

Yarra Open Space Strategy

Prepared for the City of Yarra by:



Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd
in association with
Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd

DECEMBER 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABBREVIATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Overview	1
1.1.1	Yarra's open space network	1
1.1.2	Definition of public open space in Yarra	1
1.1.3	The role of public open space in Yarra	2
1.1.4	The Yarra community and open space	3
1.1.5	How Yarra's open space compares with adjoining inner urban municipalities	3
1.2	Purpose of the Strategy	4
1.3	Research undertaken to inform the Strategy direction and recommendations	5
1.3.1	Document-based research	5
1.3.2	Consultation	5
1.3.3	Site assessment	5
1.3.4	Outcomes from the research	5
1.4	Study team	6
1.5	Project methodology	6
2.0	VISION AND PRINCIPLES	9
2.1	Vision	9
2.2	Principles	9
2.3	How the Strategy meets the Principles	10
3.0	EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND INFLUENCES	13
3.1	Relationship of key Council documents to the Strategy	13
3.2	Summary of relevant key strategies	13
3.2.1	Planning documents	13
3.2.2	Other Council documents	18
3.3	Physical and built character of Yarra	19
3.3.1	Topography and geology	19
3.3.2	Overall natural landscape character	19
3.3.3	Yarra River	21
3.3.4	Merri Creek	22
3.3.5	Darebin Creek	23
3.3.6	Urban character	26

3.3.7	Cultural heritage values	26
3.4	Social and economic character	29
3.4.1	Community profile	29
3.4.2	Recent trends in residential development	29
3.5	The open space network	30
3.5.1	Distribution of open space	30
3.5.2	Standards for open space provision in Yarra	31
3.5.3	Summary gap analysis of existing open space network	32
3.5.4	Summary of the existing open space reserves and their use	35
3.5.5	Links between open space reserves	38
3.5.6	Open space in adjoining municipalities	38
3.5.7	Classification of open space	39
3.6	Community use of open space	43
3.6.1	Summary of consultation process	43
3.6.2	Household survey	43
3.6.3	Comparative business/resident questionnaire	46
3.6.4	Workshops	46
3.6.5	Consultation with young people	47
3.6.6	Consultation with Homeless people	47
3.7	Conclusion of consultation outcomes	48
3.7.1	Key values of open space in Yarra	48
3.7.2	Key issues for open space in Yarra	48
4.0	KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED	50
4.1	Inequity in open space distribution and access	50
4.1.1	Distribution of open space	50
4.1.2	Access	51
4.2	Gaps in the existing open space network	55
4.2.1	Collingwood	55
4.2.2	Richmond	55
4.2.3	Cremorne	56
4.2.4	Gaps in public open space along waterway corridors	57
4.3	Open space in adjoining municipalities and regional open space	57
4.3.1	Open space in adjoining municipalities	57
4.3.2	Regional open space in Yarra	58
4.4	Provision, use and management of Local and Small Local open space	60
4.5	Future development and change in land use	61
4.5.1	Strategic directions for residential growth	61
4.5.2	Conversion of business/industrial use to residential	64
4.6	Diversity of needs	65
4.7	Balancing recreation and leisure use of open space	66
4.7.1	Organised sporting needs	66
4.7.2	Recreation activities	67
4.8	Environmental sustainability	69
4.8.1	Ecological corridor links	69
4.8.2	Management and maintenance practices in open space	71
4.8.3	Mode of transport used to reach open space	72

4.9	Cultural heritage values	72
4.10	Open space funding	73
4.10.1	Open space contributions	73
4.10.2	Council funding	76
4.10.3	External funding	77
4.11	Inadequacies and challenges in the planning system	77
4.11.1	Planning scheme amendment to implement the Strategy	77
4.11.2	Public acquisition overlays	78
5.0	OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS	79
	Overview	79
5.1	Establishing a cohesive and linked municipal open space network	80
5.1.1	Classification and use and facility provision for open space reserves	80
5.1.2	Provision of additional open space	81
5.1.3	Links to and between open space reserves	83
5.1.4	Environmental links	85
5.2	Upgrade of existing and development of new open space reserves	87
5.2.1	Access to open space	87
5.2.2	Major built infrastructure in open space	90
5.2.3	Minor infrastructure in open space	93
5.2.4	Environmental sustainability	96
5.2.5	Dog owners	102
5.2.6	Cultural heritage values	103
5.2.7	Community festivals and events in open space	103
5.2.8	Commercial events and use of open space	104
5.2.9	Design of open space reserves	105
5.2.10	Liaison with other open space management agencies	108
5.2.11	Maintenance	109
5.2.12	Interface between development and open space	110
5.2.13	Council planning	111
5.3	Open space contributions to meet future residents' needs	113
5.3.1	Open space contributions system	113
5.3.2	Decision guidelines for open space contributions - land and facility design	116
6.0	PRECINCT RECOMMENDATIONS	118
	Overview	118
6.1	Princes Hill and North Carlton Precinct 3054	119
6.1.1	Summary of precinct open space network	119
6.1.2	Summary of existing open space	119
6.1.3	Summary analysis of findings	120
6.1.4	Summary precinct recommendations	121
6.2	North Fitzroy and Clifton Hill Precinct 3068	124
6.2.1	Summary of precinct open space network	124
6.2.2	Summary of existing open space	125
6.2.3	Summary analysis of findings	126
6.2.4	Summary precinct recommendations	128
6.3	Fairfield and Alphington Precinct 3078	134
6.3.1	Summary of precinct open space network	134
6.3.2	Summary of existing open space	134
6.3.3	Summary analysis of findings	135
6.3.4	Summary precinct recommendations	136
6.4	Fitzroy Precinct 3065	139
6.4.1	Summary of precinct open space network	139
6.4.2	Summary of existing open space	139

6.4.3	Summary analysis of findings	140
6.4.4	Summary precinct recommendations	141
6.5	Collingwood Precinct 3066	145
6.5.1	Summary of precinct open space network	145
6.5.2	Summary of existing open space	145
6.5.3	Summary analysis of findings	146
6.5.4	Summary precinct recommendations	147
6.6	Abbotsford Precinct 3067	151
6.6.1	Summary of precinct open space network	151
6.6.2	Summary of existing open space	151
6.6.3	Summary analysis of findings	152
6.6.4	Summary precinct recommendations	153
6.7	Richmond, Burnley and Cremorne Precinct 3121	157
6.7.1	Summary of precinct open space network	157
6.7.2	Summary of existing open space	157
6.7.3	Summary analysis of findings	159
6.7.4	Summary precinct recommendations	163
7.0	IMPLEMENTATION	171
7.1	Responsibilities	171
7.2	Priorities	173
BIBLIOGRAPHY		175

APPENDICES

A	City-wide summary of household survey outcomes
B	Precinct summary of household survey outcomes
C	Yarra Planning Scheme - extracts
D	Summary report of community consultation on the Draft Yarra Open Space Strategy

INDEX OF PLANS

OVERALL CITY-WIDE PLANS

YOSS 01	Existing open space distribution	7
YOSS 02	Precinct Boundaries	8
YOSS 03	Waterways and environmental links	25
YOSS 04	Gap Analysis of Existing Open Space Network	34
YOSS 05	Management of Yarra's open space	42
YOSS 06	Streetscape links between open space	54

PRECINCT PLANS

YOSS 07	North Carlton and Princes Hill	123
YOSS 08a	North Fitzroy	132
YOSS 08b	Clifton Hill	133
YOSS 09	Alphington and Fairfield	138

YOSS 10	Fitzroy	144
YOSS 11	Collingwood	150
YOSS 12	Abbotsford	156
YOSS 13a	Richmond West	168
YOSS 13b	Richmond East	169
YOSS 13c	Cremorne and Burnley	170

INDEX OF TABLES

Table 1	Comparative summary of open space in inner urban municipalities	3
Table 2	Quantity of existing open space by postcode	31
Table 3	Standards adopted in this strategy for open space and distance from residents	32
Table 4	Use classification of open space in Yarra	40
Table 5	Character classification of open space in Yarra	40
Table 6	Future dwelling construction from major redevelopment sites - Inner Region - Source Urban Development Program 2004 Report (DSE)	62
Table 7	Priority timeframes	79
Table 8	Facility provision of new open space	80
Table 9	Criteria for the provision of new open space	82
Table 10	Precincts where land contributions will be sought where the specified criteria can be met	114
Table 11	Council units responsibilities for implementing the open space strategy	171

INDEX OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Extract from Urban Development Program 2004 - Illustrating Major Development Sites	62
Figure 2	Areas of anticipated residential growth on a precinct basis	64
Figure 3	Open space contributions type required to meet future open space needs	115
Figure 4	Corporate division responsibilities for implementing the Open Space Strategy	171

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Welcome to the City of Yarra. Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Community as the first owners of this Country. Today, they are still the custodians of the cultural heritage of this land. Further to this, Council acknowledges there are other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have lived, worked and contributed to the cultural heritage of Yarra.

The study team would like to thank the members of the Steering Committee, other Council officers and the Open Space Planning team for their input to and comment on the Strategy. The team would also like to thank the Yarra community for all their input via the household survey and Community Advisory Committee representatives who attended the workshops.

Steering Committee

Geoff Ovens, Manager Environmental Services
Mark Dornau, Coordinator Open Space and Recreation
Fiona O'Byrne, Landscape Architect
Robyn Hellman, Senior Strategic Planner
Tracey Watson, Senior Strategic Planner (to mid-2005)
Sue McGill, Recreation Officer (to mid 2004)
Silvana Predebon, Environment Officer
Andrew Robertson, Streetscape Officer (to mid-2004)
John Blake, Open Space Planner

Council officers and organisations with a specific role in consultation with young people and the homeless:

Fiona O'Byrne, Landscape Architect, City of Yarra
Sherrie Bruinhout, Community Planner, Housing and Advocacy (to Sept-04)
Homeless People's Association
Anne Gosley, Kenny McCracket and Charlie Swainson who conducted surveys with the homeless
Homeless people who participated in the survey

Council officers who have attended workshops and meetings to assist with the Strategy:

Daimon Jenkins, Capital Works Program Officer, City of Yarra
Christina McRae, Statutory Planner, City of Yarra
Helen Baker, Arts and Cultural Development Officer, City of Yarra (to mid-2004)
Susie Wickes, Arts and Cultural Development Officer, City of Yarra
Donna Stergiopoulos, Community Amenities Officer (Animals), City of Yarra
Sue Hunt, Heritage Officer, City of Yarra
Phillip Price, Manager, Spotless Services

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Cr Jackie Fristacky, Councillor
Cr Judy Morton, Councillor
Cr Greg Barber, Councillor (to Oct 2004)
Cr Li Lai, Councillor (to Oct 2004)
Fred Allen, Planning CAC
Geoff Browne, Environment CAC
Julian Bull, Environment CAC
Ruth Clemens, Environment CAC
John Cox, Environment CAC
Gerard Healey, Environment CAC
James Kilby, Environment CAC
Kate McKean, Environment CAC
Shane Power, Environment CAC
Amanda Stone, Environment CAC
Nick Williams, Environment CAC
Mary Kenneally, Environment CAC

ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Banyule	Banyule City Council
BCC	Boroondara City Council
CAC	Community Advisory Committee
CAD	Central Activity District
CBD	Central Business District
DCC	Darebin City Council
DCMC	Darebin Creek Management Committee
DDO	Design and Development Overlay (Yarra Planning Scheme)
DHS	Office of Housing
DOE	Department of Education
DSE	Department of Sustainability and Environment
ESO	Environmental Significance Overlay (Yarra Planning Scheme)
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Class or Community
MCC	Moreland City Council
MCMC	Merri Creek Management Committee
MSS	Municipal Strategic Statement (Yarra Planning Scheme)
MW	Melbourne Water
PAO	Public Acquisition Overlay (Yarra Planning Scheme)
PCRZ	Public Conservation and Resource Zone (Yarra Planning Scheme)
PPRZ	Public Park and Recreation Zone (Yarra Planning Scheme)
PUZ	Public Use Zone (Yarra Planning Scheme)
PV	Parks Victoria
SCC	Stonnington City Council
SUZ	Special Use Zone (Yarra Planning Scheme)
UK	United Kingdom
VCAT	Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
VicTrack	Victorian Rail Track (A Government Business Enterprise)
YCC	Yarra City Council
YOSS	Yarra Open Space Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ROLE OF THE YARRA OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

The Yarra Open Space Strategy guides the future provision, planning, design and management of public land reserved for recreation and nature conservation purposes – the parks, gardens and other reserves that make up Yarra's open space network (referred to in the Strategy as open space). It provides a comprehensive review of the current public open space network and a strategic basis for Council's future open space program.

The aim is to assist Council to deliver over the next 10 years a cohesive, linked and well-managed system of open space to meet a full range of resident needs. The Strategy presents a 'whole of Council' approach to public open space and will require an integrated implementation program.

RELATIONSHIP OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE TO ANCILLARY AND PRIVATE OPEN SPACE

For the purposes of this Strategy public open space includes all publicly owned land that is set aside and managed exclusively for leisure, recreation and nature conservation. Ancillary open space is other public land which is used by the public for leisure and recreational pursuits, but has another primary purpose.

The interplay of public and private landscaping can add greatly to the sense of enjoyment of the City. The Strategy acknowledges and supports the work of the City of Yarra to address diverse public and private land issues that improve the function and amenity of the City and its open space. This work includes other Council issue-based Strategies, the Council Plan, Yarra Planning Scheme, Structure Plans, Urban Design Frameworks and streetscape works. Streets particularly are an important part of the open space network, and it is recognised that whilst their primary purpose is their transport function, high importance is placed on secondary purposes, such as supporting reclamation of all or part of roads for non-vehicle activities. In some areas roads provide the only opportunity to create open space and if this occurs they would become part of the formal open space network.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COUNCIL PLANS

The Yarra Open Space Strategy has been informed by, and informs, a range of other Council plans. The Strategy sits beneath the higher-level strategies of Council including the Council Vision, Council Plan, Municipal Strategic Statement and Municipal Public Health Plan.

There is a diverse range of other strategies and policies across Council that are relevant to the Open Space Strategy. Some of the key strategies and plans include the Yarra Planning Scheme, Inner Regional Housing Statement, Open Space Asset Management Plan, Recreation Strategy Plan, Aboriginal Partnerships Plan and the Yarra Environment Strategy. It is expected that as a higher-level strategy, the Open Space Strategy will inform future Council plans.

SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

The work undertaken to complete the Strategy includes the following actions:

- ❑ Completing an assessment of the location, size, character and condition of all parks, gardens and reserves in the City managed by Council.
- ❑ Determining the existing levels of use and identifying informal recreation needs that are not currently being met in existing open space, through community surveys and discussions with special interest groups and Council staff.
- ❑ Analysing the existing open space network to classify the open space reserves.
- ❑ Identifying current gaps in open space provision and where walking and cycling links to open space can be improved.
- ❑ Analysing projected future residential growth and how this will influence future open space needs.
- ❑ Identifying where new open space will be required, both as a result of the 'gap analysis' and to serve future residents.
- ❑ Identifying changes to existing open space reserves to better meet the existing and future open space needs of the community.
- ❑ Determining an appropriate open space contribution program for new development.

COUNCIL'S VISION FOR YARRA'S OPEN SPACE

Yarra's waterways, inner city location, diverse social mix and heritage character all contribute to a unique landscape. Council seeks to respond to this landscape through the establishment of a quality open space system that meets the recreational and environmental needs of the local community and enhances cultural, social and ecological values. This will be delivered in a sustainable management framework so that the long-term economic, cultural and environmental viability of Yarra's open space network is protected and enhanced for current and future generations.

KEY ISSUES INFLUENCING STRATEGY OUTCOMES

A number of key issues and themes emerged from the background research. These have been major influences on Strategy outcomes.

Issue	Description
Understanding the existing open space network	Effective open space planning requires a municipal, neighbourhood and sub-neighbourhood approach. Whilst the Strategy considers the public open space network as a whole, it also analyses and makes recommendations at a finer grain. The Strategy adopts seven open space precincts which are generally consistent with Council's neighbourhood planning units. The precincts are then divided into smaller sub-precincts that are defined by major roads and other physical features
Gaps in the open space network	The 'gap analysis' of the open space network highlights this issue, particularly in areas where there is limited land area available for the creation of new open space. This includes locations where residents need to travel further than 400 metres to even a Small Local open space reserve. Although space to create larger parks is limited, opportunities are identified in the Strategy to create public open space reserves within neighbourhoods, subject to meeting minimum criteria for acquisition, and to improve access to existing open space.
Inequity in open space distribution	There is a clear inequity in open space distribution across the City, with the majority of larger parks located in the northern part of the City whilst the larger proportion of residents live in the south.

Issue	Description
Proximity of open space to residents	Resident surveys indicated that satisfaction with public open space is linked to proximity to open space and the condition of that open space. Demand for accessible and usable open space where it does not presently exist was a consistent response, with some residents offering suggestions through words and drawings for how new open space can be provided.
Diversity of need	Public open space must meet the diverse needs of Yarra's residents and in many cases this open space is in short supply. A more strategic approach to open space planning can ensure that needs are met within the system as a whole, so that each park, garden and reserve plays its part well. The Strategy's classification of reserves by function and character is the main basis for achieving this.
Small Local open space	Provision and management of Small Local open space in a useable and meaningful way is increasingly important, particularly as this is the only type of open space in some areas of the City. The Strategy provides guidance on their future provision and design as a linked network of small spaces with a distinct role for each in this network
Green space	The surveys identified emerging trends in use of public open space, including the greater value placed on green areas that provide a break in the urban form. There were requests for new small local parks in areas without open space as a realistic way to achieve more green space in the city. These parks as seen as an important part of the future open space network.
Yarra River	The Yarra River corridor is a key environmental and open space asset for the City. Resident surveys confirmed the reserves along the Yarra River are well used and highly valued. Stronger emphasis on improvement of safety, access and environmental values is needed.
Gaps in the linear open space corridors along the Yarra River	A continuous open space corridor on both sides of the Yarra River would be desirable, but the expense and difficulty in achieving this in the short to medium-term is recognised. Coordination with urban planning is seen as a key to resolving this issue.
Nature conservation values	Nature conservation values are being compromised by recreational use of open space, primarily due to the lack of adequate space and integrated design. The Strategy supports improved integrated design in these areas and increased development setback from waterway corridors to resolve these conflicts.
Open space use	The surveys show no substantial difference in the level of public open space demand (use of parks, gardens and other reserves) in different parts of the City or between population groups and dwelling types. This confirms that even as the population changes, open space planning will continue to be a highly regarded and important function of Council.
Conversion of industrial/mixed use to residential use	There is significant residential redevelopment and use conversion occurring on redundant commercial and industrial land. Some level of increased residential development is also anticipated at different rates in other parts of the City. Redevelopment is increasing the population and this trend is expected to continue. Population change creates demand for new open space, often in areas where there are already gaps in the open space network, as well as improvements to existing reserves. These factors have been added when considering changes to the open space network.
Open space development contributions	Future residential populations should contribute fairly to public open space. Resident surveys indicated concern about increasing use of open space reserves as the population increases. The Strategy includes an open space contributions program, with a proposed mandatory contribution, so that future residential needs are fairly funded by development. This is an opportunity to place the contributions program on a more strategic footing so that some of the funds needed to implement the Strategy are identified in advance. The land acquisition and capital works to be funded by contributions are tagged in the Strategy.
Business workers use of open space	Worker surveys indicate that use of public open space is incidental to daily activities, workers do not place a high demand on open space, and open space planning and budgets do not cater to their needs. Council is in a position to fully recover open space contributions when land is converted to residential use.

Issue	Description
Development adjoining open space	When new development occurs adjoining public open space, greater care should be taken to ensure that the development does not overwhelm the space and that shadowing, solar access and other potential impacts are taken into account. The Strategy provides guidance on the development analysis that should be undertaken in these situations.
Conflicts between different recreational needs in open space	There are competing demands for public open space between different users including: between pedestrians and cyclists on the shared trails; between dog walkers and other recreational uses in the reserves; between organised sporting use and informal recreational use; and between different types of Council facilities. These competing demands can be managed through new policies and guidelines.
Regional and adjoining open space	Some of the larger open space reserves in the City are managed by regional agencies and Yarra's residents use regional or city parks in adjoining municipalities. Continued coordination with Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and the Cities of Melbourne, Darebin, Moreland, Stonnington and Boroondara provides mutual benefits.
Relationship of this Strategy to streets and urban spaces	The Strategy recognises the use of streets for walking and cycling and whilst their transport function and design is guided by other areas of Council, this Strategy identifies priority streetscape links between open space reserves. These priority streetscape links will be assessed and upgraded to improve accessibility, amenity and where appropriate, environment links between key areas of open space. The priority, budgets and design of these upgrades will be implemented by the Urban Planning and Infrastructure areas of Council. Similarly, the urban spaces located with commercial streetscapes are recognised as being areas the community use as outdoor meeting and resting places. Given their location in commercial streetscapes their design and use is guided by the Urban Planning and Infrastructure area of Council.

KEY OUTCOMES

The key Strategy outcomes can be grouped into three main directions for the City's public open space network:

1. Establish a cohesive and linked municipal open space network

- Provide additional open space reserves to address gaps in the existing network, implementing both short-term options for smaller open space and continuing to seek larger parcels of land if they become available. New reserves are needed for both existing and future populations.
- Improve the walking and cycling links between open space reserves, including additional access points into linear trail systems and improvements to on-street pedestrian and cycle access and amenity.
- Council to continue to seek a continuous open space corridor along the Yarra River within the scope of achieving a long-term objective.

2. Upgrade existing and develop new open space reserves

- Implement a prioritised program of park upgrade works (refer to Section 6 for details) which incorporates recent park masterplans and identifies where new design plans are required.
- Consult with the community during the design of parks to provide for a diversity of needs and thereby improve accessibility and use for all.
- When new infrastructure and facilities are required in open space, ensure designs take into account environmental sustainability, longevity, accessibility, safety, multiple use (where appropriate) and diversity of needs.
- Protect and improve environmental values of nature conservation reserves along the waterway and linear open space corridors. Prepare vegetation management plans for the waterway corridors and guidelines to protect environmental values from adjoining development along the waterway corridors.

- Recognise the environmental values of the waterway corridors by rezoning the land, where appropriate, to Public Conservation Resource Zone rather than Public Park Recreation Zone, and appropriately zone any new open space reserves.
- Prepare conservation plans prior to masterplans for major reserves in the City to protect and enhance cultural heritage values.
- Improve understanding and conservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage values in open space by preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Open Space Study, consistent with the recommendations from the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan.
- Retain the green open space values in reserves, using guidelines to assess proposed built infrastructure and buildings in open space, requiring they demonstrate how they contribute to the recreational use and nature conservation values of the open space prior to their approval.
- Ensure development adjoining open space demonstrates that it is compatible with the use of that open space.
- Prepare a dog strategy to comprehensively address issues associated with dog owners in open space reserves.
- Council to continue to liaise with other public land management agencies or their delegates to advocate for appropriate facilities in open space managed by other authorities.
- Improve ecologically sustainable practices in open space maintenance including low water use, recycled and sustainable material use, and plant selection.
- Encourage community festivals and events to be held in regional and city-wide parks and provide guidelines to assess commercial event use of open space.
- Evaluate potential new open space with the guidelines included in the Strategy to confirm its useability and role in the open space network prior to acquisition.
- Develop new open space in consultation with the community and consistent with the design guidelines included in the Strategy.

3. Open space contributions to meet future resident needs

- Levy future residential subdivision through a municipal-wide open space contribution, which is recommended for inclusion in the Yarra Planning Scheme at Clause 52.01. The levy to apply to residential land and buildings, the residential component of mixed use developments and a pro-rata share of common areas in mixed use development.
- Require open space contributions as a land contribution in Strategy precincts where this is identified as a priority for new residents, subject to the land meeting minimum guideline criteria, or alternatively as a cash contribution towards purchase of land.
- Require cash open space contributions in Strategy precincts where upgrade of open space reserves is identified as required for new residents.
- Accurately record the incoming open space contributions on a Strategy precinct basis to allow appropriate allocation of these funds towards provision of land and/or facilities to meet the needs of new residents.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Strategy has a prioritised schedule of recommendations and actions for Council to undertake. Capital works items will be included in Council's Open Space Asset Management Plan. Land acquisition will require further investigation and will in some cases occur as opportunities arise, subject to meeting acquisition guidelines.

The success of the Strategy will rely on contributions from all key areas of Council. Some of the actions will be led by other units in Council (other than the open space function) and some will be undertaken by external agencies. A regular annual meeting is proposed with an internal Council working group to review and assess the implementation of the Strategy. A major review is recommended at the midway, 5-year point and at the conclusion of the Strategy's 10-year planning period.

The Strategy's public open space recommendations, from the small local area to the neighbourhood level, have been costed in order to determine the appropriate open space contribution rate. This will allow Council to forward plan the capital works program, including setting aside of funds for purchase of new open space, in order to implement the recommendations in the Strategy.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 YARRA'S OPEN SPACE NETWORK

The City of Yarra is located immediately east of the City of Melbourne and covers an area of approximately 19.5 square kilometres (1,950 Ha). The Yarra River, Merri and Darebin Creeks form three of its boundaries to the south, east and north. The Merri Creek and Yarra River have adjoining linear open space reserves which are highly valued by residents of Yarra and wider metropolitan Melbourne for their recreational and nature conservation values. In contrast there are highly urbanised areas of the City with almost no open space including Collingwood, Cremorne and North Richmond. Yarra is renowned for the large historical gardens particularly Edinburgh and Darling Gardens located in North Fitzroy and Clifton Hill. The diverse open space character, use and distribution reflects the natural, urban, cultural and social makeup of Yarra. This diversity is a key influence in the Strategy along with trends in open space use and the changing demographics in some parts.

Yarra has a total of 235 hectares of open space that is useable and accessible, with an additional 75.4 hectares of open space that is available on a fee paying basis. More than 75% of the accessible open space is located in the north of Yarra where approximately 35% of the population lives and provides an excellent resource for the local community. In the southern parts of Yarra the remaining 25% of open space is available for 65% of the population. This leads to higher demands and pressures on the open space reserves in the southern part of Yarra.

The quality and diversity of open space for both recreational and natural values is critical to their collective value in the network. Some inherent inequities between the different neighbourhoods are to be addressed in the short and longer term. Yarra's "open space network" is a term used to collectively describe all the open space reserves and the links between them. Streets and railways form important transport routes and environmental links between public open space reserves and whilst an important component of the network they do not replace the need for open space reserves.

1.1.2 DEFINITION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN YARRA

For the purposes of this Open Space Strategy, public open space includes all publicly owned land that is set aside exclusively for the wider community and primarily used for outdoor recreation, passive outdoor enjoyment and nature conservation. Access may be restricted at certain or all times on a fee-paying basis. Open space is managed by local and State government agencies or its delegates. Throughout the Strategy public open space is referred to as "open space".

Other forms of public land such as schools are not included in this definition as their outdoor areas are primarily created for other purposes, e.g. to serve the recreational needs of students, and are not managed by the City of Yarra. Likewise streets and railway lines are managed firstly for their transport function and for other purposes, which may include walking, cycling and environmental links between open space. The City of Yarra places high importance on these secondary purposes, e.g. supporting reclamation of all or part of roads for non-vehicle activities. In some cases, roads provide the only opportunity to create open space and, if this occurs, then these spaces would become part of the formal open space network.

The interplay of public areas and private landscaping can add greatly to a sense of enjoyment of the City. However, private open space is not included in the Strategy specifically as the City of Yarra does not typically have ongoing management control over private land, and its wider community does not have physical access to this space. The Strategy acknowledges that maximising the social and natural benefits of the location and design of private open space is important, and this can be achieved through the planning system and community education. In this Strategy, private land is considered in respect of its adjoining influence and impacts on the quality of open space. Also, when private land is being redeveloped, the criteria included in this Strategy will apply to the future open space contribution as part of the redevelopment.

Similarly air space is not included in the Strategy as there are other planning mechanisms that can more effectively influence the retention of air space including building height controls, advertising signs and air quality monitoring controls.

The Strategy acknowledges and supports the work of the City of Yarra to address diverse public and private land issues that improve the function and amenity of the City, including through its many issue-based strategies, Council Plan, Yarra Planning Scheme, structure plans, urban design frameworks and streetscape works. This Strategy does not attempt to duplicate this work. This Strategy provides direction on the formal open space network and links between open space reserves while at the same time it seeks to ensure that it can be used together with other strategies and actions in a coordinated and integrated or complementary manner.

1.1.3 THE ROLE OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN YARRA

Public open space reserves have a unique role in the City and support the leisure and recreational activities that cannot be successfully accomplished on other public or private land. They provide gathering places for communities to come together to participate in sport and passive leisure pursuits and experience this form of social interaction in a different environment than the built urban form. Additionally public open space reserves provide for nature conservation which in Yarra is predominantly along the waterway corridors.

The term “open space” means different things to different people in Yarra. Open space can be perceived as parkland, playing fields, nature reserves, gardens, habitat, courtyards, forecourts, plazas, streets, footpaths, kerbside cafes, private gardens, trees and uninterrupted views of the horizon.

All of these elements can contribute to the use and enjoyment of public open space and our outdoor environment, but formal public open space has a more limited definition and role – it is public land set aside and managed exclusively for leisure, recreation and nature conservation. The recreation and leisure experiences and nature conservation values in the public open space can be greatly enhanced by complementary and adjoining uses and conversely, incompatible uses can impact on these values. This Strategy highlights some of the positive and negative adjoining impacts and makes recommendations to address these. Council will need to co-ordinate implementation of these recommendations with other mechanisms and strategies Council has in place and guide these adjoining influences.

From the earliest days of Melbourne’s settlement, the need to plan for and manage a municipal open space system has been recognised, from the work of early land surveyors through to the provisions of the Subdivision Act 1988 which required that 5% of land in our suburban subdivisions be set aside for publicly owned land dedicated to “resort and recreation”. Melbourne 2030 affirms the principle of the public open space system throughout the metropolitan area.

Today the challenge is to protect and enhance the public open space and the broader public open space network so that it continues to serve the needs of communities now and into the future.

1.1.4 THE YARRA COMMUNITY AND OPEN SPACE

This Strategy acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners and caretakers of this land which includes all of the City of Yarra.

Open space in Yarra is highly valued by residents as an important contrast to the pressures of inner city living. Residents express that the naturalness, escape from the urban hardscapes and noise is important to their sense of wellbeing.

There are some perceptions that Yarra's population all choose to live here because of its urban environment. In reality many residents of Yarra don't have a choice regarding where they live due to a range of issues including affordability, family and social needs, access to education and to the CBD as a major centre of employment. Not all of these households have the interest or the means to use theatres, cinemas, cafes, shopping, gyms and other forms of leisure and entertainment, all of which require adequate personal funds and mobility to participate. Instead they are highly dependent on public open space as a valued place to spend leisure time. Whilst Yarra can never achieve or attempt to be a leafy green suburb, provision of valuable open space within the urban fabric of the City in a complementary manner is a realistic goal. Highly urbanised cities across the world have highly valued systems of parks that contribute to liveability and the health and wellbeing of the community.

1.1.5 HOW YARRA'S OPEN SPACE COMPARES WITH ADJOINING INNER URBAN MUNICIPALITIES

Cities of Melbourne, Stonnington and Port Phillip have been used in this comparison. Below is a summary table of quantity of open space measured as a proportion of the total municipal area, and by head of residential population.

Table 1 *Comparative summary of open space in inner urban municipalities*

	City of Yarra (2001 census)	City of Stonnington (1996 census)	City of Port Phillip (1996 census)	City of Melbourne (2001 census)
Total area of municipality	1,950 Ha	2,150Ha	2,064 Ha	3,650 Ha
Total open space area	235.1 Ha	182 Ha	434.8 Ha	565 Ha
Total estimated population	68,800	84,300	71,000	57,200
% proportion of open space to total area of the municipality	12.2%	7.1%	20%	15.5%
Total area of open space per person	34.2m2	27m2	61m2	98.8m2

As can be seen in the table, there is significant variation between the four municipalities. The City of Melbourne is the largest municipality and has the smallest residential population of the four. The City of Melbourne does acknowledge they have a large daytime population with workers and visitors to the City.

The City of Yarra has more open space than Stonnington and less than Port Phillip. When the total figures are broken down on a precinct basis, neither of the other two Councils have the extreme lack of open space that Yarra has in its inner urban areas. In Stonnington Prahran is the most urban of its precincts and has approximately 7 square metres of open space per person. In Yarra, Collingwood

has 0.2 square metres of open space per person which is the least amount of open space available to residents in all three inner urban Councils. In Port Phillip the urban areas of St Kilda, South Melbourne and Albert Park all have large areas of regional open space nearby including Albert Park Lake and the foreshore.

Port Phillip faces similar issues associated with large regional parks located within its municipal boundaries including the foreshore and Albert Park. Stonnington faces similar issues of different needs in different neighbourhoods ranging from the more conventional garden style suburbs of Malvern and Chadstone to the highly urban neighbourhoods of Prahran. All four municipalities have been experiencing residential growth including in former industrial precincts. Whilst there is some inequity in distribution of open space in all municipalities, Yarra has the most variation in this. Residents of all municipalities use the open space reserves within their municipality boundary and in the adjoining municipalities.

1.2 Purpose of the strategy

This Strategy is to provide Yarra with a clear direction for the future planning, provision, design and management of public open space in the City. This includes:

- establish community needs
- establish the role, character and open space requirements of different elements of the open space network
- identify gaps in the existing open space network and recommendations for where additional open space reserves are required
- identify where additional open space reserves or improvements to existing reserves are required or will be required in the future to meet the needs of Yarra's new population
- establish guidelines for appropriate siting and provision of new open space to meet existing and future needs
- assess existing use and suitability of open space reserves and recommend changes, where required, to better meet the needs of the community
- define the role and character of each reserve to ensure they have complementary roles in the open space network to collectively meet the community's recreational, leisure and nature conservation needs
- provide direction for the ongoing provision, design and management of major and minor built infrastructure in open space
- provide direction for ecologically and economically sustainable management of public open space
- establish guidelines for private development that occurs adjoining open space
- identify where it is appropriate for Council to co-ordinate with adjoining municipalities and Parks Victoria to advocate for the open space needs of its community
- identify the implementation actions needed to successfully deliver the Strategy

In order to deliver the Strategy, Council will need to allocate adequate funding not only to future capital works but to an ongoing maintenance program. It will be necessary for Council to advocate and seek funding from external grants and agencies toward the management and improvement of the regional open space network in the City as people from all over Melbourne enjoy and use the linear reserve systems throughout Yarra. Additionally adequate funding will need to be sought from development in the City to support the future demands placed on the open space network.

1.3 Research undertaken to inform the strategy direction and recommendations

The Study team has undertaken document-based research, site assessment and consultation to define and understand the existing open space network, the issues associated with the use of public open space and the changing population distribution and demographics of Yarra. This has included the following:

1.3.1 DOCUMENT-BASED RESEARCH

- Existing Council open space and recreation documents/master plans
- Parks Victoria plans
- Melbourne 2030
- ABS Census data and Council population profile
- Urban Development Program 2003 Report
- Environment strategy
- Heritage citations
- Street Planting Precinct Masterplans
- Yarra Planning Scheme, current amendments, guidelines, etc.
- Other planning schemes treatment of open space
- Selected VCAT and Planning Panel cases
- Statutory options for levying open space contributions

1.3.2 CONSULTATION

- *Household survey* sent to all households (40,000) and 1,410 surveys returned, summarised and analysed. The main purpose of this survey was to find out what open space people use, what open space they don't use, what they value about it and general comments on future changes that should be made. The survey outcomes were collated on a postcode basis which informs the precinct analysis of open space.
- *Comparative business/household survey* of open space use to determine if there is a difference in open space use by occupants of business premises compared with residential premises. This survey was undertaken specifically for Yarra as a significant proportion of future development is conversion from industrial/business to residential use.
- *Steering Committee meetings and Council officer workshop* to gain a thorough understanding of other strategies being completed by the City and input from officers on their understanding of provision, use and management of open space. As part of this understanding, Council officers provided important information about changes in population that are occurring or will occur over the next 10-15 years in terms of housing development locations, densities, and numbers of new people and dwellings anticipated.
- *Community Advisory Committee workshops* to gain feedback from these groups on open space values and issues that need to be addressed in the Strategy.
- *Council officer consultation with young people and homeless* to broaden the consultation to groups that would not be included in the household survey.
- *Council officer consultation with Office of Housing tenants* was investigated, however, the Office of Housing were unable to assist with this consultation and this was not pursued during the research phase of the Strategy.

1.3.3 SITE ASSESSMENT

- Multiple site visits and analysis of existing open space
- Steering Committee field trip

1.3.4 OUTCOMES FROM THE RESEARCH

This thorough data collection has allowed the Strategy to draw conclusions regarding existing patterns of open space use. Understanding the patterns of use has clarified issues such as how far residents travel to use open space, which parks are well used, what are the issues that prevent or limit use of parks and what

are the changes that need to be made to better meet their needs. This information has informed the recommendations and their priorities to ensure future provision, quality and management of open space meets the needs of the existing and future planned residents of Yarra.

1.4 Study team

The Strategy has been prepared by Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd (TBLD) in association with Environment & Land Management (ELM). TBLD are a firm of Landscape Architects and ELM is a firm specialising in strategic and environmental planning.

1.5 Project methodology

The following is a brief outline of the project methodology used to prepare this Strategy.



INSERT YOSS 01

INSERT YOSS 02

2.0 VISION & PRINCIPLES

2.1 Vision

The following vision is for the future open space network in the City of Yarra:

Yarra's waterways, inner city location, diverse social mix and heritage character all contribute to a unique landscape. Council seeks to respond to this landscape through the establishment of a quality open space system that meets the recreational and environmental needs of the local community and enhances cultural, social and ecological values. This will be delivered in a sustainable management framework so that the long-term economic, cultural and environmental viability of Yarra's open space network is protected and enhanced for current and future generations.

2.2 Principles

2.2.1 The following principles guide future decisions regarding open space design, provision, management and maintenance. They are all of equal priority and listed in alphabetical order.

ACCESSIBLE

Provide open space that is connected and accessible for people of all ages and abilities and well served by a range of transport options.

ADAPTABLE

Design and manage open space to accommodate changing needs and uses.

DIVERSE

Reflect the natural, social, urban and cultural diversity of Yarra and meet the diverse range of organised and informal recreational needs in open space.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE

Enhance and link ecologically viable remnants and established urban bushland to improve biodiversity values, and manage open space wisely and efficiently in regards to water use, energy use and waste management practices.

EQUITABLE

Achieve an equitable balance of organised and informal recreational use, nature conservation and cultural heritage values, and overcome inherent inequitable distribution of open space across the City.

VALUING CULTURAL HERITAGE

Recognise, protect and enhance the indigenous and non-indigenous heritage values of the City's open space.

2.2.2 The following principles guide Council's method of implementing the Strategy to achieve the vision for open space.

INCLUSIVE

Foster consultation and decision making with the community and other stakeholders in planning for new and existing open space.

ADVOCATE

Protect and enhance Yarra's open space network by advocating to all levels of government and the broader community.

DEMONSTRATE

Demonstrate best practice management approach to meet the principles outlined in this Strategy.

2.3 How the Strategy meets the principles

2.3.1 Accessible

No.	Objective	Where this is addressed in the Strategy
2.3.1.1	Provide open space within 400 metres accessible walking distance of all residents in Yarra	- Section 5.1.2 – criteria for the provision of new open space - Section 6 – locations where new open space is required including Sections 6.2.4.1b, 6.4.4.1b, 6.5.4.1a - 6.4.5.1e, 6.6.4.1a, 6.6.4.1c, 6.6.4.1e - 6.6.4.1k - Section 5.1.3 – open space contributions
2.3.1.2	Improve the pedestrian and cycle access in streets which are popular access routes between open space, and complete the gaps in linear open space reserves	Section 5.1.3 – links to and between open space reserves
2.3.1.3	Upgrade infrastructure in existing reserves to improve their safety and diversity to cater for people of all-abilities and age groups	- Section 5.2.1.1 – all-ability access to open space - Section 5.2.3.2 – personal safety - Section 5.2.1.3 – diversity, type and condition of facilities
2.3.1.4	Adequately plan for future populations and provide adequate open space to meet their needs	- Section 5.3 – open space contributions to provide open space and facilities for new populations - Section 5.1.2 - guidelines for providing new open space for both existing and new populations - Section 6 - identifies new open space and facilities at the sub-precinct level.

2.3.2 Adaptable

No.	Objective	Where this is addressed in the Strategy
2.3.2.1	Incorporate adaptability and flexibility of use into open space upgrade and new open space and facility design	Section 5.2.2.1 – buildings and structures
2.3.2.2	Consult with the community during open space design to identify and respond to changing needs	Section 5.2.1.4 – upgrade or modify some existing reserves to better meet resident needs

2.3.3 Diverse

No.	Objective	Where this is addressed in the Strategy
2.3.3.1	Consult with the community during open space and facility design to identify and respond to diverse needs	Section 5.2.9.2 and Section 5.2.9.3 – consultation and open space design
2.3.3.2	Future open space and facility design to respond to the urban and natural landscape character of the area	- Section 5.2.1.3 – diversity, type and condition of facilities - Section 5.2.2.1 – guidelines on proposed buildings and structures - Section 5.2.3 – guidelines for new minor infrastructure (e.g. playgrounds, seats etc)

2.3.4 Environmentally sustainable

No.	Objective	Where this is addressed in the Strategy
2.3.4.1	Continue to protect and improve the diversity of indigenous vegetation values in open space reserves adjoining the waterways	- Section 5.2.4.1 – protection and improvement of indigenous vegetation along the waterway corridors - Section 5.2.4.3 – protection and enhancement of existing remnant flora values
2.3.4.2	Incorporate best practice principles in the ongoing management and design of open space including water use, energy use and waste management practices	- Section 5.2.4.4 – water use in open space - Section 5.2.4.5 – infrastructure material use and design - Section 5.2.4.6 – vegetation selection, maintenance and management
2.3.4.3	Increase the provision of indigenous vegetation in the linear open space reserves (additional to the waterway corridors) including the former Outer Circle Railway reserve and, where appropriate, along the railway corridors	- Section 5.2.4.2 – improving ecological values of other reserves - Section 5.2.4.3 – improving ecological values in the links between open space reserves
2.3.4.4	Manage open space that adjoins the waterway to protect and, where appropriate, improve native fauna habitat values	- Section 5.2.4.1 – protection and improvement of fauna values along waterways - Section 5.2.4.7 – fauna habitat values in open space reserves

2.3.5 Equitable

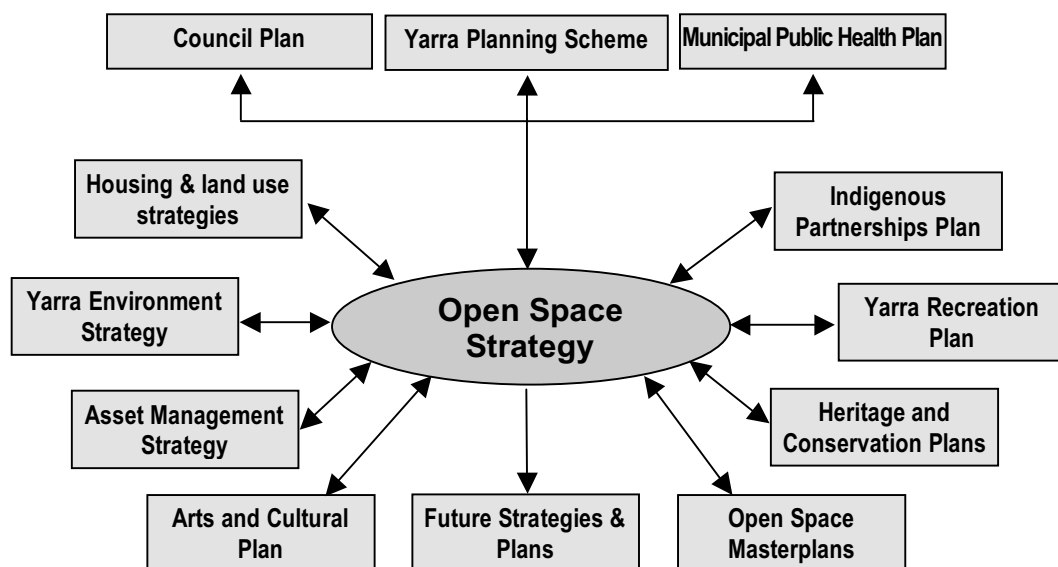
	Objective	Where this is addressed in the Strategy
2.3.5.1	Manage the competing recreational uses in open space to provide opportunities for the diverse community	- Section 5.2.2.2 – direction for shared trails, Section 5.2.2.3 – sporting infrastructure and Section 5.2.2.1 – buildings and structures in open space, particularly the multiple use and criteria for design to minimise impacts on other uses - Section 5.2.7 – community festivals and events and Section 5.2.8 – commercial events.
2.3.5.2	Protect and enhance both the environmental values and cultural heritage values in open space	- Section 5.2.4 – protect and improve environmental values. - Section 5.2.6 – protect and improve cultural heritage values
2.3.5.3	Improve access to open space in the City to overcome some inherent inequity in open space distribution across Yarra	- Section 5.1.2.1 – additional open space - Section 5.2.2.4 – design of new open space - Section 5.1.3.1 – address gaps in the linear trails - Section 5.1.3.2 – improve links between open space reserves - Section 5.2.1 – improve all-ability access, personal safety and diversity in the type of open space provided in the City

2.3.6 Valuing cultural heritage

	Objectives	Where they are addressed in the Strategy
2.3.6.1	Understand, protect and improve, where appropriate, both indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values	• Section 5.2.6 – protect and improve cultural heritage values • Section 6 – conservation plans that need to be prepared for individual reserves, and those reserves that have conservation plans that require implementation
2.3.6.2	Interpret, where appropriate, cultural heritage values in open space	• Section 5.2.9.4 – information and signage about open space

3.0 EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND INFLUENCES

3.1 Relationship of key Council documents to the Strategy



3.2 Summary of relevant key strategies

The following is a summary of key documents only that have either been referred to in preparation of this Strategy, or are identified as being key documents that will be concurrent with the implementation of the Strategy in the future. A range of additional documents, to those summarised below, have been referred to in the preparation of this Strategy and a complete list of all documents are included in the Bibliography.

3.2.1 PLANNING DOCUMENTS

3.2.1.1 MELBOURNE 2030

Planning for sustainable growth - Department of Infrastructure, October 2002

Melbourne 2030 supports sustainable increase in residential density in the City of Yarra in locations where this can be accommodated without compromising recognised heritage and local neighbourhood character values. Melbourne 2030 recognises the importance of public open space, specifically outlined in Policy 5.6, including maximising broad community access to open space, encourage community participation in planning and design of open space to maximise its relevance and use, allow for nature conservation and diversity of uses. Additionally the Policy supports the principle of providing public land adjacent to waterways to achieve strategic open space links.

3.2.1.2 COUNCIL PLAN 2004/08 City of Yarra 2005

This contains the 10 year Vision - Our Future 2010 and the following is a summary of key directions from this vision that can be addressed in the Open Space Strategy.

Environment

- The community has made the natural and urban environment a high priority.
- The vision includes clean air, a clean River, clean streets and increased pleasure in our great urban and natural heritage.

Community cohesion

- There is a strong desire for maintaining social and cultural diversity with many people nominating this is our greatest strength.

Sense of place

- Community prizes the heritage of its local neighbourhood but understands the pressures for change.
- Council intends to involve the community in the upgrade of their areas.

Transport and parking

- Increased investment in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
- Increased efficiency and frequency of public transport.

Participation, representation and sound management

- Engage in meaningful consultation and participation that will lead to a greater understanding of changing needs of the community.

Places to meet

- Whilst the City Plan includes shopping centres, open space can perform this role as well.

Health, wellbeing and safety

- Recognise inner city living creates some stress and we want a healthy and safe community.
- Provide facilities to promote healthy physical activity in sport and recreation.

3.2.1.3 YARRA PLANNING SCHEME – MUNICIPAL STRATEGIC STATEMENT (MSS)

The MSS describes the strategic framework for land use planning and development in Yarra. The strategic framework for the municipal open space system is found in Clause 21.05-5. Objectives for open space are consistent with the directions adopted for this Strategy. These include:

- Open space accessible to all residential neighbourhoods
- No net reduction in overall open space provision as an outcome of rationalisation / acquisition programs
- Maintenance of public access to open space resources with limited “exclusive” use by nominated groups
- A high proportion of open space assets which reflect the characteristics of “quality open space” (as defined in the strategies below)
- Increased relevance of open space resources to the identified needs of diverse local communities
- An increase in the proportion of open space assets categorised for nature conservation and informal recreational use
- Protection and enhancement of important historical, cultural, habitat and geological features associated with open space sites, and the development of related educational opportunities
- A development, management and maintenance regime for open space which fosters the distinct character and function of individual open space sites, and ensures high standards of presentation and public safety
- Public open space contributions from new development which address increases in demand and more intensive development of land

The MSS recognises that Yarra is already a densely built urban area, featuring small lots with little or no setback, and lacking adequate open space and street trees in most locations.

The MSS also recognises the need for an updated Open Space Strategy.

Clause 21.05-6 recognises the importance of the Yarra River corridor and contains the following objectives which are again consistent with the directions of this Strategy:

- To reinforce the City's waterways as conservation, recreation and tourism assets of metropolitan significance.
- To arrest the loss of biodiversity.
- To protect significant flora species and vegetation communities.
- To protect significant fauna and the habitat of significant fauna.
- To ensure a healthy aquatic ecosystem providing habitat for a diversity of indigenous stream life.
- To create a continuous riparian vegetation buffer along waterways providing for streamside habitat and stream bank stabilisation.
- To protect mature and healthy exotic species where they have cultural heritage value or are a valued part of the character of an area.
- To protect the natural drainage function of waterways.
- To encourage residents and businesses to play an active role in the maintenance of the City's natural heritage.
- To develop a regional recreation resource that provides for "eco-tourism" and "cultural tourism".
- To create a continuous shared trail network along the length of waterways.
- To protect and provide interpretation for places of cultural significance.
- To ensure that new development maintains and enhances the natural aesthetic and scenic qualities of the City's waterways.
- To encourage a range of land uses adjacent to waterways that minimise adverse environmental impacts, maximise enjoyment of the waterways and include public access to waterways.

The Council is undertaking its three-year review of the MSS and expects to revise the MSS in 2005. This will provide an opportunity to include relevant information from this Strategy.

3.2.1.4 YARRA PLANNING SCHEME – LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

The *Yarra River Corridor Urban Design Guidelines Local Planning Policy* requires land use and development adjacent to the river to respect the environmental qualities and recreational use of the river corridor. Reference is made in the policy to the City of Yarra – Yarra River Corridor Design Guidelines. The Guidelines require a site analysis plan as part of a planning application. Specific direction is provided for Built Form, Habitat and Landscape, Open Space and Main Yarra Trail Interfaces, and Heritage. These requirements will be integrated into the new Design and Development Overlay (DDO) when Amendment C66 is included in the Yarra Planning Scheme.

The *Built Form and Design Local Planning Policy* will be introduced through Amendment C66. The policy consists of City-wide built form provisions and design responses which promote good design. The provisions relate to building height, urban form, urban character, landmarks and tall structures, street and public space quality, sustainable design, on-site amenity, off-site amenity, landscaping and fencing, parking, traffic and access and service infrastructure.

3.2.1.5 YARRA PLANNING SCHEME – OVERLAYS

The Design and Development Overlay, Environmental Significance Overlay and Heritage Overlay affect some open space areas and the urban areas adjoining them.

- *Design and Development Overlay (DDO1)* - the overlay applies to the Yarra River corridor including the Merri and Darebin Creeks and some adjoining land. It is linked to the Yarra River Corridor Urban Design Guidelines Local Planning Policy. This DDO will be updated when Amendment C66 is included in the Yarra Planning Scheme. The new overlay recognises four sub-areas of the River Corridor and there are specific Design Objectives and buildings and works provisions for the whole corridor and for each sub-area. For some of the

sub-areas the buildings and works provisions nominate heights and setbacks for new development. The setback reference point is the crest line which is delineated on the planning scheme map. The existing reference document Yarra River Corridor Design Guidelines 1998 (as amended) is subsumed into the body of the DDO.

- *Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO 1, 2, 3)* - the overlay applies to the Yarra River, Merri Creek and Darebin Creek and their environs, to protect the natural character, recreational value and amenity of these important waterway corridors.
- *Heritage Overlay (multiple)* - the overlay applies to older parts of Yarra, to protect the heritage values and character of these areas.
- *Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO2)* - the overlay indicates the intention of Melbourne Parks and Waterways (Parks Victoria) to acquire land to create a continuous linear park/trail system adjacent to waterways.

Reference is made in the relevant precinct designation to the underlying character of open space that supports the use of overlays.

3.2.1.6 YARRA PLANNING SCHEME – AMENDMENT C66

Amendment C66 is based on strategic work undertaken by Yarra in 2003, the Built Form Review of Yarra (Planisphere). The Built Form Review covers the urban areas of Yarra not included in the Heritage Overlays. In addition to the broad overview the study looks at the Yarra River corridor and makes specific recommendations for appropriate built form height and interface treatments along the Yarra. These recommendations have now been reviewed through the public exhibition of Amendment C66 and the subsequent Planning Panel process. Finalised requirements will be included in the Yarra Planning Scheme.

Other key directions or principles of the Built Form Review that are relevant to this Strategy include:

- Encouraging streetscapes that are conducive to walking and cycling.
- Buildings with habitable rooms at street level to promote safety and vibrancy in the streets.
- Buildings contribute to the attractiveness of the area and retain views through to open space where applicable and to maintain and where practical extend the network of streets and lanes.
- Office of Housing estates is to re-integrate the estates with the urban fabric of Yarra and where possible, the public street system of the City.

Amendment C66 will make changes to several elements of the MSS, introduce the Built Form and Design Policy and revise the DDO for the Yarra River corridor.

3.2.1.7 INNER DRAFT REGIONAL HOUSING STATEMENT

The Inner Draft Regional Housing Statement supports implementation of Melbourne 2030, Planning for Sustainable Growth (DOI, 2002). The Housing Statement was prepared jointly by representatives from DSE, DHS (Office of Housing) and Melbourne, Port Phillip, Yarra and Stonnington City Councils. Its purpose is to assist in planning for the housing needs of present and future households in Melbourne's Inner Region through to the year 2030. The document provides population and household projections which are of relevance to planning for future open space needs.

The overarching vision for housing in the Inner Region can be assisted through provision of a quality, accessible and inclusive open space network in Yarra. The relevant vision statements are:

- Maintain and enhance the liveability and amenity of the Inner Region as a place to live, work and pursue a lifestyle of choice.
- Facilitate sustainable forms of development with consideration to the built, natural, economic and social impacts of change.
- Support the social and cultural diversity that makes Melbourne's Inner Region an inclusive and vibrant place.

- Maintain and develop communities that have a strong sense of local connection and social cohesion.

The Housing Statement notes the changing demographic characteristics of the Inner Melbourne Region. While the traditional battler will continue to live in the region, the majority of new housing to 2016 is likely to be apartments, many of which will be relatively small in nature (one and two bedroom). These changes in housing supply will influence the Inner Region's future population. The apartment market has been dominated by young singles, couples and students (and some group households).

The Inner Melbourne Region will take a slightly different direction in terms of where new residential development occurs, compared to the broad direction of Melbourne 2030. Existing residential areas near activity centres are not targeted for redevelopment because their heritage assets, neighbourhood character and amenity are considered fundamental to the liveability of the Inner Melbourne Region. Likewise, retail and commercial strips are at a mature stage of development, many of them are subject to heritage controls and there is limited space for new development. In recognition of these limitations in established areas, the location of new residential development will be directed to strategic precincts consistent with the primary Melbourne 2030 objective for new housing opportunities to be well-located close to transport and activity centres. Overall, within the Inner Melbourne Region, 38.5% of projected household growth will be accommodated in the CAD including Docklands and Southbank, 47.5% in strategic sites or areas, 7.5% in retail and commercial strips and 6.5% in established residential areas.

The Housing Statement emphasises timely provision of physical and social infrastructure to serve new population and that this infrastructure should acknowledge the needs of the different groups within the population, now and into the future. The document encourages providing quality public spaces to encourage greater use of the public domain and increase opportunities to engage in community life. It also states that while contributions from residential development across the region will be directed to improving/extending local open space, consideration must also be given to the significant opportunities which exist to further develop/link the regional open space network. A partnership approach across governments in the region will be crucial to delivering these opportunities. The Housing Statement recommends a mandatory 5% open space contribution from development be brought in to fund improvements and expansion of the open space network. Councils should ensure the type of contribution (land and/or money) is responsive to localised open space needs and limitations (as indicated by local open space strategies).

3.2.1.8 STRUCTURE PLANS (in preparation)

The City of Yarra is in the process of preparing Structure plans which will form an integrated part of the planning scheme. Structure Plans will focus on the major activity centres: Smith Street, Brunswick Street, Victoria Street, Bridge Road and Swan Street. They will highlight areas for further urban design detail such as proposed squares, pedestrian and cycle links.

3.2.1.9 CITY OF YARRA DRAFT URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORKS prepared by MGS in association with Jones & Whitehead (April 2004)

These will form an integrated part of the planning scheme and are an important tool to assist Council develop local action plans and initiatives within a strategic context and help translate the agendas established in the MSS into actual projects and initiatives. Some of these local action plans, design details and guidelines focus on selected parts of the City such as the Richmond Town Hall precinct, Cremorne, Victoria Street East and the mixed use area between Smith and Wellington Streets in Collingwood.

- 3.2.1.10 YARRA HERITAGE REVIEW LANDSCAPE CITATIONS** prepared by Allom Lovell & Associates Pty Ltd and John Patrick Pty Ltd (1998)
This review is an assessment to identify landscapes of heritage significance in the City of Yarra.

3.2.2 OTHER COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

- 3.2.2.1 YARRA RECREATION PLAN 2003 - 2008** - City of Yarra, 2001
The Recreation Plan presents a direction for the future provision of recreation services and facilities in Yarra. Some of the key directions to be considered in this Strategy include:
- More people are participating in passive recreation including walking, jogging and cycling. Some of the factors contributing to this trend is time constraints, costs of formal sporting activities and family commitments.
 - Facilities and grounds need to be designed to cater to both traditional sports and a wide variety of informal activities including walking, jogging and ball sports.
 - The increase in higher income bracket residents in the City is leading to increasing demand for high quality leisure opportunities.
 - Lack of activities for 10 - 14 year old age group, with recommendations including skate facilities and playgrounds catering to older children.
 - Appropriate resources need to be allocated to open space as an important venue for informal and formal leisure activities.
- 3.2.2.2 NATURAL HERITAGE STUDY OF THE CITY OF YARRA** Biosis, 2002
This is survey of the indigenous flora and fauna located in the City of Yarra and maps known sites of geological significance. This information has informed the environmental corridor link recommendations.
- 3.2.2.3 OPEN SPACE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN** City of Yarra, 2005
The purpose of this plan is to outline the actions required to establish improved asset management processes across the organisation in order to deliver Council's asset management vision in accordance with the adopted asset management policy over the next twenty years (2005 to 2025).
The Open Space Asset Management plan is a tool combining management, financial, engineering and technical practices to ensure that the level of service required by the community is provided at the most economical cost to the community. The plan is also intended to protect the environment and cultural values of the assets providing the service.
This plan is consistent with the Draft Open Space Strategy and has informed the recommendations in the Open Space Strategy to ensure they meet the estimated future funding levels available for open space maintenance and capital works.
- 3.2.2.4 VARIOUS MASTERPLANS FOR INDIVIDUAL RESERVES**
A number of current masterplans for reserves have been supplied to TBLD to review and consider in the context of the Strategy. The key recommendations from the masterplans are included in the Precinct descriptions in Section 6 of the Strategy.

3.3 Physical and built character of Yarra

3.3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The City of Yarra is located at the junction of two Bioregions: the Victorian Volcanic Plain and the Gippsland Plain Bioregions. The majority of Yarra is located within the Victorian Volcanic Plain which characterises the undulating basalt plains and heavy basalt-derived soils that extend further into western Victoria. The Gippsland Plain Bioregion is a more extensive system extending to the south-east of the City. There are outcrops of this Silurian based geology in the north-west and south-eastern parts of Yarra. (Biosis, 2001).



There are sites of geological and geomorphological significance along the Merri Creek and Yarra River through the City of Yarra, including one site of State significance and four sites of regional significance. These are further described in **Section 3.3.2** and illustrated on **Drawing YOSS 03**.

The waterway corridors provide the most significant change in topography in Yarra. The deeply incised nature of Merri Creek and the Yarra River emphasises elevated views from the surrounding area. Development along the waterway corridors has, in many locations blocked views, however crossing points including footbridges and road bridges offer spectacular views along the waterway corridors.

Other subtle changes to the City's topography include Richmond Hill where the elevation affords good views to the Dandenongs and the City. The land form in Princes Hill and Carlton North is slightly elevated with views towards the City, which are emphasised down some of the key north-south streets. The central area of Fitzroy near Gore Street and George Street is slightly elevated with views in an easterly direction over Collingwood to the Dandenongs. Fairfield and Alphington have views over the Yarra River valley. The majority of Yarra's topography is gently undulating, characteristic of the western basaltic plains.

Topography has influenced the provision of existing open space network in the City. The low lying floodplain areas of the Yarra River contain the largest areas of public and private open space within the City boundaries including Latrobe Golf Club, Yarra Bend Public Golf Course, Yarra Bend Park and Kevin Bartlett Reserve. These areas are subject to flooding which has limited their use for housing and urban development.

3.3.2 OVERALL NATURAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The main remnants of the natural landscape character of the City are located along the waterway corridors. Due to the long period of Yarra's settlement and extent of urbanisation and change, these remnants are relatively small and therefore significant. The City's *Natural Heritage Study* (Biosis, 2002) identified a number of vegetation community types present within the City of Yarra. Historically much of the City would have been covered with Plains Grassy Woodland which is typical of the western basalt plains including Red Gum, Yellow Box and Yellow Gum. There are small remnants of this vegetation community remaining at Coate Park in Alphington, and along the railway in between Burnley Park and the Circus Site. Along the waterways riparian vegetation would have been dominated by River Red Gum and Silver Wattle. The large floodplains would have included seasonal wetlands and floodplain woodland with a scattered overstorey of River Red Gums. On the steep escarpments on both the Merri Creek and Yarra River, the Escarpment shrubland included native shrubs and grasses. Whilst the majority of the City is developed and urban, the waterway corridors do provide links to the previous natural landscape character of the City with remnant areas. Refer to **Drawing YOSS 03**.



3.3.2.1 Flora

No flora of national conservation significance was found in the City during the *Natural Heritage Study* (Biosis, 2002). One flora of state conservation significance, Yellow Gum *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ssp. *connata* (Status vulnerable) was recorded within Coate Park, along the Yarra at the Yarra Bend Golf Course and within Alphington Park, refer to **Drawing YOSS 03**. 57 of the indigenous flora species are considered to be of regional conservation significance. In general, introduced flora species are the major component of vegetation of the study area. The largest areas of predominantly native vegetation are adjacent to Yarra Bend Public Golf Course.

The following vegetation communities are present in the City of Yarra:

- *Riparian woodland* - This vegetation community occurs along the banks of the waterways through the City and is dominated by River Red Gums and Sliver Wattle.
- *Floodplain Riparian Woodland* - This only occurs along the broader floodplain of the Yarra River including in Latrobe Golf Club, along the fringes of Yarra Bend Park, near Kevin Bartlett Reserve and Herring Island.
- *Swamp Scrub* - This occurs in seasonally wet areas on flat alluvial deposits associated with the Yarra River floodplain. It currently occurs along the Yarra in the vicinity of Swan Street, both upstream and downstream.
- *Plains Grassy Woodland* - This vegetation community has been largely cleared within the City of Yarra. There are some small remnants at Coate Park and along the railway between Burnley Park and the Circus Site. This vegetation community is dominated by River Red Gum in seasonally waterlogged areas, with scattered Coast Manna Gums and Yellow Gums
- *Wetland Complex* - Shallow seasonal billabongs occur in Alphington Park Wetland, which dry out in summer during low rainfall events.
- *Aquatic Herbland* - This vegetation community is the fringing vegetation along the edge of permanent streams, including the Darebin and Merri Creeks, and in Burnley Harbour and at Dights Falls and includes sedges and aquatic herbs
- *Escarpment Shrubland* - Occurs along rocky cliffs and outcrops associated with the Merri Creek and Yarra River. Little indigenous shrub layer species remain which include Sweet Bursaria and Tree Violet.
- *Valley Grassy Forest* - Restricted to the slopes of the Yarra River near the Yarra Bend Golf Course and includes Yellow Box and Yellow Gum with Red Gum present in the lower lying areas.

3.3.2.2 Fauna

A total of fifty-eight terrestrial vertebrate fauna species were recorded during the survey for the *Natural Heritage Study* (Biosis, 2002), which included one introduced mammal, 42 native birds, 10 introduced birds and five reptiles. More species have been previously recorded as being present in the study area as listed in the Atlas of Victorian Wildlife, including 12 native mammals, 5 introduced mammals, 84 native birds, 12 native reptiles and 7 native frogs. No fauna species of national or state conservation significance were recorded during the current assessment. The Pied Cormorant was the only species of regional conservation significance recorded in the City of Yarra.

Seven habitat types are present within the City of Yarra:

- Waterways and associated riparian vegetation
- Riparian vegetation
- Wetland (natural)
- Escarpment
- Scattered trees with mown understorey
- Planted trees and shrubs
- Urban environment.

3.3.2.3 Sites of geological and geomorphological significance

There are sites of geological and geomorphological significance along the Merri Creek and Yarra River through Yarra, including one site of state significance and

four sites of regional significance. The site of state significance is at Dights Falls that is an exposed cliff on the southern bank of the Yarra River of clearly exposed sandstones interbedded with mudstones of the Melbourne Formation. At Yarra Bend Park on the Merri Creek, opposite Quarries Park is a basalt escarpment that shows a complex fracture system. On the Merri Creek upstream of Heidelberg Road on the north western bank is a natural cliff that displays lava flows with contrasting orientations of vertical jointing. The southern bank opposite Ross Street is a vertical cliff face, with elongated gas bubble holes which represents the cooling process. Further east there is a small lava cave. At Rushall Station there are vertical overhanging cliffs 8 to 10 metres high on the southern bank of the Merri Creek extending for 200 metres west of the high level footbridge. **Refer to Drawing YOSS 03.**

Most of the features are visible from the existing trail along Merri Creek. These are important features to protect in future works.

3.3.3 YARRA RIVER

This section describes the natural environmental character, values and management responsibilities along the Yarra. Recreational use of the Yarra River linear reserve is summarised in **Section 3.5.4.1.**

3.3.3.1 Existing natural character

The Yarra River plays an important environmental role for Yarra and expresses the natural landscape character of this region as an important contrast to the modified cultural urban landscape of the adjoining urban areas. The presence of the larger natural bushland reserves adjoining the River significantly contribute to its character, including Studley Park, Yarra Bend Park and Wilsmere Park. Downstream of Studley Park the existing open space reserves adjoining the River are smaller, and whilst there are some important values that require protection, the system is less extensive.

Riparian values

At the confluence with the Darebin Creek, the Yarra River has some established remnant and regenerating Red Gums and other riparian vegetation along the edge of Latrobe Golf Club and on the opposite bank through Wilsmere Park. The regenerating and remnant riparian values are strengthened downstream where the River flows through the extensive Yarra Bend Park to the confluence with Merri Creek and Dights Falls. The presence of some remnant vegetation including large remnant River Red Gums, Yellow Box and Yellow Gum provides a framework for future habitat enhancement. These are the only scattered areas of remnant vegetation on the western bank of the Yarra in the City, and therefore their protection and enhancement will be an important objective in the future Vegetation Management Plans recommended in the Strategy. The connectivity of the Yarra to its upstream catchment, and to a lesser extent downstream to Port Phillip Bay, improves the opportunities for this corridor to support native wildlife and habitat values. Downstream of Dights Falls the reserve system is more constrained with urban development close to the River's edge. Around Kevin Bartlett Reserve there is an area of remnant Red Gums and the City of Yarra have undertaken some recent revegetation works to reinstate the ground and midstorey indigenous vegetation. In the future, opportunities to introduce the overstorey indigenous vegetation into the riparian zone to create the links and connectivity between the bushland areas upstream and the remnant vegetation downstream will be sought, and this Strategy includes some actions toward this.

In-stream values

Upstream of Dights Falls, at the confluence with Merri Creek, the Yarra River is a freshwater stream and downstream of Dights Falls it is subject to tidal influence. Historically, the stream channel downstream of Dights Falls has been highly modified to suit urban development in the catchment. Upstream of Dights Falls the channel has been modified, however, the extensive system of natural bushland

and parkland areas associated with the Yarra River floodplain on both sides of the river has minimised the extent of modification and contributes to the natural and environmental character of the River. Across Melbourne the work to improve water quality will have a longer-term improvement to the water quality in the lower reaches of the Yarra River.

3.3.3.2 Management responsibilities

The City of Yarra and Parks Victoria are predominantly responsible for the linear open space reserves along the Yarra River with the exception of Collingwood Children's Farm which is Crown land managed by the Committee of Management.

Melbourne Water is responsible for:

- flooding and regional drainage management;
- stream form, system and stability;
- facilitation of water quality improvement; and
- facilitation of stream vegetation and natural resource management.

Melbourne Water's major works over the next 15 years for the Yarra River downstream of Dights Falls have been described in the *Lower Yarra River Waterway Management Activity Plan* (2002).

Parks Victoria is responsible for recreational boating and use of the waterway of the Yarra River from Port Phillip Bay to Dights Falls. Parks Victoria priorities are guided by the *Linking People and Places* (2004) and the *Yarra Bend Park Strategy Plan* (1999).

3.3.3.3 Planning controls

The public land is zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) or Public Use Zone (PUZ), generally where this is land owned by other service agencies. There is an Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) which extends over the Yarra River corridor through the City of Yarra and to adjoining private properties. The ESO recognises the environmental corridor values. A Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) in favour of Parks Victoria over the freehold land adjacent to the River extends from Gipps Street (Collins) footbridge downstream to Walmer Street footbridge. This overlay was placed there with the intent of creating a linear path link on the western side of the Yarra River.

3.3.4 MERRI CREEK



This section describes the natural environmental character, values and management responsibilities along the Merri Creek. Recreational use of the Merri Creek linear reserve is summarised in **Section 3.5.4.2**.

3.3.4.1 Existing character

The Merri Creek has an extensive rural and urban catchment and is one of the main tributaries to the lower reaches of the Yarra River. Through the City of Yarra, the Merri Creek is a deeply incised stream flowing through a steeply sided valley. Upstream of Heidelberg Road the open space corridor is relatively narrow and broadens to a wider corridor downstream of Heidelberg Road including Yarra Bend Park, Hall Reserve and Quarries Park. With the more extensive reserve system adjoining the waterway there is more scope for improving the natural landscape character of the creek corridor.

Riparian zone

This incised nature of the Merri Creek is its natural form, and the bed and banks of the creek are in relatively natural condition, and the incised banks result in steep basalt escarpments, a number of which are noted as being of geological and geomorphological significance. Refer to Drawing YOSS 03 for the locations of

these escarpments. Much of the original indigenous vegetation has been modified along the Merri Creek corridor with some small remnants occurring on the escarpments near Rushall Station. There has been ongoing revegetation of the Merri Creek corridor in recent years and a planned program of progressive woody weed removal by Melbourne Water. Between Rushall Station and Heidelberg Road there is extensive woody weed infestation including Willows and Ash, along with a predominantly exotic understorey. Downstream of Heidelberg Road there are areas of native and indigenous revegetation along the stream and in the associated parklands.

In-stream values

This is the lower reach of Merri Creek and it has a large highly urbanised and rural catchment, which contributes to its relatively poor water quality. The stream form is relatively natural downstream of Rushall Station with natural rock riffles and no identified barriers to fish migration. With the ongoing improvement to water quality across the catchment it is anticipated that water quality and in-stream values may improve in the longer-term.

3.3.4.2 Management responsibilities

The public land along the stream is owned and managed by the City of Yarra and Melbourne Water. Works in the open space reserves are the responsibility of the City of Yarra and are co-ordinated with the Merri Creek Management Committee (an incorporated association primarily funded by the Councils along the Merri Creek). MCMC act as an advisory body to its member organisations, and the *Merri Creek Environs Strategy* (1999) is a key planning document for the open space reserves adjoining Merri Creek.

Melbourne Water is no longer a member organisation of MCMC, and is responsible for the bed and banks of Merri Creek. Melbourne Water has recently prepared the *Merri Creek Waterway Activity Management Plan* (2003) which guides MW works for the next 15 years.

There are some sections of the creek where freehold title preclude safe public access along the creek.

3.3.4.3 Planning controls

The land is zoned PPRZ and SUZ and there is an Environmental Significance Overlay which extends over the creek corridor and adjoining land. There are currently no Public Acquisition Overlays along Merri Creek.

3.3.5 DAREBIN CREEK



This section describes the natural environmental character, values and management responsibilities along the Darebin Creek. Recreational use of the Darebin Creek linear reserve is summarised in **Section 3.5.4.3**.

3.3.5.1 Existing conditions

This relatively short section of the lower Darebin Creek is currently inaccessible to the general public. The creek has been modified over time, however there is some remnant overstorey vegetation remaining including large remnant River Red Gums. In the future when the Darebin Creek shared trail is designed to link to the Yarra River Main Trail, Parks Victoria will acquire land along the creek frontage and this area will become accessible to the public and the City of Yarra for maintenance and revegetation works.

Riparian zone

Near the confluence with the Yarra River there are stands of remnant River Red Gums and some indigenous mid-storey vegetation. The reach adjacent to Alphington Grammar has only single scattered mature trees, including exotic trees. The riparian zone adjacent to the Latrobe Golf Club includes some remnant vegetation and other areas with limited vegetation, or recent indigenous revegetation. There have been recent works by Melbourne Water in this reach including extensive woody weed control, bank stabilisation, construction of a fish ladder and revegetation with indigenous species.

In-stream values

The recent construction of the fish ladder near the end of Farm Road by Melbourne Water has improved access for migratory in-stream fauna between Darebin Creek and the Yarra River. Whilst the Darebin Creek has a highly urbanised catchment, ongoing improvements to the quality of stormwater runoff will progressively improve the water quality in this downstream reach. The progressive revegetation of the riparian zone with indigenous species and the recent removal of the woody weeds is anticipated to improve the in-stream values.

3.3.5.2 Management responsibilities

Melbourne Water is responsible for the bed and banks of the creek, and the only public land on the City of Yarra section of the creek is Crown Land as part of the Old Heidelberg Road. The remaining frontage to the river is freehold land. Melbourne Water has prepared the *Darebin Creek Waterway Management Activity Plan* for the Creek which guides the future stream restoration, water quality, flood management and drainage works along the creek.

3.3.5.3 Planning controls

The land is freehold and there is a PAO extending over the corridor in favour of Parks Victoria. Parks Victoria have identified that a key link is required to connect the Darebin Creek shared trail with the Main Yarra Trail, and this is the purpose of the PAO. The Darebin Creek Co-ordinating Committee is a community and agency based organisation who co-ordinates works on public land along Darebin Creek.



Refer to **Drawing YOSS 03** and **Section 4.8** for analysis and discussion of key issues.

INSERT DRAWING YOSS 03

3.3.6 URBAN CHARACTER

The City of Yarra has significant areas of nineteenth century character which are protected with conservation policies and overlays. This Victorian and Edwardian residential and industrial character dominates the areas of North Carlton, Fitzroy, North Fitzroy and parts of Richmond Hill, Collingwood and Abbotsford. Consistent with this nineteenth century urban character, many of the parks that were established at the time of urban development reflect this character. Whilst adaptation is required for contemporary uses, retaining the historical fabric of the urban and landscape character contributes to the sense of place and neighbourhood character. The urban layout of streets and laneways provides good access for residents, and in some instances provides opportunities to create additional open space reserves. The inherent grid pattern and layout of roads form important transport corridors for pedestrians and cyclists to gain access to open space reserves. This linked system of open space is referred to as “the open space network”. The network is illustrated on **Drawing YOSS 06** with further analysis and discussion in **Section 4.1**.



As the *Built Form Review* (Planisphere, 2003) identifies a balance is needed in new development to ensure that its scale, form and design contributes to liveability and vibrancy of the surrounding neighbourhood. Sites in Richmond, Burnley, Cremorne, Abbotsford and Collingwood have been identified as having scope for change. They are currently a mix of industrial and commercial sites in the process of adaptation to new residential and business use. The supporting open space networks have not historically been planned for in these areas due to their commercial/industrial and business use. In the majority of these areas there is a mix of styles including some Victorian, Edwardian, inter-war, post-war and contemporary buildings and styles.

3.3.7 CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES

3.3.7.1 Indigenous cultural heritage values

The City of Yarra was once the land of the Wurundjeri people. The Wurundjeri - willam consisted of three main groups. The family of the Billibellary who lived on the north bank of the Yarra and whose land extended to the Merri Merri Creek. The family of the Burrenupton occupied the southern bank of the Yarra River upstream to Gardiners Creek.

Prior to European settlement the waterway corridors, wetlands and open plains and forests in Yarra were the natural features of the land, which have now largely been destroyed or modified by urbanisation. The Yarra River offered a permanent water source along with the streams of the Merri Merri and Darebin Creeks and made the surrounding land desirable. Despite the enormous change and devastating effects of European occupation including diseases, forced removal from traditional lands, family and lifestyle, Wurundjeri traditions and culture continues in Yarra today. Wurundjeri people have continued to live in the suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood. (Yarra Aboriginal Partnerships Plan, 2004).

Remaining notable indigenous cultural features in the City identified to date include the Burnley Park Corroboree Tree, Scar trees (Coate Park/Rudder Grange and Studley Park), Dights Falls Mission School and Native Police Corps, the potential Merri Creek Treaty Site opposite Rushall Station (just outside the City boundaries), and the confluence of the Yarra River and Merri Creek. Some of these are described in more detail below:

- *Burnley Park Corroboree Tree* - In 1926 a young boy found a boomerang wedged in a branch of the giant Burnley Park Corroboree tree when he climbed it. In 1991 his brother returned the boomerang to a Wurundjeri elder, Martha Nicholson in a ceremony at the tree site. The tree is now dead, but it is

believed it was a meeting and corroboree place for many Aboriginal clans until well after European settlement. (Eidelson, 1997)

- *Dights Falls Mission School*, which wattle-and-daub school hut, opened on January 1 1846 by the Collins Street Baptist Church. Nearby was the Dights Mill which provided flour for the colony. The location was already a popular meeting and trading place for Aboriginal clans in and around Melbourne. The school closed in 1851 after devastating floods in 1850 washed away the cultivated gardens and the footbridge over the river. (Eidelson, 1997)
- *Dights Falls Native Police Corps* was set up in 1837 as a regional base from their main base in Dandenong Creek flats. 'The Colonial administration set up the Native Police Corps.... to control bushrangers and 'civilise' Aboriginal men involved' (Eidelson, 1997). Elders of the clans around Melbourne participated as it offered prestige. It was set up as a military encampment with rows of up to 50 tents/shelters with the man and his family. Their role was to act as official escorts, tracking lost people and guard duty at the Pentridge Stockade. The camp was disbanded three times, the last in 1853. (Eidelson, 1997)

For Koori people the suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood hold special historical meaning as they became the central meeting point for all Koori communities. During the 1940s and 1950s Aboriginal families lived in Collingwood and Fitzroy when they moved from country Victoria to Melbourne. These areas were one of the central points from which the Aboriginal Political movement started.

The Yarra Aboriginal Partnerships Plan Wurundjeri Reconciliation and Social Justice 2004 - 2008 has provided positive direction for ongoing Aboriginal involvement in the interpretation and management of open space in Yarra.

3.3.7.2 Non-indigenous cultural heritage values

The Yarra River is the major reason Melbourne was settled and significantly influenced settlement patterns and land use from the early 1800s.

European settlement patterns influenced the amount and style of open space across the City. Large parts of Richmond, Cremorne, Collingwood and Fitzroy were settled as working class suburbs located nearby to industrial uses and places of employment. The dominant housing style was row terraces, varying between brick and timber construction depending on affordability. Within the working class neighbourhoods were the traders and merchants place of residence particularly in Fitzroy where larger double storey row terraces were constructed. Open space reserves were not integral to the layout of some suburbs, and is provided in areas that were constrained at the time for other reasons including flooding, quarries and former tips and have since been developed as open space. (Ian Wright et al, 2003)

In contrast Princes Hill, North Carlton, North Fitzroy, Clifton Hill, Fairfield and Alphington were settled primarily as residential suburbs. The layout of these suburbs incorporated open space as part of their planning. Of note is the original setting aside of Darling Gardens was in response to the working community of Collingwood 'Slopes' lobbying for access to open space (Ian Wright et al, 2003). Edinburgh Gardens, Darling Gardens, Curtain Square and Alphington Park were all established at the same time as the housing, and their planting, layout and character is complementary to the urban character of the neighbourhood.

Clifton Hill north has some smaller industrial pockets some of which have been converted to residential use, and the former quarries along Merri Creek have now been converted to open space. The heritage character of the open space along Merri Creek relates to its natural and industrial history.

Some of the key reserves included in the *City of Yarra Heritage Review Landscape Citations* (Patrick, 1997) include:

- *Yarra Bend Park* - Regionally significant for both its indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage including the natural and cultural elements that reflect the sites ongoing post-European contact. The park demonstrates the relationship between the natural environment and the sequential history of its use. This includes the remnant indigenous vegetation, the public boating and swimming, the remnant exotic trees through the golf course from its early use as an ornamental garden, the golf course which was constructed during the 1930s with sustenance works and the history associated with the Asylum on the site. This park is managed by Parks Victoria and is the only public park nominated as being of regionally significant in the City of Yarra. (Burnley Gardens in the Burnley Horticultural College is also nominated as regionally significant, but is not a public park).
- *Edinburgh Gardens* - Locally significant as a major early recreational facility within the Fitzroy area. The site is intrinsically linked to a number of sporting groups and the Fitzroy community. Originally reserved in 1862, the reserve was initially used for cricket followed by the bowling club which established in 1877. A creek running through the park was converted to an underground drain and paths laid out along the pedestrian wear lines. Major plantings of avenues of Elms and Oaks occurred in the late 1800s and the park is fringed with an unusual row of Kurrajong trees. The North Fitzroy rail line was constructed through the park in 1886 which bisected the park and significantly influenced its use. The railway was removed in 1981.
- *Darling Gardens* - Locally significant as an important recreational facility for the Collingwood and Clifton Hill area and has strong associations with the local community. The reserve was set aside in the 1860s (and in the *City of Yarra Review of Heritage Precincts 2001*, Wright, 2003, it is noted that the residents in Collingwood lobbied for an open space to be set aside for them given the poor conditions in Collingwood at the time). The gardens were formally laid out and planted in the 1890s with seeds and plants from von Mueller, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens. The gardens were initially fenced with a three rail timber fence, followed by picket fencing. The gardens had some sporting use early on, however, the community planting day in 1907 saw an end to the active sporting use.
- *Fairfield Park* - Locally significant as representative of early diverse recreational facilities and uses along the Yarra River, with extensive plantings and landscaping typical of the Edwardian period.

Other reserves noted as being of local interest include:

- *Curtain Square* - for its formal layout and remaining early plantings and features including the Elms, Oaks, Moreton Bay Figs and monument.
- *Citizens Park* - reclaimed tip, the park was a major meeting place for people during the Great Depression. The Elms are remnant early plantings.
- *Coate Park* - layout and planting typical of the 1930s era including the formal avenue of English Oak and garden bed plantings.

Reserves not listed in the Heritage Review Landscape Citations but potentially having some historical value include:

- *Alphington Park* - including the monument and early large trees including Bunya Bunya Pine and what appear to be a remnant Red Gum.
- *Gahan Reserve* - including formal layout and early plantings of Canary Island Date Palms and Planes.
- *Barkly Gardens* - including its formal layout and setting in the neighbourhood and mature exotic plantings.
- *Victoria Park* - cultural significance as the base of the Collingwood Football Club.

In summary there are indigenous and non-indigenous cultural values present in many open space reserves in Yarra that require ongoing consideration and protection in the future use and management of these reserves.

3.4 Social and economic character

3.4.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Just over 68,000 people were counted in the 2001 Census whilst the estimated resident population in 2001 as 68,900. The population has grown by approx. 4.4% between 1996 and 2001, and this trend is anticipated to continue. 76% of all dwellings are medium to high density which results in little private open space. The number of medium to high density dwellings has increased over the last 10 years by 19%. The median household income has increased over the past 10 years, and unemployment has decreased from 17% to approx. 8%. The proportion of professionals is increasing whilst tradespersons and labourers is decreasing over time. 19% of residents were born overseas (with the highest proportion of these in the UK). 66% nominated they spoke only English at home, with 8.5% not answering the question. The largest language groups other than English are Vietnamese, Greek, various Chinese languages and Italian.

18% of the population were counted as Group Households with is unusually high (Melbourne average is 4%), which is likely to be caused by the presence of affordable rental accommodation close to tertiary institutions and the close proximity of Melbourne CBD and inner Melbourne employment opportunities for young professionals. The population is younger than the Melbourne average with almost half the population aged between 20 -39, and a higher proportion of single people than married. The increasing number of apartments, units and flats, along with group households in rental accommodation contribute to the dominance of younger people in the City.

Nearly half the dwellings in Yarra are being rented, compared with the Melbourne average of just over 20%. The proportion of people counted in public housing declined from nearly 19% in 1991 to 12% in 2001.

In summary, there is a higher proportion of younger people with mean age of 32 which has been consistently high over the past 10 years. It is anticipated this will continue given its proximity to tertiary institutions, the CBD and inner Melbourne employment opportunities for young professionals. The availability of rental accommodation and the increased medium and high density residential housing being constructed in the City is likely to reinforce this trend.

3.4.2 RECENT TRENDS IN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

As noted in the Community Profile, Yarra's population has increased over the past decade. Recent major areas of change include:

- Victoria Gardens adjacent to the Yarra River in Richmond, which is currently being completed.
- Trenerry Crescent, Abbotsford adjacent to the Yarra River with some recent business development and more recent proposals for residential use.
- Tanner Street, Richmond near Richmond Railway Station which includes conversion of old industrial buildings to residential use.
- Public housing in North Fitzroy near Edinburgh Gardens.
- Conversion of a range of industrial buildings to residential use in Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond
- New high-density residential developments in Fitzroy and Richmond.

Melbourne 2030 and the current *Urban Development Program 2004 Report* (DSE, December 2004) identify future residential capacity and potential major development sites (sites yielding 20 or more dwellings). These sites are broadly located in the areas that have experienced recent residential growth, and current estimates are that these sites will yield a total of 5,300 dwellings to the year 2019. A total of some 7,200 dwellings are anticipated to be constructed in Yarra during this same period. These are estimates only and actual development and speed of

change is driven by the larger economic and social factors, however, the current planning climate is promoting this growth in the inner urban areas.



Refer to **Section 4.5** for analysis and discussion of this key issue.

3.5 The open space network



Refer to **Drawing YOSS 01**

There is a total of 235 hectares of open space that is available for general public use (without the need to pay fees or club membership) and equates to 12.2% of the total land area of the City. There is an additional 75.4 hectares of open space that is available for use on a fee paying basis or through club membership or where there are major physical constraints that render the open space inaccessible. This results in a combined total of 310.5 hectares of open space and 16.2% of the land area of City. It is noted that much of this land is part of the regional park network along the waterways which is managed by Parks Victoria for access by people from across Melbourne and beyond.

3.5.1 DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN SPACE

The majority of Yarra's open space is located in the north-eastern area of the City with just over 70% located in North Fitzroy, Clifton Hill, Alphington and Fairfield, where 25% of the population lives. By contrast, Collingwood has just 0.12 hectares of open space with 7.4% of the population in residence there. 13% of Yarra's population lives in Fitzroy where there is a total of 2.2 hectares of open space. Refer to **Table 2** for further information on all areas of the City.



The City of Yarra's patterns of settlement have influenced the distribution of open space reserves across the City. The majority of Princes Hill, North Carlton, Fitzroy North, Clifton Hill and Fairfield/Alphington were settled primarily as middle class residential areas with some pockets of industrial/mixed use. Fitzroy, Richmond, Collingwood, Abbotsford, Burnley and Cremorne were settled as a combination of middle class and working class residential areas close to major industrial and mixed use areas of employment. The areas settled primarily for residential use had open space incorporated into the layout and design of these suburbs. In the mixed middle and working class suburbs, industrial use drove the development process and provision of open space. Whilst open space may have originally been planned for, through the industrialisation process and construction major transport corridors, integration and good access to open space was not a priority, and the connections were lost or compromised in many areas. Industry was located along the Yarra River as this was the major source of water supply and discharge during early settlement. Additionally quarrying for bluestone occurred along the Merri Creek and Yarra River and throughout the City. Today the former quarry sites form part of the open space network, and many of the industrial buildings have been converted to residential use or business and mixed use. This change in use has brought with it a higher visitation level to open space and subsequent increased expectations in condition, environmental management, maintenance and provision of facilities.

During the 1950s and 1960s large Office of Housing estates were constructed in the City of Yarra including in Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond. The Office of Housing estates included up to 15 storey high residential towers set in landscaped grounds. These landscaped grounds are perceived as "borrowed green" in these neighbourhoods and visually compensate for the lack of public open space. The Office of Housing estate open space is not included in the public open space network, as these are provided for the specific use of estate residents to compensate for not having private gardens and balconies. In summary it is considered the same as an individual's private garden, or other residential

developments where there is land owned and managed by the Body Corporate/Strata title solely for use by its residents.

In more recent times, particularly during the past two decades, the inner city areas have become desirable areas to reside. As such these former industrial and working class suburbs have been gradually gentrified with conversion of industrial land for residential purposes. Due to the highly urban nature of these suburbs and their desirability, medium to high-density housing has been constructed over time. This has led to an increase in the overall population of Yarra, and particularly in the areas where development is occurring, the majority of which are former industrial precincts that have little or no open space.

Table 2 **Quantity of existing open space by postcode**

Precinct	Total area m2	Total Open Space area m2*	% of open space	Total population 2001 census	m2 per person
North Carlton and Princes Hill	1,405,701	73,601	5.2%	8,298	8.9
North Fitzroy and Clifton Hill	4,151,562	720,828	17.4%	15,925	45.3
Alphington and Fairfield	3,390,423	994,284	29.3%	2,587	384.3
Fitzroy	1,381,545	21,597	1.6%	8,978	2.4
Collingwood	1,302,568	1,180	0.1%	5,175	0.2
Abbotsford	1,405,701	112,370	8.0%	4,047	27.8
Richmond, Cremorne, Burnley	6,163,142	427,332	6.9%	24,113	17.7
Totals	19,200,642	2,351,192	12.2%	69,123	34.0

* Open space included in these calculations excludes restricted open space



The unequal distribution of open space across the City has been identified as a key issue to address in the Strategy and is further described in **Section 4.1**

3.5.2 **STANDARDS FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION IN YARRA**

The accepted UK and consequent Australian standard for the provision of open space is in the order of 2.43 hectares of open space per 1,000 people, which equates to 24m2 of open space per person. This standard is included in the Guide to preparing Open Space Strategies - Best Practice Guidance of the London Plan, prepared by the Greater London Authority, 2004. As can be seen in the above table, when all open space (excluding restricted open space) is measured for the City of Yarra, there is a total of 34 m2 per person. Whilst this appears adequate there are significant variations in where it is located and the relative residential densities in the area. Additionally the type and character of the open space is an important part of the assessment as to whether it meets the needs of the community. **Table 2** illustrates there are some precincts in the City where there is an inadequate quantity of open space.



Victoria's legislation and policy also addresses standards for provision of open space. Subdivision legislation originally set out a standard of 5% of land or equivalent land value to be dedicated to public open space. (This occurred following completion of most of Yarra's original development.) This requirement was adopted in the context of substantial suburban style development and has since been qualified to refer to up to 5% of land or land value. Using the Planning and Environment Act 1987, many Victorian Councils planning for significant conversion of non-urban land to urban uses have adopted a much higher standard as part of their integrated growth area planning strategies. While **Table 2** indicates that most suburbs of Yarra can claim at least 5% of land as open space, again, the

type, location and distribution of open space must be considered as it is not possible to retrofit a percentage of land as open space in each neighbourhood.

Melbourne 2030 supports expansion of the regional park system and preservation of natural areas along waterways. One initiative of the open space element is to establish a framework for provision of open space and sporting facilities at district and neighbourhood level but this has not yet been released. The Neighbourhood Principles support provision of a range of open spaces to meet a variety of needs, with links to open space networks and regional parks where possible.

There is a range of standards regarding the size of open space and its distance from residents. There is the long-standing planning principle of open space being provided within 400 metres of all dwellings. Clause 56.05-2 in the Yarra Planning Scheme recognises that distances should vary according to the size and therefore facilities being provided in that open space.

The standard adopted for this Strategy in order to complete the gap analysis for open space is based on the broader principles for open space and walkability in Melbourne 2030, the 400 metre planning principle and Clause 56.05-2. These are described below in **Table 3** below.

Table 3 ***Standards adopted in this Strategy for open space and distance from residents***

Open Space	Size	Distance from residents
Regional open space	Unlimited	No specific distance is included as this is provided for the Melbourne-wide population including Yarra's residents
City-wide open space	min 3ha	Located within 2 kilometres of all dwellings
Neighbourhood open space	min 1ha	Located within 400 - 500 metres safe walking distance from all dwellings.
Local open space	0.1 - 0.9ha	Located within 200 - 300 metres safe walking distance from all dwellings.
Small Local open space	up to 0.09ha	Located within 150 - 200 metres safe walking distance from all dwellings

The distances are shorter for Small Local and Local open space as visits to these types of open space are generally of short duration and should therefore be easily accessible without the need to cross any busy roads or railway lines. Neighbourhood open space catchments include collector roads, but exclude primary and secondary arterials, railways and waterways, as these are considered to be barriers to safe walking distance. This is reflected in the precinct and sub-precinct assessment to accurately reflect the diversity in open space needs across Yarra.



The minimum size of open space reserves listed in **Table 3** is consistent with Clause 56.05-2, and creates an extra category of Small Local open space. Clause 56.05-2 only identifies small local parks within 150 to 300 metres from home. Given the large range of Small Local open space areas in Yarra, this Strategy has introduced a finer calibration within the broader category, to provide more specific information for Yarra.

3.5.3 SUMMARY GAP ANALYSIS OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE NETWORK



The standard distances as described in **Section 3.5.2** have been applied to the existing open space network. The outcomes are illustrated on **Drawing YOSS 04**. This plan highlights the type of open space (as defined in **Section 3.5.7**) and the visitor catchments.

In summary existing gaps in the Local and Small Local open space network occur in Collingwood, Richmond, Cremorne and the southern sections of Abbotsford. Neighbourhood open space is reasonably distributed but there are gaps in the provision of Neighbourhood reserves in Richmond and Cremorne. Regional and City-wide open space is well provided for, however, their location favours residents in the north and south-east areas of Yarra. It is recognised that many of the City-wide and Regional open space reserves also provide facilities for local use and replace the need for Local or Small Local open space for residents living near them. Some Regional and City-wide open space does not provide for local use, and this is primarily where they are for restricted use, or where they are dominated by a single use.

3.5.3.1 Regional open space

The catchment for Regional open space is Melbourne-wide, and therefore no catchment boundaries have been defined for Yarra given it is assumed that residents in Yarra have access to the Regional open space by public transport, private vehicles, bicycles and walking. Regional open space may also meet local open space needs where there is space for local facilities to be provided. The Regional linear open space reserves along the waterways are relatively narrow and generally only have limited facilities including the shared trail system.

3.5.3.2 City-wide open space

The City-wide open space reserves catchments extend beyond the Yarra's boundaries which illustrates that residents from adjoining municipalities visit these parks. Similarly Yarra's residents visit other City-wide open space reserves located in the adjoining municipalities. Some City-wide open space reserves also function as Neighbourhood and Local parks as well. Examples of this include Edinburgh Gardens and Darling Gardens.

3.5.3.3 Neighbourhood open space

These are relatively evenly distributed throughout the northern extent of the City. There is a gap in areas serviced by Neighbourhood parks in Fitzroy, Collingwood and Abbotsford between Johnston Street and Alexandra Parade. Southern area of Abbotsford, western area of Richmond and Cremorne all lack safe walkable access to Neighbourhood parks. In some of these areas there is significant population growth.

3.5.3.4 Local open space

There is no Local open space in West Richmond, Richmond and Cremorne. These areas do have some Small Local open space but these do not cover these entire areas. Some of these gaps occur where there is predominantly business/industrial use and/or where significant population growth is occurring.

3.5.3.5 Small Local open space

The Small Local open space network gaps occur in Collingwood, Richmond, Cremorne and to a lesser extent in Fitzroy (between Johnston Street and Alexandra Parade). Some of these gaps occur where there is predominantly business/industrial use and/or where significant population growth is occurring.



Refer to **Section 4.2** for discussion of issues associated with existing gaps in the open space network.

INSERT DRAWING YOSS 04

3.5.4 SUMMARY OF THE EXISTING OPEN SPACE RESERVES AND THEIR USE



The summary of the existing open space network has been grouped in the types of open space, i.e. Regional, City-wide, Neighbourhood, Local and Small Local. The definitions for these types of open space are described in **Table 4** and **Table 5**.

3.5.4.1 Yarra River Linear Reserve



Refer to **Section 3.3.3** for a description of the natural values of the Yarra River. For the purposes of this Strategy, the linear reserves have been defined as the reserves primarily set aside for provision of a linear trail for recreation and maintenance purposes. It does not include the larger areas of open space adjacent to the waterways that provide for a range of additional uses or associated natural values. All adjoining reserves not included in the linear reserves have names and are identified on **Existing Open Space Distribution, Drawing YOSS 01**.



The Yarra River corridor provides the Main Yarra Trail which is a regional cycle and pedestrian trail system that connects Warrandyte with the City. Abbotsford has been identified as a critical gap by Parks Victoria and there is a Public Acquisition Overlay over freehold land in Abbotsford in favour of Parks Victoria for the purposes of establishing the trail. Parks Victoria intend to complete this missing regional link through Abbotsford for the Main Yarra Trail, however, it has not been highlighted as a priority in the latest publication *Linking People and Spaces* (Parks Victoria, 2002). In the interim, access on the Main Yarra Trail through Abbotsford is located on the northern side of the River along Yarra Boulevard, and through WHS Dickinson Reserve to Walmer Street footbridge.

In addition to the Main Yarra Trail there is the Capital City Trail and residents utilise both systems of trails to access the Yarra River linear reserves.

There is a gap in the provision of public open space and trails on the northern side of the River between Fairfield Park and Alphington Park. This is primarily a local need for Yarra residents rather than a regional link, and this is assumed to be the reason Parks Victoria have not included a PAO in this section. The reason for this is the Main Yarra Trail is located on the south side of the Yarra River from Burke Road in Ivanhoe through to the footbridge in Fairfield Park. There are large parcels of freehold land adjoining the Yarra River on the Yarra side throughout this upstream section including Latrobe Golf Club and Green Acres Golf Club. The Main Yarra Trail has been constructed on the southern side adjacent to the Eastern Freeway to avoid freehold land and the most direct link to the Main Yarra Trail is via its existing connection on the southern side of the Yarra River.

The Capital City Trail utilises sections of the Yarra River corridor and makes some on road links away from the river corridor to provide a more direct commuter cycling link to the City.

The household surveys confirmed that the Yarra River corridor and linear reserves are well used and highly valued by residents.

3.5.4.2 Merri Creek Linear Reserve



Refer to **Section 3.3.4** for a description of the natural values of the Merri Creek.

The linear open space system adjoining the Merri Creek is almost continuous along its length, with the only gap in the corridor being between Holden Street and St Georges Road. A shared trail has been constructed along the majority of Merri Creek through the City of Yarra with the exception of the short section in Fitzroy North where freehold land extends to the creek. Parks Victoria have included the need to complete the existing gap on the Merri Creek trail in *Linking People and Spaces* (Parks Victoria, 2002), however, as yet there is no PAO over this land.

The linear trail is well used, however, in some locations it is located at low levels in the floodplain and with poor sightlines on approaches to underpasses. These issues are not only within the City of Yarra but also within adjoining municipalities. In the future, a regional approach to addressing these safety issues will need to occur in partnership with Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and the adjoining municipalities.

3.5.4.3 Darebin Creek Linear Reserve



Refer to **Section 3.3.5** for a description of the natural values of the Darebin Creek.

Within the City of Yarra boundary there is no continuous linear open space system or trail along the Darebin Creek. Parks Victoria are currently in the process of designing a future shared trail link connecting the Main Yarra Trail with the Darebin Creek Trail. This has been a long-term goal of Parks Victoria to complete the priority shared trail network in the metropolitan area, and has been included in a range of planning documents for the Creek. There is a Public Acquisition Overlay in favour of Parks Victoria over the freehold land adjacent to the creek corridor. *Linking People and Places* (2002) is Parks Victoria's document to guide future provision of regional open space across metropolitan Melbourne. This document has identified this link as a high priority for Parks Victoria. Once the trail is constructed, this has the potential to become a recreational resource for residents of Yarra, particularly in Alphington.

3.5.4.4 Linear reserves (other than waterways)

Former Inner circle railway line

The former Inner circle railway line is an open space linear reserve extending from the Merri Creek west to Princes Park. There is a secondary linear link to Edinburgh Gardens via the Mark Street Linear Reserve. Over the past decade this reserve has been planted with a mixture of native and indigenous trees and shrubs and there are some mature exotic trees remaining from when this was a functional railway corridor. The continuous open space corridor and presence of overstorey trees is assumed to function as a habitat corridor, particularly for native birds. The reserve also has a Local open space function with seating, play equipment, walking paths and shared path located in it. The Park Street Reserve section is located on the municipality boundary with Moreland City Council and there is shared responsibility for maintenance.

3.5.4.5 Regional open space

The larger Regional parkland reserves include Yarra Bend Park, Yarra Bend Public Golf Course and Herring Island and are all managed by Parks Victoria for Melbourne-wide visitors. According to the household questionnaire outcomes, Yarra Bend Park is one of most frequently used Regional open space reserves by Yarra's residents. Facilities include field sports, fly fishing, informal recreation facilities including shared trails, walking paths, dog off-lead exercise areas, picnic facilities and areas primarily set aside for nature conservation. Herring Island was not well used by residents, and a number nominated they would like to visit it but they were unsure how to access it, and that costs associated with the visit deters them. The Main Yarra Trail system along the Yarra River also provides for broader regional use, and the trail, constructed originally by Melbourne Water, is managed by both the City of Yarra and Parks Victoria, depending on whose land it is located. Similarly the regional trail system along the Merri Creek is provided for regional use and is managed by the City of Yarra for this section.

Fairfield Park located on the Yarra River attracts regional visitors including to the Fairfield Amphitheatre and the Fairfield Boathouse where boats can be rented for use. The other major Regional reserve in the City is Burnley Public Golf Course which is managed by the City of Yarra and the City are currently looking at measures to increase its use.

3.5.4.6 City-wide open space

There is a range of these reserves across the City, all of which are managed by the City of Yarra primarily for use by all residents of Yarra. Edinburgh Gardens is the most frequently visited City-wide reserve. It has both active and passive sporting and leisure facilities catering to a diversity of needs and uses, and has a formal heritage landscape character dating from its establishment period in the late 1800s. Edinburgh Gardens has recently had a Conservation Plan and Masterplan prepared for it in consultation with the community. Darling Gardens, located a short distance from Edinburgh Gardens, had heritage character dates from the late 1800s with formal avenues of exotic trees. The Gardens provide passive leisure facilities including large open grassed areas, playground and picnic facilities. Mayors Park, adjacent to Darling Gardens incorporates the Collingwood Aquatic Centre and tennis courts. All other City-wide reserves provide a combination of active sporting and passive facilities including Burnley Park and Kevin Bartlett Reserve. Allan Bain Reserve, White Street Oval and Ryans Reserve all provide well used sporting facilities.

3.5.4.7 Neighbourhood open space

These areas of open space are some of the most frequently visited reserves in the City. Curtain Square in North Carlton is located near the commercial shopping precinct in Rathdowne Street and contains a large playground, picnic area, informal grassed areas, formal avenue tree plantings and hard court areas. The diversity of facilities combined with its heritage character and mature trees are likely to be the reason the reserve is so popular. Alphington Park has a combination of sporting and informal activities including playground, grassed areas, large established trees, and a formal character derivative of its original layout in the early 1900s. The oval functions well for organised and informal activities, and the perimeter path offers great views over the oval to the city skyline beyond. Barkly Gardens and Citizens Park located in Richmond have a combination of sporting and informal activities. Gahan Reserve in Abbotsford is located near the Collingwood Town Hall and the formal planting style contributes to the heritage landscape character. This reserve is well frequented and provides for a range of informal leisure pursuits. Other Neighbourhood open space reserves include Hardy Gallagher Reserve, Quarries Park, Atherton Reserve and Golden Square.

3.5.4.8 Local open space

Local open space reserves are provided in all precincts across the City with the exception of Collingwood. Some Local open space is in excellent condition and well used whilst others are in need of upgrade. In Carlton North, the Local open space is provided in the wide grassed central medians of residential streets, which has limited use and high amenity value.

The survey outcomes have confirmed that residents in the City of Yarra use Local parks on a regular basis. Residents expressed the need for additional Local parks within walking distance of home, particularly in the areas of Collingwood, Abbotsford, Richmond and Cremorne. The use of Local parks in areas that have only small areas of open space were generally higher, for a diversity of uses including taking children to playgrounds, walking, sitting, enjoying views, playing informal games of sport etc. In the North Carlton area, residents use the wide grassed central medians for sitting, reading, walking and informal games.

3.5.4.9 Small Local open space

These are distributed throughout the City and in Collingwood is the only style of open space available for residents within easy walking distance. The Small Local open space varies in condition, design and facilities they provide. Some are small reserves with a seat, others include play equipment. Whilst they are small and suitable for one or two visitors only, they do appear to be valued and used. Some of their value is derived from the break in urban form providing the respite of green

in the built up environment. When poorly designed or maintained they can detract from the local neighbourhood and streetscape character.

3.5.5 LINKS BETWEEN OPEN SPACE RESERVES

3.5.5.1 Local streets

Local streets are set aside for transportation purposes and are therefore not public open space reserves, unless parts of them have been formally closed and rezoned as public open space. Local streets are frequently used for exercise and links between open space reserves. Where they provide direct connections between open space reserves they contribute to access and useability of open space reserves. They are not considered a replacement for public open space.

3.5.5.2 Existing railway reserves

The railway reserves are primarily reserved for transportation purposes. There are two railway reserves through Yarra that have the potential to provide the complementary role of habitat corridor. There is a north-south link on the eastern side of Hoddle Street which traverses along and over Merri Creek near Rushall Crescent, and continues south to immediately north of Bridge Road where it crosses under Hoddle Street towards Flinders Street. The second main railway reserve runs in an east-west alignment south of Swan Street, Richmond. This east-west link has a north-south offshoot which extends south through Cremorne and over the Yarra River.

The north-south railway easement has some environmental values where it is located adjacent to Merri Creek. There is significant remnant escarpment vegetation between the railway and the Creek. For the remainder of its alignment there is some established mature canopy trees (predominantly exotic) along the railway embankment. The embankment is too steep for a trail or path, but the mature trees in this highly urban environment may provide some bird habitat value and overall aesthetic value.

The east-west railway west of Church Street is highly constrained by existing urban settlement patterns however there are some scattered mature trees. East of Church Street there is more space for vegetation, and predominantly native trees have been planted. These link to the existing open space reserves including Barkly Gardens, Burnley Park and Circus Site. There is some remnant indigenous vegetation along the railway reserve where it passes through the Circus Site and Burnley Park which requires protection. Currently there is no path system along the railway line, however, there is potential to improve some pedestrian links along with environmental values.

3.5.6 OPEN SPACE IN ADJOINING MUNICIPALITIES



Refer to **Drawing YOSS 05**

The adjoining open space reserves to the City of Yarra are an integral part of the open space network for residents of Yarra. This is particularly important on the western boundary of the City where residents are a greater distance from the linear reserve systems along the Yarra River and Merri Creek. It is assumed that residents from adjoining municipalities also use Yarra's open space reserves. The major adjoining reserves used by residents of Yarra are located in the City of Melbourne. All, with the exception of Princes Park, require residents to cross at least one major arterial road. For this reason they are not included as part of the gap analysis for the existing Local or Small Local open space system of the City. The major adjoining reserves highlighted as regularly visited by residents in the household survey include:

- *Royal Botanic Gardens* - the range of reasons for visiting the gardens is diverse including: appreciation of the plants and trees; picnics; the outdoor theatre and cinema; enjoying the views; and garden character. This park is

used by people from all over Melbourne, and given its close proximity to the City of Yarra is frequently used by local residents, along with those who live further away in North Carlton.

- *Fitzroy Gardens* - a high proportion of use of this reserve is from residents in close proximity to it including Richmond, Abbotsford and Collingwood, however there is reasonable usage from residents of North Carlton and North Fitzroy who travel to reach this reserve. The reasons to visit include the garden style, mature trees, having coffee with friends, picnics and to walk.
- *Yarra Bend Park and Yarra River Linear Reserves* - the use is primarily from residents living within cycling/walking distance including Richmond and Alphington, along with areas further away including Carlton and North Fitzroy. The reasons for visiting these reserves include walking, cycling and dog walking.
- *Princes Park* in North Carlton receives a high percentage of local open space use by residents of North Carlton only, with the main activity being walking, walking the dog and cycling. The close proximity and direct access to this reserve for North Carlton residents influences this high level of use.
- *Carlton Gardens* in Carlton is used by nearly 50% of the residents of Fitzroy as open space. The reasons for visiting this reserve include walking, relaxation, informal games and dog walking.
- *Yarra Park and Gosch's Paddock* in East Melbourne are used, but to a lesser extent. This is most likely due to their predominant sporting use and the difficulty to access them across Punt Road. These reserves are in close proximity to the Cremorne and Richmond areas, which lack large areas of open space.

There are a range of other adjoining reserves that are accessible by the linear trail networks and include: Hays Paddock, Westerfolds Park and Heide Park upstream of the City via the Yarra River; Royal Park that can be accessed via Park Street and Hardy Gallagher Reserve; and Birrarung Marr which can be accessed via the Yarra River trail.

3.5.7 CLASSIFICATION OF OPEN SPACE

All open space in Yarra has been assessed and assigned a use and character classification. The purpose is to define the primary use and character for each reserve to guide its future design, level of maintenance and scope of facilities to be provided, within the context of the entire open space network. Some reserves have more than one character classification, however, in all cases a primary classification is selected to reflect the dominant character, followed by secondary classification/s where appropriate.



The summary tables of the allocation of the Use and Character Classification to each reserve in the City of Yarra is included in **Section 6**. Primary Use classifications are illustrated spatially on **Drawing YOSS 04**.

Description of each Use and Character Classification are contained in the following **Table 4** and **Table 5**, with examples of the different types of reserves in Yarra.

Table 4 Use Classification of open space in Yarra

Use classification	Definition	Examples of Reserves in Yarra
Regional	Open space that attracts visitors from Melbourne-wide or adjoining municipalities and where the level and type of facilities cater to this broader catchment. Generally these reserves are designed for visitors to stay for half a day to a day. The only reserves in the City that meet this criteria are on the waterways where they provide linear trail access to the broader catchment.	Yarra Bend Park, Fairfield Park and Boathouse, Yarra Bend Public Golf Course, Yarra River linear reserves, Merri Creek linear reserves
City-wide / District	Open space that attracts visitors primarily from the City of Yarra, and other adjoining municipalities and attracts visitors for 3 - 4 hours, and provides a diverse range of facilities to meet this longer stay, and range of interests. Examples include Edinburgh Gardens and Darling Gardens.	Edinburgh Gardens, Burnley Park, Kevin Bartlett Reserve, Mayors Park
Neighbourhood	Open space that provides facilities for visitors within walking distance and is designed for 1 - 2 hour stays. In the City of Yarra these include Barkly Gardens, Curtain Square.	Curtain Square, Alphington park, Gahan Reserve, Barkly Gardens, Golden Square
Local	Open space that is in easy walking distance from home and provides for short stay activities of up to approximately 1 hour.	Langdon Reserve, Coate Park, McConchie Reserve, Annettes Place, Dame Nellie Melba Park, O'Connell Reserve
Small Local	These open space areas are close to home, and provide for short stay activities, which are likely to be approx. 0.5 hour duration. They are differentiated from Local open space by their size, generally between 300 and 900m2.	Shakespeare Street Park, Egan Street Park, Alexander Reserve, King William Reserve, Whitlam Place, Cambridge St Reserve

Table 5 Character classification of open space in Yarra

Character classification	Definition	Examples of Reserves in Yarra
Unrestricted sporting	Dominant use is sporting which results in being the dominant character of the reserve. The outdoor sporting grounds are available for general public use when no organised sporting event is in progress.	Citizens Park, Burnley Park, Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Restricted sporting/ recreational use	Fenced and secured sporting facilities which may include Public golf course, fenced sporting grounds are not available for public use without payment or membership of a club, or fee paying passive/education use including adventure playgrounds and Children's Farm.	Burnley Public Golf Course, Collingwood Children's Farm, Victoria Park
Heritage	Heritage character which includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous history or significance. This may include planting, structures and layout. This classification is not limited to sites that currently have formal Heritage status or conservation plans, but relates primarily to their overall character.	Yarra Bend Park, Darling Gardens, Edinburgh Gardens, Barkly Gardens, Curtain Square, Coate Park
Linear	Where reserves are linear and includes along waterways and former railway reserve.	Yarra River linear reserve, Park Street Reserve, Inner circle railway, Merri Creek
Nature Conservation	Where the open space is intended for nature conservation, habitat protection or enhancement.	Yarra Bend Park, Quarries Park (part), Yarra River linear reserve

Character classification	Definition	Examples of Reserves in Yarra
Road Reservation	Where there are wide central medians (greater than 3 metres in width) or other areas of the road reserve that are developed as useable Local open space or nature conservation areas.	Canning Street, Pigdon Street, Raines Reserve
Urban / Civic	Its urban setting influences dominant character and function of the space. This can include forecourts to public buildings and outdoor public plazas.	Urban Art Square
Undefined / undeveloped	Open space that does not have an identifiable character or is undeveloped.	Circus Site, George Street Reserve, Browns Reserve, Atherton Reserve, Loys Paddock
Botanical	Where there is a significant botanical collection to the City of Yarra or with botanical interest.	Edinburgh Gardens, Barkly Gardens, Yarra River linear reserve, Rushall Station
Railway easement / siding	Open space adjoining railway easements where the railway use significantly influences the reserves future use and design.	Rushall Station
Informal	Where the character is informal and built features are not set out in a formal manner.	Hardy Gallagher Reserve, Quarries Park, Smith Reserve, Burnley Park, McConchie Reserve
Formal	Where the layout of features is recognisably designed and formal.	Dame Nellie Melba Park

INSERT YOSS 05

3.6 Community use of open space

3.6.1 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION PROCESS

There were a number of methods of consultation and research undertaken to determine the current levels of use of open space, gaps in the network and improvements that are required. These include the following

3.6.1.1 Household survey

- *Preparation and distribution of a household survey* distributed to 40,000 households in Yarra. The results of these have been collated on a precinct basis (based on the postcodes) and are fully described in **Appendix A**. Included in this section is an overall summary, with further precinct summaries in **Section 6**.

3.6.1.2 Comparative business/household survey

- *Preparation and distribution of a comparative business/household survey* to compare levels of use of open space by each. This was undertaken specifically to address the issue of conversion of industrial/mixed use sites to residential, and whether this impacts on open space use. Two different locations were selected for this comparative survey, one location had a linear open space system nearby, the other has a Small Local park nearby.

3.6.1.3 Council staff

- *Council officer workshops with a range of officers* in various departments including urban planning, statutory planning, strategic planning, finance, arts and culture, community services, park maintenance, open space planning and transport planning.
- *Steering Committee* input on the field trip, in Council officer workshops and comments on the draft Strategy.

3.6.1.4 Community Advisory Committees

- *Community Advisory Committee meetings* with the Environment, Planning and Access Committees to seek input at key stages during the development of the Strategy.

3.6.1.5 Consultation with other community groups

- *Council officer consultation with young people* at a youth forum held at the Collingwood Town Hall in August 2003. The consultation was an informal workshop, and written summary in an email was supplied to the project.
- *Council officer consultation with the homeless* via the Homeless Association. The consultation has been summarised in a report supplied to the project.

3.6.2 HOUSEHOLD SURVEY



As part of the initial research phase of the Strategy, questionnaires were distributed to all residents in the City of Yarra. 1,414 were completed and returned. A full summary report of the household survey outcomes is included in **Appendix A** and **Appendix B**. The following is a summary of some of the key outcomes.

3.6.2.1 Main areas of open space visited close to home

The purpose of this question was to find out what open space people use nearby. The following is a summary list of the reserves visited, however, the analysis on a precinct basis is more applicable to this question, particularly regarding the distance to which people will travel to use open space, and what they perceive is close to home. Refer to **Appendix A** for further details.

- Edinburgh Gardens, North Fitzroy
- Yarra Bend Park, Fairfield

- Fitzroy Gardens, East Melbourne
- Princes Park, Carlton North
- Carlton Gardens, Carlton
- Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill
- Yarra River linear reserves, Burnley and Abbotsford
- Merri Creek linear reserves, Clifton Hill and North Fitzroy
- Curtain Square, Carlton North
- Alphington Park, Alphington.

3.6.2.2 Main areas of open space visited outside the local area

The purpose of this question was to identify the main City-wide parks and Regional parks used by residents within and beyond the City boundaries. Following is a list of reserves in order of priority:

- Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
- Fitzroy Gardens, East Melbourne
- Yarra River linear reserves
- Yarra Bend Park, Fairfield
- Princes Park, Carlton North
- Merri Creek linear reserves
- Carlton Gardens, Carlton
- Treasury Gardens, Melbourne
- Studley Park, Kew
- Royal Park, Parkville

3.6.2.3 Types of open space or open space network used

This question listed the following types of reserves and asked for the frequency of use of each. The following is a list in order of priority across the City for these reserves. There is a more detailed analysis of how frequently they use these reserves in **Appendix A**. Of note is that local parks are more frequently used than medium sized parks, and local streets form important links between open space reserves.

- 91% Reserves along the Yarra River
- 90% Local streets for exercise
- 80% Large non-sporting reserves
- 74% Local parks
- 64% Reserves along Merri Creek
- 55% Medium sized parks
- 54% Large sporting reserves
- 45% Linear reserves (other than the waterways).

3.6.2.4 Activities and facilities in open space

This question listed facilities and asked residents to indicate which they use and the frequency of use. Additional there was space for general comments on their provision and maintenance. Below is a summary of the total use.

- 93% Walking paths
- 82% Informal open grassed areas
- 69% Public seating
- 66% Lighting
- 62% Cycling paths
- 58% Public toilets
- 46% BBQs
- 44% Playgrounds
- 39% Picnic shelters

- 33% Dog walking
- 21% Informal recreational activities, e.g. ball games
- 18% Club-based outdoor sporting activities
- 11% Club-based indoor sporting activities
- 06% Skate facilities.

3.6.2.5 What people value about open space

The question listed a range of values associated with open space and requested that respondents prioritise these values. The top response of quiet and peaceful was further articulated in many of the general comments sections by residents noting that getting away from traffic noise and the bustle of urban life was extremely important to their mental and physical health and well-being.

- Quiet and peaceful
- Relaxing
- Being outside
- Spaciousness
- Trees

3.6.2.6 Issues that limit use of existing open space reserves

Below is a brief summary of the reasons why people are not visiting some of the existing reserves:

- The need to cross busy roads
- Poor condition of paths making access difficult
- Poor maintenance of vegetation
- Distance to reach open space, i.e. they are too far
- Improved planting and feature garden areas within reserves, particularly native planting
- Inadequate provision of facilities including picnic areas and seating
- Toilet facilities poorly maintained
- Personal safety concerns
- The parks are too busy

3.6.2.7 General comments on open space

The general comments section was completed by approximately half of the respondents. It is the unstructured section of the questionnaire where respondents could make any comment on open space in general. Below is a brief summary of some of the key comments:

- open space is highly valued, essential to inner city living and should not be decreased
- more open space is required, particularly in Richmond and Collingwood
- improve the linked open space network including road closures/system of small parks
- concern regarding over-use of parks, particularly with increasing residential population
- additional linked cycling and walking paths
- resolve conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians on existing shared paths
- additional infrastructure including bins, seats, shade and fencing to playgrounds
- dog owners should take responsibility for their dogs including dog waste
- dog waste facilities are required
- personal safety in open space
- general park maintenance requires improvement.

3.6.3 COMPARATIVE BUSINESS/RESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

The purpose of the survey was to establish if there is a change in the use and need for open space when areas convert from business to residential use. Two areas were surveyed, Collingwood where there is only a small park nearby, and Richmond where the Yarra River is within easy walking distance. The survey outcomes confirm there is a change and residents use a wider network of open space for a more diverse range of activities than business occupants.

3.6.3.1 Collingwood

97% of residents use open space (total 38 resp.)

32% of business occupants use open space (total 28 resp.)

Residents use:

Fitzroy Gardens, Yarra River, Cambridge Street Reserve, Quarries Park, Yarra Park, Treasury Gardens, Darling Gardens, Whitlam Place.

Activities:

Playground, picnics, walking, jogging, cycling, enjoying views, being outside.

Business occupants use:

Fitzroy Gardens, Cambridge Street Reserve and Yarra River.

Activities:

Lunch, walking, cycling.

3.6.3.2 Richmond

100% of residents use open space (total 31 resp.)

45% of business occupants use open space (total 23 resp.)

Residents use:

Yarra River linear reserve, Annettes Place, Burnley Park, Dickson Reserve, O'Connell Reserve, Yarra Bend Park.

Activities:

Walking, picnics, dog walking, cycling, jogging, playground, enjoying views, enjoying the environment.

Business occupants use:

Yarra River linear reserve, O'Connell Reserve and Citizens Park.

Activities:

Walking, eat lunch, relax, meet friends.

3.6.4 WORKSHOPS

The combined summary outcomes of the Council officer workshop and Community Advisory Committee workshop are described below:

- **Strengths:** diversity of parks; community interest and involvement; natural and ecological values of waterway corridors; recreational use, accessibility of open space; indigenous and non-indigenous cultural values; extent of existing open space; commitment from Council to improve open space and significant open space contributions achieved.
- **Weaknesses:** conflicts between active and passive recreation; poor quality of infrastructure; limited space to cater to all recreational needs; reliance on high water-use with exotic parks; poor development interface; gaps in the linear open space along waterways; personal safety; conflicts between recreational and ecological values; weeds; and lack of planning scheme provisions for specifying open space contributions.
- **Opportunities:** increase the open space network for recreational use and nature conservation; provide continuous open space along the Yarra River; improve lighting to address safety concerns and increase diversity of use; habitat restoration and expansion; improve ecologically sustainable open space management practices and educate the community; improve linked open

space network with streetscape improvements; liaise with other local and State government agencies; improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians; improve development interface adjacent to open space; increase urban open space; and update the planning scheme.

- **Threats:** maintaining established exotic parks with water restrictions; conflicts between heritage and environmental values; poor interface with future development; budgetary constraints; regional (Melbourne-wide) needs and priorities over Yarra's local needs; changing demands for open space use; overuse of some facilities; increased use of reserves; and increased development adjacent to open space.

3.6.5 CONSULTATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

There have been two forms of consultation undertaken with young people:

- Council officer consultation with young people at a youth forum held by the City of Yarra at Collingwood Town Hall. The forum was about a broad range of issues affecting young people in the City, and a specific forum was held as part of this regarding open space.
- The household questionnaire included a Kids' section which was completed by 84 young people.

3.6.5.1 Consultation at youth forum

Parks visited: Edinburgh Gardens and Carlton Gardens.

What they like about them: places where people congregate, shade, where there are activities including walking circuits and basketball courts, features like lakes, close to public transport, areas that have adjoining indoor sporting facilities and diversity of activities, and parks with cafes nearby.

Improvements: lighting, cafes near parks, parks where they feel welcome, shade structures, more activities/facilities and they like native trees.

3.6.5.2 Kids questionnaire outcomes

Ages ranged from 1 to 16, with the majority between 3 and 10 years.

Favourite parks: Edinburgh Gardens(14), Curtain Square(8), Quarries Park(4), Alphington Park(4), Merri Park(3), Barkly Gardens(3), Princes Park(3).

Improvements to parks:

- *Edinburgh Gardens* - improve skate bowl, improve changing rooms/toilets, improve maintenance of grassed areas for playing including dog waste and drainage, improve play equipment, improve footpaths, mobile snack van, more drinking fountains, cricket nets, more shade trees to climb.
- *Curtain Square* - provide skate ramp/park, install shade over playground, improve toddler play area, more challenging play equipment, open grassed areas for kicking balls etc, drinking fountains, improved maintenance.
- *Quarries Park* - install shade to the play area, play area should be kept free of dogs, skate park, clean toilets.
- *Alphington Park* - equipment for older kids, install shade to play area.

3.6.6 CONSULTATION WITH HOMELESS PEOPLE

This consultation was organised by the Council officers in conjunction with the Homeless People's Association who approached the homeless to ask if they would participate. A total of 32 homeless people participated in the survey. There is a summary report prepared by Homeless People's Association included in **Appendix A**.

The following is a summary of the outcomes from the survey:

- 32 homeless participated in the survey, 25 men and 7 women.
- Predominant age group 40-49, followed by 50-59 and 30-39.
- **Open space used:** parks where there are other people, sports grounds/ovals, stations, church grounds and river banks.
- **Reasons to use them:** sleeping, peace and quiet and eating.
- **Open space they don't use:** high-rise, streets, alleyways.
- **Changes to improve them:** showers, storage areas or lockers, toilets, security via patrols, drinking fountains and water, lighting - but with grey areas to allow them to sleep or rest unnoticed by other park users, vegetation cover and benches.
- **Other recommendations:** Office of housing need to address safety issues at the high-rise public housing estates, continue to consult with people sleeping in open space.

3.7 Conclusion of consultation outcomes

The Yarra results reflect the broader state-wide recreational trends towards greater participation in non-club based organised sports. This includes higher participation in pursuits such as walking and cycling. This is consistent in areas with long established populations as well as in areas with a significant number of recently arrived residents. In Yarra the other trend to emerge is the appreciation of green and natural open spaces.

3.7.1 KEY VALUES OF OPEN SPACE IN YARRA

The following is a summary of the key values from all the consultation undertaken during the preparation of the Strategy:

- As a contrast to the pressures of inner city living, appreciate the quiet and peacefulness it offers along with opportunities to relax and be outside.
- A meeting place for the community.
- Physical and mental health.
- The natural cultural heritage landscape.
- Environmental character including native bushland along the waterways and presence of native fauna in parks.

3.7.2 KEY ISSUES FOR OPEN SPACE IN YARRA

3.7.2.1 Overall issues

The following overall issues are a summary from all the consultation undertaken during the preparation of the Strategy:

- Lack of existing open space in some areas of the City.
- Conflicts between different recreational uses including cycling, pedestrians and dog walking.
- Need for a linked system of small parks.
- Poor quality infrastructure particularly public toilets in parks reducing their useability.
- Overuse of parks and concern that overuse will be exacerbated with residential development.
- Lack of some recreational facilities including seating, shelters, public toilets and lighting.

- The potential to improve the quality of the natural environment including water quality, bushland values, habitat for native fauna including birds.
- Concern about the presence of non-indigenous vegetation and environmental impacts caused by this including water use, limited habitat value and weed dispersal.
- Cultural heritage values in open space are not being adequately protected in design and management of reserves.

3.7.2.2 Improvement to or additional facilities required in open space

The following is a summary of suggestions for the improvement to or additional facilities required in open space from all the consultation undertaken during the preparation of the Strategy:

- Lighting requires improvement particularly for walking paths and in parks to allow use of these after dark. Adequate lighting is required for recreational use balanced with grey areas for the homeless, particularly in the winter.
- Seating including near playgrounds, on-route to open space, located in positions with good views, in the shade and generally an adequate amount to enjoy the parks.
- Dog walking facilities including dog-off-lead areas, adequate facilities or education programs regarding dog waste collection, and suitable distances between dog-off-lead areas and other recreational activities that may conflict with this use.
- Public toilets require improvement to their design including increased natural light, visibility, safety, useability and suitability for cleaning. Additionally it was identified that additional public toilets are required in some areas.
- Walking paths including additional paths, wider paths and different surfaces for walking only.
- Playgrounds including provision of shade, adequate associated facilities including seating, picnic areas and open grassed areas, improved protection from busy roads or other incompatible uses.
- Cycle paths including wider paths, improved surfaces, through additional reserves and to improve the links to established paths.

3.7.2.3 Additional open space

The following is a summary of where additional open space was requested from all the consultation undertaken during the preparation of the Strategy:

- Additional open space was requested in the neighbourhoods of Collingwood, Fitzroy, Richmond and Cremorne.
- Requests for open space were qualified with requests for a series of small parks, small road closures and a local park for Collingwood.

4.0 KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED



The research undertaken for the project and outcomes from this as described in **Section 3** have generated the key issues described in this Section.



The recommendations for how these issues are to be addressed are contained in **Section 5** and **Section 6** of the Strategy.

It is recognised that many of the key issues raised in this Section require a multi-level approach to resolve them. This can include adjustments to planning, design, management and maintenance of open space. In **Section 5** and **Section 6** of the Strategy there are many recommendations for changes to the planning for, design, management and maintenance of open space. Implementation of recommendations across all areas will be required in order to address the key issues.

4.1 Inequity in open space distribution and access

SUMMARY

Inherent discrepancies in open space distribution across the City will be exacerbated in the future with new residential development in areas already deficient in open space. The inherent discrepancies need to be addressed to meet existing needs and will be planned for with appropriate open space contributions to meet future needs.

4.1.1 DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN SPACE



As described in **Section 3.5.1** there is an inherent discrepancy in open space distribution due to historical settlement patterns and types of land use. Much of the recent and new residential development will occur in areas deficient in open space. Many of the buildings being converted from industrial to residential use have heritage controls that include protection of the buildings that occupy the entire footprint of the site. In these cases, it is not possible for developments to provide land area as an open space contribution. Where these are located in areas already deficient in open space, innovative solutions are required to achieve a net increase in valuable and useable open space.

Table 2 describes that in Australia a commonly accepted average quantity of open space to aim for is 24.3 square metres of open space for each resident. This area of open space per resident cannot physically be achieved in all parts of Yarra. However, the standards for open space provision adopted in **Table 3** can be met over time to overcome inequalities in the distribution of and access to open space. It is possible for Council to provide safe and reasonable access to Small Local open space for all residents. There can also be a longer-term objective to achieve safe and reasonable access for residents to Local and Neighbourhood parks. In order to achieve this Council will need to address a number of issues including:

- the design of existing open space reserves where they are not currently well used to meet contemporary open space needs of the community. The trend towards unstructured recreational activities as evidenced by the resident survey needs to be considered;
- cost effective solutions to address the existing lack of open space to meet existing community needs which could potentially be addressed through the conversion of existing public land designated for other uses (e.g. car parks, road reserves, education, services etc) to public open space;
- barriers to access open space, including gaps in the existing open space reserve system along waterways, major roads that don't have provision for pedestrian crossings, reserves with no all weather paths into them limiting their

use, and streetscapes which do not have provision for safe pedestrian access thereby limiting the access to open space reserves;

- the need to secure additional larger areas for open space in neighbourhoods highlighted to be deficient in open space;
- personal safety including buildings or planting blocking clear lines of sight along paths and into the reserves, adequate lighting in places that are well used, and ongoing upgrade and replacement of ageing infrastructure to improve desirability for use;
- limited biodiversity values along waterway corridors and in sites nominated to have remnant indigenous vegetation; and
- the need to devise appropriate levels of open space development contributions to meet the anticipated needs of future residents.

The gap analysis, summary of household surveys and other research and analysis has been prepared on a precinct and sub-precinct basis. This allows an accurate reflection of changing open space needs and requirements across Yarra. Refer to **Drawing YOSS 02** for precincts, and Precinct Plans **Drawings YOSS 07 - YOSS 13c** for the sub-precinct breakdown.



4.1.2 ACCESS

4.1.2.1 Links between open space

Linear open space reserves

Some of the largest open space reserves are located along the waterways including Yarra Bend Park, Quarries Park, Hall Reserve, Burnley Park and Kevin Bartlett Reserve. These have good linear trail links between them and there is potential to improve on street links.

Streets

It is recognised that local streets are well used for walking and cycling, and whilst they are not part of the primary open space system, they do have a secondary role providing connectivity between open space. There are major areas of open space which are not located on linear open space and residents travel to these reserves on foot, bicycle, in cars and public transport. Examples of these reserves include Edinburgh Gardens in North Fitzroy, Darling Gardens in Clifton Hill and Burnley Park in Richmond. This Strategy encourages access to these reserves on foot, bicycle and public transport via the road network and to facilitate this a number of streets are highlighted as key walking and cycling routes between open space reserves. These have been selected for the following reasons:

- the most direct route;
- either have existing or potential for footpaths and where appropriate, cycle paths;
- where possible, have existing or potential for street trees which enhance walkability;
- where possible, local and collector roads are preferred where there are lower vehicle numbers;
- take account of existing signalled intersections as these assist with crossing major roads; and
- have other open space reserves or road closures located on them to link a series of parks together.



Refer to **Drawing YOSS 06** and the Precinct Plans in **Section 6**.

4.1.2.2 All-ability access to open space

Throughout the urban areas there are a range of smaller reserves functioning as Neighbourhood and Local parks. Some of these parks are inaccessible to people with physical disabilities. Over time accessibility to open space will need to be improved to ensure there is equal opportunity for all the community to use and enjoy the parks.

4.1.2.3 Personal safety in parks

The household survey outcomes and other research has identified that personal safety concerns when visiting open space discourages and prevents use of some reserves. The issues include:

- poor lines of sight due to buildings and/or vegetation
- other park users, particularly the elderly being threatened by cyclists
- unsavoury activities associated with public toilets
- concern regarding syringes in playgrounds
- lack of lighting
- dogs off-leads near playgrounds and generally in open space

4.1.2.4 Diversity, type and condition of facilities in open space

The type and range of facilities provided in these reserves can limit access to them. This can include the dominance of a park with a single use which may not be providing “access” for surrounding residents. This becomes an issue where there is a limited amount of open space available that should meet a range of needs.

Based on the research undertaken for this Strategy there are some locations where existing larger open space reserves are not fulfilling the open space needs of the majority of the local community. It is anticipated that this may be in part due to the range and condition of facilities provided. Major reserves (i.e. Regional, City-wide or Neighbourhood level reserves) from the research to date are not well used include:

- **Atherton Reserve** in Fitzroy which, despite being a large area of open space with adjoining smaller parcels of open space, does not appear to be well used by a broad cross-section of the community. This is assumed to be mainly due to the poor condition of the reserve, the dominance of the informal soccer ground and lack of other facilities to attract a diversity of uses. In a precinct where this is the largest reserve with a linked system of open space areas, there is an opportunity to redesign the reserve in close consultation with the community (including residents of the Office of Housing estate) to develop a focussed neighbourhood system of parks. This will improve access for a wide cross-section of the community.
- **Burnley Park and the Circus Site** in Richmond are two large reserves located in an area of the City that have little open space. The parks are located adjacent to the Main Yarra Trail, however Yarra Boulevard and the steep topography make it difficult to access from the trail. The railway and Swan Street form major access barriers to the south and residential properties adjoin the western boundary, enclosing this site from the larger residential catchment to the west. Burnley Park is used by approximately 20% of the respondents to the survey, however, the Circus Site is not specifically nominated as being used. There is a Masterplan for Burnley Park and there is potential for these sites to better meet cultural, environmental and community needs.
- **Citizens Park** in central Richmond is located north of the Town Hall and is surrounded by residential, commercial and education use. In the household survey results, the Park does not appear to be well used with only 14% of respondents stating they use it. Council officers have advised that this park is well used during the daytime and note that the survey may not have captured its users due to language and cultural barriers. This may be the case, however, it is recommended that a review be undertaken to determine whether some changes to the Park can address the safety and the illicit drug dealing issues raised in the questionnaires and by the Parks maintenance team. Addressing these issues may lead to increased use by a broader cross-section of the community.
- **Golden Square** in Burnley did not appear to be well used based on the household survey outcomes or from field work observations. This reserve is located in a residential neighbourhood that is contained by major roads or

railways and therefore Golden Square should be fulfilling a Neighbourhood park role, as other parks are difficult to access.

- **Hardy Gallagher Reserve** in Princes Hill is a large reserve containing a linear trail connecting it with Princes Park, Park Street Reserve and across to Merri Creek. Generally this reserve appears to be under-utilised in a precinct that does not have much open space located within the City boundaries. It could be further developed and enhanced as a Neighbourhood park thereby improving use and access. There is potential to improve its environmental role with appropriate species use.
- **Holden Street Reserve** in Fitzroy North adjoins Park Street Linear Reserve and is the local Neighbourhood park for the area of Fitzroy North located north of Park Street. No specific comments were received about this reserve in the questionnaire outcomes, however, its design and facilities may require review to ensure it meets the needs of this community.
- **Victoria Park** in Abbotsford is currently a restricted sporting ground but has the potential to be available for broader recreation and leisure use.



Refer to the overall recommendations in **Section 5.2.1**

INSERT YOSS 06

4.2 Gaps in the existing open space network



A gap analysis has been undertaken for the City based on the distances specified in the tables included in **Section 3.5.3**. Refer to **Drawing YOSS 04**.

SUMMARY

The gap analysis identifies areas where residents do not have reasonable and safe walking access to open space reserves within Yarra. Safe walking access means without the need to cross major arterial roads to reach open space. The main gaps occur in Collingwood, West Richmond and Cremorne. Historically non-residential in nature, these are areas with expanding residential population.

4.2.1 COLLINGWOOD

4.2.1.1 North of Johnston Street (Sub-precinct 3066A)

Collingwood between Alexander Parade and Johnston Street is predominantly residential with some industrial area in the south west of this precinct. Within this area there are only two Small Local open space reserves. Alexander Street Reserve is one of these two reserves, and is located in the north-south street, in a single lot setback from housing, with no east-west access or link to it. Whilst it provides good access for people living in Alexander Street, for residents a few streets away it is difficult to access, and once there, given it is sandwiched between two houses with flats across the road, is of limited use. The second of the Small Local parks is McNamara Reserve which is located on the corner of Gold Street and Keele Street, with Gold Street being a main traffic link through the neighbourhood and across the road from a Child Care Centre. Whilst the design of the reserve may need improvement, its location in terms of visibility and accessibility is far better and functions as a Small Local park. There has been some small scale conversions of industrial premises to residential scattered through the industrial precinct. In the longer term if this conversion continues, there may be an increased demand to provide a Local park in this neighbourhood. Currently open space provision in this precinct requires review.

4.2.1.2 South of Johnston Street (Sub-precinct 3066B)

Collingwood between Victoria Parade and Johnston Street has only one Small Local park. The land in the south-east part of this precinct is predominantly industrial use. In the west of the precinct between Wellington Street and Smith Street the precinct is experiencing the conversion from industrial to residential use. To the north-east of the precinct there is a large area of existing residential use that has no Small Local, Local or Neighbourhood open space. There is a high priority to provide Small Local open space in the east, and the south-west of this area to meet existing needs, along with the need to provide a larger Neighbourhood park, or a system of linked smaller reserves to meet residential needs. The household surveys reinforce this analysis with requests for more open space in Collingwood, and a community park for Collingwood.

4.2.2 RICHMOND

4.2.2.1 West Richmond (Sub-precincts 3121A and 3121B)

This is the area west of Church Street from Victoria Street to Swan Street. Currently there are three Small Local parks in this area including Egan Place Reserve, Urban Art Square and Alexander Reserve. Residents furthest from any Small Local open space are located in the south-west of this precinct. The three existing reserves all have limitations:

- Egan Place Reserve is in poor condition.

- Urban Art Square is located on the corner of Bridge Road and Hoddle Street which is extremely exposed to traffic noise and appears to be primarily a visual space.
- Alexander Reserve has been recently upgraded and services the local community well, however, it is not part of a linked network and to reach it from other areas residents need to walk to Church Street.
- A small reserve is to be established in Waltham Place with land contributed by the Church. Given the location on a small laneway only the immediate local residential catchment will benefit from this reserve.

There is a need to provide additional open space in this precinct on both a Local and Neighbourhood level. As a minimum, Small Local open space will be required in the short term.

This area has recent conversion of industrial to residential use in the south-western area. There are currently a range of future residential development sites nominated in this precinct, which may present opportunities to negotiate and achieve a Neighbourhood park and additional Local open space.

4.2.2.2 Central Richmond (Sub-precinct 3121F)

There are gaps in the Local and Neighbourhood open space network immediately west and east of Burnley Street. There has been some smaller scale residential conversions in this neighbourhood recently, and it is anticipated this trend will continue. There is an existing need for additional open space particularly at the local level. With increased residential densities, particularly east of Burnley Street there will be a need for a Neighbourhood park, or improved safe access to one.

4.2.3 CREMORNE

4.2.3.1 West of the railway (Sub-precinct 3121G)

This precinct has predominantly industrial use with small interspersed pockets of residential cottages. In more recent times there have been some smaller scale conversion of industrial buildings to residential use. The three Small Local parks in this precinct have problems with accessibility and size, or are highly exposed to major traffic flows specifically in reference to Swan Street Reserve which is on the corner of Punt Road and Swan Street. Currently there is a need for an improved Local open space reserve for this precinct, for which demand will increase with any future conversion from industrial to residential use, and construction of the larger development sites. The DSE Urban Development Program 2003 Report identifies two sites in this precinct as residential land. Refer to **Section 4.5** for further information.

4.2.3.2 East of the railway (Sub-precinct 3121H)

The railway forms a significant barrier to safe access. This precinct has a similar character to west of the railway, and requires an additional Small Local open space as a minimum to meet residential needs in the south of the precinct.

For recommendations refer to Precinct Plans in **Section 6**.

4.2.4 GAPS IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACE ALONG WATERWAY CORRIDORS



The waterway corridors are identified as important natural habitat corridors and recreational links in the open space network. Currently there are some gaps in the provision of continuous public open space reserves along the waterways. The majority of these gaps are described in **Section 4.3.2.2**, as they predominantly occur in Regional open space.

4.3 Open space in adjoining municipalities and Regional open space

SUMMARY

Open space in adjoining municipalities and Regional open space is well used by Yarra's residents, however, Yarra does not have a direct ongoing role in their provision, design and management to meet Yarra's community needs.

4.3.1 OPEN SPACE IN ADJOINING MUNICIPALITIES

The household survey revealed that many residents use open space in the adjoining municipalities. It is also a reasonable assumption that residents in the adjoining municipalities use open space in Yarra.

The major adjoining reserves used by residents of Yarra are located in the City of Melbourne. All, with the exception of Princes Park, require residents to cross at least one major arterial road. These adjoining reserves are nominated as being used for a range of informal leisure activities including walking, picnics, enjoying the outdoors, appreciating plants, socialising, watching major sporting events and visiting playgrounds. Residents have nominated some improvements that could be made to these adjoining reserves to better suit their needs. Measures to achieve these will require constructive liaison with the adjoining Council or review of open space design and quantity within the City boundaries to meet these needs where required. An example of this is Carlton Gardens in Fitzroy as described below:

- *Carlton Gardens* in Carlton is used by nearly 50% of the residents of Fitzroy as open space. The reasons for visiting this reserve include walking, relaxation, informal games and dog walking. Residents of Yarra have identified the following issues:
 - cyclists should be permitted in the gardens; and
 - dog off-lead areas are required.

Recent discussions between City of Melbourne and the City of Yarra have identified that the City of Melbourne are looking for alternative locations for dog walking outside Carlton Gardens, and were seeking the views of the City of Yarra on other reserves nearby where dog walking may be possible for residents of both neighbourhoods. Open space in Fitzroy is extremely limited and the only location in which this may be possible to provide would be in Atherton Reserve, however, it will need to be compatible with the other uses proposed in a Neighbourhood park. This is a good example of constructive liaison between the two municipalities on balancing open space needs for residents of both municipalities within the existing network.



Refer to **Section 5.2.9** and the Precinct Recommendations in **Section 6**.

4.3.2 REGIONAL OPEN SPACE IN YARRA

Regional open space is owned and managed by a range of local and State government authorities for regional use by residents from Melbourne and beyond. Planning for Regional open space is undertaken by Parks Victoria. Their most recent strategy outlining Regional open space provision and priorities is contained in *Linking People and Places* (Parks Victoria, 2002). The priorities for works in relation to the City of Yarra include:

- Shared trail link along the Darebin Creek to the Main Yarra Trail (0-3 year priority)
- Upgrade and develop infrastructure and enhance landscape values along the Lower Yarra River in order to support its recreation, sporting and tourism use, and its role as a prominent venue in the 2006 Commonwealth Games
- Continue to enhance and protect riparian values including along the Yarra River and Merri Creek
- Complete the gap along the Merri Creek trail in Fitzroy North (10+ years)
- Enhance links between Royal Park and Moonee Ponds Creek

4.3.2.1 Regional open space reserves managed by Parks Victoria

Yarra Bend Park

This is the major Regional open space reserve managed by Parks Victoria within the City boundaries. The facilities are extensive and are well used by residents of Yarra. Future issues that require resolution include:

- the potential use of some of the sporting fields by City of Yarra sporting clubs to accommodate the existing and future demand by sporting clubs for oval space;
- condition of path surfaces; and
- improved publicity that there are dog-off-lead areas in the reserve as these are well used by some, but have been requested by other residents.

Herring Island

This is nominated by residents as an open space they would like to visit. The issues preventing access are:

- lack of information on how to reach it; and
- cost of getting there.

Future access and management arrangements require clarification.

4.3.2.2 Regional trails



For values and issues regarding the environmental values refer to **Section 4.8.1. Yarra River**.

The research phase has identified the following issues:

- visual impact of adjoining development on the environmental and leisure values of river corridor, particularly the sense of remoteness from the urban environment
- views over water and along the corridor are important to protect in future works within and adjacent to the Yarra River
- the limited width of the open space reserve constrains future opportunities to address some of the design issues with the trail including steep grades and locations where they are low in the floodplain and subjected to damage from flooding and restricted safe access
- extensive use of the trail leads to conflicts between users, yet in most locations there are limited opportunities to provide additional or wider trails without significant environmental, cost and impact on natural landscape values of the corridor
- poor condition of some access points into the trail including steep grades, some with step access only (Gipps Street was frequently mentioned)

- conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians on the paths, particularly comments regarding speeding cyclists
- paths are extremely well used which results in the conflicts between different recreational activities
- dogs off-lead on the trails causing issues for cyclists and pedestrians
- lack of responsibility by dog owners to clean up dog waste
- lack of continuity of trail due to lack of public open space in some sections

The lack of open space in two main locations to provide continuous open space corridor occurs in Abbotsford and Fairfield/Alphington. These are described separately below:

- A regional need was identified for open space on the south-west side of the Yarra River through Abbotsford. Currently this is freehold land extending from Collins footbridge to Walmer Street footbridge. A Public Acquisition Overlay has been placed over the freehold land adjacent to the River in favour of Parks Victoria. This will allow construction of an off-road shared trail link along the Yarra River to replace the section of trail that is located adjacent to Yarra Bend Boulevard.
- There is a local need for access between Fairfield Park and Alphington Park on the north side of the Yarra River. The Main Yarra Trail will continue on its existing alignment on the southern side the Yarra River, crossing at the footbridge in Fairfield Park. Public access on the north side of the River is required for recreational use, and to ensure a buffer remains between the River and private land to allow environmental improvement to the Yarra River riparian zone. Following describes the two sections of this link:
 - *Fairfield Park to Rudder Grange*
This reach has over 20 individual freehold titles that extend to the edge of the Yarra River with a small parcel of public land at the end of Station Street. Currently people use Park Crescent to walk between Fairfield Park and Rudder Grange. Park Crescent runs parallel with the Yarra River and is a direct on-street walking link. The large number of individual freehold residential titles that own land to the edge of the River would result in a costly and potentially long process to purchase a strip of public open space along the northern bank of the Yarra River in this location. Whilst it would be preferable to have public land along the River for recreational and environmental reasons, given the on-street connection along Park Crescent and the costs associated with purchase of this land, this is not a short-term goal. Other options to improve the environmental and potentially recreational access along this reach include: to continue to enter into informal agreements with individual land-holders; and ensure no buildings are constructed close to the river bank to allow the longer-term option to formalise a link along the northern bank of the Yarra to be investigated.
 - *Rudder Grange to Coate Park*
There is a single freehold title separating these two reserves. Currently there is a licence to allow public access between these two reserves over this private land. The road layout comprises of north-south streets resulting in no other alternative walking link between these two open space reserves on the road network.
 - *Coate Park to Alphington Park*
There are fewer landholders in this reach with Amcor as one of the main landholders. Council has been negotiating to develop an agreement for public access in preference to purchase. With the larger land holding there is potential to include the long term requirement that in future redevelopment of this site, public open space will be required along the River.



Refer to Overall Recommendations in **Section 5.1.3.1** and Precinct Recommendations in **Section 6**.

Merri Creek

The background research has identified the following issues with the trails recreational use of the linear reserve:

- trail design in some locations is subject to flooding including some low level crossings and steeply graded paths which will require review;
- poor sense of personal safety due to vegetation and remoteness from adjoining residential areas;
- gap in the regional trail link along Merri Creek between Barkly Street and St Georges Road where 8 freehold titles adjoin the waterway reserve making public access through this section difficult. Currently there is no Public Acquisition Overlay on these properties, however Parks Victoria have identified this as a longer term link (10+ years) that needs to be achieved. The land is steeply graded through this section and would be difficult to construct a path without significant impact on the adjoining properties and inherent safety issues during high flows in a steeply graded valley form.



Refer to Overall Recommendations in **Section 5.1.3**.

Darebin Creek

Parks Victoria is currently designing this trail link from Darebin Parklands south to link to the Main Yarra Trail at Wilsmere Park. There is a Public Acquisition Overlay over the subject land through Alphington Grammar School and Latrobe Golf Club in favour of Melbourne Parks and Waterways which is managed by Parks Victoria. This link is seen as a regional priority to completing the linked shared trail system in this part of Melbourne

Issues arising from research that need to be addressed include:

- there is unlikely to be a sustainable public access point into the linear trail system from Alphington; and
- once the trail is constructed the City of Yarra may be requested to be responsible for the maintenance of the trail and associated open space reserve where it is located in the City boundaries, and if this occurs access for residents may need to be resolved.

4.3.2.3

Melbourne Water owned land

Yarra River

Melbourne Water own two small parcels of land along the Yarra River which are illustrated on **Drawing YOSS 05**. One is located upstream of Bridge Road and the other is immediately downstream of the Glen Railway Bridge near Heyington Station.

Merri Creek

The triangular reserve immediately downstream of St Georges Road is owned by Melbourne Water and managed by City of Yarra.



Refer to recommendations in **Section 5.2.9**.

4.4 Provision, use and management of Local and Small Local open space

SUMMARY

The fine grain and density of Yarra's urban fabric has resulted in provision of small areas of open space that in suburban areas would be considered too small to be useable. In Yarra, Small Local open space is sometimes the only option to provide any open space within safe walking distance of residents, and brings with it unique challenges to ensure they make a valuable contribution to the open space network.

The City of Yarra has and will continue to have a system of small open space reserves, with limited opportunities to increase their size. In much of suburban Melbourne, Small Local parks are not well used as residents have adequate private gardens and tend to use larger open space reserves. In Yarra many Small Local parks are regularly used by residents. The household surveys identified that many residents in Yarra use Small Local parks on a daily and weekly basis. It is

therefore intended to continue to maintain Small Local open space, and seek opportunities to either increase their size, where possible, and provide additional Small Local or Local open space in areas that currently lack open space. This is considered preferable to providing no new open space at all.

Small Local and Local open space reserves need to be thoughtfully designed in consultation with community and within the context that they form a network of parks. Individual Small Local open space should not try to provide too many facilities, as they are intended for short stays. Refer to recommendations in **Section 5.1.2.**



4.5 Future development and change in land use

SUMMARY

Yarra's residential population will continue to expand which will increase demand for the provision and use of public open space.

4.5.1 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

Melbourne 2030, Planning for Sustainable Growth (DOI, 2002) identifies that 90,000 new dwellings will be required in the inner city area. The housing capacity in the Inner Melbourne Region, including the anticipated distribution of new dwellings across the Inner Region, has been further articulated in the Inner Draft Regional Housing Statement.

A map has been published of major development sites as part of the Urban Development Program 2004 Report (DSE), and the areas within and surrounding the City of Yarra are included below in **Figure 1**. Current estimates for future dwellings in the Inner Melbourne Region to 2019 identify a total of 7,262 new dwellings for Yarra, including a yield of some 5,300 dwelling from the major development sites. The Inner Region, which includes the Cities of Melbourne, Port Phillip, Stonnington and Yarra, in total will have an estimated additional 56,418 dwellings, with 32,264 of these anticipated to occur in Melbourne and 11,842 in Port Phillip. In summary, the entire Inner Melbourne Region will have an increasing number of residents leading to increased use of open space both within and adjoining the City of Yarra.

According to Victoria in Future 2004 (DSE), the population in the Inner Melbourne Region will increase by 52,300 persons between 2001 to 2011, and by an additional 28,700 persons between 2011 and 2016. The population in Yarra will increase by some 5,500 persons between 2001 to 2011, and by an additional 3,700 persons between 2011 to 2016 (a total increase of 9,200). This translates to an additional 6,400 households between 2001 to 2016.

These figures have been used to develop a broad understanding of the changing population dynamics that will affect demand for open space in the future as well as the benefits that the open space network can provide to local communities as densities increase in what is already a compact, settled urban area.

The Urban Development Program 2004 Report (DSE) lists estimated dwelling construction from major development sites in the near foreseeable future which is summarised as follows:

Table 6 *Future dwelling construction from major redevelopment sites - Inner Region - Yarra, Source Urban Development Program 2004 Report (DSE)*

Recent dwelling construction 2001-2004 (average)	Total identified dwelling availability	Dwellings identified for construction		
		1-2 years	3 - 5 years	6+ years
78	5,305	1,197	2,953	1,155

4.5.1.1 Key development sites

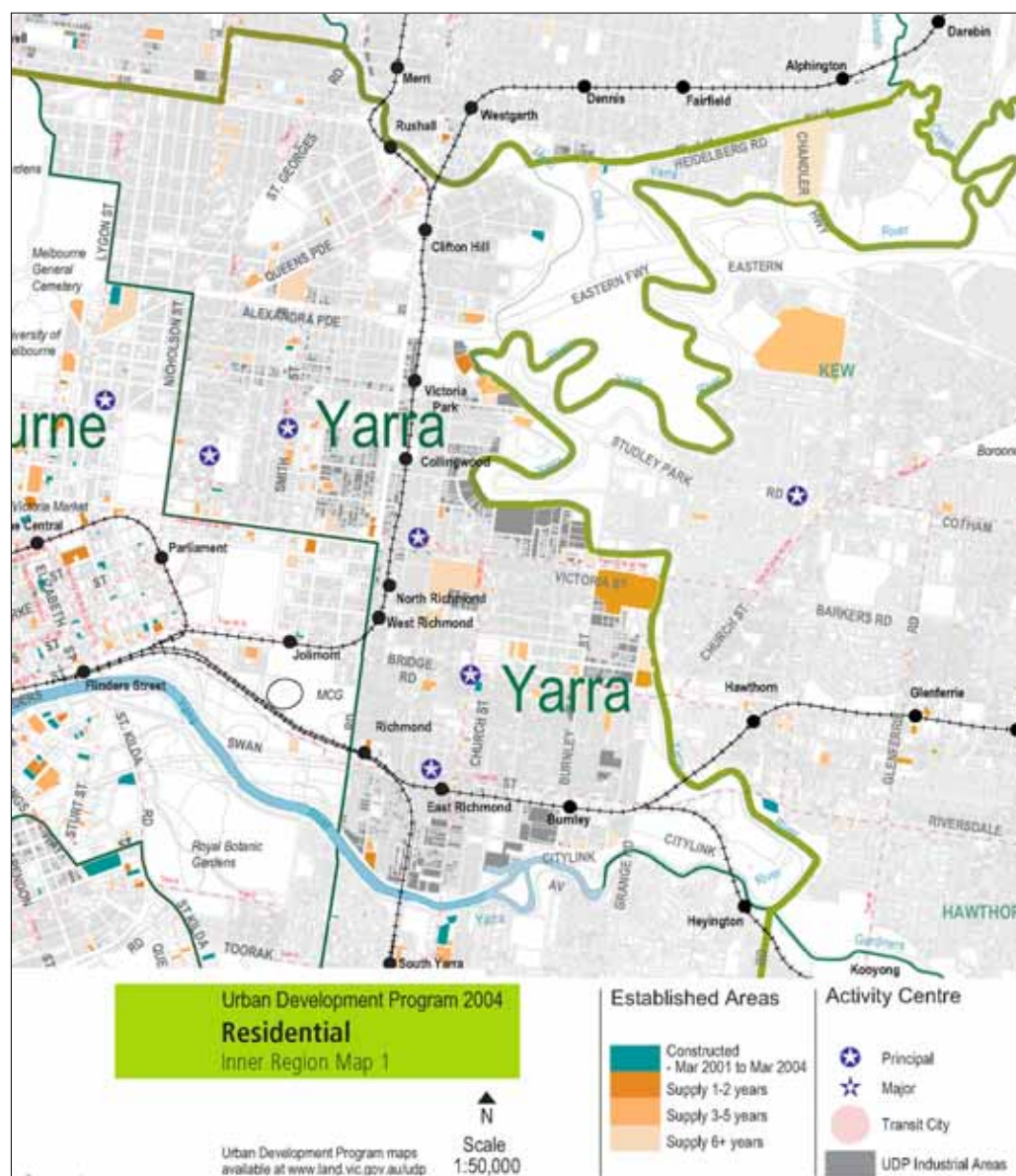


FIGURE 1 EXTRACT FROM URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, 2004 - ILLUSTRATING MAJOR DEVELOPMENT SITES
Source: Urban Development Program, DSE, 2004

Figure 1 illustrates that the majority of the major redevelopment sites are located in Richmond, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Abbotsford with some additional sites in the north western area of Fitzroy North. The pressure additional residents will place on existing facilities is a factor that needs to be considered in identifying appropriate additions to the open space network and where these can be achieved through open space contributions. Following is a list of some of the larger scale redevelopment sites proposed where there is potential to add to the open space network through acquisition of land:

- Office of Housing estate in west Richmond between Highett and Elizabeth Street is identified as a longer term redevelopment site (6+ years).
- Channel 9 site in East Richmond (6+ years) which brings forward the possibility for future local open space to be provided to meet existing and future open space needs. This would require a contribution from Council towards the
- provision of the new reserve as it would potentially meet both an existing need and provide for the need generated by redevelopment of the site.
- Bus depot on the corner of Scotchmer Street and Nicholson Street in Fitzroy North (6+ years) where there will be a need for additional local open space generated by the redevelopment.
- A number of sites adjoining the Yarra River including at the end of Audley Street, adjacent to Burnley Street and adjacent to River Street. All these sites have the potential to contribute land area towards open space adjacent to the linear reserve along the Yarra River which will meet the needs generated by the development and enhance the landscape and environmental values of the open space system along the river.

Within the Inner Region context there are some large development sites proposed in adjoining municipalities including along Burwood Road near Power Street in Hawthorn, which may increase use of the Yarra River linear reserves, and another site in Kew opposite Yarra Bend Park.

4.5.1.2 Anticipated residential population growth on an open space sub-precinct planning basis

In addition to these major redevelopment sites nominated by DSE, it is anticipated that areas currently zoned as Mixed Use or Business 5 encourage viable conversion from non-residential to residential use. Where these commercial or industrial buildings are located in Heritage Overlay areas it is assumed that the residential use will primarily retain the existing built fabric, however the change in use will increase the demand for and use of open space nearby. As stated in the Inner Draft Regional Housing Statement, the emphasis will be on shifting the location of residential development away from established locations to strategic precincts, including the major redevelopment sites and areas of residential conversion. However smaller infill development is also anticipated across Yarra even in established areas, adding incrementally to the residential population and again placing new demands on open space.

The Housing Statement estimates that between 2001 to 2016, Yarra will accommodate 1150 new dwellings in established residential areas, 480 new dwellings in retail and commercial strips and 6050 new dwellings in major redevelopment sites or precincts.

Therefore, the anticipated residential population growth and hence change in demand for open space will differ from one part of Yarra to another due to the greater opportunities available in some areas and constraints on development in others. As noted in the Housing Statement, the type of new housing will drive changes in the characteristics of the new population, and it is expected that this will also affect the type of demand for open space.

To assist development of this Strategy, the City of Yarra reviewed data from the DSE Urban Development Program, i.d. Consulting population forecasts and the Inner Draft Regional Housing Statement. This information has been used to develop a finer grain of anticipated population growth, which has been especially helpful in determining where increased demand for open space is likely to occur, and the changed level of demand to be planned for. Population change information used in developing the Strategy is summarised and illustrated in

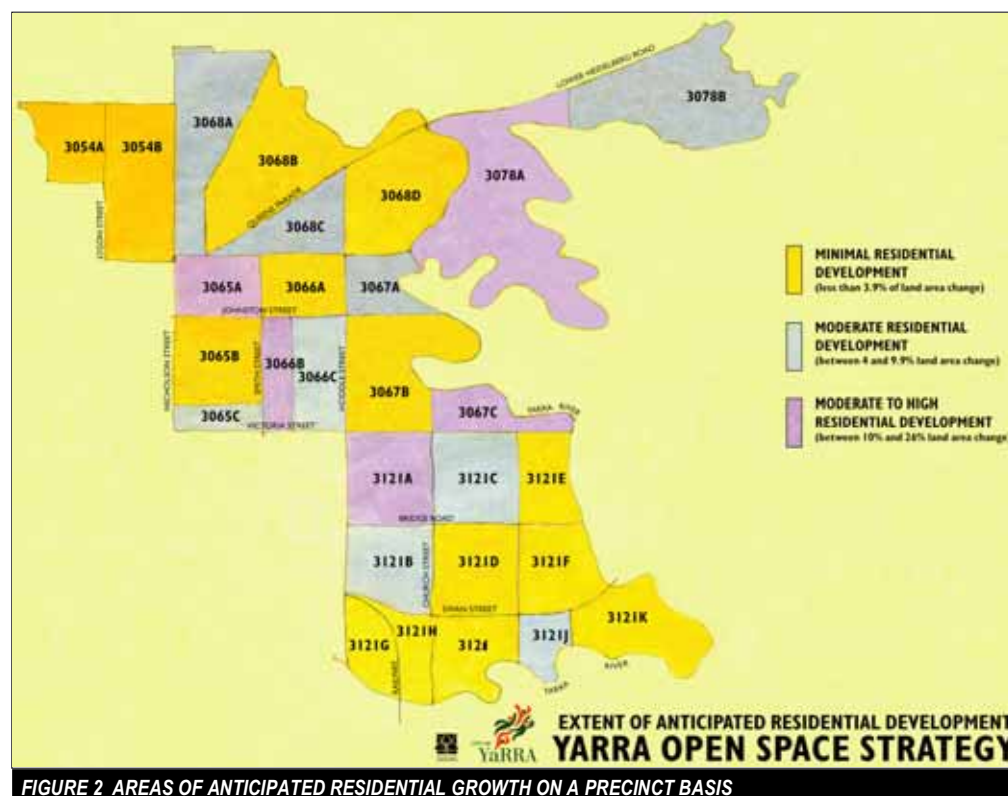


Figure 2. Figure 2 identifies each of the open space sub-precincts as an area of minimal change, moderate change and moderate to high population change over

the next 10-15 years, which is generally consistent with the time period covered by this Strategy.

Using the population change information in combination with research about the existing open space network has led to these conclusions about how open space planning should respond to anticipated change:

- In areas where population increases are likely to be minimal and sufficient open space exists to serve both the existing and the anticipated population, then the emphasis will be on improvements to existing parks and reserves in line with community desires and needs.
- In areas where population increases are anticipated to be more substantial, and where open space or access to open space will be lacking, then additional open space will need to be acquired and developed, and any existing open spaces in these areas may also need improvement.



number of people will occupy the building, the only change being from employees to residents.

To assess this, a specific survey has been undertaken to ask residents and people in their workplace, what open space they use and the types of activities they undertake in open space. Two locations were selected where residential and business/industrial sites are located close by, one with access to nearby open space, and one without.

Both survey findings confirm that residents use open space in these locations, with residents indicating that they travel more than one kilometre to open space in order to use it when there is a lack of good quality open space in their local area. Business/industrial workplace employees occasionally use nearby open space primarily for eating lunch, or walking/jogging where they are located near to a linear reserve. Where there is only a Small Local open space nearby, a few employees did use open space, however, they did not travel as far or for the diversity of uses that residents do. Residents living near to open space use this regularly for a diversity of activities. In response to the question of suggested improvements to open space, residents had many more requests for facilities and open space areas, than the workplace respondents.

In summary, the survey outcomes reveal that residents place higher demands on open space and have more diverse expectations and need for activities they can participate in. Workplace employees will use open space if it is convenient, however, the usage is incidental and they place less demands on the City to provide these facilities given they only potentially use it during working hours.

Based on these survey results, open space contributions will be sought for residential uses and not for business uses, as use of municipal open space by workers has been demonstrated to be entirely incidental. Also, Yarra is not creating, designing or improving open space in response to workers' needs in the City and the Strategy does not recommend a change to the current situation.

4.6 Diversity of needs

SUMMARY

Yarra's community is diverse which is recognised as a key strength and open space will need to cater to the diverse needs of the community in the future.

Diversity is a key strength of the City of Yarra. The social diversity contributes to the eclectic and dynamic character and is planned to continue to be supported by the City with a diversity of housing and levels of affordability. It is anticipated that the trend to increasing numbers of wealthy professionals living in the City will continue, however, this will be balanced with a range of other groups given the long standing reasons for this mix. These reasons include: the presence of tertiary education institutions within and adjoining the municipality with Yarra providing affordable student housing; public housing; mixed land use; and affordable housing stock.

Open space therefore needs to cater to this social diversity and to ensure the needs of the socially disadvantaged are considered in the provision, design and maintenance of open space. This includes the homeless, the young, the old, people with English as a second language, people with physical disabilities, as well as the range of families and young professionals living in the City.

The intent is to provide for this diversity in an integrated manner to reflect the social diversity in the parks and ensure they continue to play an important role that the community have identified during the consultation process. Some specific issues that highlight conflicts between different uses in open space or aspects that limit their use include:

- personal safety is a reason why people don't use open space
- poor levels of maintenance discourage use
- dogs off-lead in parks threatening other users including children
- dog waste restricting other peoples use of open grassed areas and playgrounds
- inadequate safe dog-off-lead areas for those who exercise dogs
- inadequate lighting, including changing levels of light to provide access, yet allow homeless to sleep in parks
- over-development of parks impacting on peaceful enjoyment of them
- poor condition of paths, crossovers and entries to parks and shared trail systems limiting all ability access to parks and linear trails
- conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists, including pedestrians threatened by speeding cyclists, with this frequently nominated as an issue by older people
- inadequate provision of cycle paths, and poor condition of the surface of existing paths
- dominance of parks by sporting clubs and activities
- construction of buildings in open space
- poor interface with development leading to dominance of the reserve by the adjoining use
- lack of information about open space and facilities in them.



Recommendations to address this are included in **Section 5**.

4.7 Balancing recreation and leisure use of open space

SUMMARY

The research phase has identified there is a range of conflicts between different recreational uses and environmental values in open space. This includes the balance between organised recreational activities and informal activities including the expansion or proposed new leisure and recreation facilities where they result in a loss of natural outdoor area available for informal use and nature conservation.

Council has in place a Recreation Plan (City of Yarra Recreation Plan 2003-2008) that recognises the increasing trend towards participation in informal leisure activities from organised sport. In future provision of formal sporting facilities it will be important that consideration be given to maximise multiple use of these facilities and where possible, design them to be utilised for informal recreation use as well.

The research and consultation outcomes for this Strategy were consistent with the Recreation Plan's direction that aims to provide for both informal and organised recreational activities in the future.

4.7.1 ORGANISED SPORTING NEEDS

Council's Recreation Plan guides the future provision and direction for recreation needs in the City. The provision of adequate sporting facilities in open space to encourage continued participation in sport is relevant to the Open Space Strategy. Many of Yarra's existing sporting grounds and facilities are well located, particularly where they do not conflict with adjoining residential amenity values. Impacts of sporting facilities on residential amenity can include car parking on event days, lighting and noise during training and games and use of club facilities in the evenings. Many of the existing sporting facilities are compatible with other informal recreational activities in the reserves, and many of the clubs have long standing associations with the reserves. The following key issues are summarised from the Recreation Strategy and consultation with the Recreation Officer:

- soccer is a growing sport and the existing facilities are reaching their capacity
- there is a need for additional sporting field space in the City
- indoor recreation facilities, particularly netball, are in high demand

- there is a demand for additional tennis courts particularly for casual use
- all existing sports facilities in open space reserves are well used, and in some instances are suffering from over-use.

To address the key issues, the following opportunities have been identified:

- investigate the potential to utilise ovals currently in excess of requirements in Yarra Bend Park;
- utilise the existing sporting facilities at Victoria Park to potentially create increased opportunities for a diversity of other uses at the reserves;
- investigate the potential, if relocation of some field sports activities to Victoria Park and Yarra Bend Park occur, to reduce the level of club-based sporting use of fields in reserves where there is a high demand for informal leisure use;
- support the continued use of Kevin Bartlett Reserve primarily for sporting use given its distance from residential population and high demand for sporting use;
- investigate alternative locations to open space for provision of additional indoor recreation facilities, and where they are to be provided in open space, locate where outdoor leisure values are low (for example adjacent to major roads);
- investigate incentives to encourage shared use and multiple use of existing and new sporting facilities.

4.7.2 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

4.7.2.1 Walking

The household survey outcomes support the overall trends identified in the Recreation Plan that participation in informal leisure activities is high. Walking is the most popular leisure activity in open space with 93% of the respondents stating they use walking paths. Key issues include:

- lack of places to rest, e.g. seats along trails
- conflicts with other path users
- condition of the trails.

4.7.2.2 Informal ball sports

Informal open grassed areas are the second most frequently used facility in open space with 82% nominating they use them. These are used for a range of activities including informal ball sports, frisbee, dog walking, picnics, sun-baking, kite flying and lying on the grass. Whilst the provision of open grassed areas is considered adequate there were requests for additional basketball/netball rings.

4.7.2.3 Cycling, jogging and general fitness

These activities primarily occur in the linear parks and larger open space reserves within Yarra and in adjoining municipalities. In addition to the open space reserves, the use of other transport corridors, mainly roads, as connections between open space are important to promoting exercise. Key issues include:

- links between open space reserves and linear paths
- conflicts with other path users
- traffic volumes and lack of links from residential areas to the parks
- parks that ban cyclists using paths
- condition of the trails.

4.7.2.4 Playgrounds

Visiting playgrounds is a popular activity which keeps parents, grandparents and children healthy. Given the higher proportion of young adults in Yarra, this use is lower by comparison with some other municipalities. Key issues include:

- shade to play equipment
- maintenance including presence of syringes and dog excrement in mulch
- safety from other park users, particularly dogs off lead
- close proximity of playgrounds to traffic.

4.7.2.5 Dog walking and exercise

The consultation phase identified that dog walking and exercise is a popular informal recreational activity that residents participate in. Exercising dogs keeps many residents healthy and is a valid activity that needs to be accommodated in parks. There are conflicts that have been identified in this consultation between dogs and other users of open space. The major conflicts and issues are:

- dog excrement in open space
- lack of dog waste facilities
- dogs off-leashes in areas not designated for this purpose upsetting other park users and wildlife
- lack of designated dog-off-leash areas
- lack of drinking taps for dogs

Council's existing Local Law for Dogs in Public Places has clearly stated positions regarding dog excrement in public places and dog on and off lead areas. These include:

- dog excrement is not to be allowed to remain on public land and footpaths
- dogs are to be under effective control by lead in all public areas other than those designed as off-leash areas
- in designated off-leash areas, dogs are to be accompanied by a person who carries a leash, and are to be put on the leash if they are threatening or worrying other dogs or people

Whilst the Local Law sets out these positions, the household survey outcomes indicate that there are issues with the adequate provision of dog walking facilities.

4.7.2.6 Other uses

There are a range of reasons people visit open space which include socialising and picnicking and enjoying the natural environment. Nearly 70% nominate they use seats in open space with a number of general comments received on the condition and provision of seats. Relaxing in open space is important to many residents particularly the opportunity to escape from the urban environment and enjoy the views. The presence of natural open space areas is an important component of the open space system as a contrast to the urban environment. Key issues include:

- more seats are required
- additional shelters needed
- over-development of open space including concern that buildings in open space significantly detract from the natural values
- poor interface with adjoining development impacting on enjoyment of the parks
- parks becoming too urban and built (e.g. too much hard paving etc).

4.7.2.7 Summary of key issues for recreation

The following key issues need to be addressed in the Strategy:

- retain natural unbuilt open space;
- address the interface between open space and adjoining development
- minimise new buildings in open space;
- increase opportunities for walking given this is a popular activity across a broad cross-section of the community;
- maximise the retention of natural areas of open space;
- soften the interface between adjoining development and open space;
- improve the condition of path surfaces which are uneven, in poor condition or steeply graded;
- address the conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians, particularly along the Yarra River;
- improve the condition and diversity of open space reserves to encourage their use by a broad section of the community thereby encouraging and promoting fitness and health;



- address the management of dogs in open space (refer to **Section 4.7.2.1** for additional information);
- playgrounds require shade, protection from dogs off-lead and protection where they are immediately adjacent to roads.



Refer to **Section 5** and **Section 6** for recommendations.

4.8 Environmental sustainability

SUMMARY

Ongoing design, management and maintenance requirements and practices can have positive and negative impacts on the environment. There are a range of issues including ecological health of the waterways environments, reducing water use in open space maintenance, re-use of water and being environmentally responsible in the decisions regarding new infrastructure siting, design and maintenance in open space.

4.8.1 ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR LINKS

4.8.1.1 Waterways



For issues regarding provision of trails and recreational values of the waterways, refer to **Sections 4.3.2.2** and **3.5.4**.

Yarra River

The following ecological issues have been identified during the research phase of the project:

- the need to and expand the remnant vegetation along the Yarra River to improve the habitat values of the corridor
- the need to protect and interpret sites of geological and geomorphological significance
- substantial Regional reserves including Yarra Bend Park and Studley Park which contribute to the habitat and biodiversity values of the corridor
- balance between the indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values, particularly in relation to exotic trees which may not be consistent with ecological values
- the need to protect the drainage and flood management role of open space along the River
- maintenance access is required
- weed infestation (including both environmental and noxious weeds) which is difficult to control given this is the downstream end of an enormous catchment
- poor water quality and litter
- native birds and native fauna present along the Yarra are highly valued and require protection and where possible expansion to increase their presence and viability
- the limited width of the open space reserve constrains future opportunities to significantly enhance ecological values of the corridor resulting in higher levels of maintenance, particularly regarding weed management
- proximity of existing development and the need to ensure adequate setbacks in the future for amenity and environmental values
- recreational use (including water and land based uses) impact on habitat values
- the location of the Monash Freeway impacts on the lower reaches of the Yarra, resulting in limited habitat values on the northern bank
- modified and steep banks are difficult for vegetation management
- vermin

Merri Creek

The following ecological issues have been identified during the research phase of the project:

- protect and expand the remnant vegetation along the Merri Creek to improve the habitat values of the corridor
- protect and interpret sites of geological and geomorphological significance
- the deeply incised valley form provides some shelter from adjoining development, however, it makes maintenance access difficult
- indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values, particularly exotic vegetation
- drainage and flood management role of open space along the Creek
- weed infestation including environmental and noxious weeds
- water quality
- ongoing support for and involvement of Friends of Merri Creek and Merri Creek Management Committee
- proximity of existing development and the need to ensure adequate setbacks in the future for amenity and environmental values
- recreational use impacts on habitat values

Darebin Creek

The following ecological issues have been identified during the research phase of the project:

- freehold land has led to poor management of the riparian zone
- weed infestation
- modified and steep banks are difficult for vegetation management
- the narrow future reserve widths
- limited remnant vegetation along the corridor and potential future recreational infrastructure impact on environmental values
- sites of geological and geomorphological significance
- indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values
- drainage and flood management role

4.8.1.2 Other linear reserves

Outer railway corridor

The following ecological issues have been identified during the research phase of the project:

- linear link between Merri Creek and Princes Park with potential extension to Royal Park and Moonee Ponds Creek
- existing indigenous and native revegetation works requires ongoing maintenance
- existing mature exotic trees may provide some habitat value
- accessible and highly valued by the community which may impact on the ecological values of the corridor
- close proximity of adjoining development
- recreational needs in open space including as Local and Neighbourhood parks

4.8.1.3 Links between open space reserves

Railway corridor

- linear overstorey links through highly urban centres
- these will only provide limited habitat value primarily as overstorey links as they will remain public transport corridors
- safety issue regarding planting in proximity to railway lines

Streetscapes

- recognise that street tree planting will provide some contribution to habitat corridor links in open space particularly where they are adjacent to the corridors, or where they form links between open space reserves. This is balanced with the need to retain urban and cultural heritage values in Yarra's streetscapes, as identified in the *Yarra Street Tree Policy* (2004).

4.8.2 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PRACTICES IN OPEN SPACE

4.8.2.1 Water use

In the City of Yarra irrigation is required for formal sporting grounds and to a number of parks with mature plantings. The levels of water use in parks is already being addressed by the Open Space and Recreation Department, and this Strategy supports the ongoing review for reducing overall levels of water use, whilst retaining recreational access and sporting needs.

4.8.2.2 Stormwater re-use

The City of Yarra has a Stormwater Management Plan that prioritises works to improve stormwater quality across the City. There are opportunities on a smaller scale for investigating and incorporating water quality treatment measures into future open space design where appropriate.

4.8.2.3 Vegetation selection, maintenance and management

Selection and ongoing maintenance and management of vegetation to consider the following:

- high water use to maintain exotic vegetation
- some existing vegetation in open space reserves are weed species in Yarra's waterway environments
- use of indigenous species in additional areas is required to expand local and environmental character and value
- non-indigenous species are and will be required to complement the urban character non-indigenous cultural heritage values
- fertiliser use impacts on environmental values including water quality, natural vegetation system, soil structure and creation of suitable environments for exotic species and weeds
- where herbicide use is required minimise the impact of this use on the natural environment and community health
- continue to investigate alternative techniques to reliance on herbicides
- investigate differential mowing regimes and species suitability to this in regards to reduction in water use, diversify landscape and habitat requirements.

4.8.2.4 Infrastructure material use and design

Minimise unnecessary material and energy use in open space design, particularly the use of non-sustainable materials.

4.8.2.5 Wildlife management

Aim to provide habitat for native fauna in open space reserves through appropriate planning, design and management of open space. Wildlife habitat values of bushland in open space reserves can be increased by taking into consideration the needs of native fauna in future planting designs and revegetation projects, particularly along waterways and linear reserves.

4.8.3 MODE OF TRANSPORT USED TO REACH OPEN SPACE

The gap analysis for open space has revealed some gaps in the provision of parks within safe walking distance of residents. This results in residents either not visiting parks or using other forms of transport to reach it. For residents with private motor vehicles, these may be used, however the household survey identified a number of residents use 'lack of private vehicle' as a reason why they don't use open space. This Strategy supports promoting the use of public transport, walking and cycling as means of travelling to open space reserves.

- For Regional, City-wide and Neighbourhood parks access via public transport should be encouraged, primarily through information and education programs. Additionally this is a guideline that is to be considered in any future siting of Regional City-wide and Neighbourhood parks.
- Local and Small Local open space is to be provided in close walking distance.
- Enhance pedestrian and cycle amenity in streets that form important links between open space to encourage these alternative forms of transport to open space.



Refer to **Table 9, Section 5.1.2.2** and **Section 5.1.3** for recommendations.

4.9 Cultural heritage values

SUMMARY

The open space reserves in Yarra contain both indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values. These values need to be recognised and managed in the context of contemporary use and environmental values and understanding of the open space system.

Currently the City of Yarra have a range of documents which describe the non-indigenous cultural heritage values of the City. These include the City of Yarra Heritage Review (1998), City of Yarra Review of Heritage Precincts (2002), and a range of Conservation Plans for individual reserves. The indigenous cultural heritage values have not been documented, and the Yarra Aboriginal Partnerships Plan (2004) has identified the need to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study to identify significant pre and post contact sites.

There are a number of reserves which are recognised for their 19th Century heritage character, particularly where they enhance and reflect the 19th Century urban character of the surrounding suburb. The values, particularly in regards to exotic deciduous tree planting, can be inconsistent with the environmental values of open space reserves. As described in **Section 3**, many of Yarra's parks and gardens have recognised non-indigenous cultural heritage values. Conservation Plans have been prepared for the non-indigenous heritage values of a range of reserves, however, there are some that require Conservation Plans to be prepared.

Future Conservation Plans prepared for open space reserves will need to consider both the indigenous and non-indigenous values to provide a sound basis for the preparation of Landscape Masterplans that guide the future design and management of open space reserves.

4.10 Open space funding

SUMMARY

Open space will need to be improved and expanded to support Yarra's increasing population. Development should contribute a fair share of the funding mix where open space and improvements are provided to serve new population.

Yarra's municipal open space program is funded by a number of sources. These include property rates, leases, licenses, user fees, grants and open space contributions from developers. Combined annual expenditure by Yarra on open space is approximately \$4.8 million, including approx \$3 million in capital works and \$1.8 million in operational expenses (2004-2005 FY figures). Council has indicated that it would increase annual expenditure if further funds were available.

It is anticipated that a large proportion of open space funding will continue to come from Council's annual capital works budget and program operating budgets. However, having regard to the recommendations of this Strategy in relation to the significant program of open space works that are required for Yarra, it is necessary for Council to adopt a more strategic approach to open space contributions collected from developers through the planning system.

Currently contributions are effectively negotiated or else decided at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) on appeal, consequently there is not a systematic means of predicting what the open space contribution may be for a particular development. In addition, some developments are escaping the contribution altogether. The variation in contributions received reduces Council's ability to adequately plan expenditure in line with contributions in a strategic manner.

4.10.1 OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions by developers to open space can be levied under the Subdivision Act 1988 or the Planning and Environment Act 1987 through the Yarra Planning Scheme. The different options discussed as part of this Strategy can generally only be used at the time that land or buildings are subdivided. The most common method of seeking a contribution for open space through developers is generally the Subdivision Act method which is based on a percentage of land or land value (or a combination of both). The rate is assessed for each subdivision having regard to the criteria set out at section 18(1A) of the Subdivision Act. This is the approach adopted by most Melbourne metropolitan Councils.

An alternative approach to collection of open space contributions based on land values is to set a fee per dwelling, business unit or some other charge unit and to apply this fee to all development through a Development Contributions Plan under a Development Contribution Plan Overlay. This is not a common approach but is an approach which is starting to gain some momentum. However, this approach is more common where:

- the land concerned is green fields land in outer areas; or
- the levy collected is to fund both capital works and works in the nature of reconstruction works; and
- collection of funds and implementation of plans over longer time frames is anticipated.

Establishment of an open space contributions rate for inclusion in a Development Contributions Plan requires a different cost allocation method than that which has been used in this Strategy.

4.10.1.1 Current Council contributions program

Council currently assesses and levies contributions under the Subdivision Act 1988. That Act allows Council to levy an amount equivalent to up to 5% of the site value or as a percentage of the land area as the open space contribution. The level of contribution is assessed at the time of subdivision using the criteria listed in Section 18(1A) of the Subdivision Act.

Yarra has been using an informal policy endorsed by Council in 1999 to determine the appropriate level of contribution. This ranges from 0% (no contribution required) to 5% of land value, depending on the number of lots or building units created by the plan of subdivision. This current situation does not seem to have any strategic basis to it but rather appears to be a system developed from previous government guidelines contained in the document known as VicCode 2.

Because development sites in Yarra are relatively small, Yarra has been primarily collecting cash contributions so as to avoid contributions of isolated and unusable parcels of land.

An average of around \$330,000 per year has been collected under this program over the past nine financial years. This represents around 16% of the total open space capital works budget.

Using the Subdivision Act 1988 to levy open space contributions has some advantages. It is well understood by developers and can continue to be used without change to the Yarra Planning Scheme. However, its advantages are far outweighed by the entirely adhoc result of the outcomes (in terms of contributions). The difficulty for Council is that having regard to land values in the municipality, and the ability to seek review of any requirement at VCAT, it is often worthwhile for a developer to challenge a requirement in the hope of reducing the contribution. This makes it extremely difficult for Council to plan for certain works beyond the levels of historical contributions and even then there is a level of uncertainty as to whether the required funds will be contributed.

This current funding arrangement makes it difficult to proceed in any strategic manner for open space planning.

4.10.1.2 Opportunities created by the Strategy

Development of the Strategy provides the opportunity to:

- Change the manner in which open space contributions are obtained by using the method set out at Clause 52.01 of the Planning Scheme. This would help to align the system of contributions with the open space strategic analysis of Yarra's existing and future open space network.

As noted earlier, the sliding scale schedule currently used by Yarra originated with the VicCode 2 residential development code that operated in Victoria during the 1990s. The sliding scale developed for VicCode 2 was not based on a detailed investigation of open space demand and supply but it is still commonly used as a default mechanism and appears in some municipal planning schemes because it provides an easy solution for assessing the levy. It is a scale and methodology which has no real credence before VCAT.

VicCode 2 was superseded by the Good Design Guide and the current residential provisions (Clauses 54, 55 and 56 of the planning scheme). These provisions no longer contain a public open space contribution requirement. Instead, with the shift to strategically based planning schemes, if Councils wish to specify open space requirements, Councils are expected to prepare open space strategies to support open space requirements. The need for an open space strategy applies whether Council proceeds under Section 18(1A) of the Subdivision Act or under Clause 52.01 of the Yarra Planning Scheme.

Such a Strategy is most helpful when it is able to associate the degree and location of future population growth with demand for open space. This type of analysis and information is provided by this Strategy.

- Prioritise land acquisition or capital works in proximity to recent and planned development which have made or will make open space contributions. This would provide areas with population gain, but where open space is now limited or does not exist at all, some access to local open space.

The Strategy identifies opportunities and criteria for acquiring new land for Yarra's open space network, some of which is intended to serve new population. The overall directions, priorities and specific recommendations of the Strategy will be included in Council's Open Space Asset Management Plan rolling 10-year capital works program.

- Identify those precincts where new development will create significant demand for new open space. This would allow forward planning and budgeting for open space additions and improvements.

The Strategy uses Department of Sustainability and Environment / Council population projections to establish where new development or redevelopment is most likely to occur and the population growth that will be associated with that development. Even if these projections change over time, the Strategy provides a robust framework that can accommodate these changes.

4.10.1.3 Identifying the strategic basis for a Clause 52.01 approach to open space contributions

The option canvassed in the preparation of the Strategy involves formalising an open space contributions schedule at Clause 52.01 of the Yarra Planning Scheme. Formalising a contributions schedule is done by amending the schedule to Clause 52.01 of the Scheme. The principle advantages of the Clause 52.01 option are that developers know what they are going to be required to pay, Council knows what it is going to receive and there is no scope for challenge to the requirement resulting in ad hoc and inconsistent requirements.

Municipal Strategic Statement

The Municipal Strategic Statement includes the strategic framework for open space in Yarra. It may be necessary to amend the MSS by incorporating reference to the work carried out by the Strategy and how this Strategy is to be implemented. This work will be carried out in conjunction with the scheduled review of the MSS. However, it is noted that the current MSS already supports the work of this Strategy (refer to 3.2).

Clause 52.01

Clause 52.01 provides the opportunity to schedule into the Yarra Planning Scheme a consistent contributions requirement. The standard schedule to Clause 52.01 can include the contribution rate and contribution types (land or cash value) established by the Strategy.

The key advantage of this option is that once the planning scheme is amended, the level of contribution assessed cannot be challenged provided it is consistent with the schedule. This would give Council a much greater level of certainty about the value of contributions that it is likely to collect during a particular financial year and to better plan for expenditure in line with this Strategy. In adopting this Strategy, Council should be prepared to commit itself to a 10-year financial plan for expansion and improvements to the open space network.

Because no individual assessment or exercise of discretion is involved, Council would, as part of the process of amending its planning scheme, need to show that the contributions schedule will be valid across the municipality.

4.10.1.4 Limitations and requirements of open space contributions

Open space contributions are an important funding source but there are limitations and requirements in relation to their collection and the way they can be spent. These limitations and requirements have been considered in preparing the Strategy. They have not influenced strategic planning for Yarra's open space network. Rather they have been used to develop the open space contributions component of the Strategy. A clear distinction has been maintained between what is needed strategically across the municipality and way in which open space contributions should be used.

In the absence of a prescribed level of contribution in the schedule to Clause 52.01, open space contributions can only be collected where Council is able to establish both the need for the contribution and its relationship to the location from which the contribution is collected. Section 18(1A) of the Subdivision Act sets out a series of tests or criteria to be considered in arriving at a level of contribution. Each application will need to be considered separately on its merits to determine what the contribution should be. Because Council has undertaken this detailed Strategy, and it has considered what the open space needs are and will be in particular areas of its municipality, it is able to "set" in advance the particular open space requirement by the use of the schedule to Clause 52.01 and then go about implementing its open space capital works program with confidence.

Open space contributions can be spent on either open space acquisition or improving existing open space. They cannot be used for ongoing maintenance of open space. Section 20 of the Subdivision Act sets out how collected funds may be spent. This applies to all funds collected by Council to date and the future contributions that are collected, whether that be under section 18(1A) of the Subdivision Act or under a process that makes use of Clause 52.01 of the Yarra Planning Scheme. Section 20 of the Subdivision Act is important in any case because it provides the broad parameters for expenditure of open space contributions collected through any of the options considered in the Strategy.

A clear distinction needs to be made between:

- capital works funded by contributions to benefit a new population; and
- "catch up" works for historical (and still existing) deficiencies in the open space network.



For these reasons, and to meet the limitations and requirements discussed, **Section 5.3.1** recommends the type of open space contribution that should be collected in each sub-precinct (land or cash) and **Section 6** identifies those projects on which contributions should be spent. With limited exceptions, a level of contribution funding will be appropriate as part of the capital works funding mix, as the need (all or in part) for any particular project results from the residential population change anticipated in the sub-precinct.

By including recommended open space works in the Council's Open Space Asset Management Plan capital works program, developers should be satisfied that Council has used its open space contributions to meet the needs of new residents.

To safeguard the legitimacy of Council's open space contributions program, good accounting and record keeping is needed to ensure that there is appropriate accountability.

4.10.2 COUNCIL FUNDING

Council currently funds a capital works program and ongoing operational budgets for maintenance of the reserves. This varies according to the budget allocations each year, however, the current year capital works program for open space is in the order of \$3 million. The maintenance budget is approximately \$1.8 million.

The Open Space and Recreation unit have completed an Open Space Asset Management Plan which guides the prioritisation and ongoing upgrade and replacement works for all assets in open space reserves.

4.10.3 EXTERNAL FUNDING

Council apply for external agency funds, particularly where works are for Regional and City-wide works, or are specifically for environmental and recreational improvement in open space. Applications are made to a variety of funding sources from Commonwealth or State government agencies. This will continue as a key funding source for improvements to the Regional and City-wide open space reserves.

Applications for funding from Commonwealth and State government agencies will also continue to be sought by community groups for works in Yarra's open space.

4.11 Inadequacies and challenges in the planning system

SUMMARY

The Planning Scheme should be updated to reflect the outcomes of this Strategy.



Open space planning is an integral part of sound land use planning in Yarra. As discussed in **Section 3.2**, the Yarra Planning Scheme has already identified key strengths as well as inadequacies in the open space network which need to be addressed. This Strategy provides a more detailed basis than currently exists for delivering the open space element of urban planning in Yarra and can be used to update the planning scheme and other planning strategies.



A key element of planning for future urban development is to ensure that development pays a fair share of open space provision when new residential development is approved. The ongoing and anticipated future intensification of existing residential areas, combined with conversion of non-residential sites to residential uses, will result in a substantial increase in residential population for some areas of the City. The survey of business and residential open space users in **Section 3.6.3** highlights that residential populations will place far greater demands on open space and that these residents will have greater expectations about the diversity and quality of that open space. This will have implications for Yarra's open space planning for some years to come. This Strategy takes into account the changing needs of the population in terms of how this affects open space planning. The Strategy addresses funding issues in **Section 4.10** and to some extent in **Section 5.3**.



4.11.1 Planning scheme amendment to implement the Strategy



Whether Council determined to proceed with the Clause 52.01 open space contributions method or to stick with the current Section 18(1A) method, translating the overall directions of the Strategy into the Yarra Planning Scheme can only be achieved through an amendment to the Scheme. This is likely to require revisions to clauses 21.05-5 "Open Space" and 21.05-6 "Yarra River Corridor", other relevant sections of the MSS and possibly local planning policies. The amendment(s) would reflect relevant aspects of this Strategy. As referred to in **Section 4.10**, the current MSS supports the directions taken by this Strategy, but an update amendment would more closely align the two and add to relevant sections of the MSS.

The final nature of any planning scheme amendment(s) will depend on which contribution method Council chooses to implement.

4.11.2 Public acquisition overlays

A Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) is already included in the Yarra Planning Scheme for parts of the Yarra River corridor. The overlay was included in the planning scheme at the request of Parks Victoria to allow purchase of a strip of land adjacent to the Yarra River to complete the regional trail.

When a Public Acquisition Overlay is in place, land acquisition can be triggered in two ways:

- 1) When a permit application is lodged affecting land within the overlay. Generally, a development proposal which is inconsistent with the purpose of the Public Acquisition Overlay being placed over the land will result in a refusal of the permit which in turn triggers the right to compensation.
- 2) By the acquiring authority compulsorily acquiring the land (compulsory acquisition). When the land is acquired, Parks Victoria (or which ever body asked for the Public Acquisition Overlay to be put in place) will be required to compensate the owner for the land. It is noted that in the case of the regional trail, Parks Victoria will pay for development of the newly acquired open space as part of the regional park system.



Within the scope of the work undertaken for this Strategy, identification of actual future sites for open space on private land has not been included. In **Section 5** and **Section 6**, the Strategy does identify that additional open space is required in some areas of the municipality. The work to identify appropriate sites will be undertaken during the implementation of the Strategy. Once identified, Public Acquisition Overlay is one of the tools Council can potentially use to secure future open space. Alternatively other mechanisms may be used to secure the identified open space, and this will be determined on a site by site basis by Council.

Therefore, there are no active proposals to include additional Public Acquisition Overlays for open space acquisition and none are recommended by this Strategy. However, it is always open to the Council to include such an overlay if it is required to implement the Strategy. It should also be noted that planning scheme setback requirements, negotiation with land owners and access agreements are all alternatives to use of the Public Acquisition Overlay.

5.0 OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

OVERVIEW



The Overall Recommendations and guidelines address the key issues outlined in **Section 4**. These recommendations will guide the future use, design, provision and management of open space in Yarra. They have been divided into three main sections:

1. Establishing a cohesive and linked municipal open space network

This includes the future classification of existing reserves, the criteria to be adhered to in the provision of additional open space, and works required to improve the links between open space reserves.

2. Upgrade of existing and development of new open space reserves

This includes recommendations and guidelines for overall issues that affect all existing and new reserves including access, design and provision of infrastructure, environmental sustainability, cultural heritage values, festivals and events, dog owners, liaison with other management agencies, maintenance, the interface to adjoining use and necessary changes to the Yarra Planning Scheme. Detailed recommendations for individual reserves are made in **Section 6**.

3. Open space contributions to meet future residents' needs

This includes an appropriate level of open space contribution for the municipality and mechanisms to achieve this.



Section 6 contains recommendations that specifically relate to the individual precincts and sub-precincts.



A prioritisation system has been included in **Section 5** and **Section 6**. This is based on the following timeframes:

Table 7 *Priority timeframes*

Priority	Timeframe
Urgent	Years 1 - 3
Very High	Years 4 - 5
High	Years 6 - 7
Moderate	Years 8 - 10
Low	Years 11 - 15
Ongoing	All years

Council will work towards adhering to the timeframes included in this Strategy, however, they will be influenced by adequate funding and staff resources being available. The Strategy will be reviewed every five years to review the recommendations achieved and revise the priorities if required.

Future designs of open space reserves

The future designs of open space reserves will be guided by the overall recommendations in **Section 5** and specific recommendations in **Section 6** of this Strategy.

5.1 Establishing a cohesive and linked municipal open space network

5.1.1 CLASSIFICATION AND USE AND FACILITY PROVISION FOR OPEN SPACE RESERVES

All the open space reserves in Yarra have been given a use and character classification as described in **Section 3.5.7**. The list of all reserves with their use and character classification has been prepared on a precinct basis and is contained in **Section 6**. The use classification of proposed new open space is also identified in **Section 6**. The application of the character classification is described in **Section 5.2.9**.

The five use classifications reflect the type of visitors expected at the reserve, how they reach the reserve, the length of stay and the type and diversity of facilities that would be provided at the different types of parks. Regional and City-wide parks generally provide the widest range of facilities as they cater to a wider range of visitors staying over a longer period. The Small Local parks provide the least amount of facilities as they are catering to short stays where residents arrive and leave on foot or bicycle. Refer to **Table 8** below.

City-wide and in some locations Regional open space reserves have Local and Neighbourhood level facilities provided in them to service the local community needs.

Table 8 Facility provision in open space reserves

Facilities are listed in alphabetical order

Facilities	Regional	City-wide	Neighbourhood	Local	Small Local
BBQs	✓	✓	✓		
Car parking	✓	✓			
Club based indoor recreation and leisure facilities	✓	✓			
Club based outdoor recreation and leisure facilities	✓	✓	✓		
Cycle paths (dedicated off-road)	✓	✓	✓		
Dog off-lead areas	✓	✓			
Drinking taps	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Feature garden beds	✓	✓			
Large open grassed areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lighting	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Medium sized playground			✓		
Picnic shelters	✓	✓	✓		
Public transport access	✓	✓	✓		
Regional playground	✓	✓			
Rubbish bins	✓	✓	✓		
Seating	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shared paths	✓	✓	✓		
Skate facilities	✓	✓	✓		
Small playground				✓	✓
Toilets	✓	✓	✓		
Walking paths	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

The facilities and infrastructure nominated in this table are to be considered to be suitable for the scale of the reserve. Each reserve type in this category may not accommodate all the facilities nominated, particularly at the Local and Small Local category.

Council has a comprehensive Asset Management Plan - Open Space (2004) which has prepared an ongoing management program for management and replacement of all open space assets.

5.1.2 PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL OPEN SPACE



Additional open space is required in some Precincts in the City, as described in the Gap Analysis in **Section 3.5.3** and **Section 4.2**.



For specific locations where additional open space is recommended to be provided in the short-term including potential options, refer to the precinct and sub-precinct recommendations in **Section 6**. The size of open space recommended in these locations is the minimum area required for Council to meet the open space needs of existing and future residents in the City. This is not intended to preclude Council from providing more than the minimum where opportunities arise in areas identified to be deficient in open space.

5.1.2.1 Additional open space

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Gaps in the existing open space network	Investigate conversion of existing public land to open space. This may include road reserves, car parks, community facilities etc. For specific locations of gaps, refer to the Precinct Recommendations in Section 6 .	YCC	High
Gaps in the future open space network when anticipated residential growth occurs	- Acquire land for Small Local, Local and Neighbourhood open space reserves as recommended in Section 6. - Implement the recommendations contained in Section 5.3 of this Strategy regarding open space contributions. - For location recommendations of how open space contributions are to be allocated on a precinct basis – including acquisition of open space – refer to Section 6.	YCC YCC	Urgent Refer Section 6
Provision of Small Local open space	In dense urban neighbourhoods it may only be possible to provide Small Local open space. Where this occurs the Small Local open space will be designed and as a linked system of reserves, rather than each individual reserve considered in isolation. Refer to Table 9 for the criteria for provision of new open space. Further recommendations for open space design are included in Section 5.2.9 .	YCC	Ongoing

5.1.2.2 Criteria for provision of new open space

The criteria that is to be considered in selecting the most appropriate location for new open space is included in the following **Table 9**.

Table 9 **Criteria for the provision of new open space**

Park type	Criteria
Regional	• Minimum land area of 3 hectares or less if the reserve is part of a linear open space system • Located on an existing or future Regional open space corridor, waterways, major public transport route or major or secondary arterial road system • Highly accessible, visible and able to adequately provide for regional visitors from metropolitan areas. If access is to be provided primarily by car, adequate provision is required for car parking for regional visitors • Provides facilities or links that will cater to regional metropolitan Melbourne and funded appropriately by State government agencies • Demonstrate there is no soil contamination that will limit safe use as open space
City-wide	• Minimum land area of 3 hectares • Located on arterial or collector roads, public transport routes or major Regional open space corridor links • Good visual access with at least 80% of the reserves outside perimeter accessible and free from buildings • At least 8 hours sunlight between 9am and 2pm on September 22 to reach the reserve to ensure good sun access • Diversity of recreational facilities and spaces to appeal to the majority of Yarra's residents • Potential for creation of native habitat within the reserve, particularly where its location is linked to the environmental corridors outlined in this Strategy • Demonstrate there is no soil contamination that will limit safe use as open space
Neighbourhood	• Minimum land area of 1 hectare • Located on a collector road or key through road within the local neighbourhood, and preferably public transport route. This is to maximise access and resultant benefit to the community • Good visual access with at least 50% of the reserves outside perimeter accessible and free from buildings • Where possible, link to the existing open space network via key pedestrian and/or cycle links (Refer to Drawing No. YOSS06) • At least 5 hours sunlight between 9am and 2pm on September 22 to reach the reserve to ensure good sun access • Where possible, locate adjacent to an existing or proposed community facility • At the junction of pedestrian links to maximise community use • Located away from major or secondary arterial roads • Located a reasonable distance from other Neighbourhood parks if possible • Accessible for residents • Demonstrate there is no soil contamination that will limit safe use as open space
Local	• Minimum land area of 0.1 hectares • Minimum width in any direction of 10 metres • Main entry is located on a local access street • Good visual access to the reserve with at least two sides accessible or a frontage that equates to 50% or more of its perimeter • Where possible, link to the existing open space network via key pedestrian and/or cycle links (Refer to Drawing No. YOSS06) • Located at the junction of existing or proposed pedestrian links or routes • Receives at least 5 hours of sunlight between 9am and 2pm on September 22

Park type	Criteria
	• Adjoining buildings do not disproportionately overwhelm the open space • Located away from on major or secondary arterial roads • Demonstrate there is no soil contamination that will limit safe use as open space
Small Local	• Minimum land area of 0.03Ha • Minimum width in any direction of 10 metres • Entry from local access street (not a laneway) • Good visual access to the reserve, preferably with two sides accessible • Where possible, link to the existing open space network via key pedestrian and/or cycle links (Refer to Drawing No. YOSS06) • Receives reasonable sunlight access • Adjoining buildings do not disproportionately overwhelm the open space • Located where some borrowed green can potentially add value to the small reserve • Demonstrate there is no soil contamination that will limit safe use as open space

5.1.2.3 Design of new Local and Small Local open space

The majority of proposed new open space reserves will be Local or Small Local open space reserves. These require careful design and management in order for these to be successful and valuable additions to the open space network. As described in **Section 4**, Small Local open space is not necessarily ideal, but the reality is in the existing urban areas of Yarra the opportunities to add larger Neighbourhood open space is extremely limited. In order to achieve the Strategy's objective of providing accessible open space within 400 metres of residents in Yarra, additional Local and Small Local open space reserves are planned for. The consultation process revealed that residents value these small open space reserves with the emphasis being to provide some green space within the urban landscape.

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Design of a system of Small Local open space reserves	It is intended that a system of Local and Small Local open space reserves be created in parts of the municipality to provide walking access to open space for all residents. The provision and design of these reserves should consider them as a linked system of reserves which provide a limited range of uses in each, rather than trying to provide for all uses in a small space. For example, one reserve could provide a playground, whilst the next one provides seating and shade trees as a quiet space.	YCC	Very High and Ongoing

5.1.3 LINKS TO AND BETWEEN OPEN SPACE RESERVES

As previously described, there is inequity in the distribution of open space reserves within the City of Yarra. Streets provide important links to open space and it is the intent of this Strategy to encourage pedestrian and cycle access to these reserves in order to minimise vehicle use, and achieve equity of access for those who do not have private motor vehicles. The priority streetscape links are illustrated on **Drawing YOSS 06**.



Locations for Small Local open space reserves have been identified in the Strategy (refer to **Section 6**) to create linked systems of Small Local open space connected by pedestrian friendly streets. These systems are intended to work in conjunction with the priority pedestrian and cycle access routes.

5.1.3.1 Gaps in existing linear trail

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Gaps in the existing regional linear trail networks along waterways with existing PAO	Liaise with Parks Victoria to complete the gaps in linear open space system including:	YCC	Very High
	- land included in PAO2 in favour of Melbourne Parks & Waterways along the Yarra River between Gipps Street and Walker Street; and - land included in PAO2 in favour of Melbourne Parks & Waterways along the Darebin Creek from Lower Heidelberg Road to the Yarra River.	YCC PV	High
Gaps in the existing linear open space network without existing PAO	Support the recommendations included in Amendment C66 regarding building set back in this section of the River, and other benefits summarised in Section 5.2.13.2 Yarra River Setbacks.	YCC	Ongoing
	Preserve the opportunity to establish future links along the Yarra River when reviewing planning proposals.	YCC	Ongoing
	<i>Rudder Grange to Alphington Park</i> - continue to investigate the potential to formalise a walking path along the River and secure for public access.	YCC and land-holders	High
	<i>Fairfield Park to Rudder Grange</i> - investigate long term opportunities to establish a walking link through this section of the River, subject to liaison with land-holders.	YCC and land-holders	Mod
	<i>Merri Creek between St Georges Road and Holden Street</i> - investigate feasibility to establish a trail link in consultation with Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water. If a trail is feasible, investigate measures to secure for public access.	YCC PV MW	Low

5.1.3.2 Links between open space reserves

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Improving streetscapes which provide direct pedestrian links to open space	Review and improve pedestrian, and where appropriate, cycle use of streets identified as key open space links. This includes the following: - condition of footpath surface; - pram crossings at intersections; - improvements for crossing major roads which may include pedestrian refuges, outstands to reduce distance of road surface to cross and improve visibility of pedestrians for drivers and signals; - bicycle lanes; - higher priority for street trees (where they are currently absent and are considered appropriate);	YCC	Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
	• signage (if considered appropriate); and • seating. These streets have been given a higher priority in the recently completed <i>Yarra Street Planting Precinct Masterplans</i>, and in some locations may be included in the <i>Draft Urban Design Frameworks</i> and other streetscape design projects. Refer to Precinct Recommendations in Section 6.		
Lack of green spaces and linear corridors along key pedestrian routes	Implement the Precinct Recommendations (refer to Section 6) which include investigation into the provision of Small Local open space including potential street closures in conjunction with other Council owned land, to create a system of linked Small Local open space reserves. Where possible, priority has been given to locating these along streets that are identified as important links between larger open space reserves. For design recommendations refer to Section 5.1.2.4 .	YCC	High

5.1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL LINKS



The environmental links are identified on **Drawing YOSS 03** and existing environmental values are described in **Section 3.3**. To protect and improve environmental values within the City of Yarra, a system of Primary, Secondary and Minor environmental links have been identified which are described below. These environmental links have been reflected in the character classification system for reserves described in **Section 3.5.7**.

5.1.4.1 Primary Environmental Links

These are located along the three major waterways in the City including the Yarra River, Merri Creek and Darebin Creek. They are primarily designed to recognise and protect the waterway and its associated riparian corridor including existing sites of geological, geomorphological, flora and fauna significance. These primary environmental links are already recognised in the Yarra Planning Scheme with Environmental Significance Overlays covering them. The intent of the links identified in this Strategy is to reinforce their importance, and provide guidelines for the future design and management of open space reserves and freehold land that directly adjoin the waterways.

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Open space and freehold land directly adjoining the waterway corridors (Primary environmental links).	Future changes to design, use and management of open space or freehold land adjoining the waterway corridors to be consistent with the following guidelines: • proposed use and facilities to minimise impact on the environmental values of the waterway corridor; • maximise opportunities to re-establish riparian bushland with consideration to safety of recreational uses; • minimise impacts on the flooding characteristics of the waterways; • where relevant, proposed change demonstrates no further degradation to water quality or increased discharge, and where possible and improvement to these conditions;	YCC Land-owners (PV) (MW)	Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
	- new vegetation to be predominantly indigenous, and any new planting that is not indigenous due to consistency with heritage values, to be species that are not known weeds in the waterway corridors; and - provision and design of lighting to minimise impacts on native fauna.		

5.1.4.2 Secondary environmental links

This covers the former Outer Circle Railway linear reserve which is located in North Fitzroy adjacent to Park Street. This reserve provides a east-west linear open space link between Merri Creek and Princes Park/Royal Park. This linear reserve is also recognised to have important heritage values as the former Outer Circle Railway and provides linear recreational use. The environmental values are associated with planted vegetation and not remnant vegetation or remnant ecological values. This Secondary environmental link recognises that whilst this is an important created corridor, it does not have the inherent ecological values associated with the waterway corridors.

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Open space within the Secondary environmental links to recognise, and where appropriate, improve the environmental values.	Future changes to design, use and management of open space within the Secondary environmental link to be consistent with the following guidelines: - new planting to be predominantly indigenous where this does not directly conflict with the heritage values; - where non-indigenous planting is used, consider species compatible with native fauna and indigenous vegetation values; - planting to be predominantly overstorey and groundlayer vegetation to retain open sightlines for safety of recreational users; - where established exotic plantings with recognised heritage character exist, these are to be retained, and replaced with same or similar species when they senesce; - recreational uses are to be compatible with the environmental character and values; and - provision and design of lighting to minimise impacts on native fauna.	YCC (MCC)	Ongoing
Recognise the environmental values of this link in the Planning Scheme.	Investigate provision of an ESO with a separate schedule as described in Yarra Planning Scheme Recommendations - Section 5.2.13.2.	Refer 5.2.13.2	Refer 5.2.13.2

5.1.4.3 Minor environmental corridor links

These are environmental links over land where the existing environmental values are limited, but have potential to function as habitat corridors. The primary use of this land is to take precedence over its environmental role and, where appropriate, environmental improvement will be investigated compatible with its primary use. These links are located along railway reserves or through open space reserves that have existing established character and use. The corridor will potentially be an overstorey link with exotic, native and indigenous species consistent with established park character or land use type.

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Improve the environmental character of Minor environmental links where they are consistent with the other primary use of the land.	Future changes to design, use and management of open space or freehold land within the Secondary environmental link to be consistent with the following guidelines: • increase the presence of overstorey trees, and utilise indigenous species where appropriate; • where non-indigenous planting is used, consider species compatible with native fauna and indigenous vegetation values; and • review lighting requirements to minimise impacts on potential use as a wildlife corridor.	YCC Land-holders	Ongoing

5.2 Upgrade of existing and development of new open space reserves

5.2.1 ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE

Note: Links to and between open space is addressed in **Section 5.1.3**.

5.2.1.1 All-ability access

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
All ability access to and within reserves	Ensure all parks have the following as a minimum: • pram crossings at all entries to the reserves; • fully compacted gravel or sealed paths into the parks at the minimum width to allow all ability access; • adequate provision of paths to meet the anticipated uses; • regular maintenance of paths to maintain an even surface; • clear line of sight into the reserve to allow safe access; • grades for at least one entry point that meet current standards for disability access; • adequate seating; and • some shade/shelter in the reserve.	YCC PV	Very High

5.2.1.2 Personal safety

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Many parks are perceived as unsafe	Design and maintenance of parks to address safety issues including following: • retain clear line of sight into the reserve at all entry points; • where applicable, toilets are designed to meet minimum standards outlined in Section 5.4.2; • address dogs-off-leads in the Dog Policy including identifying areas that avoid conflicts with other recreation and leisure pursuits;	YCC PV	Very High

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
	• reduce conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians through implementation of recommendations in Section 5.2.2; • adequate lighting to allow use of the key facilities until 7pm during the winter. This does not include areas which have environmental values where lighting in the evening may disturb habitat values (refer to lighting recommendations in Section 5.2.3.5); • in future lighting design consider the needs of the homeless, particularly retaining grey areas to allow sleeping (refer to lighting recommendations in Section 5.2.3.5); and • adequate maintenance levels to address current issues with poor maintenance of reserves and look of neglect leading to lack of use (refer to maintenance recommendations in Section 5.2.11). • Refer to crime prevention through Environmental Design Principles in future open space design works.		

5.2.1.3 Diversity, type and condition of facilities

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
The facilities in Neighbourhood, Local and Small local parks need to cater to local community needs	In reserves that appear under-utilised, Council to prepare Concept Plans in consultation with the local community to upgrade parks to meet a broader range of community needs.	YCC	Ongoing
Small Local open space design.	In dense urban neighbourhoods Small Local open space reserves are the only open space within walking distance of residents. To improve their use and value Small Local open space design should consider the following: • review the other Small Local open space reserves nearby, and minimise duplication of facilities in each - for example, one Small Local open space could be predominantly for play facilities, whilst the next provide passive seating and open grassed areas; • design reserve to be physically and visually accessible; and • review the design of adjoining road reserve to maximise the size and potential benefit of the Small Local open space.	YCC	Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Diversity of uses	- Promote the principle of multiple-use for all existing and new facilities where practical. Particular attention is to be given in areas where open space is in short supply - i.e. Collingwood, Fitzroy, Richmond and Cremorne. - Council to promote multiple use of facilities by providing incentives to organisations who submit proposals to upgrade or construct new facilities incorporating shared use, particularly where it demonstrates improvement to informal use, formal use and environmental values.	YCC	Ongoing
Poor quality and ageing infrastructure	- Refer to the Open Space Asset Management Plan (2004) regarding condition of infrastructure and replacement program. - When infrastructure requires replacement ensure design, material use and placement meet the guidelines included in this Section 5.2.	YCC YCC	Ongoing Ongoing
Lack of information about open space	Prepare a communications strategy to prioritise the most effective method of disseminating information to all residents regarding open space and the facilities provided in them. This may include signage in parks, leaflets, incorporating information into existing brochures/leaflets, updates on the Council's website. Refer to Section 5.2.9.4 .	YCC	High

5.2.1.4 Changed use of existing reserves

Due to substantial change over the past decade in land use in the City of Yarra, and conversion of industrial/business areas to residential use, demands on open space reserves have changed. In some areas the recent increase in residential densities along with the predicted trend for this increase to continue, have led to changed demands for the type of open space facilities. The following major reserves were identified in the research phase as not being well used and require more detailed consultation and review. More detailed discussion of the rationale for determining whether the following reserves require attention is included in **Section 6**.



Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Atherton Reserve and Condell Street Precinct, Fitzroy.	Prepare a Landscape Masterplan for Atherton Reserve Precinct to develop a Neighbourhood park for Fitzroy in consultation with the community and other key stakeholders including Department of Housing and Police. Refer to Section 6.4.4.2 in sub-precinct 3065B.	YCC (DHS)	Very High.
Circus Site	Prepare a Landscape Masterplan for the Circus Site that retains its current use, but improves the environmental and landscape character of reserve to provide habitat and passive recreational use at all times. This includes appropriate management techniques for protection and enhancement of the remnant indigenous vegetation along the railway embankment in this reserve. Refer to Section 6.7.4.2 sub-precinct 3121K.	YCC	High

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Citizens Park, Richmond	Prepare a Landscape Masterplan for Citizens Park that focuses on consultation with the local Richmond community (as this is the only Neighbourhood park), to resolve the following Neighbourhood park issues: • integrate the future use of adjoining Department of Education site and the Bowling Club with the park; • safety issues identified including drug dealing and unsavoury use of the reserve; • provide a diversity of uses in the reserve to meeting community needs; and • protect heritage features included in the City of Yarra Heritage Review. Refer to Section 6.7.4.2 sub-precinct 3121C.	YCC	High
Flockhart Reserve	Prepare a Landscape Concept Plan for this reserve when the linear open space reserve along the Yarra River between Gipps Street and Walmer Street Footbridges has been established. This will then inform the design requirements of the reserve in the linear context of the open space reserve along the Yarra River through Abbotsford. Refer to Section 6.6.4.2 sub-precinct 3067C.	YCC	Mod
Golden Square Bicentennial Park, Burnley	This reserve appears to be under-utilised, and has the potential to fulfil a greater Neighbourhood park role. Prepare a Conservation Plan followed by a Landscape Masterplan in consultation with the community. Refer to Section 6.7.4.2 sub-precinct 3121J.	YCC	Mod
Hardy Gallagher Reserve, North Carlton	This reserve appears to be under-utilised and has had recent residential development adjoining the reserve. The reserve has the potential to function as a Neighbourhood park. Prepare a Landscape Masterplan for this reserve in consultation with the community. Refer to Section 6.1.4.2 sub-precinct 3054A.	YCC	High
Loys Paddock	This reserve has the potential to have its ecological character and values improved through appropriate vegetation management works and retaining the low key recreational infrastructure to walking paths and potentially interpretive information if required. Refer to Section 6.7.4.2 sub-precinct 3121J.	YCC	Ongoing
Victoria Park, Abbotsford	This reserve has recently been changed from the home ground of the AFL Collingwood Football Club to be returned as public open space. A Conservation Analysis and Landscape Masterplan have been completed. The reserve will accommodate both sporting use and local community needs in the design. DSE have nominated there is to be future residential development in this precinct. Refer to Section 6.6.4.2 sub-precinct 3067A.	YCC	Urgent

5.2.2 MAJOR BUILT INFRASTRUCTURE IN OPEN SPACE

Public open space is highly valued for its sense of space, peace and quiet and trees. It is recognised that some buildings and infrastructure are required in open space to provide for the diversity of recreation and leisure needs. Existing built infrastructure that is not directly related to use of the outdoor open space for sport, leisure and passive recreation will be reviewed to confirm future use and location of

these. Proposed built infrastructure in open space that is not directly related to the use of outdoor open space for sport, leisure and passive recreation will need to demonstrate how it will improve access and use of an open space reserve.

The following siting and design guidelines are for the assessment of future provision of major infrastructure in open space. Refer to **Section 5.2.4.5** for guidelines regarding material use in new infrastructure.

5.2.2.1 Buildings and structures

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Public toilets	In future siting and design of toilet facilities in open space, the following criteria is to be considered: • required in Regional, City-wide and Neighbourhood reserves only; • where possible integrate with other buildings in the reserve, e.g. sporting pavilions; • utilise best practice environmentally sustainable principles in siting and design, particularly in relation to water re-use; • location should not block prominent public views to the reserve and not create hidden or unusable areas around them; • entrances orientated to the park to ensure adequate sight lines are maintained around entries; • investigate potential for unisex toilets to minimise footprint required; • integration with other existing or proposed built facilities in the reserve, for example as part of change facilities; • include adequate lighting; • appropriately sized to meet demands of size and character of open space; • complement the character of the park; • investigate potential for toilets to provide secure storage lockers for the homeless; and • provide disability access in accordance with current Australian Standards.	YCC	Very High
	Existing toilet facilities should be assessed and modified, where appropriate, to meet the above design criteria.	YCC	Very High
Sport and recreation facilities	In future assessment of the need for upgrade, replacement or proposed facilities, consider the following: • the proposed facility/building demonstrates it is dependent on the open space location for its function and viability; • the proposed facility/building is to demonstrate it will improve access and use of the open space reserve; • the proposed facility/building is, where possible, flexible in design to provide for multiple uses, or future adaptability for other uses; • demonstrate that ecologically sustainable design principles have been met in building and site design; and	YCC	Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
	the cost of construction and maintenance is reasonably proportionate to the proposed level of use.		
Non-open space dependent facilities located in open space	- All existing non-open space dependent buildings and facilities located in open space reserves are to be progressively reviewed to determine if they are to be retained, or if viable alternatives exist for relocation out of open space. As part of this review existing buildings will be assessed for their adaptability to open space related use, or will be removed to improve outdoor use of open space. - New applications for non-open space dependent facilities and activities located in open space will need to clearly demonstrate their compatibility with open space and the net improvement to access for recreational and leisure pursuits and use of the outdoor open space that will be achieved by installation of such a facility. - Upgrade to existing and new facilities will need to comply with the guidelines for sport and recreation facilities.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.2.2 Shared trails

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians	In Regional open space linear reserves, the following principles should be adhered to in shared trail design, particularly in response to resolving conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians: - review the grades on the existing path network and investigate design solutions to slow cyclists where long ramped sections exist; - review line of sight on paths to ensure clear visibility is retained on paths and views are not obscured by overhanging vegetation; - review width of paths to ensure all shared trails are a minimum of 2.5 metres wide; - review signage on trails to highlight they are shared cycle and pedestrian paths; - where adequate space is available and there are high levels of path use, consider a secondary path system to separate cyclists and pedestrians; - investigate providing additional entry points to the trail systems from existing residential areas, as highlighted on Precinct Plans, Section 6. This includes improvements where required to crossing of main roads; - education of shared trail users for appropriate behaviour on shared trails targeting all users including cyclists, dog walkers, pram pushers, inline skaters, skateboarders and walkers; and - adhere to the current best management practice guidelines for trails, including in relation to flood management.	YCC (PV) (MW) (MCMC) (Adjoining Councils)	Urgent

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
	Further information on specific issues and condition of paths is included in the City of Yarra Shared Pathways Audit (2003).		
There are gaps in the shared trail network	Refer to Recommendation in Section 5.1.3.1 , and to the Precinct Recommendations in Section 6 .	Refer to 5.1.3.1	Refer to 5.1.3.1

5.2.2.3 Sporting infrastructure

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Sports facilities including courts, fields, cricket nets, scoreboards, umpire boxes, storage sheds can be inappropriately located in reserves	In the design of new sporting infrastructure, refer to the following: • orientation and design to minimise impact on other active and passive recreational uses; • fencing and other infrastructure to be designed to minimise visual impact and complement the landscape and cultural values of the reserve; • ensure key view lines into the park are not blocked by the facility location; and • where possible, minimise permanent installation of structures that can remain portable and by so-doing may improve adaptability and increase multiple use of the reserve.	YCC Sporting Clubs	Ongoing

5.2.3 MINOR INFRASTRUCTURE IN OPEN SPACE

5.2.3.1 General

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Facilities should be appropriate to the scale of the park	When determining future provision of facilities in reserves, use the facility provision table in Section 5.1.1 .	YCC	Ongoing
Material use	Refer to Section 5.2.3.4 regarding use of sustainable materials in new open space infrastructure.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.3.2 Shade

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Adequate shade to allow comfortable use of outdoor open space facilities	In future open space design and facility upgrade, provide adequate levels of shade for existing and future facilities in accordance with the following guidelines: • where possible, locate the facilities to take advantage of existing partial or light shade in the reserve; • facilities are generally not be located in permanent full shade, unless there is a demonstrated need for this; • where possible, utilise trees for the provision of shade in preference to shade structures;	YCC	Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
	- where trees are utilised for shade, avoid species which are known for limb shedding (e.g. Red Gums); - in new infrastructure design, integrate shade into the overall facility and open space design; - impermeable shade structures are generally provided only where rain shelter in addition to shade is required; and - where shade structures are proposed, ensure the design complements the open space character and, where possible, meets the sustainability principles regarding material use included in Section 5.2.4.5.		

5.2.3.3 Playgrounds

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Maintain diversity of opportunity at playgrounds	- Regional playgrounds can provide diverse equipment and custom designed to reflect urban, landscape, cultural and social character of the area. Similarly they can be off-shelf items designed to complement the landscape setting which encourages other types of play including social and cognitive play. It is important that associated facilities including drinking fountains, seating, picnic areas and open grassed areas and shade are included. - Medium sized playgrounds generally to be off-shelf items with some variety of type and manufacturer. There may be some additional sculptural or creative items that are incorporated into the playground to respond to the local character. - Small playground generally either off-shelf items, or a single creative item that may have a dual use - sculpture that is visually interesting, reflects the local character and may function as a seat, or vehicle barrier. - Investigate potential to rotate attachable items to the playgrounds in local parks to add interest and diversity.	YCC	Ongoing
Fencing playgrounds for safety	Fencing playgrounds may be appropriate where the following cannot be avoided: - immediately adjacent to the road; and - where there are other activities located in close proximity to the playground that may pose safety issues for park users - e.g. adjacent to a shared trail.	YCC	Ongoing
Shade in playgrounds	Refer to guidelines for shade included in Section 5.2.3.2 and the following: - shade to at least part of the playground is to be provided. This may include shade from vegetation, adjoining buildings or shade structures. Where possible, minimise the use of new built structures to provide shade; and - in playground siting and design consider the provision of shade as an integral part of the design including planting trees in advance for future playground locations.	YCC	Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Material use	Where appropriate refer to the guidelines regarding sustainable material use outlined in Section 5.2.4.5 .	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.3.4 Skate facilities

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Skate facilities are commonly requested and require careful siting and design criteria to maximise safety and usability	- In design and provision of future skate facilities, refer to the current best practice design standards (currently these are <i>The Skate Facility Guide</i>, published by Sport and Recreation Victoria) - Investigate potential for temporary skate facilities that can be moved between different locations in the City to provide diversity and interest for young people - Provide shade in accordance with the guidelines in Section 5.2.3.2.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.3.5 Seating

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
There is a need for more seats in open space positioned in both shade and sun	- Location of seating in open space to provide for diversity of needs including locations in the sun and shade. - Position seats to face activity and paths, take advantage of key views, provide variety of settings including some in groups and some alone. - Design of seats to include both seats with backs and without, and some with arm-rests for people with limited mobility. - For material use refer to Section 5.2.4.5.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.3.6 Car parking

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Car parking is to be considered in assessment of future change to open space reserves to ensure it does not dominate the reserve	The following issues are to be considered in relation to car parking provision in future change to open space facilities and design: - identify the quantity of parking required to meet the proposed change to the open space; - demonstrate how the parking will be accommodated in the area without undue impact on adjoining land use or undue loss of existing open space area; - proposed design to adhere to ESD principles and best management practice regarding safety of car park design; - proposed size, material use and design does not compromise the desired landscape character of the reserve; and - encourage, where appropriate, multiple use of the car park (i.e. surface that is available for other uses when not being used as a car park, shared parking with other nearby with facilities or underground parking).	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.3.7 Other minor facilities

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Design and quality of minor infrastructure items	- Encourage some diversity in the type of infrastructure provided to reflect urban, landscape, cultural and social character of the reserve. This will provide different experiences for the community. This relates to minor infrastructure including fencing, bollards, drinking fountains, lighting and picnic shelters. - Design of facilities to meet best practice guidelines for safety and quality.	YCC	Ongoing
Lighting of open space reserves for informal recreation use, particularly in early evening during the winter	Improve lighting of selected open space reserves in the early evening during winter to encourage informal recreational use. The following criteria is to be considered in assessment of lighting selected reserves: - utilise existing lighting where possible, for example sports field lighting; - where new lighting is required select lighting that minimises upward glare to reduce impact on native fauna and adjoining residential amenity, investigate alternative energy source for lighting, and ensure lighting design complements the character of the reserve; and - minimises impact on native wildlife, especially along waterways.	YCC	High
Lighting of linear shared paths	Future lighting of linear shared paths will need to meet the following criteria: - minimise impact on habitat values along waterways, including low illumination, restricted hours for lighting e.g. early evening during winter only; and - refer to the Yarra Public Lighting Strategy (in prep).	YCC	High
Rubbish bins	Bins to be provided in Regional, City-wide and Neighbourhood open space reserves only where BBQ and picnic facilities are provided.	YCC	Ongoing
	Local and Small Local reserves to have no bins with residents encouraged to take rubbish home with them.	YCC	Ongoing
	Bins to be located in positions that are accessible for maintenance purposes, near the entry and exits and near BBQ and picnic facilities.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

5.2.4.1 Waterway corridors

An overall objective in the Strategy is to improve the environmental values of the open space system adjoining waterways in the City. There are shared management responsibilities for the waterways in the municipality, and the City of Yarra are in a good position to initiate and advocate for improvement works to be undertaken by the other regional management agencies.

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Weeds along the waterways require ongoing control and management.	- Continue to undertake and monitor control of environmental weed control on Council land along the waterway corridors with priority given to protect existing remnant indigenous vegetation. - Investigate means to prevent the spread of environmental weeds from adjoining freehold land.	YCC YCC Adjoining Land-holders	Urgent & Ongoing Urgent & Ongoing
Lack of continuous indigenous vegetation along the Yarra River corridor including the riparian zone, limiting the ecological values of the River corridor	YCC to prepare a Vegetation Management Plan for the Yarra River for Council managed land within the context of other public and freehold land and will involve consultation with other land managers and land holders and consider the following: - the ecological value, recreational use, cultural heritage values and to guide appropriate plant species use in future developments adjoining the River; and - priorities for works nominated by MW in the Lower Yarra Waterway Management Activity Plan, and works proposed by Parks Victoria in Studley Park and Yarra Bend Park and other linear reserves along the Yarra River.	YCC (PV) (MW) (Adjoining Land-holders)	Very High
Lack of continuous indigenous vegetation along the Merri Creek corridor including the riparian zone, limiting the ecological values of the creek corridor	YCC to prepare a Vegetation Management Plan for the Merri Creek linear reserve in consultation with Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC), MW, PV and other land holders and consider the following: - the ecological values, recreational use, cultural heritage values and guide appropriate plant species use in future developments adjoining the waterway; and - integrate with other priority for works along the bed and banks included in the Merri Creek Waterway Management Activity Plan, the Merri Creek Environs Strategy and masterplans for existing adjoining reserves.	YCC MCMC (MW) (PV) (Adjoining Land-holders)	High
Future management of public land along Darebin Creek when trail works are constructed by Parks Victoria	YCC to liaise with PV and Darebin Creek Coordinating Committee to develop a Vegetation Management Plan for the Creek corridor in the City of Yarra, once it has been acquired.	YCC (DCMC) (PV) (MW)	Mod
Impacts of future developments on waterway corridor values	Support the principles outlined in the Amendment C66 as a minimum, with consideration of the following: - where possible, through further consultation and negotiation, increase the minimum setback, to allow planting of large-scale trees that will not threaten adjoining infrastructure. For example Red Gums have a mature canopy size of at least 15 - 20 metres, and if planted in the 10 metre setback zone, will potentially be continually trimmed to avoid overhanging and damage to infrastructure. Where possible achieve a greater setback; - development to demonstrate it will not cause a decline to any existing values including mature non-invasive exotic trees	YCC	Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
	which may form some habitat value in the corridor; • consistent with the State Policy - <i>Victoria's Native Vegetation Management</i> to minimise removal of native vegetation and where removal is deemed necessary, replace with the equivalent or improved habitat; • development to minimise unnecessary overshadowing, light spill and noise; and • planting in adjoining developments to use indigenous species, or as a minimum non-invasive species in waterway environments.		
Fauna habitat values	Improve overall habitat values of waterway corridors with consideration of the following: • consider fauna habitat values during development of vegetation management plans, particularly regarding existing non-indigenous and non-native mature overstorey trees which may provide habitat value in the absence of other mature vegetation; • retain, where possible, mature dead trees for habitat purposes considering risk management issues associated with falling limbs; • continue to investigate effective methods of vermin control; and • improve community understanding of native fauna habitat values with design and sensitive installation of interpretive signage along the waterway corridors.	YCC (PV) (MW) (MCMC)	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing High
Recognise the nature conservation values of the waterway corridors	Rezone land along the waterway corridors to PCRZ rather than PPRZ where appropriate. Refer to Recommendation in Section 5.2.13.2 for further information.	YCC	Very High
Development setback from the waterway corridors	Investigate the potential to increase the minimum setback from the crest level along the waterways, in accordance with Recommendation in Section 5.2.13.2 .	YCC	Very High

5.2.4.2 Improve ecological values of other reserves

Former Inner circle railway reserve

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
The former Inner circle railway forms a linear corridor between Merri Creek and Princes Park and has potential to be strengthened as a habitat link	Prepare a Conservation Plan followed by a Landscape Masterplan for this linear reserve in consultation with the community to develop a design and management guidelines to improve the recreational and environmental values of the reserve.	YCC	High

5.2.4.3 Improve ecological values of links between open space reserves

Railway reserves

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Railway reserves in the City have potential to increase ecological value	Liaise with VicTrack regarding future planting of indigenous and native vegetation along the railway easements to strengthen and improve their ecological value.	YCC VicTrack	Mod

Streetscapes

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Streetscapes have potential to enhance overstorey canopy tree links to and between open space reserves.	• Ongoing implementation of the Street Planting Precinct Masterplans and Yarra Street Tree Policy.	YCC	Ongoing
	• Implement the future adopted Urban Design Frameworks and Streetscape Designs.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.4.3 Protection and enhancement of existing remnant flora values in Yarra

The overall intent of the recommendations is to protect, extend and expand all remnant indigenous vegetation to enhance ecological values.

Reserve	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Railway reserve between Burnley Park and Circus Site	Protect and expand the remnant Plains Grassy Woodland vegetation community along the Railway line and expand into both Burnley Park and Circus Site. Burnley Park will need to retain existing sporting oval.	YCC VicTrack	High
Circus Site	Potential to expand the Plains Grassy Woodland vegetation community in this reserve to build on the values already recorded along the railway easement. Refer to Recommendation in Section 5.2.1.4 regarding the Circus Site.	YCC	Mod
Coate Park	The existing Masterplan for this reserve will protect the remnant Plains Grassy Woodland vegetation community.	YCC	Refer M'plan
Alphington Park Wetland	Protect and investigate the potential to expand the floodplain wetland habitat values east of the existing wetland. This will require liaison with MW and private landholders.	YCC (MW) (Landholders)	Mod & ongoing
Burnley Harbour	Protect the Aquatic Herbland.	PV	Ongoing
Rushall Station	Protect Escarpment Shrubland vegetation in consultation with other agencies consistent with the Merri Creek Waterway Management Activity Plan prepared by Melbourne Water.	YCC, MW, VicTrack	Ongoing

Reserve	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Merri Creek linear reserve south of Heidelberg Road	Refer to Recommendation in Section 5.2.4.1 for Vegetation Management Plans.	YCC (MCMC) (MW)	High
Yarra River linear reserve (sections managed by YCC)	Refer to Recommendation in Section 5.2.4.1 for Vegetation Management Plans.	YCC (MW)	Urgent

5.2.4.4 Water use in open space and stormwater quality

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
High levels of water use for irrigating open space reserves	Implement and monitor the recently completed <i>Amenity Water Use - Parks & Gardens</i> prepared by the City of Yarra which contains practical management template to reduce water use in open space management, whilst retaining amenity and recreation values.	YCC	Urgent & Ongoing
Many European trees, shrubs and ground layer plants require higher levels of water use	- In open space design and management utilise indigenous and native species, where appropriate, to reduce water use. There are non-indigenous cultural heritage values that need to be protected in open space and use of drought tolerant exotic vegetation will be encouraged, where species are not known weeds in waterway corridors. - Prepare guidelines to encourage use of water-wise species, indigenous and native species on private land.	YCC	Ongoing
		YCC	High
Stormwater re-use	In future masterplans and designs for reserves, incorporate the principles from <i>Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines</i> and <i>City of Yarra Stormwater Management Plan</i> including investigation into stormwater re-use in the open space design.	YCC	Ongoing
	Investigate soft engineering solutions in open space design to accommodate stormwater runoff from buildings and hard surfaces in preference to pits and pipes.	YCC	Ongoing
Minimise the impacts of stormwater runoff from open space on waterway environments.	In future masterplans and designs for reserves, incorporate the principles from <i>Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines</i> and <i>City of Yarra Stormwater Management Plan</i>. This may include consideration of treating stormwater run-off from open space reserves and part of the surrounding local catchment.	YCC	Ongoing
	In future masterplans and open space designs maximise permeable surface treatments to minimise urban runoff.	YCC	Ongoing
	Select materials and designs that minimise transport of sediments to the stormwater system.	YCC	Ongoing
	Investigate soft engineering solutions in open space design to accommodate stormwater runoff from buildings and hard surfaces in preference to pits and pipes.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.4.5 Infrastructure material use and design

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Material use and infrastructure design in open space	In selecting materials for use in future open space construction, consider the following: • Timbers including review of sustainable harvesting and supply, and potential to use alternatives, e.g. radial sawn timber or recycled timbers. • Recycled materials including recycled plastics and rubber. • Integrate stormwater runoff from roofs of shelters or buildings into the open space design where practical. • Use permeable surfaces where possible to minimise urban runoff. • Investigate use of recycled materials.	YCC	Ongoing
Lighting	Refer to Recommendation in Section 5.2.3.6.		

5.2.4.6 Vegetation selection, maintenance and management

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Plant selection can influence the environmental character and sustainability of open space	In selecting plants for use in public open space reserves, consider the following: • plants that minimise the need for excessive watering and are drought tolerant; • in reserves with an environmental character classification, use plants that are locally indigenous and, where appropriate, strengthen the EVC; • where reserves are identified to be suitable for native wildlife, select species that create habitat for a variety of wildlife consistent with other identified values for these areas; • encourage use of native and indigenous plants in other reserves where they will complement the landscape and heritage character of the reserve; and • where the use of native or indigenous species will conflict with its existing established character, particularly heritage reserves, use of non-indigenous or native species will be encouraged consistent with the heritage character. In these locations investigate use of drought tolerant species and confirm they are not known environmental or noxious weeds in waterway environments prior to use.	YCC	Ongoing
Herbicide use is likely to continue in open space, however, its negative impacts will be minimised	• Implement best practice management techniques to minimise environmental impacts from herbicide use. • Regularly review herbicide use and investigate alternative techniques to minimise herbicide use in the longer term.	YCC	Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Grass mowing results in resource use including increased water consumption and fuel use	• Trial differential mowing practices and species selection to achieve longer lawns/grass areas where high use is not required. This will have the benefit of reducing the fuel consumption, water usage (as longer grass is more tolerant of drought periods), herbicide and fertiliser use.	YCC	High
	• In conjunction with trial, implement community education program to explain the benefits of differential mowing in the neighbourhood it is being trialled.	YCC	High

5.2.4.7 Fauna habitat values

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Open space provides habitat for native fauna	Improve native fauna habitat values consistent with retention of cultural heritage values of the reserves including the following: • implementation of recommendations in this section including Section 5.2.4.1 and Section 5.2.4.6; and • continue to consider native fauna habitat values when reviewing lighting design in open space reserves.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.5 DOG OWNERS

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Adequate facilities for dog walking and exercise in open space to reduce conflicts between this activity and other open space uses and values	Council to comprehensively address facilities for dogs walking and exercise in open space through preparation of a Dog Strategy. The Dog Strategy will need to address all issues including the following: • reasonable access to and designation of dog-off-lead areas for all residents; • designation of no-dog areas where habitat values or the dominant use of the reserve and will be compromised by dogs - for example Alphington Wetland; • promote principles of responsible pet ownership including cleaning up dog waste in open space; and • comprehensive communication strategy to inform the community of dog controls in open space.	YCC	Urgent

5.2.6 CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Aboriginal cultural heritage values in open space are poorly understood.	• Prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study of open space to inform future use, management, interpretation and signage, in accordance with the Yarra Aboriginal Partnerships Plan (2004).	YCC Wurundjeri	Urgent
	• After completion of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study develop appropriate formal protocols and guidelines for consultation with the Wurundjeri regarding open space planning and design.	YCC Wurundjeri	Very High
	• Future Conservation Plans to include indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values. This may involve separate studies where required.	YCC Wurundjeri	As required
	• Formally document and continually improve Council's culturally sensitive place management process and protocols as a Council wide resource.	YCC Wurundjeri	Very High and Ongoing
	• Develop an Aboriginal Historic Places Plaques Project in Collingwood / Fitzroy in consultation with Culture and Community Planning as part of the Yarra Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2004.	YCC Wurundjeri	Urgent
Heritage values can be threatened through poor management	Implement recommendations contained in existing Conservation Plans and the <i>City of Yarra Heritage Review Landscape Citations</i> (Patrick, 1997).	YCC	Ongoing
Heritage values are threatened by inappropriate works including plantings, new paths etc	• Prepare Conservation Plans prior to preparation of Masterplans for all reserves with heritage classification (both primary and secondary).	YCC	High
	• Prior to any new planting or upgrade works in parks with heritage classification, refer to the Conservation Plan or, if a Conservation Plan is not yet prepared, refer as a minimum to the <i>City of Yarra Heritage Review Landscape Citations</i>, or similar updated reviews.	YCC	Ongoing
Conservation Plans have been prepared for a range of reserves	Implement recommendations from the Conservation Plans to protect heritage values.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.7 COMMUNITY FESTIVALS AND EVENTS IN OPEN SPACE

Council promotes community events and festivals in open space reserves in the City and the Arts and Cultural Plan articulates this. The Strategy supports this intent as it encourages a sense of place and community use of open space reserves. Over-use of open space for this purpose can potentially conflict with regular use of these reserves by the local community. Selecting the most appropriate reserves for these will minimise any future conflicts, along with considerations of the following recommendations:

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Community based festivals and events in open space	Major festivals and events to be held in either Regional or City-wide open space reserves as these generally have the appropriate level of facilities, transport access, parking and usage levels appropriate to this use. During festivals and events promote the following: - the event enhances sense of community and neighbourhood spirit; - increases residents' appreciation of the cultural or natural character and values of Yarra; - has relevance to City of Yarra community and encourages their attendance; - event is compatible with community expectations regarding appropriate use of public open space; and - minimise the area and length of time that general community access will be restricted to open space. Minor community events could be held in Neighbourhood parks, however assessment of the proximity of adjoining residential use, level of facilities provided, access arrangements needs to be carefully assessed prior to confirming the location.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.8 COMMERCIAL EVENTS AND USE OF OPEN SPACE

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Private functions and events in open space	Private functions and events in open space should be held in either Regional reserves, City-wide reserves or commercial streetscapes. Applications for holding a private function or event should be assessed to meet all of the following criteria: - there are alternative areas of open space for the community to use in vicinity of where the event is proposed; - whether the applicant is based in the City of Yarra; - the event will allow for some community use and access to at least part of the reserve during the event; - if the event will have a positive contribution to sense of community in the reserve; - the event and associated infrastructure will not unduly restrict or impact on the use and enjoyment of the open space by residents; - the event and associated infrastructure will not damage the park grounds, plants or features; - demonstrate the impact of noise generated from the event is acceptable and meets with Council's requirements in relation to amplified noise; - that building approval is received for erection of any large structure in the reserve; - demonstrate all waste will be adequately	YCC	Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
	dealt with; and comply with Council's liquor consumption guidelines.		
Commercial use of buildings or facilities in open space or directly adjoining open space	Applications would need to demonstrate the following for consideration of this use: - that proposed use or development complements and enhances the community use of the reserve; - that visual and physical access to the reserve will not be reduced; and - there is a demonstrated community need for the proposal. If the development meets the criteria above, consultation with the community would need to be undertaken prior to confirming any use.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.9 DESIGN OF OPEN SPACE RESERVES

5.2.9.1 Character Classification

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Design individual open space reserves consistent with the overall framework.	Individual open space reserve design needs to consider the primary and secondary character classifications included in this Open Space Strategy. Reference to the classification should form part of the design brief. Refer to Section 6 for the primary and secondary character classifications for all reserves. As noted in their title, the primary classification will direct the overall design intent of the reserve, and the secondary classifications will require consideration in the design.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.9.2 Design of individual open space reserves

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
New open space and facility designs are to meet the principles and guidelines included in this Open Space Strategy.	In future designs of open space, the following method should be referred to for consistency with the overall framework for open space provision: - the design is to be consistent with the proposed use and character classification for the open space reserve; - consistent with the guidelines and principles included in Section 5.2 of the Strategy, and relevant Precinct Recommendations from Section 6 during the research phase of the design; and - where applicable, refer to the individual reserve recommendations in Section 6.	YCC	Ongoing
Diversity is a key strength of Yarra	- Future open space design is to encourage diversity and be derivative of the natural, cultural, environmental and social character of the site. - Diversity in design of open space is to accommodate the diverse community and maximise its use by all residents of Yarra.	YCC YCC	Ongoing Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Integration of public art in open space design	During development of Masterplans for Regional, City-wide and Neighbourhood reserves, consider integration of public art as a component of the design. This does not include the design of artwork, but the potential site and design parameters for a future commission.	YCC	Ongoing
Commissioning design and maintenance of public art in open space	Future development of briefs for public art commissions in open space to consider the following: • reflect the contemporary Aboriginal and/or historical character of the site; • contribute to the uniqueness of the open space reserve into which it is located; • materials that meet ESD principles and will be suitable for external use; • public safety for its intended use in an open space reserve; • ongoing maintenance requirements; and • resistance to damage in a public place.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.9.3 Community consultation

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Involve the community in open space design and planning	The City of Yarra will consult with the community during the design of open space to understand and provide for local community leisure and recreation needs consistent with the open space network, overall guidelines and precinct recommendations of this Strategy. The method and type of consultation undertaken will vary according to the type of open space and scope of the design plan being prepared. Refer to Yarra's Consultation Framework and Section 7.2.1 of this Strategy for appropriate levels of community participation and involvement in design and planning for open space. In summary: • the consultation process will aim to reach the broad cross section of the community who visit the reserves; and • in the preparation of Landscape Masterplans and Concept Plans for open space, consultation with the community along with relevant agencies and the Wurundjeri will be undertaken during the research and issue identification phase as well as the design phase.	YCC	Ongoing
Consultation with the Wurundjeri needs to be formalised	Develop formal protocols and guidelines for ongoing Aboriginal opportunities in open space planning and management in accordance with the Yarra Aboriginal Partnerships Plan (2004).	YCC Wurundjeri	Urgent

5.2.9.4 Information and signage

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Knowledge of open space reserves and facilities	Prepare an illustrative brochure publicising the diversity of open space reserves across the City, how people can reach them and the types of activities they can undertake in each. The illustrative work is to communicate the features without words, and the outputs to be both a printed version to distribute widely and a digital version to load onto Council's website	YCC	Urgent
Lack of information in open space regarding cultural, heritage and environmental values	Develop a simple, illustrative, integrated interpretive signage system for the open space reserves. This will need to refer to existing information and material, including the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study, and be prepared in consultation with relevant agencies including PV and MW.	YCC (MW) (PV)	Very High

5.2.9.5 Assessment of future requests for memorials and sponsored works

Council receives a range of external requests for provision of activities, facilities or community plantings in open space reserves.

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Requests for memorials in open space	Memorials will be assessed on a case by case basis with consideration of the following: - the request is to be reviewed for consistency with the intended use and character classification for the open space reserve; - the level of contribution the memorial will have to the cultural and community value of the reserve; and - plaques will not be encouraged.	YCC	Ongoing
Requests to undertake commercial or community works in open space	Council receives requests from the community and organisations to undertake works in open space. Future proposals for these will be assessed in accordance with the following criteria: - the proposal is to be consistent with any existing current Council Landscape Masterplans or Concept Plans for the reserves; - if no Masterplan or Concept plans exist, the proposal is to be consistent with the use and character classification for the open space (as outlined in this Strategy), the Precinct Recommendations contained in Section 6, and the overall guidelines contained in Section 5.2; and - where the works are proposed by a commercial organisation, the extent of signage and sponsorship acknowledgement associated with the proposal is to integrate sensitively with the open space design and demonstrate it will not overwhelm the open space and ensure the reserve and facilities clearly remain as public open space.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.10 LIAISON WITH OTHER OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

There are some specific issues that require liaison with other management agencies. Whilst specific issues need to be addressed, regular ongoing liaison with agencies would be beneficial for Yarra.

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Adjoining Councils	Regularly liaise with the City of Melbourne (i.e. annually) or as required to review design and management of open space reserves within walking distance, to ensure complementary facilities are provided. Refer to Precinct Recommendations for specific sites in Section 6.	YCC (MCC)	High & Ongoing
	Liaise with other adjoining municipalities as required regarding open space design and management. The direct links to a number of reserves are not as prominent, but use of some reserves in the Cities of Stonnington, Boroondara, Banyule and Darebin may continue.	YCC (SCC) (Banyule) (BCC) (DCC)	Ongoing
	Liaise regularly with Moreland and Darebin City Councils regarding the provision of linear open space systems along the Merri and Darebin Creeks.	MCC DCC	Ongoing
Parks Victoria manage the large regional open space reserves within and adjoining Yarra River	- Consult with Parks Victoria regarding the priority for the Yarra River linear reserve link between Gipps Street Footbridge and Walmer Street Footbridge. - Review the safety of the Merri Creek trail and links to be established along it. - Liaise with Parks Victoria regarding the design, provision and maintenance of the Darebin Creek trail. - Yarra Bend Park has existing sporting fields which are excess to requirement. Council to liaise with Parks Victoria regarding future use of sporting grounds for local needs. - Review access arrangements to Herring Island.	YCC PV	Very High
Office of Housing land is perceived by residents as green open space. Conversion of this land to built form or other use will impact on this value	Council to consult with Office of Housing to investigate potential to improve the public use of the open space where it directly adjoins the street through re-design and shared maintenance agreements. The intent is to use land that is currently undeveloped for other activities in order to minimise impact of this change on existing use of the space by Office of Housing estate residents.	YCC DHS	Very High
Department of Education is perceived by residents as open space and significant change to this use may indirectly affect the open space values	Liaise with Department of Education regarding shared access to school multi-purpose court facilities. The need for additional courts is included in the Recreation Strategy, and to provide these in the limited open space reserves in many parts of the City will be difficult to achieve.	YCC DOE	Very High
	In future redevelopment proposals for schools, review proposed changes to recreation and open space areas in school grounds to assess their impact on the open space network values.	YCC DOE	Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
	Liaise with the Department of Education to investigate potential future shared use of the Collingwood Secondary College grounds, as described in Precinct Recommendations in Section 6 .	YCC DOE	Very High
Sections of the Merri Creek and Yarra River linear trails are located on Melbourne Water owned land.	Liaise with Melbourne Water to confirm the current status of all facilities located on their land to confirm that agreements are in place to retain and upgrade recreational facilities where required.	YCC MW PV	Mod
Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC)	- Regularly liaise with MCMC regarding plans and projects along the Merri Creek. - Continue to explore opportunities for state government funding of projects on the Merri Creek with MCMC.	YCC MCMC YCC MCMC	Ongoing Ongoing

5.2.11 MAINTENANCE

Many of the responses to the household questionnaire confirmed satisfaction with the maintenance levels in open space, however, some specific maintenance issues were identified.

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Overall the household survey responses reveal a general level of satisfaction with maintenance	Council to regularly monitor level of satisfaction with open space maintenance, through a regular (i.e. bi-annual) residents survey to identify and address any key issues as they arise. These can then be addressed through revisions to the park maintenance contract.	YCC	Ongoing
	Council to regularly review existing Park Maintenance Plans and update where required.	YCC	Ongoing
Poor quality of public toilet facilities leading to perception of poor maintenance	Council to undertake a thorough assessment of the condition of public toilets, and develop an implementation plan for the demolition, replacement and potential provision of public toilet facilities. For design of new facilities, refer to the design criteria included in Section 5.2.3	YCC	Urgent
Dog excrement including lack of adequate facilities	As part of the Dog Strategy address the ongoing management and maintenance issues associated with dog excrement.	YCC	Urgent
Requests for additional litter bins in reserves	Develop a targeted education program with residents to introduce the "carry in carry out" policy for rubbish in all Local and Small Local parks in the municipality.	YCC	Very High
	Review bin design, placement and frequency of rubbish collection in all bins located in Regional, City-wide and Neighbourhood parks to more effectively manage litter in these parks.	YCC	Very High

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Litter in waterways	This issue is to be addressed in conjunction with MW through a number of existing mechanisms: • implement Council's Stormwater Management Plan; • implement recommendations contained in Melbourne Water's Waterway Management Activity Plans regarding litter management; and • review of bin design, location and frequency of collection.	YCC (MW)	Ongoing
Maintenance of nature conservation areas	• Develop suitable Maintenance Plans for nature conservation areas in open space to adequately address issues such as weed management, regeneration and revegetation techniques and habitat protection. • Monitor community feedback, and if required, develop an education program to promote bushland habitat values and the reasons for different maintenance regimes in nature conservation areas.	YCC	Very High
		YCC	Mod (if required)

5.2.12 INTERFACE BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND OPEN SPACE

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Future development adjacent to open space is to cause minimal impact, and, where possible, achieve an improved interface	Future development adjacent to open space is to demonstrate the following: • that it causes no loss of or potential future conflicts with existing trees in the open space reserve; • that the development will not cause a change to the existing or planned patterns of use of the reserve, e.g. if reserve is used for field sports with training 5 nights a week, the building needs to be designed in a manner that will not cause a conflict between future residents and the existing use of the reserve; • demonstrate the scale, height, building mass, and building design will not overwhelm and significantly impact on the existing open space reserve including existing use and public enjoyment of the reserve. Potential issues to consider will include extent of overshadowing, effect on weather patterns including wind and overlooking from the proposed development; • there is no significant loss of views into the reserve from public access points; • no reduction in existing levels of public access to the reserve, and where possible, encourage an improvement to public use of the open space, including through maintaining, improving or adding public access through the site; • that the design does not appropriate public open space as private open space; • where located adjacent to waterways or reserves with environmental values, landscaping and planting is to be locally	YCC Developer	Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
	indigenous and not use known environmental weed species; and building design is to demonstrate adequate insulation from existing and proposed noise and light levels from the open space, to achieve acceptable standards for residential dwellings, and allow acceptable levels of recreational use of the public open space.		
Access points to the waterway trail system	Where appropriate, in future development, adequate public access is to be provided through the development site to connect public land (including roads and open space) and the waterway. This is anticipated to be achieved through appropriate project layout and design.	YCC Developer	Ongoing

5.2.13 COUNCIL PLANNING

5.2.13.1 Integration with Yarra strategic documents

Yarra's strategic documents should be updated or prepared in future to reflect the findings and recommendations of the Strategy.

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Council Plan	During the next revision of the Council Plan, incorporate summarised outcomes of the Strategy.	YCC	As the Council Plan is reviewed
Council's issue-based strategies, urban design and structure plans	Open space recommendations to be developed within the framework and guidelines established by the Open Space Strategy. Ensure ongoing coordination between the Open Space Strategy and other Council programs through regular review meetings and informal communication.	YCC	Ongoing

5.2.13.2 Yarra Planning Scheme

The Strategy contains information, policy directions and recommendations for open space in Yarra. Key components of the Strategy should be reflected in the Yarra Planning Scheme.

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Yarra Planning Scheme – MSS content	As part of the MSS review, update the planning scheme to align with the Strategy, eg: - The role of public open space and standard of open space Council wants to achieve. - Principles for providing public open space. - The strategic framework for providing open space for existing and future populations. - Linkages between different parts of the open space network. - Interfaces between open space and development.	YCC	Urgent (as MSS reviewed)

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
	• The relationship of municipal open space to open space managed by other authorities. • A plan of the future open space network. • How the urban form, land use and demographics of Yarra will change and the effect this will have on open space needs in different parts of the City. • The increasing urban density that will occur as a result of current market trends, Melbourne 2030 and the replacement of industrial and business uses with residences. • The needs of residents versus workers in Yarra. • The needs of special groups in Yarra. • Open space requirements for new development (and providing a strategic link to the open space contributions schedule). • How open space contributions will be spent in different parts of the City (i.e. land acquisition, open space development, or a combination of both). • The Strategy as a reference document.		
Yarra Planning Scheme – form of amendment for open space contributions	Preferred option is use of the schedule to Clause 52.01 Public open space contribution and subdivision. The schedule should include: • the contribution rate and when it applies (residential subdivision, residential dwellings and pro rata share of common areas in mixed use development); • a map of sub-precinct areas where land contributions will be requested/accepted subject to guideline criteria; • guidelines criteria for land contributions; and • a statement that funds collected will be spent in accordance with the recommended projects and priorities included in the Yarra Open Space Strategy.	YCC	Urgent
Yarra Planning Scheme – local planning policies	Review local planning policies to ensure they align with the Strategy; revise or add as required.	YCC	Very High
Building setback along waterway corridors	Investigate where possible the potential to increase the minimum setback from crest level along the waterways. This will allow better management and enhancement of habitat values along this corridor, improve the potential to provide adequate space for large canopy trees within the corridor, improve the fire buffer and improve walking access etc.	YCC	Very High
Zoning – land along waterway corridors	Rezone land along the waterway corridors to PCRZ rather than PPRZ where appropriate to ensure their role as environmental corridors is protected and enhanced. Use available biological / environmental studies to support the rationale for the amendment.	YCC	High
Zoning – land acquired for open space	Rezone land acquired for public open space to PPRZ or PCRZ as appropriate to its location, role in the open space network and character.	YCC	Ongoing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Referral of development applications	Internally refer development applications for major redevelopment proposals, schools and on land adjoining open space reserves and the waterways to Council's open space planning unit (or successor unit responsible for lead implementation of this Strategy).	YCC	Ongoing
New ESO for the former Outer Circle Railway reserve in North Fitzroy	Investigate the provision of an ESO over the former Outer Circle Railway reserve to recognise its role as a Secondary environmental link as described in Section 5.1.4.2. Develop a separate schedule to the Overlay to document the purpose of this environmental link, acknowledging other heritage and environmental values as described in 5.1.4.2.	YCC	High

5.3 Open space contributions to meet future residents' needs

The detailed analysis in this Strategy has identified that there is adequate provision of open space to meet existing needs in some areas of the City, and other areas where there is a lack of open space due to historical patterns of development. The Strategy has highlighted a number of areas and works for Council to provide additional open space, provide links to existing open space and investigate change to the use of some reserves to make them more appropriate for the local and broader community.



A significant proportion of the proposed Key Redevelopment Sites (refer to **Figure 1, Section 4.5.1**) and other sites converting to residential use are likely to occur in the areas that currently lack open space and which traditionally have not housed large resident populations. In these areas, it will be necessary that appropriate contributions are made to expand public open space to meet the need created by Yarra's new residents.

Other significant amounts of re-development are anticipated to occur incrementally within existing residential areas. In areas where provision of existing open space is limited, some of this redevelopment will generate the need for additional open space, and therefore contributions will be required towards the provision of land and associated facility provision. In other areas with adequate open space, contributions will be required towards expansion and improvements to open space facilities only to accommodate the requirements of new residents.



Refer to **Section 6** for discussion of precinct requirements.

5.3.1 OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTIONS SYSTEM

5.3.1.1 Open space contribution rate

The recommended open space contribution for **residential** development in all open space precincts is 4.5%. If adopted, the rate will apply to all residential subdivision and the residential component of mixed use development, including common areas on a pro rata basis.

It is anticipated that this rate will be included in the Yarra Planning Scheme at Clause 52.01 and therefore will operate as a mandatory contribution at the time of subdivision. Until the planning scheme is amended, this rate will be requested under the Subdivision Act 1988.

The recommended rate is based on an analysis of:

- the intensification of residents living in Yarra as evidenced by the ABS, DSE and municipal data;
- the relative population change that will occur in different parts of the City, e.g. through conversion of substantial areas of business/industrial land to residential use versus minimal infill development;
- the use of open space by workers versus residents;
- the location, standard and size of existing open space;
- the facilities offered in existing open space;
- cost of recommended improvements for Small Local, Local and Neighbourhood parks and facilities;
- cost to acquire and develop new open space; and
- the implications of setting a rate on Council's housing policies and attracting residential development to preferred development areas.

It will be important for Council and developers to liaise before development/subdivision proposals are prepared and submitted, to ensure that applications reflect the Council's requirements for open space contributions, whether these are in land or in cash. This is more likely to occur if these requirements are flagged in the Yarra Planning Scheme.

5.3.1.2 Developer land contribution

Land contributions will be sought in locations where additional open space is required, and where there are limited or no other excess land areas currently available for open space.

Many of the proposed development sites are not large in size, and the land contribution may result in an open space reserve that is too small to be usable. In these locations, a land contribution should only be accepted when it meets the criteria outlined in **Table 9, Section 5.1.2.2**. Additional criteria are included in **Section 5.3.2.1**.

If the land contribution results in a land area that does not meet the criteria outlined in **Table 9, Section 5.1.2.2** and **Section 5.3.2.1**, the following applies:

- a cash contribution will be required towards purchase and establishment of local open space within the sub-precinct.

Table 10 ***Precincts where land contributions will be sought where the specified criteria can be met***

Precinct Name	Drawing No.	Sub- Precinct
Abbotsford 3067	YOSS 13	3067B
Collingwood 3066	YOSS 12	3066A, 3066B and 3066C
Fitzroy 3065	YOSS 11	3065A and 3065C
Fitzroy North 3068	YOSS 9a	3068A
Richmond, Cremorne and Burnley 3121	YOSS 14a, 14b and 14c	3121A, 3121B, 3121C, 3121D, 3121E, , 3121G, 3121H

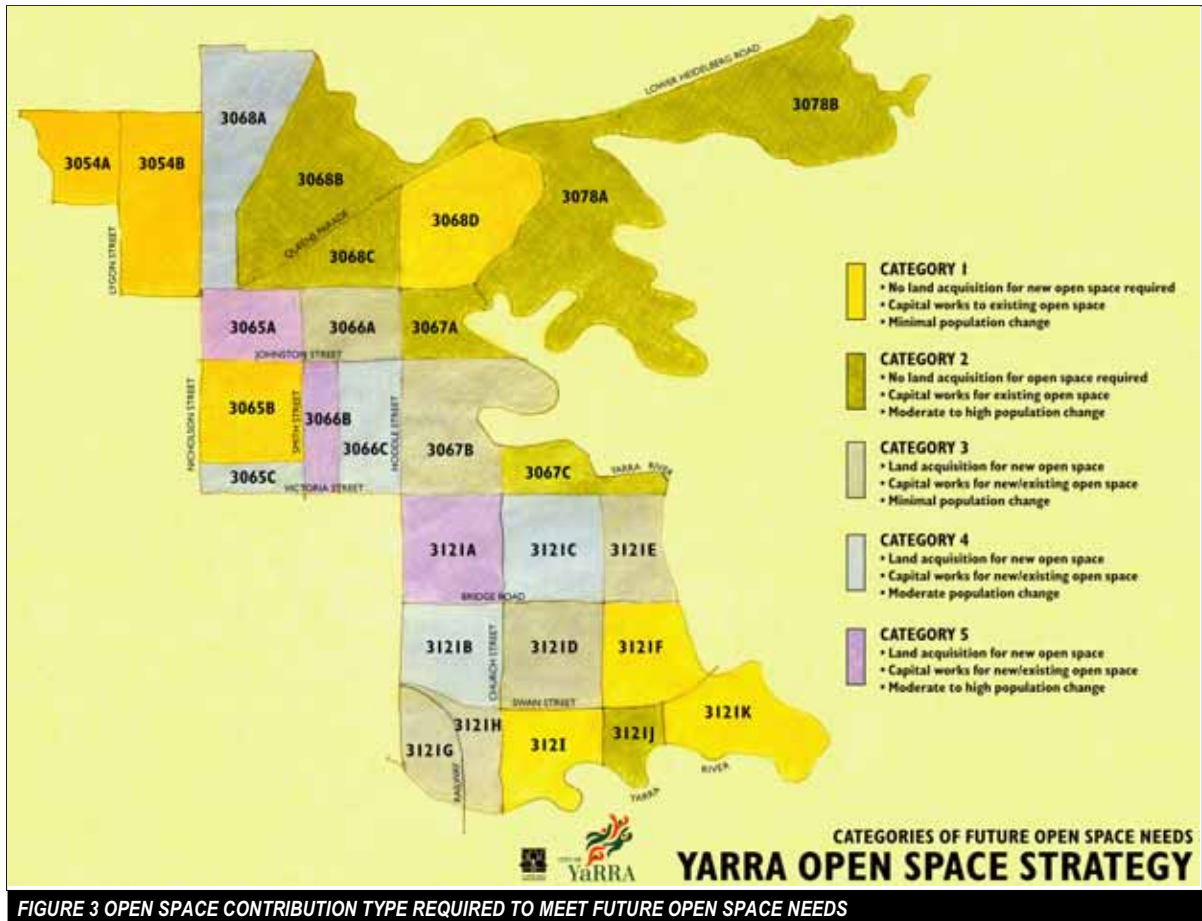
Refer to **Figure 3** for highlighted precincts – Categories 3, 4, 5.

5.3.1.3 Developer cash contribution to open space development or improvement

A cash contribution will be required in sub-precincts where:

- land contributions are sought but the criteria cannot be met; and
- all other sub-precincts.

Refer to **Figure 3** for highlighted precincts – all Categories.



5.3.1.4 Open space contributions from non-residential land use



The comparative survey of business and residential users (refer to **Section 3.6.3**) of open space confirms that open space contributions should not be sought for non-residential uses but should be sought without “discount” where land is converted from non-residential uses to residential use or mixed use incorporating residential dwellings. The contribution will be for the residential component of the development for mixed use proposals. Common areas will be allocated on a pro rata basis.

5.3.1.5 Use of open space contributions



Section 6 describes the proposed upgrades to existing open space and locations where new open space is required. The recommendations have been prepared to meet the needs of both the existing and future population. A proportion of the cost for implementing these recommendations will be met by open space contributions and the remainder by other sources of funding including Council revenue.

There are clearly open space reserves in Yarra used on a City-wide basis and also Regional parks managed by Parks Victoria used by Yarra's residents which do not call on Yarra's budget. It is anticipated that the level of use of Yarra's municipal open space areas over and above the use attributed to new, local residents will continue to be supported from the municipal budget and not directly by open space contributions.

The proportion of funding provided by open space contributions should reflect the degree to which a project is a response to the needs of new residents on whose behalf the contribution will be made. There are recommendations in **Section 6** which are largely driven by the expected needs of this future population, and where this occurs a high proportion of the cost (80% and above) will be funded by open space contributions. These projects are noted with an asterisk (*) in the Recommendation tables. There are also recommendations that do not have a proportion of open space contribution funding allocated to them as the works are needed solely to serve the existing population. These are noted with a triangle (^Δ). The recommendations which are funded largely by the existing population with a smaller component of approximately 20% funded by open space contributions are noted with (^Δ). All other recommendations with no (*)(^Δ) or (^Δ) are Regional or City-wide recommendations which do not attract any open space contribution funding.

5.3.1.6 Implementation of open space contributions system

The Yarra Planning Scheme will require an amendment to be prepared and exhibited to adopt the proposed municipal-wide rate of 4.5% into the schedule to Clause 52.01 of the scheme. Contributions will be levied at the time of subdivision for residential development and mixed use development with a residential component.

5.3.1.7 Management of the contributions collected

Urban planning will be responsible for collection of the open space contribution. Good internal recording and tracking systems are required in accordance with Council's governance requirements and to ensure that it is easy to allocate the funds towards the projects they have been collected for. This is particularly important in designating the funds for either land purchase or infrastructure upgrade.

5.3.2 DECISION GUIDELINES FOR OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTIONS - LAND AND FACILITY DESIGN

5.3.2.1 Decision guidelines for provision of new land area for open space

As a minimum the following criteria must be demonstrated by Council or met by the Developer in any proposed land contribution for open space, subject to it being an area where land contributions are sought:



- Meet the criteria for the provision of new open space in **Table 9, Section 5.1.2.2** relevant to the park type being provided.
- Demonstrate the links between existing and planned future open space reserves and identify the purpose and role of the land to be contributed within this network (in accordance with this Strategy).
- Where possible, the contributed open space is to directly adjoin and expand an existing or future open space reserve.
- Ensure that the shape and size of the land to be contributed is adequate for the proposed use, i.e. as a new open space reserve or to expand an existing or future reserve.

- Retain existing natural features assessed by the City of Yarra or other agencies to be of natural or cultural value.
- Private balconies are not to protrude over the open space reserve.

5.3.2.2 Decision guidelines for the development design interface with the proposed open space

The development design is to demonstrate it meets the interface requirements included in the Recommendation in **Section 5.2.12**.

5.3.2.3 Specific issues and recommendations

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
Existing public open space values diminished by adjoining use	Future planning applications for sites that directly adjoin public open space are to demonstrate they comply with the decision guidelines included in Section 5.2.12 of this Strategy.	YCC Developer	Ongoing
Future provision and design of open space is to positively contribute to the public open space network	Future land contributions to open space are to be assessed in accordance with the decision guidelines included in this Strategy in Table 9 , Section 5.1.2.2 and Section 5.3.2.1 .	YCC Developer	Ongoing
Design and quality of open space	Future designs for new open space areas prepared by developers are to: • demonstrate the design provides an appropriate diversity of uses to encourage integration and access for the proposed and existing residential communities; • the designs meet the guidelines included in Section 5.2 of this Strategy; and • the works will be constructed with materials and to standards that the City of Yarra are willing to maintain, once it is handed over to Council for maintenance.	YCC Developer	Ongoing
Maximise the future size of open space.	Council to liaise with developers prior to the sub-division process to maximise the size of land contribution by investigating a range of options which may include: • potential for Council to purchase additional area beyond the agreed % land area being contributed as open space as part of the development contribution. This enlarged land area is then assessed to determine if it meets the decision guidelines for new open space outlined in Table 9, Section 5.1.2.2 and Section 5.3.2.1; and • potential for Council to contribute additional land (i.e. part of the road reserve) as open space in addition to the agreed % land area forming part of the open space contribution. This enlarged land area is then assessed to determine if it meets the decision guidelines for new open space outlined in Table 9, Section 5.1.2.2 and Section 5.3.2.1.	YCC Developer	Ongoing

6.0 PRECINCT RECOMMENDATIONS

OVERVIEW

Section 6 includes recommendations specific to the individual precincts and sub-precincts which will guide future open space provision, design and management. For overall recommendations that are applicable to the whole municipality refer to **Section 5**.

The recommendations in this Section are derived from the analysis and research phase of the project, the outcomes of which have been described in **Sections 1 to 4**. This includes:

- Consultation with Council
- Consultation with the community on open space needs and preferences via household surveys, focus groups, Community Advisory Committees and other studies including the consultation undertaken for the Leisure Needs Study. Summary of the results of the household survey and other consultation is included Appendix A and B, with an overview summary included in Section 3.6, Community use of open space.
- Research and analysis of a range of Council and open space planning documents.
- Reference to open space standards adopted for the Strategy
- Anticipated pattern and rate of population change.
- Site assessments and analysis of existing reserves and links, including a gap analysis.
- Review of existing Conservation Plans, Masterplans and Management Plans for the major reserves.

DEFINITIONS OF RECOMMENDED PLANS

The recommendations include a range of plans that require preparation by Council followed by their implementation which influences the capital works program and the maintenance program. For the purposes of this Strategy the following definitions have been used:

Conservation Plan

An historical research study to define the heritage and cultural values of the site. Conservation Plans contain recommendations to guide the sites future conservation. These Plans are to be prepared prior to undertaking major works or Masterplans for major reserves, to ensure there is a clear understanding of the conservation values.

Landscape Masterplan

A Landscape Masterplan is a document (usually a design plan and accompanying report) that resolves design issues in large or a series of open space reserves. The Landscape Masterplan will be well researched, and include recommendations and preliminary opinions of probable costs along with implementation priorities. Landscape Masterplans typically do not specifically address ongoing management and maintenance issues.

Landscape Management Plan

A Landscape Management Plan is a document (usually a report, with schematic plan) that recommends management of open space and does not advise on design.

Landscape Concept Plan

A Landscape Concept Plan resolves design issues in smaller, less complex open space reserves, and typically comprises a plan based output only.

6.1 Princes Hill and North Carlton Precinct 3054

6.1.1 SUMMARY OF THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK IN PRINCES HILL AND NORTH CARLTON

Curtain Square is ideally located in the heart of the residential neighbourhood of North Carlton and close to the Rathdowne Street local shopping precinct. In Princes Hill, Hardy Gallagher Reserve is a Neighbourhood sized reserve which forms part of the former Inner circle railway reserve and is limited via Park Street Linear Reserve. Shakespeare Street Reserve is a Small Local park serving a local residential catchment. All other open space in the precinct is provided in road reserves, as partial street closures or wide central medians. Immediately adjoining the precinct is Princes Park, which is readily accessible to residents of Princes Hill with only a local access street between residents and the park.

Lygon Street is a major north-south street in this precinct which creates a physical barrier for easy walking access to open space. This has formed the boundary between the two sub-precincts. The entire precinct is covered by two Heritage Overlays, recognising the areas 19th Century urban character.

It is unlikely that substantial change to the existing residential population will occur in this precinct as this is an established residential neighbourhood and the presence of the 19th Century housing which is protected by Heritage Overlays limits the future opportunities for substantial redevelopment.



New residents will contribute to additional open space facilities in existing reserves. Refer to **Drawing YOSS 07**.

6.1.2 SUMMARY OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE IN PRINCES HILL AND NORTH CARLTON

6.1.2.1 Open space area and classification

Site Name	Size (sqm)	Size (ha)	Use Classification	Character Classification (primary)	Character Classification (secondary where applicable)
CURTAIN SQUARE	15,106	1.51	Neighbourhood	Heritage	Formal
HARDY GALLAGHER RESERVE - Bowen Cres to Lygon St	23,510	2.35	Neighbourhood	Informal	Heritage, Linear & Nature conservation
PARK STREET RESERVE Lygon St to Nicholson St	17234	1.72	Neighbourhood	Linear	Heritage & Nature conservation
SHAKESPEARE STREET RESERVE	500	0.05	Small local	Informal	n/a
ARNOLD STREET RESERVE(Princes Hill High School)	1275	0.13	Local	Formal	Significant road reservation
CANNING STREET MEDIAN STRIP	4,756	0.48	Local	Formal	Significant road reservation & Heritage
DRUMMOND STREET MEDIAN STRIP	3,300	0.33	Local	Formal	Significant road reservation & Heritage
LEE ST RESERVE (Nth Carlton Primary School)	1900	0.19	Local	Informal	Significant road reservation
McILWRAITH STREET RESERVE (Outside Princes Hill Primary School)	1,400	0.14	Local	Informal	Significant road reservation
PIGDON ST MEDIAN STRIP	4,620	0.46	Local	Formal	Significant road reservation & Heritage
Total open space North Carlton and Princes Hill	73,601	7.36			

6.1.2.2 Precinct population and quantity of open space

Proportion of open space in the precinct	5.2%
Total population for 3054	7,761
Total population for City of Yarra	68,800
Proportion of Yarra's population residing in 3054	11.3%
Total square meters of open space per person	9.48

6.1.3 SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS FOR PRINCES HILL AND NORTH CARLTON

6.1.3.1 Precinct Summary

The household survey indicates that residents predominantly use open space reserves outside of the immediate precinct, including Princes Park, Edinburgh Gardens, Carlton Gardens and Royal Park. Princes Park is located immediately adjacent to Princes Hill and is separated by a local street which does not form a barrier to access. Residents cross major roads to reach the other adjoining reserves, including Royal Park, Edinburgh Gardens and Carlton Gardens, some of which have linear open space links and signed trails.

Some people nominated they use of the central medians as local open space and site visits have also noted their use for informal ball games and seating and reading etc. There are some road closures that have been successful in reducing traffic, however, most of these are too small to be used as open space.

Key issues arising in this precinct include the poor use of Hardy Gallagher Reserve, the lack of local open space reserves in the north-eastern and south-eastern parts of the precinct, and liaison with City of Melbourne to continue to provide for residents needs in Princes Park.

6.1.3.2 Sub-precinct 3054A Princes Hill

- Bordered by Princes Park to the west, Park Street to the north, Lygon Street to the east, and MacPherson Street to the south.
- The close proximity of Princes Park to this sub-precinct results in high usage levels of Princes Park in preference to open space within the City boundaries. Princes Park offers the circuit path which is well used for walking and jogging, playground with adjoining open grassed areas and dog walking.
- Hardy Gallagher Reserve is a reasonable size and is linked via the former Inner circle railway linear open space to Merri Creek. This reserve does not appear to be well used, and there is potential to improve its use and function as a Neighbourhood park.
- Both schools in the precinct have partial road closures with the road reserve designed for shared use by the school and the public.
- Pigdon Street median is a generous wide open grassed median with seats and well established street tree plantings that provide shade and character.
- There are no gaps in the open space network for Princes Hill.
- It is anticipated that minimal levels of residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and when this occurs this will generate the need to provide additional infrastructure in existing open space reserves.

6.1.3.3 Sub-precinct 3054B Carlton North

- Bordered by Lygon Street to the west, Park Street to the north, Nicholson Street to the east, and Princes Street to the south.
- Curtain Square is extremely popular as the Neighbourhood park for North Carlton. This is an excellent example of park that is meeting a diversity of needs with a good range of facilities located close to the commercial precinct of Rathdowne Street. The heritage values of the reserve require some attention, and high levels of maintenance need to continue given its popularity.
- The central medians of Canning Street and Drummond Street are the only local open space for residents in the central section of this precinct. Whilst they are used, the activities are limited to informal use of grassed areas. Other central medians on busier streets have not been included as they are difficult to access and traffic volumes substantially impact on their amenity values as local open space.

- Park Street Reserve to the north of the precinct is used as Local open space. This provides some seating, small play facilities and the linear trail linking Merri Creek and Princes Park.
- Shakespeare Street Reserve is the only Small Local park in the precinct and provides a Small Local open space for the immediate residential catchment. There were requests for improved maintenance of this reserve.
- Vacant land at the corner of Princes Street and Nicholson Street is highly visible and owned by VicRoads. If VicRoads do not require this land for road construction, there may be benefit in improving the visual character of the reserve, however, given high volumes of traffic on Princes Street its use as a Small Local park is limited.
- It is anticipated that minimal levels of residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and when this occurs this will generate the need to provide additional infrastructure in existing open space reserves

6.1.4 SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRINCES HILL AND NORTH CARLTON



Refer to **Drawing YOSS 07**

6.1.4.1 Summary of recommendations for expansion and improvements to the open space network

No	Summary of Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
6.1.4.1a	Lack of pedestrian and cycle links between existing open space reserves within and outside the precinct boundaries.	Investigate improvement to pedestrian and cycle amenity in streets which provide the most direct link between areas of open space. These are illustrated on Drawing YOSS 08 and are consistent with the <i>Yarra Street Planting Precinct Masterplans</i> (2004), and future Urban Design Frameworks and Streetscape Design Plans.	High
6.1.4.2b	Residents in Princes Hill and Carlton North visit Princes Park frequently. Princes Park is managed by the City of Melbourne.	Regularly liaise with City of Melbourne regarding provision of facilities for City of Yarra residents in Princes Park, and potential complementary use of Hardy Gallagher Reserve by City of Melbourne residents.	Ongoing

6.1.4.2 Summary of recommendations for existing reserves

The parks are listed in alphabetical order by sub-precinct.

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

* Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

Reserve	Summary of Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
All Sub-precincts			
Central medians	The wide grassed central medians in Drummond Street, Canning Street and Pigdon Street provide Local open space areas for limited informal use.	Retain central grassed medians for Local open space use and in accordance with recommendations in the <i>Yarra Street Planting Precinct Masterplans</i> (2004).	Ongoing

Reserve	Summary of Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
Mcllwraith Street Reserve, Arnold Street Reserve and Lee Street Reserve	These partial street closures provide additional external space for the schools.	Retain this use.	Ongoing
^Q Inner circle Railway	This linear reserve along the former Inner circle railway line extends beyond this Precinct into North Fitzroy (precinct 3068). There are a range of existing facilities including a sealed shared trail, playgrounds and seating through the reserve, but there is no Conservation Plan for the Linear reserve.	Prepare a Conservation Plan for the Inner circle railway (which includes Park Street Reserve, Janet Millman Reserve and Mark Street Reserve), followed by preparation and implementation of a Landscape Concept Plan that takes into consideration the recommendations of the Conservation Plan. (Refer to Hardy Gallagher Reserve recommendation)	Very High
Sub-precinct 3054A			
^Q Hardy Gallagher Reserve	This Neighbourhood park for the Princes Hill area has good connectivity via the Park Street Linear Reserve between Merri Creek and Princes Park. The park was part of the former Inner circle railway, however, appears to be underutilised.	• Prepare a Conservation Plan for the Inner circle railway (as noted above). • Prepare and implement a Landscape Masterplan for Hardy Gallagher Reserve in consultation with the local community.	Very High High
Sub-precinct 3054B			
Curtain Square	Located on Rathdowne Street near the commercial centre this Neighbourhood park is extremely popular and well utilised.	• ^ΔOngoing management to continue to provide play and passive recreational facilities. Refer to the Conservation Analysis (Patrick 2000) prior to any future changes or additional infrastructure in the reserve. • ^ΔProtect the trees identified to be of primary significance in the reserve. • ^QIn the longer term a Landscape Concept Plan may need to be prepared for the reserve.	Ongoing Ongoing Low
^Q Shakespeare Street Reserve	Small Local park in Shakespeare Street catering to the local catchment of residents.	Requires minor upgrade to existing facilities including seating and planting.	Moderate

INSERT YOSS 07

6.2 Fitzroy North and Clifton Hill Precinct 3068

6.2.1 SUMMARY OF THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK FOR FITZROY NORTH AND CLIFTON HILL

This precinct has a wide range of open space reserves including Edinburgh Gardens, Darling Gardens and Merri Creek Reserve. The former Inner circle Railway forms an off-road linear open space link between Merri Creek, Princes Park and Edinburgh Gardens. Many of the streets in this precinct, particularly in Fitzroy North are wide and provide good pedestrian and cycle links between open space reserves. Queens Parade, Hoddle Street and St Georges Road are major roads through this precinct which form barriers to safe access to open space, and have defined the four sub-precincts.

The larger open space reserves in this precinct form a major component of the open space system for Yarra residents. Edinburgh Gardens, Darling Gardens, Mayors Park, Coulson Reserve, George Knott Reserve and Ramsden Street Oval are all classified as City-wide parks as they provide formal sporting and passive recreational facilities for use by the whole City. Additionally the linear reserve along Merri Creek is a Regional open space reserve. The Merri Creek has inherent environmental values and the system of adjoining open space reserves associated with the creek corridor has potential for improved ecological value with ongoing indigenous revegetation and regeneration by Council and other agencies.

The system of smaller reserves meets the existing open space needs in the precinct. At this stage, with the existing population, there does not appear to be gaps in the provision of open space, however the level of maintenance and provision of facilities does require attention.



Across the precinct it is anticipated there will be expansion of the residential population over time, and this varies from minimal to moderate across levels of growth in the sub-precincts. Refer to **Figure 3 Section 5.3.2.4** for the scale of anticipated residential population change across the precinct.

With the exception of sub-precinct 3068A, it is anticipated that future residential needs for open space needs will be accommodated through the provision of updated and additional facilities in the existing open space network.



In sub-precinct 3068A the existing open space reserves barely meet the needs of the existing population. Some larger redevelopment sites are nominated in this sub-precinct (Refer to **Figure 1, Section 4.5.1**) and the additional population from these developments will create the need for additional local open space reserves within safe walking distance. Existing residents are anticipated to use the additional open space given the limited existing amount, and therefore Council will also contribute some funds towards new open space in sub-precinct 3068A.



Refer to **Drawings YOSS 08a and 08b**.

6.2.2 SUMMARY OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE FOR NORTH FITZROY AND CLIFTON HILL

6.2.2.1 Open space reserves in 3068 and their classification

Site Name	Size (sqm)	Size (ha)	Use Classification	Character Classification (primary)	Character Classification (secondary where applicable)
BATMAN ST RESERVE	414	0.04	Small local	Informal	n/a
BATSON (RUSHALL STATION) RESERVE	3,773	0.38	Local	Railway siding/easement	Heritage & Nature conservation
BUNDARA ST (MERRI CK BRIDGE) RESERVE	7,750	0.78	Local	Nature conservation	Informal
CLIFTON RESERVE	540	0.05	Small local	Informal	n/a
COULSON RESERVE	15,670	1.57	City-wide	Sporting	Nature conservation
DARLING GARDENS	73,062	7.31	City-wide	Heritage	Formal
EDINBURGH GARDENS (excl WJ Peterson Oval, Fitzroy Tennis Club and Fitzroy Bowling Club)	132,000	13.20	City-wide	Heritage	Formal & Sporting
EDWARDS PLACE	2,898	0.29	Local	Significant Road Reserve	Informal
GEORGE KNOTT RESERVE	37,200	3.72	City-wide	Sporting	Nature conservation
HALL RESERVE (including Walker St Reserve)	96,000	9.60	Regional	Nature conservation	Heritage & Linear
HOLDEN BYRNE RESERVE	3,869	0.39	Local	Formal	Heritage, Linear & Nature conservation
JANET MILLMAN RESERVE (Nicholson St to Brunswick St)	7,118	0.71	Neighbourhood	Linear	Nature conservation
LANGDON RESERVE	4,313	0.43	Local	Informal	Undeveloped
LIVERPOOL ST PARK	185	0.02	Small local	Informal	n/a
MARK ST LINEAR PARK	10,670	1.07	Neighbourhood	Linear	Heritage & Nature conservation
MAYORS PARK (excluding C'wood Leisure Centre)	15,947	1.59	Neighbourhood	Sporting	Heritage
MERRI CK LINEAR RESERVE (Holden St to Queens Pde)	26,015	2.60	Regional	Nature conservation	Linear
MERRI CK LINEAR RESERVE (Queens Pde to Heidelberg Rd)	19,581	1.96	Regional	Nature conservation	Linear
MERRI CK LINEAR RESERVE (St Geroges Rd to Holden St)	7,750	0.78	Regional	Nature conservation	Linear
MERRI CK LINEAR RESERVE (Sumner Park to Ottery Reserve)	8,540	0.85	Regional	Nature conservation	Linear
OTTERY RESERVE	750	0.08	Small local	Informal	Nature conservation & Linear
PAGE ST ROAD CLOSURE	350	0.04	Small local	Informal	n/a
PARK ST RESERVE (Brunswick St to Bennett St)	17,769	1.78	Neighbourhood	Linear	Nature conservation & Heritage
PIEDMONTES CORNER	362	0.04	Small local	Formal	Urban
PORTER ST RESERVE	785	0.08	Small local	Informal	n/a
QUARRIES PARK (including Yambla Street Reserve)	123,000	12.30	City-wide	Informal	Sporting & Nature Conservation
RAINES RESERVE	1,808	0.18	Local	Significant Road Reserve	Heritage
RAMSDEN ST RESERVE	52,400	5.24	City-wide	Sporting	Informal & Linear
THOMAS KIDNEY RESERVE	19,562	1.96	Neighbourhood	Railway siding/easement	Nature conservation & Linear
TRIANGLE PARK (Alexandra Pde and Napier St)	2,747	0.27	Local	Significant Road Reserve	n/a
WJ PETERSON COMMUNITY OVAL	28,000	2.80	City-wide	Sporting	Heritage
Total open space area for North Fitzroy and Clifton Hill	720,828	72.08			

Restricted Open Space					
BULL RING (Corner of Hoddle St & Heidelberg Rd)	1,844	0.18	n/a	Road reservation	n/a
FITZROY BOWLING CLUB (In Edinburgh Gardens)	8,400	0.84	City-wide	Restricted sporting	n/a
FITZROY TENNIS CLUB (In Edinburgh Gardens)	4,900	0.49	City-wide	Restricted sporting	
MAYORS PARK (Collingwood Leisure Centre)	7,000	0.70	Regional	Restricted sporting	n/a
Total restricted open space for North Fitzroy & Clifton Hill	22,144	2.21			

6.2.2.2 Precinct population and quantity of open space

Proportion of open space in the precinct	17.4%
Total population for 3068	13,983
Total population for City of Yarra	68,800
Proportion of Yarra's population residing in 3068	20.3%
Total square meters of open space per person	51.55

6.2.3 SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS FOR NORTH FITZROY AND CLIFTON HILL

6.2.3.1 Precinct Summary

The most popular reserve in the precinct is Edinburgh Gardens, followed by Darling Gardens and Merri Creek Reserves. Other reserves that are well used include Park Street Reserve and Quarries Park and Yarra Bend Park, in the adjoining precinct. Merri Creek Reserve has a higher proportion of people nominating they didn't visit it due to personal safety concerns.

The household survey identified that residents highly value the open space. Key issues identified to be resolved including dog management, trees and vegetation, levels of maintenance and concerns that future residential development in the area will place more demands on the open space network.

6.2.3.2 Sub-precinct Summary 3068A

- Bordered by Nicholson Street to the west, St Georges Road to the south and east, and the municipal boundary to the north.
- The former Inner circle railway reserve provides an east-west link through the sub-precinct. This provides some Local open space facilities and the shared trail link.
- Open space in this sub-precinct is concentrated to the north with Holden Byrne Reserve adjoining the former Inner circle railway, Langdon Reserve on Nicholson Street, and reserves on Merri Creek. The street layout is predominantly east-west, restricting north-south connections, which require improvements including signage to highlight connectivity between open space reserves.
- Batman Street Reserve is a Small Local open space catering to a local residential catchment between Scotchmer and Reed Streets, and includes seats, trees and a BBQ. Liverpool Street Reserve is the only other Small Local open space in this precinct and contains some seats and planting. Its location on the corner of Rae and Liverpool Streets contributes to the usability of this small reserve.
- Piedmontes Corner at the intersection of Scotchmer Street and St Georges Road contains an established mature tree, planting and seating which receives some use, however, its main value is its visual contribution to the character of this shopping precinct.
- It is anticipated that moderate levels of residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and this will generate the need to provide additional local open space to cater to the increased number of residents.

6.2.3.3 Sub-precinct Summary 3068B

- Bordered by St Georges Road to the north-west, the Merri Creek to the north-east, and Queens Parade to the south.
- Edinburgh Gardens is the major area of open space in this sub-precinct. This Garden is a key open space reserve for this precinct and all residents of Yarra. Originally gazetted in 1862, the southern part of the site was occupied by cricket clubs and the balance set aside for grazing. During the 1870s early planting was done with trees supplied by Dr. Von Mueller, Director of the Royal

Botanic Gardens. The reserve has continued to develop from that time as a combined sporting and passive open space reserve. The Inner circle railway was constructed through the Gardens in the late 1880s. Today the gardens continue to provide the combination of organised sporting and passive recreation activities. The reserve has a Conservation Management Plan (2003) and a Landscape Masterplan (2004) to guide future works.

- Mark Street Linear Park is part of the former Inner circle railway reserve and provides an important off-street open space link between Merri Creek and Edinburgh Gardens. There is potential to enhance the environmental values of the reserve with additional indigenous planting.
- Thomas Kidney Reserve and Park Street Reserve form the linear link between Merri Creek and Edinburgh Gardens, which continues further west to Princes Park. Thomas Kidney Reserve has a recently established a community garden and indigenous revegetation to complement the Merri Creek.
- Edwards Place at the intersection of Michael and Falconer Streets has recently been upgraded and provides a Local open space with established trees and seating. The recent fencing discourages access to the reserve, and cuts off its use as a thoroughfare. Some minor modifications are recommended to address this.
- Batson Reserve, adjacent to Rushall Station, has established trees and provides an important entry and link to the station and access to the Merri Creek linear trail.
- Raines Reserve, located on the Queens Parade and Heidelberg Road intersection, is an important visual feature, with the established Helm Oak but has limited value as a usable open space reserve due to its exposure to major roads.
- Coulson Reserve is currently used for soccer, and whilst it adjoins the Merri Creek, it is inaccessible from the Merri Creek trail due to steep and geologically significant rock escarpment between the reserve and the creek. Its location on Heidelberg Road makes it suitable for sporting uses as traffic, training and noise from the reserve does not directly impact on adjoining residents. There is also no need, due to its sporting use only, to attempt to establish a physical connection to the Merri Creek trail, which would compromise the conservation values of the rock escarpment. In the longer term, as habitat values increase in the riparian zone of Merri Creek, monitor the activity levels and light spill from this reserve to inform appropriate levels of use and design of this facility.
- George Knott Reserve provides an athletics facility that is well utilised. This is considered a suitable location for this activity for the same reasons as Coulson Reserve.
- Merri Creek linear reserve through this reach has important environmental values, including the presence of significant escarpments adjacent to Rushall Station, Coulson and George Knott Reserves. Downstream of Queens Parade the main shared trail and the creek crossings are located low in the floodplain and will require review to address public safety issues. The Merri Creek Waterway Management Activity Plan has a range of actions for ongoing improvement to the riparian zone with progressive removal of woody weeds. These works will, in the longer term, enhance the ecological value of the riparian zone.
- There is a gap in the Merri Creek linear trail between Bundara Street and Holden Street. This is identified in Parks Victoria's latest open space planning document *Linking People and Places (2002)* as a link that requires completion. Refer to 5.1.3 for recommendations to complete this link.
- Moderate to high levels of residential growth are anticipated in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population are to met by provision of new facilities in the existing open space reserves.

6.2.3.4 Sub-precinct Summary 3068C

- Bordered by Queens Parade to the north-west, Hoddle Street to the east, and Alexandra Parade to the south.

- Darling Gardens is the major open space reserve, and is a formal garden with established exotic trees, located on high ground with good views to the south. The gardens were permanently reserved in 1866 and in earliest days used for grazing and occasional sporting events. The formal avenue planting remaining on the site dates from the late 1880s to early 1900s and the Bandstand erected in 1906. The gardens are well used for walking, picnics, playground and cycling. *The Darling Gardens cultural significance and Conservation Policies* (Nigel Lewis Richard Aitken P/L 1993) should be referred to guide future works in the reserve in the interim, prior to preparation of an updated Landscape Masterplan for the Gardens.
- Mayors Park includes the Collingwood Leisure Centre and tennis courts. A recently completed Masterplan for this reserve will guide future works which includes expanding the tennis courts and basketball half court and skateable area. The primary use as a sporting reserve complements the predominantly passive use of Darling Gardens.
- Page Street Road closure is a Small Local open space, which has a greater role in traffic management than open space use. This is due to the close proximity of Darling Gardens to Page Street.
- Gold Street provides an important pedestrian link for Collingwood residents to access the Clifton Hill Primary School and Darling Gardens.
- It is anticipated moderate to high residential growth will occur in the sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met through provision of additional facilities in the existing open space reserves.

6.2.3.5 Sub-precinct Summary 3068D

- Bordered by Hoddle Street to the west, Heidelberg Road to the north, Merri Creek to the east, and Alexandra Parade to the south.
- Merri Creek linear reserve and adjoining parklands of Hall Reserve, Quarries Park and Ramsden Street Reserve is the major open space network in this sub-precinct. This series of reserves has a recently completed Masterplan named *Merri Parklands (East Clifton Hill) Landscape Masterplan* (2001). The Merri Creek is an important ecological corridor and its habitat values require ongoing protection and improvement including the use of indigenous vegetation along the creek corridors.
- Hall Reserve provides for unstructured recreation including the shared trail, walking paths, open grassed areas, a playground, picnic area and the stormwater treatment wetlands to Walker Street Drain. Additional proposed facilities include netball and basketball half court.
- Walker Street Reserve is a soccer field with cricket practice nets. These facilities are to be retained.
- Yambla Street Reserve provides soccer field and pavilion, which is shared with the Ramsden Street oval that is used for football and cricket.
- Quarries Park has a Regional playground and is to include a new skate park.
- Clifton Reserve is a Small Local park which provides for local residents in the immediate vicinity of the reserve.
- It is anticipated minimal residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met through the provision of additional facilities in the existing open space reserves.

6.2.4 SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NORTH FITZROY AND CLIFTON HILL



Refer to **Drawing YOSS 08a** and **Drawing YOSS 08b**

6.2.4.1 Summary recommendations for expansion and improvements to the open space network

The parks are listed in alphabetical order by sub-precinct.

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

* Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

No	Summary of Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
6.2.4.1a	Lack of safe north-south pedestrian links through the northern part of sub-precinct 3068A.	Improve pedestrian links in locations illustrated on Drawing YOSS 9a , including signage, pram crossings over east-west streets, and street tree improvements in accordance with the <i>Yarra Street Planting Precinct Masterplans</i> (2004).	Moderate
*6.2.4.1b	Potential future redevelopment of industrial sites in the west of this sub-precinct will increase demand for local open space in sub-precinct 3068A.	- Investigate potential to expand existing reserves or provide additional local open space reserve to meet the future needs. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works. - Incorporate public access in any future redevelopment of larger sites to ensure good connectivity to the existing street and open space network.	Very High High
6.2.4.1c	Lack of pedestrian and cycle links between existing open space within and outside the precinct boundaries.	Investigate improvement to pedestrian and cycle amenity in the streets which provide the most direct link between areas of open space, highlighted on Drawing YOSS 09a and Drawing YOSS 09b and in accordance with the <i>Yarra Street Planting Precinct Masterplans</i> .	Moderate

6.2.4.2 Summary recommendations for existing reserves by sub-precinct

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

* Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Recommendations	Priority
Sub-precincts 3068A & 3068B			
^Ω Park Street Reserve	Linear reserve on the former Inner circle railway reserve. The alignment of the former railway has been interpreted in the park with gravel paths and extensive indigenous ground cover revegetation along the northern side. The southern side consists of mown grass with scattered overstorey trees.	Prepare a Landscape Concept Plan, in consultation with the community, after completion of the Conservation Plan. Refer to recommendations in Section 6.1.4.2 .	Moderate
Sub-precinct 3068A			
^Δ Batman Street Reserve	Relaxed informal small park provides for a Small Local catchment. There is laneway access from the rear and established structure of native and exotic overstorey trees, seats, tables and BBQ.	- Investigate removal of exotic shrubs to increase available space and views into reserve. - Investigate need for small play area in consultation with the local community. - Install signage in surrounding streets to direct residents to the park.	High High High

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Recommendations	Priority
^Δ Holden Byrne Reserve	Established mature planting of exotic Palms and Eucalypts, large open grass areas and junior and senior play facilities with a small picnic area. This reserve is part of the former Inner circle railway reserve and is linked to Park Street Reserve.	Include in the Conservation Plan and Landscape Concept Plan for the Inner circle railway reserve and implement any specific recommendations as required from the Plan.	Refer 6.1.4.2
^Δ Janet Millman and Park Street Reserve.	This linear reserve is part of the former Inner circle railway reserve, and provides a key open space link between Merri Creek and Princes Park.	Include Janet Millman and Park Street Reserve in the Inner circle Railway Conservation Plan and Park Street Reserve Landscape Concept Plan and implement recommendations from the plan when complete. Refer to recommendations in Section 6.1.4.2.	Refer 6.1.4.2
^Ω Langdon Reserve	Informal reserve adjacent to Nicholson Street with recently updated playground at the Miller Street end. The reserve has an avenue of exotic trees along Nicholson Street, which contributes to both streetscape character and amenity within the park.	Prepare and implement Landscape Concept Plan for the reserve to address improved pedestrian access into and through the reserve, and other facility improvements including seating, picnic areas to improve its role as a Neighbourhood park.	High
^Δ Liverpool Street Reserve	Small north facing linear space benefits from the existing established exotic street tree avenue. The north facing aspect and adjoining double storey Victorian terrace walls provide a useable seating space.	Recent native shrub plantings to southern boundary should be reviewed as it has potential to obscure sightlines and longer term present safety issues. If redevelopment occurs in this area, investigate potential to expand or create an alternative Local open space which can cater to the additional demand for open space that would be generated by additional residents.	Urgent Ongoing
^Δ Porter Street Reserve	Significant road reservation which terminates in the Park Street Reserve has combined exotic trees and mown grass.	Retain and improve seating.	Moderate
Sub-precinct 3068B			
^Δ Batson Reserve	This reserve is the entry to Rushall Station and the Merri Creek Trail.	Retain its primary use as entry to the station and Merri Creek, formal planting and strengthen with contemporary plantings of indigenous ground layer species to reinforce links to Merri Creek.	Low
^Δ Coulson Reserve	This reserve is set aside primarily for field sports with soccer oval, pavilion and associated facilities.	- Continue to retain this use. - In the longer term, as environmental values improve along Merri Creek, monitor impact from lighting on habitat values, and modify lighting design if required.	Ongoing Low
^Δ Edwards Place Garden	Triangular reserve at the intersection of Scotchmer and Falconer Streets is grassed with a combination of established exotic and native trees to perimeter path, seating and perimeter fence.	- Review perimeter fencing design to improve access. - Retain as a passive Local open space reserve.	Moderate Ongoing

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Recommendations	Priority
George Knott Reserve	The dominant use of this site is the Athletics facility.	- Continue to retain this use with upgrades as required. - In the longer term, as environmental values improve along Merri Creek, monitor impact from lighting on habitat values and modify lighting design if required.	Ongoing Low
^Δ Mark Street Linear Reserve	This is a linear off-road pedestrian and cycle link along the former Inner circle railway reserve. There is established native vegetation through the reserve.	Include Mark Street Reserve in the Inner circle Railway Conservation Plan and Park Street Reserve Landscape Concept Plan and implement outcomes. Refer to recommendations in Section 6.1.4.2 .	Refer 6.1.4.2
^Δ Raines Reserve	Reserve at the intersection of major roads with established Holm Oak primarily for visual character and protection of the tree.	Retain and protect established Oak.	Ongoing
^Δ Thomas Kidney Reserve	The native grass mound provides an elevated viewing area over the Merri Creek corridor and a recently established community garden. A large open grass area is on the eastern side of railway line.	Continue to retain the community use of this reserve, and promote use of indigenous species as part of environmental improvement and links to Merri Creek.	Moderate
Sub-precinct 3068C			
^Δ Clifton Reserve	Small Local open space reserve with bench seat and two picnic tables.	Continue to manage as a Small Local park.	Ongoing
^Ω Darling Gardens	Established, historical passive open space reserve, with mature exotic trees, playground, picnic facilities and path network.	Prepare and implement a Landscape Masterplan incorporating recommendations from the existing Darling Gardens Cultural Significance and Conservation Policies (1993).	Moderate
^Ω Mayors Park	This reserve includes the Collingwood Leisure Centre, tennis courts and unstructured open space area.	Implement the existing Landscape Masterplan (2003) which reinforces Mayors Park role catering to sporting use, and improvements to unstructured and passive recreational activities.	Very High and Ongoing
Sub-precinct 3068D			
^Ω Hall Reserve, Quarries Park, Ramsden Street Reserve, Walker Street Reserve and Yambla Street Reserve	This system of reserves adjoin the Merri Creek and provide a combination of unstructured and organised sporting facilities in an environmental setting. This system of reserves is the major system of open space for residents of East Clifton Hill.	Implement the existing Merri Parklands Landscape Masterplan (2001) to continue to upgrade and improve this system of parklands.	Very High and Ongoing

insert YOSS 08a

insert YOSS 08b

6.3 Fairfield and Alphington Precinct 3078

6.3.1 SUMMARY OF OPEN SPACE NETWORK IN FAIRFIELD AND ALPHINGTON

The major open space reserves are Fairfield Park and Alphington Park. Fairfield Park is a Regional open space reserve attracting visitors from all over Melbourne, particularly to the Fairfield Boathouse and the Fairfield Amphitheatre. Alphington Park has a more local neighbourhood catchment and provides a range of facilities including organised sports facilities, unstructured recreation and ecological value with the Alphington Park Wetland. Coate Park and Rudder Grange both adjoin the Yarra River and provide for local access and use. Whilst all these reserves adjoin the Yarra River, there is no continuous linear open space reserve connecting these reserves along the Yarra River. There are some informal and formal agreements in place for pedestrian access along some sections of the northern bank. This issue is discussed more fully in **Section 3.5.4.1** and **Section 4.3.2.2** and recommendations to address this are included in **Section 5.1.3**. A future open space reserve and trail link is proposed along the Darebin Creek, which is addressed in these same sections.

This precinct has some industrial land use which is anticipated to continue at this stage. The established residential areas will receive some redevelopment with a higher proportion of this change anticipated to occur in Fairfield. **Figure 1, Section 4.5.1** identifies some key development sites. There is adequate open space to meet anticipated future population, however, open space contributions will be sought to contribute to additional facilities in open space.

Refer to Drawing **YOSS 09**

6.3.2 SUMMARY OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE IN FAIRFIELD AND ALPHINGTON

6.3.2.1 Open space area and classification

Site Name	Size (sqm)	Size (ha)	Use Classification	Character Classification (primary)	Character Classification (secondary where applicable)
ALPHINGTON PARK (excluding wetland)	52,250	5.23	Neighbourhood	Heritage	Sporting
ALPHINGTON PARK WETLAND	18,000	1.80	Regional	Nature conservation	Informal
COATE PARK	18,321	1.83	Neighbourhood	Heritage	Nature conservation
FAIRFIELD PARK	78,689	7.87	City-wide	Nature conservation	Heritage & Sporting
RUDDER GRANGE	4630	0.46	Small local	Nature conservation	Informal
T.S. WESTFIELD RESERVE	82,493	8.25	Regional	Informal	Nature conservation
YARRA BEND PARK	739901	73.99	Regional	Nature conservation	Heritage & Sporting
Total open space Alphington/Fairfield	994,284	99.43			

6.3.2.1 Precinct population and quantity of open space

Proportion of open space in the precinct	29.3%
Total population for 3078	2,587
Total population for City of Yarra	68,800
Proportion of Yarra's population residing in 3078	3.76
Total square meters of open space per person	384.34

6.3.3 SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS FOR FAIRFIELD AND ALPHINGTON

Alphington Park and Fairfield Park are the most frequently used reserves, primarily for walking, visiting the playground and walking the dog. Fairfield Park is popular for cycling, walking and having coffee. Coate Park is well used for walking and enjoying views, along with Yarra Bend Park, and to a lesser extent, Darebin Parklands. Household survey respondents identify they would like to use the Yarra River linear trail more, but find it difficult to access, along with Darebin Parklands and Fairfield Park. Residents highlight that open space is very important to them, and one of the main reasons for living in this area.

Comments on open space include requests for path links and some comments on improving clearing and maintenance.

6.3.3.1 Sub-Precinct 3078A Fairfield

- Bordered by Merri Creek to the west, Heidelberg Road to the north, the Chandler Highway to the east, and the Yarra River to the south.
- Fairfield Park is a Regional reserve, managed by the City of Yarra. It includes a playground, picnic facilities, the Fairfield Amphitheatre, boating/canoe clubs and a range of paths.
- Rudder Grange is a Local park adjacent to the Yarra River and provides one of the only public access points to the Yarra River in Fairfield.
- Coate Park is a Neighbourhood park with heritage and nature conservation values, located adjacent to the Yarra River. The higher ground in this park offers good views over the Yarra River valley. There is freehold land between Coate Park and Rudder Grange, and the City of Yarra have negotiated an agreement with the landholders to allow public access between these two reserves.
- It is anticipated moderate to high levels of residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the needs of the new population will be met through provision of additional facilities in existing open space reserves.

6.3.3.2 Sub-Precinct 3078B Alphington

- Bordered by the Chandler Highway to the west, Heidelberg Road to the north, Darebin Creek to the east, and the Yarra River to the south.
- Alphington Park functions well as a Neighbourhood park providing a range of sporting and unstructured recreational opportunities. The heritage values of the reserve have not been documented.
- Alphington Park Wetland has been revegetated in recent years to improve habitat and ecological values of the Yarra River corridor. The sealed path to the wetland offers spectacular views over the wetland, and the walking trail down past the wetlands provides for informal use.
- Private freehold land ownership to the remainder of the Yarra River corridor and Darebin Creek restricts access to the waterways.
- The future regional trail link along Darebin Creek will provide improved access to the waterways, however, further investigation is required to confirm suitable public access points.
- It is anticipated moderate to high levels of residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the needs of the new population will be met through provision of additional facilities in existing open space reserves.

6.3.4 SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FAIRFIELD AND ALPHINGTON



Refer to **Drawing YOSS 09**

6.3.4.1 Summary recommendations for expansion and improvements to the open space network

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

* Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

No.	Existing Conditions	Recommendations	Priority
^Ω 6.3.4.1a	Lack of continuous public open space reserve along the Yarra River through Fairfield and Alphington	Rudder Grange to Alphington Park - Continue to investigate the potential to formalise a walking path along the Yarra River. Refer to recommendations in Section 5.1.3 .	Refer 5.1.3
^Δ 6.3.4.1b	Lack of public open space and a shared trail along Darebin Creek linking the Main Yarra Trail and the Darebin Creek Trail	Fairfield Park to Rudder Grange - Investigate opportunities to establish a walking link through this section of the Yarra River, subject to liaison with landholders. Refer to recommendations in Section 5.1.3 .	Refer 5.1.3
6.3.4.1c	Minor improvements required to pedestrian and cycle links between open space within and outside the precinct boundaries.	Undertaken improvements where required to pedestrian and cycle amenity in streets which provide the most direct links between areas of open space, highlighted on Drawing YOSS 10 and in accordance with the <i>Yarra Street Planting Precinct Masterplans</i> (2004)	High

6.3.4.2 Summary recommendations for existing reserves

The parks are listed in alphabetical order by sub-precinct.

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

* Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Recommendations	Priority
Sub-precinct 3078A			
^Ω Coate Park	Coate Park is a Local park with indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values. The park is primarily used for walking and enjoying the views.	Continue to implement existing approved Masterplan.	Very High and Ongoing
^Ω Fairfield Park	This reserve is well used by the local and wider community with playground, open grassed areas, series of walking paths and links to the Main Yarra Trail.	Prepare Conservation Plan followed by preparation and implementation of a Landscape Masterplan for Fairfield Park. Primarily the plan will need to identify significant features to retain including planting, path layouts and allow a clear process to review the park design to meet local and regional environmental and heritage conservation values.	High

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Recommendations	Priority
^Q Rudder Grange	Informal Small Local park which is an important public access point to the River.	• MW to improve accessibility of walking path crossing over Yarraford Avenue drain. • Continue to implement existing Masterplan for this reserve (part of Coate Park and Rudder Grange). • As a priority, implement the works that improve public access to the reserve.	High Moderate High
Sub-precinct 3078B			
^Q Alphington Park and Wetland	The park fulfils Neighbourhood and City-wide needs for sporting use, provides the only large wetland area in the municipality, and has an historical garden layout. The existing Masterplan (1996) requires review in the context of the heritage conservation values.	• Prepare a Conservation Plan for the Park and implement any immediate actions as required. • Following the Conservation Plan, prepare and implement an updated Landscape Masterplan for the reserve in consultation with the community, with reference to the 1996 plan where relevant.	Moderate Low

INSERT YOSS 09

6.4 Fitzroy Precinct 3065

6.4.1 SUMMARY OF OPEN SPACE NETWORK IN FITZROY

This precinct lacks areas of public open space within its boundaries. Carlton Gardens directly adjoins the western boundary and Fitzroy Gardens is in close walking distance to the south. Both of these reserves are not maintained by the City of Yarra.

It appears that the existing small reserves are not well used in this precinct with complaints about poor maintenance, safety and lack of facilities in them.

All major open space areas are outside the precinct and major roads restrict safe and easy access to them. Carlton Gardens and Exhibition Gardens are directly adjacent to the south-western portion of the precinct, with Fitzroy Gardens to the south, Edinburgh Gardens to the north and the Yarra River reserves to the east. Distance and lack of time are reasons residents cite for not visiting them. The only Neighbourhood park in the precinct is Atherton Reserve which is undeveloped and not well used. The major east-west roads in the precinct are barriers to safe walking access to local open space and have formed the sub-precinct boundaries.

A number of key issues unique to this area have been raised in the household survey and include the poor provision of open space facilities and maintenance around public housing, the use of public toilets as meeting places, and syringes in parks.

It is anticipated that residential growth will continue in Fitzroy primarily through the conversion of industrial use to residential, particularly in sub-precinct 3065A. Open space contributions will be sought towards additional land area in sub-precinct 3065A and sub-precinct 3065C, whilst contributions towards facility provision in existing open space will be sought in sub-precinct 3065B.



Refer to Drawing YOSS 10

6.4.2 SUMMARY OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE IN FITZROY

6.4.2.1 Open space area and classification

Site Name	Size (sqm)	Size (ha)	Use Classification	Character Classification (primary)	Character Classification (secondary where applicable)
ATHERTON RESERVE	10,000	1.00	Neighbourhood	Informal	Undeveloped
CONDELL ST MEDIAN STRIP	342	0.03	Small local	Undeveloped	n/a
CONDELL ST PARK	1,098	0.11	Local	Informal	Undeveloped
GARRYOWEN PARK	2,100	0.21	Local	Informal	n/a
GEORGE ST RESERVE	420	0.04	Small local	Undeveloped	n/a
GREEVE ST RESERVE	125	0.01	Small local	Informal	n/a
FRANK KING PARK (Bell Street)	561	0.06	Small local	Formal	n/a
KING WILLIAM RESERVE	220	0.02	Small local	Informal	n/a
SMITH RESERVE	5,831	0.58	Local	Informal	Significant road reservation
WHITLAM PLACE	900	0.09	Small local	Informal	n/a
Total open space Fitzroy	21,597	2.16			
Restricted Open Space					
CUBBIES ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND	2,500	0.25	Neighbourhood	Restricted	
Total restricted open space Fitzroy	2,500	0.25			

6.4.2.2 Precinct population and quantity of open space

Proportion of open space in the precinct	1.6%
Total population for 3065	8,932
Total population for City of Yarra	68,800
Proportion of Yarra's population residing in 3065	13.0%
Total square meters of open space per person	2.42

6.4.3 SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS FOR FITZROY

The site assessment and household survey confirmed there is a lack of larger open space reserves within the precinct. The largest park is Atherton Reserve which not well used by a broad cross section of the community due to lack of facilities, connectivity and development of the reserve. There is potential to improve the role of this reserve to provide neighbourhood park facilities in conjunction with the smaller reserves nearby.

The main reserves visited by residents, as nominated in the household survey include Carlton Gardens, Fitzroy Gardens and Edinburgh Gardens which are all outside the precinct, requiring residents to cross major roads to reach them. The comments on reasons for not visiting parks include they are too far away or are in poor condition. The Small Local parks vary in condition and character with some that have well developed facilities whilst others are undeveloped.

6.4.3.1 Precinct Summary

6.4.3.1 Sub-Precinct 3065A

- Bordered by Nicholson Street to the west, Alexandra Parade to the north, Smith Street to the east, and Johnston Street to the south.
- Smith Reserve located in the north adjacent to Alexandra Parade. This reserve has picnic facilities and open grassed areas which are used, but the traffic noise and movement along Alexandra Parade limits the extent and length of stay in the reserve.
- Garryowen Park serves the immediate local catchment and contains mature trees, BBQ, seating, a playground and grassed areas.
- There has been ongoing conversion from industrial/commercial use to residential use throughout this sub-precinct, particularly east of Brunswick Street. There is a need to investigate provision of additional open space in this area given the increased residential density, and, if additional conversion occurs, there will be a need to provide further additional land area for open space.

6.4.3.2 Sub-Precinct 3065B

- Bounded by Nicholson Street to the west, Johnston Street to the north, Smith Street to the east, and Gertrude Street to the south.
- Atherton Reserve is located in this sub-precinct. In close proximity to Atherton Reserve is a series of Small Local reserves including Whitlam Place, Condell Street Park and George Street Reserve. Whitlam Place has been recently upgraded, but the other two reserves require review. Given their close proximity to Atherton Reserve, it is proposed they be considered and designed at the same time as Atherton Reserve as a "neighbourhood precinct" system of parks.
- King William Reserve, west of Brunswick Street, caters to the local neighbourhood and has well developed facilities which include a playground, tennis wall, seating and grassed area.
- King Park on Bell Street is intended to cater to the local neighbourhood, but its design limits access and appears as a private garden rather than a public park.

- Residents in the south western area of the precinct have more direct access to Carlton Gardens.
- It is anticipated that minimal residential growth in this precinct will place additional demand on existing open space and will be required to contribute towards the upgrade and provision of additional facilities.

6.4.3.3 Sub-Precinct 3065C

- Bounded by Nicholson Street to the west, Gertrude Street to the north, Smith Street to the east, and Victoria Parade to the south.
- There is no Small Local open space in this precinct. Residents need to cross major roads to reach any open space.
- The street layout reduces connectivity with predominantly north south streets, with narrow bluestone cobblestone laneways as the only east-west links.
- Investigate future opportunity to establish a Small Local open space in this sub-precinct.
- It is anticipated that moderate residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and additional local open space will be required to meet the open space needs of future residents.

6.4.4 SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FITZROY



Refer to **Drawing YOSS 10**

6.4.4.1 Summary recommendations for expansion and improvements to the open space network

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

* Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

No.	Existing Conditions	Recommendations	Priority
6.4.4.1a	There is no Neighbourhood park for Fitzroy.	Develop Atherton Reserve as the Neighbourhood park for Fitzroy including the adjoining Small Local parks to link together to form a neighbourhood open space precinct. Refer to recommendations in Section 6.4.4.2 .	Refer 6.4.4.2
*6.4.4.1b	Lack of existing local open space in sub-precincts 3065A and 3065C to meet both existing and future needs.	• Investigate provision of additional Local open space reserve within the southern part of sub-precinct 3065A, (refer to Drawing YOSS 10) for suggested partial road closure. The residential population in this sub-precinct is anticipated to continue to expand, and future land area will be required. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works. • Investigate suitable location for a new Local open space reserve in sub-precinct 3065C. This may include a partial road closure and /or liaison with future development site or purchase of additional land to provide for existing and future needs created by the development. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Urgent & Ongoing

No.	Existing Conditions	Recommendations	Priority
6.4.4.1c	Lack of signed and accessible pedestrian and cycle links between existing and proposed open space reserves within and outside the precinct boundaries.	Investigate improvement to pedestrian and cycle amenity and access in streets which provide the most direct links between areas of open space highlighted on Drawing YOSS 11 and in accordance with <i>Yarra Street Planting Precinct Masterplan (2004)</i> .	Very High
6.4.4.1d	Gertrude and Smith Streets are significant gathering places for Aboriginal people.	Investigate opportunities to create Koorie gathering places as part of any future Smith or Gertrude Street Masterplanning exercises, which recognises the preference of many Koorie people to gather outdoors, in accordance with the Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2004.	Ongoing

6.4.4.2 Summary recommendations for improvements to existing reserves

The parks are listed in alphabetical order by sub-precinct.

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

* Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Recommendations	Priority
Sub-precinct 3065A			
^Ω Smith Reserve	The reserve is primarily a passive park with picnic and BBQ facilities located at western end adjacent to the pool. A flat open grassed area with perimeter native trees to remainder of site has limited use due to the noise and visual intrusion from traffic along Alexandra Parade.	Investigate viability to establish sound attenuation barrier along Alexandra Parade in consultation with the local community.	Moderate
Sub-precinct 3065B			
^Ω Atherton Reserve	Large open grassed area adjacent to Atherton Gardens public housing estate is the largest open space area in Fitzroy. Currently the reserve is largely undeveloped with open grassed areas and no trees or seats. There is a significant pedestrian movement across the reserve connecting Condell and Brunswick Streets.	Prepare and implement a Landscape Masterplan for Atherton Reserve, and the adjoining Condell Street park and George Street Park as a "Neighbourhood Precinct Masterplan". Refer to diagram on Drawing YOSS 11 . Refer to Recommendation in Section 5.2.1.3 .	Refer 5.2.1.4.
^Ω Condell Street Park	A Local park with playground and is an elevated location with good views over Town Hall. Cast iron bollards and bluestone swales contribute to its character.	Review design and use as part of the Atherton Reserve Masterplan.	Urgent
^Ω George Street Reserve	Flat open grassed area without any infrastructure or planting.	Review design and use as part of the Atherton Reserve Masterplan.	Urgent
^Δ Greeve Street Reserve	Narrow road frontage has seating with native shrubs, grassed area and a pleasant north facing aspect.	- Consider removal of shrubs to improve safety and replace with overstorey trees. - Retain seating.	Ongoing

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Recommendations	Priority
^Δ King Park	Small Local park which is fenced along the road frontage and restricts access and use. This engenders a sense of private rather than public space.	Prepare and implement Landscape Concept Plan to improve accessibility and connectivity of this park to the public open space network. As part of the Landscape Concept Plan review potential to expand the size of the reserve by integrating the footpath and road reserve into the park design.	High
^Δ King William Reserve	Small Local open space with playground, seating area and a tennis wall.	• In the short term consider extending reserve into the street to increase useable area whilst retaining traffic flow. • In the long term when playground is due for renewal, review location to establish a larger open grassed area in the park.	Very High Low
^Δ Whitlam Place	Recently upgraded Small Local park has established existing native trees, path and seat.	Maintain as Small Local park.	Ongoing

insert YOSS 10

6.5 Collingwood Precinct 3066

6.5.1 SUMMARY OF THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK IN COLLINGWOOD

The historical development patterns and land use of Collingwood precluded the setting aside of Neighbourhood size open space. As a result Collingwood has very little public open space, and the reserves that exist are small in size. To access larger open space reserves residents need to cross major arterial roads, which restricts safe and reasonable walking access to them.

The precinct is bounded by major arterial roads including Hoddle Street, Alexandra Parade, Victoria Parade and Smith Street, and dissected by Secondary Arterials including Johnston Street, Wellington Street and Langridge Street. South of Langridge Street there are limited east west streets which restricts pedestrian access to existing small areas of open space. The reserves that do exist are all smaller than 0.1ha in size and are all classified as Small Local open space. Their location and the lack of good connectivity further reduces their function.

There has been recent conversion from industrial land to residential use in this precinct and this trend is anticipated to continue in the future, particularly in the sub-precinct 3066B. Refer to **Figure 1, Section 4.5.1** for major development sites, which are located largely in sub-precinct 3066B. Within the whole precinct there is a need to provide a Neighbourhood level open space, however, it is recognised this is very difficult to achieve given the built nature of the precinct. The opportunity to achieve this, however, will continue to be pursued by Council. The need for access to a Neighbourhood open space will be further exacerbated with the anticipated increase in residents in this precinct.

In all sub-precincts additional open space will be required as development occurs. At this stage it is anticipated industrial use in the south of sub-precinct 3066C will continue, and additional open space will not be required south of Gipps Street unless the land use trend changes.

6.5.2 SUMMARY OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE IN COLLINGWOOD

6.5.2.1 Open space area and classification

Site Name	Size (sqm)	Size (ha)	Use Classification	Character Classification (primary)	Character Classification (secondary where applicable)
ALEXANDER STREET RESERVE	350	0.04	Small local	Formal	n/a
McNAMARA STREET RESERVE	480	0.05	Small local	Informal	n/a
CAMBRIDGE STREET RESERVE	350	0.04	Small local	Informal	n/a
Total open space Collingwood	1,180	0.12			

6.5.2.2 Precinct population and quantity of open space

Proportion of open space in the precinct	0.1%
Total population for 3066	5,076
Total population for City of Yarra	68,800
Proportion of Yarra's population residing in 3066	7.4%
Total square meters of open space per person	0.23

6.5.3 SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS FOR COLLINGWOOD

6.5.3.1 Precinct Summary

The household survey and site research revealed there is a significant lack of existing public open space in Collingwood. The presence of major arterial roads, a combination of industrial/mixed use and residential neighbourhood contributes to the urban character and need for residents to have access to open space within safe walking distance.

In summary, this precinct requires a Neighbourhood park. Currently there are no obvious opportunities to achieve this, however, longer term opportunities may arise to secure and reserve a larger piece of land (i.e. min 1ha) of open space. This longer term opportunity should continue to be sought by Council, however, in the interim it is important to provide some Small Local open space where possible to address the extreme shortfall of open space in this precinct.

6.5.3.2 Sub-precinct 3066A

- Bounded by Smith Street to the west, Johnston Street to the north, Hoddle Street to the east, and Alexandra Parade to the south.
- The area is a mix of residential and industrial character.
- There are two small reserves in this sub-precinct including Alexander Street Reserve and McNamara Street Reserve.
- McNamara Street Reserve is located on the corner of Gold and Keele Streets and is on a highlighted pedestrian link to adjoining open space east of the precinct including the Yarra River and Victoria Park.
- Alexander Street Reserve is located in the north east of this sub-precinct in a local neighbourhood with north-south streets, and limited east-west access. This reserve is tucked away in one of the north-south streets and is not highly visible or accessible for residents in the remainder of the sub-precinct.
- Two opportunities for additional Small Local open space have been identified in this sub-precinct through partial street closures.
- It is anticipated minimal residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met through the provision of additional open space.

6.5.3.3 Sub-precinct 3066B

- Bounded by Smith Street to the west, Johnston Street to the north, Wellington Street to the east, and Victoria Parade to the south.
- The sub-precinct is disjointed by its existing street layout
- Cambridge Street Reserve is the only open space in the precinct. This is a Small Local park with a number of picnic tables and BBQs, along with established trees. By design, it suggests it has been primarily designed for lunchtime use of workers in the precinct.
- Conversion of a number of sites from industrial to residential/mixed use which has created a need for a range of open space and recreation facilities in this sub-precinct. This trend will continue to place increased demand for land areas as open space in this sub-precinct.
- Collingwood TAFE in the northern part of this sub-precinct and a small residential pocket of housing have restricted access to the south by predominantly east-west street layout. The Tafe grounds provide some "borrowed green" for residents in this area.
- It is anticipated moderate to high population change will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met through the provision of additional open space.

6.5.3.4 Sub-precinct 3066C

- Bordered by Wellington Street to the west, Johnston Street to the north, Hoddle Street to the east, and Victoria Parade to the south.
- The sub-precinct is disjointed by its existing street layout.
- Office of Housing land in northern part of sub-precinct provides some “borrowed green” in this area, however, there is no public open space. There is potential to investigate creation of public open space along the Perry Street frontage of Office of Housing land in consultation with Office of Housing.
- The residential neighbourhood between Vere Street and Gipps Street is located near Collingwood Primary and Secondary College with the school grounds providing some green space, however, there is no public open space. There is potential to establish a Small Local open space adjacent to the school on Campbell Street, however, this requires further investigation.
- South of Gipps Street there is no public open space and the land use remains predominantly industrial and mixed use. In this area the streets are predominantly north-south in layout and if this area changes in the longer term to increased residential use, open space will be required.
- Encourage additional east-west links between the north-south streets.
- It is anticipated moderate residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met by the provision of additional open space. Whilst the industrial precinct south of Gipps Street is not highlighted for residential growth at this stage, if this occurred in the future, new open space will then be required to meet future open space needs.

6.5.4 SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COLLINGWOOD



Refer to **Drawing YOSS 11**

6.5.4.1 Summary recommendations for expansion and improvements to the open space network

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

^{*} Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

No	Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
*6.5.4.1a	This precinct is planned to receive increased residential growth. There is no Neighbourhood size park in this precinct to meet existing and future needs.	Investigate potential to establish a Neighbourhood park in Collingwood. This will include liaison with Office of Housing and future large development sites to investigate potential to secure an area of land at least 1 hectare in size. This park will meet both existing and future open space needs of residents. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Masterplan and implement the works.	Urgent and Ongoing

No	Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
^Ω 6.5.4.1b	Lack of accessible existing local open space in sub-precinct 3066A to meet existing and future needs.	Investigate the potential to establish a new Small Local open space reserve as part of a linked open space network. Refer to criteria listed in Table 9, Section 5.1.2.2 . Refer to Drawing YOSS 12 for examples of potential sites for further investigation. If an alternative local open space is developed in a more accessible location, consider closure of Alexander Street Reserve. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works. (Note: The need for this Small Local open space may be reviewed pending ability to secure a Neighbourhood park. If a Neighbourhood park is secured in the short term, review accessibility to it and provide Small Local open space only in locations where gaps remain in the network).	Urgent
*6.5.4.1c	Recent and future planned development north of Peel Street, and west of Wellington Street has created a need for Small Local open space close to residents in Sub-precinct 3066B.	Investigate potential to establish new Small Local open space reserve utilising existing Council owned land as either road closure or former Council car park in the vicinity of Oxford Street, north of Langridge Street, to meet existing and future open space needs. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Very High
*6.5.4.1d	Langridge Street is a physical barrier to safe pedestrian access to existing and proposed open space in sub-precinct 3066B.	Investigate potential to establish new Small Local open space reserve utilising existing Council owned land as a road closure south of Langridge Street. The space may include acquisition/purchase of additional land to create a useable size. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Very High
*6.5.4.1e	The area south of Gipps Street in sub-precinct 3066C is predominantly mixed use and industrial use. This area may convert to residential use in the longer term, and currently the area has no open space. If conversion takes place, new local open space will be required.	Investigate potential to establish a new Small Local open space reserve south of Gipps Street if this area converts to residential use. It is anticipated Council will investigate potential to include a partial street closure and acquisition/purchase of additional land. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	As required
^Ω 6.5.4.1f	The area nearby Collingwood Primary and Secondary College currently has no Small Local open space within reasonable walking distance.	Create new Small Local park in consultation with the Collingwood Primary and Secondary College, near the corner of Campbell Street and McCutcheon Way utilising existing public land. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Urgent

No	Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
^Δ 6.5.4.1g	Residents located immediately south of Johnston Street in sub-precinct 3066C have no easy access to small local public open space.	Investigate potential to establish a local public open space in consultation with the Office of Housing, adjacent to Perry Street to provide for existing residents. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Urgent
6.5.4.1h	Lack of pedestrian and cycle links between existing open space within and outside the precinct boundaries.	Investigate improvement to pedestrian and cycle amenity in the streets which provide the most direct link to areas of open space, highlighted on Drawing YOSS 12 and in accordance with <i>Yarra Street Planting Precinct Masterplans</i> (2004).	High
6.5.4.1i	Lack of good access through Office of Housing estate and large development sites which interrupts the pedestrian network and links between open space reserves.	In future development approvals investigate the potential to provide public access through sites to enhance the links between open space reserves, including those illustrated on Drawing YOSS 12 .	Ongoing

6.5.4.2 Summary recommendations for existing reserves

The parks are listed in alphabetical order by sub-precinct.

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

* Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

Reserve	Summary of Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
Sub-precinct 3066A			
^Δ Alexander Street Reserve	Located in small north-south residential street with poor visual and physical access for residents outside Alexander Street. The park includes seating, BBQ and planting, but is limited by its poor visibility.	Retain and investigate potential to improve east-west connection and access to the reserve. Alternatively if a more visible and accessible site nearby becomes available for open space, consider redirecting funds and resources to an alternative location.	Ongoing
^Δ McNamara Street Reserve	Small Local park on a corner block with good visibility and access. There is a small playground and the reserve is entirely fenced to the boundary.	Investigate potential to increase size of park through kerb extension to provide space for seating and open grassed areas with trees, and review extent of fencing.	High
Sub-precinct 3066B			
^Δ Cambridge Street Reserve	Small Local park with established native and deciduous trees with a large number of picnic tables indicating lunchtime use.	Prepare and implement a Landscape Concept Plan for the reserve in consultation with residents to develop a design for the park that meets local residential needs, and makes better use of the existing reserve.	Urgent
Sub-precinct 3066C			
No existing public open space in this sub-precinct			

insert YOSS 11

6.6 Abbotsford Precinct 3067

6.6.1 SUMMARY OF THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK IN ABBOTSFORD

Abbotsford is located adjacent to the Yarra River. Historically industrial land use established along the Yarra River restricts access and views to the river. In more recent times land has been purchased or contributed along the Yarra River to allow for the provision of the Main Yarra Trail. There is a gap in this link between Gipps Street footbridge and Walmer Street footbridge.

The Collingwood Football Club has relocated from Victoria Park making the reserve available for a range of potential new uses. Gahan Reserve is the main existing Neighbourhood park in Abbotsford and is well used. Other key reserves include Dights Falls and Flockhart Reserve, along with Collingwood Childrens Farm which is available on a fee paying basis.

Over recent years there has been incremental change in this precinct largely from industrial sites converting to residential or mixed use. Refer to **Figure 1, Section 4.5.1**. This trend is planned to continue with a range of additional sites, particularly adjacent to the Yarra River, identified for future redevelopment for residential use. It is anticipated some industrial and business use will continue to remain in the precinct. This change will result in increasing demand for open space facilities and use.

In sub-precinct 3067A, where a large amount of change is anticipated, future needs are to be met largely through provision of additional facilities in existing open space, particularly the redevelopment of Victoria Park. In sub-precinct 3067B, new population will generate the need for additional open space and provision of facilities. In 3067C, future needs will be met through the upgrade of existing open space reserve to meet future local open space needs.

6.6.2 SUMMARY OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE IN ABBOTSFORD

6.6.2.1 Open space area and classification

Site Name	Size (sqm)	Size (ha)	Use Classification	Character Classification (primary)	Character Classification (secondary where applicable)
BATH ST RESERVE (cnr Trenery Cres & Bath St)	702	0.07	Small local	Formal	n/a
BREARLEY RESERVE	800	0.08	Small local	Informal	Nature conservation (existing Red Gum in the reserve)
BROWNS RESERVE	947	0.09	Small local	Informal	Undeveloped
CLARKE ST RESERVE	817	0.08	Small local	Informal	Nature conservation
COLLINGWOOD TOWN HALL PARK	1,965	0.20	Local	Undeveloped	Significant road reservation
DIGHTS FALLS RESERVE	23,319	2.33	Neighbourhood	Nature conservation	Heritage
FLOCKHART RESERVE	4,389	0.44	Local	Informal	Nature conservation
GAHAN RESERVE	10,758	1.08	Neighbourhood	Heritage	Formal
MAUGIE ST RESERVE	2,327	0.23	Local	Significant road reservation	Undeveloped
STUDLEY ST RESERVE	630	0.06	Small local	Informal	n/a
VICTORIA PARK (Currently restricted, soon to be unrestricted)	41,071	4.11	City-wide	Sporting	Heritage
YARRA LINEAR RESERVE (Dights Falls to Johnson St)	6,030	0.60	Regional	Nature conservation	Linear
YARRA LINEAR RESERVE (St. Heliers to Gipps St Footbridge)	8,204	0.82	Regional	Nature conservation	Linear
YARRA LINEAR RESERVE (Walmer St Footbridge to Victoria St)	11,913	1.19	Regional	Nature conservation	Linear
Total open space Abbotsford	112,370	11.24			

Restricted Open Space					
COLLINGWOOD CHILDRENS FARM	79,684	7.97	Regional	Restricted	Nature conservation
Total restricted open space Abbotsford	79,684	7.97			

6.6.2.2 Precinct population and quantity of open space

Proportion of open space in the precinct	8.0%
Total population for 3067	3,577
Total population for City of Yarra	68,800
Proportion of Yarra's population residing in 3067	5.2%
Total square meters of open space per person	31.41

6.6.3 SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS FOR ABBOTSFORD

6.6.3.1 Precinct Summary

The household survey outcomes identified that residents of Abbotsford visit Yarra Bend Park and Gahan Reserve as key areas of open space, followed by Studley Park, the Yarra River linear reserve and Dights Falls. The open space not well used includes Browns Reserve, due to personal safety concerns and lack of facilities. Open space outside the precinct includes Fitzroy Gardens, and Royal Botanical Gardens. Residents appreciate the parks and many live in Abbotsford to be close to the Yarra River and residents would like to see improvements to the ecological value of the Yarra River corridor. Other suggestions include lighting the linear path along the Yarra River and in other parks for safety at night.

6.6.3.2 Sub-precinct 3067A

- Bounded by Hoddle Street to the west, the South Eastern Freeway to the north, the Yarra River to the east, and Johnston Street to the south.
- Major existing public open space reserve is Dights Falls Reserve and Weir along with the linear trail along the Yarra River.
- In the near future Victoria Park will become available for informal use by local residents and provide needed open space for future residents.
- Brearley Reserve contains an established Red Gum and Bath Street Reserve has tables and seats with paths and planting.
- Maugie Street Reserve is a wide strip of land between Maugie Street and the Freeway and is planted with overstorey trees.
- There is planned future residential and business development in this precinct along Trennery Crescent and potentially along the railway line. It is anticipated that moderate to high residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met by the provision of additional facilities in existing open space.

6.6.3.3 Sub-precinct 3067B

- Bounded by Hoddle Street to the west, Johnston Street to the north, the Yarra River and Church Street to the east, and Victoria Street to the south.
- Main Neighbourhood park is Gahan Reserve which is well established with formal exotic trees, and a range of recreational facilities including playground, paths, basketball ring, picnic and BBQ facilities. Drug use in the park was noted in the household survey outcomes as a deterrent to visiting the reserve.
- Collingwood Childrens Farm is managed by a Committee of Management and is available on a fee paying basis. The Yarra River shared trail continues around the Collingwood Children's Farm which is accessible free of charge.
- Browns Reserve on Nicholson Street has established trees, seats, playground, picnic tables and basketball ring. It is not as well used due to concerns of personal safety. This is assumed to be partly due to the lack of natural light in the reserve and the poor condition of some of the infrastructure.
- Clarke Street Reserve is an entry point onto the Main Yarra Trail. The other access is at Gipps Street where steep steps make it difficult for all ability access.
- Studley Street Reserve provides for Small Local use with playground, grassed areas and a seat.

- There is a gap in open space along the Yarra River between Gipps Street footbridge and Church Street. This has been addressed in the recommendations in **Section 5.1.3**.
- South of Gipps Street the sub-precinct lacks any open space, and there is a need to provide some open space in this area. Refer to **Drawing YOSS 13** for examples of potential partial street closure which may provide a Local open space reserve.
- In the longer term, particularly if Victoria Park is upgraded, there will be a requirement to improve access north via Nicholson Street. This has existing established street trees and bicycle lane, but some improvement to pram crossings, signage and crossing over Johnston Street may be required.
- It is anticipated minimal residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met by the provision of additional local open space.

6.6.3.4 Sub-precinct 3067C

- Bounded by Church Street to the west, Yarra River to the north and east, and Victoria Street to the south.
- There is only a small pocket of residential use amongst the industrial land use and this is disconnected from existing open space areas.
- Improve pedestrian links from residential area along Nelson Street, South Hampton Crescent and Governor Street to Flockhart Reserve on the Yarra River.
- Some sites along the Yarra River have been identified by DSE as potential residential development sites (refer to **Figure 1, Section 4.5.1**). It is anticipated that moderate to high population change will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met by the provision of additional facilities in the existing open space, e.g. Flockhart Reserve. This anticipated growth also supports the need for the PAO already in place along the Yarra River for the Main Yarra Trail.

6.6.4 SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ABBOTSFORD

Refer to **Drawing YOSS 12**

6.6.4.1 Summary recommendations for expansion and improvements to the open space network

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

* Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

No	Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
6.6.4.1a	Lack of local open space in south-west area of sub-precinct 3067B.	Investigate potential road closure or other suitable alternatives to create a Local open space in this area to cater to existing needs, primarily generated by recent development. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Very High
^Δ 6.6.4.1b	Access to existing open space within sub-precinct 3067C is limited.	Improve pedestrian access and amenity on Nelson Street, South Hampton Crescent and Grosvenor Street to Flockhart Reserve. This may include signage and pram crossings.	High

No	Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
^Ω 6.6.4.1c	Lack of public open space and off-street shared trail on the southern side of the Yarra River between Gipps Street and Walmer Street footbridge.	• Liaise with Parks Victoria regarding priority to purchase open space included in the existing PAO along the Yarra River. • Design and construction of shared trail along the Yarra River between Gipps Street footbridge and Walmer Street footbridge. • Revegetation of riparian zone with indigenous species, in consultation with Melbourne Water.	Refer to 5.2.10
6.6.4.1d	Lack of pedestrian and cycle links between existing open space within and outside the precinct boundaries.	Investigate improvement to pedestrian and cycle amenity in the streets which provide the most direct link to areas of open space, highlighted on Drawing YOSS 13 and in accordance with the <i>Yarra Street Planting Precinct Masterplans</i> (2004).	High

6.6.4.2 Summary of recommendations for existing reserves

The parks are listed in alphabetical order by sub-precinct.

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

* Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Recommendations	Priority
All Sub-precincts			
Yarra River linear reserve	The linear reserve is well used for cycling, jogging and walking. The gap in the trail network is described in Section 6.6.4.1c .	• Upgrade trail provision and safety, including improved access, gradients, sightlines etc. • Ongoing improvement to the riparian zone in consultation with Melbourne Water.	Urgent
Sub-precinct 3067A			
^Ω Bath Street Reserve	Triangular shaped road closure adjacent to Victoria Park (Jock McHale Stadium) is characterised by overstorey Plane trees as part of the avenue along Trennery Crescent and planting of shrubs which obscure sightlines.	• The park is to be considered as part of the Victoria Park Masterplan. • Review shrub planting to improve sightlines and function of Local park. Establish a more sympathetic indigenous groundlayer planting scheme more in keeping with the park's proximity to the Yarra River.	High High
^Ω Brearley Reserve	This Small Local park adjoins Victoria Park and is grassed with a mature (possibly remnant) Red Gum.	This open space has been considered as part of the Victoria Park Masterplan and retain Red Gum.	High
Dights Falls Reserve and Weir	Adjoins the Yarra River at Dights Falls and the confluence with the Merri Creek. Remnants of flour mill, and significant indigenous and non-indigenous cultural site.	Continue to maintain recent revegetation works.	Ongoing
^Δ Maugie Street Reserve	This is a wider road reserve which contains scattered trees in grassed area.	Continue to maintain as a green space, improve tree planting species selection to enhance screening of freeway and provision of greenery in this area.	Moderate

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Recommendations	Priority
^Q Victoria Park	This reserve was formerly used by Collingwood Football Club to 2004, when the Club moved to a new location Victoria Park has recently had a Conservation Plan and Masterplan prepared for its future use.	Implement the Conservation Plan and Landscape Masterplan recently completed. Continue to accommodate field sports, and improve the connection between Victoria Park and residents in Collingwood, west of Hoddle Street.	Urgent
Sub-precinct 3067B			
^Q Browns Reserve	This Small Local park has a range of facilities which are in poor condition.	Prepare and implement a Landscape Concept Plan for Browns Reserve to upgrade it and meet local community needs and improve its appeal and use.	High
^A Clarke Street Reserve	Small reserve provides entry point to Main Yarra Trail.	Maintain in its current condition.	Ongoing
Collingwood Childrens Farm	This reserve is available on a fee-paying basis, and is particularly popular with children.	Retain the Collingwood Childrens Farm.	Ongoing
Collingwood Town Hall Reserve	This reserve adjacent to the Town Hall is not well used due to significant impact of traffic noise and pollution in the reserve.	Retain primarily for civic purposes adjacent to Town Hall.	Ongoing
Gahan Reserve	Neighbourhood park, well used with range of existing facilities.	• Continue to maintain as a Neighbourhood park. • ^QIn the longer term, prepare a Conservation Plan for the reserve to document and protect historical features.	Ongoing Moderate
^A Studley Street Reserve	Small Local park with playground.	Retain as a Small Local park with playground. No specific works required.	Ongoing
Sub-precinct 3067C			
*Flockhart Reserve	This reserve is adjacent to the Yarra River and is an elevated grassed area with picnic tables and BBQ.	Prepare and implement a Landscape Concept Plan for this reserve when the linear open space reserve along the Yarra River between Gipps Street and Walmer Street footbridges has been established, or when additional residential development occurs in this sub-precinct.	Refer to 5.2.1.4

INSERT YOSS 12

6.7 Richmond Burnley Cremorne Precinct 3121

6.7.1 SUMMARY OF THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK IN RICHMOND, BURNLEY AND CREMORNE

The major open space reserves in this precinct include Citizens Park, Burnley Park, Barkly Gardens and Kevin Bartlett Reserve. The Yarra River flows along two boundaries of this Precinct, however access to it is restricted in many places by the Monash Freeway. Smaller reserves include Allan Bain Reserve, McConchie Reserve, Golden Square and reserves adjoining the Yarra River. The majority of open space is located in the south-east of the precinct, where access from residential areas is constrained by major roads and railways. Kevin Bartlett Reserve is the largest reserve and is set aside primarily for sporting use which caters to a wide range of residents across the City. Burnley Park provides both Neighbourhood open space along with sporting facilities for South Richmond. Barkly Gardens is a Neighbourhood park providing passive facilities for the Burnley and South Richmond area.

There are some parts of Richmond that have no open space nearby which includes areas in the north west of Richmond and in Cremorne. The closest open space for these residents is on the western side of Hoddle Street, which necessitates crossing a major arterial road. Citizens Park provides a Neighbourhood open space for residents in the north east of the precinct and sporting facilities for a larger catchment. Major roads and the railway present barriers to safe walking access to open space in the precinct, and form the boundaries of sub-precincts.

In recent years there has been a substantial amount of redevelopment occurring throughout the precinct, with a large proportion of conversions from industrial to residential use. Victoria Gardens located adjacent to the Yarra River has been a large development site combining commercial, business and residential use in the site. Recent development has placed greater demands for open space facilities in this precinct. The trend towards increased residential populations in the precinct is planned to continue with a range of redevelopment sites nominated in **Figure 1, Section 4.5.1**, throughout the precinct. The largest of these is the existing Office of Housing site which already provides residential accommodation, along with a range of smaller sites along the Yarra River, in Cremorne, the Channel 9 site and others throughout central Richmond area, along with some sites in Burnley.

In sub-precincts 3121A, 3121B, 3121C, 3121D, 3121E, 3121G and 3121H, open space contributions towards land will be sought where they meet the nominated criteria. In the remaining sub-precincts, open space contributions will be towards new facilities in existing open space. Refer to sub-precinct descriptions for further information on anticipated population change.

6.7.2 SUMMARY OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE IN RICHMOND, BURNLEY AND CREMORNE

Refer to table on following page.

6.7.2.1 Open space reserves and their classification

Site Name	Size (sqm)	Size (ha)	Use Classification	Character Classification (primary)	Character Classification (secondary where applicable)
ALEXANDER RESERVE	700	0.07	Small local	Informal	n/a
ALLAN BAIN RESERVE	10,698	1.07	Neighbourhood	Sporting	Informal
ANNETTES PLACE	5,686	0.57	Local	Informal	n/a
ATHOL J BROWN RESERVE	637	0.06	Small local	Informal	n/a
BARKLY GARDENS	27,560	2.76	Neighbourhood	Heritage	Formal
BURNLEY HARBOUR	2574	0.26	Local	Nature conservation	Informal
BURNLEY PARK	63,706	6.37	City-wide	Sporting	Informal
CAIRNS RESERVE	2348	0.23	Local	Informal	n/a
CHARLES EVANS RESERVE	820	0.08	Small local	Informal	n/a
CIRCUS SITE	21546	2.15	Neighbourhood	Undeveloped	Nature conservation
CITIZENS PARK	24,141	2.41	Neighbourhood	Sporting	Informal
DAME NELLIE MELBA MEMORIAL RESERVE	2264	0.23	Local	Formal	n/a
EGAN PLACE RESERVE	475	0.05	Small local	Informal	n/a
GOLDEN SQUARE	8311	0.83	Local	Heritage	Formal
K BARTLETT RESERVE	132,948	13.29	City-wide	Sporting	Informal
LOYS PADDOCK	17,800	1.78	Regional	Nature conservation	Undeveloped
McCONCHIE RESERVE	9780	0.98	Neighbourhood	Informal	Nature conservation
MURPHY ST RESERVE	600	0.06	Small local	Informal	n/a
O'CONNELL RESERVE	5110	0.51	Local	Informal	n/a
STEPHENSON ST RESERVE	115	0.01	Small local	Informal	n/a
SWAN ST ENTRY (Cnr Punt Road)	450	0.05	Small local	Urban	Formal
TWICKENHAM CR RESERVE (Barkly Ave)	2598	0.26	Local	Undeveloped	Significant road reservation
URBAN ART SQUARE (Bridge Rd-Hoddle St)	667	0.07	Small local	Urban	n/a
WHITE STREET PARK	625	0.06	Small local	Informal	n/a
WILLIAMS RESERVE	3,967	0.40	Local	Informal	n/a
YARRA LINEAR RESERVE (Victoria St to Bridge Rd)	5759	0.58	Regional	Nature conservation	Linear
YARRA LINEAR RESERVE (Bridge Rd to Railway Line)	23248	2.32	Regional	Nature conservation	Linear
YARRA LINEAR RESERVE (Railway Line to Swan St)	13720	1.37	Regional	Nature conservation	Linear
YARRA LINEAR RESERVE (Swan St to Loys Paddock)	38479	3.85	Regional	Nature conservation	Linear
Total open space area for Richmond/Cremorne/Burnley	427,332	42.73			
Restricted Open Space					
BURNLEY GOLF COURSE	124,320	12.43	Regional	Restricted sporting	n/a
HERRING ISLAND	40,000	4.00	Regional	Nature conservation	Informal
RICHMOND UNION BOWLING CLUB	2,800	0.28	City-wide	Restricted sporting	
RYAN RESERVE	6,050	0.61	City-wide	Restricted sporting	n/a
Total restricted open space for Richmond/Cre	173,170	17.32			

6.7.2.2 Precinct population and quantity of open space

Proportion of open space in the precinct	6.9%
Total population for 3121	23175
Total population for City of Yarra	68,800
Proportion of Yarra's population residing in 3121	33.68
Total square meters of open space per person	18.44

6.7.3 SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS FOR RICHMOND, BURNLEY AND CREMORNE

6.7.3.1 Precinct Summary

The household survey outcomes identified Barkly Gardens, Yarra Park (outside the City of Yarra), Burnley Park and the Yarra linear reserves as the most frequently visited open space reserves. Parks not visited include “all parks” due to distance and lack of time, Citizens Park for a range of reasons including personal safety, and Herring Island due to time and lack of knowledge on how to reach it. In this precinct there are more requests for additional open space, compared with the other precincts.

6.7.3.2 Sub-precinct 3121A (West Richmond)

- Bordered by Hoddle Street to the west, Victoria Parade to the north, Church Street to the east, and Bridge Road to the south.
- This sub-precinct significantly lacks public open space with only two open space reserves.
- Egan Place Reserve which is a Small Local park with a Palm tree and junior play equipment, and is in poor condition.
- Urban Art Square on the corner of Hoddle Street and Bridge Road is primarily a visual feature and is located in the commercial precinct of Bridge Road. The use of this reserve is restricted by high traffic volumes.
- Citizens Park is located just beyond the boundaries of the sub-precinct.
- Outside the municipality is Fitzroy Gardens to the west of the precinct, which necessitates crossing Hoddle Street.
- Office of Housing land has been identified as potentially being redeveloped, refer **Figure 1, Section 4.5.1**. This land currently offers “borrowed green” in this sub-precinct, and if lost, will compound the lack of public open space.
- It is anticipated moderate to high population change will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met by the provision of additional open space.

6.7.3.3 Sub-precinct 3121B (West Richmond)

- Bordered by Punt Road to the west, Bridge Road to the north, Church Street to the east, and the railway to the south.
- This sub-precinct significantly lacks public open space with Alexander Reserve, a Small Local open space, being the only park. This reserve has recently been upgraded and includes a playground, seating, garden beds and paths.
- The Vaucluse College and St. Ignatius Church and education precinct in the east of this precinct provides some “borrowed green” for this neighbourhood, however, this is freehold land.
- Recent conversion of industrial to residential use in the south west portion of this precinct has significantly increased the residential population in an area without any accessible local open space.
- It is anticipated that moderate to high population change will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met by the provision of additional open space.

6.7.3.4 Sub-precinct 3121C (Central Richmond)

- Bordered Church Street to the west, Victoria Street to the north, Burnley Street to the east, and Bridge Road to the south.
- The main open space reserve in this sub-precinct is Citizens Park located in the south-west close to Bridge Road. The park has a combination of sporting and passive recreational facilities. Being the only significant sized park in Central Richmond it plays a key role as a Neighbourhood park. The household survey and research phase has identified there are some safety issues associated with the reserve, and there is a need to address these in order to improve its role within Richmond's open space network.

- Murphy Street Reserve is a small road closure with a grassed area and trees. There is potential to expand this utilising part of Coppin Street as illustrated on Drawing YOSS 14b to make a useful open space.
- There is currently no open space in the northern area of the sub-precinct. Investigate potential road closure to create Small Local open space as illustrated on **Drawing YOSS 14b**.
- It is anticipated moderate residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population in the south of the sub-precinct are to be met by the provision of additional and improved recreational facilities in Citizens Park, and where they are located in the northern part of the sub-precinct, they are to be met by the provision of additional local open space.

6.7.3.5 Sub-precinct 3121D (Central Richmond)

- Bordered by Church Street to the west, Bridge Road to the north, Burnley Street to the east, and the railway to the south.
- The sub-precinct has two local open space reserves with complementary facilities that together adequately meet the needs of local residents.
- Cairns Reserve has an open grassed area, playground and seating. It appears to be well used as a Local park.
- Dame Nellie Melba Memorial Park is a passive Local park with formal garden beds, grassed areas, display garden beds and seats.
- It is anticipated minimal residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met by the provision of additional local open space.

6.7.3.6 Sub-precinct 3121E (East Richmond)

- Bordered by Burnley Street to the west, Victoria Street to the north, the Yarra River to the east, and Bridge Road to the south.
- The Yarra linear reserve directly adjoins the Yarra River and provides regional use for the Main Yarra Trail. There are two reserves that adjoin the linear reserve which provide local open space facilities for residents in this area.
- Annettes Place in the north of the sub-precinct has a playground, seating and informal character and provides access to the Main Yarra Trail for nearby residents.
- O'Connell Reserve located adjacent to the Yarra River and Bridge Road is a formal park with steep topography reducing its accessibility and use. There is seating and a boat launching platform at the river's edge. The reserve does appear to be part of the adjoining development which limits its use. This reserve is accessible from Bridge Road and the Main Yarra Trail.
- It is anticipated minimal residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met through the provision of additional local open space.

6.7.3.7 Sub-precinct 3121F (East Richmond)

- Bordered by Burnley Street to the west, Bridge Road to the north, the Yarra River to the east, and the railway to the south.
- Burnley Park is a combination of Neighbourhood and City-wide reserve with field sport facilities and informal areas including playground and paths. The park is not highly visible from within the residential area of the precinct, and is difficult to access from the Main Yarra Trail as there is a steep embankment and busy road between the park and the trail. The park does provide a much needed open space in this dense residential neighbourhood.
- Ryan Reserve is primarily a sporting reserve providing tennis courts along with a small play area and seating. Its location between Swan Street and the Railway makes it difficult to access and suitable to its current use.
- There is a lack of existing open space for residents in the north western section of this sub-precinct.

- It is anticipated minimal residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met by the provision of additional facilities in existing open space.

6.7.3.8 Sub-precinct 3121G (Cremorne)

- Bordered by Punt Road to the west, the railway to the north and east, and the Monash Freeway and Yarra River to the south.
- This sub-precinct is a mix of business use and residential use.
- There are three Small Local open space reserves, one located on the corner of Swan Street and Hoddle Street and functions as a station entry, but does not provide for local use due to volume of traffic in this location.
- Charles Evans Reserve is located in the south of precinct nestled into a residential neighbourhood. This reserve provides Local open space facilities including trees, seats, playground and open grassed area.
- Stephenson Street Reserve in the north of the precinct is a narrow grassed area with trees and a seat.
- There is a need for additional local open space in the north of the precinct to meet existing needs.
- It is anticipated minimal residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met through the provision of additional local open space.

6.7.3.9 Sub-precinct 3121H (Cremorne)

- Bordered by the railway to the west and north, Church Street to the east, and the Monash Freeway and Yarra River to the south.
- This sub-precinct is a mix of business use and residential use and has one open space reserve in the north of the precinct.
- White Street Park is a Small Local park with a small playground grassed area and seats. It is located within a residential pocket of this sub-precinct.
- The residential use in the south-west part of this sub-precinct lacks access to open space, and additional Small Local open space will be required to largely meet existing needs, and accommodate some future growth.
- It is anticipated minimal residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met through the provision of additional local open space.

6.7.3.10 Sub-precinct 3121I (Burnley)

- Bordered by Church Street to the west, the railway to the north, Burnley Street to the east, and the Monash Freeway and Yarra River to the south.
- This sub-precinct is a mix of business use close to Church Street changing to predominantly residential use surrounding Barkly Gardens. The Citipower Depot occupies the eastern area of this sub-precinct.
- Barkly Gardens is the major area of open space in this sub-precinct and is the Neighbourhood park for the Burnley area. It is also accessible to residents in South Richmond via Coppin and Mary Streets. The Gardens have a formal layout and character with established avenues of trees lining the major paths through the garden. There are picnic and BBQ facilities and a playground.
- Alan Bain Reserve is a City-wide reserve catering to field sports.
- McConchie Reserve is a Local open space in the south of the precinct which has a playground and walking paths. The character is more informal and with scattered native trees, which is a contrast to the formality of Barkly Gardens.
- Burnley Harbour has been recently developed providing a path entry point to the Main Yarra Trail along the northern bank of the Yarra River. The Aquatic Herland vegetation in Burnley Harbour requires ongoing protection.
- Herring Island is a Regional open space reserve located in the Yarra River. This island has predominantly indigenous vegetation and environmental sculpture. Herring Island is accessible by boat only.

- Existing open space in this precinct adequately meets the needs of its local residents.
- It is anticipated minimal residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met through the provision of additional facilities in existing open space.

6.7.3.11 Sub-precinct 3121J (Burnley)

- Bordered by Burnley Street to the west, the railway to the north, Loyala Grove to the east, and the Monash Freeway to the south.
- Land use predominantly residential with some industrial/business used towards Monash Freeway.
- Golden Square is the Neighbourhood park with passive open space facilities including established trees, paths, open grassed areas and playground. This reserve does not appear to be well used.
- Loys Paddock directly adjoins the Yarra River and has some indigenous vegetation which requires protection and expansion. There are opportunities to improve the environmental values of this reserve with revegetation works given its relative isolation from the residential precinct.
- The two small triangular reserves on Twickenham Crescent are public open space, however their role is primarily a visual feature given the high traffic volumes on Twickenham Crescent.
- It is anticipated minimal residential growth will occur in this sub-precinct and the open space needs of the new population will be met through the provision of additional facilities in existing open space, particularly Golden Square.

6.7.3.12 Sub-precinct 3121K (Burnley)

- Bordered by Loyala Grove to the west, the railway to the north, South Loyala Grove to the east, and the Yarra River to the south.
- Land use is predominantly open space, business and education.
- Burnley Public Golf Course is planned to be retained as a golf course in the foreseeable future.
- Kevin Bartlett Reserve is predominantly a sporting reserve catering to a range of field sports. Picnic and play facilities are provided for the sporting groups and the general public. This site is well suited to sporting activities due to its distance from the residential area, thereby reducing the conflicts that can arise with local residents regarding parking, noise, training lights etc.
- Yarra River linear reserve, including both sides of Yarra Boulevard, has remnant Red Gums and extensive areas of indigenous revegetation. The environmental values through this reach have potential to be strengthened. The linear reserve accommodates a cycle and separate pedestrian trail.
- Circus Site located between Swan Street and the Railway has scattered Sugar Gums and some remnant grassland vegetation along the railway embankment. The reserve is used for staging the circus with no other designated use and has potential for its environmental values to be improved.
- No residential development is planned in this sub-precinct at this stage. If this occurred in the future, it is anticipated that additional facilities would be required in existing open space.

6.7.4 SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RICHMOND, CREMORNE AND BURNLEY

Refer to **Drawing YOSS14a, Drawing YOSS14b and Drawing YOSS14c**

6.7.4.1 Summary recommendations for expansion and improvements to the open space network

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

* Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

No	Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
6.7.4.1a	Lack of pedestrian and cycle links between existing open space within and outside the precinct boundaries.	Investigate improvement to pedestrian and cycle amenity in the streets which provide the most direct link to areas of open space, highlighted on Drawings YOSS 13a, 13b and 13c and in accordance with the <i>Yarra Street Planting Precinct Masterplans</i> .	High
6.7.4.1b	Cremorne lacks open space, however, there is established open space in Burnley, within 500 to 800 metres of Cremorne. (Refer also to 3.6.7.4.1c)	- Investigate improvements to pedestrian links along the railway easement to provide a signed walking link from Cremorne through to Barkly Gardens, in consultation with Victrak - Refer to Section 6.7.4.1j.	Urgent
6.7.4.1c	Railway reserve has potential for some environmental improvement. (Refer also to 3.6.7.1b)	Investigate potential for planting indigenous vegetation along the railway easement to improve environmental values, in consultation with Victrak.	High
6.7.4.1d	Improve ecological values along the Yarra River corridor	Refer to recommendations contained in Section 5.2.4.1 .	Refer 5.2.4.1
*6.7.4.1e	Lack of local open space in sub-precincts 3121A to meet existing and future needs.	- Investigate provision of a new Local open space to meet existing and future open space needs in the north of the sub-precinct 3121A. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works. - Investigate provision of a new Small Local open space to meet existing and future open space needs in the south of the sub-precinct 3121A. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Urgent Urgent
6.7.4.1f	Lack of open space in sub-precinct 3121B to meet existing and future needs.	- Investigate provision of a new Local open space to meet existing and future open space needs in south-west of sub-precinct 3121B. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works. - Investigate provision of a new Small Local open space to meet existing and future open space needs in south-east of sub-precinct 3121B. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Urgent Urgent

No	Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
6.7.4.1g	Lack of open space in sub-precinct 3121C to meet existing and future needs.	Investigate provision of a new Small Local open space to meet existing and future open space needs, primarily through partial road closure. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Very High
*6.7.4.1h	Lack of open space in sub-precinct 3121D to primarily meet future needs.	Investigate provision of a new Small Local open space to primarily meet future open space needs. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Moderate
*6.7.4.1i	Lack of open space in sub-precinct 3121E primarily to meet future open space needs.	Investigate provision of a new Small Local open space to primarily meet future open space needs and preferably adjoining the Yarra River open space corridor. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Moderate
6.7.4.1j	Lack of open space in sub-precinct 3121G to meet existing and future open space needs.	Investigate provision of a new Small Local open space to meet the existing and future needs, primarily through partial road closure. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Very High
6.7.4.1k	Lack of open space in sub-precinct 3121H to primarily meet existing open space needs.	Investigate provision of a new Small Local open space to primarily meet existing needs through partial road closure. Once location is confirmed prepare a Landscape Concept Plan and implement the works.	Very High

6.7.4.2 Summary recommendations for existing reserves

The parks are listed in alphabetical order by sub-precinct.

^Δ Recommendation does not have a component of open space contributions.

* Recommendation primarily funded by open space contributions.

^Ω Recommendation with approximate 20% funded by open space contributions.

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
Sub-precinct 3121A			
Egan Place Reserve	Small Local park with junior play equipment and mature Palm, surrounded by rear boundary fence lines.	Prepare Landscape Concept Plan to redesign reserve to improve condition and use.	High
Urban Art Square	Located at the intersection of Hoddle Street and Bridge Road. This square is a visual feature with its use limited by the volume of traffic.	No specific change recommended.	Ongoing
Sub-precinct 3121B			
Alexander Reserve	Small Local park which has been recently upgraded with new paths, junior playground and extensive planting.	Retain as Small Local park.	Ongoing
Wangaratta Street Park	Small Local park with tree planting and seats which is subject to vandalism.	Investigate design treatments to reduce graffiti and vandalism.	High

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
Sub-precinct 3121C			
Citizens Park	Citizens Park provides field sport facilities including football and cricket. The oval is used for informal uses including walking, Tai-Chi and the playground has been recently upgraded. Refer to Section 5.2.1.4.	Prepare a Conservation Plan followed by preparation and implementation of a Landscape Masterplan for Citizens Park to resolve a range of park issues, with a focus on improving the Local and Neighbourhood open space function of the reserve.	High
^Q Murphy Street Reserve	Road closure has been recently planted with trees and seats provided. The reserve is currently too small to accommodate additional uses.	Prepare and implement Landscape Concept Plan investigating expanding the reserve utilising Coppin Street to increase its size.	High
^A Williams Reserve	This Local park is located on Victoria Street and has been recently upgraded.	Retain as a Local park.	Ongoing
Sub-precinct 3121D			
Cairns Reserve	The elevated northern area contains a playground and is terraced with retaining walls and stairs. There is an open grassed area which is enclosed by established trees to the perimeter and seats.	• ^AReview safety of playground particularly fall heights from the wall near the playground, and make necessary improvements. • ^QRetain the diversity of character and facilities in the reserve and upgrade the more recent section of the Park to improve its usability.	Urgent Moderate
^Q Dame Nellie Melba Park	This Local park is a garden style open space reserve with a semi-formal layout with feature garden beds, deciduous feature trees and with a perimeter of established Eucalypts.	• Redesign the entry from Coppin Street to improve access. • Upgrade the park as a passive open space, retaining a garden style park to complement Cairns Reserve nearby which contains play facilities.	High Moderate
Sub-precinct 3121E			
^A Annettes Place	Small Local park with relaxed open native bushland character adjacent to the Yarra River. Includes a custom designed playground with steps down the Main Yarra Trail and areas of open grass for passive recreation.	Retain and continue to improve environmental values with additional tree and groundlayer planting, retaining clear and open sight lines into the reserve and upgrade the more recent section of the park to improve its usability.	Moderate
^Q O'Connell Reserve	Local Park on steeply graded land near Bridge Road with steps, seats and timber jetty adjacent to the River.	• Investigate potential to improve use of this reserve through improved access. • Improve environmental values through use of indigenous planting to link to the Yarra River corridor.	Moderate
Yarra River linear reserve (Victoria Street to Bridge Road)	The Main Yarra Trail is located adjacent to the river and continues through public and private land (associated with Victoria Gardens). The bank is steeply graded making access onto the trail difficult.	Provide at least one additional graded access trail down to Main Yarra Trail to improve access from this local area into the Yarra River trail.	High
Sub-precinct 3121F			
^Q Burnley Park	This park is one of the only substantial parks for the South Richmond area and includes a combination of sporting and passive facilities.	• Implement recommendations contained in the recently prepared Masterplan. • Review the decision to providing parking in the reserve given the shortage of open space in Richmond.	Urgent and Ongoing

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
Ryan Reserve	Primarily sporting use with tennis facilities and small playground.	Retain as primarily a sporting reserve, consistent with the Recreation Plan recommendations.	Ongoing
^Q Yarra River linear reserve (Bridge Road to Swan Street)	The Main Yarra Trail is adjacent to the river with steep banks from the trail to Yarra Boulevard. Access points to the trail are limited.	Provide a graded access opposite Burnley Gardens south of the Melbourne Girls High School into the Main Yarra Trail. This would include a new graded path, seating and planting to provide direct access for residents from the sub-precinct onto the trail.	High
Sub-precinct 3121G			
^A Charles Evans Reserve	Relaxed, informal character with efficient use of space including open grassed areas and the playground.	Retain to meet existing needs. If conversion of business/industrial use to residential occurs, additional open space will be required to meet additional use.	Ongoing
^Q Stephenson Street Reserve	This reserve is a narrow grassed area with seating.	Investigate the potential to replace or expand to a larger open space reserve utilising part of the existing car park across the road from the reserve. Refer to Drawing YOSS 13c.	High
^A Swan Street Reserve	Located at the intersection of Hoddle Street and Swan Street this reserve primarily functions as an entry to Richmond Station and a visual feature. Traffic volumes limit the use of the reserve for a range of passive recreation activities.	No specific change recommended	Ongoing
Sub-precinct 3121H			
^Q White Street Park	Small Local open space with playground.	Upgrade park and facilities as required to meet local community needs.	Ongoing
Sub-precinct 3121I			
Allan Bain Reserve	Open grassed area for sporting use and informal recreational use at times when sport is not in progress.	Retain for sporting use.	Ongoing
^Q Barkly Gardens	Neighbourhood park has recently been upgraded.	Continue to maintain recent works. In the longer term, prepare a Conservation Plan and Landscape Masterplan for the Gardens to protect the heritage values.	Moderate
Burnley Harbour	This reserve has recently been upgraded to provide path access to the Main Yarra Trail. The Aquatic Herbfield vegetation requires ongoing protection in this reserve.	PV to continue to protect the Aquatic Herbfield vegetation in the reserve. Refer to Herring Island for recommendation regarding improved access arrangements.	Ongoing
Herring Island	This reserve is managed by Parks Victoria and is available on a fee-paying basis. The reserve includes outdoor sculptures and indigenous bushland vegetation.	Liaise with PV to investigate access to the Island from the northern bank of the River, including consideration of access from Burnley Harbour/McConchie Reserve.	Low
McConchie Reserve	This Local park has a range of facilities and scattered native overstorey trees.	Continue to maintain as an informal Local park.	Ongoing
Sub-precinct 3121J			
Loys Paddock	Refer to Recommendation contained in Section 5.2.1.4.	Refer to Recommendation contained in Section 5.2.1.4.	Refer 5.2.1.4

Reserve	Existing Conditions	Summary Recommendation	Priority
^Ω Golden Square	This neighbourhood park requires review as it appears not to be well used.	Prepare a Conservation Plan followed by preparation and implementation of a Landscape Masterplan for Golden Square to better meet the needs of the local community and increase visitation. Refer to Recommendation in Section 5.2.1.4 .	High
^Ω Twickenham Crescent Reserves	These two Small Local open space areas are unsuitable for recreational use due to close proximity to the road.	Prepare and implement a landscape concept plan to improve the visual and environmental character of these reserves as they are unsuitable for recreational use.	Moderate
Sub-precinct 3121K			
Burnley Public Golf Course	This public golf course is managed by Council.	Continue to manage as public golf course, and improve environmental values where practical in recognition of its close proximity to the Yarra River.	Ongoing
Circus Site	Refer to Recommendation contained in Section 5.2.1.4 .	Refer to Recommendation contained in Section 5.2.1.4	Refer to 5.2.1.4
Kevin Bartlett Reserve	Field sports include cricket, football and soccer. Passive recreational facilities include a playground and BBQ facilities. The Main Yarra Trail runs along the Yarra River, however there is no formal link through the reserve.	Prepare a Landscape Masterplan to address as a minimum the following: • location and provision of picnic and play facilities to service both cricket/football ovals and soccer ground; and • improve car parking.	High
Yarra Boulevard linear reserve (Swan Street to Loyala Grove)	Open bushland character of land between the road and ovals in Kevin Bartlett Reserve. Recent wetland areas have been established with extensive indigenous vegetation amongst remnant overstorey trees. A footpath has been constructed through the wetlands.	Continue to strengthen environmental values of this area. Monitor success of the wetland and if required engage wetland design specialist to provide input to design.	Ongoing
Yarra linear reserve adjacent to the Boulevard	Extensive groundlayer revegetation works under mature scattered Red Gums. There are two trails through this reach including the Main Yarra Trail and a more informal pedestrian path adjacent to the river.	Continue revegetation works in accordance with priorities assigned in the Vegetation Management Plan to be prepared for the Yarra as per Recommendations in Section 5.2.4.1 .	Ongoing

INSERT YOSS 13a

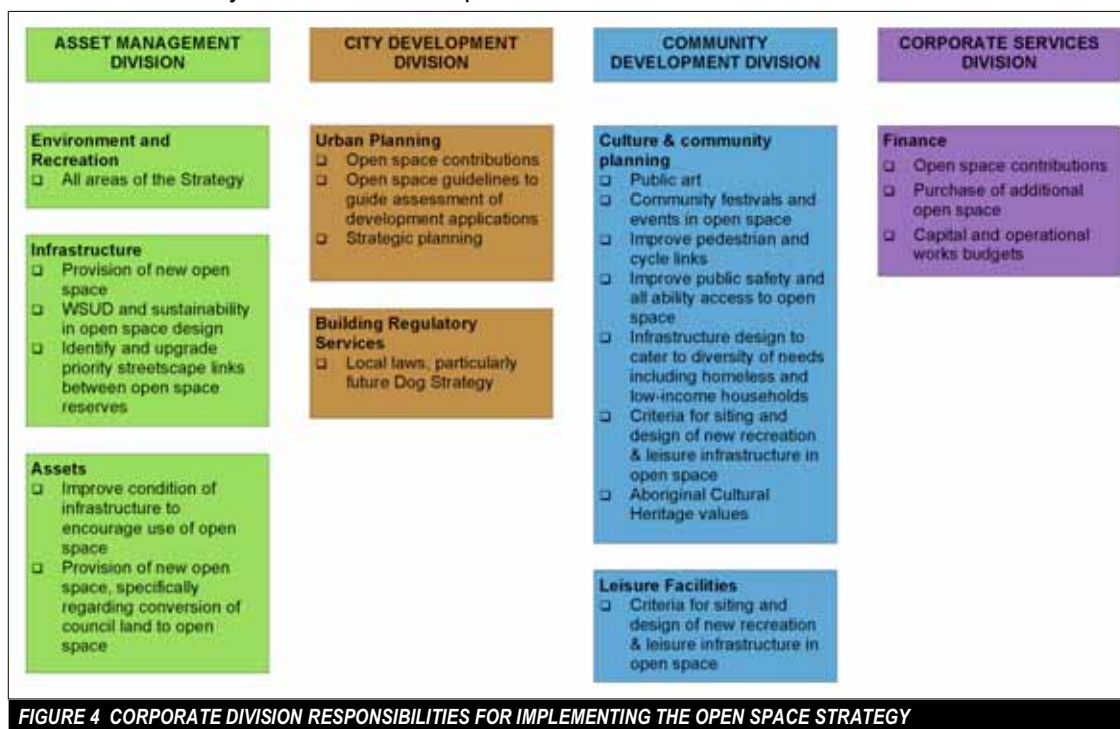
INSERT YOSS 13b

INSERT YOSS 13c

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Open Space Strategy is an integrated document and requires some actions to be implemented by all the main four divisions in Council. The following chart is a summary of the different responsibilities within the current structure of Council.



The following table describes the responsibilities for individual units within the Divisions in more detail.

Table 11 Council units responsibilities for implementing the Open Space Strategy

Department	Responsibilities
Asset Management Division	
Environment and Recreation	Implement the overall and precinct recommendations in the Strategy including: • preparation of new Conservation, Masterplans, Management Plans, Concept Plans and Policies; • ongoing implementation of existing Conservation, Masterplans and Concept Plans already developed; • updating the Capital and Operational budgets to augment implementation of recommendations from the Strategy and the more detailed plans developed from the Strategy; • review and modify open space maintenance and management procedures including update to contract specifications etc; • review planning applications to ensure they adhere to the open space planning principles included in the Strategy; and • regularly review and monitor the implementation of the Strategy including establishing an internal working group with other Council departments responsible for implementing the Strategy.

Department	Responsibilities
Infrastructure	Primarily responsible for the detailed design of new infrastructure in open space streetscape works: • input to detailed design of streetscape upgrade works incorporating improvements to the pedestrian and cycle amenity in streets identified as providing important links between open space; • input to detailed design of some civil infrastructure in open space including meeting best practice design principles in open space; and • input to the feasibility assessment of provision of new open space in road reserves where partial or full street closures are required.
Assets	Primarily responsible for the safety and condition of infrastructure in open space and will provide input to: • future design of new infrastructure for open space reserves, particularly in relation to their ongoing maintenance and durability in public open space; and • feasibility of conversion of other Council owned land to open space use.
City Development Division	
Urban Planning	Implement the planning recommendations in the Strategy including: • prepare, exhibit and finalise amendment to Clause 52.01 of the Yarra Planning Scheme to incorporate the open space contribution recommendations from the Strategy; • prepare, exhibit and finalise other planning scheme changes as recommended; • during initial negotiation with developers on major key redevelopment sites, refer them to the criteria and recommendations for their sub-precinct in the Open Space Strategy; • refer development proposals to the open space unit within Council with lead implementation responsibility for the Open Space Strategy – major redevelopment sites, schools, and sites adjoining existing or future open space reserves or waterways; • in the interim, prior to amendment to Clause 52.01 of the scheme, continue to require and collect open space contributions under Section 18 of the Subdivision Act 1988, using the Open Space Strategy as the basis for collecting contributions; • integrate the Draft Urban Design Framework and future Structure Plan recommendations with the Open Space Strategy recommendations where relevant; and • detailed design and implementation of commercial streetscape designs.
Building regulatory services	Implement the enforcement and Local Laws recommendations in the Strategy including: • responsibility for the preparation and implementation of the proposed dog strategy; and • enforcement of Local Laws in open space, particularly in regards to parking and club-based use of open space reserves after hours.

Community Development Division	
Leisure facilities	Implement recommendations regarding future leisure facilities in open space: • when proposing expansion to or new future leisure facilities in open space demonstrate they meet the criteria included in the Strategy; and • assist Recreation and Environment in Landscape Masterplans for open space where there are existing and proposed leisure facilities located in open space.
Culture and Community Planning	Implement the overall recommendations related to community and cultural development in open space including: • assist with the implementation of cultural heritage recommendations, particularly where they interface with the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan; • provide input regarding all-ability access and safety in open space design; • when proposing future community facilities or reviewing existing ones in open space demonstrate they meet the criteria included in the Strategy; • assist during the community consultation phase of open space design projects to access existing community networks, particularly for specialist groups such as Office of Housing residents and the homeless; • liaise with Recreation and Environment regarding planning for and holding future community festivals and events in open space; and • assist Recreation and Open Space Planning in implementation of art in public open space.
Corporate Services Division	
Finance	Open space funding including: • develop an appropriate system of recording open space contributions to assist internal accountability and recording procedures for appropriate allocation of spending contributions; and • assist Recreation and Environment with suitable allocation of annual budget to capital and operational expenditure in open space to achieve the directions outlined in the Strategy.

7.2 PRIORITIES

7.2.1 Implementation process for the range of plans and policies

Many of the recommendations require development of a range of further plans or policies to identify specific works and capital works budgets and priorities. The recommended implementation process includes:

Brief preparation

Internal consultation with other relevant departments, and where required, external consultation with other agencies.

Consultation process

- Establish a Project Steering Committee that includes key internal and external **agency stakeholders** to guide the project's development.
- For larger projects a Project Advisory Committee may be required which includes a range of key **community stakeholders** to advise during the plans development.

- **Broader community consultation** to be undertaken at both the issue identification phase and the draft plan stage. The detail of the extent and type of community consultation process is to be tailored to meet individual project requirements, and be in accordance with Council's Consultation Framework. The community consultation may include information leaflets/questionnaires, community workshops, focus group workshops and consultation, on-site project displays etc.

Delivery of the Plans

Once developed, the plans require implementation of on-ground works. This will include works that can be implemented immediately e.g. a change in policy direction or management procedure which does not require capital works funds. Major capital works items will require detailed design documentation prior to construction. This will include detailed design documentation drawings, specifications and contract documents to allow Council to seek competitive quotations for construction of the works either through selective or public tender process. Minor capital works will require detailed design documentation in a simpler form which does not necessarily require specifications and contract documents.

7.2.2 Priority works outlined in the Strategy

The priorities identified in the Strategy have been determined in response to the identified gaps in the open space network and facility provision. This includes an assessment of the most logical priority in which to undertake the works to address the major issues. Implementing the Strategy in accordance with this broad priority is recommended to ensure the gaps in the open space network are addressed and facilities provided to meet the existing and future residents needs.

Council will prepare more detailed implementation plans within each of the broad priority categories recommended in the Strategy, and the successful implementation will be subject to budget allocations and adequate funds to implement the works.

7.2.3 Monitoring and review

The Recreation and Open Space Department will need to monitor the implementation of the Strategy to assess the progress and success of the recommendations. This will include:

- Establish an appropriate system of documenting and recording the works completed from the Strategy.
- Annual meeting with all relevant Council departments to review implementation of the Strategy, review the success of the completed works, and document improvements where appropriate. It is recommended the Steering Committee established for the Open Space Strategy meet for the annual review to provide continuity for all relevant departments in Council.
- Annual review of the use and success guidelines and criteria for development adjacent to open space.
- Five yearly resident survey of level of satisfaction with open space, utilising similar questions to those asked in the Questionnaire # 1. Summarise and analyse outcomes compared with the original survey.
- Following the five yearly resident survey, undertake five yearly review of Strategy implementation, and update of the priority allocation and additional recommendations where required to meet community needs.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allom Lovell & Associates and John Patrick Pty Ltd (1998) *City of Yarra Heritage Review Landscape Citations*
- Allom Lovell and Associates in association with John Patrick Pty Ltd (2003), *Edinburgh Gardens Brunswick Street North Fitzroy Conservation Management Plan*, prepared for City of Yarra
- Aspect Melbourne Pty Ltd (2003), *Mayors Park Masterplan*, prepared for City of Yarra
- Biosis Research Pty Ltd (2001) *Natural Heritage Study of the City of Yarra, Victoria* prepared for the City of Yarra
- Chris Dance Land Design (2003), *A3 DWG LD03 Landscape Surfaces and Planting Plan for Whitlam Reserve Fitzroy*, prepared for City of Yarra
- City of Yarra (2000) *Our Sustainable Future The Yarra Environment Strategy 2000*
- City of Yarra (undated) *City of Yarra Recreation Plan 2003-2008*
- City of Yarra (1998) *Yarra River Corridor, Urban Design Guidelines*
- City of Yarra (2003) *City of Yarra City Plan 2003/06*
- City of Yarra (2005) *City of Yarra Council Plan 2005-2009*
- City of Yarra (2005) *Policy Audit*
- City of Yarra (2005) *Yarra City Council Arts & Cultural Plan 2005 - 2009*
- City of Yarra, Public Open Space Contributions, report to Planning and Community Development Committee, 21 September 1999
- City of Yarra, *Submission on Melbourne 2030 – Planning for Sustainable Growth and related draft Implementation Plans*, 28 February 2003
- City of Yarra, *Yarra River Corridor Urban Design Guidelines*, September 1998
- Department of Infrastructure (October 2002), *Melbourne 2030 Planning for Sustainable Growth*
- Department of Sustainability and Environment (2003), *A new Development Contributions System for Victoria*, prepared for Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Department of Sustainability and Environment, Department of Housing, Cities of Melbourne, Yarra, Stonnington and Port Phillip (2005) *Inner Draft Regional Housing Statement*
- Dragicevic v Bayside CC [2001] VCAT 467 (31 March 2001)
- Eddie Barron Construction PL v Pakenham CC (1990/04167) Tribunal decision
- Eidelson, M (1997) *The Melbourne Dreaming* A guide to the Aboriginal Places of Melbourne published by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra
- Fulcrum Town Planners v Yarra CC [1999] VCAT 837 (31 May 1999)
- Glen Eira Planning Scheme Amendment C20 and interim panel report
- Greater London Authority (March 2004), *Guide to preparing Open Space Strategies, Best practice guidance of the London Plan*
- Hamilton Landscape Architects Pty Ltd in association with Vernon Landscape Architecture (1995), *Richmond River Precinct Landscape Masterplan*, prepared for City of Yarra
- Hand v Warrnambool CC [2004] VCAT 19 (6 January 2004)
- Ian Wright Planning et al (2003) *City of Yarra Review of Heritage Precincts 2001* Final Draft Prepared for the City of Yarra
- Jeavons & Jeavons Pty Ltd Recreation and Tourism Planners (1997), *Public Open Space Strategy Final Report*, prepared for City of Yarra

John Patrick Pty Ltd (2000), *A1 DWG Barkly Gardens Setout Plan and Details*, prepared for City of Yarra

John Patrick Pty Ltd (2000), *Curtain Square Conservation Analysis*, prepared for City of Yarra

John Patrick Pty Ltd (2003) *Edinburgh Gardens Brunswick Street North Fitzroy Draft Masterplan (Work in Progress)*, prepared for City of Yarra

John Patrick Pty Ltd (2003), *A3 DWG 02-141 Hoddle St Street Collingwood Stage 1 Landscape Works*, prepared for City of Yarra

Kayes v Port Phillip CC [1998] VCAT 667 (15 January 1999)

KJ Goodson & Associates v Yarra CC [1999] VCAT 168 (30 June 1999)

Mark McWha Pty Ltd (2003), *A3 DWG 1088-LWD1 Alexander Reserve, Richmond Landscape Works - Planting Plan* prepared for City of Yarra

MDG et al. (undated) *Yarra Open Space Strategy - Background Analysis (Draft)*, prepared for City of Yarra

MDG Landscape Architects (2002), *Burnley Harbour Urban Park DWG LSK001*

MDG Landscape Architects et al (2001) *Merri Parklands Landscape Masterplan Final* prepared for City of Yarra

MGS et al (May 2005) *City of Yarra Draft Urban Design Framework* prepared for the City of Yarra and DSE.

Mike Scott and Associates (1997), *City of Yarra Urban Character Strategy, Urban Character Guidelines*, prepared for City of Yarra

Nigel Lewis Richard Aitken Pty Ltd in association with Context Pty Ltd (1993), *Darling Gardens Cultural Significance and Conservation Policies*, prepared for City of Yarra

Parks Victoria (1998), *Yarra Bend Park, Draft Strategy Plan*

Parks Victoria (2002), *Linking People and Spaces*

Planisphere (2003) *City of Yarra Built Form Review*

River Street Developments v Yarra CC & Ors [2002] VCAT 1347 (19 November 2002)

Schedule to Clause 52.01, various municipal planning schemes

Spano v Greater Geelong CC [2000] VCAT 512 (29 January 2000)

Stratcorp Consulting Pty Ltd (2002), *Burnley Park Management and Masterplan*, prepared for City of Yarra

Thompson Berrill Landscape Design (2004) *Street Planting Precinct Masterplans Final Report* prepared for the City of Yarra

Trenerry Crescent Properties v Yarra CC Milne G & Ors [1999] VCAT 2219 (31 December 1999)

Vernon Landscape Architecture Pty Ltd et al (1996) *Alphington Park Landscape Masterplan Summary Report*, prepared for City of Yarra

Yarra Planning Scheme

Yarra Planning Scheme Amendment C66