

Moreland City Council

# Moreland

## Open Space Strategy



August 2004



# **Moreland**

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## Acknowledgements

Moreland City Council acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, the Kulin Nation, of which the local indigenous people are the Wurrundjeri. Council is committed to building a trusting, collaborative and supportive relationship with Indigenous groups, and to respecting identified Aboriginal sacred sites and special places.

MOSS 2004

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# Summary

This document is a fully revised and updated version of the original Moreland Open Space Strategy (MOSS) produced in 1996. It identifies priority actions for the next five years.

The types of open space considered in the strategy include recognised 'public open space' – parks, reserves, playgrounds, sports playing fields, as well as the creek corridors and civic/urban spaces.

Chapter 2 presents a summary of relevant aspects of two State Government strategies, and key Moreland City Council policy/strategy documents that cover issues and directions relating to open space. Where appropriate, policy directions in these documents have been reinforced through specific actions in this Open Space Strategy.

Chapter 3 examines Moreland's open space needs, beginning with an outline of population characteristics and trends, then the findings of community consultation for the 1996 MOSS. Current guidelines for the provision of open space are summarised.

Chapter 4 describes Moreland's existing public open space resources, in terms of major types, level in a parks hierarchy, and adequacy of provision when assessed against guidelines.

Chapter 5 presents a broad goal, a set of aims and a vision for Moreland's open space system in 2023. There are also a number of general principles to guide ongoing planning and decision-making relating to open space. Over the next five years, the following strategic priorities are identified.

- Providing quality, accessible open space within safe walking distance of all residents.
- Continued restoration of the waterway corridors as regional linear open space.
- Allocating adequate resources for maintenance and refurbishment of existing and additional open space.
- Assessing and prioritising open space needs in Moreland's designated principal and major activity centres, and urban villages, particularly for higher density residential development.
- Diversifying recreation and open space opportunities for children and youth.
- An annual parks improvement program for local parks.
- Consolidating linear open space corridors, particularly State Government-owned properties.
- Master planning for undeveloped open space in Gowanbrae and Pentridge.
- A biodiversity strategy to protect and restore habitat for native plants and animals.
- Community information about the diversity of Moreland's open space system.
- Using the MOSS open space database through the forthcoming corporate GIS to improve management of open space assets and resources.

The proposed Council actions are grouped into the following themes in Chapters 6 to 11.

- **A park close to home:** improving access to informal open space
- **Having the right mix:** an appropriate range of open space types
- **Better parks:** improving the quality of open spaces for users
- **Involving the community:** participation in open space design and use
- **Making places for nature:** waterways, remnant vegetation and habitat
- **Looking after the open spaces:** management and maintenance

Actions listed in Chapters 6–11 are specific, with responsibility for implementation allocated to the appropriate Council department/s, and the recommended timing indicated. Progress in implementation of each action can be readily monitored and regularly reported.

Chapter 12 covers aspects of implementation, including resourcing, development contributions for open space, using the database, monitoring and review of the strategy.





# 1. Introduction

## Purpose and scope of the Open Space Strategy

An open space strategy is a study and analysis of the open lands throughout an area, to produce recommendations for action towards specified goals and objectives.

Moreland City Council commissioned the preparation of an Open Space Strategy in 1995 to develop strategic directions and priorities for planning, allocation, design, development and management of open space in the municipality.

This document is a fully revised and updated version of the original Moreland Open Space Strategy. It identifies priority actions for the next five years.

The types of open space considered in this strategy include the recognised 'public open space' – parks, reserves, playgrounds, sports playing fields, as well as the creek corridors and civic/urban spaces. It does not deal in detail with large areas of privately-owned or institutional open space, streetscapes, sporting/recreation facilities.

## Why is open space valuable?

*"Open space is not only for recreation and conservation of environmental and cultural values; it is the foundation of urban liveability. It underpins many social, ecological, and economic benefits that are essential to the healthy functioning of the urban environment."* (Parks Victoria (2002) *Linking People and Spaces*, page 7.)

Open spaces are valuable assets in a built-up urban area like the City of Moreland, and are recognised as being important for social, environmental and economic sustainability. Table 1 lists some of the roles and uses made of open space. The most important roles of open space for the residents who participated in the consultation process for the 1996 Open Space Strategy were those associated with relaxation, health and well-being, and with nature conservation.

The importance of physical activity to people's physical and mental health is being increasingly recognised and documented. People who are active are more likely to live longer, have lower risk of heart disease and stroke, and are less likely to suffer stress, anxiety and depression. Open space that is accessible and attractive encourages people to undertake various forms of exercise as part of their daily lives.

Scientific evidence has shown that contact with nature is positive for health in terms of recovering from stress, improving concentration and productivity, and improving one's psychological state (see Maller et al., 2002, *Healthy Parks Healthy People*). Parks and open spaces provide the main opportunities for viewing and experiencing nature in an urban area. Trends towards more intensive development and increased work-related stress indicate a growing need for these green spaces. Parks also play a significant role in fostering social connectedness, which is important for individual and community well-being. As expressed in the Moreland Municipal Public Health Plan (page 37) *"The natural environment is an important spiritual element affecting the health and well-being for all Australians, but particularly for Indigenous Australians. Everyone needs access to open space."*

From the perspective of financial values, the Council-owned public open spaces represent a very substantial real estate asset for the municipality. Many millions of dollars have been invested in developing and maintaining these areas. This strategy seeks to build on this asset base, and continue to improve its social, environmental and economic values for the people of Moreland.

## Evolution of the Moreland Open Space Strategy

### The 1996 strategy

Preparation of the first Moreland Open Space Strategy began in July 1995. The consultant team worked closely with a steering committee of Council officers and community representatives. The preparation process used extensive community and internal consultation which included written invitations to relevant organisations and notification in the local press inviting submissions, a focus discussion group with a cross-section of open space users, and five public workshops around Moreland.

An inventory, describing all of Moreland's public open space, was compiled and stored on a computer database and computerised mapping system. A range of related documents were reviewed, which considered expressed community preferences from the Brunswick Recreation Needs Study and Strategy Plan (1986), the Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan: Community Consultation (1991), the Merri Creek Concept Plan: Recreation and Access (1993), the Merri Creek Concept Plan: Community Consultation (1993), and the Brunswick-Northcote Local Conservation Strategy (1990).

**Table 1: Some roles and benefits of urban open space**

Relaxation	Trees, greenery	Watching	Recreation
Exercise	Stormwater drainage and protection from flooding	Learning	Food
Socialising	Micro-climate	Playing	Visual image of city
Nature, wildlife habitat	Utilities	Health	History
Landscape	Use for filled land	Competition	Identity
Arts	Space for the future	Quality of life	Celebration
Local non-motorised travel	Buffer between land uses	Enhanced private property values	

An issues and options paper was made available to Council staff, interested organisations and the Moreland community for comment. A summary of the draft strategy was circulated, with the full draft document available on request. Highlights of the draft were also presented in community languages in the Moreland Council News (letter-boxed to all Moreland households). The draft was revised in response to comments received, and was adopted as Council policy in December 1996.

### The 1997 strategy

An illustrated summary of the strategic open space priorities and actions, based on the 1996 document, was printed in October 1997 and distributed by Council as the Moreland Open Space Strategy 1997.

The strategy was awarded a commendation in the Urban Planning Achievement category of the Royal Australian Planning Institute (Victorian Division) awards in 1999.

### Review and audit of implementation

In 2001–2002, a review of the 1996 MOSS was carried out. The objective of the review project was to produce a clear and rigorous summary and analysis of MOSS implementation and effectiveness to date, with recommendations for future landscape planning, design, construction and maintenance, based on the existing MOSS principles. The review also updated the open space inventory and mapping. Council endorsed the review report in December 2002.

Major recommendations from the review were to:

- develop a Management and Maintenance Strategy for Moreland's public open spaces which should include aligning open space types and their use to specific maintenance requirements;
- develop a financially achievable and sustainable five-year capital works program aligned to updated MOSS aims and objectives and recurrent cost budgets;
- include a revised section in MOSS to facilitate a Council specific developer contributions scheme policy for public open space, aligned with MOSS aims and objectives;
- update existing and create new implementation strategies, responsive to current and future Council objectives, in particular, the Moreland Street Landscape Strategy review, and the Sporting Community and Sports Ground review;
- determine ownership status of actual and perceived public open space (progress development of a Land Acquisitions Policy and Strategy and investigate funding implications);
- incorporate key policy objectives developed since 1996 with regard to open space, including those contained within the Moreland Leisure Plan' Urban Villages Strategy, Street Landscape Strategy, Integrated Transport Strategy, draft Pedestrian and Walking Strategy, and Merri Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek Resting Places Strategy;
- refine MOSS definition of public open space to consider current community perceptions and expectations and to be inclusive of a broader spectrum of public open spaces, including urban spaces and streetscapes; and
- revise the categories for contemporary and sustainable types of public open space.

### Achievements

Key accomplishments in implementing the 1996 MOSS include the following.

- Park master planning, including Moomba Park Concept Plan (Taylor and Cullity Landscape Architects Pty Ltd 1997), Coburg Lake Reserve Management Plan (Collie Landscape and Design Pty Ltd 1998), Westbreen Creek Parklands (EDGE Environmental Design Group et al., 1998), Hope to Dawson Streets Open Space Landscape Works 1999–2002. (Australian Landscape Management, undated).
- Improvement of community access to open space across the municipality.
- The diversification of traditional sports grounds from only providing for organised sporting activities, to supporting other informal recreation and open space experiences.
- Implementation of the Shading the Paths Strategy.
- Major improvements to district parks, such as Moomba Park, Fawkner, Clifton Park, Brunswick and the North East Parklands, East Brunswick, including the completion of Jones Park.
- Audit of playground safety (ongoing).
- Progress in restoration, management and increased community stewardship and appreciation of the creek systems.
- Major progress in construction of shared footways along the Merri Creek and the Upfield rail line.
- Improved ecological management practices within the open space system.
- Increased community involvement and use of open space, through the Greening Moreland Forum, planting days and Moreland's Autumn Planting Festival.
- Major improvements to civic places, such as Victoria Mall, Coburg, Sparta Place, Brunswick, Morgan Court, and Glenroy.
- Major parks improvements at Randazzo Park, Brunswick, and Bain Reserve, Merlynston.
- Development of the contemplative garden in Lake Reserve in partnership with Melbourne City Mission.
- Development of local parks and street landscape improvement programs.
- Identification of land ownership within the Merri Creek corridor.
- Production of other strategic documents including the *Street Landscape Strategy*, *Landscape Guidelines and Technical Notes*, and *Gardening with Indigenous Plants in Moreland*.
- Management/development plans for parks with identified cultural heritage value.
- A survey and assessment of remnant vegetation in Moreland (Bainbridge et al., 1998) and management of remnant vegetation sites by Merri Creek Management Committee under contract to Council.
- Education programs.
- Installation of standardised park/reserve name signs reflecting the Moreland City Council corporate style.
- External advocacy on various open space issues in the municipality.
- Acquisition of land for open space improvements.

## 2. Policy context

The Moreland Open Space Strategy sits within a broader policy framework that includes policies adopted at the State Government level, as well as the local government policies of Moreland City Council. Since the original MOSS was adopted by Council in 1996, many new policies and strategies have been completed which have direct implications for open space planning, development and maintenance. Key documents are outlined below, and in Appendix A.

### State Government policies and strategies

#### Melbourne 2030

*Melbourne 2030: Planning for sustainable growth* is the State Government's strategy for metropolitan Melbourne, released in 2002. The main thrust of the strategy is to continue to protect the liveability of the established areas and to increasingly concentrate major change in strategic redevelopment sites. Coburg is identified as a principal activity centre, and Glenroy and Brunswick are major activity centres.

Policy 5.6 (*Melbourne 2030*, page 103) is to "improve the quality and distribution of local open space and ensure long-term protection of public open space". It notes that local public open space is a vital component of the urban fabric and makes places more liveable. Four initiatives are listed under this policy, as well as The Parklands Code (see Appendix B). Managers of open space, including local government, are to give due consideration to the code in the planning and management of open space.

Policy 5.7 (*Melbourne 2030*, page 105) is to "rectify gaps in the network of metropolitan open space by creating new parks and ensure major open space corridors are protected and enhanced". The open space corridors along Moonee Ponds and Merri Creeks are identified as being part of the regional public open space network. One of the initiatives under this policy is to create four continuous open space links and trails, including the Merri Creek Parklands within and beyond Moreland, extending to Craigieburn.

### Linking People and Spaces

Parks Victoria completed *Linking People and Spaces, a strategy for Melbourne's open space network* in 2002. Its five guiding principles are partnerships, equity of access, diversity, flexibility, responsiveness, and sustainability. The strategy is focused on regional-scale open space rather than local open space. Actions relevant to the City of Moreland include the following.

- Protect, enhance and where possible link, the significant riparian vegetation of waterways such as the Yarra River, the Plenty River, the Moonee Ponds Creek, the Merri Creek and Watsons Creek in order to establish regional wildlife corridors (page 39).
- Close the gaps in the existing Merri Creek Trail south of the Metropolitan Ring Road (page 39).

### Moreland City Council policies and strategies

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

#### Council Plan

*Council Plan 2002–2005* outlines the directions for the local government of Moreland over the coming three years. Council's priorities are based on the Four Pillars, which are:

- improving social conditions,
- improving built and natural environment,
- creating a sustainable employment base, and
- open, responsive and consultative governance.

Figure 1: Moreland City Council's strategy and policy framework



Priorities are identified annually in the *Mayor's Speech*.

Open space is one of the themes for monitoring Council performance against two indicators, which are:

- parks and reserves will be used and enjoyed (target is 80 per cent community satisfaction in 2003); and
- quality of natural environment improved (target is 80 per cent community satisfaction in 2003).

### City Plan (Municipal Strategic Statement)

The Municipal Strategic Statement (2000) forms part of the Moreland Planning Scheme. It applies the goals and key commitments of the Council Plan to the use and development of land in Moreland. Moreland's vision is expressed as follows.

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

The document reiterates elements of the 1996 MOSS, including the Strategic Framework Plan and the target of developing as usable open space all the areas assessed as undeveloped in 1995. Clause 21.06-6 Open Space and Outdoor Recreation, presents a number of 'strategies' under the following six objectives.

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

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

## Municipal Public Health Plan

*Health, Safety and Well-being in Moreland* (currently in draft, 2003) is the revised Municipal Public Health Plan. It comprises a range of strategies addressing 14 key elements where Council and its partners can have an impact, including the built and natural environment.

Community consultation found that people take pride in the parks in Moreland and the areas along the creeks. CERES is valued highly. People would like to see outdoor resources used more as they believe this is good for social interaction at many levels. They want shaded seating, drinking fountains, and playgrounds fenced off to protect children from dogs and the roads.

The Public Health Plan goal for the built and natural environment is: "An environmentally sustainable, viable, safe and liveable city, where people can shop, work and socialise locally and that promotes physical activity and social connection". The importance of the two main creeks, the natural environment as an important spiritual element affecting health and well-being, and the need to improve access for all to open and public civic space are highlighted. Actions under this goal include the following.

- Design and maintain quality infrastructure (ie, parks, bicycle paths) that meets community needs of all age groups and is safe, promotes physical activity and is sustainable for future requirements.
- Ensure the public environment promotes safety, physical activity, community strengthening and meets social needs for a diverse and ageing community in terms of seating, sun protection, public toilets and spaces that encourage social interaction.
- Improve waterway health and promote amenity along local waterways through implementing programs, including the Moonee Ponds Creek and Merri Creek Management Plans, the Resting Places Strategy and the Moreland Bicycle Strategy.
- Promote health and physical activity through the design of the built, open space and natural environment.
- Reduce risk factors for skin cancer by developing policy for sun protection in public spaces.

Under the early years' goal, actions include the following.

- Enable access to quality playgrounds, environments and programs that stimulate physical, intellectual, social and emotional development in children.
- Develop a Moreland Playground Strategy to ensure all playgrounds are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and Australian Standards.

The 'social participation' goal notes the importance of festivals and local community events, and the need to promote access to Council facilities and public space for community-directed activities.

### 3. Factors affecting open space needs

#### Population characteristics and trends

The socio-demographic profile of the Moreland community influences current and future demand for open space. The characteristics making up this community profile include factors such as population size, growth and distribution, age profile, mobility, employment, dwelling type, family size, and language spoken. A brief analysis of trends in these characteristics is presented in Appendix C. The findings are summarised below.

The recent trend of a declining population growth in Moreland has been reversed, and a gradual increase is projected in the future. At present, the highest proportion of residents in Moreland fall within the 25–34 year old age group. Moreland is predicted to experience a population growth in the middle age groups and a decline in the younger age groups.

Moreland is characterised by a migrant community and a high percentage of first generation Australians.

A relatively high proportion of people live in medium density housing, and vehicle ownership is at a relatively low level.

Suburbs expected to experience the highest growth between 2001 and 2030 are Gowanbrae, Coburg North, and Brunswick East.

The population profile described above has the following broad implications on planning for open space in the future:

- need for highly accessible open space, especially in areas with an increasing population in medium density housing; and
- the specific needs of individual cultural and ethnic groups must be taken into account when determining the nature and location of open space.

#### What do people want in open space? (Expressed community needs and preferences)

In preparing the 1996 MOSS, community consultation was undertaken using a range of techniques. Major themes emerging from the input received are outlined below. These preferences were tested with the Greening Moreland Forum in 2002, and are still considered to be relevant. In addition, the relevant findings of 1998 research into attitudes to waterways are summarised.

#### Roles of open space

The most popular roles of open space related to wildlife habitat/nature, relaxation, and exercise/health/well-being. A strong appreciation that open space can and should meet both human and nature conservation needs was apparent throughout the municipality. Habitat links were regarded as of vital importance, with the use of indigenous species widely supported. There was also a strong recognition of the creeks as part of both open space and water management systems, with an emphasis on water quality issues.

#### Adequacy of provision

Variation in the availability of open space throughout the municipality was recognised in most workshops. Generally, there was a desire for more open space, and strong support for the principle of an equitable distribution throughout the municipality. Some workshops highlighted specific areas with little open space, and areas where increasing housing densities will mean an increased need for more open space.

Loss of areas used as open space but not reserved for this purpose, was a concern throughout the municipality, as was the selling off of government land. Loss of open space was seen as disadvantaging residents, and potentially leading to declining property values.

There were no advocates for the selling off of open space, but many questioned the relative allocations for different uses, suggesting that there was a need for more informal recreation areas, more multi-use areas and fewer single-purpose sporting grounds.

While there was a desire for more open space, most people saw this as unrealistic (unlikely), and therefore suggested ways of increasing the diversity, quality and accessibility of what already exists. It was suggested that many areas could support a higher level of use for a wider range of activities. Through better links between open space areas, and between open space and adjoining uses, open space could also be made more available to a wider range of people. Better information about what is available was also seen as a key. New opportunities for open space provision were generally seen as being limited to the better use of other urban spaces such as shopping centres, railway lines, and streets as part of the city's open space network. A large regional park was also proposed. Cooperative planning across municipal boundaries and within the region was seen as a way of providing more open space opportunities without necessarily acquiring more open space.

#### Quality of existing open space

The quality of open space throughout the municipality was regarded as variable, with some high-quality areas, but most lacking in character and distinctive design. Small, neighbourhood parks were most often seen as being of poor quality, offering a sameness of experience to park users.

Many specific criticisms were made about the facilities provided in open space areas. The most common criticisms were the lack of basic requisites – shade, shelter, drinking fountains, seating, toilets, lighting, information signs. Some open space areas were seen as not adequately fulfilling their intended purpose due to poorly designed and located facilities. Maintenance was another commonly perceived problem.

A related issue is the way facilities are arranged within parks. Many specific examples were mentioned, including lack of seats near children's play equipment, lack of shaded seats, lack of accessible toilets, and lack of information (especially for those who do not read English).

Safety, and feeling safe while using open space emerged as a major issue for many people, particularly, but not only, for women and older people. The main problems highlighted were lack of lighting, lack of cleaning (broken glass, syringes), and lack of 'supervision'. Dogs off the leash also rated many mentions.

An important theme to emerge was the need to provide the means and resources to directly involve local people and open space users in redesigning open space areas.

### Unmet needs

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

Young people's needs were also seen as of great importance. Children's play areas were seen as varying in quality, with little diversity available across the municipality. Small play areas close to home, and spaces where informal ball games are allowed were important. Play areas for older children were deemed to be lacking. Playing on the street was once a part of inner city life, and safer streets where children can play close to home was desired by many.

The consultation revealed the belief that spaces and activities for teenagers are rarely provided, and the need for simple facilities (basketball rings, rebound walls, skateboard/roller blade areas, seats etc) throughout the municipality. Teenagers need spaces where they can meet friends, see and be seen and 'muck around'.

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

Some cultural groups have particular needs. For example, Muslims will not use barbeques that may have been used to cook pork.

Several ideas emerged for new open space facilities – an adventure park, wild natural areas, performance spaces, lakes

and water features, a major park providing for a range of informal recreation uses, places for quiet reflection, community allotment gardens, public art works, and exercise and activity sites along trails.

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

Many people suggested that the best way of catering for a diverse and changing range of needs was by diversifying the informal recreation opportunities available in all open space areas. Single-purpose areas were generally targeted for change. Few people thought there was a need for all of the present sporting grounds, and almost none suggested there should be more.

### Preferences for parkland development

At the five public workshops, participants were asked about their priorities for various types of open space development and facilities. Bushland/wetlands/wildlife habitat areas were the most popular form of development in all workshops, and upgrading a park for informal recreation was also strongly favoured. Research and monitoring of community preferences for open space should be undertaken on an ongoing basis to guide management and development of open space.

### Views on waterways

In June 1998, a study of attitudes to waterways was conducted for Melbourne Water via 761 telephone interviews across four metropolitan and one rural catchment (ResearchWise Consultants 1998). Of these interviews, 149 were in the Merri Creek catchment. Just over 80 per cent of interviewees in the Merri catchment had visited the Merri Creek in the past 12 months – a very high level of usage. The Merri was seen as being strong on safety attributes, and weak on environmental health aspects – litter, fish habitat, and murkiness.

Interviewees were asked to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with a number of statements about waterways. Some of the results (across the full sample) are presented below.

Our waterways are a valuable asset to the community.	88% agree
Protecting our waterways from threats to their health needs to be a top priority.	87% agree
There are some waterways in terrible condition due to mistakes of the past.	82% agree
We must plant indigenous vegetation and return our waterways to a more natural state.	77% agree
I don't think it is a good idea to put the needs of wildlife over that of the public when waterways are being improved.	22% agree
I like a waterway to look neat with mown grass and tidy trees.	49% disagree
I like a waterway to look natural with tufts of long grass and a mix of native trees and shrubs.	77% agree
Encouraging a habitat for wildlife along waterways should not be a priority.	67% disagree
We should encourage platypuses to inhabit our urban waterways.	72% agree

## Trends in open space use

A number of trends in Australian society can be identified that affect how people use public open space, and consequently what types of open space and park development are required. These trends are:

- more medium density housing with little private open space;
- an ageing population, leading to a demand for local parkland for informal recreation;
- increasing competition for leisure time from personal computers and entertainment systems, public and private recreation facilities;
- increasing awareness of health issues and the importance of exercise, with walking, jogging and bicycle riding becoming more popular;
- concern about environmental quality, and demand for more natural areas; and
- changing needs for sporting facilities, with increased diversity of choice and reduced demand for some activities.

According to research undertaken by Parks Victoria, "the community is seeking greater diversity in the range of open space on offer. Emerging demands include:

- improved linear links to surrounding areas, parks and attractions;
- open spaces that cater for multiple use, including less structured activities, as well as open space that caters for all age groups;
- open space that caters for people from different ethnic backgrounds;
- greater protection and enhancement of environmental and cultural values; and
- improved safety and security in parks and open spaces." (*Linking People and Spaces*, page 22.)

## Guidelines and standards for open space provision

The 1996 MOSS used the *Planning Guide for Urban Open Space* (Ministry for Planning and Environment 1989) as the basis for identifying a hierarchy of local, district and major parks, and for assessing the adequacy of provision of local and district parks for informal recreation.

## Parks hierarchy

In the absence of more recent guidelines<sup>1</sup> for a parks hierarchy since the 1989 guide, these are considered to be still applicable.

**Major parks** attract tourists and visitors from all parts of the metropolitan area. Moreland has none of these, but examples close to Moreland are Royal Park including Melbourne Zoo, and Yarra Bend Park.

**District parks** attract users from several kilometres away, for visits of several hours. Such parks should cater for a wide cross-section of community interests, including informal recreation, appreciation of natural or cultural heritage, relaxation, social interaction, solitude, education and floodplain and waterway protection. Many incorporate or adjoin sporting areas. They are usually at least three hectares in size, but can be smaller if located and developed appropriately. The guide recommends that all urban households should be within two kilometres of a district park. They should be accessible on foot, by bicycle, car and public transport if possible.

**Local parks** cater for informal recreation, relaxation and children's play, and should be within walking distance of all households. Various guidelines for provision of local open space are outlined below.

## Provision of local open space

According to the 1989 guide, local parks should be ideally within 300 metres safe walking distance of all households. In established urban areas, the 300 metre criterion may not be feasible, and first priority should be to provide some open space within 500 metres of all residents. Ideally, a large local park at least one hectare in size should be within 500 metres of all households.

The *Victoria Planning Provisions*, which is a state-wide reference document or template from which all planning schemes are sourced and constructed, includes Particular Provisions for Residential Subdivision relating to public open space. (Note that these provisions are for new 'greenfields' subdivisions, rather than established urban areas.) Key provisions in Clause 56.05 are shown in the table below. The clause also states that public open space should be 4000 square metres or greater in area, or a linear connection, or a small local park serving a neighbourhood within 300 metres safe walking distance.

Table 2

Level in hierarchy	Uses	Min. size	Radius served
District park	Active and passive	3 hectares	2 kilometres
Large local park	Active and passive	1 hectare	500 metres safe walking distance
Small local park	Not specified	Not specified	150–300 metres safe walking distance

<sup>1</sup> The Victoria Planning Provisions simply refer to providing "a balance between local, district and regional open space" (Clause 56.05–2).



Moreland's Urban Villages Policy (1997) has a target of 5 per cent of each designated urban village as public parks and squares, and the whole of each urban village area to be within 200 metres of parks or squares.

*Melbourne 2030*, the State Government's strategy for Melbourne (2002) includes an initiative to "establish a planning framework and guidelines relating to open space and sporting facilities at local and district level" (*Melbourne 2030*, page 103). The Department of Sustainability and Environment are yet to commence this study.

### **Linear open space**

As part of the *Victoria Planning Provisions*, the State Planning Policy Framework Clause 15.01 (Protection of catchments, waterways and groundwater) requires planning and responsible authorities to consider the impacts of catchment management on downstream water quality and freshwater, coastal and marine environments and, where possible encourage the retention of natural drainage corridors with vegetated buffer zones at least 30 metres wide along waterways, to maintain the natural drainage function, stream habitat and wildlife corridors and landscape values, to minimise erosion of stream banks and verges, and to reduce polluted surface runoff from adjacent land uses.

Under Clause 15.10 (Open space) planning authorities should plan for regional open space networks to be used for recreation and conservation of natural and cultural environments. Planning and responsible authorities should ensure that open space networks:

- are linked through the provision of walking and cycle trails and rights of way;
- are integrated with open space contributions from abutting subdivisions; and
- incorporate, where possible, links between major parks and activity areas, along waterways and natural drainage corridors, connecting places of natural and cultural interest, as well as maintaining public accessibility on public land immediately adjoining waterways and coasts.

The *Victoria Planning Provisions* Clause 56-05 states that the provision of public open space should take advantage of and protect natural and cultural features, and incorporate land for regional linear open space where appropriate.

In *Melbourne 2030*, the metropolitan strategy, the open space corridors along Moonee Ponds and Merri Creek are identified as being part of the regional public open space network. One of the initiatives is to create a continuous open space link and trail in the Merri Creek parklands between Craigieburn and the Yarra River.

These guidelines and standards are interpreted and applied to Moreland's existing open space in the following chapter, and recommended actions to address deficiencies are presented in Chapters 6 and 10.

## 4. Moreland's existing open space

### Inventory and database

In 1995, as part of the original Moreland Open Space Strategy, every accessible open space in Moreland larger than 0.5 hectares (and many smaller sites) was visited and assessed. Information about the heritage values, remnant indigenous vegetation, planted vegetation, environmental weeds, recreation facilities, perceived safety level, and linkages was recorded, along with any other comments. If the site was diverse, it was then divided into subsites, the current open space category (whether the subsite was fenced off from public access or required a fee for entry) and the vegetation of the subsite were noted, and the proposed future category of the subsite was recorded. This information was incorporated into a geographic information system (GIS) using MapInfo software, together with a Microsoft Access database. The GIS system was used to produce the maps in the 1996 MOSS.

Since the original inventory, a more detailed survey of remnant vegetation present in the municipality was completed in 1998. Information from this survey supersedes the rapid assessment made in 1995, and is depicted in Map 3.

In 2001, landscape architectural consultants Aspect were commissioned to audit the implementation of the MOSS, assessing the status of each of the parcels in that year, and noting this in the database. Information about facilities present in parks was not updated. Aspect reviewed the actions and noted that a number had been completed, and also wrote extensive comments on the text of the document. The current revisions to the strategy have incorporated some other relevant information, such as the landscape citations prepared for Council in 1998 by Allom Lovell and Associates and John Patrick. Nonetheless, a complete review of the information in the database has not been undertaken as part of the current project.

In the 1995 inventory and subsequent work, open space documented in the database has not been limited to Council-owned open spaces. While Council's major responsibility is for areas it owns, an overall picture of open space in the municipality cannot be gained without considering open spaces owned by others – the State Government in particular. Council is undertaking work to map exactly what land it owns, using compatible GIS software, and this information can be readily overlaid with the open space information to reveal which parks are Council-owned. Council is also undertaking work to identify areas of open space which State Government agencies may seek to dispose of in future, in an effort to plan for such contingencies.

### Types of open space

Public open space in Moreland has been categorised according to its function. Where parts of a site have distinctly different functions, the site is split into these categories on the database. The following categories have been used, based on those in the original 1995 inventory, with some modifications.

**Informal:** parkland for informal recreation, including areas with facilities like playgrounds, barbecues or basketball hit-up walls. Examples include Austin Crescent Reserve, Pascoe Vale, and Robinson Reserve, Coburg.

**Sporting:** open space used for outdoor sports playing areas and associated facilities. Examples include Sumner Park (Brunswick), and Raeburn Reserve (Pascoe Vale).

**Conservation parkland:** areas for informal recreation in a natural landscape setting with indigenous planting. Facilities may include paths and seats. Examples are Kingford Smith Ulm Reserve, Glenroy and part of Gilpin Park, Brunswick.

**Habitat:** land containing remnant indigenous vegetation in the process of restoration, or land with no recreation facilities on which revegetation is being undertaken to create habitat. Primarily for native flora and fauna, rather than recreation. Examples include Jukes Road grassland (Fawkner) and the remnant vegetation site near Moonee Ponds Creek and Union Street (West Brunswick).

**Heritage:** parkland with cultural heritage significance due to historic, social and/or aesthetic values that should be protected in future development and management. Examples include Lake Reserve (Coburg), and Temple Park (Brunswick).

**Civic place:** public spaces designed for intensive use in an urban setting, including squares, plazas, and malls. Largely paved, may have some trees. At least 400 square metres in area. Examples include Morgan Court (Glenroy), Northern Forecourt to Council offices (Coburg), Victoria Mall (Coburg). Ideally, every urban village will have a central civic place.

**Streetscape:** very small areas (less than 400 square metres) or long narrow open spaces adjoining streets, and sites where the only obvious use is to provide a pedestrian and/or bicycle link to another area. To be dealt with under the revised Streetscape Strategy.

**Undeveloped:** sites that have not been developed for open space uses, for example by the construction of recreation or sporting facilities, paths or planting.

**Table 3: Area of each type of open space (hectares) in each suburb of Moreland**

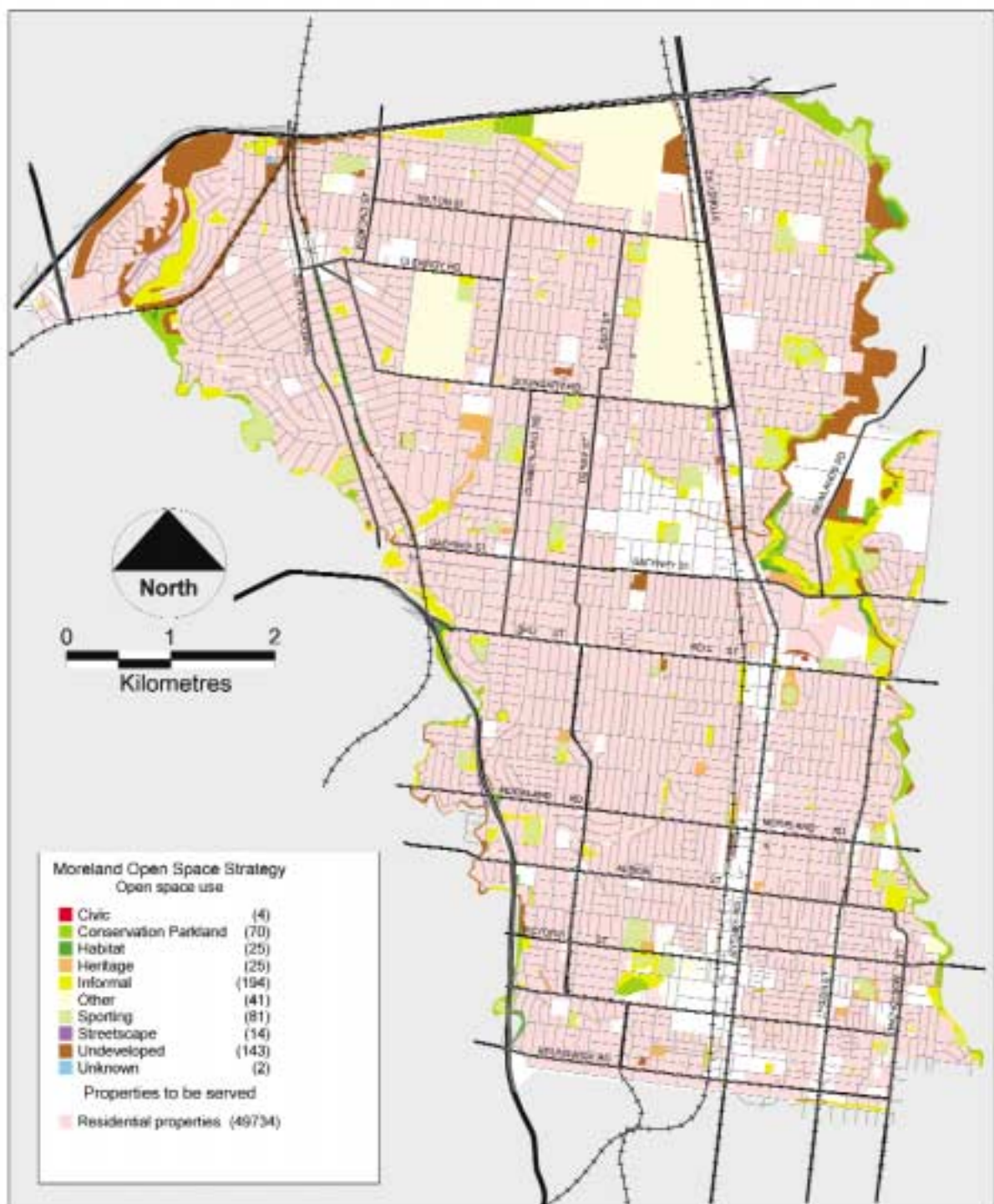
Type	City of Moreland	Brunswick	Brunswick East	Brunswick West	Coburg	Coburg North	Fawkner	Glenroy	Gowanbrae	Hadfield	Oak Park	Pascoe Vale	Pascoe Vale South
<b>Civic</b>	0.42	0.03			0.29			0.10					
<b>Conservation Parkland</b>	79.36	3.21	6.40	1.98	7.76	11.05	23.58	13.00			5.65	1.27	5.47
<b>Habitat</b>	19.56			2.68	1.39	4.85	3.18	3.02			2.57	0.08	1.78
<b>Heritage</b>	27.13	3.14	2.61	0.58	5.96	3.25					0.07	10.41	1.10
<b>Informal</b>	171.43	8.26	12.05	7.53	15.19	47.55	9.01	33.22	3.57	4.96	7.76	11.72	10.62
<b>Sporting</b>	112.53	9.88	8.22	4.57	12.17	18.97	12.96	14.47		3.04	11.72	10.81	5.72
<b>Undeveloped</b>	165.72	1.42	0.87	5.63	9.04	26.13	40.94	44.15	30.94	0.23	1.08	4.50	0.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>576.14</b>	<b>25.93</b>	<b>30.14</b>	<b>22.97</b>	<b>51.81</b>	<b>111.79</b>	<b>89.68</b>	<b>107.95</b>	<b>34.51</b>	<b>8.23</b>	<b>28.85</b>	<b>38.78</b>	<b>25.50</b>

Based on the 1995 inventory, revisions in 2001 by Aspect and limited update in 2003. Note that the large areas of undeveloped land in Fawkner and Coburg North include a number of large parcels owned by the State Government, which are not permanently reserved as public open space.

**Table 4: The percentage of each type of open space in each suburb**

Type	City of Moreland	Brunswick	Brunswick East	Brunswick West	Coburg	Coburg North	Fawkner	Glenroy	Gowanbrae	Hadfield	Oak Park	Pascoe Vale	Pascoe Vale South
<b>Civic</b>	100.0%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	68.2%	0.0%	0.0%	24.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Conservation Parkland</b>	100.0%	4.0%	8.1%	2.5%	9.8%	13.9%	29.7%	16.4%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	1.6%	6.9%
<b>Habitat</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.7%	7.1%	24.8%	16.3%	15.4%	0.0%	0.0%	13.1%	0.4%	9.1%
<b>Heritage</b>	100.0%	11.6%	9.6%	2.2%	22.0%	12.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	38.4%	4.0%
<b>Informal</b>	100.0%	4.8%	7.0%	4.4%	8.9%	27.7%	5.3%	19.4%	2.1%	2.9%	4.5%	6.8%	6.2%
<b>Sporting</b>	100.0%	8.8%	7.3%	4.1%	10.8%	16.9%	11.5%	12.9%	0.0%	2.7%	10.4%	9.6%	5.1%
<b>Undeveloped</b>	100.0%	0.9%	0.5%	3.4%	5.5%	15.8%	24.7%	26.6%	18.7%	0.1%	0.7%	2.7%	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%	4.5%	5.2%	4.0%	9.0%	19.4%	15.6%	18.7%	6.0%	1.4%	5.0%	6.7%	4.4%

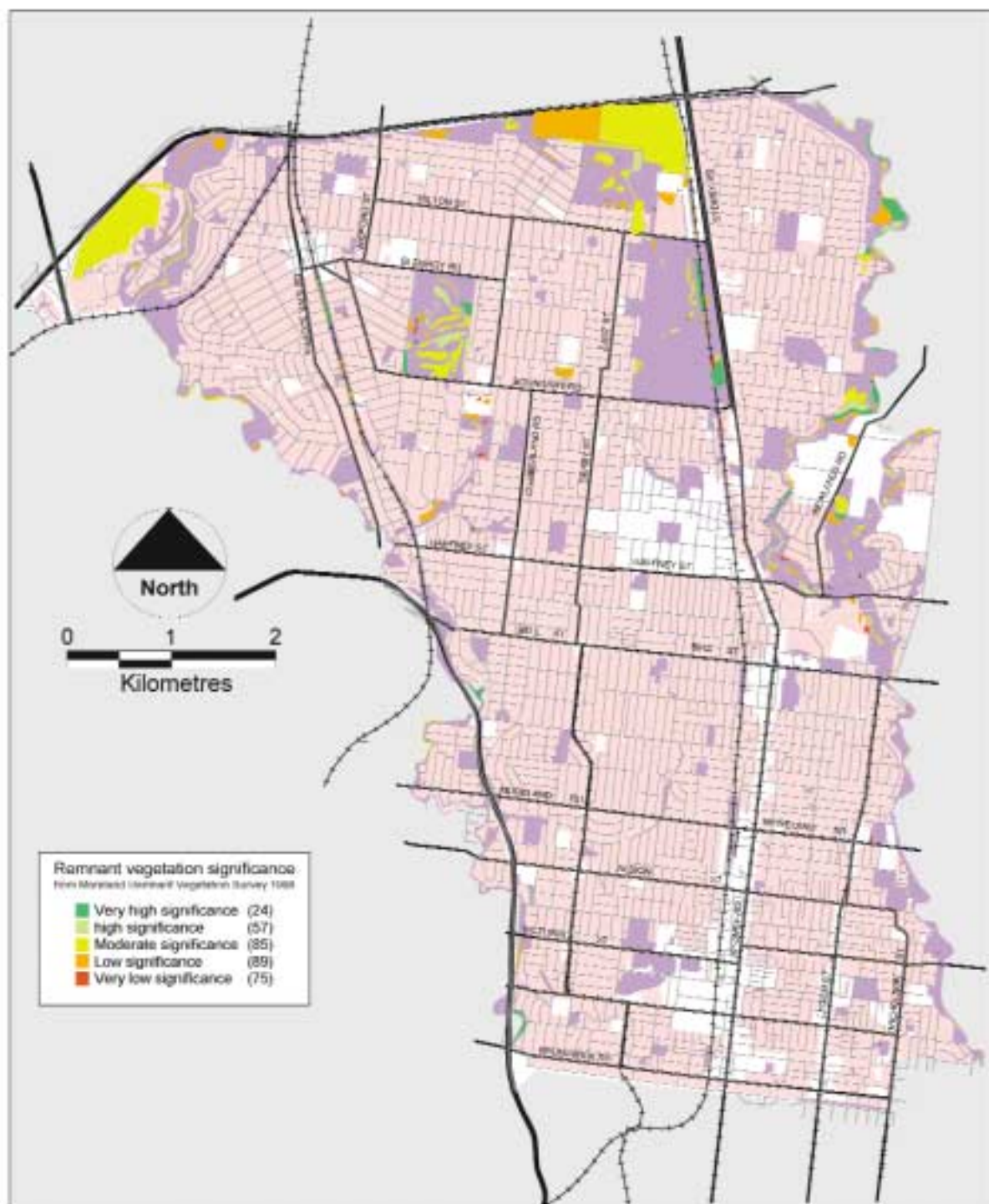
Map 2 (on page 13) shows where these types of open space are located.



Map 1. Current types of open space in Moreland

Notes:

Based on 1995 inventory with revisions in 2001 by Aspect Pty Ltd, and limited revision in 2003



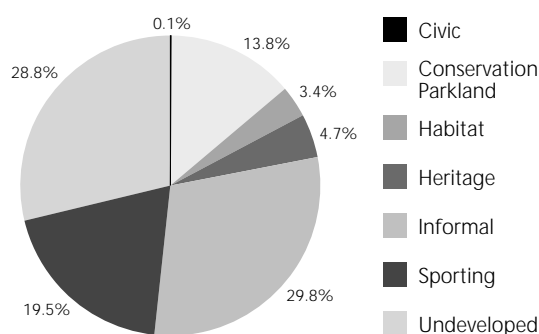
Map 2. Remnant vegetation in the City of Moreland

Notes:

Based on 1998 assessment by Bainbridge Bush and Faithfull.



**Figure 2: Current open space types in Moreland**



## Open space hierarchy

### Major (regional) parks

Moreland does not have any major or regional-scale parks, but its residents have access to several of these which are located near the municipal boundaries (eg, Royal Park). A new regional park is currently being planned to the north of Moreland in the vicinity of Merri Creek.

### Regional linear open space

The open space corridors along Moonee Ponds and Merri Creeks are identified in the State Government's metropolitan strategy (*Melbourne 2030*) as being part of the regional public open space network. Shared footways have been constructed along both creeks as part of the metropolitan trails network. These corridors vary a lot in width, and in many locations do not meet the guideline for a 'vegetated buffer zone at least 30 metres wide' as defined in the State Planning Policy Framework Clause 15.01.

Map 4 shows the regional linear open space, including areas within 30 metres of the creeks that are not in public ownership, and areas not protected with an appropriate zone in the Moreland Planning Scheme.

### District parks

The 1996 MOSS identified Lake Reserve, Dunstan Reserve (since deemed inadequate for district park status due to size and type of facilities), Gilpin Park and Sumner-Kirkdale-Merri parks as existing district parks, together with some district parks just outside Moreland which service parts of the municipality. It recommended the development to district park standard of Moomba Park, reserves along the Westbreen Creek (including

Austin Crescent Reserve, Gavin Park, Joyce Reserve), CERES and North East Parklands.

Considerable progress has since been made on these sites. Gilpin Park can now be considered as part of the Brunswick Central Parklands, which include Gillon Oval, Brunswick Park and Clifton Park.

### Local parks

The 1996 MOSS mapped areas within 300 metres and 500 metres of publicly accessible open space larger than 0.5 hectares, and made recommendations for improving access to open space for areas not within 500 metres.

In order to apply the *Victoria Planning Provisions* guidelines for large local and small local parks, two maps are presented. Map 6 shows households that are more than 500 metres from a large local park (one hectare or more in area). Map 7 shows access to local parks down to an area of 0.07 hectares<sup>2</sup>. Households that are more than 500 metres from any local open space are the highest priority need areas, while those more than 300 metres from local open space are the second priority need areas. Note that this analysis is indicative, simply using a radius around open spaces rather than actual walking distance, and it does not incorporate the effects of barriers to pedestrians such as major roads without traffic signals.

## Adequacy of open space provision

### Quantity

There are no current standards for the area of public open space required in relation to population. It is very difficult to justify a particular amount, given the variety of roles and functions that open space can have (see Chapter 1, page 1).

Further, no up-to-date figures on open space are available for a comparison between Melbourne municipalities. The most recent *Melbourne Metropolitan Recreation and Open Space Inventory* (Ministry for Planning and Environment 1988) was conducted in 1987.

Recreation and open space strategies prepared for the former municipalities that now comprise the City of Moreland, all identified deficiencies in the supply of open space (see 1996 MOSS page 17). Community consultation for the 1996 MOSS found that generally there is a desire for more open space, and strong support for the principle of an equitable distribution throughout the municipality.

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this analysis, a minimum area of 0.07 hectares (700 square metres) has been chosen because this is considered to be a minimum size for some play equipment with a sitting area and some planting. It is recognised that smaller sites can be useful as public open space, particularly as civic places and pocket parks in areas of intensive redevelopment such as urban villages. However these have not been included in assessing access to local parks.

## Distribution

Analysis of the distribution or accessibility of district and local parks has been undertaken according to criteria modified from the guidelines for open space in new subdivisions in the Victoria Planning Provisions. The results are presented in Maps 5, 6, and 7. Note that provision according to these guidelines cannot realistically be expected to be achieved across existing built-up areas, but the guidelines can be applied to major redevelopment areas.

Map 5 shows that almost all Moreland residents are within two kilometres of a district park, so the provision of district parks (without reference to quality) can be regarded as satisfactory.

Map 6 shows that 10,910 households are more than 500 metres 'as-the-crow-flies' from a large local park at least one hectare in area. These areas of deficiency occur in parts of Brunswick, Coburg, Pascoe Vale South, Hadfield, Glenroy, and Fawkner. When opportunities arise to increase the provision of public open space (for example, when a large site is being redeveloped for a different use), then the adequacy of provision in the area should be considered in terms of access to large local parks (Map 6) as well as access to informal open space (Map 8). However, because Moreland is a heavily built-up area, 'ideal' access to a large local park will probably never be achieved for all Moreland households.

Map 7 shows that 12,082 households are more than 300 metres 'as-the-crow-flies' from parkland suitable for informal recreation. These areas of deficiency occur in the same suburbs listed above (but in a different pattern), and in Gowanbrae and Pascoe Vale.

## Quality

Community consultation for the 1996 MOSS found that the quality of open space throughout the municipality is regarded as variable, with some high-quality areas, but most lacking in character and reflecting sameness in design. Small, neighbourhood parks were most often seen as being of poor quality. There were many specific criticisms about the facilities provided, and many different unmet needs of various user groups were identified (see pages 20–21, above).

While significant improvements have been made to a number of parks and civic places over the past eight years, these comments are still widely applicable. Many reserves are rundown in terms of infrastructure and in horticultural terms, especially after seven years of drought. Maintenance budgets have not increased in line with the increasing area and complexity of open space that Council maintains.

## 5. Goal, objectives and vision for Moreland's open space system

### Goal and objectives

The following overall goal is set for Moreland's open space system.

**To develop and maintain a high quality, resource-efficient network of open spaces in Moreland that will satisfy current and projected community needs in a sustainable way.**

The objectives indicate the priority strategic directions for development and management of the open space system to:

- ensure that **local parkland** for informal recreation is accessible to all Moreland households;
- provide **district parks** offering diverse and accessible recreation opportunities, natural and cultural heritage features, special events and high quality park facilities and landscape settings;
- provide an appropriate range and proportion of **open space types** to reflect community expectations for informal recreation, sporting opportunities, nature conservation and other open space functions;
- **design, develop, redevelop and enhance public open space** in order to satisfy current and future community needs;
- diversify play environments and open space facilities to meet the needs of **children and youth**;
- design and develop parkland which is **distinctive and expresses local landscape character** in attractive, sustainable landscapes, well-designed structures and park furniture, and art installations;
- identify, protect and respect **Aboriginal sites and special places** in public open space, and manage them in consultation with the traditional owners;
- encourage the active **involvement of Moreland residents and organisations** in planning, re/developing and using the open space network;
- protect and manage all **remnant indigenous plant communities**, and restore the ecological **health of the waterways**;
- restore '**natural**' landscapes, primarily along the waterways, to provide habitat for indigenous plants and animals and for informal outdoor recreation;
- **manage and maintain** Moreland's open spaces in a cost-effective, ecologically sustainable, and, wherever appropriate and feasible, community-responsive manner; and
- ensure that new **residential development** provides for open space needs created by the development.

### Vision for Moreland's open space system in 2023

In 20 years' time, steady progress will have been made in park improvements and redevelopment, as well as the establishment of new open spaces. Moreland's open spaces will provide a wide range of open space experiences and settings to meet the needs of all sectors of the local community, including people of all ages, capabilities and cultural backgrounds. The parks, piazzas and waterway corridors will offer diverse and attractive opportunities close to home for healthy exercise, socialising,

relaxing, learning, competitive sports, play, festivals and cultural events, outdoor meals, and connecting with nature.

The natural and cultural heritage of the municipality will be celebrated, protected and restored in its open spaces. The extensive use of indigenous plant species in new parks, waterway corridors, and streetscapes will have brought back many native birds and other wildlife, and created bushland that is valued by young and old.

The well-designed and maintained landscapes will enhance the image of the municipality and will be managed for social, environmental and economic sustainability.

### Strategic principles

The principles below are intended to guide ongoing planning and decision-making relating to open space.

- Commission an archaeological assessment prior to undertaking works in open space where archaeological relics are likely to occur, particularly along waterways.
- Protect and actively manage all remnant indigenous vegetation sites as irreplaceable natural heritage assets.
- Conserve and, if appropriate, interpret places of cultural heritage value in open space.
- Plant indigenous species for preference in open space unless there is an established park landscape character, a particular functional need, or specific design feature that requires another species.
- Implement the principles of water sensitive urban design in open space development and redevelopment, and in conjunction with adjacent road reconstruction and urban redevelopment projects.
- Utilise up-to-date, sustainable environmental design and technology in open space development and redevelopment.
- Prepare a master plan for the whole site prior to any substantial works in parks.
- Allocate resources for the development and maintenance of outdoor recreation opportunities (both sports and informal recreation) in an equitable way, to cater for the full spectrum of potential open space users in the Moreland community.
- Consult with potential park users and the local community as part of the planning and design process for all substantial open space development and redevelopment projects. (See also the *Moreland Council Consultation Framework*.)
- In park development and improvement works, provide access for people with a range of disabilities wherever possible.
- Ensure that the design and maintenance of open space provides a high standard of safety for users.
- Ensure that any new buildings, other structures and car parks cause minimal encroachment into public open space, or reduction in public access, maximise interaction and passive surveillance opportunities, and are responsive to existing site context.
- Avoid the alienation of public open space through exclusive use agreements with clubs, organisations or commercial enterprises.



- Strictly control the erection of permanent and temporary advertising signs in public open space.
- Acquisition of land for public open space should only occur in areas of identified need for local parks, create links to existing parks, or to consolidate or extend linear open space corridors.
- Disposal of Council-owned public open space should not occur without a comprehensive assessment of the existing and potential public values of the site, and community consultation. Proceeds from any sale of public open space should be used for open space development or acquisition.
- Do not use public open space for landfill unless in accordance with an approved park development plan.
- Design and develop the open space system so that its maintenance is affordable and ecologically sustainable.
- Establish links and circuits between and through open spaces as a network for walking, cycling and fauna movement, within and beyond the municipality.
- Involving the community: participation in open space design and use
- Making places for nature: waterways, remnant vegetation and habitat
- Looking after the open spaces: management and maintenance

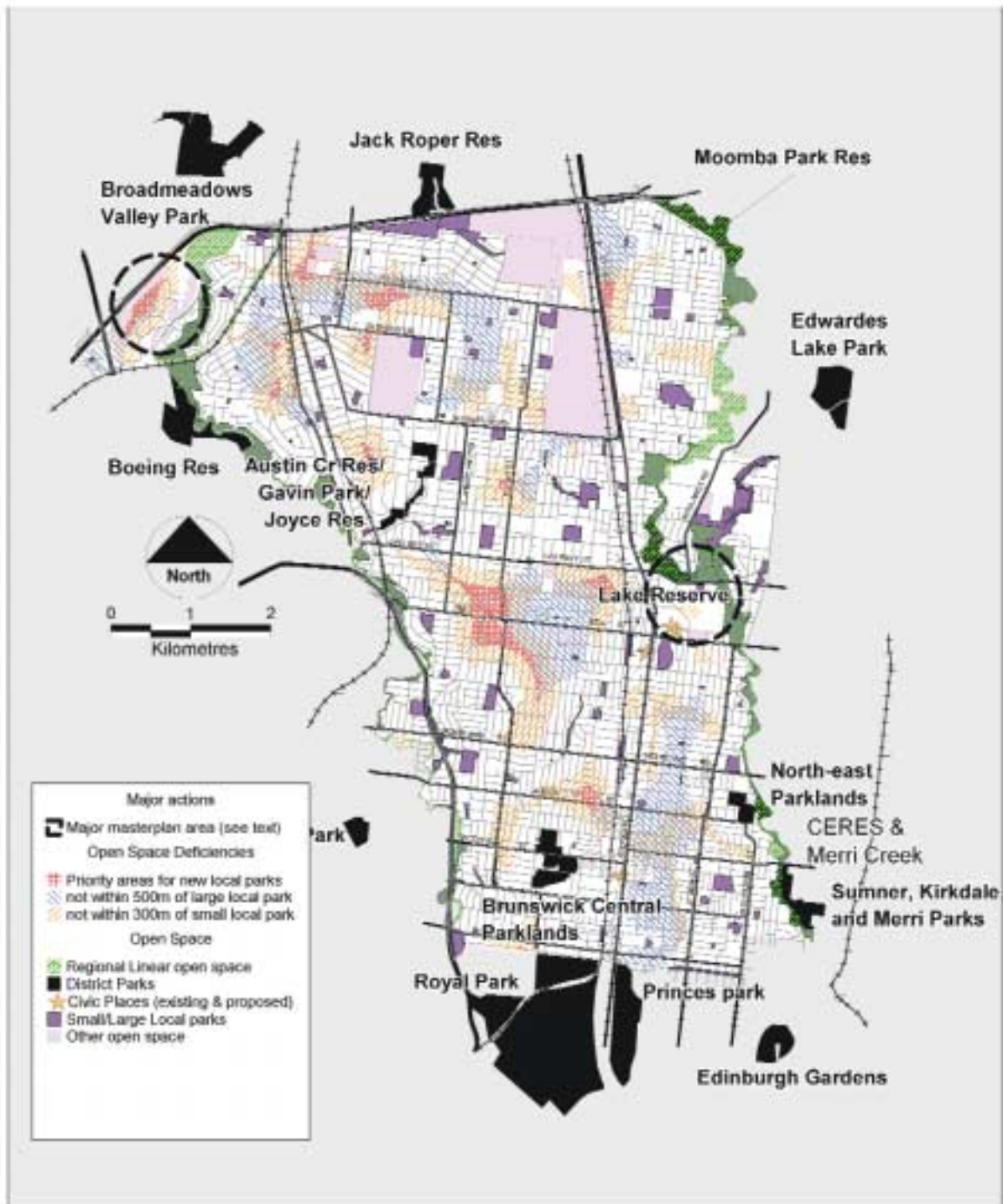
## Strategic priorities

Over the next five years, the following strategic priorities are identified for the management and improvement of Moreland's open space system.

- Providing quality, accessible open space within safe walking distance of all residents.
- Continued resourcing of the restoration of the waterways as regional linear open space.
- Allocating adequate resources for maintenance and refurbishment of existing and additional open space.
- Assessing and prioritising open space needs in Moreland's designated principal and major activity centres, and urban villages, particularly for higher density residential development.
- Diversifying recreation and open space opportunities for children and youth.
- An annually resourced parks improvement program for local parks.
- Consolidating linear open space corridors, particularly state-owned properties.
- Master planning for undeveloped open space in Gowanbrae and Pentridge.
- A biodiversity strategy to protect and restore habitat for native plants and animals.
- Community information about the diversity of Moreland's open space system.
- Utilising the open space database through the forthcoming corporate GIS to improve management of open space assets and resources.

In response to the strategy objectives and priorities, the proposed actions for the next five years (Chapters 6–11, below) are grouped into the following themes:

- A park close to home: improving access to informal open space
- Having the right mix: an appropriate range of open space types
- Better parks: improving the quality of open spaces for users



**Map 3. Strategic Framework Plan**

Priority areas for new local parks based on existing or potential residential areas not within 500m of a Small Local Park. Analysis based on as-the-crow-flies distances; specific investigations should use ped-shed analysis to determine walking distances.

## 6. A park close to home: Improving access to open space for informal recreation

The assessment of the adequacy of current open space provision (page 29 and Maps 5–7, above) shows that most of Moreland is well served with district parks<sup>3</sup>, but substantial areas do not have good access to large and small local parks. Open space in the categories of informal, civic place, conservation parkland, and heritage can function as local parks. Given the very high cost of purchasing and developing land for local parks, other opportunities to provide local recreation space need to be pursued. These opportunities include shared use of publicly owned land such as schools and rail reserves, major urban redevelopment projects, traffic management and road reconstruction projects, creation of improved pedestrian/bicycle links to increase the catchment of existing parks, and development of informal parkland in sportsground surrounds.

### Actions

Yes

#### District parks

Action	Responsibility	Timing
6.1 Review the <b>Moomba Park Concept Plan</b> (Taylor and Cullity Landscape Architects 1997) and continue to develop Moomba Park in Fawkner, to provide a range of recreation opportunities of district park standard to meet the interests of all sporting and other user groups. This includes improved park signage and interface with the street frontage, the establishment of pedestrian/cycle links across the Merri Creek, and park development on the City of Darebin side of the creek.	Open Space	Ongoing
6.2 Review and continue to implement the <b>Westbreen Creek Parklands Master plan</b> for the Westbreen Creek in Pascoe Vale to provide a range of recreation opportunities of district park standard (EDGe Environmental Design Group et al., 1998).	Open Space	Ongoing
6.3 Finalise the development the <b>North East Parkland</b> , East Brunswick to provide a range of recreation opportunities of district park standard.	Open Space	1–3 years
6.4 Incorporate existing plans for Clifton, Gilpin and Gillon Parks, Brunswick, into a master plan with an overall vision for an integrated open space precinct of district park status.	Open Space	1–3
6.5 Undertake master planning for <b>Coburg Lake Reserve and the open space along Merri Creek to Bell Street</b> , to protect and enhance the area's nature conservation, cultural heritage and informal recreation values. Plan and establish off-road pedestrian and bicycle routes through the Pentridge Precinct as redevelopment proceeds, to link with Lake Reserve, McDonald Reserve, De Chene Reserve and the Merri Path.	Open Space City Projects	1–3
6.6 Continue to support the development of <b>CERES</b> Community Environment Park as a district-level park for informal recreation, special events and education.	Open Space Conservation	Ongoing

### Objectives

To ensure that district and local parkland for informal recreation is accessible to all Moreland households, using the following targets:

- district parkland within two kilometres of every household;
- a local park within 500 metres safe walking distance of all dwellings; and
- local open space within 200 metres of all dwellings in designated urban villages.

To provide district parks offering diverse and accessible recreation opportunities, natural and cultural heritage features, special events and high quality park facilities and landscape settings.

<sup>3</sup> District parks attract users from several kilometres away, for visits of several hours. They are usually at least three hectares in size and cater for a wide cross-section of community interests.

## Local parks

Action	Responsibility	Timing
6.7 Undertake a detailed analysis of open space needs and opportunities in designated principal and major activity centres, and urban villages using the target of local open space within 200 metres of all dwellings. Identify and prioritise opportunities to improve provision and access to local open space, including civic places.	City Projects Open Space Strategic Planning	1–3
6.8 Investigate the sites designated for residential redevelopment in the Industrial Land Use Strategy to identify whether there is a need for local open space to be provided in conjunction with redevelopment. Investigations should include a walking catchment analysis around existing open spaces in the vicinity of the sites.	City Projects Open Space Strategic Planning	1–3
6.9 Pursue opportunities over the next 12–15 years to acquire and/or improve access to local open space in areas of high priority need as identified in Map 8 and Table 11 <sup>4</sup> .	All	Ongoing
6.10 Acquire the publicly-owned land currently managed as open space in the former F2 road reservation (Merri/Edgars Creek corridors), that is of high value as public open space.	Open Space Property	1–3
6.11 Prepare a land acquisition policy to guide Council's strategic acquisition of land for new open space and open space improvements, including development contributions under the Subdivision Act.	Property	1–3
6.12 Develop a policy and protocols to guide the assessment and disposal of sites with negligible open space value, with proceeds to be used to fund priority improvements to the open space system.	Property Open Space	1–3
6.13 Review the zoning of all public open space owned by Council and ensure that it is appropriately zoned in the Moreland Planning Scheme. (Generally this should be Public Park and Recreation Zone.)	Open Space Strategic Planning	3–5
6.14 Develop guidelines and memoranda of understanding with schools regarding out of hours public access to grounds, liability/duty of care and what Council can contribute.	Open Space Recreation Social Development	1–3
6.15 Review illegal encroachments on open space and develop procedures, including prosecution or formalising of illegal use (leases).	Open Space Planning Property	1–3 Ongoing

<sup>4</sup> Note that there are other areas of need (see Maps 6 and 7), and major redevelopment project might create new areas of need, but Table 11 presents the highest current priorities for Council to address.

**Table 5: Improving access to local open space for priority areas of need**

Priority number (Map 8)	Recommendation	Un-served residences	Land purchase cost (indic.)	Development cost (indic.)	Score
1	Develop currently undeveloped open space in Gowanbrae	58	0	100,000	2.90
2	Purchase land and develop a small local park in the vicinity of Eastgate Street between Hatter and York Streets, Pascoe Vale South.	325	579,000	200,000	2.09
3	Purchase land and develop a small local park in the vicinity of the corner of Brearly and Springhall Parades, Pascoe Vale South.	362	691,673	200,000	2.03
4	Develop parkland for informal recreation on the margins of Cook Reserve Glenroy	80	0	200,000	2.00
5	Seek after hours public access arrangements to the grounds of Brunswick North Primary School	33	0	100,000	1.65
6	Develop land between the ring road and residential area to provide local open space	87	0	300,000	1.45
7	Investigate shared use of the grounds of Box Forest Secondary College, Glenroy.	122	0	100,000	1.34
8	Purchase land and develop a small local park in the vicinity of Stawell Street, Coburg	123	496,125	200,000	0.88
9	Develop the car park on the corner of Bellvue St as a local park as part of redevelopment of Bush Reserve	47	0	300,000	0.78
10	Purchase land and develop a small local park in the vicinity of Apsley Street, Glenroy.	50	254,000	200,000	0.55
11	Develop a small local park as part of open space provision for Anstey Urban Village, Brunswick.	100	700,000	300,000	0.50
12	Purchase land and develop a small local park (two blocks) in the vicinity of Shirley Street, Fawkner.	67	500,000	200,000	0.48
13	Purchase land and develop a small local park (or if funds allow, a large local park) in the vicinity of Chapman Ave, Glenroy.	41	254,000	200,000	0.45
14	Purchase land and develop a small local park in the vicinity of the corner of Reynard and Portland Streets, Coburg	60	551,250	200,000	0.40
15	Purchase land and develop a small local park (two blocks) in the vicinity of Windsor and Derby Streets, Pascoe Vale.	24	579,000	200,000	0.15

Note: A benefit/cost score (Column 6 above) was calculated by dividing the number of residential properties currently not within 500 metres of a small local park and which would be served by the proposal (Column 3 above) by the total of the land purchase and development costs, and scaling the results up by a factor of 5000. Actions were then ranked so that the first action had the highest benefit/cost score. This means that the actions further down the list are less cost-effective at providing access to small local parks. A separate analysis is appropriate for provision for large local parks, based on Map 6.

# 7. Having the right mix: An appropriate range of open space types

Moreland's open spaces have been categorised according to their main function, as described in Chapter 4. When the original inventory and categorisation was completed for the 1996 MOSS, a large proportion (almost one third) of open space was undeveloped. Another third was informal parkland, and sports fields covered approximately one quarter of the total area.

In order to provide a wider range of open space types and benefits to the community in line with expressed community needs and preferences, a change in the mix of types was recommended in the 1996 MOSS. In summary, this involved substantially increasing the proportion of conservation bushland (now called habitat) and conservation parkland categories, maintaining the proportion of informal, historic (now heritage) and sporting, and converting all the undeveloped open space into other categories. The timeframe for these changes was 20 years.

Over the first five years of this time period, measurable progress has been made in the desired directions. The audit of implementation found that there had been a 5 per cent increase in conservation parkland, a 1–2 per cent increase in conservation bushland, and a 3 per cent decrease in undeveloped. It is proposed that the evolution in proportions of the various categories should continue, even if it takes longer than 20 years to achieve the desired mix. The actions listed below will achieve further progress in the short term.

A new category, civic place, has been added to the inventory, to describe several existing, and proposed new urban spaces in activity centres and urban villages (see Chapter 4).

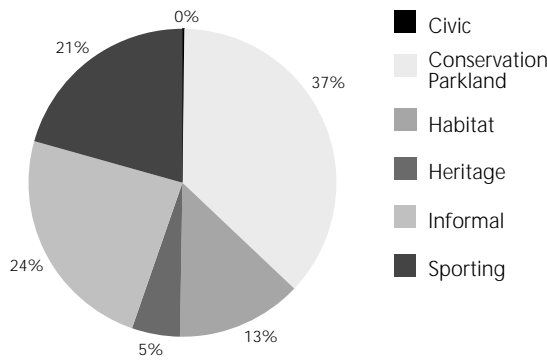
## Objective

To provide an appropriate range and proportion of open space types to reflect community expectations for informal outdoor recreation, sporting opportunities, nature conservation and other open space functions. Targets for 2033 are as follows.

**Table 7**

Civic place	8–10 new sites, totalling 3–4 hectares
Informal	Similar total area as in 2003 <sup>5</sup> .
Sporting	Maintained as in 2003, with better utilisation of existing grounds <sup>6</sup>
Conservation	Increased by 140 hectares, parkland mainly conversion from undeveloped category along waterways
Habitat	Increased by 55 hectares, partly from undeveloped, partly from conservation parkland
Heritage	Maintained as in 2003
Undeveloped	None remaining – converted into categories above

**Figure 3: Future open space in Moreland**



The chart above shows the proposed proportion of each type of open space in Moreland in 2023. Map 9 shows the proposed distribution of types of open space.

5 Conversion of some informal to conservation parkland along waterways will decrease the total area, while establishment of small local parks as recommended will add a little to the total.

6 Pending a review of sporting facilities and community demand.

## Actions

Action	Responsibility	Timing
7.1 Revise and update the development guidelines (Appendix D) for each open space category. Prepare and implement maintenance standards and guidelines for each category and introduce into practice.	Open Space	1–3 (and ongoing)
7.2 Take into account the proposed categories allocated to sites in the open space database and the relevant development guidelines (Appendix B) in the preparation of development and management plans for parks and reserves.	Open Space City Projects Recreation	3–5
7.3 Continue to convert undeveloped open space into conservation parkland or informal open space as proposed in the open space database, to provide opportunities for low key recreation in a natural landscape setting.	City Projects Open Space	Ongoing
7.4 Establish new areas of habitat category through revegetation using indigenous species, in designated sites along the waterways.	Open Space	1–3 Ongoing
7.5 Design, develop and maintain civic places to enhance activity centres and urban villages.	City Projects Open Space Cleansing	1–3 Ongoing
7.6 Review and, as funds allow, implement the existing, documented development plans for heritage parkland.  Research the heritage values of each site of heritage category, and incorporate them into management plans to guide ongoing maintenance and works.	Open Space	1–3: Methven Temple Warr 3–5: Jacobs Brunswick Coburg Lake

## 8. Better parks: Improving the quality of open spaces for users

While many improvements have been made to Moreland's parks and reserves over the past seven years, the general quality of landscape and park facilities is still poor in many sites. There are various expressed needs for particular types of facilities and recreation settings for different user groups. Furthermore, there is the opportunity to design for a distinctive local landscape character in new parks and park redevelopments. This character should be identifiably 'Moreland' and should contribute to the achievement of social, environmental and economic objectives.

[Note: this section combines two themes from 1996 MOSS 'Making the most of the open spaces' and 'Lifting the image'.]

### Objectives

To design, develop, redevelop and enhance public open space in order to satisfy current and future community needs.

To diversify play environments and open space facilities to meet the needs of children and youth.

To design and develop parkland which is distinctive and expresses local landscape character in attractive, sustainable landscapes, well-designed structures and park furniture, and art installations.

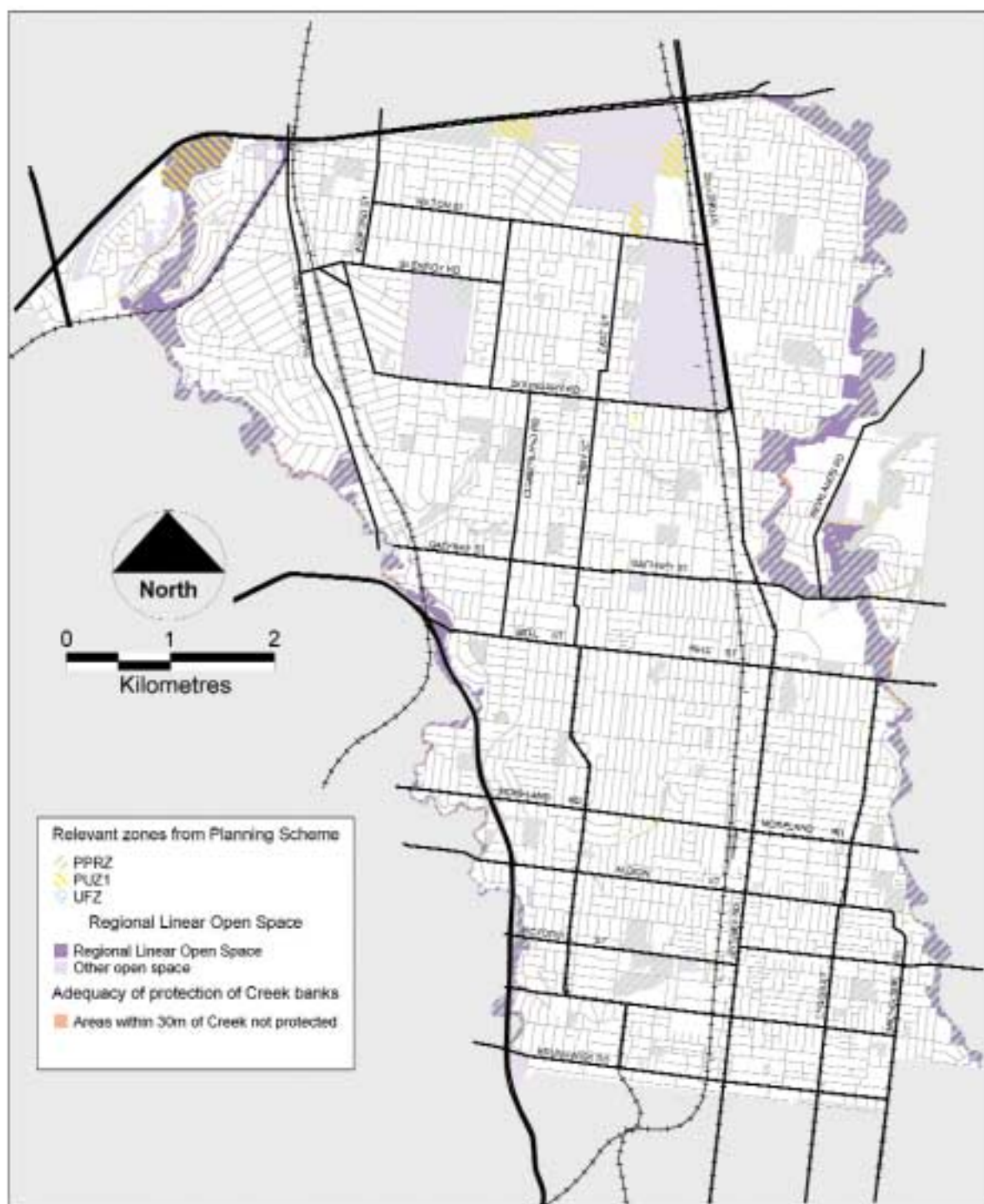
### Actions

#### Catering for diverse users

Action	Responsibility	Timing
8.1 Prepare a playground strategy to establish policy and guidelines for provision of a diverse range of play opportunities for 2–15 year-olds and ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act and related Australian Standards. The strategy should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an action plan for priority works, including a strategic approach to playground removals;</li> <li>at least one significant play area for 2–12 year olds, located in a district park;</li> <li>development of a recurrent capital expenditure program for the incremental renewal and upgrading of existing playgrounds/facilities to meet safety standards and community expectations;</li> <li>investigation of funding and siting options for a supervised adventure playground; and</li> <li>recommendations for shade in play areas.</li> </ul>	Open Space City Projects Recreation	1–3
8.2 Plan, design and construct skateboard facilities in several locations that are safe and accessible to young people.	Open Space Recreation	1–3
8.3 Consult with teenagers and young adults about the types of outdoor recreation settings and facilities they prefer, and pursue opportunities to create these.	Open Space City Projects Social Development	1–3 ongoing
8.4 Undertake four-yearly audits of open spaces and playgrounds to identify access barriers and ensure that access is provided to people with limited mobility and/or a range of disabilities. Design new parks and park improvements according to Australian Standards AS1428.	Open Space	Annual
8.5 Prepare a sports field strategy including an assessment of the current allocation of grounds and maintenance resources to different user groups, any areas of over- and under-servicing, and strategic priorities for sports field improvements within the existing designated area of the sporting category of open space.	Open Space Recreation	1–3
8.6 Install picnic and barbecue facilities, shelters and toilets for large family and social groups in district parks and other suitable informal parkland in the context of approved master plans.	City Projects Open Space	Ongoing
8.7 Prepare a public toilet strategy with guidelines for provision, location, design and management in open spaces.	City Projects Open Space Asset Management Recreation	1–3

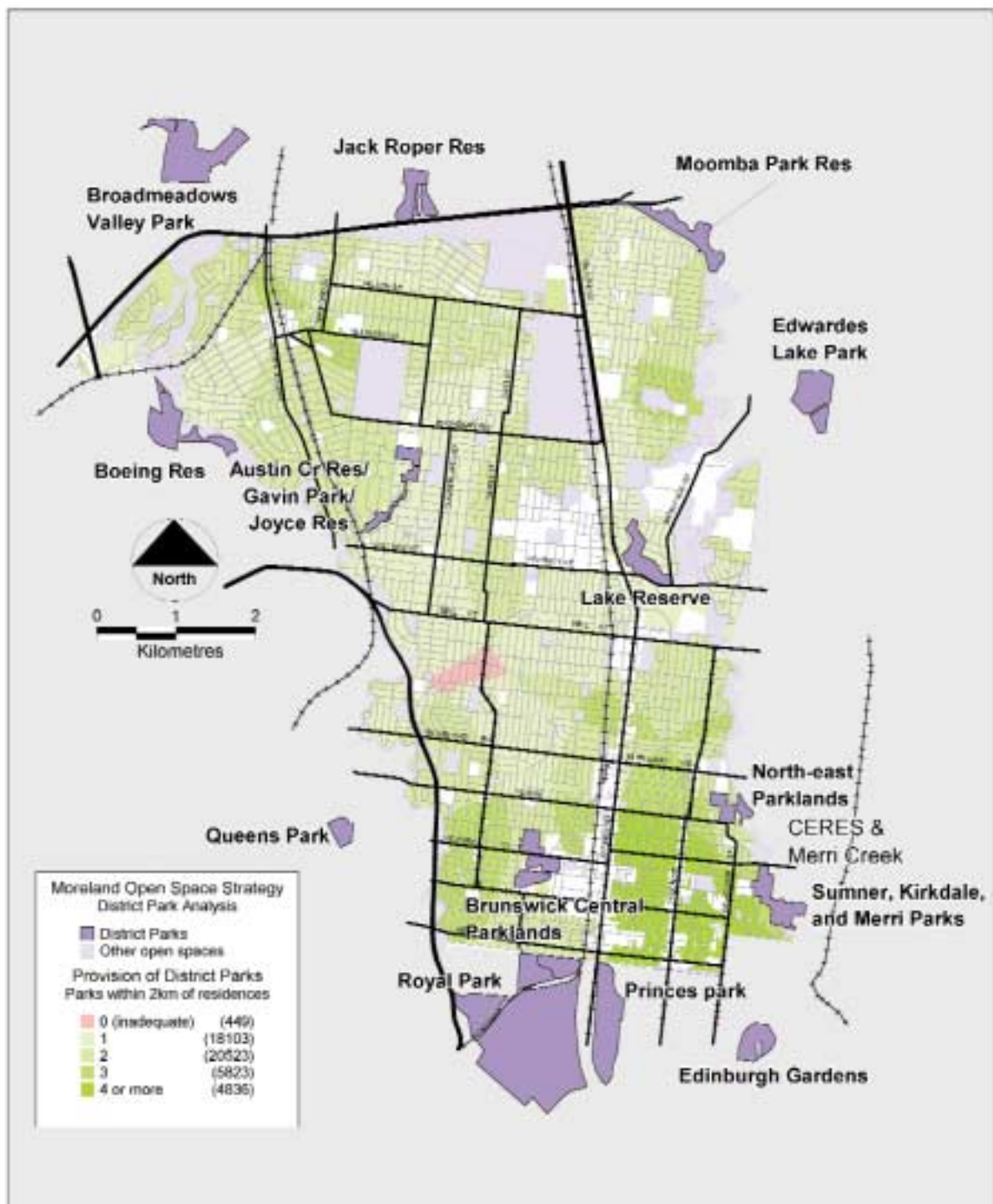
*continued*





Map 4. Regional Linear Open Space in Moreland in 2001

Notes:  
 Areas of Regional Linear Open Space not hatched in some way require protection under the planning scheme.  
 Areas within 30m of Creeks not publicly owned are shown in orange (see key).



**Map 5. Provision of District Parks in Moreland**

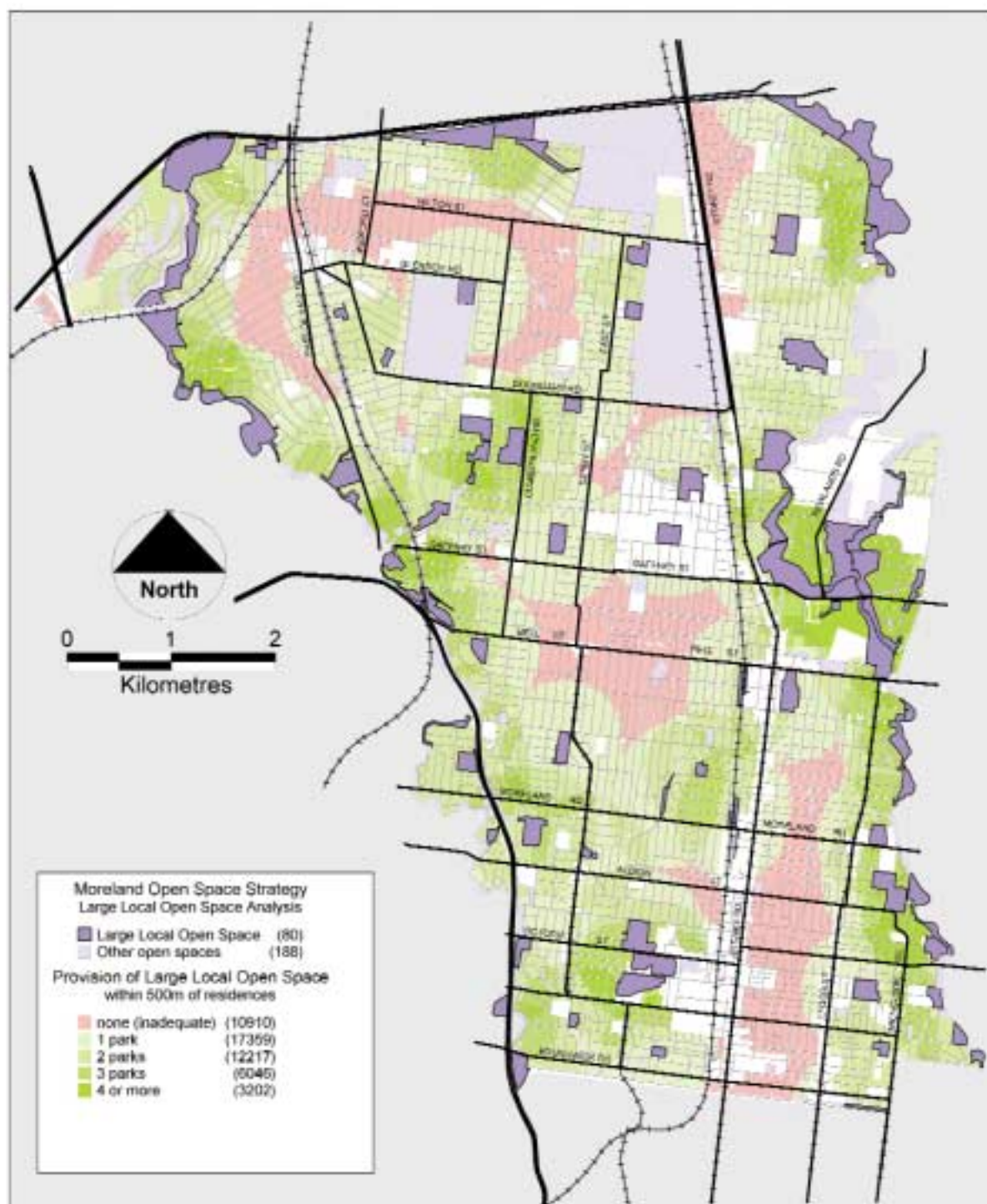
**Notes:**

District Park defined as a park of at least 3 hectares, with a diversity of uses.

Blank areas are non-residential (Industrial or Commercial)

Provision analysis based on 2.0km as-the-crow-flies buffers.





**Map 6. Provision of Large Local Open Space in Moreland**

**Notes:**

Large Local Open Space is defined as parkland of at least 1 hectare, with provision for both informal and active recreation, and therefore includes Large Local Parks and Regional Parks.

Blank areas are non-residential (Industrial, Commercial or educational) and are excluded from the analysis.

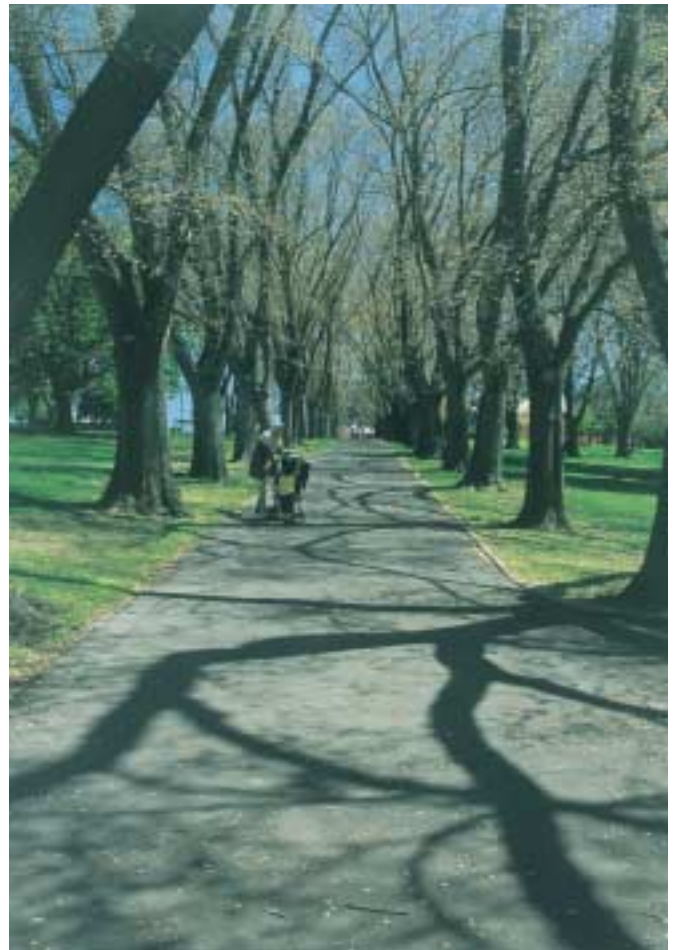
Provision analysis based on 500m as-the-crow-flies buffers rather than walking distance.

Any detailed site analysis should use 500m actual walking distances.





*Diversifying recreation and open space opportunities for children and youth*



*Improvements to enhance and protect heritage parks and landscapes – avenue of Elms, Coburg Lake Reserve*



*Master-planning and improvements to undeveloped open space – Merri Creek Fawkner, and Gowanbrae*



*Providing quality, accessible open space within safe walking distance of all residents – Fleming Park, Brunswick*





*Involving the community in open space planning, design and development – community planting day*



*Allocating adequate resources for maintenance and refurbishment of existing and additional open space*



*Assessing and prioritizing open space needs in designated principal and major activity centers – Victoria Mall, Coburg*



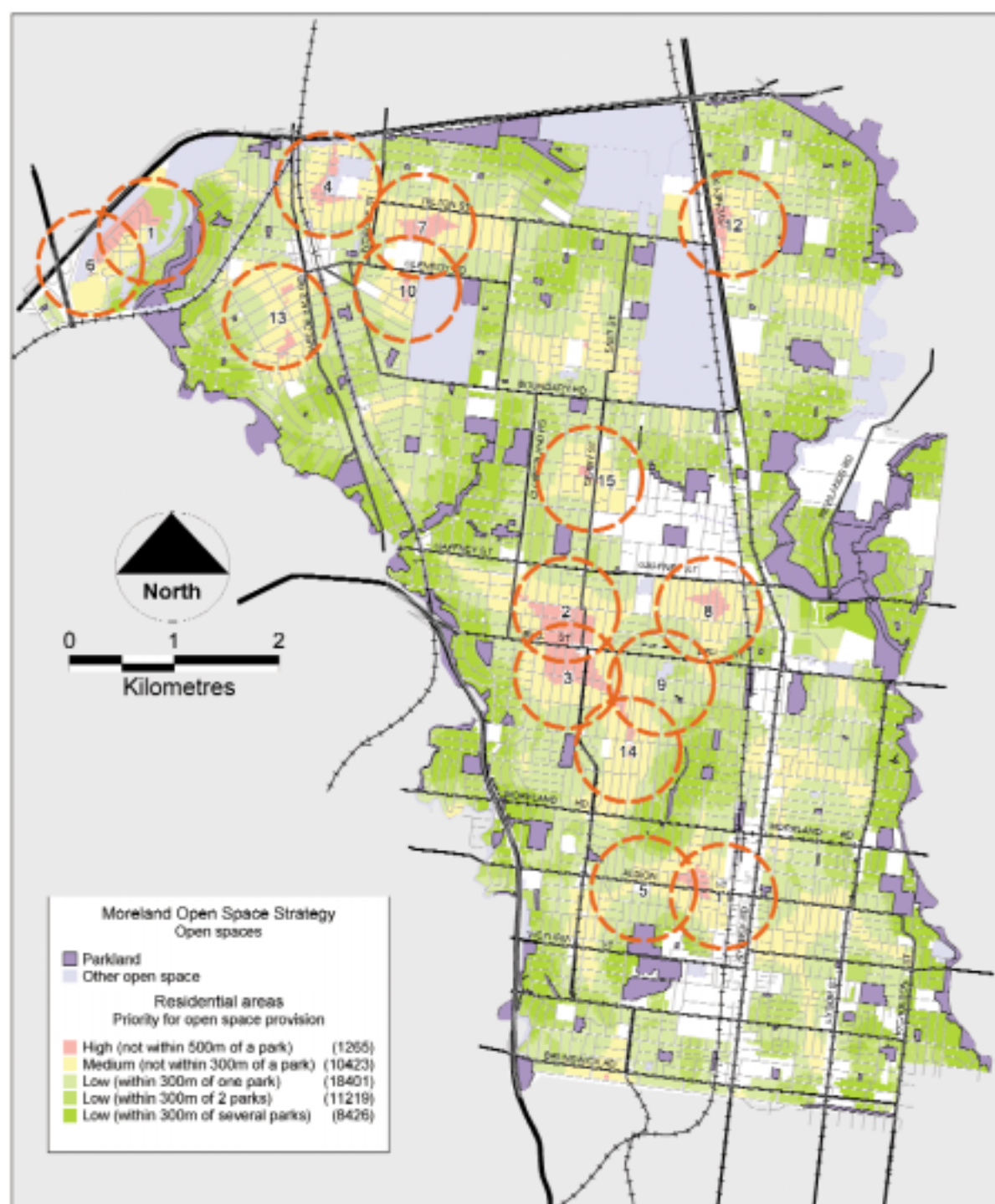
*A biodiversity strategy to protect and restore habitat for native plants and animals*



*Continued resourcing of the restoration of the waterways as regional linear open space – Jacana Wetlands, Moonee Ponds Creek, Glenroy*







**Map 8. Priorities for park provision in Moreland**

**Notes:**

Actions were prioritised using a benefit-cost score based on the number of residential properties served by the action which are currently not within 500m of parkland (U), the estimated land purchase price (L) (if applicable)

and the estimated development cost (D). The score was  $U \times 5000 / (L + D)$ .

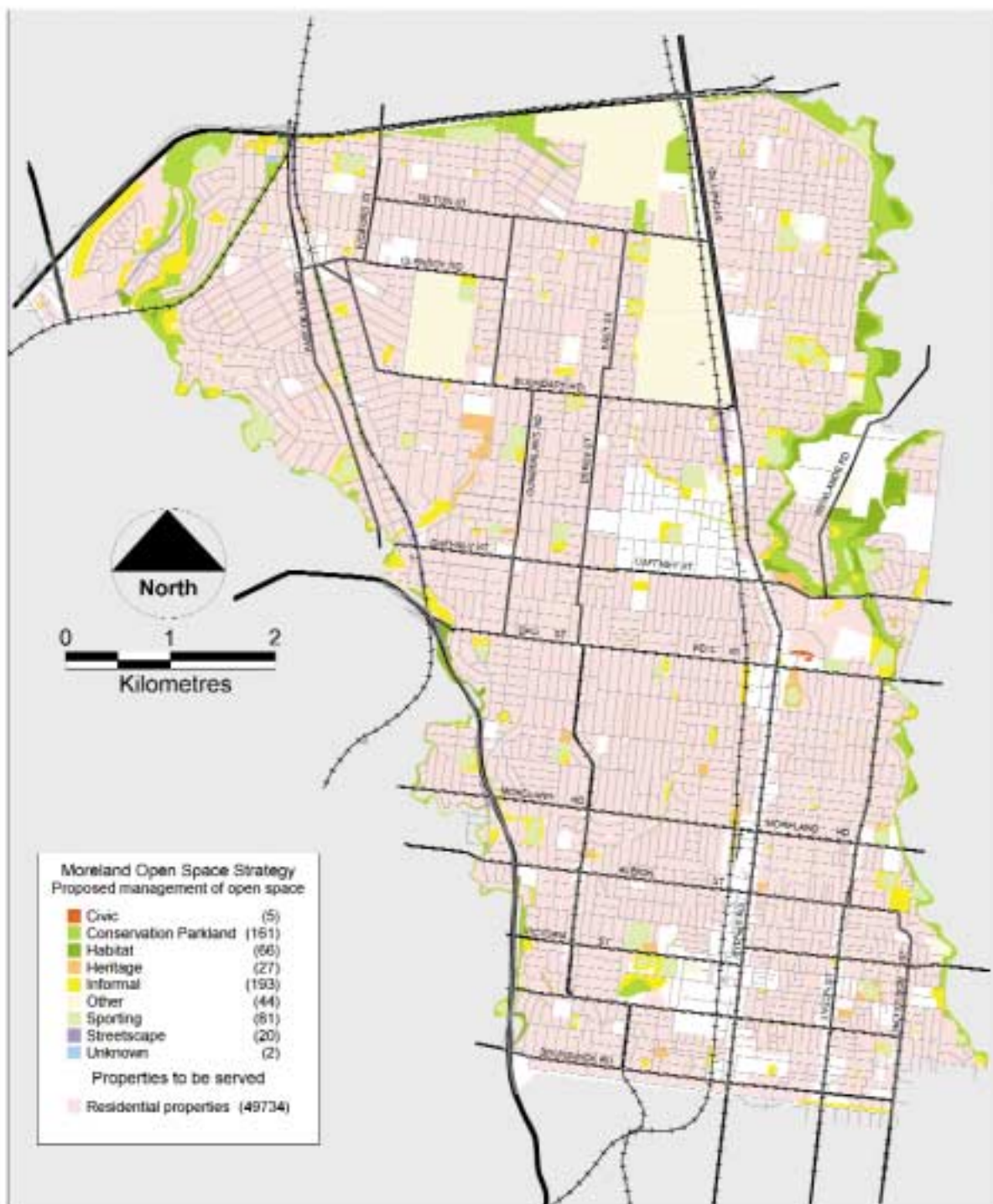
The action numbers on the map rank the actions by this score, the lowest action number having the highest benefit-cost score

Provision based on as-the-crow-flies buffers rather than walking distance.

Any detailed site analysis should use actual walking distance.

Residential areas on this map include areas designated as transition to residential in the Moreland Industrial Land Use Strategy.





**Map 9. Proposed management of open space in Moreland for 2015**

**Notes:**

This map shows the proposed usage of open spaces in Moreland in 2015.

White areas represent areas which are not residential (i.e. they are zoned industrial, commercial, public use etc).



*Catering for diverse users continued*

Action	Responsibility	Timing
8.8 Continue to pursue a redesign of the dog bag dispenser and bin attachment to accommodate signage as a single unit. Publicise, and continue to enforce local laws requiring dogs to be on a lead in public reserves, except in designated 'off-lead' areas. Continue to publicise and facilitate compliance with the local law that states that no person in charge of an animal may allow droppings to remain on a reserve, or other public land.	Local Laws Cleansing Open Space	1–3
8.9 Develop and/or enhance pedestrian links and circuits between and through parks, to encourage walking as a healthy exercise.	Transport Open Space Social Development	Ongoing
8.10 Review and resource the Shading the Paths Strategy.	Open Space Social Development	Ongoing
8.11 Assess the feasibility and public demand for community gardens in various parts of Moreland. In general, developed public open space should not be used for community allotment gardens unless full public access will be retained.	Open Space Social Development Sustainability	5+

### Quality parks and local character

Action	Responsibility	Timing
8.12 Develop a strategic parks improvement program with recurrent capital funding, that prioritises local parks for re/design and re/development according to the following criteria: serving a designated urban village, serving an identified area of need, poor quality/standard of existing park development, and equity in allocation of resources for park improvements across Moreland.	Open Space	1–3
8.13 Review the implementation status and direction of existing open space concept, master and management plans.	Open Space City Projects	1–3
8.14 Prepare a master plan for currently undeveloped open space in Gowanbrae and Pentridge.	Open Space Planning City Projects	1–3
8.15 Prepare master plans to guide the improvement of GE Clarke and Mott Reserves in Glenroy.	Open Space	1–3
8.16 Prepare and implement redevelopment plans for City Oval and Bridges Reserve, and ATC Cook Reserve, to include a review of facilities required, increased informal recreation opportunities, and planting.	Open Space City Projects Social Development	1–3
8.17 Review the master plan for CB Smith Reserve in Fawkner, and work towards improving open space, building interfaces and pedestrian and traffic movement within the precinct.	Open Space City Projects Social Development	1–3
8.18 Prepare a master plan for the staged development of local parkland on the former Kangan Batman College site in Gaffney Street, North Coburg.	Open Space City Projects	1–3
8.19 Plan and develop a portion of the former Council nursery site in Heller Street, Brunswick as local open space.	Open Space City Projects	3–5
8.20 Continue to commission public and/or community art projects as part of park development projects, particularly in the civic place category of open space.	Open Space City Projects Arts and Culture	3–5
8.21 Undertake a program of identification, conservation and (if appropriate) interpretation of sites of Aboriginal and European cultural heritage significance that occur in public open space.	Strategic Planning Open Space Social Development	1–3

*continued*

*Quality parks and local character continued*

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timing</b>
8.22 Establish process improvements across Council departments for planning, design, construction and maintenance of Council infrastructure.	Open Space Planning City Projects Transport Environmental Engineering	1–3
8.23 Complete the preparation of Moreland technical notes for park infrastructure including furniture, lighting, signage and landscape development.	City Projects Open Space	1–3
8.24 Remove all obsolete and unnecessary signs in open space reserves.	Open Space City Projects	1–3
8.25 Prepare a lighting strategy for public open space with social, environmental and economic objectives, including energy conservation and minimising the impacts of lighting on fauna.	Transport Sustainability Open Space	3–5
8.26 Ensure that new multi-unit housing and other redevelopment projects complement adjoining public open space, avoid overshadowing of parkland, facilitate public access to the open space, and avoid damage to existing park infrastructure and vegetation.	Planning Strategic Planning Open Space City Projects	Ongoing
8.27 Prepare guidelines and processes to ensure high quality open space outcomes are achieved in new public parks established as part of private development projects.	Planning City projects Open Space	1–3

## 9. Involving the community: Participation in open space design and use

If public open space is to satisfy community needs, then it makes sense to actively involve the potential users in its design, to make residents aware of open space recreation opportunities, and to generally encourage the use of parks and reserves. Moreland's culturally diverse community and high turnover of residents makes for special challenges in involving a full cross-section of residents, and introducing them to the open space system.

### Objective

To encourage the active involvement of Moreland residents and organisations in planning, re/developing and using the open space network.

### Actions

Action	Responsibility	Timing
9.1 Ensure that resources are allocated for consultation with local residents and relevant organisations as part of open space development and redevelopment projects. Utilise consultation techniques that can reach all cultural, gender and age groups.	Open Space City Projects Others	Ongoing
9.2 Investigate the establishment of an Indigenous heritage walking trail, in consultation with the local Wurrundjeri community and the Cities of Darebin and Yarra.	Moreland Steering Committee on Reconciliation Open Space City Projects Transport Arts and Culture	3–5 Ongoing
9.3 Prepare and adopt a Council policy and guidelines on volunteer groups operating in areas of Council-owned open space as a means of testing community ownership and active participation in land management. This should include accountability and public accessibility expected, and forms of assistance that may be available from Council (eg, training, provision of materials, services and equipment, technical support, funding).	Open Space Social Development	3–5
9.4 Provide information about open space and recreation facilities to all residents on a regular basis, using a variety of means of communication and in community languages. Update the open space information on the Council website.	Open Space Social Development Public Relations	1–3
9.5 Continue to organise and/or support community planting events in parks and reserves, including appropriate site preparation and follow-up maintenance. Where possible, offer food and environmental education and interpretation activities in conjunction with these events.	Open Space in association with other groups	Ongoing
9.6 Develop a program for community education and interpretation of natural and cultural heritage in Moreland's open spaces, in conjunction with local environmental, historical and ethnic community organisations.	Open Space Social Development Public Relations	1–3
9.7 Organise regular and one-off activities and events in public open space as part of Council recreation, school holiday and other community development programs, to encourage residents to visit and use different parks and reserves.	Recreation Social Development	Ongoing
9.8 Publish a trails map of Moreland and adjoining areas, in conjunction with neighbouring municipalities, the creek management bodies and Parks Victoria.	Transport Recreation Open Space Moonee Ponds Creek Coordination Committee (MPCCC) and Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) State Government agencies (PV, MW)	3–5
9.10 Review the purpose and function of the Greening Moreland Forum as a community advisory committee to Council on open space and vegetation issues in light of new Council structure.	Open Space City Projects Conservation	1–3

## 10. Making places for nature: Waterways, remnant vegetation and habitat

To many people, the appeal of open space lies in vegetated landscapes and opportunities for contact with nature within the urban environment. This was demonstrated in the community consultation conducted for the 1996 MOSS (see Chapter 3). Recent Parks Victoria research, *Healthy Parks, Healthy People – The health benefits of contact with nature in a park context*, identifies the critical role access to and enjoyment of informal open space, particularly nature-like environments, has on human spiritual and physical well-being. Rivers and creeks have always been particular magnets for recreation and relaxation. In Moreland, most of the natural plant and animal communities, and even some landforms and creeks have been replaced by roofs, roads and other hard surfaces, and vegetation from other countries. Only very small remnants of naturally-occurring indigenous vegetation survive, as an irreplaceable record of the landscape before European settlement. The vast majority of Moreland's established parks and streetscapes have plants from other countries and other parts of Australia, and these planting themes will be maintained indefinitely. However, there are opportunities to re-introduce local plant species and create wildlife habitat in undeveloped open space and grassy reserves without an established horticultural character. Indigenous plants

can provide a range of benefits, including habitat, ecological health, land protection, distinctive local landscapes and sense of place, preservation of genetic resources, and minimal use of water and fertiliser.

Historically, the waterways were treated simply as drains and dumping grounds, but their restoration as natural and community assets began in the 1970s. The Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks are now recognised as being part of the regional open space network for recreation, and regional wildlife corridors. The Merri Creek is of regional and state significance for habitat, and there are a number of areas of national significance found along the waterway. There is still much work to be done in restoring the creek corridors to conserve and enhance their natural, cultural heritage, landscape and recreational values.

### Objectives

To protect and manage all remnant indigenous plant communities, and improve the ecological health of the waterways.

To restore 'natural' landscapes, primarily along the waterways, to provide habitat for indigenous plants and animals, and for informal outdoor recreation and educational purposes.

### Actions

#### Plants and animals

Action	Responsibility	Timing
10.1 Continue an active management program for Moreland's remnant vegetation sites, implementing the site-specific recommendations of the 'Remnant Vegetation Assessment' (Bainbridge et al. 1998)	Open Space Sustainable development Other agencies (MCMC, MPCCC)	Ongoing
10.2 Introduce protection in the Moreland Planning Scheme for remnant vegetation sites of 'high local' or greater significance throughout Moreland.	Open Space Strategic Planning	1–3
10.3 Maintain and update the database of remnant vegetation sites in the municipality, and integrate it into the corporate Geographic Information System when this is established.	Open Space	1–3
10.4 Continue the maintenance and extension of indigenous revegetation sites using skilled personnel, in open space designated as habitat and conservation parkland.	Open Space MCMC MPCCC	1–3
10.5 Continue the community information program to promote broader understanding and appreciation of the values of Moreland's local plants, including reprinting and updating <i>Gardening with Indigenous Plants in Moreland</i> , to include sections on water-sensitive gardening.	Open Space	1–3
10.6 Continue to research, trial and evaluate establishment and maintenance techniques for indigenous vegetation in Moreland open spaces.	Open Space MCMC MPCCC	3–5
10.6 Continue the program of identification, removal and replacement of environmental weeds in open space, treating priority weeds more urgently (see Appendix E). Ensure that environmental weeds are not planted in open space or streets.	Open Space MCMC MPCCC Melbourne Water	3–5 Ongoing

*continued*

Plants and animals continued

Action	Responsibility	Timing
10.7 Monitor areas infested with invasive exotic stipoid species and modify mowing practices to minimise the spread of seed on mowing equipment. Time mowing to minimise seed set in spring. Ideally, commence control by a carefully-designed spraying and vegetation reinstatement program.	Open Space Affiliated agencies	1–3 Ongoing
10.8 Continue the program of removal and replacement of Desert Ash and other environmental weeds in street plantings.	Open Space	3–5
10.9 Investigate the feasibility of wetland construction for stormwater management and fauna and flora habitat in appropriate open space.	Sustainable Development Open Space	3–5
10.10 Review and evaluate experience to date in Moreland, and other municipalities, in establishing urban habitat links. Utilise the findings in the identification of target species, design and undertake feasibility assessment for the establishment of several east-west fauna habitat links across Moreland between the Moonee Ponds and Merri Creeks.	Open Space	3–5
10.11 Encourage Melbourne Water to undertake in-stream habitat restoration works along the waterways, including the removal of concrete lining.	Open Space Affiliated agencies	1–3 Ongoing
10.12 Continue to resource and undertake rabbit control in open space where rabbits are a problem, particularly along the waterways. (Note that Council has responsibilities for control of pest plants and animals under the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act</i> .)	Open Space MCMC	Ongoing
10.13 Prepare a biodiversity strategy for the City of Moreland, to identify priority measures for the protection, restoration and enhancement of native plant and animal communities.	Open Space Conservation	1–3

## Waterways

Action	Responsibility	Timing
10.14 Continue to support, participate in and resource the Moonee Ponds Creek Coordinating Committee and Merri Creek Management Committee.	Councillors Open Space Sustainable Development MCMC MPCCC	Ongoing
10.15 Develop strategic works plans/programs for revegetation along Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks, in conjunction with the creek management bodies and Melbourne Water. Review maintenance requirements for developed and semi-developed revegetation sites, and identify priorities for future extension and development of new sites. Identify potential sources of funding to implement the plans.	Open Space Melbourne Water Neighbouring Councils (Moonee Valley, Hume, Darebin, Yarra)	1–3
10.16 As opportunities arise, acquire land to establish a minimum 30 metre wide public open space corridor along the Merri, Moonee Ponds and Edgars Creeks.	Property Sustainable Development Open Space	Ongoing
10.17 Develop a priority list of resting places and implement, as resources allow, the 20-year Resting Places Strategy for Moonee Ponds and Merri Creeks.	Open Space Other agencies	Ongoing

continued

Waterways continued

Action	Responsibility	Timing
10.18 Participate in the planning and development of the 'chain of parks' along Merri Creek, as proposed in <i>Linking People and Spaces</i> (Parks Victoria 2002), and the proposed major park north of the Ring Road.	Open Space Other local government authorities	Ongoing
10.19 Prepare master plans for parkland nodes on the Merri Creek at Lorne Street (Fawkner) to Newlands Road escarpment and Tate–Egan–Strettle–Capp–Robinson Reserves in conjunction with City of Darebin, (as recommended in the 1996 MOSS and the Merri Creek and Environs Strategy 1999).	Open Space MCMC Affiliated agencies	5+
10.20 Prepare master plans for parkland nodes along Moonee Ponds Creek at Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, Gowanbrae, John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve, Herbert Street former creek course.	Open Space MPCCC Affiliated agencies	5+
10.21 Progressively implement the recommendations of the Stormwater Management Plan to improve water quality in the waterways, in particular strategies W9–W13.	Sustainable Development City Infrastructure	Ongoing
10.22 Prepare a report on pedestrian access and linkage issues along the eastern side of Moonee Ponds Creek, and implement a priority plan to deal with them.	Transport Open Space MPCCC Other agencies	3–5
10.23 Establish a pedestrian path from the intersection of Pascoe Vale Road and Devon Street, past the edge of Oak Park Sports Centre to Moonee Ponds Creek.	Transport Open Space MPCCC Other agencies	3–5
10.24 Investigate land ownership and work with owners in establishing a pedestrian pathway along the Merlynston Creek alignment, from John Street Glenroy to Merri Creek, North Coburg.	Property Open Space MCMC Other agencies	5+
10.23 Investigate establishing a shared path along Edgars Creek.	Transport Open Space MCMC Darebin CC	3–5
10.26 Develop and implement a fire management plan for large areas of open space along the Moonee Ponds and Merri Creeks, in conjunction with the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade and creek management bodies.	Open Space MCMC MPCCC Melbourne Water Other LGAs Landowners	1–3

## 11. Looking after the open spaces: Management and maintenance

Moreland's open space system has recently undergone a developmental phase, with substantial capital works expenditure in the creation and improvement of parkland and streetscapes. Now, it is important to consolidate this development, with adequate resources and procedures for maintenance and management of the living and built assets so that they continue to provide community benefits into the future.

Council is committed to fostering a sustainable and liveable city. It aims to improve quality of life in Moreland while maintaining respect for our fragile global ecosystem (*Council Plan 2002–2005*). This means that management of the open space system should aim to minimise environmental impacts and waste generation, and be water and energy-efficient.

### Objective

To manage and maintain Moreland's open spaces in a cost-effective, ecologically sustainable, and, wherever appropriate and feasible, community-responsive manner.

### Actions

Action	Responsibility	Timing
11.1 Establish an ongoing asset audit to review and record existing structures, infrastructure and park furniture in terms of the need for replacement, substantial repair, improved presentation, and/or redesigned for vandal resistance.	Open Space City Infrastructure	1–3
11.2 Improve procedures for co-ordination between staff responsible for open space development and maintenance, to ensure new planting and works are designed and undertaken in a manner that can be readily maintained, and to ensure an appropriate ongoing maintenance regime.	Open Space City Projects Affiliated areas	1–3
11.3 Ensure planting contracts include follow-up maintenance for at least 12 months to establish plants.	Open Space City projects	1–3
11.4 Review the Open Space operational budget to cover the recurrent costs of an appropriate maintenance regime for additional open spaces when their maintenance becomes a Council responsibility. Recent examples are sites transferred from City Link. New parks will be developed in Gowanbrae, redeveloped industrial sites, urban villages and Pentridge Precinct, and individual sites.	Open Space	1–3
11.5 Establish and resource a park tree management program to provide arboricultural conservation and management to sustain the health and longevity of trees in parks and reserves. This should include an audit and assessment of works required, a works schedule and staged implementation.	Open Space	1–3
11.6 Complete the audit of garden beds in open space, prepare a management plan that complements the landscape character and designated open space category of each site, and implement a realistic maintenance schedule.	Open Space	1–3
11.7 Establish a traffic treatment rejuvenation program for staged plant replacement in the 3500 sites in streets and roads	Open Space	1–3
11.8 Continue the quick-response program to repair damaged or vandalised constructed assets in open space, and provide resources to extend this to include graffiti removal.	Open Space	1–3
11.9 Continue to participate in the ICLEI Water Campaign milestone process. Regularly check, maintain and upgrade irrigation infrastructure in order to maximise efficiency of water use.	Sustainable Development Open Space	Ongoing
11.10 Conduct a feasibility assessment and identify opportunities to use alternative water sources (stormwater and greywater) for irrigation in open space. Consideration must be given at the design stage to ongoing maintenance requirements for these systems.	Sustainable Development Open Space	1–3

*continued*

*continued*

Action	Responsibility	Timing
11.11 Conduct an environmental audit of materials used in open space management (including soil, rocks, timber and fertilisers) in terms of ecological impacts and sustainability of sources of supply.	Sustainable Development Open Space	1–3
11.12 Conduct an audit of energy use in open space facilities and management (including vehicle energy use) and develop an open space energy management plan as part of Council's Greenhouse Action Plan.	Sustainable Development Open Space	1–3
11.13 Resolve ownership, public access and maintenance arrangements with state agencies (including Melbourne Water, VicRoads, VicTrack, Department of Sustainability and Environment) for open space along waterways, service easements and rail reserves, to consolidate and enhance the open space system.	Open Space Property City Infrastructure	3–5
11.14 Establish procedures for communication, consultation, response to complaints, and dispute resolution relating to open space management between park users, residents, volunteers, Council and contractors.	Open Space	3–5
11.15 Review teams currently involved in aspects of park maintenance with a view to developing a more integrated approach to maintenance of each site.	Open Space	1–3
11.16 Undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of the usage and method of application of herbicides, fertiliser and other chemicals on sports fields, with a view to minimising impacts on non-target species and stormwater quality.	Sustainable Development Open Space	1–3
11.17 Implement Council's Waste Wise Purchasing Policy in materials and equipment purchasing for open space development and management.	Open Space	1–3 Ongoing



## 12. Implementing the strategy

### Funding

It is vital that appropriate Council budget allocations be made each year, in both capital works and recurrent budgets, to sustain progress in improving and maintaining Moreland's open space system.

It is very important that adequate resources be allocated for maintenance, renovation and management of the City's open spaces, to ensure the sites, constructed assets and landscapes, are in a safe, useable and attractive state and the vegetation is healthy (see also Chapter 11). As the area and complexity of open space increases, the maintenance budget needs to increase accordingly.

There are a number of non-Council sources that can be used to supplement open space budget allocations. These include development contributions (see below), State and Federal Government grants programs, user fees (eg, for sports grounds), private sector sponsorships and joint ventures.

### Development contributions

Development contributions are payments or works-in-kind towards the provision of infrastructure (roads, drains, open space) made by the proponent of a new development.

Under the *Subdivision Act 1988*, Council may require the developer of a residential, commercial or industrial subdivision to provide an open space contribution of up to five per cent of the area of the subdivision or five per cent of the site value, or as provided in the Moreland Planning Scheme. Council must use the contribution for either buying land for public open space, or for improvements to public open space.

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* provides three other mechanisms to collect development contributions, Development Contributions Plans, conditions on planning permits, and voluntary agreements.

Moreland City Council, like many urban municipalities, routinely requires five per cent of the land value as a permit condition on planning permits for medium density housing applications and

land subdivisions (of more than two lots). A review of options for open space developer contributions (Planisphere 2002) recommended that Council should continue to use the Subdivision Act as the basis for its open space levy requirement, at least in the short term, provided that additional material be included in the Open Space Strategy to support the requirement of five per cent.

Section 18(1) of the Subdivision Act sets out the tests that must be met for imposition of an open space requirement. These relate to:

- the use or development,
- any increased intensity of use of public open space,
- the future population density,
- existing open space and its adequacy,
- extent of the provision of open space on the site, and
- any Council policies.

It is necessary for Council to provide a clear rationale for the percentage contribution being sought from each development, as this may be subject to appeal at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

This strategy provides information for this rationale as follows.

- The open space database records the area and type of each site in the municipality<sup>7</sup>.
- The assessment of adequacy of open space provision against current guidelines (Chapter 4 and Maps 5, 6, 7) shows that substantial areas of Moreland do not have good access to large and small local parks. Furthermore, many existing parks and reserves are in a rundown condition, in terms of infrastructure assets and vegetation. Community consultation has identified many unmet needs for park users (Chapter 3).
- Analysis of population characteristics and projections for the municipality show an increasing population, a relatively high proportion living in medium density housing, and a relatively low level of vehicle ownership (Chapter 3 and Appendix C).
- Council's objectives and proposed actions to deal with the

Action	Responsibility	Timing
12.1 As part of the corporate planning and budgeting process each year, review the actions listed in Chapters 6–11 as the basis for selecting <b>priorities for budget allocation and implementation</b> in the following year.	City Infrastructure Social Development City Development Corporate Services	1–3 Ongoing
12.2 Identify and investigate potential <b>sources of non-Council funding</b> to supplement the resources available for open space acquisition, development and improvement.	City Projects Social Development Open Space	Ongoing
12.3 Develop policy and criteria for allocation and expenditure of the <b>Public Resort and Recreation Fund</b> (PRRF) consistent with the intent of the Subdivision Act.	Statutory Planning Strategic Planning Open Space	1–3

<sup>7</sup> Note that some sites in the database, particularly in the Merri Creek corridor, are owned by the State government and are not permanently reserved as public open space. This means that the total area shown in Table 9 (Chapter 4) may be an overstatement of the long-term provision of open space.

Action	Responsibility	Timing
12.4 List the adopted <i>Moreland Open Space Strategy 2004</i> as a reference document in the Moreland Planning Scheme.	Strategic Planning	1–3
12.5 Continue to require a five per cent open space development contribution under the Subdivision Act, from subdivisions creating more than two lots.	Statutory Planning	Ongoing
12.6 Encourage the Department of Sustainability and Environment to implement the initiative in <i>Melbourne 2030</i> to “establish a planning framework and guidelines relating to open space and sporting facilities at local and district level”, to reduce the current level of uncertainty over appropriate levels of open space contribution with new development.	Strategic Planning Open Space	1–3
12.7 Investigate developing an open space development contributions plan for the City	Open Space Strategic Planning	1–3
12.8 Review the public open space requirements of residents of higher density development and prepare a policy to direct open space provision in these locations. Amend Clause 52.01 (schedule) of the Moreland Planning Scheme if necessary.	Strategic Planning Open Space City Projects	1–3

inadequate provision and needs for park improvements are set out in detail in Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10.

In the event of an appeal to VCAT about a specific contribution, evidence of recent Council budget allocations to open space acquisition and development should be provided, in addition to the relevant information from this strategy to justify the five per cent requirement (above).

Within activity centres and on former industrial sites, Council is encouraging a much higher density of development which has implications for the provision of public open space. It may be necessary to provide open space within the development to meet the needs of residents, and the requirement may be greater than five per cent of the site, given the relatively small land area compared to the population. In this case, it may be necessary to amend Clause 52.01 to the Moreland Planning Scheme to specify contributions greater than five per cent in these situations.

### Using the open space database and GIS

A Geographic Information System (GIS) provides the opportunity to:

- tie management actions to specific unambiguously bounded parcels of land (so making instructions less ambiguous);
- bring together varying types of information about land (such as ownership with management actions, or management plan recommendations with specific parcels) making it easy to make conclusions about specific parcels;
- provide a more efficient interface with Council records (for example the project underway of mapping Council's titles provides a visual index to the complex files on ownership held); and
- undertake geographic analysis of the type done in this study to identify geographic gaps or overlaps, or to identify hotspots for particular issues.

The Open Space GIS information and database provides two useful layers of information about open space in Moreland. The first is the sites table which contains information about parks as a whole. The second divides parks into smaller units by the open space type/category, or proposed type. For open space management purposes, this information could be combined with ownership to identify where Council may be managing other agencies' land, with private property information to identify encroachment, with remnant vegetation information to identify priorities for vegetation management, with weed information to identify priority areas for weed control. Map layers could be prepared of mowing regimes, audits could be carried out on street trees and mapped and analysed. GIS could be well used by open space managers at Moreland.

Data custodians for each layer of information need to be identified and access to modify the data in that layer should be restricted to the custodian. Other staff should be able to view the information but not modify it.

Action	Responsibility	Timing
12.7 When Council establishes a corporate GIS, transfer the existing open space database to the corporate GIS and ensure that it can be used by open space managers to facilitate their planning and delivery work.	Open Space, Corporate Services	1–3
12.8 Review, update and expand the open space database on an annual basis.	Open Space City Projects, Property, Information Technology	Annual, ongoing

### Monitoring, reporting and review

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

Progress in implementing this strategy should be monitored and reported annually to Council, to the Greening Moreland Forum and to the community via Council's annual report.

The strategy should be fully reviewed and revised after five years. This review should include consultation with a cross-section of the Moreland community.

## Appendix A: Moreland City Council policies and strategies

### Mayor's Speech 2003

Commitments for 2003–2004 that are relevant to the open space system include the following.

- Working towards providing quality, accessible open space within safe walking distance of all residents, in accordance with the Moreland Open Space Strategy.
- Continuing to support and work with the Greening Moreland Forum on open space policy, planning, development and management issues.
- Continuing to improve the quality of resource management within Council including energy management, water consumption and implementation of Council existing environmental purchasing policy. All new capital works to take advantage of best practice environmental design and technology.
- A structure plan for central Coburg, that will transform the area into an attractive system of streets and spaces, and link green spaces including the regionally significant Merri Creek.
- Reducing Council's water consumption, and examining the feasibility of harvesting stormwater run off and other water collection, treatment and reuse opportunities, particularly to irrigate Council's open space.

### Moreland Leisure Plan 2001–2006 Policy

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

Recommendations that are directly relevant to strategic open space planning include the following.

- 1.9 Council ensures that the Youth and Recreation Branch is advised and consulted in the development of open space master planning projects on a regular basis.
- 3.19 Council caters for a range of different age groups using parks and recreational reserves, by developing playgrounds for older children, basketball rebound walls, barbecue facilities, and objects/informal areas that young people can use as skate areas.
- 8.2 Council continues to prepare a facility development strategy to provide a planned and consistent framework for the maintenance and development of leisure sports, recreation and infrastructure in the municipality.
- 8.15 Prior to any approvals being granted, Council requires an assessment of all capital works improvements proposed by organisations allocated facilities, to ensure improved access for women, people with disabilities, older adults and other groups in the community.
- 8.19 Council increases shade structures/areas in playgrounds and ensures play equipment complies with design standards.
- 8.20 Council ensures that future developments in major parks are undertaken only after a master plan has been developed for the whole area (eg, this will ensure that

sporting areas are surrounded by open spaces designed to provide a range of recreation, play and aesthetic experiences).

- 8.21 Council develops maintenance standards for sports grounds, which are appropriate to the standard of sport being played (eg, international standard turf wicket preparation is not required for social cricketers.)
- 8.25 Council prepares guidelines for the development of social facilities on Council land, taking into consideration the need to maintain residential amenity and ensure that the design of facilities enables use by other groups during the current lease and at the end of the term of the lease.

*The Leisure Plan 2001–2006* refers to the Open Space Strategy and notes that overall, it “complements many of the priority areas identified in the 1997–2002 Moreland Leisure Plan and the review. Complementary strategies include issues of improving access, communications and ensuring that all the needs of Moreland residents are met such as older adults, young people, women and ethnic groups” (page 20).

### Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan 2001–2004

As part of the *Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians* Council has committed itself to:

- building a trusting, collaborative and supportive relationship with indigenous groups, and
- respecting identified Aboriginal sacred sites and special places.

As one of the strategies, Council will facilitate specific projects relevant to Aboriginal cultural heritage, including identifying and acknowledging places of significance to Indigenous people.

### Urban Villages: A sustainable future for Moreland

This document was adopted as Council Policy in June 1997. It sets out an approach to the strengthening of local centres in Moreland based on the ‘urban villages’ concept. An urban village is a suburban centre with a variety of housing types, offices, local employment opportunities, good public transport, safe and attractive streets and a range of community facilities within walking distance. Twenty-five priority sites are identified. General design targets include five per cent of the area to be public parks and squares, and 100 per cent of the area to be within 200 metres of parks and squares. Structure plans to be prepared for each urban village include new open space proposals and areas where open space is most needed.

### Moreland Integrated Transport Strategy

*The Integrated Transport Strategy (1998)* defines practical actions for Council to maximise access to social and economic life in Moreland and across Melbourne, while minimising the financial, human and environmental costs of providing that access. It relates to four complementary transport networks, car, public transport, bicycle and foot. The strategy refers to the MOSS priority to provide better access to local open space, and the

MOSS recommendation to utilise local area traffic management/traffic calming to share some streets as open space. Measures in the strategy include full and part road closures and traffic management works to help redesign street space to meet open space objectives (page 23). It notes that "all streets, lanes, parks and other open spaces are potentially part of the local walking network" (page 43).

Two subsidiary strategies to the transport strategy are the *Moreland Bike Plan* (Sinclair Knight Merz 2000) and the draft *Pedestrian and Walking Strategy* (in preparation). These documents include many recommended actions to achieve the 1996 MOSS objective of creating a network of open space with safe and attractive linkages between and through larger reserves for pedestrians and cyclists. The engineering works program for the bike plan includes all the shared footway actions along Moreland's creeks and rail lines, and many east-west cycle routes across the municipality.

### **Street Landscape Strategy 1997–2017**

This strategy was prepared under a recommendation of the 1996 MOSS. It provides a series of 'tools' to guide the development of sustainable street landscapes with a distinctive character, based on the predominance of regionally indigenous species. Key principles are: appearance, function, horticulture and community values. Maps illustrate the opportunities for greening the streets of Moreland, and design and planting guidelines are provided, along with detailed information on species. Specific recommendations are made for the east-west nature corridors recommended in the 1996 MOSS. The strategy is being reviewed in 2003–2004.

### **Landscape Guidelines and Technical Notes**

This document applies to all residential, commercial and industrial developments which require the submission of a landscape plan as part of a planning application. It is complementary to the MOSS and the *Moreland Street Landscape Strategy* in encouraging landscapes based on indigenous plants in the gardens, streets and open spaces of private developments.

In addition, Council has published a booklet, *Gardening with Indigenous Plants in Moreland* (Merri Creek Management Committee 1999) which outlines how and why indigenous plants can be used in home gardens. Both publications are to be reviewed in 2004–2005.

### **Remnant Vegetation Assessment**

This study (Bainbridge, Bush and Faithfull 1998) followed up on the initial identification in the 1996 MOSS of open space containing remnant indigenous vegetation. The assessment aimed to identify, map and classify all the remnant vegetation in Moreland, according to significance. The study identified 330 sites, many along the waterways but also along rail reserves and on some tracts of privately owned open space. Recommendations are made for the protection and management of the sites.

### **Greenhouse Abatement Strategy 2001–2010, and Greenhouse Action Plan 2001–2004**

This strategy and associated greenhouse action plan deal with energy management and greenhouse gas reduction by Council and the community in Moreland. MOSS is listed as one of the strategies and programs that will be used to implement the action plan. An important aspect of the MOSS is the absorption of carbon dioxide by trees, through the planting and preservation of indigenous vegetation and other trees (Moreland Greenhouse Action Plan page 13).

### **Community Safety Plan 2001–2004**

*No Single Answer.* The *Moreland Community Safety Plan 2001–2004* presents strategies and actions for road safety, injury prevention, drugs and alcohol, and crime prevention.

As part of the local safety survey, respondents were asked to name locations where they felt unsafe. Less than half answered that there were places where they felt unsafe. Railway stations, streets, and shopping areas were named more frequently than parks (15 per cent named parks, compared with 16 per cent in the statewide survey).

Actions relevant to open space include:

- developing appropriate responses to playground falls in parks and schoolgrounds;
- continuously improving safety for all Council community facilities and infrastructure; and
- developing guidelines and procedures for safety auditing of specific developments, including residential developments, retail developments and open space.

### **Disability Policy and Action Plan 2003–2006**

The goal is for people in Moreland to experience a rich and rewarding quality of life in a supportive social and physical environment. One of the objectives is to improve the physical environment so it is safe, accessible and inclusive for all.

Quotes from resident consultation include the following.

*"Council needs to ensure that open space and parks are accessible for all people including people with a disability."*

*"When I go to a park I like to be able to sit down and to have access to a disability toilet. Outdoor furniture must be user friendly for people with a disability."*

Relevant actions include:

- developing a *Moreland Playground Strategy* to ensure all playgrounds are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and the Australian Standards; and
- undertaking audits on a four-yearly basis of Council buildings and offices, open spaces, shopping precincts, footpaths, roads and playgrounds to identify access barriers at vehicle and pram crossings and to ensure that access is provided to people with a range of disabilities.

## Moreland Arts Strategy

This strategy defines Council's role in local arts and cultural development from 2001 to 2005. It embraces performing, visual, literary and other arts. One of the key principles for implementation is to strengthen an integrated planning approach within Council to recognise overlapping agendas in social, cultural, environmental and economic development.

Relevant actions include.

- Focusing on the development of the precinct at CB Smith Reserve in Fawkner as a hub for community cultural activity. Include a major community arts/public art project as part of the development.
- Facilitating access, promotion and usage of both Council and non-Council facilities in Moreland for arts and leisure activities.
- Including information on indoor and outdoor venues suitable for arts activity in the Arts and Recreation Guide.
- Actively encouraging arts presenters to consider use of outdoor venues across Moreland, including Coburg Lake.
- Contributing to the maintenance of established high quality community festivals.
- Encouraging and supporting the initiative of local communities and organisations in establishing and further developing local community/arts festivals and events particularly in areas of the municipality, which currently have a lower level of public events/festival activity.
- Maximising arts and cultural benefits of events conducted at Clifton Park.

## Moreland Litter Strategy 1997

This strategy arises from the Moreland Waste Management Strategy, and focuses on people, products and places, which are able to influence and minimise the visual and environmental effect of litter. The aim is prevention, not cure.

The document identifies the components of the litter stream, and where it is found (18% in parks). It notes that plastic debris and other litter is of particular concern to the Merri Creek area where it is trapped in plantings. Litter adjacent to sports clubs facilities in reserves also appears to be a problem.

Actions include measures to reduce the amount of litter reaching waterways through the stormwater drains, and investigation of the construction of artificial wetlands on Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks to trap litter. A 'litter bond' for sports clubs is proposed, which would be refundable at the end of the season providing Council incurs no costs for litter clean-ups. A trial 'Carry in – carry out' policy in several key parks is proposed.

## Stormwater Management Plan

The plan provides a strategic framework to protect stormwater quality throughout the municipality, thereby protecting local and downstream waterways that receive stormwater run-off. It notes that the City of Moreland has a frontage to many waterways, including the Merri, Moonee Ponds, Edgars and Merlynston Creeks. In addition to performing important drainage functions,

these waterways provide the community with a range of other values, including the provision of habitats for a variety of plant and animal species, recreational opportunities, sites of cultural significance, and increased market value of adjacent properties. These waterways and their associated values have the potential to be seriously degraded by stormwater run-off.

An assessment of the values of the waterways of Moreland found that the areas with the highest level of significance include:

- Westbreen Creek, generally adjacent the Northern Golf Course in Glenroy;
- Merri Creek, generally between Parker Reserve and Bell Street;
- Jackson Reserve and Edgars Creek; and
- Merlynston Creek, generally adjacent to Wallace Reserve, Glenroy.

In addition to high amenity and economic values, each of these locations is considered to have either high environmental or cultural values.

Actions include the installation of litter traps, wetlands in Moomba Park and Dunstan Reserve, implementation of a number of strategies in the *Moonee Ponds Creek Waterway Activity Plan* water quality initiatives, and identification of strategic stormwater management opportunities in public open space in the five-year review of the Moreland Open Space Strategy.

Other relevant actions:

- training Council's operations staff in best practice stormwater management techniques and how their activities affect stormwater;
- educating Council officers (including parks staff) about the effect of fertilisers and other chemicals entering the stormwater system;
- reviewing fertiliser and other chemical use in open space areas adjacent to waterways and recommending steps to avoid or reduce nutrient input to waterways;
- continuing to promote responsible dog ownership in regard to waste disposal; and
- supporting the establishment and development of a stormwater quality display at CERES.

## Focus on Fawkner Community Action Plan

The Fawkner Community Action Plan 2003–2005 proposes the following five key priority areas:

- bringing the people of Fawkner together,
- improving the image of Fawkner,
- promoting the area and its businesses,
- developing activities and entertainment for young people, and
- deciding what other community services are needed.

At the community discussions it was noted that there needs to be greater attention to the physical amenity of the area including installation of public art, playground development, improving parkland and shopping areas.

*"The parks look like paddocks, I want a park I'd feel proud to take family photos in."* Participant at a Focus on Fawkner community discussion.

In reviewing activities for young people, the plan notes that facilities for sporty 11–18 year old boys include soccer and football clubs, some martial arts, with Little Athletics in the summer. A small youth club meets once a week and the community house is setting up computer classes and girls groups. The Merri Creek offers a place away from supervision to congregate. Otherwise, most of Fawkner's young people leave the area to pursue regular activities or attend entertainment.

The recommended actions include planning and landscaping of one major park.

## Appendix B: A parklands code – urban open space principles

Source: *Linking People and Spaces. A strategy for Melbourne's open space network. Parks Victoria 2002 (page 8) and Melbourne 2030. Planning for sustainable growth. State of Victoria (page 104).*

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

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

### Involving the community

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

### Transparent planning processes

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

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

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

### Securing the future of open space

Appropriate zoning of open space is integral to its long term security and Public Park and Recreation Zone or Public Conservation and Resource Zone are the most applicable zonings for parkland purposes. The zoning should be consistent with relevant management plans and objectives for the land, whereby conservation zoning is applied in order to protect areas of high conservation value in which development of visitor facilities is limited.

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

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

### Changing land use

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

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

### Diversity

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

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

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



## Appendix C: Trends in population characteristics

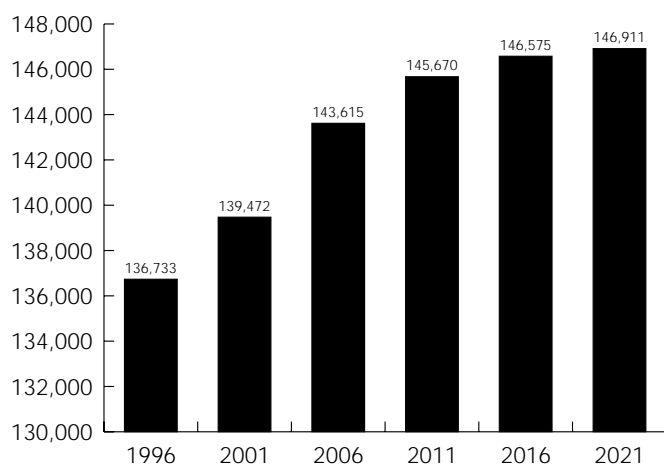
### Population size and growth

In 2001, the population of Moreland was 136,733. The average annual growth rates between 1986 and 2001 are presented below<sup>8</sup>:

	1986–1991	1991–1996	1996–2001
Average annual growth rate (%)	–0.9	–0.5	0.2

Figure 2 depicts the projected population between 1996 and 2021.

**Figure 2: City of Moreland population projection 1996–2021**



Source – DOI, *Victorian Population Bulletin*, 2001 Edition

The population decline that occurred in the 1980s and early 1990s has recently been reversed, with a net increase between 1996 and 2001. It is predicted<sup>9</sup> that between 2001 and 2011 there will be a net increase of approximately 6200 people. Longer-term predictions<sup>10</sup> indicate, however, that the population growth will slow between 2011 and 2030.

In 1996, the population of Moreland represented 4.1 per cent of the total population in Melbourne<sup>11</sup>. This declined to 3.9 per cent in 2001, reflecting the trend of redistribution away from the inner towards the outer suburban local government areas where land is less expensive and residential properties are larger.

8 Department of Infrastructure, *Know Your Area – Moreland*

9 Department of Infrastructure, 2000 – *Victoria in the Future*

10 i.d consulting, *Moreland Population Projections*, Third Cut Outputs – Version 3A, March 2003

11 *Victorian Population Bulletin*, DSE, Census 2001 Edition

12 Department of Infrastructure, 2000 – *Victoria in the Future*

## Age profile

Table 2 depicts the future population profile<sup>12</sup> of Moreland in five year age groups, in terms of overall numbers and percentage of the total population.

**Table 6: Age profile, City of Moreland, 2001–2011**

Age	2001	% total	2011	% total	Trend
0–4	8378	6.0%	7905	5.4%	Overall decline in numbers and percentage
5–9	7553	5.4%	6988	4.8%	Overall decline in numbers and percentage
10–14	6901	4.9%	6707	4.6%	Overall decline in numbers and percentage
15–19	7401	5.3%	7744	5.3%	Increase in numbers but steady percentage of total population
20–24	11,907	8.5%	12,362	8.5%	Increase in numbers but steady percentage of total population
25–29	13,471	9.7%	13,365	9.2%	Overall decline in numbers and percentage
30–34	12,945	9.3%	12,641	8.7%	Overall decline in numbers and percentage
35–39	11,351	8.1%	11,781	8.1%	Overall increase in numbers but steady percentage of total population
40–44	9977	7.2%	10,889	7.5%	Increase in numbers and percentage of total population
45–49	7820	5.6%	9748	6.7%	Relatively large increase in numbers and percentage of total population
50–54	6782	4.9%	8634	5.9%	Relatively large increase in numbers and percentage of total population
55–59	5737	4.1%	7121	4.9%	Relatively large increase in numbers and percentage of total population
60–64	6387	4.6%	6535	4.5%	Increase in numbers but decrease in percentage of total population
65–69	6361	4.6%	5419	3.7%	Overall decline in numbers and percentage
70–74	6332	4.5%	5448	3.7%	Overall decline in numbers and percentage
75–79	5187	3.7%	4907	3.4%	Overall decline in numbers and percentage
80–90+	4982	3.5%	7476	5.1%	Relatively large increase in both numbers and percentage of total population

Source: Department of Infrastructure, 2000 – Victoria in the Future

Table 2 indicates that in 2001 the age profile of the City of Moreland had the following characteristics<sup>13</sup>:

- the population age groups most highly represented were 25–29 years (9.7%), followed by 30–34 (9.3%) and 20–24 (8.5%);
- there were 22,832 residents (16% of the total population) under 14 who are potential play equipment users; and
- there were 22,862 residents (16% of the total population) over the age of 65.

The implications of the population growth trends on the type of open space requirements in the long term are as follows:

- slight reduction in the demand for toddler play areas and formal playgrounds; and
- increase in the need for active and informal open space.

## Population distribution

Table 3 depicts the projected population distribution in the City of Moreland until the year 2030 in ascending order. The current ranking of suburbs by size is predicted to persist.

**Table 7: Population by suburb, City of Moreland, 2001–2030**

Suburb	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2030
Gowanbrae	516	1,748	3,054	3,084	3,030	2,922	2,813
Oak Park	4,853	5,032	5,093	5,151	5,208	5,262	5,304
Hadfield	5,625	5,662	5,688	5,802	5,822	5,840	5,854
Coburg North	6,387	6,662	7,282	7,676	7,834	8,022	8,167
Pascoe Vale South	8,760	9,054	9,255	9,334	9,385	9,432	9,466
Brunswick East	8,036	8,736	9,739	10,131	10,288	10,436	10,549
Fawkner	12,241	12,467	12,730	12,867	12,957	13,066	13,176
Brunswick West	12,390	13,018	14,295	14,611	14,819	15,020	15,175
Pascoe Vale	13,780	14,538	15,209	15,680	16,014	16,316	16,550
Glenroy	19,036	20,020	20,543	20,946	21,314	21,650	21,884
Brunswick	20,549	22,113	23,218	23,605	23,768	23,919	24,029
Coburg	23,288	24,597	25,859	26,739	27,382	27,501	27,498
Total	135,461	143,647	151,965	155,626	157,821	159,386	160,465

Source: *i.d consulting, Moreland Population Projections, Third Cut Outputs – Version 3A, March 2003*

Table 4 describes the population per suburb as a percentage of the total population in the City of Moreland in ascending order. It is predicted that those suburbs shaded are likely to increase their percentage of total population, the most significant increase being in Gowanbrae.

**Table 8: Population by suburb as a percentage of total population, City of Moreland, 2001–2030**

Suburb	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2030
Gowanbrae	0.4	1.2	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8
Oak Park	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Hadfield	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6
Coburg North	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1
Brunswick East	5.9	6.1	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6
Pascoe Vale South	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9
Fawkner	9.0	8.7	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.2
Brunswick West	9.1	9.1	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.5
Pascoe Vale	10.2	10.1	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.2	10.3
Glenroy	14.1	13.9	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.6	13.6
Brunswick	15.2	15.4	15.3	15.2	15.1	15.0	15.0
Coburg	17.2	17.1	17.0	17.2	17.4	17.3	17.1

Source: *i.d consulting, Moreland Population Projections, Third Cut Outputs – Version 3A, March 2003*

The age profile<sup>14</sup> and distribution<sup>15</sup> characteristics within the City of Moreland in 2001 included:

- 0–14, and 25–44 year old age groups concentrated in the north and centre of Moreland;
- 15–24, 45–64 year old age groups dispersed throughout Moreland; and
- 65+ age group concentrated in the north of Moreland, and in Brunswick East.

## Households

In 2001, there were 55,097 households<sup>16</sup> in Moreland. The number of households has increased from 52,944 in 1996 to 55,097 in 2001<sup>17</sup>. It is predicted that the number of households will grow from 57,995 in 2006 to 62,276 in 2011 and 69,653 in 2030. The growth in the number of households will slow from 7.6 per cent (2001–2006) to 1.9 per cent (2026–2030)<sup>18</sup>.

In 2001, the average household size in the City of Moreland was 2.5. It is predicted that this figure will decline gradually to 2.3 in 2030<sup>18</sup>.

Moreland has a lower than average number of family households and a higher than average number of lone person and group households than the Melbourne average.

## Culture and ethnicity

Table 5 indicates that compared to the Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD), a far higher percentage of Moreland's population speaks languages other than English<sup>18</sup>. Moreland has lower percentages of people born in Australia and speaking English only, compared to the MSD. The main countries of birth of Moreland residents, apart from Australia, are similar to that in the previous census and represent the traditional migrant groups from Europe, including Italy, Greece and the United Kingdom. Moreland has a significantly higher percentage of residents with both parents born overseas compared to the MSD.

The main countries of birth of new arrivals to Moreland differ from the traditional migrant groups who have settled in Moreland in the past<sup>19</sup>. A high proportion of new arrivals to Moreland are born in China, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. The majority of new arrivals to Moreland arrived under the family visa category, while one quarter arrived under the skilled migration program and 15 per cent arrived under the humanitarian program.

The cultural needs of these sectors of the community need to be taken into account when planning open space and recreation needs in Moreland.

**Table 9: Language and birthplace, City of Moreland, 2001**

	Moreland	MSD
Speak English only	52.8%	68.8%
Speak other languages	41.7%	25.6%
Born in Australia	62.2%	65.2%
Both parents born overseas	44.3%	30.8%

Source: ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing, Community Profiles, Melbourne SD and Moreland LGA

14 Department of Infrastructure, 2000, Victoria in the Future

15 ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2001, Areas of concentration

16 i.d consulting, Moreland Population Projections, Third Cut Outputs – Version 3A, March 2003

17 Department of Infrastructure, 2000 – Victoria in the Future

18 ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile, Melbourne SD and City of Moreland LGA

19 Moreland City Council, 2003, Social Profile

## Type of dwelling

Table 6 illustrates that the City of Moreland has higher percentages of medium and high density housing than the MSD. The proportion of separate houses in Moreland has decreased over the decade to 2001, while the proportion of flat, units or apartments has increased and the proportion of semi-detached, row or terrace, townhouses has also increased.

The relatively low percentage of separate houses with private open space indicates a dependence on easily accessible public open space and recreation facilities for a large proportion of the community.

**Table 10: Type of dwelling, City of Moreland 2001**

	Moreland		MSD	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Separate house	37,093	77.3%	919,704	81.4%
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse	5732	9.4%	127,810	7.9%
Flat, unit or apartment	8779	11.9%	177,579	9.5%
Other dwelling	462	0.8%	9,099	0.5%

Source: ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing, Community Profiles, MSD and Moreland LGA

## Mode of transport

Table 7 indicates that the City of Moreland has a far higher percentage of people with no means of private transport, than the MSD. This highlights the need for easily accessible public open space, and the importance of integrating public open space planning with other forms of planning such as land use and transport planning.

**Table 11: Mode of transport per occupied private dwelling, City of Moreland 2001**

	Moreland	MSD
No motor vehicle	14.9%	9.5%
No motor vehicle, motor cycle or scooter	11.3%	7.2%
1 motor vehicle	40.7%	34.7%
2 or more motor vehicles	36.7%	49.1%

Source: ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing, Community Profiles, MSD and Moreland LGA

## Employment

Table 8 indicates that the City of Moreland has higher rates of people unemployed and not in the labour force than the MSD. This points to the increased need for adequate public open space and recreation facilities for those members of the community not working.

**Table 12: Employment status of population over 15, City of Moreland 2001**

	Moreland	MSD
Employed	50.5%	57.7%
Employed part time (% of total labour force)	27.7%	29.1%
Unemployed	4.8%	4.1%
Not in labour force	40.1%	33.9%

Source: ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing, Community Profiles, MSD and Moreland LGA

## Appendix D: Development guidelines for open space categories

### 1. Heritage

#### Examples

- Methven Park
- Jacobs Reserve
- Rogers Reserve (part)

#### Management objective

To conserve the historic values and features of the park within the context of contemporary need and uses.

#### Character

Parkland developed in the early period of the urban development of an area and which has demonstrated heritage values. Historic parks should be managed to give priority to the conservation of significant plantings, structures and landscape features. This can include established mature trees in avenues, or as specimen trees (usually exotic species), border treatments, buildings and structures, shelters, bandstands, fencing, paving and park layout and design.

Historic parks may provide a range of recreational experiences, usually informal, non-activity based.

#### Planting

Conservation of existing trees and plantings may require intensive maintenance to ensure their longevity. New planting should seek to follow, as much as possible, the planting patterns and species mix of the significant plantings which remain in the park. This will often, but not always, be exotic tree and shrub species, and floral displays. Usually new planting works will require re-planting to replace established specimen trees and to retain established avenues, as existing mature tree grow old and die. New plantings may also reintroduce known earlier planting patterns where this will help retain the historic significance of the park.

#### Facilities

- Retain and maintain all existing features that are part of the park's significance.
- Where new facilities (such as fences, bollards, lights, paths) are needed within an historic park, the first option is to consider reintroducing past examples that are known to have been located within the park, and which would add to the appreciation of its significance if reintroduced today. This requires researching the initial development of the park, as well as development of the park over time. It is important to avoid the temptation to introduce standard 'heritage' elements which are not authentic to the park. Using good contemporary design facilities which are sympathetic to the park is a better option than fake 'heritage' elements.
- Name signs at all main entries and access points to be specifically designed.
- Fencing, in a style sympathetic to the park, to all main streets and roadways.
- Bollards and barriers, in a style sympathetic to the park, to exclude vehicles.

- Lighting to be period style lights along main pathways and other designated areas (such as barbecue and picnic areas), and to illuminate principal entry and access points. Solar-powered lighting to be used wherever possible.
- Seating sympathetic to the park.
- Pathways to be surfaced with material appropriate to the period. This may include hard pavement treatments as well as gravel surface treatments. Edges of pathways to be in the appropriate style.
- Children's play facilities to be sensitively located, respecting the historic values of the park, and to provide for as wide a range of play experiences and ages as possible. Play structures to be of the highest possible standard in design and construction and meet the relevant Australian Standards.
- Barbecue facilities to be suitably located within the context of the heritage values of the park, and to be suitable in style, materials and construction.

#### Conservation development and management process

The redevelopment and ongoing management of historic parks is to proceed within the context of a comprehensive conservation and management plan. This will define the significance of the parks, the elements to be conserved and guide all ongoing maintenance and works in the park.

A conservation and management plan should seek to provide a suitable balance between present and future requirements of the park, and the particular heritage or historic values, giving priority to conserving significant elements. This process will seek to involve local community groups and other stakeholders within the framework of a project steering committee as far as is possible.

The extent of the management planning process will depend upon the particular nature and extent of the heritage parkland.

### 2. Informal

#### Examples

- Joyce Reserve
- Douglas Reserve
- Bryant Family Reserve

#### Management objective

To provide developed open spaces of appropriate size and quality for informal and unstructured recreation to meet a range of community needs and expectations.

#### Character

Informal open spaces range from small neighbourhood to large open spaces and parklands, which are devoted to unstructured and non-competitive recreation. Informal open spaces will usually include planting beds, shade trees, lawn areas and pathways. They may also include picnic or barbecue facilities, seating, children's play opportunities. An informal open space may be adjacent to, or part of, another open space type such as a sports ground.

As the most common form of open space in the city, informal

open space projects the image of the character and qualities of Moreland's social and physical settings.

Informal open space will project an image of a contemporary palette of both local and exotic (or introduced) materials, colours and textures. This will be achieved through the blending of local indigenous and exotic plant materials, careful use of rocks, timber and durable metals, the colours and textures used for paving and other surface treatments, the materials, colours and textures used in park furniture and other site elements, and the materials used to construct walls and structures.

A contemporary and distinctive character can be achieved with the inclusion of commissioned and community arts projects. Arts projects can range from special commissioned artworks to the design and construction of park elements and furniture. While this may not be possible for every informal open space, art projects should be included in the development of informal open space development projects wherever possible.

### **Planting**

Generally, planting is to be based on native and indigenous tree and shrub species, exotic feature species where expressly requested. Planting design to be built around sustainable plant communities as far as possible with extensive tree planting to provide shade throughout.

Tree, shrub and ground covers to be planted from 300-millimetre, 150-millimetre pots and tube stock to maximise vigorous and strong growth potential. Semi-advanced tree species to be planted only in special circumstances to provide shade cover and emphasise new developments.

Remove all weeds and prepare bedding areas before planting proceeds. Mulch all planting beds to a minimum depth of 100 millimetres over weed exclusion fabric. All mulching material to be approved weed-free material, to reduce weed infestation and conserve ground moisture. Direct seeding of grassed areas.

### **Facilities**

- Name signs at all main entries and access points.
- Fencing to all main streets and roadways.
- Bollards and barriers to exclude vehicles.
- Lighting to be proprietary brand photo-cell operated lights along main pathways and other designated areas (such as barbecue and picnic areas), and to illuminate principal entry and access points. Solar-powered lighting to be used wherever possible.
- Seating to be a mix of propriety brand seats and informal seating (ie, rocks, logs).
- Pathways to be hard surface pavement to all shared footways, and principal pedestrian pathways, compacted gravel surface with timber edging to pedestrian-only paths.
- Children's play facilities to cater for as wide a range of play experiences, for as wide a range of ages, as possible (given open space available). Provide semi-natural bush settings for children's play as much as possible.
- Barbecue facilities to be a suitable proprietary brand.

### **Development process**

The development of informal parklands and open space areas will proceed within the context of a systematic design and development process. This process will actively involve local community groups and other stakeholders within the framework of a project steering committee as far as is possible.

The steps to be included in the design/development process are:

- prepare design brief,
- concept master plan,
- design development,
- design documentation and specifications,
- tender for construction,
- let construction tender, and
- administer construction contract.

The extent to which this process is followed will depend on the nature and scale of the development.

## **3. Conservation parkland**

### **Examples**

Roberts Reserve (south of the Brunswick Velodrome)

Abrahams Reserve

Merri Merri Park (Northcote)

### **Management objective**

To re-establish and conserve natural plant associations and indigenous plant communities and to provide low impact public access and recreation.

### **Character**

In conservation parklands conservation and informal recreation in a natural setting are of equal importance. Conservation parkland areas typically occur in Moreland along watercourses where, together with conservation bushland areas, they can form long habitat corridors. Conservation parkland may also occur in other reserves where passive recreation in a semi-natural setting is desired, or where there is a need to provide habitat for mobile species like birds. These areas will project a green and peaceful image welcoming to pedestrians and recreational cyclists wishing to escape the hurly burly of city life.

Conservation parkland will usually be adjacent to conservation bushland or informal open space, and should be buffered where possible from heritage and sporting areas.

Conservation parkland typically includes small to medium-sized revegetation areas in beds, with mown grass areas between. All plantings are indigenous with the possible exception of lawn species. Exotic lawn grass mixes may be used, excluding creeping grass species and environmental weeds, where appropriate indigenous grass seed is not available or native grass is inappropriate or unsustainable.

Limited facilities are provided in conservation parkland areas, including surfaced paths and shared footways, low-key picnic facilities, rest areas, nature trails, interpretation signs, and seating. Some areas within conservation parkland areas may be

fenced to restrict access and protect particular features.

Barbecues, toilets, car parks, playground equipment, bins, formal water access, lighting, shelters or pavilions would not be provided.

Art projects in conservation parkland areas would be restricted to those which subtly enrich the natural experience by interpreting natural or cultural features.

### Planting

Planting to be based explicitly on the appropriate plant communities as described in *Plants of the Merri Merri*, revised edition 1994 (or later if available), with the possible exception of lawn species. Exotic lawn grass mixes may be used, excluding creeping grass species and environmental weeds, where appropriate indigenous grass seed is not available or native grass is inappropriate or unsustainable. Other than lawn species, all plantings are to be of indigenous plant species of local provenance.

Tree, shrub and ground covers are to be planted from pots and tube stock as appropriate, or established by direct seeding. Prepare planting areas by killing all weeds, removing rubbish and, if necessary, reshaping artificial fill surfaces to present a more natural landscape character. When importing soils or fill to cover rough fill areas, ensure that the imported material is of the correct soil type for the area, and is not contaminated with weed seed. Arrange assurance based on financial penalty that the soil is weed-free. The preparation phase in some areas may take a year or more, especially if persistent weed species are present. Where not flood prone, mulch planting beds to a depth of 100 millimetres. In flood-prone areas choose an appropriate flood-resistant mulching or matting material, or allow a certain amount of annual weed growth to suppress erosion while indigenous species are establishing. All mulches to be approved weed-free material to reduce weed infestation and conserve ground moisture.

Planting contracts must include a maintenance period of at least one year to ensure adequate establishment. Ongoing maintenance primarily including weed control must be anticipated, although the level of maintenance needed decreases gradually.

Management of conservation parkland areas should only be undertaken by organisations with demonstrated experience and knowledge of indigenous vegetation management. Maintenance staff must be able to recognise all indigenous species present so as to avoid damaging them with herbicide sprays or physically removing them.

### Facilities

- Name sign at all main entries and access points.
- Fencing to all main streets and roadways.
- Temporary dog, cat and fox proof fencing to new planting areas.
- Bollards and barriers to exclude vehicles.
- Seating platforms, sleeper seats and informal seating.
- Hard surface pavement to all shared footways.

- Gravel surface (or similar) pathways, with timber edge, for pedestrian-only paths.
- Mown grass walking tracks only, where possible along lower used routes.
- Interpretation signs along nature trails.
- Children's play opportunities to be natural bush settings (not structures) for as wide a range of ages as possible.

### Development process

The development of conservation parkland will proceed within the context of a standard design and development process. This process will, as far as possible, actively involve local community groups and other stake holders within the context of a project steering committee.

## 4. Habitat

### Examples

- Moonee Ponds Creek at Union Street, West Brunswick
- Jukes Road native grassland, Merri Creek, Fawkner

### Management objective

To manage and conserve remnant indigenous vegetation and to recreate habitat areas for indigenous plants and animals.

Remnant vegetation areas are to be retained and managed to exclude weed growth and other disturbances. It is important that ongoing management of conservation bushland areas be undertaken by maintenance agencies with demonstrated knowledge and experience of indigenous vegetation management and revegetation.

### Character

Existing or revegetated indigenous plant communities and sustainable ecosystems. No facilities for public use and public access may be restricted.

### Planting

Planting to be sustainable ecosystems of indigenous plant communities which represent, as far as possible tree, ecosystems and plant communities typically found prior to European settlement.

Remove all weeds and prepare planting areas before planting proceeds. Where indigenous groundcover species are to be planted allow at least six months for preparatory weed control (more if persistent weeds are present) to get as close to a weed-free site as possible.

Plant communities to be established from tube stock or direct seeding, as appropriate. Plant only indigenous species of local provenance. Plant densities must be such that mature plantings form a weed barrier or make weed establishment difficult. Some plantings may require densities of up to 30 plants per square metre so ongoing weed management requirements are reduced.

Mulch all planting beds to a minimum depth of 100 millimetres, except in wetlands and areas subjected to regular flooding. All mulching material to be approved weed-free material to reduce weed infestation and conserve ground moisture.



## Facilities

- Name sign.
- Fencing to exclude dogs (and cats and foxes in some locations if practicable), and to manage public access.
- Informal gravel surface pathways only, where required for pedestrians.
- Optional interpretation trails in particular circumstances.

## Development process

The restoration and development of conservation bushland will proceed within the context of a standard design/development process. This process may, as far as possible, actively involve local community groups and other stakeholders within the context of a project steering committee.

The steps to be included in the design/development process are:

- standard development brief,
- research and identify ecosystems and suitable plant communities,
- concept formulation,
- development standards and specifications,
- tender for works,
- let works tender (selection criterion for tenderers to be demonstrated knowledge of indigenous revegetation and management), and
- administer construction contract.

The extent to which this process is followed will depend on the nature and scale of the development.

## 5. Sporting

### Examples

- Allard Park
- Morris Reserve
- Richards Reserve
- Moomba Park
- ATC Cook Reserve
- Wallace Reserve

### Management objective

To provide appropriate open spaces of suitable quality for female and male contemporary sport and other structured recreation activities.

### Character

Structured sporting reserves and parks are open spaces which are dominated by formal sporting activities. Typically, this is a football code (soccer or AFL) and cricket oval, but may also include netball, tennis, bocce or lawn bowls facilities. Several of these sporting codes may be included in the one reserve or open space. Often the open space will also include club rooms and pavilion as well as car parking.

The margins of the sporting areas are well suited to informal open space activities conservation parkland, as well as for bushland and other children's play activities.

## Planting

Minimal planting, other than turf, associated with active sporting areas. Canopy tree planting to provide shade in spectator areas, along pathways and avenues and in car parking areas as much as possible.

Planting around the margins wherever appropriate as for informal open space and conservation parkland. Planting design to be built around sustainable plant communities as far as possible with extensive tree planting to provide shade throughout.

Use tubestock or, where necessary to maximise shade cover, use semi-advanced or advanced tree species. Shrub and ground covers to be planted from tubestock or 300-millimetre and 150-millimetre pots. Mulch all planting beds to a minimum depth of 100 millimetres with approved weed free mulch, material to reduce weed infestation and conserve ground moisture.

## Facilities

- Name sign at all main entries and access points.
- Low fencing to all main streets and roadways.
- Bollards and barriers to manage vehicle access.
- Specialist lighting to illuminate spots areas for night use as required.
- Lighting to be proprietary brand photo-cell operated lights along main pathways and other designated areas (such as barbecue and picnic areas), and to illuminate principal entry and access points. Solar-powered lighting to be used wherever possible.
- Seating to be a mix of propriety brand seats and informal seating (ie, rocks, logs).
- Pathways to be hard surface pavement to all shared footways, and principal pedestrian pathways, compacted gravel surface with timber edging to pedestrian-only paths.
- Children's play facilities to cater for as wide a range of play experiences, for as wide a range of ages, as possible (given open space available). Provide semi-natural bush settings for children's play as much as possible.
- Barbecue facilities to be a suitable proprietary brand.

## Development process

The development of sporting open space areas will proceed within the context of a systematic design and development process. This process will actively involve sporting clubs, local community groups and other stakeholders within the framework of a project steering committee.

The steps to be included in the design/development process are:

- prepare design brief,
- concept master plan
- design development,
- design documentation and specifications,
- tender for construction,
- let construction tender, and
- administer construction contract.

The extent to which this process is followed will depend on the nature and scale of the development.

## Appendix E: Environmental weeds in Moreland

Common Name	Scientific Name	Invasiveness in Moreland	Priority for removal in Moreland	Notes
Cootamundra wattle	<i>Acacia baileyana</i>	Low	Moderate	
Early black wattle	<i>Acacia decurrens</i>	Low	Moderate	
Bears breach	<i>Acanthus sp aff mollis</i>	Moderate	Moderate	
Box-elder maple	<i>Acer negundo</i>	High	High	Seed carried in drainage water and by wind
Sycamore maple	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Very high	Very high	
Agapanthus	<i>Agapanthus praecox ssp orientalis</i>	Moderate	Low; high along waterways	
Brown top bent grass	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	High	Low; high adjacent to native grasslands	Do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
Creeping bent grass	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	High	Low; high adjacent to native grasslands	Do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
White bladder flower/ Cruel vine/	<i>Arauja sericifera</i>	Very high	Very high	Silky seeds dispersed by wind
Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon rigidus</i>	Low	High along waterways	
Saffron thistle	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	High	High	
Mirror bush	<i>Coprosma repens</i>	High	High	
Pink pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	High	High	Recent introduction of new strains means that pampas grass species can now set seed and spread many kilometres in the wind
Pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	High	High	Wind dispersed seed
Cotoneaster species	<i>Cotoneaster spp</i>	Very high	Very high	Seed dispersed widely by birds
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	High	High along waterways and in parks	Spread by birds
Montbretia	<i>Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	High	High	
Artichoke thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	High	High	
Couch grass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	High	Low; high in planting beds or adjacent to indigenous grassy understorey	
Tagasaste or tree lucerne	<i>Cytissus palmensis</i>	High	High	
English broom	<i>Cytissus scoparius</i>	High	High	
Cape ivy	<i>Delaira odorata</i>	High	High	
Paterson's curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Very high	Very high	
Tree heath	<i>Erica arborea</i>	High	Very high	Not to be confused with the native heaths

Common Name	Scientific Name	Invasiveness in Moreland	Priority for removal in Moreland	Notes
Spanish heath	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	High	High	
Sugar gum	<i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i>	Low	Low	
Spotted gum	<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>	Moderate	Moderate in conservation areas	
Tall fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Moderate–high	High in or near areas with grassy understorey	Do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	High	High	
Flowering ash	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Potentially high	Moderate	
Desert ash	<i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i> <i>or rotundifolia</i>	Very high	Very high	Can be replaced by sterile cultivars in heritage areas
Flax-leaved broom	<i>Genista linifolia</i>	Very high	Very high	
Montpellier broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Very high	Very high	
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	High	High; very high adjacent to conservation areas	
Two-leaf cape tulip	<i>Homeria miniata</i>	Very high	Very high	Rare in Moreland
Yellow water iris	<i>Iris pseudoacorus</i>	High	High along waterways	Not known in Moreland yet
Shasta daisy	<i>Leucanthemum maximum</i>	Low	Moderate along waterways	
Ox-eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Low	Moderate along waterways	
Large-leaved privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Very high	Very high	Seed dispersed widely by birds
Chinese privet	<i>Ligustrum sinensis</i>	High	High	Seed dispersed widely by birds
European privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Moderate–high	Moderate	Seed dispersed widely by birds
Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Moderate–high	High in or adjacent to indigenous grassy understorey	Do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	High	High; very high adjacent to conservation areas	
Himalayan honeysuckle	<i>Lycesteria formosa</i>	High	High	
African boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Moderate	Moderate	
Giant honey myrtle	<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i>	Low	Low	
Bridal creeper	<i>Myrsiphyllum asparagoides</i>	High	Very high	
Myrsiphyllum	<i>Myrsiphyllum scandens</i>	High	Very high	
Chilean eedle-grass	<i>Nasella neesiana</i>	Very high	High; very high near native grasslands	Spread on mowing equipment
Serrated tussock	<i>Nasella trichotoma</i>	Very high	Very high throughout the municipality	Spread on mowing equipment
Olive	<i>Olea europea</i>	Moderate	Low, except where spread is evident	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Invasiveness in Moreland	Priority for removal in Moreland	Notes
Prickly pear	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	Moderate	High	
Soursob	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	High	Low	High priority where understorey plantings present or planned Avoid spreading contaminated soils
Cape wattle	<i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i>	Moderate-high	High in or near conservation areas	
Banana passionfruit	<i>Passiflora mollissima</i>	High	High near conservation areas	
Swamp foxtail grass	<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	Very high	High	Do not use in ornamental plantings
Kikuyu	<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	High	High near conservation areas	Spread in contaminated soil and by growth of runners; do not use near conservation areas
African feather grass	<i>Pennisetum macrourum</i>	Very high	High	Do not use in ornamental plantings
Canary Island date palm	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	High but usually less than 100m	High along waterways or adjacent to conservation areas	Seed spread by birds
Monterey pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Low	Low except where spread is evident	
Sweet pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	High	Moderate; high near conservation areas	Spread by birds
Plane tree	<i>Platanus hybrida</i>	Low	Low	
Winter grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	High	Moderate in areas with grassy understorey	Do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
Myrtle-leaf milkwort	<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	High	High	Not yet a problem in Moreland
White poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>	Moderate along waterways	Moderate	Spreads by suckering from parent plant.
Lombardy poplar	<i>Populus nigra var italica</i>	Low	Low; moderate in conservation areas	
Cherry-plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Very high	High	Most modern plum cultivars are less likely to spread.
Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Very high	High along waterways	
Orange firethorn	<i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i>	Moderate	Moderate	Spread by birds
Nepal firethorn	<i>Pyracantha crenulata</i>	Moderate	Moderate	Spread by birds
Black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Moderate	Moderate; high along waterways	Thought to be spread by water
Briar rose	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Moderate	Moderate-high	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Invasiveness in Moreland	Priority for removal in Moreland	Notes
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Moderate	Moderate-high	
Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>	High along waterways	High along waterways.	Spread by stem fragments
Weeping willow	<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Moderate along waterways	Low; moderate along waterways	
Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	High along waterways	High along waterways	Spread by stem fragments
Basket willow	<i>Salix fragillis</i>	High along waterways	High along waterways	Spread by stem fragments and seed
Willow	<i>Salix X rubens</i>	High along waterways	High along waterways	Spread by stem fragments
Pepper or peppercorn tree	<i>Schinus molle</i>	Low	Low; moderate in conservation areas	
Madeira winter cherry	<i>Solanum pseudocapsicum</i>	High	High especially along waterways	
Spear grass	<i>Nassella hyalina</i>	High	High	
Spear grass	<i>Nassella leucotricha</i>	High	High	
Acnantherum	<i>Acnantherum caudtum</i>	High	High	
Tradescantia	<i>Tradescantia albiflora</i>	High	High; very high near waterways	
Strawberry clover	<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Moderate	Low; moderate along waterways	Do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Moderate	Low	Do not use in seed mixes adjacent to conservation areas
Other clovers	<i>Trifolium spp</i>	Low-high	Low; high in or adjacent to indigenous grassy understorey	
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Moderate	High adjacent to waterways	
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	High	Moderate-high	
Dutch elm	<i>Ulmus X hollandica</i>	High along waterways	High along waterways	Windblown and waterborne seed
Blue periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>	High	Moderate; high along waterways	
Common violet	<i>Viola odorata</i>	High	Low; high along waterways	
Bulbil watsonia	<i>Watsonia meriana</i> 'bulbilifera'	Very high	Very high	
White arum lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Low-moderate	Low; moderate along waterways	

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