups within the population can be met.

This diversity in public open space should be manifest in the function, landscape setting type and catchment classifications. It should also be reflected in the activities and age groups catered for.

The type, function and the mix of uses applied to facilities located on public open space and other public land is also an important issue. The adoption of a “developers’ contributions plan” is one potential strategy that will both help to maximise the resources available and encourage a more strategic approach in developing such facilities.

Recommendation:

Diversity of Function – That Council ensure, when planning or enhancing parks and reserves, it provides a range of diverse functions and opportunities, including play, environment, heritage, cultural, events, recreational journeys, etc.

Recommendation:

Diversity of Function – In planning public open space, give consideration to the diverse needs of the various groups in the community.

Recommendation:

Developers’ Contributions Plan – That Council give consideration to establishing and implementing a developers’ contributions plan.

4.7 Distribution of Public Open Space

Whilst Council has, in an overall sense, an excellent quantum of public open space, there is still an issue of equitable distribution that needs to be constantly kept in mind and addressed whenever appropriate opportunities arise.

In some northern areas of the City for instance, where there are a high proportion of younger people, there is also a relatively low level of provision of sports facilities and reserves suitable for teenage play, both structured and unstructured. This is putting considerable pressure on some areas reserved for conservation, as there appear to be limited alternatives available, particularly for teenagers.

Recommendation:

Acquisition and Disposal – That when appropriate opportunities present themselves:

- (a) in areas where there are deficiencies in public open space, consider the acquisition of additional land for public open space particularly where it is adjacent to existing open space,
- (b) consider the sale of unusable, or inappropriate public open space, or other Council land and
- (c) ensure any funds raised through sale of unusable public open space go into Council's Open Space Development Fund, and are used for enhancing public open space to service the precinct in which the sales of land occur, or in precincts where deficiencies in either quality or quantity in public open space exist.

Recommendation:

Distribution of Facilities - That opportunities to provide new sporting and play facilities, to cater for both structured and unstructured activities be examined, particularly in areas that are deficient in such facilities, eg; Eltham North and St Helena.

4.8 Young people's Needs

Young people, particularly teenagers, by nature have a greater range of leisure preferences than other lifecycle groups. They need constructive play opportunities perhaps more than other age groups. They need risk and challenge and opportunities to socialise, and at times their behaviour may be somewhat confronting to other age groups. When providing facilities for teenagers, they should be designed and located in a manner which balances the competing needs of teenagers, in a manner which allows them to, have their "own" separate space, whilst not totally isolating them.

Recommendation:

Young People's Preferences - That when designing public open space, consideration be particularly given to the diverse leisure needs of young people (teenagers) as well as to their need to have their "own" separate space.

4.9 Local character and demographic composition

The previous Strategy recommended the adoption of themes for each precinct to assist with the planning of public open space. The notion of having a specific theme for each precinct is no longer preferred. Instead it is felt that it is more practical if each separate piece of public open space is planned and developed in accordance with key relevant Council plans and strategies and by doing so reflect local character.

Recommendation:

Local Character, Heritage and Environment - That the planning of open space be carried out in a way that is consistent with and reflects the findings of Banyule's Heritage Study, the Banyule Neighbourhood Character Strategy, the Banyule Vegetation Community Map, Playgrounds Strategy and Recreation Strategy.

4.10 Demand for information

As the pace of life modern continues to speed up, the demand for pertinent, accessible and timely information also increases. With developments in technology and different types of media being available to disseminate information, there are opportunities to target specific population groups more effectively. Indications are that it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet the demand for timely up to date information. The breadth of information being sought by the public is also increasing.

There is also a largely unrecognised educational value in Council's public open space. There is considerable potential to link park and environment related education and training programs with the State education curriculum through the Victorian Education Learning scheme (VELS) and provide local people with the opportunity to learn about the local environment and to receive formal accreditation for their learning. One of the key benefits to Council, in addition to the public relations value of such a program, is that it offers the possibility of developing a pool of well informed local people who could potentially form the core of "friends of parks" groups throughout the municipality. However additional resources are required in order for this to be achieved

Recommendation:

Methods of Information Dissemination – That Council, use a range of strategies to inform the community about public open space and related facilities and activities; eg maps and brochures, interpretive signs, the Council web site, Banyule Banner, on- hold messages, the "Beautiful Banyule booklet, etc.

Recommendation:

Information on issues - Co-ordinate a range of information dissemination methods for the purposes of improving public understanding of public open space and related issues, including access, interpretation, regulation, safety, aesthetics, heritage, flora, fauna and details of current and planned public open space projects, etc.

Recommendation:

Storage of Data

(a) That community information and data collected about public open space be stored in a manner which is available to and can easily be accessed by officers across Council and

(b) That masterplans for parks and reserves be retained in electronic format and located where they are easily accessed by all relevant officers

(c) That comprehensive user friendly community information about Banyule's public open space be included on Council's web-site.

Recommendation:

Environment Education - That Council investigate the potential of developing park and environment related education programs targeted at local schools and accredited under the "Victorian Education Learning Standard."

4.11 Sustainability of indigenous vegetation

In the various public consultation processes conducted by Council, the community has expressed its desire for Council to maintain and enhance the environmental quality of Banyule's public open spaces. An important part of this is the protection of indigenous species where they exist and appropriate planting programs to strengthen indigenous plant communities. Where possible, indigenous planting should occur in areas which will also strengthen wildlife corridors for native birds and animals, in keeping with Council's Wildlife Corridor Program Report.

At a practical level there are a number of small sites of indigenous vegetation that are becoming increasingly difficult to protect. They are not necessarily identifiable as conservation areas. Their use may not be in keeping with their value. Their size means remnant populations are fragile and it takes considerable resources to keep them from further decline. Council will have to weigh up whether it is more strategically appropriate to put resources into conserving the larger, more sustainable, sites that are more likely to survive and make a contribution to bio-diversity and education.

However contradicting opinions are held in the community about these smaller parcels of land, primarily used for conservation purposes. Some community members are still demanding that these small reserves of dubious conservation value be managed for conservation purposes. Conversely there are people who want these reserves and other larger conservation areas, "cleaned up" and provided with other facilities, or put to uses that are counter to achieving conservation objectives.

In the light of climate change predictions, Council will need to monitor the impact on natural habitat areas and modify management methods in order to achieve the best possible protection of significant flora and fauna.

Recommendation:

Sustainability of Indigenous Vegetation –

- (a) Identify the reserves most critical for conservation purposes and ensure that they receive the appropriate levels of funding and resources required to maintain and enhance their conservation values.
- (b) Periodically review the management of reserves in order to deal with the impact of on-going climate change.
- (c) Review the appropriateness of maintaining small apparently unsustainable areas of remnant vegetation as conservation reserves.

Recommendation:

Conservation Management - Ensure the management and planning of public open space is carried out in accordance with Council's Environment Strategy and other related documents, including the Greenhouse Action Strategy and the Wildlife Corridor Program Report.

4.12 Maintaining infrastructure

There is a need to maintain infrastructure, including lights, pavilions, drainage, accessible toilets, vegetation, etc to a standard that meets community expectations.

This issue impacts on participation, the way facilities are treated by users, the amount and type of use possible, and the community's perception and the value it places on public open space. The cost of maintaining the extensive and wide variety of infrastructure presents a major challenge to Council.

Recommendation:

Sustaining Facilities - That Council:

- (a) when developing new facilities or upgrading existing ones, ensures facilities are provided in a form that will meet community expectations and at the same time will minimise maintenance costs and,
- (b) include anticipated maintenance costs of public open space in the Strategic Operational Budget to ensure assets are maintained at an appropriate standard in the long term.
- (c) when up-grading existing facilities, or developing new facilities, consider opportunities for consolidation through shared use and/or multi use.
- (d) identify key sites for the development of significant (regional or semi-regional open space facilities) rather than encourage the proliferation of facilities on small sites with limited potential

Recommendation:

Asset Life – When providing new assets in public open space, ensure that adequate recourses are provided for the long term management and maintenance of the assets.

4.13 Minimum Standards

There is considerable variation in quality of infrastructure across the City of Banyule. It would be helpful to develop some service standards that indicate a base level of service for infrastructure that Council can afford and that the community can expect; e.g. for trails, park furniture, pavilions, playgrounds, etc. This would compliment the minimum standards set out in the Recreation Strategy.

It is important that quality maintenance programs are put in place for public open space and for related parks and recreation facilities in order to encourage use and hence maximise their benefit to the community.

In terms of minimum standards, Council also has an opportunity to develop sustainable practices in the way that it manages and maintains its parks and reserves. The adoption of highly sustainable practices will not only have a significant impact on the Councils parks and reserves, but will also be more cost effective and reduce Council costs in the longer term, help Council to make a meaningful contribution to environmental sustainability and provide a positive role model for the Banyule community.

In order to maximise the benefits to the community, Council should be continuously working towards improving its service delivery in relation to public open space.

The following actions are therefore recommended:

Recommendation:

Minimum Standards – That a set of minimum standards for parks facilities be developed including for trails, seats, shelters, fences, playgrounds, paths, BBQ's, etc

Recommendation:

Maximising Resources – That in developing and maintaining public open space, Council:

- (a) endeavour to utilize materials and processes that are sustainable and
- (b) develop quality management and maintenance practices
- (c) develop and maintain partnerships with other key public open space providers, sporting and cultural groups and members of the community to ensure resources are shared and well co-ordinated.
- (d) examine appropriate models for engaging the community in the on-going management and maintenance of parks and reserves; eg “friends”

groups, and identify strategies to resource such models.

(e) utilise the skills and expertise of all appropriate Council officers, including Parks operational staff, by involving them or consulting with them, to ensure all relevant issues are considered; eg that design assists rather than hinders on-going maintenance and ensure that they sign off on any new developments in public open space before commencing works

Recommendation:

That Council endeavour to maximise its performance by:

- Regularly monitoring customer satisfaction, perceptions and expectations
- Establishing and applying service benchmarks
- Establishing effective waste management strategies
- Undertaking effective marketing
- Pursuing on-going communication with residents in accordance with Council's Customer Service Charter.

Recommendation:

Effective Monitoring - That Council monitor its policies and local laws, as they relate to public open space, to ensure that they remain relevant and appropriate and they are adhered to through education, appropriate signage and enforcement.

Recommendation:

Maintenance Standards - Assess standards of maintenance and levels of service for all parks and reserves and:

- (a) develop service level criteria for parks and reserves
- (b) develop a mowing services hierarchy for parks and reserves.

Recommendation:

Sustainable Management Practices – That Council develop a systematic program for the introduction of best practice sustainable management in a range of critical areas including:

- (a) energy efficient low greenhouse gas emitting equipment, including vehicles,
- (b) the installation of only low energy lighting in Council public open space,
- (c) the use of low water dependency plants, including warm climate grasses on ovals,
- (d) the selection of durable longer lasting materials,
- (e) the utilization of re-cycled materials
- (f) the use of standard fittings where appropriate and

(g) the development of park maintenance programs that ensure assets are maintained in a highly sustainable way.

4.14 Public open spaces for social gatherings and cultural events

The demands for social gatherings and cultural events in public open space have increased. Facilities of this nature are not appropriate in “local,” neighbourhood parks and are costly to provide and maintain. Incremental changes to cater for large groups are not recommended due to the possible impact on other more contemplative pursuits, and environmental quality. Therefore, suitable spaces need to be designated in “regional” and “municipal” level parks and reserves and then designed and developed to accommodate large groups, functions and cultural activities.

Recommendation:

Social Interaction - That appropriate public open space be identified for developing “park activity centres” which cater for large groups and provide diverse facilities for social and cultural activities and events, including activities for older adults, children, teenagers and other family members and enhance usability for all members of the community, by including appropriate ancillary facilities, such as paths, seating, shelters, drinking fountains etc.

4.15 Implementation & communication of the Strategy

Maintaining effective, on-going co-ordination processes is a fundamental principle which should be adhered to at all times.

When the revised public open strategy has been adopted by Council, there needs to be a process that ensures it will be implemented. Ownership of the Strategy by the relevant departments and business units is critical for successful implementation. The relationship between the open space strategy and other related plans needs to be clear and responsibilities clarified. There should also be a process to monitor what has been implemented and the success or otherwise of this. The community also should be informed about what is being done and what has been done. The following actions are therefore recommended:

Recommendation:

Structure - That an inter-departmental public open space steering committee be established to monitor the implementation of the Public Open Space Strategy and to generally assist with the co-ordination of public open space planning.

NB this team should meet at least on a six monthly basis.

Recommendation:

Implementation -That the actions from the Public Open Space Strategy be

incorporated into the Strategic Reporting System on Council's Corporate Information Data Base (CID) to ensure there is regular systematic monitoring of implementation.

4.16 Encroachment of private use

At the rear of linear reserves and waterways and on un-constructed road reserves, private residences commonly encroach on public open space. This encroachment often takes the form of areas fenced as part of private land, gardens being extended, and residents parking their own cars, trucks and trailers on open space, or using public open space as an informal "right of way" to access the rear of their properties. If this problem is not dealt with in a strategic way in the short term, it may become difficult for Council to rectify in the longer term. If not dealt with the problem may get worse if others see Council is not doing anything they may see it as an opportunity and follow suit. Unauthorised encroachment can lead to increased risk and public liability exposure for Council. In some cases encroachment may also restrict Council's ability to maintain public open space effectively.

Recommendation:

Encroachment of Private Use - That Council, as a priority, undertake an assessment of those situations where encroachment onto public open space has occurred, and determine an appropriate course of action in instances where the encroachment:

- (a) increases public risk
- (b) is having, or could have, an adverse effect on the environment
- (c) impedes the ability of Council staff to maintain the public open space
- (d) restricts public access or use, or
- (e) is viewed as a public nuisance

4.17 Litigation and risk management

Risk management has become an important element of design, construction and ongoing management requiring more systematic processes. The consideration of the implications of design and construction on intended and unintended uses is therefore important. In an environment of ageing park infrastructure such as paths, furniture, and sporting infrastructure, and an increasingly litigious society, Council will need to take additional care that the condition of infrastructure does not provide potential hazards for users.

With this in mind, Council should also review its leases and licences over public reserves and sports facilities, to ensure that lessees and licensees are fully aware of their obligations.

Recommendation:

That public safety and risk management be amongst the foremost considerations when:

- (a) designing and constructing new facilities in public open space,
- (b) in the maintenance of existing infrastructure and
- (c) in the preparation of relevant licences and leases.

4.18 Public open space and increasing housing density

It is not known for certain how much impact increased suburban housing density will have on the demand for public open space, or whether public open space is fully substitutable for diminished private open space. However it is known that high density may influence participation in activities. Close living does not preclude dog ownership and participation in activities such as walking and cycling, which are popular across a wide range of demographic groups. The absence of private yards may begin to limit opportunities for physical activity and therefore there may be a case to increase the amount of public open space in affected areas.

The benefits sought from public open space are likely to be principally opportunities:

- To improve physical fitness/ health
- To be in a peaceful/ tranquil setting
- To release built up tensions
- To have a change from daily routine
- To enjoy the scenery
- To interact with others

These benefits can often be effectively provided by public open space.

Recommendation:

Changing Density - That an assessment of public open space be carried out as an integral part of the overall planning for new residential developments and in areas which, due to the State Government's "Melbourne 2030 Strategy," have been designated for medium or high density residential development.

Recommendation:

Planning Open Space in Community Hubs - When preparing activity centre plans and community structure plans, or redesigning spaces used by the public, such as in shopping precincts, that Council include the following steps in the process in order to ensure that the community's public open space needs are adequately addressed:

- (a) assess likely needs for public open space, including community gathering places in the heart of the activity centre, having regard to projected residential density, number of potential visitors, employees working in the centre and the likely availability, or otherwise, of private open space

- (b) document the current level of provision of public open space in and around the activity centre
- (c) identify all other Council owned land in and around the activity centre
- (d) assess the potential for private/public sector arrangements that could maximize resident access to quality public open space and community gathering places, such as town squares, plazas, malls, arcades, etc.
- (e) explore opportunities to create new community space within road reserves to enhance activity centres as people places

Recommendation:

Planning for Community Wellbeing - That wherever possible:

- a) well designed, accessible public gathering places and
- b) accessible green spaces suitable for passive and active recreation be located in and around key activity centres and community hubs.

Recommendation:

Open Space Audits - Conduct an audit of key community hubs and identify areas, on both public and private land which have the potential to be developed as effective community gathering places, particularly when activity centre plans, structure plans, or shopping centre streetscape plans are being prepared.

4.19 Diminishing Water Resources

Climate change brought about by global warming is likely to be a major long term issue that will have to be addressed if Council's parks, reserves and street trees are to be sustained. Whilst ensuring an on-going supply of potable water is the responsibility of the State Government, there are a range of steps Council can take to improve the availability of water to its parks, reserves and street trees.

Such strategies including the capturing of rain water, the harvesting and treatment of storm water, sewer mining, accessing ground water and river water all need to be examined in depth and appropriate strategies identified. This process needs to be carried out in consultation and with the support of key water authorities such as Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water and Southern Rural Water. There are a range of funding sources available through State and Commonwealth Government bodies that can be accessed to help meet the cost of water initiatives, such as those mentioned above. Council should actively pursue these funding opportunities.

Recommendation:

Long Term Water Solutions - That Council actively pursue:

- (a) Opportunities for developing long term on-going solutions to the issue of guaranteeing adequate water supplies to its parks and reserves and for its street trees, in consultation with key water authorities

- (b) External funding sources to assist it to meet the cost of water saving initiatives.
- (c) The development of a long term sustainable water strategy to ensure the on-going viability of Banyule's parks and reserves,
- (d) The implementation of the Banyule Sustainable Water Plan

Water Harvesting - That in order to assist in identifying opportunities for water harvesting, water recycling and for improving habitat and water quality, Council re-examine the July 2005 report titled "Investigation of Current Maintenance Practices and Activities on Golf Courses and Playing Fields to Determine the Impact on Storm Water."

4.20 Dogs in Parks

It is widely recognized that pets play an important role in the lives of many people. There is also ample research to suggest that pets actually have a positive effect on the health and wellbeing of their owners. There is also mounting evidence that dogs themselves, arguably the most popular and one of the most common of all household pets, require the stimulation of regular walks and exercise, particularly in natural areas, such as parks, in order to maintain their physical and mental well being. Banyule like many other municipalities in Metropolitan Melbourne has a high level of dog ownership amongst its residents.

Dogs in public open space however can be the cause of conflict between park users. It is also recognized that dogs can have a negative impact of native birds and animals and can make areas unsuitable as habitat unless managed and controlled in appropriate ways. However Council also recognizes the important role dogs can play in the health and wellbeing of its citizens and has a generous policy towards dogs in public open space. Essentially its policy is the reverse to many other municipalities within the metropolitan area which have local laws requiring dogs to be "on lead" in all public areas, except a few specially designated "off lead" areas. Where as Banyule takes the approach that dogs can be "off lead" in all public open space, except when:

- within 5 metres of a playground or a designated shared trail or
- when a park is specifically designated "on lead" (usually because of environmental sensitivity) or
- the owner is unable to have the dog under effective control at all times; i.e. voice command.

There have also been a number of requests from residents who are dog owners for the establishment of a dedicated dog exercise park within Banyule, to compliment Council's existing policies.

The issue of dogs in public open space in Banyule should not be looked at in isolation. Council should also be working with other public land management authorities in order to develop consistent policies between agencies. This is particularly important where other authorities manage public land which is adjacent Council owned public open space, such as Parks Victoria and neighbouring Councils.

To enable Council to maintain its relative relaxed policy to dogs in parks, the following recommendations are proposed.

Recommendations:

Responsible Dog Ownership - That an ongoing education program be established to encourage all dog owners to be responsible in the management of their pets in public parks and reserves.

Dog Park - That the feasibility of establishing a dedicated dog park within Banyule be examined.

Dogs and Environmental Sensitivity – Review Council’s dogs “off lead” policy where it applies to environmentally sensitive areas.

Dogs and Other Public Authorities – That Council work with other public land authorities, particularly those that manage public land adjacent to Council public open space (eg Parks Victoria and neighbouring councils) in order to ensure that there is consistency in policies in relation to dogs in public open space.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

The key issues for the effective implementation of the Strategy are:

1. The development of an internal system for coordinating and championing the implementation of this Strategy.
2. Ownership of the directions of the Strategy by staff and management.
3. Communication with staff and the community about what has been achieved.
4. Clear responsibilities for who is doing what, where and when.

Implementation priorities include the following:

- Defining responsibilities for implementing the recommendations identified in the Strategy (including incorporation of actions on Council's strategic reporting system (CID) .
- Establish an interdepartmental open space planning steering committee
- Put principles, recommendations and guidelines on Council's web site
- Prepare a status report on principles, guidelines and recommendations as a web based document for internal reference and public information, and updated quarterly
- Prepare regular articles on the implementation of the Strategy in the Banyule Banner and items for on-hold messages
- Cross reference key principles and recommended actions from the Public Open Space Strategy with other planning documents such as the Public Health Plan, the Recreation Policy and Strategy and the Environment Policy and determine links in implementation to ensure consistency
- In relation to public open space inventory/classification system (refer Appendix 1):
 - insert into the GIS system to map classifications
 - analyse the results of the new classification (landscape setting)
 - utilise for marketing and planning purposes
- Prepare a schedule of key elements of the Strategy for insertion into the Planning Scheme.
- Regularly update the guidelines for acquisition and disposal in response to changing legislation, policy and planning context

- Circulate all draft documentation to all parks, leisure, social planning and strategic planning staff for comment and sign off

5.1 SUMMARY OF PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section brings together all of the recommendations that appear throughout the document. The summary is structured so the recommended actions are grouped with the principles they most relate to. Each of the principles and recommended actions are also cross-referenced to the sections of the document from which they have been drawn. All of the principles are drawn from section 3.2, whilst the recommendations emanate from various sections throughout the report.

Principle No 1. – Co-ordination

Effective, on-going co-ordination processes.

Recommended Action

Structure - That an inter-departmental public open space steering committee be established to monitor the implementation of the Public Open Space Strategy and to generally assist with the co-ordination of public open space planning (refer Section 4.15).

NB this team should meet at least on a six monthly basis.

Principle No. 2 - Open Space Planning Policies

Clear and appropriate local planning policies and benchmarks for public open space.

Recommended Actions

Public Open Space Strategy

That following the adoption of this Public Open Space Strategy:

- (a) it be used to assist with the review of the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and
- (b) should it is deemed necessary to also develop a separate public open space policy, it be used to inform the drafting of that policy and
- (c) it further be used, together with the MSS/Public Open Space Policy, to assist with the review of the Planners Guide (refer Appendix 2) in approximately 12 months time (refer 4.5).

Open Space in New Developments

Process - That: the “Planners Guide” at Appendix 2 be adopted as a practical working guide for Council’s statutory planners (refer 4.3).

Developers’ contributions – That Council undertake further research in order to establish what the most appropriate developer contribution levels are, in relation to public open space, particularly in areas of increasing residential density, such as designated activity centres (refer 4.3).

Minimum Standards – That a set of minimum standards for park facilities

be developed, including for trails, seats, shelters, fences, playgrounds, paths, BBQ's, etc (refer 4.13).

Planning Policies – That Council develop a set of planning policies for public open space and include them in the Banyule Planning Scheme where appropriate (refer section 4.5).

Principle No 3. – Equitable Distribution

Equitable distribution of public open space within Banyule.

Recommended Actions

Acquisition and Disposal – That when appropriate opportunities present themselves:

- a) in areas where there are deficiencies in public open space, consider the acquisition of additional land for public open space particularly where it is adjacent to existing open space,
- b) consider the sale of unusable, or inappropriate public open space, or other Council land and
- c) ensure any funds raised through sale of unusable public open space go into Council's Open Space Development Fund, and are used for enhancing public open space to service the precinct in which the sales of land occur, or in precincts where deficiencies in either quality or quantity in public open space exist.(refer section 4.7).

Distribution of Facilities - That opportunities to provide new sporting and play facilities, to cater for both structured and unstructured activities be examined, particularly in areas that are deficient in such facilities, eg; Eltham North and St Helena (refer 4.7).

Open Space Precincts - That the precinct analysis outlined in this document (refer Appendix 1) be used as a consideration for the planning of public open space (refer 3.3).

Developers' Contributions Plan – That Council give consideration to establishing and implementing a developers' contributions plan (refer 4.6).

Principle No 4. – Maximising Resources

Maximise the effectiveness of finite public open space resources in Banyule through appropriate practices and the development and maintenance of appropriate partnerships.

Recommended Actions

Maximising Resources – In developing and maintaining public open space,

Council will:

- (a) endeavour to utilise materials and processes that are sustainable
- (b) develop quality management and maintenance practices
- (c) develop and maintain partnerships with other key public open space providers, sporting and cultural groups and members of the community to ensure resources are shared and well co-ordinated and.
- (d) examine appropriate models for engaging the community in the on-going management and maintenance of parks and reserves; eg “friends” groups, and identify strategies to resource such models. utilise the skills and expertise of all appropriate Council officers, including Parks operational staff, by involving them or consulting with them, to ensure all relevant issues are considered; eg that design assists rather than hinders on-going maintenance and ensure that they sign off on any new developments in public open space before commencing works (refer section 4.13).

Sustaining Facilities - That Council:

- (a) when developing new facilities or upgrading existing ones, ensures facilities are provided in a form that will meet community expectations and at the same time will minimise maintenance costs and,
- (b) include anticipated maintenance costs of public open space in the Strategic Operational Budget to ensure assets are maintained at an appropriate standard in the long term
- (c) when up-grading existing facilities, or developing new facilities, consider opportunities for consolidation through shared use and/or multi use.
- (d) identify key sites for the development of significant (regional or semi-regional open space facilities) rather than encourage the proliferation of facilities on small sites with limited potential (refer 4.12).

Maintenance Standards - Assess standards of maintenance and levels of service for all parks and reserves and:

- a) develop a service level criteria for parks and reserves
- b) develop a mowing services hierarchy for parks and reserves (refer 4.13).

Types and Levels of Use - Assess high usage parks and reserves, including sporting ovals and identify for each the appropriate:

- (a) types of use and
- (b) levels of use.

Designated Purpose - Conduct an assessment of all Council land which currently has no designated purpose and where appropriate:

- (a) identify a purpose and function and
- (b) assess its suitability for disposal.

Mowing Access – Identify: -

- (a) all areas that currently provide access problems for the mowing and maintenance crews and
- (b) develop strategies for addressing these problem areas

Review of Existing Playgrounds - That Council undertake a review of existing playgrounds in order to identify:

- a) The most appropriate location, size and type of playgrounds required to best serve each precinct in Banyule
- b) Sites appropriate for the development of substantial multi-functional playgrounds
- c) Any existing playgrounds which may serve the community more effectively if consolidated into larger playgrounds within the same precinct (refer 4.2).

Principle No 5. – Performance

Continuous improvement in public open space service delivery.

Recommended Action

That Council endeavour to maximize its performance in public open space management by:

- regularly monitoring customer satisfaction, perceptions and expectations
- establishing and applying service benchmarks
- establishing effective waste management strategies
- undertaking effective marketing
- pursuing on-going communication with residents as per Customer Service Charter (refer section 4.13).

Principle No 6. – Effective Management

Effectively manage all public open space under Council's control.

Recommended Actions:

Effective Monitoring - Monitor Council policies and local laws, as they relate to public open space, to ensure that they remain relevant and appropriate and they are adhered to through education, appropriate signage and enforcement (refer section 4.13).

Implementation - That the actions from the Public Open Space Strategy be incorporated into the Strategic Reporting System on Council's Corporate Information Data Base (CID) to ensure there is regular systematic monitoring of implementation (refer 4.15).

Principle No 7. – Regional Planning

Recognition that the regional context is an important consideration when planning public open space.

Recommended Action:

Regional Open Space Planning - That Council, when planning large and/or significant public open space developments:

- a) take regional public open space issues into consideration and
- (b) work in partnership with other key public authorities and park managers (refer section 4.5).

Dogs and Other Public Authorities – That Council work with other public land authorities, particularly those that manage public land adjacent to Council public open space (eg Parks Victoria and neighbouring councils) in order to ensure that there is consistency in policies in relation to dogs in public open space (refer 4.20).

Principle No 8. - Protection of the Environment

Protection and enhancement of environmental quality.

Recommended Actions

Conservation Management - Ensure the management and planning of public open space is carried out in accordance with Council's Environment Strategy and other related documents, including the Greenhouse Action Strategy and Wildlife Corridor Program Report (refer section 4.11).

Enhancement of Visual Amenity - That Council actively pursue improved planning and design of key public open spaces and the protection of appropriate mature trees, including street trees (refer 4.4).

Sustainability of Indigenous Vegetation –

- (a) Identify the most critical reserves for conservation purposes and ensure that they receive the appropriate levels of funding and resources required to maintain and enhance their conservation values.
- (b) Periodically review the management of reserves in order to deal with the impact of on-going climate change
- (c) Review the appropriateness of maintaining small apparently unsustainable areas of remnant vegetation as conservation reserves (refer 4.11).

Encroachment of Private Use - That Council, as a priority, undertake an assessment of those situations where encroachment onto public open space has occurred, and determine an appropriate course of action in instances where the encroachment:

- a) increases public risk

- b) is having, or could have, an adverse effect on the environment
- c) impedes the ability of Council staff to maintain the public open space
- d) restricts public access or use
- e) is viewed as a public nuisance (refer 4.16).

Utility Authorities - Identify strategies for effectively dealing utility authorities to ensure that works carried out by them don't unnecessarily destroy or damage vegetation.

Strategic Weed Management – Develop a priority weed management program which identifies:

- a) weed hotspots; ie areas that are playing a critical role in the propagation and the spread of weeds
- b) strategies and resources for dealing with these areas as a priority

Asset Life – When providing new assets in public open space, ensure that adequate recourses are provided for the long term management and maintenance of the assets (refer 4.12).

Dogs and Environmental Sensitivity – Review Council's dogs "off lead" policy where it applies to environmentally sensitive areas. (refer 4.20).

Sustainable Management Practices – That Council develop a systematic program for the introduction of best practice sustainable management in a range of critical areas including:

- a) energy efficient low greenhouse gas emitting equipment, including vehicles,
- b) the installation of only low energy lighting in Council public open space,
- c) the use of low water dependency plants, including warm climate grasses on ovals,
- d) the selection of durable longer lasting materials,
- e) the utilization of re-cycled materials
- f) the use of standard fittings where appropriate and
- g) the development of park maintenance programs that ensure assets are maintained in a highly sustainable way (refer to 4.13).

Principle No. 9. - Diversity

Diversity in the range of opportunities offered in public open space.

Recommended Action

Diversity of Function – That Council ensure, when planning or enhancing public open space which has the appropriate capacity, it provides a range of diverse functions and opportunities, including play, environment, heritage, cultural, events, recreational journeys, etc. (refer section 4.6).

Diversity of Need- In planning public open space, give consideration to the diverse needs of the various groups in the community (refer 4.6).

Social Interaction - That appropriate public open space be identified for developing “park activity centres” which cater for large groups and provide diverse facilities for social and cultural activities and events, including activities for older adults, children, teenagers and other family members and enhance usability for all members of the community, by including appropriate ancillary facilities, such as paths, seating, shelters, drinking fountains etc. (refer 4.14).

Principle No 10. – Information

Appropriate information is provided about public open space to the community effectively in accessible forms.

Recommended Actions

Methods of Information Dissemination – That Council use a range of strategies to inform the community about public open space and related facilities and activities, including maps and brochures, interpretive signs, the Council web site, Banyule Banner, on- hold messages, the “Beautiful Banyule booklet, etc.(refer section 4.10).

Information on issues - Co-ordinate a range of information dissemination methods for the purposes of improving public understanding of public open space and related issues, including access, interpretation, regulation, safety, aesthetics, heritage, flora, fauna and details of current and planned public open space projects, etc.(refer 4.10).

Storage of Data –

- (a) That community information and data collected about public open space be stored in a manner which is available to and can easily be accessed by officers across Council and
- (b) That masterplans for parks and reserves be retained in electronic format and located where they are easily accessed by all relevant officers
- (c) That comprehensive user friendly community information about Banyule’s public open space be included on Council’s web-site.(refer 4.10).

Environmental Education - That Council investigate the potential of developing park and environment related education programs, targeted at local schools and accredited under the “Victorian Education Learning Standard” (refer 4.10)

Principle No 11. – Effective Planning and Design

Effective design of public open space and related facilities in accordance with appropriate standards, policies and practices

Recommended Actions:

Effective Planning and Design -Take account of the following when

planning public open space and related facilities:

- Council's Access and Inclusion Policy and relevant State and Federal legislation relating to access
- The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidelines
- Relevant Safety Standards
- Local neighbourhood character, heritage and environment
- Banyule Health Plan
- The Banyule Planning Scheme
- The needs of the local community (refer section 4.5).

Public Safety and Risk Management - That public safety and risk management be amongst the foremost considerations when:

- a) designing and constructing new facilities in public open space,
- b) managing and maintaining facilities and vegetation, particularly trees and
- (c) in the preparation of relevant licences and leases. (refer 4.17).

Landscape Setting Classification - That the classifications of public open space in Council's parks inventory (refer Appendix 3) be inserted as a layer into Council's GIS system, in order to facilitate the analysis of public open space and relate it to population data (refer section 3.4).

Masterplanning - That Council continue to prepare masterplans for Banyule's key parks and public open spaces to ensure that any future developments are carried out in accordance with a clear, shared vision (refer 4.5).

Local Character, Heritage and Environment - That the planning of public open space be carried out in a way that is consistent with and reflect the findings of Banyule's Heritage Study, the Banyule Neighbourhood Character Strategy and the Banyule Vegetation Community Map and where appropriate provides interpretation of the landscape as it relates to heritage (refer 4.9).

Public Art – Wherever practical, public art which reflects local culture and heritage and involves community participation, should be included in public open space projects (refer 4.5).

Improving Access - That Council include a schedule, in its annual New Works and Services program, to ensure that an on going program exists to improve the accessibility of parks and related facilities (refer 4.1).

Strategic Playground Design - That:

- (a) new playgrounds be designed and existing playgrounds, where possible, be upgraded to improve safety for users and to provide a diversity of experiences for a range of age groups and abilities and
- (b) in particular a number of playgrounds specifically designed for teenagers, be provided at various locations throughout the City.
- (c) where appropriate, funding be sought from alternative sources such as philanthropic trusts for playground development (refer 4.2).

Young People's Preferences - That when designing public open space, consideration be particularly given to the diverse leisure needs of young people (teenagers) as well as to their need to have their "own" separate space. (refer 4.8).

Open Space Precincts - That the precinct analysis outlined in this document (refer Appendix 2) be used as a consideration for the planning and development of public open space.

Principle No 12. – Consultation and Community Involvement

Effective use of external and internal consultation and community development techniques

Recommended Action:

Internal and External Consultation - Ensure that the community is consulted and all relevant Council departments are involved, when planning and developing public open space (refer section 4.5).

Principle No 13. – Leisure and Recreation

The recognition of the fundamental importance of public open space in providing leisure and recreation opportunities for the community.

Recommended Action:

Leisure and Recreation - Ensure that when public open space is being planned, the leisure and recreation needs of all sections of the community are considered, particularly those sections whose needs are not presently well catered for; eg non sporting opportunities for teenagers, the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) the actively ageing, etc. (refer section 4.5).

Responsible Dog Ownership - That an ongoing education program be established to encourage all dog owners to be responsible in the management of their pets in public parks and reserves (refer 4.20).

Dog Park - That the feasibility of establishing a dedicated dog park within Banyule be examined (refer to 4.20).

Principle No 14 – Linear Connections

The value of public open space and its benefit to the community is greatly enhanced where it is directly linked to other public open spaces and/or to other community facilities such as shops, schools, sporting and leisure facilities, through the provision of pathways, suitable for both walking and cycling.

Recommended Actions

Linear Linkages – Ensure that where possible, public open space is linked to community facilities (eg schools) and other public open spaces by providing a network of accessible pathways that encourage both walking and cycling (refer to section 4.5).

Trail Corridors – As a priority, ensure that substantial trails, such as those which follow the corridors of major water courses, are completed to shared trail standard with sealed surfaces for their entire length and where possible, are also linked to the Melbourne Metropolitan Shared Trails Network (refer to section 4.5).

Shared Trail Signage – That Council develop, adopt and implement a signage strategy of shared trails as a priority (refer to section 4.5).

Recreational Loops – That where appropriate, Council create loops in its trail systems in order to facilitate and encourage recreational use (refer 4.5).

Consistency of Trail Surface – That Council work with Parks Victoria to improve the consistency and quality of the surface of the Main Yarra Trail within Banyule to the standard specified in AusRoads Part 14. (refer 4.5).

Principle No 15 – Culture and Heritage

Local heritage and culture will be a consideration when planning and developing public open space.

Recommended Action:

Culture and Heritage - Ensure that where appropriate, significant local heritage and/or culture is reflected in the design of public open space and related facilities and where possible, appropriate interpretation of this occurs (refer section 4.5).

Principle No 16 – Tourism

The enhancement of tourism opportunities within appropriate areas of public open space

Recommended Action:

Tourism - Work in conjunction with tourism and cultural agencies, the private sector and relevant state and local government authorities, to enhance tourism opportunities within key strategic public open space (refer to section 4.5)

Naming – That the naming of parks and reserves and key facilities and features within them, wherever possible, reflect local heritage (refer 4.5).

Principle No 17- Activity Centre Plans

The provision of adequate public open space will be a priority consideration, both in terms of quality and quantity, when Council is preparing activity centre plans and community structure plans.

Recommended Action

Changing Density - That an assessment of public open space be carried out as an integral part of the overall planning for new residential developments and in areas which, due to the State Government's "Melbourne 2030 Strategy," have been designated for medium or high density residential development (refer 4.18).

Planning Open Space in Community Hubs - When preparing activity centre plans and community structure plans, or redesigning spaces used by the public, such as in shopping precincts, that Council include the following steps in the process in order to ensure that community's public open space needs are adequately addressed:

- (a) assess likely needs for public open space, including community gathering places in the heart of the activity centre, having regard to projected residential density, number of potential visitors, employees working in the centre and the likely availability, or otherwise, of private open space
- (b) document the current level of provision of public open space in and around the activity centre
- (c) identify all other Council owned land in and around the activity centre
- (d) assess the potential for private/public sector arrangements that could maximize resident access to quality public open space and community gathering places, such as town squares, plazas, malls, arcades, etc.
- (e) explore opportunities to create new community space within road reserves to enhance activity centres as people places - (refer 4.18).

Principle No 18 – Community Health and Wellbeing

The recognition of the importance of and the significant positive community health outcomes achieved through:

- (a) exposure and easy access to natural and semi natural areas and
- (b) the social interaction provided by well used community gathering places.

Recommended Actions

Planning for Community Wellbeing - That wherever possible:

- a) well designed, accessible public gathering places and
- b) accessible green spaces suitable for passive and active recreation be located in and around key activity centres and community hubs (refer 4.18).

Open Space Audits - Conduct an audit of key community hubs and identify areas, on both public and private land which have the potential to be developed as effective community gathering places, particularly when activity centre plans, structure plans, or shopping centre streetscape plans are being prepared (refer 4.18).

Principle No 19 – Efficient use of Water

The recognition that water is a highly valuable community resource which must be conserved and recycled where possible and that Council's reliance on mains water must be reduced.

Recommended Action

Long Term Water Solutions - That Council actively pursue:

- (a) Opportunities for developing long term on-going solutions to the issue of guaranteeing adequate water supplies to its parks and reserves and for its street trees, in consultation with key water authorities
- (b) External funding sources to assist it to meet the cost of water saving initiatives.
- (c) The development of a long term sustainable water strategy to ensure the on-going viability of Banyule's parks and reserves
- (d) The implementation of the Banyule Sustainable Water Plan (refer 4.19),

Water Harvesting - That in order to assist in identifying opportunities for water harvesting, recycling of water and for improving habitat and water quality, Council re-examine the July 2005 report titled "Investigation of Current Maintenance Practices and Activities on Golf Courses and Playing Fields to Determine the Impact on Storm Water" (refer 4.19)

References

ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing and Victoria in Future (VF) 2004 Population Projections

City of MELBOURNE "The Active Melbourne Strategy," June 2006

MULLER, et al "Healthy Parks Healthy People," Deakin University, Melbourne 2002

PARKS VICTORIA "Linking People and Spaces" (Strategy for Melbourne's Open Space Network) Melbourne 2002

PUTNAM Robert D "Bowling Alone," Touchstone New York 2001

TOWNSEND Dr M "Natural Connections," in VicHealth Letter

No. 26, Summer 2006

APPENDIX 1

PRECINCT ANALYSIS

Precinct/Suburb name: **Briar Hill**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

2.1 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

Briar Hill is a small suburb with four neighbourhood level parks. There is approximately 0.677 hectares per 1000 residents in Briar Hill, which is slightly short of the standard quantitative benchmark for public open space of 1 hectare per 1000 residents. However residents of Briar Hill also have access to a number of significant reserves that are in neighbouring suburbs, close to the boundaries of Briar Hill; eg Malcolm Blair Reserve, Yandell Nature Reserve and the string of reserves along the Plenty River corridor, which range from sporting grounds to natural and semi natural reserves. The close proximity of the Plenty River Corridor also provides relatively easy access to the Plenty River Trail, which in turn provides a connection to the Main Yarra Trail and the broader Melbourne Metropolitan Shared Trail Network.

(b) Non-Park, Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

There are no community meeting spaces of this type in Briar Hill, nor are there any opportunities to create them. However, there is considerable potential for quality community meeting spaces to be developed in neighbouring Greensborough, as part of the Greensborough Principal Activity Centre Plan. There is also considerable potential for quality community space of this type to further evolve in Were Street in nearby Montmorency.

Summary of current demographics and demographic projections

In raw number terms the population of Briar Hill is not expected to change greatly over the next decade, ie by 2016. However the proportion of children and young adults in the population is expected to drop significantly. Whilst the number of people in the 70 and over cohort is expected to increase dramatically, the greatest proportion of people will remain in the 24 to 49 cohort (36.2%). However, the overall population of Briar Hill is ageing. The increasing proportion of older residents will also mean that the level of disabilities is also likely to steadily increase over the next 10 years. This has implications for the type of park infrastructure that will need to be provided.

NB. The population projections in the following table don't take into account the growing tendency towards 'in-fill' housing development referred to in the section dealing with "Housing Development Trends" below.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	200	6.3%	136	4.3%	-63	-31.6%
5-11	305	9.6%	244	7.6%	-61	-20.0%
12-17	284	9.0%	249	7.8%	-35	-12.4%
18-24	334	10.5%	299	9.4%	-35	-10.6%
25-49	1,174	37.0%	1,156	36.2%	-18	-1.5%
50-69	698	22.0%	714	22.4%	16	2.3%
70 and over	175	5.5%	395	12.4%	219	125.0%
Total	3,170		3,193		23	0.7%

Neighbourhood Character

The dominant neighbourhood character of Briar Hill is that of “Bush Garden.” The typical features of suburbs classified “bush garden” are: “Stands of substantial native trees providing a backdrop for the mainly post war detached dwellings with mature garden settings.”

Housing Development Trends

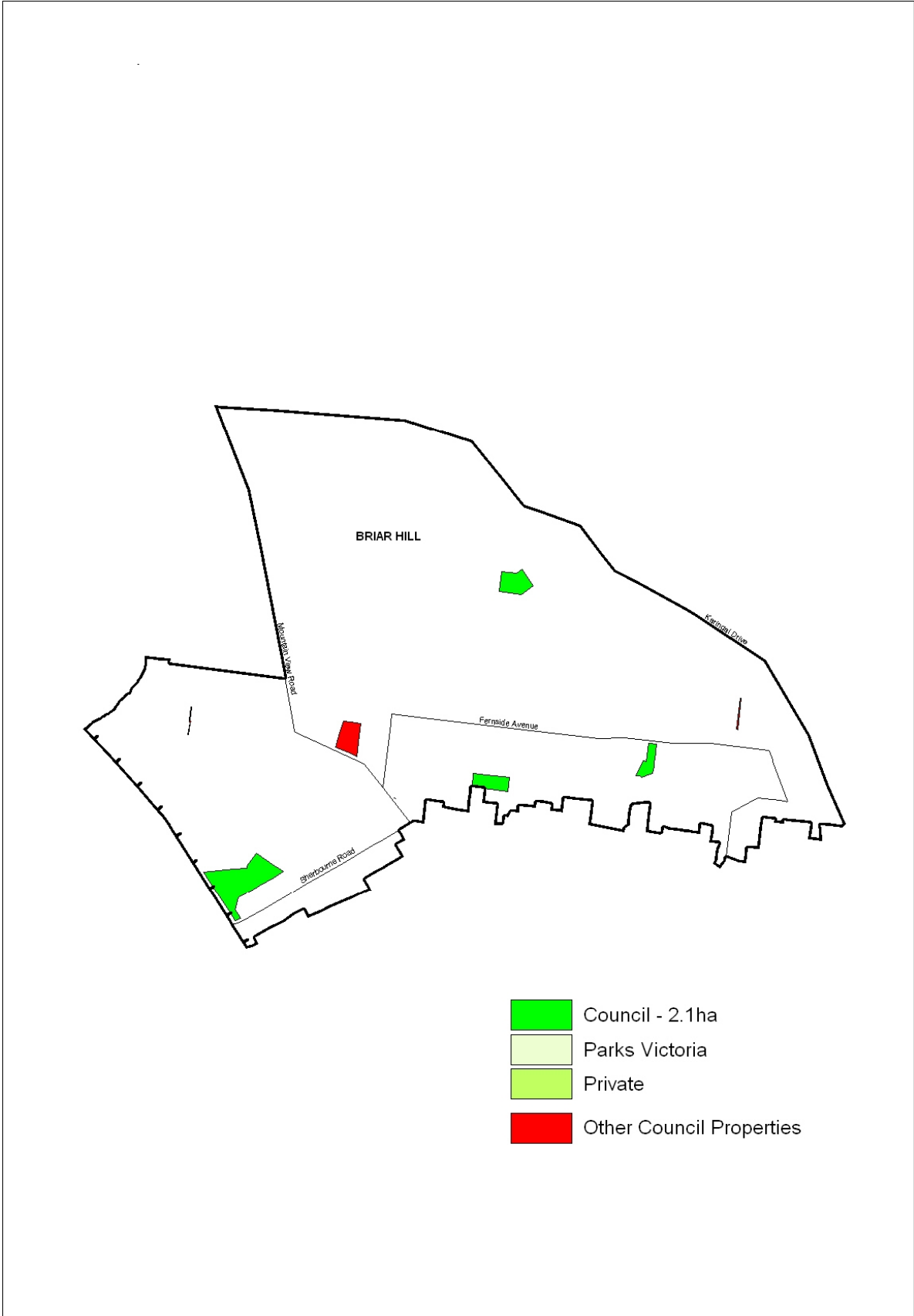
The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on Briar Hill. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

Open Space Issues

- There is a deficiency of neighbourhood public open space in this suburb, although there are significant reserves nearby in neighbouring suburbs: eg the Plenty River corridor, Blair Reserve, Yandell Nature Reserve (Greensborough) and Meruka Reserve (Nillumbik). However should opportunities arise to acquire more land for public open space purposes, such opportunities should be given serious consideration.
- There is a lack of infrastructure on the reserves in Briar Hill.
- Whilst acquiring more land for public open space in Briar Hill would be costly, a program to provide more park infrastructure in the reserves that exist in Briar Hill would be desirable.

Recommendations

- That park infrastructure in Briar Hill parks and reserves be reviewed.
- That this review, take account of the projected ageing of the Briar Hill population and the consequent rise in disabilities likely to accompany this.
- Examine opportunities to increase the amount of public open space, as a priority.
- Whenever housing or unit developments occur in Briar Hill, opportunities for increasing quantity and/or improving quality of public open space in the area should be considered as a high priority



Precinct/Suburb: Bundoora

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

26.9 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

Bundoora is very well catered for in terms of the quantity of public open space available to its residents. Within the boundaries of Bundoora, there is just over 3 hectares per 1000 residents, which is approximately three times the standard quantitative benchmark for public open space; ie 1 hectare per 1000 residents. A number of important active sporting reserves are available in Bundoora, including Yulong Park, N J Telfer Reserve and Loyola Reserve. The electricity authority easement also provides a strong pedestrian connection between a number of the reserves in Bundoora as well as with several parcels of public open space in neighbouring Watsonia. There are also a number of substantial parks and reserves easily accessible to the people of Bundoora, including, Binnak Park in neighbouring Watsonia North and the Regional Bundoora Park just over the boundary of the City of Darebin (Plenty Road).

(b) Non-Park Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

There are no community gathering places of this type in Bundoora, nor is there any realistic potential to develop any. However there is a strong possibility that substantial community spaces of a high quality will be provided within the nearby Greensborough Principle Activity Centre Development.

Summary of current demographics and projections

There is a forecasted increase in Bundoora's population of almost 9% over the next ten years. Whilst the greatest increase is likely to occur in the in 70 and over age group, significant increases are also expected in the number of teenagers (12-17 years) and the 25-49 years age range. For public open space planning the implications of these changes will be the need to provide more park infrastructure for older members of the community; eg seats, shade, accessible paths, etc as well as infrastructure which will cater for the needs of teenagers.

<i>Age group</i>	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
		%		%	No.	%
0-4	423	4.7%	425	4.4%	1	0.4%
5-11	693	7.7%	653	6.7%	-40	-5.7%
12-17	625	7.0%	685	7.0%	60	9.7%
18-24	945	10.6%	856	8.8%	-90	-9.5%
25-49	3,004	33.6%	3,434	35.3%	429	14.3%
50-69	2,388	26.7%	2,255	23.2%	-133	-5.6%
70 and over	875	9.8%	1,431	14.7%	556	63.5%
<i>Total</i>	8,953		9,738		785	8.8%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards "in fill" development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and

multi-unit developments, is impacting on Bundoora. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

Local Character

Bundoora is generally classified as a “Garden Court” suburb. The fundamental character of areas with this classification consists of; “curvilinear and cul-de-sac street pattern, low scale, generally brick dwellings dominated by a low-pitched tile roof, set in spacious, often informal garden settings, with a mix of native and exotic plantings.”

Open Space Issues

Bundoora Wetlands (College Views) – There are a range of issues that need to be addressed with this particular wetland, including environmental factors due to the type of planting that has occurred there, public safety (fencing required to keep members of the Public, particularly children, away from the water) and the fire risk is high due to the type of vegetation.

Recommendations

- Conduct a review and prepare a management plan for the Bundoora Wetlands in the College Views Estate.
- Provide infrastructure in public open space to cater for the forecasted increase in older age groups and teenagers.



Precinct/Suburb: **Eaglemont**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

1.8 hectares (Council)

36.8 hectares of Parks Victoria

3.9 hectares private/communal

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

- Quantity

When both Council and Park Victoria managed public open space within the boundaries of Eaglemont are considered, Eaglemont residents are well provided for; ie there are approximately 10 hectares per 1000 residents. When this compared with the standard quantitative benchmark for public open space of 1 hectare per 1000 people it is clear that there is an abundance of open space.

- Quality

The major portion of public open space in Eaglemont consists of the Yarra Flats Metropolitan Park, which is a parcel of highly regarded urban parkland. The main parcel of Council public open space, Albert Jones Reserve, is a pleasant leafy park which blends beautifully with the character of the surrounding residential area. There are also seven unique and substantial parcels of private/communal, open space available to the residents of the Glenard and Mount Eagle Estates. The residents of Eaglemont also have direct access to the Main Yarra Trail and consequently the wider Melbourne Metropolitan Trail Network.

(b) Non-Park, Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

There are currently no non park community gathering places in Eaglemont. However potential exists for creation of community space of this type in the Eaglemont Village commercial precinct. There is also strong potential for these types of community gathering spaces to be established in neighbouring Ivanhoe and Heidelberg as part of the major activity centre planning processes occurring in both of these locations.

Summary of current demographics and projections

The projections suggest that the population of Eaglemont is likely to decline by almost 9% over the next 10 years. The largest decreases are expected to occur in the younger cohorts; ie 17 years and below. The only cohort projected to increase to any significant extent is the 50-69 age group. However these projections do not take account of the significant amounts of "in-fill" likely to in Eaglemont, during the coming decade.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	196	5.1%	170	4.8%	-26	-13.3%
5-11	381	9.9%	266	7.6%	-115	-30.2%
12-17	381	9.9%	277	7.9%	-105	-27.4%
18-24	347	9.0%	354	10.1%	8	2.2%
25-49	1,304	33.9%	1,057	30.0%	-246	-18.9%
50-69	812	21.1%	971	27.6%	159	19.6%
70 and over	426	11.1%	424	12.1%	-2	-0.5%
Total	3,847		3,519		-328	-8.5%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on Eaglemont. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation. The large housing block sizes in Eaglemont are also particularly attractive to developers.

Neighbourhood Character

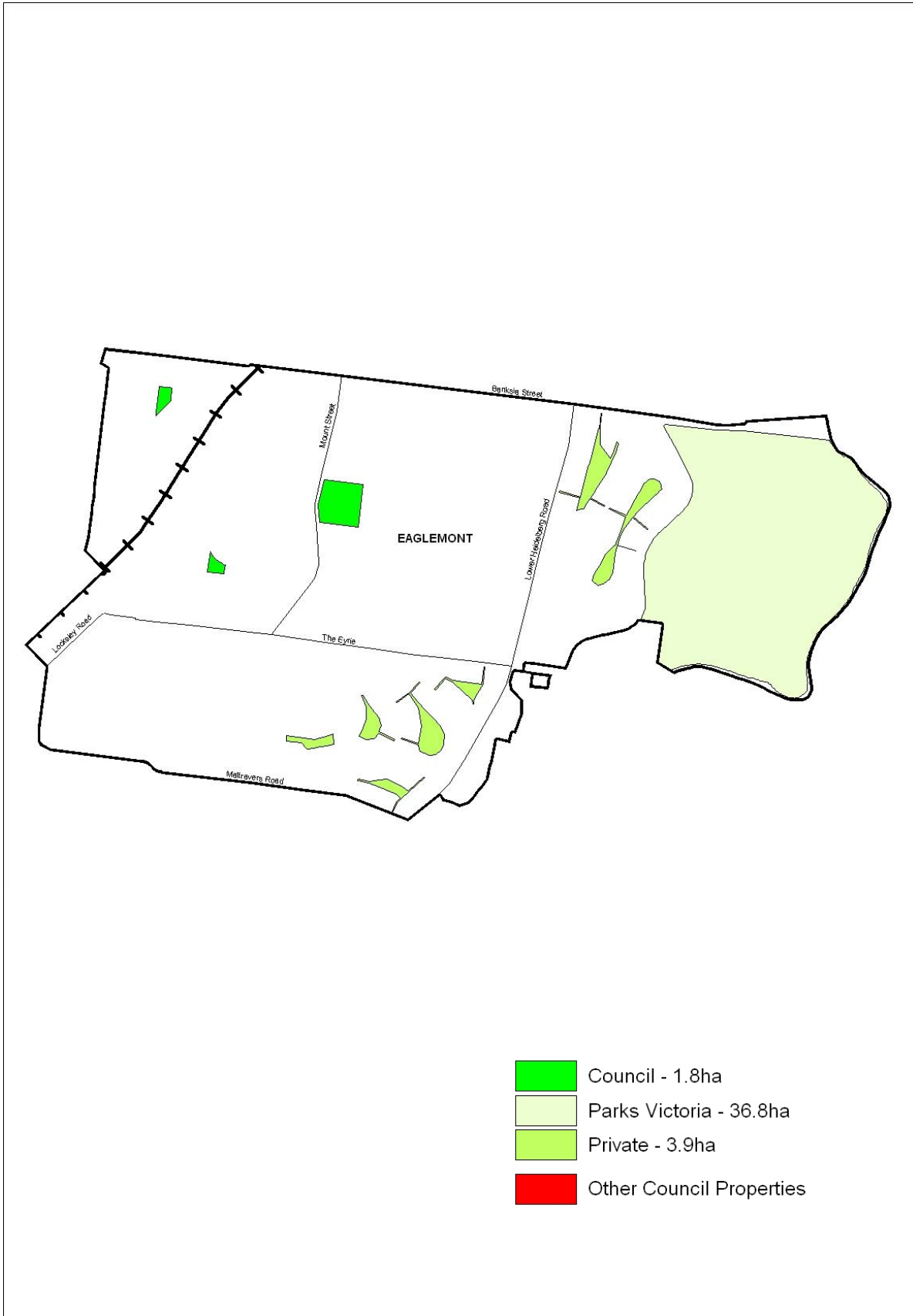
The character of Eaglemont is classified as *Suburban Garden*. Areas that have this classification generally have a, “spacious, leafy character in generally formal street settings, with space around and between dwellings, a relatively wide and open street space, and garden style vegetation, often mature and exotic, in both the private and public domain, creating an attractive, tree-dominated landscape setting in some streets.”

Open Space Issues

- There is a limited amount of neighbourhood, or local level public open space in this area. However this is substantially compensated for by the large metropolitan park on the eastern edge of Eaglemont.
- There are also a series of significant private commons in the Mount Eagle and Glenard Estates. The status of these parcels of land needs to be clarified in terms of their accessibility to the general public.
- Eaglemont has an ageing population
- An opportunity exists to work with local traders to enhance the Eaglemont Village commercial precinct to create an environment suitable for people to meet and spend time; ie a community gathering space.
- Opportunities to capitalise on the significant heritage associated with Burley Griffin and arts heritage have not been fully explored.

Recommendations

- That a “way finding” strategy for public open space in this area be developed to improve access to the significant amounts of public open space that exist.
- That access to the private “commons” of the Glenard and Mount Eagle Estates be examined and clarified.
- That Council work with the Eaglemont Traders in order to create quality community gathering space within the Eaglemont Village.



Precinct/Suburb name: **St Helena/Eltham North**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

30.5 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

There are over 5 hectares of public open space per 1000 residents within the boundaries of Eltham North and St Helena, which is over 5 times greater than the standard quantitative benchmark for public open space of 1 hectare per 1000 residents. Anthony Beale Reserve is the main parcel of public open space in the St Helena/Eltham North area. It is a significant multi purpose park which caters for the community by providing active sports fields, picnic barbeque area and some semi natural bush parkland areas. There are also a large number of small neighbourhood level parks scattered throughout the precinct. Residents in this precinct also have access to a number of important nature reserves, including the St Helena Conservation Reserve as well as the Elma Brown Nature Reserve, whilst technically in neighbouring Greensborough, is within very short walking distance for many residents of St Helena.

(b) Non-Park Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

There are no quality spaces of this type in either Eltham North or St Helena. However there is potential for good quality community meeting spaces to develop in the nearby Greensborough Principal Activity Centre.

Summary of current demographics and demographic projections

The demographic projections for this area are that its population will decrease by approximately one-fifth over the next ten years as the population ages and children grow up and leave the area. At present over 43% of the population is 24 years old or younger. By 2016 it is expected that these age groups will make up only about 28% of the total population. On the other hand numbers of 50 to 69 year olds will more than double and form well over a third of the total population.

In the medium term there will need to be a greater focus on providing facilities for teenagers and families as these age groups make up a major part of the current population. However in planning for the longer term the emphasis will need to shift to improving the accessibility of parks and the provision of infrastructure that is suitable for the older age groups.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
		%		%	No.	%
0-4	351	6.2%	246	5.3%	-105	-29.9%
5-11	790	13.9%	253	5.5%	-537	-68.0%
12-17	754	13.3%	251	5.4%	-503	-66.7%
18-24	562	9.9%	550	11.8%	-12	-2.2%
25-49	2,228	39.2%	1,460	31.5%	-768	-34.5%
50-69	730	12.8%	1,584	34.1%	853	116.9%
70 and over	272	4.8%	298	6.4%	26	9.6%
Total	5,687		4,641		-1,045	-18.4%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, will impact on the St Helena/Eltham North area just as it is on most areas of the metropolitan area. This trend is expected to continue to evolve given current State planning legislation.

Neighbourhood Character

Garden Court - Curvilinear and cul-de-sac street pattern, low scale, generally brick dwellings dominated by a low-pitched tile roof, set in spacious, often informal garden settings, with a mix of native and exotic plantings.

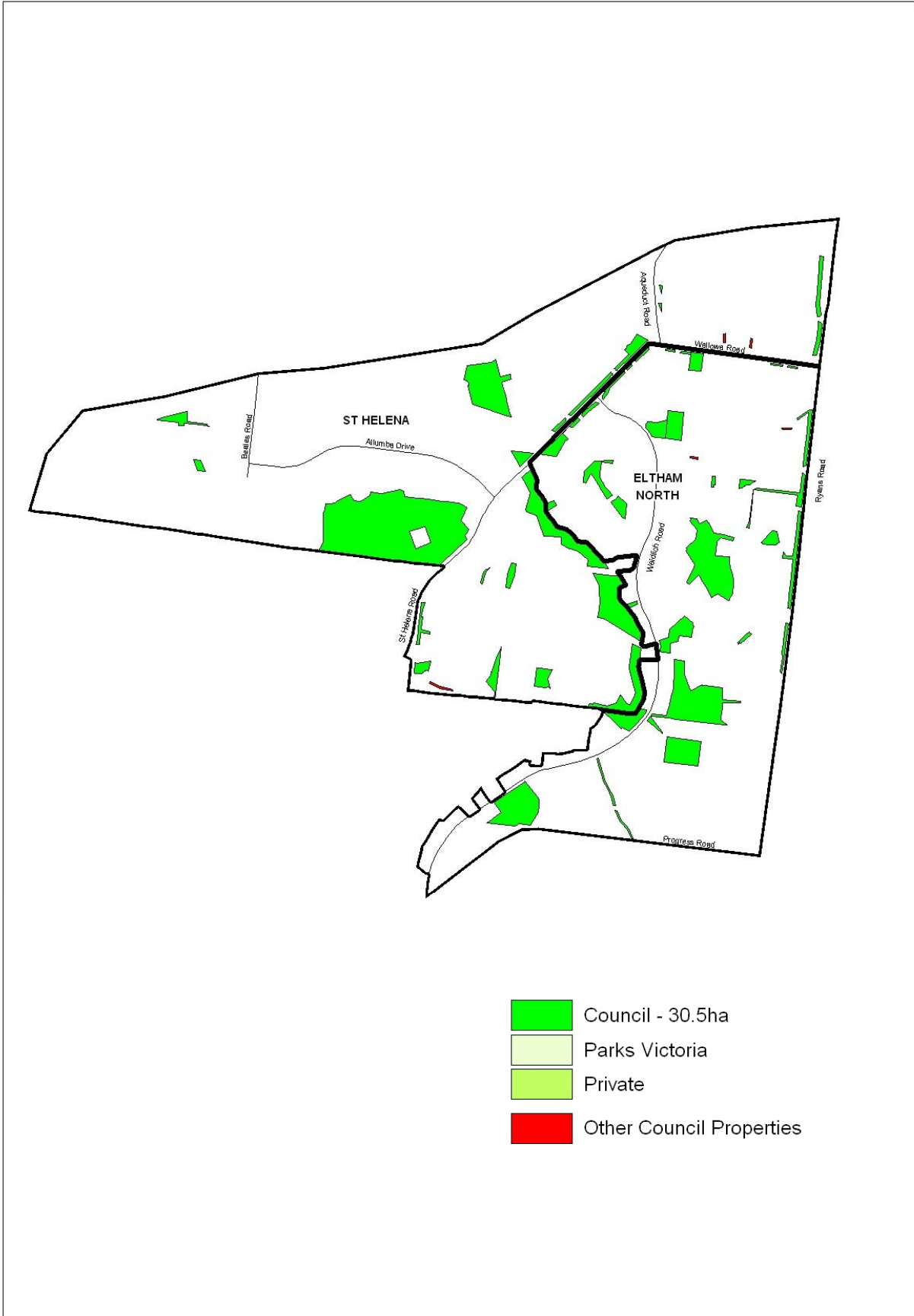
Semi Bush - Representative of the highly valued native vegetation-dominated residential environments found in some of the hillier north eastern and eastern parts of the metropolitan area, epitomised in the popular imagination by ‘Eltham’ or ‘Bellbird’. These areas are becoming scarcer as they succumb to vegetation clearance and more intense development.

Open Space Issues

- The impact that school children have on the St Helena Bush land Reserve. There is a need for signage and an education program about the appropriate use of the reserve.
- There is a general lack of park infrastructure in this are, particularly for families, children and teenagers, such as playgrounds picnic/BBQ facilities, toilets, etc. This is particularly significant given the present relatively young demographic of the area.
- Settlers Reserve needs a path for its entire length so that it can function as a genuine linear park.
- There is lack of informal recreation facilities in Anthony Beale Reserve, eg picnic/barbeque facilities, play facilities for teenagers.
- The lack of park infrastructure on reserves in this area is a significant issue. Given the area’s demographics, the provision of facilities suitable for teenagers is of particular importance.
- There needs to be needs to be an assessment of the needs of young people in the area and appropriate facilities provided accordingly.
- There is a need for management strategies for bush land & nature reserves in this precinct.
- Interpretive signage required in small bush land reserves in this precinct.
- The natural reserves in this area are of high conservation significance and should be managed accordingly.
- The indigenous vegetation at the eastern end of Anthony Beale Reserve requires enhanced management.

Recommendations

That the public open space issues identified above be systematically addressed through Council’s New Works and Services Program as a priority.



Precinct/Suburb: Greensborough

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

71.2 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

- Quantity

From a quantitative perspective Greensborough is well provide for in terms of public open space.

Within its boundaries there are over 70 hectares of public open space, which means that there are almost 5 hectares of public open space per 1000 residents, which is well above the standard quantitative benchmark for public open space of 1 hectare per 1000 residents. In addition to this, its residents also have direct access to a further 35 hectares of public open space within the Plenty River corridor.

- Quality

Some of the best sporting facilities within the municipality are located in Greensborough, including Partingtons Flat, Whatmough Park and Willinda Park. There are also many natural and semi natural areas along the Plenty River Corridor which are accessible by Greensborough residents. The Plenty River Trail links all of the many and varied parcels of public open space along the river corridor. It also provides a direct link between Greensborough and the Main Yarra Trail and consequently the broader Metropolitan Trails Network.

(b) Non-Park Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

Presently there aren't any community gathering spaces of any significance or quality outside of traditional park settings within Greensborough. However there are opportunities to address this deficiency as part of the Greensborough Principal Activity Centre Project. It is very important that viable community gathering spaces are provided within the Greensborough Activity Centre area. This is particularly so given the likelihood of greatly increased visitation to the area due to the proposed relocation of the Banyule Municipal Offices, the development of a regional aquatics and leisure facility, increased business and commercial activity and the increased need to provide for residents due to the proposed high density residential developments.

The fact that the Greensborough Principal Activity Centre also serves a regional function further strengthens the case for viable, high quality community gathering places.

Summary of current demographics Demographic Projections

The demographic projections for Greensborough indicate a growth in population indicate a growth in population of only about 1% for the next decade. This estimate however does not take into account the changes likely to occur as a result of the Greensborough Principal Activity Centre development; ie high density housing development. Nor does it allow for the

continuing trend towards medium density development throughout Greensborough generally.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
		%		%	No.	%
0-4	997	6.3%	824	5.2%	-172	-17.3%
5-11	1,401	8.9%	1,231	7.7%	-170	-12.1%
12-17	1,384	8.8%	977	6.1%	-407	-29.4%
18-24	1,742	11.0%	1,071	6.7%	-671	-38.5%
25-49	5,838	36.9%	5,936	37.1%	98	1.7%
50-69	3,260	20.6%	3,886	24.3%	626	19.2%
70 and over	1,182	7.5%	2,062	12.9%	880	74.4%
Total	15,805		15,988		183	1.2%

Housing Development Trends

It is proposed that as part of GPAC there will be an intensification of housing development; ie high and medium density. The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is already impacting on Greensborough. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

Local Character

Greensborough has three distinct areas of differing character. South of the railway line and to the west of the Plenty River the character tends to be “Suburban Garden” in nature. Areas classified as “Suburban Garden” tend to be – *“Spacious, leafy character in generally formal street settings, with space around and between dwellings, a relatively wide and open street space, and garden style vegetation, often mature and exotic, in both the private and public domain, creating an attractive, tree-dominated landscape setting in some streets”.*

To the north of the railway line, but to the west of Diamond Creek Road (Apollo Parkways) the character is classified as “Garden Court.” Areas classified as “Garden Court” tend to have the following characteristics – *“Curvilinear and cul-de-sac street pattern, low scale, generally brick dwellings dominated by a low-pitched tile roof, set in spacious, often informal garden settings, with a mix of native and exotic plantings.”*

However to the north of the railway line and east of Diamond Creek Road (Green Hills) the character is classified as “Semi Bush”. Areas with this classification are usually characterized in the following way – *“Representative*

of the highly valued native vegetation-dominated residential environments found in some of the hillier north eastern and eastern parts of the metropolitan area, epitomised in the popular imagination by 'Eltham' or 'Bellbird'. These areas are becoming scarcer as they succumb to vegetation clearance and more intense development."

Open Space Issues

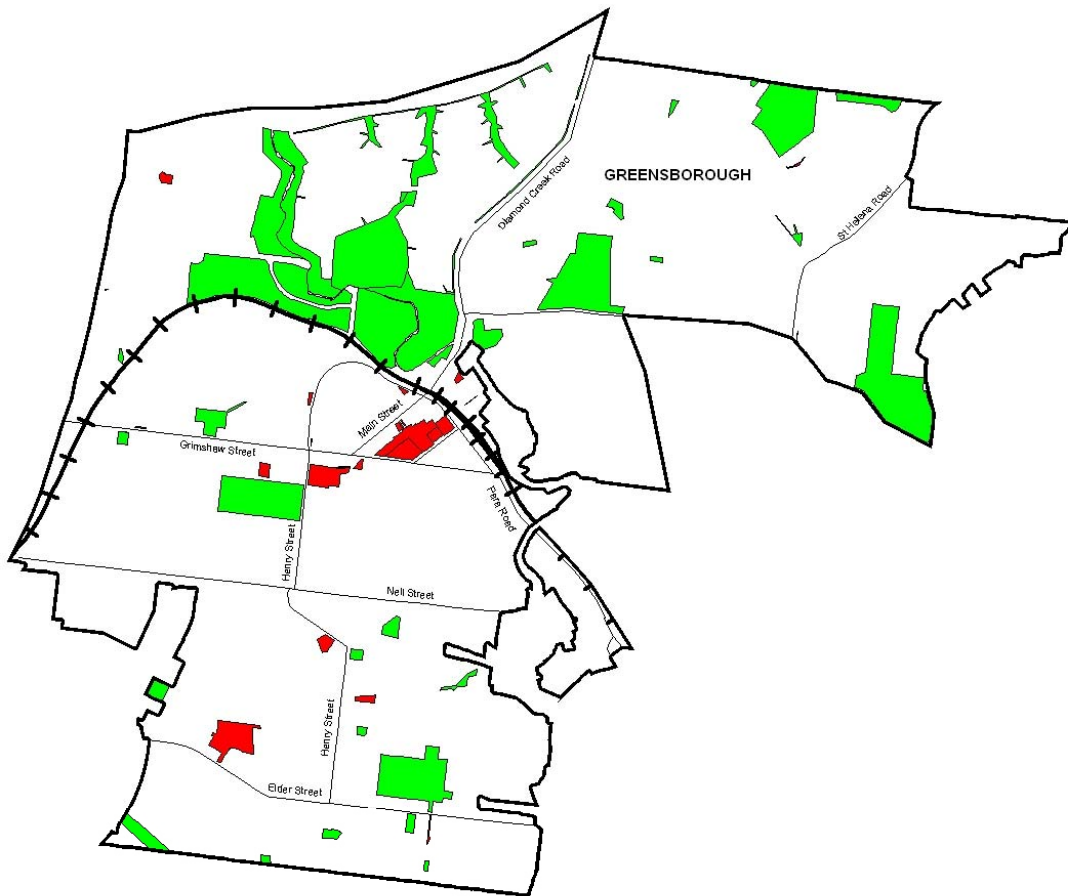
The key challenges in the Greensborough area relate to the Greensborough Principal Activity Centre (GPAC) particularly:

- The likely increase in housing density in the GPAC area and the subsequent increased need for neighbourhood level public open space and quality community gathering spaces within in the activity centre area.
- Creating better connections between the GPAC area and significant areas of public open space along the Plenty River corridor
- The potential risk of increased run off and litter effecting the Plenty River and related parklands. Appropriate strategies need to be put in place to ensure that the Plenty River and related public open space is protected as it is significant, not only to the immediate community, but to the region.
- The interface between the river corridor and adjacent building developments is a key issue. The visual and environmental amenity of the river corridor needs to be protected from any unnecessary intrusions. Any future building developments on land bordering the river corridor must be designed and positioned with great sensitivity.
- There is a growing need/opportunity for a major destination reserve to be developed in Greensborough. Particularly given that GPAC is expected to increase both population density and the number of visitations to Greensborough.
- There is a need for more appropriate fencing at Alma Brown Reserve. As this reserve is one of the most significant nature reserves in Banyule, it would also be appropriate for a series of interpretive signs to be installed, to increase public appreciation and understanding of the reserve's value.
- The Plenty River Trail is currently sub-standard beyond Partingtons Flat Reserve; ie to the north and west.
- A masterplan for Kalparrin Gardens Reserve needs to be prepared in conjunction with Melbourne Water.
- Yandell Reserve has significant flora and fauna and is one of the few remaining sites which provides appropriate habitat and supports the existence of the almost extinct Eltham Copper Winged Butterfly.

- Yandell Reserve requires relatively intensive management to maintain its unique biological values
- The Partingtons Flat Reserve escarpment includes high quality native vegetation and therefore requires on-going sensitive management to maintain these values.
- The need to continue to improve vegetation along the Plenty River in order to enhance its value as a wildlife corridor.

Recommendations

That the open space issues identified for Greensborough (see above) be progressively and systematically addressed through Council's New Works and Services program.



- Council - 71.2ha
- Parks Victoria
- Private
- Other Council Properties

Precinct/Suburb: **Heidelberg West/Bellfield**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

60.7 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

Quantity

Heidelberg West/Bellfield is quite well off for public open space from a purely quantitative perspective. There are over 60 hectares of parks and reserves within this area, which means that there are over 8 hectares per 1000 residents. This obviously compares very favourably with the standard benchmark of 1 hectare per 1000 people. The population projections for Heidelberg West/Bellfield, refer to the table below, indicate that this ratio is not expected to change greatly during the next 10 years.

quality

Issues associated with quality of public open space, including standard of park infrastructure do exist. However these have begun to be addressed through the development and implementation of masterplans for key parks and reserves such as the Olympic Park Reserve and Malahang Reserve and the neighbourhood park plan for Buna Reserve.

The residents of Heidelberg West and Bellfield also have direct access to the Darebin Creek Trail which provides connection to the regionally significant Bundoora Park and the Darebin Parklands. The Darebin Creek Trail will also eventually be extended to connect with the Main Yarra Trail, which will further enhance leisure and commuter opportunities for the people of Heidelberg West/Bellfield.

(b) Non-Park Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

Quantity

The walk way at Bell Street Mall is a substantial community gathering place, possibly the largest in Banyule. The small Morseby Court Reserve (Olympic Village Green) also acts as an important local community gathering for people using the Morseby Court shops and the Olympic Leisure Centre. Its close proximity to the Olympic Village Primary School and the Banyule Community Health Service also adds to its value.

Quality

A significant opportunity exists to consider strategies for up grading and improving the quality of the community gathering place at the Bell Street Mall, with the process of developing a local structure plan for the Mall and the areas immediately around it. This public space will potentially become increasingly important to the Heidelberg West and Bellfield community with the likely advent of increased residential density around the Heidelberg West Activity Centre.

Summary of current demographics and projections

The demographic projections for this area show that the population is expected to increase by just over 6% during the next decade. Whilst there is expected to be reduced numbers in the 5 to 11 years, 12 to 17 years and the 70 and over cohorts, all other age groupings are expected to experience increases, including the 0 to 4 cohort. This seems to suggest that a new generation of young families are beginning to move into the area.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
		%		%	No.	%
0-4	525	7.2%	578	7.5%	53	10.1%
5-11	788	10.8%	715	9.2%	-73	-9.2%
12-17	620	8.5%	590	7.6%	-31	-5.0%
18-24	666	9.2%	756	9.8%	90	13.4%
25-49	2,491	34.2%	2,827	36.5%	335	13.5%
50-69	1,290	17.7%	1,481	19.1%	191	14.8%
70 and over	901	12.4%	797	10.3%	-104	-11.6%
Total	7,283		7,744		461	6.3%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on Heidelberg West and Bellfield. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

Neighbourhood Character

The neighbourhood character of Heidelberg West is described as *Garden Suburban*“ Areas which are classified in this way tend to have a “spacious, leafy character in generally formal street settings, with space around and between dwellings, a relatively wide and open street space, and garden style vegetation, often mature and exotic, in both the private and public domain, creating an attractive, tree-dominated landscape setting in some streets”.

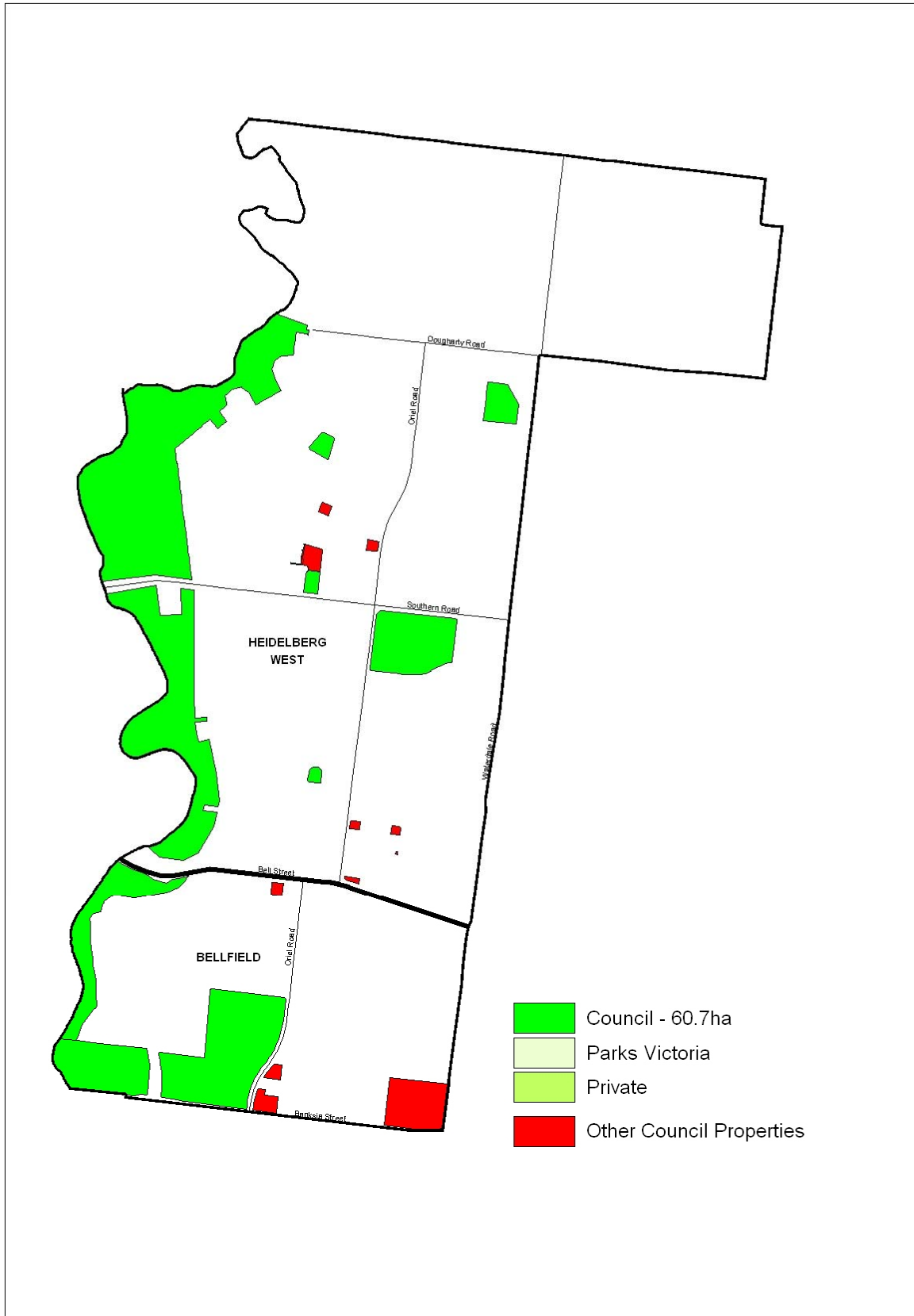
Open Space Issues

- Implement the Malahang Reserve Masterplan
- Develop strategies for managing vandalism in public open space.
- Ramu Parade Reserve and/or Buna Reserve have the potential to include a community garden.
- The interface between the Darebin Creek and residential and industrial areas needs to be managed to ensure that the impact of any new developments on the Creek Corridor is negligible from both environmental and visual amenity perspectives.
- Sections of the surface of the Darebin Trail need to be upgraded.
- A Darebin Trail signage strategy has been developed by the City of Darebin in conjunction with Banyule. Funding will need to be provided, in order to implement the Banyule’s section of the strategy and ensure that there is consistency along the entire Trail.
- The standard of park infrastructure.
- There is a lack of park related infrastructure along the Darebin Trail.
- The impact of Northland on the Darebin Creek; eg the amount of rubbish and the number of shopping trolleys that are dumped in the Creek.

- Ford Park is under utilised.
- The need to improve vegetation along the Darebin Creek in order to enhance the wildlife corridor
- Continue to support the implementation of the Darebin Creek Management Plan.
- The standard of the surface of the Darebin Creek Trail

Recommendations

- That high levels of public consultation and community involvement be actively encouraged in relation to the planning and on-going management of public open space in Heidelberg West and Bellfield, in order to create a strong relationship between members of the community and the parks in their respective neighbourhoods.
- That Council work co-operatively with other Councils which share the Darebin Creek corridor in order to achieve a consistent trail signage strategy for the entire Darebin Creek Trail.
- That design and installation of infrastructure in the community spaces within the Bell Street Mall, be considered as a high priority when undertaking the Structure Plan for the Bell Street Mall, in order to help make them highly appealing and functional community spaces.
- That neighbourhood park plans be developed in conjunction with the local community and the Neighbourhood Renewal Project for the Moresby Court and Buna Street Neighbourhood Reserves.
- Continue to implement the masterplan for Malahang Reserve as a high priority.
- Enhance diversity of play opportunities, including for teenagers
- That the open space issues identified above be systematically address through Council's New Works and Services program.



Suburb name: Heidelberg

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

39.74 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

- quantity

Based on the general benchmark of one hectare per 1000 people, Heidelberg is very well catered for with 6.91 of usable Council owned public open space (parks & reserves) per 1000. This however is without considering the considerable amount of State Government owned public open space in the area which is managed by Park Victoria. Yarra Flats Metropolitan Park, whilst technically not in this precinct (shared between Eaglemont and Ivanhoe) it is linked to Heidelberg by the Main Yarra Trail and its impact shouldn't be under-estimated, as it provides an excellent regional park function to the residents of Heidelberg and beyond. If the 84 hectares of this major park are also taken into consideration, then Heidelberg is directly serviced by 21.6 hectares of public open space per 1000 residents, an extraordinarily high ratio. And even this doesn't consider parklands directly on the opposite side of the Yarra River, such as Banksia Park

However, despite this there are still some issues around the balance between regional, municipal and neighbourhood level public open space in Heidelberg. The majority of public open space in Heidelberg is along the Yarra River corridor and is either regional or municipal level open space. Whilst it is of a very high quality and serves a very effective regional and municipal wide function, its effectiveness for serving as local neighbourhood public open space is reduced by the fact that it is separated from the main residential areas of Heidelberg by a major barrier; ie Rosanna Road. One of the primary benefits of neighbourhood public open space is to provide opportunities for informal impromptu use, which tends to occur more often when access to parks and reserves is made uncomplicated and can be easily reached by walking. The physical and psychological barrier created by Rosanna Road tends to limit this informal impromptu access to the high quality parklands along the Yarra corridor from a major portion of the residential areas of Heidelberg and thus diminishes its capacity to provide an effective local neighbourhood function.

Further compounding this issue, is that the two largest parcels of local neighbourhood public open space in the residential areas of Heidelberg, Remembrance Park and Service Reserve both have problems of access associated with them as well, which minimise their value as local neighbourhood parks. Remembrance Park is located between three busy roads, the Bell-Banksia Link, Banksia Street and Studley Road, including the Melbourne-Hurstbridge Railway line and the topography of Service Reserve, corner of Stradbroke Avenue and Darebin Street, is also very steep. Neither have any facilities, such as playgrounds or barbeque facilities located on them. Therefore the capacity of these two parks is to play a genuine neighbourhood park function is quite limited.

This is an issue that deserves serious consideration when the Heidelberg Structure plan is being finalised, particularly as the Structure Plan is likely

to result in an increase in the density of the population of significant parts of Heidelberg, whilst reducing the levels of private open space in the precinct. The provision of quality neighbourhood public open space which is easily accessible from the main residential areas of Heidelberg, particularly the proposed higher density areas around the activity centre, needs to be given serious consideration as it will potentially play a critical role in future health and wellbeing of the Heidelberg community.

- quality

The quality and variety offered by the string of large parks and reserves along the Yarra River corridor is very high and this particular area boasts some of the best parklands in metropolitan Melbourne.

However, as already stated the precinct lacks quality accessible parks and reserves and associated facilities within the residential areas around the activity centre, which can serve as viable local neighbourhood public open space.



The concentric circles on the above map indicate the 400 and 500 metre radii marks from the parks closest to the Heidelberg Activity Centre. A benchmark, or planning guide used for public open space, is to endeavour where ever possible, to have a local neighbourhood park within 500 metres of any residential address (Council's Public Open Space Strategy 1997). 400 metres is the distance suggested by the Melbourne 2030 Strategy as equating roughly to 5 minutes walking distance.

Technically the Heidelberg Activity Centre area meets standard public open space requirements. As can be seen, virtually all residential areas within the activity centre area are within 500 metres of parkland. For instance there are 703 residential addresses within 500 metres of Service Reserve, 129 within 500 metres of Remembrance Park and 419 within a 500 metre radius of Heidelberg Gardens.

However as previously indicated factors such as substantial physical barriers and topography considerably limit access to these sites for residents.

Generally around the Burgundy Street area there is a shortage of viable public local open space. Whilst there also appears to be a lack of other suitable Council owned land in the precinct to directly address this issue, there are a number potential strategies that could be developed that will assist with the problem, such as:

(a) Place greater emphasis on the public domain generally as a place where people can 'meet, greet and gather' within an urban environment. Such areas would need to have landscape improvements to create enhanced streetscapes and integrated informal meeting spaces. This concept is underpinned by the notion that a safer and pedestrian focused public realm is required. There would be value, in improving the pedestrian environment within the activity centre areas being developed by Banyule to support more pedestrian friendly public realms in these urban areas. This is particularly important in Heidelberg given the limitations of local neighbourhood public open space in this area.

(b) Provide for the protection for existing (small) civic spaces along Burgundy Street, such that future development seeks to enhance these spaces and improve their relationship with abutting development facades through an effective landscape and urban design outcome and their user friendliness generally.

(c) Enable the creation of new (small) civic spaces within the Medical Services Precinct (on Stradbroke Avenue) and the Office/Admin Precinct (Yarra Street). These spaces would be established as land development occurs.

(d) The creation of a new pedestrian/public plaza as part of the redevelopment of the train station. This plaza could be integrated with development (over the car park portion of the site) that may have an arts/cultural/entertainment focus. The Plaza would also be linked to the Medical Services Precinct via a pedestrian sky-bridge that eases access to/from the Austin/Mercy hospital.

(e) Although the substantial Warringal and Heidelberg Parklands are in close proximity to the residential areas of this precinct, due to the substantial barrier presented by Rosanna Road, strategies need to be developed to enhance access to these public open space areas in order to improve their capacity to serve local residents.

(b) Non-Park Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

There are minimal public gathering spaces in Heidelberg. The only existing ones are a small footpath court/seating area immediately outside Leo's Supermarket and Laird Court, both of which are on Burgundy Street and the small garden and public arts area at the public transport interchange in Mount Street, outside the Heidelberg Railway Station.

At this stage none of these above public gathering spaces are particularly inviting nor are they particularly well patronised.

Summary of demographics

Whilst the demographic projections indicate a likely decline of almost 9% during the next decade, the projections don't take account of the likely increasing housing density within the Heidelberg Activity Centre

Heidelberg

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	286	5.0%	226	4.3%	-61	-21.2%

5-11	364	6.3%	263	5.0%	-101	-27.7%
12-17	359	6.3%	300	5.7%	-60	-16.6%
18-24	481	8.4%	637	12.1%	156	32.5%
25-49	1,957	34.0%	1,601	30.5%	-355	-18.2%
50-69	1,234	21.5%	1,284	24.5%	50	4.1%
70 and over	1,067	18.6%	935	17.8%	-131	-12.3%
<i>Total</i>	5,746		5,245		-501	-8.7%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on Heidelberg. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

Local Character

From a neighbourhood character perspective all areas within Heidelberg are classified as “Garden Suburban.” The general characteristic of this neighbourhood character type are; spacious, leafy character in generally formal street settings, with space around and between dwellings, a relatively wide and open street space, and garden style vegetation, often mature and exotic, in both the private and public domain, creating an attractive, tree-dominated landscape setting in some streets.

Open Space Issues

- The lack of viable public open space to serve as local neighbourhood parks.
- The need to strengthen links and implement ‘way finding’ strategies to the parklands along the adjacent Yarra River Corridor.
- The likely increase in population density in and around the Heidelberg Major Activity Centre accompanied by a reduction in private open space.
- The lack of engaging public gathering spaces in the precinct
- More community infrastructure is required along the Banyule and Main Yarra shared trails, including seating drinking fountains, shade, dog waste bins, directional signage, etc .
- Parking in the Warringal-Heidelberg Park vicinity needs to be addressed.
- The impact of the Banyule Festival on Sills Bend Reserve is an issue that needs to be addressed.
- The speed limit for cars along the parklands section of Beverley Road needs to be reviewed, given the high levels of Public usage the reserves on both sides of the road get.
- There are encroachment issues in River Gum Walk that need to be addressed.
- There is a need for dog waste bins in River Gum Walk
- River Gum Walk is an ideal location to install picnic and barbeque facilities, given it is on a shared trail and it already has a substantial playground.
- As the Yarra River adjacent to Heidelberg is a “pinch point” in the wildlife corridor, there is a need to plant further vegetation to enhance the ease of wildlife movement.

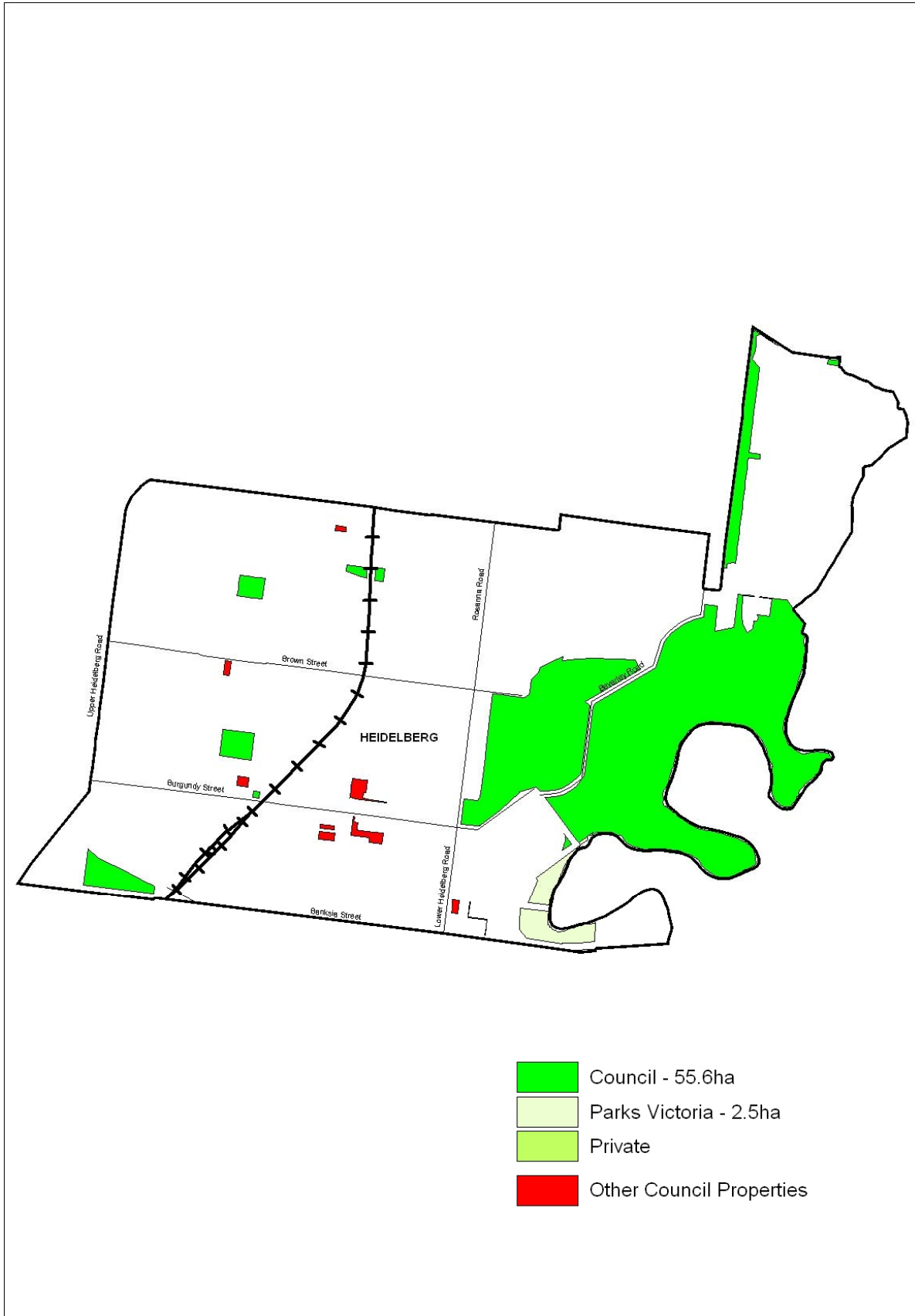
- There is need to ensure future Activity Centre development does not further restrict wildlife movement along the Yarra River Corridor.
- There is a need to implement a weed/vegetation management program on the Heidelberg Park Escarpment.

Opportunities

- An excellent opportunity exists to address many of the above issues through the Heidelberg Structure Plan process.
- To open up direct access for Heidelberg residents to Banksia Metropolitan Park through the construction of a pedestrian bridge from Sills.
- To further develop and enhance the celebration of the area's highly significant arts heritage through interpretation and display of art in public open space and public gathering places.
- There is potential to develop significant art in the public domain to reflect the area's very significant arts heritage (the birth place of both the Australian Modern Art Movement and the Heidelberg School of Impressionists) eg a sculpture trail.
- Opportunity for a major destination park in the Warringal-Heidelberg Park area
- Opportunities to capitalise on Sills Bend and the area's arts heritage which generally has not been fully realised.
- There is an opportunity to develop options for harvesting and treating storm water, in partnership with Melbourne Water in the Warringal Parklands/Banyule Flats area.
- There is potentially an opportunity to develop an enhanced wildlife habitat, particularly if a water retention/harvesting facility (wetland) is developed
- A water retention/harvesting facility will also create opportunities to improve the quality of water flowing into the Yarra River and for re-use on sporting fields.
- There is an opportunity to create a signature playground in the Warringal Parklands area.
- There is also an opportunity in conjunction with the Heidelberg Activity Centre Plan to improve the amenity of the Heidelberg Gardens and build on its heritage significance (designed by Guilfoyle and is the site of the original Shire of Heidelberg Offices).

Recommendations

- Examine all Council owned land particularly in and around the Heidelberg Activity Centre, and develop strategies for increasing the amount and quality of accessible neighbourhood public open space and engaging public gathering spaces and include these strategies in the Heidelberg Structure Plan.
- Investigate and identify strategies for making the public domain more pedestrian and cyclist friendly, such as enhanced streetscapes, utilisation of planting, water features, landscaping, public art, seating, widening footpaths, reducing traffic speeds, installing bicycle lanes, pursuing the possibility of street closures, etc
- Develop a masterplan and management plan for Sills Bend Reserve
- That the issues identified above be addressed.
- That the opportunities identified above be further examined and taken up where appropriate.



Precinct/Suburb: Heidelberg Heights

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

7.6 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

- Quantity

In terms of quantity Heidelberg Heights meets the basic quantitative benchmark of 1 hectare of public open space per 1000 people. With just over 7 hectares of public open space serving a population of just under six and a half thousand the area meets the basic requirements

- Quality

As significant proportion of the public open space in Heidelberg Heights is for sporting purposes (Shelley Park and James Reserve) it is important that where local parks exist that the infrastructure provided is not only of a high standard, but is capable of providing for a broad cross-section of the community. Should opportunities present themselves to acquire further land for public open space purposes, particularly for passive leisure activities, it should be given serious consideration.

(b) Non-Park Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

Whilst there are few, if any, actual or potential, non-park related community gathering places in Heidelberg Heights, there are both actual and potential community spaces of this type in both the neighbouring Heidelberg and Heidelberg West areas, which will potentially service the residents of Heidelberg Heights.

Summary of current demographics and projections

The demographic projections for this area indicate that there is expected to be an increase in population of about 10% by 2016. There will also be a significant ageing of the population, including a reduction in the 0-4 years cohort of about 33% and increases in the 50 to 69 cohort of over 50% and the 70 and over cohort of almost 20%

These figures however don't consider the potential intensification of residential development likely to occur in the vicinity of Bell Street as part of the Heidelberg Structure Plan.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	456	7.1%	304	4.3%	-153	-33.5%
5-11	476	7.4%	510	7.2%	34	7.1%
12-17	386	6.0%	486	6.9%	99	25.7%
18-24	627	9.7%	547	7.7%	-80	-12.8%
25-49	2,328	36.2%	2,270	32.1%	-59	-2.5%
50-69	1,081	16.8%	1,666	23.6%	584	54.1%
70 and over	1,073	16.7%	1,281	18.1%	208	19.4%
Total	6,428		7,062		634	9.9%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on Heidelberg Heights. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation. The large housing block sizes in Heidelberg Heights are also particularly attractive to developers. The area of Heidelberg Heights which interfaces with Bell Street could eventually have some multi-level apartment development in line with the Heidelberg Structure Plan

Neighbourhood Character

The character of Heidelberg Heights is classified as *Suburban Garden*. *Areas that have this classification generally have a “spacious, leafy character in generally formal street settings, with space around and between dwellings, a relatively wide and open street space, and garden style vegetation, often mature and exotic, in both the private and public domain, creating an attractive, tree-dominated landscape setting in some streets.”*

Open Space Issues

- The Parking at Shelley Reserve is insufficient
- Relatively low number of local neighbourhood parks
- The opportunity to enhance and expand the Forster Street Reserve, particularly if Yarra Valley Water’s intention to have the adjacent Water Storage site redeveloped proceeds.

Recommendations

- That a review of the parking issues associated with Australian Rules crowds on match days at Shelly Park be conducted.
- That strategies be developed to help address the relatively low number of local neighbourhood parks and community gathering places in Heidelberg Heights.
- That the open space issues identified above be addressed.



Precinct/Suburb name: **Ivanhoe East**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

5.6 hectares (Council owned)

43.5 hectares (Parks Victoria)

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

- Quantity

East Ivanhoe meets the basic quantitative criteria for public open space quite comfortably just on Council owned parks and reserves located within its boundaries alone; ie 1.52 hectares per 1000 people for East Ivanhoe compared with the standard quantitative benchmark of 1 hectare per 1000 people. In addition residents also have direct access to over 43 hectares of the Parks Victoria managed Yarra Flats Metropolitan Park within Ivanhoe East as well as large tracts of Council public open space in neighbouring Ivanhoe, including Chelsworth Park and Wilsons Reserve. When these are also included in the calculation, the number of hectares of public open space available per 1000 East Ivanhoe residents, increases dramatically. So the Residents of East Ivanhoe are extremely well catered for in terms of the quantity of public open space they have access to.

- Quality

The quality of public open space accessible to East Ivanhoe residents, including both that owned by Council as well as that managed by Parks Victoria, is of a very high standard.

The residents of East Ivanhoe also have direct access to the Main Yarra Trail and consequently the entire Melbourne Metropolitan Trails Network.

(b) Community gathering places

- Quantity

The main non park related community gathering place in East Ivanhoe is the footpath precinct within the East Ivanhoe commercial area.

- Quality

Whilst the quality of the streetscape, including planting, public street furniture and private furniture provided by cafes and restaurants, creates a general inviting environment, further enhancement of this area would increase its value as community space.

Summary of current demographics and projections

The demographic projections for East Ivanhoe suggest a very mixed result. There is expected to be a small increase in overall population during the next ten years. Whilst the 70 and over cohort is expected to reduce marginally, the 50 to 69 cohort is projected to increase by about 30%. On the other hand the 5 to 11, 12 to 17 and 18 to 24 cohorts are all projected to drop. However the 0 to 4 years and 18 to 24 years cohorts are expected to increase marginally. This mixed result seems to be suggesting that, whilst the population is generally ageing a new wave of young families is expected to begin to emerge in the area during the next 10 years.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	192	5.2%	195	5.1%	3	1.4%

5-11	385	10.5%	313	8.2%	-72	-18.8%
12-17	326	8.9%	298	7.8%	-28	-8.7%
18-24	333	9.1%	350	9.2%	17	5.1%
25-49	1,225	33.4%	1,226	32.2%	0	0.0%
50-69	756	20.6%	983	25.8%	227	29.9%
70 and over	453	12.3%	440	11.6%	-14	-3.0%
<i>Total</i>	3,672		3,804		132	3.6%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on East Ivanhoe. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation. The large housing block sizes in East Ivanhoe are also particularly attractive to developers.

Neighbourhood Character

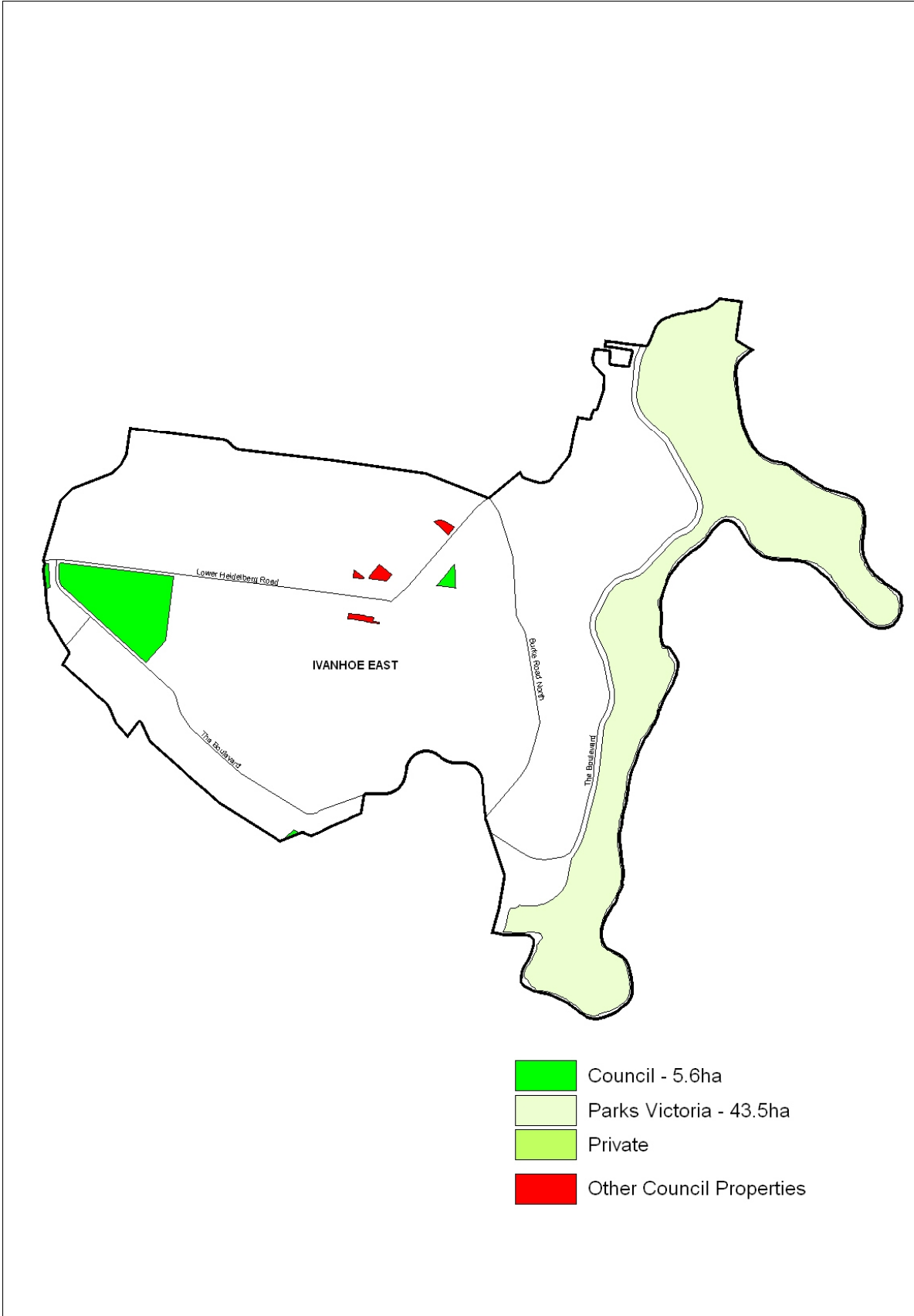
The neighbourhood character of East Ivanhoe is classified as *Garden Suburban*. Areas with this classification generally have a “spacious leafy character in generally formal street settings, with space around and between dwellings, a relatively wide and open street space, and garden style vegetation, often mature and exotic, in both the private and public domain, creating an attractive, tree-dominated landscape setting in some streets.”

Open Space Issues

- Any building developments interfacing with the Yarra River corridor need to be designed and positioned in order to minimize environmental and visual impact
- The need to provide park infrastructure to cater for the significant numbers of residents who are beginning to reach the older age groups
- The need to also provide appropriate park infrastructure for the “new wave” of young families expected to emerge over the next decade.
- There is a need to improve connections with Main Yarra Trail

Recommendations

- That the issues identified above be systematically addressed through Council’s New Works and Services Program.



Precinct/Suburb: Ivanhoe

Brief General Description of Precinct/Suburb:

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves): 106.8 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

- Quantity

Based on the standard benchmark of 1 hectare per 1000 people, Ivanhoe is well provided for, as in terms of Council provided public open space alone, there is just over 10 hectares per 1000 residents. However it is even better than this as this is without accounting for the non-Banyule portion of Darebin Parklands (Darebin City Council Darebin Parklands – 19.7 hectares) which, in many respects, is as accessible to the residents of Ivanhoe as the Banyule portion (8 hectares). When this is considered as well, the people of Ivanhoe actually have access to approximately 11.88 hectares per 1000 residents

The majority of the residents of Ivanhoe are also within a relatively short riding distance, and in many instances walking distance, of major shared trails: ie the Main Yarra Trail and the Darebin Creek Trail. Both of these trails in turn provide access to major parcels of regional level public open space. Both the Yarra Flats and Westerfolds Metropolitan Parks, as well as the significant “municipal” level parks of Banyule Flats and Warringal Parklands are directly connected to Ivanhoe by the Main Yarra Trail. The regionally significant Bundoora Park and major sporting facilities, such as those at John Cain Reserve in Northcote and Cyril Cummins Reserve in Bellfield are also directly linked to Ivanhoe by the Darebin Creek Trail. The Donaldson’s Creek Trail plays an important neighbourhood level role by providing connection and access to a string of local parks within Ivanhoe. The location of the Donaldson’s Creek Trail also means that it is well positioned to service the proposed Ivanhoe Activity Centre.

- Quality

The quality of public open space in the Ivanhoe precinct is generally of a very high standard and includes some extraordinary bushland areas along the Yarra River corridor, including Wilson Reserve. By contrast, it also includes the high quality sporting reserves of Chelsworth Park, Ivanhoe Park and the Ivanhoe public Golf Course. These areas generally serve a “municipal” level public open space function, rather than just a “neighbourhood” function.

There are some residential areas though, particularly around the Ivanhoe Activity Centre, which have limited access to local neighbourhood parks. To the west of the railway line in particular, this access to public open space could be improved simply through good information and directional, “way finding” signage, and in some cases relatively minor physical works or modifications, as well as more park infrastructure to cater to a broader spectrum of the population. This is something that should be given priority consideration during the preparation of the Ivanhoe Structure Plan, particularly if high density development is to occur in future, in and around the Activity Centre. Easily accessible quality public open space will be an important factor in determining public health and wellbeing of local residents and of the community generally, particularly in higher density areas, where there is likely to be limited private open space available.

However the residential area to the east of the railway line is a little more problematic in that the only public open space within this area is occupied by a bowling club and a tennis club. Ivanhoe Park, whilst technically outside the Ivanhoe Precinct, is actually quite close by and could perform as a neighbourhood park for this part of Ivanhoe. However the fact that it is on the south side of Lower Heidelberg Road does detract from its value as a neighbourhood park for the residents to the north of the road.

The concentric circles on the map below indicate the 400 and 500 metre radii marks from the parks closest to the Ivanhoe Activity Centre. A benchmark or planning guide used for public open space is to have a local neighbourhood park within 500 metres of any residential address wherever possible (Council's Public Open Space Strategy 1997). 400 metres is the distance suggested by the Melbourne 2030 Strategy as equating roughly to 5 minutes walking distance.

Generally the Ivanhoe Activity Centre area to the west of the railway line meets these standard public open space benchmarks. This is particularly so when the proximity of Darebin Parklands is considered. However, as indicated above the activity centre area to the east of the railway line is more problematic.

An analysis of the areas within the concentric circles on the map below, indicate that:

- there are currently 235 residential addresses within 500 metres of the Abercorn Ave entrance to the Darebin Parklands.
- 533 residential addresses within 500 metres of the Rockbeare Grove entrance of Darebin Parklands
- 859 residential addresses within 500 metres of Nellie Abbott Reserve and the Livingstone Street entrance to the Donaldson's Creek Trail.
- 347 residential within the Ivanhoe Activity Centre (east of the railway line) within 500 metres of Ivanhoe Park
- There are no residential addresses within the proposed Ivanhoe Activity Centre within 500 metres of Chelsworth Park/Wilsons Reserve.

NB. Whilst Chelsworth Park/Wilsons Reserve are too far from the proposed Ivanhoe Activity Centre to serve a neighbourhood park function, they will serve a valuable "municipal" level park function for the area.

Whilst the Darebin Parklands is well located to serve a "neighbourhood" park function for sections of the proposed Activity Centre, it will also serve the whole area well as a regional level park. However the parklands will require further facilities, particularly near to the Abercorn Avenue and Rockbeare Grove entrances for it to adequately serve a "neighbourhood" park function.

(b) Non-Park, Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

- quantity and quality

There are very limited informal public gathering places/community spaces in the Ivanhoe area. The one exception is possibly the small plaza/forecourt out side the Ivanhoe Library. However even this is of dubious quality and does not attract many users.

Easy access to attractive public places which people can enjoy sharing and meeting in is an important ingredient to public health and wellbeing and for a vibrant well connected community. The provision of accessible and inviting public gathering places/community spaces should therefore also be a major consideration during the development and preparation of the Ivanhoe Activity Centre Plan.

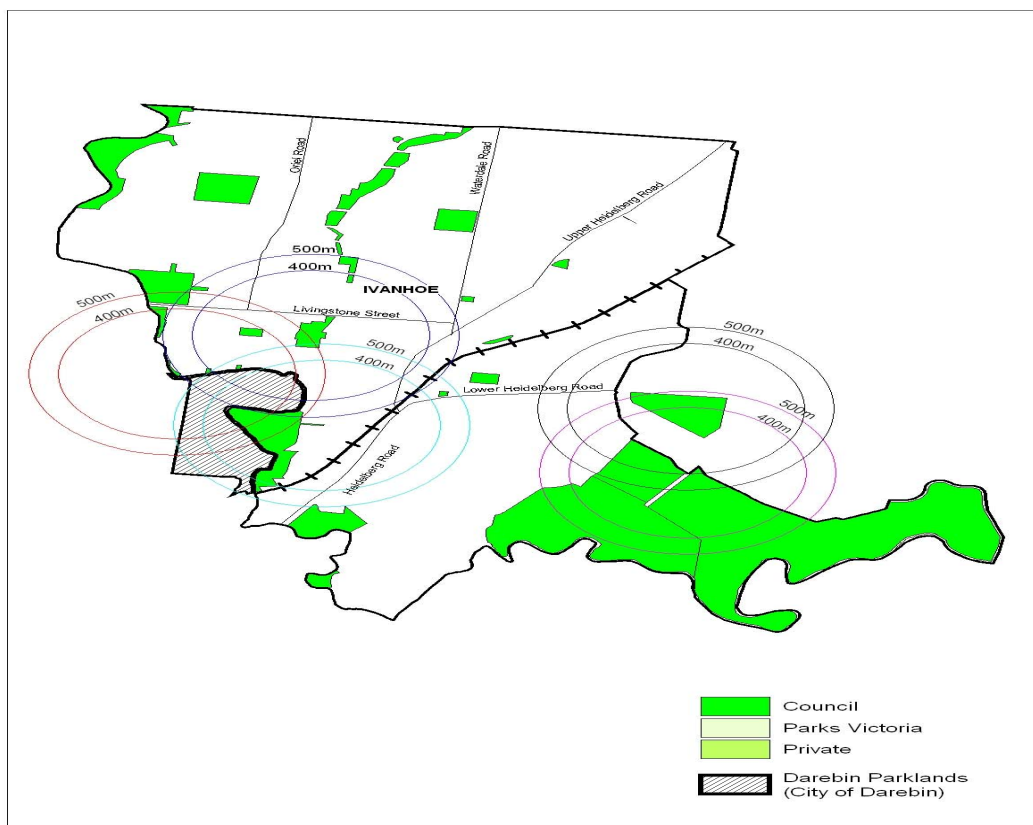
Whilst there appears to be a lack of other suitable Council owned land in the precinct to increase public open space to any significant degree, there are a number potential strategies that could be developed that will assist, such as:

(a) Place greater emphasis on the public domain generally as a place where people can “meet, greet and gather” within an urban environment. Such areas would need to be landscaped to create enhanced streetscapes and integrated informal meeting spaces. This concept is underpinned by the notion that a safer and pedestrian focused public realm is required. There would be value, in improving the pedestrian environment within the activity centre areas being developed by Banyule to support more pedestrian friendly public realms in these urban areas. This would greatly compliment the neighbourhood public open space in this area.

(b) Provide for the protection for existing small civic space in front of the Ivanhoe Library, though effective landscaping and urban design and improvements to its user friendliness generally.

(c) Enable the creation of new small civic spaces within in other locations, particularly along Upper Heidelberg Road, within the commercial and civic areas. These spaces could be established as land development occurs.

Public Open Space - Ivanhoe



Summary of Current Demographics and Projections

Ivanhoe

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	634	6.0%	561	5.0%	-73	-11.5%

5-11	963	9.0%	781	7.0%	-182	-18.9%
12-17	796	7.5%	711	6.4%	-85	-10.7%
18-24	1,087	10.2%	987	8.9%	-100	-9.2%
25-49	4,029	37.8%	3,920	35.2%	-109	-2.7%
50-69	1,887	17.7%	2,802	25.1%	916	48.5%
70 and over	1,249	11.7%	1,384	12.4%	135	10.8%
<i>Total</i>	10,645		11,146		501	4.7%

The demographic projections for the Ivanhoe precinct are for an increase in order of about 5% over the next ten years. Virtually all of this increase is expected to occur in the 50-69 and over 70's cohorts. The level of disability in a particular community has a direct correlation to age; ie. the greater the number of older people in a community, the high the incidence of disability. Therefore highly accessible public open space and community gathering places and community spaces will be vital in Ivanhoe in the coming decade.

However the above demographic projections don't account for the likely impacts of Melbourne 2030, the Ivanhoe Activity Centre Plan and the potential increases in population and population density with in the Activity Centre. Therefore allowance should be made not only for a larger population increase than current tends predict, but also the likelihood of increases in some of the younger cohorts. The planning of public open space and community spaces as well as decisions around the types of facilities provided in them need to consider these demographic realities.

Housing Development Trends

In line with the Melbourne wide trend, there is a steadily increasing amount of medium density development occurring in the lower density residential areas of Ivanhoe, with dual occupancy and unit developments a regular occurrence. Given current State legislation and the Banyule Planning Scheme, this trend is likely to continue. Further there is the strong possibility that a significant amount of high density residential development will occur within the designated Ivanhoe Activity Centre.

Neighbourhood Character

From a neighbourhood character perspective all areas within Ivanhoe are classified as "Garden Suburban." The general characteristics of this neighbourhood character type are; *"spacious, leafy character in generally formal street settings, with space around and between dwellings, a relatively wide and open street space, and garden style vegetation, often mature and exotic, in both the private and public domain, creating an attractive, tree-dominated landscape setting in some streets."*

Any future open space developments or improvements where ever possible should be in keeping with this character type.

Open Space Issues

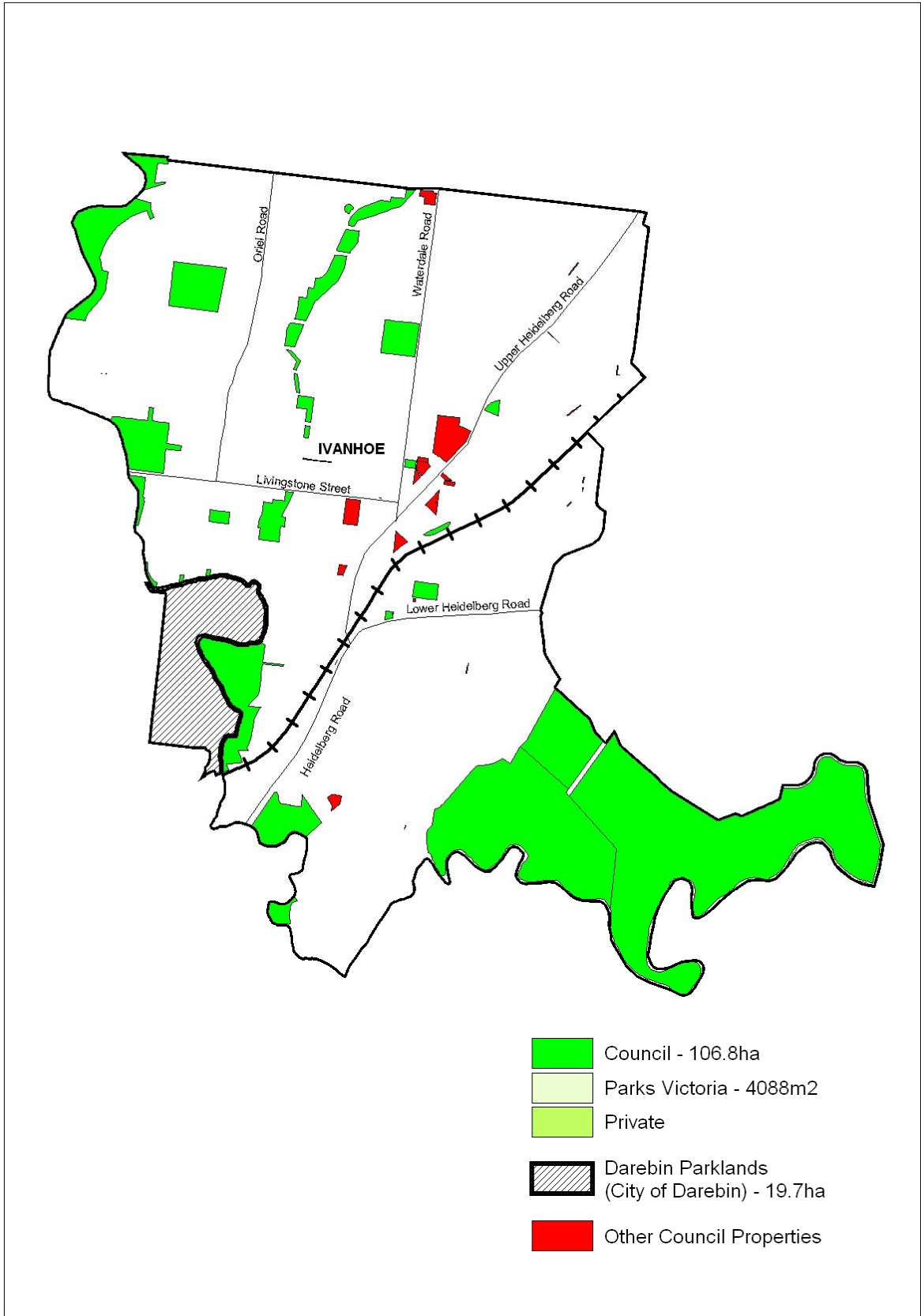
- One of the key issues and/or challenges facing Ivanhoe during the next decade is to be able to guarantee easy access to quality neighbourhood level public open space, together with the provision of appropriate and functional public gathering places/community spaces, particularly for the higher density areas likely to result from the Melbourne 2030 Strategy and the Ivanhoe Activity Centre Plan. In particular, appropriate access will need to be provided for older people, many of whom, through the natural ageing process, are likely to developed significant physical disabilities during the coming decade.

- The need to increase and improve facilities in parks in the vicinity of the Ivanhoe Activity Centre so that they are able to better cater for the likely increase in population density of the Centre. These facilities need to be diverse in nature, as they will not only need to cater for the significant aging population of Ivanhoe, but also for younger families who are likely to move into the area as the properties of older residents change hands and a new younger population mix is generated by developments associated with the Ivanhoe Activity Centre.
- With the likely increase in population density around the activity centre area, the need to increase the quantity and improve the quality of community spaces and public gather places (of the non park variety) in key areas such as in the Upper Heidelberg Road civic and commercial precincts is an issue that will need to be addressed. For example the use of building forecourts, kerb side extensions, etc combined with landscaping, seating, shade, public art, etc can compliment and support (but not replace) the function of more traditional “green” public open space.
- Seddon Reserve and Ford Park are under utilised.
- The Darebin Parklands requires a masterplan.
- Any building developments interfacing with the Darebin Creek corridor need to be designed and located in ways that will minimize environmental and visual impact.
- The extension of the Darebin Creek Trail to the Main Yarra Trail is a significant regional project and should be treated as a high priority.
- Strategies need to be developed to maximise access to existing parks in the area of the Ivanhoe Activity Centre to ensure that the proposed higher density areas have an adequate neighbourhood park service; eg provision of high standard “way finding” signage, the removal of physical barriers, etc
- Consideration needs to be given to providing a new northern access point into the Darebin Parklands along Donaldson’s Creek
- The section of the Activity Centre to the east of the railway line has restricted access to passive neighbourhood level public open space. Strategies will need to be identified to help address this issue.
- Access to the Darebin Parklands from Rockbeare Grove needs improving.
- Appropriate facilities are required in the Darebin Parklands near the Rockbeare Grove and Abercorn Avenue entrances to enable it to provide a genuine neighbourhood park function for the nearby residents of Ivanhoe.
- To help maintain Ivanhoe’s “Garden Suburban” character, public open space and community spaces (community gathering places) should be planned and developed in a way that is consistent with that style.
- Unauthorised intrusion onto the Ivanhoe Golf Course by the activities of residents of adjoining properties is an issue that needs to be addressed.

- There is potential to develop a water retention/harvesting facility in partnership with Melbourne Water in the Ivanhoe Golf Course/Chelsworth Park area to improve the quality of water flowing into the Yarra River and for re-use on sporting fields.
-

Recommendations

1. That in preparing the Ivanhoe Activity Centre Plan, priority be given to ensuring that current and future residents of the Activity Centre area have easy access to quality neighbourhood level parks and public gathering places/community spaces (non park spaces).
2. Review the funding and management arrangements for the Darebin Parklands.
3. That the “open space issues” identified above be addressed as a priority.



Precinct/Suburb: **Lower Plenty**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

8.5 hectares (Council)

96.6 hectares Parks Victoria

64.7 hectares private (Heidelberg and Rosanna Golf Clubs)

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

Even when considering Council owned public open space in Lower Plenty residents have access to approximately 2.4 hectares of public open space per 1000 people. This is almost two and half times greater than the standard quantitative benchmark for public open space. However there are also a number of large tracts of Parks Victoria managed public open space in Lower Plenty, which form part of the Yarra Valley Regional Park, as well as two private golf courses. Another important consideration is that over half of the area of Lower Plenty is made up of land either classified as *Low Density Residential* or *Rural Conservation* zones, both of which have high levels of private open space. This tends to diminish the need for public open space.

The residents of Lower Plenty also have direct access to the Plenty River Trail and the Main Yarra Trail and as a consequence also to the broader Metropolitan Trails Network and to other major metropolitan parks in the Yarra Valley Regional Parks System.

(b) Non-Park, Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

There are no non-park related community meeting spaces in Lower Plenty. However there is potential for good quality community gathering spaces of this type to be developed in neighbouring Montmorency, namely in the Were Street commercial precinct.

Summary of current demographics and demographic projections

The population of Lower Plenty is forecast to decline slightly over the new 10 years. More significantly however, it is also projected to age significantly, with all age groupings below 50 years of age predicted to reduce in numbers whilst the 50 to 69 and the 70 and over cohorts are expected to increase significantly.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
		%		%	No.	%
0-4	177	5.0%	130	3.7%	-46	-26.2%
5-11	304	8.7%	265	7.6%	-39	-12.8%
12-17	288	8.2%	280	8.0%	-9	-3.0%
18-24	377	10.7%	296	8.5%	-81	-21.5%
25-49	1,244	35.4%	1,108	31.8%	-136	-10.9%
50-69	822	23.4%	882	25.3%	60	7.3%
70 and over	301	8.6%	524	15.0%	223	74.2%
Total	3,513		3,485		-28	-0.8%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on the more suburban areas of Lower Plenty; ie from Old Eltham Road north. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

In the semi rural area; ie to the south of Old Eltham Road, there are tight restrictions on future development. Therefore the residential density of this area is unlikely to change to any great extent over the coming decade.

Neighbourhood Character

The majority of Lower Plenty; ie everything south of Old Eltham Road, is classified as “Bush Woodland” in character. This means that these areas generally; *“retain much of their rural, undeveloped character, with significant indigenous vegetation, a farmland landscape character; meandering or straight country roads without made kerbs, and various dwelling styles.”*

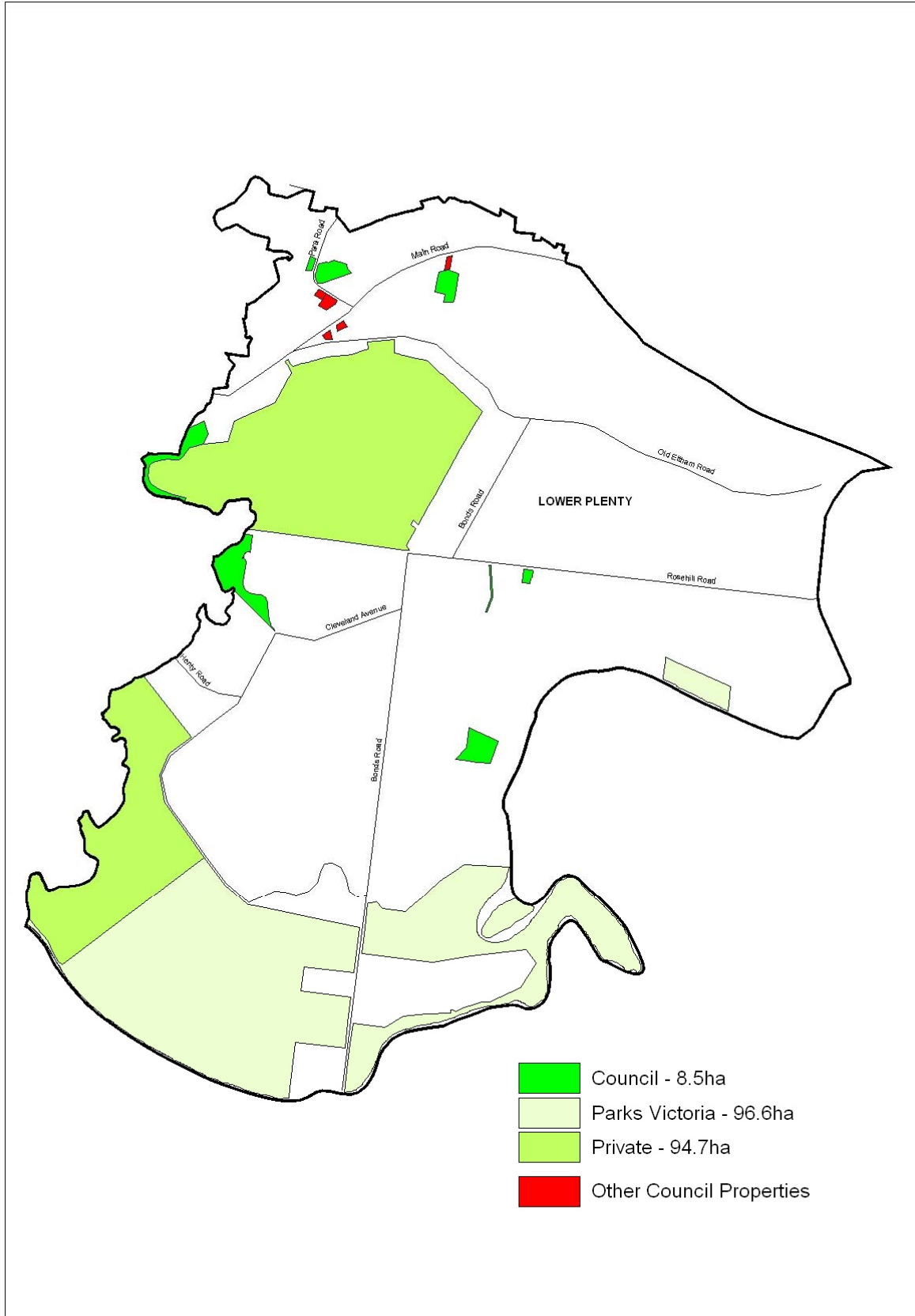
The balance of Lower Plenty; ie the more densely populated areas to the north of Old Eltham Road, are classified as “Bush Garden.” Areas described in this way generally consist of; *“stands of substantial native trees providing the backdrop for the mainly post war detached dwellings in their mature garden settings.”*

Open Space Issues

- The need to control vermin in both private and public open space in co-operation with residents and Parks Victoria; ie in particular rabbits and foxes.
- The need to improve river corridor habitat and weed management
- The need to protect the river corridors from inappropriate development.

Recommendations

That the above issues be systematically addressed through negotiations and on-going co-ordination with Parks Victoria and residents.



Precinct/Suburb name: **Macleod**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

14.3 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(c) Access to parks and reserves

- Quantity

Macleod meets the standard quantitative benchmark for public open space of 1 hectare per 1000 people comfortably. There are in fact 1.97 hectares of public open space within Macleod for every 1000 residents. Residents of Macleod also have reasonably easy access to other significant public open spaces, including the Rosanna Parklands in neighbouring Rosanna, parklands within the adjacent Springthorpe and the nearby Creswell Forest/Latrobe University Wild Life Reserves (City of Darebin).

- Quality

Macleod generally has a good mix of reasonably good quality active sporting fields, such as Macleod Park and Windsor Reserve, passive areas, such as Macleod Common, adjacent to the Macleod shopping precinct, as well as significant environmental reserves, such as Harry Pottage Reserve.

(d) Non-Park, Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

- Quantity

The main community gathering place in Macleod is the Macleod Village commercial precinct.

- Quality

The Macleod Village commercial precinct, with its recently enhanced streetscape, including improved public street furniture, complimented by on pavement café furniture, has considerable potential as a viable community gathering space. The fact that the Macleod Common Reserve is adjacent to the commercial precinct has created a good quality multi dimensional community space, with considerable further potential for enhancement.

Summary of current demographics and demographic projections

The demographic projections for Macleod indicate that the population is expected to increase by approximately 9% over the next 10 years. The population estimates also suggest that the greatest increases in population will occur in the 50 to 69 and 70 and over cohorts and that nearly all other cohorts, with the exception of the 18 to 24 years grouping will decrease. This suggests that by and large, that the Macleod is expected to steadily age over the next decade.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
		%		%	No.	%
0-4	397	5.5%	410	5.2%	13	3.3%
5-11	533	7.3%	502	6.4%	-31	-5.8%
12-17	530	7.3%	434	5.5%	-95	-18.0%
18-24	669	9.2%	858	10.9%	189	28.3%
25-49	2,613	36.0%	2,510	31.8%	-102	-3.9%
50-69	1,471	20.3%	1,793	22.7%	322	21.9%
70 and over	1,041	14.4%	1,385	17.6%	344	33.0%
Total	7,253		7,892		640	8.8%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on Macleod. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

Neighbourhood Character

There are three areas within Macleod which have distinctively different neighbourhood characters, as described below:

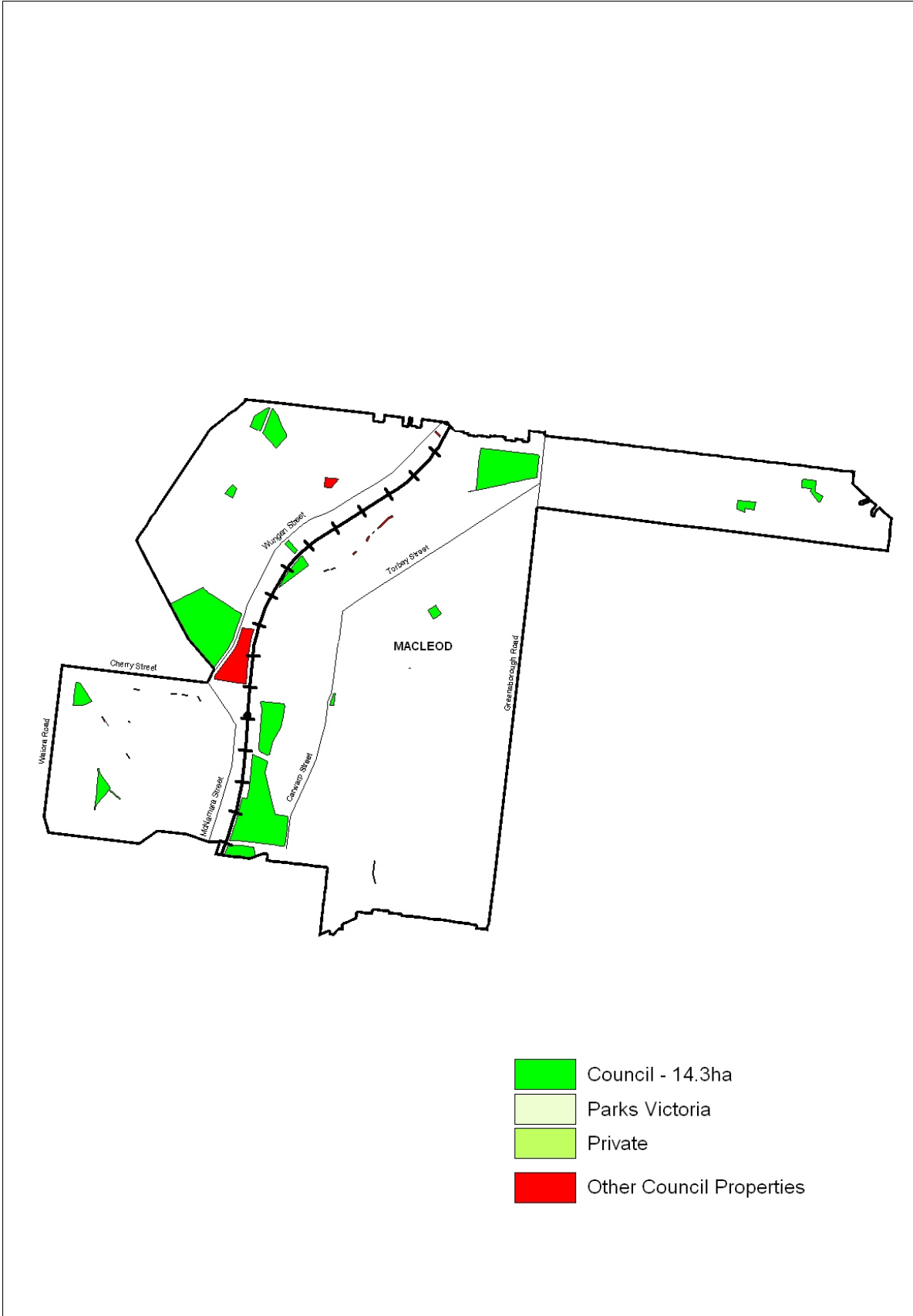
The area known as the Victoria Cross Estate; ie the area bounded by Waiora Road to the west, the railway to the east, Cherry Street to the north and Ruthven Street to the south is classified as “Bush Garden” Areas classified in this way generally consist of; *stands of substantial native trees provide the backdrop for the mainly post war detached dwellings in their mature garden settings.*”

The area west of the railway, and between Cherry Street in the south and Wattle Drive to the north is classified as “Garden Court” Areas classified in this way generally consist of a; *“curvilinear and cul-de-sac street pattern, low scale, generally brick dwellings dominated by a low-pitched tile roof, set in spacious, often informal garden settings, with a mix of native and exotic plantings.”*

The areas of Macleod to the east of the railway are classified as “Garden Suburban.” Areas described in this way are of a; *“spacious, leafy character in generally formal street settings, with space around and between dwellings, a relatively wide and open street space, and garden style vegetation, often mature and exotic, in both the private and public domain, creating an attractive, tree-dominated landscape setting in some streets.”*

Recommendations

- Build upon and further strengthen the Macleod Village commercial precinct/Macleod Common Reserve as a multi dimensional community gathering place.
- Further strengthen formal pedestrian and cycling links between the Macleod Common and Rosanna Parklands, in accordance with the Masterplan for Rosanna Parklands and Macleod Park
- As Macleod is an ageing community, it is important that all parks and community gathering places, as a priority:
 - (a) be made fully accessible and that
 - (b) that infrastructure is provided in them which is appropriate for this demographic.
- Continue to manage the important vegetation in the Cherry Street Grasslands and Harry Pottage Reserve in partnership with the Darebin City Council.



Precinct/Suburb: **Montmorency**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

13.7 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

From a quantity perspective Montmorency is well catered for with public open space. It has over 13 hectares of local and municipal level parks, as well as direct access to a further 59.2 hectares of parklands along the Plenty River Corridor. This effectively means that the residents of Montmorency have access to 8.16 hectares per 1000 residents, which is significantly above the standard quantitative benchmark of 1 hectare per 1000 people. Montmorency also has direct access to the Plenty River Trail which in turn is connected to the Main Yarra Trail and consequently the broader Metropolitan Trails Network.

(b) Non-Park, Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

In Montmorency there is the potentially significant non park related community meeting places in the Were Street commercial precinct.

Summary of current demographics and projections

The population of Montmorency is expected to grow by approximately 5% by the year 2016. However the projections indicate that the Montmorency community will also age during this period to the extent that one third of the population will be 50 years or over by 2016.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	564	6.3%	483	5.2%	-81	-14.4%
5-11	825	9.2%	701	7.5%	-124	-15.1%
12-17	841	9.4%	679	7.2%	-162	-19.2%
18-24	912	10.2%	898	9.6%	-14	-1.5%
25-49	3,425	38.4%	3,437	36.7%	12	0.3%
50-69	1,747	19.6%	2,305	24.6%	559	32.0%
70 and over	616	6.9%	869	9.3%	253	41.1%
<i>Total</i>	8,930		9,373		442	5.0%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on Montmorency. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

Neighbourhood Character

The dominant neighbourhood character for almost all of Montmorency is described as “Bush Garden.” Areas classified as “bush garden” generally consist of: *“stands of substantial native trees provide the backdrop for the mainly post war detached dwellings in their mature garden settings.”*

However there is also a small enclave within Montmorency which is classified as “Semi Bush” This enclave is the area bounded by Grand Boulevard, Main Road and

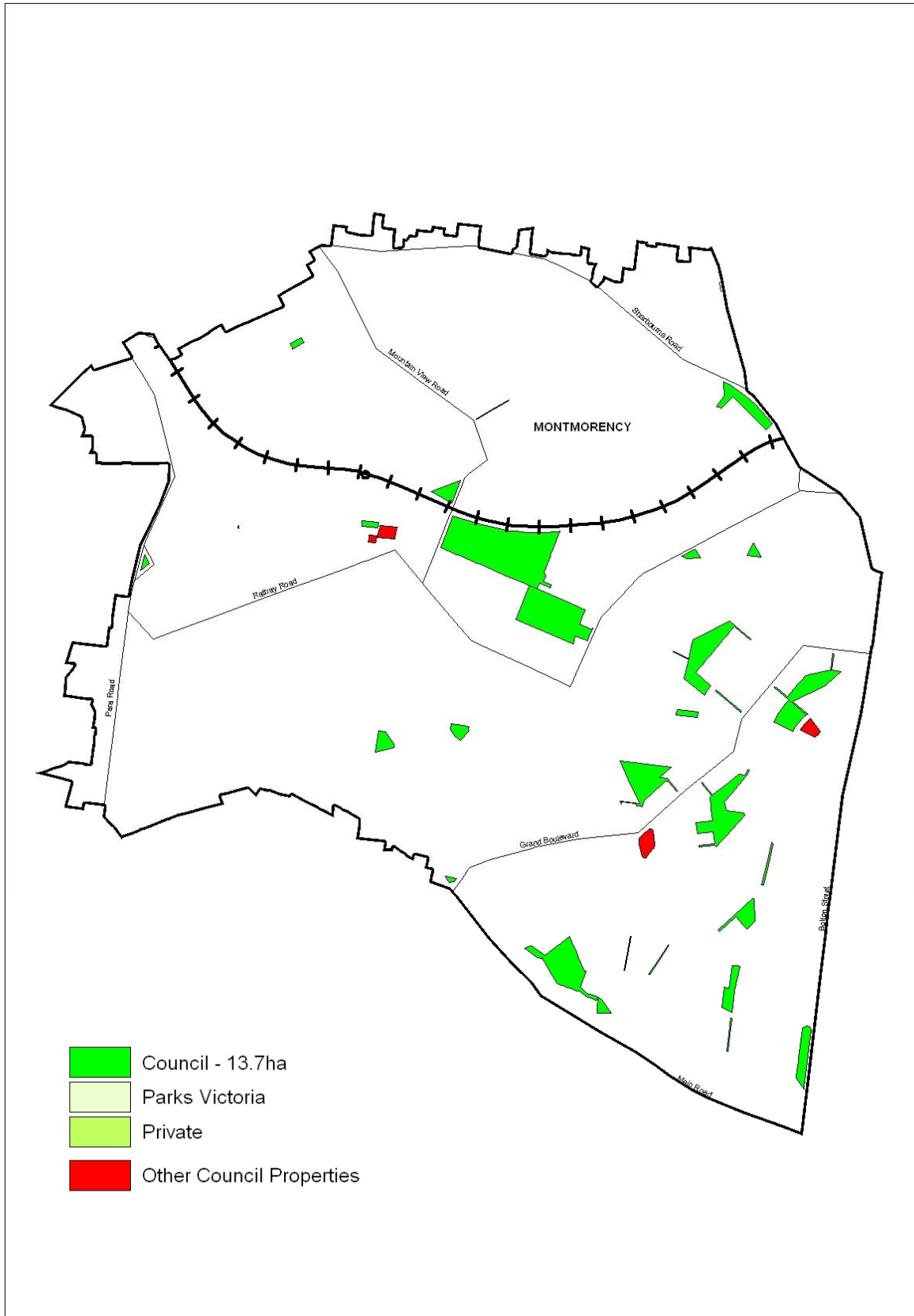
Bolton Street. Areas classified as “semi bush” are generally; “*representative of the highly valued native vegetation-dominated residential environments found in some of the hillier north eastern and eastern parts of the metropolitan area, epitomised in the popular imagination by ‘Eltham’ or ‘Bellbird’.* These areas are becoming scarcer as they succumb to vegetation clearance and more intense development.”

Open Space Issues

- Infrastructure in many of the neighbourhood (local) parks needs to be upgraded and expanded. Much of the park infrastructure is old.
- Access between two of the area’s major parks, Petrie Park and Ratray Reserve, is currently blocked by one residential property. Consideration should be given to placing a compulsory acquisition overlay on that property.
- A number of reasonably substantial parks in Montmorency have limited access to them and are not well situated in terms of natural surveillance, as they are largely “landlocked” between the rear fences of surrounding residential properties; eg the reserves off Belmont Crescent, Olympic Avenue, Pedersen Way, etc. In order to address this issue Council will need to explore opportunities to acquire some private land to make them more open to the public.
- The community meeting spaces in the Were Street commercial precinct require further on-going enhancement to improve their viability as community gathering spaces.
- Up-grade the Plenty River Trail between Lower Plenty Road and Willinda Park.
- There is a need to review opportunities for improving open space in this precinct.
- The need to manage bush land, which is included in public open space throughout this precinct, for its conservation values, as well as for recreation.
- Lilies, orchids and other indigenous plants in Montmorency bush land reserves (Wooded Way, Belmont Reserve, Ratray Reserve, etc) should continue to be protected

Recommendations

That the open space issues identified above be addressed.



Precinct/Suburb: **Rosanna**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

29.7 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

- Quantity

The quantity of public open space in Rosanna is comfortably above the standard quantitative benchmark of 1 hectare per 1000 residents; ie 3.92 hectares per 1000 people.

- Quality

Rosanna Parklands, which forms a major part of the public open space in Rosanna, is a large and important informal recreation reserve and is highly regarded and well used by many residents from Rosanna and from further abroad. The Creek Bend Reserve section of the Banyule Shared Trail is Rosanna. This trail also links to the Main Yarra Trail and the Metropolitan Trails Network.

(b) Non-Park, Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

There are currently no non park community gather places in Rosanna, although there is potential for some forming in the commercial precinct, particularly on the eastern side of Beetham Parade and the southern side of Lower Plenty Road through kerb extensions and/or footpath widening, etc together with the provision of community infrastructure, such as seating, street trees, planter boxes, landscaping etc.

Summary of current demographics and projections

The population projections for Rosanna for the next ten years indicate an overall increase of 7.5%. This increase is spread over all age cohorts, with the exception of the 0 to 4 and 70 and over cohorts, both of which show a slight decline. The largest increase is expected to occur in the 50 to 69 age group (8.5%). So community infrastructure, including parks and community gathering spaces will need to cater for a diverse range of age groups.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	379	5.0%	368	4.5%	-11	-2.9%
5-11	571	7.6%	600	7.4%	29	5.0%
12-17	515	6.8%	586	7.2%	71	13.8%
18-24	650	8.6%	736	9.0%	86	13.2%
25-49	2,523	33.3%	2,656	32.7%	134	5.3%
50-69	1,557	20.6%	1,845	22.7%	287	18.5%
70 and over	1,369	18.1%	1,339	16.5%	-31	-2.3%
Total	7,565		8,129		564	7.5%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on Rosanna. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

Local Character

The two major neighbourhood character types which are dominant in Rosanna are “Garden Suburban” and “Bush Garden.” The Elliston Estate is classified as “Bush Garden” and the balance of the suburb is “Garden Suburban.”

Areas classified as *Garden Suburban* tend to have a “spacious, leafy character in generally formal street settings, with space around and between dwellings, a relatively wide and open street space, and garden style vegetation, often mature and exotic, in both the private and public domain, creating an attractive, tree-dominated landscape setting in some streets.”

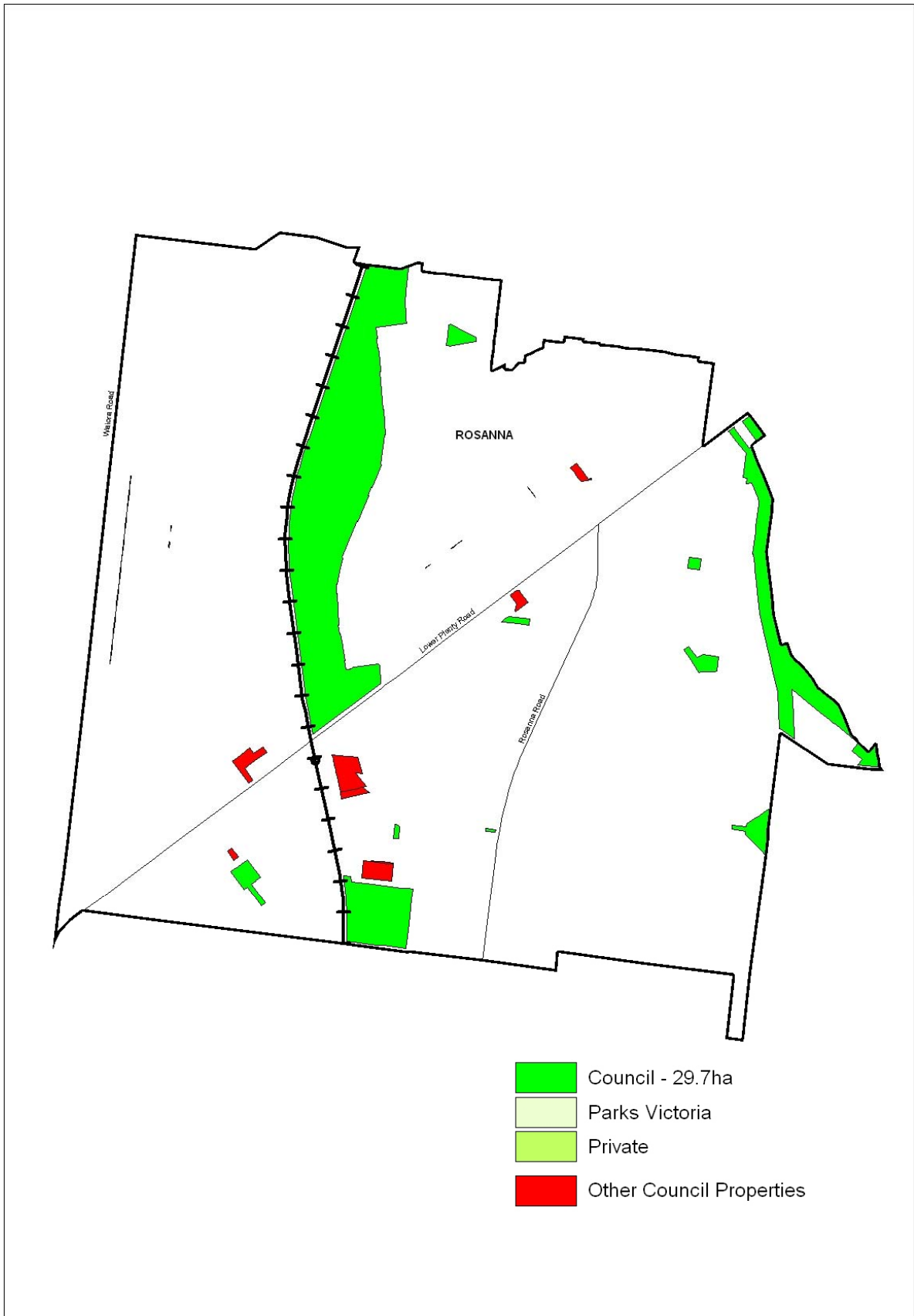
Areas classified as *Bush Garden* tend to “have stands of substantial native trees that provide the backdrop for the mainly post war detached dwellings in their mature garden settings.”

Open Space Issues

- Continue to implement the various stages of the Rosanna Parklands Masterplan.
- There are encroachment issues in Creek Bend Reserve that need to be addressed.
- There is a need for dog waste bins in Creek Bend Reserve.
- The need to address the lack of non park community spaces in Rosanna. There will be an opportunity to address this issue during the development of the Rosanna Neighbourhood Activity Centre Plan.
- The area’s demographic projections for the next decade have implications for both park and non-park community spaces and infrastructure, as follow:
 - (a) The over all population of Rosanna is expected to increase by about 7.5%
 - (b) The population growth is expected to occur across nearly all age groups, which suggests that community infrastructure needs to be provided for a broad cross section of the community
 - (c) There is also a substantial ageing element to Rosanna’s population projections, almost 40% is expected to be 50 years and over by 2016, which offers a challenge to ensure that all public open space and community gathering places include appropriate infrastructure for this demographic and that it is fully accessible.
- The bush land aspects of Rosanna Parklands need to continue to be managed for their conservation values
- The need to continue to work with Melbourne Water in enhancing the health and wellbeing of both Salt Creek and Banyule Creek.

Recommendations

That the open space issues identified above be addressed.



Precinct/Suburb: **View Bank**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

61 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

- Quantity

There are 8.9 hectares of Council owned public open space per 1000 residents within View Bank. This is well above the standard quantitative benchmark of 1 hectare for every 1000 residents. In addition to this there are also 105.7 hectares of Parks Victoria managed public open space. So the people of View Bank are extremely well catered for in terms of public open space.

There are a number of substantial parcels of Council owned public open space in View Bank, including Price Park, View Bank Reserve and Banyule Flats, as well as a range of neighbourhood level parks. There is also a very large amount of State Government owned public open space which is managed by Parks Victoria as well as a significant amount of the privately owned open space (Rosanna Golf Club).

- Quality

The quality of public open space in View Bank is exceptional for an urban area. There is a wide variety of public open space types within View Bank, ranging from active sporting to environmentally significant reserves and from local neighbourhood parks to regional parklands.

(b) Non-Park, Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

There are no community gathering places of this type in View Bank. However there is great potential for viable community spaces of this type to be developed in neighbouring Heidelberg as part of the Heidelberg Activity Centre Plan.

Summary of current demographics and projections

The demographic projections for View Bank suggest the overall population will decline by about 6% by 2016. All cohorts except the 70 and over age group are expected to decline during this period.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	386	5.6%	314	4.9%	-73	-18.8%
5-11	600	8.8%	483	7.5%	-117	-19.5%
12-17	535	7.8%	442	6.9%	-93	-17.4%
18-24	664	9.7%	574	8.9%	-90	-13.6%
25-49	2,380	34.7%	2,143	33.4%	-237	-10.0%
50-69	1,784	26.0%	1,483	23.1%	-301	-16.9%
70 and over	503	7.3%	979	15.3%	476	94.5%
Total	6,852		6,417		-435	-6.3%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on View Bank. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

Neighbourhood Character

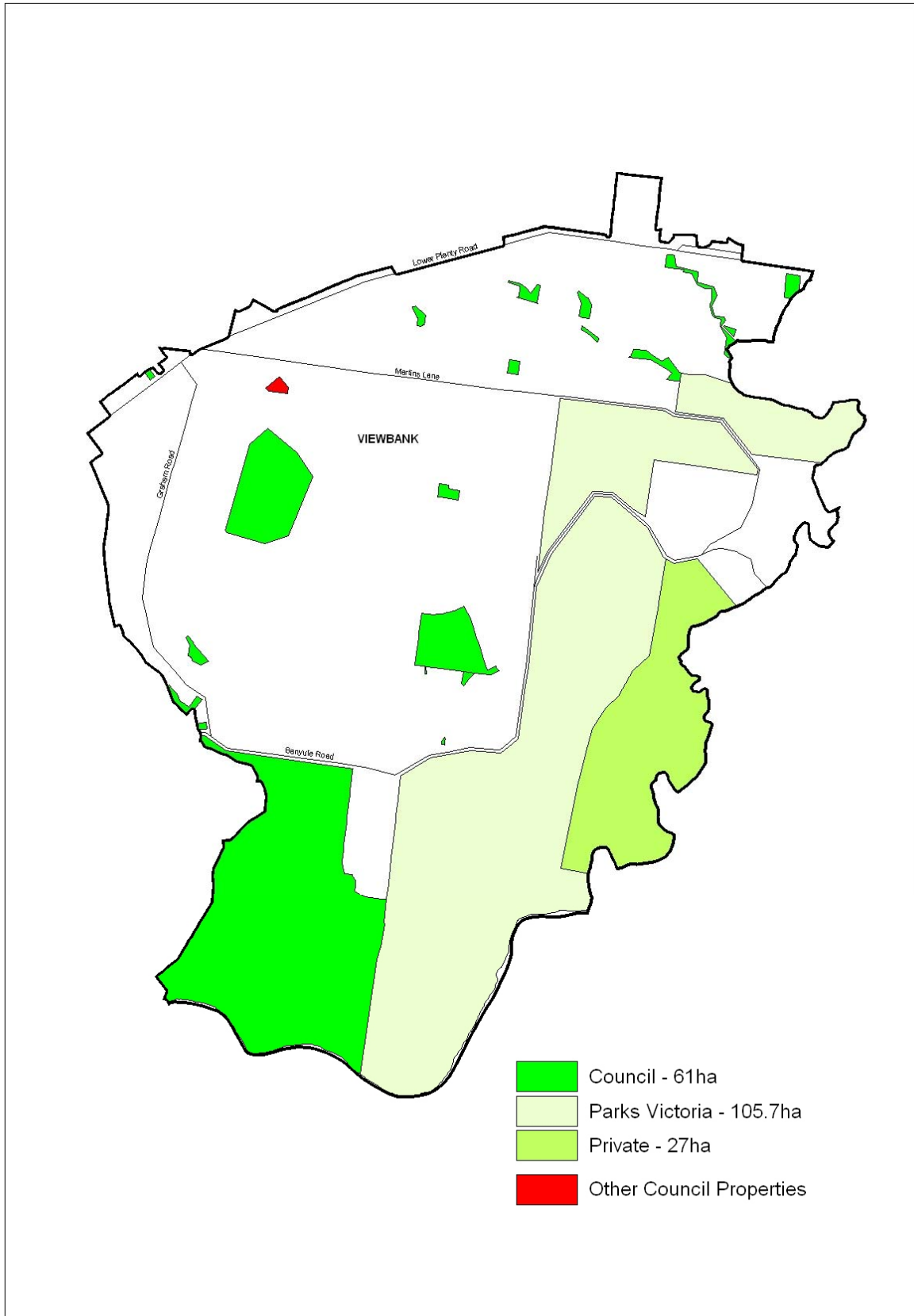
The dominant neighbourhood character of View Bank is “Garden Court.” Areas described in this way have curvilinear and cul-de-sac street patterns, low scale, generally brick dwellings dominated by a low-pitched tile roof, set in spacious, often informal garden settings, with a mix of native and exotic plantings.

Open Space Issues

- The playing surface of View Bank Reserve is sub-standard
- There is a lack of basic community facilities at View Bank Reserve such as seating, shelter, drinking fountains, etc
- Price Park has the potential to serve the function of a municipal park, but is presently playing largely a local neighbourhood role. However, to play an expanded role it would need an infrastructure up-grade. A masterplan should be prepared for this major parcel of public open space.
- Banyule Flats is one of the most significant Reserves in the municipality, possibly the region, yet is largely under utilized. It has both historical and environmental significance. A detailed management plan is required for this national award winning reserve to ensure that its national status can be both built upon and protected.
- There are on-going surface issues with the Main Yarra, particularly in the Banyule Flats area. Options for addressing these issues need to be explored.
- There is on-going community debate about the indirect route of the Main Yarra Trail through Banyule Flats.
- Signage is required to discourage horse riding along the Main Yarra Trail.

Recommendations

- Support Melbourne Water’s plans to treat storm water from the Banyule Creek with additional wetland south of the Banyule Swamp.
- That the open space issues identified be addressed.



Precinct/Suburb name: **Watsonia North**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

13.9 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

There are 3.43 hectares per 1000 residents in Watsonia North, which is well above the standard quantitative benchmark for public open space of 1 hectare per 1000 residents. Watsonia North has an excellent major municipal level reserve in Binnak Park servicing the community. Binnak Park is large, provides active sporting opportunities, as well as several playgrounds, water feature, picnic area, extensive walking paths and a large expanse of semi natural bush parkland. There are also a number of neighbourhood parks within Watsonia North.

(b) Non-park Community gathering places eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

There are no public gathering spaces of this type in Watsonia North.

Summary of current demographics and projections

The population of Watsonia North is expected to age substantially by 2016 and to also decline in overall numbers by approximately 14%. This decline is projected to occur across all age cohorts with the exception of the 70 and over age grouping, which is expected to increase by almost 170%.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	249	6.1%	168	4.8%	-80	-32.4%
5-11	374	9.2%	257	7.4%	-117	-31.3%
12-17	357	8.8%	219	6.3%	-139	-38.8%
18-24	416	10.3%	266	7.6%	-150	-36.0%
25-49	1,469	36.3%	1,245	35.6%	-224	-15.3%
50-69	1,007	24.9%	860	24.6%	-147	-14.6%
70 and over	178	4.4%	478	13.7%	301	169.3%
Total	4,049		3,493		-556	-13.7%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on Watsonia North. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

Neighbourhood Character

“Curvilinear and cul-de-sac street pattern, low scale, generally brick dwellings dominated by a low-pitched tile roof, set in spacious, often informal garden settings, with a mix of native and exotic plantings.”

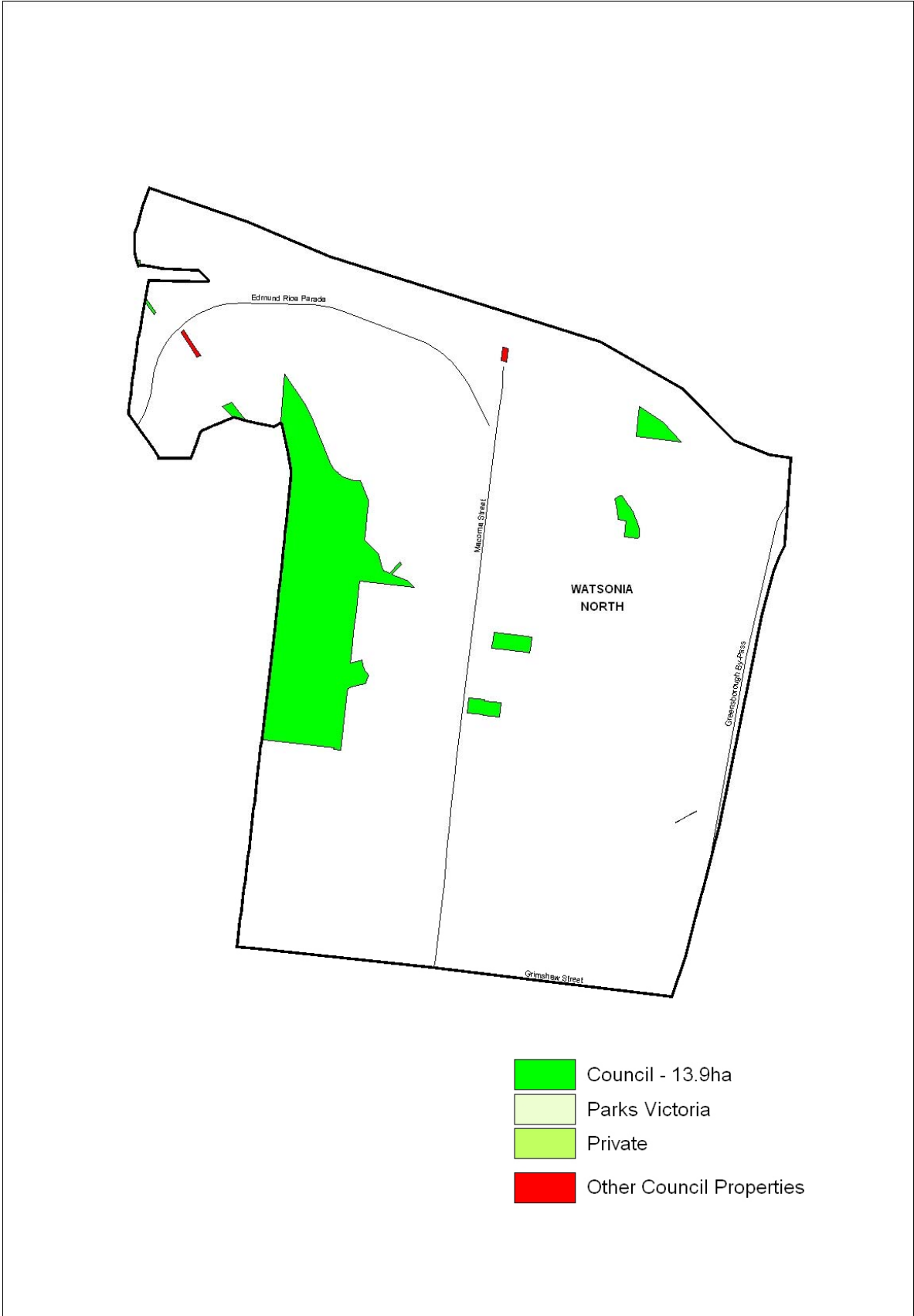
Open Space Issues

- Ageing community

Recommendations

- That as a priority provision needs to be made in parks and reserves in Watsonia North for an ageing community, including infrastructure that is suitable for older members of the community, as well as ensuring the parks and the facilities included within them meet access standards.

- Update masterplan for Binnak Park
- Consider the development of Binnak Park as a significant destination park through the provision of a major playground and related family facilities.
- That the above issues be addressed.



Precinct/Suburb name: **Watsonia**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

20.4 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

There are 3.89 hectares of public open space in Watsonia per 1000 residents, which is well above the standard quantitative benchmark of 1 hectare for every 1000 residents. Watsonia has a range of substantial active sporting reserves, including the Alder Street Reserve, Gabonia Reserve and A K Line Reserve. A major electricity authority easement passes through the heart of Watsonia on an east west axis and acts as important piece of defacto public open space by linking a series of parks and reserves within Watsonia, as well as to those in neighbouring Bundoora and Yallambie.

(b) Non Park Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

There are no community gathering spaces of this type in Watsonia.

Summary of current demographics and projections

The demographic projections of Watsonia indicate that its population in terms of overall numbers remain much the same over the next ten years. However it will age significantly. All age groups are expected to decline in numbers, except the 50 to 69 and 70 and over cohorts, which are both projected to substantially increase.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	344	6.6%	251	4.8%	-92	-26.9%
5-11	499	9.5%	376	7.2%	-123	-24.7%
12-17	345	6.6%	334	6.4%	-11	-3.1%
18-24	436	8.3%	398	7.6%	-38	-8.7%
25-49	1,926	36.7%	1,882	36.1%	-44	-2.3%
50-69	994	19.0%	1,169	22.4%	174	17.5%
70 and over	700	13.3%	802	15.4%	102	14.5%
Total	5,244		5,211		-33	-0.6%

Housing Development Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards “in fill” development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on Watsonia. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

Neighbourhood Character

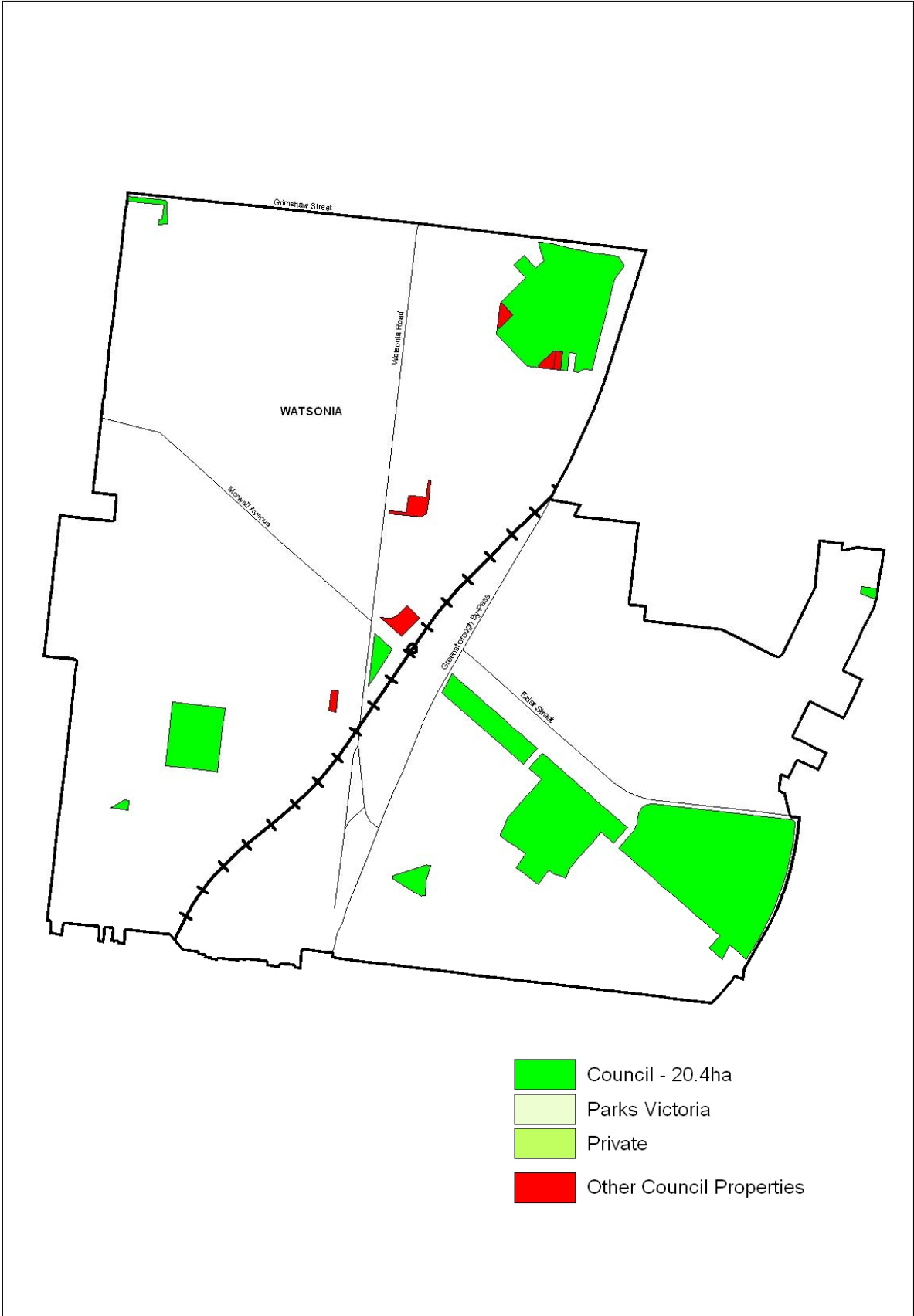
The dominant neighbourhood character of Watsonia is “Garden Suburban.” Typically areas classified in this way are described as having; *“spacious, leafy character in generally formal street settings, with space around and between dwellings, a relatively wide and open street space, and garden style vegetation, often mature and exotic, in both the private and public domain, creating an attractive, tree-dominated landscape setting in some streets.”*

Open Space Issues

- The projected substantial ageing of the Watsonia community over the next decade will have major implications for the types of facilities required in public open space in the area.
- The quality of the playing surfaces and the need for water efficient grasses and more planting generally at Elder Street Reserve.
- The need to protect remaining habitat in Aminya Reserve.
- The need to develop passive recreation opportunities at A K Lyons Reserve.

Recommendations

- That as a priority, provision be made in parks and reserves in Watsonia for an ageing community, including infrastructure that is suitable for older members of the community, as well as ensuring the parks and the facilities included within them to meet access standards.
- Explore opportunities with Melbourne Water for water harvesting at A K Lyons Reserve.



Precinct/Suburb name: **Yallambie**

Amount of Public Open Space (parks and reserves)

17.3 hectares

Comparative level of provision

(a) Access to parks and reserves

There are 4.3 hectares of public open space in Yallambie per 1000 residents, which compares extremely favourably with the standard quantitative benchmark for public open space of 1 hectare per 1000 residents. A major portion of Yallambie is taken up by the Simpson Army Barracks, which despite restrictions on access provides something of a defacto public open space function in that provides a great visual amenity for residents as much of the site has a rustic semi natural bush character. It also has an import role as a haven for native flora and fauna and serves the function of part of a wild life corridor. The eastern boundary of Yallambie also directly connects to the Plenty River Corridor and the Plenty River Trail, which in turn provides access to the Main Yarra Trail and the Melbourne Metropolitan Shared Trails Network.

(b) Non-Park Community gathering places; eg malls, town squares, plazas, etc

There are no community spaces of this type within Yallambie, although there is great potential for quality community gathering spaces in neighbouring Macleod, Montmorency and Greensborough.

Summary of current demographics and projections

The demographic projections of Yallambie for the next ten years indicate that Yallambie is an ageing community, with its population numbers in slight decline in terms of raw numbers; ie a projected reduction in numbers of around 3% by 2016.

All age cohorts are expected to decline, except the 50 to 69 (49.9%) and 70 and over (85.8%) age groups, which are projected to substantially increase. Whilst at the other end of the age spectrum the 0 to 4 and 5 to 11 cohorts are projected to decline by approximately 45% and 35% respectively.

Age group	2001 Estimated		2016 Projected		Difference	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	358	8.9%	196	5.0%	-162	-45.3%
5-11	423	10.5%	274	7.0%	-149	-35.2%
12-17	280	7.0%	256	6.6%	-24	-8.7%
18-24	487	12.1%	473	12.1%	-14	-2.9%
25-49	1,714	42.6%	1,510	38.7%	-204	-11.9%
50-69	590	14.7%	885	22.7%	295	49.9%
70 and over	167	4.2%	311	8.0%	143	85.8%
Total	4,020		3,904		-116	-2.9%

Housing Trends

The growing metropolitan wide trend in suburban housing development towards "in fill" development, on normal suburban residential blocks, ie dual occupancies and multi-unit developments, is impacting on Yallambie. This trend is expected to continue, given current State planning legislation.

Neighbourhood Character

The majority of the suburb of Yallambie is classified as “Garden Court,” except for small section along and to the north of Yallambie Road, which is classified as “Garden Suburban.”

The “Garden Court” classification means that most of Yallambie has a; *“curvilinear and cul-de-sac street pattern, low scale, generally brick dwellings dominated by a low-pitched tile roof, set in spacious, often informal garden settings, with a mix of native and exotic plantings.”*

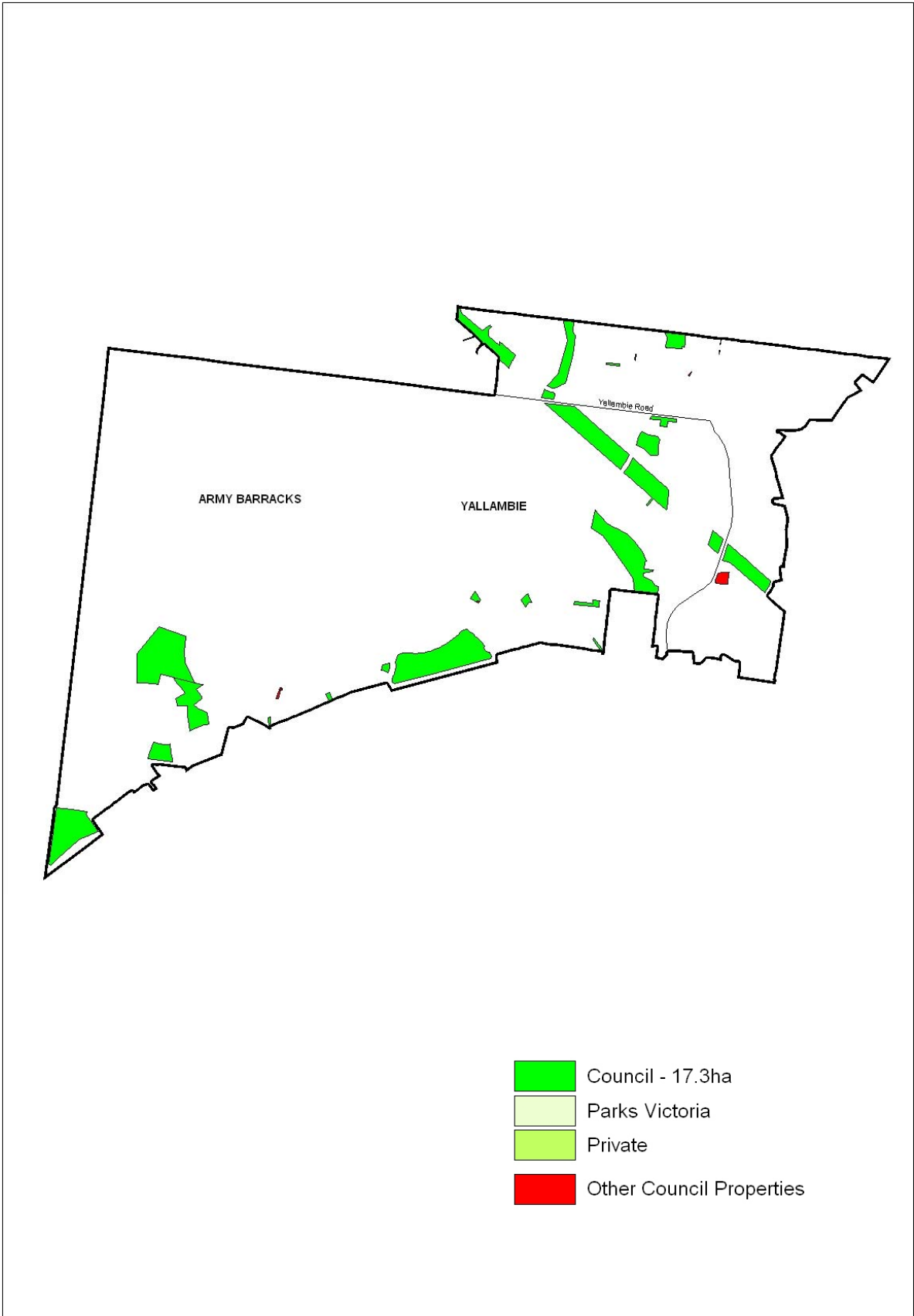
The area along and to the north of Yallambie Road described as “Garden Suburban” is of a; *“spacious, leafy character in generally formal street settings, with space around and between dwellings, a relatively wide and open street space, and garden style vegetation, often mature and exotic, in both the private and public domain, creating an attractive, tree-dominated landscape setting in some streets”.*

Open Space Issues

- “Serrated Tussock’ Grass is present in the northern section of the Streeton Views Estate, on land adjacent to Yallambie Road. This is a highly noxious weed which needs to be eradicated from the area as a priority before it spreads. This issue should be dealt with in conjunction with the Department of Defence.
- There is a lack of park infrastructure in Streamline Reserve (Streeton Views).
- There is a need to focus on making park infrastructure accessible and on providing facilities suitable for older adults, in order to cater for the ageing population of Yallambie.
- The need to recognise the valuable role of the Simpson Army Barracks land plays within Banyule’s wildlife corridor and public open space network.

Recommendations

- Manage areas of natural habitat for their conservation values.
- Construct a sealed path along the power line easement between Yallambie Road and Mool Close, in order to create a better link to the Plenty River Trail.
- Address the open space issues identified as a priority.



Precinct Name: **Plenty River Corridor**

Background

There is a continuous series of Council owned parks and reserves, spanning both side of the Plenty River, between Lower Plenty Road, View Bank/Lower Plenty in the south and Main Road, Greensborough to the north. This entire stretch of river corridor is linked by the Plenty River Trail, which now connects directly to the Main Yarra Trail. There are also numerous access points from the various communities on either side of the River, as well as numerous river crossings. This means that virtually all public open space in this precinct is accessible and it is therefore able to service communities along this reach of the River. The communities that are directly adjacent to and serviced by the parks and reserves of this section of the Plenty River corridor include, Lower Plenty, View Bank, Yallambie, Montmorency, and Greensborough.

Because it is difficult to attribute the open space in this part of the River corridor to any particular community, for the purposes of the Public Open Space Strategy, it has been decided to treat this reach of the river as a separate precinct.

The importance of maintaining and enhancing the environmental aspects of this corridor should not be underestimated.

As the whole precinct is essentially made up of public open space, there are no demographics, neighbourhood character, housing trends specifically associated with this precinct.

There is a mixture of active and passive parks and reserves within this precinct.

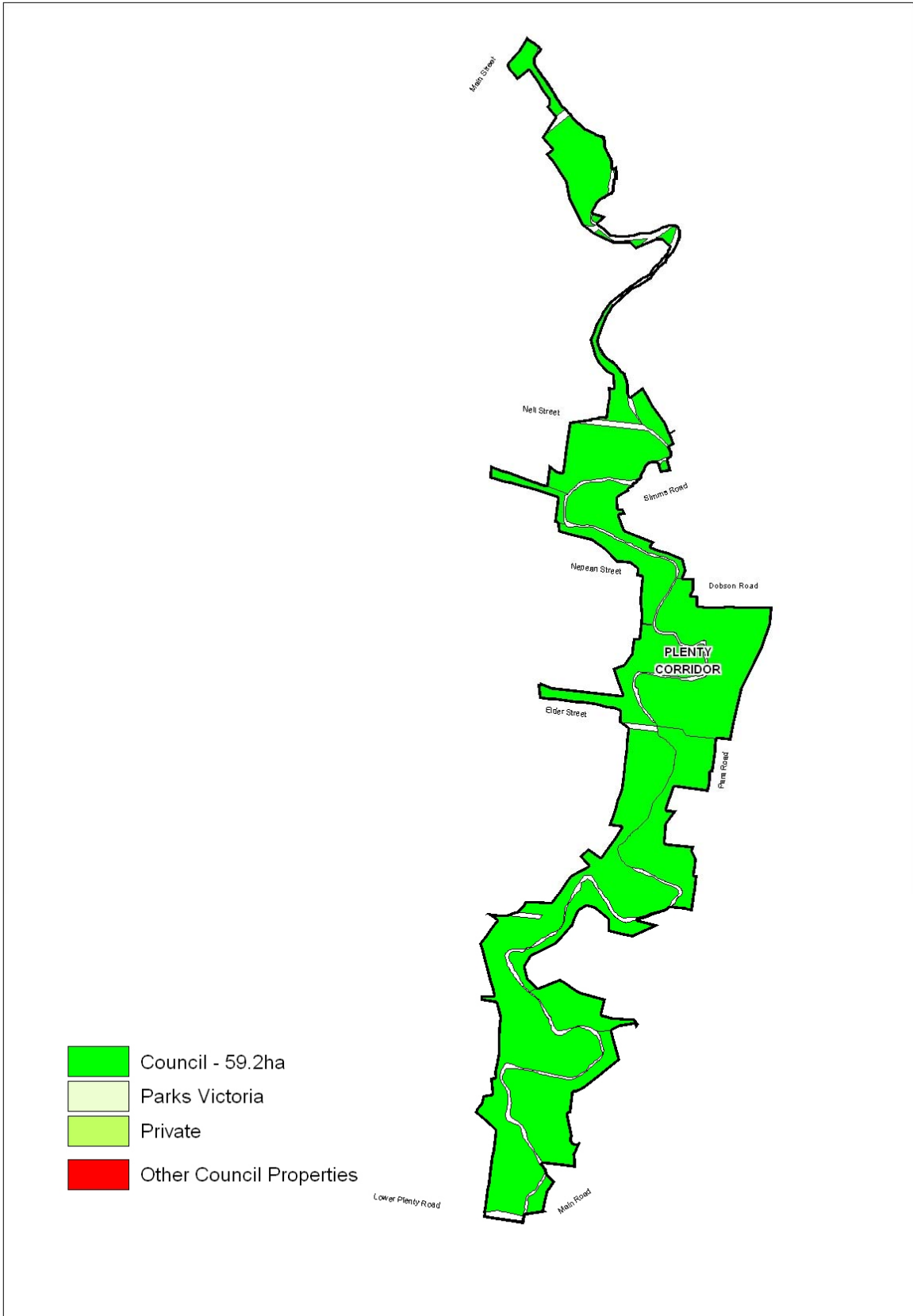
Open Space Issue

- The Plenty River Trail along this section needs up grading, including resurfacing of some sections and re-routing of several sections, cutting or removing vegetation and improving sight lines, particularly in the section between Lower Plenty Road and Willinda Park.
- A number of the sporting ovals need to have their existing grass surfaces replaced with warm climate grasses, to ensure that they can cope with dryer hotter conditions and water restrictions.
- The need for sporting clubs located along the River corridor to carefully manage their litter.
- The potential to baffle lights at sporting grounds in order to minimize light spillage into areas along the river corridor that may affect native fauna adversely needs to be examined.
- The impact of the encroachment of private land owners onto public land along the river corridor needs to be investigated.
- Areas of natural habitat along the river corridor need to be managed for their conservation values.
- The status of the Plenty River as “Melbourne’s third river” (John Batman) needs to be acknowledged
- Much of the existing riverside vegetation needs to be replaced with indigenous vegetation if it is to be restored to its original state.
- There needs to be an education program to raise awareness of residents in the vicinity of the river of the detrimental impact of environmental weeds grown in private gardens
- There is a need for an education program to raise the awareness of residents along the River corridor of the benefits of a curfew on cats at night to protect wildlife.

- Opportunities to create an environmental buffer zone along the River corridor need to be examined.
- There is a need to establish a strategy, in conjunction with Melbourne Water and the Friends of the Plenty River, for the co-ordination of the ongoing management of the river corridor, including weed eradication and re-vegetation.

Recommendations

Address the above issues.



APPENDIX 2

PLANNERS GUIDE

PLANNERS GUIDE

(Guide for the Planning, Acquisition and Disposal of Public Open Space)

1. **CRITERIA for Planning and Development of Public Open Space**

Public open space shall be planned and developed in accordance with the following criteria. This criteria is designed to assist Council to determine how to plan and develop its public open space in order to best serve its many and diverse communities. The criterion fall into a number of key categories:-

1. Relationship to Catchment and other Public Open Space
2. Diversity
3. Viability
4. Quality
5. Design and Development
6. Opportunity

Criterion 1. Relationship to Catchment and Other Public Open Space

It is important to initially determine whether the primary catchment of a parcel of public open space, or potential public open space, is local, municipal, or regional in nature. The diversity of opportunities on offer across the municipality also needs to be a consideration. The following factors influence the relationship public open space has with its catchment and other public open space and should therefore be considered when planning and developing public open space:-

- The extent of catchment
- The specific audience/market to be targeted
- Opportunities already offered in nearby public open space should be examined in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and to enhance diversity and to provide linkages where possible.
- Local public open space
 - generally attracts most of its users from a radius of approximately 500 metres or less; ie walking distance for children and families.
 - in planning local public open space, consideration should be given to the fact that it services smaller numbers of people, but will potentially be used on a more regular basis, but for less time than either municipal or regional level public open space.

- Municipal and regional public open space - key considerations include
 - driving time and public transport access.
 - when planning the development of new facilities, competition in the area from existing facilities in other public open space needs to be taken account of.
 - the size of the market for specialised facilities/uses etc. also needs to be a consideration.
 - consideration needs to be given to the fact that municipal and regional level public open space generally attracts users from further a field than the local precinct, greater numbers of people use them and stays are generally significantly longer than those associated with local public open space.

Criterion 2. Diversity

The effectiveness of recreation facilities and public open space improve through increasing the range of opportunities on a particular site. This will assist in making such sites community focal points, which in turn helps to increase social interaction and improve community safety.

Factors that need to be considered in order to maximise diversity include:

- size, and dimension of public open space,
- range of appropriate opportunities that can be clustered together on the one site
- compatibility of activities
- amount and type of vegetation
- classification - it is important that each parcel of public open space, or potential public open space, be classified appropriately; ie has an identified function, landscape setting type, a catchment defined, etc (refer Appendix 1). This will then help to drive and give direction to, future development and the diversity of the site.

Criterion 3. Viability

In determining the viability of public open space the following should be considered:

- Council's financial resources and expectations
- likely demand for activities, based on the size of the market/participation rate for relevant activities.
- size and population of the catchment intended to be serviced by the public open space.
- matching facilities with the profile and needs of the catchment

- the number and type of facilities that can be realistically provided on a site in order to optimise cost effective maintenance, community use and where appropriate, club development.
- size and dimension of public open space – no land should be acquired, accepted as a developers contribution, or developed for public open space purposes unless it is at least 0.75 hectares in area and at least 70 metres in both length and width. Except when it is adjacent to, or linked with other public open space and together the areas of two parcels of land total 0.75 hectares.
- fewer larger parcels of public open space are preferable to multiple smaller parcels.
- direct links with other parcels of public open space and/or community facilities – public open space is far more effective in serving the community when such links can be established.

Criterion 4. Quality

When determining the quality of Open space the following should be considered:

- the standard and appropriateness of the facilities provided
- the standard and regularity of maintenance that can realistically be sustained
- suitability of the land for public open space; ie appropriate topography, vegetation, drainage, location, etc.
- accessibility - public open space must be accessible in accordance with Council's Community Access and Inclusion Policy.
- safety – public open space must be able to provide a safe environment in accordance with the Safer Design Guidelines.

Criterion 5. Design and Development

- Basic Public Open Space - The core features which should be in public open space, other than that classified for conservation shall generally include:
 - large shady trees or planting for future provision of shady trees
 - an appropriate standard of maintenance (ie to the type and quality of the facilities or landscape features, and community expectations)
 - seating or places to sit
 - paths suitable for walking, cycling, and where specified, equestrian use

- Social/Family Recreation Area - - Core facilities that should be available in at least one park within each precinct should include:
 - green lawns to sit on
 - shelter from the weather
 - toilets
 - play equipment for a range of age groups, including teenagers.
 - BBQ/ picnic area
 - specific accessible facilities designed for people with a disability
 - an off road trail or link to a trail
 - a path system suitable for walking, cycling, wheelchairs, motorised scooters and small-wheeled toys.
 - drinking fountain
- Conservation significance and habitat value – This is a critical criterion, for if the public open has conservation significance and habitat value, then this will dictate its primary use.
- Where existing significant vegetation cannot be taken into public open space, appropriate protection should be given to significant trees on private land.
- Master planning of new sites acquired is recommended before development takes place. This process will seek information from residents about the use of open space, the benefits of the space to them and anything liked and disliked, landscape and facility improvements suggested. Council will communicate to residents that master planning processes are about the long-term development directions for open spaces that will be used for guiding development decisions, and that immediate works are not necessarily guaranteed.
- **Trails and Links** - the benefits of making connections between open spaces are both environment and community lifestyle driven. An on-going effort to link the major open spaces with sensitive tree planting, easy bicycle and pedestrian routes is needed.

Criterion 6. Opportunity for land development

In land development, partnerships should be encouraged between developers and Council to achieve the best mix of commercial, community and environmental objectives. There are often opportunities to create high quality open space, which will not only benefit the community, but also assist developers in achieving sound commercial returns. Factors that will assist in creating these opportunities include:

- Good information about the existing conditions of the site and its local context

- Guidelines that clearly set out Council's expectations
- Open invitation to developers to discuss proposals before they are drawn up

Note

Local open space is perhaps the most important level of open space provision for local communities. However, often this type of open space has been provided as very small uniform blocks. These are generally difficult to develop and maintain. It is also difficult to sustain a range of opportunities on them. They also often relate poorly to neighbouring backyards and hence are poorly patronised. Where appropriate land of this type should be considered for disposal (refer section 3 of this Guide).

The concept of a social family recreation area is based on the recognition that families often seek out open space with a diversity of activities to meet the needs of different ages and life cycle stages. Spaces with this function allow considerable diversity of facilities and environmental quality to be maintained.. The sphere of influence of such sites is, by virtue of their size and diversity, considerably greater than single purpose sites.

Where playground catchments overlap, and spaces are of a sufficiently large size, there could be community benefit in relocating playgrounds from smaller less viable sites and consolidating them on larger sites as neighbourhood parks, with a broader social family recreation focus.

Currently there is only one community garden identified in the municipality, in Heidelberg West. However this is based on Education Department land and has limited public access. There is some agricultural use of private open space within the City; eg in Lower Plenty and community farms exist in neighbouring municipalities; ie in Eltham (Nillumbik) and Bundoora Park (Darebin). Should residential density increase substantially in future, there may be a need to increase the number of community gardens, particularly in areas where private open space is minimal.

2. Acquisition of Public Open Space

The following is a guide to assist with decision making associated with the acquisition of public open space.

2.1 Subdivisions

When land is subdivided where appropriate:

- Ensure public open contributions are sought via Section 18 of the Subdivision Act 1988, or in accordance with the Banyule Planning Scheme

- Require the provision of open space linkages in new subdivisions and large developments
- Ensure the location and design of new development maximise community safety and provides opportunities for surveillance of public open space
- Require the provision of open style fencing for new residential development that directly abuts public open space
- Require retention of significant vegetation on properties that directly abut public open space
- Protect existing and encourage further use of indigenous vegetation as appropriate.
- Ensure that the land can easily be accessed by the public.

2.2 Determining Developers Contributions

- Early Involvement

Developers are required to involve Council in the early design phase of land development to ensure that it has adequate input into the location of public open space.

- Amount of Contribution

Where the needs and requirements of a specific area under consideration justify it, Council should seek a developer contribution additional to the statutory of up to 5% of the value of the land included in the development, for public open space purposes. Particularly in developments where there is a general lack of public open space in the immediate area of the development and/or in developments where limited private open space is provided.

Where the need can be demonstrated, particularly in cases of medium and high density development, including within designated activity centres, Council should give consideration to requesting a developers' contribution in excess of 5% for public open space purposes.

NB. It is proposed that a detailed investigation be undertaken in order to establish the exact criteria to be used in determining this.

- Industrial and Business Developments

Public Open Space contributions should also be considered, where appropriate, in industrial and commercial zones to protect any sites of significance or landscape character. These zones may also present opportunities to provide for regional and municipal level public open space requirements such as land for regional sporting facilities, trail corridors, view sheds, ridge lines etc.

- Classification

Agreement between Council and the developer should be reached on the classifications which are appropriate for the proposed public open space prior to the approval of the sub-division (refer Appendix 3).

2.3 Land in Preference to Cash

Land should be taken in preference to cash, in the following circumstances:

- Where there is demand for open space in that location
- Where there is no social family recreation area to serve that urban neighbourhood
- Where the land is of sufficient size, and in an appropriate location for, the provision of the type of park, recreation or sporting facility is (or facilities are) required in the local area, municipality or region
- Where the nature and condition of the land is compatible with the preferred end use, and its development for that purpose can be cost effective.
- To enhance an existing corridor or waterway
- Where there is a significant site to be protected
- Where there is a strategically important link required with adjoining open space or other land uses, for wildlife movement, for a path or trail
- Where mature trees, features of regional (or greater) environmental or cultural significance, or endangered flora or fauna, have been identified for protection

2.4 What shouldn't count as a developer's contribution to public open space?

- road reserves and plantations
- small parcels of land that abut major roads
- areas of pavement of any shared footway or cycle way
- traffic islands and roundabouts
- wide grassed road verges
- estate entryways
- any space which has no inherent leisure function because of size, configuration, slope, or propensity to inundation .
- water bodies (unless they can be realistically used for community recreation activity).
- land encumbered by flooding, major easements or buffers.
- land which is less than the recommended minimum size for public open space; ie 0.75 hectares and 70 metres in both length and width, unless the land adjoins other public open

space and the two parcels combined are able to satisfy this criterion. NB. Conservation reserves are excluded from this specific criterion.

- small blocks of land at the head of cul de sacs that essentially act as walkways

2.5 Alternative Contributions.

A developer's contribution consisting entirely of land may not always be the most appropriate option. In some cases the open space needs of residents, or prospective residents, may be more viable if provided in alternative ways, such as:

- Take a cash contribution equivalent in value to the land which would otherwise be contributed and provide improvements to existing public open space which is accessible to the residents of the development.
- Negotiate for the developer to provide improvements to existing public open space, which is accessible to residents of the development. These improvements should be of equivalent value to the required cash contribution.
- Take a proportion of the required contribution in land and a portion as either cash, or in the form of improvements to existing public open space, which is accessible to residents of the development.
- Accept land equivalent to the required contribution elsewhere in the municipality, where such land is strategically located and will assist Council to meet its public open space objectives.

3. Disposal of Open Space

- The likely end use of the proceeds of the sale of existing open space should be communicated to residents prior to the sale.
- Consideration should be given to disposing of Council land classified as open space where it cannot service the community effectively as viable public open space where one or more of the following reasons exist:
 - lack of size
 - inappropriate topography; eg steep, swampy, etc
 - poor access to the site
 - poor location and orientation from a community safety perspective; eg lack of natural surveillance, etc
 - low levels of community use
 - unreasonably difficult and/or costly to maintain

4. Community Consultation about Acquisition, Developments and Disposal

- When planning, developing or disposing of local public open space the Council will invite input from local residents.
- Where undertaking major works designs/plans will also be displayed at local shopping centres/community health centres and communicated in the Banyule Banner.
- The final design of public open space should be based on Council objectives and public feedback.
- In planning or developing municipal level public open spaces the Council will invite input from all residences within 500 meters of the space. Local user groups will also be invited to make comment. Council will advertise the plan in the Banyule Banner and/or local newspapers, display the plans in a prominent location and invite input.

5. Priorities for Acquisition

When considering the acquisition of land for public open space the following questions need to be asked:

QUESTION	Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What open space functions are in reach of this development site already? ○ What additional public open space is required to provide a diversity of recreation opportunity, in context, function, setting type, and relationship to others? (refer appendix 1) ○ Is there a Social Family Recreation area within 500m of each residence? ○ Is there access to a corridor or trail for walking and cycling that links to other existing public open space? 	<p>This is the highest priority for the local catchment for taking land for new subdivisions & residential developments</p> <p>This is the next priority for provision or acquisition to serve a new</p>

- **Is there remnant vegetation of local, or of higher level significance present on, or adjacent to, the site where development is to occur?**

- **What sites, if any, exist within the development that have environmental, cultural, or recreation significance and/or potential that will potentially add value to the development and diversity of public open space within the precinct?**

- **Is the land on offer viable as public open space in terms of, size, topography, likelihood of inundation, access, location, ease of maintenance and orientation in terms of community safety?**

residential area.

This is a priority for providing public open space, using developer contributions, for municipal catchments, and non residential development zones

If the answer to any one or more of these is no, then serious consideration should be given to either negotiating for a different site, or taking a cash contribution in lieu of land.

APPENDIX 3

CLASSIFICATION OF OPEN SPACE

APPENDIX 3. CLASSIFICATION OF OPEN SPACE

PARK/ OPEN SPACE	PARK REF	PRECINCT	MAP	CLASS	STREET NAME	SUBURB	CATCHMENT	FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING	RELATIONSHIP
GILLINGHAM RESERVE	25	01	10 F11	PARKS	GILLINGHAM STREET	WATSONIA	Local	Corridor		Stand alone space
PLENTY RIVER RESERVE	34	2	21 A5	PARKS	NEPEAN STREET	GREENSBOROUGH	Regional	Corridor		Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway
AVANDINA CRESCENT RESERVE	79	2	11 A11	PARKS	AVANDINA CR	GREENSBOROUGH	Local	Corridor		Stand alone open space
PLENTY RIVER DRIVE RESERVE	95	2	10 J11	PARKS	PLENTY RIVER DVE	GREENSBOROUGH	Regional	Corridor		Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway
CLOVELLY PARK	359	13	20 G9	PARKS	CASTLETON RD	VIEW BANK	Local	Corridor		Stand alone Open Space
CHANTELLE RISE RESERVE	41	4	11 F12	PARKS	CHANTELLE RISE	ST HELENA	Local	Corridor / Trail		Linked to other open space
PLENTY RIVER WALKWAYS	90	2	10 J12	WALKWAYS	PLENTY RIVER DVE	GREENSBOROUGH	Regional	Corridor / Trail		Part of a larger parcel of open space
WOODLAND RISE BLOCK	535	8	20 G6	BLOCKS	WOODLAND RISE	MACLEOD	Local	Corridor/trail		Stand alone open space
MORWELL AVENUE RESERVE	70	5	20 D3	PARKS	MORWELL AVE	WATSONIA	Local	Corridor /trail		Stand alone open space
SWEETWATER CREEK	213	9	20 K4	PARKS	BEATRIX ST	GREENSBOROUGH	Local	Corridor /trail		Part of a larger open space
BARTRAM RISE RESERVE	426	13	20 G12	PARKS	BARTRAM RISE	VIEW BANK	Local	Corridor/trail		Stand alone Open Space
SUSSEX ST/BANYULE RD RESERVE	434	13	32 E1	PARKS	SUSSEX STREET	HEIDELBERG	Local	Corridor /Trail		Linked to other public Open Space
DONALDSONS RESERVE	370	15	31 E5	PARKS	OSNEY AVE	IVANHOE	Local	Corridor /trail		Linked to other public Open Space
BURNS COURT RESERVE	81	4	11 H11	PARKS	BURNS CRT	ST HELENA	Local	Corridor/Trail		Stand alone
THE CASCADES RESERVE	38	6	20 G6	PARKS	WARRALONG AVE	WATSONIA	Local	Ornamental	Exotic/ornamental	Stand alone open space
PICCADILLY CLOSE RESERVE	708	6	20 K4	PARKS	PICADILLY CLOSE	GREENSBOROUGH	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
CHARLES ST PARK	268	14	21 D9	PARKS	CHARLES ST	LOWER PLENTY	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone Open Space
GREENSBOROUGH W M PARK	15	6	20 H2	PARKS	HENRY STREET	GREENSBOROUGH	Local	Crematoria/Memorial Remembrance	Managed Turf/Paved Areas	Stand Alone Open Space

HAILES ST (GREENSBOROUGH) CEMETERY	161		20 J1	CEMETARIES	HAILES STREET	GREENSBOROUGH	Municipal	Garden Outdoor Sport/Family/Social/Recreation remembrance Garden	N/A	Stand Alone
HAWDON ST CEMETERY	521		32 A2	CEMETARIES	HAWDON STREET	ROSANNA		Memorial/ remembrance Garden	N/A	Stand Alone
WARRINGAL CEMETARY	601		31 J3	CEMETARIES	UPPER HEIDELBERG RD	HEIDELBERG		Memorial/ remembrance Garden	N/A	Stand Alone
MEMORIAL RESERVE	419	17	31 G6	PARKS	STUDLEY RD	IVANHOE	Local	Memorial/ remembrance Garden	Ornamental	Stand alone Open Space
ROSANNA PARKLANDS	402	11	20 B10	PARKS	LOWER PLENTY RD	ROSANNA	Municipal	Open Parkland Playground	Open Parkland	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway
FOTINI GARDENS	706	01	10 B12	PARKS	HASTINGS STREET	BUNDOORA	Local	Ornamental Garden	Playground	Stand Alone
KITCHENER RESERVE	386	15	31 F8	PARKS	IVANHOE PDE	IVANHOE	Local	Ornamental Garden	Exotic Ornamental	Stand alone Open Space
YULONG RESERVE	9	01	9 K12	PARKS	BENT STREET	BUNDOORA	Local	Outdoor Sport Field	Managed Turf	Stand alone open space (SEC Easement)
MALCOLM BLAIR RESERVE	97	4	21 E2	PARKS	KARINGAL DVE	GREENSBOROUGH	Local	Outdoor Sport Field	Managed Turf/Bushland	Linked to other Open Space
N J TELFER RESERVE	7	5	20 A2	PARKS	GREENWOOD DR	BUNDOORA	Local	Outdoor Sport Field	Managed Turf, Open Parkland, Playground	Linked to other open space
WILLINDA PARK	19	9	21 A4	PARKS	BEATRIX STREET	GREENSBOROUGH	Local	Outdoor Sport Field	Special Sports Surface	Linked to other open space
MONTMORENCY PARK	274	9	21 B5	PARKS	PARA RD	MONTMORENCY	Local	Outdoor Sport Field, Playground	Managed Turf	Part of a larger open space
YALLAMBIE PARK	427	9	20 K9	PARKS	KARDINA RD	YALLAMBIE	Local	Outdoor Sport Field	Managed Turf	Part of a larger parcel of open space
CARTLEDGE RESERVE	355	15	31 D5	PARKS	HAWKER ST	WEST IVANHOE	Local	Outdoor Sport, Playground	Managed Turf	Stand alone Open Space
FORD PARK	375	15	31 D4	PARKS	PERKINS AVE	IVANHOE	Local	Outdoor Sport field, playground	Managed Turf	Stand alone
JAMES RESERVE	382	15	31 H3	PARKS	ST HELLIER STREET	HEIDELBERG HEIGHTS	Local	Outdoor Sport field, Playground	Managed Turf	Stand alone Open Space

SEDDON RESERVE	403	15	31 C7	PARKS	GREENS STREET	IVANHOE	Local	Outdoor Sport field, Playground	Managed Turf	Linked to other public Open Space
GREENSBOROUGH PARK	14	2	20 K1	PARKS	DIAMOND CREEK RD	GREENSBOROUGH	Local	Outdoor Sports Field, Playground	Managed Turf	Linked to other public Open Space
PARTINGTON'S FLAT RESERVE	17	2	10 J12	PARKS	KALPARRIN AVE	GREENSBOROUGH	Municipal	Outdoor Sports Field, Playground	Managed Turf/Bushland	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway
WHATMOUGH PARK	18	2	20 K1	PARKS	MAIN STREET	GREENSBOROUGH	Local	Outdoor Sports Field, Playground	Managed Turf	Linked to other public Open Space
ANTHONY BEALE RESERVE	10	3	11 D10	PARKS	YARALLA CR	GREENSBOROUGH	Local	Outdoor Sports Field, Playground	Managed Turf, Bushland, Rough Natural Area	Stand Alone
GLENDALE RESERVE	715	4	11 G12	PARKS	BRIXTON AVE	ST HELENA	Local	Wild, Conservation	Open Parkland	Linked to other Open Space
A K LINES RESERVE	1	5	20 F2	PARKS	GRIMSHAW ST	WATSONIA	Local	Outdoor Sports field, Playground	Managed Turf	Stand alone public space
LOYOLA RESERVE	6	5	20 C2	PARKS	GLEESON DVE	BUNDOORA	Local	Outdoor Sports Field	Managed Turf	Stand Alone Open Space
CENTRAL PARK	11	6	20 K5	PARKS	PLENTY LANE	GREENSBOROUGH	Local	Outdoor Sports Field, Playground	Managed Turf	Stand Alone Open Space
ELDER STREET RESERVE	12	8	20 G5	PARKS	ELDER STREET	WATSONIA	Local	Outdoor Sports Field, Playground	Managed Turf	Stand alone open s pace
GABONIA AVENUE RESERVE	13	8	20 F5	PARKS	GABONIA AVE	WATSONIA	Local	Outdoor Sports Field, Play ground	Managed Turf	Stand alone open space
GLENAUBURN PARK	272	9	21 A8	PARKS	GLENAUBURN RD	LOWER PLENTY	Local	Sports Field, Playground	Managed Turf	Linked to other Open Space
PETRIE PARK	276	10	21 D5	PARKS	MOUNTAIN VIEW RD	MONTMORENCY	Local	Outdoor Sports field Playground	Managed Turf	Stand Alone
MACLEOD PARK	388	11	20 B8	PARKS	RUTHVEN STREET	MACLEOD	Local	Outdoor Sports field	Managed Turf	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway

WINSOR RESERVE	425	11	20 D6	PARKS	SOMERS AVE	MACLEOD	Local	Playground Outdoor Sports field playground	Managed Turf	Stand alone Open Space
SHELLEY PARK	405	12	19 G12	PARKS	SHELLEY STREET	HEIDELBERG	Local	Outdoor Sports field	Managed Turf	Stand alone Open Space
OLYMPIC PARK	718	12	19 D11	PARKS	CATALINA STREET	HEIDELBERG WEST	Municipal	Outdoor Sports Field Playground	Managed Turf	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway
VIEW BANK RESERVE	418	13	20 G12	PARKS	RUTHERFORD RD	VIEW BANK	Local	Outdoor Sports field Playground	Managed Turf	Stand alone Open Space
BEVERLEY ROAD RESERVE (part of Warringal Parklands)	351	16	32 D2	PARKS	BEVERLEY RD	HEIDELBERG	Local	Outdoor Sports Field Playground	Managed Turf	Linked to other public Open Space
DE WINTON PARK	369	16	32 A2	PARKS	CAPE STREET	HEIDELBERG	Local	Outdoor Sports Field playground	Managed Turf	Stand Alone
HEIDELBERG PARK	380	16	32 B4	PARKS	BEVERLEY RD	HEIDELBERG	Municipal	Outdoor Sports Field Playground	Managed Turf, Ornamental Gardens	Linked to other public Open Space
WARRINGAL PARKLANDS	420	16	32 C4	PARKS	BEVERLEY RD	HEIDELBERG	Municipal	Outdoor Sports Field	Managed Turf, Bushland, River Corridor, Swamp	Linked to other public Open Space
IVANHOE RECREATION RESERVE	716	17	31 F8	PARKS	JOHN ST	IVANHOE	Local	Outdoor Sports field (Bowling Club)	Managed Turf	Stand Alone
IVANHOE PARK	381	18	31 H9	PARKS	LOWER HEIDELBERG RD	IVANHOE EAST	Municipal	Outdoor Sports Field playground	Managed Turf	Stand alone Open Space
BANYULE FLATS SPORTSGROUNDS RESERVE	350	13	32 F2	PARKS	SOMERSET DR	HEIDELBERG	Local	Sports field, Playground, Conservation	Managed Turf	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway
CHELSWORTH PARK	717	18	31 G10	PARKS	IRVINE RD	IVANHOE	Municipal	Sports fields, Playground	Managed Turf	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway
WALLOWA ROAD COMMUNITY RESERVE	62	4	11 G9	PARKS	WALLOWA RD	ST HELENA	Local	Social Family Rereation Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone
KALISTA PARK	30	01	10 F11	PARKS	KALISTA CRES	WATSONIA	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone space
TRIST STREET RESERVE	73	01	20 F1	PARKS	TRIST ST	GREENSBOROUG	Local	Playground	Open	Stand alone open space

DARLY GLEN RESERVE	1021	2	10 J11	PARKS	DARLY GLEN CT	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Playground	Parkland Open	Linked to other open space
GREENHILL ROAD RESERVE	46	3	11 C11	PARKS	GREENSHILL RD	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Playground	Parkland Open	Stand alone open space
LAROOB AVENUE RESERVE	50	3	11 E9	PARKS	LAROOB AVE	ST HELENA H	Local	Playground	Parkland Open	Stand alone open space
PINDARI RESERVE	56	3	11 C10	PARKS	PINDARI DVE	ST HELENA	Local	Playground	Parkland Open	Stand Alone
NURLA PLACE RESERVE	80	3	11 E10	PARKS	NURLA PLACE	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Linked (part of Anthony Beale)
DALVIDA RESERVE	42	4	11 G12	PARKS	DALVIDA CT	ST HELENA	Local	Playground	Bushland	Stand Alone
RISE RESERVE	43	4	11 F12	PARKS	ESKHOLME RISE	ST HELENA	Local	Playground	OpenParkland	Stand alone open space
GLEN KATHERINE DRIVE RESERVE	44	4	11 F11	PARKS	GLEN KATHERINE DVE	ST HELENA	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone
ST CLEMS/LIDDESDALE GROVE RESERVE	45	4	11 G11	PARKS	ST CLEMS STREET	ST HELENA	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand Alone
MACDHUI RESERVE	52	4	11 G10	PARKS	MACDHUI AVE	ST HELENA	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Linked to other open space
PAULETTE CLOSE RESERVE	55	4	11 E12	PARKS	PAULETTE CL	ST HELENA	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand Alone
WEIDLICH ROAD RESERVE	61	4	21 F1	PARKS	WEIDLICH RD	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone
SETTLERS PARK	711	4	11 F11	PARKS	GLEN KATHERINE DVE	ST HELENA	Local	Playground	Open Park land Rough Bushland, Creek Corridor	Linked to other public open space
AMINYA RESERVE	66	5	20 D4	PARKS	KENMARE ST	WATSONIA	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand Alone Open Space
DELTA RESERVE	22	6	20 G4	PARKS	DELTA RD	WATSONIA	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
MEDBURY AVENUE RESERVE	33	6	20 H3	PARKS	MEDBURY AVE	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
FELL RESERVE	37	6	20 H2	PARKS	GRIMSHAW STREET	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand Alone Open Space
MCKENZIE COURT RESERVE	75	6	20 J5	PARKS	MCKENZIE CRT	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone public space
GRACE PARK	86	6	20 J4	PARKS	HENRY STREET	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
ST MARY'S RESERVE	87	6	20 G2	PARKS	GRIMSHAW STREET	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
GLADMAN STREET RESERVE	26	8	20 J6	PARKS	GLADMAN STREET	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
COLLEEN STREET RESERVE NORTH	373	8	20 E9	PARKS	COLLEEN ST	MACLEOD	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
HARBORNE STREET	377	8	20 G6	PARKS	HARBORNE	MACLEOD	Local	Playground	Open	Stand alone open space

RESERVE	STREET										
YALLAMBIE S.E.C. RESERVE	428	8	20 J7	PARKS	YALLAMBIE RD	YALLAMBIE	Local	Playground	Parkland	Open	Linked to other public open space
GABONIA AVE RESERVE EAST	1374	8	20 G5	PARKS	GABONIA AVE	WATSONIA	Local	Playground	Parkland	Open	Linked to other open space
DE BLONAY RESERVE	21	9	20 K4	PARKS	DEBLONAY CRT	GREENSBOROUG H	Local	Playground	Parkland	Open	Stand Alone
PIONEER RESERVE	57	9	20 K1	PARKS	ST HELENA RD	GREENSBOROUG H	Local	Playground	Creek Corridor	Open	Linked to other open space
KIRWANA PLAY RESERVE	999	10	21 F7	PARKS	KIRWANA GV	MONTMORENCY	Local	Conservation	Parkland, Creek Corridor	Bushland, Open	Stand Alone
DOWLE STREET RESERVE	371	11	20 C7	PARKS	DOWLE STREET	MACLEOD	Local	Playground	Parkland	Open	Stand alone Open Space
JOHN MCROBBIE RESERVE	384	11	19 K9	PARKS	GRIEVE STREET	MACLEOD	Local	Playground	Parkland	Open	Stand alone Open Space
STANTON CRESCENT RESERVE	407	11	20 B10	PARKS	STANTON CRES	ROSANNA	Local	Playground	open Parkland		Stand alone Open Space
JOHNSON RESERVE	385	12	19 J12	PARKS	OUTHWAITE RD	HEIDELBERG HEIGHTS	Local	Playground	Parkland	Open	Stand alone Open Space
CASTLETON PARK	356	13	20 H9	PARKS	CASTLETON RD	VIEW BANK	Local	Playground	Parkland	Open	Stand alone Open Space
CRANA RESERVE	361	13	20 H10	PARKS	MARK ST	VIEW BANK	Local	Playground	Parkland	Open	Stand alone Open Space
CREEK BEND RESERVE	362	13	20 E12	PARKS	BANYULE RD	HEIDELBERG	Local	Playground	Creek Corridor		Linked to other public Open Space
THE GLADE RESERVE	413	13	20 J10	PARKS	THE GLADE	VIEW BANK	Local	Playground	Bushland		Linked to other public Open Space
HANNAH RESERVE	376	15	31 E6	PARKS	GREEN STREET	IVANHOE WEST	Local	Playground	Parkland	Open	Linked to other public Open Space
BRYANT RESERVE	663	15	31 F7	PARKS	WATERDALE RD	IVANHOE	Local	Playground	Parkland	Open	Stand alone Open Space
HAWARD WALKWAY	379	16	31 K1	PARKS	HILLSIDE RD	ROSANNA	Local	Playground	Parkland	Open	Stand alone Open Space
MILFORD RESERVE	392	16	20 B12	PARKS	MILFORD GROVE	ROSANNA	Local	Playground	Parkland	Open	Stand alone Open Space
BINNAK PARK	2	01	10 D12	PARKS	ANDERSON PDE	WATSONIA	Municipal	Social Recreation	Managed Turf, Bushland, Lake		Linked to other open space
DENDARYL RESERVE	5	01	20 D1	PARKS	DENDARYL DVE	BUNDOORA	Local	Block	Parkland	Open	Stand alone open space
WARRAWEE PARK	8	01	10 B12	PARKS	THE RAMEO	BUNDOORA	Local	Social Recreation	Managed Turf	Open	Stand alone open space
APOLLO PARKWAYS	714	2	10 K11	PARKS	PAMBURRA CT	GREENSBOROUG	Local	Social	Parkland	Open	Linked to other open space

KESWICK GLEN RESERVE	47	3	11 B12	PARKS	KESWICK GLEN	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Family Conservation	Parkland Bushland, Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
PARAWEENA COURT RESERVE	54	3	11 C11	PARKS	PARAWEENA CRT	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Open Parkland - No Facilities	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
ST HELENA ROAD NEAR LEITH PARK	59	3	11 F10	PARKS	ST HELENA RD	ST HELENA	Local	Conservation	Open Parkland	Stand Alone Open Space
TATHRA RESERVE	77	3	11 C10	PARKS	TATHRA PLACE	ST HELENA	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
WOODLANDS PARK	40	7	21 D2	PARKS	BOX RD	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
KARINGAL DRIVE/LEACH STREET RESERVE	48	7	21 E2	PARKS	KARINGAL DVE	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
BRIAR VALLEY RESERVE	267	7	21 D3	PARKS	PORTER ST	BRIAR HILL	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
E J ANDREWS RESERVE	270	7	21 B4	PARKS	DAWSON RD	BRAIR HILL	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
FERNSIDE PLAY PARK	271	7	21 E3	PARKS	FERNSIDE AVE	MONTMORENCY	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
BRIAR HILL HALL	284	7	21 C3	PARKS	MOUNTAIN VIEW RD	BRIAR HILL	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
SHERBOURNE ROAD RESERVE	285	7	21 D4	PARKS	SHERBOURNE RD	BRIAR HILL	Local	Vacant Land	Open Parkland	Linked to other public open space
WEST MAYLING RESERVE	39	8	20 E5	PARKS	MAYLING CRT	WATSONIA	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
GREENSBOROUGH RD/BORLASE ST CORNER RESERVE	352	8	20 D10	PARKS	BORLASE STREET	ROSANNA	Local	Vacant Land	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
JENNIFER COURT RESERVE	383	8	20 F6	PARKS	JENNIFER CRT	MACLEOD	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space
STREETON VIEWS RESERVE	409	8	20 G9	PARKS	LOWER PLENTY RD	YALLAMBIE	Local	Social Family Recreation	Creek Corridor, Lake	Stand alone open space
WENDOVER PLACE/SAUL COURT RESERVE	422	8	20 H6	PARKS	WENDOVER PLACE	YALLAMBIE	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Linked to other public open space
POULTER RESERVE	35	9	21 A2	PARKS	JOYCE AVE	GREENSBOROUGH H	Local	Social Family Recreation	Open Parkland	Linked to other open space
SIMMS ROAD RESERVE	278	9	21 A4	PARKS	SIMMS RD	BRIAR HILL	Local	Sports Field	Managed Turf	Linked to other open space
LESLIE COURT RIVER RESERVE	327	9	21 A7	PARKS	LESLIE CRT	LOWER PLENTY	Local	Vacant Land	Open Parkland	Linked to other open space
ALLIMA/TARCOOLA PARK	349	9	20 K7	PARKS	TARCOOLA DR	YALLAMBIE	Local	Vacant Land	Open Parkland	Linked to other open space
BARONGAROOK	258	10	21 A8	PARKS	BARONGAROOK	LOWER PLENTY	Local	Vacant	Open	Linked to other open space

RESERVE	CT	Land	Parkland					
BELMONT RESERVE	259	10	21 F6	PARKS BELMONT CRES MONTMORENCY	Local Conservation	Bushland	Stand alone	Open Space
PALARA COURT RESERVE	264	10	21 B6	PARKS PALARA CRT MONTMORENCY	Local Vacant Land	Open Parkland	Linked to other	Open Space
RATTRAY RESERVE	265	10	21 E6	PARKS RATTRAY RD MONTMORENCY	Local Conservation	Bushland	Linked to other	Open Space
ALMA PLAY PARK	266	10	21 B8	PARKS PARA RD MONTMORENCY	Local Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone	Open Space
HARRINGTONS RESERVE	273	10	21 E8	PARKS SACKVILLE ST MONTMORENCY	Local Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone	Open Space
OLYMPIC AVENUE RESERVE	275	10	21 E7	PARKS OLYMPIC AVE MONTMORENCY	Local Playground	Bushland	Stand alone	Open Space
SACKVILLE RESERVE	277	10	21 F9	PARKS SACKVILLE STREET MONTMORENCY	Local Playground	Open Parkland	linked to other	Open Space
SYLVAN PARK	279	10	21 D7	PARKS SYLVAN ST MONTMORENCY	Local Playground	Open Parkland, Bushland	Stand alone	Open Space
PECKS DAM RESERVE	281	10	21 F7	PARKS PEDERSONS WAY MONTMORENCY	Local Lake	Open Parkland	Stand alone	Open Space
MOTTS PADDOCK	283	10	21 B6	PARKS PARA RD MONTMORENCY	Local Vacant Land	Open Parkland	Linked to other	Open Space
DUNVEGAN PARKLANDS	372	11	20 B5	PARKS DUNVEGAN CRES MACLEOD	Local Playground	Open Parkland	Stand Alone	
HARRY POTTAGE MEMORIAL RESERVE	378	11	20 A7	PARKS WUNGAN STREET MACLEOD	Local Family, Social, Recreation	Open Parkland, Bushland	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway	
V.C. RESERVE/OLD NURSERY	1002	11	9 K8	PARKS CHERRY ST MACLEOD	Local Conservation	Open Parkland	Alone	Stand
BUNA RESERVE	353	12	19 E11	PARKS BOYD CRES HEIDELBERG WEST	Local Social Family Recreation	Open Parkland	Stand alone	Open Space
LLOYD STREET RESERVE	387	12	31 G1	PARKS LLOYD STREET HEIDELBERG WEST	Local Vacant Land	Open Parkland	Alone	Stand
NARVIK RESERVE	393	12	31 E2	PARKS NARVIK CRES HEIDELBERG WEST	Local Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone	Open Space
MALAHANG RESERVE	537	12	31 F1	PARKS ORIEL RD HEIDELBERG WEST	Local Social Family Recreation	open Parkland	Stand alone	Open Space
MALEELA RESERVE	389	13	20 D11	PARKS MALEELA GROVE ROSANNA	Local Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone	Open Space
MERCEDES COURT RESERVE	390	13	20 D12	PARKS MERCEDES CRT ROSANNA	Local Playground	Open parkland	Stand alone	Open Space
PRICE PARK	398	13	20 F11	PARKS LADY BETTY VIEW BANK	Local Social	Open	Stand alone	Open Space

					PDE				Family Recreation	Parkland	
SIMLA CLOSE RESERVE	406	13	20 E12	PARKS	SIMLA CLOSE	ROSANNA	Local	Vacant Land	Open	Parkland	Stand alone Open Space
WESTMERE PLACE RESERVE	423	13	20 H9	PARKS	WESTMERE PLACE	VIEW BANK	Local	Vacant Land	Open	Parkland	Stand alone Open Space
RIVER RED GUM WALK	435	13	20 D12	PARKS	BANYULE RD	HEIDELBERG	Local	Vacant Land	Open	Parkland	Linked to other public Open Space
YALLAMBIE BOTTLE DEPOT	534	13	20 K9	PARKS	YALLAMBIE RD	YALLAMBIE	Local	Vacant Land	Open	Parkland	Linked to other public Open Space
BOLTON STREET SOUTH RESERVE	260	14	21 F9	PARKS	BOLTON ST	MONTMORENCY	Local	Playground		Bushland	Stand alone Open Space
CHEVERTON VALLEY PARK	269	14	21 C8	PARKS	CHEVERTON RD	MONTMORENCY	Local	Playground		Open Parkland	Stand alone Open Space
CLIFF STREET RESERVE	358	15	31 C6	PARKS	GREEN ST	IVANHOE	Local	Vacant Land	Open	Parkland	Stand alone Open Space
CYRIL CUMMINS RECREATION RESERVE	363	15	31 C4	PARKS	BANKSIA ST	HEIDELBERG	Local	Sport	Specialised	Parkland	Linked to other public Open Space
DAREBIN CREEK-BELL STREET TO BANKSIA STREET	366	15	31 C4	PARKS	BELL STREET	HEIDELBERG	Local	Corridor Trail, Conservation	Sports Surface Creek Corridor	Parkland	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway
BANKSIA STREET/EDWIN STREET LIONS RESERVE	668	15	31 G5	PARKS	BANKSIA ST	HEIDELBERG	Local	Open Park-No Facilities		Ornamental Garden	Stand alone Open Space
FOLEY RESERVE	374	16	31 K4	PARKS	STRADBROKE AVE	HEIDELBERG	Local	Vacant Land		Open Parkland	Stand alone Open Space
POWLETT RESERVE	397	16	31 J3	PARKS	POWLETT STREET	HEIDELBERG	Local	Vacant		Open Parkland	Stand alone Open Space
V.C.HENDERSON RESERVE	400	16	31 K2	PARKS	RILL STREET	HEIDELBERG	Local	Playground		Open Parkland	Stand alone Open Space
SERVICE RESERVE	404	16	31 K4	PARKS	DAREBIN STREET	HEIDELBERG	Local	Vacant		Open Parkland	Stand alone Open Space
STATION ROAD RESERVE	408	16	32 B1	PARKS	STATION RD	ROSANNA	Local	Playground		Open Parkland	Linked to other public Open Space
MANTON ST RESERVE	431	16	32 A3	PARKS	MANTON STREET	ROSANNA	Local	Vacant		Open Parkland	Stand alone Open Space
ALBERT JONES RESERVE	348	17	31 K6	PARKS	MOUNT ST	HEIDELBERG	Local	playground		Ornamental	Stand alone Open Space
MILES RESERVE	391	17	31 D8	PARKS	SHAW STREET	IVANHOE	Local	Playground		Open Parkland	Linked to other public Open Space
NELLIE IBBOTT RESERVE	394	17	31 C8	PARKS	MAUD STREET	IVANHOE	Local	Playground		Open Parkland	Linked to other public Open Space
THE RIGHI RESERVE	415	17	31 J7	PARKS	THE RIGHI	EAGLEMONT	Local	Playground		Open Parkland	Stand alone Open Space
WYNSTAY CRES ROAD RESERVE	437	17	31 D8	PARKS	WYNSTAY CRES	DAREBIN	Local	Vacant		Open Parkland	Linked to other public Open Space
BURKE ROAD NTH	354	18	31 K10	PARKS	THE BOULVARD	IVANHOE	Local	Social		Open	Part of larger parcel of open

	RESERVE								Family Recreation	Parkland	space, waterway
IRVINE ROAD RESERVE (part of Chelsworth Park)	443	18	31 G10	PARKS	IRVINE RD	IVANHOE EAST	Local	Social Family Recreation	Open Parkland	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway	
HARDY TERRACE RESERVE	444	18	31 H10	PARKS	HARDY TERRACE	IVANHOE EAST	Local	Vacant	Open Parkland	Linked to other public Open Space	
THE BOULEVARD RESERVE	445	18	31 G9	PARKS	LWR HEIDELBERG RD	IVANHOE	Local	Vacant	Open Parkland	Linked to other public Open Space	
SPARKS RESERVE	538	18	31 D11	PARKS	THE BOULEVARD	IVANHOE	Municipal	Playground	Open Parkland	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway	
MALCOLM BLAIR-RETARDING BASIN	16	4	21 E2	UNKNOWN	KARINGAL DVE	GREENSBOROUG H	Local	Vacant	Open Parkland	Stand alone	
HAKEA STREET RESERVE	28	01	10 E12	PARKS	HAKEA STREET	WATSONIA	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Stand alone space	
COLLEEN STREET RESERVE SOUTH	360	8	20 E9	PARKS	COLLEEN ST	MACLEOD	Local	Playground	Open Parkland	Linked to other open space	
KALPARRIN GARDENS	31	2	10 H12	PARKS	YANDO STREET	GREENSBOROUG H	Municipal	Social Family Recreation	Lake/wetlands	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway	
YANDO ST RIVER RESERVE	94	2	10 J12	PARKS	YANDO STREET	GREENSBOROUG H	Local	Vacant	River Corridor	Linked to other Open Space	
OLD LOWER PLENTY ROAD RESERVE	396	13	20 K9	PARKS	OLD LOWER PLENTY RD	YALLAMBIE	Local	Vacant	Open Parkland	Linked to other Open Space	
WINSTON HILLS RESERVE	1246	13	20 G12	PARKS	BARTRAM RISE	VIEW BANK	Local	Vacant	Open Parkland	Linked to other public Open Space	
KELVIN AVE BLOCK	MONTPELIER BONDS ROAD RESERVE	7	21 C4	BLOCKS	KELVIN AVE	MONTMORENCY	Local	Vacant Land	Open Parkland	Stand alone open space	
CURTIS AVENUE RESERVE	67	5	20 C5	PARKS	CURTIS ST	WATSONIA	Local	Vacant Land	Open Parkland	Stand Alone	
DILKARA AVENUE RESERVE	989	5	20 A2	PARKS	DILKARA AVE	BUNDOORA	Local	Vacant Land	Open Parkland	Linked to other public open space	
RAMU RESERVE	399	12	19 E11	PARKS	RAMU PDE	HEIDELBERG WEST	Local	Family Recreation	Open Parkland	Stand alone Open Space	
OLYMPIC VILLAGE GREEN	416	12	19 E12	PARKS	SOUTHERN RD	HEIDELBERG WEST	Local	Family Recreation	Open Parkland	Stand alone Open Space	
BARKLY PLACE RESERVE	536	16	31 J4	PARKS	BARKLY PL	HEIDELBERG	Local	Vacant Land	Open Parkland	Stand Alone	
DAREBIN CREEK-	364	12	19 C12	PARKS	BANKSIA ST	HEIDELBERG	Regional	Wetland/Co	Creek Corridor	Part of larger parcel of open	

DOUGHARTY RD TO SOUTHERN RD DAREBIN CREEK- SOUTHERN RD TO BELL STREET	368	12	31 D2	PARKS	SOUTHERN RD	HEIDELBERG WEST	Regional	Conservation Wetland/Conservation	Creek Corridor	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway
ALMA BROWNS nATURE RESERVE	1630	3	11 C11	FIRE HAZARDS	ALBION CRES	GREENSBOROUG H	Municipal	Wildlife / Conservation / Wetland	Bush land	Stand Alone Open Space
BANYULE FLATS WETLANDS RESERVE	1612	13	32 F2	FIRE HAZARDS	SOMERSET DR	BANYULE	Regional	Wildlife/ Conservation /Wetland	River Corridor	Linked to other open space
KIRWANA BUSH RESERVE	280	10	21 F7	PARKS	KIRWANA GVE	MONTMORENCY	Local	Wildlife/ Conservation / Playground	Bush land	Linked to other open space
MENTAL HEALTH RESERVE	69	5	20 B3	PARKS	GREENWOOD DVE	BUNDOORA	Local	Wildlife/Conservation/Wetland Area Family Recreation	Bush land	Linked to other public Open Space
ACACIA AVENUE RESERVE	704	5	20 C4	PARKS	ACACIA AV	WATSONIA	Local	Wildlife/Conservation Wetland Area	Open Parkland	Part of a larger open space
BANYULE NATIVE GARDENS	670	13	32 F2	PARKS	BANYULE RD	HEIDELBERG	Municipal	Wildlife/Conservation/Wetland Area	Bush land	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway
WARRINGAL PLACE RESERVE	421	16	31 J5	PARKS	WARRINGAL PLACE	HEIDELBERG	Municipal	Wildlife/Conservation/Wetland area	Open Parkland	Stand Alone
ROCKBEARE PARK	401	17	31 C9	PARKS	ROCKBEARE GVE	DAREBIN	Municipal	Wildlife/Conservation/Wetland area	River Corridor	Linked to other public Open Space
WILSON RESERVE	424	18	31 F10	PARKS	THE BOULEVARD	IVANHOE	Municipal	Wildlife/Conservation/Wetland area	River Corridor	Part of larger parcel of open space, waterway
YANDELL RESERVE	65	3	21 B1	PARKS	ST HELENA RD	GREENSBOROUG H	Municipal	Wildlife/Conservation/Wetland Area/Playground	Bush land	Stand Alone Open Space
ST HELENA BUSHLAND RESERVE	51	4	11 G11	PARKS	ARGYLL CRT	ST HELENA	Municipal	Wildlife/Conservation/W	Bush land	linked to other open space

							etland Area/Playgr ound		
MOODIE ST BLOCK	23	20 H5	BLOCKS	ELDER STREET	WATSONIA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ELONERA BLOCK	24	20 K6	BLOCKS	ELONERA AVE	GREENSBOROUGH	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LOUIS ST LANE AND BLOCK	184	20 J4	BLOCKS	LOUIS STREET	GREENSBOROUGH	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MAYONA RD/MOUNTAIN VIEW RD CNR BLOCK	313	21 E5	BLOCKS	MAYONA RD	MONTMORENCY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
BRONTE ST BLOCK	429	31 J2	BLOCKS	HAWDON ST	ROSANNA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DRYSDALE ST BLOCK	432	20 D10	BLOCKS	LOWER PLENTY RD	MACLEOD	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WATERDALE RD/LWR HEIDELBERG RD BLOCK	440	31 F7	BLOCKS	WATERDALE RD	IVANHOE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ROSANNA RD BLOCK	516	32 B3	BLOCKS	ROSANNA RD	HEIDELBERG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SOMERS AVE/MELROSE AVE BLOCKS	531	20 B7	BLOCKS	SOMERS AVE	MACLEOD	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GLOUCESTER DRIVE BLOCK	671	32 D2	BLOCKS	GLOUCESTER DVE	HEIDELBERG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
BELMONT CRES BLOCK- NEXT TO [15]	986	21 F6	BLOCKS	BELMONT CRES	MONTMORENCY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LOWER PLENTY RD/OLD LWR PLENTY RD BLOCK	1007	20 K9	BLOCKS	LOWER PLENTY RD	VIEW BANK	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ST HELENA RD CHURCH BLOCK	1018	11 E11	BLOCKS	ST HELENA RD	ST HELENA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
BOLTON ST/RIVERINA RD CORNER BLOCK	1635	21 F8	BLOCKS	BOLTON ST	MONTMORENCY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LIVINGSTONE ST ENTRANCE	1637	31 C7	BLOCKS	LIVINGSTONE ST	IVANHOE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ELWERS STREET PRE- SCHOOL RESERVE	32	20 E1	PARKS	ELWERS STREET	WATSONIA	Local	Vacant	Open Parkland	Stand Alone
DAREBIN CREEK-BANKSIA STREET TO LIVINGSTONE RD	365	31 C6	PARKS	BANKSIA ST	HEIDELBERG	Municipal	Vacant	Creek Corridor	Linked to other open space
MACLEOD YMCA	975	20 A8	PARKS	WUNGAN ST	MACLEOD	Municipal	Social Family Recreation, Sport Corridor Trail	Specialized Sport	Stand Alone
DAREBIN CREEK- LATROBE UNI TO DOUGHARTY RD	1407	19 E9	PARKS	DOUGHARTY RD	HEIDELBERG WEST	local	Corridor Trail	Creek Corridor	Linked to other open space
DAREBIN CREEK- LIVINGSTONE ST TO RAILWAY BRIDGE	1408	31 D9	PARKS	LIVINGSTONE ST	IVANHOE	Regional	Corridor Trail	Creek Corridor	Linked to other open space

DAREBIN CREEK- RAILWAY BRIDGE TO YARRA RIVER	1409	31 D10	PARKS	LWR HEIDELBERG RD	IVANHOE	Regional	Corridor Trial	Creek Corridor	Linked to other open space
WOODED WAY RESERVE	1634	21 D7	PARKS	WOODED WAY	MONTMORENCY	local	Conservation	Bush land	Stand Alone
DIAMOND VILLAGE CENTRE	137	20 G4	PARK- SURROUN DS	NEPEAN STREET	WATSONIA	local	Ornamental Garden	Ornamental	Stand Alone