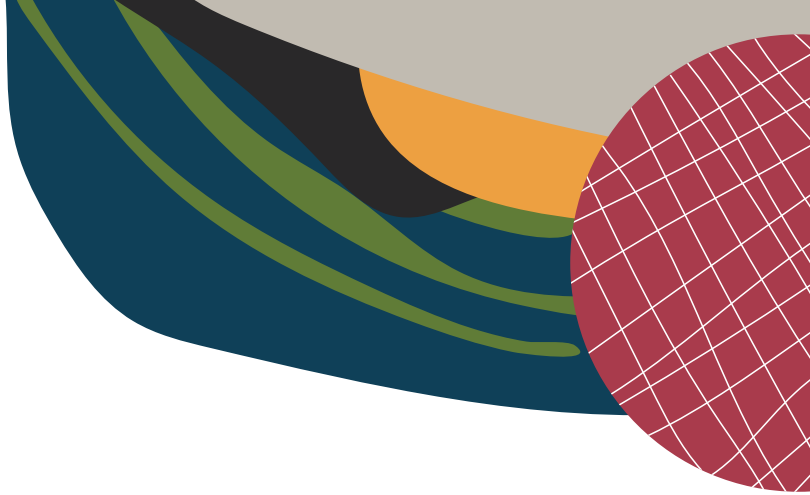




# 4

## **Spatial analysis of open space in Merri-bek**



## 4.1 Categorising of open space in Merri-bek

### Open space categories

In the metropolitan Melbourne Open Space for Everyone Strategy, public open space is categorised into one of three types, as illustrated in Table 2 below. These are:

- Accessible public land and waters, for which the primary purpose is public open space, for the purposes described in table 2.
- Restricted public land and waters, for which the primary purpose is for open space for the purposes in the table, however the space has limited accessibility or use due to restrictions such as agreements, leases, ownership, overlays, etc.
- Encumbered or restricted public land and waters, for which the primary purpose is not open space, however the space could potentially have secondary, complementary purposes.

Category	Accessible	Restricted	Encumbered or restricted
Primary purpose	Open Space	Open Space	Not open Space
Examples	Parks	Botanical and zoological gardens	Government schools
	Coastal foreshores, bays and waterways	Conservation reserves	Retarding basins
	Pathways and promenades	Golf courses	Pipe tracks
	Community sportsfields	Racecourses	Utility easements
	Off-road recreation trails	Community farms	Reservoirs
	Lakes and wetlands		Cemeteries
	Gardens		Boulevards
	Civic squares		Road reserves
	Public forecourts		Airspace over and space under transport corridors
	Piers and jetties		Streets and transport corridors
			Publicly accessible rooftops
			Disused quarries in public ownership

Table 2: Open Space categories within the Metropolitan Melbourne Open Space for Everyone categories.  
Source: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2021.



Merri-bek has a diverse mix of these open spaces illustrated in Figure 12, including:

- 1. **Accessible open space** owned and managed by Council, the Victorian State Government or public authorities such as Melbourne Water. These open spaces are accessible by the public at all times, including parks, playground, Creek corridors, shared user paths, picnic areas and civic malls and plazas. Examples include the Brunswick Central Parklands parks A G Gillon Oval, Brunswick Park, Clifton Park, Gilpin Park and Reaburn Reserve, the Merri Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek corridors, new parks such as Citadel Park in Glenroy, and open spaces underneath railway corridors such as underneath Moreland and Coburg Railway stations.
- 2. **Restricted open space**, including open space that is publicly owned and managed however is restricted in access or use, such as the Box Forest Retarding Basin in Glenroy which is open space owned by Melbourne Water however is currently restricted in access.
- 3. **Encumbered or restricted open space**, which is privately owned and managed. These open spaces can provide direct or indirect public benefit however may not be able to be accessed by all persons at all times. Examples include the Fawcner Cemetery and Northern Memorial Park in Glenroy, which can be publicly accessed for walking, running, and experiencing nature, however, cannot be used for other common open space activities such as formal sport. Another example is a private sports facility, such as the Northern Golf Club in Glenroy, which is open space however requires membership to use.

The Open Space Strategy recognises that the majority of open space that Council has direct control to adapt, change and manage, and that much of the open space that our community uses, is considered accessible open space (type 1). It also acknowledges that restricted and encumbered open spaces remain complementary important parts of our open space network, such as providing opportunity for leisure and recreation as well as important areas of habitat, nature, and biodiversity.

To facilitate informed decision-making regarding open space and to gain insights into the quantity and variety of open spaces within Merri-bek, each open space is assigned a specific position within an open space hierarchy. The unique role of each open space in the network is determined by factors such as its location, size, usage, character, and its urban or natural surroundings.

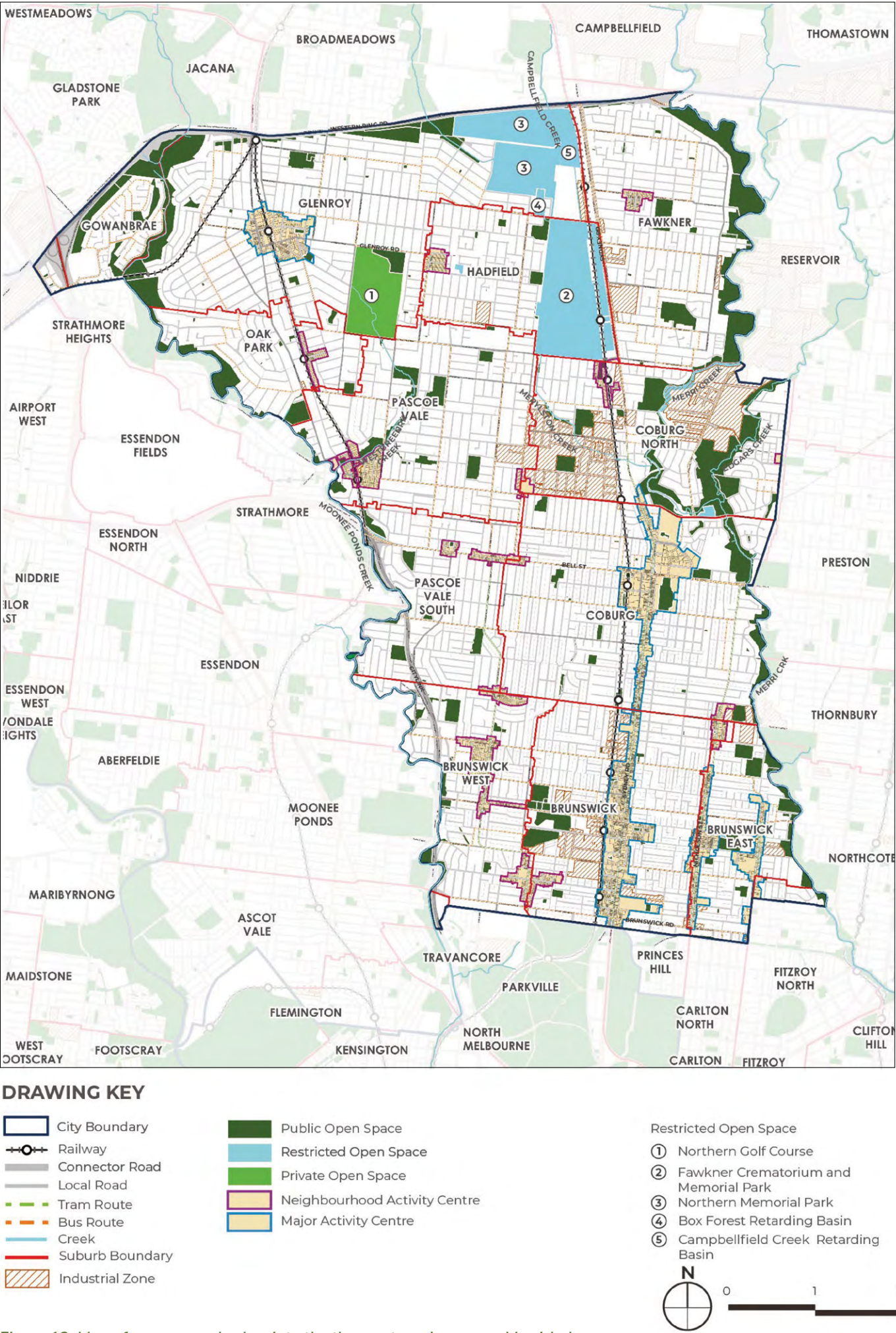


Figure 12: Map of open space broken into the three categories across Merri-bek.





## An open space hierarchy

During the development of the Open Space Strategy, Council explored our existing open spaces and their individual characteristics such as their size, common uses, and location. This allowed Council to understand our existing open space network, allowing identification of shortcomings in the network and necessary changes and opportunities for the future.

Table 3 below, presents the Merri-bek Open Space Hierarchy, which defines open spaces according to their role in our open space network. This hierarchy is tailored to Merri-bek's open space network. It recognises that our open spaces differ, largely depending on their size, location, and features, which therefore impacts what open space uses and needs the open spaces can provide for.



Table 3: Merri-bek open space hierarchy

Hierarchy	Size (hectares (ha) / square metres (sqm))	Catchment	Purpose and function
Where it sits in the hierarchy	The size of the open space	Based on a walking distance of the open space	The key uses and activities the open space provides for
Regional	Undefined	No specific distance as this type of space is often a destination space people will travel further to reach.	Open spaces valued and visited by a broader catchment of users as well as the local community. They are generally accessible to persons from adjoining municipality and offer many attractions and uses.  Examples include the Coburg Lake Reserve, the Merri Creek trail, the Moonee Ponds Creek trail, and Royal Park within the City of Melbourne.
District	More than 3.0 ha / more than 30,000sqm	A walking distance of 500 metres.	Open spaces visited primarily by the municipality, providing facilities including formal and informal sporting facilities, large scale recreation or play facilities, key significant sites, etc  Examples include the Brunswick Central Parklands in Brunswick and ATC Cook Reserve in Glenroy.
Local	Between 0.5 – 2,99 ha / 5,000sqm – 29,999sqm	A walking distance of 400 metres.	Open spaces that provide a diverse range of facilities for a local or suburb level population. There are still various functions (however fewer than a 'district' space).  Examples include Brosnan Park in Coburg and Cox Reserve in Coburg North.
Neighbourhood	Between 0.1 – 0.49 ha / 1,000sqm – 4,999sqm	A walking distance of 300 metres.	Open spaces that are smaller than the Local spaces and still provide facilities including playgrounds, BBQs, etc.  Examples include Bulleke-bek Park in Brunswick, Edward Street Reserve in Fawkner and Jacinta Bartlett Family Reserve in Pascoe Vale.
Pocket	Less than 0.1 ha / less than 1,000sqm	A walking distance of 200 metres.	More intimate open spaces within safe and easy walking distance.  Whilst they provide fewer formal uses, they complement larger spaces by serving as places for relaxation and as a pause or resting place on a journey.  An example is the Wilson Avenue Park in Brunswick.



## 4.2 Analysis of accessibility to open space

In 2017, Merri-bek established the Park Close to Home framework to enhance accessibility to open spaces throughout the municipality. The primary goal of this initiative was to ensure that residents live within 500 metres of walking distance to an open space, or 300 metres for residents residing in neighbourhood, local, major, and principal Activity Centres.

The framework has significantly influenced the allocation of resources in Merri-bek's open space planning in recent years, leading to the acquisition of multiple properties in various suburbs to create new parks. Some of the newly established open spaces include Bulleke-bek Park and Garrong Park in Brunswick, Citadel Park in Glenroy Kirriip Biik Park in Coburg. These efforts have proven highly successful, addressing the need for additional open spaces in areas that were previously underserved.

Council has undertaken further analysis to explore not just access to any open space, but access to different types of open space, and spaces that meet the needs of the local community. This helps Council to have a greater understanding of how our open spaces meet the needs of our growing population.

To guide our efforts and the Open Space Strategy an open space analysis was done:

**1. Analysis #1:** Areas were mapped within a walking catchment of 500 metres and open spaces within Neighbourhood or Major Activity Centres with a 300-metre walking catchment.

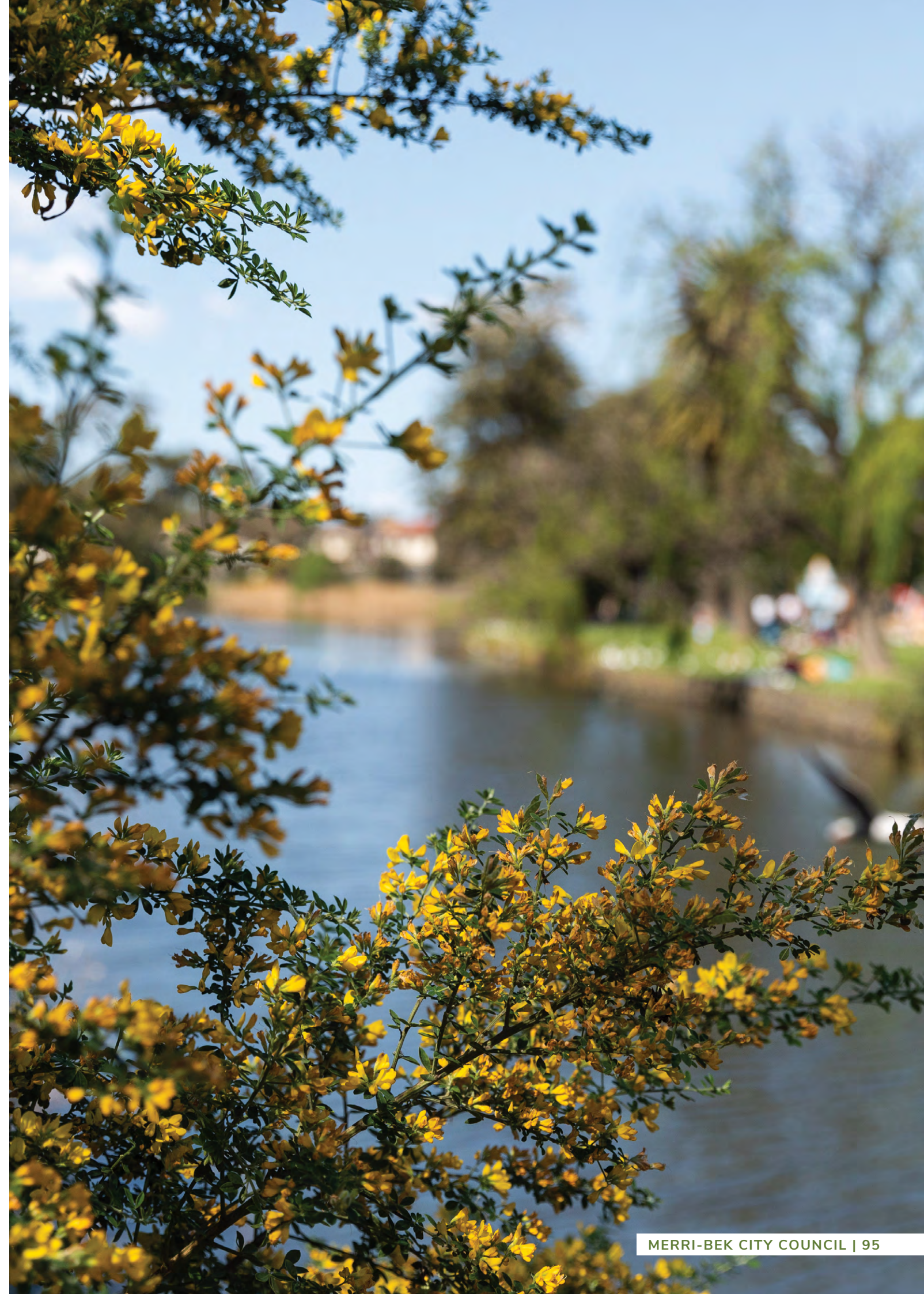
**2. Analysis #2:** Areas were mapped according to their Hierarchy (pocket, neighbourhood, local, district, regional) and corresponding walking catchments of 200 metres, 300 metres, 400 metres, 500 metres and 500 metres. This analysis helped identify underserved areas with a lack of open space and allowed for the identification of new opportunities.

**3. Analysis #3:** This phase involved mapping key and representative open spaces, including playgrounds, dog off-leash parks, formal sports grounds, and creek corridors. These types of open spaces were chosen for how they represented key uses and their contribution to building upon the previous analyses.

These three analyses were undertaken at a Merri-bek municipal level and for each suburb in Merri-bek.

These analyses were then used to recommend key upcoming projects over the next twenty years. These helped create the 20-year Open Space Projects List which provide Council with an understanding of the quantum of projects required to be delivered in open space over this timeframe.

The following sections provide the municipal-wide view of the findings, while the suburb-by-suburb analysis which includes maps showing the specific recommended zones to focus new investments is presented in Appendix 4.





### 4.3 Analysis #1: Mapping existing open spaces

This analysis mapped all existing open spaces in Merri-bek, covering parks, playgrounds, sports grounds, creek corridors, and pocket parks. Open spaces within Major Activity Centres were mapped with a walking catchment of 300 metres, while those in other areas had a catchment of 500 metres. This analysis was a progression from the Park Close to Home framework, differing slightly by focusing on open space catchments rather than residential catchments to facilitate comparisons with Analysis #2.

As seen in Figure 13, the results indicate that several areas in Merri-bek are still not within walking distance of an open space. Notable large gaps in accessibility are observed in central Glenroy, central Brunswick, Pascoe Vale South, and Fawkner. These findings provide crucial insights for planning and developing open spaces to address these underserved areas.

### 4.4 Analysis #2: A hierarchy analysis

In this phase, every existing open space in Merri-bek was categorised according to the following hierarchy:

- **Pocket open space:** With a walking catchment of 200 metres.
- **Neighbourhood open space:** With a walking catchment of 300 metres.
- **Local open space:** With a walking catchment of 400 metres.
- **District open space:** With a walking catchment of 500 metres.
- **Regional open space:** With a walking catchment of 500 metres.

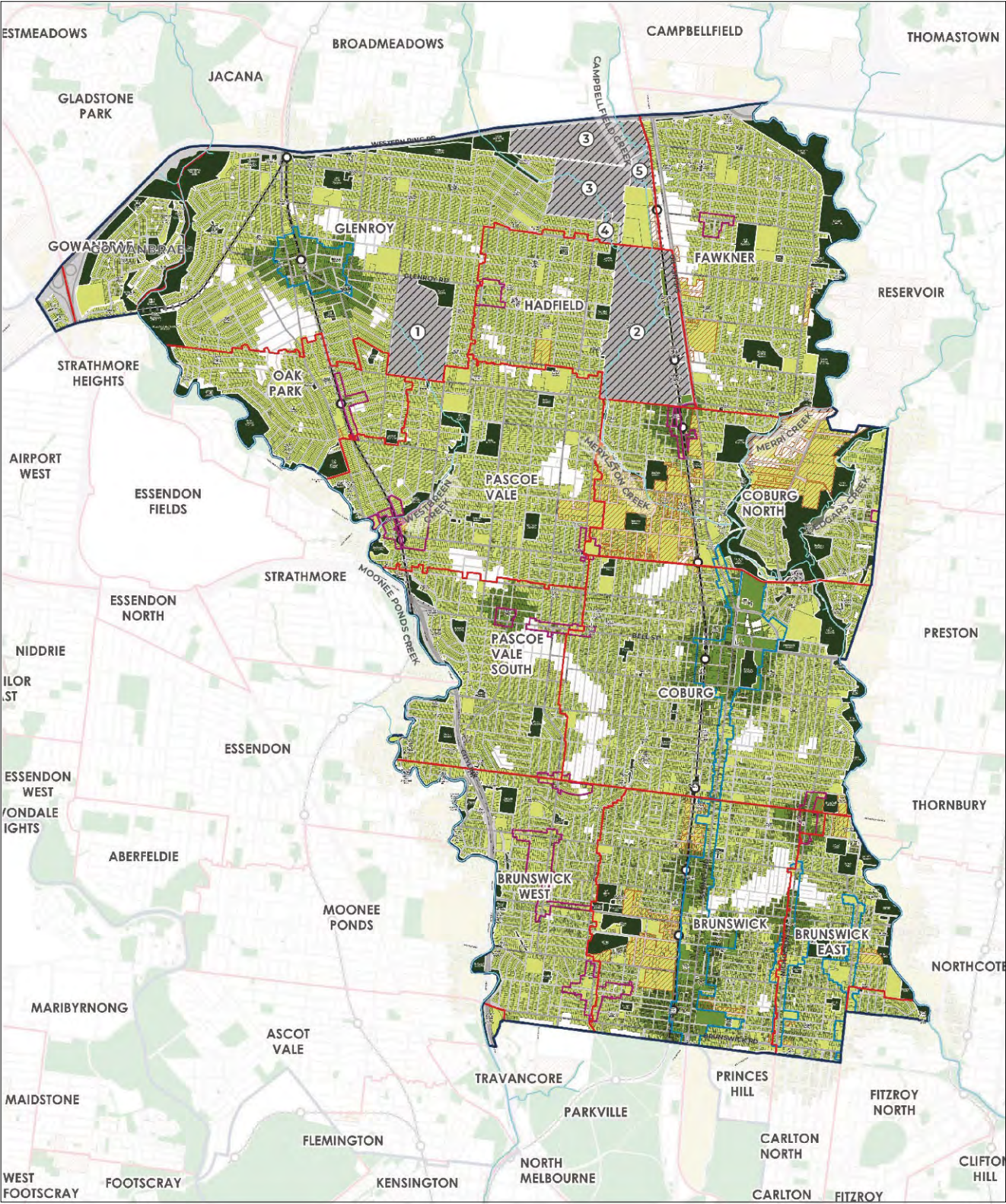
Why did we do this?

1. **Community feedback:** During community engagement, Council received feedback from residents expressing dissatisfaction with the types of open spaces near their homes or workplaces. Some open spaces were considered too small for activities such as walking dogs, engaging in informal or formal sports, or relaxation; conversely, other open spaces were seen as offering more extensive opportunities due to their size and the facilities they provided. This analysis allows Council to explore access to different types (and hierarchy) of open space (rather than any open space).

2. **Understanding of our open space network:** Council aimed to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the open space network, including the distribution of various types and hierarchies of open spaces. This helps Council gain a greater depth of understanding of open space needs, and furthermore, open spaces type needs.
3. **Population growth:** Council's population growth since Park Close to Home and the Moreland Open Space Strategy 2012 – 2022 has risen greatly and is projected to continue to increase and densify.

Mapping each existing open space according to its hierarchy and associated walking catchment helped pinpoint areas that are underserved in open space or lacking in larger open spaces, and therefore helped identified the need for new open spaces and enhancement in existing open spaces. Figure 14 shows the results of the analysis of open space by hierarchy (Analysis #2), while Figure 15 shows the gap areas identified in either or both of Analysis #1 or Analysis #2.

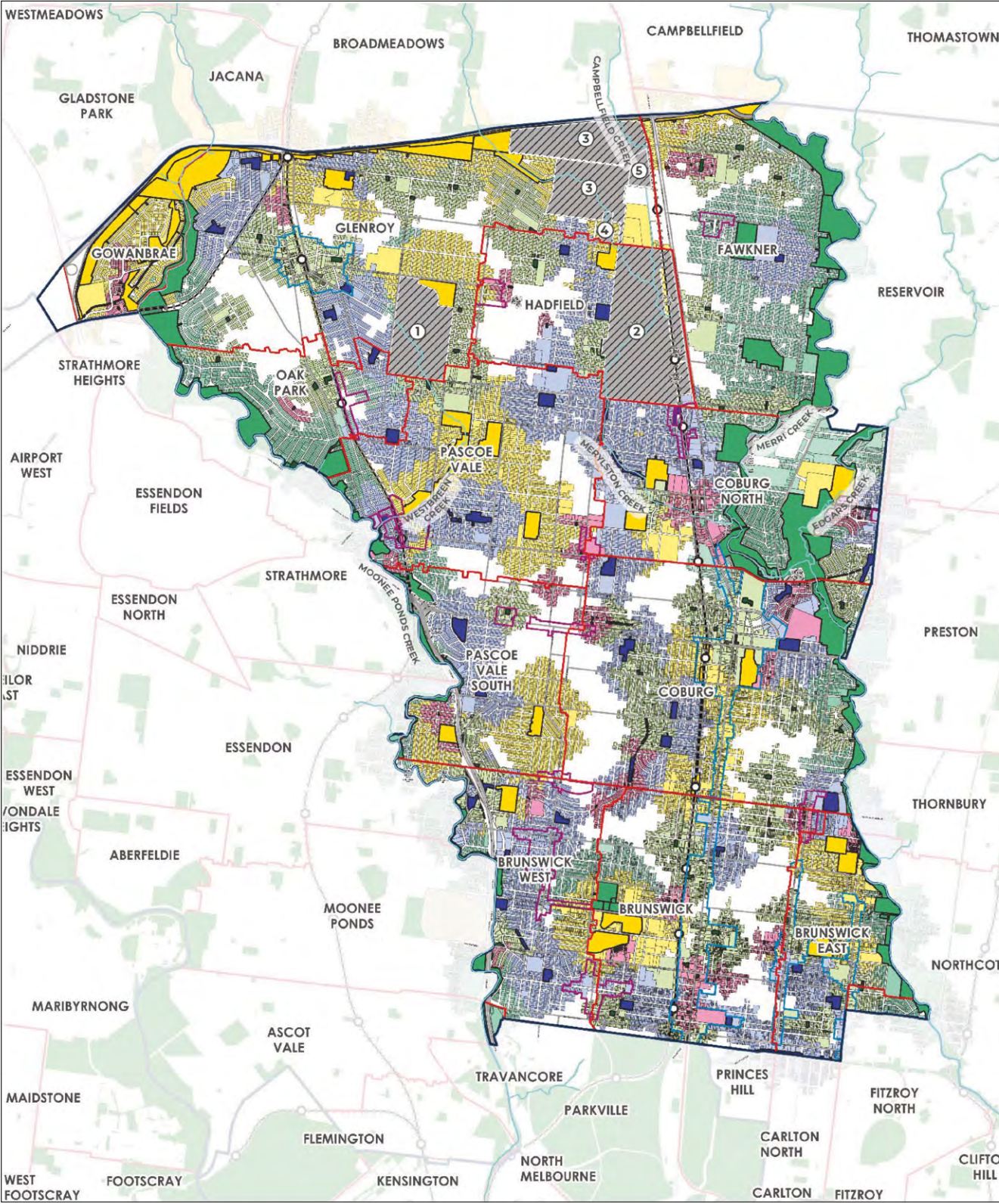




**DRAWING KEY**



Figure 13: Mapping of open spaces in Merri-bek with 300 metres (if the open space is within a Major Activity Centre) or 500 metres.



**DRAWING KEY**

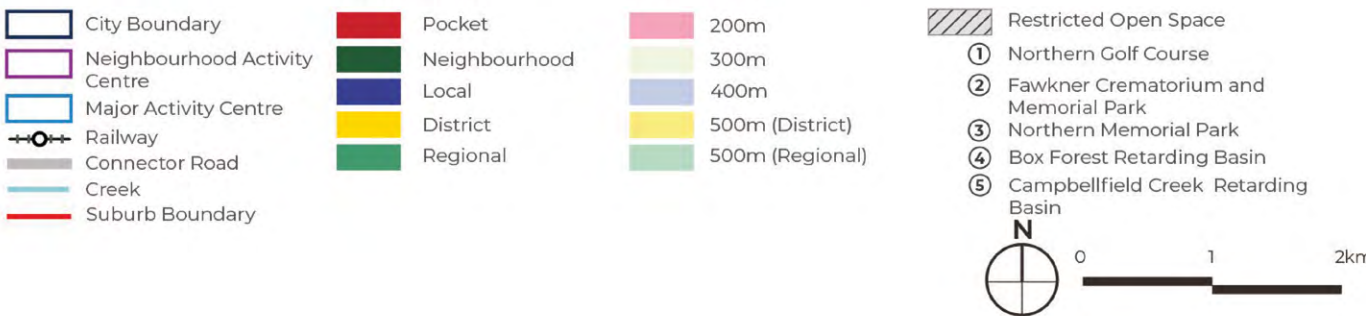
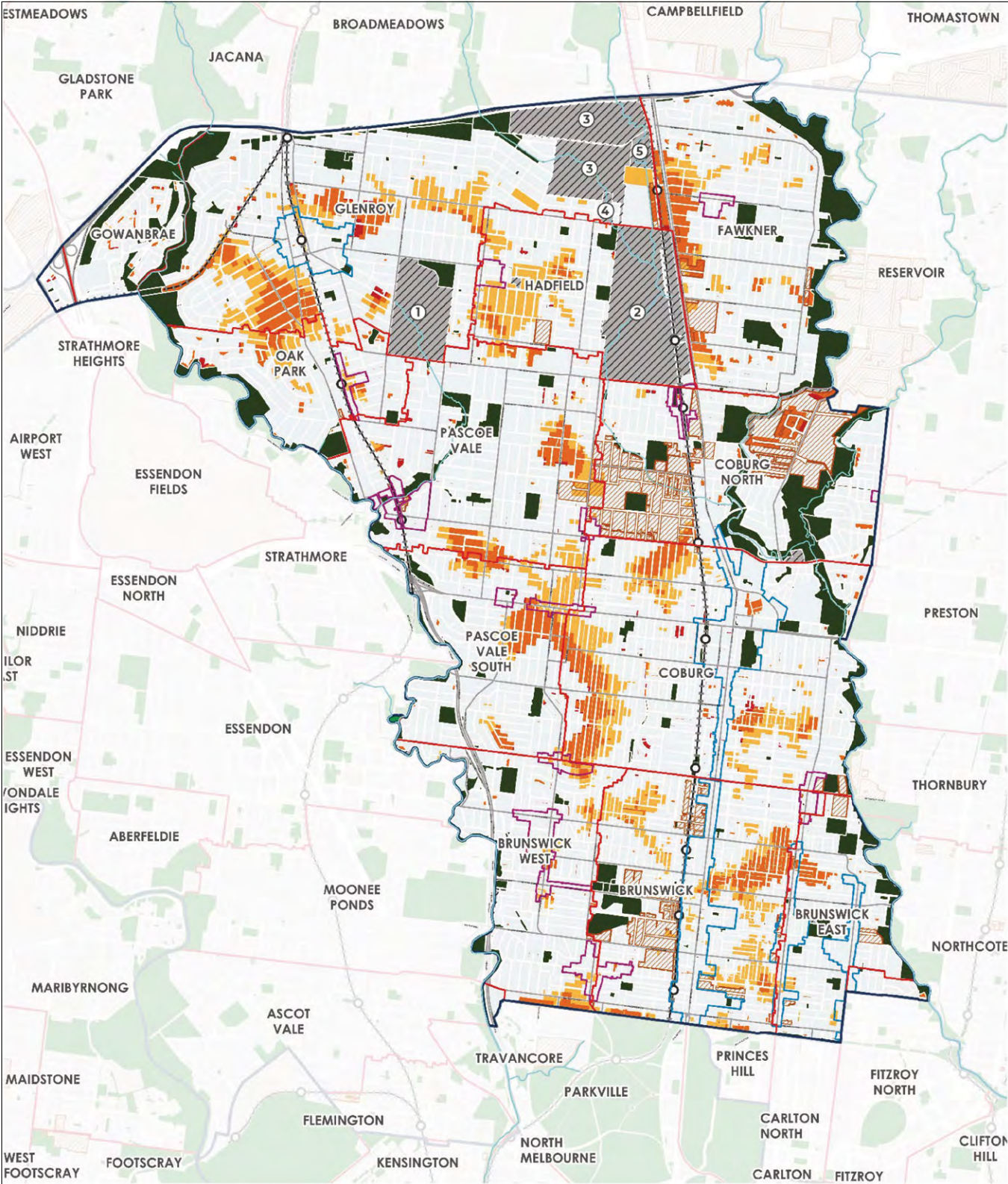


Figure 14: Mapping of all existing open spaces in Merri-bek by their open space hierarchy and open space catchment.





**DRAWING KEY**

- City Boundary
- Public Open Space
- Restricted Open Space
- Neighbourhood Activity Centre
- Major Activity Centre
- Industrial Zone
- Railway
- Creek
- Suburb Boundary

**CATCHMENT GAP**

- Baseline
- Hierarchy
- Overlap between baseline and hierarchy

- Restricted Open Space
- ① Northern Golf Course
- ② Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial Park
- ③ Northern Memorial Park
- ④ Box Forest Retarding Basin
- ⑤ Campbellfield Creek Retarding Basin



Figure 15: Gap areas highlighted, showing the difference between the gaps identified in analysis #1 and #2 and where they overlap.

Image: Family at Bulleke-bek, Brunswick.  
Photo taken by Simon Auber.







These maps combined together are seen in figure 16 below, which shows the open spaces across

Merri-bek according to their hierarchy and the resultant open space gaps.

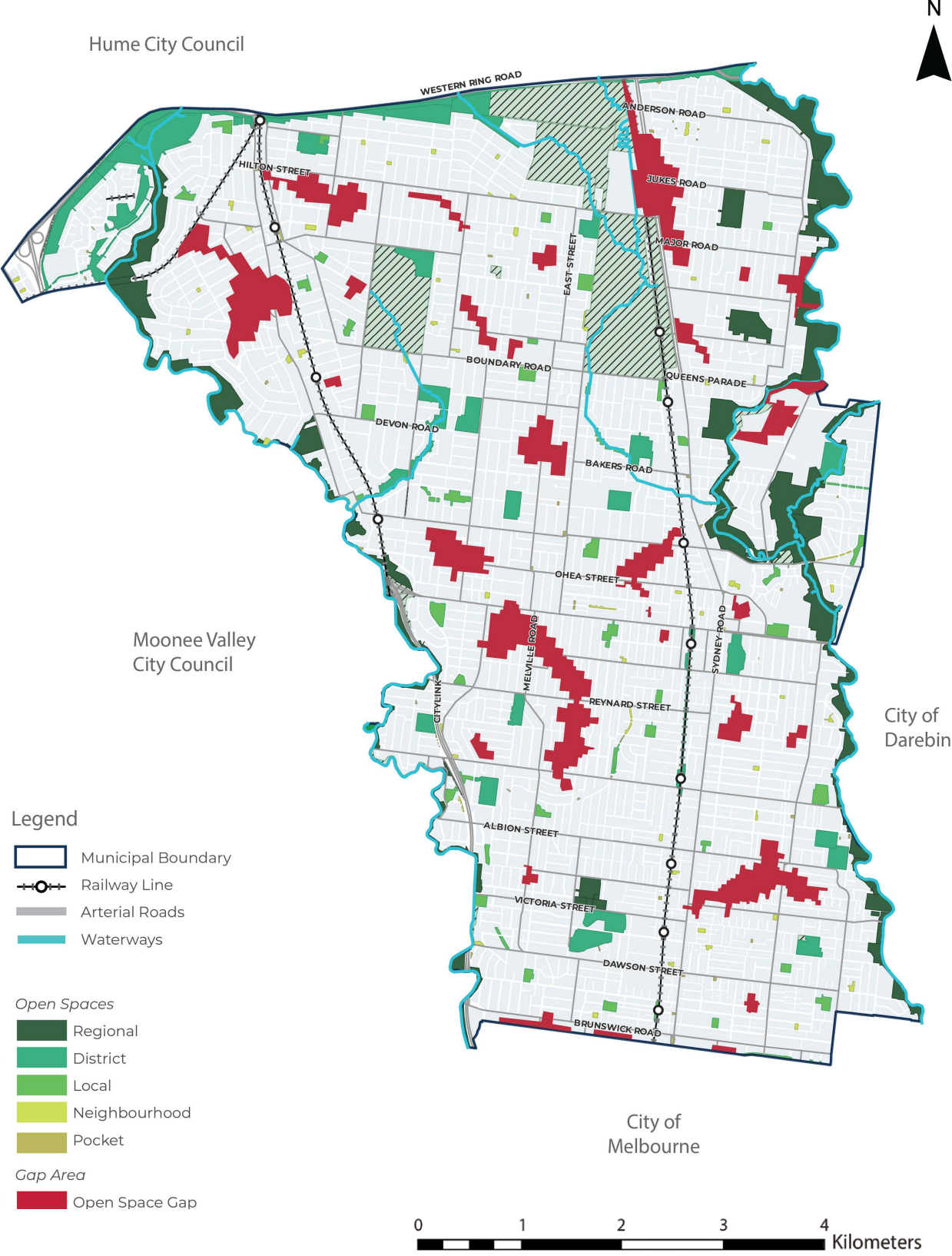


Figure 16: Combined existing open spaces and gap areas.

Image: Family at playground at Coburg Lake.  
Photo taken by Simon Auber.



### 4.5 Analysis #3: Specific open space analysis

In this analysis, the Council's existing open spaces were mapped based on four specific functions or land uses: playgrounds, dog off-leash parks, formal sports grounds, and creek corridors. These four functions were chosen as they were considered to represent four differing prominent ways open space is used (for play, for exercising or socialising dogs, for experiencing nature and creeks and for participating in formal or informal sports at formal sports grounds).

The analysis used a 500 metre catchment area, which was established through the Park Close to Home framework as a benchmark distance for access to open space. This is useful to allow comparison of different open space functions against one another. In delivering projects based on these analyses, further investigation is required to establish a reasonable service level and need for these facilities in open space.

The results of this analysis provide valuable insights and can be used in conjunction with the findings from Analysis #2 to offer more detailed information, including:

- Access to Nature and Biodiversity:** Areas that were identified as being greater than 500 metres walking distance of a waterway were found to have less access to open space with significant nature, biodiversity, and canopy. This underscores the need to enhance nature and biodiversity open space experiences in areas not within walking distance (500 metres) of a Creek corridor to allow greater access to nature and biodiversity throughout Merri-bek (see Figure 16).

- Playgrounds and Dog Off-Leash Areas:** The analysis identified gaps where residents do not have walking distance access to playgrounds and off-leash dog parks or grounds. This information allows Council to identify priority areas for establishing these play spaces and dog facilities and better cater to our community's needs (see Figure 17 and Figure 18).
- Sports Grounds:** The location of existing sports grounds helps the Council analyse access to areas for formal and informal sports. It provides further guidance to the Council in identifying priority areas for exploring new sports facilities, which could involve new land acquisitions or shared-use arrangements with other owners such as schools (see Figure 19).

These detailed findings provide the Council with a comprehensive understanding of how to address specific open space needs, enhance the variety of open space experiences available to residents, and prioritise areas for improvement and development in alignment with the community's requirements and preferences.

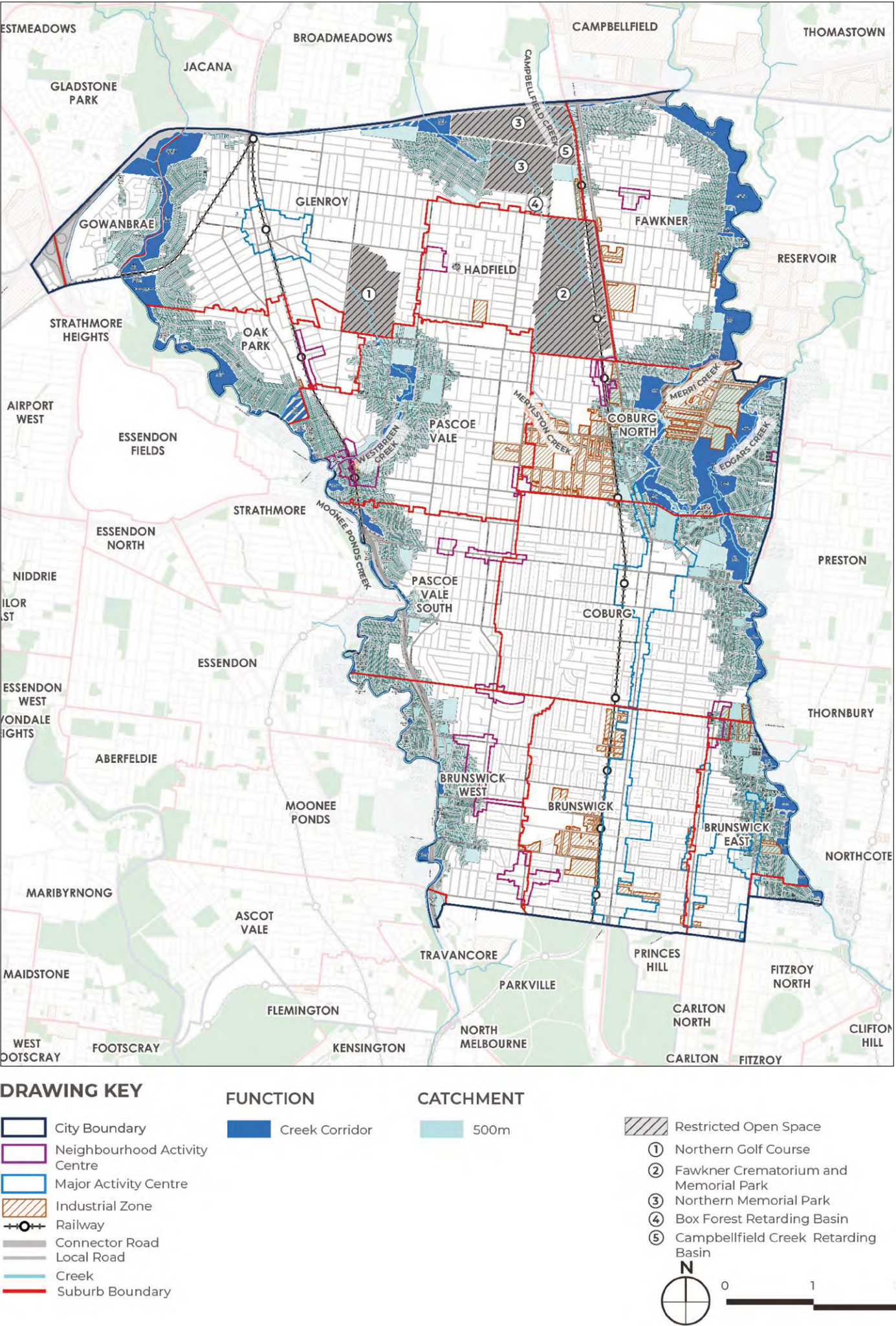


Figure 17: Location of Merri-bek Creek corridors and 500 metres catchment



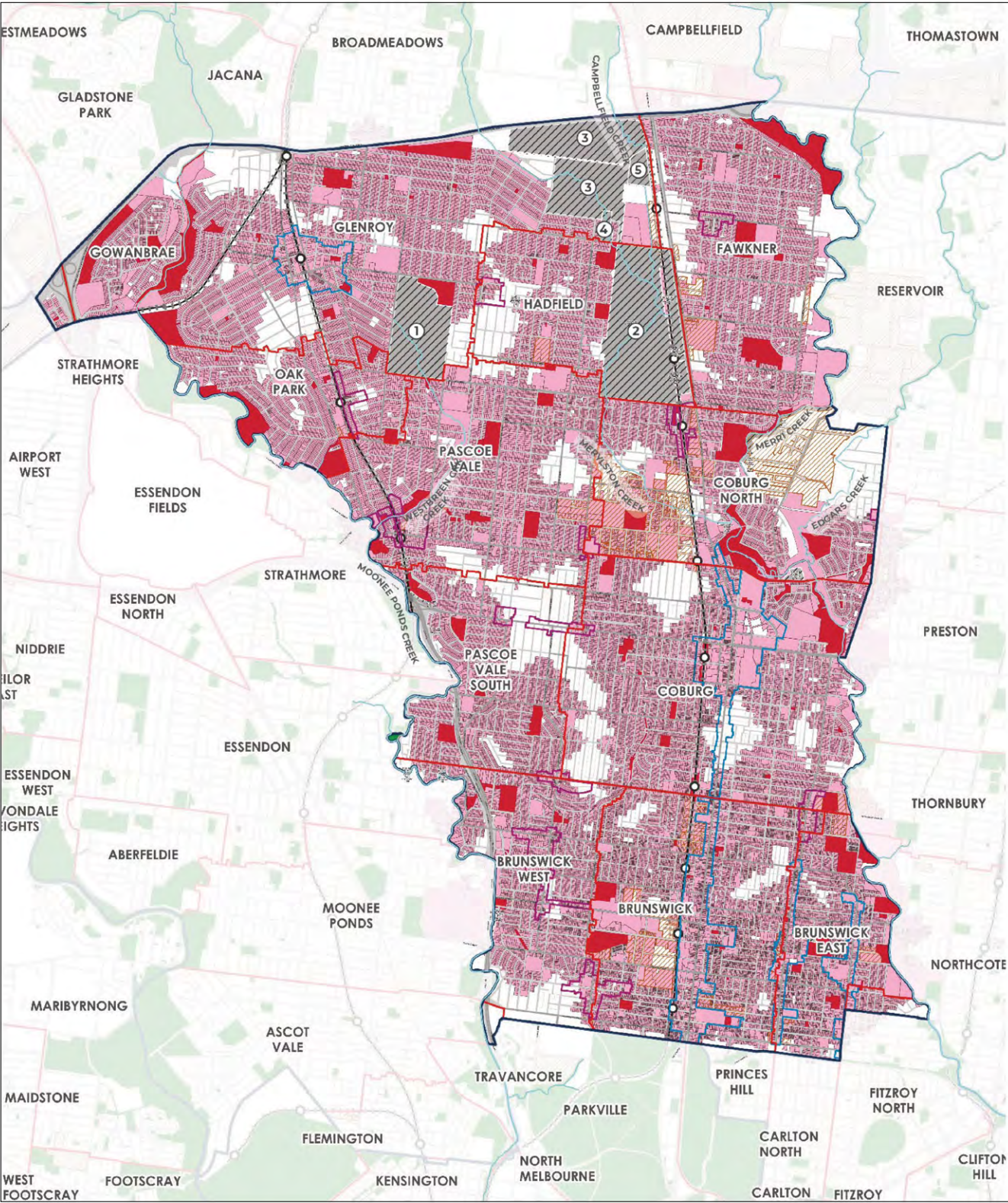


Figure 18: Location of existing play spaces (including playgrounds, BMX / pump tracks and skate parks) and their 500 metres catchment

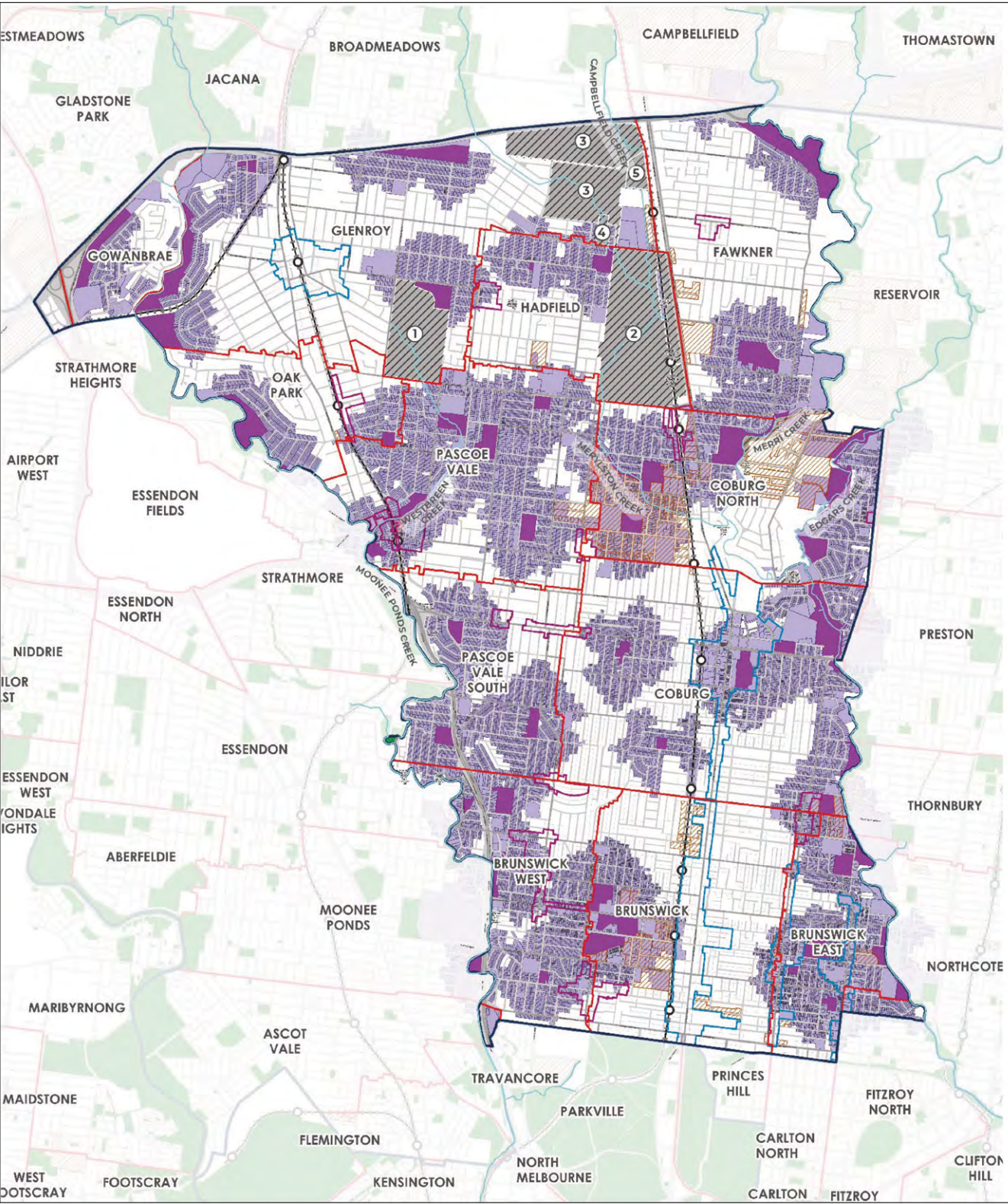


Figure 19: Location of existing contained off-leash dog areas and 500 metres catchment.



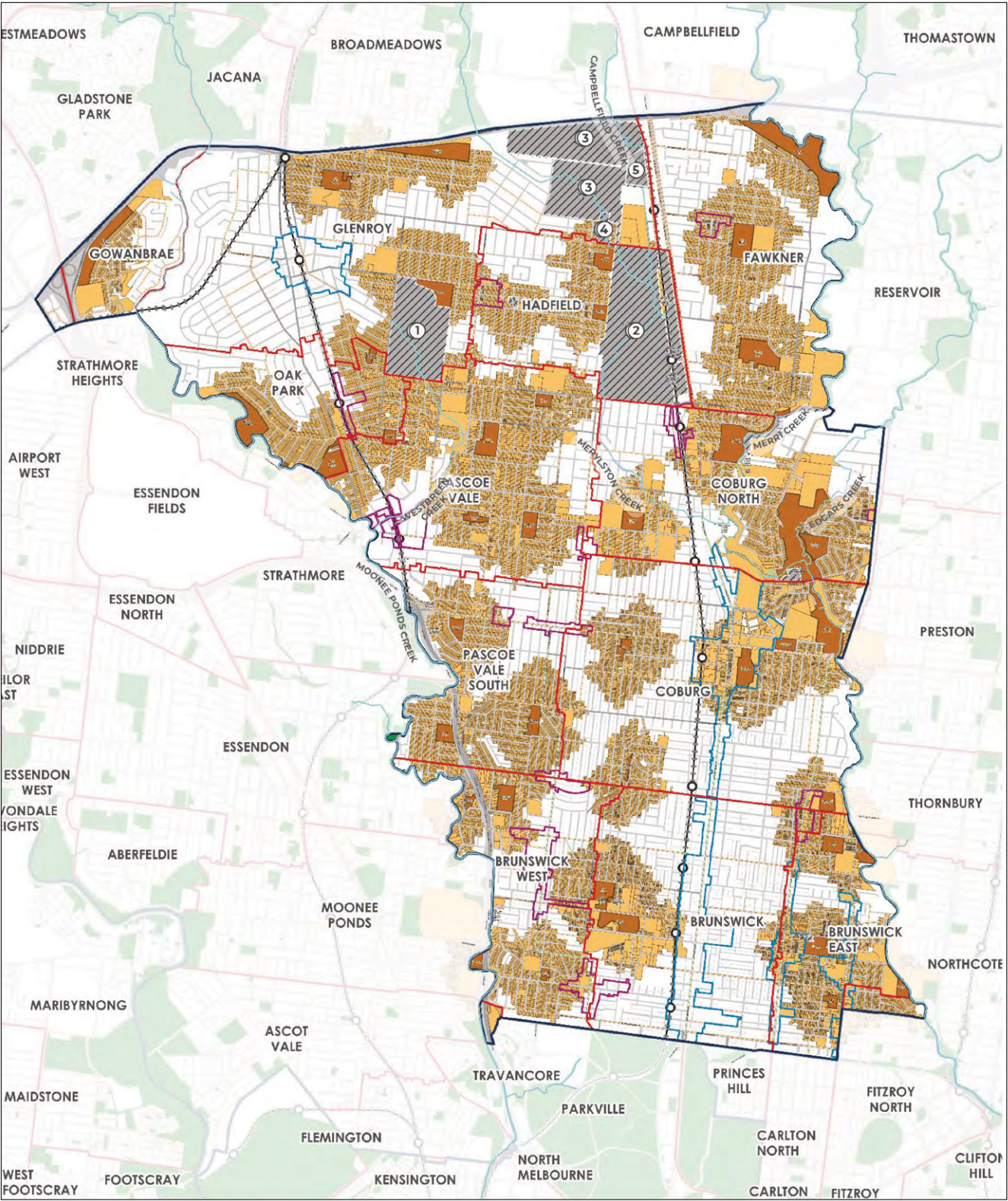


Figure 20: Location of existing formal sports grounds and 500 metres catchment.







# 5

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Image: Community garden at Bulleke-bek, Brunswick.  
Photo taken by Simon Aubor.





# Appendices



# Appendix 1: Community engagement

## Approach to community engagement

Between April and July 2023, the Merri-bek community was actively consulted to provide insight into their use, values, challenges, and needs related to open spaces. Council undertook a range of targeted and more general consultation activities throughout the development of the Open Space Strategy.

These included:

- Six pop-up community events held in parks and shopping centres.
- Four in-depth deep dive workshops.
- Two workshops geared toward Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities and workshops focused on youth and persons with a disability.
- Online consultation, including an open space survey.
- Consultation with Council's Advisory and Reference Groups.

The feedback received throughout this process included:

- The Merri-bek Conversations website, which garnered 2,571 visitors, 253 contributions across various maps and noticeboards, and 227 completed surveys in seven different languages.
- Over 260 individuals attended pop-up events.
- 40 participants engaged in the four deep dive workshops.
- 65 individuals participated in the specific stakeholder workshops.

Council heard diverse feedback about how open space is used, valued, and barriers and challenges to using and accessing open space.

More information about this community engagement program can be found in the Open Space Strategy Community Consultation report.

## Feedback from community engagement

Council heard extensive feedback from this consultation. We heard extensive feedback:

How do you use and value open space in Merri-bek?

Our key uses are:

- Meeting people and friends.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Fitness.
- Place for children to play.
- Birthday parties and other celebrations.
- Exercising dogs.
- Club-based sport or casual sport.

What do you like about open space in Merri-bek?

Our top five things people like are:

1. Our trees.
2. A place to relax and unwind.
3. Our creek and water.
4. Getting out of the house.
5. Place to meeting up with people and being outside.

What barriers or challenges do you face when using / accessing open space in Merri-bek?

Our common challenges using open space were:

- Concerns about dogs.
- Inadequate maintenance and facilities (such as rubbish, dog poo, toilets, open space too wet).
- Inadequate safety and lighting (such as during night-time).
- Insufficient space and sports clubs using open space.

What would you like to see change?

The key items people want to see changed:

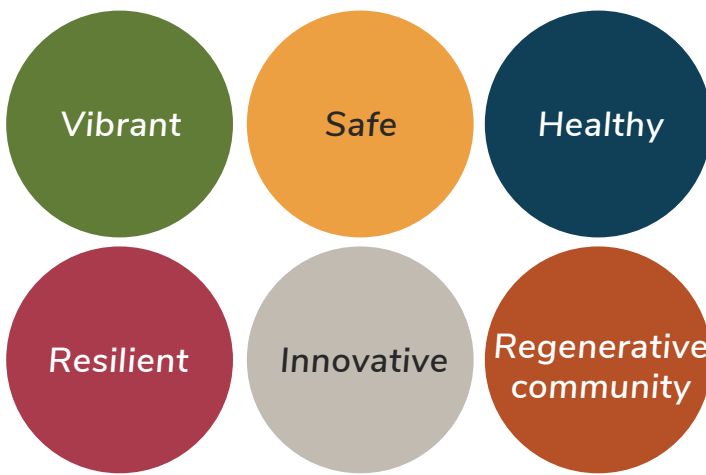
- Improved environmental protection, biodiversity, more trees, native plants, place for nature, etc.
- More open space and parks across Merri-bek.
- Improved facilities, maintenance (i.e. more bins, night-time lighting, shelter and shade, cleaner and more toilets) and safety measures.
- More events in open space, such as cultural events, festivals and fitness classes.
- A need to explore how open spaces are accessible for all, including persons with a disability, reduced mobility, and carer.



Appendix 2: Merri-bek Community Vision

The Merri-bek Community Vision provides the overarching pathway for our future Merri-bek. The Open Space Strategy plays a significant role towards achieving the Merri-bek Council Vision, which is:

“Merri-bek is our home. We respect and look after our land, air, waterways, and animals. We care for our people and celebrate our diverse stories, cultures, and identities. Merri-bek is enhanced by all of us supporting our local businesses, arts communities and social organisations. We work together proactively and transparently to continue to create a: Many faces, one Merri-bek.”



The five themes to achieve this Vision and reflect the aspirations of Merri-bek’s diverse and growing community in 2031 are:

Theme 1: An environmentally proactive Merri-bek:

In 2031, Merri-bek is carbon neutral, embracing an entirely renewable energy system, innovative management of waste, and accessible active transport.

We have a circular economy, passive housing, food security, ample green spaces and canopy cover led by a well-informed proactive community.

We are a community connected to Country with healthy flora and fauna, through protection of ecosystems.

Our Open Space Strategy vision acknowledges that our open space is integrally woven to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. The Strategy also acknowledges the important role open space has in environmental action and connection to Country.

Theme 2: Moving and living safely in Merri-bek:

In 2031, Merri-bek is safe. Our streets are safe for pedestrians and cyclists, day and night. Everyone in Merri-bek is able to live in their homes without fear from others, both known and unknown.

In Merri-bek, we actively look out for each other and are well supported to do this by council.

Our open space plays an important role in promoting safety, including when using open space and moving in open space. Open space also incorporates key parts of the transport network. The new Open Space Strategy will explore how we can further progress this work.

Theme 3: A healthy and caring Merri-bek:

In 2031, the Merri-bek community has healthy bodies and minds.

We have our basic needs met. We have ready access to mental health, crisis and domestic violence services as well as high-quality health care.

Merri-bek has reliable housing, and nutritious food, with ample opportunities to move our bodies, keep our minds active, and socially connect. Access to these are tailored to the unique needs of our diverse community.

No one is lost between the cracks.

The Strategy reinforces the importance of open space in promoting a healthy and caring community. Key actions within the 5 directions will further support this, including exploring how our open spaces can be improved to allow greater access to everyone in our community.

Theme 4: Spaces and places in Merri-bek:

In 2031, living and working in Merri-bek is easy and enjoyable. Housing is affordable and caters to vulnerable and lower income groups. Our buildings are smart, green and fully integrated into the surrounding environment.

Merri-bek’s public and commercial spaces bring people together in diverse ways. Acknowledging the unique strengths in different areas of Merri-bek, the council and community support the development of vibrant hubs of arts, businesses and recreation.

The Open Space Strategy recognises that public spaces, such as open space, provide opportunity to bring people together in diverse ways, such as arts, sports and socialising. Key actions in the action plan and the 5 directions will reinforce this Theme.

Theme 5: An empowered and collaborative Merri-bek:

In 2031, Merri-bek is a place that engages meaningfully and has a real commitment to collaboration.

The community is aware of all council activities and trust in decisions and processes. The community will know where the unmet needs of our neighbours are and will be actively engaged in working towards a brighter future for all.

The Open Space Strategy reinforces this theme via the five Strategy directions and the decision-making principles, which provide assurance and clarify how Council will make decisions and undertake processes in open space.



## Appendix 3: Relevant Merri-bek City Council policies, inter-Council Strategies and Victorian State Government legislation

### Merri-bek City Council

- Accessible & Inclusive Communications Policy
- Active women and Girls in Merri-bek Strategy
- Advocacy Plan 2021-2025
- Allocation and use of sporting facilities, grounds, and pavilions
- Arts & Culture Strategy 2023-2030
- Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021 – 2025
- Cooling the Upfield Corridor Action Plan
- Community infrastructure plan 2022 – 2032.
- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Living and Ageing Well Framework
- Merri-bek Planning Scheme
- Climate Risk Strategy and Foundational Action Plan
- Community Engagement Policy
- Homelessness strategy
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
- Edgars Creek conservation and development plan
- Fawkner Transport Study
- Fawkner Merri Parklands Plan

- Full Potential (a Strategy for Moreland's Young People)
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy 2022
- Housing Capacity Study
- Human Rights Policy 2016 - 2026
- Gender Equality statement of Commitment
- Integrated Water Management Strategy + Action Plan
- Later Years Strategy
- LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2023 - 2026
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Merri Creek Environs Strategy
- Merri-bek General Local Laws 2018
- Industrial Land Use Strategy
- Nature Plan
- Park Close to Home framework
- Parking Management Policy 2019
- Play Strategy
- Road Management Plan 2021-2025
- Shopping Strip Renewal Policy
- Social Cohesion Plan 2020 - 2025
- Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2020
- Sportsgrounds Surface Policy
- Transport Strategy
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Urban Heat Island Effect Action Plan 2016 – 2026

- Upfield Corridor Action Plan 2018-2029
- Westbreen creek conservation and development plan
- Zero Carbon Merri-bek Framework + Action Plan
- 10-year Financial Plan (2021 – 2031)

### Inter-Council Strategies

- Chain of Ponds
- Northern Trails 2022 (developed by Banyule City Council, Darebin City Council, Hume City Council, Merri-bek City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, City of Whittlesea, plus Yarra City Council).

### Victorian State Government

- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
- Climate Change Act 2017
- Gender Equality Act 2020
- Local Government Act 2020
- Open Space for Everyone: Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne 2021
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050
- Victoria's Climate Change Strategy

Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021 – 2026.

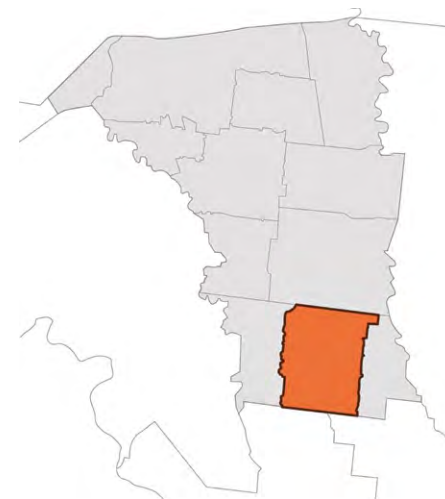
- Environmental Protection Act 1994 (General Environmental Duty)





## Appendix 4: Suburb analysis

### Brunswick



Brunswick is a 5 square kilometre suburb bordering Coburg, Brunswick East and Brunswick West within Merri-bek, and the suburbs of Carlton and Parkville in the City of Melbourne. Brunswick has significantly experienced densification, with the Brunswick Major Activity Centre along the Sydney Road and Lygon Street trams corridor undergoing significant development. The future Brunswick Level Crossing Removal project, being led by the Victorian Government, will create significant new public open space underneath a new elevated rail corridor, for a stretch of 4 kilometres in Brunswick.

Brunswick has a key regional open space at the Brunswick Central Parklands, which includes Gilpin Park, Clifton Park, A G Gillon Oval, Reaburn Reserve and Brunswick Park, which contains over 74 per cent of Brunswick total open space.

Key open space figures for Brunswick include:

- A population of 30,287 residents in 2021, projected to increase by 34 per cent to 40,687 residents in 2041
- A workforce of 14,153 individuals in 2021, with a projected increase of 26 per cent to 17,858 workers by 2041.
- In 2021, there were 8.3 square metres of open space per resident, which is expected to decrease to 6.2 square metres by 2041 unless additional land is acquired, other public lands are repurposed or shared for open space, or quality embellishments to existing open space land enable increased use.
- 25.2 hectares (252,000 square metres) of open space occupying 5.2 per cent of the suburb's total area.
- The majority of larger regional and district open spaces are located in the Brunswick Central Parklands precinct, including Brunswick Park, Clifton Park and A G Gillon Oval. There are additionally 4 neighbourhood open spaces (including Bulleke-bek Park and Garrong Park, constructed via the Park Close to Home program), 4 local open spaces (including Warr Park), and 7 pocket open spaces (including the new 260 Sydney Road park and the Wilson Avenue urban pocket park).
- The majority of formal sports reserves are also located in the Brunswick Central Parklands.
- 15 play spaces, including at the Brunswick Parklands, Temple Park and Symons Park.



Key challenges and open space recommendations:

- Brunswick will continue to experience significant residential and worker population growth. It is anticipated that 40 per cent of the residential growth will be in high-density apartments, with 18 per cent along the core major and neighbourhood activity centres in Brunswick. This will continue to place pressure on the existing open space, despite the construction of new spaces in recent years including Garrong Park, Bulleke-bek Park and new projects at 260 Sydney Road and 1 Frith Street.
- The majority of larger open spaces in Brunswick are located in the Brunswick Central parklands, meaning that persons living in parts of Brunswick such as to the north of Blyth Street, north of Albion Street and north of Dawson Street, are considered underserved for open space.
- Much of open space spaces in the western side of Brunswick are smaller open spaces which allow for lesser activities and capacity.
- Land acquisition to create a new local scale open space to the east of Sydney Road to address gaps between Victoria Street and Albion Street.
- Undertake land acquisition to create two new neighbourhood scale open spaces in the north-west and south-east of Brunswick to reduce open space gaps
- Create two new pocket parks near the SydneyRoad Major Activity Centre to meets the needs of urban densification

- Continue enlarging existing open spaces to increase the opportunity for open space activities, as well as improving connections to the large Brunswick Parklands space.
- It is not recommended to acquire land in gaps around Brunswick Road as they are opposite district open spaces at Royal Park and Princes Park in the City of Melbourne.

Further detail is contained in the Merri-bek Open Space Background Technical Report.

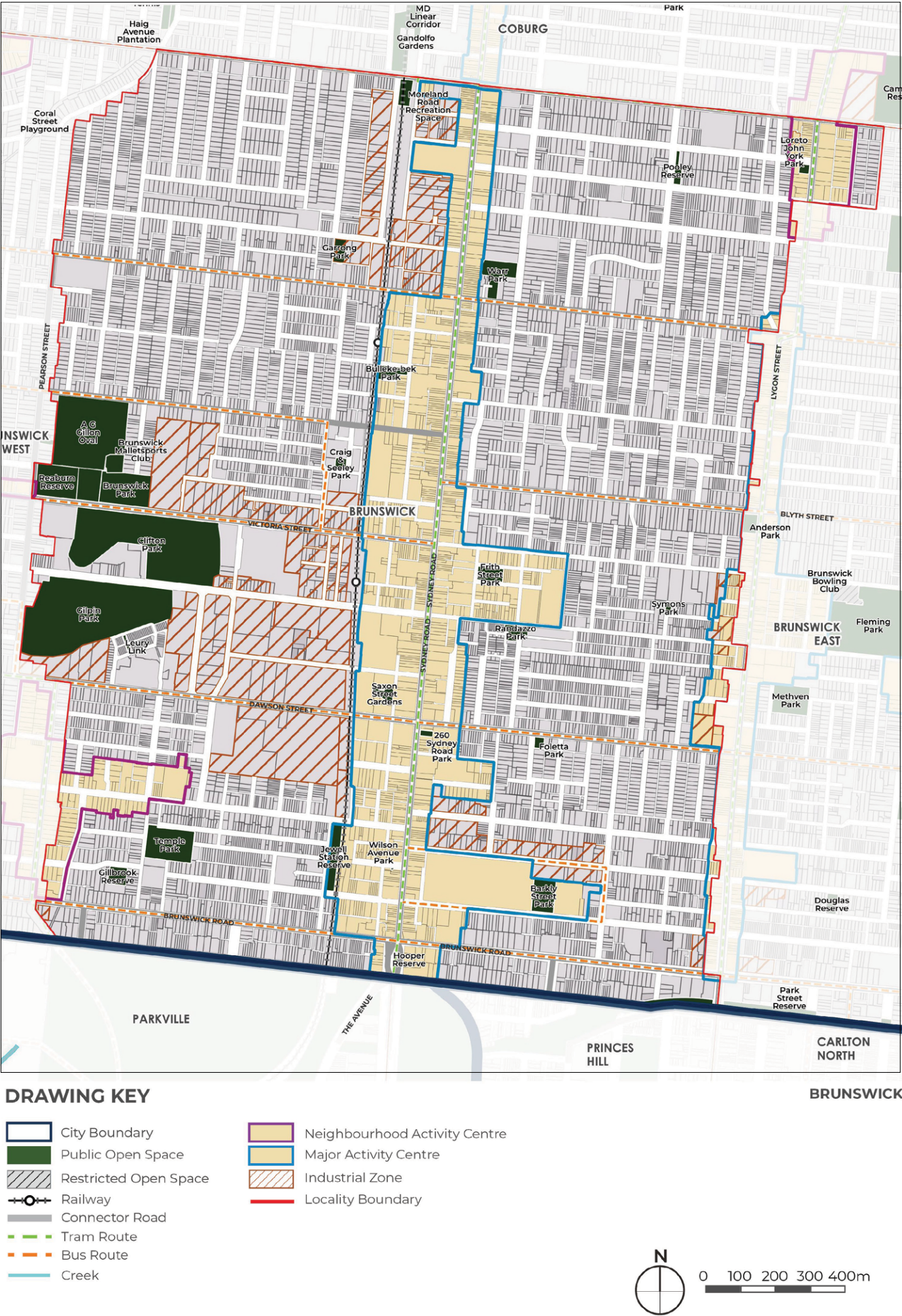


Figure 21: Existing open space in Brunswick.



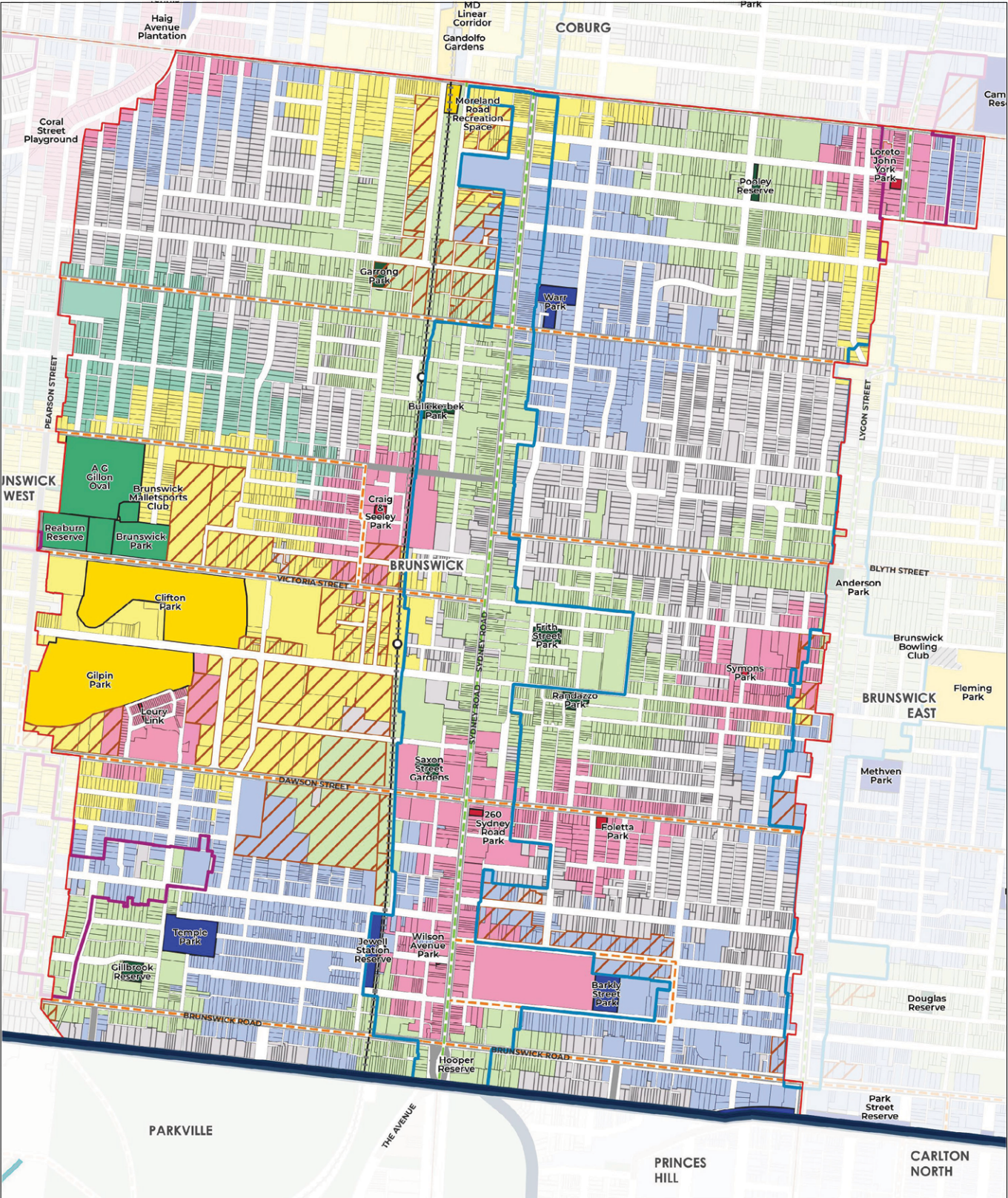


Figure 22: Analysis #2 and mapping of the open space hierarchies, their catchments and open space gaps, Brunswick.

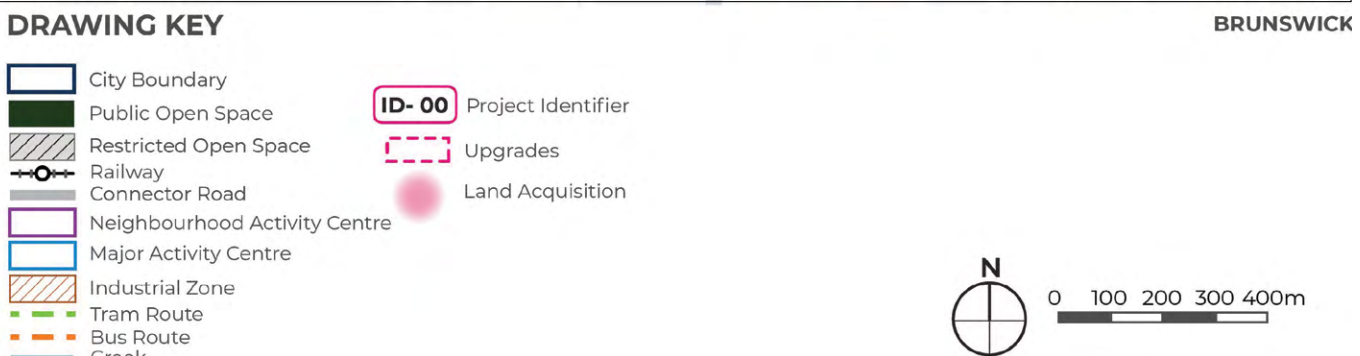
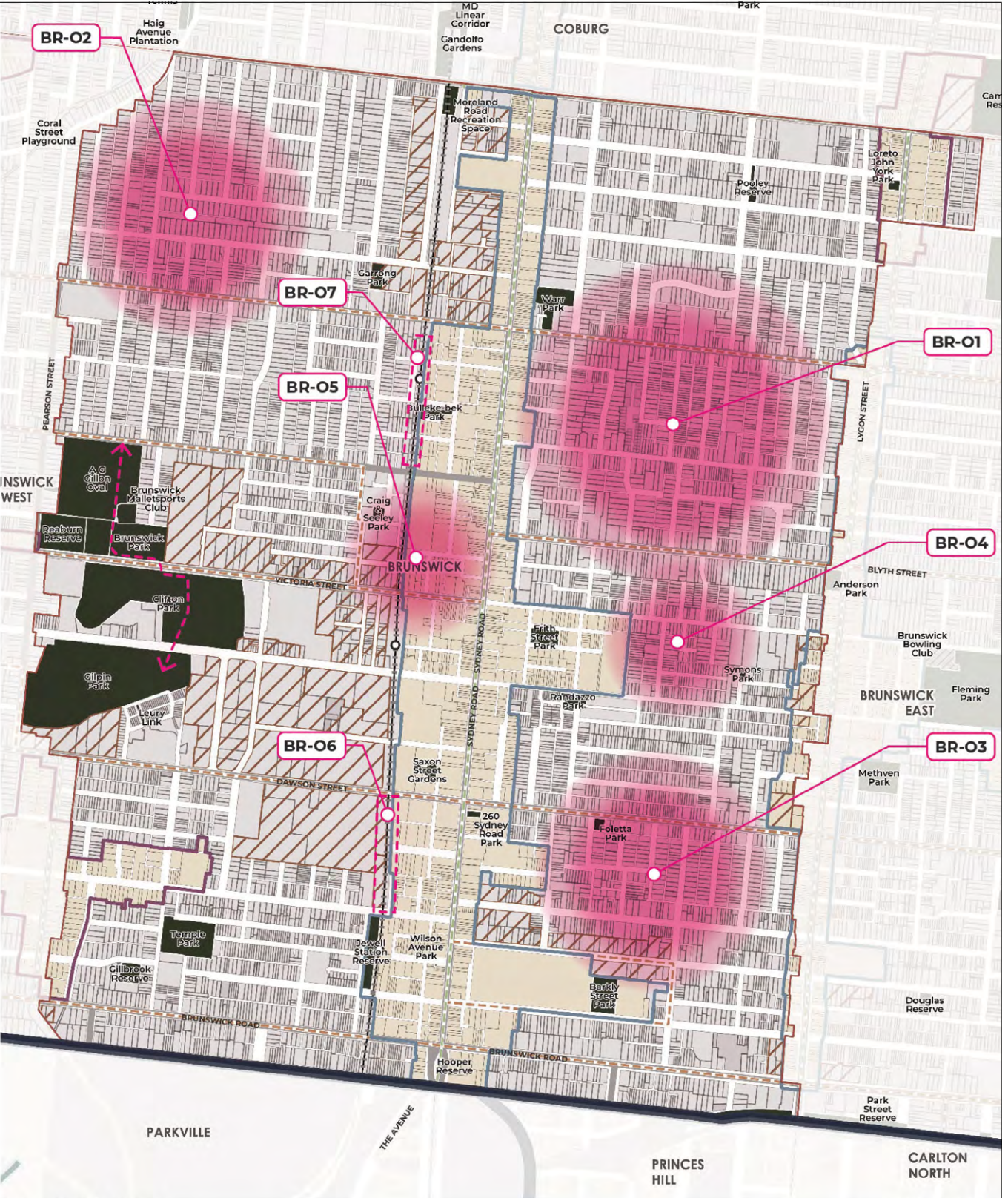


Figure 23: Key recommended projects in Brunswick.



Brunswick East (and part of Fitzroy North)



Brunswick East, along with a part of Fitzroy North (hereafter referred to as 'Brunswick East'), comprises a 2.4 square kilometre area situated in the south-eastern region of Merri-bek. It is surrounded by neighbouring suburbs such as Brunswick, Northcote, Thornbury, and Carlton North.

Brunswick East is primarily delineated by geographical features and roadways, with the Merri Creek forming its eastern boundary. The northern boundary is demarcated by Moreland Road, the western boundary by Lygon Street, and the southern boundary by Park Street. These boundaries intersect with adjoining municipalities of Yarra, Darebin, and Melbourne.

Much of the open space in Brunswick East is located along the near the Merri Creek, including the Creek corridor itself and also parks such as Sumner Park, CERES, and Jones and Allard Parks. A large open space, Fleming Park, is centrally located in Brunswick East. Brunswick East will continue to experience densification, including along the Major Activity Centre Lygon Street and Nicholson Street tram corridors.

Key open space figures for Brunswick East include:

- A population of 16,737 residents in 2021, projected to increase by 40 per cent to 23,458 residents by 2041.
- A workforce of 4,473 individuals in 2021, with a projected increase of 13 per cent to 5,054 workers by 2041.
- In 2021, there were 15.8 square metres of open space per resident, which is expected to decrease to 11.8 square metres by 2041 unless additional land is acquired, other public lands are repurposed or shared for open space, or quality embellishments to existing open space land enable increased use.
- 33.5 hectares (335,168 square metres) of open space, occupying 14.0 per cent of the suburb's total area.
- The presence of 11 key regional public open spaces, 3 district open spaces, 4 neighbourhood open spaces, 3 local open spaces, and 2 pocket open spaces.
- Six sports reserves, including Fleming Park and Sumner Park
- 13 play spaces, including at Jones Park and Roberts Reserve.

Open space challenges and key open space recommendations:

- Brunswick East will continue to experience significant population growth. Of this growth, over half is expected to be high-density apartments which will be largely located in Activity Centres of Brunswick East. This will continue to place pressure on the public open space in and near these Activity Centres and across the entire suburb.
- Undertake land acquisition to create a neighbourhood scale open space to address an identified open space gap between Albion and Blyth Streets to the west of Lygon Street.
- Undertake land acquisition to create two new pocket scale open spaces is also recommended near the Lygon Street and Nicholson Street Major Activity Centres to meet the needs of densification.
- Continue to invest in existing open spaces and explore opportunities to enlarge these spaces / increase access to the Merri Creek regional corridor.

Further detail is contained in the Merri-bek Open Space Background Technical Report.



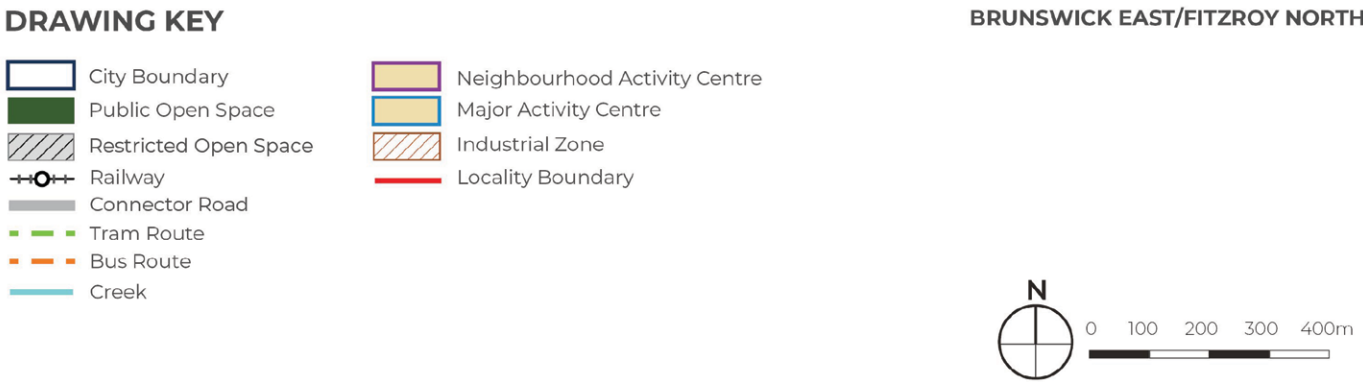
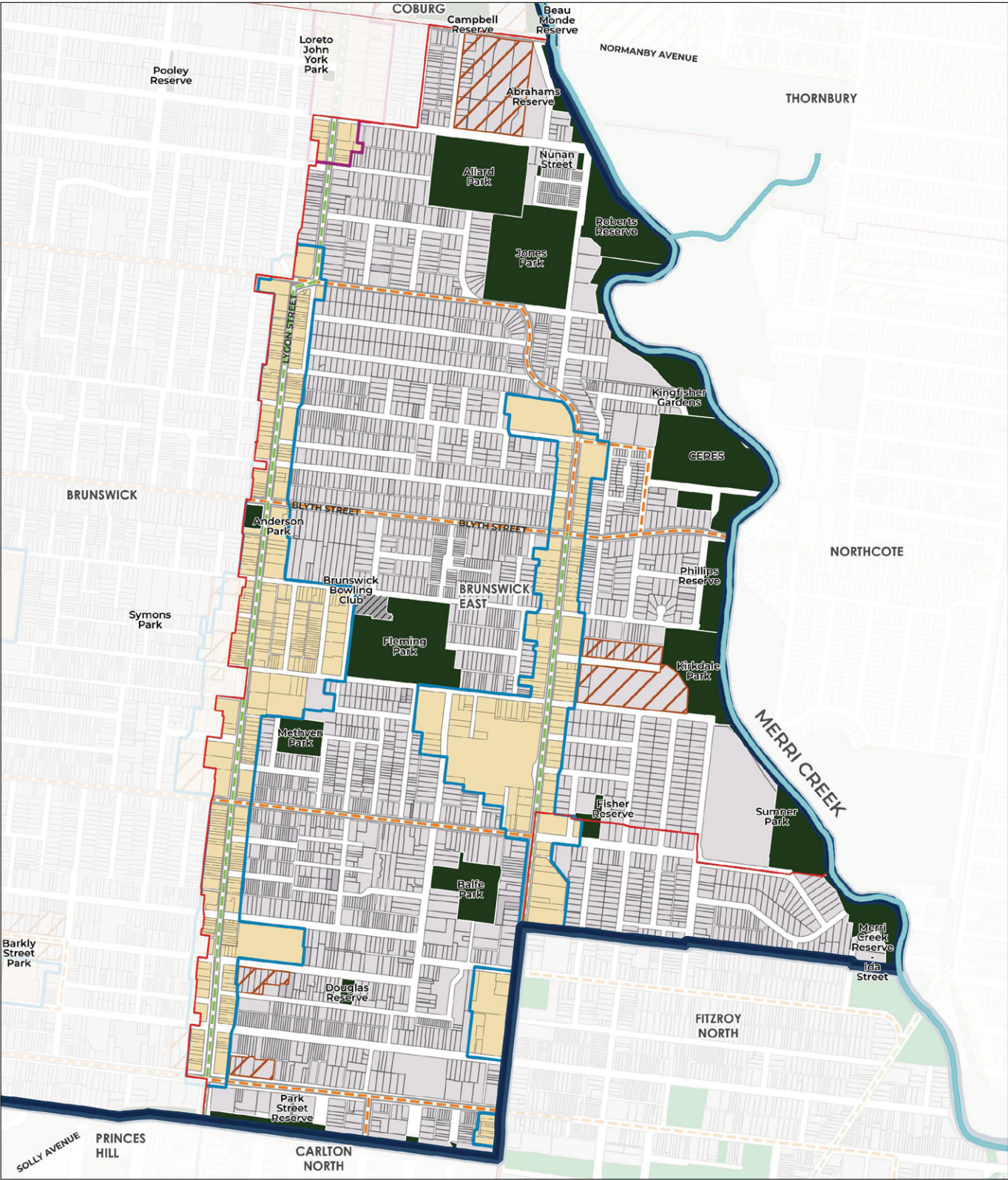


Figure 24: Existing open space in Brunswick East.

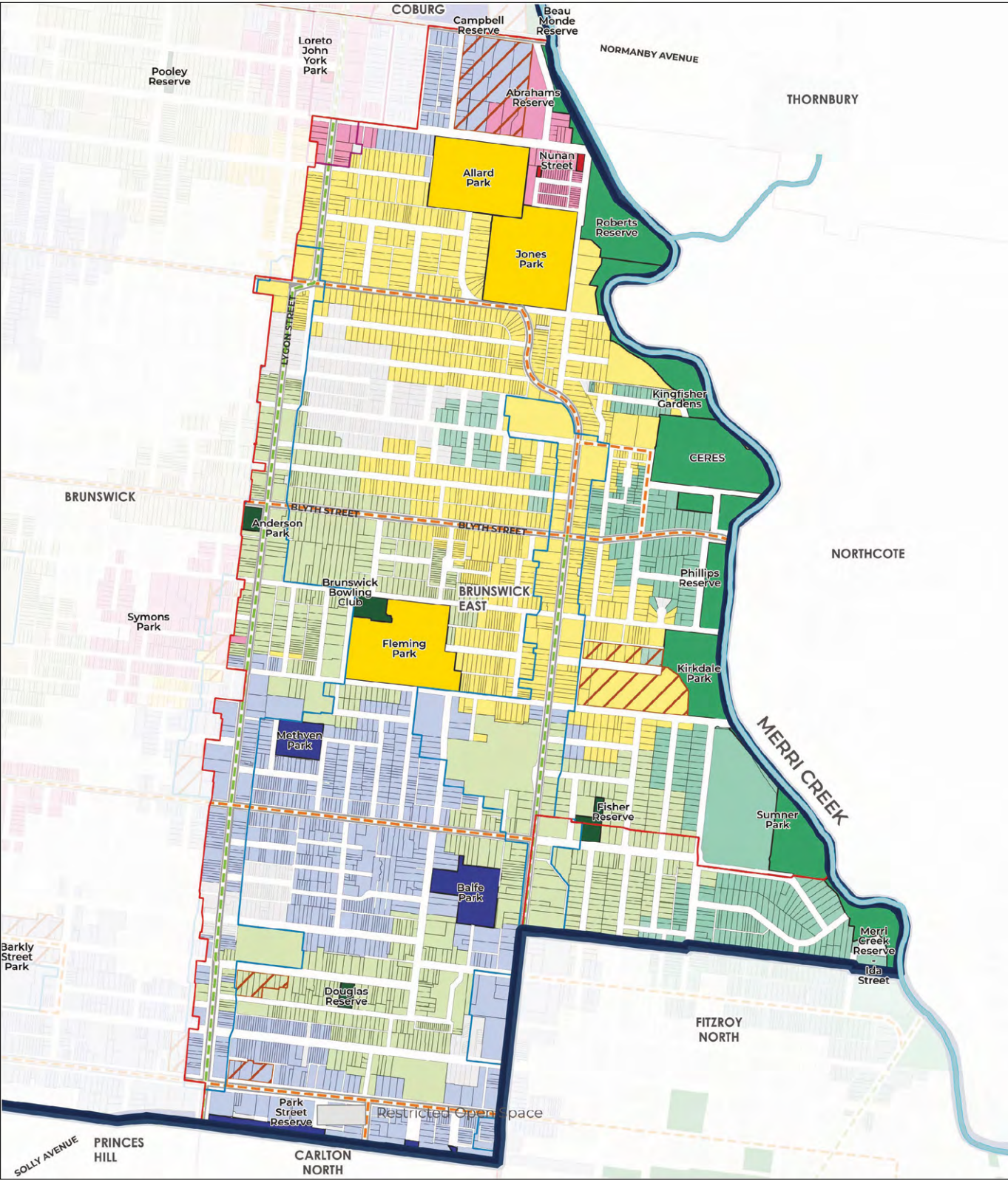


Figure 25: Analysis #2 and mapping of the open space hierarchies, their catchments and open space gaps, Brunswick East.



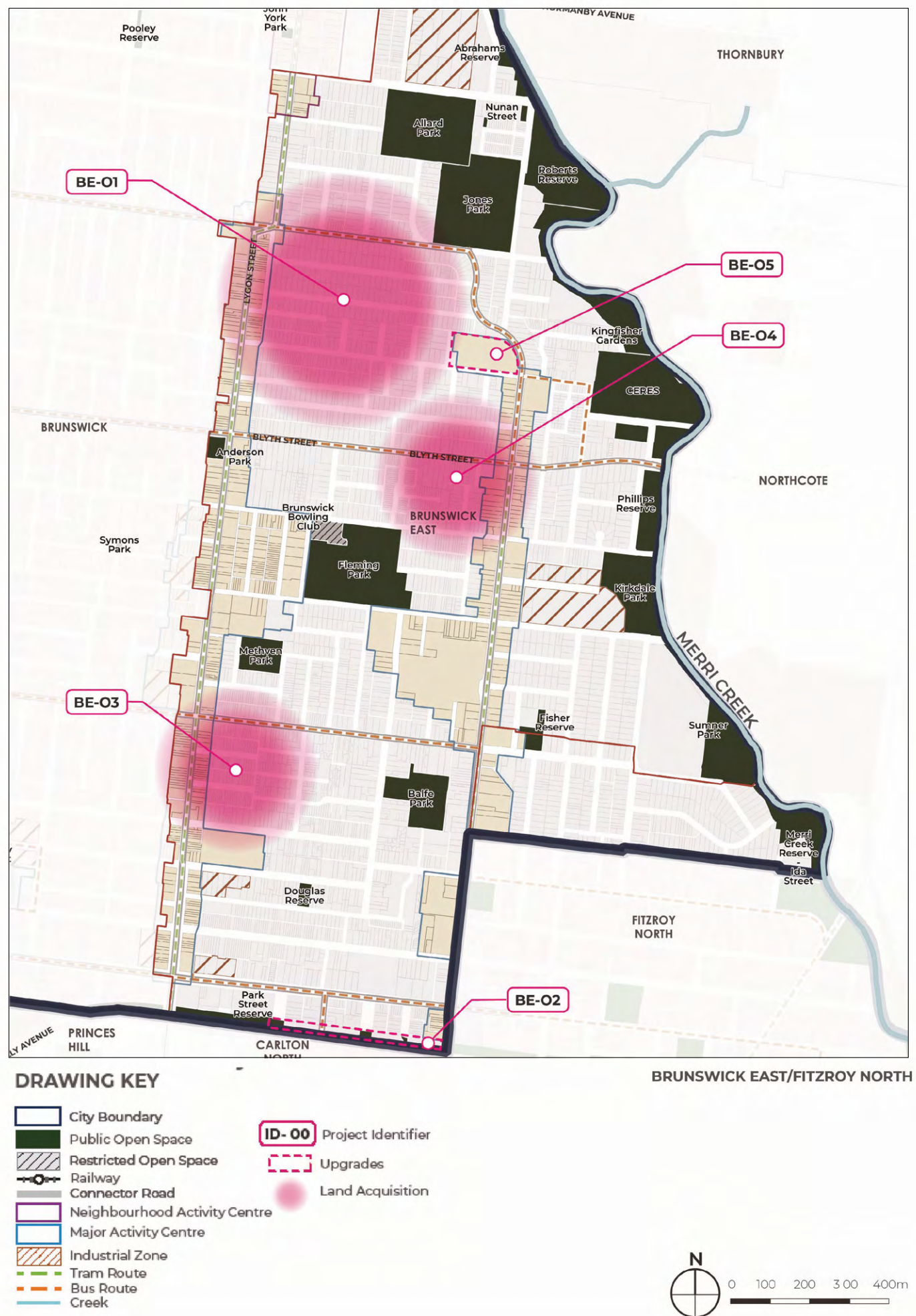


Figure 26: Recommended projects for Brunswick East.

## Brunswick West



Brunswick West is a 3.2 square kilometre suburb which adjoins Brunswick, Pascoe Vale South, Coburg, Moonee Ponds, Parkville and Ascot Vale. It is delineated by the Moonee Ponds Creek and the CityLink freeway to its west, Moreland Road to the north, Pearson Street to the East and Park Street to the south. It adjoins the adjoining municipalities of Melbourne and Moonee Valley.

Brunswick West contains four Neighbourhood Activity Centres, at the nodes of: Grantham and Union Streets, Melville Road and Albion and Victoria Streets, Moreland and Melville Roads, and Albion Street and Waxman Parade.

Significant open space is located along the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor, which provides access to a regional open space corridor stretching along the length of Merri-bek. A large regional open space at Dunstan Reserve also provides for formal sport and other uses.

Key open space figures for Brunswick West include:

- A population of 18,035 residents in 2021, projected to increase by 34 per cent to 24,190 residents by 2041.
- A workforce of 1,974 individuals in 2021, with a projected increase of 22 per cent to 2,408 workers by 2041.
- In 2021, there were 11.5 square metres of open space per resident, which is expected to decrease to 8.6 square metres by 2041 unless additional land is acquired, other public lands are repurposed or shared for open space, or quality embellishments to existing open space land enable increased use.
- 20.8 hectares (208,000 square metres) of open space, occupying 6.4 per cent of the suburb's area.
- The presence of 8 key regional public open spaces (including several parks along the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor), 1 district open space (Dunstan Reserve), 2 neighbourhood open spaces (Curtin Avenue Link and Barker Reserve), 7 local open spaces (including Hudson Reserve, Jacobs Reserve and Denzil Don Reserve), and 3 pocket open spaces (including Jewell Crescent Reserve).
- Four formal sports reserves, including Holbrook Reserve.
- Seven play spaces, including at Denzil Don Reserve.



Key challenges and open space recommendations:

- Similar to Brunswick and Brunswick East, Brunswick West will continue to experience significant increased residential population growth. Apartments will account for approximately a quarter of new suburb dwellings in the future.
- Much of the existing public open space exists in the west of Brunswick West along the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor, while population growth in the four Neighbourhood Activity Centres is located in the middle and eastern side of Brunswick West.
- The hierarchy analysis indicates the need for new open spaces near gaps south of Moreland Road, north of Albion Street and to the north of Brunswick Road.
- Undertake land acquisition to create a new neighbourhood open space near the Melville Road / Albion Street / Victoria Street Neighbourhood Activity Centre to accommodate this increased population as well as high-density housing.

- Undertake land acquisition to create a new neighbourhood scale open space in the south-west of Brunswick West is also recommended, including a playground (as identified in Figure 29).
- Undertake land acquisition to create a small pocket scale open space near the Grantham Street / Union Street Neighbourhood Activity Centre is recommended to fill an open space gap as well as reduce pressure on existing open spaces from population increase.

Further detail is contained in the Merri-bek Open Space Background Technical Report.

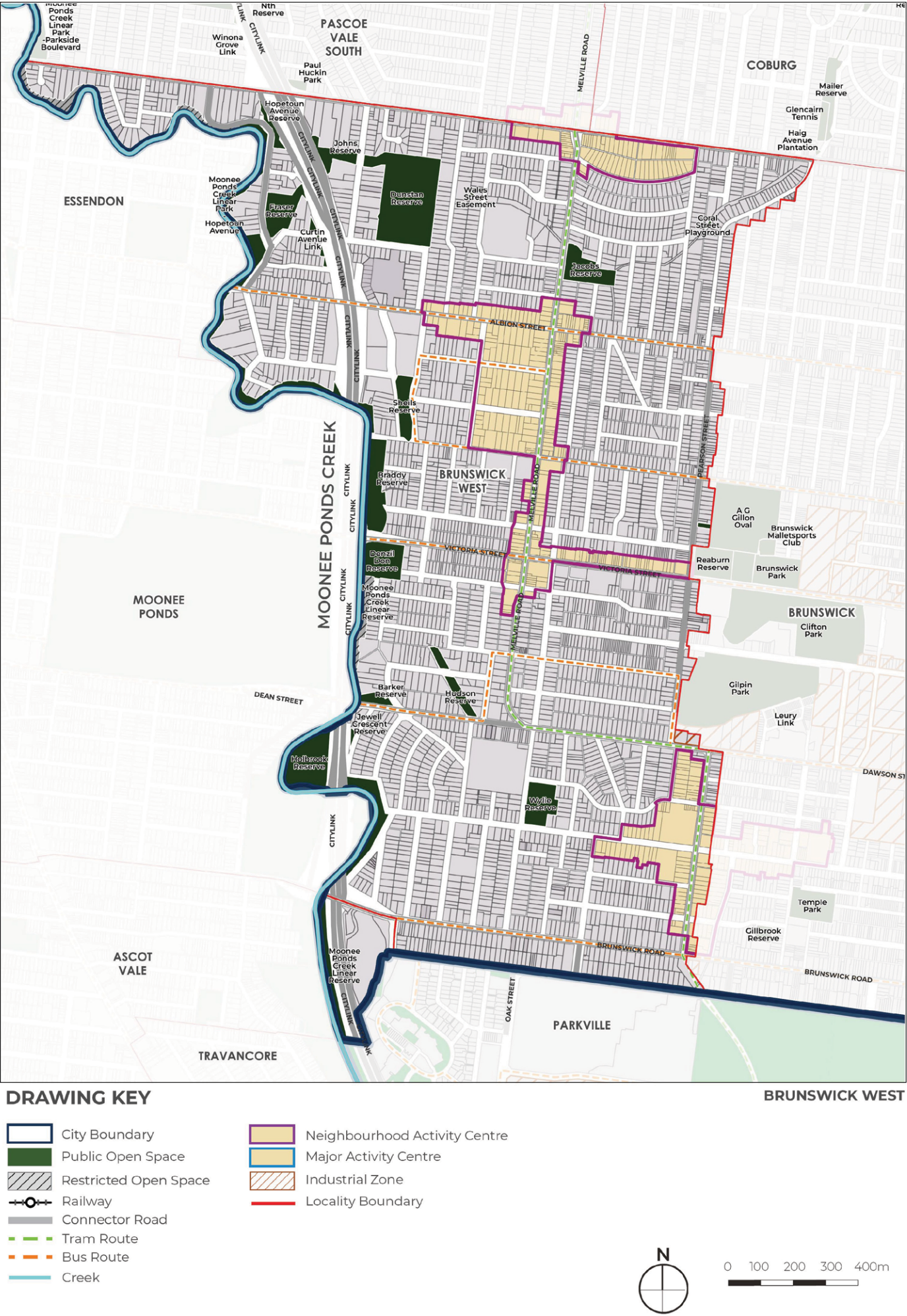


Figure 27: Existing open space network in Brunswick West.



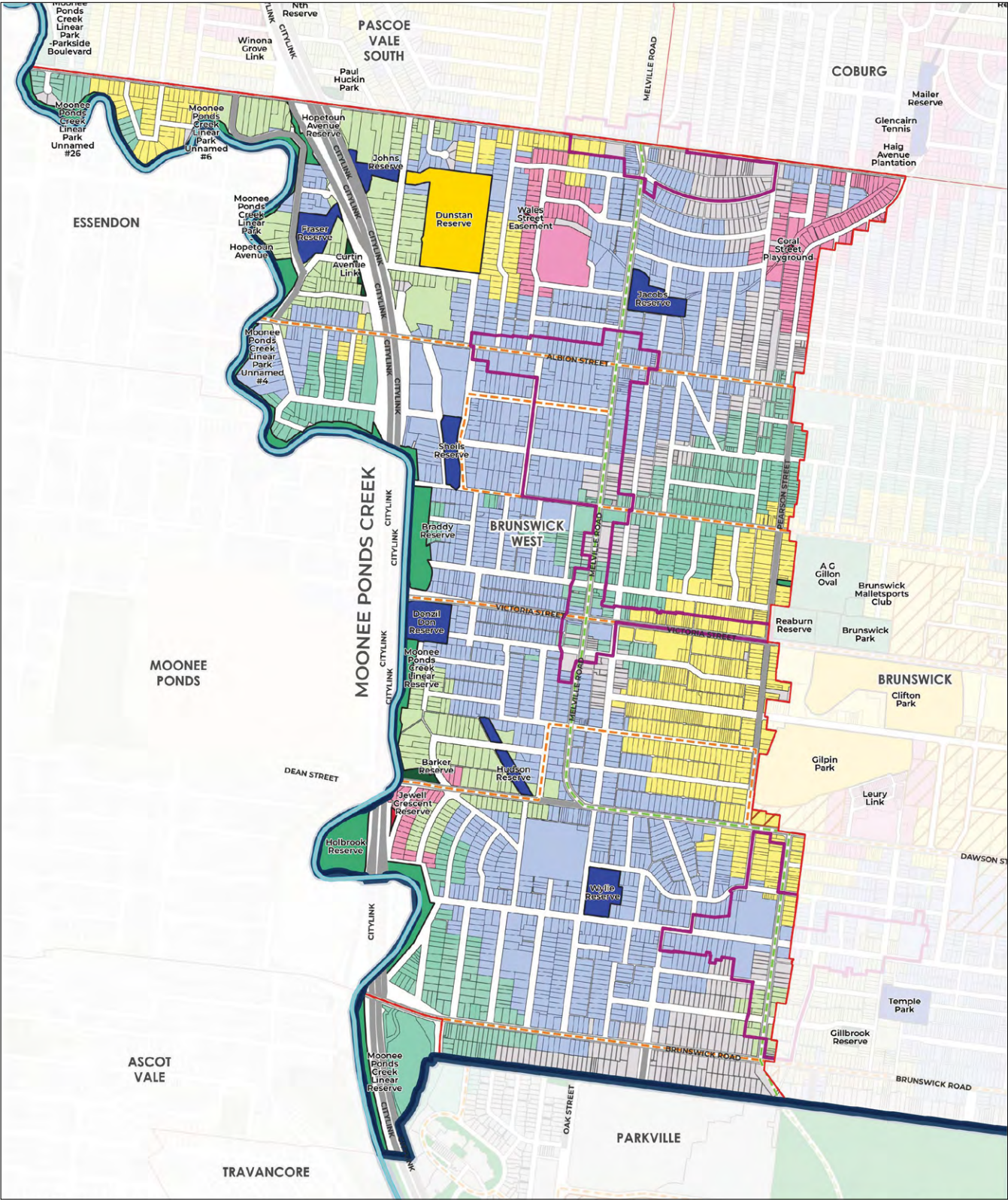


Figure 28: Analysis #2 and mapping of the open space hierarchies, their catchments and open space gaps, Brunswick West.

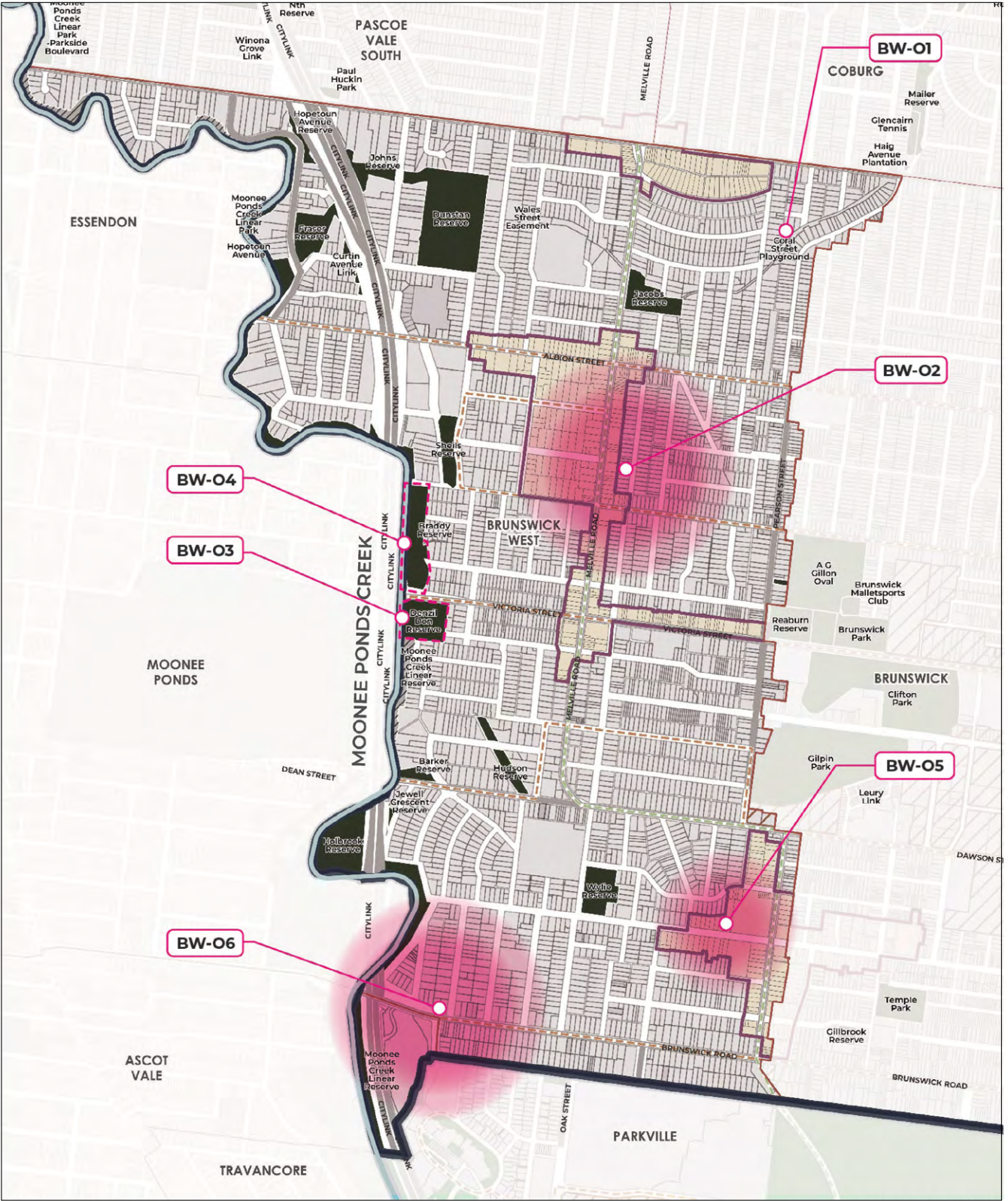


Figure 29: Key recommended projects for new land acquisition and existing open space expansion.



## Coburg



Coburg is a 6.9 square kilometre suburb centrally located in Merri-bek. It adjoins Brunswick, Brunswick East, Brunswick West, Pascoe Vale, Pascoe Vale South and Coburg North within Merri-bek. The Merri Creek defines its western boundary, and to the north, west and south respectively lie Murray Road, Melville Road and Moreland Road.

Coburg is experiencing a mix of apartment densification as well as townhouse densification. The Coburg Major Activity Centre (MAC) along Sydney Road and the former Pentridge Prison has seen the highest buildings in Merri-bek be constructed. Densification is also expected in pockets including the Holmes Street / Moreland Road Neighbourhood Activity Centre. Coburg is also experiencing significant commercial and worker growth, with key businesses expected in the coming decade associated with the Coburg Health and Community Service Precinct. Council is also exploring open space needs in central Coburg near the Coburg Train Station as part of the Heart of Coburg project, which will likely see the creation of new housing and business in this dense part of the suburb.

A prominent open space in Coburg is the Merri Creek corridor, which contains the Merri Creek shared user trail and adjoining open spaces such as De Chene Reserve. In central Coburg near the Coburg MAC are large open spaces such as Bridges Reserve and McDonald Reserve as well as civic spaces such as the Coburg Mall. Harmony Park in the north of Coburg contains a mix of functions, including a playground, skate park and large pergola and picnic facilities.

Key open space statistics include:

- A population of 30,126 residents in 2021, projected to increase by 41 per cent to 42,438 residents by 2041.
- A workforce of 8,292 individuals in 2021, with a projected increase of 24 per cent to 10,297 workers by 2041.
- In 2021, there were 17.3 square metres of open space per resident, which is expected to decrease to 12.3 square metres by 2041 unless additional land is acquired, other public lands are repurposed or shared for open space, or quality embellishments to existing open space land enable increased use.
- 51.9 hectares (519,000 square metres) of open space, occupying approximately 7 per cent of the suburb.
- Seven formal sports reserves, including at Bush Reserve and Bridges Reserve.
- 20 play spaces, ranging from playgrounds in small open spaces such as the Soudan Street Reserve to playgrounds in larger spaces at Harmony Park.

Key open space challenges and key open space recommendations:

- Significant residential growth across Coburg, with apartments expected to account for 70 per cent of the new future housing, largely within the Coburg Activity Centre.
- Significant worker growth, especially with the Coburg Health and Community Services Precinct proceeds.
- Undertake land acquisition to create a new neighbourhood scale open space in the north-west of Coburg near O’Hea Street and in the west of Coburg near Munro Street.
- Undertake land acquisition to create a new local open space to the south of Reynard Street in the west of Coburg and to the south of Rennie Street in the east of Coburg to address identified open space gaps.
- Create new pocket parks in or near the Coburg Activity Centre around Moreland Road and Coburg Train Station to reduce pressure on existing open space and accommodate key population and worker increase.
- Continue upgrading and investing in existing open spaces and explore opportunities to increase existing open spaces to address the above gaps.

Further detail is contained in the Merri-bek Open Space Background Technical Report.





Figure 30: Existing open space in Coburg.

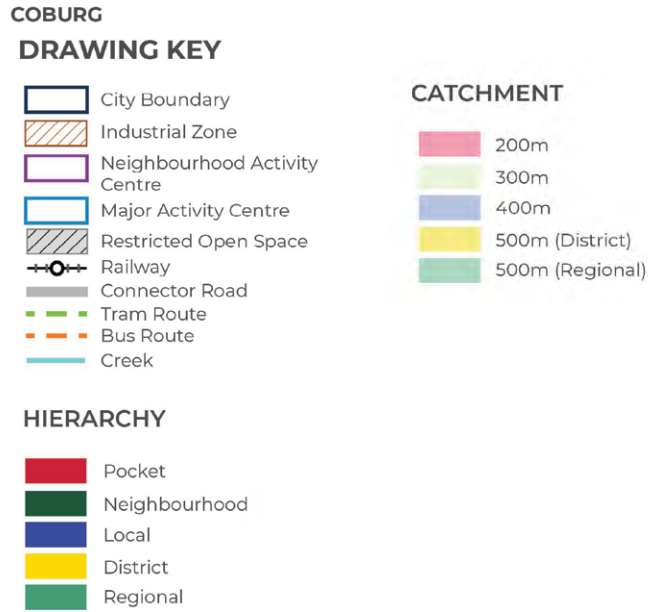
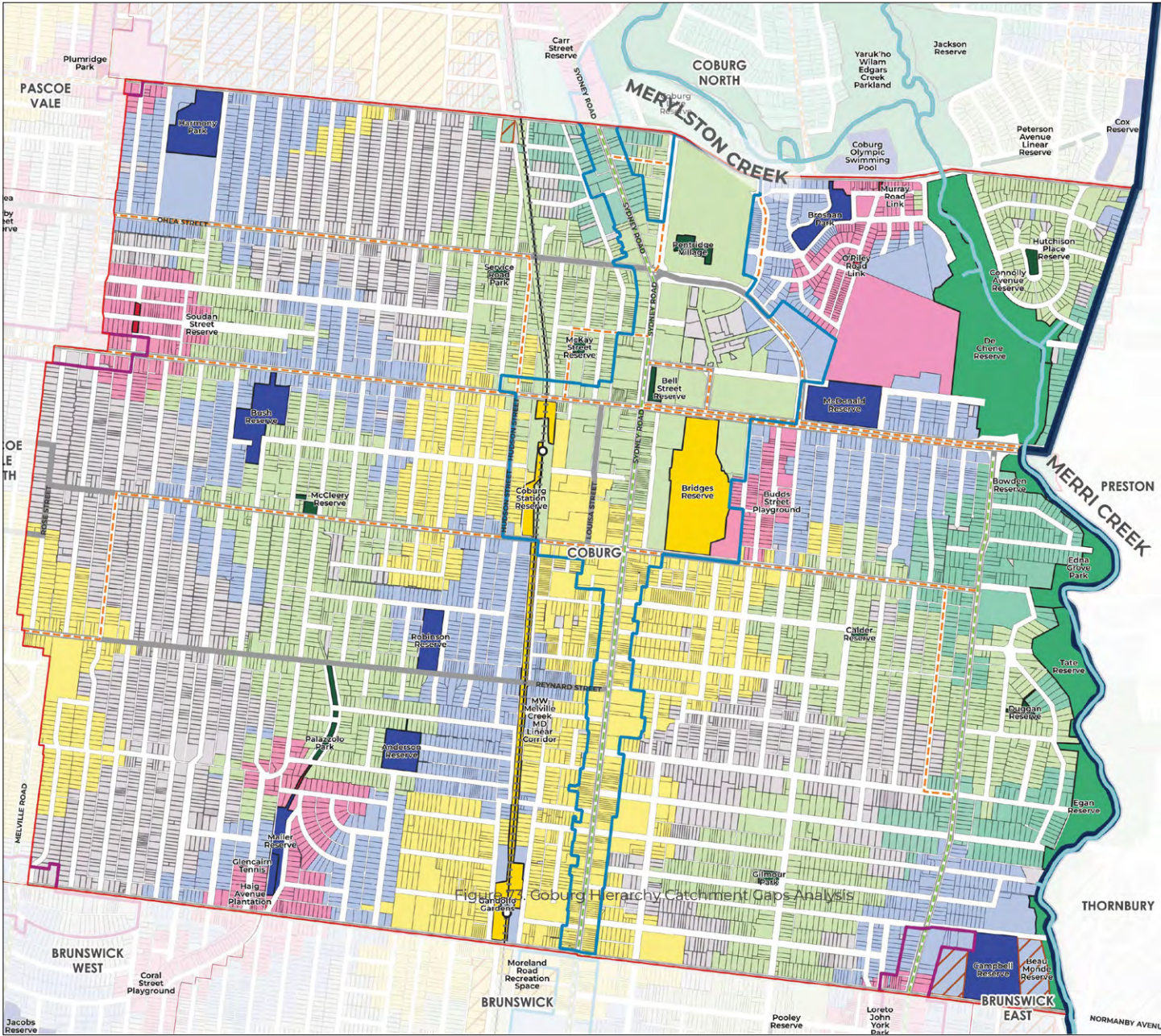


Figure 31: Analysis #2 and mapping of the open space hierarchies, their catchments and open space gaps, Coburg.



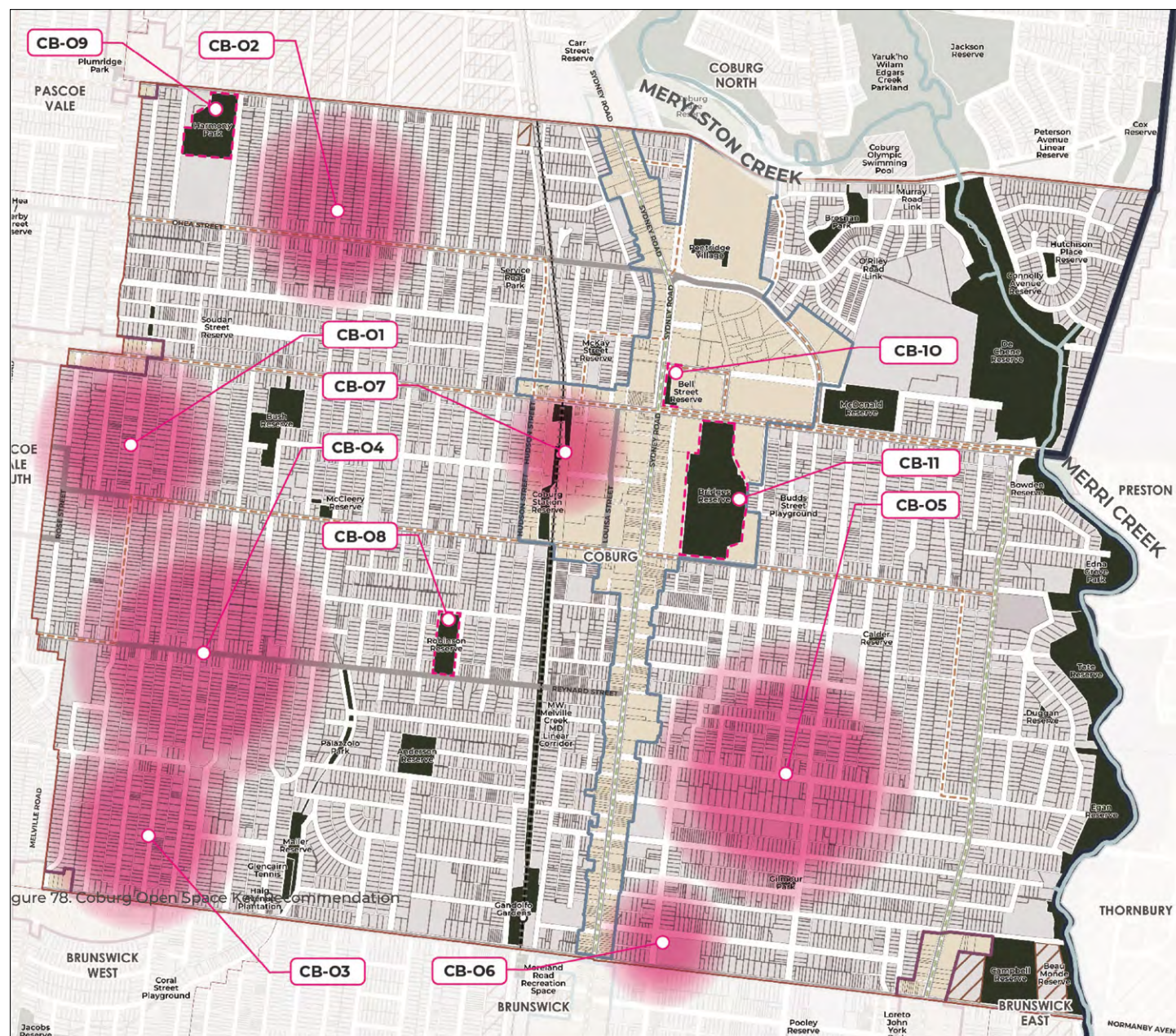
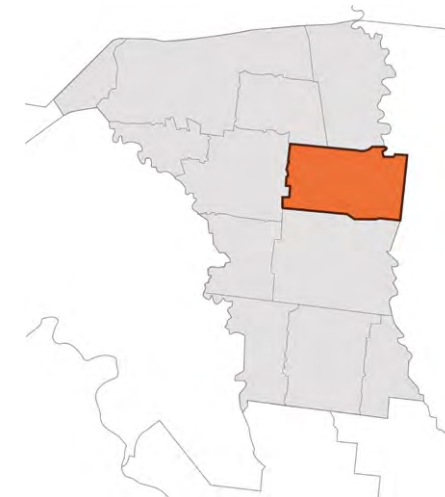


Figure 32: Key open space projects recommended in Coburg.

## Coburg North



Coburg North is a 4.8 square kilometre suburb centrally located in Merri-bek. It adjoins Fawkner, Hadfield, Pascoe Vale and Coburg in Merri-bek and Preston and Reservoir in the City of Darebin.

Coburg North is irregularly shaped. To its west it is bounded by Merri Creek, Elizabeth Street and Murray Road, where it adjoins Darebin City Council. To the north it is bounded by Boundary Road, and to the south and west by Murray Road / Gaffney Street and Sussex Street. Key open spaces include Coburg Lake, a regional open space which is considered a destination space due to its Lake features and various functions including playgrounds and exercise equipment. The suburb also has part of the Edgars and Merri Creek corridors as well as the Yaruk'ho Wilam Edgars Creek Parklands where the Edgars and Merri Creeks converge. It also contains key areas of grasslands and creek escarpments.

Key open space figures for Coburg North include:

- A population of 9,182 residents in 2021, projected to increase by 45 per cent to 13,302 residents by 2041.
- A workforce of 7,889 individuals in 2021, expected to double to 15,779 workers by 2041.
- In 2021, there was the highest open space per resident in Merri-bek, of 110 square metres of open space per resident, which is expected to decrease to 76 square metres by 2041 unless additional land is acquired, other public lands are repurposed or shared for open space, or quality embellishments to existing open space land enable increased use.
- 100 hectares (100,000 square metres) of open space, occupying 21 per cent of the suburb's total area.
- 5 formal sports reserves, including the Coburg Olympic Swimming Pool and Parker Reserve.
- Nine play spaces, including at Parker Reserve,

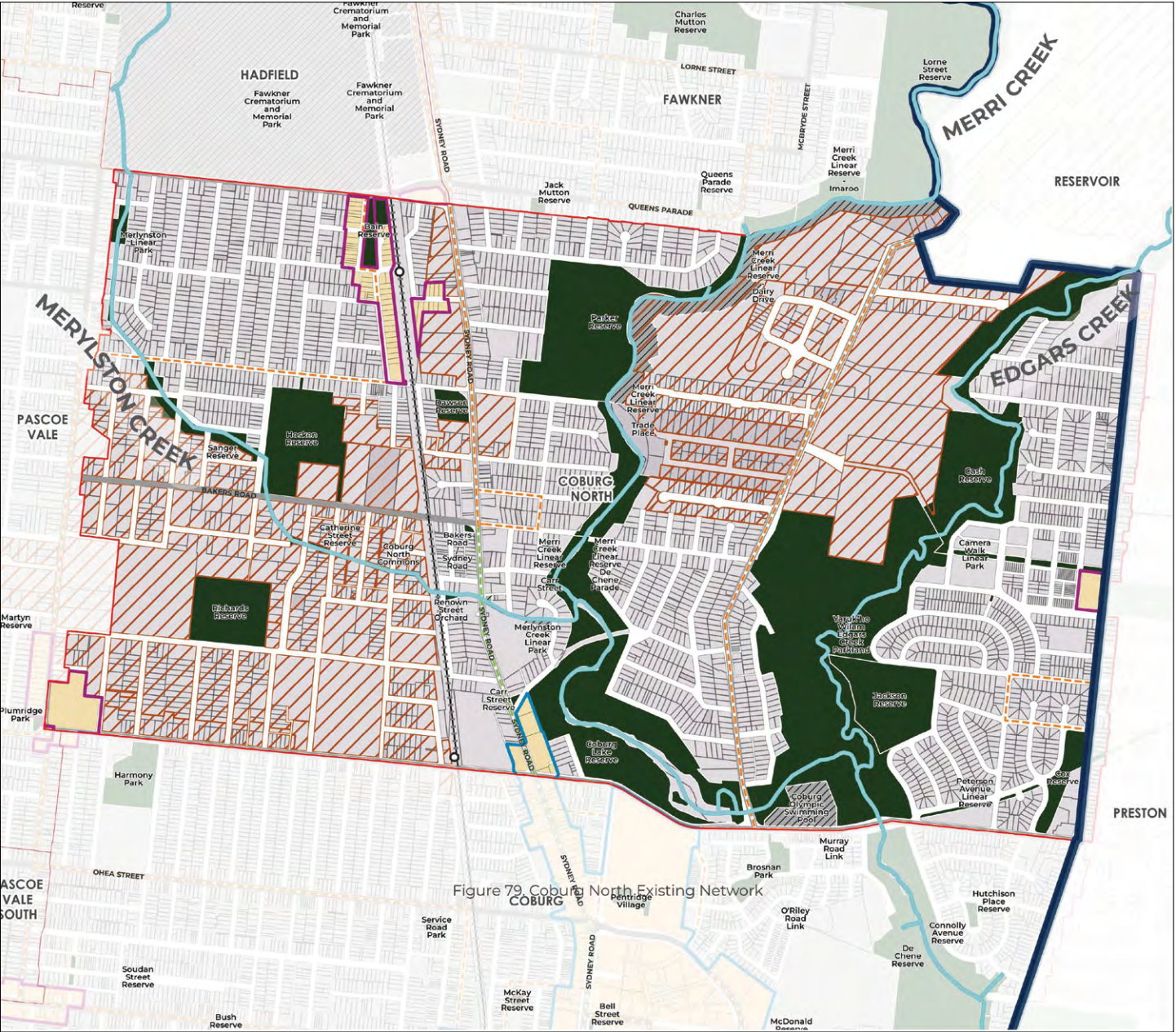


Key challenges and open space recommendations:

- Coburg North will experience significant population growth, with the majority of growth (55 per cent) predicted to be medium townhouse growth and single house dwellings declining due to densification. The worker population is expected to double, including within the established industrial and commercial areas along Newlands Road precinct.
- Whilst Coburg North has a large amount of public open space comparative to other suburbs such as Brunswick, much of the public open space is centred around the Creek corridors or large spaces such as Parker Reserve, Richards Reserve or Hosken Reserve.
- Explore locations for a dog park or dedicated dog infrastructure.

- Undertake land acquisitions / other changes to enhance linear open space, near the Anderson Linear Park and Sanger Reserve, and along the Merlynston Creek corridor, Hosken Reserve and Coburg Lake.
- Explore opportunistic land acquisitions to existing open spaces to increase usage by adding more facilities and land acquisitions to increase the sizes.
- Continue upgrading and enhancing existing open spaces, such as by adding new playgrounds and dog facilities.

Further detail is contained in the Merri-bek Open Space Background Technical Report.



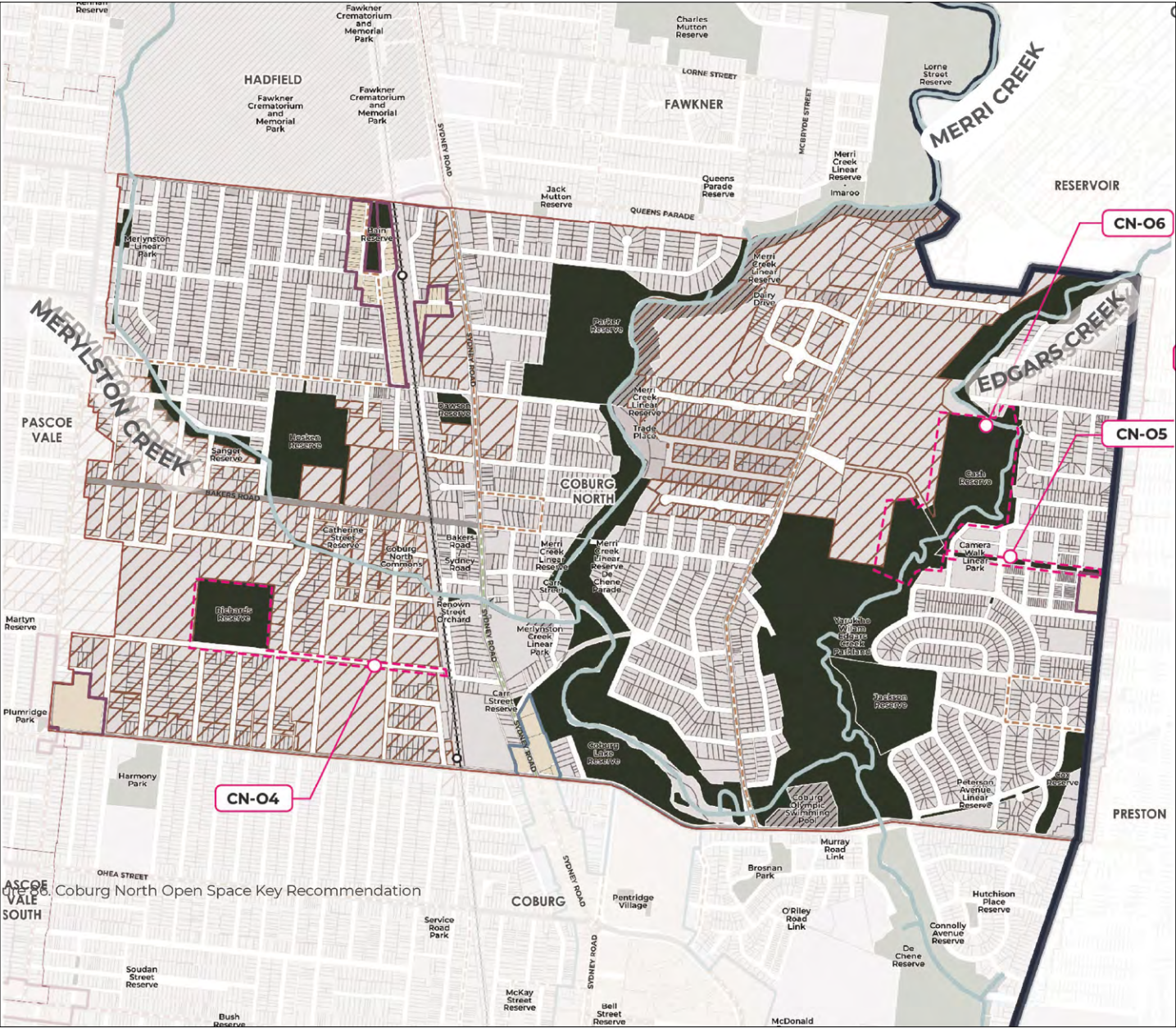
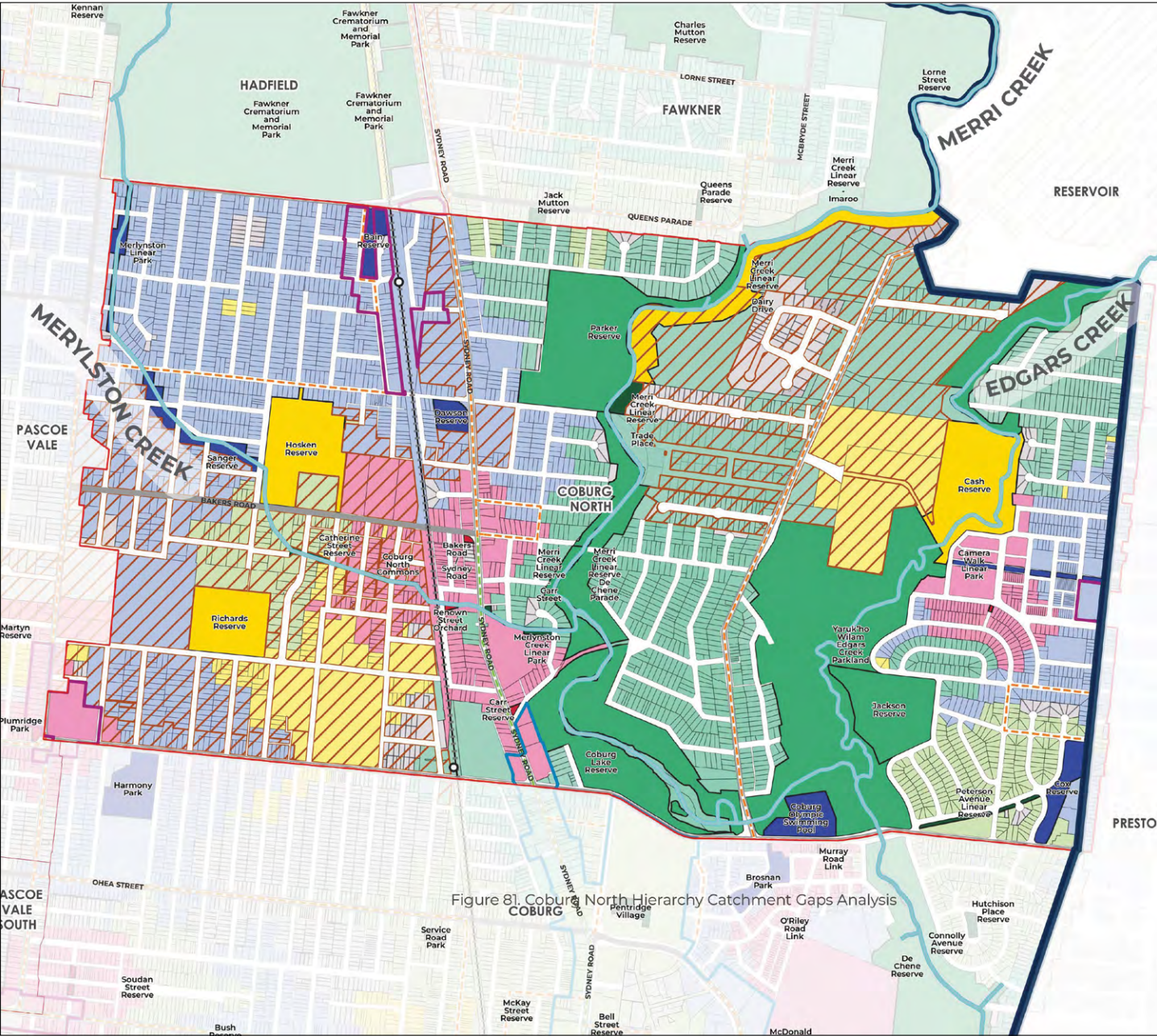
COBURG NORTH  
DRAWING KEY

- City Boundary
- Public Open Space
- Restricted Open Space
- Neighbourhood Activity Centre
- Major Activity Centre
- Industrial Zone
- Locality Boundary
- Railway
- Connector Road
- Tram Route
- Bus Route
- Creek



Figure 33: Existing open space in Coburg North.







Pascoe Vale South



Pascoe Vale South is a 3.1 square kilometre suburb. It adjoins the Merri-bek suburbs of Brunswick West, Pascoe Vale and Coburg, and the suburbs Strathmore and Essendon in the City of Moonee Valley.

The Moonee Ponds Creeks abounds the western border of Pascoe Vale South, while to the north lies O’Hea Street, streets near Melville Road to the east and Moreland Road to the south.

Key open spaces include the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor and adjoining open spaces such as Kelvin Thompson Reserve. Key densification is expected along the Bell Street/ Melville Road Neighbourhood Activity Centre (NAC).

Key open space figures for Pascoe Vale South include:

- A population of 12,331 residents in 2021, projected to increase by 32 per cent to 16,286 residents by 2041.
- A workforce of 1,365 individuals in 2021, with a projected increase of 75 per cent to 2,391 workers by 2041.
- In 2021, there were 21.5 square metres of open space per resident, which is expected to decrease to 16.2 square metres by 2041 unless additional land is acquired, other public lands are repurposed or shared for open space, or quality embellishments to existing open space land enable increased use.
- 26 hectares (260,000 square metres) of open space, occupying 9 per cent of the suburb’s total area.
- Three formal sports reserves, at Brearley, Morris and Shore Reserves.
- Five play spaces, including at Shore Reserve.

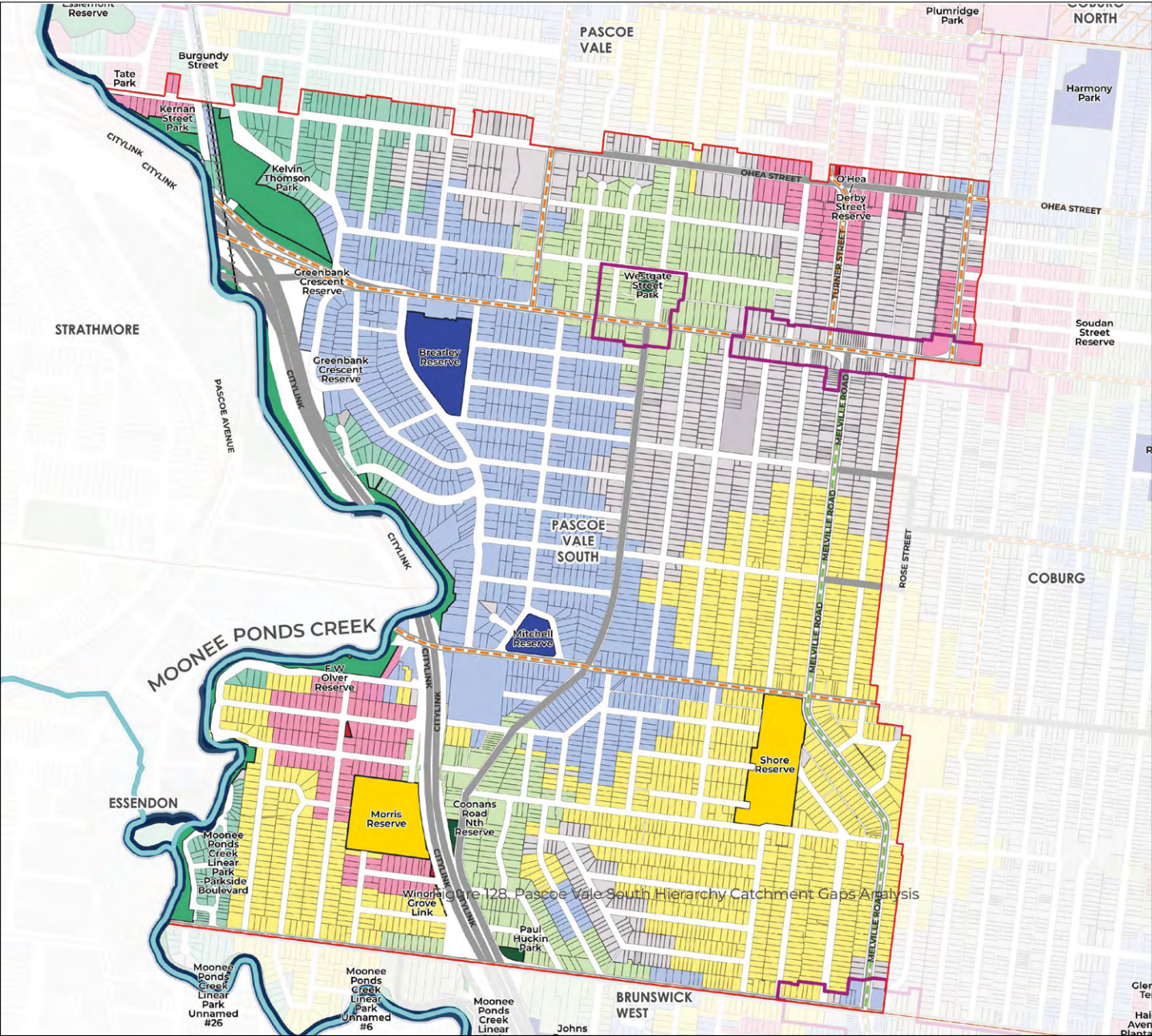
Key challenges and open space recommendations:

- Pascoe Vale South will continue to experience significant residential and worker population increases, including along the Bell Street/ Melville Road NAC. An anticipated 28 per cent of the residential growth is expected to be high-density apartments which represents a significant shift in Pascoe Vale South’s urban form. The remainder of residential growth will largely be townhouses.

- Undertake land acquisitions to create two new neighbourhood scale open spaces, both to the north and south of Bell Street, to address densification occurring near and within this NAC as well as current insufficient open space.
- It is also recommended to undertake land acquisition to create a new pocket scale open space to address a gap area near Moreland and Melville Roads.
- Continue land acquisitions to improve access to the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor will be beneficial and help reduce pressure on open spaces such as Shore Reserve in the eastern side of Pascoe Vale South.
- Continue upgrading and enhancing existing open spaces and pursue opportunities and acquisitions to increase existing spaces.

Further detail is contained in the Merri-bek Open Space Background Technical Report.





PASCOE VALE SOUTH  
DRAWING KEY

- City Boundary
- Industrial Zone
- Neighbourhood Activity Centre
- Major Activity Centre
- Restricted Open Space
- Railway
- Connector Road
- Tram Route
- Bus Route
- Creek

HIERARCHY

- Pocket
- Neighbourhood
- Local
- District
- Regional

CATCHMENT

- 200m
- 300m
- 400m
- 500m (District)
- 500m (Regional)

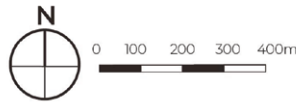
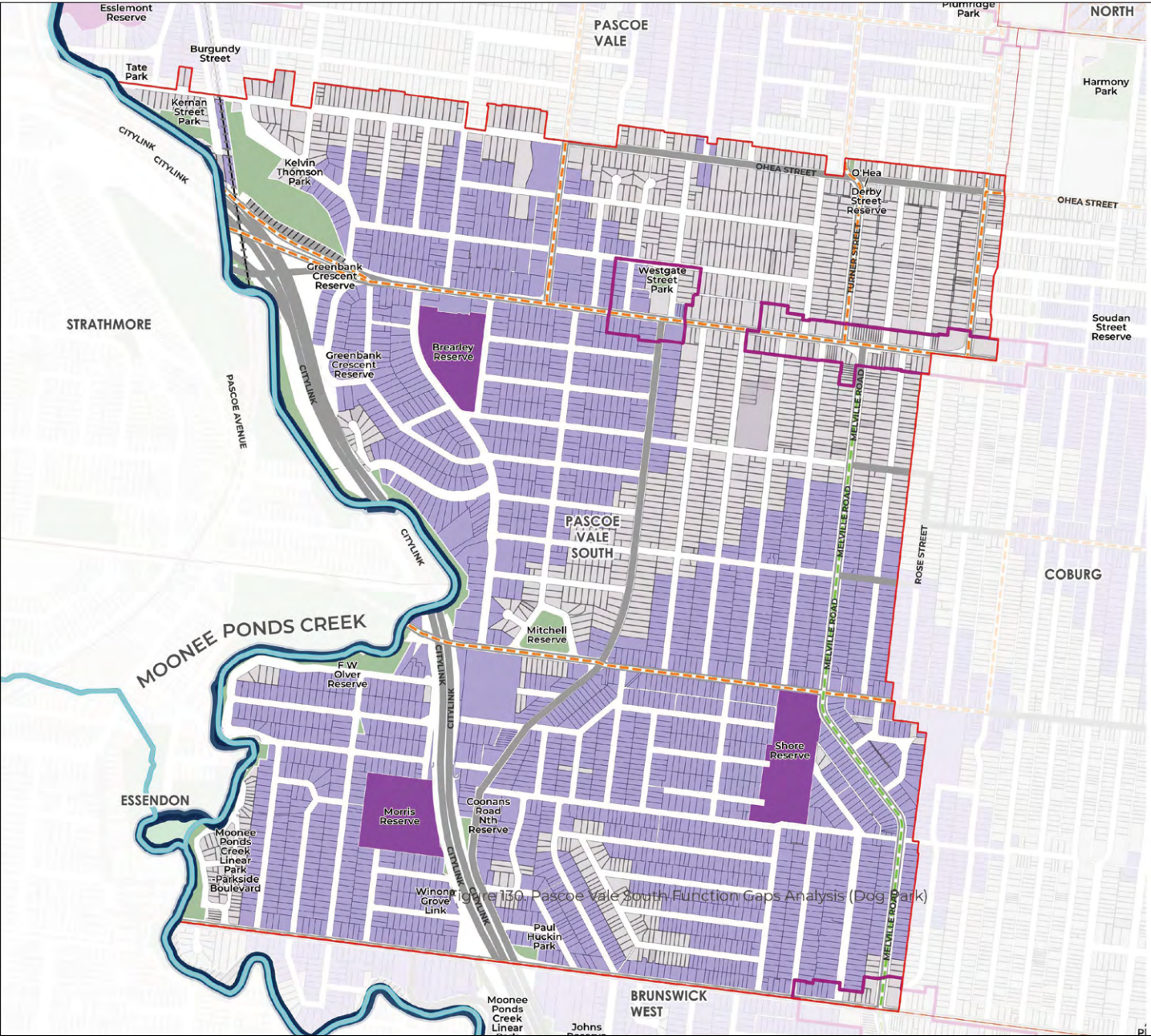


Figure 36: Existing open space in Pascoe Vale South.



PASCOE VALE SOUTH  
DRAWING KEY

- City Boundary
- Industrial Zone
- Neighbourhood Activity Centre
- Major Activity Centre
- Restricted Open Space
- Railway
- Connector Road
- Tram Route
- Bus Route
- Creek

FUNCTION

- Dog Park

CATCHMENT

- 500m

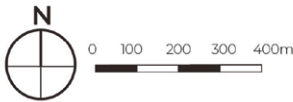


Figure 37: Analysis #2 and mapping of the open space hierarchies, their catchments and open space gaps, Pascoe Vale South.





Figure 133. Pascoe Vale Open Space Key Recommendation

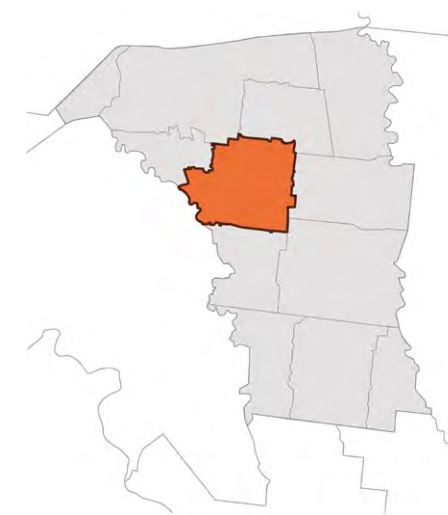
#### PASCOE VALE SOUTH DRAWING KEY

- City Boundary
- Public Open Space
- Restricted Open Space
- Railway
- Connector Road
- Neighbourhood Activity Centre
- Major Activity Centre
- Industrial Zone
- Tram Route
- Bus Route
- Creek

- ID- 00 Project Identifier
- Upgrades
- Land Acquisition

Figure 38: Key recommended open space projects in Pascoe Vale South.

## Pascoe Vale



Pascoe Vale is a 4.9 square kilometre suburb adjoining the Merri-bek suburbs of Hadfield, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Coburg and Coburg North. It is generally bound by O'Hea Street in the south, Sussex Street to the east, South Street in the north and the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor in the west.

Densification is expected to occur across the suburb, including key densification in the Snell Grove NAC and the Gaffney Street/Pascoe Vale train station NAC.

Key areas of open space features include the Westbreen Creek, which transgresses from the Northern Golf Course through various open spaces including H M Down Reserve, K W Joyce Reserve, Gavin Park, Austin Crescent, into the Moonee Ponds Creek.

Key open space figures for Pascoe Vale include:

- A population of 20,042 residents in 2021, projected to increase by 39 per cent to 27,801 residents by 2041.
- A workforce of 2,369 individuals in 2021, with a projected increase of 40 per cent to 3,323 workers by 2041.

- In 2021, there were 17.9 square metres of open space per resident, which is expected to decrease to 12.9 square metres by 2041 unless additional land is acquired, other public lands are repurposed or shared for open space, or quality embellishments to existing open space land enable increased use.
- 49 hectares (49,000 square metres) open space, occupying 7 per cent of the suburb's total area.
- Four formal sports reserve, such as Raeburn Reserve.
- 12 play spaces including playgrounds along the Moonee Ponds Creeks corridors such as Esslemont Reserve.

Key challenges and open space recommendations:

- Residential and worker population growth will continue to increase. Similar to Pascoe Vale South, 25 per cent of future residential growth is expected to be high-density apartments, also representing a shift in the urban form of this suburb. The remainder of densification will largely be townhouse developments.
- Undertake land acquisitions to create three new neighbourhood open spaces to address identified open space gaps near Derby Street/Kent Road, Derby Street/Gaffney Street and Gaffney Street/Cumberland Road.
- Explore ways to expand open space along the Westbreen Creek corridor and linking it to the Moonee Ponds Creek regional corridor.
- Continue upgrading and enhancing existing open spaces and pursue opportunities land acquisitions to increase existing spaces.

Further detail is contained in the Merri-bek Open Space Background Technical Report.





- PASCOE VALE**  
**DRAWING KEY**
- City Boundary
  - Public Open Space
  - Restricted Open Space
  - Neighbourhood Activity Centre
  - Major Activity Centre
  - Industrial Zone
  - Locality Boundary
  - Railway
  - Connector Road
  - Tram Route
  - Bus Route
  - Creek

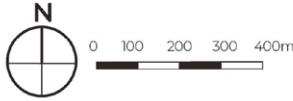
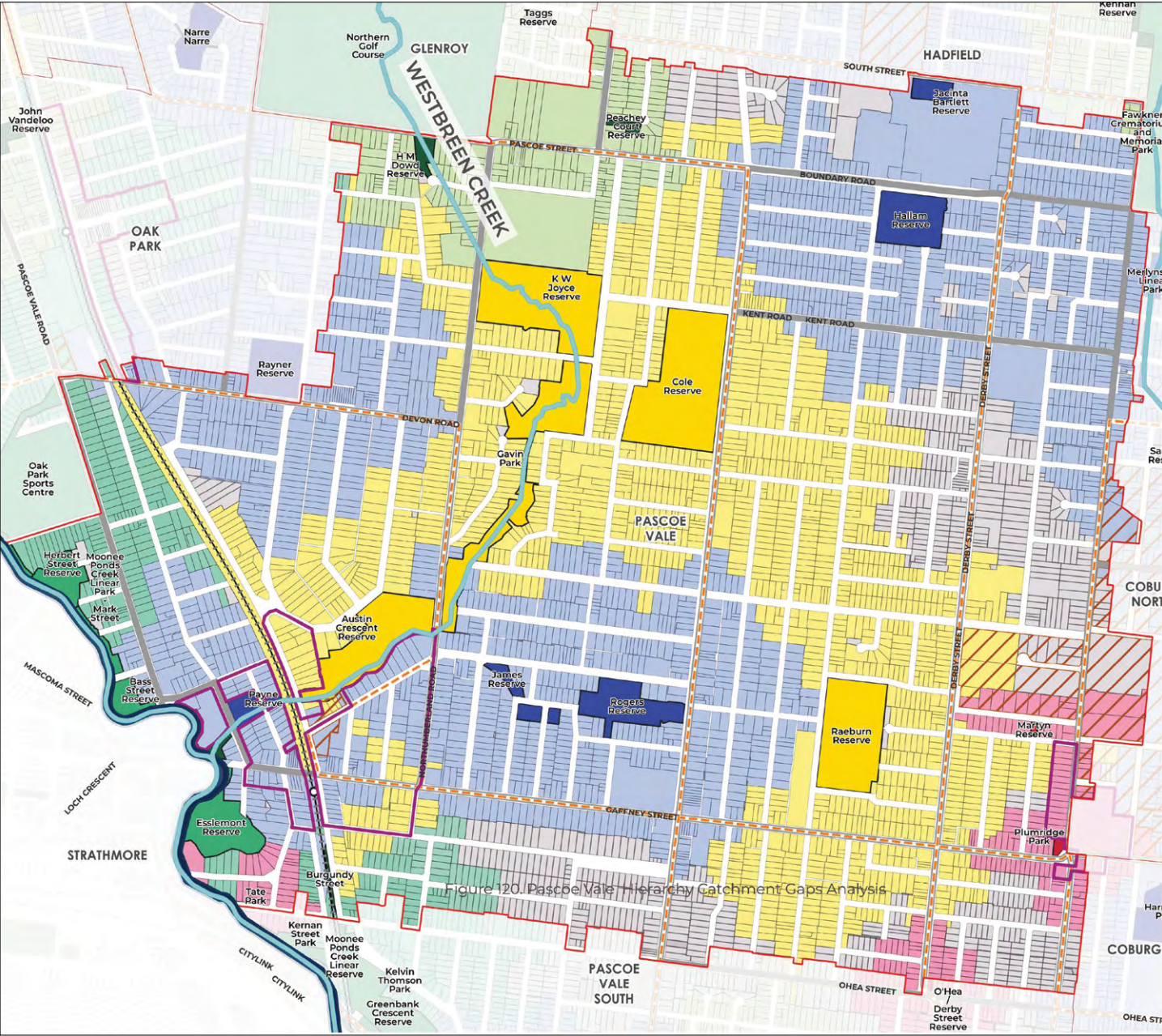


Figure 39: Existing open space in Pascoe Vale.



- PASCOE VALE**  
**DRAWING KEY**
- City Boundary
  - Industrial Zone
  - Neighbourhood Activity Centre
  - Major Activity Centre
  - Restricted Open Space
  - Railway
  - Connector Road
  - Tram Route
  - Bus Route
  - Creek
- CATCHMENT**
- 200m
  - 300m
  - 400m
  - 500m (District)
  - 500m (Regional)
- HIERARCHY**
- Pocket
  - Neighbourhood
  - Local
  - District
  - Regional

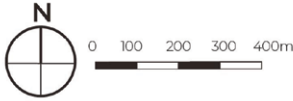


Figure 40: Analysis #2 and mapping of the open space hierarchies, their catchments and open space gaps, Pascoe Vale.





Figure 41: Recommended key open space projects for Pascoe Vale.

### Oak Park



Oak Park is a 2 square kilometre suburbs which adjoins the Merri-bek suburbs of Glenroy and Pascoe Vale and Essendon Fields in the City of Moonee Valley. It is characterised by the Moonee Ponds Creek trail which extends along its western boundary and bounded by irregular roads to its remaining boundaries.

Key open spaces are largely located along the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor, in addition to the Oak Park Aquatic Centre and adjoining sports grounds and Raynor Reserve. Oak Park contains the Snell Grove Neighbourhood Activity Centre (NAC) as well as the smaller Winifred Local Activity Centre (LAC). In the north of Oak Park, there is a pedestrian bridge near Deveraux Street which provides access to the large Boeing Reserve open space in Moonee Valley City Council.

Key open space statistics for Oak Park include:

- A population of 7,610 residents in 2021, projected to increase by 13 per cent to 8,582 residents by 2041.

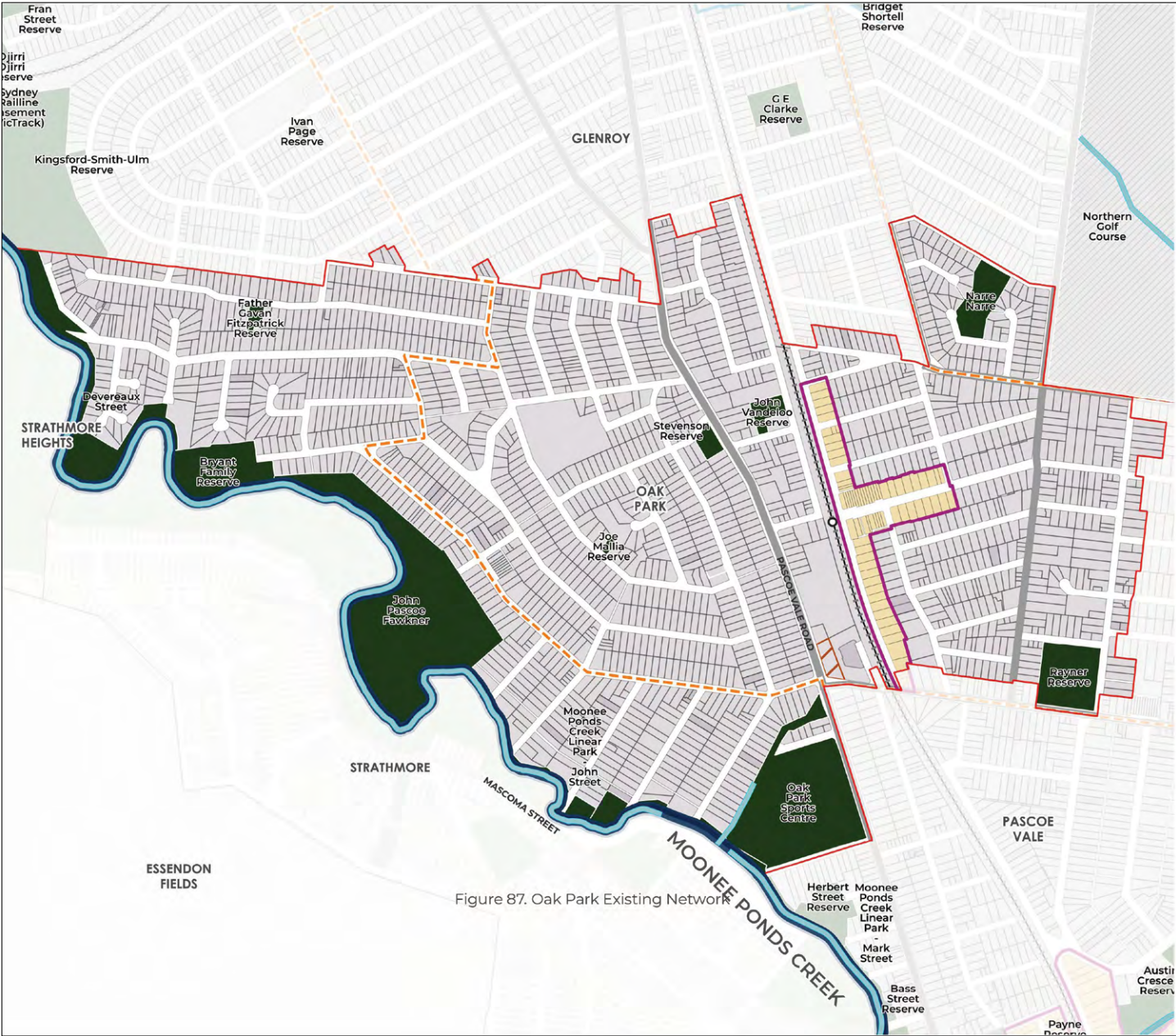
- A workforce of 639 individuals in 2021, with a projected decrease of 33 per cent to 428 workers by 2041.
- In 2021, there were 36.3 square metres of open space per resident, which is expected to decrease to 32.1 square metres by 2041 unless additional land is acquired, other public lands are repurposed or shared for open space, or quality embellishments to existing open space land enable increased use.
- 27.6 hectares (276,000 square metres) of open space, occupying 13 per cent of the suburb's total area.
- Four formal sports reserves, including the Oak Park Aquatic Centre.
- Nine play spaces, including the Bryant Family Reserve playground.

Key challenges and open space recommendations:

- Undertake land acquisition to create a new neighbourhood scale open space to the north of Oak Park to address an identified open space gap.
- Undertake land acquisition to create a new pocket scale open space to the east of the Snell Grove NAC to improve open space land for population densification.
- Continue to enhance existing open spaces by adding new playgrounds, increase physical access to the Moonee Ponds Creek Corridor via land acquisition and enlarge existing open spaces by adjoining land acquisition.

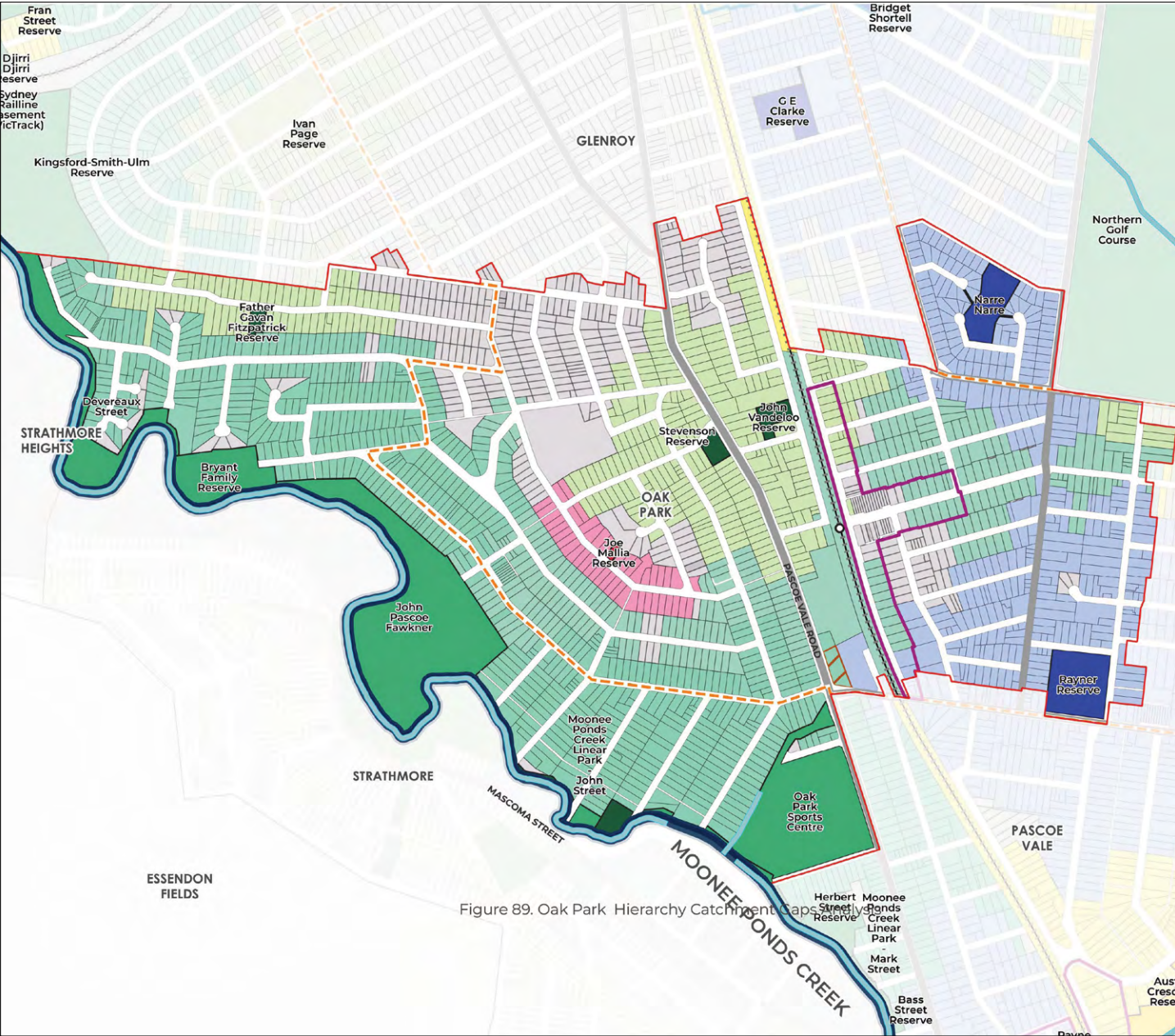
Further detail is contained in the Merri-bek Open Space Background Technical Report.





- OAK PARK**  
**DRAWING KEY**
- City Boundary
  - Public Open Space
  - Restricted Open Space
  - Neighbourhood Activity Centre
  - Major Activity Centre
  - Industrial Zone
  - Locality Boundary
  - Railway
  - Connector Road
  - Tram Route
  - Bus Route
  - Creek

Figure 42: Existing open space in Oak Park.



- OAK PARK**  
**DRAWING KEY**
- City Boundary
  - Industrial Zone
  - Neighbourhood Activity Centre
  - Major Activity Centre
  - Restricted Open Space
  - Railway
  - Connector Road
  - Tram Route
  - Bus Route
  - Creek
- CATCHMENT**
- 200m
  - 300m
  - 400m
  - 500m (District)
  - 500m (Regional)
- HIERARCHY**
- Pocket
  - Neighbourhood
  - Local
  - District
  - Regional

Figure 43: Analysis #2 and mapping of the open space hierarchies, their catchments and open space gaps, Oak Park.



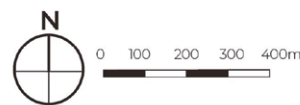
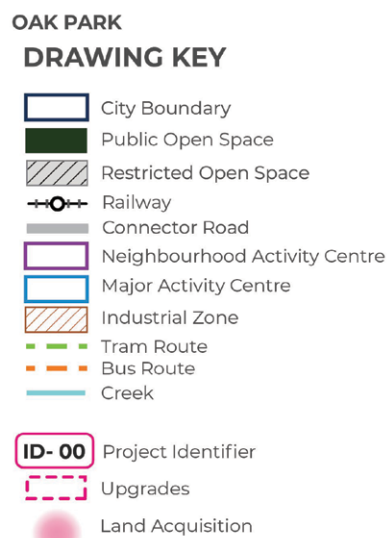
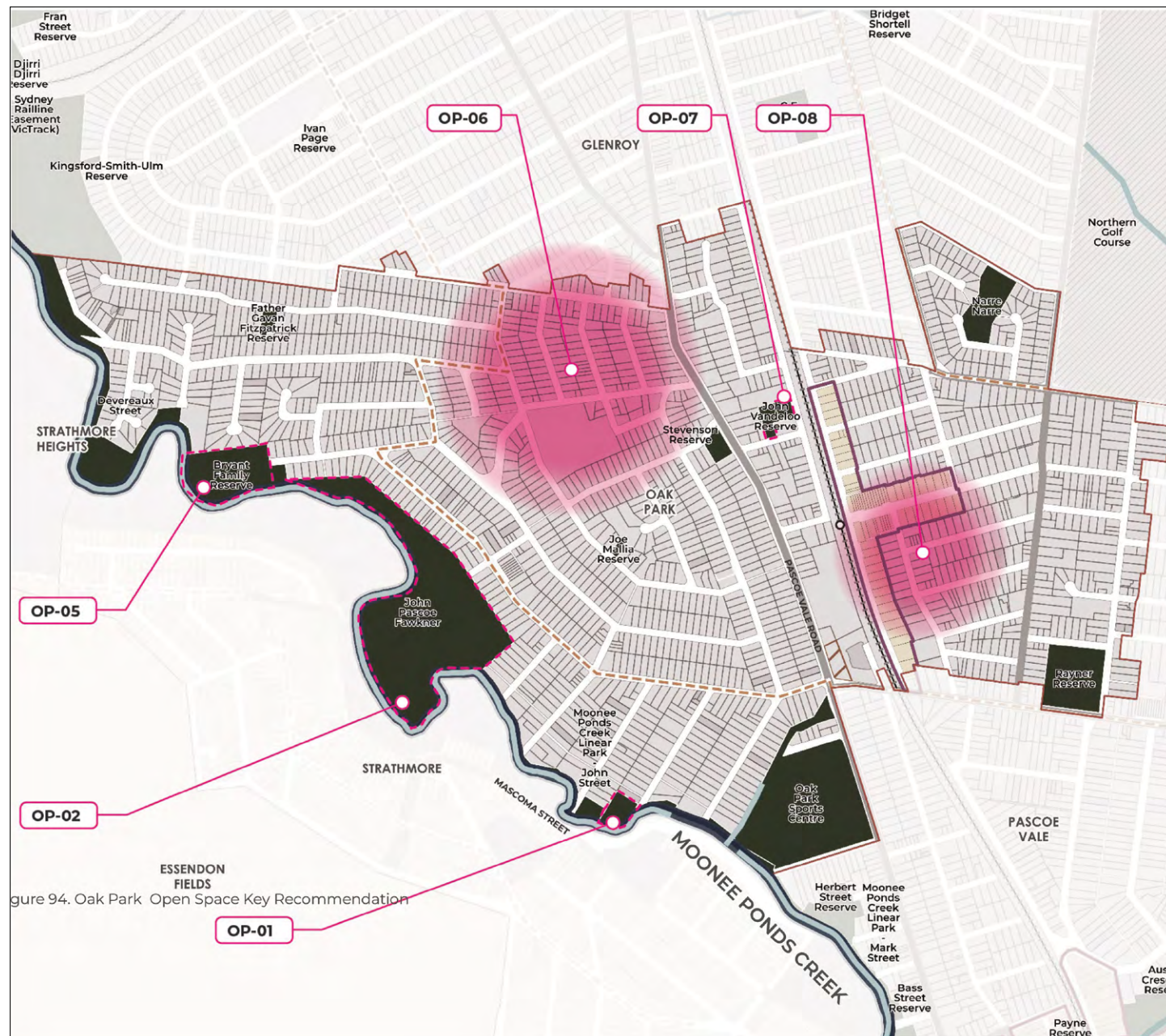


Figure 44: Recommended key open space projects for Oak Park.

## Glenroy



Glenroy is Merri-bek's largest suburb of 8.9 square kilometres. It adjoins the Merri-bek suburbs of Gowanbrae, Oak Park, Hadfield and Fawcner, and the City of Hume suburbs Broadmeadows, Jacana and Gladstone Park. It is bounded by the Western Ring Road along its northern boundary, and various roads and the Moonee Ponds Creek along its other boundaries. Glenroy is expected to continue to experience densification, including via the construction of townhouses on former single allotments and also higher density in the Glenroy Major Activity Centre around the Glenroy railway station.

Glenroy has a very diverse open space network. Key spaces include:

- Various parks along the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor.
- Three open spaces owned by Melbourne Water, being the Box Forest retarding basin, the Campbellfield Creek retarding basin and the Jack Roper Reserve (CSL) retarding basin. These three spaces are considered as restricted open spaces, where the public can enter and use them for relaxation, exercising and connection with nature.

- The Glenroy Memorial Park is publicly accessible and contains key Merri-bek nature and biodiversity and diverse open space experiences. The Merlynston Creek is partially drained and partially an accessible waterway, prior to entering the Box Forest retarding basin. This open space is considered to be encumbered / restricted open space, as it is owned and managed by the GMCT, which means whilst the public can access it for open space, it is limited in that activities such as formal sports, would not be possible.
- The Northern Golf Club also considered an encumbered/restricted open space, which contains key habitat and biodiversity as well as the start of the Westbreen Creek.
- Key open space linear spaces, including the Western Ring Road bike trail which connects the Merri Creek and the Moonee Ponds Creek to the southern of the Western Ring Road.



Key open space figures for Glenroy include:

- A population of 24,770 residents in 2021, projected to increase by 17 per cent to 29,096 residents by 2041. In 2041, it is expected that 48 per cent of this population will live in separate detached homes, 48 per cent in townhouses and 4 per cent in apartments (within the Glenroy Major Activity Centre).
- A workforce of 4,686 individuals in 2021, with a projected increase of 56 per cent to 7,320 workers by 2041.
- In 2021, there were 71.4 square metres of open space per resident, which is expected to decrease to 60.8 square metres by 2041 unless additional land is acquired, other public lands are repurposed or shared for open space, or quality embellishments to existing open space land enable increased use. Whilst this is some of the highest open space per resident in Merri-bek, much of this open space is not considered public open space as it is owned and managed by the Northern Golf Club and the Greater Melbourne Cemeteries Trust (GMCT) (and is therefore considered restricted or encumbered open space).
- 125 hectares (1,250,000 square metres) of open space, occupying 14 per cent of the total suburb's area.
- Five sports reserves, including ATC Cook Reserve.
- 16 play spaces, including at Wallace Reserve.
- Significant restricted and encumbered open spaces at the Northern Golf Club and Glenroy Memorial Park.

Key open space recommendations:

- Whilst Glenroy will continue to experience residential population increase, it will also experience almost a doubling of its worker population, largely due to its location as a Major Activity Centre in Merri-bek and the prominent commercial precinct around the Glenroy Train Station. This will continue to put pressure on existing open space (as well as gaps).
- Undertake land acquisition to create a new neighbourhood scale open space to address a gap near the north-east of the Glenroy Activity Centre and a smaller pocket scale open space further to the west near Hilton Street and Melbourne Avenue in central Glenroy.
- Continue to enhance existing open spaces by adding new playgrounds and enlarge existing open spaces by opportunistic adjoining land acquisition.
- Continue to explore public use of the restricted open spaces owned by the Northern Golf Club and GMCT.

Further detail is contained in the Merri-bek Open Space Background Technical Report.



Figure 45: Existing open space in Glenroy. The grey hatched areas are Glenroy Golf Club and Glenroy Northern Memorial park.



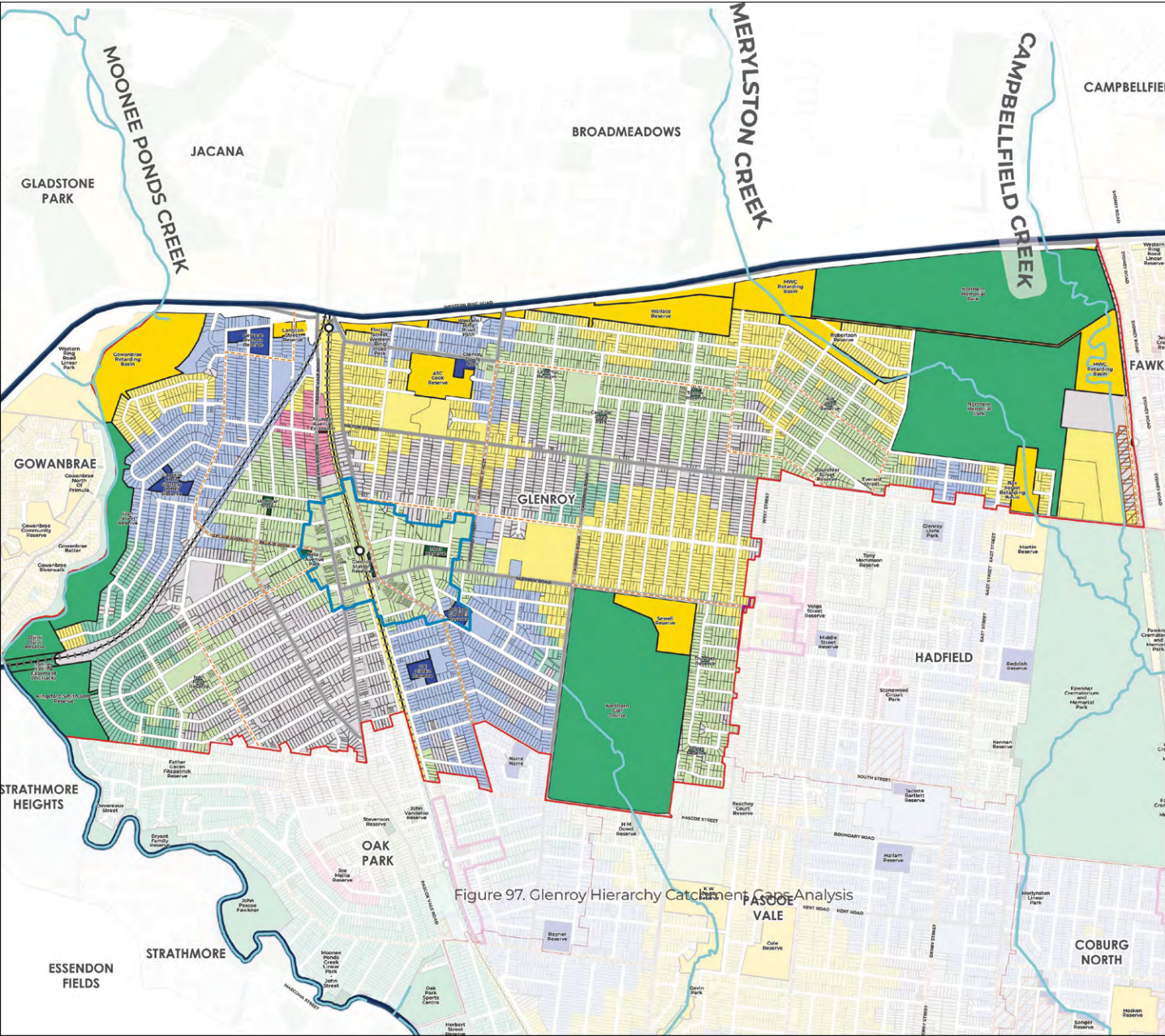


Figure 46: Analysis #2 and mapping of the open space hierarchies, their catchments and open space gaps, Glenroy.

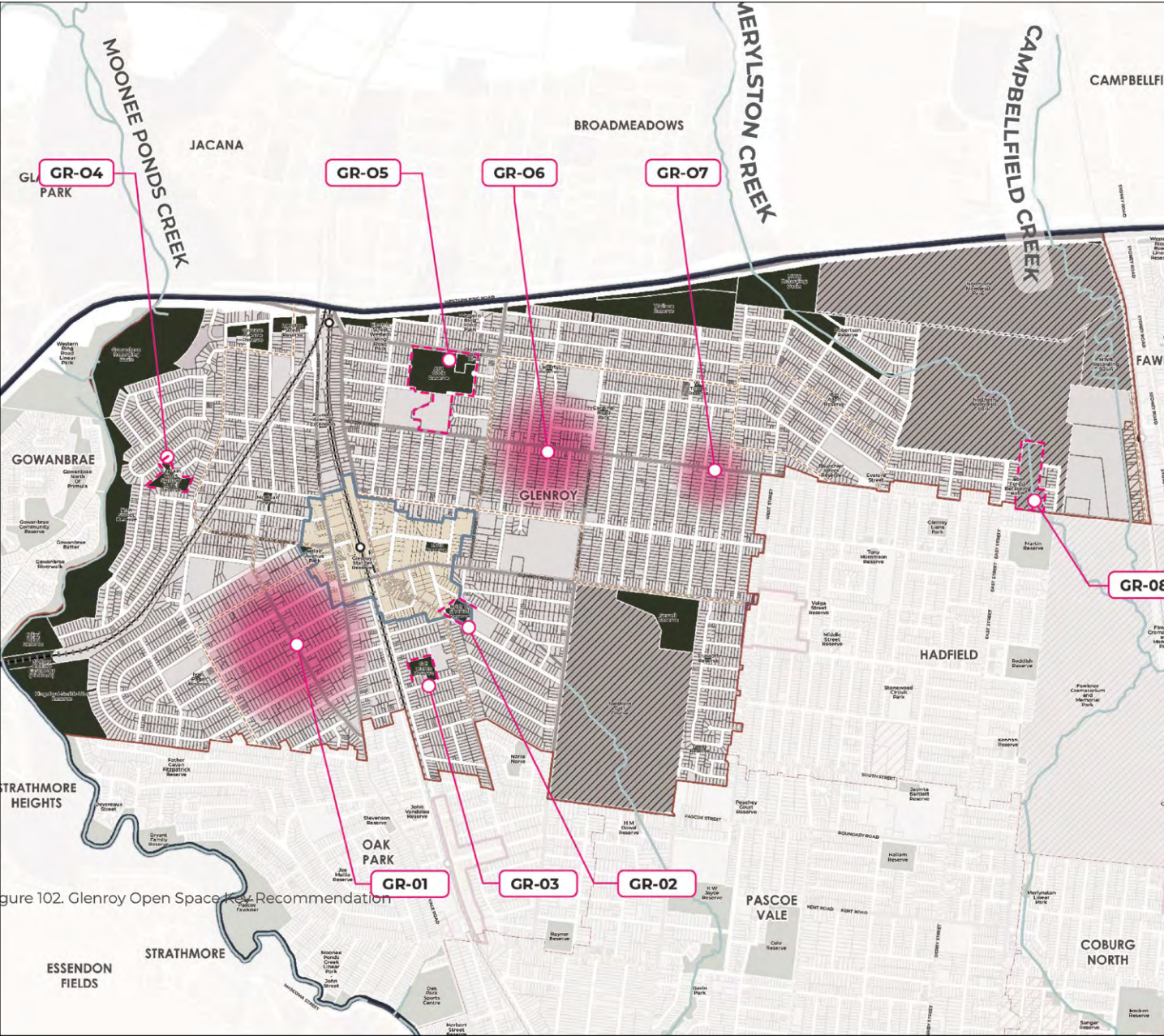


Figure 47: Recommended key open space projects for Glenroy.



Gowanbrae



Gowanbrae is a 1.4 square kilometre suburb in Merri-bek adjoining Glenroy and Oak Park in Merri-bek, and Gladstone Park, Tullamarine and Jacana in the City of Moonee Valley and Hume.

It is bordered by major roads including the Western Ring Road and the Tullamarine Freeway and the Moonee Ponds Creek.

Major open space features include the Moonee Ponds Creek trail corridor and large open space escarpments providing a buffer between the suburb and major roads.

Unlike the remainder of Merri-bek, Gowanbrae is expected to have a stable residential population and small worker population. This is due to the restrictions on growth in the suburb, due to the escarpments of the suburb and recent construction of its homes in the last 20 years.

Key open space statistics:

- A population of 3,179 residents in 2021, projects to decrease by 1 per cent to 3,149 persons in 2041.
- A workforce of 91 individuals in 2021, projected to double to 179 persons in 2041.

- In 2021, there were 92.3 square metres of open space per resident, which is expected to increase slightly to 93.5 due to anticipated population decrease (if no additional land is acquired).
- 29.4 hectares of public open space, occupying 20 per cent of the overall suburb.
- No formal sports reserves except for public tennis court at Elms Court.
- Five play spaces, including at Elms Court Reserve which has a playground and skate park.
- A dog park at Elms Court Reserve being currently designed.

Key challenges and open space recommendations:

- Significant open space in Gowanbrae to the north of the Elms Court Reserve / the Western Ring Road Linear Park, has large power transmission towers and lines which can restrict open space uses and infrastructure upgrades. This area is also difficult to access from much of Gowanbrae as this large open space corridor backs onto residential properties with limited entry points. Other open space areas in Gowanbrae also have steep escarpments, making them also restricted in use and function despite them being public open space.
- Create additional links to the existing open spaces by creating a walking loop around the entire suburb of Gowanbrae.
- Construct the Elms Court Reserve dog park.
- Continue enhancing and upgrading existing open spaces, such as the Balerno Circle playground.

Further detail is contained in the Merri-bek Open Space Background Technical Report.

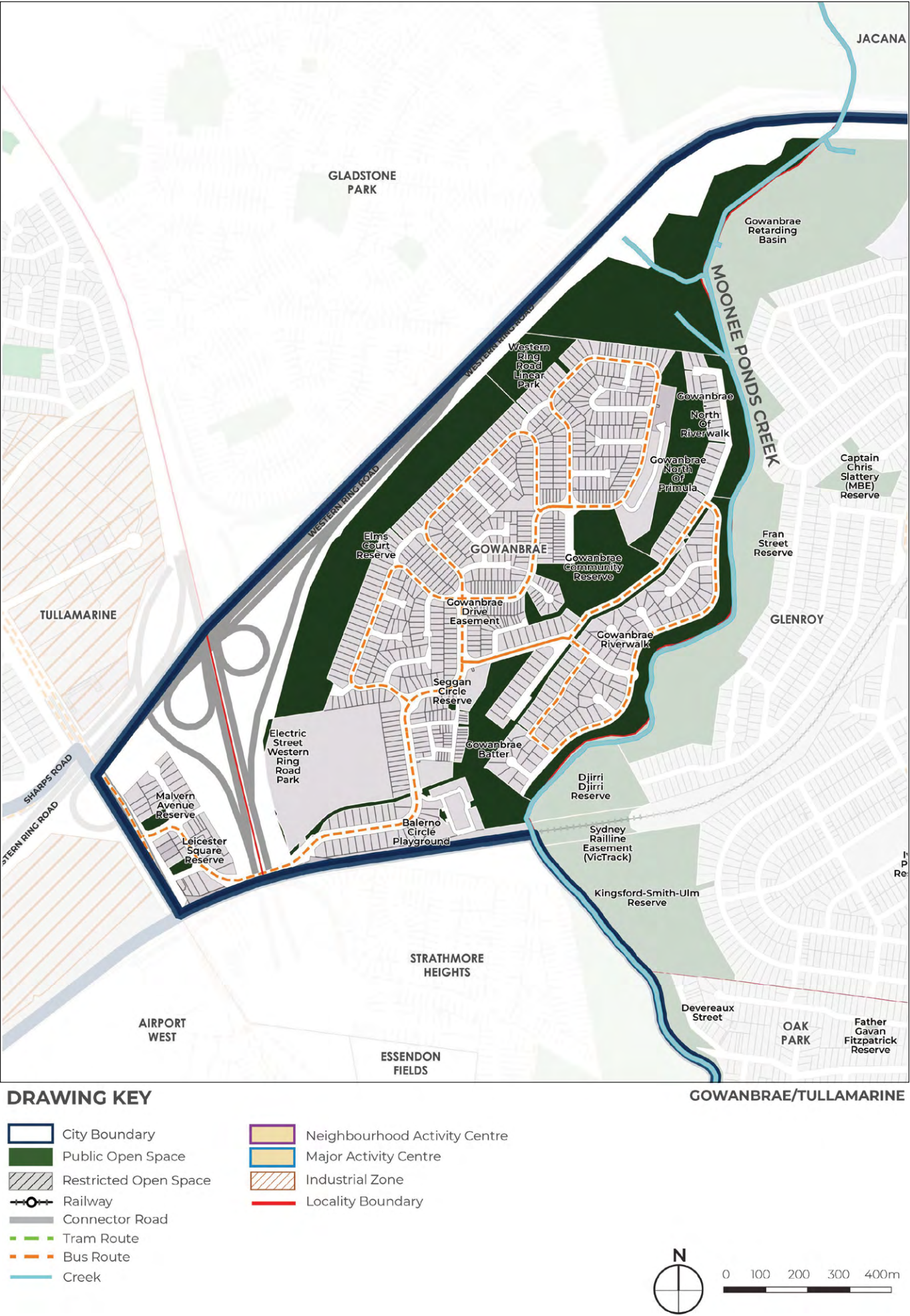


Figure 48: Existing open space in Gowanbrae.



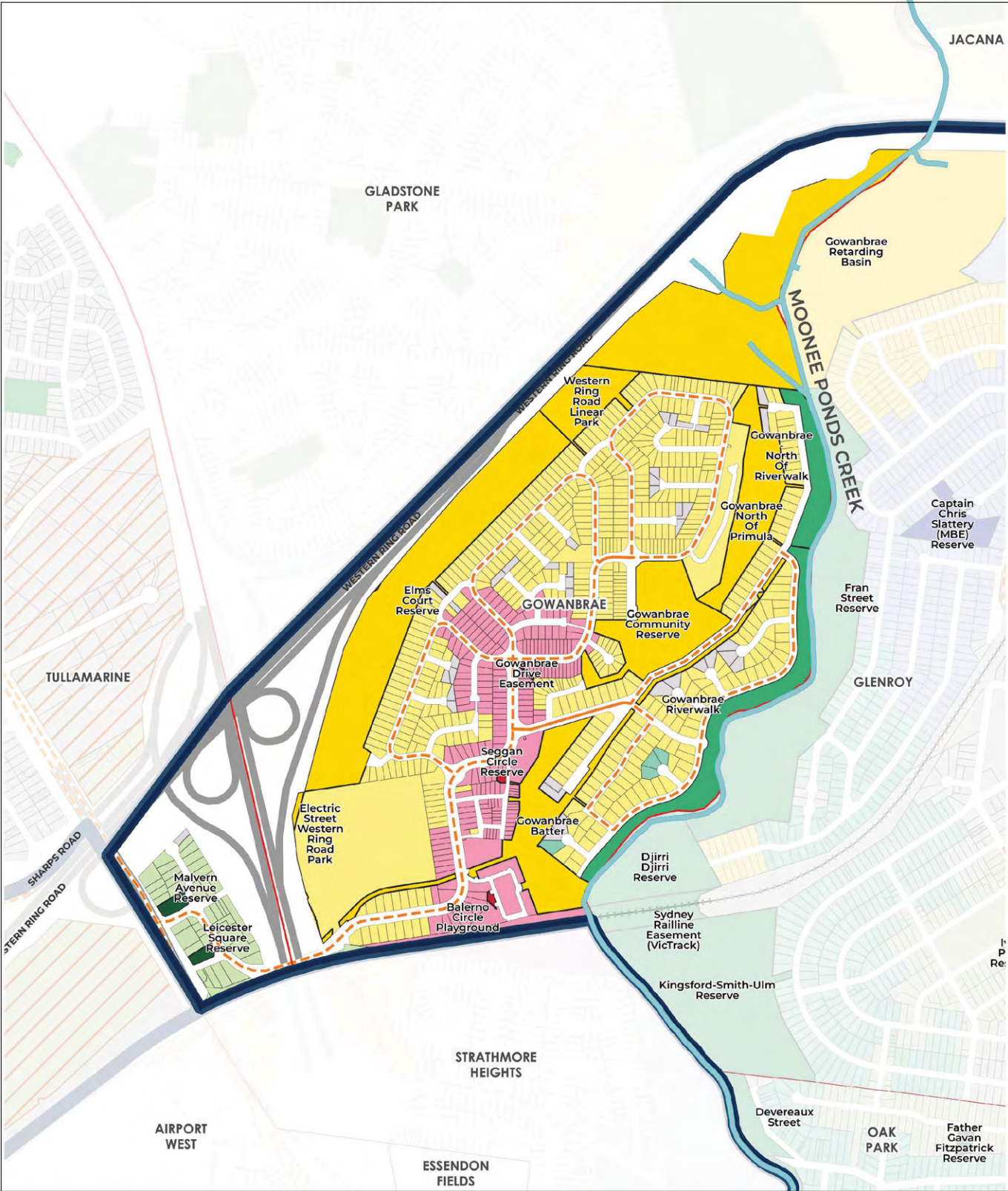


Figure 49: Analysis #2 and mapping of the open space hierarchies, their catchments and open space gaps, Gowanbrae.

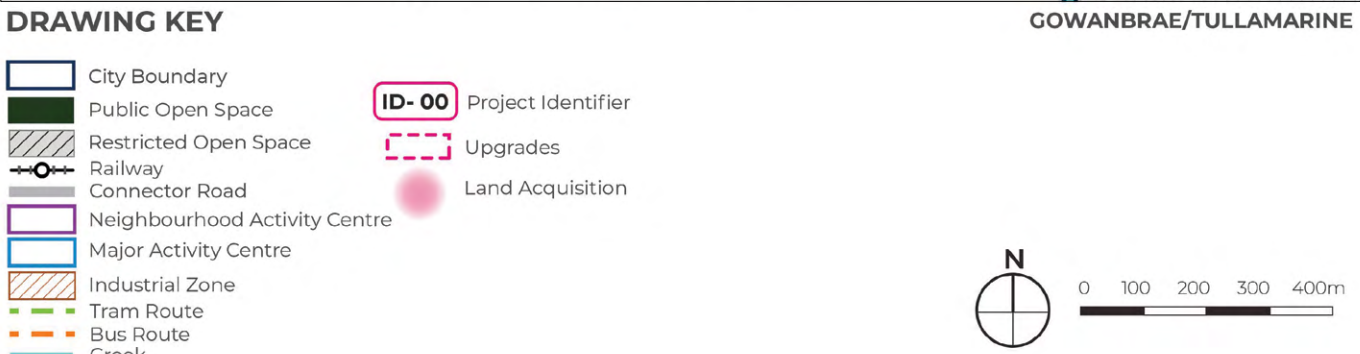
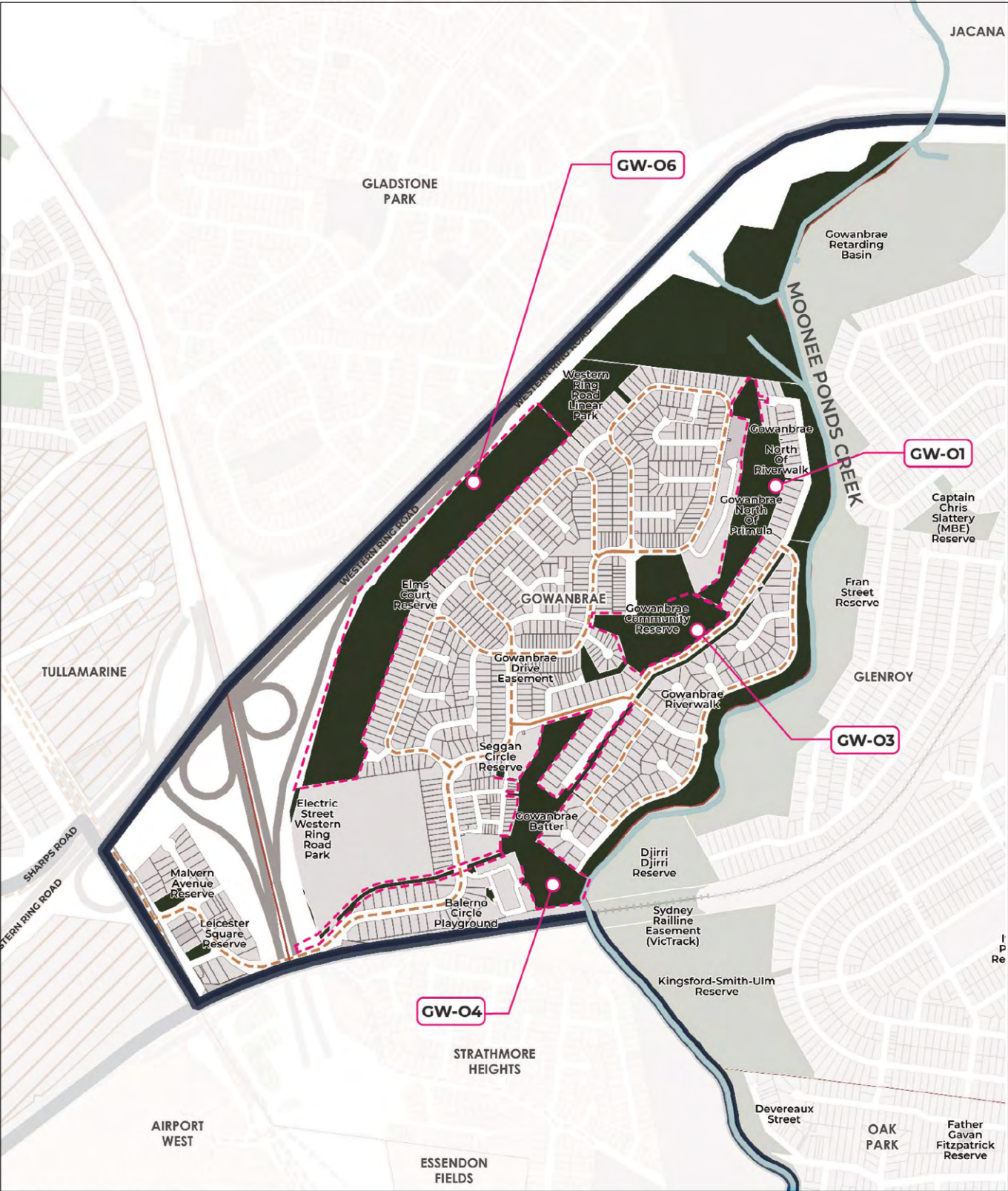


Figure 50: Key recommended open space projects in Gowanbrae.



Hadfield



Hadfield is a 3.1 square kilometre suburb which adjoins the Merri-bek suburbs of Glenroy, Fawkner, Pascoe Vale and Coburg North.

It is generally bounded by Hilton Street/Box Forest Road to the north, West Street to the West and Sydney Road to the east.

The prominent open space is the Fawkner Memorial Park, which is considered a restricted / encumbered open space as it is owned by the GMCT with the primary function as a cemetery and memorial park. Whilst it offers public access for nature, biodiversity and walking routes, other open space uses such as playgrounds and formal sports cannot occur there. Remaining public open spaces include the district Martin Reserve, which contains formal sports, playground, and other facilities. These remaining 7 open spaces are smaller sized and largely distributed in the north of the suburb.

Key open space figures for Hadfield include:

- A population of 7,350 residents in 2021, projected to increase by 29 per cent to 9,488 residents by 2041.
- A workforce of 955 individuals in 2021, with a projected increase of 61 per cent to 1,536 workers by 2041.
- In 2021, there were 12.2 square metres of open space per resident, which is expected to decrease to 9.5 square metres by 2041 if no additional land is acquired.
- 8.9 hectares (89,000 square metres) of open space, occupying 3 per cent of the suburb (excluding the Fawkner Memorial Park).
- Three sports reserves at Reddish Reserve, Martin Reserve and Middle Street Reserve.
- Five play spaces.

Key open space challenges and key open space recommendations:

- Hadfield has a very large open space at the Fawkner Memorial Park, however as it is a restricted / encumbered open space, its primary purpose as a cemetery means only limited open space uses can be entertained. The Fawkner Memorial Park occupies approximately a third of the entire suburb of Hadfield. While it offers access for nature, biodiversity and walking tracks, it cannot provide for many of the open space uses that the community requires.

- Hadfield has otherwise a small amount of open space compared to other Merri-bek suburbs and many of these open spaces, such as Volga Street Reserve, Tony Mommsen Reserve and the Stonewood Circuit Park, are small local and neighbourhood sizes. The only public open space larger than a neighbourhood space is Martin Reserve.
- The hierarchy analysis has identified a significant open space gap through much of Hadfield – this means this area is deficient in open space as well as larger open spaces that can accommodate more activities.
- Undertake several land acquisitions to create a new local scale open space in the south-western corner of Hadfield to fill the above open space gap and a second neighbourhood scale open space gap in central Hadfield.
- Continue enhancing and upgrading existing open space and pursuing opportunistic land acquisition to enlarge existing open spaces, such as the Volga Street Reserve.
- Explore increasing public use of the Fawkner Memorial Park with the Greater Melbourne Cemeteries Trust.

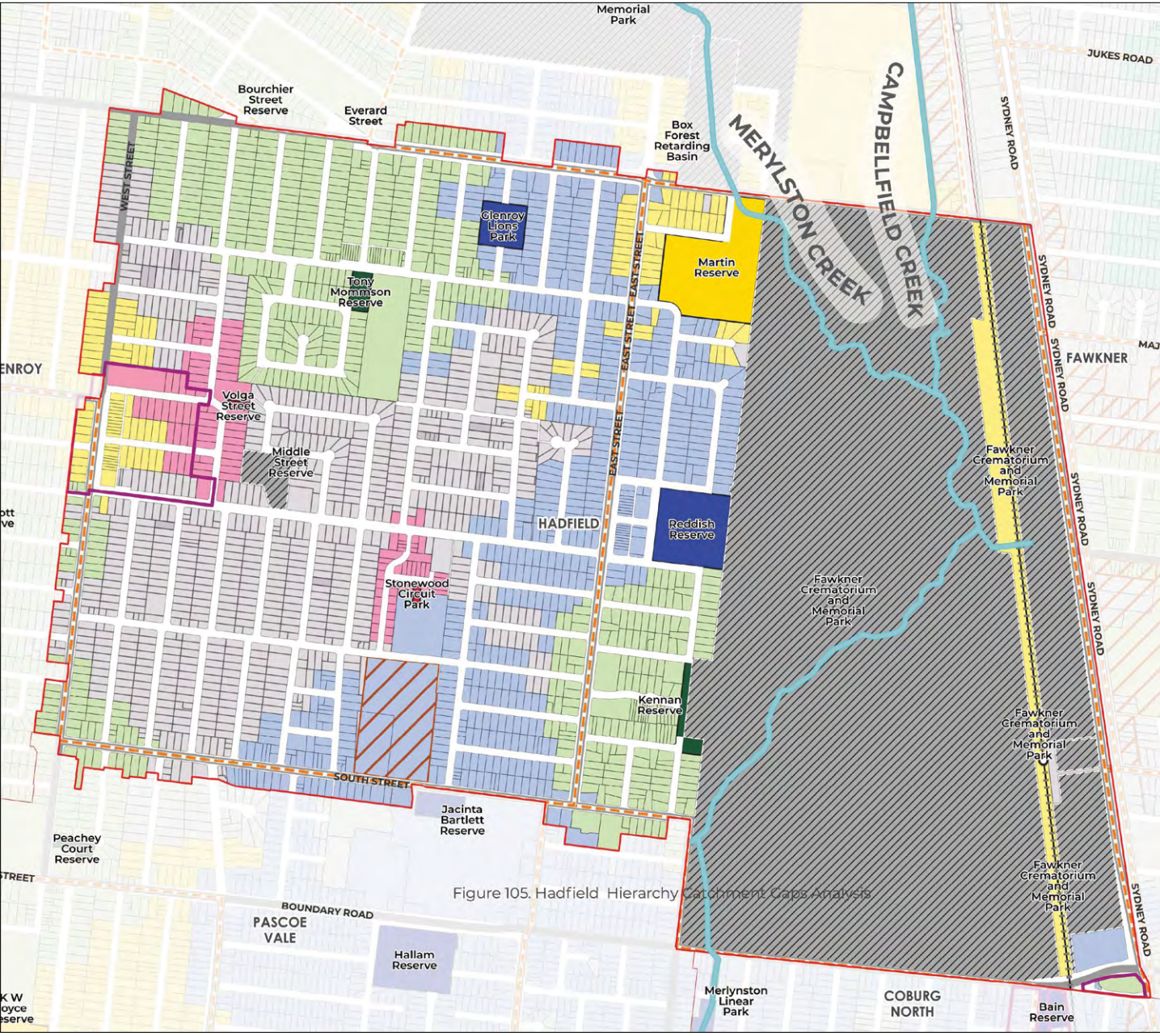
Further detail is contained in the Merri-bek Open Space Background Technical Report.





- HADFIELD**  
**DRAWING KEY**
- City Boundary
  - Public Open Space
  - Restricted Open Space
  - Neighbourhood Activity Centre
  - Major Activity Centre
  - Industrial Zone
  - Locality Boundary
  - Railway
  - Connector Road
  - Tram Route
  - Bus Route
  - Creek

Figure 51: Existing open space in Hadfield.



- HADFIELD**  
**DRAWING KEY**
- City Boundary
  - Industrial Zone
  - Neighbourhood Activity Centre
  - Major Activity Centre
  - Restricted Open Space
  - Railway
  - Connector Road
  - Tram Route
  - Bus Route
  - Creek
- CATCHMENT**
- 200m
  - 300m
  - 400m
  - 500m (District)
  - 500m (Regional)
- HIERARCHY**
- Pocket
  - Neighbourhood
  - Local
  - District
  - Regional

Figure 52: Analysis #2 and mapping of the open space hierarchies, their catchments and open space gaps, Hadfield.







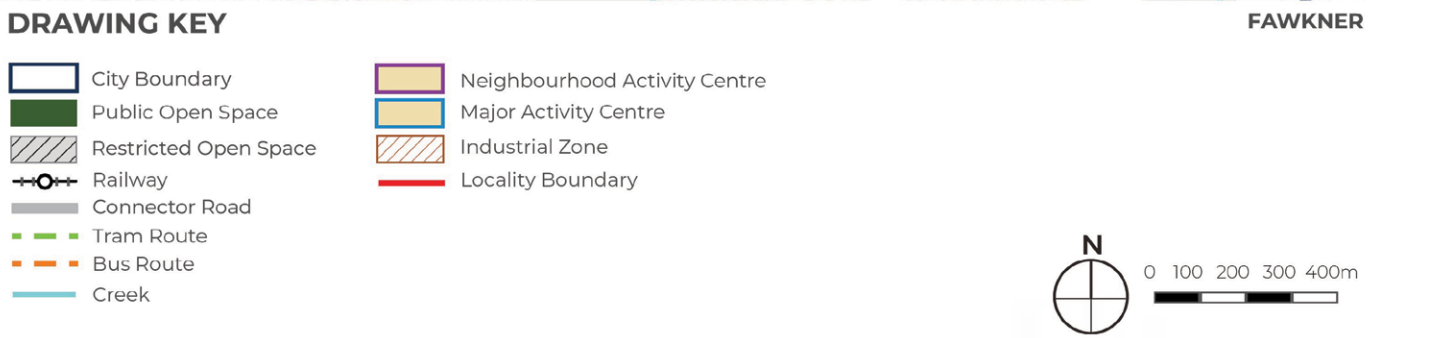
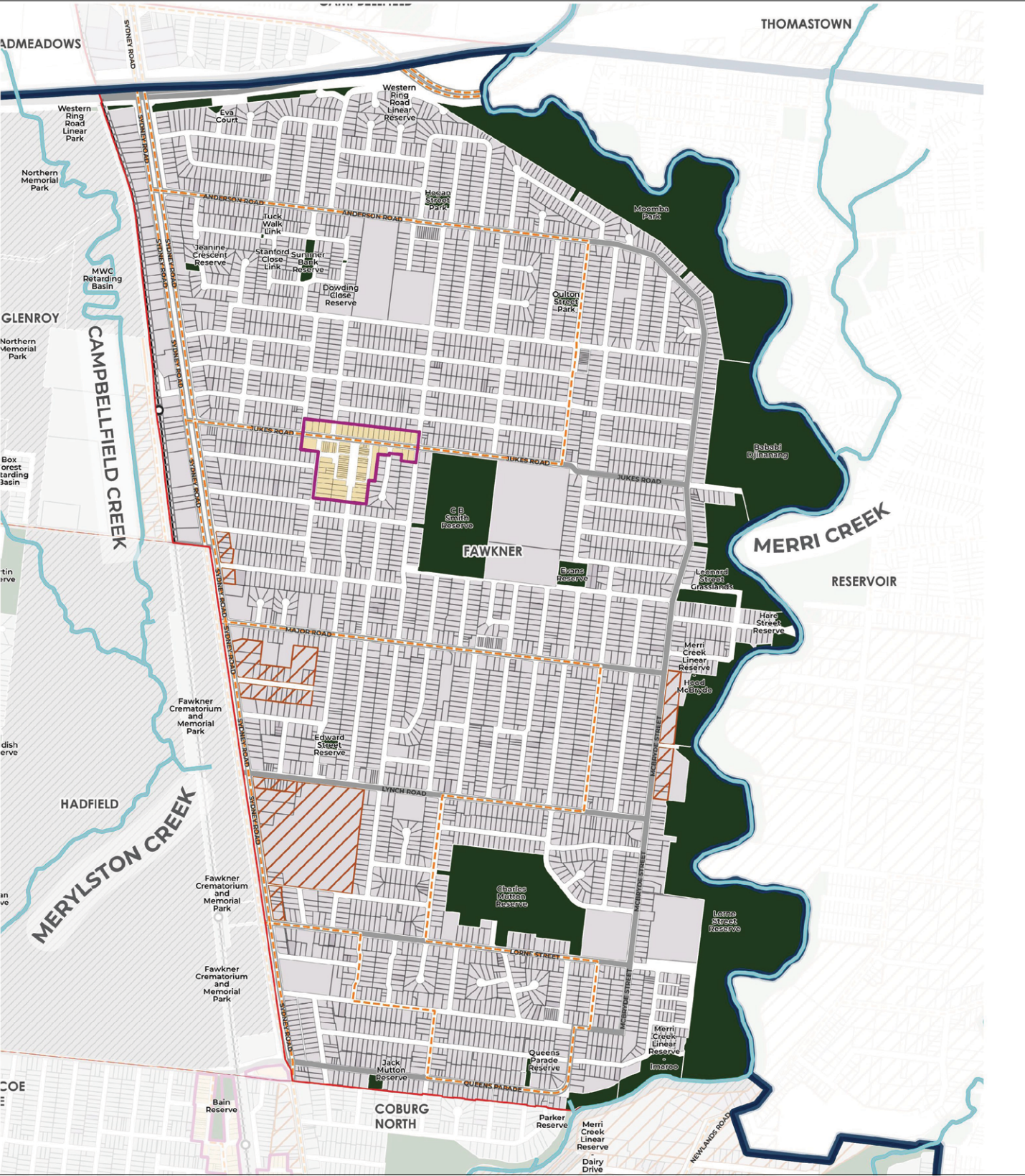


Figure 54: Existing open space in Fawkner.

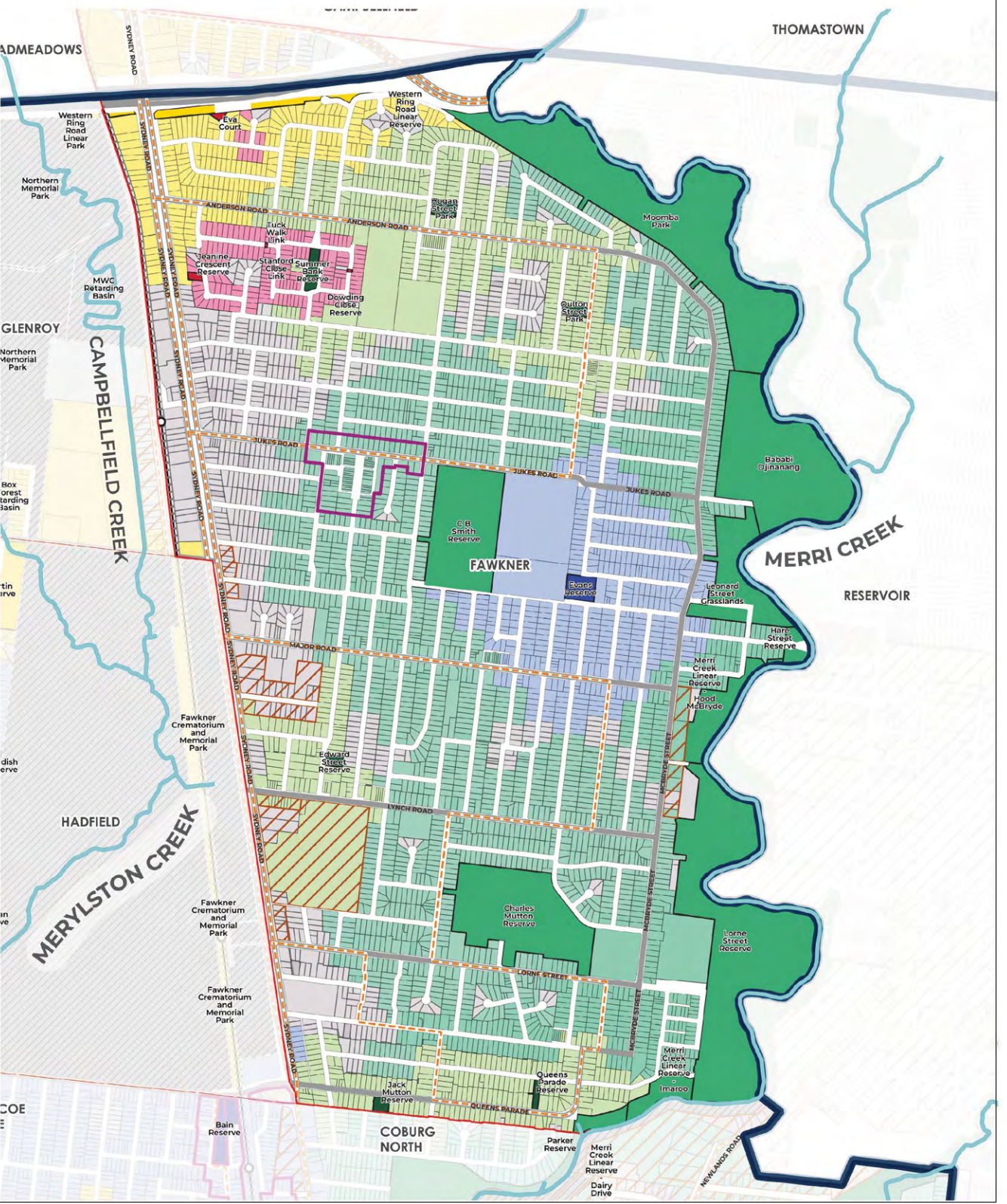


Figure 55: Analysis #2 and mapping of the open space hierarchies, their catchments and open space gaps, Fawkner.



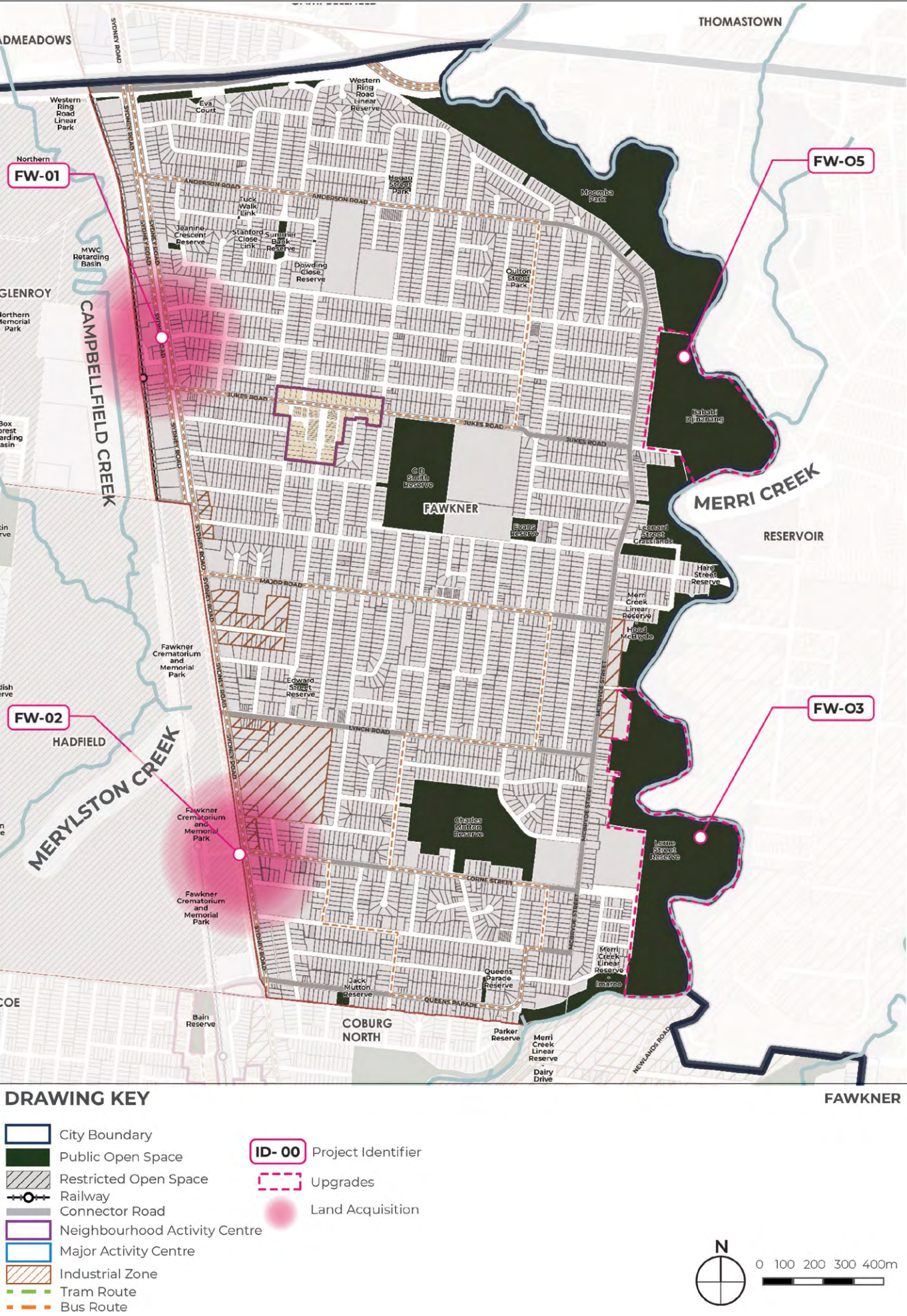


Image: Mural created by students of the former Ballerit Mooroop College in the entrance of the Will Will Rook kindergarten.







**Merri-bek**  
City Council