

## 22.12 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTION

This policy applies to all applications for development or subdivision of land.

### 22.12-1 Policy Basis

As an established inner urban municipality, the City of Yarra is experiencing significant change and growth. The analysis of the distribution of public open space in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 has identified there are areas of the City where the community does not have any open space within easy walking distance of where they live or work. The Strategy has identified and prioritised a series of new open spaces, with priority given to locations where higher levels of growth is forecast to occur. The need for the proposed additional open spaces is based on a range of factors including:

- Areas where the existing open space is experiencing high levels of use or over- use. This includes providing new open space to take the pressure off existing spaces to meet everyone's needs.
- Where there is a gap in the provision of any open space.
- Medium and high density precincts where the substantial change is forecast and the new community will create a need for additional open space.
- In medium and high density precincts where the provision of well distributed green public open space will assist to mitigate urban heat island effect.

The forecast development over the next 15 years is significant with a 40 per cent increase in the resident population and a 47 per cent increase in the worker population. This means there will be more people visiting and using open space, thereby increasing demand on the existing space and facilities. The extent of forecast growth changes across different parts of the City. Less than 10 per cent growth is forecast in Princes Hill-Carlton North, compared to 106 percent in Cremorne-Richmond South-Burnley and 214 per cent in Fairfield-Alphington. The locations for where forecast residential growth will occur is based on the *Yarra Housing Strategy 2018*. The forecast employment growth and change is based on the *Yarra Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy 2018*.

85 per cent of Yarra's population live in medium and high density dwellings compared to 33 per cent in Greater Melbourne. This means that residents have less private open space available to them which increases their reliance on public open space. Typically this adds to the amount of people using public open space and increases the diversity of reasons why they use it.

Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.

As urban densities increase in the future this Strategy has identified opportunities to increase the local open space network to support and sustainably meet the open space needs of the existing and future community.

Public open space contributions from developers are one of a number of potential sources of resources for the acquisition of land for public open space and improvement of existing facilities. Because public open space contributions can only be imposed at the subdivision stage, it is

important for developers to ascertain at the site analysis stage of the design process whether any part of the site might be required for public open space purposes where the site

- is in an area where a land contribution is preferred under Location in clause 22.12-3 or on Map1.
- fits the Selection criteria for public open space in clause 22.12-3.

This will ensure that public open space requirements are identified and allowed for at the earliest possible time.

### **22.12-2 Objectives**

- To fund a fair proportion of the open space projects contained in the Strategy that will meet the needs of the forecast residential commercial and business population.
- To expanded open space network to accommodate the growth in population predominantly in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality.
- To enable improvements to existing open space and provide new open space on behalf of the forecast population.

### **22.12-3 Strategies**

Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce.

Land contributions for public open space will be preferred over cash contributions in the following areas shown in the Open Space Contributions Plan to this clause.

- Abbotsford C and D
- Central Richmond A and B
- Collingwood A, B, C and D
- Cremorne
- Fitzroy A, B, C and D
- Fitzroy North A and B
- Richmond North A, B and C

In all other areas of the municipality, a cash contribution equal to the amount specified in Clause 53.01 is required.

In locations where a preference for a land contribution has been identified, set aside land for public open space early in the planning of a development or subdivision.

Design buildings adjacent to any public open space set aside under this clause to facilitate high quality and accessible public open space

### **22.12-4 Policy Guidelines**

Consider as relevant:

- The suitability of land to be contributed as public open space at the time of the subdivision of the land or building, will meet the following selection criteria:

Land to be contributed:

- Should have an area of about 300 square metres and a minimum width of 20 metres or be able to meaningfully contribute to the assembly of a parcel of land of these dimensions or larger.
- Should be of a shape and size that will be adequate for the proposed use, having regard to the nature of public open space in an inner-city environment or be able to meaningfully contribute to the assembly of a parcel of land with these attributes.
- Should be free of structures and protrusions, such as balconies or other building projections that may encroach into the public open space reserve, except for historic buildings or structures relating to the designated public open space use.
- Should be located or be capable of being designed to provide a high degree of casual surveillance.
- The existing physical condition of the land is suitable for use as public open space including that there are no inherent issues such as contamination and significant financial or safety implications. This includes the land being open to the sky.
- Should contribute to the connectivity and accessibility of the open space network. This includes consideration of the other strategic planning projects including linear open space corridors, and local links to improve accessibility within the local street network and links and connections to improve accessibility into existing or proposed future open space.
- Should be free of services and easements that affects the development encumbrances and use of the land as open space. This includes roadways, overhead structures, underground structures (e.g. underground car parking), water supply, power supply, gas supply, telecommunications, flood mitigation and drainage.
- Must be accessible to people of all abilities.
- Should be visible from adjacent thoroughfares with at least two access points, local access streets to at least two sides and be provided on natural ground (not elevated or roofed structures).
- Should have no additional overshadowing between 9am and 2pm on June 21.
- Should be located away from major or secondary arterial roads.
- Whether any building on land adjacent to public open space set aside under this clause has been designed to accommodate public open space in a manner that meets the majority of the above selection criteria.

# Open Space Contribution Plan (Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 sub-precincts)

